

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

# 12 UNDER 12

*Young Alumni Spotlight*

Meet the 2020 cohort: These Aggies who graduated in the past 12 years are leading by example in business and service.

By Cait Shields '11 // Photos by Butch Ireland Photography for The Association of Former Students

## Caleb Holt '07

**CAREER:** Chairman and founder of Make Safe Tech; cofounder of Axle Box Innovations.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Works to enhance public safety and security through technology; assisted departments of Defense and Homeland Security; founded Under Fire Response Innovation Showdown at Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service.

**SERVICE:** Fundraised for Fun for All Playground through College Station Noon Lions Club, the Brazos Valley's only all-access playground; supports many local charities and nonprofits. Founded Make Safe Tech to commercialize technology for public safety.

**IMPACT:** "Caleb's exceptional professionalism, personal beliefs and ethics are very much in concert with our Aggie values as well as the American pursuit for excellence and strong competitiveness-through-service culture."

## Charlotte Sellmyer '08

**CAREER:** Senior vice president of external affairs for the National Music Publishers' Association.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Led public relations and advocacy strategy that passed the Music Modernization Act; previously communications in U.S. House, during which she helped lead congressional response to Boston Marathon bombings.

**SERVICE:** A founder and board member of NMPA S.O.N.G.S. Foundation, which raises money for aspiring songwriters.

**IMPACT:** "Charlotte has a service-minded outlook that takes seriously the imperative that songwriters will only have a future if we are successful in making sure their contributions are properly valued."

## Josh Noworatzky '07

**CAREER:** President and chief executive officer of Sprint Transport, a bulk liquid hauling company.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Led Sprint Transport to become one of the top 35 tank truck companies in the U.S. Recognized for industry excellence and company expansion, including Supplier of the Year in North America for Logistical Performance by BASF Corp.

**SERVICE:** Board member of Home Encouragement, nonprofit focusing on marriages.

**IMPACT:** "[In the wake of flooding in Houston and Baton Rouge] he immediately focused his attention and efforts on helping others by providing transportation, supplies, money and hands-on help to families in each of these communities. He spent countless hours helping to salvage, clean up and restore what other people had lost."

## Tiffany Johnson '06

**CAREER:** Assistant counsel, patents, for The Estée Lauder Companies.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Co-founded an art, design and fashion special interest group for lawyers in Dallas; active in several bar associations. Named Texas Rising Star by *Super Lawyers* magazine.

**SERVICE:** Past president of National Society of Black Engineers, Dallas Professionals Chapter, helping raise scholarships for local STEM students; offers her legal expertise pro bono to those in need; tutors at Boys & Girls Club.

**IMPACT:** "When I think of the Texas A&M core values, Tiffany is the reflection and image I see."

## NOMINATIONS FOR 2021

Nominate someone now through Feb. 28.  
Profiles for nominees and anyone interested  
can be completed March 2 to May 10.  
[tx.ag/12Under12](https://tx.ag/12Under12)



From left:  
Caleb Holt '07,  
Charlotte Sellmyer '08,  
Josh Noworatzky '07,  
Tiffany Johnson '06.



From left:  
Stephanie Almeter '08,  
Jordan Robertson '07,  
Gracie Arenas Strittmatter '04 & '08,  
Sarah Dennis '07.







## Stephanie Almeter '08

**CAREER:** Partner at McCathern Law Firm.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Youngest person made partner at McCathern; recognized for career excellence by publications and professional institutions, including *D Magazine's* Best Lawyers Under 40.

**SERVICE:** Involved with Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, helping provide legal resources to local nonprofits and projects that benefit child-related causes. Class Agent.

**IMPACT:** "Stephanie has exhibited selfless service, leadership, and the Aggie Spirit in all spheres of her personal and professional life, marking her as an outstanding representative of our university."

## Jordan Robertson '07

**CAREER:** Managing director and vice president of operations for PTI Sports & Recreation Construction; owner of PTI Sports Surfaces.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Helped lead PTI Sports when it was named among the Aggie 100; previously a force protection airman with the U.S. Air Force.

**SERVICE:** Previous board member of Childrenz Haven in Polk County; donates playground equipment and installations for rural churches and schools.

**IMPACT:** "From earning his state of Texas engineering license, to obtaining master's and doctorate level degrees, to doing his part in securing our nation's freedoms, to running a thriving business, to giving back to his beloved university, and to his personal victory over cancer, Dr. Robertson is simply a man who accomplishes whatever he sets out to do with the highest level of respectability."

## Gracie Arenas Strittmatter '04 and '08

**CAREER:** Technical art director for Anthem and deputy director of art and animation of BioWare, a division of video game company Electronic Arts.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Has credits on multiple video games including *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, *Madden NFL* and more. Honored for her dedication, teamwork, volunteerism and excellence in the industry.

**SERVICE:** Participates on industry board for Texas A&M Department of Visualization, coordinates student game development scholarships and mentors current students; advocates for involvement of Aggies, women and minorities in the gaming industry.

**IMPACT:** "In all of her activities, what I see is someone who demonstrates everything about excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service that an old Ag would salute and someone who lives these core values in a way that the Class of 2019 and beyond can admire and model."

## Sarah Dennis '07

**CAREER:** Development officer at Houston Baptist University.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Member of 2017 cohort and received certificate in nonprofit leadership through Leadership Institute for Nonprofit Executives at Rice University. Previously director of communications for Grace Presbyterian.

**SERVICE:** Extensive volunteerism with Junior League of Houston, including on board of directors, and with Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, among others. Past member of the Young Alumni Advisory Council.

**IMPACT:** "It is the heart and soul of an Aggie that extends beyond the campus to reach out into one's community. Sarah has done this in an exceptional fashion."

## Cody Kelly '10

**CAREER:** NASA Orion post-landing egress and survival subsystem manager.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Has been recognized for his work on the Advanced Next-Generation Emergency Locator beacon, which is revolutionizing search and rescue for hikers, pilots and astronauts. Led open-ocean testing of Orion capsule to support astronaut survival.

**SERVICE:** Volunteer firefighter and HAZMAT technician in League City; mentors through Texas High School Aerospace Scholars program.

**IMPACT:** "In everything he does, he shows great integrity and respect. While providing fire and rescue services is our primary focus, the greatest impact we have is being a positive force in the community, which Cody excels at. I have little doubt that he will continue to advance into the leadership of the department and is a credit to Texas A&M's core values."

## Hanna Lindskog '09

**CAREER:** Dental director of Coastal Health and Wellness, Galveston County's community health center.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Recognized for excellence in dentistry by several professional organizations, including being named Texas Academy of General Dentistry's New Dentist of the Year and receiving a fellowship in the American College of Dentists, Academy of General Dentistry and International College of Dentists. National Collegiate Equestrian Association Distinguished Alumni.

**SERVICE:** Served on multiple professional dentistry boards and committees; active with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

**IMPACT:** "Dr. Lindskog is a true champion and advocate for her community and truly exhibits, on a daily basis, the core values of Texas A&M."

## Jess Terrell '10

**CAREER:** Founder and president of Terrell General Contractors.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Led TGC to complete the design-build of new Dallas Mavericks corporate office building. TGC has completed 34 commercial construction projects in its three years of existence. Previously worked for Bechtel in Angola and Australia building liquid natural gas export terminals.

**SERVICE:** Founder and past president of Ibex Club, a non-industry specific young men's business and leadership organization.

**IMPACT:** "Through my time with Jess, I have come to understand that Aggies have a different way of living out their lives. The Aggie culture and core values instilled in Jess and other Aggies I have met through him has given me a very high level of respect for A&M."

## Elise Graham Kennedy '11

**CAREER:** Managing partner of Steadfast Media; founder of Honey & Vinegar.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Helped launch Olivia AI, a financial assistant app powered by artificial intelligence, which was featured by an Apple TV show, *Planet of the Apps*, during which she was mentored by Gwyneth Paltrow. Recognized for excellence in tech contributions.

**SERVICE:** Founding board member of Global Lyme Alliance Young Leaders board; after being diagnosed, advocates for Lyme disease research. Mentors other female founders. Organized creation of rescue app in wake of Hurricane Harvey.

**IMPACT:** "Not only is Elise extremely accomplished in the tech industry, but she has overcome adversity, finding her passion and purpose while fighting a draining battle with Lyme disease."





From left:  
Cody Kelly '10,  
Hanna Lindskog '09,  
Jess Terrell '10,  
Elise Graham Kennedy '11.



### More up-and-coming Aggies

The 12 Under 12 Young Alumni Spotlight honors only a dozen former students, but many more young Aggies are making their marks. From the 2020 profiles, here are six more impressive young Aggies who ranked just outside the top 12: Sean Murphy '08 • Christopher Beavers '10 • Drew Carden '10 • Travis Penfield '11 • Drew Dudley '13 • Stephen O'Shea '13