

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Seventy-Nine (79)



December 16, 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 leadership. The SRG is a nonpartisan organization. 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.

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

The Hilton Hotel room block is open and ready to book room nights. The Group Code is ROSS24 and the cut-off date to make reservations is February 12, 2024.

Hilton Hotel - 801 University Dr E, College Station, TX 77840
Phone (979) 693-7500.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Figure 1- Holiday Wreath

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the SRG Board. May God Continue to bless us, Texas A&M, and the United States of America.



Figure 2 - President Mark A. Welsh III

FORMER AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF MARK A. WELSH III NAMED 27TH PRESIDENT OF TEXAS A&M

By Texas A&M University System DECEMBER 12, 2023

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents on Tuesday approved Gen. (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III as the 27th president of Texas A&M University.

“The board is certain that General Welsh will make a Texas-sized impact as president of our world-class flagship,” Chairman Bill Mahomes said. “His remarkable career embodies Aggie core values. Now his mission is to raise Texas

A&M’s national stature in research, education, and student experience.”

Welsh, who has been interim president since July, was named the board’s sole finalist for president on Nov. 17 at the recommendation of John Sharp, chancellor of The Texas A&M University System.

“In his first few weeks as interim president, General Welsh has moved quickly and decisively to reach out to all the stakeholders who hold Texas A&M University dear and near to their hearts,” Sharp said. “We are lucky to have such an experienced leader in our midst who supports our Aggie core values.”

Mahomes added, “Welsh is a collaborative, forward-thinking servant leader whose contributions will enhance excellence at Texas A&M for generations. The board is pleased to have him as president.”

Welsh, a 1976 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, considers himself an Aggie by association. He grew up in San Antonio. His father, Mark A. Welsh Jr., Aggie Class of ’46, interrupted his studies to serve overseas in World War II. The new president has five Aggie siblings, four Aggie children and a grandson enrolled in the Mays Business School.

Former Air Force Chief Of Staff Mark A. Welsh III Named 27th President Of Texas A&M - Texas A&M Today (tamuedu)



Figure 3 - President Mark A. Welsh III

INTERIM PRESIDENT OUTLINES ROADMAP FOR FUTURE OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Texas A&M Today By Texas A&M University
Division of Marketing and Communications
NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Laura McKenzie/Texas A&M University Division of
Marketing and Communications

Texas A&M University President Mark A. Welsh III outlined his vision for the future of the university during a State of the University address on November 29th in Rudder Theater with eight key priorities for moving ahead, saying success depends on the entire campus community.

Welsh, who was named the sole finalist for the position of president in November, told the crowd of nearly 750 faculty, staff, students and community members that his plan was merely the start of the conversation, “because we have to decide whether that’s the right place to go and we’ve got to decide what’s the best way to get there.”

The former Bush School dean and retired four-star Air Force general thanked the campus community for moving the university forward. Welsh started his address by saying, “Thanks for really embracing that desire to get back on track and thanks for being part of the solution,”

Welsh, who called the opportunity to represent the university an “unbelievable privilege,” outlined eight priorities for the university:

1. **Fix the foundation:** “Right-size” faculty and staff to keep up with the university’s growth; do a market analysis on salaries across the campus; prioritize infrastructure investments; have a realistic, executable capital project plan; and optimize plans for a target student number.
2. **Define our research identity:** What areas of research are we known for and can we bundle it for marketing optimization.
3. **Build our academic roadmap:** How are we adjusting to changes in education?
4. **Make Texas A&M a constant in the national conversation:** Elevate our reputation by playing to our strengths so that A&M is always being discussed in some way.
5. **Create the nation’s number one student experience:** Listen to students, benchmark peers, invest in a structured way over time and partner with the Student Government Association.
6. **Graduate great citizens — not just great Aggies:** Emphasize rights and responsibilities of citizenship along with the value of public service.

7. **Become the nation's number one veteran-serving university:** Tailor certificate and degree programs to veterans with flexible content delivery, job placement and scholarship support.
8. **Increase engagement with affiliate foundations and associations:** Work with The Texas A&M Foundation, the George & Barbara Bush Foundation, The Association of Former Students, the 12th Man Foundation and the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association to better serve Aggies and A&M.

Welsh said the only requirement for the plan to be successful “is that we walk down this road together.”

“I’m not talking about fixing something that’s broken,” he said. “I’m just talking about making it stronger.”

Welsh said it would take the entire campus community to re-embrace the spirit of Aggieland and put the university in a position to take the next step.

“I can’t plan or execute that stuff by myself at all, but we can,” he said. “I’m ready to get to work, and I hope you’ll join me.”

Interim President Outlines Roadmap For Future Of Texas A&M University - Texas A&M Today (tamu.edu) –November 29, 2023

To hear the entire address go to:

State of the University 2023 | Texas A&M University - YouTube



Figure 4 - Texas A&M System Chancellor John Sharp met with representatives from the University Academic Alliance in Taiwan to sign the agreement on November 27, 2023

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC ALLIANCE IN TAIWAN SIGN COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

By Texas A&M University System Office of Marketing and Communications NOVEMBER 27, 2023

The agreement is aimed at facilitating collaboration in a number of key areas, including the design and production of semiconductors.

Taiwan signed a student exchange and research agreement Monday. The memorandum of understanding – which was signed by Texas A&M System Chancellor John Sharp and President Wen-Chang Chen Coordinator of The University Academic Alliance in Taiwan – is designed to leverage the U.S.’s strength as an innovator in semiconductor design with Taiwan’s expertise as a leader in semiconductor manufacturing.

Top officials with The Texas A&M University System and University Academic Alliance in

Additionally, the agreement allows for the collaboration on quantum technology, agriculture, the health sciences, engineering, space technology and the Mandarin language.

“I am eager to see how we will progress as we work closely together with our friends in Taiwan,” John Sharp, chancellor of the Texas A&M System, said. “This is this kind of collaboration that leads to the most exciting advancements.”

The collaborative agreement allows for participation from all 11 universities of the Texas A&M System and the 12 universities of the University Academic Alliance in Taiwan.

“This is exciting and significant,” Political Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Mon-Chi Lio said. “This MOU will provide a strong foundation for strengthening academic exchanges, and cooperation between Taiwan and Texas.”

Wen-Chang Chen, president of NTU the convener of the Universities Academic Alliance in Taiwan, added: “I really look forward to exciting synergy between the two systems based on their core competencies and mutual interest. Indeed, recently TAMU and UAAT have formed teams to work closely on the 2023-2026 Taiwan-U.S. Advanced Chip Engineering Design and Fabrication Research Program jointly supported by the National Science Council of Taiwan and the U.S. National Science Foundation.”

The Texas A&M System hosted the Texas Semiconductor Summit last month. It was attended by technology experts, industry leaders, university officials and government representatives. More information is available at:
<https://today.tamu.edu/2023/10/09/texas-semiconductor-summit/>.



News Release

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ENROLLMENT INCREASES TOPS IN TEXAS

By tamus November 13, 2023

The 11 universities in The Texas A&M University System added more students than any other public university system in the state this year, according to fresh data from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The A&M System’s fall 2023 enrollment of 154,865 students was 5,850 more than last year’s enrollment across all 11 universities.

“These enrollment numbers are proof our commitment to making higher education both accessible and affordable is working,” said John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System. “This is great news for the A&M System and great news for Texas.”

The A&M System had seven of the top 12 highest percentage increases in enrollment from fall 2022 to fall 2023 for public universities in Texas.

Texas A&M University had the highest numerical increase with 2,433 more students, growing from 67,165 in 2022 to 69,598 in 2023.

Public universities in Texas collectively increased enrollment by 11,140 (1.7%) from 666,322 in fall 2022 to 677,462 in fall 2023.

“In general, the fall 2023 enrollment data from the coordinating board are promising, as Texas outpaced the national average of a 2 % increase in enrollment from fall 2022 to fall 2023 across all higher education sectors,” said Blake Decker, associate vice chancellor of data science for The Texas A&M University System.

The Texas A&M University System is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, with a budget of \$7.8 billion. Through a statewide network of 11 universities, a comprehensive health science center, eight state agencies, and the RELLIS Campus, the Texas A&M System educates more than 153,000 students and makes more than 23 million additional educational contacts through service and outreach programs each year. System-wide, research and development expenditures exceed \$1 billion and help drive the state’s economy.



Figure 5 - Time Magazine

TEXAS A&M RECOGNIZED BY ‘TIME’ AS ONE OF NATION’S BEST COLLEGES FOR FUTURE LEADERS

By Lesley Henton, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications DECEMBER 11, 2023

Texas A&M University is one of the nation’s best colleges for future leaders, according to a recent ranking from *TIME*.

Texas A&M ranks at No. 23 on the list compiled by *TIME* and the data analysis firm Statista.

The “Best Colleges for Future Leaders” ranking is based on where the nation’s top leaders earned their degrees.

Editors examined the resumés of 2,000 of the top U.S. leaders across various sectors including politicians, CEOs and union leaders to assemble the list, which is weighted for school size.

TIME says what distinguishes the schools on the list is, “not necessarily that they teach students to be better leaders, but that alums receive more opportunities, and many companies have a vested interest in hiring them.”

Interim President Mark A. Welsh III said the ranking from *TIME* magazine is a testament to the dynamic learning environment at Texas A&M, as well as its commitment to nurturing leadership qualities and empowering students to make a positive impact on the world.

“For more than 145 years, Texas A&M has been instilling the values and skills that propel former students to become trailblazers in their chosen fields. Time and time again, Aggies are at the leading edge of businesses, ideas, and policy,” Welsh said, pointing to the fact that in 2019 the university was recognized for producing more Fortune 100 leaders than any other university in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*. “At Texas A&M, we don’t just educate minds, we inspire and shape the leaders of tomorrow.”

The *TIME* ranking follows other notable recognitions for Texas A&M this year, including being named the No. 1 university in Texas by *Wall Street Journal* and the No. 20 best public university in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Texas A&M offers a variety of leadership opportunities for Aggies and lists “leadership” as one of its six Core Values.

Students can lead through membership in one of over 1,300 student organizations, including the oldest and perhaps most visible leadership training program, the Corps of Cadets, as well as Student Government Association, Traditions Council and MSC committees, to name just a few. To read the entire article, go to:

Texas A&M Recognized By ‘TIME’ As One Of Nation’s Best Colleges For Future Leaders - Texas A&M Today (tamu.edu)



Figure 6 - Collin Klein as QB - 2012

WHAT TEXAS A&M FANS CAN EXPECT FROM COLLIN KLEIN – NEW OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

KSAT - [Ben Spicer](#), Digital Journalist – San Antonio
- Published: December 8, 2023

“Klein, 34, goes to Texas A&M after being K-State’s offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for the last two seasons. He originally joined the Kansas

State staff in 2014, as a graduate assistant under Hall of Fame Coach Bill Snyder, before leaving to become Northern Iowa’s quarterbacks coach and finally working his way up to coordinator, under current head coach Chris Klieman.

Klein’s coaching career launched after a playing career that had the former Cat quarterback finish third in the voting for the Heisman Trophy, leading the Wildcats to an 11-1 regular season and the Big 12 title in 2012. Texas A&M fan favorite Johnny Manziel won the Heisman that same season.

So, what kind of an offense does Klein employ? Under Klein’s direction, Kansas State’s offense ranked No. 23 nationally in offensive yards per game at 446.1 this past season, and is ranked at No. 10 in scoring offense at 37.8 points per game.

First, know that Klein’s offense is predicated on playing to the quarterback’s strengths. In 2022, while using two vastly different quarterbacks due to injury, Klein called very different games for both. No matter the experience of his signal caller, Klein as a quarterback coach will have them prepared for what they are facing. And while being competitive and sound with the football, he sprinkles in some flair just for fun.

Where Klein makes his money is in his creativity in the running game. Everything in his offense starts with ball control. Klein’s offense utilizes multiple personnel groups and motion, creating mismatches and angles to run the ball. He routinely takes advantage of his tight ends and frequently moves them out wide, enabling them to catch passes against smaller defensive backs while also having extra blockers in the run game.

Klein’s offense was the number one offense in the red zone this past season - with good reason. Klein’s offense provides plenty for defenses to have to account for going in. Players at each position on the team know they’re expected to contribute. Wide receivers routinely not only catch passes, but often get the opportunity for carries,

making the defense chase sideline to sideline and play in space. It is also heavy in play action pass.

In just his short amount of time as an offensive play caller, Klein has shown an acumen of knowing the momentum of the game. As a former quarterback, he knows what it's like to be under center and in high pressure moments.

He's soft-spoken and articulate but will admit when things go wrong. Players will love playing for him." To read the full story, go to:

What Texas A&M fans can expect from a Collin Klein-led offense next season (ksat.com)



Figure 7 - Edgerrin Cooper - All-American

COOPER NAMED TO WALTER CAMP ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

By: Rachel Perreault, Texas A&M Athletic Communications – December 8, 2023

Texas A&M football's Edgerrin Cooper was named to the Walter Camp All-American First Team.

Cooper was an unstoppable force in his junior season, helping the aggies rank 7th among Power 5 teams in total defense (295 yards per game). The linebacker led the SEC and ranked fifth among Power 5 players with 17 tackles for loss on the year. Cooper's team-best 84 total tackles and 8 sacks ranked sixth and fourth in the SEC. He received First Team All-SEC honors from the league's coaches and was also named a First-Team All-American by the Athletic and CBS Sports.

Cooper Named to Walter Camp All-America First Team - Texas A&M Athletics - 12thMan.com



Figure 8 - Reveille X – April 2021 – Texas A&M Today – Jesse Everett/Texas A&M Marketing & Communications
Reveille X

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

In order to provide our thoughts and communication with our membership, the SRG board has decided to communicate directly through bulletins sent by email to the Class Agents who will then share with those in their Classes. Anyone is free to pass these bulletins to any Aggie, friends of Aggies, or just friends. The Board plans 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 contact us at:**
SRGbulletin@gmail.com

The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are solely 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 on pertinent topics 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 to comment to those who decide:

Chancellor John Sharp: **chancellor@tamus.edu**

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

President TAMU: **markwelsh@tamu.com**

Provost Alan Sams: **asams@tamu.edu**

Athletic Director Ross Bjork: **rrabun@athletics.tamu.edu**

VPSA Joe Ramirez: **jramirez@vpsa.tamu.edu**

Commandant Patrick Michaelis: **pmichaelis@corps.tamu.edu**
