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INSIDE



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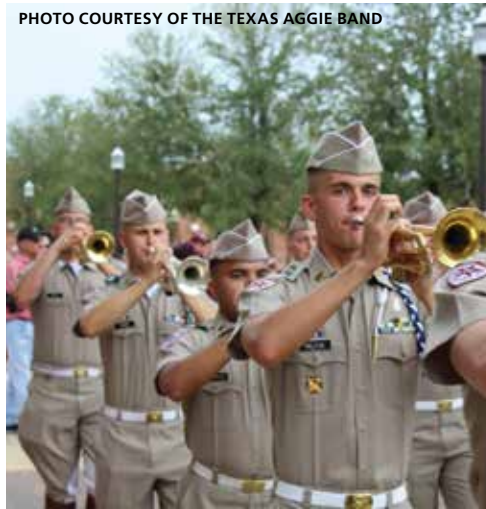
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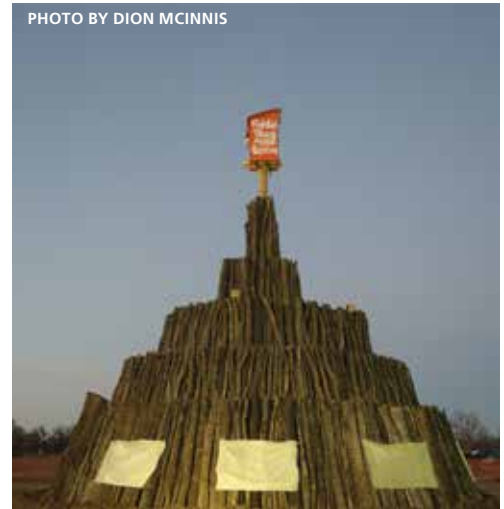
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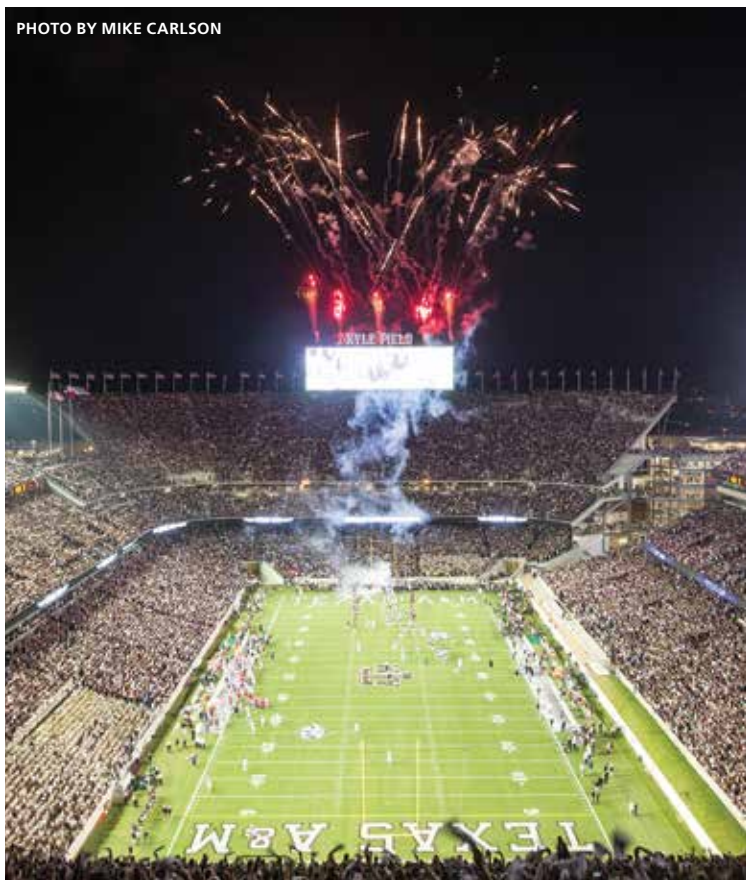
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From the President/CEO

Dear **INSITE** Readers,

Every year in August we put out our annual SEC Issue to bring you the newest information on all things Texas A&M. This year is no exception, with highlights including the 125th anniversary of the Aggie Band, remembrance of the bonfire collapse, and an interview with Athletic Director Ross Bjork. August also means college football season is finally upon us!

My best memories of college football are the Cotton Bowls of 1986, '87, and '88. Under the leadership of Jackie Sherill, Texas A&M beat Notre Dame and Auburn (and should have beat Ohio State). The atmosphere around the Cotton Bowl was electric. I grew up in Dallas and remember driving around seeing all the fans.

Today, every game in the SEC is like playing the Cotton Bowl. The SEC brand is like no other conference, with the diversity of schools and locations brought together to battle and play for the prized National Championship. If you went to all the SEC Stadiums for one game, imagine the stories to be told and the memories to be had. Each game is an experience like no other.

I have also noticed the new trend of “national” says. August has National Girlfriends Day, Mountain Climbing Day, and — my favorite — National Ice Cream Day. How do we claim a day for ourselves? I want the National Stay In Bed All Day, or better yet, National Do Nothing Day. Now that’s something I would celebrate. Hope you are staying cool and close to water with a drink of choice in hand. God bless! — **David Anderton**

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125 YEARS OF AGGIE MUSIC

Forming Before There Was a Kyle Field

By RACHEL KNIGHT



If music is the universal language, then music played by the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band is the universal Aggie dialect. Since the first Aggie Band was formed with just 13 members in 1894, the music of Aggieland has delighted countless listeners.

The Aggie Band celebrates its 125th anniversary, or quasiquintennial, this year. Though the band has grown in size to about 380 to 400 members, the marching style, the kind of music played, and the fact that every member of the band is a volunteer in the Corps of Cadets remains the same.

By staying true to its roots, the Aggie Band not only embodies the Aggie Spirit, but amplifies it at all of its public performances, according to Dr. Timothy Rhea, director of bands and head of music activities.

"You think back to the roots of the school, it was an all military organization, and we, [the band], still are," Rhea says. "We're the only collegiate band that still performs exclusively in the military fashion. It upholds the great traditions of the university in that way."

The importance of music on campus was realized in 1893 as students began to vocalize their desire for an organized music group associated with the university. The Battalion, Texas A&M's student newspaper, published a letter written by R. L. Dinwiddie on Oct. 1, 1893, expressing the student body's musical desires.

"There is not a student here who does not love music, and it would make him feel proud to think that we could make

fine music, and he would come to hear us wherever we might play; for there is nothing that can produce the same effect that music can," Dinwiddie's letter reads.

Shortly after Dinwiddie's letter was published, the campus bugler and cobbler, Joseph Holick, approached President Sullivan Ross requesting permission to start a band, according to *The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band*, a book by Donald and Mary Jo Powell. Ross agreed to let Holick solicit membership for a cadet band. The 13 member group made its first public performance the following year, and Aggie Band excellence has been a tradition ever since.

Col. Jay Brewer, senior associate director of the Aggie Band, says the band really is the pulse of the spirit of



Aggieland today. "I certainly appreciate our fans, and our fans go nuts," he shares. "You just listen to the 12th Man when I'm up in the press box and I say, 'Ladies and gentlemen, now forming...' these people echo that. If they didn't like it, if they didn't appreciate it, they wouldn't do that. It's just a very unique experience for these young people."

Experiencing a halftime performance by the nationally famous band is as much about the visual performance as it is the music thanks to the band's precision marching style. This marching style was developed by Lieutenant Colonel E. V. Adams, who directed the band from 1946 to 1973.

In 1947, Adams developed the criss-cross and its later variations, which are now the band's most anticipated maneuvers. Other band directors say the maneuver is impossible because it requires two band members to be in the same place at the same time, according to the Powell's book.

Though the maneuver is exceptionally difficult, the Aggie Band makes it look as effortless as the rest of their unique drills. Performing at such a high level each week creates a unique





bond, a sense of accomplishment, and sense of greater ability, Brewer says. "When they do things that they're not real sure they're capable of doing, like marching in front of 100,000 people doing a new drill every week, that's a lot of stress on a bunch of 18- to 20-year-olds, but they do it and they do it in fine fashion."

Part of the uniqueness of the Aggie Band experience stems from the fact that its members do more than just play and march together. "They live together, which I don't know that any other band in the country does that," Rhea says. "They are more of a family. There's a friendship and a bond established from going through the organization, and they remain in touch and close throughout their lifetime."

Brewer experiences the uniqueness of friendships formed in the band firsthand as a former member of the

Aggie Band, and as senior associate director. He says he is looking forward to catching up with classmates and former students during the 125th Aggie Band Celebration from Oct. 31 to Nov. 3. During the game that weekend, the Aggie Band will perform a special march, The Quasiquicentennial March, written by Rhea.

The significance of celebrating 125 years of the Aggie Band rests in the organization's ability to produce company men and women, Brewer says. "I believe because of what you experience in the Texas Aggie Band both on the field and perhaps even more so off the field, it helps prepare young people to be good citizens, to go out and make a positive difference in this world," he explains. "I believe that's what Texas Aggies ought to do and I believe that's what Texas Aggies ought to do better than anyone else." *i*



A New Place to Form: The Music Activities Center

When the Music Activities Center opens at Texas A&M University this fall, the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band will have its first indoor practice in 10 years.

The \$42.5 million project will provide a proper home for all the ensembles at Texas A&M.

The 70,000-square-foot John D. White '70 — Robert L. Walker '58 Music Activities Center is made up of three main things — rehearsal spaces, storage spaces, and offices, according to Dr. Timothy Rhea, director of bands and head of music activities.

"It was designed specifically for the unique needs of the music activities organizations here at A&M," Rhea explains. "We have no school of music like most schools do, and yet we have an outstanding music program of ensembles. ... We have about 1,300 students per year who play in our different ensembles, and this new facility was designed distinctly for the needs of those organizations."

Col. Jay Brewer, senior associate director of the Aggie Band, says the new space meets all the needs of students involved in music activities on campus in one location for the first time in the university's history. "This has been something in the making for 25 years," he says. "Music activities represents students of all walks on this campus; some that, obviously are in the Corps of Cadets in the marching band, most that are not. We have a facility now that we'll be able to offer more things, including future organizations that we don't even know about yet, or we haven't even started yet."

Special features in the new facility include an artificial turf field that will serve as the new drill field for the Aggie Band, rehearsal spaces designed to fit the individual needs of various music groups on campus, student offices, conference rooms, and music libraries. "It is just uniquely structured for the needs of our performing organizations at Texas A&M University," Rhea says. "There is not another building quite like it anywhere in the country."

The Music Activities Center has a grand opening ceremony scheduled for August 30. The event includes special remarks from President Young, Chancellor Sharp, the building's namesakes, and current students. More details will be available closer to the date of the event online at musa.tamu.edu.

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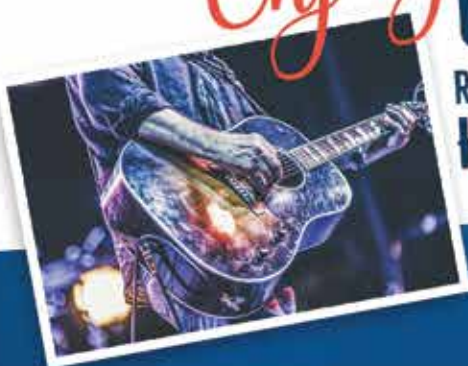
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ROSS BJORK

Carrying on the Tradition of Core Values Centered Leadership

By RACHEL KNIGHT



After serving as interim director of Athletics, R.C. Slocum passed the Texas A&M University athletic director baton to Ross Bjork on July 8. Neither leader had to break stride during the transition because they share the same leadership values.

When the towering Aggie Bonfire collapsed in 1999, then head football coach Slocum canceled the afternoon practice and scheduled a team meeting. According to an article in *The Eagle*, the team made a unanimous decision to help move logs from the accident site, thus embodying the six core values of Texas A&M University. Texas A&M Athletics will continue to instill the values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service in student athletes under its new leadership.

Bjork came to Texas A&M after serving as director of athletics at the University of Mississippi for seven years. "I had a great job at Ole Miss," Bjork shares. "I could have stayed for a long, long time, but what made this opportunity so attractive was I believe my values match the institutional values and leadership styles. A&M is so intentional about those core values. They're posted in as many places as possible. It's not just words on a column, but people carry those values out day in and day out."

His leadership plan is founded on doing what's best for student athletes. His

approach tackles two main focuses. One is inspiring and providing the opportunity through athletics for people to receive an education. The other is making sure Texas A&M student athletes achieve to the best of their ability.

"In athletics, we are here to fulfill the mission of the university and we do that through a very visible platform," Bjork explains. "Right or wrong, athletics has this amazing appeal where people a lot of times view their feelings about the university based on how the football team does; or did the basketball team win that championship; or did the baseball team make it to Omaha. With that comes a great responsibility to make sure we do it the right way. We have to have that set of values to provide the influence for making the proper decisions."

Bjork uses his own personal values to guide him in both his professional and personal life. "To me, we have a choice when we wake up every day," he shares. "Do we want to think positively, or do we want to think negatively? That doesn't mean you're not going to address problems or challenges, but it's really how you do things."

In addition to a positive attitude, Bjork's personal values include the sentiment that nothing replaces hard work, and making sure his family and

friends know he loves and cherishes them. Above all, he says his faith is his guide.

Before becoming part of the Aggie family, Bjork had several influential role models. He says his parents were his first role models. They gave him positive reinforcement, allowed him to be involved in sports growing up, and created a foundation for the leader he is today. His professional role models include Mike Alden, athletic director at Missouri; Dan Guerrero, athletic director at UCLA; John Wooden, former head basketball coach at UCLA; and Joe Castiglione, athletic director at the University of Oklahoma. He says Castiglione and Guerrero taught him to make informed decisions through an in-depth decision-making process, while Alden taught him to be aggressive. He balances the two to make his own deliberate and aggressive leadership style.

Wooden's imprint on Bjork's leadership style is easy to spot in his vision for Texas A&M Athletics, because Bjork says Wooden taught him that no matter what role you hold in an athletics program, you can always be an educator through athletics. "This is not just playing a game or a sport," he explains. "It's lessons in leadership and life and doing the right things, and making sure that's the greater good, if you will, of why we're here." *i*

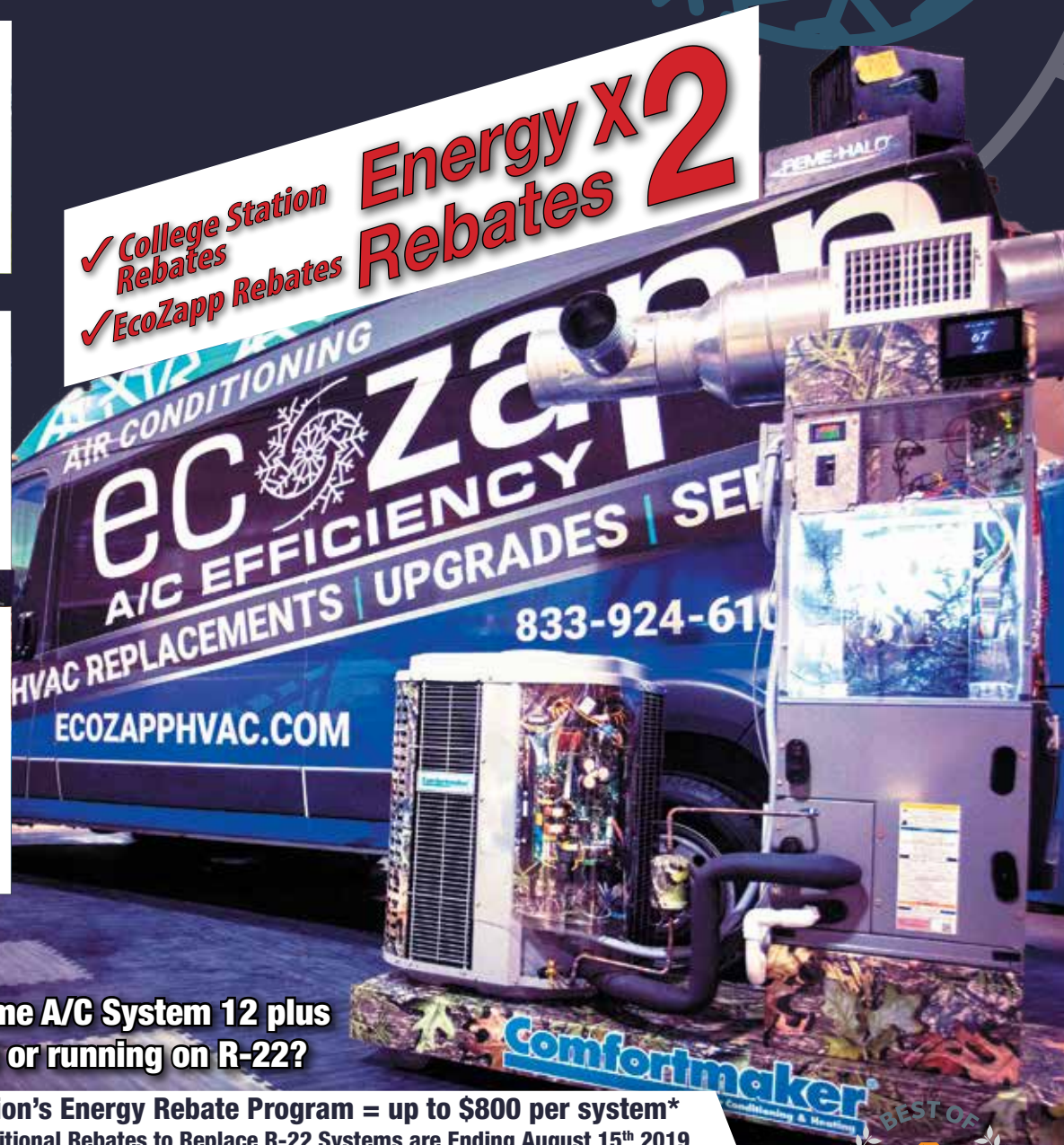
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(continued on pg 14)





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Baylor Scott & White Health

(continued from pg 12)

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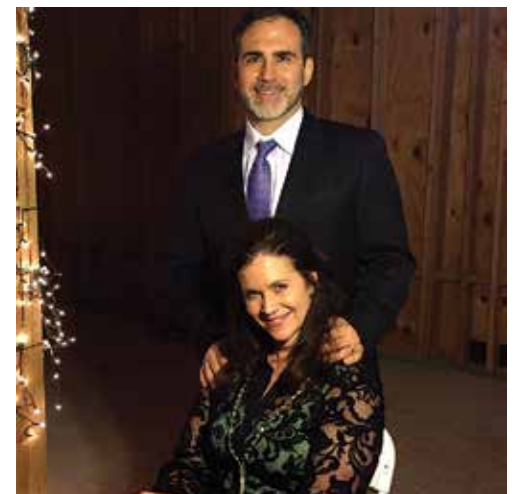
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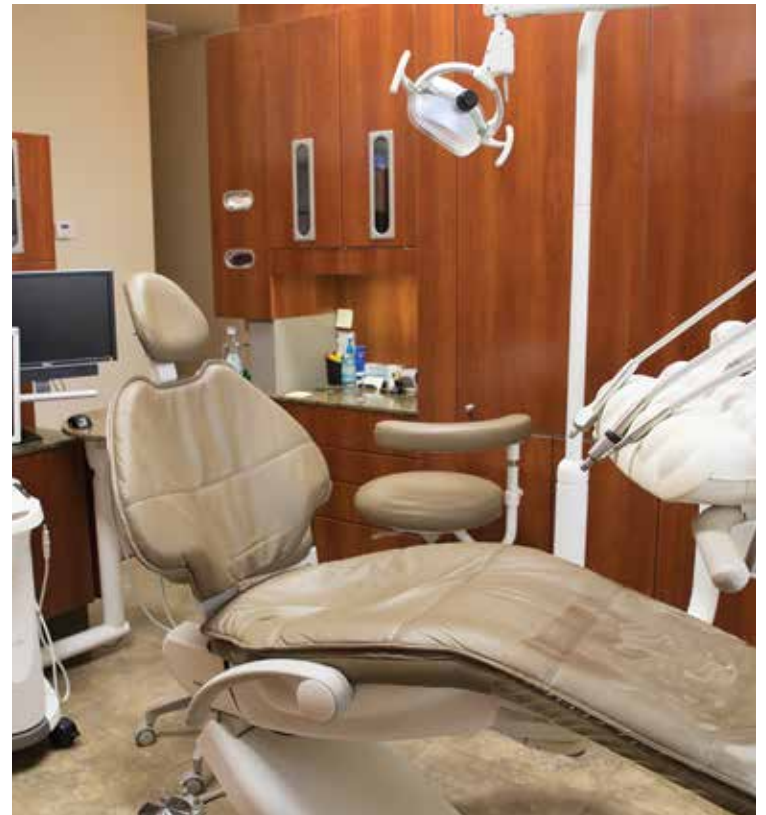
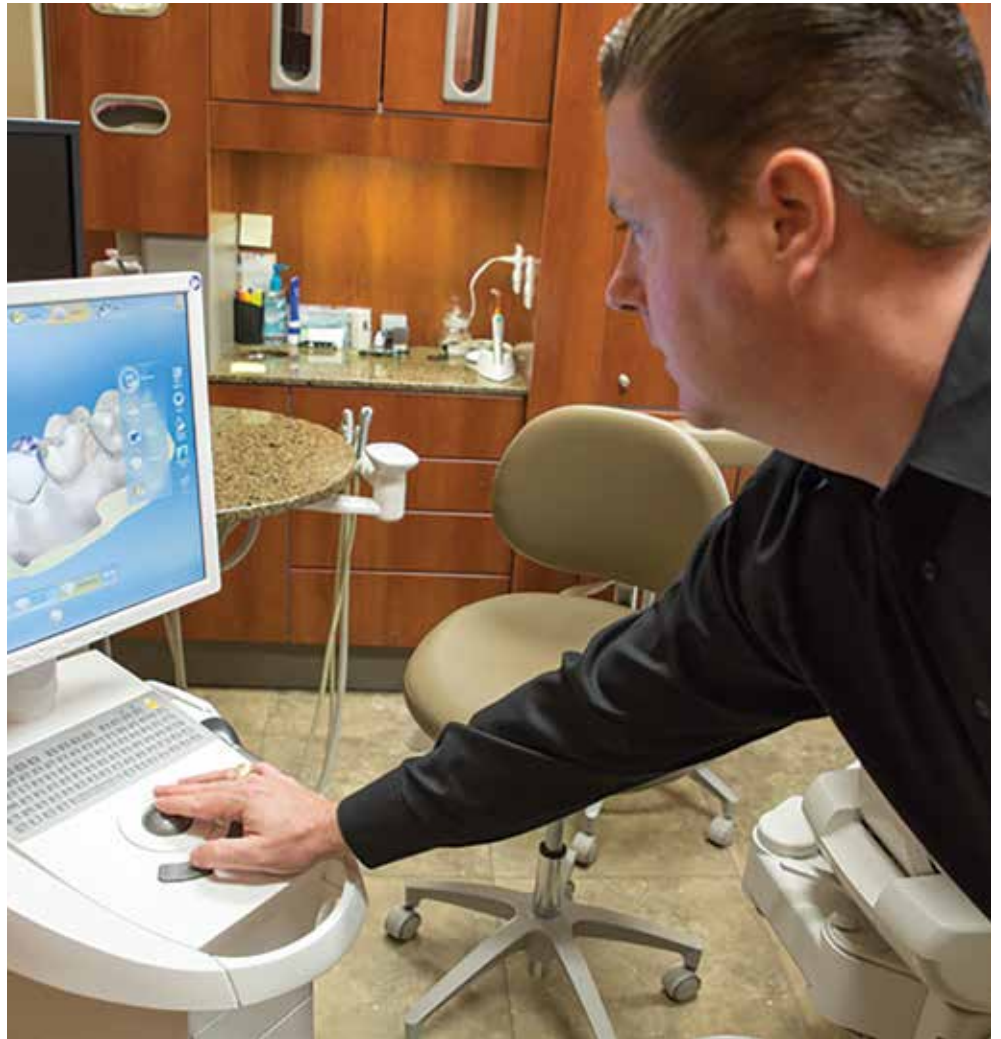
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CHI St. Joseph Health

Four Get With The Guidelines Awards

CHI St. Joseph Health Regional Hospital recently received four accolades from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. Regional Hospital was awarded the Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Honor Roll Elite Plus, the Get With The Guidelines®-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award, the Mission: Lifeline NSTEMI Silver Achievement Award and the Mission: Lifeline STEMI Receiving Center – Silver Plus Award. This marks the fifth consecutive year CHI St. Joseph Health has been recognized by the AHA/ASA for excellence in Cardiovascular and Stroke Care.

“The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Guidelines are benchmarks for excellence in the quality of the cardiac and stroke care we deliver,” said CHI St. Joseph Health President & CEO Theron Park. “These accomplishments are significant, because they back up our commitment to patients to adhere to evidence-based, proven standards.”

Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Honor Roll Elite Plus

CHI St. Joseph Health earned this recognition by meeting specific quality achievement measures for diagnosing and treating stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

CHI St. Joseph Health qualified for the Honor Roll Elite Plus award by

meeting quality measures developed to reduce the time between the patient’s arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat ischemic stroke.

Get With The Guidelines®-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award

CHI St. Joseph Health earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of heart failure patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and aggressive risk-reduction therapies. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their heart failure and overall health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

Mission: Lifeline NSTEMI Silver Achievement Award

The health system received NSTEMI recognition for meeting specific criteria and standards of performance for the quick and appropriate treatment of NSTEMI heart attack patients by providing emergency procedures to re-establish blood flow to blocked arteries when needed.

Mission: Lifeline STEMI Receiving

Center — Silver Plus Award

CHI St. Joseph Health received the STEMI recognition for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks. This means the organization meets specific standards of performance for quick and appropriate treatment through emergency procedures to re-establish blood flow to blocked arteries in heart attack patients coming into the hospital directly or by transfer from another facility.

Get With The Guidelines is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with tools and resources to increase adherence to the latest research-based guidelines. This program is used widely by more than 1,500 hospitals across the country.

About Get With The Guidelines: Get With The Guidelines is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines has touched the lives of more than 5 million patients since 2001. **For more information, visit heart.org.**





Get back to what's
most important.

When it comes to your health, it's essential to have a team you trust by your side to keep you well, help you bounce back, and celebrate the little victories. At **CHI St. Joseph and Texas A&M Health Network**, we work together so you can get back to what's most important.

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CHI.TAMUHealth.org



Parc at Traditions

Exceptional Senior Living!

Since opening its doors in late 2017, Parc at Traditions has defined the “art of hospitality” in senior living for the residents of Bryan, College Station, and the greater Brazos Valley. In a little more than a year, this new retirement community has earned the favor of countless seniors and their families with its uncompromising dedication to hospitality, service, and care.

Thoughtfully situated on a beautiful 14-acre wooded site and conveniently located in the heart of the vibrant Traditions Club community, Parc at Traditions offers a selection of fully appointed Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Memory Care apartment homes. Featuring chef-inspired fine and casual dining and complemented by a remarkable array of features and amenities, Parc at Traditions has crafted a resort-style Hill Country lifestyle that is comfortable, stylish, and secure.

Inspired by an abiding tradition of “ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and

gentlemen,” the Parc at Traditions staff is carefully selected and trained to uphold Parc’s standards of service excellence — attentive, responsive, relaxed, and friendly. Best of all, the signature Parc lifestyle is available to residents for a single, all-inclusive monthly fee. There are no large buy-in or entrance fee requirements, and Parc at Traditions’ resident-friendly lease agreements enable residents to maintain financial independence, control, and peace-of-mind.

Parc at Traditions is as part of the vibrant tapestry of life in the Traditions Club master-planned community and Lake Walk mixed-use town center developments. Parc at Traditions has also established collaborative relationships with the neighboring Texas A&M Health Science Center and the nearby MatureWell Lifestyle



Center to explore innovative ways to enhance the quality of life for seniors and their families.

For the second year in a row Parc at Traditions has been voted “Best of the Brazos Valley” for independent living, assisted living, memory care, and senior living. To learn more and schedule a personal appointment, visit parcattraditions.com or call (979) 213-4200.



Exceptional Senior Living!



Independent Living, Assisted Living
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A large, stylized white letter 'P' logo on a black background.

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The Physicians Centre

Meeting All Your Needs

At The Physicians Centre, patients have the opportunity to work with doctors in all fields, like Dr. Randolph Gibbs, with BCS Hand or Dr. James Distefano with Cornerstone Sports Medicine.

Dr. Gibbs is a board certified general surgeon with a subspecialty certificate in Surgery of the Hand. He currently works in collaboration with Dr. George Richardson at BCS Hand in Bryan at The Physicians Centre.

Board certification is an important distinction. It demonstrates when physicians go above and beyond to prove they can provide superior care to their patients compared to others with only a medical license. You can be confident the physicians who choose to pursue board certification are dedicated to providing the



highest level of individualized care.

Dr. Gibbs offers a wide array of services for members of the community. Some of these services include treating arthritis of the hand, carpal tunnel syndrome, Dupuytren's contracture, tendonitis, and trigger finger, with a focus on traumatic injuries and fractures of the hand and wrist.

For more information about BCS Hand, call (979) 774-0411 or visit

BCSHand.com.

For more than 15 years, Dr. Distefano has been treating patients for joint and other musculoskeletal injuries. As a board certified sports medicine physician, he has cared for individuals from top-tier, professional athletes all the way down to kids in their first years of little league sports and everyone in between.

Dr. Distefano is passionate about treating and healing those he is privileged to care for and it shows each time he receives a glowing review from his patients. He recently received the 2019 Eagle's Readers' Choice Award for the Best Sports Medicine Doctor in the Brazos Valley.

Sports medicine is not just for professional athletes. The general focus of sports medicine is providing treatment to individuals who may have suffered injuries from sporting activities, exercise routines, or the wear and tear of life.

Dr. Distefano offers many services including concussion evaluations, casting and splinting, steroid injections, and diagnosing general joint and musculoskeletal pain.

For more information about Cornerstone Sports Medicine, call (979) 704-5029 or visit cornerstonesportsmed.com.





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Dr. James Distefano, D.O.

SERVICES:

- Concussion evaluations
- Diagnosing general joint and musculoskeletal pain
- Casting
- Splinting
- Viscosupplementation
- Steroid injections
- Sports physicals
- X-rays and MRI's



Dr. Distefano is a specialist in primary care/sports medicine, and he is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine. He is trained in all areas of sports medicine procedures and current practices, orthopedic and medical.

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BCS Hand is the only orthopedic practice in the Bryan, Texas area with a Board-Certified Orthopedic Surgeon with added qualifications of Board-Certification in Hand Surgery.

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"New You Implant Dentures" is a scientifically proven breakthrough in dental implants that allows denture wearers and those suffering from ailing and failing teeth to have new, solid teeth implanted in one day. Patients regain the freedom to smile, eat the foods they want, and laugh, while enjoying a quality of life that they felt was gone forever.

Dental fear, missing or dysfunctional teeth, ongoing tooth loss, embarrassment, problems eating and speaking: all of

these things can be solved with "New You Implant Dentures." Implant dentures are the fastest way to get back your dental health and wellness thanks to Dr. Michael K. Reece, DDS, LVIM, and Dr. Ryan Jouett, DDS, LVIF, the pioneering doctors in Central Texas bringing these advancements to dentistry.

And There Is More Good News, Dentistry Can Help You to Live Longer

New medical studies show that you may live up to 10 years longer just by having a healthy mouth. Patients with diseased mouths can die sooner and have more heart attacks and strokes. "New You Implant Dentures" is one investment that

will literally pay dividends to your well-being 24/7, 365 days a year while likely extending your life.

The Best Day is Today

No matter how bad you think your problems are, just wait a little longer and they are guaranteed to get far worse. For many patients making the appointment for the first visit is the hardest part, but not impossible. **Take the first step and call Kimm at Reece & Jouett Exceptional Dentistry (979) 846-6515. Her compassion and understanding have expertly guided many patients like yourself through the process. To learn more, visit drreece.com.**





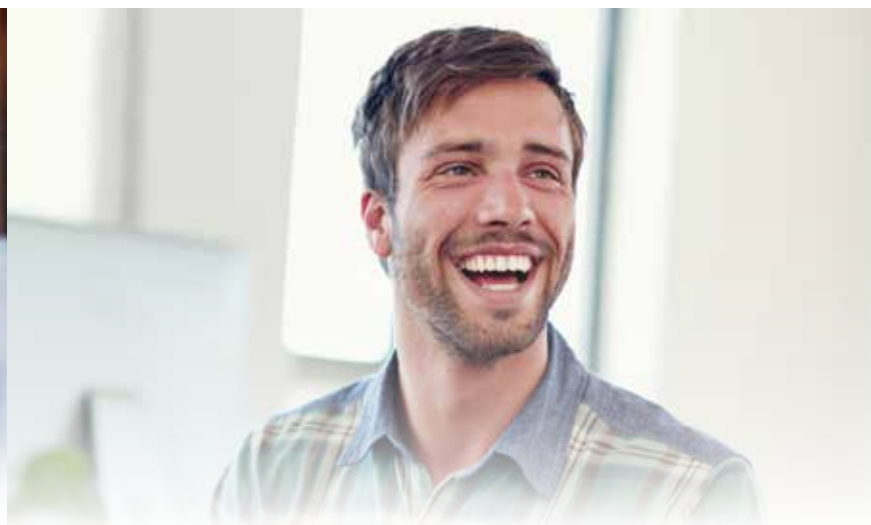
HEADACHES/TMJ



NON-SURGICAL FACELIFTS

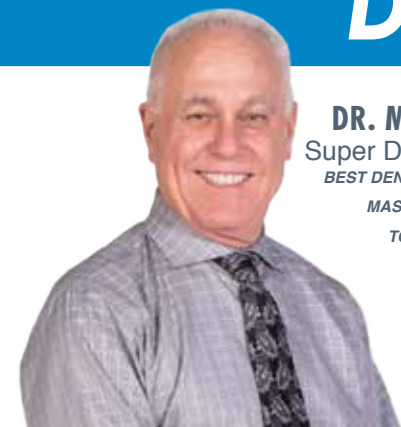


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We do not currently accept Medicaid.

Hope Pregnancy Center

Truth, Service, and Love

The moment a woman realizes she may be pregnant is life-changing, leaving her heart anywhere between dancing and leaping with joy to feeling crushed with fear. No matter what her situation or reaction, it is a powerful turning point requiring her utmost attention and consideration. Whatever she chooses to do will impact the entirety of her remaining life on earth.

It is an unfortunate fact of the world today that often a woman is left to make a decision without the support or sometimes even presence of the father of her child. Whether she is excited or frightened, her emotions are running high. She needs a place to go, both physically and emotionally, where she can take a deep breath and take a few minutes to pull her thoughts together to make a rational decision. If she can talk to someone who can be a sounding board for her feelings, as well as a source of information about her choices, support, and available resources, she is likely to make the best decision for herself and for her child.

Hope Pregnancy Center is that place. Their core values are truth, service, and love, so their resources and programs focus on the all aspects of a woman's life and health — physical, emotional, relational, social, and spiritual.

Since 1985, the volunteers and staff



CAROL DODDS, HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

of Hope Pregnancy Center have been providing caring, compassionate, and confidential help to the men and women of the Brazos Valley facing unplanned pregnancies. Pregnancy services include pregnancy testing, pregnancy consultation, pregnancy verification, limited obstetrical ultrasound, parenting education, and material assistance, including a six-month supply of prenatal vitamins for those with positive pregnancy test results.

All services are provided free of charge, with no eligibility requirements. Hope Pregnancy Center is fully supported through individuals, student organizations,

local businesses, and churches.

You can be a part of helping a woman find abundant life, both physical and spiritual, for herself and for her child. Call Hope Pregnancy Center today at (979) 695-9193 to find out about volunteer opportunities and ways you can support them financially. Visit hopepregnancy.org for more information.

Hope Pregnancy Center is located at 205 Brentwood Drive in College Station, open Monday through Friday.





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HOPE

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Providing pregnancy testing, pregnancy consultation,
pregnancy verification, limited obstetrical ultrasound,
parenting education and material assistance
Free of Charge.



Hope Pregnancy Center
205 Brentwood Drive • College Station
(979) 695-9193 • hopepregnancy.org

Brazos Valley Foot Care

Keeping the Brazos Valley standing on two feet for more than 40 years.

Feet are the foundation for good health. Every tendon, bone, joint, muscle, and ligament in your feet and ankles work together to give your body support and stability. The six doctors who represent Brazos Valley Foot Care are highly specialized in providing comprehensive foot care from conservative routine care to the most complex foot and ankle surgeries when necessary. Their goal is to have their patients back on their feet as quickly as possible with same day appointments regularly available. Many common foot ailments, including ingrown toenails, warts, and heel pain, can be treated at the initial visit. Nearly all foot and ankle surgeries can be done on an outpatient basis with all the doctors staying up to date on all the latest advances and techniques.

If your feet hurt...everything hurts. Many people think that foot pain is part of

life. At Brazos Valley Foot Care, they do not believe anyone has to suffer from foot pain or other related problems. Their doctors focus on effective conservative care first and foremost to provide relief by treating the root of the problem and not just treating the pain. Heel pain for example, is often treated by correcting gait issues with specialized orthotics, suggesting proper footwear and home therapy, as well as treating the inflammation to have the patient back on "pain-free" feet in no time. Foot deformities such as bunions and hammertoes are often treated surgically with minimal down time.

BVFC wants to be your choice for foot care.

Putting their patients first has been the cornerstone of Brazos Valley Foot Care since 1970. Their dedication to their patients has earned BVFC the accolades of Best Podiatrist in the Brazos Valley in



both The Eagle's Readers' Choice Poll and The Best of the Brazos sixteen times in recent years. Over the past 20 years they have expanded their services throughout the Brazos Valley to meet the needs of the growing population. Brazos Valley Foot Care has full-time offices in College Station and Brenham. They also make weekly visits to clinics in Bellville, Caldwell, Columbus, Giddings, Groesbeck, Marlin, Mexia, and Navasota.

For more information or to make an appointment call (979) 776-6060 or visit BrazosValleyFootCare.com.

Most Insurance Companies Accepted

Same Day or Next Day Appointments Available



The Eagle Readers' Choice
2007-2014, 2016-2017



Best of the Brazos Valley
2008-2011, 2013-2017

BRAZOS VALLEY FOOT CARE



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A & M Class of '95



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Brenham, TX

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We Treat:



SuperSlow Zone Strength and Conditioning

As someone who goes on regular bike rides with friends, Greg Stiles is an active individual who needed an easy way to stay in shape, lose weight, and build up core strength. By using SuperSlow Zone and sticking with their quick and easy workouts, he finally found an enjoyable way to exercise.

“When I first started, I was curious to know if I was actually improving because I never broke into a sweat

during the workout,” Stiles says. “People started noticing a difference in me when I’d pass them up on the bike trail and that’s when I figured out I really was stronger from just the first three months.”

The workouts at SuperSlow Zone are centered around resistance machines and include various exercise that cover all of the different muscle groups. There is always a trainer going through the exercises with you



and the possibilities of getting hurt are much lower, he adds.

“It’s a great, positive experience and when I’m finished, I know I had a good workout because I don’t leave drenched in sweat,” he says. “For anyone that’s interested in staying physically fit, this workout is definitely the best bang for your buck!”

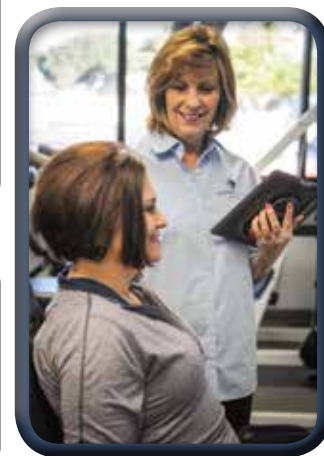
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provides an accredited,
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GET A HEALTHIER YOU, & STILL HAVE TIME FOR LIFE.

Exercise 1 to 2 times a week depending on your goals. Your knowledgeable, professional Instructor is, first and foremost, focused on your needs and results and the value this imparts to your life. Always on time, and always attentive, your Instructor helps you sustain maximum results and rewards in minimum time. Recapture valuable time to your life, peace of mind by taking care of yourself and greater enjoyment through increased strength, health and vitality. SuperSlow Zone® College Station.

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Cancer Clinic

From Best Oncologists To Super Doctors® The Cancer Clinic Is Your Choice For Award-Winning Cancer Care

Bryan College Station is truly fortunate to have the Cancer Clinic, comprised of Dr. Kumud Tripathy, Dr. Terry Jenkins, Dr. Erin Fleener, and Dr. Mark Floyd in the community. The doctors' combined talents and reputation for working as an integrated care team are widely known. This complicated process involves constantly staying on the leading edge of cancer treatments and coordinating treatment with surgeons, radiation oncologists, and in-patient cancer facilities.

Collectively the skills of the four physicians have won many Top Doc awards including, most recently, the announcement that Dr. Fleener had won Best Oncologist in The Eagle Readers' Choice Award for 2019. Three of the doctors have been voted to the Super Doctors list appearing in Texas Monthly magazine for several years



running, and Dr. Kumud Tripathy was voted as a Top Three Cancer Doctor in The Eagle Readers' Choice Awards Top Three.

Award-winning doctors, oncology certified nurses, and the convenience of a local on-site infusion center combined into a caring and uplifting environment all add up

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DR. KUMUD TRIPATHY
WINNER, TEXAS MONTHLY
"TEXAS SUPER DOCTOR" 2018

2018-2010 WINNER
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Perhaps the most unique aspect of the Isle at Watercrest Bryan

is Signature Care — Extended Care, an innovative Assisted Living support program unique to the Watercrest Brand offering the highest level of Assisted Living care provided in the state of Texas. Signature Care is a new holistic program allowing residents to continue thriving in residential environments while receiving comprehensive and personalized levels of care. Extended care services and amenities include: medication management (including sliding scale insulin), nutritional services (including specialized and/or mechanically altered diets), and therapeutic activities provided by licensed therapy teams. Respite stays are also available, so call the Isle at Watercrest today to schedule your complimentary tour!

For more information, visit WatercrestBryan.com or call (979) 213-4176.



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We have a range of services which include facials & skin therapies, massage therapies, wraps, scrubs and detoxifying body treatments, waxing & sugaring treatments, nail services, yoga & wellness programs, acupuncture and more. We also have a private room ideal for group events, like girlfriend retreats, bridal events, or for personal use during our full day spa services.

Our therapists are talented, experienced, and use state of the art wellness techniques. White Elm Day Spa provides personal wellness and membership plans customized to our clients' needs. Contact us for more info on how we can help you create a wellness plan.









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treatments, acupuncture, micro-needling, yoga and wellness programs, and hair removal. Their professional team of talented therapists customize each treatment to suit client needs.

Frequent and consistent visits are the key elements to maximize results. Series and customized membership options are available and include special member promotions, retail discounts, and much more.

A private event room, ideal for group events like girlfriend retreats, bridal events, or personal use, is available. White Elm even offers special spa day packages. Moreover, several wellness programs including restorative yoga, esoteric yoga, and mind-body classes are available for private and/or group lessons.

White Elm's therapists are talented, experienced, and use state-of-the-art wellness techniques and equipment. White Elm Day Spa is the essential retreat to renew, relax, and recharge.

For more information, visit whiteelmdayspa.com or call (979) 575-9292.



SuperSlow Zone Healthy Slimming Program



Looking for a way to look slimmer and feel less bloated can prove to be a difficult task, but with SuperSlow Zone Healthy Slimming program, you can have two inches lost after just one treatment session. Carol Kapella has been working with the fat-loss and cellulite-treatment program as a certified technician since December 2018.

“The UltraSlim red light we use tricks your body into opening up temporary transitional pores and fat cells, and it shrinks them,” she says. “Your body goes through its regular detox processes and leaves your skin looking younger, firmer, and smoother.”

The process lasts about an hour, including 32 minutes of light treatment on all sides of the body, resulting in an immediate two inches lost. Kapella adds that this process acts as a jump start to healthy eating and dieting and will help you get rid of weight that’s harder to target with regular exercise.

“It’s completely non-invasive and the safest body contouring program out there because it’s painless and the light can’t burn you,” she adds. “It’s FDA-cleared for fat loss and about as risky as a tongue depressor!”

**For more information about SuperSlowZone Healthy Slimming Program,
Visit www.superslowzone.com/collegestation or call (979) 693-6100**

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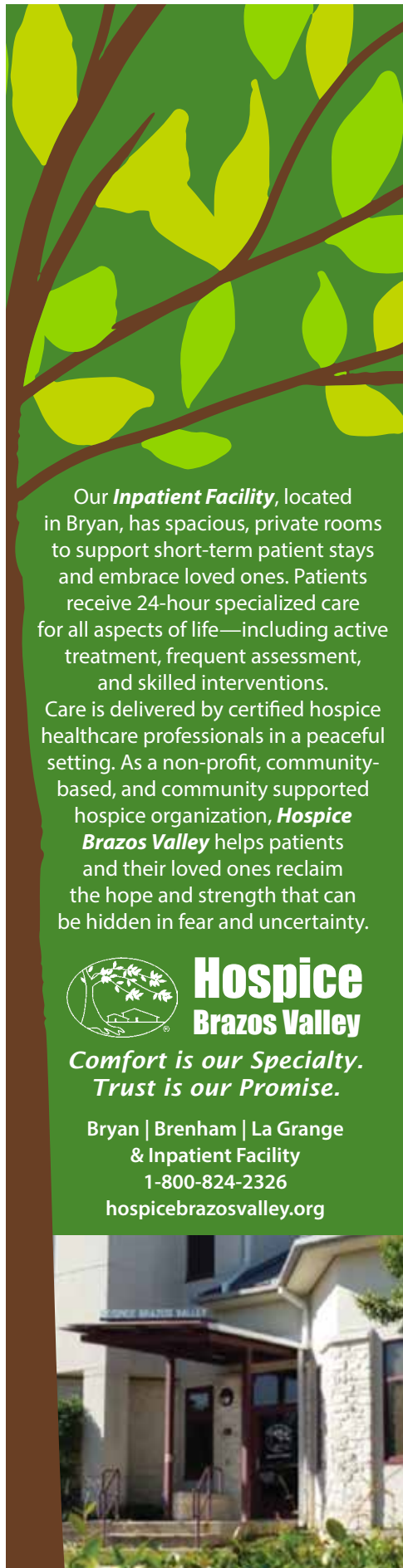


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Our **Inpatient Facility**, located in Bryan, has spacious, private rooms to support short-term patient stays and embrace loved ones. Patients receive 24-hour specialized care for all aspects of life—including active treatment, frequent assessment, and skilled interventions. Care is delivered by certified hospice healthcare professionals in a peaceful setting. As a non-profit, community-based, and community supported hospice organization, **Hospice Brazos Valley** helps patients and their loved ones reclaim the hope and strength that can be hidden in fear and uncertainty.



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This level of outstanding in-home care

is made possible by employing the very highest caliber of Comfort Keepers. With thorough screening, extensive training, and close supervision of the best staff of caring individuals available, Comfort Keepers is able to provide the very best care for your family member.

When you need care for a loved one, you can trust the compassionate staff at Comfort Keepers. For more information, call (979) 764-3076 or visit comfortkeepers.com.



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ComfortKeepers.com

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Hospice Brazos Valley

Meet Hospice Brazos Valley's Associate Medical Director

Hospice Brazos Valley is the only local, nonprofit hospice providing high-quality, patient-centered care. HBV has served the Brazos Valley since 1989 and in those 29 years has cared for more than 16,000 people. HBV prides itself on providing the best hospice and palliative care possible.

An integral member of the care team is HBV's Associate Medical Director Dr. Steven Higginbotham, affectionately known as "Dr. H."

Dr. Higginbotham practiced at Brazos Physicians Group as a family medicine physician, and shortly after, started his career in hospice. He also practiced family medicine at Baylor Scott and White. Dr. Higginbotham became HBV's fulltime associate medical director in 2015. His kind and compassionate approach to medicine supports hospice patients during their end-of-life journey. When asked about delivering care he states, "The best part of

being a doctor is being able to step into people's lives at a critical time to offer comfort and relief from their struggles. Hospice is my passion and my calling."

Dr. Higginbotham spends most days seeing patients at HBV's inpatient facility, seeing patients at home on HBV's hospice and palliative care programs, and discussing with nurses and other hospice staff how to best optimize medical care for patients and their families.

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Strong Bone Health

Strong Bones, Strong Body.



As a retired nutritionist, Dawn Blaschke, knows the importance of a healthy diet and regular exercise. She admits she is older than 50 and had tailored her diet and exercise regimen to ensure good bone health, but after a bone scan in June of 2016, it became clear that diet and exercise were not enough to prevent bone decay. Her physician called her into his office to discuss the results. "I remember thinking, 'This can't be good. They never call you in to tell you good news,'" Dawn recalls.

Dawn's initial thought was right. The doctor informed her that she was at risk of fracturing her right hip and recommended she start taking bone strengthening medication. Dawn read up on both hip fractures and the medication. She learned that 24 percent of people who fracture their hip die within a year, and the potential side effects of the medication include fractures of the femur and jaw bone decay. Dawn didn't like the idea of fracturing her hip nor

risking the side effect of the drug, so she talked to her doctor about trying a new program, SuperSlow Zone's® Strong Bone Health. Her doctor agreed to let her try the program but warned that she would have to start taking the medication if she didn't show improvement in her next scan.

Her most recent bone scan showed that Dawn's bone density in her hip and spine have increased to a healthy level. "The doctor told me that whatever I was doing, I needed to keep doing it," Dawn says. "I'm a Strong Bone Health participant for life now."

In addition to great results, Dawn says she goes back to SuperSlow Zone® because it is enjoyable. She goes once a week for a 15-minute session. She has a personal coach who makes sure she is getting the most out of each activity. "She has become my good friend," Dawn says. "I have a cheerleader right there saying, 'Come on, you can do this!'"

For more information about the New Strong Bone Health program, visit sbhcollegestation.com or call (979) 693-6199



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A SPIRIT CAN NE’ER BE TOLD

20th Anniversary of Bonfire Collapse

By PAIGE BRAZIL



Twelve lives are lost, the campus community is in mourning, and people are questioning what caused the accident.

At 2:42 a.m. on the morning of Nov. 18, 1999, the bottom stack of the Texas A&M University bonfire started to crack like loose wooden floor boards in an old home. The entire stack was made out of 18-foot logs that were wired together so they stood perpendicular to the ground around a center-pole base. The logs began to lean southeast. Each layer of logs rested on the one below it, so when the bottom layer began to shift, the entire stack of logs began to fall.

The collapse of Bonfire in 1999 left the Texas A&M community shattered and the emotional turmoil of the accident was felt by people everywhere. A long-standing tradition at Texas A&M would be forever changed after that moment.

On Nov. 18, 1907, a group of Texas Aggies created the first bonfire out of scraps and debris, following a football win against the Tulane Green Wave. That night, a timeless tradition took root and became a staple for generations of future Aggies. Bonfire officially moved to campus in 1909, but it was not until 1919 when the burning of Bonfire symbolized the upcoming football game between Texas A&M and their rival, The University of Texas, or “t.u.”

“The Fightin’ Texas Aggie Bonfire has symbolized every Aggie’s ‘burning desire’ to beat the University of Texas in football,” according to the Bonfire Memorial website. Attracting thousands of

people each year to watch it burn, Bonfire has become a symbol of the spirit and camaraderie of Aggieland.

In 1935, the university made Bonfire a school-sanctioned event and the university began providing tools, materials, and land resources for Bonfire. “Bonfire burned each year through 1998, with the exception of 1963,” according to the Bonfire Memorial website. “That year Bonfire was built but torn down in a tribute to President John F. Kennedy who was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963. The second time in [Texas] A&M’s history that Bonfire did not burn was almost exactly 92 years after the first Bonfire due to its collapse on Nov. 18, 1999, at 2:42 a.m. The collapse claimed the lives of 12 Aggies and injured 27 others.”

Five years after the collapse in 1999, the Bonfire Memorial was dedicated in the exact location of the fall and commemorates the Aggies who lost their lives that night. “The Bonfire Memorial embodies many layers of meaning associated with the Aggie Spirit — a deep sense of belonging, a strong spirit of teamwork and leadership, and an enduring sense of tradition that unites thousands,” according to the Bonfire Memorial website. “The Bonfire Memorial celebrates the tradition, history, and spirit of Texas A&M and the dedication of those involved in the tragic collapse of the 1999 Bonfire.”

The Bonfire Memorial is comprised of three design elements to unite past, present, and future Aggies. The first element is the Tradition Plaza, which

marks the entrance to the memorial. There are two walls within Tradition Plaza, the Spirit Wall and the Last Corps Trip Wall. The Spirit Wall separates the memorial from the outside world, creating a more intimate experience inside the memorial. The Last Corps Trip Wall depicts the poem that is traditionally read before each Bonfire burn.

The next design element is the History Walk. The History Walk details the history of Bonfire, 90 years prior to the collapse in 1999. The timeline is made of granite and has 89 stones that are arranged in a line. The first stone begins with 1909 and symbolizes the first year that Bonfire was burned on campus. There is a notch in each stone that holds an amber light to remember the glow of Bonfire each November. There is a break in the timeline in 1963 to commemorate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, which was the only year, aside from the collapse in 1999, that Bonfire did not burn. Three prior Bonfire-related deaths are also marked on the timeline in the years in which they occurred.

The third and final design element is the Spirit Ring. The Spirit Ring surrounds the area of the 1999 Bonfire. There are 12 portals dedicated to each victim of the collapse and the portals face the hometown of the victim it is commemorating. There is a space within each portal designed to be stepped into in order to signify filling the void left behind by one of the 12 Aggies lost, thus symbolically embodying the 12th Man.

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There are 27 bronze stones that represent the injured persons. These stones are placed in between the 12 portals to connect them and complete the circle.

“For Aggies who participated in Bonfire, the meaning and power of the Aggie Spirit is understood. The Bonfire Memorial seeks to share that understanding with respect, remembrance, and spirit,” according to the website.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Bonfire collapse and a monumental period of Aggie history. Bonfire still burns to this day through the dedication and spirit of Student Bonfire and is held off-campus, as Bonfire is no longer a university-sanctioned event.

There are many levels of leadership ranks within Student Bonfire. A Redpot was historically the top rank in Bonfire, and the same legacy of the Redpots continues with Student Bonfire.

“Student Bonfire is the physical manifestation of the love and burning passion we have for one another and for our university,” former Redpot Brian Okosun says. “Student Bonfire, to me, is the truest form of Aggie spirit and there’s no other tradition like it. I will help to make sure this tradition lives on for the memory of the 12. It means much more than I can ever explain.”

As the 20th anniversary of Bonfire collapse approaches, former student and Bonfire member Dion McInnis remembers the emotional turmoil that affected the Texas A&M community following the collapse of Bonfire.

“I was born and raised in Texas, but I moved to New Mexico my junior year of high school,” says McInnis. “Still, though, I

already knew I was going to A&M and that I wanted to be a part of Bonfire.”

McInnis was accepted to Texas A&M for the fall 1999 semester but was unable to attend right away due to out-of-state tuition costs. “I decided I would work, save some money, and take classes at a smaller school in New Mexico in the hope of receiving a scholarship,” says McInnis. “I would take a little time and apply again when I was ready.”

McInnis did not attend Texas A&M in the fall of 1999 and that has been a decision that has followed him since.

“I’m going to wrestle with this forever,” says McInnis. “My mother woke me up on the morning of the 18th and told me to try and get ahold of my buddies because something had happened. I spent that whole day trying to get ahold of them. I was finally able to reach one of their parents and found out that my buddies were alright. That’s when it hit me.” From that moment on, McInnis began to not take anything for granted. McInnis attended Texas A&M in the spring of 2000 and was part of building the first Bonfire stacks off-campus. McInnis also helped paved the road for Student Bonfire that many Texas A&M students walk now.

Today, McInnis serves on the Board of Directors for Bonfire, advising students on leadership, strategy, operations, etc. Through this position, he hopes to keep the legacy of Bonfire strong by never forgetting the impact of the tradition on him and aspiring to make a difference for future generations of Aggies.

“I’m always going to feel like I’m not allowed to feel anything because I wasn’t there,” says McInnis. “I think for me I am mostly proud of the students, at what the students have done. You come to A&M for

the experience, to get an education outside the classroom. There is no better place to get that than at Bonfire.”

Both the Bonfire Memorial and off-campus bonfire reflect the foundation and the passion that comes from being a part of the Texas A&M family.

“Texas A&M is built on pride, fortitude, integrity, and resilience,” says McInnis. “Every former student loves and cherishes the traditions still being kept alive. All of these things that are still held dear, that people still protect with a fiery passion, that fire is coming from somewhere, and that fire is bonfire.” *i*

13th Man: A Bonfire Documentary

The collapse of Bonfire affected people outside of the Texas A&M community as well and has served as a source of inspiration to keep the spirit alive. The Bonfire Memorial inspired Charlie Minn, a film director and producer, to create a documentary about the collapse.

“I was a guest speaker at A&M back in 2011 and students were encouraging me to make the documentary back then. Some of them even escorted me to the memorial so I could take it all in,” says Minn. “Since this tradition hasn’t been on campus for 20 years now, things tend to fade over time. A film like this will inform, educate and remind people of all the fallen Aggies whose voices should never be forgotten.”

For more information regarding the film, including show times and locations, visit 13thmanfilm.com.



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ENHANCING THE EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M Expands Alcohol Availability at Kyle Field

Courtesy of **TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS**



Texas A&M University is expanding the availability for the purchase of beer and wine to the general public at Kyle Field starting this fall.

The plan follows a recently announced decision by the Southeastern Conference to allow the sale of beer and wine in public areas during college athletic events.

Texas A&M's implementation plan will comply with SEC alcohol management expectations, University policy, and state and local regulations governing alcohol sales and consumption.

Beginning this fall, a variety of domestic and imported beer and a selection of wine will be available for purchase to the general public until the end of the third quarter.

"This is another way we are enhancing the amenities at Kyle Field," Former Interim Director of Athletics and current Senior Advisor to the President R.C. Slocum says. "We are extending the

availability of alcohol beyond the premium areas, which have had this option for many years. Fans, 21 and older, will have the option to purchase alcohol, regardless of seating area.

Adds Athletic Director, Ross Bjork, "I'm grateful to R.C. Slocum for his involvement and guidance during this the time of transition. We will stay focused on providing an exceptional game experience for all fans."

In the past, SEC athletics programs have been prohibited from selling alcohol in public areas of SEC athletics venues. The new policy does not impact the type of service in suites, clubs, or privately leased areas where alcohol was already allowed under SEC rules.

The new policy was adopted by SEC presidents and chancellors this spring. It requires institutions to designate stationary sales locations and prohibits sales by vendors in seating areas. It also

limits the number of alcoholic beverages purchased per transaction.

"Our policy governing alcohol sales has been a source of considerable discussion and respectful debate among our member universities in recent years," says SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey. "We are committed as a conference to ensuring that all changes in policy are implemented in ways that respect and sustain the traditions that make the SEC game-day experience exceptional for all attendees."

A campaign encouraging "responsibility" is in development and will include components that speak to students and fans who attend games at Kyle Field. Additionally, no alcohol will be made available near the student sections on decks two and three of Kyle Field.

Expansion of alcohol sales at additional Texas A&M athletics venues will be determined at a later date. *i*



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THE HISTORY OF KYLE FIELD

Growing a Stadium Since 1905

By RACHEL KNIGHT

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM CRAFT, TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS



Kyle Field has roots that run much deeper than the grass the Aggie football team plays on today. The stadium seats more than 100,000 people now, but originally seated 500 on wooden bleachers paid for and built by the facility's namesake with the help of a few students.

The "Home of the 12th Man" was originally home to more sports than just football. Today, the facility serves as a gathering place for Aggies from across the globe and towers over campus as an emblem of the University's culture, traditions, and core values.

Before Kyle Field was built in 1905, all home football games were played on the drill fields at the military school, according to a pamphlet titled *The Contribution of Edwin Jackson Kyle to the Development of the Athletic Program at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas*.

"As there were no seats, people stood or sat in buggies," the pamphlet reads. "The 'hat was passed' during the games

and people gave what they pleased. This resulted of course in meager financial support of athletics. The lack of finances made it difficult to equip teams properly, to secure coaches, and to schedule games with the best colleges. These limitations naturally had an unfavorable effect on the student body."

Edwin Jackson Kyle saw great potential in athletics, despite the fact that this was an uncommon opinion among the faculty. He first came to Texas A&M as a sophomore in 1896, two years after the first Aggie football team was drafted. As a student, Kyle was a ranking senior military officer, president of his class, president of the Y.M.C.A., and valedictorian his senior year. He is the only student to ever serve as Commandant while still a student. He graduated from Texas A&M in 1899, and then obtained two more degrees from Cornell University. He returned to Texas A&M as an instructor in horticulture in 1902.

Kyle was assigned a large amount of land on campus for his horticulture research, according to the pamphlet. He didn't need all of the land for his crops, so he used barbed wire to fence off a portion to build an athletics facility.

Realizing a barbed wire fence was not satisfactory, Kyle purchased lumber and posts for fencing the field on an open account from G.S. Parker of Bryan. When the fence was complete, it was time to tackle the task of adding seating to the facility. Kyle purchased lumber to build two bleachers with a seating capacity of 500. Once the athletic field was fenced and bleachers were erected, work began to get the grounds in shape. The first game played on the field was a baseball game. As the only athletic facility on campus, Kyle Field originally served as a football field, baseball field, and track facility. The field was christened by the student body the year after it was built in the chapel on campus after the football team beat Baylor

17 to 5 in the first game they played at Kyle Field.

In addition to building Kyle Field, Kyle is responsible for bringing the highly anticipated Texas A&M vs. t.u. (Aggies' name for the University of Texas) game to College Station. After the 1908 game played on Thanksgiving, Kyle told t.u. authorities that Texas A&M would not play again in Austin until they agreed to play every other year in College Station. The final compromise resulted in the 1909 Thanksgiving game being played in Austin and the 1910 and 1911 Thanksgiving games being played in Houston, with subsequent annual Thanksgiving games being played in College Station and Austin on alternate years.

Once the deal was made, Kyle purchased covered grandstands from the Bryan Fair Association, using his personal funds. Luckily, the two t.u. games played in 1909 earned Texas A&M \$2,500 each. In the pamphlet, Otto Eversburt, student manager, says this income allowed the athletics department to pay off their outstanding debts, and relieved Kyle of personal responsibility on notes for the first time in several years.

The college's yearbook reported the facilities growth with great pride in 1911. "In Kyle Field we have one of the largest and one of the best equipped Athletic Fields in the South," the yearbook says. "It is 600 ft. in width, 750 ft. in length, and contains a large grandstand, and two sections of bleachers, capable of seating several thousand people; contains a quarter mile cinder track and an excellent 200-yard straightway. Underneath the grandstand are dressing rooms equipped with hot and cold showers, individual lockers, electric lights, rubbing boards, and all conveniences."

In 1927, the first section of the first concrete stadium at Kyle Field was built for \$76,718.84 under the businesses management of James Sullivan. The second section was built in 1929 for \$259,639.68. This brought Kyle Field's seating capacity to 37,909 with 32,909 permanent seats and an additional 5,000 temporary seats, says Alan Cannon, associate athletics director at Texas A&M Athletics.

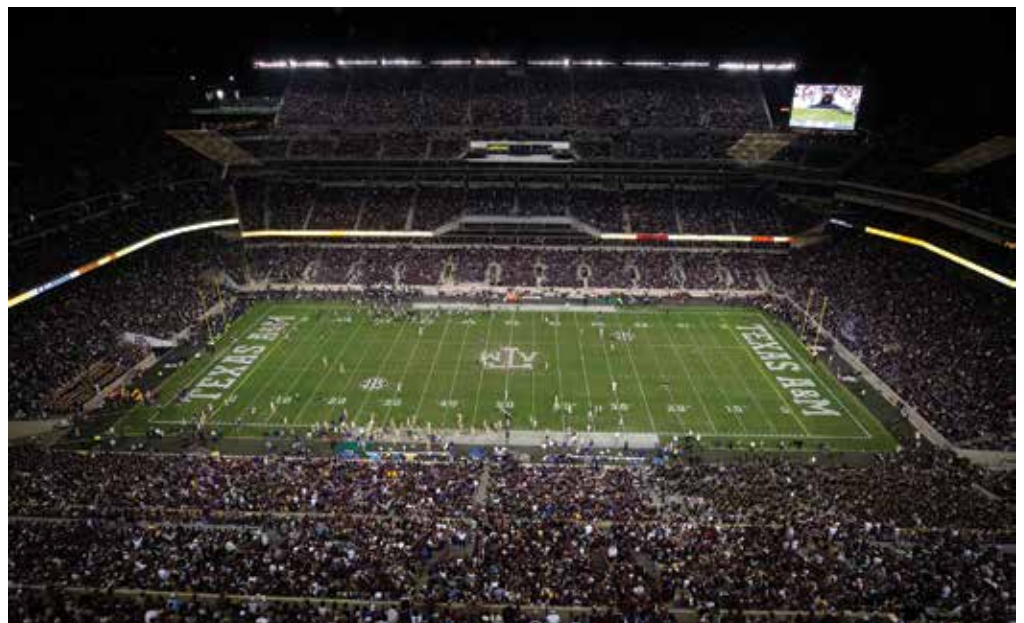
Kyle resigned from the athletic council in 1934, but returned in 1937 after being asked to do so once by the student body and twice by the university president, according to the pamphlet. Athletic conditions were bad again. Coach Norton, who was hired after coach Bell was fired in 1933, had not produced a single

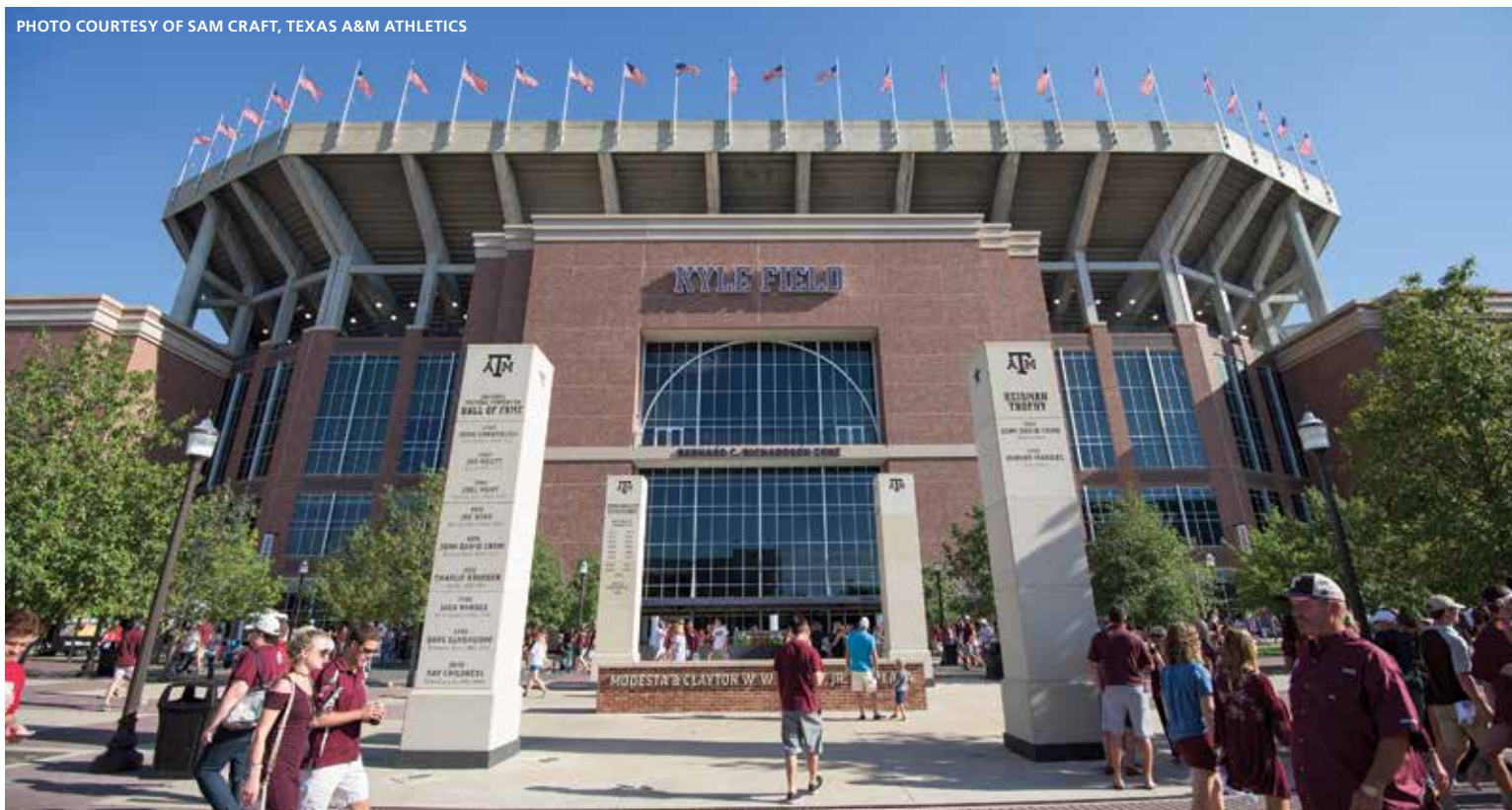


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winning team. The students were revolting against the coaching staff, and in Kyle's words, the former students were worse.

The pamphlet says the team and students wanted to fire Norton, but the school could not afford to break his written contract that had one more year remaining. They decided to keep Norton, who was excellent at calling plays, but lacked the ability to inspire his players. Kyle filled this gap by becoming the football team's motivational speaker before every game and during every half time.

The 1939-1940 team went on to have an extraordinary season. They defeated t.u. on Thanksgiving, and won the Sugar Bowl. As the pamphlet says, "A&M had come in one season from a highly demoralized squad to the number one Team of the Nation!"

Kyle turned in his final resignation from the Athletics Council in 1944. Joe Utay, captain of the football team in 1907 and director of athletics in 1912, wrote Kyle on Dec. 8, 1951. "May I say that it is a well established (sic.) fact that since the turn of the century you have played an important part in whatever successes A&M has had in athletics and particularly football and that by your conduct you dedicated yourself to do those things which will help preserve the Institution as a constructive force in the lives of the future youths of Texas," his letter says.

More success called for more stadium growth. In 1954, a small press box and a section of the second deck was added to the west side of the facility. In 1956, the Texas A&M Board of Directors officially named Kyle Field after Edwin Jackson Kyle, according to Cannon.

Kyle Field continued to grow in 1967. Second decks were added to each side of the stadium, which brought the total capacity to 48,000, and a record crowd of 56,679 fans attended the 1975 t.u. game played at Kyle Field. Fans sat on the track that surrounded the field and rushed it at the conclusion of the 20 to 10 Aggie victory, Cannon says.

Astroturf was installed at Kyle Field, and the first artificial turf game at the venue was played against Wichita State to open the 1970 season, Cannon shares. Kyle Field returned to being a natural grass field in 1996.

Cannon says he believes coach Sherrill narrowed the seats in Kyle Field on the student side in 1982, which brought the capacity to 72,387; however, in 1992 the capacity was listed as just 70,210.

In 1998, Kyle Field's capacity dropped again to 58,292, because Kyle Field — The Zone was under construction that season, Cannon explains. The record crowd was still well over the listed capacity that year with a total count of 62,873 fans in the stadium during the Texas Tech

game. When Kyle Field — The Zone was completed in 1999, it brought the stadium's capacity up to 82,600.

Visions for Kyle Field's current form started becoming a reality in 2013 when the Texas A&M Board of Regents approved the \$485 million redevelopment of Kyle Field, according to Cannon. The project took two seasons to complete. The first phase was completed in 2014. The largest crowd in Kyle Field's history was recorded that season with 110,633 fans attending the Ole Miss game. At the completion of the renovation, Kyle Field's capacity was back down to 102,733, but in 2016 the stadium managed to hold 106,248 fans for the Tennessee game.

The Hall of Champions at Kyle Field, located on the first floor of the west side of the stadium, houses a large display about all of the renovations Kyle Field has undergone. Chancellor Sharp is quoted in the display's section about the most recent renovation.

"For all Aggies — past, present, and future — Kyle Field embodies our culture, our traditions, and our core values," he says. "To the rest of the world, Kyle Field projects a message not just about football, but about the overall excellence of our great university. Kyle Field is 'home' to generations of Aggies and to the spirit of Aggieland, and it always will be." *i*

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IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Dr. Henry Musoma Influences Students From Global Perspective

By SARAH ELMER



To understand the impact Dr. Henry Musoma has had on the students at Texas A&M University, take a stroll through the first floor of the Memorial Student Center, where Musoma's image is featured on one of six long banners, each representing one of the six core values of Texas A&M.

In 2016, Musoma was awarded the honor of being recognized on the banner for the core value of "leadership." Just a year earlier, Musoma's dedication to his students and his passion for teaching also inspired a group of his students to pool together their money to buy him an Aggie Ring to replace one he had lost many years prior. These two examples are a small window into the countless awards and accolades Musoma has earned during his tenure at Texas A&M.

From being a featured guest on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" after a video went viral of him holding a student's baby in class to earning the first-ever Mays Business School Spirit Award, Musoma aims to plant the seeds of humanity and humility in his students through a global educational experience.

Musoma transitioned from being Assistant Director for the Center for International Business Studies to the Texas A&M Foundation, where he hopes to continue having an impact on the university's global initiatives. In his new

role, Musoma works in the Academic Affairs office of the Foundation. The Academic Affairs office is the development support unit for the Provost.

Life In Africa

Musoma was born in 1976 in Zambia, which was known as Northern Rhodesia before receiving independence in 1964. With his mother and father employed by the copper mines, he grew up in a middle-class home.

"The mines were huge," Musoma says. "When you look at the Zambian flag, there is the color copper on it to symbolize the significance of copper in the economy. That [copper mining] company was huge and was called Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines. It owned all the different copper mines in the country, which was about ten mines."

The mining company where Musoma's father worked had its own private school, so Musoma was exposed to a diverse cast of educators. "My teachers were from all over, mostly from Ireland, Scotland, and [other parts of] the UK," says Musoma. "It was a very interesting upbringing. ... When I think about who I am as a teacher, I like to call myself an 'intellectual mutt.' My experiences come from so many different people."

The importance of the copper mines didn't just stop in the classroom — it extended into Musoma's afterschool

extracurricular activities. As a tennis player during his youth, the mines played an integral role in providing him with the equipment he needed to play. "It was a pretty charmed life when I think about it," Musoma says. "When my tennis shoes ran out, I gave [the copper mine's stores] my father's number, and I would be given a new tennis racket or a new pair of tennis shoes." The copper mines were early pioneers in the area of corporate social responsibility.

The schooling system is similar in some ways to the United States schooling system, but vastly different in other ways. Just like children in the U.S., children in Africa complete 12 years of schooling before they are able to pursue post-secondary education. Musoma attended a school in Chingola, Zambia, from first grade through fourth grade. After fourth grade, his father's job relocated the family to a different part of the country, so he enrolled in a different school from fifth grade through seventh grade.

"Seventh grade was so dramatic," Musoma says. In 7th grade, students take a huge test to determine the quality of high school education they will receive. Musoma explains that in Zambia, many students hoped to attend Mpelembe Secondary School, which was also owned by the copper mines and was one of the most premiere secondary schools.



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“The reason why a lot of people wanted to go there was because they had a major incentive,” Musoma continues. “If you graduated well and had really good marks, you were enrolled into what they call A-levels, which is similar to what we have in America, International Baccalaureate, and you could go to very significant schools across the world [for college].”

Out of all of the seventh grade students in Zambia, only 120 were selected for enrollment into Mpelembe. Musoma was one of them. “It was a huge time in my life,” says Musoma. He attended school at Mpelembe through eleventh grade and then moved again because of his father’s job. This time, the job reassignment took his family out of Zambia and into Mozambique.

“At the end of eleventh grade, I moved to an international school,” Musoma says. “That was quite an experience. The school I went to had around 20 to 30 nationalities from across the world. In my class, I had a Russian classmate, a Danish classmate, a Tanzanian classmate, I had somebody from Peru, somebody from Zambia. There were people from everywhere, and it was pretty cool.”

When Musoma finished high school in Mozambique, he searched for new educational opportunities and chose college in Zimbabwe, where he pursued Cambridge University A-level Certifications. Musoma explains that the difficulty and rigor of A-levels are unlike anything one would find in their first year of an American college. “When you finish A-levels and come to the states, you start as a sophomore in college,” says Musoma. “Imagine a high school kid taking sophomore-level classes straight out of high school. So, after doing a semester of A-levels, I came home and wasn’t sure about going back to Zimbabwe. I was somewhat homesick as well.”

Little did he know, Musoma’s decision to come back home after his first year of college would lead to a chance encounter that would put him on his path to America.

The Man On The Street

As Musoma was walking on the streets of Mozambique, he noticed a man on the corner whom he presumed to be an American, because of the American car in his driveway. Musoma introduced himself and he learned the man’s name was Albert Cates and that he worked for the United States Agency for International Development. “I asked a question, and my life changed,” says Musoma. The conversation with Cates led to dinner with Musoma’s parents, where Cates encouraged him to consider a community college in America.

He decided to take Cates’s advice and apply to community colleges in the U.S. — two in New Mexico and two in Texas. He was accepted to all four, but ultimately chose to attend Tyler Junior College in Tyler. “I ended up going to Tyler Junior College because of Texas Highway magazine,” Musoma says. “I went to the U.S. embassy and ran into a random fellow, and we became friends. He gave me a copy of the Texas Highway magazine and at that time I was trying to make a decision. At that time, there was an article about the Tyler Rose Festival. I was 20 years old, dreaming of coming to America, holding this magazine in my hand and going ‘wow.’” For the past 22 years, Musoma has held on to that original copy of Texas Highway. For the time being, he keeps it safely stored in his office with the hope of showing it to his grandchildren someday.

“The major lesson from this is that people are not looking for a handout — they are looking for someone to show them a possibility and a way,” says Musoma. “[Mr. Cates] didn’t pay for



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anything. He just showed me a way and gave me an idea."

Life In America

Despite the uncertainty that came with moving to an entirely new country for college, Musoma says he adjusted well to life in Tyler. "The advice that Mr. Cates gave to me to go to a community college was brilliant," says Musoma. "It wasn't A&M with 50,000 people. Tyler Junior College is a significant size community college. I think it was about 6,000. It was a good enough size that my math class only had 40 people."

After completing two years at Tyler Junior College, Musoma transferred to Texas A&M, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Leadership and Development with an emphasis in Agricultural Economics in 2000. "When I got to America, I was going to study agricultural engineering," says Musoma. "But, it would have taken me five years to do agricultural engineering because I needed to do a lot of bridge math to come to be where I needed to be in engineering. So, I decided to not do that because I wanted to finish in a certain amount of time because my parents were paying for school. I like people to know that it is okay to make decisions that are not exactly your passion, because life doesn't always offer us first choice. Sometimes life offers us our second choice, and our second choice ends up being our first choice when you allow life to take the process of life."

Two years later, he received his Master of Science in Agricultural Education. "I did not come to America to become a

teacher or a professor, that is for sure," says Musoma. "I came here to America to work in international development. I was going to be one of those United Nations, World Bank, food and agricultural organization kind of guys — rolling through Africa in a land cruiser, helping solve global issues kind of fella. That's why I studied agriculture."

However, Musoma's plans for his future did not work out exactly as he had planned. After obtaining his master's degree, he worked as a waiter at Pappadeaux for three years before he was offered a teaching position in the Department of Agriculture at Texas A&M as an assistant lecturer in 2005. After working as a lecturer for three years, he decided to pursue a doctorate at Texas Christian University in Educational Leadership and Administration.

"Part of what inspired that was a young man named Harrison Yat," says Musoma. "[Harrison works] for a consulting firm in Houston. I don't know whether he remembers this, but I remember it clearly. He came in my office and he said 'Musoma, you're always telling us to aim high. How come you are teaching without a Ph.D?' It was like a challenge. Right after he left, I started applying."

Planting The Seed

After successfully completing his doctorate in 2012, Musoma was hired as a lecturer at Texas A&M. Though his roles and responsibilities have evolved over the years, Musoma still wants to ensure his students have an education beyond the classroom. In 2014, with the

help of a very generous corporate donor, Phillips 66, he started the first-generation undergraduate study abroad to Africa for freshman Regents' Scholars in the business school. To be a Regents' Scholar at Texas A&M, students must be first-generation college students, meaning neither parent has earned a bachelor's degree. Additionally, the family's adjusted gross income must be less than \$40,000 per year as verified through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Through this annual field trip to Africa, Musoma has the opportunity to get to know some of his student on a more personal level.

Though Musoma's life has taken him on a path far from the agricultural career he had envisioned for himself, he still sees himself as a different kind of agricultural professional. "A couple of years ago, a pastor said, 'You can count the number of seeds in an orange, but you can never count the number of oranges in the seed,'" says Musoma. "This orange has a lot of seeds. You can know exactly the number of seeds in there if we dissect it, but guess what, we don't know how many oranges come from each seed. If we plant that seed, we don't know what is going to come from it. That is exciting to me as a professor. So, my classroom is a farm. I'm still doing agriculture, but it's just a different kind of harvest. You remember how your second choice becomes your first? I'm still an agricultural engineer, just a different kind with different equations, different formulas, same outcomes. People get fed, literally and metaphorically." *i*

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12TH CAN

Eliminating Hunger on the Texas A&M Campus

By PAIGE BRAZIL



The 12th Can is a student-led food pantry located on the Texas A&M University campus. The food pantry is fully run and operated by Texas A&M students who strive for inclusivity on campus by making every Aggie feel comfortable visiting the food pantry.

Since opening in 2013, the goal of the 12th Can has been to eliminate hunger on the Texas A&M campus and bring awareness to food insecurity by showing others the power of the Aggie spirit, according to their website.

“Our job and goal is to eliminate choosing between buying textbooks and other school supplies or buying food,” says David Chapa, facilities director of 12th Can. 12th Can is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, partnered with the Brazos Valley Food Bank, and falls under the umbrella of the Student Government Association, according to Chapa.

The 12th Can, as their mission statement explains, strives to make the Texas A&M campus a place of inclusivity

by educating the community about food security and hosting fundraisers in order to keep their pantry fully stocked for students, staff, and faculty. Their primary fundraiser, collecting meal swipe donations, happens toward the end of the spring and fall semesters.

“We partner with Chartwells, the dining services provider on campus, and they allow us to get students to donate their meal swipes, then Student Assistance Services reallocates them to students in need,” says Chapa. “This is a great way for us to fight food insecurity by helping Aggies from all walks of life.”

Aside from their partnership with Chartwells, the 12th Can receives donations year-round from other student outlets at Texas A&M. “A lot of other student organizations on campus do fundraisers and donate the nonperishable food they collect to the 12th Can food pantry,” says Chapa. “The freshman leadership organizations donate tons of cans through their Mr. FLO competition.

We are always accepting donations. Even if it’s only a little bit, it goes a long way for people who need it.”

When students visit the 12th Can food pantry, they are encouraged to take as much as they need. It is the goal of the 12th Can to make students feel comfortable and welcomed when shopping at the food pantry, says Chapa. The pantry process is based on a client choice model, where a normal shopping experience is replicated for clients in order to achieve the highest level of comfortability, according to their website.

The 12th Can is fully run and operated by students within the organization. “We have around 70 active members,” says Chapa. “Our application is always open; we always need the extra help and enthusiasm.”

The 12th Can food pantry is open the first and third Wednesday and Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is located in the Mail Services Building. For more information about the 12th Can, visit the12thcan.org. *i*

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AGGIES WHO GIVE BACK

The REACH Project

By **SHELBI LEMEILLEUR**



In 2013, Max Gerall met Ms. Melissa, a cashier at Sbisa Dining Hall at Texas A&M University, and the course of his life changed forever. His goal became to turn around and change her life, as well as the lives of many other third-party support staff at the university, through the REACH Project.

Respect, Empowerment, Aspiration, Community, Health. This is the foundation for the REACH Project, which aims to weave the Texas A&M community together.

"We are a nonprofit that focuses on community development as well as affordable housing," says Gerall, the founder and CEO of The REACH Project. "We have come up with a system that innovates [programs for] university students from various disciplines to provide resources to the affordable housing community. While also providing those resources to the affordable housing demographic, we are also taking the opportunity to refine and provide 'professional training' to undergraduate students."

While a student at Texas A&M, Gerall met Ms. Melissa and learned of the often dire home situations of many support-staff workers at the university, so he founded The REACH Project with the hope of helping this community at Texas A&M, while providing education opportunities for students.

"[Ms. Melissa] kind of opened my eyes to the greater Aggie community," says Gerall. "I heard some stories on campus of third-party employees that were homeless — that were actually having to couch surf from other employees houses as a means to ensure that their children could stay

in the Bryan ISD school district where they started the year at. And that's when I knew we had to do something. We are the Aggie community; we are the Aggie family. They are part of our Aggie family. We've got to help them."

After several years of dreams and plans, REACH Project officially launched as a 501(c)3 nonprofit in January of 2018. Currently, REACH is divided into two sections, housing and education. The goal is to help those in the affordable housing demographic through both a physical house and education on homeownership. Additionally, REACH will work with students through their educational arm providing opportunities for community involvement, leadership, and high-impact service opportunities.

"Our goal is to build the houses ourselves," says Gerall. "We want to provide what we call a residential learning village. This is a village that will have rental units as well as owner-occupied units. In this village we anticipate to have the resources that one needs to transition from the rental to the ownership all onsite."

For residents in the residential learning village, there is a three-phase process, which would be a hands-on learning process. Phase One would start the foundation, with everything from naturalization GED and personal finance to maintenance and soft-skill development. Each phase will build on the skills learned with the intent to create opportunities for home ownership and sustainable job skills.

"We will be having opportunities to not only practice and implement those things you learned in the foundations phase, but we will have leadership opportunities, community involvement, and also ways to involve family members," Gerall says. "We want to end the generational cycle of poverty, not just put a Band-Aid on it."

The REACH Project gets Texas A&M students involved mainly through the high-impact service opportunities.

"We feel that learning is most conducive in an altruistic situation," says Gerall. "What we do is we engage students to learn and practice their field while helping someone else."

Some of the service opportunities so far have included a health fair and a design charrette. Their next event will be a bigger health fair in September at the Leach Teaching Gardens at Texas A&M. The REACH Project is partnering with the Brazos County Health district to provide free flu shots, as well as other organizations to help educate and provide resources to the community.

For more information, visit [facebook.com/AgsREACH](https://www.facebook.com/AgsREACH).

"We are really trying to focus these resources to the third-party support staff on campus because those are the ones who inspired us and really make the Aggie community run, if you think about it," says Gerall. "We feel like the Aggie community, Aggie spirit, all the pillars that Aggies survive off of — we want to be able to exemplify and help spread." *i*

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AGGIE WOMEN

Leadership Reception

Courtesy of **AGGIE WOMEN**



Current student and faculty women leaders on the Texas A&M University campus will be the featured guests and speakers at the Aggie Women Leadership Reception on Thursday, Sept. 5, at 5:45 p.m. at the Bryan location of Messina Hof Winery and Resort.

Dr. Pamela Matthews, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M, will serve as the panel moderator for two 2019-2020 female student leader speakers: Oriana Koot, Memorial Student Center president, and Bria Perkins, Residential Housing Association president.

Presented in partnership with Texas A&M University Women's Resource Center and Messina Hof Winery, the event is open to the public, but reservations are necessary as space is limited. To register and secure a ticket or to sponsor the event, visit aggiewomen.org/event-3125140.

Refreshments will be served, and wine will be available for purchase. Aggie Women Commemorative Wine can be purchased at aggiewomen.org. General questions can be directed to info@AggieWomen.org.

The Aggie Women Network connects former students, current students, and the Aggie family through networking and mentoring events, as well as supports students through two Presidential Endowed Scholarships, provides speakers through the Aggie Experts program, and sponsors an annual Awards Luncheon for their Legacy Award and Eminent Scholar Award recipients. **i**



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A NEW CHAPTER

Expanding Access to Learning Opportunities

By RACHEL KNIGHT



In 2008, College Station residents voted to make an \$8 million investment in literacy, learning, and entertainment by passing a bond to renovate and expand the Larry J. Ringer Public Library. When the library reopens later this month after being closed for renovations, the public will enjoy all of their favorite things about visiting Ringer Library before the project began with additional perks of more space, a larger collection, and a new cohesive aesthetic appeal.

The library expansion project added an additional 12,000 square feet to Ringer Library and included a complete renovation of its pre-existing 16,000 square feet. More space allows the library to better serve College Station's growing population with expansion of the library's collections, more storage, and a larger staff area better equipped for developing new programs. The additional space also provides more room for activities, including quiet areas for reading and studying.

Ringer Library is actually one of three branches in the Bryan+College Station Public Library System. Jessica Jones, branch manager at Ringer Library, says it is important for communities to invest in public libraries, because the library is often the only comfortable place to go that is free and provides engaging entertainment in a climate-controlled setting.

"It makes it a really special space in a community because it is equal access for everybody and that's a really big deal to us," Jones explains. "We want it to be available to everyone, which means we need a big enough space for everyone who wants to be there to actually be there. It's a good space, designed for people to learn and be informed and also to entertain themselves."

The expansion project has made Ringer Library better equipped to serve everyone in the public who wishes to use it. Before the expansion, the library had to turn kids away for their reading program, because the meeting rooms were too small to accommodate everyone, says Larry Ringer, namesake of the library and former mayor of College Station. Now, the children's space is twice as big and the meeting space where story time is conducted is about three times bigger.

In addition to larger gathering and activity spaces, the expansion also includes more room for a growing collection. "It's an area for adding collection and an area for people to use that collection in terms of spaces where you can sit and read or do research," Ringer shares.

Thanks to the expansion project, Ringer Library now features five private study rooms that can accommodate one

or two people each. "Those have doors that close so that it stays nice and quiet," Jones says.

Jones also says she hopes to bring in Texas A&M University graduate students as guest speakers now that the library is better equipped to do so with a new audio/video system. "It's also a chance for them to kind of practice their public speaking," she shares. "I'm kind of looking at it from a service/learning perspective, too. Don't let your defense be the first time you speak publicly about what you do."

While several things have changed at Ringer Library, its best qualities remain intact. Jones says the library still has a welcoming atmosphere and holds the same reasons to love Ringer Library that existed before the expansion, including involvement from its namesake.

"He's everywhere and he's very hands on with the library," Jones shares. "People in the library know who he is. He's not just an abstract face."

Ringer says public libraries are an important source in a community for many reasons, including the access they provide to reading materials, research opportunities, and their ability to introduce children to literacy. "It's just an important part of the community," he shares. "It's a part that every community should have." *i*

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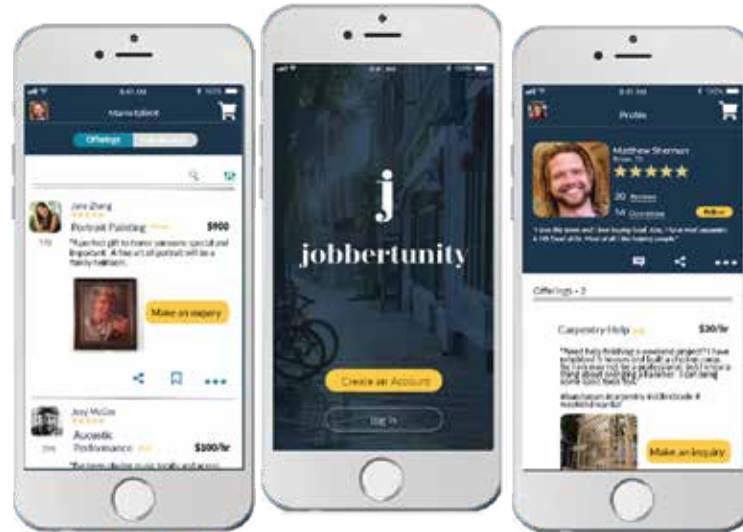
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CREATE YOUR OWN JOBBERTUNITY

A New Launch Platform for Entrepreneurs

By PAIGE BRAZIL



Do you have a specialized skill set you would like to tap into? A new idea for an innovative business but no tools to launch yourself into the business world? An up-and-coming application, Jobbertunity, will soon become the premier launch platform for aspiring entrepreneurs, and the application was created right here in Bryan College Station.

Local entrepreneur, Matthew Sherman, and his wife, Jane, first had the idea for Jobbertunity when they decided to start businesses of their own.

"The gist of Jobbertunity is to start a business in less than five minutes with the skills you already have," says Matthew. "Starting a business and getting everything out there can be a little rough, so a lot of it is designed around getting an idea out quickly, efficiently, and professionally."

The free app is designed for anyone to start a business by creating profiles to list their skilled time by the hour or well-defined services at a fixed rate. Through Jobbertunity, users can search a marketplace by distance and keywords, engage in direct conversations without any third-party affiliates, and build a credible reputation for their business or service.

Jobbertunity is designed so consumers can buy and sell on the same interface, which creates a sense of transparency and a community of respect, says Matthew. The process begins with the

creation of a profile that details the prospective business, outlines specific skill sets, and describes the service provided. The app also has a toolkit that helps an entrepreneur get going, which includes a secure electronic payment platform and serves as a word-of-mouth accelerator to build reputation and legitimacy, says Matthew.

"The entrepreneurial [challenge is] building your own brand and defining your service and having communication with your customers," says Matthew. "It takes a while to get your name out there. A lot of design for this comes from our personal experience, but also just talking with other entrepreneurs. It's really about building that reputation and getting yourself out there."

Although anyone can use Jobbertunity, the app has two main target audiences, which Matthew describes as new entrepreneurs and sole proprietors already running local businesses. It could also appeal to people in between phases of life, such as a recent college graduate, a stay-at-home parent, active retired persons, and more.

"It's viable for all throughout someone's lifespan, because there are those in-between periods of time," says Matthew. While LinkedIn profiles and professional have a narrow focus, Matthew says he hopes Jobbertunity offers an alternative. "Where is your resume for your creative side, your side hustle, your

entrepreneurial ideas? Jobbertunity is the place for all these things."

The app is nearing completion and beta testing will begin locally in the fall with the goal of hosting a public launch before Christmas, according to Matthew. Matthew and his wife want to build a community around the app locally before it is officially launched globally.

"Small, local businesses have a place on this app, as do local entrepreneurs," says Matthew. "Jobbertunity is all about supporting local economy and businesses that already exist, as well as individuals that will become businesses, and we want that to be part of this community."

In regards to a long-term plan for the app, Matthew explains how he would like to eventually layer features that help each entrepreneur grow, such as using data from the app for marketing research and accounting purposes for each user.

The first phase is designed for the individual, explains Matthew. The next phase will focus on building a community of entrepreneurs. While the app will mainly focused on buying and selling a skilled service, the plan is to eventually include products as well.

"Entrepreneurship is [difficult]," says Matthew. "Our goal is to lower the barriers to entrepreneurship."

For more information regarding Jobbertunity or to sign up to take part in the beta testing of the app, visit jobbertunity.com. **i**

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SWINE UP NOW

9th Annual Hog Splash Mud Volleyball Tournament

By PAIGE BRAZIL



For the past eight years, Hospice Brazos Valley has been putting the fun in fundraiser. This year will mark the 9th Annual Hog Splash Mud Volleyball Tournament hosted by Hospice Brazos Valley and Slovacek's Sausages on Aug. 24. Local businesses, families, student organizations, and friends pair a competitive spirit with charitable giving, playing a series of 15-minute volleyball games. However, instead of a traditional volleyball court, teams play in a giant mud pit.

The tournament is recreational and organized in a round-robin, rally scoring pool play, followed by a single-elimination championship round and consolation bracket. During pool play, six teams play

each other on one net for a total of nine matches. The winner for each net in round robin is determined by the winner of the most matches in the pool, the winner of head-to-head matches, and net points for all matches played. The winner at each net advances to the championship bracket. The remainder of the bracket is determined by the most points and margins of victory and then one wild card position. The consolation bracket is open to any teams who wish to keep playing at the conclusion of the round robin portion.

"This is really a fun, friendly event for a good cause," says Dianne Lero, funds development supervisor for Hospice Brazos Valley. "It is a way for family, friends, and businesses to come together

to support the community. We need the support of the community to make it another success."

All of the proceeds raised by the event go directly to Hospice Brazos Valley, which is the only nonprofit hospice service in Brazos Valley, says Lero. "Hospice Brazos Valley is an award-winning organization that has assisted patients, provided grief counseling, and has supported families for over 30 years," says Lero. The goal of Hospice Brazos Valley is to provide comprehensive, end-of-life care when curative treatment is no longer a possibility or a desire, according to their website.

"We really do not want our patients and their families to have to worry about expenses and finances," says Lero. "We



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never bill patients for any services and that is why we do the fundraiser — to take care of these bills for these patients.”

It costs \$500 to register a team for the volleyball tournament. Although only six players are allowed on the court, it is recommended to have eight to 10 players on a team to rotate so nobody gets too tired, says Lero. Additionally, each team member must be at least 16 years of age to participate, and teams must have at least one female.

“We will also have a mud pit for kids,” says Lero. “If you are not playing on a team, spectators are more than welcome, free of charge.”

This year, food vendors at the event include Slovacek’s Sausages, 1775 Texas Pit BBQ, JLM Chicken and Waffles, and Kona Ice. Beverages will also be available for purchase.

“Come out, bring your lawn chair, enjoy the day, and just have a good time,” says Lero. “This is a way that Hospice Brazos Valley gives back to the community for their continuous support throughout the years.”

The 9th Annual Hog Splash Mud Volleyball Tournament is held on Saturday, Aug. 24, at Slovacek’s Sausage in Snook. Teams check in at 9 a.m. and the tournament lasts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about the event or to register a team, visit hospicebrazosvalley.org/hogsplash. **i**

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GARDEN PARTY

Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild's 32nd Quilt Show

By SHELBI LEMEILLEUR



The Brazos Valley has the opportunity to see a truly magnificent and unique form of art on Sept. 6 and 7 at the Brazos Center. For those two days, guests can marvel at 140 quilts of all sizes and techniques at the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild's 32nd Quilt Show.

The theme for this year's quilt show is Wild Flowers; however, the quilts on display will vary in both design and technique. Quilts compete in one of 13 different categories: pieced, applique, innovative and art, modern quilts, theme category, scrap, miniature, block of the month and kit quilts, other techniques, youth, challenge quilt, and Go-Texan. Quilts in the theme category must have recognizable garden elements incorporated into them, according to the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild website. Additionally, the challenge quilt theme is Garden Creatures this year.

"I think I'm amazed at the quality and the variety of the workmanship that members of the guild do," says Charles Gilreath, co-chairman of the quilt show. "It is astounding to me the professional level of quality that some of the folks do."

Although members of the community outside of the quilt guild are welcome to submit their quilts to the show (for an extra fee), the show is predominantly submissions from members of the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild. Members can submit up to two quilts per category; each category winner is determined by a nationally certified judge.

In addition to the quilt show, there will be vendors, raffle baskets, a scissor sharpener, the care quilt challenge and auction, a gift boutique, and a certified appraiser. Care quilts are smaller quilts designed in mind for people who are in children's homes, cancer centers, hospice care, and intensive care units, among others. The appraiser is a popular attraction at the quilt show and must be booked in advance.

Appraisals for quilts are valuable for insurance purposes in the case of fire, flooding, or other damages, explains Debbie Ginn, publicity chairman for the quilt show. "Insurance will call a quilt — a very fancy quilt — they'll call it a blanket and give you maybe \$10 or \$15, if you're lucky," explains Ginn. "But if your

appraisal is for \$300, \$3000 and you put it on your insurance [it's covered]."

New to the quilt show this year is a consignment booth.

"Frequently we get asked at the show, 'Do you have quilts to sell?' and in most cases we don't. This year we do!" says Gilreath. "Many of these will be vintage quilts. They are in good shape, but they are grandma's quilts, or Aunt Cindy's quilts, or they are quilts they have made that they would like to consign."

Through raffle ticket sales, entry fees, and money raised from a donation quilt auction, the Bluebonnet Quilt Guild considers the quilt show their biggest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from the show go towards scholarships for local high school students.

The Guild also helps other organizations throughout the year through quilting bees. Members of the quilt guild can choose bees to join, and each bee meets for a different purpose. Some bees focus on specific projects, according to Gilreath. This includes bees like the Books & a Blanket bee, which provides blankets for the organization,

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and the Quilts of Valor group, who donate quilts to local veterans. Other bees are more project and fellowship focused, where guild members get together at certain times and work on individual projects.

“There’s different bees, and they meet at different times,” says Jo Ann Williams, Bluebonnet Quilt Guild member. “There’s a night bee, there’s several day bees, and they meet all over town.”

However, the guild is more than just getting together to make quilts. The main focus of the membership is to gather together, learn new techniques, and hear from speakers.

“The guild meets once a month,” explains Gilreath. “Typically we have some sort of program. Either we bring in a national quilter or we might have somebody from our own guild who is an expert at a certain technique and we will have them give us a program on what they do.”

Some speakers will also have a workshop the day after the meeting where members can practically apply a new technique, while others just share stories or have trunk shows for members, says Gilreath.

Meetings are open for visitors, and Williams encourages anyone and everyone to join the guild.

“I’ve heard, ‘I don’t quilt well enough,’ and I say, ‘Do you enjoy quilting?’” explains Williams. “‘Do you like talking to people? ... ‘Do you like listening to people talk about quilts?’ I said, ‘You’re perfect for the guild.’ As long as you like quilts and you want to talk about them, that’s all that’s required.”

More information on Quilt Guild and the Quilt Show are available at bbqg.org. The 2019 Quilt Show is on Sept. 6 and 7 at the Brazos Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$10 at the door, but children 12 and under are free, as are active/retired military with an ID.

“In some ways, it’s a way to celebrate an art form that goes back in America,” says Gilreath. “Quilting as we know it is largely an American craft. It came from somewhere, but it’s a good opportunity to look at good quality craft here in the area. I think people will be very surprised at what good quality there is.” **i**

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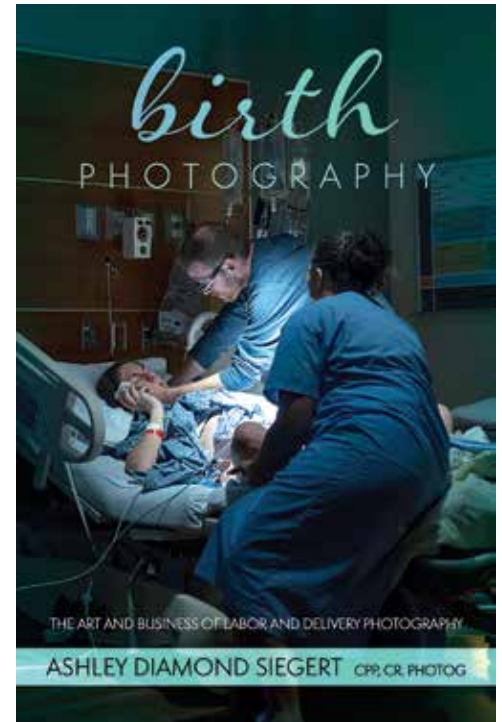
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BRAZOS READS

By **SHELBI LEMEILLEUR**



In *Birth Photography: The Art and Business of Labor and Delivery Photography*, Ashley Diamond Siegert shares secrets to her success as a birth photographer and tips for those who want to make it a part of their business. *Birth Photography* is not a collection of pictures, but rather a tool for photographers who are looking to start or expand a business, or learn more about the intricacies of birth photography.

Siegert's book is very clean, concise, and informative. Siegert has helpful tools and advice, without giving away all the secrets of her business, but it's apparent she is an advocate for other photographers and her own business. Not only does she encourage those looking to get into birth photography, but Siegert also shares stories from her time as a birth photographer. From wardrobe and gear to networking and choreography, Siegert covers the basics and more.

Birth Photography is available as an ebook on Amazon. **i**

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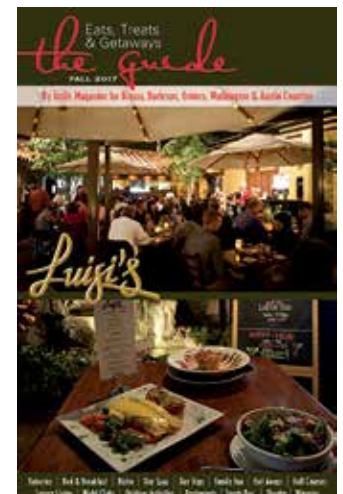
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WASHINGTON COUNTY**FUNKY ART CAFÉ & COFFEE BAR**

202 W Commerce St, Brenham (979) 836-5220. Delicious and different, Funky Art Café in Brenham offers enticing entrees to please the palate before shopping in its companion retail shop, The Pomegranate. M-Fr 11am-2pm; Sa 11am-3pm.



Check out *The Guide to Eats, Treats & Getaways at InsiteBrazosValley.com*. Listings provided as a service. Insite is not responsible for errors or omissions.

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