

College Station, Texas

2025

# MSC ABBOTT FAMILY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE





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# 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 Family Leadership Conference is structured around the concepts of morals, values, ethics, and service. The ultimate goal is to help you gain a personal sense of direction, an exciting insight into 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 business and corporate family, and even those people whose lives we touch but may not know.

One of the earliest traditions at 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 former President George W. Bush was commencement speaker in 2008 he echoed his Dad's words by encouraging graduates to develop 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-ignite a foundation built on ethical behavior and personal integrity. In a previous 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." President Barack Obama was on campus years ago and 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 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 of 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 will remember this advice as you become that community leader 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 the Aggie delegates, participating in this conference, will become exemplary Aggies in leadership positions at Texas A&M. You will be able to lead by example and live by your personal values. Your experience as leaders at Texas A&M University will enable you to carry lifetime leadership skills and values into your roles as leaders 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



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

January 29 - February 1, 2025

## **WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 29TH**

*\*\*Attire: Business Casual*

5:45 PM Delegates arrive at Phillips Event Center  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:45 PM **Session #1: Regent Sam Torn**  
8:45 PM Depart for Director's home  
9:00 PM Family Time

## **THURSDAY - JANUARY 30TH**

*\*\*Attire: Business Professional*

8:00 AM Breakfast with family  
8:45 AM Meet at Director's home  
9:15 AM Directors & Delegates arrive at GBL  
9:30 AM **Session #2: Fred Caldwell**  
10:50 AM Touring and Lunch  
12:55 PM Depart for City Hall  
1:15 PM Arrive at City Hall  
1:35 PM **Session #3: Dr. Misra**  
2:40 PM **Session #4: Professional Panel - John Claybrook, Rosie Prihoda, Andrew Abbott**  
3:50 PM **Session #5: Ken McFarland**  
5:00 PM Depart for Brazos Cotton Exchange  
5:30 PM Arrive at Brazos Cotton Exchange  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:15 PM **Session #6: Family Round Tables**  
8:30 PM Depart for Director's home  
9:00 PM Family Time

## **FRIDAY - JANUARY 31ST**

*\*\*Attire: Abbott Casual*

8:15 AM Delegates arrive at Director's home  
8:30 AM Arrive to Equine Complex  
8:35 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM **Session #7: Mrs. Knoop**  
10:00 AM **Session #8: Hughes Family**  
11:00 AM **Session #9: Family Stories - Langenbahns, Bethancourts, McCarthys**  
12:00 PM **Session #10: Family Q&A**  
12:45 PM Depart for Simpson Home  
1:20 PM Directors & Delegates arrive  
1:30 PM Lunch  
2:10 PM **Session #11: Abbott Round Tables**  
4:15 PM Depart for Local Family Night homes  
5:00 PM Local Family Night begins  
9:00 PM Depart for Director's home  
9:30 PM Family Time

## **SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 1ST**

*\*\*Morning Attire: Conference T-shirt and Jeans;*

*\*\*Afternoon Attire: Business Casual*

8:15 AM Delegates arrive to Aggie Park  
8:20 AM Breakfast  
8:35 AM Group Picture  
8:50 AM Depart for SOS or The Bridge  
9:20 AM Begin service projects  
11:00 AM Return home to shower and change  
12:30 PM Meet at Director's home  
1:00 PM Delegates arrive at Central Church  
1:05 PM Lunch  
2:00 PM **Session #12: Leigh Kohler**  
3:10 PM **Session #13: Chantel Mack**  
4:20 PM **Session #14: Seth Sullivan**  
5:30 PM Depart for The Association  
5:45 PM Arrive to The Association  
6:00 PM Family Photos  
6:15 PM Dinner  
7:15 PM **Session #15: David Alders & Closing Comments**  
9:45 PM Depart from The Association

# OUR SPEAKERS

## SESSION #1

# Regent Sam Torn '70



Sam Torn received a BBA in Finance from Texas A&M in 1970 where he served as Head Yell Leader, was a baseball squadsman, was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, and was a Distinguished Military Graduate. Following graduation from Texas A&M and a brief stint in the United States Army, Sam received an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin in 1973 and a JD, Summa Cum Laude, from the South Texas College of Law in 1977. From 1977-1984, Sam was a practicing attorney in Houston specializing in commercial litigation. On January 2, 1985, Sam and his wife Susan acquired the assets of Camp Ozark, a residential summer camp located in Mt. Ida, Arkansas that was in steep decline. In 2020, the Torns opened Camp OTX in Bandera, Texas. For the past 39 years, Sam, Susan (and now their three adult children) have committed their lives to the development of youth primarily through building Incomparable Camp Ozark and Camp OTX into the premier residential summer camps in the United States, serving over 10,500 children per summer. In conjunction with Camp Ozark and Camp OTX, Sam has initiated Ozark For All, an annual summer camping experience for hundreds of underserved children, and Ozone Ministries, a spiritual discipleship program for middle school and high school students in five cities. In addition, in 2004, Sam joined forces with the Walton Family Foundation to create Camp War Eagle, an underserved youth development organization that provides not only a summer camp experience but year-round tutoring, mentoring, life skills development, and spiritual discipleship to thousands of children and families. Prior to being appointed to the Board of Regents, Sam served on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Sam has continued to serve Texas A&M since his graduation in 1970. He is a former chairman and trustee of the 12th Man Foundation, chaired the Campaign for Kyle Field, served as the Co-Chair for the Kyle Field Redevelopment Committee, and coordinated the redevelopment of Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park, the Davis Player Development Center, the R.C. Slocum Nutrition Center, and the Klein Family Locker Room. Sam is active in the Association of Former Students and has been named to the Texas A&M Corps Hall of Honor, and the Texas A&M Letterman's Association Hall of Honor. In 2020, Sam was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M.

Sam and his wife Susan, a 1971 graduate of the University of Texas and a 2013 recipient of a Master's in Health Education from Texas A&M, have been married for 52 years, reside in Houston, Texas, and have three adult children and their spouses (all graduates of Texas A&M) and 14 grandchildren ranging from 1 year to 22 years old, four of whom are students at Texas A&M.

## SESSION #2

# Fred Caldwell '82



Fred Caldwell is the President and CEO of Caldwell Companies, a fully integrated residential and commercial real estate firm founded in 1990 and based in Cypress, TX.

Today, the firm serves as a holding company for a family of related companies that develop planned residential for sale and rental communities along with associated commercial development. Related service firms provide asset management, leasing, and transactional services.

Caldwell's planned communities include Towne Lake, Willowcreek Ranch, The Highlands, Chambers Creek, Bridal Creek, Copper Bend, Del Webb Sweetgrass, Mission Ranch, and Rock Creek. Rental brands include Asher, Mirela, and Cadence Communities.

Fred serves on several charitable and ministry boards relating to JH Ranch and Texas A&M.

Fred is the author of "Flying Your Business, Leadership Lessons from the Cockpit."

Fred is a graduate of Texas A&M University receiving a degree in accounting and a master's degree in finance while playing football. He was recognized in 2018 as a Distinguished Alumni of Mays Business School.

Fred and his wife, Susan, have been married for over 40 years and have two married daughters and 3 grandchildren.



## SESSION #3

# Dr. Sanghamitra Misra '03



Dr. Sanghamitra Misra is an integrative pediatrician with a passion for serving vulnerable populations and reducing health disparities. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BA in Biochemistry and received her medical degree from the Texas A&M Health Sciences Center College of Medicine. She completed her pediatrics residency from Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children's Hospital and a master's in education from the University of Houston. She has also completed the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar Fellowship. Dr. Misra is board-certified in pediatrics and in integrative and holistic medicine.

Dr. Misra is a professor of pediatrics and course director of the pediatric core clerkship at Baylor College of Medicine. She is the medical director of the Texas Children's Mobile Clinic Program which brings comprehensive healthcare to under-resourced children in the Houston area. She is also the director of the Integrative Medicine Program at Texas Children's Hospital which focuses on research and education on complementary and integrative therapies in pediatrics.

Dr. Misra is a published author of research articles, book chapters, and a book on topics including immunizations, refugee health, mobile clinics, medical education, integrative medicine, and artificial intelligence (AI). She is the chair of the National Mobile Healthcare Association and the immediate past chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Integrative Medicine (SOIM). She is also an appointed member of the AAP Committee on Pediatric Education (COPE). Dr. Misra is a section editor of UpToDate, an electronic clinical resource tool for physicians and patients. Dr. Misra is a proud daughter, sister, wife, and mother of three.

## SESSION #4

# John Claybrook '13



John Claybrook is founder and partner at Bronco Ventures, a Texas-based private equity firm that acquires and operates blue-collar businesses. He was formerly the founder and CEO of Value Waste Services, a valet trash and recycling business, which sold to Valet Living in 2020. He lives in College Station, TX, and is a graduate in finance from Texas A&M University, where he served as Student Body President. He loves public speaking and has given over 300 speeches to small groups and audiences of over 10,000. He is married to his lovely wife, Kelli, and is father to Cooper (6), Ramsey (4), Millie (3) and Barton (1).



## SESSION #4

# Rosie Prihoda '10



After graduating from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's in Kinesiology, Rosie returned to her hometown of Midland, Texas, and began working in the oil and gas industry, beginning in the land department and later as a business analyst. She then attended the full-time MBA program at Rice University and subsequently worked as an energy investment banker at BMO Capital Markets. In 2016, she had the opportunity to start an investment company alongside her father and has since worked as the CFO and Partner of Vantage Partners TX LLC.

Rosie is also actively involved in her family's foundation, The Cross Foundation, which seeks to equip those seeking to fulfill the Great Commission through networking, financial gifts, and consulting. Her primary focus has been business coaching, covering everything from strategic planning to establishing company processes.

Rosie lives in College Station, TX with her husband Zak, and two little boys, Kase and Canyon.

## SESSION #4

# Andrew Abbott '14



Andrew was born and raised in Texas and currently lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. He has been married to his wife Jordan for almost 3 years, and they are expecting their first boy in May. Together they enjoy exercising, skiing, traveling, reading, and trying new restaurants together. Andrew attended Texas A&M University where he earned his Petroleum Engineering degree in 2015. During his senior year, he was both the Deputy Corps Commander for the Corps of Cadets and the founding CEO of BUILD. His most notable accomplishment at A&M was consistently beating all his buddies in 42. After graduation, Andrew began his career with EOG Resources, an upstream oil and gas company. He spent 7 years as an oil man, mainly working as a Reservoir Engineer across both domestic and international assets. As a reminder of the lessons in both life and business that he learned there, he keeps his oil-stained hardhat on his shelf. In 2020, Andrew founded his hedge fund firm, Gaines Capital. The firm is focused on using math, engineering, and psychology to compound investor capital. They have posted positive performance every year since they began and the firm grew 58% in 2024. Along with their careers, serving others is an important part of Andrew and Jordan's life. To date, their non-profit focus has been helping disadvantaged children in the community and local homeless populations. All in all, his long-term goals are to be a strong husband, father, disciple, and friend.

## SESSION #5

# Dr. Ken McFarland



Professor McFarland is a Clinical Associate Professor at the Mays Business School, Texas A&M University, where he teaches a diverse range of undergraduate courses, including Management, Strategic Management, Management Consulting, Global Leadership, and European Business Integration. At the graduate level, he delivers instruction in Leadership and Executive Performance as part of Mays' nationally ranked Executive MBA Program. With more than 25 years of experience as a global consultant and advisor, Dr. McFarland has provided strategic insights, innovative solutions, and leadership development to corporations, government agencies, and community organizations across more than 40 countries on five continents. With the completion of Dr. McFarland's December 2024 A&M Antarctic study abroad program, he has now taught, spoken, or consulted on all seven continents.

Dr. McFarland holds undergraduate degrees in computer science and business administration from Oklahoma Christian University. He earned his MBA from Pepperdine University's Graziadio Business School and a Ph.D. in Global Leadership from the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University.

## SESSION #7

# Jacqueline Knoop '95



Jacque' Knoop, CPA graduated from Texas A&M with a BBA in Accounting in 1995 and a MS in Accounting in 1997. She married her college sweetheart, Kris ('95), and spent time working in various aspects of industry, eventually ending her career as Chief Financial Officer for a private corporation. After spending 3 years living in England, she returned to College Station with her family and currently works her dream job of teaching students accounting at Texas A&M University. She is honored to have twice been named the Wells Fargo Texas A&M Honors Professor Mentor of the Year and was the recipient of the Association of Former Students Teaching Excellence Award.

Jacque' and Kris have 2 beautiful girls, Sydney ('24 who also was an Abbott delegate) and Maddie ('28) who are truly the joy of their lives. Jacque' & Kris both strongly believe that God has given each person unique gifts and have the responsibility to steward them well. This is why service has been a central focus of their family, as they have all enjoyed serving together at different local philanthropies throughout the years. The Knoop's are proud of their daughters as they have served A&M in various service leadership roles. Jacque' has served on the Board for several non-profits, including booster clubs and the National Charity League - Aggieland chapter, and currently serves as OPAS Encore! President and the OPAS Gala Co-Chair. In addition, Kris and Jacque' are grateful to have been Fish Camp Namesakes and to currently serve as the 2024-25 Texas A&M Parents of the Year.

## SESSION #8

# Hughes Family



Shawn and Xochitl reside in San Antonio. They have been married for 25 years, met while serving as Young Life Leaders, and they have three children: Hannah (23), Patrick (21) and Daniel (15).

Xochitl graduated from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska with a degree in Occupational Therapy. 2024 was an exciting year for Xochitl as she helped launch a new preschool called the Rise School San Antonio. The Rise School is an inclusive learning environment where traditional and developmentally delayed children learn together in the same classroom with the support of therapists and early childhood specialists. Xochitl also works part-time at Children's Hospital of San Antonio as a Pediatric Occupational Therapist, and she teaches an SAT class to high school students.

Shawn's undergraduate degree is from the business school at Texas Christian University, and he attended law school at St. Mary's University. Shawn works in the Trust Department of Jefferson Bank. Hannah is a graduate of UT Austin where she earned a Computer Science degree. She works at Booz Allen in San Antonio and loves exploring our national parks, camping, hiking, and movies. She is a true friend, incredibly honest and ethical, and a hard worker.

Patrick is a Junior Mechanical Engineering major at UTSA in San Antonio. He is an Eagle Scout, a Black Belt in Tai Kwan Do, he loves to read and play ultimate frisbee, and he has a fantastic group of friends. Patrick worked at his dream job last summer with NASA in Clear Lake and he will be returning there again this summer. Patrick is kind, wise, and leads with a quiet strength.

Daniel is a Freshman in High School at Great Hearts San Antonio. Daniel has the heart of an entrepreneur, he is creative, loves to cook, and loves hanging out with his friends. Daniel is passionate, strong, energetic, and everything fantastic.

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 together (with lots of butter and maple syrup), enjoy a crackling fire together, camp, hike, read, travel, take walks, and enjoy a cozy cup of tea.



## SESSION #9

# Ashley '96 & Bobby '94 Langenbahn



Bobby ('94) and Ashley ('96) Langenbahn met at Texas A&M in 1994. It took Bobby three times applying to A&M before he was finally accepted, but we are both convinced that we would have never met or gotten married had it not taken Bobby so long to get into A&M! Bobby graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering and Ashley graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. Bobby received his Professional Engineering license and spent several years designing highways and bridges. Ashley taught first and second grade in Angleton, Texas, and for Eanes ISD in Austin, Texas. After our first Aggie, Will (Class of 22), was born, Ashley knew that as much as she loved teaching, her greatest desire was to be home full-time. She has been a stay-at-home mom ever since. Our family quickly grew with the birth of our second Aggie, Sam (Class of 2024), and then our third Aggie, Lily (Class of 2026). It was around this time that Bobby left the field of engineering to pursue a career in software sales. With three kids under 4, a career change was a giant step of faith. This ended up being an enormous blessing, and Bobby enjoyed a career in software sales for over 18 years. Those 18 years were also the growing up years of our three kids, and our greatest joys and highest highs came from building our family that we referred to as "Team Langenbahn".

We valued and fought hard for time spent together and we are so incredibly grateful for the hours upon hours we spent cheering each other on and learning how when one of us was up -we were all up, and when one of us was down - we were all down. Now, as parents, it brings us deep joy to see our three adult children choosing to be in relationship with each other, enjoying each other, and sharpening each other. In June of 2022, our oldest son Will married his best friend, Mary Liz Winston (Baylor grad), and we are so grateful for her! They currently live in Dallas where he works in commercial real estate, and Mary Liz is an artist. Sam graduated in May and is a full-time student at Dallas Theological Seminary. Lily is a junior working hard to reach her goal of becoming a Physician's Assistant. Early in 2022, Bobby was asked to come on staff at the church we attend.

After a lot of thought and prayer, we both shared a very clear desire to spend our time in ministry because that is what we are most passionate about. Bobby left the corporate world and became the Adult Ministries Pastor of Currey Creek Church in Boerne, Texas. A really rewarding aspect of this is that Ashley serves in a volunteer staff position in Women's Ministry, so we get to spend a lot of our time working together. We are both incredibly grateful and excited that we were able to launch and lead a new marriage ministry together in January. We celebrated 29 years of marriage in December of 2024, and we found ourselves in our 3rd year of an "empty nest". It has always been our aim to love, serve, enjoy, and like each other after our kids left the house. As much as we miss having them around, we are genuinely having a really great time being married and spending more time together!

We both agree that as much as we loved being Aggies, being Aggie parents is so much more fun! It is all the best parts of being an Aggie without the stress of tests and projects! We hosted our first Langenbahn Family Tailgate at the 2024 Aggie | Longhorn football game and had so much fun that we collectively decided we will make this a new family tradition. Getting to see all our kids friends plus some of our oldest Aggie friends was so much fun! We are so grateful that all three of our kids included us in their college experience. They have each chosen to be ALL IN and we are blessed to be along for the ride!

## SESSION #9

# Phillip '04 & Cami '06 Bethancourt



Phillip ('04) and Cami ('06) Bethancourt currently live in Bryan, TX. Phillip grew up (mostly in Texas) and Cami is from Abilene. Phillip is a member of TAMU Class of 2004 where he was in the PPA program (BS in Accounting 2004, MS in Finance 2005). Cami is a member of TAMU Class of 2006 (BS in Community Health 2006). Phillip and Cami met at Texas A&M when Phillip was a junior and she was a freshman. They quickly fell in love and married during her junior year and Phillip's 5th year of school. They will celebrate their 20th anniversary on January 8, 2025! After finishing at Texas A&M, Phillip attended Southern Seminary where he graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2008 and a PhD in Systematic Theology in 2011. Along the way, they have added four amazing sons to their family: Nathan (Sophomore), Lawson (Freshman), Weston (7th grade), and Hudson (4th grade). The boys currently attend Brazos Christian School. Phillip is the Lead Pastor at Central Church and Cami is a stay-at-home mom. Both Phillip and Cami are former Abbott delegates and Cami a former Director of Delegates. This is our 5th year of being involved locally with AFLC.

## SESSION #9

# Dr. Michael & Corene McCarthy



Corene McCarthy was born and raised in San Antonio. She is the eldest of seven children, graduated from Ursuline Academy, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Radio-TV-Film from the University of Texas. Her father was A&M class of '45, and introduced her early to Aggie Football, a big part of every fall season and Thanksgiving, creating her deep respect for the traditions at Texas A&M.

Corene's life-long love of the camera and photography led to a career as a professional photographer before she married. She was blessed to become the mother of four incredible children, a daughter and three sons. Her joy and fulfillment as a wife and mother became her primary calling until life took a sudden, unexpected, and devastating turn. Her husband abandoned her and his four small children under the age of 10. The idyllic picture she had been experiencing was shattered. The pain and the grief of becoming a single mother became a tragic reality. She will share how she faced this prolonged trial and gained the strength to raise her four children while growing a small photography business out of her home.

Each of Corene's children chose and graduated from Texas A&M. During her empty nest years, she began dreaming of one day remarrying. You will hear of this magical story of her totally giving up that dream and how God in His perfect timing gave her the surprise of her life.

After being a single mother for nearly 35 years, Corene recently married the love of her life, Dr. Michael McCarthy. Michael is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, a physician and diagnostic cardio-thoracic radiologist, who rose to become the Department of Radiology Chairman at UT Health Science Center in San Antonio. During this period, his hopes and dreams were also shattered, as he walked with two wives through their prolonged battles with cancer to their deaths. During his grief, he learned he was more complete as a married man. He was surprised by how the Lord brought about his relationship and marriage to Corene. Together, they have 7 sets of married children and 20 grandchildren, ranging from 3 months old to 27 years old, all living in Texas. Michael and Corene are looking forward to sharing their story of God's healing, provision, and redeeming love.



## SESSION #12

# Leigh Kohler



Leigh Kohler serves as the President of the Freedom Church Alliance, a coalition of churches united to fight human trafficking. A graduate of Dallas Baptist University, Leigh combines her passion for justice with strategic leadership to mobilize churches in the fight against modern-day slavery. In her role, she fosters relationships with anti-trafficking organizations, equips churches and individuals to take meaningful action, and raises awareness about the realities of trafficking both locally and globally.

Under Leigh's leadership, the Freedom Church Alliance has become a vital resource for churches seeking to engage in the anti-trafficking movement. She spearheaded the creation of The Fight for Freedom, a discipleship resource to help individuals and churches engage in the fight against trafficking through a Biblical lens. Leigh has also championed initiatives such as the GoBag Project, which provides essential resources to survivors during critical moments of rescue and recovery. With over a decade of experience in the anti-trafficking field, Leigh has established herself as a respected voice, frequently speaking at conferences and events to inspire compassion and action. Her work is fueled by her faith in Jesus Christ and her deep love for Him, which compels her to serve others and advocate for justice. Leigh lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband, Marc, and their three children. Two of their sons currently attend Texas A&M University.

## SESSION #13

# Chantel Mack



Chantel Mack is a Social Impact Strategist in the fashion and retail industry. She got her start as the community director for the non-profit arm of The Whitaker Grp, one of the largest experiential and creative retail company. This led to her current work developing social impact strategies for retail brands, start-ups, non-profits, and personal brands. One notable client being Eastside Golf, a lifestyle and apparel brand. Through this work, Chantel helps clients build an authentic relationship with community partners that leads to sustainable social and economic change. Early in her professional career, Chantel was the after-school director for a holistic community center in Houston's third ward. Before moving to Texas, she was a director for one of the largest Christian sports camps for inner-city youth where she led teams of college students and cultivated fun programming for thousands of campers from across the U.S. With all the work she's done, Chantel is proud to have served in youth and leadership development for over 20 years. Born and raised in Williamsburg, VA, Chantel holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in African American and Victorian Literature from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is also a certified Dynamic Communicator who loves connecting with audiences as a conference speaker, teacher, and emcee. Outside of raising two children with her husband of 18 years, Chantel's passion is social impact strategy. Whether helping fashion brands be more intentional with community engagement, managing teams, championing academic excellence, or being a supportive "basketball/football auntie" to teens in the community, Chantel has made non-profit work the vehicle with which she chooses to impact the world. Her life's motto is "Don't be a jerk. You can't lead if no one wants to follow".

## SESSION #14

# Seth Sullivan '01



Seth Sullivan '01 met his wife, Melissa Sullivan '01, while they were seniors at Texas A&M. They have been married for twenty-two years and have three kids—Emily ('28), Grant (age 15), and Luke (age 14). Seth currently serves as the Director of the Zachry Leadership Program and a senior lecturer in the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University, a position he's held since 2016. Seth earned a bachelor's degree in industrial distribution from Texas A&M in Dec. 2001 and immediately enrolled in the master's program in international affairs at the Bush School. After finishing his master's, Seth began his career as an intelligence analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency. The Agency moved him to San Antonio in 2011 to establish a new collaboration program with federal, state, and local officials in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. After eight years with the Agency, Seth worked in consulting for five years before "coming home" to Aggieland and his current position in 2016. The Sullivans are members of Grace Bible Church and attend at the Southwood location. When they're not working or attending kids' performances or games, they enjoy taking trips together (road trips are the best!), exercising together, hiking, and cheering on the Aggies. Seth attended the Abbott Family Leadership Conference as a delegate in 1998 and was on the executive staff for the conference in 1999. The Sullivans were a host family for the conference in San Antonio while they lived there and have been involved in different capacities since they moved to College Station.

## SESSION #15

# David 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, as the first student representative to the Faculty Senate, as a member of the MSC Council, and as Student Body President. At his graduation, he received the University's highest student award, the Brown Foundation/Earl Rudder Memorial Outstanding Student Award.

Following college, David first worked for three years as a leasing agent with the Dallas/Fort Worth retail division of Trammell Crow Company. 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 is the manager and part owner of Alders Enterprises LTD, Dagwood Timber Company, LP; Principatus Properties, LLC; and Buck Bay Timber LTD.

David's current civic involvement includes serving as President of the Texas Forestry Association, Vice Chairman of the East Texas Regional Water Planning Group, and a member of the board of directors of Citizens 1st Bank, Regents Academy, Texas Agricultural Land Trust, Heartbeat Pregnancy Center, and Nacogdoches County Farm Bureau.

He is a former chairman of the governing boards of the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (now part of the Texas Department of Agriculture), Stephen F. Austin State University, Heritage Land Bank Association, Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District, and Nacogdoches Economic Development Corporation. He also formerly served on the boards of the State Bar of Texas, Texas Center for Legal Ethics, New Saint Andrews College, Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, and Texas Poultry Federation.

In 1998, David helped found Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church of Nacogdoches, Texas, and still serves it as an elder. David and his wife, Nicole (class of '84), have ten children and nineteen grandchildren (with two more expected in 2025). His hobbies and interests include travel and reading, particularly theology, economics, and history.

# OUR FAMILIES

## **BRYAN, TEXAS**

# **Bethancourt Family**



Phillip and Cami Bethancourt currently live in Bryan, TX. Phillip grew up (mostly in Texas) and Cami is from Abilene. Phillip is a member of TAMU Class of 2004 where he was in the PPA program (BS in Accounting 2004, MS in Finance 2005). Cami is a member of TAMU Class of 2006 (BS in Community Health 2006). Phillip and Cami met at Texas A&M when Phillip was a junior and she was a freshman. They quickly fell in love and married during her junior year and Phillip's 5th year of school. They celebrated their 20th anniversary on January 8, 2025! After finishing at Texas A&M, Phillip attended Southern Seminary where he graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2008 and a PhD in Systematic Theology in 2011. Along the way, they have added four amazing sons to their family: Nathan (Sophomore), Lawson (Freshman), Weston (7th grade), and Hudson (4th grade). The boys currently attend Brazos Christian School. Phillip is the Lead Pastor at Central Church and Cami is a stay-at-home mom. Both Phillip and Cami are former Abbott delegates and Cami a former Director of Delegates. This is our 5th year of being involved locally with AFLC.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Attending most every Aggie football, basketball, and baseball game

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

Leaders are readers!

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

We like to take neighborhood walks, play games, and watch sports.

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

Abbott was particularly impactful for us as students and we enjoy the opportunity of meeting currently delegates each year.



## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Claybrook Family



John and Kelli Claybrook live in College Station, TX. Both graduated from Texas A&M University, Kelli with a degree in Marketing in 2014, and John with a degree in Finance in 2013. John has built a career as an entrepreneur, beginning in 2017 by starting (and later selling) a trash business, and recently by buying and operating blue-collar businesses. Kelli spent her early career in ministry and now has the privilege and responsibility of raising four little ones. Cooper is 6, Ramsey is 4, Millie is 3, and Barton is about to turn 1. Kelli was on staff with AFLC in college and John was a delegate, and both have remained close to the Abbott family over the years!

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

We try to go to the mountains together during the summers and have made some amazing memories on those trips!

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

"Claybrooks do hard things"

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Time outside - golf cart rides, working on the property, hikes.

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

We've always enjoyed connecting with A&M students and thought this would be another great way to do so!

## HOUSTON, TEXAS

# Curtis Family



Sara and John live in Houston, TX. We met while attending Texas A&M University. Sara graduated with a Bachelors in Nutrition and a minor in Spanish in May 2012. John graduated with a Bachelors degree in Finance and a minor in Urban Planning in December 2010, and he stayed to earn his master's degree in Land Development in May 2012. They both moved to Houston after graduation where Sara attended medical school at Baylor College of Medicine, and John started his career as a transaction manager for a group of well-established commercial real estate brokers at CBRE. They got engaged in 2013 and then married in College Station in June 2014. They have been learning how to love, challenge, and encourage each other since. Sara completed her pediatric residency at Texas Children's Hospital in 2019. After working as an outpatient pediatrician for an underserved population in North Houston with Baylor College of Medicine / Texas Children's for 4 years, she transitioned to a new model of care as a concierge pediatrician at Pure Pediatrics in October 2023. This unique practice allows her more time with her patients to build relationships and provide personalized medical care. More importantly, this new job allows her more flexibility and time to be present for her family. John transitioned from CBRE to work as a commercial real estate broker at Newmark for a few years before founding his own tech company focused on the commercial real estate industry. He is passionate about real estate development and how people interact with the cities in which they live. John also served as a member of the Young Alumni Advisory Council for The Association of Former Students for 5 years. Their first daughter was born during Sara's last year of residency. Kailey is now 4.5 years old. She is joyful, adventurous, kind-hearted, and can usually be found doing cartwheels and flipping around a gymnastics bar. Their second daughter, Emery, is now almost 3 years old and is full of energy and laughs! They are actively involved in their church, Neartown Church, and have a dog named Rudder. They enjoy watching documentaries, trying new types of food, staying active, and traveling. Sara had the privilege to be an Abbott delegate for the Austin conference in 2011 and to serve as a Director of Development for the San Antonio conference in 2012. This will be our 8th year to serve as a local family!

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

We are focusing on the small, daily consistent steps - we eat dinner together at the table as a family every night to build a space to talk and share about our days.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

We frequently remind our girls' and ourselves "Curtises can do hard things" to help encourage them to continue pushing through the tough moments.

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

We love getting outside together. You will often find us on family bike rides on the trails around the Heights in Houston.



## HOUSTON, TEXAS

# Fisher Family



Brian and Tristie Fisher have called College Station, Texas home for over 30 years.

Brian graduated from Texas A&M with a BS in Economics, Class of 1987. Tristie graduated with her undergrad from Oklahoma State University, but considers herself a proud member of the Aggie Family.

After Brian graduated from Texas A&M and Tristie from OSU, both felt a strong calling on their lives to step into ministry. Brian went directly to Dallas Theological Seminary and Tristie left a career in broadcast journalism to join Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru), a ministry focused on college students.

They met in the early 90s while both were working with Aggies in College Station. One of the amazing girls Tristie mentored while on staff at CRU was Emily Fisher '97, Brian's cousin. Soon Brian and Tristie met, had their first date in Downtown Bryan over chicken enchiladas, and shortly after, got married in March of 1996.

Ever since, they have been serving with Grace Bible Church with a passion for the nations and the next generation. Together, they have traveled and served in many nations, including Central Asian nations of the former Soviet Union.

They have 2 amazing kids - Ben and AnnaJoy! Ben graduated from Texas A&M as a member of the Class of 2024 and was also a former Abbott Delegate and Director. Ben currently enjoys his job at The Association of Former Students where he gets to use his gift leadership and love for the next generation. AnnaJoy has enjoyed a lifetime of dance and gourmet cooking and is currently studying cosmetology, specializing in hair color and extension work. We are so proud of them and are beyond grateful that God gave us Ben and Joy!

## HOUSTON, TEXAS

# Frederick Family



Nathan and Abby, both Class of '14, met while speed dating (on the bus for Impact Camp) prior to their freshman year at A&M. Over each of the next four years, they were members of the same FLO, FLO staff, and Abbott Family Leadership Conferences. Abby was a delegate and Director of Operations for the Austin conference and served as AFLC Chair from 2013 to 2014. Nathan was a San Antonio delegate and then served as a Director of Programs for the last Austin conference in 2014. Abby was also a member of Kappa Alpha Theta and loved being a Fish Camp counselor. When Nathan wasn't pretending to study at WCL, he was driving vans for COSGA or catching Aggie baseball games with fellow members of Ol' Army Gentlemen's Society (Ol' AGS). After three and a half years of growing their friendship, Abby begged Nathan to date her (kind of) prior to their last semester as undergrads. Nathan finished up with a degree in finance and moved back to the DFW metroplex to work in sales for the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. Abby graduated with a degree in university studies and stayed in College Station for two more football seasons before receiving her Master's in Human Resource Management. After a year and a half of long-distance dating, Nathan and Abby were married in her hometown of The Woodlands in February 2016. Excited about starting their life together, they immediately made Houston their home where Abby works for Shell Oil and Nathan works for Summer Energy. The Fredericks have since planted roots in Katy and have found most of their neighbors to be friendly - especially Preston and Susan Abbott. Nathan is the only Y chromosome carrier in their household that's completed by daughters Harper (4), Hattie (2), and Baby Girl #3 arriving next week (2/6/2025). He accepts all prayers and monetary donations. Nathan and Abby enjoy a good (insert streaming service) binge and prefer date nights that have them home by the time normal people would be starting their evenings. When they're not taking part in tea parties or getting songs from Disney movies stuck in their heads, they like to spend their time attending concerts and traveling to new places. Prior to the 2025 conference in College Station, the Fredericks had been a local family in Houston since 2017.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Two of our favorite family traditions revolve around food. We love celebrating birthdays with donuts (pink icing and sprinkles). We also spend Christmas Eve making homemade pizzas. Excited to create more as our family grows!

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

Something Abby and I say to our girls is, "You're brave. You're smart. You're strong. You're loved. You are a daughter of the King".

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Our girls love to be outside! We can be found at any of our neighborhood's parks or riding our bikes around our cul-de-sac with the other kids on our street.

## **BRYAN, TEXAS**

# **Gillespie Family**



TJ & Tanya Gillespie currently live in Bryan. They have been married 36 years. They have a heart for young people, having served over 15 years in youth ministry while living in the small North Central Texas community of Leonard. In 2014, the Gillespie's followed God's call, relocating to Bryan, and founding their non-profit ministry "Taylor's Place". Tanya and TJ are passionate about mentoring A&M students through the "culture shock" of transitioning from high school to university life and then into adulthood. They were honored as the 2020-2021 Texas A&M Parents of the Year for the impact they have made on campus. By day, Tanya works as a Senior Accounting Associate at a local CPA firm in College Station and also has her own Accounting Business and TJ is a SCBA Tech for TEEX. By night and on weekends they are the heart and soul of Taylor's Place as they fulfill their mission to mentor, feed, and embrace Aggie students and families.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Getting away at Christmas to the woods, cozy into the cabin, unplug & reconnect with each other.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

Make someone smile daily

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Spending time together, doing crossword puzzles together, listening to music

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

We were invited to speak at one of the family nights at MSC Abbott a few years ago & were so impressed with the students & questions they asked so anytime we are asked to participate in MSC Abbott, we say YES! We are so honored to be a part of MSC Abbott.

## KATY, TEXAS

# Griffin Family



Michael and Laura Griffin live in Katy, Texas with their 3 children. Michael and Laura both attended Texas A&M, though they met and married after graduation after their older sisters set them up on a blind date. Michael (Class of 2002) was a member of the Corps of Cadets, served as Commander of Parsons Mounted Calvary, and earned a Construction Science degree. Laura was class of 2006 and loved every moment of being an Aggie college student. She spent her time volunteering as a Diamond Darling and working at A+ Tutoring while earning a Nutritional Science degree. Currently, Michael is Director of Projects for Optimized Process Designs, where he has enjoyed working for the last 14 years, and Laura serves on the Board of Directors at Berean Christian Academy where their three children attend school. Michael and Laura's three children are Violet (12), Johnny (10), and Kate (6) and they absolutely love being parents. They choose each activity, sport and school with intention and involved in all that the kids do. They attend Southstone Church in Katy and enjoy worshipping God with close friends each Sunday. Friends and family of the Griffins know that they are always welcome at their home, as Michael and Laura love having kids over to build fires, ride horses, swim and play sports.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

One of our favorite traditions has become eating dinner with some close friends every Friday night. God has blessed us with friends who share our values, send their children to the same school and largely attend the same church. Being able to link arms with and enjoy weekly fellowship with these families is something we look forward to each week!

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

"Griffins bring certainty." We serve a God of certainty, and we as His children pull from His absolute truth. In plain English, when Michael and I make decisions, we know why we are making them. Chaos is everywhere in the world, and we pull from Christ so that we can be deliberate with everything from our conversations, to how we spend our time, to our finances.

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

We LOVE to be at home and outside, and Laura's favorite weekend saying is "always extra kids" because of our love for hosting our friend's kids. We have a beautiful and spacious property full of horses, chickens, and plenty of room for outdoor fun. We think it's so important for kids to grow up outside, and so we extend that to friends whenever we can.



## BRYAN, TEXAS

# Hancock Family



Keith '92 and Jennifer '93 Hancock met at A&M and celebrated their 33rd anniversary in August 2024. Keith earned a bachelor's of science in agricultural development and a Masters in leadership development and organizational behavior. He now serves as the director of benefits for Texas A&M University while pursuing a master's in Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary. Jennifer's animal science and agricultural journalism degrees led to an equine marketing and publishing career, and she now works as the executive assistant for Health, Families, and Youth Programs at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Their Aggie family includes son Garrett '16 and daughter-in-law Clare '18, who are professors living in Nacogdoches after getting their Doctorates from Auburn. In June 2023, granddaughter Evelyn Ruby '45 arrived! WHOOP! After living in the Panhandle and the Hill Country, the Hancocks returned to Aggieland in 2018 for Aggie Baseball. They have been honored to be involved with Abbott Family Leadership Conferences since 2021.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

We intentionally carve out time for family – other than simply on holidays. While this may look different from year to year, we go on vacations together (anniversary trip each year to make memories), go to sporting events together (Aggie Baseball!!!), or simply just hang out and “do nothing” together. Showing livestock and being involved in 4-H is one of the ways that we spent intentional family time together -- our son is a fifth-generation livestock exhibitor.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

Anytime our son said "I can't," he had to repeat Philippians 4:13 -- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. We try to keep an eternal Kingdom focus so we encourage with scriptures.

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Anything outdoors – hiking, camping, going to the beach, and especially hanging out at Olsen Park watching Aggie Baseball. We also enjoy attending concerts and traveling.

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

Being able to play a small roll in helping shape and hopefully positively impact the lives of young adults. This is a two-way street where we hope we can demonstrate a positive example of family, but we are also energized, convicted (in a good way), and inspired as we engage with the MSC Abbott students, leaders, and support staff.

## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Harness Family



Nathan and Caitlin Harness live in College Station, Texas. We moved here 10 years ago from the Dallas area for Nathan to help start a Financial Planning program at Texas A&M. He is now the Director of Financial Planning and we have fallen in love with the University and this city! Caitlin has a background as a Registered Nurse, but now has the ultimate privilege of staying home to raise and homeschool our three children- Harrison, 11 years old, Sophia, 9 years old, and Thatcher, 7 years old. We are huge baseball fans, spending a lot of time on the ball fields with the boys, and love attending Astros and Aggie games when we can. Abbott is such a great organization and we are so excited to open our home to these wonderful students!

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

On birthdays, we all take turns saying our favorite thing about the birthday boy/girl. It is so fun to hear the kids responses and it is an opportunity to honor that person.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

You can do hard things!

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

We love being home, grilling good food, and sitting outside on the hammock while the kids play!

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

Nathan was a speaker at the conference for a number of years.

## SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

# Holmes Family



Mike and Dee live in San Antonio, Texas. We are both EE majors (Mike in Electrical Engineering, Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of '83; Dee in Elementary Education, Stephen F. Austin Class of '80). Mike is head of operations for IMS Legal Strategies | Juris Medicus, a medical expert witness sourcing firm. Dee volunteers as a Client Advocate at Any Woman Can, a Christian-based facility that provides free STI tests, pregnancy tests, and sonograms. We met at Six Flags Over Texas while both working in the Games Department and have been married for 41 years. We work hard at having an "Unequal Christian Marriage"; unequal in the sense that we each try to serve the other more than we are served ourselves.

We have three children: Hillary (Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of '09), Marshall (Texas State Class of '11), and Hannah (Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of '14). Hillary is a Professional Engineer (Civil) and project manager, specializing in wastewater systems construction and lives in Fort Worth with her husband, Alex (Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of '18), who is a construction project manager and a May 2024 graduate of Texas A&M Law School with a Masters in Jurisprudence in Contract Law. Hillary & Alex are also new parents to Mike & Dee's first grandchild, Shepherd Fontenot (Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of '46). Marshall is a vendor representative for Daltile in Bend, Oregon with his wife, Allyson (Colorado State Class of '15) who is an Interior Design Architect. Hannah graduated from UTSA in May 2023 with her Masters in Clinical and Mental Health Counseling and is an LPC-Associate with STCH Ministries. She lives in San Antonio with her husband, Turner (Baylor Class of '18), who is a sales manager with a San Antonio-based office technology company.

Mike is an avid woodworker and furniture maker and Dee loves to read and cook. As empty-nesters, we enjoy playing games together, spending time hanging out with our two rescue Scottish Terriers, Amy & Molly, and traveling to visit family and friends. We are especially excited to be new grandparents (Pops and DeeDee) to Shepherd. We have hosted and participated in the Abbott Family Leadership Conferences in one form or another for 20+ years and are very much looking forward to participating again in the January 2025 AFLC.

### What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?

While the kids were growing up, each weekday night we had supper together, followed by "PDA" (Post-Dinner Activity). PDA could be a family bike ride, playing a board game, roughhousing on the den floor, watching Survivor together, etc. The point was that we created (and fulfilled) the expectation that we would do something together as a family.

### What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?

If someone is ugly to you, then let them be ugly by themselves.

### What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?

Play board games together.

## SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

# Hughes Family



Shawn and Xochitl live in San Antonio, Texas. We just celebrated our 25 year anniversary in Grand Lake Colorado where we honeymooned! Shawn is an attorney who works in the Trust Department at Jefferson Bank. Xochitl is a pediatric occupational therapist and has worked at Children's Hospital for over 20 years. She is also a retired homeschool teacher! We actually don't know how long we have been involved with Abbott but our best guess is around 20 years. Our involvement dates back to when college kids would stay the weekend at our house! We are the proud parents of three: Hannah recently graduated from UT Austin with a degree in Computer Science. She is working as a software engineer at Booz Allen Hamilton. We don't really know exactly what she does as the job requires security clearance...She could tell us but then she'd have to kill us kind of thing! Patrick is a junior at UTSA studying engineering with a focus on Aerospace. He completed an internship at NASA last summer working on the Orion Capsule and has been invited back this summer. He is living his dream! Daniel is a freshman in high school. He enjoys cooking, music, and hanging out with friends. He has a quick wit that keeps our family laughing and boundless energy that keeps life interesting! We are very grateful that our family enjoys spending time together and that we often seek each other out for company.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

One of my favorite traditions is that we write letters to each other for special occasions. I love that we intentionally pause and write out the things we love about each other and appreciate about each other.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

"We all get to be human." This is a simple way to remind us that we are all trying our best and to have grace for ourselves and each other. However, the kids often fall back on 'chicken butt', 'your mom', and 'Speaking as the favorite child...'!

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

We all love to camp and hike so if we can make it happen, heading out on a camping adventure is a favorite go-to. That said, we also all love a weekend to cook great meals, read books and watch movies.



## CYPRESS, TEXAS

# Klein Family



Steve and Mary have been married for 35 years and have been blessed with 4 children, a daughter-in-law, and 4 grandchildren. Their oldest child, David & his wife Lilly have three children, Oliver, Gabriella & Nicolas. Anna is their second child, and Catherine, who is their third child, works for Matador Resources in Dallas. Kaylynn, their youngest, is a sophomore at Liberty University and is the mother to their granddaughter, Jessica. Steve is a native Houstonian, and Mary is originally from Lafayette, Louisiana. They have participated in the Abbott Family Leadership Conference for 12 years and look forward to being a co-host for family night this year.

Steve attended Stephen F. Austin and owns Texbrite, a manufacturing/distribution business in the automotive industry. Mary is a graduate of Baylor (B.S) and worked as a registered dietitian prior to having their first child. Mary has been a homemaker for over 34 years and believes it's a privilege to be able to stay home and be actively involved in her children's lives. Steve's interests include anything motorsports and the outdoors and Mary loves all things outdoors, yet their most favorite thing to do is spending time with their family in whatever that looks like.

The Kleins had their first two children biologically, and then after several years of secondary infertility, they felt the Lord's leading to adoption. Catherine, their third child, is from an orphanage in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Kaylynn, their youngest, is from an orphanage in Guangdong, China. The Kleins are passionate about adoption and helping families walk the adoption journey. Steve & Mary, along with five other couples, founded the adoption and foster ministry at Houston's First Baptist called Legacy 68:5 based on Psalms 68:5-6 - "A father to the fatherless, a protector of the widow, is God in His Holy habitation. God sets the lonely in families." They had the privilege of leading the ministry for the first seven years where they walked alongside families in their adoption or fostering journey, taught parenting classes, and led conferences.

On November 2, 2016, their lives were suddenly changed forever when their oldest daughter, Anna, went home to be with the Lord after a tragic horse riding accident. Even as they have navigated the difficult journey of grieving their daughter's death, they are incredibly grateful for the twenty-four years that they were able to have Anna. Since Anna's passing and a decision that was made at her bedside to donate her organs and corneas, the Klein's have experienced many opportunities to share their story and enjoy relationships with some of Anna's organ recipients.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Each year during the Christmas season we load our trailer with hay, drive to River Oaks subdivision and do a hay ride with friends and family looking at Christmas lights, drinking hot chocolate, eating snacks and listening to Christmas music.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Mary would quote this verse each day while taking the girls to school.

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Go to our parents farm and work and play.

## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Knoop Family



Kris and Jacque' live in College Station, Texas. We both attended Texas A&M, where Kris ('95) received both his BS in Biomedical Sciences and his MD while Jacque' ('95) received both her BBA and MS in Accounting. We met our freshman year in college while playing on an intramural softball team together and will be soon celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary. Kris currently practices as a family practice/bariatrics doctor with Baylor Scott & White and Jacque' has the dream job of teaching in the accounting department at A&M's Mays Business School. We have 2 beautiful Aggie daughters, Sydney ('24) who will be finishing her MS in Accounting this year and has accepted a position with Alvarez & Marsal after graduation, and Maddie ('28) that is currently a kinesiology major with plans on attending physical therapy school. We feel incredibly blessed to be able to interact with and host many student organizations and love to be involved in the community in different service roles. We both currently serve on the Texas A&M OPAS board of directors and Jacque' also serves as the OPAS Encore! President and Gala co-chair. In addition, we are both honored to serve as the 2024-25 Texas A&M Parents of the Year. This will be our 2nd year working as a host family for MSC Abbott and had the joy of seeing the impact that being an Abbott delegate had on their oldest daughter, Sydney.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Every Christmas Eve, after church service we have pepperoni rolls & game night with the grandparents!

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

It's nothing fancy, but we make sure that we always say "I love you" when any of us are leaving one another or getting off of the phone with each other. We believe you can never say "I love you" enough.

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

We love to travel so that we can just go away and be together as a family. We recently just did a Gilmore Girls-inspired family trip over a long weekend to Connecticut and came back so refreshed and ready to do life again!

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

When our daughter, Sydney, was an Abbott delegate, one of the co-chairs started the idea of host families. When we were asked, we jumped at the opportunity and so enjoyed getting to share our family story and getting to know the incredible delegates that came to our home.

## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Lee Family



Brian and Steph Lee live in College Station, Texas. They are both Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of '02. After earning his Masters in Counseling, Brian spent 10 years in education (teacher, coach, counselor, principal), and spent the next 10 years working in the Non-Profit Sector as the National President of BYX (a Christian Fraternity on 40 University campuses), and now is a partner with Third River Holdings. He currently coaches and advises business leaders while actively engaging in a number of business start-ups. Steph is the Founder and CEO of You Are Inc., a Multigenerational Christian Non-Profit that creates spaces for children, women and families to encounter the love of God and to equip them to make generational decisions with legacy in mind. They have been happily married for almost 23 years and love investing their lives in the College Station area! They have four amazing children; Jada (18) Freshman at Texas A&M, Kiva (15) Freshman in HS, Judson (13) in 7th Grade, and Kason (10) in 4th grade. All six family members love being active, playing games, and sports, going on walks with their beloved Golden Retriever, traveling, and celebrating life as the gift that it is! Their home is a hub of action with friends, family, and their community. This is their second year participating in Abbot Family Leadership and they are excited to meet you soon!

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Family Brunch Sundays, celebrating Passover Seder, and any chance for dance parties!

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

Everything we have is a gift from God to enjoy and share!

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Walks to coffee, sleepovers, games and movies.

## **BRYAN, TEXAS**

# **McGinty Family**



Patrick and Katherine live in Bryan, Texas. Patrick graduated with a biology degree from Texas A&M in 2015. While at A&M he was a member of several student organizations including the Corps of Cadets, Maroon Coats, and Ross Volunteer Company. He had the privilege of serving as Yell Leader his junior and senior year. Katherine graduated from Southwest Baptist University (or as Patrick likes to say, the Harvard of the Midwest).

Patrick serves as the College Minister at Central Church. Katherine takes care of the children and actively serves alongside Patrick in the college ministry by disciplining, feeding, and hosting countless college students. They have four children, Gunner (15), Bennett (13), Ada Kate (11), and Reese (9). The children all attend Brazos Christian School, where Patrick serves as a volunteer coach and Katherine serves in a variety of capacities.

As a student, Patrick was an Abbott delegate (though never attended conference) and this is their second time serving as a local family. They are excited to get to know you!

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Family devotionals throughout the week!

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

Extreme Ownership

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Playing sports, swimming, and watching Aggie athletics.

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

We love hosting college students and believe in the mission of the Abbott Family Leadership Conference.



## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# McGuire Family



The McGuire family is blessed to live in College Station, Texas. Sean and Tara met at Mays Business School and they both graduated from the Professional Program in Accounting in 2001. After living in Dallas for a year, we spent five wonderful years in Athens, Georgia. Sean earned his PhD in Accounting from the University of Georgia while Tara worked for the University and we enjoyed deep community with other families as a young married couple. We returned to College Station in 2008 and Sean began teaching at Texas A&M. Sean is currently a Professor and Department Head of the James Benjamin School of Accounting, and Tara manages our home and mothers our three amazing kids. Emmeline and Daniel filled our hands and hearts with joy in 2010, and Julianna made them overflow in 2012. Emmeline is a history buff, loves books of all kinds, and enjoys playing volleyball. To say that Dan loves sports is an understatement. He enjoys playing and watching golf, but his favorite sport to watch is Aggie football. Julianna loves Disney and ballet. Disney World is her favorite place on earth and one of our family's favorite vacation destinations. We have loved raising our family amongst Aggies and have enjoyed having them in our home through the years. So many college students have blessed our family over the past 16 years and we are so excited and honored to participate as an Abbott Local Family!

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

When we have a free Friday night, we love to have family movie night!

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

Every night we tell the kids, "Jesus loves you always, always, always, no matter what you do and so do your mommy and daddy."

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

We are homebodies and love to watch movies, play games, and relax together.

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

We love investing in college students and the AFLC aligns with our family values.

## **BRYAN, TEXAS**

# **Morchat Family**



Daniel and Jordan are thrilled to call Bryan, TX home for the past 24 years, bringing a deep Texas A&M legacy into the heart of Aggieland! These two Fightin' Texas Aggies (Daniel '04 & Jordan '07) met in College Station, kicked off a journey of family, business, and adventure, and haven't slowed down since. Daniel originally from Gladewater, TX, shifted from 15 years of teaching, coaching, and admin roles to client development with Good Company Construction, while Jordan, from Odessa, TX, blazed her own path in nutritional science and entrepreneurship, founding ventures like Crossfit ATM, BlackBox Strength & Conditioning, Nourished Well, and now Color Me Light.

Their "crew" includes four awesome kids—Maxwell (12), Theodore (9), Elliott (7), and Penelope (5)—who keep life full of energy, laughs, and outdoor fun. When they're not working, you'll find the family playing outside, gathering around the fire pit, or heading out on adventurous walks. This year, they're especially pumped for their first Abbott Conference, eager to connect, learn, and share stories with the group!

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Eating around the dinner table every night.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

Morchat's are givers, healers, and we set the captives free.

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Going on walks.

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

We have been involved with a former delegate (Bella).



## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Seiber Family



Patrick (Pat) and Heather Seiber currently live in College Station, Texas...but have lived in multiple areas around the world due to Pat's military service. They consider themselves to be an "Old Army" couple, as Pat is an Aggie and former cadet from the class of 1993 (B.A. in Speech Communication) and Heather graduated from Baylor (B.S. in Biology/B.M. in Church Music--emphasis in piano). Pat later obtained Masters Degrees from both the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the Army War College in Carlisle, Penn. The Seiber family settled back in Aggieland following Pat's retirement from military service in 2019, he is the Public Relations Director for the George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex (BCDC), the Texas A&M Semiconductor Institute (TSI) and the Texas A&M University System National Laboratories Office (NLO)---all part of the Texas A&M University System Office with BCDC and TSI out at RELLIS campus, and NLO on west campus. Heather is the Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of College Station, she has also served as the interim choir director at A&M Consolidated High School. The Seibers have two children, Ashley Beth (almost 27) and Carson (TAMU class of 2026). They also have a couple of Shih Tzu doggies who are spoiled like children! This will be their first year participating as a family, Carson served as a delegate last year and is on staff this year. A couple of other interesting tidbits about the Seibers are they were actually assigned to Texas A&M for ROTC duty from 2003-2006. During that time, Heather accompanied both the Texas A&M Women's Chorus and Texas A&M Century Singers. Pat served on the Army ROTC staff and as an additional duty he was the assistant advisor for the Ross Volunteers. They were able to take a couple of cool trips---to Washington, DC for President George W. Bush's second inauguration with the RVs and to China with the Women's Chorus. They consider themselves blessed to have the opportunity to return to Aggieland.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Eating good Tex-Mex after church on Sunday!

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

Verse that carried us through multiple deployments, Joshua 1:9---"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

We don't get too many free weekends since Heather is in Full-Time ministry and Pat serves as a Deacon and helps lead the Men's Ministry team at FBC College Station. That said, a Saturday to sleep in with not much on the schedule is rare and welcome! We also have taken short trips to San Antonio.

## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Simpson Family



After meeting in the MSC in 1993, Shane and Becky have been married 29 years. They love living life in College Station with their 3 children, Ella (23), Mary Claire (21), and Carter (19), and love running the roads to kids' dance classes, basketball games, and booster clubs. Now they are learning to be empty nesters as all three kids are at Texas A&M (Whoop!). In fact, it is their daughter's participation as an Abbott delegate last year and now a director this year that has inspired their own participation as a local family for AFLC. After graduating from Texas A&M and interning in Houston, Shane and Becky moved to San Antonio where Shane graduated from medical school and Becky went back to school to become a teacher. The couple moved to Becky's hometown of Waco for Shane's training in Family Practice and then settled in Shane's hometown of Conroe to open Shane's practice, now with Houston Methodist, where he is also involved as the Regional Medical Director for Primary Care and Medical Director for the Primary Care Access Center. He has been a long-time Hospice Medical Director and has a special love for elderly patients. Becky was blessed to stay home during the early years of his practice and especially loved volunteering in classrooms at preschool and church. Later, they moved to College Station as they found it to have great opportunities through both community and schools for their children, especially for their oldest daughter, Ella, who has Down Syndrome. Becky went back to her calling as a middle school science teacher when all three kids were in school. She was even more blessed to get to teach all three in College Station ISD and at Brazos Christian School! She now stays home to help Ella access activities in the community and enjoys spending time in many wonderful Bible studies. Shane and Becky attend A&M UMC just as they did in college and are learning to fill their new free time with more Aggie Athletics and a few musicals, too!

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Christmas Eve Eve is a family favorite! Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are filled with extended family, so this was the day of celebration for "The Simpson 5". We decorate cookies, have finger foods, and drive around with hot chocolate looking at lights.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

We learn, we grow! (usually said after mistakes, bad days, or the suffering of consequences)

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Mexican Food in Navasota, a great Netflix series with the couch and blankets, Aggie Basketball, and vacations! (beach, mountains, or Disney).

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

As a physician and a teacher, we have watched the impact of family dynamics on young people's lives in ways that the outside world does not always get to see. What our daughter, Mary Claire, was learning and experiencing as an Abbott delegate last year was not only wonderful for our child, but also something we know young leaders need now more than ever. We want to nurture intentional training and support for future families in a challenging world.

## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Sledge Family



Our names are Toby and Lisa Sledge, and we've been married for nearly 25 years. Toby grew up in Oklahoma and Plano, Texas, while Lisa was raised in Abilene, Texas. We met at Texas A&M as Bible study leaders with Grace Bible Church, though we didn't start dating until April of our senior year. Toby has spent his entire career in sales and currently works for Badger Meter, selling water meter systems to municipalities. He's been with Badger Meter for almost 15 years. Lisa, after 20 years in children's and women's ministry at Grace Bible Church, recently transitioned to real estate, working as a stager and agent with Bock Realty Group. One of the gifts of living in College Station has been the opportunity to raise our children around college students. We love having college students in our home, mentoring them, and preparing them for the next phase of life.

We've raised our three children here in College Station. Colson, our 23-year-old son, is a fifth-year senior at Texas A&M, studying sports management and aiming to become a personal trainer specializing in adaptive training for people with disabilities. Georgia, our freshman daughter, is active in Chi Omega and Fish Aides, pursuing a degree in special education with dreams of incorporating music therapy to work with special needs kids. Our youngest, Juliet, is 16 and has autism and intellectual disabilities; she's the glue that holds our family together, bringing us endless joy and laughter with her funny and honest personality. While we have our share of family conflicts, our love for each other and our faith keep us close. We're thrilled to be part of the Abbott Family experience for the first time, ready to share openly and enjoy every moment with you all!

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

Doing highs and lows around the dinner table! (Although, when the kids were little, we had to make sure that your low didn't include somebody else at the table!) We also take all of the seats out of my SUV and pile in the car with blankets and hot chocolate to go look at Christmas lights every year. We like to serve together too—whether it's adopting a family at Christmas or volunteering at the Bridge or at Beloved & Beyond, the special needs camp that our youngest daughter attends.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

We often use scripture to encourage each other. Toby' is an insane memorizer so he is the best at this—He even makes these awesome YouTube videos on passages of scripture that he sends us! Also, I say all the time to my kids "Nothing ever changes if nothing ever changes" emphasizing the necessity to make little changes when you're trying to make a big change or progress in an area of life. Probably the one I have said the most to the kids throughout the years is that there are two types of glass to view the world through. Either a window or a mirror. When you view the world by looking in a mirror, you only think about yourself and how everything pertains to you. When you view the world as if looking through a window, you look out and see others and the world around you and notice where you can be a blessing to them and make an impact. Be a "there you are!" person NOT a "here I am!" person.

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

Ha! That's hard to say as weekends always seem so full, but I would say we like to play games, watch movies together, and be outdoors together. Weekends usually involve grilling burgers or steaks and maybe even having friends over. Our favorite places to travel together are Estes Park, Colorado in the summer and Branson, Missouri. We have fun traditions and things we do at each of those places. I bet we've been over 10 times to each one!

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

We were asked! We have known lots of college kids who have participated in Abbott and our dear friends, the Wrights participated in the family program last year.

## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Sullivan Family



Seth and Melissa Sullivan have been married for 22 years and have three kids: Emily (Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of '28), Grant (15), and Luke (14). Their love story started when they met during their senior year at A&M. Soon they were spending lots of time together and Seth asked her to marry him after they graduated. They lived in Northern Virginia and San Antonio before moving to College Station in 2016. Seth is the Director of the Zachry Leadership Program in the College of Engineering at Texas A&M, and Melissa teaches Pre-K at Brazos Christian School in Bryan. They attend Grace Bible Church Southwood. As a family, they love Aggie Sports and taking trips together. They love the Abbott Family Leadership Conference and have been involved in the program in different capacities for many years. They are very much looking forward to meeting this year's delegates and directors.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

We've created several fun family traditions around different holidays, including the "Minivan Express" at Christmastime and lime sherbet floats on St. Patrick's Day.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

"Shine for Jesus" and "Don't be sorry, just be better." :-D

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

What's a free weekend? :) We don't have too many of those, but love to do stuff together like find a trail to hike, shop, or catch a movie.

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

We've been involved with Abbott for many years, going back to Seth's experience as a delegate in 1998. We respect and admire the Abbott family, love what the Conference stands for, and are always encouraged by our interactions with Abbott delegates.



## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Taylor Family



Ronnie and Linda Taylor are Fightin' Texas Aggies Class of 1983. Both were involved in a variety of student organizations at TAMU and met while working with Fish Camp. They married a week after graduation and began a life of adventure wherever Uncle Sam sent them. Ronnie, a U. S. Army Aviator (Apache helicopters) hung up his flight suit after 26 years - many of those being overseas. Since 2009, Ronnie has worked for the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service where he is currently the Associate Division Director for the Emergency Services Training Institute. During their extensive travels, Linda was afforded the opportunity to teach in public, private, charter, international, and Department of Defense Dependent Schools. When the Taylors returned to Aggieland, Linda taught and served as principal at Brazos Christian School for 15 years. Retirement for Linda only lasted a few months before she began supervising interns working on alternative teaching certifications. She also loves working with the nursing and medical students as a "standardized patient" at TAMU's Health Science Center. Ronnie and Linda believe in the importance of investing in people, including through "Merge," the premarital program at Grace Bible Church. Additionally, they have had the privilege of being involved with MSC Abbott for a year. They desire to share their many blessings, knowledge, and life-learned wisdom with the next generation!

Ronnie and Linda have three daughters: Mandi '09, who is a kindergarten teacher, and married to Kyle '08; Rachel '12 Baylor Bear (but she bleeds maroon!) who is a gastroenterologist and married to Ben '07 'Bama grad; and Haley Kate '17, who is a nurse practitioner and married to Chris '15. The Taylors are in LOVE with their three grandkids (and any additional little ones in the future)!

Ronnie and Linda have passed on their love of reading, travel, history, and dogs to their children. The military path has enabled them to teach their kids to have a vast worldview of God's creation and people. If asked, their kids would say: "Mom and Dad taught us to love God and others well, give and serve generously, work hard, and laugh often."

### **What's your family's go-to way to have fun and recharge on a free weekend?**

TRAVEL, reading, and time with family!!!



## COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

# Wright Family



Stephen and Allyson have called Aggieland home for the last 21 years. Stephen grew up in Harlingen, Texas, and attended Furman University, obtaining a BA and MS in Chemistry. Allyson grew up an Air Force Brat and finished high school in Bellevue, Nebraska. She returned to A&M, Class of '93, and has a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies and a MS in Curriculum & Instruction. Stephen and Allyson were both educators after they married in 1997. Stephen then pursued his Doctor of Dental Surgery from UTHSC in San Antonio while Allyson worked at an Educational Assessment Company to pay for dental school! Upon completion of Dental School, we moved to College Station where Stephen began his dental career. For the last 15 years, Allyson has worked with Stephen to build his dental practice. We have three children: Addie (Aggie Class of '24, attending UT School of Dentistry in Houston), Zane (Junior at the University of Texas in Austin), and Noah (Freshman at ACC in Austin). This is our first year as "empty nesters" and we are enjoying figuring out our "new normal." We love high school & college football, spending time with family & friends, and volunteering in various church/community endeavors. This is our third year participating as a local family with AFLC. We are continuously encouraged and challenged by college students and count it a blessing to be involved.

### **What is your favorite family tradition that you have continued/created?**

We go to a movie on Christmas Eve afternoon, followed by church and dinner with Stephen's side of the family. On Christmas morning, we gather at Allyson's parent's house, with her family, wearing matching pj's.

### **What's a family motto or phrase you all say to inspire each other?**

"Don't let fear paralyze you from making a decision." & "I love you more!"

### **What led you to be a part of the Local Family Program with MSC Abbott?**

We have seen the power of personal life stories - nothing is more impactful than what someone has personally experienced and lived. They encourage, challenge and teach us. Having the chance to do this with college students is a unique opportunity and we are so honored to be a part of it!

**Delegate Class XXX**



Connor Adamiak '26  
 Gwen Bailey '26  
 Brock Barrington '26  
 Trey Bass '27  
 Abigail Black '26  
 Emily Bolling '27  
 Jessie Bowie '26  
 Sam Brady '26  
 Tommy Campbell '27  
 Elle Chakmakjian '27  
 Lauren Chambers '26  
 Ashley Chapa '26  
 Josh Collins '27  
 Skye Conroy '27  
 Luke Cowden '27  
 Elise Cox '27

Isaac Cryer '26  
 Sarah Del Rio '26  
 Brantley Diehl '27  
 Whitney Dowdle '26  
 Bryce Fisher '27  
 Joe Gardner '26  
 Nicholas Gargano '27  
 Allison Gesino '27  
 Ella Goodwin '27  
 Ally Graf '26  
 John Greeley '27  
 Mason Gubser '26  
 Becky Guzman '27  
 Carissa Heimer '26  
 Evan Jefferson '27  
 Cade Johnson '27

Peyton Johnson '26  
 Josh Jom '26  
 Kaitlyn Karr '27  
 Kendall Koster '26  
 Sydney Legg '27  
 Joshua Lokey '26  
 Aiza Makani '26  
 Carlton Marcom '26  
 Ernie Mendoza '26  
 Zach Miller '26  
 Irene Muñoz Mansoa '27  
 Derek Murphy Jr '27  
 Clara Pluenneke '27  
 Stewart Poffenberger '27  
 Duncan Poling '27  
 Paige Pryor '26

Zach Rehfeld '26  
 Mary Elizabeth Richardson '26  
 Samantha Richter '26  
 Luke Rollins '27  
 Marietta Scherer '26  
 Cole Sloan '27  
 Jim Smoot '27  
 Mattie Taylor '27  
 Hattie Tramm '26  
 Jonathan Tripode '27  
 Hope Valentine '26  
 Jack Wallace '26  
 Grant Wherley '27  
 Luke Widener '26  
 Grace Williams '26  
 Reid Zepeda '27

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# **DIRECTORS & CHAIRS**





**CHAIR:**

Madyn Brown '25

**VICE CHAIR LOGISTICS:**

Bella Griffin '25

**VICE CHAIR RELATIONS:**

Lauren Elms '25

**DIRECTORS OF ADMINISTRATION**

Ryan Pelletier '26 & Meredith McGee '25

**DIRECTORS OF DELEGATES:**

Carson Seiber '26 & Harlie Bolz '25

**DIRECTORS OF DEVELOPMENT:**

Foster Wylie '25 & Ford Winchester '25 & Sarah Beth Cotter '26

**DIRECTORS OF OPERATIONS:**

Evan Steelman '26 & Kylie Lamm '25 & Carson Marler '26

**DIRECTORS OF PROGRAMS:**

Tyler Chambers '26 & Thomas Carroll '26 & Erin Magers '25

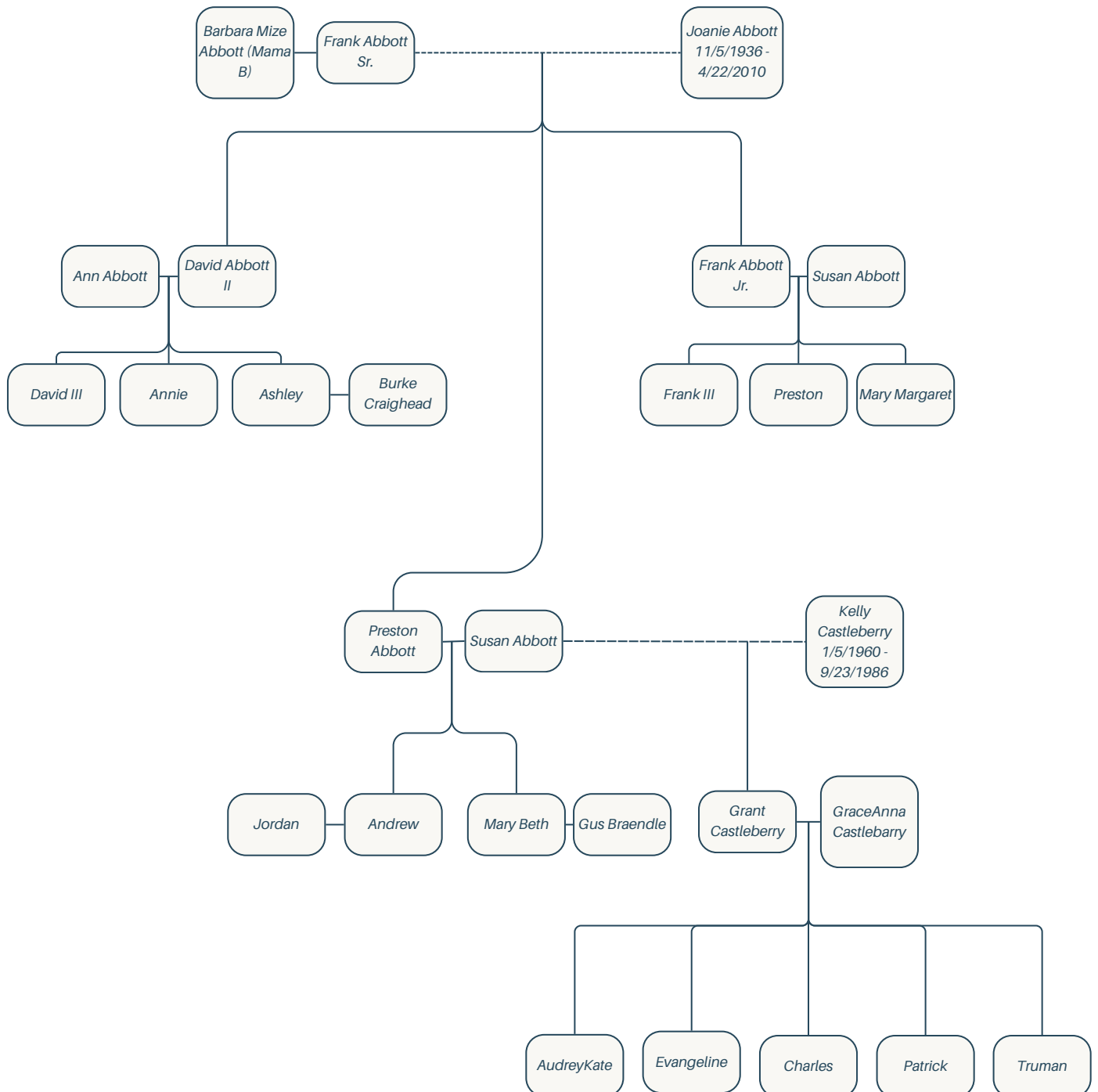
**DIRECTORS OF PROGRAMS:**

Hunter Roberts '25 & Mia Tubbs '26 & Mary Claire Simpson '26

*Pages not available in the online edition*

# **THE ABBOTT FAMILY**

# THE ABBOTT FAMILY TREE



# HONORING JOANIE ABBOTT

**November 5, 1936 - April 22, 2010**

*Just a few days before Joanie died, she wrote a not to one of her closet friends and at the end of that note she included a quote from Mother Teresa, "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 part of her family, and indeed they had. Through the MSC Abbott Family Leadership Conference, Joanie and Frank have been able to help countless students arm 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, grandchildren, and great-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 firstborn, 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 MSC 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 & 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, which made it a fairly good-sized 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 for 6 months. That was over 60 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 fourteen children including their spouses, twenty-seven grandchildren including their spouses, and eleven great-grandchildren with the promise of more on their way, you really don't want to hear it all anyway. So what is important to us? We both love God and His 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 2018 from the Longview Lawn and Garden Equipment company she and KT founded - that's where we met. Frank is also 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 the lives of our family. - Frank and Mama B

# David & 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 had been in the homebuilding business for roughly forty 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. She also is credentialed to work with developmentally disabled children and worked several years as a substitute teacher for Frisco Independent School District primarily in elementary, middle school, and special needs classes. She retired from teaching and now works with David at Grand Homes as an accounting and administrative assistant. 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 graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in Chemical Engineering, was a saxophone section leader for the Longhorn Marching Band, was the Vice President of Finance for the Alpha Tau Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi band service organization, and is a member of the Longhorn Alumni Band. He is now working for Texas Instruments in one of their Dallas fabrication plants as a semiconductor process engineer and CMP/Implant Engineering Supervisor. David is an avid sports enthusiast, and if you follow him on social media, you will find his many posts about football, basketball, and hockey. Ashley studied business, finance, and accounting at Baylor University and completed her Masters in Taxation in 2022. She met Burke Craighead at Baylor in the Spring of 2022 and they were married in the Summer of 2023. Shortly thereafter they moved to Boston where Burke is working on his degree from Harvard School of Law. Ashley is a Senior Accountant with PWC working remotely for the Dallas office. Annie graduated from Michigan State University in the School of Nursing in the Spring of 2023. She was a member of the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women, which is the same sorority Joanie joined when she was at Purdue. Upon graduation, she moved to Denver and is working as a nurse in the field of pediatric oncology and hematology. She takes full advantage of many of the outdoor Colorado activities and enjoys traveling. David and Ann continue to be actively involved with the University of Texas Longhorn Band (as does their son), Trinity University, and Colorado State University. Ann is currently a member of the CSU College of Health and Human Sciences Executive Leadership Council. In addition to supporting the MSC Abbott Family Leadership Conference, they actively support Sky Ranch.

# Preston '84 & 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 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, then back to Houston in 2010 to lead a team of subsurface engineers working special projects in all of the various North American assets. In June 2013 he took on a Production Manager role overseeing the technical staff that supports onshore US production, and in 2014 became the General Manager for BP's interest in East Texas. He retired from BP in December 2014, then worked for EP Energy as a Production Manager for seven years, and retired again in May 2022.

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 since 1990. They served as a mentor couple for a Young Married class at Houston's First Baptist Church for 14 years and continue to do so more informally at Cornerstone Bible Church. They continue to work 2-on-2 with couples who are enrolled in either church's pre-marriage counseling programs. 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 2007, he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. His tours of duty included being an Air Traffic Control Officer based in Japan and a Series Commander at Parris Island. In August 2009 Grant married the former GraceAnna Broggi of Beaufort, South Carolina. He then worked as a pastoral intern for his father-in-law in Beaufort, before enrolling in Southern Baptist Seminary to prepare for his pastoral ministry. Grant is currently serving as the Senior Pastor of Capital Community Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, and is working on a Doctorate in Theology. Grant and GraceAnna have five children, AudreyKate, Evangeline, Charles, Patrick, and Truman.



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 CEO of "BUILD" in 2013. He graduated with a degree in Petroleum Engineering and worked for EOG Resources for seven years. He is now a Managing Partner of Gaines Capital and the Lorenz Fund. He married Jordan Buckley in July of 2022. They reside in Phoenix where Jordan is a Dermatologist at MD Anderson. They both serve in various board positions and are active members of Illuminate Community Church. Prior to attending Texas A&M, Andrew 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, majored in Communication with a minor in Horticulture. She was a member of Tri Delta, a Fish Aide on Muster Committee, and a Vice-Chair for AFLC. She also worked part-time at The Association of Former Students for a year. She worked two summers with orphans in Zambia and China, then horticulture jobs with Calloway's Nursery in Frisco and USA TreeTown in Wharton the next two summers. She graduated in December 2019 and began her working career as a Human Resource Manager with HEB in San Antonio. In June 2021 she followed her passion to teach as a Fourth Grade Teacher at Great Hearts Elementary, which is a public charter classical school in San Antonio, and then taught Third Grade at Providence Christian School for two years in Dallas. In November 2024 she married Gus Braendle, Class of '21, and they live in Corpus Christi where he is a Structural Design Engineer for Kiewit Corporation and she teaches at Yorktown Christian Academy. They are active members of Yorktown Baptist Church and are avid duck hunters.





# 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 Principal for the civil engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates, Incorporated. He has worked in the land development division of their Frisco, TX operation since 1994 and does community work in the Frisco area.

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 in 1989, 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. Susan enjoys singing in the adult choir at Stonebriar Community Church and volunteering with the Children's choir at Stonebriar Community Church. She also enjoys going to Bible Study, Zumba class, and working out at the gym.

Frank and Susan have been married for 33 years and have three children: Frank Gaines '18, Preston '20, and Mary Margaret '23. Frank Gaines is the oldest child of Frank and Susan. He is 29 years old and graduated from Texas A&M in August 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design and Architectural Studies. In December 2020, Frank Gaines graduated from A&M with his Master's in Marketing from the Mays Business School. In January 2020, Frank Gaines started his own lifestyle photography business and continues to grow his freelance photography skills. He is an active member of Watermark Community Church and serves as a volunteer photography coordinator at The Porch. While at A&M, Frank Gaines was an active member of BYX Fraternity, he worked for the Association of Former Students, enjoyed going to midnight yell practices and Aggie football games, and attended Grace Southwood church on Sunday mornings. Following the family tradition, Frank Gaines is a fourth-generation Eagle Scout.

Preston is 26 years old and in August 2020 he graduated from A&M with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management. Preston is currently working for FC Dallas Soccer Team in their sales department as a member services rep. While at A&M, Preston was an active member of BYX Fraternity, volunteered with the college ministry at Grace Southwood church, led a Bible Study with friends on Wednesday nights, volunteered as an IMPACT counselor, and worked for the 12th Man Foundation. Like his brother, Preston is also a fourth-generation Eagle Scout. He is currently an active member of Onward Bible Church and serves on the young adult leadership team for The Table. In his spare time, he enjoys all things sports-related and developing his BBQ and chef skills.

Mary Margaret is Frank and Susan's youngest child. She is 23 years old and a graduate with a communications degree as part of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2023. While at A&M, Mary Margaret was an active member of Grace Southwood and helped lead a Bible Study. Her senior year she transitioned to Citizens Church. She also was a Director of Development for AFLC and Fall Leadership. She worked at the MSC SPO as well as the Texas A&M Foundation during her senior year. Mary Margaret currently lives in College Station and works as an event coordinator for Christophers. She continues to be an active member at Citizens church and enjoys running and reading in her spare time.

# VENUES

# Phillips Event Center

Phillips Event Center at Briarcrest is a historic venue in Bryan, Texas, originally established as part of the renowned Briarcrest Golf Club. Steeped in tradition, it has been a gathering place for the community, hosting countless celebrations and events that create lasting memories. With its timeless charm and deep ties to local heritage, the center continues to serve as a symbol of connection and hospitality in the Brazos Valley.

# George H. W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum

The George H.W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum stands as a testament to the life and legacy of the 41st President of the United States. This iconic venue not only houses a vast collection of historical artifacts and documents but also offers visitors an immersive experience, including a replica of the Oval Office and a touching memorial to President George H.W. Bush and his beloved wife, Barbara Bush. Set within the beautiful landscape of Texas A&M University, the library and museum provide a unique opportunity to explore the rich history and achievements of a remarkable leader in American history. We are so thankful to the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum for opening up their doors to us.

# College Station City Hall

College Station City Hall stands as a symbol of civic pride and community engagement in the heart of College Station, Texas. This modern facility reflects the city's rich history and dynamic growth, serving as a hub for public service and local governance. Designed to foster collaboration and connection, it embodies the spirit and vision of a city dedicated to its residents and their future. We are so thankful to Ross Brady '14 for making this venue a reality.

# Brazos Cotton Exchange

The Brazos Cotton Exchange is a historic landmark in Downtown Bryan, Texas, celebrating the region's rich agricultural heritage and its role in the cotton industry. Once a bustling center of commerce, the beautifully restored building now serves as a versatile venue, blending timeless charm with modern amenities. As a testament to the area's history and resilience, it provides a unique setting for community gatherings, events, and celebrations.

# **Thomas G. Hildebrand DVM '56 Equine Complex**

The Thomas G. Hildebrand DVM '56 Equine Complex is a state-of-the-art facility at Texas A&M University, honoring the legacy of Dr. Hildebrand and his contributions to veterinary medicine. Rooted in tradition and excellence, it serves as a hub for equine education, research, and community events, showcasing the university's commitment to advancing the equine industry. This world-class complex reflects Texas A&M's rich history and dedication to innovation, providing a space where tradition meets progress. We are so thankful to Nathan '14 and Abby '14 Frederick for making this venue a reality.

## **THE SIMPSON FAMILY'S HOME**

The Simpson Family graciously hosts the Abbott Conference delegates, staff, and families in College Station for lunch, where they engage in deep discussions and reflections. The Simpson family embodies the core values that the Abbott Family Leadership Conference stands for, and they exemplify these values through their actions and support for our conference. We are incredibly grateful for the Simpson Family's humble contributions to the Abbott Family Leadership Conference.

## **Save Our Streets (SOS) Ministries**

Save Our Streets (SOS) Ministries is a transformative organization in Bryan, Texas, dedicated to empowering individuals and families to break cycles of poverty, addiction, and violence. Founded with a mission to restore lives and strengthen communities, SOS Ministries provides faith-based programs, mentorship, and practical resources to foster hope and lasting change. As a beacon of resilience and compassion, it reflects a commitment to healing and renewal for those in need.

## **The Bridge Ministries**

The Bridge Ministries is a faith-based organization in Bryan, Texas, devoted to addressing food insecurity and providing hope to underserved families. Founded on a mission of compassion, it operates a food pantry and offers supportive programs to meet both physical and spiritual needs. As a symbol of care and community, The Bridge Ministries reflects a commitment to bridging gaps and transforming lives.

# Central Church BCS

Central Church BCS is a vibrant faith community in College Station, Texas, featuring a welcoming campus designed to inspire worship, connection, and growth. With a spacious auditorium, modern facilities, and dedicated spaces for children's and student ministries, the church offers a dynamic environment for both spiritual development and community gatherings. Rooted in biblical teachings and a passion for outreach, Central Church serves as a cornerstone of faith, fellowship, and service in the Brazos Valley. We are so thankful to the McGinty Family for making this venue a reality.

# The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M

The Association of Former Students of Texas A&M is a historic and iconic organization on the university's campus, embodying the Aggie Spirit and fostering lifelong connections among graduates. Its expansive facility, the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center, features a striking design with event spaces, exhibits, and the Aggie Ring replica, making it a hub for Aggie traditions and celebrations. As the heart of the Aggie Network, the Association is dedicated to supporting former students, preserving Texas A&M's legacy, and strengthening ties to the university community. We are so thankful to The Association for opening up their doors to us.



# CONTRIBUTORS

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*The 2024-2025 Abbott Family Leadership Conference would not be possible without the generous and steadfast giving of so many contributors. Those who partner alongside us are impacting generations of families, friends, and leaders. We thank you for believing in the mission of the MSC Abbott Family Leadership Conference.*

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