

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Sixty-Eight



May 2, 2023

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. Our intention is in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's purposes, to keep the Sul Ross Group membership informed on pertinent topics and occurrences at TAMU in a timely manner and enlist their support when required.

THE AGGIES MUSTER TRADITION



Figure 1 - Texas Flag Commemorating San Jacinto Day, April 21st.

The Muster tradition had its beginnings at a meeting of the Association of Ex-Cadets on June 26, 1883. A statement of objective noted: "In reunion we meet and live over again our college days, the victories and defeats won and lost upon drill field and classroom. Let every alumni answer a roll call."

During the 1890s, the Corps of Cadets made annual visits to San Jacinto Battlefield, followed by a parade down Houston's Main Street as celebrations of San Jacinto each April 21 became the custom. In the early 1900s, it was agreed

that in addition to honoring the freedom of Texas, April 21 would be a time to pay homage to all students and former students who had passed on, and some living comrade would answer "Here" when the "Roll Call for the Absent" was read. During World War I, groups of Aggies met in trenches all over Europe and at Army posts in America, but no April 21 events were held on campus.

In 1923, a nationwide rally of former students was planned to provide Aggies an opportunity to "meet old friends again and live over the old days in College Station." Student radio station WTAW broadcast a special program consisting of a medley of A&M songs, words from football coach D.X. Bible, and Aggie yells by the cadets. The April 15, 1923 Texas Aggie urged, "If there is an A&M man within one hundred miles of you, you are expected to get together, eat a little, and live

over the days you spent at the A&M College of Texas."

By 1929, meetings had become international, and, in 1942, A&M Muster gained international recognition when 27 men, led by Gen. George Moore, class of 1908, mustered during the Japanese siege of the Philippine Island of Corregidor. In addition, two Aggies reportedly held Muster in a submarine.

And so, it has been over the years, since that small group of Aggies on a beleaguered outpost of World War II inspired what has developed into one of our greatest traditions. Muster is more than a ceremony. It represents a pledge and a responsibility that A&M men and women have handed down from year to year, from generation to generation. It gives us a chance to renew our loyalty and unity, which constitute the basic foundation of our friendship for each other and our love and devotion for our school. - **Dr. John A. Adams, Jr. '73**

As you know, Aggie Muster is our most precious tradition - defining and binding as "we are the Aggies...."

You will find below the URL access to the Campus Muster where Tyson Voelkel'96 was the speaker this year.

"This event is the largest gathering in the world on a single day by a university of students, former students and friends of the university. beginning in 1883." – **Gen. Joe Ashy '62**

View the campus Muster at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZGMR100EgQ>

SAM BENNETT '24 AT THE MASTERS



Figure 2 - Texas Aggie, Sam Bennett '24.

Texas A&M golfer Sam Bennett won the Low Amateur in the Masters Tournament at Augusta National on April 9, 2023.

As reported by a staff reporter at the Bryan Eagle on April 10, 2023, Texas A&M senior Sam Bennett became the first amateur to finish in the top 20 at the Masters since 2005 by tying for 16th place at 2-under 286. The Madisonville native won the Silver Cup as the event's low amateur.

(The list of Low Amateurs at the Masters is a Who's Who List of Golf, including Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Ben Crenshaw and Phil Mickelson.)

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"I didn't play how I wanted to this weekend, but this experience playing the weekend at Augusta is definitely going to help me be the golfer I want to be. And to be able to play the Sunday pins was just incredible."

"It was just from growing up as a kid watching this tournament to losing my dad to the struggles I've faced and still face to be able to walk up that green on 18 on a Sunday, Easter Sunday, and just be appreciative of everything." Bennett said. "Playing the Masters on Sunday, that's what every golfer dreams of. I was just happy to be able to do that."

Bennett had seven straight pars Sunday before a bogey on the par-5 eighth. He bogeyed the par-4 12th but bounced right back with a birdie on the next hole, a par-5.

Bennett on the first two days played with defending Masters champ Scottie Scheffler, and fifth-ranked Max Homa. He played with Jon Rahm and Brooks Koepka in the third round. He showed he can play with the best.

"It was good," Bennett said. "It showed, just like at the U.S. Am, I competed with the best and now out here on this stage. I've seen how the top dogs kind of play and what they're made of, so I think I can hang in with them."

To read the entire article, go to the link below:

[A&M's Sam Bennett ties for 16th at Masters to win Silver Cup \(theeagle.com\)](https://theeagle.com)

TEXAS A&M ELECTS NEW STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT



Figure 3 - Hudson Kraus '24 and Case Harris '23.

As reported by Brie Pampell, Texas A&M University Division of Student Affairs March 6, 2023, student body election results were announced to a crowd of hundreds at Texas A&M University's Rudder Plaza Friday night. Hudson Kraus '24, a finance major from Dallas, was chosen as the new student body president for the 2023-24 academic year. Kraus, president of the Texas A&M Interfraternity Council, said he focused on "three Cs" during his campaign: connecting to culture, creating opportunities for students and cultivating the Aggie spirit.

"I am excited to continue to unite the student body and implement tangible solutions that positively impact every student here at Texas A&M," Kraus said.

[See the link below for more information:](#)

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Texas A&M Students Elect New Student Body President, Yell Leaders, Other Key Student Leaders - Texas A&M Today (tamu.edu)

TEXAS A&M NAMES HEAD YELL LEADER



Figure 4 - Trevor Yelton '25, Head Yell Leader.

As reported by Olivia Garza '23, Texas A&M University Division of Student Affairs April 11, 2023, Texas A&M University has named Trevor Yelton, a junior construction science major from Colorado Springs, Colorado, Head Yell Leader for the 2023-24 academic year. Yelton will direct the other four Yell Leaders as they represent the spirit of Aggieland and one of the most recognizable Texas A&M traditions.

Elected by the student body, Yell Leaders serve as the university's official spirit ambassadors. The Texas Aggie Yell Leaders represent the 12th Man at Aggie athletic events and serve as campus ambassadors to Texas A&M.

After the five Yell Leaders are elected by the student body in March, the Head Yell Leader is selected through an application process that includes a resumé review, an essay and an interview by a panel that includes the previous head Yell Leader.

The North Carolina native did not learn about Aggieland until his older brother, Trent Yelton '21, decided to attend and join the Corps of Cadets. He followed his brother to Texas A&M, where he joined Squadron 17 and found a passion for the values and traditions that are a special part of the Corps of Cadets and Texas A&M.

"My faith has played a big part in getting me where I am today," he said. "This position is not about me; it is not about Trevor. I am not doing this for myself. I dedicate everything that I have and everything that I have done to God."

After graduation, Yelton plans to pursue a career in commercial construction and potentially follow in his father's footsteps by joining the military.

To read more go to the link below:

<https://today.tamu.edu/category/campus-life/>

FBI DIRECTOR ON CHINA, CYBERSECURITY AND 'GREATEST' THREATS TO U.S/



Figure 5 - FBI Director Christopher Wray.

The national security threats facing the United States today are as complex and sophisticated as ever, FBI Director Christopher Wray said during a recent wide-ranging discussion at Texas A&M University.

Caitlin Clark, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications, wrote in an article that originally appeared in Texas A&M Today on April 10, 2023, "There is no doubt that the greatest long-term threat to our nation's ideas, our economic security and our national security is that posed by the Chinese communist government."

Wray said. "To be clear, that threat stems from the Chinese government, not the Chinese people themselves... the current Chinese regime will stop at nothing steal what they can't create and silence the messages they don't want to hear, all in an effort to surpass us as a global superpower and to shape a world order more friendly to their decidedly authoritarian regime."

To respond to challenges and stay ahead of the danger requires looking five to 10 years ahead in anticipation of where the threats are heading, he told the crowd during his April 5 talk hosted by the Bush School of Government and Public Service. What Wray expects to see in the near future: hostile nation-states becoming more aggressive in their efforts to steal U.S. information, target critical infrastructure and interfere with democratic institutions. "Front and center" of these threats, he said, is China. Wray discussed these and other pressing national security challenges, as well as the evolving threat landscape.

Fittingly, the FBI currently employs 267 former students, with 161 Aggies working as special agents, Wray said. He reported that in the last 3 years, the FBI has recruited more people from TAMU than any other university in the country.

FBI Director On China, Cybersecurity And 'Greatest Threats' to US • The Bush School of Government & Public Service (tamu.edu)

CIA DIRECTOR GIVES ASSESSMENT OF WORLD THREATS DURING BUSH SCHOOL VISIT.

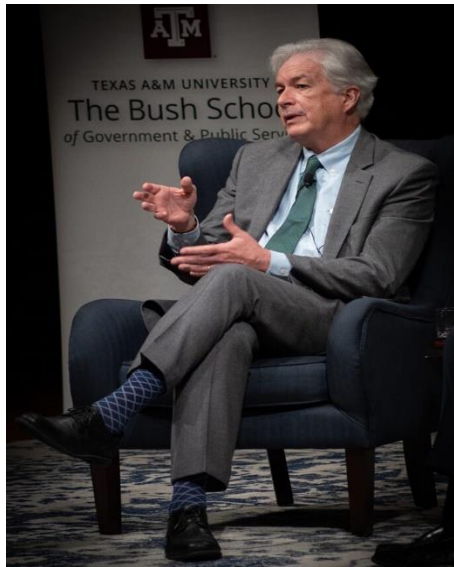


Figure 6 - Director of the CIA, Bill Burns.

In an article that originally appeared in Texas A&M Today on April 19, 2023, Calin Clark, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications reported comments by Bill Burns, Director of the CIA. The world is in the middle of a “transformative” moment — the kind that comes along only a time or two per century — as events, relationships and influence are accelerating across the national landscape, CIA Director Bill Burns told a packed auditorium at Texas A&M University’s Annenberg Presidential Conference Center last week.

“I continue to believe that the United States should approach that landscape with optimism and confidence,” Burns said at the talk hosted by the Bush School of Government and Public Service. “I think we still have a better hand to play than any of our rivals. But we’re no longer the only big kid on the geopolitical

block.”

As Ukraine prepares to launch another offensive this spring,

Burns said the challenge ahead will be to “puncture that sense of arrogance on Putin’s part,” adding Russia will not be able to advance further and will risk losing more with each passing month.

Another issue occupying the CIA’s attention is the ongoing tension between China and Taiwan. “I would not underestimate President Xi’s determination to control Taiwan,” Burns said, but both the country’s leader and Chinese military leadership have their doubts about whether they could successfully invade Taiwan. No one has watched Russia’s invasion in Ukraine more intently than Xi Jinping”, Burns said.

He also said Xi has instructed the Chinese military to be prepared for such a conflict by 2027, but that doesn’t mean he’s made a decision to launch an invasion by then. “I think the risks grow the further you get into this decade.”

Burns also touched on the CIA’s hiring and recruiting efforts, saying he hopes Texas A&M students will follow in the footsteps of the hundreds of Aggies who have served in the CIA over the years.

Burns reported that over the last 10 years, the CIA has hired more people from TAMU than from any other university in the country.

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

<https://bush.tamu.edu/news/inta/cia-director-gives-assessment-of-world-threats-during-bush-school-visit/>



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 "List Serve", and to communicate with you directly through bulletins sent by email to the Class Agents. 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. **You can reach us at: 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.

To access information about us as the elected SRG Board of Directors, and our Constitution and By-Laws, and the SRG's history and what we are about, please refer to our new "**SRG Tab**" (Under "**Programs**") on The Association's website, at: aggienetwork.com.

If you wish comment to those who decide:

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Chancellor Sharp: chancellor@tamus.edu

The Board of Regents: vickie@tamus.edu or jbell@tamus.edu

President Banks: president@tamus.edu

Interim Provost Alan Sams: asams@tamus.edu

Athletic Director Bjork: rabun@athletics.tamu.edu
