

## 2002 Schuilenburg Festival Aug. 2,3,4

Friday Performers: Roger Creager & Pat Green  
Saturday Performers: Bleu Edmonson & Kevin Fowler  
Sunday Performers: The Original Triumphs  
For Times & Tickets visit our website  
[www.schuilenburgfestival.org](http://www.schuilenburgfestival.org)

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\*last meeting of the year\*

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Tues. April 23, 2002 7pm

Even if you haven't been out to much this year or you have been at almost everything...come have some fun with us!

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Attention Seniors  
Graduating in August or December 2002

English 210 & 301 (Technical Writing)  
Force Dates

Summer I, II and Fall  
Wed., May 1, Thurs., May 2, and Thurs., May 31

9:00 am - 11:00 a.m.

Summer I, II and Fall  
Mon., June 3

9:00 am - 11:00 a.m.

Summer II and Fall  
Tues., July 9

9:00 am - 11:00 a.m.

Fall only

Mon., September 2

9:00 am - 11:00 a.m.

1. Make sure you have the correct prerequisite (English 104 or equivalent).
2. Come to Blocker 224 during the force dates and times listed above.
3. Bring a letter on departmental stationary from your academic advisor stating that you are graduating in the semester for which you are registering.

- No forces will be done during pre-registration or after Sept 2.
- You must come in during these dates.
- Although forcing will occur on the first morning of each Summer and Fall session, no forces will be given for a distance course beginning that day.
- You may incur a late registration fee if you register on the first day of classes.

If you can't make these dates, send a representative with your letter and a list of preferred times.

Forcing Information Line: 862-7724

Web site: [www-english.tamu.edu/wprograms/forcing.html](http://www-english.tamu.edu/wprograms/forcing.html)

# Sci|Tech

THE BATTALION

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

## Matters of the heart

Heart mechanics researched by biomedical engineers

By Jesse Stephenson  
THE BATTALION

When it comes to matters of the heart, a Texas A&M professor is taking a different approach to understanding how the muscle works.

Dr. John C. Criscione, assistant professor of the biomedical engineering program, researches heart problems such as congestive heart failure using an engineering method.

"Biomedical engineering is the application of engineering principles to medicine," Criscione said. "It's an engineering approach to a medical program."

Criscione said biomedical engineering is a new field and at the forefront of engineering. At Texas A&M, it is a division of the industrial engineering department, but soon it will be operating on its own.

Criscione's area of specialty is congestive heart failure, a disease that affects five million Americans.

"Congestive heart failure is when the heart grows and remodels in a bad way.

Heart attack is one of the primary causes of congestive heart failure," Criscione said.

In medical jargon, growing is the act of adding mass and remodeling is redistributing that mass. "The coronary arteries get blocked, then the tissue downstream dies because of a lack of oxygen, and it kills part of the heart wall and a heart attack ensues," Criscione said. "When a part of the heart wall dies, it puts too much stress on the rest of the heart."

Criscione's research already has made some interesting findings. One example is the differences of the inner and outer walls of the heart.

"In a normal heart, the inner wall is not like the outer wall," Criscione said. "In the case of congestive heart failure the inner and outer walls look the same, and they tend to look like the outer wall of a normal heart."

While the research is promising, Criscione said science is only beginning to understand how the heart works.

"We are very behind on the physiology of the heart, most breakthroughs have been by trial and error," he said.

"Biomedical engineering is the application of engineering principles to medicine."

Criscione's research will take some time. He expects to be busy with research for the next 10 years.

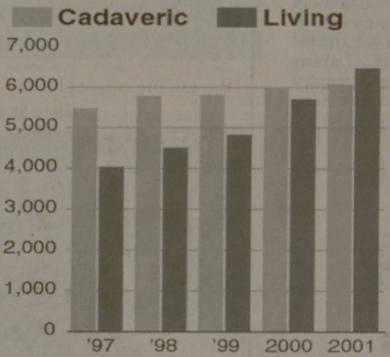
"Within 15-20 years we should be able to implement some treatments," he said.

Criscione describes the present as the second wave of bio-engineering. "The computers are driving this second wave. Part of his work deals with difficult mathematics called non-linear partial differential equations. Computers are used to solve these tricky problems which allow scientists to conduct research much faster than years past.

## Living organ donor numbers on the rise

### Organ donations

For the first time, organ donations from the living last year surpassed donations from those who had died. There were 6,485 living donors in 2001, 92 percent of whom donated a kidney.



SOURCE: United Network for Organ Sharing AP

WASHINGTON (AP)

For the first time, organ donations from the living reached a record high last year, outnumbering donors who are dead. With waiting lists growing, more than 6,400 people gave away a kidney or a piece of their liver.

For more than a decade, the numbers of organs donated by the living have been growing more quickly than those given after death as desperate patients have turned increasingly to families or friends.

In 2001, the number of living donors jumped by 13.4 percent, on top of a 16.5 percent increase a year earlier, the government said Monday. By contrast, donations from dead people inched up by just 1.6 percent.

Surgeons across the country routinely suggest now that patients look for donors rather than rely on a

growing waiting list.

In the past, a patient facing a wait of a year or two for a kidney would resist asking family or friends for fear of putting them through a painful procedure with medical risk, said Dr. Jeffrey Punch, a kidney surgeon and chief of the University of Michigan Medical Center's transplant division.

"Now that they're thinking about five or six years, they're more willing to accept it," he said.

Rick Palank decided to donate a kidney after hearing about his boss' deteriorating health. He said his boss never suggested it, but after hearing that no one in the family was a match, Palank volunteered, even though the two are not particularly close or friendly outside the office.

"I was sitting there thinking, 'Wow, this guy looks terrible. I've had perfect health, and this guy's

had all these problems should help him." Palank, 55, of St. Louis, who donated a kidney last month and was out of hospital a day later.

"He's a very nice, good human being," added. "That probably something to do with it." Last year, there were 6,081 donor cadavers who can give several organs. Dead people still can donate about three out of four transplants.

They now are outnumbered by living donors. In 2001, there were a record 6,485.

Public campaigns encouraging organ donation all revolve around cadaveric donors, encouraging people to talk to family about the issue before someone dies. A year ago, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson launched an effort to work with employers. He pushed the effort again Monday.

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