

Conference puts students on the path to leadership

By KATIE MISH
The Battalion

The 46th annual Fall Leadership Conference kicks off today at the Texas Utilities Electric Leadership Center in Trinidad, Texas.

The main goals of the three-day conference are to educate delegates, give them useful tools to apply to their organizations and help delegates with their personal growth and self-analysis.

Brent Troyan, chair for FLC and a senior English major, said the focus of the conference has varied greatly through the years. "The purpose has changed a lot over the past few years, and I'm sure over the last 46 years," Troyan said. "We sat down in May and decided what our purpose was going to be for this conference."

Nathan Cray, director of delegates and a junior mechanical engineering major, said a big change for this conference is the options given to the delegates.

"We're giving them options," he said, "where they want to go, what they want to improve on, so hopefully they'll decide what fits them."

Cray said the conference is moving away from the idea that there is one specific leadership style and focusing on different reactions to various situations.

"People learn in different ways," Cray said. "In the past,

we've focused on one specific leadership style. We moved away from that this year."

The conference is for any student leader who wants to further their leadership development and is for members of big and small organizations alike, he said.

"Basically anyone from any organization who wants to develop themselves as a leader, we'll take them," Cray said. "We have about 80 or 90 organizations represented."

"Fall Leadership Conference doesn't believe that you have to have a title to be a leader in an organization"

— Brent Troyan
FLC Chair

Troyan said a student does not have to be the head of an organization to attend the conference.

"Fall Leadership Conference doesn't believe that you have to have a title to be a leader in an organization," Troyan said. "You don't have to have a title, just show leadership potential."

MacGregor Stephenson, an adviser for FLC, said the conference tries to get all sorts of orga-

nizations involved.

"There are 150 spots, and we try to limit the number of people that each organization can send," MacGregor said. "It gives many opportunities for a variety of organizations to participate."

The FLC office is in the Student Programs Office in the MSC, and 40 percent of the 150 delegates come from MSC organizations, Troyan said.

Despite efforts to spread awareness, the number of MSC delegates has not increased much, he said.

However, the conference has broadened the types of organization participation with delegates from the Inter-Fraternity Council, organizations from the Business Student Council and smaller organizations, Troyan said.

The conferences give the delegates an opportunity to interact with faculty, staff and other students on a more personal level, Troyan said. The delegates break into small focus groups lead by administrators, advisers and other campus leaders.

The delegates also attend different sessions that fit their interests, he said.

"In the past, the entire delegation was spoken to by one speaker," Troyan said. "Now there are different speakers, and they can attend sessions that they like. That's a good change."

► People in the News

Hungry renews Parton's life

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Dolly Parton is ready for Life, Act II. Her new album, *Hungry Again*, went on sale Tuesday to critical acclaim after a long, dry spell of no country hits or movie appearances.

"I've never been more excited or felt more creative in my life," the 52-year-old Parton said in Tuesday's USA Today. "I feel like I'm just starting the second part of my life, and it's going to be even better than the first."

Parton launched this stage by going back to the beginning. A year ago, she retreated to the Appalachian cabin where she grew up. She stayed for three months.



PARTON

BLUE EARTH

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Lowery said their music is not a passing fancy.

"This isn't a hobby for any of us," Lowery said. "(Playing music) is what we want to do, and that's what we're continuing to push toward."

"With any luck, that statement could become reality for Blue Earth.

For now, however, the band is looking ahead to its next few gigs (one at the Crooked Path on August 29th and another at The Theatre in Bryan on September 16th) and concentrating on performing the live shows to keep its local fan base coming back for more.

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