Duncan Poling '27, Company L-1, from College Station, was elected 2026–2027 student body president in March. Poling is the second cadet in consecutive years to be elected to the position.



PHOTO BY STEVE CARRASCO IV '22

CADET SNAPSHOT:

DUNCAN POLING

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT 2026–2027

OPEN TO OPPORTUNITY

BY **LAURA SIEGEL '98**

> ***Many students have never met a cadet or have no meaningful connection with us, but it's a goal of mine for them to see that the 3% of the student body the Corps makes up have a far greater impact than our size suggests. We aren't just another student organization, we're a leadership laboratory.***
>
> DUNCAN POLING '27

For the second year in a row, a cadet was elected as A&M's student body president. This year that cadet is Duncan Poling, a 3rd-generation Aggie raised in College Station. This senior from Company L-1, an industrial engineering major, began his time in student government when he was elected as freshman class president in 2023-2024.

"It wasn't my idea to run at all," explains Poling. "A high school friend of mine, Sam Chew '26, a sophomore in the Corps at the time, knocked on my door one night early on in my fish year and said he thought I should run. He was part of the Cadet Leadership Council, which works to elevate cadets to student government positions. Honestly, my initial reaction was pretty hesitant—I wasn't convinced, so I sought advice from another friend who also encouraged me to run."

Poling decided it was a great opportunity, and with the support of a dedicated group of friends, was ultimately successful. A key part of that effort was his vice president, Bryce Fisher of Florence, Texas, a former state FFA officer who was deeply involved on campus and in the School of Agriculture.

"Being the freshman class president was a formative experience, but I wasn't quite sure student government was where I wanted to spend the rest of my time at A&M," says Poling. "When one of my best friends, Cole Sloan '27, ran for sophomore class president and won, I thought my student government experience had ended."

Sloan graduated early and took a position in Washington D.C., leaving the door wide open for Poling.

"Cole's the one who motivated me to run, actually," explains Poling. The time he'd had away from student government helped Poling to mature, grow in character, and foster impactful relationships across the Quad, he says. He credits the Corps for this.

"I've never been comfortable campaigning, I'm not a salesman or politician," he says. "But I reminded myself often about why I was running, and it was a wonderful experience to meet such a wide variety of students. I also had help from a lot of friends who worked on my campaign."

One such friend is Daniel Pomeroy '27 from Company P-2, who served as Poling's campaign director on the Quad.

"When Duncan first told me he was going to run for student body president, I thought, 'Who better than Duncan?' I knew he had a genuine intention to advocate for the values, traditions, and student experience at A&M. I was responsible for cultivating support within the Quad. We organized events for interested cadets to meet Duncan and learn about his campaign. These cadets were instrumental in spreading the word to their units, building support that spanned the entirety of the Corps."

Jonathan Varnan '27, 2026-2027 Deputy Corps Commander, was another friend who worked the campaign.

"It was an easy decision for me to support him during his campaign because I knew he would fight to preserve and protect the traditions, values, and people that make this University so special. Duncan inspires me to serve selflessly and lead with humility. He has a heart for service and lives out our core values every day."

Poling frequently campaigned in uniform and aimed to show students outside the Corps the kind of leader of character that the Corps develops.

"Many students have never met a cadet or have no meaningful connection with us," he says. "But it's a goal of mine for them to see that the 3% of the student body the Corps makes up have a far greater impact than our size suggests. We aren't just another student organization, we're a leadership laboratory."

Poling's platform consisted of cutting hidden costs for students, building the Aggie community, emphasizing traditions, and promoting accessibility.

"No matter who you are or where you come from, these things are important to Aggies," he says.

The new student body president says he is ready to lead only because the Corps experience prepared him.

"It's humbled me and sharpened me, built traits I didn't have. It made my work ethic stronger. And I've made incredible friendships along the way."

Poling earned an internship at Haliburton over the summer will graduate in May.