

AgriLeader



Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Volume 11, Issue 3

Genomic Discoveries: Analyzing the building blocks of humanity, one DNA strand at a time

Four years out of school,
I still love working here.
I'm excited about the opportunities
for my projects, and it's fun.

- Gretchen, Vegetable Stewardship Lead



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NABC 25

North American Agricultural
Biotechnology Council



Biotechnology and North American Specialty Crops: Linking Research, Regulation, and Stakeholders



Poster Contest \$5,000 in Cash Awards

Undergraduate and graduate students can now register for the NABC 25 Poster Contest. This year's national annual conference will be held at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center on June 4-6, 2013. The areas of emphasis at the conference are as follows: specialty crops, biotechnology, genetically modified crops, regulatory process, and public relations.

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Letter *from the editor*

As I sit in my classes with three weeks left of college, I feel completely indifferent. The thought of being graduated and gone is just that – a thought. No more a reality than the million and one mindless things that breeze through your mind each day. But it's a reality that I – just like all of you - must face. So as I sit here in my final days, I've tried to reflect on the moments I've had, the memories I've made and everything in between. I've asked myself over and over, what would I have done differently if I could do it all again, knowing what I know now? What advice could I have used back then to help make one helluva college experience even better? I came up with this:

The Rule of Three Ms: Moments, Moderation, Missed Opportunities

It may not make total sense, but looking back on it, I feel like these three words can be used to sum up the whole college experience. You see, no matter what stage of college you are in, chances are, you will rarely remember a moment from any said day. Yeah, you may have a big math test coming up, or a quiz you just bombed, but how does that relate to the grand scheme of things, of your life? Do you think you will remember how bad one test grade was? If you do, let me ask you this, do you remember that one bad test grade from your sophomore year of high school? No? Exactly. The moments you remember are the late night outings with your friends and that great time you had when Johnny Football and the Aggies BTHO ALABAMA, WHOOP!

DJ Burrus - Editor

The point is college, just like life, is about the moments. The moments that you remember forever, and that you will always recall and reflect on when you think about the great time you spent here. Live for these moments.

However, let us not get too far ahead of ourselves. Just because we remember the moments, does not mean all moments are good ones. There is a lot of trouble to get in to in college. I understand the feeling of being free, and the sense of undefeatableness (is that even a word?) that comes with being fresh out of your parents basement, but trust me, for you to continue to create the moments, you have to MAKE IT THROUGH THE MOMENTS. So, I say, live for the moments, but in moderation. Sometimes it feels great to go all out, live like it's your last day. You know, (I can't believe I'm saying this) YOLO? The answer is NO! No YOLO! The actual term is you only die once, or YODO, but by choosing not to die, you get to live every day. Live in moderation.

But, please don't let me scare you. Take advantage of any opportunities that come your way, because you'll only be left with a "what if?" if you don't. But always remember to stay conscience of the right decisions and what the consequence is if you don't make it. Moderation doesn't mean be a hermit, or be afraid of the world, just be aware. Enjoy all you're opportunities because the only regretful ones are the missed ones. Why you say? Because every opportunity that you take becomes an experience, and experiences, both good and bad, are what shape your life and define your character. Missed opportunities are missed experiences to grow.

I know what I'm asking is a tall order – a tightrope of sorts that requires you to take on the moments, while staying within moderation, to avoid missed opportunities to grow. It may seem impossible and it may seem bizarre, and I fully give everyone the right to waive off any and all of what I'm saying. But, I promise, if you do your best to live by these three rules, they will lead you down a happy path in both college and the rest of your life.

While thinking about that, please enjoy this issue. The following pages are filled with stories about moments and memories told through the words and layouts of your fellow students. Many students put many hours of hard work into making this magazine, and this issue would not have been possible without them.

Good luck my fellow Aggies, in college and your futures. GIG EM!

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Left to Right: Helen Mills, Angela Lin, Caitlin Staib and Paige Burks
-Editors Staff

DJ Burrus '12



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Stepping Out of your Boots

By: Caitlin Staib '12

EMORY BANKS

Major: Food Science and Technology

Graduation date: December 2012

Internship: Prosser, WA May 2010-Aug 2010 and Aug 2011-Nov 2011 at The Hogue Cellars

Location: Newberg, OR Aug 2012-Nov 2012 at Adelsheim Vineyards

Length of Internship: 2.5-3 months each

How I got the internship: I searched online (<http://www.winebusiness.com>). I interviewed and was at first declined, so I kept calling until they hired me. The rest were based on good references.

What this internship taught me: The most important things you learn from an internship are that you have to learn how to network and work your butt off to succeed.

The most challenging aspect of my internship: It takes severe mental fortitude to really be able to throw everything you have into something you love when you might have to work a straight month of fourteen-hour shifts before you can take any time off. Although it can be taxing, there is nothing more rewarding than realizing that you truly believe in what you are crafting. This is truly the hardest work I have ever done, but it is worth every drop of sweat.

My favorite part of the internship: Working harvests provides an opportunity to travel the world while pursuing a career you are truly passionate about.

How this internship affected my plans after college: I was infected with the traveling bug.

Where I see myself in the future: After traveling for a couple years working harvests around the world I will settle down in a cellar and start a long term career in a more stationary position.

There are many students at Texas A&M University that do not realize being an agriculture student does not limit you to the typical agriculture career field.

Getting opportunities in different career areas and places is important to gain direction and experience in career goals.

It is beneficial for students to step out of their comfort zone in order to learn and discover what the world has to offer. Many students may be surprised how much their major helps them during their internship.

There are many agriculture students who have successfully ventured outside of their major through internships, with helpful insight to others who wish to do the same.

Emory Banks, Crystal Turnbull and Dani Lichota are three of the students who have done just this with helpful insight on their experience and how other students can do the same.



DANI LICHOTA

Major: Agricultural Communications and Journalism

Graduation date: Summer 2013

Internship: LiNK (Liberty in North Korea): a non-profit organization that advocates human rights.

Location: Taurence, California

Length of Internship: Three months

How I got this internship: I started getting involved with LiNK when they came to campus, then applied for the internship online.

What this internship taught me: It taught me a lot about internal operations in an office, recruiting, interviewing and building my communication skills. I think I grew out of my comfort zone, and that I'm more versatile because of it.

The most challenging aspect of my internship: The work environment wasn't something I was used to. I lived with all interns, and had to learn to balance professionalism and enjoying the experience.

My favorite part of the internship: California was amazing, and I met some of my best friends there. I got so much out of all of it it's hard to pick just one thing.

How this internship affected my plans after college: I plan to continue working with non-profits. I realized that I want to chase after something I'm passionate about, instead of something that just looks good.

Where I see myself in the future: I plan on doing another internship with LiNK in the fall.



CRYSTAL TURNBULL

Major: University Studies Business with minors in Agricultural Communications and Journalism and Communication

Graduation date: December 2012

Internship: I interned with Southwestern Co. for the past three summers. I sold books door-to-door.

Location: Last summer it was in Belmont County, Ohio

Length of Internship: All summer long

How I got this internship: I was recruited on campus and interviewed 3 times.

What this internship taught me: It taught me how to sell myself, network, and problem solve.

The most challenging aspect of my internship: Every summer is a different challenge. It can be difficult to stay motivated because working 80 hours a week for 13 weeks can be very exhausting.

My favorite part of the internship: I love the people that I meet. They are a different breed of hard-working, no-whining, strong and fun people.

How this internship affected my plans after college: It definitely gave me more direction on how to get where I want to be after college.

Where I see myself in the future: Right now, I want to be in house advertising manager for a corporate company then eventually open up my own ad firm.



Solving Challenges Abroad: Texas A&M Leads the Way

By Nicole Heath '13



Increasing agricultural production is a priority for the South Sudan Armed Forces as it will contribute to food security, lead to costs savings through import substitution, and provide training in transferable technical skills for current soldiers and their families.

Texas A&M University was recently named as one of seven universities worldwide by the U.S. Agency for International Development and will partner with the agency's new Higher Education Solutions Network, HESN, to develop innovative solutions for global development challenges.

More than 500 institutions responded to USAID's request for a HESN partnership. In addition to Texas A&M, the other six institutions selected were Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California at Berkley, Michigan State University, the College of William & Mary, Duke University, and Makerere University located in Uganda.

"This national award is a tremendous recognition of our unique talents and ability to collaborate toward meaningful solutions to today's challenges," said Texas A&M System chancellor John Sharp.

Over the five-year program, each university will receive a grant of up to \$25 million to establish a "development lab" that will collaborate with USAID's field mission experts and Washington staff to utilize research and technology to generate key solutions in areas such as global health, food security and

chronic conflict, said USAID officials. The purpose of the HESN labs is to initiate a global network of academics, students and the broader community around the world.

Under the umbrella of USAID, the HESN program aims to engage students and faculty to boost the enthusiasm for international development, making it easier to turn advocacy and ideas on campus into action and results in the field, according to the USAID website.

Texas A&M's development lab, the Center on Conflict and Development (C&D Center), will be tasked with evaluating agricultural performance,

"It's a significant honor to be among the select few universities invited to participate..." - Loftin

particularly in conflict zones such as Afghanistan. The C&D Center will be created and led by Edwin Price, Ph. D., the Howard G. Buffett Foundation Chair on Conflict and Development in the Department of Agricultural Economics, the Bush School of Government and Public Service, and

the School of Rural Public Health in the Texas A&M Health Science Center.

Specifically, the C&D Center will evaluate and study the relationship between poverty, conflict and food insecurity to build upon currently successful knowledge, while aiming to enhance volatile conditions and conflict-affected countries.

C&D Center director Edwin Price said, "The C&D Center will catalyze development results for these communities by providing new data, expertise, and policy advice derived from the interrelationships of conflict, poverty, governance, and development assistance, ultimately leading to a

reduction in and prevention of conflict," according to center documentation.

"Colleagues and I from the Bush School, School of Rural Public Health, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are extremely pleased with this opportunity to build on the idea we began discussing five years ago," said C&D Center director Edwin Price. "It is a perfect expression of what we can do working across disciplines to address the problems of poverty, development, and conflict in service to our nation and partners around the world."

All photos courtesy of the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture



The Borlaug Institute, is implementing a USAID cooperative agreement in Jonglei state, South Sudan: Dr. John Garang Memorial University of Science and Technology : A Consortium for Development. The goal of this two and a half year program, which began in November 2011, is to transform education and extension in the Jonglei province to meet the needs of individuals and communities leading to economic opportunity and reduced internal conflict.

Texas A&M was selected because it has historically been a leader in accelerating global advances in agriculture. During the November 8 announcement revealing the HESN partners, USAID administrator Rajiv Shah touched on the unique role Texas A&M has played in these advances.

“In addition to hosting the

Borlaug fellowship programs that train agricultural scientists around the world, Texas A&M has researchers traveling abroad pursuing joint projects to do everything from reducing the toxin levels that can accumulate in rice and corn in Africa and improving wheat yields and agricultural performance in Afghanistan,” said Shah.

Texas A&M President R. Bowen Loftin said, “It’s a significant honor to be among the select few universities invited to participate in this far-reaching USAID program that stands to help the United States provide assistance to millions of needy people around the world. We are proud of our decades-long record of working with USAID and look forward to continuing, and expanding, such service — building on the legacy of Norman Borlaug, with whom we had such a rewarding relationship through his service on our faculty.”

The seven universities are part of a network that consists of 22 additional funded and 76 non-funded partners within the U.S. and globally. For every \$10 USAID put toward the network, the universities and their partners contributed an

additional \$6.60.

This is part of the USAID’s effort to renew its dedication for using the scientific and technological approach of addressing global development challenges, and these partnerships will leverage the intellectual power and passion of academic leaders, faculty and students, said USAID officials.

“By collaborating with top universities around the world, we hope to tap today’s brightest minds and focus ingenuity on global development challenges,” said Shah. “With the right ideas, we can reduce extreme poverty by more than 60 percent – lifting more than 700 million people back from the abyss of hunger and malnutrition – in just one generation.”

“The HESN is the latest step in USAID’s efforts to harness the best ideas from the academic and scientific community and young people worldwide to foster transformational progress in development,” said Shah. “Through this network of development labs, we will recapture the legacy of science, technology, and innovation as core drivers of development – as well as inspire and support the next generation of development leaders.”



A consortium of land-grant universities, led by Texas A&M University in cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and agricultural colleges, is implementing a program to provide extension training and support, expand university capacity development, and build stakeholder cooperation in Iraq.

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WHAT the FINANCING?

By Stephanie Spring '07

I'll bet you didn't realize that you could check out your textbooks or the hottest new release movies from the library.

Texas A&M University offers various services to its students and most of them are paid for with your student fees.

The University Advancement fee that is billed to your student account every semester covers costs for services such as advising, the Career Center, Writing Center, technology and libraries as well as administrative services such as ID services, the campus bus system, billing and refunds, access for students to discounted software and many of the services provided through the Division of Student Affairs.

There are textbooks on reserve, readily available for students to check out from the libraries, and the fourth floor of the Annex library even offers newly-released movies and CDs, as well as video and digital cameras, voice recorders, projectors, and even media players like iPods and the Kindle Fire. Also available through the library are laptops and netbooks for students to check out for up to four hours at a time.

Transportation Services offers on and off-campus shuttle services to students, faculty and staff, which are also paid for through the University Advancement fee. On Route 27, catch a ride to Post Oak Mall for a shopping trip. During football season avoid parking costs by leaving your car at the mall and using the gameday express shuttle to get to the game.

Transportation Services is now offering the "Borrow a Bike" program to students, faculty



Photos: Texas A&M Campus Photo Registry

Account Activity

View transactions by term:

CS Campus Fall 2012 0.00

Go

CS Campus Fall 2012 Account Activity

To sort, click on the desired column header.

Description	Code	Date	Amount(\$)
Student Account Auto Refund	CRS3	05-OCT-2012	187.69
Student Account Auto Refund	CRS3	04-OCT-2012	302.69
University Advancement Fee	CA29	08-AUG-2012	885.30
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	CSFR	03-OCT-2012	-2,042.00
WuPay - ACH	CPW0	19-SEP-2012	-302.69
Diploma Fee	COR0	14-SEP-2012	47.50
Installation Print Service Charge	COT4	27-AUG-2012	15.00
WuPay - ACH	CPW0	27-AUG-2012	-302.69
Loan-Paid Due 8/23/12	COT0	24-AUG-2012	100.00
Federal Pell Grant	COF2	18-AUG-2012	-2,082.00
Designated Tuition US RS 99- FY10	CTB1	08-AUG-2012	724.95
Designated Tuition US RS 98- FY10	CTB0	08-AUG-2012	414.00
State Min Tuition US RS (F)	CT00	08-AUG-2012	450.00
CLAG Inst/Equip Enhancement	GAE2	08-AUG-2012	45.00
CLAG Inst/Equip Enhancement	GAE2	08-AUG-2012	45.00
CLAG Inst/Equip Enhancement	GAE2	08-AUG-2012	60.00
Health Center Fee	CA43	08-AUG-2012	72.50
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Term Balance:

0.00



and staff; stop by 108 Koldus to borrow a maroon bike for the day.

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Get help polishing up your résumé and practice your interviewing skills at the Career Center. Connect with prospective employers through HireAggies.com. The Career Center also works closely with the Association of Former Students to help you develop a network with former Aggies and aid in your career search. Career fairs offered throughout the semester by the Career Center are also provided by funds from the University Advancement fee.

Visit any campus library to search for your textbooks or visit them online at library.tamu.edu and search for them using the LibCat tab under

Library Catalogs.

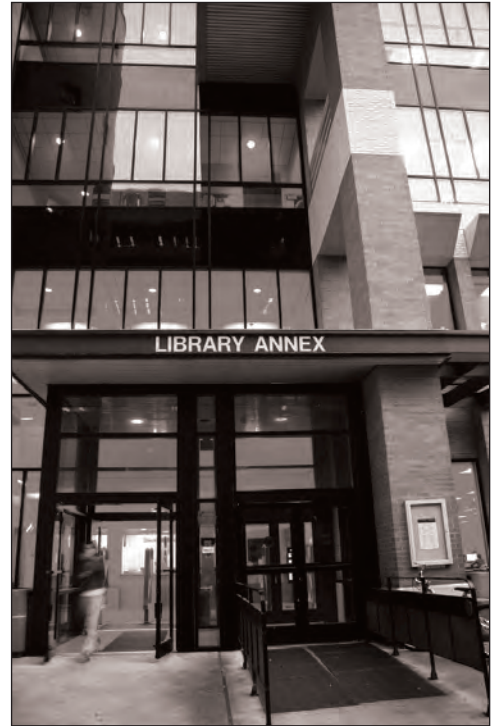
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The Koldus building houses the Borrow a Bike Program



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Did You Know...?

Nicole Heath '13

Texas A&M University has a fully functioning Student Government Association that consists of all three governmental branches. The students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences elect five Student Senate representatives every spring to be their official voice on pressing matters, and they want you to know where they stand.

How do you best represent students, & what is currently the most important issue?



Rachel Smith '14
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences

The best representation is through involvement. My internship with my department improved my understanding of issues within the college. With continuing funding cuts, it is important we maintain great faculty. Once called the "Agricultural and Mechanical College," promoting this college stays true to the roots of this great university.



Dillon Garr '14
Ag Economics/Animal Science

The best way to represent is to know the issues facing the college and act rationally and deliberately to resolve them. The most important issue we're facing is potential budget cuts from the state legislature. As research funding is cut, more and more grants have to be sought, which drains time and resources from our researching professors.



Kirby Slusser '15
Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences

I best represent students in the College of Ag by keeping an "open door" policy and continually discussing issues with classmates in order to accurately represent what the students want. Being a first term senator, I feel like the most important issue right now is making sure that our college has a prominent role on campus.



Caleb Roddy '14
Animal Science

Representing is best achieved through outreach in order to heed concerns. The college's current strategic plan outlines goals to elevate faculty, enhance students' experiences, diversify and globalize, and build engaging connections. However, strict budget cuts, the main concern, could make accomplishing these priorities difficult.



Tyler Tatsch '13
Biochemistry

The best way I represent my constituents is to stay connected with COALS council and talk to students individually. COALS council is a great way to stay informed on issues directly facing the college. The most important issue for students right now is maintaining and improving student services with the recent outsourcing and introduction of the University Advancement Fee.

**RUN FOR
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elections.tamu.edu

The spring semester is upon us! That's right. The banner holding, the t-shirt frenzy and the Facebook posting will all resume in full force come mid-February. If you are interested in running for any elected student position visit the SGA election website for rules and regulations, procedures and dates to file for candidacy, mandatory meeting times and more.

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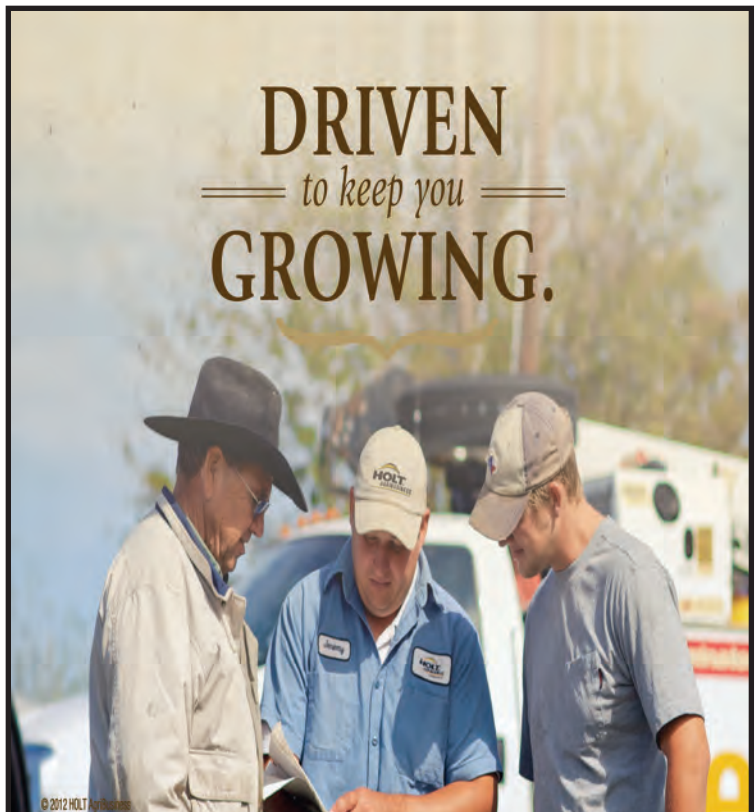
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Photograph courtesy of Amy Wells



The Morrill Act

By: Jennifer Schulien '12

**"The land-grant university system is being built on behalf of the people, who have invested in these public universities their hopes, their support, and their confidence."
-Abraham Lincoln**

Before the passage of the Morrill Act, higher education was only accessible to children of the elite. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Morrill Act, which made higher education possible for everyone and paved the way to create Texas A&M University.

The Morrill Act of 1862, also known as the Land-Grant College Act, was signed by Abraham Lincoln, enabling each eligible state to receive 30,000 acres of federal land for each member of Congress the state had as of the census of 1860.

During the time of the signing, Texas had seceded from the Union and entered a period of reconstruction following the Civil War. It was not until 1866 that Texas accepted the terms of the federal government's Morrill Land-Grant College Act and then readmitted into the northern states in 1870. Texas received 180,000 acres of land in 1871 and used 2,416 acres to build Texas A&M University.

Today, the land-grant system provides millions of people across the United States with higher education, discovery, research and opportunities.

"If I were to take Justin [Morrill] and walk him around the university campus right now, he'd be amazed," says Bill Morrill, Class of '72 and

great-great-grand-nephew of Justin Smith Morrill.

"He couldn't have envisioned what he created: a diverse student population of almost 50,000, an international impact, experiment and extension services, contributions to the military and to all walks of life, and incredible technical advancements. He'd be amazed, humbled and satisfied. It's an outstanding example of a land-grant university."

But why does the Morrill Act still matter to us today? With more than 4.6 million students enrolled in institutions supported by the Morrill Act, an overwhelming percentage of those students depend on federal aid.

Federal funding when the Morrill Act was created was set to be the income from public lands made available to each state. The state was also expected to provide money for the maintenance of the institutions as well as the development of its buildings. Now, the federal government has greatly expanded its contributions. In 1887, Congress passed the Hatch Act which authorized federal funding for agricultural experiments in each institution. The Smith-Lever Act was created in 1914 in order to establish the system of cooperative extension services including development in the

field of agriculture, home economics and related subjects.

In addition to the profits from the original land grants, federal funds aid the states in the maintenance of land-grant institutions amounting to more than \$550 million annually. States can divide the funds into different areas: funds go to the state on the basis of their farm population or by the total population of the state in comparison to the total population of the United States.

The colleges receive two-thirds of all federal research dollars adding up to about \$34 billion annually, making it one of the most profitable entities of the state or region. Despite some people thinking that higher education is a private enterprise, it is strongly supported and trusted by the public. For 150 years public trust has been the foundation to our country's entire educational system and will continue to prosper for another 150 years.

"The Morrill Act is an important part of our history that paved the way for all people to gain access to higher education," said Mark Hussey, Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences. "It's a piece of our story that should not be forgotten."

Genomic Discoveries

By Victor C. Jimenez '12

Background: DNA double helix rendering

What are humans made of?

In school we learn that humans inherit traits from ancestors and that those traits could be studied by looking at deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA. DNA is composed of genes that work together to create living organisms. When all of these genes are placed together they are known as a genome.

The Human Genome Project started in 1989 after a law was passed by President George H. W. Bush to map the human genome. The project was completed in April 2003 after scientists worldwide examined the 3 billion chemical base pairs that compose human DNA.

Within each chemical base pair there is information that we have inherited from our ancestors. This includes everything from our eye and hair colors to diseases. It was determined that humans have about 20,500 genes in their DNA. On the National Human Genome Research Institute website it states this information could be used as a blueprint for the development and function of a human being.

The U.S. Department of Energy Genome Programs website states that this knowledge can be used to solve challenges in agriculture to create disease, insect and drought-resistant crops, in energy production to create new energy sources and to develop environmental monitoring techniques to detect pollutants, and in health care to improve diagnosis of disease.

Knowing how many genes are in the human body will help diagnose, and someday cure or even prevent, thousands of diseases that affect humans, such as leukemia, lymphoma and Alzheimer's disease.

"Knowing about genomes will help us discover why there is variability in humans and to see if it will help fight genetic diseases based



Dr. Tae Young and Dr. Mark Westhusin hold "Cc", the first cloned cat.

Photograph courtesy of Texas A&M University

Photograph courtesy of George Bush Presidential Library and Museum



AgriLife research display.



Light-up double helix display.

on sequences," said Daniel Torres, senior psychology major at Texas A&M University.

At Texas A&M University there is an exhibit on the discoveries made in the field of genomics. "Genome: The Secret of How Life Works," is a traveling exhibit showcasing the advancements in the Human Genome Project that opened at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in August, 2012.

The exhibit contains information on all of the advancements made through the Human Genome Project. This includes information on projects organized at Texas A&M University, such as the Copy Cat cloning project and the Bovine Genome Initiative.

The Copy Cat cloning project was accomplished at the Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medical and Biomedical Sciences when "Cc," short for Carbon Copy, was born on Dec. 22, 2001, becoming the first cat to be successfully cloned. In 2006, she became the first cloned cat in Texas to successfully give birth to three kittens.

Scientists in the College of Veterinary Medical and Biomedical Sciences were involved in finding the sequence of the cattle genome for the Bovine Genome Initiative. They looked for changes in single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) markers to help find favorable traits, which help in cattle health and meat production.

The exhibit is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Research, in cooperation with the Texas A&M University Whole Systems Genomics Initiative, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Department of Animal Science.

The exhibit is open in College Station until July 5, 2013.



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AGGIE SPOTLIGHT



Christen Wilson

A girl from Houston, Christen Wilson didn't know exactly what she wanted to do when she came to Texas A&M. She knew she wanted to get into journalism, but the avenue that she wanted to pursue was in the form of having a journalism minor. She found out about the agricultural communications and journalism major when she came across their booth at an event.

"It hooked me," she said. The people running the booth showed her *AgriLeader* and other things, which she instantly fell in love with.

"I've always been a huge project, hands-on person," said Wilson.

Now, while she prepares to graduate in the spring, Wilson has taken every opportunity to explore all of the things this major has to offer. A former assistant editor for the *AgriLeader* in the Spring of 2012, she has also taken the radio class and wants to take TV and film design classes.

"You get to explore every avenue before you graduate," she said.

When not at school, Wilson is a copy editor for *The Eagle* newspaper in Bryan, Texas. When she first applied for the job, she was unsure about what she was getting herself into.

"I thought I was applying for a different job," she joked.

Wilson loves her job, which offers her something new every day, whether it be in the form of new things to read, or simply making new changes to old features of the newspaper. She is able to apply all of the knowledge she has learned through her classes to succeed at her job. After graduation, Wilson hopes to find a job in the magazine industry.

"I've always been more of a feature-y person," she said. She loves to write feature stories and she loves to use InDesign to make new layouts.

"Plus," she adds, "the deadlines are less severe."



Graham Blagg

The North American International Livestock Exposition senior college livestock exposition is the national championship for judging. Competitors have spent the past four years of their judging careers working towards the goal of winning the contest. Each year the competitor that walks away as the individual champion joins a very exclusive club.

This year, a member of the Texas A&M University livestock judging team joined the club. Graham Blagg, with a score of 966 he took the title by five points over Oklahoma State University judger Jamie Bloomberg and by seven over Texas A&M judger Conner Newsom, who finished third. Blagg said this was the best day he had ever had and it was a great way to end.

"This is the most memorable experience I have had as individual in judging," Blagg said.

Blagg hails from Grass Valley, Calif., where his family raises purebred Hereford bulls and heifers. The summer before his senior year in high school he came to Texas A&M for the livestock judging camp. Blagg says he immediately was impressed with the program and tradition of the Texas A&M judging and animal science program, and after a second visit was confident Texas A&M was the school for him.

He came to Texas A&M in August 2011 and was a member of the 2012 livestock judging team.

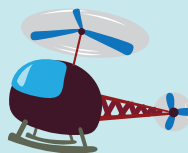
"Being at Texas A&M I have had the opportunity to meet people who are great connections for my future," Blagg said. "I have learned a lot about what to do with my future and gained great exposure to the purebred cattle industry."

Blagg would like to work in the purebred cattle industry in sales or as a manager on a purebred cattle ranch.

Blagg finds it a great honor to win this title representing Texas A&M. "It is something I will never forget for the rest of my life," Blagg said. "I will be able to tell my kids I won that heralded title for a prestigious school."

Congratulations to Johnny “Football” Manziel!

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How-to: create an apartment garden

Photo and Story by Stephanie Spring '07

If you're a college student living in an apartment, you may think that growing your own garden is beyond reach, but in reality plants can really spruce up your place.

Using containers to grow your plants allows you the versatility to grow plants on your patio or balcony, the mobility to rotate your plants if they are getting too much or not enough sun and the ability to bring them inside if the climate becomes intolerable for them.

Hanging baskets are a great option for adding dimension to your patio. Remember to check with your building manager first before installing any hooks to hang them. Hanging baskets can get heavy with plants and wet soil, so you need to be sure that the structure can hold the weight. Line your hanging basket with sphagnum moss or polythene to hold the soil in and reduce the need for watering.

Go green by using an old pallet to create your own vertical garden. Pallet gardening is a new trend that works well in small spaces. By standing it on one end and making a few small modifications you can turn an old, beat up wooden pallet into a beautiful, cascading garden that takes up very little space. One suggestion for modifying your pallet is to staple landscape fabric around the back and sides of the pallet, leaving only the face and top of the pallet exposed. This type of container will

create a display of plants pouring out of the pallet.

If you are unable to install hanging baskets or don't have enough space for a pallet, container gardening is still an option. Traditional potted plants can add character to your entryway and window boxes can add flair that makes your apartment look unique.

Brandon Cook, who was head of the gardening department at the Lowe's in Bryan before being promoted to the store's assistant manager, offers a few suggestions to first time gardeners. "Know your space," he says. "The most common problem we see is customers trying to completely fill their garden with plants without realizing that when their plants grow, their garden will become overgrown." Spacing is important, follow the suggestions on the care tag for each plant.

Whichever type of container you decide to use, make sure to choose a potting soil that is porous enough to allow air and water to reach the roots; it should drain fairly quickly but hold in enough moisture to keep the roots evenly moist. Most of the potting soil mixes available are very suitable for container gardening.

"Use rocks or pieces of a broken pot at the bottom of your container and choose a pot that has holes in the bottom," says



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Cook. "This will help the water to drain properly."

Make sure to moisten the soil, if it isn't already, before putting it into the container. When transferring a plant to a new container, mix in a slow release fertilizer with the top soil, this will help the plant to establish its roots in the new container.

Consider where you plan on putting your plants. Will they be getting lots of direct sunlight, or will they be sheltered by the shade? Will you be able to water them every day, or would you prefer something with less maintenance? Before buying any plants, check the care tag to see how much light and water they require; you may not want to take on a finicky plant if it is your first time gardening.

There are many plants that work well in containers. "A lot of the plants in our greenhouse work well in patio areas," says Cook. "Ferns work especially well."

Do your research before shopping and don't be afraid to ask questions from the nursery specialists, that's what they're there for.





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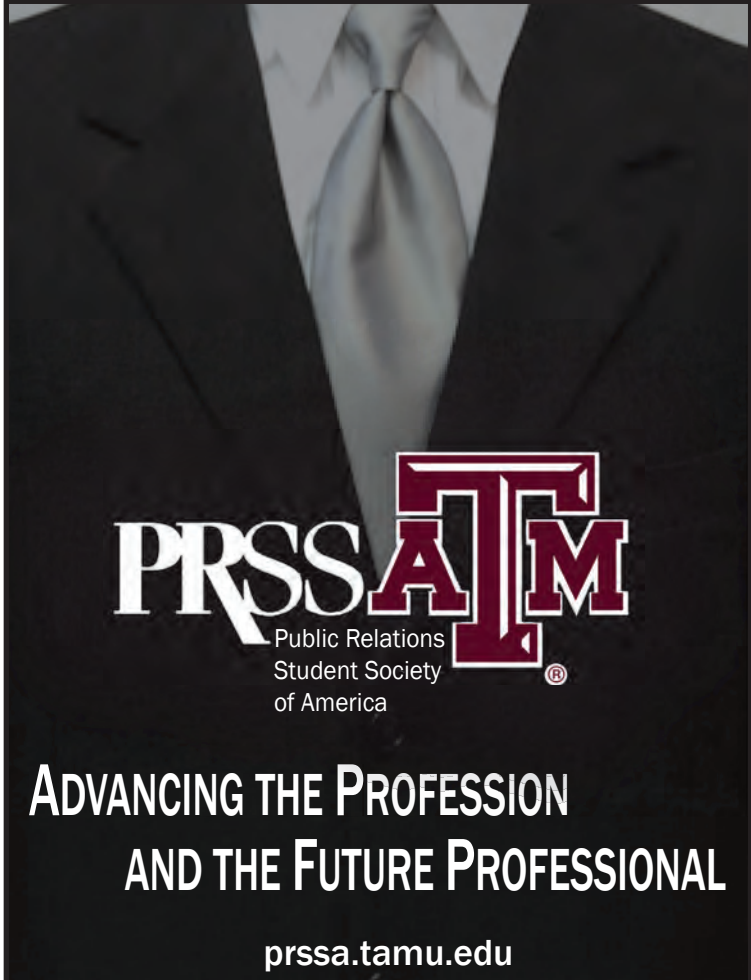
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Land Grant schools in the



By JR Hill '12

How does Texas A&M stack up?

Texas A&M University Est. 1876
College Station, Texas
Student Population: 50,054
College of Ag. Depts: 14
Cost of Attendance: \$4,252
Famous Alumni: Gov. Rick Perry



University of Arkansas Est. 1871
Fayetteville, Ark.
Student Population: 23,199
College of Ag. Depts: 9
Cost of Attendance: \$8,112
Famous Alumni: Jerry Jones
-Owner of The Dallas Cowboys



Auburn University Est. 1856
Auburn, Ala.
Student Population: 25,469
College of Ag Depts: 8
Cost of Attendance: \$9,446
Famous Alumni: Luther Duncan
-Pres. of Alabama Extension Service



University of Florida Est. 1884
Gainesville, Fla.
Student Population: 49,785
College of Ag. Depts: 23
Cost of Attendance: \$4,645
Famous Alumni: Carol Browner
-Dir. of the Office of Energy & Climate Change Policy



University of Georgia Est. 1785
Athens, Ga.
Student Population: 34,765
College of Ag. Depts: 9
Cost of Attendance: \$4,736
Famous Alumni: Jason Aldean
-Country Singer



A land grant university is an institution of higher education in the United States designated by a state to receive benefits of the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. The Morrill Act, also known as the Land Grant College Act, was signed by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2 and was set up to establish institutions in each state that would educate students in agriculture, economics, mechanical arts and other professional programs. This gave each state 30,000 acres of public land to each Senator and state representative.



University of Kentucky Est. 1865
Lexington, Ky.
Student Population: 28,094
College of Ag. Depts: 14
Cost of Attendance: \$4,838
Famous Alumni: Gov. Steve Beshear



Louisiana State University Est. 1860
Baton Rouge, La.
Student Population: 29,549
College of Ag. Depts: 10
Cost of Attendance: \$3,498
Famous Alumni: Morris N. Abrams
-WWII Veteran, Professor
& former dean



Mississippi State University
Est. 1878
Starkville, Miss.
Student Population: 20,424
College of Ag. Depts: 8
Cost of Attendance: \$6,264
Famous Alumni: Sharion Aycock
-U.S. Federal Judge



University of Missouri Est. 1839
Columbia, Mo.
Student Population: 34,255
College of Ag. Depts: 14
Cost of Attendance: \$8,928
Famous Alumni: Sam Walton
-Founder of Wal-Mart



University of Tennessee Est. 1794
Knoxville, Tenn.
Student Population: 30,410
College of Ag. Depts: 8
Cost of Attendance: \$4,546
Famous Alumni: John Compton
-CEO of Pilot Flying

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Erik Mirkov, a plant pathologist at Texas A&M AgriLife Research recently discovered how to transfer genes from spinach into oranges to improve the plant's resistance to citrus greening disease.

Higher yields. *Less pesticides.*

Story and photographs by Misty Vidrine '13

Today, the hunger crisis is affecting more than just developing countries.

Not only are food prices on the rise but, leading hunger relief charity, Feeding America estimates that one-in-six Americans do not have access to enough food.

Texas A&M AgriLife Research invites students, faculty and staff to attend the North American Biotechnology Council's, NABC's, 25th annual conference and to experience first-hand what transgenic technology has done, and is doing, for agriculture.

The conference, held at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center June 4-6, 2013, allows participants to learn how genetic research is enhancing agriculture by using the power of genomics to develop disease resistant crops with a higher yield capacity. Crops that are more resistant to natural disturbance while producing more food would be globally stimulating to the market and allow for more reasonable food prices, even in a tough economy, said Bill McCutchen, NABC Executive Committee Member.

The conference titled "Biotechnology and North American Specialty Crops: Linking Research, Regulation, and Stakeholders," will address the use of genomics in specialty crops like citrus, papaya, and vegetables.

The event allows participants to hear from stakeholders in genome-science technology including NABC president, Ralph Hardy, and vice chancellor for Strategic Initiatives, Brett Giroir, M.D.

In addition, NABC offers a poster contest allowing students to present their own research and take part in discussion. A total of \$5,000 in cash

will be awarded for first through fifth places in the poster contest.

McCutchen, executive associate director at Texas A&M AgriLife Research, explained how genomic approaches have created nearly complete lists of DNA for humans and species of plants and animals and that these new technologies have the capability to enhance agriculture and help sustain the earth's growing population. Developing ways to alter the genetic make-up of a crop will



Transgenic technology will help lower the amount of pesticides used on limes and other citrus crops.

allow scientists to mesh genes of different plants. These new transgenic technologies will let scientists build genotypes that take the best qualities from various species and help make stronger crops that are more resistant to insects, draught, diseases and weeds that result in loss of time, money and crop yield.

"Whether you know it or not, you are eating genetically modified foods on a daily basis," said McCutchen. "Corn, soybeans, cotton and canola are the four major crops that employ the transgenic technology; the second "Green Revolution" is in our midst."

McCutchen is interested in using transgenic technology to lower the amount of pesticides used on, and increase yields in, crops like papaya, citrus and vegetables.

McCutchen mentioned a specific topic at the conference is the

development of a disease-resistant citrus tree developed by Erik Mirkov, a plant pathologist at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco. Mirkov recently discovered a way to transfer genes from spinach into oranges to improve the plant's resistance to citrus greening, a disease that McCutchen said is devastating the citrus industry in Florida, Texas and California.

"This is one of the few technologies that can save this industry," McCutchen said.

Financing these technological advancements is a major challenge. Only a few major agricultural corporations have the resources to invest in new transgenic technologies because the regulatory process requires a large investment of both time and money, McCutchen explained.

McCutchen highlighted that the major focus

of this year's conference is to bring together, "scientists and administrators from academia and industry, plus regulatory government officials, to see how we can resolve issues by employing this technology beyond the major row crops."

For more information on NABC 25, please contact Rusty Carter at 979-845-4272 or rusty.carter@tamu.edu. Additional information can also be found at <http://nabc25.tamu.edu> or by scanning the QR code.



SAD in Aggieland

By: Lauren Graham '12

A certain day rolls around every second week in February that people are either really excited about or they just couldn't care less. I, myself, fall into the latter and like to view this as Singles Awareness Day. While I would jump at the chance to have a significant other on this day, we can't always get what our heart desires. And if you are anything like me you'll agree that seeing couples going out on mushy dates or getting a dozen roses just puts a bitter taste in your mouth.

Now don't get me wrong, I am happy for these people, really I am. But have you ever wondered exactly how much money goes into this so-called "Day of Love?" Or just how many roses are sent out or the number of people that get married? Well, I have done some research and gathered some numbers and you just might be surprised...

1. 196 million roses are produced annually for Valentine's Day...and I can't even get one!!

2. 14% of women send themselves flowers. Ok, maybe I should start doing this...

3. 11,000= the number of children conceived on Valentine's Day. So if you have a October/November birthday this could very well be you!

4. 53% of women will break up with their significant other if they don't receive a gift on Valentine's Day. Can we say high maintenance?

5. 2.16 million= number of people who get married on Valentine's Day. Guys if this is you, you have no excuse to forget your anniversary...

6. An average consumer spends about \$120 on Valentine's Day. I know of a good pair of shoes I can get for \$120!

7. 180 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually. You're welcome Hallmark...

8. But surprisingly, more greeting cards are exchanged on Christmas rather than Valentine's Day. Hmm...go figure!

9. 61% of people celebrate Valentine's Day. That means 39% of people celebrate SAD. Woohoo!

10. A little superstition to end on: "If you see a squirrel on Valentine's Day you will marry a cheapskate who will hoard all of your money." So, just stay away from the squirrels on campus come Feb. 14th.

So for those of you who will be celebrating Singles Awareness Day, I hope these 10 facts make your day a little brighter. And for those of you who are lucky enough to have someone that'll spend money on you, make sure they spend at least \$120. You wouldn't want them to skew the statistics now would you?

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Finding a job after college graduation is not always easy. However, if you think outside of the box and create a résumé portfolio you will stand out in a pile of resume applicants. If you don't know what a portfolio is, why it's important or how to make one, you will in less than 30 minutes.

What is a résumé portfolio?

A résumé portfolio is a combination of a portfolio and a résumé, a place where all of your previous employers are listed, as well as samples of your work. It is a visual component to your résumé. Career Coordinator for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Jennifer Ann Smith considers portfolios extremely important.

Who needs to have a portfolio?

Professionals in the communications industry, particularly professionals that need to present samples of their work, need a portfolio. Sheppard was offered a job as a student worker for AgriLife Communications with Bill Gibbs. "Before he (Bill Gibbs) said anything he said, "Let me see your portfolio." Flower designers, wedding planners and event planners need to present photographs of past events they have organized to their prospective clients. News anchors need to submit a "demo tape" or professional reel before they interview. PR professionals need to submit samples of their strategic plans of actions. These among others are professionals that would greatly benefit from a portfolio.

Why do I need one?

Increasing numbers of human resource professionals are looking for prospects online. Chris Sheppard, Owner and Editor of Maroon Weekly, said he would use on-line recruiting over print "every time." Smith said that employers are constantly managing many projects. They are looking to hire employees the most efficient way. She also stated that employers are aggressively relying on LinkedIn to search for prospective candidates. Both Smith and Sheppard emphasize on the importance of portfolios as a way to show employers your individual brand. Sheppard encourages employees to invest time in creating and presenting a portfolio to their prospective employer. When asked, what would be his opinion if he was to interview someone who did not present a portfolio he said, "Personally, I would think you don't care enough about this interview to come prepared."



What should I incorporate in my portfolio?

Smith recommends a broad spectrum of examples of your work. She does not think that the items you add to your portfolio should necessarily be published, although it would be greatly beneficial. But rather, they should be pieces that depict who you are and what your strengths are. She also said that like a paper résumé, it is beneficial to have different portfolios to suit the job position you are applying for.

“Don’t try too hard to be different from your peers,” said Smith. “Make it your goal to bring out your highest quality work.” She recommended for students who have not had an opportunity to gain “real-world” experience to use class assignments and projects. “It’s easy and fun to write about your passions, but doing a good job on assignments shows you can take direction,” said Smith.

Attempt to replicate as close as possible your physical portfolio to your electronic one. Your paper portfolio should illustrate your attention to detail and creativity. Even though some of those elements may be difficult to portray in an electronic version you may still focus on your detail by carefully selecting font type, style, size and background.



How do I create my résumé portfolio?

Follow these three easy steps to creating your very own portfolio.

Gather your cover letter and résumé. Make sure your cover letter is concise and conveys a good picture of who you are on a personal level. Your résumé should also be updated and brief, limit your résumé to one page. Ensure that you have listed your work experience from the most recent employer to the last. If you do not have a cover letter or résumé, there are many websites that have great templates.

Collect all of your work samples that you want to upload to your portfolio. Make a file folder on your computer desktop for easy referencing. Rename the file to “MyPortfolio.” Convert all of your work samples to a digital format or PDF files and move them to the “MyPortfolio” folder.

Many websites offer services to compress and convert different files into one convenient digital file. Your samples should include anything that you have created and would be proud to present.

Create an account on a free resume portfolio website. (<http://www.opresume.com>). It is recommended that you upload a photograph of yourself to give a “face” to your work. Ensure that you show a suitable photo of yourself in a professional setting. Then, upload the digital files to the corresponding section. Most websites will allow you to directly upload your files into their website. Review your portfolio and make any necessary adjustments.



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Breaking Tradition

Story and photographs by Misty Vidrine '13

Texas A&M's culture is known for placing emphasis on tradition, yet its classrooms are no longer filled with only traditional college students.

There are more than 7,000 non-traditional students enrolled at Texas A&M. A non-traditional student is defined as a student over age 25, married or partnered, having children, a veteran of a branch of the Armed Services, a student who did not come straight to college from high school, a student who works full-time, or a student who is enrolled part-time, as stated on the Texas A&M Student Life website.

Texas A&M is not the only university that is attracting non-traditional students. The number of baby boomers that are returning to college has jumped by 20 percent in the past decade, according to a 2007 survey by U.S. News and World Report.

Barbara Hosler, Rostell Chapman and David Ebner are all non-traditional students majoring in agricultural communications and journalism at Texas A&M. These three students have more in common than just their major. They are all parents coming back to school for personal fulfillment.

Advisor, and instructor, Tobin Redwine said he has often noticed these three students, in particular, are more likely to talk to and engage with, professors.

"I wish everybody would follow their example," he said.

Redwine also explained non-traditional students are more skilled at seeking out light bulb or "aha" moments in class and applying them to real life.

"As an educator, it is really rewarding to see those moments come across those students," Redwine added. "I wish that we could replicate that with all of our students."

Barbara Hosler

At age 17, Hosler left her hometown of Ypsilanti, Mich. to attend Michigan State University. Although Hosler loved school, and excelled in high school, she had a rough first year of college and was only able to complete one full year.

"It's always been in the back of my mind to go back to school because I always loved it," Hosler said.

By 1994, Hosler was married with three children. Her oldest daughter, Heather, graduated from Texas A&M in 2011, Rachel the middle daughter, is in the Army, and Samuel, Hosler's youngest son, is a sophomore at Texas A&M.

Throughout the years, her husband David's career required the family to relocate to San Antonio, Killee, and El Paso.

Hosler said that although she was first and foremost

a wife and a mother, she never gave up on her education.

Hosler attended three colleges in Texas before obtaining her associate of art degree from El Paso Community College.

After Hosler obtained her associate degree, she was not certain if she should continue her dream to get her bachelor's degree. She explained that she had heard nothing but great things about Texas A&M and she loved coming to College Station to visit her oldest daughter, Heather, when she was in college, but was still leery about the commitment.

With encouragement from her husband and children, Hosler applied to Texas A&M. When Hosler received her acceptance letter from Texas A&M, it marked, what would have been, her 30-year reunion from Michigan State University.

"God gives us, not redoes, but restarts," Hosler said. "I didn't want to redo anything, but I got a restart."

Hosler wants to use her degree in agricultural communications and journalism to aid people, particularly women.

"I want to be able to use my love of writing to tell stories to help inspire other women," Hosler said.



With encouragement from her husband and children, Barbara Hosler came to Texas A&M to obtain her bachelors degree.



Rostell Chapman is getting a degree after supporting his wife and two daughters through school at Texas A&M.

Rostell Chapman

When Chapman graduated from Bryan High School in 1978, he enrolled at Blinn College in Bryan, Texas. Chapman was interested in obtaining a degree in agriculture because of his history with cattle ranching. However, he left Blinn about a year later and started a career in real estate, a career he has been enjoying for 27 years.

Throughout Chapman's career, he would take classes on and off at Blinn as well as online classes through Western Texas College.

Chapman said although having a degree was not necessary for him to meet his career goals he still valued education and supported his wife Janet, and two daughters, Alison and Lauren, at Texas A&M.

"One of the proudest days in my life was the day my wife Janet graduated from Texas A&M University," Chapman said. "Not only was it an achievement for her, but a great accomplishment for our family, providing a role model and leading the way for our girls to complete their college education."

Janet graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1997, Alison Chapman, his oldest daughter, graduated in 2005 and Lauren, his youngest daughter, graduated in 2006.

Chapman explained that after Alison and Lauren graduated from A&M, they both went on to pursue master's degrees in their fields. It was then that he set the goal, once his daughters were done with their master's degrees, he would go back to school.

"I think education is so important that I just never thought it was too late to go back to school," Chapman said.

Chapman said he chose a degree in agricultural communications and journalism because he wanted to major in something specific, but broad enough so he could use it in his current career.

David Ebner

Ebner grew up in Austin and attended the University of Texas from 1980-1984. While attending school he worked at a company called CompuAdd, which sold items such as personal computers, monitors and printers.

He explained he was recently married during that time and he and his wife were expecting their first daughter so he dropped out with less than a year left in his computer science degree.

"I decided that the place I was working at was just as much fun and made more money than anything I could do with a computer science degree," Ebner said.

In 1994, Ebner relocated to the Bryan-College Station area for a job with an ergonomic chair manufacturing company called Neutral Posture. He has lived here for 18 years and has three children, his oldest daughter Jamie, middle son Kyle and youngest son Garry.

Ebner is currently the president of Neutral Posture. He said he decided to go back to school to get his degree because it was something he had never finished.

"I didn't want to be a quitter," Ebner said.

Ebner feels that if you're older than 50, getting a degree is not going to do much for you career wise, but will give you a better sense of personal actualization.

Ebner said he was surprised when he got to A&M and realized there were others like him.

"I didn't even know that more and more parents were coming back to school," Ebner said. "I thought I was going to be the oldest and craziest person here!"

Ebner commented on how college has changed drastically since he was in school. For example, now there are more ways for students to get help if they are struggling. Also, students are encouraged to seek outside educational experiences like internships and study abroad trips.

Ebner explained the agricultural communications and journalism degree can be applied to any career.

"Just being able to write better, punctuate and edit is a great help," Ebner said. "Not to mention communication skills and public relations."

David Ebner started his college career at the University of Texas and is now completing his degree at Texas A&M.



Aggie Connections



Major: Journalism

Current Job: Marketing and Communications Director for The John Cooper School

How did your college experiences at Texas A&M prepare you for life after college?

I cannot speak more glowingly about the Journalism program at Texas A&M. The basic news knowledge that I gained while at A&M is what I stand by now when dealing with the media. I know what a good news story is now because of my background.

What do you miss most about your time at Texas A&M?

I loved so many things about Texas A&M. I appreciated that the journalism department was small. This gave me a chance to form strong relationships with students and professors in my department. I also worked as a news editor for *The Battalion*, which has taught me so much more than I could have ever learned in a classroom

Debbie Spiess '79 Do you work with students now?

Before I was promoted to my current position I worked with students as a senior advisor and I also taught a yearbook class at John Cooper School. The seniors I advised all think they're grown up at that point in their lives but they're really not. Advising helped me to be there for the students when they needed me.

What made you choose Journalism as your major?

Journalism was actually my fourth major choice. I really wanted to go Pre-Vet because I love animals, but once I realized how much science would be involved in that I switched majors until I landed in journalism my sophomore year. It was the best thing I ever did.

Major: Journalism and Masters in Agriculture Education '95

Current Job: Host of GardenLine at KTRH in Houston, Texas

How did your college experiences at Texas A&M prepare you for life after college?

I produced TV and radio news while working with the college of Ag and while completing my master's. I knew about GardenLine from the work I did with the Farm Bureau in Waco, TX. I was asked to be a guest speaker both at TAMU and on GardenLine, and I worked for the university before accepting a fulltime spot on GardenLine.

What was your most memorable moment as a student?

I would say that my most memorable moment while in school was being photographed and put in the Houston Chronicle at Midnight Yell practice. I loved the comradery and the close knit Aggie community. I intended to come to TAMU to be a vet, but ended up being in journalism because it had the least math.

What do you miss the most about Texas A&M?

I miss the small town feel with the big city attitude. After accepting the job at GardenLine, I commuted from College Station to Houston for a year before moving to Houston. I like that there is no hurried feeling in College Station, and I believe that coming back keeps me connected to the Aggie family.

Do you work with students?

I worked with students when working for the university. I recognized talent as it was developing and helped mold some of the new personalities today, such as Sharon Melton with ABC 13 news. I do not currently work with any students at KTRH, but I often gets asked by friends to help their kids find jobs.

Do you have any advice for current students?

Get lots of internships and don't be afraid to start at the bottom and make connections to get to the top.



Randy Lemmon '82



Joe '10 and Joelynn '11 Rathmann

Major:

Joe: B.S. Animal Science , M.Ed Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications

Joelynn: Agricultural Communications and Journalism

Current Jobs:

Joe: Blinn Community College Livestock Judging Coach, Ag Economics professor

Joelynn: Ideal Video Production, Videographer

How did you two meet?

We met at the American Royal livestock show in Kansas City. Joe asked me to dance and ever since, we both knew this was something special and unlike anything we had known before. – Joelynn

When did you two get married?

December 29, 2012 in Bastrop, Texas.

How has Texas A&M helped each of you reach success in your career?

The staff, faculty and other students provide great connections and provide amazing lessons. Each of these people work to help you achieve success, they all have your best interest at heart. - Joe

Texas A&M gives you the connections needed to get your foot in the door. In our industry it's helpful to be talented and a good worker, but one of the biggest things is who you know and who will back you. I don't know of anybody better to back you than the Texas A&M family. - Joelynn

Do you work with students?

I work with kids still as a professor of Ag Economics and as a livestock judging coach at Blinn. I credit my teachers at A&M for providing me with many lessons on how to work with young people. The teachers I had at A&M set a great example and I hope that I can be as good of a teacher as they were someday. I spend a majority of my time with college freshmen and sophomores. Being the coach of the team lets me travel with them to contests across the country and practice almost daily. I get to help these young people adjust to college life and make sure they stay on top of their school work. I've learned many lessons from my coaches at Blinn and A&M that have been tremendously helpful. Those people include former coach Jake Franke and current A&M coach Brant Poe. - Joe

I do not work directly with young people at the moment, as I travel to ranches across the country videoing cattle to put the videos online for ads and sales. But being the wife of a judging coach I do develop relationships with the kids on the team. I also help them adjust to college life and provides constant encouragement. - Joelynn

How did your time at Texas A&M help you network with others?

The network that Texas A&M allows you to create has been a big reason I have been able to pursue my passions and career. At A&M everybody wants to help you reach your goals and if they are not the person who can get you there they will have connections to someone who can. You are encouraged to go out and meet people and we all know that Aggies are the friendliest people around. These connections turn into jobs, career opportunities and lifelong friendships. The connections I made allowed me to be involved in photography, videography and writing. - Joelynn

How would you describe your career?

We raise show cattle for young people to show. We work with these young people to ensure they are as successful as possible, but that they also take away the lessons of responsibility, dedication, work ethic, and respect for animals and others from showing cattle. Both of us are extremely passionate about this. - Joe and Joelynn

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