

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

By MELISSA NUNNERY  
THE BATTALION

have," Williams said. "When we walk out of a room, we want to make sure it has all 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

Eight classrooms on campus got a face-lift before the fall semester, and more classrooms will get the same treatment during Christmas. The Classroom Renovation Committee is overseeing the renovation of classrooms on campus.

Dan Parker, committee chairman and assistant provost, said the renovations will bring classrooms on campus up to minimum standards. Professors and students have complained in the past about the condition of classrooms, he said.

Richard Williams, associate director of the Physical Plant, said the needs of professors and students are taken into consideration when classrooms are repaired.

Williams looked at from the ease of teaching (for professors) as well as from the perspective of the student," he said. "For example: is this a comfortable place to sit through a class?"

Depending on need, classrooms were repainted and painted, chairs were reconditioned, dimmer switches for lights were added and floor coverings were either cleaned or replaced.

There's a list of things we want rooms to

ly utilized, it probably needs more renovations," 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."

# Accused cadets won't team up for defense

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The defense of an Air Force Academy cadet and his Naval Academy fiancée who are accused of a murderous plot stemming from a love triangle won't be a team effort, the girl's attorney said Wednesday.

Defense attorney John Linebarger has asked his client, Zamora, to refrain from contacting her betrothed, 18-year-old David Graham.

"I feel that they have a very

strong 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 outside influence."

"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 Adrienne 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 the mud."

## Texas Topic

# Missionary takes work home, builds a family

DALLAS — Mildred Johnson worked with hundreds of refugee children on her humanitarian mission in Zaire last September. She said only one could speak English when she first arrived there. What the 12-year-old asked her in his broken English touched her heart.

"He asked me if he could be my little boy and come home with me and go to school," Mrs. Johnson, 60, of Oak Cliff. "So when I came back home, I said, 'Why not, let's see if you have to do.'"

children who lived at a refugee tent camp near the town 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 she worked.

"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

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 for a hamburger.

"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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