

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Sixty



October 3, 2022

The opinions expressed in this bulletin are those of the Board of Directors of the Sul Ross Group and do not represent the opinions of The Association of Former Students, its officers, or its Leadership.

PRESIDENT BANKS DELIVERS STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS



Figure 1 - President M. Katherine Banks

On September 28, 2022, President M. Katherine Banks delivered her State of the University address at the Bush School Annenberg Presidential Conference Center. She was introduced by Student Body President Case Harris '23.

Banks laid out a broad vision for moving Texas A&M on her path forward. She said, "To assist students with the cost of education, A&M is embarking on a scholarship

campaign with a goal of providing an additional \$100 million over the next four years". She spoke in support of our traditions and specifically for her support of the March to 3,000 for the Corps of Cadets. She said that she agreed with Chancellor John Sharp's belief that we are living the Golden Age of Texas A&M because our purpose, our mission, and our values are aligned. Banks reported that "we have strong alignment of leadership among the Board of Regents, the Chancellor, university leaders and affiliated organizations and foundations. We have an availability of resources thanks to strong support from our state and nation, as well as our selfless benefactors. And finally, we have a strong organizational foundation."

Banks reflected on the national undercurrent of dissatisfaction in higher education and said that her vision is to provide a transformative education that is committed to "making higher education more **relevant**. We want to continue to create **opportunity**, and we

will **influence** our society in new ways.” Banks said there are four ways to implement her vision: (1) providing a transformative education, (2) connecting with our state, nation, and the world, (3) building a translational research enterprise, and (4) celebrating the Aggie Way.

President Banks discussed the details of her many initiatives and concluded by saying that “we must capitalize on this unique opportunity that history is granting. This is our moment.”

To read the full address, go to the link below:

[2022 State of the University | Office of the President | Texas A&M University \(tamu.edu\)](#)

TEXAS A&M’S FALL 2022 ENROLLMENT APPROACHES 75,000



According to a staff report in the Eagle dated September 22, 2022, “Texas A&M University recently reported a fall 2022 enrollment of 74,829 students. This figure represents an increase of 1,546 students, a 2.1% increase since the fall 2021 semester.”

“We are proud that students from across Texas, the United States and around the world want to pursue their college education at Texas A&M,” said Alan Sams, A&M’s

interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, in a press release. “It is evidence of our reputation for academic excellence. It also speaks to the passion and expertise of our faculty and staff who invest in the learning that our students enjoy, both inside and outside of the classroom.”

According to the piece in the Eagle, “Enrollment figures are for the official 20th class day numbers that are reported to the Texas Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. These numbers represent students enrolled at A&M’s main campus in College Station and branch campuses in Galveston and Doha, Qatar.”

Texas A&M enrollment is the largest in the state of Texas and one of the largest in the nation.

[Texas A&M’s fall 2022 enrollment approaches 75,000 \(theeagle.com\)](#)

MEET STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT CASE HARRIS ‘23

A piece in Texas A&M Today written by Lesley Henton, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications, on September 6, 2022, introduces the new student body president.



Figure 2 -Student Body President, Case Harris '34

Case Harris '23 is a senior from Austin majoring in finance and business honors. Case says he is focused on four major goals: (1) traditions of the Aggie spirit, core values, and selfless service, (2) involvement in one or more of the 1,200 student organizations, (3) advocacy and support of the day to day challenges such as mental health, the Open Resource Program for free textbooks, and sexual awareness, and (4) improving student government to represent all students.

Harris' advice to students is to buy in to Aggie traditions, culture, and involvement in activities. Meet people and learn by your mistakes. Harris says he has learned that leadership means serving others and not focusing on yourself. He says it is "by giving back, not by giving orders".

Harris comes from an Aggie family. His mother, Carrie Harris '94 is a sociology major, and his brother and two cousins are Aggies. The Class of '23 is fortunate to have such an outstanding student leader as president for this year.

To read the full article, go to the link:

<https://today.tamu.edu/2022/09/06/meet-student-body-president-case-harris-23/>

ALAN SAMS NAMED INTERIM PROVOST, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

As reported in a press release through the president's office, Dr. M. Katherine Banks said "I am pleased to announce that Dr. Alan Sams has been selected as the new Interim Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer for Texas A&M University effective Aug. 22. Dr. Sams brings a breadth and depth of experience to this role that will be valuable in leading our academic enterprise."



Figure 3 Dr. Alan Samss, Interim Provost.

Dr. Sams is a career member of the Texas A&M faculty having joined Aggieland after he earned his Ph.D. in food science and human nutrition at the University of Florida in 1987. According to the release, "He is a professor in the Department of Poultry Science and was a member of the intercollegiate faculty of Food Science and Technology. During his 30 years at Texas A&M, Dr. Sams rose through the faculty ranks, served as head of two departments and as executive associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences."

"He also served as dean of agriculture, forestry and life sciences at Clemson University and both dean of agricultural sciences and director of the statewide Agricultural Experiment Station agency for Oregon State University."

President Banks further said, "Dr. Sams will succeed Dr. Tim Scott, who will return to his former role leading the campus' student success initiatives and, as vice provost, will facilitate the transition.

To read more, go to the link below:

<https://president.tamu.edu/messages/alan-sams-named-interim-provost-vice-president-for-academic-affairs-and-chief-academic-officer.html#:~:text=Alan%20Sams%20has%20been%20selected,in%20leading%20our%20academic%20Enterprise.>

HAGLER INSTITUTE NAMES FOURTEEN NEW FELLOWS



Figure 4 - Dr. John Junkins

The Hagler Institute at Texas A&M named its fourteen new Fellows to highlight the eleventh class. The Hagler Institute for Advanced Studies is the creation of Dr. John Junkins, Distinguished Aerospace Professor, and former Interim President.

A piece reported by the Texas A&M University Research Communications and Public Relations on September 21, 2022, stated “The Class of 2022-23 includes 14 Hagler Fellows — including a Nobel Prize laureate — plus one Hagler Distinguished Lecturer. This 11th class includes scientists, engineers and scholars who are recognized internationally for their achievements. Each belongs to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, or holds recognitions of equal stature in their field.”

Dr. Junkins vision was that by attracting some of the top scientists and scholars in the world to conduct their work and research at Texas A&M, not only would they contribute to the world’s knowledge base, but also the collaboration with faculty, researchers, and students will build on the long-term quality of world-class research at our university. The faculty has been enhanced by over 22% of the fellows electing to stay at A&M to continue their work.

The piece describes the mission of the program as follows:

“About the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study

The Hagler Institute for Advanced Study was established in December 2010 by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents to build on the growing academic reputation of Texas A&M and to provide a framework to attract top scholars from throughout the nation and abroad for appointments of up to a year. The selection of Hagler Fellows initiates with faculty nominations of National Academies and Nobel Prize-caliber scholars who align with existing strengths and ambitions of the university.”

To read the full article, go to this link:

<https://today.tamu.edu/2022/09/21/hagler-institute-announces-its-largest-class-of-new-fellows-at-14/#:~:text=The%20Class%20of%202022%2D23%20includes%2014%20Hagler%20Fellows%20%E2%80%94%20including,recognized%20internationally%20for%20their%20achievements.>

TEXAS A&M CHINESE PROFESSOR, NASA RESEARCHER PLEADS GUILTY



As reported in a piece by John A. Loziano, reporter for the AP, in the Houston Chronicle on September 24, 2022, “A NASA researcher and Texas A&M University professor pleaded guilty to charges related to hiding his ties to a university created by the Chinese government while accepting federal grant money.”

Loziano said, “Cheng's conviction was part of a program called the China Initiative, which was first started under the Trump

administration. But in February, the Justice Department abandoned the program after complaints it chilled academic collaboration and contributed to anti-Asian bias. The department had also endured high-profile setbacks in individual prosecutions, resulting in the dismissal of multiple criminal cases against academic researchers in the last year. The Justice Department said it planned to impose a higher bar for such prosecutions.”

Cheng was sentenced to time served and he also agreed to pay restitution of \$86,876 and pay a fine of \$20,000.

“The China Initiative ... has now been phased out as a Justice Department priority. The overall mission stays the same, to ferret out economic espionage, but the focus is to target wrongdoers by their deeds and not by their ethnicity,” Hilder said.

Loziano further reported that “prosecutors accused Cheng, who was hired by Texas A&M in 2004, of concealing his work in China even as his team of researchers received nearly \$750,000 in grant money for space research. NASA is restricted from using funds for any collaboration or coordination with China, Chinese institutions or any Chinese-owned company.”

“Texas A&M and the Texas A&M System take security very seriously, and we constantly are on the look-out for vulnerabilities, especially when national security is involved,” John Sharp, chancellor of the Texas A&M System, said in a statement Friday. “We will continue to work with our federal partners to keep our intellectual property secure and out of the hands of foreign governments who seek to do us harm.”

TEXAS A&M ESTABLISHES GLOBAL CYBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Figure 5 - Ray Rothrock '77

Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp announced in a press release last Monday, September 26, 2022, that the university has launched a Global Cyber Research Institute for cybersecurity research and education.

According to the press release, “This institute will provide students a place to research and analyze threats to and defenses for the country’s security and economy. The institute will be managed by A&M and the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), which are also home to the Texas A&M Cybersecurity

Center.”

Ray Rothrock '77, a Distinguished Alumnus and chairman and CEO of Redseal, Inc., an enterprise security company led an effort by the Texas A&M Foundation to raise \$10 million in gifts to assist with funding the institute.

Cybersecurity has been a priority of Texas A&M since an initiative started by President Robert Gates in the early 2000’s. It has received increased focus due to the increased scrutiny of intellectual property theft by the government of the Peoples Republic of China.” A&M President M. Katherine Banks said in a statement. “It builds upon the strong base of Texas A&M’s Cybersecurity Center and will help us educate the cybersecurity leaders of the future.”

“I’ve watched it go from a very, very nerdy technical, Ph.D. kind of engineering discipline to a very broad interdisciplinary discipline,” Rothrock said of the field of cybersecurity. “There’s lot of cyber places in the country. The [Department of Homeland Security] actually supports over 200 training facilities, but there’s not many research places where they’re looking at on an interdisciplinary basis and that was the point of this one.”

“Cybersecurity is a concern for businesses, our economy and our national security that affects both the public and private sector,” Texas A&M Foundation President Tyson Voelkel said in a statement. “Texas A&M is one of the country’s top universities and is uniquely positioned to educate its students in the cybersecurity sphere.”

The addition of the Texas A&M Global Cyber Research Institute positions Texas A&M as a hub for cybersecurity research and education,” A&M President M. Katherine Banks said in a statement. “It builds upon the strong base of Texas A&M’s Cybersecurity Center and will help us educate the cybersecurity leaders of the future.”

[Texas A&M establishes Global Cyber Research Institute \(theeagle.com\)](https://theeagle.com)

WITH NEW LAW SCHOOL AND RESEARCH CENTER, TEXAS A&M IS ENGINEERING FORT WORTH FOR THE NEXT CENTURY



*Figure 6 - Aerial rendering of upcoming
Texas A&M University System Fort Worth Campus.*

As reported by Spencer Brewer in the Dallas Business Journal on September 16, 2022, the new Texas A&M University System campus extension will transform downtown Fort Worth.

Brewer reported that “When Fort Worth magnate John Goff stood before the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents meeting in May, he called the upcoming law school and research center expansion the

single most impactful thing to happen to the city that will occur this century.

The original occupant for the old facility was the Texas A&M School of Law which will have a new \$85 million Law School and Education Building serving as a gateway to a much larger complex. In addition, there will be a new Research and Innovation Center. According to Brewer’s piece Fort Worth industry leaders such as Alcorn and Lockheed Martin are already exploring partnerships with Texas A&M in research efforts.

According to the Dallas Business Journal piece, “The project originated from a meeting almost two years ago between the Texas A&M University System leadership, Goff and former Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price. During the regent’s meeting, Price said the pitch to expand A&M’s presence in Fort Worth took John Sharp by surprise.”

“At 8:30 in the morning, he said, ‘Do you want to dip?’” Price said. “I said, ‘No, but if we get this done, I want to drink a tequila.’”

To read the rest of the article, go to the link:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/dallas/news/2022/09/16/texas-am-law-school-fort-worth.html?b=1663359380%5E22139043>

HOW TO REACH AND ACCESS

INFORMATION ABOUT US

One can send messages to the Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD). To access information about us as your elected representatives, the SRG Constitution, and other information about the SRG as an organization, please refer to our relatively new “**SRG Tab**” (Under “**Programs**”) on The Association’s website, at: aggienetwork.com.

WHO, WHY, AND HOW TO RECEIVE THE SRG BULLETINS?

It was previously The Association of Former Students' policy that anyone could "opt in" (register and grant permission) to receive the 56 SRG produced Bulletins which began in 2020. In mid-April 2022, the policy guidance was changed so that only SRG members can now receive them. The "opt in" system was rescinded by The Association so that now, non-SRG persons no longer can be recipients. That rescission and change in policy also included three conditions: (1) that SRG can no longer express opinions or include "opinion-based" material in the bulletins, (2) that the SRG can only issue one bulletin each month, and (3) that our "bulletins" be simply typical SRG newsletters. Accordingly, in order to maintain our independence of thought and communication with our membership, the SRG board has decided to abandon the email service of The Association, known as "ListServe", and to communicate with you directly through bulletins sent by email to the Class Agents. This is why that in Bulletin 55 there was a "notice" on page one explaining that this change was about to be made. The Board intends to maintain our policy of complete transparency and that is the reason we have inserted the disclaimer on the front page of this bulletin. To communicate with the SRG address your emails to SRGPresident@gmail.com

The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are responsible for producing the SRG Bulletins. We do so in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's Purposes, which is to ensure our represented SRG Membership is kept informed in a timely manner.

SAVE THE DATE SUL ROSS GROUP REUNION March 7-9, 2023

A block of rooms is available on a first-come, first-served basis, for the 2023 Sul Ross Group Reunion. Make your reservations by calling the College Station Hilton directly before Feb. 13, at 979-693-7500, or by booking online. Be sure to reference the group code **ROSS23** to receive the rate of \$129 per night, plus tax.

For more information, go to the Sul Ross Group web page link below:

<https://www.aggienetwork.com/events/2023/sulross.aspx>

IF YOU WISH COMMENT TO THOSE WHO DECIDE:

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President Banks: president@tamu.edu

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