

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
12 UNDER 12
Young Alumni Spotlight

IMPACTFUL AGGIES

MEET 12 YOUNG ALUMNI WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Each year, **The Association of Former Students' 12 Under 12 Young Alumni Spotlight** recognizes a dozen Aggies who have graduated within the past 12 years for their business accomplishments, civic or military service, philanthropic efforts and outstanding representation of Texas A&M University's core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service.

The 12 Under 12 Young Alumni Spotlight was conceived by the Young Alumni Advisory Council, a selected body of younger former students who advise The Association's staff on ways to better connect with the hundreds of thousands of recent graduates of A&M.

Among the 2019 honorees are leaders in business, health care, the military, the media and in finance. But all 12 of them are more than their career achievements, their advanced degrees and their awards. They are also mentors, volunteers and selfless servants, dedicated to the betterment of Texas A&M, their communities and the world.

We congratulate these fine young Aggies on their accomplishments, and we thank them for their service and for their outstanding representation of Texas A&M and the Aggie Spirit.

To read about previous years' 12 Under 12 Young Alumni Spotlight honorees, visit tx.ag/12u12.

MORE UP-AND-COMING AGGIES

The 12 Under 12 Spotlight honors only a dozen former students, but many more young Aggies are making their marks. From the 2018 nominations, here are six more impressive young Aggies who ranked just outside the top 12: **Tiffany Johnson '06 • Mark Manglicmot '06**
Crystal Stapley '06 • Charlotte Sellmyer '08
Samantha Chiu '09 • Husam Madani '10

NOMINATIONS FOR 2020

Know someone deserving of this recognition? Nominations are open now through Feb. 28. Any young alumnus can complete their profile March 1 through May 5 at tx.ag/12u12.



JORDAN STAPLEY '05

Now a major in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, Stapley has worked as a prosecutor, a criminal defense attorney, a deployed operational law attorney, a defense counsel, an expert criminal litigator and training officer, and as a brigade judge advocate. He has

prosecuted and defended cases from suspected espionage to high-profile defendants and homicides. He has taught hundreds of new prosecutors the basics of courtroom litigation, has provided legal guidance to commanders in the fight against ISIS, and helped develop new procedures for investigating and addressing allegations of civilian casualties. He is pursuing a Master of Laws degree from The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. Before attending South Texas College of Law, Stapley earned his BBA in finance from A&M. While a student, he was in Men of Aggeland and on Aggie Muster Committee, a service he continued on the National Capital Texas A&M Club's Aggie Muster committee. He was also a member of Corps of Cadets Company E-2, the Fish Drill Team and the Ross Volunteer Company. He is a 12-year Century Club member and bronze-level donor.



RACHEL GLEISCHMAN '06

As a White House Fellow working at the Department of Defense, Gleischman serves as acting chief of staff to the undersecretary for personnel and readiness. Previously, she worked as a special assistant to the deputy secretary of defense, supporting reform initiatives impacting

personnel and readiness. She was a partner responsible for strategic growth at TNTP (formerly The New Teacher Project), a nonprofit consulting firm. As part of her priority to serve, she is on the board of the Capital Pride Alliance in Washington, D.C., and previously was the founding chair of the board of directors for CASA Academy, a charter school in Phoenix. She also co-founded and co-led a Girl Scout troop in her neighborhood. She taught English through Teach For America while earning her M.A. in teaching from Johns Hopkins University. While at A&M, the English major was involved in multiple activities, including Kappa Alpha Theta and several faith-based organizations. She is a five-year Century Club member, most recently at the gold level.



NATALIE GOODMAN '06

Goodman is the founder of IncentiFind, a national database of green incentives for residential and commercial real estate, the first such comprehensive database. She was named to the prestigious Vanguard Fellows, which include the top 40 urban innovators under

40 years old who are working to make change in cities. She was also named among Women to Watch 2017 by *Houston Business Journal*. Her startup was featured in *Texas Architect Magazine* for promoting incentives that demonstrate the business case for building sustainably. This was in response to rebuild efforts one year after Hurricane Harvey. IncentiFind has been a finalist in several competitions across the U.S. Among the ways Goodman gives back are her advocacy efforts for the U.S. Green Building Council in the Gulf Coast region. The environmental design major also works with Mays Business School to provide internships for Aggies to gain experience with a startup. She is a six-year member of the Century Club at the bronze level.



JORGE LEAL '06

As the chief operating officer at Laredo Medical Center, Leal is responsible for overall operations of the facility, including its 326-bed Lead Level III Trauma Center. Under his leadership, his team established a cancer infusion center and employed a physician cancer team to

enhance local access to cancer care. Leal has given back by serving on boards and in various capacities for the Texas Hospital Association Leadership Development Council and Leadership Fellows Program, American College of Healthcare Executives, Texas A&M Health Science Center Master in Health Administration Alumni Board, as a state delegate for Texas at the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board, the United Way of Laredo and the Rotary Club of Laredo Daybreak. He earned both a bachelor's in biomedical science and a master's in health care administration from A&M and served in the inaugural class of the Young Alumni Advisory Council. Leal is a 13-year member of the Century Club, currently at the silver level.



CHRIS PSENCIK '06

As vice president of McFarlin Stanford, a landscape consulting firm, Psencik works to help businesses grow in the green industry while developing company culture. While director of development operations at Southern Botanical Inc., he led the team that generated the highest

revenue and profit in the company's 20-year history, which was recognized among SMU Top 100 Fastest Growing Companies for three consecutive years. His numerous landscaping awards include honoring his work on the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Center, which received the highest achievement designated by the U.S. Green Building Council. His community service includes serving on the board at Texas Discovery Gardens, at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and the National Association of Landscape Professionals. While a student studying horticulture, Psencik was involved in the A&M chapter of Phi Alpha Xi National Honor Society for Horticulture, was a distinguished student for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and was a leader in the Horticulture Club. He is a 13-year member of the Century Club at the bronze level.



MELISSA ABEL '07

Abel has worked in finance at Chevron since graduating from A&M, most recently as a financial forecast and reporting analyst. She leads one of Chevron Houston's largest employee networks, with more than 3,200 members, and recruits students from A&M for

the company. She lives out the Aggie core values by spending much of her time on philanthropic work, including serving as a court-appointed child advocate and volunteering at SEARCH Homeless Services, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and Family Legacy, which serves orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia. She is a member of the Junior League of Houston and serves at the Houston Food Bank as the JLH chair. She has been recognized several times by Chevron for her outstanding volunteer and community engagement efforts. While at A&M, she earned a bachelor's in accounting and a master's in marketing.



CHRIS BUCKNER '07

Buckner is the co-founder and CEO of FanReact and Mainline.GG, two Houston-based startups that have created social content management systems for affinity groups in traditional sports, e-sports and the small/medium business markets, including the

website TheOther98.com. He also co-founded Cannon Ventures, an angel investor network in Houston that raises funding for startups; and Come & Take It Apparel, a collegiate branded sock company; and he cohosts *The FanReact Hour*, a nationally syndicated radio show on SB Nation Radio. He has served as a coach and commissioner for Memorial 7, a nonprofit youth football league in the Houston area. While at A&M for his bachelor's in marketing, Buckner was an Aggie yell leader and in the Old Army Gentlemen's Society, and he remains a Class Agent. He served in the inaugural cohort of the Young Alumni Advisory Council. He is a 12-year member of the Century Club, currently at the silver level.



SONIA MOGHE '07

As a reporter and breaking news producer at CNN's New York bureau, Moghe breaks news and covers stories from the trial of the Boston Marathon bomber to Hurricane Harvey. Having worked in TV journalism since she earned her journalism degree from Texas

A&M, including as a freelance producer for Associated Press TV, she has contributed to the coverage of national and international stories and has covered The Pulse nightclub shooting and the opioid crisis. While at CNN, she covered the selection of the Corps of Cadets' first female commander as part of a series on women breaking barriers. Having been editor-in-chief of *The Battalion* while a student, Moghe gives back to her alma mater by mentoring current Aggie students who are pursuing a career in journalism. She has volunteered as a guest lecturer at Hunter College and The Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, where she earned her master's. She has participated in fundraisers for Raksha and S.L.E. Lupus Foundation.



CONNER PROCHASKA '07

Prochaska is the chief commercialization officer of the U.S. Department of Energy, where he is director of the Office of Technology Transitions and responsible for the coordination of technology transfer activities and best practices across the DOE complex. Previous

to this role, he served as chief of staff of the DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency. Prior to joining ARPA-E, Prochaska was senior vice president and associate general counsel at a public investment fund where he led fund operations and coordinated legal, compliance and regulatory matters. He also served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy, attaining the rank of lieutenant, during which he focused on anti-submarine warfare and counter-weapons of mass destruction intelligence. Prochaska earned his juris doctorate at The George Washington University School of Law. While at Texas A&M studying political science, he was in Corps of Cadets Company E-2, Parsons Mounted Cavalry and the Ross Volunteer Company. He also served as student body president and currently serves as a Class Agent. He is an 11-year donor to the Century Club, most recently at the silver level.



MASROOR FATANY '08

Fatany is the CEO of AYG Food Services, which facilitates The Halal Guys franchise in Houston. He was previously the CEO of Sears Garage Solutions in the greater Houston area. He launched both as well, leading the Sears franchise to be the third largest and his

Halal Guys franchise to be the second highest grossing in the U.S. Previously he was the managing director of Unlimited Calling, where he focused on increasing market share through guerrilla marketing, and an associate and auditor at Ernst & Young. He gives back by providing meals to those in need via Second Servings and works to provide employment opportunities in his community. While at Texas A&M earning his bachelor's in accounting and master's in finance, he was involved with student government as a judicial court justice and student body senator. Fatany is a six-year member of the Century Club at the bronze level.



SALLY KOLENDA '08

As director of external affairs for BP, Kolenda leads the energy company's engagement with key stakeholders across the U.S. She is a member of BP's core team chairing the National Petroleum Council's study on carbon capture, use and storage. She was recognized as a Young Hispanic Corporate

Achiever by the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility. She has been selected to elite leadership programs with the Atlantic Council, Aspen Institute, Council on Foreign Relations, Fundación Carolina and others. She is a Junior League member and sits on advisory boards for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and The Rise School of Houston. For over a decade, she has served alongside her family on medical mission trips to Guatemala. Kolenda flew to Houston to work the front lines after Hurricane Harvey. She sings gospel music with Composition of Praise, and, in October, she planted a church just blocks from the White House with Kingdom Life Ministries, D.C. She earned bachelor's degrees in industrial distribution and in Spanish from Texas A&M, where she was a member of the Professional Association for Industrial Distribution. Kolenda is a diamond-level member of the Century Club.



SAM YINGLIN XU '11

Xu is the head of oil and gas investment banking at CohnReznick Capital Market Securities and has worked to establish an overarching advisory strategy for the firm while executing \$2 billion in transactions, including the first cross-border energy transaction with a private

Chinese company. He worked previously as a senior associate of oil and gas investment banking at the KLR Group and as an operation engineer at BP. He has been recognized numerous times for his work, including being named "30 under 30 in Energy 2017" by *Forbes* and "30 under 40 in Energy 2016" by *Oil and Gas Investor*. He gives back by volunteering with New York WorkOUT Professionals, an NGO that works to empower LGBT professionals, and supporting BRAC USA, an NGO working to alleviate poverty through job creation. Xu said he works to provide networking opportunities for and to recruit more Aggies into the intersection of engineering and finance. He earned a bachelor's in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M and is currently studying to earn his MBA from Harvard Business School.