

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## CARPOOL ends service for semester

BY BROOKE HODGES  
The Battalion

Caring Aggies 'R' Protecting Over Our Lives (CARPOOL) stopped providing service this semester Saturday night, but the organization's success has guaranteed its return next semester.

The organization will resume services Jan. 20. Jeff Shiefelbein, founder and chair of CARPOOL and a senior management major, said the organization decided to stop services during finals week to give student volunteers time to study.

"We need to make sure our people get their grades," he said. "It is something we need to do for ourselves."

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—Jeff Shiefelbein  
founder and chair of CARPOOL

Shiefelbein said the spring schedule will remain the same, Thursday through Saturday 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Shiefelbein said in its first semester of operation, CARPOOL gave 2,389 people rides home and had to bring one person to the hospital.

"We had a girl [who] was showing the signs of severe alcohol poisoning," he said. "We took her to the hospital [which] was the best move that could have been made."

Brooke Mauritzen, a CARPOOL volunteer and a sophomore biomedical science major, said she enjoyed working with the organization because it was fulfilling to help others.

"I like driving; you get to see some interesting people and get some funny stories to tell," she said. "Like last night, we picked up a group of guys we give rides to frequently, and they like to give hugs — so every time we would stop, they would get out and give us hugs."

Mauritzen said CARPOOL was frequently called to pick up students at Northgate and Hurricane Harry's, and over the past semester she gave about 60 people rides home.

Shiefelbein said throughout the semester, CARPOOL had some run-ins with Bryan-College Station taxi companies. In order to cooperate with the cab companies, Shiefelbein said the group has put the phone number for Advantage Taxi on the CARPOOL answering machine.

"We put the phone number on there in case people call on Wednesday and we aren't there," he said. "We also give people the [taxi] number if they call and ask us to bring them to a party or bar since we can't do that."

Shiefelbein said spring-volunteer applications are available in the J. Koldus Building and are due Friday.

"We want as many people as possible to apply," he said.

## Aggies to present designs for pediatric-care center

BY ROLANDO GARCIA  
The Battalion

On Sept. 17 more than 70 Texas A&M architecture students were given a daunting task: design a \$100 million, 720,000 square foot addition to the Children's Medical Center in Dallas to help put the center on the forefront of pediatric medicine.

Lauren Elford, a junior environmental design major, said to prepare for the project, the students toured the site and met with architects and hospital officials.

"They told us the criteria we had to meet, and it was overwhelming," she said. "It's been intense, non-stop work since then."

The students, who worked in nine teams, will return to Dallas tomorrow to present their final drawings, models and cost estimates.

George Mann, director of the project and an architecture professor, said each team consisted of design, construction science and landscape architecture students.

Mann said the top three designs will be recognized. He predicted that the Children's Medical Center will incorporate the best ideas from each presentation into the final design.

Elford said the project began by choosing basic designs using clay models, but translating a general idea into a detailed schematic drawings was a real challenge.

"There's lots of clinical requirements you have to deal with, like exam rooms, play rooms, separate patient and public restrooms," she said. "And in addition to the medical facilities, you also have to accommodate office space as well. It's a lot different from building just a regular residential or commercial structure."

Elford said taking over the project was more work than she imagined. She said it consumed nearly 30 hours a week, but designing the medical complex is an invaluable opportunity.

"I've really learned a lot," Elford said. "Designing health care facilities is a whole different realm, and I'm glad I have that experience under my belt."



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Johnathan Ragsdale, a freshman landscape architecture major, shows his class project to professor John J. Fairy, while Jacob Pawlak, a freshman landscape engineering major looks on.

Ronald Skaggs, CEO of HKS Architects and Class of '65, assisted the project and said designing a real structure has given the students valuable real-world experience.

"Architecture students worked closely with construction students and they got a practical look at the teamwork that goes into building a complex structure like this," Skaggs said.

## 0 Christmas tree



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Jenna Davis, a resident of College Station, shops for a Christmas tree at The Farm Patch in Bryan.

## Former prof dies at age 82

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

Many Aggies only hear stories about the beginning of Texas A&M traditions, but Col. Charles E. Gregory, a retired air science professor and Class of '38, was a student and faculty member at A&M when many traditions and school alterations were just beginning. On Nov. 16 A&M lost a friend. Gregory died at the age of 82.

In 1958, he began teaching air science at A&M and served as temporary acting commandant when Commandant Joe Davis was away taking care of personal matters. He worked under A&M President James Earl Rudder.

During his time as a professor, A&M's status changed from college to university. Also, the requirement previously required all students to serve at least two years in the Corps of Cadets changed to admit students who were not going to join the Corps.

Gregory graduated from A&M with a bachelor's of science degree and a certificate for appointment as a lieutenant in the Calvary Reserve at the age of 20.

Gregory "frogged in" or joined the Corps of Cadets when he was a sophomore. When Gregory joined the Corps, he was in the infantry, but joined the Calvary Reserve after his first semester. Gregory was a member of the Army Air Signal Corps, which was the air arm of the armed forces before Congress established the Army Air Force in 1941.

SEE GREGORY ON PAGE 2.

## Biologists research tree, seek cure for cancer

BY STASIA RAINES  
The Battalion



BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M biologists, biology professor Craig Nessler and associate biology professor Thomas McKnight, are working together to find a cure for cancer from the Chinese Happy Tree plan, which is native to southern China.

For 10 years, the two scientists have been studying the tree with the hopes of understanding exactly why and how it produces the anti-cancer compound Camptothecin (CPT).

"There are a lot of drugs available with this plant that we don't understand," Nessler said. "We want to know how this is done so

we can learn how to produce more, thus increasing the availability of these drugs."

McKnight, an associate biology professor, said this will be done by isolating and characterizing the genes that are involved in the biosynthesis of CPT.

McKnight said the anti-cancer properties of CPT were discovered in the '60s by a scientist Dr. Monroe Wall. However, the drug, in its pure form, is too toxic to the human body to be an effective treatment.

Recently Nessler and McKnight discovered that young leaves and seedlings of the tree actually contain high concentrations of a water soluble form of CPT solution, which is not toxic to the human body.

The researchers emphasized that the findings are steps leading to their goal of discovering the biochemical pathway by which the Chinese Happy Tree produces CPT.

The Chinese Happy Tree is native to southern China and is not found in the United States. McKnight said at this time, the tree is not endangered, but when the demand for the tree increases, there is a possibility of endangerment.

According to statistics from the American Cancer Society, this year alone, about 563,100 Americans are expected to die of cancer, which is more than 1,500 a day. In the United States, one of four deaths is related to cancer.

## Bonfire collapse victims to be honored at ceremony

BY MATT LOFTIS  
The Battalion

Tonight's Silver Taps ceremony will be carried out as normal, but the list of names will be longer and will include the students who were killed in the Bonfire collapse.

As usual, students will gather at the plaza in front of the Academic Building, the Ross Volunteers will perform a 21-gun salute and the buglers will play from atop the Academic Building.

In addition to the 11 students killed in the collapse, tonight's ceremony will honor a student who died in a car accident Oct. 2, but by request of his parents, the ceremony was postponed until now so they could attend.

Dr. Andy Smith, associate director of counseling at Student Counseling Service (SCS), said in lieu of so many students being honored and the magnitude of the grief the campus is still dealing with, SCS will provide free counseling at the All Faith's Chapel from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.

He said the session is a joint ef-

fort between SCS and the Campus Ministerial Association (CMA) aimed at helping anyone experiencing difficulty dealing with the Bonfire collapse or Silver Taps.

"It's not something that's normally done during Silver Taps," Smith said. "We just want to go out of our way to make counselors and ministers available to the students."

Kristin Harper, senior associate director of Student Life, said some members of the community concerned with the proceedings and showing support to the student body have inquired of Student Life whether attending Silver Taps was a good idea.

Harper said those who are not members of the student body were instructed through private replies to privately hold memorials or prayer offerings because it would provide the best opportunity for students to attend.

A memo from the Texas A&M Traditions Council, authored by Brooke Crum, a junior history major, and

SEE SILVER TAPS ON PAGE 2.

## New organization focuses on leadership training, unity

BY ERIKA DOERR  
The Battalion

A new all-male leadership organization, One Army Texas Aggie Men United (One Army TAMU) organization, was formed this semester to provide leadership training to the members.

Patrick Brensinger, president of One Army TAMU and a junior management information systems and accounting major, said the focus of the organization is leadership training, secondary service and unity.

"One Army TAMU offers experiences for learning, such a ropes course at Camp Allen, workshops to improve communication skills and leadership speakers at the meetings," he said.

Brensinger said the organization teaches the members lessons for life and leadership skills.

"One such speaker invited to talk with the organization is Mr. [Stephen] Gonzales, the Serbian prisoner of war," he said. "There are many freshmen-oriented lead-

ership organizations, but not as many offered for a range of ages. We have different people from different backgrounds in this group, each having their own perspectives and values, coming together to form an organization which will help define the motto 'One School, One Spirit, One Army.'"

Geoff Spahr, admissions officer for One Army TAMU and a junior marketing major, said the organization is forming a firm foundation in its first semester of recognition.

"We will be having three to four leadership activities, service and social activities — such as mixers and crush parties — in the upcoming semester," he said.

Spahr said next semester the organization will have open membership and members must attend one meeting per week.

"This organization offers a non-greek leadership environment for males only, and members pay dues of \$65," he said.

SEE ONE ARMY ON PAGE 2.

### SILVER TAPS

Miranda Denise Adams (Freshman Biomedical Science major)  
Robert Hart Daniel (Freshman Computer Engineering major)  
Michael Stephen Ebanks (Freshman Aerospace Engineering major)  
Jeremy Richard Frampton (Senior Psychology major)  
Jamie Lynn Hand (Freshman Environmental Design major)  
Christopher Lee Heard (Freshman Engineering major)  
Timothy Doran Kerlee (Freshman Mechanical Engineering major)  
Lucas John Kimmel (Freshman Biomedical Science major)  
Bryan Allan McClain (Freshman Agronomy major)  
Chad Anthony Powell (Sophomore Computer Engineering major)  
Jerry Don Self (Sophomore Engineering Technology major)  
Nathan Scott West (Sophomore Ocean Engineering major)

The Silver Taps ceremony will be held tonight at 10:30 in front of the Academic Building. The ceremony is to honor those students who have passed away while enrolled.

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

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