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HOUSTONAGGIE

Houston's Aggieland Connection



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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



One of the great traditions at Texas A&M is the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band marching on to Kyle Field at halftime. The drum major calls the band to attention, and then directs: "Recall!! Step off on Hullabaloo!"

As we "Step Off" into another Coach's Night, we hope you will join us for the 2017 program taking place on Sunday, July 23rd at NRG Center. Doors open at 4:30 pm and the Program starts at 6:30 pm.

Watch our website (houstonags.org) and eBlasts for auction item previews, ticket sale specials, and exciting updates to the program and evening festivities.

If you cannot attend but would like to contribute to our scholarship fund, you can donate on the Coach's Night page by selecting "Paddles up for Endowed Scholarships."

For more information on the Program, contact the Randolphs:

Todd '93: toddbran@gmail.com

John '01: gudpilot@gmail.com

To Donate to the Auction, contact Nellie Smith '94

nelliesmith94@AggieNetwork.com
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**AUCTION
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President's Message

HOWDY Ags! My term as President is almost halfway over and it has been an action-packed and challenging year.

I want to send a very special thank you to the COKINOS FAMILY – Michael '77, Paige '78, Gregory '79, Kevin '84 and Christopher '87 – for sponsoring the Houston A&M Club's Muster at White Oak Music Hall. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to continue our tradition of keeping Muster FREE. ALL donations received at Muster will go into our Scholarship fund to help us reach our goal of endowing a new scholarship this year.

The annual membership/donor drive is happening now. Please make time to return the mailer you received in

April or update your information on-line at houstonags.org.

Please contact HAMCMembership@aggienetwork.com if you have any questions. Every member who donates \$25 or more will receive the first ever HoustonAggie Yearbook, which will be published at the end of the year, along with other special member benefits.



Your generous donations allow us to continue our mission of supporting TAMU, providing financial aid to Houston area students attending TAMU, and making a positive difference in the Houston community.



To see the impact your donations make, check out the student thank you letters in this newsletter. Your contributions make a difference!

Our biggest party of the year is July 23 at NRG Center. All the details are on the website where you can sponsor, make a donation, or purchase tickets. Please contact the co-chairs, (my brothers) Todd & John, at hamccoachsnight@gmail.com with any questions.

I encourage all Houston Aggies to continue Sharing the Spirit by Attending, Donating, and Volunteering at our many upcoming events. I hope to meet as many of you as possible throughout the year.

Dana Randolph '91
drandolph@aggienetwork.com



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David's Law

An Aggie Journey to End Cyberbullying

Dear Fellow Aggies,

Howdy! My name is Cliff Molak, and I am a 2015 Biomedical Engineering graduate of TAMU, and my brother, Chris, is a prospective 2017 Economics TAMU graduate. We are the brothers of 16 year old David Molak who took his life in January of 2016 after repeated and despicable online cyberbullying. David endured months of hateful and threatening torment, creating a mental health crisis in my home. My family is working with Senator Jose Menendez and Representative Ina Minjarez from San Antonio to pass legislation to modernize our bullying laws to keep up with the technology of today. We are doing this to protect kids from what has become an epidemic in today's society. You can find out more information about David and the work we are doing in his honor at <http://www.davidslegacy.org>.

An Eagle Scout and an all-around good guy, my brother David dreamed of becoming an Aggie just like my brother and me. Our Aggie community is short one good man who would have been a tremendous asset to our family. I greatly appreciate your effort in support of these bills and in honor of my brother David.

Sincerely,
Cliff Molak
University of Texas
Health Science Center San Antonio
M.D. Candidate 2019



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Cliff '15 and Chris '17 Molak asked the Aggie Network to help them honor their brother's legacy by working to end cyberbullying through David's Law. This May, their efforts were rewarded when the bill was sent to the Governor for signing.

David committed suicide when he was just 16 years old after months of cyberbullying. Determined to prevent similar tragedies, The Molak family formed David's Legacy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated



to ending cyber-assisted bullying by educating communities about the harmful effects of cyber abuse, providing support for bullying victims, promoting kindness, and supporting legislation that prohibits the cyberbullying of minors. In short, the Foundation works to protect youth from the harmful effects of improper social media use.

David's Law makes cyberbullying a legally punishable offense. Cliff hopes that this law will help set boundaries for what behavior is acceptable on social media and life in general.



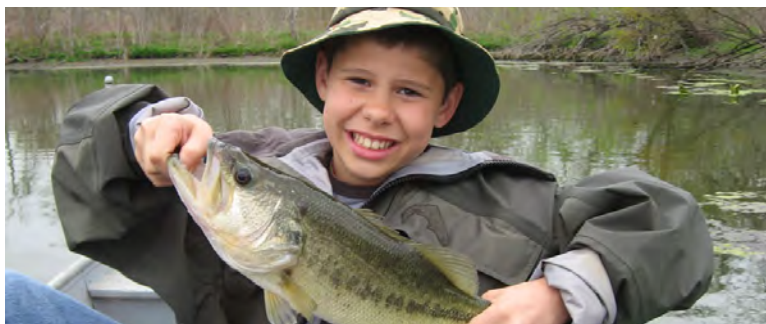
In addition to making cyberbullying a class B misdemeanor, David's Law requires state funded public schools to include cyberbullying in their district policies and notify parents whose children are victims or alleged aggressors within 24 hours. David's Law also provides for civil relief in the form of a temporary restraining order or permanent injunction against the aggressor, with simplified filing procedures for minors and their parents. Moreover, school districts would be required to develop a system to anonymously report bullying, and would be given more latitude to place students in a disciplinary

alternative education program or expel them for encouraging suicide or other serious bullying.

David's Law (Senate Bill 179) passed unanimously in the Texas Senate on May 3rd and with variations in the Texas House on May 12th. Due to the differences, the bill was sent to a conference committee so that both branches could work together to determine the final language. Please visit www.davidlegacy.org to learn more about this issue and how you can support David's Law.



"The only way to end suffering in this nation, whether it be from bullying or discrimination is not to highlight differences between groups of people, but to focus on the importance of accountability and character. This holiday season show kindness to strangers. Share your light with other whose light might not be shining so bright. Only together can we be the beacon of hope this world needs. Peace, Cliff"



slavinart

"Here" was a vision that came to Al Slavin '85 during his junior year Muster. It took 30 years to put the vision into a visual medium, but the final product speaks for itself. Al's son, Spencer '15, holds the candle from which flows Fish Slavin's buddies and a few of their piss heads in their D-1 "Devil D" t-shirts following final review in '85, the First Lady of Aggieland, and all those who represent this time-honored tradition.

The Slavins have long been a part of Aggie history and trivia. Al's Devil D was later disbanded and reformed as Spider D. Al's wife, Newell (Holland) '88, followed in Bartlett Holland '55's footsteps, before adding a few Aggies of her own: Spencer '15, Company D-2 "Hell Bent Canines," and their daughter, ?? '20, just completed her first semester.

Check out Al's Aggie-inspired works at www.slavinart.com.



"Here"
Al Slavin
slavin

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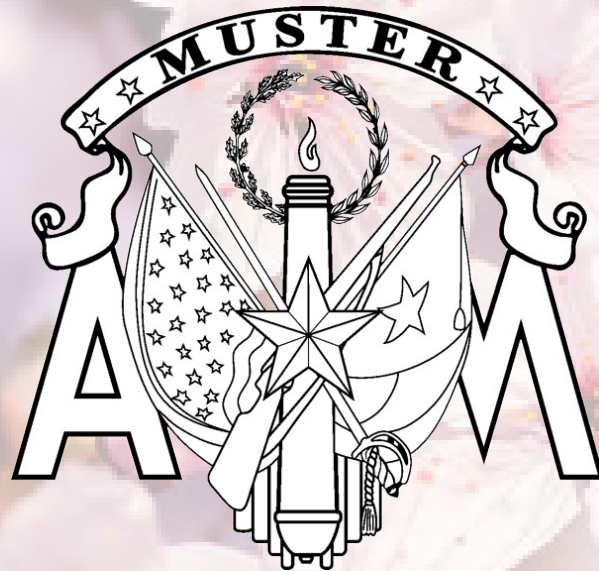
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When I leave this earthly plane?
Will you answer for me clearly
When they call out my
name?
Will you speak of me a
time or two
When Aggies gather
'round-
Especially at a football
game
At Kyle Field's hallowed
ground?
If you can do these
things for me,
I'll know I'm still a part
Of the school and
friends I leave behind
That filled this Aggie heart.

by Patricia B. "Tricia" (Bell) Millsap '79

THE SPIRIT OF MUSTER

For all the Ags who have gone before
me,
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enjoy-
Our spirit I faithfully
carry forward,
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better world behind.
Softly call the Muster,
Ags, and raise your
candle light,
Gone but not forgot-
ten, let 'em hear that
old farmers fight!
Today, my voice is
yours, as I call "HERE,"
I stand for fallen he-
roes, for those I hold most dear.

by Joey Dean '05



From the Executive Director's Desk

Howdy Ags,

2017 is already proving to be an exciting year for the Houston A&M Club. We introduced a new website, launched an intern program, and endowed another scholarship.

The first semester of our intern program was a huge success. This program gives us another opportunity to stay connected with our great university by offering course credit to two current students. Our first two interns, Alexa Schlotfeldt and Julie Rakowitz, prove that the Aggie core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, and Selfless Service are alive and well in the current student population. It was an honor to invest in these students and offer real-world non-profit, marketing, and event planning experience. We are grateful for

their contributions to our club and the hard work they put in. You can hear more from Julie's perspective in an article she wrote for this newsletter. She will be joining us again in the summer. If you know any current students who would be interested in an internship with the Houston A&M Club, please send them my way.



I want to say a heartfelt thank you to the Cokinos Brothers: Michael E. Cokinos '77, Paige M. Cokinos '78, Gregory M. Cokinos '79, Kevin M. Cokinos '84, and Christopher M. Cokinos '87. Thanks to their generosity, and the generosity of their companies, Cokinos Energy, Higginbotham, and Cokinos | Young, we were able to keep Muster free to everyone. The Cokinos Family has a long tradition of supporting Muster, Texas A&M, and sharing the Aggie Spirit in their communities. We are so grateful for their generosity to the Houston A&M Club.

Thanks to them, all donations received at the event will go straight to scholarships instead of helping fund the event.

We have two big event sponsorship opportunities coming up: Coach's Night on July 23rd and Night with President Young on August 24th. If you're interested in supporting the HAMC and these events, while reaching 50,000 Houston-area Aggies, please reach out to me at elizabethhamburg@aggienetwork.com. We would love to partner with you!

As always, we ask that you support the Aggie businesses that support the HAMC. These companies, like Aggies in general, have a track records of excellence and integrity. You won't be disappointed.

Thank you for being the Aggie Spirit in Houston by attending, donating, and volunteering. Your impact is being felt in Houston and at Texas A&M.

Thanks and Gig 'em!
Elizabeth Hamburg '07
HAMC's Executive Director

elizabethhamburg@aggienetwork.com



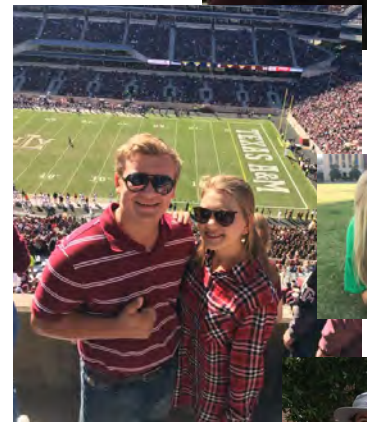
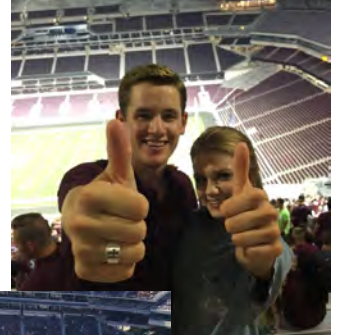
Meet the Houston A&M Club's 2017 Spring Intern - Julie Rakowitz

Howdy! My name is Julie Rakowitz, and I'm a Communication and English double-major from Floresville, Texas, but most importantly, I'm the loudest and proudest member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2019! A-A-A Whoop! On campus, I am involved in Maggies and the Terry Foundation Student Organization. I enjoy attending the baseball and football games, and I especially love watching performances from our Nationally Famous Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. When I graduate from A&M, I hope to use my degrees to either work in public relations or for a non-profit organization. Interning for the Houston A&M Club over the last semester gave me a great "first taste" of the non-profit world. My internship experience over the last semester piqued my interest so much, that I am coming back again to intern over the summer.

During the spring, my internship allowed me to learn how to use a variety of different internet systems, such as the MyEmma system (used for sending e-blasts) and the WordPress system (used for updating the website). At the beginning of the semester, I knew nothing of either program, but now, I use them both with ease. I also learned how to invoice, which was another entirely new "system" for me. I am grateful that working with the Houston A&M Club allowed me to try (and sometimes fail) my hand at new things. The skills and experiences that I acquired with the HAMC will be useful to me in a future career.

I have also had the opportunity to speak with several of our donors, in order to renew or increase their donations, and to hear feedback from them. I would ask each donor, "What motivates you to donate to the Houston A&M Club?" and time after time, I heard responses along the lines of: "Well, A&M is family. That's what you do for family," or "I enjoyed my time at A&M, so I want to help a young Aggie have the same opportunity." Every donor offered positive feedback for their purpose in donating to the HAMC; their words moved and inspired me. I was grateful to learn the marketable skills that I mentioned previously, but I have been even more grateful to have the opportunity to speak with so many generous members of the Aggie family.

Thankfully, my time with the Houston A&M Club did not have to end with the close of the spring semester, and I have the chance to continue the internship throughout the summer, in preparation for Coach's Night! In the meantime, I will also be taking summer classes at A&M because I am just a few hours away from earning my Aggie gold! Whoop!



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COKINOS

On March 1st, Gregory M. Cokinos '79 and Marc A. Young '79 unveiled their law firms new name, logo, and website, while re-affirming the firm's commitment to serving clients in the construction and real estate industries. Thanks to Cokinos | Young for being one of the HAMC's most generous supporters.

"Houston is where we began 28 years ago and remains our largest office," says Cokinos. "With offices in Houston, San Antonio, Austin, and Dallas, we employ more than 60 attorneys and continue to uphold the values that have always been hallmarks of our firm – exceptional client service, the highest caliber of legal acumen, and the best possible outcomes for our clients. We take great pride in the fact that our very first client when we established our firm in 1989 remains our client today."



"We understand the importance of knowing how different businesses operate," said Young. "Our attorneys are extensively familiar with the legal challenges, developments, and trends in the industries we serve, so we are always ahead of the curve in our knowledge of the constantly evolving market conditions and legal landscape."

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On April 25th, Parson's Mounted Calvary joined the Australian American Chamber of Commerce and its esteemed guests as they honored the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who gave their lives in the service of their countries at Gallipoli during World War I, and to all the brave souls who have lost their lives doing so, in all theatres of war since.

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Lest we forget



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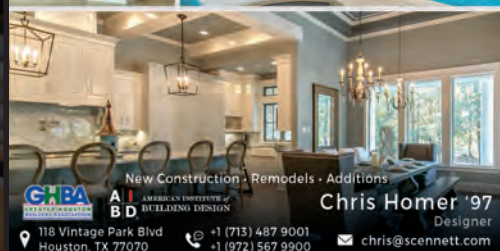
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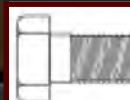
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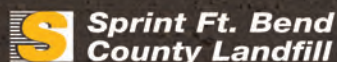
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Dear Donor,

I really appreciate that you chose to support A&M students by donating to Career Closet. Thanks to you and other donors, I was able to land a job interview for what I believe to be my dream job!

Without you, I probably would not have landed this opportunity, so again, thank you for your donation!

Sincerely,

Kent

Thanks
Your donations made these gifts possible.



The purpose of this letter is to express my sincere appreciation for your Corps of Cadets Scholarship, and to also update you on what is currently going on in my academic career. As always my family and I are extremely thankful for your gratitude towards students like myself.

It won't be long before I become a senior in both the corps and the university. I am halfway through paying for my senior boots, and if I finish this semester on a strong note I will be able to apply for my Aggie ring during the summer. These are two things that I am currently working towards along with my degree that I am trying to get.

As always I am still participating in corps. Last semester I informed you that I would be serving as Chapin and Recruiting Sargent for my outfit. I am happy to say that I have been doing a good job, and have been coming up with innovative ways to improve the positions of those jobs. Apart from the Corps also decided to stick with the Regents Orientation Scholars program (to help first generation Aggie students feel welcomed to the university while giving them the information they need in order to succeed in their first year at Texas A&M). Within this program I will be severing as an orientation counselor, therefore having direct contact with first generation incoming Aggies. I joined this program because I myself am a Regent's Scholar, and with this I have been able to afford my college education. This program is the perfect way to give back to Texas A&M and to help those who have a similar background as I have.

As I have only a year and half left in this university I am already looking at a possible internship for my major. I am still majoring in Environmental Studies and I still plan to work in a job where I can do consulting in urban districts cities. In the future, I plan to join one more organization where I can give back to the university and others. I also plan on going to one more study aboard program in order to do a little bit of research and gain a new experience outside of the United States.

As always should you make your way down to College Station I would be honored to meet with you so I can thank you for your generosity.

Very Respectfully,

Sebastian
SQ-12

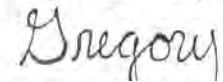
I am a senior in the Corps of Cadets, where I serve as the Career Readiness Officer for the Artillery Band Staff, as a member of A-Battery, and as a clarinet player for the Aggie Band. Being on staff has been a rewarding experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity to impact multiple outfits. I have just finished conducting a mock key leader interview workshop for the entire band, and we have received plenty of positive feedback. I am also involved in the Ross Volunteer Company, in which I have recently been selected as the Historian. I am very excited for the opportunity to serve the company in this manner, and have received much support from the person who came before me. I also participate in MSC OPAS and the Society of Petroleum Engineers. This past summer I spent time working for the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering and the Summer Recruiting Company.

I am majoring in Petroleum Engineering and hope to pursue a career in its subset of Drilling Engineering. However, I am open to the idea of applying for graduate school to pursue a degree in Management, Mechanical Engineering, or Finance. I believe the Corps has been beneficial to my development as a leader by teaching me the skills necessary to work with others whether they be peers, superiors, or employees, and that I can continue developing as a person by learning to function outside of my comfort zone, and cultivate a sense of time management and work ethic.

If you were ever to find yourself in College Station, it would be an honor and pleasure to make your acquaintance in person and thank you for your support. My contact information is above.

Once again, I would like to sincerely thank you for selecting me as the recipient of your Corps Scholarship. I appreciate your support.

Very respectfully,



'17

Gregory
A-Battery

'17

The purpose of this letter is to express my sincere appreciation for your Corps of Cadets Scholarship. Your continued generous support means a great deal to me and to my family.

I am a sophomore in Squadron 6. I am also involved in a club called Christian Engineering Leaders, or CEL for short. In this club I am part of the committee that plans our club activities, and also community service activities. I am also involved in an organization called Sully's Selfless Servants. It is a community service organization, and we do a lot of work around the Bryan/College Station area.

I am pursuing a degree in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology and hope to pursue a career in the automotive Industry when I graduate. I am doing well thus far in my classes, and really love building and programming in Engineering. The Corps of Cadets is helping me make my goals come true by teaching me discipline, and developing leadership qualities I need for my future.

I would be honored to meet with you and thank you in person whenever you are in College Station. My contact information is above.

Once again, I would like to extend my ongoing gratitude as the recipient of your Corps Scholarship. Thank you again for your continuing support of my career goals.

Very Respectfully,



Nicholas
Squadron 6

'19

For Memorial Day, to honor those who served and sacrificed, Flags for Fallen Vets ensures that each of the approximately 800,000 veterans interred at a National Cemetery in the U.S. has an American Flag marking their grave site.



