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

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

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editor's corner

A&M is an expensive proposition. To pay for it, many have to be willing to think outside the box; step outside their comfort zones; and try something terrifying, yet so rewarding. I'm frequently asked where to get scholarship money, and then met with abject horror when I reply: "Have you considered the Miss Texas line of scholarship pageants?" Clearly they haven't, yet both the 2014 Miss Bryan/College Station and Miss Cy-Fair Houston are Aggies



As the Official Attorney of the Miss Texas Pageant, I'm in a unique position to know that scholarship dollars are bypassed every year because of an undeserved stigma about "Beauty Queens." Please let me set the record straight. Niki Noblett '17 and Callie Thompson '12 are two of the most amazing, intelligent, beautiful women I've ever met, and they aren't afraid to take a chance and show the world. Thus, I invite the talented and smart women of Texas A&M (and those heading to A&M) to participate in the upcoming preliminary pageants. Miss Galveston kicks off the preliminary season on October 4th and is followed by Miss Bryan-College Station and a variety of other pageants throughout the year.

There is money available for those who aren't afraid to go for it.



AGGIE MOMS - A LIFELINE

Naomi Miller, the 2014-15 President of the Houston Aggie Moms, travelled a lot as a child, living in Holland, Saudi Arabia, and all over in the United States. She loves the water and the beach. She loved living in Gulf Shores, Alabama, when she was young and she treasures the time she spent fishing, shrimping, skiing, and swimming. The beach and the sound of the waves are very soothing to her.

Naomi has a BA in Accounting and a Masters in International Finance. She is an Assistant Controller at a local business. She loves her job, but her real calling has always been to do something that helps children. In addition to being involved in Aggie Moms, she is also on the board of the As One Foundation, which gives scholarships and invests in the lives of children.

Naomi has two beautiful daughters, Ashley '11 and Alyssa '13. She is a single mother. She has always been involved with her girls' schools and activities like soccer, cheer leading, and dance. She loves that her girls are involved in activities like the Big Event at A&M and is thrilled that Aggie Moms also supports those activities.



Naomi has served the Houston Aggie Moms as Treasurer for two years under Kristi Smith and Vicki Brown-Sobecki '78. She was pleased to serve this year as Cheryl Dinwoodie's President Elect.

The theme Naomi has chosen for this year is "Aggie Moms – A Lifeline". She chooses this because she would like to make fundraising for the Student Counseling Services, specifically the hotline, a priority for next year. This makes Aggie Moms a Lifeline for the students. Aggie Moms also serve as a Lifeline for fellow Aggie Moms as more experienced moms support the fish moms who are just sending their students off to school for the first time.



Houston Aggie Moms have made many contributions over the years to Texas A&M. The additional programs that various departments have been able to provide due to Aggie Mom donations have helped students. Scholarship money obviously helps students by reducing their need to work in addition to going to school. Thus these contributions have been a lifeline to our students.

Texas A&M's rich traditions also are lifelines that Aggies cling to during their life. Silver Taps and Aggie Muster, ceremonies which honor Aggies who have died, set Texas A&M apart from any other school in the country. Through service projects like the Big Event, Aggies are providing lifelines for residents in Brazos County. The fantastic education that A&M provides is a lifeline for graduates by helping them attain good jobs.

Texas A&M is the only university in the United States where mothers are organized for the purpose of supporting their students and aiding in the promotion of the University. The Houston A&M University Mothers' Club was formed in 1927 when 6 moms decided to get together to bring chicken dinners to their "boys" once a month. Today our Houston club is one of over 120 clubs organized under the umbrella of the Federation of A&M University Mothers' Clubs, our liaison with the University.

As mothers we want to nurture and care for our children. We want the best for them. Through Aggie Moms we unify our individual talents and abilities to create scholarships, provide care packages, support the university, and provide encouragement for all Aggie students. Also through Aggie Moms we get information about the happenings on campus, a way to stay in touch with our students, and lifelong friendships with other Aggie Moms. By unifying our talents and abilities as individual Aggie Moms, we can turn our work into a strong lifeline that will help our students, Texas A&M, and strengthen our friendships with each other.

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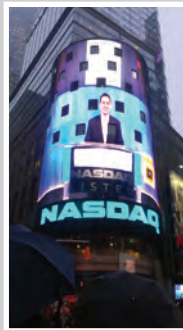


Are you the ultimate Aggie football fan? Do you bleed maroon? Do you tailgate every Saturday from September through December? Do you own a maroon and white 12th Man Fire Truck? If you're Daniel Doughty '04, the answer is a resounding "YES!"

So how does one acquire the perfect tailgating vehicle? You're in the right place at the right time, when the previous owner's wife announces that future Aggie #2 is taking the field and tailgating is now a thing of the past. Enter the next generation of fire fighters...



The 12th Man Fire Co. is a (self-professed) group of "crazy rowdy fans dedicated to Fightin' Texas Aggie Football, Good Food, Great Drink and Awesome Friends having the tailgating experience of a lifetime." And they do it on The 12th Man Fire Truck, a 1982 GMC/Pierce Pumper Truck, owned and operated until 2010 by the Murphy, Texas Fire Department as Engine #4. It has a Detroit diesel engine and a 750 gallon water tank, with a 250 gallon per minute pump that can be sprayed through the deck gun. The custom 12th Man Fire Co. theme is courtesy of Skinzwraps in Dallas.



To book the truck for your next event:
12thmanfireco@gmail.com
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"Why did you buy a fire truck?"

The number one question I get is: "Why did you buy a fire truck?" The answer is simple: to keep spreading the Aggie Spirit!!! It's a conversation piece, and when you can get Aggies networking with Aggies, the world becomes a lot smaller and the impossible seems more possible!!! Also, I love everybody that honks when they see it on the road and welcome those that want a picture with it. I get requests for a wide variety of things: weddings, photo shoots, charity events, corporate outings, birthday parties, parades, etc... The most unique request so far was for a museum exhibit.

Born and raised in Houston, I was overwhelmed with the Aggie Spirit at an early age. That Spirit only grew as I got older, and continues getting stronger each day. Having jumped into the Financial Services Industry right out of college, I learned the importance of networking. Realizing how powerful the Aggie Network is, I always wanted to do my part to spread it. So when the opportunity arose to buy The 12th Man Fire Co. truck, I jumped on it.

I knew this was something unique, and I saw the potential it had. The outside was in great shape, but the inside was coming part. I had a custom seat made, added maroon carpet, painted all the vinyl panels' maroon and white, and of course, I had to have a pair (or 2) of Fuzzy A&M Dice. The next item I was searching for was a fire helmet. Somebody stopped me leaving Coach's Night and asked to take pictures, who happened to be a Houston Firefighter. He gave me an extra helmet. Now my mind just races with all the potential things that can be added to the outside. BBQ pits/grills, keg system, and sound systems are just a few of the things I want to add to enhance the experience.

I'm the Senior Vice President at James E. Bashaw & Co. where we manage over \$1 Billion in assets. I am also a Team (The Wolves of Wine Street) Captain on the Rodeo Wine Sales and Events Committee and Co-Chairman of Wh30p! Houston, a social networking opportunity for Houston Area Aggies in their 30's (ish). All of Wh30p! Houston's proceeds go towards our Aggie Ring Scholarship.

Written by Daniel Doughty '04



Elevating A&M To New Levels of Academic and Research Leadership

As a “fish” in 1963, Clifford Fry heard President Rudder provide his vision for the future: “to make A&M the MIT of the South.” A friend whispered: “Yeah, I will believe that when they start calling MIT the A&M of the North.” To make MIT the A&M of the North, A&M needed to kick off the quest with an academic counterpart to Johnny Manziel – The Texas A&M University Institute for University Institute for Advanced Study.

The greatest universities have access to the greatest minds and researchers in the world. The Institute brings the world’s finest scholars to Texas A&M for up to 12 months (sometimes distributed over years) for intensive research collaborations on some of the world’s toughest and most important problems in the fields of genetics, agriculture, veterinary medicine, energy, the environment, physics, chemistry, engineering, business, health science, and the risks of contamination by outsourcing our food supply, among others.

Of the many full and chaired professors, currently A&M has:

- 2 active Nobel prize winners on permanent faculty (5 total in its history);
- 1 Wolf prize (the “Israeli Nobel Prize”) winner; and
- 31 members of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Science, The Institute of Medicine, and the American Association of Arts and Sciences.

These professors are recognized by their peers as meeting the highest national standards of excellence. The Institute seeks to bring even more truly stellar individuals to campus in a way that fosters collaborations with our faculty and motivates interactions with our students. As a consequence, we anticipate that more of our faculty will receive national academy level recognitions, significantly accelerating the careers of our students, and potentially leading some to join A&M’s permanent faculty.



In its first three years, the Institute brought in 15 outstanding scholars, including 2 Nobel Prize winners (economics and physics), a Wolf Prize winner (agriculture), an awardee of the Hubbell Medal in Literature, and a recipient of the National Medal of Science (chemistry). Others have won research competitions and are members of national and international academies. Professor Alan Needleman, materials scientist, and Professor Chris Floudas, chemical engineer, initially Institute Fellows, are joining A&M’s permanent faculty in January 2015. Professor Floudas will head the Energy Institute and Dr. Needleman will join the Materials Science and Engineering Department.



“Their presence in the department will elevate its stature in the academic community, making the Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering one of the best departments in the country, and perhaps in the world. Their presence will also attract the very best students to the campus and the intellectual conversation will be elevated to levels not seen before,” said Nazmul Karim.

The Institute’s goal is to be sufficiently endowed to become a permanent part of Texas A&M and to bring in 20 new exceptional visiting scholars each year. A&M has never before had this opportunity to quickly enhance both the reality and perception of academic excellence at Texas A&M. And, yes, MIT cannot help but notice.

Contributed by Clifford Fry, PhD, Associate Director, Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study



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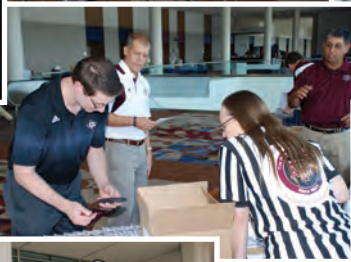
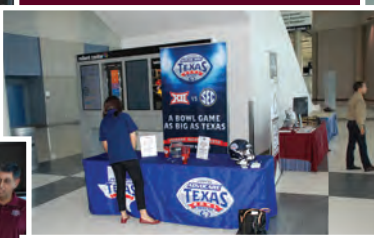
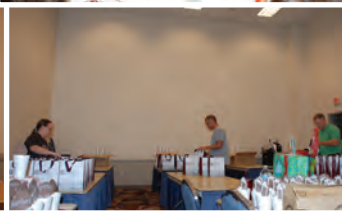
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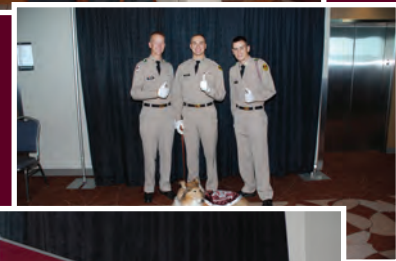
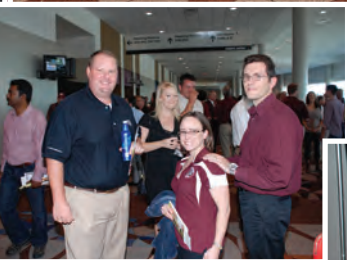
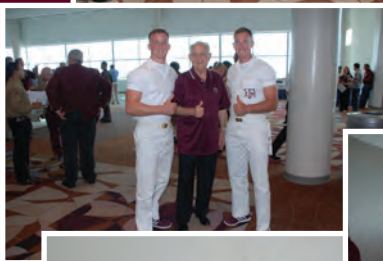
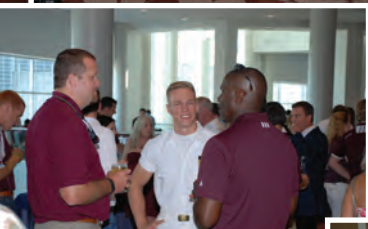
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Coach's Night Raises \$200,000 for Houston Aggies

Written by Julie Williams '04 and Deborah Lawson '92, 2014 Coach's Night Chairs

On July 25th, Coach Kevin Sumlin joined nearly 1200 Aggies to talk about Aggie football – the good, the bad, and the Good Bull! This year's Coach's Night raised more than \$200,000 to support the Houston A&M Club's three-part mission.

As always, Coach Sumlin's remarks were heart-felt and honest, highlighted by his ever popular quip: "Y'all can't wait to tweet that can you?" Coach talked about how far the A&M program has come in just a few years before addressing the Aggies' recent discipline issues and the five players who left the program after the season ended. "We've had some issues with discipline, and we've looked into it as a staff," Sumlin said. "We've made some changes."

Perhaps the most notable (or, at least, most quotable) comment came late in the evening, when Coach discussed what he refers to as "the business of developing men."

I've said this before, but it takes absolutely no effort to kick a guy out of school. . . . That's the easiest thing I can do. . . . It's tough for me when I have a mom crying in my office knowing that someone has really screwed up an opportunity to get an education. The hard part in that is that I couldn't fix in 17 months, what she couldn't fix in 17 years.

Although some were not thrilled with that statement, Sumlin emphasized that he's building a program the Aggies can be proud of. "We're doing everything we can to represent Texas A&M the right way and to make you proud as former students and not just in football

Importantly, as Johnny Manziel and Mike Evans (along with Jake Matthews) join the ranks of Aggies in the NFL, their legacies live on in the form of Houston Aggie scholarships. In the live auction, four items raised \$58,000 dollars. A black Riddell helmet signed by Manziel and donated by Maroon U – the same helmet worn by the Aggies against Mississippi State in 2012 – sold for \$14,000. A framed #2 maroon jersey signed by the Heisman Trophy winner and inscribed "12 Heisman," donated by Whoop! U, went for \$12,000. (Season Tickets on the near-extinct second deck and next year's Coach's Night Head Table each brought \$16,000.) In the silent auction, College Depot's donation, an unframed #13 jersey signed by wide-receiver Mike Evans, went for an appropriate \$1300. And Ryan Swope's autographed football claimed \$510. We can't thank our sponsors enough for the donations that made this event possible. Next time you shop, please support these Aggie-owned and Aggie-friendly merchants.

On behalf of Honorary Chair John Schiller '81, Energy XXI, and the Houston A&M Club, the Coach's Night committee would like to thank all of the Aggies and friends who made this night a huge success. Our sponsors, volunteers, and guests are the true Spirit of Aggieland.

Special thanks to Aubrey Bloom (aubrey.bloom@theeagle.com) for covering Coach's Night and providing the quotes for this article.



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Aggie Construction Science Students Build Fun for a Worthy Cause



On September 13th, CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County auctioned two custom Aggie-built children's playhouses as part of the "Casas for CASA: Parade of Playhouses" fundraiser to help support abused and neglected children. Plans for the houses started last spring where Ben Bigelow, a professor with the College of Architecture, offered CASA two playhouses designed and constructed by Construction Science students to use for a fundraiser.

The Casas for CASA: Parade of Playhouses was a popular community event during the 1990's, and the volunteer group, Young Professionals for CASA, a fundraising and friend-raising arm of CASA, was eager to bring this successful program back into action. "We kept hearing what a memorable and rewarding event this was," says Blake Myers, Young Professionals for CASA Fundraising Chair, "so we jumped at the chance to bring it back to help raise funds in support of the work that Advocates do to speak up for abused and neglected children."

When a child enters the foster care system because his or her home is no longer safe, a judge may appoint a committed volunteer to help them. That volunteer is called a Court Appointed Special Advocate or CASA. CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County trains and supports volunteers to represent and advocate for a child's best interest in the child protection system. Last year, 796 children were in the custody of DFPS in Montgomery County at a cost of \$1,215 per year each; 623 children were served by a CASA Advocate.



Left to right (top to bottom): Gabriel Bostick '14, Eduardo Mata '14, Corey Hoegger '14 and Chris Egger '14



Left to right: Taylor Hill '14, Brandon Orr '15, Courtney Stephens '15, and Aaron Velazco '15

Little Aggies at Cummins Elementary

Megan Blick '09, a CAMP volunteer, joined the staff of Cummins Elementary School in Alief ISD as a newly minted Kindergarten teacher. To encourage students to college bound, every Wednesday, the students have to wear college t-shirts. Determined to see a room of maroon, Megan put out a call for Aggie t-shirts for her students. She originally planned to buy them, but a generous Aggie donated the shirts for 2013/14. Thanks to the Aggies who made it possible, Megan's class is the only class on campus that has Aggie shirts for the entire class.

If you would like to donate shirts to Megan's class, please visit <http://www.pledgecents.com/cause/jnhhgs/texas-am-university-t-shirts-we-are-coll>



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If you've driven to College Station recently, you may have noticed Maroon shark-fin flags flanking the shopping center entrance at 290 and Barker Cypress. You likely also noticed the huge "Whoop! U" sign and Aggie flag marking the entrance to Houston's premier Aggie apparel, gear, and sports shop.

To co-owners Stacy Leonard '00 and Nathan Leonard '98, few things in life are as close to their hearts as Texas A&M University and its traditions, so they decided to create a taste of that world in the Cypress area. "We love the school, and we wanted a place in Houston that could represent the Spirit of Aggieland," Nathan said.

Whoop! U opened in 2013 on 12/12 – a date that needs no explanation to their mostly 12th Man patrons. "If you're an Aggie, you know right away it's an Aggie store. . . . We try to carry things people can wear to the office downtown. And we try to have things you can't find in other places."

Aggies love the store. "The first reaction we get is: 'It's a beautiful store,'" says Nathan. "The store gives off a positive vibe, and it's a very family oriented atmosphere." Don't believe us? Check out the living room area where guests can sit and catch a game on TV (or if you're a soon-to-be NFL superstar like Mike Evans – autograph the wall!) "It's nice to see Aggies sit back and mingle," said Stacy.

Nathan was born and raised in College Station by two Aggie parents. After earning a degree in Industrial Distribution, Nathan came to Houston to work for an engineering firm. Stacy, a communications major, teaches English at Cypress Woods High School. Like many Aggies, they met at A&M and are now the proud parents of two beautiful future Aggies, Braeden (Class of '25) and Sophie (Class of '31) who are prominently featured in many of their advertisements and who also created several of Whoop! U's t-shirt designs for children. "We get along really well and make a good business partnership," quips Stacy. "We wanted something we could pass on to our kids."

Like many Aggie traditions, it is difficult to explain the spirit that Stacy and Nathan wanted to bring to Houston, but in general, it's a spirit of friendship, unity, character, pride, and enthusiasm. "I've never met an Aggie I didn't like," says Nathan.

So far, Whoop! U is attracting people from all across Houston and as far away as College Station. "But there are still a lot of people to reach," says Stacy. So, next time you're in the neighborhood, be sure to stop by and say, "Howdy!"



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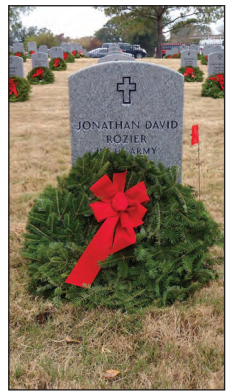
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Honor Our Aggie Heroes Interred at the Houston National Cemetery

On Saturday, December 13th, Houston Aggie Volunteers and students from the Caring Aggies Mentoring Program will help lay wreaths on the graves of our fallen Aggie heroes. Among those wreaths will be at least 20 bearing maroon ribbons, marking the final resting place of those beloved Aggies who made the ultimate sacrifice.

An estimated 15,000 people will pass through the gates of the Houston National Cemetery that day to pay their respects and place more than 60,000 wreaths. Our heroes will be honored with a ceremony complete with a 21 gun salute, echo Taps, a bagpipe troop, and a Coast Guard fly-over. For an entire month, the gardens of stone will be wrapped in holiday elegance. Then, in January, an estimated 1000 volunteers will remove all traces of the season as a new year dawns.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring and thanking our veterans for their service and sacrifice. Their mission: "Remember, Honor, and Teach."



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The HAMC is collecting names of Aggie heroes interred at the Houston National Cemetery, to ensure they each receive a wreath. If you know of any other Aggies to include, please e-mail Lara Sterzing '92 at lsterzing@yahoo.com with name, class year, and birth date, and/or date of passing, if known.

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DONATE A WREATH FOR A FALLEN AGGIE



The Houston A&M Club has joined Wreaths Across America to ensure that every year a wreath will be placed on the headstone of every Aggie interred in the Houston National Cemetery. To reach our goal, we need your help:

- 1** If you know an Aggie interred at the Houston National Cemetery, please e-mail lsterzing@yahoo.com.
- 2** Please donate at www.HoustonAgs.org. Each wreath costs only \$15 and \$5 of that donation comes back to the HAMC's CAMP program.
- 3** Join us in December as we place a wreath on the headstone of every Fallen Aggie and more than 60,000 other heroes.



HAMC Honors Outstanding Teacher - Tara Rollins

Tara Rollins began her teaching career in 1993 after obtaining her bachelor's degree at the University of Houston. During her 12 years in the classroom, she acquired a master's degree in educational technology from Texas A and a master's in library and information science from Sam Houston State University. She also earned certifications in Early Childhood Education and English as a Second Language.

Tara's classroom career included teaching Pre-Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades and she taught the regular education inclusion class for many years. For the past nine years, Tara has worked as an information literacy specialist, including her current position at Kujawa Elementary School. Tara is passionate about education and inquiry based learning, which is why she enjoys working in an International Baccalaureate World School.

At Kujawa, Tara facilitates research and literacy skills and strives to enrich the school's Texas curriculum as well as the curriculum of Kujawa's International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. She has also been involved with the Technology and Curriculum Conference of Aldine for the past two years. This is one of the largest regional technology integration conferences that is free to any educator wishing to attend. Additionally, she volunteers with the Caring Aggies Mentoring Program (CAMP), which works with Houston area students monthly to encourage college or career readiness skills in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas. Tara began working with a group of 3rd grade students, and over the seven years that she has volunteered with CAMP, she has helped this same group of students progress to their current 9th grade level.

In addition to volunteering with CAMP, in her spare time, Tara enjoys reading, attending Broadway performances and spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys traveling and visiting art museums, especially to view the Impressionist works of art.



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HOUSTON AGGIE EVENTS

BREAKFASTS & LUNCHES



EVERY MONDAY

Traditions Lunch
H.E.S.S. Club, 5430 Westheimer Road
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Aggie Women's Lunch
Maggiano's Little Italy, 2019 Post Oak Blvd
12:00 PM



FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Downtown Lunch
Artista Restaurant, 800 Bagby Street
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM



THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

The Woodlands Lunch
Americas, 21 Waterway Avenue
12:00 PM



EVERY THURSDAY

Reveille Club Breakfast
Cafe Express, 1101 Uptown Park
6:30 AM - 8:00 PM

HAMC Breakfast Club
visit www.houstonags.org

VOLUNTEER & ACTIVITIES



FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Houston Food Bank Volunteering
535 Portwall Street
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM



THIRD THURSDAY OF MOST MONTHS

Houston Aggie Mom's Meeting
Church of Christ, 1910 Bering Drive
6:30 PM - houstonaggiemoms.aggienetwork.com

HAPPY HOURS



THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Cypress Happy Hour
Cork Cafe, 25712 NW Freeway, Suite C
6:30 PM



SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

The Woodlands Happy Hour
The Refuge Bar & Bistro, 24 Waterway Ave
4:45 PM



LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

HOWDY Club Happy Hour
Locations on howdyclub.com
5:30 PM



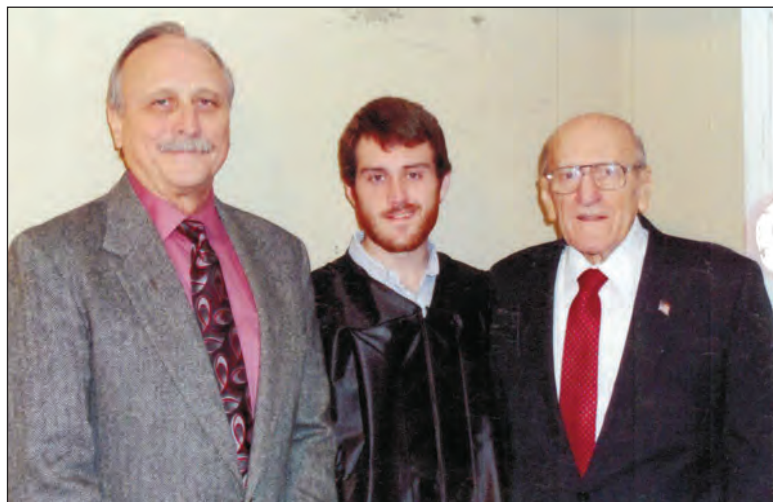
THIRD WEDNESDAY OF ODD MONTH

WH30P! Happy Hour
Locations on wh30phouston.com
5:30 PM



Ol' Army Cocktail Hour
visit www.houstonags.org

AGGIE NEWS



CHROMCAK'S 3rd Generation A&M GRADUATE

Thomas Jordan "T. J." Chromcak (center) became the third generation Chromcak to walk across the stage at College Station to obtain his diploma from Texas A&M University. Graduating before him his grandfather, E. J. Chromcak (right) Class of 1950, and his father, Tom Chromcak (left) Class of 1976. T. J. Chromcak, Class of 2013, received a degree in Industrial Distribution from the School of Engineering and is employed by Team Industrial Services.

HOUSTON AGGIE

A Publication of the Houston A&M Club

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FALL 2014 AGGIE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sat, Oct 18	Alabama*	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	2:30 p.m.
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