

BATT

Mark Dore, Editor in Chief

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2014-2015

**WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS
IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
~TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY~**

The following Aggies have been selected as the recipients of the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Award for 2014-2015:

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Noah Andersen 2015
Drake Anthony 2015
Andrei Arqutola 2015
Rachel Bedinger 2015
Kelli Benjamin 2015
Armando Bernal 2015
Timothy Broderick 2015
Sarah Choi 2015
Michael Collier 2015
Hunter Dansby 2015
Meghan De Amaral 2015
Kaysi Dean 2015
Carli Domenico 2015
Mark Dore 2014
Donovan Drewry 2015
Leigh Edwards 2015
Juli Ewell 2015
Casey Gattshall 2015
Kristen Gavigan 2015

Reid Geissen 2016
Leah Gonzalez 2015
Cameron Halbert 2015
Emilee Haubner 2015
Fram Haveliwala 2015
Jessica Haynes 2015
Paige Hellman 2015
Dylan Heye 2015
Adella Humme 2015
Eric Jones 2015
Sterling Knapp 2014
Brian Knight 2015
Kasey Korbacher 2015
Daylon Koster 2015
J Lawton Lander 2016
Jack Loftin 2014
Maria Lyuksytowa 2015
Ashley Maynard 2015
Sam McDonald 2016

Cullen Nauck 2015
Victoria Pilger 2015
John Hill Price 2015
Neil Rabroker 2015
Sydney Reese 2015
Peter Rozanski 2015
Akshay Shankar 2015
Leslie Smola 2015
Fernando Sosa 2015
Preston Sturdivant 2015
Laura Sumrall 2015
Amelia Tanner 2015
Brandon Valenta 2015
Kayley Wall 2015
Alec Watkins 2015
Kevin Wilfong 2016
Jacob Zerr 2016
Rachel Zissimos 2014
Monica Zuniga 2015

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Jesus Hernandez 2014
Sampath Jayarathna 2016
Jiniva Serrano 2014



Annual
Spring Concert

**April 18, 2015
Saturday Night
of Parent's Weekend
7:30pm**

Rudder Auditorium**Tickets \$5 at MSC Box Office**

**Purchase tickets online:
<http://boxoffice.tamu.edu>**



Class Stars is university-wide awards program aimed to annually recognize outstanding members of each class. Award recipients are honored at a special reception and receive a personalized award for their merit. This program is unique in that students are nominated by their peers in the categories of

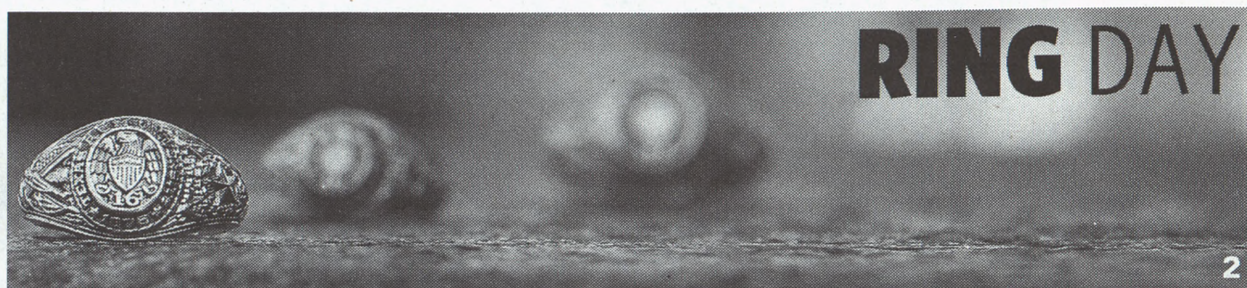
Academics, Athletics, Leadership, Service, and Spirit.

2015
Academics: Grant Hopkins
Athletics: Shea Groom
Leadership: Kasey Kram
Service: R. Kyle Taylor
Spirit: Thomas Burrets

2017
Academics: Shelby Kilpatrick
Athletics: Shamier Little
Leadership: Daniel Rosenfield
Service: Lillian Townsend
Spirit: Cory Rodriguez

2016
Academics: Shelby Sullivan
Athletics: Courtney Walker
Leadership: Matthew Barkis
Service: Angela Lowak
Spirit: Robert Killion

2018
Academics: Maximilian Doan
Athletics: Stephanie Aiple
Leadership: Samuel Moffatt
Service: Melody Davis
Spirit: James Berryman Toler

**RING DAY**

2

Scholarships serve those who served

Funds help student veterans receive their Aggie Rings

By Jennifer Reiley

Class Councils is \$2,500 away from establishing an endowed Aggie Ring scholarship specifically tailored for student veterans.

The Aggie Rings for Veterans Fund, established in 2010, was inspired by Pristine Remolona, Class of 2012. Remolona has military history in her family. Her grandfather served during WWII and her brother died while serving in the U.S. Air Force.

"While my family has meant so much to me, being a part of the Aggie family is something unlike any other alumni network in the nation and the tradition of the Aggie Ring is one that connects Aggies worldwide," Remolona said. "Working to start the Aggie Rings for Veterans Fund was a great opportunity to give back and show my support for our U.S. military veterans and for my fellow Aggies."

After Remolona graduated, Class Councils continued to work toward the \$25,000 goal. Danielle Snow, communication sophomore and co-director of the 11-11 Day Committee, said 11-11 Day manages most of the funding efforts through T-shirt sales and a silent auction during Parents' Weekend. While the goal is to collect the remaining \$2,500 by May, Snow said the funds may not get raised until December.

Kathryn Greenwade, vice president of the Association of Former Students, said the \$25,000 minimum endowment can pay enough dividends in interest yearly for one male ring or two female rings.

Greenwade said veterans often do not put funding an Aggie Ring as a high priority,

as they typically use veteran's benefits.

"While those veteran's benefits are paying tuition, they're paying housing somewhat, they're paying books, an Aggie Ring is not one of those things that's in there," Greenwade said. "Many of these veterans have families, and so an Aggie Ring, as much as they want it, is a luxury. It's not a necessity."

While the Class Councils scholarship is still in the works, other scholarships help donors pay for Aggie Rings for student veterans.

Col. Jerry Smith, director of the Veterans Resource and Support Center, said the office started working with veteran scholarships in 2013. Through his office, 26 veterans have since received an Aggie Ring.

Smith said veterans are typically referred to his office by an outside source. He then acts as a go-between for the veterans and the Association, from which some of the scholarships come. Smith said veterans themselves are hesitant to come forward to ask for help, which he called "warrior mentality."

Rebecca Lesemann, public service and administration graduate student and active-duty Army officer, said she was one of those veterans. Lesemann, who receives her ring Friday thanks to funds from a larger donation to the veteran support center, said she did not want to take away from other people who she thought might be more deserving. In the end, Smith convinced her, saying veterans deserve the money, too.

"I've actually told other people the same thing because everyone says, 'There's someone more deserving; it's not me,'" Lesemann said. "I don't want to use the money that someone else could use, and because he did that for me, then I've actually told a few other veterans to go fill out the paperwork."



Jena Floyd — THE BATTALION

Rebecca Lesemann, graduate student and active-duty Army officer, will receive her Aggie Ring Friday.

Lesemann found out about her scholarship on Christmas Day, and even though she did not come from an A&M family, she has wanted her ring since she learned about the tradition.

"It actually is very humbling for me because as a veteran I personally don't feel like I'm this special person that needs to receive a ring, so the fact that someone wants to donate a ring because I'm a veteran is very humbling and it's an honor," Lesemann said.

Seven veterans will receive rings Friday, two of which Greenwade said are from pass-through programs, or direct donations specifically for veterans. As Class Councils works to complete the Aggie Ring Fund for Veterans, she said it has been worth the time to raise the money.

"Normally we ask that scholarship be paid in about three years," Greenwade said. "In the case of Class Councils, because this is not just one individual making a gift, we'll stretch that timeline out for as long as it takes because we think that effort of students funding this is

very meaningful."

Lesemann said an endowed scholarship for veterans could increase the number of veterans willing to ask for help funding an Aggie Ring. Smith said veterans who receive their ring often turn around and donate money of their own for a future veteran.

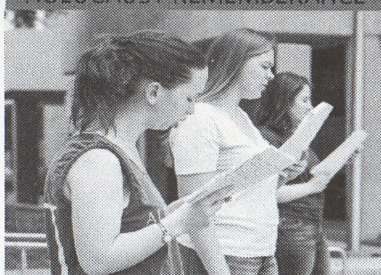
"It is very telling of our Aggie core values," Smith said. "Selfless service, excellence. I think the student veterans that receive an Aggie Ring from fellow students greatly appreciate the appreciation for what they've gone and done before they came for school."

Even after Ring Day, Smith said the impact of receiving an Aggie Ring continues.

"I never want a student veteran to go to graduation, and that Association of Former Student representative that's at graduation says, 'Okay, everybody, stand up and turn your Aggie Ring around,'" Smith said. "I don't want a veteran standing there looking at a bare knuckle."

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HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE



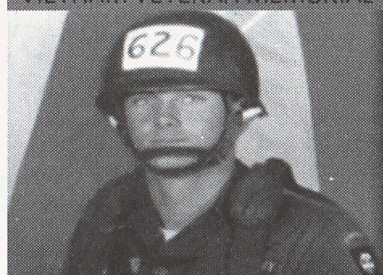
A&M Hillel members read the names of Holocaust victims for 24 hours. **Story at tx.ag/batt37.**

FISH FEST



Fish Fest allows freshman to celebrate end of year. **Story at tx.ag/batt38.**

VIETNAM VETERAN MEMORIAL



Vietnam memorial dedication to take place Saturday. **Story at tx.ag/batt39.**

OPEN HOUSE

The Office of the President and the Division of Student Affairs invite you and your family to visit the Campus Homes

**Saturday
April 18, 2015
10 a.m. - 12 noon**
Light refreshments will be served at both homes



The President's Home is located on Throckmorton Street across from Duncan Drill Field.



The Vice President's Home is located on Throckmorton Street across from Sanders Corps of Cadets Center.