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CAMPUS

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THE BATTALION

Tuesday, January 18, 1999

A&M ranked fourth largest U.S. university

BY KENNETH MACDONALD The Battalion

Texas A&M University ranks as the fourth largest university in the United States for the second year in a row, according to a survey Fall 1999 enrollment figures.

The survey, conducted by Texas A&M, shows the total enrollment for the fall of 1999 as 43,442, a rise of 53 students from the fall 1998 enrollment of 43,489. These figures do not include other campuses under the TAMU system.

Brittany Merritt, an incoming transfer psychology major from Tarrant County Junior College (TCJC) in Fort Worth, said she was nervous about coming to A&M.

"I'm nervous about having a class with hundreds of people. My first semester of college was a lot like high school. There were about 30 people in each class," she said.

Merritt said that while she is a little scared about the size of A&M, she is optimistic about her first semester.

"I am looking forward to all the benefits that a large university can afford. I am looking forward especially to intermural sports and being able to live on campus," she said. "There is more stuff to do here than at Tarrant County."

Brittany's father, Clarence Merritt, was with her through the three-day process of new student orientation and registration.

"We are very proud of her to be accepted at such a highly regarded institution," he said. "One would have to feel honored to go here."

"Someone once told me, and it is so true, that the longer you are at A&M, the smaller it gets. To me it really feels like home, and I think it is because people around here like to get involved," Collin Poage, junior class president and a business major, said.

Poage, who went to First Baptist Academy in Dallas, graduated with only 55 people in his senior class. Some of his friends wondered how he would get along in a big university and speculated that he would not like it. Poage heard that despite the size, A&M had a reputation as being a friendly campus.

"When I came here, I knew maybe five people. Being in the Corps of Cadets and living on campus really helped [with] meeting people, especially the first year," Poage said.

"Many things calculate into the college experience. I have friends who go to other schools and only go to

ENROLLMENT	
	Fall '99
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS	49,000
OHIO STATE	48,000
ARIZONA STATE	44,215
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	43,442
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	43,382

RUBEN DELUNA/TAMU

class and go home. They are missing 80 percent experience."

The largest institution in the U.S. is the University of Texas-Austin, with an enrollment totalling 49,000 students. Ohio State and Arizona State take second and third, according to the survey. The University of Florida is the fifth largest university and had the largest increase in enrollment with 1,046 more students in 1999 than in fall 1998. The figures were taken from the twelfth class day of the fall 1999 semester.

News in Brief

A&M encounters minor Y2K glitches

Y2K has come and gone with no major problems, but Texas A&M Computing Information Services (CIS) continues to watch for lurking problems due to the thousands of returning students accessing University computers. CIS is not expecting students to have problems, but the increase in usage may cause some minor glitches.

Kim Reverman, Year 2000 Team Leader for CIS, said there were no problems with the e-mail systems.

"We saw small problems like software expiring that wasn't supposed to," she said.

Reverman said that over the past four years, CIS has spent over \$500,000 on operational expenses for Y2K, and ran backups on major systems, servers, mainframes and registrars' and libraries' computers.

"We've done tests, but all we can do is sit and wait," Reverman said.

COMMISSION

Continued from Page 1

"This new company will focus on the work force—did they behave in an expected manner and were there variations from what was expected to what actually occurred," Linbeck said.

"The entire inquiry is divided into two categories, pre-collapse and post-collapse."

—Leo E. Linbeck Jr. chairman of the Special Commission

"The entire inquiry is divided into two categories, pre-collapse and post-collapse," Linbeck said. Both deal with the physical structure and behavior of the Bonfire workers.

The new firm the commission hopes to add today—investigatory tasks—will bring both categories together by entering all information from photos, interviews, e-mails.

State observes holiday honoring Rev. King

HOUSTON (AP)—Texans on Monday marked the holiday honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with remembrances, parades and—for those who had the day off—enjoyment of another balmy winter day.

Two parades wound through downtown Houston under sunny skies and in temperatures nearing 80 degrees. Each parade culminated near City Hall, where celebrations continued throughout the day.

Children lined the streets for both parades, enjoying a day off from school and getting a little American history lesson at the same time.

"[King] fought to have whites and blacks to sit at the table and eat together," 8-year-old Denzel Alexander said when asked what King meant to him.

The holiday, which meant most banks and governmental services were closed in Texas and across the nation, marked what would have been King's 71st birthday on Saturday.

The country's best known civil rights crusader was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

Gov. George W. Bush called King a "great man and courageous leader."

"Dr. King gave his life fighting for people to be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. Testimonies to his service are every day as people from all walks of life realize the American dream," Bush said. Other celebrations of King's life took place yesterday included:

• A march through the east side of Houston led by a garbage truck, symbolizing King's work on behalf of sanitation workers.

• Old Falfurrias Highway in Alamo, renamed Martin Luther King Boulevard, part of the city's annual celebration.

• The University of Texas at Brownsville-Texas Southmost College hosted an evening of choir music and poetry readings from students.

Attention Seniors

Graduating in May

English 210 & 301 (Tech Writing) Force Dates for Spring 2000

Tuesday, January 18 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

1. Make sure you have the correct prerequisite (English 104 or equivalent).
2. Come to **Blocker 224** during the force dates and times listed above.
3. Bring a letter on department stationery from your academic advisor stating that you are graduating in the semester for which you are registering.

No forces will be done during pre-registration. You must come in during these dates to get a seat.

If you can't make these dates, send a representative with your letter and a list of preferred times.

Forcing Information line: 862-7724

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The Brazos Valley Softball Umpires Association is seeking people to officiate youth and adult softball. Previous experience is not required. A fast pitch clinic will be held Saturday January 22, a slow pitch clinic on January 23. Game fees are \$9.30 per game. For more information call: Tarry Hix 693-2958 and Mike Littlejohn 776-5062 Tony Scazzano 764-3736

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