

# LEADERSHIP

## Fish clubs provide personal growth, confidence

By Amy Uptmor  
THE BATTALION

The desire Aggies have to help freshmen find their place at A&M doesn't end with Fish Camp. There are three programs on campus that allow freshmen to become student leaders while meeting other members of their class.

Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow, Aggie Fish Club and Fish Aides are all programs for freshmen only.

The mission statement for Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow states that its primary goal is the "personal development of freshmen and opportunities through leadership, guidance and Aggie camaraderie."

Buc Slay, A.L.O.T. Chairman and a junior mechanical engineering major, said that although the group stresses making leaders out of freshmen, the upperclassmen also try to make the organization fun.

"When you finish a year with A.L.O.T., most of the memories will come from the relationships," Slay said.

A.L.O.T. members meet every two weeks to learn about issues such as leadership and time management. On weeks when there are no meetings, A.L.O.T. members plan social

events together.

A.L.O.T. just accepted 63 new members from the Class of '99. Slay said leaders of A.L.O.T. look for leadership potential and an interest in improving themselves in new members.

"We hope to give them the motivation and confidence to seek a leadership position at the end of their freshman year," Slay said.

Freshmen who are interested in continuing their Fish Camp

experience can direct their energy toward Aggie Fish Club. In its fourth year, AFC is composed of 50 freshmen and 14 counselors.

Bryan Wallace, a senior management major and director of AFC, said more than 300 freshmen tried out for AFC this year. He said the high number of ap-

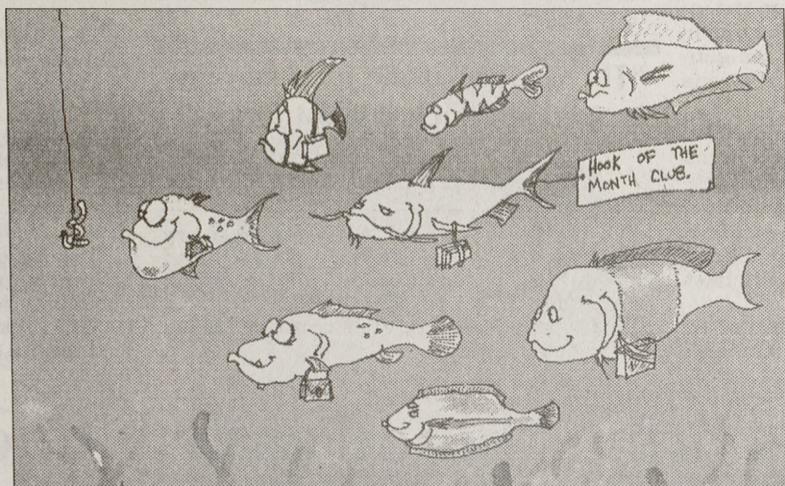
plicants is due to what the club has to offer. "A lot of clubs students join as freshmen limit them to one activity or area on campus," Wallace said, "but AFC gets freshmen to learn about many different aspects of the university."

Members are divided into discussion groups called "buddy huddles," in which they do community service and fund raising with other groups.

T.J. Williams, a sophomore marketing major and member of AFC, said that although it stresses leadership, the club is more socially-oriented than other freshman clubs.

Wallace said that many campus leaders, including Fish Camp co-chairs and directors, as well as class council leaders, got their start in AFC. Wallace said the program is successful because of the quality and structure of the program.

"We have a highly-developed committee structure that prepares our students for success in other committees and areas," Wallace said. "Plus, we have quality programs and members that would be leaders regardless of what club they got their start in."



Freshmen also participate in a mentor program, where they work on projects with MSC Council members.

Over 60 percent of A.L.O.T. members from last year pursued leadership positions at the University during their freshman year.

Hamrick said this unique system of sophomore leadership maintains a feeling of freshness and intimacy within the group.

Freshmen are not intimidated or controlled by the sophomore co-chairs, Hamrick said, so they are given the power to become active, contributing members of the group.

## Fish Aides aims to transform freshmen into leaders

By Tara Wilkinson  
THE BATTALION

Hundreds of freshmen flocked to the Student Government Office Friday, hoping to spot their names on the list of 1995-96 Fish Aides.

Forty freshmen walked away as new members of the organization they had heard praised so many times at Fish Camp and the New Student Conferences.

Jason Jaynes, Fish Aides co-chair and a sophomore computer science major, said he was told that Student Government Freshman Programs, known as Fish Aides, is an organization that transforms clueless freshmen into A&M's leaders.

"I came here, and I guess I was a totally lost freshman like everyone else," Jaynes said. "Almost everybody said Fish Aides is the organization to get into because it's totally awesome."

Kristen Paris, Fish Aides co-chair and a sophomore biomedical science major, said the program deserves its positive reputation.

"I've never heard of anyone who has been a Fish Aide who hasn't had a wonderful experience," Paris said.

The program provides a unique opportunity to learn how Student Government works, she said.

"Fish Aides is one of the few ways you can learn the behind-the-scenes side of another, larger organization," she said. "You get an inside look at Student Government."

Fish Aides are required to answer phones for three hours a week in the Student Government office, page one Student Senate meeting a year and serve on a Student Government committee.

The duties may sound routine and ordinary, but Paris said working at the Student Government office puts freshmen interested in leadership roles in the right place at the right time.

"At least ten Fish Aides from last year are holding Student Government offices now," she said.

Committees such as Muster, Big Event and Traditions Council reserve a few membership slots each year specifically for Fish Aides. This gives Fish Aides a better chance than the average student of getting placed on these small, closed committees.

**"Fish Aides is one of the few ways you can learn the behind-the-scenes side of another larger organization."**

-Kristen Paris  
Fish Aides co-chair

Jaynes said that as a Fish Aide he was given the opportunity to meet several interesting and influential people.

"It helps you improve your networking tons and tons," he said. "It's like a head start or a jump start on becoming a leader at A&M."

Despite the numerous leadership opportunities available, former and current Fish Aides said they applied for the organization primarily for the friendships the program fosters.

Leta Hamrick, a former Fish Aides co-chair and a senior English major, said deep bonds form between Fish Aides because they are all new students hoping to make an impact during their college years.

"I don't know what it is about it, but something happens during the Fish Aides process, and people become best of friends," Hamrick said. "I would think it's because of the eagerness of the freshmen that come in. Fish Aides kindles that attitude."

Two Fish Aides are chosen each year to serve as co-chairs for next year's Fish Aides.

## class of '99

Freshmen pictures are now being taken for the Aggieland yearbook. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be in the world's largest yearbook. Pictures are taken Tuesdays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Freshmen have until Sept. 29 to have their picture taken.**

AR Photography is located at 707 Texas Ave., next to Taco Cabana.

Call 693-8183 for more information.

### WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES 1995-96 TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



Who's Who applications are now available for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

- Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
- Student Programs Office (2nd Floor MSC)
- Student Activities Office (125 John J. Koldus Building)
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Office of the Dean of each College
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

Completed applications must be received by the Student Activities Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 1995. They may be hand-carried to the Student Activities Office, sent through Campus Mail, or sent through U.S. Mail. (See the application for the addresses.)

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**Informational Meeting:**

Thursday, Sept. 21, at 5:30 p.m. 402 Rudder Tower

Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 7:00 p.m. 707 Rudder Tower

Persons with disabilities please call 845-8770 for special assistance

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**Saturday, September 23 at 8:00 p.m. Rudder Auditorium**

Tickets are on sale at the MSC Box Office-TAMU, or charge by phone at 845-1234.

The MSC Box Office accepts Aggie Bucks™. New extended Box Office hours include Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Visit our Home Page at <http://www.msc.tamu.edu/msc/opas/opas.html>

Our E-Mail address is [opas@tamu.edu](mailto:opas@tamu.edu)

Persons with disabilities please call 845-8903 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability.