

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin One Hundred Nine (109)



April 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 109. 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

INAUGURAL CAPTAIN'S LEADERSHIP COURSE PARTICIPANTS, GUARDIANS WELCOMED IN AGGIELAND

Jan. 21, 2026 By *Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Comm*

Formally launching the partnership between Texas A&M University and the U.S. Space Force, an assumption of command ceremony welcomed students ahead of their first day of a four-week course melding military expertise and academic rigor

"Public service is a noble calling, and we need men and women of character to believe that they can make a difference in their communities, in their states and in their country."

This statement by former U.S. President George H.W. Bush contributed to the founding of [The Bush School of Government and Public Service](#), and is a sentiment that the natural partnership between the U.S. Space Force and Texas A&M University has been forged upon to build a brighter, safer world.

"What you will find here at Texas A&M is a solid partner, a community that shares the same values that you have embraced throughout your military service careers and lives," said John Sherman '92, dean of The Bush School. "And we are so glad to have you here in Aggieland, as you make the commitment to protect the high ground through the Captain's Leadership Course, immersing yourself in our campus and surrounding

community.” Led by [Space Training and Readiness Command \(STARCOM\)](#), the Captain’s Leadership Course (CLC) is a four-week resident course held in partnership with The Bush School that provides captain-level professional military education developed specifically to support a unique domain: space.



Credit: Abbey Toronjo/Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications

What you will find here at Texas A&M is a solid partner, a community that shares the same values that you have embraced throughout your military service careers and lives.

John Sherman '92 *Dean* The Bush School of Government and Public Service

During the assumption of command ceremony held on Tuesday, Jan. 20, U.S. Space Force Maj. Gen. James E. Smith, commander of STARCOM, addressed the first 24 students selected to complete the course and spoke on the importance of furthering space-minded education and leadership skills.

“You’re among the first cohorts of our officers being deliberately developed to lead a service that is still defining itself in real time,” said Smith. “Success in the strategic environment hinges first and foremost on leadership. That is why this course exists.”

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.

Col. Alison Gonzalez, Space Delta 13 commander, discussed how vital the partnership between the Space Force and Texas A&M is to the development of Guardians.

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“This is not just a partnership, this is a declaration that military education is born from space intellect, that space is indistinguishably linked to human connection and human education,” said Gonzalez.

An instructor cadre of approximately 20 Guardians will teach space and joint military education lessons, while Texas A&M faculty will provide specialized instruction on leadership and communication. This integrated approach provides a holistic education experience tailored to the needs of Guardians.

“Leadership is strongest when you have education operations and missions that partner together,” said Glenn Hegar, chancellor of The Texas A&M University System. “Our expectation is this [course] becomes durable, scalable and most importantly, impactful.”

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 fiscal year. STARCOM will reassess the program, taking into consideration feedback from each cohort of students, their professors and Guardians, after one year to determine the best path forward for long-term execution.

Leadership is strongest when you have education operations and missions that partner together. Our expectation is this [course] becomes durable, scalable and most importantly, impactful.

Lt. Col. Johann Pambianchi, CLC commandant, shared a message with the first cohort of students before they left to attend their first class.

“The unit stands ready, not just as a new organization on a beautiful campus, but we stand shoulder to shoulder with our Texas A&M partners as a testament to what professionals can accomplish when the mission matters, and great Americans roll up their sleeves,” said Pambianchi. “Together we will showcase a one-of-a-kind program ripe for connection, growth, gratitude and Texas grit.”

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/stories/inaugural-captains-leadership-course-participants-guardians-welcomed-in-aggieland/>

TEXAS A&M STUDENTS TURN SHIPPING CONTAINERS INTO FULLY FUNCTIONING MEDICAL CLINICS

March 13, 2026 By Abby DeFily '22, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Aggies are working together to make a difference in the lives of people without access to medical care through the innovative BUILD program.

On the Texas A&M University campus in the heart of College Station, Texas, one group of students is acting on a shared passion for service and desire to create a brighter, safer world by providing communities around the globe with much-needed health care resources. BUILD, a student-run organization and 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2013,

gathers student volunteers to transform empty shipping containers into fully functioning Texas Aggie Medical Clinics, which are then transported to communities that lack health care services.



[Click Image to View Video](#)

Lauryn Kastenschmidt '25, former student and a past CEO of BUILD, explains the motivation behind the project. "It's really eye opening because living in College Station, I can think of at least three urgent cares that I could go to if something is wrong, and knowing that that isn't available in other countries, and that we're being a solution and helping that, it's just something that I didn't think was going to be possible from a student organization."

But at Texas A&M, it is possible. So far, BUILD has produced 60 Texas Aggie Medical Clinics with the help of more than 20,000 students over the years, and the organization continues to grow in both involvement and impact. These clinics are working to provide access to health care in rural Texas, across the nation and beyond.

"It's really encouraging as a faculty member to see that there's so many students that want to get involved in these kinds of projects," said Dr. Gordon Carstens, faculty advisor for BUILD and professor of animal nutrition in the Department of Animal Science. "They've learned how to do all the components of constructing the clinics, how to get all the materials, how to get the volunteers lined up, operations, construction. And so, they build their knowledge from year to year, and then they pass it on to the next team."

As experience and a heart for selfless service continue to be passed down from one team to the next, the mission of BUILD remains consistent: to unite the Texas A&M student body through a large-scale, physically demanding service project.

“We’re looking for students with a passion for service,” Kastenschmidt said. “And we want to channel that into these clinics because it’s not just about how they look. It’s about the love that goes into them and how that will carry out through the people they are impacting.”

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

[Texas A&M students turn shipping containers into fully functioning medical clinics – Texas A&M Stories](#)

FORT WORTH SITE TO OPEN THIS FALL

March 17, 2026 by Milla Surjadi, Elias Valverde li, Dallas Morning News

New Texas A&M University campus, located in downtown Fort Worth, to house degree-granting programs and will be open for classes this fall.



Students will soon be able to study at Texas A&M University's new Fort Worth campus.

The downtown campus, which broke ground in 2023, is opening its first building and starting classes this fall.

The campus will house degree-granting programs from Texas A&M University and Tarleton State University, which is part of the A&M System. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's Center for Advanced Aviation Technologies will have a research presence, and six state agencies will be on campus as well.

Officials say the campus will help fill the region's growing talent and research needs by collaborating in key area industries including health care, aerospace, and media and entertainment.

Fort Worth, Tarrant County and Texas A&M leaders are also working to build a mixed-use innovation district around the campus that will connect companies with the university, startups and other businesses to foster economic development.

"A&M has been investing in this area," said Kim McCuistion, director of Texas A&M-Fort Worth, pointing to the city's demand for highly educated talent, its diverse industrial base and city leadership's commitment to education.

Here's what to know about Texas A&M's Fort Worth campus:

Why have a campus in Fort Worth?

After the pandemic, city and business leaders looked for ways to ensure economic growth in Fort Worth. They proposed bringing an industry-driven campus to downtown to promote job growth, corporate development and research innovation, leading them to approach the Texas A&M System.

The university system already owned four blocks downtown, including its law school location, which it acquired from Texas Wesleyan University in 2013.

"A&M decided to plant the flag. They said, 'What we want to do is make sure that it's not just an academic campus but that it really does engage the city,'" said Darryl Heath, executive director of the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Innovation Partnership, a nonprofit organization formed by the city and county that aims to develop relationships between corporations and Texas A&M.

Texas A&M System leaders and city officials have hailed the campus as a chance to bring a top research university to Fort Worth, which is among the few large cities in Texas without a Tier 1-designated institution. The status is a key driver in attracting top faculty, students and even industries to areas.

Texas A&M-Fort Worth is the first urban campus for the Texas A&M System.

"The long-term vision is a compact, walkable campus that integrates academic, research and community-facing space in the heart of the city," McCuistion said.

What programs will be offered?

The Texas A&M Fort Worth campus will not offer its own degrees. Instead, students will take classes offered by Texas A&M and Tarleton State.

A&M will offer an undergraduate degree in engineering at the campus this fall. Students in the College of Performance, Visualization and Fine Arts can complete a bachelor's in visualization, which prepares students for careers in visual media, such as marketing and animation. The College of Pharmacy is working to offer a master's in pharmaceutical sciences, and third-year and fourth-year doctor of pharmacy students will complete their rotations in Fort Worth this year.

Texas A&M's law school, which will move into the new building this fall, will continue to offer classes.

"Consistent with the overall model, we've identified broadly what degrees are going to be in demand among the community here and to the industry," said Bobby Ahdieh, chief operating officer of Texas A&M Fort Worth and dean of the Texas A&M University School of Law.

Potential offerings include additional degree programs from the College of Engineering, MBA programs at the business school, and more undergraduate and graduate degrees for the College of Pharmacy and School of Performance, Visualization and Fine Arts. Ahdieh also said officials are discussing further investments in health care fields.

"From the conversations we're having with individual hospitals in the D-FW metroplex, the demand and the need there is through the roof," Ahdieh said. "Figuring out how we do that effectively will be an important project over the coming months and year or two."

How will the campus collaborate with industry?

The goal is to align industry partners' needs with the "supply of research and talent that we have" within the A&M System, McCuistion said.

A&M officials said they are first focusing on industry partnerships in four key areas: health care, media and entertainment, agriculture and food, and aerospace and aviation.

Industry partners' needs will drive research and program offerings at Texas A&M-Fort Worth.

The Fort Worth-Tarrant County Innovation Partnership has met with about 100 companies to identify which areas the campus should focus on, asking them, "What if you had a large-scale, Tier 1 research university coming to town? How could they help you? How could they add value to your bottom line?" Heath said.

In 2023, Lockheed Martin, an aerospace, arms, defense and information security company with a large presence in Fort Worth, was the first company to announce it would collaborate with the campus to establish a pipeline of engineers in the region.

The company is discussing research opportunities, space and equipment needs, and funding strategies with Texas A&M-Fort Worth, Heath said.

Discussions with other companies, including Raytheon, Bell Flight, Cook Children's Medical Center, Texas Health Resources and American Airlines, are continuing, according to Heath.

Heath said the partnerships between companies and the campus, plus the new facilities, will result in collaborative research, startup incubation, workforce development and education, and unique learning and engagement opportunities for students.

The campus will also serve as an anchor for a new mixed use innovation district in downtown Fort Worth. Elements of the district will be modeled after the relationship between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Kendall Square, an internationally recognized innovation hub known for its high concentration of biotechnology and life sciences startups, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

TEXAS A&M TO HEADLINE INAUGURAL ARLINGTON INDYCAR RACE, KICKING OFF BOLD 2026 MOTORSPORTS PROGRAM

March 10, 2026 By Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

A yearlong presence across NASCAR and IndyCar delivers sustained national visibility and marquee moments that position Texas A&M as A Force For Good.



For 2026, Rosenqvist's season helmet will feature Texas A&M in a design created in collaboration with Troy Lee Designs, one of the most recognized names in motorsports

helmet art and visual storytelling. The design will encompass the front and full top of the helmet to maximize visibility during in-car shots, where the helmet is often the most prominent surface on screen.

“I’m proud to continue my partnership with Texas A&M for the 2026 NTT INDYCAR SERIES season,” Rosenqvist said. “It’s been incredible to represent such a respected university with a passionate and engaged community behind it. The support from Aggieland has meant a lot to me, and I’m excited to keep building on what we’ve started together. We have a big season ahead, and I’m motivated to deliver strong results on track while continuing to connect with the students, former students and fans who make this partnership so special.”

On March 15, at the inaugural Java House Grand Prix of Arlington, Texas A&M will deliver its biggest IndyCar statement of the season, sponsoring Rosenqvist in the No. 60 Meyer Shank Racing Honda with a spectacular Aggie maroon livery that puts Texas A&M front and center on a national FOX broadcast. In a year when the university is building momentum toward its 150th anniversary, Arlington becomes a Texas-sized

stage to reflect what Texas A&M represents for the state: a public research institution serving all 254 counties and the No. 1 research university in Texas, with \$1.4 billion in annual research expenditures that account for nearly one out of every five research dollars invested across Texas public universities. The Arlington weekend also brings Texas A&M’s identity together in one unified system — the car, Rosenqvist’s firesuit and a Troy Lee Designs custom helmet showcasing the Aggie ring, Texas A&M scenes and A Force For Good branding — while engaging one of the university’s largest concentrations of former students in the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex.

Texas A&M will extend that Arlington storytelling beyond race weekend through a tangible fan and stakeholder collectible, as the custom Arlington helmet will be reproduced as a limited-run miniature replica for retail sale.

In May, Texas A&M’s season-long helmet presence reaches the most concentrated share of IndyCar’s national value with the Indianapolis 500, when practice, qualifying and race coverage collectively deliver the sport’s highest sustained level of attention. In that window, Texas A&M will emphasize A Force For Good in American innovation, connecting the brand’s presence inside the cockpit to the engineering, teamwork and performance innovation that define the Indy 500, and to the university’s broader national role as one of the most consequential research and talent engines in the country.



Cole Custer will be behind the wheel of the Haas Factory Team's No. 41 Chevrolet Camaro for a season-long Texas A&M University associate sponsorship, culminating in a special military appreciation livery for the Anduril 250 at Naval Base Coronado in San Diego on June 21.

Credit: Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

In NASCAR, Texas A&M will again serve as a season-long associate sponsor of Haas Factory Team, driver Cole Custer and the No. 41 Chevrolet Camaro, providing continuity across the Cup Series calendar, from the season-opening Daytona 500, where Custer consistently ran in the top five, through the championship race in November. That season-long presence will culminate on June 21, when Texas A&M will serve as the primary sponsor of the No. 41 Haas Factory Team Chevrolet at the inaugural Anduril 250 at Naval Base Coronado in the San Diego region with a custom Texas A&M University military appreciation livery.

"I'm excited to have Texas A&M back onboard for the 2026 season," Custer said. "This is their third year with our organization, and I continue to be impressed with their global impact, appreciation for our country's military personnel and their commitment to leading America into the future. The Aggie Core Values align with our mission at Haas Factory Team, and we are always impressed with the presence of Aggies at every NASCAR event."

The Coronado event will take place as the nation and the U.S. Navy commemorate 250 years, offering a once-in-a-generation stage to emphasize A Force For Good in national service, security and defense. The moment also arrives as Texas A&M builds momentum toward its own historic milestone, with the university's 150th anniversary on the horizon. Texas A&M will also produce a die-cast version of the car to extend the story into a collectible item for fans and supporters.

Texas A&M is again investing in motorsports because it is one of the few national platforms that matches the university's scale and mission while delivering consistent reach at efficient economics. In a fragmented media environment, higher education brands rarely earn repeated national exposure in live, high-attention settings. NASCAR and IndyCar do exactly that, week after week, in contexts that align naturally with Texas A&M's strengths in engineering, research, leadership and service. Just as importantly, very few peer universities participate meaningfully in this space, which makes Texas A&M immediately distinctive when it appears and allows the university to pair visibility with purpose, connecting new audiences to how Texas A&M serves Texas and the nation.

"Now through November, Texas A&M will again show up where millions of fans are already paying attention," said R. Ethan Braden, vice president and chief marketing and communications officer. "But the goal isn't simply awareness. It's building familiarity and meaning in places where performance, teamwork and love of country are already part of the culture. We're pairing sustained visibility with a clear story: Texas A&M as A Force For Good in Texas, in American innovation and in service to the nation."

Texas A&M's motorsports activations leverage the consistent scale of two national broadcast ecosystems. Last season, IndyCar's first season on FOX averaged 1.4 million viewers per race across its 17-race season, the most since 2008. The Indianapolis 500 remains the sport's biggest stage, averaging more than 7 million viewers on FOX and peaking at 8.4 million, while also drawing an in-person sellout crowd of approximately 350,000 fans. NASCAR delivers even greater weekly scale, with the NASCAR Cup Series averaging 2.5 million viewers per event during the 2025 season and marquee events drawing substantially larger audiences.

Beyond the track, Texas A&M's motorsports strategy supports workforce development by creating coveted educational opportunities for Aggie students. Through the partnership, Haas Factory Team is expanding its internship footprint with Texas A&M in 2026 to include six paid summer engineering internships, along with two paid summer internships for students in marketing and communications. Embedded inside a top-tier NASCAR operation in North Carolina, these students gain hands-on experience in a high-performance environment defined by precision, teamwork, deadlines and accountability, while building real-world skills and professional networks that translate into job opportunities after graduation.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

[Texas A&M to headline inaugural Arlington IndyCar race, kicking off bold 2026 motorsports program – Texas A&M Stories](#)

LAUNCHING THE FUTURE: TEXAS A&M'S SPACE INSTITUTE WILL BE A HUB FOR INNOVATION AND EXPLORATION

March 3, 2025 By Abby DeFily '22, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

The cutting-edge facility will propel groundbreaking research, fuel industry collaborations and prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers to lead humanity's next great frontier.



More than 35 years ago, President George H.W. Bush announced the next step in the American dream for space exploration — not only returning to where we've been but reaching new limits in the realm of outer space.

[Click Image to View Video](#)

“And next, for the new century, back to the moon, back to the future, and this time back to stay. And then, a journey into tomorrow, a journey to another planet, a manned mission to Mars,” he said during a 1989 speech commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

Today, Texas A&M University is ready to achieve those goals with the creation of the [Texas A&M Space Institute](#). The institute will provide researchers with the resources they need to send humans to explore beyond the lower Earth orbit, back to the moon and finally, on to Mars. Not only will this institute push humanity forward in the exploration of the universe, but it will establish Texas A&M's place as the top space university in the world.

Out-of-this-World Collaboration Space

The Texas A&M Space Institute will be a first-of-its-kind research facility rooted in collaboration, discovery and training. When it opens its doors in fall 2026, government entities and the private sector will be able to perform space-related research side by side, united by the shared motivation of space exploration.



Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg, director of the Texas A&M Space Institute.

Credit: Abbey Santoro/Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Leading the institute is Director [Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg](#), a former astronaut who now teaches at Texas A&M's College of Engineering. She will be working alongside [Dr. Robert Ambrose](#), College of Engineering professor, who is serving as associate director.

With 400,000 square feet containing a moonscape and Marscape, research garages, conference rooms and presentation rooms all under one roof, the Space Institute will be a massive hub for space research. It will be [the first building in NASA's new Exploration Park](#), a 240-acre commercial property located next door to the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The Space Institute's proximity to NASA will be critical in developing a stronger relationship between Texas A&M and the space giant.

The park will allow various organizations to work in close proximity to the astronauts and cargo that they are helping send to space. An entire community of entities with similar space-related goals will be established, and the Texas A&M Space Institute will be the first facility to begin working there.

One of the most exciting features of the new facility will be a two-and-a-half acre area replicating the moon's surface, and another area the same size replicating the surface of Mars. Scape environments of this magnitude have never been created before. To put it in perspective, each scape will be the size of Texas A&M's iconic [Kyle Field](#). They will have enough room to train astronauts, test rovers and develop medical equipment — potentially even a space-based hospital.

Work on these varied research projects will take place in 2,000-square-foot “garages” in the middle of the facility — with half opening to the lunarscape, and the other to the Marscape. Currie-Gregg envisions these spaces as a hub for collaboration among all kinds of researchers.

“In a multitude of garages will be private industry of all sizes,” she said, “some developing space suits or rovers, critical to future human space exploration missions... In the next garage, perhaps the U.S. Space Force will be working on some of their military projects. The facility will provide a very collaborative environment, with everyone leveraging the extremely unique scapes for testing of full-scale equipment and providing an indoor environment for integrated research, testing and operations.”

With all the experts involved in a myriad of collaborative projects and the many resources available to them at the Space Institute, advancements in space flight will likely be made at a pace never seen before. Traveling to Mars is closer to reality than it's ever been.

Big Goals Require Big Ideas

In order to successfully return to the moon, and then venture on to Mars, researchers will need to find solutions to the challenges presented by exiting [Low Earth orbit](#), the space within 1,200 miles from Earth's surface. Issues that we face here on Earth, like developing communication and power or finding reliable sources of water, will be escalated on the moon. The Space Institute will provide a fully enclosed, 24/7 facility where researchers can start to solve these problems and prepare for those complicated missions more efficiently than anywhere else.

Texas A&M has a long history of [space research](#), with over 280 faculty and investigators — including five astronauts — currently involved in space-related projects, and 12 schools and colleges taking part in space research. Every field and discipline has the potential to help open doors to reach further into outer space. That's why the Space Institute is being designed with collaboration as a priority.

With potential projects spanning from rovers to interplanetary communications, the only way to make progress will be for companies from around Texas to put their heads together in one space and share their discoveries.

“I love the fact that this is going to be a place where we can have community,” said Currie-Gregg. “And so the community that we'll be building at this particular facility will be a community that's going to also be on the surface of the moon.”

This new community was born from the establishment of the [Texas Space Commission](#), which aims to expand Texas' reputation as a leader in space exploration. Currie-Gregg serves on the Space Commission's Board of Directors, and Ambrose serves on the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium Executive Committee (TARSEC). Ambrose was appointed to represent the chancellor of The Texas A&M University System on the committee.

The Space Commission was formed in 2023, when the Texas Legislature passed [House Bill 3447](#), which allotted \$350 million for space programs in Texas, including \$200 million toward the Texas A&M Space Institute. Executive committee members for the Space Commission and TARSEC were named the following year.

With plans for the Space Institute to open in fall 2026, the state of Texas is quickly approaching a new era in space research and exploration. Momentum has been building among the various companies, organizations and universities around Texas, and once they are all under the same roof, there is no doubt that the discoveries and progress will be like nothing we've seen before. Texas A&M is ready for the next giant leap for mankind.

To read the complete article, visit the link below.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/stories/launching-the-future-texas-ams-space-institute-will-be-a-hub-for-innovation-and-exploration/>

COMMANDANT STATEMENT ON ENHANCED CORPS SAFETY MEASURES

The following letter from Lieutenant General James W. Bierman was distributed to all current cadets on 3/16/26.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT



March 16, 2026

Cadets of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Cadet Corps,

Welcome back from spring break. I hope you enjoyed yourselves and had the chance to relax and exhale. It's really good to have all of you back for the culmination of a great year.

It's now been two weeks since the commencement of Operation Epic Fury. Not long after the initiation of hostilities, I communicated with you. Among other topics, I voiced concerns about the threat of terrorism at home and abroad. At that time, we had already seen a domestic terrorist attack in our own state capital.

The threat remains real and persistent; it is evolving. We have now seen further domestic terror attacks in New York, Michigan, and Virginia. On 12 March, the Army ROTC unit at Old Dominion University was attacked by a lone gunman. Shortly after opening fire on members of the unit, the gunman was subdued and killed by a courageous group of ROTC Cadets. This attack on an ROTC unit was intentional and symbolic.

In coordination with other Texas A&M stakeholders, our team has carefully considered the situation. Your safety remains the foremost consideration. While the scheduled routine of the Corps will not vary, the following measures will be implemented.

- The Texas A&M University Police Department (UPD) will provide armed officer overwatch during all Corps formations and selected activities.
- UPD will also increase patrols in the vicinity of Corps buildings and facilities, including the TRIGON.
- The entire Corps will receive an active shooter brief in Duncan Dining Hall on 17 March. At a minimum, everyone should walk away with updated emergency contact information programmed into their phone and a basic understanding of critical reporting procedures.

With the real and unpredictable threat of terrorism, your vigilance remains critical. Homegrown terrorist attacks can emerge without warning; these are often carried out by individuals or groups already within our communities. All of you play a critical role in protecting yourselves, each other, the Corps, and our larger University community. As you go about your routine, stay alert to unusual behavior, suspicious packages, attempts to gain unauthorized access, or activities that seem out of place. Trust your gut instincts—if something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't. Immediately pass it on through your chain of command or the proper security channels. In the event of an attack, the importance of early, calm, and accurate reporting can't be overstated.

Going forward, we'll frequently reassess and reevaluate. The Texas A&M University Operations Team and UPD are sharing information with local and federal law enforcement.

As always, our thoughts remain with the courageous young men and women who are conducting combat operations overseas against the enemies of our country, as well as with those keeping us safe at home. Their numbers include many of our fellow Aggies. We keep them and the leaders of our great Nation in our prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R/ JWB".

James W. Bierman
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marines (Ret)
Commandant

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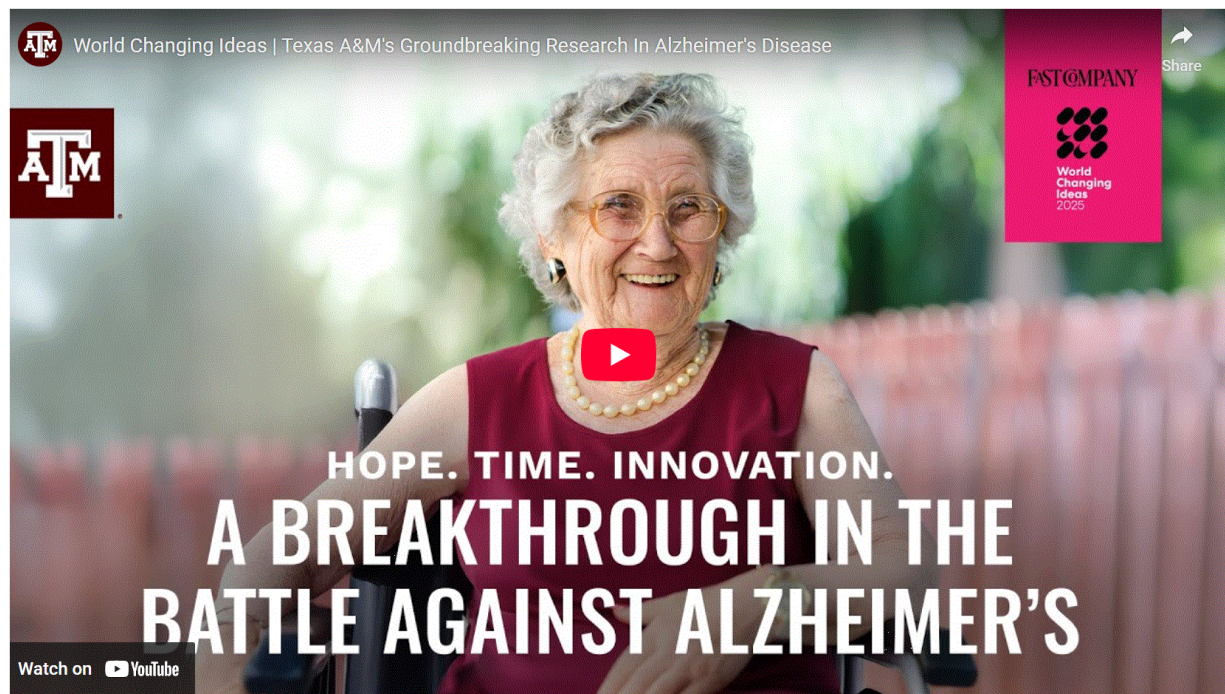


TEXAS A&M RESEARCH OFFERS HOPE FOR PATIENTS FACING ALZHEIMER'S

June 18, 2025 By Abby DeFily '22, Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

The innovative new treatment could delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease symptoms for years after initial diagnosis.

Imagine looking in the mirror and not knowing who is looking back at you, or suddenly realizing you no longer know how to cook eggs. It's a frightening image, but one that is all too real for the more than 55 million people worldwide currently suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.



[Click Image to View Video](#)

It is a disease that not only impacts the patients, but also those who love them.

"I have been working in research for aging and dementia my entire life, and it still did not prepare me for when my grandmother was diagnosed with dementia," said [Dr. Karienn Souza](#), a research assistant professor in Texas A&M University's College of Medicine.

"She was incredibly smart, funny and kind. She spoke four languages, and the disease took that away from us. And not only was that devastating, but there was nothing we could do. There was no treatment to cure it. There's no way to prevent it. There's really no way to truly slow it down."

But there may be hope on the horizon through a new, innovative treatment being investigated by [Dr. Ashok Shetty](#), a University Distinguished Professor of cell biology

and genetics in Texas A&M's College of Medicine, and associate director of the [Texas A&M Institute for Regenerative Medicine](#).



Interested from a young age in learning about how the brain works, Dr. Ashok Shetty is committed to finding an effective and accessible treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

Credit: Abbey Santoro/Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications

Shetty and his team have been working to develop what will eventually be a nasal spray that can be administered to patients with Alzheimer's to improve their brain function, specifically by preserving cognitive and mood functions or slowing down the rate of cognitive decline. A vital benefit of this treatment is time — for patients, more time with their memories and independence, and for family and friends, more time with their loved ones.

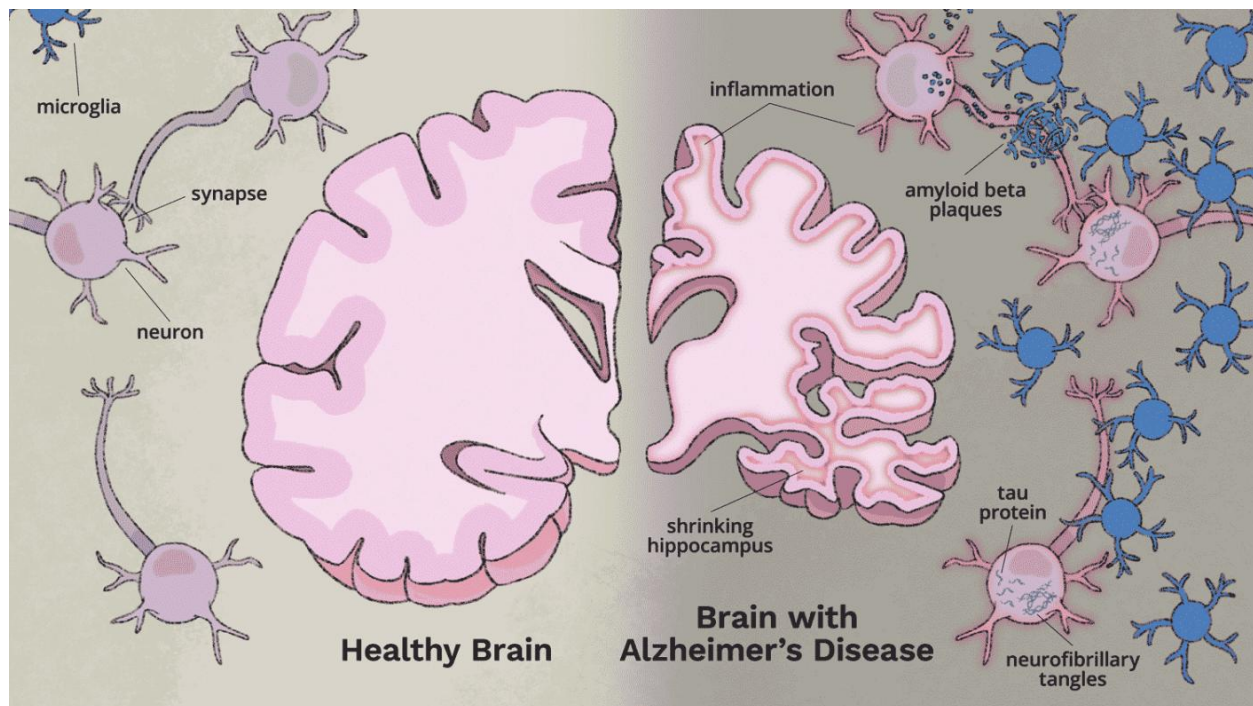
"I'm a neuroscientist dedicated to developing new therapies," Shetty said, "so my job and passion are to find a cure for difficult-to-treat neurodegenerative diseases such as dementia. So if I am successful, I'll be extremely happy — not only for the patients with Alzheimer's, but also the family members of patients with Alzheimer's."

A Closer Look at Alzheimer's Progression

Alzheimer's is currently a leading cause of death in people aged 65 and older. When a person's brain is affected by Alzheimer's disease, it develops an excess of a protein called amyloid beta, creating harmful plaques around the neural cells. In response to this, "housekeeping" cells called microglia are over-activated in an attempt to clean up

the plaques, but this over-activation causes inflammation in the brain, sickening the neurons over a period of time.

In addition to these plaques and inflammation, within the neural cells, an abnormal form of a protein called tau begins to form, resulting in “tangles” in the neurons. The combination of the plaques outside the neurons, the tangles inside the neurons and the overall inflammatory environment causes the neurons to become sicker and sicker, losing vital connections (synapses) between each other and eventually dying.



Credit: Emme Benefield/Texas A&M University Division of Marketing & Communications

With loss of synapses — important for neural activity and memory formation — reduced numbers of neurons, and an adverse environment that cannot produce new neurons in the hippocampus, the brain's learning and memory center, the person experiences a decline in memory and cognitive function. In the final stage of the disease, the brain undergoes massive neurodegeneration.

“In the later stages of the disease, what happens is the patients will stop recognizing family members, and then in the much more advanced stages, they don't even know who they are. That leads to a lot of confusion, aggressive behavior and depression, so it's very hard on the families.”

A Way to Stop the Spread

While there is still no cure for Alzheimer's, the treatment being developed by Shetty and his team has shown great success in slowing its progression and even reversing some

of the damage inflicted on the brain. The solution could mean years of improved brain function added to the lives of those with the disease.

The treatment begins with nanosized vesicles — tiny pockets of fluid — made out of human neural stem cells. The nasal mucous membrane must be permeated for the vesicles to quickly enter the entirety of the brain to be taken up by various types of brain cells. Once inside the brain, the vesicles work in a number of ways:

1. Their cargo modifies the microglia to prevent them from overactivation while allowing them to function at a healthy level, cleaning up plaques. This, in turn, also decreases inflammation.
2. They target the abnormal form of tau protein, reducing the number of tangles in the neurons.
3. They protect neurons from the harmful effects of the amyloid-beta protein, including the buildup of plaques and tangles.
4. They trigger the production of new neurons in the hippocampus, the brain's learning and memory center.

Together, the result of these various vesicle functions is improved brain function and a reduction in the effects of Alzheimer's. This translates into a higher quality of life and the priceless gift of time, especially if treatment begins in the early stages of the disease.

"Alzheimer's disease is progressive," Shetty explained. "After the diagnosis, it takes about an average of four to eight years to get into that advanced stage. But when we intervene very early with these extracellular vesicles, we could potentially delay the Alzheimer's disease progression by up to 10 years. We are also testing whether periodic treatment with vesicles can preserve improved brain function for even longer periods."

Shetty and the researchers in his laboratory focus on developing solutions for compromised brain functions caused by brain injury, disease or aging.

Having tested the treatment in the early stages of Alzheimer's, the results have been overwhelmingly successful. Shetty has recently applied for a patent, the next step in making the treatment available to the public. However, the road is still long, with many steps along the way before clinical trials can begin.

"The first hurdle is making clinical-grade extracellular vesicles, which could receive FDA approval for a clinical trial in patients with Alzheimer's," he said. "So, we also need to collaborate with biotech companies because we need cGMP (Current Good Manufacturing Practice) facilities for that, and we need to develop protocols that are compliant with the FDA regulations for clinical trials."

The vision for the final product of Shetty's research is a noninvasive nasal spray that contains the vesicles and is available through a quick doctor's office visit or even at pharmacies. This accessibility is possible through the scalability of the vesicles, which would also make the treatment more affordable for the public. The bold new approach could be a revolutionary leap from the current treatment options to an easily accessible, effective, self-administered spray, extending and improving the lives of countless individuals.

Heart Behind the Research

Shetty and Souza have always been interested in studying the mechanisms of brain aging, but Souza's motivation to find neurological advancements escalated when her grandmother began battling dementia. Now, as a collaborator of Shetty's research program, she knows from personal experience the impact this research could have.

She says that she has always been fascinated by how brains age differently, but her grandmother's experience gave her a front-row view of how these differences deeply affect lives. Not only was it incredibly hard for her to watch the dementia progress in her grandmother, but she said she also felt very alone, and despite being part of a large Alzheimer's research community, it was difficult to find the resources she needed to help her grandmother.

"Going through the disease with my grandmother, it just ignited the need for me that we need to reach out to the community, that we need to explain what we're doing in the lab so they know where we are in terms of coming up with a therapy and a cure. And I do believe that the community can understand what the treatment is and what it does. I think that bridge can be crossed."

Especially now that Texas A&M researchers are close to a meaningful solution, it's as important as ever to share the news with those who are currently suffering, whose loved ones are suffering or who might come face to face with a diagnosis later in their lives.

Souza is very optimistic about the new method Shetty has discovered to fight the disease. She said that he has gone "against the grain" of other Alzheimer's research by being the first to try a new treatment method that targets inflammation in the brain. This has allowed a door to be opened to a revolutionary new remedy that could benefit millions around the world.



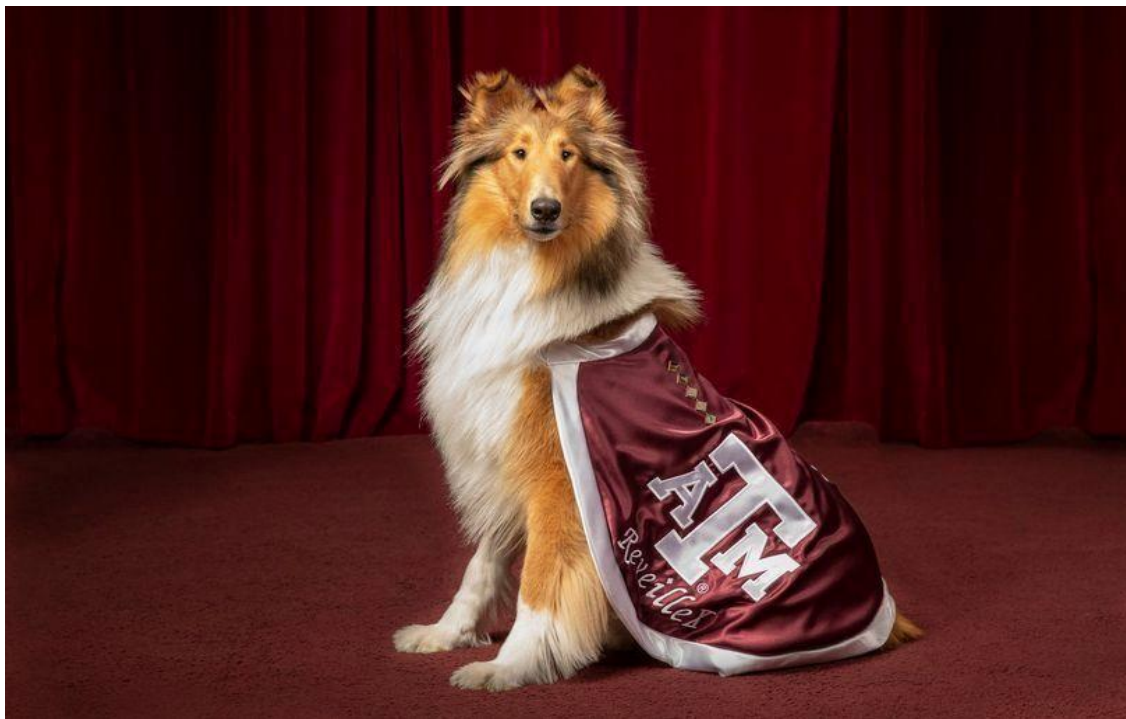
Dr. Karienn de Souza *Research Assistant Professor* Texas A&M University College of Medicine

Both Shetty and Souza agree that this research exemplifies the core of what Texas A&M is all about — producing solutions that impact Texas, the nation and the world. Fueled by a deep desire to better understand one of the body’s most complicated organs, the goal for this project is to serve humanity by relieving millions of individuals and families from the pain brought by Alzheimer’s.

In recognition of the massive potential impact this solution has, the treatment recently garnered attention as a [“World-Changing Idea” honoree by Fast Company magazine](#), a leading business media brand that focuses on innovation in a broad array of fields. In addition to honoring the awardees, the platform allows the selected researchers to get the word about their projects out to a very wide audience.

However, Shetty has never been motivated by recognition, but by his fascination with the brain and the potential of helping solve one of its most far-reaching complications — Alzheimer’s disease. And with the work he’s doing alongside his research team at Texas A&M, the solution may be closer than ever before.

<https://stories.tamu.edu/stories/tamu-research-offers-hope-for-patients-facing-alzheimers/>



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 jbelle@tamus.edu

Interim President Tommy Williams: president@tamu.edu

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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.