



## *Women's Legacy Award*

HONORING AGGIE WOMEN



*Image courtesy of Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University*

### **Ethel Hutson (Honorary Class of 1895)**

Ethel was the first woman known to have attended Texas A&M. Her father was a professor of English and History, and Ethel assisted in editing and illustrating the first yearbook, the *Olio*. She was known as the first “campus girl” and named an honorary member of the Class of 1895.

Through her example, Ethel’s younger twin sisters, Mary and Sophie, began taking classes in Civil Engineering in 1899, completing their coursework in 1903 but unable to attain a degree.

Ethel moved with her father to New Orleans, where she worked as an arts and museum administrator. She played a vital role in New Orleans’ rise to prominence in arts, and is recognized as a significant, well-connected figure in the New Orleans art world of the early twentieth century, and a pioneer in the advancement of visual arts. She was a driving force in the founding of the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Ethel was active in civic affairs, among them education, public utilities, child welfare, and public transportation. She was active in women’s organizations including the Era Club and later the Women’s Suffrage Party of New Orleans.

Ethel Hutson, as the first known woman to attend Texas A&M, laid the foundation for future generations of Aggie Women. Her community activism encouraged generations of women throughout the south to promote the arts, education, public utilities, child welfare, the historic preservation, public transportation, and other areas of civic life.