

# 12th Man

2020 | VOLUME 25, NO. 1

FUNDING SCHOLARSHIPS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES  
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NEELY '62**

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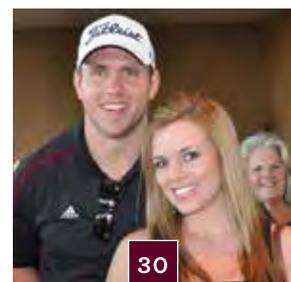
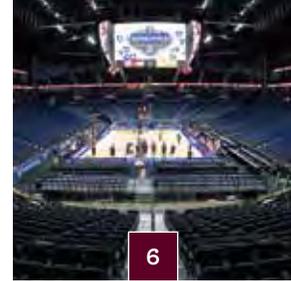
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# 12th Man

2020 | VOLUME 25, NO. 1



## MAGAZINE STAFF

Brian Davis '01  
Samantha Atchley '17  
Adam Quisenberry

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

Craig Bisacre, *Photographer*  
Olin Buchanan, *Writer*  
Spencer Gnauck '20, *Photographer*  
Will Johnson '01, *Writer*  
Michael Kellett '91, *Photographer*  
Vince Lombardi, *Production*  
Charean Williams '86, *Writer*

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*12th Man Magazine* (ISSN 1091-000X)  
Copyright © 2020 is published 4 times per year by the 12th Man Foundation, 756 Houston Street, College Station, TX 77843. Issues are published quarterly. Call 979-846-8892 to subscribe. Periodicals postage prices is paid at College Station, Texas, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *12th Man Foundation, P.O. Box 2800, College Station, TX 77841-2800.*

Printing by Newman Printing Company, Inc., Bryan, TX 77802.

Subscription rate for 12th Man Magazine is a gift of \$150 or more per year to the 12th Man Foundation. For foreign addresses, contact the 12th Man Foundation at 979-846-8892.

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*Manager of Donor Relations*

Lauren Cooper '17 979-260-7952  
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*Ticketing Coordinator*

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Matt McQuillan 979-260-7573  
*Manager of Information Technology*

## 12TH MAN FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 2800 | College Station, TX 77841-2800  
Main Office Line: 979-846-8892 | 888-TAM-12TH  
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**TO OUR DONORS,**

We are proud to recognize Trisha and Chaz Neely as our 2019 E. King Gill Award recipients in this issue of *12th Man Magazine*. The mindset of leaving something better than you found it is the cornerstone of the Neelys' philanthropic passion, and it is a common theme shared by those whose stories fill this publication.

The 12th Man Foundation, known as The Aggie Club prior to 1988, celebrated its 70th anniversary on April 2, and in this issue we honor the retirement of Randy Howard who proudly served this organization for 30 of those years. We also congratulate former 12th Man Foundation President & CEO Miles Marks on receiving the NAADD Lifetime Achievement Award. Miles and Randy have overseen tremendous growth of our organization and made a significant impact on Texas A&M Athletics. Additionally, this edition highlights former and current student-athletes and how the opportunity to attend A&M has impacted their lives, and we recognize the 1922 Fund donors and John David Crow Legacy Society members who helped make their scholarships and Aggie experience possible.

As we all continue to face the uneasiness that is synonymous with COVID-19, I am encouraged when I think about the staff, student-athletes and donors who, today and every day, strive to make the 12th Man Foundation and Texas A&M Athletics better than they found it.

Gig 'em!



Travis Dabney '96  
President & CEO



**SWIMMING & DIVING CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

The COVID-19 health crisis has not impacted progress on the new home for Texas A&M's swimming and diving programs. Made possible thanks to generous 12th Man Foundation donors, including the lead gift by Anne and Henry "Hank" Paup '70, construction on the facility continues with steel for the expansion scheduled to be erected in the coming weeks while the existing space is renovated. Partnering with the Student Rec Center, a visitor's locker room was added to the project allowing more space for visiting teams and club teams. Fans can follow the progress of the facility by viewing the construction cam on [www.12thman.com](http://www.12thman.com).

**STAFF UPDATES**

THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING ADDITION TO OUR DEDICATED STAFF:



Kevin Belt  
Donor Service  
Coordinator

In other staff news, warmest wishes to longtime Finance staff member Randy Howard '79 who retired in February following 30 years of dedicated service to the 12th Man Foundation. See page 42 for more on Randy's well-earned retirement.

**70 YEARS OF FUNDING TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS**

On April 2, 1950, seven leaders of The Association of Former Students established a private, non-profit organization known as The Aggie Club. The Club was formed to support athletics at Texas A&M by providing scholarships to student-athletes. From raising \$16,000 in its first year to evolving into the 12th Man Foundation in 1988 to funding numerous athletics facilities including the historic redevelopment of Kyle Field, the organization has transformed into one of the premier fundraising institutions in collegiate athletics.





TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS

# HEALTH CRISIS HALTS SPORTS

Collegiate sports abruptly end for the spring semester as the world combats COVID-19

BY ADAM QUISENBERRY

**MARCH IS ALWAYS ONE OF THE BUSIEST** months for athletics in Aggieland.

The latest edition of March Madness on the hardwood and the return of SEC competition to Blue Bell Park and Davis Diamond represent some of the marquee events that highlight the sports calendar during the third month of the year.

After beginning the spring sports season as scheduled, March 2020 also featured Texas A&M's spring break on March 9-13. Following the traditional mass exodus of students from Aggieland, the 12th Man Foundation staff departed the office on Tuesday, March 10, planning to enjoy a few days off before reuniting with co-workers the next Monday.

Within a few short days, fate would intervene and bring sports across the country to a screeching halt.

"When our staff left the Foundation offices on March 10, we all knew conversations were heating up and there were possibilities of cancellations and closures," said 12th Man Foundation President & CEO Travis Dabney. "The speed at which everything moved over the next several days was shocking to say the least."

As media outlets transitioned into seemingly never-ending and single-minded coverage, sports seemed trivial while people around the world struggled to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis. However, it was the abrupt halt of competitive sports that overtly underscored the unique and serious reality of the situation.

## RAPID CHANGES

The first major intersection between the crisis and sports came on March 10 as the Ivy League

announced the cancellation of its men's and women's basketball tournaments, slated for March 13-15.

Soon A&M was officially drawn into the mix as the following day, on March 11, it was announced the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament would continue, but behind closed doors and without fans.

That same day, not far from Aggieland, the of City of Houston and the Houston Health Department ordered the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo closed. The whirlwind changes marched on that evening. In Oklahoma City, an NBA game between the Thunder and Utah Jazz was very publicly called off just moments before tipoff, foreshadowing another massive ripple effect that was soon to sweep over all major professional sports. Within 24 hours, competition in the four major North American sports leagues would be suspended indefinitely.

More dominoes fell the next day (March 12) as the SEC abandoned the remainder of its men's basketball tournament as well as all league competition until March 30. Later that afternoon, the NCAA declared the cancellation of all winter and spring championships, wiping out the crowning

“  
**THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES, STAFF, COACHES AND PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY IS WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT.**

— ROSS BJORK

competitions for college baseball, basketball, golf, softball, tennis, swimming and diving and track and field.

Equestrian would soon follow suit as the National Collegiate Equestrian Association nixed its championship event.

One day later, on March 13, the SEC extended cancellations until April 15 before eventually making the difficult decision to redline all competition for the remainder of the 2019-20 athletic year on March 17.

In total, 61 athletics events scheduled to be hosted on the A&M campus were struck from the calendar.

### COACHES AND STUDENT-ATHLETES IMPACTED

Along with their peers from across the country, Aggie student-athletes and coaches were swept up in the rapid changes that were unforeseen just days before.

Pat Henry's track and field squad was in Albuquerque preparing to compete for a national title.

"We were at the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championship on the track warming up," said Henry, "and they came over the public address to announce the meet had been canceled."

Over 1,000 miles away in Nashville, the Aggie men's basketball team had just finished a walk-through and was hours shy of tipping off its first SEC Tournament in the Buzz Williams era.

"When shootaround was over, I go up to my room," recalled Williams, "and as soon as I walked in, my wife told me the tournament had been canceled."

Back in Aggieland, Gary Blair and his women's basketball players were days away from finding out their destination for a 15th consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament, while fellow A&M coaches and student-athletes were preparing for their next opportunity to compete.

Their experiences were just a few of many across the country, as a unique menace transcended far beyond competition and national borders. Administrators and coaches, who themselves were starved for answers, focused on communication even in the absence of a clear roadmap for what was still to come.

"I spoke to our guys (on March 13) and told them that so many things had changed over the last 30 hours and I anticipate even more changes are coming," Williams recounted in the days following the cancellation of the SEC Tournament. "We can't

The Aggie track and field team was in Albuquerque warming up to compete for an NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championship when the meet was canceled due to COVID-19, while the A&M men's basketball team was in Nashville preparing to play in the conference tournament without fans in attendance when the event was ultimately called off.





Following the unprecedented events in March, Texas A&M participated in the nationwide #LightItBlue campaign on April 9 using blue lighting at Kyle Field along with Blue Bell Park and Reed Arena to honor all frontline and essential workers for their efforts during the COVID-19 health crisis.

control those changes, but we can control how we process them and how we respond.”

### REACTION TO AN UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION

As priorities and agendas radically changed to reflect the shockwave traversing the country, decision-makers like Texas A&M Director of Athletics Ross Bjork focused on the most important issues as the scope of the crisis broadened.

“The health, safety and well-being of our student-athletes, staff, coaches and people in the community is what is most important,” Bjork said at the time. “We’re all impacted by this and we have to take it seriously every step of the way.”

As area schools announced closures and phrases like “social distancing” and “flattening the curve” surged to the top of conversations, the 12th Man Foundation’s leadership team, along with their counterparts in the athletics department, quickly moved to address the challenge of altering operations to continue servicing donors and ticket buyers including ultimately processing refunds for canceled home events.

Monday, March 16, was expected to be the day when staff members returned to the office and swapped stories of how they spent their few days off. Instead, people began to heed advisories from

health and governmental leaders to stay home.

Due to the efforts of the organization’s Business Intelligence & Technology Services team, the 12th Man Foundation quickly pivoted business operations, including in-bound phone functionality, to allow staff to fulfill duties remotely by March 19.

“I am proud of our organization and how it planned and responded to the shelter-in-place environment,” Dabney said. “Our staff rose to the challenge to meet the needs of our donors and ticket holders as we all went through this unprecedented time.”

The case was similar for Texas A&M University and Aggie Athletics, as individuals and units began finding ways to leverage technology to function remotely.

As the calendar flipped, it became apparent that the full impact of the COVID-19 health crisis will resonate far beyond the month when its unwelcome interruption historically changed the world of sports.

The competition and pageantry we all love will return and again give Aggies opportunities to celebrate their shared passion for Texas A&M through athletics. Following the unforgettable events of March 2020, it will be a familiar and welcome experience. ■

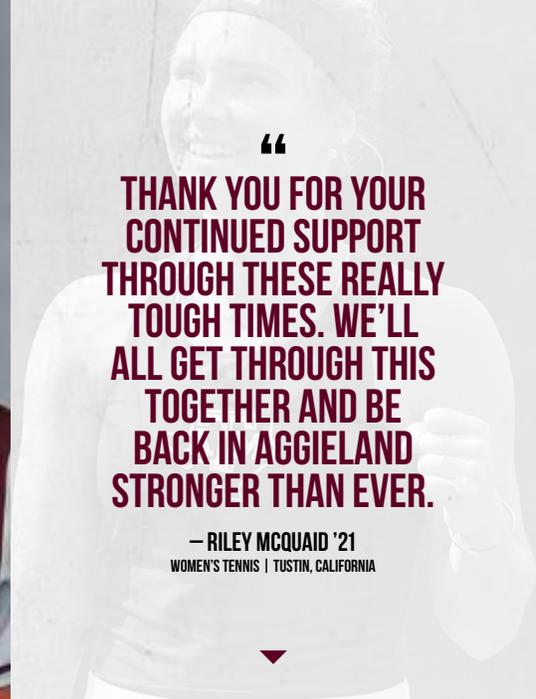
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BEING A STUDENT-ATHLETE  
HERE IS A SPECIAL  
EXPERIENCE BECAUSE  
YOU KNOW SOMEONE WILL  
ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BACK  
AND OUR DONORS ALWAYS  
HAVE OUR BACKS. THANK YOU  
SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

— MORGAN SMITH '22  
SOFTBALL | LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS



“  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT  
THROUGH THESE REALLY  
TOUGH TIMES. WE'LL  
ALL GET THROUGH THIS  
TOGETHER AND BE  
BACK IN AGGIELAND  
STRONGER THAN EVER.

— RILEY MCQUAID '21  
WOMEN'S TENNIS | TUSTIN, CALIFORNIA



The 12th Man Foundation sincerely appreciates your continued support of Texas A&M Athletics and our student-athletes as our nation and local community confronts the extraordinary health concerns surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19). We hope that you and your family are safe during this time.



“  
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO IS A PART OF THE 12TH  
MAN FOUNDATION, EVERY  
DONOR. YOUR INCREDIBLE  
SUPPORT DOES NOT GO  
UNNOTICED, AND YOU  
GUYS DO SO MUCH FOR US.  
HOPE TO SEE Y'ALL SOON!

— PATRICK JOHNSON '23  
MEN'S TRACK & FIELD | DESOTO, TEXAS



“  
THANK YOU FOR  
EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR  
TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS.  
I THINK I CAN SPEAK  
FOR ALL THE STUDENT-  
ATHLETES HERE WHEN  
I SAY WE COULDN'T DO  
IT WITHOUT YOU.

— CAMRYN TONEY '21  
WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING | FRISCO, TEXAS





◀ **GITTENS NAMED SEC WOMEN'S FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR, NCAA FINALIST**

Tyra Gittens was named the 2020 SEC Women's Field Athlete of Year in March. "It's a hard-earned and well-deserved accomplishment, and to be recognized by the coaches says a lot," Head Coach Pat Henry said. "Coaches know talent and she is a talented woman. She pushes herself to get better all the time and she's only scratching the surface right now." The 2020 SEC Cliff Harper Award recipient and one of three finalists for the national women's field athlete of the year award, Gittens was the only female Division I athlete to be an NCAA qualifier in three individual events. She led the nation in the pentathlon, as well as ranking third in the high jump and 11th in the long jump. The junior is the all-time Aggie leader in pentathlon and equaled the school record in high jump.



**BISHOP NAMED 2020 SEC INDOOR SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

Texas A&M's Jon Bishop was named the 2020 SEC Indoor Track and Field Scholar-Athlete of the Year in February. "This is the finest conference in the country, not just athletically but academically," Head Coach Pat Henry said. "For Jon to be recognized as the Scholar-Athlete of the Year for our sport is just a great accomplishment. It's very well deserved." A native of College Station, Bishop holds a 3.936 GPA and is pursuing a degree in applied mathematical sciences with a computational emphasis. He has previously been named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll and was honored with the Classroom Excellence Award for outstanding work in advanced calculus.

▲ **TWENTY AGGIE EQUESTRIAN STUDENT-ATHLETES EARN NCEA ACADEMIC HONORS**

Twenty members of the Texas A&M equestrian team earned academic awards from the National Collegiate Equestrian Association in 2020. Darby Gardner, Rhian Murphy and Haley Redifer were named to the Farnam NCEA Academic First Team, which is given to those who have competed in a minimum of 70 percent of the school's meets, while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Cameron Crenwelge and Caroline Dance were tabbed to the Second Team (minimum of 60 percent and a 3.25 GPA), and Katie Conklin and Marissa Harrell were named to the Honorable Mention Team (minimum of 50 percent and a 3.0 GPA). Evelyn Beesaw, Grace Bentien, Rebecca Bigelow, Rheagan Bryant, Tina Christie, Julie Hill, Kamiah McGrath, Lauren Rachuba, Lauren Reid, Lindsay Schauder, Mali Selman, Hannah Tapling and Ann Elizabeth Tebow were named to the APHA Academic Honor Roll, which is given to the top academic student-athletes who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.25 while maintaining full-time enrollment in the previous spring and fall semesters respectively.

▶ **FORMER FOOTBALL STANDOUTS MILLER AND LECHLER NAMED TO NFL ALL-DECADE TEAM**

Football legends and Texas A&M Athletics Hall of Fame members Von Miller and Shane Lechler were named to the NFL's 2010s All-Decade Team by the NFL and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Miller was selected at linebacker where he was one of the team's eight unanimous picks, while Lechler was named as a punter. The 55-member team was the result of votes cast by the Pro Football Hall of Fame's 48-member selection committee. Only players who received at least one selection to a Pro Bowl, Associated Press All-Pro team or Pro Football Writers of America all-conference team during the 2010-19 seasons were eligible.



# DAVID DUNLAP '83

A conversation with the Chair of the 2020  
12th Man Foundation Board of Trustees



» FORMER MEMBER OF THE CORPS OF CADETS, FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIE BAND AND ROSS VOLUNTEERS

» PRESIDENT/CEO AND DIRECTOR OF SUPERIOR ENERGY SERVICES SINCE 2010

» DIAMOND CHAMPIONS COUNCIL MEMBER

» WIFE, ANNE, AND SIX CHILDREN

## What makes Texas A&M and Aggieland special to you and your family?

Texas A&M is a family institution. My uncle was Class of 1951 and the first from our family to go to A&M. My dad, Class of 1958, followed in his footsteps before I attended as Class of 1983. Now, we have two daughters who graduated from A&M and two who are current students. It's part of our family and deeply ingrained like so many other Aggies. What makes A&M so special to me is the common thread that ties us all together as Aggies. One of the things I admire most is how much Aggies want to be together and how we're bonded by the university's core values.

## What led you to a career in the oil and gas industry, and what do you credit your professional success to?

I grew up in the oil and gas business. My dad was an engineer for Chevron, so I was an oil field kid and it seemed like the natural thing to do when I went to A&M. I was a Petroleum Engineering major and entered the oil and gas industry right out of school. I love the industry for a lot of the same reasons I love A&M. It's one of the biggest industries in the world, but in a lot of ways, it's a tight-knit group of people. There seemed to be a lot of the same values at A&M, maybe because there are so many Aggies in the business. I credit a lot of my success to the foundation I received from my dad and my experiences at A&M.

“

**I SEE TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS AS THE WINDOW THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD SEES OUR UNIVERSITY. I'M SO PROUD OF WHAT WE'VE DONE AT TEXAS A&M AND HOW MUCH WE CONTINUE TO PROGRESS.**

— DAVID DUNLAP

## How did you first become involved with the 12th Man Foundation?

I bought tickets! Anne and I got married in 1985 and we moved around a bit in the first few years of my career. When we moved to The Woodlands in 1990, I was first introduced to the 12th Man Foundation by buying season tickets. Later on, around 2005, I became involved with Major Gifts through Stu Starnier and later Jacob Green, and we made our first philanthropic gift. Like a lot of people, I had two introductions to the 12th Man Foundation – one as a transactional ticket buyer and later on it became something more philanthropic.

## What is your motivation for continuing to support Texas A&M Athletics through the 12th Man Foundation?

I see Texas A&M Athletics as the window through which the world sees our university. I'm so proud of what we've done at Texas A&M and how much we continue to progress. The world doesn't see that on a day-to-day basis, but when they turn on the TV for a football game or for another sport, they see Texas A&M. I think it's important that people see a product that every Aggie can be proud of. Through athletics, people see our university, so it's important to me that we have programs that attract the best student-athletes and coaches in the country.

## What do you see as the role of the 12th Man Foundation Board of Trustees?

First and foremost, our mission statement is well-honed about the obligation we have to the members of the 12th Man Foundation to be good stewards of the dollars they contribute. We work with the staff to ensure those funds are put forward in the way the donors intended and make an impact toward our mission of funding scholarships, programs and facilities in support of championship athletics. ■

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THE WOODLANDS, TX  
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- » President/CEO and Director of Superior Energy Services since 2010
- » 25 years at BJ Services in a variety of engineering, operations and management positions in both international and sales divisions
- » Member of Texas A&M's Petroleum Engineering Industry Board, the College of Engineering Advisory Council and the President's Board of Visitors for the Corps of Cadets
- » Awarded an Ernst & Young's 2013 Transformational CEO from the U.S. Gulf Coast Area
- » Diamond Champions Council member
- » Wife, Anne, and six children

CHAIR-ELECT



**ROBERT DENNIS '83**  
TYLER, TX  
*Orthopedic Surgeon*

- » BBA in Management (1983)
- » Former member of the Corps of Cadets and Ross Volunteers
- » Attended medical school at UT Houston and completed residency at UT San Antonio
- » Completed a Sports Medicine fellowship in Sydney, Australia
- » Co-founded Texas Spine and Joint Hospital in Tyler, Texas
- » Member of Champions Council and previous captain of the East Texas Chapter
- » Active member of Annual Fund Committee
- » Wife, Sheli, and one son

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR



**MONTY DAVIS '77**  
BRYAN, TX  
*Retired (Energy Industry)*

- » BBA in Accounting (1977)
- » 35+ years of experience in the oil and natural gas business
- » Lead donor for The Davis Center for Football Player Development and Davis Diamond
- » Diamond Champions Council member
- » Gifted lead donations to the R.C. Slocum Nutrition Center and Kyle Field Redevelopment Project
- » Active on the Development Council for Mays and was named an Outstanding Alumnus
- » Endowed scholarships through the Mays Honors Program and The Association of Former Students
- » Wife, Becky '76, and two Aggie daughters



### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

**TRAVIS V. DABNEY '96**  
COLLEGE STATION, TX  
*President & CEO*

**ROSS BJORK**  
COLLEGE STATION, TX  
*Director of Athletics*

12TH MAN FOUNDATION  
BYLAWS CAN BE FOUND AT  
[WWW.12THMANFOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.12THMANFOUNDATION.COM)



**BOYD CHERRY '67**  
BRYAN, TX  
*Retired (Energy Industry)*

- » BS in Electrical Engineering (1967) and Computer Science MBA (1970)
- » Former member of the Corps of Cadets and the Ross Volunteers
- » Served two years in the U.S. Army as an Ordnance Officer
- » Held management positions in engineering, corporate finance, investor relations and marketing
- » Has contributed to organizations including the Corps of Cadets Association, Mays Business School, A&M Foundation, Association of Former Students
- » Supports the 12th Man Foundation through capital campaign gifts
- » Wife, Zou



**CHRIS COOPER '89**  
CHATHAM, NJ  
*Deloitte & Touche LLP*

- » BBA in Accounting (1989)
- » Began career in Dallas with Deloitte & Touche LLP
- » Relocated to the northeast and was admitted to the firm partnership in 2000
- » Led and provided services to Deloitte's preeminent global audit clients in various industries
- » Serves as leader of the Life Science and Healthcare Audit practice of the U.S.
- » Supports the Mays Business School and The Association of Former Students
- » Football season ticket holder since 1999 and has donated generously to many capital funding projects
- » Wife, Terry, and three sons



**RANDY HALE '85**  
HOUSTON, TX  
*Rock Hill Capital*

- » BBA in Accounting (1985)
- » Began career at Arthur Andersen & Co. in Houston
- » Founded Rock Hill Capital in 2007 and serves as Managing Director
- » Active investor and founder of several private businesses
- » Past President of Houston Venture Capital Association
- » Member of the Association for Corporate Growth
- » Served as Chairman of the Board of Boys and Girls Country of Houston, Trustee of Boys and Girls Country of Houston Endowment Fund
- » Established a Permanently Endowed 12th Man Scholarship in 1998
- » Wife, Tracy, and three children



**JAY GRAHAM '92**  
HOUSTON, TX  
*Spur Energy Partners*

- » BS in Petroleum Engineering (1993)
- » Founder & CEO of Spur Energy Partners
- » Appointed as a member of the Texas A&M Board of Regents in 2019
- » Member of the Petroleum Engineering Academy of Distinguished Graduates
- » Serves of the Petroleum Industry Advisory Board and the College of Engineering Advisory Council
- » Co-founder and advisor to Texas A&M's Petroleum Ventures Program
- » Founded the April and Jay Graham Fellowship for Military Service Initiatives at the Bush Institute
- » Diamond Champions Council member
- » Wife, April, and two sons

## 2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**KEVIN MCDONALD '89**  
HOUSTON, TX  
*NexTier Oilfield Solutions Inc.*

- » BS in Agricultural Economics (1989)
- » JD from the University of Texas School of Law (1992)
- » Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel at NexTier Oilfield Solutions Inc. (formerly Keane Group Inc.)
- » Held professional leadership positions at Valero Energy, Anadarko Petroleum and Cooper Industries
- » Served as President & Chief Executive Officer and acting General Council of Arms of Hope
- » Practiced as a partner at international law firm Fulbright & Jaworski LLP
- » Served in leadership roles at Marathon Oil Corporation from 2012-16
- » Wife, Nathalie, and three children



**DON MEYER '78**  
SAN ANTONIO, TX  
*Scout & Molly's Boutique*

- » BS in Animal Science (1978)
- » 35+ years of experience in the insurance industry
- » Partner at Scout & Molly's Boutique
- » Has made generous donations to several 12th Man Foundation capital campaigns and A&M Foundation endowed scholarships
- » Wife, Carol '78, and two Aggie children



**JACK LAFIELD '72**  
DALLAS, TX  
*Caiman Energy*

- » BS in Chemical Engineering (1972)
- » Founder and chairman of Caiman Energy with a 40-year career in the energy industry
- » Has contributed significantly to support student-athlete scholarships, the R.C. Slocum Nutrition Center, the redevelopment of Kyle Field and the soccer program
- » Regularly provide Aggie Rings for military veterans and support engineering scholarships
- » Wife, Michele, and three children



**WAYNE ROBERTS '85**  
AUSTIN, TX  
*Abrigo*

- » BBA in Business Analysis (1985) and MBA (1986)
- » CEO of Abrigo
- » Technology industry veteran with an extensive background building growth companies and teams
- » Lead donor for the Shannon '86 and Wayne '85 Roberts Basketball Student-Athlete Center for the men's basketball program
- » Diamond Champions Council member
- » Supporter of the Mays Business School
- » Wife, Shannon '86, and two children



**JOE WRIGHT '82**  
MIDLAND, TX  
*Retired (Energy Industry)*

- » BS in Petroleum Engineering (1982)
- » Retired as Executive Vice President and COO of Concho in 2018 after 14 years in various leadership positions with the company
- » Serves on the Board of Directors for Concho and Oil States International, Inc.
- » Diamond Champions Council member
- » Has contributed to multiple facility projects for A&M Athletics
- » Wife, Jill '83, and four Aggie children



**DAVID COOLIDGE '87**  
HOUSTON, TX  
*024 Family Office LLC*

- » BS in Industrial Distribution (1988)
- » Served as Founder and Owner of Velite Capital Management, a commodity fund focused on natural gas trading from 2006-15
- » Member of the 12th Man Kickoff Team (1985-87)
- » Diamond Champions Council member
- » Namesake of the David '87 and Ashley '88 Coolidge Football Practice Fields
- » Wife, Ashley '88, and four children



**GEORGE "TREY" HENDERSON '80**  
LUFKIN, TX  
*Henderson Mineral Inc.*

- » BS in Agricultural Economics (1980)
- » Owner of Henderson Mineral Inc.
- » Serves on boards for Southside Bank, Brookshire Brothers Holding Inc., Overseas Hardwood Company, George H. Henderson Jr. Expo Center and The Pineywoods Foundation
- » Served on the Governor's Task Force on Evacuation, Transportation and Logistics in 2005, Angelina College, Memorial Health Systems of East Texas, The Texas Ethics Commission and The Texas Parks & Wildlife - Private Land Advisory Board
- » Wife, Brigettee, and two sons



**MICHELLE HICKOX '89**  
PLANO, TX  
*Independent Bank Group*

- » BBA in Accounting (1989)
- » Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Independent Bank Group in McKinney, Texas, since May of 2012
- » Serves on the Executive Board of the Texas A&M Mays Business School Commercial Banking Program
- » Board member and audit committee member of the Baylor Oral Health Foundation, which supports the Texas A&M College of Dentistry
- » Husband, Rob '90, and two Aggie daughters



# TRISHA & L.C. "CHAZ" NEELY '62

2019 E. King Gill Award Recipients

*BY BRIAN DAVIS '01*

“

**This is a wonderful recognition and we really appreciate it. It's an honor to receive this award and to follow the distinguished group of individuals who have received it before us.**

– CHAZ NEELY

**A YOUNG CHAZ NEELY WAS HELPING** his father around the yard one day when the motor in the family's lawnmower stopped running.

“I was really impressed by that mower, but it always gave us grief,” Chaz recalled.

Determined to finish the yardwork, Chaz's father walked next door and asked to borrow a neighbor's mower.

“His name was Slick,” said Chaz. “He was a baseball player who worked for the railroad.”

Chaz was too small to operate Slick's manual push mower, so he took care of other tasks around the yard while his father handled the mowing.

When the yardwork was finished, Chaz noticed his father working on Slick's mower. First, he sharpened the blades. Next he oiled the bearings on the ends of the blades. Then he cleaned the mower, carefully washing each wheel.

“I was thinking, that's not even our lawnmower,” Chaz recalled. “I asked him why he was doing all of that.

“He told me that we were going to fix it nice because you always want to leave something better than you found it.”

### **LEAVING THINGS BETTER**

Chaz didn't realize it at the time, but that lesson left an indelible impact on his life.

From his successful business career to his generous philanthropy, Chaz has aimed to always leave things better than he found them.

Living that principle side by side with Trisha, his wife of 58 years, Chaz has impacted countless people and organizations.

That long list of benefactors includes Texas A&M Athletics. The Neelys' support of the program through the 12th Man Foundation has been extraordinary to say the least making them worthy recipients of the 2019 E. King Gill Award.

“Trisha and Chaz have been so generous toward Texas A&M,” said R.C. Slocum, a longtime friend of the Neelys. “They exemplify the spirit of the 12th Man.”

The Neelys were recognized for the prestigious honor during halftime of the Texas A&M-South Carolina football game on Nov. 16, 2019.

“Unlike E. King Gill, who was standing ready to be called,” said Slocum, “they have been called upon many times and have always answered the call.”

The E. King Gill Award honors supporters who have generously helped the 12th Man Foundation realize its mission of funding scholarships, programs and facilities in support of championship athletics. The recipient is selected based on financial commitment, exemplary service and leadership as a volunteer advocate, ethics and a high level of distinction as a role model.

“Trisha & Chaz are extremely deserving recipients of the E. King Gill Award,” said Travis Dabney, 12th Man Foundation President & CEO. “They have stepped up on behalf of Texas A&M Athletics time and time again.”

A proud member of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, Chaz married Trisha, his high school sweetheart, on Jan. 27, 1962. Trisha's unwavering support combined with a spirited work ethic that he inherited from his father while working evenings at the family's gas station helped Chaz become a first-generation college graduate and a remarkably successful entrepreneur.



### HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Trisha and L.C. “Chaz” Neely were born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. In fact, the couple has called the Alamo City home most of their life.

“I grew up on the poor side of town and Trisha grew up on the better side of the poor side of town,” Chaz said. “We didn’t have much money, but we weren’t destitute. We didn’t really know we were poor until we got older and saw what other people did and had.”

The oldest of four children, Chaz has always been a hard worker.

“My dad was a hard worker and I thought that was the way it had to be,” he said.

After graduating from elementary school, Chaz got a summer job working as a car hop at a root beer stand.

“I was only 12, but I told them I was 13 and about to be 14,” Chaz recalled with a smile. “I worked from 5 to midnight and then rode my bicycle home.”

Trisha and Chaz met during their sophomore year at Brackenridge High School.

“It was algebra class,” added Trisha.

During high school, Chaz spent his days at school and his evenings working at his father’s gas station. He would go to the station after school, work until 9 p.m., go home, have supper and go to bed.

“When someone pulled up to the gas station back then, we put gas in their car, cleaned the windshield and swept their car out,” said Chaz, “and we

also checked their tires, the water in the battery, the radiator and the oil. You pulled up, bought \$1 worth of gas and we did all that work. It was completely different.”

Going to college was extremely rare for anyone from the south side of San Antonio in the 1950s, however, Chaz knew a boy down the street who was planning to attend Texas A&M – then known as Texas A.M.C. – to study agriculture.

“Back then, people didn’t talk a lot about going to college where we lived,” Trisha said.

When Chaz’s high school guidance counselor asked what he was planning to do after graduation, he said his parents wanted him to attend Texas A&M.

“She looked over my records,” Chaz recalled, “and said, ‘They’re not going to let you in A&M. And if they do let you in the back door, you’re not going to stay.’ I went home and told my parents that we wouldn’t have to pay for college. I thought that was a plus, but they got upset. They wanted me to be the first to go to college.”

Ultimately, Chaz was admitted to A&M and headed to Aggieland in the fall of 1958 while Trisha stayed in San Antonio and went to work for the U.S. Air Force Security Service.

### WELCOME TO AGGIELAND

At A&M, Chaz was a proud member of the Corps of Cadets who majored in General Studies and





Accounting before discovering his niche in Marketing. The experience in Aggield made a profound impact on his life, but Chaz's journey toward a degree was not without a few bumps in the road.

"I flunked out after the first semester of my sophomore year," he said.

After going home to San Antonio and working at his father's gas station through the summer, Chaz returned to A&M hoping to get back on track. He made it two semesters before ending up out of school and back home again following the spring of 1961.

"At that point they said I should probably think about doing something else," he recalled.

Chaz stayed in San Antonio through the fall but returned to A&M once more in the spring of 1962 with some extra motivation. He and Trisha were married that January and this time they were headed to Aggield together.

"I finally was able to bring my GPA up because I would go home and study," Chaz said.

Trisha was able to transfer and work for the USDA in College Station, while Chaz focused on school and ultimately earned his BBA in Marketing in 1963.

"We loved that period of time and made some good friends, people we are still friends with today," he said.

### THE LITTLE COMPANY

Following graduation, the Neelys relocated to the Rio Grande Valley where Chaz had accepted a marketing position with Sinclair Refining Company. Six years later, they moved back to San Antonio along with their son Trey and baby daughter Alison.

After a brief stint in the truck leasing division of Hertz Corporation, Chaz joined Knowlton's Creamery in 1970. The Neelys continued to grow

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**If I hadn't gone back to  
A&M, I would probably  
be a night manager at  
a 7-11. That's as far as  
I would have gone.**

— CHAZ NEELY



Chaz, pictured above with Trisha and their children Alison '90, Trey '97 and Bradford '94, was named a Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus in 2006. A loyal supporter of multiple entities on campus, Chaz sold his family's home in 1979 to purchase a small San Antonio distribution business, and after persevering through some challenging years, transformed it into the largest wholesale distributor of agricultural fencing in the nation.

their family over the next decade with the birth of their son Bradford while Chaz gained valuable business experience and searched for the right opportunity to fulfill his professional dream.

"I always wanted to have my own business," he said, "but you had to have money to have a business. Otherwise, you're working for somebody."

Opportunity knocked in 1979 and Chaz purchased a small wholesale distribution business called San Antonio Steel Company (SASCO) that specialized in selling nails and wire.

"I found a little company," Chaz said, "but in order to buy it we had to sell our house. We had to sell our house twice for the company. The first time to buy the business and the second time a few years later into the 80s when the tax laws changed and, all of a sudden, I couldn't sell my product for enough to make money and I was going to lose the business. I didn't want to go bankrupt, but I was insolvent."

The Neelys sold their second house for a profit and Chaz was able to save the business from going under.

"Times were hard for a while," Trisha said. "They were very hard."

Chaz learned the tricks of the trade through the challenging times and with his work ethic, determination and negotiating skills, the business persevered. By the early 90s, SASCO was growing and

beginning to turn a nice profit.

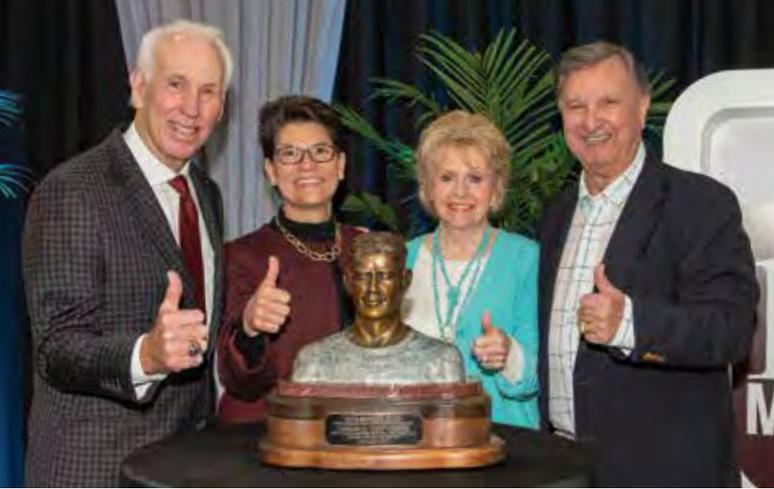
"When I started making money, instead of spending it I decided to use it to fund my business," Chaz said. "I acted just like I was poor and broke and was able to save enough to finally pay all my debt off by about 1994. That was a long time – 15 years after I bought the company before I could do that. Of course, then we really started making money."

Named the Ernst & Young, LLP Entrepreneur of the Year for the Central and South Texas Region in 1997 and an inaugural member of the Aggie 100 in 2005, Chaz transformed the "little company" into the largest wholesale distributor of agricultural, cattle and game fencing in the country.

By the time he made the decision to sell the company and retire in 2016, SASCO was strong, healthy and well-positioned for continued growth.

"If I hadn't gone back to A&M, I would probably be a night manager at a 7-11," Chaz said. "That's as far as I would have gone."

"I realized shortly after I graduated that A&M changed me. It made me aware of different people and how to get along with people. It really changed me because I hadn't been around anybody who had great aspirations. In high school, my dream was to one day have a neat car. I never imagined going the places I've been or meeting the people I've had the privilege to meet."



Trisha and Chaz discovered they were the 2019 E. King Gill Award recipients during a surprise announcement with family and friends at halftime of the Auburn football game last September. The Neelys were officially presented the award during a Champions Council Weekend event on Feb. 22, 2020, which also featured R.C. Slocum, Jimbo Fisher, Ross Bjork and SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey.

### ANSWERING THE CALL

Through the ups and downs of their journey, the Neelys have faithfully given back to their church, to their community and to Texas A&M, focused on leaving things better than they found them.

“In a way we have an obligation to give,” Chaz said, “but we don’t give because we’re obligated. We give because we want things to be better. We are blessed to be able to do that.”

Their initial support of A&M included contributing to the Corps of Cadets and Mays Business School – two areas that immensely impacted Chaz during his time in Aggieland. He admits that they were not able to give huge sums of money in the old days, but they always gave. And when the business took off, the couple was proud to be able to expand their philanthropy.

“Trisha and Chaz have supported multiple entities on this campus,” Dabney said. “It is very clear that they care about Texas A&M University from athletics to Mays Business School to the Corps of Cadets to The Association of Former Students to the Texas A&M Foundation – they all deeply matter.”

Dr. Eddie Joe Davis is a former campus leader who can attest to the positive effects of the Neelys’ generosity toward Aggieland.

“Again and again they impact students,” the former Texas A&M Foundation President said. “They have given at least two chairs and dozens of scholarships. I always found when we had a project going on that was challenged or in the ditch, one of the people I would go see was Chaz.”

With their love of A&M, the Neelys are proud to step up when called upon.

“When the call would come out for something, if we could, we’d be there,” Chaz said.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETICS

The Neelys have been fans of Aggie sports since Chaz’s time at A&M, however, their involvement with the program did not begin to fully blossom until a chance encounter in the late 2000s with Stu Starner.

“We met Stu and (his wife) Barbara at a restaurant in San Antonio,” Chaz recalled. “He didn’t know who I was – nobody knew who I was. We didn’t even have season tickets at that time.”

Their level of engagement has changed in a significant way over the last decade. The Neelys became season ticket holders in football, baseball and men’s basketball, and Starner, the 12th Man Foundation’s Senior Vice President of Major Gifts at the time of

“

**Trisha and Chaz exemplify the spirit of the 12th Man. Unlike E. King Gill, who was standing ready to be called, they have been called upon many times and have always answered the call.**

– R.C. SLOCUM

that meeting, helped recruit Chaz to serve on the 12th Man Foundation's Board of Trustees during one of the most important times in the organization's history.

From 2011-14, Chaz served on a board that was integral in the redevelopment of Blue Bell Park, the redevelopment of Kyle Field and the university's move to the Southeastern Conference.

“Those were fun years,” Chaz recalled. “Busy – we did a lot of work and it took a lot of time – but it was fun. We were all focused on doing what was best for A&M student-athletes. Being on the board and spending time around those like-minded people with a shared passion helped me realize the importance of giving to athletics. I realized the value of sports to the university.”

“That was the biggest turning point in our involvement with athletics,” added Trisha.

Since 2010, Trisha and Chaz have become Diamond Champions Council members through their generous support of numerous capital projects including the Bright Complex, Blue Bell Park, Davis Player Development Center and the R.C. Slocum Nutrition Center. Additionally, the Neelys played a crucial role in the redevelopment of Kyle Field by contributing to the historic project as one of the 12 Founders suite holders in the iconic stadium.

“We love Texas A&M and are thankful to be able to do what we can do,” said Chaz, whose three children and a granddaughter have followed in his footsteps to attend A&M. “It's why we have season tickets and why we enjoy our suite at Kyle Field. We love being around others who love A&M, and we bring a lot of one-time guests to the suite to expose them to A&M and hope it's a benefit for the university.”



## THE E. KING GILL AWARD

**Established in 2011, the E. King Gill Award is presented annually to a person or couple who has been an influential investor and ambassador for Texas A&M Athletics.**

The prestigious award honors supporters who have generously helped the 12th Man Foundation realize its mission of funding scholarships, programs and facilities in support of championship athletics. The recipient is selected based on financial commitment, exemplary service and leadership as a volunteer advocate, ethics and a high level of distinction as a role model.

The honorees of this prestigious award are recognized on an engraved plaque in the Claudia and Rod Stepp '59 Grand Lobby, located just outside the 12th Man Foundation offices.

### E. King Gill Award Honorees

2011	Col. George J. Eppright '26 Carolyn & Jack E. Little '60
2012	Kay & Jerry S. Cox '72
2013	Judith & Weldon Jaynes '54
2014	Alice & Erle A. Nye '59
2015	Dorothy & Artie R. McFerrin '65
2016	Susan '13 & Sam '70 Torn
2017	Carolyn & Tommie E. Lohman '59
2018	Sharon '81 & Jim Wilson '81
2019	Trisha & L.C. "Chaz" Neely '62

## WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION

During halftime of the Auburn game at Kyle Field last fall, family and friends gathered in the Founders Club to help surprise Trisha and Chaz with the E. King Gill Award announcement. It was a moment the Neelys say they will never forget.

“We didn’t know that was anywhere on the radar, but we are greatly honored and humbled,” Trisha said. “You see those people there and it’s emotional.”

“This is a wonderful recognition and we really appreciate it,” added Chaz. “It’s an honor to receive this award and to follow the distinguished group of individuals who have received it before us.”

The award holds a special place in Chaz’s heart along with other honors he’s received including the Mays Business School Outstanding Alumni Award in 2005 and being named a Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus in 2006. Trisha and Chaz were also proud to receive the Texas A&M Foundation’s prestigious Sterling C. Evans Medal in 2018 in recognition of their philanthropic support of the university.

“The Neelys are deserving of the E. King Gill Award for a number of reasons,” said Jerry Strawser, Texas A&M University Executive Vice President of Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer. “They’re deserving of it for their significant

financial contributions to Texas A&M University and Texas A&M Athletics. They’re deserving of this award because of their support of our student-athletes, both in their financial support and in their support in cheering them on as they play on the fields and the courts. They’re deserving of this award because of their absolute can-do attitude, their love for our university and their support for our university.”

For Chaz, the recognition provides further proof that someone like him who comes from a humble background can achieve great things with hard work and determination.

“His dad was a very hard worker and Chaz learned that from him,” Trisha said. “I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard him say that there’s no telling where he’d be if he had not gone to A&M. He attributes it all to his experience at A&M.

“In addition to the gift that A&M gave him by educating him, it’s a gift he received from God to be able to run his business and take care of his family. It really is.”

Trisha and Chaz say they feel blessed to be able to give back to Texas A&M and that’s the bottom line. “We are grateful to be able to do it.”

And Texas A&M is forever grateful for Trisha and Chaz Neely. ♥

Trisha and Chaz, pictured below with the legendary Jacob Green, Texas A&M President Michael Young, Athletics Director Ross Bjork and 12th Man Foundation President & CEO Travis Dabney, were recognized as E. King Gill Award recipients in front of nearly 105,000 fans during the South Carolina game at Kyle Field last November.



# THE IMPACT OF THE SEC ON TV

As the media landscape evolves, every Aggie sport continues to reap the benefits from A&M's move to the SEC

BY WILL JOHNSON '01

**FANS OF COLLEGE SPORTS OFTEN DEBATE** which conference is the best. In most cases the answer comes back in the form of three letters – S, E and C.

Texas A&M's 100-year decision enhanced the league's reputation, but the Southeastern Conference's winning tradition was only one reason to join. In fact, the school's decision to move on from the Big 12 Conference had every bit as much to do with the SEC's visibility.

So, while the best conference debate rages on, television ratings and attendance are proof that when it comes to gauging the audience, none compare to the SEC.

Since taking the field in 2012, A&M has played in five regular-season conference football games that were each viewed by more than 7 million fans. In those same eight seasons, the entire Big 12 has seen only one such game reach over 7 million viewers.

During the 2019 college football season, six of the 10 highest-rated regular-season games on television involved the SEC. No other conference could boast participating in more than two.

Half of the top 10 were a part of the "SEC on CBS" package, which has led the ratings among all networks for 11 consecutive seasons. The network has been airing "The Best Game From The Best Conference" for unquestionably the best deal.

CBS has paid \$55 million per year for ratings gold by televising the SEC's top game each Saturday. Recent news suggests the contract may be heading elsewhere after the 2023 season for more than \$300 million per year – a price much more on par with the actual worth of college football's premier platform. This package alone was once paying each conference member around \$4 million annually. In the near future, that payout could grow to more than \$20 million.



"We have tremendous faith in Commissioner Greg Sankey to showcase the value of the SEC and put us in the best possible position as the media landscape evolves," said Ross Bjork, A&M's Director of Athletics.

The conference's television package is largely the reason the SEC disburses revenues handsomely to its schools. And there seems to be an even greater boost on the horizon.

"While the process is still unfolding," added Bjork, "I'm super excited about what this will mean for Texas A&M and the ability to provide more resources for our programs and student-athletes."

Aggie football has become high profile, and in time for the 2019 season, the program's Emmy-winning television series, "The Pulse," was picked up nationally, airing weekly during the season on ESPN. Only two college football programs have

Revenue distributed from the Southeastern Conference accounted for 30 percent of Texas A&M Athletics' budget in 2018-19. That distribution includes revenue from television agreements as well as bowl games and other postseason events.

the distinction of bringing their own TV show to the nation through a linear platform – A&M and Ole Miss.

The impact goes far beyond football.

Every sport stood to benefit in 2014 when the SEC ventured with ESPN to bring America its elite athletes and competitions around the clock.

“The SEC Network was the most successful launch of a sports channel in the history of cable television,” Bjork said.

For the league, yes, and also for the Aggies. On August 28, 2014, in the first-ever live football game broadcast on the channel, A&M shined bright in a 52-28 rout of South Carolina.

However, it’s the Olympic sports that have gained the most since the conference’s cameras started rolling.

Prior to the network’s launch, it was rare to find college sports like soccer, volleyball, track and field, softball and baseball on TV. Now, with the SEC Network linear channel, and even the SEC Network Plus digital streaming package, those events are hard to miss.

“The SEC Network, and Plus digital broadcasts, have impacted us more than we could’ve imagined,” said Head Baseball Coach Rob Childress. “It’s given our program and sport exposure from coast to coast

and helped us create a far-reaching brand.”

Just down Tom Chandler Drive at Davis Diamond, Jo Evans feels the effects too.

“It’s brought tremendous exposure,” A&M’s long-time head softball coach said. “Aggies all over the country are learning about our sport and falling in love with the game of softball.”

While affiliated with the Southwest Conference and Big 12, there were almost zero opportunities to watch the Aggies compete in sports outside of football and basketball unless you were in attendance. In the SEC, and with its network, almost every A&M game or event can be viewed by Aggies around the world.

All of the SEC Network Plus digital broadcasts, as well as several on national television, originate from the state-of-the-art 12th Man Productions facility in the south end of Kyle Field. The start of the network made the complex necessary, while the generosity of 12th Man Foundation donors made it possible.

Today, A&M is more “national” than it has ever been. When its sports are delivered across the country, the university as a whole is on display.

From coast to coast, and around the globe, there’s more eyes on Aggieland than ever before thanks to the SEC. ♣

All of the digital broadcasts, as well as several on national television, originate from the state-of-the-art 12th Man Productions facility, which was funded by generous 12th Man Foundation donors during the redevelopment of Kyle Field. The video arm of Aggie Athletics also produces the Emmy-winning television series, “The Pulse,” which began airing nationally on ESPNU last fall.





POWER OF A SCHOLARSHIP

# ALISSA BELL '90 & AMBER IVY '20

Opportunities at Texas A&M help mother-daughter duo find success in life and on the track

BY CHAREAN WILLIAMS '86

**ALISSA BELL KEEPS FIVE TEXAS A&M** blankets in her Houston home. She also has a photo of herself competing in the long jump for the Aggies hanging on the wall.

“That uniform is so ugly,” her daughter, Amber Ivy, said. “I couldn’t wear that.”

But Ivy does wear the current Aggie uniform.

She is a member of the A&M track and field team, as her mother was from 1987-90. Ivy is a senior and was scheduled to finish her career this spring but plans to use her extra year of eligibility to return in 2021.

Bell never pushed Ivy to follow her to A&M, just as she never encouraged her to participate in track

and field. Ivy played volleyball and basketball and was in the band. She danced and took gymnastics.

“I didn’t really want to run track,” Ivy said. “I’m not really an outside person. Track was actually the last sport my mom got me into because she didn’t want me to get burned out. A lot of people start their kids running track at age 6 or 7. I started training when I was in middle school.”

Bell knew her daughter was special when she saw her run as an 8-year-old. Ivy was small for her age... and fast. Very fast.

She could outrun the boys.

But Bell worried about burning out her daughter, which is why Ivy tried so many other sports before



Set to graduate with a degree in Communications this December, Ivy plans to use her extra year of eligibility to compete for Texas A&M in 2021.

entering an organized track program.

“Finally, I said, ‘Let’s go ahead and try this track thing,’” Bell recalled. “She said, ‘OK.’ She started at 10 years old, and she hasn’t stopped running since.”

Bell’s career ended when she graduated from A&M in 1990, but it brought her a life of gratitude. She earned a BBA in Business Analysis and used it for a 30-year career as an IT consultant.

She currently provides executive support for enterprise resource planning software.

“I’ve never for one day been unemployed,” Bell said. “Aggies do hire Aggies. That’s a very true statement.”

Bell ran at Aldine High School, where she ranked among the top three jumpers in the state. She was headed to the University of Texas before rival Carlette Guidry committed to the Longhorns.

Bell switched to the Aggies, a decision she said turned out to be one of the best of her life.

“I’ve overcome so many challenges,” Bell said. “Being at Texas A&M 30 years ago in business classes, where there are 250 students and you’re one of the only African-Americans made me realize that I could compete on an unprecedented academic level as well as athletic level. I was the first in my family to earn a college degree and eventually an MBA in business. I now realize that I can go anywhere and work for any company and be successful. I definitely attribute that confidence to the foundation that I gained while at A&M.”

Bell ended her career setting the school record in the long jump, which still ranks fourth in program history on the outdoor list. Bell also ranks 11th on the all-time indoor list and ninth on the school’s

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**I WAS THE FIRST IN MY FAMILY TO EARN A COLLEGE DEGREE AND EVENTUALLY AN MBA IN BUSINESS. I NOW REALIZE THAT I CAN GO ANYWHERE AND WORK FOR ANY COMPANY AND BE SUCCESSFUL. I DEFINITELY ATTRIBUTE THAT CONFIDENCE TO THE FOUNDATION THAT I GAINED WHILE AT A&M.**

— ALISSA BELL

top-12 performer indoor list in the 60-meter dash.

Ivy has not yet qualified on the outdoor list in an individual event, but was on the sprint medley relay team that ranked fourth.

“It is nice seeing both our names up there,” Ivy said. “I still have some work to do on the outdoor list. But I think it’s just a beautiful thing for a mother-daughter to have this legacy.

“We both have these records. We have Aggie Rings, and we both will have graduated from Texas A&M.”

Ivy, a 2016 graduate of Cypress Creek High School, ran career-bests in the 200 and 400 in her high school career. She placed fifth in the 200, seventh in the 100 and ninth in the 400 at the USATF National Junior Olympics.

Bell, a single mother, never steered Ivy toward A&M. Ivy chose it on her own, selecting the Aggies over Arkansas.

“A&M really made a huge impact on her life,” Ivy said, “but she never pressed A&M that much. She told me, ‘Wherever you want to go, Amber, you can go.’ Whenever I took my visit to A&M, I immediately fell in love with the staff, the facilities and the whole school. I mean, I absolutely fell in love with it. I saw why mom chose A&M with its traditions. It’s just such a nice school.

“A lot of people think she influenced me, but it really wasn’t her. She does have a lot of A&M stuff around the house, but who wouldn’t?”

Ivy, 22, will get her Communications degree in December with hopes of going into social media marketing or digital marketing.

She will follow in her mother’s cleat marks yet again in the business world while, at the same time, blaze her own trail.

“My mom knew all the things Texas A&M could offer me,” Ivy said. “It definitely has me prepared for the real world.”



# COLLEGIATE COUNCIL

New initiative featuring select group of student leaders aims to enhance engagement with the Texas A&M student body

BY SAMANTHA ATCHLEY '17

**BEGINNING THIS SPRING**, a hand-picked group of ambitious Aggies will be chosen to serve on the 12th Man Foundation's first Collegiate Council. This select group comprised of current students, and potentially student-athletes, will be dedicated to enhancing the organization's footprint through ambassadorship and engagement across campus.

As a way to bridge any gap between the student body and the 12th Man Foundation, the Collegiate Council has been created to encourage student involvement while also providing them with an opportunity to gain professional experience in the world of fundraising and college athletics.

"We wanted to create a stronger connection with the student body so that when students graduate, they have a better understanding of what the 12th Man Foundation is and how they can give back in support of Texas A&M Athletics," said Michael Solomon, Senior Vice President of Annual Fund and Donor Services. "We also wanted to provide a leadership opportunity for students to assist with this initiative."

This elite group of students will serve as an extension of the 12th Man Foundation's brand, representing the organization on campus through student education, engagement and promotion. As Manager of Annual Fund Callie Boenigk says, representing the 12th Man Foundation comes with a lot of responsibility.

"The Collegiate Council will be a highly esteemed, professional leadership organization," she said. "Our members are to be the best of the best. We interview each candidate to be certain that they are dedicated, career-driven, passionate and bring something to the table. We want to make sure when employers see this on a resume, they know the weight Collegiate Council holds. They will know

that the student is second to none."

In its inaugural year, the Collegiate Council is expected to set the standard by establishing goals, completing projects and finding new ways to support the 12th Man Foundation's mission throughout A&M's campus. Collegiate Council members will likely assist the Major Gifts and Annual Fund departments on projects and events, promote the 12th Man Foundation on campus, create social media content to connect with the current student demographic, plan Council events and speak to different on-campus organizations.

"In this first year, it will be a lot of trial and error," Boenigk said. "However, with the current number of student members we have, and the number of students already engaged with the purchase of a sports pass, it is evident that we have work to do. The Collegiate Council will create a tactical plan

Applications for the 2020-21 Collegiate Council were completed this spring. For more information including the qualifications and requirements for applicants, visit the student membership page on the 12th Man Foundation's website or call the Annual Fund staff at 979-260-2394.

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**WE WANTED TO CREATE A STRONGER CONNECTION WITH THE STUDENT BODY SO THAT WHEN STUDENTS GRADUATE, THEY HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION IS AND HOW THEY CAN GIVE BACK IN SUPPORT OF TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS.**

— MICHAEL SOLOMON



for the academic year to accomplish what they see best.”

While the \$25 student membership is open to all students enrolled at A&M, Collegiate Council members will be chosen to represent this population as leaders and brand ambassadors on campus. Once selected, the Collegiate Council’s priorities will revolve around growing membership, creating affinity, increasing exposure on campus and launching one annual event for all student members.

According to Solomon, the 12th Man Foundation is excited to see what the first Collegiate Council will bring to the organization.

“We expect a lot of new ideas on how to get our message out – some tone setting for the way this program will take shape in years to come,” he said. “What an exciting thing to be a part of

– the first year of something that could become *something*.”

Certainly, this dedicated group of Aggies is expected to take student involvement with the 12th Man Foundation to new heights. As Boenigk says, the Collegiate Council has the potential to create a lasting impact that unifies the 12th Man Foundation and current students better than ever before.

“I believe there is a general lack of acknowledgment and recognition of the 12th Man Foundation by the student body right now,” Boenigk said. “I think the best way to really create understanding is if we can get the Collegiate Council in front of students, speaking at New Student Conferences, having a presence at Fish Camps, etc. The main benefit would be getting to the students early on in their journey as an Aggie and creating that lifelong affinity and love for this university.” ■

When it comes to fans in the stands, no university student body is more supportive of its team than the 12th Man. As ambassadors for the 12th Man Foundation, the Collegiate Council will be integral in engaging with current students who share a passion for Aggie Athletics and educating them on the Foundation’s mission while they are still on campus.

# MELISSA '08 & CHRIS HARRINGTON '07

Athletics scholarship and experience at A&M helped prepare Aggie couple for life after sports

BY WILL JOHNSON '01

**CHRIS HARRINGTON HAD NOTICED** Melissa Garey for quite some time before he finally asked her out.

“I kind of took a long shot,” recalled Chris, a 2007 All-Big 12 performer on the defensive line for the Texas A&M football team. “Facebook had just come out. I reached out through Facebook.”

Melissa accepted, and is glad opening impressions are not everything.

“He took me to a movie, and it was super awkward,” recalled Melissa, a forward on the Aggie soccer team from 2004-2007 that won a combined six Big 12 regular season and tournament titles. “We didn’t have a second date for about a month.”

As time went on a lasting impression was made, and the couple married in 2010.

Preparation is an athlete’s highest priority, and when these two Aggie student-athletes graduated from A&M, they were prepared for life after sports.

When Chris, whose NFL career was cut short due to a torn ACL, was with the Arizona Cardinals right out of college, he and Melissa met a friend of a teammate who owned a seafood business in New England. As the Harringtons grew closer to him over time, the friend invited the couple to see his business in the event they were interested after football. The excursion took on new meaning when Chris’ knee injury occurred a week before departing.

“We went on that trip with different eyes,” Melissa said. “If this is the end of football, what’s next?”

While Chris rehabbed his knee, he was also making plans for the future away from the field, already calling potential customers. He worked to return to football, while also looking beyond it.

“He wouldn’t sit still,” Melissa recalled. “I don’t know if there’s anyone who has transitioned as well as he has, from football at a really high level to the business world.”

In 2011, the Harringtons signed a lease to start Lonestar Lobster in a 2,500-square-foot facility in Houston. The company sold lobsters to chefs, food service buyers and retailers. As Melissa says, Chris has “blossomed” in the business, and the enterprise has grown itself. Today, going by the name Lonestar Seafood, the business is now in a 14,000-square-foot building that’s becoming state-of-the-art.

“It’s because of his vision, his ability to keep pushing and willingness to do anything and everything,” Melissa said of her husband. “That’s what separates most people and small businesses. You have to have the toughness to do everything and he does.”

Now parents of two sons, Melissa and Chris have used what they learned on and off the field at Texas A&M to become successful entrepreneurs in the seafood industry.



Melissa gives considerable praise to her husband and Chris gives it right back, as Melissa was right there with him on the ground floor.

“She had the toughness as well, to endure the challenges you face as a start-up,” Chris said. “While I was doing physical labor, so was Melissa. It was pretty much the two of us for the first six months.”

There’s a certain drive that’s in student-athletes. It’s what allowed the Harringtons to push forward a few years later with Fish Fixe, a company Melissa started with the former Emily DeWoody, an Aggie soccer teammate of hers. Fish Fixe delivers fresh seafood directly to homes.

“We’re cut from the same cloth,” Melissa said of her co-founder. “It’s a blessing to work alongside her.”

After athletics came to an end, Melissa and Chris started in the food industry from scratch and have done very well for themselves. The values they learned at A&M, on the field and in the classroom, have paid huge dividends.

“My biggest takeaway from A&M is learning accountability,” Chris said. “You’re forced to grow up pretty quickly.”

To be successful, student-athletes must also learn perseverance, a trait the Harringtons have leaned heavily on along with many other business owners during times of uncertainty. They have needed every bit of it during the COVID-19 health crisis.

But they’ve faced pressure before. Melissa and Aggie soccer went toe-to-toe, and won, against the sport’s blue blood in North Carolina in the NCAA Tournament. Chris and the Aggie football team notched back-to-back wins against rival Texas his junior and senior year.

Their past at Texas A&M continues to serve them in the present. And the Harringtons believe it will long into the future. ♥

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**I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S ANYONE WHO HAS TRANSITIONED AS WELL AS HE HAS, FROM FOOTBALL AT A REALLY HIGH LEVEL TO THE BUSINESS WORLD.**

— MELISSA HARRINGTON





TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS

# SUCCESSING WITH SCIENCE

By investing in sports science, A&M provides student-athletes with the knowledge and tools to compete at their peak condition

BY OLIN BUCHANAN

**ALMOST EVERY DAY, JIMBO FISHER** pores over numbers posted by Jhamon Ausbon and his teammates.

Texas A&M's head football coach is not looking at Ausbon's catches, yardage and touchdowns. He's more intrigued by the talented receiver's high-intensity actions, physical analysis and speeds reached in practice, conditioning and games.

That's the influence of sports science, an emerging program that monitors and analyzes physical trends, health and even sleep patterns to help athletes maintain peak performance.

"Coach Fisher takes that very seriously," Ausbon said while resting on a sofa in the Bright Athletic Complex lobby earlier this spring. "He puts his hand in everything. He cares a lot about that. So, each morning he looks at the numbers and comes back and talks to you about whatever he saw."

Howard Gray, A&M's Assistant Athletics Director for Sports Science, says the program aids in the development of student-athletes as a supplement for sports medicine, strength and conditioning,

nutrition and sports psychology.

"If there are any gaps or anyone needs help measuring some of those things, that's where we come in," Gray said. "We're the support staff to the support staff. We can't provide all the answers, but we can limit the number of question marks."

Those questions are answered with a variety of high-tech devices. Catapult GPS, which connects to an athlete's upper back and tracks movement in practice and conditioning, is used by football and soccer. A heart rate monitoring system is particularly popular with the basketball and tennis teams. The volleyball team uses a jump assessment system.

Student-athletes can also use their cell phones to complete wellness questionnaires to alert trainers and coaches of fatigue or soreness in a particular area so that workouts can be adjusted.

There are even devices to monitor sleeping patterns. As Deputy Athletics Director Justin Moore says, the best athlete is a well-rested athlete.

"Sleep is the most important thing for you to

Using Catapult GPS, a high-tech device worn by wide receiver Jhamon Ausbon (above), defensive back Myles Jones (right) and many of their fellow Aggie football teammates during practice and conditioning, sports science staff can monitor and analyze movement to help ensure peak performance.

recover and be able to build,” Moore said. “For us, it’s our biggest challenge on college campuses in general. Our guys just don’t sleep. They’re up late. That’s the nature of college. The challenge for us is to educate them in a way that they understand and appreciate how important it is because there is nothing more important than sleep.”

Gray, who works primarily with Olympic sports, and Kratik Malhotra, who mainly works with football, interpret the data compiled from those devices and pass the information along to coaches and trainers.

“Coaches get to this level by being good at what they do,” Gray said. “They manage the physical side of it really well already. It’s those times where a coach may think, ‘I’m not sure if an athlete is loafing or is he fatigued?’ Most of the time the coaches know those answers, but there are times when maybe they’re not sure. That’s when we can come into play.

“It could be this person is not performing and I’m not sure why. This person is doing great. I feel like they’re doing the same thing. Why is this person doing things great and this one is not? That’s when we can help.”

Fisher certainly believes sports science can help in developing student-athletes.

“You can actually see the numbers, so you can make adjustments to work on guys,” he said. “If they can get to a top speed can they keep it longer? Some guys, once they get there, they can keep it, but don’t get there as quickly.”

A few years ago, sports science analysis showed that All-American Christian Kirk, well known for his work ethic, had taken about 2,000 more strides

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**THEY HAVE A WHOLE PLAN OF DIFFERENT EXERCISES YOU’LL DO THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. BY THE TIME PRACTICE COMES AROUND, YOU’LL FEEL BETTER AND YOU’LL BE ABLE TO GO FOR LONGER. THAT’S THE GOAL. THE SEASON IS HARD. YOU DON’T WANT ANY IMBALANCES IN YOUR BODY.**

— JHAMON AUSBON

in practice than other receivers by midweek. Therefore, he was rested more later in the week so his legs would be fresh on gameday.

Ausbon recalled the data revealed he was putting more strain on his right leg than his left leg during practice. Consequently, his weight-room plan was altered for more work on his left leg.

“They have a whole plan of different exercises you’ll do throughout the week,” Ausbon said. “By the time practice comes around, you’ll feel better and you’ll be able to go for longer. That’s the goal. The season is hard. You don’t want any imbalances in your body.”

Ausbon was once skeptical about the impact of sports science. Yet, he’s been convinced of its value since Fisher’s arrival.

“This is our culture,” Ausbon said. “This is part of what we do.”

If you are interested in making a gift to support sports science for Aggie student-athletes, contact the Major Gifts office at 979-260-7595.



# MILES MARKS '79

Longtime President & CEO honored with  
NAADD Lifetime Achievement Award

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01



In addition to his 15 years of service leading the 12th Man Foundation, Miles along with Molly, his wife of 38 years, are longtime supporters of the organization and Texas A&M Athletics.

**MILES MARKS WAS SITTING IN** his office at Avalon Investment & Advisory in February when he received a phone call from Bobby Purcell representing the National Association of Athletic Development Directors (NAADD). The call from his friend and former fundraising colleague was to inform Marks that he had been selected as the 2020 recipient of the NAADD Lifetime Achievement Award.

“I was really surprised and honored that our national organization for college fundraising remembered me and the great success the 12th Man Foundation enjoyed during the years I was there,” said Marks, who led the 12th Man Foundation from 1998-2012 and helped transform it into one of the nation’s premier fundraising organizations.

Marks grew up in Beaumont in an Aggie family – his father was Class of 1939 – often visiting College Station for Texas A&M sporting events. However, when his family relocated to Houston while he was

in high school, Marks found himself surrounded by burnt orange. In fact, as he was approaching graduation, Marks was planning to attend the University of Texas along with many of his classmates until he missed the opportunity to take some advance placement tests in Austin.

At the recommendation of a high school guidance counselor, who happened to be an Aggie, Marks and five of his UT-bound classmates took the standardized tests on the Texas A&M campus instead.

“We spent two and a half days in College Station,” Marks recalled. “Five out of the six of us ended up going to A&M after that. My dad was very relieved.”

At A&M, Marks earned a BBA in Accounting in 1979 and an MBA in Management in 1982. Shortly after completing his undergrad degree, Marks joined The Aggie Club – which became the 12th Man Foundation in 1988 – and began serving as one of the youngest members on the organization’s advisory board.

Over the next 15 years, Marks continued to be an active supporter of the 12th Man Foundation and its advisory board while ascending his professional career in the Houston banking industry.

When the 12th Man Foundation’s Executive Director position opened in 1997, he had to convince himself and his wife, Molly, that he should apply for the job. Marks had just received a promotion at Texas Commerce Bank and he and Molly had established roots in the Memorial area of Houston in their recently renovated “forever home” with their daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

“I spent a weekend brainstorming to develop one, five and 10-year plans for the organization, which ended up as a 35-page document that I still have today,” he said. “They knew exactly what they were getting based on my plan and I was really fired up when I was the final choice. Needless to say, family and friends were shocked when I announced I had accepted the job and we moved two weeks later.”

As Executive Director and eventually President & CEO, Marks helped usher the 12th Man Foundation into a new era of not only collegiate athletics fundraising, but also business operations.

One of the early advancements in his tenure was improving donor communication through email, an emerging tool at that time. In 1998, the first weekly update from the desk of Miles Marks was sent to all donors who had email addresses on file with the 12th Man Foundation – all 27 of them. That list grew exponentially over time and email remains the most effective way the organization communicates with its donors.

“Fifteen years later, my farewell email went to more than 15,000,” he said.

Marks also oversaw the 12th Man Foundation’s emergence into internet commerce, launching [www.12thmanfoundation.com](http://www.12thmanfoundation.com) initially to handle the high demand for tickets to the 1999 Sugar Bowl.

“It was the first bowl game online ticketing ever done in the Big 12,” he added.

Prior to Marks arrival, the organization processed tickets and renewals manually. Tickets were printed and delivered in rolling bread trays, hand-filled and mailed in what Marks called “a three-day 24-hour non-stop marathon.”

“We had to get that process automated and we did,” he said. “I hired Tracy Treps from OU and she led the charge to get that done. Carole Dollins

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**LEADING THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION WAS A REALLY FULFILLING PART OF MY LIFE IN A JOB WHERE I GOT TO WORK TO BENEFIT MY UNIVERSITY. TO BE HONORED TODAY FOR MY SERVICE, SEVEN YEARS AFTER I LEFT, IS THE ICING ON THE CAKE.**

— MILES MARKS

followed Tracy here and they both still run the best ticketing operation in the country.”

The department’s role expanded in 2008 from selling priority donor tickets to handling all tickets for athletics and Reed Arena events, a unique arrangement in college athletics that has provided extraordinary benefits for A&M.

In addition to the evolution of how the organization conducted business, the advancements in fundraising under Marks’ leadership have been transformational for Aggie Athletics.

He led the charge to begin using distributions from the 12th Man Foundation’s growing



COURTESY OF THE MARKS FAMILY

The Marks' oldest daughter Elizabeth '08 and her husband Josh Meeh '07 have three children: Cade (10), Madelyn (8) and Carter (6); and their youngest daughter Margaret and her husband Mark Gibson '11 welcomed their firstborn, Matthew, on March 30, 2020.



endowment to support athletics programs, implemented the priority point system to encourage and reward donations and launched the Major Gifts department, an endeavor that has been vital to the organization's ability to fund some of the finest facilities in the nation.

"We were still under \$5 million a year back in 1997," Marks recalled. "Compared to 2012, after adding major giving, club seating and suites and taking over all ticketing, I would say we brought in more than \$60 million that year."

The 12th Man Foundation's influence and reputation as a leader in athletics fundraising under Marks' direction was also instrumental in A&M's monumental move to the Southeastern Conference.

"One of the greatest moments had to be when Mike Slive told me that our work on building great facilities had totally shocked their contingent on

their campus visit," Marks recalled. "He said the 12th Man Foundation's work on excellent facilities had helped position A&M to be their number one candidate for adding to the SEC."

When Baylor infamously threatened legal action to stop A&M from leaving the Big 12 Conference, it was the 12th Man Foundation and its Board of Trustees who offered to indemnify the SEC for up to \$5 million in potential legal expenses.

"That action, and the protection it provided the SEC, led to the vote proceeding to admit A&M into the conference," Marks said.

As he reflects on everything that was accomplished during his time at the 12th Man Foundation, Marks cherishes the people he felt fortunate enough to work with and is excited about where the organization and the athletics department is headed in the future.

"When he was a young fundraiser at Missouri back in the late 90s," said Marks, "I always told Ross Bjork how great A&M was and I'm so happy he's our AD."

Today, when Marks steps foot on campus and sees arguably the nation's best facilities, he feels a sense of pride knowing the impact that the organization and its donors have made on Aggie Athletics.

"Leading the 12th Man Foundation was a really fulfilling part of my life in a job where I got to work to benefit my university," Marks said. "To be honored today for my service, seven years after I left, is the icing on the cake." ■

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**ONE OF THE GREATEST MOMENTS HAD TO BE WHEN MIKE SLIVE TOLD ME THAT OUR WORK ON BUILDING GREAT FACILITIES HAD TOTALLY SHOCKED THEIR CONTINGENT ON THEIR CAMPUS VISIT.**

— MILES MARKS

## THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION THANKS ALL OF THE JOHN DAVID CROW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Joan & S. Wayne Adamik '58  
 Sonja & Neal Adams '68  
 Sandra & Daniel J. Adams '77  
 Jacolyn Alexander  
 Kamal Ariss '84  
 Michael '88 & Carol '85 Barrett Ashfield  
 Barbara & Dionel E. Aviles '53  
 Evelyn & Lloyd Bailey '44  
 Sandy & Ron Barclay '68  
 David G. Barker '66  
 Barbara C. Barnett  
 Kate Parker & Robert I. Bernath  
 Kim & Brian S. Bishop '91  
 A. Wade Black '87  
 Ruth & Ron Blatchley  
 Derrith & Robert D. Bondurant '80  
 Dorothy & Ibrey T. Bonnette '40  
 Joan & Jeff L. Bott '65  
 Greg '85 & Janice Bowen  
 Lynn & Richard Box '61  
 Mary Elizabeth & Franklin M. Bradshaw '43  
 Russell W. Brandes '79  
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 Kandi & Jim Bryan '79  
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 Patti & R.R. Carey '67  
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 Teresa & William M. "Bill" Condon '83  
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 Amy '96 & Kelly S. Corcoran '95  
 Kay & Jerry S. Cox '72  
 Bruce L. Crumley '70  
 Barbara & Kirby P. Cunningham '59  
 Krista '05 and Travis Dabney '96  
 Bret L. Dark '89  
 Becky '76 & Monty '77 Davis  
 John Davis '87  
 Dale D. DeRouen '54  
 Bethanne '07 & Clint Dempsey '04  
 Kay & Mark Dierlam '61  
 Cydney C. Donnell '81  
 DeAnn M. "Dee" Dungan '93  
 Tara & Drew Ellis '93  
 Col. George J. Eppright '26  
 Lee Roy Howard '52  
 William M. Evans '58  
 David W. Evans '61  
 Lou & Jack Finney '38  
 Barbara & Ford Flurry '58  
 Mary K Squires '78 & Douglas A. Forshagen, Jr.  
 James M. Forsyth '12  
 Rob M. Gale  
 Tina & Paul F. Gardner '66  
 Jill Gellatly '89  
 James E. Gibson '14  
 Susan & Joseph W. Gillespie '54  
 Rudy V. Gomez '66  
 Jedd H. Green '55  
 LaNell B. & E. Gordon Gregg '61  
 Shana Diane Hart '89  
 Kay Douglas "Jack" Hicks '64  
 Robert C. Holmes '49  
 Anne '84 & Mark Holubec '85  
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 Glen Hunt, Jr. '61

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 Douglas Kennedy '69  
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 Rosemary A. & John A. Langston '61  
 W.W. Latimer '61  
 Paul Leming '52  
 Michelle Lilie '91  
 Mary & Bert Loudon '57  
 Mark Lowery '01  
 Johnny F. Lyon '59  
 Ann & Charles Manning '82  
 Kim Manry  
 Molly '82 & W. Miles Marks '79  
 J. Laurence "Larry" Martin '58  
 Eva J. & Dial F. Martin '39  
 Frances & R.N. "Nick" McGuire, Jr. '64  
 Karen & Andrew R. McKemie '74  
 Andrew McMillan '90  
 Robert B. McPaul '03  
 Jackie & William C. Meacham '60  
 Vicki & Brian Miller '80  
 Connie '79 & Bobby J. "Buzz" Miller '76  
 Christine & Warren N. Moore '31  
 Marti Morgan '93  
 Julia '81 & Thomas J. Mosley, Jr. '79  
 Holly & Joseph V. Hughes, Jr. '75  
 Linda & Allan W. Newberry '57  
 Lynda & Craig Noonan '66  
 Sharee & David R. Norcom '73  
 Johnnie L. Perry '69  
 Gayle & Scott Pierce '90  
 Phyllis & Wayne Prescott '69  
 Ben R. Reynolds, Jr. '46  
 Jean & Bernard C. Richardson '41  
 Sara & Cooper Robbins, Jr. '53  
 Ted Saba '41  
 Sam Houston Sanders '22  
 Laura & Chris Schilling '06  
 Eileen & Gary W. Schuchart '68  
 Sara & Perry Schwierzke '60  
 George W. Seagraves '80  
 Dr. Maria M. Shelton '87  
 Valerie L. '76 & Guy A. Sheppard '76  
 Dallas Wayne Shipp '03  
 Mary Sue & Robert Smith III '61  
 Sara Snyder  
 Jeremiah Soria  
 Leanne & Dave South  
 Helen & Daniel L. Sparks '89  
 James M. Stark '84 '86  
 Dawn & Russell Stubbs '85  
 Sid Theis '74  
 Elizabeth K. & Gary J. Throckmorton '84  
 Cheryl & John E. Trott '66  
 Hugh & Pat Turner '68  
 Mark D. VanCleave '90  
 Lezlie Lynn & Gregory Frank Visoski '82  
 Frederick John Wagner III  
 & William John Wagner '13  
 Merri & Fred G. Walsh '74  
 Jane & B. K. Watson '65  
 Marian C. & Kaighin G. Watts '63  
 Cora Jane & H. Fritz Welsch, Jr. '53  
 Mark Allen White '03  
 David & Jean Wiley Foundation  
 Patricia & Conley R. Williams '62  
 Elizabeth Ann & James Wilson '87  
 Patricia & Charles R. Wiseman '57  
 Eunice & Dr. J. Max Word '52  
 S. Shariq Yosufzai '74



## Membership Benefits

Honor of creating a legacy with Texas A&M Athletics

Recognition on the John David Crow Legacy Society plaque in the Bernard C. Richardson Zone at Kyle Field

Invitation to special 12th Man Foundation events including an annual appreciation celebration on campus

Recognition in the annual honor roll of society members published in 12th Man Magazine

Heritage-level membership in the Texas A&M Foundation's Legacy Society

*For more information about the John David Crow Legacy Society or to inquire about making a planned gift, please contact the Major Gifts staff at 979-260-7595*



The 12th Man Foundation was honored to host 1922 Fund donors and John David Crow Legacy Society Members for dinner with student-athletes at the Texas A&M Hotel & Conference Center in January. The event, which included impassioned speeches from Jasmine Williams (women's basketball) and Max Wright (football), recognizes the tremendous impact that donors make on Aggie Athletics when supporting these important initiatives. Giving to the 1922 Fund directly supports student-athlete education and helps the 12th Man Foundation in its endeavor to endow every athletics scholarship, while joining the John David Crow Legacy Society by including the 12th Man Foundation in your estate plan provides an enduring contribution to A&M Athletics.





## THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION THANKS ALL 1922 FUND DONORS FOR THEIR IMPACT ON FUNDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

12th Man Student Foundation  
Ann & James P. "Beau" Adams '07  
Jimmy D. Adams '70  
Sonja & Neal Adams '68  
Francis X. Amsler  
Tracy '92 & C. Jarrett Anderson '93  
Patricia & Donal Antill  
Nancy '80 & Peter Atkins '79  
Stacy '91 & Daren Austin '92  
Jean & David Bairrington '78  
Tammy & Mitchell Barrier '82  
Dayna & Matt Bathe '82  
Amy and Sean Baughman '95  
Denise '86 & Andy Beakey '84  
Robin & Mark Bennett '94  
Brent R. Behrman '91  
Ann & Robert C. Berger '60  
Derrith & Robert D. Bondurant '80  
Joan & Jeff L. Bott '65  
Boyette Family Charles '79 Suzanne Steve '07  
Chad '11  
Steve Brauer, Jr. '02  
Brazos County A&M Club  
Brazos Valley Tailgaters  
Betty & Bill Brooks '54  
Ann & Steve Broussard '73  
Michael and Becky Brunson  
Teresa & Phil Bryant  
Vera & Roy E. Bucek '42  
Virginia & Gilbert Burciaga '75  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen '97 & Emily Capps '97  
Louis "Louie" & Sue Capt '54  
Michele E. '92 & Clinton S. Carlin '91  
Tamara '99 & Tracy Carter '93  
Fran & Bill Carter '69  
Colleen & David Chamberlain '75  
Zou & Boyd Cherry '67  
Sharon J. Clark '77  
Class of '58 JDC Endowment  
Patti & Jon Cohen '77  
Sarah & Mario M. Coll, III '84  
James K. Collins, M.D. '86  
JoAnn & David D. Cooper '55  
Kevin '84 & Bonnie Cunningham  
Dallas A&M Club  
Tera L. '94 & Robert L. "Rob" Davis '90  
Kay & Mark Dierlam '61  
Hillary '91 & Doug Dormer '91  
Beth & A. Scott Dufford '82  
Marti & David Dunton '85  
David Eller '59  
Gretchen '91 & John Ellisor '92  
Laura & Kim Eubanks '79  
Charles Ferrara '89  
Barbara & Ford Flurry '58  
Claudia '82 & Bradley R. Freels '81  
Connie '90 & William '85 Fuller  
Debbie '85 & Ken Gerik '82  
Danny Green '46  
Albert S. Goodloe '52  
Donna '81 & Tony Gullo '78  
Patrick H. Hafey '91

Jo Ann & Jon Hagler '58  
Sharon & James Hail '72  
Bill Hanna '58  
Pam & Bill Hannes '81  
Alison '97 & Gregory Haralson '96  
Shannon '91 & Karl Harvey '87  
Bettye & Darryl Heath '84  
Brigettee & George "Trey" Henderson III '80  
Anne '78 & Mark Herod '78  
Michelle '89 & Rob Hickox '90  
George Hickox Jr. '80  
Kay Douglas "Jack" Hicks '64  
Paula Finch '80 & John H. Hollowell '79  
Sarah & Dr. Thomas Hooper '82  
Laura & Braden Hunter '02  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael T. Jacob '66  
Linda & David Johnson '76  
Patricia '72 & Bruce Katt '72  
Manon & Matthew Kebodeaux '04  
Kelley Morgan Foundation  
Lisa '88 & Kevin Kennedy '86  
Verlin & Howard W. Kruse '52  
H. Dean Lane '82  
Kelsey Allison Leiper '11  
Chad Leiper  
Angie '84 & Billy '83 Lemmons  
Lori '81 & David '81 LePori  
Karen '82 & Leslie Liere '84  
Stacy '81 & Tom '81 Light  
Pam & Larry Little '75  
Marsha & David K. Lockett '76  
Karin & Bowen Loftin '71  
Sandra J. '79 & Stephen K. London '79  
Marilyn & John Henry Luton '72  
Bill Lyons '59  
Joe'l & Rocky Mafrige '93  
Ann & Charles Manning '82  
Matt P. Marek '89  
Nancy L. "Evans" Matz '73 & Jack W. Matz '71  
Chris and Ami May  
Lora & Marshall McAlpine '76  
Marilyn '75 & Mark Puffer  
Michael '93 & Jamie '97 McClain  
Reba & Kenneth McGee '60  
Karen '74 & Kyle '74 McNeely  
Charles A. "Chuck" Meloy '82  
Meredith '93 & Christopher Messick '93  
Carol '78 and Don '78 Meyer  
Vicki & Brian Miller '80  
Carla & Rick Moncrief '81  
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Ileana & David L. Osburn '81  
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Michelle & Brian Payne '92  
Kristin & Ken Pecot '85  
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Kathleen & Darrell Pennington '88  
Kris W. '81 & Bruce C. Petersen '83  
Debbie & Gordon Pilmer '73  
Lori & Brian K. Pinto '93  
Jeanne '81 & David Pitts '81  
Susan & Michael J. Plank '83  
Summer '99 & Victor Powers '90  
Ben R. Reynolds, Jr. '46  
Sue & Jess C. "Rick" Rickman III '70  
Shannon '18 & David Riggs '99  
Shannon '00 & Justin Robinson '00  
Marbella & James Rodriguez '89  
Julia & James Rouse  
Sandra Schneider '94  
Pat & Herbert L. Schwarz '49  
Kimberly & Scott Kammerer '89  
Jesse & Amy Seery  
Denise '91 & Jeff Seldenrust '90  
Cathy '79 & Dennis '79 Seith  
Carmen '85 & James L. Sheffield '85  
Catherine & Kenneth H. Sheffield '82  
Kim & Boyd Sheffield  
Jean and Jason L. Signor '99  
Adam Sinn '00  
Tricia & Steven L. Sisney '83  
Lori '95 & Dustin Smith '94  
M. Sean '83 and Tina L. Smith '82  
Nancy C. '76 & Ted H. Smith, Jr. '75  
Aimee Baggett Snoots '92 & Wynne Snoots, Jr.  
Sara Snyder  
Stephanie & Scott Sparkman '85  
Brenda '85 & Travis D. Stice '84  
Carrie '98 and Jack Suh '97  
Eva & Gene Supak '67  
Claudette & Kenneth W. Sutton '59  
James C. '74 & Debra Parchman Swaim  
Karen '84 & Doyle Taylor '82  
Perry Thompson, Jr. '63  
Anne & John Ward Tishler '52  
Judy '78 and Tim '74 Turner  
Meredith '03 & Matthew Villere '02  
Linda B. & Stephen H. Vincent '73  
Virgil Vaughn '31  
Shana & Max R. Vordenbaum '73  
NolaAnn '79 & Jeff Waggoner  
Jane & B. K. Watson '65  
Crystal M. & David R. Watts  
Emily & Joe H. Wellborn, Sr. '41  
Betty & Mark Welsh III  
Ashley & Mark A. Welsh IV '01  
Kathy '81 & Denzil West '81  
James Wiley '71 & Glen Wiley '79  
David & Jean Wiley Foundation  
Judy '87 & Lucian Williams '88  
Julie '95 & Keith Williams '78  
Tracey '79 & Connie W. Williford '79  
Harriet & David B. Wolf '52  
Shirley & William A. Wood '59  
Linda & J.D. Woodward III '70  
Bradley L. Worsham '88  
Jimmy & Millie Wright '58  
Eric R. Wylie '93 & Joey D. Wylie '14

*For information about supporting student-athletes through the 1922 Fund,  
please contact the Major Gifts staff at 979-260-7595*



**Coming from Louisiana, my scholarship has afforded me the opportunity to experience a whole new world.**

I am lucky to have the chance to break generational curses and develop change within my community and my family. I appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Pitts for being able and willing to provide these opportunities for our student-athletes. Knowing that they are behind us beyond Saturdays in the fall means the world to us.

**KELDRICK CARPER '21**

FOOTBALL

*After football, Carper wants to attend law school and travel the world*

**From the day I was offered a scholarship, I have valued it day in and day out through my work on the basketball court and in the classroom.**

I really appreciate the time that Mr. and Mrs. Pitts have taken to come to games and meet and have lunch with me throughout the year. I enjoy all of the donors. Their love for us is genuine. Where I'm from, not many young people have a chance to earn a scholarship let alone an athletic one. It means the world to my family and me.

**WENDELL "CHUCK" MITCHELL '20**

MEN'S BASKETBALL

*After basketball, Mitchell wants to become a professional bass angler and one day join law enforcement as a game warden*





**It really makes us proud to see such great student-athletes like Keldrick and Wendell also be such fine young men and great examples of the values our school represents.**

We have enjoyed listening to their life stories and being able to share ours as well. We love the 1922 Fund for a number of reasons, but because we thoroughly enjoy Texas A&M Athletics, it is just a perfect fit for our giving.

**JEANNE '81 & DAVID PITTS '81**  
12TH MAN FOUNDATION DONORS

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*Jeanne and David are paired with Keldrick Carper and Wendell Mitchell through their support of the 1922 Fund. Call the Major Gifts office at 979-260-7595 to discover how you can be a part of the 1922 Fund and make a life-changing impact for Aggie student-athletes.*



# RANDY HOWARD '79

Dedicated staff member retires following 30 years of service

BY SAMANTHA ATCHLEY '17



Although he did not plan on becoming an accountant, Randy achieved great success since becoming one of seven employees at the 12th Man Foundation when he joined the staff in 1990, and helped set the groundwork for what the organization is today.

**AFTER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE** to the 12th Man Foundation, Senior Vice President of Finance Randy Howard announced his well-deserved retirement from the organization earlier this year. A highly valued employee, leader and friend to many, Randy's contribution to Texas A&M has made a sizable impact that is difficult to put into words.

"Randy epitomized selfless service, giving 30 years to Texas A&M Athletics via his work at the 12th Man Foundation," said Michael Solomon, Senior Vice President of Annual Fund and Donor Services. "He was fundamental in keeping the organization financially organized through a period of unprecedented growth and always saw to it that donor funds were stewarded and spent properly."

Getting to know and service the loyal donors was always a very special part of the job to Randy, and he found himself getting as much out of the interactions as he hopes the donors did.

"The thing that always amazed me about it," said Randy, "are the people who are contributing to us and thanking us for what we do. Here they are doing all they do to support our school and while they're doing it, they're thanking us. I have always been humbled by that."

Just as donors have made a difference for Aggie Athletics, so has Randy Howard. As Director of

Accounting Terri McKee says, Randy has helped the organization become what it is today, and his years of dedication and hard work will certainly help shape what is yet to come in the future.

"I will always be thankful for the years we have worked together," added Terri. "Through his tenure, he has modernized a complex finance operation. His impact will be long-lasting."

As an Aggie as well as a sports fan and an accountant, there is no doubt Randy has been right where he belongs. As much as the staff will miss his leadership and friendship within the office, they are equally as happy for him as he reaches this milestone.

"Randy has been a tremendous asset to the 12th Man Foundation and his 30 years of service demonstrate his unwavering love and passion for Texas A&M," said Kathleen Curnutt, Vice President of Finance. "He has been instrumental in leading the organization and providing valuable insight and guidance in helping achieve its goals. I have been honored to work alongside Randy and I am truly thankful for his leadership, guidance and friendship."

In his retirement, Randy plans to play a lot more golf, spend quality time with his grandchildren and take part in some volunteer work.

"Randy served Texas A&M and the 12th Man Foundation with honor for 30 years," said President & CEO Travis Dabney. "The organization and its staff members gained valuable expertise and support from Randy and we all wish him well in the next chapter of his life."

Randy calls his experience working at the 12th Man Foundation "awesome."

"When I started in 1990, we had seven full-time employees and one student worker," he said. "Now there are approximately 50 full-time staff and over 100 student workers, but there is still a strong sense of teamwork that makes it a great place to work. I love Texas A&M and Aggie Athletics so it was a pleasure to work to help both be the best they could be." ■



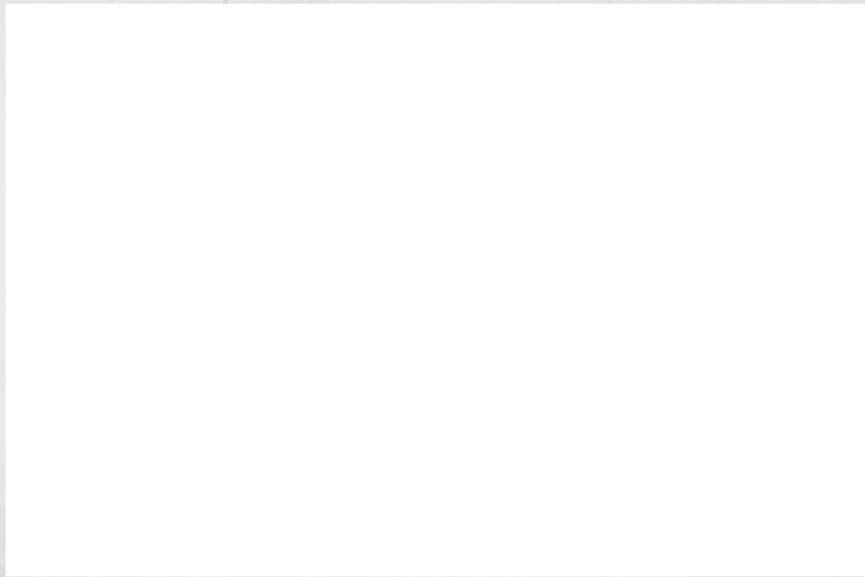
# THANK YOU, RANDY



**THANK YOU TO RANDY HOWARD FOR 30 YEARS OF  
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION**



FUNDING SCHOLARSHIPS, PROGRAMS  
AND FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF  
CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETICS



**The mission of the 12th Man Foundation is to fund scholarships, programs and facilities in support of championship athletics and our donors are the lifeblood of that mission.**

If you know someone who might be interested in making an impact for Texas A&M student-athletes by joining the 12th Man Foundation, we'd love to hear about them!

[WWW.12THMANFOUNDATION.COM/REFER](http://WWW.12THMANFOUNDATION.COM/REFER)