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## Dance with me

### Texas Aggie Dance Team learns to balance school, activiti

Lizette Resendez The Battalion

Lindsay Fagan, social officer for the Texas Aggie Dance Team and junior zoology major, entered A&M and its dance team as a

"Coming to college in general was a huge adjustment but being on the dance team enhanced my social life. All of a sudden I had 25 more friends," Fagan said

Fagan said the girls on the dance team are very close and have been emailing each other during the summer.

"We've become such good friends, and we're with each other all the time," Fagan said. "I miss all the girls that went home for

the summer." Kristy Coyle, co-captain and a senior engineering major, said the dance team not only dances together but parties together.

"It's like another sorority," Coyle said. "We have social mixers and date parties."

As social officer, Fagan has her hands full year round. Fagan is in charge of promoting the dance team to high school dance and drill teams and assisting the newly developed alumni association for former team members.

While the dance team has been around the last 13 years, they only acquired their director, Jennifer Hart, nine years ago.

Fagan said before the team had a director, they were not supported by many A&M organizations and were rarely given the opportunity to perform.

perform for every men and women's basketball game, some soccer games and volleyball games," Fagan said.

To keep up with the demand for their many performances, Coyle and co-captain Courtney Martin, create about 30 routines each season.

The dance team also performs for the community at pep rallies at Bryan High School and performed at a Dallas Mavericks game. This year, they hope to perform before the crowd at a Houston Rockets game. All dancers on the team must maintain good

grades during the school year to perform. "It (the dance team) helps you organize your time and set goals for yourself and achieve them," Laura Bland, social chair and

junior biomedical sciences major, said. "Academics come first and then dance team," Fagan said. "Since we're under the athletic department we must keep a certain

[grade point ratio] to dance.' If a dancer does not meet the required GPR of 2.0, they are still required to attend all practices and check in with their director.

Last March, the dance team placed first at the American Dance and Drill Team Association competition in Denton, Texas. The girls trained with choreographers two of three Sundays each month at the Powerhouse of Dallas to perfect their routine.

Fagan said their choreographers, Roger Lee, who is currently touring with Janet

"Since she's been here, we're now able to Jackson, and Kim McSwain, challeng girls with tough routines.

'They challenge us until we say, Wed do this anymore!," Fagan said.

The dance team practices two ho day, six days per week during the sp mester and while the team usually summers off this year, 11 of the 23 will be attending the four-day Uni Dance Association camp in San Ma compete for a spot at the National Conen casting tition in Orlando, Fla.

To prepare for the camp, the daining calls Sat meet twice each week to maintain their elines," a 13-v ibility and improve their technique. Tumenting the also keep their bodies in shape with 1 ootball seas weight-training program, 30 minutes of the eyes diovascular exercise or a four-mik ational casting around West Campus.

Fifty teams will be competing in San Mal cos this weekend. The dance team witton, go to Ac competing against dance teams from the com, and clic versity of Texas-Austin, Sam Houston & Sidelines line University, Texas Tech and Stephen F. Aust

Each team learns 10 routines and ise M librarie uated on the last day of the camp. Only mational ra teams from each division get an all-expe es paid trip to Florida.

Last year, the Texas Aggie Dance Te ong the Associa tied with UT's dance team for Best ( Ich Libraries wi giate Dance Team.

"We're getting better and better girka we're really pumped," said Fagan. think this year is the year to do it."



The Texas Aggie Dance Team is a group of 23 girls from A&M who compete in dance competitions. The team placed first The CSPD arrest at the American Dance and Drill Team Association competition in Denton last March.



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Weekend Masses Sat.: 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 p.m. (Spanish) Sun.: 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m. **Confessions**Wed. 8:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 4:00-5:15 p.m.

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#### United Methodist

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Church at 8:50 & 11:00 College Sunday School 9:45 Sr. Pastor Dr. Jerry Neff am-umc.org

#### BANDS

#### Continued from Page 3

The Fire Ants and class of 2000, said. "Normally, the music dictates how you write your story. The words are not the most important thing in writing a song; the words kind of come from the song, at least for me personally."

The Fire Ants have about twenty original songs, and are in the process of writing songs for their second CD.

The guys in Feeding Five Thousand take a different approach to creating music.

'Scott (lead singer Scott Taylor) has written all the songs," St. Clair said. "He plays through the song and we'll add our own parts. We're more help with the music part."

So for them, the writing process ends up being a group effort.

"We'll put as much emphasis on writing collectively," St. Clair said. "We'll kind of bounce ideas off of each other."

For Kruckenberg, songwriting is a spontaneous activity.

"If I don't get it written right away, I'll lose that feeling, that emotion," Kruckenberg said. "All songwriting is for me is an outlet for some extreme emotion. There's no rhyme or reason to the way I

Once the songs are written and the bugs have been worked out of them, the band can begin to record a CD.

"It's important to get your stuff recorded, so that you can go ahead and get your name out there,"

Ellis and Feeding Five Thousand recently won a battle of the bands contest in Austin and have three of their songs entered in an online contest that could help them win a record deal with MCA

They are competing against 40 bands nationwide, and won a similar contest in Austin after a club owner gave their CD to KLBJ radio station.

"We didn't even know we were in it till we had won," St. Clair said. "We have been pretty fortunate to have a lot of things that other bands might ck that wa not have had early on.

For 1101, recording has been helpful, but milon, they foun necessarily easy.

"The first time we [recorded]," Jatzlau saidned the chec "Shadow [Canyon] wanted us to get somethin mmate, Dawn ready for the radio to publicize. We sat up there is later arrested the recording studio) all night, from about 100 Police learne at night to 7:00 in the morning."

King said making a CD is an involved proces und obtain s After recording all of the individual instrume yitems from g and vocal parts in the studio, which may tak primarily lot

The first time we [recorded], i Shadow Canyon wanted us to ick cocaine. get something ready for the Bugge and Ell radio to publicize. We sat up unty Jail. there (in the recording studio) all night, from about 10:00 at night to 7:00 in the morning.

> - Lane latzla band member for 1101

weeks to do, King and his band take them to producer in Houston to be mixed into a polish arrangement.

With songs and a CD for would-be fans, the band can set up gigs and shows and make the

"The main thing is to get up the courage to ge

up in front of a crowd," Blair said. "Once you that, the next time is easier." Going on stage with a plan also makes the

show easier and more enjoyable for the band Jatzlau said.

"We'll do some original songs, some cove attalion Ne songs, and come back with the electric stuff 157 p.m. KA and end on a high note with lots of energy, Jatzlau said. "Let everyone smile when the leave, not so much thinking; thinking and smiling, preferably."

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