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Walking backward just another A&M tradition for campus tour guides

By Melissa Naumann
Of The Battalion Staff

They walk backward, lead large groups of people around and yelling at the top of their lungs interesting facts about Texas A&M — they're campus tour guides.

Part of the Office of School Relations, the tour guides and the Campus Information Center in Rudder Tower tell current and prospective students about A&M's campus, traditions and student life.

Julie Breihan, a tour guide and an elementary education major from Dallas, said explaining the traditions to newcomers is one of the most rewarding aspects of the job.

"I was taking two families on a tour and we were standing under the tree by Sul Ross," she said. "I was explaining about Silver Taps and Muster, that they're really what A&M is all about, and one of the women took off her sunglasses and wiped her eyes. She was actually crying."

"The traditions are special, of course, but you can take them for granted sometimes especially when you repeat them over and over to visitors. When she started crying, it really opened my eyes."

Breihan said she tries to emphasize campus life as well as features of the campus by talking about

the MSC, dining halls and the residence hall.

"It's one thing to show buildings and all, but the information is important, too," said.

She said the tours become challenging when former students the tours with prospective students.

"I'm always just waiting for an Ag to speak up and correct me," said.

Craig Garrett, a tour guide and a junior history major from Galveston, said he had the ultimate opportunity to be corrected when he came to the man who he was talking about.

"I was walking backwards on the Simpson Drill field talking to Gen. Simpson when I felt this hand on my shoulder and heard this voice saying, 'Thanks a lot, son,'" Garrett said. "I was talking about what a guy he was and how he still looks like he was and everything and he was listening to me."

Breihan said the tours consist of 45 minutes walking through the Academic Building, Shisa Hall and the YMCA Building.

Anyone interested in becoming a tour guide should apply to the Office of School Relations. Guides are chosen in March and the positions are open to all students.

Time-management, note-taking key to successful studying

By Mia B. Moody
Of The Battalion Staff

Freshmen should develop good study skills at the beginning of their college careers in order to become successful students, said Dr. Maggie Olona, a counseling psychologist from the Texas A&M Career and Academic Resource Center.

Olona said since A&M usually only accepts the "cream of the crop" students, many who attend don't have good study skills because they made good grades in high school without doing any serious studying.

"Many students are in for a rude awakening if they keep a high school mentality about studying," Olona said. "Many freshmen believe that they can study the night before for a test and make an 'A' like they did in high school, but college is very different."

Olona said the first test that many freshmen take often surprises them because they are not used to preparing for college exams.

"Freshmen usually find college tests much more difficult than the ones they took in high school," she said. "This is due to the study techniques that they acquired in high school, where they studied by reading over notes instead of interpreting and analyzing them, which is imperative for college exams."

Olona said time management and note-taking skills are important in order for students to be successful. The Career and Academic Resource Center offers workshops to help students in these areas and in many more areas where students are usually lacking.

Olona said at the time management workshop, students are taught non-procrastination techniques and the importance of schedules.

"It is important for students to make a schedule and stick to it. Prioritizing is also important," she said. "We suggest that students make a daily list of things to do and then sign each item a priority rating."

Olona said the note-taking workshop teaches students the importance of reading over notes before class, reinforcing the material and preparing the student to ask professors any questions that they have about the material.

"We also give suggestions on the mechanics of note-taking," she said. "We tell students to write their notes legibly the first time, because they probably won't have time to re-write them. We also suggest that students try to take notes in their own words instead of copying the professor's verbatim."

Olona said the counseling center encourages students to get involved in organizations on campus, in addition to studying.

"Though getting an education should be the student's first priority, campus involvement is also important," she said. "Many students have trouble adapting when they come to A&M because they are away from their families and are lonely, but getting involved, this problem can be alleviated."

Students who are interested in receiving academic counseling can call 845-1651 or visit the center, on the third floor of the Academic Building.

Guide to Local Churches

- The following list of churches in the Bryan-College is arranged by denomination. Call for meeting times and information on special opportunities for college students.
- Assemblies of God**
 - Abundant Life**
105 West 32nd Street; 822-4508
 - Bethel Temple**
2608 East Villa Maria Road; 776-4835
 - College Heights**
4100 Old College Road; 846-2777
 - Templo Buenas Nuevas**
1206 San Jacinto Avenue; 823-7035
 - Baptist**
 - Beacon**
2001 East Villa Maria Road; 776-1337
 - Bethel**
776-8818
 - Bible**
3131 Briarcrest; 776-7676
 - Brazos**
2511 South Texas; 779-6189
 - Calvary**
2009 Cavitt Avenue; 822-3579
 - Central**
600 South Coulter Drive; 779-1591
 - Clayton**
846-4947
 - College Station**
2555 South Texas Avenue; 693-8564
 - Discovery**
2300 Welsh; 764-8747
 - Emmanuel**
408 East 24th Street; 822-1998
 - First Baptist of Bryan**
201 South Washington; 779-2434
 - First Baptist of College Station**
2300 Welsh; 696-7000
 - Fundamental**
101 North Coulter; 822-2505
 - Hillcrest**
4220 FM 158; 776-5731
 - New Chapel**
409 West 21st Street; 823-7307
 - Northview**
1809 Tabor Road; 778-0014
 - Parkway**
1501 Southwest Parkway; 693-4700
 - Pleasant Hill**
779-3547
 - St. James**
5006 East Highway 21; 778-6087
 - St. Matthias**
409 Holleman Drive; 696-8468
 - Shiloh**
502 Martin Luther King East; 823-5002
 - Southern Oaks**
4301 Carter Creek Parkway; 846-4042
 - Tabernacle**
907 Florida; 822-0039
 - Templo Bautista**
120 Bois D'arc; 822-6428
 - Trinity**
101 South FM 2818; 822-4897
 - United Missionary**
1600 Martin Luther King; 775-0000
 - Washington Chapel**
Highway 6 South; 693-5145
- National Association of Free Will Baptists
Cornerstone
764-0772
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