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FREE LUNCH with **VICE PRESIDENT** FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Malon Southerland, Vice President for Student Affairs, will be having luncheons this year for freshmen at Texas A&M. The program is designed to welcome the freshmen and have interaction on their experiences at A&M. The luncheon will be at the Memorial Student Center and will include an open-ended discussion and questions and answers. If you would like to attend, complete this form

Dr. Southerland Vice President for Student Affairs Texas A&M University

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CAMPUS

Tuesday • August 30, 1994

uesday • August Southerland ready for new year

Vice president for student affairs pledges accessibility

By Michele Brinkmann

Dr. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, says although he has worked at Texas A&M for 27 years, this year he thinks of himself as a freshman again.

"I am still new in this job of dealing directly with certain issues," Southerland said. "I am still new to the students

This fall is Southerland's first semester to serve as vice president. He took over as vice president for student affairs in February, replacing Dr. John Koldus, who retired last summer after serving 20 years in the position.

Southerland shares Koldus' philosophy of the job. "This is a lifestyle, not a job," he said. "People in this position are in for trouble if they do not have this attitude.

In his position Southerland links students with the administration. 'I am responsible for students," he said. "This is why I am a vice president; the 40,000 students here are my business. I need to listen and react

In August he moved to the vice president's house on campus so that he could be easily accessible to students.

"This is part of my message; I am here on campus to help students if they are having prob-lems," he said. "I am not far away. My house and my office are open 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

When Southerland was selected to replace Koldus as vice president of student services, he asked Dr. E. Dean Gage, then interim president, if he could change his title to vice president for student affairs, and Gage agreed.

Southerland said his newly established title is a national term that is easily identifiable to constituent groups.

"The name puts back at the top the visibility of our office as being available for students," he said. 'People will know more clearly what the function of the department is; the name includes a broader perspective than student services.

Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, has asked Southerland to help him meet students.

"He is my main access to student leaders," Bowen said. "Dr. Southerland is helpful to me as I try to understand the University. Bowen said Southerland is a strong defender of

the students.

"I have never seen anyone with such an interest in students," he said. "He gets a kick out of this job. Dr. Southerland enjoys inviting strangers to lunch; not many people do.'

Southerland said he plans to continue having freshman luncheons this fall because he thinks freshmen need to know who he is. The purpose of these luncheons, held every two weeks, is to allow students to openly discuss issues they are concerned about

There is such a thing as a free lunch," he said. "I am ready to talk to everyone, not just student leaders.

He said students wanting to attend the luncheons need to send their names and mailing addresses to his office.

His advice to freshmen is to "do as well as you can the first semester, and remember the first semester is filled with anxiety, new experiences and opportunities. So even if you don't get the best of grades, you should feel good about making it

through the the first semester anyway. In order to help new and old students, Southerland said he plans to restructure the student af-

fairs division. He wants the division to put a greater emphasis on students over traditional age, off-campus students and graduate students. He plans to also enhance the women's issues program.

Southerland said he wants to increase the help off-campus students receive from the University by setting up a crisis team.



Dr. Southerland's office is located on the tenth floor of Rudder Tower. He is available to studen 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

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TING , EDGE - OF

RATHER W

dent committed suicide last year in front of I cane Harry's and an international studen killed not long afterward, he said.

This is important," he said, "even if it is for a handful of students.

Southerland said the University needs a co uous improvement program.

"If we're going to stay on top," he said, "we to improve or else we will go stale."
Southerland said one of his biggest chal

is trying to provide quality programs and ser

with limited resources in the most effective v 'We don't always have the services that like," he said. "There is a strain on resources.

In addition to his many responsibilities as president, Southerland has had to face Cla misdemeanor charges of tampering with gove ment documents. He and seven other A&M employees GRASS GROV

charged in June with listing alcohol purchas food, beverages, cups and ice on state vou Southerland intends to plead not guilty. Southerland said the charges have not aff

his job but have affected his decisions.
"I am more careful with what I say" he

"And I take greater notice of what goes thr my office. Southerland has been open with students

his case and said these charges against A&M ployees will not affect them. "All this was a tremendous misunderstant All Ve

an administrative glitch that has been fixed

Dr. Jan Winniford, assistant vice presiden student affairs, said Southerland is pro-active the way he approaches his work.

"He does not hesitate to call a meeting find the facts and work through them," Winnifords "He is genuine in wanting student input an finding out how actions will affect students

not only asks, but he listens."

Brooke Leslie, A&M student body pressaid Southerland's love for Texas A&M trans into success

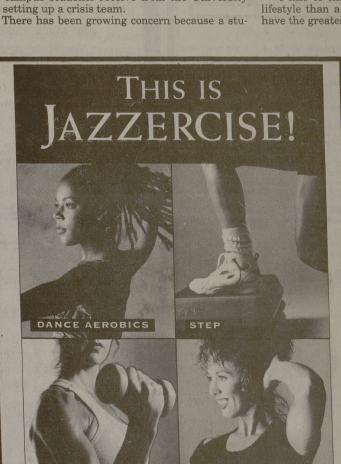
Leslie said Southerland is always ready

ten when she has ideas. "He has been so incredibly supportive, said. "He has been helpful and ready to when I have discussed topics, such as the rest

turing of the administration.' "No one is better for his job than he," In Three I said. "He puts his heart and soul into the job." Not many people knew could fill Koldus' shoes, but he (Souther)

stepped in running. Southerland said his job is stressful, but Partly cloudy

"I like to think of this job as more of a lifestyle than a stressful job," he said. "I km have the greatest job in America."





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