CAMPUS WALKING TOUR

Fall 2016
REMEMBER: This is not a “script”. It is a guide with talking points that you will use on your tour. The tour is built around your personal stories, so take time to perfect them. This is what sells Texas A&M!

- You will notice several bulleted facts at each stop. The bullet categories are below:
  - Must mention
  - Can mention
  - Fun Fact

- Each stop will consist of at least one personal story. The stories don't have to be long, as long as they are about your (or someone you know) experience, and include the talking points given for each stop.

- Please DO NOT walk and talk or walk backwards while delivering the tour. Instead, use the time between stops to answer specific questions and get to know your visitors one-on-one. Invite them to walk with you.

- Keep in mind that the tour should take no longer than one hour from beginning to end. There may be questions at the end that would keep you after the allotted one hour. Please allow for this in your schedule.

- Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your tour is scheduled to begin to give you time to visit one-on-one with visitors and get your microphone ready.

- During the pre-tour visits, find out where visitors are from and what majors they are interested in, so you can use that information on your tour. Exceptional customer service experiences are based on meaningful connections with your audience.

- When it's time for your tour to begin, say “Howdy,” just loud enough to get everyone's attention. Let them know to follow you, if they are there for your tour time.
**Personal Story: Your 1st visit to TAMU**

- “Howdy” – official greeting for one of friendliest campuses
- Aggie Intro
- Tour Info (length, 7 takeaways)
- Takeaways: our world-class academics, our rich history and traditions, our outstanding intercollegiate athletics program, opportunities for leadership, the Aggie spirit, and what it means to be a part of the Aggie family
- One of only 17 in nation and only in Texas to be Land, Sea and Space Grant Institution
- More than 55,000 students on College Station campus and over 62,000 throughout entire TAMU system
- 5200 acre campus – but it feels like a small world! (with student orgs, etc.)
- Texas A&M Opened in 1876 as an all-male military institution. Originally called Agriculture and Mechanical College of Texas - Name changed in 1963 under General James Earl Rudder’s presidency

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**Tip:** Mention that you’ll be taking a shortcut to the next stop through Rudder Tower. Stop on the sidewalk and point out the Sanders Corps Center and mention that they can visit for free after the tour.
Corps of Cadets

- Home to Corps of Cadets, now more than 2500 students. The largest it’s been in 40 years.
- Corps of Cadets nation’s largest uniformed student body and commissions more officers than any other school except for nations service academies.
- Military Service is optional. About 40% choose a commission but 60% choose careers outside of the military.
- For those wanting a military career the Corps offers Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.
- Academic success is the number one priority of the Corps. The Corps offers free academic support and has 4 new state of the art Leadership Learning Centers.
- A sophomore in Corps handles Reveille.
- Reveille is a five-diamond general, highest ranking member of Corps of Cadets – treated like a queen on campus with her own credit card, spa treatments, etc. – goes everywhere with her handler.
- Fighting Texas Aggie Band famous for precision, more than 450 members.
- If Rev barks in class, class is dismissed. Fun trying to make her bark, but she is very well-trained.
- Different uniforms for each year, most visible is Senior boots.
- Join a unit based on your interests/major.
Aggie Ring

- Aggie Ring most outward symbol of being an Aggie/Aggie Network “Aggies hire Aggies”
- Order ring once a student reaches 90 total hours, 45 of which must be at Texas A&M
- Ring day several times each year at Association of Former Students. If your schedule permits, recommend you visit the ASF in the Clayton Williams, Jr. Alumni Center.
- We have more than 400,000 living Former Students
- Wear ring with class year toward you until you graduate, then turn around to “face the world”
- Ring from every class year on display at Association of Former Students
Financial Aid
- 71% of students receive financial aid
- Scholarships and Financial Aid Office in the Pavilion, take walk-ins daily

Study Abroad
- Can go for a short time (1-2 weeks) or extended period of time (semester-year exchange, etc.)
- Almost 4,000 students a semester now study abroad to 150 countries
- Study abroad gives students a chance to travel and earn college credit
  - Exchange agreements with a number of Universities in:
    - Asia
    - Europe
    - Latin America
    - Oceania

Residence Life
- Northside, Southside and Westside residence halls (including White creek on campus apartments) as well as the Corps residence halls and The Gardens and Westside Apartments
- Many different styles to fit needs and price
- Move-in day another example of Aggies helping Aggies
Personal Stories: Favorite spot in library

Libraries
- Five libraries on campus

Extensive Hours:
- During the Fall & Spring semesters, 3 libraries (Annex, WCL, MSL) open Sunday and don’t close until Friday night (i.e. open 24 hours/day for 5 days each week)
- Call or check library websites for more details including weekend, interim or holiday hours.

Study Spaces:
- Each library has a variety of study and collaboration spaces to fit your needs.
- Quiet, individual, group
- You can even reserve group rooms online.

With over 5 million books, you can find almost anything

University Writing Center can help with any stage of the writing process from brainstorming to final revisions. They work with any type of written OR oral communication (e.g. research papers, presentations, resumes, lab reports, theses, dissertations, and speeches, etc.)

Drop by the libraries 1st floor AskUs desk or use their chat, e-mail, or text services to “Ask them just about anything.”

Research Help: Librarian for every major.

Technology & Media: We have music, movies, laptops, phone chargers, headphones, calculators, video & voice recorders, cameras and many other tech tools!

Special events during finals such as puppies to pet, games, food etc.

Starbucks Coffee & snacks
**STOP FOUR: CONTINUED**

**Cushing Library**

- Cushing houses rare books, special collections and the official TAMU Archives (i.e. TAMU History Repository).
- Collections cover a wide range of topics including Texas history, classic literature, and gender studies.
- Cushing is well known for its Science Fiction and Fantasy collection including the papers of George R. R. Martin (the author behind the Game of Thrones series)
- Cushing has manuscripts of his books, first editions, rare HBO merchandise, and more
Texas A&M has 16 Schools and Colleges at both undergrad and graduate level

Those on “Main” campus include:

- **College of Architecture**
- **College of Education and Human Development**
  - ranked #1 in Texas for producing largest number of teachers in math and science
  - Not just education, also home to Human Resource development, Sports Management, and Kinesiology.
- **Dwight Look College of Engineering**
  - Largest college on campus with more than 350 faculty members and more than 14,000 engineering students.
  - Engineering Concrete Canoe team finished 3rd in the country this year.
  - Nascar driver Jeff Gordon drove a Texas A&M Engineering car in April 2014 race at Texas Motor Speedway and almost won, finishing 2nd!
- **College of Geosciences**
  - The Oceanography and Meteorology building, the tallest on-campus, is also the rooftop home of the Aggie Doppler weather radar
- **College of Liberal Arts**
  - Largest graduating college
- **College of Science**
  - Programs in various areas throughout the state
  - Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas
  - School of Law in Fort Worth
  - Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy

*Tip: Invite your guests to sit on the stairs*
Personal Stories: Code Maroon/Corps Escorts

- Safety on Campus
- Several services and protocols in place
- Blue Lights all over campus with phones
- Corps Escort Service
- Code Maroon, a campus notification service, will text or email you with emergency info
- Residence Halls require ID swipe to enter

Tip: Use your best judgment for where to stand in the plaza. Try to stay in the shade.
Personal Stories: Big Event & Student Organizations

- Selfless service one of core values along with Integrity, Respect, Loyalty, Leadership, Excellence

- Two examples in the Academic Building represent selfless service, including the Replica of Liberty Bell given to school after WWII because so many Aggies were lost in war and the seal from class of 1978

- Big Event largest one-day community service project in the country

- Getting involved at Texas A&M is easy with more than 1,000 student clubs and organizations

- Original Academic Building burned down in 1914, but rebuilt with concrete walls

Tip: Mention restrooms and water fountain; can ask them to think of their favorite movie as a transition to the next spot.
We condensed the three stops to one stop. Stand on the bench and point to all three areas.

Tip: Silver Taps to Sully is a good transition, can say that he was the first person honored.

Personal Stories: Put a penny on Sully, Century Tree proposal

**Century Tree**
- The Century Tree is a widely known and cherished tree on the A&M campus
- A local former student actually grows seedlings from Century Tree acorns and sells them to Aggies to plant in their yards all over Texas - as a A&M scholarship fundraiser!
- Thousands of proposals occur at this spot
- Known as the sweetheart tree

**Silver Taps**
- Silver Taps and Aggie Muster two of our most solemn traditions
- Silver Taps held first Tuesday of each month to honor any current students who passed away in the previous month
- Families are present, lights on campus are off, special rendition of Taps is played from Academic Dome, to North, South and West but never to the East because the sun will never rise on that Aggie again. Crowd leaves in silence. Shows support and is representation of the Aggie family.
- Muster happens every year on April 21 to honor any Aggie, past or present who passed away during the previous year.
- Held around the world. Name of fallen Aggie is read during Roll Call for the Absent, and anyone who knew that person answers “Here”.
- Example of loyalty and the Aggie family
- Aggies will travel 100 miles or further to attend a muster – there are over 300 musters throughout the world today
STOP EIGHT: CONTINUED

• **Sully**
  • Entire area called Academic Plaza
  • Texas Ranger, Governor, President of Texas A&M from 1891-1898
  • Students tried to pay him for tutoring, but he would say “Give me a penny for your thoughts” which is why students leave pennies for good luck
  • Character named for him in Monster’s Inc. (+ Academic Building in Monsters University)
    • example of our incredible Visualization program students at Pixar
  • Money donated to scholarship fund or community project – different cause each year
  • Students who aren’t near Sully will ask for a penny to be put on Sully through social media
  • During finals, will find lots of money, food, etc.
Personal Stories: Undergrad Research, Res Life

Academic Services and Rankings

- Student to Faculty ratio is 21:1, compares favorably to schools similar in size
- Professors hold regular office hours, some late at night
- The professor teaches the class while teacher assistants (TA's) are there to help
- Supplemental instruction (SI) also good source of assistance – led by students who have taken the class before and done well = good student perspective on material
- Many opportunities for undergraduate research in almost all disciplines
- Texas A&M ranked as:
  - 2nd among public universities in "Best Value Schools" category and 21st overall among publics (U.S. News & World Report, 2016)
  - 1st in Texas in student retention and graduation rates – both overall and for minorities (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)
  - 1st in country in Best Colleges for Veterans (USA Today College Guide, 2016)
  - 6th in nation among all universities based on "research, service, social mobility, and contributions to society" (Washington Monthly, 2016)
STOP NINE: CONTINUED

*West Campus*

- West Campus home to schools and colleges
  - Mays Business School
    - ranked in top 10 public business schools
  - College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
    - College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences home to only college of veterinary medicine in state.
    - Biomedical Sciences largest major on campus
  - College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
    - One of the largest colleges for agriculture and life sciences in the nation
  - School of Public Health
  - Bush School of Government & Public Service
    - Former students are serving in positions of public service leadership around the world, in Washington, D.C., and in local communities throughout Texas.
  - Health Science Center campus includes College of Medicine, College of Nursing, School of Public Health, Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas and Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy
Personal Stories: Military Walk, Broadway Show

Rudder Statue
- General James Earl Rudder, former President of Texas A&M
- Rudder Tower and Rudder Theatre complex named for him
- Broadway shows like Chicago, Mamma Mia and Westside Story have played here

Military Walk
- Historic sidewalk that was renovated in 2009
- Represents the path the Corps of Cadets took to eat at Sbisa Dining Hall for breakfast every day
- Tree-lined walk main artery of Central Campus
- Enjoy the history of Military Walk by reading the markers

Tip: Mention that our next stop is a living memorial and ask visitors to remove hats once inside.
Personal Stories: MSC

- Memorial Student Center is a living memorial dedicated all Aggies, past, present and future who give their lives to serve our country.
- Because it’s a memorial, all asked to remove hats and not walk on the grass outside.
- Renovated in 2012, left flag room in exact same configuration.
- Each entrance named for a core value.
- Walking through building, you will see a lower level, home to Choral Services, Mac Resources and food.
- Main level home to Rev’s Grill, Barnes and Noble Bookstore, the Flag room and Hall of Honor.
- Flag Room considered campus living room – grand piano.
- Also have a full service Chase Bank, Copy Corner and many meeting rooms and special event rooms as well as three Art Galleries.
- Texas A&M has 8 Medal of Honor recipients which can be learned about in Hall of Honor.
- “Aggie Alarm Clock” story in Flag Room.

Tip: Point out Reveille and the Aggie Ring on the photo in the hall.
Across Wellborn Road will see the Student Recreation Center, and several athletic and intramural facilities.

Texas A&M is known as the Home of the 12th Man.

E. King Gill was a former football player who was called out of the stands during Texas A&M’s game against Centre College in the Dixie Class in January of 1922. A&M down to only 11 players, and coach asked Gil to suit up. He never played, but stood ready on the sidelines.

Represents how the students of Texas A&M are ready to help when called on, whether it be on the field of play or not, but in life.

One player wears number 12 for football team, and is a walk-on, represents the student body.

Fans wave 12th Man Towels at football games.

Texas A&M owns rights to 12th Man and others must pay royalties to use the phrase.
WHY DID YOU CHOSE TAMU??