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New orientation held this weekend

Student Life Programs is hosting an orientation for Texas A&M for graduate students and undergraduate students over traditional age.

Melissa Keerins
THE BATTALION

Graduate students and undergraduates over 24-years-old will ease into Texas A&M life at this weekend's Transitions conference.

"It will be nice to learn things to make life easier, because I'm a first-year grad student, and I also work."

— Scott Blackwell
educational administration graduate student

The Transitions conference will feature a student orientation, campus tours and introduction sessions about financial aid, insurance, family, spouse and partner issues and A&M traditions.

Also included will be sessions about budgeting, safety and fitness issues and computer information services.

Julia Helpert, a graduate assistant for Student Life Programs, said the conference should help students in several ways.

"There will be sessions about everything these students will need to know about A&M," Helpert said.

Teri Heiner, Transitions

coordinator of academic and student services, said that during the conference, students who attended A&M as undergraduates can learn about services offered to them as graduate students.

Students who did not attend A&M for their undergraduate studies can learn about A&M and its traditions, as well as graduate services.

Graduate students who are new to A&M will see a presentation on student life on the A&M campus and an Evans Library tour are included in the conference to help students become more comfortable on campus.

Scott Blackwell, an educational administration graduate student, said he is looking forward to a thorough orientation about A&M.

"It will be nice to learn things to make life easier, because I'm a first-year grad student, and I also work," Blackwell said.

Blackwell said so far he is enjoying A&M because everyone is friendly.

"I went to a small school and the differences between there and A&M are like night and day," he said. "I think everyone here has a lot of spirit, and I am looking forward to learning more about this school."

Students can register for \$20 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Saturday at 212 MSC. The conference begins at 6:00 p.m. Friday and 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Free child care will be provided.

NEWS BRIEFS

Journalism conference features CBS anchor

Texas A&M faculty, staff and students who want to register at a discounted price for the International Association of Business Communicators' "Frontierland — Trails to Discovery" conference must do so by Sept. 8.

The conference will feature several national and local journalism experts, including Dan Rather, anchor and managing editor of the CBS Evening News.

Meeting topics include the future of broadcast communication, international communication and company magazine writing.

Registration for the conference is \$250 for IABC members and \$325 for non-members if paid by today. Afterward, members will pay \$310, and non-members will pay \$385.

Full-time students can pay \$100 before the deadline and \$150 after.

Testimony on insurance policy changes heard

AUSTIN (AP) — A state insurance regulator heard testimony Thursday on a petition calling for the repeal of an insurance rule that prohibits injured family members from being covered under homeowners policies.

The petition, filed by Tyler attorney Blake Bailey, would effectively allow family members to sue one another and collect damages from homeowners insurance policies.

Under current rules, a homeowner can buy a policy to cover property damage and unintentional bodily harm that occurs on his property, but family members are excluded from the policy.

Insurance companies say the rule is necessary to keep premiums down and protect them from those who would conspire to defraud companies.

U.S. Representative fined for campaign violations

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a surprisingly chipper mood after his campaign was fined \$90,000 by the Federal Election Commission for a flurry of election law violations, Texas Congressman Charlie Wilson says he's learned his lesson.

"I learn slow, but I learn," the Democrat said Thursday, after the FEC announced it had fined Wilson \$90,000 settlement with Wilson's campaign committee to settle its election law violations.

The fine, paid by the Wilson committee, is the largest ever levied against a House member.

Wilson reiterated that any actions made were honest errors, attempt to circumvent publicizing requirements.

Storms leave clear sky after Hurricane Luis

SIMPSON BAY, St. Martin. Lingered storms that kept the world from seeing what Hurricane Luis inflicted on this expensive Caribbean playground cleared up Thursday morning widespread destruction.

The island was virtually isolated by air and sea access until Thursday days after one of the century's powerful hurricanes hit. At least 10 people were killed as the 700-mile storm swept through the region.

Seven bodies had washed up on Simpson Bay. At least two others reported killed and hundreds were injured on the island, which is split between the Dutch side and the larger side known as St. Martin.

Selena trial attracts media despite live coverage

HOUSTON (AP) — Despite a court order barring live broadcast coverage of the trial of the woman accused of murdering Tejano singing star Selena, the trial is attracting a media event to hit Houston.

Jury selection begins Oct. 9 for the trial of Yolanda Saldivar, 34, charged with fatally shooting Selena March outside a budget motel in Corpus Christi.

"I can't recall any trial attracting much attention here," Jack Thompson, Harris County courts administrator, said.

The trial was moved to Houston's Corpus Christi because of public concern about the case there.

State District Judge Mike Westergren of Corpus Christi, who will preside over the trial, on Wednesday rejected requests from Court TV and Univision, nation's largest Spanish-language television network, that live broadcast coverage of the trial be permitted.

District Attorney Carlos Valdez and defense attorney Doug Tinker both had opposed cameras in the courtroom, which holds 160 people.

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The MSC Film Society, as part of its Alternative Film Series, is providing this notice that this film contains themes and characterizations which some audience members may find objectionable. Viewer discretion is advised.

Admission \$2.75 w/t.D. \$3 w/out t.D.
Persons with disabilities please call 845-8478 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification 3 working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability.
Aggie Cinema Hotline: 847-8478
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All films are presented in the Rudder Theater Complex
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THE BATTALION

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