

THE BATTALION

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Board of Regents announces new positions

By Melissa McKeon
THE BATTALION

Dr. G. Kemble Bennett was named the sole finalist for the three-tiered position of vice chancellor of engineering, dean of the Dwight Look College of Engineering and director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) during a special meeting of the A&M System Board of Regents on Saturday.

The search for a finalist started last fall. There were 58 initial candidates that were eventually narrowed down to three during a rigorous screening process.

Chancellor Howard D. Graves and

University President Dr. Robert M. Gates recommended two other candidates to be interviewed: Dr. John Junkins and Dr. Daniel Reed.

"Texas A&M is committed to the goal of moving to the top 10 among public universities nationally," Gates said. "While many of our engineering programs already rank at or near the top, Dr. Bennett has shown that he has the leadership skills to move them to the next level nationally and inter-

nationally."

Bennett has been director of the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) since 1992. He has a bachelor's in mathematics from Florida State University, a master's in engineering mathematics from San Jose State University and a doctorate in industrial engineering from Texas Tech University. He has also been listed in International Who's Who in Engineering.

Candidates were on campus for two to three days of interviews and meetings with faculty and administrators, said Edward Hiller, Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture and Life

Sciences and chair of the Search Advisory Committee.

"The candidates went through a very extensive process," Hiller said.

The A&M's System's engineering program supports the association between educational, research and professional development activities of the Dwight Look College of Engineering, TEES, the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the Texas Transportation Institute.

By law, the regents must wait at least 21 days to vote to officially place Bennett in the position.

The Board also appointed Dr. Chester P. Fehlis as the director of the Texas Cooperative Extension on Saturday.

The Texas Cooperative Extension, an agency of the Texas A&M System, has programs in all 254 Texas counties, providing research-based information and education for agricultural producers and consumers.

"I look forward to leading the agency as it continues to respond to the

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FEHIS



BENNET

Microsoft deal makes software available soon

By C.E. Walters
THE BATTALION

Microsoft Office, which sells for \$170 with student IDs at most area bookstores will sell for \$15 to Texas A&M students starting next week.

For people who don't attend A&M and can't pay academic price at other stores, the Office software can ring up at \$500. But thanks to a deal that A&M's Computing and Information Services has struck with Microsoft, students will pay \$5 per CD for most Microsoft software this fall.

Students will be able to pick up discounted software next week.

The Microsoft agreement added an additional fee of \$1.25 per semester credit hour on each student's bill. The average student taking 12

hours is paying \$15 toward the Software Licensing Fee this semester.

The majority of this money, which amounts more than \$1 million, will go to Microsoft to defray the \$1.2 million cost of the software. What is left, CIS Associate Director Pete Marchbanks said, will remain in the student-funded Computer Access Fee.

The deal allows students to purchase software at \$5 per CD, CIS Director Tom Putnam said. In addition to Office, FrontPage and Windows XP are available. Office is available for both Mac and PC users.

Visual Studios Net Professional, which contains six CDs, will be sold for \$20.

The fees cover the physical media costs associated with producing the software.

Students are limited to only

one copy of each software title.

The University purchases the software from Advanced Academic Solutions, a vendor contracted by Microsoft. Marchbanks said the University was provided with bids from 21 companies, but Advanced Academic Solutions offered the least expensive service.

The arrangement made is a one-year deal, even though the contracts can be signed for up to three, Marchbanks said.

"We didn't want to [sign something longer] without a little more experience," he said.

But Marchbanks predicts the University will sign with Microsoft next year.

Students can order the software online at software.tamu.edu starting next week. Students can also pay online and have the software delivered to them by mail or pick it up when it comes in. For a short time, the pick up location will be in the Student Computing Center, after which students can get their software in the Teague Research Center.

Right now, students can place their email address on a list to be informed when the software is available at cis.tamu.edu/customer-sales/sell/microsoftrequest.html

The software may ship to A&M today be here as early as Wednesday, Marchbanks said.

Don't look down



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Veterinary medicine graduate student **Amy Cockerham** checks her footing during a climb at the Student Recreation Center. **Cockerham** has two years of rock climbing experience.

Gates addresses students for first time at All-U Night

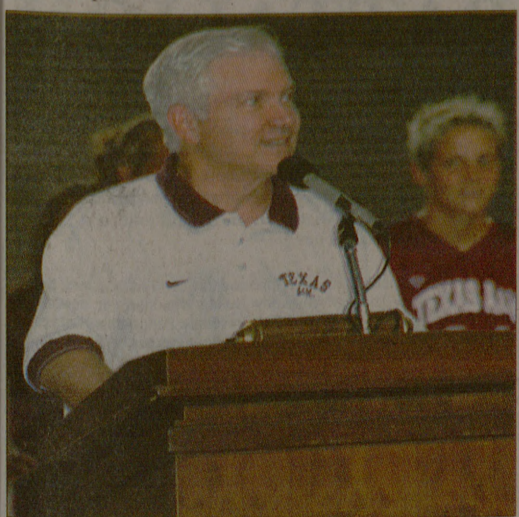
By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

Addressing the students of Texas A&M for the first time Monday night, University President Dr. Robert M. Gates said that attempts to improve A&M academically would not alter A&M's traditions.

During All-University night at Kyle Field, Gates promised the audience that in future generations, "the Aggie spirit will endure."

"There's no limit to what A&M can achieve," he said.

His speech was short at the event, which typ-



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Dr. Robert M. Gates addressed the student body for the first time Monday night at All-U Night. He talked about the enduring Aggie Spirit.

ically introduces freshmen and returning students to yells, student representatives, fall athletic teams and University administration.

Adam Fears, a junior construction science major in outfit I-1 of the Corps of Cadets, said he has "great respect for the man."

"Gates will pull through and be a great president for Texas A&M," Fears said.

Football Head Coach R.C. Slocum, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland and Student Body President Zac Coventry also spoke Monday.

In his speech, Southerland encouraged students to revive the tradition of saying "Howdy" and to always be safe.

In yell practice fashion, Slocum and other fall coaches mentioned their teams' numerous successes.

Slocum said the atmosphere and Aggie support will affect the outcome of the games the A&M football team plays at home this fall.

Brief rainshowers, which started before the Aggie Band began its march through campus, didn't effect the turnout of the Aggie faithful. Sherri French, a junior community health major and clarinet player, said she always looks forward to All-U Night because of all the students who come.

"There was a good turnout to cheer the band on," French said.

Before the All-U Night Yell Practice, freshmen were also introduced to the tradition of flags or "guidons," which each residence hall guards in a circle on its way to Kyle Field.

"All the halls [are] coming together to mark the beginning of another year," said Linda Hanham, a junior meteorology major who lives in Eppright Hall. "It's a great night."

No end in sight for construction

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

Although many construction projects around campus are on schedule, students will continue to see road closures and orange construction fences through the Fall 2003 semester.

Completion dates for most current projects are slated for the summer and fall of 2003, said Doug Williams, associate director of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services.

Current projects include the construction of a West Campus parking garage and pedestrian passageway under Wellborn Road, a football complex and academic center, and a chemical engineering building. Bizzell

Street, New Main Drive and Ross Street will also be repaved.

The construction has added traffic flow problems to an already-congested campus as students return to class this week.

"Not only is it inconvenient, but it doesn't seem at all temporary," said Ryan Thomas, a senior math major. "There's always something new."

Williams said Bizzell Street repair is slightly ahead of schedule. The street will be newly paved and fully operational in October.

Repair of Ross St. is planned, but beginning and completion dates for the project are not set. Re-routing of busses (sp) will be required upon Ross' closure.

The structure of what will become the West Campus parking

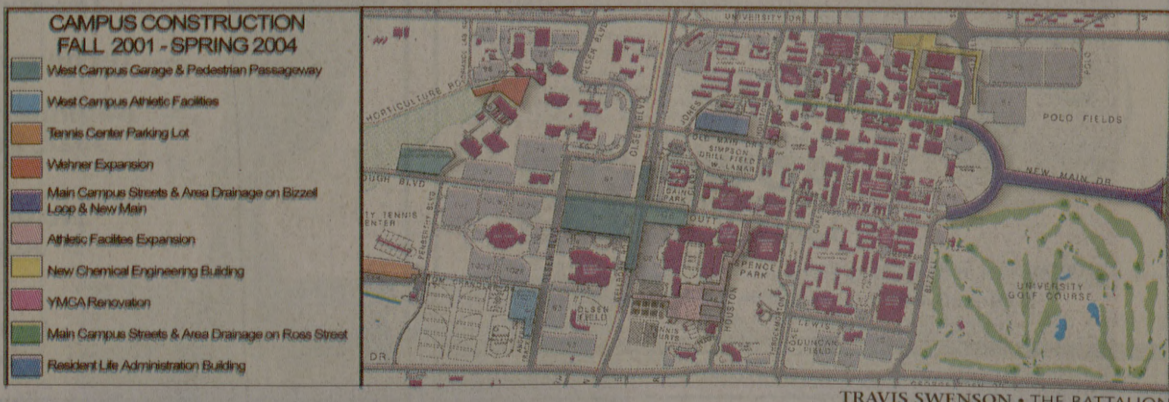
garage can already be seen near the Student Recreation Center across from Kyle Field. The garage, along with a pedestrian passageway under Wellborn Road, are on schedule for completion by next summer.

Permits and hourly parking will be available in the West Campus garage, much like the current setup in the Northside and University Center parking garages.

"All categories of customer [students, faculty and visitors] are expected to be accommodated," Williams said.

Construction of the football and academic complex at the south end of Kyle Field began in March and is scheduled for

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TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION