

# AGRI LEADER

TEXAS A&M COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES  
VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 2 • SPRING 2018





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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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In countless facets of life, day-to-day achievements would not transpire without influence from the past. As you turn through the pages of this issue of the *AgriLeader*, I encourage you to reflect on the present, reminisce on the past and anticipate the future. In doing so, I hope you gain a greater appreciation for Texas A&M University, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the agriculture industry as a whole.

Inside this issue you will find stories that revolve around milestones such as the 100th anniversary of the agricultural communications and journalism major. Students, faculty and alumni with unique passions for agriculture, which stem from impactful experiences are highlighted. Features about profound women in agriculture, such as AnnaBeth Neason, and legendary alumni with renowned résumés, like Charles ‘Doc’ Graham, are just a few stories to help you understand how individuals, both past and present, serve the college and agriculture industry. This *AgriLeader* is a tribute to all the past, present and future fearless leaders for their selfless contributions and unparalleled dedication to the university, college, departments and industry.

Producing a quality publication is no small task. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the leadership staff for your vision, determination and hard work. Each of you contributed unique talents and effort that did not go unnoticed. Also, a big thank you to the writing staff for producing compelling stories for our readers. Finally, I would like to thank our instructor, Tracy Rutherford, Ph.D., and teaching assistant, Sharon Wagner, for their guidance, patience and expertise throughout the semester.

On behalf of the Spring 2018 *AgriLeader* staff, I hope delight and inspiration are found from the stories inside this magazine. Whether you are a student, a professor, an alumni or simply a friend to the college, I invite you to join me in making the year 2018 a cornerstone for creating Aggie connections, celebrating life’s accomplishments and continuing our commitment to agriculture for the next 100 years.

*Madeleine Bezner*

Madeleine Bezner

On the cover: Jimmie Smith ‘18 and Dr. Charles “Doc” Graham ‘53 with Epic Leader at Southwest Stallion Station in Elgin, Texas.

Photo by Garrett Terry ‘18, agricultural communications and journalism major

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# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

In celebration of Texas A&M University's agricultural communications and journalism program turning 100-years-old, the college is hosting a celebration. You can join the party April 12, 2018, from 6-9 p.m. at the renowned Calvary Court Stables for happy hour, dinner and live entertainment. Former and current students will celebrate agricultural communications and journalism's history and the opportunities the program has created.

Agricultural communications and journalism courses were first offered at Texas A&M in 1918. The department started small, but through the years has grown. There are now 257 students and counting.

## VENUE INFORMATION

Calvary court is located in the heart of Century Square off University Drive. The retro atmosphere is perfect for socializing, hosting an event, or staying in the hotel for a get away.

## DETAILS

Cost of the event will be \$50 including your meal.



Jessica Spence is a senior agricultural communications and journalism student and designer of the logo.

## WHAT INSPIRED THE LOGO DESIGN?

"I knew the main color had to be maroon and white would be one of the accent colors, and decided to add shades of gray as additional accent colors to keep it classy, neutral and not stray too far from the university brand guide."

## HOW DID YOU CREATE THE DESIGN?

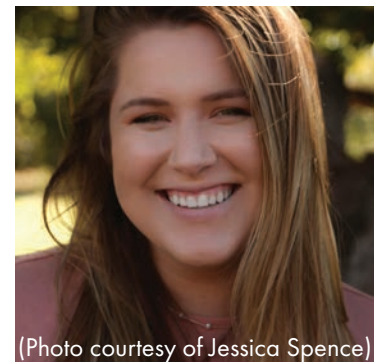
"Adobe Illustrator was my go-to for this project. It is user friendly, and I wanted the design to be simple and clean. I began by laying down shapes to create the base and details, then I made the banner and warped it to the desired arch. Lastly, I added the text using a typeface I had gotten for my Design For Ag Media class project brand guide, actually. I wanted something to reflect the agriculture in Design For Ag Media so I picked a rustic typeface."



Holli Leggette, Ph.D., Texas A&M assistant professor and is coordinating the event. Leggette said, "We will have special guest and former student Joe Teichman performing, as well as many others."



Joe Teichman, a former student and singer-songwriter who travels all over the United States. Known for his unique sound, Teichman plays a blend of alternative country, folk and Americana.



Jessica Spence, logo design winner, is the president of ALEC peer advisors and also has an interest in photography.



## CONTINUING THE CELEBRATION

To take part in the celebration please submit your photos and stories to the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications by following @ALECaggies on Twitter and using #headlinetohashtags. This trend allows Aggies to not only share their memories, but come together to share ideas and solve global issues through communication and education.

Following the 100th birthday celebration, the agricultural communications and journalism program will host a fall tailgate during the 2018 football season. Through their continuous efforts, the Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications faculty do more than just help students succeed in the workplace, they provide students with opportunities to tell their stories.

Details and updates on the fall tailgate can be found on the ALEC website:  
<https://alec.tamu.edu/event>

Agricultural Communications and Journalism students at the 2017 College of Ag and Life Sciences tailgate.



(Photo courtesy of TAMU AgriLife)



Lauren Lindemulder  
College Station, TX

# AGLS CAREER FAIR PREP

Mon, January 29  
7 pm  
115 AGLS

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(Photo courtesy of Texas A&M Athletics)



## WHOSE FIELD IS IT ANYWAY?

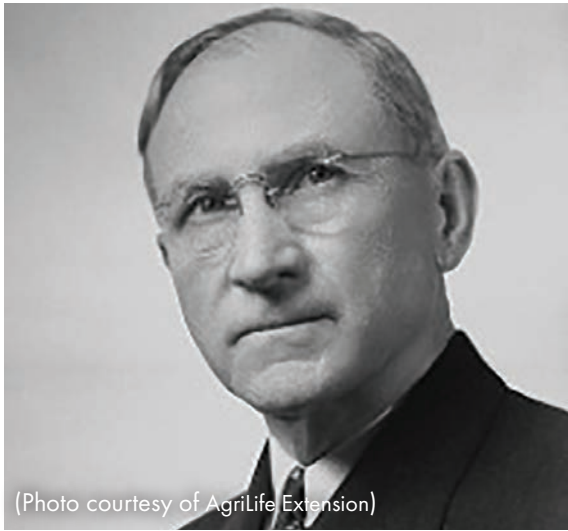
The letters K-Y-L-E resound with every Aggie. This simple name transcends across Texas A&M University and conjures up images of Aggie football. But in reality the namesake of Kyle Field contributed more to this university than just his name.











Edwin Jackson Kyle graduated from Texas A&M University in 1899, where he earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture and served as senior captain in the Corps of Cadets. Post-graduation, he attended Cornell University where he received a bachelor's degree in agriculture and was awarded an honorary doctorate in agriculture by the University of Arkansas. Kyle returned to Texas A&M in 1902 as a professor of horticulture and conducted agricultural experiments. He became the president of the General Athletic Association by fall of 1904.

As president, Kyle had a vision to develop an athletic field to promote the university's athletic endeavors. While Texas A&M refused to provide such funds, Kyle was not deterred from pursuing his dream. Using \$650 of his own money, he purchased lumber to build bleachers and a covered grandstand from the Bryan fairgrounds for "stadium seating." To begin building these bleachers he sectioned off a portion of campus that was assigned to him for agricultural use. On Nov. 10, 1904, the Texas A&M Board of Directors designated this area as a permanent athletic field, which served as the home for football and baseball teams, and sat up to 500 people. In 1906 the Corps of Cadets named the field "Kyle Field" in his honor.

Kyle resigned in 1911 as President of Athletics to become the Dean of the College of Agriculture. His influence as an educator went beyond the classroom. In 1941, Kyle toured Central and South America on behalf of the coordinator of Inter-American affairs, studying the agricultural economy and promoting friendship. In 1945, he was appointed ambassador to Guatemala by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He resigned in 1947 and was awarded the Order

of the Quetzal, Guatemala's most prestigious honor.

Committed to education as well as research, Kyle wrote passionately about agriculture. His book, "Fundamentals of Farming and Farm Life", was adopted by the state of Texas as a standard elementary textbook in 1912. Within 30 years this textbook sold over half a million copies. His research on pecan trees played a crucial role in fostering the pecan industry in Texas, according to "Kyle Tough", a book written by Barbara Donalson.

Edwin Jackson Kyle demonstrated wonderful leadership, walked with dignity and instilled determination amongst his peers in both the classroom and in the Corps. He represented Texas A&M's core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service with the utmost regard to the responsibility, the traditions and the forward-thinking of Texas A&M.

"EDWIN KYLE - TEACHER, AGRONOMIST, FEEDER OF THE WORLD, DIPLOMAT, AND THE BIGGEST BOOSTER OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL AT THE GRIDIRON-CRAZY TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY."  
- WILLIAM T. "BILL" HARPER

In 1948 Kyle returned to Bryan, Texas, where he lived for the rest of his life. He passed away in his home on Dec. 26, 1963.

Kyle's legacy at Texas A&M is best summarized by three "A's": his contributions to the Athletics Department; his contributions to the College of Agriculture; and the contributions he made as an Ambassador. This man deserves an A of his own.

During the first 50 years of the 20th Century, Kyle, as professor and Dean of the College of Agriculture played a pivotal role in putting Texas A&M agriculture on the world map.

Today, Texas A&M and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences flourish. In 2015, Texas A&M AgriLife Research was ranked No. 1 in agricultural sciences expenditures for the fiscal year, according to the National Science Foundation. The college has more than 7,800 students who choose courses of study from nearly 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in 14 academic departments.

The life of Edwin J. Kyle also reflects how Texas A&M history and culture have influenced, interfaced with, and connected students, families and friends since doors opened in 1876. The essence of a university such as Texas A&M infuses the life of the community throughout the state, the nation and the world.





## KYLE FIELD FACTS

Whether on campus or driving in town, you can not miss the iconic field basking in its glory. It is safe to say Kyle Field has grown substantially since the days of rubber helmets and 500 seats.

- In 1919, renovations to Kyle began after a very good season in which Aggies went undefeated. Aggie supporters began to clamor for a stadium, however only \$2,400 was raised by 1920.
- The permanent seating on the east and west sides of Kyle Field were added in 1927 and the horseshoe was completed in 1929.
- The stadium was expanded in 1967 to include two decks of grandstands. After adding a third deck and investing nearly 2 million dollars in 1980, Kyle Field held up to 70,000 fans.
- The Bernard C. Richardson Zone was added in 1999 at a cost of \$32.9 million raising the capacity to 82,600. In the fall of 2003, the Bright Football Complex was completed on the south end of the stadium.
- Growing popularity and high demand games in the early 2000s forced an installation of temporary bleachers in the south end zone.
- On May 1, 2013, the Texas A&M Board of Regents approved a \$485 million rebuild of Kyle Field. The renovation would temporarily raise the official seating capacity to 106,511 people for the 2014 season, making it the largest football stadium in Texas and the Southeastern Conference and the third largest football stadium in the country.
- The first phase of the project, completed by the 2014 season, included demolition and reconstruction of the first deck on the east side, the addition of a roof covering the east side upper deck, construction of the south end zone seating structure and the addition of the largest videoboard in sports, looming over you at 47 feet tall by 163 feet wide.
- Phase two was completed by the 2015 season and included demolition and reconstruction of the entire west side of the stadium and completed construction of the south side of Kyle Field. The home of the Aggies now seats nearly 110,000 people.

Edwin Jackson Kyle embodied and helped shape the Aggie Spirit in the formative years of Texas A&M University and helped Texas A&M Athletics achieve national preeminence. Although he was unable to see his single grandstand turn into such a grand venue, his spirit reigns supreme across all Aggieland and his heartbeat lives on within the Spirit of the 12th Man.

1: Kyle Field, 1920

(Photo courtesy of Cushing Memorial Library & Archives, Texas A&M University)

2: Completed Horseshoe, 1930

(Photo courtesy of Cushing Memorial Library & Archives, Texas A&M University)

3: Kyle Field, 2003

(Photo courtesy of Stuart Seeger)

4: Demolition of Kyle Field, 2013

(Photo courtesy of Deborah Dell Photography)

5: Construction Site, 2014

(Photo courtesy of Peter Sengl)

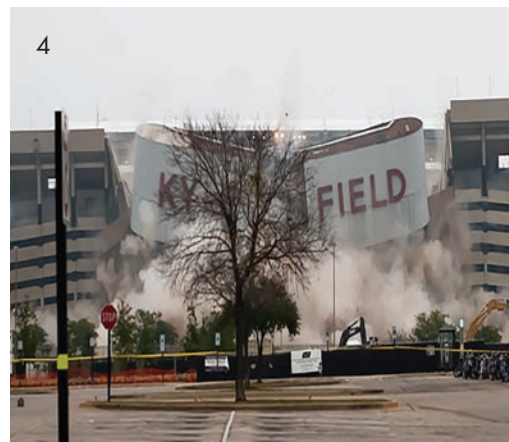
6: Completed Stadium, 2016

(Photo courtesy of Texas A&M University)

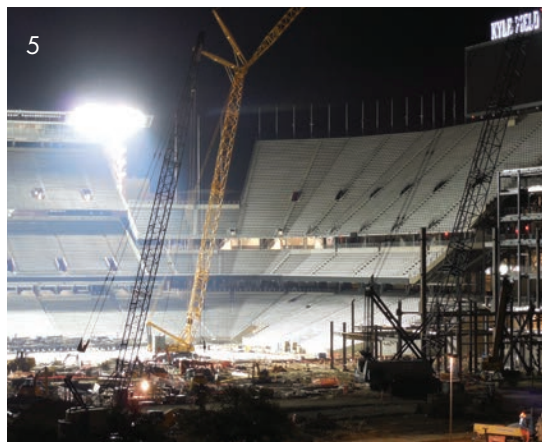


Drake Whiteman  
Houston, TX

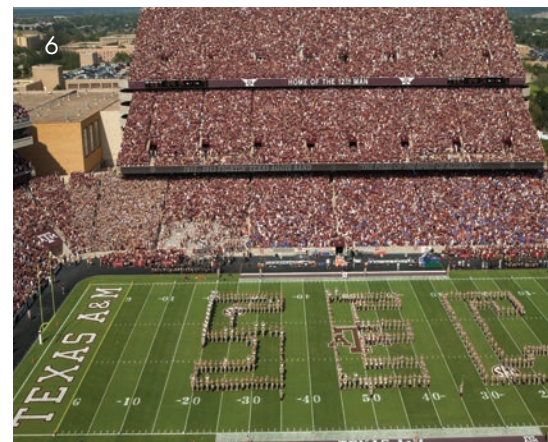
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## WHAT IS AGGIES FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY?

“Aggies for Global Food Security (AGFS) is a community of students who are dedicated to finding creative and innovative solutions to the world’s grand challenges. AGFS is committed to building leaders in agriculture through professional development, networking and entrepreneurship. We also help students form teams to creatively tackle complex problems by participating in team competitions, like the Grand Innovation Challenge and the Thought for Food (TFF) Challenge. Not only do we help students form teams, but we also hone their competitive edge by providing monthly training through professional development workshops.”

## WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE THOUGHT FOR FOOD COMPETITION?

“The TFF Challenge is a team-based competition that takes place at the global level. Student teams from all over the globe come up with innovative solutions to world hunger. The prompt inspires students to find a way to feed over 9 billion people by 2050, which is purposefully vague to allow creativity.”

## WHAT IS THE GRAND INNOVATION CHALLENGE AND HOW DOES IT TIE INTO THE TFF COMPETITION?

“The College of Agriculture and Aggies for Global Food Security have teamed up to host the second annual on-campus team competition, the Grand Innovation Challenge (formerly known as Grand Challenges Challenge), which encourages student teams to identify solutions to one of the College’s five Grand Challenges: Improving our Health, Protecting our Environment, Enriching our Youth, Growing our Economy and Feeding our World.

“Student teams of three to five will submit a video pitch during the first round. The top five teams will be selected to advance to the final round, where they will pitch their ideas to a high-level panel of judges. This format mimics the TFF Challenge, so that students can use their video submissions for the TFF Challenge as well. In fact, the winning team of The Grand Innovation Challenge will be sent to the TFF Global Summit!”

## WHAT WAS THE GLOBAL TEAM’S PLAN FOR FOOD SECURITY?

“The winning team of last year’s Grand Innovation Challenge was called BitGrange. Their project idea was to create a modular hydroponic system connected to an application to allow children to learn about plant growth

and nutrition. It was an interdisciplinary team comprised of students from several major colleges: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Dwight School of Engineering and Mays Business School. As the winning team, they were sent to the TFF Global Summit, which was held in Amsterdam last year.”

## HOW CAN STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE GRAND INNOVATION CHALLENGE AND THE THOUGHT FOR FOOD COMPETITION?

“Last year’s team was able to leverage their experience and expertise to participate in a Pop-up Pitch Competition, which was a side event held at the TFF Global Summit. Through this experience, the team made contact from all over the world within multiple industries. These network connections are beneficial for life-long career development and interdisciplinary collaboration. Most importantly for many of our students, participating in these types of competitions shows potential employers that students are a cut above the rest, which gives them a leg up in the job search. The team members have since received job offers and internship offers from high profile companies like Apple. Also, the team leader, Alfredo Costilla-Reyes, was the first Texas A&M student to become a Kirchner Food Fellow, which is a very prestigious fellowship. Students who participate in one competition often become more competitive for other competitions and awards.”



One of the top teams for the Grand Challenges challenge.

(Photo courtesy of Lindsay Sansom)



Jennifer Meisel  
Howell, MI



Roy May interacting with customers at his new restaurant.



(Photo courtesy of Meredith Seaver)

HOW DID YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE ARMY SHAPE YOU INTO WHO YOU ARE TODAY?

“Your time in the Army teaches you a handful of things. Obviously teamwork, and knowing that what you’re a part of is so much bigger than you and that you have a role to play for a greater cause. The military helps develop your leadership as well as what you can call dedication to task, working until the job gets done. ‘You work to a standard, not a time’ is one thing we used to say.”

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO ATTEND TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY?

“Well I come from a family of Aggies. My dad was class of ’66 and my sister ’95. When my dad graduated he went on to serve 11 years on active duty. When he transferred to the Army Reserves, he returned to A&M to get another degree, so I was actually born here; I’m a St. Joe’s baby. So, with my dad being an Aggie and my sister coming here as well, I spent a lot of weekends in Aggieland. I can honestly say I’ve always wanted to be an Aggie, as far back as I can remember.”

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY AS A YELL LEADER?

“Man, the memories are just so great, especially when you have more time to think about them. Tony Hurd jumping into my arms at the Chick-fil-A Bowl was insane. Getting to lead the war hymn to an entire side of Kyle Field before a football game is an experience I wish more people could enjoy. That’s something else! Being at Midnight Yell is magical. It’s such a sensation to know that you have your finger on the pulse of the spirit of the 12th Man. There were so many great memories and great experiences, it is hard to pick just one.”

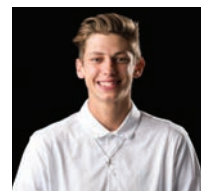
WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND STARTING YOUR OWN BBQ BUSINESS?

“So, I always wanted to come back and open up a BBQ joint/sports bar. Actually, Good Bull BBQ really is a very tangible and visual evidence of the Aggie Network. Being a yell leader you get a chance to meet a lot of people and especially former leaders. One of the former guys had asked me what I wanted to do when I graduated and I mentioned opening up my own business. As it turns out, he was a part of an investment group that was already Good Bull, LLC. and wanted to have a restaurant here in town. They are a bunch of Mays Business School guys and have other jobs, so they were looking for someone to run it. Ideally, they were looking for a yell leader, but most graduate at 22 with little work experience. Obviously, I’m the anomaly; I’m the old, weird guy graduating in my mid 30s while actually having experience in the food and beverage industry. So, I guess I was what they were looking for and with them providing me this opportunity it really gives me the ability to give back. For every meal we sell we provide the funds to Brazos Valley Food Bank for a meal. The ability to have fun and love what I’m doing while given a chance to make a change in our community is awesome. It’s really fun and it was one of those things where the Aggie Network sort of put it all together.”



Roy May leading yells in Kyle Field.

(Photo courtesy of Texas A&M University)



Drake Whiteman  
Houston, TX



Legacy Pecans and Company store front

(All photos courtesy of Heather Salopek)

## CREATING A PECAN LEGACY

Texas A&M University former student Heather Salopek '11 took her family's passion for pecans and turned it into her own legacy by creating her business, Legacy Pecans.

Salopek grew up in the Mesilla Valley in New Mexico, where her family farms more than 6,000 acres of pecans. She originally attended New Mexico State, but Salopek said she fell in love with Texas A&M after taking part in a state exchange program. She majored in horticulture due to her enthusiasm for science, the great outdoors and because of her mom.

"I didn't really know what path I wanted to take so my mom encouraged me to take classes in the ag college because of the quality of people she knew I would be surrounded by," Salopek said.

She later went on to receive her master's from Texas A&M, which was when she first thought about starting a pecan retail business.

Salopek participated in an international food trade show with an international marketing specialist in Dubai. While she was there she said she visited a high-end chocolate shop.

"That was when I first thought, 'This is it!' This is what I want to do," Salopek said.

Salopek wanted to create a store with a similar concept,

but with pecans. She said she had the idea, but was unsure if she could actually make a business out of it, until she took an agriculture entrepreneurship course.

"Ed Rister, Ph.D., taught the course and he was able to help me implement the idea and do the calculations," Salopek said. However, she knew that starting her own business was not going to be easy. "Starting off, it was a lot of trial and error," Salopek said.

As the owner of Legacy Pecans, Salopek stays busy with a variety of jobs. She handles everything from marketing and packaging to accounting. Some days are spent in interviews and photoshoots promoting her pecans. Other days she is in her office handling orders and creating marketing strategies.

"No one day is the same, but anyone who thought running a business and working a normal eight hour day were the same thing is greatly mistaken," Salopek said.

One unique attribute of her business is that she buys her pecans from her family's pecan farm.

Salopek said owning a business is challenging and rewarding but she said that is part of what makes it fun.

Legacy Pecans is solely hers, but Salopek sticks to her roots. The name Legacy Pecans is a tribute to her family.



“I wanted to carry on my family legacy in my own way,” Salopek said. “I named my business Legacy Pecans to do just that. It’s a respect and admiration for the past, combined with a vision and passion for the future.”

Salopek recently expanded her business and now runs an online store and a physical store, Legacy Pecans and Co. Her store offers gourmet pecans and corporate gifts.

Salopek said she may not have been able to live her dream if it was not for the Fred Brison Scholarship. The Fred Brison Scholarship allowed Salopek to continue her education at Texas A&M.

“I first attended A&M as a National Student Exchange student from New Mexico State University,” Salopek said. “I decided to forgo my full ride scholarship at NMSU and transfer as an out-of-state student into A&M. This also meant paying out-of-state tuition.”

The Fred Brison Scholarship is awarded to horticulture students every year. The scholarship is named after Fred Brison, Ph.D., a Texas A&M professor who taught the pecan course for 43 years in the horticulture department and published the “Pecan Culture.”

“I wouldn’t be here doing this interview with you without my education at Texas A&M, so I would have to say the Fred Brison

Scholarship had quite the impact on my life,” Salopek said.

On Nov. 9, 2017, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences recognized Salopek for her ambition and contributions to agriculture by awarding her the Outstanding Early Career Alumni award. The award is given each year to two or three graduates who are 15 years or less post-graduation of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Salopek continues to embrace her family roots while making a name for herself. Through her hard work and dedication, she has created a new legacy.



Addie Davis  
Houston, TX



Salopek’s family has been growing pecans in the Mesilla Valley since the 1920s.







# AGGIES

## FOR

# Fresh

From communications to accounting and agricultural science, the fresh produce industry has many rewarding career opportunities for talented, confident and unique people like you. Connect with our team at [aggiesforfresh.com](http://aggiesforfresh.com) or on social media — we'd love to talk!



## Are you looking for a purposeful career?

Aggies for Fresh is a campaign created to recruit students from Texas A&M University to the industry that grows, ships, markets and sells fresh fruits and vegetables around the world on a daily basis. Industry champion Dan'l Mackey Almy '94 and her husband Andrew Almy '94 founded Aggies for Fresh in 2014 to inspire fellow Aggies to pursue a career in the fresh produce industry, and it's been growing ever since. "I believe Texas A&M has a wealth of premier talent that our industry needs to feed the world. We strive to position fresh produce at A&M as a purposeful and valuable career option," says Dan'l.

## So, how are we helping you?

Aggies for Fresh is a huge supporter of student organizations in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences like the Howdy Farm, COALS Council, AggiesMove and the Sigma Alpha sorority, and we're proud to sponsor graduate student research in fresh produce. Also, Aggies for Fresh offers an experiential scholarship that brings Aggie students to a fresh produce industry event where they receive hands-on experience and are able network with industry leaders. The scholarship has been awarded to more than 16 students and has led to internships and full-time positions following at the event. Here's what the students who attended last year's event had to say about Aggies For Fresh:

## Testimonials from your fellow students:

"Dan'l attended one of my classes at Texas A&M as a guest speaker to talk about the fresh produce industry. I didn't know then, but that would change my life. During her lecture she talked about her journey to founding DMA Solutions and Aggies for Fresh. However, what really caught my attention was when she called fresh produce "sexy." I would have never described the industry as that on my own, but I'm glad she did because it fits perfectly."

- Anna Dement '17

"I fell in love with the industry on the first day of the Viva Fresh Expo. I could not get over what a sexy industry the fresh produce industry is and how passionate everyone is about it. My entire life I have dreamed of finding a job that I am truly passionate about, and now I know this is where I need to be."

- Ashley Seidenberger '17

"It was easy to see that everyone was passionate about fresh produce, but it was especially encouraging to hear the producers speak about their operations and really swell with pride while sharing their farm and business adventure and experience. Since the expo, I have had great fun doing research on the companies I made contact with and keeping contact with many that share mutual interest."

-Jonathan Prieto '17

"Attending the Viva Fresh Expo has, without a doubt, been one of the most amazing opportunities I have been granted as a student. The expo allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of how the fresh produce industry works and I feel very fortunate to have been chosen to attend this year's tradeshow."

- Victoria de Leon '17



BE A PART OF THE COMMUNITY! AGGIES, LET'S #CHOOSEFRESH!

[WWW.AGGIESFORFRESH.COM](http://WWW.AGGIESFORFRESH.COM)



Greta Swift '18 founded Built to Help Others, the organization that created the "BTHO Harvey" T-shirt campaign.





Schools, businesses and organizations across the state created T-shirts with designs including "Texas Strong" and "BTHO Harvey" to raise funds to donate to Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.



(All photos by Colten Fulton)

## THE SPIRIT OF TEXANS SHINES THROUGH HURRICANE HARVEY

Hurricane Harvey met its match in Texas. The 500-year storm wreaked havoc on Southeast Texas yet Texans responded with hope, unity and immediate action.

### WEATHERING THE STORM

Hurricane Harvey made landfall as a Category 5 storm, only the third to hit the United States since record keeping began. The latest before Harvey was Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It reached Category 5 in open water but shrunk to Category 3 before hitting the coast.

Hurricane Harvey affected 40 counties across Southeast Texas. Monty Dozier, special assistant for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Rebuild Texas initiative, said the storm caused extensive damages because of the unusually wide impact zone and different types of damage.

"Harvey's kind of unprecedented because it's such a wide area," Dozier said. "There's storm damage and wind storm damage, like what we'd see on a hurricane, in the south coastal bend, Corpus Christi and north of Corpus Christi. Then it's all flood water from Brazoria over to east of Houston."

On Aug. 25, Hurricane Harvey landed near Rockport at 10 p.m. Sustained winds of higher than 157 mph and storm surges of three to six feet pummeled the coast around Corpus Christi. Continuous rain caused flood waters to rise quickly all over the area even after the storm lost strength.

Rather than continuing inland after making landfall, Harvey stalled over Southeast Texas. The stalling of the storm produced record-breaking rainfall in some areas with totals of 45 to more than 50 inches of rain.

According to the KBTX weather reports, College Station averaged 2.68 inches of rain in August in previous years. This year, it set a new record of 21.02 inches of total rainfall in only one month.

"HARVEY WAS KIND OF UNPRECEDENTED BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A WIDE AREA."  
- MONTY DOZIER

The rain stopped several days after Harvey landed, but rivers and drainage systems continued to gather the flood waters. Some areas were still under mandatory evacuation more than a week after Harvey landed. In Brazoria County, the San Bernard River did not crest near the small town of Sweeny until Sept. 4, 10 days after Harvey made landfall.

The San Bernard River's flood stage consists of three levels. The minor flood stage reaches 16 feet over the natural banks, moderate reaches 17 feet and major flood stage begins at 20 feet past the bank. The river crested at 30 feet over the natural banks.

Dan Reilly, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service, said the flooding reached record levels in Sweeny. "It was just way over major flood stage and I'm fairly certain that's a record," Reilly said. The previous record for flooding was 23.9 feet in Oct. 1998.

Reilly began working for the National Weather Service 24 years ago and has been working for the Houston/Galveston area for nine years. Throughout his time working there, he said Harvey was by far the biggest rain event experienced in the US.

"Harvey, the biggest thing with it was the amount of rainfall," Reilly said. "We've never had any kind of hurricane in this country, or tropical system, produce that much rain over such a large area."

#### IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

When flood waters started rising, many people were unable to leave their homes. Stories were shared on social media of neighbors and strangers alike rescuing people from flooded homes and other dangerous areas.

Some individuals and agencies even dedicated themselves to rescuing livestock from dangerous areas.

"One of our key missions that we do as far as responding to hurricanes or wildfires is setting up animal supply points," Dozier said. "Those are to bring feed and hay into storm impacted areas."

The AgriLife Extension Service organizes animal supply points and sets up local shelters for livestock during hazardous conditions, including the flooding that followed Harvey. The shelters are set up at the request of county officials following evacuation orders.

"Well, people want to be able to evacuate with their horse, their 4-H project, those kinds of things," Dozier said. "So on request of the county judge, we'll set up sheltering facilities for those livestock. Then we'll also set up the animal supply points to get feed and hay in."

The AgriLife Extension Service began organizing livestock shelters and rescues during Hurricane Ike in 2008. Typically, Dozier said, they set up three or four facilities during hazardous weather conditions. They operated 11 animal supply points during Hurricane Harvey and in the week following it.

"As far as what we do, it was the biggest response we've been associated with," Dozier said.

Volunteers from across Texas and the US hitched up their boats and came to the rescue. Police officers, firefighters, game wardens, civilian groups and others came from across the state and nation to lend their services.

#### THERE'S A SPIRIT

Many students at Texas A&M University watched from College Station as their homes and hometowns were demolished or flooded. By Sunday evening, senior sports management major Greta Swift could no longer bear feeling helpless while her parents were stuck in Katy.

"I was sitting there Sunday night, right before they canceled all the classes, like 'I feel helpless,'" Swift said.

Swift tweeted her idea that Texas A&M should organize an event similar to Big Event but for local Harvey victims. Her tweet drew the attention of other Texas A&M student leaders and they formed a group to spearhead the endeavor. With a core team of 15 students, they called themselves the Built to Help Others organization and immediately began working on the "BTHO Harvey" campaign.

"I WAS SITTING THERE SUNDAY NIGHT, RIGHT BEFORE THEY CANCELLED ALL THE CLASSES, LIKE 'I FEEL HELPLESS.'"  
- GRETA SWIFT

The first part of the campaign consisted of collecting and distributing donated supplies to hurricane victims. They organized and hosted a supply send-off where they filled five 18-wheelers with supplies. Three of the trucks went to Beaumont and two went to Lake Jackson.

After the supply send-offs, the monetary campaign began as part two of BTHO Harvey. All of the funds raised went to the American Red Cross. With this campaign, Swift said they wanted to find a way that students could help despite limited budgets and free time.

"One of the things we wanted to do was get people to act who otherwise wouldn't act," Swift said. "The T-shirts were the perfect way."

The "BTHO Harvey" T-shirts were sold leading up to the Sept. 9 football game versus Nicholls State. The organization members encouraged students and community members to buy shirts and "white out" Kyle Field in support of hurricane relief efforts. The group raised over \$300,000 from that campaign alone.

The group began the process of becoming an official student organization at Texas A&M. Swift said that the university acknowledged them as an official organization from the very beginning so they could utilize the same resources and support that Texas A&M provides official student organizations.

"A&M has been very gracious," Swift said. "If we were to total what they've donated to us, it's over \$75,000 easy of resources they've given to us since we started."

Aggies have also been quick to help. Students purchased T-shirts, volunteered at the supply send-offs and donated money. Former Texas A&M football players Myles Garrett and Von Miller contributed \$5,000 and \$100,000 respectively to the Built to Help Others' Red Cross fund.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media significantly changed the nature of rescue and recovery operations during Hurricane Harvey. People posted their distress signals online and others were able to help rescuers find them or their livestock, take them to shelters and give supplies to those in need.

"Somebody asked me what the big difference was from when we did it in Ike and Harvey, and it is social media," Dozier said. "There were positives associated with social media, like getting information."





Built to Help Others organized a supply send-off in Reed Arena where they filled five Mayflower trucks with donations. Members of the lead team orchestrated the event with help from volunteers.

Pictures and videos were shared across Facebook and Twitter of people helping round up cattle in flood waters and strangers driving boats through neighborhoods to find people stuck in their homes. However, social media led many people to initiate rescue operations without coordinating with local officials.

“There was a downside to social media because we would have individuals out doing stuff,” Dozier said. “We had a lot of freelancers, what I call freelancers, and they’re doing good stuff, but we may not know they’re coming in with a load of animals.”

The AgriLife Extension Service operated in conjunction with the USDA Wildlife Services Management to find cattle in dangerous locations and relocate them to a shelter. They worked in systems and with legal authority to enter properties and take care of the livestock.

“They’re good hearted, and they just want to help,” Dozier said. He said they just needed to work with the proper authorities to ensure the most efficient and safe operations.

Social media gave people across the nation and world the ability to immediately see the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. It also allowed them to witness the selfless service, acts of heroism and outpouring of love taking place in Texas.

People saw the videos of Rockport utterly demolished and were able to send help. People saw the pleas for help from Houstonians trapped in their homes and sent boats and helicopters to rescue them. People saw others, hurting and in need, and stepped up to take action.

Seeing the loss and devastation of Harvey motivated Swift to take action. “Somebody was going to do it and it might as well have been me,” Swift said.

## DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS

In the midst of Harvey, people from all organizations, agencies and walks of life came together. From Texas A&M to the National Weather Service Houston/Galveston operations room, people rallied together to help others.

“Really, it was just a very, very intense period where everyone worked really hard and did their best to save lives, especially those first responders,” Reilly said.

Before, the world knew Texans for their resilience and pride. Then they withstood Hurricane Harvey, a 500-year storm. In the wake of it, the world saw the true power of Texans’ unbreakable spirit.



A&M student wearing her BTHO Harvey gear at the “Relief Out” football game against Nicholls State.

“SOMEBODY WAS GOING TO DO IT AND IT MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN ME.”  
- GRETA SWIFT

Claire Wilson  
Sweeny, TX





# OPPORTUNITY AWAITS, TAKE ADVANTAGE

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Since 1918, Texas A&M University's agricultural communications and journalism program continues to help change study abroad trips immensely due to the major's increasing popularity. Students that participate in study abroad programs have a unique advantage on their résumés and life experiences. Many students come back from these trips and say their lives will never be the same.



The skyline of Venice, Italy during the day.

(All photos courtesy of Brandie Rohmann)

## FIVE REASONS YOU SHOULD STUDY ABROAD

### 01 "I REALLY WANT TO STUDY ABROAD, BUT I AM NERVOUS."

Many students who are interested in studying abroad constantly find excuses not to. One of those reasons could be because they are nervous to leave home, go alone or explore the unknown. If you are struggling to take the leap to study abroad, one helpful strategy is to find a friend. "My best friend signed up with me, so knowing she was going too kept my nerves to a minimum," said Ashtyn Stephenson '17 said. Bring a friend, talk to a counselor and find the perfect trip.

"I DID A TWO-WEEK PROGRAM CALLED GREECE LEADERSHIP THEORY."  
- ASHTYN STEPHENSON

### 02 "I WANT TO STUDY ABROAD, BUT I CANNOT AFFORD IT RIGHT NOW."

There are many ways to raise money for study abroad trips including scholarships.

"I received scholarships from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences through the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications," Stephenson said. "The application process was an essay and a survey stating my desire to study abroad and the reasons I thought I was fit for the program. It was a \$1,500 scholarship."

Students receive scholarships through different avenues; scholarships can be granted even if it's not from a student's specific major or school. "I received a Mays Business School scholarship and it was an extremely simple process," Malenie Areche '18 said. "I submitted a one page application and it was not a need based scholarship."



03 “BUT NONE OF MY FRIENDS ARE GOING.”

Many people are nervous to dive into a program where they do not know the people they will be traveling with. Many Aggies who study abroad find amazing friends on their trips.

Brandie Rohmann '17 said she was excited to go out of the country, but was really nervous to go to a place where she did not know anyone.

“Luckily, in my study abroad we were in a class setting prior to the trip so we were able to become familiar with one another prior to leaving the country,” Rohmann said. “Being there and spending so much time together creates a bond, and I came away from the trip with some of my best friends.”

04 “I HAVE NOT BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE.”

Traveling abroad can be an enriching experience from being enveloped in a wide variety of diverse cultures. “Italians are outgoing and welcoming but in Germany they were less interested in foreign visitors,” Rohmann said. “For once, I was in the shoes of the foreigner and coming into someone else’s home.” Additionally, Texas A&M provides services to get your passport. Rohmann said it was easy to get her passport through Texas A&M. “I received it free of charge for being a Regent Scholar. I even got my passport in just three weeks.”

05 “I DO NOT WANT TO MISS OUT ON AN ENTIRE SEMESTER IN COLLEGE STATION.”

Texas A&M provides a way for students to study abroad and not miss out on a whole semester in Aggieland. That is good news because Aggies love College Station. As students begin the journey to find an appropriate study abroad program, they should remember the services available to them. Texas A&M offers everything from a one week program to a four month program. “I did a two-week program called Greece Leadership Theory during the summer,” Stephenson said. “We participated in one week of class prior to leaving.”

Brandie Rohmann signed up for a shorter study abroad trip. “My trip was perfect because I went over spring break,” Rohmann said. “It was 10 days and we only missed two days of class.”

“IT WAS 10 DAYS AND WE ONLY MISSED 2 DAYS OF CLASS.”  
- BRANDIE ROHMANN

These are five common excuses that people make who want to study abroad, but do not think they can. Although there are valid reasons to feel nervous or anxious, that should never stop students from participating in an exciting and beneficial experience. It is never too late to study abroad and there are options for any budget and time frame. Studying abroad is a unique experience everyone can benefit from.



Maddie West  
Midland, TX



Aggie Ring looking over Salsburg, Austria during a spring break study abroad trip.



Texas A&M student holds an A&M flag in Lucerne, Switzerland on Mr. Pilatus.



(Photo courtesy of Shannon Wilson)

Shannon Wilson is paving the way for women who seek careers in agriculture. Wilson graduated from Texas A&M University in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. Since then, she has obtained a broad range of experiences in the agriculture industry. Most recently, she started her own consulting business, Know Forte. Wilson described her company as the “curator of ideas and strategy.”

“Logistically, we plan leadership meetings that have a focus before, during and after the event itself,” Wilson said. “Our goal is that people will take action after having invested their time away from home. Often times people go to an event, meeting or convention and are inspired during their time there. Once they're home they struggle to apply that inspiration. Our goal is to guide content so it is actionable,” Wilson said. Know Forte works to advocate for the agriculture industry, specifically the feedyard segment of the beef industry. Wilson said Know Forte is in the process of developing #cattletailes -- a shameless plug.

## HOW DID YOU GET THE IDEA TO START KNOW FORTE?

“While working in the corporate world I planned customer meetings in addition to my day job of sales,” Wilson said. “Heath, my husband, went to work for one of my customers, Cactus Feeders. We decided, as a family, it was God's way of telling me ‘Now is the time to go do what you've always said you wanted to do and start your own company.’”

“I distinctly remember my interview as a senior with the animal science professors in the boardroom of Kleberg. They asked, ‘Where do you see yourself in 20 years?’. I boldly and naively said ‘I hope to be called wife, boss and mom.’ Looking back, “boss” was a poor word choice for the aspirations of owning my own company. I thank God for giving me the opportunity and courage to create my own company. I joke, it only took me 20 years but I finally did it.”

## HOW DO YOU MEASURE SUCCESS IN YOUR CAREER?

“Right out of Texas A&M it was the paycheck,” Wilson said. “Now it is about balance in life, the opportunity to make a difference and the opportunity to make a difference in others' lives.”

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A GRADUATING SENIOR?

“Go see what you don't know and don't be afraid to move far away from Texas A&M and try something new,” Wilson said.

## OUTSIDE OF YOUR CAREER, HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?

“We have three daughters, so we spend a lot of time together in the gym playing basketball, working on 4-H activities like the Beef Skillathon and commercial show steers,” Wilson said.

## IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR TIME AT TEXAS A&M OR YOUR CAREER WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

“I was working for the beef department, on the livestock judging team, and was very focused on starting a career after graduation,” Wilson said. “Looking back I wish I had spent more time enjoying all the things about Texas A&M.”



Madeleine Bezner  
Dalhart, TX





WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE AGGIE TRADITION?

“It’s difficult to choose a favorite Aggie tradition, however my favorite has to be the 12th Man. There is something so unique and refreshing about the student section at A&M and how we all rally together for our team in the good times and bad.”

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

“I love being able to work with my hands and being creative. I especially love wedding flowers, because I can help the bride’s vision come to life.”

HOW DID YOU KNOW YOU WANTED TO DO FLORAL DESIGN?

“From working at a flower shop in town I quickly developed a love for floral design and realized I wanted to be my own boss. Instead of waiting until graduation, I started my junior year in college and I love it.”

HOW HAS BEING AN AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS AND JOURNALISM MAJOR HELPED YOU IN THIS FIELD?

“Being an agricultural communications and journalism student has helped me discover my passions and given me courage to pursue them.”

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST CHALLENGING PART ABOUT STARTING A BUSINESS WHILE BEING A FULL TIME STUDENT?

“The biggest challenge has actually been internal. For me, it has been a challenge to find the confidence in my abilities to be successful as both a student and business owner. It can be intimidating and overwhelming to start something new while you still feel like you are a beginner. It is easy to get caught up in comparing your journey to other peoples’ and feel like you are not good enough. For me, it has been important to remember that it is okay to be a beginner, because that is where everyone starts. No one expects you to be perfect right at the start, so you can’t put that kind of unnecessary pressure on yourself.”

Elliott graduated in December of 2017 and is already a wedding florist. She recently launched a website “The Farmer and I Flower Co.,” featuring her designs and is now booking weddings for 2018.



Maddie West  
Midland, TX



Floral arrangements for a wedding designed by Carrington.

(All photos courtesy of Carrington Elliott)

If you are involved in the field of agricultural communications, it is likely you have heard the name, “Jim Evans, Ph.D.” With a career spanning over 33 years, Evans is recognized nationally for his leadership in an agricultural communications program and recognized internationally for his exceptional academic credentials. Evans dedicates his career to researching and teaching agricultural communications at the University of Illinois. Today, Evans is involved in the university’s program serving on its committees and is an advisor for students and alumni.

## LOOKING INTO THE FIRE

*By Jim Evans, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus  
Agricultural Communications, University of Illinois*

One of my favorite sayings from the Australian Bush urges spending an hour a day looking into a fire. It helps soothe the mind, inspire memories, and stir dreams.

In that spirit I squelched my hesitation and accepted the invitation to comment briefly on how far agricultural communications has come, nationally, as an academic discipline and what the future looks like. My respect for the century-long contributions of Texas A&M University in this discipline also influenced me.

We are talking about a book(s)-length project, of course. So what follows is necessarily selective and light on historical facts and forces.

LOOKING INTO THE FIRE, I WILL TRY TO SUMMARIZE SOME ELEMENTS OF “THEN,” “NOW” AND “TOMORROW” IN THIS EMERGING ACADEMIC FIELD I LOVE.

### THEN

Academic programs in agricultural journalism and communications began in ways quite similar to those of related disciplines. Nationwide, agricultural journalism programs started with courses. Scattered courses emerged in the early 1900s, but often were taught sporadically, even dropped for years or decades. By 1928, only seven universities offered agricultural journalism courses, often in departments of technical or agricultural journalism. They tended to feature agricultural writing and editing for newspapers and farm papers, the primary farm and ranch media of the era. They were micro (skills) oriented, just as early agricultural economics courses featured farm management practices and animal husbandry courses featured breeds, feeds and feeding.

Early degree programs emerged with little or no course work in the discipline. In 1950, for example, I completed a degree in agricultural journalism without having taken an agricultural journalism course. The pattern was typical, featuring a combination of journalism and agriculture courses. During the 1800s and beyond, early agricultural journalists often were known as agriculturists in the fields they covered.

Clouds of doubt hovered over these programs after the

1940s as numbers of farms and ranches declined and urban media tended to drop their agricultural coverage.

HOWEVER, A 90-YEAR ANALYSIS OF COMMERCIAL FARM PERIODICALS IN THE U.S. HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THAT NUMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL PERIODICALS WERE NOT RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF FARMS AND RANCHES.

Agricultural media were becoming more specialized. Agricultural knowledge was expanding and becoming more complex. It was flowing through more channels. Activities of agricultural organizations, Extension services, agricultural marketers, and interest groups expanded, requiring skilled communicators.

In this new environment, the identity of agricultural journalism programs shifted. Most of today’s academic programs have been formed since 1970, and most have taken broader identifications, such as agricultural communication(s).

Research activities were sparse during early decades. Small faculties, teaching priorities, and other constraints limited emphasis on research.

### NOW

I see agricultural communications moving into the academic mainstream. Nationwide, such programs are growing in number, size, and vigor. Demand for graduates has remained consistently strong. Nearly 50 universities offer identified degree programs in agricultural communications. Many are relatively small. Most focus on undergraduate teaching, with an emerging core of graduate courses and degree programs. Expanding faculties are bringing academic credentials as well as professional expertise into these programs. Faculty members and students are becoming more organized, nationally.

Twin revolutions are adding vigor and urgency. Agriculture is becoming envisioned much more broadly - encompassing the entire food complex, biobased energy, environmental stewardship, rural-urban relationships, sustainable development, and other related fronts.



The communications world also has changed dramatically. Computerization, new information technologies, and a blizzard of new media have emerged. These changes, including a host of social issues related to agriculture, are calling for skilled communicators who can straddle this dynamic combination.

Today, such programs tend to have administrative homes within colleges of agriculture and collaborate with colleges of journalism/communications. Many have become separated from the agricultural communications service units that nurtured them into being.

PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON PREPARING PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISTS AND COMMUNICATORS, AS WELL AS HELPING AGRICULTURE STUDENTS AND OTHERS BECOME BETTER COMMUNICATORS.

Increasingly, course offerings include macro-oriented as well as micro-oriented aspects of the field.

Research endeavors are expanding, and within the framework of a new National Agenda for Agricultural Communications Research. An Agricultural Communications Documentation Center is helping identify, preserve, and make available the growing body of knowledge about this field, globally. Scholarly agendas are broadening to include not only communications within the agriculture complex, but also communications between agriculture and society at large.



(Photo courtesy of Jim Evans)

## TOMORROW

I believe that well-founded academic programs in agricultural journalism and communications will continue to grow and serve a unique, increasingly valuable academic mission. They will need a stronger platform. I will close with several girders I believe faculties can use to build it.

1. As teachers, scholars, and public servants, agricultural communications faculty members will need to provide leadership in moving beyond the persistent one-way, top-down, power-based mentality about humans communicating.

2. Their platform will involve listening more closely to audiences – understanding, respecting, and caring for them. Agricultural communicators will serve not only as voices of the interests they represent, but also as eyes, ears – and sometimes consciences – within firms, organizations, and interest groups they serve. They will interact with audiences in the spirit of joint problem solving. Their social responsibility will rise above representing the interests of the day in agriculture.

3. This platform will respect constancy as well as change. Any sustainable society needs to experiment and respond to changing conditions. Otherwise, it will stagnate. Societies also need constancy, the cultural bedrock of knowing and using what has proven to work. Otherwise, constant change and experimenting add risk to survival and sustainability. Effective agricultural communicators will actively respect both dimensions.

4. It will operate across science, and beyond. Agricultural communications advances science and public use of research findings. However, it is broader than science communications - for example, in recognizing that decisions by society involve more than scientific evidence. Agricultural communicators will operate across the full spectrum.

5. It will maintain a strong journalism base. Journalism scholarship is rooted in the humanities. Elements of literature, articulate expression, creative arts, critical inquiry, philosophy, and ethics will contribute uniquely to the agricultural communications platform.

6. It will provide impetus and means for developing graduate programs and research efforts. The framework of a new national research agenda will help every agricultural communications scholar understand where his/her research (whatever the topic) fits into a broader framework and mission.

7. It will increasingly advance cross-cultural communications and take on international scope.

MAY THE FIRE WE WATCH INSPIRE US ALL.







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# ONE LEGEND, COUNTLESS IMPACTS

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Dr. Charles Graham is one of the most influential people in my life. The first time I met Graham, often referred to as “Doc,” I was in middle school and I have listened to his wise words ever since. When the name “Doc” is said, words such as diligent, courteous and determined come to mind.

All I have ever known “Doc” Graham to wear is work clothes, consisting of a button down, a pair of Wranglers, boots and a well-worn cowboy hat. His rugged hands are proof of his hard work.

## THE BEGINNING

Success never came easy for Graham. He worked many long, hard days as a kid and still does. Nobody on this earth could outwork Graham in a day.

When Graham turned 18-years-old he left home with \$10 in his pocket to pursue his dreams in Aggieland. Graham said he knew he would amount to something great someday.

“I told my momma that I would make something out of myself,” Graham said.

85-year-old Graham has been a stand out in the agricultural industry since he stepped foot into Texas A&M University in the early 1950s. Graham earned his bachelor’s degree in animal husbandry in 1953, a bachelor’s degree in animal science in 1954 and his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 1961.

Knowing Graham’s success at Texas A&M, I turned to him for guidance regarding what to pursue as a senior in high school. I made an appointment to meet with Graham one day after school. As I sat in his office gazing at all the awards and pictures, I was in awe. This man has accomplished so much in his lifetime.

Graham and I sat and talked about school options and I will never forget his words, “You sit in the front of the classroom,” Graham said. “Pay attention and take your studies seriously, and leave your horses at home.” The most important thing he said was, “Get that Aggie ring.”

If you have ever spoken to Graham you know that is a very censored quote, but I soaked up every word. I was accepted to Texas A&M in 2014 and began attending in the fall. Sure enough, I left my horses at home.

## ELGIN VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Graham opened Elgin Veterinary Hospital in partnership with WH Cardwell, DVM. Graham’s determination to finish the clinic led him to work many long days with help from three other men. Graham was confident in himself and knew how outstanding his work ethic was, so as I questioned him about his partnership with Cardwell he told me, “I didn’t ask for 50 percent, I told him I would own 50 percent, because of how hard I work,” Graham said.

Graham’s love for the horse industry expanded when he opened Southwest Stallion Station, a very well-known breeding facility located in Elgin, Texas. Studs such as Epic Leader, Kiss My Hocks and FireWaterOnTheRocks are kept there for breeding season.

Graham’s success does not stop in Elgin. Graham Land and Cattle spreads across most of Gonzales, Texas. While Graham has made it clear that he excels as a horseman he has made a name for himself in the cattle industry as well.

## A MAN OF MANY STORIES

One chilly day at Southwest Stallion Station I was able to visit with Graham for a few hours. The tone of his voice and the smile on his face told the stories for him, but his words painted the pictures. As he laughed about his times in Aggieland and rambled about memories, one story stood out the most. The story of Graham’s wedding day. The day that is supposed to be the most exciting of your life almost did not happen. When the pastor asked Graham to take his Aggie ring off his wedding finger to place his wedding ring on it, Graham was appalled.

“I am not taking this ring off,” Graham said. He turned to walk out of the small church in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Graham walked almost all the way to the doors before the pastor called him back and said that they could make it work, by putting the wedding ring on a different finger. As Graham laughed he told me how much his Aggie ring meant to him.

“Don’t you ever take that ring off your hand,” Graham said. “That ring will get you into more doors than a diamond ever will in your life.”

The Aggie family is something that cannot be explained



merely in words. It is an indescribable feeling. Doc Graham is just one of many connections I have made since I have been at Texas A&M. Being a student at Texas A&M gives me numerous opportunities to tell my story to younger students, just like Doc did for me.

### LEGACY

Anyone who has had the pleasure to be around Graham knows that he is nothing short of extraordinary. Graham's list of awards add up to be over a mile long. Some of his most prominent awards include being inducted into the Texas A&M distinguished alumni as well as being inducted into three halls of fame: American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame, Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame and the Texas Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Graham's story is not over yet. "I am 85-years-old, but I feel like I am 42. I still have plenty of years to make a living," Graham said.

### THE AGGIE FAMILY

Graham is an example of the many Aggie connections at Texas A&M.

Fellow rodeo competitor and incoming Texas A&M freshman Cullen Eppright explains how Graham has impacted his outlook on success.

"Dr. Graham has always believed in me and given me some very important life tips," Eppright said. "The best tip he gave me is, 'You can do anything as long as you do not get distracted and take the wrong path.'"

Graham's story will go on, and his legacy will live strong. As for me and my memories with Charles "Doc" Graham, I will be able to have a part of him throughout my life.

As I continue my training and breeding program I will have foals by Epic Leader and FireWaterOnTheRocks. Knowing that I have my Aggie ring and a breeding program to go with it makes all the harsh lectures from Graham well worth it.

His impact on my life will always hold true to my heart, as well as my experience at Texas A&M University.



Jimmie Smith  
Elgin, TX



Charles "Doc" Graham DVM '53 and Jimmie Smith '18 with stud Epic Leader at Southwest Stallion Station in Elgin, Texas. Graham is a mentor to decades of Aggies.



(All photos courtesy of Garrett Terry)





# RANCH TV

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## An Aggie From Shiro Sets A Texas 'First'



Photo by Tom Gehman, Chronicle Staff  
 Vocational agriculture teacher Anna Beth Neason gives a pig a pat. Part of her job with Clear Creek High School will be instructing kids in raising "live" projects like Pucky.

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BY SHIRLEY  
 Christie

ANNA BETH NEASON is taking, freckled Shiro, Texas.

And right off, she you had to, you could who say they live in to be the smallest in filling station. We but one bought the oil

Shiro is little man mark between College wife. A farming and mainly. Its men and the land, or work that

Anna Beth, Texas Class of '74, is the 5 agriculture teacher Texas public school other licensed female is employed at Gert Prison System—not the regular public sch

Monday will be Ann a schoolteacher. Ad will integrate the all culture department School in League City

"I don't know why one has teaching Beth, who has a high cultural education. Ji And her older brother

"Waxes like at an end say, 'Oh, I could of what they say they are."

Of the 20 students for vocational agric Clear Creek High, about 1 says Anna Beth. They big her grand

"The girls weren't overnight trips into

# AN AGGIE FROM SHIRO SETS A TEXAS 'FIRST'

Campus life at Texas A&M University is a bit different today compared to the 1970s. Now, there is a whole new side of campus west of Wellborn Road, a new and improved Kyle Field and a hotel on campus. One of the biggest differences between the 1970s and today, however, is that campus is filled with more women.

Texas A&M first opened the doors for women to enroll in 1963, but it was not until 1970 that the first woman started teaching agriculture classes in public schools in Texas. AnnaBeth Neason '74 became the first woman production agriculture teacher, now referred to as an agricultural science teacher, after graduating with a degree in agricultural education from Texas A&M.

While Neason spent 21 years teaching agriculture to both male and female students, she did not have the same opportunities growing up.

"I showed at the county fair, but back then for girls we had home economics projects, not animals," Neason said.

Her family was involved in the agricultural industry, but as a child Neason was not able to contribute.

"My dad had a beef cattle operation, so I was associated with agriculture, but my dad was very traditional," Neason said. "He had two sons. He didn't need his daughter outside working."

The National FFA Organization did not allow females into the organization until 1969 and the Texas FFA Association did not implement the change until 1970, the year that Neason graduated high school.



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“Girls were not admitted into the FFA, and at most schools, girls were not allowed to even take agriculture classes until 1969,” Neason said. “Texas did not pass the admission of girls to take agriculture classes until July 1970 so I did not have an FFA or agricultural background in high school. I had a lot to learn.”

Neason grew up in the small town of Shiro, Texas, and graduated from Navasota High School. She received a scholarship to attend Texas A&M.

“A&M offered me a scholarship based on my SAT,” Neason said. “It was \$150 a semester but because tuition was so low back then, it paid for all of my tuition and fees and usually gave me enough money for at least one textbook.”

As a freshman, Neason said she did not plan on being the first female production agricultural science teacher. Initially she majored in chemistry before switching to agricultural education.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to do,” Neason said. “When I decided on switching majors I realized ag education was for me because it involved two things that I loved, agriculture and teaching.”

Upon graduating from Texas A&M in 1974, Neason began her first job teaching at Clear Creek High School at the age of 21. She said she taught there for two years, and then moved to Stephen F. Austin Ninth Grade Campus in Bryan, Texas, while she pursued her master’s degree. In 1980, she moved to Iowa to get her Ph.D. in agricultural education from Iowa State University.

“At that time, there were only three Ph.D. programs in ag education in the United States,” Neason said. “I had to choose between Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Iowa so I went to Iowa and received my Ph.D. in 1983.”

After earning her Ph.D., Neason spent three years as a teacher educator at Cameron State University in Oklahoma where she taught agricultural education and horticulture.

While Neason spent the majority of her career teaching at public schools, she also wrote curriculum for the state of Louisiana for four years and was a state adviser to the Louisiana FFA officers.

Before retirement, Neason spent 12 years teaching sixth,

seventh and eighth grade agriculture classes at Creekside Junior High School in Pearl River, Louisiana.

In her years as an FFA advisor, Neason achieved her greatest accomplishment while teaching at Creekside Junior High School.

“I guess you could say my student’s highest achievement was at Creekside back in 2012 when we were recognized as one of the top five programs in the nation,” Neason said.

In her 21 years of teaching, Neason trained multiple student judging teams, competing against other FFA chapters in dairy cattle, nursery landscape, poultry and forestry judging contests.

“One thing that I have learned is that if you want to win, you have to do something different,” Neason said.

Between teaching multiple agriculture classes and training numerous judging teams, Neason has also learned to never underestimate students.

“I learned to never sell my kids short,” Neason said. “When they want something, they can and they will do it.”

Now retired, Neason said she still wants kids to learn the importance and the role that agriculture plays in our economy.

“Kids need to know where their food comes from,” Neason said. “They need to know that it doesn’t just come from Walmart. There is an actual process.”

After starting at Texas A&M as a freshman chemistry major to retiring after more than two decades of teaching, Neason said she most enjoyed being able to experience watching her students learn.

“My last year of teaching, when class was over, I just looked at the kids and smiled and told them, ‘Thank you. You reminded me of why I became a teacher,’” Neason said.

Natalie Harriman  
Angleton, TX



AnnaBeth Neason stands in front of new and improved Texas A&M campus.

(Photo by Colten Fulton)





Hailey and DM Sissy Hayday (Sister) turning the third barrel at the 2017 CNFR in Casper, Wyoming.





## HAILEY KINSEL

### LETTING HER LIGHT SHINE

Hailey Kinsel, a 23-year-old, second-generation Texas A&M graduate from Cotulla, Texas, is no stranger to the spotlight. Immediately after graduating from Texas A&M in May 2017, Hailey set her aim high and hit the road to chase her dream of qualifying for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, which takes place in December in Las Vegas, Nevada.

At Texas A&M University, Kinsel majored in agricultural economics with an emphasis in real estate and entrepreneurship. From the time she was a little girl, however, she knew she wanted to have her own barrel horse breeding and training program. The degree she received from Texas A&M gave her the knowledge she needed to do just that.

“I do want to rodeo as long as I can and I really love the futurity game so that would be where I really want to end up someday is training futurity horses,” Kinsel said. “I do however want to be smart about it and build a substantial business one day. My idea was to take the classes to gain the economic and entrepreneurship knowledge, put that together with the futurity training to hopefully build that successful business.”





Hailey's passion for riding horses started at a young age. Hailey receiving a few pointers from her mother Leslie.



Horses are a girl's best friend. Hailey with Sister and TJ.

Kinsel said she grew up on a ranch where working cattle and training horses was part of her everyday routine. She said the western way of life was all she knew, so picking up barrel racing came naturally. With barrel racing in her blood, the adrenaline rush of going full speed on a horse, only encouraged Kinsel to fall more in love with the sport.

"My mom ran barrels and trained horses and my dad roped so horses were always there," Kinsel said. "I have pictures of me at play days when I was two and three years old, so I don't remember ever not running barrels."

As she rose through the ranks of youth and high school rodeos and began making a name for herself, Kinsel knew pursuing a career in barrel racing was what she wanted. Since then, Hailey began her career as a professional barrel racer. In 2017 alone, Kinsel has won RFD TV's *The American*, was the College National Finals Champion Barrel Racer, Barrel Racing gold medalist at the Days of '47 rodeo in Salt Lake City, Utah, and secured her spot in the WNFR as the seventh ranked barrel racer in the world.

Kinsel could not accomplish these things on her own. She expressed the impact all of her horses throughout her life have had on her success, especially Josie, DM Sissy Hayday, also known as Sister, and Thunderstones, better known as TJ.

"My first 'fast' horse, Josie, we bought from a friend when I decided to rodeo seriously," Kinsel said. "I ran Josie for about seven years and won the High School Finals on her, she has to be my all time favorite horse besides Sister."

Kinsel said TJ filled the gap for her throughout the years. "Then of course there's Sister," Kinsel said. "She has just gone above and beyond my expectations and provided me my level of success that I have now."

During her time at Texas A&M University, Kinsel was a standout member of the Aggie Rodeo Team. Kinsel competed in

the breakaway roping and barrel racing and was an active officer in the club. Her success in the barrel racing earned her three consecutive trips to the College National Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming where she helped the Texas A&M Women's Team earn a national title in 2016. Aside from the team's success, Kinsel also secured herself a national title in the barrel racing in 2017.

While her time spent on the Texas A&M Rodeo Team was influential, Kinsel credited rodeo coach Al Wagner, Ph.D., for keeping her grounded during her years at Texas A&M University. Like almost every member of the Texas A&M Rodeo Team, Kinsel built a strong relationship with Wagner as not only a rodeo coach but a life mentor as well.

"I knew that Dr. Al was a super nice man going into my first visit with him but I don't think I realized just how much of a mentor he would be for me," Kinsel said. "He is a maker of people, he shapes people into their best possible selves."

"I wish there were a million more Dr. Al's out there to make people has good as they can be, because he brings that out in a non-forceful way by just being incredibly gentle and caring. From the first college rodeo he dubbed me 'Smiley' and anytime he sees me that's what he calls me and it really makes my day."

Not only has Dr. Al played a significant role in developing her into who she is today, but Hailey also praises the lessons she learned from Texas A&M for aiding in who she has become.

"Texas A&M teaches you to be part of something bigger, that really matters," Kinsel said. "It is not all about you. Texas A&M is about making each other better while becoming the best you, you can be. That idea taught me to be level-headed throughout school when I wanted to have a meltdown and it made me take the focus off myself and be about helping other people."

"If I could pick three words to describe myself I would pick fun, awkward and awesome," Kinsel said. "Those who know me know I like to have fun but I also don't mind being the awkward



# the National Finals 2017



Hailey receiving her saddle and buckle for winning the Barrel Racing title at the 2017 CNFR.



The Texas A&M Women's Rodeo Team is the definition of girl power.

person in situations either. I'm awesome because I can perfectly combine fun and awkward."

When she was not spending her time horseback in the practice pen or on the road headed to another rodeo, Hailey could be found hanging out with friends and family or even spending quality time tending to the needs of her equine partners.

"I enjoy anything about my horses, the day to day care, chores, daily exercise and roping the dummy," Kinsel said. "I do like spending time with friends so anytime I can go grab a bite to eat with some friends, I'm all for it."

Although Kinsel's accomplishments inside the arena are enough to set her apart from her peers, it's her hardworking, dedicated and outgoing character that makes her unique. Outside of the arena, Hailey is known for her humble attitude and love for Christ.

During her last two and a half years at Texas A&M University, Hailey led a Bible study in her home for her college girlfriends. Throughout those two years, she led the girls through different phases of life while encouraging them to keep the faith and look to Jesus for answers to some of life's toughest problems. She provided dinner for the girls, fellowship and worship, and created friendships between the girls that will last a lifetime. The Bible study gave Hailey and the girls a chance to take a breath from school and dive into the Word of God for a bit of fresh air.

"I started the Bible study half-way through my sophomore year because I realized we had a big group of girls that were all friends, but it can be hard for girls ages 19-22ish to get along when everyday life gets in the way," Kinsel said. "In order to give a message of 'Hey we are all in the this together, there's no reason for us to not get along' I decided to open the Bible study for a common ground for us to get together and study God's word. It can be hard to get to church every Sunday so I wanted this to be an opportunity to get more out of church."

Faith is the foundation of Hailey's life and a tool she claims she couldn't live without. She is a natural born, God-fearing leader who is always seeking to better the lives of others by sharing her love for Christ.

"Faith is my life, if it wasn't for faith I wouldn't have a reason to do anything," Kinsel said. "When people ask for rodeo advice of what keeps me going I always say, 'Well I have a purpose and it isn't winning. If my purpose was winning this is the wrong sport to be in. My purpose is to glorify God and make Him known, that's the reason I rodeo and do what I do.'"

Nevertheless, aside from having fame and success in the arena as a barrel racer, Kinsel wants others to know her simply as a little girl who once fell in love with the sport, and uses her talents to honor and glorify the One above.

"I don't want people to necessarily remember me by the type of person I was but mainly for what I did with what I was given," Kinsel said. "Yes, I've had success but I've also been through a lot to get to where I am, so more for why I handled things the way I did, with lots of faith and an humble heart."

Throughout the 2017 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, Hailey Kinsel demonstrated her exceptional talent in barrel racing. She won four of the ten rounds and placed in the top six in four rounds. In Round 3, Kinsel shattered the arena record with her time of 13.11 seconds. In ten days of competition, Hailey Kinsel earned \$189,385 and the title "Reserve World Champion."



Loryn Piersol  
Huntsville, TX





Ashley Dunkerley '13 works closely with various representatives of the three entities in Team Ag Ed, including members of the Texas FFA Officer Team.



(All photos courtesy of Ashley Dunkerley)

## TELL ME ABOUT YOUR JOB.

“I am the Communications Coordinator for Texas Team Ag Ed, which includes the Texas FFA Association, the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas (VATAT) and the Texas FFA Foundation. This role allows me to practice a variety of skills, and no two days look the same. My responsibilities include editing and producing monthly publications, shooting and editing video content, graphic design, and social media management. I also help to plan, organize and execute annual events such as the Texas FFA State Convention, VATAT Professional Development Conference and Texas FFA Day at the Capital. I love being challenged by my work, and appreciate the diversity of my daily tasks.”

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB? WHY?

“It’s a great thing when a person’s career aligns with their passion. Being the daughter of an ag teacher, I have been surrounded by agricultural education and FFA for as long as I can remember. My job allows me the privilege of working with the best teachers and students in the country. I get to spend my days trying to find new ways to promote and highlight their hard work and accomplishments. What better way to give back to an organization that helped me become who I am today? I am beyond thankful.”

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE AGGIE TRADITION?

“My favorite tradition is the Aggie Ring. It is the most visible symbol of the Aggie Network and it connects Aggies around the world. I also really love the magic of the Aggie Network. Our former students want the next generation of Aggies to succeed, so they do whatever possible to help. No one has ever accused an Aggie of not being passionate and that passion extends to helping one another.”

## WHAT LIFE LESSONS HAVE HELPED YOU SUCCEED?

“Growth is not always comfortable, but it is always worth it. I have found that there is always room for improvement in everything we do. A colleague once told me ‘action without reflection is a waste of time.’ I believe that statement is completely true and relevant. I try my very best to take constructive criticism or feedback and turn it into a positive growing experience!”



Claire Wilson  
Sweeny, TX



## WHAT ARE THE GARDENS?

“Long ago an area was set aside along the White Creek tributary specifically for The Gardens, off-limits for any major capital building projects. It’s an area designated for teaching, research, extension and outreach activities. We want it to be a premier garden and open to everyone, not only students but the community as well. We want to show and celebrate our accomplishments in agriculture. The master plan is for 40 acres of property, stretching from the Borlaug Center, behind the Agriculture and Life Sciences building, over to Discovery Drive. We’re doing the project in phases. The first phase in construction right now is about seven acres and should be completed by the spring of 2018.”

## HOW IS THE GARDENS PROJECT BEING PAID FOR?

“The construction cost for The Gardens is about \$10 million. Most of the funding has come from thousands of generous donors. With multiple donation levels, the donors have the opportunity to have certain garden vignettes named after them. So far, they have raised \$5 million. \$5.5 million has come from the A&M Foundation, so we have exceeded our goal.”

## WAS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WHITE CREEK APARTMENTS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GARDENS?

“Resident life has played a pretty big role in the development of The Gardens. That’s why we constructed the pathway and bridge that connects the White Creek Apartments to the Ag and Life Sciences building. This will give students who live in the apartments an opportunity

to walk through The Gardens every day, to and from class. There will be areas in The Gardens for students to sit and hang out, study or just relax and connect with nature.”

## UPON COMPLETION, HOW POPULAR OR ACTIVE DO YOU THINK THE GARDENS WILL BE?

“Looking at the growth of Texas A&M’s campus, by population and structure, there is a tremendous amount of space available on the west side. By filling it in, the railroad running straight through the middle of campus will become less of a dividing line in the minds of students. East campus is constantly becoming urbanized and stacked with new buildings. Research Park was made to constrict that and keep some green space on campus, but not many students know about it. I do hope the ag department staff and faculty will invite their students into The Gardens for outdoor classes. I see The Gardens becoming the central park of campus.”

## WHEN WILL THE WHOLE 40 ACRES OF THE GARDENS BE COMPLETED?

“That is yet to be determined. A few more naming opportunities for donors are still available for the first phase. We can’t ask the board of regents for permission to start construction on phase two until we have phase one totally complete, including our final balance. Once we find our pattern of building progress and finances, we can determine a timeline.”



Braden Deupree  
Bryan, TX



The Gardens will include an outdoor classroom, open-air pavilion, barn, amphitheater, floral gardens, vegetable gardens and nature trails.

(Photo courtesy of Agrilife Sciences)





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Boots passed down from mother to daughter.

(Photo courtesy of Hannah Hardwick)



## BLAME IT ALL ON MY ROOTS

Walking through the Texas A&M University campus has a special meaning for one, fifth generation student, Katie Pfeuffer '19. "This school is so close to my heart because this is my family's school, always has been," Pfeuffer said.

If you know the history of Texas A&M, you may have heard of Pfeuffer Hall, a dorm on Texas A&M's campus that no longer exists. What you might not know is that dorm is where the famous P.L. "Pinkie" Downs, class of 1906 and the man credited as the creator of the famous "Gig 'em" phrase, lived as a freshman.

Pfeuffer Hall is named after George Pfeuffer, Texas state legislator and president of the original Board of Directors at Texas A&M from 1883 to 1886. Now, almost 135 years later, his great-great-great-granddaughter is walking the same grounds he once did.

"It is very special to know I walk the same halls he walked and I'm participating in the same traditions he did," Pfeuffer said. Like many generations before her, she chose to follow her family's tradition and attend Texas A&M.

Katie Pfeuffer always knew she would be an Aggie. She knew how to "Gig 'em" by the time she was three years old, had 12th Man burp cloths, started going to Texas A&M football games when she was five and learned about the importance of traditions at A&M. "When I was young my mom always told me if I got lost in a crowd I was supposed to look for moms with strollers or Aggie rings," Pfeuffer said.

As a fifth generation Aggie, she is one of many students here on campus that learned about the special traditions

of Texas A&M at a young age, hearing the stories of her grandparents and great-grandparents and the part they played in Texas A&M's history.

"The running family joke was I could go to any school I wanted, but the money is going to A&M - my grandparents have a Sul Ross scholarship that they've been sponsoring for years," Pfeuffer said.

The traditions and history of this school drew Pfeuffer, like many students, to the university. Although, not many other students have as many of generations in their family who shared the same campus.

"I love the history of the school and I love the family connections I have here," Pfeuffer said. "One of my favorite stories is about how my grandparents got married on Friday because my grandpa had finals on Thursday and graduated on Saturday."

Now, over a century later, Katie Pfeuffer proudly wears the same Texas A&M maroon and white as her great-great-great-grandfather did in 1883. "I am proud to know I am continuing the legacy of my family," Pfeuffer said.

Hannah Hardwick  
Austin, TX





Katy Baldock sits in front of the world's largest sand dune in the Namib Desert, Namibia, Africa.



(All photos courtesy of Katy Baldock)

## A MAJOR DECISION

Katy Baldock '17 exemplifies the Texas A&M core values of leadership, loyalty and excellence both on and off campus. Baldock said the agricultural communications and journalism major provided her with the skills she needed to succeed like photography, writing and graphic design.

Baldock, a Nacogdoches native, said she grew up in the piney woods. Despite developing a love for the outdoors and wildlife, she said she was confused about what exactly she wanted to do with her life. "All I knew was that I wanted a job where I wouldn't be doing the same thing every day," Baldock said. "A desk job always just seemed so boring to me."

Worried about her future and running out of time to make a decision on what to major in, she said she turned to her agricultural science teacher, Rachel Valenti '08 for advice. "Ms. Valenti told me that I should look at ag communications because she knew my passions and thought I would be a good fit," Baldock said.

According to the agricultural communications and journalism program website, students receive hands-on training through supervised learning experiences. These experiences include producing magazines and television commercials, running radio stations and developing data visualization presentations.

### THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Baldock said she applied to be a photographer for "The Aggieland," Texas A&M's student yearbook, because she fell in love with student media. Baldock served as a staff photographer during the first semester of her sophomore year and worked her way up to become the photo editor during her second semester.

Wanting to take on more of a challenge, she became

the editor of "The Aggieland" the following year. Baldock's experience in student media provided her with many opportunities, but Baldock said the workload and time commitment was a lot for her to handle in addition to her studies and other commitments. She said she felt burned out with the newsroom. "I was staying there to work more often than I was at my house," Baldock said.

However, she said the allure of the newsroom pulled her back in. Baldock originally planned to apply as the photographer for *The Battalion*, Texas A&M's first student news publication, in the fall of 2017. She said she had no idea what was in store for her during her last semester.

### A NEW STORY

Snap Inc. selected Texas A&M as one of five universities to participate in their beta testing of campus discover panels. The panels are magazines that are displayed to millions of Snapchat users each week.

In their pursuit of an individual to lead the Snapchat team, the editors of *The Battalion* needed someone talented and professional.

"Katy was the first person we thought of," said Josh McCormack, *The Battalion* editor-in-chief.

However, developing a discover panel is not as easy as people may think. "Finding people to actually work for the publication was so difficult because we weren't able to pay the staff this semester due to budget cuts," said Sarah East, assistant social media editor.

As time passed the team filled up. Along with her animators and producers, Baldock publishes 12 stories to Snapchat each week. These stories range from satirical listicles like "10 Things Only Aggies Can Be Thankful For"



to schedules of events like “This Weekend in Aggieland.”

“It doesn’t seem like much but getting all the stories written and animated on time can be really stressful, especially when things are turned in late,” Baldock said. “This semester has been a struggle for me because I’ve had this awesome job at *The Battalion*, so I have to remind myself that I have to focus on school.”

Baldock said producing for Snapchat is different than for a print publication and presents many challenges. From knowing the right file types and image sizes to making sure the text is still legible on a variety of mobile screens, she said the list of things that could go wrong is extensive.

“Most of the time when things aren’t turned in the responsibility falls to me,” she said. Baldock said her view count reached more than Snapchat users and with that many people watching, the stress associated with her job increased significantly.

Baldock said her ability to handle such a diverse workload is all because of her choice of major. “Ag comm as a major is so versatile, you just get to learn a wide variety of skills,” Baldock said.

## ADVENTURES IN STORYTELLING

In 2014, Baldock traveled to Namibia to participate in a study abroad trip that focused on photography through the agricultural communications and journalism program. She said the trip taught her how to capture the story behind the image. “I took another photography class at the university and I learned more in the two weeks on the trip about how to take a good picture than I did all semester in the traditional class,” Baldock said. “It always depends on the professor.”



Baldock meets people from the Himba tribe in Namibia.

“He’s really big on getting to know the person that is in the photograph, or knowing the story behind what he’s capturing,” Baldock said. “He is really passionate about storytelling and that’s something I think that has really impacted my learning experience and helped me in my photography and my reporting.”

Baldock said Redwine, Ph.D. is one of the reasons she chose to be an agricultural communications and journalism major. “When I came to my new student conference he sat down with me and talked about the Namibia trip, the *AgriLeader* and all the other amazing opportunities ag communications has to offer,” Baldock said.

Baldock said the trip to Namibia helped develop her skills in media, as did her experience as a staff member for the *AgriLeader*. She served as the advertising graphic design manager. While on staff, she worked with former students who were Olympic athletes that competed in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. These Olympians were also former members of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

“I got to interview these big time athletes and I was so proud of the outcome,” Baldock said. “It’s an amazing class and on top of that, I loved getting to work on so many graphics.”

On a typical day you can find Baldock in *The Battalion* office working on next week’s snap stories or working on school work with the people who have become her Aggie family.

“The time commitment is huge,” Baldock said. “It takes a lot of organization and you have to make sure you have everything for each snap. Is it worth it? Yes.”

Baldock’s duties of overseeing the entire social media desk have caught the eyes of news outlets across the nation. Her experience at *The Battalion* and “The Aggieland” coupled with her variety of skills, makes her a competent and marketable communicator. She chose to pursue a career in the film industry and will begin working as the social media manager for Rio Grande Film, LLC in Austin, Texas.

She said she looks forward to working on a project that focuses on the agricultural impact people have on the world.

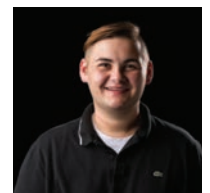
## THE NEXT STORY

*The River and the Wall* is a feature-length documentary being produced by award-winning filmmaker Ben Masters. The film focuses on the environmental impact of the border wall between the United States and Mexico. Baldock will work closely with this project. She connected with Masters through her work at “The Aggieland” when she interviewed him for a story about his film *Unbranded*.

“People don’t realize how closely agriculture is related to our everyday life,” Baldock said. “That’s something ag communications highlights really well. The faculty is really good about bringing it back around to agriculture.”

Baldock’s passion for communications placed her on track to make great professional strides. “I wouldn’t ever change my major, I have been so fortunate to have professors and classes that are so hands on,” Baldock said. “We get so many amazing opportunities in this major and I can’t imagine what my learning experience would have been like without things like studying abroad in Namibia and the *AgriLeader*. I am so thankful for everything this major has provided me with, and I hope I can make my peers, the faculty and staff proud.”

Ty Wilson  
Nacogdoches, TX





# Texas A&M Rodeo

*Come out and support the Fightin' Texas Aggie Rodeo Team*

March 16 &

17 7:00 pm

**Brazos County Expo Center**

**5827 Leonard Road**

**Bryan, Texas**



Presenting Professional  
Rodeo Clown

**Johnny Dudley**

**Admissions:**

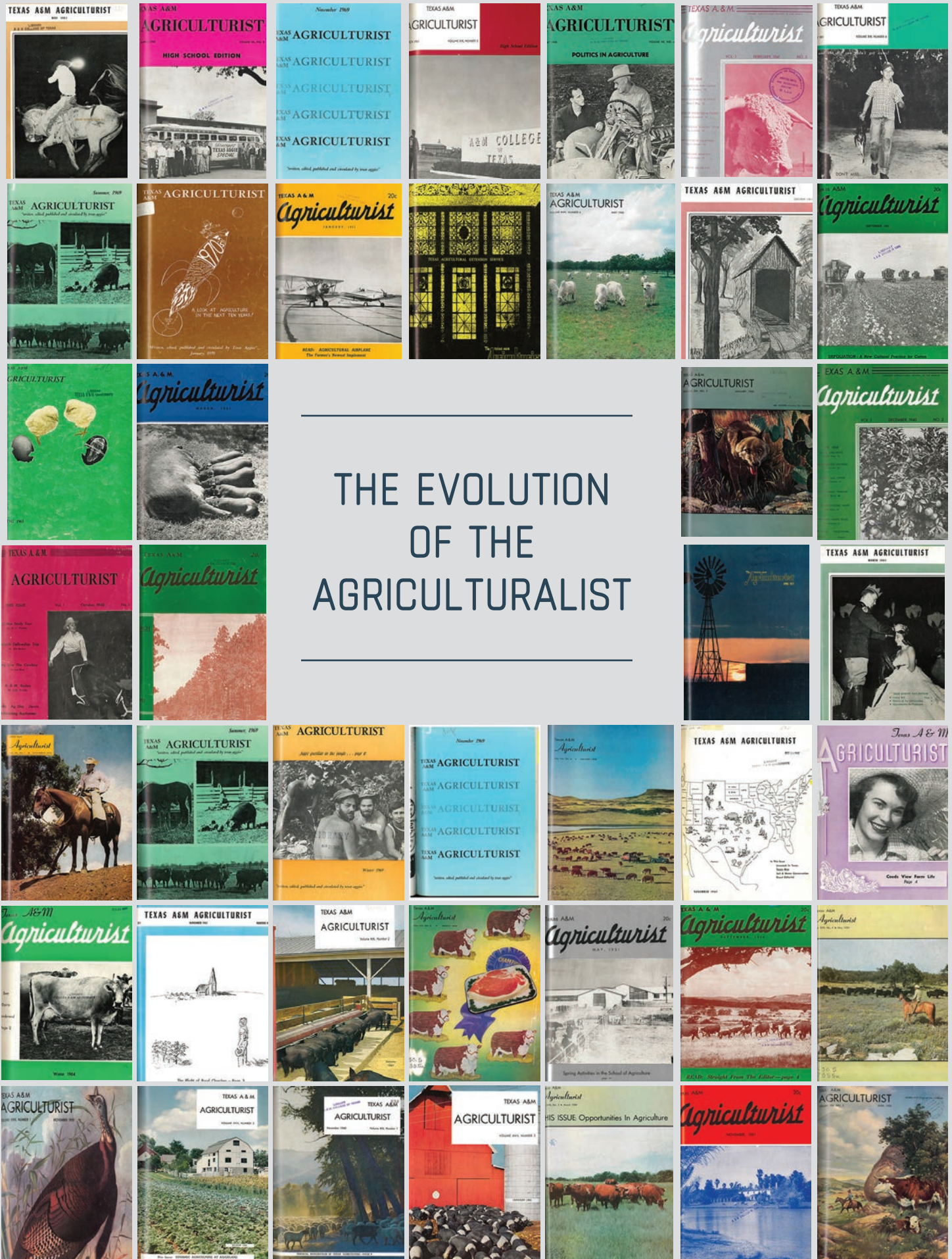
**\$10 General (Kids 3 & Under Free)**

**\$8 Advance \***

**\$7 Students**

**\*Advance tickets available at Cavender's Boot City**





THE EVOLUTION  
OF THE  
AGRICULTURALIST



PROGRAM First Annual Agriculture Day

- GENERAL PROGRAM Thursday, May 1 3:00 P.M.—Military Review of Cadet Corps. 7:30 P.M.—Dinner Hall... Friday, May 2 10:00 A.M.—Golf Match... Saturday, May 3 8:00 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Ag Days-Open House...

School of Agriculture A. and M. College of Texas May 3, 1941

The Honey Bee

By KEITH KIRK They get lost, also a scripture to read... THESE NEVER BEE HIVE... THE HONEY BEE... THE HONEY BEE...



For Defense

With little agriculture and a... progress along the line for the world... For Defense...

The New Aggie RODEO ARENA



College Cowboys Build Their Own

Rodeo is fast taking its place as a... College Cowboys Build Their Own... RODEO ARENA...

1941 1942 1950

"A. AND M. COLLEGE OF TEXAS HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL AGRICULTURE DAY" MAY 1941

AGGIES DISCOVER "HONEY IS VALUABLE TO MAN" APRIL 1942

AGGIE COWBOYS BUILD THEIR OWN RODEO ARENA NOVEMBER 1950

of marking since the use of honey... Even kept- in orage owner... of the bees is not the only one re- ceiving benefits from them. Bees

world wide use, honey was the pri- cipal sweet food available in the present world materially reduce the few sweet for the United States is over.

Honey is valuable... of the three valuable... lose, dextrose, and serum... minerals in addition... its distinctive flavor. Its... cooking and baking will become well known as the sugar shortage... becomes more ac... World War I, we... conscious." In a... valuable in cook... extremely good... feeding.

From an assort... of thousands of... in the world, the... mellifera), and the... (byx mori) are th... which could be e... ed." One pronou... a remarkable c... realizes that the proceeds from the years of hard-earned experience, study and even a long line of bee-keeping ancestors. It is true that

APRIL 1942 "CHAGAS' DISEASE, DERIVED FROM INSECTS, HITS ARMY CAMPS ALL OVER TEXAS"

MAY 1948 AGGIE COWBOYS WIN 1948 NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE RODEO CHAMPIONSHIP

Sophomores -- Juniors Tailor Made Uniforms AggieLand Studio

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A NEW HEALTH MENACE Cholera, typhoid, and other diseases... AggieLand Studio

Picnics On Week-Ends... Charlie's Food Market

You Want To Look Your Best For The Fall! Y.M.C.A. Barber Shop

TIME PROVES... AggieLand Studio

















AND THE STORY CONTINUES...  
 THE *AGRILEADER*



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"...farmers fight"

he wanted to be an Aggie, be in the Corps of Cadets, and go to an agricultural school.

"Someone who has spirit, and who never quits is what I consider the definition of an Aggie," he said. He added a person's spirit is very important to future success because it keeps him going even when he faces numerous disappointments that life has to offer.

You are not being misled by a student revolution. The revolution is not a revolution because of the purposes, but because the school atmosphere is not conducive to hippies and student violence. Youngkin's feelings toward growing coed population is not resentment, but says, "They are needed."

One of the biggest problems Youngkin has faced is the bitter relationship between the Corps and the civilians. He said that the Corps and civilian students have to work together if the school is to survive. His work toward easing the tension between the two is evident from the attitude of the civilians at the school. Youngkin was president of Area Six in FFA and was a 4-H member. As a freshman at A&M, he was a member of the Agriculture Society and was president of the World Leaders in Agriculture as a sophomore. He was

# CATTLE-FEVER TICKS METHODS OF ERADICATION

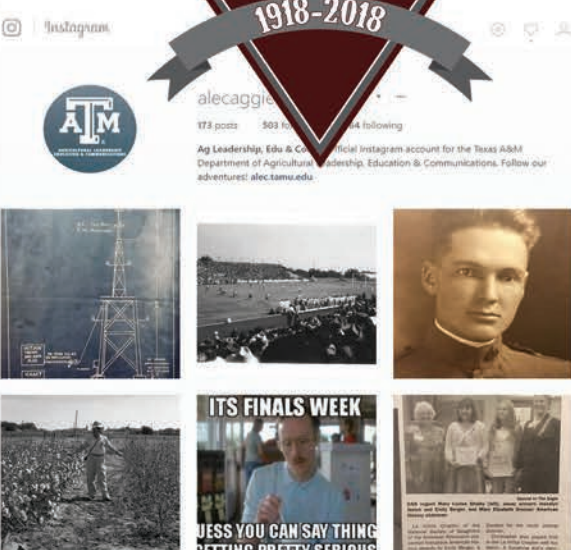
Ag. Education  
to the College of Agriculture TV

# #headlines to hashtags

senior finds goal  
head yell leader

## Celebrating agriculture, journalism and communications at Texas A&M University

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by following ALECCaggies on  
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# IN MEMORY OF DOYLE GOUGLER



(Photo courtesy of Agriculturist)

“His first interest was the student and everything that he did he tried to focus on improving the learning of the student,” Douglas Starr, Ph.D., said. Student turned professor, Gougler left a lasting impact on Texas A&M forever.

Gougler '50 graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal husbandry. During his time at Texas A&M, Gougler

enrolled in a writing class and discovered an interest in journalism. The writing class cultivated Gougler's desire to teach a journalism course. This desire became a reality when he accepted a part-time position as an instructor for agricultural journalism. This niche forged together his interests in agriculture and writing.

According to a 1968 *Agriculturist*, Gougler graduated from Texas A&M and was employed by Swift and Company as a salesman. He worked there for a year then his enthusiasm for journalism drew him back to TAMU to earn a second degree in agricultural journalism in 1952. He was a general reporter and then a farm editor at the Houston Post newspaper for six years. During his time away from College Station, Gougler obtained a master's degree from the University of Houston in 1961.

According to the history of the Department of Journalism by David Bowers, Ph.D., Gougler returned to College Station in 1964 beginning a permanent role as an agricultural journalism instructor while simultaneously working for the Department of Agricultural Information.

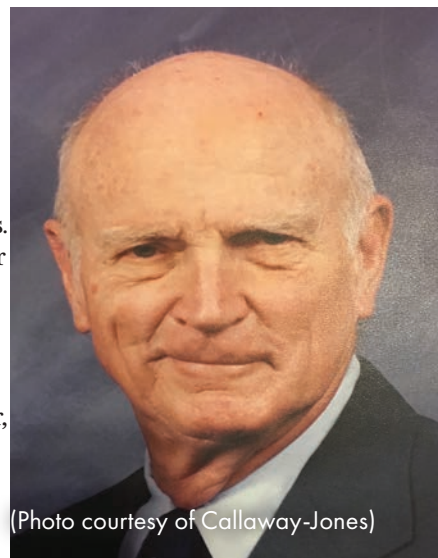
With a heart for agriculture, Starr said Gougler wanted an outlet for students in this field to be able to write about what they loved. He cared about the capacity in which the students learned and labored tirelessly to gather as much information as he could to benefit the student. Starr said Gougler developed a class in which students were able to write about agriculture and all it entailed.

When the journalism department experienced funding issues, Starr said Gougler was the backbone to keep agricultural journalism alive. Although Gougler did not have a doctorate degree, which Starr said is normally crucial in order to even begin teaching a class at the university, people respected Gougler's experience and wealth of knowledge.

With an arsenal of scholarly and field knowledge,

Gougler bridged the educational divide between a masters and a doctorate, which ultimately merited him professor emeritus status. Starr nominated Gougler for this recognition because of all he had done for Texas A&M. Gougler successfully held journalism together, brought agricultural journalism to life, and helped spur the awareness and need for more agricultural journalism courses at Texas A&M.

Selfless in all he did, Starr said Gougler was concerned about others' achievements and successes more than his own. He was the type of man who was warm and easy to encounter and work with. Approachable in spirit, people were drawn to him because of his passion for agriculture and students' well-being. He never met someone he did not



(Photo courtesy of Callaway-Jones)

"HE BROUGHT AND TAUGHT AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISM REALLY BEFORE THERE WAS A DEPARTMENT."

- DOUGLAS STARR, PH.D.

get along with or give an inviting smile to.

Starr said Gougler's first priority was his students, and Gougler wanted to find a way in which future generations could keep agricultural journalism alive.

He accomplished this aspiration by creating the AP Agriculture Style Manual and Glossary. No one could have ever imagined that an Army veteran, student and newspaper writer would transform the agricultural journalism program at Texas A&M, but also deeply care about the students and generations that would prosper after him.

On Nov. 8, 2017, the agricultural journalism program lost a legend. Gougler, at 93, had lived a life of selflessness, gratitude and service. Through the creation of the AP Agriculture Stylebook, he will forever have a footprint at Texas A&M and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.



Adison Haager  
Austin, TX





Texas A&M students hike through a rain forest in Costa Rica.

(All photos courtesy of Loryn Piersol)

## EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

There are many opportunities for students at Texas A&M University to further their education outside of the classroom. Whether students are adamant about obtaining greater knowledge regarding different countries and their cultures, or they just have a passion for traveling, students should be informed of the different study abroad programs available.

Study abroad is a popular way for students to travel across the globe to various countries to learn and experience another way of life. Students are able to earn class credit by choosing these types of programs. The majority of students who participate in a study abroad say they have never experienced anything like it.

Siobhan Hilliard, an agricultural communications and journalism major, said she chose to study abroad in Costa Rica because it was a fun and fast way to get credits, but also because it allowed her to travel, which is something she said she loves to do. “It’s an awesome experience to expand your knowledge of different cultures with other students,” she said.

The Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications offers five international study abroad opportunities. Students can travel to Costa Rica, Namibia, Mexico, Greece and Poland. Each program focuses on different aspects of culture and agriculture. Costa Rica focuses on the diversity of people and culture; Namibia

brings understanding and communicating agricultural issues; Mexico develops a vision for a future in teaching agricultural science; Greece is for personal leadership development; and Poland focuses on leadership and culture.

A variety of study abroad program types are offered to accommodate the different needs of students. Whether it’s a faculty-led trip, internship or volunteer program, transfer credit program, short-term group trip or exchange program, each type benefits students. It’s important for students to choose the program that most interests them because that will ultimately influence their entire experience.

Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications professor Gary Wingenbach, Ph.D., is one of the many faculty leaders who supervise multiple study abroad programs, including Costa Rica and Namibia. Wingenbach said he began taking students abroad in the early 2000s. He assisted in taking a group of Aggies to the Texas-Mexico border region where they studied restoration in native grasses for sheep, goat and cattle producers. It was considered a field study, not a study abroad, but the objectives were very similar.

Wingenbach said during the Costa Rica study abroad trip, students visit a cacao plantation where they learn about the process beginnings of chocolate. “At a coffee farm, students brew their own coffee and watch it go through the roasting process,” he said. “Students also spend time on a





dairy farm milking cows if they wish.”

Wingenbach said other experiences include going on a rain forest and volcano hike, visiting a botanical garden, fishing for their own dinner at an aquaculture farm and spending some free time on the beach.



Loryn Piersol milks a cow at a dairy farm while studying abroad in Costa Rica.

While studying abroad in Namibia, Wingenbach said students spend the majority of their time in the desert interacting with producers, private landowners and learning about the differences between land ownership and its effects. He said students also participate in safari photo shoots and visit an ocean sanctuary for marine life.

Wingenbach said the most important outcome he

focuses on while studying abroad is teamwork and professionalism. The other major skills Wingenbach said he focuses on include problem solving skills, communication, decision making and self management.

Wingenbach said he stresses to students to be on time and participate actively on group matters to express their group or community. He said he focuses on helping students understand how to become contributing adults to make this world a better place. He also said he teaches them how to start stepping up and taking on real world issues with a serious mindset, without being told what to do or think.

“We push our students to become active learners so that they can take home these experiences that last a lifetime,” Wingenbach said.

Participating in a study abroad is incredibly beneficial for students. This type of experience could separate a student’s application from others in the job search, specifically in terms of demonstrating their flexibility and openness to change and adaptability. Studying abroad provides the best opportunity for students to expand their horizons.

Mackenzie Mikolajczak  
Brenham, TX





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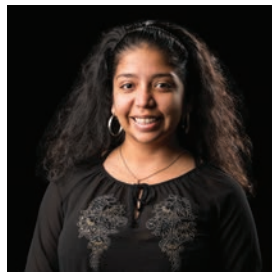
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Drake Whiteman • Loryn Piersol • Ty Wilson • Jim Evans, Ph.D.



# MEET THE TEAM



Top Row: Clayton Chapin, Madeleine Bezner, Corie Ritter, Daly Witt, Adison Haager, Loryn Piersol, Braden Deupree  
Middle Row: Drake Whiteman, Colten Fulton, Mackenzie Mikolajczak, Addie Davis, Natalie Harriman,  
Hannah Hardwick, Ty Wilson  
Bottom Row: Lauren Lindemulder, Maddie West, Karen Martinez, Jimmie Smith, Claire Wilson, Jennifer Meisel  
Not Pictured: Baillie Buhler

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