



SUMMER 2020

AGGIE NEWS

THE HOUSTON A & M CLUB

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“Remember, crises refine and ultimately define life. In them you discover what you are and who you are. I have no doubt that we all will prevail.”

— Tony Buzbee '90

President's Letter

Howdy,

As we continue to adjust and overcome the challenges that we have all endured from COVID-19, I wanted to give special recognition to the Aggie Spirit that has shown brightly through this pandemic.

We can look around and see the impact that Aggies in Houston and around the world have made during these challenging times.

The pictures of Ags celebrating their Ring Day in their own home or the homemade graduation ceremonies have been fantastic and inspiring. The Houston A&M Club has continued our mission with our streaming Muster and volunteer service at the Houston Food Bank. If you did not view our Muster on April 21st, it is available on houstonags.org. It is worth your time to view it and see the Aggie Spirit in a new way.

As things hopefully begin to return to some sense of normalcy, I want to encourage all of you to continue the HAMC's mantra of Share the Spirit: Attend. Donate. Volunteer. The HAMC leadership team and Board of Directors are meeting to ensure that we are able to resume our activities in safe and efficient ways. I encourage you to attend a local lunch when they resume. When we have an announcement on Coach's Night please consider purchasing a table or donating auction items.



In addition to our continued efforts at the Food Bank, we will have additional volunteer opportunities at Coach's Night, the Houston National Cemetery and other places. Please be on the lookout for our emails or keep up to date through our website and Facebook page.

I am so proud to serve with you as your President. Let me know if there is anything you want to share about how Aggies are helping others or if there is anything we can do to support you.

Gig Em,
Sean Rooney '03



MAKE THE DIFFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

The **Houston A&M Club** has been proud to partner with the **Houston Food Bank** to provide volunteers monthly for 26 years.

It's come to our attention, that now, more than ever, the Food Bank needs our help.

The Food Bank has ramped up distribution to continue to meet the critical need for food that has increased due to the COVID-19 situation. Those most vulnerable include people who do not have other access to food, those impacted by schools closings, and those whose work hours and pay have been cut.

Distribution is currently at 150% of its usual operation. Pre-COVID-19,

food distributions could see up to 250 families. Some partners now report seeing double and triple that amount. The Houston Food Bank relies on the generosity of volunteers to help get food out to the community year-round.

Volunteers are working on many projects related to getting food out to the community including packing senior and disaster boxes, sorting product donation, and packing grab and go meals for kids.

Former HAMC President, William Wade '73, established the Houston Aggie Volunteers as part of the HAMC twenty-six year ago, with its main focus volunteering at the Houston Food Bank.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, **Wade** and **Aggie Volunteers** have been volunteering almost every day and sometimes worked more than one shift.

For Wade who grew up on a farm and has known lean times "this mission is personal." He's also seen many Aggies benefit from the food bank and reminds us that hunger does not discriminate when the unexpected arises.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer, visit houstonfoodbank.org

To volunteer with HAMC, every first Tuesday of the month please email Jim Thorpe at ThorpeJim@comcast.net

"this mission is personal."

— William Wade '73,



CAMP is a long-term mentoring program through the Houston A&M club where volunteers meet third grade students and mentor them through their high school graduation.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

- ▶ Attend one orientation session;
- ▶ Pass a State of Texas required annual background check;
- ▶ Commit to mentoring these students four to five times each school year;
- ▶ Respectfully represent Texas A&M University and share the Aggie spirit with our community.

For more information on volunteering, email tamucamp@gmail.com

CAMP Mission: To mentor children as they develop through school and inspire them to pursue higher education by reinforcing excellent academic standards; building confidence and leadership skills; providing fun, life-enriching experiences and role modeling qualities of success.



AGGIE MUSTER 2020

Howdy Ags,

We all know by now the year 2020 will be remembered by the impact the Coronavirus had on our society.

Many clubs chose to cancel or postpone their annual Muster ceremony. When it became clear we were not going to be able to hold our event in-person, we agreed that we would carry on the tradition of holding the event on April 21st virtually for the first time ever. Our driving factor was the families of 200+ Aggies listed on our Roll Call this year. We wanted those families waiting to answer "Here" on their loved one's behalf the chance to do so without delay.

Holding this ceremony would not have been possible without our Virtual Muster Committee, Good Shepherd United Methodist Church,

MUSTER 2020

by Ross Rutherford '83

We Muster differently this year, In circumstances strange. A "virtual" option seemed to be The best we could arrange.

Though things may feel quite different, Because we are apart True Muster lives, because we have That Spirit in our hearts.

The love we feel as Aggies, No distance can destroy. The memories of Aggieland Will always bring us joy.

So, as we answer, "Here" today For Aggies who have passed. We continue this tradition That we know will always last.

The Fightin' Texas Aggies! We truly have been blessed. And of all of our great traditions Aggie Muster is the best.

Here.

The Association of Former Students, our **Muster sponsors Gregory Cokinos '79** and **Dr. Stuart Harlin '83**, and our **guest speaker Tony Buzbee '90**. Everyone's participation is a great example of the Aggie Spirit prevailing despite the circumstances to ensure the Muster ceremony carries on. As said by some of our own Aggies during Muster:

“Tonight's online service, along with the Association of Former Students worldwide Roll Call conducted online is the perfect example of Aggies meeting a challenge, adapting and overcoming. The Coronavirus is a challenge to us all, but being here online shows that even through the rough times we can face the trials and tribulations and overcome them.”

Sean Rooney '03. HAMC President

“Remember, crises refine and ultimately define life. In them you discover what you are and who you are. I have no doubt that we all will prevail.”

Tony Buzbee '90. Guest Speaker

The HAMC Muster Committee is proud to have been able to provide Muster for you, our Aggie Family

If you missed it, you can watch anytime at tx.ag/HAMC2020Muster or see ours and many other Musters via Muster Live at <https://musterlive.aggienetwork.com/>. Both options will give you the chance to answer "Here" if you were not able to on April 21st.

Thanks & Gig'em

Charles C McRae III '13

AGGIE MUSTER
DISMISSED
until
April 21, 2021

Online Muster 2020-Houston A&M Club



Guest Speaker
Tony Buzbee '90



Aggie **ACHIEVE**

BY ASHLEY GREEN

The **Houston A&M Club** is proud to award both endowed and one-time scholarships each year. **Thanks to the generosity of our members and partners in 2019, HAMC was able to donate \$100,000 towards scholarships for the 2020-2021 Academic year.** The club awarded 25 one-time scholarships of \$2,000 each. HAMC is proud to double a previous gift supporting the College of Education, and be one of the first to endow an Aggie Achieve scholarship that will award this fall. This is in addition to our existing 13 permanently endowed scholarships.



Aggie ACHIEVE (*Academic Courses in Higher Inclusive Education and Vocational Experiences*) is a certificate-based inclusive higher education opportunity for young adults with disabilities to expand their interests and prepare them for employment.

While the students involved in Aggie ACHIEVE will not receive a degree from Texas A&M, they will graduate with a certificate, acknowledging their successful completion.

Aggie ACHIEVE is the brainchild of Dr. Carly Gilson, assistant professor of special education.

"This is not meant to be a place to come get the college experience and then go back to what you were doing before. The intention is to provide a rigorous education, academics and employment experience that will prepare these young adults to go out and work in the community in a job they are interested in that matches their strengths," said Gilson.

"We are focused on the importance of being inclusive and immersive. We have a campus community of 60,000 students and we want to make sure that the students in Aggie ACHIEVE are going to be integrated fully into that campus community," explained Gilson.

Thanks to the generosity of a matching donor, HAMC was able to fund this endowment early and it will pay out \$2,000 annually beginning this fall and into perpetuity.

Aggie Veteran Transition Process and Bush School Project



On Thursday, February 27th, the Houston A&M Club teamed up with Combined Arms for dinner and cocktails at The Tasting Room City Centre to support the Bush School's Aggie Veteran Transition Process Project. The event was chaired by Andrew C. Kaskow '08.

Combined Arms provides comprehensive support to military members and their families as they transition to civilian life with tailored resources from over 70+ government and nonprofit agencies.

The Bush School of Government and Public Service has formed an ongoing partnership with Combined Arms for groundbreaking research on the Veteran Transition process and best practices to accelerate the positive impact of veterans across Texas. The preliminary study was completed in April 2020 and consisted of three components:

1/ an objective assessment of the Combined Arms service model, substantiated with academic literature and interviews;

- 2/** a detailed analysis of the services Combined Arms offers and which are the most beneficial; and
- 3/** an exploration of expansion opportunities in the Dallas/Ft. Worth and San Antonio areas.

Guests enjoyed cocktails and a seated dinner, followed by an inspirational keynote speech from Captain (Ret.) Daniel P. Moran '03, USMC Infantry, Medal with Valor and Purple Heart recipient and former member of the Corps of Cadets and Fightin' Aggie Band.

Combined Arms Founder, John Boerstler, let us know that the "fantastic research and analysis projects completed by the Bush School team has provided incredible clarity on the value the Combined Arms system provides our partners, our military veterans and their families, and helps illustrate our economic and social impact on Texas. We have greatly enjoyed working with the Bush School and our partnership with Texas A&M University will undoubtedly continue to grow."

The Houston A&M Club is grateful to all veterans for their service and proud to support this important cause.

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VISIT houstonags.org for information about donating or volunteering.

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SCHOLARSHIPS



Gig 'em!

OUR MISSION

The Houston A&M Club, in cooperation with the Association of Former Students, strives to raise money to fund Scholarships for Aggies from the Houston area currently enrolled at Texas A&M, to raise financial support for the University, and to provide a forum to foster the Aggie Spirit in the Houston community through special events, activities, and volunteer opportunities planned throughout the year.

“Keep Calm
and Carry On”

— Winston Churchill