

The Abilene AGGIE

September, 2015



The Association
OF FORMER STUDENTS
We are The Aggie Network!

Official Publication of the Abilene A&M Club, Inc.

NEXT MEETING September 2, 2015 • 12:00 PM • JOE ALLEN'S CORRAL ROOM

Howdy!

I'm amazed at how patriotism ebbs and flows. 70 years ago WW II ended and Americans were ecstatic. A short 10 years later American forces were involved in a *police action* on an Asian peninsula called Korea. There was joy at the end, but it was subdued compared to the sentiments in 1945. The rollercoaster was back at its pinnacle in the early 60s as America's ventures into space took off. Shortly thereafter, our military was once again deployed to another small Asian country called Vietnam and American Pride and patriotism began a downward spiral that would continue until it reached rock bottom when radical muslims held Americans hostage for over 400 days in Iran. The world lost its respect for America and so did many of her citizens.

In 1980, the prevailing sentiments began to change and once again the Stars and Stripes were waving high. I wish I could say that level of patriotism continued to this day, but, since Aggies don't lie..... What causes these swings? It is very simple, winning or losing. America did not seek an opportunity to join World War II. Yet, when she was plunged into the fray, awakening the sleeping giant, she responded in a manner that was simply unimaginable, but in less than 5 years, there was no doubt, America won decisively. The exploration of space was known as the "Space Race" and once again, America won. And then in 1980, America elected a president who believed American exceptionalism and once again America was winning on the world stage and her citizens responded, it was cool to be patriotic.

How about the low points, it is very simple, America did not win in Korea and Vietnam and, the world lost all respect for her. Patriotism certainly wasn't a mark of the cool crowd, and bona fide heroes were treated shamefully when they returned home. Also a belief was planted within many of the era, that it wasn't cool to win. A slow and steady movement took hold, winners are viewed as cheaters or bullies, who somehow had an unfair advantage. Everyone should receive participation ribbons so a winner is never declared and egos remained intact. Now, many, younger Americans have not learned how to win, nor the importance of doing so. Success resulting from hard work and commitment is simply unfathomable, they have never felt the elation of a hard earned victory.

Ags, I'm extremely thankful the participation ribbon crowd in Texas gravitates toward Austin. But then again, I'm not surprised. Students there mock the traits that embody the American Spirit and allow patriotism to shine. I'm proud to be a graduate of a little, hick cow college where patriotism is prominent, where commitment, honor, character and integrity is expected of all, hard work is encouraged and rewarded and participation ribbons are few, a little College on the Brazos, a College named Texas A&M.

Gig 'em

J. Clay Deatherage '84

UPCOMING
EVENTS

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING Postponed Due to Fry Booth

All Regular Club Meetings are at Noon at Joe Allen's Corral Room

SEPTEMBER HAPPY HOUR
Postponed Due To Fry Booth - Join The Commaraderie There!



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2015 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

September, 2015

September 2 - Regular Club Meeting
 September 10 - 19 - West Texas Fair & Rodeo
 September 17 - *Cancelled Due to Fry Booth*
 September 17 - *Cancelled Due to Fry Booth*

October, 2015

October 7 - Regular Club Meeting
 October 15 - Board of Directors Meeting
 October 15 - Aggie Happy Hour

November, 2015

November 4 - Regular Club Meeting
 November 19 - Board of Directors Meeting
 November 19 - Aggie Happy Hour

2015 Fightin' Aggie Football Schedule

Sept 5 *Arizona State, 6:00 pm ESPN*
 Sept 12 *Ball State, 6:00 pm ESPN*
 Sept 19 *Nevada, 11:00 am SECN*
 Sept 26 *Arkansas, TBA*
 Oct 3 *Mississippi St. TBA*
 Oct 10 *Open Date*
 Oct 17 *Alabama TBA*
 Oct 24 *Mississippi St. TBA*
 Oct 31 *Auburn TBA*
 Nov 14 *Western Carolina TBA*
 Nov 21 *Vanderbilt TBA*
 Nov 28 *LSU TBA*
 Dec 5 *SEC Conf Championship, 3:00 pm CBS*
Road Games in Italics
Aggie Football & Dave South on KLG 106.9

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RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL

Introducing our September Speaker

Dr. David Young '94, Ph.D.

Dr. Young is an Abilene native who was recently hired as Superintendent of the Abilene ISD. Previously, Dr. Young was employed as the superintendent of the Pampa Independent School District. Prior to moving to Pampa, Dr. Young served the Midway ISD as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for three years. David held several central office roles in the Bryan ISD and was a building principal at both the middle and high school levels while serving in the Bryan, Navasota and Grapevine-Colleyville ISDs. He taught mathematics in both the Grapevine-Colleyville and Waxahachie ISDs.

Dr. Young received both his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M University, and his masters from Texas A&M - Commerce. He is a 1990 graduate of Cooper High School in Abilene. David's wife Amanda '95, a 1992 graduate of Cooper High School, is an elementary school counselor in PISD. The Youngs have three children. Austin will be a freshman at Hardin-Simmons University in the fall. Madison and Jackson will be in the 11th and 8th grades respectively in Abilene ISD.

Like all good Aggies, Dr. Young was an active member of the Pampa Community, serving on the board of directors for the Pampa United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, the Clarendon College Foundation, and the Pampa Education Foundation. On the state level, David is active in the Texas Association of School Administrators, the Texas Association of Mid-Sized Schools, and the Texas Association of School Boards. Dr. Young holds leadership positions in the Texas Association of Community Schools and is currently serving as president of the Texas Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development. The Youngs are active members of First Baptist Church in Pampa where they serve in the music department and teach youth Sunday School.

Welcome Dr. Young

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ABILENE COURT REPORTERS

Initiating change

Records of hazing and disciplinary actions date back to the beginning. It was considered as a way to pass the time, and part of the experience that was integral to making a cadet stronger and more devoted Aggie, according to Dethloff's *Centennial History of Texas A&M*. The state made strides to define and outlaw many of these acts. The Texas Legislature investigated instances at A&M in the 1920s and '40s, according to a September 1984 *Eagle* article. Texas made hazing illegally entirely in 1987.

In August 1984, the Corps came under fire when a student died during what was considered a "motivational exercise" for cadets who were not performing up to standards. Three juniors, according to school documents, awakened sophomore Bruce Ward Goodrich and his roommate about 2:30 a.m. Goodrich collapsed after about an hour of strenuous exercise and died of heat stroke that afternoon. Three cadets pleaded guilty to hazing charges in connection with the incident. They were given probated jail sentences, community service and were required to pay fines. A fourth, expelled from A&M, was convicted of tampering with evidence and sentenced to a year of probation. In May 1985, Goodrich's autopsy was revisited and another medical examiner believed he died of cardiac arrhythmia. His death prompted A&M and military academies examine their training programs and share information on how each dealt with hazing.

The Fish Drill Team was disbanded in 1997 when nine of the drill team's upperclassmen student advisers were arrested and faced at least 54 assault and hazing charges. The drill team was reinstated in 2001. Additionally, the indictments also accused upperclassmen of knowing about these instances and not reporting them. Two cadets pleaded not guilty and took the case to trial, claiming the charges violated their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. The suit was thrown out when the judge agreed with the defense.

In 2002, a Corps leader reported witnessing upperclassmen beating underclassmen with ax handles and throwing horse manure at them. The cavalry was again suspended during the hazing investigation. The 77 members were restricted to only feeding the horses and maintaining their facility on F.M. 2818. Cavalry members claimed the university violated their right to due process and to not self-incriminate. According to a February 2004 *Eagle* article, administrators began dismissing cadets before the investigation was completed and cavalry members claimed its process was flawed.

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Twenty-three cadets filed a civil suit against administrators that lasted more than four years. In a February 2004 preliminary hearing, the district judge ruled that Texas A&M was to give the cadets new disciplinary hearings per a new procedure established by the judge. The university was ordered in the August 2004 final ruling to pay the cavalry approximately \$350,000 for legal fees. However, the cadets were not exempt from disciplinary actions. An appeals court dismissed the case in 2006. No criminal charges were filed.

An incident in November 2004 led to the Corps commander being relieved of his rank. A junior in outfit F-2 was reportedly bound with duct tape by seven seniors. The incident was described by Commandant John Van Alstyne as "Thanksgiving 'antics' that have gone on between juniors and seniors in F-2 for the past decade." The junior received eight stitches in his left index finger after being cut in the process of being freed. No criminal charges were filed as initial findings indicated no state laws were violated. However, an A&M inquiry determined the seniors had violated university polices. Nonetheless, Corps Commander John Huffman was relieved of his position. He admitted he watched but said nothing while the incident occurred. Huffman and the seven seniors involved in the case went before a university panel to determine their penalties. The outcome was not released citing privacy laws, but none were expelled or suspended from the Corps, according to Van Alstyne.

I applaud the Corps for being The Keepers of the Traditions, especially when you consider the size of, and enrolment at A&M today. Like it or not, the same reverence for the time honored traditions and camaraderie that made Aggieland a very unique and special place simply cannot be maintained with 50,000 students on campus at the same level as when the student body numbered less than 5,000, and nearly all were cadets.

t sips considered themselves to be sophisticated elitists. Perhaps, it is because their school was founded 6 years after A&M, and located in the "center of civilization", only a mile from the State Capitol. By contrast, A&M was founded on the prairie, in a slightly less civilized environment with a mission of educating the warriors, engineers and agriculturists that would help build, feed and defend a burgeoning state and nation. History clearly shows A&M has excelled at fulfilling its mission. Were the traditions cited in this month's newsletter ever necessary? Were they once required to develop character and mental toughness, but have gone the way of the equine mounted cavalryman? Is today's kinder, gentler Corps a result of those who want to be a part of it on their own terms with no regard for tradition? Or, is it just a reflection of modern America? Whether you consider the above incidents to be Good Bull, Bad Bull or somewhere in the middle will probably be greatly influenced by the era in which you were a student and your experiences on campus. Next month will focus on traditions from that have survived into the 21st Century. There is no doubt, they will be considered Good Bull by all. Clay

The full article may be found at: http://www.myaggienation.com/history_traditions/corps_of_cadets/the-corps-of-cadets-a-historical-look-at-the-keepers/article_cceffbec-e329-11e2-b6f5-0019bb2963f4.html

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Did You Know

The Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets Marksmanship Unit won the 2015 Military College Combat Shooting Championship (MCCSC) hosted by the prestigious United States Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga. The competition involved combat weapons teams from the four service academies: U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy and U. S. Coast Guard Academy, as well as two of the six senior military colleges—Texas A&M and Virginia Military Institute (VMI).

The CCMU squad consisted of 13 shooters, five of whom were designated as the official “team” for scoring in the match. After a long, tough, highly contested competition, the CCMU team came away with the Championship Trophy. The CCMU team finished 84 match points ahead of the second-place competitor, the U.S. Military Academy. The U.S. Naval Academy took third place.

The CCMU team placed five cadets in the top 10 of the match and eight in the Top 20, including the High Overall Shooter, the CCMU team captain, Cadet Zach Williams, Class of 2016. CCMU Cadet Naomi Boyer '16 was recognized as the “High Lady” shooter for the match. The MCCSC is a combat style rifle/pistol match consisting of eight courses of fire that stressed all fundamental skills of weapons handling, accuracy and physical agility. The 65 cadets and midshipmen participating were forced to negotiate obstacles, walls and barbed wire in addition to engaging paper and reactive targets throughout the competition.

Roxanne Schoen

GOOD BULL

Aggie Football is Back

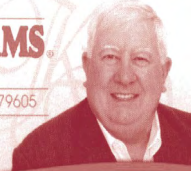
Check The Club’s Social Media Pages for Game Watch Party Info!

Got any Good Bull? Send it to us!



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Prayers and Concerns

There are many Aggies selflessly serving to keep us safe and protect the freedom only Americans can know. Whether in the US Military or as First Responders in their communities, **their service is for us.**

Please keep these Aggies and their families 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.

ABILENE A&M CLUB, INC.

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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.

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The Abilene Aggie

Official Publication of the Abilene A&M Club

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