

BATT

Mark Doré, Editor in Chief

THE BATTALION is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Offices are in Suite 1400 of the Memorial Student Center.

News: The *Battalion* news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in Student Media, a unit of the Division of Student Affairs. Newsroom phone: 979-845-3315; E-mail: editor@thebatt.com; website: http://www.thebatt.com.

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FIRE	FAIR	MAINE
ATOM	EDGE	ARMED
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8	4	1	3	9	6	2	7	5
9	6	5	7	2	1	4	3	8
2	3	7	5	4	8	9	1	6
7	5	8	6	1	2	3	4	9
6	2	9	4	3	5	7	8	1
3	1	4	8	7	9	6	5	2
4	8	2	1	6	7	5	9	3
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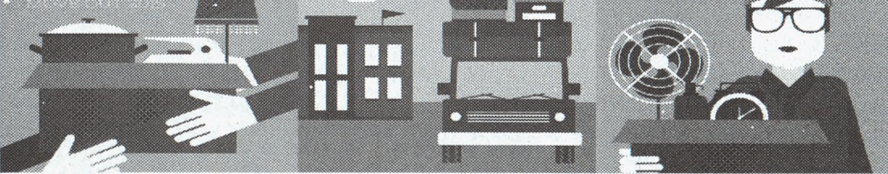
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CONTINUED

Nyampundu said Williams had a captivating personality.

"If you met Nikki one time, I promise you will never forget Nikki," Nyampundu said. "That's for sure."

Ana Gonzalez, psychology junior and a close friend of Emmou, said she had a heart of gold and a bright smile.

"She was so selfless and supportive of not only her friends, but any stranger she met," Gonzalez said. "Even if she had only met someone once, the next time she saw them she made them feel like they'd

known each other forever."

Gonzalez said Emmou was one of the most dependable friends she had.

"She helped me through my toughest times even when she was going through tough times herself," Gonzalez said. "And even when you were about ready to give up, she gave you that extra push to the light that made you think to yourself 'I can do this, not just because of my own strength or God, but because I have a friend that will be right next to me every step of the way.' That friend was Alexis. She is an angel that everyone will remember forever."



PHOTOS FROM FACEBOOK

Clock wise from top left: As of Sunday evening, **Rene Contreras** is in critical condition, **Tyra Preston** is in stable condition and **Corintha "Nikki" Williams** and **Alexis Emmou** were pronounced dead at the scene of the single-car crash.

MATTER CONTINUED

"For example if I try to pass my hand through the wall, I can't do it because there is electromagnetic interaction between the two. However, if I send a gamma particle at the wall, it will pass right through, because it doesn't interact very strongly with the wall," Mahapatra said.

Because of this property, dark matter is extremely difficult to understand, and expensive to research. There are two dark matter projects in the United States, and Texas A&M plays a major role in one of them.

SCDMS includes roughly a dozen universities, but only Texas A&M and Stanford make detectors that — in theory — will detect dark matter for the first time. These detectors need to be extremely sensitive, said Nader Mirabolfofathi, a physicist at A&M involved in the experiment. He said they need to be sensitive enough to detect energy well under one billion times less than a mosquito landing on a person's skin.

Mahapatra said the detectors use crystals made of germanium and silicon that, theoretically, will vibrate when hit by a dark matter particle. The small amount of energy imparted by the collision will cause a tiny change in temperature, eventually notifying the team that a particle passed through.

"These sensors can detect very slight vibrations as a change in temperature as small as a few micro-Kelvins," Mahapatra said.

The crystals are expensive, and when all the costs are added up to make one of the detectors, the result is a price tag of roughly half a million dollars.

"These detectors are truly the best in the world," Mahapatra said.

The unheard of sensitivity of the detectors, while necessary, presents a challenge to the experiment — it can detect minuscule events that could throw the experiment off.

"Our detectors are so sensitive, that things that would not be background [noise] for other experiments are background for us," Mirabolfofathi said.

Due to this, the current experiment is conducted in Soudan Underground Laboratory in Minnesota, to block these



Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

Allied health freshman **Ronak Noorani** washes one of the SCDMS detectors.

"background" cosmic rays from interfering with the detectors, but eventually will move to a facility called SNOLAB in Sudbury, Canada. At the new location, the detectors will be two kilometers underground. The aim of this is to keep nearly all unwanted rays away from the detectors.

There will be a total of about 60 ki-

lograms of detectors, with each detector containing about 1.5 kilograms of Germanium and 0.6 kilograms of Silicon.

Since each individual detector is so valuable, significant time is put into making sure that they work correctly, but at the current pace, the SNOLAB experiment will be ready to begin in three years.

NEPAL CONTINUED

"I'm pretty strong in my faith, and so to be honest I just felt called to go," Brewer said. "I just felt that I needed to be able to do something. I understand there's a lot of people that really want to do something, that want to go, they just may not have the opportunity, they may have families or commitments here in the United States, and so with me being a graduating senior in college I thought this may be a good time to go."

Brewer will be attending the Texas A&M College of Medicine in the fall and has worked as an EMT in addition to his medical work in Haiti. Brewer

said his team will be focusing on disease prevention and treatment.

"The biggest thing that's going to start occurring in the next couple of weeks is widespread epidemics," Brewer said. "We're going to have a cholera outbreak, a lot of tropical diseases coming in. I don't really know the incidence right now of typhus and yellow fever down there, but we're expecting a lot of viral and bacterial-borne infections, and so that's really what my team's going to be concentrating on."

Brewer said one of the biggest diseases that is affecting Nepalese citizens right now is cholera.

"There's a big incidence of cholera right now going on over there, we've already had over 1,200 cases going into the hospital," Brewer said. "It's a big waterborne illness and so that's really what I'm hoping to focus on is just kind of prevention of those diseases."

While this is not Brewer's first medical mission, this will be the earliest he's responded to a disaster situation, arriving only one month after the earthquake on May 27. Because of this, Brewer said he is feeling some degree of nervousness.

"I was in Haiti a year post-earthquake there, but going to Nepal one month post-earthquake ... We have team members on the ground and they're sending us updates and it's going to be a whole different world," Brewer said. "There's a lot of chaos down there — not really a whole lot of structure, organization, the govern-

ment can't really bring in a lot of materials right now, they can't even land large jets at the airport — and so it's going to be hectic."

But more than nerves, Brewer is anxious to be able to help.

"I'm a little bit nervous for that, but in the same sense, I love this," Brewer said. "I love doing this kind of work, this is my passion, this is what I want to do as my career and so I just absolutely love this style of work and I feel semi-comfortable being on a team."

To many, the numbers of injured and dead may seem daunting and insurmountable. But Brewer said he is confident his help will be able to make a difference, even if it's on a minor scale.

"One thing I've learned is that if you can make a difference in one person's life, to me, that's worth it," Brewer said. "That's made the entire trip worth it. I mean, seeing, we've had patients in Haiti that have come with diseases and things like that, and being able to see them be able to go back to their families ... at the end of the day you know that you were able to make a difference in that one person's life, that makes all the work, all the sacrifice, all the sweating, all the cold — it makes it all worth it."

Brewer urges anyone who can donate to do so, and suggests donating to established relief organizations, including the organization with which he is going to Nepal, International Medical Relief. People who are interested can donate at internationalmedicalrelief.org.