

May 2018  
Issue 16

### Inside this issue:

Scholarship  
Deadline 2

Community  
Happenings 2

Aqua Water  
Testing Lab 3

## Spotlight on Achievement

Since adopting a scholarship program in 2007, Aqua Water Supply leadership has been proud to help support the educational goals of our members and their families.

We are pleased to share the following letter recently received from a previous scholarship recipient, Maxwell Brown, PhD.

**Congratulations, Max!**



Dave McMurry, General Manager  
& Board of Directors  
Aqua Water

Dear Mr. McMurry and Board of Directors,

I was lucky enough to be the recipient of the Aqua Water Scholarship in 2008 as a graduate of Bastrop High School. I was able to keep the scholarship for four years under your previous rules.

Just thought I would give you an update on what the Aqua Scholarship allowed me to accomplish.

On Feb 26<sup>th</sup> I was awarded a PhD in molecular biochemistry from the University of Texas at Austin. My doctoral research was in the Ilya Finkelstein Laboratory where I focused on DNA research.

My first author papers include:

Dynamic DNA binding licenses a repair factor to bypass roadblocks in search of DNA lesions.  
Brown MW, Kim Y, Williams GM, Huck JD, Surtees JA, Finkelstein IJ.  
Nature Communications, 7 : 10607 (2016)

Inserting Extrahelical Structures into Long DNA Substrates for Single-Molecule Studies of DNA Mismatch Repair.  
Brown MW, de la Torre A, Finkelstein IJ.  
Methods in Enzymology, 582 : 221–238 (2016) | DOI: 10.1016/bs.mie.2016.08.006

I have accepted a position at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis as a Process Scientist.

This scholarship made a huge difference in my ability to focus on academics and not trying to work my way through my undergraduate degree.

I am very grateful for the generosity of Aqua Water. THANK YOU!

*Max*

Maxwell Brown, PhD

**Office Hours:**  
**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Drive-Thru Window:**  
**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

## Reminder: Time to Apply for Aqua Scholarship Program

A reminder that applications are now being accepted for the annual Ernest W. Bracewell, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Program. The Aqua scholarship application and guidelines can be obtained through Aqua's website, [www.aquawsc.com](http://www.aquawsc.com), or from the business office located at 415 Old Austin Highway in Bastrop.

Completed application forms must be submitted by the deadline, along with proof of GPA, two letters of recommendation, proof of citizenship (copy of birth certificate or passport) and a personal essay for review by the Aqua scholarship committee. Scholarships will be awarded by August.

Good luck to all our scholarship applicants!



**Application Deadline is June 1  
Don't Delay!**

## Community Happenings

### Bastrop Public Library Summer Fun

Free fun activities for kids, teens and adults. June 2 - July 28. Preschool Storytime, Lego Club, Maker Days, Chess Club, Friday Movies, Tween Tuesdays, Teen Thursdays, Crafters Anonymous and MUCH more! All programs free and open to the public. For information, visit [www.bastroplibrary.org](http://www.bastroplibrary.org) or call (512) 332-8880.

### Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard

Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at the Smithville VFW at 10 a.m. "We served with honor" now "We honor those who served."

### Bastrop VFW Post 12104

Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month, temporarily, at the Bastrop American Legion, 3003 E Loop 150, at 2:00 p.m.

### Ernest Bartsch VFW 2527, Rockne

Post and Auxiliary meetings are held the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Bingo Wednesday – Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; Games start at 7:30 p.m. Located at 1503 FM 20 in Rockne, 10 miles SW of Bastrop. Hall for rent - call (512) 321-2610 for information.

### Elgin VFW 6115

First Friday Fish Fry – 6:30 p.m. Tuesday Free Texas Hold'em - Game starts at 6:30 p.m. Thursday Bingo – Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; Games start at 7:30 p.m. Friday Karaoke at 8:00 p.m.

### Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment 1384

Marine Corps League in Bastrop County meets third Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Bastrop American Legion Post. Good meal following meeting provided by members.

### Bastrop Chapter Texas Outdoor Woman Network (TOWN)

TOWN-Bastrop meets third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m. (excluding June & Dec.) at the Bastrop Public Library. Ladies interested in fishing, kayaking, camping, bird watching, hiking are invited to attend. Visit [www.meetup.com/www-townbastrop-org](http://www.meetup.com/www-townbastrop-org).

### Bastrop County Audubon Society

Meetings are held third Tuesday of the month (excluding July & August) in the Community Room of the First National Bank Building at 489 Texas 71 West, Bastrop. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.; please arrive by 6:45 p.m. to gain access to the building. Visit [www.bastropcountyaudubon.org](http://www.bastropcountyaudubon.org).

**\*Please Note:** The Aqua Water Supply customer newsletter is published 4 times per year. To submit Community Announcements for publication in an upcoming quarterly issue, please send your news in writing to the main Aqua office or via email [info@aquawsc.com](mailto:info@aquawsc.com) by the fifth day of January, April, July or October.

## Focus on the Future: Aqua Lab Expands Capabilities

At Aqua Water, our number one focus is on providing safe and reliable water and wastewater services for cooperative members. To make sure that our water supply meets or exceeds regulatory standards for safety and quality, we regularly conduct water testing at the Aqua Water Supply Corporation (WSC) Laboratory.

Having the ability to conduct sampling and testing in-house allows us to get results much faster, reducing turnaround time from up to two weeks to an average of around two days. This is particularly important when testing is needed to verify process effectiveness, or to address specific issues of concern. For example, when a boil water advisory is in place, after completing any required corrective actions, such as disinfection or system flushing, Aqua is required by law to test water samples before the water is considered safe. Only then can the advisory be lifted.

As the population continues to grow throughout much of our service area, Aqua management is following a plan of sensible, strategic infrastructure improvements to stay ahead of the growth. Included in this plan is an expansion of the capabilities of the Aqua WSC Laboratory to ensure that the changing water needs of our members are met well into the future.

### Focus on Quality

The lab upgrade includes new test instruments, such as systems to conduct more refined testing for metals. This will enable trace metals like iron, copper, lead and cadmium to be detected in the parts per billion range.

A new computer system called the Lab Information Management System will help the lab streamline the logging of samples and printing of specialized reports. Automated testing equipment also is being installed to speed up the time it takes to process samples and produce more accurate results.

Plus, while the lab is already accredited by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) for specific bacteriological testing, we are seeking additional NELAP accreditations to

cover expanded test capabilities.

In addition to testing samples from the Aqua water supply system, the Aqua WSC Laboratory offers high-quality bacteriological testing services to other water utilities, construction companies, laboratories and private well owners. Services are offered in support of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program to promote well safety.

With this lab expansion, Aqua is investing in the future, keeping our focus on water safety, while minimizing service disruptions and inconvenience for Aqua cooperative members. For more information, visit: [www.aquawsclabs.com](http://www.aquawsclabs.com). And look for the annual Consumer Confidence Report that summarizes Aqua water testing results. This year's report will be mailed to our membership by the end of June.



# AQUA

WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

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AquaWaterSupply](http://www.facebook.com/AquaWaterSupply)

**Free automated phone payment and online bill pay are available 24/7. You can pay with all major credit cards, E-Check or automatic bank draft.**

**Payment by phone:** Call Aqua at (512) 303-3943 and select option 5 — the interactive voice response system will guide you through the process.

**Online:** Visit [www.aquawsc.com](http://www.aquawsc.com) and select Pay My Bill. You will be redirected to a secure website with instructions for payment.

**Automatic bank draft:** Complete a Bank Authorization form, available from our office or website, and return the completed form to our office with a voided check.

**Go Green:** To start receiving an e-bill please email a request along with your 10-digit Aqua account number to: [ebilling@aquawsc.com](mailto:ebilling@aquawsc.com).

Safe ♦ Reliable ♦ Sustainable

### CALL AQUA BEFORE YOU DIG:

Aqua Water will locate the Aqua water lines for you. Calling for a line locate before any type of excavation is a good idea. Water loss and service interruptions from damaged lines are avoidable, please call the Aqua office: (512) 303-3943.