



Profiles



YEAR: JUNIOR
STUDYING: ACCOUNTING
HOMETOWN: HOUSTON



Watch a sword fight

TexasStateUniversity
Fencing

"MOST PEOPLE ONLY SEE FENCING DURING THE OLYMPICS OR THE MOVIES."

FENCING CRAFT LIVES ON

Texas State Fencing Club President Madison Pevey has been a member of the organization since 2010.

A Family and Consumer Economics graduate student, Pevey joins a long line of Texas State students and what the club calls "community members" (those not associated with the university) who are fascinated with the martial art.

Former Texas State teacher and coach John Moreau taught Pevey when she was a student in his fencing course.

Although Pevey's the only fencer in her family, she said most of her Texas State friends are involved in fencing because of the club.

"[...] I love my club and I am a much better 'leader' and president than I am an athlete," said Pevey, who won a leadership award last year from National Girls and Women in Sports.



MADISON PEVEY

| By Jordan Gass-Poore | Photos Ashley Haguewood |

A skull displaying the three swords used by Texas State Fencing Club members not only serves as the organization's logo but as a reminder of its past, present and future.

The organization is the oldest active sports club on campus. It was started in 1975 as the South West Fencing Society and has produced regionally and nationally ranked fencers in all three weapons of modern fencing: epee, foil and saber.

THE "CONVERSATION" CONTINUES

No prior experience is required to join the club. Pevey had no prior experience. Beginners are initially paired and learn basic fencing feet practices. From there, members learn the differences between the three weapons and how to use them.

The epee, for instance, is a heavy thrusting weapon where the entire body is fair game. Members who may not have the upper body strength for the epee can try their hand at the saber or the foil, which is lighter and targets the entire torso, neck and groin.

Pevey said the main difference between the weapons is how the points are scored and the blade.

The club performs demonstrations at San Marcos elementary and middle schools in an effort to educate the public about the sport because of its historical prevalence and pervasiveness in pop culture.

"It gives the community a positive experience with the university students and it exposes people to the sport we love," said Pevey. "Most people only see fencing during the Olympics or the movies."

EN GARDE

Pevey said she's lucky to have never experienced any injuries while fencing, but she has seen a broken ankle, as well as a freak accident during a competition when a fencer's blade went up the sleeve of their opponent and lodged into the flesh of their arm.

"That kind of thing is rare," she said. "But also really crazy to see or experience."

Fencing is a sport where friend "beating" is acceptable – and encouraged. But once members are no longer piste off, or off the piste – the strip where fencers compete – Pevey said they're really just a group of friends.