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Southerland retires effective next August 31

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland announced his retirement Wednesday, capping a 36-year career at A&M.

Southerland's resignation, effective Aug. 31, 2003, is the latest exit of a high ranking administrator since A&M President Dr. Robert M. Gates took the helm of the University last month. Former Provost Dr. Don Douglas and former Athletic Director Wally Groff have also resigned.

Southerland, who has

served as vice president for student affairs since 1993, said the choice to leave was his own.

"It's been a remarkable 36 years, and the time is right for me," Southerland, Class of 1965, said. "As a student, I never imagined that I would see this institution evolve into a world class university while still recognizing important parts of its past."

He announced his retirement almost a year before his departure to allow a search committee plenty of time to find his replacement, Southerland said.

In a statement, Gates said he accepted Southerland's decision with regret.

"[Southerland] has provided literally decades of dedicated leadership and service to Texas A&M. Under Malon's direction, student affairs at A&M has been one of the most innovative, most imitated programs in the U.S.," Gates said.

Although he will leave it to others to decide whether or not his tenure was a success, Southerland said he is proud of the open-door policy and student-friendly environment he helped to foster in the department.

"I think students knew that

they could see me anytime, in my office, at home, or e-mail me, and its important to an institution our size for students to know they can approach [administrators]," Southerland said.

Student Body President Zac Coventry said Southerland has been a friend and tireless advocate for students and will be sorely missed.

"For 36 years Dr. Southerland has poured himself into this University and its students, and that speaks volumes about his character," said



J.P. BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, announced his retirement effective Aug. 31, 2003.

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Look closely



BRIAN RUFF • THE BATTALION

Nautical Archaeology Program student Eilert inspects a cast from a two-piece mold during her Anthropology 606 class at the Anthropology Building Tuesday afternoon.

Attack on Iraq would affect foreign students

By Jeremy Osborne
THE BATTALION

An attack on Iraq would only affect a limited number of students at Texas A&M, faculty members said this week.

Monday night, Iraqi officials agreed to allow United Nations (U.N.) Weapons Inspectors back into the country. This came on the heels of a speech made by President Bush last Thursday to the U.N. asking for support to end the current Iraqi regime led by Saddam Hussein and growing momentum for military action.

"Saddam Hussein's words cannot be taken at face value," White House Spokesman Ari Fleisher told the Associated Press. "[Hussein is playing] rope-a-dope with the world."

If the U.S. chooses to force a regime change, some Texas A&M students might experience problems, said Suzanne Droleskey, director of international programs for students.

"Some students may be cut off from their families or bank accounts due to political crises," Droleskey said. "Similar things happened to Kuwaiti students during the Gulf War."

The United States will seek a U.N. Security Council resolution detailing what Iraq must do.

President Bush said Hussein has

delayed, denied and deceived the world. Powell said inspectors are not enough because disarmament, not inspections was the issue.

"We have seen this game before," Secretary of State Colin Powell said to the Associated Press Tuesday in response to the latest development.

If there is an incident, Droleskey said the International Programs office will contact foreign students and do anything it can to help. Iraqi students were enrolled at Texas A&M in the spring, but numbers for the fall are unavailable.

Professor of Geography Dr. Robert Bednarz said a war would probably affect foreign graduate students.

"It would become much more time consuming to get visas and paper work done," Bednarz said.

Some accepted graduate students with plans to come to A&M, he said, might be unable to wait a semester or a year.

"It would become much more time consuming to get visas and paper work done," Bednarz said.

But, he said, if Desert Storm is an indication, the University as a whole would be minimally affected.

Dr. George C. Edwards III, a professor of political science, said that a war would

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Tough Man contestant in critical condition

By Ruth Ihde
THE BATTALION

Mike Kuhn, a 26-year-old Bryan resident suffered injuries this past weekend at the Tough Man Contest at Texas A&M University's Reed Arena, said Mary Helen Bowers, associate director of Reed Arena.

Kuhn was listed Tuesday night in critical condition in the Intensive Care Unit of St. Joseph's Regional Health Center in Bryan. Kuhn underwent brain surgery.

According to reports, Kuhn felt ill after he fought the second of the three rounds and told his coach he did not want to continue. When ringside doctors went to check on Kuhn, he passed out and was taken to St. Joseph's within 10 minutes of collapsing.

"It is an absolute tragedy," Bowers said. "Although the Tough Man Contest was held at Reed Arena, the event was not a University related activity, said Lane Stephenson, Deputy Director of University Relations."

"This was absolutely not a [Texas A&M] University function," she said.

Bowers said Reed Arena was rented out to Tough Man Contests, a part of Adorable Promotions. Every year, Tough Man has

around 20 to 30 tournaments in Texas. This is the first time Tough Man was held at Texas A&M, Bowers said.

Adorable Promotions, based in Bay City, Mich., was not available for immediate comment.

The Texas Department of Licensing oversees combative sports, including boxing and the Tough Man contests, and enforces strict regulations for these types of events.

The state of Texas carefully regulates combative sports and has governing rules for age, weight and physical requirements, Bowers said.

According to the Texas Department of Licenses, competitions for combative sports must have emergency medical personnel and doctors on site to treat injuries that might occur.

Kuhn is a resident of Bryan, and works for Bay Limited, a company that does contract work for the Physical Plant at Texas A&M, according to paperwork turned in by Kuhn to the Tough Man Competition.

He fought in a previous match on Friday and was competing with others for a \$1,000 prize.

Crane company sues Bonfire victims

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

A crane operator named as a defendant in lawsuits stemming from the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse is alleging that three students injured in the accident are to blame for not alerting others to the dangers at the construction site.

The petition, filed in Brazos County by the attorney for Harry Crouch and his employer, Zachry Construction Corporation, contends that John Comstock, Matthew

Robbins and Dominic Braus are partly responsible for the collapse. All three students have filed suits against Texas A&M, top University administrators, and former Bonfire student leaders, in addition to the Zachry company and Crouch, who was operating a crane when the stack fell.

"[The plaintiffs] argue that everyone out there should have known about the dangers, and if they are right, then these students were there too and are also at fault," said Jim Cowles, a Dallas attorney represent-

ing Zachry.

Cowles added that the petition is merely a legal tactic and that his clients are not seeking any damages from the injured students, and he does not believe any students should be held liable for the collapse. The University was recently dismissed as a defendant in Bonfire-related lawsuits filed in federal court, but the plaintiffs plan to file their claims in state court. Cowles said he filed the petition to ensure that the lawsuit is

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Alcohol Task Force back for third year

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

The University Police Department (UPD) and the College Station Police Department (CSPD) will team up for the third year for The Noise Abatement and Alcohol Task Force.

The task force, created in the fall of 2000, aims to decrease the number of loud parties and the consumption of alcohol by minors in College Station.

"When kids get in apartments they go crazy, and other residents don't like the drunk screaming," said Bob Wiatt of the

UPD. "So many people called the College Station Police saying these are students and to get some help from the University, so we teamed up."

The force is comprised of a team of three UPD officers and three CSPD officers who patrol areas of College Station Thursday through Saturday nights on weekends of home football games.

Lt. Rodney Sigler of the CSPD said teaming with UPD helps in responding to several violations at once.

"The original idea was to address the numerous amounts of loud party calls because CSPD spends a lot of time

going back and forth from parties," Sigler said. "We have a lot of citizen complaints from those who couldn't sleep because the noise was so loud."

The hours the force operates are flexible depending on who the Aggies play that weekend and how many parties are going on.

"It depends on the night and the game, but officers may work as early as nine at night to as late as five in the morning," Sigler said. "I already have the [Texas]Tech game marked on my

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NOISE ABATEMENT TASK FORCE

2000
1,441 citations issued
2001
1,579 citations issued



operates Th-Sat,
10pm-4am on
home football
weekends

Number of citations issued for
University of Louisiana - Lafayette game: **82**
64 were MIPs

SOURCE: UPD AND CSPD

MANDY ROUQUETTE • THE BATTALION