

### Standing guard



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Corps members from Company K2 spent Tuesday guarding the empty boots of their fallen classmate **Jayson Clubb** in front of the Sul Ross statue. **Clubb** was killed in a car accident while returning from Baylor after the football game on Oct. 14.

### News in Brief

#### Houston approves new basketball arena

HOUSTON (AP) — The proposed downtown sports arena was a slam dunk for Harris County residents, who voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to build it, using tax money a year after rejecting a similar referendum.

With 43 percent of precincts reporting, the arena issue was passing 64 percent to 36 percent, ensuring Houston would keep its pro basketball team and boosting efforts to draw major league hockey.

## Graduate studies helping Vision

By BRYAN BLANTON  
The Battalion

John R. Giardino was appointed Texas A&M's first dean of graduate studies, a position created in collaboration with Texas A&M's Vision 2020. The position was created to help expand and enhance the graduate studies programs at A&M and help A&M become a top 10 public university by 2020.

Giardino served as the executive director of A&M's Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) from 1998, until his appointment as dean Sept. 1.

Giardino, a geology, geophysics and geography professor, has taught at A&M since 1984. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Southern Colorado in 1969, his master's of science at Arizona State University in 1971 and his doctorate at the University of Nebraska in 1979. Giardino is a fellow of the Geological Society of America and a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Prior to 1987, A&M had a graduate college. However, the University decided to eliminate it because

graduate students were able to pursue their graduate studies through the different A&M colleges.

The trend around the United States at the time was creating more executive director positions. A shift occurred, and the whole process became decentralized. A&M became one of the few schools within the A&M System and the nation that did not have a dean of graduate studies.

"A graduate program is only as good as a university's reputation," Giardino said. "A&M is known for how well we conduct research, and with the new position, we hope to bring a strong emphasis to the graduate program."

A&M had 467 more graduate students this fall, bringing the total graduate enrollment to a record 7,328. Figures for newly enrolled minority graduate students showed significant increases for both Hispanics and African-Americans.

The OGS oversees the quality of the graduate studies program. It works closely with the different col-

leges throughout A&M. The OGS does a lot of paperwork that deals with the students. It coordinates with the state and makes sure students are taking the classes they need to complete their graduate studies at A&M. It also offers a thesis clerk who is available to help students with their dissertations.

"One of our main goals is to help recruit students into the graduate studies department," Giardino said.

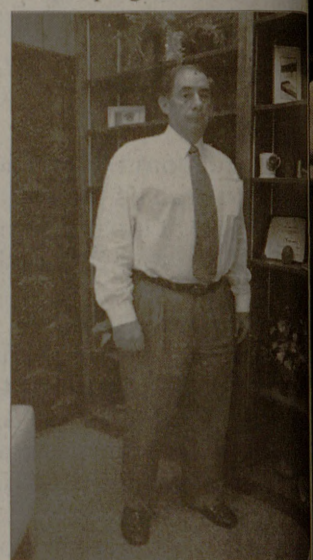
"Students come to A&M because of the reputation of our faculty and programs, so recruiting is relatively easy because our faculty is the main recruiters," he said.

Every year, the A&M graduate program becomes stronger, Giardino said.

"The message we are trying to send to the outside [world] is that A&M is serious about education," he said. "The resources here are unbelievable to graduate students."

Giardino said he is a strong believer that the Vision 2020 program will benefit the University. Giardino said he has settled into

the position of dean and is ready to take on the challenges the position may bring and vault the graduate studies program to a new level.



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Dr. John R. Giardino is the new dean of Graduate Studies.

## Professors named Fulbright Scholars

By RICHARD BRAY  
The Battalion

Eight Texas A&M professors, more than from any other university, were named Fulbright Scholars by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).

"It's a very prestigious program," said Rhonda Snider-Collins, director of the International Center at A&M. "It's open to U.S. faculty and some professional programs that the average businessperson could apply to, but the majority of the scholarships are for faculty members."

CIES, under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. State Department, administers the Fulbright Scholar Program for faculty and professionals. The Fulbright Scholar Program provides U.S. faculty and professionals with opportunities for lecturing, research and seminar participation in 130 countries around the world. The program provides the same opportunities for foreign scholars in the United States.

The Fulbright Scholar Program was established in 1946 and was developed to increase cultural un-

derstanding between nations. Since its inception, more than 144,000 Fulbright scholars have come to the United States, while 86,000 American Fulbright scholars have traveled abroad.

A&M faculty members selected this year are Charles Futrell, a marketing professor; Carol L. Patitu, an associate professor of educational administration; David Szymanski, an associate professor of marketing; Clyde Munster, an associate professor of agriculture; Gilbert Rowe, a professor of oceanography; Benigno Aguirre, a professor of sociology; Frederick Davies Jr., a professor of horticultural sciences; and Ann Kellett, a former director of the Office of International Coordination.

Snider-Collins said A&M has programs to encourage faculty to apply for Fulbright scholarships and other international programs.

"For many years, the International Programs Office has tried to encourage faculty to have international experiences, and one way of doing that is the Fulbright program," she said. "We have an annual workshop that informs faculty how to ap-

ply for this program and how to fill out the information."

Snider-Collins said the high number of A&M Fulbright Scholars shows that A&M has come a step closer to becoming a world-class institution.

"The fact that the number of A&M faculty who have received Fulbrights has been going up in the past decade is a sign that Texas A&M is becoming a much more international university," she said. "I think it is also a reflection that our faculty are interested in broadening their opportunities, providing a global perspective to their students, and themselves having an international experience."

Rowe, who lectured and conducted research in Chile this summer as a Fulbright Scholar, said his experience helped him understand the world outside the United States.

"The best thing about being a Fulbright Scholar is the opportunity to get an in-depth look at how other people really live, and in particular, how other universities operate," he said. "It makes us really appreciate our University and the support we are given for what we do."

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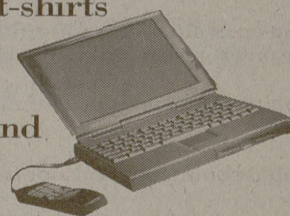


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