

VERITAS FORUM 2015

April 8, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m. - MSC Bethancourt

FREE Admission

Topic: "Jesus Christ and Nanotechnology"



Dr. James "Jim" M. Tour is professor of Chemistry, professor of Computer Science, and professor of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science at Rice University. He is ranked one of the **Top 10 Chemists** in the world over the past decade and was named **"Scientist of the Year" by R&D Magazine in 2013**. Dr. Tour came to faith in Jesus Christ while in college, and will discuss how his relationship with Jesus Christ has driven his scientific career. For more information, visit his website: <http://www.jmtour.com/>

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EDITORIAL BOARD

Finalist for A&M president a choice made with future in mind

Few Aggies have heard of Michael K. Young, the Washington president who got the nod Tuesday as the finalist for the A&M presidency. No one yet knows how he will work or interact with the unique fiber of Texas A&M — its traditions, the Kyle Field pageantry, the student body.

And that's a good thing. There might, for instance, be more certainty in a choice like former Gov. Rick Perry, who became the popular conversational name in a search characterized by its silence. No names leaked, so Aggies defaulted to Perry — ironically, in some contexts.

Aggies are comfortable with Perry. They're comfortable, also, with interim president Mark Hussey, pulled from his post as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to man the presidency since it opened in 2013 with the departure of R. Bowen Loftin. Loftin is famous for his involvement — and subsequent marketing of — the "100-year decision" to move to the SEC.

But Texas A&M in 2015 is different for more than its conference affiliation. This is a campus with big, sweeping goals. Vision 2020, 25 by 25 and the Kyle Field redevelopment are each ambitious in their own right

(overly so, it could be argued), but they're symptoms of a university itching to step deeper into the national dialog.

A&M has been, at times, an institution prone to hiring from within. That's not always a bad thing. But it can make "national searches" feel like a formality and keep the best national leadership from considering College Station.

With Michael Young, the Board of Regents blew past the comfortable picks and found a man with bulletproof credentials. Whether Young is good for A&M will be answered by time. But the process and thinking that led to his selection is a welcome sign.

The Battalion's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, with the editor in chief having final responsibility.

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YOUNG CONTINUED

helped raise the school to one of the top 100 universities in the world, according to a university press release.

David Pershing, president of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, said in a statement that during Young's time as president, he was responsible for advancing commercialization of faculty and student inventions, improving physical facilities, internationalizing the campus focus, increasing state legislative funding and expanding the medical center.

Young said in a release that he and his wife look forward to joining Texas A&M, as it's poised to be one of the greatest research universities in the United States.

"Marti and I want to be part of expanding that excellence and a part of the great spirit and tradition that is Texas A&M," Young said. "Chancellor Sharp is a leader of vision and I look forward to working with someone who has such a passion for excellence and commitment to the highest standards."

Sharp said he visited Young in Seattle for lunch in the fall after Young was identified by two separate search committees.

"We got along pretty well and I said, 'Since I spent all this time coming here, eating your food and flying back two hours later, I want you to

come here,' and he did," Sharp said.

Sharp said Young decided he wanted to come to A&M after he met with deans, faculty members, students and visited important programs on campus.

"We think that he'll use this as a great opportunity and as a great challenge to produce one of the great public research universities in the country," Sharp said. "We're already the largest, dollar-wise, research university in the Southwestern United States, but we think we're just beginning."

Sharp said there isn't any official amount agreed upon for the new president's pay, but it will be an appropriate amount.

"We'll get into the salary announcements whenever we get closer to the 21-day period time, but we're going to pay him commensurate with what his reputation is and his reputation is one of the top in the United States," Sharp said.

Sharp said he expects Young to begin as acting president sometime in April, with Interim President Mark Hussey sitting in until that time.

"Fortunately we have Mark Hussey, who is one of the best administrators I've ever seen, and Mark not only gave this committee the ability to take its time and really be thorough, but also gave this committee the ability to wait until the new president has got all of his ducks in line and is ready to come here," Sharp said.

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