

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Eighty-Three (83)



April 17, 2024

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.

ROLL CALL FOR THE ABSENT - by John Ashton, Class of 1906

**In many lands and climes this April day, Proud sons of Texas A&M unite.
Our loyalty to country, school, we pay, And seal our pact with bond of common
might.**

**We live again those happy days of yore, On campus, field, in classroom,
hall, at drill. Fond memory brings a sigh--but nothing more: Now we are men, and
life is one great thrill!**

**On fortress isle 82 years ago today, A group of gallant Aggies, led by
Moore, Held simple rites which to us all doth say: The spirit shall prevail o'er
cannon roar! They thought of home and all we hold most dear: Where are they
now—those boys we knew so well? Ask of the winds, let smile repress a tear,
Think only of their glory when they fell!**

**Corregidor! forever more a hallowed name, To countless sons of Texans
yet unborn; Symbolic like, it stands for deathless fame: A shrine sublime till
Resurrection morn!**

**Softly call the muster, Let comrade answer, "Here!"
Their spirits hover 'round us: As if to bring us cheer!
Mark them "present" in our hearts, We'll meet some other day.
There is no Death, but Life Eterne,
For heroes such as they!**

Here!



TIM GREEN '86 TO SPEAK AT 2024 CAMPUS MUSTER

MELANIE MCBRIDE '23 March 12, 2024 9:58 AM UPDATED: MARCH 14, 2024



Figure 1- MG Tim Green '86

The Aggie Muster committee announced Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Tim Green '86 as the keynote speaker for the 2024 Campus Muster ceremony. Green currently serves as the director of the George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex at Texas A&M, and he served over 30 years in the United States Air Force. His military career includes directing civil engineers at Headquarters Air Force in Washington, D.C., allowing him to support global military operations of 51,000 military and civilian engineers over 183 bases worldwide.

As a first-generation Aggie, Green earned a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from

Texas A&M.

Read more at: tx.ag/CampusMusterSpeaker24.

Currently, there are 220 Muster ceremonies planned for 2024; find the one nearest you on the map at: tx.ag/FindAMuster.

The campus Muster will be livestreamed at 7 p.m. on April 21 via The Association of Former Students' Muster Live website: MusterLive.AggieNetwork.com. At daybreak on April 21, The Association will read the Worldwide Muster Roll of over 1,400 names and answer "Here" for each. This reading will be livestreamed on our Muster Live website: MusterLive.AggieNetwork.com. To help us ensure the Worldwide Roll is up to date, go to: tx.ag/RollCall.

View the 58 names currently listed to be called at the campus Muster in Reed Arena: tx.ag/CampusMusterRoll. Like all Aggie Musters, the campus Muster calls its own roll, primarily of Aggies within the local community.

You can ask for a name to be added to the local Muster you are attending, and you may be asked if you wish to hold a candle for them. Learn more at: tx.ag/WhichMuster.

Aggies attend Muster to answer "Here" for comrades lost within the past year, but also simply to renew our bonds with fellow Aggies. Local Musters can be casual events and family-friendly gatherings; they may be held in a restaurant, a backyard, a hotel ballroom. They will almost surely be the largest annual gathering of Aggies in your area.

Answer the call sent out more than 100 years ago in 1923! If you haven't been to a Muster in some time, make this the year you volunteer, host or attend an Aggie Muster: Tim Green '86 to speak at 2024 campus Muster (aggienetwork.com)

THE “ATOM SMASHER” AT TEXAS A&M CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

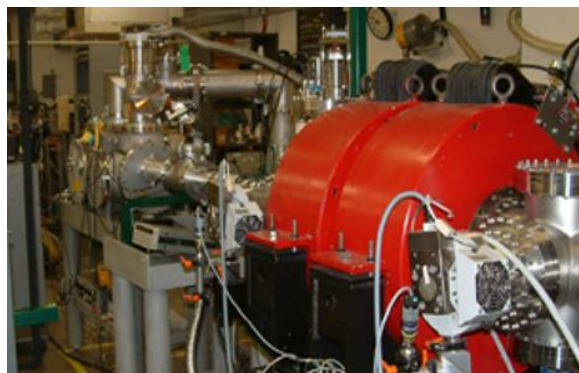


Figure 2 - K150 Cyclotron

KBTX First News at Four EXTENDED By [Delaney Peden](#) Published: Mar. 15, 2024 at 9:00 PM CDT

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (KBTX) - If you are familiar with the Texas A&M campus, you might be aware of a particle accelerator or “atom smasher”. Dedicated in 1967, the Cyclotron Institute serves as the core of Texas A&M University’s accelerator-based nuclear science and technology program.

Don’t let the name scare you, it is a fascinating piece of nuclear technology that has been teaching researchers for over half a century. Fred Abegglen, Texas A&M’s Chief of Operations, joined First News at Four on Friday to discuss the [Cyclotron Institute](#) during the year of its 60th anniversary. Abegglen says Cyclotron isn’t dangerous.

“We make ions and we accelerate them out of the machine to do nuclear research and nuclear chemistry experiments,” he said. But nuclear research isn’t surrounded by destruction and fear for the institute. In fact, quite the opposite.

“Besides the nuclear physics and chemistry research, the big thing we’re doing right now is what’s called single event effect testing. So, everything that flies in space, we test there to see if the electronics can survive up in the upper atmosphere. We did all the OnStar stuff years ago, Mars Rover, the SpaceX stuff, all the things that actually fly” said Abegglen.

He said that the research at the institute has been progressing well in the 60 years since it began. “Our research staff generate probably 100 papers a year and they’re on the cutting edge of science,” said Abegglen, “The staff has grown immensely. Our scientists are second to none. Our research staff is great, our operations staff is second to none. It’s a great group of people to work with and it’s a very great learning experience to be there.” Copyright 2024 KBTX. All rights reserved. Focus at Four: The “atom smasher” at Texas A&M Celebrates 60 years (kbtx.com)

TEXAS A&M INDUCTS HAGLER INSTITUTE'S CLASS OF 2023-24

By the Hagler Institute for Advanced Study at Texas A&M University MARCH 4, 2024



Figure 3 - Hagler Institute's Inductees - 2023 - 2024

The Hagler Institute for Advanced Study at Texas A&M University inducted 14 Hagler Fellows and two Distinguished Lecturers — the largest class in its 13-year history — during its annual gala on Friday, March 1. These scholars are from around the world.

During a ceremony in Bethancourt Ballroom at the Memorial Student Center, Gen. (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, president of Texas A&M University, and Dr.

John L. Junkins, the institute's founding director, welcomed the institute's latest class of scientists, engineers and scholars, all of whom are recognized internationally for their research and achievements.

The Class of 2023-24 includes two Nobel laureates and the first female astronaut of color to travel into space. Members of the new class will collaborate with faculty, researchers and students in the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Agriculture and Life Sciences; the schools of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Engineering Medicine, and Education and Human Development; and Texas A&M University at Galveston.

"Each of our Hagler Fellows and lecturers belongs to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, or holds recognitions of equal stature in their field," Junkins said. "All have achieved excellence in their careers, and the impact they will have on our campus is beyond measure."

Since 2012, the Hagler Institute has attracted 126 world-class researchers to the Texas A&M campus: 116 Hagler Fellows and 10 Distinguished Lecturers. Of these, 16 have joined Texas A&M's permanent faculty.

Previous classes of Hagler Fellows have included four Nobel laureates, a Wolf Prize recipient, a recipient of the Hubble Medal in Literature for Lifetime Achievement, a recipient of the National Medal of Science, an awardee of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, a two-time recipient of the State Prize of Russia and a recipient of both the National Humanities Medal and the Johan Skytte Prize, the most prestigious award in political science.

In a separate ceremony, Junkins presented the institute's inaugural Take Flight Leadership Award to Norm R. Augustine, former chairman and CEO for Lockheed Martin as well as the first chair of the Hagler Institute External Advisory Board. "For the first 12 years of the institute's existence, Norm has contributed significantly to our success and culture," Junkins said. For additional information go to: [Texas A&M Inducts Hagler Institute's Class Of 2023-24 - Texas A&M Today \(tamu.edu\)](https://tamu.edu)



Figure 4 - Space Engineering Degree Announcement

TEXAS A&M HEEDS GOV. ABBOTT'S CALL FOR SPACE ENGINEERING DEGREE

By Texas A&M University System - March 27, 2024

The incoming Dean of the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University said Wednesday that he supports creating a degree program in Space Engineering. Dr. Robert H. Bishop, whose official start date is Tuesday, said he has heard the call for the new program

from several faculty members who want to make Texas A&M a national leader in the rapidly growing field of space engineering.

"I am thrilled to announce that one of my first orders of business is to help make Texas A&M a world leader in Space Engineering," Bishop said. "Degrees in Space Engineering will give students at Texas A&M the skills they need to be pioneers in the space industry as they learn to establish exciting new systems for space exploration and research."

At an event with NASA officials and space industry leaders at Johnson Space Center on Tuesday, Gov. Greg Abbott urged Texas universities to consider establishing degree offerings in Space Engineering to help Americans get to the moon and Mars in the coming years.

The College of Engineering at Texas A&M already has a strong foundation for new degrees in Space Engineering. The college has developed the Human Systems Integration and Bioastronautics graduate certificate program. It will be offered starting in Fall 2024. It entails preparing professionals in engineering, human physiology, and medicine to address the growing challenges of both civil and commercial human spaceflight. The program within the Department of Aerospace Engineering was developed based on demand from NASA and private space companies.

Texas A&M, which has been a Space Grant university since 1989, has four former astronauts on faculty and has been conducting space-related research for years. Further, Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg and Dr. Rob Ambrose of the College of Engineering have been named director and deputy director of the Texas A&M Space Institute. The vision for the institute involves expanding Texas's role as the leader in the new space economy.

In addition to the institute, Texas A&M is planning to build a \$200 million facility, which was funded by the Texas Legislature last year, on land near the Johnson Space Center.

After all necessary hurdles have been cleared, the degree programs could be available as soon as Fall 2025.

To read more go to: [Texas A&M Heeds Gov. Abbott's Call for Space Engineering Degree | Texas A&M University Engineering \(tamuedu.edu\)](https://tamuedu.edu/news/texas-a-m-heeds-gov-abbotts-call-for-space-engineering-degree)

AGGIE VOLUNTEERS SERVE MORE THAN 2,000 AREA RESIDENTS DURING THE BIG EVENT -

By Luke Henkhaus, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications

MARCH 23, 2024



Figure 5 - Big Event Volunteer - March 23, 2024 - Laura McKenzie/ TAMU Marketing & Communications

Virginia Sikes, a retired social worker, takes pride in living independently in the Bryan home she purchased 19 years ago. With its bright blue front door, green walls and stained glass hanging in the windows, she proudly describes her house as like

“living in a box of crayons.” Sikes, 68, has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. Every year since she moved into the house, Sikes

has asked for help from Texas A&M University student volunteers through The Big Event. She says the yearly service project has allowed her to continue living life on her own terms. “It’s selflessness. They’re constantly giving, but they don’t expect anything in return,” she said. “That’s pretty awesome.” Sikes is one of 2,250 Bryan-College Station residents who were helped this weekend during the annual community outreach and service initiative organized by Texas A&M students. Founded in 1982, The Big Event has grown to become the largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation, spawning similar events at other universities around the world.

This year’s Big Event was the largest since the COVID-19 pandemic, putting 16,500 volunteers to work throughout the community. Director Tara Driskill ’24 said the event continues to create unique opportunities for students to connect with residents while making a tangible difference in their lives. Driskill commented, “The Big Event is such a unique experience that really is the Spirit of Aggieland in motion, and gives our volunteers the opportunity to tangibly practice serving their neighbors while creating memories that they can value for many years.”

“If this isn’t Texas A&M, I don’t know what is,” said Football Head Coach Mike Elko, who spoke at the kickoff ceremony, “To get up this morning, to take your time to be out here, to partner with this great Bryan-College Station community, to go out and do what you do today to selflessly serve this community is amazing.”

Decades later, Sikes said she sees that same commitment to selfless service in the students who help out around her home each spring. Even now, she said, Aggies are helping her live a happier, more independent life. To read the complete article, go to:

Aggie Volunteers Serve More Than 2,000 Area Residents During The Big Event - Texas A&M Today (tamu.edu)



Figure 6 - Students at A&M

TEXAS SENATE SEEKS DEI ACCOUNTABILITY

MARCELA RODRIGUES DALLAS MORNING NEWS

27 Mar 2024

DALLAS — Texas colleges risk millions in state funding if they have DEI efforts on campuses as a new law banning such initiatives will be strictly enforced, a state senator warned. Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, announced Tuesday that he sent a

letter to Texas university leaders reinforcing the expectations and oversight process of the ban he authored aimed at keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion programs out of state schools.

The new law, also known as SB 17, bans DEI from public higher education institutions and went into effect Jan. 1. Schools that break the law could lose state funding. Texas is on track to spend more than \$30 billion on higher education in the current two-year cycle. The ban is "the most robust DEI prohibition in the nation" with the goal of "ensuring a merit-based environment where every student, faculty and staff member can strive for and achieve personal excellence," Creighton wrote in the letter. The Senate's education committee will have a meeting in May where university leaders can present how they've complied with the ban, Creighton wrote.

At Texas A&M University, for example, staff members under its previous diversity office were reassigned and the office was closed. University President Mark A. Welsh III noted in a September statement to the school community that implementing the law would require everyone working together. He added that the campus would continue to maintain a welcoming environment to all. "Diversity of thought is a cornerstone of great universities, and quite frankly, it's a key ingredient to our continued success," he wrote.

In February, a compilation was posted online of hidden-camera footage of public university employees suggesting that they're finding "creative ways" to pursue DEI despite the ban, such as by renaming offices. "This letter should serve as a notice that this practice is unacceptable — and also a reminder that SB 17 encompasses stringent enforcement provisions, including the potential freezing of university funding and legal ramifications for non-compliance," Creighton wrote. "While I am encouraged with the progress, I have seen from many institutions of higher education in implementing SB 17, I am deeply concerned with the possibility that many institutions may choose to merely rename their offices or employee titles," Creighton said. He continued, "Now that SB 17 is law, I'm confident that Texas public colleges and universities can return to their core mission of innovation and education — and if they do not, the Texas Senate will be resolute in enforcement of this legislation".

Texas colleges risk millions if they break DEI ban, lawmaker says (dallasnews.com)

TEACHING ROBOT DOG TO WALK ON THE MOON



Figure 7 - Robot Dog for Moon

By Landon Hall, University of Southern California, and Shana K. Hutchins, Texas A&M University APRIL 3, 2024

Some 6,000 feet up the snow-capped mountain, located about 70 miles east of Portland, a multi-disciplinary team from the University of Southern California, Texas A&M University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania and NASA recently gathered to turn loose a four-legged robot named Spirit into the wild.

The team that included engineers, cognitive scientists, geoscientists and planetary scientists field-tested Spirit as part of the LASSIE Project: Legged Autonomous Surface Science in Analog Environments. Spirit covered a variety of challenging terrains, using its spindly metal legs to amble over, across and around shifting dirt, slushy snow and boulders during five days of testing in summer 2023. Sometimes it expertly traversed the hillside, while at other moments, it teetered and fell over — all part of the trial-and-error process to better understand the substrate properties and learn to better walk on these extreme terrains. The practice time Spirit logged produced data that will be used to train future robots for use on intergalactic surfaces, like Earth's moon and perhaps other planetary bodies in our solar system.

Dr. Marion Nachon, an associate research scientist and lecturer in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Texas A&M, is a co-investigator for the three-year project along with NASA Johnson Space Center geologist and former Texas A&M Geology and Geophysics professor Dr. Ryan Ewing. The aim of the research is to create and test next-generation, high-mobility walking, or “legged,” robots capable of agilely moving through a variety of challenging planetary environments including icy surfaces, crusted sand and rocky terrain to flexibly support scientific exploration goals and enhance scientists' abilities to gather information in space as well as other difficult-to-navigate environments.

Nachon notes that two additional Texas A&M Geology and Geophysics scientists are participating in the NASA Perseverance rover mission as experts in micro-X-ray fluorescence: Dr. Michael Tice and Dr. Lauren O'Neil.

As for Spirit, it continues to gain experience getting around in a variety of natural environments, with the goal of learning how to better move on challenging terrain, characteristic of planetary-analogue environments. The LASSIE Project calls for two more trips for Spirit — to White Sands and Mount Hood — ensuring plenty of opportunities for it to learn on Earth prior to potentially exploring other planets.

Practice Makes Perfect: Teaching Robots To Walk On The Moon - Texas A&M Today (tamu.edu)



Figure 8 - Cade Coppinger is new Student Body President

AGGIES ELECT NEW STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, YELL, AND OTHER KEY LEADERS

- By Lindsey Norman, Texas A&M University Division of Student Affairs MARCH 4, 2024

Student body election results were announced to a crowd of hundreds at the 12th Man Statue on Friday night. Cade Coppinger, a finance major, was chosen as the new student body president for the 2024-25 academic year.

In total, 13,509 ballots were cast during the election, which is higher than previous years' voting records; Coppinger won with 5,629 votes. "It's just an honor and a privilege to

serve the student body," Coppinger said.

Texas A&M students also voted in five new Yell Leaders: Senior Yell Leaders Jake Carter '25, Grayson Poage '25 and Josiah Brantley '25, and Junior Yell Leaders Kyler Fife '26 and Luke Widener '26. Election results also were announced for Texas A&M class agents and class presidents, RHA (Residential Housing Association) president, senators, and Honors Student Council offices.

"I am humbled and honored to continue serving and representing Texas A&M as a Senior Yell Leader," Carter said. "Serving in this position is a profound responsibility and I can confidently say that the other Yell Leaders and I are ready and excited for what the Lord has in store in the year ahead."

To read more about the elections, go to: Aggies Elect New Student Body President, Yell And Other Key Leaders - Texas A&M Today ([tamuedu](https://www.tamuedu))

TEXAS A&M CORPS OF CADETS ANNOUNCES 2024-2025 LEADERSHIP

Amy Thompson, Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets, amy.thompson@tamuedu - COLLEGE STATION, Mar. 11, 2024



Figure 9 - Corps Leadership Team

Texas A&M's largest, oldest, and most visible student organization—the Corps of Cadets—has selected their senior leadership for the 2024-2025 school year. Dating to 1876, the Corps of Cadets is the oldest and most visible student organization at Texas A&M University. Leveraging a military based cultural model throughout the four-year leadership training program, the Corps prepares cadets to lead at the community, state and national levels and produces some of the nation's finest leaders in the public, private and military

sectors. The Corps remains one of the largest uniformed bodies of students in the nation. Membership in the Corps carries no military obligation, with over half of current cadets not pursuing a military commission.

Cadets complete a thorough selection process that consists of an application and an interview with a panel of peers and staff. All applicants are evaluated on academic performance, performance in the Corps, success in previous leadership positions, peer/staff evaluations, and their leadership vision for the future. These twelve students represent five states and seven Texas cities

Four cadets were identified to fill the most senior leadership positions of Corps Commander, Deputy Corps Commander, Chief of Staff and Sergeant Major: They are:

Corps Commander: Deandre Macri, Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Deputy Corps Commander: James Guandolo, Dallas, Texas.

Chief of Staff: Carl Witherell, New Braunfels, Texas.

Sergeant Major: John Andruss, Victoria, Texas.

Eight cadets were selected to serve as Major Unit Commanders or Sergeants Major for the Corps' four major units:

1st Brigade Commander: Luke Sims, Broussard, Louisiana.

1st Brigade Sergeant Major: Madison Cronin, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

1st Regiment Commander: Jordan McConnell, Panama City Beach, Florida.

1st Regiment Sergeant Major: Jessica Vogt, Commerce City, Colorado.

1st Wing Commander: Aidan Polster, Savannah, Texas.

1st Wing Sergeant Major: Sam Chew, Bryan, Texas.

Aggie Band Commander: Tristan Lanclos, Katy, Texas.

Aggie Band Sergeant Major: Avery Owens, Northlake, Texas.

Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Announces 2024-2025 Leadership (tamu.edu)



Reveille X - April 2021 - Texas A&M Today - Jesse Everett – Texas A&M Marketing & Communication

Mark your calendar - Sul Ross '25 Reunion will be March 3 – 5, 2025 in College Station

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

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

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.

Note: All the Bulletins from Bulletin #1 to the current Bulletin are available to be viewed on the SRG Website at www.ferrata.net/srg/portal.aspx. Click on 'Uploaded Files.'

Suggest you use “Google Chrome”, “Foxfire”, or “Microsoft Edge” as a browser.

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 **jbelle@tamus.edu**

President Mark Welsh: **markwelsh@tamu.com**

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

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

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

SRG Board of Directors’ Resolutions for: 2024 - 2025

- To keep the Sul Ross Group (SRG) membership informed of pertinent topics and activities on campus through periodic SRG Bulletins.
- As investors of A&M, to continue to meet with and to offer our support and assistance to the leadership of TAMUS, TAMU, the Association of Former Students, A&M Foundation, the Commandant, the Corps Commander, and student government leaders.
- To support A&M’s Core Values and traditions and share these with all we meet, especially students, stressing unity of purpose and effort within the A&M community.
- To continue the ongoing review, execution and improvement of new student integration and assimilation into TAMU, working with and assisting the V.P. of Student Affairs, if invited, by periodically observing new student orientation – avoiding “not too much nor too little” oversight of student run organizations.
- Be it resolved that the SRG support their strategic goal of preserving what sets TAMU apart as distinctive and transcendent, as elder statesmen, and in accordance with the SRG’s four established Constitutional objectives while serving TAMU, the Association, and our membership.