

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin One Hundred Six (106)



February 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 105. 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

2026 Sul Ross Group Reunion

The Reunion will be held Monday, March 2nd, through Wednesday, March 4th, at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center, next to the MSC and Kyle Field.

If you want to register online, the registration site is a little hard to navigate, so here is how you do it:

1. Go to this website <https://www.aggienetwork.com/events/2026/sulross.aspx>
2. The First Screen contains all the ***Basic Information about the reunion,*** including the Agenda.
Once you have reviewed the content, click on the "Register Here" button at the top of the screen.
3. The Second Screen contains ***Information About All the Sessions.***
Click the date under the "All Sessions" header to review the sessions for that date. Be sure to click the "View All Sessions" button at the bottom. The map showing the hotel's location is also at the bottom of this screen.

Once you have reviewed the screen, click on any button (Get Tickets or Buy Ticket).

- 4. The Third Screen allows you to [Choose the type and Number of Tickets](#). Click on the (+) and (-) signs to select the number of registrations you want to purchase.
Then click on “Continue” at the bottom.***
- 5. On Fourth Screen, enter the [Details About yourself and any Guests](#). Be sure to scroll down if you have any guests.
Then click “Continue” at the bottom.***
- 6. On the Fifth screen, choose the [Sessions You Want to Attend](#). Remember to scroll down for any guests.
Then click on “Continue” at the bottom.***
- 7. On the Sixth Screen, enter your [Contact and Payment Information](#).
Then click “Place Your Order”.***

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE CORRECTING RECENT REPORTS AND REQUESTS

January 12, 2025 By Tommy Williams, Interim President

Thank you for your hard work as we navigate a challenging start to the spring semester. I recognize that recent Texas A&M University System policy changes have been unsettling for many, and I understand your concerns. At the same time, our shared responsibility is clear: our students. We must work together to limit – and where possible, eliminate – any obstacles to their success.

The vast majority of you have put students first, ahead of your own personal perspectives, in thinking about how we implement these changes in a short amount of time. You are to be commended for prioritizing student needs in this process and, in many cases, for working through the holiday break to submit thoughtful solutions following your collective review of syllabi for more than 5,000 courses being offered this semester across our colleges and schools.

Thanks to your efforts to address topics that violated the revised policy, we expect the impact on spring classes to be lower than originally anticipated. Despite the thousands of courses offered this spring, we anticipate a relatively small number of exception requests, all of which will be reviewed promptly. In instances where a course is affected, advisors are working closely with students to minimize any impact to their planned course loads and to ensure transparency in what to expect.

Finally, I want to address recent reports that we’re banning Plato altogether at Texas A&M. This is simply not true. Stunts intended to create this kind of noise discredit your hard work to incorporate a wide array of perspectives into your classes. A variety of courses this spring will teach Plato dialogues. We can – and

will – teach and assign readings from the great thinkers of history while complying with updated System policies.

If there are other ways we can support your efforts, don't hesitate to reach out through your department head and dean. Together, we will get through this, and together, we will ensure that students remain our top priority.

With gratitude,

Tommy

Tommy Williams '78, Interim President

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://president.tamu.edu/messages/a-message-of-gratitude-correcting-recent-reports-and-a-request.html>

REGENTS APPROVE KEY LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS SUPPORTING NUCLEAR SECURITY AND ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS

January 14, 2026 By The Texas A&M University System

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents today approved two senior executive appointments that reinforce the System's capacity to meet national security obligations and provide disciplined leadership over enterprise operations statewide.



Acting under System Policy 01.03, the Board appointed Dr. L. Diane Hurtado as Vice Chancellor for Nuclear Security Initiatives and John A. Barton, P.E. as Interim Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, each on the recommendation of Chancellor Glenn Hegar. The actions reflect the central importance of these roles to the A&M System's mission, public responsibilities, and long-term strategic direction.

"These positions represent core responsibilities entrusted to the A&M System," said Board Chairman Robert L. Albritton. "Our obligations in the nuclear security enterprise—and our stewardship of major public assets across Texas—require disciplined leadership at the highest level. Today's appointments ensure we continue to meet those expectations with integrity, focus, and professionalism."

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://news.tamus.edu/stories/regents-approve-key-leadership-appointments-supporting-nuclear-security-and-enterprise-operations/>

INSIDE ONE OF THE WORLDS LARGEST CONTROLLED EXPLOSIONS: THE DETONATION RESEARCH TEST FACILITY

January 8, 2026 By Zaid Elayyan

From industrial safety and Mach-speed propulsions to the birth of diamonds and the death of stars, Texas A&M's colossal detonation facility turns raw explosions into breakthrough discoveries.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2026/01/08/inside-one-of-the-worlds-largest-controlled-explosions-the-detonation-research-test-facility/>

NATIONWIDE MEDIA DEMAND FOR TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY RESEARCH REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH

January 14, 2026 By Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Texas A&M University's research is reaching more people, in more places, than ever before and nationwide demand for faculty expertise continues to grow.

As detailed in the 2025 Marketing Impact Report, media mentions of Texas A&M research and impact increased 72% year over year in FY25, totaling 76,020 placements. This translates to 27,000 more media mentions than the previous fiscal year. This growth reflects coverage of Texas A&M's research, expertise and stories of impact across the university and does not include any Texas A&M athletics-related media coverage.

Behind those numbers is a steady, intentional effort to help Texas A&M researchers connect with journalists seeking trusted, credible voices. Through thoughtful planning, targeted pitching and ongoing distribution, the Division of Marketing and Communications works to ensure that stories of impact reach the right audiences at the right moments, whether highlighting breakthroughs from campus laboratories or providing expert perspectives on timely national and global issues.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/stories/nationwide-media-demand-for-texas-am-university-research-reaches-an-all-time-high/>

WITHOUT REFORMS, AI COULD DEEPEN AMERICA'S JUSTICE GAP, EXPERT SAYS

January 13, 2026 By Caitlin Clark

Texas A&M law professor Milan Markovic warns that generative artificial intelligence promises legal help at scale, but it has the potential to amplify inequalities in the justice system.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2026/01/13/without-reforms-ai-could-deepen-americas-justice-gap-expert-says/>

LEAVE IT TO BEAVER

January 14, 2026 By Jeannie Ralston

He Launched a Travel Center Empire. Now, He's Shaping the Future of Hospitality, Retail and Marketing in Aggieland. Buc-ee's founder Arch "Beaver" Aplin III '80 is pouring his passions and professional success into a transformational hub for the next generation of hospitality, retail, and marketing leaders at Texas A&M University.



To read the complete article, visit the link below.

https://spirit.txamfoundation.com/winter-2026/he-launched-a-travel-center-empire-now-hes-shaping-the-future-of-hospitality-retail-and-marketing-in-aggieland.aspx?utm_campaign=28747651-TAMF-Monthly-New-sletter&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_5xNM84dbtgpR9-vSPSbMe2kA1yY1T-eOPg4-b0nWeHJXpwF2XbUu9rXMyoWJpqjTmRrwtEABOiqrt9fEqevw_tluwKA&_hsmi=100219550570&utm_content=398586048&utm_source=hs_email

ONE GENETIC MAP COULD REWRITE HOW WE UNDERSTAND MENTAL HEALTH

January 12, 2026 By Leslie Henton

A massive study with over 6 million participants reveals genetic clusters behind 14 psychiatric disorders, opening the door to better diagnoses and treatments. The study, published in *Nature*, was co-authored by Drs. John Hettema and Brad Verhulst from the Texas A&M University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Naresh K. Vashisht College of Medicine.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2026/01/12/one-genetic-map-could-rewrite-how-we-understand-mental-health/>

STARCOM LAUNCHES CAPTAIN'S LEADERSHIP COURSE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TEXAS A&M

January 20, 2026 By 1st Lt. Margaret Blice



Guardians listen to remarks during the kickoff ceremony for the Captain's Leadership Course at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, Jan. 20, 2026. (U.S. Space Force photo by Brandon Kalloo Sanes)

Space Training and Readiness Command held an assumption of command ceremony for Space Delta 13 Detachment 2 and officially launched its Captain's Leadership Course at Texas A&M University, Jan. 20. Managed by STARCOM's Delta 13 Detachment 2, CLC is a four-week resident course held in partnership with Texas A&M's Bush School of Government and Public Service. The course will provide captain-level Professional Military Education independent from the Air Force and unique to the space domain.

The partnership combines military expertise with academic rigor to further develop captains into confident leaders who can think critically, communicate effectively and integrate Space Force expertise into joint operations. The curriculum consists of Master's-level concepts supported by practical military examples, classwork, group discussions and activities.

The service's one-year, \$1.8 million prototype contract with Texas A&M provides for the initial build-out and execution of the curriculum, with six classes planned through the end of the year. STARCOM will reassess the program after one year to determine the best path forward for long-term execution.

The first cohort includes 24 students, with follow-on cohorts growing up to 60 students at the end of the summer. Initial classes will prioritize captains nearing promotion eligibility, with leadership hoping to eventually include seats for civilian Guardians as well as joint and international partners, to strengthen interoperability as the course develops.

To read the complete article, visit the link below,

<https://www.spaceforce.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/4383548/starcom-launches-captains-leadership-course-in-partnership-with-texas-am/>

**CHANCELLOR'S CENTURY COUNCIL NEWS TEXAS A&M REMAINS THE
NO. 1 RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IN TEXAS**

January 30, 2026 By Glenn Hegar

Friends,

I want to share some encouraging news about the strength and momentum of research across The Texas A&M University System.

Every year, the National Science Foundation publishes the official federal report on university research activity. It is called the Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey, and it measures where scientific breakthroughs, federal partnerships, and major research investments are happening across the country.

The new FY 2024 results were released recently, and our System delivered another impressive year.

**TEXAS A&M REMAINS THE
NO. 1 RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IN TEXAS**

- Texas A&M University — including the Health Science Center, our state agencies, and System-level research — recorded \$1.394 billion in FY 2024 research expenditures.
- Ranked 22nd nationally and 13th among public universities
- #1 in Texas, ahead of MD Anderson (#23) and UT Austin (#31)
- 9.1% growth over last year
- That steady progress reflects the quality of our faculty and the strength of our research partnerships across the country.

SYSTEMWIDE RESEARCH MOMENTUM

When you add together all reporting universities, the A&M System reached \$1.57 billion in FY 2024 research expenditures. Several of our regional universities posted some of the strongest year-over-year gains in the nation:

REGIONAL UNIVERSITY RESULTS

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

- \$52.2 million in FY24
- 32.7% increase over FY23

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

- \$31.8 million in FY24
 - 20.3% increase

Prairie View A&M University

- \$31.6 million in FY24
 - 45.2% increase

Tarleton State University

- \$24.9 million in FY24
 - 6.6% increase

West Texas A&M University

- \$11.6 million in FY24
- 12.8% increase

Texas A&M International University

- \$8.4 million in FY24
 - 49.6% increase

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

- \$7.2 million in FY24
 - 348.8% increase — one of the largest jumps statewide

East Texas A&M University

- \$6.8 million in FY24
 - -3.1% compared to last year (following a 41.9% jump the year before)

WHY THIS MATTERS

Research is more than a number. It represents student opportunity, economic development, new jobs, and solutions for the state. These projects create hands-on learning for students, expand partnerships with federal agencies and industry, and help our universities attract the talent needed to keep Texas strong.

Across the board, the A&M System is growing its research enterprise — from College Station to Corpus Christi, Kingsville to Prairie View, San Antonio to the Panhandle and the border. I am proud of the work our universities are doing and grateful for your continued support.

Thank you for all you do for Texas A&M and for the state we serve.

Glenn Hegar

Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System



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.**

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin

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

Interim President Tommy Williams: president@tamu.edu

Provost Alan Sams: asams@tamu.edu

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

VPSA 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.