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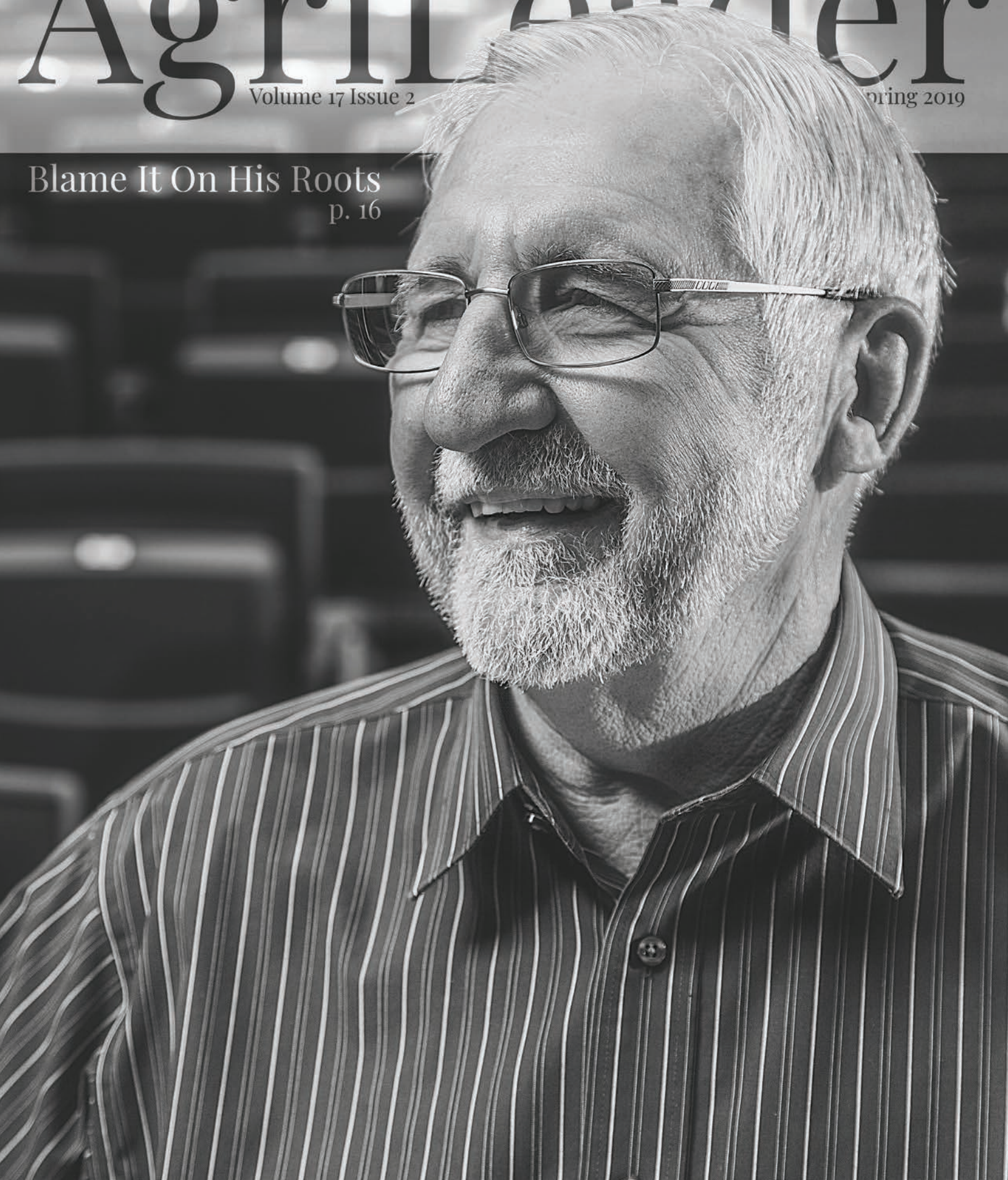
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fall 2018

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- Feature**
- Columns**
- Advisors**
- Opinion**
- Letters**
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 Bailey
 "Wonder Women"
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"An Opportunity Awaits"
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Objective:

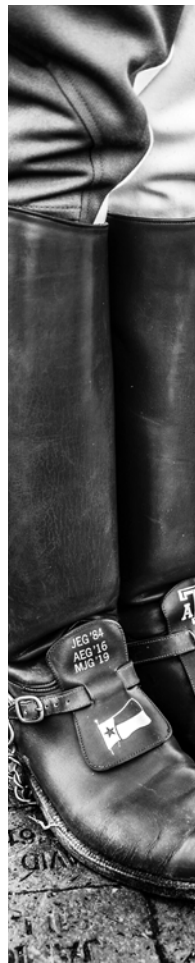
To captivate the reader
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 stories & visuals.

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*OVER THE
BRIDGE*



By Samuel James & Samantha McGee

“If you want to get a haircut, you don’t go to someone who has never cut hair before and you don’t go to a friend that is nice— you go to someone who is trained to cut hair.”

-Tobin Redwine, Ph.D., instructional assistant professor
in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications

“If you are going through depression or struggles in your life, friends can be nice to talk to, yes, but counselors are specifically trained to help with that,” Redwine said.

In January 2018, Redwine’s older brother, Shannon Redwine, took his own life. For 10 years, Tobin Redwine said his brother struggled with life threatening depression and alcoholism.

According to a study conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health in 2016, mental illness is exceedingly prevalent among adults in the U.S.

“Approximately one in five adults in the U.S.—43.8 million, or 18.5 percent—experience mental illness per year,” the National Institute of Mental Health wrote.

Redwine is on a passionate mission to bring awareness to mental health.

There are many professors on campus who advocate for mental health, but what makes Redwine unique is he is not afraid to speak out about it.

“I know a lot of professors who have walked students to counseling, and I think I am more vocal about mental health because there are a lot of Shannon’s in the world,” Redwine said.

More Than a Professor

Redwine follows a set of required course lessons that must be met within each class he teaches. However, his true requirements lie within the life lessons he instills in his students.

A study conducted by the Association for University and College Counseling Center between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 reported the mental health of college students is declining. Students today are primarily dealing with three major psychiatric conditions: anxiety (48.2 percent), stress (39.1 percent) and depression (34.5 percent).

From his experience, Redwine thinks two factors play a large role in mental health: self-doubt and disconnection.

“I also think where mental health is concerned, we are worse than any other generation,” Redwine said. “I do not think it is coincidental that we are one of the most digitally connected generations ever. The more we are connected to a phone instead of a person, the less mentally healthy we are.”

Bud Force, documentary filmmaker and director of Ultralite Films, said Redwine has a special way of connecting with his students.

“Being open and sharing experiences take things from a student-teacher relationship to a

student-mentor relationship,” Force said.

Redwine turns his experiences into lessons that students can use in a proactive way. Force said Redwine finds positivity in all aspects of life.

“Everyone has events that happen in their life, but Tobin has faced more hardships than a lot of us,” Force said. “He has encountered more tragedy than a lot of us face in an entire lifetime and yet, he still finds positivity.”

Taking the First Step

Keeping a positive attitude as a student can be difficult when life gets overwhelming.

For Redwine, optimism is not a task he has achieved on his own which he encourages students to recognize.

“Whenever I try to talk to other people or students, I lead with ‘I see a counselor regularly and I thought it was weird until I went. Now, I realize it is not,’” Redwine said.

Lacey Roberts, doctoral student and graduate assistant in the ALEC department, said Redwine puts a lot of time and effort into the relationships he builds with his students.

“He is very intentional with the relationships he builds,” Roberts said. “He wants to make sure they are ok in every capacity, whether that is physically, emotionally or spiritually—which in



Dr. Redwine at his desk in the Agriculture and Life Sciences Building



Redwine shares wisdom to a student on campus

Photos courtesy of Samantha McGee

academia is something that is unseen.”

Redwine has walked his students over the bridge, behind the Agriculture and Life Sciences building, to Student Counseling Services.

According to the Texas A&M website, the staff at the Student Service Complex make it their mission to guide students with mental health.

The website says “The Student Counseling Service exists to advance student development and academic success by providing personalized and evidenced-based mental health care to Aggies.”

James Deegear, Ph.D., associate director of clinical services at Student Counseling Services said their ultimate goal is to uplift students.

“We empower with symptom management through skills training and help develop the ability to address underlying causes,” Deegear said.

Travis Batson, assistant director of Student Counseling Services, said they have a plethora of students use their services.

“Weekly, we see 900 students,” Batson said. “That may include group or individual sessions, first-time students or returning students.”

Deegear said Student Counseling Services cater to each student based on their hardships

and their needs.

“We have developed services that fit the individual’s needs including workshops, group sessions, individual sessions, psych sessions and our app, Pacifica,” Deegear said. “Doing

“My job is to teach photography and writing, but if I only do those things then I have done a disservice to my students,”

assessments before sessions help with getting to know the student and how to better address the students on a deeper level.”

Redwine said before someone is able to free themselves, they must first seek guidance.

“I think one of the reasons why people do not seek help and why people have undiagnosed mental health problems is because we do not talk

about it,” Redwine said. “So, let’s start talking about it.”

A Voice to be Heard

To Redwine, his classroom represents a teaching ground for change.

“My job is to teach photography and writing, but if I only do those things then I have done a disservice to my students,” Redwine said. “I talk about mental health in my classes, but not all the time. I try to talk about it when possible, without being disruptive. I make sure we all know how important this is and how common it is.”

As an advocate for speaking truth, Redwine aims to instill a sense of normalcy when dealing with mental health.

“I hope we all feel comfortable talking about an uncomfortable topic like mental health,” Redwine said. “That is important for me as a teacher, but I hope we can get to a place as a society where we can all talk about it, no matter what your job is.”

According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America website, May is Mental Health Awareness month.



Dr. Redwine's brother, Shannon Redwine, pictured with nieces and nephews

Photo courtesy of the Redwine family

This year we, faculty members and student of Texas A&M University, encourage those to speak out about their stories.

We encourage you to know you are not alone and to seek out comfort.

We encourage you to utilize the services Texas A&M has to offer.

We encourage you to not let your life be cut short, to not remain in the dark.

People are here to help, heal and love. Talk to someone, find anyone. If you do not know where to start, there is a man at Texas A&M who may be able to help more than you think. We encourage you to meet Tobin Redwine.

In loving memory and dedication to Shannon Redwine because, as Tobin Redwine said, "He deserved to love himself. I think doubt convinces you that you are not deserving of love and I think we all are."

So, love yourself and don't be afraid to get your hair cut.

**I can almost feel my wings
(a response to Townes Van Zandt's great song,
"To Live is To Fly")**

I've heard old men pine about their lives and love and loss when they sing.

"To live is to fly," is one of those lines, and I can almost feel my wings.

Through unsteady steps, quiet reps, and endless dents and dings the practice runs are never done and I can almost feel my wings.

As a child with spirits wild, my heart would freely fling. It must've been I felt them then, I must have felt my wings.

But time is slow, and as I grow I feel its slothful sting; A slow offender makes it hard to remember I used to feel my wings

Some voices chant, "Oh no you can't," and in my head it rings. But I think again and recall when I could feel my wings.

Absent voices and impossible choices are tempting me to cling to ancient self-doubt, but I figured out, I've got to trust my wings.

Despite hurt and harm, I'm arm in arm, I stand with queens and kings and poorly peasants, and in their presence I can feel my wings

And though trust may fail, to no avail, still my spirit sings. And as I speak, though I may be weak, right now I feel my wings

With adopted creed, I pray take heed and hear this charge I bring: Know the truth is in you too. I can see your wings.

-Tobin Redwine

REV'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

BY BAILEY MELTON

The lecture halls are empty, the dorms have been cleaned out, there is not a soul snoozing in the MSC flag room and no one is fighting for a parking spot in lot 100: it is summer time. When students have left Aggieland for a summer full of adventure, what does the First Lady of Aggieland do? Where does she go?

Normally, Rev would go with her handler through the three month of break but circumstances were a little different for summer 2018. Reveille's second handler, Austin Etier, was taking care of her while the first handler, Mia Miller, was in California for training. He needed a place to stay in College Station that would be more secluded for him and Miss Rev.

The Aggie network is huge, knowing the right person could provide an opportunity to host Reveille IX and the second handler for the summer. From mid-May to the start of the Fall semester, Scott Cummings, Ph.D., '85, a professor in the ALEC department, and his family were given this remarkable opportunity.

The Cummings', Etier and Reveille all met beforehand and instantly hit it off.

"We were a bit worried Rev would not get along with their dogs," Etier said, "but they got along just fine. I decided then we would be staying."

Hosting the Queen of Aggieland is not exactly publicized, it's kept low-key.



"It was not a secret but it was not broadcasted either," Cummings said. "It was more about just keeping them safe and not being hassled all the time. We were able to take them to dinner all the time and people recognized Rev. — but it never got too bad."

Reveille's schedule is packed with events and appearances all school-year-long and she needs a break like everyone else. In the summer, she has a few events here and there but

they really just try to keep up with her normal training.

"We would go to Kyle Field about two to three times a week for training to imitate game days," Etier said. "She needs to stay active and have a little bit of a normal routine."

Cummings said it was easy to take care of Reveille while she was staying with them.

"She is very well-trained," Cummings said. "We would relax on the couch or she would play with our dogs."

Not only were the Cummings' dogs and Reveille getting along well, Etier was bonding with his host family as well.

"The Cummings' took very good care of me," Etier said. "They took me to dinner almost every other night and even helped get me a job on-campus which was extremely nice of them."

After Miller got back, she took over Reveille. Etier said he still got to have her some weekdays and weekends if Miller went out of town.

"It's something to mark off the bucket-list."

"Working with Mia was a blast," Etier said. "I helped her wherever I could and vice versa. I still got to see Rev a lot and take care of her some weekends when Mia went out of town."

All good things must eventually come to an end and the fall semester approached faster than anyone wanted it to. Although in the beginning Etier was a little apprehensive to move in with strangers, he mentioned this was a great experience.

"It was a really, really good summer," Etier said.

Cummings described this experience as a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"It's something to mark off the bucket-list, for sure, but this isn't even something I would have ever thought to put on the bucket-list," Cummings said.

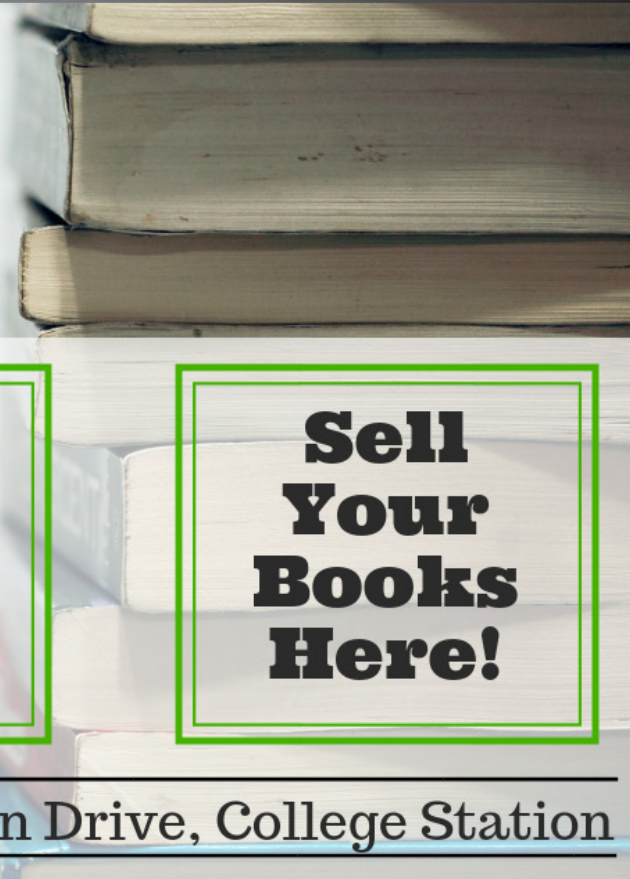
After a whirlwind of a summer, Reveille IX went back to her First Lady duties and the Cummings' had a normal household again.

This experience is something that will never be forgotten by any of those involved. An opportunity like this only comes around once in a lifetime and the Aggie network can make big things like this happen for anyone.

Photo courtesy of Texas A&M Corps of Cadets



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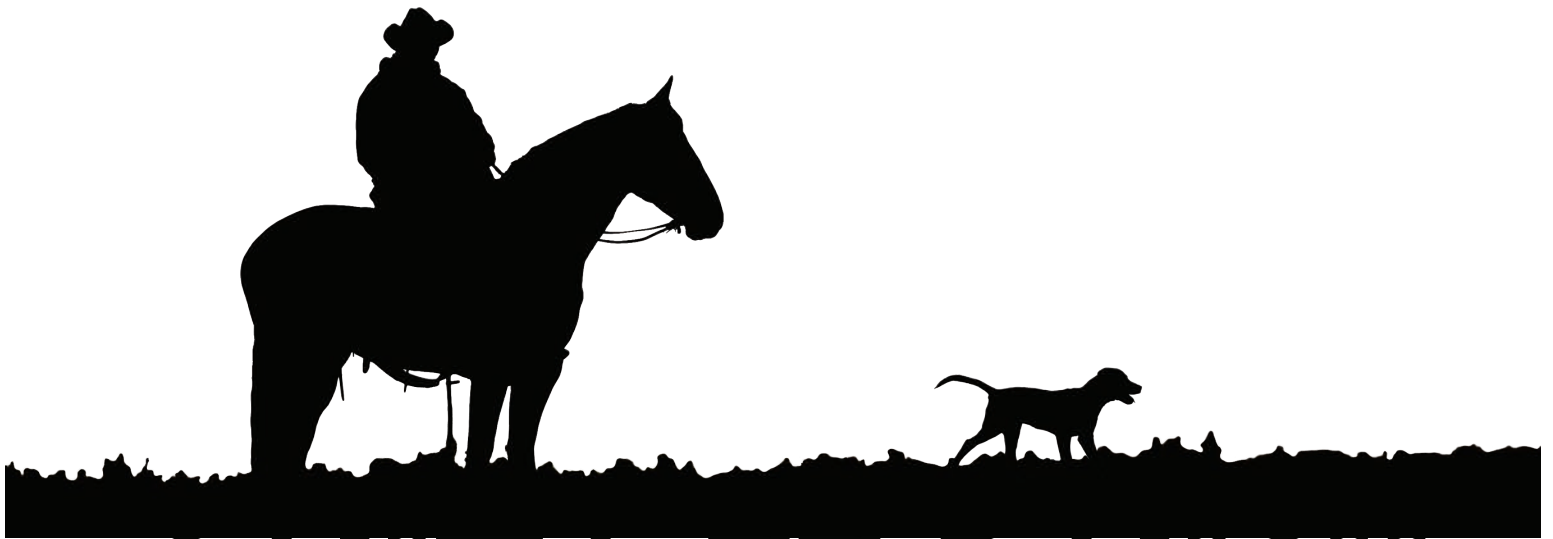


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All photos courtesy of Katie Kilbourn & Reed



BLAME

IT

ON

HIS

ROOTS

BY

PAYTON

MINER

&

ROBYN

PEREZ

Many students hope to have one professor that stands out, and takes pride in knowing everything possible is being done for students to have the best learning opportunity. There are very few professors who make those memorable impressions and leave a lasting impact on a student's education. David Reed, Ph.D., has done that and more for students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He Got It

Like many college students, Reed was unsure of what life had in store for him following graduation. As a freshman at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana – Lafayette), Reed questioned what he was doing in college. He remained unsure until he walked into his first plant science course, taught by William Ellis Fletcher, Ph.D.

"It was 1973," Reed said. "I was enrolled in Doc Fletcher's beginning plant science course, and from the first day of class, I was mesmerized. This guy walked in with pep in his step. He was the first professor who grabbed my attention because of the enthusiasm he had for the subject. It was clear he wanted you to learn."

One day while sitting in the student union building, Reed was asked a question by a friend that would change his life forever: if he planned on attending graduate school. Before Reed had the chance to speak one word, Fletcher

chimed in, "Of course he is." It was in that moment Reed made the decision to continue his education.

"If I had not been asked that question, if it wasn't for Doc Fletcher chiming in, I would probably be in Louisiana running a landscaping business," Reed said.

Reed finished his Bachelor of Science at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He furthered his education at Cornell University receiving both his Master's and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

Reed packed up and moved to Texas A&M to teach his version of the same plant science course he took as an undergraduate: HORT 201. Reed has taught HORT 201 every semester during his tenure at Texas A&M. The 2018-2019 academic year marks Reed's 40th year of teaching.

"Why did I stay here for so long? Well, time passes and you think, 'Man, I've been here for ten years, I've been here for fifteen years, I've been here for forty freakin' years!' But why did I really stay? Honestly, I drank the Kool-Aid."

He Grew It

Anyone who has taken HORT 201 is familiar with Reed's unique and fun take on teaching. His objective is to share his love for plants by incorporating three different ways of learning: visual, kinesthetic and auditory. He teaches

students multiple ways to solve a problem in order for them to take away at least one thing from what they learned.

"I want students to have at least one moment where they think what they are learning is cool," Reed said. "I teach for that reason right there."

Barry Boyd, Ph.D, an associate professor at Texas A&M and a former student of Reed's said he incorporates what he learned in Reed's class now as a professor.

"But why did I really stay? Honestly, I drank the Kool-Aid."

"He used a lot of demonstrations in class to help get his point across," Boyd said. "I've always remembered his teaching style and used it in extension and as a faculty member."

According to Reed, Fletcher influenced more than his decision to attend graduate school, he also modeled teaching.



Reed visits with two former students in the Leach Teaching Gardens at Texas A&M University. Payton Miner '20 (left), a HORT 201 student in 2016 discussed her experience with Joseph Johnson '88 (right), a HORT 201 student in 1986 and current manager of The Gardens.



“Doc Fletcher had an ‘anytime, anyplace, anywhere’ kind of attitude with his students. He took the time to explain material, and if a student had a question, he would interrupt his lecture to make sure it got answered,” Reed said.

A hallmark of HORT 201 is Reed’s textbook, authored by himself with hand-drawn diagrams that students pour over semester after semester. Reed shared the diagrams are the same ones Fletcher drew on a chalkboard in plant science class all those years ago.

He Gave It

Reed has had students reach out to him over the years, telling him the impact he has had on their own lives.

“I recently shared in one of my lectures how passionate I am about what I do, and why I have done it for 40 years,” Reed said. “After I was done lecturing, a student told me that it hit him like a mountain. He told me it was then that he realized he was pursuing the wrong path and was going to switch his major completely.”

Manager of The Gardens at Texas A&M University and former HORT 201 student, Joseph Johnson, had a similar revelation.

“I was on the business track in school but always had a love for ag disciplines,” Johnson said. “I made the move from business to horticulture as a junior, and Dr. Reed’s class was very influential for me. It helped me realize: yeah, I’m in the right place.”

Reed teaches for moments when students find the path they are supposed to be on, but his best hope in teaching is for students to take home what they learn and use it.

“I want students to remember something useful. I want them to tell their moms about a great peat moss to use or start a garden and remember the things we talked about in class,” Reed said.

In fact, some families can compare their experiences in Reed’s class as he has taught more than one generation.

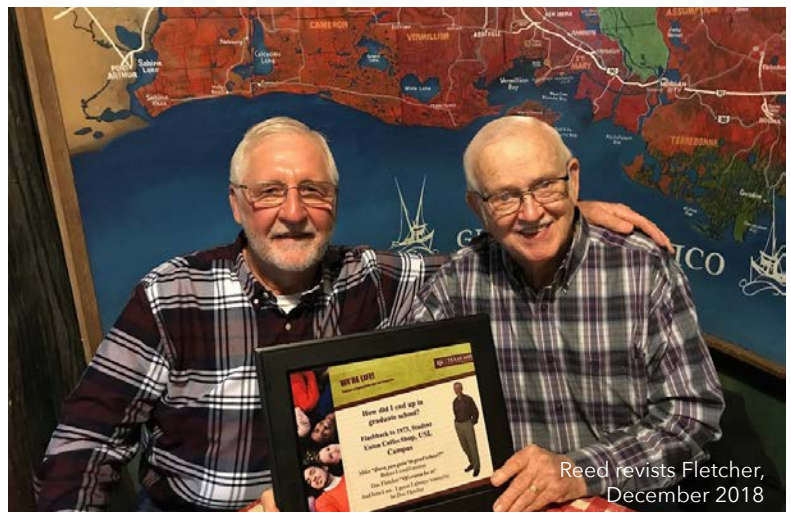
In reflection on his career and the years that got him to where he is now, Reed reminisced on his days in Fletcher’s plant science course, the way Fletcher taught and the way his life was molded by one professor.

“I realized that I guess I always wanted to be Doc Fletcher, I had never told him that before,” Reed said.

In December, Reed visited William Fletcher - now in his mid-eighties - to tell him just that.

“I realized that I always wanted to be Doc Fletcher.”

David Reed has seen more than 20,000 students pass through his class, and many have said the same thing to him, that he inspired them to reach and achieve more than they ever thought they could.



Reed revisits Fletcher, December 2018

READY, SET, GRADUATE!

BY REBEKAH CHENELLE

1 Select a major

The possibilities are endless for an incoming freshman. However, there are several key decisions that can ensure a diploma.

The first is choosing the right major. Although an obvious step, it is one of the most important. Luckily for students at A&M, resources to help choose a major are readily available.

The Career Center, located on the second floor of the Koldus Building, offers help to students ranging from choosing a major to choosing a career. Advisors recommend visiting their website first, where most of the resources are found. There, a Career Center virtual assistant pops up to navigate the website. There is also a self-assessment to better determine what major a student should be in. Students have two years to declare a major, so this is a helpful tool if you find yourself stuck.

2 Get to know your professors

“When you are trying to get better at your sport, you go to your coach. When you are trying to improve in academics, you go to your professors,” Kristi Mejias said, assistant director of student-athlete engagement and academic adviser for Men’s & Women’s Swimming and Diving.

“Professors want their students to succeed. They are experts in their field and can get the student where they want to be,” Mejias said.

When deciding between letter grades, if a professor knows how hard you are working, it could be the difference between an A or a B. Seeing a student take the time to introduce themselves goes a long way. Professors give advice to students and networking will help in the long run.

3 Explore your interests

College is not all about school. In order to reach your full potential in the professional world, it is important to know what you like to do. Mejias’ advice for current college students is to pursue a career you will love doing, not just the most lucrative.

Cassidy McWha, a leadership major with a minor in agricultural communications and journalism, and sports management said, “If someone is doing what they love, they are more likely to work harder at it and make a better end product.”

4 Select a minor

Now that your major is selected, it’s time to zoom in on your specific interests. Mejias said it depends on the student’s major. Some majors don’t allow for a minor, but when they do, she encourages students to select one. Minors make students more marketable to recruiters. Adding a minor also gives students a chance to find something they didn’t know they enjoyed.

5 Work hard

College offers unique opportunities that cultivate positive life experiences. In order to have a secure future you should take advantage of the resources Texas A&M provides and make the most of your time before graduation. Working hard means something different to everyone, but the harder students work in college, the more likely they are to have a successful future.

6 Enjoy college

Although college is sometimes challenging, it should also be enjoyed.

“Before I got to college, everyone told me to enjoy it because it would be the best four years of my life,” McWha said. “You don’t want to graduate wishing you had enjoyed more of it”. There is a healthy balance between working hard and enjoying college that many people struggle with. Trial and error is a big part of the experience.

7 Internships

Internships are required by some majors before graduation, but most students do them to add to their résumé. On the Career Center website there is a tab under resources labeled “Internships and Co-ops.” On that page, students share their success stories based on help from the center.

There are also a lot of options to help you get started with what you want out of your internship. There are many contacts on the website students can reach out to about getting an internship.

8 Professional development

Jennifer Scasta, Ph.D., assistant lecturer said, “A lot of students don’t think they have to take advantage of the resources because they are not seniors.” Scasta puts on workshops for all students of the college of agriculture and life sciences to attend. Recruiters are brought in to talk to students about what kind of job or internship they could get in their area of interest.

This is a resource a lot of students do not take advantage of, some do not even know about. They can find out about these programs through emails from their advisers or flyers.

9 Exclusive to Aggies

The Aggie network is indescribable. The Aggie ring is one of the biggest traditions at Texas A&M. It links people from all around the world, and could give an individual an advantage in a job interview if someone in the the company is an Aggie. Hireaggies.com is a resource exclusively for aggies to get hired by fellow Aggies. This is because employers know graduates of Texas A&M excel in the core values of the university, and want to hire someone who will work as hard as they do.

The Association of Former Students website is also a tool that allows an Aggie to search former or current students. The profiles show their current jobs, locations, and contact information. This could be helpful if a student was looking to relocate or change jobs, and could find Aggies wherever they ended up.

11 BTHO finals

Once a student has landed a job, there is only one thing separating them from the cap and gown: finals. They have taken so many finals before, and this is the last time. It is easy to not try as hard if they already have a job, but it is important to finish strong.

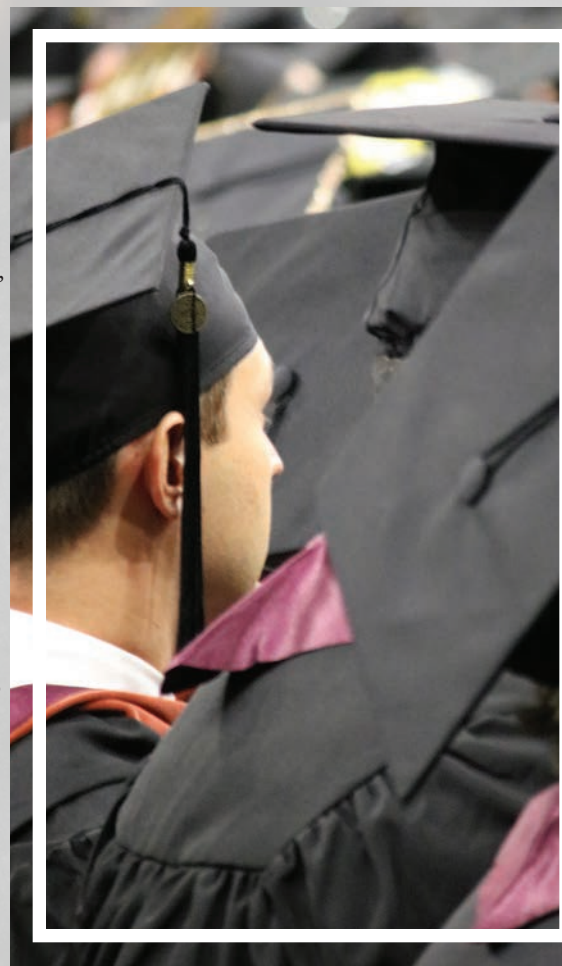
12 Graduate!

You did it! Now it is time to buy your cap and gown at the bookstore in the MSC and spend time with your family as a chapter in your life is ending. You have been prepared by the best university and are ready to start a career. Congratulations!

10 Apply

After the work is done, it is time for the next step. Using the skills learned in workshops, students will likely have contacts for job interviews and a good sense of what they want to do professionally. This might require another degree, which means making a plan with your advisor and researching to find the graduate program that will aid in the next step towards your goals.

Applying for a job is a process that can be made easier with the help of advisors. The Career Center exists specifically to help students at Texas A&M obtain jobs. Once students find a job they want, they can enjoy the rest of senior year.



Photos courtesy of Jewel Smith



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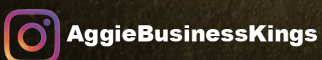


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WONDER

WOMEN

BY ANDREA FLORES & TYLER LEWIS

Amy Sharp, Taylor Welch, Meagan Rodriguez and Andrea Flores are Aggieland's Wonder Women. As members of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2019, they embody leadership, loyalty and excellence in their leadership positions on-campus.



Photo courtesy of Maggie Talbot

Ambitious Amy

2018-2019 Student Body President Amy Sharp is a senior business honors and management major. Sharp is using her platform to focus on mental and physical health with her Student Government Association Health campaign, "Say Howdy to Health." Sharp described these aspects as foundational student needs to increase academic success and the overall well-being of students.

Sharp is the fifth woman to serve as the Student Body President (SBP) in the position's 72-year history. Sharp is often asked, why would you be the best fit as Student Body President?

"I think the proper question would be, why wouldn't I?" Sharp said.

Confidence and belief in yourself is one piece of advice Sharp shared for those women interested in running for public office.

"I truly believed I was the most qualified, and if I did not believe in myself, I would be doing a disservice to the students," Sharp said. "You have to believe in yourself. If you do, others will believe in you too."

When she recalled her experience at the Elect Her conference, where she met other women interested in public service, Sharp realized many women never thought they would run for office.

"There are so many women out there who are the best at what they do, and they do not run. I think it is our job to tell the women in our life that they are great leaders. You need to take a seat at that table because if you don't, who will?" Sharp said.



Photo courtesy of the Memorial Student Center

Tenacious Taylor

2018-2019 Memorial Student Center President, Taylor Welch, is a senior business honors and management major. Welch is using her platform to focus on the official student union of Texas A&M.

"I had no idea I would ever apply to be MSC President. I kind of threw myself into different areas of the MSC that I cared about," Welch said. "I was honestly just fortunate to have people in my life that encouraged me and I started to realize that this position allows me to give back."



Photo courtesy of Analicia Yvonne Martinez

Amiable Andrea

2018-2019 Senior Class President, Andrea Flores, is a senior agricultural communication and journalism major. She is using her platform to increase the diversity and inclusion at Texas A&M.

Being Senior Class President, she is responsible for executing the senior traditions at Texas A&M including Elephant Walk and Ring Dance. Her slogan, "Minorities are Priorities" aims to make traditions more welcoming for minority students on-campus.

As a woman in this position, she is often the only woman and person of color at the table for meetings. Flores ran to be a voice for minorities at Texas A&M. Flores believes it is important to have more women run for leadership positions. She encourages women to support one another and be the voice for others as representatives at the table.

The impact these women leaders make will always hold true to Texas A&M. It will open doors for more Aggie women to step into leadership positions. Each of these women fill a role in the traditions at Texas A&M and help pave the way for future generations.

"Whether you are a woman, minority or a student interested in running for public office, we are all leaders and must have confidence and believe in ourselves," Flores said.

The Texas A&M University Student Government Association Elections are held every Fall and Spring. For more information, visit the Texas A&M University Election Commission website at www.tamu.election.com.



Photo courtesy of Ted Winkle

Magnificent Megan

2018-2019 Editor-in-Chief of the Battalion, Megan Rodriguez, is a senior communications major. Rodriguez is using her platform to inform readers of the student newspaper.

"I feel very fortunate because here at the Battalion, I have seen a lot of women in the position as editor-in-chief. It did not strike me as something out of the norm because this position was filled by women when I first got here my freshman year," Rodriguez said.

"I think it is important to have a diverse set of leaders so people can see themselves in those positions. It is a lot easier to see yourself in a position like that if you see someone you identify with," Rodriguez said.

Big Boots to F

By: Tyler Lewis

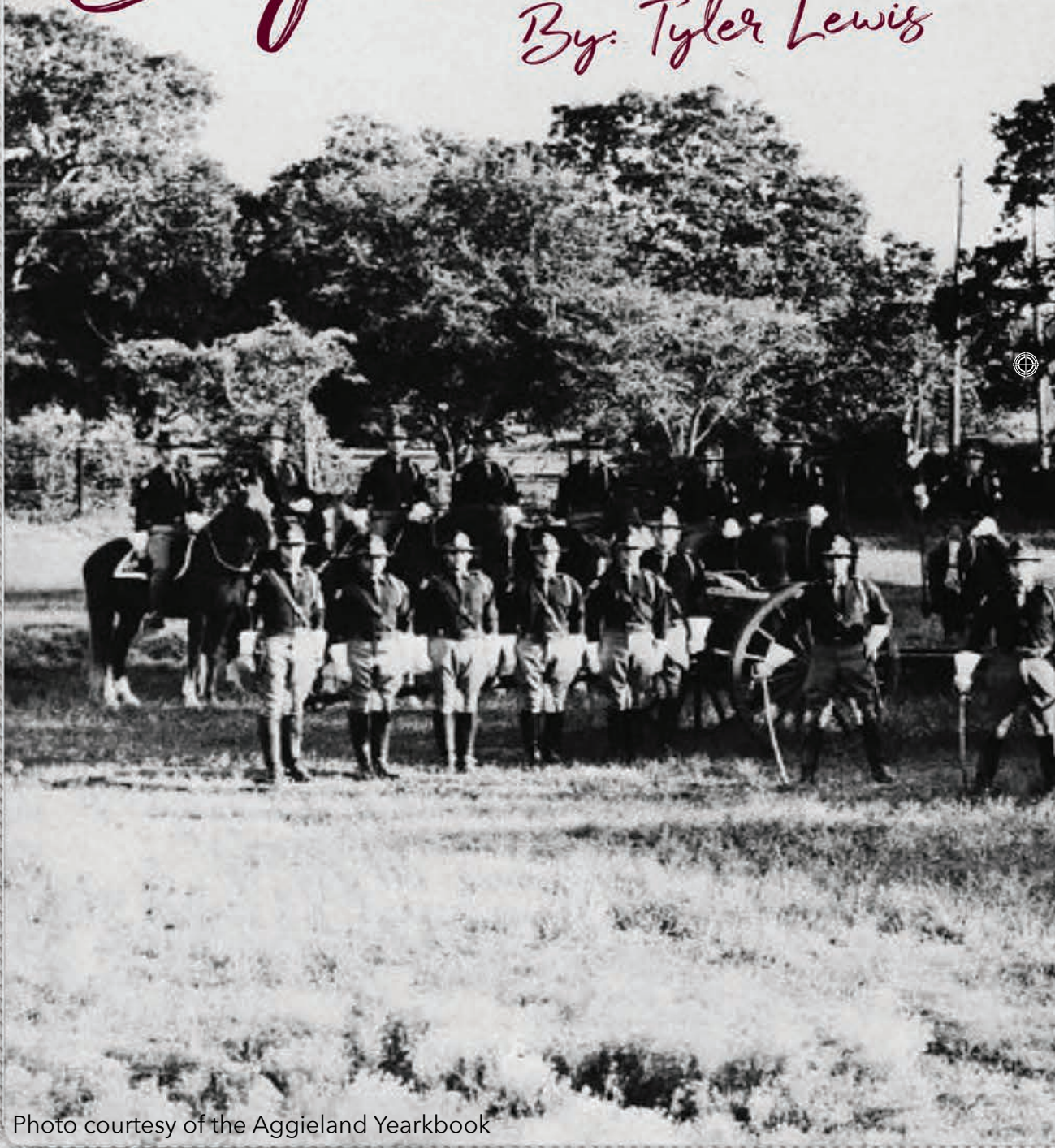


Photo courtesy of the Aggieland Yearbook

Bill



Being one of “The Keepers of Spirit and Guardians of Traditions” is not unfamiliar to the Guerra family. For generations, their family has been stepping off of the Quad, marching around Aggieland, yelling in the stands at Kyle Field and crossing the stage at Reed Arena.

Freshman Year: Bringing Your Best

As a young Cadet, Dario Guerra '60 was the start of his family's Corps of Cadets legacy. When he enrolled at Texas A&M in 1955, Dario did not have much of a choice in becoming a member of the Corps.

“At that time, most of the students at Texas A&M were in the Corps,” Dario said.

An animal husbandry major at the time, Dario's time at Texas A&M was short-lived. After only one year in the Corps of Cadets,

Dario decided to transfer to Texas A&M-Kingsville to finish his degree. Dario credits his smooth transition and much of his career success to his time at Texas A&M University.

“Texas A&M is a fantastic school, but in Kingsville everything was well suited for my business in ranching,” Dario said.

Graduating from the Texas A&M system school did not stop Dario's involvement at Texas A&M University. For a number of years he served on many committees at A&M, was named Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture in 1967, has worked alongside many Texas senators and was appointed to serve on the Farm Service Agency Board by Former Presidents George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush. He credits these accomplishments to his agricultural degree.

While it has been about a year

since Dario has set foot on Texas A&M's campus, he has watched the university grow and evolve quite a bit in the last 64 years.

“When I was on the Farm Standards Agency Board, our headquarters were in College Station, and we would meet about once a month,” Dario said. “So, I could see the gradual changes with new dorms, the ag building and more.”

Although Dario did not finish out his time at Texas A&M, he began an Aggie legacy that would extend to multiple generations of Guerras' to follow. Eight out of 16 grandchildren have attended Texas A&M. Four of them are current students, of which three are members of the Corps of Cadets.



Sophomore Year: Stepping Up

Eddie Guerra '84 was not the first in the Guerra family to start in the Corps of Cadets, but he was definitely one of the first to finish.

However, Eddie's decision to attend Texas A&M was not his own.

“I actually did not want to be in the Corps or go to A&M. It was my parents who wanted me to come to A&M, believe it or not,” Eddie said. “It was probably one of the best things my parents made me do.”

The long-established values of the Corps have transcended almost a century and a half. The foundation of the program and many of its



traditions have remained the same. However, there are a few differences during Eddie's time compared to today.

"I had a group of fish buddies who went through the same experience. Back then, we could not do anything apart. We had to do things together as a unit," Eddie said.

Yet, finding the perfect balance between Corps life and personal life took some time for Eddie to solidify. At the beginning, most of his free moments were dedicated to the Corps, but during his junior and senior years he was allotted a bit more free time. Standing out from most, Eddie also heightened his experience in the Corps of Cadets by joining the Parsons Mounted Cavalry.

"Parsons Mounted Cavalry was just getting started back in the 80s. So, it was not as prestigious as it is today," Eddie said. "I had the Corps life with my fish buddies and the cavalry life, and while everyone else

marched to the Brazos, I rode there."

A notable difference in Eddie's Corps experience compared to today was the amount of parent involvement. Certain aspects including Parents Day Weekend and the involvement in activities specific to each outfit were not as big.

"My parents were not involved in Corps activities like my wife and I have been for our children the past six years. Some parents find it hard to let go of some of these kids by allowing them to grow up and do what they need to do," Eddie said.

Earning a degree in agricultural education was an easy decision for Eddie, as the Guerra family is no stranger to the world of agriculture. Dating back to 1758, the Guerra family was well-known in the cattle ranch industry.

"My grandfather, along

with two of his brothers-in-law, went to Brazil and were one of the first to import Zebu cattle into the United States in 1946. We raised registered Brahman cattle; however, my grandfather dispersed his herd in the 70s," Eddie said.

Since his time at A&M, Eddie has seen the continuous growth of the campus and diversity of the student body. He believes A&M is headed in the right direction, and is pleased with the amount of minorities on campus.

"Back when I was in the Corps, hispanics were not predominate. Now you can come and see all kinds of ethnic backgrounds. The amount of growth on campus is unreal. At one time, I believe there were more than a dozen cranes on campus. Plus, West Campus did not exist back then," Eddie said.

A man rooted in traditions, Eddie's favorite Aggie traditions range from Silver Taps to Final Review. One tradition dear to him that students lack now is the Aggie Bonfire.

"For Bonfire, our outfit was a loading outfit, and we had to load the logs onto the trucks. The logistics of it as a junior and senior versus being the workers as a fish and sophomore, taught us a lot," Eddie said.

Choosing one tradition as his favorite was a difficult task for Eddie, but his eyes lit up with passion when talking about Aggie Muster, making it clear which tradition held a special place in his heart.



All photos courtesy of Mayzie Purviance

Senior corps boots worn by two generations & three cadets



“My sister, Martha Guerra-Arteaga ‘89 passed away. Having to go through Aggie Muster and answer “here” for her was a pretty rewarding moment in my life,” Eddie said.

Currently serving as Sheriff for Hidalgo County, Eddie directly oversees a staff of 800. He attributes his leadership qualities to those instilled in him through being in the Corps.

“Without the Corps of Cadets, I would not be the leader I am today,” Eddie said.



organizations you can join as a student. However, being an Aggie while being a member of the Corps is an experience like no other.

“It was very rewarding being a part of an organization that is larger than yourself,” Andres said.

Not only is it rewarding to be in the Corps, but they are committed to helping their students succeed. Additional resources are given to ensure they excelled academically during their time as a cadet and student.

“When it came down to studying, I always had an upperclassman within my major who mentored me with advice on how to be successful academically,” Andres said.

A political science major during his time at Texas A&M, Andres is now in his second year of law school at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. He credits his law school success to his time, courses and professors at A&M.

“I feel that the courses at Texas A&M prepared me well,” Andres said. “They pushed me and challenged me to refine my study habits that I now use in law school.”

Junior Year: Taking Charge

Continuing the Guerra legacy, Andres Guerra ‘16, followed in his father’s footsteps, literally.

“Dad was in the Corps. While growing up, he would always mention the things he did and his experience in the Corps. When it came down to going to A&M, he encouraged it,” Andres said.

The Aggie experience is different based on the individual, not including your select group of friends and the many

As a recent graduate, Andres is pretty familiar with the current state of the campus including its constant growth. He is hopeful the university will expand its amount of on-campus resources, specifically libraries.

“Within the next 10 years, I would really like to see more library and study spaces for students,” Andres said





Senior Year: Leading the Way

Eddie's youngest son, Miguel Guerra '19, is the last of the mohicans. With inspirations including his grandfather, father and brother, joining the Corps of Cadets was a decision he made with ease.

"I grew up listening to stories and being amazed about my grandfather's and father's experiences and memories from Texas A&M and the Corps of Cadets," Miguel said. "I was also a sophomore in high school when my brother decided to join, and I learned insight from him."

With almost 35 years separating Miguel and Eddie's time in the Corps, the differences in their experiences shine brighter than ever. During Eddie's time, Corps members with 8 a.m. classes were required to attend class in the clothes they trained in that morning. Now they are required to be in uniform.

Although the Guerra men had different experiences in the Corps, some things remained constant throughout the generations. Eddie, Andres and Miguel are men of Squadron 6. Squadron 6 was the largest unit in the 80s, and with aspirations to expand the Corps of Cadets, the unit was split in half to create Squadron 13. Squadron 6 was eventually reactivated during Andres' freshman year, and he was sure to transfer.

"I made the move for legacy reasons. My father was in Squadron 6, and I wanted to be in the unit my father was," Andres said.

One would think being in the same unit as the men before you

would be easy. However, as great as it may sound, Miguel found it quite challenging. His older brother was a senior in Squadron 6 during his freshman year.

The Guerras' continued the Aggie tradition with Eddie passing down his senior boots to Andres, who then passed them down to Miguel. Not only did Miguel have great shoes to fill, but the leadership and camaraderie of the Corps really helped to solidify his reasons to join.

"My Aggie experience has been a special one, mainly because of the people I have shared it with. I would not have had a better experience without my buddies from the Corps," Miguel said.

Being in the Corps of Cadets has been an experience of a lifetime for Miguel. He has formed life-long friendships you cannot get anywhere else.

"We all arrived on campus and to the Quad on the same day. We also went through the same training and formed friendships that will probably last forever," Miguel said. "We've helped each other with classes, the Corps and life in general."

Aside from lasting relationships, Miguel has received numerous resources from the Corps that have helped him in many ways.

"About once a week, the Corps holds career readiness trainings on the Quad that aid us at being professionals in the workforce," Miguel said. "For example, we work with the Career Center and develop resumes, perform mock interviews and get lectured by a professional throughout the year."

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has had a major impact on Miguel's time as an Aggie. As a student in the Department of Agricultural Economics, he has been provided opportunities like no other, which have helped to shape him as a person.

"The College of Ag has helped me become a better individual. Our unique professors are not only specialized in what they teach but also in character building as

well," Miguel said. "I have had several professors teach me how to properly dress, act and treat others in the professional world. No other college comes close to the amount of etiquette education we receive by the professors and guest speakers."

One professor in particular who has had a major impact on Miguel's life is Craig Rotter, Ph.D. He has taught Miguel to be mindful of others, and to respect their opinions while still being a strong leader.

"I have used these skills in my education and volunteer work, which have created an advantage for me. I hope Dr. Rotter continues to develop students in the unique way he does to create better leaders for the future," Miguel said.

Miguel has been instrumental in the Corps of Cadets and believes in the student body of A&M. He feels like A&M is headed in the right direction, but believes there is more room to grow.

"There's a lot of things I would like Texas A&M to keep on doing, but they should listen to the students more. We have wonderful ideas on how to challenge multiple issues on campus," Miguel said. "It seems the university has put more interest towards what donors have to say instead of the students. We realize it is important to keep our donors satisfied, but students like myself have some comments and concerns that would like to be heard."

Miguel will graduate in August 2019. He does not have any plans to attend graduate school, but his post-grad plans are far from average. He intends to start a business, which he has spent time creating and building through his AGEC 424 course with Edward Rister, Ph.D. Miguel has also been offered a scholarship to become a Lieutenant in the Texas State Guard. He also serves as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown, which offers another potential employment opportunity.

"I'm just weighing my options right now. I graduate in a couple of months and still have time. So, we

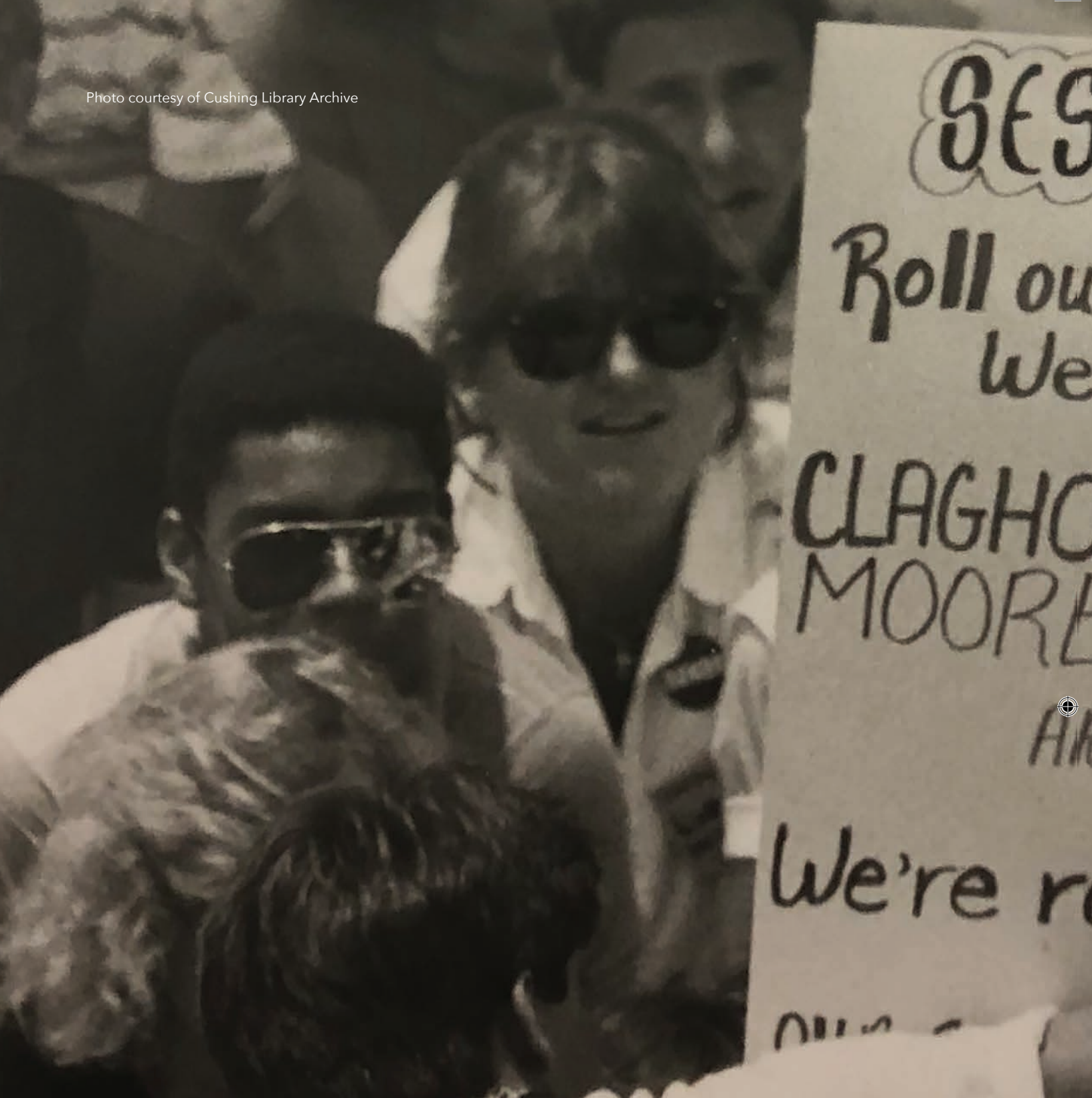
will see which one will set me up for the most success," Miguel said.

Overall, Miguel's time as a member of the Corps of Cadets has been well spent. He owes all of the credit to his family for paving the way for him and showing him what it means to be a part of something bigger than himself. The Guerra family has a legacy unlike any other that has transcended through generations. They truly understand the meaning of, "from the outside looking in, you can't understand it. From the inside looking out, you can't explain it."



All headshots courtesy of the Guerra family

Photo courtesy of Cushing Library Archive



A FAMILY'S FIRE

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ST TRADITION

BY MORGAN KAISER



For Don Dorsett '58, Fish Camp is more than just a freshman's first tradition. Fish Camp in 1954 was a first. It was the root of one of Texas A&M University's most widely recognized traditions, and Don was there to experience it.

A Starter at Fort Parker

In Fall 1954, Don and his father made the trip to College Station from his hometown of Tyler, Texas. Don was dropped off on the steps of the YMCA building without a second look, leaving him with nothing but a suitcase and a footlocker.

Persuaded by a hometown friend to attend Texas A&M, Don was hesitant when approached with the idea to attend an out of town event. Despite reservations, Don agreed.

Described to him as "Freshmen Camp," Don headed to Fort Parker, a state park near Mexia, Texas. Coordinated by YMCA Director, J. Gordon Gay, the camp was created to introduce the incoming freshmen, or fish, to the traditions and ways of life at Texas A&M.

During his time at Fish Camp, Don and the 23 other fish were led by three seniors and four juniors. Throughout their four days at Fort Parker, Fish learned all about the yells and campusology, similar to what freshmen

attending Fish Camp learn in present day.

"It did not have all the activities that Fish Camp has now," Don said. "It was mainly just to get acquainted with other freshmen and learn some of the sayings and the way to do things in the Corps."

In 1954, Don knew that Fish Camp was a place to get to know everyone. With Texas A&M still being an all-male military school at the time, Don credits a lot of his friendships to his time at Fish Camp.

"I think all of us were eager to learn what was going to happen and how to get along," Don said.

Don ended up loving Fish Camp, and remembers his freshman year going smoothly after his time at Fort Parker.

"I think it's a very good tradition. I wish everyone could experience it," Don said.

Fast forward to 2018, Don is now grandfather to seven grandchildren, six of which have attended Fish Camp. The most recent of his grandchildren to partake in the tradition is Meg Dorsett '22, freshmen biomedical sciences major.

With 64 years separating their camp experiences, it is clear there are many differences between what fish camp was and is today.

For one, Don attended what was known as Freshmen Camp in 1954

Don Dorsett, attendee of the first Freshmen Camp, and granddaughter Meg Dorsett, attendee of the summer 2018 Fish Camp

while Meg attended Fish Camp in 2018. The name change from Freshmen Camp to Fish Camp happened in 1978 while the location changed nearly 60 years ago. Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, Texas is now the home to Fish Camp, replacing the original camp location at Fort Parker.

“I just recently found out he went to the first Fish Camp,” Meg said. “It is just crazy to think that my granddad was there when it all began and how different it is now.”

Another big difference between their experiences is the addition of sessions. When her granddad attended his camp, there were only a few cadets attending, resulting in one trip. Today, nearly 6,500 freshmen attend Fish Camp and are offered seven sessions to choose from.

Passing the Torch to Lakeview

This past summer, Meg attended Fish Camp and was a part of Session F Green Camp Saia.

“I have always looked forward to going to Fish Camp,” Meg said. “The stories I hear from my family members made me so excited to go.”

Despite her excitement, Meg found herself feeling a lot like her grandfather going into camp. Though following her oldest brother and many relatives, she was still reserved when heading into Lakeview.

“A few days before camp I was so pumped and ready to go, but the day of, I got so nervous,” Meg said. “I’m not typically shy, but the crowds at sign in were so overwhelming.”

Once she was on the bus to Lakeview, all hesitations vanished. All it took were a few yells and meet and greet games for Meg to get in her element.

“The atmosphere was incredible. I was not even on campus yet but I already felt like I had found my home,” Meg said. “I love how this is my first tradition, it will be fun to look back at pictures one day and reminisce.”

Coming back from Lakeview, Meg was picked up by her granddad. After experiencing such a different Fish Camp, her granddad was happy to hear the direction it has gone.

“It is weird to think that there was a time when Fish Camp was not all bright colors and loud yells,” Meg said. “It makes me want to take him to Lakeview and have him see what is going on nowadays. I know he would love it.”

Despite the many changes Fish Camp has made over the years, one thing remains the same: tradition. Though many years separate their experiences, Don admires the passion and spirit that stems from Fish Camp.

“It gets everybody in the same swing of what’s going to happen,” Don said. “I don’t care what they say about other schools, to me the spirit at A&M is totally different. A huge part of it is because of Fish Camp.”





AGGIELAND'S CHEAPEST THRILLS

BY
SHELBY TEPERA
&
DEBORAH ANDERAOS



Whether you have had a long day in class or need a study break, we all enjoy going to happy hour with friends.

Below are restaurants in Bryan-College Station that offer great deals every day of the week!

MONDAY

Margarita Mondays are in full swing at Dixie Chicken. Every Monday they offer \$2 margaritas all day long, as well as Mexican beer specials. You can pair your drink of choice with a delicious burger, chicken tenders or a salad. You can't forget about their famous Tiajuana fries, topped with cheese and bacon.

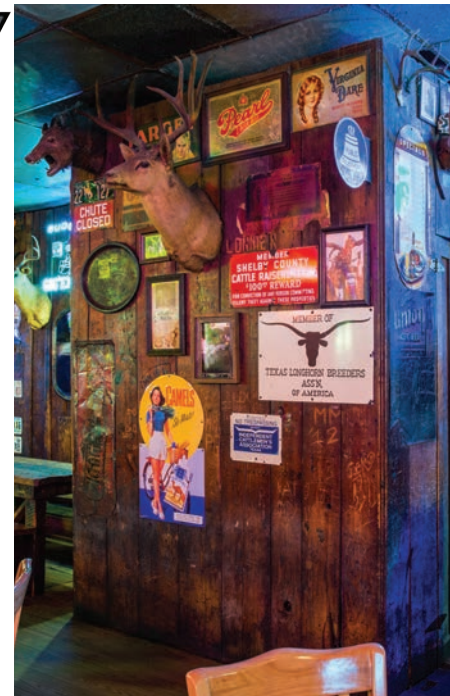
Adam Drake, marketing director at Dixie Chicken, described the atmosphere of the Chicken as laid-back, comfortable and timeless.

"Dixie Chicken opened in 1974 and has remained

the same as it was back then. It is still a place where people come together to make new friends, play a game of pool and share memorable experiences," Drake said.

Agricultural Leadership and Development senior, Kylie McClung said she loves how the Dixie Chicken is a living tradition of Aggieland.

"Being able to go there makes me feel like I get to be a huge part of the Aggie college experience," McClung said.



TUESDAY

If you love tacos and beer then Chimy's has you covered. On Tuesdays they offer \$2 Dos Equis, Michelob Ultra and \$1 crispy tacos.

Kelby Owen, bartender at Chimy's described Chimy's as one big family. She has been working there for over two years and said it is a perfect hangout spot.

"Chimy's is youthful, fun and always a good time. We typically have a full house for happy hour which can include up to 300 people, mainly students," Owen said.



She said students often spend their Tuesdays at Chimy's for what is known as T-shirt Tuesday.

Bridgett Falcone, agricultural communications and journalism senior said "Chimy's is a great place to enjoy happy hour. The discounted prices are excellent, the location is great and the atmosphere is always lively."

WEDNESDAY

Bryan-College Station has plenty of options when it comes to pizza restaurants. If you want an aesthetically pleasing environment with fresh-cooked brick-oven pizza, then RX Pizza should be your go-to.

If you love wine then make sure to hit this place on a Wednesday. They have half-off all bottles of wine. Their Wednesday happy hour also includes \$5 sangria, seasonal smashes, painkillers and \$2 Lone Star beer.

Jake Mitchell, owner of RX Pizza said you can expect casual but high-quality dining.

“Everything is made from scratch here,” Mitchell said. “Wednesday nights are busy for us, but our customers always have a smile on their face and that is what we strive for.”



THURSDAY

Delicious sushi for a discounted price on Thursdays? Yes, please! When it comes to finding a great sushi happy hour place, search no further. Naked Fish has you set. Naked Fish also features karaoke night if you and your friends are searching for something fun to do.

Thursday happy hour deals include \$7 sushi rolls, half-off house wine, house draft beers, Saki bombs and 10 percent off a bottle of Saki.



Jake Bootz, general manager of Naked Fish said you can expect friendly service with a high-class feel when entering Naked Fish.

“We cater towards college students and getting them familiar with sushi,” Bootz said. “Most people come in and order the Shaggy Dog because it is the most familiar to them, but students are super open to trying new things. It is fun to be a part of that experience.”

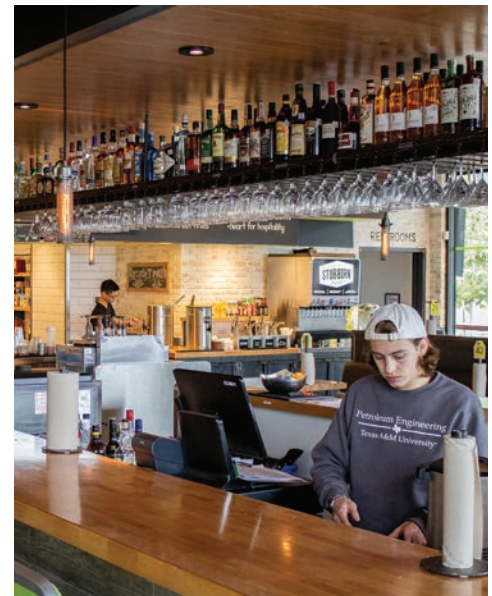
FRIDAY

On Friday when you get off of work or are done with class, head straight to Hopdoddy Burger Bar. They offer \$5 brew burgers and shareables. Some shareables include parmesan truffle fries and green chile queso fries. They also have \$5 wine, signature sips and craft drafts.

Derek Dansereau, bar manager at Hopdoddy Burger Bar, said the atmosphere is always vibrant with a wide variety of people coming to happy hour.

“You can expect a quality burger, freshness and

hand-crafted food when eating at Hopdoddy. We have extremely unique burgers and we can spike your milkshake with whatever alcohol you like,” Dansereau said.



SATURDAY



Nothing goes together better than sports and wings. Buffalo Wild Wings has 59 TVs inside their restaurant and a plethora of items on their menu.

On Saturdays at Buffalo Wild Wings, they offer half-off entree items and \$4 pitchers of beer from 9-11 p.m.

General Manager Douglas Florence said if you're looking for a good draft beer and hot wings, they have you covered.

"The crowd here is rowdy but respectful of each other," Florence said. "We get about 1500 to 2000

people on game days and we love serving college students."

Florence said the classic draft beers like Dos Equis, Michelob Ultra and Bud Light are always popular. Recently, however, local beers have been selling more than any other beer on their draft.

SUNDAY

On Sunday, Cafe Eccell is the place to be. They have a build-your-own Mimosa and Bloody Mary bar featuring fresh fruit and vegetables. They also offer half-priced Chicken and Waffles.

Their peak time is around 11:30 a.m. on Sunday and they usually serve brunch to around 500 to 700 people, so it is best to get there early.

Cody Smith, general manager at Cafe Eccell said they strive to serve quality food at a reasonable price.

"Cafe Eccell is casual fine dining. We want anyone and everyone to feel welcome here. Our food is made from scratch and we prepare everything in-house," said Smith.

Jessica Schaeffer, agricultural communications and journalism major said Cafe Eccell is a convenient place for her to eat since they offer vegan options.

"I had a friend visiting from Illinois who is potentially a future Aggie and we were so happy with the vegan options," Schaeffer said. "They were extremely accommodating plus the atmosphere transports you out of Texas."



Bryan-College Station is growing rapidly and new restaurants are constantly being opened. It can be hard to find the best deals, but with this list you and your friends will be able to have a great time out without breaking the bank. All establishments featured provide a welcoming and upbeat environment where you are guaranteed to have a blast!

AN OPPORTUNITY ARCHITECT

BY PAYTON MINER

Chris Boleman, Ph.D., might currently work under the big city lights of Houston, but the three-degreed Aggie from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences still remembers how his time in Aggieland molded him and brought him opportunities to be where he is today.

Boleman offers advice to current students about finding a career, how to inspire others and shares what brings him fulfillment in his position as the Executive Director of Agricultural Competitions and Exhibits at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Q: What is your educational background with Texas A&M University?

A: B.S. – Animal Science '96
M.S. – Animal Science '00
Ph.D. – Ag Leadership, Education, and Communications '03

Q: How did your time in Aggieland prepare you for your current position with Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo?

A: In addition to the agriculture knowledge, the spirit of Aggieland (the friendly atmosphere, the handshakes, the eye contact, the genuine caring) follows you no matter where you go. Learning about people and how to work with them is something Aggieland taught me.

Q: What does your current position entail?

A: I am currently the Executive Director of Agricultural Competitions and Exhibits at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. The Show is the largest livestock show and rodeo in the world and is led by over 33,000 volunteers. In my role, I lead and oversee the international ag educational programming efforts, livestock department, auctions department, horse department and the wine department.

Q: What about your position brings you fulfillment?

A: When the goal is complete and when young people reach their dreams. At the end of the day, I have spent my whole career being an opportunity architect and providing opportunities for youth and volunteers to reach their dreams. When this happens, it is magic to me.

Q: In your opinion, what values are vital to those entering the workforce?

A: Your first job will not be your last job. The key to entering the workforce is to remember that learning is just beginning. Take it all in, embrace learning and you will be more successful.

Q: What would you say to current students as they look to the professional world and life after college?

A: Find a career, not a job. When you find a career, you find your purpose and passion. When these two “Ps” align, there is no limit to what you can accomplish. I promise you will love it!



Photo courtesy of Chris Boleman, Ph.D.



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BARBERS



BY JEWEL SMITH

S & BASES



Texas A&M Baseball partners with the Vs. Cancer campaign to give back to the community through fundraising for pediatric cancer.

The partnership began five years ago with Texas A&M head baseball coach, Rob Childress. The 2019 team has a goal to raise more than \$20,000 for the pediatric oncology unit at MD Anderson Cancer Center located in Houston, Texas.

Lead Off

Less than two hours away from Olsen Field at Bluebell Park is one of the world's most respected centers for cancer treatment and research, MD Anderson Children's Hospital. According to MD Anderson's website, they create personalized care for thousands of patients from around the world each year.

To kick off each season, players stand in solidarity with those affected by cancer with a charity event. At this event, players and coaches shave their heads as a symbol of strength and alliance for those affected by cancer.

The Texas A&M ball club firmly believes in giving back and taking care of the people who support them under the lights of Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park.

7th Inning Stretch

Displayed on plaques down the halls of the Bill Byrne Student-Athlete Center is the statement, "Servantship – seeking to put others needs, interests and wishes above my own."

This message is proudly presented for the Texas A&M baseball team to read, remember and practice every day as they gear up for scrimmages, practices, workouts and games.

Logan Foster, Aggie junior outfielder and Nebraska native, lists the six pillars that Texas A&M baseball uses as the foundation for the program.

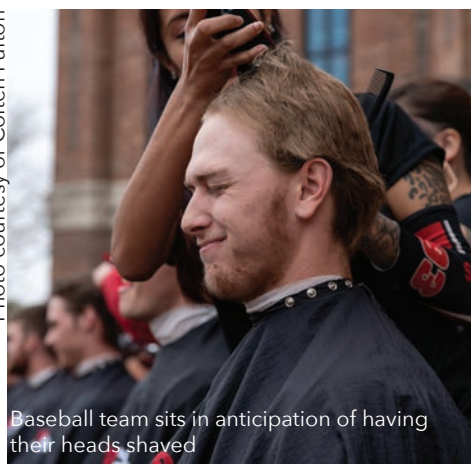
"In addition to servantship is attitude, effort, trust, accountability and discipline," Foster said.

Each of these pillars can be seen on plaques when walking down the halls of the Texas A&M baseball facilities to remind players of their values. Servantship is one the values the coaches and players try to bring into the community of the Brazos Valley and beyond with each season.

Foster, along with head coach Rob Childress and 2017 Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year, junior infielder Braden Shewmake, spoke in regards to how they want to give back to the community who has given so much to them.

"We feel like we need to give something back," Childress said. "We have to remind ourselves that we are truly blessed. There's a lot of young kids out there dealing with a lot tougher things than striking out or walking somebody and we just try to drive that point home with our kids."

Photo courtesy of Colten Fulton



Baseball team sits in anticipation of having their heads shaved

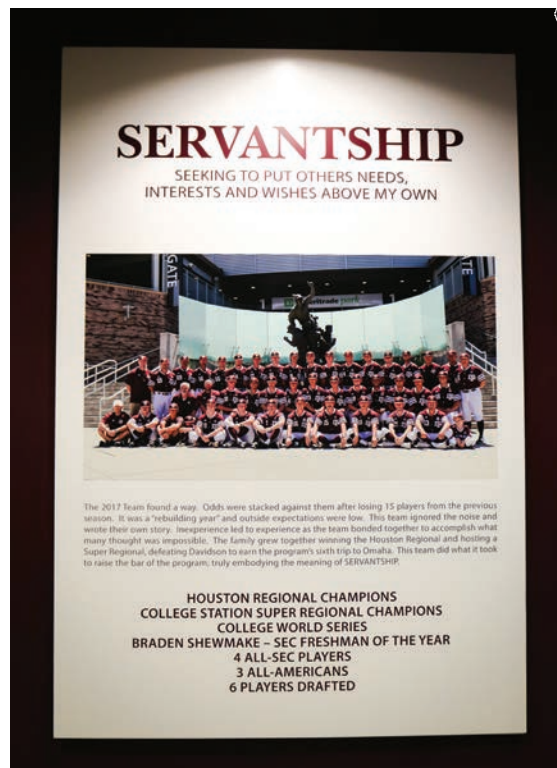


Photo courtesy of Jewel Smith

TEXAS A&M BASEBALL

“It’s not just a fundraiser,” Shewmake said. “It’s something that we really pour all of our hearts and souls into and we really enjoy being a part of.”

Bottom of the 9th

The campaign, according to the Vs. Cancer webpage, was founded at the University of North Carolina in 2006 by freshman baseball player Chase Jones

Jones was diagnosed with a stage IV brain tumor at 18-years-old. The mission of Vs. Cancer is to empower any team, athlete or community to help children with cancer. The proceeds help fund local hospitals and pediatric units.

“This campaign is impacting young people who are fighting for their lives and if we get an opportunity to help those who wake up every day to fight, what an honor that is,” Childress said. “That’s what we’re in it for, to help those kids.”

Childress said that since joining five years ago, Texas A&M Baseball has and continues to be one of the top fundraising teams for the Vs. Cancer campaign.

“A majority of the guys on the team have been affected by cancer, whether it’s a friend or a family member,” Foster said. “Vs. Cancer has given me the opportunity to learn more about what goes into the Cancer Research Foundation and that you’re not the only one who goes through something like this.”

Shewmake felt this campaign helped put life into perspective for himself and other players involved.

“It’s not just a fundraiser,” Shewmake said. “It’s something we really pour all of our hearts and souls into and we really enjoy being a part of.”

Shewmake continued, “You see these kids going through so much. You remember they are going through a bigger and more complex fight and we are going to stand behind them no matter what. We will help them get through it and pursue goals along the way.”

According to Childress, 45 players and coaches are involved in helping the team reach their goal of \$20,000 before the start of the 2019 baseball season.

The Texas A&M Baseball Team will host a fundraising event set for the weekend of February 8, 2019, before the inter-squad scrimmage. The event will be held at Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park.

Players and coaches will be available for meet and greets at the event before the scrimmage begins.

For more information about Vs. Cancer, visit <http://www.vs-cancer.org/>

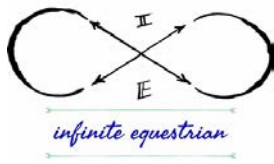
To donate, visit <https://team.curethekids.org/team/189409> or visit any of the Texas A&M Baseball players’ or coaches’ social media pages.



Junior infielder, Braden Shewmake



Junior outfielder, Logan Foster



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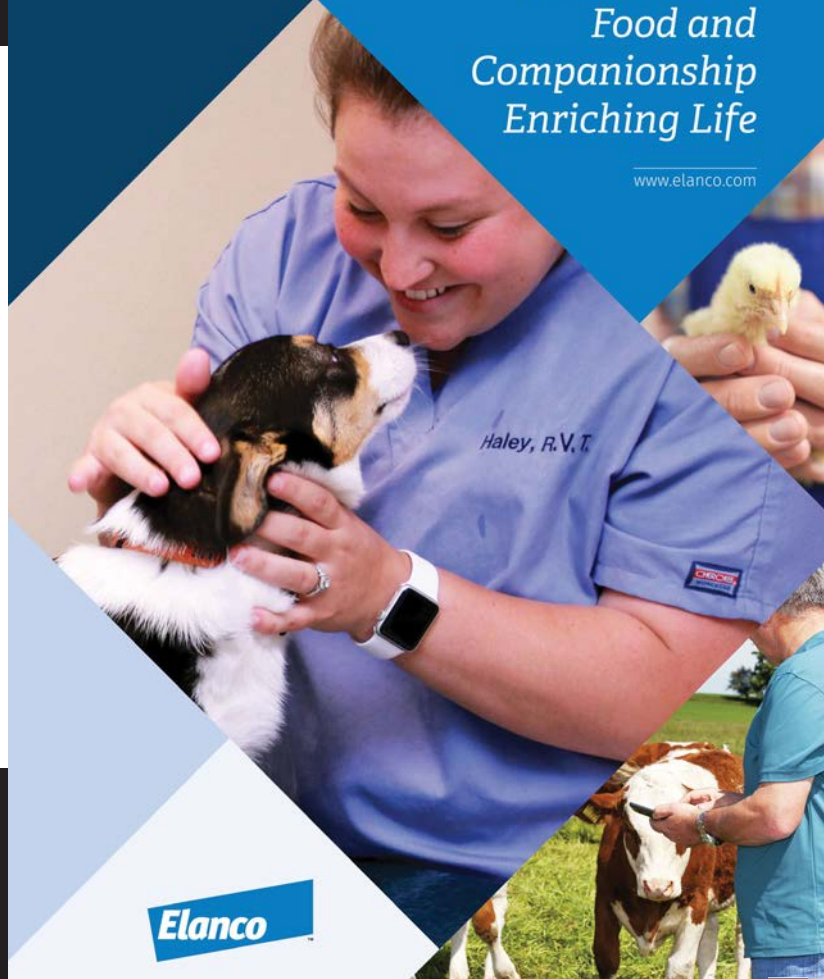
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CZECH HIM OUT

BY DEBORAH ANDERAOS

Josh Zapletal is more than a former agricultural communications & journalism senior, he is also a prominent member of a popular polka band.

Zapletal is the youngest member of his family band, "Czech & Then Some." Formed by his dad and uncle in 1997 at a wedding anniversary, the band performs a mix of polka, country music, waltzes and other dances.

Zapletal said he learned how to manage being a full-time college student while also traveling for the band.

"Being in a polka band, our main gigs are on the weekend so it allows me time to travel," Zapletal said. "There have been many times where I drive back late on a Sunday night and come home to work on a paper or project that is due the next day."

Making deadlines for assignments can be difficult, but Zapletal said it is worth it because of the experiences he gains through the band.

"We have performed at festivals like Wurstfest, Westfest and National Polka Fest, where there are thousands of people. On average we usually perform for about 400 people," Zapletal said. "We also have toured in the Czech Republic."

Zapletal said performing music with his family has been an experience he would never change.

"Music has been a part of my life since I was born," Zapletal said. "My dad started playing when he was 12 and has been my inspiration. Music is a huge part of my family and I love being able to be apart of something I can trace back to my great-grandparents."

For more information on Czech and Then Some, check out their website: <http://www.czechandthensome.com>



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Josh Zapletal singing and playing the guitar on stage

Photo courtesy of Jaclynn Lewis

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