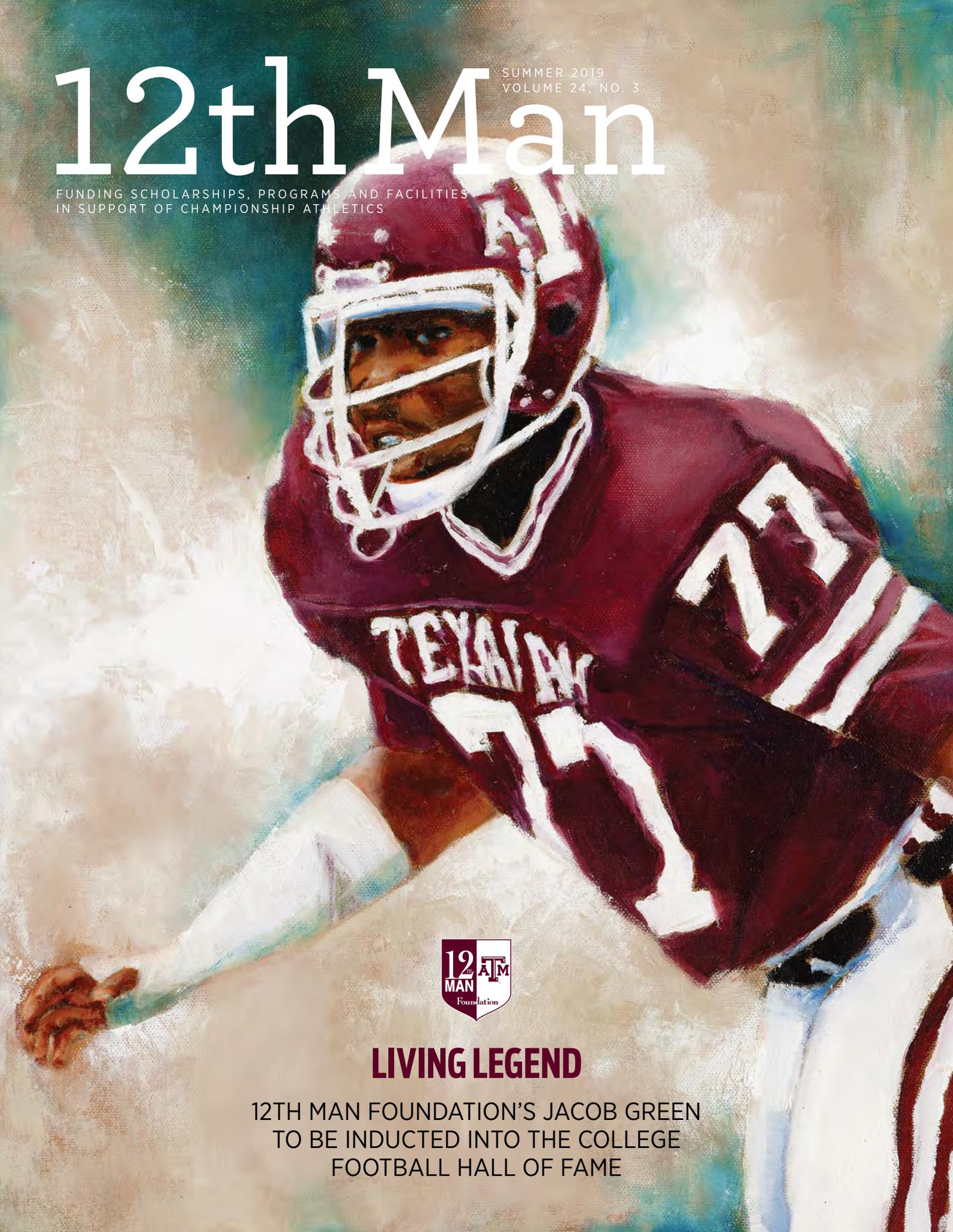


# 12th Man

SUMMER 2019  
VOLUME 24, NO. 3

FUNDING SCHOLARSHIPS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES  
IN SUPPORT OF CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETICS



## LIVING LEGEND

12TH MAN FOUNDATION'S JACOB GREEN  
TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE COLLEGE  
FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

2020 SEASON TICKET

# RENEWAL CALENDAR

Thank you for your continued support of Texas A&M Athletics!

## Football

Renewal: *February*  
Seat Selection: *April*



## Men's Basketball

Renewal: *June*  
Seat Selection: *August*

## Women's Basketball

Renewal: *June*  
Seat Selection: *August*

## Soccer

Renewal: *June*

## Volleyball

Renewal: *June*

## Baseball

Renewal: *October*  
Seat Selection: *December*

## Softball

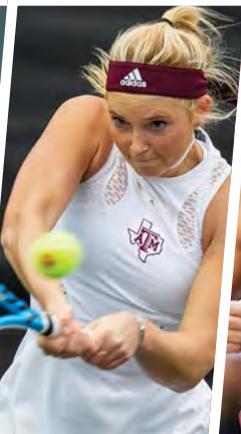
Renewal: *October*

## Tennis

Renewal: *October*

## Track & Field

Renewal: *October*





**COVER FEATURE**

**Living Legend | Page 16**  
The 12th Man Foundation's Jacob Green to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame  
*BY CHAREAN WILLIAMS '86*



**IMPACTFUL DONORS**

**14 Laura & Michael O'Brien '78**  
*BY SAMANTHA ATCHLEY '17*

**22 Liz & Brad Worsham '88**  
*BY BRIAN DAVIS '01*

**26 Tera '94 & Rob Davis '90**  
*BY SAMANTHA ATCHLEY '17*

**STUDENT-ATHLETES**

**11 Hollann Hans '20**  
Volleyball Student-Athlete  
*BY SAMANTHA ATCHLEY '17*

**24 Ally Watt '19**  
Soccer Student-Athlete  
*BY SCOTT RETZLAFF*

**32 Camron Buckley '21**  
Football Student-Athlete  
*BY WILL JOHNSON '01*

**12TH MAN FOUNDATION**

**5 Foundation Update**

**7 Make an Impact with a Matching Gift**  
Many employers will match tax deductible gifts to the 12th Man Foundation

**10 1922 Fund Donors**  
The 12th Man Foundation salutes all 1922 Fund donors for their investment in Texas A&M student-athletes through philanthropic endowment giving

**41 Student Membership**  
Current students can join the 12th Man Foundation now and receive great benefits

**42 Staff Spotlight: Brian Bishop '91**  
Vice President of Major Gifts  
*BY BRIAN DAVIS '01*

**43 Charitable Bequest**  
Make an enduring impact on Texas A&M Athletics with a charitable bequest

**TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS**

**6 Aggie Accolades**

**6 Compliance Corner**

**8 Q&A with Ross Bjork**  
A conversation with Texas A&M's Director of Athletics  
*BY ADAM QUISENBERRY*

**28 One of a Kind**  
Kyle Field sets the standard for college football game day experience  
*BY CHAREAN WILLIAMS '86*

**31 Q&A with Buddy Kimberlin '05**  
A conversation with the Director of 12th Man Productions  
*BY ADAM QUISENBERRY*

**34 125 Years of Texas A&M Football**  
Twelve milestone moments that helped define Texas A&M Football in its first 125 years  
*BY WILL JOHNSON '01*

*COVER PAINTING BY WILLIAM ROSE  
JACOB GREEN WILL BE INDUCTED INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME IN DECEMBER 2019*

# 12th Man

VOLUME 24, NO. 3  
SUMMER 2019

## MAGAZINE STAFF

Brian Davis '01  
Samantha Atchley '17  
Adam Quisenberry

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

Brad Barnes, *Compliance*  
JP Beato III '96, *Photographer*  
Craig Bisacre, *Photographer*  
Andrew Hancock '02, *Photographer*  
Will Johnson '01, *Writer*  
Vince Lombardi, *Production*  
Bailey Orr '21, *Photographer*  
Scott Retzlaff, *Writer*  
William Rose, *Artist*  
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Samantha Atchley '17 979-260-2396  
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### TICKETING

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## 12TH MAN FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 2800 | College Station, TX 77841-2800  
979-846-8892 | 888-99-AGGIE  
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4. Total Copies (Net Press Run) - 2019	317	350	
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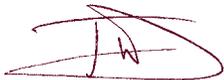
**TO OUR DONORS,**

**Living legend, indeed.** Jacob Green is the prime example of how generosity from donors like yourself works in concert with the core values of Texas A&M University and the Athletics Department to inspire a mindset of selfless service in our student-athletes. I am proud to have called Jacob a colleague, but more importantly, a friend for the past 14 years. On behalf of the 12th Man Foundation,

I congratulate Jacob on a well-deserved honor as a 2019 National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame inductee and thank him for his incredible service to Texas A&M Athletics.

Generosity and selfless service are attributes that you will find throughout this issue of *12th Man Magazine*, which features several of our extraordinary supporters and exceptional student-athletes. If you find yourself inspired by an article in this issue, I ask that you share it with a like-minded friend or family member who might be interested in making an impact on the lives of Texas A&M student-athletes by joining the 12th Man Foundation.

Gig `em!



Travis Dabney '96  
President & CEO



**CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY FOR THE ANNE & HENRY B. "HANK" PAUP '70 AQUATIC CENTER**

The Texas A&M swimming & diving programs announced the ground breaking of a facility renovation project to upgrade the current team spaces. Construction has begun on the new Anne & Henry B. "Hank" Paup '70 Aquatic Center that has come together as a product of tremendous fundraising by the 12th Man Foundation. While the Aggies will remain in the same location, the facility project will provide significant upgrades and additions that will allow the teams to be in a central location and feature new locker rooms, coaches offices, an athletic training room area, dryland training space and fueling station.

**STAFF UPDATE**

**THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING ADDITION TO OUR MAJOR GIFTS STAFF:**



Brian Bishop '91  
Vice President of  
Major Gifts

*Learn more about Brian on page 42*



**LOYAL SUPPORTER SCOTT TAYLOR '69 RECEIVES OUTSTANDING 12TH MAN AWARD**

Scott Taylor was recently named a recipient of the Outstanding 12th Man Award, an honor given by the 12th Man Foundation to individuals who exemplify an exceptional level of service to Texas A&M. Taylor, pictured above his wife, Pat, and daughters, Robin and Laura, has been a loyal confidant for the 12th Man Foundation, serving on the Board of Trustees for seven years – acting as chair in 2012 – as well as providing legal counsel to the organization for the past 14 years. "I'm extremely appreciative of receiving the Outstanding 12th Man Award," Taylor said. "I'm deeply honored and humbled by the fact that the 12th Man Foundation even considered me for the award. It's a pretty special honor and one of the better things that's ever happened to me."

**12TH MAN FOUNDATION RELAUNCHES STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**

Current Texas A&M students may now join the 12th Man Foundation at the new Student Membership level and take advantage of great benefits including the ability to start building priority points. Student members also receive exclusive benefits such as photos on Kyle Field and a 12th Man Foundation T-shirt. Current students may join for \$25 by visiting [www.12thmanfoundation.com/12thmanstudent](http://www.12thmanfoundation.com/12thmanstudent) or calling 888-99-AGGIE.

**82%** **GRADUATION SUCCESS RATE**  
 SECOND-HIGHEST IN PROGRAM HISTORY  
 FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR WITH A TOTAL GSR OF 80%-OR-ABOVE



**TEXAS A&M SHINES IN GRADUATION SUCCESS RATE REPORT**

Texas A&M posted its second-highest Graduation Success Rate (GSR) since the NCAA began recording this metric in a report released in October. Texas A&M had an 82 percent GSR in the period covered by the report. "One of our primary goals at Texas A&M Athletics is academic success, and I'm extremely proud of what our student-athletes have been able to achieve in the classroom," Texas A&M Director of Athletics Ross Bjork said. "Our latest Graduation Success Rate is another example of student-athletes' commitment to excellence in academics, and a direct reflection on all of our head coaches and (Associate AD for Academic Services) Joe Fields and his staff's intentional approach to consistently improve the academic performance of our entire athletics program." This marks A&M's fourth consecutive year with a total GSR of at least 80 percent. Four A&M programs – women's golf, soccer, men's swimming and diving and volleyball – had a perfect 100 percent GSR.

**THREE AGGIES NAMED EASTON/NFCA ALL-AMERICA SCHOLAR-ATHLETES**

Texas A&M softball had three student-athletes named Easton/NFCA All-America Scholar-Athletes. To qualify for the honor, student-athletes must have earned a 3.5 grade-point average for the 2018-19 academic year. For the third consecutive year, Riley Sartain was honored by the organization, while Blake-Ann Fritsch garnered the award for the second time in her career. Gabby Moreno earned the award for the first time to round out the team. A&M has had 19 student-athletes achieve this award in the last four years.



**COMPLIANCE CORNER**

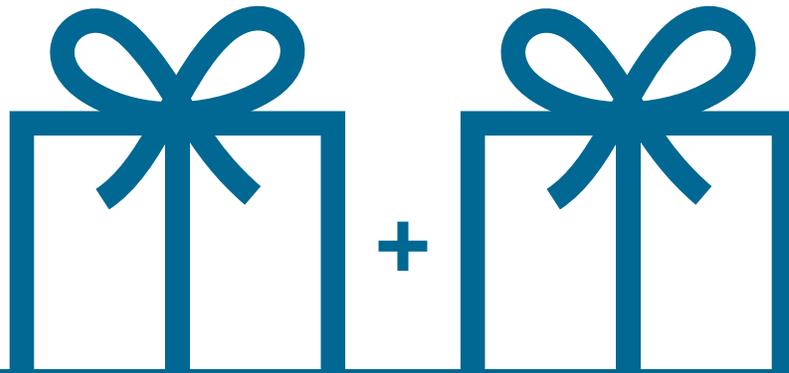
A common violation of NCAA rules involves representatives of NCAA member institutions' athletics interests (i.e., boosters) allowing access to suites at NCAA member institutions' stadiums and arenas to certain individuals. Unless you are related to all the below-listed individuals to whom you would be providing suite access, contact Texas A&M Athletics Compliance before providing suite access to:

- » An enrolled Texas A&M student-athlete and/or the student-athlete's guests
- » A prospective student-athlete (i.e., 9th-12th grade high school student, prep school student, junior college student or four-year transfer student) and/or prospective student-athlete's guests OR
- » A coach of prospective student-athletes and/or the coach's guests.

There are circumstances in which the provision of such access to the individuals listed above might be permissible; however, there also are many more circumstances in which providing suite access to such individuals would violate NCAA rules. For example, if the suite owner were providing access to a non-relative/non-family member prospective student-athlete (PSA) during the PSA's unofficial or official recruiting visit to Texas A&M, then that would violate NCAA rules.

Please help Texas A&M Athletics continue building champions through winning with integrity by asking before you act!

**BRAD BARNES**  
 TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS COMPLIANCE  
 979.845.1904  
 COMPLIANCE@ATHLETICS.TAMU.EDU  
 WWW.12THMAN.COM



# MAXIMIZE YOUR IMPACT WITH A MATCHING GIFT

Many employers will match tax deductible gifts to the 12th Man Foundation, which can double your contribution in support of Texas A&M Athletics

While each company has its own procedure, typically the process includes these easy steps:

- 1** You request a matching gift form from your company's website or HR office
- 2** You complete the form and send it to the 12th Man Foundation with your gift
- 3** The 12th Man Foundation verifies the gift information and returns it to your employer
- 4** Your employer issues a matching gift contribution to the 12th Man Foundation

**Ask your employer if they offer a matching gift program to maximize your impact on Texas A&M student-athletes**

While annual seat contributions are no longer tax deductible, donations to the Annual Fund may be tax deductible since they are not tied to a ticket purchase

Consult your tax advisor to determine the deductibility of your gift



For more information about making a matching gift to the 12th Man Foundation, call Toni McDowell at 979-260-7577.

# ROSS BJORK

A conversation with Texas A&M's Director of Athletics

BY ADAM QUISENBERRY



» BEGAN HIS POSITION AS TEXAS A&M'S DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS ON JULY 8, 2019

» CAME TO AGGIELAND FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI WHERE HE SERVED AS THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS FOR SEVEN YEARS

» NATIVE OF DODGE CITY, KANSAS

» EARNED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN RECREATION ADMINISTRATION FROM EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY IN 1995 AND A MASTER'S IN ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION FROM WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY IN 1996

» RESIDES IN COLLEGE STATION WITH HIS WIFE, SONYA, AND THEIR TWO SONS, PAYTON AND PAXTON

## What attracted you to Texas A&M?

My mentality has always been to be at a place that is relevant and can have success. As I've evolved in my career, I've wanted to be around the best athletics department in the country. Being a student of college athletics and looking at A&M from afar, it was one of those places you looked at and say, 'They have a great university, a passionate fanbase and have figured out how to run college athletics at a high level.' I wasn't looking to leave Ole Miss, but when you get a call from one of the best, if not the best athletics departments in the country, you have to look at it. It was really about being around the best and the state of Texas has a lot of power to it, not only for the job, but for my family. Texas A&M is the total package – successful, high-level university and family life.

## In the short time you've been in Aggieland, what have you learned about Texas A&M?

I've been really impressed that, even though it's a big place, it's still a place built on relationships. I think that is what sets this place apart. We have all the size and the power in terms of resources and an amazing foundation, but there is so much room to grow. It still comes down to relationships

and how we're all connected. I've been really impressed by that and how everyone here goes out of their way to embrace you.

## What are some of your priorities as Athletics Director?

I've always been a relationship-first Athletics Director, so it's been a big priority to me to get to know the people and the place before you draft your plans and cast a vision. Of course, our vision is to be the best athletically and academically, but until you really get a feel for the people and the place, it's hard to implement a plan. The term servant leadership is something I try to keep in mind because we're here for our student-athletes. We serve them and that has to be the No. 1 priority we have and everything else falls underneath that. Resource acquisition and building is another priority. At Ole Miss, I'm proud that we built over \$200 million worth of athletics facilities and we did the same on a smaller scale at Western Kentucky. All of that happens because you build strong relationships and keep student-athletes at the core of your mission.

## How important are donors to the success of Texas A&M Athletics?

If you look at the reputation of Texas A&M Athletics around the country, people believe we have the best fundraising organization in college athletics with the 12th Man Foundation. Our donors make that happen and really set the course for us. I've been really impressed with the engagement and knowledge level of our donors. They understand how college athletics works and are willing to help us. Not every place has that. Obviously, we talk about the passion and how much people care about Texas A&M. There really is an unconditional love and that right there is a great start because the conversation becomes us casting a vision, communicating a need and showing how it will impact our student-athletes. The passion is already there, and it's our job to

“  
**IF YOU LOOK AT THE REPUTATION OF TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS AROUND THE COUNTRY, PEOPLE BELIEVE WE HAVE THE BEST FUNDRAISING ORGANIZATION IN COLLEGE ATHLETICS WITH THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION. OUR DONORS MAKE THAT HAPPEN AND REALLY SET THE COURSE FOR US.**

— ROSS BJORK



fuel that passion. I've been really impressed with our donors. We really can't thank them enough because they're the lifeblood of what we do every day.

**What is your message to Aggie fans and former students who want to get more involved and make an impact?**

My mantra is that we ask people to give to their full potential, whatever that is. For some people that might mean only being able to buy a ticket and attend one game a year. We'll embrace and celebrate that. Other folks might be in a position to make a major gift or become members of Champions Council, but the point is that everything adds up. Part of our challenge is to figure out how to embrace everyone so that they feel they are making a difference. We certainly have the platforms – for as low as \$150 you can be a member of the 12th Man Foundation and even have the option to spread that out monthly – so our job is to make sure we're spreading

that message and that everyone feels like they're impactful to our mission.

**As a former student-athlete yourself, how can a scholarship change the life of not only a student-athlete, but future generations to come?**

I'm one of those 'but for athletics' folks because without athletics I certainly would not be in the position I'm in today. There are countless stories like that, but if not for an athletic scholarship, this person wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to college or set themselves on a path of success. I don't think I would have because my parents didn't have the means to do it. That's what is so inspiring about the work we do. We get to change lives and see young people reach their full potential through athletics. Because of a scholarship and the way donors fund our programs, we're able to pass that along and create the next generation that will be impacted in a positive way by that opportunity. ■

Ross and his wife, Sonya, are the proud parents of their sons Payton (13) and Paxton (9).

# THANK YOU!



The 12th Man Foundation salutes all 1922 Fund donors for their investment in Texas A&M student-athletes through philanthropic endowment giving



*The 12th Man Foundation recognized donors who have recently made gifts at the highest level to the 1922 Fund during halftime of the Auburn football game in September.*

**The 1922 Fund provides a perpetual impact on the education of Texas A&M's student-athletes.**

Our goal is to fully endow scholarships for every student-athlete, building a sustainable model of funding where your investment can provide the opportunity for Aggie student-athletes to excel in competition and in the classroom.

## 1922 FUND DONOR BENEFITS

	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$500,000+
Annual endowment report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition on 12th Man Foundation website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One-time recognition in 12th Man Magazine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A plaque for donor's home and recognition in 12th Man Foundation offices		✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition on field of supported program during a game*		✓	✓	✓	✓
Champions Council membership for a five year term		✓	✓	✓	✓
Assignment of a specific student-athlete's scholarship			✓	✓	✓
A donor spotlight article in 12th Man Magazine				✓	✓
12th Man Foundation will discuss recognition opportunities					✓

*\*Option exists for donor to choose their recognition at Kyle Field if desired*

**CONTACT THE MAJOR GIFTS STAFF AT 979-260-7595 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 1922 FUND**

# HOLLANN HANS '20

BY SAMANTHA ATCHLEY '17

**WITH THE SPIRIT OF AGGIELAND IN HER HEART** and record-setting talent on the court, a lifelong dream became reality when Hollann Hans was offered a scholarship to play volleyball at Texas A&M.

Now in her final season, Hans' game-changing character has built her into a team-leading impact player in the SEC.

However, regardless of the numerous accolades Hans has garnered during her four years on campus, the senior outside hitter from Corpus Christi, Texas, still finds herself in disbelief each time she steps on the court and has the honor of representing the school she so passionately loves.

"It is just the biggest blessing to be here and even now as a senior," Hans said, "I still think, 'How is this real life?' To grow up dreaming of being here and now getting to represent this school and play the sport that I love, I'm just thankful to the Lord every day that I get this opportunity."

Being exposed to the Aggie spirit at a young age, Hans firmly remembers the influence A&M had on her childhood – though she cannot truly recall her first Kyle Field experience at the 1997 Texas game (she was two months old) – and never considered pursuing another university.

"I guess you could say she was indoctrinated," Hollann's father, Scott Hans, said. "We carried her in the games at Kyle Field as a baby, so she's seen A&M from the very beginning. There was no doubt where she was going to go to school."

Since joining the Aggie Volleyball program in 2016, Hollann has been a resilient force on the court holding over 40 A&M program records during the 25-point rally scoring era, including career records for points and kills, while maintaining consecutive appearances on the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

"She truly amazes me and she continues to amaze me," Hollann's older sister, Harper Hans '16, said. "She's just so disciplined and so focused."

In addition, Hollann's humble attitude and steady performance makes her an extremely valuable asset to the team. Bird Kuhn says she is the type of person every coach wants to represent their program.

"To have someone that you can build your



program with and around, create that balance in the systems and just the culture that we want – she makes it so easy," Kuhn, A&M Volleyball Head Coach, said. "She wants everything for the team."

To no surprise, Hans' favorite part of playing volleyball is the intense, team aspect of the sport. From the moment she met the team, Hans says she knew the program represented a culture that she wanted to be a part of, and that her teammates "embodied what Texas A&M is all about" – a quality that many immediately notice of Hans' character as well.

"I honestly believe that this was her dream school and those core values are embedded in her," Kuhn said. "I think she looks at those words around our locker room, and I truly think she exemplifies them and is intentional about them through how she serves and lives her life."

Not only does Hans break countless records in aces behind the service line, but she values serving

A team captain, All-American and All-SEC volleyball star as a senior, Hans holds over 40 Texas A&M program records during the 25-point rally scoring era, including career records for points and kills.



The family's love for Texas A&M stemmed from Hollann's grandfather, Larry Hans Sr. '62, who was the first Hans to attend the school. "Unfortunately he passed away the year before Hollann stepped on the court for A&M so he didn't get to see her play," Hollann's father, Scott Hans, said, "but he did know that she was offered and accepted a scholarship to play for A&M and was incredibly proud of that."

others off the court as well. Aside from her athletic and academic responsibilities, Hans also devotes herself to her community through programs such as the FCA Leadership Team, volunteering at Special Olympics, participating in A&M's Big Event, giving motivational speeches to high school volleyball teams and interning at the First Baptist Bryan Church for college ministry.

"I realize that there are things outside of volleyball that are more important and one of those is giving back," Hans said. "Whatever it may be, just showing my appreciation and realizing that it's bigger than me and it's bigger than the sport."

With the amount of hard work and dedication she puts in as a student-athlete, it is only fitting that Hans was recently named as one of just 30 candidates for college volleyball's Senior CLASS Award based on notable achievements in competition, the

classroom, character and the community.

Overwhelmed with gratitude for the support from the 12th Man Foundation donors who have made her student-athlete experience possible, Hans feels like she has much to give in return for everything she has been given at A&M.

"I know that the resources donors have provided for us have allowed me to grow in my game and as a person, so I wouldn't have been able to do it without them," Hans said. "I credit everything to them for providing all the amazing opportunities that I have been able to have."

Likewise, she believes one of her greatest accomplishments among them all is receiving a scholarship to A&M. Approaching her graduation in May of 2020, Hans says her scholarship has given her irreplaceable experiences and opportunities that have prepared her for life after volleyball.

“It’s so inspiring to see donors’ selfless acts of providing student-athletes with the opportunity to be here,” she said. “To play the sport they love and have a scholarship from this place is so awesome. The donors are so inspiring because they are totally doing something outside of themselves and giving people a chance to fulfill their dreams.”

As her mother, Shannon Hans, adds, it is the biggest blessing as a parent to see their child’s dreams come to life.

“To know that she has been taken care of is just the most amazing thing as a parent to see,” Shannon said. “She’s at one of the best universities in the land, and to know that she’s getting an education that’s second-to-none and to have generous donors that are making all that happen – I’m just so grateful.”

Paired with donors Ann and Charles Manning ’82 through the 1922 Fund, Hollann especially appreciates the connection that the 12th Man Foundation fosters between student-athletes and donors who contribute to scholarship endowments.

“I’m super thankful that the 12th Man Foundation has the 1922 Fund because it provides us with that connection, and once our careers are over, we can still keep that relationship and have experiences outside of our sport,” Hans said.

As she approaches the end of her extraordinary volleyball career at A&M, Hans is incredibly thankful for the generous support she has received – from donors’ charitable contributions to fans cheering her on in the stands of Reed Arena.

“The amount that we’ve been provided here is just

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**TO KNOW THAT SHE HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF IS JUST THE MOST AMAZING THING AS A PARENT TO SEE. SHE’S AT ONE OF THE BEST UNIVERSITIES IN THE LAND, AND TO KNOW THAT SHE’S GETTING AN EDUCATION THAT’S SECOND-TO-NONE AND TO HAVE GENEROUS DONORS THAT ARE MAKING ALL THAT HAPPEN – I’M JUST SO GRATEFUL.**

– SHANNON HANS

amazing,” Hans said. “It allows us to grow physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. I’ve seen such amounts of growth from my freshman year to now and I’m super thankful because I know it’s due to donors’ generous support.”

In the future, Hans plans to use her Aggie experience to continue impacting others around her as a coach, not only sharing her knowledge of volleyball, but also instilling the values that A&M has forever etched into her heart.

“I have a lot more to give to whoever I’m coaching one day and can build them into what A&M is all about, and just pour into them and help them become the person that they’re meant to be,” Hans said. “I feel like by donors giving so much to me, I’m able to give back and give in return what I’ve been given.”

**TEXAS A&M  
STUDENT-  
ATHLETES  
ARE SPECIAL**

No matter how large or small, your donation to the 1922 Fund helps support student-athletes like Hollann Hans.



**CONTACT LAUREN  
HICKEY AT  
979-260-7595**



Set to graduate in May of 2020, Hans is a three-time SEC Academic Honor Roll selection majoring in University Studies with a Sports Conditioning focus. She has achieved a 3.0 GPA or higher in each semester, including being named to the Texas A&M Athletics Director’s Honor Roll in each of those semesters.

# LAURA & MICHAEL O'BRIEN '78

BY SAMANTHA ATCHLEY '17

**TO LAURA AND MICHAEL O'BRIEN '78**, one of the most admirable qualities of Texas A&M is its value of tradition. Despite the changes that time brings, the atmosphere in Aggieland stays the same. To keep that spirit alive, the O'Briens humbly give back in hopes that others will continue to enjoy the same genuine experience.

"So many people have given before Michael ever came to A&M, and certainly before our children did," Laura said. "You just want to keep paying it forward and keep giving back as you're able so that others can have that same experience and those benefits."

The Aggie tradition began in the O'Brien family when Michael transferred from UT Arlington in 1976. Attracted to the unmatched traditions and education A&M had to offer, Michael found himself right at home in the College of Business where he graduated with a BBA in Finance alongside the Fightin' Texas Aggie class of 1978.

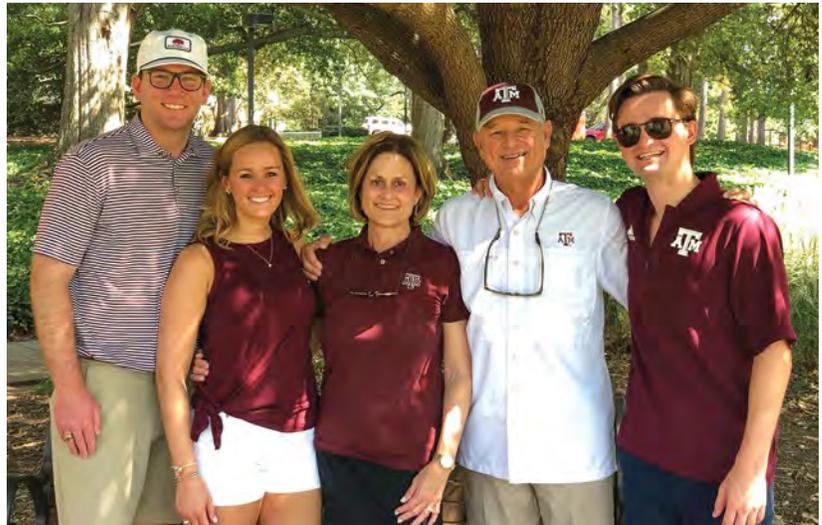
"I will never forget the family atmosphere at A&M," Michael reminisced, "from the friends that you made, to the Bonfire before the Texas game to Aggie Yell Practice."

A 1982 Texas Tech graduate with a BBA in Accounting and Finance, Laura grew to bleed maroon when mutual friendships led her to a blind date with Michael in 1984. Fast forward a few years and the two were happily married with three children – Michael Jr. '12, Shannon '15 and Kyle '18.

"I appreciated all the values that A&M stood for and to see the impact it was having on them and their college experience," Laura said of her children.

With the addition of Shannon's husband Reed Loftis '15, Michael says his Aggie family now rules at all the holiday dinners.

Given their family ties to Aggieland and desire to support A&M, Laura and Michael decided to make their impact on Aggie Athletics by becoming Champions Council members in 2013. Since



then, the two have gained a deeper understanding of the athletics program's trajectory and are excited as ever to continue making an influence in the lives of student-athletes.

"We were inspired to join Champions Council because we wanted to give back to the university that had been such an important part of our children's education and college experience," Michael said.

In addition, the O'Briens also appreciate the exclusive access to special events and receptions that keeps them informed about A&M Athletics directly from prominent leaders in the department.

"I think it's interesting to be able to hear from people like the Athletics Director, the new basketball coach or the football coach and just hearing what's going on with the program," Laura said. "That kind of motivates you to keep giving because you can see that they're still communicating the same things that we value as far as education and giving these kids a great athletics experience that ends with a degree."

Despite the exponential growth they have seen

With their generous support of the 12th Man Foundation as Champions Council members, the O'Briens are helping build championship athletics at Texas A&M.



## BECOME A CHAMPION FOR AGGIE ATHLETES

Join Laura and Michael O'Brien '78 as Champions Council members with a philanthropic investment in support of championship athletics.



CONTACT LAUREN HICKEY AT 979-260-7595



Aggie football season ticket holders, Laura and Michael bleed maroon along with their sons Michael Jr. '12 and Kyle '18, daughter Shannon '15 and son-in-law Reed Loftis '15.

since joining the 12th Man Foundation, the O'Briens still recognize the need for A&M to remain competitive in the world of collegiate athletics.

"We know that A&M is right up there in the top two or three in the country in athletic facilities due to donor support," Michael said. "But we also know A&M has to be competitive in order to be able to attract student-athletes. Contributions also go toward hiring nutritionists, hiring tutors for all the student-athletes and it just helps them build better people."

At the end of the day, that is essentially what matters most to the O'Brien family – building tradition, building championship athletics and building better people at Texas A&M.

"We donate to better the university," Michael said, "but we also do it to show our children and show our nephews and nieces that you need to give back, to Texas A&M specifically, because it's such a great university." 🍷

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**WE DONATE TO BETTER THE UNIVERSITY,  
 BUT WE ALSO DO IT TO SHOW OUR  
 CHILDREN AND SHOW OUR NEPHEWS AND  
 NIECES THAT YOU NEED TO GIVE BACK,  
 TO TEXAS A&M SPECIFICALLY, BECAUSE  
 IT'S SUCH A GREAT UNIVERSITY.**

— MICHAEL O'BRIEN '78



# LIVING LEGEND

The 12th Man Foundation's Jacob Green to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame

BY CHAREAN WILLIAMS '86

With his family by his side, Green was honored with a National Football Foundation Hall of Fame On-Campus Salute during the Aggies' football game against Alabama at Kyle Field on Oct. 12.

**JACOB GREEN COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHY** everyone was so interested in his schedule while he was in Houston on business in late December 2018. Green received phone calls from his wife, his boss and one of his former coaches all asking his estimated time of arrival back in College Station.

Green, the 12th Man Foundation's Vice President of Major Gifts and Endowments, knew something was up but didn't know exactly what.

"Travis Dabney called me and said, 'When are you coming back?'" Green recalled of the President and CEO of the 12th Man Foundation. "I said, 'Man, I'm working. What do you mean? Why are you asking me that?' My wife Janet called. R.C. Slocum called. They wouldn't tell me why.

"They were in cahoots to get me back."

Returning 90 minutes later than planned, Green found an office full of coworkers, friends and family waiting for him with a surprise: Green had earned a spot in yet another hall of fame.

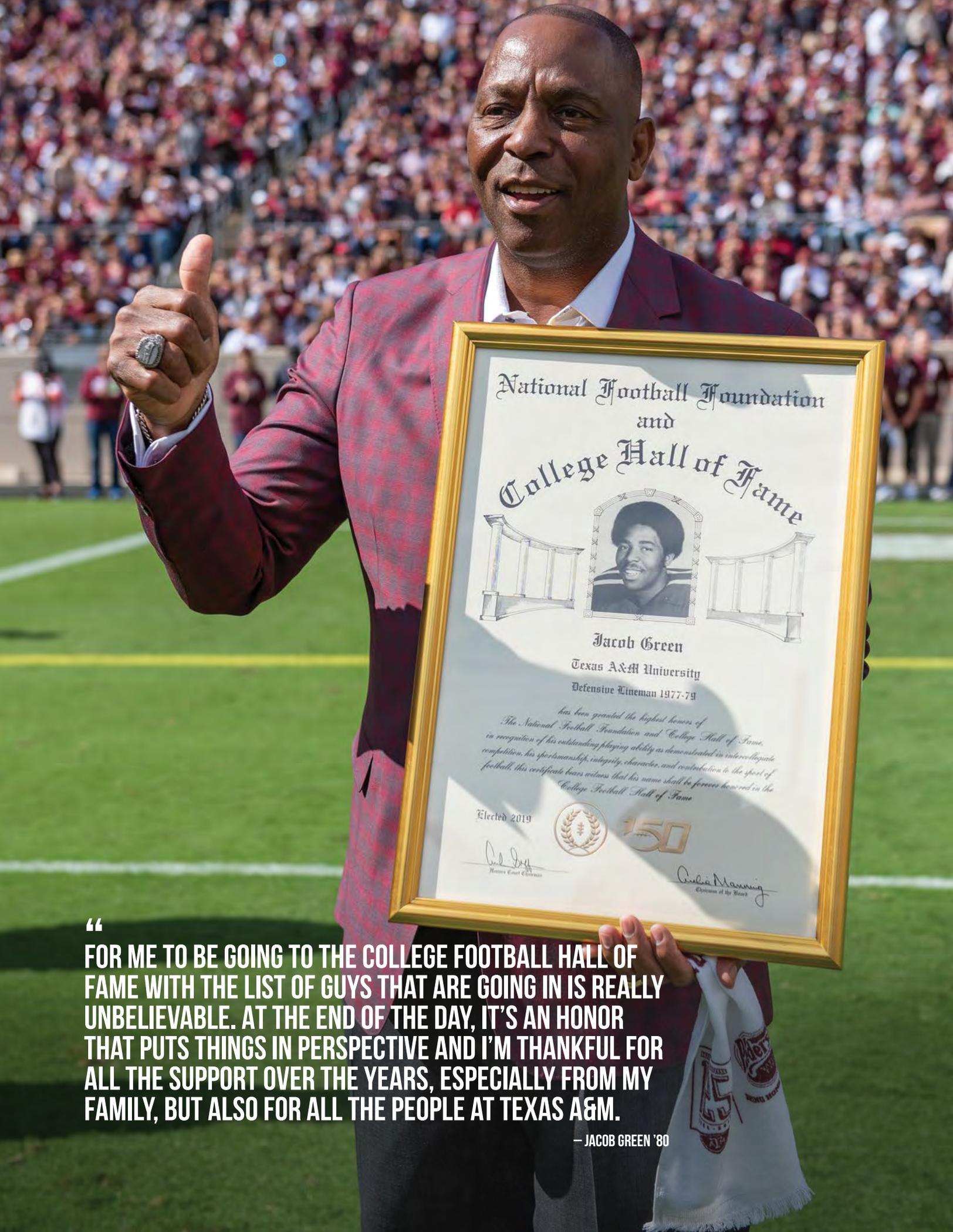
The National Football Foundation (NFF) will

induct 13 players and two coaches into the College Football Hall of Fame on Dec. 10, 2019 at the New York Hilton Midtown. Green was recognized with an NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salute during the Aggies' game against Alabama on Oct. 12.

"When you figure all the great players from all the great teams in college football, and then do that year after year after year, it's a pretty elite group that goes into the Hall of Fame," said Slocum, who was Green's position coach at A&M. "It means a whole lot."

Only 1,010 players and 219 coaches have earned induction into the College Football Hall of Fame from nearly 5.33 million who played or coached during the past 150 years. That means less than .02 percent of players earn college football's highest post-career honor.

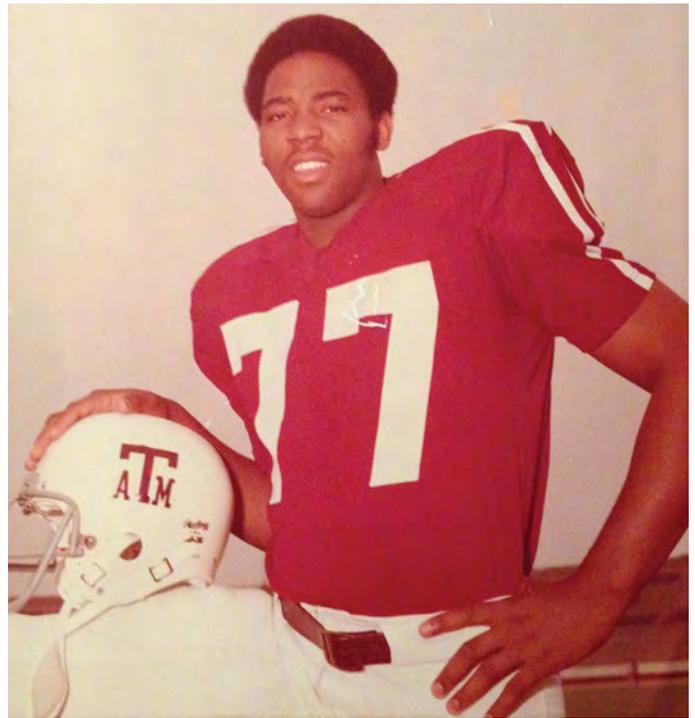
Green, who is already enshrined in Texas A&M's Athletic, Southwest Conference, Texas Sports and Texas African-American Halls of Fame as well as the Seattle Seahawks Ring of Honor, becomes the



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FOR ME TO BE GOING TO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME WITH THE LIST OF GUYS THAT ARE GOING IN IS REALLY UNBELIEVABLE. AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S AN HONOR THAT PUTS THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE AND I'M THANKFUL FOR ALL THE SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS, ESPECIALLY FROM MY FAMILY, BUT ALSO FOR ALL THE PEOPLE AT TEXAS A&M.

— JACOB GREEN '80





Green signed a National Letter of Intent with Texas A&M and then-head coach Emory Bellard in 1975 and went on to become a two-time team captain and two-time All-Southwest Conference selection for the Aggie football team. In 1979, the defensive end earned First Team All-American honors while recording 20 sacks, which still stands as a single-season school record.

11th Aggie player elected to the College Football Hall of Fame. In 2012, Slocum became the school's fifth coach inducted.

"It's a big honor for Jacob," former A&M teammate Curtis Dickey said. "He was an All-American, led A&M in sacks and was a real team leader as a two-time team captain. It's really good they still remember him and the things he accomplished."

Green twice earned All-Southwest Conference honors and made first-team All-American in 1979 when he set a school single-season record with 20 sacks. His 38 career sacks still ranks second in A&M history, four behind Aaron Wallace, who played for the Aggies from 1986-89.

Green's 12 career forced fumbles still sits atop the record book, while his 22 tackles in the 1979 game against Baylor currently ranks tied for third in team annals for a single game. He finished his career with 283 tackles.

Green calls a victory over No. 6 Texas in 1979 as

the highlight of his career.

"I was a blue-chipper coming out of high school, but out of all the blue-chippers, I didn't get picked to play in the all-star game in the Astrodome," said Green, who went to high school at Houston Kashmere. "I went to the game, and I was crying in the stands because I didn't get selected. Emory Bellard, who was the coach at the time, told me, 'I know it hurts, but when you get here, you throw your hat in the ring and show them that they made a mistake.' That's what I wanted to do, and that's what I did."

The Seahawks made Green the 10th overall choice in the 1980 NFL Draft, and he played 12 years in Seattle and two games for the San Francisco 49ers in 1992. He made 97.5 career sacks and was recently honored as the Seahawks first-ever Legend of the Year.

Green, 62, returned to A&M in 2006 to fundraise for the 12th Man Foundation.

Stu Starner hired Green at the 12th Man



An ambassador for the 12th Man Foundation and extraordinary Major Gifts fundraiser, Green is the 11th Aggie player to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame joining less than .02 percent of players who have earned college football's highest post-career honor. Six former A&M coaches are also in the Hall including Green's friend, mentor and former defensive coordinator, R.C. Slocum.

Foundation and calls him a "powerful force" in taking Aggie Athletics to the next level.

"He has unusual character, personality and passion for Texas A&M," said Starner, now retired and living in Montana. "Through the process, he became a significant spokesperson for Aggie Athletics. Not only is he highly respected by our coaches, but Jacob is a role model for our student-athletes. He has been, in his professional life, very impactful for Texas A&M Athletics."

Dabney says Green's hands are "all over the last 15 years of facility improvements." Green spearheaded much of the fundraising for the \$485-million renovation of Kyle Field as well as the combined \$68 million it took to build Davis Diamond for softball and E.B. Cushing Stadium for track and field.

"He had a successful college career, had a

successful career in the NFL, and now having a second act here at the 12th Man Foundation as a successful fundraiser, philanthropist and supporter of Texas A&M Athletics has been awesome," Dabney said. "The representation of Texas A&M by Jacob has been so valuable, and Texas A&M should be so grateful for it. But Texas A&M also has been great to Jacob Green. It's been a two-way street, and it's been a very successful relationship."

The cherry on top of Green's college career came in the form of a football delivered to the 12th Man Foundation on Dec. 21, 2018. Alan Cannon, A&M's Associate Athletic Director for Athletics Communications, received an email from the NFF informing him of Green's honor.

With Green in Houston and the shipping department shut down for Christmas, Cannon and Scot

COURTESY OF THE GREEN FAMILY



Obergefell, the General Manager of Kyle Field, had to find the football. Once they did, Dabney formulated a plan to surprise Green with the news.

“He’s in and out of town so much,” Janet said. “I’m the most laid-back person, so when I’m calling to see where he is on a consistent basis, he’s wondering, ‘What is she doing?’ My daughter who lives in Houston was in town, so we were trying to tell him we wanted to know where he was so we could go out to eat. He kept saying, ‘I’m on my way. I’m my way.’ Kind of like, ‘OK. OK.’ It was pretty fun when he got back, and everyone was waiting for him. He’s really excited about this one. This is a good one.”

Slocum was honored to be a part of the group who surprised Green with the news.

“It’s great recognition for a great player,” Slocum said. “Jacob is so deserving of this.”

“**NOT ONLY IS HE HIGHLY RESPECTED BY OUR COACHES, BUT JACOB IS A ROLE MODEL FOR OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES. HE HAS BEEN, IN HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE, VERY IMPACTFUL FOR TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS.**

— STU STARNER

COURTESY OF THE GREEN FAMILY

# LIZ & BRAD WORSHAM '88

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01



The Worshams are transforming the lives of current and future Aggies with their financial support of scholarship endowments.

**BRAD WORSHAM KNOWS ALL ABOUT** the power of a scholarship. In fact, the scholarship he received as a high school student fundamentally changed the course of his life.

“That’s not an overstatement,” Brad said. “I would not have attended Texas A&M without that scholarship and the generosity of my donors.”

The son of a football coach, Brad grew up in Port Neches, Texas, spending his summers in the high school football field house. He went on to play at Port Neches-Groves High School, earning two-time all-district and all-region honors as a defensive back.

He joined his older brother, Bill '86, in Aggieland in 1984. Like his brother, Brad received a President’s Endowed Scholarship, which opened the door for him to attend A&M. That led to a co-op internship with the Central Intelligence Agency during his sophomore year, a bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering in 1988 and an incredibly successful career in the intelligence industry.

After graduation, Brad accepted a full-time position with the CIA as an analyst at the organization’s

headquarters in Langley, Virginia, and spent several years overseas, primarily in Australia.

That’s where he met Liz, a native of San Jose, California. She was delivering a software system for Lockheed-Martin to the facility where Brad was working at the time.

“We joke that the only place a Texan and a Northern Californian are going to meet is in Central Australia,” he said.

Brad resigned from his government position in 1992, moved to California to work for Lockheed, married Liz and then returned to the Washington DC area in 1995 to pursue a new opportunity. Following a brief stint with MRJ, Inc., Brad co-founded an intelligence company called BIT Systems. Fifteen years and 500 employees later, Brad and his partners sold the company.

One of the first things Brad did with his money was establish a President’s Endowed Scholarship at A&M – a goal he had set for himself when he graduated.

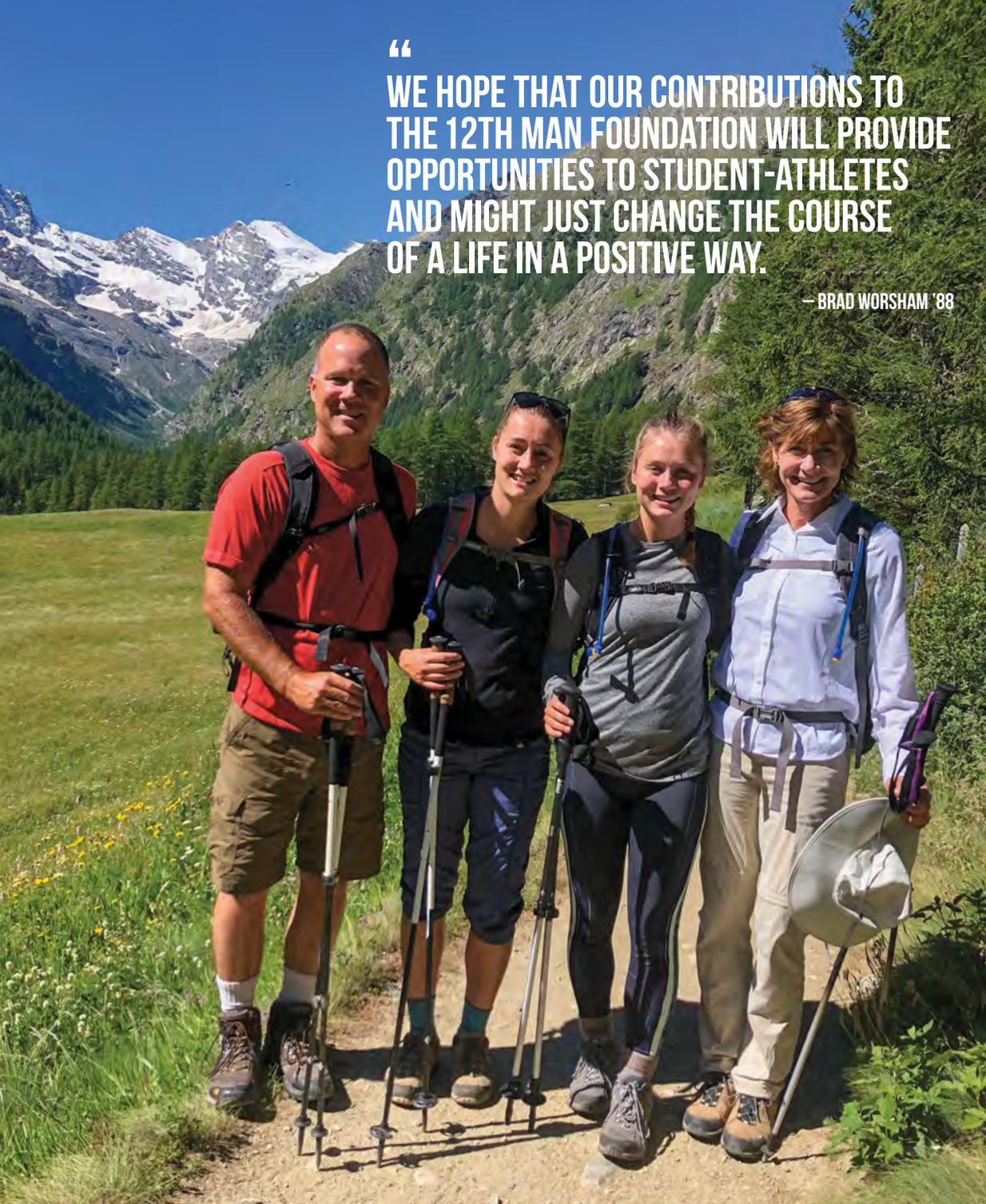
The Worshams retired to Chesapeake Bay in Virginia until an opportunity arose that Brad could not pass up. The couple moved to Bryan-College Station in April and Brad joined the A&M Department of Aerospace Engineering faculty as an Associate Professor of Engineering Practice this fall.

Living in Aggieland, the proud parents of daughters Alyssa (UCLA class of 2016) and Haley (A&M class of 2018) were excited to be able to enjoy everything A&M has to offer and increase their involvement with Aggie Athletics. That prompted Brad to begin researching the 12th Man Foundation. Within 48 hours of learning what the organization was all about, the couple was visiting with Senior Vice President of Major Gifts Brady Bullard about making a transformative gift to the 1922 Fund.

“My roots in athletics and experience as an athlete reinforced my belief that competitive sports instill a strong work ethic and demonstrate the rewards of hard work,” Brad said. “We hope that our

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WE HOPE THAT OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION WILL PROVIDE  
OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENT-ATHLETES  
AND MIGHT JUST CHANGE THE COURSE  
OF A LIFE IN A POSITIVE WAY.

— BRAD WORSHAM '88



## IMPACT A STUDENT- ATHLETE'S EDUCATION

Join Liz and Brad Worsham '88 as 1922 Fund donors and make a transformative gift in support of scholarship endowments for current and future student-athletes.



CONTACT LAUREN  
HICKEY AT  
979-260-7595

contributions to the 12th Man Foundation will provide opportunities to student-athletes and might just change the course of a life in a positive way.”

With their donation, Liz and Brad became Champions Council members and were invited to a reception in College Station featuring Buzz Williams. Brad called it a pleasant surprise that gave the couple an idea of the uncommon insight and access afforded to members.

“It was comforting to be surrounded by like-minded, passionate people at the event,” he added.

“It was clear that we are all in this together to promote excellence in our student-athletes.”

Next on the Worshams’ goal list is to build on their initial contribution towards endowing student-athlete scholarships through the 1922 Fund.

“It has brought us such satisfaction to interact with our student scholars in both the President’s Endowed Scholarship and Aerospace Engineering scholarship programs,” Brad said. “We really look forward to having that experience on the athletics side as well.”

Liz and Brad are the proud parents of Alyssa, a 2016 graduate of UCLA, and Haley, a 2018 graduate of Texas A&M.



# ALLY WATT '19

BY SCOTT RETZLAFF

## TEXAS A&M WAS AN EASY CHOICE FOR ALLY WATT.

A two-sport star at Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs, Colo., Watt visited universities across the country to pursue her dream of playing collegiate soccer. None measured up to A&M.

“I always compared other schools I visited to Texas A&M,” Watt admitted. “This university has an amazing culture that is unmatched anywhere else. I even came to visit A&M when there weren’t students on campus, but I was still so intrigued and consumed by it.”

Since joining the Aggie Soccer program in 2015, Watt has enjoyed an extraordinary career representing the maroon and white. As a junior, the speedy forward was a semifinalist for the Mac Hermann Trophy – the most prestigious individual award in college soccer – and earned accolades that included United Soccer Coaches All-America First Team, TopDrawerSoccer.com Best XI Second Team, All-South Region First Team and All-SEC First Team.

“Making the United Soccer Coaches All-America First Team was a goal I set for myself prior to the 2018 season,” Watt admitted. “I had it written at home and in my locker so that I’d see it every single day. It took a lot of work to achieve it. It’s something I see as a great honor, and it showed the kind of growth I’ve been able to achieve at A&M.”

The senior’s leadership and talent has helped Aggie Soccer continue its remarkable run as one of the premier programs in the nation. Watt, who redshirted during the 2016 season to participate in the FIFA U20 Women’s World Cup, has unmatched speed and the ability to terrorize defenses, even with most opponents sending multiple defenders at the former high school track star. She’s a goal scorer, a creator for her teammates and a well-rounded player.

In the classroom, Watt is an extremely proud graduate of Texas A&M. She walked the stage in May earning a bachelor’s degree in University Studies (focused in Business) with minors in both Coaching and Sport Management.

“I was blessed to earn a degree at one of the most amazing universities in the world,” Watt said.

One of 10 finalists for soccer’s 2019 Senior CLASS Award, which recognizes student-athletes who have notable achievements in competition, the classroom, character and the community, Watt is competing in her final season at A&M this fall while pursuing a master’s degree in Sport Management.

Watt calls it an honor and a privilege to earn a scholarship to A&M, and she’s grateful to the 12th Man Foundation donors for making it possible.

“When I was offered a scholarship, I just never wanted to take it for granted,” Watt said. “The 12th Man Foundation is so supportive and just really shows that they care for us. They don’t just care about us as athletes. They really want us to excel as student-athletes to make sure that we find success in sports and after sports in our professional lives.”

Once her time in Aggieland comes to an end, Watt plans to continue her soccer career professionally. Her experience and education at A&M has helped prepare her for whatever is ahead.

“I’ve always felt like this is home,” Watt said. “I wanted to find a school that would be good for growth both on and off the field. Looking back at the past four and a half years, I made a really good choice. I’ve grown so much here...spiritually, personally and with soccer.”

“

**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS. WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE AND GRATEFUL FOR WHAT THEY DO. THEY DON'T HAVE TO DO IT. THEY DO IT OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF THEIR HEART AND THEIR LOVE FOR THIS UNIVERSITY. WHAT THEY DO HELPS DEVELOP ATHLETES AND STUDENTS THAT WILL REPRESENT THIS UNIVERSITY IN A GREAT WAY, EVEN AFTER THEY LEAVE TEXAS A&M.**

## GO ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR AGGIE ATHLETICS

Philanthropic gifts to the Annual Fund help provide the resources needed for student-athletes like Ally Watt to be successful in competition and in the classroom.



**CONTACT CALLIE BOENIGK AT 979-260-2394 TO INCREASE YOUR IMPACT**

# TERA '94 & ROB DAVIS '90

BY SAMANTHA ATCHLEY '17

## INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

Join Tera '94 and Rob Davis '90 in their support of Texas A&M student-athletes with a contribution to the 1922 Fund.



CONTACT LAUREN HICKEY AT 979-260-7595

**TERA AND ROB DAVIS UNDERSTAND** the magnitude of what it takes to build an athletic program at Texas A&M – a school they dearly love and strive to support in achieving world-class status on every front.

For Rob, his Aggie story began by submitting applications to only two universities – A&M and “that other school in Austin,” as he refers.

“While sacking groceries in high school, I talked to alumni from both schools,” he said. “Former students of Texas A&M were much more enthusiastic and would spend significant amounts of time trying to convince me how great A&M was until I told them I had to get back to work.”

It didn’t take much convincing after that. Rob made the move to Aggieland and majored in Electrical Engineering. Soon thereafter, he was approached by the United States Navy to join their Nuclear Power Officer Candidate program – designed to fill open Naval officer positions for nuclear powered ships – and he served five years on the USS Jacksonville following graduation in 1990.

Similarly, Tera was influenced by a few Aggie acquaintances to enroll at A&M. After taking a campus tour, the friendly welcome she received

steered her right to College Station where she majored in Industrial Distribution.

“Having gone to school here,” Tera said, “it’s so true when they say that from the outside looking in, you can’t understand it, and from the inside looking out, you can’t explain it.”

Though their paths never crossed while attending A&M, their common ground sparked a connection when the two met in Austin where Tera was working at AWC selling industrial control equipment and where Rob was finishing his MBA at the University of Texas. When Rob asked Tera to dance wearing a UT Rugby shirt, he said he “flashed his Aggie Ring” and convinced her to give him a chance.

Since then, the two have built a life together in Plano raising their two kids, Lauren and Tyler, as well as combining decades of experience in information security and sales to start their own business, Critical Start – a cybersecurity company that helps corporations stop security breaches by detecting and responding to cyberattacks.

“Tera and I have been fortunate with the success of Critical Start and want to support the university both academically and athletically,” Rob said. “Athletic success reflects well on the university and is symbolic for the success we all want off the field.”

As 1922 Fund donors and Champions Council members, Tera and Rob are able to fulfill their desire to support athletics while also enjoying behind-the-scenes insight and close interaction with Aggie student-athletes, coaches and administrators.

“You really get additional access to understand the strategy, what the programs are doing and how the 12th Man Foundation is approaching our success long-term,” Rob said.

Recognizing the importance of investing in student-athletes, Tera and Rob certainly understand the enduring effect of a scholarship as well. With their recent contribution to the 12th Man

“**TERA AND I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE WITH THE SUCCESS OF CRITICAL START AND WANT TO SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND ATHLETICALLY. ATHLETIC SUCCESS REFLECTS WELL ON THE UNIVERSITY AND IS SYMBOLIC FOR THE SUCCESS WE ALL WANT OFF THE FIELD.**”

— ROB DAVIS '90



Proud parents of Lauren and Tyler, and owners of a successful cybersecurity company in Plano, the Davises are making a difference in the lives of Aggie student-athletes with their generous support of the 12th Man Foundation.



Foundation, the Davises were able to see their efforts come to fruition through a 1922 Fund student-athlete pairing with Taylor Pike, a sophomore on the women's swimming & diving team

"I am so blessed to participate in A&M Athletics thanks to the generous donation by Tera and Rob Davis," Pike said. "I am constantly inspired by this university, its values and the amazing people here. It's because of people like the Davises that I can try to make an impact on this campus just as they have impacted me."

Reflecting on their motivation to give, Tera states that "nothing feels quite as good as paying it forward," especially when benefiting student-athletes who she views as "some of the most dedicated individuals." And as a couple who wants the best for A&M, Rob says "success is a team sport," in which every Aggie's help counts.

"To whom much is given, much is expected," Rob said. "The support of all former students is critical to A&M becoming the flagship university in Texas and renowned internationally." ■



“IT’S BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE THE DAVISES THAT I CAN TRY TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THIS CAMPUS JUST AS THEY HAVE IMPACTED ME.

— TAYLOR PIKE '21



# ONE OF A KIND

Kyle Field sets the standard for college football game day experience

BY CHAREAN WILLIAMS '86

Other college programs have taken notice of some of the enhancements for game days at Kyle Field and have implemented them at their stadiums.

**IF YOU ASK AGGIES, KYLE FIELD IS THE BEST** stadium, the loudest stadium, the most intimidating stadium and the friendliest stadium all in one. Texas A&M wants to keep it that way.

Texas A&M Athletics and the 12th Man Foundation formed a Game Day Experience Task Force (GDETF) two years ago. The task force was charged with keeping Aggieland game day as the most intimidating environment in college football while honoring A&M's traditions and fostering the best fan experience.

"When we redeveloped Kyle Field, one of our five stated goals was to provide a superior fan experience," Sam Torn, the chair of the GDETF, said. "As a result of what's going on culturally, which is declining attendance in sports, we were trying to get in front of the issue of knowing that in today's world, the fan is not going to show up to show up. Fans have a lot of options, so we want to make sure the experience we're providing and creating is something that will make them want to be at the game in person."

The task force originally had 21 members and 13 subgroups, but more than 150 people across all areas of the university shared ideas, including students and student-athletes.

GDETF members visited 10 other stadiums in the country, including Clemson, LSU, Florida, Alabama and Penn State, before suggesting changes to the Kyle Field game day experience.

Expanded alcohol sales this season received the biggest headlines, but the task force recommended and implemented many other changes to the game day experience the past two years. Improved Wi-Fi, healthier food options, more kid-friendly areas, amplifying the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, increased interactivity between Yell Leaders and students, adding a music operator and creating a more spontaneous in-game atmosphere were among the changes implemented.

The task force has worked to create "something for everyone," but the student section, the largest in the country at more than 34,000, remains the heart of Kyle Field.

“

**THE MAIN THING WE WANT TO DO, AND THE BALANCE WE STRIKE AT TEXAS A&M, IS WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A UNIQUE GAME DAY ENVIRONMENT. WE BELIEVE IT'S TRADITION-BASED, AND WE DON'T EVER WANT TO DENIGRATE THE UNIQUENESS AND THE TRADITIONS OF TEXAS A&M.**

— SAM TORN '70, CHAIR OF A&M'S GAME DAY EXPERIENCE TASK FORCE

“Are we pleased? Yes,” Torn, a former Yell Leader, said. “Do we know you can't please everyone? Yes. The main thing we want to do, and the balance we strike at Texas A&M, is we believe we have a unique game day environment. We believe it's tradition-based, and we don't ever want to denigrate the uniqueness and the traditions of Texas A&M. What we do want to do is be current and understand who our constituency is, why they're coming and what they want. We did a ton of surveys to find out, and we always want to be adjusting to that within the framework of the uniqueness of Texas A&M.”

A&M reduced the number of commercials, game day sponsorships and on-field presentations to provide Yell Leaders and the Aggie Band more freedom to do what they do. The task force sought a more unscripted approach to the in-game experience.

“The Yell Leaders and the Aggie Band are what make A&M's game day different than anybody else's,” Andy Richardson, Assistant Athletics Director of 12th Man Productions, said. The ability for them to know they aren't waiting to be told what to do by a sponsored element every time the clock stops has been a great enhancement. It allows a little more organic freedom for Aggie game experience moments that happen through those two spirit groups that make A&M what it is.”

Richardson said five years ago Kyle Field had 170 replays sponsored per game. They now have four sponsors for replays – one for every quarter – with other sponsors moving to the ribbon boards.

“There are not even 170 plays in most games,” Richardson said, “so it could be a 2-yard run or a quarterback sack on A&M. Those moments in most game situations you would not replay, we were having to replay multiple times. From a fan experience standpoint, you want the replays to be meaningful. The cart was in front of the horse, so one of the early things to walk back was to start eliminating things like that.”



BAILEY ORR '20/TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS (12TH MAN); CRAIG BISACRE/TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS (BAND)

“

## I HAVE BEEN TO MANY TOP STADIUMS IN MY CAREER IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL, BUT THE ATMOSPHERE HERE AT KYLE FIELD WITH THE 12TH MAN IS SECOND TO NONE!

— JIMBO FISHER

Richardson says there are three things that 12th Man Productions strives to do every game.

“Our job is to engage fan experience, to help us recruit and to be a revenue stream,” he said. “At the end of the day, we still have to pay the bills, but we’re trying to do it in a smarter way while working with our media rights holder. That’s one of the biggest things. There is much less stoppage for a big check moment or this or that. I think it’s helped create a better game day experience.”

Ross Bjork visited Kyle Field as a guest several times before becoming Texas A&M’s Director of Athletics this summer. He appreciated the

atmosphere before he arrived. He understands it better now.

“It’s one of a kind,” Bjork said. “I think in terms of the yells, the Spirit of Aggieland and the War Hymn and everybody ‘sawing ’em off’ in unison, I can’t think of another place that does it quite the way we do it. As an Aggie, this is what you do. Are there places that are louder? Maybe, depending on the play, depending on the moment. But the leaders at the time built the stadium the right way to have this home-field advantage. I think we can capture the atmosphere because of the way the stadium was built.

“Having those organic, long-standing traditions I think sets us apart from all the places that I’ve been either as part of the home team or coming in as a visiting program. I believe we set the standard.”

Like Bjork, Jimbo Fisher can attest to the one-of-a-kind experience at Kyle Field. Pick any well-known football venue across the nation and, odds are, Fisher has coached there.

“I have been to many top stadiums in my career in college football,” the Aggie head coach said, “but the atmosphere here at Kyle Field with the 12th Man is second to none!”

Traditions like the 12th Man, Yell Leaders and Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band set A&M apart from its peers.



# BUDDY KIMBERLIN '05

A conversation with the Director of 12th Man Productions

BY ADAM QUISENBERRY



- » NATIVE OF GREENVILLE, TEXAS
- » EARNED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SPORT MANAGEMENT AND A MINOR IN BUSINESS FROM TEXAS A&M IN DECEMBER 2005
- » JOINED THE TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT FULL TIME IN 2006
- » HAS HELPED 12TH MAN PRODUCTIONS WIN MULTIPLE AWARDS, INCLUDING AN EMMY FOR THE TEAM'S WORK ON "THE PULSE: TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL"
- » RESIDES IN COLLEGE STATION WITH HIS WIFE, JANA, AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN, ELI AND MILLER

**As a former student worker yourself, how is Texas A&M Athletics preparing a new generation of students for careers in the video productions industry?**

I started at 12th Man Productions as a senior in 2005 and was really just looking to get my foot in the door of the sports world. At the time, there were four full-time employees and 10 student workers. It really turned out to be great for me because it was a combination of two things I really loved – art and sports.

We've really grown since my time as a student, to a place where nearly 100 A&M students can get real-world experiences covering athletics and making digital content. When trying to find that first job out of school, experience separates your resume from the rest of the stack.

**In addition to giving Texas A&M the nation's best college football venue, how were the broadcast facilities affected by the redevelopment of Kyle Field?**

We knew going into the renovation project that our old facility, which was on the west side, was going to go away and we would have to move somewhere else. Fortunately, we were able to plan out a state-of-the-art production facility in the south side of the stadium.

As they were with the entire stadium renovation, 12th Man Foundation donors were critical in allowing us to do a true broadcast facility and do it the right way because we knew the SEC Network was about to launch. We wanted to be at the forefront by going beyond the minimum standards ESPN was requesting.

Because of donor support, we were able to build four control rooms instead of just one or two. It's a huge selling point for recruits, as well as families of our current student-athletes, that all

of our home events are going to be broadcast or streamed. No matter what sport or competition, we wanted to make sure fans have the ability to watch our teams compete. A lot of other schools in the SEC and around the country can't say that because they're limited by their production facility. That was directly made possible because of donor support.

**You and the in-stadium broadcast team earned a bit of Aggie celebrity status following last year's win over LSU by helping spot Kellen Mond's knee on the ground at a key moment. How crazy was that moment and everything that followed?**

It's interesting because when we're doing the big screen during the game, it's very different than doing a TV broadcast because we're 100 percent maroon and white. It's a biased show inside the stadium, so we're doing everything we can within the rules to help the Aggies win. We're always watching the game and anything we can see that would be in our favor, we want to make the coaching staff aware as quickly as possible so they can possibly challenge a play.

We've had plays like that before where an in-stadium replay might have spurred a challenge, but that play during the LSU game was just the perfect moment and led to the perfect ending of that game. At the time we didn't think much about it, but a few days after the game we reviewed that control room moment and shared it with a few of our athletics administrators. They encouraged us to share it with our fans as a cool behind-the-scenes glimpse and it kind of blew up from there. It's been cool to share that moment with donors and fans at events like the 12th Man Foundation Summer Meeting. ■



# CAMRON BUCKLEY '21

BY WILL JOHNSON '01

**WHETHER CAMRON BUCKLEY IS IN CLASS**, in the locker room or in the middle of a grueling workout, one thing almost always remains the same about the Aggie wide receiver. The smile on his face.

“I just want to be an all-around happy person,” Buckley said. “I don’t want to be down. I don’t want anyone else to be down. I just feel like it could affect someone else’s day. A smile is contagious in every single way.”

Buckley has plenty of reasons for grinning these days. He is playing the game he loves at a prestigious university, and he is grateful for the opportunity.

Through the 1922 Fund, Buckley is paired with 12th Man Foundation donors Suzanne and Charles Boyette '79, and has developed a close relationship with the generous Aggie couple.

“I feel like they’re extended family,” Buckley said. “I have so much love for them. I’m thankful they’re in my life.”

Buckley and the Boyettes stay in touch, checking in on one another. The couple has witnessed Buckley’s contagious smile first-hand, as well as the Cedar Hill native’s ability on the field.

“Camron is one of a kind,” Suzanne said. “He always has a smile on his face and his positive attitude is inspiring. He is very genuine and appreciative, and he really cares about his family, friends and football. I’m happy to be a part of his life and believe we will continue to stay in touch long after he leaves A&M.

“The connection we have built through the 1922 Fund warms my heart and makes me feel like our contribution really made a difference. It makes me want to do it again, and I know the bond and relationship we have formed with Camron has inspired some of my friends to consider the 1922 Fund.”

On the field, the junior is one of a few veterans amongst a young and talented receiving corps. Buckley, who trained in July with Pro Football Hall of Fame wide receiver Randy Moss, has contributed to A&M’s success with several key catches thus

far in his Aggie career including the team’s longest reception in 2018 (69 yards) in the near-upset of eventual national champion Clemson.

A business major, Buckley wants to use his education and positive attitude to continue to be involved with football when his playing days are finished, potentially marketing and promoting the game.

“I hope to use my degree to stay close to the sport, widen my network and knowledge within football,” he said. “I want to be around it to help kids and give back to my community.”

Whether it’s football, education or donors like the Boyettes who help make it all possible, Buckley beams when considering the opportunities in front of him. He wants to be a positive influence to his teammates, fellow students and anyone watching.

Indeed, Buckley has plenty of reasons to smile. And he is grinning for all the right reasons. ♥

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Join Suzanne and Charles Boyette '79 in their support of student-athlete scholarships through the 1922 Fund.



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HICKEY AT  
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“

**CAMRON IS ONE OF A KIND. THE CONNECTION WE HAVE BUILT THROUGH THE 1922 FUND WARMS MY HEART AND MAKES ME FEEL LIKE OUR CONTRIBUTION REALLY MADE A DIFFERENCE. IT MAKES ME WANT TO DO IT AGAIN, AND I KNOW THE BOND AND RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE FORMED WITH CAMRON HAS INSPIRED SOME OF MY FRIENDS TO CONSIDER THE 1922 FUND.**

— SUZANNE BOYETTE



TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL

125

1894 - 2019



Twelve milestone moments that helped define  
Texas A&M Football in its first 125 years

*BY WILL JOHNSON '01*

## Since it all began in 1894, Texas A&M Football has taken the 12th Man on an unforgettable ride.

The sights, sounds, passions and thrills live within former students, current students and even future students. Each Aggie fan has their own stories they will tell for a lifetime from their game days at Kyle Field. In 125 years of football, there have been numerous defining moments that have shaped this program. Here are 12 that have represented the next step in the 125-year ascension of Aggie Football.

### BIRTH OF THE 12TH MAN

At the Dixie Classic in Dallas, Texas, on Jan. 2, 1922, sophomore E. King Gill created the identity of the entire Aggie student body. They are the 12th Man, now and forever.

Gill epitomized A&M's core value of selfless service that day when he came down from the stands as an injury-plagued Aggie team fought valiantly, and won, against top-ranked Centre College. This university has always been ready to help others in need as was Gill when he donned another player's uniform and stood on the A&M sidelines.

Nearly 100 years later, approximately 34,000 Aggie students stand during every game at Kyle Field, ready to do what they can to help their team. It's safe to say, what Gill started has withstood the test of time.



### 1939 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

No matter when it happened, winning a national championship is hard to do. There is very little room for error. Fortunately, these Aggies hardly made any.

The 1939 team was 9th in the first AP poll released on Oct. 16, but climbed quickly. By the start of November the team was ranked 2nd. A&M's toughest Southwest Conference test came on Nov. 11, a 6-2 win over No. 13 SMU. After beating Rice the next week, the Aggies made the jump to No. 1. Ironically, the Sugar Bowl win that capped the perfect season came over Tulane, a member of the Southeastern Conference at the time.

When this team was honored at Kyle Field in October of 1998, Jarrin' John Kimbrough may have summed them up perfectly.

"We were just country boys most of us, we didn't have a dime to our name," Kimbrough declared at a pregame reception. "But we were determined."





### THE BEAR PROWLs AGGIELAND

Quite a bit happened when Paul “Bear” Bryant roamed the sidelines at A&M from 1954-57. It started with Junction, his ten day hell camp in a remote location that gave his future teams their rugged edge.

“I never thought about quitting,” said Junction Boy Gene Stallings, “but I wanted to die.”

What followed was talented recruiting classes, a Southwest Conference championship, John David Crow’s Heisman Trophy and two near misses at a national title. All of it returned A&M to prominence in the college game.

It all ended when “Mama called.” Bryant announced he was leaving A&M for his alma mater, Alabama, while the Aggies were ranked No. 1 late in 1957. That team lost out. The 1960s followed, easily the darkest on-field decade the program has endured.

“  
**I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT QUITTING.  
BUT I WANTED TO DIE.**

— JUNCTION BOY GENE STALLINGS

### MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN

The one shining light of the 1960s serves as a lesson still today. Never quit. Never give in. And, “make something happen.”

That was Gene Stallings’ mantra when he became A&M’s head coach in 1965. After two losing seasons, Stallings’ team started the 1967 season 0-4 and trailed Texas Tech late in game five. Something clearly needed to happen. Then, as time expired, Aggie quarterback Edd Hargett dashed across the goal line for a 28-24 win. A&M didn’t lose again.

A historic, 10-7, win over Texas on Thanksgiving Day gave the Aggies the Southwest Conference crown. Another remarkable victory followed on New Year’s Day, a 20-16 triumph over Alabama, coached by Bear Bryant.

“I was real fortunate to be with a Super Bowl team, but that almost pales in significance compared to this group,” recalled Tommy Maxwell, a safety for the ’67 Aggies. “We did it, and nobody thought we could.”

It’s a reminder over 50 years later. It’s never over. Keep playing. Keep fighting. Make something happen.

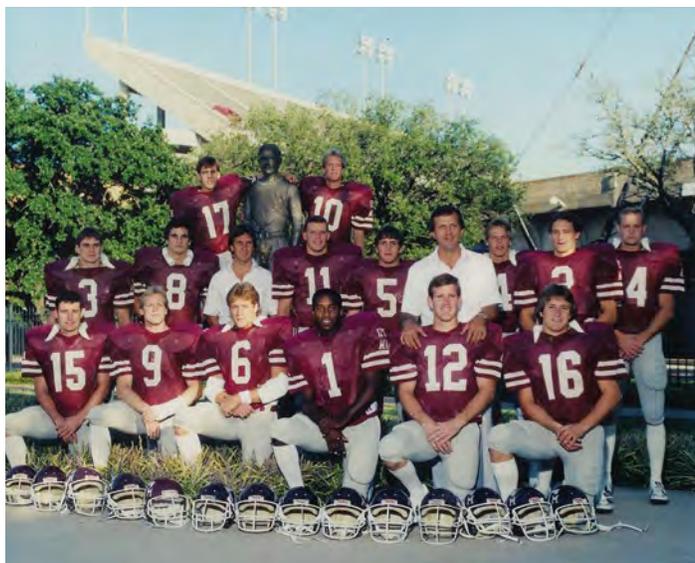


## THE EMORY ENIGMA

One of the great mysteries in 125 years of A&M Football surrounds Emory Bellard's departure as head coach in the middle of the 1978 season. From the start of 1974 to the moment of his exit, Bellard had fashioned a 40-13 record. That's not the type of mark that places a coach on the hot seat. But there was a disconnect somewhere, and it led to his leaving.

Even so, Bellard produced a significant turnaround for the program. A&M was 13-30 in the four seasons prior to his arrival. After a 3-8 year in 1972, and a 5-6 finish in '73, came the 40 wins in his final 53 games.

The crown jewel of his tenure was 1975, when the Aggies climbed to No. 2 in the nation. Included in that memorable season was a victory in perhaps the biggest game ever played between A&M and Texas. With both in the top five, the Aggies beat the Longhorns, 20-10, at Kyle Field.



## NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Jackie Sherrill arrived as head coach in 1982, and the Spirit of Aggieland was readily apparent to him. Following his first season, Sherrill put the student body to work, tabbing a group of walk-ons to cover on kickoffs.

The 12th Man Kickoff Team had great success for much of the 1980s. Big returns by the opposition were a rarity. And while this tradition has undergone several changes over the years, the spirit remains the same, as does the connection between the student body and the football program.

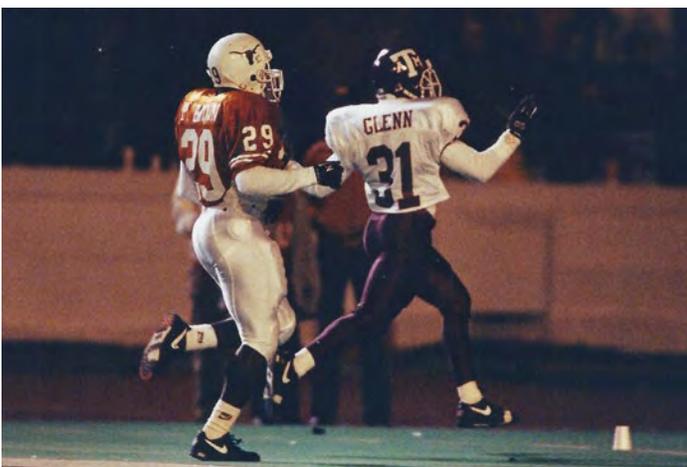
Look no further than New Year's Eve of 2018. Representing the 12th Man for a record-tying 38th time, Cullen Gillaspia capped his career in the Tax-Slayer Gator Bowl with the first 12th Man touchdown in school history.

### A NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER

Jackie Sherrill was 16-16-1 after three years at A&M, but wins over TCU and Texas to close the 1984 campaign showed promise heading into 1985.

An incredible race for the Southwest Conference title ensued in November of '85 with five teams still in the hunt. With wins over SMU and Arkansas, A&M set up a big Thanksgiving night tilt with Texas. The Cotton Bowl was on the line. The Aggies dismantled the Longhorns, 42-10, and A&M returned to the Cotton Bowl, and to the national stage, for the first time since 1967.

In the 50th Cotton Bowl Classic, a historic goal line stand against Heisman Trophy winner Bo Jackson propelled A&M to a 36-16 win over Auburn. The 1985 season thrust the Aggies into an incredible run of success, and the program won the SWC six more times over the next decade.



### DOMINATION IN COLLEGE STATION

A&M has enjoyed considerable success on the gridiron as one of the top 25 winningest college football programs, but 1991-94 is arguably the most dominant window of Aggie Football.

In those four seasons, with the Wrecking Crew leading the way, A&M demolished its Southwest Conference brethren and just about any other team that stood in its way. That included rival LSU, an annual non-conference opponent up until 1995.

In fact, in 45 regular season games during that span, the Aggies only lost twice and recorded one tie. They did not lose a conference game. They did not lose a game at Kyle Field. They were a mainstay in the top 10.

Aaron Glenn was an All-American cornerback at the time.

“Football is not about statistics,” Glenn, the current defensive backs coach for the New Orleans Saints, said. “Football is about who makes the plays at the time they need to be made.”

During those four fantastic years, the Aggies had that knack. Every time the team needed a play to win a game, someone came through.





### THE WRECKING CREW

Most equate entertaining football with high flying offenses that put points on the board at a rapid paced. However, watching A&M defenses destruct and dismantle opposing offenses in the late 1980s and '90s was unparalleled theater.

Holland, Wallace, Coryatt, Adams, Smith, Glenn, Nguyen. Much of the cast still has stardom status in Aggieland.

Up front was a stone cold concrete wall that made running backs buckle when they hit it. Linebackers packed power and speed into every hit, time and again leaving a quarterback on the turf. Defensive backs made separation by any wide receiver look nearly impossible.

National media regularly referred to RC Slocum's entire program as the Wrecking Crew during this time. The moniker became A&M's identity.

"The best thing about being a part of that was when you looked across the line at the quarterback and he had a little fear in his eyes," hall of fame linebacker Dat Nguyen reminisced with a smile on his face. "You knew you had him."

Nguyen, a consensus All-American and winner of the Bednarik and Lombardi awards, led A&M and the Wrecking Crew to the 1998 Big 12 Championship.

### SEC ARRIVAL

Texas A&M announced its presence in the SEC with authority in 2012. From the comeback win at Ole Miss, to the monumental victory in Tuscaloosa, to the Cotton Bowl triumph.

The peak came when Johnny Manziel was announced as the Heisman Trophy winner. With the country's top individual leading the way, this team was an eyelash away from an SEC Championship and, possibly, a national title.

If the Aggies make one more play in either of their SEC losses to Florida or LSU, they very well could have been facing Georgia in the SEC Championship Game. The conference title match in Atlanta served as a de facto playoff game that season, and with A&M playing like one of the nation's best teams toward the end of the year, Aggies may always wonder "what could have been."





### KYLE FIELD REDEVELOPMENT

When A&M undertook redeveloping Kyle Field following the 2013 season, the task was monumental. However, the rewards were far greater.

The stadium had long been recognized as a bucket list location in college football. It's now one of the game's true cathedrals. Its current capacity of 102,733 makes it the largest in the SEC and Texas, and fourth in the country.

When it comes to decibel levels, Kyle Field is second to none. It's a world-class venue where you don't just hear the noise, you feel it.

From a set of stands in an agricultural field in the late 1920s, to the grandest facility in college football, Kyle Field's growth through the years has been remarkable. The "Home of the 12th Man" has become a destination for fans across the globe.



### JIMBO

On December 4, 2017, A&M altered the college football landscape with the hiring of Jimbo Fisher as the program's head coach.

From the moment he arrived in Aggieland, Fisher endeared himself to A&M fans, and began "the process" of transforming the Aggie program.

He sees football on a different level than most. That vision took his Florida State program to the 2013 national title and the 2014 College Football Playoff. That's his vision for A&M.

Fisher tells his players to "do it til you get it right, and then keep doin' it so you can't get it wrong." Pre-game speeches often focus on picking up "crumbs" and "inches." Casual chats mean you are "talkin' ball." He asks, "Why?" again and again and again.

Never afraid of earning it through a hard day's work, Fisher and A&M are aligned with their sights set on taking the Aggie program to new heights.

Success has come with 125 years of A&M's past. Now, it's Fisher who leads the Aggies into their future. 





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# BRIAN BISHOP '91

Vice President of Major Gifts

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01



#### ABOUT BRIAN

- » BORN IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK AND RAISED IN SUGAR LAND, TEXAS
- » HAS 14+ YEARS OF MAJOR GIFT FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE
- » ENJOYS HUNTING, FISHING AND PLAYING GOLF
- » TRIED WALKING ON THE A&M BASEBALL TEAM IN 1988, BUT FINDING A SPOT ON A ROSTER FEATURING AGGIE GREATS CHUCK KNOBLAUCH, JOHN BYINGTON AND TERRY TAYLOR PROVED INSURMOUNTABLE
- » CO-FOUNDED THE ZONE 416 TAILGATE GROUP AND WON H-E-B'S FIRST-EVER TAILGATER OF THE YEAR HONORS

Brian and his wife, Kimberly, are the proud parents of Hailey (20), a sophomore General Studies major at Texas A&M, and Brandon (16), a junior baseball player at A&M Consolidated.

**BRIAN BISHOP VIVIDLY RECALLS THE MOMENT** he drove away from Aggieland following his Texas A&M graduation in December of 1992. Car packed and headed south on Highway 6, Brian looked in his rearview mirror and thought, “I will be back here one day. I don’t know how or when, but this is where I want to be.”

Born in Syracuse, New York, and raised in Sugar Land, Texas, Brian grew up loving A&M and visited Aggieland regularly for football and baseball games with his father, Joe, Class of 1964.

“I fell in love with the traditions and values of the university as well as the atmosphere at games,” Brian said. “It was the only place I applied, so fortunately I was accepted.”

A proud member of the Corps of Cadets, Brian earned a bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology and began a successful career with State Farm that spanned 12 years. He worked primarily in the company’s claims division, which included investigating insurance fraud in the Houston area.

In March of 1999 – a little over six years after that moment he left Aggieland – State Farm offered Brian and his wife, Kimberly, the opportunity to relocate to College Station.

Brian switched gears in January 2005 and found his calling with a 14-year career in major gift fundraising at the Texas A&M Foundation. He started in gift planning and later moved to

development roles with the Corps of Cadets and the Mays Business School. Then, in August of this year, he accepted a Vice President of Major Gifts position with the 12th Man Foundation.

“I have a long-standing relationship with Brian from our time together at the A&M Foundation and a great deal of respect for his fundraising abilities,” said Brady Bullard, Senior Vice President of Major Gifts. “He brings a wealth of experience, a tireless work ethic and a passion for A&M Athletics that will serve him well in his role here. A loyal Aggie, Brian is a home run hire for the Major Gifts team and will be instrumental in our organization’s success moving forward.”

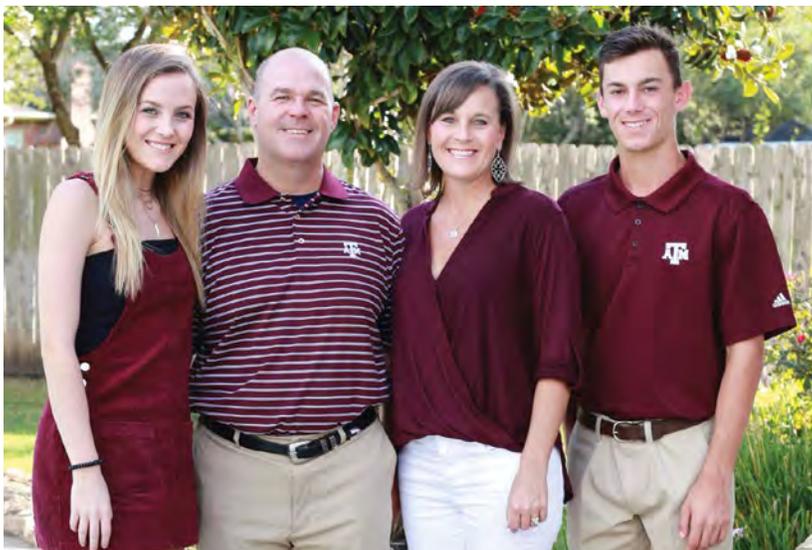
A Zone Club season ticket holder since it opened in 1999, Brian has always had an affinity for athletics and credits that love of sports as one of the deciding factors in joining the Major Gifts team. Additionally, as a longtime member of the John David Crow Legacy Society, Brian knows the importance of giving back to athletics and the impact it can have on the program’s success.

“It’s important to put ourselves in position to get the best – the best student-athletes, the best coaches and the best facilities,” he said. “There is a wealth of opportunity for Aggie Athletics in the coming years and we have to constantly improve what we have to offer to remain competitive.”

For Brian, that means getting out and visiting with former students who are passionate about athletics and finding ways they can help.

“I’m a big believer in focusing on the customer and trying to be as thoughtful and available as I can to those who I’m working with,” he said. “It’s about customer service and having a constant dialogue with your donors so that they know how important they are and how meaningful their generosity is to the overall success of our programs.

“This is the last job I plan on having and I look forward to helping our coaches and programs succeed. Hopefully, at the end of the day, our organization and donors can have an impact on that success.”



# Make an Enduring Impact on Texas A&M Athletics with a Charitable Bequest

A charitable bequest is a gift left to charity when someone passes away. It is one of the easiest ways to leave a legacy and support Texas A&M Athletics.

**You can leave a bequest to support Texas A&M Athletics and the 12th Man Foundation by making a promise in your will, living trust or codicil.**

Certain assets, such as an insurance policy, retirement account or bank account, can be left to charity by way of a beneficiary designation.

With a bequest, or beneficiary gift, the asset is transferred to charity after lifetime.

## PLEASE ALLOW US TO RECOGNIZE YOUR LEGACY

If you have included the 12th Man Foundation in your estate plans, let us know and join the John David Crow Legacy Society.

### BENEFITS OF A CHARITABLE BEQUEST

#### Bequests are Flexible

You can leave a bequest of a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or even a specific asset, such as a retirement account.

#### Bequests are Empowering

With a bequest, you retain full ownership and control of your assets during life – you can use your assets as you see fit and can even sell the asset if you need to.

#### Bequests can be Strategic

Bequests can help you establish priorities. You could name a loved one as a primary beneficiary, but if that person is no longer living, your estate plan could leave the asset to the 12th Man Foundation as a contingent beneficiary.

#### Bequests may Save on Taxes

If your estate will be subject to estate taxes, a charitable bequest may reduce the amount of tax by generating a charitable estate tax deduction.

Contact Brian Bishop at 979-260-7943 or [bishop@12thmanfoundation.com](mailto:bishop@12thmanfoundation.com) to learn more about supporting Aggie Athletics with a charitable bequest



# INCREASE YOUR IMPACT ON TEXAS A&M STUDENT- ATHLETES

Your support as a loyal donor is vital to our mission of funding scholarships, programs and facilities in support of championship athletics at Texas A&M.

As we approach the end of the year, please consider making a contribution to the 12th Man Foundation's Annual Fund in support of Texas A&M Athletics.

## Benefits of making a philanthropic gift to the 12th Man Foundation:

- 🍀 ADDITIONAL PRIORITY POINTS
- 🍀 TAX DEDUCTIBLE\*
- 🍀 MAY BE DOUBLED WITH A MATCHING GIFT<sup>^</sup>
- 🍀 DIRECT IMPACT ON THE SUCCESS OF AGGIE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Thank you for your generous support of the 12th Man Foundation and Aggie Athletics!

\*Contributions which are not tied to a ticket purchase may be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor to determine the deductibility of your gift. <sup>^</sup>Many employers will match tax deductible gifts to the 12th Man Foundation. Ask your employer if they offer a matching gift program.

## WHAT YOUR DONATION CAN PROVIDE FOR A STUDENT-ATHLETE

**\$150**

MEALS FOR ONE WEEK OR ONE WEEK OF SPORTS MEDICINE

**\$750**

ONE WEEK OF TUITION, FEES, BOOKS, ROOM AND BOARD

**\$1,500**

ONE MONTH OF TUITION PLUS ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE AND NUTRITION

**\$2,500**

SIX MONTHS OF ACADEMIC AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

## FOUR EASY WAYS TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION



**ONLINE**  
Make your impact now by visiting [12thman.com/donate](https://12thman.com/donate)



**BY MAIL**  
Send your gift to PO Box 2800, College Station, TX 77841



**BY PHONE**  
Call us at **888-992-4443**  
Mon. - Fri.,  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



**TEXT US**  
Text **12donate** to **555-888** and we will contact you