

## 1866-2013 Timeline of Texas A&M's History of Inclusion (Revised 09/05/19)

In 2013, Texas A&M University commemorated 50 years of inclusion, by looking back on the history and the remarkable contributions of A&M's increasingly diverse campus community. This timeline, while not exhaustive, includes notable moments, individuals, and milestones in all areas of campus life ranging from athletics to the creation of university centers and even controversial events that have occurred since Texas A&M was established. Information for this resource was generously provided by:

- The Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center
- The Cushing Memorial Library and Archives
- Sara Alpern, Ph.D., Department of History
- Department of Women's and Gender Studies
- Race and Ethnic Studies Institute
- Disability Services, Texas A&M University
- Department of Health and Kinesiology
- Offices of the Dean of Student Life
- Department of Africana Studies
- Women's Resource Center
- Center on Disability and Development
- Department of Multicultural Services
- *Callaloo*
- *The Battalion*
- *The Eagle*

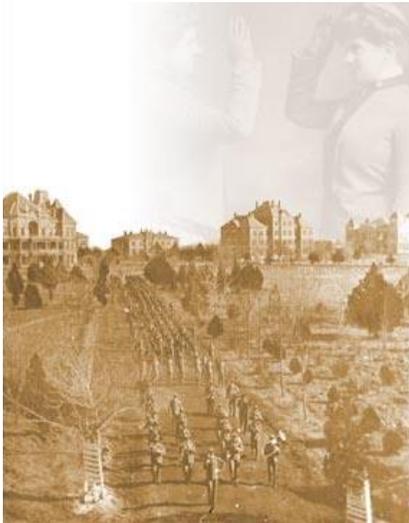
This timeline is a living document that makes transparent where Texas A&M has been and where it is going, as it pertains to diversity and inclusion. This document is an important resource and tool for individuals, groups, and units who support diversity and inclusion at Texas A&M and in our communities.

We welcome contributions! To provide content, photos, or updates, please contact the Office for Diversity by email, [diversity@tamu.edu](mailto:diversity@tamu.edu), by phone (979-458-2905), or use this online [form](https://bit.ly/2MJjx3W) (<https://bit.ly/2MJjx3W>) to provide any information or feedback. Thank you for your help in keeping this living document, accurate, and current.

1866

12th Texas Legislature accepts terms of Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act which establishes the A&M College of Texas. Matthew Gaines, along with other Black legislators, supports the passage of the Act.

1876



New Texas Constitution enacted segregation in public facilities.

The Texas legislature mandated separate higher education opportunities for African Americans.

A&M College formally opened, initiating public higher education in Texas.





Texas A&M officially opened its doors for registration. Forty students and six faculty members show up to begin instruction.

**1878**

Prairie View A&M University established and placed under A&M Board of Directors.

**1889**

First known international student, Helge Ness from Norway, graduates from Texas A&M and then teaches on campus. Ness is the first in America to produce hybrid oaks. Several of his trees can still be found on campus.

**1890**

United States Congress passes the Second Morrill Act, which specified that states that maintained separate colleges for different races had to propose a just and equitable division of funds to be received under the act. Any states that had used their 1862 funds entirely for the education of white students were forced to either open their facilities to African American students or to provide separate facilities for them.

**1891**

Texas Legislature passes act to apportion funds under Morrill Land-Grant Act, three-fourths to Texas A&M and one-fourth to Prairie View; not the one-third originally allocated by Governor Ross.

José Angel Ortís, Class of 1891, the earliest known Hispanic graduate of Texas A&M, graduates with a degree in civil engineering. He entered Texas A&M in 1887, taking courses in mechanical engineering through his junior year. It appears that he did not attend school during the 1890–91 school year but returned in the fall of 1891 to complete his degree.



### 1894

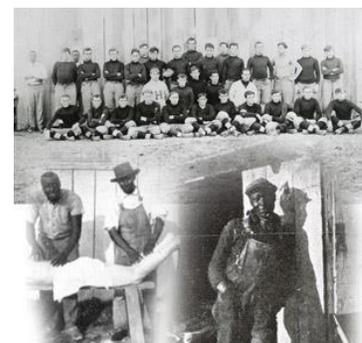
The first touchdown by an Aggie football team is scored on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 1894, by N. Valdez from Hidalgo, México, Class of 1897, in a 14–0 victory over Galveston.

### 1902

David Rodríguez, a Hispanic student, serves as a major illustrator for the Texas A&M yearbook, *The Longhorn*. Outside of illustrating, he was involved throughout the campus, serving as a member of the Fencing Club and playing trumpet for the A&M College Band. He was also involved intellectually in the prestigious Austin Literary Society.

### 1909

Two African Americans are pictured in this 1909 football team photo, showing yet another facet of their involvement with A&M. Of the two African Americans in the photo, one (3rd from left in back row) is identified simply as "Blackie, long-time trainer."



**1913**

Mu Xiang-yue (H.Y. Moh), who came to Texas A&M University in 1913 for a master's degree, is the first known Chinese student in the university. He returned to Shanghai to become a cotton manufacturer.

**1914**

Jim L. Garza, a Hispanic student and San Antonio native, is a distinguished student in his first term as a freshman. In addition to his duties in the Newman Club and T.E. Society, he was captain of the Company A basketball team.

**1915**

African Americans are hired as district and county extension agents for first time in Negro Cooperative Extension program headquartered at Prairie View.

**1923**

Taro Kishi is the first Japanese student at Texas A&M to play football in the Southwest Conference.

**1925**

A resolution prohibiting admission of female students is adopted by the College Board of Directors.

**1927**

Fight for civil rights in Texas begins with an attack on the legal exclusion of African American voters from Democratic primary elections.

1934



Judge W.C. Davis, of the 85th District Court in Bryan, hands down an opinion that the Board of Directors is within its rights to limit enrollment to men.

1937

Homer Thomas Martínez, a Hispanic student from Hebbronville, Texas is a three-year-letterman in baseball.

1939

Texas Legislature approves bill granting aid to African Americans wishing to pursue post-graduate work out of state. The bill was pending since 1937, but the ruling in Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada, and combined with African Americans seeking admission to The University of Texas Graduate School, prompted reintroduction and passage.

1941

At its annual conference in Houston, Texas, NAACP outlines 10-year plan to eliminate school segregation.

**1944**

Bi-Racial Conference on Negro Education releases, *The Senior Colleges for Negroes in Texas*, a study acknowledging lack of professional and graduate education for African Americans in Texas, and inadequate funding for Prairie View.

**1945**

Texas Legislature changes the name of Prairie View A&M to Prairie View A&M University, and grants the school permission to offer courses in law, medicine, engineering, pharmacy, journalism and any course taught at University of Texas.

**1946**

Texas A&M Board passes a resolution authorizing legal training for African Americans in Houston.

**1954**

U.S. Supreme Court, in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, unanimously rules that racial segregation in public schools violates equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, reversing the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision that allowed "separate but equal." In statewide poll, 80% of white population of Texas opposes public-school integration.

**1956**

Texas A&M Student Senate votes 24-7 "opposing segregation." In campus-wide election on whether students were in favor or against segregation, Texas A&M students vote to continue segregation.

**1957**

María V. Reyes is voted "Aggie Mother of the Year." Her husband, eight sons, daughter, grandson, and numerous nieces and nephews were all Aggies, and her daughter, Rachel Gonzáles, later became the first Hispanic President of the Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers' Club in 1983.

**1962**

Texas A&M University System Board decides to "admit qualified students regardless of race" to Arlington State College to avoid threat of lawsuit for admittance by three African Americans.

**1963**

Leroy Sterling, George Sutton, and Vernall Jackson quietly enroll for first summer session as "special students," becoming the first African Americans to attend Texas A&M.



Board of Directors permits women to enroll on "Limited basis."

**1964**

Passage of 1964 Civil Rights Act and its Assurance of Compliance with Title VI of that act bring an end to the era of segregation in Southern higher education.

Five male freshmen become the first African-Americans in A&M Corps of Cadets.

Three of the first five African Americans in the Corps of Cadets: (L-R) Jessie Smith, Joe Lee Macheaux and Samuel Williams ('68), 1964. (Photo courtesy of S.B. Williams)



**1965**

Texas A&M's head football coach publicly states that recruitment of African American football players would create disunity on the team. He was responding to Southern Methodist University's recruitment of Jerry Levias, the first African American football player in the SWC.

Sallie Sheppard, Class of 1965, is one of the first women admitted to Texas A&M.

**1966**

Eddie Domínguez, a Hispanic student, transfers to Texas A&M from Lon Morris Junior College for the 1964-1965 season and lettered in basketball his first year. He was a starting guard in 1966 known for exceptional ball handling skills and deft touch on jump shots. His play helped the 1966 team to second place in the tough Southwest Conference.

Narciso "Norris" Ortíz Cano, a Hispanic, is 1966 Class President and a member of the distinguished *Who's Who in Colleges and Universities*. He graduated with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

**1967**

Clarence Dixon Jr., a graduate student, became the first African American to graduate from Texas A&M.

A group of African American students at Texas A&M formed the Afro-American Society.

Curtis Mills, Sidney Chachere, and Edgar Harvey sign track scholarships in spring of 1967. They were the first African American athletes on scholarship at Texas A&M.

James. T. Reynolds and Samuel B. Williams were the first African Americans on the football team.

International student, Shanti A. Kudchadker, from Bombay, India, becomes the first woman to graduate with a Ph.D. from Texas A&M.

**1968**

James L. Courtney and Leon J. Greene graduate in January, becoming the first African-American undergraduate students to graduate from Texas A&M.

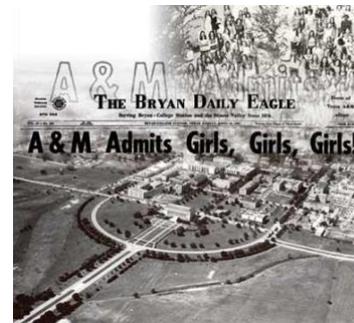
Robert Cortez, Class of 1968, was a football letterman from 1965 to 1967, serving as team captain in 1967. An extremely physical linebacker, he was instrumental in A&M winning the 1967 Southwest Conference Championship and the 1968 Cotton Bowl with a victory over Alabama.

Dr. Betty Miller Unterberger becomes the first female faculty member at A&M with an appointment in the Department of History at the rank of full professor with tenure.



## 1969

A native of Laredo, Héctor Gutiérrez, Jr., is A&M's first Hispanic Corps Commander.



William J. Mahomes, Class of 1969, becomes the first African American to graduate after four years in the Corps.

Mary Catherine (Cantu) Custer, Class of 1969, is the earliest known Hispanic woman to graduate from Texas A&M University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.

Formation of Committee on Black Student Affairs as ad hoc committee to promote dialog between African American students and Texas A&M administration.

Members of the Afro-American Society issue a list of eight demands to A&M, setting September as deadline for meeting demands. The Texas A&M System Board refused to consider demands due to what they described as veiled threats of violence contained within.

1969

*Students  
(P. R. Stephens)*

**JUSTICE ON CAMPUS**

Whereas we, the Black students of Texas A&M University, feel that in view of our distinct racial origin and culture we have been deprived of the opportunity for cultural and social development that is essential to the formative progression of any individual enrolled in an institution of higher learning. We have been morally raised and mentally tormented by the pretentious atmosphere of racial tranquility set forth by racist proponents on this campus. The continuation of this social transgression weakens us academically, deprives us favorable study conditions, and contributes to conditions that enhance isolationism. Since we have suffered deprivation both socially and culturally from racist proponents on this campus; we have undergone moral affliction. Since we have gone daily, from class to class strangled, as a result of studying in this pretentious atmosphere; we have undergone scholastic depression. And since our efforts for discussion have been made futile by those persons who hand out token committees to which they have refused to respond. We the members of the Afro-American Society find it necessary to articulate the following demands:

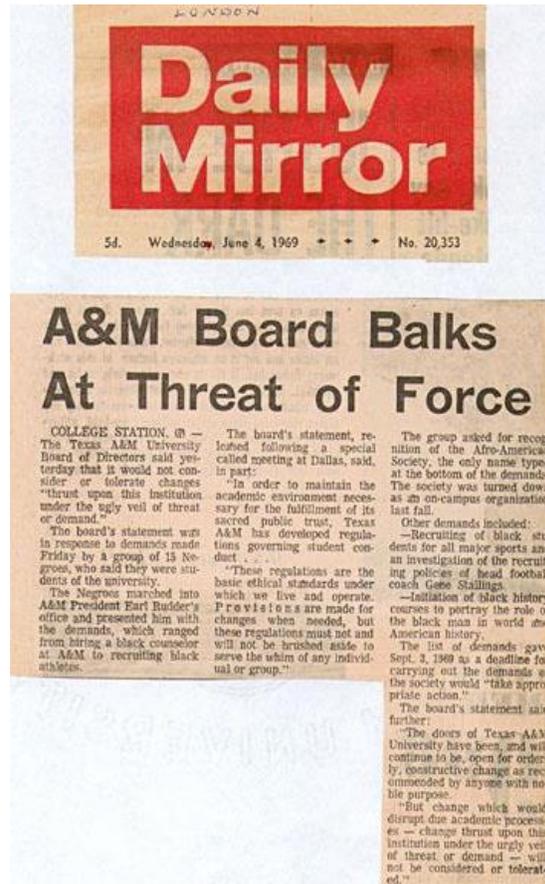
1. Recognition of the Afro-American Society as an on-campus organization.
2. Immediate hiring of a Black counselor to work in counseling and testing and who will also serve as intercessor between Black students and the administration. His will be approved by Black students.
3. Investigation of recruitment policies and issuance of scholarships as handled by the Athletic Director of Texas A&M.
4. Immediate recruitment of Black athletes in all major sports or the firing of Athletic Director, Gene Stallings.
5. A truer representation of the role and scope of the Black man in the compulsory American History courses. And also, the initiation of other Black History courses that will portray the role of the Black man in World and American History.
6. The recruitment of Black high school students by A&M Black students in a university financed program.
7. More Black literature be placed on the shelves in the library (newspapers, magazines, etc.).
8. A position be reserved for a Black student on the Civilian Student Council.

If these demands are not met by the third week in September 1969, the Afro-American Society will find it necessary to take appropriate action. We want to point out that during this three month interval, you will not be constantly reminded of these demands. You have been quoted or alluded to as saying, "There are enough athletes and cadets in the corps to fuel any campus disorder."

We do not seek confrontation, but we want to state it crystal clear, that we are prepared to meet force--with force, understanding--with understanding and restraint--with restraint.

**THE AFRO-AMERICAN SOCIETY**

An article from the June 4, 1969, *Daily Mirror* reported that the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents rejected the demands of the Afro-American Society. The board added that it will not tolerate or consider changes "thrust upon this institution under the ugly veil of threat or demand."



**1970**

African American students form Black Awareness Committee (BAC), successor to the Committee on Black Student Affairs.



Irma G. Alvarado is another early known Hispanic woman to graduate from Texas A&M. She was a member of the Class of 1970 and graduated with a bachelor's in secondary education.

Graduating from Texas A&M in 1970, Judge Phyllis Randolph Frye is the first openly transgender judge in the nation. There's an award named after her at her alma mater, Texas A&M University; she's a life member of the National Eagle Scout Association; and the New York Times has called her the grandmother of the transgender movement.



Edward A. Taylor becomes the first African-American Chief Officer in the Corps, 1st Battalion Staff

Dr. Roscoe Lewis becomes the first African American professor at Texas A&M University. He was hired as a professor in biochemistry in September 1970. An accomplished teacher and researcher, he was also awarded the prestigious Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching in 1977 by The Association of Former Students. Upon his retirement in 1984, Lewis was accorded the rank of Professor Emeritus by the Board of Regents, the first African American to be so honored.

### 1971

Black Awareness Committee celebrates a week of cultural activities as part of annual Black Experience, coinciding with the national Black History Week celebration.

Marvin Bridges ('74) is among the select group of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. A student activist, he was chairman of the Black Awareness Committee, and a member of the Student Senate and a number of other committees. Here he is in 1972 with members of the Student Senate.



Curtis Mills, Class of 1971, was a four-time All American in the 440-yard dash and 440-yard relay. Mills set a 44.7 second world record in the 440-yard dash at the 1969 NCAA meet, defeating the 1968 Olympic gold and silver medal winners. He lettered in track four years (1968-71), set or helped set eleven school records, and won seven SWC titles. In 1979, he became the first African- American inducted into the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mario "Brother Rap" Brown and Cedric Joseph become the first African Americans to play basketball at Texas A&M

**1972**

Campus housing opens to women for the first time.

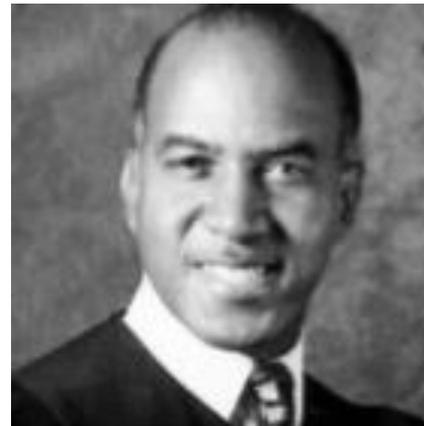
Edward W. Williams and Darron J. Patterson become the first African American Ross Volunteers.

**1973**

Black Awareness Committee presents list of demands to Texas A&M through local press, claiming A&M is a "racist institution" -- including demands for higher enrollment of African American students, hiring African American faculty, and offering Black history courses.

Daniel R. Hernandez is one of the founders of CAMAC (Committee for Awareness of Mexican American Culture). He was the first Hispanic to serve as the Assistant Director of Admissions in 1974.

Judge Willie E.B. Blackmon, an African American student and Class of 1973, was personally recruited by then-university president Gen. James Earl Rudder to receive one of the first athletic scholarships in the history of Texas A&M. He was a member of the 1970 Southwest Conference (SWC) Championship Track and Field Team, a three-time All SWC athlete and an All-American in the 880-yard dash. Blackmon received his J.D. from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1982 and entered the U.S. Air Force in 1984 where he served as a military attorney. Judge Blackmon retired from the Houston Municipal Courts in 2004 and the U.S. Armed Forces in 2009. In 1994, he was inducted into the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame and was named a Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus in 2005.



**1974**

Women are admitted as members of the Corps of Cadets for the first time.

Texas A&M Women's Basketball played their first game on record and brought home their first league victory in December 1974 against Prairie View A&M. From 1974 until 1982, the team played under the auspices of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletic for Women (AIAW) and its Texas Chapter, TIAAW. During the 1982-83 season, the team joined NCAA and SWC competition, and while in the SWC set several individual conference records.

**1975**

The Women's Drill Team is created as an alternative to women participating in Fish Drill Team. Ruth Anne Schumacher, Class of 1977, was commander. The unit drilled with mock weapons so as not to be in competition with the Fish Drill Team. During these years, women were not allowed to participate in almost all other elite cadet organizations, including the Ross Volunteers, Aggie Band, and Rudder's Rangers.

The women's tennis team is created and went on to join the SWC in 1983.

**1976**

Fred McClure, Class of 1976, is elected as the first African American student body president at Texas A&M.

Peggy Pope and Lola Baker played basketball for Texas A&M from 1978 to 1980, becoming the first African American women on the basketball team. Pope and Baker lettered in both years. Pope remains one of the most prolific scorers in A&M history holding records in the "1,000 point" and "500 rebound."

Three students, Sara Herlick, Sherie Skinner and Pat Woolridge, establish the Gay Student Services Organization (GSSO).

Students petition the university asking for official recognition of the group Gay Student Services Organization in order to be able to advertise their meetings on campus bulletin boards. Texas A&M University, under the Vice President for Student Affairs, ultimately refused to approve the organization, saying that that the goals listed by the group “were not consistent with the philosophy and goals of the institution” and the group was likely to “incite, promote, and result in acts contrary to the Penal Code of the State of Texas”.

### 1977

Gay Student Services (GSS) files a lawsuit against Texas A&M for recognition as an official university student organization thus beginning a lengthy legal battle between Texas A&M and the Gay Student Services Organization for the approval of Gay Student Services begins, which is ultimately decided in the United States Supreme Court.

Gail Y. Sedberry, Class of 1977, becomes the first African American female in the Corps. She helped organize, and led. Company W-1.

Department of Health, Education and Welfare investigates Texas A&M to determine compliance with Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Dr. John B. Coleman becomes the first African American appointed to the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

Ruth Ann Schumacher, Class of 1977, is the first woman commissioned into the armed forces from TAMU's Corps ROTC program.



Roxie Pranglin, Class of 1978, shown here leading W-1 in the 1977 Kansas march-in, is the first female cadet to lead a unit who had also served all four years in the Corps.

Women's soccer began as an intercollegiate club sport in 1977. By 1980, they ranked seventh nationally, qualifying for the AIAW Championships. From 1983 - 1992 the team played as a "Varsity II" program, becoming full varsity in November 1992.



### 1978

Gregory Martin becomes the first African American on Corps staff as Public Relations Sergeant.

Sara Alpern, Ph.D. teaches A&M's first Women's history course.



Swimmer Vicki Brown-Sobecki, Class of 1978, is known for many firsts. Brown was the first female to receive an official athletic scholarship at Texas A&M, earning All American honors and was named Team Captain in 1978. The first woman elected to the Texas A&M Lettermen's Association Board of Directors, Brown-Sobecki served as the first female president in 1990. Brown-Sobecki founded the Texas A&M Association of Professional Women, which has evolved into a 2,000-member organization and is now known as Aggie Professional Forum.

### 1979

Office of School Relations opens to aid in recruitment of minorities to Texas A&M.

In 1979, three African American women, sisters Ellen and Evelyn Smith and Early Douglass, join the track team. Ellen and Evelyn were All-Americans in the 400 meter and 1600-meter relays, and Ellen in the 400-meter hurdles.

Linda Waltman, A&M's first ever female All American and Class of 1979, earned her honors after outstanding pentathlon performances in 1977, 1978 and 1979. As a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team, she also became the first female Aggie Olympian. However, the United States Olympic Committee voted to boycott the 1980 Games in Moscow, ending Waltman's Olympic dream. Waltman was also the first female elected into the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame.



### 1980

Services for students with disabilities are initiated in 1980. Dr. Charles Powell is placed in charge of the program, located on the first floor of Hart Hall, and named the program, Office of Veteran and Handicapped Services. Dr. Malon J. Southerland would eventually go on to change the name to the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities to be housed in the Department of Student Life.

The Corps of Cadets uniform for female seniors includes boots for the first time.

“Annual International Week” starts in Texas A&M.

### 1981

Texas Plan for Equal Educational Opportunity Plan is submitted by Texas to U.S. Civil Rights office in compliance with Civil Rights Act. Texas A&M has to enroll 525 more African American undergraduates, 13 more graduate students, 4 veterinary and medical students by 1986, and hire 12 administrators by 1987.

Leaugeay C. “Beebe” (Buck) Barnes, Class of 1982, is the first woman to be a part of Parsons Mounted Cavalry.

**1982**

The President's Committee on Minority Conditions, after an eight-month study, issued a report conceding minorities were underrepresented among faculty and students.

Judge Ross Sterling of United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas rules in favor of Texas A&M in the Gay Student Services (GSS) recognition case, citing that GSS was a "social group" similar to fraternities and sororities, which A&M does not recognize.

**1983**

Position of assistant director of Student Activities and coordinator of Minority Affairs is created as part of new policy to recruit, increase and retain minority students. Kevin Carreathers is the first to hold this position.

Texas A&M's Medical School graduates its first African American student, Phillip Jones.

Gary Gray, Class of 1983, graduates with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. As a student with a physical disability, Gary consistently challenged the University to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities so that every student could have an equal "Aggie experience." Some of Gary's actions in furthering Disability Awareness were helping to form the first Disability Services Student Group, locating and designing curb cuts and access ramps around campus, being a member of the design team for the first student disability section at Kyle Field and G. Rollie White and organizing and coaching the first Wheelchair Basketball Team. He was the first disabled member of the Region 20 Chess Team, where he served as Captain. An award named in Gary's honor established in 1994 and acknowledges the efforts of a student or student group who exhibits activities and/or behavior that supports the inclusion of students with disabilities in all aspects of campus.



**1984**

Texas A&M University System Board approves almost \$1 million budget for new minority-recruitment program.

Formation of Texas A&M University System Black Student Retention Committee to increase attendance of African-Americans in Texas colleges and universities.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals rules unanimously that Texas A&M's reasons for rejecting Gay Student Services' (GSS) application were not sufficient to deny students their first amendment rights. Texas A&M appeals the circuit court's decision. Texas A&M's Student Senate passes resolution supporting Gay Student Services' (GSS) recognition by a single vote but the resolution is vetoed by Student Body President.

**1985**

U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear an appeal filed by Texas A&M, thereby upholding the decision by the Fifth Circuit Court, New Orleans, that allowed the Gay Student Services Organization to be recognized and allowed on campus. This landmark decision paved the way for other groups on campus to open similar organizations and became an exemplar to different campuses across the United States.

Texas A&M University System Board approves \$1.3 million appropriation for minority recruitment to fund scholarships at undergraduate (520) and graduate (45) levels.

In January of 1985, the Aggie Band and other organizations within the Corps of Cadets are forced to admit women. That fall, three women applied and were admitted to Band as freshmen in the Class of 1989. Two other women also joined the Ross Volunteers.



Dr. Albert Broussard becomes the first African American faculty member in the Department of History at Texas A&M.

Bonnie Krumpotic, Class of 1985, is the first female appointed to a brigade-level post in the Corps.



### 1986

Texas A&M graduates 115 racial and ethnic minority students with B.S. degrees in engineering, highest in the U.S. Twenty-two African American students received engineering degrees.

Gay Student Services (GSS) publishes a brochure about the organization, celebrating ten years of service to A&M and the B/CS community.

Mandy Schubert, class of 1986 is appointed Deputy Corps Commander, the highest rank ever by a female cadet at the time. She was the second highest ranking officer of the then 2,000-member student military organization.

Cathie Anderson becomes the first African American editor of The Battalion. She worked for the paper for over a year and half before becoming editor in 1986.

Mandy Schubert and Nancy Hedgecock, both Class of 1986, become the first women Ross Volunteers in Corps history.

### 1987

Texas A&M, in accordance with the Texas Plan for Equal Educational Opportunity Plan 1981, fails to reach its minority recruitment goals for 1987-88.

Formation of Black Graduate Student Association.

The Multicultural Services Center is created and opens its doors as an office in the Department of Student Activities. It focused its early efforts on developing programs and services that provided targeted groups the opportunity to fully participate in leadership development opportunities and to be successful academically.

Robert Goodwin is appointed assistant deputy chancellor for External Affairs, the first African American to hold such a high position in Texas A&M University System.

Denis L. "Josie" Carter, Class of 1987, is one of the two athletes to be the first African Americans on the softball team. She lettered all four years, was named All-American and All-Region in 1984 and 1985. She became the first African American woman to be inducted into the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995 and one of only a few women altogether.

Sallie Sheppard, Class 1965, became the first female associate provost. She was also one of the first women admitted to Texas A&M University for full-time study.

Minority Freshman Orientation begins, which is later named ExCEL (Excellence uniting Culture, Education and Leadership).

### 1988

The Women's Studies Program begins under the directorship of Harriette Andreadis, an out lesbian.

Kevin Phillip Roberts, Class of 1989, becomes Infantry Band drum major, the first African-American drum major in the history of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band.



Dr. Grace Butler Chisolm, College of Education, becomes the first African American woman to achieve the rank of full professor.

Zina Ochoa, Class of 1988, is one of a long line of great Latina softball players for Texas A&M. She was from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. During her A&M career she played outfield on the 1987 National Championship team. The team finished second nationally in 1986 and fifth in 1988. Her strong defensive skills and timely offense helped lead the team to national prominence.



### 1989

Innovative collegians at Texas A&M University produce a forum by which African American students in the southwest could assemble to address the problems and concerns that affected the Black community. This forum was named The Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference (SBSLC). The SBSLC conference is held each January, uniting hundreds of students and advisors, nationally renowned speakers and a variety of corporations from throughout the entire country.

Multicultural Services Center achieves department status, becoming the Department of Multicultural Services, under the directorship of Kevin Carreathers.

### 1990

Celebration of first Black Former Student Reunion which becomes an annual, later biannual, event.

Gay Student Services (GSS) members vote to change the group's name to Gay and Lesbian Student Services (GLSS).

The first two gender integrated Corps units, G-1 and Squadron 9, are formed.

Jane Stallings is named Dean of Education, becoming the first woman to serve as the dean of a college at A&M.



The official formation of the Women's Faculty, whose work would focus on several major areas: recruitment, campus communication, and the Women's Faculty Network Mentoring Program with Dr. Sara Alpern as the first official president. During this time, WFN also adopted the organization's bylaws and included a focus on the consistent need for partner placement assistance. The organization had functioned informally since 1981. (Source: Sara Alpern, Ph.D.)

### 1991

Texas A&M's faculty senate vote overwhelmingly in favor of a policy prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals in hiring, firing and tenure decisions.

Creation of the Professional Hispanic Network (PHN), a group of leaders supporting Texas A&M University and the Bryan-College Station community to proactively address key issues affecting the education and quality of life of all Hispanics.

Alison Leland became the first African American woman on the Board of Regents.



Dr. Karan Watson is named assistant dean of the College of Engineering. She is the first woman in the history of the College of Engineering to hold a dean's position.

The Race and Ethnic Studies Institute (RESI) is established by a group of Sociology faculty whose research focused on race and ethnicity under the directorship of Dr. Gail Thomas.

### 1992

Ronnie McDonald, Class of 1993, becomes the first African American "Yell" leader at Texas A&M.

*Networks*, a student organization promoting interests of those with disabilities of all types, is founded at Texas A&M. First called the Texas A&M Networking Association, the organization was founded with the help of student Andrea Nixon, Class of 1994.

African American Professional Organization (AAPO) is formally established to be a mechanism through which African Americans are fully recognized as contributing members of Texas A&M University and the community-at-large. The organization serves as a support and advocacy group for faculty, staff and students on concerns and issues at the University, local, state, and national level.

Viola E. Flórez becomes the first Latina to be named a full professor at Texas A&M. She went on to serve as assistant head of education curriculum and instruction, executive assistant to the president, interim dean of the College of Education, and interim vice president and CEO for A&M Galveston.

### 1993

Faculty Senate proposes all students take U.S. cultures and international requirement courses in order to educate them about diversity.

The English Department at Texas A&M first offers the Gay and Lesbian Literature course.

The Interdisciplinary Group for Historical and Literary Study (IGHLS, now Center for Humanities Research) brings queer theory scholars to Texas A&M. Among those who have

visited Texas A&M are Eve Sedgwick, Joe Litvak, Lee Edelman, Leo Bersani, Martha Vicinus, Terry Castle, and Michael Moon.

The first "Hands Across A&M" is held at Texas A&M. This is a march across campus in support of Gay Awareness Week.

GLSS members vote to change the group's name to Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Aggies (GLBA).

"Allies" is formed at Texas A&M by a group of students and staff members of the Division of Student Affairs who were interested in showing support for people who are GLBT in the University community.

Access Challenge '93 was organized by "Networks" to raise awareness of disability issues on campus.

The Native American Student Association and Memorial Student Center Great Issues Committee sponsor Native American Week, which features more than 100 dancers from tribes across the region.

## **1994**

Brooke Leslie, Class of 1994, becomes the first woman to be elected student body president.

Allies Advances (three-hour training course for anyone considering becoming an Ally) begin at Texas A&M.

Mary Nan West becomes the first woman to be named President of the Texas A&M Board of Regents.

University Diversity Awards are established to recognize accomplishments supporting diversity of Texas A&M faculty, administration and student body.

Access Challenge '94 celebrates disability awareness day and presented the Gary Gray Memorial Student Award and the Partners in Learning Excellence Award.

Guadalupe L. Rangel becomes the first Hispanic woman appointed to the Board of Regents.

Toni C. Butler, Class of 1995, becomes the first African American CO of a co-ed company, G-1 Apaches.

Dr. Woodrow Jones Jr. is named dean for the College of Liberal Arts making him the first African American dean for the college.



## 1995



Bernardo Martínez, a Hispanic student and Class of 1995, was tennis team captain in 1995 and lettered all four years at Texas A&M. Along with his younger brother and fellow teammate Eduardo Martínez, Class of 1996, he helped the Aggie tennis team set a school record of 23 wins and 4 losses and win the Co-Championship of the Southwest Conference in 1994.

Anthony Rodríguez, Class of 1995, is the first Latino to win a Southwest Conference Championship. He lettered in golf in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995.

Lester Hayes, an African American athlete, is inducted into TAMU Athletic Hall of Fame on October 27, 1995

## 1996

Texas A&M administration rejects a proposal by College of Liberal Arts that all students be required to take a “cultures” course. Instead, each department could institute their own “cultures” course.

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals rules in that University of Texas could not discriminate against white students to boost minority enrollment in its law school.

Texas A&M announces it will no longer use race/ethnicity in admissions or grant race-based scholarships as a result of U.S. Supreme Court decision not to hear appeal of Hopwood v. State of Texas case.

Chalisa "Lisa" Branch, an African American student and Class of 1996, enrolls in A&M in the fall of 1992 and begins a collegiate basketball career that can only be described as stellar. She is credited as "one of the most prolific and talented players to come [through] the basketball program." She lettered all four years and earned numerous awards and accolades, including Academic All-American (1994), SWC Player of the Year (1994), all SWC titles all four years and the first female Aggie to be named All-American (1996).

Anjanette Kirkland, an African American student and Class of 1996, is considered one of the most decorated female athletes in A&M's history, having won eight All-American citations, seven individual conference titles, and lettered all four years. She is only one of a few women Aggies to make All-Time U.S. and Collegiate lists in the 100-meter hurdles.

### 1997

Women's Programs is renamed Gender Issues Education Services (GIES) after the first graduate assistant is hired for GLBT services and GLBT services is permanently added to the GIES mission statement. GIES worked with students, the Faculty Senate, Graduate Student Council, Student Senate and former Texas A&M University President Ray Bowen on a harassment and discrimination statement which included recognition of sexual orientation.

Alice Gonzales, Class of 1999, serves as the first female speaker of the Student Senate.



Yvette Okler, Class of 1997, is the soccer team's first scholarship player and gained an incredible athletic reputation after scoring an impressive four goals against University of Texas in the October 31, 1993 game.

Cynthia Ericson, Class of 1996, became the first female to become a member of both the Ross Volunteers and the Parsons Mounted Cavalry.



GLBA members vote to change the group's name to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Aggies (GLBTA).

### 1998

A cadet files a lawsuit against Texas A&M because of Corps policy barring display of Confederate symbols. Corps manual, *The Standard*, bans display of divisive symbols. Dr. Sylvia Hurtado, with a research team from University of Michigan, conducted the study - *Perspectives on the Climate for Diversity: Findings and Suggested Recommendations for the Texas A&M University Campus Community*. Hurtado's 1998 campus climate study was the result of a 1996 directive from Texas A&M's President Ray M. Bowen to the vice president for Student Affairs to accurately assess campus climate.



Texas A&M's first female Big 12 All American (first team), Bryn Blalack, Class of 1998 and a soccer player while at A&M, set school season records for the most points, goals and assists in 1995 and 1996.

Texas A&M Foundation creates the Foundation Excellence Award, a new scholarship program to help attract underrepresented students to Texas A&M.

Melvin Watkins is hired as the men's basketball coach, becoming the first African-American head coach in A&M's history. A&M also hired Peggie Gillom as the women's head

basketball coach, making her the first African American female head coach in A&M's history.

Laurie Nickel, Class of 1998, becomes the second woman to be elected student body president.

Amy Magee, Class of 1998, serves as the second female speaker of the student Senate.

### **1999**

Texas A&M hosts 63rd annual Texas State NAACP Convention.

Erica R. Smith, Class of 1999, reaches one of the highest cadet leadership positions, that of Combined Band commander. As a permanent member of the bugle rank and Corps Officer of the Combined Band, Smith was the first African American to hold both highly regarded positions.

### **2000**

Charles Sippial is made vice president for Administration becoming the first African American vice president at Texas A&M.

Texas A&M University System Board of Regents grants preliminary approval to addition of international and cultural diversity to core curriculum.

Revisions of the University's anti-bias policy is posted: "Texas A&M University, in accordance with the applicable state and federal law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status." Less than 24 hours later, Texas A&M University President Ray M. Bowen removed the revised policy eliminating "sexual orientation" from the statement.

First meeting of the Gay & Lesbian Professional Network (GLPN), held at St. Francis Episcopal Church in College Station.

Texas A&M Allies complete the Real Gay Video, an educational video that discusses the experiences of GLBT students at Texas A&M University.

### **2001**

The University Apartments Community Center is completed and opened, providing international graduate students and their families with an onsite computer lab and a meeting place for social activities.

Charles Henry Rowell, editor of *Callaloo* moves the journal to Texas A&M where it remains and functions as a forum that continuously publishes creative writing, visual art, and critical texts about African American life.

Establishment of the Transdisciplinary Center for Health Equity Research (formerly called the Center for the Study of Health Disparities). The inaugural director was Dr. B. Lee Green. Gay & Lesbian Professional Network (GLPN) members vote to rename the organization GLBT Professional Network (GLBT-PN). The GLBT Professional Network (GLBT-PN) is officially recognized by Texas A&M University President Ray M. Bowen in March. The goal of GLBT-PN is to encourage and support the professional development of its members through the development and enhancement of opportunities for networking, peer support, education, and communication.

Shuon Alejandro Madden, class of 2001, born in Caracas, Venezuela, graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in agricultural development. Known during his playing days at A&M as "Mad Dog Madden," he achieved a National Singles Ranking of No. 2. He teamed with his tennis partner Dumitru Caradima, Class of 2001, and the duo achieved a national ranking of No. 1. He led the Aggies to four straight NCAA Championship appearances and to three visits to the round of 16, in addition to three Big 12 Tournament titles and a regular season Big 12 Championship.



Schuyler Houser, Class of 2001, is elected third woman student body president.

Aruna "Boo Boo" Davies, Class of 2002, becomes the second African American Yell Leader in Texas A&M history.

Black Former Student Network (BFSN) is formed as an effort to promote the interests and support the relationships of the African American constituency of Texas A&M. The BFSN is the first Constituent Network chartered by the Association of Former Students.

**2002**

Creation of the Mexican American Latino Faculty Association (MALFA). MALFA is an outgrowth of the Professional Hispanic Network (PHN). It was created in 2002 to create a Mexican American/Latino faculty presence at Texas A&M University and offer a strong Mexican American/Latino voice on campus and support the goals of Vision 2020. The group seeks to establish a liaison with the administration by providing insight in matters regarding Mexican American and Latino issues at all levels of the University.

**2003**

Texas A&M University President Robert Gates establishes first Vice President and Associate Provost for Institutional Diversity position. James Anderson is the first to hold this position. Texas A&M University Hispanic Network (TAMHN) is created. The mission of the Texas A&M Hispanic Network is to serve as an advocate and support group on Hispanic concerns and issues at the University and local communities within the larger Association of Former Students organization.



Dr. Valerie Taylor becomes the first African American women to be the head of Texas A&M's Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

The Laboratory for Diversity in Sport (LDS) is established under the directorship of Dr. George Cunningham with the purpose of examining and seeking to understand how such diversity impacts team and organization performance, as well as people's affect and behaviors.

**2004**

Officially launched in 2004, the Africana Studies Program (AFST) at Texas A&M University was developed by Albert S. Broussard, Kimberly N. Brown, Finnie D. Coleman, Larry J. Oliver, and Larry W. Yarak, under the direction of the late Woodrow Jones, Jr. (Dean of Liberal Arts 1994-2001). <https://afst.tamu.edu/history/>

Black Faculty Alliance (BFA) is formally recognized as a faculty group with a mission to advocate and provide a support network for the concerns and professional development needs of Black faculty at Texas A&M.

Creation of the Mexican American and U.S. Latino Research Center (MALRC). MALRC is created to enable faculty members to conduct research on issues that impart the quality of life of Mexican Americans and other Latinos in Texas and the United States.

During the 2004/2005 academic year, GIES was combined with the Women's Center to form the Women's and Gender Equity Resource Center (WGERC). The WGERC continued to offer resource and referral services to the GLBT student population and carried on established GIES programs such as Coming Out Week and Gay Awareness Week in the fall and spring semesters.

## 2005

Disability Services, which was part of the Division of Student Affairs, becomes an independent unit.

The Center on Disability and Development begins working when it is awarded federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and is part of a national network in universities and medical schools.

## 2006

Dr. Robert Gates, President of Texas A&M University from 2002-2006, writes an open letter to the Aggie Family reaffirming the university's commitment to diversity after condemning a homemade video created by three students that demoralized African Americans by depicting students in blackface acting as slaves.

Texas A&M University President Robert Gates includes sexual orientation in the President's Annual "Commitment to Equal Employment Opportunity /Affirmative Action" statement.

Tito Guerrero III, a Hispanic and Class of 1970, is hired as Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity.

**2007**

The Race and Ethnic Studies Institute is re-launched as an interdisciplinary research center beginning in the spring, now housed in the Department of Sociology. The rearticulated vision for RESI meant that it would function as an entity providing academic leadership in facilitating research relating to the study of race and ethnicity and their various dimensions (intersections with social class, gender, and sexuality; past, present, and future relevance to issues of education, immigration, politics, culture, and health and wellness).

The Women Administrators Network is formed and established to encourage, support, and empower women in administrative roles.

WGERC is divided into a stand-alone Women's Resource Center and the Gender Issues Education Center (GIEC) in the Division of Student Affairs. For the first time in Texas A&M University history, an office (GIEC) was formed with a sole mission focus on GLBT programming and serving as a resource and referral center for GLBT Aggies and their heterosexual peers.

Cleve Jones, founder of the AIDS Memorial Quilt speaks at Texas A&M marking the 20th Anniversary of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. A display of four blocks of quilt panels featuring Texas Aggies accompanied the presentation in the Memorial Student Center Flag Room.

In April 2007, the Center for Disability and Development receives approval from the Board of Regents to operate as a designated Center within the Texas A&M University System.

**2008**

Dr. Elsa E. Murano becomes President of Texas A&M University, the first Hispanic and first woman to hold this office.

The Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference (SBSLC) celebrates its 20th anniversary on campus.

Gender Issues Education Center renamed Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Resource Center by former Texas A&M University President Dr. Elsa Murano following a year-long study, focus groups and benchmarking.

Jerry Machado Makowski, a Hispanic student and Class of 2008, was two-time ITA All-American, two-time All-Big 12 First Team selection in tennis. He made back-to-back NCAA Singles Championship appearances as a top seed in 2005 and 2006, was ranked a career-best No. 5 leading into his sophomore campaign, was two-time Arthur Ashe Jr. Scholar, and has played in three NCAA Team Championships. He became the first freshman in school history to earn All-American honors in singles and was named Big 12 Conference Freshman of the Year in 2005.



## 2009



Dr. Eleanor Green (Left) is named dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' becoming the college's first female dean.

Dr. Kate Miller (Right) is named Dean of the College of Geosciences becoming the college's first female dean



Phyllis Frye, Class of 1970, a Houston attorney, and longtime activist for GLBT causes, is honored when Texas A&M, bestowed the first diversity award created in her name. First recipient of the award was James Rosenheim, professor of history and director of Glasscock Center.

President Barack Obama, the nation's first African American President, gives a keynote address on public service at the request of Former President George H. W. Bush. President Obama's visit to the Texas A&M campus on October 16, 2009 was part of a forum on public service celebrating the 20th anniversary of President Bush's Points of Light Foundation.

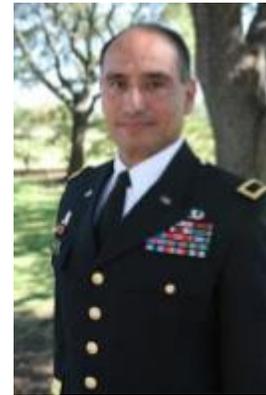
**2010**

The Texas A&M ADVANCE program is established and funded by the National Science Foundation as an interdisciplinary collaboration among departments in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in order to create a better workplace for everyone by promoting faculty growth, development, and recognition.

GLBT Aggies receives the Affiliated Student Organization of the Year award for academic year 2009-2010 by the Department of Student Activities.

Recognized Student Organization GLBTA along with the GLBT Resource Center, Aggie Allies, and the GLBT Professional Network host the "It's Time" Conference at Texas A&M celebrating 25 years of GLBT Recognition on campus.

General Joe E. Ramirez Jr., Class of 1979, becomes the commandant of the Corps of Cadets, becoming the first Hispanic to hold the position. During his time at Texas A&M University, Ramirez joined the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band in the Corps of Cadets, where he commanded the B Company "Streetfighters" his senior year.

**2011**

Atticus Circle awards Texas A&M University GLBT Resource Center and GLBT Aggies with the Campus Circle award in recognition of our "gay? fine by me" t-shirt project giving away 1,000 free shirts across campus along with a qualitative campus climate research project.

Aggie Allies organization has more than 900 trained members on campus who volunteer to be supporters of GLBT people.

Dr. Karan Watson is appointed as the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs becoming the first female provost at A&M.

Kevin Sumlin accepts a position as the head football coach in December becoming the first African American head football coach at A&M.

2012



Dr. M. Katherine Banks is named dean of the College of Engineering, the first woman to hold this position. She also serves as vice chancellor for engineering for The Texas A&M University System.

Marquis Alexander, Class of 2013, is named Corps Commander for the incoming year. He is the first African American to hold the position. Alexander was also the first African American sergeant major in the Corps.



2013

Texas A&M University President R. Bowen Loftin includes “gender identity and gender expression” in the President’s Annual “Commitment to Equal Employment and Opportunity/Affirmative Action statement.

The GLBT Resource Center launches a GLBT professional mentorship program which pairs undergraduate students with faculty and staff on campus. And, the GLBT Resource Center is invited to participate in Fish Camp for the first time.

Senate Bill 65-70 is brought before the Texas A&M Student Senate, and calls on the Texas A&M administration to allow students "who object, for religious purposes, to the use of their student fees and tuition to fund this center to opt out of paying an amount equal to their share of the Center’s funding from their fee and tuition bills." Student Senate passed the bill but it was vetoed by the Student Body President.

Fall, 2013, College Station campus records its largest enrollment of African American and Hispanic freshmen.



## 2014 to the present...

This timeline is a living document that makes transparent where Texas A&M has been and where it is going, as it pertains to diversity and inclusion. This document is an important resource and tool for individuals, groups, and units who support diversity and inclusion at Texas A&M and in our communities.

We welcome contributions! To provide content, photos, or updates, please contact the Office for Diversity by email, [diversity@tamu.edu](mailto:diversity@tamu.edu), by phone (979-458-2905), or use this online [form](https://bit.ly/2MJJx3W) (<https://bit.ly/2MJJx3W>) to provide any information or feedback. Thank you for your help in keeping this living document, accurate, and current.