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THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Opinion:
A&M students should take advantage of Study Abroad Programs.

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The gift of knowledge

Texas Instruments awards college \$5.1 million

By PATRICK PEABODY
Staff Writer

Dallas-based Texas Instruments Incorporated announced a landmark \$5.1 million gift to the College of Engineering Wednesday.

Dell Whitaker, Class of '65 and senior vice president of Texas Instruments, presented University President Ray M. Bowen with a check for the analog engineering program, one of the largest gifts ever given to the University.

"We live in an analog world," Whitaker said. "Temperature, light, sound and even electricity are all analog signals. We need analog technology to process these signals."

Although the number of college graduates in analog engineering has steadily declined over the past 15 years, Texas A&M's analog program currently ranks third in the nation.

Whitaker said he hopes this partner-

ship will bolster A&M's standing. "Texas Instruments is the largest producer in analog technology and wants to help Texas A&M become the leader in producing graduates in analog technology," he said.

The donation will create two chairs in the electrical engineering department: the

"We live in an analog world. Temperature, light, sound and even electricity are all analog signals."

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Senior VP Texas Instruments

TI Jack Kilby Chair in Analog Engineering and the TI Chair in Analog Engineering.

Jack St. Clair Kilby, who invented the integrated circuit at TI in 1958, attended the announcement.

Both chairs and three professorships will be permanently endowed, creating additional analog faculty positions over the next five years.

The gift, managed by the Texas A&M Foundation, also will expand the graduate program by supporting fellowships, research and educational activities.

Some of the funds will be used to develop, operate and maintain laboratories for teaching and research in analog design and engineering.

Dr. Bowen presented Kilby and Whitaker with two A&M chairs with commemorative plaques attached to the backs of the chairs, symbolically representing the two newly created endowment chairs.



Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M University president; Dr. Ed Davis, Texas A&M Foundation president; Dr. Barry Thompson, Chancellor of Texas A&M University System (shown in back L to R); and Jack Kilby, inventor of the integrated circuit, (in front), were present at the Texas Instruments gift ceremony.

PHOTO BY
BRANDON BOLLUM

Mommy's little helper



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

A five-year-old resident of College Station, picks out apples for her mother Wednesday afternoon at The Farm Patch.

Summer Senate session allows leaders to research campus issues

AMBER BENSON
City Editor

The Student Senate undertook an extensive legislative research agenda Wednesday at the first meeting of the inaugural summer session.

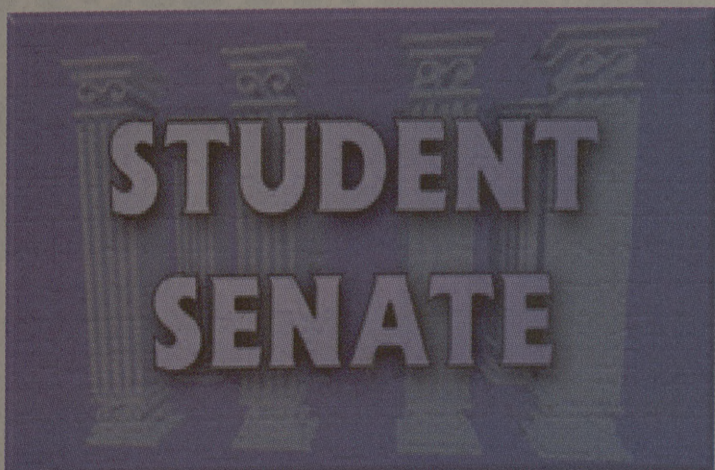
The summer session, which was created by legislation passed by the full Student Senate during the spring semester, is comprised of those student senators who remain in the area during the summer.

Speaker of the Senate Amy Magee, a senior psychology major, said that the summer session allows time for research not available during the regular school year.

"There are less distractions and demands on our time in the summer," Magee said. "This allows us to do extensive research on broad-based issues that affect all students."

Because of the limited membership of the summer session, the Senate cannot pass legislation during summer. However, it can share its opinion by passing resolutions.

"Pressing issues do arise during the summer that we have not been mobilized to face in the past," Magee said. "Now there is a body here to deal with those issues."



The legislative research agenda accepted by the Senate covers a broad range of student concerns spanning the Senate's four standing committees: Academic Affairs, External Affairs, Rules and Regulations and Student Services. An ad hoc committee on Student Life also will be included.

Research topics will gauge the feasibility of a variety of projects ranging from developing more effective standards for teacher evaluations on professor and staff search committees to voting for student elections over the Internet and expanding the services available to students on campus.

The Senate also is using the special session to nurture relationships with new student body president Laurie Nickel and her executive council, as well as other legislative bodies on campus such as Faculty Senate and Graduate Student Council.

Magee said she hopes students will see the value of the research and work completed during the summer.

"In the past, we have had to wait to start research in the fall, which meant that legislation didn't get voted on until late in the spring," she said. "By doing our research in the summer, we will be able to start making changes as soon as the full Senate returns."

Eyes on the environment

Conference looks at concerns facing Gulf of Mexico

By SARAH GOLDSTON
Staff Writer

A conference addressing both commercial and environmental concerns in the Gulf of Mexico will be held through June 12 at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex.

"Sharing Our Gulf — A Challenge for Us All" brings a variety of experts together to discuss problems and possible solutions for the Gulf Coast.

The conference stemmed from the research of biology professor Dr. David Owens on the use of turtle excluder devices and by-catch reduction devices in the shared waters.

Through his research, Owens found that fishermen, conservationists and government regulatory agencies were all facing the same problems.

"At this conference we want people from different backgrounds to have the opportunity to discuss the common problems facing the Gulf," Owens said.

Jenny Toups, assistant editor of Texas Shores magazine, said representatives from the commercial and recreational fishing industry, academia and oil and gas industries will spend part of the conference in groups discussing Gulf resource use, as well as listening to presentations.

Southern region Occidental Chemical Corporation environmental manager, James Kachtick, said the Gulf of Mexico is a unique natural resource that has an important relationship with industrial activities in the Southern United States.

"There are businesses and industries whose activities and successes are directly affected by the quality of water and aesthetics of the Gulf of Mexico," Kachtick said. He will propose ideas for maintaining a sustainable economy while preserving the Gulf.

"Some industries use the Gulf of Mexico and its bays for navigation, raw materials, cooling water supply and transportation of inputs and products. Because of the location and cost advantages, these industries are often enhanced by their proximity to the Gulf and its bays." Environmental concerns also will be discussed during the conference.

Kenneth Roberts, a marine economics specialist for the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, said the future of returns from Gulf fishery resources are affected by ecosystem changes and economic forces, and management actions affect people with share interests in the Gulf.

"The future is already evident with the addition of essential fish habitat and by-catch reduction mandates, overfishing management and the role of fees and crew in assigned access as elements of managing shares," Roberts said.

In addition to the featured speakers, the conference includes conference fellowships awarded to high school students from each of the Gulf States with exceptional science fair projects that address marine or Gulf of Mexico issues, Toups said.

