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# Renovation Committee works to aid to the improve quality of A&M classrooms

By Melissa Nunnery THE BATTALION

ke new fried Eight classrooms on campus got a face-lift ore the fall semester, and more classrooms get the same treatment during Christmas. The Classroom Renovation Committee is esseeing the renovation of classrooms on show

Dan Parker, committee chairman and assisprovost, said the renovations will bring rooms on campus up to minimum stanls. Professors and students have comned in the past about the condition of srooms, he said.

Richard Williams, associate director of the sical Plant, said the needs of professors students are taken into consideration

en classrooms are repaired. It's looked at from the ease of teaching (for professors) as well as from the perspective e student," he said. "For example: is this a e, comfortable place to sit through a class?" oing to be it Depending on need, classrooms were ed and painted, chairs were recondied, dimmer switches for lights were added erence floor coverings were either cleaned or

paration There's a list of things we want rooms to

those things. We just want it to look like a classroom should when you go in.

Also on the list of features for classrooms

"There's a list of things we want rooms to have. We just want it to look like a classroom should when you go in."

> Richard Williams associate director, Physical Plant

are cable TV and ethernet and telephone con-

Glenn Dowling, with the Department of Planning and Institutional Research, said his office told the committee to start with older buildings that are highly used.

"If a building is 50-years-old and is high-

have," Williams said. "When we walk out of a room, we want to make sure it has all tions," he said. "We eliminated those buildings that were renovated in the last 10 years, and two faculty members on the committee developed other factors by walking around and looking at classrooms.

> Parker said eight rooms in the Blocker building were renovated first because they were easy for Physical Plant workers to access. The Blocker rooms also allowed the Physical Plant to work on several rooms in the same building at the same time.

> Funding for the project comes from the general use fee revenue. Nearly \$1.5 million have been allocated for the project over the next two years.

Parker said Texas A&M President Ray Bowen is looking for more money to continue

funding the project. "We are stretching the money as far as it will go," Parker said. "We won't do a halfway job on any classroom.'

The renovations in Blocker were performed during the hiatus between the summer and fall semesters. Williams said the next series of repairs will be during the Christmas holidays.

"Because of class schedules, we have to work around [students]," Williams said. "[They're] why we're here, so we work at off-times."

## ccused cadets won't team up for defense

ORT WORTH, Texas (AP) defense of an Air Force ademy cadet and his Naval emy fiancee who are accused on't Know H a murderous plot stemming ma love triangle won't be a include "Fim a love triangle won't be a o MeLikeTham effort," the girl's attorney Wednesday.

OSES Defense attorney barger has asked his client, eaway ane Zamora, to refrain from coning her betrothed, 18-year-old

beans about I feel that they have a very

stong connection," Linebarger said. "I would think that if we're going to defend this case properly, the legal decisions ought to be made by her attorney without any

"This is not a team effort, or at least not at this point, it's certainly not a team effort.

Zamora, an 18-year-old midshipman on leave from the U.S. Naval Academy, will plead innocent to accusations she and Graham killed 16-year-old Mansfield High School honor student Adrianne Jones. Jones was found beaten with a barbell and shot near Joe Pool Lake on Dec. 4.

A nine-month investigation brought the two to the forefront after authorities said Zamora confided in a Naval Academy roommate.

Police said Graham of Mansfield had a one-time sexual encounter with Jones and that he and Zamora killed his track teammate at the insistence of Zamora, who became irate when Graham confessed the encounter to her.

Graham is currently in a Colorado Springs, Colo., jail awaiting extradition to Texas, while his mother is insisting that her son's lawyer not sacrifice Zamora.

Graham's attorney, Dan Cogdell, said the cadet's mother told him, "I want justice for my son, but I do not want that at the expense of injustice to others. I do not want the Zamora family dragged through

Tonight Shor Texas Topic

#### Missionary takes work home, builds a family ach new stu

ent a potte MP DALLAS — Mindred Johnson on her "When the said only one could speak English obody gave then she first arrived there. What the 12-ee plants, Par-old asked her in his broken English

pommate houched her heart. "He asked me if he could be my little boy rith a light of come home with me and go to school," Mrs. Johnson, 60, of Oak Cliff. "So when I Marylan me back home, I said, 'Why not, let's see

sn't hand hat you have to do." s to be hidd On Tuesday, a smiling Selemania our years it bledman" Rubangura, now 13, ran through ng freshma e Delta Air Lines terminal at Dallas/Fort grown in 10th International Airport toward his new

On the other end of the short jog waited his posta the form of the short jog water ins orts to bring the boy from Africa to Dallas MPAA ded when he ran into her outstretched arms. "Oh there he is, that's my baby," Mrs. mson yelled as she wiped away tears and

ody Harrestantoward Stedman. an flag 🕮 "This is really my baby and I just had him," said jokingly about the slim, bright-eyed

Motion Pictures. Johnson was granted guardianship of rica asked edman until complicated adoption proceed-

e poster for gs are final. elease of She met Stedman while she worked as a ionary in Zaire, teaching English to chiltown of Bukavu.

She was selected to be a missionary last September by Global Ministries of the United Methodist Churches. She stayed in Zaire a month before returning to Dallas to her job as director of the intergenerational schools program at the Dallas Independent School District.

She said that of the more than 200 children she taught, she saw something special in Stedman. She said he would take her hand and guide her to different sites in the city where

"He took care of me when I first got to Zaire," Mrs. Johnson said. "And we just kind of

built a relationship.' The boy's parents were killed during the

Rwandan civil war.

He has no brothers or sisters. "I couldn't save all of them, but I could at least try to save one," Mrs. Johnson said.

She said her husband, A.J, and three grown daughters supported the idea. Mrs. Johnson had to meet international

adoption regulations, fill out paperwork and complete interviews before Stedman was allowed to leave Zaire. She expects the adoption to be final in

about two years.

On Tuesday, Stedman said that he was happy to be in Dallas. The boy speaks limited

M DALLAS — Mildred Johnson worked dren who lived at a refugee tent camp near the English but is fluent in French and Swahili. He arrived about 4 p.m. wearing blue jeans, tennis shoes and a denim shirt. After the reunion, family and friends were headed to McDonald's

"I'm very excited and looking forward to spending time with him and exposing him to our culture here," said Quelanda Clark, Mrs. Johnson's 28-year-old daughter who was at the airport to meet her new brother along with her mother, her grandmother and some church members.

"She's always wanted a son, and he came from a situation where there was no hope," said Ms. Clark, a Dallas police officer. "This is a better life and a better opportunity for him to have a successful life."

Aileen Edgington, executive director of the Hope Cottage Adoption Center in Dallas, said the international adoption of an African child is rare but that adoptions of children from other countries are becoming an option for many American families.

Mrs. Johnson said she spent nearly \$2,500 to fly Stedman to Dallas. She also had to pay for an attorney and many long-distance telephone calls. She said it has all been worth it.

'He was in such dire need ... I knew he had no possibilities of school because of the situation he was in.'

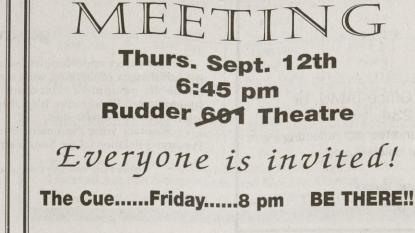
He'll have a new chance at a productive life with his new family, she said.

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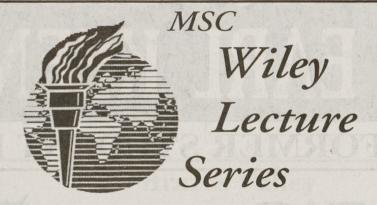
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