Howdy!

“We are the Aggies, the Aggies are We, True to each other as Aggies can be”. I doubt any of us can count the number of times we have sung those words. Yet, they are more than words for they reflect a culture defined by the Aggie Spirit. We know Aggies are expected to be loyal to their school and each other, but when does that loyalty begin? When you get your ring, boots, diploma or your acceptance letter? Or, does it begin earlier? As former students, when do we welcome a young Aggie into the fold?

Ags, I’m proud of our Club and know the Aggie Spirit runs deep here. In September, our Club epitomized the Aggie Spirit and demonstrated why Abilene Aggies are a special group. Thanks to the hard work of local Aggies who rolled up their sleeves and committed their time, talents and labor, we completed two projects in September to benefit those who want to be Aggies. The first project was the Aggie Fry Booth. After 62 years, it needs no introduction. While the Fair and the booth have changed over the years, two things have remained the same; it is still a lot of work and it is still is the primary funding source for our scholarship program that is currently helping 19 young men and women earn their degrees. Thanks to all who helped make this year a success. If you did not have the opportunity to get tired and greasy by helping in the booth, and would like to make a contribution to help defray expenses, it would be greatly appreciated.

The other project was hosting a workshop that allowed area high school counselors to learn about the admissions process straight from the horse’s mouth. Lynn Barnes from the admissions office delivered an outstanding presentation on how to maximizes a student’s potential for acceptance. Based upon the counselors’ feedback, a tradition was born. We are working to establish a date for a repeat next year.

“After they’ve boosted all the rest, they will come and join the Best”. Is a prophecy that has been fulfilled. Thank you for the continuous efforts our Club members put forth to help them “Come and join the Best” at a little College on the Brazos that has grown to be the fourth largest University in America, a University named Texas A&M.

Gig ‘em,
J. Clay Deatherage ’84
2014 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

October

October 1 - Regular Club Meeting, Scott Jarvis, Speaker
October 16 - Board of Directors Meeting
October 16 - Aggie Happy Hour, the Zone Bar & Grill

November

November 5 - Regular Club Meeting
November 20 - Board of Directors Meeting
November 20 - Aggie Happy Hour
November 27 - Happy Thanksgiving

December

December 3 - Regular Club Meeting
December 18 - Board of Directors Meeting
December 18 - Aggie Happy Hour
December 25 - Merry Christmas

AGGIE FOOTBALL GAME WATCH PARTIES
LONG BRANCH SALOON
3252 North 6th, Abilene, Texas
Introducing our September Speaker

Scott Jarvis ‘00, Coordinator of Club Programs for The Association of Former Students

Scott is from Gruver, Texas and comes from a rural family of all Aggies, that includes his dad, Jon ‘68, mom, Johnny ‘70, and a sister, Shanna ‘98.

Scott is an Ag Development/Public Relations major and earned a Masters of Leadership Science. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets Company D-1, served as Public Relations Officer for Corps Staff his senior year, and was a Ross Volunteer. He was also actively involved in student organizations through the MSC, Student Activities and Student Government.

He is currently serving as Coordinator of Club Programs with The Association of Former Students where he has been blessed to have the opportunity to travel to various A&M Clubs around the state, nation and world to visit or assist with programs that the clubs have to benefit Texas A&M. As Coordinator of Club Programs, he averages ~60,000 miles in his personal vehicle per year. He has visited A&M Clubs in every state in the contiguous United States as well as 5 international Club visits.

Since he arrived at A&M in 1996 he has only missed 8 Aggie football games, home or away. He coordinates and organizes all the away game midnight yell practices, has helped organize over 325 Aggie Musters and other events through the Former Student Programs Office around the world, and has even cooked a few batches of Aggie Fries.

Aggie Football has been good to Scott. While judging a chili cook off for the Northeast Indiana A&M Club, he met Andy, a photographer for Sports Illustrated. When SI sent Andy to cover an Aggie - OSU football game, and he needed a place to stay, he called Scott. With typical Aggie hospitality, Scott helped him out. Andy introduced Scott to his assistant and friend from A&M, Bryn ‘04. the chemistry clicked and Scott and Bryn were married.
A Look Back

The term Aggie is synonymous with Tradition. I don’t think anyone could possibly name every Aggie tradition. I also don’t think any of us that graduated before 1990 could ever imagine A&M would ever be the 4th largest university in America and would reject nearly 2/3 of all freshman applications. I also doubt that several of you would have ever dreamed of female students, non mandatory Corps participation or a freshman class larger than the entire student body when you were in school. Without a doubt, some of the traditions we accepted as a part of daily life have gone the way of old elephants, and as student numbers increase while the percentage of corps students decrease, more traditions we knew will die while new ones are born. I recently found a copy of the Class of ’61’s newsletter that was published in 2007 for their 45th class reunion. It contained 1957-1961 An Essay on the Class of ’61 written by George Loveland. I’ve borrowed a few excerpts, see how many of these events you remember or can relate to.

“9-13-57, 2105 young men started their college careers at the A&M College of Texas. 1,853 joined the Corps of Cadets. Four years later, 950 of these men graduated”. “Tuition, fees and room and board for our fall semester were $311.95. The second semester cost us $281.95” “Privileges were something we learned about quickly. Basically our only privilege was to cogitate.” “That first week we were issued our uniforms, got assigned to our outfits, had our heads sheared and got class schedules. We then spent the rest of the week being orientated by our juniors and seniors. A lot of us commented on how easy it was. Then the next week, the pissheads hit the campus and all hell broke loose.” “We quickly learned that “crapper” and “hit it” were three of the most important words in the fish survival guide.” “We got the red ass, hit braces, humped it, ate square meals and sat on the pink stool while holding an M1 rifle or an Aggieland on one’s extended arms.” “If we forgot our matches, we were required to carry a large box of kitchen matches heads facing only to the right.”

“Pushups were the punishment of choice for all infractions large or small. Pissheads went by the philosophy if one fish screwed up all the fish in the outfit were punished.” “Only four answers could be given to upper-classman’s questions: 1. Yes Sir, 2. No Sir, 3. No excuse Sir, 4. Sir, not being informed to the highest degree of accuracy, I hesitate to articulate for fear I might deviate from the true course of rectitude. In short sir, I am a very dumb fish and do not know sir.” “We were taught how to grab ‘pooch’.”

“During that year we seemed to develop a love/hate relationship with A&M that carried through the rest of our years there. I’m sure many of us stayed because our fish buddies did. Thank God for Classmates who were there when we needed them.”
DID YOU KNOW

The Abilene A&M Club was not always focused on providing scholarships to help aspiring Aggies? It seems in the late 40’s the Abilene A&M Club was the ultimate good ol’ boys club. Meetings were called to order, the beer bust began and the dice table was placed into continuous use. It also seems the Club was in debt to the tune of $2,400 although no one can remember why.

A young Aggie named Dub Pritchett moved to Abilene in 1949 and decided the current situation was unacceptable and set out to rectify the problem. He didn’t have much luck with the beer consumption or the dice games, but he was able to address the debt. Dub owned a snow cone machine so he enlisted local Ags to pitch a tent and open a concession stand at the West Texas Fair which was then held at Fair Park. They sold snow cones, hamburgers and anything else they could and retired the debt.

The Aggie Fry Booth as we now know it, evolved from one Aggie’s determination to do the right thing. The process has changed a little bit over the years. It has grown from a tent at Fair Park to a tent at the Expo Center, to a single booth and now to the equivalent of 2 booths. It has also evolved from a project to get the Club out of debt to the primary funding source for our scholarship program.

High School Counselor’s Admission Workshop Resounding Success

The Club hosted an admissions seminar and luncheon for Region 14 ESC counselors on September 3rd At Joe Allen’s. Counselors were invited to a workshop conducted by Lynn Barnes from the admissions office presented an excellent program on how prospective students can maximize their chances for acceptance to A&M. He addressed the application process and alternative gateways for becoming an Aggie.

The First Annual Abilene AMC Maroon and White Fish Fry was held on Saturday, September 13th at 2300 hours. Attendees were extended personal invitations at 2245. The event was held at the Aggie Fry Booth and featured fresh fried catfish, chicken strips and hot Aggie Fries.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us now for next year!
GOOD BULL

Good Aggies are just Good Aggies. We all enjoyed watching the Ags Beat The Hell Outta SMU 58-6 last Saturday to extend their season record to 4 - 0 for the year. (Does anyone remember kissing if we made a first down?)

However, the play of the game and the longest and loudest WHOOOOOP did not involve a member of the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Football Team, and it occurred out of bounds.

Ryan Kreider ’17 threw the block of the game to protect Reveille from SMU receiver Derrikk Thompson. Momentum carried Thompson off the football field and straight for Reveille. Kreider, one of Rev’s handlers threw the block and deflected the pony receiver away from Rev.

Corps Commandant, Brig General Joe Ramirez was impressed with Kreider’s devotion to duty, and in recognition of Kreider’s selfless action is paying for Kreider’s Senior Boots.

Like many good deeds in Aggieland, this one will never receive the national attention of the infamous “saber incident” which also involved the ponies. However, it is the epitome of the Aggie devotion to duty and represents kind of Good Bull that defines the Aggie Spirit.

Got any Good Bull? Send it to us!
Abilene A&M Club Silver Taps

Please notify the Club of the passing of any members of the area’s Aggie family so that we may express our condolences and ensure the Association is notified.

Prayers and Concerns

Dub Pritchett is recovering from his surgery at home after 3 weeks in the hospital. Wallar Overton ‘61, a Good Ag from Haskell is facing some health issues.

Please keep these Aggies in your prayers as we wish them a speedy recovery.

Memorial Contributions

There are many ways to honor departed family members and friends. Should you select a memorial contribution that embodies the Aggie Spirit as a method to celebrate the life of a loved one, the Abilene A&M Club will consider it an honor to help ensure your wishes are met.

Local Club options include the Senior Ring & Boot Fund, the Freshman Scholarship Fund and the Class of ‘43 White Belt Scholarship Fund. If your preference is one of the numerous organizations on campus or an affiliate of the Aggie network, please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.
BE INVOLVED - DON'T BE A TWO PERCENTER

ABILENE A&M CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 884, Abilene, TX 79604

Mail Newsletter to
☐ Home
☐ Work

Name (please print)

Spouse's Full Name (if Aggie)

Spouse's Class

Home Address

City & State

ZIP

Home Phone

Home Fax

Email

Work Address

City & State

ZIP

Work Phone

Email

Annual Dues:
☐ $35/yr Individual
☐ $35/yr Aggie couple

I want to help with:
☐ Scholarship Collections
☐ Muster
☐ French Fry Booth
☐ Golf Tournament
☐ Board of Directors

Optional Reveille Donations:
(above & beyond dues)
☐ $25
☐ $50
☐ $100

Golden Reveille Donations:
☐ $250
☐ $500

I wish to be acknowledged:
☐ in the Newsletter $75.00/yr
☐ on Aggie Football Radio $400.00/yr
☐ at the Golf Tournament

Total Paid: $______

Statement of Purpose: Primary functions of the Abilene A&M Club are serving as the focus of all organized alumni activity in the Abilene area, and providing scholarship funds for deserving area students who are attending Texas A&M. The Club currently offers scholarships funded by your Membership Dues, Reveille Donations, Newsletter Sponsorships, the Aggie French Fry Booth at the West Texas Fair, A&M Football on radio and the annual Golf Tournament. Donations may also be made directly to the Abilene Community Foundation Texas A&M University Scholarship Fund (tax-deductible) which is a perpetual fund using only the income generated for scholarships.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!