

## Take it to the House

### MSC Open House returns for spring semester

By Amanda Trimble  
THE BATTALION

Maggie Dolan, a senior recreation, park and tourism sciences major, remembers when her brother joined MSC Hospitality in the fall of her freshman year. By the time the spring semester rolled around, she knew she wanted to apply for a student organization.

"I knew what they were doing was what I wanted to do," Dolan said.

In the spring, Dolan went to MSC Open House and picked up an application for MSC Hospitality. Not only did she get in, but four years later she is chair of the committee. Looking back, she recalls the benefits of joining after her first semester.

"By the time I got in, I'd already had one semester," Dolan said. "I got in as a freshman, which was good, but I was also a freshman with experience."

When people think of Open House, they usually think of the fall event known for its packed hallways with hundreds of organizations. The spring Open House offers just as many opportunities with a less intimidating atmosphere. This year's spring Open House will be held Jan. 27 from 2-6 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center a week later than usual because of the three-day Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Entertainment will include the Texas A&M Dance Repertoire, Aggie Wranglers, A&M Judo Club, Aggeland Amateur Magicians Club and singer and songwriter Johnathan Fowler.

As an added twist this spring, MSC Marketing has developed an *Office Space* theme for advertisements. Ads have asked organizations if they "got that memo," and let students know that "oh ... oh ... Open House" was coming soon. After Open House, MSC Film Society will show *Office Space* in Rudder Theater at 6:30 p.m., free of charge.

Spring Open House can be a good opportunity for freshmen who took advantage of the fall semester as a time to adjust.

Jaqueline Daw, a sophomore accounting major, said she did not want to get involved as soon as she arrived at A&M. After finishing high school, she said she needed a break.

"I had a lot of responsibilities in high school, and I wasn't ready to tackle another one just yet," Daw said. "After the fall, I was ready to get involved and meet new people."

As the spring semester drew closer, a friend told her about MSC FISH, a freshman leadership organization that was recruiting for the spring.

Karen Schiltz, adviser for MSC Marketing, said that there are more opportunities at spring Open House than most people assume. "It's a great opportunity, not just for freshmen, but for all students," Schiltz said.

This spring, hundreds of organizations will be recruiting students. Just a sampling of those scheduled for Open House include Howdy Ags, Fish Camp, Alpha Phi Omega and the Aggie

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— Karen Schiltz  
MSC Marketing advisor

Orientation Leader Program.

Another opportunity includes becoming a Muster family host. Huntleigh Harris, a senior industrial distribution major, said Muster committee members will be at Open House to recruit students for families that have lost an Aggie in the past year.

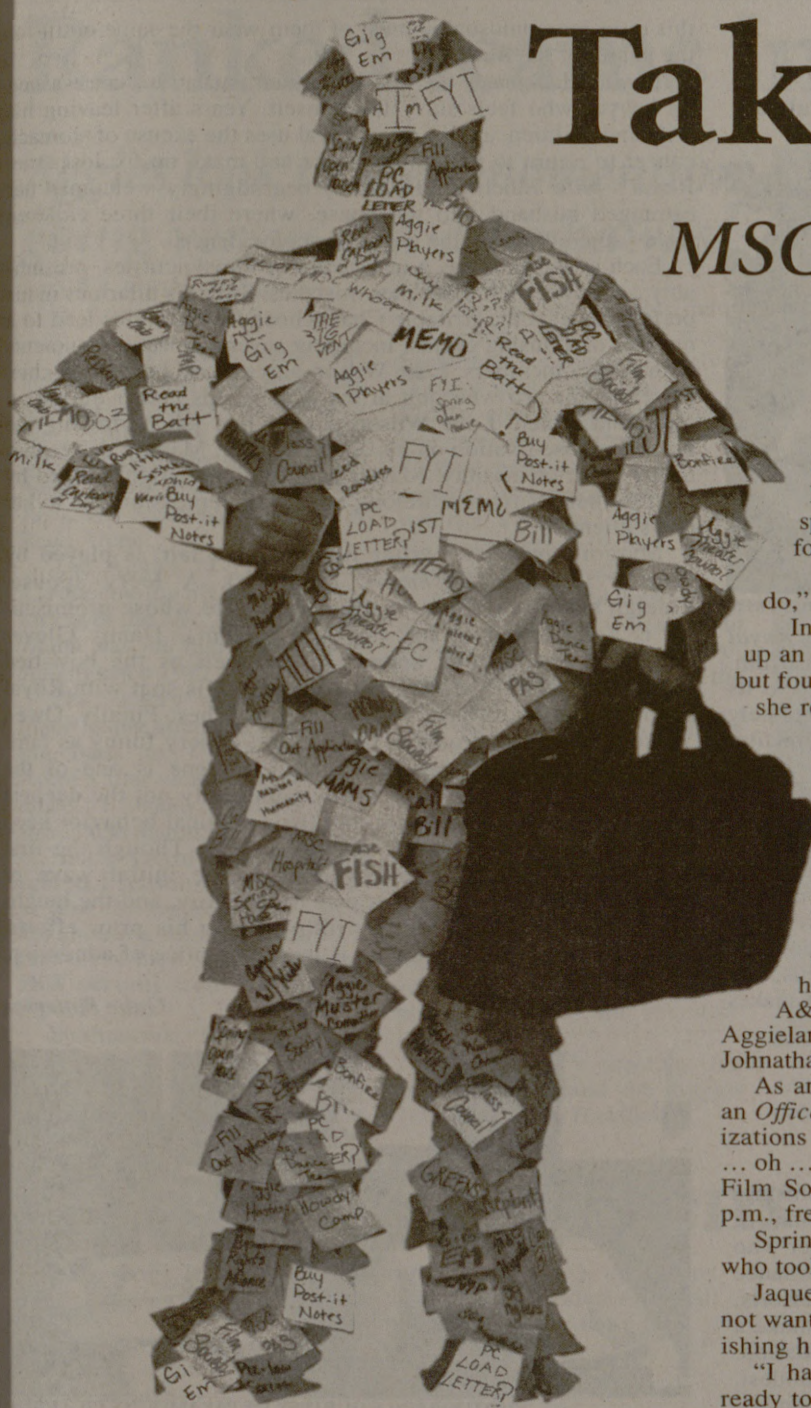
"The host would make sure the family has everything that they need," Harris said. "They do everything from checking on their hotel reservation to getting them a glass of water. They try to make sure they have a good time, considering the circumstances."

Ashley McAlpine, a senior industrial engineering major, said she went to both spring and fall Open House before she joined The Big Event her sophomore year.

"I was just walking through when I saw the table," McAlpine said. "I enjoyed it when I participated with another organization my freshman year, so I just thought I'd apply."

McAlpine became a staff assistant and is now the director of The Big Event.

Whether a student plans to attend Open House with a specific organization in mind or to see what catches their eye, the possibilities for campus involvement are endless.



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