

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Bowen keeps prof accused of plagiarism

Zey gets second chance, ruling reverses decision of A&M Provost Ron Douglas

(AP) — A Texas A&M University professor accused of plagiarism will be allowed to keep her job, University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen has ruled.

The ruling reverses the decision of the University's chief academic officer to fire tenured agricultural economics professor Mary Zey, who denies the plagiarism charge.

In a letter dated April 4, Bowen writes, "My decision not to terminate you is based upon a respect for your full career, a hope and desire that the events of the past will serve as a learning experience for you, and a desire to give you the opportunity to

again become a respected member of our faculty."

Bowen maintains that Zey plagiarized in a 1998 research publication, stealing data analyses and prose from A&M professors Harland Prechel and John Boies. It was Zey who first made the charge of plagiarism against the two professors, saying their 1998 publication on corporate change was lifted from the paper she had published.

An investigation committee instead found that Zey was the one who plagiarized and attempted to cover up the theft of data and prose.

The determination of guilt was made by an internal investigation committee, prompting A&M Provost Ronald Douglas to fire Zey. Upon appeal, a separate hearing panel found that she had not plagiarized and should not be terminated.

Zey is living in Austin and would not comment, said a lawyer who represented her while she appealed the dismissal.

Meanwhile, Prechel, one of the A&M professors who accused Zey of plagiarism, will move forward with a defamation lawsuit against her, his attorney said.

"Prechel would have been interested in pursuing his options in not proceeding with the lawsuit," College Station attorney Gaines West told *The*

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Through the looking glass



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Freshman community health major **Crystal Ilshner** and sophomore **Megan Stephenson** look at a glass piece at the Aggie Moms Boutique Saturday afternoon. Reed Arena was host to more than 80 Aggie Moms Clubs for Parents' Weekend.

A&M departments awarded grants

Money aims to increase degrees in computer science, electrical engineering

By Araceli Garcia
THE BATTALION

The Departments of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering were awarded grants on April 8 from the Texas Engineering and Technical Consortium to increase the number of computer science and engineering degrees in the state of Texas.

The electrical engineering department was allotted two grants in the amount of \$459,256 and \$31,330, and the computer science department received \$228,329. The departments will use the money to recruit more freshmen and allow faculty to interact more closely with degree candidates, officials said.

"The departments should start a new one-hour course for freshmen, to make them familiar with the computer science and electrical engineering fields, and have more intimate contact between

the students and faculty, by providing things such as a help desk in order to ensure that students receive a stronger foundation," said Dr. Chanan Singh, head of electrical engineering.

Singh said the electrical engineering department plans to use the second grant in cooperation with the Infinity Project. This project is funded by Texas Instruments and geared toward educating high school teachers on the electrical engineering and computer science fields. High school teachers will be able to give more guidance to students, especially females, who are typically underexposed to computer science and engineering, Singh said.

The Texas Engineering and Technical Consortium is a public and private partnership to promote education in the fields of

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College of Agriculture celebrates 90 years of growth

By Anna Chaloupka
THE BATTALION

In 125 years, Texas A&M has gone from a college to a world class university. Following close on the university's tail, the burgeoning College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has its roots in the Agricultural & Mechanical College's

birth, constituting the heart of what began in 1876 as a military college for farmers.

Agriculture and life sciences celebrates its 90th anniversary this year as a vital part of A&M's beginnings and a continued piece of its future.

In 1951, a young Aggie was working on his post doctorate at the University of Wisconsin. Just when the

temperature fell below 32 degrees, the man received a telephone call from Texas A&M offering him a job as an assistant professor in biochemistry.

Without hesitation, the young Aggie accepted the offer and returned to the home he loved so much. Little did he know he would spend the next 50 years working and teaching in the College of Agriculture and Life

Sciences at Texas A&M.

Now, as the college celebrates its 90th anniversary, Dr. H. O. Kunkel, dean emeritus, reflects on the College's many years of teaching and research.

When the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Agriculture opened its doors in 1876, Kunkel said instruction in agriculture had an unsure beginning and A&M was not the agricultural

leader it is today. The public thought A&M should educate students to be farmers and mechanics, Kunkel said.

Manual labor was required, and students were expected to raise crops and cattle. Agricultural and scientific courses included chemistry, farm

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Arafat calls for Israeli withdrawal

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat rebuffed Secretary of State Colin Powell's demand Sunday for a halt to violence, saying Israel must withdraw its troops from the West Bank.

Powell, shuttling back to Israel for a meeting in Tel Aviv, then pressed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for a complete pullback, a U.S. official said.

Sharon renewed his proposal for an international peace conference among Israel and Arab states including Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon and the Palestinians,

but not Yasser Arafat.

Sharon said the United States would lead the conference, and "I imagine that within a short time a conference of this sort will convene to debate the diplomatic arrangements in the Middle East."

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the proposal was an attempt to "turn the clock backward."

A senior U.S. official said the idea was discussed "as part of a way to move forward politically," but more talks were needed.

Arafat, 72, appeared in good health as he met with Powell in

his rocket-scarred headquarters that is surrounded by Israeli tanks and troops. Arafat has been under pressure that is "unreal for an old man like him," said Zeid Abu Shawish, a Palestinian doctor in the compound.

Powell was driven to the besieged compound in a motorcade of armored-plated SUVs, shielded by U.S. security personnel with submachine guns.

The headquarters showed the effects of Israeli bombardment. A gaping hole marred the

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KRT CAMPUS

Palestinian leader **Yasser Arafat**, left, shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State **Colin Powell** as they meet in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

REMINDER

- April 15 is the deadline to file taxes with the IRS
- Post offices will be open until midnight tonight to accept late filers
- File for an extension online at www.irs.gov

Source: www.irs.gov

CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Audits likely for lower bracket

WASHINGTON (AP) — The wealthy and low-income people stand a better chance of being audited than the typical middle-class family, which is paying the lowest share of its income to the Treasury since 1957.

Rich, poor and the middle class all are affected by one tax trend — the 17,000-page, 2.8 million-word tax code is more complex than ever. One estimate is that it now takes 28 hours and six minutes to tackle the Internal Revenue Service's 1040 form and do the necessary record keeping.

This year's filing deadline is midnight Monday for most of the country.

IRS data and reports from several tax research organizations depict a tax system that does not treat everyone equally but is, by far, the single biggest source of government paperwork and red tape.

"An abomination," Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill calls it.

Consider IRS audits. Individuals making \$100,000 or more and those making \$25,000 or less are much more likely to face an audit than the

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Weight relief

IRS creates good incentive for people to combat obesity

WEATHER TODAY

HIGH 84° F
LOW 63° F

TUESDAY

30% HIGH 81° F
LOW 65° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.collegeweather.com