

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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An open invitation

Architecture, Geology, Geophysics, Multicultural Services departments host events

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

The Texas A&M College of Architecture will open its doors tomorrow to welcome parents, students and former students to the Langford Architecture Center for an open house at 8 a.m.

Because of the scheduled time change for the A&M vs. Kansas football game, the open house is starting earlier than planned.

The scheduled barbecue has been replaced by a breakfast at 8:30 a.m. following an address by Thomas Regan, dean of the College of Architecture.

Cathilee Bird, communications assistant for College of Architecture, said the primary goal of this event is to give visitors a chance to get to know the college's faculty and the specific programs.

"The focus is to familiarize parents and students with how the programs are run, and give them the chance to meet and talk with faculty and staff that are be-

hind the academics of the College of Architecture," she said.

Dr. George Rogers, interim department head of Landscape Architecture, will represent his department.

"The idea is to open up the building so that parents can see what their students have been doing and what is going on throughout the college," he said.

"This way, when students go home and talking about things they are doing, the parents have a better understanding of the college, and the programs their children are involved with."

Visitors will be able to observe student artwork displayed throughout the center's first four floors. Faculty art work also will be on display in the gallery.

"This gives the parents a chance to see their and other students' artwork, and it gives the students and idea of what to expect as they go through their prospective degree plans," Rogers said.

BY RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Department of Geology and Geophysics will host an open house tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Halbouty Geosciences Building.

The open house will feature tours of the Halbouty Geosciences Building Complex, give visitors the opportunity to talk to faculty and help students learn about career opportunities. Also, free rock cores will be given away.

Andrew Hajash, head of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, said the goal of the open house is to increase public awareness of earth science.

"We hope to make more people aware of the wide variety of career opportunities available in earth science," he said. "We also hope to raise public awareness that earth science is all around us."

"This open house will also allow people to get a glimpse of what we do and how exciting studying the earth can be."

Jane Killingsworth, a junior geophysics major, said the open house is a great opportunity for

students to learn what geophysicists do and to learn about a possible career choice.

"It will be a great opportunity for people to come out and see what geosciences is," she said. "People will come out and learn from it and know what we do."

Leslie Randolph, Department of Geology and Geophysics information representative, said the open house was organized to be held in conjunction with National Earth Science Week.

"We would like people to become aware that National Earth Science Week does exist," she said. "The Earth sciences are a very important part of society."

Randolph said the open house will offer a variety of activities available demonstrating some of the things geophysicists do.

"We will be having building tours [and] demonstrations of computer hardware," she said.

"We have a stream table [and] a wave tank we will be doing demos on. We will have the drilling rig set up out front, and we will be giving away pieces of rock core."

BY MATT LOFTIS
The Battalion

Kim Cosla Chambers, a senior marketing major at Texas A&M, said she originally became involved with the Texas A&M Department of Multicultural Services through awareness ventures similar to today's open house, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in MSC 026, 137 and 147.

Chambers has been on the department's staff for two years, and has also been involved with the Southwest Black Student Leadership Conference.

She said students who attend events like this can learn how to help out and see a different side to A&M.

Sandra Medina, communications and outreach coordinator for the Department of Multicultural Services, said the purpose of the open house is to publicize the department by inviting the campus community to learn more about its programs.

She said this year the department will showcase its multiculturalism and diversity library, which contains books, videos and other resources available to students.

"I think it's just very important for

students to come to the Multicultural Center open house so they can diversify themselves and see another side of Texas A&M, and the world for that matter," Chambers said.

Medina said the open house is meant not only to offer students the opportunity to become involved in the department and learn about its resources but also to meet and get to know other students who want to get involved.

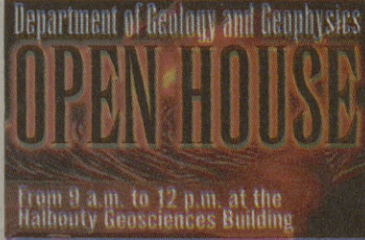
Katuska Quintero, executive director of Minority Enrichment and Development through Academic and Leadership Skills (MEDALS) and a senior bilingual education major, said helping participants get involved with other students is one of the main purposes of the department.

"I think it's [the department] very important, especially for minority students, because it gives them a chance to meet others like themselves, and it's also a way to reach out to minority students," Quintero said. "For even students who are not minorities, it gives them a chance to meet others and promote diversity."

Friday's open house also will have free gifts and a cakewalk.



BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION



BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

News in Brief

Regents to discuss System, litigation

The Texas A&M University Board of Regents is holding a special meeting today at 2:30 p.m. in the MSC.

The board will provide an update on the Texas A&M University System and its institutions to former members of the board.

Possible action to settle a litigation matter and an authorization to enter an employment contract with Chancellor Emeritus Barry B. Compson at Tarleton State University will be considered. Other topics include the appointment of a deputy chancellor, a vice chancellor for planning and system integration and a vice chancellor for academic affairs, for the system.

A&M participates in mail call program

Texas A&M's service organization Circle K joined other organizations and individuals in a continuation of a Vietnam Mail Call program, "Friends of Our Troops."

Murray Milford, a Circle K advisor and a professor and associate department head of soil and crop sciences, said the organization contributes service to other events like Habitat for Humanity, the Big Event and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Marble marvel



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Robert Olsen, a resident of Bryan, creates a marble from glass outside the MSC Thursday afternoon. It takes Olsen anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour and a half to finish a piece. The marble making demonstration was presented in conjunction with University Center galleries.

Oratory contest focuses on source of stereotypes

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

Bias in the media was the topic at the "What's the Word" Black Awareness Committee (BAC) oratorical contest last night, and the consensus among contestants was that the media is to blame for perpetuating stereotypes.

Alexis Crittenden, first place winner of \$1,500 and a freshman speech communication major, said bias in the media emphasizes stereotypes.

"All African-Americans are criminals and drug dealers. All caucasians are serial killers, and all homosexuals are campy and effeminate," she said. "How do I know this? The media told me."

Bill Anderson, a contest judge, MSC Council president and a senior mechanical engineering major, said Crittenden won because of the content and delivery of her speech.

"Her opening grabbed the audience," he said. "Her poise and enthusiasm for the subject really came through."

Crittenden began her speech with a poem decrying stereotypes and the prejudice that result, but ended by urging her audience not to accept media-induced stereotypes.

"Acceptance plus understanding plus change, equals a better world," she said.

Crittenden said she chose to begin her speech with an emotionally-delivered poem to capture the audience's attention.

"I've been doing oratory since middle school, and I've always had a flair for the dramatic," she said.

She said the prize money will help pay for tuition and textbooks next semester.

Gerald Sarpy, second place winner of \$1,000 and a senior journalism major, said he used his speech to focus on the print media and their role in creating racial stereotypes.

"Fair reporting is being exchanged for sensationalism," Sarpy said.

Sarpy ended his speech by encouraging newspaper readers to contact editors when they allow stereotypes to creep into stories, and then asked the audience to stand and join him in chanting "I will not be a victim."

Chris Gaines, a senior civil engineering major and third place winner of \$750, discussed how the corporate dominance of media allows stereotypes to continue.

"We are fed what the corporations want us to hear," Gaines



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

Alexis Crittenden, delivers her first-place winning speech last night as part of the Black Awareness Committee's "What's the Word" oratorical contest.

said. "They want to produce a society where everyone has the same view of the world, because that makes it easier to mass-market their products."

The judging panel included Anderson, Student Body President Will Hurd, Rodney McClelland, coordinator for Student Retention and Development at the Multicultural Services Department, and Becky Petit, the coordinator for diversity education at Multicultural Services.

Luncheon to celebrate Bosses' Day

BY DIANE XAVIER
The Battalion

The Texas A&M University Association of Professional Support Staff (TAPSS) is hosting the ninth annual Bosses' Day Luncheon today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in MSC 212 through 224 to celebrate National Bosses' Day.

Lois Mercatoris, TAPSS president, said National Bosses' Day gives employees the opportunity to thank their bosses for the direction and help they offer.

"It's a day to honor our bosses," she said. "We usually find the faults of our bosses instead of the good qualities of them."

TAPSS will award a boss its Member of the Year award for the second year.

Bosses' Day Luncheon

Who: The Texas A&M Association of Professional Support Staff

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: MSC 212 through 224

This award honors bosses at A&M who support their staffs.

Sharlene Ewald, chair of awards committee, said the award will be given to one of the nine nominees.

"We had nine outstanding candidates that were very supportive of their staffs and their professional development," she said. "I think this day is equally [as] important as Secretary's Day. This gives employees the opportunity to really consider what kind of boss they have."

Ewald said the working environment demands mutual respect between employers and employees.

SEE BOSSES ON PAGE 2.

Texas Transportation Institute to get \$1 million in federal funds

BY CHRIS CARTER
The Battalion

The Texas A&M University System and U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, have collaborated to obtain \$1 million in federal funding for the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) to support present research and to implement its results.

Bernie Fette, TTI spokesperson, said the funding will be dedicated to the Transportation Research Implementation Consortium for Operations and Management (TRICOM). A portion of the funding will go toward TTI's ongoing research in intelligent transportation systems.

TTI has been a part of the

A&M System since its inception in 1950 and will receive the funding in addition to its annual budget of \$28 million. The institute, based in College Station, employs over 600 people statewide. It has become the largest University-based transportation-research organization in the United States.

Herb Richardson, TTI director, said the funding would not have been possible without the efforts of DeLay.

"We commend Congressman DeLay for his foresight," he said. "He has always worked diligently to ensure the safest and most efficient transportation for his nation, and motorists everywhere are the beneficiaries of his vision."

During the official announcement of the \$1 million, DeLay said A&M researchers have made tremendous progress in applying current technologies to solve transportation problems and improve our nation's mobility.

"This funding will enable them to continue their important work, helping to make travel safer, more efficient and less costly for motorists everywhere," he said.

TTI is one of three agencies that compose the A&M System Engineering Program along with two other agencies, the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

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Batt Radio
Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on a prison escape.