

HOUSTONAGGIE

Houston's Aggieland Connection



The Houston A&M Club is the largest association of former students in the world. HAMC is run by volunteers and funded entirely by donations. Please ask your employer about matching your contributions to the Houston A&M Club.

Membership is FREE, but registration is required each year to ensure that our records remain current.

The HAMC is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization recognized under section 501(c)(3). Our Federal Tax ID# is 76-015741.

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Submissions are encouraged and should pertain to news/information relevant to Houston Aggies. Send to:

Houston Aggie, c/o deborah lawson '92

P.O. Box 940082, Houston, Texas 77094-7082

deborahlawson@aggienetwork.com.

Submissions may be edited for length, grammar, accuracy, or for any other reason. Articles may also appear on the HAMC's website. Please contact the editor for additional information, including deadlines.

Because the Houston Aggie Magazine is sent via bulk mail, it is not forwarded or returned. Please remember to update your address on the website: www.HoustonAgs. org.

Editor: deborah lawson '92



The editor apologizes for a blatant omission from the last issue of the Houston Aggie.

Thank You Ryan Swope and Travis Labhart

for being part of Recruiting Party 2015



The Power of the Aggie Ring



There's a special connection between Aggies. Wandering around an airport, shopping at the grocery store, or out with friends. In Houston you're always bound to come across the Aggie Ring. Once that connection is made, it may be

followed by a head nod or even a Howdy! It gains us entrance to a notso-secret club of camaraderie.

Non-Aggies can't help but shake their heads when two Aggies are together in conversation. We talk about "The Traditions," reference "Back in the Day," and inevitably talk about how the Aggies are going to perform "this Fall."

Just recently, I found that my ring opened the door to a new career opportunity. Stacked against several other applicants with similar experience, I was able to walk into my interview, shake my potential boss's hand, and glean the exact moment we saw each other's rings.

As I've spent the last few weeks diving into my new role, I'm often reminded of the quote attributed to General George S Patton, Jr.: "Give me an Army of West Point graduates and I'll win a battle...Give me a handful of Texas Aggies and I'll win a war." The Aggie Network recognizes hard work and determination from its former students, and I look forward to my first opportunity to pay it forward to another Aggie.

I challenge our Members to introduce themselves to one new Aggie this month. By doing so, you'll make a connection and maybe even a friend. You never know when a member of your network

could introduce you to new possibilities.

Gig 'em!
Julie Williams '04
2015 HAMC President





Send us your Good Bull photos and maybe you'll be featured in an upcoming issue of the Houston Aggie!



Kristina Hilton Powers '91, Jennifer Jones Osowski '92, Julie Humphries Lund '92

When a family friend took Jennifer Osowski '92 to her first Bonfire as a little girl, she knew she would eventually break her UH Cougar father's heart. When the time came, she only applied to one school, the one 70 miles down the road from her family home in The Woodlands.

Jennifer spent her first year behind the tall, skinny windows of the Commons, where she met her life-long best friend Julie (Humphries) Lund '92. They eventually moved off campus to a duplex on University, where she remembers calling 911 a lot when drivers tried to make it across University at an intersection without a light. But her favorite

memory is studying for Spanish class, where in true Aggie style, her study group did its best work at Dudley's Draw.

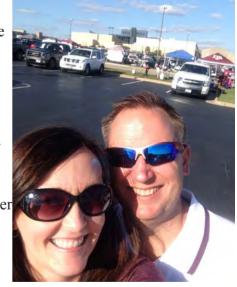
Jennifer didn't meet her husband in Aggieland, but rather at her learned the importance of higher education, getting School when it was still in The Woodlands. husband James, and two busy,

first job. He initially studied out of state, but quickly his Executive MBA in '05 from the Mays Business Jennifer is most thankful for the support of her adorable boys.

Jennifer originally joined the Whataburger family, in 2003, as a Field Marketing Coordinator. After a two year departure to work in Chicago, Jennifer rejoined the Whataburger family, in 2008, and is currently the Regional Marketing Manager for the greater Houston area, representing 125 restaurants...and counting. In addition to directing a team of three field marketers, Jennifer is responsible for initiating and maintaining large scale partnerships to ensure that the Whataburger brand stays top of mind with consumers.

In her tenured marketing career, Jennifer has had the privilege of working for many great brands including the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, Gibson Guitars, NRG Park, and Morton's The Steakhouse. Jennifer sits on the Board of the Greater Houston Restaurant Association serving as Treasurer. And Jennifer and Whataburger graciously sponsored the 2015 Reveille Golf Tournament.

"As a proud Aggie graduate, wearing orange every day is very difficult."





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John W. Steffes, CPA '87 jsteffes@bkd.com



Aggies Join Forces to Deliver Quality Legal Services

Bradley Rapp '88 followed his father, Jack '59, to Aggieland from his hometown, El Campo. In addition to being a CT, Brad served in a variety of student government positions, from President of Alpha Kappa Psi to speaking about A&M all across Texas for the A&M Student Speakers' Bureau. Brad graduated with a BBA in Accounting and a BS in Political Science. Most importantly, though, Brad met his wife Laura '88, who also hails from an Aggie family. After attending Hamline Law School in Minnesota and SMU Law School in Dallas, and graduating in 1993, Brad returned to El Campo to start his practice, moving to Houston in 1995.



Kenneth Krock '93 was born in Houston, grew up in Victoria, and chose A&M, not only because of its traditions, but also because many of his friends went there. Before graduating in 1993 with a BBA in Management, Ken founded, and was the first president of LEGALS (Legal Education Group for Aggie Law Students) – A&M's first moot court and

mock trial team. Ken then earned his JD, in 1996, from the UH Law Center.



These Aggies didn't meet, however, until one of Brad's clients needed an aggressive employment litigator to prosecute two former employees who had opened a competing business. "We were referred to Ken by a mutual acquaintance," explained Brad. The two worked together for a year before realizing that they had a lot in common. In addition to being Aggies, each shares a commitment to client service. "Brad's commitment to his clients is second to none," Ken notes. "I think it is one of the reasons his clients come back to him for legal services over and over."

In September 2010, Brad and Ken merged their law practices to form Rapp & Krock, PC, with eight attorneys representing and advising small and medium size closely-held businesses, as well as investors and entrepreneurs, in a wide variety of transactions and litigation, handling almost all of their legal needs.

Brad and Ken continue to support Texas A&M, including volunteering as judges for student competitions at the Mays Business School. In the fall, they can be found at Kyle Field with many of their friends tailgating at each Aggie football game.

Both are residents of Katy, involved in the local community and numerous charities. Brad has served as a Katy Youth Basketball Director, a wish coordinator for Make A Wish, a Boy Scout troop volunteer, and at Houston Christian High School, where both of his sons attend. Ken serves as a Katy Youth Football Director and on the Houston Bar Associations Special Olympics and Charity Golf committees, coaches his middle son's football and soccer teams, and is the President of the Texas Aggie Bar Association.

In February 2015, at 75, Gary Bateman '61 packed his Aggie flag and headed for his wife's homeland. "The Chinese people were so friendly [on the Great Wall of China]." When his wife translated that the flag was from Texas A&M, everyone smiled and many asked for their photo to be taken with Gary and this "strange flag."



Another Aggie on the **District Bench**

When Jonathan Ibarra '86 taught his little sister the Aggie War Hymn, little did he know that he'd one day inspire Debra to follow in his footsteps. Nor could he know that years later, Governor Greg Abbott would appointed Judge Debra Ibarra Mayfield '96 as judge of the 165th Judicial District Court in Harris County.

Since 2011, Judge Mayfield has served as judge of Harris County Civil Court at Law Number One and currently serves as Administrative Judge of the County Civil Courts. In 2013, Texas Executive Women

selected Judge Mayfield as a "Woman on the Move." She is also past president of the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston, received the 2014 "Public Service Award" from South Texas College of Law, and is on the board of the Institute of Hispanic Culture.

Advice to my little sister: Never think of your Fightin' Texas Aggie experience as a right that you



deserved, but as a blessing you were granted by our loving God.

Jonathan spent many game nights on Debra's couch. The couch was comfortable: the blanket, however was a torture

device...as if it had several cat o' nine tails woven in! For three years, every time Jonathan visited, Debra gave him the blanket with a huge smile – so happy he visited and she could put him up. Several months after graduating, Debra took a nap and used that blanket for the first time. "She wondered how I managed to sleep under it, and marveled that I never complained," remembers Jonathan. To this day, "we laugh at that memory more than I can describe!"

••••••



SAMMY WILLIAMS 6





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Bill Cox, '70 President Brad Cox, '97 General Mgr.

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Sam Williams is a Houston native, and known by his friends, family, and fellow Aggies as "Sammy." He received his bachelor's of science in industrial technology. He is one of five African American students to enroll full time

as freshmen in the Corps of Cadets back in the '60's. And he and his roommate were the first two African American students to walk on the Aggie football team.

While he is retired – technically – that hasn't stopped him from being deeply involved in the Aggie community. He has served on the Texas A&M Letterman's Assn Board, where he is a lifetime member, a Director of the HAMC, 2011 Chairman of the Houston Reveille Club, and a member of the 12th Man Foundation. And that list doesn't



stop there. In 2005, he and Mr. Freddie Wong developed the HAMC's Caring Aggie Mentoring Program, where he's still very active today.



Now as I've said, my dad doesn't really know the meaning of retirement. He hasn't really grasped that yet. But that's ok because I told him all of these activities will keep him sharp and prepare him for wearing his next hat, which will be grandpa, babysitter, and the man who will utterly spoil this future Aggie

Princess beyond belief - to the point where me and my husband will just be the people who just say "no" and feed her. So without further ado, I give you

... Sammy Williams.



Special thanks to Angela (Williams) Cataldo '01 for introducing her dad at this year's Houston Aggie Muster. The HAMC wishes you and your family good luck with your project!





A HUGE THANK YOU to all of our volunteers at Muster. We could not have pulled of such an amazing event without your help! Please join me in thanking:

Clay Bearden '07 Megan Bearden '07 Stephanie Gafford '12 Cameron Gafford '12 Leland Jackson '95 Betty Jassawalla '78 Cyrus Jassawalla '77 Cody Kirchner '90 Brent Lane '05 deborah lawson '92 Dana Randolph '91 Todd Randolph '93 Kevin Runge Pamala Saleme '91 Jim Thorpe '78 Robert Wallis '91 Rusty Williams '02 and

the voices of the former Century Singers, Singing Cadets, and Women's Chorus.

You all truly made this event possible and pulled off nothing short of a miracle! THANK YOU!!!

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our speaker, Sammy Williams '68. We could not have been more honored to have you as our speaker this year. Also, to Angela Williams '01 for recording the introduction for your father; he was truly shocked and surprised! And Freddie Wong '69...thanks for helping us keep the secret and being able to shock and surprise Sammy.

Amy Blaase '03, 2015 Muster Chair

To View and Order Muster Photographs, please visit:

http://kevinrphoto.smugmug.com/AM-Muster-2015.









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Our Texas A&M Roster:

Reagan Swinbank '03

Will Swinbank '02

Joe Swinbank '74

Kyle Cain '90

Brant VanHouten '02

Rex Walker '84

Josh Noworatzky '07

Clayton Smith '07

Travis Ponder '11

Matt Strickland '02

Dustin Brokmeyer '12















CONGRATULATIONS ON TOOL ON TOO

jessica (williams) '08 and anthony '08 stenklyft mandy (morgan) '08 and joshua mccamy elizabeth (knoll) '07 and brandon hamburg



LEAVE A LEBACY ON THE LINKS

Make history by naming the Aggie golf course, or perhaps just a hole. The on-campus course just underwent a multi-million dollar renovation, but its name remains The Campus Course. For more information, contact Scott Atkinson '92, PGA, at scott@tamucampuscourse.com or 281-723-5155.



"Someone was pretty smart, about 60 years ago, when they decided to put a golf course at the front door of this university. Now we have an opportunity to upgrade that course and really make the front door of this great Tier 1 university look as beautiful as it should."

~Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Weber

The Reveille Club thanks all of the Aggies who made

this tournament possible! Whoop!

Clubhouse Flamingle:

Melton & Melton Certified Public Accountants Jennifer Clark '94 Julie Gray '98

Special Guests:

Pete Stanley '46

Ryan Swope '13

MSC Student Programs Office Volunteers: Ellen Hagen, MSC Hospitality Nicholas Albert, MSC Hospitality Ryan Hill, MSC LEAD Amy Brooke, FLC/Bethancourt Sabrina Garza, MSC Hospitality

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Rapp & Krock Kenneth Krock '93

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for more info, email: Dana Randolph '91 Todd Randolph'93

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25th Annual Pete Stanley Classic

Golf Tournament
April 27, 2015

























1ST PLACE



2ND PLACE







3RD PLACE











DEAD ASS LAST



LOST SOMEWHERE ON THE GREENS



The Caring Aggies Mentoring Program needs new volunteers for the 2015/2016 school year. To learn more about this amazing mentoring program, please plan to attend one of the orientation sessions. CA. M.P.

Monday, June 15th

Tuesday, June 16th 6:30 p.m. - 8:30p.m. Wednesday, July 8th Cabinets and Designs

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CALENDAR

JULY

Wednesday 7/1
NO Downtown Lunch

Thursday 7/2
Reveille Breakfast

Monday 7/6
HAMC Leadership Meeting

Tuesday 7/7
Volunteers at the Food Bank

Wednesday 7/8 Wh30p! Houston

CAMP Orientation

Thursday 7/9
Reveille Breakfast
The Woodlands Happy Hour

Saturday 7/11
Backyard Breakfast Club
Volunteers at the Food Bank

Monday 7/13
Traditions Lunch

Tuesday 7/14 Houston Aggie Women

Wednesday 7/15
The Woodlands Meet & Greet Lunch
Cypress Happy Hour

Thursday 7/16 Reveille Breakfast

Sunday 7/19

Coach's Night

Thursday 7/23
Reveille Breakfast

Thursday 7/30 Reveille Breakfast Howdy Happy Hour

AUGUST

Saturday 8/1 Backyard Breakfast Club

Monday 8/3 HAMC Leadership Meeting

Tuesday 8/4 Volunteers at the Food Bank

Wednesday 8/5
Downtown Lunch

Thursday 8/6
Reveille Breakfast

Monday 8/10
Traditions Lunch
HAMC Board Meeting

Tuesday 8/11 Houston Aggie Women

Thursday 8/13
Reveille Breakfast
The Woodlands Happy Hour

Saturday 8/15 Volunteers at the Food Bank

Wednesday 8/19
The Woodlands Meet & Greet
Lunch
Cypress Happy Hour

Thursday 8/20 Reveille Breakfast

Thursday 8/27 Reveille Breakfast Howdy Happy Hour

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 9/1 Volunteers at the Food Bank

Wednesday 9/2 Downtown Lunch

Thursday 9/3
Reveille Breakfast

Saturday 9/5
Backyard Breakfast Club

Monday 9/7
HAMC Leadership Meeting

Tuesday 9/8 Houston Aggie Women

Thursday 9/10 Reveille Breakfast The Woodlands Happy Hour

Monday 9/14
Traditions Lunch

Wednesday 9/16
The Woodlands Meet & Greet
Lunch
Cypress Happy Hour

Thursday 9/17
Reveille Breakfast

Thursday 9/24 Reveille Breakfast Howdy Happy Hour

OCTOBER

Thursday 10/1
Reveille Breakfast

Sporting Clays Tournament

Saturday 10/3 Backyard Breakfast Club

Monday 10/5 HAMC Leadership Meeting

Tuesday 10/6
Volunteers at the Food Bank

Wednesday 10/7
Downtown Lunch

Thursday 10/8 Reveille Breakfast The Woodlands Happy Hour

Monday 10/12 Traditions Lunch HAMC Board Meeting

Tuesday 10/13 Houston Aggie Women

Thursday 10/15 Reveille Breakfast

Wednesday 10/21
The Woodlands Meet & Greet
Lunch
Cypress Happy Hour

Thursday 10/22 Reveille Breakfast

Thursday 10/29 Reveille Breakfast Howdy Happy Hour

New Traditions Lunch Schedule 2nd Mondays Only

Special July Downtown Lunch at Just Falafel

More info: www.HoustonAgs.org

HOUSTON AGGIE

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