

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Ninety-Six (96)



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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.

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM REGENTS SELECT GLENN HEGAR AS SOLE FINALIST TO BE CHANCELLOR

March 7, 2025 By Texas A&M University System

The Texas A&M University System's Board of Regents on Friday selected Comptroller Glenn Hegar '93 as the sole finalist to be chancellor of The Texas A&M University System.

Hegar, a Republican, has served in the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate before first being elected comptroller in 2014. He won re-election in 2018 and 2022.

Friday's vote by the Board of Regents was unanimous. "The Board is confident that Glenn Hegar is ready to usher in the next era of excellence at The Texas A&M University System," said Bill Mahomes, chairman of the Board of Regents. "Hegar grasps the unique breadth and depth of the System's impact on every corner of Texas through its eight state agencies and 11 universities. We, as members of the Board of Regents, are eager to see what he will accomplish."

Under state law, there is a 21-day comment period before the Board can finalize their selection. If given final board approval, Hegar would succeed Chancellor John



Glenn Hegar Photo Credit: Texas Comptroller's Office

Sharp, the longest serving chancellor in the history of the Texas A&M System. Sharp has announced he is stepping down as chancellor on June 30 after almost 14 years.

Hegar, who grew up in Hockley, is a sixth-generation Texan who grew up farming land that has been in his family since the mid-1800s.

He is a 1993 graduate of Texas A&M University and a graduate of St. Mary's University, where he earned a Master of Arts and his law degree. At the University of Arkansas, he earned his Master of Laws.

Hegar and his wife, Dara, have three children, Claire, Julia and Jonah.

Mahomes added: "The Board members were pleased to see its search for chancellor yield so much interest and so many qualified candidates. We thank everyone who was involved in this extensive search and selection process."

To read the complete article go to the link below:

<https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2025/03/07/texas-am-university-system-regents-select-glenn-hegar-as-sole-finalist-to-be-chancellor/>

ALBERTS TABS MCMILLAN AS MEN'S BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

April 5, 2025 by Brad Marquardt, Assistant AD/Athletics Communications

Three-time Southern Conference Coach of the Year Bucky McMillan has been tabbed as Texas A&M's 23rd men's basketball head coach in school history, Director of Athletics Trev Alberts announced on Saturday.



Bucky McMillan Photo by Rob Gray-USA TODAY Sports

McMillan will be officially introduced to Aggieland at a Welcome Event beginning at 3 p.m. on Monday at Reed Arena. Free parking is available in all Reed Arena lots. Doors open at 2:30 p.m., and fans should enter via the Main entrance of Reed Arena. Information regarding season tickets for the Aggies' 2025-26 campaign can be found here. Additionally, 12th Man Foundation representatives will be available to discuss season ticket options on the Reed Arena concourse at the Welcome Event.

Renowned for his innovative offensive and defensive styles of play, known as "Bucky Ball," McMillan comes to Texas A&M after transforming Samford University into one of the top basketball programs in the Southern Conference in his five seasons at the Birmingham, Alabama school.

"We're incredibly excited about Bucky coming to Aggieland to lead our men's basketball program," Alberts said. "He's an innovator as a coach, and he has a smart and analytics-driven approach to the game. Bucky brings a unique combination of qualities to our program and we're thrilled to begin the next chapter of our basketball history under his leadership."

"As a guy that grew up around the SEC, I am motivated by the vision of Texas A&M's leadership to compete at the highest levels of college basketball. As I've done my entire career, I won't rest until we get the Aggies playing at a championship level year-in and year-out.

"I have heard nothing but positive things about the people of Bryan-College Station, Texas A&M University and the strength of the athletics department under the leadership of Trev Alberts. People ask what kind of style do you play? And I oftentimes say 'it's real simple, we play the kind of style that WINS, we just want to do it FASTER!'

"At our core, we want players and coaches who are **HARDWORKING**, **UNSELFISH**, and as a result, **FEARLESS**. Our teams have never backed away from a challenge. It will be no different at Texas A&M, especially with the strength of the 12th Man behind us!"

To read the complete article go to the link below:

<https://12thman.com/news/2025/4/5/mens-basketball-alberts-tabs-mcmillan-as-mens-basketball-head-coach>

TEXAS A&M RESEARCHER WILLIAM MURPHY NAMED 2025 SEC PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

March 24, 2025 By *Courtney Price*, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Dr. William Murphy, a researcher at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has been named the 2025 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Professor of the Year.

Murphy is a National Academy of Sciences member and the James E. Womack University Professor of Genetics in the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences. He is also a Texas A&M University System Regents



Murphy's work has helped redefine the mammalian tree of life and transform scientists' understanding of biology, especially through his research on the domestic cat genome. Photo Credit: Jason Nitsch '14

Professor and was recently appointed to lead a new Center for Comparative Genomics in animal genetics at Texas A&M. As a genomicist, Murphy studies the structure, function and evolution of an organism's entire genome, or its entire DNA complement, to better understand the genetic basis of a species' traits and diseases.

"Dr. Murphy's commitment to innovative scholarship, excellence in teaching and dedicated service embodies what it means to be the SEC Professor of the Year," said SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey. "We are proud to have faculty like Dr. Murphy representing our Conference."

The SEC Professor of the Year Award is given annually to one SEC faculty member whose record of teaching, research and service places them among the elite in higher education. Winners are selected by the SEC provosts from among the 16 SEC Faculty Achievement Award recipients.

Murphy is the third Texas A&M recipient of the prestigious honor, the highest given to professors by the SEC, joining fellow National Academy of Sciences members Drs. Karen Wooley and Marcetta Y. Darensbourg, both nationally recognized experts in chemistry.

"What an incredible honor to represent my institution and the SEC in this way," Murphy said. "I am deeply grateful for the support of Texas A&M throughout my career and to the SEC for this recognition of my academic efforts."

Murphy received the honor for his research using comparative genomics to describe and understand evolutionary processes in mammals that result in different species, adaptations and overall biological diversity. His work has helped redefine the mammalian tree of life and transform scientists' understanding of biology, especially through his research on the domestic cat genome.

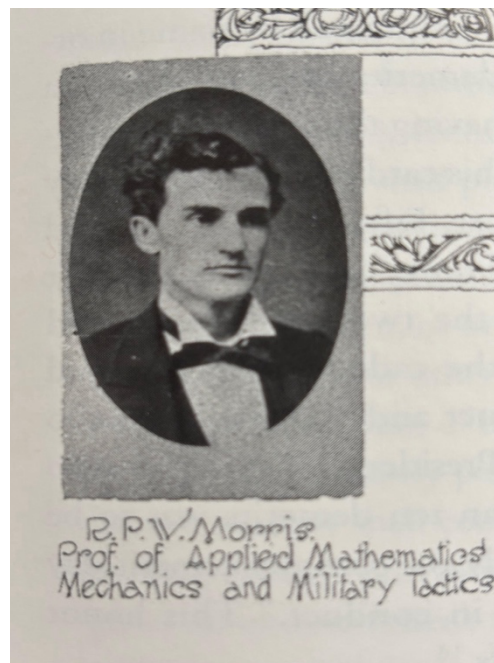
To read the complete article go to the link below:

<https://stories.tamu.edu/stories/tamu-researcher-william-murphy-named-2025-sec-professor-of-the-year/>

THE TEXAS A&M-VMI CONNECTION

By John Adams Jr

Texas A&M has had connection with the Virginia Military Institute since the first day of the College in October 4, 1876. When the first faculty was hired by Governor Richard Coke, no specific action was taken to provide for a commandant of cadets. Once the first six professors arrived, the Board of Directors solved this. In order to comply with the mandate of the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862 to teach “military tactics,” they designated math teachers, recent 1872 VMI graduate, and youngest faculty member Robert P. W. Morris the commandant with the rank of major – task with organization of the first Corps of Cadets, training, discipline, and morale.



After starting with only six cadets, by fall the enrollment of some 100 students was organized into two cadet companies – A and B. The commander of Co. A also served as the cadet corps commander, and the commander of Co. B as the corps adjutant. Morris fashioned the cadet uniform after that at VMI. The uniform was required to be worn at all times, and each cadet was issued seven shirts, two pairs of shoes, towels, four pairs of drawers, four undershirts, and seven collars.

Major Morris' most lasting contribution was the drafting of the official college “Rules and Regulation of the A&M College” (later renamed the Articles of the Corps of Cadets and then The Standard). The extensive 28 page A&M Rules were based on the 1872 “Regulations of VMI.” Morris (one of five commandants that were not active duty army officers during the first 100 years of the college) served only one year until Captain George T. Olmsted arrived.

The VMI influence continued in late 1879, following the firing of the entire A&M faculty by Governor Oran M. Roberts, including Morris, over the promotion of senior John Crisp as cadet corps commander. The governor then named Colonel John G. James (VMI 1866) president (1879-1883) followed by the third A&M president (known then as the chairman of the faculty) Henry H. Dinwiddie (VMI 1867), from 1883 to 1887. Both James and Dinwiddie were veterans of the famed May 15, 1864 Battle of New Market, where as cadets the VMI Corps, was dispatched to stop the federal invasion of Virginia.

Robert Morris left Texas in 1880 to complete law school, was elected to the US House of Representatives from Minnesota for six years, and after 1903 completed his career as a federal district judge. Held in high regard by the cadets, and as a special

guest of the 1924 reunion of the Aggie “Boys of ‘76 to ‘79”, he was invited back to campus as the Former Students keynote speaker at the June commencement.

TEXAS A&M CORP OF CADETS ANNOUNCES 2025-2026 LEADERSHIP

Texas A&M University Corp of Cadets March 7, 2025

Eleven students representing three states and eight Texas cities will assume the highest senior leadership roles in the Corps of Cadets next year.

Texas A&M’s largest, oldest, and most visible student organization—the Corps of Cadets—has selected their top leadership for the 2025-2026 school year. Cadets completed a thorough selection process that consisted of an interest application and multiple interviews with a panel of cadet peers and staff.

Three cadets were identified to fill the senior-level leadership positions of Corps Commander, Deputy Corps Commander and Corps Sergeant Major:

- Corps Commander: John Andruss, Victoria, Texas.
- Deputy Corps Commander: Jackson Powell, Houston, Texas.
- Sergeant Major: Jonathan Varnan, Rowlett, Texas.

Eight cadets were selected to serve as Major Unit Commanders or Sergeants Major for the Corps’ four major units:

- 1st Brigade Commander: Madison Cronin, Hot Springs, Arkansas.
- *1st Brigade Sergeant Major*: Ethan Hernandez, Frisco, Texas.
- 1st Regiment Commander: Melody Bratcher, Fort Worth, Texas.
- *1st Regiment Sergeant Major*: Mackenzie Cronin, Hot Springs, Arkansas.
- 1st Wing Commander: Kayla Parker, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- *1st Wing Sergeant Major*: Michael Elgohary, Katy, Texas.
- Aggie Band Commander: Avery Owens, Northlake, Texas.
- *Aggie Band Sergeant Major*: Anthony Mabins, San Antonio, Texas.

The 2025-2026 cadet leaders will assume their roles for the upcoming school year during the second pass of Final Review on April 26, 2025.

To read the complete article go to the link below:

<https://corps.tamu.edu/25-26-corps-leadership/#:~:text=Three%20cadets%20were%20identified%20to,Jonathan%20Varnan%2C%20Rowlett%2C%20Texas.>

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY NAMED ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANIES BY FAST COMPANY

March 18, 2025 by Texas A&M University Division of Marketing and Communications

Texas A&M University has been named one of Fast Company magazine's Most Innovative Companies for 2025, joining business icons including Nvidia, YouTube and EA Sports.

Texas A&M is the only university selected for the honor for 2025 and will be featured in the March/April 2025 issue of Fast Company magazine, on [fastcompany.com](https://www.fastcompany.com) and at Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies Summit and Gala in New York City in June, where Texas A&M University leaders will take the Summit stage with Fast Company executives to discuss the recognition.

"Those of us in Aggieland have known the impact this amazing university has had on the world for nearly 150 years," said General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, president of Texas A&M. "This recognition from Fast Company is a testament to our faculty, staff and students, whose efforts are what keep us at the leading edge of innovation across disciplines, from agriculture to veterinary medicine, the arts, engineering, business, human health and visualization."

Texas A&M University was honored in the Augmented and Virtual Reality sector for its contributions to creating the future of tech-powered immersive experiences. Fast Company notes that these "innovative organizations are finding ways to make augmented and virtual reality a more efficient, and even more practical, way to interact with technologies and tools, including letting people learn complex skills through virtual training." Other companies listed in this area include Xreal, Varjo and FundamentalVR.

Texas A&M's use of visualization reaches far and wide across the university and illustrates how Aggies are shaping the future.

To read the complete article go to the link below:

<https://stories.tamu.edu/stories/texas-am-university-named-one-of-the-worlds-most-innovative-companies-by-fast-company/#:~:text=Texas%20A%26M%20University%20has%20been,aren't%20just%20keeping%20up>.

TEXAS LAWMAKERS SEEK TO TRANSFER UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA TO TEXAS A&M SYSTEM

The Texas Tribune by Jessica Priest March 17, 2025

Lawmakers want to put the small University of Houston campus in Victoria under the Texas A&M University System's umbrella, saying the move will better support the region's workforce needs.

Under A&M, the University of Houston-Victoria will be able to offer degrees in engineering and agribusiness that are not currently available there, said state Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, who introduced legislation to make the move last week.

"We will be extremely happy to welcome the Victoria campus into the Texas A&M University System, if that is what Gov. [Greg] Abbott and the members of the Legislature decide," Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp said in a statement to the Tribune.

The University of Houston System said it only wants what's best for its students and the state. "With the proposed transfer of the University of Houston-Victoria to the Texas A&M University System, we recognize that the academic programs offered by the TAMU System, specifically in the areas of agribusiness and agricultural economics, may be better aligned to support the Victoria region's economic growth and local workforce needs."

If the legislation is approved, the Victoria school would become the Texas A&M System's 12th university on Sept. 1 and the University of Houston System would be left with three.

To read the complete article go to the link below:

https://www.texastribune.org/2025/03/17/texas-am-system-university-houston-victoria/?utm_campaign=trib-social-buttons&utm_source=copy&utm_medium=social



A pair of bills filed in the Texas House and Senate would transfer the University of Houston's Victoria campus to the Texas A&M University System. Credit: Evan L'Roy The Texas Tribune

TEXAS A&M LAUNCHES AI INITIATIVE AS PART OF CONSORTIUM

By Stephen Whitaker of My Aggie Nation March 4, 2025

Texas A&M University became one of 15 research institutions in the United States to join a consortium using AI to accelerate research and transform education. OpenAI announced the creation of the consortium in a news release Tuesday. The plan for Texas A&M is to use the AI resources to fuel a generative AI literacy initiative that would provide hands-on training to both faculty and students to enhance the responsible use of AI in academic settings.

Spearheading the effort is the Texas A&M Institute of Data Science (TAMIDS). Director Nick Duffield and Krishna Narayanan, associate director for education initiatives, visited with The Eagle on Tuesday to give more details on the plan as well as what TAMIDS does.

TAMIDS was started in 2017 in a joint venture by Texas A&M, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station and Texas A&M AgriLife. It operates under the Division of Research in the Blocker Building on the A&M campus. TAMIDS pursues new approaches to data science research, education, operation and partnership. It also looks for new ways to increase data literacy and promote data science research and education at A&M and beyond.

The consortium is known as NextGenAI and it will be funded by \$50 million coming from OpenAI. TAMIDS will receive \$50,000 in cash and \$100,000 in API credits for OpenAI services to get its program going.

TAMIDS had been brainstorming ideas on how to teach AI to other disciplines around campus. The partnership with NextGenAI provides a boost to that plan and a starting place for the plan to grow.

The hope is that once the program is up and running on campus, TAMIDS will also be able to learn from faculty, staff and students around campus what ways work best when it comes to using AI in education.

Narayanan, who has taught and worked at A&M for 26 years, sees it as the best place to build a program that will provide multiple disciplines and the chance to learn how to best use AI.

There is also hope that A&M graduates will be willing to share their experiences with AI in the real world and even donate to the program if they are feeling philanthropic. TAMIDS is hoping to get the program up and running before the end of the spring semester with larger growth in the fall. A fast start is needed because of how quickly the world of AI changes.

To read the complete article go to the link below:

https://myaggienation.com/am_news/texas-a-m-launches-ai-initiative-as-part-of-consortium/article_198fff5e-4154-59ad-9855-c210b689fd99.html



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”, “Foxfire”, 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:

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

President Mark Welsh: markwelsh@tamu.com

Provost Alan Sams: asams@tamu.edu

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

Interim VPSA Tom Reber: treber@tamu.edu

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 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.