

## Minority enrollment increased in '80s

BY JULIE ZUCKER  
The Battalion

"It feels good to be finished. It has been a long, hard struggle. I am proud to be the first one, but it is rather sad that it took 20 years for one black

woman to graduate with an MBA," said Melva Robinson Pratt to *The Battalion* in 1983 after she became the first African-American woman to graduate from Texas A&M University with an MBA.

It was the focus of A&M in the '80s to have more graduates like Pratt.

According to University archives, A&M started a task force in the early '80s to attract more African-American students and "alleviate minority discrimination in higher education."

The Lowry Mays College of Business recruited African-American high school students with a three-day seminar for which 137 applicants and 50 students were accepted.

In September of 1983, Kevin R. Carreathers became

A&M's first minority adviser, and implemented an "I Care" program on campus.

"Minorities make up less than one percent of total enrollment at A&M," Carreathers said in 1983. "I think they would enjoy their college experience a little more if I can help mainstream them onto campus."

More African-American organizations were accepted on campus in the '80s, such as the African Student Association, started by Jacob Teboh, who came to Texas from Cameroon, Africa in 1983, and two service sororities, Delta Sigma Theta and Alpha Kappa Alpha.

The efforts seemed to quickly affect the veterinarian and medical schools. In August of 1983, four out of 48 students

were African-American in the vet school which boasted none the year before.

In 1984, scholarships specifically for African-Americans and women began to be sponsored at A&M. Over \$4 million was distributed to attract at least 525 African-American undergraduates, \$1.65 million for 34 African-American graduate students and \$700,000 in salary supplements for African-American faculty members.

In 1986, A&M had the best retention rate in the state for African-American students. After being enrolled for the 1983-1984 school year, 81.5 percent of the African-American undergraduates at A&M returned for the fall semester of 1984.

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ROBERT HYNCEK & GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Subscriptions for AF-AM allowed	AF-AM allowed	AF-AM allowed	AF-AM allowed	AF-AM allowed	AF-AM allowed
1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
AF-AM students at A&M	AF-AM students at A&M	AF-AM students at A&M	AF-AM students at A&M	AF-AM students at A&M	AF-AM students at A&M

### Car accidents



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Ninety-three-year-old Donald Foster of Bryan was killed Monday morning when he drove southbound in the northbound lane of Earl Rudder Freeway and collided with a Plymouth Voyager. Foster at the scene and the driver of the Voyager, Catherine Lester of College Station, was taken to St. Joseph Regional Health Center where she remains in critical condition. A second collision occurred less than one hour later and 100 yards away when a pickup driven by Jane Wilcox of North Zulch rear-ended another pickup. Wilcox died at the scene and the other driver, who was unharmed, was given a ticket for making an unsafe lane change. It is suspected that a traffic build-up round the previous accident contributed.

## NOW holds mock wedding

BY BROOKE HODGES  
The Battalion

"Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today to celebrate love in its many forms. It is wonderful to see so many happy couples celebrating their love for each other, but there are other couples who are unable to fully express their affections because of society's fears of seeing love in a less-traditional form."

These were the words with which Rev. Jason Bennett began the mock weddings of gay and lesbian couples in front of Rudder Fountain Monday.

The Texas A&M University branch of the National Organization for Women sponsored the mock weddings where Jason Patton, a sophomore biomedical science major, and J.B. Langston, a junior computer science major, joined hands in pretend matrimony along with Natalie R. Wilson, a sophomore zoology major, and Amy Hinze, a junior political science major.

The ceremony was held in honor of National Freedom to Marry Day to create awareness that members of the gay and lesbian community are denied the legal right to marry said Bennett, a reverend of the Universal Light Church and a freshman engineering major.

Bennett said the ceremony, which attracted a large crowd of onlookers, had less interruptions than anticipated.

"Overall, [the ceremony] went about as expected, it got a few cat calls," Bennett said. "[But] the crowd seemed more accepting of the lesbian marriage instead of the gay ceremony."

Some bystanders had mixed emotions about the ceremony, like Jami Evans, a freshman exercise science major.

"If they are in a loving relationship, that's fine, as long as it's not impressed on me," Evans said. "I believe God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."

The ceremony was performed with a bridal party and a sermon that informed listeners of the problems same-sex marriages face.

Lesbian and gay couples are not able to live in marital bliss under the current state law, but the recent idea of domestic



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JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

tic partnership has been presented as a possible solution.

"Some people have proposed domestic partnership arrangements as an alternative to same-sex marriage," Bennett said. "Although this is a step in the right direction, domestic partnership plans do not offer the same comprehensive array of benefits, nor have the same legal or social significance as simple marriages."

"Over 100 rights that married couples receive are not available to non-married couples, such as hospital visitation," Patton said.

Bennett said the gay and lesbian

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## Senate opposes grade distribution

BRANDIE LIFFICK  
The Battalion

Texas A&M professors' grade distributions may no longer be available if the Faculty Senate has its way.

The Faculty Senate passed a resolution 30 to 17 to bring an end to the practice of compiling grade distributions.

The grade distributions include course and section numbers, professors' names and the average Grade Point Ratio (GPR) for each course. While grade distributions were initially made available so advisers could use them when advising students on course selections, the Faculty Senate argues that students often use them to compare the GPA of one professor's class to another.

"These lists are appearing to be misused by students in their considering for course registration," said Dr. Ken E. Harding, speaker for the academic affairs committee and chemistry professor.

Before making the recommendation to the Faculty Senate, the academic affairs committee met with the Student Senate to hear their proposed ideas for the grade distributions.

"Our proposal was for a comprehensive Website with professor information including a course syllabus for their classes, awards and achievements and, above all, the GPA of the classes," said Brent Spencer, senior microbiology major and academic affairs chairman of Student Senate. "Now that this resolution had been passed for the list to no longer be assembled, the student body will no longer have access to this resource."

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## Board works on better relations

BY RICHARD BRAY  
The Battalion

Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) and the Student Government Association (SGA) of Texas A&M may seem like strange bedfellows, but the two are working to change that reputation.

Rachel Howe, director of student services for Student Government is working with Sherryl Wine, a graduate student in education administration, to form an evaluating and advising board made up of employees from PTTS and students.

The new board was created to increase communication between the two groups.

"The students will have a greater understanding of what PTTS's role is on campus and how they relate to students," Howe said.

A sophomore student, who wishes to be known only as Nick Clark, said the primary reason he dislikes PTTS is because they seem to randomly enforce the laws.

"They enforce some rules but don't enforce others. PTTS should focus more on people parking in the street than people parking in the wrong spot," he said. "If you're going to ticket people, ticket everyone who deserves it."

Tom Williams, director of PTTS, said most people who have problems with PTTS are students who have been given a citation by a PTTS officer.

"I don't know that everyone considers us the bad guys," he said. "Those who choose to violate the system and cheat their classmates

out of a parking space and receive a citation don't think we're doing our job, but our job is to enforce [parking regulations]."

Howe said the job of PTTS is to govern the parking and traffic on campus.

"They are a necessary service on campus, and unfortunately, that necessary service is enforcing the rules and regulations," she said. "It's a necessary evil."

Williams said the primary reason students see PTTS in a negative light is because they do not realize that PTTS performs a variety of services around campus besides issuing citations.

"Most students view us as the parking enforcement group out to get into their pocket book — but that's really not the case," he said. "We manage the parking and transportation system, the busing system, traffic at special events, the University fleet of vehicles and the permit system."

Williams said increased communication would help to improve PTTS' image with the student body, but he is not willing to go out of his way to appease the student body.

"I'm not out to make any special efforts," he said. "I think

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PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

PTTS officer Donna Petri writes a ticket at Mosher Circle.

## Institute assists students abroad

BY BRANDIE LIFFICK  
The Battalion

Cory Ramsey will pack her bags for Turkey, Cassidy Yoder is headed for Denmark.

Neither is going on vacation, though. Through the MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness, seven Texas A&M students, including Ramsey and Yoder, will study abroad with considerable financial backing as Jordan Institute Fellows.

"Part of our mission is to not only send students abroad, but to have them come back and share with the rest of the student body what they did," said James Glueck, director of the Fellows program and sophomore agricultural development major.

The Jordan Institute is funded through an endowment set up by Jessie W. Jordan in honor of her husband, Leland Jordan.

"The Jordans did a lot of traveling with his work, especially in the Middle East," Glueck said. "They never had any children of their own, and when Leland died, Jessie endowed their money to the children of A&M. It was their way of giving back to the University."

Glueck said the interviewing process for the fellowships is very competitive. Each applicant is responsible for making a proposal to the Jordan Institute including extensive details about their trip, from a time range to daily expenses.

"The applicant's proposals are totally individualized," said Glueck. "They all come in with different ideas; some of their projects may take two weeks to complete, while others may take six months."

Ramsey, an anthropology graduate student, is one of the Fellows being sponsored by the Jordan Institute this semester. Ramsey's proposal will take

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