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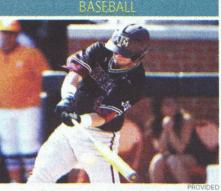
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No. 3 Texas A&M beat Tennessee on the road 8-7 to cap a weekend sweep. Story at TX.AG/BATT56.

# YOUNG CONTINUED

forward by the Board of Regents as the sole finalist for the A&M presidency on Feb. 3. Since then, a rapid transition took him to the table at which he sat Friday. He has had to formulate a leadership trajectory while indoctrinating himself in the unique Aggie culture.

Luckily, he said, he's had plenty of help. "In some ways people have a remarkable enthusiasm to tell me how to run the university," he joked.

Still, he has undergone an education of the university and its history, drawing on people like Marky Hussey, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences who served as interim A&M president. Hussey said he has had regular contact with Young about the student body, the Corps of Cadets, the core values, the "little renovation project" that is Kyle Field, ongoing searches to fill dean vacancies and more.

Hussey's advice for Young is simple: Listen well and adapt to the Texas A&M environment, something he said applies to all leaders entering new roles and new locales.

"You may come in with a set of ideas, but there's nothing that's cookie-cutter about it,' Hussey said. "You just can't pick up what you did one place and replicate it somewhere else. Each institution, each leadership opportunity is really different."

Young's first day concludes a week marked by student outcry over the regents' decision to modify the university seal and rename the MSC Flag Room. An online petition garnered more than 10,000 signatures and Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution in opposition.

Young said the problem does not come from "mistakes of the heart."

"I've worked with a lot of higher education boards over the years," Young said. "And I'll tell you something that I'll hope you credit, because I think it really is true: I don't think I've ever dealt with a board that has the kind of love and passion for students that this Board of Regents does.



On Senior Day, No. 25 A&M softball completed a home sweep of Ole Miss. Story at TX.AG/BATT57.

Still, he said if, "we haven't looked as carefully about how we create some mechanisms to ensure people really do have input and these conversations that engage everybody who has an interest and a stake in it," then it can be addressed.

A practice of seeking student opinion, beginning with student leaders, has become commonplace in his time in higher education, Young said. But it's important to consider, he said, that the biggest impact he can make on a student's experience comes through drawing the best faculty and keeping tuition affordable.

He'll have to negotiate student engagement from off-campus, though, as he won't live in the president's residence.

"I would hope that from 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock at night to six in the morning you left the president alone," Young joked His wife vouched for his approachability.

"He is your friend. He really is," Marti Young said. "He may not get to see every single person and shake every single hand, but I'm married to him and I know why he does what he does.

All Texas A&M vice presidents submitted letters of resignation prior to Young's arrival, another decision from Chancellor John Sharp that drew attention in recent weeks. While Young said he appreciates the gesture, it wasn't his idea. Within a year, he's expected to decide which letters, if any, to accept.

"I have no intentions, as I think my past reflects, of coming in and doing a bloodletting," Young said.

Though his term began Friday, Young has been around College Station for a couple weeks. On April 21, he attended his first Aggie Muster, a ceremony he said moved him

"Unless you've sat through it, you can talk all day long about how the generations of this university connect, how these traditions transmit and what really binds Aggies together," Young said. "But you sit in Muster and you get it. It was incredibly powerful. And when the Ross Volunteers walk in, the hair on the back of your neck just stands up."

## **MARCH** CONTINUED

Texas A&M seal to each outfit for them to raffle off. The watches raised more than \$27,000, said Randy Lunsford, Class of 1989 and sales manager with David Gardner's.

To promote competitive spirit among the units, Commander Dennis Hassman, Texas A&M Corps of Cadets training officer, said the top-10 outfits in raising money get to choose a football game in the fall to be on the sideline.

"A lot of outfits, some of them will pick a game they know they get to travel to, like the Arkansas game up in Dallas or out of state,' Hassman said. "And then others say, 'I want

Steve Fullhart, KBTX managing editor and anchor and March to the Brazos emcee, said the Corps displayed unity in its fundrais-

"You guys do things together — that's part of the mission of this Corps, to develop leaders together to benefit others," Fullhart said. "That's what has happened here."

Alyssa Michalke, commander of the Corps of Cadets for 2015-2016, said the event is meant to be a bonding experience for cadets, bringing them together on the tiring 18-mile march and in serving the community

"It's been a great day, it's nice and cool out here, it's a lot of good bull," Michalke said. "You get to interact with your juniors and seniors and joke all the way, listen to music. It's a good bonding experience.'

The event also served as an informal transfer of ranks for cadets.

The money raised will go towards March of Dimes initiatives, Fullhart said.

"So share your story in this time together, in this time of fellowship and know your money is going to go towards research that is happening across the country, yes, but also right here at Texas A&M that could one day end this issue of premature birth," Fullhart

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