Howdy!

Despite our fervent wishes, evil exists in the world. Some believe it is part of God’s plan and therefore, he gave us the ability to recognize and choose right from wrong. One only needs to turn on the television or radio news reports, pick up a newspaper or tap into electronic media to know evil exists in the world. Many believe that it is more prevalent now than ever. I seriously doubt that evil is more prevalent today than in previous times, but technology has certainly made it easier to learn of atrocities around the world. Sadly, in some cases I believe media sensationalism has at least created an increased awareness and possibly inspired evil acts. ISIS and mass shooters/murderers seem to garner the headlines today, and clearly exemplify evil acts. But they are not the only examples. Organized crime, terrorism and the holocaust are all elements of modern history, while religious persecution, human trafficking and slavery have existed for centuries.

It has been said that evil spreads when good people do nothing which is true. Others cite causes such as poverty, lack of positive role models and low self esteem as contributing factors. Regardless of the cause, everyone has the ability to choose good over evil. One group that overwhelming chooses good over evil is Aggies. We are blessed to have attended a college where good is expected of all who wear the ring. The character traits of a good Aggie are not just a current fad as evidenced by what each element on the ring symbolizes. If it were the Aggie Family would only exist as a self serving phrase, instead of thriving network ready to assist in any manner necessary.

Aggies have been conditioned to stand against evil since the school was founded. They have done so in multiple wars, lead numerous humanitarian endeavors, have been at the forefront of making the world a better place for all on land, at sea and in space. I’m grateful that about 20 young men and women from the Abilene area will soon join nearly 10,000 more freshmen at a place where choosing to do the right thing is not only taught, it is a way of life that is expected of all, a place where we were introduced to those same expectations, a place at a little College on the Brazos, a College named Texas A&M.

J. Clay Deatherage ‘84

Gig ’em
2015 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

June, 2015

June 1 - White Belt Scholarship Application Postmark Date
June 3 - Regular Club Meeting
June 16 - Coach’s Night - Abilene Women’s Club
June 18 - Board of Directors Meeting
June 18 - Aggie Happy Hour, Blue Sky Burgers

July, 2015

July 1 - Regular Club Meeting
July 4 - Independence Day!
July 16 - Board of Directors Meeting
July 16 - Aggie Happy Hour

August, 2015

August 5 - Regular Club Meeting
August 20 - Board of Directors Meeting
August 20 - Aggie Happy Hour
August 31 - Counselor’s Admissions Seminar

Coach’s Night
June 16 - Coach Jeff Banks
Introducing our June Speaker

Mr. CHRIS WINGERT ‘80

Chris Wingert has served as General Manager for the West Central Texas Municipal Water District since 2011. A native Texan, he graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1980.

He is a Registered Professional Engineer, a Director of the Texas Water Conservation Association, and has been active in the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and the American Water Works Association.

Prior to joining WCTMWD, he spent 27 years with the Colorado River Municipal Water District in Big Spring where he worked on several high profile projects including the O. H. Ivie Reservoir, the 156 mile Ivie Pipeline, and the Big Spring Water Reclamation Plant.

Chris has been married to his wife Karen for 34 years, they have one son, two daughters and six grandchildren.

Welcome Chris!

Coach’s Night
June 16, 2015
Abilene Women’s Club
Joseph Holick was born in 1868 in Moravia which became part of Czechoslovakia after WWI. His main interest was in music which his parents considered frivolous so they sent him to cobbler school in Vienna, This was during the era of Strauss waltzes and he tells of missing several classes to attend concerts of Johann Strauss in the park. When he returned home he still argued with his parents over not wanting to be a shoemaker. By then two of his four brothers had gone to America so young Joseph, only 16 years old stowed away on a steamer headed for America and the romanticized life of a cowboy.

After several failed attempts at bronc busting he hopped a freight train headed for Orange Texas and the salt grass trail. He fell asleep while the train was side-tracked and disconnected in Bryan and woke up stranded and penniless. Within a few days he had a part time job as a shoemaker in Bryan and another job as a shoemaker and bugler working in his dorm room at Texas A&M College.

His interest and talent as a musician attracted other musicians who would gather in his room. After a few months he approached the military college with the idea of a military band which was established and funded by the Texas State Guard and all 12 members wore the Texas Guard uniform. Joseph was the first Aggie band master and served as band master intermittently for many years.
He continued making and repairing the short lace-up boots, but established his own business near what is now the intersection of Church Street and Wellborn Road. The tall Aggie Boot, the way it looks now, became a part of the A&M cadet uniform in the late 20's and was fashioned after the US Cavalry "Rough Riders" boots. By then Holick and Sons had moved to the brick building at 106 College Main.

In 1932, Holick's price for a pair of boots was around $32.50. During World War II, boots could not be made due to the rationing of leather. So, incoming Seniors had to buy their boots from former students. In 1966 the decision was made that all boots must be of medium brown leather so that every Senior looked more uniform.

The 1970's brought many changes to the Corps of Cadets. The Seniors were presented another vendor for making their boots, Victor's in Bryan. In 1974, women were allowed to enter into the Corps. But it was not until 1979 that they were able to wear boots. The going rate for a pair of women's boots was $80 in comparison to men's for $300.

Since the beginning of Holick's each cadet was measured individually, sometimes by the same person that measured their father or grandfather. A cadet has his foot traced in a ledger with the measurements being written on the opposite page of the book. These books were kept and were on occasion referenced by young cadets wanting to see their fathers "measurement page". Sadly these ledgers may have been destroyed a few years ago. Weather you paid $32.50 in the 30’s or $1800 in 2014 the Aggie Senior boots are one of the most treasured and visible Aggie traditions.

Roxanne Schoen
Coach’s Night 2015

Abilene A&M Club invites you to join us for Coach’s Night

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

6:00 pm Prime Rib Dinner, Silent Auction & Good Bull Social

Guest Speaker: Coach Jeff Banks

Abilene Women’s Club, 3425 South 14th Street, Abilene, Texas 79605

Cost: $35 Per Person Before June 12, $50 At The Door

Century Sponsor's Packages Available

For Reservations and Information, Contact Nick Arrott, (214) 683-6154

GOOD BULL

Aggies and Holick’s contribute to replace Senior’s stolen boots.

Noel Jett graduates from Texas A&M, at 16 years of age

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

Capt. Wallar Overton ‘61
Holly Nash Spencer ‘82
Mr. Raymond A McDaniel, Jr. ‘55

Prayers and Concerns

Raymond McDaniel Family
David, Sarah & Grant Spencer
Robert Adams ‘75
Please keep these Aggies in your prayers.

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.
Mail Newsletter to

Home  Work

Name (please print) ____________________________ Class ____________

Spouse's Full Name (if Attache) ____________ Spouse's Class ____________

HOME Address ____________________________________________
City & State ________ ZIP ________

Home Phone ________ Home Fax ________ Co. ________ Home E-mail ________

WORK Address ____________________________________________
City & State ________ ZIP ________

Work Phone ________ Call ________ 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.