Howdy Ags!

We just got back from the winter leadership council meeting held at the alumni center. May I just say WOW! They really know how to draw a crowd. Friday evening was a social hour and the required picture of everyone on the staircase. Great finger foods. I tried to save myself so we could go eat with my wife, Kim’s, brother. We also hoped to see our nephew, Sean, but alas he was away performing with the singing cadets.

The next morning James Hughes and Laura Millican met us for the breakfast. The meeting began a little after 9. We finished up about 11:30. We had a welcome from Porter Garner and introduced our board chair, Dwain Mayfield. The speakers were all of the usual big shots- Michael Young, Col Byron Stebbins (deputy commandant), Tyson Voelkel (foundation president), Bill Toler (board of trustees chair elect), Mark Fischer (finance chair), and Kathy Mann (fundraising chair). All that was business as usual.

However, there were two young men who came and spoke that really gave me a stick out my chest proud moment. I didn’t catch his name but a student saw a need to dress Aggies for success at job interviews. He secured $15000 and started a career closet where students can rent a suit for $5. What a great idea. The second man was the current student body president, Joseph Beningo. He personally took on a letter writing campaign to the charter school that visited A&M and was met with inappropriate behavior. He delivered over 5000 letters to the Dallas Uplift Preparatory school.

Whip out Ags!
Andrew Turnbull ‘84
2016 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

March, 2016

March 2 - Regular Club Meeting - Installation of Officers
March 17 - Board of Directors Meeting
March 17 - Aggie Happy Hour

April, 2016

April 6 - Regular Club Meeting
April 21— Board Meeting & Aggie Happy Hour Cancelled due to Aggie Muster

April 21 - Aggie Muster

May, 2016

May 4 - Regular Club Meeting
May 19 — Board Meeting
May 19 — Aggie Happy Hour

Scholarship Applications ARE On The Website!
Introducing our February Speaker

Mr. Patrick McGinty ‘15

Patrick was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. Following graduation from MacArthur High School in 2011 Patrick enrolled at Texas A&M University. He graduated in August of 2015 with a B.S. in Biology and a Minor in Psychology. While at Texas A&M Patrick stayed busy by becoming involved with 15 student organizations. He was a member of Company K-1 within the Corps of Cadets, and a member of the Ross Volunteer Company. Outside of the Corps he served as a counselor for three fish camps, volunteered as a Texas A&M Foundation Maroon Coat, and stayed active within the Memorial Student Center. Patrick was also elected to serve as a Junior Yell Leader and Head Yell Leader. Over the course of his two years as Yell Leader he attended over 700 events on behalf of the University.

Following graduation Patrick began working at The Association of Former Students as a Coordinator of Former Student Programs. In this role Patrick is responsible for working with the global network of 247 A&M Clubs. He travels around the state and across the nation to provide support, resources, and guidance to the clubs. Additionally, he is responsible for coordinating over 300 annual Musters around the world, assisting with coaches night, and planning away game Yell Practices.

Most importantly he broke the family tradition of becoming a t-sip. His younger sister Kelly will be a member of the class of 2020 and his younger brother Kevin is at the United States Naval Academy, but plans to earn a graduate degree from Texas A&M after hearing Patrick talk about the Aggie Spirit. In his free time Patrick enjoys being outdoors, hunting, fishing, reading, playing sports, and spending time with friends and family.

Welcome To Abilene Patrick!
When the “A” and “M” Stood For Something

Way back in the dark ages, believe it or not, A&M actually stood for something. The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas was shortened to Texas A&M which pretty well summed up a land grant college’s mission of providing higher education in the areas required to defend, build and feed a growing, new nation in the 1880s.

Farmers were essential to provide food and fiber, but times were a changin’. Barbed wire had nearly eliminated the open range. Although it has been forever romanticized in American lore, it simply was not the most efficient way to provide the protein a burgeoning country required.

Therefore, the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas initiated the development of the Animal Husbandry Department in 1903. In 1965, the department became more encompassing and was renamed the Department of Animal Science.

Today, the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University has achieved national and international prominence as the largest and most complex department of animal science in the nation. As part of its land grant mission, the Animal Science Department strives to meet the needs of all citizens by providing outstanding teaching, research and extension programs.

Currently, disciplines within the department include reproductive physiology, animal breeding and genetics, food science, microbiology, equine science, dairy science, animal nutrition and meat science. The department responds to the Texas animal industry through research and education programs in equine, beef, dairy, swine, sheep and goats.

To further illustrate A&M’s prominence, the undergraduate Academic Quadrathlon team took top honors at the Southern Section Academic Quadrathlon, held in conjunction with the 2016 ASAS Southern Section Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. The teams completed lab pracicum events and written exams at Texas A&M University in College Station on Sat., Feb. 6. The competition then moved to San Antonio on Sun., Feb. 7, where the teams gave oral presentations and competed in a quiz bowl competition. Whoooop!
Rights, Privileges, Responsibilities and Values

I don’t know about y’all Ags, but I’m beginning to wonder if we have finally dumbed Americans down to the lowest common denominator, or if there is a conspiracy from some vast, “pop culture wing” trying to fool us into believing we have, and, if we don’t buy into the “modern America, were are an embarrassment to the “real Americans” that do. I’m not just referring to education, I’m beginning to believe those who say, “common sense ain’t too common no more” and the school of hard knocks has closed its doors.

I feel privileged for to have grown up around people that survived the depression era and endured the hardships faced by all during WWII. These men and women truly earned the title of “The Greatest Generation”. They valued and respected education, but they valued honesty, integrity and hard work even more. To them a hand up not a hand out, was not a campaign slogan, it was a part of their core values. I seriously doubt the Works Progress Administration would get much done today and I’m equally certain that imposing commodities rationing to support a war effort would violate everyone’s rights, justifying rioting and looting. I’m lucky to have been raised by a family that not only taught me how to work, but expected me to do so. They also taught me the differences in rights and privileges.

M*A*S*H, Archie Bunker and In the Heat of the Night were all popular, and politically charged, but they conveyed their message in a manner to which American could relate. I admit, I don’t watch much TV anymore. I’m either not smart enough to filter the political correctness and comprehend the intended message, or the values I was raised with prevent me from accepting it. There is no reality in reality TV for me. Since I can’t buy into the message of today’s shows, I certainly can’t understand the hero status attributed to their celebrities and stars. Nor can I accept their lifestyles as exemplary and the politically correct views they espouse, especially the ones that impugn the very people whose hard work and values built a nation that is so prosperous the line between reality and fantasy has been obliterated, thereby allowing their ascension to greatness.

It seems today’s spoiled, privileged, self entitled, politically correct crowd believes everything they want is their right and it is yours too, if you agree with them. If you don’t, you are simply have no compassion for mankind and have earned one of a multiple politically incorrect titles only they can bestow upon you. They cannot fathom the concept that hard work is a virtue to be rewarded and sometimes a spade deserves to be called a spade. Worst of all, if you believe someone should be held accountable for their actions, life is a competition with winners and losers, and the winners should be recognized instead of receiving a participation ribbon along with everyone else, you are disdained. Furthermore, you have no idea of how people should be treated, and you certainly have no place in their world of diversity or on their campus.

I believe there are two documents this crowd should read instead of working tirelessly to ignore, censor and ban them from their little corner of the world and campuses. If they would simply read the Bible, they would know how to treat other people and if they would read the United States Constitution, they would know their rights. We are a blessed group Ags. Instead of attending a college where these documents are dismissed, disrespected and considered archaic, we attended a college that derived their core values from them and promote those values to this day, a little college on the Brazos, a college named Texas A&M.

Gig ‘em,
J. Clay Deatherage ’84
Did You Know

The March to the Brazos has its beginnings as a mild reprimand for April fools pranks? On April 1, 1908 the cadets of Texas A&M College went on strike and did not attend classes. This, along with other April Fool’s Day pranks, was becoming too regular of an occurrence for the Commandant. The next year he issued General Order No. 27 and began what became known as the “Hike to the Brazos” and eventually the “March to the Brazos.” The hike originated in 1909 and was held March 31 through April 1 to keep the cadets from playing April Fool’s jokes on each other and their instructors. This tradition was held annually until 1912 at which point it was discontinued.

The annual event is organized and comprised completely of members of the Corps. In the spring semester, the cadets conduct a 18 mile round-trip road march starting at the Quad, through Main Campus and West Campus to the Animal Science Teaching, Research & Extension Complex (ASTREC) near the east bank of the Brazos River. After the first leg of the march, cadets participate in various competitions (tug-of-war, relay races, etc.), eat lunch, and unofficially transfer ranks for the following school year. The day concludes with the march back under the leadership of the next Class, while the Class of the current year will ride buses back to campus.

March to the Brazos was revived in 1977 when cadet leadership saw the natural tie between March to the Brazos and the March of Dimes. This special partnership was seen as a way to build Corps spirit and also benefit a worthwhile charity. From 1977 through 2004, the event raised a total of $1.5 million. March to the Brazos is the largest and most successful student-led fundraiser for the March of Dimes in the US. This year’s goal is to raise approximately $125,000 which will put the total donations to the March of Dimes at over $3 million. Unique to this year, along with fill the boot and donation requests will be a David Gardner watch raffle. David Gardner has donated a watch to each corps unit (over $20,000 value) to raffle with all proceeds going to the March of Dimes. If you wish to purchase a raffle ticket contact any corps member.

Roxanne Schoen ’74

GOOD BULL

It is a new year Ags. Please take the time to renew your Club memberships and newsletter ads. Our Club is one of the top A&M Clubs in the world. It is well renown for it long standing commitment to A&M through its scholarships and innovative programs. Ags y’all are the backbone of the Club. Your dedicated support, commitment and generosity allows the Abilene A&M Club to stand above the rest. Please contact Marla Hanks if your ad needs updating.
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

Dub Pritchett ’44 is recovering from a recent illness at Wisteria Place here in Abilene. He says the therapists are trying to kill him but he is determined to be back in our midst soon.

Please keep these Dub, Mary and their family 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)
Class

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

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!