



# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY

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## aggielife

• Dance Art Society presents spring show Sunday in Rudder Theater.

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## today's issue

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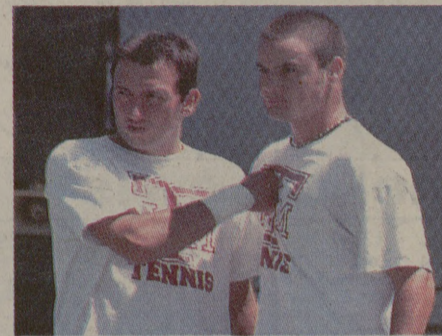
## Battalion Radio

Find out about Byran's Distance Learning Center on 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m.

## sports

• Top-ranked doubles team of Shuon Madden, Dumitru Caradina dominate national scene.

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# Muster '99



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Above: Candles are lit for each Aggie called.

Left: Ross Volunteers march into Reed Arena.

Right: Mike Baggett, Class of '68, speaks on Aggie pride.

Below: Ross Volunteers perform a 21-gun salute.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION



SALLY TURNER/THE BATTALION

## Med school hosts mock interviews

### Women in Medicine sponsors event

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

Trampota, a sophomore biology major.

Medical schools look for students with leadership experience, extracurricular involvement and community service who show a sincere concern for the welfare of others. Filomeno Maldonado, assistant dean for admissions in the College of Medicine, said last night at the College of Medicine Interview Workshop.

Thirty Texas A&M undergraduate students and prospective medical school students sat in on the mock interview, sponsored by Women in Medicine, in preparation for the application and interview process.

Maldonado said the MCAT and undergraduate grade-point ratio (GPR) are among the factors considered for prospective medical school students.

"They are going to look at MCAT and GPR initially and then, after that, will determine parameters," Maldonado said. "But there are other very important factors taken into consideration. What you do now in terms of accomplishments and experiences will help you."

In the initial mock interview, which served as a demonstration for the audience, Dr. Thomas Peterson, vice chair of admissions for the College of Medicine, conversed with Elizabeth Neugart, a current A&M medical student. Neugart was chosen because her application and interview process was successful.

Peterson said medical school applicants need to be straightforward and honest during interviews.

"Be yourself," Peterson said. "Your answers are your answers. We want to know you as your own person. It's not the longevity of your interest in the medical field, but it is whether the interest is really there."

Dr. Denise FitzSimon-Williams, chair of admissions for the College of Medicine, performed the second mock interview with Sarah

"I guess there are a lot of variables that made me decide to pursue medical school," Trampota said. "Through my experiences with volunteer work and also experience with family medical problems, I have come to realize how important the medical field can be. It has been real helpful to see what medical schools look for in the interview process."

For the 1999-2000 application year, the College of Medicine will become part of the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service.

Maldonado said the new service allows students to apply for six different Texas medical schools, including A&M, with a single application.

"This should really expedite the process," Maldonado said. "Getting your applications in early and can be advantageous."

The Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine accepts 64 new students each year. The College of Medicine's enrollment of out-of-state residents must not exceed 10 percent of the whole, according to state mandate.

Among Texas A&M medical students, the average score on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is 30, compared to the national average of 29.

The College of Medicine's deadline for application is Oct. 15. Applications for 1999-2000 will be available within the next 10 days and will be available at the Office of Professional School Advising in the Academic Building.

Prior to enrollment in the College of Medicine, students must complete eight hours of biology, three hours of additional biological sciences, eight hours of chemistry, eight hours of organic chemistry, eight hours of general physics, six hours of English and three hours of calculus at the undergraduate level.

SEE MOCK ON PAGE 14.

## Speaker praises Aggie spirit

BY MELISSA JORDAN  
The Battalion

The soft roll call of names, candlelight and memories filled Reed Arena as Aggies gathered last night to participate in one of Aggieland's most beloved traditions, Muster.

Mike Baggett, Muster speaker and member of the Class of '68, said in the midst of his service in the Vietnam War, he left the base camp to celebrate Muster, to the dismay and curiosity of other people in the camp.

Baggett said before he attended Texas A&M, he had the same questions about Aggies and the pride they possess.

"I didn't understand the source of that pride, but I knew I wanted to become a part of it," Baggett said.

Baggett said personal character, leadership and teamwork form the foundation of Aggie pride.

"The Aggie spirit makes you feel good, proud of who you are, what you do and who you do with it," Baggett said.

Baggett said Muster is a celebration of the Aggie family, honoring those who have come before them.

"Aggie spirit is that pride that says,

"once an Aggie, always an Aggie," he said.

The Class of '49, celebrating its 50 year reunion this week, was recognized at the Muster ceremony. Noah H. Kruger, a senior environmental design major, said the Class of '49 set expectations for current students to be leaders in the nation and the world.

President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said members of the Class of '49 have conducted their lives with pride, spirit and integrity, and he encouraged the Class of '99 to look to the former students for guidance.

Kruger said that although a span of 50 years separates the Class of '99 from the Class of '49, the two are connected by a universal bond of love and devotion.

Bowen said Muster is a time for people to cherish life and come together to share the Aggie spirit with others.

"Gathering for Muster is a tradition that defines the Aggie Spirit," Bowen said. "We each have our own understanding of what it is to be an Aggie. Muster is the time to come together and share that understanding with friends and family."



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

## Cadet board selects drum majors

BY MEGAN E. WRIGHT  
The Battalion

A board of 18 Aggie Band cadets and the band director have elected Mark Gandin, Jason Bradford and Mike Maginness as the three drum majors to lead the group onto Kyle Field during the 1999-2000 school year.

Col. Ray Toler, director of the Aggie Band, said the drum majors' role is to lead the Aggie band in march-ins, parades and other functions.

"Their main job is to understand the different drills the band performs each week and to teach

that to the entire band before each performance," Toler said. "The drum majors make sure the drills are set and everyone knows what they are doing."

Toler said the tryout process began with preliminary auditions, after which 11 finalists were chosen. The finalists spent the next two days conducting the band and leading the group through drills.

Maginness, a junior political science major, said all the candidates spent a month and a half preparing for the auditions. He said each candidate spent three to four hours on the practice field

each day.

Maginness said the drum majors not only lead the band in marching, but together with the band commander, they set the tone of how the year will be for the Aggie Band. Maginness said he feels this next year will be one of the best for the band.

"In my opinion, this tryout and the whole process has been one of the best experiences I've had at A&M," he said. "Throughout the [preliminaries] and the finals, we weren't overly competitive; we were really trying to help each other out and see each other do our best."

## Researchers aim to identify risk factors linked to heart disease

BY SAMEH FAHMY  
The Battalion

When Ruth Stephens went to her doctor six months ago for a normal check-up, she found that she had abnormally high cholesterol levels.

"I was shocked," the journalism graduate student said. "I had been an athlete all my life, worked out almost every day, ate a very low-fat diet, didn't smoke and, in general, tried to be a healthy person."

Stephens said her doctor told her she would have three months to try to get her cholesterol levels down using a low-fat diet or she would be put on medication.

"This appalled me because I was only 25, and suddenly I had to go on medication for the rest of my life," she said.

Although high cholesterol is a known risk factor for heart disease, it is not the only one. The journal *Circulation* said that 50 percent of

heart attack patients have normal levels of lipids, such as cholesterol and triglycerides. Identifying these risk factors has been the goal of a group of A&M researchers.

"What we're doing is applying modern analytical chemistry techniques to detect heart disease," Dr. Steven L. Cockrill, a postdoctoral researcher in the Chemistry Department, said.

There are two main types of

SEE RESEARCH ON PAGE 14.