

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Sixty-Nine (69)



May 22, 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.

MEMORIAL DAY 2023



Figure 1 - Arlington National Cemetery

**Rest in Peace.
Let us always remember those who gave
their all.**



Figure 2 – Field of Poppy Flowers

**“In Flanders Field the poppies grow,
beneath the crosses, row on row....”
- John McCrae**

NEW SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE INVESTS IN FUTURE OF A&M



As reported in the Battalion by Sneha Bhale on April 27, 2023, Texas A&M recently announced a new joint initiative, “with a commitment to raise \$100 million for students over the next four years.

The initiative was first mentioned at the State of the 2022 University Address in the fall by

Figure 3 - Texas A&M University Campus

President M. Katherine Banks. Banks said the University will embark on a scholarship campaign with the goal of raising additional money to assist with the cost of education. The Texas A&M Foundation with the University has since worked on collaborating with other scholarship organizations and donors to make the goal feasible.

42% of A&M undergraduate students have debt at graduation compared to 62% nationally, according to The Texas A&M Foundation. While this may be the case for undergraduate levels, higher education is becoming more expensive with debt increasing. Vice President of Engagement of The Foundation Tom Pool said this scholarship initiative increases access to all students and future classes. “It is the umbrella that all scholarships reside under and it is a multiple of scholarships over the entire university,” Pool said.

Donors can decide if the scholarship they fund is need-based or merit-based and what it goes toward. It could go toward the Regent Scholarships for first-generation students, Foundation excellence awards for underrepresented students, major-specific scholarships, Corps of Cadets scholarships or whatever else the donor may be passionate about. Donors can also choose to increase opportunities for students wanting to study abroad during the summer and school year as well.

Donors can choose how much to donate and how many times as well. Donors can also choose what to name the scholarship, which students can apply for on the [A&M Scholarship and Financial Aid page](#). Most scholarship programs also connect the donors and recipients through mentorship programs, hearing academic updates from the students and attending annual events together.

https://www.thebatt.com/news/new-scholarship-initiative-invests-in-future-of-a-m/article_8504c0ca-e575-11ed-b144-df3f6a9be821.html

TEXAS A&M RECEIVES \$6 MILLION FOR CANCER RESEARCH CENTER

As reported in the Texas A&M Today by Jennifer Cain on April 5, 2023, Texas A&M University Health Science Center (Texas A&M Health) has been awarded a five-year, \$6 million grant from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, CPRIT, to support the creation of a Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer, or TREC, Center.

The grant takes advantage of resources available to Texas A&M University to establish the infrastructure required to advance a cohesive vision to address unmet needs in cancer prevention and treatment regionally and across the nation.

The Texas A&M University Center of Excellence in Cancer will focus on mentoring early career investigators interested in cancer research and recruiting outstanding researchers. It will also focus on creating a highly interactive environment that promotes collaborations and incentivizes development of impactful cancer research programs of national and international relevance.

The program will draw from a talented pool of investigators from different academic units to study how biology and genes are modified by environmental and lifestyle factors to influence cancer risk, as well as how to effectively use this knowledge to increase precision in cancer prevention and health care delivery.

Dr. Kenneth Ramos, Alkek Chair in Medical Genetics, executive director and assistant vice chancellor for health services, will serve as director of the center. Dr. Robert Chapkin, University Distinguished Professor and Allen Endowed Chair in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Nutrition and Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, will serve as deputy director.

The Texas A&M TREC initiative will build a critical mass of cancer researchers at Texas A&M, facilitate collaborations within and outside the institution and support innovative research that improves prevention and the development of cures for these devastating diseases.

To read further, go to link below:

<https://today.tamu.edu/2023/04/05/texas-am-receives-6-million-for-cancer-research-center/>

BILL MAHONES '69 ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF REGENTS

A news release from the Office of the Chancellor, written by Jennifer Cain on May 3, 2023 and updated on May 4, 2023, the Texas A&M Board of Regents elected a new Chairman, Bill Mahones, Jr. The full release is included in the following page.



News Release

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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Figure 4 - Chairman Bill Mahomes



Figure 5 - Vice-Chair Bob Albritton

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION, Texas — The Texas A&M Board of Regents on Wednesday elected William “Bill” Mahomes Jr. of Dallas as chairman and Robert L. “Bob” Albritton of Fort Worth as vice chairman.

Both Mahomes ’69 and Albritton ’71 were appointed to the Board of Regents in 2015 by Gov. Greg Abbott, and they were reappointed in

2021. Mahomes has served as vice chairman for the past two years. Wednesday’s meeting, April 26, also was the first for the board’s three new members: David Baggett and Sam Torn of Houston; and John Bellinger of San Antonio. They were appointed in March by Gov. Abbott and confirmed in April by the Texas Senate. They replaced three former board chairmen whose terms had expired: Tim Leach of Midland, Elaine Mendoza of San Antonio and Cliff Thomas of Victoria.

“I appreciate the confidence my colleagues on the Board of Regents placed in me today as well as the trust Governor Abbott has shown me,” Mahomes said. “I am honored to lead this board as we strive to help advance teaching, research and service in every corner of Texas.”

Mahomes grew up in Lindale and became a first-generation college student. He graduated with a bachelor’s in business from Texas A&M before earning his law degree in 1972 at the University of Texas. He was the first black student to graduate after four years in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, and he has reached several such milestones during his legal career and service on numerous corporate and civic boards.

The leadership of board committees was also announced. Mike Hernandez, Audit; Mike Plank, Academic and Student Affairs; Jay Graham, Finance; and Randy Brooks, Buildings and Physical Plant

<https://news.tamug.edu/bill-mahomes-69-elected-chairman-of-board-of-regents/>

FINAL REVIEW



Figure 6 - Photo by: Meredith Seaver - Apr 29, 2023 - Bryan Eagle

Class of 2023 Celebrates the end of their time in the Corps - April 2023

Saturday, May 1, 2023 was Final Review for the Class of 2023. Best wishes in your future careers.

TEXAS A&M AWARDED 11,900 DEGREES AT MAY COMMENCEMENTS



Figure 7 – Class of 2023 at Graduation

Brandon V. Webb, Texas A&M University Office of Provost Communications reported on May 9, 2023, Texas A&M University awarded approximately 11,900 degrees to spring graduates at 17 ceremonies, with eight graduations on the main campus and nine ceremonies at other locations or professional schools.

“We are excited to send this class of Aggie graduates out into the world to rise and meet

their next challenge,” said Dr. Alan Sams, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. “They have persisted through the rigors and challenges of earning their degree from a truly world-class university with the support of our faculty and staff. We congratulate them, their families and their friends.”

tamunews@tamu.edu

80 YEARS EARLIER – A&M GRADUATION - 1943



The majority of these Aggies would go on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War Two.

Figure 8 - Class of 1943 at Graduation – Guion Hall

TEXAS A&M LAW NOW RANKS IN THE TOP 30 NATIONALLY



Figure 9 – Texas A&M Law School in Fort Worth, Texas

As reported in a press release from the office of the Chancellor on May 11, 2023, In an unprecedented showing, Texas A&M University School of Law now ranks 29th nationally among law schools, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2023-2024 ranking of Best Graduate Schools, released today. The newest rankings build upon Texas A&M

Law's already meteoric rise – one of the fastest and furthest increases in U.S. News law school rankings history.

With its rise from 46th in the nation last year, Texas A&M Law saw the biggest increase among schools ranked among the top 50 in 2022. Among Texas schools, the law school ranks second only behind the University of Texas, having closed that gap significantly since last year, to only 13 spots.

The law school's success and growth over the last decade – since becoming part of Texas A&M University – can be traced to the ambitious vision of Chancellor John Sharp and the leadership of the Texas A&M University System.

"The first thing I did as Chancellor was to acquire this law school. At the time it was unranked and has now risen in the rankings faster than any law school in history," said John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System. "We won't stop until it is ranked in the top 10

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The law school's progress over the years has had significant local and regional impact, including in bolstering Fort Worth's place as a legal and business anchor in North Texas.

With an eye to the importance of student success, Texas A&M Law is recruiting and training top students from across the globe, while also securing its graduates positions at the nation's most competitive law firms, clerkships with federal and state judges, in government agencies at all levels, and with public interest organizations.

Recently released data from the American Bar Association reflect impressive placement results for the class of 2022. With an employment rate of 98.3 percent, the class had the highest placement in "gold standard" jobs (i.e., those that are full-time, long-term, and either require bar passage or for which the J.D. is an advantage) of any law school in the nation.

With plans underway to build a new Texas A&M campus in Fort Worth, the law school will only see new opportunities to serve the state and nation in the years ahead.

<https://news.tamus.edu/texas-am-law-now-ranks-in-the-top-30-nationally/>

TEXAS A&M PROGRAMS CLIMB IN U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKINGS

As reported by Texas A&M University Graduate and Professional School and Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications in an article written by Rob Dixon on May 11, 2023, the latest edition of the Best Graduate Schools ranking finds two colleges in the national top 10, and the School of Law cracking the top 30 for the first time.

Texas A&M University graduate and professional education has been recognized in the 2023-24 *U.S. News and World Report* Best Graduate Schools rankings, released today.

This year's Best Graduate Schools rankings evaluated programs including business, education, engineering, law, medicine, public affairs, public health, science, and veterinary medicine.

Five of Texas A&M's colleges/schools placed programs in the top 10 in these seven categories. Overall, the university has over 40 programs ranked in the top 50, with a host of programs maintaining strong positions.

Texas A&M Health also saw gains in its School of Medicine primary care program, and overall is up more than 50 spots from last year to No. 44.

A&M's highest-ranking graduate programs are petroleum engineering and nuclear engineering, which hold the nation's No. 2 and No. 3 spots, respectively. Nationally, the College of Engineering ranks at No. 10 and also boasts top 10 programs in agricultural engineering and industrial engineering. Civil engineering is up eight spots from last year to No. 14.

"Our investments in graduate education have positioned Texas A&M among the nation's best universities." said Texas A&M President Dr. M. Katherine Banks

Other highlights include the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in at No. 10 nationally. The College of Arts and Sciences placed two programs in the top 10, with inorganic chemistry and nuclear physics placing No. 5 and No. 7, respectively. Another top mover was the School of Education and Human Development's program in educational psychology, which rose six spots to No. 16.

The *U.S. News and World Report* Best Graduate Schools ranking is designed to assist prospective students looking to further their education beyond college. Two types of data are used to determine the rankings, expert opinions about program excellence and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research, and students.

View the full rankings at www.usnews.com/grad.

https://today.tamu.edu/2023/05/11/texas-am-graduate-and-professional-programs-climb-in-u-s-news-world-report-rankings/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Texas%20A%26amp%3BM%20Graduate%20And%20Professional%20Programs%20Climb%20In%20U.S.%20News%20%26amp%3B%20World%20Report%20Rankings&utm_campaign=today_05-12-2023

TEXAS A&M'S CORPS OF CADETS ADDS LEADERSHIP LEVEL



Alex Miller reported in the Eagle on 15 May 2023 that Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets has added a new battalion/group leadership level to its cadet unit structure, which has been implemented for the 2023-24 academic year and will fall in between the Corps Commander and outfit commanders.

Figure 10 – The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets on Parade

Beginning in the fall, the Corps' structure will consist of four major units – Brigade, Regiment, Combined Band, and Wing – that report to the Corps commander, according to Lt. Col. John Fleming, the Corps' assistant Commandant for operations and training. The four major units will have two or three

battalions or groups report to a major unit commander. Each battalion or group will have three to five company size units or outfits report to them.

Span of control is among chief reasons for the reorganization, which Michaelis explained means the optimal number of subordinates. In the previous model, the Corps' span of control ratio between the Corps Commander and major unit commanders was 1:10. In the new model, it is down to 1:4.

Outgoing Corps Commander Grayson Winchester was open in his conversations with first-year Commandant Brig. Gen. Patrick Michaelis from his first day on the job last October.

During Winchester's early discussions with Michaelis about where the Corps was as an organization from a student-leader perspective, he noted he was open about the challenges he faced. One of them was the number of direct reports he had. Between the 10 major unit leaders and his Corps Commander staff, Winchester had almost 13 people who he was their direct report, which sent up antennas for himself and Michaelis.

Discussions about the change began in October. In January, Michaelis moved forward with the change after consultation with current and former Commandant staff members. In March, command team members for the Corps, major unit, battalion/group, and company units were selected. The new units marched together at second pass of final review on April 29.

"It's awesome to have someone like him who is always willing to listen to ideas that people have and point you in the best direction that you can possibly go," Winchester said of Michaelis. "He gave us a lot of ownership on what it was going to look like to make this transition."

"This is a good struggle to have because it sets the tone in many ways for the next 20-30 years, potentially," Michaelis said. "I don't need to be hasty in a decision. And, oh, by the way, it's their Corps."

With a restructure in place, the Corps continues its March to 3,000. Corps membership at the beginning of the Spring 2023 semester was 2,045.

https://theeagle.com/news/a_m/texas-a-m-s-corps-of-cadets-adds-leadership-level/article_e0145d6a-f0ef-11ed-a186-5fa968ddf46c.html

SCONA 69 LEADERSHIP TEAM – 2023 – 2024



Figure 11 - Ethan Finney '24, Chair, Rockney Reid '24, Vice Chair of Logistics, Cameryn Jones '25, Vice Chair of Communications, Alec Farris '25, Vice Chair of Development with all the SCONA Directors

The MSC Student Conference On National Affairs (SCONA) was founded in 1955 by John Jenkins '56 and Bud Whitney '56, senior students in the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets, after they had attended the 6th Student Conference on United States Affairs (SCUSA) at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Jenkins and Whitney sought to bring students from across

the South to a similar conference held at Texas A&M to allow those students to engage in a world-class national affairs conference closer to home.

Every year, MSC SCONA develops an overarching topic to guide discussions, anchor policy proposals, and provide inspiration for the conference speakers and facilitators. The approximately 150 delegates represent universities across the United States and commonly include all Federal Service Academies, among other prestigious institutions.

SCONA 69 is looking to the past as well as the future to create a conference that will ensure the SCONA continues to grow in its scope and engage young people in national policy for decades to come.

SCONA Spring Newsletter

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY YEARBOOKS ONLINE COLLECTION

*Harry Brand '62 forwarded this link. This is for anyone who wishes to browse through any old Yearbook, use the link below.
Thank you. Harry.*

The original yearbooks can be viewed at the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives.

Digitized Yearbook Collection is funded through the generosity of the Class of 1949.

The *Texas A&M University Yearbook Online Collection* begins with the initial 1895 *Olio* publication.

The yearbooks begin annual publication in 1903 and continue through today. The newer editions are planned to be included on this website in future developments. The original yearbooks can be viewed at the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives.

<https://library.tamu.edu/yearbooks/>



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**.

Mark your calendar - Sul Ross '24 Reunion will be March 5 – 7, 2024 in College Station

If you wish to comment to those who decide:

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