

# HOUSTON AGGIE

Keeping the Spirit of Aggieland





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.

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

[www.HoustonAgs.org](http://www.HoustonAgs.org)

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

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

**Important reminders:**

Please ask your employer about matching your contributions to the Houston A&M Club.

Because the Houston Aggie Magazine is sent via bulk mail, it is not forwarded or returned. Please remember to update your address on the website: [www.HoustonAgs.org](http://www.HoustonAgs.org).

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**HOUSTON  
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# Meet the Houston A&M Club's Executive Director - Elizabeth Hamburg '07

**E**lizabeth Hamburg '07, a native Houstonian and first generation Aggie, fell in love with Texas A&M on a college trip during her senior year of high school. From the moment she set foot on campus, Elizabeth couldn't imagine spending her college years anywhere else. And her time at A&M was well spent participating in Doulos, as an officer for Lambda Pi Theta Communication Honor Society, and as a Resident Advisor for HAAS Hall.

In a cruel twist of fate, that same year, Elizabeth met (and later married) Brandon, who despite never attending a single class at Texas A&M, thankfully bleeds maroon. As Brandon fell in love with Elizabeth, he also fell for Aggie football. Now he's a season ticket holder, an avid member of the TexAgs.com community, and covers Aggie sports for Good Bull Hunting and the HAMC newsletter.

After graduation, Elizabeth took on the Houston hospitality industry, first as a Catering Coordinator for the Sheraton Houston Brookhollow hotel, later as a Sales Manager for the Alden Hotel downtown, and eventually returning to the Sheraton to eventually become their Director of Sales & Marketing. In this role, Elizabeth directed a sales team of eight and was responsible for all hotel sales and marketing strategies. Elizabeth's hard work received the ultimate recognition when her staff was presented with the 2012 Concord Hospitality Sales Team of the Year, and she was named Sales Leader of the Year.

In 2009, Elizabeth stepped into leadership with the HAMC as Vice President of Public Relations where she maintained the website, sent the weekly e-blast, and assisted with marketing events. Most memorably, perhaps, as co-editor of this newsletter, Elizabeth helped steer this publication onto its current path. Never complacent, in 2012, Elizabeth and co-chair Julie Gray received the HAMC 2012 Distinguished Volunteer Service Award for their record-breaking success at Coach's Night.

Elizabeth thought she had accepted the ultimate challenge when she joined the HAMC Board of Directors in 2013, but her star continues to rise. Last November, Elizabeth and Brandon took on the ultimate responsibility when they increased the Aggie Network with their daughter, Olivia, class of 2035. And today, the HAMC is thrilled to have Elizabeth as its Executive Director where she can continue to help build the Aggie Network and strengthen our strategic partnerships.



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# Leading the Houston Aggies by Example

## Travis Madole '59 - the 2013 Outstanding Houston Aggie



*"I feel undeserving. It is truly an honor to be on the list with so many great Aggies," said Travis Madole '59 about being named the Houston A&M Club's Outstanding Houston Aggie for 2013.*

**T**ravis founded and built Systems Direction, Inc., a successful Information Technology company, that developed many groundbreaking solutions to business problems. He was also very active in community service, professional organizations, and the Houston A&M Club.

Travis' involvement in the HAMC began, in 1966, when he went to work at Century Papers, Inc. for Herschel '50 and Melvin '47 Maltz, both HAMC Past Presidents. The Maltz' convinced Travis to get involved, so he started as Secretary in 1980 and worked his way up to President in 1982. While President, Travis became the Directory Editor by default when the previous editor suddenly resigned. Keep in mind, this was the beginning of the computer age and much of what we now take for granted was done by hand. Yet somehow, Travis maintained his sanity as he developed and grew the Directory and its related fundraising over the next thirty one years!

At A&M, Travis was in Squadron 15. He credits his experience in the Corps of Cadets and the Aggie Players drama group as huge factors in his success. Travis graduated in 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and went on to attend the Graduate School of Economics from '60-'61. From 1984-86, Travis served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Former Students, an honor that few among the HAMC can boast. Travis is happily married to his beautiful wife Darleen. He has a daughter, Margo White '90, and a son, Kyle.

After more than four decades of leadership, Travis' favorite part of the club is still the friendships he's made and cultivated. His favorite event is still the Tradition's Lunches, which he attends as often as he can.



*The Houston A&M Club's Outstanding Houston Aggie Award is given annually to the former student of Texas A&M University who, in the judgment of the Club, best exemplifies those characteristics to which all Aggies aspire: love of and service to the school, but more importantly, service to the community, state and nation, as well as an outstanding contribution to his or her profession or industry.*

## Excerpt from Travis' Nomination by William Wade, Past President

"Few people know that in the mid-1980s, the HAMC was in a very tough spot – due to an unfortunate financial arrangement that seriously threatened the club's solvency, indeed its very future. This problem was resolved primarily because of Travis' efforts to promote the club, persuading local companies to advertise in the periodic newsletter – The Dingbat. HAMC presidents and Directors from that time readily agree that Travis went beyond the call of duty on behalf of the club – all on a volunteer basis. Simply put, more than anyone else, Travis assured the club's ultimate survival.

Travis subsequently served as an HAMC President and was a long-time Director. He started the annual directory and grew it to its present state. No other A&M Club in the world has a similar annual directory. Our club is unique.

I would be remiss if I failed to also mention that, several years ago, Travis was seriously injured due to the negligence of another driver. Even with this personal setback, Travis continued his hard work to produce the club's directory during his long recovery.

I cannot think of a more serving recipient of the HAMC's Outstanding Houston Aggie than Travis Madole. Our club is the largest A&M Club in the world and has given back more dollars to Texas A&M than any other club – in no small part because of Travis' hard work and dedication."

# MUSTER 2014 ROLL CALL

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Jo Spiller, Jr. 1941  
Clarence Brown 1942  
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# HOUSTON MUSTER

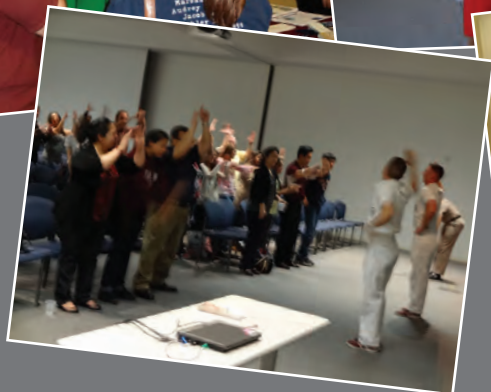


# COLLEGE NIGHT

Thanks to the continued generosity of private donor The Traditions at Northgate, on March 19th, the Houston A&M Club and the TAMU Houston Prospective Student Center introduced parents and high school students to the Texas A&M application process, providing two opportunities to receive insider tips on how to navigate this often mystifying labyrinth of Aggie admissions and financial aid.

Attending college is expensive, but the cost isn't deterring enrollment. From 1992 through 1998, undergraduate enrollment in the U.S. was stable, but in the first 10 years of the new millennium, enrollment increased by 37%. Texas A&M enrolls over 50,000 students, including over 10,000 graduate students and more than 5,000 international students from more than 130 countries, making it the 6th largest University in the U.S. in 2013. 25% of freshmen are first generation college students and the average SAT score for incoming freshmen is 1220 combined. Students from the Top 10% of Texas high schools receive automatic admissions.

Former Texas A&M President R. Bowen Loftin once noted that A&M's record enrollment was not the result of a concerted effort to increase A&M's size, but "rather reflects the continued increase in the value of a degree from the university," citing a Wall Street Journal article that ranked A&M second nationally on the basis of employers' satisfaction in hiring graduates of institutions throughout the nation. Yet Loftin also acknowledged the often frustrating dichotomy: "As a land-grant institution, we



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are ever-mindful of being accessible and affordable, while also continuing to elevate our status as one of the nation's top public universities." Thus, "getting in" is often the hardest challenge students face.

To help members of the Aggie Network successfully navigate the challenges of the A&M admissions and financial aid process, the Houston A&M Club invited Assistant Vice President of Academic Service & Director of Admissions Scott McDonald to speak at a special lunch, where he and his staff discussed overall admissions to A&M, transfer options, and how to increase chances of acceptance. No question was left unanswered.

Later that night, the Second Annual Aggie College Night provided more detailed information about the application process, financial aid, and tips about what contributes to a successful application. Breakout sessions allowed prospective students to ask specific questions about successful application essays, housing options, and transfer applications, among other topics. Rounding out the evening, representatives from A&M's 12 Colleges and some of the more than 800 student organizations, such as the Corps of Cadets, Yell Leaders, and the MSC Student Programs office, were available to answer questions about majors, professors, and campus life.

Special thanks to Allison Rosen '02, April Compton '99, and a host of other volunteers who planned and organized another fantastic day of college prep.





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Jack Russo	'05
Barry Moore	'05
Miranda Hadamik	'06
Spencer Striegler	'06
Zak Warren	'06
Nathan Gaines	'08
Todd Johnson	'08
Clay Roper	'08
Blake Virgilio	'08
David Towery	'09
Daniel Greco	'12
Ron Roberson	'13
Evin Hirschi	'13



# TAKE THE SECOND STEP

If you are receiving this newsletter, chances are you've made the first step. You signed up to become a member of the Houston A&M Club, the largest in the Former Student Association network of clubs. To be a member of the Houston A&M Club all you have to do is be an Aggie, live in the Greater Houston area, and sign up—it's free. One of the benefits of being a member is this newsletter. The newsletter is mailed out quarterly to HAMC members, and is damn good if I must say so myself. **deborah lawson '92**, editor, and **Adriana Saucedo Dean '06** publish the newsletter and do an outstanding job.

Now it is your turn to make a second step; get involved and go to one of the many functions or events that are held each and every week / month in the Greater Houston area. All the activities are listed in the newsletter and also in the weekly e-mail blast. Pick one out and attend. You will not regret it, and you will start to network and make new friends with Aggies in the Greater Houston area. If you have any questions or want to get more involved, contact me or any of the officers or directors for further information.

Some of the events are large, like Muster and Coaches Night, with over 1000 Aggies in attendance, while others might be a half to several dozen. Some are more family-oriented, others strictly fun, and others are information / business-network related, but all are Aggie Fellowship. Going to Texas A&M University makes you different: "From the outside looking in, you can't understand it. And from the inside looking out, you can't explain it." Help renew your Aggie spirit by getting together with fellow Aggies.

Invite a fellow Aggie or friend [all are welcome] to attend these events, **MAKE** the SECOND STEP.

It is easy to get into a routine; get up, workout (maybe?), go to work, grab a snack for lunch (healthy?), run errands, go home and repeat the next day. Get out of your comfort zone and attend some of these Aggie events; volunteer at the food bank, join CAMP, network at the Reveille breakfast or Traditions lunch, meet new friends and socialize at OP Army Cocktail Hour or Wh30p! Houston. By living in the Houston area, you are fortunate because there are so many events. We are always trying to improve the quality of the functions / events, and any suggestions or help would be appreciated.

**Gig'em!**  
**Clint D Smith**  
**2014 Houston A&M Club President**



## Houston A&M Club Scholarship Lunch

In 2013/14, the Houston A&M Club awarded 11 Endowed Scholarships, 30 Top Kick Scholarships, and 20 Opportunity Awards to students from the Houston area. Each year, we invite these students to join us for a Traditions Lunch to meet our members and share their stories. Thanks to Frank Moreno for once again organizing this fantastic opportunity to meet our students.

Adriel Maniego  
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Travis McQuinn  
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Dat Le  
Roder Cardona  
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Amanda Hoque  
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# Ol' Army Cycling BP MS150



**E**ach year, Houston Aggies join the Ol' Army Cycling Team to ride in the BP MS 150, a two-day fundraising cycling ride organized by the National MS Society: Lone Star. Ol' Army is the largest team not affiliated with a corporation and remains the only official MS 150 team that is associated with a University.

This year, Ol' Army officially had 126 riders on the team – their largest team ever – and has now raised \$86,000 for the cause. The team is so devoted to each other and the cause that one rider even flew back from a work assignment in China to participate in this year's ride. The Houston A&M Club is a proud sponsor of Ol' Army Cycling.

[www.olarmycycling.com](http://www.olarmycycling.com)



## iFest - Celebrate Australia

G'day Mate! Cheers to the more than 30 Houston A&M Club Volunteers who helped out at this year's iFest on May 4th. Not only were we able to operate our two regular booths, but we helped out at four more booths throughout the day. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped out, shifted around, and served some ice cold drinks on a nice hot day.

Julie Williams '04	Michael Espericuleta '12	Steve Kunze '83	Erandi Rojo '11
Pamala Saleme '91	Kristen Hanshaw '11	Jack Hopkin '63	Aaron Rodriguez '11
Dana Randolph '91	James Yao '09	Brooke Perryman '13	Paul Appadua '87
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Lara Sterzing '92	William Wade '73	Hector Cavazos '74	Betty Jassawalla '78
Stacy House '01		Ruth Brazile '10	Cyrus Jassawalla '77
Gabriel House '12			Rey Sarmiento '86
			Eresha De Silva '03
			Lauren Needham '10
			Nathan Kelly '01
			Amori Lunney '89
			Bryan Lunney '88

*"Thank you SO MUCH  
for bringing such an amazing group*

*of volunteers! If it weren't for the awesome Aggies, we would have had a difficult time supporting all of our booths.*

*Again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you so much! Please send my warmest regards to your group."*

Joe McKinney  
Volunteer Coordinator  
iFest - April 26 - May 4, 2014

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# Mays Expands Houston CITYCENTRE Facility to Meet Growing Demand

Since Mays Business School opened its CITYCENTRE facility in the heart of Houston's energy corridor in the fall of 2012, demand for the second-floor space has been strong. The initial 24,000-square-foot space was designed to house the Executive MBA and Professional MBA programs and serve as a resource for other Mays programs and events.



In the past year, Mays entered into a partnership with Texas A&M's Department of Statistics, which is using the CITYCENTRE space for its new Master of Science in Analytics Program. Meanwhile, usage by the Executive MBA and Professional MBA teams has increased, and demand is growing from local businesses and non-profits wishing to host conferences, meetings and special events at the facility. In addition, Mays' Center for Executive Development (CED) will soon begin piloting open-enrollment certificate courses for working professionals at CITYCENTRE, covering topics such as finance, project management and leadership. CED has already been delivering some of its custom programs for several clients at that facility.



In March, Mays opened an additional 6,300 square feet of space at CITYCENTRE featuring more team rooms, offices and common space. The first-floor addition will provide for more collaboration outside the classrooms while giving faculty more space to incorporate team breakout sessions into their classes. The new first-floor entry also creates a more visible presence for Mays Business School in one of Houston's most dynamic mixed-use developments.

"Our physical expansion at CITYCENTRE further demonstrates Mays Business School's dedication to our Executive MBA and Professional MBA programs and our commitment to meeting the educational and meeting needs of the Houston business community," said Dean Jerry Strawser. "I'm proud of our beautiful space at CITYCENTRE, our dedicated staff and the creative ways our faculty are enhancing students' learning experiences in the facility."

Mays Business School's CITYCENTRE space now totals more than 30,000 square feet, featuring four executive classrooms, 21 team rooms, expansive dining and common spaces, staff offices and a boardroom. It encompasses portions of the first floor and the entire second floor of the CITYCENTRE THREE building. The space was custom-designed by a team of faculty, staff and students to be the ideal environment for executive learning. The facility features a number of meeting, conference and event spaces that are available for rent.

For information, visit [mays.tamu.edu/citycentre](http://mays.tamu.edu/citycentre).

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# Just a Country Boy with a Guitar: Adam Fears

**"It was fully and one hundred percent through the power of a lot of long conversations with the Man upstairs that got me into the music business."**



If you were checking out the country music scene in College Station in the early years of the new millennium, you've likely heard Adam Fears '04 doing what he loves. Since then, Adam has honed his craft as an artist and songwriter, writing thousands of songs and touring in support of his albums *You Get Me* and *Golden Gravel Road*. And if you were lucky enough to join us on May 31st, you know this Aggie's got what it takes!

Like lots of people from rural East Texas, Adam enrolled at A&M figuring he'd follow his father's footsteps into the oil field. As an Ag Development major, Adam spent his days studying, but spent his nights playing with his band.

In 2005, as the band was about to graduate (after a victory lap) and go their separate ways, fate intervened. "My grandparents ended up sitting next to a man from Nashville in church one Sunday morning who had a friend in the music business. My CD was passed onto the man from Nashville, who ultimately saw to it that it ended up on the desk of a Music City music publisher." Almost a decade later, Adam still writes songs for that same Nashville publishing company, Faverett Entertainment.

Adams credits "The Gospel According to Jones," a song he wrote with Eric Lee Beddingfield, who recorded it with George Jones, as a milestone. The song was performed on the Grand Ole Opry stage during the Possum's 80th birthday concert. For the last two years of his touring career, the video (which was named one of Billboard's Top Video Picks of 2011) played on the jumbotron as George walked onstage. "It's been an amazing experience!" Adam says with a big grin. Adam says with a big grin.

In 2012, Adam Fears inked a recording deal with Nashville-based LandStar Entertainment and went to work cutting his new album. *Golden Gravel Road*, takes you down a red dirt road, plays you something fun to dance to, and even gives you some old-school twang when you need it. "There's no geographic boundaries to this record. If you've ever been young, ever been in love, ever rolled down your window and drove too fast, you'll get this record." The album's debut single, *Middle of Nowhere*, is rising up the Texas Music Charts.

At the end of the day, Fears always gives credit to God for getting him where he is today and insists that he's the same person he was when it all started. "I'm just a country boy from a little farm in east TX who found that a guitar struck a chord with me more than I ever did with it. I've got a few more miles on me now, but I don't reckon I'll ever change. I'm never late, I drink my coffee black, and it'd be my pleasure to meet you."



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## RETURN TO CAMP

At a chance meeting with CAMP founders, Sam Williams & Freddie Wong, who were on campus meeting with other students, a 9th grade former CAMP student learned that he could return to the Caring Aggies Mentoring Program. The student was told that he was still eligible for CAMP, but that he had to write a letter requesting re-admittance. Here is the touching letter that the student wrote:

1/8/14

Hello, I am [redacted]. I am currently 15 years of age, in [redacted] High School, and currently in the ninth grade. My goal is set on becoming a veterinarian, so that I can care-for the well-beings of animals for a living. Over the course of two years I have been searching for my best suited college to have an opportunity to achieve my goal, so far I have been directed at Texas A&M. My step-dad and many have recommended it to me. In my effort for my life long dream re-joining this organization will boost me greatly. By the word re-joining, I will explain why I need to join this group again. In the earliest years at [redacted] I was one of the select students chosen to join the earliest form of this association, and I was proud of it, and I was pumped from the start. However, my family was also experiencing major complications in our daily lives. A divorce was in progress. The parental issues brought so much stress to the points that priorities were out-of-line. My dad, whom I was living with at the time had convinced me that it was unnecessary to keep going to the field trips provided by this club. So with a convinced mind I started skipping the activities. I had missed out two trips, and had been excused from the group. I have long regretted leaving. Now from today on I am set on the right path. That was the past me, now this is the present me. I am no longer living in bad influences, I see the opportunity provided before me, I will not skip out of the trips, and I had been in this group in the beginning kicked off or not, and lastly this is an opportunity to become associated with the Texas A&M college before even applying to attend. I am requesting permission to attend once more.

1

Honorary Chair John Schiller Jr '81  
and  
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the Houston A&M Club

invite you to  
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Registration/Silent Auction Open at 5:00 PM

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More information available at [www.HoustonAgs.org](http://www.HoustonAgs.org).



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# HOUSTON AGGIE

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Sat, Sep 06	Lamar	Kyle Field	6:30 p.m.
Sat, Sep 13	Rice	Kyle Field	8:00 p.m.
Sat, Sep 20	SMU	Dallas, Texas	TBA
Sat, Sep 27	Arkansas*	Arlington, Texas	TBA
Sat, Oct 04	Mississippi State*	Starkville, Miss.	TBA
Sat, Oct 11	Ole Miss*	Kyle Field	TBA
Sat, Oct 18	Alabama*	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	TBA
Sat, Nov 01	Lousiana-Monroe	Kyle Field	TBA
Sat, Nov 08	Auburn*	Auburn, Ala.	TBA
Sat, Nov 15	Missouri*	Kyle Field	TBA
Thu, Nov 27	LSU*	Kyle Field	6:30 p.m.

\* Conference Games

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