



TRADITION OF GIVING

BY ANNIKA ROBERTS '22

Monica (Cuellar) Menzel '93

GOLD CENTURY CLUB MEMBER

BEN WHEELER, TEXAS

A&M Degrees: B.B.A. & M.S. Marketing

27 Years Of Giving

Monica Menzel '93 is passionate about giving future Aggies access to the same life-changing opportunities she found at Texas A&M. "I've made lifelong friends as a result of my time in Aggieland," she said. "It's prepared me for a successful career, and it has really reinforced the impact of giving back."

Menzel is the oldest of four kids, and affording college seemed out of reach for her family. Luckily, Menzel received a significant scholarship that allowed her to become an Aggie. "And thank goodness that I did. That was a game changer for me," she said. It didn't only change her life, but the lives of her family members as well. Now, she and her three siblings hold seven Aggie degrees between them.

In addition to her successful banking career, Menzel serves as president of the Texas A&M Hispanic Network, a chartered Constituent Network of The Association of Former Students. One of her goals in this position is to enroll Hispanic students at Texas A&M to match the demographics



of the state of Texas. She said, "There's a lot of first generation Hispanic kids who, like me, didn't think A&M was possible, but with a little encouragement and financial support ... it changes the trajectory of their life, of their family." She lives by the motto "Lift as you climb," a guiding phrase for TAMHN that encourages members to extend help to others as they experience personal success.

Menzel said, "That's what distinguishes Aggies from others, I think: our willingness and our desire to give back. That's part of our role as a great university."



Steve Miller '89

DIAMOND CENTURY CLUB MEMBER

SPRING, TEXAS

A&M Degrees: B.S. Bioengineering, MBA

6 Years Of Giving

Steve Miller '89 credits the Aggie Network with opening doors to his professional success. "Many career milestones [are] linked back to A&M," he said. Miller attended a small-town high school where geometry was the highest math offered. There were more classmates at A&M in his freshman chemistry class than there were students in his entire high school.

After working hard to graduate from A&M as an engineer, Aggie connections led Miller to earning his initial engineering roles at NASA after undergrad, his first job in mergers and acquisitions post-MBA and his entry into consulting. Aggies both assisted with and challenged him to reach ambitious goals every step of the

way. This trend continued, eventually leading him to become a global lead mergers and acquisitions partner at McKinsey & Co.

Miller was inspired to restart his Century Club giving when his sons started applying to colleges. Accompanying them on campus visits reminded Miller how much A&M means to him. "It was a recognition that I drifted away, and I needed to drift back," he said. Miller was also excited to recently endow scholarships targeted at students from his small town and veterans. "I'm fortunate to be able to give back to kids who have the ability, but not the money, to have a chance — and to veterans, to whom we as Americans owe basically everything," he said.

**Do you know a Century Club member
with a compelling Aggie story?**

Nominate them, or submit your own story, at
tx.ag/DonorProfile or TexasAggie@AggieNetwork.com for a
chance to be profiled in an upcoming issue of *Texas Aggie*.

Lauren (Beckwith) Covington '19

BRONZE CENTURY CLUB MEMBER

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

A&M Degree: B.S. Kinesiology

4 Years Of Giving



"I do not think I truly understood what the term 'giving' meant until I became an Aggie, and saw how generously I was supported by others just by being a part of something bigger than myself," Lauren Covington '19 said.

Covington is the first Aggie in her family, and she first experienced Texas A&M at a football game in Kyle Field when she was 12. "I became obsessed with the idea of being a student at Texas A&M and the traditions that were embodied in the campus," she said. "When I walked across the stage in Reed Arena and became a former student, my father," who attended that first football game with Covington, "whispered to me after, 'That 12-year-old girl would be so proud of you right now.'"

Covington and her husband have moved across the U.S. multiple times since graduating, from Texas to Georgia, New York and now Washington. "I cannot tell you how many incredible people across the United States there are that love to talk about their time on campus," she said. "Being an Aggie has brought me a level of comfort across times of change and showed me that regardless of the distance from Brazos County, there is almost always a member of the Aggie Network ready to make you feel right at home."

Covington earned her master's of public health from Baylor University in December 2020. She currently works in patient access at health care software company Phreesia.

Eric Lan '17

BRONZE CENTURY CLUB MEMBER

DALLAS, TEXAS

A&M Degree: B.S. Industrial Distribution

3 Years Of Giving

"I am encouraged to give back to Texas A&M because of the amazing opportunities that A&M has provided to my family, friends and me," said Eric Lan '17. "I believe that the experience on campus in College Station is unrivaled and that all students should have the opportunity to experience life in Aggieland."

Lan was born in Corpus Christi, but his parents immigrated to the U.S. from China more than 30 years ago. Both made their careers in higher education, with a focus in agricultural engineering. Lan's father, Yubin Lan '94, "earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M in agricultural engineering and has dedicated his life and work to enhancing sustainable and affordable farming for farmers and agrarians around the world."

Because of his parents, Lan grew up hoping to pursue higher education at Texas A&M. "Going to Aggie football games, visiting my parents on campus and growing up in College Station all contribute to why I feel so passionately about the university," he said.

Lan has worked as a management consultant since his graduation in 2017 and is employed by Slalom Consulting, focusing on project management and delivery. In his career, Lan continues to keep the lessons he learned at A&M at the front of his mind. "The Aggie core values are things that I try to live out every single day," he said. "I hope to leave a legacy of leadership and selfless service that honors Texas A&M."

