

# The Yapper

First year serving Texas A&M University

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REBECCA MILNES • THE YAPPER

Members and parents of the Class of 2006 look through course catalogs and scheduling information while waiting for the next session to begin at the New Student Conference.

## Fish check in, then check out A&M

By Tricia Anderson  
THE YAPPER

The sun is blazing on the treetops outside of Duncan Dining Hall. Under the tree branches, nervous parents converse quietly with their excited sons and daughters.

They often check their watches. They are all waiting for the New Student Conferences to begin. Every year approximately 10,000 freshmen and transfer students participate in the New Student Conferences.

During this program they find out about classes, student life, and all of the traditions that make Texas A&M special. In the words of David Pruitt, program coordinator, it is "a great opportunity to ask questions."

The starting point for all of this is check-in. At check-in, the freshmen get their conference cards and basic information that will greatly help them in their college life.

After they check in, students have the option of going on a tour. The tours are a good opportunity to introduce freshmen to the campus.

They are led by two orientation leaders who teach the traditions and show the students the campus.

Tours Program Coordinator Amanda Roe offers this advice to freshmen,

"Familiarize yourself with what buildings your classes are in." After all, in a big campus like this, it is easy to get lost.

So what do the students think about A&M's campus? "It's scary and big," said Jessica Holloway. When asked what she thought of the campus, Kara Smith said "I love it! It's great!"

Erin Sziy said that the campus was very pretty although it needed a lot more trees.

For Sziy, however, it was not the campus that stood out, it was the people.

"Everybody's so friendly," said Sziy. "I've never seen that anywhere else." Nora Cargo, assistant director of the Department of Student Financial Aid, summed up A&M's friendliness by saying it has "A spirit that's not anywhere else."

The traditions are one of the things that make A&M special. Both Stacey Meuth and Holly Dockal said that they like the traditions.

Skipper Adams, whose daughter is an incoming freshman, said that the traditions were one of the things that made them pick A&M.

Dockal said that she is excited but a little scared to be going to college for the first time.

"I can't wait," said Jessica Holloway. Parents, however, are a little more nervous. David Pruitt said that is one of the reasons New Student Conferences exist.

## NSC helps deal with confusion

By Linda Berlakovich  
THE YAPPER

What is one word common among the freshmen at Texas A&M University? That word is confusion.

Luckily, for them, Texas A&M has New Student Conferences going on. Check-in, one of the first things in the conference, helps the students through their confusing day.

This lifeline is held at Duncan Dining Hall and has been going on all week.

For check-in, the freshmen stand in lines according to their last name. J.K. Kvasovic, associate director, helps out with these programs.

Kvasovic says that the main reason for check-in is for students to get a lot of information about such as where different conferences are, meal plan information and how to get student I.D. cards.

Along with this information some items freshmen get to purchase are T-shirts and tickets for the Howdy Lunch.

David Pruitt, Class of 2003 and program coordinator, said that the check-in is always very busy towards the early part.

It supplies new students with all the information that will make students less confused. Of course even with all this information, freshmen may still have trouble in college.

Pruitt's advice to the freshmen is, "Study, read everything, read your textbooks, study even if you think you know everything. Go to class, and definitely go talk to your professors."

He hopes that the freshmen will take his advice and use it. After check-in the students



KATE FORE • THE YAPPER

Several incoming freshmen and their parents trek through the Quad arches and learn about different aspects of Texas A&M as they follow AOLP leaders.

have the option of taking a tour.

They will be shown the main parts of campus. Amanda Roe, tours program coordinator, said that there are ten to fifteen guides.

There are two guides with each tour and there are four to five tours everyday. Once in a while, if they are lucky, there will be six tours.

Rudder Tower, the Memorial Student Center, Harrington Education Building, and individual college meeting places are some of the important buildings shown to the high

school graduates and their parents during the forty-five to sixty minute tours.

You may have heard that the tour guides must be able to walk backwards to get the tour jobs and according to Roe this is very true.

Roe said that the tour is the same as three or four years ago except that the routes have changed a little and the information has been updated.

She added that you should always know where your classes are and your life will be a lot easier. Good luck, freshmen.

## Speakers show Aggieland as community of respect

By Caitlyn Travis  
THE YAPPER

Having tolerance and respect for yourself and other people is something that the students of Texas A&M University take pride in.

On June 18, 2002, in Rudder Auditorium there was a program for the new student conference where speakers talked about moral and ethical issues that students might face during their years in college.

At the program they talked about several different topics. They talked about what to expect and how to handle it.

One of the major points they talked about was drowsy driving. In the last year there were 10,000 reported accidents in the United States because of drivers who were literally asleep at the wheel.

"I had no idea about drowsy driving I thought drinking and driving was the biggest deal for student accidents," said Patrick Lan.

They also discussed academic honesty. The University defines academic dishonesty as acquiring or providing information, plagiarism, conspiring to

commit an act of dishonesty or fabrication of information. If a student commits any of these, he or she can be expelled from school or receive a failing grade for that class.

Another subject they talked about was being honest with your classmates. Being honest with your classmates will give you a better and happier stay at Texas A&M. You can make a big impact on other peoples lives if you are honest with them.

Another of the topics they talked about was drunk driving. Three out of every five students at Texas A&M University said they have never driven after drinking. A major point in this topic was don't drink. The majority [64%] of Aggies say they drink three or fewer drinks per week. Over 90% of Aggies have never been in trouble with authorities due to drinking.

The actors also performed a skit on anorexia and bulimia. Anorexia and bulimia are eating disorders and are extremely bad for your body.

Student Jeremy Rogers said the program was informative and enlightening. "And the statistics and facts were an eye opener," he said.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

### AGGIELAND

Community of Respect



By Sean O'Neal  
THE YAPPER

Hundreds of Freshmen came to the maroon colored Rudder Auditorium Tuesday morning for a very emotional New Student Conference program, Aggieland: A Community of RESPECT.

In this program, the new students were entertained by a series of skits and informed by statistics on some of the more life-altering problems that students might face at A&M.

Though the program was a serious one, the actors opened the show with a friendly "howdy" and welcomed them to A&M. They were even able to squeeze in a laugh here or there during the skits.

At the program, the actors and actresses acted out the dangers of drinking and driving, and driving when drowsy. Did you know that driving when you have had little sleep it is just as dangerous as driving

after drinking 6 beers? It will also slow your reaction time down to nearly nothing.

These are just two of the many reasons to get some sleep before driving, even if you were studying all night long.

Participants at the session also discussed the consequences of racism, eating disorders, sexual assault, cheating on tests and hazing. Though cheating on tests may seem to be the only solution, you will only be lying to your friends, teacher, and yourself.

If a gang or group that you want to join hazes you, then it's not a good idea to be a part of that group. "It showed situations that we may not have thought of at A&M," said freshman Nathan Brown.

Overall, students were able to enjoy themselves and learn important facts at the same time. This is what made the RESPECT program at the New Student Conference such a great success.

## Corps of Cadets provides opportunities

By Kaitlyn Jorge  
THE YAPPER

Jane wakes up every morning at six a.m. She dresses in the outfit that she must wear every day for the summer. She then starts her physical training of a two to three mile run and calisthenics.

At 8 o'clock she starts her academic day with classes, studying and other personal business. She is a cadet in the Corps of Cadets along with 2,600 other cadets.

On the subject of recruiting all these students J. Alan Goddard said, "The purpose of cadet recruiting is to coordinate, motivate, and direct all cadets in an aggressive, enthusiastic, and qualitative effort that ensures the Corps of Cadets reaches and sustains a Corps of at least 2,600 cadets."

A Corps of Cadets numbering 2,600 can only be achieved and sustained by recruiting 900 new cadets each year."

The Corps also helps students to become leaders amongst their peers and help the cadets to succeed during their college life. To help the cadets in this way the Corps provides an elective course that teaches students skills for succeeding in college.

The Corps also provides free tutoring for small groups that need to study math, engineering, business math and physics.

The Corps is a military based program for the students who want to attend. Three of the mornings in a cadet's week are begun with a two to three mile run. After their academic day they continue with other military drills or they study for next day's classes.

Throughout all of this the cadets are in their uniforms. Uniforms vary from season to season.

In the winter the freshmen and sophomores wear heavy dark green jackets over tan shirts, black ties, and dark brown pants, accompanied

with the shoes that the Corps allows them to have.

The seniors wear a long sleeved green shirt with dark brown pants and a khaki tie with their boots.

In the summer all of the cadets, unless they are in band, are required to wear a Khaki short sleeve shirt, black tie, and matching khaki pants. The band students are required to wear long sleeve khaki shirts with black ties and khaki pants all year round.

On rainy or stormy days the cadets wear their BDU's or Battle Dress Uniform. The BDU's consist of a camouflage shirt over a brown undershirt, camouflage pants, and combat boots.

The cadets must pay for their own uniforms. Each uniform costs around \$758. The cadets are also required to keep their uniforms clean and in near perfect condition. Dry cleaning usually costs \$100 to \$150 per semester

It is mandatory for cadets to



TRAVIS SWENSON • THE YAPPER

Liz Vacek (left), a future member of the Corps of Cadets, and her mother Mary, view one of the many exhibits located in the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center.

attend all home football games and seven to eight days out of the month are spent off or on campus with the parents of the cadets.

The Corps of Cadets is an organization with great pride in what they do and high standards for their stu-

dents. The students who are willing to join become the best of friends with those who join them.

It is a challenging experience and most everyone that joins says the end result of their stay with the Corps is worth the hard work and effort.