

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Forty

6 August 2021

Texas Aggie Mu Wins Gold in the Olympic 800 Meter!



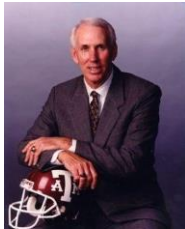
As reported by Richard Zane of TexAgs on 3 August, in her first Olympic Games, 19-year-old Athing Mu is bringing home gold in the women's 800m after running a 1:55.21 in Tuesday night's final in Tokyo. It is likely the first of many golden moments for "The Future of the 800" as her professional career is poised to take off.

Mu showcased her talent on the Olympic stage and proved to the world what Aggies already knew: She is the best in the world. "I'm really happy that I have all these records and stuff like that, but at the same time, it kind of feels normal because I feel like I've been working towards this for the past couple of years."

In June, Mu made the decision to turn pro, but rather than leaving Aggieland, she remained in College Station to train with Coach Henry and assistant coach Milton Mallard, saying about Texas A&M, "It's just a land full of the most genuine people I've ever met. There are so many resources within the university when it comes to academics and also athletically on the track. I feel like I'm well-rounded over here and have everything I need to be successful." Coach Henry said, "she is the finest athlete I've ever had on the track."

With one gold medal in the books, Mu's "mission" in Tokyo isn't complete as she'll likely run on the United States' women's 4x400m relay team, which begins on 5 August. Athing Mu is the 11th Texas Aggie to win an Olympic Gold Medal.

Coach R.C. Slocum



One of our board members spoke to Coach recently. As you can expect, he is holding steady and keeping positive despite the rigors of the therapy treatments. He knows that we have him in our prayers and appreciates that a lot. God bless you, Coach! We know you will win this one! The Sul Ross Group

TAMU Regents' 28 July Statement About tu and ou Joining the SEC

"The decision in 2011 to join the Southeastern conference has strengthened the position of Texas A&M University as a national leader in college athletics. As college athletics go through the historic changes we are experiencing today, Texas A&M competes at the highest level with many of the top universities in the country — On the field, on the court, and in the classroom.

As members of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, we are proud of the Texas A&M athletic department and its tremendous success over the past decade. We are proud to be the largest university in Texas and in the SEC. We are proud to have rock-solid financials, the best Fanbase in America and 550,000 former students to compete and succeed across the globe.

We have the utmost confidence and Texas A&M president M. Katherine Banks and athletic director Ross Bjork to navigate discussions with our SEC conference partners. Although the board had concerns about the communication process relating to this matter, today the board received the information and needed to properly consider the long-term ramifications of a possible expansion. President Banks and athletic director Björk brief board members after they participated in the meetings yesterday and today with the SEC commissioner's office.

Therefore, the Texas A&M system board of regents directs Texas A&M president M. Katherine Banks to vote in favor of extending formal invitations to the University of Oklahoma University of Texas to join the conference in 2025 when the SEC presidents consider the matter.

As developments unfold the leadership at Texas A&M will continue to analyze our opportunities and make decisions based on what's best for our flagship university."

SEC Statement - tu and ou Invited to Join the SEC in 2025

"BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (July 30, 2021) - The Southeastern Conference today announced that the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas will become members effective July 1,

2025, with competition to begin in all sports for the 2025-26 academic year.

The addition of Oklahoma and Texas will bring the number of SEC members to 16 beginning July 1, 2025. Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi, Mississippi State, Tennessee and Vanderbilt have been members since the formation of the SEC in 1933. The Conference has twice previously expanded, adding Arkansas and South Carolina in 1991, followed by Missouri and Texas A&M in 2012.

"The Presidents and Chancellors of the Southeastern Conference are pleased to welcome the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas," said Jere Morehead, President of the University of Georgia and current President of the SEC. "Both universities are prestigious academic institutions with strong athletics programs similar in tradition, culture and success to our current member universities. We look forward to a productive and successful future together beginning in 2025."

Oklahoma and Texas submitted requests for invitations for membership to the SEC on Tuesday. The Conference's Presidents and Chancellors voted during a meeting conducted by videoconference on Thursday to extend invitations to the two universities. Both universities' Boards of Regents officially accepted the invitations during meetings conducted on Friday morning.

"This is an important moment for the long-term future of the Southeastern Conference and our member universities," said SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey. "Oklahoma and Texas are outstanding academic institutions with two strong athletics programs, which will add to the SEC's national prominence. Their additions will further enhance the already rich academic, athletic and cultural legacies that have been cultivated throughout the years by our existing 14 members. We look forward to the Sooners and Longhorns competing in our Conference starting in the 2025-26 academic year."

Notably, the University of Texas will be the fifth institution in the SEC to hold membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities, joining Florida, Missouri, Texas A&M and Vanderbilt.

"The Southeastern Conference's dedication to the success of our member institutions - and our members' commitment to one another - has produced a sustained level of excellence unrivaled throughout college sports," Sankey added. "It is the unity and collaboration of our institutions that makes the SEC special, and Wednesday's decision of the Texas A&M Board of Regents to approve a vote supportive of Conference membership for their long-time in-state rival is an example of the overall culture of this Conference. I appreciate the opportunity for our Conference to move forward with a spirit of unanimity."

The University of Oklahoma, founded in 1890 and located in Norman, supports a student population of approximately 28,000, including the Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City and a Tulsa campus. The university offers 170 majors. In athletics, Oklahoma has won 39 national team championships dating back to its first in wrestling in 1936. Its first women's team national title came in softball in 2000.

The Sooners sponsor 21 varsity sports. Men's sports include football, cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field, basketball, golf, tennis, baseball, gymnastics and wrestling. Women's sports include volleyball, soccer, cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field, basketball, gymnastics, golf, tennis, softball and rowing. Oklahoma participates in every sport sponsored by

the SEC except men's and women's swimming & diving and equestrian. The SEC sponsors every sport in which the Sooners participate except women's rowing, men's gymnastics and wrestling.

The University of Texas, founded in 1883 and located in Austin, supports approximately 51,000 students across 18 colleges and schools. In athletics, Texas has won 58 national team championships dating back to its first in baseball in 1949. Its first women's team national title came in swimming & diving in 1981”.

The Longhorns sponsor 20 varsity sports. Men's sports include football, cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field, swimming & diving, basketball, golf, tennis and baseball. Women's sports include volleyball, soccer, cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field, swimming & diving, basketball, golf, tennis, softball and rowing. Texas participates in every sport sponsored by the SEC except women's gymnastics and equestrian. The SEC sponsors every sport in which the Longhorns participate except women's rowing.

A Few Most Often Asked Questions

We have received many inputs and questions about how the two previous paragraphs regarding how the “new SEC” will turn out. TexAgs’ Billy Liucci has answered a lot of questions, and here are four of them:

The hilarious 180 degree turn the sips have already made in their recruiting pitch:

“Despite what a kid or two has said, they're pushing it very hard. You know the message. They've gone from telling kids in this class that conference affiliation doesn't matter and that the SEC is overrated and a 'one-team' league to making the move a major part of the pitch overnight. It's what anyone in their position would do but I do believe the Ags need to hammer that point home to recruits.”

How the super conferences may pan out: *I think eventually the potential is there for a 48-team, NFL type of league and that's it. But that's way down the road. To me now, I could see three 18- or 20-team super-leagues form within the next five-seven years.*

Musings about team adds to the super conferences: *USC is always fascinating because of the brand and because of the LA/West Coast market but it's just such a terrible fit for travel and just doesn't seem to work. That said, I could one day see the Trojans in the B1G. As for the SEC, I think it's the ACC for them. Eventually. Like you said, those programs are locked in for a while. The ACC was probably actually the driving force behind Sankey and the SEC grabbing the Longhorns and Sooners last week, as well. Had they added OU and Texas, their footprint would have extended all the way into Texas and the league would have added something like 6 million more TV sets (from 30 to 36 million). The SEC expanded by only around 800k, but it kept the ACC from grabbing a pair of powers who were absolutely on the market. Imagine an ACC adding the Texas footprint and the Longhorn and Sooner brands and then eventually using that flex to finally absorb Notre Dame? Sankey and the SEC did and didn't like what they saw. Instead, they've locked down the SEC as the dominant force in college football for the foreseeable future.*

Billy's favorite “pod” idea: *And by the way, my favorite idea is the simple, three teams every year and then rotate six teams one year, the other six the next format. Play everyone twice in four years (a college career), get everyone at home every four years and have three legitimate rivals.*

One thing for sure - despite what the sips were saying about the little 12 “dumpster fire,” after the Fightin Texas Aggies left, is that their conference which they screwed up in the

first place, has now been destroyed by them in in predictable fashion! That's who they are! Welcome to the SEC – we'll see how you act now!

Social Justice Patches? - On Texas Aggie Athletic Uniforms



The NCAA has promulgated a new “unified” patch for college athletics uniforms along with an athletes pledge. One can see the NCAA patch here and following is the pledge:

NCAA Student-Athlete Unity Pledge: “*I am an NCAA student-athlete and I pledge to be a Champion of Unity on my team, on my campus, and in my*

community

- *I pledge to stand against all forces of division and separation.*
- *I pledge to embrace differences and strive for inclusion and collaboration.*
- *I pledge to stand against racism, hate, and discrimination.*
- *I pledge to strive for love, care, and forgiveness.*
- *I pledge to stand against silence, deceit, and obscurity.*
- *I pledge to strive for dialogue, truth, and understanding.*
- *I pledge to stand against fear and doubt.*
- *I pledge to strive for trust and belief in one another.*
- *I pledge to stand against complacency and stagnancy.*
- *I pledge to strive for change and growth.*
- *I commit to supporting my fellow student-athletes in all circumstances that impact them.*
- *I commit to both choosing unity personally and encouraging it for all.*
- *I pledge these things because we are stronger together.”*

One can access all the information about this at:

<https://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/news/student-athletes-release-unity-pledge-logo?division=d1>

We are nearing the fall season, and Texas Aggie football camp starts this Friday, August 6th. Also, one of our SRG members contacted Ms. Kristen Brown of the TAMU Athletic Department. She is the Deputy Athletics Director, Student-Athlete Experience and Chief Diversity Officer. She can be contacted at kbrown@athletics.tamu.edu, office 979-845-4810.



As we understand it, there is a plan for a unity patch - perhaps the one shown above. Or, as we have also learned from the 12th Man Foundation, it could be the same “unified” patch from last year. Either way, they would be placed on all Texas Aggie athletic uniforms this fall season.

We have been clear about expressions like this being on the uniform given our Texas Aggie tradition of the “12th Man” wherein we all have been and remain UNIFIED as a Fightin’ Texas Aggie 12th Man team – a tradition which has endured for a century! So, this prompts questions about the policy of a patch. And, why

not one that says “12th Man? Or “We are the Aggies?” Or “E. King Gill?” Or better, why not just the Texas Aggie Uniform?

President Teddy Roosevelt urged the establishment of the NCAA to be an amateur athletic organization and concept. With the advent of NIL and what is happening with the formations of super athletic conferences, one can conclude that the NCAA, as it stands today, is listening to its own death knell.

All this brings us to some questions and answers to which we believe that SRG members are entitled:

1. Why do we need a uniform patch since Aggies are and have been for a long time unified as “We are the Aggies” under the 12th Man concept?
2. What will the TAMU policy be about this with rationale?
3. Who will make the decision (we assume President Banks)?
4. When can we know this?

Please refer again to what our Texas Aggie Olympic Athlete gold medal winner, Athing Mu, said about Aggieland:

“It’s [TAMU] just a land full of the most genuine people I’ve ever met. There are so many resources within the university when it comes to academics and also athletically on the track. I feel like I’m well-rounded over here and have everything I need to be successful.”

New College Station City Hall



The Aggie campus is growing, and as expected, so is College Station! If you have not been here in a while, you will be amazed by the growth – on and off campus. Just to the east, on Texas Avenue just across from the campus, is the new College Station City Hall! It should be completed and occupied by the first of the year. If you attend the SRG

Reunion in March 2022 and take the bus tour of the campus (the guides will be Harry Brand '62 and Edis Oliver '63, both members of the SRG board), you will get to see the new Hall plus a lot more growth!

Red, White and Blue Tribute Planned for September 4th Game at Kyle Field



Reported by Sue Owen '94 of The Association on 5 August, *“Texas A&M students are leading an effort to recreate the 2001 “Red, White and Blue” game at Kyle Field in remembrance of the 9/11 attacks 20 years ago.*

“All fans attending the Sept. 4 football game against Kent State are asked to wear red, white or blue based on their seat section – whether it be clothing they already own or one of the T-shirts being sold at numerous outlets.

“The student organizations behind the effort are Maroon Out, Traditions Council and the Student Government Association, all groups that The Association has helped support over the years. They are partnering with Texas A&M Athletics.”

One can access the entire article and all the details here:

<https://www.aggienetwork.com/news/156838/red-white-and-blue-tribute-planned-for-sept-4-game/>.

Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets association (CCA) Announces Bruce Hamilton '78 as new President and CEO



As announced by John Bonn '79, Board Chairman of the CCA, Bruce Hamilton '78 has been selected to replace retiring Don Crawford as the new President and CEO of the CCA.



“While Don will leave some very large boots to fill, I am very pleased to inform you that Dr. Bruce Hamilton '78 has been hired as the new President & CEO of the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association.

Bruce has enjoyed an exceptional career and we are excited to bring him back to Aggieland. We truly feel that he is uniquely qualified to lead the CCA and expand our efforts to enhance the Corps experience for our great Cadets, to grow the Corps and support their efforts to produce exceptional leaders for our communities, state and country in these very challenging times.”

One can access further information about this selection here: share@corpsofcadets.org

TAMU 2021 COVID-19 Management and Guidance Plans

“August 5, 2021: Texas A&M University is scheduled to continue in-person classes at full capacity for the fall semester. Considering the continued infection rates in the nation and recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [guidelines](#), the university is asking the campus community to do its part by taking important steps to keep Aggieland healthy and safe.

*“While Texas A&M **does not require** you to be vaccinated or to wear masks, you are **strongly encouraged** to do your part to keep Aggieland safe by getting vaccinated, wearing a mask while in public indoor settings and frequently washing your hands. These actions are known to be effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19.*

*“We will continue to monitor the situation in all of the communities surrounding our campuses, as well as the state as a whole. As conditions may warrant changes to these guidelines, please be on the lookout for future updates posted on the **Protect Aggieland** [COVID-19 guidance page](#).*

“Note: Four requirements for everyone as we return to campus in the fall: Students must confirm they've read and agree to adhere to the following guidelines by logging on through the [Howdy Portal](#). Faculty and staff must complete the course assignment in TrainTraq.

Students, faculty and staff must participate in the mandatory COVID-19 testing program at intervals designated by Texas A&M.

Students, faculty and staff who test positive for COVID-19, have COVID-19 symptoms, or who have had close contact with someone who received a positive test result for COVID-19 are required to log on to [this site](#) and complete the COVID-19 Report Form, and are asked to cooperate with the Texas A&M COVID-19 Investigation Operations Center.

Students, faculty and staff who test positive or have been identified as a close contact are required to quarantine/isolate consistent with CDC guidance.”

The entire Plan can be accessed here:

https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/messages/fall-2021-covid-19-management-and-guidanceplans.html?utm_source=Social&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Social&utm_id=TAMUSocial&utm_term=TAMU_Social&utm_content=fall-2021-covid-19-management-and-guidance-plans

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 Weichold: m-weichold@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.