

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## Music, theatre arts merge

### Liberal Arts creates Department of Performance Studies

BY ERIKA DOERR  
The Battalion

Today marks the first day for the Department of Performance Studies, a collaboration of the theater arts program and the music program.

Paul Parrish, the Department of Performance Studies development coordinator and English professor, said the College of Liberal Arts will continue to offer courses in music and theater as in the past but now with greater visibility.

The music department will continue to develop additional courses and a new music degree plan is being proposed.

Parrish said the Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts proposal said music and theater are rather recent additions at Texas A&M, unlike

other major land grant universities where music and theater arts are historically an active part of the school's mission and curriculum.

She said it is important to have art programs because it attracts a wider variety of students.

"There is an absolute need for programs of this sort in the arts, if Texas A&M is serious about its desire to be regarded as a top-10 public university — the basic goal set out in Vision 2020," she said. "The Department of Performance Studies will attract quality students who are looking for an arts education, and the imminent creation of a music degree will allow us to attract future music majors who have in the past had to go elsewhere."

Jeanette Phariss, assistant

provost, said this is the first new department created at A&M in a long time.



"Theater had been with speech communications, two different things," she said.

"We've always had a small program in music, even though we didn't have a degree. Now these two departments are combined," Phariss said.

The official proposal also said a separate department will create a more streamlined

and efficient management of all three departments — the Department of Philosophy and Humanities, the Department of Speech Communication and the proposed Department of Performance Studies — and provide an environment for the continued growth of the developing music and theater arts program.

Phariss said this is the first academic department dedicated solely to the arts.

"Eventually, there will be a proposal for obtaining an official Bachelor of Arts degree of music. The current music program offers a minor but not a major," she said. "With this proposed change, we anticipate that the number of students enrolling in music courses and minoring in music to increase at a steady pace."

## Moore named to post

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

Rodrick Moore, Class of '95, has been appointed to the position of student retention coordinator in the Department of Multicultural Services, which helps students through school and to graduation.



MOORE

Moore is replacing Rodney McClendon who will now serve as assistant provost in the office of the executive vice president.

Moore said as coordinator of student retention, his main duty will be coordinating the ExCEL Conference for freshmen, which is held before school begins in the fall and helps minority students adapt to new social and academic experiences at A&M. Moore will also coordinate a student success seminar class for freshman, which will help students learn how to succeed at A&M.

Moore said he is excited about helping students fulfill their goals of graduation.

"I want to be able to help students as I have been helped," Moore said.

Moore said one of his goals is to design and implement innovative programs and strategies to enhance retention efforts.

"I will be developing outreach initiatives to enhance the number

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Students with disabilities adjust to college life at Texas A&M.



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Student athletes should be praised for balancing classes with sport.



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Today is the last day to drop classes.

## Bicycle safety



AMANDA SMIERS/THE BATTALION

Det. Alan Baron carves a student's drivers license number onto a bicycle at Rudder fountain. The Bicycle Registration program ensures the bicycle's recovery if it stolen.

## Answering the call

Student volunteers handle campus emergencies

BY BROOKE HODGES  
The Battalion

For the past five years, the Student Counseling Service (SCS) HelpLine and the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) handle the psychological and medical emergencies at Texas A&M.

Volunteers at the SCS answer calls and assess situations as if all were life threatening. They then use training the SCS has provided to determine whether callers need assistance from a psychologist or EMS.

EMS has two ambulances housed at A.P. Beutal Health Center, which are available to handle medical emergencies on campus.

"We staff Mobile Intensive Care ambulances [and] can do everything an [Emergency] [Room] can do in the first 10 minutes of a call," Richard Mogab, paramedic and unit manager of EMS, said. "We can handle every life-threatening situation."

Jeremy Hyde, EMT and training coordinator for EMS, said the EMS team consists of eight paramedics, 21 Emergency Medical Technicians and 17 dispatchers, all of which are volunteers.

Mogab said that when calling the EMS for help, which can be done on campus by dialing 9-911,

one should remember to remain calm and answer the dispatcher's questions clearly.

"When you call, stay calm and know your location, phone number and the nature of the emergency," Mogab said. "Stay on the line and answer any questions the dispatcher has."

The EMS is present at events where organizers feel an ambulance might be needed.

"We do event standbys at football games, Bonfire and any other event they need an ambulance," Mogab said.

Along with reacting to the SCS HelpLine calls, the EMS also provides 24-hour service 365 days a year.

Dr. Kerry Hope, associate director of counseling, said the HelpLine handles calls dealing with informational questions and psychological crisis.

The Helpline is managed by approximately 45 students with majors ranging from psychology to business.

Hope said the numerous deaths that plagued campus last year has had a slight affect on both the number of volunteers who decide to take action and join the HelpLine and the number

SEE EMS ON PAGE 2.

## Yell leaders prepare for upcoming football season

BY JULIE ZUCKER  
The Battalion

Yell Leaders, an old and standing tradition at Texas A&M, are trying some to new methods to raise spirit and get students involved — such as this week's All U-Walk and the new activities at First Yell being prime examples.

In 1907, a group of freshman raided the janitor's closets for uniforms and cheered and joked around on the track to originally entertain upperclassmen's bored dates at football games.

Jeff Bailey, head yell leader and senior agricultural systems management major, said that after traveling over 10,000 miles this summer, he and the other four yell leaders are ready to start the year at A&M and can't wait until

the football season starts.

Dusty Batsell, senior yell leader and a construction science major, said yell leaders are more than just football supporters.

"Yell leaders evolved into [A&M athlete] supporters," he said. "But our number one priority is to be a representative to the 12th Man and the entire student body."

He said that although yell leaders are most synonymous with football games, their duties go far beyond Kyle Field.

"We are a strong group," he said. "We are unified, and our goal is to unite the whole campus. We are not role models; we lead by example."

Ricky Wood, junior yell leader and a theater arts major, said the group has a lot of responsibility,

and their role as yell leaders are to be servants to the student body.

"I honestly don't know every-

**"We are unified, and our goal is to unite the whole campus."**

—Dusty Batsell  
Senior yell leader

thing we have to do," he said. "We are community leaders and are completely devoted to A&M. We need to lead the student body in supporting all of our great teams and traditions."

This year, the yell leaders are going to start new programs, beginning with the new "First Yell" on Sept. 17 and 18.

"We have been living, eating and breathing 'First Yell,'" Batsell said. "It is going to be great. It will be as Aggie as an Aggie can be."

John Bloss, senior Yell Leader and an agricultural economics major, said he is looking forward to the basketball season.

"With the new coaches, our teams are going to go far," he said.

Clint "Bubba" Moser, junior yell leader and an agricultural economics major, said there will be no greater atmosphere than The Zone for the 1999 football season.

"A&M now has the greatest environment for football, Saturday will be the first of many wins for

us," he said. "Support wins games."

Batsell said the group will strive to protect the honor of being a yell leader.

"Our motivation and drive to do our best comes from the people who put us here," he said.

"The student body needs to have faith in us, and we will work to live up to the student body's standards."

Bailey said he serves as the liaison for the yell leaders. He speaks for all of them when he says A&M needs support for its teams.

"As far as athletics are concerned," he said, "we can't win without the stands being full. I want, and I know I can speak for the other guys, when I say we want full stands."

## 'First Families' exhibit shows private lives

BY RYAN WEST  
The Battalion

From President Gerald Ford picking flowers with his granddaughters to President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, twirling on the dance floor, "First Families: Intimate Portraits from the Kennedys to the Clintons," provides a glimpse into the personal lives of the first families from renowned photographer Harry Benson.

The exhibit, a 72,000 square-foot traveling "Newseum" created by funds from The Freedom Forum in Washington, D.C., is on display at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum until Oct. 17. A grant from the Bush Library Foundation paid for the display.

The "Newseum" features over 60 of Benson's photographs displaying the private lives of the "First Families" — some of which appeared in publications such as Vanity Fair, Life Magazine, People Magazine and Vogue.

George Bush Library spokesperson Brian Blake, said it is the first time the library has displayed Benson's work.

"I've heard a lot of positive comments about the photo of Ronald and Nancy Reagan dancing," Blake said. "Many people recognize it because it was a Vanity Fair cover photo."

Underneath each of the pictures is a brief description of where and when the shot was taken; some of them also include Benson's personal observations in taking the photographs.

Chris Bradford, Class of '95, and wife, Lorna, Class of '97, drove from Wylie, Texas, to visit the Bush Library and to see the new exhibit on Tuesday.

"I enjoyed that the pictures were of presidents from when I was growing up," Lorna Bradford said. "It's intriguing to see what it's like to be in office on a more personal level, like in the picture of Reagan outside in shorts, driving a stake into the ground."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GEORGE BUSH MUSEUM

This photo of John F. Kennedy Jr. and his sister Caroline is part of the "First Families" exhibit at the George Bush Library.

"We always see their lives on a professional level," Chris Bradford said "But [Benson's photographs] show what it's like with their families and in their homes."