Timeline of Texas A&M’s History of Inclusion
(Revised 01/10/22)

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
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- Sara Alpern, Ph.D.
- Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Texas A&M University Race and Ethnic Studies Institute, Texas A&M University
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- Department of Africana Studies, Texas A&M University
- Texas A&M University Women’s Resource Center
- Center on Disability and Development
- Department of Multicultural Services, Texas A&M University
- International Programs Office, Texas A&M University
- Aggie Women
- 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, by phone (979-458-2905), or use this online form (https://bit.ly/2MJJx3W) to provide any information or feedback. Thank you for your help in keeping this living document, accurate, and current.
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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.

Texas Legislature established state A&M college for "colored youths."

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 Morril 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.

1893
Ethel Hudson becomes the first woman known to attend classes at Texas A&M. At the time, women were allowed to attend classes on a case-by-case basis as “unofficial special students”, and only when they were relatives of male faculty and staff. As such, she was never awarded a degree.

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

1899
The first group of international students arrives at Texas A&M University from Latin America to enroll in the study of agriculture.

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 attack on 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 postgraduate 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.
The first Dean of Agriculture, Edwin Jackson Kyle, retires to become the U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala.

1945
Texas Legislature changes name of Prairie View to Prairie View 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

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

Board of Directors permits women to enroll on “Limited basis.”

Texas A&M’S Athletic Council “recommends that all intercollegiate athletics be open to all eligible undergraduate students, regardless of race, color or creed; and that all intercollegiate athletes be similarly accommodated as to student facilities.”
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.

Texas A&M becomes an international leader in agricultural education as it undertakes a project in the Dominican Republic and more than 100 Dominicans graduate from A&M as a result of the project.

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 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. Today, Dr. Kudchadker is the founder and CEO of Anhaleena Engineering Information Services (AEIS), which supplied property tables to the Thermodynamic Research Center at TAMU.

Veerapun “Tom” Putamanonda, an international student who, trained as a member of the Corps of Cadets, becomes the first international Texas A&M student to become a General of the Royal Thai Army.
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

An article from the June 4, 1969 Daily Mirror reporting on the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents rejection of 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."

Ally F. Mack is hired as instructor in political science, becoming the first African American member of the teaching staff at Texas A&M.

Female students are allowed to enroll at Texas A&M University in unrestricted numbers.

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

Ronald E. Corley becomes the first African American student to graduate after four complete years at Texas A&M.

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

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 8 demands to A&M, setting September as deadline for meeting demands. The Texas A&M System Board refused to consider demands due to veiled threats of violence contained within.
Transgender Aggie Phyllis Frye graduates from Texas A&M. During her time at Texas A&M, Frye was known as Phillip Randolph; she later changed her name.

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.
Maureen Turk and Nancy Nielson were the first women to study nuclear engineering at A&M. When Nielson graduated in 1970, she was the first woman since the Hutson twins to complete a course of study in engineering and the first ever to receive a degree in the field.

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.

Mario “Brother Rap” Brown and Cedric Joseph become the first African Americans to play basketball at Texas A&M.
Curtis Mills, Class of 1971, was the first African American athlete at Texas A&M. 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.

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 was a "racist institution."—including demands for higher enrollment of African-American students, hiring African-American faculty, and offering Black history courses.

Carlos Aquino, a Texas A&M graduate from the Dominican Republic, is appointed Secretary of State for Agriculture by his government.

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, TAIAW. During the 1982-83 season, the team joined NCAA and SWC competition, and while in the SWC set several individual conference records.
Irene Hoadley was named director of libraries. She was the first woman to head the library on a permanent basis and, at the time of her appointment, the highest placed female administrator in the institution.

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.

The first Texas A&M chapter of a sorority is established.

Passage of Foreign Assistance Act of 1975 (Title XII). A committee chaired by Dr. L.S. Pope recommends that Texas A&M project a new university image in International Programs and pursue the image with force and vigor under a new organizational structure.

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

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

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.


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.

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.

Female cadets were allowed to participate in the Bonfire cut for the first time. They were not allowed to cut any tree bigger than 12 inches wide.

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.

The first official International Memoranda of Agreement is signed by Texas A&M and 3D International of Houston, followed closely by agreements with four other international universities.

Texas A&M is awarded the second largest Title XII Strengthening Grant out of 46 participating institutions. The Board of Regents created the Office of the Vice President for International Affairs.

In 1979, three African-American women, sisters Ellen and Evelyn Smith and Early Douglass, join the track team, the first at Texas A&M. 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.

The International Student Association holds the first "International Week" event. This tradition has continued for the past 21 years.

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.

The Women in Science Club and the Women’s Student Organization held their first meetings.

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 8-month study, issued 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, naacp 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.

The International Agriculture Programs office is created.

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 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

Two women were verbally and physically harassed at the Bonfire site as they attempted to take yearbook pictures. A few days later, female members of the faculty and local officers helped move logs at the site in a show of support for women.

Formation of Black Graduate Student Association.
Institute for Pacific Asia is founded.

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, 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.

Grace Butler Chisolm 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.

After Faculty Senate approval and adoption by President William Mobley, the phrase “sexual orientation” is added to the “Students’ Rights” and “Sexual Harassment” sections of TAMU’s University Regulations. Only students are covered in this policy.

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

A minor in women studies was offered for the first time, with Harriette Andreadis as the program coordinator.
1990
The Committee for a Discrimination-Free Campus releases its final report and includes the phrase "sexual orientation" in a University Statement on Harassment and Discrimination, extending protection to faculty and staff.

Mexican & Latin American Programs, later called Office of Latin American Programs, begins under the direction of Dr. Gabriel Carranza.

The Texas A&M University Koriyama Campus opened on May 28 with 80 Japanese students.

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

Gay Student Services (GSS) members vote to change the group’s name to Gay and Lesbian Student Services (GLSS). The change sticks this time.

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.)

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

1991
The phrase “sexual orientation” is removed from the University Statement on Harassment and Discrimination, one year after it is included in the final report.

All international efforts are centralized under the new Assistant Provost for International Programs and the International Programs Office is established.

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 was 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.

Women in the Corps of Cadets experience harassment and discrimination after forced gender integration is implemented. In response, the Corps instituted a written statement against harassment and discrimination.

First meeting of the International Programs External Advisory Board.
1993

Faculty Senate proposes all students take U.S. cultures and international requirement courses in order to sensitize them to 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.
1866-2021 Timeline of Texas A&M’s History of Inclusion

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.

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) holds their first conference, titled “What They Don’t Tell You in Graduate School”.

The Mexico City Center opens under the direction of Dr. Gabriel Carranza. Texas A&M now has a permanent presence in Mexico.

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 gave away Gary Gray Memorial Student Award and 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.

The Office of Assistant Vice Chancellor for International Development is established.

Women’s Programs is opened in the Department of Student Life.
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.


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

I-Camp established for newly enrolled international students.

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 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.

Women’s Programs (established in 1994) is renamed Gender Issues Education Services (GIES); Coming Out Week and Gay Awareness Week are set up as campus events.

1997

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

The International Center opens at the Presidential Conference Center, a component of the Bush Presidential Library Complex.

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

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.

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 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.

1998
Janis Stout becomes the first woman to serve as dean of faculties and associate provost.


Perspectives on the Climate for Diversity: Findings and Suggested Recommendations for the Texas A&M University Campus Community-based on a campus-wide survey of racial/ethnic issues which stemmed from 1996 request by Texas A&M University President Ray M. Bowen directed 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 Foundation Excellence Award, 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.

Princeton Review releases its list of the most gay-friendly and gay-unfriendly colleges and universities in the US. TAMU ranks 3rd least friendly college campus for LGBTQ+ students.

The mayors of Bryan and College Station proclaim February as the first International Awareness Month.

**2000**

The Equal Rights Alliance (ERA) is officially recognized on the TAMU campus.

The Young Conservatives of Texas stage a protest against Gay Awareness Week on the TAMU campus.

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

Josie Ruth Williams, M.D. ’71, became the first woman to receive the highest recognition a former student can receive, the University Distinguished Alumnus award.

Texas A&M graduate, Jorge Quiroga, becomes president of Bolivia, the first Aggie Head of State.

The United States is attacked, in New York and Washington, D.C. by foreign terrorists. U.S. and international students from Texas A&M unite in a peace march to show support of people from all nations who condemn hatred and all senseless acts of terrorism. During the pre-march speeches, Archana Ramaswamy, then President for the International Student Association said “We walk in support of remembering the spirit of the United States. We walk as Aggies not divided by culture, color or creed.”

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 single 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.

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.

The Bush Excellence Awards of Faculty in Public Service and in International Teaching and Research are created through the vision of President and Mrs. Bush and with financial assistance from the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation.

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.

University officials cancel students' planned "ghetto party" in a dormitory, at which participants were to mimic racial stereotypes at a party observing the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

A&M announces plans to open a branch campus in the Middle Eastern nation of Qatar specializing in engineering education and research.

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 woman 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.

The Africana Studies program is inaugurated.

Texas A&M System regents approve an admissions plan that will continue to not consider race as a factor in accepting students. This decision was made although the Supreme Court overturned the 1996 Hopwood case in Grutter v. Bollinger, 539 U.S. 306, in which the Court upheld the affirmative action admissions policy of the University of Michigan Law School. The school’s new plan will continue to make attracting minorities a top priority through increased outreach efforts in predominantly minority areas.

The Friends of India Network is established in to provide a forum for faculty and staff at Texas A&M University to foster awareness within the academic community of a range of issues and concerns relevant to India and Indian-Americans on the TAMU campus.

On May 25 Texas A&M University and the Qatar Foundation entered a ten-year agreement to bring quality engineering education and research to Qatar. The newly established branch campus in Doha began in the fall with 30 students.

Two new units join International Programs Office. The Qatar Support office was established to serve as the communicating link between the new Texas A&M University Qatar (TAMUQ) campus and the flagship campus in College Station. International Faculty and Scholar Services came under the IPO umbrella in July to continue offering immigration services to international faculty and visiting scholars.

International Programs office stepped up its efforts to create a more welcoming environment for international faculty, scholars, and students through the development of written materials, specialized programs, and a new relationship with the City of College Station.

2004

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.

Under wide media pressure following decisions to continue race neutral admission and scholarship practices, President Gates announces the school will no longer give preference to applicants whose parents or grandparents were graduates. The move came days after lawmakers criticized the legacy program and a state civil rights group indicated it would sue the school if the policy did not change.

Senior Citizens in Bryan-College Station had the opportunity to travel the world without leaving the Brazos Valley through the Senior World Passport Program co-sponsored by the City of College Station Parks and Recreation Department and Texas A&M University’s International Programs Office.

2005

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

The Office of Student Affairs proclaimed February 2005 to February 2006 the Year of the International Student.

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.

Business, education, and government leaders of the United States-Mexico border region met in March for a Conference of Border Governors at Texas A&M University and approved
a resolution to continue, promote and enhance research and technology programs. About 200 leaders from the Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Coahuila, Baja California, Sonora, Nuevo Leon and from New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Texas applauded the resolution during “The Forum of Science and Technology for the Competitiveness of the Border Region”. The goal of the conference was to find ways to make the border region a more powerful influence in economic, educational, commercial, political, and technological areas and to foster continued cooperation in the area between the United States and Mexico.

2006
Dr. Robert Gates 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 man 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). It is currently under the directorship of Dr. Verna M. Keith of the Department of Sociology.

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
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.

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

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, her alma matter 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 major 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.

The Department of Multicultural Services creates the “Diversity Certificate”, a formally recognized addition to student degrees.

Vision 2020 is established, citing “encouraging diversity in student enrollment” as one of the four key steps to achieving Texas A&M University’s recognition as a “top 10” public university.

The Pride Community Center is founded at Texas A&M.

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

The College of Architecture establishes their own Diversity Council, and executive advisory council composed of faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students who represent every department housed in the college. The Diversity Council is a hands-on committee dedicated to equal treatment of all in the College of Architecture, despite ethnic background, religious beliefs, age, political beliefs, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, physical ability, gender, and more.

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

The Texas A&M Veteran Resource and Support Center was opened as a means of supporting the more than 600 former members of the military who are currently enrolled.

International Women’s Day was brought to Texas A&M in 2012 by the student organization Aggie Women in Leadership (now The American Association of University Women at Texas A&M (AAUW-TAMU) and the Women’s Resource Center. Recognizing the diverse nature of the Aggie family and the importance of global leadership, Aggie Women in Leadership felt that International Women’s Day was an important event to bring to the Texas A&M campus.

Shades of Color, the first student organization focusing on LGBTQ+ issues in persons of color, is formed.

Dr. M. Katherine Banks is named dean of the Dwight Look College of Engineering, the first women to hold this position in the College of Engineering. 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.

Texas A&M University was selected as one of only 50 host sites for Elect Her: Campus Women Win, the only program in the country that encourages and trains college women to run for student government and future political office. Elect Her addresses the need to expand the pipeline for women running for office and to diminish the longstanding political leadership gender gap.

GLBTA and Shades of Color change their names respectively to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Aggies (LGBTQA), and Shades of Queer. In addition, Graduate Students at TAMU form the LGBTQ Grads Association.

The Department of Psychology establishes the Diversity Science Cluster, with the aim of foregrounding the study of psychological dimensions of intersectional social identities with respect to sex, gender, race, ethnicity, cultural identity, age, language, sexuality, etc.

2014
The GLBT Resource Center hosts their first annual Lavender Graduation Ceremony, celebrating graduating LGBTQ+ Aggies and their allies.
2015

National search resulted in Dr. Tonya Driver being named the fifth director of the Department of Multicultural Services.

Step In. Stand Up. Is created to bring awareness to the Texas A&M community. This campaign encourages others to step in as active bystanders to prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence and stand up to support survivors. It creates opportunities to change the culture, the perception, and the conversation.

The Office for Diversity establishes the Diversity Matters Seed Grants program, and awards their first cohort of grant recipients.

The official opening of the Don Kelly Collection Exhibition (Gay Literature and Culture) at Cushing Memorial Library.
2016
Texas A&M is removed from Princeton Review’s list of most gay-unfriendly colleges and universities in the US.

Former Houston Mayor Annise Parker, one of the first openly gay mayors of a major U.S. city, speaks at the University Libraries.

For the first time in Texas A&M history, women held all three top student leadership spots: (from left to right) Hannah Wimberly, Student Body President; Corps of Cadets Commander Cecille Sorio, Senior Class President Claire Wimberly.

A white nationalist by the name of Richard Spencer held a speaking event in the Memorial Student Center at Texas A&M campus. His presence incited a large, nonviolent counterprotest to express that white supremacists are not welcomed at Texas A&M.

The hashtag #RacismAtTAMUFeelsLike circulates widely on social media platforms, encouraging students to share their experiences of acts of hate and racism on campus.

MSC Voice hosts “Bias: Let’s Talk About It”, a conversation among panelists of student leaders about biases of race, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, and others. The panelists were asked to define bias and what it meant to them as student leaders.

The overwhelming majority of senators impeached two student senators at the 69th Session of the Student Senate. The impeachment was based on comments made in a group message about then-Student Body President Hannah Wimberly’s family.

A group of visiting high school students from Uplift Hampton Preparatory were verbally abused with racial slurs during a campus tour. The high schoolers were told to “go back where you came from”, and asked by a female Texas A&M student if they liked her confederate flag earrings. President Michael K. Young and then-Student Body President
Joseph Beningo visited the school to personally deliver thousands of apology letters from A&M students expressing their support. President Young also addressed the incident in an email to the public, calling the acts “abhorrent”, and “against core values”. The Student Conduct Office further investigated the event.

Students hold “TAMU Blackout” on campus, a silent protest calling for awareness of police brutality and campus climate.

Aggies United is held to demonstrate unity as a direct response to white supremacist speaker, Richard Spencer. The event featured musical performances, such as soul singer V. Bozeman and South Asian a capella group Swaram. Student leaders and organizations were also present, including LGBTQ Aggies and Black Student Alliance Council. Hannah Wimberly, then-Student Body President and actor Hill Harper are pictured to the right, speaking to the audience at Aggies United.

Texas A&M Race Identity and Social Equity (RISE) Initiative is created by the Department of Multicultural Services. RISE is a yearlong program and annual conference, which cultivates an understanding of diversity and establishes a brave space and open environment for discussion on issues that impact Texas A&M and beyond. (http://dms.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/RISE_Logo_Black-01.png)

The Department of Multicultural Services develops the Women of Color Courageous Conversation Series.
The Department of Multicultural Services hosts the first annual Accountability, Climate, and Equity (ACE) awards. The ACE awards acknowledge and honor students, faculty and staff in honor of their demonstrated commitment to the Texas A&M core value of RESPECT by promoting respectful treatment of others, affirming and encouraging individuals to take pride in their social and cultural identities, and including all in their definition of the “Aggie Family.

Two assistant coaches for the Texas A&M football program host “Chalk Talk for Women”. The presentation played on offensive gender stereotypes and contained sexually suggestive material. Then-Head Football Coach Kevin Sumlin and President Michael K. Young both publicly responded to the event, condemning the presentation, and apologizing to Aggie women.
2017
One year after students from Uplift Hampton Preparatory were verbally abused during a campus tour, TAMU Anti-Racism hosted #OurCampusTAMU to incite change from the university. Specific demands from the event included more students and faculty of color, addressment of allegedly racist faculty, and more representation of people of color in statues and monuments.

Texas A&M hosts all five living former U.S. presidents for Hurricane Harvey disaster relief event, "Deep from the Heart".

Bobby Brooks is elected by TAMU students as the first openly gay student body president.
The GLBT center officially attends Houston Pride for the first time.

President Barack Obama appoints Rebecca Hankins to serve on the National Historic Publications and Records Commission. Hankins is a Texas A&M librarian, associate professor, and a curator and archivist for Africana Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, and Arabic language.

President Michael K. Young issues a statement in response to the White House executive order travel ban, expressing the willingness of the University to work with those affected. Young then encouraged Aggies to continue to “respect each other, stay informed, and support each other”.

President Michael K. Young issues a DACA update, reaffirming the University’s stance that all students, faculty, and staff of Texas A&M University belong here. Young expressed his hope that the U.S. Congress would find a solution that would honor those working and pursuing their degrees, and provided several University-sponsored resources for students, faculty, and staff affected.
TAMU Libraries and Liberal Arts launch the Don Kelly Collection Research Fellowship. The fellowship covers all aspects of LGBTQ studies, and can include research topics such as pulp fiction, protest movements, Andy Warhol, and more. By June, three Don Kelly Collection Research Fellows conduct research at the Cushing Library.

Arden Eversmeyer visits along with Dr. Kathleen Prezbindowski and Ruth Benton on National Coming Out Day to present some stories from her Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project (OLOHP).

Kevin Sumlin, the first African-American head football coach at Texas A&M, receives racist hate mail at his family home. The letter, which was posted to twitter by his wife, refers to Sumlin as the N-word, and is followed by threats to “get lost... or else”.

The 1st annual Not Another Aggie Suicide Awareness Walk is held in Rudder Plaza.
2018

Dr. Robin Means Coleman is announced as the next Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity.

Texas A&M conducts an internal review, in addition to an external review by higher education law firm Husch Blackwell, of Title IX investigations and sanctioning.

Fish Camp adds Diversity to their core values, and elevates it to the front page of their website.

Mia Miller becomes the first woman in the history of the Corps of Cadets to serve as Reveille’s handler.

Latino Logrodores (LatiLo) was developed by the Department of Multicultural Services
The Division of Student Affairs launches Spectrum Learning Living Community in Fall 2018, to give students who are on the autism spectrum or in some way connected to the autism community a chance to live and learn together in Eppright Hall.

Walton Hall, a traditional all-male dorm, becomes a co-ed dormitory in the Fall of 2018.

Texas A&M Class Councils eliminates the stop at the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue during the junior and senior Elephant Walks, in response to Sul Ross’ history as a Confederate general.

In 2018, several current and former Texas A&M students used social media to express frustration and demand that Texas A&M revisit Title IX policies and procedures for handling sexual abuse cases. In June 2018, President Young ordered internal and external reviews to “test every step of our processes for safety, support, sensitivity, timeliness, and fairness to all involved that meets the highest standards”. Many of the recommendations from reviews have resulted in Texas A&M emerging as a national leader for establishing policies and procedures that bring fairness for both the respondents and complainants. For example, a Title IX sanctioning matrix has been developed and implemented and is publicly available on the website of Texas A&M’s Department of Civil Rights & Equity Investigations.
2019
The Department of Multicultural Services holds the first annual Multicultural Graduation Ceremony.

15 founding students establish the first inaugural Texas A&M Latinx Graduation, which allows graduates and their families to participate in a bilingual graduation ceremony.

The Department of Multicultural Services celebrates their 30th anniversary.

Student Counseling Services (SCS) changes their name to Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), in order to better reflect the services they provide to students.

Texas A&M University becomes a 2019 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award recipient, and is recognized as a “Diversity Champion” by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.
Texas A&M issued security recommendations to students the group-messaging app GroupMe, after anonymous accounts posting racial slurs and pornography invade the group message. One TAMU student responded by posting a slur herself, which sparked a large response from her fellow students on social media.

The Student Recreation Center adds a kiosk to their facility that allows Aggies to measure their blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), resting heart rate, and body weight. The kiosk is an effort to educate younger adults of the risks of high blood pressure, and help provide services to those with heart disease.

Disability Services officially changes their name to Disability Resources.

The Black Former Student Network hosts the first Aggie Impact Gala to raise money for their endowed scholarship, celebrate the careers and contributions of African American Aggies, and to build a stronger network among current and former African American students.

The Aggie Baptist Student Ministry launches ¡Viva!, a Faith-Based Hispanic Community aimed at connecting Hispanic students and bringing them closer to the Hispanic culture and language. Weekly meetings are hosted in both Spanish and English.
2020
The Student Senate unanimously passes a resolution to support undocumented Aggies in light of US Supreme Court debates.

The GLBT Resource Center officially changes its name to the LGBTQ+ Pride Center.

The Student Services Building hosts its grand opening on January 22nd. The building is the new and improved home to Disability Resources, Counseling & Psychological Services, the LGBTQ+ Pride Center, the Women’s Resource Center, and more.

The Office for Diversity hosts the first Diversity Gallery Celebration to share the diversity and inclusion work taking place in the colleges and administrative units. Posters drawing on each unit’s annual Diversity Plan Accountability Report are displayed for gallery participants to view.

The Memorial Student Center Visual Arts Committee and the Matthew Gaines Initiative hosts an exhibit in the Reynolds Gallery in January and February to honor the strides that Matthew Gaines made to Texas A&M University.
MSC Town Hall and the LGBTQ+ Pride Center host DRAGgieland 2020, an event showcasing local and student queens, as well as RuPaul’s Drag Race’s Monique Heart. The event sells out after a change.org petition to “Stop DRAGgieland” receives a lot of pushback. Protesters and counter protestors hold demonstrations in Rudder Plaza before the show.

The student senate overwhelmingly passes a resolution in support of DRAGgieland and rejecting calls for its cancellation. The resolution “stands against discrimination and hate of all kinds, including homophobic and transphobic rhetoric”.

Eric Mendoza ’21 is elected student body president for the 2020-21 school year.

Guillermo “Memo” Salinas ’22 is elected Junior Yell Leader 2020-21. He is the first Hispanic Yell Leader in the history of the university.
MSC CAMAC and the MSC Carter G. Woodson Black Awareness Committee (WBAC) host the 3rd Annual Afro-Latinx Festival at Texas A&M.

The Division of Marketing and Communications creates an interactive map for parking and wheelchair accessibility. The map shows the most direct wheelchair-accessible route to wheelchair entrances.

Due to the Coronavirus, Texas A&M moves all classes online for the duration of the Spring 2020 semester following Spring Break. Refunds are issued to students who choose to leave campus, who will no longer have use for their dining plans and dorm rooms. Students are given the option to waive letter grades in favor of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory for their Spring semester classes.

President Young sends a message to the Texas A&M community, “A Message about Respect at Texas A&M”, signed by the leadership across all colleges and units. The message was in response to a number of racist occurrences surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

A petition started by “Aggies Respect”, titled “It’s time to remove the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue” garners over 24,000 signatures. The petition calls on Texas A&M University administration to take action towards a more inclusive Texas A&M. Shortly after the petition began to gain traction, and a few days before protests were planned to be held, the statue was vandalized. The statue was wrapped in a tarp and fenced off from the public.
On June 13, 2020, protestors for and against the removal of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue from Academic Plaza gathered to support their cause. The protest to remove the statue was organized by current student groups, whose significant following on social media drew the attention of counter protestors. Texas A&M associate professor, Michael Alvard, was arrested for trespassing after attempting to speak at the protest. (Photo and News Coverage: The Eagle).

Two social media hashtags, #HateIsTheHiddenCoreValue and #RacismatTAMUFeelsLike, trend on Twitter. The hashtags give students space to share their experiences of racism and discrimination at Texas A&M, and call on the university administration to take action.

Aggies of Color for Racial Justice, a Texas A&M student-run organization, plan a protest for June 26th as the hashtags continue to trend on Twitter.

On July 13, 2020, then-President Michael K. Young announced the membership and charge of a comprehensive Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The committee was charged with engaging the university community; assessing relevant data and literature; explore institutional alignment of policies and procedures; review information; and provide a final report with findings.

Texas A&M hosts a virtual event to celebrate first-generation students, sponsored by the Routh First-Generation Center and the Office for Student Success.

Dr. Annie S. McGowan is announced as the Interim Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity in December.
2021

The route 36 bus, previously known as “Cotton Bowl”, is renamed to honor “Matthew Gaines”. Gaines was an African American Texas Senator who promoted the creation of Texas A&M.

John L. Junkins served as the interim president of Texas A&M University from January through May of 2021.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents met on January 15, 2021 to discuss the University Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion’s report on campus climate. In response to the final report, the committee created four subcommittees including: Community Engagement; Data & Policies; Values & Mission; and Campus Culture & Climate. The Board of Regents released a statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion, which outlines the proposed actions and recommended investment. On May 27, 2021, then-Interim President John L. Junkins submitted a status report to Chancellor Sharp, and to The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents (BoR) summarizing progress to date on BoR-approved actions to establish a four-year plan to increase diversity of our student body, faculty, and staff, as well as to address a number of other important issues.
Internationally renowned anti-racism activist Jane Elliott delivered the keynote address at the 14th Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast on January 21, 2021, hosted by the MSC Carter G. Woodson Black Awareness Committee.

The College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M hosted Race Talks: An Interdisciplinary Virtual Colloquium Series. The program aimed to invigorate campus wide conversation on anti-racist advocacy through pedagogy, performance and research.

A $5 million gift from Don and Ellie Knauss creates a new space for the Veteran Resource & Support Center at Texas A&M. The 10,000-square-foot Veteran Resource and Support Center provides improved infrastructure for VRSC staff to provide support for the nearly 4,500 military affiliated students and their families, as well as a number of military-affiliated student organizations.

Students, faculty, and staff across Texas A&M University are invited to take the 2021 Your Voice Matters Survey. The survey runs from 2/10/2021 until 3/14/2021.
The Office of Graduate Studies at Prairie View A&M University and the Graduate and Professional School at Texas A&M University have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) establishing a partnership to improve graduate education at both institutions. The goal of the MOA is to collaborate to capitalize on each institution’s strengths.

Dr. Katherine Banks is named the next President of Texas A&M University.

The Student Government Association’s Diversity Commission and Matthew Gaines Society led a virtual town hall and diversity panel open for student body president candidates. The main goal of the panel was accountability for the elected student body president.

The Hispanic President's Council (HPC) coordinates celebrations for National Hispanic Heritage Month. Tamara Cuellar Garza ’02 serves as the keynote speaker for the event. Garza is the marketing strategy coordinator for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and campus liaison for the Texas A&M Hispanic Network.
Texas A&M celebrates the dedication of the Matthew Gaines statue on November 19, 2021. In addition to serving as a symbol of inclusion and representation at Texas A&M, the statue is the result of the work of students, faculty and staff to recognize Gaines’ contributions, starting in the 1990s with the formation of the Matthew Gaines Committee.

Texas A&M University has been named a recipient of the 2021 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine for the third year in a row.

The Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy and the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences have also been recognized by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine for their outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.