

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Thirty-Three

4 May 2021

Texas A&M Fares Well in World Rankings List – Very good Bull

As reported by Keith Randall, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications. April 26, 2021, Texas A&M University is ranked No. 41 nationally and No. 74 overall among the top 2,000 schools worldwide in the latest [World University Rankings](#). The list compiled by the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) annually ranks the world's best schools. It surveys almost 20,000 schools and then narrows the list to the top 2,000. Texas A&M joins Vanderbilt (No. 53) as the only two Southeastern Conference schools that place in the top 75 CWUR rankings.

The Center for World University Rankings is a leading consulting organization providing policy advice, strategic insights and consulting services to governments and universities to improve educational and research outcomes. Since 2012, CWUR has published the only academic ranking of global universities that assesses the quality of education, alumni employment, quality of faculty, and research performance without relying on surveys and university data submissions

CWUR uses several objective indicators grouped into four areas to rank the world's universities. They include: 1) Quality of education, measured by the number of a university's alumni who have won major academic distinctions relative to the university's size (25%). 2) Alumni employment, measured by the number of a university's alumni who have held top executive positions at the world's largest companies relative to the university's size (25%). 3) Quality of faculty, measured by the number of faculty members who have won major academic distinctions (10%). 4) Research performance as measured by:

- Research output, measured by the total number of research articles (10%)
- High-quality publications, measured by the number of research articles appearing in top-tier journals (10%)
- Influence, measured by the number of research articles appearing in highly influential journals (10%)
- Citations, measured by the number of highly cited research articles (10%)

In other similar recent rankings, Texas A&M has been listed among the nation's best. [MONEY](#) magazine has ranked Texas A&M as the top university in Texas and No. 11 overall in the country. The magazine also ranks Texas A&M as No. 5 in its best public schools list, which tops all Texas schools.

In other rankings, Texas A&M is ranked No. 12 overall and No. 4 among public universities in the United States by [Washington Monthly](#) magazine in its annual college rankings. Texas A&M is the only school in Texas ranked among the top 70 in the

publication's national rankings and is the highest ranked Southeastern Conference school.

Also, Texas A&M is ranked No. 2 among Southern schools in Washington Monthly's "[Best Bang For The Buck](#)" category of how well a college helps non-wealthy students attain marketable degrees at affordable prices. Texas A&M remains the only public college in Texas to make the "Best Buys" list in the 2021 [Fiske Guide to Colleges](#), a listing that cites the best colleges that offer a superior education for the most affordable cost. In addition, Texas A&M has impressive listings in [U.S. News & World Report's 2022 Best Graduate School Rankings](#), with the [College of Engineering](#), [School of Law](#), [Mays Business School](#), [Bush School of Government and Public Service](#), and others faring well in the prestigious rankings.

Texas A&M University to Award a record Number of Degrees in May 2021 – (Presidents Statement about Transition to Former Students Very Good Bull)

As reported by the Bryan [Eagle](#) on 4 May 2021, TAMU will award a record 11,406 degrees throughout the month of May 2021 with its spring commencement ceremonies beginning Saturday the 8th. In total, there will be 26 ceremonies over a span of 14 days at Reed Arena.

Dr. John Junkins, the Interim President said *"In one of the most challenging academic years in recent memory, we're very proud that our graduates' hard work and persistence have paid off. For all of the Aggies who are making the transition from student to former student, we salute your accomplishments and celebrate your success. And we look forward to applauding your many achievements in the years ahead."*

Postscript: Just think what the Sul Ross reunion for the class of 2021 will look like in 2066! They might need twenty buses for the campus tour! It took AMC some 50 years to produce 11,400 grads in total by 1926!

For Dr. Banks' Consideration During Her "Listening Tours"

This is what the SRG Board wrote in our letter to the Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (CDEI) Commissioners on 6 August 2020 (included in our SRG Bulletin Four, 14 August 2020):

"If we all love our great Institution, and we believe that we are set apart transcendently from any other universities (which we do), this is derived from our rich history of selfless service, our sense of duty culture, our core values system, and resultant traditions which bind us together as one wherein the parts equal a sum greater than the whole (and our strength). This Spirit, which others covet but cannot replicate, is definitely worth preserving as we march along into modernity - for a multitude of noble reasons - which we also believe. Thus, the TAMU leadership, including the administration, faculty, staff and AD and coaches, all need to understand it, embrace it, promote it, nurture it and explain it to staff and all newcomers (not that

they don't, to some degree). What has happened in the past months has revealed some serious and embarrassing voids where the "optics" have been pathetic if we believe "We are the Aggies; the Aggies are we!" We, in our cohort Sul Ross Group (SRG) of elder Texas Aggie former students, some 15,000, believe we well understand all this, and we shall be most pleased to assist in any way we can in a mentoring, supporting and enlightening manner."

This is what Dr. Banks said on Wednesday the 7th of April:



"I am truly honored that the Board of Regents has selected me to be the next president of this great university," said Dr. Banks. "Crucial listening sessions will begin soon with key stakeholders across campus and beyond to gather perspectives concerning the issues, challenges, and opportunities that we face today. I look forward to working together as we take Texas A&M University to new levels of preeminence."

"This University is amazing. It is unique. Texas A&M is a special place. The Core values, the respect of tradition, is truly the foundation of this great institution. And building upon that foundation to reach preeminence – in my opinion – there's no other university in the country that can have a larger impact on the world today that Texas A&M."

As we have commented previously, we love what she has stated here. We conclude that we see things similarly and look forward to 1 June when she becomes our new Texas Aggie President! During her "listening tours," we ask that she consider, on her "to do list," the aforementioned, and that the following be reflected in her review and re-writes of policy !

- An updated **TAMU Mission Statement**
- The Major Objectives in the **TAMU Diversity Council's "Plan"**
- The **Diversity Office's Glossary of Terms**
- The TAMU **"Expressive Activity" Guidance** Document as it concerns events under the Texas Aggie 12th Man Concept and Tradition

New Brookshire Brothers Store Now Serves the Texas Aggie Community – Good Bull!

As reported by Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications on 14



September 2021, Lufkin-based grocer Brookshire Brothers opened a new location on George Bush Drive, bringing value to Texas A&M University's West Campus, heightening the game-day experience at Kyle Field and functioning as a community hub.

The new location closely collaborates with the university, including a partnership with Texas A&M Athletics/Learfield IMG, stocking

items from the Rosenthal Meat Science Center and a research project with Mays Business School. The 40,000 square-foot, two-story facility offers prepared foods like subs, barbecue, fried chicken and sushi, a pharmacy, curbside pickup and delivery and a concert venue.

The store also has a full-service espresso bar serving locally roasted What's The Buzz coffee, draft beer and wine by the glass, a student lounge, balcony and a private meeting room for groups. "Our students, faculty, staff and neighbors are going to be thrilled with the new Brookshire Brothers location," said Chancellor John Sharp. "I am pleased that the Texas A&M System was able to bring the chain to the area for easy access to delicious and nutritious food, along with the other amenities. It will make living in West Campus more attractive than ever."

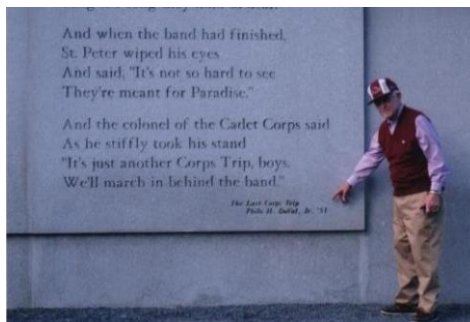
The Texas A&M System Evaluation Committee searched for a company that shares Texas A&M's same vision of success when looking to develop acreage on West Campus. They found a partner in Brookshire Brothers, a 100 percent employee-owned, community-centered grocer.

Founded in 1921, the regional grocery chain operates more than 116 retail locations that stretch west to the Texas Hill Country and east to Lake Charles, Louisiana. Brookshire Brothers' mission is to be a company of good people selling good food and doing good deeds.

The Brookshire Brothers location adjacent to Texas A&M will be unique in many respects. The outdoor area features a sound stage for live performances, and walk-up access to food and beverage. The project serves as a premium multi-purpose facility to host concerts, watch parties and community events, including on-site food prep and service. The new store includes the best elements driving grocery innovation, anticipating customer needs and promoting community interactions.

It is very good bull to know that the President and CEO of Brookshire Brothers, Inc. is a Fightin Texas Aggie, John Alston, Class of 2000! He summed it all up at the end of the opening ceremony: "This is your store! Gig 'em!"

The Last Corps Trip – Very Good Bull



days early," remarked the professor.

As reported by The Foundation's Bec Morris on 19 April 2021, the late Philo "Buddy" DuVal '51 was the author of "The Last Corps Trip" poem that so many Aggies hold dear. When the Corps of Cadets left campus early for a Corps trip to a football game in 1949, one snide comment from a professor would sow the seeds for a tradition near and dear to the hearts of all Aggies. "That Cadet Corps could have a one-way ticket to hell, and they would leave two

DuVal '51, a studious mechanical engineering cadet, heard the remark and was appalled. Something had to be done, so Buddy began scribbling a response: a poem about how the cadets made a trip to heaven, not hell. Little did he know that his retort to a rude professor would become ingrained in Aggie culture forever as “The Last Corps Trip.” One can read the entire article here (and all the poem versions):

https://www.txamfoundation.com/News/Its-Just-Another-Corps-Trip-Boys.aspx?utm_source=tamf-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fdn_email-newsletter_a_apr-2021

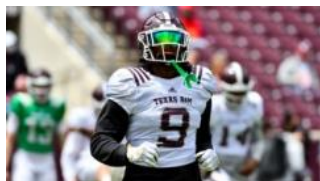
Some Historical Very Good Bull

Recently, in a discussion about “fish Camp,” the issue arose about the capitalization of the term “fish.” In review of Texas Aggie lore, here is a quote from page 15 of *We are the Aggies* by Dr, John Adams, Jr. '73, Texas A&M University Press, 1979: *“That year [1884], Lieutenant John S Mallory, the Commandant of Cadets, organized the 133 enrolled students onto companies A, B, and C. New students already [had] received the appellation of “fish” which signified a raw, slightly odious and lowly creature which was swimming in waters over its head.”*

We add that this description was “further developed and enriched” over the years into an appellation relative to the sips in Austin which cannot be shared here. Anyway, the term “fish” is not capitalized.

Aggie Football Player’s Growth a Reminder that a Winning Culture is more than Talent – Good Bull

As written by Olin Buchanan of TexAgs in his 29 April 2021, his article was about the decommitment of an Aggie fish football player (Banks) who was highly touted, and that there were “lamentations” which should be quite the opposite. Banks was heralded – no doubt about that. We need talented football players to win under Coach Fisher’s program and tutelage!



But as Olin points out, one of our senior Aggie football players had something to say about this. As reported, the following is part of it: (Olin) *“But don’t lament his decision to leave. Celebrate the Aggies’ response. I do not know outspoken senior safety Leon O’Neal. Never met him. Never interviewed him. A&M’s coaches seem hesitant to make him available to the media. That’s probably because he’s too brutally honest for their liking and his own good...”*

(O’Neal on Twitter) *“So I looked in the mirror and worked on my weaknesses. Returned back to A&M a better man. Y’all seen the record y’all seen my play y’all seen my drive....We have a standard here it’s not for everybody.”*

(Olin in conclusion) *“O’Neal held himself accountable. He had to self-examine to reach the standard that Fisher demands for a championship-level program. O’Neal, and some teammates, are just holding others to that standard. Even doing it publicly. That should be celebrated.”*

This is very good bull, and we support and salute our Fightin’ Texas Aggie football player on this (as does Olin)! We called and asked the author if we could post the site access URL in this Bulletin, and he kindly said yes. We thank him! So if you missed it, you can read the article in its entirety here: <https://texags.com/s/39875/leon-oneals-growth-a-reminder-that-a-winning-culture-is-about-more-than-talent>

Final Review 2021 – More Good Bull



Friday, the 30th of April was a rainy day, but it did not dampen the occasion of importance for the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets and

their families and friends for sure! Final Review was held in Kyle Field, and not at the traditional Simpson Field site, because of the pandemic rules for distancing. And significantly, since the Class of ’20 was denied their Final Review, they were invited back to stand on the sidelines and be honored along with the Class of ’2021.



There was a very large contingent of family and other supporters who attended and observed on Kyle’s west side. Here is the family of Tanner Cedrone, the 20-21 Corps Commander. Proud? Yes! We wish Tanner and his classmates the best in the future and “good hunting!”

We, the SRG, also salute the Corps of Cadets’ new leadership, the Class of 21-22 Corps Commander, Conner Fortier, and his officer classmates. Gig ‘em!



Also in attendance was the current Student Body President, Eric Mendoza '21 who is about to graduate and continue here at Aggieland to pursue his master's degree in business. Joining him is Colonel, US Army, and former Student Body President Stephen Ruth '92! So, two Fightin' Texas Aggie Student Body Presidents at Final Review together – almost 30 years apart – very good bull!

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:

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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.