

NEWS BRIEFS

Key awarded for vice, dedication

Texas A&M University System of Regents recognized Texas faculty physician Dr. Nancy W. for her service to medicine and university.

Board approved a resolution their meeting Thursday in Colstation recognizing her "leadership vision in advancing the goals objectives of medical education achieving nationwide recognition commitment to the medical profession."

Key is an associate professor in Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine's Department of Family and Community Medicine.

She was elected to the American Medical Association's Board of Directors in 1989 and became its chair in 1995. She was elected president of the AMA in June 1997 and will be president of the organization in 1998.

She will be the first woman president in the 150-year history of the 500-member organization.

Presidency, press to be discussed

Against the backdrop of media coverage surrounding President Clinton, Texas A&M's Journalism Department will present an afternoon discussion, "The Press and the Presidency" featuring reporters who have been in the thick of it.

The program, which is open to the public, is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. today in Room 158 of the Blocker Building.

Tom DeFrank, who covers Washington for the *New York Daily News*; Peter Seligson, a former press aide to President Bush; and George Edwards, director of the Center for Presidential Studies at Texas A&M, will discuss current and future relations between the press and the presidency at the panel discussion.

For more information, contact the Journalism Department online at <http://www.journalism.tamu.edu>

Professor to give address in Kowloon

George J. Mann, the Ronald L. Skidmore Endowed Professor of Health Facilities Design in the College of Architecture, will present two slide presentations to the Hong Kong Hospital Authority in Kowloon.

Mann's first lecture, on Saturday, will be titled "Lessons From Abroad — A Synopsis of Designs for Ambulatory, Outpatient and Extended Care."

On Tuesday, Mann will speak to 250 staff members of the hospital authority at the Hong Kong Health Care Design Symposium 1998.

The theme of the symposium will be "Meeting the Challenges of Creating a Health-Promoting Environment."

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aggie life

Music festival events, with live performances and bands at Northgate venues.

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sports

Aggie Baseball Team plays part of three weekend games against KSU today.

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Clinton: Twenty-first century market demands activity for success.

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online

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

Senate proposes class-time change

By STACEY BECKS
Staff writer

The Student Senate Wednesday night agreed to propose a revision of the class schedule at the Bush Academic Building to give students coming from the main campus more time to get to class.

Rachel Ferguson, a senator and senior elementary education major, said this could help students who are having a hard time getting to class on time when they commute from main campus to Bush school.

"I think it would be very beneficial to students taking classes at the

Bush Complex to have staggered schedules," she said. "It would prevent students from being late to class and the professors won't have student interruptions constantly."

The bill would allow for a 35 minute time-gap between classes at the Bush Library and classes at main and west campuses. The classes at Bush on Monday, Wednesday and Friday would start at 8:35 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday classes would start at 8:45 a.m. Classes on all campuses start at 8:00 a.m. now.

Peter Schulte, a senator and a sophomore meteorology major, said the time classes start could hurt

some students with afternoon jobs.

"For students who need classes to be over by noon for jobs, this is not a good idea," he said. "I am not against the bill, but the proper weight wasn't given to each idea. The main input was taken from students who are currently taking classes at Bush."

Schulte said the downside of the bill is that students taking classes at the Bush Library will not be able to take the next class on the main campus because the classes will coincide. It could put pressure on all of West Campus to make the time gap 35 minutes, he said.

Carl Richard, academic business administrator for the political science department, said not including the entire West Campus would be a problem.

"A small group of political science faculty met with the department head and all of the faculty members thought it would be better to have all of West Campus on the time zone and not just Bush."

In other business, the Student Senate:

- Passed a bill that requires appointments made by the Executive Branch requiring Senate confirmation to go before the Appointment

Recommendations Board.

- Passed a bill that requires advertisements from all Student Government Association groups to contain the SGA logo and slogan.

- Passed a bill that changes the number of votes necessary to call a recall vote from ten percent of a senator's constituency to 300 students in the constituency.

- Passed a bill that allows the Student Body President, the Speaker of the Senate and a petition of 1/3 of the Senate to call special sessions.

- Passed a bill that defines an "abstain" vote as "present and not counting."

Poster pizzazz



ROBERT MCKAY, THE BATTALION

Students answer questions about their research in Rudder Exhibit Hall Thursday afternoon. The research poster competition was sponsored by Graduate Student Council.

Former South African president visits A&M

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Nobel Peace Prize winner F.W. de Klerk will discuss the new Africa tonight at 8:00 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. The former president of South Africa will join other panelists with expertise in areas related to Sub-Saharan Africa to discuss Africa's future.

Other panelists will include Alan Gelb, chief economist of Africa for the World Bank; Muna Ndulo, a former public prosecutor for the Zambian government and retired U.S. Air Force General; and Charles Boyd, a former deputy commander in chief of the U.S. European Command.

Tony Bassham, a student director of the MSC Wiley Lecture Series and a senior international studies major, said the program will offer insight into the future of Africa.

"As an important political figure and a former president of South Africa, de Klerk is an expert on South African economic, political and social issues," Bassham said. "Students have in de Klerk the opportunity to hear both a living historical figure and a political expert talk about an exciting topic."

The panel discussion coincides with President Clinton's travels to Africa. The president opened the 12-day tour on March 23 to recognize the changes in Africa's government and open doors to a possible trade market.

Bassham said President Clinton's trip marks potential for changes in U.S. relations with Africa.

"What I believe Clinton's visit demonstrates is that American foreign policy is ready to consider the economic and political potential of Sub-Saharan Africa as an important issue," Bassham said. "The president's trip paves the way for a new focus on opportunity in Africa, not just crisis management. Whether students are motivated by humanitarian concerns for their fellow man, economic opportunity or the intricacies of politics and history, Africa is a topic of amazing potential."

Rahul Patel, the programming director of the MSC Wiley Lecture Series, said Africa offers opportunity with abundant human and natural resources.

"We are interested in looking at Africa and what it could mean to America in the future," Patel said. "The resources are immense there. As we grow into a global economy, Clinton

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Tony Bassham
MSC Wiley Lecture Series

and others have realized that Africa is a global economy."

More than half of the 48 nations of Sub-Saharan Africa have elected governments today. Patel said many of the countries in Africa need political, economic and social stability.

"You have an emergence of democratic countries and governments," Patel said. "This is a very important step on the road to stability. We do not want to emphasize the past history of Africa but focus on the future."

Although de Klerk received the Nobel Peace Prize after ending the apartheid system in South Africa, Patel said he will focus on the development of today's Africa.

Tickets are on sale for \$12 for students and \$18 for others at the box office in Rudder Auditorium.

Texas A&M professor indicted by grand jury

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

A tenured Texas A&M University professor was indicted yesterday by a grand jury for theft by a public servant of property valued over \$750 and under \$20,000.

Dhiraj Pradhan, formerly the highest-paid computer science professor at A&M, could face between two and 20 years in the state penitentiary, if convicted of the second-degree felony.

Pradhan was indicted Feb. 26 on two felony counts that charge him with misappropriating state money for personal profit. Those counts could earn punishment of up to five years probation.

In a fax to *The Battalion*, Pradhan said the law under which he has been indicted is continuously altered and could be challenged.

"The law under which I have been indicted belies an ever-changing climate, born out in the DA's office, one which not only is very vague but is a convenient catch-all," Pradhan said. "This very recent law obviously could benefit from a court challenge to better define its parameters. It would be a dubious distinction should mine have to become its first test-case."

Pradhan did not testify in the grand jury hearing yesterday.

District attorney Bill Turner confirmed yesterday's grand jury indictment, but was not available for comment following the hearing.

Pradhan filed a civil suit against

Texas A&M on March 25 at the district clerk's office in Austin after being suspended without pay since Aug. 1997 and in response to the conclusion of mediation by the A&M tenure mediation committee.

Guy Battle, the co-chair of the tenure mediation committee, said Pradhan was unable to reach an agreement with the University through the mediation.

"It became clear that an agreement could not be reached," Battle said. "We tried to get the two sides to reach an agreement and we were unsuccessful."

Gaines West and Charles Orsburn, two members of Pradhan's defense team, represented Pradhan at the March 17 meeting of the tenure mediation committee. West represented Pradhan at the March 23 meeting.

Battle said the allegations concerning Pradhan will move on to consideration by President Dr. Ray Bowen.

Mary Jo Powell, associate director of University Relations, declined to comment on the status of Pradhan because of a University policy that prohibits officials from commenting.

Pradhan said he accepted his position as the College of Engineering Endowed Chair in Computer Science in 1991 with the understanding that he would have complete discretion over the spending of a University endowed fund for the department.

Pradhan, a native of India, said Texas A&M University officials have discriminated against him because of his race and his outspoken comments on the tenure mediation policy.

Bush School graduate students to present 'Project Bookmark'

By KATY LINEBERGER
Staff writer

The inaugural class of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service will host a day-long celebration of reading tomorrow.

The festival, "Project Bookmark: Making Your Mark on Literacy," will take place at the Bush School Plaza from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Laura Bush, the first lady of Texas, will kick off the event with a book reading.

Jason Gray, Project Bookmark's vice-chair and a graduate student in government and public service,

"We want kids to recognize that reading outside of class can be fun."

Israel Hernandez
Event chair

said the festival is geared toward children in the Bryan-College Station area. Over 3,000 are expected to attend, he said.

"Our goal is to celebrate the enjoyment of reading and identify sources available in the Brazos Valley about reading and literacy," he said. "We want to heighten awareness of the positive aspects of reading — entertainment, enjoyment and education."

Several children's authors will read and autograph their books, including Angela Shelf Medearis, Helen Ketteman, Diane Gonzales and Cynthia Ann Boettcher.

Event chair Israel Hernandez, a graduate student in government and public service, said literary performers will also act out books.

"We want kids to recognize that reading outside of class can be fun," he said.

Hernandez said vendors, exhibitors and publishers will showcase different ways for parents and teachers to interest children in reading. In addition, 1,300 books will be given away. All the day's events are free to the public.

Gray said the festival was born out of the desire to "give something back" to the local community. He noted the "public service" half of the degree name for the 19-member Bush School class.

"We want to practice what we're preaching," he said.

Hernandez said the festival aims to complement what the community is already doing to promote literacy.

"With the authors talking about why they wrote their books, and the theatrical sense," Hernandez said, "hopefully we can strike an interest for kids to read more."

Dr. Don Seaman, director of the Texas Center for Adult Literacy, said there is a great need in Texas to promote literacy in children and adults.

"Literacy is survival," he said. "We're moving into a more technological society, and literacy skills are going to be required more and at higher levels. It's critical that we have an educated population that can increase their standard of living and be better parents."

Seaman said a number of volunteer efforts have helped make progress in fighting illiteracy.

"Anything people can do to promote literacy is a worthwhile endeavor," he said. "We're making good strides to meet the needs, but we're a long way from complete. I'm encouraged by what I've seen with things like Project Bookmark."