



THE BATTALION

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Senior Week adopts new celebrations

By KATHLEEN STRICKLAND
THE BATTALION

Seniors can feel graduation nearing as Senior Week celebrations signal the end of the semester. Senior Week begins Tuesday and will end with Ring Dance Saturday night.

Sarah Wilson, president of the Senior Week committee and a senior speech communication major, said this year's Senior Week will be different than previous years.

"In the past, it's only been a weekend event," Wilson said. "It began with Senior Bash on Thursday and had the banquet and Ring Dance on Saturday. Our goal was to turn it into a whole week of fun events."

The Karaoke Kick-Off Tuesday at 9 p.m. at Bulwinkle's Bar and Grill is the first event of the week. Tickets can be purchased for \$2.

Wednesday night is Discount Night in Bryan and College Station. Students wearing class of '97 senior rings or t-shirts can receive discounts at area establishments.

The Senior Bash will be held at Shadow Canyon Thursday at 8 p.m. Tickets for the bash are \$2.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, will host an Ice Cream Social at his residence on Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. Admission is free.

"We wanted to cover the entire week with various activities that would be less expensive than the traditional Senior Banquet and Ring Dance," Wilson said.

Both the Senior Banquet and Ring Dance will be held Saturday. The banquet begins at 6 p.m. and will be held at the College Station Hilton and Conference Center. Ring Dance starts at 9 p.m. in the MSC and Rudder Tower and will last until 1 a.m.

Tickets for the Senior Banquet are \$20 per person. Tickets for Ring Dance are \$60 per couple or \$35 for an individual. In addition, picture packages for Ring Dance can be purchased for either \$11 or \$17.

Celeste Flores, Ring Dance co-chair and a senior marketing major, expects about 3,000 people to attend.

"This is the largest Ring Dance ever," Flores said. "We are using eight different rooms with different types of music."

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Muster Calling Aggies Home



LEFT: Christy Schneider, a junior agricultural systems management major, holds a candle for her father, Class of '70.
Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

ABOVE: Ross Volunteers march into the Muster ceremony, preparing for the 21-gun salute.
Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Ceremony honors spirit of deceased

By MARISSA ALANIS
THE BATTALION

Shots fired by the Ross Volunteers rang out in honor of Aggies who died this year in a hushed G. Rollie White Coliseum as a capacity crowd gathered to commemorate and celebrate the tradition of Aggie Muster.

As the roll call was read for those who were absent, family members and friends answered "here" and lit a candle, a symbolic reminder that the deceased were present in spirit.

Muster originated in the late 1800s and last night Texas A&M students and former students joined together for the on-campus event.

In attendance for the ceremony were the remaining members of the Class of '47 who marked their 50-year reunion. Around 900 members entered the class in 1943, but many of their graduations were delayed because of their participation in World War II.

In her Class of '47 remembrance speech, Christina Horz, a Muster committee member and a senior marketing

major, said the Class of '47 could be admired for its contributions to society. Among them, there are CEOs, presidents of corporations, athletes, politicians and musicians.

"There's an Aggie for every occasion in the Class of '47," Horz said.

Horz said if the Aggie ring could tell a story about the Class of '47's contributions, such as participating in World War II and believing in liberty, it would be an honorable story.

"I think it (the ring) would speak of a group of men of honor and dignity,"

Horn said. "These men have contributed and participated in what they consider to be the greatest fraternity on earth."

Royce Hickman, Class of '64 and president of the Association of Former Students, gave welcoming remarks for the Muster ceremony. He said the event pays homage to the deceased and reflects upon their accomplishments.

"I submit to you that it is not the deaths of Aggies we honor tonight, it is their lives," Hickman said.

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Climbing to victory

Texas A&M Cycling Team excels with cross country win

By KRISTINA BUFFIN
THE BATTALION

The legendary renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci, in his famous book *Kodak*, predicted the invention of the bicycle. Little did he know 400 years later, Texas A&M students would be using his invention to roam amongst the mountainous terrains of a course set up in Bryan.

The Texas A&M Cycling Team hosted the Collegiate Conference Championship this past weekend at the Bryan Utilities Lake and upended previous champion Southwest Texas University.

Hutch Butler, organizer of the meet and a senior recreation, parks and tourism sciences major, said Southwest Texas hosted the meet last year and this year A&M wanted to host.

"It couldn't have gone any better," Butler said. "The attendance was kind of low because UT did not send anybody but we had a good time."

Scott Meadows, a senior environmental design major, won the mountain bike cross country race. In fact, he defeated his arch-rival Casey Crosby of SWT.

"We have been racing 1-2 all semester," Meadows said. "This year was especially neat because we were the two main people in off-roading and because they won last year."

Meadows will travel to Durango, Colo., May 24 to compete in the Road Nationals, which will highlight the straight-road races.

Along with Meadows, four other Aggies will travel to Durango — Donald Brenner, Brent Davis, Clark Davidson and Erik Ostergaard. Meadows also will travel to the Mountain Bike Nationals in the fall.

Many students chose to ride to escape the pressure and stress of classes. Butler said it is not a question of what he likes about the sport, but what he does not like about the sport.

"I got kind of burnt out on the competition," Butler said. "So I just like to go out and have fun. It's like becoming one with nature and going back to the woods."

"It is a huge adrenaline rush and the only noise is the wind." Sometimes a new spin is added to the mix. Jeremy Floyd, a junior environmental design major, dyes his hair for good luck.

He sometimes has green or purple hair and he once had green sideburns with purple hair.

"I like to stand out and lighten the mood," Floyd said. "It is good for intimidation. Most people who see you with dyed hair think you are a badass."

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Conditions in B-CS breed severe allergic reactions

By BENJAMIN CHENG
THE BATTALION

Spring is in the air, the flowers are in bloom and pollens are being released as allergy season is ushered in.

Sharon Arnold, director of nursing at A.P. Beutel Health Center, said the Bryan-College Station area is one of the worst in the state for people with allergies because of its high pollen count.

She said Houston students' allergies often worsen when they come to Texas A&M University.

"We see a lot [of allergy cases]," Arnold said.

Dr. David Weldon, an allergist at Scott and White Clinic in College Station, said one out of five people have allergies. He said people need to think about what time of year allergies affect them so the cause of the allergies can be determined.

Arnold said physicians at the health center treat allergy cases with prescription antihistamines. In more severe cases, patients receive corticosteroid steroids or allergy injections.

Weldon said students should see a board-certified allergist if their allergy is resistant to medication or if their quality of life is compromised seriously. He said there is a misconception that taking Sudafed will relieve allergies, as Sudafed helps with



James Vineyard, THE BATTALION

congestion only.

People with year-round allergies should vacuum their residence and clean their linen on a regular basis, Weldon said. Air-conditioning units also provide relief for allergy sufferers because they allow users to close windows to outside air.

Some seasonal allergies can be avoided by staying indoors in the morning, when pollens are at their highest count.

Arnold said students should be aware that elements in their residences may be the source of an allergy.

"If you know what you're allergic to, get rid of it," she said.

Weldon said moving to avoid allergies is rare today because medication is readily available.

"There isn't an area that you can get away from this (allergies)," he said, "except for maybe Antarctica."

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CHEERS: Redshirt freshman Patrick Malone has adjusted to Texas' warm weather.

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Dave House, THE BATTALION

Scott Meadows, a senior environmental design major, won the mountain bike cross country race by a five-minute margin. He will travel to Durango, Colo., to compete in the Road Nationals.