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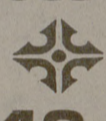
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## A NEW DESIGN ON HEALTH CARE

### Student architects help plan Chicago children's hospital

By Geneen Pipher  
 THE BATTALION

The designs of 17 Texas A&M University architecture students for a children's hospital in Chicago were displayed at the Langford Architecture Center Monday.

The students are scheduled to fly to Chicago Dec. 1 to present their research and designs to Northwestern University Medical School hospital staff members.

George Mann, project director and endowed professor of health facilities design, said although their designs are not completely finished, the Langford display gave them a chance to show off their work.

"We invited the grade school kids who helped give us some of our ideas, the people from Scott & White and other people in the community so they can see what these kids have been doing all semester," Mann said.

Heather Robertson, a senior environmental design major, said the showing was the culmination of a semester of long hours and hard work.

"I was really excited at the beginning of the semester and I still am, but it is a big relief to be finished with the whole thing," Robertson said. "We probably worked at least 300 hours on this project, and it is really exciting to be able to show everyone what we've accomplished."

Mann said the students have been working all semester on designs for a 10-year master plan for the Children's Memorial Medical Center (CMMC), a pediatric teaching facility. The main objective was to improve the quality of the existing facility and create a more healing environ-

ment for children. Jenny Cotner, a representative for the College of Architecture, said studies have found friendly surroundings aid healing.

"The project will focus on children and how to make it more friendly toward children," Cotner said. "They are finding more and more that people get better faster in less sterile-looking facilities."

Ron Skaggs, chairman and chief executive officer of HKS Architects, the firm that served as adviser for the project, said students will provide the CMMC with fresh new ideas their professional counterparts may not have considered.

"I think that quite often people that are in a learning mode aren't limited in their scope of thinking like those who have been practicing," Skaggs said. "They can pursue ideas that no one might have thought of. The students have come up with some intriguing ideas."

Chris Cope, a senior environmental design major, said students have a different perspective than older, more established architects.

"You could look at us as kids because everyone we dealt with in Chicago was in their late 30s and beyond," Cope said. "When they are designing for children, the older architects tend to look at a building in a way an adult would look at it. I think having us and our ideas gives them ideas they'd never thought of in their lives."

Mann said the students participating in the project got a taste of what it will be like to work in the profession of architecture.

"The project was huge in scope and I believe the students got a lot out of it," he said.



Rick Whitworth, a sophomore environmental design major from Corpus Christi, takes time between classes to do a close-up examination of a miniature-scale model on display on the 4th floor of the Langford Architecture Center.

"They found out what it was like to travel to work on a project. They were forced to be creative and work with other people and, of course, they learned how to deal with children's issues."

## Transfer students fight new Aggie ring policy

By Lisa Elliott  
 THE BATTALION

The new Aggie ring ordering policy, which will go into effect Jan. 1, 1994, has upset many transfer students.

The new policy, approved by the Association of Former Students in October, will require transfer students to complete 60 hours instead of 30 before they can order their senior rings.

Danny Cox, a junior recreational parks and tourism sciences major, said he is trying to put together a petition to present to the association that would stop the policy change.

Cox wrote a letter to The Battalion saying he was upset about the change because it discriminated against transfer students by saying they didn't work hard enough to receive their rings.

He said he has received many phone calls from transfer students

who support him since he wrote the letter.

Cox said the new policy should not affect presently enrolled transfer students because many students have planned their schedules in order to get their rings as soon as possible.

"It came as a surprise to a lot of people because they plan their schedules accordingly," he said.

Cox said he planned to get his ring this spring, but now he has to wait a year. If he had known about the policy, Cox said he would have taken enough classes to order his ring earlier.

Cox said he called the ring office and was told there was "nothing they could do about it."

A policy change would require a vote from the Board of Directors of the association, and they only meet twice a year.

Brock Gibson, a junior construction science major, said he has tried to go through the proper channels to get the policy changed. He said the only way to get noticed is to write letters to Randy Matson, executive director of the Association of Former Students.

Gibson said students need to write letters to the Board to let them know there are a lot of upset people.

"The more people that squeal about this, the more chance we have of getting it changed," he said.

Gibson is a 40-year-old student that returned to get his degree af-

ter 16 years away from school. He said he has worked hard enough to earn the A&M senior ring.

"One of my rewards to myself was to be able to wear that ring, and now I won't be able to," he said.

Gibson said he is researching the "grandfather clause" that says any new policies must not affect presently enrolled students, and many similar court cases have said omitting the grandfather clause is unconstitutional.

Gibson said the Board was wrong to not publicize the vote beforehand, and no one could voice their opinions.

"It's not a fair game if they voted on it without people knowing about it," he said.

Matson did not return The Battalion's calls, but he told Gibson to try to get as many letters sent to him as possible, so he would have something to bring to the Board at their next meeting early next year.

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 The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring sessions and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods). Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.  
**News:** The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone number is 845-3313. Fax: 845-2647.  
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