

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Thirty-Nine

25 July 2021

tu and okies to The SEC? Whew!

The week of 20 July at SEC Media Days in Hoover, Alabama, the story broke that there was ongoing behind-the-scenes “maneuvering and intrigue” regarding Texas and Oklahoma Universities wanting to join the SEC. This is hilariously interesting given the diatribe of both these outfits over the past nine years promulgating the story that they were both in a superior conference (the big 12 or little 12 or whatever), and that football recruits would be much better off playing in their conference! Now, their new “narrative” will be deliciously fun to watch and hear in the near future as all this unfolds!

We could go on and on here, but this topic is so fast moving and rapidly changing that we shall not. Our membership, no doubt, is following it in the media (Billy Liucci and TexAgs are on it for sure). It is an understatement that this is influenced by TV and “brand” money at stake, the eventual establishment of college football “super conferences,” State politics, and certainly what the Texas Aggie leadership has to say about its best interests (Dr. Banks was in Hoover on Thursday after this all emerged).

Coach Fisher, in his SEC Media Days appearance and interview, when asked about Texas and Oklahoma wanting to join the SEC said, “I bet they do” (smirk)!

Here is what Billy Liucci of TexAgs said about his endgame prediction just before he left Hoover on the 22nd of July: “Here's the deal. If it doesn't happen, it's going to die at that [State legislature] level. I don't think it dies at the SEC level. I think if Texas and OU are hell-bent and allowed to leave the Big 12, I think they end up in the Southeastern Conference. That's it. But if it dies, it's killed at the state level, political pressure, and there's going to be a hell of a lot of it.”

Here is another post by Billy Liucci on 22 July: “[It's] going to be an interesting in a couple of days when it comes to politics in Texas and Oklahoma. I think we'll hear some reports out of Austin that make this thing look exponentially more difficult for the longhorns and sooners to get out [of the little 12]. A&M, Baylor, TCU, Tech and Oklahoma State represent a heck of a lot of resistance, and the longhorn [Texas] Governor is about to really feel that pressure.”

Missouri offensive lineman Case Cook, on tu's desire to join the SEC (while at SEC Media Days in Hoover Alabama) said, “If you cannot handle a “horns down” gesture, I would imagine you'd have a hard time in this league!

On Saturday the 24th of July, our TAMU President, Dr Banks released the following Statement: “*The last few days have been challenging in many ways, and I recognize that change in college athletics often is unsettling for those who love their institutions. Rest*

assured, the chancellor, our athletic director, and I, and everyone involved in this matter are focused solely on what is best for Texas A&M University. Since 2011, we have been a proud member of the best intercollegiate athletic conference in history, and we look forward to continued success in our SEC partnership for many years to come.”

M. Katherine Banks

President, Texas A&M University

Additionally, also on Saturday, TAMU Athletic Director Ross Bjork as reported by Saturday Down South and the Houston Chronicle, seemingly indicated a change of tone: *“The SEC is in position to lead. The college athletics landscape is changing and evolving. We know other people are interested in joining. That’s not surprising. We feel in the state of Texas we paved the way for that. We’re (A&M) stronger than we’ve ever been. We have over 550,000 former students. We’re on the cusp of the CFP. We have Olympians. Our women are basketball champions. We knew this day (Texas and OU joining SEC) could happen and probably would happen. We’re surprised at speed of it.”*

So, it is becoming clear that this will happen in some format and timetable to be determined. If we wind up and in a four team SEC “pod” with Isu, tu and the okies, we should realize we are now the best program and we need to keep that vector! We can do this because we have made ourselves that way over the past ten years! **WE ARE THE AGGIES! BTHO everybody!**

CONFERENCE Update



Chancellor

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Howdy!

14 July 2021

There is a symposium of vital importance to our national defense that’s wrapping up today on the main campus of Texas A&M University.

About 300 military and defense industry leaders are here to talk with each other and with a number of top Texas A&M researchers and project leaders about next-generation military deterrence.

The three-day event is focused on modernizing battlefield communications in case the U.S. has to go to war against a high-tech adversary, such as Russia or China.

The goal is for every military branch to communicate instantly and effectively if fighting breaks out the ground, in the air, at sea, in space and in cyberspace — all simultaneously.

This threat is a great example of why the Texas A&M System is building the George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex (BCDC) on the RELLIS Campus.

For more details, please see our press release here : <https://www.tamus.edu/military-defense-industry-gather-at-texas-am-to-plan-future-of-battlefield-communication/>

John Sharp

Congrats to Texas Aggie General Smith '87 and family – very good bull!



On 15 July 2021, Secretary of Defense Austin announced that the president has nominated Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Eric M. Smith '87 for appointment to the rank of general, and assignment as assistant commandant of the Marine Corps. Smith is currently serving as the deputy commandant for combat development and integration, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; and commanding general, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia.

General Smith is from Plano, Texas and entered the Marine Corps in 1987 through the NROTC program at Texas A&M University. He was the Combined Aggie Band commander and also a member of the Ross Volunteer Company. After completing The Basic School and Infantry Officer's Course, he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines - participating in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. In the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, he participated in Operation Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia. After a tour as a Marine Officer Instructor at Texas A&M University, he attended the United States Army Command and General Staff Course. His next assignment was as the Naval Section Chief at the U.S. Military Group in Caracas, Venezuela from 2001-2003.

From 2003 until 2006, he served in the 1st Marine Division as Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, and during this period, he completed two deployments to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later served in the 2nd Marine Division as Commanding Officer of 8th Marine Regiment, completing a one-year deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2015 he commanded Marine Corps Forces Southern Command in Miami, Florida, and was then transferred to the Pentagon to serve as the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense. He then served as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations. From June 2017 until July 2018, he served as the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division. From August 2018 until June 2019, Lieutenant General Smith served as the Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF). Following, he commanded Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and was also the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

Subject to US Senate confirmation, Smith will be the 10th Texas Aggie four-star flag officer in Aggie history (Weyland '23 USAAC/USAF, Schriever '31 USAAC/USAF, Johnson '56 USN, Ashy '62 USAF, Gamble '67 USAF, Hornburg '68 USAF, Moseley '71 USAF, Fraser '74 USAF, Wilson '81 USAF, Smith '87 USMC). One can access General Smith's entire biography at: [Lieutenant General Eric M. Smith > Combat Development & Integration > Leaders Bio \(marines.mil\)](#)

As predicted - NIL's "Million Dollar Man" (in the "Wild, Wild West!")



As reported by Tony Tsoukalas, Bama team writer in Hoover, Alabama during SEC Media Days on 21 July 2021, Bryce Young, the Tide's sophomore quarterback wasn't at SEC Media Days on Tuesday. That didn't stop him from becoming the main talking point of the day. Young found his name in the headlines early in the day after Alabama head coach Nick Saban revealed that the quarterback had already grossed nearly \$1 million in endorsement deals off his name, image and likeness (NIL).

"Certain positions, probably, enhance opportunities to create value, like quarterback, and our quarterback already has approached ungodly numbers — I'm not going to say what they are — and he hasn't even played yet. Hasn't even started," Coach Saban said via The Athletic. "... It's almost seven figures. And it's like, the guy hasn't even played yet. But that's because of our brand."

That's just what Young has been able to net since July 1 when college athletes in Alabama have been legally able to earn revenue from their NIL. It didn't take long for news of Young's earnings to spread across the college football world. It's safe to say Saban isn't the only head coach taken back by the quarterback's marketability.

We have recently posted news in our SRG Bulletins about the newly enacted rules (and states laws) for NIL, and now as predicted by Billy Liucci of TexAgs and many others sports news outlets, it is "unfolding!" Get ready for more!

One can read the entire article here: <https://alabama.rivals.com/news/college-football-reacts-to-bryce-young-alabama-s-1-million-man>

25 Fightin' Texas Aggies Will Be Competing in the Tokyo Olympics!



As reported by Susan Owen '94 of The Association on 19 July 2021 (Photo: Texas A&M Athletics photos, clockwise from top left - Alia Atkinson '10, Athing Mu '24, Khris Middleton '13, Annie Kunz '15), at least 25 Texas Aggies will compete for more than a dozen different nations in the Tokyo Olympics, including both current and former students. The opening ceremony is July 23rd.

Among former students, swimmer **Alia Atkinson '10** is taking part in her fifth Olympics and **Khris Middleton '13** is a pro basketball player for the World Champion Milwaukee Bucks. In addition, **Alex Dawson '06** will serve as the U.S. swim team

manager; he competed for A&M as a student and is A&M's current director of swimming and diving operations. Here they are:

Adri Arnaus '16 – golf – Spain

Alia Atkinson '10 – swimming – Jamaica
Aviv Barzelay '25 – swimming – Israel
Bryce Deadmon '19 – track and field – USA
McKenna DeBever '19 – swimming – Peru
Adaora Elonu '12 – basketball – Nigeria
Amini Fonua '12 – swimming – Tonga
Beryl Gastaldello '18 – swimming – France
Tyra Gittens '21 – track and field – Trinidad and Tobago
Munzy Kabbara '25 – swimming – Lebanon
Alais Kalonji '19 – diving – France
Fred Kerley '19 – track and field – USA
Austin Kraijcek '11 – tennis – USA
Annie Kunz '15 – track and field – USA
Deon Lendore '15 – track and field – Trinidad and Tobago
Maggie Malone '16 – track and field – USA
Angel Martinez '17 – swimming/diving – Mexico
Khris Middleton '13 – basketball – USA
Athing Mu '24 – track and field – USA
Sydney Pickrem '19 – swimming/diving – Canada
Yasser Mohamed Tahar Triki '21 – track and field – Algeria
Lindon Victor '18 – track and field – Grenada
Tori Viales '18 – softball – Mexico
Emmanuel Yeboah '22 – track and field – Ghana
Charokee Young '23 – track and field – Jamaica

Please note – a later article from the TAMU Athletic Department stated that “26 Aggies ‘qualify’ for the Tokyo Olympics (versus 25).” We checked the two lists and this one included Dawson who previously competed but now will serve as the swim team manager. One can read the entire article and access more information here:
https://www.aggienetwork.com/news/156802/25-aggies-competing-in-tokyo-olympics/?utm_source=newsletter&utm

Article says, “University of Texas Critical Race Training Showdown Is Looming!”



We have posted articles about Critical Race Theory (CRT) in previous SRG Bulletins to help keep you apprised on what it's about and ramifications. This one is by Louis Bonham on 7 July in Legal Insurrection. He points out that, with Texas' special legislative session, tu's days of simply ignoring critics and disgusted alumni may be numbered.

“Despite warnings from alumni, faculty, and organizations like the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education and the National Association of Scholars, UT quietly adopted a “Strategic Plan for Faculty Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity” that is genuinely chilling. Among other questionable practices, this plan institutionalizes the Critical Race Theory version of “equity” (equality of results, as opposed to equal opportunity, nondiscrimination, and meritocracy) as the paramount driver of decisions on hiring,

promotion, tenure, leadership positions, and even teaching awards and endowed chairs at UT. It also creates a bureaucracy of diversity commissars in each college to enforce the new orthodoxy and mandates re-education of virtually all faculty in the new catechism.

“UT (tu) insiders tell me this plan was the brainchild and pet project of UT Vice Provost Edmund Gordon, a pronounced CRT advocate. UT’s adoption of this extraordinarily ill-considered plan was the last straw for me (and, based on responses I have received to my article, apparently many other UT alumni as well). UT President Jay Hartzell’s response to this criticism has been to ignore it, which seems to be his preferred *modus operandi*. President Hartzell’s calculus appears to be that, with the Texas legislature now safely adjourned from its biennial session. UT can continue on its merry way, unmolested by the unenlightened peasantry. He may be in for a rude awakening.

“The visceral public backlash against CRT in education is emerging as one of the hottest political issues of recent times, cutting across just about all demographic lines. Indeed, even advocates of CRT now apparently recognize it is politically radioactive. Their new go-to defense is not to defend the CRT principles they have loudly espoused and demanded be implemented in curricula and administration, but instead to assert that CRT is not being taught or institutionalized at all.”

As one of our SRG Board members added to all this, it will be very important to find out how this plays out in “our own backyard” here at Aggieland! One can read the entire article here:

<https://legalinsurrection.com/2021/07/u-texas-critical-race-training-showdown-looming/>

More from Dr. Victor Davis Hansen – “The American Descent into Madness”



We have included Dr. Hansen’s pieces in previous SRG Bulletins and think he is a wise American. In this piece of 18 July 2021, he again presents us with a provoking (and painful) litany to think about. The reason that we provide it to you is that it describes the setting in which our beloved University resides. Thus, we adjudged that it would be of interest to our members. Dr. Hansen begins by saying that “America went from the freest country in the world in December 2019 to a repressive and frightening place by July 2021. How did that happen?”

“Nations have often gone mad in a matter of months. The French abandoned their supposedly idealistic revolutionary project and turned it into a monstrous hell for a year between July 1793 and 1794. After the election of November 1860, in a matter of weeks, Americans went from thinking secession was taboo to visions of killing the greatest number of their fellow citizens on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. Mao’s China went from a failed communist state to the ninth circle of Dante’s Inferno, when he unleashed the Cultural Revolution in 1966.

In the last six months, we have seen absurdities never quite witnessed in modern America. Madness, not politics, defines it. There are three characteristics of all these upheavals. One, the events are unsustainable. They will either cease or they will destroy the nation, at least as we know it. Two, the law has largely been rendered meaningless. Three, left-wing political agendas justify any means necessary to achieve them.

Speaking of our University, not that this totally describes us (but certainly we're vulnerable), here is a paragraph which is cause for concern!

***"The Campus Con** - The universities over the past 40 years were intolerant, hard Left, and increasingly anti-constitutional. But they also fostered a golden-goose confidence scheme that administrators dared not injure, given the precious eggs of federally guaranteed student loans that ensured zero academic accountability and sent tuition costs into the stratosphere. There was an unquestioned supposition that a degree of any sort, of any major, was the ticket to American success. In cynical fashion, we shrugged that most prestigious institutions were little more than cattle branders that stamped graduates with imprints that gave them unearned privilege for life.*

Yet universities now have both hands around their golden goose's neck and are determined to strangle it. The public is becoming repulsed at the woke McCarthyite culture on campus and will be more turned off when campuses open in the fall in 2019-style. At the Ivy League or major state university campuses, admissions are no longer based on proportional representation in the context of affirmative action but are defined increasingly by a reparatory character.

Grades, test scores, and "activities" of the white and Asian male college applicants are growing less relevant. Only "privileged" white males with sports skills, connections, or families who give lots of money are exempt from the new racial reparation quotas. The new woke admission policy ironically is targeting the liberal suburban professional family, the Left's constituency, whose lives are so fixated on whether children graduate from Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, or like campuses.

Given the radical change in incoming student profiles, the faculty increasingly will have to choose between accusations of racism, or grading regardless of actual performance, given thousands of new enrollees do not meet the entrance standards of just two or three years ago. Remember that since wokeism was always a top-down elite industry, minority progressives still will fight it out with white leftists in intramural scraps over titles, salaries, and managerial posts. The public has had enough. For the first time, people will ask why are we subsidizing student loans, why are multibillion-dollar endowments not taxed, and why do we think a B.A. in sociology or psychology or gender studies is an "investment" that prepares anyone for anything?"

He concludes by saying: "America went from the freest country in the world in December 2019 to a repressive, and frightening place by July 2021. It went not so much hard-Left, as stark-raving mad. That abrupt descent, too, is not workable and millions will collectively decide they have no choice but to push back and conclude, "In the 233rd year of our republic, we tens of millions are not going to cede freedom of thought and expression to thousands of Maoists. Sorry, no can do."

One can read the entire article here: [Victor Davis Hanson: The American Descent Into Madness | Bible Prophecy Tracker](#)

Meet the New MSC President



"Howdy! My name is Zach Summers. and after being a part of this organization during my entire Texas A&M experience, I am greatly honored to be serving as the 72nd MSC President. My MSC and Texas A&M experience began with the Champe-Fitzhugh International Leadership Seminar, well before I even stepped foot in College Station.

"After making it to campus, I can proudly say I found my home within MSC FISH. This committee provided the perfect outlet for me to move up in the organization. I was given the opportunity to serve as assistant director of donations for MSC FISH, MSC Business Associates development representative and eventually moved into the executive vice president of business. Along my journey, I've been encouraged by my best into all that I do and all I hope to accomplish. My hope is to carry on the amazing tradition of community, inclusivity and growth for all MSC students in their efforts to create unique, one-of-a-kind learning experiences for the campus community.

"I'm beyond excited for this upcoming year as we rebuild and reaffirm our relationship within the campus community. As I lead this team, it is with the goal to build upon our legacy and create unique and innovative experiences leading to the continued betterment of Texas A&M. Thanks & Gig 'em!"

Zachary Summers '22
72nd MSC President
(zsum19@tamu.edu)

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: 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.

REMINDER - SRG March '22 Reunion Information!!

March 2-4, 2022

College Station, TX

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