

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

# THE BATTALION

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Bus Ops offers shuttle service to on-campus Ags**

Students without vehicles who live in residence halls will no longer be stranded on campus during the weekends because of the Dinner and a Movie Shuttle Service provided by Bus Operations.

The service takes students who live on campus to area restaurants, theaters and shopping centers.

Buses leave the Military Sciences Building every 30 minutes from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. Services start at 10 a.m. on Saturday and last until 2 a.m. except on home football game days.

The shuttle makes stops at Kona Ranch Restaurant, Post Oak Mall, Hollywood Theater, Texas Roadhouse and Cheddar's. The shuttle also stops at Albertson's Food Store, and at Best Buy and Barnes & Noble.

**Inspectors bust three people for smuggling drugs**

EL PASO (AP) — Two men and a woman have been charged for trying to smuggle more than 10,000 tablets of Valium and Xanax they stuffed into pantyhose they were wearing.

The three walked into the United States at the Paso Del Norte port of entry in El Paso on Monday night when they were interviewed by a U.S. Customs inspector.

Officials estimated the pills were worth \$95,000.

**PUBLIC EYE**

**Annual budget for the Memorial Student Center**

**\$5.6 million**

**TODAY**

**AGGIELIFE**

**Page 3A**

**Texas country vs. old country**

• Texas-style country is quickly gaining popularity

**SPORTS**

**Page 1B**

**Team looking for redemption**

• Aggies set to take on Wyoming Cowboys

**OPINION**

**Page 7B**

**Hey God, remember me?**

• People have sacrificed spirituality for society

**WEATHER**

**TODAY**

30% HIGH 93° F  
LOW 72° F

**TOMORROW**

20% HIGH 94° F  
LOW 74° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

## Lepper Award honors professor

By MELISSA SULLIVAN  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M political science instructor Nikki VanHightower was awarded the 2001 Mary Lepper Award from the Women's Caucus for Political Science at the annual American Political Science Association (APSA) Convention in San Francisco last week.

The Lepper Award honors those who have blended academic teaching and research with government service. It also recognizes the important contributions of women whose careers combine work with government commitment.

Along with the award, recipients receive a monetary prize of \$500.

"I received the award for my academic work combined with grassroots organizing on behalf of survivors of domestic violence," VanHightower said.

VanHightower earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Houston and has a doctorate in political science from New York University. She joined the A&M staff in 1992, serving as political science instructor and visiting assistant professor with the A&M school of Rural Public Health.

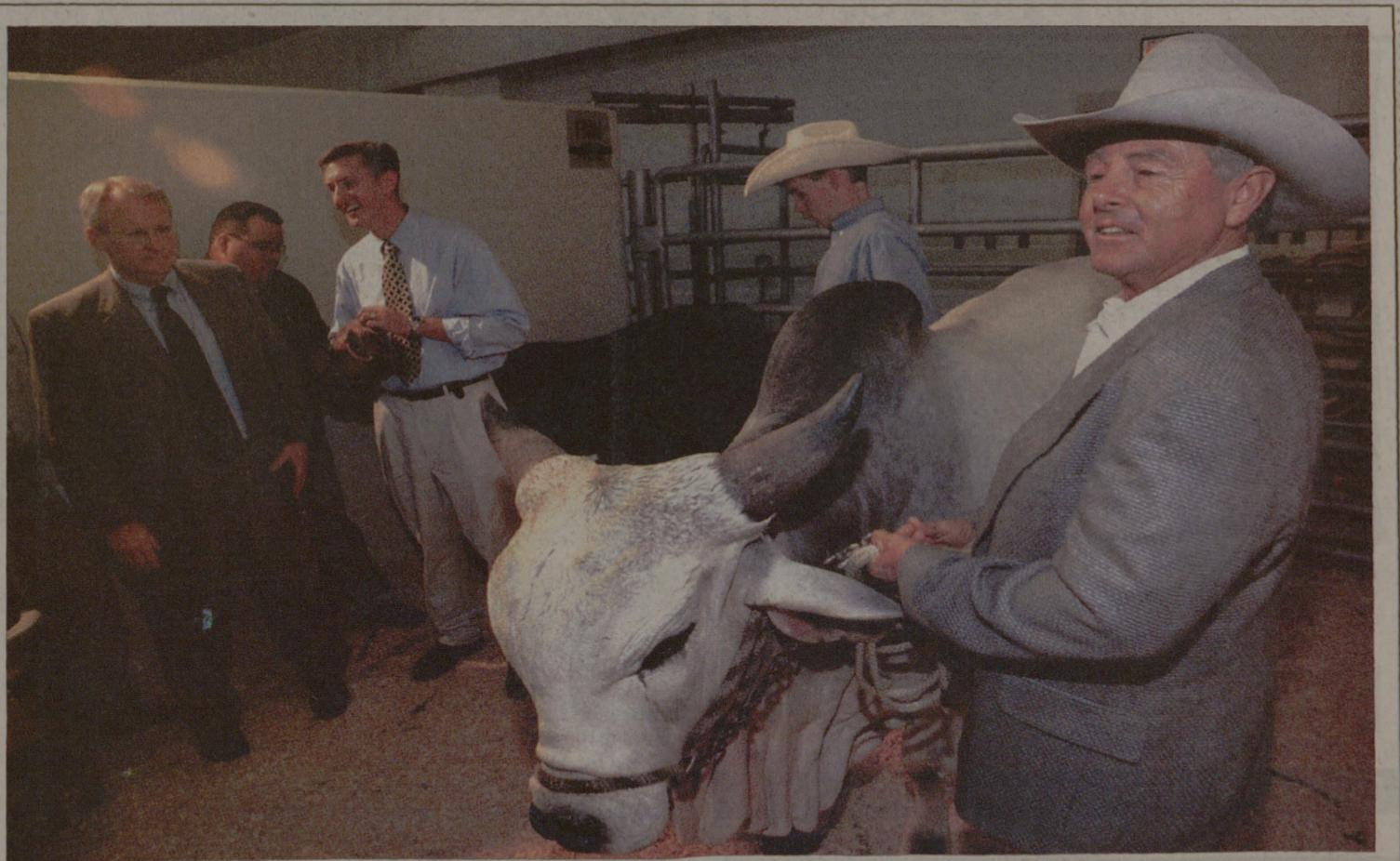
From 1976 to 1978, VanHightower served as the women's advocate for the city of Houston, as well as founding the Houston Area Women's Center, where she served as president and executive director.

The Women's Center was the first organization in Houston to provide shelter and other services for women and children who were victims of family and sexual violence.

"I wrote my dissertation on the role of women in politics, and my research made me keenly aware of the discrimination that women faced in their lives, which affected their ability to participate in political life," VanHightower said. "I accepted a position in the Houston mayor's office in 1975, and I have been an advocate for women's rights ever since."

In 1983 VanHightower ran for an at-large seat on the Houston City Council. In 1986 she was elected Harris County treasurer and upon completion of her term she ran for Texas state treasurer, but was defeated.

See AWARD on page 2A.



## CLONED CLONED

A&M becomes first institution to clone three species successfully

By COURTNEY STELZEL  
THE BATTALION

Researchers at Texas A&M announced the successful cloning of swine Wednesday, making A&M the first institution in the world to have cloned three different species.

Nine cloned piglets were born Aug. 12 at the Center for Animal Biotechnology and Genomics (CABG) at the College of Veterinary Medicine. They are the first of five expected litters of transgenetically-cloned piglets.

Five sows were impregnated by Dr. Jorge Piedrahita, associate professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Assistant Research Scientist Dr. Juan Romano and a team of researchers. The four other sows are expected to deliver soon.

"The cloning of today may have extensive applications to the biomedical discoveries of tomorrow in areas that we simply cannot forecast yet," said

Dean H. Richard Adams of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "A&M continues to lead in this area of biotechnology."

A&M researchers had previously cloned three animals representing two species: a Brahman calf born in 1999, an Angus calf born in Nov. 2000 and a boer goat born March 29, 2001.

The Brahman calf, named Second Chance, was cloned from a 21-year-old adult steer under the biomedical expertise of Dr. Mark Westhusin, an associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology at Texas A&M.

"In my mind [the cloning program] highlights the enormous strength we have as a university," Westhusin said.

Westhusin and his team of researchers also cloned the Angus calf, Bull 86, a genetic donor naturally disease-resistant to brucellosis and several other diseases. The intent was to genetically engineer a disease-resistant calf, Westhusin



CODY WAGES • THE BATTALION

Top: Ralph Fisher displays Second Chance at the Large Animal Clinic at the College of Veterinary Medicine Wednesday. Above: Matthew and Nicholas Hernandez, pet cloned pigs at a press conference Tuesday where the pigs and Second Chance made a public appearance.

said. So far, Bull 86 Squared has remained free of disease.

The goat used for cloning is an 8-year-old show goat owned by Donna and Ewing Downen of Early, Texas.

Funding for A&M's swine cloning came from the National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NIH) and the Advanced Technology Program of Texas.

"Our research in cloning swine will help increase

cloning efficiency and support the development of genetically modified cloned swine for use in medicine and agriculture," Piedrahita said.

James Womack, director of the CABG, said each step in the cloning process is a necessary step toward future knowledge.

"The announcement today represents an important milestone in the brief history of the CABG at Texas A&M University," Womack said.

## Rowan continues to serve as president

By ROLANDO GARCIA  
THE BATTALION

Josh Rowan will continue serving as Memorial Student Center (MSC) president pending his appeal of the MSC Council's vote Monday to remove him from office.

Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland will make the final decision, but he has instructed Dean of Student Life Dr. Dave Parrott to review the matter and make a recommendation.

"He's the hearing officer, and he'll review all the important information and hopefully I can just say yes to his recommendation," Southerland said.

There is no deadline, but Southerland said he asked Parrott to work in an "expeditious manner."

Rowan was removed following an investigation by University officials into allegations of misconduct by Rowan while on a University-sponsored trip to Italy during the summer.

Immediately following the council's vote, Rowan said he would begin to transfer some of his day-to-day duties to Jennifer Brashares, MSC executive vice president for programs and a senior sociology major. If he is removed, Rowan said Brashares would assume some of the duties of MSC president until a replacement is chosen.

Rowan could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

## A&M, Asian universities foster new relationship

By ERIC AMBROSIO  
THE BATTALION

A class on the Vietnam War, taught in Vietnam, is one of the possibilities that may be available to students as Texas A&M builds research relationships with schools in Southeast Asia.

A faculty delegation from the Institute of Pacific Asia (IPA) at A&M spent three weeks this summer visiting 10 universities in Thailand and Vietnam.

"The mission of IPA is to find opportunities for faculty and students to develop research and academic relationships," said Richard Nader, head of the IPA delegation. "The office uncovers rocks to dig up interesting opportunities overseas."

The exchange of information and faculty will give A&M a better understanding of Asian culture and ideas, Nader said, which will become increasingly important as the American population becomes more diverse and a global economy emerges.

IPA introduces professors at A&M with colleagues in Pacific Asia who have similar research interests and are willing to cooperate with them.

The relationships can then evolve into an exchange of faculty to work together for a certain period of time. Benefits also include strengthened teaching, opportunities to create new academic programs, collaborative research advancements and outreach to local communities, Nader said.

"The trip to Thailand was also part of The Association of Former Students' outreach program to reach out to former students living in Thailand," Nader said. "While in Thailand, we were able to address the former students at a presentation given to the Thailand A&M club."

While in Pacific Asia, IPA representatives identified faculty members who might be interested in participating in an exchange. At the Hanoi University of Technology, a number of professors expressed interest in working with A&M's information technology and environmental engineering research, Nader said.

Many professors at A&M are interested in participating in the exchanges. Dr. Terry Anderson, a history professor, would like to team teach a course on the Vietnam War with a historian from Vietnam.

See PROFESSORS on page 2A.