

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Eighty-Six (86)



July 4, 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.



Figure 1- Independence Day

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776:

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands ... We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights...



Figure 2 - John Sharp looking at mementos

“ALWAYS GO OUT ON TOP”: JOHN SHARP WILL RETIRE JUNE 30, 2025

Zach Despart – Texas Tribune – July 1, 2024

John Sharp, Texas A&M's longest serving chancellor who has transformed the university system and boosted the flagship's academic and athletic brands over his 13 years at the helm, will retire in June 30, 2025.

Citing a desire to “always go out on top,” Sharp, 73, said in an interview with The Texas Tribune that he had accomplished most of what he had set out to achieve, from

acquiring a law school to building a 2,000-acre high-tech campus called RELLIS for defense research and testing. Enrollment increased more than 25% during a time when too many people are questioning the value of a college education and research expenditures now exceed \$1 billion a year. In addition, the Texas Division of Emergency Management became the 8th state agency to fall under the A&M System. Not to be forgotten, Chancellor Sharp has stayed true to the Aggie values and traditions and the culture of the state of Texas.

“We’ve done some amazing things, and over the next year there’s going to be some more amazing things, and I’m not sure after this next year it can be topped,” Sharp said with a chuckle. “It seemed to be a pretty good time to say hey, it’s been a great ride, and it’s time for someone else to take the reins.”

Sharp informed the Board of Regents several weeks ago and announced his retirement to staff on Monday morning. The regents will conduct a national search in the coming months for Sharp’s successor.

Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp will retire in June 2025 | The Texas Tribune



News Release
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Office of Marketing and Communications • 301 Tarrow Street
College Station, Texas 77840-7896 • 979.458.6023 • www.tamug.edu

TEXAS A&M SYSTEM PART OF \$30 BILLION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATING CONTRACT FOR NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY

By tamus June 14, 2024 Updated on June 14, 2024

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION, Texas —The Texas A&M University System was chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration as part of a group to manage and operate the Pantex Plant, which maintains the safety, security, and effectiveness of the nation’s nuclear weapons stockpile.

“It is a privilege to be part of the management of another component of the country’s nuclear deterrent,” John Sharp, chancellor of the Texas A&M System, said. “We take our national security responsibilities seriously, and we will bring the same level of care and expertise to Pantex as we have done for the past several years to Los Alamos.”

The lead of the group, BWX Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: BWXT), announced a contract award Thursday. Following an initial term of five years, NNSA has the ability to award three additional five-year option periods. If all contract options are exercised, the contract will span 20 years at a funding level of approximately \$30 billion.

The Texas A&M System brings expertise and valuable related experience. The System already is part of Triad National Security LLC, the team that manages the Los Alamos National Laboratory along with Battelle Memorial Institute and the University of California.

Pantex represents a key nuclear production capability in the nation's Nuclear Security Enterprise. Pantex, located near Amarillo, Texas, is responsible for maintaining the safety, security, and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile.

Texas A&M System Part of BWXT-led Team Awarded \$30 Billion Management and Operating Contract for National Nuclear Security Administration's Pantex Plant – TAMUS System News



Figure 3 - Research in Engineering

A&M LEADS NATION IN ENGINEERING RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

Texas A&M University Engineering June 20, 2024

The College of Engineering at Texas A&M University has secured the No. 1 spot in fiscal year 2023 engineering research expenditures with \$444.7 million in spending, according to the rankings released this week by *U.S. News & World Report 2024-2025 Best Engineering Graduate Schools Rankings*.

“This accomplishment solidifies our position as a premier hub for cutting-edge research and reinforces our commitment to excellence in engineering education and innovation,” said John Sharp, chancellor of The Texas A&M University System. “It is a testament to the dedication and ingenuity of our faculty and students, who continue to advance engineering research and make significant contributions to the state, country and world.” Since 2013, the Chancellor’s Research Initiative has provided one-time funds to recruit and hire faculty who will have a transformational impact.

The college also ranked 12th nationally and eighth among public institutions for its graduate engineering program, solidifying its reputation as a leader in engineering education and research. The college’s performance underscores its pivotal role in advancing global cutting-edge research and technological developments.

“These rankings underscore why Texas A&M attracts world-class faculty and researchers and some of the best and brightest students from around the state, the country and the world,” Dr. Robert Bishop, vice chancellor and dean of engineering said. “We prepare students to be leaders and innovators in their fields, and we invest deeply in supporting their work and advancing high-impact research.”

Eight departments secured positions in the top 10 among public institutions. Four departments clinched the No. 1 spot in Texas, including biological and agricultural, industrial, materials and nuclear engineering. Materials science climbed three places to claim a spot in the top 10 among public institutions at No. 9.

Texas A&M Leads Nation In Engineering Research Expenditures - Texas A&M Today (tamu.edu)



Figure 4 - Maritime Rescues 3 at sea

Texas A&M Maritime Academy Rescues Three Stranded At Sea

By Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications JUNE 9, 2024

Texas A&M Maritime Academy student cadets received first-hand training Saturday in answering the first law of the sea to render aid

to those in distress. While traveling from Texas to Florida on the academy's training ship, TS Kennedy, cadet lookouts spotted a small vessel disabled and in distress drifting in the central Gulf of Mexico. In coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard, professional ship crew members brought three individuals aboard who had been adrift for 15 days. The three were treated medically and transferred to the Coast Guard on Sunday to be reunited with their families.

"I've had 20-plus years at sea, and I've only experienced one other incident such as this," said Capt. Wade Howell '02, master of the academy's training ship. "Cadets notified me they had sighted a small vessel in the water. We initiated protocol to investigate and realized they were signaling distress. In coordination with the Coast Guard, we brought them aboard safely and got them care."

The 171 student cadets onboard are applying classroom learning to real-world environments through daily training in navigation, engineering, maintenance, safety and security while attending classes. Training for marine transportation students includes standing watch to survey the waters and surrounding areas for possible dangers and abnormalities. Cadets William Flores '24 and Kai Ethridge '26 spotted the vessel near daybreak during their morning watch.

Being a part of something like this was an amazing experience," Flores said. "The actions of the captain and crew definitely saved the lives onboard. Everyone on the bridge has learned a lot, and now we will know what to do if we ever encounter a situation like this. Things could have gone a lot worse for all parties, but everything turned out OK in the end."

Texas A&M Maritime Academy Rescues Three Stranded At Sea - Texas A&M Today ([tamu.edu](https://www.tamu.edu))



Figure 5 - John Sherman

Veteran National Intelligence Expert Appointed Dean Of Bush School Of Government And Public Service

By Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and
Communications JUNE 6, 2024

Texas A&M University has named accomplished national security expert John B. Sherman '92 as the next dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service. Sherman, the chief information officer for the U.S. Department of Defense since 2021, will start in his new role Aug. 1. He replaces Gen.

(Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, who served as dean of the Bush School before being named president of the university. Dr. Frank B. Ashley III has been the acting dean since August.

Sherman has served in national security for 30 years, holding senior positions in the Central Intelligence Agency, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).

Sherman is a Distinguished Military Graduate of Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. While at Texas A&M, he was a Ross Volunteer and served as commander of the Corps of Cadets. He also earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Houston. After graduating from Texas A&M, Sherman was an air defense officer in the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division.

In his current role, Sherman serves as the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense for information management, information technology and information assurance, as well as space systems, satellite communications and telecommunications matters.

His wife, Liz, is a member of the Texas A&M Class of 1991, and she also works in national security. They have two grown children, both with careers in public service.

Veteran National Intelligence Expert Appointed Dean Of Bush School Of Government And Public Service
- Texas A&M Today (tamu.edu)



Figure 6 - Jon Hagler '58

Welch Foundation, Jon Hagler Commit \$15 Million To Texas A&M Foundation

By Dorian Martin, Texas A&M Foundation MAY 15, 2024

Breakthroughs in chemistry will play a crucial part in solving many of the world's most complex challenges, such as finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease, cleaning up the world's water supply or traveling safely to Mars.

Now thanks to major philanthropic commitments by the Robert A. Welch Foundation and Jon Hagler '58, Texas A&M

University's Hagler Institute for Advanced Study will bring some of the world's top chemistry researchers to campus. These leading scholars will work with Texas A&M faculty and students to further foster an innovative research culture that will position the university to be at the forefront of chemistry.

Each of these contributions are earmarked for specific but complementary purposes. The Welch Foundation's \$10 million grant will create the Welch-Hagler Fellows, who will be selected from national academy-level researchers in chemistry and allied fields where advances in chemistry enable multidisciplinary research. "To create a partnership like this with Texas A&M's Hagler Institute is a compelling opportunity for the Welch Foundation," said Fred Brazelton, chair of its Board of Directors. "With this funding, we hope to make a meaningful and enduring impact on the students, faculty and future research at the institute."

Hagler's \$5 million matching investment establishes an endowed chair position that will provide financial support to a Welch-Hagler Fellow who comes to Texas A&M for up to one year to collaborate with faculty and students. "Texas A&M's chemistry department is nationally ranked," Hagler said, "and this is an opportunity for it to get even better."

Since its inception in 2010, the Hagler Institute has attracted 116 Hagler Fellows and 10 Distinguished Lecturers to the university. The Hagler Fellows have included six Nobel Laureates, two Wolf Prize winners, an awardee of the Hubbell Medal in Literature for Lifetime Achievement, an Academy Award winner, and recipients of the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the National Humanities Medal, the State Prize of Russia, and a lifetime achievement award in architecture.

<https://today.tamu.edu/2024/05/15/sparking-a-chemical-reaction/>



CORPS OF CADETS LAUNCHES ENHANCED ONBOARDING EXPERIENCE

June 25, 20204

A cornerstone of Texas A&M's identity, the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets stands as one of the nation's premier leadership development programs. Established in 1876 alongside Texas A&M, the Corps of Cadets experience has evolved across generations to produce leaders who are equipped to serve the present day needs of local communities, the state of Texas, the United States and the world.

In congruence with the organization's recent Forward March: Corps Advancement Plan initiatives, current cadet leadership has proposed that the foundational experience known as Fall Orientation Week (FOW), which primarily focused on the introduction of incoming freshmen to the rigors of the Corps lifestyle, evolve to fit the present needs of the organization.

This newly expanded experience, known as "Onboarding", features an enhanced, multi-week plan that incorporates leadership development at every class level. Onboarding begins with leadership development courses for returning cadet leaders (also known as "cadre") ahead of the arrival of the new freshman class. Cadet cadre members will be exposed to educational material and exercises relating to effective leadership, in order to better prepare them to effectively serve and lead the freshman class ahead of their later arrival to onboarding check-in.

Once freshmen cadets arrive at check-in the following week, cadet cadre members across all class years will work collaboratively to train and acclimate new cadets into the Corps lifestyle and academic standards. This training process will continue into the first two weeks of classes, ensuring that freshman cadets are adequately prepared to succeed in this new phase of their academic journeys.

"The new Corps onboarding operation was initiated to unify the Corps' 41 units and their varying definitions of training standards into a single cohesive standard. I strongly believe that the culture and identity associated with our outfits provide a sense of pride and are major motivations for joining the Corps. Onboarding allows freshmen to be embraced by their new Corps family and units to foster all-around camaraderie. I am committed to maintaining and even strengthening this aspect," Deandre Macri, 2024-2025 Corps Commander, said. "My personal vision for the Corps of Cadets is that we remain a unified student organization and leadership development program that's rooted in discipline, promotes a world-class education and fosters camaraderie through shared accountability to our standards and cadet values."

Though ever-evolving, the Corps' unique, military-based cultural model remains anchored to what the organization has always sought to do: **Develop well educated leaders of character for the challenges of tomorrow.**

Corps of Cadets Launches Enhanced Onboarding Experience For Cadets (tamu.edu)



Figure 7 - George Strait at Kyle Field

GEORGE STRAIT MAKES HISTORY WITH RECORD-SETTING CONCERT AT KYLE FIELD

Ana Renfro, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications JUNE 18, 2024

The “King of Country” music George Strait claimed another crown at his Texas A&M University concert on Saturday, June 15, 2024. 110,905 fans attended Strait’s

“The King at Kyle Field” concert, breaking the attendance record for a ticketed concert. Strait took center stage alongside Parker McCollum and Catie Offerman.

The previous record was held by the Grateful Dead from a 1977 performance in New Jersey for 107,019 fans, according to [Billboard](#). Strait’s performance on Saturday also broke a previous record for the most attended event in Kyle Field. “We got some Aggies out there? Oh yeah! I’m ashamed to say this, but this is my first time to ever be in Kyle Field. ... Just invite me back, I’ll come!” Strait said Saturday.

At the show, Strait debuted “MIA in MIA” and “The Little Things,” two songs from his upcoming album “Cowboys and Dreamers,” set to release in September.

The Country Music Hall of Fame honoree has sold more than 105 million records worldwide. Strait is currently touring the U.S. with Chris Stapleton and Little Big Town until December, with stadium performances scheduled for Salt Lake City, Detroit, Chicago and Las Vegas.

George Strait Makes History With Record-Setting Concert At Kyle Field - Texas A&M Today ([tamu.edu](#))



Figure 8 - Michael Earley

MICHAEL EARLEY TAPPED AS A&M's NEW BASEBALL COACH

Mark Passwaters – AggieYell - Publisher – June 30, 2024

After less than a week on the Texas staff, hitting coach Michael Earley is returning to College Station to take over as head coach. In spite of having no head coaching experience, his success at Arizona State and A&M made him one of the most respected assistants in the nation.

Earley, 36, was the easy the most popular choice amongst current and former Aggie baseball players for the head coaching job.

Players like Hayden Schott and Ali Camarillo, along with former players like Dylan Rock and Hunter Haas, campaigned hard for him to

get the job. Earley's success with A&M's hitters, especially in the 2024 run to the College World Series finals, is indisputable. The Aggies shattered the program's single-season record for homers, hitting 136. Three different players -- Braden Montgomery, Jace LaViolette, Gavin Grahovac -- hit more than 20 homers, while catcher Jackson Appel was a first team All-American with a .331 average. Overall, the Aggies hit .299 as a team and set a school record for walks in a season with 422. A&M was sixth nationally in both hits and runs scored.

Even though Earley had strong backing from players and was, reportedly, very impressive in his interview, the Aggies did take a run at the biggest name available. Multiple sources have told AggieYell.com that A&M Athletic Director Trev Alberts made a strong run at Tennessee coach Tony Vitello, the coach that defeated Schlossnagle and the Aggies to win the national championship a week ago. Vitello reportedly showed strong interest before eventually deciding to stay put late Saturday night. A&M then turned to Earley, who quickly agreed to take the job.

Multiple sources have told AggieYell.com that, while Earley did go with Schlossnagle to Austin, he was not aware of the plan to depart Texas A&M until the head coach had already quit. Unlike former pitching coach Max Weiner and third base coach Nolan Cain, Earley did not change his social media accounts to show him as part of the Texas staff.

The hiring of Earley will likely mean the vast majority, if not all, of the Aggies in the transfer portal will return to Aggieland. That includes LaViolette, Grahovac and Schott. Incoming transfer Michael Bergevin has already indicated that he will stick with his commitment to A&M.

Two sources have indicated to AggieYell.com that Earley will likely hire former Texas hitting coach Caleb Longley to assume the same role at A&M. Longley was on the staff at Arizona State with Earley and the two have an established working relationship.

The Aggies are likely to hire an established Power 5 head coach to lead Earley's group of assistants. While that may sound bizarre, the gulf between what A&M is capable of paying its assistants and what other teams can pay their head coaches is significant.

Earley Tapped As A&M's New Baseball Coach - AggieYell (rivals.com)



Figure 9 - A&M headed to World Series

A&M BASEBALL HAS FIVE PLAYERS EARN NCBWA ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

June 12, 2024 – Sean Burnett - News release from Texas A&M Athletics:

DALLAS – Five members of the No. 3 Texas A&M baseball team have been named to the 2024 National Collegiate Baseball

Writers Association All-America Team, as announced by the organization Wednesday morning. The Aggies five selections are the most in the nation and the most NCBWA

honors in program history. With the five selections, Texas A&M's All-American total now sits at 84.

Catcher Jackson Appel, outfielders Braden Montgomery and Jace LaViolette and relief pitcher Evan Aschenbeck garnered first team honors, while starter Ryan Prager earned a spot on the second team.

Founded in 1962, the NCBWA is dedicated to the advancement of college baseball. Membership is open to writers, broadcasters and publicists of the sport.

Texas A&M Baseball has Five Players Earn NCBWA All-American Honors - WTAW | 1620AM & 94.5FM

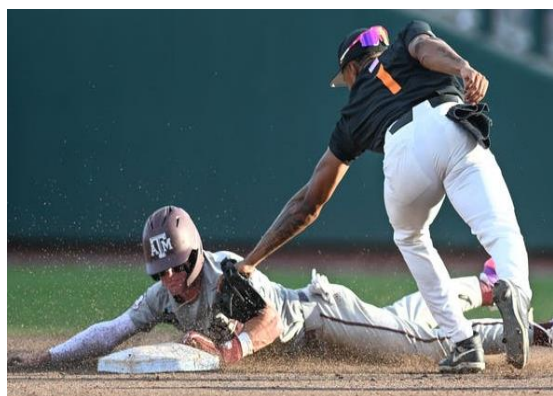


Figure 10 - A&M Baseball Team at College World Series

A&M BASEBALL FALLS ONE GAME SHORT AT MCWS FINAL

June 25, 2024 Sean Burnett - News release from Texas A&M Athletics:

OMAHA – The No. 3 Texas A&M baseball team came up a run short in a late rally, falling 6-5 to the No. 1 Tennessee Volunteers in Monday's College World Series Finals winner-take-all game at Charles Schwab Field.

The Aggies concluded their 2024 run with a 53-15 mark and advanced farther than any other team in program history, finishing as the national runner-up.

The day after the team returned home, Coach Jim Schlossnagle announced the was leaving to join his friend, tu athletic director, Chris Del Conte.

Texas A&M Baseball Falls One Game Short at MCWS Final - WTAW | 1620AM & 94.5FM



Figure 11 – Stoiana named ITA National Tennis player of the year

A&M'S MARY STOIANA NAMED ITA NATIONAL TENNIS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

June 14, 2024 – Sean Burnett – WTAW - News release from Texas A&M Athletics:

TEMPE, Ariz. – Texas A&M's Mary Stoiana was named ITA National Player of the Year, the organization announced Thursday. She becomes the first player in program history to receive the honor.

Stoiana becomes the first Aggie to win the ITA National Player of the Year award, following a standout junior campaign for the Maroon &

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White. The Southbury, Connecticut, native's record-breaking year started in the fall where she reached the top of the ITA rankings through a title-winning run at ITA All-American Singles Championship. She also became the first Texas A&M player to win the All-American singles title and be ranked as the No. 1 player in the country.

Continuing her success into the spring, she helped the Aggies capture their first National Championship in program history and their third-consecutive SEC regular season title. Individually she secured 25 victories in singles and 20 in doubles during dual-match season and finished the year with 38 singles wins and 28 doubles wins overall.

Texas A&M's Mary Stoiana Named ITA National Tennis Player of the Year - WTAW | 1620AM & 94.5FM



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 at the 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

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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 **jbell@tamus.edu**

President Mark Welsh: **president@tamu.edu**

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

Athletic Director Trev Alberts: **lchamberlin@athletics.tamu.edu**

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.

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- 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.