

## THE BATTALION

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## New equipment expands services at learning center

□ A system that reads printed material and converts it into sound is the most recent addition to the Learning Resource Center for students with disabilities.

By Javier Hinojosa  
THE BATTALION

The Learning Resource Center, which is specially adapted to the needs of students with disabilities, will open full time this fall.

Support Services for Students with Disabilities provides the center located in Ramp B of Hart Hall for students with disabilities such as visual or hearing impairments, which can impede academic performance.

The Bookwise Edge Reading System is the most recent addition to the computer center.

Whitney Osters, a senior psychology major who works at the center, said the system uses a device called the Reading Edge which scans written material such as books and converts it into sound.

"The device really serves two types of disabilities — those who are blind and those who have learning disabilities such as

dyslexia (the inability to grasp meaning in what one reads)," Osters said. "The reader itself is for the blind, but it can transfer the material to the screen and highlight while it reads each word for those with learning disabilities."

Renee Harris, accommodations coordinator for Support Services, said the Bookwise Edge Reading System is the latest in personal reader technology.

A literacy grant from Barnes and Noble helped purchase the Bookwise system. Dr. John Dinkel has also contributed to the computer center and is funding the new coordinator position.

"The new coordinator will be taking over this fall," Harris said. "We have held off on buying a lot of equipment because of that. The coordinator will be better able to make those decisions."

The coordinator will teach students how to use the computer technology and will be able to teach them according to their different learning styles.

This past spring, 249 students registered with Support Services as having a disability.

Of those, 94 had a learning disability, 35 had an attention-deficit disorder, 11 were hearing impaired, 107 had physical disabilities, 12 were visually impaired and two were blind. The

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Research Park  
A place for studies, strolls or sports

By Libe Goad  
THE BATTALION

Spotting A&M student life in the summer is easy at Research Park, the stumping grounds for frisbee-throwers, sunbathers and ... a pink dalmatian puppy?

The dyed dog, the victim of a practical joke, belongs to Patrick Hickey, a senior psychology major who said he enjoys the quiet beauty of A&M's 434 acre park.

"It's also a good place for college students to take their dates," he said. "We're in college, we're broke, and going to the park is cheap."

Hickey and other students take advantage of the landscaped section of Texas A&M Research Park, a park originally intended for public and private research facilities to expand A&M's tradition of academic research.

Since 1982, Research Park has integrated five major research facilities with the scenic park located behind the west side of campus. The park was designed after parks at Stanford University and the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Mark Money, a former park director, said in a 1983 Battalion article that A&M would benefit from the campus-like environment of the park and that it would provide jobs for people in the area, including students.

John Millhollon, director of Research Park, said that students are welcome to use the park, though they may eventually have to forfeit the space to new research centers. One of these centers will be the upcoming George Bush Presidential Library.

"Research Park was established to improve the capability of the University to support the students," Millhollon said. "But it was not designed specifically for students to come for a place to play."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Junior math major Betsy Herold throws a rock into the pond at Research Park for her dog, Bailey. Bailey dives into the pond to fetch, though she doesn't always return with the same rocks people have thrown in.

But many students use it for just that.

Despite the growing number of research centers in the the park since 1986, the grounds remain a place for students to frolic. Hickey said he and his friends once were caught sword-fighting in the park.

"Someone reported us to the police," he said. "Whoever it was told [the police] that we were a bunch of Indians trying to murder people with axes."

Couples also frequent the park for an occasional roman-

tic evening or as a cheap form of entertainment.

James Gush, a senior horticulture student, said his friends play pranks on couples who park on the road next to the ponds.

"My friends will pull up behind a couple making out in a car, and they shine their lights on them," he said.

Pranksters aside, more common activities at the park include studying and light outdoor recreation.

Gush said the park serves as

his focal point for relaxation.

"It's big and quiet," he said. "There are fewer children here, and you don't have to listen to boom boxes that people take to other parks."

Sidewalks lead visitors through clusters of trees and around two ponds that collect at the bottom of a hilly landscape.

Wendy Burch, a former A&M student, said that people love the park for its peaceful environment.

"It is a haven," she said. "It's a place to get away from school and enjoy nature."

Research Park also serves as a ground for numerous student activities.

Millhollon said MSC Town Hall, a student organization that promotes performances on campus, holds its Coffeehouse at the park one time each spring. Coffeehouse allows students to display their talents in a relaxed setting, and Millhollon said the program "worked beautifully" at the park.

Town Hall is not the only group to take advantage of A&M's most natural setting.

Millhollon said the park has been the site for numerous weddings, marathons and duck races that support Phoebe's House, a children's center.

Millhollon said people should enjoy the park as much as possible, but they should have respect, too.

"We love to see students out in the park as long as they treat it like their own backyard," he said.

## Enriching the future

□ High school students get an inside look at veterinary school through A&M program.

By Katherine Arnold  
THE BATTALION

Prospective veterinary medicine students gained hands-on experience during Texas A&M's Veterinary Enrichment Program.

Forty Texas high school students came to the University last week for a three-day introduction to the world of veterinary medicine. Last week's session was the fourth one this summer.

Lyndon Kurtz, associate director of biomedical science and program coordinator, said students usually participate in the program because they have a strong interest in going to veterinary school.

"The whole purpose is to show the students what being a vet is all about," Kurtz said. "Students usually leave either excited about coming back or they learn that vet school is not for them."

Elizabeth Smith, a third-year veterinary medicine student, participated in the program when she was in high school.

"I always wanted to be a veterinarian, but this program reinforced my decision," Smith said.

Smith is now a counselor for

the program and said she enjoys helping prospective students.

Program activities included guest lectures, experiments, demonstrations and tours of the facilities.

The participants viewed a slide show comparing healthy tissue to diseased tissue and learned about physiology through an experiment that exposed a rabbit to cigarette smoke. They also studied anatomy by analyzing dissected animals.

Students were informed on how to apply to the University and to apply for scholarships and loans.

Paul Grunewald, a second-year veterinary medicine student and a counselor for the program, said the program is important because it stresses the difficulty of veterinary school.

"A lot of the students who come for the program are very intelligent but don't have to study," Grunewald said. "We try to let them know that they have to be prepared to work."

More than 50 percent of the participants of the program, which started in 1983, return to A&M as undergraduates, Kurtz said.

"Until the students do some exploration, they may not know what they really want to do in college," Kurtz said. "It's great to have programs like this that can give such great insight."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Kim Henry, senior accounting major, Jennifer Dahms, senior earth science major, and Kris Karas, senior management major, feed the ducks in Research Park. Several bird and animal species live in the park.

## CIS introduces interactive campus map

□ A&M Computing and Information Services needs volunteers to maintain web pages for an interactive campus map on the Internet.

By Jill Saunders  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students soon will have access to an interactive campus map on the Internet. Other services currently available are the Electronic TAMU Community Calendar and the Electronic Phonebook.

David Lawrence, Computing and Information Services user services representative, said all services provided by CIS offer

diverse opportunities for Internet users.

"We provide electronic information in new ways for people to do everything from research to professional work," Lawrence said.

Bill Ambrose, systems analyst and head of A&M's electronic information access team, said these services are a part of the computer access fee, and students do not have to pay extra to use them.

"These services allow students to have a better utilization of their computer access fees," Ambrose said.

CIS is working on an interactive campus map that will show a picture of each building, adjacent buildings and other information normally obtained from a map.

"We need people to volunteer to maintain web pages for each building," Ambrose said. "It will depend on the volunteers

when this program will be available to students."

Sam Fleitman, programmer for CIS, said there are many things students can do through the Electronic Phonebook.

"Students can look up information on people, such as phone numbers and work hours," Fleitman said. "Students can also simplify their e-mail addresses through the Electronic Phonebook."

Fleitman said many students think they must have a complicated e-mail address that no one can remember. But students can use their alias.tamu.edu as a simpler e-mail address, he said.

"An alias is originally assigned by the Electronic Phonebook software, and it is usually a student's first initial, hyphen,

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