

## Back in time

### Cushing renovation resembles return to 1930 facade

BY STACEY BECKS  
Staff writer

The two-year refurbishment to Cushing Library, attached to Evans Library, will end in April, opening the library to students in August.

Dr. Donald Dyal, associate librarian and director of the Cushing Library, said the library is being renovated to look like it did in 1930.

"We've gone around and interviewed people who knew the building," he said. "We have photographs in black and white. We hired a preservationist to determine what the original colors were on the ceiling."

Dr. Dave Chapman, the University archivist, said the library will be moved to the campus and the stacks.

"There's not another thing like it," he said. "It is very impressive. It'll be something students will love."

Chapman said the library is for research

and has valuable items. "Stacks are closed so students must request things to be brought out under supervision," he said. "We have scarce and very expensive materials."

Guy Cooke, assistant manager of the Facilities Construction Division, said they are putting back the old tables and restoring all old finishes to the library.

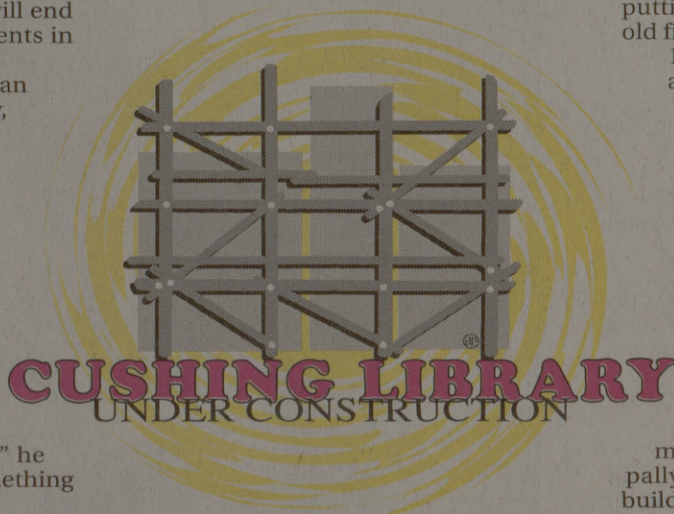
Dyal said the Cushing Library used to be a place where freshmen could escape upperclassmen.

"The library was the only place on campus where freshmen weren't harassed," he said. "It was neutral territory. Some old Ags hid in there from upperclassmen."

Dyal said many students have fond memories of the building and a former student worker has donated millions of dollars to the refurbishment.

"Dr. C. Clifford Wendeler worked in the old Cushing Library as a student worker," he said. "He's donated millions of dollars to the building principally because of his fond memories of the building."

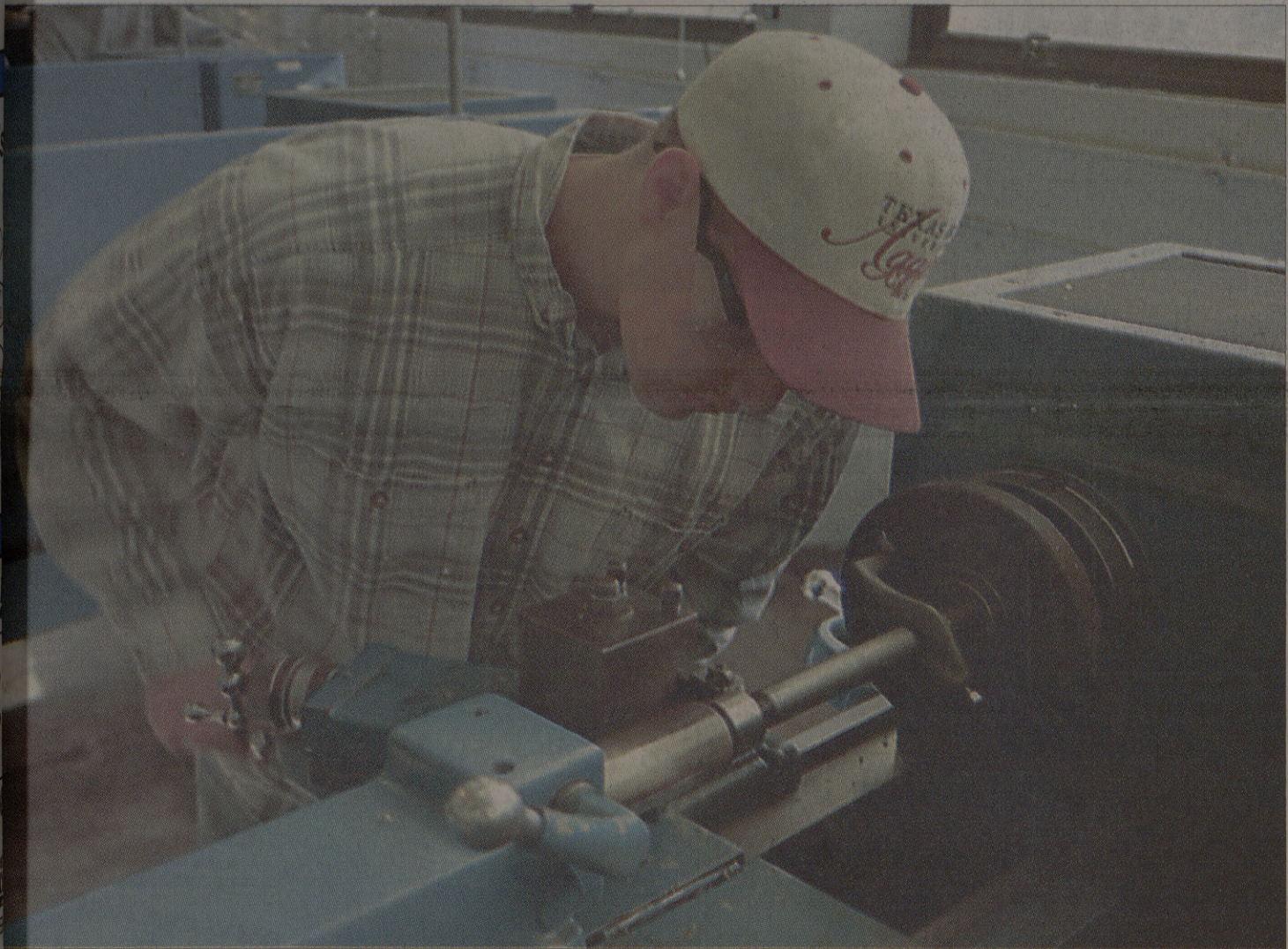
The library will be rededicated next fall.



CUSHING LIBRARY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

J.P. BEATO/THE BATTALION

## Cooling around



JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

Rian Preuss, a junior industrial distribution major, works in a metal-working lab Tuesday.

## Former A&M coach chosen to speak at Muster ceremony

### Committee members cite Stallings' leadership, family values as important factors in selection

BY RACHEL DAWLEY  
Staff writer

Gene Stallings, Class of '57 and former Texas A&M football coach, will return to campus this spring as Muster Speaker. Stallings will lead the ceremony, held annually on April 21, that allows Aggies around the world to reflect and celebrate their memories of the university.

Stallings, featured in People Magazine this week, left his post as coach of the University of Alabama football team last year. He is recognized for many accomplishments, including leading the Alabama team to the 1992 National Championship.

This year's Muster Committee, a group of 40 students from around campus, said they chose Stallings as this year's speaker for another reason. Members said he is best known for his strong family bond, especially with his son John Mark, who was born with Down syndrome.

Ann Leslie, chair of the committee and a junior agricultural development major, said Stallings has an incredible message to tell the University.

"Mr. Stallings is a phenomenal leader, coach and dad," she said. "He once dreamed of having a son to follow him and play football, but he always says 'do the best with what you've got.' That's what it means to be an Aggie. What better person to teach that message than someone who has experienced what he has."

Stallings grew up in Paris, Texas, where he resides today. He began his football career as captain of his high school team, and later was captain of the Aggie team of 1956.

Stallings married his wife, Ruth Ann, after his final game against the University of Texas. He played under Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, and followed him to the University of Alabama as an assistant coach after graduation.

Stallings was named head coach at Texas A&M in 1965. In 1968, Stallings' team won the Southwest Conference championship and beat his mentor Bryant's Alabama team in the Cotton Bowl. Stallings left A&M in 1971, continuing his career as an assistant coach of the Dallas Cowboys and head coach of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Elected to the A&M Hall of Fame in 1982, Stallings has also received the National Boys Club's Alumni-of-the-Year Award and the 1983 Dallas Father of the Year.

Stallings' commitment to family led him back to Alabama in 1990 as head coach and partner in Tuscaloosa's three-year-old Stallings

Center. The center ministers to 100 children under the age of 5 who have disabilities including cerebral palsy and Down syndrome.

Stallings contributed speaking fees to complete the building and continues to visit the children at the center. Martha Cook, the center's director, told People, "The children love him, and I think he's one of the heroes of the world."

Brian Wood, a senior biology major, headed the Muster subcommittee charged with choosing the speaker.

"When we first started the search, the committee brainstormed over characteristics we wanted to see in a speaker," Wood said. "We wanted an Aggie who continued to be dedicated to A&M, and someone who could relate to the members of the Class of '48 and to current students. Mr. Stallings' dedication to family and integrity made him most representative for the job."

Two weeks ago, Wood joined Leslie and the committee's advisor, Dr. Wynn Rosser, at Stallings' home in Paris and invited him to speak at Muster.

"Mr. Stallings is the most down-to-earth person I have ever met," Wood said. "He welcomed three strangers into his home and talked to us for three hours."

This year's Muster will be the first event held in Reed Arena. In the past, only 4,500 seats were available for students. The new location will allow for 11,500 student seats.

A&M students can take an active role in this year's Muster as a family host.

Rick Hall, host coordinator and a junior biochemistry major, said students can work during Muster Awareness Week and on the afternoon of Muster. The host will escort families who have come to the ceremony to honor loved ones and offer support during their grieving process.

Hall, who served as a host during his freshman year, said he "fell in love with A&M" after the experience.

"I learned that an Aggie ring can unite people around the world," Hall said. "The experience really brings home the tradition. It allows you to see why we really have Muster and it shows the Aggie spirit to others. You leave Muster knowing that you shared your love for A&M and showed families that their loved ones will always be remembered."

Students interested in the host program must attend an informational meeting tonight in Room 292A of the Memorial Student Center from 5:30-6:45.

## Texas executes Tucker for 1983 pickax slaying

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Karla Faye Tucker, the born-again Christian who had a long debate over redemption on death row, was executed Tuesday for a 1983 pickax slaying in Houston.

Tucker, the first woman put to death in Texas since the Civil War, was pronounced dead at 6:45 p.m. CST, eight minutes after a lethal injection began being pumped into her outstretched arms.

In her final statement, Tucker expressed love for her family and husband and apologized to her victims' families.

"I would like to say to all of you, the Thornton family and Jerry Dean's family, I am so sorry," she said. "I hope God will give you peace with this." She also thanked prison officials, saying, "You have been so good to me."

"I love all of you very much. I'm going to be face to face with Jesus now," she said. "I will see you all when you get there. I will wait for you."

When she was finished, Tucker closed her eyes, licked her lips and appeared to say a silent prayer. She coughed twice, groaned softly and went unconscious as the drugs took effect.

The execution came less than an hour after her final appeals were turned down by the U.S. Supreme Court and Gov. George W. Bush announced he would not grant a 30-day reprieve.

Bush, who appeared pained in a brief news conference carried on national television, said the case had been thoroughly reviewed by appellate courts and she had been treated fairly. The governor was Tucker's last hope for mercy.

"May God bless Karla Faye Tucker, and God bless her victims and their families," Bush said. He said he had "sought guidance through prayer" before making the decision. "I have concluded judgments about the heart and soul of an individual on death row are best left to a higher authority," he said.

## Open house to educate students about financial aid opportunities

BY AMANDA SMITH  
Staff writer

Students looking for information on financial aid to pay school bills may attend the Student Financial Aid Scholarship Open House tonight from 5 to 8 p.m. on the second floor of the Pavilion.

Janie Guajardo, a financial aid assistant for the Department of Financial Aid, said that students should take advantage of available financial aid information.

"A lot of students may not be aware of all available means of financial aid," Guajardo said. "We are going to have staff on hand, scholarship drawings and door prizes. There are means to look for money."

Guajardo said that students may use the computers to access information about scholarships and talk to financial aid counselors about any questions concerning financial aid.

"We have staff that can enter and transfer the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically," Guajardo said.

FAFSA forms for the 1998-99 school year are available through the Student Financial Aid Department.

Mariana Villarreal, a work-study employee and a junior business analysis major, said she has gained information about financial aid opportunities by working and helping others in the Student Financial Aid Dept.

"If students come in and ask questions about FAFSA or any financial aid, the department can help students," Villarreal said. "There are counselors already assigned to students. Sometimes, the stu-

dents think that financial aid is just loans, but there are lots of means to gain financial aid for school."

Informational sessions will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Pavilion 229. Sessions will provide information on general financial aid, employment, scholarships and general financial aid information.

As part of financial aid awareness week, the Student Financial Aid Department will provide financial aid resource tables on the first floor of the MSC from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Feb. 11.

A second open house will be held on Feb. 12 from 1 to 6 p.m. in MSC 224. Prior to the open house, the department will feature a float in front of Rudder fountain.

Special information sessions will be held on Feb. 12 from 1 to 5:30 p.m. in MSC 229 and 230. Sessions will feature information on general financial aid, student employment, study abroad programs and scholarship opportunities.

Kelly Reynolds, a senior financial aid counselor, said that students can gain valuable information about applying for grants and scholarships. She said that students can learn more about study abroad programs.

"The general financial aid session will include information on filling out the FAFSA and applying for grants and loans," Reynolds said. "The employment session will cover what student employment entails. The study abroad session will review the details involved in application and participation."

Students seeking information on financial aid may go to the Financial Aid Department on the second floor of the Pavilion from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Student may call 845-3981 with questions about financial aid or visit the department's Web page at <http://faid.tamu.edu>.

## INSIDE

### aggielife

Sleep disorders hinder a good night's rest, cause severe medical problems for students.

See Page 3

### sports

Women go for second straight victory against Baylor.

See Page 7

### opinion

McDaniel: Texas cattle industry squares off with Oprah Winfrey.

See Page 11

### online

<http://battalion.tamu.edu>  
Hook up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.