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# THE BATTALION

**Front page:**  
Other state universities borrow from Texas A&M to create own senior ring tradition.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION

Kevin Carreathers, director of multicultural services, has accepted a position with the University of Memphis and will be leaving Texas A&M in August. Carreathers has been the multicultural services director for 15 years.

## Carreathers ends time as head of A&M's multicultural services

ROD MACHEN  
City Editor

In August, Kevin Carreathers, director of multicultural services, will leave the University to take a similar position at the University of Memphis.

Carreathers said his long tenure here made him look at other options. "I'm leaving because I've been here for 15 years," he said. "I felt it was time to go."

Carreathers was one of 200 applicants for the position of associate dean of minority affairs.

Carreathers said he has seen a lot of changes at Texas A&M during his 15 years, most notably the increase in minority enrollment on campus. He estimates it has gone from approximately five percent when he arrived to 15 percent presently.

Support from the administration

is another change Carreathers has noticed.

"During my tenure there has been a commitment to diversity by the administration," Carreathers said. "Some of that has been driven because campus administrators knew it was morally the right thing to do."

Legislation regarding minority matters also has influenced administrators, he said.

Educating others about diversity has been one of Carreathers' main priorities in the last few years.

He cites programs such as U-ACT (University Awareness for Cultural Together) for students, MOSAIC (Maximizing Opportunities for Staff to Achieve and Inclusive Campus) and a diversity education program for faculty coming this fall as signs of the forward progress his department has achieved.

"I've tried to strengthen the diversity education program we have in our department," Carreathers said.

He said his other priority has been to hold faculty and staff members accountable for their actions involving diversity.

Although he acknowledges Texas A&M is not where it needs to be in terms of minority enrollment, Carreathers said he believes the campus is going in the right direction.

"We are moving forward," he said.

Carreathers said the success his department has enjoyed can be attributed to more people than himself.

"The success of our department has been because of the commitment of our students and the many staff and administrators," Carreathers said. "I owe a great deal of gratitude to many people."

## Weather to blame for growth in cricket, grasshopper populations

BY SARAH GOLDSTON  
Staff Writer

Because of the hot, dry weather conditions in the Brazos Valley, there has been an increased number of crickets and grasshoppers this summer.

Dr. Cliff Hoelscher, professor of entomology and extension specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Agency, said crickets and grasshoppers will continue to be abundant if Texas does not receive any rain.

"When there are dry conditions, there is more chance for the newly hatched nymphs to survive," Hoelscher said. "When there is rain, there are more bacteria and fungus that kill the crickets when they are small."

He said crickets can cause problems if they get into residents' houses.

"Crickets feed on clothing, and they make noise that some people find bothersome," he said.

The cricket population has become a nuisance for some businesses and apartment complexes in town, but nothing serious has risen from the overpopulation of crickets, Hoelscher said.

"We got one complaint about crickets," Shannon Blackburn, leasing agent for the Gables apartment complex, said. "We called the exterminator, but we really haven't had too many people complain."

Allan Seale, Disc Go Round manager, said the business hasn't had too big a problem with the crickets.

"We haven't seen any more than normal around here," he said.

Jay Moore, director of environmen-

tal health services for the Brazos County Health District said crickets cause aggravation for the food industry.

"Crickets have the potential for spreading disease under the right conditions," he said.

"Bacteria can get on the cricket's body and contaminate food, but there is a very low risk. It's more of a mechanical transmission rather than a direct transmission."

**"I've been at Texas A&M for 30 years, and this is the worst case of grasshoppers I've ever seen."**

— Dr. Cliff Hoelscher  
professor of entomology,  
TAEA extension specialist

Hoelscher said although crickets do not directly cause disease, they are a nuisance. However, grasshoppers actually cause damage.

"Crickets and grasshoppers are common dry season pests," he said. "Grasshoppers are more of a problem in rural areas. They compete with cattle for food."

This summer's weather also has caused an unusual number of

grasshoppers, Hoelscher said.

"I've been at Texas A&M for 30 years, and this is the worst case of grasshoppers I've ever seen," he said.

Randy McCarty, general manager at ABC Pest and Lawn Services, said the business receives many calls from people concerned about crickets and grasshoppers.

"We get a tremendous number of calls for crickets, and 10 to 12 calls a day on grasshoppers," he said. "I've been in the pest business for 18 years, and this is the worst season I've seen for both grasshoppers and crickets."

McCarty said he tells people to get a sprayer and pesticide to combat crickets and grasshoppers.

"If people treat their shrubs, eaves, walls and out to five feet around the perimeter of their house, they will reduce the number of crickets and grasshoppers," he said.

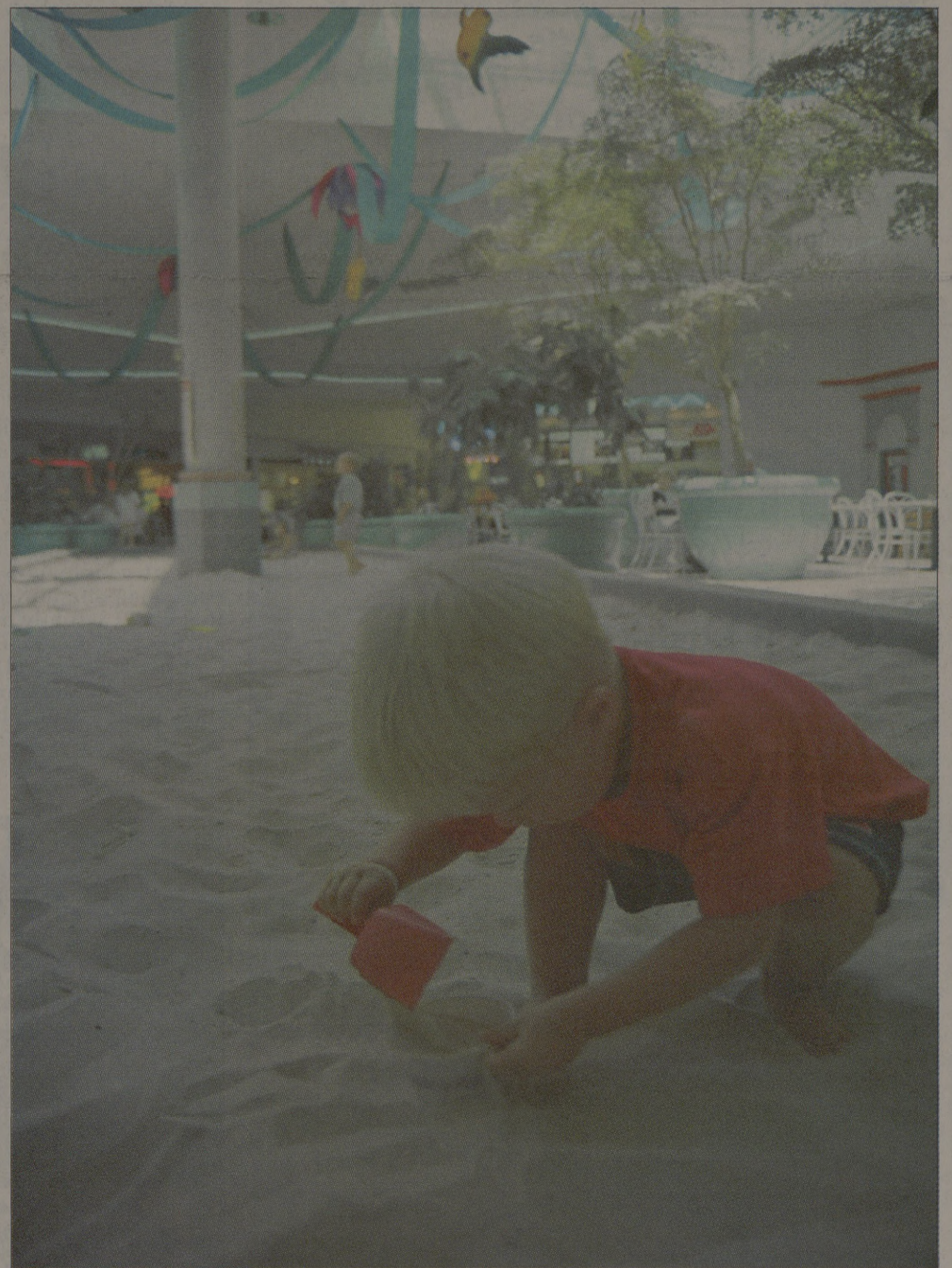
Hoelscher said people may see more crickets around their businesses or houses because crickets are attracted to light.

"If people reduce the number of lights they have on at night, that will cut down on the number of crickets they have around their business or house," he said. "Turn off extra outside lights other than security lights."

McCarty suggests residents change bright white lights to yellow lights to cut down on the influx of insects.

McCarty and Hoelscher said people can find the equipment and pesticides they need to control the number of crickets and grasshoppers at any lawn and garden store.

## Mr. Sandman



JAKE SCHIRCKLING/THE BATTALION

Gray Harris, a 2-year-old resident of College Station, digs for buried treasure during Hidden Treasure Tuesday at a local mall's "indoor beach."

## University researchers implement social services online project; program first of its kind in nation

BY JAMES FRANCIS  
Editor in Chief

People applying for social services will soon have a new option when going through the arduous process.

Texas A&M researchers have developed a computer database that is projected to go online next month in Brazos and Leon counties.

The Employability Requires Literacy Skills (ERLS) project, funded by the Texas Workforce Commission, will aid social services applicants by having them complete an online form that provides a list of help available from various agencies.

Once an applicant completes the form, the computer e-mails his or her selected options to agencies that may be able to provide assistance.

In addition to e-mailing the applicant's requests to selected agencies, a printout provides addresses, phone numbers and names of people to contact for the desired services.

Dr. JoAnn Martin, project director and assistant professor in the educational human resource development department, said making ERLS a reality was a team effort.

"It's a collaborative project between Texas A&M and the Brazos Valley Council of Governments to pro-

vide an organized intake and delivery system to assist citizens to reach self-sufficiency," she said. "It's a Web-enabled database that helps clients who may be in search of educational programs, job-readiness training, food or shelter or health-related aspects."

In explaining exactly how the program works for people, Martin said she usually tells the story of how a mother with three or four children in a situation of domestic abuse can receive help.

She said if a woman and her children find themselves in need of food or shelter, the woman could give information about herself and family.

A social worker would then help her enter the information and an e-mail would be sent out. Since ERLS is a computer database, the woman only would have to provide information on a one-time basis.

"She would have information on the agencies at her fingertips," Martin said.

She also said clients needing assistance should know that both agency and client information will be kept confidential.

"We are training the agency staff currently, and we're hoping to start doing intake on clients at least by the first of August," she said.

Martin said one aspect of ERLS that makes it so notable is that it is the first of its kind being implemented in the nation.

"This is a unique approach because it's being done from the grassroots level," she said.

As far as the project's future expansion, Martin said the governor's office has expressed interest in it.

"This is a first, and we're pretty excited by it," she said. "We've been invited by Representative Dan Kubiak to present the program to several legislative committees."

Outside of ERLS' main functions, the program also will provide a community calendar and job database available on the Internet.

A University Relations' press release on ERLS states, "The job database will tell industry and state officials the number and kinds of jobs available in a specific area, so they can better meet the job training needs of that region."

Blinn College, the Department of Health and Human Services, Literacy Volunteers of America and the Brazos County Community Council are just a few organizations involved in helping see the project to fruition.

For more information on ERLS, contact Dr. JoAnn Martin at 862-1229.

## NEWS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

### Local businesses benefit from airport ad program

Interspace Airport Advertising, in partnership with Texas A&M University and Easterwood Airport, is creating a "Community Showcase" that will dramatically change the airport's appearance.

The Showcase Program will create backlit wall displays, corporate soffits, a new phone board, product display cases and floor locations, allowing local business and industry to advertise their goods and services and show their support for the airport and community.

"The partnership with Texas A&M and Easterwood Airport will create revenue not only for the airport, but for local businesses," Interspace Sales Manager Earl Eckert said. "Area companies will have tremendous advertising resource available to them."

Eckert said the showcase will give local businesses the ability to directly target business and leisure passengers.

"We have seen tremendous success by non-traditional airport advertisers in many airports we serve," Eckert added. "Restaurants, specialty shops, gift stores and car dealerships find that targeting airport passengers is beneficial."

Harry E. Raiser, director of aviation, said, "In order to be in compliance with federal and state requirements that Easterwood Airport be as self-supporting as possible, the airport is pursuing all sources of possible revenue typically available to airports."

Eckert said many companies partnering with Interspace participate for the visual show of community pride and support.

Interspace will be at Easterwood airport, meeting with local business leaders July 27 through Aug. 7.