

Southerland takes over as VP of student services

By Michele Brinkmann

THE BATTALION

Dr. J. Malon Southerland will take over the position of vice president for student services after filling the role on an interim basis since Dr. John J. Koldus' retirement last August.

Interim President E. Dean Gage appointed Southerland to begin his role as vice president for student services Feb. 1, exactly 26 years after the day Southerland first began his career at A&M.

"I am excited and humbled by this appointment," Southerland said. "There is no better job in the student affairs business in

America than at Texas A&M."

He said his new appointment will be a little different than his first 26 years at A&M.

"At this level I can have a long-term vision and be able to participate in planning that looks 10 to 20 years into the future," he said.

Southerland said his job is to help the students and stressed he will be available to students as much as his calendar allows.

"A student is welcome to make an appointment to see me about anything, and I will do my best to make an excellent referral," he said.

In his new role, Southerland said he is more visible to the external community,

and plans to seek additional financial support to help the students.

"The bottom line is we want money to derive benefits to the students," he said.

Southerland said there are two things he feels are his greatest accomplishments throughout his years here.

"I am very grateful for the extraordinary variety of experience I have had at the same institution, and I'm grateful for the quality of friendships I am



Southerland

able to make," he said. "It is difficult to explain all the people I have been in touch with over the years. Aggies are faithful to committing friendships that last."

Southerland said one aspect of his job is to correctly provide information about what is actually going on at this campus.

"Part of my mission is to explain any problems that arise," he said. "It's a challenge to try to respond as candid and as soon as possible as the law allows."

He said he plans to be involved in just about every spot where student services has any business.

"I don't feel under any time constraint," he said. "I want to get reactions to ideas and then implement them."

He plans to inform students of the new ideas and programs through student leader groups, and to possibly set up a designated time for students to discuss their ideas and to get feedback on his plans.

He said he encourages student groups to invite him to meetings and functions if they want to express any ideas to him.

"I will do all that I can to attend these meetings, but I first have to be invited," he said. "I have to be in the right place at the right time."

Gage said despite the large number of qualified candidates, Southerland pos-

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Step by step



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Mike Barnett (left) and Dean Larson (right) of Action Tile replace the front entrance tiles of the Chemistry Building Monday afternoon. The

old maroon ones were slippery when wet and created a safety hazard. The new gray ones are slip resistant.

Silver Taps scheduled tonight

Silver Taps will be held at 10:20 p.m. tonight in front of the Academic Building in memory of three Texas A&M students.

The campus will be hushed and darkened in honor of Jake F. Adams, 19, a sophomore business administration major from Grand Prairie; Denna

L. Brown, 23, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Lufkin; and David Roane Harwood, 25, a senior wildlife fisheries major from Houston.

The Ross Volunteers honor guard will fire a volley salute and buglers will play a special arrangement of "Taps."



Seven Corps members ousted

By James Bernsen

THE BATTALION

Several students have been suspended from the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, said officials in the Office of the Commandant Monday.

Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling said the students were suspended for incidents that occurred while they were already on probation, but he refused to comment on details of the suspension.

However, a senior cadet, speaking on the condition that he remain anonymous, said seven freshmen members of an Air Force ROTC squadron were suspended for a hazing incident that occurred during freshman unification week, otherwise known as "Hell Week."

The incident concerns a long-standing Corps tradition in which the commanding officer of an outfit is taken off-campus, his head is shaved, and often he is left to find his way home. While he is away, his belongings are usually stolen from his room.

In previous years, officials in the Commandant's office tolerated such activities, but a new policy began this year that prohibits cadets from removing the commanding officer from the dorm.

On Jan. 23, around 8:30 p.m. the commanding officer of Squadron 13 was taken off-campus, his head was shaved, and he was left outside, the cadet said.

In the past, he said, it was not uncommon for the commanding officer to be abandoned in another state.

The seven freshmen who participated in the event were already on probation for an incident that occurred last semester concerning another freshman who wanted to leave the outfit.

In that incident, the commanding officer was removed and transferred to another outfit, and the second-in-command of the outfit also was removed.

A two-day investigation determined that the freshmen in this latest incident should have known better, and they were suspended.

"These are minor incidents," Darling said. "They would not have been suspended for these things without having had other problems before."

Darling said the students will not be expelled from the University, and there will not be prevented from rejoining the Corps at a later date.

"I would expect these students to be back in the Corps eventually," he said. "They're not in the

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Five killed in Somalia streets; Marines say in self-defense

The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia - In the worst shooting involving American troops in three months, U.S. Marines opened fire in a street crowded with Somalis waiting for free food Monday. At least five people died and many were wounded.

A U.S. spokesman said the 22 Marines shot in self-defense after their five-vehicle convoy was fired on by at least two Somali snipers.

Somali witnesses said no one shot at the Americans. They said they felt the Marines fired because they thought hundreds of Somalis standing in a street outside a food distribution center were trying to stop the convoy.

The commander of Bangladeshi soldiers guarding a nearby traffic circle said his men

did not see any snipers when the Marines opened fire with machine guns, but he could not rule out that shots were fired at the Americans. Journalists at a nearby hotel heard one or two gunshots a moment before heavy weapons fire.

Dozens of Somalis ran through the area shouting anti-American slogans, and carrying the dead and wounded away on wheelbarrows. A dozen Saudi Arabian soldiers were handing out food at the center when the shooting occurred, but none was injured.

About 5,000 American servicemen are in Somalia as part of the U.N. peacekeeping force. The Americans are in the process of withdrawing to meet a March 31 deadline set by President Clinton after 18 U.S. Army soldiers died in a battle with Somali gunmen Oct. 3.

At least 32 Americans have

been killed since a U.S.-led multinational force landed Dec. 9, 1992 to protect relief supplies in Somalia.

U.S. officials said the shooting involved three Humvees and two cars carrying two unidentified American diplomats to a meeting to discuss clan violence with representatives of warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid's coalition. The meeting was canceled after the shooting.

United Nations officials said an investigation had been begun and hoped the incident would not set back the clan elders' peace accord.

Stevenson McLvaine, an American diplomat who was not involved in the shooting, said the Marines acted in self-defense.

They reported they were fired on around 11 a.m. by at least two gunmen, one from the bush and another from outside a building, he said.

Committee investigating Bockris submits findings to Kennedy

The Texas A&M University committee named to conduct an inquiry into allegations of scientific misconduct by Dr. John Bockris has submitted a report of its findings to Robert Kennedy, vice president for research and associate provost for graduate studies.

Copies of the report have been given to Bockris and to the A&M System's general counsel.

Any comments Bockris may have will be included in a final report of the inquiry, which will be released to the public.

An official with the office of the vice president for research said the report will be made public as soon

as Bockris has time to look over the report.

The inquiry committee was named in mid-November by Kennedy after allegations that Bockris attempted to turn mercury into gold were received by Interim President Dr. E. Dean Gage.

The committee's purpose was information gathering and initial fact finding to determine if the allegations warranted an investigation.

If the final report indicates that an investigation is needed, an investigation committee will be appointed by March or within 30 days.

GOP says Richards, aides lying about phone-bill records

The Associated Press

AUSTIN - Texas Republican Party Chairman Fred Meyer said Monday that Gov. Ann Richards and her aides have lied about when her long-distance telephone records were destroyed.

"Gov. Richards and her staff have attempted to lie their way out of trouble, changing stories, falsely placing blame on others, and raising disturbing questions about the governor's credibility," Meyer told a news conference.

But Richards' campaign said the GOP was stepping up its criticism of the governor to coincide with the upcoming trial of U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Republican.

"The timing of this attack on Ann Richards is politically motivated," said Chuck McDonald, her campaign spokesman.

"There has been no allegation of any wrong-

doing of any kind against Ann Richards, but the Republicans want news articles the week before the trial, making the same allegations against Ann Richards that were made against Sen. Hutchison," he said.

State GOP executive director Karen Hughes denied the charge. "We are responding to Ann Richards' failure to tell the truth to the people of Texas," Ms. Hughes said.

At dispute is why and when Richards began to destroy her itemized long-distance telephone records after each month's bill was paid.

Last week, Richards said her office was following the same procedure as former Gov. Bill Clements by destroying the records monthly.

Clements, a Republican, denied that and has demanded an apology.

Later, Richards' staff said the decision to destroy the records was made in 1992. They changed that to 1993 in later statements.

Over the weekend, Richards' press secretary Bill Cryer said the office likely will start preserving the records.

Meyer said he didn't know if the records were destroyed illegally, and he stopped short of charging that they were destroyed to cover up something.

"Obviously they were concerned about something that was in there, or they wouldn't have done it," he said.

Richards, in Washington, D.C. attending the winter meeting of the National Governors Association, didn't think the controversy was that important.

"It just tells me that this is political season," the governor said.

She added, "We tried to follow the letter of the law, the staff did. And they are going to assemble, I think, everything they possibly can assemble for anybody that wants to see it."

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