

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Forty-One

25 August 2021

SRG Board Members Attended fish Camp Session, 9-11 August 2021



The SRG Board requested and received an invitation to visit a fish Camp session with an objective to observe, learn, and thus, be able to support and be of service to the Vice President for Student

Affairs (VPSA), BG Joe Ramirez '79 and his team. Five of the SRG Board members (Ashy '62, Smith '62, Oliver '63, Nelson '64, and Stanton '64) attended Session "F", 9-11 August 2021 at Lakeview, Texas. Dr. Vicki Dobiyanski '03, The Associate VPSA, was there with us during our fC visit. To say the least, we appreciated her hospitality, mentorship, and inclusion into all the activities. It was an enlightening and enjoyable experience to be with the Student Activities Staff, the student leader counselors under Eric Munoz, '22, Head Fish Camp Director, and importantly, the new Texas Aggie fish - our future! Interacting with all of them, including the Camp Namesakes, such as Tyson Voelkel '96, President of the Texas A&M Foundation and his family, was a great experience and privilege. Again, we thank our hosts.

Our perspective is that fish Camp is a major element of new student introduction and integration into the Texas Aggie family and Aggie Spirit. If we are to perpetuate what makes our beloved University special, success in this endeavor is vital. The execution of the enterprise is dependent on over 1200 enthusiastic student volunteers who form a recognized Texas Aggie Student Organization. This enterprise is integral to what Texas A&M does – creating and graduating leaders of character who go forth and (1) answer calls to duty in all sectors, and (2) as demonstrated for over 140 years, doing that with selfless service. They, the students, shoulder this responsibility as delegated by the VPSA through the Director of Student Activities. The point is, this student leadership contribution and experience is important to perpetuate. We, the SRG Board, recognize this and support it.

Afterwards, BG Ramirez invited us to meet and share observations and suggestions which may improve the fish Camp curriculum and the effectiveness of its execution. We certainly appreciated that and intend to stay engaged in a helpful and supportive manner in the years to come. It was also great to learn that our TAMU President, Dr. Banks, also visited a fish Camp session. Additionally General Ramirez will soon brief the program to the members of the TAMUS Board of Regents. We again thank him and our hosts for this opportunity. Gig 'em!

TAMU August 2021 Graduations

As reported by Jasmine Johnson, Texas A&M University Division of Enrollment & Academic Services on August 12, 2021, TAMU commencement ceremonies were held at Reed Arena in College Station and the Aggie Special Event Center in Galveston. Texas A&M University awarded 2,040 degrees to August graduates during three ceremonies. From the College Station campus — which includes all colleges from the main campus, the Health Science Center and the School of Law — there are 1,944 graduates being recognized. Texas A&M University at Galveston celebrated 85 graduates, while Texas A&M University at Qatar has 11 graduates. Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Mark Weichold congratulated the newest graduates.

Individual August college commencement ceremonies are not held for the College of Dentistry, School of Law, College of Medicine, Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy or College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. August degree candidates from these colleges may attend the August commencement ceremonies on main campus in College Station.

Also, TAMU at Galveston hosted a commencement ceremony to award its graduate and undergraduate degrees on Aug. 14 at the Aggie Special Event Center. On behalf of the SRG, congratulations to all new Fightin' Texas Aggie graduates!

Texas Aggie Gold Medal Olympians!



Khris Middleton joined Texas Aggie track & field phenom Athing Mu as the second Aggie to win a gold medal. Between an NBA Championship and an Olympic Championship, that's a pretty successful few weeks for "K-Mid."

We have already reported that Athing Mu won her Gold Medal in the 800m dash! Now she has her second Olympic Gold Medal by anchoring the women's 4X400 relay! Following that, Bryce Deadmon won a Gold Medal in the same race (4X400 men's relay). Both, thus, became the first Fightin' Texas Aggies to win multiple medals at the same Olympiad! We are proud of and for you Texas Aggie Olympians! Congratulations and Gig

'em!



Coach Schlossnagle's Answer to an Interview Question – Good Bull!



As reported by TexAgs on 17 August 2021, this is most revealing and a very good and clear message from our new baseball coach:

“For young men in Texas, most of them are already knowledgeable about the power of a Texas A&M degree. How is it going to work for me over time? The closer you are to College Station, the more you know about that. The further away you are, the more we have to educate them. I didn't even realize this was one of the top-10 public universities in the country or the number of Former Students out there. We've also hired a coaching staff and are developing the facilities so we can look at a young man and tell them this is the best place for four years and for them to become a big-league player. The numbers say that the fastest round to the MLB is to go to college. Even though we went to five college world series at TCU, it was still tough to recruit against Texas A&M. Here, you're swimming in a deeper pool in the SEC West, but there are players who already want to go to school here.”

AD Bjork and Assistant AD Brown on Athletic Uniform Patches This Season



On 9 August at the Houston A&M Club lunch, Athletic Director (AD) Bjork was the speaker. After the lunch, one of our SRG board members asked him if patches on Texas Aggie athletic uniforms would be worn this season. He conveyed that A&M was not going to use the NCAA patch but will use the “unified” patch that was on the A&M players' uniforms in 2020.

Also, Kristen Brown responded to an inquiry after the previous SRG Bulletin:

“Howdy,

In July 2020, the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved rules to allow student-athletes in all sports to wear patches on their uniforms for commemorative and memorial purposes as well as to support social justice issues. With commemorative patches becoming permissible, the Athletic Department immediately engaged our student-athlete leadership group (SAAC) on ideas for a patch to be worn by all Texas A&M teams. In late August/early September, our student-athletes agreed upon the “UNIFIED” message/patch. In addition to the patch, the UNIFIED initiative included a Video that was shown before each home competition as well as the UNIFIED Voices video series (featuring student-athletes and staff) that was released throughout the 2020-21 academic year. That being said, the NCAA did not announce/release their Unity Pledge and Logo until late October, which was well after our UNIFIED initiative had begun. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Best, Kristen

*Kristen D. Brown, Deputy Athletics Director/SWA/Chief Diversity Officer,
Athletics Department, TAMU”*

Yes, some more questions please:

- We believe that Texas Aggies are “unified” as The 12th Man” which is a well-established TAMU tradition – so why do we need a patch at all?
- If one does not agree with the 12th Man Tradition rationale above, then what is the reason for a “unified” patch specifically, and “unified” with whom?
- Did the TAMU President approve this uniform “unified” patch?

Texas A&M Innovation Plaza in Houston



As reported Katherine Feser on 5 August 2021 of the Houston Chronicle and the TAMUS Chancellor's Office, Texas A&M University System is developing the Texas A&M Innovation Plaza at Holcombe and Main in partnership with Medistar Corp. The project consists of a 19-story building for student housing, an 18-story academic building for its engineering medicine program and a 30-story medical office

building. Medistar Corp. and Healthcare Trust of America marked construction milestones at the Texas A&M Innovation Plaza campus rising on a five-acre parcel at Holcombe and Main next to the Texas Medical Center.

Ground was broken Wednesday for Horizon Tower. The 483-unit tower will consist of one, two and four-bedroom units. The buildings will join Discovery Tower, an 18-story, 280,000-square-foot academic building anchored by Texas A&M's Engineering-Medicine program. Slated for completion in early 2023, Horizon Tower will have 17 stories of life sciences and medical space above 13 stories of parking, with 15,000 square feet of ground-level retail. The building will have 2,700 parking spaces. The tower, which will target life sciences and medical device/technology companies as tenants, will be outfitted with emergency power for mission-critical applications and appliances, high-tech ventilation. One can access more information about this project here: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/real-estate/article/Texas-A-M-Innovation-Plaza-takes-shape-near-Texas-16366825.php>

Fightin' Texas Aggies Ranked #6 in AP and Coaches Polls

As reported by Thad Norvell of TexAgs on August 16, 2021, the AP poll was released on Monday and ranked the Fightin' Texas Aggie football team sixth in the country. The Aggies were also ranked sixth in last week's preseason Coaches Poll. Jimbo Fisher's squad enters the 2021 season fresh off an Orange Bowl victory and a No. 4 finish in 2020's final AP poll.

In both preseason polls, Texas A&M sits just outside a top five that includes consensus Alabama, Oklahoma, Clemson, Ohio State and Georgia. The AP ranks the Sooners second and Clemson third while the Coaches Poll reversed those two. That's a consensus top-six that includes three SEC teams plus OU, who is scheduled to join the league no later than 2025. The top 25 also includes No. 13 Florida and No. 16 LSU, while the Longhorns appear at No. 21. The top 10 are:

1. Alabama
2. Oklahoma
3. Clemson
4. Ohio State

5. Georgia
- 6. Texas A&M**
7. Iowa State
8. Cincinnati
9. Notre Dame
10. North Carolina

Texas Aggie Book of “Lists”

Recently, we met with Jim Woodall '50 and he advised that he and his history group had completed their compilation of Aggie “Lists” into a book of lists regarding Aggie military heritage now available at the Texas A&M University Aggie Press. It could be an excellent reference for class agents or any of us seeking information about Fightin’ Texas Aggies. Here are the details:

*The Texas A&M University Press has released a book **The Book of Lists: Texas A&M University’s Military Heritage**. It contains 65 lists and over 2700 names and class years for Aggies who died in military service in WW1, Korea, Vietnam and the War on Terrorism are listed. Those buried in overseas cemeteries are listed by cemetery. Also, there are lists of general and flag officers, Corps Commanders, Commandants, Head Drum Majors, RVs, PMC and FDT Commanders and Head Yell Leaders. There are lists of Aggies on the Doolittle Raid, Air Bases/Fields named for Aggies, Air Aces, Aggie POW’s, Aggies missing in action and movies with an A&M connection.*

Simpson Field Update – Progress!



Before and after - now we still need the nine trees added with the plaques for the fallen.

On Behalf of the SRG, Thank You Jennifer Bohac '87!

Porter Garner '79 advised in a message on 25 August that Jennifer Bohac '87 was stepping down from her well know position with The Association's Traveling Aggies, THE premier alumni enterprise on the planet, to take up a position within the Texas A&M Foundation. From Porter in-part:

"I wanted to reach out and let you know that after 20 years of dedicated service to The Association of Former Students and our Traveling Aggies program, Jennifer Bohac '87 has accepted a position with the Texas A&M Foundation as Director Outreach & Donor Programs, effective September 21, 2021.

During her admirable tenure with The Association, Jennifer's enthusiasm for travel and devoted attention and care of our travelers created lasting memories for thousands of Aggies, built enormous affinity for The Association of Former Students, and established the Traveling Aggies as the premier alumni travel program. She has been tireless as a host and made sure each traveler enjoyed their trip to the fullest....."

Thank you, Jennifer, on behalf of all of us. You certainly made a difference and left your mark! Gig 'em!

Coach Buzz Williams Suspended Two Games by NCAA

As reported by Olin Buchanan of TexAgs on 20 August 2021 and multiple sports outlets, the NCAA announced on Friday a two-game suspension for Texas A&M basketball coach Buzz Williams along with several other penalties stemming from several NCAA violations related to contact with prospects and workout rules. The violations listed including impermissible contact with a prospect by the head coach and an assistant coach, issues related to impermissible workouts conducted or coordinated by the assistant coach and excessive noncoaching staff participating in on-court instruction.

A statement from Texas A&M Athletics read, in part:

"On August 20, 2021, the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions announced that it approved a negotiated resolution jointly submitted by Texas A&M University and the NCAA enforcement staff concerning the men's basketball program.

Texas A&M Athletics and the men's basketball program are pleased to have this matter concluded. We support Coach Williams and will continue to move forward in a positive direction."

The NCAA listed penalties are:

- *Two years of probation*
- *A \$5,000 fine*
- *A reduction in men's basketball official visits for the 2021-22 academic year by five*
- *suspension of unofficial visits during the first three Southeastern Conference men's basketball games during the 2021-22 academic year*
- *A reduction in men's basketball recruiting days by 5% (7 days out of 130) during the 2021-22 academic year*
- *A two-game suspension (during the regular season) for the head coach at Texas A&M or any school that employs him*

- *A suspension of the assistant coach, self-imposed by the university, June 2020 through the end of the 2020-21 basketball season, and during that suspension, the program operate with one fewer assistant coach than allowed under NCAA rules”*

BTHO Kent State!

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 jbelle@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.