Howdy!

One of the hallmark traditions of Aggies is service. I take great pride in the amount of service to the community our Club and its members provide. Abilene Aggies are perennial leaders in too many activities to list, but there is a common thread, each one is willing to volunteer their time, talents and finances to make someone’s life or something in their community better. Most are not content to volunteer or serve with one organization, they are compelled to run themselves ragged because the call to help others is engrained in their DNA, along with a general distaste for 2 percenters.

That desire to make someone’s life or something better carries over, and is what makes our Club so very special. We all enjoy the camaraderie we share with other Ags, believe in an Aggie's sacred duty to uphold the Muster Tradition and most of us have a passing interest in Aggie sports. But, the one area in which our Club is without peer is the extraordinary amount of effort we invest in helping others.

Within the last 30 days, the Abilene A&M Club has very successfully completed two such projects. The first one is a new tradition, it has happened twice annually, so it is officially a tradition and one that I expect will become long standing. It is the Counselor’s Workshop. The Club coordinates with the Region XIV Education Service Center to host a luncheon and workshop to inform high school counselors how to maximize a student’s chances for admission. It is presented by a representative from the admissions office and provides extensive information on how to prepare students for the admissions process. 25 councilors attended this year and based upon their evaluations, we hit a home run. The program was expanded this year to include an evening session for prospective students and their families, and according to the 48 people in attendance, it was a grand slam. These programs were not to recruit, they were to help students who want to be Aggies fulfill their dream.

The other project is a tradition that began in 1952 and needs no introduction, it is the Aggie Fry Booth. The Booth was a resounding success again this year. All profits are dedicated to our scholarship program. This year, they will provide 15 of our Club Scholarships for area students attending A&M. I would like to say “Thank You” to everyone who helped make this another successful year at the Fair. Have no doubt the work load is tremendous, but I’m certain we will all agree based upon the results and the number of students we assist, it is absolutely worth the effort.

Stand proud Ags, the Abilene A&M Club is second to none when it comes to helping others, a core value expected of all who attend a little College on the Brazos, a College named Texas A&M.

Gig ‘em
J. Clay Deatherage ‘84
2015 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

October, 2015

- October 3 - Fry Booth Clean Up
- 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

December, 2015

- December 2 - Regular Club Meeting
- December 17 - Board of Directors Meeting
- December 17 - Aggie Happy Hour

2015 Fightin’ Aggie Football Schedule

- Sept 5 Arizona State, 38 - 17
- Sept 12 Ball State, 56 - 23
- Sept 19 Nevada, 44 - 27
- Sept 26 Arkansas, 28 - 21
- Oct 3 Mississippi St. 6:30, SEC Net
- Oct 10 Open Date
- Oct 17 Alabama
- Oct 24 Mississippi St.
- Oct 31 Auburn
- Nov 14 Western Carolina
- Nov 21 Vanderbilt
- Nov 28 LSU
- Dec 5 SEC Conf Championship, 3:00 pm CBS

Road Games in Italic

Aggie Football Watch Parties

Longbranch Saloon 3525 North 6th Street, Abilene TX 79603
Introducing our September Speaker

Mr. Larry Zuber,

Mr. Zuber has been with the Texas A&M Foundation for the past 15 years, and is currently serving as the Assistant Vice President for Development in the College of Architecture. Prior to finding a true home in Aggieland, he engaged in fundraising work at the University of California and Washington State University. He has worked with the College of Architecture since joining the Aggie Family.

He feels privileged to have been in a position to work on multiple projects with Jimmy Tittle and other, notable, former students of the College to make a significant difference in the education of future Aggie architects, constructors, landscape architects, planners, artists and animators.

Larry, and his wife Jane, have one daughter, Abby who has just applied to Texas A&M. They are anxiously waiting with crossed fingers for word of her admission to the class of 2020.

Larry earned his undergraduate degree from Indiana State University. In addition to earning a his degree, he unknowingly was preparing himself to work closely with celebrities like Jimmy Tittle. It seems he had a classmate by the name of Larry Bird, who made his mark with the Boston Celtics of the NBA.

Larry’s personal dream is to start working on his masters degree the day Abby starts at A&M and to receive their Aggie Rings on the same day.

Welcome to Abilene Larry
The Corps continues to grow. Some traditions have broadened to include students outside of the Corps, while continuing with as much fervency as they did at their inceptions:

**March in at football games:** Companies march in a parade formation, by rank within the unit and space between each unit, into Kyle Field. The Aggie Band leads the parade and each non-band unit calls out "jodies" before entering the stadium. (Jodies are chants or songs used to create a rhythm while marching or running to keep a unit in sync and together.) Parson's Mounted Cavallry follows last. This is done at all the home games and Corps Trips. Once the companies begin to enter the stadium, they are reviewed as they march on the track around the football field while the band continues playing.

**Corps Trip:** The entire Corps travels out of town to conduct a parade and attend one A&M football game. The 2012 Corps Trip was to Dallas for the game against Southern Methodist University. The Corps took its first trip in 1887 for the State Fair in Dallas.

**Final Review:** The Corps marches at Kyle Field for a spring inspection of its ranks in front of military officials and the university administration. It is the last activity for the cadets before being dismissed for the summer. The event consists of two marches. The first is with the seniors and the second with the juniors in command, assuming their role for the fall while wearing their senior boots, thus officially completing the transition of ranks. Seniors who have contracts and have met requirements are commissioned as officers.

**Senior Boots:** Officially part of a senior cadet's uniform, the English-style boots made of medium brown leather date back to 1914. According to *The Standard*, the boots were originally made in San Antonio, but Joseph Holick began making them locally when he opened his shop in 1929. Holick was hired as the campus cobbler by President Ross and played the bugle for the Corps, according to Hardeman. In 1894, Holick organized the first A&M band and served as interim bandmaster several times.

**Silver Taps and Muster:** These ceremonies, which honor Aggies who have died. Silver Taps is on the first Tuesday of every month during the school year, at 10:30 p.m. in front of the Academic Building. Muster is held April 21 all over the world, with the main ceremony at Reed Arena. The Ross Volunteers fire a 21-gun salute, and the buglers play *Silver Taps*. During Muster, a "Roll Call of the Absent" is conducted, naming those who died since the last ceremony. A friend, family member or "comrade" answers "Here" to signify the deceased will always be present in spirit.
Reveille: The highest-ranking member of the Corps and official mascot of Texas A&M University. The current "First Lady of Aggieland" is Reveille VIII. The first Reveille was a black and white dog that, according to legend, cadets hit while driving back to campus from Navasota in 1931. They brought her back to campus to care for her. She was named after the morning wake-up call when she began to bark. Reveille III was the first pure-bred American collie. Company E-2 is responsible for her care. When a Reveille dies, she is buried in a special plaza north of "The Zone" with past mascots.

Yell Leaders: No longer exclusive to Corps seniors and juniors, five students are elected by the student body to lead Aggie fans in yells at Yell Practice and sporting events. The men wear white shirts and pants and use hand signals to direct the crowd. Women have campaigned, but none have been elected. The tradition was started in 1907 when some freshmen were tasked with entertaining ladies from the women's college in Denton who were visiting to attend the game.

March to the Brazos: Since 1977, the Corps hikes an 18-mile round trip from the Quad to the Brazos River. March to the Brazos originated in 1903 to celebrate San Jacinto Day (April 21), but was abandoned when the United States entered World War I. The march was revived in 1977 as an annual spring fundraiser in partnership with the March of Dimes. Cadets raise money for several months through "Fill the Boot" collections and other donations. Today, cadets unofficially begin transferring command and ranks for the next year with the seniors leaving the juniors in charge for the trek back to campus. After the 2011 march, the Corps of Cadets has raised more than $2 million in 35 years for the March of Dimes. March to the Brazos is the nonprofit organization's largest and most successful student-run fundraiser.

Four Corps units were reactivated with the start of the 2013-2014 year. Corps membership - more than 2,400 - is at its largest in 30 years, according to The Eagle. The freshman cadet class is at more than 900, the largest since 1970. There are 10 regiments with a combined 42 units. The Corps dorms can house up to 2,600 members and the Quad. The policy guidebook boasts, "Texas A&M is one of only six four-year institutions of higher education in the nation with a seven day a week, 24 hours a day Corps of Cadets. Its military science programs support the three ROTC programs, leading to commissions in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force."

The revision of history currently seems to be “the fad of the day”. I find this practice to be incomprehensible on multiple levels. Like it or not history is just that, history. Elements of it should be honored and revered, while using the less savory elements as the foundation for positive change. Like it or not, it is what it is. While we are all proud to see A&M gain prominence on the world stage of education. While many of us regret A&M will never be what it was, and many, younger Ags can’t imagine themselves attending the A&M of old. Nonetheless, we all continue to share the values that make A&M so very special, and all owe the Corps our gratitude for serving as, “The Keepers of the Traditions”.

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-e329-11e2-8465-0019bb296384.html
Did You Know

A&M’s requirement of corps membership in 1876 was not by happenstance?

The Morrill act of 1862 established funding and land donation for schools of higher learning to those states that accepted. However, as with all government “help” there were strings attached. The Morrill act provided for donation of public land to the states for the purpose of funding higher education whose “leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts.”

The idea was to prepare students leaving school for life in the real world, instead of only having studied the “classics”. Today the three oldest departments are agriculture, mechanics (updated into various areas) and military sciences.

With the Morrill Act’s requirement of teaching military sciences, the question should be “How could A&M ever eliminate the corps”, as some have recommend at various times over the years?

Roxanne Schoen

GOOD BULL

The Aggie Fry Booth kicked @###!

Thank you to all that contributed to this year’s success.

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

Holly Nash Spencer ‘82
Mr. Raymond A McDaniel, Jr. ‘55
Mr. Robert Adams ‘75
Mr. James Harold Hughes ‘52

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.
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.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!