

Fee increase to support study abroad program

BY DANA JAMUS
The Battalion

Texas A&M's Vision 2020 mission statement declares the University's desire to diversify and globalize the Texas A&M community in order to allow its graduates to be adequately prepared not only academically, but also culturally.

According to A&M's Vision 2020 statement, "[The University should] have 100 percent access to international education for all students." A \$3 increase in the International Education Fee (IEF) has been approved by the Student Senate and now awaits the approval of the student body during the Spring 2000 student body elections.

This proposed fee increase would raise the IEF fee to \$4 per student to provide scholarships for A&M students to study abroad.

Robert Stovall, student senator and a junior biomedical science major, said the growing globalization of the economy presents "the need for a truly global education."

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student senator and a junior biomedical science major

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According to a nation-wide study on collegiate international exchange programs titled "Open Doors," A&M does not rank within the top 25 colleges who offer international exchange programs.

St. Olaf College came first with 94.3 percent of its students studying abroad while University of Texas-Austin came in 24th with 12 percent, said Leana Divine, vice president of academic affairs for the Student Government Association and a junior international studies and history major.

She said less than 2 percent of A&M students currently study abroad.

Divine said that if the bill is approved, it will go into effect Fall 2002.

The bill states that the \$1 IEF originally proposed by Student Senate in Fall 1991 and approved by the student body in Spring 1992 is no longer enough money because of inflation and an increased demand for these scholarships.

Stovall said that in 1998, the study abroad office reported that 17,400 students

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SGA offers online voting

Students can use internet for Spring 2000 elections

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

Doug Keegan's only real interests in life are computers and math, but for months he has worked endlessly to make online voting, a "virtual reality" for Texas A&M students.

Keegan, vice president for technology for the Student Government Association (SGA) and a senior applied mathematics major, was one of many SGA representatives who worked for almost a year to make online voting possible for the A&M campus. Ashlea Jenkins, student body election commissioner and a junior political science major, approved online voting for the Spring 2000 elections Monday.

This means beginning March 29 at 9 a.m., students will be able to cast their ballots 24 hours a day via the Internet by accessing <http://vote.tamu.edu>. The site will stop accepting votes at 5 p.m. on March 30, the same time that the on-campus polls will close.

Only those students connected through the A&M network will be able to access the Web page to register their vote, said Keegan.

"This means that students outside the firewall (the security program of the campus network), for instance those students who are connected through cable or DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) modems, will need to cast their vote either on campus or through the VPN (Virtual Private Network) service," Keegan said.

Jenkins said the on-line voting will also involve more students in the election process, making the students who are elected more representative of the student body.

"The goal of this election commission was to get more students to participate in the elections," she said. "According to the research I have done, online voting will do this."

"In implementing online voting, it is hoped that voter turnout in student elections will increase, because voting will be easier for the students and more efficient," Jenkins said.

"When we looked at how voter turnout increased in other schools after they implemented online voting, we saw that they had anywhere from a 30 to 40 percent increase."

Many measures were taken by Keegan and the election commission to guarantee the security of the site and the voting process.

"We have had experts from CIS (Computer Information Services) and other places test this system," Jenkins said. "And they will continue to test the system for the next month."

In order to verify the identity of the individual who is voting from the Website, students must receive a password via email before they can cast their votes.

"We wanted to make this process as secure as possible. One way that we did this is through e-mail verification," Keegan said. "The student will first register at the site through their CIS log-in ID — they will select either an Unix, ACS, Labs, or POP email account — the password will be emailed to the student instantaneously," he said.

"Within 30 minutes of registering, the student must return to the site and cast their vote. If the student does not return to the site within 30 minutes of registering, they must reregister and receive a new password."

For users on the TAMU Network
<http://vote.tamu.edu>

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

Say 'Ahhh!'



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Lechner Hall director, Ken Gassiot gets a dunking outside of the Memorial Student Center Monday afternoon. The dunking booth was set up as part of "Safe Spring Break" presented by the Alcohol and Drug Education Program to promote responsible behavior during the holiday.

Fall 2000 sees record application numbers

BY ANN LOISEL
The Battalion

It is getting tougher to become an Aggie these days.

A record number of people are applying to Texas A&M for admission in the Fall 2000 semester, but as those numbers go up, the number of students admitted in — at least since last year — is going down said Joseph Estrada, A&M's director of admissions.

"We've had a considerable increase in the number of submissions," he said. "[But] we're actually going to offer fewer admits than we did last year."

Estrada said the Office of Admissions and Records will send out approximately 10,000 acceptance letters in April and anticipate a freshman class size of 6,300 to 6,500 next fall.

"We're under an enrollment control plan to keep the total enrollment of the University at a manageable size," he said.

Laura Davis, a senior at Kingwood High School in Kingwood, Texas, applied to A&M this year and found out in January she was accepted.

"I never applied anywhere else, so I was really excited to get in," she said.

A&M applications for Fall
Total applications for Fall 2000:
18,421
Estimated Freshman class size:
6,300 to 6,500

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

Davis said many of her friends also wanted to go to A&M, but have not received letters of acceptance yet.

Estrada said approximately 2,000 more applications were submitted this year than the year before.

"I think [it's because] we have a well-coordinated recruitment effort," he said. "There's a great appeal to come to A&M and be an Aggie."

The total number of applications for the fall was 18,421, but the number of completed applications — without errors or missing information — was 16,451.

"That's a University record," Estrada said. "We've never reached that level of submissions."

More transfer students are also applying to A&M this year, but those numbers are not final until after the April application deadline.

Higgs family donates son's Aggie ring

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

Arend Gabro "Bo" Higgs, an agriculture systems major, died on June 28, 1999, in a water-skiing accident.

Before his death, Higgs had completed the credit hours needed to order his Aggie ring.

His family has now donated his Aggie ring to the Class of 2000 spot in the Association of Former Students' Memorial Ring Case.

Higgs' friends decided to order the ring and in his memory. They also paid for the ring out of their own pockets.

"Bo had it all planned out to order his ring," said Jeff Bailey, a friend of Higgs and a senior agriculture systems major. "He had turned in the paperwork needed to order it the week before [the accident]."

The Association of Former Students hosted a ceremony on October 30, 1999 to present Higgs' ring to his family.

The Association talked about how Higgs had completed all the necessary requirements and how he stood for everything the ring represented, Bailey said.

The ring was presented to Higgs' father, Lt. Col. Stephan Higgs, Class of



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

The Association of Former Students' Memorial Ring Case is housed in the Clayton Williams Alumni Center. Arend Higgs' ring was donated to represent the class of 2000.

'73. He and Higgs' brother, Stephan D. Higgs Jr., Class of '97, placed the ring in the memorial box.

"Lt. Higgs put the ring in the case and everyone got to walk by and see Bo's ring," Bailey said. "Bo was always on the ball, he always knew what he was doing. He was a great guy. He always had a good time and he was always there for his friends."

The rings that go into the memorial case are donated by family members after a student has passed away, but Higgs' ring was ordered after his death, said

GOP awaits 'Super Tuesday'

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — A feisty John McCain labeled Republican rival George W. Bush "so Clinton-esque it's scary," while a subdued Bill Bradley said he must "win a couple of states" as both underdogs looked to revive their presidential campaigns in a Super Tuesday showdown.

In the more competitive race of the two, both Bush and McCain were making a final push Monday in California, where 162 delegates to the GOP nominating convention were the biggest prize of the day. Bush had the inside track on those delegates, but McCain hoped for a symbolic victory in the nonbinding popular vote.

"There has not been a primary yet that has met expectations. It's just too volatile," McCain said at a rally in Santa Clara, claiming the momentum was his.

At a San Diego park, a confident-sounding Bush urged supporters to send a message "that this party and this philosophy needs a leader that can bring people together."

Bradley aides were quietly making plans for an exit if Vice President Al Gore does as well as polls suggest in Tuesday's voting for the Democratic nomination.

"I don't think there's any magic number, but I do think we have to win a couple of states," Bradley said Monday on CBS' "Early Show," holding out hope for Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Maryland or Missouri.

Both Gore and Bradley were devoting the day to New York. Gore courted New York's Jewish activists this morning, saying in a Gore administration, the United States would be "a good and helpful and loyal friend to Israel."

Bradley greeted commuters at the Staten Island Ferry terminal in Manhattan at 7:30 a.m. "Rest is for another day," he said.

McCain told reporters that Bush "handed us back the reform issue" thanks to a \$2.5 million series of attack ads he said are financed by Bush's forces.

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"My response is the independents and republicans are going to nominate me."



BUSH

INSIDE Sports

• A&M women start Big 12 tourney
First round begins Tuesday in Kansas City, Mo.
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Aggielife

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Insight on independent films found in new technology and old resources.
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Opinion

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Alternative publications lack journalistic professionalism and misinform their readers.
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Batt Radio

• Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details Houston march on equal funding.

Batt Online

• Check out The Battalion online at battalion.tamu.edu