



"BOWLEGGED H" MAGAZINE

FALL 2020 • VOLUME XXVIII • NO. 3 • HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™





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FALL 2020 Volume XXVIII • No. 3

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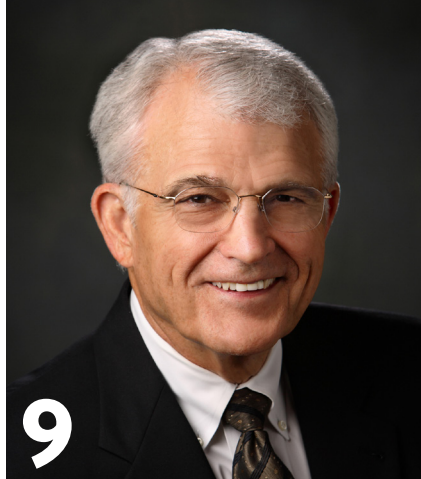
## CONTENTS

- 2** CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD BRADY CARRUTH
- 4** INCOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- 6** INCOMING VICE PRESIDENTS
- 9** MIKE WELLS TRIBUTE
- 10** ACTIVITY PAGES
- 12** HOUSTON SPCA AND TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
- 14** FAMILY OF SCHOLARS
- 16** GLASSELL SCHOOL OF ART
- 18** VENDOR MOVE-IN/MOVE-OUT
- 20** INCOMING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## ON THE COVER



Visiting the petting zoo in AGVENTURE,  
presented by Occidental Petroleum.



**9**



**12**



**14**



**16**

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### Questions:

[magazine@rodeohouston.com](mailto:magazine@rodeohouston.com)

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## from the CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

I am truly honored to serve as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ chairman of the board. Serving as a volunteer for the past 40 years has been one of the best experiences of my life. I truly enjoy contributing to our Western heritage and the city of Houston. Our great city has seen its share of struggles, and the Rodeo community continues to remain a constant positive light over the years. I am proud to be part of this amazing organization.

This year could not be a more unusual year to start my tenure. As I begin, I want to acknowledge the dedicated leadership of Jim Winne, who led us through a heartbreaking shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Jim's fortitude and strength as a leader will not be forgotten. And, to this day, the impacts of this terrible virus have left our community reeling, businesses scraping by and families struggling. My heart goes out to everyone who is impacted by the unprecedented events surrounding the virus.

Amidst this pain, it was no surprise to me that our Rodeo family came through at every turn along the way with an outpouring of support and

generosity in creative ways. After the shutdown, our volunteer community hosted online auctions for the junior exhibitors, resulting in premiums paid to more than 10,000 junior exhibitors. I am sure you felt the pride I felt when the Rodeo awarded \$12 million in educational scholarships for Texas students. It is clear to me that when our volunteers make a commitment, there is not a force that can stand in the way of making good on that promise.

We know that these times have been difficult for you, and not being able to meet in person has added to the frustration. Like you, I want nothing more than to have a heart to heart with my friends in person at the Rodeo. At the very least, we want to know what is going on. We have heard you and are making every effort to stay in touch and keep you informed on a regular basis. Chris and I announced a plan to utilize the Membership Online Account as a communications channel to share updates on a regular basis.

Let's all do our part to be a leader in our community. We will follow state and local guidelines for a safe and healthy return. This is a time to show the world that we are resilient and creative with an even greater appreciation for each other, and the amazing Rodeo that we deliver to the community. We are planning for a full Rodeo in 2021, we welcomed 42 new committee chairs and feel the strength of our resolve through our tremendous collective leadership. However, there are many unknowns. We will continue to take precautions and keep health and safety our priority as we plan for what's ahead.

One thing that remains a constant is our dedicated volunteer force. It is unlike any other, and we recognize that we are strong because of each one of you. You play an important role and we value you as a team member. Every contribution makes a difference, no matter how large or small.

Thank you for the confidence placed in me. My wife, Zane, and I look forward to meeting you soon. 🤠

All my best,

Brady Carruth



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

# BRADY CARRUTH

BY SUSAN SCOTT



**T**he Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ has been part of Brady Carruth's life for as long as he can remember. Now, he will take the reins of the organization as chairman of the board. "It is a great honor and privilege to have been elected chairman," Carruth said. "The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has been a special part of my life for a long time."



A long time indeed. Born and raised in Houston, Carruth recalls visiting the Rodeo at the Sam Houston Coliseum when he was just a kid. "I loved seeing the stars of Bonanza, Roy Rogers and James Arness from Gunsmoke. My father showed Santa Gertrudis cattle there and later at the Astrohall," he said.

Carruth's parents, who gifted their son with a life membership when he was 13 years old, were also volunteers with the Rodeo. His father, Allen, also known as "Buddy," served as president from 1979 to 1981 and as chairman of the board from 1982 to 1984. His mother, Ethel, was a past committee chair in the late 1980s and a longtime supporter of the School Art Committee.

In 1982, Carruth joined the Lamb Auction Committee. He was elected to the board of directors in 1990 and became chair of the Lamb Auction Committee in 1996. Carruth was named a vice president in 1998, serving as officer in charge of the Ladies' Go Texan (now Ag Education), Ladies' Season Box (now Trailblazer), School Art, Special Children's and Western Art committees. He has been a member of the Rodeo's Executive Committee since 2013 and will serve as chairman of the board for the next three years.

A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, Carruth earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. He is currently the chairman of AggreDyne, a startup medical device manufacturer and was previously on the board of directors of American General Corporation and Consolidated Graphics. Carruth also acts as the chairman of both the Wortham and Carruth Foundations. He has served on the boards and as chairman of the Houston Parks Board, Buffalo Bayou Partnership and Houston Museum of Natural Science.



Carruth and his wife of eight years, Zane, have three children among them. Carruth has two sons; Buddy, who is married to Kylie, and Trent. Zane has a daughter Brittany, son-in-law Adam and two grandsons. When he is not working, Carruth spends time with his family in Galveston and at their hunting ranch in Bee County. The Carruths also own a home in Saratoga Springs, New York, where they attend horse races there as well as other tracks around the country.

Carruth has high hopes for the next three years. He would like to see a masterplan developed for the Rodeo's real estate assets that would allow it to extend its customer friendliness and provide a more varied customer experience. Carruth also hopes to focus on how the Rodeo can concentrate its philanthropy to have an even greater impact on early childhood education in the Houston area. Carruth has been part of the Rodeo family for most of his life, and he looks forward to leading an organization that means so much to so many people. †



# INCOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: KELLY J. LARKIN, MD

BY BECKY LOWICKI

**F**or Dr. Kelly J. Larkin, an extensive background in emergency medicine combined with an astute business acumen and the ability to pivot quickly to dynamic, ever-changing circumstances proved to be a fortuitous fit as a newly elected member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Executive Committee.

"I am all about long-range planning, and global pandemic aside, while we are all different because of it, we are in a new world within a new environment, and it is vital now to see how can we take advantage of the situation and learn from this to make events even stronger looking a decade ahead," Larkin said.

Transitioning from her role as a Rodeo vice president, she also fundamentally understands adapting to change as shown during her most recent leadership tenure over the past three years. "We came in with Hurricane Harvey and went out with coronavirus!" Larkin said. "The agility that the Rodeo has demonstrated in the face of these unforeseen events has shown ways to function when dealing with challenging and unexpected circumstances."

As a nine-year appointee, Larkin is approaching her early days in the role doing critical due diligence. She is listening, learning and meeting with leadership about the various aspects of the organizational management processes, structural budgeting and garnering input and expertise about the many planning perspectives.

A trailblazer by nature as only the second female in this appointed role, her focus will be on fiscal management and financial operations. Larkin previously served in other leadership roles as chair of the Houston General Go Texan Committee, where she began her volunteer service with the Rodeo, chair of the RODEOHOUSTON® Sports Medicine Committee and vice chair of the Trailblazer Committee. Her experiences have stood her in good stead for not only leading, but also collaborating to find new solutions and ways of working in uncharted territory.

"The transition has been interesting in that there are many different aspects of managing and leading," Larkin said. "And these valuable experiences have helped shape how we have evolved as an organization, and also the potential for the future ahead."


Something that will not change is the heart of the Rodeo's organizational mission: "Our goal is always focused on 'how do we continue to take care of our



youth year after year?" only now exploring different scenarios to support that ongoing vision of educational scholarships for Texas youth, Texas heritage and the promotion of agriculture," Larkin said.

"In addition, we are all working together to determine the best way to go forward in this new environment, with mitigation plans for each scenario, continuing to be good stewards in support of these goals."

No matter what, Larkin is optimistic and enthusiastic in what the future holds. "I tend to look for the silver lining that these new challenges bring as an opportunity to look at the upside and bring further best practices," she said. "It is even more exciting that no matter what, we have such incredible support of 35,000 volunteers and staff who are still so positive, which makes all the difference!"

Kelly J. Larkin, MD, FACEP, is a board-certified emergency medicine physician, and founder, president and CEO of The Larkin Group, a collaboration of companies focused on improving the quality and delivery of emergency medical care. She is married to Fernando Parra, and has three children: Grace Beasley, Greer Beasley and Matthew Parra. 



# INCOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER: ROBBIE SMITH

BY KATY STEWART GRAGG

**R**obbie Smith, an incoming Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Executive Committee member, looks back to a particular memory from college as the launch of his involvement with the Rodeo. His freshman roommate at Texas A&M University invited Smith to attend the Rodeo with him. Unbeknownst to him, the roommate was to speak to calf scramblers about his accomplishment and tenacity as a former Grand Champion winner. The roommate was a hero to these calf scramble participants, Smith recalled, because of his hard work and success. As an esteemed guest, Smith got to meet the donors and see how important the Calf Scramble really was for these students. "Not many get to see behind the scenes, and it was a very unique and fun experience for me," Smith said. "The memory has never left me."

The behind-the-scenes approach and well-rounded experience working on multiple committees have driven Smith to his many leadership positions.

During Smith's first year as a volunteer at the 1997 Rodeo, he was a young professional Houstonian and joined the Carnival Ticket Sales Committee. He recalls it being a perfect fit and loved the committee's social aspect. After his first year, he learned more about the committee's structure, function and hierarchy. "It motivated me to be more involved and to contribute as much as I could," Smith said. That attitude of servant leadership helped him take on new responsibility and rise through the ranks of the committee.

Smith also realized the benefit of experiencing other committees whose work occurred during the Rodeo, and throughout his time as a volunteer he has served on the Carnival Ticket Sales, Judging Contest, Calf Scramble Donor and Area Go Texan committees. As a vice president, he oversaw the Events & Functions, Rodeo Ticket Sales, Rodeo Operations, Ticket Services, Llama and Alpaca, Carnival Ticket Sales and Judging Contest committees. On the Judging Contest Committee, he fondly remembers his rookie year pitching in to move chicken pens and becoming dirty but feeling incredibly engaged from working with the team and the students. "The common bond among the volunteers is hard to explain," he said. "I have been fortunate to be exposed to a wide variety of committees, and I love meeting the members and experiencing the family aspect."



The family aspect especially resonates, as Smith and his wife Annette started dating during his first year on a committee. Their four teenagers, Audrey, Ava, Luke and Bo, grew up at the Rodeo and would attend every night if they could. In fact, Audrey took her first steps at the Rodeo. Smith works for Norman Smith Equipment Company, the family business his father started in 1976, which provides construction equipment to industrial businesses. Smith loves being outdoors in any capacity with his family, whether hunting, fishing, playing golf, horseback riding or boating. Smith's goal for his role as an Executive Committee member is to leverage his family values and family business background to make the best, informed decisions for the Rodeo, its staff and the volunteers. 🤠



# INCOMING VICE PRESIDENTS



## LARRY BIEDIGER

**Corral Club General:**  
Division I: At Large, Auctions & Receptions, Beverage Services, Equipment, Support, Ticket Sales  
**Division II:** Committeemen's Club, The Hideout, Main Club, Stockman's Club  
**Division III:** The Cantina, Chairman's Club, Chute Club, Club Level East, Club Level West, Directors' Club, Sky Suites, Suites East, Suites West

BY BRITTANY ROGERS

**B**orn and raised in Houston, Larry Biediger became a life member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ nearly 30 years ago. Since then, his commitment to the Rodeo has remained strong, serving on multiple committees, including Corporate Development, Judging Contest, Poultry Auction and Rodeo Ticket Sales. Most notably, he has been involved in the Corral Club Committee for more than two decades, volunteering for his first shift in the Astrohalls in 1993 and eventually serving as chair of the Committeemen's Room from 2012 to 2014.

Biediger has countless fond memories with the Rodeo, from his first at the Coliseum downtown to winning the Corral Club's Sandcastle Competition and earning Top Charity Ticket Sales Grand Champion status. His memories are fun, but his true focus remains on the Rodeo's impact on Houston-area high school graduates and their families. "To listen to their life's story and the excitement from receiving a scholarship is such a testimony to the goodness that comes from many hours put in while volunteering for the great organization," Biediger said.

As officer in charge of the Corral Club committees, Biediger looks forward to an exciting 2021. The Corral Club hosts attendees throughout the NRG Park grounds. "In that capacity, it is our goal to strive to be the best hosts and hostesses we can be to our patrons, making them feel welcome and wanting to come back," Biediger said.

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo roots run deep in Biediger's family. His wife, Cathy, has supported the Rodeo for the past 21 years, having served on the Carnival Ticket Sales, Ag Mechanics, and Metro Go Texan committees. His sons, daughter, daughter-in-law and son-in-law have all followed in their generous footsteps. In fact, as a family, they have given more than 110 years of service to the Rodeo!

After graduating from Texas A&M University, Biediger joined Trunkline Gas Company, now known as Energy Transfer, where he has spent 41 years and developed a passion for the oil and gas industry. For the past 15 years, he has worked as senior director, Rates and Regulatory Affairs. In his spare time, he serves as a deacon at his church, and raises miniature Hereford cattle. 🤠



## BRYAN J. BLONDER, D.O.

Wine Sales, Wine Events, Health, Sports Medicine and Safety-Medical

BY BRITTANY ROGERS

**B**orn and raised in New York, Dr. Bryan Blonder made his way to Texas as an adult and soon found his love for the Rodeo. After attending the Houston Metro Go Texan Boot Scootin' Ball and hearing about the educational opportunities given to area youth, Blonder became a Rodeo member. He first joined the Lamar-Needville Houston Metro Go Texan Committee in 2000 and the Health Committee in 2002, where he later served as committee chair.

Blonder also joined the Wine Sales and the Swine Auction committees, earning Top Rookie Sales honors. He is active on the International Committee and Area Go Texan Director Subcommittee, but his focus remains on the Rodeo's educational impact. Once burdened with tuition costs, Blonder stands behind the Rodeo's commitment of awarding scholarships to deserving students.

"This organization is built on investing in our community and its future," Blonder said. "These scholarship recipients are definitely the key and the driving force of greatness within our community and our nation."

This year, Blonder will serve as officer in charge of the Wine Sales, Wine Events, Health, Sports Medicine, and Medical and Safety committees. "Serving on the Health and Well-Being Task Force this year, my goal is to help make the Rodeo as safe as possible and keep the well-being of our attendees first priority," Blonder said.

Married for 19 years, Blonder and his wife, Denise, had their first date at the Rodeo in 1999, where they saw Faith Hill in the Astrodome. Denise also remains involved with the Rodeo, serving on multiple committees, including the Health Committee, where she served as chair from 2017 to 2019. Their three children, Alyssa, Kayleigh and Brayden, grew up attending the Rodeo and were involved in the Jr. Rodeo Committee and the Loan-A-Llama program.

Blonder is a graduate of New York Institute of Technology and the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is a doctor of osteopathic medicine and a board-certified OB/GYN and co-owner of Sweetwater OB/GYN Associates in Sugar Land, Texas, where he has practiced in the community for more than 21 years. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, cooking, horseback riding and spending time with family and friends. Even with New York roots, he has certainly relished in living the cowboy way of life. 🤠





## ALAN FOLGER

Equipment Acquisitions, Events & Functions, Houston Area Go Texan and Rodeo Operations

BY BRITTANY ROGERS

**A**lan Folger grew up in and around the Houston-area. His love for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ began in the '80s, when he spent many spring days on the grounds. His wife Kim was very involved in the Rodeo and Folger joined in 2002 as a member of the Houston Metro Go Texan Committee. He has served there for more than 19 years, ultimately becoming chair in 2013.

His dedication to the organization has spanned many committees, including the Go Texan Contest, where he served as vice chair, Area Go Texan, and an early member of the Armed Forces Appreciation task force. Folger still supports the Armed Forces Appreciation Committee as a volunteer to this day.

The first time Folger understood the impact of the Rodeo was in his early days as a volunteer when he was invited to attend a scholarship banquet.

"The scholarship recipients all had diverse backgrounds and aspiring professions," Folger said. "These are all leaders. They were leaders in high school, and we are giving them a shot at their dream." To this day, he is in awe of the incredible commitment the Rodeo has to Texas youth and education.

Folger will serve as officer in charge of Equipment Acquisition, Events & Functions, Houston Metro Go Texan and Rodeo Operations committees. "I hope all of us in leadership have an impact on keeping all of our volunteers engaged and promoting the mission and goals of the Rodeo," Folger said.

Folger studied at Stephen F. Austin State University for his undergraduate degree and the University of Houston for law school. He practiced for more than 40 years as a maritime attorney, retiring from Mammoet in 2019 after serving as general counsel for their Americas region. His wife, Kim, has been involved with the Rodeo since 1989 on the Cutting Horse Committee, as well as the Paint Horse, Go Texan Contest, Rabbit and Horticulture committees. She recently rolled off after serving as chair of the Paint Horse Committee. Folger has a daughter, son, and stepson, who was involved in the Jr. Rodeo Committee and raised hogs and rabbits in 4-H and FFA while growing up. After raising cattle as a hobby for 26 years, he looks forward to dedicating even more of his time to the Rodeo. 🤠



## JUAN C. GARCIA

Directions & Assistance, International, Souvenir Program, Speakers and Special Attractions

BY LAWRENCE LEVY

**J**uan Garcia's earliest memories of the Rodeo are attending every Go Tejano Day as a child with his parents. Now, after many years of service, he is an incoming vice president.

Born in Brownsville, Texas, raised in Houston and Angleton, he and his wife Isela now live in Katy. Together, they have five children — Nicole, JC, Brianna, Jace and Beau, and one grandchild, Rylan.

After attending the University of Houston, Garcia earned his law degree at the South Texas College of Law – Houston. He is a co-founding partner of Johnson Garcia LLP, a personal injury law firm.

Garcia first became active with the Legal Advisory Committee at the invitation of Louis Pearce Jr. and Wayne Hollis.

Garcia joined the Rodeo in 2006. He has served on several committees, including International, Breeders Greeters and Go Tejano, where he was chair from 2018 to 2020. Prior to his time as chair, he was elected as a director of the Rodeo in 2016.

His wife Isela has served on the Go Tejano, International, Mutton Bustin' and Trailblazer committees.

Garcia said he has so many mentors that there is not enough room to name them all. "I try to learn from everyone, and lots of volunteers have been kind enough to show me the ropes and lead me in the right direction," he said.

With little time for non-Rodeo activities, Garcia is a past president and current board member of the Hispanic Bar Association of Houston and is coach for the Mitty Mites Football Team in Katy.

As a vice president, Garcia is assigned to manage Directions & Assistance, International, Special Attractions, Souvenir Program and Speakers committees. 🤠

# INCOMING VICE PRESIDENTS



## MICHELLE LILIE

Auctions Assistance, Jr. Rodeo Committee, School Art Auction, Wine Competition and Winery Relations

BY LAWRENCE LEVY



## D. SCOTT SULLIVAN

Parade, Poultry Auction, Trail Ride and Wine Garden

BY LAWRENCE LEVY

**B**orn in Houston, incoming Rodeo Vice President Michelle Lilie grew up in Pearland, Texas, where she still lives.

A Texas A&M graduate, Lilie runs her family-owned business, CPI Wirecloth & Screens, Inc., an oilfield screen manufacturing facility. Her parents opened the business in 1968, and it has grown to include facilities in Pearland and Lafayette, Louisiana.

Lilie became interested in the Rodeo in 1996 when Frank Melcher spoke to her about volunteering and sold her on the idea that the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ was the place to be. She called Bill Yates, who was chair of the Commercial Exhibits Committee, to set up an interview. Lilie joined the Rodeo in 1997 as a member of the Commercial Exhibits Committee.

Lilie has served as a captain and two-time vice chair for Commercial Exhibits, and as vice chair and chair of the School Art Auction Committee. She has also been a member of the H Calf and Mutton Bustin' committees and was elected as a director in 2015.

Lilie's father, Glenn T. Lilie, is a lifetime vice president; mother, Judie; sister, KK Jenkins and brother-in-law, Jay Jenkins; and niece, Maddie Jenkins, all are involved in the Rodeo. She fondly remembers attending the Rodeo in the Astrodome with her family and her parents to buy registered Herefords.

Lilie will lead the Auctions Assistance, Jr. Rodeo, School Art Auction, Wine Competition and Winery Relations committees.

Following her personal mantra, "Mind Over Matter," Lilie lives her guiding philosophy.

In her spare time, she is a board member of the 12th Man Foundation and Golfcrest Country Club and ARIC representative for Bay Area Chi Omega. 

**O**klahoma City is the birthplace and hometown of incoming Rodeo Vice President Scott Sullivan, but he has lived in Houston for several decades.

Sullivan earned his BBA at the University of Oklahoma and his MBA at the Cox School of Business, Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

He has been in the dialysis business for more than 25 years and is the president of Key Dialysis, a company specializing in home dialysis. Sullivan has also owned El Patio Mexican Restaurant (Club No Minors) since 2001.

While growing up in Oklahoma, he attended many small-town rodeos and the NFR before it moved to Las Vegas in 1985. "My first RODEOHOUSTON® in 1994 blew me away. I was shocked by the size and amount of people attending," Sullivan said.

He was introduced to the Rodeo by a good friend who invited him to a Breeders Greeters Committee happy hour where he met Lucky Long, who was serving as committee chair. Sullivan was placed on the committee in 1995.


Sullivan later joined the Parade Committee in 2006 and was chair from 2017 to 2019. He also was part of the Mutton Bustin' task force leadership as a vice chair in 2010 and elected as a director in 2013.

Sullivan has been married to Samantha Sullivan for 21 years. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University and a life member of the Rodeo. She served on the School Art Committee in the early 2000s.

The Sullivans have one daughter, Charlotte, a freshman at Texas A&M. She is a life member of the Rodeo and served on the Jr. Rodeo Committee.

Sullivan is honored and excited to be chosen to serve as a Rodeo vice president. He looks forward to meeting many more of the 35,000 volunteers who make the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo a success.

Several committees will be under his leadership, including Parade, Poultry Auction, Trail Ride and Wine Garden. His personal motto is "Surround yourself with smart people and let them do their jobs."

Sullivan's non-Rodeo activities include hunting, fishing and playing golf. He also is involved in several nonprofit boards and business organizations. 





# Mike Wells

## ≈ TRIBUTE ≈

BY TODD ZUCKER

On July 19, 2020, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ lost a longtime and dedicated leader who guided the Rodeo through some of its most challenging years.

P. Michael “Mike” Wells, a fourth-generation Texan, graduated from San Jacinto High School, obtained a bachelor’s degree in finance and accounting from The University of Texas, where he attended on a football scholarship, and played in the 1957 Sugar Bowl. He then returned to Houston to start a successful banking career.

Wells had a passion for cutting horses — he once reached the top 10 at the NCHA World Cutting Horse Finals — and began participating in Rodeo events in 1965. He joined the Quarter Horse Committee at the suggestion of past Rodeo President Louis M. Pearce Jr. and later served as chair for several horse show committees. Wells became a Rodeo director in 1971, served as a vice president from 1976 to 1978, was elected to the Executive Committee in 1985.

Wells took the reins as volunteer president in 1999, shortly before construction began on NRG Center and NRG Stadium. Wells understood that short-term perseverance during those simultaneous construction projects would result in substantial long-term rewards.

The Rodeo’s prior leaders had been volunteers, but explosive growth during his tenure demanded a full-time, paid executive who could dedicate all of his time and resources to the Rodeo, and in 2001, Wells became the first full-time president. After moving from the Astrodome to NRG Stadium, Wells continued to serve as president and chief executive officer until 2005.

Jim Bloodworth, the Rodeo president who preceded Wells, knew him for more than 50 years. “Mike brought a business aspect to the Rodeo and had high integrity, strong Christian values and strong work values,” Bloodworth said. He also recalled Wells as being a great practical joker. “What stood out to me the most about Mike, though, was his dedication to any role he took on. During his University of Texas football career, he wasn’t the biggest guy on the field,

nor the fastest, but he put in 100 percent on every play,” Bloodworth said. “He was quite a horseman and a great individual. You couldn’t ask for a better friend than Mike.”

Past Rodeo Chairman of the Board R.H. “Steve” Stevens worked with Wells on Rodeo activities for more than three decades. “Mike’s first love was the Rodeo, and he was involved in everything out in the ‘horse barn,’” Stevens said. “We knew Mike always had the best interests of the Rodeo at heart. He was a straight shooter, a very faithful man and a role model to me.” Stevens described Wells as a well-respected banker and businessman who had a low-key manner and was happy to work behind the scenes and give others credit. Stevens also remembered Mike’s fun side. “Mike pulled practical jokes on everybody,” Stevens said. “He had a great sense of humor and didn’t mind using it.”

Wells played a large role in the Rodeo’s affiliations with many outside organizations, including The Brookwood Community, which provides opportunities and skill development for adults with disabilities. Yvonne T. Streit, Brookwood’s founder and executive director emeritus, appreciated Wells’ efforts to promote a partnership between the organizations. “Mike really cared for Brookwood and what it stood for,” Streit said. “He was one of the people who recognized the importance of the educational part of what Brookwood does, and he saw to it that we could make a dent in the need for educating the total person.” Streit remembered Wells as a man of honesty, empathy, dedication and determination. “He had an old-fashioned value that is not as predominant today as it should be,” Streit said. “He walked the talk.” Wells’ philanthropic character also reached the residents of Fort Bend County, where he spent several years serving as a trustee for The George Foundation.

Wells is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and their five children, Mike Wells Jr. and wife Karan, David Wells and Dana Grimes, Tommy Wells and wife Jill, Michael Sinclair and wife Beth, Michelle Pujats and husband Ken. 🕊

# HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

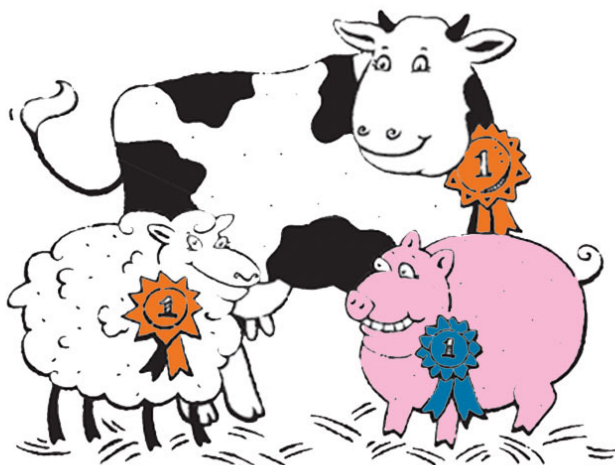
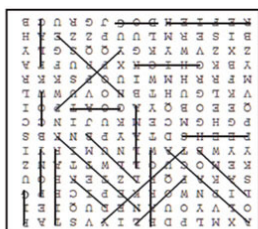
## CAN YOU FIND THESE FARM ANIMAL WORDS?

A	X	M	L	P	D	B	L	I	Y	V	S	T	A	P
O	L	V	Y	O	U	A	N	E	D	U	Q	I	E	I
L	I	P	N	W	O	R	K	E	P	I	C	B	P	G
S	A	K	A	F	Q	R	L	Z	T	E	K	B	O	U
K	E	M	O	C	U	O	L	L	Q	T	T	A	N	Z
Y	Y	W	B	T	A	W	L	N	U	M	I	R	Y	I
P	E	E	H	S	D	T	A	Y	P	B	N	K	B	S
P	G	H	G	M	C	E	M	K	U	J	I	N	C	C
Q	E	E	O	B	Q	Y	A	G	O	A	T	P	O	I
V	K	L	G	U	H	T	B	H	O	V	U	W	W	L
M	F	R	R	H	M	W	I	U	O	P	S	K	K	R
Y	B	K	C	H	I	C	K	X	P	R	U	F	F	A
Z	X	Z	V	W	Y	K	G	Y	Q	Q	S	G	L	Y
B	I	S	E	R	M	L	U	U	P	Z	Z	E	A	H
R	E	F	I	E	H	D	O	G	J	G	R	U	C	B

Alpaca  
Barrow  
Bull  
Calf  
Chick  
Cow  
Dog  
Donkey

Foal  
Goat  
Heifer  
Horse  
Kid  
Kitten  
Lamb  
Llama

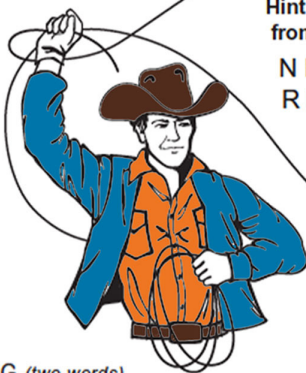
Pig  
Pony  
Puppy  
Rabbit  
Sheep  
Turkey





## HELP LASSO THE MISSING LETTERS!

1. HOR \_ E
2. RABBI \_
3. CARNI \_ AL
4. C \_ W
5. SO \_
6. \_ OAT
7. CO \_ BO \_
8. ROO \_ TER
9. CAL \_
10. STA \_ LION
11. \_ ULL
12. GELDI \_ G
13. HE \_ FER
14. TUR \_ EY
15. \_ EN
16. P \_ G
17. RO \_ ING
18. \_ AR \_ EL RA \_ ING (two words)
19. C \_ IC \_ EN
20. ST \_ ER W \_ ESTLI \_ G (two words)
21. DON \_ EY
22. E \_ U \_ A \_ ION
23. CLO \_ N
24. PE \_ TING Z \_ O (two words)
25. SC \_ O \_ L
26. SHOP \_ ING
27. L \_ VES \_ O \_ K
28. WEST \_ RN HERIT \_ GE (two words)
29. S \_ HOL \_ RSHI \_ S
30. RO \_ EO



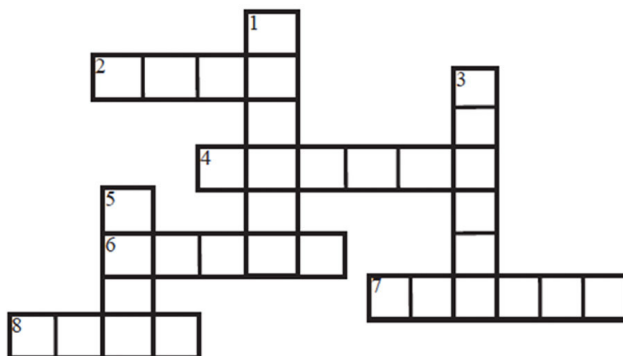
Fill in the missing letter.  
Hint: Cross off each letter  
from this list after using.

N F C A V G I H K P H S  
R N P D W S B T R W K  
E O C T P H A E O  
B L I K I T O C  
D C T Y W

1. Horse
2. Rabbit
3. Carnivore
4. Cow
5. Sow
6. Goat
7. Cowboy
8. Barrel Roping
9. Calf
10. Stallion
11. Bull
12. Gelding
13. Heifer
14. Turkey
15. Ham
16. Pig
17. Roping
18. Chicken
19. Steer
20. Saddle Wristing
21. Donkey
22. Education
23. Clown
24. Roping Zoo
25. School
26. Sheeping
27. Livestock
28. Western Herdage
29. Saddle
30. Rodeo



## CAN YOU SOLVE THIS COW CROSSWORD?



### Across

2. The name of a cow's skin, which is used to make footballs, basketballs and other sports equipment.
4. This industry is the largest part of American agriculture.
6. The name of the bag that holds a cow's milk.
7. The name for a female cow that has not had a baby yet.
8. What is a baby cow called?

### Down

1. "Cow" is the name of a mature adult \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What main dairy food product is made from a cow besides milk?
5. The name of an adult male cow.



Answers: 1. Female, 2. Hide, 3. Cheese, 4. Cattle, 5. Bull, 6. Udder, 7. Heifer, 8. Calf

HOUSTON SPCA AND TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

# College of Veterinary Medicine

BY CRYSTAL MCKEON



**T**wo of the largest animal welfare organizations in the Texas Gulf Coast have joined forces to develop the best veterinarians in the area, thanks in part to grants from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. In 2013, the Houston SPCA and the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences partnered to give fourth-year veterinary science majors the most extensive, hands-on training in the nation.





Every two weeks, these eager seniors travel to the Houston SPCA to participate in an immersive veterinary experience. Students stay in an on-campus dorm and must complete 100 hours in the program, which includes primary care, triage and intake, surgery, rescue and response operations, disaster response, population/herd management, infectious disease control and abuse investigations. Participants complete rounds with Houston SPCA staff veterinarians to gain experience in each of these specialties. It is rare for veterinary students to gain experience in the size and scope of services this partnership provides.

Dr. Wanda Yoder was a student in the program who now works as a vet at the Houston SPCA. She believes that this is an invaluable experience for senior students. "As a veterinarian at a general practice, you are generally only seeing animals that come from a loving home who are bringing them to be cared for," Yoder said. "This is the only situation where you can see the issues and warning signs where real neglect can hurt animals."

One of the things that makes this program exceptional is the variety of animals treated on a daily basis. Most perceive the Houston SPCA as caring for dogs and cats, but they see an array of farm animals, hurt or injured wildlife and even the

occasional exotic animal like tigers. From designing a care plan for a wounded dog to bottle feeding a newborn rabbit, every student's experience is unique. Dr. Alana Hall, a Spring 2020 student, loves the program and being a veterinarian. "Being a veterinarian is about all the little victories during the day," Hall said. "You see a dog brought into you in really bad shape wag his tail for the first time. It is a great feeling."

These young veterinarians were especially vital during the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Normal intake for the Houston SPCA during early September would have been a few hundred animals a day. Following Hurricane Harvey, they admitted 2,000 domesticated animals, such as cats and dogs, and 2,000 to 3,000 injured wild animals.

Since the first grant was given to the program in 2014, the Rodeo has contributed \$450,000 to educating and inspiring future veterinarians. Because of their common goal of teaching young students, the partnership between the Rodeo, Houston SPCA and the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Science is ideally suited to create a generation of veterinarians who have the knowledge and experience to be successful in their careers and to make a difference caring for the animals in our community. 🐾



# FAMILY OF

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# Scholars

BY RODEO STAFF

**A**s part of our core mission, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ provides educational scholarships to Texas youth. It is why we do what we do. It is a special privilege to help students across the state achieve their dreams of continuing their education after high school. One of our favorite success stories comes from a mother of three who reached out to share the unique role the Rodeo has played in her life and the lives of her three children.

In the spring of 1983, going to college was not a sure thing for Sharon Dohmann Swize. A few things were still up in the air — the biggest: how to pay for it. She had applied for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo 4-H Scholarship her senior year, but no one in her county had ever received it before.

“It was so different back then ... we went to Texas A&M for our interviews and the county agent had already told my mom that if I was in a group interview, I probably was not going to get a scholarship and not to be disappointed,” she said.

Swize was in a group interview that day. It was hours later when they found out who was getting a scholarship and who was not. “We didn’t know until that night. (All of the





students) sat down in Rudder Auditorium and if they called your name, you got it.”

Thankfully, Swize was one of the names called that night.

“Sitting there waiting in anticipation, just praying your name would be called. It was scary, but boy it was exciting when they called your name and you got to walk across the stage and shake their hands!” she said.

“In that moment, I knew my future was set and I just knew that I was going to get to go to college now.”

It was a relief for her parents too, she said. “I came home and said, ‘I’m going to A&M!’”

With the scholarship from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Swize received a master’s degree from Texas A&M University, and for the last 20 years, she has worked as a registered pediatric dietician with children who have special needs.

While at A&M, she met her future husband, Robert, an animal science major.

Flash forward two decades and three children later, the Swize’s hoped for another Rodeo scholarship. This time for their first born, their daughter Alex.

In 2011, Alex was named as a recipient of the Go Texan Scholarship and went on to A&M like her parents. She is now a licensed physical therapist.

Three years later, their middle child, Carolyn, was also named as a recipient of a Rodeo scholarship, the Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship. After earning her bachelor’s degree at A&M, she is currently getting her master’s degree in Oceanography at LSU.

And just a while ago, the Swize family earned a fourth Rodeo scholarship.

Their son, Justin, received the email they had been waiting for. He was chosen as a recipient of the 2020 Goliad County Area Go Texan Scholarship.

Swize said she is thrilled for Justin and

relieved to have received yet another scholarship from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Even with COVID-19, Justin is going to College Station. “I told him we are shipping you off. I do not care if your classes are online, you are going!” she laughed. “I do not want him to be stuck at home. I want him to experience college on campus even if it is all online.”

All three of their kids showed goats at the Houston Livestock Show. Carolyn enjoyed the Ag Mechanics Show and Justin participated in the Food Challenge. Even their eldest, Alex still comes back to Houston each year for the Rodeo. “Even though she lives in Abilene, she has to go. She loves the Rodeo.”

Both Alex and Carolyn also interned at the Rodeo while in school. Swize said Justin will as well.

“I already told my son, you just better make plans! Because that is what you are going to be doing during your Spring Break. You are going to go and give back to Houston.”

She says Justin will pursue a degree in aerospace engineering.

It took a lot of hard work to get to where they are, but it is all worth it for the Swize family. And for icing on the cake? The scholarships they have received have allowed Swize and her family to graduate with no student loans.

She said she and Robert wanted to share their story because they felt it was unique and to say thank you to the Rodeo. “How many families can say they have four Houston scholarship winners?” asked Robert.

“The Houston Livestock Show has blessed my family.” Swize said. “I just need to say thank you as an alumna and as a mother. Thank you for your generosity over the years.” †

## GRANT RECIPIENT:

# THE GLASSELL SCHOOL OF ART

BY BRITTANY ROGERS

**F**or more than 25 years, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's™ partnership with the Junior School at Glassell School of Art with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston has reflected not only a long-term education commitment, but also a passion for the arts world. As an educational grant recipient, the Glassell School of Art provides open access to high-quality art education for talented students year-round. The Rodeo support helps fund two programs within its Junior School: summer courses for the Rodeo's School Art Contest winners and the selective Advanced Portfolio Preparation program. Each program presents a unique opportunity for budding artists to explore and advance their skills.







Every year, students across the Houston area participate in the Rodeo's School Art Contest, submitting Western-themed works of art to be displayed in NRG Center. The School Art Committee reviews more than 200,000 submissions from student artists in grades K-12 to select 120 artists to participate in a week-long summer class of their choice at the Junior School. It is a unique opportunity for aspiring artists, especially as time in their school's art class may be limited.

"These scholarships are so important to the school, they are given to students who might not be able to participate in our programs — either from not knowing about it or not being able to afford it," said Pam Perez, administrative dean, Junior School at the Glassell School of Art. "It allows us to reach a broader audience through the generous support of the Rodeo."

Winners of the School Art Contest get the chance to explore and shine as artists during their chosen course, which can include anything from drawing to digital illustration. Additionally, the Rodeo grant fully funds tuition and materials for the Junior School's APP, a three-year program for 9th, 10th and 11th graders. This program is made up of approximately 25 students selected by a panel through an art portfolio application process. Upon admission into the program, students rotate through mixed media, drawing, painting and 3-D classes. These participants contribute to an annual art exhibition every spring as part of an intense program focused on working closely with the students to develop their skills across multiple disciplines.

"The program really launches them into a world they did not know about," said Jane French, first-year instructor of the Advanced Portfolio Preparation program. "They are bright-eyed, wide-eyed and so amazingly talented." Without the funding from the Rodeo, most of the students would not have the opportunity to develop their artistry and build unique, well-rounded portfolios to pursue an advanced education in art.

The Rodeo's long-standing commitment to education through the annual grant program gives Texas students a chance to further enrich their artistic talents. †





# VENDOR

## MOVE-IN/MOVE-OUT

BY MARINA OLSON

**S**hopping is, for many, one of the best parts of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™. The enormous exhibit hall housed in NRG Center covers thousands of square feet — filled with a wide variety of things for purchase in every nook and cranny. But, what about the time and effort that it takes in order to get these exhibitors in and out of the building, and ready to sell their wares to the general public?



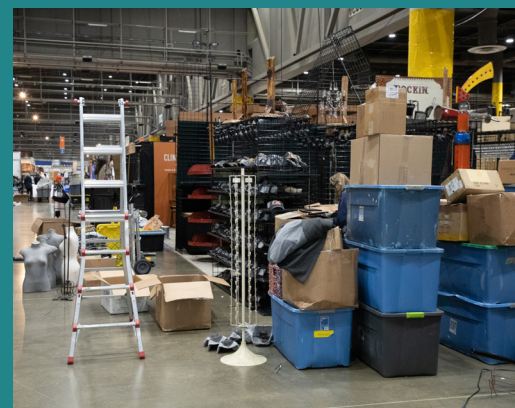
Amanda Schlatre, the senior manager of Exhibits and Events at the Rodeo, and the Commercial Exhibits Committee, choreograph this extraordinary dance every year. Schlatre handles all logistics for the food vendors (both inside and outside) as well as the commercial exhibitors. "The process starts in September when I begin with a template and assign move-in times and dates for the vendors," Schlatre said. An extensive logistical process then happens, with vendors receiving a final move-in date and time so they know when their space will be available and ready for set up. "We have about a week to get all of these extensive set ups in place and there are a lot of moving pieces," she said. "The exhibitors, in many cases, have known each other for years and are able to work together to make sure they can all set up in time."

Roxie Newkirk, owner of Choo Choo Ropes, shared a vendor's perspective. "We arrive on Tuesday and work through until Sunday. You have to build the entire booth, and everything has

its place. If all the steps are not done in the correct order, then it will not go together correctly," Newkirk said. Choo Choo Ropes works four main shows per year, but their largest booth is at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. "The Rodeo does provide more time to set up, which is very nice because things do not have to be as rushed," Newkirk said. The lack of an end-time during the days of setting up is also helpful, allowing the vendors to stay as late as they need in order to get their work done.

After the Rodeo ends Sunday night, vendors begin removing their items and structures from their spaces and must be moved out of the building by Tuesday at 6 p.m.

On the final weekend of the Rodeo, Schlatre and her team of dedicated volunteers find out which vendors will be moving out Sunday night versus Monday morning, to coordinate the necessary details. It takes a lot of hard work and organization to make the shopping experience at the Rodeo fun and seamless. 🙌







**Travis Adair**  
Ranching & Wildlife



**Andy Barry**  
Co-Chairman  
Area Go Texan



**Shane Boatman**  
Corral Club - Division II



**Brooks Bradford**  
Commercial Exhibits



**Lesli Brown**  
Corral Club - Support



**Vincent Chavez**  
Tours



**Justin Clark**  
Gatekeepers



**Steve Cosby**  
Donkey & Mule



**Brooke Craneck**  
Junior Commercial Steer  
Feeding & Management



**Kathy Farrow**  
Co-Chairman  
Area Go Texan



**Laurie Fontana**  
Judging Contest



**Spike Garcia**  
Armed Forces  
Appreciation



**Chris Gilstrap**  
Souvenir Program



**Gina Goosby-Harris**  
Black Heritage



**Tom Hanna**  
Corral Club -  
Committeemen's Club



**Kam Hasmukh**  
Corral Club - Hideout



**Patti Henderson**  
Paint Horse



**Seth Howell**  
Corral Club -  
Auctions & Receptions



**Jeff M. Jones**  
Lifetime Vice Presidents



**Russell Jones**  
Corral Club - General



**Anthony Katz**  
Corral Club - Ticket Sales



**Curtis Kendrick**  
Quarter Horse



**Rick Key**  
Membership



**Sean Lehane**  
Steer Auction



**Thomas Lewis**  
Go Tejano



**Richard Mann**  
RODEOHOUSTON  
Sports Medicine



**Dawne Martin**  
School Art Auction



**Michael McWilliams**  
Industrial Crafts  
Competition



**Bob Nelson**  
Western Art



**Craig O'Sullivan**  
Horse Show  
Chuckwagon



**Billy Parker**  
Trail Ride



**Craig Paton**  
Rabbit



**Cam Raison**  
Corral Club -  
Stockman's Club



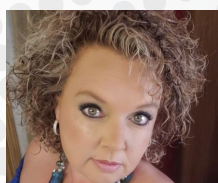
**Alicia Smith**  
School Art



**David Smith**  
Information Services



**Robert Steinocher**  
Llama and Alpaca



**Shauna Taplin**  
Feed Store



**Laura Taylor**  
Livestock



**Thad Tomchesson**  
Corral Club - Sky Suites



**Logan Welch**  
Veterinarian



**Ryan Wollam**  
Calf Scramble Donors



**Kathleen Wright**  
Transportation





# INCOMING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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