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Houston's Aggieland Connection

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Barnett Gershen '69 invites you to

A Night with President Young

April 5th





The Houston A&M Club is the largest association of former students in the world. HAMC is run by volunteers and funded entirely by donations. Please ask your employer about matching your contributions to the Houston A&M Club.

Membership is FREE, but registration is required each year to ensure that our records remain current.

The HAMC is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization recognized under section 501(c)(3). Our Federal Tax ID# is 76-015741.

HoustonAggie, P.O. Box 19534, Houston, Texas 77224 www.HoustonAgs.org

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Submissions are encouraged and should pertain to news/information relevant to Houston Aggies. Send to:

HoustonAggie, c/o deborah lawson '92

P.O. Box 940082, Houston, Texas 77094-7082

deborahlawson@aggienetwork.com.

Submissions may be edited for length, grammar, accuracy, or for any other reason. Articles may also appear on the HAMC's website. Please contact the editor for additional information, including deadlines.

For information on advertising in the HoustonAggie, please contact Elizabeth Hamburg '07 at elizabethhamburg@aggienetwork.com.

Because the Houston A&M Club's mail is sent via bulk mail, it is not forwarded or returned. Please remember to update your address on the website:

www.HoustonAgs.org.

Editor: deborah lawson '92 Sponsors: Elizabeth Hamburg '07



From the Executive Director's Desk

Howdy Ags,

There's something about a new year, isn't there? Fresh with possibilities and no mistakes. The Houston A&M Club is doing some amazing things this year and we invite you to be a part. Come connect with other Aggies, help us raise money for scholarships, and give back to our community. Or, as we like to say, Attend, Donate, and Volunteer. We want the Houston A&M Club's impact to be felt more than ever before in 2018.

One thing I'd like for our Aggie Companies to consider is event sponsorship. Thanks to generous partners like Higginbotham, Cokinos Law, Cokinos Energy, Gershen Consulting, J&J Packing, and Tommie Vaughn Ford, we're able to keep our events at a low (or sometimes no) cost to our members and send more money to scholarships and towards fostering the Aggie Spirit in Houston.

You might have noticed that we have a new football Coach. Join us in welcoming Coach Jimbo Fischer, who we'll be introducing to our members this summer at our 2018 Coach's Night. There are plenty of opportunities to be a part of this event. We're currently looking for a Coach's Night title sponsor and have plenty of other sponsorship opportunities available as well.

If you're interested in sponsoring one of our many events throughout the city, or advertising your company to our 47,000+ members, please contact me at elizabethhamburg@aggienetwork.com or 281-543-5251.



elizabethhamburg@aggienetwork.com

the HAMC gets in **SHAPE** swith Stephanie Gafford '12

Howdy Ags!

I am so honored to be your HAMC President this year! I think we have an amazing year ahead of us and I can't wait to experience it together.

Stephanie started at A&M as an Agribusiness major, later adding a second Ag Economics major and a certificate in International Trade and Agriculture. "I was lucky to have immediately fallen in love with my department, classes, and majors." As someone who always likes a busy schedule and full plate, Stephanie joined lots of leadership groups and fun organizations, everything from FLE, Dance Arts Society, College of Ag and Life Sciences Student Council, HOSTS, Department Rep, to President of a National Professional Sales & Marketing Fraternity.

"All of these groups and positions were transformational in their own ways and most certainly helped prepare me for my career."

Stephanie got involved with the HAMC about 3-1/2 years ago, first as VP of Activities (hosting a hugely popular Sporting Clays Tournament and chairing Aggie Muster), and then stepping up to Board Secretary and President Elect.

I've always had a love for Texas A&M, since I was a little girl. We used to attend Aggie football games with our dear family friends, and I got to watch my older brother attend A&M as well.

While my parents may not have attended our great University, they have been the biggest Aggie fans for as long as I can remember. I remember filling out college applications and asking my dad if I could send them to

a few different schools – just to see what would happen. His answer was: "sure, but I'm only paying for one - Texas A&M University."

He knew that this was the place I needed to be, and he was absolutely right. When that acceptance letter came in the mail, I remember crying as I realized I was about to embark on a lifelong dream, to a school that was about to change my life.





Stephanie is an Account Manager for Dale Carnegie Training. "It's one of the most rewarding jobs that I have ever had, helping people transform through our programs. I work with companies and individuals to design training paths and pair them with the right solution to their needs." Stephanie is also a Certified Personal Trainer and PiYo Instructor. "Fitness has always been a passion of mine, as I grew up dancing and then, in high school, found my love for the gym. I guess you could say that I like helping transform people through both mental and physical growth."

At the center of all this craziness is Stephanie's amazing husband Cameron, her 1 year old son Beau, and their fur-baby Diesel. "I was blessed to marry my high school sweetheart, and we have been together for over 10 years now. He has supported me in all my dreams, and I can't thank him enough for that."

Stephanie and Cameron both share a passion for hunting and all things outdoors. "We look forward to introducing Beau to that life as well. We've already started pouring the maroon onto Beau and praying that one day he will share the love that we all have for our beloved Texas A&M."





"As 2018 begins, I encourage you to join us for all the amazing events that we have planned, and let's do life together as the Houston A&M Club!"



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DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT BROKERAGE MANAGEMENT

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Greg Wood '03 is developing tomorrow's leaders through rowing.

Born in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Greg moved to Texas as fast as his parents would allow, settling in Kingwood when he was nine. Upon graduating from high school, Greg immediately joined the workforce,

applying to Texas A&M about a year later. He was accepted to A&M Galveston, with the option to transfer to College Station after a probationary year, which provided unexpected direction in

Texas A&M Galveston is where I learned Olympicstyle rowing as a sport, not just a TV event. I fell in love with the sport on my first practice. I rowed and raced with TAMUG and then ultimately, transferred to TAMU to pursue an engineering degree. Sadly, TAMU had no options for rowing, so I started a team! I worked with Student Activities to set up the organization and with Lake Bryan to procure land for the team. I

support a team of 20. Our first season of racing yielded a gold medal in the mixed 8+, trouncing Texas by

over one minute.

This year, the team celebrates 17 years of rowing for Texas A&M. In that time, thousands of Aggies have collected countless medals and grown from participation in the sport. Some Aggies have found their spouse, employment, and even started

coaching rowing because of their time on the **TAMU** team.

his life.

In 2016, rowing came full circle for

Greg and TAMUG. Greg is now the staff head rowing coach. In its second full year, TAMUG has celebrated one of the most winning seasons the team has ever

seen.

Greg and his wife hope to bring this same success and excitement to the middle and high

of downtown Houston, particularly the East End, through Buffalo then shifted gears to fundraise and purchase equipment to Bayou Rowing Center, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt

school kids

non-profit. BBRC's planned community center on the East End of Buffalo Bayou, will bring

Olympic-style rowing to the bayou, as well as a community center with corporate meeting and private event space. Through rowing, BBRC promotes college attendance and helps develop skills required to be a successful adult. BBRC is a young organiza-

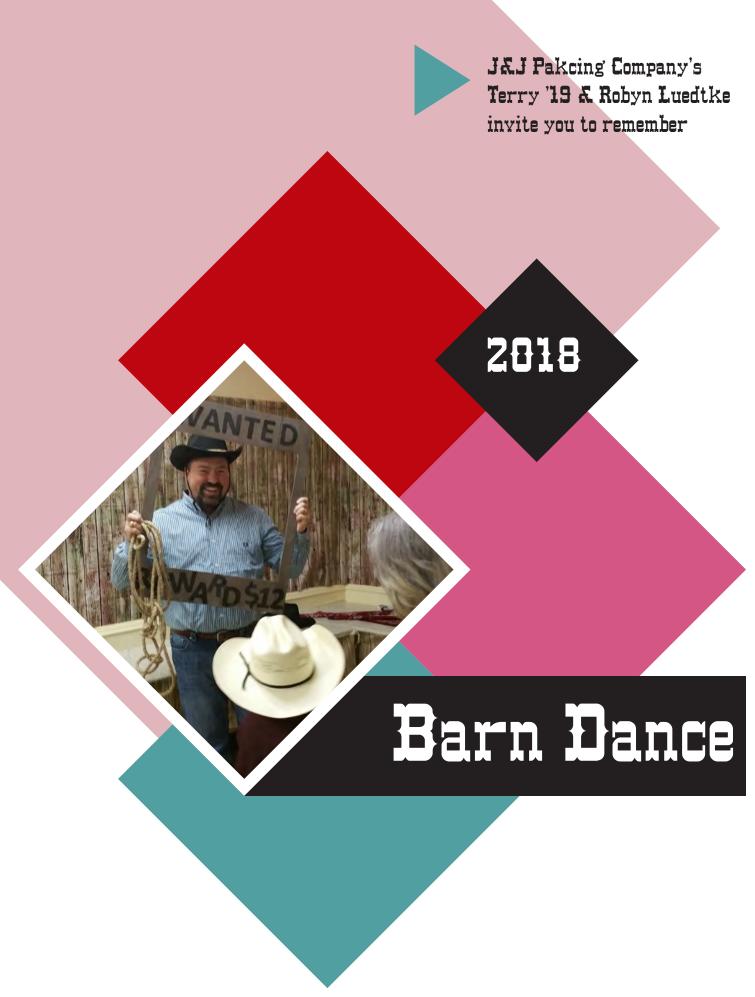
Reagan Roseman

tion, but is optimistic about being operational in the Spring of 2018.



Get involved: contact Greg@BuffaloBayouRC.org

Thanks to Texas A&M, I turned a fun college activity into a passion that will positively impact tomorrow's leaders through Buffalo Bayou Rowing Center. My wife and I have seen how rowing positively impacts kids- from weight loss, to better grades and scholarship opportunities, to development into respectful adults. The teamwork, growth, and team bond experienced in rowing is comparable to joining the Aggie family. Through BBRC, we aim to give Houston's youth the same uplifting and positive feeling that Aggies love, even if they never become Aggies.







<u>We vour sponsors!!</u>



Current & Future Aggie Wranglers - there is no one better on the floor!



Thanks to the awesome guys in the FDQ Food Truck, no one danced hungry! Page 7











Aggie Mom's raising money for Scholarships







The Houston Texas A&M University Mothers Club is one of more than one hundred Aggie Moms Clubs across the country. We are organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

"We strive by individual and united effort to contribute in every way to the welfare of the students at Texas A&M University and to cooperate with the University in maintaining a high standard of moral conduct and intellectual attainment," and we make new friends and have fun in the process!









Chau Bao '92 James Abbate '98 Andy Palermo '02 Blake McGregor '05 Jennifer Hundl '06 Gary Henson '08 Alexa Nichols '10 Amy Swackhamer '12 Christopher Chomer '13 Heather Schmitt '14 J.T. Gaden '15 J. Alfonso Castrejon '15

Continuing the Legacy, Engineering the Future.



Although Aggiethemed gifts were exchanged all around, the "winner" was clearly "Jimbo's Maroon Kool-Aid."

Gig 'em, Aggies!

While Secret Santa gift exchanges vary from group to group, the idea can be traced back to the Scandinavian Juklapp or "knocking Christmas," where the gifter knocks on someone's door, throws a present inside when it opens, and then runs away. Or perhaps it traces back even further to the German legends about St. Nick's helpers, who doled out presents only to good kids. One thing is for sure...the tradition continues to evolve over the years, and the Aggie Memorial Lunch is no exception.





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Santa and Mrs. Clause took a break from their holiday preparations to join the Aggies for breakfast at the Aggie-owned Backyard Grill.









Santa Stops for Snacks with Aggies

Special thanks to Steve '75 & **Diane Loomis** for hosting this special family event.



Bradley W. Rapp '88 brapp@rappkrock.com

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Gig 'Em!

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Dana Randolph '91 & deborah lawson '92
invited the Houston Aggies to a
Holiday Hay Ride & Other Yuletide Adventures
at Aggie-Owned
High Star Christmas Tree Farm















Meet our new Intern kerigan nicole kent '19

Howdy! My name is Kerigan Kent, and I am a junior Telecommunications and Media Studies major from Plano, Texas! I am also pursing a minor in Tourism Management and a Professional Event Manager Certificate.



Throughout my time at A&M I have been involved in numerous organizations that have made me who I am today. As a freshman I pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma, where I have made the dearest friends. I currently serve on the Texas A&M Collegiate Panhellenic Council as the Vice President of Public Relations. I am also involved in MSC Hospitality, Family Weekend Committee, and I am an athletic tutor!





I am a second generation Aggie, following the footsteps of my father who graduated from the class of '94. It is safe to say I was brainwashed an Aggie, who has been in love with this University ever since I could talk. This University has given me lifealerting experiences that I truly couldn't imagine my college career without. My time at Texas A&M is something I will always cherish.



In April, I will finally be receiving my Aggie ring (whoop!), and I am so excited to see what things are in store. This summer I will be completing a Marketing internship in Dallas, and I hope that interning with the Houston A&M Club will give me valuable experience that I can take me with on my future endeavors. I am so excited to give back to a community that has given so much to me.

Page 18



Former Houston A&M Club President Harry McMahan '94 is continuing his community activities - both as an A&M former student and as a Frost Bank vice president. In his role as a community leader in the Greater Downtown Houston area, Harry oversees Frost's philanthropic activities and generally keeps up with what's going on. Because 2018 marks the 150th anniversary of Frost Bank's founding, Frost is celebrating by creating and sponsoring a wide range of community events and projects, which means Harry will continue to be a visible part of making the Houston area a better place to live and work.







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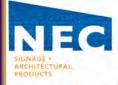
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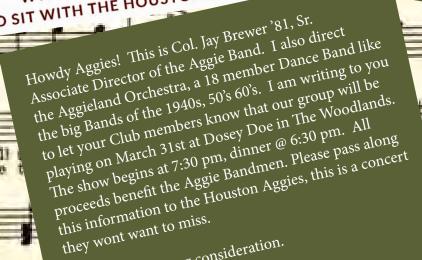
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In late 2017, Hurricane Harvey and his buddies devastated the three largest populations of Aggie former students in the United States: Texas, Florida, and California. Aggies turned out by the thousands to help those in need.

In February, Amy Hale '10, The Association of Former Students' Coordinator of Former Student Programs, surprised the Houston A&M Club with a check for \$50,000 to help support our efforts to help Aggies in need.



The Houston A&M Club

The Houston A&M Club

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Saturday, March 24, 2018 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Kingsland Baptist Church 20555 Kingsland Blvd Katy 77450

6:00 pm Doors Open for Reception and Raffle Ticket Sales

7:00 pm Concert Every seat in the house is a good one!!

SINGING

SUN. MARCH 4TH

Clear Lake United Methodist Church

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Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy

Bay Area A&M Club

Sunday, March 4, 2018 4:00 PM

Clear Lake United Methodist Church 16335 El Camino Real Houston, TX 77062

The performance if free and open to the public.

Donations will be accepted.

Internationally known as the "Voice of Aggieland" the award-winning Singing Cadets are Texas A&M University's premier men's chorus. They are one of the oldest collegiate singing organizations in the world!

Besides tours throughout the state of Texas performing more than 100 concerts per year, the Singing Cadets have also spread the Spirit of Aggieland around the globe. The Singing Cadets recently performed on stage for the Hurricane Harvey Relief Concert at Texas A&M with all former living U.S. Presidents! They have also performed for many other distinguished individuals and foreign dignitaries. The Singing Cadets recently

completed an International Tour to the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary and have held concerts in places such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Saint Paul's Cathedral.

This gift of music continues to win the hearts of Aggies!





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Dustin Brokmeyer '12

Jonathan Holub '12

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For more info care

For more info or to volunteer, email:

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Don't miss your chance to meet the new coaches.

Coach's Night 2018

More details coming soon to a website near you!