

MAKING their MARK

MEET 12 YOUNG ALUMNI WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Each year, The Association of Former Students' 12 Under 12 Young Alumni Spotlight recognizes a dozen Aggies who have graduated within the past 12 years for their business accomplishments, civic or military service, philanthropic efforts, and outstanding representation of Texas A&M University's core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service.

The 12 Under 12 Young Alumni Spotlight was conceived by the Young Alumni Advisory Council, a selected body of younger former students who advise The Association's staff on ways to better connect with the hundreds of

thousands of recent graduates of A&M.

Among the 2017 honorees are leaders in business, the military, NASA, medicine, law, architecture and public policy. But all 12 of them are much more than their career achievements, their advanced degrees and their awards. They are also mentors, volunteers and selfless servants, dedicated to the betterment of Texas A&M, their communities and the world.

We congratulate these fine young Aggies on their accomplishments, and we thank them for their service and for their outstanding representation of Texas A&M and the Aggie Spirit.

APPLICATIONS FOR 2018

Know someone deserving of this recognition? Nominations are open now through Feb. 28.

Want to nominate yourself? Applications on one's own behalf will be accepted

March 1 through May 5. tx.ag/12u12

To read about previous years' 12 Under 12 Young Alumni Spotlight honorees, visit tx.ag/12u12.



PHILLIP BETHANCOURT '04

Bethancourt is executive vice president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, where he developed the first international office advocating for human dignity. He leads strategy implementation for Global Hunger Relief, raising contributions to serve needy individuals worldwide. Bethancourt began a service initiative at Southern Seminary, the “1937 Project,” a one-day service project mobilizing 400-500 students and staff in Louisville, Ky., similar in design to The Big Event at Texas A&M. A recipient of the Buck Weirus Spirit Award, Bethancourt has served as a personal mentor to student leaders on A&M’s campus and has led chapel services for the men’s basketball team. Bethancourt served on the Louisville A&M Club board and

helped plan their Muster. He also established and launched the Evangelicals for Life Conference, coinciding with March for Life in Washington, D.C., and is a bronze-level Century Club member.

BROCK FAULKNER '04

Faulkner was owner and operator of Faulkner Cattle Co. and Faulkner Beef. He won the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean’s Outstanding Achievement Award for Early Career Research. While an instructor at Texas A&M, Faulkner was voted by his students as the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers’ Professor of the Year. Faulkner was also named Young Engineer of the Year by ASABE. Faulkner worked closely with the cotton industry to address air quality near ginning facilities and received the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program Bronze Award for his work in resolving air emissions concerns and reducing nitrogen deposition in Rocky Mountain National Park. Faulkner also volunteered as an elder and small group leader for Community Church. Faulkner was an eight-year member of The Association’s Century Club. His name was called at Muster after leukemia took his life in February 2016.



CINDY KOESTER '04

Responsible for voice communication between Mission Control in Houston and the International Space Station crew as a CAPCOM (Capsule Communicator), Koester is group lead at NASA’s Johnson Space Center for the ISS Electrical Power System Flight Controllers. She has received multiple JSC Group Achievement Awards for outstanding leadership in the development and execution of training for the crew and flight controllers for space shuttle and space station missions. Koester says being encouraged to take leadership roles in student organizations—including MSC ALOT, Class Councils, and Kappa Alpha Zeta—has transferred to her professional environment, and her early focus on leadership has paid dividends down the road as she is expected

to make decisions, lead teams and maintain integrity in all circumstances. Koester also mentors young people interested in STEM degrees and careers. She is a 13-year Century Club member and silver-level donor.



GRANT SPEAKES '04

Speakes is a student in Mays Business School’s Full-Time MBA program, where he has taken the initiative to provide support for current student veterans by starting “Mays Vets”—a veterans affinity group for MBA programs at Mays. He was awarded three Bronze Star Medals and the Commendation Medal for Valor during his service in the U.S. Army before returning to College Station to instruct future Army officers in ROTC courses at Texas A&M. Speakes also spent six months volunteering to collect combat boots and recruit participants for the Tripler Fisher House Hero & Remembrance Run, recognizing soldiers lost in the global war on terrorism. While in the Corps of Cadets at A&M—where Speakes says he learned the importance of servant leadership and felt he gained his purpose and identity—he was a Ross Volunteer and member of the Color Guard. Speakes has been a member of The Association’s Century Club for 13 years.





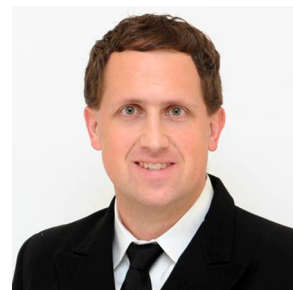
BENJAMIN CASMER '05

Having played a key leadership role in the establishment of its processes, people, and policies from the ground up, Casmer is chief operating officer at Bay Area Regional Medical Center, an independent hospital in Webster, Texas. Casmer aims to show an equal level of respect—a value reinforced at Texas A&M—to all individuals he interacts with, from the lowest-paid employees to the most brilliant surgeons. Influenced by his time in Class Councils, Ben’s passion for service opportunities has led him to mentor high school students as well as serve as board member for Habitat for Humanity, United Way, and the Chamber of Commerce. Casmer continues to leave an impression on Aggieland through his personal financial support of a local pastor and staff member of a non-profit ministry.

Through multiple relocations, Casmer has been involved with A&M Clubs in San Antonio, Midland, Fort Worth, Houston, and Bentonville, Ark., and is a two-year member of The Association’s Century Club.

BRENT LACEY '05

The pioneer of a large-scale hepatitis C screening program for the Department of Defense, which has already saved dozens of lives, Lt. Cmdr. Lacey is chief of gastroenterology at Naval Hospital Pensacola. When he is not working to find solutions for treating and curing his patients, Lacey mentors and recruits pre-med college students for the Navy Medical Corps and is involved in leading Sunday School, children’s ministry and teaching classes for local church members seeking debt-free living. After four years in the Navy Reserve, he spent seven in active duty. As Lacey was heavily involved in the MSC during his time on campus, and what he describes as “one of the most immensely valuable and transformative experiences for me,” he and his wife made a decision to endow the MSC’s Luke J. Altendorf Leadership Award, given annually to an Aggie student leader. Lacey is a three-year member of The Association’s Century Club.



JORDAN MULLINS '05

Mullins is a partner at McGinnis Lochridge, a law firm in Austin. Mullins says being invited to the partnership at a well-known and deep-rooted law firm was a validation of the lessons he learned at Texas A&M—that hard work and honesty can pay off. He was nominated to the Texas Bar Foundation as a Fellow, recognized as a Texas Super Lawyers Rising Star and has been appointed to the Downtown Commission by the City Council. Through his role on the board of directors for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas, Mullins played a role in expanding their region to include Bryan-College Station. At A&M, Mullins was in Company E-2 in the Corps of Cadets, Abbott Family Leadership Conference, Ol Ags, and Aggie Hostel, and he was a recipient of the Buck

Weirus Spirit Award. Mullins volunteers as a Class Agent, is involved with the Texas Aggie Bar Association, and serves as an advisory board member for the Corps of Cadets Association. He is an 11-year member of the Century Club.

JORDAN BAUCUM '06

Baucum is a senior advisor in policy, government and public affairs for supply and trading at Chevron. Through his involvement in the Academy for Future International Leaders, Baucum co-founded Building a Future, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports education, health care and nutrition for children in impoverished communities in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. While in San Francisco, he co-founded the San Francisco Lawn Party to benefit underprivileged children and at-risk youth. While at A&M, Baucum participated in Business Fellows, Abbott Family Leadership Conference, Student Service Fee Advisory Board and was also a recipient of the Buck Weirus Spirit Award. Baucum is a student in the Executive MBA program at MIT Sloan and a member of the Olympic Club and The Guardsmen of San Francisco. Three years after graduating, he became an Endowed Century Club member.





JUAN JURADO '06

Capt. Jurado is a doctoral student at the Air Force Institute of Technology. He received the National Air and Space Intelligence Center's Rookie of the Year award for developing a novel ballistic missile search algorithm. Jurado says the work ethic and attention to detail he learned at A&M have allowed him to succeed in other areas. Upon graduating from the USAF Test Pilot School, Jurado was honored with the Ray L. Jones Outstanding Engineering Graduate Award and was selected by his peers for both the Onizuka "Propwash" Award for his contributions to class spirit and morale and the Aaron C. George Award for warrior focus. Jurado is an active panelist for the Department of Defense Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation scholarship program, influencing promising youth in STEM fields of study. Jurado also volunteers as an academic instructor at two U.S. Air Force bases, educating engineers in various flight test topics. Jurado is a bronze-level member of the Century Club.

ANDREY POSTRIGAN '06

Now working as a materials manager at GE Oil and Gas, Postrigan has served as a Special Forces commander in the U.S. Army and was awarded three Bronze Star Medals. Postrigan is passionate about supporting veteran transition and, as a member of GE's recruiting committee, works with hiring managers to identify opportunities within the company for veterans. Outside of work and family, he spends his time committed to selfless service as a mentor for NextOp and also assists veterans seeking employment by helping them translate their military experience on a resume and understand how to apply their skill set in the business world. While at A&M, Postrigan was in multiple ROTC programs, including O.R. Simpson Corps Honor Society and Rudder's Rangers Company. Postrigan began his MBA program at Rice University in fall 2016 and is an eight-year member of The Association's Century Club.



JEFFREY JENSEN '10

Jensen is vice president of architecture at Arundo Analytics. While at Siemens, he was awarded employee of the year for ingenuity and innovation. Having studied abroad and grown passionate about exposing future generations to different cultures, Jensen also started a youth program within the company, encouraging students to expand their worldview and educating them about the benefits of learning a second language. Jensen volunteers his time empowering young leaders as an ambassador for One Young World and advises aspiring entrepreneurs in Houston. In the spirit of true entrepreneurship, and to offer encouragement for others seeking success, Jensen points out he learned the most through the failing of two other companies he originally tried to start. Jensen participated in LIFE, Student Engineers Council, and Traditions Council while on campus. Jensen is active with the Ironman Foundation, enjoys tailgating in Spence Park and is a diamond-level member of the Century Club.



ISRAEL ESCAMILLA '11

Escamilla is a senior manager at Procter & Gamble. He received his company's A.G. Lafley CEO Award and Emerging Leader Award, making him the first person to receive both in the same year. Escamilla leads the P&G recruiting team for engineering and sciences and brings on 20-30 Aggies every year for summer internships or full-time positions. During his time on campus, Escamilla was involved in Destino and the Department of Multicultural Services Hispanic Presidents' Council. Escamilla serves as chairman of the board for the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati, setting strategy for the region and providing vision for the organization's growth. Through volunteering as a mentor in the Achievers Program, Escamilla prepares students to pursue higher education, equips them with tools for success and gives them insight into the life of a professional. Additionally, Escamilla participates in various mission trips and service projects hosted by his church. Escamilla is a diamond-level Century Club member.

