

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Thirty-Six

12 June 2021

The Sul Ross Group has a new “TAB” on the Association’s Web Site!



As has been promised for the past several months, The Sul Ross Group (SRG) has a new “TAB” on The Association of Former Students’ Web Site! We want you to check it (and us) out. You can find it by logging on the site at aggienetwork.com and clicking at the top left on “PROGRAMS” and you will find it. In the “TAB” you will find three important items for reference and use: one is the narrative below about us, our history and what we are about. Also available is our SRG Constitution and Bylaws in addition of a photo page of our SRG Board of Directors including the officers, directors and honorary members. Here is the narrative:

“The Sul Ross Group is made up of all Aggies who have attended A&M from the Classes that have celebrated 55 years or more since graduation. They reunite annually each year in College Station. The Reunions are planned and executed by the Sul Ross Group President and the Board of Directors in conjunction with The Association’s Class Programs and Events teams.

A common misconception is that the group is comprised of former Ross Volunteers, but that is not the case nor a prerequisite of being a member of the group. Simply stated, it is all members of the Classes from the Class of ’66 (55 years ago) and back who have been added into the group. All are welcome at the Reunion, even if an individual missed his or her induction Reunion.

The Sul Ross Group informally formed in 1900 when several Classes, who were students in the 1890’s during the presidency of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, came together to enjoy one Reunion rather than organizing multiple Class Reunions. So T.L. Smith, Class of 1898, and a few others are credited with its formation. While Mr. Smith served as General Chairman for the Reunions, he also funded them! The Group was later formalized in 1947 to include all Classes over 50 years since graduation (later changed as it is now to 55 years from graduation).

Although the Sul Ross Group has evolved over more than 70 years, the general purposes remain the same. One can read these purposes in [the Constitution and Bylaws](#).

Past Sul Ross Group President, Lester Potter ’28 was very instrumental in the growth and early development of the Sul Ross Group. He wrote a book on the group’s namesake, Lawrence Sullivan Ross, copyright 1993, owned by The Association. In it, besides conveying the Ross story of leadership, he expresses incredible wisdom about the future to all of us living it now. Specifically, he describes the challenges of the transit from A&M’s past (the “traditional”) to the future (“modernity”) and the “friction points” that we must deal with.

Message from the President

As we can know and understand, our beloved University is much larger (the largest student body in the United States), immensely more diverse, and way more advanced in breadth and depth than 70 years ago. Mr. Potter '28 charged us as SRG members to pay close attention to this challenge of change – understanding that change is inevitable, and thus we must adapt and be flexible to successfully deal with “the fiction points.” Some change is good and principled, some not. We, the Sul Ross Group are dedicated to preserving the traditional, “transcendent” part which AMC President Sul Ross started for us (and other great leaders have enhanced) and sets apart as special, while leveraging the development and growth of our Institution! We highly recommend that all of you turn to page 97 of Lester Potter’s book and read what he told us!

Again, we believe that we have the experience, wisdom and historical context to contribute in a constructive way as “elder statesmen and stateswomen,” and strive to comport ourselves in that manner - dealing in truth. Facts and historical context – and offering attendant suggested solutions. The history of AMC/TAMU is rich in service-before-self and the call to duty by former students. That was born out of our traditions, core values, and culture. The nation and state need for us “We are the Aggies, the Aggies are we” to stay that course!

Joe Ashy '62. President, Sul Ross Group

WWI Gold Star Texas Aggies – An Update

As the old adage has it. “Never pass up the opportunity to make a favorable first impression, because you won’t get a second chance!” Back to the future on the Simpson Field (and Gold Star) update process!



Over a year ago, we the SRG, did some work on this after reading Ms. Catlin Shields '11 (The Association of Former Students) article of 2 December 2019, “WWI Gold Star Aggies.” In it, she gave us an updated and certified list of the WWI Gold Star Aggies who gave their lives in that conflict. Catlin’s list had 63 names on it. We checked, and the number of Aggies identified on Simpson Field was 55, and the number on the Memorial at the Quad Arches was 52. Thus, some disparities needed to be addressed, and we made some recommendations on the 11th of June 2020 as follows:

- Codify the TAMU policy that the trees on Simpson Drill Field are living Memorials to WWI Gold Star Texas Aggies
- Celebrate this year (2020) the century anniversary of Main/Simpson Drill Field
- Use the Shields list as a reference for updates and consistency
- There are at least 4 extra trees without plaques around Simpson Field – so add seven more oaks and 11 new plaques which would update the WWI Texas Aggie Gold Stars: Lofton, Bourland, Splawn, Norwood, Sawyer, Smith, South, Fuchs, Brailsford, Butts, and Florence
- Refurbish the Simpson Field signs and add the verbiage which designates it being a Memorial venue, demanding respect
- Replace the dead trees, and consider mitigating the ball moss on approximately seven others
- Fix/replace the Thomas plaque, and replace the Crocker plaque which is missing

- *Add an addendum update to the Quad Entrance (Arches) WWI Gold Star Monument plaque that includes the updated Gold Star names*

The trees on Simpson Field at Aggieland are living memorials to our Gold Star WWI Texas Aggies. Simpson also is a significant venue in our history of answering the Nation's call to duty with selfless service. It has past been an artillery training site, a military maneuver training area, an aerodrome, a drill field, a football field, and a parade ground. If the athletic department is "the front porch" of Aggieland, then Simpson (and the MSC) are the living rooms! So, it needs to look like it and be not only maintained but updated with the latest and correct information. As one can see from the sign here, this does NOT meet the standard we expect given the number of visitors who are in this area each year. Talking about an UNfavorable first impression!

On Wednesday the 8th of June, the outgoing VPSEA, Dr. Danny Pugh hosted a meeting to try to figure out what needed to be done to our Gold Star Memorials to get them maintained and updated. There were some great folks in that meeting who cared about this. Dr. John Blair '83, Archivist for the Bush Library, gave an excellent briefing on the current WWI Gold Stars data. Colonel Jerry Smith '82, USMC (ret), and who is currently the Director of the TAMU Veteran Support Center, offered a draft paper on the formation of an Aggie Veterans Memorial Committee to work on the issues outlined above (and including the SRG). Also attending were BG Joe Ramirez '79, the new Interim VPSEA; Colonel Byron Stebbins '78, Interim Commandant; Lilia Gonzalez '94, TAMU Architect; and Cathy Hastedt, the Director of University Arts, Collections, and Exhibits. A spirited discussion ensued amongst those present.

We believe this ad hoc committee effort will lead to some constructive results to attain the improvements discussed above – and thanks go to Dr. Pugh. We aim to be a part of this discussion and will keep our membership apprised of the progress which is way overdue. To that end, we received some good news from the University Architect that a new sign for Simpson Drill Field has been located with help from the Contactor SSC, Inc., and Will Shrank of the Commandant's Office. But four more signs need to be fabricated and they are working that timeline The proposed wording is: ***"The trees surrounding O.R. Simpson Drill Field are dedicated to the Aggies who gave their lives in service during World War I."*** The signs will replace the faded-out signs, which are in the process of being removed. This is good - and appreciated!

Tim Leach '82 Elected Chairman of the TAMUS Board of Regents



News Release

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Office of Marketing and Communications • 301 Tarrow Street
College Station, Texas 77840-7896 • 979.458.6023 • www.tamus.edu

As reported by TAMUS Communications on 7 June 2021, the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents on Monday elected Tim Leach '82 of Midland as chairman and William "Bill" Mahomes Jr. of Dallas as vice chairman. Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Leach to the Board of Regents in 2017. He has served as vice chairman the past two years. Leach is Executive Vice President of Conoco-Phillips and a member of the

company's board of directors. Gov. Abbott first appointed Mahomes '69 to the Board of Regents in 2015 and reappointed him this year to another six-year term. He is a partner at Bracewell LLP.

The Board also named Al Davis, deputy agency director of the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, as the acting director for the Texas A&M Forest Service, following the retirement of Tom Boggus. Amy K. Swinford, the associate agency director for the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, was named interim agency director, following the retirement of Bruce Akey.

Texas Aggies Hire Jim Schlossnagle as new Baseball Coach – Welcome!



On 8 June, according to reports from Ryan Brauning of TexAgs and Kendall Rogers of D1Baseball.com, Jim Schlossnagle is set to be hired as the next head baseball coach at Texas A&M, coming to Aggieland after 17 years as the head coach at TCU. In 19 seasons as a head coach, Schlossnagle has compiled an 811-393 (.674) record and been to the College World Series five times.

Schlossnagle takes over a Texas A&M program that many believe should contend annually among the top teams in college baseball. The Aggies were 29-27 in 2021 and missed the postseason for the first time in 13 years. He becomes just the fourth head coach at Texas A&M since Tom Chandler was hired in 1959, with each coach in that time winning over 600 games during their tenures in Maroon & White.

In 2021, Schlossnagle's Horned Frogs put together a 41-19 season that included a Big 12 Tournament championship and the No. 6 national seed in the NCAA Tournament. However, TCU was upended in the Fort Worth Regional, going 1-2 with losses to Dallas Baptist and Oregon State. Prior to his arrival in Fort Worth in 2004, TCU had never been to the CWS. Schlossnagle transformed TCU into a perennial national power, winning 734 games, claiming 18 conference championships, appearing in 15 NCAA Tournaments and advancing to Omaha five times, including four straight trips from 2014-17.

Texas Aggies Hire Gerrod Chadwell as Coach of Women's Golf – Welcome!

As reported by Brandon Collins of TAMU Athletics Communications on 8 June 2021, Texas A&M Director of Athletics Ross Bjork announced the hiring of three-time

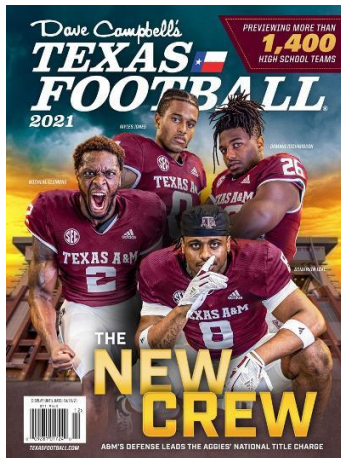
American Athletic Conference Coach of the Year Gerrod Chadwell to lead the Aggies' women's golf program on Tuesday.

"We are incredibly excited to have Coach Chadwell, Stacy, and Chesnee Lynn join us here in Aggieland," Bjork said. "Throughout the search, his name was always at the top of our list. The more we researched him, the more we learned that his recruiting acumen and his commitment to providing a great atmosphere for his players are what really stands out. His leadership style, character and energy set him apart, and to have a person of his caliber leading our program is a great honor. We are extremely confident that Coach Chadwell is going to elevate our culture and turn Aggie women's golf into a national championship contender and winner."



Chadwell is the fifth head coach in program history and is coming to Aggieland after spending the previous eight seasons as the leader of the University of Houston women's golf team. He took the Cougars to six-consecutive NCAA Regionals and saw three individuals compete at the NCAA Championships.

Buckle Up, Ags!



Fightin' Texas Aggie defenders DeMarvin Leal, Michael Clemons, Damani Richardson, and Myles Jones are featured on the cover of the 2021 edition of Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine as it unveiled its 62nd annual cover on Friday the 4th of June.

The headline says, "The New Crew" with a sub-headline reading "A&M's defense leads the Aggies' national title charge."

It marks the first time Texas A&M has been the subject of the Texas Football cover since 2018 when the magazine profiled Jimbo Fisher prior to his first season as the Aggie's coach.

TAMU Athletics Program "Amplify" for Name, Image and Likeness" (NIL) Support

On 3 June 2021, AD announced that Texas A&M Athletics is enhancing its commitment to its student-athletes with the creation of "AMPLIFY", an innovative and comprehensive Name, Image and Likeness program designed to equip Aggie student-athletes with tools and training to maximize their brand and platform.

"As we enter a new era in college sports, Texas A&M has the grand ability to be a leader in the name, image, and likeness space so that we can support our student-athletes at the highest level," Texas A&M Director of Athletics Ross Bjork said. "Our new AMPLIFY platform provides Aggie athletes with the right tools and resources so that they are educated, well-informed and

can capitalize to their full potential. Our job is to put our student-athletes in the best position for success on and off the fields of play and AMPLIFY helps them reach their goals."

AMPLIFY will serve Texas A&M student-athletes with best-in-class education and resources related to personal branding, networking, finance, media training and more. Specific programs and topics include:

Building Your Digital Brand

Financial workshops

Effective Networking

Evaluating Job Opportunities and Negotiating Offers

Mock Job Interviews

Understanding the Aggie Network and Lettermen's Association

Social Media Audit and Analysis

INFLCR Best Practices

Creating Custom Content for Your Brand

One can read about it here: [Texas A&M Announces NIL Program: AMPLIFY - Texas A&M Athletics - 12thMan.com](https://www.aggienetwork.com/theassociation/sulrossgroup.aspx)

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 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.