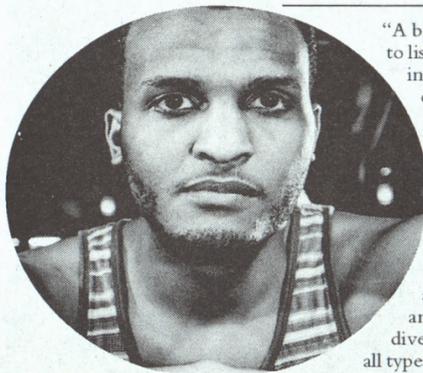


**Aaron Stephens**



PROVIDED

"A big thing for me was to just try to listen to everything that I could in the Motown genre. But seriously listening to it and being into it — it was something I was fortunate to actually like in music. Just listening to stuff like jazz and soul and blues — I just kept listening to that stuff. Especially being from the Valley, there was definitely a huge Hispanic influence and culture but it was also very diverse and other people listen to all types of stuff. So I just have all this music melting pot I guess."

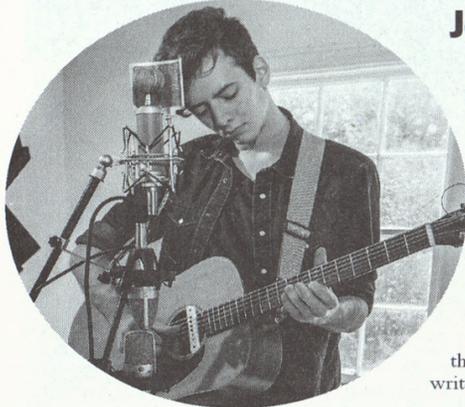


PROVIDED

**Austin and Blake**

"As far as music is concerned, inspiration comes in the weirdest ways. You kind of playback who your favorite artists are and go back and listen to them. When you're making music, you want to stand apart but can't help but put yourself into that sound. You want to sound like those who inspire you. I think just outside of our general everyday happening the people who come before us are our biggest influences for sure. Avett Brothers are our biggest inspiration. Yep, they've done a lot for us. It comes directly from the fact that it's just the two of us, an acoustic guitar and a banjo."

**John Marc Kohl**

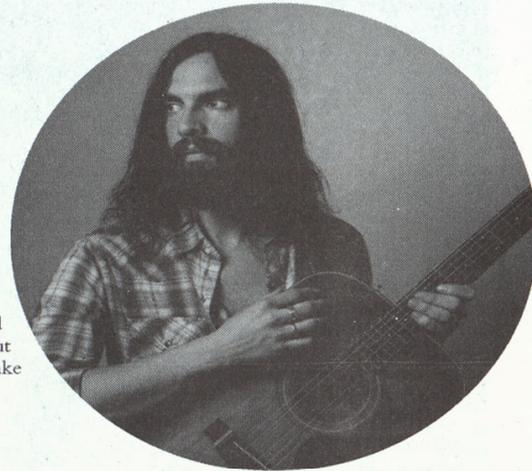


Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

"My music is pretty much my soul. I have to be authentic with my art or I really can't write anything. My music to me is extremely personal in that it's snapshots of my soul in various stages of my life. The main thing that inspires me to write is probably how God has impacted my heart and how Christ has impacted my life. Those are probably the main things that cause me to write."

**Daniel Thomas Phipps and the Kinfolk**

"I think we have a great band — the songs are compelling, and they're catchy. Performing is just the one thing I'm decent at and I've been doing it for a while, but you just do it because it gives you joy in your heart. People hear it and it makes people happy, or it doesn't, but that's the whole point I guess — to make people smile."



PROVIDED

By Jack Riewe

▷ Modest House Sessions will host its second showcase at the Grand Stafford Theatre in Downtown Bryan at 7 p.m. Thursday. The above four artists will be featured and tickets are \$8 online and \$10 at the door.

**Modest House Sessions**



PROVIDED

"Making Movies" band members are Panama and Mexico natives who have a large fan base in the US and across Latin America. Enrique Chi is pictured second from the right.



Mary Hayes — THE BATTALION

Interim President Mark Hussey receives a hat as part of the recognition ceremony Wednesday.

**Hussey recognized for service to A&M**

By Josh Hopkins

▷ Interim President Mark Hussey and his wife Melinda were recognized in a ceremony Wednesday for their service to Texas A&M University as Hussey prepares to step down from his post.

Hussey has served as A&M's interim president for just over 14 months. Once Michael K. Young takes over the presidency, Hussey will return to his position as the dean of Agriculture and Life Sciences, which he has held since 2008.

Hussey said serving as interim president has been an incredible experience.

"Melinda and I are both incredibly honored to be serving in this role," Hussey said. "I'm extremely appreciative to the chancellor and the Board of Regents for their confidence in me, and I truly enjoyed the faculty, the students and the former students we've gotten to meet during the past year."

Quince Adams, distinguished history professor, said working with Hussey has been a pleasure.

"Could we work with this man? God, yes," Adams said. "He was wonderful to work with, and I think our incoming president, President Young, looks splendid, and if he is as easy to work with as Dr. Hussey was we are all in high cotton."

Student Body President Kyle Kelly said Hussey did not just keep the seat warm as interim president.

"He has led us through transition," Kelly said. "And he will continue to lead as we welcome Michael Young at A&M. In his time at A&M he has not just kept everything, but he has bettered everything from our mission, teaching and research, to the A&M experience for students. So I am very appreciative for having the opportunity to serve with him."

MORE AT TX.AG/BATT27

**Q&A: Speaking through the rhythm**

As part of MSC Town Hall's Lunchbox Series, the Kansas City-based band "Making Movies" will bring its unique blend of language and rhythm to Rudder Plaza at noon Thursday. The band's members, Panama and Mexico natives, incorporate standard rock and roll elements into the Latin and African vibes in their music. Enrique Chi, guitarist and lead vocals, spoke with The Battalion Life & Arts Editor Katie Canales to discuss the band's multifaceted sound.

**THE BATTALION: A lot of your music is in Spanish, but a big part of your fan base is people who can't understand your lyrics. What aspect of the music is so compelling?**

CHI: When I was in Panama, which is where I was born, and before I moved to the U.S. there were songs from bands that I loved in English. And I was a little kid, I had no idea what they were saying. The U.S. as a whole is a minority in being a country where most of the entertainment is in its own language. Most other countries of the world — entertainment comes from all kinds of languages. Most movies are in English; the rest of the world doesn't speak English. So really, our work is a way of connecting without spoken

language being the primary thing. For me, I noticed with the whole idea of the band is that we grab ancient African rhythms, the rhythms that showed up in Latin America that kind of showed up through the slave trade and got mixed up into indigenous music. They got mixed up into Spanish guitars, and then you have Latin folk music which is kind of like the folk genre, the music that later birthed all the other genres — cumbia, salsa and all that kind of stuff. So we dig as ancient as we can with the rhythms, and something that we've noticed is the deeper we go with that and the more universal the music is, the less it matters what language the artist speaks and what language the song is in for the connection. And so for me, that is the main thing. I think also all human beings gravitate to melody. And so it's important for me to be melodically interesting. That may be one of the differentiators in our band — we compose our music adhering to the laws of the African Clave, the tempo meter for African music, and we write our music to that tempo, which is a little bit different from the traditional rock and roll band.

**THE BATTALION: What sets the music**

**industry in Panama apart from that in America?**

CHI: There is a deeper appreciation for the traditional folk genres, and I don't mean in like a hipster trendy way. I mean that being a musician with fame is almost an impossibility in Panama, like it's just not really something that happens for people. It's not a career choice that you can really go down because it's just such a small country that it doesn't have the economy to support a whole lot of artists. And there are exceptions to that rule but the general idea is that it's such a small place that it'd be like trying to be a local musician in one city in the U.S. You have to travel all over to become an artist that is well known. So Panama is so small that you can't do that, so when people play music they often do is more as a hobby and as an appreciation for the art form. And I feel like we carry that with us and we try to dig into the old roots. Being a famous rock band isn't possible, so because of that, when you play music, you don't even worry about that being an end game, which is kind of nice.

MORE AT TX.AG/BATT26

**USIP president to discuss world conflicts**

Andrew Natsios says talk is especially relevant to those in foreign services

By Evan Flores

▷ The search for peace in a number of worldwide conflicts will be the focus of a discussion Thursday.

Texas A&M and the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs will host Nancy Lindborg, president of the U.S. Institute of Peace, to discuss international affairs and USIP's involvement with countries in conflict.

Lindborg will present on topics such as civil wars in the Middle East, the Islamic State group and other "conflict zones," said professor Andrew Natsios, director of the Scowcroft Institute.

"Nancy will be talking about bringing peace

into conflict areas of the world," Natsios said. "She's going to focus on what's happening right now in the major trouble spots of our world."

Natsios said the presentation is relevant to the student body as it affects the future of A&M students — especially members of the Corps of Cadets.

"You have 2,000 cadets who, many of them may go into the military and then go into a war zone," Natsios said. "You would want to know if there are actually some people thinking about you and your people back in Washington — doing research on the area you're in."

Natsios said outside of military involvement, Lindborg's topic applies significantly to those who desire to serve in public or foreign service.

"Everybody should know that USIP is one of the bigger think tanks in Washington," Natsios said. "For people who are going into any kind of international affairs position in Washington,

USIP is essential and hearing [Lindborg] speak will further prove that."

Lindborg's speech will be informative to any students regardless of major, said Reyko Huang, assistant professor of international affairs at the Bush School.

"I think that this is an important topic, given what's happening right now in the world," Huang said. "We read so much about violence in the news — it's all over, it's always in front of us and students need to be informed further about topics like this. Whether they are studying it at A&M or the Bush School or novt, it's still extremely important."

Lindborg will present her topic at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Bush Library Presidential Orientation Theater as part of the SIIA International Affairs Conference series. The event is free and open to the public, although reservations are required through the Scowcroft Institute.

▽  
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Andrew Natsios, director of the Scowcroft Institute