

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

SERVING THE TEXAS A & M COMMUNITY SINCE 1893

Volume 108 • Issue 32

College Station, Texas

www.thebatt.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

Faculty Senate approves new degree programs

The Faculty Senate recommended approval of two new degree programs in the College of Geosciences Monday.

The Senate's vote recommends the degrees, a bachelor's in environmental studies and a bachelor's in environmental geoscience, for consideration by the administration.

The Faculty Senate meeting opened with a presentation by Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Edward A. Hiler, and Dean of the College of Geosciences David B. Prior. Hiler and Prior were proposing an environmental studies program that would bundle the environmental aspects of many different colleges.

The umbrella program, "Big Tent," would "deliberately combine geosciences, geophysics, oceanography, etc., with fields in liberal arts and the business college such as management and political science," Hiler said.

Hiler described the program as "a win-win situation for the University."

The Senate also approved a Dwight Look College of Engineering certification program that would give students certification in systems safety engineering. This certification will appear on the transcripts of students who complete an additional 15 hours of safety training.

PUBLIC EYE

Cans collected by Aggies Can at the Baylor game Saturday

17,572

TODAY AGGIELIFE

Page 3

Healing power

Many students, professors have discovered the importance of certain foods, chemicals

SPORTS

Page 7

Aggies face rough road ahead

A&M football record impressive, but road may have been easy

OPINION

Page 9

Difficult tracking

Student database may be necessary to combat terrorism

WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 86° F
LOW 54° F

TOMORROW

HIGH 84° F
LOW 67° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermated.com

Spring 2002 registration available on the Internet

By TANYA NADING
THE BATTALION

This November, students have a new venue for registering for Spring 2002 classes: the Web.

Timothy Chester, senior systems analyst for Computing and Information Services (CIS), said students will be allowed to sign up for classes on the Web and via telephone.

"This is a considerable challenge," Chester said. "A good deal of the students are Web-savvy. About 50 percent will have no problems registering, the other half will have to pay close attention to the instructions provided."

In the past, phone registration has been done in phases according to classification and by last name, which were alphabetically blocked. This year, students will still register according to their classification, but they will not be sectioned based on last names.

Start dates and times will be randomly assigned to the students within each classification, Chester said. Once the start date and time begins, there will be 48 hours open for the students to register. This excludes weekends and holidays.

"Two hundred and fifty to 350 students will be allowed access to the registration system every 30 minutes," said registrar Don Carter.

Emilie Stallings, a senior mechanical engineering major, said he worries about the new system.

"I'm a little nervous about [Web registration] simply because it's new to me," Stallings said. "But I'm glad there will be Web registration this year, if for no other reason than I won't have to listen to a busy signal for two or three straight hours."

Carter said the software has been stress-tested by CIS, with several students adding and dropping classes.

"We did performance tests with a number of students," Chester said. "We wouldn't turn it out if we didn't trust it. With a small amount of students registering at one time, the chances of possible problems will be minimal."

Email notifications for preregistration will be sent to Neo email accounts and posted on the Bonfire information system on Oct. 29.

"We want to make sure students have all the possible information they will need for registration," Carter said.

Chester said students are encouraged to visit <http://register.tamu.edu> to make sure the Web-registration system will run properly with their computer.

"There are lots of help resources available," Chester said. "There will be a help file system and a tutorial that will show students how to use the system. All student workers will be up to speed on how the system works and will be able to answer any



CODY WAGES • THE BATTALION

A National Guardsman oversees a passenger screening Monday afternoon at Easterwood Airport in College Station. National Guardsmen will be on duty at all times, in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration,

for departing flights in response to the Sept. 11 events in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. According to Director of Aviation John Happ, the troops' duties will be restricted to the screening process.

Tests show anthrax in second Florida man

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — The FBI on Monday took over the investigation into the anthrax death of a Florida man after the germ was found in the nose of a co-worker and on a computer keyboard in their office. Hundreds of people who worked near the men lined up to get medical tests.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said the case could become "a clear criminal investigation."

"We don't have enough information to know whether this could be related to terrorism or not," Ashcroft said during a news conference in Washington.

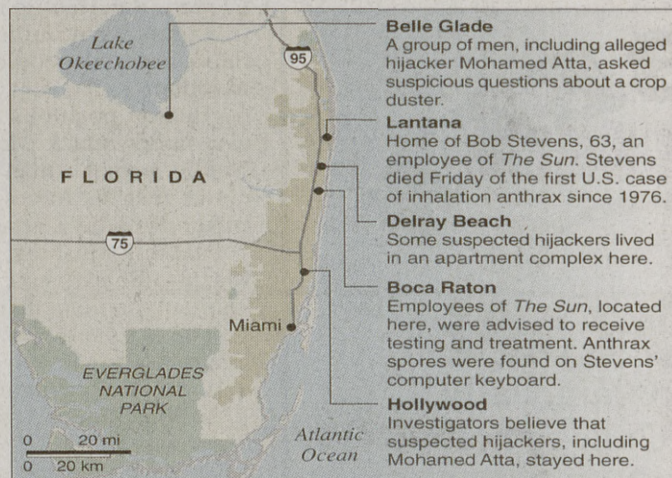
The FBI sealed off the Boca Raton building housing several supermarket tabloids, including *The Sun*, where both men worked. Agents donned protective gear before going inside.

How the bacterial spores got into the newspaper's office remained under investigation. Federal investigators handling the cases have eliminated the obvious

See ANTHRAX on page 2.

Fears of bioterrorism in Florida

Anthrax spores were found in the nasal passages of a co-worker of the man who died of a rare form of the disease Friday. The FBI took over the case, sealing off the building housing the supermarket tabloid *The Sun*, where the men worked. Other investigations related to the Sept. 11 have focused on some nearby locations.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESPI; GDT

AP

See ATTACKS on page 2.

Economy may hinder fundraising

By ROLANDO GARCIA
THE BATTALION

A slowing economy may force Texas A&M to revise the unofficial \$1 billion fundraising target of the "One Spirit, One Vision" capital campaign, said A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen.

"When we were planning this about a year ago, the economy was booming, but with the economy softening now, if you try to do public events, you won't be successful," Bowen said. "You want to set a fundraising target that you can exceed."

The theme and executive committee of the campaign was unveiled Oct. 4 at the 125th anniversary gala, but the campaign is still in its "quiet" phase, Bowen said, with the University soliciting from a handful of major donors. In about two years, once several large gifts have been collected, the University will kickoff the public phase of the campaign, announcing an official fundraising goal and targeting a wider audience of smaller donors.

Rose Ann McFadden, spokesperson for the Texas A&M Foundation who is coordinating the campaign, said that during this

phase of the effort, the organization is tailoring funding proposals for particular donors.

"From their past giving, we usually have an idea of the type of programs an individual might be interested in supporting, such as scholarships or faculty chairs in a particular department," McFadden said. "We'll draft a proposal, and Dr. Bowen will visit with that person and begin a discussion about donating."

The foundation has liaisons attached to each college who are familiar with their funding needs and long-term plans.

See CAMPAIGN on page 2.

A&M sophomore dies in two-car collision Friday

By CHRISTINA HOFFMAN
THE BATTALION

Matthew David Howton, a sophomore agriculture and life sciences major, died Oct. 5 in a car accident on his way to Winnsboro from College Station.

Howton was travelling north in his Ford Explorer on Highway 14, just south of Hawkins, during a heavy rainstorm. He hydroplaned, hit an elderly couple in another car and rolled into a ditch. Both cars caught fire.

He and the couple in the other car were both killed

in the accident. Police said Howton was not speeding, but hit a deep patch of water that caused him to lose control of the vehicle.

"There is a new bridge that was just built, and when he came off the bridge, he hit a large accumulation of water, hydroplaned, swerved to the right, over-corrected and swerved left into oncoming traffic," said his father, Dr. David Howton.

Howton's Explorer broadsided the other vehicle before going into an embankment and catching fire.

"Everything was lost in the fire," Howton's father said. "All we have left from the accident are a few

things that flew out, including his Bible, school books, a pair of pants and some blank checks."

Matt Howton was heading home for the weekend to see family and friends at his high school's homecoming. He also wanted to visit a friend who was in the Autumn Trails Queen Pageant, an event held in October in Winnsboro, David Howton said.

Friends and family remember Howton as someone who was always willing to help others and loved the outdoors.

See HOWTON on page 2.