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Prairie View, TEEEX heads named

By Rob Munson
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M System Board of Regents filled top positions at Prairie View A&M and the Texas Engineering Extension Service Tuesday in a special telephone meeting.

Dr. George C. Wright was named Prairie View's president, and Robert L. "Lanny" Smith was named TEEEX director.

Wright will take over at Prairie View on August 15, and Smith will begin as the new TEEEX director July 14, Board Chairman Lowry Mays said in the meeting.

"Dr. Wright's experience with higher education in Texas and his knowledge of academic affairs made him stand out among the top candidates for this position, and I believe he will make an excellent president," said Howard

Graves, A&M University System chancellor, in a statement. "I look forward to his leadership as president of Prairie View A&M."

Wright served as executive vice president at the University of Texas-Arlington since 2000 and has been the university's provost since 1995. Prior to joining UTA's administrative staff, Wright was a vice provost and professor at Duke University, and a vice provost and professor at the University of Texas-Austin.

"Institutions like Prairie View are very important in American society and Texas society in educating black leaders in all walks of life," Wright said in a June 12 interview with The Battalion. "I want to make sure students are reminded of that history and the historical contributions Prairie View has made."

Wright succeeds interim Prairie View President Willie Tempton.

Smith is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army and former chief of staff/deputy commandant of the U.S. Corps of Cadets at West Point.

"Lanny Smith is an excellent choice for the director of TEEEX," Graves said. "He is a highly respected proven leader with experience in national security and business management. His leadership will enhance TEEEX's outstanding service to the citizens of Texas and beyond."

Smith received a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy and master's degrees from the University of North Carolina, the Naval War College and Salve Regina University.

TEEEX oversees Texas Task Force One, the urban search-and-rescue team, and other law enforcement and public service training centers.

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Board of Regents TELEPHONE MEETING



Dr. George C. Wright

- Appointed president of Prairie View A&M
- Replaces Willie Tempton, interim president
- Begins August 15



Robert "Lanny" Smith

- Named TEEEX Director
- Succeeds Dr. G. Kemble Bennett
- Begins July 14

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TAMU BOARD OF REGENTS

Aggies aid in WTC victim ID project

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Four Texas A&M graduate students from the anthropology department have been aiding workers in New York City on the World Trade Center investigation and identification of victims of Sept. 11. While working on the Anthropology Verification Project, Jason Wiersema and Eric Bartelink examined nearly 20,000 individual pieces of human remains extracted from Ground Zero.

"The number of identified victims continues to rise," Wiersema said. "Numerous previously unidentified individuals have been identified as a direct result of the Anthropology Verification Project."

Bartelink said working on a project like this can be difficult and is exhausting, but the hard work pays off.

"This kind of work can be very physically and emotionally draining, but the feeling that you are contributing something to the victims and their families makes it very worthwhile," he said.

Wiersema said pathologists were key to the project, because pathologists rely on soft tissue for identification, but the impact of the planes, the collapse of the towers and exposure to fire had

ANTHROPOLOGY VERIFICATION PROJECT Began May 28, 2002

Identified nearly 20,000 pieces of human remains

Four A&M graduate students participating



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: JASON WIERSEMA, ERIC BARTELINK, NOVA DEVELOPMENT

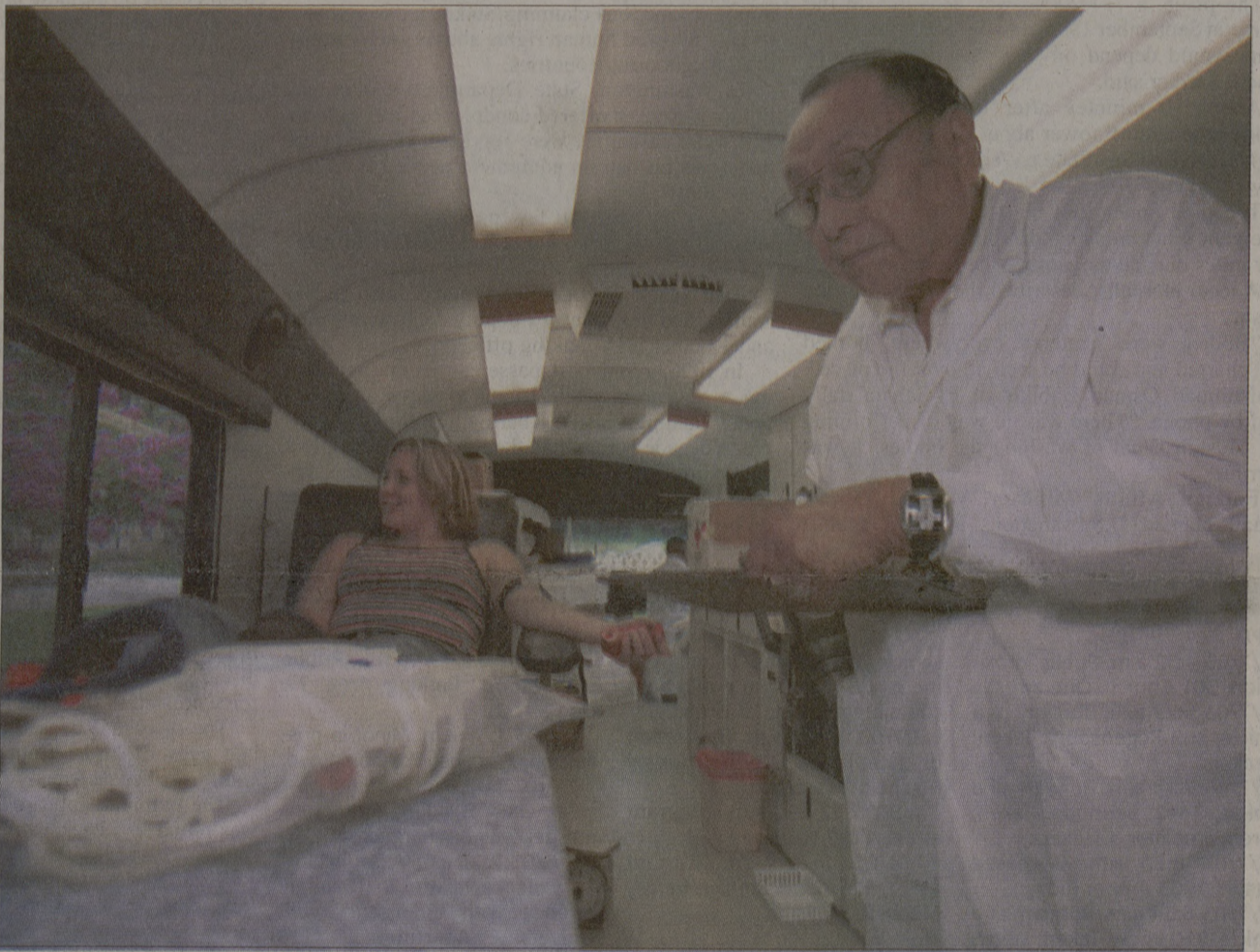
caused the tissues of individuals to mingle together.

Wiersema and Bartelink were offered jobs on the project by Amy Mundorff, the sole anthropologist employed by the city of New York.

Wiersema said he took over Mundorff's job for two weeks in December 2001 because she had worked every day since Sept. 11,

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Giving life



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Junior education major **Katy Siebert** donates blood near Rudder Fountain Tuesday as American Red Cross collections technician **Candido Gonzales** labels her blood bags. Donation is an 8-minute

process that withdraws a pound of blood for use in emergencies and blood transfusions. Siebert said a relative died in a drunken driving accident in January, convincing her to donate any chance she gets.

Lockheed Martin gunman kills 5, himself Sudanese plane crash kills 116

By Matt Volz
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MERIDIAN, Miss. — A factory worker known as a racist "hothead" who talked about killing people opened fire with a shotgun at a Lockheed Martin plant Tuesday, leaving five fellow employees dead before committing suicide.

Dozens of employees at the aircraft parts plant frantically ran for cover after assembly worker Doug Williams, dressed in a black T-shirt and camouflage pants, started firing during a morning break. As many as eight people were

wounded in the nation's deadliest workplace shooting in 2 1/2 years.

"At first I thought it was something falling on the ground. Then I walked to the aisle and saw him aiming his gun. I took off. Everybody took off," said Booker Stevenson, who was helping assemble airplane parts when he heard the first shot.

Exactly what set Williams off was not immediately clear, but co-workers said he had had run-ins with management and several fellow employees.

"Mr. Williams was mad at the world. This man had an issue with everybody," said

co-worker Hubert Threat. "It's not just about race. It was just the excuse he was looking for."

Williams was white, and four of his victims were black; the fifth was white.

Nevertheless, Sheriff Billy Sollie said it appeared Williams fired at random with the shotgun and the semiautomatic rifle. "There was no indication it involved race or gender as far as his targets were concerned," Sollie said.

Several co-workers said they were not surprised when Williams was identified as the killer.

"When I first heard about

it, he was the first thing that came to my mind," said Jim Payton, who is retired from the plant but had worked with Williams for about a year.

Steverson said Williams was known as a racist who did not like blacks. And Payton had said Williams had talked about wanting to kill people. "I'm capable of doing it," Payton quoted Williams as saying.

One of those killed was Lanette McCall, a black woman who had worked at the plant 15 years. Her husband, Bobby McCall, said she

See Gunman on page 2

Sudanese plane crash kills 116

By Mohamed Osman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A Sudanese airliner plunged into a hillside while attempting an emergency landing Tuesday, killing 116 people and leaving one survivor — a 3-year-old boy found injured but alive amid a scene of charred corpses.

The Sudan Airways plane, headed from Port Sudan on the northeastern coast to the capital, crashed before dawn in a wooded area just after takeoff. The Boeing 737 wreckage was badly burned, and authorities decided to rapidly bury all bodies, including eight foreigners.

"The bodies were buried in a mass grave after performing the Muslim prayer because the conditions of the bodies would not allow transporting and delivering them to the relatives," the Red Sea State governor, Hatem el-Wassila, told the official Sudan News Agency.

The governor said the sole survivor, 3-year-old Mohammed el-Fateh Osman, had lost his right leg and suffered burns. The boy was in intensive care at the Port Sudan hospital, and doctors said he was in stable condition, el-Wassila said.

Eleven crew members and 105

Crash kills 116

A Sudanese airliner crashed shortly after takeoff from an airport on the northeastern Red Sea coast Tuesday, killing 116 passengers and crew.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

passengers died, including three people from India and one each from Britain, China, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates. There was also a woman whose nationality was unknown, state radio said.

A senior air force official and a member of Parliament also died in the crash, it said.

A team of experts flew to the debris-covered scene to investigate the crash, and recovered the black box flight recorder. Initial reports cited a technical problem.

Boeing has provided technical information about the jet to investigators but has not yet been invited

See Crash on page 2

U.S. funds birds' destruction to combat poultry disease

By Mark Sherman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Fighting a devastating poultry disease, federal officials in California paid premium prices to destroy birds probably used as fighting cocks. Halting the infestation far outweighed concerns about dealing with outlaws, they said.

The Agriculture Department spent \$11.5 million from October to May to destroy 144,000 birds characterized mainly as game fowl, including thousands of roosters and brood cocks that agriculture officials believe were used for fighting.

Those payments averaged \$79.31 each, with some roosters and brood

cocks valued as high as \$500, according to the records obtained by The Associated Press.

That average was over 27 times the average per bird — \$2.89 — the government paid to kill 3.7 million commercial birds, virtually all egg-laying chickens.

Overall, \$22.3 million was paid to chicken ranchers and owners of backyard flocks in the effort to eradicate Exotic Newcastle Disease. Newcastle can wipe out entire flocks of poultry but is harmless to humans.

The payments drew criticism from the Humane Society and lawmakers who have sought to clamp down on

U.S. pays owners of destroyed birds

In an effort to stop the spread of Exotic Newcastle Disease that infected California's poultry industry, the U.S. Department of Agriculture paid \$22.3 million to nearly 4 million owners of destroyed birds, including thousands believed to be fighting cocks.

Poultry found in backyard flocks and chicken ranches:

■ Average value ■ USDA compensation for each destroyed bird

	Egg-laying chickens	Gamecocks
Average value	\$2.89	Up to \$500
USDA compensation	\$2.89	\$79.31
Life span	18 months	Can live 10-15 years, but most don't
Environment	Extremely close quarters	Mostly tethered apart from other cocks until in fighting pit
History	300 million chickens are raised annually in the United States and produce 65 billion eggs annually.	Animal rights groups object to cockfighting as a form of animal cruelty. It is legal in Louisiana and parts of New Mexico.

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Agriculture; The Feathered Warrior; University of Illinois Extension AP

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