

HoustonAggie



Coach Jimbo Fisher Introduces

THE 2019 FOOTBALL TEAM

8 things to know about best selling Aggie Emily March '79*

1

How did you get from a house divided in Wichita Falls to best selling author?

I was in elementary school when one of my older brothers went off to A&M and was elected [yell leader](#), so I was indoctrinated early. However, then my older sister went to tu and tempted me toward the dark side for a time.

It's been a great career, and I'm thankful for the education I received at A&M. What I learned there has assisted me in ways I never anticipated as I've traveled a professional road that as a college student, I never dreamed I'd take.

How has your degree from Texas A&M helped you?

4

My marketing background has come in handy throughout my career. Authors have always been expected to promote, but I've used what I learned in the business school at A&M the most during recent years, since Amazon changed the world with the Kindle. The publishing rights for about half of my books have reverted to me, and I have self-published those and a couple of original works in digital, print, and audio. As a result in addition to being a traditionally published author, I am my own small publisher, a small-business owner — hardest work I've ever done!

GIG EM!

*Emily March, Class of '79 (It should be '80, but I graduated in three years.)

3

What did you plan to do after graduation?

I married that Aggie while we were both in school, so we targeted both Houston and D/FW while job hunting. I was a marketing major. He was biomedical science. We both got jobs in Fort Worth and we've made it our home. I sold advertising for a local newspaper until I quit to stay home with our first child. We have three children—all of them are Aggies—Classes of '03, '06, and '10. Our sons were in the band. I paid tuition to A&M for 11 straight years!

How'd you get to be a professional writer?

Storytelling comes naturally to me. I grew up listening to my father's tales about coming of age during the Great Depression and his service during WWII — I think [he's the greatest storyteller ever born](#) and I learned so much from him. Plus, I've always been a voracious reader. Reading is the best way to learn to write.

5

I was one of those people who read a book and thought: "I could do better," and decided to try. At that time, I was a stay-at-home mother of three and going a little crazy. I needed something to do that wasn't kid related, so I attempted to write a story. I took a continuing education class on writing fiction at the local junior college and joined a multi-genre critique group. There I learned the craft and grew about a dozen layers of skin letting crusty old Western writers and hotshot military fiction writers critique my Texas-set historical romance. But, I sold that first book and forty-one more since then. (Wow, I didn't realize it has been that many. I just stopped and counted.)





6

Any fun moments in publishing you'd like to share?

I've had many rewarding moments. I'll share two, one from early in my career, one recent.

When my second book was published back in the mid 1990's, I made my first ever trip to New York City for a writer conference. I was truly small town girl gone to the big city. My publisher's building was in Times Square in the same building as MTV so they had the big video screens outside. They were hosting a party for their authors on the top floor, and the moment I will never forget was walking to the party and looking up to see the cover of my book on one of the huge screens. That was very cool!

I write fiction.
I tell lies for a living.
I go to work in my pajamas.
Whoop!

The recent share is from last year at a reader event that raises money for literacy. My daughter was with me when a woman approached and told me she'd been a reader all her life, but that after her husband died, she'd lost interest in reading. It left a hole in her life. Then she said she'd picked up one of my Eternity Springs books in a doctor's office waiting room, scanned it, and ended up becoming lost in the story. At that point, she started to cry and told me my work had been a gift to her, my book had given reading back to her. It was a very cool moment for me, for my daughter, and for my reader.

I don't write literature. I don't write to educate. I write to entertain and there is value in what I create. This can be a lonely job, so it's extra nice to see that what I do sometimes makes a difference.



Emily March has written historical romance, contemporary romance, romantic suspense, and women's fiction under two different pseudonyms—Geraldyn Dawson and Emily March—for Random House, Simon and Schuster, Penguin/Putnam, Harlequin, and now for Macmillan. She is a New York Times, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly bestseller.

Can you share a favorite good bull moment?

7

I made the New York Times bestseller list for the first time with my third Eternity Springs book, which was my twenty-fifth book overall, seventeen years after my first book was published. **I was a real overnight success.** My small town, feel good Eternity Springs series has been optioned for TV/Film, and we're all keeping our fingers crossed. One of my writer friends had her series bought by Netflix, and they just hired Julie Andrews to be the voice of one of her characters. How cool is that?

8

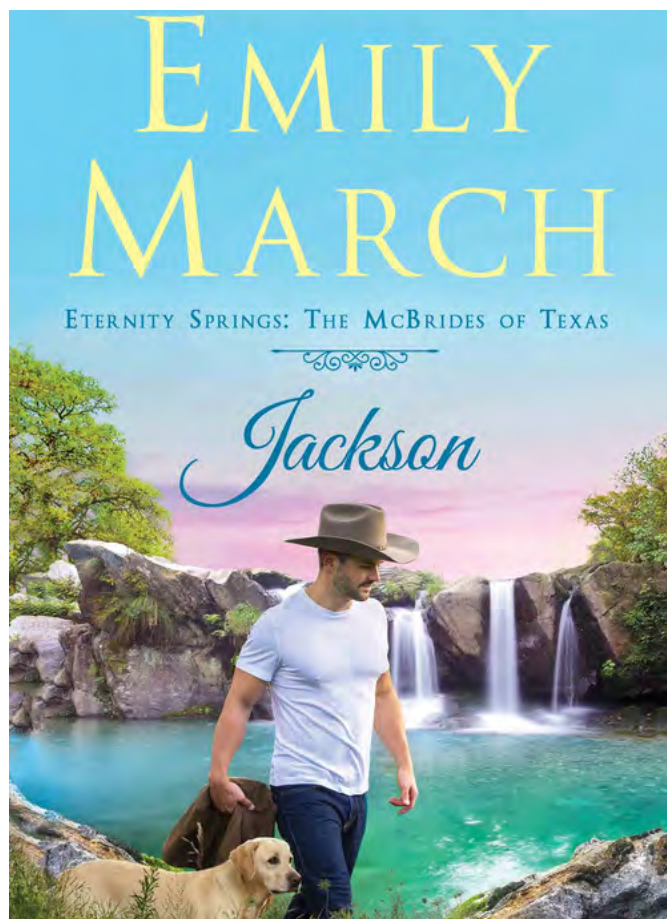
WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?

I'm writing the second book of a trilogy set in the Texas Hill Country that is part of my Eternity Springs world. The first book, JACKSON, was published June 25th. This book, TUCKER, will come out next February.



HOW CAN PEOPLE CONNECT WITH YOU?

I'm active on Facebook at facebook.com/EmilyMarchBooks, less active on Instagram @ EmilyMarchBooks. I refuse to use Twitter. Email me through my website at www.emilymarch.com, where I invite everyone to sign up for my newsletter. ***Bit of Aggie marketing advice...mailing lists are our BEST marketing tool because we own our own mailing lists. Social media is necessary, but you don't own that real estate and they can—and do—change the rules for that all the time.***



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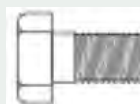
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➔ Silent Auction



The evening kicked off with the silent auction, where guests mingled with Aggie friends, enjoyed cocktails and live music from the Broken Spokes.

There were lots of photo opportunities with the Yell Leaders, 12th Man Fire Co. and Miss Reveille.

➔ Dinner & Live Auction



Dinner followed the silent auction, with an outstanding program featuring the best live auction in Texas, special guests Jerrod Johnson and Jace Sternberger,

and speakers from the Association of Former Students and the 12th Man Foundation. The incredible evening concluded with head football coach Jimbo Fisher addressing the audience.

➔ Gig 'em!



2019 Coach's Night Committee

Alyssa Fields '14
Courtney Schmidt '13
Dana Randolph '91
Emiley Walker '12
Kori Weyand '10
Melinda Bertrand '03
Tim England '15



COACH'S NIGHT 2019

By Melinda Bertrand

Our annual Aggie kickoff party, Coach's Night 2019, took place on Wednesday, June 19th at NRG Center. The event, presented by Frost Bank, was an exciting evening capped off with Texas A&M head football coach Jimbo Fisher addressing the audience.

The Houston A&M Club's goals are to foster the Aggie Spirit in greater Houston, give back to Texas A&M and provide scholarship funds to local students. Coach's Night is our single biggest fundraiser each year to achieve these goals. The Club assists in the preparation of future leaders by supporting more than 30 scholarships for Houston area students attending Texas A&M. With the help of our Aggie family, we EXCEEDED our GOAL to raise over \$250,000 this year.

Our amazing volunteers worked tirelessly from gathering auction items and contacting guests for tables, to helping with the set-up, tear down, registration and assisting guests during the event. Coach's Night is an enormous undertaking and the teamwork that goes into putting it together is a testament to the true Aggie Spirit. This Spirit lives on in our wonderful volunteers through their Character, Leadership, Unity and Service, all of which make this event a success.



ALL ABOUT THANKS



GUESTS

Thank you to all the GUESTS who joined us at Coach's Night. We are thrilled that you chose to spend your evening with us. Thank you for your friendship, support, and generosity. Without it, none of what we strive to do as an organization would be possible. We are deeply grateful for each of you.

DONORS

Thank you for your generous DONATIONS to uphold the club's mission and provide scholarship opportunities for Aggie students from the greater Houston area. With your support, we ACHIEVED our goal to raise OVER \$250,000 at Coach's Night towards scholarships and programs to foster the Aggie Spirit here in Houston.

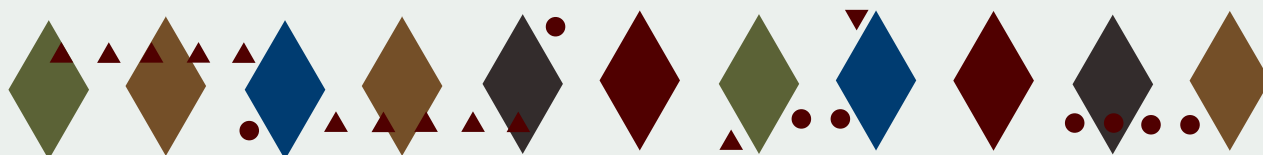


VOLUNTEERS

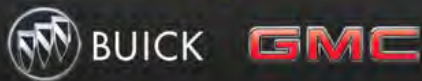
Thank you to the VOLUNTEERS who sacrificed their time and energy to make the event a huge success. Your hard work and dedication made Coach's Night not only possible, but an incredible evening for all the guests that support Texas A&M and the Houston A&M Club.



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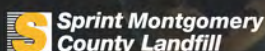
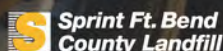
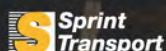
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General Welsh became Dean of the Bush School in August 2016, after retiring from the United States Air Force. Welsh, who was born in San Antonio, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a Master of Science degree in computer resource management from Webster University.

During his distinguished military career, he served as the 20th Chief of Staff of the Air Force from 2012 – 2016. As Chief of Staff he was the senior uniformed Air Force officer responsible for the organization, training and equipping of 664,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian forces serving in the United States and overseas. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he and other service chiefs functioned as military advisers to the Secretary of Defense, National Security Council, and the President.

Prior to becoming Chief of Staff, Welsh served as Commander of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Commander of NATO's Air Command, Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Associate Director of Military Affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency; and Commandant of the U.S. Air Force Academy.



EDUCATE PRINCIPLED LEADERS IN PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

At Traditions Lunch, we celebrated Dean Welsh's accomplished military career and notable role as Bush School Dean. He provided an overview of the Bush School of Government and Public Service, which was founded under President George H.W. Bush's philosophy that public service is a noble calling. The school's mission is to educate principled leaders in public and international affairs, conduct research, and perform service. Students are prepared to become principled leaders in their fields and to reflect the value of public service throughout their careers.

Dean Welsh feels privileged to lead such remarkable students, distinguished faculty members and committed staff. He is honored to contribute to the development of remarkable leaders and scholars who follow the living legacy of President Bush.

JEFF LINDNER '04

Meteorologist at Harris County Flood Control District



Jeff covered Hurricane Harvey for eight straight days from the Emergency Operations Center, which challenged our region unlike anything before and changed his life forever.

Jeff joined the Harris County Flood Control District in 2004 as the District's first meteorologist. In his primary role as Director of the District's Flood Operations Program, he implements regular communication with the National Weather Service and the Harris County Office of Emergency Management during times of flooding, while monitoring 154 rainfall and stage gages and collecting data at over 450 bridges.

Jeff holds a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology from Texas A&M University. He is a member of the national and local chapters of the American Meteorological Society and of the Texas Gulf Coast Emergency Managers Association, the National Hydrological Warning Council, Texas Flash Flood Coalition, and ALERT Users Group.

Jeff has developed multiple presentations and preparedness materials on hurricane impacts, flooding, drought and other weather episodes. At Traditions Lunch, he presented detailed information about the Harris County Flood Control District, as well as the impact of and District's response to Hurricane Harvey.

The Harris County Flood Control District serves as a local partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for implementing flood damage reduction projects in Harris County. The District is responsible for overseeing rivers, streams, tributaries and flood waters for domestic, municipal, flood control, irrigation and other purposes. Additionally, the District is responsible for the reclamation and drainage of the overflow land, the conservation of forests, and for keeping waters navigable by regulating the storm-water that flowed into them.

The flooding that resulted from Harvey has inspired analysis of our drainage infrastructure and ability to withstand such a severe flooding event. The District's mission is to provide flood damage reduction projects that work, with regard for community and natural values. This is accomplished by devising flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintaining the infrastructure.

With hurricane season upon us, the timing of Jeff's fascinating and informative presentation was perfect!



At this special Traditions Lunch, we recognized all Veterans for their service and sacrifice to our nation.

At Traditions Lunch, General Ramirez provided an update on the Corps of Cadets, which offers outstanding leadership experience and enhances a world-class Texas A&M education. Cadets also preserve and execute the time-honored traditions that make Aggieland so special. The Corps develops educated leaders with strong work ethic and utmost character, all within the framework of a military-style organization.

The General delivered a charismatic, motivating and patriotic speech, perfect for the noteworthy occasion!

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOE E. RAMIREZ, JR. '79

Commandant of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets

Brigadier General Joe E. Ramirez, Jr. is a native of Houston and a graduate of Texas A&M, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and Texas Aggie Band. He received his commission in the United States Army Field Artillery from Texas A&M in 1979.

During his 31 years of military service, General Ramirez commanded soldiers around the world and served in various leadership positions. He was the Deputy Chief of Staff for United States Central Command during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and was the Deputy Division Commander for the 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea. His most recent assignment was Deputy Director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy for US European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

General Ramirez holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from Texas A&M; a Master's Degree in Management from Webster University in St. Louis, MO; and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA. His numerous military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Korean Defense Service Medal, and the Parachutists Badge.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This job continually provides me with opportunities to see the Aggie Spirit at work and increase my appreciation for the Aggie Family. This year, I've experienced so many great Aggie moments, and here are a few that stand out.

I was so proud to celebrate 25 years of volunteering with 170 volunteers at the Houston Food Bank. So many of our Aggies serve faithfully every month (many for years) so that individuals and families who are food insecure are well fed. I was blown away by our Coach's Night team and the many volunteers that thoughtfully and efficiently brought everything together. At the event I got to sit with current scholarship recipients that were bright, engaging, and grateful. How special to celebrate another record-breaking Paddles Up for Scholarships with people who were being affected directly by it!

I was recently at a Memorial Meet & Greet Lunch where one of our regulars brought his son - a current student. We see this a lot over the summer,

(-continued on next page-)



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and it's always fun to meet the next generation of Aggies. At the lunch, he mentioned he was looking for an internship and a few Aggies mentioned potential opportunities. By the end of the week, his dad proudly informed me that he had found an internship through the Aggie network, although he had picked an opportunity from outside that lunch that better suited his goals.

For me this role means doing things together that I couldn't do on my own, like endowing a scholarship, packing 2,850 backpack buddy meals, helping Aggie businesses drum up business, or helping another Aggie get hired. Thank you to each of you for doing your part to attend, donate, and volunteer so that we can do great things together.

~Elizabeth Hamburg, HAMC Executive Director



2019 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

In January, the HAMC Scholarship Committee (Elizabeth Hamburg, Todd Randolph, Joseph George, and Sean Rooney) met with Amy Hurley of the Texas A&M Foundation to fund a new endowed scholarship benefiting the College of Education. Thanks to the generosity of Coach's Night Paddles up donors, especially our anonymous matching donor, we were able to make this life changing investment.

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