

## A&M solicits candidates for presidency vacancy

By SOMMER BUNCE  
THE BATTALION

The 24-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee has begun a search that will not end until a new president takes current University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's place in June of 2002.

Despite rumors that Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, is considering the post, he would have to go through the application and selection process alongside other presidential candidates, Gramm, who announced last week that he will not run for re-election next year, taught economics at Texas A&M for 12 years in the 1960s and 1970s. His wife, Wendy Lee

Gramm, is an A&M System regent.

"We have to separate rumors from reality," said Search Committee Chair John L. Junkins. "It's a national search. There really is a religious aspect to this search, a ritual, with a formal process."

No candidates have been identified yet, and no names will be made public until the finalists are selected this spring from the expected applicant pool of 100, Junkins said. The closing date for nominations and applications is November 30.

A&M System Chancellor Howard D. Graves defined the characteristics needed for a president who would continue the plans of Vision 2020 to put A&M among the nation's top 10 public universities.

"We're looking for an eminently qualified individual who will be effective in promoting Texas A&M's interests, leading the academic community, working with the state legislature, interacting with the national research committee, drawing outstanding students representative of the state's population and maintaining the Texas A&M University traditions," Graves said. "The new president also will be charged with continuing Texas A&M's quest to become a top-10 university."

The application process is open to anyone who feels qualified, Junkins said. Although he thought it would be "hard to

conceive" of hiring a University president who did not have a doctorate degree, Junkins said there are no race, gender or ethnic exclusions.

"We're looking for a person with outstanding integrity and strong academics," Junkins said. "President Bowen has been an exceptionally good president."

Bowen announced his resignation June 6, saying he thought it would "create a wave of renewal on campus."

He will officially step down June 30, 2002, having served an eight-year term, the fourth-longest in A&M history.

Bowen graduated from A&M in 1958 and earned a doctorate from A&M in 1961.

### INVITATIONAL

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go to the National Tournament this year."

Such lofty goals should not be out of reach for this year's team. The Aggies are returning five players from their 2000-2001 squad, and boast a highly regarded incoming group of freshmen.

Seniors McKenzie Dyslin and Jonsson will be back to lead this year's team after finishing second and fourth, respectively, in scoring last year. Also returning are seniors Jennifer Poth and Jennifer Cates, as well as sophomore Mira Bendevis. According to Sutherland,

any of these players is capable of stepping up and filling the shoes of the departed Epps and Ostos.

"All of them have played well this summer," Sutherland says. "All of them could step into that role. We'll have to wait and see who's going to bring consistency, and see whose score is always going to count."

That is where Jonsson comes in. Along with Dyslin, Poth and Cates, she will be expected to provide leadership for what is a fairly young squad. It is a role that she relishes.

"We have five freshmen on the team, so another goal is to be a good leader for them and help them gain some experience this year," Jonsson says. "You can really learn a lot in four years."

The Aggies start their 2001-2002 campaign in Albuquerque, N.M. at the Comcast-Dick McGuire Invitational Friday and Saturday. They hope to improve last year's eighth place finish on a course that Jonsson says is "awesome." But the goals of Jonsson and the entire Aggie team are a bit higher than that.

"Nationals are something that we're really focusing on. The four seniors here — we haven't made it to a national tournament," Jonsson says. "We're all good players, and from what I hear, it's something very special."

If Jonsson's back can hold up under the load, both literally and figuratively, the Aggies have a good chance to figure out just how special it really is.

### GAME

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C. C. Creations will work overtime this weekend to produce an initial batch of red, white and blue t-shirts that will go on sale Monday, Bethea said. Depending on the demand, more will be ordered.

C. C. Creations is charging the student group \$2.50 for each shirt, but has not demanded any money up front, Bethea said. The t-shirts will sell to students for \$5.

Kourtney Rogers, an organizer of the project and a junior recreation parks and tourism major, said she did not expect her suggestion on an Internet discussion board to snowball into such a vast undertaking.

"In that initial email I just said, 'Hey, this would be a great way to make a statement.' I didn't expect it to be such a coordinated effort, but the response was tremendous," Rogers said.

Organizers met Thursday with student leaders and administrators and all were supportive of the effort, Bethea said.

"I've gotten that email at least eight times, so that's a good indication that there's a lot of students who support this," said Schuyler Houser, student body president and a senior industrial engineering major. "In

light of what's happened, this would be a very meaningful public gesture," Houser said.

Kevin Graham, a senior yell leader and marketing major expressed support for the red, white and blue scheme.

"They haven't got much time to get the word out, but it definitely sounds like a great idea," Graham said.

*"In that initial email, I just said, 'Hey, this would be a great way to make a statement.' I didn't expect it to be such a coordinated effort, but the response was tremendous."*

— Kourtney Rogers project organizer

Organizers will hold an informational meeting Sunday evening for those interested in helping. Bethea said there soon will be another posting on TexAgs.com and a mass emailing with the exact time and location of the meeting.

### PEACE

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senior political science and history major, and Taylor Bacot, MSC Current Issues Awareness chair and a junior economics major, began the walk by locking arms and walking away from the Academic Building toward Sbis Dining Hall. Participants turned down Houston street, walked past A.P. Beutel Health Center toward the MSC and around Rudder Tower back to the Academic Plaza.

Charles A. Sippial, Sr., vice president for administration, said he felt it was important for students not to forget about the

victims of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

"This whole background terrorist activity is horrible, that [the terrorists] take on innocent people and take their lives and they had nothing to do with anything that's been done before. So I am out here in support of the people who have been killed and injured, and the people we have here at A&M who are Aggies, who in some cases have been harassed; I am out here in support of them, so people know we are united," Sippial said.

Mark Weichold, associate provost for the undergraduates program, said the diverse group of students and faculty that attended the event was symbolic

of the commitment the students have for each other.

A moment of silence was observed before the crowd dispersed.

"The walk today included students, faculty, staff, administrators, it included men and women, members of the Corps of Cadets, American students, international students, Christians, Jews, followers of the Hindu faith, followers of Islam and other faiths. Today's walk shows a unity among the student body, a demonstration of [the student body's] caring and compassion and its commitment toward each other as Aggies," Weichold said.

## Suspects indicted for drugs

HOUSTON (AP) — A four-count federal indictment has been returned against eight men accused of distributing a deadly drug mixture of cocaine and heroin that led to the deaths of 16 people in Houston last month.

U.S. Attorney Gregory A. Serres on Thursday announced the indictments, which allege that the distribution of the drug mixture resulted in death or serious bodily injury.

Those indicted were: Benito Almaguer, 41;

Jose "Kilo" Colunga, 19; Andy Gonzalez, 25; Baldomero "Baldo" Guajardo, 24; Roman "Horse" Juarez, 23; Charles Martinez, 22; Lucas Martinez, 23; and Louis Michael Melchor, 18. If convicted, they each face between 20 years to life in prison and up to a \$1 million fine.

All eight are detained without bond. Authorities say Charles Martinez told them the deadly mixture originated at his house.

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### THE BATTALION Classified Ads

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