

Ethics ♦ Values ♦ Service ♦ Family



# MSC ABBOTT FAMILY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



San Antonio, Texas  
January 23rd-27th, 2019

## HOWDY!

You are invited to join us as we explore together a new adventure into the world of values, morals, ethics, and service. This could be the beginning for an entirely different and dynamic approach to each of our lives. For some, perhaps, this conference will have a dramatic effect on all that we encounter in our lifelong journey. During the past few years, we have witnessed the meltdown that occurs when people with little or no concern for others rise to the top. They have destroyed their companies, their friends, their families, and themselves. Essentially, they appeared to be devoid of a strong ethical value system, and therefore, created chaos in the world.

The overall theme of the MSC Abbott Leadership Conference centers on concepts of morals, values, ethics, and service. The ultimate goal is to help you gain a personal sense of direction, an exciting insight in relationships with others, a greater ability to fulfill your real ambitions, and a greater understanding of what life can be at its very best. When each of us are true to ourselves, we support our value system as it is shared with others, through our own examples. This includes our immediate family, our extended families, our Aggie family, our business and corporate family, and even those people whose lives we touch but may not know.

One of the earliest traditions of Texas A&M is the Aggie Code of Honor: "Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate those who do." Our personal values will change as we travel the road of life, but it is very important to put the current ones in place, in each and every decision that is made. At the opening of the George Bush Library, former President George Bush reminded everyone to "Remember our values, preserve our integrity, and give our best to all we achieve..." He also told graduates during a graduation ceremony, "There can be no definition of success that does not include serving others... Find a way to get involved..." When now former President George W. Bush was commencement speaker in 2008, he echoed his Dad's words by encouraging graduates to develop a set of principles to live by, to give back to their communities, and to pursue the path of service. United States Secretary of Defense and former Texas A&M President, Robert Gates, who has been a leader by example, stated again in a speech at A&M that a higher level of excellence could be achieved only when we re-kindle a foundation built on ethical behavior and personal integrity. Then again in a commencement speech, he admonished those present with this quote: "No matter what you do achieve, no matter how far you run, your life will be neither truly successful nor complete until it includes significant service to others including public service." When President Barack Obama was on campus he reminded each of us that "Service binds us to each other, to each of our communities, and to our country in a way that nothing else can." Let us remember the challenging words and advice of these American statesmen.

When your values become a focused part of your life, it is easier to defend your decisions and your actions. When your personal sense of direction is based on well-founded values, it then becomes possible to lead others effectively. It gives a freedom of expression and acceptance of others that can lead to personal, family, and employment success. One of our family's favorite definitions of leadership is "the ability to establish and manage a creative climate where people are self-motivated toward the successful achievement of long term constructive goals, in an environment of mutual respect, compatible with personal values."

General Joseph Weber, former Vice President for Student Affairs at Texas A&M, once said, "Always give your very best. When you give all that you have, you demonstrate leadership that is contagious." These words are applicable as you lead at Texas A&M, and each of you should remember this advice as you become the community leaders of tomorrow. When we can focus on truly making personal values our top priority, the impact will be multiplied over and over again. We look forward to your participation in the MSC Abbott Family Leadership Conference and to becoming a part of the Abbott Conference family, as we visit, learn, and share together our ideas and hope for our future. It is our hope that each of you participating in this conference will become exemplary Aggies in leadership positions at Texas A&M. You will be empowered to lead by example and live by your personal values. Your experiences as leaders at Texas A&M University will enable you to carry lifetime leadership skills and values into your roles of leadership in communities, to better equip you to handle family and personal relationships, and to enable you to be supportive of your immediate and extended families.

In the Aggie Spirit,  
**The Abbott Family**

# MSC Abbott Family Leadership Conference

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# Conference Schedule

## **Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*Attire: Abbott Casual*

2:30 PM - George Bush Library  
3:00 PM - Speaker: Chris Field  
4:15 PM - Depart for San Antonio  
6:45 PM - Arrive at the Gristmill  
7:15 PM - Dinner  
9:00 PM - Depart for the Hotel  
10:30 PM - Family Time  
11:30 PM - Lights Out

## **Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Attire: Business Casual*

7:15 AM - Report Downstairs  
8:10 AM - Breakfast at H-E-B  
8:25 AM - Speaker: Jessica Kozak  
9:15 AM - Speaker: David Rogers  
10:10 AM - Speaker: Hilary Monford  
11:05 AM - Lunch at H-E-B  
12:55 PM - Arrive at Broadway Bank  
1:10 PM - Welcome  
1:20 PM - Speaker: Hughes Family  
2:10 PM - Speaker: Michael Rey  
3:00 PM - Speaker: Frank Abbott Sr.  
3:40 PM - Guy/Girl Time  
5:00 PM - Arrive at the Alamodome  
5:15 PM - Speaker: The Hellers  
6:05 PM - Speaker: The Amermans  
6:55 PM - Speaker: Megan Legacy  
7:30 PM - Dinner with Local Families  
8:15 PM - Speaker: Terri Lieber  
9:35 PM - Arrive at Hotel  
9:50 PM - Family Time  
11:30 PM - Lights Out

## **Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Attire: Nice Business Casual*

7:00 AM - Report Downstairs  
8:20 AM - Breakfast at Zachry  
8:50 AM - Speaker: John Zachry  
9:55 AM - Speaker: John Hornsby  
10:35 AM - Speaker: Huda Abbas  
11:15 AM - Fishbowl  
12:15 PM - Lunch  
1:25 PM - Arrive at Geekdom  
1:40 PM - Speaker: Dirk Elmendorf

2:25 PM - Speaker: Bryant Ambelang

3:05 PM - Speaker: Mike Sharrow &  
Colter Kaspar

4:05 PM - Arrive at Hotel

*Attire: Abbott Casual*

4:20 PM - Report downstairs  
5:00 PM - Local Family Homes  
8:30 PM - Bus begins pick up  
9:45 PM - Arrive at Hotel  
10:15 PM - Family Time  
11:30 PM - Lights Out

## **Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Attire: A&M Shirt, Jeans and Tennis Shoes*

7:00 AM - Report downstairs/Breakfast  
7:30 AM - Depart for Haven for Hope  
8:05 AM - Community Service  
11:35 AM - Depart for Hotel  
11:45 AM - Lunch

*Attire: Abbott Casual*

1:15 PM - Report downstairs  
2:35 PM - Speaker: The Darnold Family  
3:25 PM - Family Roundtables  
- The Pappas Family  
- Coreen Dyer  
- The Colbath Family

5:15 PM - Depart for the Harn's

6:10 PM - Dinner

7:10 PM - Abbott Family Roundtables

10:10 PM - Arrive at Hotel

10:30 PM - Family Time

11:30 PM - Lights Out

## **Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Attire: Abbott T-Shirt*

8:15 AM - Report Downstairs

9:00 AM - La Fonda on Main/Breakfast

9:30 AM - Speaker: David Alders

10:15 AM - Speaker: Henry Ryan

10:25 AM - Speaker: Megan Greer

10:35 AM - Speaker: Abbott Family

11:50 AM - Alamo

12:35 PM - Depart for College Station

2:15 PM - Delegate lunch at Buc-ee's

4:00 PM - Arrive at George Bush Library



# Our Speakers





## Huda Abbas

Huda A. Abbas is the Electrical Engineering Manager at Zachry Engineering Corporation, Houston Office. She has 28+ years of experience in the Oil & Gas Industry including refining and petrochemicals in the US and overseas. She is a licensed professional engineer in Texas and Arizona.

Huda earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Baghdad University, College of Engineering. She left her home country in 2006 to work in Kazakhstan and Bahrain and she is a proud American citizen since 2011.

Huda is an active member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). She serves on the Electrical committee of Process Industry Practices (PIP). Her greatest passion is books, and she is a member of the Friends of Houston Public Library Foundation and The Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH). Huda and her husband, Carlos, live in Houston, spending their time on travelling, classical music, museums and everything books and reading.

## David R. Alders '85

David Alders graduated with honors in 1985 from Texas A&M University, earning a degree in Agricultural Economics. During his tenure at A&M, he served as Speaker of the Student Senate, the first student representative to the Faculty Senate, a member of the MSC Council, and as Student Body President. Upon his graduation in May 1985, he received the University's highest student award, the Brown Foundation/Earl Rudder Memorial Outstanding Student Award. Upon graduation, David accepted a position with Trammell Crow Company in Dallas where he worked for three years as a leasing agent for the Dallas/Fort Worth retail development partnership. In 1988, he returned to his hometown of Nacogdoches, where he began managing his family's cattle and timberland operations. In 1989, David and his wife Nicole established Carrizo Creek Corporation, a poultry production business. He also owns managing interests in several other businesses in Nacogdoches including Dagwood Timber Company, LP; Principatus Properties, LLC; and Buck Bay Timber, Ltd.



David's civic involvement includes serving on the Board of Regents of Stephen F. Austin State University, as a director on the boards of Citizens 1<sup>st</sup> Bank, New Saint Andrews College, Texas Forestry Association, Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, Heartbeat Pregnancy Center and Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau, as Vice President of the Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District, as a member of the Executive Committee of the East Texas Regional Water Planning Group, as a Trustee of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and as Vice Chairman of the board of Regents Academy, a Classical Christian school in Nacogdoches. He's a former chairman of the board of directors of the Nacogdoches Economic Development Corporation and of Heritage Land Bank Association, was a member of the board of the State Bar of Texas and was a chairman of the governing board of the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (now part of Texas Department of Agriculture). He was a former member of the boards of directors of the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Poultry Federation and is a past President of the Texas Broiler Council. David helped found Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in 1998 and serves as an elder. David and his wife, Nicole ('84), have ten children and four grandchildren. His interests include travel and reading, particularly theology, economics and history.





## Bryant Ambelang

President and CEO, NatureSweet, LTD.

Bryant Ambelang, President and Chief Executive Officer of NatureSweet, LTD., the largest greenhouse producer of the best tasting tomatoes in the world. Operating ten facilities, nine in Mexico and one in the U.S. NatureSweet is focused on “Being the groundbreaking leader of the fresh produce industry driven through Unleashing the Power of People”.

Prior to joining NatureSweet, Bryant began his career in the consumer-packaged goods industry holding various positions at Kellogg’s and Pace Foods. Bryant is a graduate from the

University of Texas at Dallas and holds an MBA from the University of Denver.

Bryant is most proud of being married for 28 years, being a father to 5 amazing children and the honor of leading nearly 10,000 full time Associates who are the most talented people in the Agricultural industry.

## The Amerman Family

Jarrett and Jamie Amerman-started out as high school sweethearts, pursuing the American dream lead this couple to worldly success, but still feeling empty. Now married for 17 years and together for 22, the Amerman’s have completely re-organized their priorities in order to pursue a life worth living.

Jarrett is a Houston native, graduate from Ole Miss, and a loyal employee with the same company for 15 years. He has found that success happens when relationships are built on more than just wanting to get the next deal. Actually caring about others and taking the time to invest in their lives has allowed him to go the next level in business. When he isn’t working, he is watching one of his four kids participate in their many activities.

Jamie is also a Houston native, graduate from Ole Miss, full time stay at home mom, and part time realtor and blogger/author. She gave up her successful career in medical sales to put her family first.

Jarrett and Jamie firmly believe that without God nothing is possible. They have put him as their cornerstone in every aspect of their lives. The one question they always check themselves to make sure they are living fully is whether they are functioning with the fruits of the spirit-love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control. When they notice their actions are not a reflection of these traits they know they are not living abundantly with God.

The Amerman’s are on mission to help others discover that their purpose and calling is bigger than what the world has to offer. They have experienced firsthand how much life changes when people stop focusing on themselves and start living with an eternal perspective.





## Taylor '16 & Abby Colbath '18

Taylor and Abby Colbath met while interning at Community Bible Church in San Antonio during their high school years. They built a solid foundation of friendship through various church events, mission trips, and high school rivalry games. Once reuniting at Texas A&M University they dated for three years and married in July of 2017. Taylor received a degree in Industrial Engineering with a minor in Mathematics from Texas A&M. While at Texas A&M Taylor was involved in Fish Camp, Impact Camp, and the MSC Spencer Conference. After graduation Taylor went on to work for Zachry Group in Florida as a Construction Engineer. In his first year and



a half of working Taylor passed the FE and PE exams, managed materials, construction schedules, and oversaw the execution of the civil phase of the Okeechobee Clean Energy Center (a 3 on 1 Combined Cycle Power Plant). Abby graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Communication Honors with a minor in Human Resources. While at Texas A&M Abby was a member in Kappa Alpha Theta, an Impact Counselor, a delegate on AFLC, a church ministry intern, and a photographer. Abby's first year of working consisted of photography and small business retail.

After living in Florida for over a year and leading a mission trip to downtown LA, the Colbath family felt led to a job change and a move back to Texas. Taylor now works for Aluma as a Project Manager overseeing the execution of various projects in North America. Abby is currently continuing her photography business and in the works of starting an online business.



## Corene Dyer

Corene Dyer grew up in San Antonio, the eldest of seven children, and eventually received her degree in Radio-TV-Film from the University of Texas. Having had a life-long love of the camera, she worked as a photographer and multi-media specialist around the state until she married. Photography then became more her artistic outlet and hobby. She was blessed to become the mother of four incredible children, a daughter and three sons, all off whom received their degrees from Texas A&M. Never dreaming she would become a

single parent, she began building a small business out of her home as a photographer, specializing in weddings and environmental portraiture of families, children and high school seniors. She is the past President of the Professional Photographers Guild of San Antonio, and has received numerous awards over the years, both locally and nationally for her photography including being Photographer of the Year in 1999. She received a Master of Photography degree from the Professional

Photographers of America in 2010. Today, Corene lives in Dallas, enjoying her eight grandchildren as often as possible. She still enjoys part time photography opportunities. She loves every opportunity to share her story with Abbott delegates and hopes to be a blessing and encouragement to someone each time.

## Lee & Jenn Darnold '92

Lee and Jenn Darnold met in Dallas while out two stepping with their singles' group from church and were married a year later. Over the past twenty years, they have learned how to be the "new" people as they have lived in 12 different homes in Dallas/Fort Worth, Northern Virginia, Philadelphia and now San Antonio. Lee is a graduate of Texas Tech '93 with a degree in marketing and t.u. with an MBA. He is an executive in the homebuilding industry and has worked for national builders such as Toll Brothers and Pulte Group. Lee serves as an elder at Hillside Fellowship and leads a ministry he and Jenn host in their home each month for high school guys called "Man-Up". Jenn, graduated from A&M with a BBA in Accounting and an MS in Tax the following year. While at A&M, Jenn served as a Fish Aide, Student Senator, Class of '92 Treasurer, Fish Camp Counselor and Campfire Speaker and was the recipient of the Buck Weirus Spirit Award. Since college, she has also served as a Class Agent. After working for Ernst & Young and in finance for a few healthcare companies, Jenn retired as a CPA to stay at home with their two sons. One of Jenn's passions is serving with Community Bible Study where she was the Teaching Director for a class of 200 women in Philadelphia and now serves as a Regional Director where she oversees classes in Texas and Louisiana and helps train and shepherd leaders. During the last recession, Lee and Jenn started a couples ministry going through unemployment and appeared as guests on several local and national radio shows. Their oldest son, Carson (17), is an 11<sup>th</sup> grader at San Antonio Christian School and serves as a Worship Leader for Chapel and other school events. Cooper (14) is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at SACS who plays tennis, loves math and science and would never, ever willingly be up on stage like his big brother. The Darnold Family is excited to host the AFLC delegates in their home again this year.



## Dirk Elmendorf

Dirk Elmendorf moved to San Antonio to attend Trinity University. He graduated with a BA in Economics in 1997. After helping to start a very small computer consulting company, he stumbled onto the idea that would change his life. Along with two other Trinity students, Dirk co-founded Rackspace Managed Hosting in 1999. Rackspace went private in 2017 for \$4.5 billion dollars. Dirk left Rackspace in 2009 to get back to his start up roots. In addition to advising several startups, Dirk is currently the CTO for Brokerage Engine, a startup focused on building the best tools to run a real estate brokerage. He is also active in promoting math, science, and technology education through the 80/20 Foundation and the Witte Museum.



## Chris Field

In life there are Dreamers and there are Doers. Some people, like Chris Field, are blessed to be both. Born in Houston, Texas in 1982, he knew early on that he was different. In grade school he befriended a young man (also named Chris), and kept him from being bullied and harassed.

On a trip to visit an uncle in El Paso, his grandmother pointed out that the children just across the border in Mexico had much more difficult lives than he. His response to that became a metaphor for all that he has done since: "What if I just tape money to a rock and throw it across to them? Would that help?", he asked. He has been figuratively throwing stones of disruption ever since.

As a freshmen in college he ran for mayor of his hometown and finished third out of five candidates. He was encouraged to aim lower by the powers that be, but he aimed high anyway. There is something about stepping out like that. No matter the outcome, it emboldens us and tells us that we can.

He launched Mercy Project in 2010 to combat child trafficking in Ghana's fishing industry. To date, Mercy Project has rescued, rehabilitated, and reintegrated more than one hundred children back into their families.

Chris has broken multiple Guinness world records, run dozens of marathons, organized enormous fundraisers, created viral internet campaigns, taught himself to auctioneer, and brought down walls. He travels the country speaking on how each of us can be disruptors for good. "My hope is that my book and each of these talks will inspire people to find issues where they can roll up their shirtsleeves and do their own disruption, in spite of the difficulties and perhaps even dangers of doing so," he says.

Chris lives in College Station, Texas with his wife, Stacey, and their four children. He has been a lecturer in Mays Business School since 2016.

## Lori '87 & Mikal Harn '88

Mikal graduated from Texas A&M in 1988 with a degree in Marketing. He was in the Corps of Cadets, was a Ross Volunteer, and was a Fish Camp counselor. Lori also graduated from A&M in 1987 with a degree in Marketing. She was in Delta Zeta and Delta Sigma, a business fraternity. She also served as a peer advisor and Aggie Hostess.

Mikal and Lori met when Lori interviewed Mikal for a position at Kraft Foods. After he got the job, they began dating. Now, Mikal is the President of Comet Signs and Lori is a Business Development Manager for H-E-B who manages the baking aisle. Since graduating, they have moved 9 times across the country. Their daughter, Abby, is now a freshman in high school and is 15 years old. As a family, they enjoy spending time together both at their home in San Antonio and traveling to unique places. The Harn Family has hosted and served MSC Abbott for many years.





## Max '11 & Chrisleigh Heller '13

Max and Chrisleigh Heller are so excited to join you at the San Antonio Conference as both were involved in Abbott while attending Texas A&M University! They currently live in the piney woods of east Texas in a town called Lindale. Max and Chrisleigh met while serving at Sky Ranch Christian Camps where they both worked post graduating from A&M. Chrisleigh currently serves as the Director of the Outdoor Education program, and it is through camping that she received her long-lasting nickname, Grizz. She also is the co-founder of Oh Hey Truth, a ministry resource for college-aged women. Max works for Grace Community Church serving as a Pastoral Resident and the Discipleship Director while completing a seminary degree. Both come from families of seven. Max's family grew from four to seven, through adoption, and Chrisleigh, through a blended family. Together, they are the proud cat parents of Bonnie Heller who they believe to be an Enneagram 4. Can't wait to see you soon.



## John Hornsby



Now in his 33rd year with Zachry Group, John Hornsby serves as Corporate Chaplain, where he focuses on the spiritual wellbeing of its 25,000 employees, top executives and emerging leaders. Believing that all are called, and every job is a ministry, Hornsby's passion is connecting people's faith to their work, so occupation becomes vocation.

He earned his business degree from Sam Houston State University, Master's degree from The Seminary of the Southwest and currently serves on the boards of Lifetime Recovery.

His personal interests include physical and spiritual fitness, vintage car restoration and contemplative writing. He and his wife, Kim, have been married for 32 years, and are enjoying watching their grown children navigate adulthood, providing the best laughs they've had in years.



## The Hughes Family

Shawn and Xochitl reside in San Antonio, Texas. Shawn's undergraduate degree is from the business school at Texas Christian University and he has a JD from St. Mary's University. Shawn works with Broadway Bank in San Antonio. Xochitl graduated from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska with a degree in Occupational Therapy. She homeschools our two boys and works some weekends at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio.

Shawn and Xochitl have been married for 19 years and met while they were both serving as Young Life Leaders. They have three children: Hannah (17), Patrick (15) and Daniel (9).

Hannah is a Senior at a STEM High School. She loves watching Marvel movies, re-reading Harry Potter books and challenging her mind. She is a true friend to others, incredibly honest and a hard worker. Hannah is passionate about coding, captain of her robotics team and competes in Cybersecurity competitions. She also built a very cool computer last summer.

Patrick is deeply involved in Boy Scouts and he is currently a Life rank. He is working towards his Eagle Scout rank and he and Xochitl will be testing this spring for their black belt in Tai Kwan Do. He is kind, wise and leads well with a quiet strength.

Daniel loves his Golden Retriever Louie, baseball, Legos, Nerf Guns and building things. Some of his favorite moments are hitting baseballs in the backyard in the summer and reading a book by the fire with a cup of hot chocolate in the winter. He is passionate and strong.

As a family, we thrive best when we have margin in our schedule and healthy boundaries. When we do have space, we like to sleep in, enjoy warm pancakes (with lots of maple syrup), camp, hike, read, travel, take walks and play board games.



## Colter Kaspar '15

Colter Kaspar graduated from Texas A&M in 2015 with a BS in Agricultural Leadership Education & Development with a Business emphasis and English minor. During his time at A&M, he was involved in many student activities including the Ross Volunteers, Aggie Men's Club, and the Abbott Family Leadership Conference. As a student, Colter was awarded Outstanding Cadet for the 1<sup>st</sup> Wing of the Corps of Cadets and the Buck Weirus Spirit Award recognizing outstanding contributions to student life at Texas A&M. Colter is currently the owner and operator of Kormachine in Waco, TX. Kormachine specializes in precision machining for the aircraft

and aerospace industries. He is married to the love of his life, Elizabeth Kaspar '18 who is currently wrapping up her time in the PPA program at Texas A&M. In his free time, he enjoys the blessings of hunting, reading, traveling, and time with family.



## Jessica Kozak

Jessica Kozak is the HR Director for H-E-B Digital and brings more than twenty years of experience to her role. Her expertise in developing strong strategic partnerships with digital leaders was cultivated with companies like Booz Allen and Rackspace before joining H-E-B to lead the HR Digital Transformation team. Jessica has a reputation for tackling epic changes by breaking them into manageable tasks to successfully move the business forward – rapidly. Her resilient style has proven to be advantageous in leading an organization through major transformations and her passion for people enables her to do so with commitment and class.

Originally from New Jersey, Jessica attended Georgian Court University where she graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She went on to complete her Master's Degree in Administration and Human Resources Management from Central Michigan University.

Jessica has been married for 17 years, and is the mother of 3 teenagers. She is passionate about serving her community by leading a marriage ministry in her parish, serving on the board of a local animal rescue organization, and directing her community's summer swim team.

## Megan Legacy

Megan Legacy has served as the Executive Director of the San Antonio Christian Hope Resource Center (CHRC) since 2012. Born and raised in Colorado, she began her career in Washington, DC, where she worked for the US Senate and then later for a government relations firm. In 2018, a three-day mission trip into the Anacostia neighborhood in DC was the catalytic experience in her life that inspired Megan to dive into the nonprofit sector to be a change agent for others.

In 2009, Megan moved to San Antonio and worked for three years as the Development Director for Haven for Hope, one of the country's largest homeless organizations in the US.

For the past seven years, Megan has led the effort to change the model from a food pantry to a multi-faceted social service model focused on ending poverty. In her leadership at CHRC, the organization has built a new 4,000 mentoring and program building, increased annual revenues by 300%, hired a seasoned and credential social work team, expanded the board, built dozens of nonprofit collaborations, expanded to multiple locations, and won the *2016 Bank of America Neighborhood Builder Award*.

Megan holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Colorado State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Megan is an alumni of Leadership San Antonio Class 38, is a board member of the Westside Development Corporation, a board member of Unicity, and serves as the Vice President of the PTA at her son's elementary school.

Megan loves calling Texas home for the past ten years. She enjoys cooking, traveling, reading, politics, and spending time with her two kids, Bryson and Harper.





## Terri Liebler '92

Vice President of Strategy and Sales, Media and Sponsorship  
Live Nation Entertainment

Terri Liebler has been part of the sports and entertainment industry for more than 25 years. Currently, as Vice President of Sales and Strategy for Media and Sponsorships at Live Nation Entertainment (which includes Ticketmaster), she specifically manages the integrity of sales products for the company and its clients. Terri's tenure with Live Nation spans more than 18 years from coast to coast in sponsorship, media and premium seat sales. Previously, she was part of the management team at the NBA Seattle SuperSonics organization where they played Michael Jordan and The Chicago Bulls in the NBA Finals; the NBA San Antonio Spurs; the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, GA and the San Antonio Alamodome venue operations team. And, she has helped to open and/or actively participated in the renovation of more than fifteen major sports and entertainment venues. As a proud member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of '92 -having graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree double majoring in Speech Communications and Journalism - Terri was a Class Officer for three years, the 1992 Cotton Bowl Queen, Vice Chair of the Wiley Lecture Series, a Buck Weirus Spirit Award winner her freshman year, dorm Chaplain, member of the Student Senate Finance Committee and a Fish Aide.



Terri is two-time breast cancer survivor, lives and breathes for travel, adventure, snow skiing and golf. She currently calls San Antonio home where she shares an exciting and busy life with her husband and two children, Peyton (TAMU Class of '22) and Tess (TAMU Class of '24).

## Hilary Monford

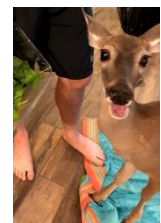


Hilary Monford is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has worked as a psychotherapist for more than 25 years, serving adults as well as children of all ages. She offers individual, family and marital counseling, addressing depression, anxiety, grief, parenting difficulties, trauma, autism, communication challenges, ADHD and other mental health and behavioral issues. She has been fortunate

to work in a variety of settings, including community mental health, school system, foster care, immigration, military and youth and family camps. Currently she is the mental health provider in the pediatric, adolescent and developmental clinics at Wilford Hall on Lackland Air Force Base. She maintains a private practice and for the past 14 years has served as the mental health consultant and staff trainer for the Laity Lodge Youth Camps and Laity Lodge Family Camp of the HEB Foundation, near Leakey, Tex. Hilary grew up attending camp and married her "camp crush," Larry, 24 years ago. They have three children, ages 21, 18 and 16, who also have grown up attending LLYC.

Hilary attended St. Edwards University in Austin, double majoring in psychology and social work, and interning at the local Center for Battered Women. She then earned her Masters of Science in Social Work degree from the University of Texas at Austin and completed her practicum at the Fairbanks Community Mental Health Center in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Hilary and Larry spend their free time maintaining the "micro ranch" in their backyard, with nine chickens, four honey bee hives and Bucky, a 9-month-old deer they rescued. Bucky is successfully assimilating into the herd of deer living near their house and is a Facebook sensation.





## Michael '90 & Laura Pappas '91

Laura and Michael met while in college at Texas A&M University. Michael was class of '90, a Civil Engineering major, and played football as an Offensive Lineman. Michael is first generation Greek American. His father's family came over from Greece after WW2 as the German's occupied their family home. Laura was class of '91, a Community Health major, Chi Omega, and a Fish Camp Counselor. She continued with her education at UTMB in Galveston to obtain an Occupational Therapy degree. They were

married in May of 1992. Michael worked in his family business of Dreyfus Construction and is now president of the company. He built and manages several retail centers around the greater Houston area. Michael is on the Construction Board at Cinco Ranch. He has coached all four of his boys little league teams in football, basketball, 7 on 7, and baseball. Laura worked as an OTR at Ben Taub Hospital up until they had their first child. They have been involved with Grace UMC. Laura has served in the area of Youth Ministry and UpWord Women's Group. She has also served in leadership positions throughout her children's years in Elementary, Junior High, and High School. She serves as a JDRF Outreach Volunteer. They have 4 amazing boys and the sweetest dog ever! Wilson and Christopher are both at Texas A&M. Nicholas is a senior at Cinco Ranch. He has played varsity football for 3 years, track team, Cougar Challenge Council, NHS, and attended Texas Boys State. We are excited to see what doors open up for college. (Gig'em). Patrick is a freshman at Cinco Ranch. He is a Class Officer, involved in FFA, and a JDRF Youth Ambassador. Patrick was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at age 6. Our story speaks about how our family dealt with and continues to deal with a chronic medical diagnosis. We are excited to share our family experience with you!

## Michael Rey '99

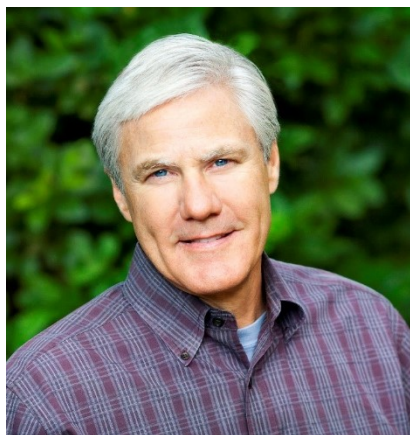
Michael Rey, in his role as both Principal and VP of Operations at Overland Partners, leads through crafting clear pathways for those around him to solve problems. He is a skilled designer, architect, and systems thinker, finding inspiration in learning from others and discovering each individual's unique gifts and different ways of thinking. He believes that caring for others is the greatest tool one can possess and that any situation should be approached with an open mind and heart.



These same principles are applied to his practice of architecture, and he has learned in his work that optimal design solutions can be achieved through many different paths. Because of this, Michael understands that a strong design practice requires a process that's flexible enough to accommodate different working methods. For instance, large-scale community based design, stakeholder kickoff charrettes, or intimate working sessions are amongst the many formats he might leverage to develop each design with clients.

Leading the studio in his role as VP of Operations, Michael strategically aligns projects and people. He leads the four distinct areas of our operation and ensures that everyone in the studio has a firm foundational knowledge in design, technical development of the design, and the soft skills to manage a project well. Michael is an expert in each phase of a project's development and a champion for our comprehensive design process. He demands a consistently high level of quality across the studio and is deeply committed to our core values. Working mainly in the public

realm, Michael focuses on Institutional, Civic, Urban Design, and Commercial work. Michael has taught in both the Architectural and Construction Science Management programs at The University of Texas at San Antonio. He can often be found sitting on a design review panel and is part of the department chair's architectural council as well as the dean's council. He is passionate about educating our youth in the community and participates in multiple organizations all aimed at raising children's spirits and aspirations in life.



## David M. Rogers

David is the President and Chief Executive Officer of The H. E. Butt Family Foundation, a private operating Foundation in Texas. He is a collaborator, encourager and strategic thinker who leads with commitment and passion for thriving people and communities. David is responsible for all operations under the Foundation.

David graduated from the University of Mississippi with a BA in Business Administration and holds an MBA from the University of Texas. Before joining the Foundation in 1991, he worked for the Austin, Texas Chamber of Commerce, specializing in real estate and economic development.

David serves as Trustee of the H. E. Butt Family Foundation and as a board member of Laity Lodge Foundation. Primarily focused in Texas, the H. E. Butt Family Foundation works to cultivate wholeness in people and institutions for the transformation of communities. This mission is rooted in Christian faith, brought to life by shared organizational values. The Foundation creates opportunities for groups, families and individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate in five different programs based on the Frio River in the Hill Country. The Foundation also develops capacity building partnerships with aligned organizations in San Antonio and facilitates collaborations for strategic initiatives. In this work, the Foundation hosts over 27,000 people and partners with dozens of other organizations each year.

He is a past board member of SAMMinistires, a local homeless ministry, as well as the Alamo Heights School Foundation. He served as a charter member of PathNorth and currently serves as an Elder at First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio.

David is married to Deborah Dan Butt, and together they represent the third generation of family leadership for the Foundation's programs. David and Deborah have three grown children.

## Mike Sharrow



Mike grew up in Alaska (which just happens to have 2.12X the land mass of Texas). While going to college in Chicago (Trinity International University) Mike began to work for a start-up financial services firm and a subsidiary venture of the Walgreen Company. It was in 2005 while advancing in a corporate setting in a Fortune 50 company that he first began to wrestle with a "sacred versus secular" divide, essentially wrestling with how does identity and vocation intersect? What is the significance and how does career or work fit into that? Ultimately, Mike journeyed through a variety of roles with Walgreens, ventured into being an executive pastor in Texas for a few years, started a healthcare strategy consultancy (TQ Strategies), helped scale a corporate healthcare company (Health by Design) and along the way became a member of The C12 Group in 2010. In 2011 Mike became



a full-time local leader for C12 in San Antonio, in 2013 partnered with a friend to buy-out and scale up a Central Texas region and then in 2016 was selected to be the third national CEO for the parent company and relocated the corporate headquarters from North Carolina to Texas. Mike now leads a small team of 16 who then support 100 full-time leaders in 90 US cities and 4 countries who then facilitate peer advisory groups for over 2,200 marketplace leaders.

Mike has also started and been involved in a number of non-profit ventures around issues like collective impact in cities, foster/orphan care, sustainable aid initiatives in Honduras/Haiti, leadership development and marriage/intervention ministries. Mike married an amazing Iowan farm girl, Jacqui, in 2002 and they have 2 outstanding daughters, Elayna and Sophie who will be change agents in the world! Mike is passionate about being a catalyst for everyone to live out their destiny in an integrated life.

## John B. Zachry '85

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
ZachryGroup

John Zachry is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Zachry Group. Zachry Group provides consulting, engineering, construction, maintenance, turnarounds/outages, pipe fabrication and other services across multiple energy and industrial markets including refining, petrochemicals, fossil and nuclear power generation, renewable energy, forest products, agriculture and consumer packaged goods, manufacturing and rail transportation. The company employs 20,000 people and has 35 offices across the United States. Additional affiliated companies include an oil and gas exploration and production company active on the Gulf Coast and a software company based in Denver.



John earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and a M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. Active within the industry, John is a member of the National Academy of Construction and the Construction Industry Round Table and is a past Chairman of the Construction Industry Institute. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Texas A&M University College of Engineering Advisory Council. His civic volunteer activities include serving on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the United Way, and on the Board of Trustees of Texas Biomedical Research Institute. In addition, John is a Trustee of the Texas Foundation for Conservation and serves as a Director of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, where he is a past member of the Executive Committee. John is a past Chairman of the American Heart Association – Southwest Affiliate Board and a past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of San Antonio Academy. He is also a former member of the Executive Committee of the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation and the Alamo Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, a past Board member of the Texas Research and Technology Foundation, and a past Board member of Clear Channel Communications. Currently, John serves on the Board of Directors of D.M. Weekley, Inc. and the San Antonio Spurs. John and his wife, Laura, have three sons and live in San Antonio.

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# Our Delegates





# San Antonio Delegates 2018-2019



Alexandra Jaillet '21  
Alli Meuret '20  
Austin Spier '20  
Bella Nowland '21  
Caleb Feste '21  
Caroline Kennemore '20  
Chris Pappas '21  
Cole Bennett '20  
Ellie Tuchaai '20  
Elliot Omohundro '20  
Grant Griffith '20  
James Sechler '21  
Kate Hohfeler '21  
Kate Steelman '21  
Kaylee Buchanan '20  
Kelly McConnell '20  
Kolbe Klement '21  
Lana Picone '21

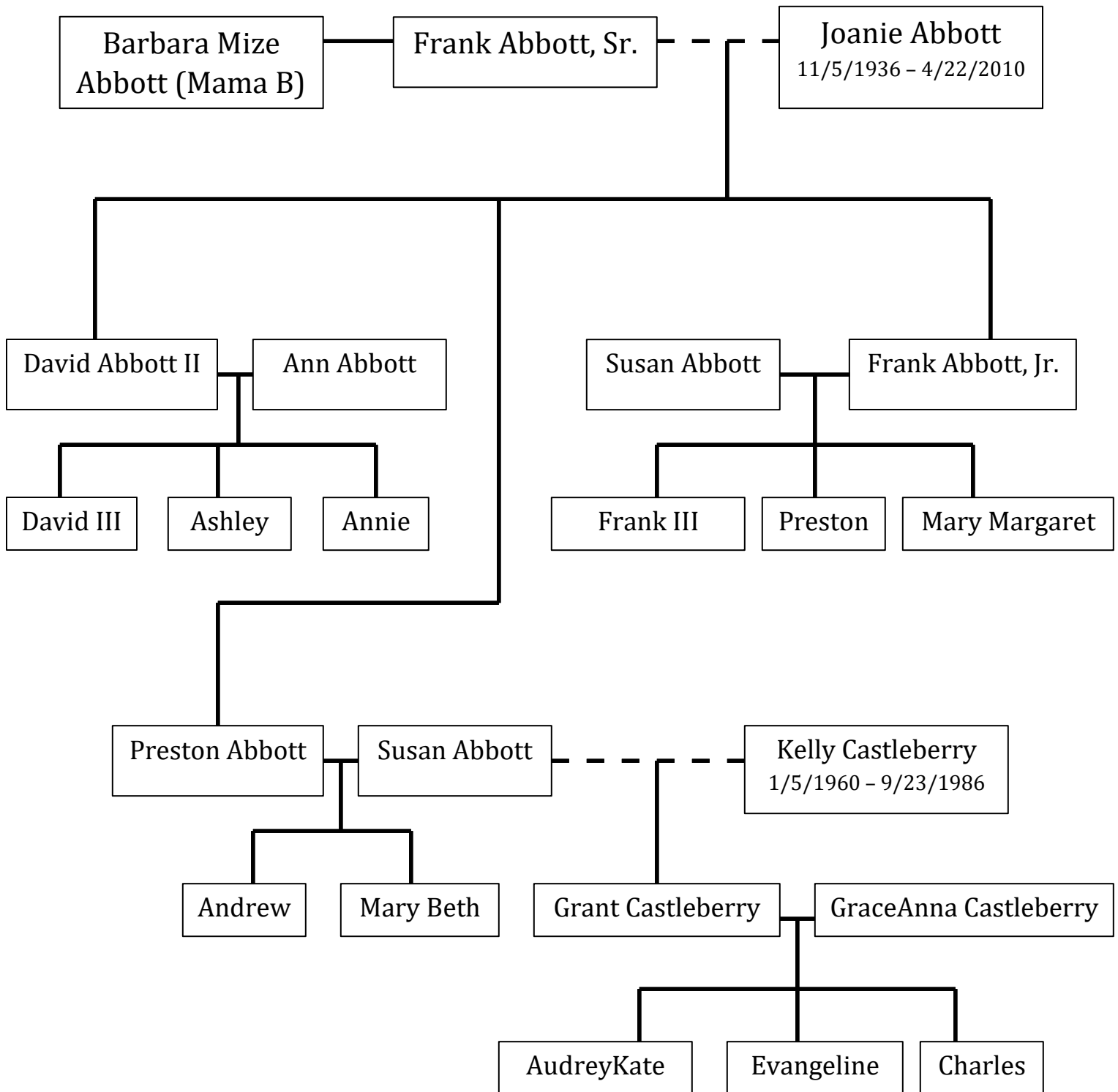
Lauren Chester '20  
Madison Doyle '20  
Marco Gutierrez '20  
Mark Petrie '20  
Mason Hicks '21  
Matthew Webb '21  
Morgan Moss '20  
Nathan Mize '21  
Parker Simmons '20  
Saralee Williams '20  
Sean Dougherty '20  
Seth Reine '20  
Silvia Navarro Valdez '21  
Sofia Stringfield '20  
Sophia Parrish '20  
Steven Mancillas '21  
Will Helmbrecht '21

**Pages not available in the online edition.**

# The Abbotts



# ABBOTT FAMILY TREE



# Honoring Joanie Abbott

## November 5, 1936 – April 22, 2010



Just a few days before Joanie died she wrote a note to one of her closest friends and at the end of that note she included a quote from Mother Theresa, “We do not do great things, only small things with great love.” It is with this spirit that Joanie lived her life and left the legacy that continues to this day.

In 1994, Joanie and Frank Abbott endowed and committed to personally participate in a conference that would meet the needs of sophomores and juniors at Texas A&M, helping them to think about their ethics and values as they relate to their community and family. For those who were fortunate to have known Joanie, they would certainly remember her infectious smile and those glistening eyes as she lovingly shared encouragement and wisdom. They would remember that she was often seen delivering beautiful bouquets of her roses to loved ones. They would remember her timely and heartfelt handwritten notes of gratitude. They would remember that at the end of each conference she would always tell

the directors and delegates that they had become a part of her family, and indeed they had. Through the Abbott Family Leadership Conference, Joanie and Frank have been able to help countless students affirm or establish their value system and make wise choices based on it.

Joanie was born in Speedway, Indiana and spent her childhood there. She attended Purdue University and studied Textile Chemistry. She excelled in her studies and was elected to Mortar Board. She was an active member of Pi Beta Phi sorority and was a member of one of the first synchronized swimming teams. Frank and Joanie met in June of 1956 and were married in June of 1957. They shared 54 wonderful years of marriage together. Through easy and difficult times, they remained devoted to each other, which became a legacy to be passed down to their children and grandchildren.

Although she could have pursued a very successful career as a textile chemist, she chose instead to become what she affectionately called a “domestic engineer.” In 1960, David was her first born, followed by Preston in 1962 and Frank Jr. in 1963. They would be carefully and lovingly guided through their formative years as Joanie would stay involved in their education, church, scouting and extra-curricular activities. She made it her mission to always “be there” for them.

As the boys pursued their college educations, Joanie actively supported their dreams and aspirations at Trinity University and then at Texas A&M. While not a former student, she was a tried and true Aggie. Her joyful dedication to the students and university, in partnership with Frank, was recognized when Texas A&M selected them as the 1987-1988 Parents of the Year. She and Frank treasured the countless opportunities they had to interact with their new Aggie family. It was through this appreciation for what had been given to them that they desired to give something back to Texas A&M...and this is when the seed for the Abbott Family Leadership conference was planted.

Joanie lived her life to the fullest and anticipated each new day and the opportunities it held to...”do small things with great love.”



## Frank and Barbara Abbott



First, let us welcome you to the conference. As many of you know, both of us lost our first spouse after long bouts with cancer. In May of 2011, we were married, surrounded by close friends and family—That made it a fairly good size affair. You need to know that you can feel free to ask either or both of us anything you wish about our past or present. Our former spouses are an integral part of who we are.

Frank was born and raised (as an only child) in Indianapolis, Indiana. All of his schooling was in his hometown - including Butler University. Immediately after graduation, Joanie and he were married and moved to

Houston, Texas. After six years there, we came to the Piney Woods of East Texas. We were only supposed to be here 6 months. That was over 50 years ago.

Mama B, on the other hand, was born in East Texas as the second youngest of nine children. Her circumstances prevented her from continuing her education beyond high school. She married K.T. Mize, and they had three sons. Later, they adopted a daughter from Korea. In turn, their daughter Jennifer and her husband Dave adopted their son from Korea. K.T. lost his battle with an awful cancer in 2008. Joanie died in 2010 after a valiant struggle with ovarian cancer.

We were married on May 21, 2011. While we come from entirely different backgrounds, we have a common faith and a desire to have a “Significant” life. Neither time nor space, will allow an extended resume of our lives. With seven children, twenty grandchildren, two great granddaughters, and a great grandson, you really don’t want to hear it all anyway. Susan and Preston will gladly talk about their grandchildren.

We both love God’s creation, are very active in our church, love to travel, love to cook, enjoy entertaining, and working in our yard. Mama B retired in November of last year from the Longview Lawn and Garden Equipment company she and KT founded—that’s where we met. Frank is RETIRED ---when he gets the urge to work, he lays down until the urge goes away.

Let it suffice to say, we both know God has greatly blessed our lives. We hope that maybe some of you will glean something from this conference that will enrich your life. You will definitely enrich ours.

Frank and Mama B



## David and Ann Abbott

David Abbott is the oldest son of Frank and Joanie. David graduated from Trinity University in 1982 with a BS degree in Business and is a CPA. After living in Denver, Phoenix and Los Angeles, David and Ann now reside in Frisco, TX. David has been in the homebuilding business for over twenty-five years and is the Chief Financial Officer for Grand Homes, a Dallas based semi-custom homebuilder. He is married to Ann Abbott.

Ann graduated from Colorado State University in 1988 and received a Masters Degree from the University of Denver in 1992. She also is credentialed to work with developmentally disabled children and is a substitute teacher for Frisco Independent School district working in elementary, middle school, and special needs classes. Prior to moving to Texas, Ann also worked as a substitute teacher in California, Colorado and Arizona.

David and Ann have three children: David, Ashley, and Annie. David is a senior at The University of Texas, is a saxophone section leader for the Longhorn Marching Band, and is the Vice President of Finance for Kappa Kappa Psi, which is a band service organization. He will complete his degree in chemical engineering in December of 2018 and has committed to working for Texas Instruments upon graduation. David is an avid sports enthusiast, and if you follow him on Twitter you will find his many posts about football, basketball and hockey. Ashley is a junior at Baylor, studying business, finance, and accounting. Annie is a senior at Wakeland High School and is exploring her college options, potentially in the field of nursing. David and Ann participate in numerous activities to support their local school programs. In addition to their support of the MSC Abbott Family Leadership Conference, they actively support Sky Ranch and scholarship programs at Trinity University, Colorado State University, and the University of Texas.



## Preston '84 and Susan '83 Abbott



Preston, Class of 1984, graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Petroleum Engineering. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets and served as Corps Commander. Upon graduation, he was commissioned to active duty in the United States Marine Corps as an artillery officer for four years. Since then, he has been employed as a petroleum engineer. After working twelve years in Dallas for an independent oil and gas company, he moved the family to Houston to work as a production engineer for BP America. In July 2005 he transferred to Midland to be the Field Engineering Manager for BP's Permian Asset. BP transferred him back to Houston in 2010 to lead a team of subsurface engineers who work special projects in all of the various North America assets. In June

2013 he took on a Production Manager role overseeing the technical staff that support onshore US production, and in 2014 became the General Manager for BP's interest in East Texas. He retired from BP in December 2014, and now works for EP Energy as a Production Manager.

Preston is married to the former Susan Myers Castleberry. Susan, Class of 1983, graduated from Texas A&M University with an Elementary Education degree. While at A&M, she was a charter member and officer of the Tri Delta sorority. Her first husband, Kelly Castleberry, Class of 1982 and also a Corps Commander at A&M, was killed in 1986 while serving on active duty in the United States Marine Corps. Preston and Susan have been married for 27 years. They serve as a mentor couple for a Young Married class at Houston's First Baptist Church, work 2-on-2 with couples who are enrolled in the church's pre-marriage counseling program, and are certified Prepare/Enrich counselors. Susan loves her roles as wife, mom, and Grandma Lulu. She also enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time with friends and extended family.

Preston and Susan have three children, Grant, Andrew, and Mary Beth. Grant Castleberry, Class of 2007, majored in Agricultural Leadership and Development, was a proud member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets, and served as the Head Yell Leader his senior year. In May 2007, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. His first tour of duty was in Iwakuni, Japan as an Air Traffic Control Officer, with numerous deployments across the Pacific. In August 2009 Grant married the former GraceAnna Broggi of Beaufort, South Carolina. He finished his tour in the Marine Corps as a Series Commander in Parris Island, South Carolina, where he supervised the Drill Instructors who trained new Marine recruits. After a year serving as a pastoral intern for his father-in-law in Beaufort, he enrolled in Southern Baptist Seminary to prepare for his pastoral ministry and is working on a Doctorate in Theology. In July 2018, Grant accepted a position as Pastor of Discipleship at Providence Church in Frisco, Texas. Grant and GraceAnna have three children, AudreyKate, Evangeline, and Charles. Andrew, Class of 2014, was in Squadron 17 in the Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets, served on Corps Staff as the Deputy Corps Commander, was a member of Aggie Men's Club, served as a Maroon Coat and was the first leader of "BUILD" in 2013. He graduated with a degree in Petroleum Engineering and is working for EOG Resources in Oklahoma City. Prior to attending Texas A&M, he was involved in Scouts and like Grant earned the rank of Eagle Scout, completing four generations of Eagle Scouts in the family. Mary Beth, Class of 2019 is majoring in Communication with a minor in Horticulture. She is a member of Tri Delta, served as a Fish Aide on Muster Committee, and attended Gilbert Leadership Conference. She worked part time at The Association of Former Students for a year, and attends Grace Creekside Bible Church where she enjoys working in their nursery twice a month. She spent several summers doing mission work with orphans in China and Zambia, and most recently worked for Calloway's Nursery in Frisco last summer.

**Name:** Preston Abbott '84  
**Hometown:** Houston, Texas  
**Degree:** BSc in Petroleum Engineering

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

Our family hunting trip to the Preston G. Northrup Ranch in Pipe Creek, Texas every year between Christmas and New Year. It's still my favorite place on the face of the earth and an amazing part of God's creation.

**What have you learned about yourself while at A&M?**

I'm trained to be and think like an engineer, but what I really love is leading people, helping them to realize their potential and accomplish things beyond what they previously thought possible.

**If you could travel a foreign country by rail, river, or highway, which country and mode of transportation would you choose and why?**

I've been to lots of great places across most of the United States and around the world, but I most enjoy being home in Texas. It's the best of the best.

**In a dozen words or less, what is your chief goal in life?**

To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

**What is an interesting fact about you that no one would suspect?**

My son's father was my grandpa.

**If you could be any item in your refrigerator, what would you be and why?**

The light, because it lets us see some of the good things in life. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**In your opinion, what is the best invention ever?**

The wheel, with electricity being a close second.

**If you could have lunch with a famous person (living or dead) who would it be and why?**

Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior, ... and I really do believe that I will get to dine with Him in Heaven someday. I'm looking forward to that, which gives me lots of reason to live this life well. He'll hold me to account.

**What is the most beautiful or meaningful gift you have ever received?**

My wedding band from Susan, which symbolizes our covenant with each other and the permanency of our relationship for as long as we both shall live. And, it reminds me that Susan is a gift from God to me to take care of for Him.

**In your opinion, what is the most important quality for a leader to possess?**

Integrity and Loyalty are commonly thought most important, but it's actually these character traits along with 12 others plus 11 principles of how to treat people that enable a person to be an effective leader. These are codified in the United States Marine Corps Leadership Traits and Principles.

**What do you want to be doing by the age of thirty?**

Fortunately I'm already way past that age, but I can tell you that everything is better after fifty.

**What are you involved in?**

Marriage to Susan, ~~Raising children~~ Advising our sons and daughter, Working in the oil and gas industry, Mentoring young married couples at Houston's First Baptist, Leading two-on-two pre-marriage counseling with young engaged couples, Helping with the family tree farm, AFLC, ... anything that has an opportunity to impact the next two generations.

**Name:** Susan Abbott '83  
**Hometown:** Katy, TX  
**Major:** Elementary Education

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

Vacationing with family in Northern Wisconsin and Central Louisiana.

**What have you learned about yourself while at A&M?**

I learned that diligent application of time and effort produces positive results.

**If you could travel a foreign country by rail, river, or highway, which country and mode of transportation would you choose and why?**

I would travel by highway through England/Scotland. I love the history and the scenery. I would want the freedom to stop or take side trips if I saw something that peaked my interest.

**In a dozen words or less, what is your chief goal in life?**

To live my life in a way that glorifies Jesus Christ.

**What is an interesting fact about you that no one would suspect?**

I still hold the 80 yd. low hurdle record at my high school. My name is still up in the gym. Another unknown fact is that they stopped running the race right after I graduated.

**If you could be any item in your refrigerator, what would you be and why?**

Butter. It is a support and enhancer of food and usually has its own special place in the refrigerator. I like to think that I am a compliment to others and encourage them to be better than they would be on their own. And I like being readily available at a moments notice to assist others. I also like having my own space.

**In your opinion, what is the best invention ever?**

The Gutenberg Press. Mass production of the written word has exponentially expanded knowledge and learning beyond anything we could ever measure.

**If you could have lunch with a famous person (living or dead) who would it be and why?**

Elisabeth Elliott. I have read several of her books and her story was a comfort to me during a very difficult time in my life and I would like to tell her that.

**What is the most beautiful or meaningful gift you have ever received?**

Preston wrote a love poem and gave it to me on our engagement night. I still keep it in a frame on my dresser in my bedroom. Here is a snippet – “Devoted, committed, my all I will give. Together, forever, each day we will live.”

**In your opinion, what is the most important quality for a leader to possess?**

Humbleness that leads to selfless service and genuine care and loyalty to others.

**What do you want to be doing by the age of thirty?**

Be a wife and mom.

**What are you involved in?**

Wife to Preston, Mom to Grant, GraceAnna, Andrew, and Mary Beth, Grandma Lulu to AudreyKate, Evangeline, and Charles, Mentor Couple for Young Married Couple's Life Bible Study Class at Houston's First Baptist Church, AFLC, Aggie Mom's Club

**Name:** Andrew Abbott '14  
**Hometown:** Midland, TX  
**Major:** Petroleum Engineering

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

Going to the family lake house on Lake Namekagon in the north woods of Wisconsin. Fishing, Family, Food, Mosquitos, and Lumberjacks.

**What have you learned about yourself while at A&M?**

I am really small, God is really big. Time is a valuable resource...don't waste it on things that don't add value.

**If you could travel a foreign country by any means, where would you go and how would you do it?**

As long as friends or family are with me the place doesn't matter. I'm all in for anywhere by any means.

**In a dozen words or less, what is your chief goal in life?**

To glorify God and lead others to do the same.

**What is an interesting fact about you that no one would suspect?**

I am currently not allowed in the country of Oman due to excessive outstanding traffic violations.

**In your opinion, what is the best invention ever?**

Deodorant

**If you could have lunch with a famous person (living or dead) who would it be and why?**

I've always hated this question because biographies are my favorite books but I'd have to go with a tie between George Washington and the Apostle Paul because they were both incredibly crucial to shaping the world we live in today.

**What is the most beautiful or meaningful gift you have ever received?**

Grace

**In your opinion, what are three important qualities for a leader to possess?**

Humility, Courage, Wisdom

**What do you want to be doing by the age of thirty?**

Husband, Father, Leader, and Business Owner.

**What is your all-time favorite song, the one that you would make the soundtrack to your life?**

Amazing Grace (with bagpipes)

**What were you involved in?**

Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, BUILD, Ross Volunteers, Society of Petroleum Engineers, Aggie Men's Club, Gilbert Leadership Conference, Maroon Coats



**Name:** Mary Beth Abbott '19  
**Hometown:** Houston, TX  
**Major:** Communications

**What is one thing you were raised to appreciate?**

Working hard and putting effort into the little aspects that make life special and purposeful.

**There are two types of people in the world. What are the two types and which are you?**

Those who have a witty response to this question and those who have a serious response.

**What have you learned about yourself while at A&M?**

I enjoy having work to do and things to spend my time on, but I have to make sure that I have a little bit of white space planned into each day.

**In a dozen words or less, what is your chief goal in life?**

To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

**When you were 10 years old, what did you want to be when you grew up? What about now?**

Until junior year of high school I wanted to be a teacher. However, now I am looking into the horticulture.

**What is the most meaningful gift you have received?**

After my grandma passed away, my grandpa and dad helped plant a rose garden in her memory at our new house. She has been one of the most influential people in my life and even when they are not in bloom, it is a constant reminder to remember what I truly value.

**If you were any color in the crayon box, what color would you be and why?**

Texas sage green. It reminds me to always be striving to grow, remember sweet memories in the hill country with family, and there is just something intriguingly calming about it!

**What is an interesting fact about you that no one would ever suspect?**

I love getting to go to bed early!

**How has your all-time favorite movie influenced who you are as a person?**

"The Count of Monte Cristo": So much can be lost if we cannot learn to truly forgive and embrace the life we have, rather than just accept it or try and run away from it.

**In your opinion, what are the three most important qualities for a leader to possess?**

Service, integrity, and confidence

**Where would you go if you could visit any fictional place?**

Narnia!

**What are some causes you are passionate about and what are you involved in?**

My heart has always been drawn towards kids, older generations, and the homeless. One day, I would love to be able to use horticulture as an avenue to connect with those groups. I think so much about hard work, patience, a person's value, and the character of God can be learned through His creation.



## Frank '86 and Susan Abbott



Frank Abbott Jr. is the youngest son of Frank and Joanie Abbott. Frank, Class of '86, graduated in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He, like his brother, Preston, was a member of Company D-1 of the Aggie Corps of Cadets and served as Corps Operations Officer in 1986. He also served on the Muster Committee at A&M. Frank is a Senior Vice-President for the civil engineering firm, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

He works in the land development division of their Frisco, TX operation and does community work in the Frisco area. Frank currently serves on the executive board as Chaplain for North Dallas K-Life Ministries.

Susan Abbott graduated from Baylor University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. She was active in Welcome Week and Baylor Student Education Association while at Baylor. After graduating from Baylor, she taught school for two years in Waco; one year in Carrollton-Farmers Branch and eighteen months at the Park Cities YMCA Preschool for children. While the Abbott children keep her busy, she finds time to volunteer at Wakeland High School with the band parents, the Children's choir at Stonebriar Community Church, serve as the secretary on the executive board for North Dallas KLIFE Ministries, go to Bible Study, Zumba class, and work out at the gym.

Frank and Susan have three children: Frank Gaines, Preston and Mary Margaret. Frank Gaines is the oldest child of Frank and Susan. He is 23 and a 5<sup>th</sup> year senior in the Fightin' Texas Aggie class of 2018 studying hard to be an architect. After attending Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas for freshmen year, Frank Gaines transferred to Aggieland. He has fully embraced being an Aggie. Frank spent his summer in College Station going to summer classes, working for the Former Students Association and was called to be a counselor at one of the IMPACT sessions this summer. When he isn't drawing in the architecture studio, Frank is an active member of BYX fraternity, goes to Breakaway on Tuesday nights, midnight yell practices, Aggie football games and teaches Sunday school to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys on Sunday morning. He is an Eagle Scout and enjoys playing basketball and hunting with his dad, brother, uncle and cousins.

Preston is 21 and a junior in the Fightin' Texas Aggie class of 2020. After attending Texas A&M Galveston his freshmen year, he changed his major from marine engineering technology to sports management and transferred to College Station. He loves being in College Station. Preston is an active member of BYX fraternity, volunteers in the college ministry at Grace Southwood Church, leads a Bible Study with friends on Wednesday nights and was an IMPACT counselor this summer. In his spare time, Preston works for the 12<sup>th</sup> Man. Preston is a HUGE Aggie fan and knows lots of stats of his favorite Aggie players. Preston is also an Eagle Scout and enjoys hunting with his dad, brother, uncle and cousins.

Mary Margaret is Frank and Susan's youngest child. She is 17 and in the 12th grade at Wakeland High School in Frisco ISD. Mary Margaret loves to sing and play the flute. She is in the Wakeland high school band, varsity choir and the Wakeland Show Choir. She wasn't busy enough with band and choir so she decided to audition for the school musical. She is in the voice and dance ensemble for Hello Dolly. When Mary Margaret isn't busy with band or choir, she is busy studying. She is hoping to follow in her brothers' footsteps and be a Fightin' Texas Aggie Too!

**Name:** Frank G. Abbott, Jr. '86  
**Hometown:** Frisco, Texas  
**Major:** Professional Civil Engineer

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

There are so many to choose from but I would have to say Christmas time with my family ranks pretty high on the list along with going to the Northrup Ranch the week following Christmas every year.

**What have you learned about yourself while at A&M?**

I learned a whole lot about leadership through my experiences in the Corps of Cadets (my strengths and my weaknesses). I learned that I can find success in life even when I did not achieve every goal that I thought was important at that time as long as I learned from the experience and channeled my efforts in the right direction.

**If you could travel a foreign country by any means, where would you go and how?**

I would love to go to Israel with my wife on a trip sponsored by Insight for Living and Chuck Swindoll. It would be fantastic to learn about the Christian history from one of the greatest teachers of the Bible. I would want to go by Highway (once I got there by plane) because you get to see so much more of the area and make impromptu stops along the way.

**In a dozen words or less, what is your chief goal in life?**

To find true Joy in Life thru an authentic relationship with Christ.

**What is an interesting fact about you that no one would suspect?**

I had the opportunity to introduce a few speakers at Muster (at A&M) my senior year.

**In your opinion, what is the best invention ever?**

Light, both Godly and human made.

**If you could have lunch with a famous person (living or dead) who would it be and why?**

She may not be famous in other's eyes (maybe just infamous!), but I would love to have lunch again with my Mom (Joanie Abbott) and our whole family. It would be a time of laughter and joy and great to see her infectious smile and mischievousness in full action!

**What is the most beautiful or meaningful gift you have ever received?**

Forgiveness of my sins from my Savior, Jesus Christ. The next best thing would be my Family!

**In your opinion, what are three important qualities for a leader to possess?**

Wisdom, Integrity, and Loyalty. A leader with these qualities can accomplish so many things and impact so many people along the way.

**What do you want to be doing by the age of thirty?** I sure hope it is being a civil engineer since I am well over thirty and I have been involved in the profession for almost 30 years.

**What is your all-time favorite song, the one that you would make the soundtrack to your life?**

The Spirit of Aggieland. It represents the essence of being an Aggie which is really important to me!

**What are you involved in?**

I am a professional civil engineer working with Kimley-Horn and Associates the last 23 years. I also actively participate in the various activities of my three children. I am on the Board of North Dallas KLife. I am a member of Stonebriar Community Church.

**Name:** Susan Kay Teegerstrom Abbott  
**Hometown:** Frisco, Texas  
**Major:** Elementary Education at Baylor University – graduated 1989

**What is one thing you were raised to appreciate?**

That I had a mom who was a stay at home mom.

**There are two types of people in this world. What are the two types and which are you?**

The selfless servant and the selfish/self-absorbed. I'm working hard to be a selfless servant to others.

**What have you learned about yourself while at A&M (or while you were in school)?**

While I was a student at Baylor University I learned that I love to work with children.

**In a dozen words or less, what is your chief goal in life?**

To be an example for my children to follow of what it looks like to serve my Lord and Savior, my family and other people.

**When you were 10 years old, what did you want to be when you grew up? What about now?**

I wanted to be a mom and a teacher. I got to become both and I would still like to be a teacher.

**What is the most meaningful gift you have ever received?**

Each year at Christmas, Frank gives me a heart ornament to remind me of the love he has for me and also my first Bible.

**If you were any color in the crayon box, what color would you be and why?**

Pink because it's a bright, happy color.

**What is an interesting fact about you that no one would ever suspect?**

I am uncoordinated and lack rhythm.

**How has your all-time favorite movie influenced who you are as a person?**

My favorite movie is The Wizard of Oz. It has taught me the importance of having a family that cares for you no matter what.

**In your opinion, what are three important qualities for a leader to possess?**

Authenticity, honesty and loyalty.

**Where would you go if you could visit any fictional place?**

Oz to visit the wizard.

**What are some causes you are passionate about and what are you involved in?**

I don't really have any causes I'm passionate about. I'm a conservative person in my thinking and political views. I volunteer with the children's choir at my church. I attend Bible study. I work out regularly at the gym and go to my Zumba class. Frank and I serve together on the North Dallas KLIFE Ministry board of directors.

**Name:** Frank Gaines Abbott III '18  
**Hometown:** Frisco, TX  
**Major:** Environmental Design

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

It would have to be Christmases spent at my grandparent's houses when the entire family's together.

**What have you learned about yourself while at A&M?**

The Lord has taught me so much over 3 years and finding identity in Jesus Christ in college has been the most liberating experience. I learned that I struggle giving control of my future to the Lord, but by relying completely on God for my future, I gained my greatest spiritual gift, faith. I learned that while deep down I am an introvert, I have an undying energy for people and love spending time with others. I also discovered I am a fighter, It takes a lot to get me down and I will push to achieve my goals. I'm also good at leveling with people and meeting them where they are at. The final and most important thing I learned about myself while at A&M is the desire to be a servant of the Lord.

**If you could travel a foreign country by any means, where would you go and how?**

I would travel to Israel to see where Jesus taught and lived. I would fly there in a F22 fighter jet.

**In a dozen words or less, what is your chief goal in life?**

To glorify God in all I do and love others like Christ.

**What is an interesting fact about you that no one would suspect?**

I spent my first year of college at Tarleton State University. At the end of my time at TSU, I could have gone D2 for basketball there.

**In your opinion, what is the best invention ever?**

Running water is by far one of the greatest inventions created because without it the world would be a completely different place and society today could not function.

**If you could have lunch with a famous person (living or dead) who would it be and why?**

I would want to get lunch with J. R. R. Tolkien to hear his side of the story of how he came to meet and bring C. S. Lewis to Christ as well as here about his inspiration behind creating The Lord of the Rings. I would also would love to hear Tolkien tell/read The Lord of the Rings, because it was originally created as bedtime stories told to his kids.

**What is the most beautiful or meaningful gift you have ever received?**

The meaningful gift I have ever received is the one I am receiving right now, my college education. In no way were my parents required to pay for my college education but I cannot express just how grateful I am that they chose to do so.

**In your opinion, what are three important qualities for a leader to possess?**

Leadership, Integrity, and a Servant's Heart

**What do you want to be doing by the age of thirty?**

I want to be successfully working at an architecture firm and overseeing and designing projects for the company.

**What is your all-time favorite song, the one that you would make the soundtrack to your life?**

Believe It by Derek Mino

**What are you involved in?** Beta Upsilon Chi, also known as Brothers Under Christ, as well as an Impact Counselor. This school year I served on staff for After Dark 2016.



**Name:** Preston John Abbott '20  
**Hometown:** Frisco, Texas  
**Major:** Sports Management

**What is one thing you were raised to appreciate?**

One thing that I was raised to appreciate is family. My family has been a cornerstone of my life since I can remember and has always been there for me when I needed them the most.

**There are two types of people in the world. What are the two types and which are you?**

There are two types of people in this world, the civilized who enjoy their pizza without pineapple and the barbarians who defile it. As an Aggie who believes in the importance of upholding the traditions handed down to us, I choose to enjoy my pizza the way it was intended, without pineapple.

**What have you learned about yourself while at A&M (or while you were in school)?**

While at A&M, I have learned that I love serving others. Getting to serve with BYX, Grace Southwood, and Impact Retreat have brought a lot of joy and purpose to my life over the past year.

**In a dozen words or less, what is your chief goal in life?**

To follow Christ and help others find and follow Him.

**When you were 10 years old, what did you want to be when you grew up? What about now?**

When I was 10, I wanted to be a professional football player. Currently, I still want to work in sports, but more towards the business side, either in sponsorship or ticket sales.

**What is the most meaningful gift you have received?**

The most meaningful gift that I have ever received had to be a slideshow of my Grammie's life and legacy given to me by my Papa the Christmas after she passed away.

**If you were any color in the crayon box, what color would you be and why?**

I would be the maroon crayon because I'm an Aggie and I love Texas A&M.

**What is an interesting fact about you that no one would ever suspect?**

The summer before my freshman year of college I had a job moving crosses. I was a CIT at Kanakuk Kamps and part of my job was to set up and take down the massive crosses we used for Cross Talk.

**How has your all-time favorite movie influenced who you are as a person?**

My all-time favorite movie is Remember the Titans; it has taught me that your leadership is reflected in your followers' attitudes toward a task and that your attitude directly affects the way you lead.

**In your opinion, what are the three most important qualities for a leader to possess?**

In my opinion, three important leadership qualities are leadership, humility, and confidence.

**Where would you go if you could visit any fictional place?**

Not quite sure, but I'd like to visit Narnia.

**What are you involved in?**

I am currently involved TAMUG Check-in Crew, TAMUG Traditions Council, TAMUG SALT Camp, and Coastal College.

**Name:** Mary Margaret Abbott  
**Hometown:** Frisco, Texas  
**Major:** High School Student

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

Having tea parties with my Grammie in my grandparent's gazebo next to my Grammie's rose garden.

**What have you learned about yourself while at A&M?**

Everyone is capable to be a leader, however some lead in different ways.

**If you could travel a foreign country by any means, where would you go and how would you do it?**

I would travel to England by air because it is across the ocean and I have always wanted to tour and be there.

**In a dozen words or less, what is your chief goal in life?**

To live a life pleasing to God and pursue every opportunity given.

**What is an interesting fact about you that no one would suspect?**

I have an extra bone in my foot.

**In your opinion, what is the best invention ever?**

Soap, no matter what it works for everyone.

**If you could have lunch with a famous person (living or dead) who would it be and why?**

Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton because she lived an amazing life before and after her husband died. I would love to ask her about all of her ambitions and if she pictured herself ever achieving and accomplishing so many things.

**What is the most beautiful or meaningful gift you have ever received?**

A letter from my Grammie on our first Christmas without her. It brought me to tears and always will when I read it.

**In your opinion, what are three important qualities for a leader to possess?**

Unwavering belief, confidence, and compassion

**What do you want to be doing by the age of thirty?**

I want to be married to a loving, godly man with a stable career.

**What is your all-time favorite song, the one that you would make the soundtrack to your life?**

Sunday from *Sundays in the Park with George* by Steven Sondheim

**What are you involved in?**

I am involved in the Wakeland High School Band, Wakeland high school Varsity Choir, Wakeland high school Show Choir, and North Dallas KLife.

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# **San Antonio Sights and Bites**





### **George Bush Library**

The George H.W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation is dedicated to preserving the historic legacy of President George H.W. Bush, by supporting education and scholarship programs through the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and The Bush School of Government and Public Service. The George Bush Library will perpetuate the 41st President's legacy by fulfilling his mission to prepare tomorrow's leaders for lives devoted to public service.

### **Gristmill**

The Gristmill River Restaurant & Bar is one of the most popular destinations in Gruene. Previously the Gruene family Cotton Gin, the Gristmill was restored in 1977 and converted into the restaurant that it is today. The unique, multi-level restaurant boasts a menu that attracts thousands of visitors each year who enjoy the captivating atmosphere of the historical building. Famous visitors of the Gristmill include John Travolta, Robert Duvall, U.S Attorney General John Ashcroft, Governor Rick Perry, the San Antonio Spurs, George Strait, and Robert Earl Keen.

### **HEB**

HEB opened its doors in 1905 with its first store in Kerrville, started by Florence Butt. Her son, Howard E. Butt, soon took over the business and began expanding operations. Three new stores were opened in San Antonio by 1940. Throughout the next 40 years, HEB opened the largest Milk Plant in Texas, and the largest automated break making facility in the state. HEB now has stores in all major cities and many smaller towns across the state. HEB has been named Retailer of the Year by both the *Progressive Grocer Magazine* and the *Houston Press*. This year, HEB celebrates 113 years of serving their loyal customers. They are always looking for new ways to expand operations and grow in their offering to shoppers' nationwide.

### **Broadway Bank**

Broadway Bank believes sound business decisions will always be in the best interest of its customers, employees and ultimately its communities. After 74 years, Broadway Bank remains solid and stable and continues to grow with more than \$3 billion in total assets. The Broadway Bank philosophy is what forms the cornerstone of who we are — and what we believe in. As knowledgeable and trusted professionals, we deliver excellence by creating a positive customer experience and a productive work environment. We treat customers in a professional caring way — helping them with their financial needs and building long-term relationships. At Broadway Bank, our employees embody our six values of trust, excellence, teamwork, community, friendliness and creativity. It is these values that are the foundation of our mission, vision and our business strategy. It is these values that keep us strong and steady and have helped us build one of the largest, independent and best-performing banks in the region and will continue to serve us for years to come. Our philosophy is also the inspiration behind Care Corps, our employee volunteer program of giving back to our communities and serving others. It is only as a strong, stable bank with a proven philosophy and by holding fast to our operating principles that we continue to endure the test of time

### **The Alamodome**

The Alamodome opened on May 15, 1993, at a cost of approximately \$186 million. It is owned and operated by the City of San Antonio. It is the preferred venue for many trade shows, conventions, sports game, and concerts such as Monster Jam, Disney on Ice, and the Valero Alamo Bowl. George Strait played a concert in the Alamodome in June of 2013, setting an all-time attendance record for the largest concert ever played in San Antonio at 73,086 people. The Alamodome was the home of the NBA World Champion San Antonio Spurs from 1993 to 2002. It has hosted NCAA events including the Valero Alamo Bowl, The AT&T Corps Classic,

the 2007 Dr. Pepper Big 12 Championship, and most recently the 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship game. Throughout the years, the Aggies have played 5 games here, but the stadium serves as home for the UTSA Roadrunners Football team. The unique adaptability of the field enables The Alamodome to host several NFL, MLB, NHL preseason games and even FIFA World Cup qualifying matches. This venue is especially important to our dinner speaker, Terri Leibler, because it is where her successful career in the events industry took off.

### **Zachry**

Zachry Group is "America's pace-setter" in engineering services for the power, energy, chemicals, manufacturing, and industrial sectors. With 35 offices, 20,000 employees and over 400 operating locations across the globe, Zachry achieves its business goals by uniting under a shared set of values that help deliver the best outcome to their customers. Zachry strongly emphasizes the value of the corporate citizenship and embraces the call to be a valued member of their communities. Their generation contributions to Texas A&M University have made Zachry the namesake of Zachry Engineering Center and the newly instituted Zachry Leadership Program.

### **Geekdom**

Geekdom's first home was in the Weston Centre, located in the heart of downtown San Antonio. In March of 2014, Geekdom moved into its current home, the historic Rand Building, just a few blocks away. At over 44,000 square feet, it is home to more than 1,650 members and is one of the largest collaborative coworking spaces in Texas. Geekdom is built on five immutable principles that have never been available in one place before. Geekdom seeks to channel the powers of an open mind, mentors, community, missions, and heart-set and is dedicated to provide an environment where they empower and inspire innovators in order to transform the world for the better.

### **Haven for Hope**

As San Antonio's, "place of new beginnings" for those experiencing homelessness, Haven for Hope places the individual at the center of their services. Haven for Hope desires to meet those in need where they are and for who they are, seeing the potential and purpose of everyone that they assist. Not only does Haven for Hope seek to understand and solve the root causes of homelessness, but they also provide and coordinate an efficient system of care for all of those currently without a home. Their 22-acre campus just west of Downtown San Antonio offers a central location for their partnership with 93 organizations. Haven for Hope has housed over 2,190 men, women and children, facilitated over 1,400 job placements, and offered training, education, and support to countless people in need.

### **La Fonda On Main**

La Fonda's long and colorful history began on Main Avenue in 1930 when resourceful sisters Virginia Berry and Nannie Randall opened a Mexican food-to-go shop. These two ladies supplied take-home Tex-Mex favorites to the neighborhood. In spite of the Great Depression, their little business prospered and an opportunity presented itself to purchase the house across the street at 2415 North Main Avenue. Converting this home to a full-service restaurant seemed a risk worth taking, and in 1932, La Fonda on Main formally opened. La Fonda became a lunch and dinner tradition for San Antonio families. Over the years, the restaurant received many accolades, including the coveted Holiday Magazine Award for Fine Dining and the Duncan Hines Seal of Approval. Today, La Fonda's staff and patrons recall old times, memorable restaurant highlights and the hard-working ladies that made it all possible.