

# 12th Man

FALL 2018  
VOLUME 23, NO. 3

FUNDING SCHOLARSHIPS, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES  
IN SUPPORT OF CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETICS



## DESTINATION JOB

YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL TO  
RECRUITING AND RETAINING THE BEST  
COACHES IN COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

2019 SEASON TICKET

# RENEWAL CALENDAR

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

## FEBRUARY 2019

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### Football

*Seat Selection April 2019*



## JUNE 2019

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### Men's Basketball

*Seat Selection September 2019*

### Women's Basketball

*Seat Selection September 2019*

### Soccer

### Volleyball



## OCTOBER 2019

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### Baseball

*Seat Selection December 2019*

### Softball

*Seat Selection December 2019*

### Tennis

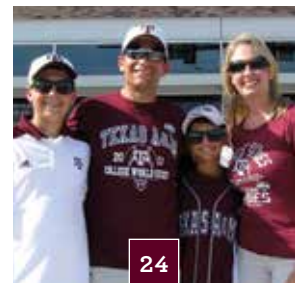
### Track & Field



# A Destination Job for Elite Coaches | Page 28

From donor support and leadership to tradition and world-class academics, A&M has everything it takes to win championships

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01



## 12TH MAN FOUNDATION

**5 Foundation News**

**8 You are the Foundation of the 12th Man**  
Your support is vital to our mission of funding scholarships, programs and facilities in support of championship athletics at Texas A&M

**10 Maximize Your Impact**  
Many employers will match tax deductible gifts to the 12th Man Foundation, which can double your contribution

**27 Davis Player Development Center**

**38 Women's Basketball Project**

**40 Premium Services**  
Serving donors by providing extraordinary experiences and exceptional hospitality  
BY SAMANTHA LATTA '17

**43 1922 Fund Donors**  
The 12th Man Foundation salutes all 1922 Fund donors for their investment in Texas A&M student-athletes through philanthropic endowment giving

**46 Staff Spotlight: Chris Carson '90**  
Manager of Ticket Events & Internal Sales  
BY SAMANTHA LATTA '17

## IMPACTFUL DONORS

**14 Carla & Rick Moncrief '81**  
BY SAMANTHA LATTA '17

**24 Damon & Cindy Diamantaras '92**  
BY SAMANTHA LATTA '17

## TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS

**6 Aggie Accolades**  
**6 Compliance Corner: Crowdfunding**

**12 Q&A with Jeff Toole '80**  
A conversation with Texas A&M Athletics' Chief Financial Officer and Senior Associate Athletics Director  
BY ADAM QUISENBERRY

**19 Finding Success in the Classroom**  
BY DOUGLAS PILS '92

**22 The D.R.A.F.T.**  
The Development of Retiring Athletes for Transition

**39 Q&A with Billy Kennedy**  
A conversation with the head coach of the Texas A&M men's basketball program  
BY ADAM QUISENBERRY

## STUDENT-ATHLETES

**7 Jon Bishop '20**  
SEC Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year

**11 Hollann Hans '20**  
1922 Fund Student-Athlete

**17 Colton Prater '20**  
1922 Fund Student-Athlete

**18 Amy Houser '19**  
Volleyball Team Captain

**42 Trayveon Williams '20**  
1922 Fund Student-Athlete

**44 Daylon Mack '19**  
1922 Fund Student-Athlete

**45 Kingsley Keke '19**  
1922 Fund Student-Athlete

# 12th Man

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**SHARON '81 & JIM WILSON '81 HONORED WITH 2018 E. KING GILL AWARD**

The 12th Man Foundation honored long-time supporters Sharon and Jim Wilson, both A&M Class of '81, as the 2018 recipients of the prestigious E. King Gill Award during halftime of the Texas A&M-LSU game at Kyle Field. In the spirit of E. King Gill, Sharon and Jim have been shining examples of selfless service and leadership in their unwavering support of Texas A&M University and Aggie Athletics. Visit [12thmanfoundation.com](http://12thmanfoundation.com) for more information about the E. King Gill Award. The Wilsons will also be featured in an upcoming issue of *12th Man Magazine*.

**STAFF UPDATE**

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



**Lauren Hickey**  
Manager of Donor Relations, Major Gifts



**THANK YOU TO THE 2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for your service to the 12th Man Foundation and Texas A&M Athletics in 2018. Outgoing trustees honored at the annual service dinner in November included Henry B. "Hank" Paup '70 and John D. Schiller, Jr. '81 as well as Past Chair Frosty Gilliam, Jr. '80, pictured above with wife, Rhonda, 2018 Chair Cynthia B. "Cindy" Taylor '84 and Travis Dabney '96.



**ATHLETIC AMBASSADORS FALL RECEPTION**

The 12th Man Foundation hosted a Fall Reception for Athletic Ambassadors in November at the new Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center. The event featured presentations and a question and answer session with new women's golf coach Andrea Gaston and new volleyball coach Laura "Bird" Kuhn. Read more about the new Aggie coaches on page 28.



**12TH MAN FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE**

In coordination with Summit Athletic Media, a leader in the industry, the 12th Man Foundation launched a redesigned website on Oct. 15. The site offers details about the many ways donors can become involved and support Aggie Athletics as well as information on current priorities, season ticket renewals and upcoming events. The site is also the official online source for Texas A&M Athletics tickets.

12TH MAN FOUNDATION

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**January 18, 2019**  
*Student-Athlete Dinner Honoring 1922 Fund & John David Crow Legacy Society Donors*

**February 2019**  
*2019 Football Season Ticket Renewals*

**April 2019**  
*2019 Football Seat Selection*

**April 5-6, 2019**  
*Champions Council Weekend*

**June 2019**  
*Basketball, Soccer and Volleyball Season Ticket Renewals*

**June 20-22, 2019**  
*2019 Summer Meeting*



**WILSON NAMED AGGIE HEART AWARD WINNER**

Donovan Wilson, a senior defensive back from Shreveport, La., was named the Aggie Heart Award winner at the team’s annual banquet, the highest honor for a Texas A&M senior football player. Selected by teammates, the Aggie Heart Award winner is a senior who has completed his eligibility and displays the intangibles such as effort, desire, determination, competitiveness, accountability, leadership and courage. “Dono is what the Aggie Heart Award is all about,” head football coach Jimbo Fisher said. “He has given everything he has to this program and our football team. For him to bounce back from an injury that kept him out all of last season, to accepting a new head coach and coaching staff to being a team leader, Donovan Wilson is very worthy of the Aggie Heart Award. This senior class means the world to me. They didn’t have to buy in, but they did across the board and helped lay a great foundation for our future success. I can’t thank them enough.”



**WATT NAMED HERMANN TROPHY SEMIFINALIST**

Texas A&M junior Ally Watt was named one of 15 semifinalists for the Missouri Athletic Club’s Hermann Trophy, presented to the top player in collegiate soccer. The MAC Hermann Trophy, presented by World Wide Technology, is the most coveted individual honor in NCAA Division I soccer. A first-team All-American and two-time USC All-Southeast Region First Team honoree, Watt led the SEC and ranked seventh in the nation with 15 goals this season. The Colorado Springs, Colo., native was a redshirt during the 2016 campaign while playing for the United States Under-20 Women’s National Team. She played in 14 matches, including five matches at the FIFA U20 Women’s World Cup.

**MANN WINS RAY GUY AWARD**

Junior Braden Mann became the first Aggie to win the Ray Guy Award, given annually to the nation’s top punter. “This is a huge honor and an absolute blessing for me,” Mann said. “I have great teammates, great coaches and a great family behind me. God has blessed me to be able to have a season like this, but I wouldn’t have been able to do that without my teammates, coaches, family and the 12th Man behind me. I really want to thank the 12th Man for giving me a lot of juice in games this season.” The Houston, Texas, native also became A&M’s 10th unanimous All-American, and is on pace to break the NCAA record with a 51.15 punting average prior to the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl (record is 50.28). He already holds the record for high gross punt average in a single game (60.8 yards) and 60-yard punts in a season (14).



**COMPLIANCE CORNER  
CROWDFUNDING**

While former students and fans may want to help Texas A&M recruit, NCAA rules generally prohibit that.

Specifically, recruiting contacts with a prospective student-athlete (i.e., PSA) or the PSA’s relatives or legal guardians shall be made only by authorized Texas A&M staff members.

While NCAA rules allow fans to cheer on their respective institutions’ recruiting efforts (e.g., by following recruits on social media, sharing a recruit’s social media posts), the rules also specify that in-person contact with, print or electronic correspondence sent to and telephone calls to PSAs by representatives of an institution’s athletics interests (e.g., boosters of and donors to Texas A&M Athletics, 12th Man Foundation members, fans who are involved in recruiting) are generally prohibited.

Fortunately for fans of Texas A&M sports teams, our coaches are excellent recruiters and familiar with their PSAs.

In the event that NCAA rules allow and a coach wants you to be involved in recruiting, that Texas A&M coach will let you know how you may be involved (e.g., offering a summer job to a high school graduate), but, otherwise, please leave recruiting to the Texas A&M Athletics staff.

**PLEASE CONTACT US  
WITH QUESTIONS**

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



## JON BISHOP '20

CROSS COUNTRY | JUNIOR | APPLIED MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

**SEC MALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**  
2018 SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE CROSS COUNTRY

Jon Bishop was recently named the Southeastern Conference's Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year for cross country. The junior from College Station has a 4.0 grade point average in Applied Mathematics and earned A&M's Classroom Excellence Award for his outstanding work in advanced calculus. Bishop is a three-time member of the SEC Honor Roll and has made the AD Honor Roll every semester since his freshman year.

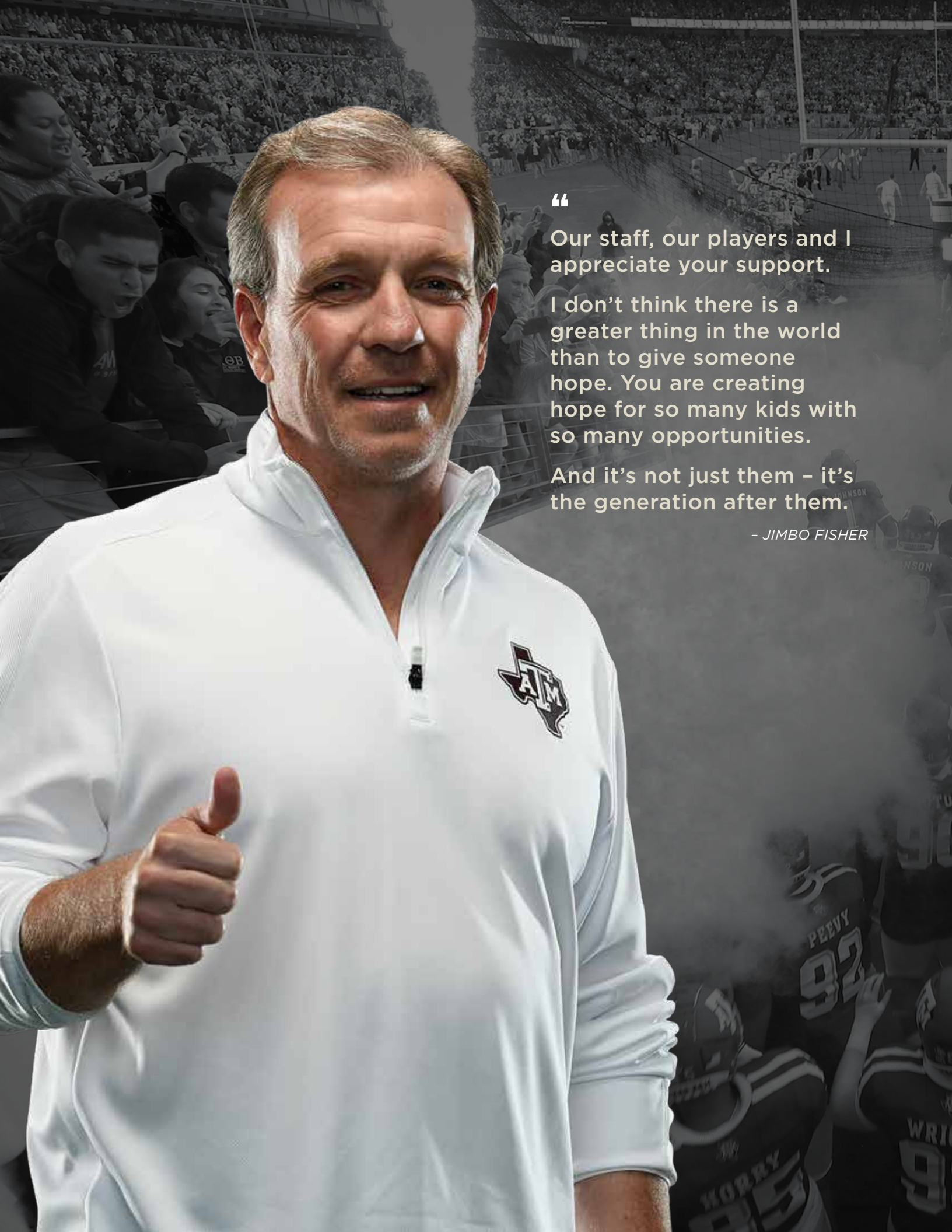
"That's a big accomplishment for Jon," said Texas A&M head coach Pat Henry. "The guy doesn't know how to make a B. It's a tremendous honor for someone who is a dedicated academic person. He's also doing a better job of dedicating himself to track and field as well. I think he has a good future in front of him."

Earlier this season, Bishop led A&M to a fifth-place finish in the Loyola Lakefront Invitational among a field of 30-plus teams, placing as the first Aggie in finishing 18th among 349 runners. After missing a pair of meets due to a staph infection, Bishop returned to help A&M finish 3rd in the NCAA South Central Region meet hosted on the Dale Watts '71 Cross Country Course in November.

*You can help support Aggie student-athletes like Jon Bishop with a contribution to the Annual Fund. Call Callie Boenigk at 979-260-2394 or visit [12thmanfoundation.com](http://12thmanfoundation.com).*

“  
TO ME, THE TEXAS A&M  
EXPERIENCE IS ABOUT  
TRYING TO BE THE BEST  
POSSIBLE VERSION OF  
MYSELF, AND HELPING  
MY PEERS DO THE SAME  
THING. I AM GRATEFUL  
FOR ALL THE SUPPORT  
AND RESOURCES THAT  
TEXAS A&M PROVIDES;  
IT IS EMPOWERING!

— JON BISHOP '20



“

Our staff, our players and I appreciate your support.

I don't think there is a greater thing in the world than to give someone hope. You are creating hope for so many kids with so many opportunities.

And it's not just them - it's the generation after them.

- JIMBO FISHER



# YOU ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE 12TH MAN

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

It is a great time to be an Aggie sports fan with Texas A&M football playing its 10th straight bowl game following a historic win over LSU, and several A&M teams expected to contend for conference and national championships this winter and spring.

As a loyal fan and supporter, we are asking you to make an additional investment in Texas A&M Athletics with a donation to the 12th Man Foundation's Annual Fund.

Your additional contribution directly impacts our mission of funding scholarships, programs and facilities in support of championship athletics. With 73 percent of student-athletes in 18 sports receiving athletic aid, the costs of tuition, academic support, room and board, sports medicine, equipment, nutrition and more are exceptionally high. Covering these rising costs would not be possible without the generous support of 12th Man Foundation donors like yourself.

With the recent changes to the tax law, annual seat contributions are no longer tax deductible. However, donations to the Annual Fund may be tax deductible since they are not tied to a ticket purchase. Donors should consult their tax advisor to determine the deductibility of their gift.

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

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

**\$150**

MEALS FOR ONE WEEK OR ONE WEEK OF SPORTS MEDICINE

**\$750**

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

**\$2,000**

ROOM, BOARD AND ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE AND NUTRITION FOR ONE MONTH

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



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



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



**BY PHONE**  
Call us at **888-826-1284**  
Mon. - Fri.,  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



**TEXT US**  
Text **12Donate** to **555888** and we will contact you



# MAXIMIZE YOUR IMPACT WITH A MATCHING GIFT

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

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

**1**

You request a matching gift form from your company's website or HR office

**2**

You complete the form and send it to the 12th Man Foundation with your gift

**3**

The 12th Man Foundation verifies the gift information and returns it to your employer

**4**

Your employer issues a matching gift contribution to the 12th Man Foundation

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

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

Consult your tax advisor to determine the deductibility of your gift



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



## HOLLANN HANS '20

VOLLEYBALL | JUNIOR | UNIVERSITY STUDIES

### 1922 FUND STUDENT-ATHLETE

PAIRED WITH DONORS CHARLES & ANN MANNING

Hollann Hans is a junior University Studies major from Corpus Christi, Texas, and an All-American outside hitter for the Texas A&M volleyball program. Hans, the first Aggie to be named AVCA South Region Player of the Year, led the SEC in points (5.3), aces (.61) and double-doubles (12) in 2018 conference matches. She broke or tied more than 20 A&M match, single season and career records during the year, including an all-time high 64 aces in the season besting the previous longest standing record of 59 set in 1983.

A relative of Elvis Presley through her mother's side of the family, Hans serves as a leader for FCA and was one of 67 A&M student-athletes who went on a mission trip to Haiti in May 2017. Each of the last two years, Hans has participated in The Big Event as well as the Special Olympics Spring Games.

Hans has been paired with donors Charles and Ann Manning for the past three years through the 1922 Fund. Thank you to the Mannings and all of the 1922 Fund donors who are helping the 12th Man Foundation in its desire to endow scholarships for every student-athlete at Texas A&M.

*For more information about supporting student-athletes through the 1922 Fund, call Lauren Hickey at 979-260-7595 or visit [12thmanfoundation.com](http://12thmanfoundation.com).*

“  
**HAVING A SCHOLARSHIP  
MEANS THE WORLD TO ME.  
TEXAS A&M HAS BEEN A  
DREAM OF MINE SINCE I WAS  
A LITTLE GIRL, AND GETTING  
TO PLAY VOLLEYBALL HERE  
IS A DREAM COME TRUE. THE  
SUPPORT FROM THE DONORS  
MEANS SO MUCH TO ME. THEY  
ARE ALWAYS THERE FOR US AS  
A TEAM NO MATTER IF WE WIN  
OR LOSE, AND I COULDN'T BE  
MORE THANKFUL FOR THAT.**

— HOLLANN HANS '20



# JEFF TOOLE '80

A conversation with Texas A&M Athletics' Chief Financial Officer and Senior Associate Athletics Director

BY ADAM QUISENBERRY



- » TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS' CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR
- » STARTED WORKING FOR THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT IN JULY 2009
- » SERVED ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION FROM 2007-09
- » GRADUATED WITH A BBA IN ACCOUNTING, SUMMA CUM LAUDE FROM TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY IN 1980

**In 2016-17, the 12th Man Foundation transferred \$75.1 million to Texas A&M Athletics. How vital are those contributions in the pursuit of championship athletics?**

They are critical. That \$75 million is a combination of annual commitments that are made to athletics and money that has been raised through major gift campaigns to support facility construction. Without that money and having such a well-developed major gifts group, we would be very much restricted in what type of facility projects we could do. If we had to borrow money for facility projects, it would take away from our ability to invest in our teams, coaches and student-athletes. Our donors are a secret weapon we have in terms of us being able to do projects.

**In the ever-increasing facilities arms race, how do donors impact Texas A&M's ability to compete for championships by supporting capital projects?**

Right or wrong, it is a facilities arms race. Recruits, yes we sell them on the school, being an Aggie and all the benefits of coming to Texas

A&M, but on some level young people buy with their eyes. They like what they're seeing here and it sends a message that this school cares and is committed to winning in their sport. Fifteen years ago, we were lagging behind in almost all of our facilities. With the help of our donors and the 12th Man Foundation, we have just about caught up to where our facilities are as good or better than anywhere in the country.

**Over 73 percent of student-athletes across Texas A&M's 18 sports receive athletic aid. How vital is the support of donors on the lives of Texas A&M student-athletes by funding scholarships?**

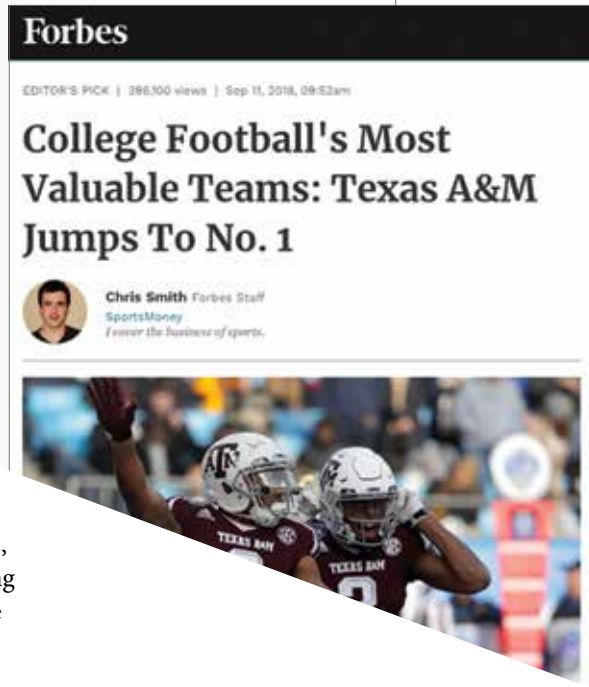
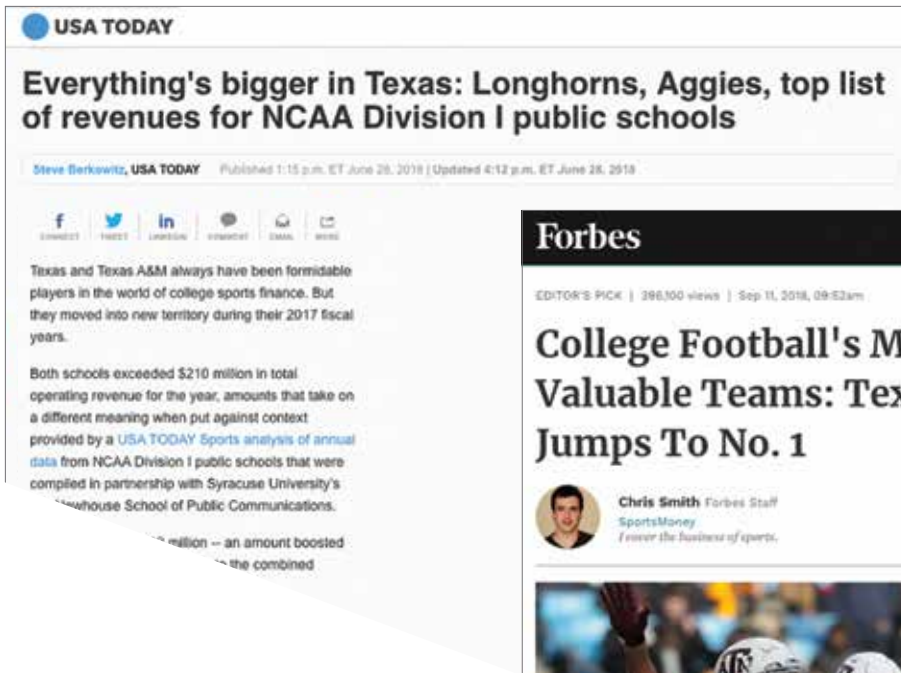
Scholarships and education is why we're here. The support of donors to help in our ability to provide those scholarships is critical. Of the 73 percent of student-athletes who get some financial aid, some are on full scholarships and some are partial scholarships. Those scholarships are important, but the other thing that the donations allow us to do is improve the complete experience of our student-athletes regardless if they're on full, partial or no scholarship. We've invested in nutrition, athletic training, sports medicine and the newest technologies of training and measuring performance, as well as student-athlete engagement and life skills. The experience we believe our student-athletes are getting is second to none across the board and it is developing them to succeed after they're finished competing at Texas A&M.

**The 12th Man Foundation has a goal of endowing scholarships for all of Texas A&M's student-athletes through the 1922 Fund. What are the benefits of endowing scholarships?**

I love the 1922 Fund, I think it's a great thing. Currently, we spend \$11.5 million on student

“  
**FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, WE WERE LAGGING BEHIND IN ALMOST ALL OF OUR FACILITIES. WITH THE HELP OF OUR DONORS AND THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION, WE HAVE JUST ABOUT CAUGHT UP TO WHERE OUR FACILITIES ARE AS GOOD OR BETTER THAN ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.**

— JEFF TOOLE '80



While informative, articles about revenue in college athletics can be misleading.

financial aid, which includes tuition, fees, books, room and board and cost of attendance. It's going to take a while to fully endow that, but the more of that we can do is tremendously beneficial. It's something people love to donate to and the income earned on those endowments will allow us to fund the scholarships and free up funds to invest back into the student-athlete experience.

**Texas A&M was recently named as America's most valuable college football program by *Forbes* and last year was ranked as the top NCAA school in terms of athletics department revenue by *USA Today*. Can you talk about what factors go into these rankings?**

I'm glad you asked this question because pieces like the *Forbes* article or the *USA Today* ranking, which just takes our NCAA report and says we have over \$200 million in revenue, really mislead our fan base. Yes, that money is real, but in the way those reports are structured, the dollars that are donated for capital projects are shown as revenue. Thank goodness for our donors because they are so impactful, however, those reports do not allow you to show that those donated dollars were invested into a facility. The revenue shows up, but the expenditure does not. The *USA Today* report has said we made \$83 million one year and \$65 million the next year. It's somewhat misleading because that money is not sitting there in a big pot. It has been invested into facilities and athletics programs.

**So the impression that Texas A&M Athletics is flush with money is not the reality of the situation, correct?**

It's the reality in the sense that real money came in and was invested in facilities, but it's not a reality that at the end of the year, all that money is sitting there waiting to be used.

**In addition to serving as a member of the Texas A&M Athletics administration, you are also a 12th Man Foundation donor. Why do you give back in support of Texas A&M Athletics?**

I've been in athletics administration since 2009. I was in private industry prior and that is really when I began donating. My reasons are that I love Texas A&M. It's part of me, and along with my parents, it's what made me who I am today. I just felt like I wanted to support that, not only athletics, but also the business school. A lot of our donors support both the athletic and academic side. ♥

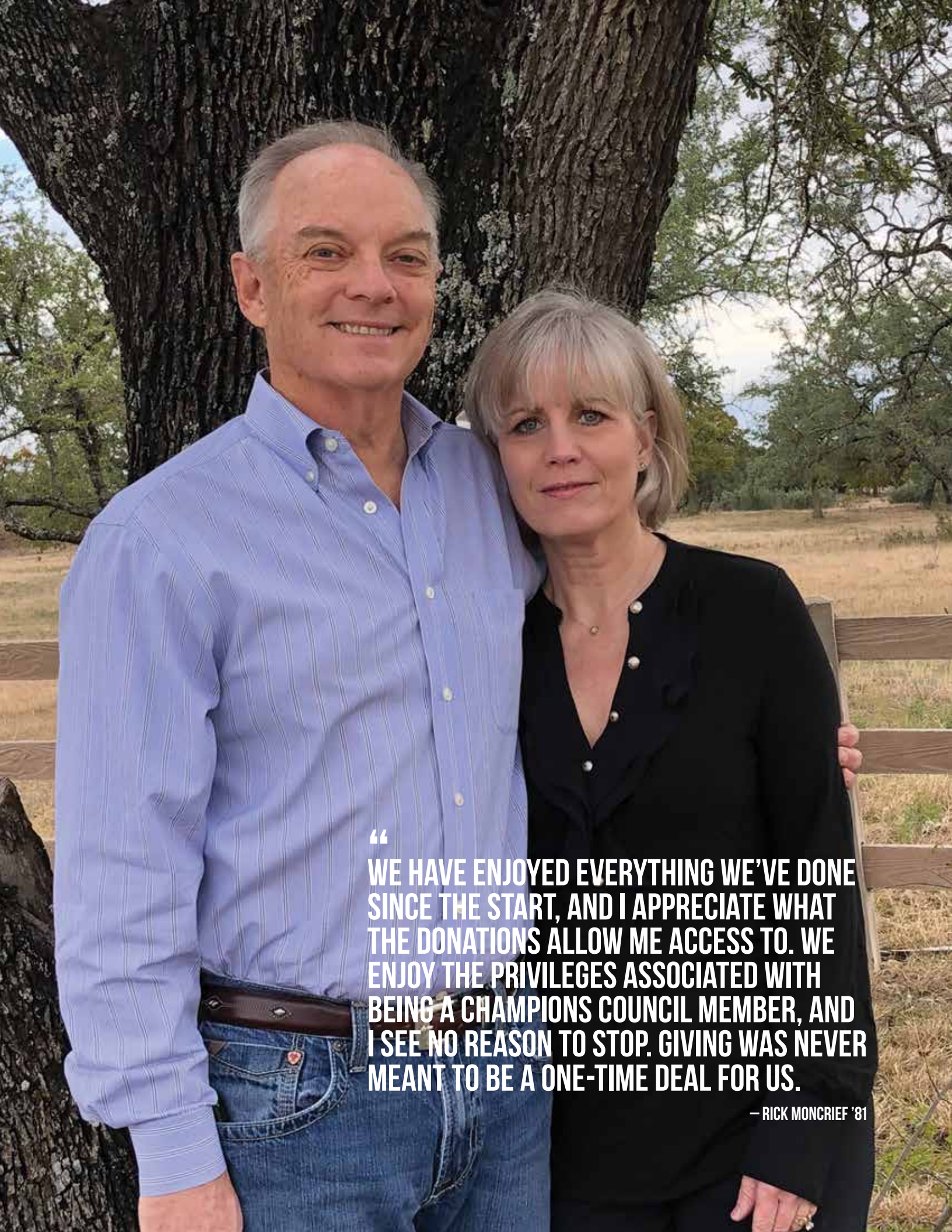
### INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

12th Man Foundation donors impacted Texas A&M student-athletes with \$1.3 million in pledges to the 1922 Fund during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Help support the Foundation's desire to endow scholarships for all student-athletes.



CONTACT LAUREN HICKEY AT 979-260-7595



“  
**WE HAVE ENJOYED EVERYTHING WE’VE DONE SINCE THE START, AND I APPRECIATE WHAT THE DONATIONS ALLOW ME ACCESS TO. WE ENJOY THE PRIVILEGES ASSOCIATED WITH BEING A CHAMPIONS COUNCIL MEMBER, AND I SEE NO REASON TO STOP. GIVING WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE A ONE-TIME DEAL FOR US.**

— RICK MONCRIEF '81

# CARLA & RICK MONCRIEF '81

BY SAMANTHA LATTA '17

Through their generous financial support of Texas A&M Athletics, Carla and Rick recently renewed their Champions Council membership for another five-year term. "As a Champions Council member, you feel like you're on the inside circle and it's good to be around such passionate people," Rick said.

**AS MANY AGGIES DO, RICK MONCRIEF '81** has a true passion for Texas A&M and the values that the school represents.

"Aggies are just different," he said. "Genuine is the best word to describe them."

A true reflection of the selfless service expected of an Aggie, "genuine" is certainly a fitting word to describe the Moncrief family as well.

From their contributions to student-athlete scholarships and their impact on facility projects, the Moncriefs have been and continue to be incredibly generous donors to the 12th Man Foundation.

## DISCOVERING A&M

The first in his family to go to college, Rick admits being strongly indifferent about what school he wanted to attend.

A close friend, David Beard '81, was the one who introduced Rick to A&M. David and his father, Harold '52, an A&M geologist, took Rick to a couple of Aggie football games where he was first exposed to A&M, the 12th Man and the atmosphere of Kyle Field. When the time came to choose a university, it was no surprise that Rick eagerly headed to Aggieland.

"While my parents were the ones behind my desire to go to college, the Beards directed me toward A&M and the energy industry," Rick said. "I had a scholarship offer to SMU, but I turned it down to go to Texas A&M. I wanted to make the most of my education, and with my desire to be an engineer, it was a 'no-brainer' for me to attend A&M. As for going the (petroleum engineering) route, I have Mr. Beard to thank for that as I had no family ties to the oil and gas industry."

## FAMILY OF AGGIES

From his top-tier education in petroleum engineering to the benefits of being an Aggie, Rick humbly gives credit to A&M for allowing him to

reach the level of success he has attained thus far. Rick is a founding partner in Caiman Energy and resides in Dallas alongside his "die-hard Aggie family," including his daughter and son, their Aggie spouses, five grandkids and his high school sweetheart and wife, Carla.

"We're a family of Aggies," Rick said. "All of my family loves the school and what it represents. We also love football. For me, football was what first got me interested in A&M and attending the games is one of the ways we immerse our grandkids into the spirit of Aggieland. Kyle Field and Aggie football are like the front door to Aggieland."

## GIVING BACK

The Moncriefs eagerly answered when the opportunity to donate to the Kyle Field redevelopment project came knocking in 2013. With their generous capital contribution to the largest stadium redevelopment project in college football history came a membership in Champions Council, which is reserved for the 12th Man Foundation's most devoted and financially committed supporters.

"Part of giving back was that I had come to a time in my life where I could focus on things outside of raising my kids," Rick said. "I wanted my grandkids to experience A&M in person – the 12th Man, the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, Kyle Field and Aggie football."

In addition to helping fund Kyle Field, the Moncriefs also contributed to a philanthropic endowment through the 1922 Fund, where they were paired with Aggie football student-athlete, Colton Prater '20.

"Brady (Bullard) set up a meeting with Colton and my grandson who was just 6 years old at the time, and who is also named Colton," Rick said. "That just meant the world to our grandson. Colton gave him some gloves and his 12th Man towel from the game. Our Colton was awestruck. That

## YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As Champions Council members and 1922 Fund Donors, Carla and Rick Moncrief '81 are making a lasting impact on Texas A&M Athletics.

Join Carla and Rick in supporting Aggie student-athletes now and in the future.



CONTACT LAUREN  
HICKEY AT  
979-260-7595



Carla and Rick are “die-hard Aggies” along with their daughter and son, their Aggie spouses and five grandkids. Generous supporters of A&M Athletics, the Moncriefs were paired with Aggie football student-athlete Colton Prater through their scholarship gift to the 1922 Fund.

interaction and the impact the student-athletes have outside of football on kids is great.”

Being able to build these relationships and witness the impact of their contributions makes being a 12th Man Foundation donor especially meaningful to the Moncriefs.

“We’re rooting for Colton (Prater) to be a success,” Rick said. “He is a fine young man. Part of what really drives us is, at the end of the day, we want to be able to say we helped somebody make more of their life than what they might have been able to otherwise. That’s what matters.”

**REAPING THE BENEFITS**

Experiences such as this are what truly changed Rick’s perspective on donating to Texas A&M Athletics. As the Moncriefs have watched

student-athletes benefit from the facilities and scholarships they have made possible, their motivation to continue supporting is as strong as ever.

“As a Champions Council member, you feel like you’re on the inside circle and it’s good to be around such passionate people,” Rick said. “I see the school being very appreciative of people like myself who are giving back, but we don’t donate for the recognition. We donate to help the school continue to be what we think is the best institution in the nation and to help the athletics department hold the banner up high and have the highest standards for Texas A&M.”

Despite their five-year term on Champions Council coming to a close in 2018, the Moncriefs are far from finished. The experience and opportunity they have received from this membership has left an impact strong enough to inspire additional giving to renew for another term.

“We have enjoyed everything we’ve done since the start, and I appreciate what the donations allow me access to,” Rick said. “We enjoy the privileges associated with being a Champions Council member, and I see no reason to stop. Giving was never meant to be a one-time deal for us.”

In reflection of the decision to become and continue as a Champions Council member, Rick says you won’t regret it.

“I can never tell anyone what they should do, but I can say that it’s meant a tremendous amount to me and my family,” he said. “I believe that our association with this University will allow my family to reap benefits for the rest of their lives.”

“  
**PART OF WHAT REALLY DRIVES US IS,  
 AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE WANT TO BE  
 ABLE TO SAY WE HELPED SOMEBODY MAKE  
 MORE OF THEIR LIFE THAN WHAT THEY  
 MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OTHERWISE.  
 THAT’S WHAT MATTERS.**

— RICK MONCRIEF '81

COURTESY OF THE MONCRIEF FAMILY (THIS PAGE); ANDREW HANCOCK '02/TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS (FACING PAGE)





## COLTON PRATER '20

FOOTBALL | JUNIOR | MANAGEMENT

### 1922 FUND STUDENT-ATHLETE

PAIRED WITH DONORS CARLA & RICK MONCRIEF

“  
WITHOUT GENEROUS FAMILIES LIKE THE MONCRIEFS, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BE IN THE POSITION THAT I'M IN AT A&M. I TRULY APPRECIATE THEIR DONATIONS TO THE 1922 FUND AND THE TIME THEY INVEST IN ME. I'VE ALSO BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO DEVELOP A FRIENDSHIP WITH THEIR GRANDSON, WHO IS ALSO NAMED COLTON. HE THINKS IT'S COOL THAT HE KNOWS AN A&M FOOTBALL PLAYER, BUT I DON'T THINK HE KNOWS JUST HOW COOL I THINK IT IS TO KNOW HIM.

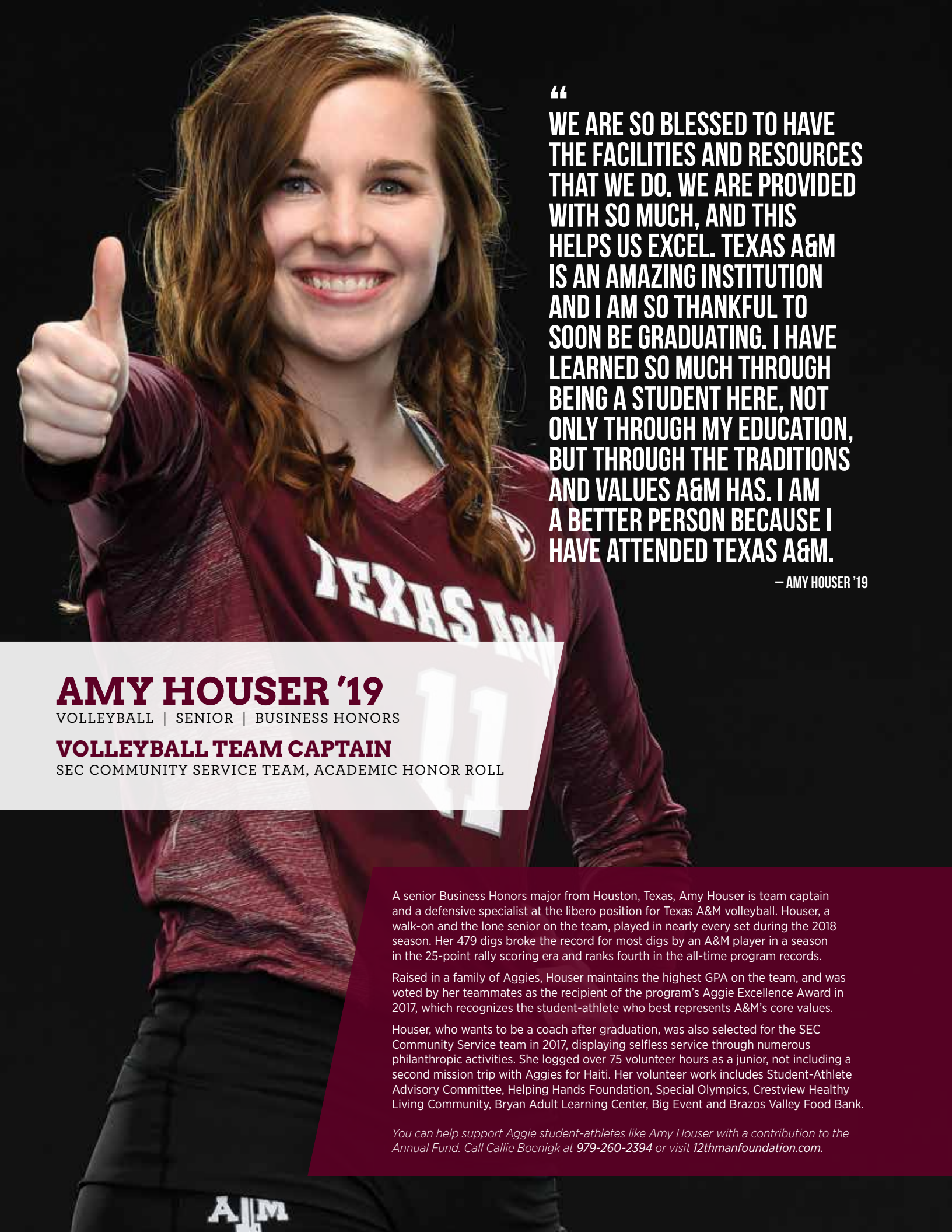
Colton Prater is a junior Management major and an offensive lineman on the Texas A&M football team. A versatile lineman, Prater has played every position on the offensive line in his 33 games in three seasons at A&M including 15 starts.

The Bossier City, La., native enrolled early at A&M in 2016 and started the first 12 games of his career before an injury forced him to miss the Aggies' bowl game. Prater, whose dad played for Louisiana Tech, earned the offensive most improved player award following the first spring practice of the Jimbo Fisher era.

Prater has been paired with donors Carla and Rick Moncrief for multiple years through the 1922 Fund. Thank you to the Moncriefs and all of the 1922 Fund donors who are helping the 12th Man Foundation in its desire to endow scholarships for every student-athlete at Texas A&M.

*For more information about supporting student-athletes through the 1922 Fund, call Lauren Hickey at 979-260-7595 or visit [12thmanfoundation.com](http://12thmanfoundation.com).*

— COLTON PRATER '20

A young woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a maroon Texas A&M volleyball jersey, is smiling and giving a thumbs up. The jersey has "TEXAS A&M" and the number "11" visible. The background is dark.

“  
WE ARE SO BLESSED TO HAVE THE FACILITIES AND RESOURCES THAT WE DO. WE ARE PROVIDED WITH SO MUCH, AND THIS HELPS US EXCEL. TEXAS A&M IS AN AMAZING INSTITUTION AND I AM SO THANKFUL TO SOON BE GRADUATING. I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH THROUGH BEING A STUDENT HERE, NOT ONLY THROUGH MY EDUCATION, BUT THROUGH THE TRADITIONS AND VALUES A&M HAS. I AM A BETTER PERSON BECAUSE I HAVE ATTENDED TEXAS A&M.

— AMY HOUSER '19

## AMY HOUSER '19

VOLLEYBALL | SENIOR | BUSINESS HONORS

### VOLLEYBALL TEAM CAPTAIN

SEC COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM, ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

A senior Business Honors major from Houston, Texas, Amy Houser is team captain and a defensive specialist at the libero position for Texas A&M volleyball. Houser, a walk-on and the lone senior on the team, played in nearly every set during the 2018 season. Her 479 digs broke the record for most digs by an A&M player in a season in the 25-point rally scoring era and ranks fourth in the all-time program records.

Raised in a family of Aggies, Houser maintains the highest GPA on the team, and was voted by her teammates as the recipient of the program's Aggie Excellence Award in 2017, which recognizes the student-athlete who best represents A&M's core values.

Houser, who wants to be a coach after graduation, was also selected for the SEC Community Service team in 2017, displaying selfless service through numerous philanthropic activities. She logged over 75 volunteer hours as a junior, not including a second mission trip with Aggies for Haiti. Her volunteer work includes Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Helping Hands Foundation, Special Olympics, Crestview Healthy Living Community, Bryan Adult Learning Center, Big Event and Brazos Valley Food Bank.

*You can help support Aggie student-athletes like Amy Houser with a contribution to the Annual Fund. Call Callie Boenigk at 979-260-2394 or visit [12thmanfoundation.com](http://12thmanfoundation.com).*

A&M

# FINDING SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM

BY DOUGLAS PILS '92



The Academic Services staff travels with Aggie Football for each road trip, providing an entire morning of study focus for the team on the day before the game. "They get all caught up in everything they do," A&M head coach Jimbo Fisher said. "It helps (them), helps (their) grades, and they can lock in on study hall."

**CONTACT LAUREN HICKEY AT 979-260-7595 TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES**

**THE PUBLIC FACES OF TEXAS A&M'S** athletic programs show up on the fields, courts, pools and courses every day in every sport.

The student-athletes who participate are gauged by their performances and the Aggies' corresponding wins and losses. However, the things that matter most for those student-athletes happen away from the public eye and there are a great many private faces working behind the scenes to make sure every student-athlete finds success.

Joe Fields, A&M's Associate Athletics Director for Academic Services, leads a team of dedicated professionals whose mission centers on student-athletes winning in the classroom and in life after graduation. Fields, who came to Texas A&M a little over a year ago, knows how important the work off the field can be because he's a product of those services.

The Houston native graduated from Syracuse and

spent seven years working in its academic services department. But as an undergrad, he admits that he needed his academic support office to "help him find his way."

"In our business, we deal with some high achieving student-athletes," Fields said. "We deal with some student-athletes who wouldn't need our help as much. But then again on the flip side, we bring in some students who are underprepared, that don't have certain skills and when you help them find those skills, you help them find their voice, it's very gratifying. I would say that in large part, the learning specialists, that's who they are and that's why they selected this profession.

"Those are the kids we find ourselves making the greatest impact on. Those are the kids that come back when they graduate to tell us they couldn't have done it without us."

There are many ways of helping student-athletes find success in the classroom and prepare for life after college. Since a career in professional sports is a long shot for many student-athletes, the skills gained by working with A&M's Academic Services as well as with Student-Athlete Engagement are some of the most important during a student-athlete's tenure in Aggieland.

Here's a look at three services and some insight from student-athletes who have been positively impacted by them.

## LEARNING SPECIALISTS

When freshmen student-athletes arrive on campus, they are evaluated to determine what kind of services or help they may need. From that testing, the five learning specialists at A&M create an individualized learning plan for each freshman.

"They work with them to create a monthly,



Senior defensive back Deshawn Capers-Smith has gone from someone who admittedly didn't read much prior to working with A&M's Academic Services to someone who now enjoys reading Stephen King novels.

weekly and daily plan for all of our student-athletes," Fields said.

Four years ago, Deshawn Capers-Smith came to Texas A&M from New Orleans to play for the Aggie football team. After the initial testing, the specialists discovered that Capers-Smith needed accommodations for some of his testing skills and he needed some assistance with his reading. He began working with Lindsey Labry, one of the reading specialists on staff, and the results have helped put the senior agriculture leadership major on target for graduation in May 2019.

"She just taught me a lot about how to take my time with reading," said Capers-Smith, who's having his best season this year in the Aggies' secondary. "My reading has performed better since I got here. Just working with her has been really helpful."

So helpful that he's gone from someone who admittedly didn't read much on his own in middle school or high school to someone who now enjoys reading Stephen King novels. And he makes a point to read books that have been made into movies before seeing the movie because he likes discovering the differences between the two.

More than anything, the skills gained from working with the learning center have given him more confidence.

"It's helpful, especially when I have public speaking," he said. "It helps me find that comfort zone and not being nervous when I speak to people."

### READING SPECIALISTS

There are two reading specialists who work with students for a variety of reasons. Fields said the staff looks at ACT and SAT scores in addition to the department's own testing to target those who will need help.

“  
I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE DONORS FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE IT DOES MEAN A LOT. I'M TAKING EVERY CHANCE I CAN TAKE, BECAUSE I HAVE TWO YOUNGER BROTHERS THAT LOOK UP TO ME. JUST TO SHOW THEM THAT I'M CAPABLE OF GOING TO COLLEGE AND FINISHING MEANS A LOT. I'M GOING TO BE THE FIRST GUY IN MY FAMILY TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE.

— DESHAWN CAPERS-SMITH '19

Another growing population needing assistance comes from A&M's international student-athletes, for whom English is their second or third language.

In the case of track and field jumper Tahar Triki, English is his third language after Arabic and French.

"Our international student-athletes are very sharp, however, English is a barrier," Fields said. "Working with those student-athletes to improve their English is huge. It makes a difference in the type of college experience they're having"

Triki can attest to that. He arrived at A&M last spring and made an immediate impact in his sport, winning the NCAA triple jump championship in June at 55 feet, 1 inch.

The Constantine, Algeria, native came to A&M after starting college in Marseille in southern France. He was looking for a better place to train and improve his jumping skills. However, in order to do that, he's also been working on his English speaking and reading.

That's where learning specialist Garrett Brumfield and reading specialist Judy Malazzo stepped in.

"My English was a little bit low when I got here," said Triki, who envisions breaking the NCAA collegiate triple jump record of 57 feet, 7¾ inches this year. "Ms. Judy is always teaching me a lot of stuff. Garrett has helped me a lot, too. He showed me how to study for exams and helped me with my papers. He's always helping me along the way."

### THE D.R.A.F.T.

One of newest student-athlete engagement efforts focuses specifically on those who won't be going pro after graduation. It's called The Development of

Junior track and field jumper Tahar Triki is one of many international student-athletes who are extremely bright, but face challenges speaking and reading English when they come to Texas A&M. English is Triki's third language after Arabic and French.



“  
MY SCHOLARSHIP MEANS A LOT TO ME. I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT THE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM HAS DONE FOR ME, AND I THANK ALL THE DONORS FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY. I PROMISE TO REPRESENT THE AGS THE BEST WAY I CAN.

—TAHAR TRIKI '21

# THE D.R.A.F.T.

DEVELOPMENT OF RETIRING ATHLETES FOR TRANSITION



Career preparation is one of Texas A&M Athletics' most important goals in fulfilling the department's mission to empower student-athletes in their pursuit of excellence.

Through The D.R.A.F.T. program, select seniors and former student-athletes are provided opportunities to grow as professionals and make direct contact with employers who value the transferable skills they possess.

By evaluating interests and strengths, exploring career options, creating a vocational plan and establishing professional skills, The D.R.A.F.T. program will jump-start student-athletes into their fields by graduation.

## STUDENT-ATHLETE RECRUITMENT MIXERS

Student-Athlete Recruitment Mixers are an excellent opportunity for student-athletes to network with industry professionals who are looking to hire for internships and full-time positions. The mixers give student-athletes the opportunity to interact with potential employers outside of the traditional career fair setting in a smaller and more personal environment. The mixers are held once per month.

## LUNCH & LEARNS

Lunch & Learn sessions give employers an opportunity to educate student-athletes on different career topics and their companies as well as potential career paths in an informal setting. These sessions are hosted once or twice per month. The featured company provides lunch and facilitates discussion and feedback in less than an hour to accommodate the schedules of student-athletes.



If you or your company are interested in helping student-athletes in The D.R.A.F.T. program, contact Amanda Hernandez at 979-862-6004 or [ahernandez@athletics.tamu.edu](mailto:ahernandez@athletics.tamu.edu)

Kaitlyn Blake, an All-SEC volleyball middle blocker until chronic pain forced her to forego her senior season earlier this year, is one of several student-athletes who The D.R.A.F.T. has helped transition for life after sports.

Retiring Athletes for Transition, or The D.R.A.F.T. The plan calls for each semester to pick select seniors who aren't going pro or plan to pursue grad school opportunities.

Dr. Leah Turner, the assistant director for career development, helped craft the program, which has several steps. Student-athletes attend career prep workshops that teach:

1. Resumes and cover letters
2. Elevator pitches and building a brand
3. Interviewing skills and recruiting 101

Student-athletes also attend recruitment mixers with potential employers and create a 360 profile that provides a comprehensive look at the student-athlete's learning and leadership styles and what coaches think about them.

Former volleyball standout Kaitlyn Blake has been part of The D.R.A.F.T.'s first class and she's already lined up solid contacts from the mixers.

"I received a couple of emails from different companies and calls saying they'd like to keep in touch with me and they feel like I'd be great for the position and stuff like that," said Blake, who had to retire from playing volleyball earlier this year because of injuries.

Blake said there are about 15 to 20 students involved this semester and that the group is evenly spread among all sports.

"Being able to talk with Dr. Turner, she's helped me a lot with feeling more confident with finding a job after school," said Blake, who is also considering attending grad school and getting into coaching. "I feel like they are giving a lot more opportunity to the kids who either are in their last year, last semester or retired due to injury and don't have the opportunity to play anymore. I feel the program is definitely a great thing." ■



“**FOR ME, A SCHOLARSHIP MEANT BEING ABLE TO GET A DEGREE. THERE WAS NO WAY MY FAMILY WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO SEND ME HERE WITHOUT A SCHOLARSHIP. I HAD TO WORK MY BUTT OFF DURING CLUB BALL AND HIGH SCHOOL TO EARN A SCHOLARSHIP. IT WAS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT I DID FOR MY FAMILY.**”

— KAITLYN BLAKE '18

# DAMON & CINDY DIAMANTARAS '92

BY SAMANTHA LATTA '17

**BOTH FIRST-GENERATION AGGIES,** Damon and Cindy Diamantaras '92 take great pride in supporting the school they both hold so dear. Their desire for excellence and true passion for Texas A&M drives their generous effort to provide student-athletes with the best opportunities possible to succeed. Firm supporters of the 12th Man Foundation's mission, the Diamantaras family believes in the significance of contributing to scholarships, programs and facilities that push A&M to the top amongst collegiate athletics.

"The amount of competition that exists in the NCAA is intense, and recruits have the opportunity to go anywhere in the country for their profession or to be an athlete," Damon said. "You have to do what you can to make sure that Texas A&M is the destination."

## BECOMING AN AGGIE

Aggieland was certainly the destination for Damon and Cindy, as neither of them considered another school to be an option for their college education. Rebellious against a full family of Arkansas Razorback fans, Cindy followed her heart to A&M after a warm welcome to Aggieland on her campus tour. Likewise, Damon couldn't quite imagine fitting in at any other university quite the way he would at A&M, and he just couldn't resist the excitement of becoming an Aggie.

"From the day I walked on campus my life changed," Damon said. "It defined me as a person and I owe a lot to the University. I will always speak highly of Texas A&M."

Damon and Cindy both attended Mays Business School where Damon studied marketing and Cindy majored in accounting. The pair met in the business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, and both graduated

in 1992. Damon and Cindy now own a marketing company, The Go Solution, and stay actively involved in the Mays Business School Dean's Advisory Council.

As first-generation Aggie graduates, the couple has certainly taken pride in keeping their newfound traditions alive, as both of their sons (Evan '20 and Nicholas '22) are currently enrolled at A&M.

## GETTING INVOLVED

Shortly after leaving College Station, the Diamantarases took a brief hiatus from A&M athletic events while they worked to build their careers and settled into their new home of Houston. It wasn't until Damon's serendipitous return to Kyle Field five years later that the desire to give back truly sunk in.

"A buddy of mine invited me to go to the 1998 Nebraska game, and that sealed my fate," Damon recalled. "From that point on I was back in the game. I think I went to 40-plus home games in a row after that."

After becoming football season ticket holders, the couple soon recognized the importance of donating to A&M Athletics. Their impact has continued to grow and can be seen across various sports including basketball, golf and football in facilities such as the Shannon '86 and Wayne '85 Roberts Basketball Student-Athlete Center and in the Davis Player Development Center.

"I think in order for us to compete nationally, especially to help with recruiting, we had to build facilities that were necessary for us to be able to recruit high-level athletes," Damon said. "If you want to be a top-tier program, you have to have top tier facilities and you have to have top-tier personnel to help you get there."

## ENHANCE A STUDENT- ATHLETE'S EXPERIENCE

With their generous support and passion for Aggie football, Damon and Cindy Diamantaras '92 are helping provide championship-level facilities for A&M student-athletes.

Join Damon and Cindy in their support of the Davis Player Development Center project.



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

Now the proud parents of two Aggie sons – Evan '20 and Nicholas '22 – Damon and Cindy first became successful entrepreneurs four years after graduation when they founded Today's Satellite out of their garage selling large satellite dishes.





“  
IF YOU’RE GOING TO WIN, YOU HAVE TO GET  
THE BEST ATHLETES TO WANT TO COME  
TO TEXAS A&M. YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE  
BEST OFFERINGS FOR THOSE ATHLETES.  
THAT INCLUDES FACILITIES, THAT INCLUDES  
COACHING AND THAT INCLUDES EDUCATION.

— DAMON DIAMANTARAS '92

The Diamantarases have demonstrated their generosity in support of several facility projects including two contributions to the Davis Player Development Center – one for its construction in 2012, and another recently for planned improvements to the facility.



### GIVING BACK

In addition to building high-caliber facilities, the Diamantarases also support the efforts in place to keep them up-to-date and considered amongst the best in the nation. The couple made a meaningful donation to the Davis Player Development Center project in 2012, and are now loyally contributing to its improvements seven years later.

“If it’s necessary for the athletes, you buy into the vision,” Damon said. “I think Jimbo (Fisher) said it best, ‘You either live in vision or you live in circumstance,’ and I like to live in vision. You have to continue to do those things that will get you to the next level. And once you get there, you have to

sustain the facilities so that you don’t fall behind.”

Damon and Cindy certainly support the vision for A&M, and have made impactful efforts in order to help see it through to the finish. They believe in the strength of being an A&M graduate, and do what they can to ensure the camaraderie of the university is extended to all who consider becoming an Aggie.

“You have to have a strong athletics department to draw people to the school,” Cindy said.

The Diamantarases give back in order to equip Aggie Athletics with the tools they need to bring the best to A&M.

“If you’re going to win, you have to get the best athletes to want to come to Texas A&M,” Damon said. “You have to have the best offerings for those athletes. That includes facilities, that includes coaching and that includes education.”

Looking forward to the future, Damon and Cindy are eager to see the Aggies’ success rise from the dedication being poured into the program by all who support it. When it comes to the Diamantarases’ support, the family sees no end in sight.

“I love everything about Texas A&M,” Damon said, “and I believe we’ll be lifelong givers to the 12th Man Foundation.” ■

“  
**I LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT TEXAS A&M,  
AND I BELIEVE WE’LL BE LIFELONG  
GIVERS TO THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION.**

— DAMON DIAMANTARAS '92



## TO WIN CHAMPIONSHIPS YOU HAVE TO TRAIN LIKE CHAMPIONS



**To continue to stay at the forefront of player development, technology and equipment improvements are needed throughout the Davis Player Development Center.**

In addition, this project will increase the square footage devoted to player nutrition providing a much-needed resource to fuel our student-athletes so that they are properly conditioned to compete week-to-week in the SEC.

“

The Davis Player Development Center is an extremely impressive facility and we are very fortunate and grateful to have such a special place to train our student-athletes.

These enhancements will keep the facility among the finest in the nation and help ensure we have the necessary resources to prepare our team to compete for championships.

- JERRY SCHMIDT, TEXAS A&M DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE

**CONTACT THE MAJOR GIFTS STAFF AT 979-260-7595 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON SUPPORTING THE DAVIS PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROJECT**

# A DESTINATION JOB FOR ELITE COACHES

From donor support and leadership to tradition and world-class academics, A&M has everything it takes to win championships

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

**COACHES LOOK FOR MANY THINGS WHEN** searching for the perfect, “destination” job.

They want great facilities that demonstrate a commitment to investing in their sport from the administration and supporters.

They want a passionate fan base that has tremendous pride for their university and its athletic programs.

They want to compete in a reputable conference and be at a school with the tradition, history and educational opportunities that attract elite talent from a rich recruiting base.

Ultimately, they want to have everything it takes to win at a high level and compete for championships.

When coaches look at Texas A&M, that’s precisely what they find, and more.

## MAKING A SPLASH

Attracting elite coaches has not been a problem for Aggie Athletics in the past year.

It began when A&M shook the college football world in December 2017 by hiring Jimbo Fisher, marking the first time in 40 years that a coach was hired away from the school where he won a national title. In Fisher’s eight seasons as head coach at Florida State, he led the Seminoles to an 83-23 record, the 2013 BCS national championship, three ACC conference championships, four AP Poll top 10 finishes and four bowl game victories.

Less than a month later, A&M hired arguably the top assistant coach in college volleyball to take over the Aggie program. In seven seasons at

Kansas, Laura “Bird” Kuhn climbed the ladder to head-coach-in-waiting due to the Jayhawks’ success during her tenure, which included the program’s first NCAA Final Four appearance in 2015 and its first Big 12 Conference championship in 2016. Kuhn received three Power Five head coaching offers in less than a week before she chose the A&M job.

Then, in June 2018, the Aggies pulled off another stunner, this time in women’s golf. A&M lured three-time national championship Hall of Fame coach Andrea Gaston away from Southern California where she had built a powerhouse program during the past 22 years. In addition to winning national titles in 2003, 2008 and 2013, and finishing in the top 5 for 13 consecutive years, Gaston led

Jimbo Fisher recognized Texas A&M’s aligned commitment to excellence when he made the decision to leave Florida State for Aggieland.

“

**WHY WOULD YOU NOT COME HERE?  
WE HAVE IT ALL. WE HAVE FACILITIES,  
REVENUE, GREAT EDUCATIONAL  
EXPERIENCES, A GREAT PLACE  
TO LIVE...IT’S A GOLD MINE.  
IT’S WHY I CAME HERE.**

— SCOTT WOODWARD, TEXAS A&M DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



“

**I WAS SET TO TAKE OVER AT KANSAS, BUT WHEN THE A&M JOB CAME OPEN I KNEW I WANTED IT. THE CORBELLIS BUILT A SOLID FOUNDATION HERE AND COMBINED WITH THE TRADITIONS, FACILITIES, SUPPORT AND FAN BASE, AND THE FACT THAT IT'S IN TEXAS WHICH IS A HOTBED FOR RECRUITING, MADE LEAVING FOR A&M AN EASY DECISION.**

**— LAURA “BIRD” KUHN, TEXAS A&M VOLLEYBALL**

In the seven years prior to Laura “Bird” Kuhn’s arrival, Kansas had a .49 winning percentage (.34 in conference), made two postseason appearances and had zero All-Americans. During her seven seasons as an assistant in Lawrence, the Jayhawks won 76 percent of their games (69 percent in conference), had 16 All-Americans and made six NCAA tournaments, including advancing to the 2015 Final Four.

the Trojans to four conference titles, coaching five NCAA individual champions and earning Pac-12 Coach of the Year and the Women’s Golf Coaches Association Coach of the Year honors three different times.

Hiring national championship winning coaches away from their established programs is a rarity in any sport. A&M did it twice in seven months.

#### **IN GOOD COMPANY**

Fisher, Kuhn and Gaston joined a department with four national title winners on staff along with some of the most successful coaches in collegiate athletics.

J.T. Higgins (men’s golf, 2009) and Gary Blair (women’s basketball, 2011) each have brought a national title to Aggieland in the past 10 years and consistently have their programs among the nation’s elite.

Tana McKay has delivered a remarkable 13 national championships in her 19-plus years as the equestrian program’s only head coach.

Then there’s Pat Henry, who has led A&M track and field to nine NCAA titles in 13-plus years in College Station and a staggering 36 Division I national championships in his illustrious career, the most of any active coach in any sport. The Hall of Famer ranks third all-time in national team titles as



a head coach in any NCAA sport behind only Kenyon College's Jim Steen (50 in Division III swimming and diving) and Arkansas' John McDonnell (40 between cross country and track).

The success of Aggie coaches extends beyond just national title winners.

Two-time U.S. Olympic Team coach and Hall of Famer Steve Bultman has overseen one of the most dramatic rises to power in collegiate swimming during his 19 years as head women's swimming and diving coach with back-to-back third-place finishes at the NCAA Championships in 2017 and 2018, and back-to-back-to-back SEC titles in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The only head coach in the 25-year NCAA history of Aggie soccer, G Guerrieri has established A&M as a premier program with 24 consecutive NCAA tournament appearances – one of only four teams to advance every year since 1995 – as well as 17 conference crowns.

In 22 years at A&M, Jo Evans has directed the Aggie softball program to 18-straight NCAA post-season appearances and three trips to the Women's College World Series, including a national runner-up finish in 2008. Both Guerrieri and Evans are among the winningest active coaches in their respective sports.

Altogether, current Aggie coaches have won 24 national championships at A&M as well as 62 conference titles, 19 of which have come since A&M joined the SEC in 2012.

So why are all of these successful coaches in Aggieland? What makes A&M a destination job?

### ALIGNED VISION

For Scott Woodward, the reasons a coach identifies A&M as a destination job are the same as when he made the “no-brainer” decision to accept the Director of Athletics position in January 2016.

“This is an incredible institution,” Woodward said recently from his office on the third floor of Reed Arena. “It's very rare that you have the tradition and history along with a modern institution that is doing incredible research and has the academic prowess that this university has.

“Then you talk about what we are as an athletic enterprise and being a key part of the university and in the best conference in the world. It's the whole package of Texas A&M.”

Woodward leads an athletic department that is focused on graduating student-athletes, providing an unmatched student-athlete experience and



One of Andrea Gaston's first acts as A&M's head women's golf coach was hiring Katerina Bruner (right), a two-time Aggie All-American, as assistant coach.

“  
**I WASN'T LOOKING TO LEAVE USC, BUT WHEN I STARTED LOOKING AT A&M, KNOWING IT WAS AN SEC SCHOOL, AND SAW THE INVESTMENT THEY ARE MAKING IN ALL THE SPORTS PROGRAMS AND THE INCREDIBLE FACILITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE, I THOUGHT, 'HOW COULD ANYONE NOT WANT TO WALK OUT OF THEIR OFFICE AND HAVE ALL OF THIS?'**

— ANDREA GASTON, TEXAS A&M WOMEN'S GOLF

winning championships with integrity. That leadership and vision are major factors when recruiting elite coaches like Fisher.

Woodward, along with university and 12th Man Foundation board members and administrators, form an aligned group of leaders with a shared goal of excellence in everything from academics to athletics.

“Everyone is in alignment to strive for greatness and to do it the right way,” Woodward said. “When you look at what A&M has to offer, and you have that combination, it’s unbeatable in my opinion as far as attracting the best talent in the world. Why would you not come here?”

### AN INVESTMENT IN FACILITIES

Beginning with the opening of Blue Bell Park in 2012, Texas A&M has invested more than \$650 million in athletic facilities, with the majority of the funding coming from 12th Man Foundation donors. While the \$485-million redeveloped Kyle Field is the crown jewel, every student-athlete has benefited from at least one of the state-of-the-art athletic facilities constructed in the past six years. The investment in facilities is integral in attracting elite coaches like Gaston.

“The whole day I was just saying, ‘Wow,’ as I was seeing all of these massive buildings that support these athletic programs,” Gaston said as she recalled her visit to campus prior to accepting the A&M

“

**TEXAS A&M HAS EVERYTHING YOU’D WANT AS A STUDENT-ATHLETE — A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION, UNMATCHED SCHOOL SPIRIT, A COMMITMENT TO FACILITIES AND PASSIONATE ALUMNI. IT’S BEEN A DREAM COME TRUE FOR ME TO BE THE SOCCER COACH FOR OVER A QUARTER CENTURY, AND IT’S WHY I’VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO TEXAS A&M AND HOPE TO BE IN AGGIELAND FOREVER.**

— G GUERRIERI, TEXAS A&M SOCCER

G Guerrieri has built one of the most successful programs in collegiate soccer history in his 25 seasons at A&M with 17 conference titles and 24 consecutive postseason appearances.



job. “There has been such a tremendous investment made in facilities, which backs up everything we’re trying to do as a university.”

With the grand opening of Davis Diamond and E.B. Cushing Stadium in spring 2019, and upcoming projects for swimming and diving, women’s basketball and football, A&M Athletics and 12th Man Foundation donors continue to demonstrate their commitment to providing the best facilities in the country.

“These are important investments to have to attract the best whether it’s a coach or a student-athlete,” Woodward said. “They matter.”

### ACADEMICS AND STUDENT-ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

As one of only three AAU member universities in Texas and the SEC, A&M provides a world-class education as one of the most comprehensive research institutions in the nation.

The ability to offer a prospective student-athlete the opportunity to earn a college degree from a



# FACILITY PROJECTS SINCE 2012



2012

**OLSEN FIELD AT BLUE BELL PARK** opens following a major redevelopment project that constructed a club area, suites, new press box, team locker room, weight room and meeting spaces, all bolstered by \$24 million in private donations.

The **DAVIS PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTER** opens after donors fund \$25 million for a football-only training facility.



2013

The \$12 million **R.C. SLOCUM NUTRITION CENTER** opens giving student-athletes a much-needed facility to refuel their bodies and meet nutritional and performance goals.

Following renovations, the Aggie Soccer Stadium is renamed **ELLIS FIELD** in recognition of a gift from Julia A. and Mark E. Ellis '79.

Construction begins on the redevelopment of **KYLE FIELD**.



2014

Renovations of the **BRIGHT FOOTBALL COMPLEX** are completed at a cost of \$20.8 million.

The \$2.5 million **DALE WATTS '71 CROSS COUNTRY COURSE** opens as the premier cross country course in Texas.

Texas A&M dedicates the **JAMES '95 & SARINA '90 GOODMAN FAMILY AGGIE GOLF COMPLEX**.

**PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTER-WEST CAMPUS** opens replacing Netum Steed Laboratory, which was razed as part of the Kyle Field redevelopment.



2015

The \$485 million redeveloped **KYLE FIELD** opens following the largest stadium renovation in U.S. history. The two-year project, which includes the **JACKIE SHERRILL LETTERMEN'S CLUB**, was made possible by \$220 million in donations.

Aggie equestrian moves into the \$32 million **THOMAS G. HILDEBRAND EQUINE COMPLEX**.



2016

A \$2.3 million renovation of the **A&M VOLLEYBALL FACILITY** inside Reed Arena is completed and includes an expanded locker room, athletic training room, team lounge, film room and coaches offices.

SWIMMING AND DIVING FACILITY EXPANSION

REDEVELOPMENT OF THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE CENTER

DAVIS PLAYER DEVELOPMENT CENTER RENOVATIONS

**FUTURE PROJECTS**



2019

A&M will christen the beautiful new \$39.8 million **E.B. CUSHING STADIUM** with its first home outdoor track and field meet in 15 years.



2018

**DAVIS DIAMOND** opens as the new home of A&M softball. With a total cost of \$28.6 million, the new facility gives the Aggies the best softball stadium in all of collegiate athletics.



2017

The men's basketball locker room and team area are redeveloped into the **SHANNON '86 AND WAYNE '85 ROBERTS BASKETBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE CENTER** at a cost of \$6 million.



CONTACT LAUREN HICKEY AT 979-260-7595 TO SUPPORT A FACILITY PROJECT



Arguably the greatest coach in college track and field history, Pat Henry has guided A&M to nine national championships and 17 conference titles during 13 years in Aggieland.

“  
**COACHES DON'T WANT TO BE AT AN INSTITUTION WHERE PEOPLE DON'T CARE. THEY WANT AN INSTITUTION THAT STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING THEY DO AND WORKS HARD TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TOOLS IT TAKES TO WIN. TEXAS A&M IS THAT PLACE.**

— PAT HENRY, TEXAS A&M TRACK & FIELD

university as prestigious as A&M with a scholarship is a powerful selling point for any coach.

“Texas A&M is committed to winning at the highest level both on the court and in the classroom,” said Steve Denton, now in his 13th season as men’s tennis coach. “The athletics department backs coaches with all of the resources we need to be successful in recruiting the best student-athletes to a world-class institution.”

Additionally, the best coaches want their student-athletes to be as successful in the classroom as they are in competition. And they want them to be prepared for life after sports.

“You have to give them a world-class experience not only in the sport they’re participating in, but in the classroom,” Woodward said.

While a future in professional sports is every college athlete’s dream, it is only a realistic option for a small percentage of student-athletes. For those who will not go pro after graduation, A&M offers The D.R.A.F.T., a program focused on helping student-athletes find a job after college (learn more on page 21).

“We have had tremendous success placing our student-athletes in jobs,” Woodward said.

Another powerful tool that helps lure the best

“

**TEXAS A&M IS ONE OF THOSE SPECIAL PLACES THAT PROVIDES THE VERY BEST IN RESOURCES, FACILITIES, SUPPORT, ACADEMICS AND THE MOST INCREDIBLE FAN BASE IN THE BEST BASEBALL CONFERENCE IN THE COUNTRY. TEXAS A&M IS SECOND TO NONE.**

— ROB CHILDRESS, TEXAS A&M BASEBALL



coaches and student-athletes to Aggieland is the support and resources offered to A&M graduates. No other university has alumni who are more loyal and supportive of their fellow former students.

“Aggies really do take care of Aggies,” Fisher added.

#### **CONFERENCE, LOCATION AND RECRUITING BASE**

A&M’s 100-year decision to join the Southeastern Conference continues to pay huge dividends when it comes to many things including attracting the best coaching talent. The nation’s premier conference offers the most stability and visibility to its member institutions.

And contrary to some reports, A&M’s move to the SEC did not result in the university leaving the great state of Texas.

The Lone Star State is second to none when it comes to many things that elite coaches look for including quality of life and a rich talent pool of high school athletes right in their program’s backyard.

“Texas kids are the best in the country and we are getting the best of the Texas kids,” Woodward said.

At the same time, College Station has maintained its college town feel while also being rated as one of the nation’s fastest growing cities.

Gaston is a prime example of an elite coach recognizing the benefits of living in Aggieland following 22 years of driving in LA traffic.

“I love the fact that it takes me three to five minutes to get to work,” Gaston said. “I have more quality time with the players because I’m not spending half my time on the road.”

#### **RESOURCES**

When it comes to resources, A&M’s leadership values every sport and invests in each coach and program, giving them everything they need to be successful.

“Our administration has worked tirelessly to help us achieve success with world-class training facilities, the best athletic performance staff and an elite athletic training program,” Denton said.

Rob Childress has led A&M baseball to a school-record 12 straight NCAA tournaments during his tenure as well as six conference titles and two College World Series appearances.

Coaches know they are only as good as the people they surround themselves with, so it's critical to provide a strong support staff helping with every facet of their program.

"Our administration has consistently provided us with the resources to compete against the best teams in the country, the funding to hire experienced and competent coaching staffs and support staffs, which allows us to keep continuity in our programs," Evans added.

### **DONOR SUPPORT**

Building the best facilities and providing the resources needed to attract elite coaches would not be possible without the funding provided by generous 12th Man Foundation donors.

"We couldn't do it without them," Woodward said. "If you don't have the resources, you can't be successful. To quote Coach Fisher, our actions speak so loud, I can't hear what you're saying. The actions of 12th Man Foundation donors speak so loud and it shows."

"Donor support is imperative anywhere, but here it's such a strong network – it's a no-brainer," Kuhn added. "They want to be involved."

Coaches know they need a high level of support and commitment from donors to compete for championships. And Aggies are second to none when it comes to answering when called upon to provide financial support to their athletics program.

"Our university, athletics department and 12th Man Foundation donors understand it takes resources and top-notch facilities to draw high level coaches and student-athletes," Evans said.

### **TRADITION AND FAN BASE**

A&M stands out in many ways, but when it comes to tradition and fans, Aggies are on another level.

Whether it's more than 100,000 yelling at Kyle Field or nearly 3,000 supporting Aggie soccer at Ellis Field, the school spirit of the 12th Man is unrivaled in college athletics.

"Hearing other coaches talk about Texas A&M after they've been here for a while, they always comment that this place is special and even better than they thought it was going to be," said Jay Holmes '84, now in his 15th season as head men's swimming and diving coach. "The facilities and support here are great, but I think the time-honored traditions provide a great environment – seeing the student body 'buy in' to being a Texas Aggie is awesome to be a part of."

“

**I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, TEXAS A&M IS A DESTINATION JOB. THINGS ARE IN PLACE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN ALL AREAS. WE ARE ONE OF THE TOP ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY. FACILITIES ARE SECOND TO NONE AND THE OVERALL SUPPORT SYSTEM NEEDED TO RUN A FIRST-CLASS PROGRAM IS IN PLACE.**

— JIMBO FISHER, TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL

### **THE PEOPLE**

A&M has everything it takes for a coach to win at a high level and compete for championships, but ultimately, it's the people who make the difference when it comes to attracting the best of the best. Coaches want to be surrounded by great people and have support from those who truly care.

"Coaches don't want to be at an institution where people don't care," Henry said. "They want an institution that strives for excellence in everything they do and works hard to provide you with the tools it takes to win. Texas A&M is that place."

"At the end of the day, it's the people who make this experience so rewarding," Evans added.

Aggies live and breathe the university's core values. Their spirit and pride for their university is unmatched. They want A&M to be successful in everything.

"I have said many times, Texas A&M is a destination job," Fisher said. "Things are in place to be successful in all areas. We are one of the top academic institutions in the country. Facilities are second to none and the overall support system needed to run a first-class program is in place."

"But it is the people who make this such an awesome place. Aggies truly live the culture and the core values and virtues of the overall university." ♥

During his first season in Aggieland, Jimbo Fisher led A&M to a second place finish in the SEC West with an 8-4 record (5-3 SEC), including a historic seven overtime win over LSU, earning a TaxSlayer Gator Bowl invitation against North Carolina State.

AUSTIN ROBINSON '18, TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS





## **WE INVITE YOU TO INVEST IN THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE TEXAS A&M WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE CENTER**

This space within the Cox-McFerrin Center is one of the key highlights of a student-athlete's tenure at Texas A&M and is one of many important aspects of a recruit's decision to choose our University

Like the Shannon '86 & Wayne '85 Roberts Basketball Student-Athlete Center for the Aggie men's basketball program, this project will transform the existing space into one of the best in the nation

**CONTACT THE MAJOR GIFTS STAFF AT 979-260-7595 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
SUPPORTING THE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE CENTER PROJECT**

“

The facilities at Texas A&M have always been some of the best in the NCAA, and they attract some of the best players and coaches from around the world.

The changes we will make to our locker room, film room and players' lounge will help to keep us as one of the best programs in the SEC and the country.

Texas A&M is a special place. The 12th Man is always standing, ready to help our teams when called upon, and I know they will step up now.

- COACH GARY BLAIR

# BILLY KENNEDY

A conversation with the head coach of the Texas A&M men's basketball program

BY ADAM QUISENBERRY



- » EIGHTH SEASON AS TEXAS A&M MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH
- » 2016 SEC COACH OF THE YEAR, USBWA DISTRICT VII COACH OF THE YEAR & NABC DISTRICT 21 COACH OF THE YEAR AFTER LEADING THE AGGIES TO A SCHOOL RECORD 28 VICTORIES, A SHARE OF THE SEC CHAMPIONSHIP AND A TRIP TO THE SWEET 16
- » TEAMS HAVE AVERAGED MORE THAN 20 WINS OVER HIS LAST 13 SEASONS AS A HEAD COACH, EARNING FIVE LEAGUE TITLES AND MAKING EIGHT TRIPS TO THE POSTSEASON (5 NCAA, 2 NIT, 1 CBI)
- » SWEET 16 APPEARANCES IN TWO OF THE PAST THREE SEASONS (2016 AND 2018)
- » WAS AN ASSISTANT ON THE 1990-91 TEXAS A&M TEAM UNDER KERMIT DAVIS, JR.

**How unique is the relationship between the 12th Man Foundation and Texas A&M Athletics, specifically the men's basketball program?**

The cool thing is the donors get to know you and your team on a personal level. We've been fortunate that some of our donors have had the opportunity to travel with us. Some of them even on our European trips, so you really get to know them, not just as supporters, but as friends. We've built strong relationships with people who know we're trying to do things the right way by investing in our players and the future of our program.

**Prior to returning as head coach, you spent a year as an assistant coach at A&M in the early 90s. How different is the support around the program in terms of facilities and resources now compared to that time?**

The involvement of the 12th Man Foundation is one of the biggest differences. They truly care about basketball and want us to be successful. Not only basketball, they care about excellence in everything. That's the biggest thing I've noticed from when I was here in the past. The traditions were here, but the active support we're getting now we didn't always have. A&M has the attitude that we want to be the best in everything we do.

**Last September, Texas A&M unveiled the Shannon '86 & Wayne '85 Roberts Basketball Student-Athlete Center. How has that project benefited the current student-athletes?**

One of the biggest impacts is we've been able to show recruits that impressive facility. Recruiting is going really well. People saw that we won a championship a couple years ago and asked what we can do to improve our program. The thing we asked for was to update our locker room with a

modern nutrition center, a state-of-the-art video room, great team spaces and new branding of our program. We were fortunate to make it happen with Wayne and Shannon really stepping up for us. What they invested and the impact they've made in our program will last a long time. It makes a huge difference, not only in recruiting, but in getting our players to want to be at the facility because it has personality, food and comfort, so they feel at home.

**Is there a wow factor when you show recruits the facility?**

Yeah, there's no question. When you see it from the outside and you walk in, you can see that everything is done first-class down to the details of the graphics on the walls and the seats in the video room. Kids can see that we have the best of the best and it's really something special to be a part of this program.

**Through this process have you gotten to know Shannon and Wayne Roberts? What is your relationship with them like?**

We have a really good relationship. They've been able to come on some trips with us and I'm able to visit with them from time to time. It's bigger than basketball. I have a fondness for them, who they are and what they've done for our program. More than anything, they're just great people.

**How does a scholarship to Texas A&M change a young person's life?**

Most of our guys have opportunities at many places, but the thing that makes this a special place is they come here and see that it's a life-time commitment when you become an Aggie. It's something that is unlike anywhere else in the country with the relationships they're able to make during their time here. ■

# PREMIUM SERVICES

Serving donors by providing extraordinary experiences and exceptional hospitality

BY SAMANTHA LATTA '17

## ENJOY A PREMIUM GAME DAY EXPERIENCE

Whether it's the All-American Club at Kyle Field or the Patio at the Park during an Aggie baseball game, the Premium Services staff strives to provide exceptional service to 12th Man Foundation donors.

**CONTACT BRITTON DOUGLASS FOR INFORMATION ON PREMIUM AREAS**

**THE PREMIUM SERVICES DEPARTMENT** works diligently to provide unique experiences for donors through various events and services related to Aggie Athletics. Between managing all premium areas throughout Texas A&M's facilities and planning exciting events and travel opportunities for donors, the Premium Services staff is always working hard to guarantee exclusive and memorable experiences throughout the year.

### SUITES, CLUBS & LOGE

In Kyle Field, Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park and the new Davis Diamond, the Premium Services staff works behind the scenes preparing suites, loge boxes and club areas for athletic events. On game days, the staff is always on-hand and ready to assist anyone within the premium areas. Among the first to arrive and last to leave an

event, the Premium Services staff is determined to ensure that the donors' in-game experience always meets expectations. The department hires, trains and deploys a team of 150 concierge team members for each football season and uses those employees across A&M Athletics' venues making access to assistance even easier.

In addition to servicing each of the various suites, loge boxes and club areas, the Premium Services department also creates opportunities for exceptional game day experiences in other areas of athletic facilities. For example, at Kyle Field, fans are now welcomed to enter the Tailgate Towers located on the northwest and northeast corners of the stadium, which are fully equipped with lounge furniture, tailgate games and exclusive food and beverage options including beer and wine. Patio at the Park provides a similar experience for Aggie baseball fans at Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park.

The Premium Services department is always fine-tuning the details that make the game day experience great. From start to finish, the staff prioritizes donors' needs and provides a full-service experience at every event.

### EVENTS & TRAVEL

Though Aggieland is the best place to experience an A&M game, the Events & Travel team makes the away-game experience feel right at home with 12th Man Travel. Months before game day, the Events & Travel staff irons out every detail of the trip, from flights and hotel accommodations to dinner reservations and pregame tailgates. The all-inclusive trips, which are a donor amenity covered at cost by the participating travelers, are always planned with donors in mind and provide everything from private air



### 12TH MAN TRAVEL – 2013-18

Since 2013, 12th Man Travel has provided donors with unforgettable Aggie football experiences in 16 different cities in 9 states.



## 12TH MAN TRAVEL – 2019 AND BEYOND

The Events & Travel team is in the early planning stages for potential trips for Texas A&M Football's road games in 2020-25 (schedule subject to change). Limited space remains to experience Georgia and Clemson in 2019 through 12th Man Travel. Contact Shelley Nemece for pricing and availability.



charter and game day transportation to sun-screen and 12th Man towels. Donors can always rest assured that they will receive true Aggie hospitality. As donors and repeat travelers Manon and Matthew Kebodeaux '04 can attest, a trip with 12th Man Travel is guaranteed to be a memorable Aggie experience.

“What makes this travel experience different is the personalized Aggie service you receive,” Manon and Matthew said. “When we arrive at the destination hotel, we are already checked-in and can immediately start to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Aggies of all ages. We are treated to local cuisine at unique establishments in the destination city, usually with the Yell Leaders and a mini yell practice, on the evening before the game. The tailgates are always located in the shadows of the stadium providing an opportunity to become familiar with the campus game day environment.

“Most importantly, Shelley Nemece and the 12th Man Travel team keep the Aggie spirit burning and there is nothing to worry about. We enjoy ourselves while the staff takes care of the details... just show up and relax, because every arrangement has been taken care of.”

The Events & Travel team also takes pride in coordinating all of the 12th Man Foundation's various events throughout the year intended to steward and show appreciation to our generous donors. The staff uses their expertise to provide memorable events that bring donors together and ensure their value to the 12th Man Foundation and Texas A&M Athletics is appropriately recognized.

### THE PREMIUM SERVICES STAFF

For more information about suites, club areas, loge boxes, events, travel or other premium services provided to donors, please contact:

### PREMIUM SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

**14,661**

PREMIUM SEATS AT KYLE FIELD

**150**

CONCIERGE TEAM MEMBERS HIRED TO WORK SEVEN HOME FOOTBALL GAMES

**24**

TRIPS FOR 12TH MAN TRAVEL SINCE 2013

**2,400**

TRAVELERS

**17,700**

MILES TRAVELED

**13**

SEC ROAD TRIPS THAT ARE BUCKET LIST EXPERIENCES FOR ALL AGGIE FOOTBALL FANS



**BRITTON DOUGLASS**  
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# TRAYVEON WILLIAMS '20

FOOTBALL | JUNIOR | RECREATION, PARKS & TOURISM SCIENCES

## 1922 FUND STUDENT-ATHLETE

PAIRED WITH DONORS JAMES & JULIA ROUSE

“  
IT IS SO UNIQUE TO BE PAIRED WITH MY PERSONAL DONORS, JAMES AND JULIA ROUSE, WHO I CAN CONNECT WITH THROUGH THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION. I THANK THEM NUMEROUS TIMES FOR DOING WHAT THEY DO FOR THIS AMAZING UNIVERSITY AND FOOTBALL TEAM. THE FACT I HAVE A SCHOLARSHIP TO TEXAS A&M IS UNLIKE NO OTHER. I AM SO THANKFUL TO BE EXPERIENCING THIS CHAPTER OF MY LIFE AT THIS PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY DUE TO MR. AND MRS. ROUSE.

— TRAYVEON WILLIAMS '20

Trayveon Williams is a junior Recreation, Parks & Tourism Sciences major from Houston, Texas. An All-American and All-SEC running back, Williams led the elite conference in rushing (1,524), all-purpose yards (1,802) and touchdowns (16) during the 2018 regular season. He is only the sixth Aggie in school history to rush for 3,000 career yards and the fifth to record two 1,000-yard seasons. In 2016, Williams became Texas A&M's first-ever true freshman to surpass 1,000 yards in a season. His 3,379 career rushing yards ranks third in A&M history.

Williams, whose family was evacuated during Hurricane Harvey due to flooding in their neighborhood, is a two-time team captain and a member of A&M's 2018 Unity Council.

Williams has been paired with donors James and Julia Rouse for the past three years through the 1922 Fund. Thank you to the Rouses and all of the 1922 Fund donors who are helping the 12th Man Foundation in its desire to endow scholarships for every student-athlete at Texas A&M.

For more information about the 1922 Fund, call Lauren Hickey at 979-260-7595 or visit [12thmanfoundation.com](http://12thmanfoundation.com).

1922 FUND DONORS

# THANK YOU!

THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION SALUTES ALL 1922 FUND DONORS  
FOR THEIR INVESTMENT IN TEXAS A&M STUDENT-ATHLETES  
THROUGH PHILANTHROPIC ENDOWMENT GIVING



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

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

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

*1922 Fund donors receive a variety of benefits, including:*

**\$50,000+**

- Champions Council membership for a five-year term
- An invitation to an exclusive student-athlete engagement event
- On-field recognition during a game
- A plaque for donor's home and recognition in 12th Man Foundation offices

**\$100,000+**

- Assignment of a specific student-athlete's scholarship offering a unique engagement with a Texas A&M student-athlete

**\$250,000+**

- A donor spotlight article in *12th Man Magazine*

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

A photograph of Daylon Mack, a Black male with a goatee, smiling and holding a framed maroon Texas A&M football jersey with the name 'MACK' and number '34' in white. He is wearing a black zip-up jacket. In the background, there is a display case containing other football jerseys and helmets, including one with the number '44' and another with '2'.

## DAYLON MACK '19

FOOTBALL | SENIOR | SPORT MANAGEMENT

### 1922 FUND STUDENT-ATHLETE

PAIRED WITH DONORS CLINT & MICHELE CARLIN

“ I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR CLINT AND MICHELE CARLIN. MY SCHOLARSHIP MEANS THE WORLD TO ME BECAUSE IT HAS GIVEN ME A CHANCE TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE FOR ME AND MY FAMILY. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT 12TH MAN FOUNDATION DONORS DO AND I AM EXCITED TO BE OFFICIALLY A PART OF THE FAMILY BY RECEIVING MY AGGIE RING THIS SEMESTER.

— DAYLON MACK '19

A former five-star prospect from Gladewater, Texas, Daylon Mack is a senior Sport Management major and starter at defensive tackle for the Texas A&M football team.

Nicknamed “Mack Truck” for his powerful play on the field, Mack has tallied 26.5 tackles-for-loss, 8 sacks and a blocked field goal while playing in every game (51) during his A&M career (prior to the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl). Off the field, Mack has served in two mission trips with fellow student-athletes as a part of Aggies for Haiti.

Through the 12th Man Foundation’s 1922 Fund, Mack has been paired with donors Clint and Michele Carlin for the past three years. Thank you to the Carlins and all of the 1922 Fund donors who are helping the 12th Man Foundation in its desire to endow scholarships for every student-athlete at Texas A&M.

For more information about the 1922 Fund, call Lauren Hickey at 979-260-7595 or visit [12thmanfoundation.com](http://12thmanfoundation.com).

“

**THANK YOU EUGENE AND EVA SUPAK FOR YOUR SUPPORT. WITHOUT THE SUPAKS AND THE 12TH MAN FOUNDATION DONORS, I WOULDN'T HAVE THE DEGREE THAT I WILL BE RECEIVING IN DECEMBER. MY DIPLOMA MEANS THE WORLD TO MY FAMILY AND I. MY WHOLE EXPERIENCE WITH THE 1922 FUND HAS BEEN A BLESSING. I WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR THE WORLD FOR WHAT I HAVE LEARNED IN AGGIELAND. THE RELATIONSHIPS I HAVE MADE ARE SOMETHING I WILL NEVER FORGET.**

— KINGSLEY KEKE '19

## **KINGSLEY KEKE '19**

FOOTBALL | SENIOR | AG LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

### **1922 FUND STUDENT-ATHLETE**

PAIRED WITH DONORS EUGENE & EVA SUPAK

A senior Ag Leadership & Development major from Richmond, Texas, Kingsley Keke has played in every game (51) since joining the Aggie football program as a freshman in 2015. Keke, a versatile team leader who moved from tackle to end prior to this season, has started 34 consecutive games on the Aggies' defensive line and is a key reason that A&M fielded college football's No. 2 ranked run defense in 2018.

A member of A&M's 2018 Unity Council, Keke is set to graduate in December 2018. Keke grew up a Texas Longhorns fan, but one of his high school teachers, who was married to an Aggie, helped change his mind.

Keke has been paired with donors Eugene and Eva Supak for the past three years through the 1922 Fund. Thank you to the Supaks and all of the 1922 Fund donors who are helping the 12th Man Foundation in its desire to endow scholarships for every student-athlete at Texas A&M.

*For more information about the 1922 Fund, call Lauren Hickey at 979-260-7595 or visit [12thmanfoundation.com](http://12thmanfoundation.com).*

# CHRIS CARSON '90

Manager of Ticket Events & Internal Sales

BY SAMANTHA LATTA '17



#### FUN FACTS ABOUT CHRIS

- » AFTER GRADUATING FROM TEXAS A&M, CHRIS WORKED AS A NATIONAL PARK RANGER IN ALASKA
- » PLAYS GUITAR AND LOVES COUNTRY MUSIC INCLUDING ALABAMA AND GEORGE STRAIT
- » WAS BORN IN BRYAN, TEXAS
- » IS A SECOND-GENERATION AGGIE, CLASS OF 1990

Chris and his wife, Kathy, are the proud parents of three teenage daughters, Amelia (18), Olivia (15) and Emily (13).

**AMONG MANY THINGS, CHRIS CARSON IS** the comedic relief in a tense situation, the role model for facing adversity with grace and the uplifting spirit who always wears a smile at the 12th Man Foundation.

As the Manager of Ticket Events & Internal Sales, his love for serving people and for Texas A&M truly makes Chris the best man for the job. Each season, he is heavily involved in the behind-the-scenes ticketing processes of Aggie sporting events and handles all ticketing needs of 12th Man Foundation and Texas A&M Athletics employees. Though Chris has many responsibilities to juggle in his position, he is always ready to take on every challenge with a smile.

“Chris has made a huge impact on the 12th Man Foundation with how hard he works and takes care of everyone,” coworker Samantha Milroy said. “I know a lot of people in Athletics appreciate how he treats them all individually with their ticket needs and that same work ethic trickles throughout the office.”

Chris has seen the ticketing department evolve immensely over his 20 years on staff. Despite the inevitable changes along the way, his positive attitude and spirited personality has always stayed the same. As coworker Gina Rice proclaims, “You can never have a bad day when Chris is around!”

Whether he is assisting staff members with

season ticket requests or managing the box office at an Aggie Athletics event, Chris embodies his motto of “tough, flexible and optimistic.” In times where work gets stressful, he is always the one to bring laughter to those around him. When asked about his secret to success, Chris simply replied, “You truly have to love people.”

“Helping people with their needs has always brought a lot of joy to my job because when you work in the ticket office, you’re the start of someone having a good time,” Chris said. “Our goal is that our donors and ticket holders enjoy game day, and for me, part of that means that behind the scenes, you’re making things run smoothly so that it’s a positive experience when people come to an event.”

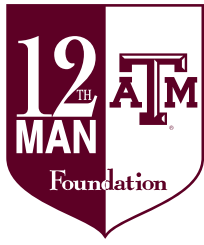
According to Chris, creating that positive experience starts with a positive attitude. As he says, “Doing things with a smile makes a difference.” Likewise, Chris admits that his work environment also makes a difference in the way he is equipped to handle tough situations. Loving his job and the place he works is a privilege he never takes for granted.

“I love working here because of the family environment,” he said. “Many organizations claim they are a family-friendly place to work, but I know the 12th Man Foundation and the staff are behind me and it’s always been that way. That environment makes it so much easier to provide the very best service to our donors and ticket holders.”

Chris’s impact on other people has certainly made a difference indeed. For those who know and work with Chris, they are always quick to comment on his inspiring character, unmatched work ethic and unwavering compassion for others.

“Chris truly lives by the golden rule and treats his coworkers as an extension of his family,” coworker Lauren Pearce said. “He has a genuine heart and never hesitates to be there for someone in need. He won’t just go the extra mile to help, he will gladly run an entire marathon!”





P.O. Box 2800  
College Station, TX 77841-2800  
979-260-7584  
[www.12thmangift.org](http://www.12thmangift.org)



# YOUR SAVINGS, YOUR LEGACY.

## Benefits of Making an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift



Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to support student-athletes.



Satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year.



Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.



Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts.



Use your rollover to make payments on an existing pledge to us.

There is a way to take your required minimum distribution, skip the tax and make a meaningful gift to support student-athletes this year – the IRA Charitable Rollover.

### It's Easy To Do!

Instruct your retirement account custodian to send any amount (up to \$100,000) to us this year. Because the 12th Man Foundation is tax exempt, there is no tax paid on the transfer. All or a part of your required minimum distribution will be met and the money goes straight to work toward Building Champions.

## Create Your Legacy With An IRA Charitable Rollover Gift

If you are 70½ or older, you can use your individual retirement account (IRA) to support student-athletes at Texas A&M. Making an IRA charitable rollover gift to us will lower the income and taxes from your IRA required minimum distribution this year.

Please call **979-260-7584** or visit our website **12thmangift.org** to learn about how you can create your legacy by making an IRA charitable rollover gift this year.

**IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER**

**70½  
OR OLDER**

**DIRECT UP TO  
\$100,000**

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

Under federal rules your benefits may be different from this example. Please contact us for your specific benefits.

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# TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL SEASON TICKET RENEWALS

COMING FEBRUARY 2019