Ol’ Army Feature: Lucas ‘00 and Chris Ann ‘00 Stroech

Washington County Landscapes, owned and operated by Lucas and Chris Ann, was recently recognized by Texas A&M University as a member of the 2017 Aggie 100, honoring the fastest growing companies in the world, owned or operated by Texas A&M University former students. Washington County Landscapes, Landscape Architect and Contractor, began in 2010. While attending Texas A&M University, Lucas had the privilege of studying abroad in Italy, focusing on the Italian architecture and landscapes. After graduating in 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture, Lucas went to work for a well-known landscape architect firm in Houston, Texas, specializing in high-end residential, design build projects. In 2006, Lucas earned his Landscape Architecture License in the state of Texas and is a member of ASLA. We queried the Stroech duo on a number of topics. 

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Q: If someone was going to strive for the perfect lawn here in Washington County, what grass should they plant?
A: Tiff Bermuda is the best grass to plant in this area because it will make your lawn look like a golf course or sports field. It does not require as much water and does not get diseases.

Q: What was the most embarrassing thing that happened to you at A&M?
A: Lucas says he never embarrassed himself, but Chris Ann did all kind of crazy things! There was the search for the “Death Nachos” and the 99 Lone Star Light bottle caps from Bottle Cap Alley at North Gate. Chris Ann was highly involved with Texas Aggie Bonfire. And as part of our initiation into the position that we would hold (Co-Chair/Crew Chief), there were various tasks we completed for the older pots. Did you know that “Death Nachos” can be found at any gas station? It is the chips piled high with day old, ooey-gooey, heart attack waiting to happen, chili and processed cheese that is found by the drink station. A group of crazy college students running in and out of every Mexican restaurant asking if they serve “Death Nachos” can get you a number of odd looks!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Annual Dues
- If you have already sent in your dues, thank you!
- $20 dues per Aggie are for the calendar year and support the club’s activities and scholarships.

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Q: If you won the lottery tomorrow, what would you do with the money?
A: If we won the lottery, we would retire! Course, then we would get bored and go right back to work. Lucas cannot sit still for long!

Q: What is your favorite A&M tradition?
A: Lucas’ favorite A&M tradition is the yell leaders and yells. The idea that anyone can participate, from our children to every former student, is what makes it so special! For Chris Ann, the best tradition is one that doesn’t take part anymore on campus. The Bonfire was a beautiful testament to the Aggie spirit. Out of the ongoing traditions, the elephant walk is one that means the most. The idea of walking through campus remembering and passing our legacy onto the younger classes is humbling.

Q: Which did you use more while at A&M: the library, the rec center, or the dining hall?
A: For Lucas it was the rec center, he loved playing beach volleyball. For Chris Ann, I would have to say none of them. I spent my time at the MSC in the Vocal Music Office or out on the Bonfire fields.

Q: What is the last movie you saw?
A: Star Wars, and it was okay. It wasn’t as good as the last one that was released.

Q: What is your favorite Aggie joke?
A: How many Aggies does it take to…? The answer is always way more than one!

Q: Where is your favorite place to eat in College Station?
A: Lucas likes Buffalo Wild Wings because it has good wings! But, Freebirds is number one for Chris Ann! Who can resist a burrito?

Q: What advice would you give someone who just graduated from A&M?
A: Our advice would be to use the Aggie network! It is amazing how many Aggies are out there and we all want to help you get started!

www.WashingtonCountyLandscapes.com
The Washington County A&M Club is always looking for more enthusiastic Aggies to help with our club. It is a great opportunity for local Aggies to get involved without a major time commitment. We need your help! Want to get involved? Just send us an e-mail and let us know!

**Current needs:**

**Media Relations** - Responsible for this newsletter, arranging photography of events, and any other external media relations that may come up during the year.

**Scholarships** - Coordinates scholarship applications and the committee to review and select recipients.

**Aggie Moms Liaison** - An Aggie who is currently involved with the Aggie Moms club and fosters communication and coordination between the two groups.

E-mail [washingtonaggieclub@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonaggieclub@gmail.com) for the contact information on any of the above as well as any newsletter suggestions for things such as:

- Local businesses with Aggie connections
- Good bull stories
- Ol’ Army Aggie interview candidates
- Travel pictures/stories from Aggie sporting events