

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin One Hundred Four (104)



December 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.

Howdy Ags,

Here is the Sul Ross Group's Bulletin 103. 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.

The SRG Board hopes you enjoy this bulletin and finds it informative. We encourage you to distribute it to your classmates, Aggie buddies, and friends. Thank you.

Gig 'Em!

Sul Ross Group Board

Save the date for the 2026 Sul Ross Group Reunion March 2-4 in College Station.

A block of rooms is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Make your reservations by calling the Texas A&M Hotel & Conference Center directly before Jan. 29, 2026, at 979-260-2235, or by booking online tx.ag/SRG26HotelRoom. When calling the hotel to make your reservation, be sure to reference the group name "Sul Ross Reunion" to receive the rate of \$152 per night, plus tax. Rooms will fill up fast, so make your reservations today!

If you would like to stay in a hotel that is not located on campus, you can book a room at The Stella Hotel ([4100 Lake Atlas Dr., Bryan, TX 77807](https://www.stellahotel.com)) for the same rate of \$152 per night, plus tax. To book a room at The Stella, you can visit tx.ag/SRG26StellaHotel. Please note that this hotel is not on campus and will be in a separate location from the Reunion activities. It is approximately a 10-15 minute drive to campus.

Parking Information for the Texas A&M Hotel & Conference Center

We are excited to celebrate our first year hosting the Sul Ross Group Reunion at the Texas A&M Hotel & Conference Center. Please review the parking details below to ensure a smooth arrival:

- **For Guests Staying at the TAMU Hotel**
- Your hotel room reservation includes complimentary parking for the duration of your stay. Simply follow the hotel's check-in instructions for accessing the garage.
- **For Attendees Not Staying at the Hotel**
- Guests who are not overnight hotel guests may receive **ONE parking validation ticket** from The Association. This special accommodation is being offered **only for this year** in celebration of our first year at this venue.
- **Looking Ahead**
- Please note that parking validation beyond this year **cannot be guaranteed**. We encourage attendees to plan accordingly for future reunions.
- If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

For questions, please contact the Class Programs team at 979-845-7514 or at Class@AggieNetwork.com.

CORPS HONORS AGGIE VETERANS

November 12, 2025 By Stephen Whitaker

Cadets' wreath-laying ceremony is an annual Texas A&M tradition

After a wreath of flowers had been laid and somber words spoken about Veterans Day but before a lone bugler began to play "Taps," a minute or two of silence was held at Corps Memorial Plaza on Tuesday where the only sound was the wind working through the ropes and tackle of the flagpoles in the plaza.

That moment allowed the gathered crowd of Texas A&M University cadets, visitors, local veterans and students to think about the meaning of Veterans Day. Moments earlier, as the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month began — the time of the signing of the Armistice to end World War I in 1918 — two members of the A&M Corps of Cadets marched a wreath of flowers to the south end of the memorial square near the archways and placed them there to honor Aggie veterans.

As the cadets placed the wreath, members of the Ross Volunteers fired a 21 gun salute in three salvos of seven. Then there was silence, symbolic of the silence on Nov. 11, 1918, when at 11 a.m. the guns fell silent and World War I came to an end. It's a Veterans Day tradition that goes back many years.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

https://myaggienation.com/am_news/texas-a-m-corps-of-cadets-hold-ceremony-to-recognize-aggie-veterans/article_04652e71-6822-5471-b6a3-452b5ae6157a.html

AMID THE MADNESS OF TEXAS A&M, A COACH AND HIS FAMILY TRY TO KEEP IT REAL

November 7, 2025 by Kent Bab

About a month after moving in, the new family south of town decided to have people over. Mike, who would be at work and unable to attend, thought it made sense to hire caterers. Michelle didn't. "I want them to feel at home," she said of her guests.



So before the first visitors arrived, she put out a platter of pinwheel sandwiches and her famous raspberry-and-brie tarts. She greeted her new friends before walking them outside and sitting with them by the pool. It was football season, so inevitably the conversation veered toward Texas A&M. The Aggies were undefeated, off to their best start in more than 30 years, and Michelle's guests had her husband, Aggies Coach Mike Elko, to thank. With a donation, perhaps? After all, this wasn't just any hangout. It was a gathering of A&M megadonors. "Just some girl time," Michelle says, "with the million-, billion-dollar people."

In perhaps the most unusual landscape in college football, the Elkos are attempting to do something quietly, almost laughably radical: stay normal. Their rebellion is restraint. In a sport obsessed with bloat, Mike keeps his meetings short and his personal ambitions modest. In a job partly defined by image, Mike is a regular at Sport Clips.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ManP3JA6ZVXpcMwpKNynoF1YtdtuqfcLldA6nC6wnMs/edit?usp=sharing>

A&M's RATCLIFFE HELPING WWII VETERANS VISIT NORMANDY AGAIN

November 10, 2025 By Alex Miller

Texas A&M safety Marcus Ratcliffe has been around the military his entire life. His father, Gabriel, was a Marine and his grandfather was in the Navy.

When Ratcliffe transferred from San Diego State to Texas A&M after the 2023 season, he and his agent discussed ways that Ratcliffe could give back. The two came up with Mission 3:12, 3 being Ratcliffe's jersey number and 12 standing for A&M's 12th Man. For every turnover the Aggies forced that season, Ratcliffe would donate \$312 to cover expenses to send World War II veterans back to Normandy to visit the site of D-Day. Mission 3:12 has partnered with Walk Among Heroes for the trips to Europe. As Veteran's Day is celebrated this Tuesday, Ratcliffe is working on helping send more WWII veterans to Normandy this coming summer. Those who match Ratcliffe's donations with \$312 of their own will be invited to a dinner in February that will include WWII veterans.

The Aggie defense forced its seventh turnover of the year in Saturday's win at Missouri, which equals \$2,184 in donations from the A&M defender. Ratcliffe also now leads the team in tackles (50) after the victory over the Tigers.

To read the complete article, visit the link below. https://myaggienation.com/aggie_sports/football/a-m-s-ratcliffe-helping-wwii-veterans-visit-normandy-again/article_6218d2a7-9dc3-586a-b027-a95cf2c28312.html

SLOCUM NAMED TO 2025 SEC FOOTBALL LEGENDS CLASS

October 22, 2025 By Chelsea Reber

Texas A&M's all-time winningest head football coach **R.C. Slocum** was announced as a member of the 2025 SEC Football Legends class presented by T-Mobile, an assemblage of former football standouts who will be honored at events surrounding the SEC Football Championship Game in Atlanta in December.

Slocum coached the Texas A&M football program for 14 seasons from 1989-2002. He remains the winningest coach in the school history with a 123-47-2 record and he never had a losing season. His teams won four conference championships, with three straight Southwest Conference crowns from 1991-93 and the Big 12 Conference title in 1998. Slocum is the SWC's all-time leader in career winning percentage and set the record for consecutive conference victories with 26 from 1991-94.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://wtaw.com/slocum-named-to-2025-sec-football-legends-class/>

HOWDY AGS! GOT A LITTLE STORY FOR YOU

Gordon '67

Earlier today I got a call from another Aggie, Robert Harris, Class of '62, a local insurance agent. Seems some guy bought a used vehicle, and in it he found an Aggie ring. The guy isn't an Aggie, but he knew Harris is an Aggie, so he called Harris. The name in the ring is "Bill Stalter," and it was a Class of '53 ring.

Harris called me and asked if I knew Stalter. I do. He is a retired local architect. I tried his business phone, but it is disconnected. So, I called our son, Scott, Class of '91. Scott said he had served on a local board with Stalter some years ago. Scott called another member of that board, and he found Stalter is still alive and living here in Corpus Christi. Scott got a phone number for me.

I called and spoke with Bill Stalter. He asked how my day was going, and I told him his day was about to get much better. Bill is a widower, living in a home with other elderly folks. His birthday is in two weeks! He is getting a very nice birthday gift! The gentleman who found the ring is going to deliver it to Bill shortly! The amazing Aggie network at work. Gig'em!



TEXAS A&M VOTES TO RESTRICT GENDER, RACE IDEOLOGY IN CLASSROOM AFTER 'GENDER UNICORN' OUTCRY

November 13, 2025 By Valerie Richardson

The Texas A&M University System approved policies Thursday aimed at keeping race and gender ideology out of the classroom, clamping down after an uproar spurred by a lecturer caught teaching the "Gender Unicorn" in a children's literature course. The Board of Regents voted unanimously to pass a ban on classes that "advocate race or gender ideology, or topics related to sexual orientation or gender identity," unless the course and relevant materials receive advance approval by the college administration.

The board also passed a companion proposal clarifying that faculty may not teach material "inconsistent with the approved syllabus for the course."

The measures were introduced after lecturer Melissa McCoul was fired in September. An undercover video showed her booting a student who challenged her for teaching the "Gender Unicorn," an infographic that promotes the idea that there are more than two genders.

The undercover video went viral after it was posted online Sept. 8 by Republican state Rep. Brian Harrison, ultimately leading to the resignation less than two weeks later of Texas A&M President Mark Welsh.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/nov/13/texas-votes-restrict-gender-race-ideology-classroom-gender-unicorn/>

TEXAS LAWMAKERS SAY COLLEGES HAVE TO BALANCE FREE SPEECH WITH DUTY TO KEEP DISCOURSE CIVIL

November 14, 2025 By Jessica Priest

Texas lawmakers on Thursday opened a sweeping review of campus speech with a call to restore civil discourse, saying student reactions to the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk exposed deeper problems with intimidation, hostility and uneven responses from universities.

“Freedom of speech is not the freedom to threaten, harass or disrupt,” said Rep. Terry Wilson, R-Georgetown. “Academic freedom is not the license to defy public accountability.”

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2025/11/12/texas-college-free-speech-committee-charlie-kirk/>

TEXAS A&M SYSTEM AGREED TO PAY MARK WELSH \$3.5M AFTER RESIGNATION OVER CLASSROOM CONTROVERSY

November 3, 2025 By Samantha Ketterer

The Texas A&M University System agreed to pay Mark Welsh III a \$3.5 million lump sum after he resigned as president from its flagship campus over his handling of gender discussions in a children’s literature course.

Welsh agreed to release the university system, its regents and employees from any past or potential legal action related to his employment, according to the separation agreement that he signed Sept. 26. Welsh also certified that he returned all system property, including flash drives and hard drives, before his departure.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/education/article/mark-welsh-separation-agreement-21136486.php>



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

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

Interim President Tommy Williams: **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 – 2025

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