

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin One Hundred Ten (110)



May 1, 2026

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.

Howdy Ags,

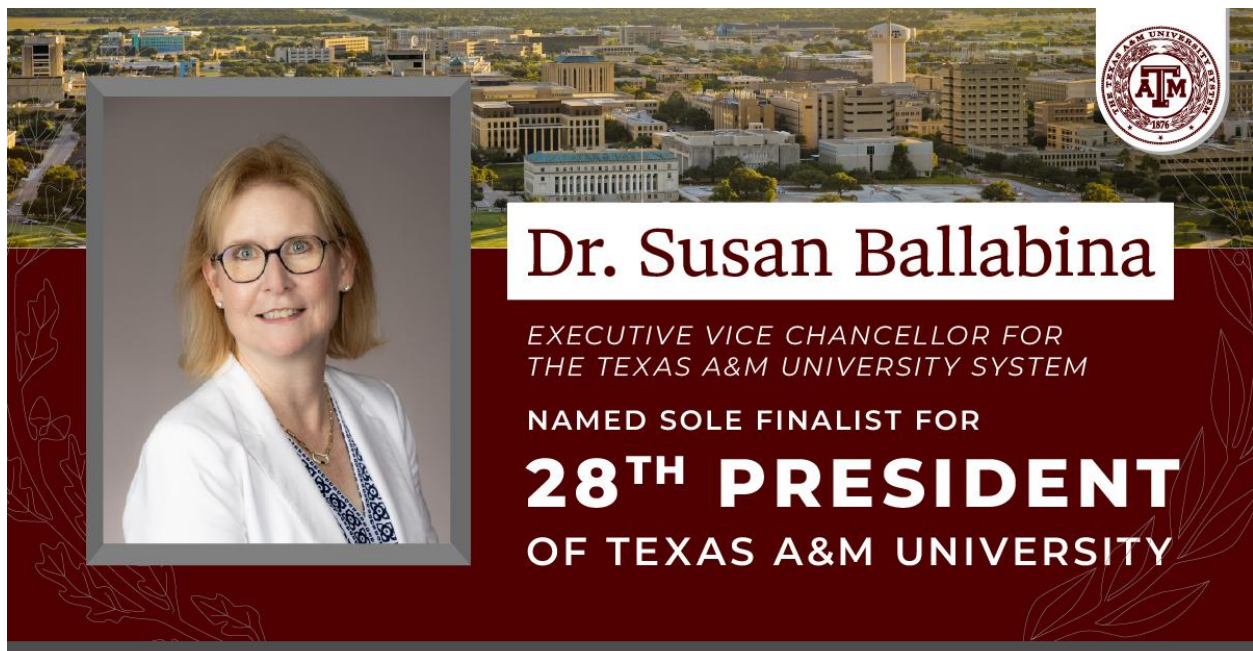
Here is the Sul Ross Group's Bulletin 110. The SRG Board hopes you enjoy this bulletin and find it informative. We encourage you to distribute it to your classmates, Aggie buddies, and friends. Thank you.

Gig 'Em!

Sul Ross Group Board

DR. SUSAN BALLABINA NAMED SOLE FINALIST FOR PRESIDENT OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

April 13, 2026, The Board of Regents



Dr. Susan Ballabina

*EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM*

NAMED SOLE FINALIST FOR

28TH PRESIDENT

OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin

Today, the [Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System named Dr. Susan Ballabina as the sole finalist for president of Texas A&M University.](#)

This follows a national search that brought forward a strong group of candidates. Dr. Ballabina emerged through that process based on her experience, her judgment and her ability to lead at scale.

Dr. Ballabina currently serves as Executive Vice Chancellor for the Texas A&M University System and has more than 30 years of service across the A&M System. She has held senior leadership roles at both the university and system levels and has led major initiatives that have served communities across Texas. She understands this institution, the people it serves and the responsibility it carries for our state.

State law requires a 21-day waiting period before the Board can take final action on the appointment. During this time, Dr. Ballabina will work with the Board to complete the remaining steps in the process.

I also want to thank Interim President Tommy Williams for his steady leadership during this transition. He has provided important stability for the university, and we are grateful for his continued service.

Texas A&M is a special place with a clear mission to serve the people of Texas through education, research and outreach. As the university prepares to celebrate its 150th year, it is important that we continue to focus on that mission and on the long-term success of the institution

We will share additional information as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Hegar", with a stylized, flowing script.

Glenn Hegar

Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System

SCIENTISTS REVERSE BRAIN AGING, WITH A NASAL SPRAY

April 14, 2026 By Zaid Elayyan, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Synopsis:

Picture this: your brain is a high-performance engine. Over decades, it doesn't just wear down, it also starts to run hot.

New therapy is turning back the clock in aging brains, healing inflammation, restoring memory and reshaping the future of brain age-related therapies.

Tiny "fires" of inflammation smolder deep within the brain's memory center, creating a persistent brain fog that makes it harder to think, form new memories or even adapt to new environments, all the while increasing the risk to disorders like Alzheimer's disease.

Scientists call this slow burn “neuroinflammaging,” and for decades it was thought to be the inevitable price of growing older.

Until now.

A landmark study from researchers at the **Texas A&M University Naresh K. Vashisht College of Medicine** suggests the inflammatory tide responsible for brain aging and brain fog might actually be reversible. And the solution doesn’t involve brain surgery, but a simple nasal spray.

Led by **Dr. Ashok Shetty**, university distinguished professor and associate director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine, along with senior research scientists Dr. Madhu Leelavathi Narayana and Dr. Maheedhar Kodali, the team developed a nasal spray that, with just two doses, dramatically reduced brain inflammation, restored the brain’s cellular power plants and significantly improved memory.

The most surprising part? It all happened within weeks and lasted for months.

The findings, published in the **Journal of Extracellular Vesicles**, could reshape the future of neurodegenerative therapies and may even change how scientists think about brain aging itself.

Brain fog to brain focus, the future of cognitive therapy

The implications of this research could be nothing short of revolutionary.

“As we develop and scale this therapy, a simple, two-dose nasal spray could one day replace invasive, risky procedures or maybe even months of medication,” Shetty said.

The societal impact could be just as profound. In the United States alone, new dementia cases are projected to double over the next four decades, **from about 514,000 in 2020 to about 1 million in 2060.**

Breakthroughs like the one led by Shetty highlight Texas A&M as a research powerhouse, where national and global research priorities help shape the next generation of innovative solutions.

Backed by the **National Institute on Aging (NIA)**, the Texas A&M team pooled collaborative knowledge, expertise and resources to turn a simple nasal spray into a therapy with the potential to reframe how scientists think about brain aging.

“Our partnership with the NIA is very important,” Shetty said. “This kind of work requires resources and the right people to tackle problems and develop solutions that could change lives.”

Ultimately, while the brain’s engine may sputter with age, scientists are now learning how to reignite it, sparking a new era of cognitive health and showing that the clock on brain aging might not just be paused, it can be turned back.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2026/04/14/scientists-reverse-brain-aging-with-a-nasal-spray/>

12 REASONS TO LIVE AND LEARN IN AGGIELAND

Texas A&M Official Website

At Texas A&M University, we believe, "Once an Aggie, always an Aggie." At our university, you will experience a high-quality education at an affordable price. But being an Aggie is about more than your time in classrooms and laboratories.

The Aggie way of life involves being part of one of the friendliest communities, where Aggies support and help each other. It includes our [core values](#), which unite current and former students and serve as everyday guideposts for our words and deeds. It means joining one of the loudest, proudest groups of fans on gameday, participating in yells that started more than a century ago.

To learn more about why the Aggie way of life is so special, see 12 reasons to live and learn in Aggieland:

1. Academics

Our students have access to multidisciplinary, hands-on instruction and research experiences that few universities offer. With about 140 undergraduate degrees and 270 graduate and professional degrees, you have many options to explore.

Learn more about [our academics](#).

2. Degree Affordability

A degree from Texas A&M is a great investment that continues to appreciate over time. Our university was named the Best Value School among public universities in Texas in 2024 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings.

Learn about [our costs and tuition](#).

3. Academic Support

We work to help you achieve your academic goals and realize your potential. Our university provides many programs and resources to ensure a successful learning experience. Learn about our [academic support services](#).

4. Student Research

Research teaches you to think critically, problem-solve and collaborate with people who share your interests. Our students have the opportunity to work with faculty on research that turns into life-saving products and services.

Learn more about [student research](#).

5. Friendliness

We have one of the friendliest campus communities in the country, where Aggies support and help each other. Here, you will be greeted with our university's official greeting, "Howdy!" And if you lose your way on campus, a friendly Aggie will be sure to point you in the right direction.

Learn more about [our culture](#) and [terminology](#).

6. Safety

We're committed to keeping everyone on our campus safe. Our police department provides law enforcement and security services. We also have safety procedures and resources for various emergencies and other situations.

Learn about [campus safety at Texas A&M](#).

7. Health and Wellness

You don't have to leave campus to get medical or mental health services. We offer many services and resources to keep you feeling your best. These include counseling, medical services for minor illnesses, immunizations, physical therapy, radiology services and more.

Learn about our [campus health and wellness services](#).

8. Student Involvement

Your time at Texas A&M is about more than academic excellence. While earning your degree, you can explore your interests, hone your skills and build friendships. We offer many organizations, service opportunities, intramural sports and outdoor recreation options.

Learn more about [student life at Texas A&M](#).

9. Aggie Traditions

Texas A&M's traditions unite our current and former students, build camaraderie and foster the Aggie Spirit. Some traditions started shortly after the university opened, while others began more recently. They are all part of Aggie life, including how we greet each other, what words we use and what we do on gamedays.

Learn about [our traditions](#).

10. Aggie Gamedays

Our [athletics program](#) has a rich history that includes one of the greatest collegiate traditions, the [12th Man](#). One of the best ways to experience Aggie life is to attend a home game. You can join the loudest and proudest fans in the Southeastern Conference while cheering the Aggies to victory.

Learn more about [Aggie gameday](#).

11. Active College Community

Residents enjoy a relaxed, small-town feel, but there is also plenty to do. Our vibrant community offers a wide range of cultural, recreational and employment opportunities. Here, you'll enjoy great food, shopping, live music, theaters, museums, parks and college sports.

Learn about our [arts and culture](#) and [campus attractions](#).

12. Central Location

The amenities of bigger cities are only a day trip away. Texas A&M's location in College Station, Texas, is within a three-hour drive of major cities like Houston, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio.

Learn more about [life in Aggieland](#).

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://www.tamu.edu/campus-community/life-in-aggieland/12-reasons-to-live-and-learn-in-aggieland.html>

HUMAN SPACE RESEARCH GETS A BOOST FROM RETIRED NASA CENTRIFUGE

April 15, 2026 By Alyssa Schaechinger, Texas A&M Engineering

A NASA centrifuge finds a new home at Texas A&M's Anthony Wood '87 Artificial Gravity Lab, enhancing research on health impacts of human space travel.

Synopsis:

Texas A&M University has opened a world-class space research facility called the **Anthony Wood '87 Artificial Gravity Lab**. At its heart is a massive spinning machine (a centrifuge) that can mimic what it feels like to stand on the Moon or Mars.

Here is a simple breakdown of why this matters:

Why is this machine important?

For years, the U.S. didn't have a facility that could combine long-term bed rest with artificial gravity. Because of this, NASA often had to send its researchers and money overseas to use foreign labs. Now, Texas A&M provides a "homegrown" way to study how space travel affects the human body.



[Click Image to View Video](#)

How does it work?

The centrifuge works like a high-tech version of a playground merry-go-round or a "tetherball" game:

- **The Spin:** As the machine spins, it creates a force that pulls the person outward.
- **The Simulation:** By carefully controlling how fast it spins, scientists can make a person feel like they weigh exactly what they would on the Moon (about **1/6th** of their Earth weight) or Mars (about **3/8ths**).
- **The Duration:** While most tests only last a few minutes, this lab is designed for long-term studies where people stay in these conditions for hours.

What are they trying to solve?

Living in low gravity is hard on the human body—it weakens muscles, changes blood flow, and affects balance. Scientists led by former astronaut **Dr. Bonnie Dunbar** will use the lab to:

- **Protect Astronauts:** Find ways to keep hearts and bones healthy during the long trip to Mars.
- **Better Gear:** Study how heat moves across the skin in low gravity to design more comfortable, safer spacesuits.
- **Recovery:** Help astronauts "re-learn" how to live in Earth's gravity after they return from long missions.

The Bottom Line

This lab makes Texas A&M a "centerpiece" for space health. It ensures that as humans head back to the Moon and eventually to Mars, we have the medical knowledge to keep them safe, healthy, and moving.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://news.engineering.tamu.edu/stories/human-space-research-gets-a-boost-from-retired-nasa-centrifuge/>

AGGIE NATIONAL CHAMPS HONORED IN WASHINGTON DC

April, 2026

The Texas A&M National Champion volleyball team visited Washington, D.C. in April and were honored by President Trump inside the White House, and by Senator Cruz on the steps of the Capital Building.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEN. TED CRUZ'S OFFICE

SEC CHAMPS! MARK WEAVER'S AGS CLAIM FIFTH STRAIGHT CONFERENCE TITLE

April 11, 2026 By Kay Naegeli, TexAgs.com



It has been a half-decade of dominance for Mark Weaver and the Texas A&M women's tennis program, securing yet another Southeastern Conference title on Saturday in their regular-season final in Fayetteville. A&M concluded the regular season at 21-4 and 13-2 in league play.

It's hard to slow down a freight train.

And that's all Mark Weaver's Aggies have been for the last half-decade.

On Saturday, Texas A&M women's tennis claimed a share of its fifth consecutive SEC regular-season title with a 4-0 win at Arkansas.

The Aggies concluded the regular season at 21-4 and 13-2 in league play.

The celebratory cheers commenced in Fayetteville after a rather quick match in the Natural State.

Lucciana Perez headlines the squad as the No. 1-ranked player in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association singles rankings, the second Aggie to ever top the charts.

The Peruvian is 22-0 on the season, including a perfect 13-0 record in SEC play. She also owns a 33-match SEC regular-season win streak.

Beyond Perez, four of the top-105 singles players are Aggies in No. 35 Mia Kupres, No. 56 Ilinca Amariei, No. 85 Daria Smetannikov and No. 103 Lexington Reed.

Although it may seem like an SEC title is becoming the standard within Weaver's program, there's nothing ordinary about extending a championship streak in one of the nation's toughest conferences.

Up next, the Aggies will prepare for the SEC Tournament in Norman, Okla. They claimed that crown as well in 2022.

But if Weaver has anything to say about it, this run won't stop at the conference level.

A&M is eyeing a return to the top of the national stage.

WORLD CUP SOCCER AT KYLE FIELD

12th Man.com



International soccer giant and current World Champion Argentina will meet Honduras on June 6 at Kyle Field, the historic home of Texas A&M Football.

The contest, part of the Road to 26 presented by Turkish Airlines, is set for 7 p.m. CT and will mark the second international soccer match in the history of one of college football's most storied venues.

Make your plans to join us at Kyle Field on June 6. Click the link below to sign up to receive access to the Road to 26 presale starting on Monday, April 13.

[GET TICKETS](#)

TEXAS A&M COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE RISES TO NO. 3 IN US, NO. 5 IN WORLD IN 2026 QS RANKINGS

April 7, 2026 By Jennifer Gauntt, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Synopsis:

The **Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (VMBS)** has achieved its highest rankings to date in 2026, placing as the **No. 3 veterinary school in the U.S.** and **No. 5 globally** according to Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

The college's success is built on several key pillars:

Academic & Clinical Excellence

- **Top-Tier Performance:** The program maintains a **96% pass rate** on the NAVLE, surpassing national standards.
- **Extensive Clinical Training:** Students spend their final year at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, which manages over **26,000 cases annually**.
- **Diverse Experience:** Unique partnerships with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the VERO program in Canyon provide hands-on experience with livestock and food animals.

Student Support & Impact

- **Affordability:** Aggie veterinarians graduate with approximately **\$64,000 less debt** than the national average, supported by \$3.2 million in annual scholarships.
- **Local Contribution:** Roughly **80% of graduates** remain in Texas to practice, addressing the state's veterinary needs.

Research & Leadership

- **Global Impact:** Faculty and students conduct high-level research in animal and human health, funded by major organizations like the NIH and USDA.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** The renowned **Veterinary Emergency Team (VET)** trains students in disaster response, helping over 100 Texas counties develop emergency plans.

Key Stat: The VMBS saw the largest rise in the global top 10 this year, climbing **five spots** since 2025.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2026/04/07/texas-am-college-of-veterinary-medicine-rises-to-no-3-in-us-no-5-in-world-in-2026-qs-rankings/>

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SHINES IN 2026–2027 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS RANKINGS

4/7/2026 By: Rob Dixon, Texas A&M Graduate and Professional School

Synopsis:

Graduate Programs Across Veterinary Medicine, Engineering, and Law Earn Top National Honors

Texas A&M University has secured significant recognition in the **2026–2027 U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools** rankings, placing **six programs in the top 10** and **25 programs in the top 25** nationally.

The rankings highlight excellence across three primary pillars:

Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

- **Historic Achievement:** The college reached its highest ranking ever at **No. 4 nationally**.
- **Regional Dominance:** It is currently ranked as the **No. 1** veterinary school in the SEC.

College of Engineering

- **Overall Standing:** Ranked **No. 14 nationally** and **No. 8 among public institutions**.
- **Specialized Leaders:** * **Petroleum Engineering:** No. 2 overall.
 - **Biological/Agricultural & Nuclear Engineering:** Both No. 6 overall.
 - **Aerospace Engineering:** No. 8 overall.
- **State & SEC Impact:** Six engineering disciplines ranked **No. 1 in Texas**, including Industrial, Materials Science, and Mechanical Engineering.

School of Law

- **National Rank:** Placed **No. 22 overall** (No. 7 among public universities), matching its all-time best.
- **Key Specializations:**
 - **Dispute Resolution:** No. 5 overall.
 - **Intellectual Property Law:** No. 11 overall.
 - **Environmental Law:** No. 17 overall.

Ranking Methodology

The *U.S. News & World Report* evaluates these programs based on:

- **Expert opinions** (peer and employer reputation).
- **Student outcomes** (employment rates and starting salaries).
- **Faculty research activity** and caliber.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

[Texas A&M University Shines in 2026–2027 U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools Rankings - Graduate & Professional School | Texas A&M University](#)

WALKING THROUGH HISTORY: LOOKING BACK ON THE MILITARY WALK RESTORATION

April 2026 By: Dorian Martin '06 & Dunae Reader '15, Spirit Magazine, Texas A&M Foundation

Synopsis:

The restoration of **Military Walk** at Texas A&M University is a story of balancing modern growth with historical preservation. Once the central artery of campus, the walk fell into obscurity in the late 20th century until a concerted effort brought its legacy back to life.

Origins and Decline

Originally a dirt road connecting the university's first two buildings, Military Walk was formalized in the early 1900s by **Frederick Giesecke**. It served as the primary thoroughfare for the **Corps of Cadets** to march to the mess hall and became an assembly space surrounded by iconic campus architecture.



This postcard features Military Walk as it appeared back in the old days of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. (Photo courtesy Cushing Memorial Library and Archives)

However, as Texas A&M expanded in the 1960s and 70s—transitioning to a modern university under President **James Earl Rudder**—many historic buildings were demolished. The walk was eventually replaced by generic green spaces and sidewalks, causing its historical significance to fade.

The Vision for Restoration

The push for restoration began in **2005** with **Dr. Robert Gates**, Texas A&M's 22nd president. During his evening walks, Gates realized that while the original live oak trees remained, the "hallowed" feel of the path had vanished. He argued that for an institution to thrive, it must adapt while clinging to its core values.

Key Restoration Goals:

- **Preservation:** Maintaining the original design guidelines and existing live oak trees.
- **Visual History:** Installing interpretive signage, exhibits, and historic cornerstones.
- **Symbolism:** Relocating the statue of **Gen. Earl Rudder** to serve as the walk's southern anchor.

A Renewed Legacy

Although Gates left for the Pentagon before the project was approved, his successor, **Dr. Elsa Murano**, and a **\$4 million gift from Dan Hughes '51** ensured the project's completion.

On **September 11, 2010**, the revitalized Military Walk officially reopened with a parade by the Corps of Cadets. Today, the walk features:

- Specialized paving and period-accurate lighting.
- Educational displays that invite students to reflect on the university's past.
- A permanent physical "anchor" that connects modern Aggies to the generations that came before them.

"Military Walk invites Aggies to literally walk the talk." — **Dr. Robert Gates**

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

https://spirit.txamfoundation.com/Spring-2026/Walking-Through-History-Looking-Back-on-the-Military-Walk-Restoration.aspx?utm_campaign=37644354-Monthly-Newsletter&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8cU3Ygolmumfq290WypLx8OhckD2l6z1_X0sJVqfJm7J3dtDtiysdyiYO9upJBIm5XgQaL_HpIS5t7kIW1IKTgF4mmw&hsmi=100233185688&utm_content=415415357&utm_source=hs_email



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

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", "Firefox", or "Microsoft Edge" as a browser.

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin

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 Glen Hegar: **chancellor@tamus.edu**

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

President: Dr. Susan Ballabina: **president@tamu.edu**

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

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

VP SA Dr. Bill Kibler: **vpsa@tamu.edu**

Commandant LTG J.W. Bierman: **commandant@corps.tamu.edu**

SRG Board of Directors' Resolutions for: 2024 – 2026

- 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.