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THE BATTALION
CAMPUS

Wednesday • November 21

Students engage in mock trial, moot court

By JOANNE WHITTEMORE
THE BATTALION

Students from Texas A&M went to court in Austin last weekend to engage in a mock trial. These students were representing the TAMU LEGALS, a group associated with the prelaw society.

Adam Wagner, a senior electrical engineering major, said LEGALS encompasses a wide range of law-bound students.

"Everybody has intentions of going to law school," he said. "Ages range from first semester freshmen to people graduating in December, like me."

LEGALS participates in two forms of competition during the school year — mock trial and moot court.

Mock trial simulates a civil lawsuit trial with six- to seven-member teams acting as witnesses and attorneys. The competition is

judged primarily on presentation and speaking skills.

Moot court simulates an appellate court where a two-person team represents the petitioner and another team represents the appellant before the "Supreme Court."

This past semester, the mock trial team of freshmen and sophomores placed second in the preliminaries.

In moot court, out of the seven teams from A&M that attended, five members received oralist awards and two of the teams advanced to the quarterfinals with one of them placing first.

Abigail Mathews, LEGALS' president and a senior history and anthropology major, is Wagner's partner in moot court.

She coaches LEGALS by reviewing rules with them and drilling them in cross-examination. LEGALS is a good introduction to law school, Mathews said.

"It's an outstanding way to grasp on what people do in law school," she said. "This is a hands-on [experience] law school to see if this is what you want to do."

LEGALS has received the Office of Professional Advising and various other awards.

Lane Thibodeaux, a partner at the James and Thibodeaux law firm, has been giving LEGALS on presentation and approaching witnesses.

Thibodeaux said the mock trials he participated in law school helped him most to the deal, but A&M students have prelaw opportunities that are in your field as early as possible, he said.

"The earlier you do it, the more you can make decisions that impact you for a lifetime."

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GUF

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Baggett said the blame for the situation lies with the Legislature not increasing tuition for salaries, and allowing individual universities to increase the GUF.

"Don't get mad at President Bowen," he said. "Get mad at your state representatives and senators. The blame lies with the Legislature."

Baggett said Student Government will be asking the Legislature for additional scholarships to compensate for the increased cost of education.

"As fees increase, we need to push the Legislature to have compensatory levels of scholarships," he said.

LETTER

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Blackwood said the success of the Rice and A&M bands is more of an indication of the students' move into the computer age than a reflection of the bands' talent.

"What it speaks to more than anything is that Rice University and Texas A&M are both hard-wired into the Internet and moving into the future, where you can influence things by a click of the mouse," Blackwood said.

Votes may be cast at <http://espnetsportszone.com/editors/fantasy/college/bands.html>. Only one vote per e-mail address is allowed.



Autumn Leaves

Chad Alcock, a senior rangeland ecology management major, rakes leaves outside his house Tuesday afternoon.

THE BATTALION

Applications are now available for the following Battalion positions:

Executive Editor, Managing Editor and all section editors.

Pick up an application in Room 013 of the Reed McDonald Building. Applications due Thursday, November 21 by midnight. Call 845-3313 for more information.

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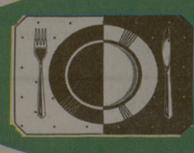
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