

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Fifty

17 December 2021

“The Path Forward”



M. Katherine Banks

President, Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University Former Students:

Thank you for your interest in the MGT report and your thoughtful commentary. I have reviewed all feedback and found it to be instructive and insightful in my evaluation of the recommendations. My response to the report can be found at president.tamu.edu/path-forward with other supporting documentation.

There will be working groups involved in the implementation of each recommendation. Faculty, staff, students and former students are invited to nominate/self-nominate for the working groups. These groups will be identified and begin meeting in mid-January.

I look forward to the next steps in this transformative realignment process. I wish you all a safe and restful holiday break.

M. Katherine Banks

President

A thought or two: As mentioned in the previous SRG Bulletin Forty-Nine, we, the Board of Directors (BoDs) believe that all our members should make an effort to read this important document! It contains an important set of TAMU presidential decisions about the way ahead and **Path Forward** for our University. As you will note, there is much work yet to be done and issues to be decided - imbodyed in the stated committee actions President Banks has directed!

We believe former students should participate in selected committees which would benefit the process and results. To that end, the BoDs are working on an offering for our directors to participate and contribute since we have established supporting relationships with most of the key Committee leaders identified. And, we have been

working with them on identified issues. And, in many instances, we have previously offered suggestions with rationale.

If any of our SRG membership are inclined to also join and contribute, we urge you to please see President Banks' invitation for you to do so.

Football's Early National Signing Day, and "It Ain't Done Yet!"

As reported by Travis L. Brown in the Bryan Eagle on 16 December 2021, Coach Fisher and his incredible staff did plenty of heavy lifting in signing the consensus Number 1 recruiting class as Wednesday marked the opening day of the early signing period!

A&M finished with 26 signees atop the team rankings for 247Sports.com, On3.com and ESPN.com, while Rivals.com (an outfit related closely to the sips in Austin) rated A&M's haul second to bama.

The Aggies signed the No.2 overall recruit in the nation in defensive lineman Walter Nolen from Powell, Tennessee. They also inked the nation's top tight end, four-star recruit Jake Johnson of Oconee County, Georgia, and four players who were the top recruit in their state or country.

The Texas Aggies set a new program record for five-star recruits in a class with four, according to 247Sports.com (five according to On3.com). Only Georgia claimed more five-star recruits with five on both services. But this is not over yet as all of you know, since this was the early signing event (of two). The National Signing Day (still yet to come) is the first Wednesday in February (the 2nd, 2022). We shall have to wait until February, but it is likely that how we finish off this class can even get better!

Coach said, "*You can go get good players, but if you want to get the top ones, that's a different animal. The time and commitment and all the things that go on and the ups and downs - you have to have the resources as far as being able to see themselves winning a national championship, get a great education and have life after all, and Texas A&M has all those things.*"

One can access everything about this talented, superb, early-signee class at either [TexAgs.com](https://www.texags.com), or [12th Man.com](https://www.12thman.com). And all the national sports outlets are full of articles about it also. Gig 'em!



Good Bull Tweet: "*Welcome to all the new Aggies that are signing today, this class looks real! Still the best decision I've ever made! Excited to see what the future has in store!*"

Christian Kirk, Arizona Cardinals and Fightin' Texas Aggie

To give you a "flavor" of typical interview comments of the signees, here are some of the Q&As with 2022 Scottsdale Chaparral defensive lineman Anthony Lucas after announcing his commitment to Texas A&M, picking the Aggies over offers from

Alabama, Notre Dame, Miami, Oregon and others. Lucas spoke to TexAgs about choosing the Maroon & White:

Why Texas A&M? What made the Aggies the pick?

Everyone keeping contact, keeping up with my family, great alumni, great football players.

The atmosphere inside Kyle Field? What was that like?

That Alabama game was crazy, it was rocking for real.

You've made close connections here at A&M like with Bobby Taylor. Being out of state, how did Bobby's influence make you feel a part of the family?

He's just been great, him, Malick Sylla, all of them, they have been pretty much letting me know how much this place meant to them and them being in-state guys and me being out-of-state is kinda like a different view to look at it but they still made it feel like home for me and make sure I've been able to feel at home and that I'll be able to be good and make that connection early and really connect with those guys.

One big thing you didn't know about Texas A&M?

The Aggie connection and network, how much of it is actually in Texas, how many Fortune 500 companies Houston has, it's really cool to see.

Have you talked to Coach Terry Price and his BBQ?

It's one thing I've been waiting on. If I'm going to come here, I got to try it, they've been hyping it up ever since last year in the online Zoom calls. I mean it might be one thing that might be able to push the decision faster if I can try that.

Aggie Bowl Game Quarterback

Texas A&M redshirt freshman quarterback Haynes King is back practicing with the team, but walk-on freshman Blake Bost will be the starter in the Gator Bowl after sophomore quarterback Zach Calzada opted to transfer.

Coach Fisher said, "*Blake will be our guy. Haynes has gotten back in practice. We're just getting him out there just to get reps. His body can't...you can't bring a guy back and do all that, but we'll get through it and play. Blake will do a good job.*"

Haynes beat out Calzada for the starting job during fall camp and started two games but broke his ankle during the second game. Calzada started the final 10 games. Bost has appeared in five games this season, completing 2 of 7 passes for 18 yards with no touchdowns and an interception.

Chancellor Sharp's Announcement



Chancellor

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Howdy!

Gov. Greg Abbott today awarded a Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF) grant to FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies Texas (FDBT) for a \$300 million expansion at its location near the Texas A&M Health Science Center.

FDBT will add a 138,000 sq. ft. commercial manufacturing center to its existing facilities in the Brazos Valley Bio Corridor. The new investment will create 150 new, high-paying jobs in vaccine and gene-therapy production.

The project is a dividend from investments made a decade ago by The Texas A&M University System, the federal government and the State of Texas in something called the CIADM. (Its full name is the Texas A&M Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing.) The CIADM was created to initiate public-private partnerships that build U.S. bio-manufacturing capacity and make College Station a bio-tech development hub.

FDBT owns two facilities built through the CIADM and leases parts of a third facility connected with the program. Over the past seven years, FDBT has expanded its facilities significantly and become a major local employer.

The governor's enterprise fund is for closing deals when Texas is competing against other states. Competition for the newest FDBT expansion had included North Carolina.

Go here for more about today's announcement:

<https://brazosvalleyedc.org/news/fdb-announces-300m-brazos-valley-facility>

The CIADM works with other bi-tech companies that want to collaborate with Texas A&M researchers on bio-medical R&D.

Go here for more on the CIADM program: <https://ciadm.tamhsc.edu/>

*John Sharp
Chancellor, Texas A&M System*

Chancellor's "Around Texas" Latest Episode

The Chancellor's latest episode is about E King Gill's story and one of the most famous and important Texas Aggie traditions! The following identifies how to access it!

A new episode of Around Texas with Chancellor John Sharp airs Thursday night on KAMU-TV, but don't worry, the show also will be airing this weekend in other markets. Please visit SharpAroundTexas.com to check local listings in:

This week on Around Texas, we will meet Texas A&M-Galveston's Dr. August "Gussie" Roth, who heads up the Department of Maritime Transportation.

Also on the show, we will learn more about one of Texas A&M's oldest traditions as we uncover some old footage of the original 12th Man himself, E. King Gill.

If you can't watch the show live, I urge you to record it and watch it at your leisure. Or you can also stream it anytime on SharpAroundTexas.com or <https://youtu.be/iupOc5UJ73s>.

Governor Abbott Activates and Deploys Texas A&M Task Force to Help Western Kentucky's Response to Deadly Tornadoes

As Reported by Gilbert Rodriguez of the [Texas Insider](#) on 12 December 2021, the Texas governor has activated a Texas A&M Task force to help in Kentucky's disaster area!



At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Governor Greg Abbott approved the activation of 10 **Texas A&M Task Force 1** personnel to deploy the Central Incident Support Team cache, which is part of the FEMA Urban Search & Rescue System, in response to the catastrophic tornadoes that occurred in Western Kentucky overnight.

This cache of equipment will provide specialized technical gear and command, control, and communication equipment to members of the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue teams that are being deployed from around the nation to help those in need.

One can access the entire article on the Web here:

[Gov. Abbott Activates Texas A&M 'Task Force 1' to Help Western Kentucky Response to Deadly Tornadoes | texasinsider | texasinsider.org](#)

NOTES

REMINDER - SRG March '22 Reunion Information!!

March 2-4, 2022

College Station, TX

<https://www.aggienetwork.com/events/2022/sulross.aspx>.

SRG Bulletin Sign-Up Reminder: Anyone (Ags and non Ags, SRG Ags and all other Ags too) can "opt in" and sign up by going to:

<https://www.aggienetwork.com/theassociation/sulrossgroup.aspx> and simply putting in

your name and email address, and then clicking on “submit.” You will then automatically receive all the SRG Bulletins.

If you wish comment to those who decide:

Chancellor Sharp: chancellor@tamus.edu

The Board of Regents: vickie@tamus.edu or jbell@tamus.edu

President Banks: president@tamu.edu

Interim Provost Scott: t-scott@tamu.edu

Athletic Director Bjork: rrabun@athletics.tamu.edu

You can reach us at: SRGpresident@aggienetwork.com. The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are responsible for producing and editing these SRG Bulletins, with transparency to and advice from The Association of Former Students, under whose auspices we operate. We do so in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution’s Purposes, which is keeping our represented SRG Membership informed in a timely manner. To access information about us as the elected SRG Board of Directors, and our Constitution, please refer to our new “**SRG Tab**” (Under “**Programs**”) on The Association’s website, at: aggienetwork.com. One can access information about us, including the current 2021-2022 SRG Board of Directors, The SRG’s Constitution and By-Laws, and the SRG’s history and what we’re about.

SRG Bulletin Uniform Resource Locators (URLs)

For every SRG Bulletin topic, when required, we try our best to properly reference the material source. These are highlighted in blue at the end of the topic so that the reader can access the source for further information and clarification if desired. These are called Universal Resource Locators (URLs). The explanation for them is that they are *“the protocol (ex. HTTP, FTP), the domain name (or IP address), and additional path information (folder/file). On the Web, a URL may address a Web page file, image file, or any other file supported by the HTTP protocol.”* For clarification, they are not necessarily “live” in the Bulletin paragraphs, which means that simply clicking on them will bring up the material desired. However, we have done some testing and a lot depends on your device and connection to the Web. Some systems work better than others. If it does not work that way, then simply copy the blue highlighted URL and paste it into your browser’s search window and click – you should then be successful.

Merry Christmas to All and a Happy New Year!! BTHO Wake Forest!

