

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MSC Council Presidents

PART 3 OF 4

Former students graduate from running the MSC to running the corporate world

By Amber Gray
THE BATTALION

Thomas Champe Fitzhugh never imagined he would need any of the skills he learned during his term as MSC Council president during 1970-71.

"If someone had told me then that I was going to use daily all I learned during my experience at the MSC, it wouldn't have made any sense to me," Fitzhugh, Class of '71, said. "I definitely didn't think I'd ever need any of it."

The Memorial Student Center Council president is a student leader at the helm of an organization with a \$6.4 million annual budget.

"(The position) functions like the CEO of a small corporation," said Jim Reynolds, director of the Memorial Student Center.

The MSC Council president typically spends 35-40 hours per week of volunteer time to produce nearly 800 programs for the A&M student body and organize 1,400 activities every year. He or she is responsible for strategic planning, budgeting, organization assessment, and production of these organizations and activities and works closely with other leaders such as the student body president, the Corps commander, the Residence Hall Association president and the vice president of Student Affairs, Reynolds said.

Despite their busy schedule, most MSC Council presidents have a GPR between 3.5 and 3.9.

"These are bright, talented, creative and highly motivated students," Reynolds said.

Since graduation, Fitzhugh has learned the leadership opportunity was tremendously beneficial. With the practice he gained speaking in front of large groups and dealing with all kinds of people, Fitzhugh said he was much better prepared for the workplace. "It's an experience I wouldn't have gotten anywhere else," Fitzhugh said. "Interacting with the organizations hasn't been too

incredibly different than dealing with clients as a lawyer."

Fitzhugh has been practicing law for more than 28 years, and has had the privilege of owning his own law firm,

Fitzhugh, Elliott and Ammerman, P.C. for the past 18 years.

Following graduation, Fitzhugh spent two years on active

duty in the military, which led to his work for the National Security Agency. He then went on to help found and run another MSC, the Maritime Security Council. Partnered with such governmental agencies as the U.S. Department of State and INTERPOL, the MSC works to prevent illegal drug trafficking, theft, piracy and terrorism.

"I've been working with the council for 16 years," he said, "We were working on anti-terrorism efforts long before it was fashionable."

He has stayed involved with A&M through establishing the Champe Fitzhugh International Honors Leadership Seminar in 1992. This two-week, pre-freshman seminar gives chosen National Merit Semi-Finalists or National Achievement Semi-Finalists the opportunity to get to know each other through an international travel experience in Santa Chiara, Italy.

"The program has been very successful," Fitzhugh said.

"It opens the doors and students' minds to study abroad oppor-



Clockwise, from left: **Tom Fitzhugh '71** is an attorney in Houston and established the Champe Fitzhugh International Honors Leadership Seminar; **Camm "Trey" Lary '95** began his own Houston law firm; **John Oeffinger '75** is self-employed and lives in Austin; **Brooks Herring '80** works for Shell Oil Company and lives in The Woodlands.

tunities, and it's definitely the accomplishment I'm most proud of."

Fitzhugh has also been teaching maritime law at Texas A&M at Galveston for the past eight years.

"I love working with students," he said. "And I love the benefits of teaching."

From his experience as an MSC Council president from 1976-77, John Oeffinger can only encourage students to get actively

See MSC on page 4

WWW.TEXASHALLOFFAME.NET ♦ 979-822-2222

TEXAS Hall of Fame

Friday, July 16th

Appearing LIVE in concert...

AARON WATSON



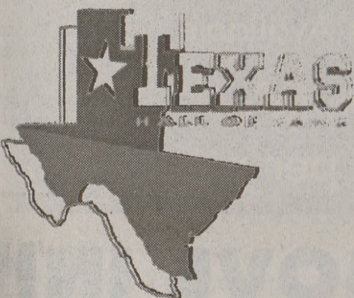
♦ All tickets \$8 at the door

♦ \$1 u-call-its, \$1 longnecks and 75¢ bar drinks til 10 pm

♦ \$2.50 pitchers and \$1.50 chuggers all night!

♦ With special guest: Micah Harris

Coming soon...



♦ Friday, July 23rd - Max Stalling

♦ Saturday, July 24th - Johnny Bush

♦ Saturday, July 31st - Kevin Fowler

The Texas Hall of Fame encourages you to drink responsibly and always designate a driver. Free soft drinks to designated drivers over 21.

What? Brand new AND cheaper than on campus? Wow!!!

the Cambridge @ college station
student housing

- heated resort style pool
- state-of-the-art fitness center
- 1st on TAMU shuttle route
- 16-station computer lab
- cyber lounge with Internet
- ultimate dining center
- flexible meal plans
- game room
- 60 seat movie theater
- computer desks
- microwaves
- frost-free refrigerators
- weekly housekeeping
- multiple telephone outlets
- in-room Internet included
- 24-hour front desk

501 University Oaks
College Station
(979) 694-1500
toll free (800) 704-7099
apply online: www.cambridge-tamu.com

Take a Tour...
Receive a complimentary meal for you & your family!*

*FOR NEW STUDENT CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS ONLY. REDEEMABLE ONLY WITH COUPON.