

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Twenty-Three
17 January 2021

Fightin Texas Aggies Are Orange Bowl Champions!



Score 41 to 27, Achane MVP, 9-1 Season (SEC opponents only w/exception unc), and both the final Associated Press (AP) and Coaches Poll National rankings **4th**, and with an expected top six recruiting class on the way in 2021!

"When I broke the tackle and looked up, there wasn't nobody there. I knew, 'Yes, this is a touchdown. Ain't nobody catching me.'"

- A&M running back Devon Achane



An SRG Tribute and Salute to L.D. "Duke" Hobbs" '47

We received word that 2006-2007 Sul Ross Group President, L.D. “Duke” Hobbs ’47, passed away on January 7, 2021. He was a long time Class Agent and was the oldest living past SRG president. I am notifying the current SRG board and past presidents of this loss. Please keep the Hobbs family in your thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Mond’s Legacy

On 7 January, Aggie QB Kellen Mond did an extensive interview with Billy Liucci of TexAgs and spoke of his career accomplishments and his leadership legacy, particularly with the football team and as a student. There is no doubt he made his mark during his time at Aggieland, and now starts his preparation for the NFL draft (for which he declared the day before).

He mentioned again that he was proud of his stand against the Sullivan Ross statue, and that 95% of the persons – perhaps many of his social media colleagues - he heard from about that were in firm support for him. We can add that there are a vast majority of thousands we know and represent who feel differently than Kellen does about the issue.

In fairness he said some good things about his alma mater. He did not mention that a good number of his maternal kin folks had fought for the Confederacy, and that he had insulted the Corps of Cadets. So, he expressed himself because he was free to do so. And we question if he really understands who the “12th Man” really are – the ones who gave the facilities, scholarships for his career at Aggieland, and are the “Network” to which he referred which was a deciding factor for his choosing TAMU to play football.

There are always “three sides to every story” as we have oft stated. As he grows older as a former student, perhaps he will develop a different perspective. We wish him well.

Fightin’ Texas Aggie OL Kenyon Green!



Congratulations!! On 8 January, the NCAA announced Kenyon’s selection as a **CONSENSUS** first team **All American**. He is the 45th Texas Aggie football player to have received this honor.

Professors Castro and Alvard

On 12 January, The Eagle reported. following an investigation by the Office of Risk, Ethics and Compliance, that Professor Castro has been dismissed from TAMU pending a possible appeal, and Professor Alvard has received a written reprimand with disciplinary sanctions.

It was also reported that a TAMU official made a statement that the “investigations set aside free speech questions and focused on classroom conduct.” One can read the entire article here: https://theeagle.com/news/a_m/one-a-m-professor-fired-one-disciplined-after-investigations-into-conduct-and-commentary/article_13e2f49a-5489-11eb-bbe6-d77728f65119.html

“The Other Education”

Our SRG Board’s strategic objective is to preserve what sets TAMU apart and makes us special (from the traditional to the currently diverse modernity) – and we have been continually writing about this in these SRG Bulletins. Sul Ross referred to “it” as “transcendence.” There has been a lot said and written about “inclusion!” We believe this is what Texas Aggie “inclusion” is really about – “We are the Aggies, The Aggies are we!”

Dr. Danny Pugh, TAMU’s Vice President of Student Affairs (VPSA), who will soon be an honorary member of our SRG Board of Directors when confirmed in March, recently offered his thoughts in the following letter, portions of which we provide here for your edification. He refers to our TAMU exceptionalism as THE OTHER EDUCATION (a term not well known, but as we have learned has been around a while). And, importantly, leads to what sets us apart and others covet. He calls it “quintessential.” We obviously need to work together to “merge” and align these terms of what we are all promoting here, and we shall stay on this toward that end. Understanding is the key, so we are all on the “same page.”

One constructive suggestion that we made is that the TAMU Mission Statement is in need of an update! We have been saying this for a while, and it may not be possible until June. But what Dr. Pugh and staff do with THE OTHER EDUCATION Strategic Plan needs to follow an updated Mission Statement version! Our point here is that the Student Affairs’ major mission task is to orient, familiarize, integrate, and assimilate Texas Aggie students into “The Aggie Spirit” embodied in our core values, history, culture of selfless service and traditions! Since the current version of the TAMU Mission falls short, then getting that corrected is a precursor to his strategic plan update (in line with the VPSA’s major task and responsibility)! Here is the major portion of his letter, and we salute and thank him!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

5 January 2021

Over the last several months, I have reflected deeply on both the foundational and fundamental elements that truly make Texas A&M the quintessential American university. While we proudly and understandably pronounce our commitment to the Aggie core values, embrace our most cherished traditions, and celebrate our newer traditions, we no longer use one term that best defines the Aggie student experience ... that term is THE OTHER EDUCATION.

In recent messages to students and donors, I expressed resolution to and stated unequivocally that THE OTHER EDUCATION is alive and well in Aggieland and that we

will be reintroducing the term to this generation of students. Our former students proudly characterize their leadership experience, organizational engagement, co-curricular and extra-curricular learning, and international and cultural immersion activities in the simple terms of THE OTHER EDUCATION. Our intentional abdication in using the term for more than a decade has created an unintended schism between our current and former students and further jeopardizes this connection for future students.

With this in mind, I have recalled the existing draft of the 2021-2026 strategic plan with the sole purpose of reframing our vision, mission, and goals to reflect our commitment to THE OTHER EDUCATION. In doing so, I would remind all of us that our division and department visions, missions, and goals are to be aligned with the university's vision, mission and values. It must also be that our division and department values are the same as the six core values of the university ... no more, no less.

This April, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Texas A&M and in 2026 we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of Texas A&M. Let us collectively commit to use these next five years for the reemergence of THE OTHER EDUCATION and the critical importance played by student affairs professionals in the growth and development of our students. In doing so, we will connect our past with the present and with our future.

Here's to an outstanding 2021 and our commitment to THE OTHER EDUCATION! Gig 'em!

*Daniel J. Pugh, Sr., Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
Texas A&M University*

Examples - The Texas Aggie Inclusion Process Mentioned??

The TAMU Mission Statement

Texas A&M University is dedicated to the discovery, development, communication, and application of knowledge in a wide range of academic and professional fields. Its mission of providing the highest quality undergraduate and graduate programs is inseparable from its mission of developing new understandings through research and creativity. It prepares students to assume roles in leadership, responsibility and service to society. Texas A&M assumes as its historic trust the maintenance of freedom of inquiry and an intellectual environment nurturing the human mind and spirit. It welcomes and seeks to serve persons of all racial, ethnic and geographic groups as it addresses the needs of an increasingly diverse population and a global economy. In the 21st century, Texas A&M University seeks to assume a place of preeminence among public universities while respecting its history and traditions.

The Diversity Council's Three Major Goals ("The Plan")

- 1. Achieve and evidence an environment where success and advancement are based on equitable standards and metrics that demonstrate advancement of the mission of the university, and,*
- 2. Achieve and evidence a university culture where a prominent underlying assumption is that the inclusion of participants with diverse identities is essential to excellence in any effort, and,*

3. *Achieve and evidence progress in the ranks of faculty, students, staff, and administrators to demonstrate that we are a national leader in diversity (collecting Federal and State mandated data on race/ethnicity and sex).*

The Athletic Department's The Aggie Commitment (AD's 12 January Newsletter, in part)
In alignment with the Core Values at Texas A&M University, "The Aggie Commitment", which launched in August 2020, serves as an integral component of the overall Diversity and Inclusion plan within Aggie Athletics. The Aggie Commitment addresses racial inequity and social injustice, and is focused on unity, education and engagement through four primary objectives: (1) Hiring, Retention and Representation, (2) Celebrating Black History and Excellence, (3) The Student-Athlete Experience and (4) Continuing Education.

The Multicultural Center Mission

Texas A&M University has placed the value of diversity at its core and embarked on a Diversity Plan designed to enhance accountability, climate, and equity. The Department of Multicultural Services facilitates steady progress toward institutional diversity goals of greater inclusion and academic excellence by addressing climate. The department has a mission to provide multiple educational and developmental services for underrepresented and underserved racial and ethnic populations and diversity education programs that foster inclusive learning environments for all students. The purpose of the department is to 1) support, advocate for and challenge underrepresented students as they transition, work through the impact of identity development, and are confronted with challenges to their perspectives and 2) educate students and student groups about difference through sensitivity, cultural competence, and inclusive leadership training.

You can reach us at: SRGpresident@aggienetwork.com

Opt-In Reminder: Anyone (Ags and non Ags, SRG Ags and all other Ags too) can "opt in" 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

Interim President Junkins: junkins@tamu.edu

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