Howdy!

Merry Christmas Ags! It’s December, the epicenter of the Holiday Season and the month of one of important holidays of all, Christmas. The day we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, is one of the most significant holidays of the year. For some it will be a time of deep reverence, for most it will be a combination of reverence and a time of celebration spent with family and friends. Sadly, some will commercialize it for profit and pleasure, ignoring its true meaning.

I simply cannot fathom how anyone could choose December as the time to unleash the type of pure evil the world witnessed on 12/07/1941 or 12/16/1944. While I reference acts 7 decades prior, I fear an even greater evil looms on the horizon. I understand the root of the issue begins with Isaac and Ishmael, and I understand disputes over religious beliefs can be identified much earlier than 70 years ago. Additionally, I cannot except the majority of those who follow Ishmael’s faith are totally committed to the destruction of the greatest nation on earth, a nation founded upon Christian principles by settlers seeking religious freedom, a nation named the United States of America. Although, history has proven time and again, freedom is not free and Christians are not automatically exempted from persecution, strife and temptation.

At the time we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us hope and pray that all will commit this Christmas to the principles He taught 2 centuries ago; peace, compassion, forgiveness and love for our fellow man. If we simply live our lives as examples of these tenets of Christ’s teachings, we will pay the greatest homage possible to One whose birth we are celebrating.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us be mindful that we are truly blessed in many ways, beginning with the birth of Christ and the promise of salvation he brought. We are blessed to live in a nation that was founded to give us the freedom to worship as we believe and express our faith as we choose. We are blessed to live in a nation where the poorest would be considered rich in many parts of the world. We are blessed to live in a nation where men and women are willing to defend these freedoms with their lives, not only for us, but for others around the world. Lastly, we are blessed to have attended a place that derives the core values it expects of all who attend from these same tenets, a little place on the Brazos, a place named Texas A&M.

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

December, 2015
- December 2 - Regular Club Meeting
- December 17 - Board of Directors Meeting
- December 17 - Aggie Happy Hour
- December 25 - Merry Christmas

January, 2016
- January 1 - Happy New Year
- January 6 - Regular Club Meeting (Elections)
- January 21 - Board of Directors Meeting
- January 21 - Aggie Happy Hour

February, 2016
- February 3 - Regular Club Meeting
- February 18 - Board of Directors Meeting
- February 18 - Aggie Happy Hour

2015 Fightin’ Aggie Football Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
<td>38 - 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Ball State</td>
<td>56 - 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>44 - 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>28 - 21</td>
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<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>Mississippi St.</td>
<td>30 - 17</td>
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<td>Oct 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>3 - 23</td>
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<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>10 - 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Western Carolina</td>
<td>41 - 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Vanderbilt</td>
<td>25 - 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>7 - 19</td>
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Dec 5 SEC Conf Championship, 3:00 pm CBS
Road Games in Italics
Aggie Football & Dave South on KLGD 106.9

Merry Christmas!
May God Bless You and Yours this Holiday Season
Introducing our December Speaker

Dr. J. Lynn Lawhon, ‘76

Dr. Lawhon is a 1972 graduate of Bronte High School. He earned his Bachelor’s of Veterinary Science Degree from Texas A&M in 1976 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree in 1977.

Upon earning his DVM, Dr. Lawhon began his career in 1977 at the Belmont Park Racetrack, in 1978 he moved back to Texas and practiced at the Pangburn Animal Hospital in Ft Worth. In 1979, he found his way to Abilene where he owns the Brookhollow Animal Clinic.

He is a past president of the Abilene A&M Club, Texas Association of Sports Officials-Football Division, Abilene Area Veterinary Medical Association, Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and the American Association of Veterinary State Boards.

He is a Member of the Board of Trustees of Wylie United Methodist Church, Chairman, Abilene Sports Alliance Scholarship Committee, Past-Community Lay Director, Big Country Emmaus Community, and has served as the Area Representative, Texas A&M Association of Former Students and on the Board of Directors, Texas A&M Association of Former Students.

He officiated High School Football games for 21 years and Division I Collegiate Football for 5 years in the Southwest Conference and 5 years in the WAC. He worked the 2000 Cotton Bowl and 2 NFL Games in 2001. He was inducted into the Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame 2013.

Dr. Lawhon and Delores, his wife of 33 years have two children, a daughter, Cami Lawhon-Bethencourt, ‘06 and her husband Dr. Phillip Ross Bethancourt, ‘04. They have 3 grandsons, Nathan Ross, Lawson James and Weston Luke Bethancourt.

Welcome Back Dr. Lawhon
The 2015 - 2016 Abilene Board of Directors, serving as the nominating committee, respectfully recommends the following slate of officers to serve the Club for the 2016 - 2017 term. If you would like to serve on the Board, please contact Clay. As always, nominations may be made from the floor in the January meeting.

**Officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Andrew Turnbull ’84</td>
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<tr>
<td>President Elect</td>
<td>Marshall Morris ’08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>J. Clay Deatherage ’84</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP Records</td>
<td>Marla Hanks ’02</td>
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<td>VP Finance</td>
<td>Trey Todd ’07</td>
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<td>VP Activities &amp; Programs</td>
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<td>VP Membership</td>
<td>Laura Millican</td>
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<td>VP Publicity</td>
<td>Billy Berny ’78</td>
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<td>VP Scholarships</td>
<td>Marta Hollowell ’82</td>
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<td>VP Special Events</td>
<td>Roxanne Schoen</td>
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**Officers**

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<th>Term</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 Year Term</td>
<td>Nick Arrott ’00</td>
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<td>2 Year Term</td>
<td>Bobby Ogdee ‘84</td>
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<td>1 Year Term</td>
<td>James Hughes ’82</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ron Ingram ’76</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Allison Cowling ’01</td>
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Did You Know

Cowboy Songs were an integral part of Country & Western music for much of the 20th century. They were a large part of the movies and television shows that were American mainstays until the were pushed aside by science fiction and “modern” sit-coms in the ’70s. But did you know the first singing cowboy was an Aggie? The records of the Texas State Historical Association confirm that Carl T. “Doc” Sprague ’22 was the “Original Singing Cowboy”.

Sprague was a legitimate cowboy who grew up on his family’s ranch in Brazoria County. In 1925 Sprague signed a contract with Victor Records to record the old cowboy songs he learned from his uncles. Even though he never opted to pursue a career in the music industry, he recorded 10 songs for Victor in 3 days. One entitled When The Work’s All Done This Fall, sold an amazing 900,000 copies. Doc recorded a total of 33 songs for Victor and then took a short 40 year hiatus from the music industry, after which he recorded several songs for Bear Family Records of Germany.

Although officially listed as Class of ’22, Sprague first enrolled in the AMC in 1913. in addition to possibly not being the most studious young man on campus, his college career was interrupted by a stint with the US Army Signal Corps in France during WWI. (He would reenter the Army and rise to the rank of Major as a recruiter during WWII).

The 1922 Longhorn credits him as a left handed pitcher with 2 nicknames, “Lefty” and “Henchman”. A part of the blurb under his picture in the yearbook reads, “He came in 1913 to nothing. He called time out until the Kaiser got fired and then came back to the job. He is a dry-nurse to all of the var-sity squads. He pitches with his left hand and eats with both”.

The dry-nurse reference also explains how he earned the name “Doc”. He was coach Dana X Bible’s athletic trainer from 1922 - 1937.

Roxanne Schoen
GOOD BULL

In August 2015, Sgt. Kevin Ivey, a 28 year old Marine Corps veteran and his 6 year old son, Calvin arrived in College Station. Kevin had son, his truck, $200 and a "mission". He was there to fulfill his dream of becoming an Aggie. The first obstacle he encountered was finding a place to live. He could not find an apartment or student housing that he could afford that accepted children. Therefore, he and Calvin spent their first two nights in Aggieland in their truck.

Kevin was terrified on the second night when he was about to lose his son, when he was awakened by a University Police Officer and asked to exit his vehicle. The Officer and his partner, listened to Kevin's story and then summoned their supervisor. The three officers, who are all military veterans and insist upon remaining anonymous, pooled their money and got Kevin and Calvin a motel room for the night.

The next day Kevin found an apartment he could afford. He enrolled as Agriculture Leadership major and joined the Corps' Delta Company. Kevin's story spread through the Aggie Network and former students have offer to buy his Sr. Boots and Aggie Ring once he earns them.

Ivey said he was nearly ready to give up when he encountered the Police Officers. Now, he is fully energized, pumped about being an Aggie and beginning to fully understand the true meaning of Aggie Family.

General Ramirez best summed up Kevin's story, "This truly showcases what all Aggies already know. That Aggies are a special group of people, bound by a special experience at an exceptional place called Aggieland, and that Aggies take care of Aggies - no matter where they are and no matter what the circumstances".

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
Steffi Overton, widow of Wallar Overton ‘61 is currently battling breast cancer.

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

Home E-mail

WORK Address

City & State

ZIP

Work Phone

Cell

Work E-mail

☐ Membership

☐ Change of Address

☐ $35/yr Individual

☐ $35/yr Aggie couple

☐ $25

☐ $50

☐ $100

☐ $250

☐ $500

☐ 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!