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THE BATTALION

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Provost to be chosen this summer

Three candidates have been picked by the search advisory committee.

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

A&M's second-highest ranking administrative position, executive vice president and provost, may be filled this summer.

A search advisory committee has chosen three candidates to interview for the position: Dr. B. Hobson Wildenthal, Dr. Allen L. Sessoms and Dr. Deborah A. Freund.

Wildenthal, provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas at Dallas, visited the A&M campus April 24-25.

Sessoms, executive vice president and dean of the faculties at Indiana University-Bloomington, will visit A&M May 4-5, and Freund, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of the faculties at Indiana University-Bloomington, will visit May 8-9.

The committee will make a recommendation to Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, who will choose the vice president and provost. The position could be filled by July 1, pending approval by the

A&M Board of Regents.

Wildenthal, who is a physicist with a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, said he wants to work for A&M because it is a great university with great people.

"I've competed with A&M for faculty and students while working at other institutions," Wildenthal said. "All too often, they've won because they have a winning team, and I want to join the winning team. I think I have ideas and energy that can help that team."

Wildenthal said A&M needs to grow from its traditions and support.

"I think it needs to continue to build on traditions, alumni

support and faculty and student excellence," Wildenthal said. "It's had some bad luck in the past few years, and it needs to have a breathing spell and then get back to business."

Wildenthal, who taught physics at A&M in 1968-69, said the University has made tremendous improvements since he was on campus.

"I was here 25 years ago and it was a good university then," Wildenthal said. "Its growth and improvements since then are just overwhelming."

"Twenty-five years ago I never dreamed I'd go into administration. It's just fortuitous that I'm

See Provost, Page 6

Former students aid rescue operation in Oklahoma City

The recruiting coordinator for the Corps of Cadets was called as a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

By Kasie Byers
THE BATTALION

While many people sat, eyes glued to their television sets, watching the bombed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma, some A&M former students had the opportunity to give first hand help to Okla-

homa. Lt. Col. Mark Satterwhite, Class of '70 and recruiting coordinator for the Corps of Cadets Recruiting Office of the Commandant, was called on duty Friday, April 21, to help in Oklahoma City.

"I was in El Paso getting ready to speak at the local Muster when I got a call," he said. "I was told to be in Oklahoma within 24 hours."

Satterwhite is a reservist of the Region Six Emergency Preparedness Liaison Team, which is a branch of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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A&M students' idea takes flight

Architecture students have worked several years to design a hospital that has helped thousands to see.

By Brad Dressler
THE BATTALION

A model plane, plaque and tours for the general public will commemorate the recently completed DC-10 flying eye hospital, designed by Texas A&M architecture students.

The model and plaque will be presented to Ray Bowen, Texas A&M University president, on Friday, May 5 at 3 p.m. in the president's office.

The airplane hospital will be open for tours to the general public at the Houston Intercontinental Airport on Tuesday, May 9 at 11 a.m. at the Southwest Airlines Terminal A at gate 1, 2 or 3.

The hospital was designed for ORBIS International, a non-profit group working to provide continual training to eye care professionals in developing countries.

Dr. George Mann, a Ronald L. Skaggs Endowed Professor in the Department of Architecture, said

the project has been developing for more than 10 years.

"The project began when I assigned my students to design a health care facility of the future," he said. "Eventually an opportunity presented itself and turned the project of one student, Richard LaSalle, into an effort to design an eye hospital in an old DC-8 airplane."

Because there are 42 million blind people around the world, 30 million of whom could be helped, ORBIS International has been working toward combating vision problems, blindness and poor health care, Mann said.

Project ORBIS has helped restore the sight of more than 10,000 of these people.

Richard LaSalle, Class of '84, and Buddy Conner, Class of '85, both former Texas A&M architecture students, worked on the proposed replacement of an aging DC-8. Other options, such as a 747, European airbus and a DC-10 were explored, he said. After much research and consideration, Mann said that the DC-10 was determined to be the best suited.

Former student Colleen DeMent, ORBIS has visited more than 70 countries.

Class of '89, worked on a revised plan for the DC-10 and continued studies of the DC-8.

In 1990, Ben Childers, then a senior architecture student, joined the project and worked on the interior design of the DC-10 flying eye hospital.

"It was a phenomenal project from the beginning to seeing the actual success in the field," he said. "It taught me that if you keep moving forward and strive for your goal, positive things will happen."

The new DC-10 hospital has a classroom, audiovisual center, patient exam and laser module, laboratory, conference/library area, eye surgical suite, sterile area, sub-sterile area, patient recovery and communications area.

Throughout the year, the ORBIS project has visited more than 70 countries to help with eye problems and teach physicians about eye surgeries.



Courtesy of ORBIS International



Roger Hsieh/THE BATTALION

Play ball

Shirley Bilhartz, one of the '94-'95 Parents of the Year, throws the first ball of the A&M - U.T. baseball game Friday night.

Anniversary of war's end celebrated

Vietnamese rush to take pictures with Americans during a parade Sunday.

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) — Twenty years ago, Communist tanks rolled down a broad avenue and smashed through the gates of the South Vietnamese presidential palace to seize power and reunite the country.

On Sunday, more than 10,000 soldiers, students and children paraded down the same broad, leafy boulevard carrying flowers and balloons and posing for pictures with their former enemies — Americans — to celebrate the anniversary of the war's end.

No recriminations were heard against the United

States, which Vietnam now wants diplomatic and trade ties with. Mayor Truong Tan Sang opened the ceremonies by praising the patriotism that led so many to their death, but never even mentioned the United States.

North Vietnam seized power from the last remaining officials of the U.S.-allied government on April 30, 1975, ending a war that cost more than 3 million lives. Most Americans had fled the city only hours earlier in a desperate helicopter evacuation.

On Sunday, Vietnamese scrambled to have their pictures taken with American journalists and tourists, and once past the reviewing stand soldiers flashed peace signs and thumbs-up at an American veteran with a camera.

"It was like they were happy

just to see me," said Jeff Fredrick of Tallahassee, Fla., who had part of his right leg blown away in 1968 by a mine. "I look at it detached, as a celebration of their independence. How could I hold a grudge?"

The friendliness is more than just official policy. To many Vietnamese, Americans coming back represent the return of commerce and tourism and revival of normal ties with the West after years of relative isolation.

Behind the smiles, however, Vietnamese emotions run deep about a war that set brother against brother.

"This celebration is for the winners," said a former southern army officer surnamed Tran, one of many still angry over the punishment meted out to them by the victorious North after 1975.

Unanswered questions pose problems for investigators

A surveillance camera captured pictures of the Ryder truck and several individuals before the bombing.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Was Timothy McVeigh alone in Oklahoma City? Was he there with John Doe? Or were there more like-minded extremists involved in the bombing of the federal building?

Competing theories on the shape and size of the bombing conspiracy seem to rise and fall daily as investigators try to place sometimes ill-fitting pieces of the puzzle into a coherent picture. With each new revelation comes more questions and more seeming contradictions.

A senior federal official involved in the investigation told The Associated Press such frustrations are nothing new to such cases.

"The problem for you guys (in the media) and the public is you want it all to make sense each day," he said. "Cops learn in their first few years on the job that every case they ever investigate is going to have some things that are totally unexplainable."

An example: the 1977 yellow Mercury Marquis that McVeigh bought on April 14th in Junction City, Kan.

The used car has become a touchstone for various theories about McVeigh's movements, the possibility of a second getaway car, or a scenario that has McVeigh setting off the bomb himself, then fleeing in the previously positioned Mercury.

McVeigh was arrested in the car as he sped north from Oklahoma City about 75 minutes after the blast. The senior federal official said a note found in the car read: "Not abandoned. Battery cable problem. Will be back to pick it up."

The note also included a date, which was not revealed.

Officials are trying to fit this with another puzzle piece: Why did McVeigh have his friend Terry Nichols pick him up in Oklahoma City and drive him back to Junction City two days before the bombing?

Nichols told the FBI McVeigh called him on April 16; the two returned to Junction City early on April 17, the day McVeigh is believed to have rented the Ryder truck with a man investigators identify as John Doe 2.

The owner of the Dreamland Motel, the Junction City motel where McVeigh was registered from April 14-17, reported seeing the Mercury when McVeigh checked in. Within a few days the Mercury was gone, she said, replaced by the truck.

Does this all add up to the possibility McVeigh parked the car with its note in Oklahoma City, returned to Junction City with Nichols, then drove down to Oklahoma City

"Cops learn in their first few years on the job that every case they ever investigate is going to have some things that are totally unexplainable."

— a senior federal official

alone in the rental truck, detonated the bomb and escaped in the Mercury?

The federal official said the scenario is one of several being explored.

"It's absolutely possible, physically, for one man to have detonated it," he said.

But there are problems with this theory.

Investigators say McVeigh would have taken a big risk by leaving the car on the street for three nights. The surveillance camera in an automatic teller machine across from the federal building captured images of the Ryder truck, several individuals and a possible second getaway car with Arizona license plates.