

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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Lord of the ring

Transfer students play the waiting game while pursuing their Aggie ring

By Angela Arenivar
THE BATTALION

Eddie Sorrell marvels at the golden Aggie ring that weighs down his hand. His Aggie ring is more than a payoff for his hard work at Texas A&M. To him, the ring bears a deeper, more personal significance.

Sorrell, a senior sports management major, planned to take out a short-term loan in order to pay for his ring. His friends surprised him, though, by covering the expense themselves. They presented him with a certificate redeemable for one free Aggie ring. "I was speechless at the fact that when my friends heard I might not get my ring on time, they all came together to do such a thoughtful thing," Sorrell said. "Every time I look at my ring I think of the friends who helped me get it."

Transfer students often have a harder time getting their Aggie rings because of the number of credit hours they have and at what point in their academic career they transfer.

Sorrell transferred from Sam Houston State University to Brazos Port College and finally transferred to A&M in Fall 2000.

"I loved the atmosphere when I came to visit," he said. "I knew A&M didn't compare to any other college."

Sorrell encountered some obstacles as the date approached to order his ring. He planned to order it in January, but he had to pay his rent.

"I planned on using my money from work to pay for my ring," Sorrell said. "Once I got back from the Christmas holidays I didn't have the money to pay for it because I had to choose between paying for my rent or paying for my ring. I decided to pay for my rent and moved my ring order to February 10."

Then, when he tried again in February, his tuition was due.

"I was hit by another wall because I had to pay for my tuition," Sorrell said. "It was looking like I wasn't going to get my ring without some help, so I was going to get a short-term loan."

In his undergraduate years at A&M, Sorrell has served as a T-Camp director, Howdy Camp director, Howdy Camp counselor and T-Camp counselor.

Sorrell was finally eligible to apply for his ring as a third-year student at A&M in Spring 2003.

The Aggie ring can be obtained through The Association of Former Students' ring office. A student has to have successfully met certain undergraduate or graduate requirements. Kelli Hutka, director of Campus Programs for the Association of Former Students, said students should complete at least 45 undergraduate hours at A&M.

"They must have completed 95 total hours, 45 of which have to be at A&M," Hutka said.

For some transfer students, it could take longer to qualify for their ring.

"If students transfer 60 hours, for example, it's later in their Aggie career that they get their Aggie ring," Hutka said.

Maggie Fraser, a senior international studies major, transferred to A&M from the University of Texas at Austin in fall of 2000.

Fraser works at the Sterling C. Evans Library Annex reserves desk and is a member of the MRS Film Society. She has taken part in countless hours of volunteer work.

Fraser said she looks forward to getting her Aggie ring in April.

"Both my parents are former students, so I've been eyeing theirs all my life," Fraser said. "It will make up for the hard work."

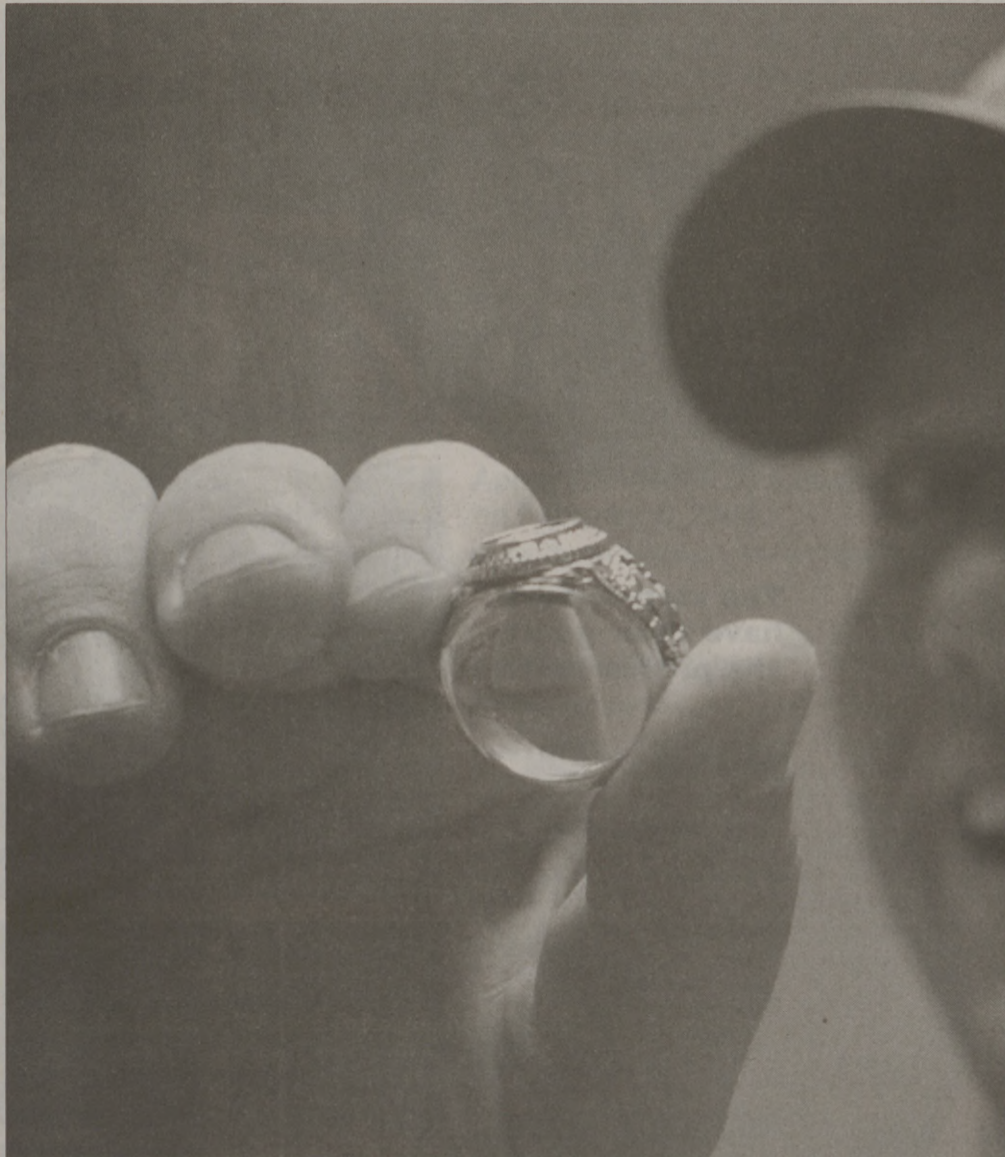
Fraser said it can be more difficult for transfer students to get their Aggie ring, depending on how many transfer hours they bring in.

"I should have been able to order mine last semester," Fraser said.

Ngoc Tran, a junior biomedical sciences major, transferred to A&M this spring.

Tran said it's important to her to get her Aggie Ring because it symbolizes being part of the Aggie family. Sorrell agrees.

"Whenever anything happens to me here at A&M, my friends from other schools will never fully understand what I am talking about and may think I am crazy," Sorrell said. "But a fellow Aggie either will feel the same way or will totally understand. It is this instant bond that every Aggie has with one another."



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Vince Shepherd, a transfer student from Houston Community College, admires his hard-earned Aggie ring. Transfer students must complete 95 hours, 45 of which must be from A&M, to qualify for their senior rings.

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BREAK A SWEAT WITH REC FITNESS

- Rec Walkers!**—Register until Feb. 16 and receive a pedometer, log book and T-shirt! Sign up at member services or call DeAun Woosley at 862-3995 for more info.
- Triathlon Training**—Program begins tomorrow, February 3 at 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the pool. For more information call DeAun Woosley at 862-3995.
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FALL IMs, HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

- The following IM sports **OPEN** for registration **TODAY**:
- Outdoor Soccer \$45/team
 - Pitch Softball (Men&Women) \$45/team
 - Wallyball \$10/team
 - Table Tennis FREE
 - Racquetball (tournament) FREE
- Sign up at Member Services by February 10th at 6:00 p.m.
- The following IM sports **CLOSE** for registration on Feb. 3rd:
- Penberthy Pre-Season Basketball \$10/team
 - Basketball \$45/team

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Program	Registration	Cost
Basic Scuba	NOW-March 21	\$225/\$245
Lifeguard Training	NOW-April 11	\$110/\$130
Lifeguard Challenge	NOW-April 11	\$25/\$35
Springboard Diving	NOW-April 11	\$25/\$35

Go All Out with TAMU OUTDOORS

Upcoming Events	Registration	Event Date
Lead Climbing Clinic	NOW-Feb. 9	Feb. 10
Intro to Fly Fishing	NOW-Feb. 11	Feb. 14
Climbing Technique Clinic	At Event (FREE)	Feb. 17
Bike Clinic	NOW-Feb. 16	Feb. 18
Backpacking Trip	NOW-Feb. 17	Feb. 21-22
Kayak Roll Clinic	NOW-Feb. 23	Feb. 24
Costa Rica Adventure	NOW-March 16	May 16-23
SPRING BREAK TRIPS		
Boulder Hueco Tanks	NOW-March 8	March 14-19
Canoe the Rio Grande	NOW-March 2	March 14-20
Costa Rica Adventure —Experience the adventure of beautiful Costa Rica! Hike to spectacular waterfalls, raft the Sarapiquí River, horseback ride to remarkable views of the Volcanso Arenal, explore the Monteverde Cloud Forest, and sea kayak one of Costa Rica's most beautiful coastlines. Register NOW through March 16!		
FREE One time Climbs! —Want to try climbing? Don't miss this! Don't forget to renew your rockwall passes!		
Tomorrow, Tuesday	Feb. 3	6:30-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 4	6:30-9:30 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 5	3:30-9:30 p.m.

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Aggies, buy your Walk of Champions brick for a reduced price. Visit <http://recsports.tamu.edu> for more information and an order form. Leave your mark on the A&M campus.

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