

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin One Hundred (100)



July 1, 2025

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.

TEXAS A&M SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVES HIRING THREE PEOPLE SELECTED BY THE NEW CHANCELLOR

June 18, 2025 by Bill Oliver

The Texas A&M system board of regents held a special meeting Wednesday (June 18). The only action taken following an executive session was to approve the hiring of three people as requested by new chancellor Glenn Hegar.

One of the positions is new, an executive vice chancellor. Filling what the system describes as Hegar's "chief lieutenant", is Susan Ballabina. She has been chief of staff for Texas A&M's president.

The regents also named two new vice chancellors to fill vacancies caused by retirements.

The new vice chancellor of marketing and communications, Chris Bryan, led Hegar's communications department at the comptroller's office.

The new vice chancellor and chief financial officer, Ryan Griffin, comes from the private sector as director of compensation, benefits and payroll at Cheniere Energy, Inc. The system also announced two other members of Hegar's staff at the comptrollers office are taking positions at the system.

Three of these new leaders were unanimously approved by the Board of Regents on Wednesday. They include individuals from Texas A&M University, the Comptroller's Office and the private sector.

When Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar takes over as the next chancellor of The Texas A&M University System on July 1, he will bring several seasoned, highly respected and experienced senior staff members to help guide the System into its next chapter.

The new officials who received Board approval are:

Susan Ballabina, Ph.D., who will become Executive Vice Chancellor of the Texas

A&M System, serving as Hegar's chief lieutenant. She previously has served as chief of staff for General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, president of Texas A&M University;

Chris Bryan, who will be the System's Vice Chancellor of Marketing and Communications. He most recently has led the Communications and Information Services Department at the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts; and Ryan Griffin, who will serve as Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer at the System. Griffin joins the System from Cheniere Energy, Inc.

Additionally, Korry Castillo will become the Chief Strategy Officer for the System. Her role does not require board approval. Castillo previously has worked as Associate Deputy Comptroller for Operations and Support.

Also, Hegar's longtime executive assistant, Kim Buzard, will join the System. Ballabina, Bryan, Castillo and Buzard will begin their new roles on July 1, while Griffin will start on July 21.

To read the full article visit the link below.

<https://wtaw.com/texas-am-system-board-of-regents-approves-hiring-three-people-selected-by-the-new-chancellor/>

US ARMY PRESENTS SHARP WITH MEDAL COMMEMORATING HIS PUBLIC SERVICE

June 18, 2025 by Chancellor John Sharp, Chancellor Century Council News

Today, I was awarded the U.S. Army Meritorious Public Service Medal from Den. James E. Rainey, Commanding General of Army Futures Command.

What a high honor. I am deeply grateful to the Army, the State of Texas and so many others at the Texas A&M System who are essential to our successful partnership with Army Futures Command.

A couple of years after we announced the creation of the Texas A&M-RELLIS in 2016, the U.S. Army made the wise decision to stand up a new command, Army Futures Command, in Texas.

I invited the inaugural AFC commander, Gen. Mike Murray, to visit the RELLIS campus, showed him the wide-open spaces available for high-tech research facilities and asked him: "Now what can we do for you?"

That conversation led to the George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex, a nationwide hub for testing innovative technologies to advanced weapons systems. It will serve U.S. security interests for generations.

General Rainey made the medal presentation at a staff reception marking my June 30th retirement as chancellor. The setting was fitting because so many people who attended have played a vital role in building the infrastructure improvements at RELLIS.

Here's a link to a video with highlights from the **reception**.

As I told them today, “No university, no system in the world, is more dedicated to our military than the Texas A&M University System.”

To view the full article visit the link below.

<https://news.tamus.edu/u-s-army-awards-chancellor-sharp-meritorious-public-service-medal/>

NCAA MEN’S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

June 14, 2025 by Sam Thorton, Athletics Communications

The men’s track & field team win the NCAA Outdoor championship on Friday night in Eugene. The Aggies finished with 41 points to claim the fifth men’s outdoor national title in program history

To read the full article visit the link below.

<https://12thman.com/news/2025/6/14/track-and-field-aggie-men-win-fifth-ncaa-outdoor-title>



SMALL MODULAR NUCLEAR REACTORS

June 25, 2025 by Doug Ferrata

Advanced Deployment of Small Modular Reactors at Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University is partnering with four advanced nuclear reactor companies—Kairos Power, Natura Resources, Terrestrial Energy, and Aalo Atomics—to construct three to four Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) on the RELLIS Campus. This initiative aims to accelerate commercial readiness and facilitate rigorous testing of next-generation SMR designs. It also reinforces Texas A&M’s leadership in **nuclear innovation and energy research**, with the potential to revolutionize nuclear energy deployment.

Power Generation Capacity and Comparison

Each SMR is designed to operate with high thermal efficiency and an optimized neutron economy. The collective output of three SMRs is expected to reach one gigawatt (GW), equivalent to **1 billion watts of electrical power**. To contextualize this scale:

- 1 GW can sustain **750,000 residential homes** with continuous electrical supply.
- This matches the energy production of **three million solar panels or 400 onshore wind turbines** under optimal conditions.
- The total output represents approximately **half the peak capacity of Hoover Dam**.

Safety and Proximity Advantages

Unlike conventional light-water nuclear reactors, which typically require exclusion zones ranging from **10 to 50 miles**, SMRs may operate with a minimal **400-meter buffer** if safety analyses confirm radiation doses remain within regulatory thresholds. This could enable installations in proximity to residential areas, industrial zones, data centers, and commercial infrastructure. Moreover, SMRs could be **configured for underground placement**, enhancing security and mitigating external hazards.

Thorium as a Primary Fuel Source

Thorium (atomic number **90**) is the preferred nuclear fuel due to its superior abundance and favorable nuclear properties compared to uranium (atomic number **92**). Key advantages include:

- **Higher abundance:** Thorium is **3 to 4 times more prevalent** in Earth's crust than uranium.
- **Reduced nuclear waste:** Thorium-based reactors generate **fewer long-lived radioactive byproducts**, simplifying waste management.
- **Intrinsic proliferation resistance:** Unlike uranium, thorium is **difficult to weaponize** due to its nuclear decay pathway.
- **Direct usability:** Unlike uranium, thorium can be used **without enrichment**, reducing fuel processing complexity.

Thorium's **half-life is 14 billion years**, meaning approximately **85% of its original supply remains within Earth's crust**. In contrast, uranium's half-life is **approximately 4.5 billion years, making it a relatively scarce** resource. For comparison, the universe is approximately 13.8 billion years old.

Modular Construction and Passive Safety Systems

Commercial SMRs will be **factory-fabricated** in standardized modules, allowing for **on-site assembly** and **scalable deployment**. Their design integrates **Passive Safety Systems**, utilizing **natural convection and gravitational forces** for heat dissipation. Unlike conventional reactors, SMRs require **no external power or human intervention** for cooling, ensuring resilience in extreme scenarios.

Projected Cost and Economic Feasibility

Each SMR is estimated to cost between **\$15 million and \$30 million**, which is significantly lower than the cost of conventional large-scale nuclear reactors. The

combination of **mass production, modularity, and safety advancements** positions SMRs as a cost-effective solution for expanding clean energy infrastructure.

[Texas A&M System Goes Nuclear – Texas A&M Stories](#)

[Texas Leads in Next-Gen Nuclear with Small Modular Reactors - Environment+Energy Leader](#)

[Texas University To Host Four Nuclear Reactors: ‘US Needs More Power’ - Newsweek](#)
[SMR Nuclear Microgrids: They Might Become a Texas Thing if A&M Has a say | Microgrid Knowledge](#)

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY NAMED NO. 2 MOST RECOGNIZED PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE US

Ranks No. 8 among all U.S. universities and No. 13 worldwide in American Caldwell's Global Visibility Rankings

June 25, 2025 by Emma Lawson, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

To read the full article visit the link below.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2025/06/25/texas-am-university-named-no-2-most-recognized-public-university-in-us/>

TEXAS A&M RECOGNIZED BY FAST COMPANY'S 'WORLD CHANGING IDEAS' FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BREAKTHROUGH

The honor comes on the heels of being named one of the World's Most Innovative Companies earlier this year.

June 10, 2025 by Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Visit the link below to read the full article.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2025/06/10/texas-am-recognized-by-fast-companys-world-changing-ideas-for-alzheimers-disease-breakthrough/>

'THIS IS OUR TIME': ALBERTS TAILORING A&M'S APPROACH AS NEW ERA BEGINS

June 23, 2025 by Olin Buchanan

To read the full article visit the link below.

<https://texags.com/s/67989/this-is-our-time-alberts-tailoring-ams-approach-as-new-era-begins/7>



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CHANCELLOR JOHN SHARP'S LEGACY SHOWS TEXAS' LOSS WAS A&M'S GAIN

June 25, 2025 by Lisa Falkenberg

A&M would come to benefit from the downfall of one of Texas' most consequential politicians, who made his mark in the Texas House, Texas Senate, on the Railroad Commission and as state comptroller. But Texans will never know what we lost. Sharp's success in College Station offers a clue.

To read the full article visit the link below.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/chancellor-john-sharp-s-legacy-shows-texas-loss-was-a-m-s-gain/ar-AA1HojPg?ocid=socialshare>

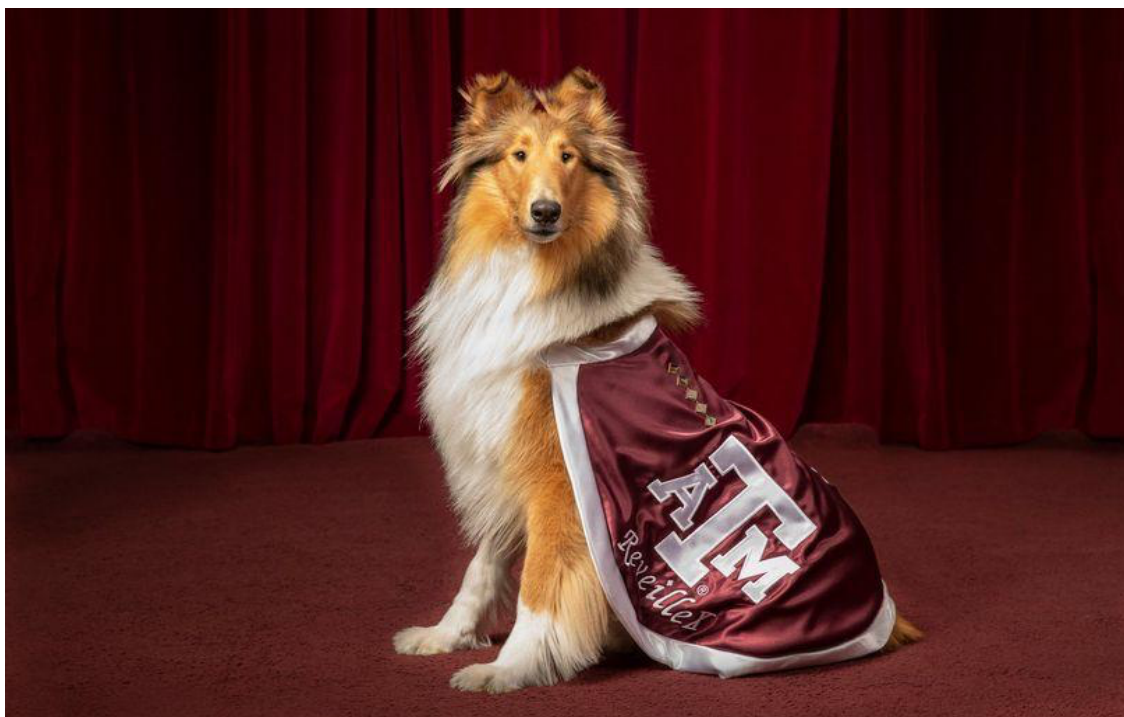
TEXAS A&M CORPS OF CADETS AT ARMY 250TH BIRTHDAY PARADE

June 14, 2025

Texas A&M Corps of Cadets participates in the Army's 250th military parade in Washington, D.C.

To view the video, visit the link below.

<https://youtu.be/bo6uKtpO8JI?feature=shared>



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.

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 Glenn Hegar: chancellor@tamus.edu

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

President Mark Welsh: markwelsh@tamu.edu

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Interim Commandant LTG Chip Utterback: commandant@corps.tamu.edu

SRG Board of Directors' Resolutions for: 2024 – 2025

****To keep the Sul Ross Group (SRG) membership informed of pertinent topics and activities on campus through periodic SRG Bulletins.**

****As investors of A&M, to continue to meet with and to offer our support and assistance to the leadership of TAMUS, TAMU, the Association of Former Students, A&M Foundation, the Commandant, the Corps Commander, and student government leaders.**

****To support A&M's Core Values and traditions and share these with all we meet, especially students, stressing unity of purpose and effort within the A&M community.**

****To continue the ongoing review, execution and improvement of new student integration and assimilation into TAMU, working with and assisting the V.P. of Student.**