



## "BOWLEGGED H" MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2018 • VOLUME XXVI • NO. 2 • HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™





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### SUMMER 2018

Volume XXVI • No. 2

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**EDUCATION**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**WESTERN HERITAGE**



**W**ith another successful Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in the books, I hope this letter finds each of you rested and enjoying summer activities with your family and friends.

Reflecting back on the 2018 Show, one thing comes to mind — Texans are resilient. The 2018 Show occurred on the heels of a very difficult year for Texas, and especially Houston and the surrounding areas. Our communities were shaken by Hurricane Harvey and many of us are still in the rebuilding process. Despite everything, we put on our boots and went back to work rebuilding our homes and livelihoods. Nothing makes me prouder than to know that these same individuals came out in droves to enjoy Houston's favorite tradition, and that we were able to provide a joyful experience for our guests.

In 2018, we welcomed more than 2.4 million visitors to the Show grounds for 20-plus days jam-packed with agricultural and educational experiences and entertainment for the entire family. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for your dedicated service to the organization. We would not be able to run the Show without your support, and I am proud of each of you for coming out this year and bringing your

positive energy.

Your efforts have helped us with our commitment of more than \$26 million for Texas youth, and in the coming months, we will begin to award these funds to hundreds of deserving students and exhibitors across the state. By the end of the summer, more than 750 students will receive a scholarship from the Show, due largely to your volunteer commitment and service.

In this issue, you will read about six outgoing vice presidents and 32 outgoing committee chairs who have dedicated the last three years to leading different volunteer groups. If you see any of these men and women around this summer, please be sure to tell them thank you for their contributions to the Show.

Now, let's enjoy the warmer weather and take advantage of the extra hour of sunlight, spending time with those closest to us. I thank each of you for another great Show, and I look forward to working with you these next few months as we begin to plan for 2019. 🤠

All my best,

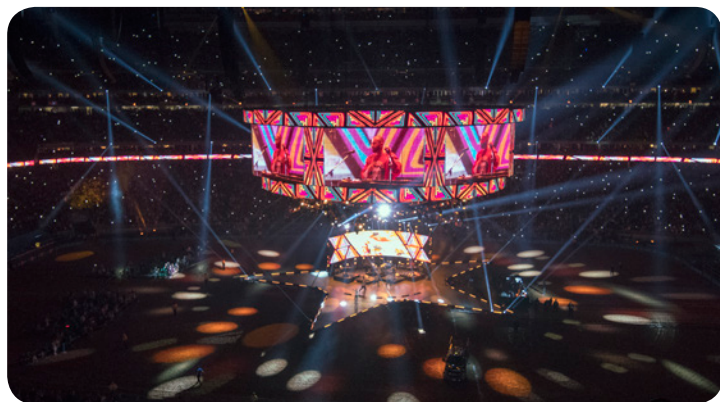
Jim Winne

# FROM THE **CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**



# 2018 SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

**T**he 2018 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ presented a new, state-of-the-art, star-shaped concert stage, and opened and closed with dynamic performances by Garth Brooks, 25 years after his last RODEOHOUSTON® performance. Brooks entertained more than 150,000 RODEOHOUSTON fans during his two performances, and landed in the No. 1 spot on the paid rodeo/concert attendance records.



"There was something fun for everyone at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo," said Joel Cowley, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo president and CEO. "Along with our many offerings, we were excited to bring back Garth Brooks for our fans. With the help of more than 33,000 dedicated volunteers, fans were greeted with a celebration of agriculture, entertainment and Western heritage, all while supporting the youth of Texas."



## AT THE CARNIVAL:

**A RECORD 2.7 MILLION RIDERS**

**350 TRUCKLOADS OF EQUIPMENT**

**5 MOST POPULAR RIDES:**  
LA GRANDE WHEEL, SKYRIDE,  
WINDSTORM, RAVEWAVE AND  
CRAZY COASTER.



**62,000 SUNFLOWER SEEDS**  
PLANTED IN THE SOIL EXHIBIT

**61,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN A**  
SCHEDULED SCHOOL TOUR OR  
FIELD TRIP



**19,000 LITTLE COWBOYS AND**  
COWGIRLS RODE THE PONY RIDES

**625 EGGS HATCHED IN THE**  
POULTRY EXHIBIT, **61 PIGLETS**  
**14 CALVES 13 LAMBS WERE BORN**  
AT THE BIRTHING CENTER



**114,000 LITTLE FARMERS VISITED**  
FUN ON THE FARM, PRESENTED  
BY TDECU

**14,000 PEOPLE RODE CAMELS**

**3,600 KIDS PARTICIPATED**  
IN MUTTON BUSTIN' IN THE  
JUNCTION

## PEOPLE ATE:

**365,000 OREOS**

**125,000 TURKEY LEGS**

**80,000 FUNNEL CAKES**

**45,000 TAMALES**

**30,000 BARBECUE SANDWICHES**





# THE HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™ ENTERTAINED GUESTS FOR 20 DAYS, FEB. 27 – MARCH 18, 2018.

## TOP 20 PAID RODEO/CONCERT ATTENDANCE RECORDS

TOTAL  
ATTENDANCE

2,408,550

WORLD'S  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
BAR-B-QUE  
CONTEST ATTENDANCE

215,476

PAID  
RODEO/CONCERT  
ATTENDANCE

1,346,388

FIRST:  
GARTH BROOKS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 18

75,577

SECOND:  
CALIBRE 50  
GO TEJANO DAY  
SUNDAY, MARCH 11

75,565

33,949

LIVESTOCK & HORSE SHOW ENTRIES

\$644,106

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL STEER AUCTION

\$2,431,041

CHAMPION WINE AUCTION

\$519,920

RANCHING & WILDLIFE AUCTION

\$821,250

CALF SCRAMBLE CERTIFICATE  
PREMIUMS 365 CERTIFICATES, \$2,250 EACH

\$100,000

CALF SCRAMBLE EXHIBITOR  
PREMIUMS/AWARDS

JUNIOR AUCTIONS: \$15,141,680



BARROW  
\$3,002,251



LAMB & GOAT  
\$2,912,540



POULTRY  
\$1,745,870



SCHOOL ART  
\$2,048,745



STEER  
\$5,432,274



# 2018 SUPER SERIES

## TIE-DOWN ROPING

**TYLER MILLIGAN**

PAWHUSKA, OKLAHOMA

\$56,000



## BAREBACK RIDING

**CLINT LAYE**

POCATELLO, IDAHO

\$57,250



## TEAM ROPING

**MATT SHERWOOD**

PIMA, ARIZONA

\$56,000



**WALT WOODARD**

STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS

\$56,000



**RODEOHOUSTON Super Shootout®: North America's Champions**

presented by Crown Royal

*Each event champion walked away with \$25,000.*



# CHAMPIONS

RODEOHOUSTON® committed \$2.17 million to its contestants in 2018.

## SADDLE BRONC RIDING

**CODY DEMOSS**

HEFLIN, LOUISIANA

\$56,250



Three-time RODEOHOUSTON champion (2003, '17, '18)

## STEER WRESTLING

**TIMMY SPARING**

HELENA, MONTANA

\$53,500



## BARREL RACING

**NELLIE WILLIAMS-MILLER**

COTTONWOOD, CALIFORNIA

\$58,750



## BULL RIDING

**PARKER BREIDING**

EDGAR, MONTANA

\$57,500



**BAREBACK RIDING** • JR Vezain • RODEOHOUSTON  
**BARREL RACING** • Nellie Williams-Miller • Reno Rodeo  
**BULL RIDING** • Sage Steele Kimzey • Calgary Stampede

**SADDLE BRONC RIDING** • Heith Demoss • Reno Rodeo  
**STEER WRESTLING** • Tyler Waguespack • RODEOHOUSTON  
**SUPER SHOOTOUT TEAM AWARD** • Reno Rodeo

# 2018 CHAMPION AUCTION BUYERS

## JUNIOR MARKET BARROWS



### GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Hannah Simpson, 14

**Hometown:** Dimmitt, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Dimmitt FFA

**Price:** \$214,000 (world record)

**Buyers:** Jackie and Jon Hodges, McCarthy Building Companies, Stronghold Limited, and Debby and Jeff Young



### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Katelyn Cozart, 17

**Hometown:** Early, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Early FFA

**Price:** \$134,000 (world record)

**Buyers:** Mickie and Jim Clark, Tori and Ed DeCora, Tracey and Jim O'Neil, and Bobby and Robert Shockley

## JUNIOR MARKET BROILERS



### GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Payton Labay, 15

**Hometown:** Needville, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Needville FFA

**Price:** \$150,000

**Buyers:** Jeff Aronoff, Robin Young-Ellis and Joe Ellis, Mach Industrial Group, and Gregory Miller



### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Trung Luong, 18

**Hometown:** Rosenberg, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** George Ranch FFA

**Price:** \$118,000

**Buyers:** Billy Parker, Anne and Chris Richardson, Kristina and Paul Somerville, and Jennifer and Joe Van Matre



## JUNIOR MARKET GOATS



### GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Dakota Martin, 12

**Hometown:** Mason, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Mason County 4-H

**Price:** \$182,000 (world record)

**Buyers:** Mary and Ken Hucherson, Melton Electric, Stewart Morris Sr., and Pam and Archie Thompson



### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Cydnee Hanslik, 10

**Hometown:** Ovalo, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Jim Ned FFA

**Price:** \$100,000

**Buyers:** Lauren and Chris Lewis, Anne and Chris Richardson, April and Scott Townsend, and Wesley Ward and Reagan Foundation

## JUNIOR MARKET LAMBS



### GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Hayden Come, 16

**Hometown:** Cleburne, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Grandview FFA

**Price:** \$300,000 (world record)

**Buyers:** Mindy and Jeff Hildebrand, in honor of Ruth and Tommy Hildebrand



### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Trey Bates, 17

**Hometown:** Leahey, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Real County 4-H

**Price:** \$120,000

**Buyers:** Tammy, Peyton and Mitchell Barrier; Michelle Iversen Jeffery; KCEF Foundation; and Pamela M. Logsdon CPA



# 2018 CHAMPION AUCTION BUYERS

## SCHOOL ART



### GRAND CHAMPION

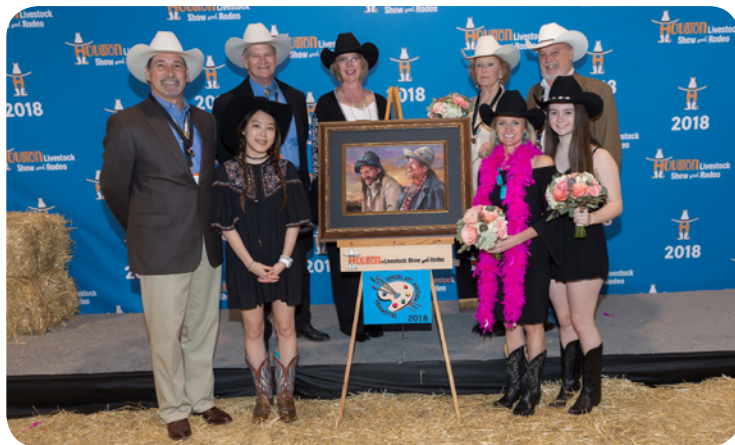
**Painting:** By Dawn's Early Light

**Artist:** Emilio Recio, 18

**School District:** Pasadena ISD

**Price:** \$225,000

**Buyers:** Mary and Ken Hucherson, Kristina and Paul Somerville, Jennifer and Joe Van Matre, and Lynda and Jim Winne - in honor of Mimi and Tom Dompier



### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

**Painting:** Horsing Around

**Artist:** Janice Khang, 18

**School District:** Katy ISD

**Price:** \$150,000

**Buyers:** Sharon and George Buschardt, Cheryl and Gary Deitcher, The Inn at Dos Brisas, and Dr. Kelly Larkin and Fernando Para

## JUNIOR MARKET STEERS



### GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Cameron Conkle, 17

**Hometown:** Allen, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Allen FFA

**Price:** \$410,000

**Buyers:** Emily and Robert Clay, Becky and Kelly Joy, Julie and Alan Kent, and Debby and Jeff Young



### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Jett Hale, 10

**Hometown:** Miami, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Roberts County 4-H

**Price:** \$366,000 (world record)

**Buyers:** Champagne Cowgirls



# JUNIOR MARKET TURKEYS



## GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Cade Burkholder, 16

**Hometown:** Boerne, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Sandra Day O'Connor FFA

**Price:** \$110,000

**Buyers:** Kathleen and Tom Mach, Shirley and Randy Meyer, Wesley Ward and Reagan Foundation, and Misty and Tyson Weihs



## RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

**Exhibitor:** Hailey Cowey, 16

**Hometown:** Pleasanton, Texas

**Club/Chapter:** Pleasanton FFA

**Price:** \$95,000

**Buyers:** Debbie Adams and Ron Logan, Roger Camp, Charlene Thompson Foundation, and Texas Renaissance Festival

# RODEO UNCORKED!®



## GRAND CHAMPION

**Wine:** J. Lohr Vineyards Signature Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles, 2014

**Price:** \$145,000

**Buyers:** Kristina and Paul Somerville, Jennifer and Joe Van Matre, and Sheridan and John Eddie Williams



## RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

**Wine:** Ram's Gate Chardonnay, Hyde Vineyard, Carneros, 2013

**Price:** \$130,000

**Buyers:** Lisa Blackwood and David Schmidt, Becky and Kelly Joy, Liz and Bill Murski, and Debbie and Jeff Young

## SPIRIT OF



BY SUSAN EMFINGER SCOTT

PHOTOS BY LINDA EVANS

**T**he Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ would not be the success that it is today without the vision, dedication, leadership and hard work of more than 34,000 volunteers. In 2018, Show officials launched the “Spirit of the Volunteer” campaign to celebrate the Show’s volunteer workforce.

During the 86th annual Show, many of these volunteers were featured in the RODEOHOUSTON® Grand Entry, interviewed on the NRG Stadium floor during the rodeo, and recognized throughout signage on the grounds. Since the campaign launch, the stories of our volunteers were collected on [volunteers.rodeohouston.com](http://volunteers.rodeohouston.com) and shared on the RODEOHOUSTON social media channels via the Spirit of the Volunteer video series.

We went out and interviewed a few working committee volunteers during the Show to find out, “Why do you volunteer for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo?”

**Darlene Watson-Calvert****Volunteer since 2005****Committee: Corral Club – The Hideout**

“It’s all about the educational scholarships and the opportunities that the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo gives to young adults,” Watson-Calvert said. “I believe it helps promote ethics and builds family.”

**Doug Watson****Volunteer since 2015****Committee: Mutton Bustin’**

“I enjoy giving back to an organization that works so hard to support Texas youth and the community,” Watson said.

34,000 STRONG

TELL US YOUR VOLUNTEER STORY AT [VOLUNTEERS.RODEOHOUSTON.COM](http://VOLUNTEERS.RODEOHOUSTON.COM)



# F THE VOLUNTEER

**John Clark**

**Volunteer since 2005**  
**Committee: Horspitality**

"I volunteer because I enjoy my time out here — being around the kids and the cattle and meeting and greeting so many people from so many places."



**Ken Langley**

**Volunteer since 1999**  
**Committee: Agricultural Mechanics**

"My kids were scholarship recipients, so I wanted to give back to the organization that had given to them," Langley said. "I started volunteering, and now my kids are involved too."



**Debi Gan**

**Volunteer since 1992**  
**Committees: International, Jr. Rodeo, and Trailblazers**

"I learned from my parents that it's better to give than to receive," Gan said. "By volunteering and supporting the Show, young adults will have more opportunities for their futures."



**Francis Patton**

**Volunteer since 2018**  
**Committee: Ticket Services**

"I love being involved because it supports students' desire for a higher education," Patton said. "My favorite memory is the opportunity to have met and served with so many wonderful people. Honestly, I think it's more fun than work. We are like one big family, and I couldn't be happier to be a part of it!"



## 2018 DOWNTOWN RODEO PARADE

# GRAND MARSHAL

AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVE WARD

BY NAN MCCREARY

**D**ave Ward, legendary Houston media icon and longtime news anchor for ABC Channel 13 News, helped kick off the 86th annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ as grand marshal for the Downtown Rodeo Parade. For 49 years, Ward covered the Parade from the broadcasting booth, and this year, Show officials presented him with a front-row seat. The honor was fitting for this longtime Show supporter, who is known to many as “the voice of Houston,” and certainly the voice of the parade.



### **When did you first become involved in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo?**

I had worked for KNUZ radio for four years before joining ABC Channel 13. When the Show would come to town, we'd get press passes and I used to love to go over there [Sam Houston Coliseum] and watch the bull riders, bareback riders and saddle bronc riders compete. I loved the action, and with the press pass I was right close to the chutes. I know we attended the Show when I was a child: I remember seeing Roy Rogers and Dale Evans perform. I've always loved the Show, especially for what they do with their scholarship program and for the youngsters in the Calf Scramble and other events. It's a great institution, really.



PHOTO BY LISA NORWOOD

### **You've watched and/or reported on 50 Downtown Rodeo Parades. What kind of changes have you experienced over the years?**

In the beginning, before microwave and satellite transmission, we had to do everything over telephone lines. We'd lease overhead lines from the telephone company from downtown back out to the station to air the parade. Now we have cameramen in the

streets, on podiums, on the sides of the streets and in cherry pickers and helicopters. The parade's a lot bigger, too. Ed Brandon, our former weather guy, would say, "There are more horses in Harris County than in any other county in the state of Texas." So I would use that line during the parade and say, "There are more horses here today in downtown Houston than there are in any other major city in the world."

### **Tell us about your experience serving as grand marshal this year.**

It was an unbelievable honor to be asked to participate in the Parade. The Show officials said, "You reported on this for so many years, and now it's time for you to be in one." When they first called me, I asked if I would be on a horse. They said I could if I wanted to, but I said, "No, I'd better ride in a carriage." I wasn't sure that I could get up on a horse, and even if I did get up, I'm not sure I could stay there. During the Parade, my wife, Laura, and I were in a carriage right behind the University of Houston Cougar Marching Band. We waved so much that our arms got tired, but I was really amazed by the crowds. I figured people would forget about me after I'd retired, but they yelled "Hey, Dave Ward," "We miss you," and "Hey, you should be back on TV!" and so on. It was a very humbling experience.

### **How did being grand marshal compare to covering the Parade as a broadcaster?**

Just sitting in a carriage and waving and not having to worry about the next unit or the next line to say or the next commercial is really easy. Being grand marshal is a piece of cake compared to being on the sidelines and having to report on everything that's going on. It was especially nice because before the Parade, the Sheriff's Department picked us up at home and drove us to the breakfast at the Hobby Center. That was the icing on the cake. After the Parade, the same deputies from the Sheriff's Department delivered us back to our front door. I thought I was in pretty high cotton. 🍷





# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SERIES:

BY ANGELA SHAH

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CENTER  
FOR HEARING AND SPEECH

## CENTER FOR HEARING AND SPEECH

**D**iagnosed with profound hearing loss at birth, Amelia was withdrawn and unable to communicate with her family. Today, the bubbly 4-year-old easily flashes a broad grin, while laughing, playing and, most importantly, communicating with her classmates.

What changed? At the age of two, Amelia's family enrolled her in The Melinda Webb School at the Center for Hearing and Speech in Houston. Originally from Puerto Rico, Amelia's mother and grandmother moved to Houston two years ago specifically to seek out the Center's services.

"She's a sassy girl now — full of personality," said marketing manager Ariel Jones in reference to Amelia's progress since she arrived at the Center.



For most of us, hearing and speech or action in response comes naturally. But, children born with hearing impairments need special instruction and devices like hearing aids and cochlear implants, said Mari Bosker, the Center's director of development. The Center is equipped to accommodate these children who have speech and hearing impairments ranging from trouble pronouncing certain sounds to severe hearing loss. "Every child [receiving treatment at the Center] is on their own journey depending on their 'sound age,'" Bosker said.

According to Bosker, the goal of hearing aids and cochlear implants is to help rewire how the ear processes sounds and transmits them to the brain. Infants as young as two weeks old can be fitted with implants at the Center. "Early intervention is key, otherwise the brain will repurpose that area if it hasn't been stimulated with sound and hearing within three years," she said.

The Melinda Webb School is one of three primary resources provided by the Center to children in the Houston area with hearing and speech needs. The School, which provides early Oral Deaf Education for children between the ages of 18 months and six years, assisted 63 students in 2017. Children enrolled in the School also have access to the Center's Audiology Clinic and Speech-Language Pathology Clinic, which both provide specialized instruction to individual students. During the last decade, the School's enrollment has risen by 85 percent.

The Center for Hearing and Speech Melinda Webb School is one of the 70 Houston-area organizations that received grant funding from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in 2018. This year marks the sixth anniversary of the community partnership between the Show and the Center.

"We both have a passion for helping children reach

their full potential," Bosker said. In particular, the grant funds received from the Show help support the Center's program of charging tuition on a sliding scale in order to make its services accessible for every family, no matter their financial situation. Founded in 1947, the Center provides the only full-service resource in southeast Texas to teach deaf children, ranging in age from infancy to 18 years old, to listen and speak without the use of sign language. According to data provided by the Center, approximately 1,100 children were born with permanent hearing loss in Texas last year, with approximately 230 of those in the Greater Houston area.

Since its inception, the Center has provided services to 10,285 children from more than 259 ZIP Codes and 31 counties. What sets the Center apart from other resources in the community is the overall goal to prepare their students for enrollment in their respective neighborhood schools no later than first grade, said Katelyn Scates, the Show's educational programs grants manager.

"They [The Center for Hearing and Speech] celebrate their students integrating into a mainstream classroom," Scates said. "The idea is to prepare them to participate at the same pace as other students in their neighborhood schools."

The need for hearing and speech services in the Houston area is so great that the Center is currently working on plans to expand beyond its current 47-year-old facility to a new and larger location in the Texas Medical Center. The expansion would allow for more children to receive the proper treatment needed to improve speech and hearing capabilities for a higher quality of life. 🧑🏻‍🦼





# MY #RHSCSCHOLAR STORY:

## BIG DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

BY ABIMBOLA FARINDE

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAKOTA MEDLEY

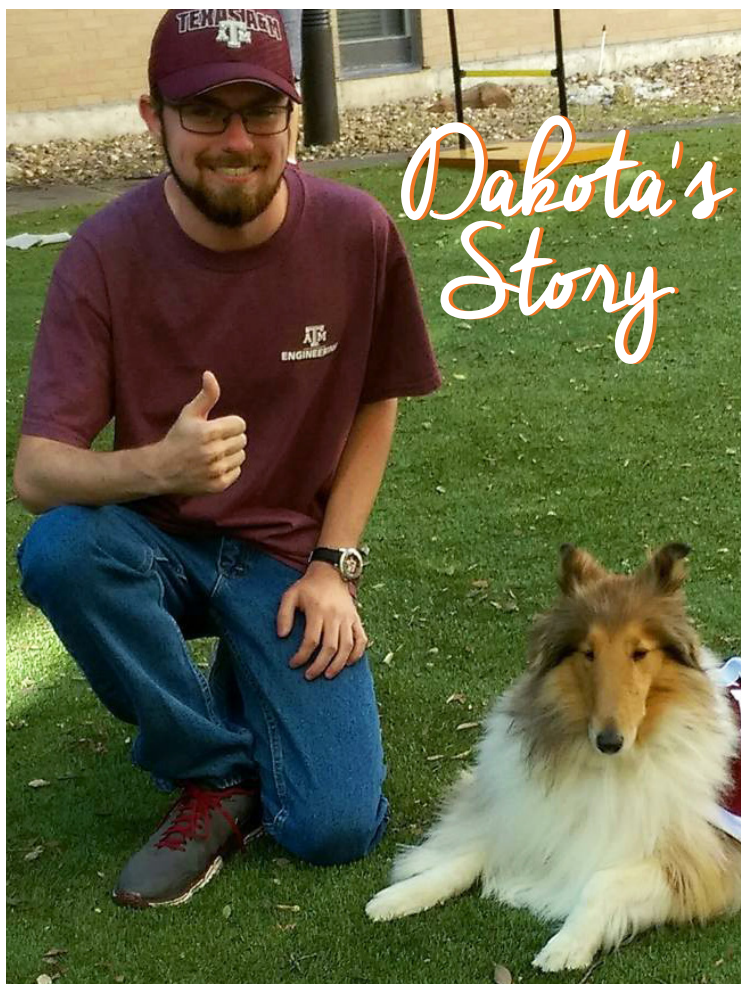
**F**or many students who have received a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ scholarship, it is a moment they will not soon forget because it is often a transformative and even life-altering experience. The scholarship has the potential to not only help shape their current lives, but also provide the basis for a solid future beyond the classroom.

This is the case for Dakota Medley, a junior at Texas A&M University, who was able to set his sights on both his academic and professional pursuits as a result of receiving a Show scholarship in 2015. Dakota's goal of studying Aerospace Engineering at Texas A&M, which will ultimately prepare him for his desired career, was made possible by the scholarship he received from the Show, he said.

"Being a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo [scholarship] recipient gives me the drive to do the absolute best I can with my academics and extracurricular activities, as well as to make the committee proud," Dakota said. "Without access to this funding opportunity, I would not have been able to attend the university of my choice."

READ MORE RODEO  
SCHOLAR STORIES AT  
[MYSTORY.RODEOHOUSTON.COM](http://MYSTORY.RODEOHOUSTON.COM)

# #RHSCSCHOLAR



"I am a junior at Texas A&M University, studying Aerospace Engineering. When I was seven, I was diagnosed with leukemia. It was a tough battle, but with the help of the folks at Texas Children's Hospital and the support of my family, the battle was won, and I am perfectly healthy now. My college fund, however, was depleted to pay for medical expenses. I have big dreams and plans for the future, but I never would have been able to attend college, and strive toward my dreams, without the help of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Getting a college degree, and experiencing what a university has to offer would have been out of the question if not for this amazing organization. I am extremely grateful to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for changing my life and allowing me to achieve my dream of going to college. I see the amazing things that this organization does, and I am proud to call myself a Houstonian." 🤠



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

**H Calf**

an educational program focused on beef cattle production

**Become an H Calf member today and join us for one of our summer educational programs!**

### Program Timeline

**June 9** – Breeds/Sire Selection & Cow-Calf Operation

Speaker: Dr. Larry Boleman, Texas A&M University

Fieldtrip: J.D. Hudgins Inc.

**Aug. 18** – Feeding and Nutrition & Feedyard

Speaker: Dr. Harry Anderson, Total Feeds Inc.

Fieldtrip: Graham Land and Cattle

**Oct. 27** – Injection Sites/Preparing Cattle for Auction &

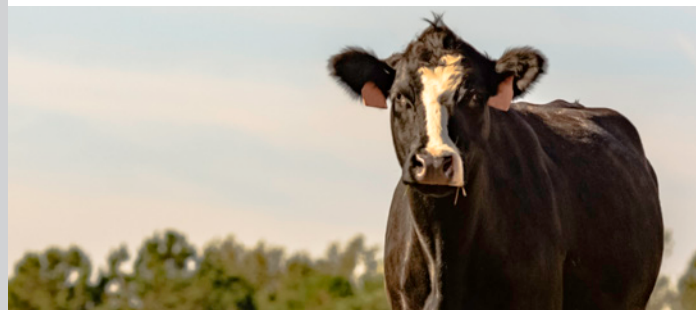
Auction Barn

Speaker: Dr. Jason Cleere, Texas A&M University

Fieldtrip: Caldwell Livestock Commission

**H Calf**

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# OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENTS



## ANDREW "PRIMO" CANTU

*Area Go Texan, Go Tejano, Grand Entry, Parade, Special Attractions, Trail Ride*

BY SANDY HOLLINGSWORTH SMITH

PHOTO BY MEREDITH FLAHERTY

Andrew "Primo" Cantu had already logged more than 30 years as a volunteer with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ when he was asked to serve as an officer in charge in 2015.

### **You have been involved with the Show for more than three decades. What's next for you?**

It's humbling to be a part of the officer staff, and I hope the Show is not done with me yet. I have been exposed to a number of committees, and all of them in one way or another are special to me. I'm still on a few committees, and I still want to participate.

### **What has volunteering for the Show meant to you?**

I've met an abundance of people through the Show and am very blessed. I also believe you get out of it what you put into it, so whenever possible, I've tried to help people better themselves. If I made a difference to one person, then I was a success.

### **What did you learn about the Show that you did not know before?**

I knew it took 33,000 volunteers to get the job done, but I didn't realize how much we also relied on the office staff. The Show is well organized and structured; it is a well-oiled machine, and no one individual can do it. It takes a group to get the job done.

### **How has the Show changed during your term?**

The Show continues to improve and diversify. It does not stagnate and continues to grow into new areas, such as robotics.

### **What advice would you give to the next group of incoming officers?**

There's so much to the Show and a lot of talent out there. Learn from everyone around you. Listen to what the committees have to say, and help guide them. Have as much fun as you can and expose yourself to as much as you can, and be willing to learn.



## GARY NESLONEY

*Armed Forces Appreciation, Calf Scramble Arena, Calf Scramble Donors, Calf Scramble Greeters, Rodeo Contestant Services*

BY GIGI WARK

PHOTO BY MEREDITH FLAHERTY

Gary Nesloney began his journey with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in 1983 when he joined the Calf Scramble Committee. He has since dedicated more than 35 years of service to the committee and the Show.

### **With the daunting schedule and demands of a Show vice president, what kept you motivated and going strong?**

Simply put, I was chosen as one of 18 vice presidents, which is an honor and a privilege. To represent all of our fantastic committees and the Show [in this capacity] is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. What better motivator does one need?

### **What is the most cherished memory from your term as a vice president?**

After having my stroke before my second year as an officer in charge, I experienced the true meaning of our "Rodeo family." I will never forget all of the prayers, love and support that I received from the entire Show, and I will cherish those moments for the rest of my life.

### **This year, the Show celebrated the "Spirit of the Volunteer." Did you experience an act of volunteerism that brought this to the forefront to you?**

Every day I witnessed a volunteer doing something special, whether for a service member or for one of the kids participating in showing their animal, or helping the athletes get to and from the Show. All of these acts and so much more reminded me about the efforts of our volunteers.

### **As a Show vice president, you get to visit universities and our Show scholarship recipients. What does this experience mean to you?**

Visiting with the Show scholarship recipients is one of the greatest things you get to do as a vice president, and each time we would visit one of the schools and spend time with our scholarship recipients you realize how special they are and that helping them get their education is not only great for them but also great for the state of Texas. By supporting Texas youth, we make an investment in our future.



## GREGORY MILLER

*Communications & Special Services, Health, Information Services, Poultry Auction, Western Art*

BY SANDY HOLLINGSWORTH SMITH

PHOTO BY MEREDITH FLAHERTY

After 19 years volunteering for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, and serving as a vice president since 2015, Gregory Miller is looking forward to a little bit of rest this summer.

### What is your most cherished memory from your term as vice president?

[I would say] the bond that grew between all of the 18 officers. We all have families and jobs, but the time spent together supporting each other in our respective roles as a unified effort is what I cherish. Our class in particular was one of the closest and [most] unique the Show has seen in ages, and I think all six of us outgoing vice presidents would agree that we have developed true and lasting friendships with each other during our term.

### What is your proudest accomplishment as an officer in charge?

It's not about me. I know we are running all over the place and it gives the appearance of importance, but it's the volunteers who do the hard work day in and day out. I'm proud to be involved with all my committees and volunteers, and it has been an honor to serve as a vice president, but the recognition goes to those 33,000 volunteers, and I'm proud to represent them.

### What is the one thing on your list that you must do every year at the Show?

Go to the Chute Club. My first memories as a volunteer were at the Chute Club, and even though it's different now, I still make a point of going there. Having said that, new traditions have started since moving into NRG Stadium and another "must" is now visiting the Committeeman's Club. It is enjoyable to visit with and talk to people that truly enjoy giving there time and energy at the Show. Visiting in the Committeeman's Club is their chance to relax after a shift and visit with friends. It is a common ground for everyone to enjoy themselves and I love seeing everyone enjoy it. Again, validation of how it takes everyone to make the Show happen and have the success that we enjoy!



## MIKE O'KELLEY

*Asset Distribution, Equipment Acquisition, Facility Services, Membership, Recycling, Sheep & Goat*

BY GIGI WARK

PHOTO BY MEREDITH FLAHERTY

A member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ for more than 35 years, Mike O'Kelley has experienced the growth and development of the organization over the years and is optimistic about the Show's future leaders.

### This year, the Show celebrated the "Spirit of the Volunteer." Did you experience an act of volunteerism that brought this to the forefront for you?

Too many to mention them all. I guess seeing a rookie or two staying several hours after his/her shift to help get the job done tells me we are training a new generation of exceptional volunteers.

### What was your proudest accomplishment as an officer in charge?

I would have to say representing the Show and meeting the scholarship recipients, deans and vice presidents and the president at my alma mater, The University of Texas at Austin, all three years of my tenure. Being on campus talking to these kids as an alum was awesome. I also never missed an opportunity to visit the six other campuses when we were invited or attend the many events hosted by our Educational Programs Department. After all, these students are why we are here.

### Can you please expand on what it meant to you to visit universities and meet Show scholarship recipients?

The most rewarding thing about meeting with our scholarship recipients is hearing firsthand the impact that we make in so many young Texans' lives. Many of their stories are life changing. One young lady told me, as a junior in high school, she ended up pregnant and ready to quit school. Her counselor showed her how she could be a mother and high school student as well. Her senior year she ended up with a \$20,000 Show scholarship and graduated last year in three years from the University of Houston with a degree in teaching. She now teaches in her former high school trying to shape the future of her students. To the future financial supporters or volunteers, I say, "Get on board, it will change your life, too!"



# OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENTS



## PAT MANN PHILLIPS

*Ladies Go Texan, Magazine, Special Children's, Souvenir Program, Transportation*

BY GIGI WARK

PHOTO BY MEREDITH FLAHERTY



## ROBBIE SMITH

*Carnival Ticket Sales, Judging Contest, Llama and Alpaca, Rodeo Operations, Ticket Services*

BY SANDY HOLLINGSWORTH SMITH

PHOTO BY MEREDITH FLAHERTY

Pat Mann Phillips first joined the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in 2001. Fast-forward 17 years, she is now the seventh female in the Show's history to serve as vice president.

### What did you learn about the Show during your term as vice president?

The more involved you become with the Show, the more you realize the depth and reach of its impact on the lives we touch. From the students receiving scholarships and educational support to the outreach in our community, and especially the volunteer family that brings it all together, we are a big and beautiful force for good.

### With the daunting schedule and demands of a Show vice president, what kept you motivated and going strong?

The positive energy of the volunteers and the appreciation from the students and their families are my Red Bull™. I am energized by every smile I see on a volunteer's face simply performing their shift duties, and encouraged and renewed with each "thank you" heard from the countless students who tell you what a difference this Show has made in their lives and the lives of their families.

### What was your proudest accomplishment as vice president?

I'm not sure you would call it an accomplishment, but what brings me the greatest joy has been the relationships and friendships created along the way with my fellow officers, volunteers, students, staff members and donors.

### What's next for you?

Tim and I plan to spend some quality time with family and rack up some hours on horseback (and the tractor) at our ranch in Field Store, Texas. When it comes to the Rodeo, we both enjoy working with the kids, so you'll see us back on our home committees pitching in wherever needed. And, don't be surprised if Miss Moo or Howdy seem a little too familiar. You just never know "who" may be inside that costume!

Robbie Smith joined the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in 1996 as a member of the Carnival Ticket Sales Committee, serving the Show in some capacity for the last 22 years.

### Now that you have free time on your hands, what is next for you?

I'm going to reconnect with old friends and get back out on the golf course. As an officer, I had the pleasure of being introduced to new committees, I plan on doing my part as members of these committees and serving with my fellow volunteers.

### How has the Show changed in the past three years?

Obviously it has grown and will continue growing. I'm most impressed with continued improvement each year from our staff and volunteers, producing a first class experience from the Show grounds to the Rodeo.

### What is your favorite memory from your term as vice president?

My first year I attended the Texas FFA Convention in Corpus Christi and had lunch with the scholarship recipients. As we were walking out, a young man from my table came running down the hall after me. He said "I want to thank you. Without you, I wouldn't be able to go to college." That meant so much to me that this young man had so much pride that he made a point to find me and tell me his story.

### What did you learn about the Show that you did not know before?

I learned something new almost daily. From Show operations to committee details, its constant planning and executing the plan successfully. Volunteers executing the plan, that's what makes this organization special.

### What is the one food item you have to have each year?

Alamo Tamales with extra cheese. I get three tamales and one burrito and cover it with queso. I've done this every year for the past 20 years.



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**Steve Hansen**  
Corral Club  
Club Level East



**Erick Key**  
Corral Club  
Main Club



**Tucker Knight**  
Ranch Rodeo



**Gary Kramer**  
Corral Club  
Division III

# OUTGOING COMMITTEE CHAIRS



**Lauren Luethold**  
Jr. Rodeo



**Katie Lyons**  
Magazine



**Tom Mach**  
Poultry Auction



**Gary McHenry**  
Speakers



**Harry Miller**  
Horse Show General  
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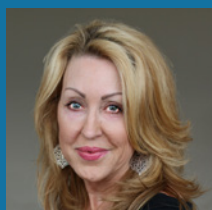
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**Dru Pease**  
Directions & Assistance



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