

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Thirty-Two

26 April 2021

Governor Abbott Nominates Three TAMUS Regents

As reported in a news release from the Governor's Office on 13 April, Texas Governor Abbott announced three nominees to the Texas A&M system board of regents. Subject to confirmation by the state senate, this will mean no board members who reside in Brazos County. The governor has named Randy Brooks of San Angelo to replace Phil Adams of Bryan. Brooks is a Texas A&M graduate. Abbott has also named two other Texas A&M graduates, Bill Mahomes of Dallas and Bob Albritton of Ft. Worth, to serve a second six-year term.

The Governor's terms of appointment for Brooks, and reappointments for Mahomes and Albritton will expire on February 1, 2027.

James R. "Randy" Brooks '86 of San Angelo is a Partner in BNB Ventures which owns and operates Jack's Convenience Stores, Penta Petro, and FM Fuel & Resources. He is the former COO of Town & Country Food Stores. He is an executive board member of the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce and is former chairman of the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Division. He is a member of both the Goodfellow Air Force Base and the USAF Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Civic Leader Groups. He is a former board member of the City of San Angelo Development Corporation and has served in various leadership roles with the San Angelo YMCA, Cornerstone Christian School, and First Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets also served in the US Army Reserve. Brooks received a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Texas A&M University.

William "Bill" Mahomes, Jr. '69 of Dallas is a Partner with Bracewell LLP. He previously served as the Managing Partner of Mahomes Bolden PC., a Senior Vice President and General Counsel to Pro-Line Corporation, a Partner for an international law firm, and a former senior shareholder for a major Dallas-based law firm. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Dallas Bar Association, the JL Turner Legal Association, the National Bar Association and American Bar Association. He is a former board member of the Dallas Salvation Army, TAMU Former Student Association, and the Today Foundation, former chair of the DFW Airport Board Finance and Audit Committee, and former chair of the Texas Turnpike Authority Finance Committee. Mahomes received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University and a Juris Doctor degree from The University of Texas School Of Law. He was the first African American to matriculate and graduate from Texas A&M as a member of the renowned Aggie Corps of Cadets and was honorably discharged as a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Robert L. "Bob" Albritton '71 of Fort Worth is the Chairman and CEO of Mayfair Investments, LLC. He is chairman of the Committee on Finance, member of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, and a liaison to the Development Foundations of A&M System Members. He is a former member of the Committee on Audit, Committee on Buildings and Physical Plant, and former liaison to the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets and System

Military Training Programs. Albritton received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University and served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Muster 2021



Muster 2021, despite the pandemic and partly “virtual,” was outstanding. We salute The Association of Former Students for another solemn, sacred, but splendid day of remembrance by Fightin’ Texas Aggies worldwide. With pride, we point out that this is the largest student-former student single-day gathering in the world! Gig ‘em Aggies! USAF (Ret.) General T. Mike Moseley ’71,

the Campus Muster speaker, was a great choice and answered his call to duty in superb fashion. He gave a great speech, fitting for this honored occasion. “Here!”



As a reminder, you can log on to The Association of Former Students web site and watch all the proceedings if you missed it live. Also, attending the Williams County Muster was Tom Reid ’61, SRG Board Member our Immediate Past President. The Muster Speaker was our Aggie Athletic Director, Ross Bjork! They got to meet and spread some good bull. Gig ‘em!

Texas Aggie Research Team – A Breakthrough on Fighting COVID -19

As reported by Trenton Hooker, KXXV.com, on 13 April 21, *“A Texas A&M research team is leading breakthrough research for a new drug with promising potential for fighting COVID-19. The team's research centers around a compound, which blocks the coronavirus's ability to form and replicate inside the human body. The compound, called “K777,” started life with a much different purpose from treating COVID-19.*

“It was discovered many years ago by my colleague, Jim Mckerrow, at UC-San Diego for treating Chagas disease,” Thomas Meek, professor of biochemistry and biophysics at Texas A&M University, said of the drug. “Then, we recognized the COVID virus has similar enzymes.” Those enzymes, Meek said, are like “molecular scissors” working on proteins to form coronavirus cells. He said K777 blocks spike proteins of the coronavirus from attaching to healthy human cells – limiting the virus's ability to infect the patient and spread.

The next phase of the process involves drawing the interest of a larger pharmaceutical company for manufacturing and distribution, according to Meek. He said the research has garnered enthusiasm from colleagues and officials at Texas A&M University, especially from completing the work under limitations of the pandemic. “The university itself has been quite supportive. In fact, the work that we've done here has been entirely paid for by Texas A&M AgriLife research,” Meek said. “At one point I had to say the only reason I can have people come in the building is because they're working on this project.”

Critical Race Theory Article

This piece on Critical Race Theory explains the reality of it, what and how it threatens, and what is at stake. We believe that it was worthy to give you this reference access to it for your insight. Check out the first paragraph on page eight: *“No longer simply an academic matter, critical race theory has become a tool of political power. To borrow a phrase from the Marxist theoretician Antonio Gramsci, it is fast achieving “cultural hegemony” in America’s public institutions. More and more, it is driving the vast machinery of the state and society.”*

One can read the article in its entirety here: <https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/critical-race-theory-fight/> (Hillsdale College, Imprimis, March issue, by Christopher Rufo entitled, “Critical Race Theory: What It Is and How to Fight It”).

We frequently get the Question: “What is the SRG Board’s Relationship with the Rudder Association?”

A fair question. Obviously, we are two different organizations. The Sul Ross Group (SRG) is a part of The Association of Former Students and we operate under their auspices. With that component relationship comes protocols which we respect and take seriously. The Rudder Association is a 501c3 organization whose members pay to join. We have a commonality in strategic purpose because we both love our University and are striving to preserve what sets it apart as special. Therefore, we have a congenial working relationship with each other.

Otherwise, we are independent. We do share some information in an informal way, as well as having members who, by their own choosing, have joined both organizations as Texas Aggies.

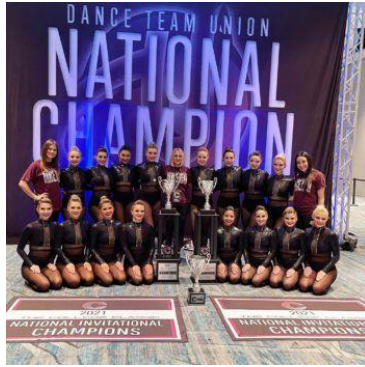
We, the SRG, have a long-standing Constitution which has guided us almost 70 years - with four purposes in line with how our founders established us in 1947. They are generally to: promote comradeship and The Aggie Spirit amongst our membership; serve our University and The Association of Former Students; keep our membership informed (via Bulletins such as this one as one example); and recognize and inform that Sullivan Ross not only saved AMC (and Prairie View Normal, of which he was also President) but set AMC /TAMU on a path to transcendence (along with other great leaders since then) which sets us apart to this day as a special institution based on the traditions of honor, duty and our core values.

We believe that we are the “elder statesmen and stateswomen” of TAMU and do our best to comport ourselves in such a manner. And, as Dr. Junkins recently asked for all of us Texas Aggies (in accordance with our core values) to work together as “we are the Aggies, the Aggies are we” instead of yelling at one another.

Texas Aggie Dance Team Wins Two National Titles

As reported on 12 April by Keith Randall, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications, the **Texas Aggie Dance Team won two national titles** in the Dance

Team Union Championship held last weekend in Orlando, Fla. It was the team's first appearance at a national competition in 20 years. The 21-member team, now part of the Athletics Department at Texas A&M University, placed first against 22 other schools in the Team and Jazz competitions with a score of 93.



The Aggie Dance Team also won in the separate category of Battle Showdown for its routines in Hip-Hop, Pom and Jazz.

"This is a huge accomplishment for the Aggie Dance Team and Texas A&M," said Coach Amy Liefer. "We beat both teams that won in 2019 in our categories. Our team danced their hearts out and represented Texas A&M extremely well at the competition. They have worked very hard the past four and a half months to get to this point and we are extremely proud of how they finished the year."

Elephant Walk 22 April 2021



The TAMU Division of Student Affairs, Texas A&M University, planned and conducted the 95th Annual Elephant Walk plan, and it happened on the evening of April 22 at 6:21 PM. Some of the SRG Board members attended and mixed in with the '21 seniors, and it was a delightful experience for us old "elders." Here are Ken Stanton '64 and George Nelson '64 with Eric Mindoza '21, Student Body President, Tanner Cedrone '21, Corps Commander and Laurel Gray '21 at the quad before step off. The event was well planned, led,

and enjoyable.



Organizers divided it into three routes so as to reach more students campus wide. The decades-old tradition features thousands of senior students walking through campus to remember their days in Aggieland as they prepare to graduate. The students walked through their familiar Aggie environs (resembling elephants), stopping to hear speakers at signature campus landmarks. All three routes started

with a step-off, and after their respective meanders through campus buildings and landmarks, ended together at E. King Gill Statue at the NE corner of Kyle Field where the class agents announced the Class Gift bestowed upon the university. A Yell Practice in Kyle Field followed.



“This year we enhanced the walk by focusing on landmark buildings that are home to so many students,” Ellie Tilton, the Director of Elephant Walk, said. “We wanted to include stops the class would identify with because it was where they spent many semesters attending lectures, studying and building friendships.” Speakers were featured for each of the three routes. Here is Main Campus Route speaker, President Emeritus R. Bowen Loftin '71, speaking about why Aggie traditions are so important to the bond and spirit of Texas Aggies. The other speakers were Shayla Rivera '83, North Campus, and Sam Torn '70 at West Campus.

Genesis of The Association of Former Students – 1880 and E. B. Cushing

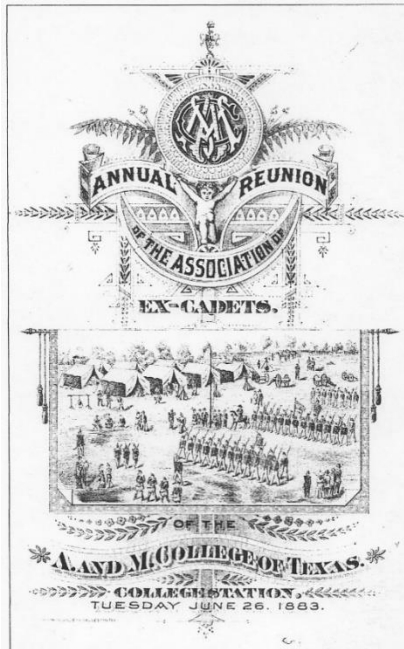
*Office of the Chief Secretary
ASSOCIATION OF EX-CADETS
Cedar Bayou, Harris Co., Texas
July 1, 1880*

Dear Sir: At a meeting of the ex-cadets of the A. and M. College, held at College Station, June 23d, 1880, an association was formed, of which every ex-cadet is invited to become a member. Our object is to keep record of all ex-cadets who have or will matriculate in the A. and M. College of Texas – thus promoting and maintaining fellowship.

At every commencement of the College, as many as can, will meet at the College. The board of directors kindly set aside a day of each commencement for our public exercises, which will consist of an oration and an essay by ex-cadets, and an address by a distinguished gentleman.

The advantages of such an association are obvious. It will keep a-fresh the feelings of fraternal regard which existed among us while we were under the kindly care of our Alma mater and enable us in the future to ascertain the whereabouts of any old schoolmate. Records of all important movements of ex-cadets will be kept, and information will be furnished to any member by the Secretary. It is sincerely hoped that no ex-cadet will refuse to furnish information desired or to become a member.

The fees are 25 cents initiation, 25 cents annual dues – which may be remitted in postage stamps. No balloting is necessary for membership – any ex-cadet, who left College in good standing, may become a member by enclosing dues to the Secretary and furnishing information. If there are any who will not join us, it is requested of them that they answer the questions, nevertheless.



Cover of an early program of the Association of Ex-Cadets, which gathered on campus yearly during graduation week in June.

You are requested to answer the following questions, vis:

- 1. When and born?*
 - 2. Parents names?*
 - 3. If foreign, when did you emigrate to Texas?*
 - 4. When did you matriculate?*
 - 5. Did you graduate; if so, when and in what department?*
 - 6. When did you leave college?*
 - 7. State briefly items of interest, and what has been your occupation since leaving college; and if married when and to whom?*
 - 8. Also state if there has been any deaths among ex-students in your vicinity.*
- In this movement it is, we believe, to your interest to co-operate. Please reply at your earliest convenience whether or not you will become a member.*

The officers for this year are: President, William M. Sleeper, '76, Waco; First Vice President, W. A. Trenckmann, '76, Wilhiem; Second Vice President, P. L. Downs, '77, Waco; Third Vice President, E. E. Fitzhugh, '78, Waco; Chief Secretary, E. B. Cushing, Houston;

Assistant Secretaries, G. W. Hardy, '76, Millican; D. E. Alexander, '77, Marshall; W. T. Small, '78, Fort Worth; Treasurer, R. E. Chatham, '77, Navasota; Orator, W. H. Brown, '78, Navasota; Essayist, T. A. Fuller, '77, Paris; Hon. R. Q. Mills was selected to deliver the address in 1881.

Fraternally,

*E. B. Cushing
Chief Secretary*

We acknowledge and thank Dr. John Adams Jr. '73 for helping with this "campus ology" and a tidbit of Aggie history. One can read the entire history of The Association of Former Students in his book, **We Are the Aggies**, Texas A&M University Press.

Ahhh, The Fence and Expressive Activities



During the Elephant Walk, a route pause was made in the Academic Plaza. The insulting fence remains around the LSR statue where it has been since June 2020. Since the Chancellor has repeatedly stated, that the statue will remain in place, confirmed by the authoritative, unanimous vote by the TAMUS Board of Regents in January, when will the fence be removed with attendant security established? C'mon

Spring Football – The Maroon and White Game

Saturday the 24th of April was a spectacularly beautiful day for the Fightin' Texas Aggies to get back in Kyle Field – both for the team and the 12th Man! We are certain that our members have read all about the Maroon and White game because of the access to the reporting and interviews afterwards. Coach Fisher summed it up as a very important step the process leading to the development of a winning football team for this coming fall season. He said he was “satisfied” with where the team is and about what he expected.



The Legends' Game at halftime was a fan favorite for sure, with Johnny Manziel flinging the football for both teams of former Texas Aggie “football greats” who played. We salute them for participating!



Texas Aggie Trap and Skeet Club wins National Championship – Congrats!



As reported by Camelia Trahan, TAMU Student Affairs on 19 April 2021, the TAMU Trap and Skeet Club won the 2021 Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Collegiate Clay Target championship recently and outlasted 49 schools at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. Meagan Harrington was named the Women's National Champion for the second year. The Aggies finished with an overall 1414 score, topping Schreiner University (1406), Lindenwood University (1380), and Bethel University (1266) in the division-one tier of the four- division championship format.

Eight Aggies were named to the NRA All-American Team, including Hunter Eitze, Greg Garrett, Dominic Gross, Cliff Seibert, Meagan Harrington, Tanner Taylor, Blake Bajjali and Trent Allen.

Harrington, from Corpus Christi, won the ACUI Women's National Champion for the second consecutive year and bested a field of 112 in the Women's Combined American Events + Sport Clay competition. She finished the event with a 276 score. The Aggies are coached by the staff at Boswell Porter 4-H Range in Caldwell, Texas, while Keith Joseph, sports club director, serves as the student organization club primary advisor, and Jessica Konetski is the secondary advisor.

SRG Reunion 2022 Placemark!

For our SRG members, we are not trying to "get in front of our headlights" for sure, but we, The Board, are already at work on the March 2022 SRG Reunion plan! We look forward to getting back in the "good bull together" business with you all next year. We want the March 2022 SRG Reunion to be a really good one to help make up for the past year when we had to "virtually" meet. You will get a lot of reminders and information in the future as always, but please mark your calendars for 2-4 March 2022! Thanks !

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: 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 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.