

# THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Prospective student **John Keese** watches an introductory film, "Legacy of Excellence," about the A&M campus along with his mother, **Michelle Keese**.

## Student participation makes video a winner at Telly Awards

By Jessica Watkins  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's "Aggie Impact," a video for prospective students at the Visitor Center in Rudder Tower, was selected as a winner in the 23rd annual Telly Awards.

Brian Wright, co-producer and videographer in the Office of University Relations, said student involvement in every step of the production process made the video a winner.

"We knew from the start that student involvement would be vital to the success of the project," Wright said.

"The students were really helpful in coming up with ideas for things to shoot. One student knew someone who was proposing under the Century Tree, and so we got to record the whole thing with the Ross Volunteers there. There is no way I nor anyone else at University Relations could have known about that," Wright said.

Wright said students were recruited to help with the video from the University Relations office and the Visitor Center.

"We wanted to take advantage of their knowledge and expertise. They

directed the crews to where they could get good shots. We needed people who knew campus well and those are the people who give tours," Wright said.

Wright said students who were recruited to be interviewed were deeply involved in the University.

"We sent out information with student leaders on places and times students could meet to be in the interviews. We also just walked around with the crew and would see students studying or talking and would ask if they would participate."

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## A&M, UT Faculty Senates seek cost-cutting measures

By Amy Dosch  
THE BATTALION

Faculty senates from both Texas A&M and the University of Texas discussed ways for each university to cut budgetary costs at their annual joint Faculty Senate meeting Monday.

Although UT and A&M are state universities, only 22 percent of their budget comes from the state, which is subject to all state regulations and restrictions, said Michael Granof, a UT Faculty Senate co-chair.

UT has appointed a task force, composed of faculty and university administration, which will be responsible for cutting \$20 million from the university's budget.

"This committee marks the starting point. There are many more committees to come," Granof said.

Suggestions for cutting costs have arisen from the UT task force including reducing paperwork and analyzing faculty productivity through post-tenure review.

The A&M Faculty Senate took the opportunity to discuss ways in which they are interested in cutting costs of the University. The Faculty Senate is looking at ways to trim administrative waste through an allocation of resources, said Tom Blasingame, A&M Faculty Senate co-chair.

"The journalism department is a good example of an area in which we did not plan for such substantial growth," Blasingame said.

The Faculty Senate hopes to avoid problems of this kind in the future by doing a better job of allo-

cating its resources, he said.

A&M's Faculty Senate is discussing an evaluation process through which it hopes to determine how the staff and faculty spend the majority of their time and how helpful their work is on each of the following levels: personal, department, college and University, Blasingame said.

"The fee increase was agreed to as a 'have-to' situation," Blasingame said. "The proceeds will be used to strengthen the infrastructure of the school."

## Swim's generosity unmatched Professor encourages students to help others

By Brittany Hooten  
THE BATTALION

Three years ago, Keith Swim, a professor at Texas A&M, made a request of his students: to help a former student's ailing mother by sending her get-well cards.

Swim read the name aloud and told students the mother was suffering from breast cancer. He had no idea the enormous response his students would have.

"She still has a dresser drawer full of cards the kids sent to her," Swim said, adding that she received many more but kept only her favorites. She sent the remaining cards to M.D. Anderson Hospital, where they were recycled for the children who were hospitalized, Swim said.

Swim keeps in touch with the former student and his family who made the request.

"You just can't imagine what those cards did for her," Swim said.

Dahlia Denton, a senior journalism major and a former student of Swim's, said he is willing to help any body.

"Teaching is his job, but he goes far beyond that," Denton said. "He's

the type of person to say, 'If you need help, let's sit down together and work it out.'"

Swim has lost track of the number of requests for get-well cards he has received over the past few years, but said he has received more than 10 this semester. He said he never knows how many cards the sick receive, but his students' generosity makes him proud to wear his Aggie ring.

"It doesn't happen very often, but it makes the whole thing worthwhile"

— Keith Swim professor at Texas A&M

He gives all the credit to the students.

"These are people they don't even know. They'll get their pens out and write it down. It's amazing," he said. "It just shows you what kids are like at this place. I might have had the

idea, but they did it, and they came back and asked to do it again."

Two weeks ago, after reading another name in class, a girl brought a card to Swim after class ended.

"She must have been carrying it around. It's amazing," he said.

A colleague of Swim's, Senior Lecturer Lisa Hubacek, said his work with the cards is indicative of him as a person.

Hubacek said two years ago she became pregnant unexpectedly. Her baby was due in mid-September, but her fall schedule was already set.

"He volunteered to fill in for me while I was on maternity leave for no pay," Hubacek said.

Swim graduated from Texas A&M in 1977 with a degree in zoology and wanted to teach after graduation. His parents, both educators, urged him to attend law school instead. He continued his education and earned his law degree from Texas Tech University in 1980.

Swim began teaching at Texas A&M in 1989 while practicing law. Since then, he has scaled down his

See **Swim** on page 2

## Growing pains

### Panelists discuss race and historical mindset of students

A cartoon in the Jan. 14 issue of *The Battalion* that many called racist raised many important issues at Texas A&M. The cartoon portrayed an overweight black mother, wearing an apron and curlers and scolding her son for receiving a bad grade. The mother warned her son his bad grades would lead to a job in airport security.

In reaction to the issues raised, *The Battalion* invited a panel of student leaders ranging from the student body president to leaders of the International Student Association, the African-American Student Coalition and the Young Conservatives of Texas to convene to discuss racial and cultural issues at Texas A&M.

The result is a three-part series on diversity and culture at A&M from students with diverse points of view, but who all agree they are proud to be Aggies.

Part one focuses on the past racial and cultural issues at A&M. Part two will cover present issues affecting the campus and part three will cover the future.

By Christina Hoffman  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M began 125 years ago as an all-male, white, military college, built on military traditions. Even with the changes and differences at the University since 1876, the core values remain. Students still sing about "Texas-A-M-C" more than 50 years after the college became Texas A&M University and first began admitting women, non-military students and greater numbers of minorities.

As the school continues to grow and diversify, student leaders wonder if past issues will disturb the A&M campus.

Student leaders wondered aloud about the environment at A&M, and how students reacted to *The Battalion's*

**BATTALION RACE ISSUES PANEL**

- Lyndon Pryor**  
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENT COALITION PRESIDENT
- Samecia Bloomfield**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS COORDINATION
- Mariano Castillo**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE BATTALION
- Adrienne Aguirre**  
COMMITTEE FOR THE AWARENESS OF MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURE CHAIR
- Schuyler Houser**  
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
- Brandon Hepburn**  
MSC BLACK AWARENESS COMMITTEE CHAIR
- Tyler Dunman**  
YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS
- Pablo Rodriguez**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION DIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE
- Jarry Ho**  
MSC ASIAN CULTURES EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR
- Eberhard Laepple**  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE
- Máirtín ÓMuirghéasa**  
CORPS OF CADETS REPRESENTATIVE
- Barry Hammond**  
MSC EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Source: *The Battalion*  
CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Jan. 14 cartoon that many called racist. Some leaders expressed concern that more students were not visibly upset about the cartoon.

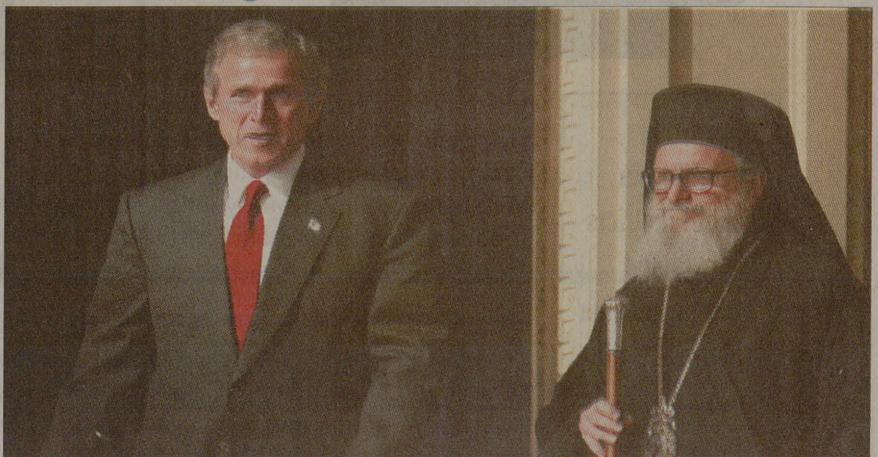
### Seeking to understand

The history of A&M and the identity of its students shape the way current students perceive others and react to events like the cartoon, panelists said.

Daniel Hernandez, associate vice chancellor and panel moderator, said each individual is shaped by the history and culture from which he or she comes. He said understanding these factors will help students understand the cultures on campus and the events

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### Bush Meeting



KRT CAMPUS

President Bush meets His Eminence the Greek Orthodox Church of Archbishop Demetrios, primate of America on Monday.

### INSIDE



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**Making foods friendlier**  
New technology kills food pathogens

Sports Pg. 7  
**Carry a big stick**  
Freshman Gregory leading A&M's offensive assault

### WEATHER

**TODAY**  
HIGH 66° F  
LOW 44° F

**WEDNESDAY**  
HIGH 69° F  
LOW 42° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.collegeweather.com

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