



Lights, camera, CGI.
A&M's visual science program offers balance of art and science
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• Listen to KAMU 90.9FM at 1:57p.m. for details on the Grimes County sheriff nominee's arrest.

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



Weather:
Partly cloudy with a high of 93 and a low 70.

THE BATTALION

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

A&M efforts aid in Census 2000 completion

KIM TRIFILIO
The Battalion

The Census 2000 operation is nearing completion, and July 7, evaluations will begin on the results collected in the Brazos Area.

College Station Census 2000 manager Danny Stone said the Texas A&M University administration and staff were very helpful in the operation to account for all students living on campus. However, the operation was thwarted by lack of participation from students themselves.

"The University cooperated magnificently. The participation in dorms was about 30 percent, which wasn't very good,"

said Stone. "The work we had to do to get a 100-percent count was to fill out those forms with the information we had, which was only basic information like the name of the student."

Despite the lack of participation, the census was able to get a full count of A&M students living on campus, Stone said.

Jane Khoury, Rudder Hall resident last spring and a junior industrial engineering major, said turning in the census form was not an inconvenience and it was easy to do.

"I saw the commercials on television, and since I work in the residence life department, I knew how important it was to turn in the form," Khoury said. "There were signs posted in the dorm to help prompt students to turn in their form."

The census forms were handed out to all students living in dorms. Once students completed the forms, they were responsible for giving the forms to their residential advisers.

Nearly 87 percent of all households in Brazos County have been accounted for, said Stone.

"We are just a little below the national average, but right now we are completing those forms from people who did not respond, and we anticipate to finish that this week," Stone said. "We will also make one more attempt to verify those houses which are counted as vacant or destroyed."

The results for the College Station area will be concluded between the end of July and the middle of August. Cen-

sus 2000 workers will continue knocking on doors until July 7, according to Margaret Sutton, Census 2000 partnership specialist for seven counties.

"After July 7, there will be two independent evaluations. One is with the Census 2000 operation, and the other is the Accuracy Coverage Evaluation Team," Sutton said. "They will continue to go door to door to verify the information we have already collected."

A nationwide census is conducted once every 10 years. Results from census information are used to determine money amounts allocated to counties for support of schools, public roads and public welfare programs.

Aggies look to future Students plan to retire earlier than parents

JOSEPH PLEASANT
The Battalion

A recent online poll reported that 63 percent of surveyed college students believe they will be able to retire younger than their parents. "I am going to start off making what my parents make now," said Jennifer Watson, a senior accounting major.

Watson's opinion is shared by many college students as they start their career.

Renee Edmiston, a junior environmental design major, said it makes sense that college students retire earlier than their parents.

"Since more people are going to college, they will make more money and be able to retire earlier," Edmiston said.

Michael Larson, Class of '98, said college students are becoming conscious of money matters and how they affect them, and the knowledge of investing is more easily accessible than in past years.

Larson said young people are how exposed to investments and savings know how they work.

"My knowledge of investing has allowed me to start saving for retirement at an early age, whereas my parents did not," Larson said.

But not all students are pessimistic about their retirement.

"College students as a whole think that with their degree they

will be able to make a lot of money in which to retire on," said Kim Goerlitz, a senior geography major.

Carol Theriot, a junior biology major, said the amount of money needed to retire is more than many of people realize.

"Most college students do not realize how much money it takes

"Since more people are going to college, they will make more money and be able to retire earlier."

— Renee Edmiston
junior environmental design major

to retire and maintain their standard of living," Theriot said.

Cindy Knudson, investment representative for Edward Jones Investments and Class of '87, said when thinking about retirement, students should consider the type of lifestyle they want to maintain. Knudson said people should keep in mind that, with the rate of inflation increasing, things will cost more later when people retire than they do now.

Knudson also said if people want to travel, buy a home or just live comfortably, they should start saving now.

Knudson said at-work retirement benefits are also on the rise.

"Corporations are offering more incentives to attract employees," Knudson said. There are different ways to save for retirement, which include saving by deducting a set amount from each paycheck and buying bonds.

Knudson said, in order to get the most from an investment plan, people should gear their investments toward growth, as with stock or mutual funds.

"The best way to save for retirement is a 401K, which more companies are starting to offer," Knudson said.

A 401K plan allows employees to deposit a portion of their salary into the plan with the choice of investing in different mutual funds.

Knudson said the company usually matches what employees put in, and the money taken out is tax-deferred, meaning that taxes are not paid until the money is collected. Another benefit of the 401K is it diversifies the investor, Knudson said.

"The more diversified [investors] are, the less risk and the more return they get," Knudson said.

Feed me



Senior biomedical science major Heather Wynne offers a tasty treat to Little Bit, a three-year-old llama, at the Wildlife and Exotic Animals Center on campus Tuesday. Little Bit is one of many llamas at the center participating in a drug research study.

STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

A&M track to go to NCAA meet

MIKE MORAN
The Battalion

The 2000 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Wallace Wade Stadium in North Carolina will feature 11 members of the 17th-ranked Texas A&M men's team and 5 members of the Texas A&M women's team. From May 21 through Saturday, June 3, Coach Ted Nelson will lead these athletes against the best track and field athletes in the nation.

Nelson sees this meet as a chance to rebound from a third-place finish at the Big 12 Championships.

"I am very anxious to see how we perform on the national stage in Durham this week. This team has the capability to finish in the top 10," said Nelson.

Junior Bashir Ramzy, the most prolific point scorer in Big 12 history and the conference's Outstanding Male Performer, anchors the overall team's chances. Ramzy runs the first leg of the 400-meter relay and holds the seventh-best qualifying mark in both the triple jump and 110-meter hurdles. Ramzy's fastest time in the hurdles came at the Big 12 Championships, but he believes he can post a faster time.

"I didn't feel like the Big 12 was a good race," Ramzy said. "I got a slow start and was in back after the first three hurdles. I can run faster."

Ramzy's toughest competition in the

110-meter hurdles may come from his roommate, junior Kris Allen, whose qualifying time of 13.67 seconds equals Ramzy's at seventh-best. Allen finished eighth at last year's NCAA Championships to receive All-American honors and hopes to equal that effort this year.

"My main goal is to repeat as an All-American (in the 110 hurdles). I just want to do the best that I can and let everyone know that Texas A&M has some great hurdlers," said Allen.

Sophomore Brandon Evans posts the fourth-fastest time in the 200-meter dash and competes in the mile relay.

Seniors Johan Lannefors and Keith Bender (alternate) are the final two members of the 400-meter relay team, seeking to improve on their fourth-place finish at the indoor championships.

Two seniors coming off impressive showings at the Big 12 Championship are Travis McAshan and Travis Grasha. Grasha took second place at the meet in the hammer throw with a provisional-qualifying throw of 228-10. McAshan, recently named to the second-team Academic All-Big 12 for the fourth time, ran his

See TRACK on Page 3.



Junior Cristina Ohaeri is one of 16 Aggies competing in the NCAA Championships. Ohaeri will compete in the 100-meter hurdles.

Adoption records law to proceed

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor today rejected an emergency request to delay an adoption records law from going into effect, allowing adoptees age 21 and older access to their birth certificates beginning later today.

More than 2,200 adoptees already have paid \$15 and filed applications with the state Health Division to get their original birth certificates. Most are eager to know their parents' identities, and many want to know more about their medical histories.

The Health Division has said it will begin mailing birth documents as soon as Wednesday.

"I have a wonderful family, but there's still that piece that's missing," said adoptee Geena Stonum, 41, of Portland. "When you see people who maybe look like you, you wonder if they're maybe related to you." She's been searching for her birth parents on and off for 20 years.

But Frank Hunsaker, attorney for a group of six anonymous birth mothers who had fought the law in court over the past two years, was not pleased.

"My clients are extremely disappointed and scared and even angry that their rights have been ignored by Oregon's voters and Oregon's courts," Hunsaker told KXL-AM radio in Portland.

The law approved by voters in 1998 allows adopted Oregonians age 21 and older access to their original birth certificates, which can include the names of their biological mothers.

The six women claimed the law violates the privacy of people who give their children up for adoption.

The Oregon Court of Appeals in December rejected their constitutional challenges to the adoption records law, and the Oregon Supreme Court has twice refused to review that ruling.

Last Tuesday, the Oregon Court of Appeals refused to extend a stay blocking the law from taking effect, leaving the U.S. Supreme Court as the only option for opponents.

O'Connor, who fields emergency matters from Oregon for the nation's highest court, rejected their emergency request to stay the law.

Her action means it goes into effect at 5:01 p.m. Tuesday, the deadline set earlier by the state Supreme Court.

In 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a similar open adoption records law from Tennessee.

Tennessee and just three other states — Alaska, Delaware and Kansas — allow adult adoptees access to original birth certificates, which often have birth parents' names. An adoption records bill in Alabama is awaiting the governor's signature.

Unlike the other states, the Oregon adoption law was approved by voters, rather than by state legislators.

Thomas McDermott, lawyer for the law's backers and himself the adoptive father of a 16-year-old boy, was jubilant.

"What I've seen with my son is that he really yearns for a more complete picture of himself," he said. "It's a basic human right to know your heritage."

Stonum, among the first adoptees to apply, said she is trying to keep her expectations realistic.

"If they don't want a relationship, that's fine. I have a family. If a relationship or something more came out of it, that'd be great too. ..."

"I still might not find her," Stonum said of her birth mother. "There's still so many things here that could be dead ends, but I'm just really excited."