



# THE BATTALION

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## Audit leads to investigation of A&M prof

BY MELISSA NUNNERY AND ERICA ROY  
THE BATTALION

A computer science professor is being investigated for possible misuse of Texas A&M funds and personnel.

The University Police Department and the Brazos County District Attorney's Office are investigating Dr. Dhiraj Pradhan following reports from an A&M System audit.

Jim Ashlock, executive director of University Relations, said the district attorney

reviews any records which hint at violation of state law.

Travis Bryan, attorney for Pradhan, said his client denies any wrongdoing.

"The question is whether or not Dr. Pradhan has used A&M facilities and personnel to benefit himself," Bryan said. "We deny that has occurred."

A Wall Street Journal article reported Wednesday that Pradhan said he is being targeted because of his ethnicity and his stance on tenure.

Ashlock said Pradhan's claims are unfounded.

"[The investigation] has nothing to do, as he (Pradhan) alleges, with his position as a foreign national or his position on tenure," Ashlock said.

Bryan declined to comment on why Pradhan believes he is being unfairly investigated. Ashlock and Bryan both said no charges have been filed against Pradhan.

Ashlock said that until the media caught wind of the district attorney's office investi-

gation, the audit was a routine dispute between a faculty member and administrators.

"[Disputes] are not uncommon around here, or any other university for that matter," Ashlock said.

Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner said records pertaining to the audit and investigation are potentially the subject of litigation.

Turner said when Pradhan asked to review the system auditor's records, the district attorney's office sent a letter advising the sys-

tem's general council to protect the records until the investigation was completed.

"[The letter was] not intended to mean Dr. Pradhan won't have a chance to review the documents and present his side of the story," Turner said.

He said the district attorney's office will not proceed with any charges or litigation until Pradhan's attorney sees the records.

Bryan said Pradhan left the United States for India to visit relatives and possibly could return by March 1.

## Remembering WWII

### Ags help sixth-graders celebrate the war

BY LAURA OLIVEIRA  
THE BATTALION

Jane Long Middle School sixth-graders welcomed members of Rudder's Rangers and Aggie Wranglers to their end of World War II celebration Thursday.

The celebration was the culmination of six weeks of integrated learning, in which WWII was incorporated into all of the students' classes.

Jennifer Austin, a sixth grade teacher at Jane Long, said the integrated style of teaching is effective.

"It helps the kids make a connection," she said. "It gives them a purpose for learning."

The students studied nuclear power and the atomic bomb in science class and Holocaust related stories in reading.

Each day the students studied a particular date in WWII history and used that date on their papers.

Thursday's event ended the six-week long study and gave the students the opportunity to celebrate the end of the war.

Aggie Wranglers demonstrated Jitterbug and Swing moves of the WWII Era.

The Long choir sang wartime songs and the students performed a play about the victims of Hiroshima called *If I Never See Another Butterfly*.

Brian Marks, Corps of cadets bugler and a sophomore agricultural development major, said the event was something he would have liked to have experienced in middle school. Marks played "Taps" and "Reveille" for the students.

"I would have liked to have seen older students come to my school," he said. "And I thought it was neat to see the teachers dressed up in WWII fatigues that made it different."

Poems of the Unknown Soldier were read and victims of the Holocaust and Hiroshima remembered to accompany Marks' taps.

"It is always sad to play taps," he said. "I think some of the kids understood what was going on and they got caught up in the moment."

Rudder's Rangers demonstrated maneuvers used in combat.

Jose Galvan, a member of Rudder's Rangers company and a junior construction science major, said the event was a great experience for all of the students involved.

"It was a lot of fun seeing people that were that young so interested in it (the combat training)," he said.



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Tommy Gongora, a sixth-grader at Jane Long Middle School, jumps over a final hurdle in an obstacle course as part of the WWII celebration Thursday.

### ► COSGA

## Students share ideas, network at conference

BY ERICA ROY  
THE BATTALION

Over 500 students from 115 universities will share ideas at Texas A&M during the Conference of Student Government Associations.

The conference begins tomorrow and ends Feb. 25.

Brandon Casteel, COSGA program chair and a senior international marketing major, said students attending the conference can learn from other school's experiences.

"We bring people together to exchange ideas," Casteel said. "There's such powerful networking at COSGA."

Casteel said students participate in activities such as roundtable discussions that allow them to discuss successful programs used at their schools.

"People feed off each other," he said. "You leave with so many ideas you want to implement at your own school."

James Dossett, COSGA registration executive and a junior civil engineering major, said the conference gives the participants new outlooks on student government.

"This conference is important because it allows the chance for people to get new ideas for student government," Dossett said.

Casteel said although COSGA focuses on student government programs, other more general programs are discussed. A&M presents workshops on Fish Camp, The Big Event and Fish Aides.

"Student government is the focus," Casteel said, "but it ends up

being a bigger picture than that."

Each school attending the conference can send six students and two advisers. A&M's delegates are selected by application.

Schools as small as a private school with 200 students and schools as large as the University of Nebraska will attend the conference. Students from Hawaii and Alaska are also attending.

"It's really grown to be quite a major conference," he said. "It grows every year."

Conference participants can experience College Station night life when they visit the Northgate area, Casteel said, and many want to visit the Dixie Chicken.

The conference also will host a karaoke night at Bullwinkle's Grill and Bar.

Faye Little, a conference delegate and junior agricultural business major, said she wants to participate in COSGA because of the conference's reputation.

"It brings together several schools from around the country and it gets students to meet each other and realize what is going on outside of A&M," she said.

COSGA is the largest student run conference of its kind. It began seventeen years ago when three A&M students began introducing the idea for COSGA to other schools.

Casteel said COSGA provides delegates with knowledge from other schools that can help their own school.

"There's so many ideas," he said, "so many ways to make your school better, and the answers are at COSGA."

## RHA establishes judiciary board

### ► The board will interpret the RHA constitution and resolve conflicts.

BY LAURA OLIVEIRA  
THE BATTALION

Revisions to the Residence Hall Association's constitution calling for the addition of a judiciary board and alterations to executive and director positions were made Wednesday night.

General assembly members will sit on the judiciary board, which will interpret the constitution to resolve conflicts within RHA or hall councils.

Jesse Czelusta, president of RHA and a senior agricultural economics major, said the board will have little influence over the autonomy of individual hall councils.

"I feel it (judiciary board) is necessary," he said. "If you're going to have a constitution you need to have an interpretation of what that constitution is."

Karen Fisher, director of facilities and operations and a junior zoology major, said the judiciary board members must have a thorough understanding of the structure of RHA.

"As long as we have knowledgeable people who know how RHA works, everything will be fine," she said.

The duties of some executive

officers were also altered in the constitution.

The vice president of administration will assume the duties of secretary and treasurer and the vice president of programs was established.

A service director was added to oversee projects such as Adopt a Highway and Bottoms Up Clean-Up, a project to collect beer bottles left in church courtyards on Northgate.

A publication director will edit the Hallaboo newsletter which RHA publishes every few months.

Czelusta said the separate service committee will allow residents to participate in more community projects.

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### ► Women in Science in Engineering

## WISE host career development conference

BY JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER  
THE BATTALION

The fifth annual Women in Science and Engineering career development conference will be held Saturday in the MSC.

WISE will host a series of seminars and workshops on professional societies, women competing in the engineering work force and the scientific field. Participants also can attend workshops on conflict resolution in the workplace and sex differences and evolution.

The conference, which is open to all students and professionals interested in science and engineering, will open with a reception tonight at 7:30. Seminars and workshops will be held Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nancy Magnussen, WISE director, said the conference's theme, "Adapting to a Changing World," stresses the goal of providing information on the challenges women face in science and engineering careers.

Magnussen said she expects a large turnout for the conference.

"There is a growing involvement in the conference," Magnussen said. "About half of the participants are graduate students, and the other half are faculty, staff, undergraduates and community."

The keynote address at the conference will be given by Dr. France Cordova, vice chancellor for research at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Cordova received her Ph.D in physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1979 and teaches physics at the University of California. Cordova will address leadership and women's roles in the field of engineering.

Magnussen said Cordova was chosen to speak because she is a successful Hispanic who is familiar with women's issues.

"I knew she would make a great keynote speaker because she is prominent in the field of science," Magnussen said.

Karen Butler, assistant professor of electrical engineering at Texas A&M, will also speak at the conference.

She will be speaking about research funding. "I am looking forward to talking at the conference," she said. "I have prepared well for this."

Butler's speech will be the same one she used in her address to the Black Graduate Students Association. Magnussen said the conference helps graduate students understand what careers they want to pursue.

This semester, there are approximately 7,200 graduate students at A&M.

Dan Robertson, director of graduate studies,

said 38 percent of those students are women.

Robertson has attended the conference in the past and will attend this weekend.

"It has been my pleasure to attend this program," he said. "It gives [me] the opportunity for networking among the participants."

Robertson said the conference focuses primarily on women and allows them to interact with others in their field.

He said the conference aims to diversify male-dominated fields.

WISE will sponsor a social event tonight in the MSC Forsythe Gallery at 7:30.

Entertainment at the reception will include 'Miz Wizard's Science Secrets', written and performed by Jane Curry. The comical presentation focuses on women's contributions to science.

Magnussen said Curry was chosen because of her ties to science and ability to entertain people with the subject.

"She was so hysterical in her show 'Just Say No,' and I was thrilled to hear she wrote a show about science," Magnussen said. "We are excited to have her here."

The conference registration fee is \$20. The fee covers the reception and entertainment, lunch, free child care and workshops. The deadline for registration is today.

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