On March 27, 2010 Texas A&M held its 28th annual Big Event! In one incredible day of service, over 13,200 students completed almost 1,500 jobs in the Bryan/College Station community! Aggies worked hard, performing jobs that included painting houses, raking leaves, washing windows, and much more! Most importantly, Texas A&M students participated in The Big Event to express their appreciation and gratitude for the Bryan/College Station community’s endless support of Texas A&M and its students. The morning of The Big Event began with its Kickoff ceremony which included free drinks and sausage, as well as musical entertainment provided by the band Nelo. Mr. Neil Bush, Chairman of the board for the Points of Light Institute, then gave an inspiring speech. Mr. Bush presented The Big Event with a Daily Point of Light award in October of 2009. Director Ryan Byrne and the dedicated Executive Team look to make this year’s Big Event on March 26, 2011 the best it has ever been! With the help of its hard working Committee and Staff Assistants, The Big Event hopes to recruit 15,000 students and looks to accept 1,500 job requests from the community! On October 29th, The Big Event will host its annual “Big Event Gala and Silent Auction” at the Brazos Valley Expo Center. The Big Event is also excited to announce that for the first time ever, Texas A&M students will be able to sign up online to participate in The Big Event. Additionally, community residents will now be able to more easily and conveniently request a job on our new Online Job Request Form as an added option to our traditional, hard copy Job Request Forms. Both Online Student Sign-ups and our Online Job Request Form will be accessible on our website at bigevent.tamu.edu at the beginning of the 2011 year.

-Ryan Byrne is a Psychology major, Class of 2011.
Meet our Advisor, Melissa Shehane

On July 1, 2009, Melissa Shehane was appointed as the Senior Advisor to the Leadership and Service Center within the Department of Student Activities. She will serve as the advisor for The Big Event committee as well as the Gilbert Leadership Conference, work with service-learning initiatives, connect students with service opportunities in the Bryan and College Station areas, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications. Prior to coming to Texas A&M, she served as the Associate Director for Leader Development and Civic Engagement at Baylor University. Melissa earned a Master’s degree in College Student Affairs from The Pennsylvania State University in May 2007 where she served as the graduate assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs. Prior to her professional career in student affairs, she attended Texas A&M University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Renewable Natural Resources in 2004. Melissa and her husband, Michael, currently reside in College Station, Texas where they have two pets, Bear (miniature daschund) and Toby (gray cat). When she isn’t working, Melissa enjoys spending time with family, playing sports, and photography. Finally, Melissa would like to share that “she is excited about this next year and hopes that students involved with The Big Event will learn from their experience and grow as active citizens who want to make a difference in their communities.”

Assistant Director

As this year’s Assistant Director, Erin is excited to work with Ryan in planning The Big Event 2011! With the responsibility of chief financial officer, Erin will spend time crunching numbers to secure The Big Event’s finances. She also oversees the technology side of The Big Event. This year The Big Event is taking major strides in this area in order to better facilitate both student and community involvement.

Recruitment: The Face of The Big Event

Lauren Brooks and Cole Smith could not be more excited to serve as the recruitment executives for The Big Event 2011! They cannot wait to get to know the executive staff, committee, and staff assistants as the entire team comes together to make March 26, 2011 the largest Big Event yet. It will be incredible to see all that this year holds as this year’s committee prepares to help students serve a community that has given so much to Texas A&M. This year is important for recruitment, as students will be able to sign up to participate online for the first time! Lauren, Cole, and the whole executive staff are thrilled to design and implement the online system and to leave it as a legacy for future Big Events. Recruitment hopes 15,000 students will utilize this system to sign up for this year’s TBE.

Lauren Brooks is a Biology major, Class of 2012. Cole Smith is a Finance major, Class of 2011.
Outreach: Thinking BIGGER!

Ben and Annemarie are excited to work with the newest members of the outreach sub-committee to brainstorm new ways to spread the mission of The Big Event to other universities and organizations nation-wide. With the help of the expansion packet, a step-by-step instructional manual on how to start a Big Event, outreach hopes to empower many universities to develop their own Big Events. Outreach is already planning the 5th Annual Big Event Conference to take place in early February of 2011. Ben and Annemarie hope to have over fifteen schools attend Conference. Schools are encouraged to attend Conference in order to learn practical ways to grow their existing or new Big Events. Outreach also hopes to recruit more than 1,500 jobs in the community for the student participants to complete on March 26, 2011! One exciting new development is the chance for residents to have the option to submit their Job Request Form online. The outreach sub-committee is equipped to help make The Big Event 2011 the biggest and best one yet.

Annemarie Mogck and Ben Bates are both Accounting majors, Class of 2012.

Operations: 2nd Annual Gala!

Abbey and Clark are working diligently to make the 2nd Annual Gala and Silent Auction an enormous success. The operations sub-committee is putting in a tremendous amount of time and effort and cannot wait until October 29th! Operations is also already making arrangements to organize, purchase, and distribute the tools needed for an estimated 15,000 students on the day of The Big Event. Together, Abbey and Clark are extremely excited to serve such an amazing organization, and are ready to devote whatever it takes to allow for The Big Event 2011 to serve more community residents than ever before!

Abbey Diller is an Education major, Class of 2012. Clark Smith is a Civil Engineering major, Class of 2011.

Get with the Programs!

Programs is getting ready for a very busy but successful semester! Several activities are already lined up for the Fall, including our committee service project, weekly committee dinners, and a chance for our committee to stand together as a part of the 12th Man at a Fightin’ Texas Aggie football game. Programs looks forward to a fun and exciting year and can’t wait to work with this year’s new team.

Liza Miller is an Education major, Class of 2012. Scott Bondy is a Civil Engineering Major, Class of 2011.

“It is the heart of the university that is portrayed on that day; a heart full of gratitude and service for the residents of Bryan and College Station.”

-Lauren Brooks
The Big Event is the largest, one day, student-run service project in the nation where students of Texas A&M University come together to say "Thank You" to the residents of Bryan and College Station. For the past 28 years, Aggie students have participated in this annual event to show their appreciation to the surrounding community by completing service projects such as yard work, window washing, and painting for community members. Although The Big Event has become the largest one day, student-run service project in the nation, our message and our mission remains the same - to simply say “Thank You.”

Meet our Committee!

The Big Event is proud to welcome our new committee members – it’s going to be a great year!