Background
According to the Texas A&M University Vision 2020 report, Creating a Culture of Excellence, a “sense of the value of history and tradition” is part of the foundational “value system that helps define the experience of learning” (p. 30-31). In addition, the report acknowledges “perhaps the most uniquely defining characteristic of Texas A&M University, the quintessential difference between Texas A&M University and other great public institutions, is the role of traditions in perpetuating Aggie Spirit” (p. 31).

The April 2003 Aggie R-r-ring telephone survey was initiated in order to benchmark the involvement of Texas A&M students in specific traditional events and activities as well as determine their thoughts on the role of traditions in the campus community.

Contact was attempted with a total of 534 undergraduate students. 63% agreed to participate in the survey, which does not necessarily provide a representative sample of the undergraduate population.

Results
Participation in Traditions
- 99% of students said they planned to obtain an Aggie Ring.
- 92% of students have attended Midnight Yell Practice.
- 77% of students have attended Silver Taps.
- 60% of students have attended Parents’ Weekend activities.
- 51% students have attended Muster.
- 47% of students have participated in Big Event.
- 39% of seniors attended Senior Elephant Walk and 26% of juniors attended Junior E-Walk in November 2002.
- 29% of students have attended All-University Night.
- 27% of seniors attended Ring Dance in April 2003.
- 16% of students have participated in Replant.

- 15% of students have attended Whoopstock.
- 15% of juniors planned to attend Boot Dance in May 2003.
- 4% of respondents indicated they did not attend any of the eight major traditional events (Yell Practice, Silver Taps, Muster, Big Event, Replant, Whoopstock, Parents’ Weekend, All-University Night).

Traditions Statements
- 96% of students agreed that “Texas A&M is a friendly campus.”
- 94% of students agreed that they “feel welcome when participating in major campus traditions at Texas A&M.”
  - 97% of White students agreed with the statement compared to 80% of Non-White students
- 88% of students agreed “other people say ‘howdy’ to (them) on campus.” 84% of students agreed that they “say ‘howdy’ to other people on campus.”

Orientation Camps
- 59% of students said they attended an orientation camp. Of those who attended:
  - 88% attended Fish Camp
  - 7% attended T-Camp
  - 5% attended Howdy Camp
- For the statement “Major campus traditions give me a sense of belonging at Texas A&M,” 95% of the students who attended an orientation camp agreed compared to 81% of the students who did not attend.
- For the statement “I feel welcome when participating in major campus traditions at Texas A&M,” 98% of the students who attended an orientation camp agreed compared to 87% of the students who did not attend.

Importance of campus traditions
- 31% of students said traditions were very important to their decision to come to Texas A&M. 47% said traditions were somewhat important.

Prepared on: May 6, 2003
For a complete report, please contact Student Life Studies.