at the

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A is for Aggie

Boettcher brings Aggie traditions to children's

BY SCOTT HARRIS

onopoly, Trivial Pursuit and The Game of Life — the Aggie tradition has spread its wings and touched many facets of popular American culture.

Cindy Boettcher, author of Anna Meagan: The Aggie Cinderella Story, has added to the line of Texas A&M culture with children's books. Boettcher said she took what started out as a class project and turned it into something that went far beyond her wildest expectations.

"I was in a children's literature class working on getting my Ph.D.," Boettcher "In the class, we had to write a twist on a fairy tale. Well, I love Cinderella, and I collect Cinderella stories, so I wrote a twist on the Cinderella story. The original version was different than the version today; it was originally Boot Dance not Ring Dance and there are some other things — I asked Aggie students for help to make it more realistic.

Boettcher received her master's degree in education psychology from A&M in 1976 and her doctorate in curriculum and instruction in 1998. She has taught for 20 years and is now a professor

Boettcher was born and raised in Canada and first attended the University of Hawaii before transferring to the University of Texas to receive her undergraduate de-

"I got my degree from t.u." Boettcher said. "But I got my education from Texas-A&M."

Brian Wasson, Class of '95 and trade book manager at the MSC Bookstore, said he knew the book would be successful the first time he saw

"She came in three years ago on a Saturday morning with a bunch of her books," Wasson said. "I ordered 200 copies without my manager's approval, but they sold out so fast that the manager didn't care. We've ordered thousands since then and we always keep 150- to 200

copies in stock. In addition to Anna Meagan Boettcher has also written the books Whoop! An Aggie Football Weekend and A is for Aggie. Whoop is based on her memories of bringing her two children to Aggie football games, and *A is for Aggie* is an alphabetical guide to the traditions at A&M.

Wasson said Boettcher's are the best selling books in

'We count on her books during football season because tourists come in looking for books about Texas A&M University," Wasson said. "During the games, she Her books are a good representative to other non-Aggies with Aggies in their families. It makes things much more clear to them.

"Elephant Walk, Ring Dance, Bonfire, really any university event — the books become really popular. That and the mother's clubs can't get enough of them."

Boettcher said her books are really popular with the college crowd.

"My books were intended for children, but they are a big hit with college kids," Boettcher said. "I sell many of my books through clubs at the University. When they sell my books, I donate money to the clubs who then, in turn, must donate the money to scholarships. I have

Cindy Boettecher, author of several Aggie children's books dis donated over \$35,000 towards different

Boettcher said there is much workth ing books for children. It is not as easy as it would seem

writing books that involve this un said. "I have to be careful not to off "I talked to a lot of Aggies. They he family that cuts across all lines, and

raderie. All the students I talked to The yell leaders, the archivist at Cusl editor of Texas Aggie Magazine, all h formation for my books

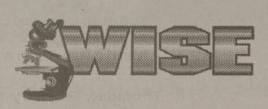
The illustrations for Boettcher's book one of the major reasons for their sum er, Boettcher's husband, takes photog and events around the University for takes 2000-3000 pictures per book and photographs to the artist. Everybodyn Those na actual students at A&M. Tammie Bisselback on the Anna Meagan and Whoop while Benelaunted by trated A is for Aggie. Both Bissett and burn could

Wasson said the books are a good woobody mu Aggie seed of pride in children.

"It is a way to foster and develop

family that we as Aggies hold dea; is makes me excited to think about a family Saigon read to by Uncle Bob, who is instill their young mind by reading Whoop! A Restac

Boettcher's fans can expect another or early August. The new book titled 12 a counting book with 21 traditions not Aggie. This book will incorporate many well as some of the newer ones, such as



The Women In Science and Engineering (WISE), an organization of women graduate students, staff, and faculty will host its seventh annual all-day professional and career development conference.

The conference "Creating a Positive Career Experience", which will take place on Saturday, February 20, 1999, at the MSC on the Texas A&M campus, will focus on giving participants the skills and insights needed to succeed in the scientific and technological workplace of the year 2000 and beyond.

Participants will select from topics such as:

Positive Perceptions Your Turn-My Turn Enhancing Career Advancement

This year's keynote speaker will be the Special Assistant to the Provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Stephanie Bird.

> Contact Nancy Magnussen at (409) 845-5587 or via e-mail at nancy@isc.tamu.edu for registration information. Free child care will be provided on site. Registration deadline is February 18th.

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Corporate Sponsors: GTE, DuPont, Lockheed-Martin (corporate sponsors will have representatives at the conference)

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* Associate Agent - Business degree required

*.Insurance Candidate (Underwriting/Marketing) - consider

or Liberal Arts

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Wednesday, February 17, 1999

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Business Career Fair, We 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m. "Meet the Firm" Night, R

Thursday, February 18, 1999

9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Pre-Employment Testing.

Interview is contingent on passing the timed pre-em Friday, February 19, 1999

Interviews

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