

Multicultural conference held

By Christina Hoffman
THE BATTALION

More than 100 college students from across the country gathered at the College Station Conference Center this weekend for the first Multicultural Greek Conference.

"The purpose of the conference is to educate minority-based organizations on leadership and effective programming with the goal of fulfilling the needs of an increasingly diverse society. In addition, this conference will discuss existing or create new leadership programming for ethnic minority Greek organizations," said Vanessa Davalos, president of the multicultural council and a senior speech communications major.

The Texas A&M Multicultural Greek Council, created in the fall of 1999, organized the conference by embracing the theme, "Empowering Diverse Leaders and Building

Better Communities," Davalos said.

Shailendra Shulka, a senior computer science major and a Chi Psi Beta fraternity member, said the atmosphere and the feedback from the weekend was overwhelmingly positive.

"The conference let everyone know that we are the largest multicultural Greek council, and we've been very successful in creating networks," Shulka said. "We showed others how to be successful by teaching students to take initiatives."

Davalos said the council targeted all varieties of Greek councils throughout the nation, encouraging students from existing councils to attend, and also students with similar councils or organizations to learn more about the multicultural Greek councils.

The purpose of each multicultural chapter is to create and maintain high standards in the life of fraternities and sororities by addressing, coordinating and

developing strategic action plans to unify cultural based organizations. The same purpose was maintained in building the conference, Davalos said.

Director of Greek Life Brian Tenclinger said the conference offers a unique way to build new relationships, network and form a sense of camaraderie with other students.

During the three-day conference, students met in small workshops discussing and learning communication and conflict resolution, risk management and some additional training workshops.

Most importantly, everyone attended the adviser training institute workshop, directed by Tenclinger, Felicia Scott, director of multicultural services, and Kim Novak, program coordinator for student activities, Davalos said.

"I think students realized the power of student involvement on campus," Shulka said. "People saw we were able to draw people together (at A&M), and they

learned the mechanics of that."

In addition, students congregated in a roundtable discussion titled, "Created a New Greek Council." In the discussion, students determined the positive aspects of the first conference and how to build a larger and stronger conference for following years.

On Friday night and Saturday, students listened to lectures and speakers during lunch and dinner banquets. David Parrot, dean of student life, spoke at the opening dinner Friday. Daniel Hernandez, associate vice chancellor of community development at A&M, spoke at Saturday's lunch, while Dr. Lee Jones, associate dean for academic affairs closed the day as the keynote speaker during dinner.

"For over a year now, it has been our dream to bring diverse Greek (councils) together, so they may share, learn and grow from each other's experiences," Davalos said. "Overall people realized they could make a dif-

Women's Spirit Month focuses on women's contributions to society

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

Focusing on women's contributions to society, Texas A&M will celebrate Women's Spirit Month, under the theme "A Celebration of Our Diversity."

The event began in 1994 as a weeklong celebration, but due to the numerous amount of programs, it was extended to fill the whole month of March in 1999.

"We found out that so many programs highlight women's issues and accomplishments and the interest was there," said Risa Bierman, Women's Month chairperson and a Student Life specialist in the Department of Student Life.

Spirit Month kicked off Friday at Duncan Dining Hall, with a luncheon and awards presentation featuring author, speaker and activist Rebecca Walker. Walker is considered one of the most audible voices of the young women's movement, Bierman said, and is the daughter of Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple*. She was named one of the future leaders of America by Time Magazine.

"Her book *Black, White and Jewish* talks about crossing cultural divides," Bierman said. "She spoke on her own issues and topics and is definitely a young woman to watch."

Continuing the theme of women and their

place in society, "The Vagina Monologues" which featured local women performing the powerful and provocative monologues from the theater production of the same name, was presented to a sold out show Friday and Saturday night at Rudder Forum.

"They consist of a series of women's issues such as birth, and what it is like being a woman in Afghanistan or Kosovo," said Laura Hall, V-Day campus coordinator and a junior industrial distribution major. "We also want [women] to feel comfortable with talking about their bodies."

Throughout the month, several brown bag luncheons will take place on campus, including talks on the challenges of women athletes presented by A&M athletes Michelle Royal and Selena Collins.

"We wanted diverse people so that there is something for everyone and they will come to one of the sessions," Bierman said.

Other events scheduled to take place include the campus-wide random acts of kindness on Thursday, in which Women's Spirit Month committee members will walk through the campus recognizing individuals.

An exhibit will also open Thursday at the Cushing Library that examines the role of women at Texas A&M since the University opened in 1876. The exhibit will be open through December 2002.

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— Risa Bierman
Student Life specialist

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4.0 & GO

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Acct 210	Part 1 of 2 Tue Mar 5 10pm-1am	Part 2 of 2 Wed Mar 6 7pm-10pm		
Acct 229	Part 1 of 3 Sun Mar 3 7pm-10pm	Part 2 of 3 Mon Mar 4 5pm-8pm	Part 3 of 3 Tue Mar 5 5pm-7pm	
Biol 113	Part I Mon Mar 4 5pm-7pm	Part II Tue Mar 5 5pm-8pm	Part III Wed Mar 6 5pm-8pm	Next Week Acct 229/230, Econ 202/203, Math 131/142/151/ 152/251
Biol 114	Part I Sun Mar 3 7pm-10pm	Part II Mon Mar 4 7pm-9pm		
Chem 101	Test Review Sun Mar 3 4pm-7pm			
Chem 107 Mawk	Part I Mon Mar 4 9pm-11pm	Part II Tue Mar 5 8pm-11pm	Part III Wed Mar 6 8pm-11pm	
Finc 309	Part 4 of 4 Sun Mar 3 7pm-10pm			
Finc 341	Part 4 of 4 Sun Mar 3 7pm-10pm			
Info 364 Davis	Test Review Sun Mar 3 10pm-1am			
Info 364 Uster	Test Review Tue Mar 5 7pm-10pm			
Math 141/166	Part I Sun Mar 3 9pm-12am	Part II Mon Mar 4 9pm-12am	Part III Tue Mar 5 9pm-12am	Test Review Wed Mar 6 9pm-12am
Math 142	Part I Mon Mar 4 6pm-9pm	Part II Tue Mar 5 6pm-9pm	Part III Wed Mar 6 6pm-9pm	
Math 251	Part I Mon Mar 4 7pm-10pm	Part II Tue Mar 5 7pm-10pm	Part III Wed Mar 6 7pm-10pm	
Mktg 309 Dewald	Test Review Mon Mar 4 8pm-11pm	Test Review Wed Mar 6 10pm-1am		You can now buy tickets online at our website and avoid standing in ticket lines
Mktg 321 Dewald	Test Review Mon Mar 4 8pm-11pm	Test Review Wed Mar 6 10pm-1am		
Phys 201	Part I Mon Mar 4 6:15pm-8:15pm	Part II Tue Mar 5 6:15pm-8:15pm	Part III Wed Mar 6 6:15pm-9:15pm	
Phys 208	Part I Sun Mar 3 5:15pm-8:15pm	Part II Mon Mar 4 8:15pm-10:15pm	Part III Tue Mar 5 8:15pm-10:15pm	
Phys 218	Part I Sun Mar 3 8:15pm-11:15pm	Part II Mon Mar 4 10:15pm-12:15pm	Part III Tue Mar 5 10:15pm-12:15am	

Tickets go on sale Sunday at 3:30 p.m. 4.0 & Go is located on the corner of SW Pkwy and Tx Ave, behind KFC next to Lack's.
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