

VARSITY FORD
www.varsityflm.com

Check out our specials on Focus, Mustangs,
& our entire stock of Trucks
(all rate, rebate, and inventory information is updated weekly)
PRE-OWNED SPECIALS ARE CHANGED WEEKLY
College Grad and 1st Time Buyer Program for Internet Users
Questions? - e-mail us at ross@varsityflm.com



**Class of 2004 Class Council
Seeking Class Secretary!!!**

Applications available this week only!
Get them in the Student Programs Office on the Second
Floor of the MSC in the Fish Council Cubicle.
Application Deadline is Friday February 16, 2001
Turn applications in where you picked them up.

*Students, please join us to
celebrate the opening of our new
Academic & Career
Resource Center.*

Date:
Wednesday, February 21, 2001

Time:
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

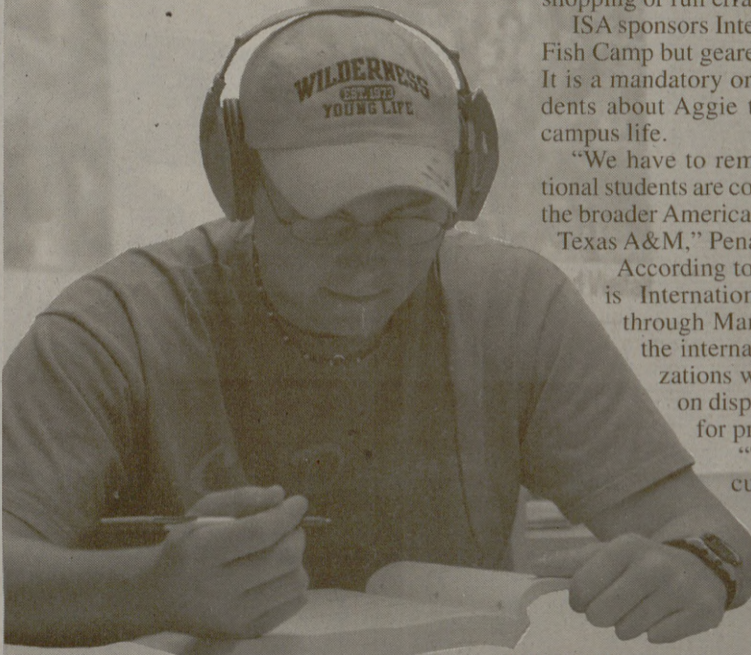
Location:
Student Counseling Service
Henderson Hall, Room 114

Diversity in Aggieland

International students use campus services, adjust to life at A&M

By BROOKE CORSO
The Battalion

The world is now a global village, with technology sophisticated enough to connect people from even the furthest reaches of the globe. With these advancements, there is growing demand for international and intercultural skills in today's workforce.



KRISTI HINES/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M is working toward meeting the demands of the global village by diversifying its student population and offering education and support services for both foreign and U.S. students.

There are 3,205 international students enrolled at Texas A&M this spring. Suzanne Droleskey, executive director of the International Program for Students, said the majority are from Far East countries such as India, Korea, China, Taiwan and Indonesia. A good number are also from Middle East countries, like Turkey, and Central America.

Droleskey said the International Program sends students to local schools during International Week.

"International students talk to five or six hundred schoolchildren and share experiences from their native countries," Droleskey said.

Currently, there are more than 40 organizations geared toward international students and international programs. There are clubs based on students' ethnicities, clubs for students who study abroad and foreign intern clubs.

The International Student Association (ISA) welcomes foreign and U.S. students and gives them the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences from their own cultural backgrounds. Monica Pena, ISA president and a senior industri-

al engineering major, said ISA is deeply committed to supporting A&M's international population.

"ISA provides a hostel in the summer when most students arrive from overseas, because many have not found an apartment or housing yet," Pena said. "We even have volunteers who drive vans for students needing to go grocery shopping or run errands."

ISA sponsors International Camp, similar to Fish Camp but geared toward foreign students. It is a mandatory orientation that teaches students about Aggie traditions and history and campus life.

"We have to remember that these international students are confronted with two cultures: the broader American culture and the culture of Texas A&M," Pena said.

According to Pena, ISA's biggest event is International Week, held Feb. 26 through March 2 this year. Nearly all the international and cultural organizations will have a booth or exhibit on display, and they each compete for prizes.

"These students take their cultural displays very seriously," Pena said. "They even ask for cultural items and decorations from the foreign consulates in Austin and Houston to improve the authenticity of their displays."

An International Buffet is held Wednesday and is the most popular event. Foreign movie festivals are held throughout February.

At the week's end, a talent show and dress parade is held, displaying students in their native finest. Students start preparing for the talent show as far back as November, and their performances demand more work and effort than any event held that week.

There are many on-campus programs for international students. There are also several off-campus resources for students and their families.

Currently, 95 percent of international students live in the University-owned apartments. Maria Clark, program coordinator for University Apartments, develops programs for the students, their spouses and children.

"With the majority of foreign students living here, and 300 to 350 children of these students on average, we need programs for the entire family," Clark said.

There are professional development seminars for students to work on resumes, English proficiency classes and fitness programs. University Apartments offer free baby-sitting, arts and crafts, and cooking classes specializing in American and international cuisines.

University Apartments had suffered from a lack of space to house these activities. An

1,800-square foot community center was built recently. It has a full kitchen, meeting room, programming offices, a study room with computers and laundry facilities. The center also has classes on American culture and conversational English.

"A&M students have been wonderful in contributing to the new center," Clark said. "The Aggie Life sponsored a garage sale in the dorm which netted over \$200 to be spent on toys for the children at the apartments."

As foreign students make an effort to learn the ways of the American world, American students are also exposing themselves to foreign cultures. A&M teaches classes in French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian and Japanese. Offers study abroad opportunities in these countries. Many A&M students have mastered one or more of these languages and strive to do the same.

Kristin Kruse, a senior political science and German major, has taken German classes since junior high and is a teacher's assistant for German classes at A&M.

"I want to inspire A&M students to want to learn another language and also expose them to other countries," Kruse said.

Kruse works at the English Language Institute in the Center for Language Learning and Research (CELLAR) of the Academic Building. The CELLAR contains magazines, newspapers and movies from countries all over the world for students to come in and look at.

"Most students who come in the CELLAR are first-year language students and international students eager to read or watch something from their home country," Kruse said.

The CELLAR also has conversational language sessions in which international students teach A&M students.

For students hoping to work internationally, the International Center at the Bush Library offers programs and services in intercultural enrichment for faculty, U.S. students and foreign students.

The Academy for Future International Leaders offers seminars, mentoring and internships to select students from each college. Kruse is working on a project this spring which students interview international students, concentrating on social, economic and political topics.

"Social questions involve family structure, religion and gender roles, whereas economic questions are on class structure and way of life," Kruse said.

Whether offering programs for international students to share their cultures with the University, providing foreign students and their families with support, establishing centers for language studies, or educating future leaders in international awareness, Texas A&M is successfully contributing to today's global village.

JAMAICA • ANTIGUA • ST. LUCIA • BAHAMAS
THE CARIBBEAN'S #1 ULTRA ALL-INCLUSIVE™ LUXURY RESORTS FOR COUPLES ONLY.



AGGIEWORLD ADVENTURES presents

Sandal's Night

Sat. Feb. 17th 5:30-6:30 pm

Holiday Inn Express, Maroon Room, on University Dr. E.

* Free Pizza & Drinks * Free Slide Show & Brochures

-Honeymoon Discounts up to \$150 - Available for Attendees.

-Sandals Area Rep will be present to answer questions.

For more information call 696-5000

Remember - No Service Fees, Ags!

Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra



HEAR THE VOICE OF RUSSIA

With roots as far back as 1776, Russia's Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra is a tradition that has truly stood the test of time. Combining the award-winning voice of Irina Rubtsova with a repertoire including Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky and others, the Bolshoi Symphony brings an incomparably powerful and distinctive sound to American audiences.

FEBRUARY 27, 2001 • 7:30 P.M. • RUDDER AUDITORIUM



CALL 845-1234
or toll-free 888-890-5667



2000-2001 Season Media Partners
KORA KAMU KBTX KTR 921 AGGIE LIFE

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Join us prior to the performance for a Patricia S. Peters Lagniappe Lecture in the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries at 6:30 PM. Sponsored by the OPAS Guild.

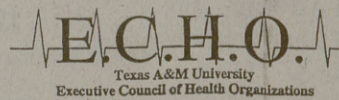
Health Professions Symposium

Free! Meet over 60 representatives from Medical, Dental, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Other Health Professions Programs from around the world!

MSC Flagroom

FEBRUARY 20
10:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

E.C.H.O. Members:
Alpha Epsilon Delta
Biomedical Science Assoc.
Microbiology Society
PreMedical Society
Multicultural Assoc. Of PreHealth Aggies
Beta Beta Beta
Genetics Society
PreDental Society
American Medical Student Assoc.



Bugs & Balloons

EVERY kid will love this madcap storytelling adventure presented by performers Allyn Gooen and Annie Hickman. Together, they bring a whimsical combination of playful storytelling and colorful costumes to delight audiences both young and old.

February 18, 2001
2:00 PM and 4:00 PM
at Rudder Theatre

845-1234
opas.tamu.edu



GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:
The OPAS Guild
Supporting the arts since 1973

