

Traditional holiday festivities show energy, talent of Chinese students at Texas A&M

□ The A&M China Club will celebrate the Chinese New Year Jan. 29.

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students will have a chance to see Chinese customs and heritage when the Chinese New Year's celebration begins Jan. 29.

Yue Jaing, a Texas A&M graduate student in soil and crop sciences, said the event will kick off in the Rudder Theater at 8 p.m. with dancing and singing.

"It will give all A&M students a chance to see a Chinese tradition," Jaing said. "Many people don't understand Chinese culture and this will be a chance to see it in full swing."

He said the celebration signifies the end of the year as well as the beginning of spring.

"This is the celebration that ends the cold winter spell," he said. "We honor it like we would a holiday like Christmas."

Jaing said Chinese families throughout the world will get together to celebrate the event.

"Last year we filled Rudder Theater," he said. "However, we expect the numbers to be lower this year because of the Super Bowl."

Last year, the Chinese New Year's celebration brought 750 people to Rudder Theater to participate. Jaing said this year's number will be between 400 and 600 people.

The event, which China Club members have been planning since early December, will consist

of a variety of Chinese dances and music, as well as a dinner.

"I personally welcome everybody to the celebration to let them see a little of China's heritage in full force," Jaing said. "Everyone who comes out can

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— Yue Jaing,
graduate student in soil and crop sciences

dents," Tu said. "However, we welcome people to view a different angle, one of talent and energy and good relations with people."

Tu said a number of American students will be performing as well and that anyone with an interest in China or an interest in its culture should attend.

"This is a time for the students to come together and begin to understand each other's different histories and heritages," he said.

Shelley Claussen, a senior agricultural economics major, said she thinks it is important to educate people about different people and cultures.

"It is nice that this celebration is not only a time for Chinese students to honor the coming of a new year, but also to educate other A&M students about what they are celebrating," Claussen said. "By doing this, they are bringing the different cultures closer together."



Varnell Hopkins/ Special to THE BATTALION

Taking a stand

African-American students gather in the MSC Flagroom Thursday in a silent demonstration to protest their lack of a voice on campus.

Correction:

On a Page 3 article Wednesday, the number of high school students who participated in the Spend the Night with the Corps was incorrect. 576 students attended the program, 10 more than last year.

Program: Encouraging continued education

Continued from Page 1

A+ students. We show average students that there is a higher education option for everyone."

Mona Osborne, a financial aid counselor with the Texas A&M Financial Aid Office, said she will tell students and parents about financial options and the steps for the process to apply for financial aid.

"Basically, because there will be sophomores through seniors there," Osborne said. "I'm going to give a general overview on how to apply for financial aid and what types of financial aid students will be eligible for."

Other workshops students may attend will include setting career goals, overcoming obstacles, handling relationships and exploring higher education options.

Speakers will include Dr. Cherry Gooden, professor of psychology at Texas Southern University and motivational speaker David Ortiz

from the Southwestern Bell Corporation.

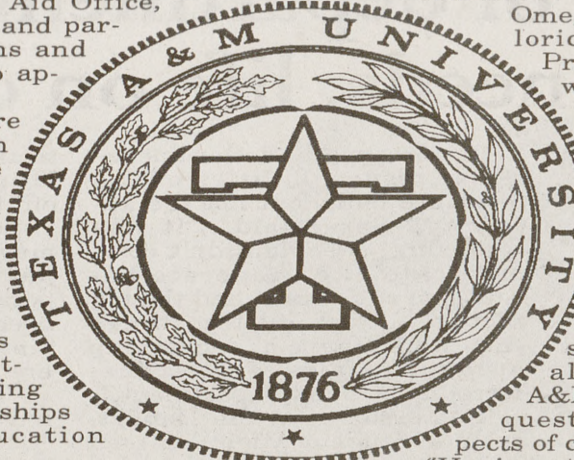
Texas A&M graduate and licensed custom house broker Fernando Ortiz will speak on the topic, "Breaking Down Barriers for a Brighter Tomorrow."

Omega Delta Phi, the Ballet Folklórico, Fade to Black, Voices of Praise and Prime Time Posse will perform.

Beekmann said registration information is sent to almost every high school in Texas and all minority students are encouraged to attend.

Many students who have participated in past programs continue their studies at Texas A&M, Beekmann said. Small peer groups will allow students to talk with A&M student counselors and ask questions about the various aspects of college life.

"Having students interact with college students and showing role models from all walks of life being successful is an encouragement to them," Beekmann said.



\$ FINANCIAL TIPS

Leasing may be cheaper than buying new car

By Jason Zachary
SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

One of the highest priorities after graduating and accepting a job is preparing to buy a new car. Finally, your chance to buy a car that fits your style.

The biggest problem is deciding on the least-expensive way to pay for the car.

In the past, leasing a car nearly always cost more than buying in the long run.

The fact that you could sell your purchased car when you were through with it usually made up for ownership's higher monthly out-of-pocket payments.

That is no longer true. Thanks to manufacturer-subsidized leases and other incentives, leasing may turn out to be less expensive than paying cash.

If you think you are a candidate for a lease, be prepared to negotiate as hard as if you were buying. To drive a hard lease bargain, you need to know the three factors that determine your monthly payments: the purchase price the lease is based on (capitalized costs,) the so-called money factor (multiply this by 24 to approximate the

interest rate you are being charged,) and the residual value or the probable resale value of the car when the lease expires.

Basically, you want the purchase price to be low, the residual value high and the money factor to be between .0025 and .0029, which translates to an interest rate of 6 percent to 7 percent a year.

Some dealers may resist disclosing their built-in assumptions.

If so, go somewhere else.

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3-mo. T-bill	5.65%	5.96%	+0.06
30-yr. T-bond	7.76%	7.92%	+0.02
Credit cards*	17.9%	17.9%	0.00
Car loans*	8.70%	9.10%	+0.05
DJIA	3939.66	3862.70	-0.02
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Just answer one or more of the following questions.

- What is the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you while attending Texas A&M?
- What is the strangest or weirdest thing that has ever happened to you while at A&M?
- Who is the best professor you have had? Why?
- If there was one thing you could change about Texas A&M, what would it be?
- What is the worst thing to ever happen to you at A&M?
- What is the nicest thing that has happened you at A&M?

Responses may be turned into Reed McDonald 012. Responses to include your name, class, major, and hometown.

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