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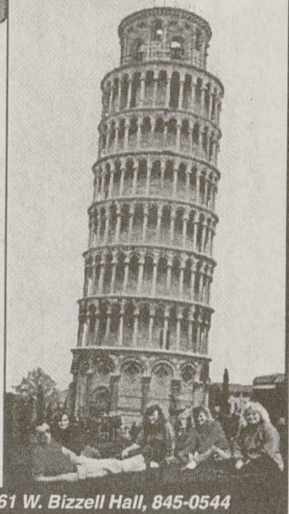
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Conference to help engineering students

Women engineers will share experiences in the field and provide career opportunities.

By Courtney Walker
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's former and present women engineering students will discuss career opportunities during the Women in Engineering Conference this weekend.

The conference will host 50 former A&M women engineering students who will encourage undergraduate students to remain in engineering and set up a mentor program to pair upperclassmen engineers with women engineers in the field.

Kathryn Hanneman, Class of '77 and production manager at Occidental Chemical in Houston, will be the featured speaker. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Rudder Theatre.

Cynthia Williams, Class of '76 and director of marketing at Sun Microsystems in Mountain View, Calif., will be the keynote speaker Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Rudder Theatre.

Zulema Belyeu, a senior electrical engineering major, said the conference will help both under- and upperclassmen.

"It will give underclassmen an idea of what the field is really like and what some of the challenges are, working in a traditionally male-dominant career," Belyeu said. "The mentor program will help upperclassmen decide what area they want to go into, like management, scientific or business."

Currently, women engineering students represent 20 percent of the population at Texas A&M, whereas women account for 49 percent of A&M's student body.

Jan Rinehart, director of women in engineering, science and technical programs, said the low percentage of women engineers is due to a high rate of freshman and sophomore students leaving the program.

"Hopefully the conference will help keep the freshman and sophomore students in the

program," Rinehart said.

April Hodges, a sophomore chemical engineering major, said it is important for division students to find out what the field is about so they can decide if it is what they really want to do.

Engineers can choose several career paths from technical to consulting, and the speakers will be from each of the different fields to tell students why they chose a certain path.

"It's great because we are all women, and we are all Aggies so we have more in common than engineering."

— April Hodges
chemical engineering major

panel discussion in 201 MSC to discuss the job market and affirmative action and a 2:45 p.m. panel discussion will follow in Rudder Theatre to hear views of women engineers.

"It's great because we are all women, we are all Aggies so we have more in common than engineering," Hodges said.

LETTER: University officials dispute CR assertions

Continued from Page 1

there is no problem with it," Bowen said.

Christie Moore, an adviser for the Department of Student Activities, the A&M department bringing the original charges against College Republicans, said the group has once again ignored the facts.

The letter said the board is composed of two students and three employees of the Division of Student Activities.

"In the [newest] letter it mentions that three of the five hearing board members are employed by the Department of Student Activities, and that's

"The University and the Department of Student Activities strongly support the College Republicans' right to say whatever they think"

— Christie Moore
Department of Student Activities adviser

not true," Moore said.

The three professional staff members on the board are employees of the Division of Student Affairs, she said, and have nothing to do with Student Activities.

Moore also disputed the newest letter's claim that she told the Austin-American Statesman she believes College

Republicans to be guilty.

The Statesman quoted her as saying College Republicans "broke a rule," she said, and her original comment to the Statesman was that the University did not have any evidence to show that College Republicans had followed procedure.

Moore said the charges against College Republicans are

not about the First Amendment, but about the way the organization broke University policy on misrepresented facts.

"This is not about freedom of speech," she said. "The University and the Department of Student Activities strongly support the College Republicans' right to say whatever they think."

"The factual information in the [original] letter and the information that was presented as fact will be the only thing that will be questioned in the hearing."

Moore could not say if further charges would be brought against College Republicans relating to the most recent mailing.

DANDIYA

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Dandiya Nite falls between two Hindu holidays, Navaratri and Diwali. Navaratri, translated "nine nights," is celebrated with nightly dance and prayers.

Ruturaaj Kalamkar with the Hindu Students Council public relations explained that Hindus worship the goddess of wealth and prosperity, Laxmi, during the first three nights.

The next three nights are dedicated to the goddess of knowledge, Saraswati, and the last three nights, Hindus worship Durga, the goddess of power, strength, vitality and dynamism.

Anand said Hindus in India celebrate these holidays by waking up early in the morning, taking a hot oil bath, lighting fireworks, exchanging presents and enjoying a huge meal.

"You can say it's like Christmas

in October," he said.

Indian merchants also use these holidays to mark the beginning of the new financial year, Anand said.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, signifies the victory of good forces over evil as described in the Hindu holy scriptures.

The Festival of Lights is celebrated with rows of earthen lamps lit in every home, store and temple on that day, Kalamkar said.

The origin of this holiday comes from two incidents. Some Hindus celebrate the return of Sri Rama from his exile and victory in battle over Raavana. Others celebrate Sri Krishna's victory over the tyrant king Narakaasura.

Admission to Dandiya Nite is free to members of Hindu Students Council and the India Association; \$2 for students; \$4 for adults; and \$10 for families of up to four.

Proceeds from Dandiya Nite will help fund the construction of a new temple in College Station.

ANNIVERSARY

Continued from Page 1

involve students as much as possible in the college's development. "We have students on all our committees because their perspective is valuable," she said.

The college currently includes the Departments of Economics, English, History, Journalism, Modern and Classical Languages, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Speech Communication and Theater Arts.

While the college's reputation is growing, some professors said the college will not be able to maintain its high quality if funding does not continue.

Betty Unterberger, a history professor, said the history department needs continued funding to replace faculty members who have departed.

"While the faculty has grown in stature and ability, the most serious limiting factor is that we can't get additional faculty. We are missing in vital areas," Unterberger said.

Because the liberal arts provide the foundation for other disciplines, it is crucial to provide continued support for the college, she said.

"The heart and soul of any university is its college of liberal arts; the university hasn't had the vision here to recognize that," Unterberger said.

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