Howdy!

Yep Ags, Times are a changing’, Aggieland certainly ain’t what it used to be, welcome to the 21st century. I look at the changes from the time I hit campus in the fall of ‘80 and can’t really believe it is the same place. I can only imagine how those of you who were there 30 years before me feel. In all honesty, the traditional Aggie in me resents many of the changes and lost traditions. I never saw a problem with women on campus because they were there before me. I did not have to live that major change in Aggie Tradition, so I accepted it as normal. Yet, I’ll bet there are still Ags who are not completely convinced it was the thing to do. Looking back I can’t believe the amount of resentment that still existed 25 years after women were admitted. I don’t think non regs gave it a second thought, but the Keepers of The Traditions that resided on the quad defiantly did not share that view. Melanie Zentgraf was one of the vilest phrases that could be uttered. WAGs were to be avoided at all cost and were never entitled to the respect real (male) CTs demanded. That fall, I along with 3 pissheads from my outfit boarded a shuttle bus to catch a class in Kleberg. A Sr. WAG caught the same shuttle, the four of us whipped out and subsequently spoke each day at the bus stop. One morning about half way into the semester, the WAG walked up, we all spoke and then she asked me the worst possible question that could be asked in the presence of pissheads. “fish Deatherage, what does your mother call you?” I was justifiably terrified, that simple question earned me an invitation to come by each pisshead’s room after class. I later learned she was from an Aggie family and the Corps and a military contract was the only way she could afford college.

This fall, a woman will serve as Corps Commander for the first time in the school’s history. Last fall the Dept. of Animal Husbandry, I mean Animal Science welcomed its largest class ever, 300 students, 85% of them were women. Although controversial at the time, General Rudder’s decision to admit women may be the single most important decision ever made at Texas A&M. It would be impossible for an all male university to earn the prominence and world wide recognition A&M enjoys today. I would hate to think where our Country, College and Club would be without the contributions of women who wear Aggie Rings. Yep Ags, things are a changin’ and most of them for the better at a little College on the Brazos, a College named Texas A&M.  

Gig ’em

J. Clay Deatherage ’84
2015 Abilene A&M Club Calendar
March, 2015

March 4 - Regular Club Meeting - Sonny Presnal, Speaker
March 17 - Saint Patrick’s Day
March 19 - Board of Directors Meeting
March 19 - Aggie Happy Hour - Mugshotz

April, 2015
April 1 - Regular Club Meeting - No Foolin, Dr. Paul J. Bastista, Speaker
April 15 - Fish Scholarships Due
April 16 - Board of Directors Meeting
April 16 - Aggie Happy Hour

April 21, AGGIE MUSTER

May, 2015
May 3 - Fish Scholarship Interviews
May 6 - Regular Club Meeting - Dr. Jonathan Coopersmith, Speaker
May 21 - Board of Directors Meeting
May 21 - Aggie Happy Hour

Scholarship Applications Are POSTED ON THE WEBSITE!
Introducing our March Speaker

Henry L. (Sonny) Presnal, D.V.M.

Dr. Presnal is a native of Bryan/College Station. He graduated in 1957 from Texas A&M with a degree in Animal Husbandry.

After serving 8 years on active duty as an Army pilot, he returned to A&M and graduated from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 1969.

Dr. Presnal has 3 sons, 1 daughter, 2 daughter-in-laws, 1 son-in-law who are A&M graduates & grandson who is a freshman.

He has been in private practice in Bryan/College Station for 27 years (15 years in mixed practice, 12 years in small animal).

He has served as the Director of the Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center, which is an integral part of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University since 1998.

Welcome to Abilene, Dr. Presnal!

Aggie Muster
April 21, 2015
Joe Allen’s
Lytle Bend
Michael Young Selected as the next President of Texas A&M

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents has named Michael K. Young as the sole finalist for president of Texas A&M University.

Young comes to Texas A&M from the University of Washington, where he has served as President since July 2011. He brings more than three decades of teaching, research, public service, and leadership in higher education. Under his leadership at the University of Washington, in the face of significant cuts in state funding, the university was able to maintain economic stability and retain its “AAA – Stable” rating, research funding increased dramatically, and fundraising records were set.

“If other presidents could see what I saw in visits to Texas A&M, they would see a university that is already the largest research university in the Southwest, but also a university poised to be one of the greatest research universities in America,” said Young. “Marti and I want to be part of expanding that excellence and a part of the great spirit and tradition that is Texas A&M. Chancellor Sharp is a leader of vision and I look forward to working with someone who has such a passion for excellence and commitment to the highest standards” said Young.

Young, a native of California, received a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Japanese from Brigham Young University, graduating Summa Cum Laude with Highest Honors. He received a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, where he served on the Harvard Law Review and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Following graduation from Harvard, he served as a law clerk to the late Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. He spent 20 years at Columbia University Law School as Fuyo Professor of Japanese Law, teaching, researching international law and human rights, and serving as founder and director of the Centers for Japanese and Korean Legal Studies.
Corps Of Cadets Selects First Woman To Lead As Corps Commander

For the first time in Texas A&M’s 139-year history, a woman will lead the university’s legendary Corps of Cadets. Alyssa Marie Michalke of Schulenburg, Texas, will take command of the 2,400-plus member unit, the largest of its type in the nation except for the service academies, at the conclusion of the spring semester and serve throughout the 2015-16 school year. The trail-blazing young woman is currently a junior with a dual major in ocean and civil engineering and presently serves as Corps Sergeant Major, the highest rank for any cadet who is not a senior. She is also the first woman to hold that position. She is the daughter of Rodney and Nicole Michalke. Her mother is a 1993 Texas A&M graduate.

“I am deeply honored to have been selected to serve as the next Corps Commander and will do my very best to uphold the tradition of leading my fellow cadets, while also continuing to learn and grow. The Corps of Cadets has provided me a tremendous opportunity to grow as a person and to develop good leadership skills,” Michalke said.

Her appointment to the Corps’ top student position represents another milestone for Texas A&M and its nationally known organization. Participation in it was made strictly voluntary in 1965 after decades of being required for all regular undergraduate students. Women for the first time were allowed to join the Corps in 1974, and their ranks total more than 300 for the current school year and the number of female cadets continues to rise. If the recent growth trend continues, Michalke will provide leadership for the largest Texas A&M Corps in 45 years. It has increased its ranks by more than 450 students since 2010, resulting in the reactivation of seven company-size units in recent years.
The 2015 scholarship applications are out. We will award a total of 18 scholarships this year including 5 for white belts. Fish interviews will be held on Sunday, May 3rd.

Billy Berny is working hard on our ad sales for the newsletter & Aggie football broadcasts. If you would like an add, give him a call. New & revised adds will be up next month.

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

Capt. Wallar Overton ‘61
Holly Nash Spencer ‘82

Prayers and Concerns

David, Sarah & Grant Spencer
Robert Adams ‘75
Please keep these Aggies in your prayers as we enter the Holiday Season.

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.
ABILENE A&M CLUB, INC.

P.O. Box 884, Abilene, TX 79604

BE INVOLVED - DON'T BE A TWO PERCENTER

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
Co.
Home E-mail

WORK Address
City & State
ZIP

Work Phone
Cell
Work E-mail

ANNUAL DUES:
☐ $35/yr Individual
☐ $35/yr Aggie couple

I WANT TO HELP WITH:
☐ Scholarship Selections
☐ 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.