

SWE



Society of Women Engineers
General Meeting

When: Wed., February 23rd
Time: 6:45 p.m. - Free Papa John's 7:00 p.m. - General Meeting
Where: ENPH 202
Speaker: Emily Norman (i2 Technologies)

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7:30 PM

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For More Information Contact:
MSC BAC at 845-1515
Any questions contact: LaSondra Carroll
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...with disabilities... call 845-1515 to inform us of your... We request that you arrive (3) working days prior... to the event... to the best of our abilities.

NEWS

THE BATTALION

Wednesday, February 23, 2000

Corps plans Military Weekend

BY MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

Texas A&M will kick off the 17th annual Military Weekend today.

Kat Jones, chairperson of the Military Weekend Committee and a senior history major, said cadets from institutions nationwide come to learn about the A&M Corps of Cadets program.

"The basic goal of Military Weekend is for cadets from other universities and military academies to discuss things pertinent to other ROTC programs and to the future of the military because we are all about to enter the military," said Greg Martin, Military Weekend Vice Chairperson and a junior information and operations management major.

According to the Military Weekend Committee, Military Weekend consists of "roundtable discussions, centering on current issues relative to the military and its institutions, viewing daily cadet life, comparing different leadership practices and structures, as well as observing special unit and social activities."

The roundtables are open to the general student body, but organizers said there is usually not a big civilian turnout, even though professors attempt to notify people in their classes who they think

will be interested in attending.

"Everyone is welcome to come and participate in the roundtables. This year we're trying to increase civilian turnout," Martin said.

Major Lucy Fernandez, the A&M's Cadet Training Officer, said Military Weekend originated as a weekend during

clude: The Citadel, United States Military Academy, Virginia Women's Institute of Leadership, Prairie View A&M University and Texas A&M-Galveston. Cadets from Virginia Tech University will also be attending Military Weekend.

"Virginia Tech is the only other civilian school with a seven day a week Corps of Cadets program. Their program is almost identical to ours."

"The schools are great about participating [in Military Weekend]. They send next year's selected leaders so it's beneficial to the entire corps," said Jones. She added that everyone involved learns how military programs are run at institutions around the country, and this new knowledge can be applied at the conference attendees' institutions.

Jones said Military Weekend affects the entire Corps of Cadets because all outfits are asked to host the visiting cadets and all cadets are invited to the roundtable discussions. Jones also said that by involving all cadets at A&M, visitors are provided an opportunity to see every aspect of Corps life at Texas A&M.

"In the past, Military Weekend has been really successful, and we've gotten a lot of good insights from cadets," Martin said.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

The Corps of Cadets will host other cadets from military schools around the country for Military Weekend.

which the entire Corps underwent federal inspection and concluded with a formal military ball. In the '70s, federal inspection was no longer required and A&M invited other institutions to participate.

According to Fernandez, more institutions are invited to attend Military Weekend every year. This year, 40 cadets and 12 officers from 15 schools are expected to attend.

Some schools sending delegates in-

Former secretary of Air Force to speak about academics presidential center

BY DANA JAMUS
The Battalion

The only woman to hold the position of Secretary of U.S. Air Force will speak Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Presidential Conference Center.

Sheila Widnall, who has experience in academia and in government, will discuss the skills and attitudes that academics can contribute to heading a large military organization. She will also address the differences between academic and military institutions.

Widnall headed the Air Force from 1993 to 1997 and was responsible for the recruitment, organization, training, administration, maintenance and all other Air Force affairs. Widnall was also responsible for the Air Force's program and policy formulation, and coordination and with other military departments and agencies of the Department of Defense.

She resigned in 1997 to return to the position of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) aeronautics and astronautics professor and associate provost.

In November 1998, she was named Institute professor, the highest honor awarded by faculty and administration at MIT. Widnall, originally from Tacoma, Washington, received her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in aeronautics and astronautics from MIT.

She has also received recognition for her work on fluid mechanics and is the Vice-President of the National Academy of Engineering and President-Elect of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics. Widnall was also the first female president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Other distinguished lecturers on the agenda at the conference center this semester are Nobel Chemist Sherwood Roland, scheduled for April 6 and A&M history professor, Albert Broussard, on April 26.

Tickets to this event, the first of the three Distinguished Lecture Series this semester, are at the MSC Box Office on the ground floor of Rudder Tower between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are free of charge.

Settlement talks not impeding Microsoft trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — Settlement talks in the Microsoft Corp. antitrust lawsuit are going so poorly that the trial judge is moving ahead with plans for final court-room arguments before his verdict.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson did not see any need to delay the last round of arguments, set for Tuesday, to accommodate ongoing secret negotiations in Chicago between government lawyers and Microsoft officials.

Jackson previously told lawyers that if U.S. Circuit Judge Richard Posner, who agreed to serve as mediator, "seems to think that more time is needed, that certainly is something I would be willing to consider too."

But no such request for more time ever came, and there are not ongoing face-to-face talks. Posner, who recently demanded

renewed secrecy about the talks because of news leaks, has met separately with the sides in every meeting to date except once, during an introductory session.

Though sources indicate little progress, negotiations are aimed at averting an agonizingly slow appeals battle that could wind through the federal courts for years.

Jackson, who limited witnesses and otherwise engineered the trial to progress relatively quickly, has strongly urged the sides to settle. Microsoft, whose software runs most of the world's personal computers, is accused of using its influence in the technology industry to illegally undermine rivals.

These final courtroom arguments come on the heels of a dispute last week on whether Microsoft's billionaire chairman, Bill Gates, was inclined to offer a key concession to government lawyers to settle.

Bloomberg News reported that it asked Gates moments after a televised interview had ended whether he would be willing to disclose the secret blueprints for the company's flagship Windows software, which has earned Microsoft billions of dollars.

Bloomberg said Gates answered, "yes, if that's all it took." But Microsoft later forcefully insisted Gates never made the remark.

It was not the first time there has been confusion about Microsoft's willingness to disclose its so-called source code for Windows. Steve Ballmer, now the company's chief executive officer, hinted to a group of software professionals last May that Microsoft was studying the benefits of opening its blueprints, necessary for outside experts to make changes or improvements to Windows.

HOUSING

Continued from p. 1

assistant director for residential education in the Department of Residence Life. "There is evidence to show that people's ability to things affects their ability to be involved. You have the opportunity to become a part of a community, so you are developing your friendships."

Sarah Goldston, a junior political science and journalism major still living on-campus because of convenience.

Goldston said since she has been in the Bush School, her residence hall's easy access to the Fisher bus stop is enough incentive for her to live on-campus.

Yet, Goldston said she plans to move off-campus next year in part because of personal space and an environment that would allow her to live her lifestyle independently.

"I don't mind dorm life," Goldston said. "But, classes are hard and I need my own personal space as I try to balance time with school and activities."

Overcrowding and overcharges often discourage students from living on campus.

Charney Rydl, associate director in the Department of Residence Life, said because a number of students who are registered to live on-campus do not show up, it is hard to estimate how many students will move to residence halls.

Rydl said they make projections each year, but if they are off by just one percent either way, overcrowding or undercharges will result.

Foster said living on-campus often prepares students for the next level of living off-campus.

Goldston said she lived off-campus during the summer once before and found bill-paying to be frustrating. "I didn't really know my roommates that well and, although they were nice girls, it was awkward to talk about money and split up bills," Goldston said.

McReary said paying bills is a difficult issue many students face when moving off-campus.

Students who move from a residence hall are used to paying only one bill each semester, but when a student moves off campus, they have to pay numerous bills and deposits, such as rent, telephone and utilities. Students also have to consider furnishing their apartments.

She warned students to carefully read lease contracts before signing them.

"Most of the property owners are pretty good, but there are a few who are worried about the bottom line and getting their money," McReary said.

News in Brief

Wiley hosts foreign policy lecture

The Memorial Student Center Wiley Lecture Series will present a lecture on the changing foreign policy of China at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center.

The lecture, titled "A Different Shade of Red: Chinese Communism and U.S. Foreign Policy," will be hosted by a panel of foreign policy experts including Dr. Alfred Wilhelm Jr., director of the Asia and Pacific Program of the American Council of the United States, Dr. Stephen W. Lewis, director of the Transnational China Project at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy.

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