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The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

SWEET VICTORY



Texas A&M football players and coach **R.C. Slocum** celebrate after a double-overtime win against Kansas State in the Big XII Championship.

JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

Aggies' Big 12 Championship win lands New Year's Sugar Bowl berth

BY JEFF SCHMIDT AND JEFF WEBB
The Battalion

During this year's Bonfire, head yell leader Brandon Neff mentioned the "1939" written on the front of his overalls, a tribute to the season that produced Texas A&M's only college football national championship. That year A&M edged out Tulane University in that season's Sugar Bowl, 14-13.

With A&M's victory over then No. 1-ranked Kansas State University (according to the *USA Today* Poll/ESPN) Saturday, the No. 8 Aggies (11-2, 8-1) received an invitation to return to the scene of their highest football achievement to

play No. 3 Ohio State University on New Year's Day.

"We're as excited as we can be to go to the Sugar Bowl," A&M coach R. C. Slocum said. "I think our fans will really enjoy the experience. It's a great honor for us to go there."

A&M clinched a spot in the Bowl Championship Series with its 36-33 double-overtime win over K-State, the highest-ranked victim in school history.

In the Sugar Bowl, A&M will

play an Ohio State team that was ranked No. 1 for nine weeks, but suffered a loss at home to Michigan State University, a team that had a 4-4 record entering the game.

That loss dropped the Buckeyes in The Associated Press and the *USA Today*/ESPN Polls.

Despite this, Ohio State coach John Cooper said the Buckeyes could make a case for the Fiesta Bowl — the bowl that actually determines the national championship.

Slocum said he has great respect for the Buckeyes' program.

"There's not a more consistent program in college football year in and year out," he said.

Slocum used the possibility of playing in the Sugar Bowl as moti-

vation for Saturday's game.

Right before the first overtime started, Slocum gathered his players and said, "Think Sugar baby!"

The last time A&M played OSU was in the 1987 Cotton Bowl, a 28-12 Buckeye victory.

The Buckeyes hold a 3-0 all-time lead over Texas A&M in their series.

Ohio State defeated A&M 17-0 in 1963, their first meeting.

The Buckeyes played in the Sugar Bowl last season and suffered a 31-14 loss to Florida State University, the team that will face

the University of Tennessee in the national title game.

A&M's national championship season was the last time the Aggies appeared in the Sugar Bowl.

In that game, A&M fullback John Kimbrough scored the only two Aggie touchdowns of the day while rushing for 159 yards on 25 carries.

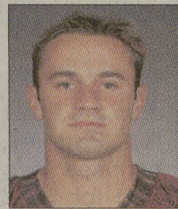
The Aggies entered the game ranked No. 1 in the nation and needed a 69-yard drive in the fourth quarter to win.

Under coach Homer Norton, the Aggies finished the 1939 season with an 11-0 record.

A&M's last bowl appearance was in the Cotton Bowl in 1998 when A&M lost 29-23 in the closing minutes to UCLA.



SLOCUM



STEWART

NEWS IN BRIEF

Women's Studies sponsors contest

The Women's Studies Program is sponsoring The Henry James Prize for the best undergraduate essay or research paper about women.

Entries will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary committee for their contribution to the understanding of an aspect of women's lives or roles in society and for their originality and clarity of presentation. The winner will receive \$250.

To be eligible, students must have been enrolled at Texas A&M during the semester they wrote the entry.

Entries should be no longer than 5,000 words, typed double space and submitted in triplicate. Works of fiction and poetry are ineligible, and each author may submit only one entry.

Deadline for entry submission is Feb. 12, 1999.

For more information, contact the Women's Studies Program at 845-7994.

Dead days indicate approach of finals

BY MELISSA JORDAN
The Battalion

Redefined days and reading days this week mark the arrival of final exams and the end of the fall semester.

The final week of classes is composed of dead, redefined and reading days.

Donald Carter, registrar in the admissions and records department, said today and tomorrow are redefined days; students attend their Friday classes Monday and Thursday classes Tuesday to make up for the days of class missed during the Thanksgiving break.

EXAM WEEK SCHEDULE

- **MONDAY** — Redefined day — attend Friday classes; Dead day
- **TUESDAY** — Redefined day — attend Thursday classes; Dead day
- **WEDNESDAY** — Reading day
- **THURSDAY** — Reading day
- **FRIDAY** — First day of exams



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Aaron Meier, a senior political science major, will take the helm as editor in chief of *The Battalion* in Spring 1999.

— you're not locked in. It's a good chance to get a taste of everything." Meier said it is not unusual for an editor in chief to be a non-journalism major.

"The past six editors' undergraduate major has not been in journalism," he said. "You don't have to be a journalism major to work here. Only one fourth of our staff are journalism majors. We have a wide range of majors from business to engineering to English."

SEE EDITOR ON PAGE 2.

Exhibit features prominent leaders



ERIC NEWNAM/THE BATTALION

"Walking With the Presidents" is an exhibit featuring prominent African-American political figures in black and white photographs. The exhibit, in the MSC Visual Arts Gallery, continues through February.

BY AMANDA STIRPE
The Battalion

"Walking With the Presidents," an exhibit in the MSC Visual Arts Gallery, chronicles prominent African-American political figures through black and white photographs. The exhibit, which is a collaborative effort of the MSC Visual Arts Committee, MSC Black Awareness Committee and MSC Political Forum, is inspired by a book *Walking With Presidents — Louis Martin and the Rise of Black Political Power*.

The committees contacted presidential libraries and obtained 24 photographs of African-American political figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph Bunch, Louis Martin and Mary McCloud Bethune. Each photo is accompanied by a detailed description of the event and an explanation of why the individuals were chosen for the exhibit.

Erin Peterson, chair of the Visual Arts Committee and a junior international studies major, said the exhibit has received positive feedback since its opening Nov. 23. Kelly Dees, external relations director for Visual Arts

Committee and a sophomore biomedical science and genetics major, said the exhibit shows the political influence of African-Americans.

"The purpose is to use the medium of photo to show the influence of black people within the presidential forum," Dees said. "People are excited to see it because it offers a different presentation."

Dees said she is excited the three committees came together to form the exhibit.

"It is a unique opportunity for the groups to put on this project," Dees said. "It is a good way to introduce the events through art."

Joel Garrett, chair of BAC and a senior management major, said the exhibit shows the strides African-Americans have made in politics.

"It chronicles black political power and the steps we have made," Garrett said. "It is a nice photo exhibit. I hope everyone gets the chance to see it."

"Walking With the Presidents" is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. The exhibit will end Feb. 4.

Meier aims to increase coverage diversity

BY JENNIFER JONES
The Battalion

Aaron Meier, a senior political science major, has been appointed editor in chief of *The Battalion* for Spring 1999 by Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, executive vice president and provost.

Not too bad for a guy who misspelled "Battalion" on his application to the newspaper in 1996.

Meier said he first applied to *The Battalion* with little interest in pursuing journalism as a career.

"My friend told me to apply and do movie reviews," he said. "That was all I planned on originally."

Since his time as an Aggiefest staffer, Meier has worked as a feature writer, reporter, sports writer, clerk, page designer, assistant Aggiefest editor, Aggiefest editor, night news editor and managing editor.

"Working at *The Battalion* is a unique educational opportunity," Meier said. "You can come in and learn everything. You could do some page designing for the sports desk and then write a news story