



I SHOOK YOUR HAND

**ALUMNI MEMORY BOOK
2002-2022**

TEXAS  STATE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Michael Abili

Texas State University (Mathematics)

Texas State University, MEd '16 (Mathematics)

Texas State University, PhD '24 (Mathematics Education)

Academic Advisor I/Doctoral Student at Texas State University

Living in San Marcos

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

I've shaken her hands when I earned my BS in December 2013, MEd in May 2016, and several events from 2007 to now (2022).

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

All the friends I made and experiences I got to be a part of the longer I've been at the university. From being a 1st Gen BiRacial young adult struggling to earn his first degree and being an RA in the residential halls to now being a Doctoral

student and working as an academic advisor 1 at the University. I've gotten to see people and parts of campus that most never got to see unless they were here as far back as 2006. From the football stadium expanding from a High School stadium with a track to a top-tier stadium; parking lots being dismantled for more green areas on campus; being able to have full conversations with the Provost and President even in suites for Bobcat football games and watching President Denise Trauth navigate racial events on campus to keep everyone united and progressing towards



the dream that President LBJ and MLK Jr. envisioned for the future, educating everyone regardless of our differences for a brighter and more welcoming present.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means diversity and acceptance even if sometimes the University has its hands tied. Texas State is the premier school of the state and shining star for all in Texas.

Fenda A Akiwumi

Texas State University, PhD (Geography)

Texas State University '06

Professor of Geography, Environmental Science and Policy, School of Geosciences at University of South Florida

Director, Institute on Black Life at University of South Florida

Living in Tampa

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2006

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

- Being part of a vibrant geography department
- Receiving tremendous support from faculty, Staff and Colleagues
- Living next to the San Marcos River and Aquarena Springs
- Making lifelong friends

What does Texas State mean to you?

Giving me the opportunity to fulfil my desire of obtaining a doctoral level degree

Chris Alberts

Texas State University (Zoology)

Photographer at Chris Alberts Imaging

Living in San Antonio, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2009

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

When we needed more players for our intramural soccer team we invited a couple of people out to play with us over a Facebook message (Facebook came out right when I started at Texas State

in 2004. At that point, it wasn't weird to message people you didn't know because it was a platform for making friends). All of them were really cool and fun and a couple of them turned out to be lifelong friends.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means a new start. A place to mold yourself into who you want to be while expanding your world view



through new friends, education, and unfamiliar situations. Texas State is growth, excitement, and challenges, all rolled into one beautiful campus.

Md Ali

Texas State University (Physics)

PhD Computer Science Student at Illinois Institute of Technology

Living in Chicago, IL, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 2019

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I was able to start over and was given a second chance for my academic career. I really wished I started at Texas State as it was much better than my old institution.

What does Texas State mean to you?

It was amazing, I would love to give back some day when I get into my professional career or even work there as a professor.



Turki Altharman

Texas State University, MPH (Public Health)

Health Education Specialist at Almana General Hospital

Living in Hofuf Saudi Arabia

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

Unfortunately, I did not because I graduated during the Coronavirus pandemic.

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

When I first attended my first class as an international student, I knew no body. It was a new culture, a new place, a new environment, and a new life. I felt homesick, and I had culture shock. However, as soon as I had a seat, Dr. Housman, who was a graduate professor in the Public Health Department, came to me and shook my hand. At that time, I was speechless, and I was extremely

happy. That hand shaking was an attitude I would never forget.

However, the first two months were extremely challenging for me because of the feeling of homesickness. I tried to give up and head back to my home country. In contrary, Dr. Williams, who was my academic advisor, helped me getting rid of this feeling. He kept encouraging me, reminding me not to give up, and to give myself a chance to cope with those feelings. In fact, all the professors were heroes to me. In addition, two of my closest friends, who I knew in San Marcos, helped passing these crises. Thank you Mohammed Majida and Mohammed Alshehry. Without you all, I



would not pass all the negative feelings because of encouragement and positive attitude. Thank you Texas State's faculty members for all the support. I enjoyed every second of being a student at Texas State. I hope I can visit someday.

What does Texas State mean to you?

It means a school and a place for good memories.

Lauren Alvarado

Texas State University, BBA (Economics)

Associate correspondence representative at Charles Schwab

Living in Dallas, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2019

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

Fondest memories from Texas state include meeting my now husband on campus and always enjoying the beautiful walks around campus

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas state will always hold a special place in my heart. This is the place where i grew into adulthood and met so many amazing bobcats along the way. I am the 4th person in my family to go to Texas state and hope to continue that tradition with my future kids



Jack Andersen

Texas State University, MA (History)

University of North Texas, PhD '17 (History)

Adjunct Professor of History at Collin College

Living in Dallas, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2007

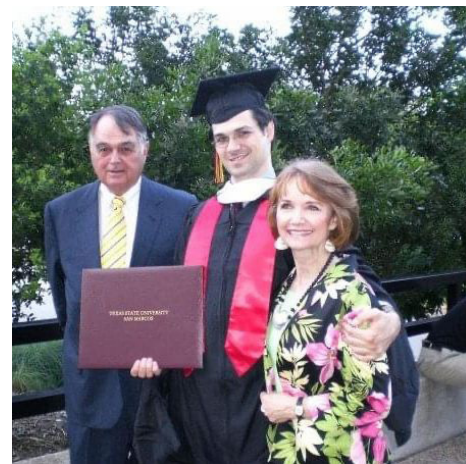
What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memory was defending my Master's Thesis in front of my committee. My professors were so supportive as I finished that step in my academic career, and they encouraged me to con-

tinue down that path. They treated me more as a colleague rather than a student, and I was especially grateful to my mentor, Dr. James Pohl. I would not be who I am now without that nurturing experience that I had at Texas State.

What does Texas State mean to you?

I see Texas State as the first real welcoming academic home that I had. The history faculty were universally support-



► Graduation day with my parents.

ive of me, and they all challenged me to push my limits. I have far more fonder moments Texas state and then I do in my doctoral program.

Caitlyn Andrews

Texas State University (Fashion Merchandising)

Texas State University, MBA '20 (General Business)

Marketing Coordinator at Blackhawk Aerospace

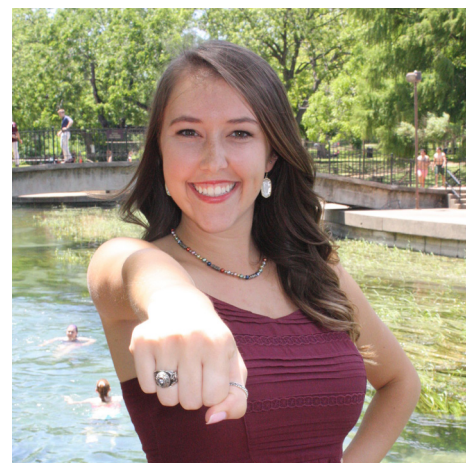
Living in Waco, TX

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

I shook President Trauth's hand in Spring of 2019 and Fall of 2020

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memory at Texas State were times spent at Sewell Park with friends. Texas State is such a beautiful school and San Marcos is a great town. It is one of my favorite places I lived.



What does Texas State mean to you?

I think of Texas State and San Marcos as my home. It always be one of my favorite places and where I created so many life long friendships.

(Also it was pretty cool to see President Trauth around campus. I remember doing an early 6am workout class at the rec and President Trauth was there in the class too!)

Shelter Anyama

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

December 2010



Paige Armand

Living in Perth WA, Australia

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2015

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

The city and the campus is just so beautiful! Sitting at the river during the summer and jumping in after graduation. Such a beautiful place to study!

What does Texas State mean to you?

Not just a place of education but a place of friendship!



Ahkilah Armster

Texas State University, MS (Marketing Research and Analysis)

Texas State University, BBA '20 (Marketing)

Lamar University, MBA '23 (Management)

Living in Houston, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2021

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

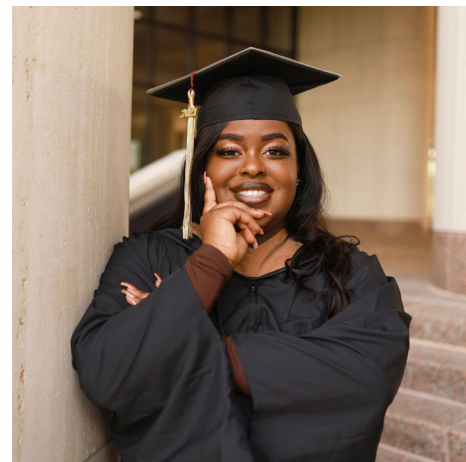
My fondest memory of my time at Texas State University was the social events. It provided me so many opportunities to meet other Bobcats. I love Texas State so much. I literally watched LBJ get transformed. We had so much fun in the amphitheater.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State will always be home in my heart. I grew so much at the university.



► First Gen Proud



► MSMRA Grad Pic 2021- Taken by Tino Productions @chapterxiv



► BBA - Marketing Grad Pic At The Arch

Antonia Avila

Texas State University (Applied Sociology)

Site Coordinator at Communities in Schools of San Antonio

Living in San Antonio, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

December 2011

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

Walking to class at the quad is my favorite memory. It is such a diverse campus and it taught me a lot, both inside and outside of the classroom.

What does Texas State mean to you?

As a first generation college student, I have great pride in myself for going to

Texas State University and graduating with my Bachelor's Degree. Texas State University will always be a part of my life, and I hope that one day one of my children will go to college there, or someone from my extended family. I always felt welcomed by faculty and staff. My fellow classmates at the time, were always friendly. I had the opportunity to speak at an internship seminar class for the Applied Sociology Internship Program in 2014, and it was very rewarding to be able to share my experience with other college students. Texas State University



► December 2011-Bachelor of Science in Applied Sociology-Minor in English

helped shape me into the woman I am today; both personally and professionally. This institution holds a very special place in my heart.

Cristine Ayala

Texas State University (Public Administration)

Education Specialist IV at Texas Education Agency

Living in Buda, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

Because if COVID-19, I didn't get to shake hands with President Trauth.

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I was a non-traditional first generation student, a late starter. I was 44 when I started my higher education experience. I was so proud to walk on to that campus for the first time in 2017 and every time I walked on to the campus, I would get a lump in my throat. Every time! I couldn't believe that after so many years of wanting to go to college, I was there. Throughout the years, I was able to watch our three daughters graduate

from a college or university in Texas, including one at Texas State.

Pursuing a degree, working full-time and maintaining my home life was a true struggle. While at TxState I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder and I wanted to quit because it took so much of my mental and physical energy. It was a true struggle, but being on campus with my fellow Bobcats made the days there easier. I miss walking, what seemed like mountains, to my classes. I miss Bobcat Trail and walking through The Quad.

Because of COVID-19, graduation was non-traditional and was held at Bobcat Stadium. I was so very proud of myself for making it to that day and walking



across that stage with my daughters, husband, parents and sisters watching, it was the best day ever.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State University means strength to me. As a non-traditional student, it took all the mental and physical strength I had to complete my degree. And my professors were the support I needed to keep me standing all the times I wanted to give up.

Sarah Ayala

Texas State University, Bachelor of Science (Exercise and Sports Science)

Teacher at Grand Prairie ISD

Volleyball Coach at BallFx

Living in Grapevine, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2019

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I had my son (who is now 2) my senior year at Texas State. I had some professors say I just needed to show up for the final, other's Zoomed their lecture so I

could "be at class" while at home, and another professor allowed me to bring my baby with me to class. But one professor actually allowed my son and I to stay with her and her family. They fed me and supported me and I was able to finish my degree while taking care of my newborn baby thanks to all of the support from my professors and others at Texas State.



What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means I am able to support my son and do hard things. I love the campus, the professors, the staff, and the city. I gained so many valuable skills from the adversity I faced along with the love and support I experienced.

Marisha Bailey

Texas State University (Advertising)

Design & Sales Assistant at Parker RoseDesign

Living in San Clemente, CA, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 2012

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I went to 2 other universities before landing at TxState and there are so many reasons why it felt like home for me. I

love the culture, people, and my campus experience and I'm so proud to call Texas State my alma mater!

What does Texas State mean to you?

I was the first in my family to move away from our small town and also the first person from my entire family to graduate with a Bachelor degree. This school



allowed me to break barriers and prove things can be done differently. Thank you for giving me that opportunity.

"I Shook Your Hand..."

Anna Ballew

Texas State University (Digital media innovation)

Living in Austin

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2020

Raymond Beecham

Texas State University, BBA (Computer Information Systems)

Software Engineer at Accenture Federal Services

Living in Killeen, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

In 2019 when I graduated

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

Joining AITP and meeting all my great friends and competing and winning against other school for competitions along with learning more about different companies out there. I also really enjoyed all the friends I met at Leadership and all the great professors.



► Picture for AITP

What does Texas State mean to you?

I feel privileged to have gone Texas State University. I learned a lot about leadership, patience, and perseverance. The professors in the CIS department were always there for me and were always helpful and encouraging.



Hollie Bernhard

Texas State University (Health Information Management)

Sr Legal Contract Specialist at MD Anderson

Living in Houston

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2012

Jamie Black

Texas State University (Biology)

Field Scientist at Terracon

North American Sales Manager at Agarose Bead Technologies

Living in Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 16, 2019

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I can't pick just one, but my favorite routine in between classes was to get a coffee and find a quiet spot, either at Taylor Murphy, or tucked in a shady spot beside ASBS, and just be.



► final goodbye to LBJ

What does Texas State mean to you?

Throughout my four years at Texas State I learned to appreciate my education and understand the real power of knowledge. I found my best friends that will stick with me for life, and my professors taught me so much more than just the curriculum.

Texas State is where I found myself. I learned and to find and appreciate beauty in the simple things. I learned to expand my thoughts. I learned acceptance, forgiveness and independence. I



► post river jump



wouldn't be who I am today without my experiences at Texas State. San Marcos and all the memories it holds will always have a special place in my heart.



► post river jump

Andre BouMitri

Texas State University, MEd (Sports Management)

Hospitality Professional at Wynn Resorts Worldwide

Living in Austin, TX, Nashville, TN, Salem, NH

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

I shook Dr. Trauth's hand on May 15th of 2009 in Strahan Coliseum at my graduation ceremony.

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

It was being a New England raised person, entering the land of the unknown, but knowing all the great things the great state of Texas offered. Also the opportunity of going to a Division 1 school, compared to my undergrad year at a Division 3 school in the middle of the white mountains of beautiful New Hampshire. Texas State University was a state of mind with what the campus offered for way of life, and how the town of San Marcos allowed us youthful individuals live a proper way of life, with knowing options of discovery are just a beautiful scenic view away down in

perhaps New Braunfels or going to visit the city life in Austin. Texas State gave me the opportunity to become someone and better myself while also help shaping the individuals I interacted with become someone themselves. It was always a great day to be a bobcat, and am around to represent the maroon and gold when I lived in Nashville, and now in my current home town in Salem, NH. Thank you for everything Texas State. Forever keeping that Maroon and Gold on high. I can't wait til the day comes when "Texas State" becomes a household and respect name in the world of college's and Universities in the world. Eat 'Em Up Cats!

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means a lot to me, because I came from 1700 miles away and became someone amongst the majority of Texans. I shared my knowledge and

my stories from the north and above the Mason-Dixon line. I enhanced the minds of my fellow Texans and became a Texan myself. Being in a town like San Marcos and learning nicks and trinkets of living a different life style like I had before was just a treat. Being a part of an up and coming University trying to change its image in the world of schools in the state of Texas and the south alone, it meant a lot. To be a part of a great history of alumni alone it makes Texas State mean a lot to me. Just to wear the colors alone and helping the name of the school meant something and representing to the best of all means. It means the world to me to be a northerner becoming a part of the Maroon and Gold and taking on that challenge and successfully achieving the goal of keeping the name and positive reputation of the University to continue in the right direction and preaching it's name in so many positive ways.

Kathryn Budde

Texas State University, BEng (Industrial Engineering)

Graduate Instructional Assistant - Industrial Engineering
Department at Texas State University

Living in San Marcos, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

Fall 2020

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memory of my undergraduate time was getting to play soccer with all of my closest friends and meet so many other athletes and coaches. The Athletic community at Texas State University will always have a special place in my heart. The Industrial Engineering Department as well has offered my many tremendous resources such as mentors,

advice, and the opportunity to continue my education to obtain my M.S. in Engineering at the same university. It is truly a blessing to be able to continue with my professors from undergrad and now have them as key mentors in my life and academics.



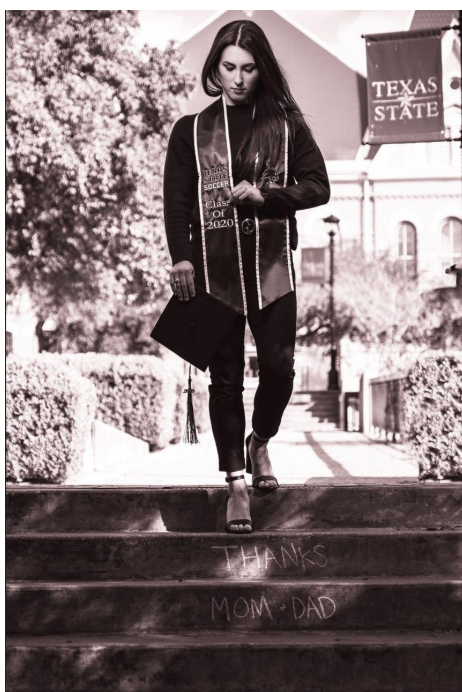
► Kathryn Budde

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State University will always be my home away from home. By the time I am done with my masters, I will have been here for 6.5 incredible years and countless memories.



► Texas State Soccer - Senior Game 2019



► Graduation Picture - 2020



► Texas State Soccer - Freshman Season 2016

Sheila Bustillos

Texas State University, MEd (Education)

Strategy Development Principal at Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas

Living in Lantana, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

I was a presidential ambassador. I was privileged to shake President Trauth's hand on numerous occasions. She is loyal, fierce, and brilliant. I shook her hand at commencement twice, once for my undergraduate degree and again for my graduate degree.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State was an inclusive place to make mistakes, gain knowledge, and grow personally and professionally. I learned about feminism and activism from Julie Eckert, about compassion and empathy from Dean Garrison, about hard work and sacrifice from Coach Chisholm, and about integrity and agency from Shannon Fitzpatrick. I was surrounded by thoughtful pioneers who didn't judge my naiveté, rather they



► *Me and Boko*

watched me carefully to ensure my falls were not from too high and that my successes were met with humility. Im fearless because of Texas State.

Sonny Cabrera

Texas State University, MA (Political Science)

Program Analyst at U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Living in Austin, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

I shook President Trauth's hand in May 2015 and then again in May 2017!

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I will always fondly remember my time attending class at UAC and being beautifully "schooled" by Dr. Thomas Doyle and Dr. Robert Gorman in the Political Science Department. Their character and their teachings were foundational to who I am today. Years later, I still find myself frequently thinking WWMPs ("what would my professors say?") when critiquing myself and my own potential to succeed in what I put my mind towards.

Likewise, I will also always remember the exceptionally fun times I had working alongside the Dean of Student staff

and my fellow students in the Student Leadership Board. Without the Leadership Board and the opportunities it afforded me, I believe my life would have taken a different path from where I am today. I will always remember the saying we had to "have a healthy disregard for the impossible."

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State is, was, and always will be my foundation and my rock. I have carried away countless lessons and experiences from my time on campus that still contribute to who I am now. I am proud to have spent my time as an undergraduate and graduate at Texas State, and continue to be immensely thankful for having had the opportunity to meet every kindhearted spirit throughout my five years on campus.



► Graduation Day in May 2017!



Reece Caldwell

Texas State University (Exercise and Sports Science)

Graduate Student and Teaching Assistant at University of Texas at Austin

Living in Austin, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

August 2021

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memory at Texas State was walking across the bridge at Sewell Park on my way to classes in Jowers Hall. Looking down at the beautiful clear waters and across the way at students laying out on Bikini Hill brought so much joy to my heart. I always tell people TXST is a university centered around recreation and student success. I loved

how much care TXST provided for the environment, river, campus, and community.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means home to me... I am currently getting my Masters degree from UT Austin, however I cannot wait to return to TXST one day as a professor in upper level Kinesiology courses. TXST became my home in 2018, and has been my home since. My younger brother is now a freshman at TXST and I hope that TXST always remains in my family line. I hope to contribute much to this university one day, and will always and forever cherish my time as a student and instructional assistant while there.



Maida Camacho

Texas State University (Drama and Theatre Arts)

TRIO ETS Program Advisor at The Parris Foundation

Living in Houston, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 12, 2011

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memory at Texas State was the environment and atmosphere. In 2008, you were still able to walk from one end of campus to the other. On nice days, I enjoyed my walks from San Marcos Hall to the Theatre Building. The

beauty and scenery are the things I will treasure the most about TxState. Not to mention building life-long connections and friendships that blossomed from my time here.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means life-long connections and friendships that I hold dear, even until today. It means spiritual, emotional, and mental growth as an individual and productive citizen in society. Texas State



► Graduation Ceremony - May 12, 2011

means independence as well as appreciation for family. Texas State means the best time of my life so far.

Irene Campos

Texas State University, BBA (Accounting)

Assistant Director of Finance

Living in Austin, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2013

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My favorite memory at Texas State was the first time I met my friends. The times we spent together studying for exams

or just taking a break. And also, graduation day. The best feeling in the world knowing you were able to accomplish so much and knowing your parents are proud and smiling because of you.

Charlcee Cervantez

Texas State University '19 (Public Relations and Mass Communication)

Alumni Relations Coordinator at Texas State University

Living in San Marcos, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 2019

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

As a student there is a special level of excitement that comes with walking the stage at graduation and shaking Dr. Trauth's hand. Now working for Texas State, it was exciting to see the Alumni Association surprise Dr. Trauth with the Outstanding Leadership Award at the 2021 DA Gala.

What does Texas State mean to you?

I'm proud to be a first-generation Hispanic graduate from Texas State University. As a Hispanic Serving Institution, Texas State has always felt like home!



► SJMC Parks Study-in-America 2018

Patrick Cervantez

Texas State University, BSW (Social Work)

Texas State University, MSW '05 (Social Work)

Texas State University '08

Founder at R.I.S.E. Woodwork

Living in San Marcos, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

I had the opportunity to shake President Trauth's hand Fall of 2005, and Fall of 2008.

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

The professors teaching in the School of Social Work were great educators, leaders, and mentors for me. By far my

favorite memories are the interactions I had with such a caring and inspiring cohort.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State is a catalyst within the great City of San Marcos. Texas State means "home" to me. A place where I grew, matured, and learned from a great team of professors. Proud Bobcat, Always a Bobcat.



Allison Chambers

Texas State University (Psychology)

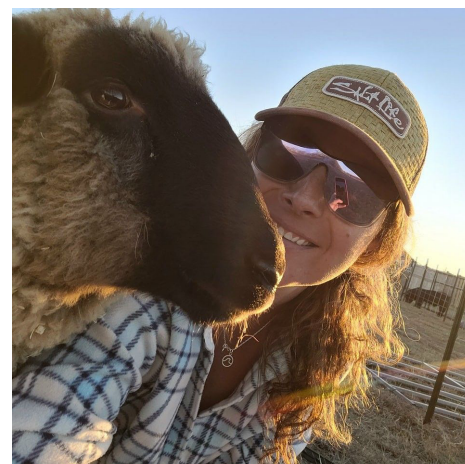
CEO & Co-owner of The Cryo Spa (entrepreneur) at Self
Co- Founder & President of The Zend: Final Farm & Sanctuary
(farm animal sanctuary non-profit owner) at Self

Living in Justin, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

Spring of 2004 - I was waiting in line with my little slip of paper with my name typed out on it, Allison B. Gambill..... It was my turn....I step up and hand my slip to the woman....she announces, "Amber B. Gambill".... I'm not sure what to do!! My friends scream "ALLISON" from the stands. I said, "That's not my name!" and she just shook her head and acted all tongue tied. I kept walking and when I got to you to shake your hand I pitifully told you, "That's not my name." You said you were so sorry as you were shaking my hand and then I just walked

back to my seat completely deflated. One of the most special days ever and it was thwarted by the name caller. Lol! I was pretty sad about it at the time, but it makes for a pretty funny story these days! The hard part was going back to my seat and waiting for the rest of the students to be called. I was bitter and ready to party! I'm curious if you recall that happening. I know you've shaken thousands of hands over the years, but how often were they called the wrong name? I'm hoping, for the sake of others, it wasn't often! Congrats on your retirement!



► Me with Lula Danie, our first official farm rescue!

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I really enjoyed my Psych classes with Dr. Stimmel. He was one of my favorite professors. I also enjoyed my Pop Music course and Magic, Ritual, and Religion course. I also met my husband when I was on my way to go float the river with friends. I bar tended at Draft Choice and Gordo's where we had concerts every weekend. It was always a lot of fun!

Giselle Chapa

Texas State University, AB (Communications)

Business Development Manager at Catalyst Group

Living in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

August 2019

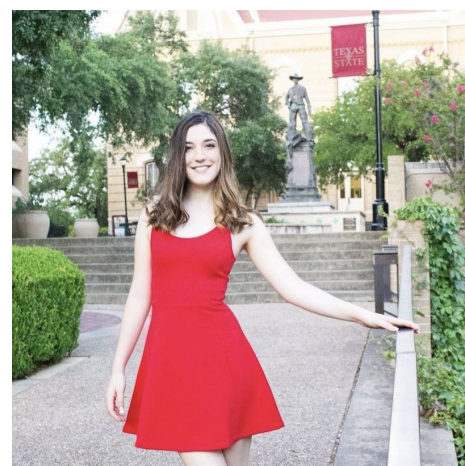
What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memory at Texas State University would be the last class I had with my English II teacher, Ms. Whitney May. I remember I was very sentimental that last day, because I knew I wouldn't have her as a teacher again. She had such a huge impact on my growth, not only

academically but also personally. She always made class something to look forward to and I had never had a teacher who engaged with every single student and made them feel welcomed and special. I will always appreciate everything she taught me and Texas State University for having amazing professors.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means so much to me, because not only I was able to meet amazing people, I took classes that



taught me so much with amazing professors. It was a blessing to be part of such a wonderful school with a beautiful campus and welcoming people. I made some of the best memories there and will always have a special place in my heart for my school.

Edgar Chiquin

Texas State University (Advertising)

Living in Austin, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 2003

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I still remember the day when I was in the computer lab at Old Main and our Professor Jody Gibson mentioned we were getting a new Dean and that she was a woman! She was so excited and we were all very happy as well. I loved the community and family aspect of Texas State and that it did not take itself too seriously. My fondest memory at Texas State was the name Southwest

Texas State and how the University at the time wanted insight on the name change and also on how we were going deal with getting more people to go to the football games. My campaigns class was as a senior was to get more people to come to our games. I also remember going up and down all those steps to get to Old Main.

What does Texas State mean to you?

It means that you never forget where you came from and all of the sacrifices we all have to make in life to become a better person and a better citizen inside the US and outside of the US. The dis-



► *Ready for another day!*

cipline that a person must possess at any job and the family and friends that respect such a sacrifice and determination brings.

Stacie Christensen

Texas State University (Computer Science)

Director, eCommerce & Product Data at National Instruments

Living in Cedar Park, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 2015

What does Texas State mean to you?

TSU is where I accomplished the first of my education goals. Currently, I am back again for my MBA program. I love being a part of the TSU family!

Griselda Conde-Holman

Texas State University, MEd (Reading Education)

Field Trainer/Analyst at Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk at The University of Texas Austin

Living in Round Rock, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 2019

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memories always include the faculty at the College of Education- Dr. Gainer, Dr. Colegrove, Dr. Ash, Dr. Lopez, Dr. Saunders, & Dr. Assaf helped make my time as a graduate student so incredibly memorable.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State has always had a special place in my heart. I wanted to attend as an undergraduate but my parents preferred to keep me closer to home (South Texas-RGV). I was grateful to have the opportunity to attend as a graduate student and enjoyed being a part of the diverse community. I hope to return to Texas State in the near future! Eat Em Up Cats!



► I made lifelong friends and colleagues.



► First generation college graduate and now first to hold a Master's Degree! Showing my little familia that hard work pays off!



► My parents made the trip from the RGV to watch me receive my Master's Degree.

Amy Condon

Texas State University, BS in Family & Consumer Science
(Fashion Merchandising)

Branch Manager at Integrity Mortgage Group
Executive Board Member at Great Angleton Chamber of
Commerce

Board of Directors at Habitat for Humanity of Southern
Brazoria County

Ambassador at March of Dimes

Living in Clute, Texas



When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

December 2007

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My favorite memory of Texas State was painting up for football games & cheering the team on from the stands.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State is where I developed life-long friendships, learned how to be on my own, got engaged, I took some amazing classes & learned a lot about myself, and received a degree I am forever grateful for.

Denise Contreras

Texas State University

Texas State University, MSW '07 (Social Work- Direct Practice)

Texas State University, BSW '06 (Social Work)

Founding Member of Haven (Sexual Violence Resource Center/
Counseling) at Colgate University

Living in Tucson, AZ, USA



When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

August 2006 & August 2007

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

Creating community and finding ways to advance ourselves as students. We were a cohort who graduated with our BSW in 2006 and with diligence and advocacy we continued our studies together within the MSW program.

At that time, it would have meant for us to go our separate ways and attend other graduate institutions to continue our journey but as social workers we learned to advocate for something that was needed for us to continue our education at Texas State.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State gave me an opportunity to grow and shine. I was taught by professors who looked like me, which made the

journey all the more real and accessible to me. It was a second chance to explore life after serving as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force.

I am a Mexican-American, First-Gen, LGBTQIA+, and Veteran of Texas State.

Callie Corrigan

Texas State University, BFA (Fine Arts and Studio Arts)

Manager at Studio Soho

Living in Midland, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 2019

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memory at Texas State was always the morning walks from the Photography building across campus to the

Art building. The walk through campus was not only beautiful, but such a wonderful reminder of where I came from to where I was now in life.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means so much to me. I worked so hard to achieve a goal that I never thought was possible. My final



semester there showed me that not only can I achieve graduating, but that I can accomplish any hurdle in life.

Benjamin Culpepper

Texas State University, BBA (Economics)

Actor/Tennis Coach at Self Employed

Living in New York, NY, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

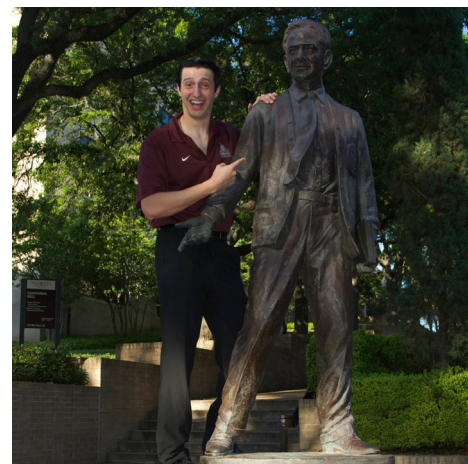
I shook her hand three times. First when I got my Texas State Ring via the Gold Book program. Second when one last morning at the SRC she came in to workout as usual, and before leaving I asked if we could practice the hand-shake. And Finally at my Spring 2015 Graduation ceremony.

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

Meeting my now wife and taking her to the top of the Student Recreation Center, where I was a manager, and watching the fireworks on New Years Eve.



► My Final Employee Banquet for Campus Recreation with my wife Kaitlynn



► Bye Bye LBJ

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State meant a happy accident. To be honest it wasn't my first or second choice. However by the end of my four years in San Marcos, I was obsessed. I grew into a great student with multiple deans lists to my name, an avid member of the SEA and Ping Pong Club, a dutiful worker at the Student Recreation Center, and a partner to my now wonderful wife Kaitlynn. Go Bobcats! Eat em Up!

"I Shook Your Hand..."

Aja Davies

Texas State University (Philosophy)

New York Law School, JD '24 (Law)

Living in New York, NY, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

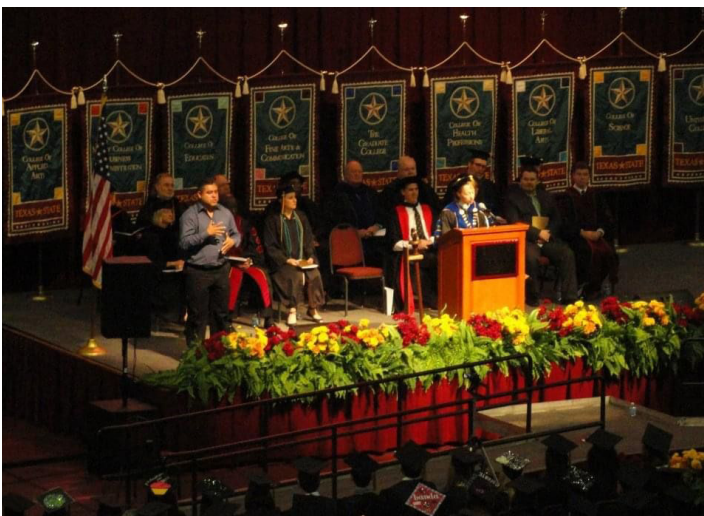
2012

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

Hanging out at Rio Vista park with friends, having philosophy study groups at the local hookah lounge, and going out to the square on the weekends.

What does Texas State mean to you?

A place that encourages discussion and allows you to express your thoughts and opinions.



Jessica Garcia

Texas State University (Geography)

GIS Specialist at Denco Area 9-1-1 District

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

I graduated and shook President Trauth's hand in May of 2011

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I truly enjoyed learning about my culture at Texas State. Attending a Hispanic Serving Institution as a first generation student and joining Alpha Psi Lambda National, Inc. (a coed Latino interest fraternity) helped me to get in touch with my heritage and learn to advocate not only for myself, but for others in a more meaningful way. Getting involved in the Fraternity led me to get involved in other ways on campus, such as PAWS Preview, Bobcat Awakening and even taking on a couple of on-campus jobs with the University Star and Athletics department. By participating in these organizations, I was able to learn about my own culture as well as the variety of others that made up the campus community, making these experiences and friendships my fondest memories.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Because of my involvement in campus organizations, especially Alpha Psi Lambda, and obtaining my Bachelor of Science, this not only challenged my



► 2011 - Traditional River Jump!

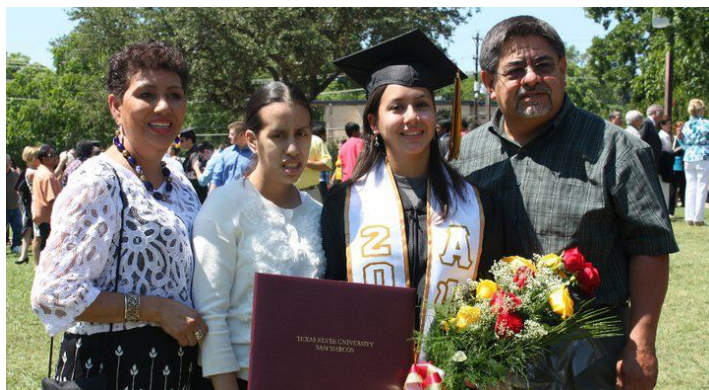
abilities to be successful academically and professionally, but it allowed me to challenge the societal dynamics that women of color often face. Representation in the athletics field, GIS (in which I currently work) and broader industries of Oil & Gas, Technology and Emergency Services are incredibly important to ensure our society becomes more efficient and successful. Uplifting one another so we may contribute to the greater cause is what I strive for and ultimately gained from my time at Texas State. I want to thank President Trauth for her example, as simply hearing her voice at commencement represented, for me, that women can ascend to the roles we deserve and together we can achieve excellence. That is what Texas State means to me.



► 2019 - Headshot for the National Executive Board of Alpha Psi Lambda National, Inc.



► 2011 - Shaking President Trauth's hand with my graduation cap dedicated to my parents. My cap included a world map surrounded by the text "Thanks Mom & Dad 4 giving me the World!" (how could a geography major NOT include a map on graduation day, right?)



► 2011 - Representing the Rising Star of Texas atop Guadalupe Peak (the highest point in Texas)

Pamela Holmes

Texas State University, BSW (Social Work)

Living in San Antonio, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

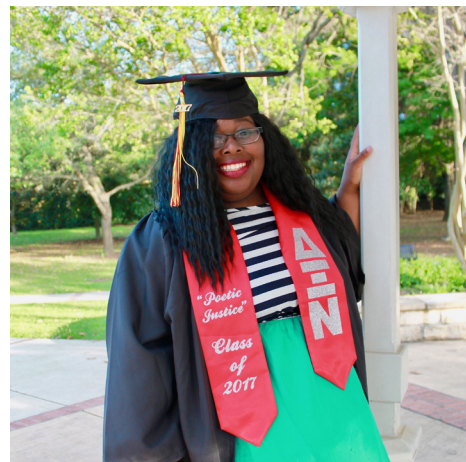
2017

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memory is all the time I spent being active around campus. I was an RA, a member of Delta Xi Nu Multicultural Sorority Inc., a member of H.E.A.T., a member of the BMB, and so much more. There was always so much to do.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means home. It is a place where people can authentically be themselves or be the person they want to become.



Ashley Knopp

Texas State University, Bachelor (Criminal Justice)

Administrative Assistant II at Texas State University

Living in San Marcos, Texas, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

I walked the stage in May 2017! It was a sunny morning, 10 am. Moments before I walked I kept wiping my gown, I was so nervous to be that close to the President!

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My fondest memory of my time at Texas State University is meeting my (soon to be husband!) fiancé at the President's House during Boko's Block Party! He was an incoming freshman and I was a sophomore who was working Bobcat Preview at the time. We now have two

kids (Malachi 4, Amari 3) who will be future Bobcats! Every day on our way home we pass Bobcat Stadium and my kids yell "HI BOKO THE BOBCAT!!!". Malachi truly believes Old Main is his castle, and he's always asking to go see it. Texas State will forever hold a special place in my heart. My life truly began here. I have started my career at Texas State in 2018 and I absolutely love being here everyday! Once A Bobcat, Always A Bobcat!!

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State is my second home. Texas State is where my life began. My family started here, my career began here, I



► My Bobcat Family

bleed and sneeze maroon and gold. My children will grow up hearing all of mommy and daddy's stories. From football games to RiverFest at Sewell Park to meeting lifelong friends, Texas State has made a forever impact on my life. Thank you Texas State and Thank You Dr. Trauth for making my time here memorable.

Landon Lynch

Texas State University, AB (Public Administration)

Human Resources Specialist at U.S. Army

Living in Texarkana, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2017

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

Walking the steps of Alkek down through the Quad one last time after finishing my last final. I will always have fond memories of the beauty of the

place, the lifelong connections made, and the relevance of the studies I undertook at Texas State.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State means the world to me. I would not have the life experience that I do now without Texas State. From graduate school, to my career, to my lifestyle, I owe it all to Texas State.



"I Shook Your Hand..."

Bliss Morvant

Texas State University (Psychology)

Living in Seguin, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

December 2021

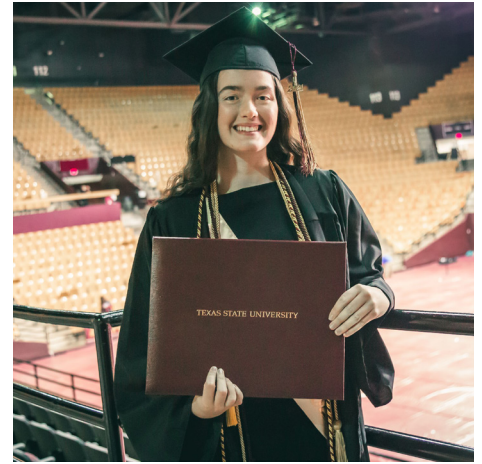
What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I loved walking through our beautiful campus and exploring San Marcos. I also loved being involved as an RA, officer in Student Alumni Council, and research assistant.



What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State is a place where you can enrich yourself, learn more about the world, and make connections that will last you a lifetime.



Mo Mounce

Texas State University (Biochemistry & Biology)

Senior Medical Information Manager at AstraZeneca
Pharmaceuticals

Living in MD, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

May 2009

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My most treasured memories at Texas State always involve the river! It was a motivator for me to study diligently so that I could go to the river either to float it, lay out in Swell Park, and taking my dog to go swimming at Rio Vista Park. On campus, I would love to walk

the campus! Despite the hills, I loved the opportunity to walk from biology to chemistry buildings (almost from one end to the other) as it was always such a welcoming environment and there was always this feeling of home! At Texas State I learned so many life lessons that molded me into the person I am today! Always a Bobcat!

What does Texas State mean to you?

Home! I felt like I was able to be myself fully and grow exponentially! It means



► *Graduation Day!*

that you can work hard, sometimes coming up short, yet persistence leads to success.

Scarlett Smith

Texas State University (History)

Administrative Specialist at Woodall Equipment Company

Living in Oklahoma City, OK, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2020

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

When I was elected as president of renegade roses. I felt so much support from my fellow roses and some of my best friends and was extremely flattered that they felt I would be the right person for the job. I loved being a part of such a great and genuine group of girls while supporting the men's rugby team that felt like big brothers to me. Supporting the rugby team was always rewarding because they're so awesome at what they do! I miss being a part of that group every day.



► dean's list reception

What does Texas State mean to you?

My time at Texas State was the best time of my life and I wish I could've stayed there forever. The memories I have of my college years are my fondest memories and something that I will always hold close to my heart. I made friends through school, extra curriculums and work (shout out Wonder World) that I will always love and hope to stay close with forever. My professors were amazing and inspiring (shout-out history department) and what I've learned from Texas State will never be taken for granted. Eat em up forever!



► dean's list! one and done



Lauren Stotler Searway

Texas State University, BBA (Management)

Southern Methodist University, MEd '22 (Higher Education Administration)

Assistant Director, Alumni Relations at Southern Methodist University

Living in Dallas, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

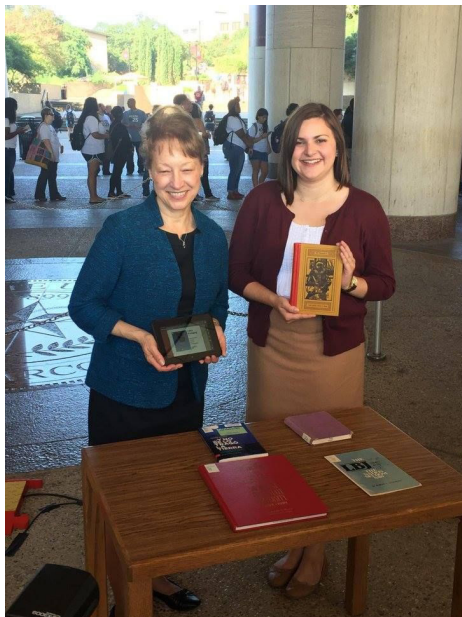
2016

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

Being the student body president and all of the opportunities that came along with that. I loved being the "voice of the students" and attending university committee meetings to see the behind the scenes at Texas State. I also really enjoyed my time in Model Organization of American States and getting to travel and compete with other schools.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State is the place where I got to branch out and discover who I really am. I met my best friend on this campus and learned many valuable lessons and skills.



► Alkek 25th Anniversary



► April 2015, getting sworn in as student body president



► Me now



Mya Taylor

Texas State University, AB (Psychology)

Living in San Marcos, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2021

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

Meeting all the great people during my time as an RA and working at the Rec center

What does Texas State mean to you?

Home

Paige VanMeter

Texas State University (Psychology)

Behavior Analyst at Autism & Behavior Analysis Team

Living in Kilgore, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

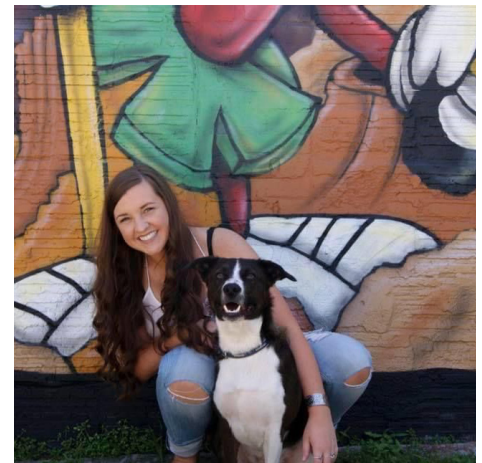
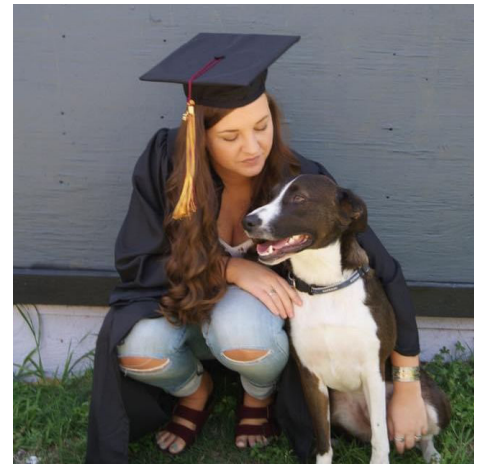
August of 2015

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

I have so many incredible memories of my time at TXST. The jump into the river after walking the stage at graduation was probably my favorite singular moment during my years in San Marcos. TXST has SUCH a huge piece of my heart & plays such a role in how I become who I am. I will be forever indebted to the incredible people of San Marcos.

What does Texas State mean to you?

It means everything! My time at TXST shaped me into who I am today. I never stop talking about my time in San Marcos to anyone who will listen, even all these years later.



Madison Young

Texas State University (Psychology)

Sr. Optical Specialist at Visionworks

Living in San Marcos, TX, USA

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

December 2021



Alana Zamora

Texas State University (Public Relations and Mass Communication)

Membership Coordinator at Witte Museum

Living in San Antonio, TX

When did you shake President Trauth's hand?

2018

What was your fondest memory of your time at Texas State University?

My favorite memory at Texas State was celebrating the end of the semester with my classmates and SJMC professors at Sewell Park.

What does Texas State mean to you?

Texas State was where I felt most inspired, and where my ideas and aspirations came to life.



► School of Journalism and Mass Communication - Study Abroad, Guyana 2018

Kurt Atkinson

Texas State University '96 (Psychology)

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Dr. Trauth, I want to thank you for your years of service to Texas State. I've always been impressed with you and have appreciated how you've led the university. My only regret is that you didn't come to San Marcos sooner, so my wife and I could have enjoyed your many campus successes as students. Thanks again for everything you did to make this school a better place. Lisa and I wish you well in retirement - well deserved.

Richard Caouette

Texas State University '82 (Speech Communication)

Living in Houston, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Denise- you have been amazing and an inspiration to thousands. God Bless and keep you on your journeys in the future!

Susie Castillo

Texas State University (Sociology) '78

Texas State University (Developmental and Adult Education) '06

Living in Seguin, TX

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Thank you for everything that you did in promoting our university! I was there as a student and employee for over 30 years, received both BA and MA from SWT/Texas State and am very thankful for your work in taking our university to the forefront. Wishing you only the best in your retirement!

Colette Cooley

Texas State University '10 (Psychology)

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Congratulations on your retirement! Thank you for everything you have done to make Texas State such an amazing university!

Lee Grogan

Texas State University '67 (Elementary Education)

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Dear Dr. Trauth, My husband Robert and I would like to thank you for every act of personal kindness you have extended to us. We stand in awe of what you have accomplished during your tenure at TSU, and we wish you every happiness in your upcoming retirement. Best wishes for good health and harmony in your new life. Most sincerely, Lee Grogan

Gregory Hamilton

Texas State University '82 (Criminal Justice Law Enforcement)

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Thank you for your service at Texas State. Job well done.

Miguel Henriquez

Texas State University '17 (Elementary Education)

Living in Round Rock, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Thank you for your excellent service to Texas State University. I remember shaking your hand when I earned my Masters in EC-6 Bilingual Education in December 2017. Hope you have a relaxing and happy retirement with your family and friends. God bless and stay safe.

James Hudson

Texas State University '78 (Applied Arts & Sciences)

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Thanks for leading the University to its current esteemed status in academia. It will always be SWT to me (I grew up in San Marcos) but by any other name we'll all be Bobcats Forever! Enjoy your well-earned Retirement!

Melissa Hyatt

Texas State University '89 (Elementary Education)

Lives in Lockhart, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Thank you for your leadership and inspiration over the years, especially these last few difficult years. I graduated from Texas State, then Southwest Texas, and have been here for 32 years, so I have seen numerous changes! I wish you well in your retirement and hope you enjoy it to its fullest!

Pamela Lemoine

Texas State University '93 (Applied Sociology)

Lives in Dallas, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

President Trauth deserves all the accolades she will receive for moving my beloved university into the respected position it deserved. I watched with admiration the growth and advancement in every way that occurred under her leadership. From my brother's graduation in the early 70s, to mine as a non-traditional student in 1993, to two nieces in the 2000s, my retirement in 2007, and now a granddaughter as a current student. I've watched the campus and the student body change--and stay the same--over time, due in large part over the past two decades because of Dr. Trauth's commitment to students first. A well-earned retirement, happy to have her in the club.

John Marambio

Texas State University '69 (Mathematics)

Texas State University '70 (Spanish)

Lives in San Diego, CA, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Muchisimas gracias, Senora Presidente! Vaya con Dios! Dr. John L Marambio, BA 1969, MA 1970, PhD 1979 (Texas Tech, sorry! lol)

Vernon McDonald, Jr.

Texas State University '75 (Physical Education)

Message to Dr. Trauth:

While my dad couldn't believe that Texas State would hire a 'girl' to be President, I think you have done a great job. And I'm sure my dad would think so too. Congratulations and enjoy your retirement. Donny McDonald

Becky Miller

Texas State University '14 (Applied Arts & Sciences)

Lives in Beeville, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

It is such an honor to be a Bobcat alumnus. I cherished my time at TXST and love reading all the exciting updates as the university continues to grow. Enjoy your retirement knowing you've earned the rest and taken the university to places no one could have imagined. No one EVER can call Texas State "the party school" again! Thank you for your focused determination while at the helm.

Neal Newberry

Texas State University '71 (Business Administration)

Lives in Austin, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

My sincere appreciation to you for making MY Alma Mater the outstanding institution it is today. One of my most cherished possessions is a picture of my older son receiving his BBA diploma from you in the very first class to graduate as TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY!!! I had the pleasure of meeting you when you were new to our University at Threadgill's in South Austin. May retirement be EVERYTHING you deserve and MORE! Sincerely, Neal W. Newberry

Chidinma Okoro

Texas State University '07 (Mass Communication – Advertising)

Lives in Katy, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

I just love you! I remember when you came to my class and congratulated our AAF team in our winning Yahoo campaign! I so appreciated it and it meant so much to see an influential woman like you growing up! Thank you

Kathleen Petitt

Texas State University '67 (English)

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Words cannot express our deep gratitude for all you have done for this university. Pride has always been felt when we have mentioned that this is the place that we attended but you have elevated that pride to a new dimension! From the small teachers' college on the hill to the large university it is today is an amazing accomplishment. So, we thank you so very much for the academic success and certainly for helping it to remain one of the prettiest and friendliest of campuses of all! Our love, pride and thanks, Richard and Kathy Petitt

Rodney Rohde

Texas State University '90 (Microbiology)

Texas State University '92 (Biology)

Texas State University '10 (Adult, Professional, and Community Ed)

Lives in Kyle, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

I like to tell all of my friends and students that Dr. Trauth and I started our journey together. After getting my BS in microbiology (1990) and MS in biology/virology (1992) from "SWT," I started my life as a public health microbiologist and molecular epidemiologist at the Texas Department of State Health Services and Zoonosis Control Division with two stints at CDC. In 2002, after a decade of being away from San Marcos, I came home to join the College of Health Professions as a new Assistant Professor in the Clinical Laboratory Science Program. President Trauth started around the same time I did as a professor and before I knew it, we were Texas State University. And, before I knew it, here we are together 20 years later, and she is retiring. I am SO PROUD of my alma mater and the progress we have made with President's Trauth leadership and team. The campus is almost unrecognizable from when I walked this hill as a 1st generation freshman from the small town of Smithville, TX. Thank you so much Dr. Trauth for making every day in those 20 years a place I have loved coming to work. I am going to miss you around campus, and I hope you will stay connected. Have a wonderful and well-deserved retirement! Once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat! #EatEmUpCats as we transition to #TXSTNext!

Diana Schick

Texas State University '71 (Family and Consumer Science)

Lives in San Antonio, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

What an extraordinary gift you have been to Texas State, especially with your tireless efforts to encourage students to pursue academic excellence while keeping TSU a university that offers higher education to many that would not otherwise get it. And you are just a fun person to know with your smile that lights up a room and your ability to relax or energetically pursue goals and MAKE them happen. I look forward to seeing you on campus in the months ahead. We are so glad you are staying in Texas where you have become so dearly loved.

Celia Sobey

Texas State University '04 (Applied Arts and Sciences)

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Thank you for your leadership, professionalism, dedication and commitment to Texas State University. Wishing you well in your future endeavors. Keep the faith.

Dennis Thumann

Texas State University '75 (History)

Lives in Lone Tree, CO, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Thank you so much for your visionary leadership for the past 20 years. My beloved University has achieved such greatness I could only have dreamt of back in 1975. Your contributions have far surpassed your predecessors. We are going to miss you but hope you have the very best in the future, you have earned it. Thanks. Dennis Thumann, Class of 75

Eddie Williams

Texas State University '04 (Secondary Education)

Lives in Pahrump, NV, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Hello Dr. Trauth, I want to thank you for everything you accomplished as an exceptional leader, and president of Texas State University. I have accomplished so much in life since I graduated with my Masters in Education. I want to thank you Dr. Trauth personally for raising the academic bar higher and challenging the Bobcat students to reach the higher standards.

Barry Woitena

Texas State University '77 (Computer Science)

Lives in Boerne, TX, USA

Message to Dr. Trauth:

Thank you for all you have done to better Texas State.

