

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Thirty-Four

24 May 2021

“America’s 12th Man” – Good Bull!



On 14 May, General Milley, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, was the Commissioning Officer for the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Cadets into five US Armed Forces – Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Space Force. As BG Ramirez ’79, Texas Aggie Commandant of Cadets, reminded us, this ceremony *“continues a tradition that spans 145 years of commissioning Fightin’ Texas Aggie men and women into military service!”*

This year, due to the multiple commencements taking place, the newly commissioned officers crossed a stage in Gilliam Indoor Track Stadium. General Milley, in his remarks, complimented the Texas Aggie program and its long history of producing *“incredible officers and leaders who have fought in every combat since the Spanish-American War.”*

He went on to say that *“Aggies stand out, no matter where you are, you’ll always find a Texas Aggie and you have everything to be proud of. While it is an exciting day, the work the officers are entering is a dangerous calling – fundamental to the country. So, stand ready. Be prepared, deter the great power war, but if it comes, fight it and win. You do that by training and discipline. **You do that by being this Nations’ 12th Man! You do that by being a Lt. Colonel Rudder in 1941!**”*

General Milley said *“out of all the countries in the United Nations, The United States military is the only one that swears an oath to a document and an idea, not a person, religion, tribe, or land mass. The idea is simple, and examples can be found on this campus, in Texas and throughout the Nation.”*

To our new Texas Aggie Officers; God’s speed, congratulations, Gig ‘em and good hunting!

Report From the Commandant – Very Good Bull!

Congratulations to the Corps of Cadets for posting an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.2 this semester! This is the highest Spring GPA the Corps has ever posted (the COVID adjusted Spring ’20 GPA notwithstanding), and also marks the 11th straight semester that the Corps has posted above a 3.0 GPA! The graduating seniors of the

class of 2021 posted a cumulative GPA of 3.27 - the highest GPA ever posted by a graduating class in the Corps.

Some other significant academic statistics from this semester:

241 cadets posted a perfect 4.0 GPA

1408 cadets posted above a 3.0 GPA

All 4 classes ('21, '22, '23, '24) posted above a 3.0 GPA

We are extremely proud of all of our cadets and the academic excellence they achieved this school year, despite the many challenges that COVID-19 presented. Our cadets overcame the challenges, focused on their academics, and achieved one the best academic averages ever recorded by the Corps of Cadets. A job well done by all of our cadets! Proud of all of them!

Congratulations also to Ms. Meredith Simpson, Assistant Commandant for Academics, and her team of Scholastic Support Specialists: Cristina Vela, Cynthia Quin, and Shelley Kelley, for their hard work and support of our cadets in achieving academic success. Often working nights and weekends to help our cadets, they are truly the "unsung heroes" in helping our cadets achieve the highest GPAs ever recorded by the Corps of Cadets. Thanks to them for all their efforts to help our cadets be successful. Congratulations again to our cadets and our staff for the academic success achieved this semester by our Corps. I am truly proud of all of them! I am already looking forward to the next school year and seeing our cadets continue to succeed academically. Well done by all!

We, the SRG Board, salute this performance! We certainly can remember the days when academic performance was not at the fore, and the results (sadly) reflected it. As a result, there was considerable INTERNAL opposition to the Corps of Cadets from the academic community of TAMU which, we remind, happens to be a State of Texas academic institution.

General Ramirez and his team figured this out, established a relationship with the Deans, and their leadership mattered for very good reasons. What is astounding when one considers the percentage of "total TAMU" (slightly over 50% women) versus the Corps (17%) is that the Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps is achieving a better grade point average (GPA) - recognizing that women make better grades than men! We should also point out that Aggie Corps of Cadets graduates are among the most sought-after in US. **We offer our congratulations also! Gig 'em!**

Veterans Day

The day, 15 May 2021, is set aside to honor the Members, current and past, of the U.S. Armed Forces for their service and dedication to the defense of our Nation, the Constitution and our way of life. The following poem speaks to the standards of the American Soldier, but it should be applied to all members of our Military Services.

What it Means to be a Soldier
By Lee Austin

*It means you're a member of a team
That serves the nation true,
That always keeps the mission first
In everything you do.*

*When you are faced with defeat,
It means you won't submit.
You'll never leave a comrade down.
It means you'll never quit.*

*It means you're disciplined;
Physically and mentally tough.
You are best-can-be trained.
Adequate is never enough.*

*It means that you're a warrior,
Proficient in your skills.
It means that you excel
In Soldier tasks and combat drills.*

*You maintain your arms, gear and self.
You're an expert and a pro.
You're part of a Band of Brothers
The timid will never know.*

*When Duty sounds the call
To leave loves and deploy
To face the Nation's enemy,
You'll engage them, and destroy.*

*It means you wrote a check that's blank,
For hardship, danger and strife,
That can be cashed at any time,
Up to and including your life.*

*You're a guardian of Freedom.
You'll respond without delay
To defend this land we love,
At home or far away.*

Jason Glenn, Texas Aggie

Jason Glenn is head football coach at Klein Oak HS, Texas. As one of A&M's great linebackers in the late 90's and early 2000's, he was an All-Big 12 Performer and third team All American as a senior. After spending seven years in the National Football League (NFL), he returned to his hometown, Houston, to begin his high school coaching career. He tells us what Fightin' Texas Aggie leadership is really about in a video found

here: [Jason Glenn Creates a Family Dynamic among His Athletes through Messages of Unity and Inclusivity • Hudl Blog](#)

TAMU Expecting Employees on Campus 1 June at Full Capacity

As reported by the Bryan Eagle on 7 May 2021 (Kenny Wiley, citing a TAMU Human Resources Memo), Texas A&M University employees will be expected to return to in-person work next month and occupancy levels on campus will increase to 100% beginning the 1st of June. Chancellor Sharp said “It’s back to normal. You can get a degree online, but you cannot become an Aggie online.”

“COVID-19 infections can be drastically reduced by vaccination, and current conditions are such that vaccines are widely available,” the Memo reads. “As a result, the university’s executive leadership, in consultation with the chancellor, has decided to adjust protocols in an effort to better serve the growing number of students returning to campus including those participating in New Student Conferences over the summer.

Professor Stallone, Speaker of the Faculty Senate said in a phone interview that for him, the human resources memo leaves several questions unanswered. “On one hand, I don’t know anybody who hasn’t said they would like to return to normalcy and be with our students in classrooms face-to-face and do our normal job. No one’s disputing that. But people are concerned about this and they want to see some explicit details. Namely, are we going to wear masks or have social distancing, or is this going to be just completely back to normal with no safeguards at all?”

On 13 May, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a major step in returning to pre-pandemic life which included the easing of mask wearing guidance for fully vaccinated people. And allowing them to stop wearing masks outdoors in crowds and in most indoor settings. President Biden said, “If you are fully vaccinated, you no longer need to wear a mask.”

Governor Declares the End to Mask Requirements

On Tuesday the 18th of May, Texas Governor Abbott issued an executive order that forbids most local government entities from requiring masks. The order’s effective date was established as Friday the 21st. Therefore, according to the order, cities, counties, public health authorities and other institutions may no longer require face coverings. Public schools, however, can be required to wear a mask while on campus through 4 June. “After the 4th of June, no student, teacher, parent, of other staff member or visitor can be required to wear a mask while on campus” said a press statement from the Governor’s Office.

Effective immediately, Texas A&M University will no longer require masks on campus, officials announced on Tuesday afternoon. The university said their decision was pursuant to the Governors executive order. Texas A&M’s announcement “applies to remaining commencement ceremonies as well as indoor and outdoor facilities and

venues. For employees and students who have not been vaccinated, face coverings are highly recommended to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We encourage vaccinations!"

Dr. John Hurtado to Take on New Interim Responsibilities

On 20 May, the TAMUS Regents approved Dr. Hurtado, now serving as the Deputy Director of the Bush Development Complex, as Interim 1. Vice Chancellor for TAMUS Engineering, 2. Dean of the TAMU College of Engineering, and 3. Director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, effective 1 June. He will be filling the roles which Dr. Banks will vacate as she assumes her new duties as President of TAMU's flagship campus on the same date. Hurtado recently served as co-chair of the TAMU Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (CDEI).

Chancellor John Sharp's Contract Extended

On 20 May - as reported by the Vice Chancellor of Marketing and Communications, Laylan Copelin - following a vote by the TAMUS Regents, Chairperson Elaine Mendoza was authorized to negotiate and execute an extension to Chancellor Sharp's contract for an additional five years.

Coach Childress' Career Ends at Aggieland



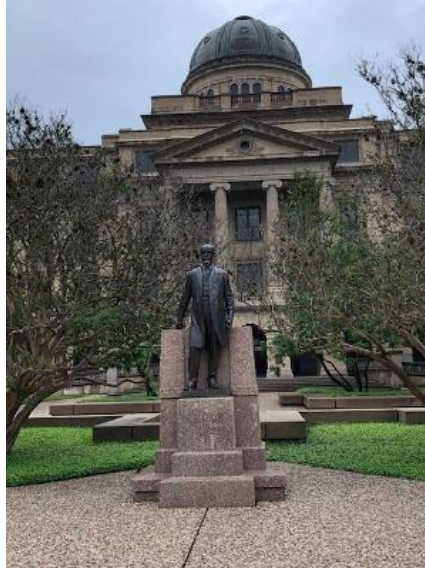
As reported by TexAgs and multiple outlets, Texas A&M Director of Athletics Ross Bjork announced on Sunday, 23 May that head baseball coach Rob Childress would not be offered another contract for next season. Coach's contract expired following a 29-27 campaign in which the Aggies failed to reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time since his first season in 2006 (the 2020 tournament was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic). The 2021 Aggies finished 13th in the Southeastern Conference and missed the SEC Tournament for the first time in program history.

In 16 years as the head coach of the Aggies, Coach Childress accumulated 622 wins, won six conference titles and reached two College World Series (2011 & 2017). A&M hosted six NCAA Regionals and two Super Regionals in Bryan-College Station under his leadership. However, during his tenure there was lack of wins in Omaha which many consider substandard for a program with such great potential. His 622 career victories rank third all-time in Texas A&M history behind Mark Johnson (876) and Tom Chandler (660). The ensuing coaching search is expected to be national and will begin immediately.

Status Change - 22May21!



FROM



TO

Simpson Field



It won't take much, and after all, it is a memorial to Texas Aggies who lost their lives in WWI. The four Simpson Field signs deserve a maintenance because they are UNREADABLE. Do we have them on a work plan? Here is the verbiage we recommended on 11 June 2020 that you refurbish them with. ***“This Field is a living Memorial to the Texas Aggies who gave their lives in Service to their Nation and State in WWI”***

As also pointed out a year ago, there are two trees which are dead on the Field. We hope they are on a work plan also!

Here are some examples where plaques identifying those Aggies who lost their lives are missing, damaged or need adjustment. And there is an updated, confirmed list of all those Texas Aggies. Thus, there are a few names which need to be added at Simpson (with added trees and plaques for each).



Coach Fisher's Answer and Coach Saban's Response



On Wednesday, May 5th, as reported by Alex Scarborough of ESPN, Texas A&M head coach Jimbo Fisher was asked at the Houston Touchdown Club what it would take to beat the Alabama Crimson Tide, short of Nick Saban retiring. "We're going to beat his ass when he's there, don't worry!" he responded. A day later, Saban had a response for Fisher's comments: "In Golf?" (laughs) "Is that what he was talking about? In football?"

Notes:

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: K-banks@tamu.edu

Interim President Junkins: junkins@tamu.edu

Interim Provost Weichold: m-weichold@tamu.edu

Athletic Director Bjork: rabun@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 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, we shall soon have an "SRG Tab" on The Association's website at: aggienetwork.com so you can access information about us.