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Media lecture centers on science editor stresses importance of research in journalism

By MATT WEBER
THE BATTALION

The relationship between the scientific community and the media was the topic of a speech delivered to graduate students in a presentation Thursday in Rudder Theatre. The presentation, titled "Science and the Media: What Graduate Students Should Know," was brought to Texas A&M University as part of the Science and Technology Journalism Lecture Series, and was held in conjunction with the Graduate Student Council's 3rd Annual Research Competition. The speech was delivered by Dr. Julie Miller, editor of Science News magazine. Miller spoke to graduate students in Science and Technology Journalism about the importance of open communication between researchers and the press.

Dr. Barbara Gastel, an associate professor of journalism and humanities in medicine, said Miller's strong background in science writing made her an especially good choice as a speaker. "Dr. Miller, I think, is one of the leading science journalists in the nation ... considering her background," Gastel said. Miller defined science journalism as the "presentation of science literature to the general public by someone other than the scientist." She said the purpose of science journalism is to inform the public and promote rational thought, and at times protect readers from "bad science" — incomplete or incompetent research or findings. However, Miller said, mistakes are not limited to scientists. "Sometimes being wrong is as much a

part of science writing as it is writing," Miller said. She discussed the steps required to produce a science-related article. Along with writing the story, authors also must do research of their own. She said most articles begin with finding and choosing relevant topics from science journals, conferences, interviews with researchers and even other media sources. Once chosen, a science writer must do their own background work on the subject before the article is written. Although science journalism often focuses on topics considered "dry" and complicated by the general public, Miller said, writers must be able to make their stories interesting and relevant to readers.

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Derek Demere, THE BATTALION

Making the Play

Anne Harry (left), a junior botany major, and Kristen Anton, a freshman animal science major, practice with other members of the women's lacrosse team for their games against UT and Trinity this weekend.

Students to compete in Fish Olympics

By BENJAMIN CHENG
THE BATTALION

Freshmen at Texas A&M will have the chance to dunk the yell leaders in a water dunk and compete in a clothing relay in the Fish Olympics tomorrow, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Simpson Drill Field. Freshmen can compete in teams of friends, residence halls, Corps outfits or other organizations. The winning team will receive a trophy. There is no cost to participate and a free lunch will be provided. Joseph Piotrowski, Fish Olympics director and a senior finance major, said the event provides freshmen the opportunity to meet other freshmen. "They compete against each other, but it's in good fun," Piotrowski said. Events include Aggie Trivia, sumo

wrestling, flag football and spirit games such as Bonfire building and a traditions relay. Piotrowski said some of the events have a twist to them. "It's kick ball, but it's three-legged kick ball," he said. Mark Whitt, a junior biomedical science, said freshmen from residence halls and Corps outfits came together during last year's Olympics. "I think that's very neat," Whitt said. "You don't see that very often." Whitt said over 100 freshmen competed last year, and he expects around 200 this year. Piotrowski said letting freshmen know about the Fish Olympics is hard because the event is in only its second year. "Nobody has heard about it," he said. Matt Montgomery, a freshman business

administration major, said he plans to participate in tomorrow's games. "I heard from people that it was fun last year and you get to meet people," Montgomery said. Carl Koehler, a senior elementary education major, got the idea for the Olympics when he saw the Aggie Fish Club hold a similar event. "I thought it would be good to develop it for the freshman class and have fun," he said. Koehler said at first he wanted a University-wide Olympics, but the idea was impractical at the time. "My dream is to have a clash of the classes where all the classes get together to compete," he said. For more information about the Fish Olympics, freshmen can drop by the sign-up desks in the MSC, Sbsa and the Commons.

► Wiley Lecture Series

Discussion focuses on risk of NATO expansion

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

The threat of World War III has caused concern in the eyes of countries who wish to gain membership with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

A lecture titled "Russia Versus NATO: the New Cold War?" addressed the topic Wednesday as part of the Wiley Lecture Series.

Eastern European countries such as Hungary and Poland are eager to gain membership in NATO because of potential Russian aggression and lessons learned from their difficult pasts. Membership would mean these countries would have defense against Russia in the event of an attack. Dr. Lawrence Kaplan, director of the Lyman Lemnitzer Center for NATO at Kent State, led the discussion of the problem with the expansion of NATO. Kaplan previously worked in the Department of Defense, where he gained insight into the problem.

"For these countries to join NATO, it would mean an increased cost for the organization, mainly the United States," Kaplan said. Kaplan said NATO wants an expansion, calling it "enlargement" instead. "They (NATO) can continue to strive toward membership," he said, "but Russia can make life difficult if they do."

Kaplan explained that Russia would be threatened if NATO expanded to its borders. Dr. Chester Dunning, an associate professor of history at A&M, joined Kaplan in the discussion. He received his Ph.D. in Russian history in 1976. Dunning gave a perspective of how Russians see NATO expansion as a way to humiliate their country. "As an American citizen concerned about reducing the risk of nuclear war with Russia, which still, even in its decline, is capable of destroying all of us and our children," Dunning said, "I urge our leaders to think long and hard about the proposed risk of NATO expansion."

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The United States is a superpower ordered by countries without large military forces, Dunning said. He warned the audience of Russia and its evil ambition of becoming a superpower once again. Retired Gen. Edmond Solmosy spoke from the viewpoint of Hungary. Solmosy was born in Budapest, Hungary, and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. He helped coordinate military policy toward NATO. Solmosy clarified the steps in becoming a member of NATO. Countries must be democratic; have economic stability reform and civil control over the local military; have good relations with neighbors; value human rights and work well with NATO.

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Tug-of-Honor aims for unity

Event will include pulls between non-regs, cadets

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

Tugs, food and music will bring Texas A&M students from around campus to Duncan Field Sunday afternoon in an effort to unify the campus. The Tug-of-Honor, hosted by the Resident Hall Association, includes six co-ed pulls, including Northside vs. Southside, non-regs vs. Corps and upperclassmen vs. underclassmen.

Nicole Rippole, director of programs for RHA and a sophomore chemical engineering major, said the event began with only the best two out of three non-reg vs. Corps pulls, but has grown to attract more participants. "In the fall, Bonfire brings the campus together and there are separate programs in the spring that do so," she said, "but there is not one single event in the spring that brings everyone together." Last year the "traveling trophy" went home with the Corps. Tase Bailey, Corps representative for the Tug-of-Honor

committee and a sophomore aerospace engineering major, said the trophy will remain with the Corps. "I have the trophy sitting in my room right now," he said. "We will work as a team, as the Corps always does, and win it again."

Michael Hoy, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and a resident of Lechner Hall, said the Corps vs. non-reg pull will be the most exciting of the tugs because of the trophy involved. "It is Northside and Southside against the Corps, so it will be a common challenge that unites Northside and Southside." Each tug will allow for 150 participants on each side, and any interested student may volunteer. Jesse Czelusta, RHA president and a senior agriculture economics major, said the event breaks down the separatism on campus. "When it comes right down to it, we are all Aggies," he said. "This (Tug-of-Honor) shows we can have fun together and still have that friendly rivalry."

Elizabeth Schmidt, a member of Corps company A-1 and a sophomore math major, will participate in the competition. She said the friendly rivalry allows for healthy competition. "It (friendly rivalry) makes you do the best you can, but it doesn't hurt anybody," she said. Competition will begin at 1 p.m. and end at 4 p.m. Barbecue plates can be purchased for \$5.50 between 12:30 and 2:30, and students may use their meal plans. Rippole said she encourages all students to follow the trail of maroon and white balloons leading to the event. "We want to continue to add to the Aggie traditions and hope this will become a strong one," she said.



Regents to vote on raising Student Services Fee for revenue

By MARISSA ALANIS
THE BATTALION

A recommendation to increase the Student Services Fee from the current \$99 per semester to \$108.90 will be voted on at the Board of Regents meeting next week. After last semester's deliberations, the 16-member Student Services Fee Allocation

► PART FOUR IN A SERIES OF FOUR.

board decided on the new fee figure for fiscal year 1998. The fee is projected to generate \$8.8 million in revenue.

The recommended fee would affect students taking 12 or more credit hours. Students taking fewer hours would pay less.

Faye Little, Student Services Fee Allocation board chair and a junior agricultural business and finance major, said students may see the recommendation strictly as an increase in the fee and not see the reasoning behind the decision. "They see fee increase and that's it," Little said. "It's very easy to see a \$9 increase and say, 'Nothing's going to change. I don't see why they're making me pay more money because I don't see any of these changes.'"

Little said if students saw the process and the specific descriptions of where their money will go, they would gain an educated perspective. "I don't think they see it (the money) cut up," she said. Last semester, 20 departments funded by the fee submitted their budget requests to the board. Members reviewed the requests and decided which request to support. State legislation authorizes the University to raise the fee by no more than 10 percent each year. Greater increases must be approved by student referendum. Little said A&M is fortunate to have student input decided on, because the fee can be raised yearly by administrators without student input. "We're the only school in the Big 12 that has an all-student run and staffed board for their fees," Little said. Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for Student Affairs, said the administration was pleased with the board's recommendations. "I think there will be less complaint," Southerland said. "I think the students have a good feeling in what all this money is spent for."

Little said Southerland analyzes each specific request of the board's final recommendation before approval. "He's never changed the bottom-line figure (the fee amount), although he has switched some monies around," Little said. A new addition to the Student Services Fee recommendation is the Child Care Center, which would provide part-time child care for children of students and full-time service for children of faculty and staff. A recommendation of \$10,000 was made for the project. "This money from Student Service Fees is strictly for scholarships for that part-time center so those children of students that go will receive some subsidy," Little said. About 80 percent of the Student Services Fee goes toward funding the salaries of A&M administrators and staff. Laurent Therivel, vice president of finance for Student Government and a senior marketing major, said the fee increase will help cover the increase in salaries of A&M staff and administrators it affects, but the benefits will not be seen for several years. "You're basically investing in the quality of your diploma down the road," Therivel said. Little said when determining the amount of money allocated to each department, the board considers such factors as student participation, the amount of students affected, past endeavors and how they are planning for the future.

Large allocations of money were recommended for departments such as the Memorial Student Center and Student Counseling Services based on these factors. "Historically they've provided that amount of service," Little said. Little said increasing the fee is a way of en-

Student Services Fee Allocation

Department / Program	\$ Final Rec.	\$ Difference	% Difference
Memorial Student Center	1,790,000	117,673	7%
Student Counseling Service	1,680,000	178,901	12%
Recreational Sports	1,370,000	75,716	6%
Student Activities	838,882	70,000	9%
Bus Operations	800,000	95,300	14%
Student Life	628,000	59,732	11%
Multicultural Service	340,000	29,220	9%
Aggie Band	50,000	15,000	43%
Student Handbook	30,000	30,000	n/a
\$ generated at a fee of \$108.90		Revenue Generated = \$8,812,368	

Source: Student Service Fee Allocation Board

Little said increasing the fee is a way of en-

suring a world-class education for students. "It's just a fact of life — prices increase," Little said. "And to continue the level of education and the wonderful precedent we have set here at A&M, eventually we can't stop it off in the next ten years of classes. We need to start preparing for that now."