

# Wesley E. Bright Memorial Scholarship

**Established in 2003 by Margaret Mitchell Dwyer, Wm. G. Dwyer, Warren E. Bright, Beverly Mitchell Bright**

You may have wondered how this scholarship came into existence. It all started with a young man who was, through and through, 100% Aggie. Wesley (Wes) loved Texas A&M University and his fellow Aggies. This love for his fellow Aggies was the genesis of this scholarship.

Wesley Edward Bright was born on October 12, 1980. He was in a hurry to get to A&M and was born almost two months premature. From the time he took his first steps, he always seemed to be running. He was a very athletic young man and loved to play all sports. He ran cross country and played basketball in middle school and he was even on the crew of TAMUG's Rowing Team his freshman year. However, his favorite sport was baseball. Wes started playing Little League baseball during his elementary school years and continued playing baseball all the way through high school as a member of the Houston Lee High School Generals varsity baseball team. Wes took his love of ball to TAMUG by playing on intermural softball teams. His team won the intermural championship two of the years he attended Texas A&M Galveston.



If there was any other outdoor activity that he loved more than baseball it was fishing! Wes would fish anywhere and at anytime. That is part of what brought him to the TAMUG campus. It gave him time to be close to the water to fish, or to surf if it was too windy to fish, and to study for a degree that would keep him connected to the water. Wes was one of the first students to enroll in the Ocean and Coastal Resources degree program when it was started at TAMUG his sophomore year. One of the great programs Wes got to take advantage of at TAMUG with two of his best friends, Chris and Scott, was the use of a boat. They were given the exclusive use of one of the University's 19' bay boats which they were allowed the privilege of naming. It was not unusual to see these three classmates and friends out in the "Aggie Angler" on a sunny Galveston bay, fishing after their classes were finished for the day.



Unfortunately, Wesley was never to obtain his degree or, even more sadly, to earn the goal he strived for the hardest, The Aggie Ring. Early in the spring semester of his third year he was diagnosed with a highly aggressive brain tumor and had to withdraw from TAMUG to battle the cancer. He never had the opportunity to finish his studies at A&M and in February '03, the year he was to have graduated, he was honored with a Silver Taps ceremony at the Galveston campus of his beloved Texas A&M University.

It has been said that “Aggieland is a special place, with special people. It is a family. It is a family that cares for its own, a family that reaches out, a family that is unified in the face of adversity.” As testimony of how Aggies reach out to each other, prior to Wesley’s death, several from the staff at TAMUG came to visit Wes at his home. They had arranged for Reveille VII to travel from College Station to pay a visit to Wes that day as they shared memories and lifted his spirit. As a further honor to Wesley and his family, at his memorial service a quartet from the Texas A&M Singing Cadets closed the service with “The Spirit of Aggieland.” In the spring of '03 Wesley was made an Honorary Former Student of TAMUG and in a ceremony at College Station on Ring Day, Wes’ family was presented with a memorial plaque containing the crest of The Aggie Ring bearing his class date of '03.

Wesley and his family were blessed in many ways. One of which was the financial ability of his parents to send their children to school. However, Wesley saw many of his less fortunate fellow students struggle to pay for their A&M education. It touched him in such a way he once told his father that when he graduated and started working, he wanted to find a way to help fellow A&M students that were facing these financial challenges.



Upon hearing that story after Wesley's death, his grandparents made the first donation to the Wesley E. Bright Endowed Memorial Scholarship which was immediately added to by donations from many of Wes' family and friends. These individuals, along with new friends, continue to add to the endowment even today. This is Wesley's dream come true; to help his fellow Aggies. The hope of Wesley's family is that this endowed scholarship will continue to find contributors so that someday it will provide multiple scholarships, which are richer in value, to Texas A&M Students in financial need.

We wish each recipient of this scholarship "Good Luck" and a happy and prosperous life.

Warren and Beverly Bright  
*Parents of Wesley E. Bright '03*