

Campus

A&M earns best-ever rank in magazine

University named tops in Southwest, 15th overall by *U.S. News and World Report*

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M University has received its highest ranking ever in the "Top Public Universities" category of the annual ratings by *U.S. News & World Report* — placing 15th, four spots higher than last year.

U.S. News' 12th annual "America's Best Colleges" issue again shows Texas A&M to be the highest-rated institution in Texas and the Southwest based upon quality comparisons between national public universities. The University of Texas at Austin was the only other Texas institution to be ranked in that category — one of

four institutions tied for 17th.

A&M and UT also fared well in the magazine's overall national rankings, the "Best Value" category, which is traditionally dominated by private institutions. UT placed 30th and Texas A&M 32nd. Rice University is the highest-rated Texas institution in that category, ranking fourth.

The *U.S. News'* list of "Top National Public Universities" is one of the yardsticks that Texas A&M officials elected to use earlier this year as part of "Vision 2020." A 200-member taskforce is examining issues and mapping strategies to ensure that Texas A&M continues to en-

hance its programs, with a goal of being considered a top-10 public university by the year 2020.

The University of California at Berkeley and the University of Virginia tied for the top spot among the nation's best public universities. They were followed by the University of North Carolina, UCLA, University of Michigan, University of California at San Diego, College of William and Mary, University of California at Irvine, University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois, Pennsylvania State University, University of California at Davis, Georgia Tech and the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Moving in



Casey Wessels, a freshman biomedical science major, and Sunny Owens, a freshman aerospace engineering major, move into Mosher Hall Tuesday morning.

University to further box-recycling program

Staff and wire reports

As approximately 10,000 Aggies move into their residence halls to start the fall semester, they will be throwing away tons of cardboard boxes.

Texas A&M's Physical Plant Department, the Department of Residence Life and the Department of Food Services are once again working to collect these boxes for recycling.

"This recycling effort is a good opportunity for the campus to save natural re-

sources, landfill space and waste disposal costs," Nicole Patschke, environmental conservation specialist for the Physical Plant, said. "We have sponsored this project for four years now and expect this year to be the most successful."

Approximately 16,000 pounds of cardboard were collected in 1996, and about 24,000 pounds were collected in 1997. Patschke says the goal for 1998 is 32,000 pounds.

There will be six drop-off locations on campus for cardboard, two on Southside

and four on Northside.

Collection points on Southside are between Appelt Hall and Commons dock, and on the Quad beside Briggs Hall.

Northside locations are Jones Street near the A-1 lounge, the west end of Davis-Gary Hall, the east side of Hobby and Neeley halls on Asbury Street and at the west end of Schuhmacher and Walton halls.

"We ask that the students take all trash out of the boxes, flatten them and take them to the nearest recycling dropoff spot," Patschke said.

MSC to play host to lunch sessions with Southerland

Vice President for Student Affairs Malon Southerland hosts a luncheon series throughout the academic year to bring together students, faculty members and administrative staff members for lunch and an informal discussion.

The luncheons take place every other week at 12:30 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center. Interested individuals should send an e-mail message to patty.kelly@tam.u.edu that includes their name, department, office telephone number and mailstop. Letters of invitation will be sent throughout the fall and spring semesters.

ExCEL '98 conference addresses minority issues, freshman life

By AMY CURTIS
The Battalion

"Carpe Diem...Your Future Starts Now!" is the theme of ExCEL '98 conference, and is the beginning of a successful school career for many incoming minority freshmen.

The ExCEL conference — Excellence Uniting Culture, Education, and Leadership — is an orientation program for new ethnic minority students and their parents and will be held this Friday and Saturday.

Denise Cunningham, executive director of the ExCEL conference, said the conference was started in 1987 as part of the minority freshman orientation program and has become an Aggie tradition.

Cunningham, a senior environmental design major, is looking forward to serving her second year as ExCEL conference director. She said the position is a wonderful opportunity.

"It is fulfilling for me because it allows me to have first-hand experience with incoming freshmen, and allows me the opportunity to be proactive instead of reactive to experiences they might encounter," Cunningham said.

The conference addresses academic concerns for new students including how to speak to their professors, first tests, drugs, alcohol, sex and other issues pertaining to the

freshman experience.

But the conference is not only about learning and lectures, it is also about getting to know other students and having fun.

The first night of the two-day conference will finish with a cultural extravaganza where African-American and Hispanic Greek organizations are introduced to the students. There also will be dancing and performances by other minority organizations, such as the Native American Student Organization.

The ExCEL Plus program is an extension of the conference that includes workshops every other week.

Eric Watson, a senior meteorology major who attended ExCEL and ExCEL Plus programs in 1995, said the conference addresses the specific needs of the students and helps them establish lifelong friendships.

"It showed me, for one, how to stay at this University," he said.

Phillip Taylor, a senior business management major, served as a team leader for the '97 conference and will serve again this year.

Taylor said the students who attend the conference are separated into teams led by a team leader who giving them a friendly face to ask questions to, and helping them to adjust to campus life.

HOLLYWOOD USA COLLEGE STATION
1401 E. BYPASS 764-7592

RETROFEST '98
Your favorite movies of the 70's, 80's and 90's

Friday and Saturday
Nights at Midnight
Only \$3.75

Pulp Fiction & Reservoir Dogs
August 28 and 29

TOP GUN
September 4 and 5

Clerks
September 11 and 12

Dazed and Confused
September 18 and 19

ferris bueler's day off
September 25 and 26

Thelma & Louise
October 2 and 3

The Shawshank Redemption
October 9 and 10

TERMINATOR 2
October 9 and 10

Urban Cowboy
October 9 and 10

Bram Stoker's Dracula & The Silence of the Lambs
October 30 and 31

Saturday Night Fever
November 6 and 7

TRUE LIES
November 13 and 14

Park Cleaners
Serving the Brazos Valley Since 1951

696-5021

- Cleaning • Pressing • Alterations
- Laundry - Shirts & Jeans

7 AM - 6 PM Monday-Friday
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM Saturday

314 George Bush Dr. • South of Kyle Field •
College Station • Tx. 77840

Shirts 99¢

Plain, Laundered
No Shoulder Pads

696-5021 • 314 George Bush Drive
South of Kyle Field
College Station
Expires 2-99

\$2.00 OFF

Any Dry Cleaning Order
of \$8 Or More

Must Present Coupon With Order • Limit One Coupon Per Order
Not Good With Any Other Discount Or Special

696-5021 • 314 George Bush Drive
South of Kyle Field
College Station
Expires 2-99

WE NEED YOU!

The TAMU Open Access Computer Labs have part-time positions for conscientious workers.

You must have:

- Strong communication skills
- Excellent customer service skills
- GPA 2.5 or higher

Working knowledge of one or more of these:

- MS Office application
- Windows NT and/or Mac 8.1
- Unix
- Wylbur
- VMS

Starting wage \$5.25 per hour

Please apply at the Student Computing Center or any Open Access Lab.

Call 845-8306 for more information

Brazos Natural Foods

A World of Healthy Products for Your Family! 846-4459

Welcome Back Aggies!

Mental EDGE
By SOURCE NATURALS

an advanced nutritional formula to help you meet the demands of a challenging world.

BRAIN FOODS

Think!
Interactive Bar

Ginkgo Biloba, Choline, Herbs, Vitamins and Amino Acids

Chocolate Mocha, Peanut Butter, Chocolate Almond

Instant ENERGY!
High Protein Energy Meal

SPIRU-TEIN

Chocolate, Vanilla, Banana, Strawberry, Tropical Fruit, Cappuccino, Chocolate Peanut Butter

4303 S. Texas at Rosemary Mon/Fri 9 to 6; Sat 9 to 2

The Battalion

Mandy Cater Graeber, Editor in Chief
Aaron Meier, Managing Editor
Brad Graeber, Visual Arts Editor
Jeff Schmidt, Sports Editor
Jeff Webb, Sports Editor
Kasie Byers, AggieLife Editor
Travis Irby, AggieLife Editor
Dave Johnston, Opinion Editor
Brandon Bollom, Photo Editor
Laura Stuart, Radio Producer
Andrew Bailey, Radio Producer
Jeremy Brown, Web Editor
Matt Weber, Night News Editor
Quatro Oakley, Night News Editor

News: The Battalion news department is managed by Aaron Meier, Managing Editor. News offices are in 1012 West Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; fax: 845-2696; batt@tam.u.edu; Website: http://battalion.tamu.edu

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local, and national advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-2696. Advertising offices are in 1015 Reed McDonald, and office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fax 845-2676.

Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion. First copy free, copies 25¢. Mail subscriptions are \$60 per school year, \$25 for spring semester and \$17.50 for the summer. To change to Discover, or American Express, call 845-2611.

The Battalion (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Friday during the summer session (except University holidays and days at Texas A&M University, Periodicals Postage Paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-4200.

Now on The Battalion's web page

WIR

A 24-hour, multimedia news service for the Internet from The Associated Press

A comprehensive, up-to-the-minute news report featuring the latest AP stories with photos, graphics, sound, and video.

Headlines and bulletins delivered as soon as news breaks

http://bat-web.tamu.edu