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# Tau Kappa Epsilon gets recognition for house's design

By Lisa Dieterle Reporter

The James O. Chance House, 102 S. Parker, owned by the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, was named last week to the National Register for its architecture, Marie Engblom, a community development planner, said. A listing in the National Register is an honorary distinction that is difficult to obtain and is looked upon as a special honor that old-home owners place on the highest pedestal. Buildings of particular historical significance are listed in the book, which is distributed nationwide.

A consultant firm was hired to survey all buildings in Bryan over 50 years old, Engblom said. There were 1,807 structures identified, photographed, mapped and rated for historical significance. However, the results proved that a house is not guaranteed acceptance simply because it is looked at by the firm.

Buildings that rated high were researched and closely looked at for architectural style, cultural significance or prominent past ownership.

Recommendations were made to the Texas State Historical Commission Review Board. Originally, 47 listings were nominated. Six were rejected in the first round.

In the second round, 41 were recommended to the Department of Interior. The National Register listed 40.

"The City of Bryan did a really solid follow-up and researching job on it," Britt Terrell, president of Tau Kappa Epsilon, said.

The house was chosen for its "neoclassical revival" architectural design.

The fraternity found out a year ago about the nomination, Terrell said. On Nov. 2, it was informed of the listing.

"The men were pretty excited," Terrell said. "We are very proud of

*"The men (of the fraternity) were pretty excited. We are very proud of our house. It was nice to get recognized for having such a nice house."*

— Britt Terrell, president of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity

our house. It was nice to get recognized for having such a nice house."

The fraternity has owned the house since 1982, and they take good care of it, he said.

Every summer the fraternity sets aside a work week when they refinish the floors, paint and do general maintenance. Over the Christmas holidays, the fraternity plans to have the exterior of the house professionally painted.

"There are no real restrictions put on us," he said, "just so we don't change the exterior of the house."

Because the house is listed, the fraternity may be eligible for national funding for maintenance.

The Chance House was built in 1911 by James O. Chance, an important agricultural developer and one of the largest land owners in the Brazos County.

## Weather Watch

Key:  
 ⚡ = Lightning    E = Fog    ⚡ = Thunderstorm  
 ● = Rain    \*\* = Snow    ☂ = Drizzle  
 △ = Ice Pellets    ∇ = Rain Shower    ❄ = Freezing Rain

Sunset Today: 5:30 p.m.    Sunrise Wednesday: 6:47 a.m.

**Map Discussion:** A pair of cold high-pressure areas are moving southeast into Texas and the eastern plains. Rain and low pressure is moving northeast through Georgia. Snow flurries and low pressure are affecting New England. A rapidly moving, weak cold front is moving east through the central Rocky Mountains. The West Coast is under high pressure and fair weather.

**Forecast:**  
**Today:** Mostly cloudy and quite cool with a brisk northerly wind. The high temperature will be near 60 degrees.  
**Tonight:** Becoming partly cloudy and cold with a low temperature in the mid to upper 30s. Winds will be decreasing.  
**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy and quite cool with winds light and variable.

**Weather Fact:** Wind-chill index — the cooling effect of any combination of temperature and wind, expressed as the loss of body heat in the kilogram calories per square meter of skin surface. It is based on the cooling rate of a nude body in the shade.

Prepared by: Charlie Brents  
 Staff Meteorologist  
 A&M Department of Meteorology

# Housing programs officials call class successful in training RA candidates

By Beth McDonough Reporter

The first mandatory course for residence hall adviser candidates ended Thursday and Housing Programs officials are touting the class as a success.

Last year a committee, formed to observe housing programs at other universities, decided to change the RA training policy from informal training to a required course.

The one-hour course, taught through the sociology department, is designed to help housing officials select quality RAs and is mandatory for all RA applicants.

"It is not unusual for universities to require such a class," Nyla Ptomey, Texas A&M Housing Programs supervisor, says. Until last spring, A&M's RAs were trained the week before residence halls opened.

"Many times they wouldn't receive hands-on training until they came across a situation," Ptomey says. "We wanted to provide training before they were selected."

She says the class provides an opportunity for students to learn com-

munication skills and develop themselves. It also allows the three area coordinators, who instruct the class, and the housing programs staff the chance to spend more time with the students so the selection process is not as difficult, she says.

Students who apply for an RA position must receive at least a "C" average in the class, have sophomore classification and have a cumulative grade-point ratio of 2.25.

But the 10-week class is not just for RA candidates, Ptomey says. It teaches students how to interact with their environment and peers.

"Even if they don't become an RA, they can use these skills," she says.

Of the 140 students in the class, about 45 have applied for RA positions, around 50 are RAs and the re-

mainder are taking the class as an elective, she says.

Liz Gonzalez, a Legett Hall RA, says the class has reminded her to be sensitive to students' needs.

"I thought of it as a refresher course, things that I basically knew but didn't think about," Gonzalez says.

*"Many times they (RAs) wouldn't receive hands-on training until they came across a situation. We wanted to provide training before they were selected."*

— Nyla Ptomey, A&M Housing Programs supervisor

Matt Williams, an RA applicant, says he feels better able to handle difficult situations that a student may encounter after taking the class.

"If I hadn't taken this course, I would have gone into an RA position cold," Williams says.

But another RA applicant, Reggie Sandoval, says although the class opened his eyes to what an RA does, he knew most of the course material before he took the class.

The class has seven categories:

counseling, sensitivity awareness, conflict resolution, stress and time management, values, student development and leadership.

The class meets twice weekly. The lecture class, a speaker addresses one of the seven topics. In the laboratory section of the class, students discuss and complete assessment surveys dealing with the topic, Ptomey says.

The primary goal of the class is to develop a better-trained staff that will be able to deal more effectively with the hall resident, she says.

Gene Zdziarski, one of the instructors for the class, says the class makes the RA selection process easier. Instructors are given the opportunity to witness the character and abilities of students to determine they would be successful RAs, Zdziarski says.

"We observe the students during all different moods and get an overall picture of them," he says. "I've got together with the three area coordinators and their group facilitators, who helped with the class to choose the new spring RAs."

# Gatesville, Amarillo to receive maximum security prisons

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Corrections voted unanimously Monday to build maximum security prisons, each holding 2,250 inmates, in Gatesville and Amarillo.

The board also voted to build medium security prisons, each holding 1,000 inmates, in Liberty County, Snyder, Marlin and Woodville.

The new prisons will help ease overcrowding in Texas prisons, a situation that caused court-

ordered reforms. But the lawyer for the inmates in that lawsuit said Monday new prisons are a mistake.

The Amarillo and Snyder sites in West Texas mark the first-ever Texas Department of Corrections facilities outside of East and Central Texas.

Board members voted after hearing final pitches from the six communities and Childress,

the only finalist not given a prison.

In past years, prison site selection meetings usually were packed by people who did not want a penitentiary in their area. But on Monday, the Senate chamber was filled with people lured by the money that a prison can mean to a community. TDC spokesman Charles Brown said each of the 2,250-inmate prisons will cost about \$8 million to build. The 1,000-bed prisons will cost about \$13 million each to build, he said.

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