



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

The Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor holds plaques honoring 20 Aggie alumni who have lived by the Corps' standard of excellence.

Men of Honor

Corps of Cadets honors former students for their examples of courage, valor

BY AARON MEIER
THE BATTALION

Apollo 13, the Exxon Corporation, a World War II book and the Dallas Cowboys all have ties to Texas A&M University. Four men were inducted into the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor Saturday for their lifetime of achievement and commitment to the University.

Gerald D. Griffin, Class of '56, played a major role in the safe return of the astronauts of Apollo 13. In Apollo 13, a movie based on the actual event, Ed Harris, who received an Academy Award nomination for his role in the movie, played Griffin.

Weldon D. Krueger, Class of '53, became corporate vice president of the Exxon Corporation. He also has a residence hall in the Commons named in his honor.

Arthur P. Wiley Jr., Class of '46 is writing a book about his experiences in World War II, where he earned two Bronze Stars. The work-in-progress has been endowed by the MSC Wiley Lecture Series and several professorships.

H.R. "Bum" Bright, Class of '43, owned the Dallas Cowboys, and also chaired the Texas A&M Board of Regents.

The University named these four men distinguished alumni, and the Corps named them outstanding former cadets.

Lt. Col. Buck Henderson, chief of Corps Center of Operations, said the Hall of Honor pays tribute to cadets who have succeeded in their endeavors.

"Out of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M come many outstanding individuals, all of whom are important in their own right," Henderson said. "It was determined by Commandant Gen. Tom Darling in the early stages of

the Corps Center development that a Corps Hall of Honor would be established to honor key individuals who exemplified the meaning of the term Aggie."

The Hall of Honor has honored 20 men. The first induction ceremony, held in 1993, honored eight former cadets, and since then, four men have been inducted annually.

The honorees have plaques permanently displayed in the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center. These plaques, made of a gray and pink stone called avonite, contain gold etchings of the honoree's portrait and a brief biography.

A former student or friend of the Corps nominates potential inductees, and an anonymous committee makes the final selection. The committee chooses inductees based on career highlights, civic activities and continued participation in the affairs of the University.

The nomination form said an inductee must demonstrate other qualities that the Corps represents, including strength, service above self, leadership and honesty.

General Hopgood, Commandant of the Corps of Cadets, emceed this year's induction ceremony.

"The four individuals we salute this morning personify the [symbolism] of the five stars in the shield of the Aggie ring," Hopgood said. "They represent the five areas of development nurtured by the Corps: intellect, body, spiritual attainment, emotional poise and integrity of character."

Steve Foster, Corps commander and a senior political science major, read each inductee's accomplishments at the ceremony. He said the caliber of these former cadets impressed him greatly.

"There are few organizations in the state

that can draw people of that caliber for such an occasion," Foster said.

Shawn Maze, Corps chaplain and a senior speech communication major, said Wiley impressed him.

He said Wiley had a vibrance and energy about him that he did not expect from a man who graduated 50 years ago.

"He was very anxious to meet you, get to know you, and get past the superficial conversation and get to know you as a person," Maze said.

Foster and Maze said the Hall of Honor has great benefits for the Corps and the University.

Foster said the inductees exemplified the idea that the Corps training and leadership applies to the real world.

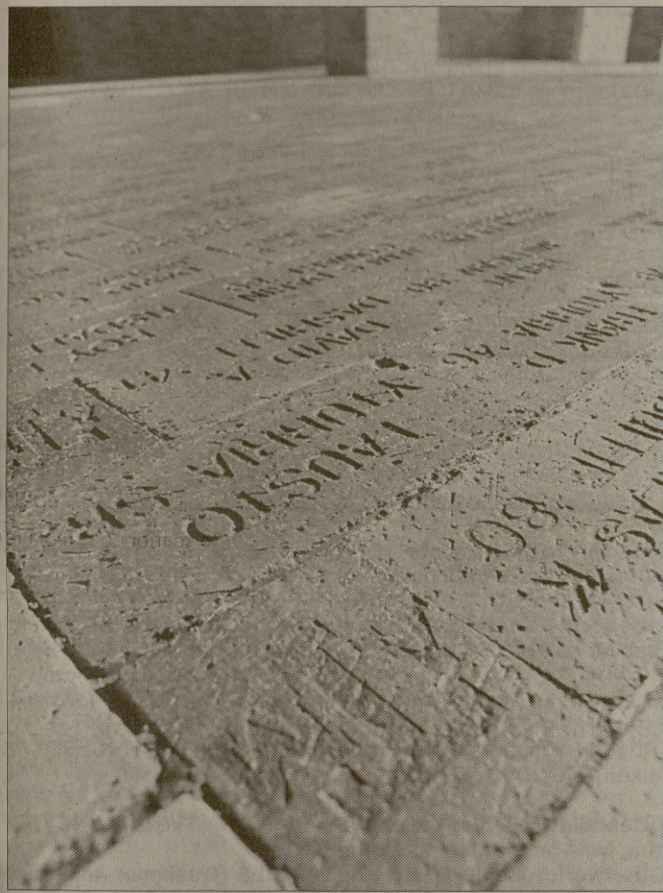
Maze said the inductees serve as a reminder of the era when the school was much smaller and when every student was in the Corps.

"It is a testament to the school that so many great men have come from such a small school," Maze said.

"We believe that by this gesture of remembrance of our greatest former cadets that the Corps itself will be immortalized," Hopgood said. "Long may the sound of boots be heard, and may the Spirit forever march on."

"It is a testament to the school that so many great men have come from [what was] such a small school."

Shawn Maze
Corps chaplain



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The brick walkway outside the Hall of Honor records the names of Aggies who want their names to be a permanent fixture on campus. Students and alumni can purchase a brick through the Corps Center and can have their names, friends or families' names engraved for posterity.

Barn Tours strives to educate public on values of livestock

BY JOSEPH NOVAK
THE BATTALION

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, most Aggies support the pig industry.

Ninety-eight percent of an automobile is constructed from pig byproducts, not including leather upholstery.

All electric appliances operate with the assistance of sheep. If these statements seem unusual, there is an organization devoted to explaining them.

Barn Tours is a private enterprise that trains tour guides in the art of explaining agriculture to people and sends these guides to county, state and agricultural fairs nationwide. The organization was founded by Sandra Wallace over five years ago in California, as a way to answer many of the questions about agriculture. Since then, the organization has moved its base to Texas.

Dr. Chris Townsend, associate professor of agricultural education, said the goal of the group is to promote agriculture in a good way.

"We in agriculture worry that children may think milk comes from the grocery store," Townsend said. "They may not make the connection that we have to have land and cows to make milk."

Kevin Vader, a senior Agricultural Development major and Barn Tours crew chief, said Barn Tours has approximately 150 tour guides, and between 15 and 20 of those are students from Texas A&M.

"When we give tours, the thing we're going to cover is not the actual mechanics of agriculture," Vader said. "We're going to cover the fun stuff, the interesting facts, how agriculture is going to affect the everyday person, not just someone from an agriculture background."

Vader said the average American is three to four generations removed from an agricultural background. In the inner-city areas, the average is five to six generations removed. Vader also said that 100 years ago, 98 percent of the population was directly involved in agriculture. Today, it's less than 2 percent.

"Agriculture constitutes about one-third of the gross national product," Vader said. "That's larger than any other industry in the United States."

Barn Tours' employees have backgrounds in agriculture and are trained to explain agriculture in an involving way. For example, the statements made at the beginning of this article were provided by Amy Cockroft, a senior agricultural development major and Barn Tours tour guide.

"There's a protein in beer that comes from pigs called pepsin," Cockroft said. "It's used in the distilling process. It's also used in wine and fruit juice."

Cows also play a large part in people's daily lives. Cattle bone and fat are used in the steel-making process, and a cattle enzyme gives

glass a transparent appearance. Lanolin, a product of sheep's wool, is also used in electric wire to insulate metal and keep the plastic coating from burning.

"We don't slaughter animals in agriculture, we harvest them," Cockroft said. "The difference is, by harvesting, we use every usable part of the animal." Slaughtering involves using only a small portion of the animal and discarding the remnants, Cockroft said.

"If you have a 1,000-pound steer, you're only going to get three- to four-hundred pounds of beef," Cockroft said. "So there are a lot of byproducts involved."

These facts, as well as many others, are used Barn Tours. Townsend said the organization's use of Aggie interns is a win-win situation.

"The Aggies who work for Barn Tours as tour guides get the experience of working with the public, thinking on their feet," Townsend said. "And one of the lessons they learn is how to work with people who are not like them — different cultures, different people, different kinds of lifestyles. So it's a real win for our students, the interns."

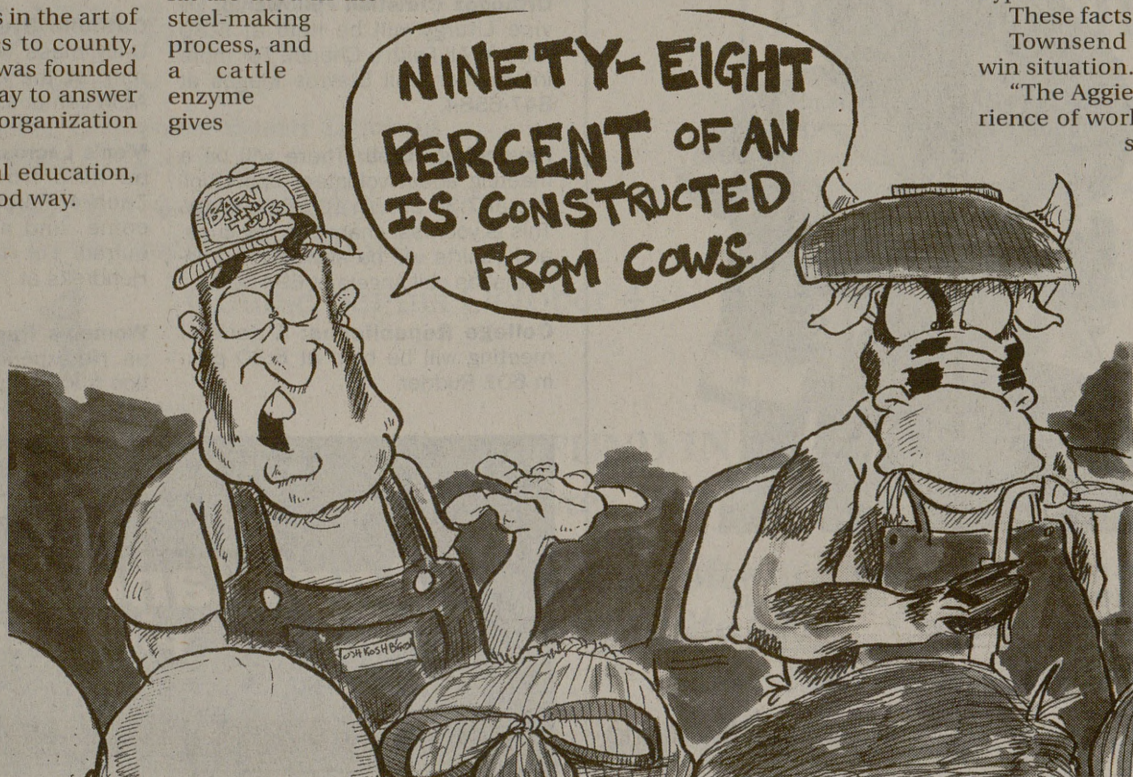
"The other win is for the public. When the tour guides are out there telling the story about agriculture, the public learns a lot about food and fiber and why we have to have land for agriculture."

Vader said the organization has given tours everywhere from Alaska to Florida and from California to Maine.

"Over the past two years, I'd say I've spent about 100 days on the road traveling to about 17 different states," Vader said. "We do a lot of traveling, a lot of TV interviews, a lot of radio interviews, a lot of newspaper interviews ... It's not uncommon to have two different TV stations coming on tours at the same time."

Cockroft said Barn Tours has a mission to increase communication between all segments of society so they can understand each other.

"Agriculture is a difficult industry because we have two groups that do most of the talking, the farmers and the bureaucrats," Cockroft said. "There's no middle-man to talk to people on their level, so that's what Barn Tours aims to do."



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