

# THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## News in Brief Campus

### ESPN looks for fans

ESPN is seeking cast members for its program "Sidelines," a three-week documentary series that will follow the 2001 Texas A&M football season through the eyes of fans.

A series of open casting calls will be held throughout this month.

Casting director Francis McIntyre says the series will premiere on October 5th.

McIntyre says the show will follow the development of its cast members as a series of smaller plots against the backdrop of the Aggie football season.

### Graduation dates, times announced

The Office of Admissions and Records has announced summer 2001 graduation dates.

**Friday, August 10, 7:30 p.m.**

- Colleges of:
  - Agriculture
  - Architecture
  - Business
  - George Bush School of Government and Public Service
  - Veterinary Medicine

**Saturday, August 11, 9 a.m.**

- Colleges of:
  - Engineering
  - Education
  - Geosciences
  - Liberal Arts
  - Medicine
  - Science

### State Mother arrested for injuring daughter

DALLAS (AP) — A 20-year-old mother was jailed Monday while her infant daughter remained hospitalized in Fort Worth with a fractured skull, as and legs.

Laura Ann Ramirez of Odessa was charged with injury to a child. Officials said she would be handed over to Odessa authorities later this week.

Odessa police said a warrant was issued Sunday after Ramirez acknowledged to Fort Worth police that she injured her 2-month-old daughter, Miranda. "She's being evasive and not real clear about how the injury occurred," said Odessa police Sgt. D.C. Orren.

The child's grandmother, who lives in Arlington, noticed at the girl was running a fever during a weekend visit by Ramirez, her husband and their two children.

The grandmother took the child to Arlington Memorial Hospital, where doctors said they found numerous fractured bones in various stages of healing.

The child was transferred to Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, where police said she was in intensive care in stable condition.

## CIMS director gears programs toward getting graduates jobs

Elizabeth Raines  
The Battalion

Dr. George Fowler became the director of the Texas A&M Center of Management Information Systems (CIMS) last January. Ever since, it has been his full-time job to ensure that A&M graduates stay busy.

He is in the process of developing two new programs, CIMS Scholars and a mock interview program, both designed to produce students who will be snatched up by businesses as soon as they graduate.

"As director, my goal has been to re-orient CMIS to project focus," Fowler said. "CMIS is an academic center. We concentrate on determining what kind of employees the industry wants and on forming partnerships with leading companies to help produce the kind of stu-

dents that fulfill those expectations." The CMIS is an organization within the Information and Operations Management Department that serves

**"We are one of the best MIS departments in the country, and the companies come to us because they want to meet our students."**

— Dr. George Fowler  
CIMS director

as a liaison between the students, faculty and MIS industry. It is made up of a student advisory board, a faculty ad-

visory board and a corporate advisory board.

"There has to be a partnership with the industry," Fowler said. "We are one of the best MIS departments in the country, and the companies come to us because they want to meet our students."

Fowler said the CIMS Scholars Program, which will begin in the fall, will be sponsored by five companies from the corporate advisory board and will give five chosen MIS students the opportunity for an internship and a \$2,000 scholarship.

The mock interview program, also scheduled to begin this fall, has companies from the corporate advisory board send representatives to A&M to stage simulated job interviews with MIS students. The representatives then will pro-

vide them with critiques and pointers for improved performances.

Along with these two new activities, Fowler said he will keep an existing program designed to have a company present students with a problem that MIS majors would likely come in contact with in a potential job. The students then have a week to come up with a presentation of their grasp on the problem and a proposed solution.

"It allows students who don't have the best grades to shine through," Fowler said. "It gives them an opportunity to be seen by corporate representatives."

Fowler said his life in academia has always been about his students.

"I am proud of our students," Fowler said. "And I like to think that CMIS contributes to making them good students for good companies to hire."

### Preparations



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Jeff Harper lays mortar at the new review stands being erected on O.R. Simpson Drill Field Monday afternoon.

## A&M faculty checking for book errors

Stuart Hutson  
The Battalion

If students in Colorado think it is hot in Texas, they may believe that because the earth's equator runs through Austin. This was one mistake found in a recent review of Colorado textbooks.

To ensure that similar mistakes do not appear in Texas textbooks, the Texas Education

**"We're excited to be involved in ensuring the quality of public textbooks."**

— Timothy Scott  
program director

Agency (TEA) has hired Texas A&M to check proposed science textbooks for accuracy.

"Because the science textbooks will be in the classroom for the next six to eight years, it is to our benefit that we solicit the help of Texas A&M faculty to assist us with this important initiative," said Eugene Rios, TEA's director of development for textbook administration. "We believe including University faculty along with public school

teachers will enhance our ability to more accurately document factual errors and ultimately improve our process."

The TEA will pay the University \$80,000 to review more than 60 books and other learning aids such as CD-ROMs for grades 6 through college.

The process began in June and is scheduled for completion by the end of August.

"We're excited to be involved in ensuring the quality of public textbooks," said Timothy Scott, the director of the program at A&M and an associate dean for the College of Science. "When we first took on the program, I was afraid that we wouldn't be able to get enough people to help out. Now, we are turning people away."

One of those who was eager to participate was physics professor Lewis Ford, who is reviewing several college-caliber physics books.

"This is extraordinarily important work because textbooks used in public schools have to be the highest quality," he said. "If they aren't, we are not just shortchanging the schools, we are shortchanging

See Books on Page 2.

## Burned University of Texas student will return to school for Fall 2002

AUSTIN (AP) — His small frame is wrapped in white bandages that cover second- and third-degree burns. He struggles to walk and talk, his words coming softly, with a heavy Malaysian accent.

Yet, two months after Zawardy Ab-Latiff nearly died in a fire at his University of Texas dorm, his message is large and loud: "I can be strong."

Ab-Latiff suffered burns over 45 percent of his body in the May 1 fire at University Towers, a high-rise luxury private residence hall near UT's Austin campus.

Surrounded by friends and family in his Austin apartment Monday, the sophomore recalled nightmares of the fire in his Brooke Army Medical Center hospital bed, where he once thought he would die.

Doctors agreed; they gave him only a 5 percent chance of survival.

Today, though, Ab-Latiff "has the potential to be as functional as he was prior to his injuries," wrote Dr. Marjorie

Beebe in a recent medical report. "Mr. Ab-Latiff has an excellent attitude and is very motivated and has been a delight to have as a patient."

**"I was surprised they blamed my roommate for that."**

— Zawardy Ab-Latiff  
UT sophomore

Ab-Latiff's roommate, Anoor Hajee, died in the blaze, which investigators say he intentionally started.

"I was surprised they blamed my roommate for that," said Ab-Latiff, who recalls only smoke and heat before passing out near his apartment door.

Both students' families have hired independent investigators.

"Right now, all we know is that there was a fire," said James Furman, Ab-Latiff's attorney. "There is no direct evidence that (Hajee) actually set the fire. If I were to have to go to court to try to prove it, I couldn't prove it based on that type of speculation."

Ab-Latiff said he is not angry and has no time for blame.

He is focusing on recovery. It will be six months before he can go outside or remove his bandages. Doctors have told him he will have to wear sun block the rest of his life.

Until then, he must complete hours of occupational and physical therapy every day to regain strength and motion in his limbs. His wounds must be cleaned, medicated and dressed twice daily. Future operations will be needed. "It's going to be hard," Ab-Latiff said.

Next week, Ab-Latiff plans to return home to Malaysia with his mother, Nik

Semah, who came from Trengganu to care for her son. He wants to spend time with his seven brothers and sisters and his father, who is sick with diabetes.

Ab-Latiff said he plans to return to UT in the fall of 2002 and finish his petroleum engineering degree.

"I won't give up," he said. "I hope I will get the normal life back."

Ab-Latiff said he has learned the value of friendship and family.

He's also taught a few lessons.

"Zawardy is very strong," said Azlan Ali, a friend and fellow student from Malaysia who has spent his summer break helping to care for Ab-Latiff. "We treat our friends like our brothers."

Ali is spearheading a fund-raising campaign to help Ab-Latiff pay for growing medical bills that so far total in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The costs have surpassed his insurance limit.

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