Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin One Hundred Sixteen (116)

October 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.

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Howdy Ags,

Here is the Sul Ross Group's Bulletin 116. 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

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Chancellor's Corner

Dear Sul Ross Group members,

I am honored to contribute a regular note to your newsletter.

The Sul Ross Group brings together Aggies whose classes graduated at least 55 years ago. That makes this one of the most experienced and influential groups in the Aggie family. You have watched Texas A&M grow and change across decades, while carrying the values of the university into your professions, communities and families.

I am grateful to have your attention and your ears. Your perspective matters, and I look forward to sharing updates about the A&M System and hearing your thoughts about the future of Texas A&M.

To begin, here are 10 things happening across the System that make me proud:

- The Board of Regents has committed up to $90 million over three years to help our universities honor the state's Hazlewood promise and better support veterans and their families.

- Prairie View A&M University celebrated its 150th anniversary after being recognized by Forbes as the No. 1 public HBCU in Texas. Three Prairie View students also received Fulbright awards this year.
- Student Regent Lisa Cantu launched Stocked for Success, a systemwide effort highlighting food pantries, career closets and other programs that help students stay enrolled, graduate and prepare for careers.
- Texas A&M AgriLife is helping lead the coordinated response to New World screwworm, and the broader effort is producing results. AgriLife Research holds 14 of the 40 federal Screwworm Grand Challenge grants, while the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory has screened more than 1,700 flies from border traps. As of this writing, only two active animal cases remain in Texas, with one additional case in New Mexico.
- VISION is the nation's No. 1 university supercomputer. Researchers are using it to screen millions of drug-discovery compounds in days rather than years.
- The Texas A&M Space Institute will open this fall at NASA's Johnson Space Center. It will bring together astronauts, researchers and the world's largest indoor simulations of the lunar and Martian surfaces.
- Texas A&M-Fort Worth has opened its doors, creating a new center for education, research and innovation that is projected to support more than 25,000 jobs at full buildout.
- Texas A&M has begun its 150th anniversary celebration, honoring a university that has grown from a small land-grant college into an institution serving more than 81,000 students across Texas.
- The A&M System remains among the nation's strongest financially, with the highest possible credit ratings from Fitch, S&P Global Ratings and Moody's.
- Every core curriculum in the A&M System has now been reviewed course by course, helping ensure that our universities are preparing students well and meeting the state's expectations.

These accomplishments reflect the work of thousands of students, faculty, staff, researchers, alumni and supporters. They also reflect the enduring strength of the Aggie family, including the members of the Sul Ross Group.

Thank you for welcoming me into this conversation. I look forward to staying connected and sharing more about the people and programs moving the A&M System forward.

Gig 'em,

Glenn Hegar '93
Chancellor
The Texas A&M University System

President's Corner

Sul Ross Group Bulletin
October 2026

Howdy!

I am pleased to begin what I hope will become a regular conversation with you through the Sul Ross Group Bulletin.

As former students who have carried the Core Values and traditions of Texas A&M University for decades, you have a particularly important perspective on this university: where we have been, what has endured and what we must preserve as we prepare for what comes next. I look forward to using this space to share some of what is happening across Texas A&M and, just as importantly, where we are headed together.

On Sept. 28, I had the opportunity to speak to our university community about exactly that.

Beyond 150: One University for Good is our shared vision and strategic plan for Texas A&M's future. It comes at an important moment. As we prepare to celebrate our 150th anniversary, we have an opportunity not only to honor the generations of Aggies who built this extraordinary university, but also to be deliberate about the university we intend to be for generations to come.

Beyond 150 was shaped through the ideas and input of faculty, staff, students, former students and friends of Texas A&M. It reflects something fundamental about who we are: we are strongest when we act as One University, bringing the full breadth of Texas A&M's teaching, research and service mission to bear on the needs of Texas, our nation and the world.

And this is not intended to be a strategic plan that sits on a shelf.

Beyond 150 is a living document. It will help guide our priorities, inform our decisions and direct our investments in the years ahead. As circumstances change and new opportunities emerge, we will continue to evaluate and refine our work while remaining anchored in our mission, our Core Values and our commitment to serving as a force for good.

Our university has changed enormously since its founding nearly 150 years ago. What has not changed is the responsibility Aggies feel to serve something larger than themselves. That inheritance gives me great confidence about what Texas A&M can accomplish in its next chapter.

I hope you will take some time to read the plan, watch the address and learn more about where we are headed together.

Read "Beyond 150: One University for Good" at tx.ag/Beyond150.

Watch "Beyond 150: One University for Good" at tx.ag/PresAddress2026.

Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, for Texas A&M. I look forward to staying in touch through this column in the months ahead.

Gig 'em!

Susan Ballabina, Ph.D.
President, Texas A&M University

Since the beginning of the Sul Ross Group one of our guiding principles has been to keep our membership informed on pertinent topics and occurrences at Texas A&M, hence the Bulletin. This year members of the Boad discussed our Bulletin in meetings with President Ballabina and Chancellor Hegar. As you can see from the lead articles in this Bulletin, they are both very enthusiastic about speaking directly with the Sul Ross Group on matters important to the University and the A&M University System. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to them and look forward to their future inputs on the people, the programs and direction of Texas A&M.

Neal Patton
President
Sul Ross Group

GOVERNOR ABBOTT DIRECTS THECB TO DEVELOP THREE-YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREE PATHWAYS

Austin, Texas, August 26, 2026

Governor Greg Abbott today directed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to create a working group to develop a statewide framework for three-year bachelor's degree pathways.

"Every semester adds tuition, fees, housing, food, transportation, and other living expenses and delays students' ability to begin their careers," said Governor Abbott. "Texas students deserve the option to receive a degree in a high-demand, high-wage field in less time. I direct the Coordinating Board to develop a statewide framework for three-year bachelor's degree pathways."

"Three-year bachelor's programs could help motivated students enter high-demand fields a year earlier," said Texas Higher Education Commissioner Wynn Rosser. "This

will lower the cost of education and help satisfy workforce demands in the Texas economy."

Governor Abbott directed the working group to develop recommendations regarding:

- Academic standards and requirements for three-year bachelor's degree programs;
- Degree programs and high-demand occupations for which accelerated degrees may be most appropriate;
- Student demand and employer workforce needs;
- Accreditation and institutional approval requirements;
- Statutory, regulatory, or administrative changes that may be necessary for implementation.

The initiative builds on Texas' broader efforts to strengthen education and workforce connections, improve student completion, and ensure that postsecondary credentials provide lasting value to graduates and Texas communities.

THECB will convene public institutions of higher education, employers, accrediting organizations, faculty leadership, and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the working group. THECB will submit the working group's recommendations and proposed implementation framework to the Office of the Governor by Thursday, December 31, 2026.

Governor Abbott will work with the Legislature next session to codify an accelerated three-year degree pathway that keeps Texas the national leader in affordable, accessible, high-quality higher education.

Read the Governor's letter to Commissioner Dr. Wynn Rosser here.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT COMMAND SGT. MAJ. MATTHEW WILLIAMS '25 EMBODIES TEXAS A&M'S CORE VALUES AND THE AGGIE SPIRIT.



Click on image to view video

Matthew O. Williams '25
On April 6, 2008, Williams led a counterattack through intense enemy fire to reach a pinned-down unit on a mountainside in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Williams restored the team's satellite radio communications, provided lifesaving aid and repeatedly carried critically wounded soldiers to safety down steep, exposed terrain. Williams' disregard for his own safety ensured the survival of critically wounded soldiers and prevented the unit from being overrun by the enemy.

SECRETARY OF WAR PETE HEGSETH AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BROOK ROLLINS VISIT A&M

The Eagle, September 20, 2026

Synopsis:



Click on image to view video (must see)

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth visited Texas A&M on Saturday as part of a Texas tour, which he called the "Send Me" tour in College Station after an "Arsenal of Freedom" stop in Austin on Friday. He started the day at 6:30 a.m. running the Kyle Field steps with the Corps of Cadets. Later he spoke to the cadets at Rudder Theatre, praising their discipline and pointing to A&M's military history: more than 20,000 Aggies served in World War I I, and outside the federal service academies, A&M supplied more officers than any other university.

Commandant Chip Bierman hosted the event. A&M President Susan Ballabina told cadets to appreciate having two cabinet members on campus. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, also an Aggie, talked about the Aggie Muster held on Corregidor in 1942 and again in 1946, and why Muster falls on San Jacinto Day. She then introduced Hegseth. He promised cadets full support and "no silly rules of engagement," and urged them to train hard and honor the Aggies who served before them. Chancellor Glenn Hegar and former Gov. Rick Perry were also there.



After the speech, Hegseth swore in cadets who are commissioning and watched the Corps march into Kyle Field. He then joined Rollins and Gov. Greg Abbott for the coin toss before A&M played Kentucky.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.
https://theeagle.com/news/collection_95de9d0b-8984-4377-8f24-cf02191a91a8.html#1

WELCOME HOME LONE STAR STATE



Click on image to view video

September 8th marked a historic day for the Texas A&M Maritime Academy. Training Ship Lone Star State, the academy's new training ship, arrived at its homeport at Texas A&M University Galveston Campus.

The ship will not only expand the academy's capacity to educate and train the next generation of maritime professionals, but it will also create new opportunities to advance the research, innovation and service that support the state and nation's coasts, waterways, maritime industries and communities.

LAST ENERGY NUCLEAR REACTOR EXPECTED TO REACH CRITICALITY BY END OF THE YEAR

STEPHEN WHITAKER, The Eagle, September 15, 2026

The nuclear company Last Energy, working with Texas A&M, has finished the building for a small nuclear reactor on the northwest corner of the RELLIS campus in Bryan. It held an open house there on Thursday. The site will house a PWR 5, a smaller version of the PWR 20 that the company builds for commercial and industrial use. Ground was broken in January and the structure was done by late August. Last Energy is now waiting on final Department of Energy approval to reach criticality, which it hopes to do by the end of the year. When it does, it will be the first reactor built on a U.S. college campus in more than 30 years.

Adam Lenarz, Last Energy's VP of development, said the U.S. is falling behind: China has turned on about three reactors a year over the last decade, while the U.S. has turned on three in 30 years. He said the company found the problem was the business model, not reactor design. So it took the proven pressurized water reactor design, which is used in more than 300 plants worldwide, and made it smaller and easier to manufacture. The PWR 5 will be sealed in a steel container underground. It won't supply power to the grid; it's there to prove the design works. In the second phase, a PWR 20 next to it would power homes and businesses, and the PWR 5 would become a training reactor.

David Staack, A&M's deputy vice chancellor for research, said the project will give A&M's large nuclear engineering program new chances for research and internships. Bryan Mayor Bobby Gutierrez said he hopes it makes Bryan a center for energy research.

More reactors are coming to RELLIS. In February 2025, A&M signed agreements with Kairos Power, Natura Resources, Terrestrial Energy and Aalo Atomics. Last Energy joined later in 2025 and was the first of the group to finish a test reactor building. Terrestrial Energy is working on its own Department of Energy pilot at the site, and A&M is talking with other companies too.

THE STRENGTH OF A NATION IS BUILT ONE MENTOR AT A TIME

TYSON VOELKEL Guest columnist, THE EAGLE, 12 September 2026

When Frank Muller passed away, I found myself thinking less about the positions he held or the organizations he helped build and more about something simpler: how much of himself he gave away.

At his celebration of life, that legacy was visible in the room. People from remarkably different walks of life came to honor him — students, veterans, business leaders, public servants, Aggies, friends and people Frank had mentored at different stages of their lives. Many had little in common except one important thing: at some point, Frank had invested his time in them.

One of the most touching reminders of that kind of investment was his lifelong friendship with Jerome Rektoric, a former city council member and Frank's best friend since they were teenagers. They attended Texas A&M together, served in combat in Vietnam, were wounded, later worked in business together, and eventually both bought homes and retired in Aggieland. In an age when relationships can feel increasingly temporary, theirs endured across decades of service, work, hardship and friendship. That kind of loyalty is its own form of citizenship.

Frank was a businessman, combat veteran, professor, philanthropist, Aggie and mentor. To me and many others, he was also a father figure. He could be demanding, impatient and wonderfully direct. He carried a yellow legal pad almost everywhere, filled with things that needed to be fixed, improved or finished.

Time spent

His standard for leadership was simple: character, competence and commitment. Do the right thing for the right reason. Know your craft. Finish what you start.

But Frank's greatest contribution was not a strategy or an institution. It was the time he spent helping other people become better.

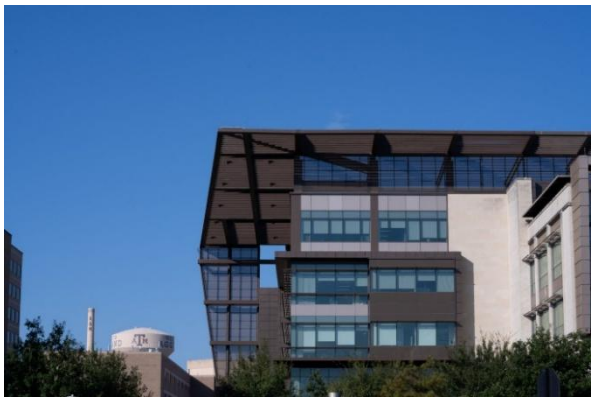
We should all be so fortunate as to have a mentor. More importantly, we should all aspire to become one.

Mentorship is one of the quiet forces that holds a free society together. It is how values move from one generation to the next. A mentor teaches, often without saying so directly, that integrity matters when no one is watching, hard work still counts, citizenship carries responsibilities as well as rights, and a meaningful life is measured partly by whom we help along the way.

That idea matters far beyond one man's life.

RECORD PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT PROPELS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FORWARD

The Texas A&M University College of Engineering achieved its best fundraising year during the 2025–26 fiscal year, securing more than $79 million in current gifts and future commitments.



Driven by the generosity of former students, corporate partners, foundations and friends of the college, the record-setting year surpassed the previous fundraising record of 2015-16 by more than $15 million. The year also marked a record 284 major gift commitments of $25,000 or more, nearly 70 more than the previous record set in fiscal year 2024-25.

Fiscal year 2025-26 giving by the numbers

- **$79 million** in current gifts and future commitments — the best fundraising year in College of Engineering history
- **284** major gift commitments of $25,000 or more
- **71** new endowments established
- **28** planned and estate gift commitments
- **1,608** donor visits conducted by the engineering development team
- **84%** of philanthropic support came from former students; **9%** from corporations and foundations; **7%** from other donors and friends
- **$39 million** in planned gifts
- **$25 million** in multi-year pledges
- **$15 million** in outright gifts

These achievements come as the university and College of Engineering approach their 150th anniversary, reinforcing the college's mission to prepare the next generation of engineering leaders.

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://news.engineering.tamu.edu/news/2026/08/31/record-philanthropic-support-propels-college-of-engineering-forward/

CORPS OF CADETS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S SUMMER 2026 UPDATE

- Major General Tom Darling played a key role in the Corps of Cadets Association's (CCA's) founding. In his early years as commandant, he asked Colonel Don Crawford '64 to assist in recruiting new cadets. This led to what would become the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association, a 501(c)(3) corporation established ex nihilo on April 21, 1993. To honor General Darling, the CCA has established the Major General Thomas Darling '54 Memorial Recruiting Eternal Fund, a CCA endowment that will help fund Corps recruiting in perpetuity.

- The Texas A&M sesquicentennial year of celebration will begin on the weekend of October 2-4, starting with a Friday 4 p.m. ceremony at the Jack K. Williams Administration building. Immediately following, at 6 p.m., the second annual Old Army Night will be held, again at the TAMU Rec Center: an annual all-Corps roundup, with food, beverages and music, adult beverages. The Rec Center balcony, offers a great view of Kyle Field, Yell Practice, fireworks, and a drone show beginning at 9 p.m.. Saturday is the USAA-sponsored Rally to the Guidons.

- Also in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Corps, a new Steward giving category in The Hollingsworth 1876 Society, has been established. This provides immediate benefits of Society membership while spreading the $25,000 gift over 150 months at $167 per month. It also just happens to match the new $2,000 annual deduction for non-itemizing taxpayers.

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://secure.corpsofcadets.org/pu/presupdate-2026-summer/#section=0

SAY GOODBYE TO OVERPRICES RIDES AND BUSY BUSES
Poparide brings city-to-city carpooling to College Station

Kynlee Joyner, Battalion Managing Editor

This article was sponsored and created in collaboration with Poparide.



Poparide, a Canadian city-to-city carpooling platform founded in 2014, has officially launched in Texas—marking its first expansion into the United States. Operating with **College Station as its central hub**, Poparide connects drivers and passengers traveling between major Texas cities (Dallas, Austin, Houston, and College Station) to share rides, split travel expenses, and foster community networking.

Key Highlights & Features

- **The Core Concept:** Functioning as a hybrid between traditional rideshare apps and digital classified boards, Poparide allows drivers who are already making a trip (for home visits, concerts, or sports games) to list available seats. Passengers book a seat and contribute to gas and toll costs, eliminating pricey single-rider transit options like standard rideshares or rental cars.
- **Aggieland as the Home Base:** Following a May visit to Texas A&M and discussions with local student initiatives (such as RideSplit.app), Poparide identified strong demand among students, particularly international students without vehicles who previously relied on informal group chats.
- **Target Audience:** While open to the general public, the app directly targets students and visiting families traveling during peak times, such as game weekends at Kyle Field, to help reduce traffic and high parking costs.
- **Student Promotion:** Users who sign up with a verified university email address automatically receive a **$50 student credit** (applied as $10 off their first five bookings).
- **Community Focus:** Drivers are not intended to turn a profit; the platform is designed to cover actual trip expenses and build personal connections during regional travel.

To read the complete article visit the link below.
https://www.poparide.com/en-us/.

A&M WOMEN'S GOLF RETURNS WITH ROSTER DEPTH

Ava Loth, Battalion Editor-in-Chief

Texas A&M Women's Golf 2026–27 Season Preview

Under sixth-year head coach Gerrod Chadwell, Texas A&M women's golf enters the 2026–27 season looking to build on a standout 2025–26 campaign. Last season, the team finished ranked No. 6 nationally, tied a program record with five team tournament victories, and concluded their run in the third round of the NCAA Championship.



Vanessa Borovilos at the "Mo"Morial Invitational at Traditions Club

Key Highlights & Roster Breakdown:

- **The Leading Duo:** Junior Vanessa Borovilos (69.6 scoring average) and senior Cayetana Fernández García-Poggio (69.9 scoring average) return as key leaders after stellar individual seasons. Both earned All-SEC First Team and Golfweek All-American honors, with Borovilos earning WGCA First Team All-America honors and García-Poggio securing an honorable mention. During the offseason, both represented Team International in the 2026 Arnold Palmer Cup in Ireland, where Borovilos holed out the winning point to secure the victory over Team USA.
- **Incoming Freshmen:**
    - **Emerie Schartz:** A Wichita, Kansas native ranked No. 6 in the 2026 recruiting class. She brings extensive experience from the U.S. Women's Amateurs, the U.S. National Junior Teams, and earned 2025 Rolex Honorable Mention All-American honors.
    - **Athena Singh:** A Morehead, Kentucky native ranked No. 18 in the 2026 class. A three-time Kentucky PGA Junior Amateur champion, Singh was a runner-up in the 2025 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championship against current Aggie teammate Natalie Yen, and recently reached the semifinals of the 2026 U.S. Girls' Junior Championship.
- **Season Opener:** The Aggies begin their four-tournament fall schedule at the Folds of Honor Collegiate from Sept. 7–9 in Grand Haven, Michigan.

BUILD MEETS MRBEAST: THE BIG ASK THAT BECAME A FORCE FOR GOOD.

Hank Hargrave, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Nearly 13 years ago, Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Deputy Corps Commander Bryson A. Sutterfield established BUILD as a student organization. “It is about taking the passion, the work ethic, the ingenuity and the selflessness of Aggies and creating something that will permanently impact lives. BUILD is what will bring us together as an Aggie Family and produce a tangible product,” Sutterfield explained when forming the organization.





Originally established with a three-year mission to build 12 TAMCs (Texas Aggie Medical Clinics) to honor the 12 fallen Aggies from Bonfire, BUILD continues to this day because students have stepped up each year to continue it. Since BUILD’s founding, more than 20,000 Aggie student volunteers have produced 60 TAMCs, impacting over 200,000 people in 24 countries across five continents, according to the BUILD website.

Although the students donate their time and labor, such a noble endeavor still requires funding, which comes primarily from generous donors. At the end of 2023, Eric Wang ’24 and Jack Delk ’24 of BUILD’s 2023 External Relations team decided to take a chance with their donor-outreach efforts, sending social media direct messages (DMs) to leaders of various philanthropic groups. This led to a positive partnership with Beast Philanthropy and MrBeast (real name Jimmy Donaldson), an American YouTuber and entrepreneur widely recognized as the world’s biggest content creator.

BUILD used the funding from Beast Philanthropy to produce five TAMCs, converting 40-foot shipping containers into fully functional medical clinics with dedicated spaces for patient triage, laboratory testing and private treatment. Once fully equipped, the TAMCs were transported to their destinations in Texas, Massachusetts, Kenya, Nigeria and Ukraine.

Passion and dedication enable Aggie students to create lasting change through BUILD, regardless of their age and experience level. BUILD is a tangible way for Texas A&M students to come together as a force for good. Texas A&M students of all ages can make a meaningful impact through the various skills needed to convert the shipping containers into functional medical clinics. Since BUILD’s



founding, more than 20,000 Aggie student volunteers have produced 60 TAMCs, impacting over 200,000 people in 24 countries across five continents.

Now, the collaboration with MrBeast will bring BUILD a whole new level of exposure. Partnering with Beast Philanthropy can amplify the university's service and research impact by connecting Texas A&M expertise and student engagement to a massive global audience. This increased reach could draw attention to donation opportunities and raise awareness of high-need initiatives while showcasing measurable outcomes. Aggies are making a positive difference in the world — an outcome that aligns with Beast Philanthropy's goal to "make kindness viral" while focusing on community-based projects with sustainable, long-term benefit.

Donations to BUILD can be made through the Texas A&M Foundation.

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://stories.tamu.edu/stories/build-meets-mrbeast-the-big-ask-that-became-a-force-for-good/

JOHNSTON SETS WATTS COURSE RECORD, TEXAS A&M SWEEPS AGGIE OPENER

The Texas A&M cross country program kicked off the season with a home sweep at the Aggie Opener Friday night at the Watts Cross Country Course. The Aggies secured victories on both the men's and women's sides, finishing ahead of state foes Houston, Baylor and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Texas A&M produced five top-five finishes, highlighted by **Jack Johnston's** 5K course record time of 14:48.3. On the women's side, **Laney Barnes** led the way with a runner-up finish in her Aggie debut stopping the clock at 10:48.8.

Texas A&M won the men's team competition with 33 points, followed by Houston in second with 38 points. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi finished third with 77 points, while Baylor placed fourth with 97 points. Houston Christian finished fifth with 118 points, and Texas Southern rounded out the field in sixth with 153 points.

On the women's side, Texas A&M won the team competition with 34 points, followed by Houston in second with 42 points. Baylor placed third with 88 points, while Texas A&M-Corpus Christi placed fourth with 93 points. Houston Christian finished fifth with 129 points, and Texas Southern rounded out the field in sixth with 148 points.

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://12thman.com/news/2026/09/4/johnston-sets-watts-course-record-sweeps-aggie-opener

THE TEXAS A&M SYSTEM BUILDING TO LEAD IN SPACE

System contributors include: **Texas A&M University Space Institute** facility at NASA's Johnson Space Center; **Texas A&M-RELLIS,** with space robotics programs and the Ballistic, Aero-Optics and Materials (BAM) Range; **Texas A&M University** with a variety of space exploration and operations program involving five former NASA astronauts; **Prairie View A&M University** with several NASA-sponsored research programs; **Tarleton State University** participating in NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative, the Applied Hypersonics Consoritum and space biology experiments; **Texas A&M International University** operates the Lamar Bruni Vergara Planetarium, participates in the statewide Center for Space Technologies and conducts several immersive STEM programs for students; **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi** in addition to kinesiology and earth observation experiments, the coastal research center integrates satellite imagery, drone sensing and AI-driven geospatial computing; **Texas A&M University-Kingsville** has launched a Master of Science in Space and Aeronautical Engineering; **East Texas A&M University** are advancing space and planetary discoveries through NASA collaborations; **Texas A&M University-San Antonio** is focusing on space microbiology and its challenges to human spaceflight; **Texas A&M AgriLife** contributes to growing food for long-duration spaceflight and eBean processing for preserving space food.

Key Takeaways

1. **Unrivaled Infrastructure Investment:** The A&M System is developing unmatched physical assets—from the $200M Space Institute in Houston to the nation's largest hypersonic testing wind tunnel and detonation labs at RELLIS.
2. **End-to-End Mission Support:** Research spans the entire space exploration lifecycle.
3. **Comprehensive Education Pipeline:** The System is training the next-generation workforce for NASA, the Space Force, and private industry.

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://news.tamus.edu/stories/the-texas-am-system-building-to-lead-in-space/

TEXAS A&M RESEARCHERS DEVELOP AI TOOLS FOR A CHANGING POWER GRID

Drs. Xin Chen and Prasad Enjeti from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering have developed two complementary AI tools to assist with power grid design and management as energy demand and complexity grow:

- **Grid Agent (developed by Dr. Chen):** Operates at the system level to help grid operators analyze power flow, identify disruptions, and manage overall grid resilience.
- **Circuit AI (developed by Dr. Enjeti):** Operates at the hardware level, assisting engineers in selecting components, optimizing converter designs, and evaluating equipment reliability.

Key Highlights:



- **Natural Language Integration:** Both tools allow users to query complex engineering software and databases using everyday language.
- **Grounded AI Accuracy:** The tools pair Large Language Models (LLMs) with established engineering software and validated calculations to prevent hallucinations and ensure high reliability.
- **Standardized Benchmarking:** Dr. Chen's team is building a benchmark platform to standardly evaluate and compare the performance of various power-system AI tools.
- **Vision for an "AI-Native" Grid:** Designed to assist—not replace—human engineers, these multi-layered AI assistants enable faster decision-making and better integration between high-level system monitoring and low-level hardware diagnostics.

As AI grid assistants continue to develop, the field of power engineering could see a major shift in how engineers design, operate and maintain power systems. With AI systems working together across different levels of the power grid, engineers and operators could identify problems sooner, make more informed decisions and respond to changing conditions more quickly.

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://news.engineering.tamu.edu/news/2026/09/07/texas-am-researchers-develop-ai-tools-for-a-changing-power-grid/

TEXAS A&M SYSTEM COMMITS UP TO $90 MILLION TO STRENGTHEN HAZLEWOOD PROMISE

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents on Thursday committed up to $90 million over three years to help A&M System universities honor the state's Hazlewood promise while protecting the financial strength of campuses that serve Texas veterans. The Initiative will provide up to $30 million annually from the Available University Fund beginning with the 2026-27 academic year. The money will help member universities offset tuition and mandatory fee revenue they forego when educating eligible veterans. The relief will be especially important for *regional* universities, where unreimbursed exemptions can consume a significant share of a smaller operating and tuition base.



The Hazlewood Act provides qualifying Texas veterans with up to 150 semester credit hours of tuition exemption, including most mandatory fees, at public colleges and universities. Eligible veterans may transfer unused hours to a qualifying child through the Hazlewood Legacy program. Benefits also are available to certain spouses and dependent children of veterans who are disabled, missing or killed as a result of military service.

Based on fiscal 2025 data, state funding reimbursed approximately 67% of the cost of exemptions transferred to children through the Legacy program. Exemptions used directly by veterans were not reimbursed, leaving public universities to absorb those costs. The initiative does not change Hazlewood eligibility or benefits. It provides institutional support so universities can serve eligible veterans without shifting the unreimbursed cost to other campus priorities.

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://news.tamus.edu/stories/texas-am-system-commits-up-to-90-million-to-strengthen-hazlewood-promise/

TEXAS A&M SYSTEM REGENTS APPROVE CORE CURRICULA AFTER COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW



The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents on Thursday approved the core curricula of A&M System universities after a comprehensive, course-by-course review required by Senate Bill 37. The Board certified that the approved general education courses comply with Texas Education Code Section 51.315 and A&M System policy.

Senate Bill 37 requires governing boards to review general education curricula at least once every five years. The first review must be completed by Jan. 1, 2027. The law directs regents to ensure that core courses are foundational to a sound college education, prepare students for civic and professional life, equip them for the workforce and provide the breadth of knowledge required by accreditation standards. Boards also must consider the tuition, fees and time to graduation associated with general education requirements.

The Texas Core Curriculum consists of 42 semester credit hours and represents the common academic foundation required of most undergraduates at Texas public universities. The approved university lists retain 1,254 course entries, add 26 and remove 350 from core curriculum menus. Not every worthwhile course has to be a core course and removal from the core curriculum does not, by itself, cancel a course or prohibit a university from offering it. It changes whether the course may be used to satisfy a student's general education requirement.

"This was serious work, done campus by campus and course by course," Chancellor Glenn Hegar said. "The result respects the distinct mission of each university while giving students, parents and taxpayers confidence that every course in the core serves a clear purpose."

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://news.tamus.edu/stories/texas-am-system-regents-approve-core-curricula-after-comprehensive-review/

NATIONAL AVIATION LEADERS CONVENE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF FLIGHT

Texas A&M-Fort Worth hosted **The Future of Advanced Aviation** as part of its **Voices That Innovate Speaker Series**, presented by PNC Bank. The event brought together leaders from industry, higher education and government to discuss how advanced aviation is transforming research, workforce development and economic growth.

Hosted in partnership with the **Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's Center for Advanced Aviation Technologies (CAAT),** the discussion examined the innovations, research and workforce strategies driving advanced aviation while positioning North Texas as a national leader in the industry. From autonomous aircraft and uncrewed aircraft systems to next-generation aerospace technologies, panelists explored what's next for the future of flight.

The event took place Tuesday, Aug. 25, at the **Kimbell Art Museum Piano Pavilion in Fort Worth**. Through the Voices That Innovate Speaker Series, Texas A&M-Fort Worth convenes leaders whose ideas, research and partnerships are advancing the industries that will define the future of North Texas. The panel featured leaders representing autonomous aviation, aerospace engineering, industry and applied research from **Hillwood Aviation, Reliable Robotics, CAAT, Texas A&M-Fort Worth and the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Autonomy Research Institute**. Together, they discussed the technologies, collaborations and workforce strategies driving the next generation of aviation.

"Advanced aviation depends on strong partnerships between industry, government and higher education," said **Michael Sanders, assistant vice president and executive director for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Autonomy Research Institute, which leads the Texas A&M University System's Center for Advanced Aviation Technologies.** "By bringing these leaders together, we're accelerating innovation, strengthening research collaborations and preparing the workforce needed for one of the nation's fastest-evolving industries."

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://news.tamus.edu/stories/national-aviation-leaders-convene-to-discuss-the-future-of-flight/

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY KEY TO BETTER HEALTH

Joe Southern, The Eagle, Sep 8, 2026



Dr. Jay Maddock

Dr. Jay Maddock, a public health professor at Texas A&M University, is urging the public to spend more time outdoors after research shows a sharp decline in the time Americans spend in nature. According to Maddock, director of the Center for Health and Nature, getting outside provides immediate and long-term health benefits:

- **Immediate Boosts:** Just 10 minutes in nature improves mood, restores focus, lowers blood pressure, and reduces stress.
- **Long-Term Protection:** Spending an hour or two outdoors boosts cancer-fighting immune cells (natural killer cells) and lowers rates of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and overall mortality. Exposure to sunlight, plant compounds (terpenes), and visual patterns in nature all play a role in these health perks.

Despite these benefits, the *American Nature and Health Survey* found that **45% of Americans get less than the recommended two hours of nature time per week**—up significantly from 25% a decade ago. Maddock attributes this decline to screen addiction, indoor gaming, and modern conveniences like delivery services that keep people inside. Maddock emphasizes that exposure to nature should be treated as essential to daily health as a balanced diet, regular exercise, and adequate sleep.

Key Takeaways:

- **What counts as nature?** Any outdoor green space (trees, plants) or blue space (lakes, oceans, rivers). Parking lots don't count, but backyards, gardens, and local parks are the most common sources of "nature doses."
- **College Mental Health Solutions:** To combat rising anxiety and depression, Texas A&M has introduced nature prescriptions from campus doctors, mapping green spaces, and student-led outdoor programs.

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://theeagle.com/news/a_m/article_99775b01-fbdf-4b27-8036-624a1355c32e.html

UNTOLD: DR. SUSAN BALLABINA AND TREV ALBERTS

Andrew Monaco, Sep 22, 2026



This special edition of Untold features a sit-down with Texas A&M President Dr. Susan Ballabina and Director of Athletics Trev Alberts. Both walk viewers through their career paths before discussing their shared vision for A&M's brand and the immense value Athletics brings to the overall success of the University. *Untold with Andrew Monaco* is Texas A&M's flagship long-form storytelling series, offering an intimate look into the lives and careers of some of the greatest figures in Aggie history. Each monthly episode features Monaco sitting down with an iconic Aggie to explore their journey, defining moments and lasting impact on Texas A&M.

Watch the Untold video here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd5_1SZiBnI

STUDENT REGENT CANTU IS A CAN DO

A&M doctoral student is launching systemwide 'Stocked for Success'

Texas A&M University System, September 16, 2026


Student Regent Lisa Cantu

When Lisa Cantu was a freshman at Texas A&M University, she needed professional attire for a job interview but couldn't afford it. Thanks to a campus program called the Career Closet, she got the clothing she needed to succeed. Now a doctoral student and the newly appointed Student Regent for the Texas A&M System, Cantu is working to make sure all 180,000 system students know where to turn for help.

This week, Cantu launched **"Stocked for Success,"** a new initiative raising awareness for basic-needs resources—including food pantries, hygiene banks, and career closets—across all 12 universities in the Texas A&M System.

Key Details of the Initiative:

- **Bridging essential needs:** Supported by the Chancellor's Century Council, the program connects students with vital resources so financial hardship doesn't interrupt their education.

- **More than just food:** Beyond non-perishables and refrigerated goods, campus pantries like Texas A&M's student-run *12th Can* also stock essential hygiene items, including shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products.
- **Systemwide reach:** Cantu is visiting campuses across Texas—including Tarleton State and Prairie View A&M—to spotlight their local pantries and professional clothing banks.

Appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Greg Abbott, Cantu was inspired by her mother, who earned her degrees while raising Cantu as a young child. As Student Regent, Cantu aims to pay that inspiration forward, ensuring no student loses momentum toward a degree due to an empty refrigerator or a lack of professional clothes.

Watch the Stocked for Success Launch video here:
https://vimeo.com/1222837185/0b85da26c6?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci

To read the complete article, visit the link below:
https://news.tamus.edu/stories/student-regent-lisa-cantu-launches-stocked-for-success-across-am-system/

TEXAS A&M 2026-27 BEST COLLEGES RANKINGS

Multiple Sources – See below

Category	Rank
National universities	# 59 out of 427 universities
Public universities	# 24
Best Value Schools	# 24
Study abroad (public)	# 3 nationally; 1st in Texas
Service learning (public)	# 5 nationally; 1st among Texas publics
First-year experience (public)	# 8 nationally; 1st among Texas publics (2nd straight year)
Best Colleges for Veterans	# 34
Most Innovative Schools	# 50
Undergraduate Engineering	# 17
Undergraduate Business, Mays (public)	# 13
Engineering Programs	
Petroleum	# 1
Biological & Agricultural	# 5
Industrial/Manufacturing	# 7
Civil	# 9
Aerospace	# 10
Mechanical	# 12
Business Programs	# 24
Accounting	# 12
Analytics	# 38
Economics	# 50
Finance	# 21
Management	# 11
Management Information Systems	# 21
Marketing	# 13
Production / Operations Management	# 16
Supply Chain Management / Logistics	# 26
Other Programs	
Computer Science	# 44
Nursing	# 36

Texas schools in the national top 100: Rice (16), UT Austin (34), Texas A&M (59), SMU (85), Baylor and TCU (tied, 90)

Sources:

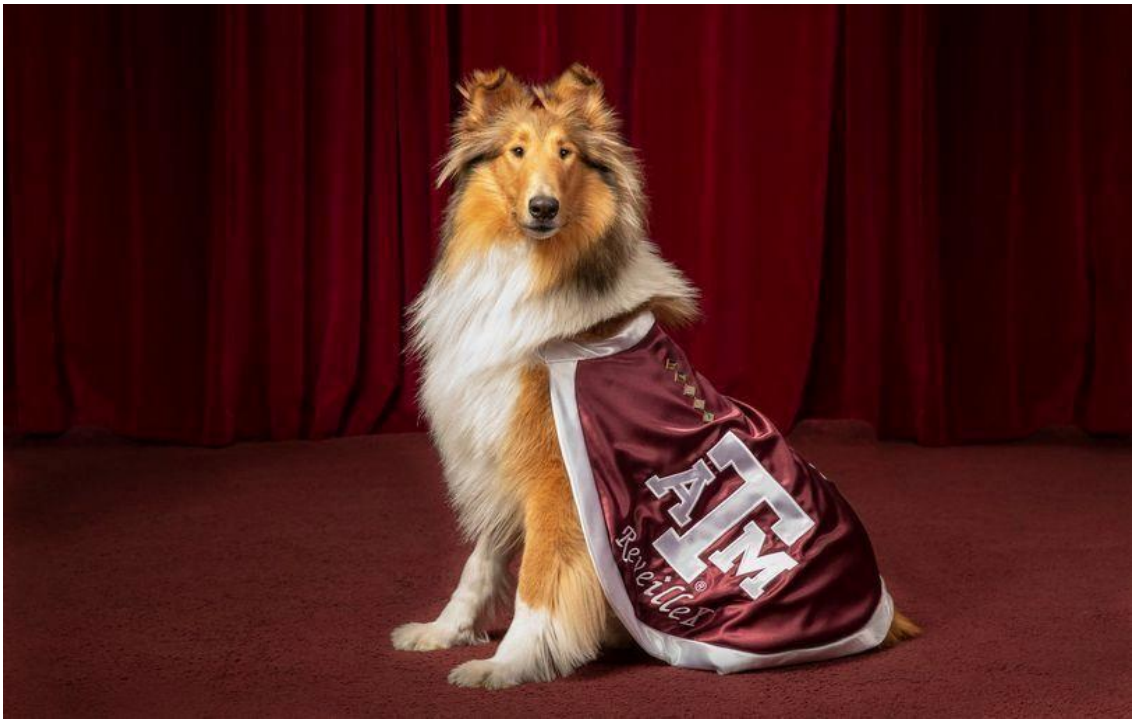
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Reveille X - April 2021 - Texas A&M Today - Jesse Everett – Texas A&M Marketing & Communication

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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.DougFerrata.com/srg/portal.aspx. Click on 'Uploaded Files.'
Suggest you use "Google Chrome", "Firefox", 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.**

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If you wish to comment to those who decide:

Chancellor Glen Hegar: **chancellor@tamus.edu**
The Board of Regents: **vickie@tamus.edu or jbell@tamus.edu**
President: Dr. Susan Ballabina: **president@tamu.edu**
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Commandant LTG J.W. Bierman: **commandant@corps.tamu.edu**
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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.