

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Fifty-One

6 January 2022

General Joe Ramirez '79 Appointed as Vice President for Student Affairs



As reported by Lesley Henton, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications on 17 December 2021, Texas A&M University has appointed retired Brigadier General Joe E. Ramirez Jr.'79, as Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA), leading more than 73,000 Aggies as head of the division.

"Joe Ramirez is a strong advocate for our students and in just six months, has made great strides in aligning university processes, policies and organizational structure within the Division of Student Affairs," said Texas A&M President M. Katherine Banks. *"He has worked closely with student leaders and is committed to providing high-impact opportunities and experiences for our student body."*

Ramirez, who has served as interim VPSA (from 45th Corps Commandant for 11 years) since June 3, has maintained responsibilities including oversight of a budget of \$125 million, as well as more than 600 full-time staff and 2,000 student hourly employees.

"I am honored to accept the permanent position as vice president and look forward to working with President Banks, her team, the Division of Student Affairs and our student body as we chart this path forward for Texas A&M," Ramirez said.

A first-generation college student, he graduated from Texas A&M in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in physical education. He was a member of the Corps of Cadets as well as the Aggie Band. Upon graduation, he joined the Army as a field artillery officer, climbing the ranks to Brigadier General and serving in many prestigious roles, including as Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Central Command during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, Deputy Division Commander for the 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea, and Deputy Director for Strategy, Plans and Policy for U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

One can access the entire announcement on the Web here: [Texas A&M Names Brigadier General Joe. E. Ramirez Jr. Vice President For Student Affairs - Texas A&M Today \(tamuedu\)](https://www.tamuedu/news/2021/12/17/brigadier-general-joe-e-ramirez-jr-vice-president-for-student-affairs)

Texas A&M Hires Ole Miss' D.J. Durkin as Aggie Defensive Coordinator

As reported by Richard Zane of TexAgs on 5 January 2022, Texas A&M hired Ole Miss' D.J. Durkin to become the defensive coordinator of the Aggies, replacing Mike

Elko, who left the A&M program to become the head coach at Duke last month. Durkin, 43, spent the last two seasons under Lane Kiffin in Oxford, helping the Rebels to a Sugar Bowl appearance this year. TexAgs' executive editor Billy Liucci was first to report the news that Durkin's deal with the Aggies is complete.



Durkin's hybrid scheme, which was based out of a four-man front prior to his time at Ole Miss, should allow the Aggie defense to capitalize on a stockpile of defensive line talent from recent recruiting classes. He also brings the reputation of an extremely strong recruiter to a program that has been described as many as a "recruiting monster" under Coach Fisher.

Texas Aggies Out of Gator Bowl – The Year That Was

As reported by TAMU Athletics Communications on 22 December 2021:

"Due to a combination of COVID-19 issues within the Texas A&M football program, as well as season-ending injuries, the Aggie football roster is not in a position to safely participate in the upcoming Dec. 31 TaxSlayer Gator Bowl against Wake Forest."



"It is unfortunate, but we just don't have enough scholarship players available to field a team," Aggie head football coach Jimbo Fisher said.

"It is heartbreaking for our players, coaches, staff and fans that we are not able to play in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl," Texas A&M Director of Athletics Ross Bjork said. "Post-season football is the pinnacle of the season and when the opportunity is lost, it hurts on many levels. As we have learned in the last

21 months of this health challenge, the well-being and safety of our student-athletes is paramount. Our players poured their heart and soul into this season, and we appreciate their dedication as Aggies. Aggie football is on track for long-term success, and we know that the best is yet to come."

Good Bull Aggie Recognitions



Coach Gary Blair has been nominated for the prestigious Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Finalists will be named at the NBA All-Star game in February. Dedicated to Canadian-American physician James Naismith, who invented the sport, the Hall of Fame was opened and inducted its first class in 1959.



Reported by Richard Zane of TexAgs on 5 January 2022, Texas A&M wide receiver **Ainias Smith announced on Wednesday via that he will return for his fourth season** in Maroon & White. One of the most versatile offensive players in the country, Smith's ability and experience gives Jimbo Fisher another valuable weapon in the slot and the backfield for 2022.

Ainias said: ***“To my new family, The 12th Man, y’all have accepted me for who I am and pushed me to go hard. Because of y’all, I want to grow and better myself as a player and a leader. With that being said, I’ve decided to come back for my senior year to represent this program one last time.”*** Very good bull!

Reported by Matt Galatxan of SI’s Fan Nation on 30 December 2021, Texas A&M



quarterback signee Conner Weigman has won yet another post-season award, taking home National High School Quarterback Of The Year honors by the National Quarterback Club. This season, the future Texas A&M QB led the Bears to the Class 6A Division II Region II championship game. Bridgeland would fall short to Tomball, 48-13, but Weigman was not the cause of the loss. He was unable to play after suffering an injury the week prior. Last season, the Bears were put everyone else on notice thanks to the emergence of Weigman at QB. He led Bridgeland to an undefeated season in just its third

season of varsity play.

Coach Pat Henry will be Inducted into the Texas Track & Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame

As reported by Tyler Pounds on 5 January 2022 of Texas A&M Athletics Communications, Texas A&M track & field head coach Pat Henry will be inducted into the Texas Track & Field Coaches Association (TTFCA) Hall of Fame, on Jan. 7 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine, Texas, as a member of the class of 2022.

Entering his 18th season at Texas A&M, Henry has amassed a combined nine NCAA



national team titles between the men's and women's programs. Henry led the Texas A&M Track & Field program to a three-peat sweep between 2009-11 as the Aggies became the first school in NCAA history to achieve a "triple-double" by winning the men's and women's outdoor titles in three consecutive seasons.

During his time in Aggieland, his athletes have won 62 NCAA event titles and most notably Texas A&M has had an individual or relay claim an NCAA title each season. Along with winning titles, Texas A&M has broken 22 all-time collegiate records, including the indoor men's 4x400m on three occasions and the indoor and outdoor women's 4x400m once. By achieving the most NCAA championships by a head coach for indoor and outdoor track and field, Henry is currently the active leader and third among coaches all-time in any sport for national team titles at 36.

As reported by Texas A&M Athletics, Athing Mu was named the female winner of The Bowerman, which is awarded annually to the nation's most outstanding male and female NCAA track & field athletes, by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country

Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) on Friday at the organization's annual convention at the Grande Lakes Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Mu turned in one of the all-time best individual seasons as she rewrote the collegiate track & field record books in 2021. As a freshman, she set 11 collegiate all-time top-12 marks, including six all-time collegiate records. Individually she owns the indoor 600m (1:25.80), indoor 800m (1:58.40), outdoor 400m (49.57) and outdoor 800m (1:57.73) collegiate records. She anchored two collegiate record relays, the indoor 4x400m (3:26.27/50.27 split) and the outdoor 4x400m (3:22.34/48.85 split). Mu ended the season with eight Texas A&M records. Most notably, her indoor 800m season best stands as an under-20 world record and her outdoor 400m season best is an under-20 American record.



She finished the campaign as a three-time NCAA champion, winning the 400m title, as well as a member of the 4x400m relay that claimed the indoor and outdoor titles. Additionally, she earned four First Team All-America honors. Mu's championship anchor leg indoor 400m sprint is marked as the fastest indoor split in world history at 49.54. She combined to score 23 points in NCAA Championships action. The speedster claimed the SEC indoor 800m title (1:58.40), outdoor 400m (49.84) and 4x400m (3:26.17) titles.

Following the collegiate season, Mu turned professional, and made her debut at the U.S. Olympic Trials winning the 800m with a personal best time of 1:56.07. The 19-year-old made her Olympic debut at the Tokyo games becoming the first American female to win the 800m in 53 years at an American record time of 1:55.21. She became the first Aggie, male or female, to win gold in an individual track discipline. A few days later, she anchored the 4x400m to Olympic gold to become the first track & field Olympian in 33 years to win two gold medals before turning 20-years-old.

Texas A&M Signs Number One Football Recruiting Class on Early National Signing Day

Billy Liucci of [TexAgs.com](https://www.texags.com) on 20 December gave an overall assessment of the 2022 outstanding **football recruiting class – number one for Early National Signing Day:**

"When I grade these classes every year, I like to factor in how well the Aggies addressed their most pressing needs, how many impact or truly elite-level prospects A&M signed, and I also like to ask the questions, "Did the Aggies get a high percentage of the guys they really wanted?" and "Did they sign guys that the top-5 programs in college football want?"

The Ags did all of the above and then some, ending up with a haul that ranked No. 1 following the Early Signing Period. If Jimbo Fisher and Company are able to add either of two five-stars (Cy-Park LB Harold Perkins or Miami DE Shemar Stewart) or Ponchatoula S Jacoby Mathews

to the list of signees between now and February, Texas A&M's Class of 2022 will pass Bama's '21 haul as the highest-scoring class of all time.

Especially if it's Perk, who would address a need at linebacker with yet another top-ranked player in the country at his position, there's not a grade for that outside of calling what Fisher and Co. assembled what it is: Perfection." One can read about Billy's great assessments of the offensive and defensive Texas Aggie commitments at TexAgs.com.



As a follow-up, on 2 January at the Under Armour All-America Game for highly ranked high school recruits to demonstrate their talents in Orlando, Florida, five-star LB Harold Perkins did in fact add his name to the commit list for the Fightin' Texas Aggies on national TV. Billy Liucci, part owner and executive editor of TexAgs.com wrote that the goal for Coach Fisher had been to "lock down Houston as the recruiting base and sign the number

one class in the country!" Adding Perkins filled a key need and cemented the two goals! Very good Bull for sure!!

The Dixie Classic 1922



A great article just appeared in the [Texas Coop Power](http://TexasCoopPower.com) magazine by Rhonda Reinhart, January 2022 issue entitled **"Aggie Standouts – Texas A&M's tradition, a spirit that 'engulfs you' turns 100."**

Obviously much has been written about E. King Gill and the Dixie Classic 100 years ago when the Fightin' Texas Aggies slayed "the giant" at Fair Park in Dallas despite insurmountable odds, and arguably won the

national championship if football were number one by process of wins elimination, but not "awarded" like today.

Here is what Dr. Gill actually said about it that really sums it up! And we need to pay attention to what he said today and in the future:

"While attention and accolades are, of course, welcomed with open arms, those aren't what propel Aggie students to show up on game day, 12th Man towels in hand, and stand for their team. Gill, a longtime Corpus Christi physician, possibly said it best. In a 1964 campus speech, without even a whiff of self-aggrandizement, he talked about that day at Fair Park and his role as the original 12th Man: "I've never thought that the 12th Man really belonged to a personality. It belongs to the A&M student body," he said. "And every one of you can be a 12th Man. You stand up—stand up for what's right and be ready to serve."

We highly recommend you go to this site and access the article and read it! You will find it on the Web here: [January 2022 | Texas Co-op Power | An Online Community for Members of Texas Electric Cooperatives \(texascoopower.com\)](https://www.texascoopower.com/January-2022-Texas-Co-op-Power-An-Online-Community-for-Members-of-Texas-Electric-Cooperatives)

Texas Aggie Unity of Effort and Purpose – A Commentary and Recommendation



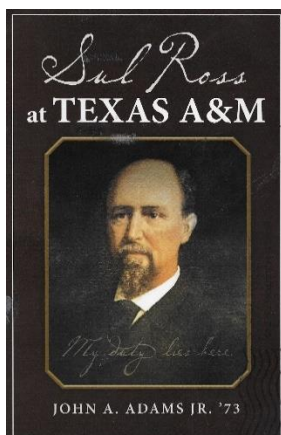
Last year, it was decided by the Athletic Department that all Aggie athletic teams would wear a “unified” patch on team uniforms. What that meant was (and is) described in their “Commitment” program found on the AD’s web site as being unified against all social injustice.

Texas A&M University just commenced the official Centennial celebration of our famous 12th Man Tradition the genesis of which was the Fightin Texas Aggie football team defeating Center College in Dallas at the Dixie Classic. E. King Gill was asked to suit up and answer the call to duty but never played in the game. This epitomizes what we believe and how we earn our transcendent, reputation globally – “unifying” to say the least!



We believe and **recommend that**, beginning in the coming spring January 2022 semester, that the TAMU presidential determined policy should be to switch from “unified” and **wear the Centennial patch** on all Texas Aggie athletic uniforms. The rationale is that not only will student athletes be considered but all Aggie students (and former students too).

Sul Ross at Texas A&M Book is On the Market at The Texas A&M University Press



As reported on 26 December 2021 by Alex Miller of the Bryan Eagle, the front page featured an interview with the author Dr. John Adams, Jr. '73. Sul Ross at Texas A&M was released in November and is available for purchase. Dr. Adams’ purpose was to tell the story of Ross’ time at A&M college where he undeniably set our incredible institution on a path to transcendence from which we benefit today in terms of brand, reputation, and contributions to all sectors as faculty, researchers and former students answer calls to duty for State and Nation – selflessly. One can access the article on the Web here:

https://theeagle.com/news/a_m/author-historian-discusses-his-book-on-sul-ross-time-at-texas-a-m/article_f1c78a10-636e-11ec-bf6f9b429da6129a.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

The Texas A&M Press intends to have several books about Texas A&M University available (with authors for signing) at the SRG Reunion March 3-5, 2022.

Return to Work Policy at TAMU

The “Omicron” variant to the COVID-19 virus is obviously within the population and is or has peaked. Not to marginalize the seriousness of the situation, but as confirmed here, the infection is not as “long nor severe” as previous variants. Chief Operation Officer (COO) and Senior VP Greg Hartman on 2 January, taking account of the foregoing, announced his guidance to the faculty and staff:

To Faculty and Staff,

January 2, 2022

Positive COVID-19 and flu cases are spreading rapidly across Texas and hospitalizations are on the rise, signaling that pandemic conditions are worsening once again.

In hopes of reducing exposure to these highly contagious viruses, Texas A&M University is asking all faculty and staff to work from home for the first week of January (Jan. 3-7), except for personnel whose duties are essential to being performed onsite. Talk to your supervisor if you're unsure about whether you should return to the office/workplace tomorrow, Jan. 3, or if you should work remotely.

For those enrolled in mini-mester classes that begin this week, please contact your instructor about arrangements.

*While none of the steps below are mandated, you are **strongly encouraged** to please do your part by following these recommendations:*

- **Get fully vaccinated** against COVID-19. This includes the booster shot; check here for on-campus locations and here for off campus sites, including CVS and Walgreens. For those not in Bryan-College Station, please check your respective websites for COVID-related information.
- **Get tested** before returning to campus. Free testing is widely available across the main campus and off campus.
- **Get the flu shot.**
- **Wear a well-fitted mask** or face covering indoors, regardless of your vaccination status. Do's and don'ts of mask-wearing are outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **Don't come to work** if you're sick.
- **Self-reporting a positive case of COVID-19** is required by the university through <https://redcap.tamhsc.edu/surveys/?s=N38DRD4EMK>. This act of selfless service will help the university to understand and control the virus on campus.
- The self-reporting portal for Galveston is different from the main campus and can be found on this site.

Need to know:

- New protocols recently outlined by the CDC specify the shortened recommended isolation and quarantine period after testing positive or having a close contact with someone who has the virus.
- Epidemiologists have warned that the newest COVID-19 variant, called omicron, is likely more contagious than the original strain, SARS-CoV-2.
- Even if a person is vaccinated, they still can contract the virus, but their symptoms are expected to be considerably milder.
- It's fine to get the flu and COVID-19 vaccines on the same day.

Please regularly check Texas A&M's COVID-19 guidance page for updates.

*Greg Hartman
Chief Operating Officer & Senior Vice President
Texas A&M University*

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.