

# THE BATTALION

109 Years Serving Texas A&M University

Volume 109 • Issue 175 • 8 pages

www.thebatt.com

Thursday, July 24, 2003

## Animal sense

### Skaggs dedicates career, academics to advising students

By C.E. Walters  
THE BATTALION

Chris Skaggs can offer proof that one of the most rewarding parts of his job is working with students.

Skaggs, who won an outstanding advising certificate from the National Academic Advising Association, is an associate professor and academic adviser in the Department of Animal Science.

#### FACULTY FACES

Skaggs said he is proud of all his students, whether they change majors to explore new opportunities, struggle to find their academic footing or continue to graduate work.

"I take a lot of pride in watching students develop their interests," he said. "(I enjoy) being a part of helping them to attain their goals."

Skaggs earned his undergraduate degree at Texas Tech University, his master's degree at Kansas State University and his Ph.D. at Iowa State University. Skaggs said earning his degrees at different universities helped him develop his own teaching style.

Each university, he said, presented courses differently and allowed him to pick up different teaching styles while combining different courses from different universities. Skaggs said when he first came to Texas A&M, he taught an introductory animal science lab and introduced aspects he wanted to teach.

"I met a lot of people," he said. "It made me willing to try new things."

Jodi Sterly, an assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science, has team-taught classes with Skaggs for the past four years.



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Chris Skaggs, associate professor and academic adviser in the Department of Animal Science, works with animals as part of his teaching and outside life, such as serving as Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo superintendent. Skaggs' father and uncle were both agricultural educators who interested him in the field.

Sterly said Skaggs will have students flowing in and out of his office constantly during office hours or even late at night. Sterly said Skaggs has a very distinctive method of teaching.

"He has a very unique ability to engage students and he's probably one of the best professors I've ever seen," she said.

Though he enjoys teaching more than advising, he said his experi-

ence student teaching at Texas Tech was a valuable tool.

"Students learn differently," Skaggs said. "To reach these students, you have to use different methods."

Skaggs said the various types of students in his classes tested his abilities to teach.

"(It was) always a challenge to keep motivated (students) still striving while still trying to (reach)

those who are less academically inclined," Skaggs said.

Skaggs, raised in Pampa, Texas, said his desire to enter agricultural education stemmed from his admiration of his uncle, who was a professor of animal science at Kansas State. Skaggs looked to him as his role model.

Skaggs said he was also spurred

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## A&M to host first Freshman Convocation

By Jacquelyn Spruce  
THE BATTALION

The first Freshman Convocation will provide incoming freshmen with a connection to one another by showing them the size, strength and unity of their class, said Kristin Harper, senior associate director of student life.

Harper said convocation will also provide freshmen with a connection to the University before beginning their education at Texas A&M.

"Freshman Convocation will welcome students to a community of learners and show them what the University can provide," she said.

With faculty from each academic department, the president, vice presidents and provosts all representing the University during Freshman Convocation, Harper said she believes it will start a new tradition.

Dr. Mark Weicholt, associate provost for undergraduate academic services, said the idea of an official welcoming for freshman was first proposed three to four years ago.

"Other schools have done things similar to this," he said. "I would like to see it become part of the academic calendar."

Weicholt and Harper said the cost of the ceremony is unknown since it has never been

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### 1st Freshman Convocation

Aug. 31, Reed Arena, 2:30 p.m.

Show freshmen the size, strength and unity of the class

'07 Douglas A. Brooks, Keynote Speaker

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE

## A&M Foundation's newest trustee eyes the bottom line

By Karen Yancey  
THE BATTALION

The newest trustee appointed to the Texas A&M Foundation said he plans to finish the foundation's recent fundraising campaign and assist A&M President Robert M. Gates in achieving Vision 2020.

In early July, the Association of Former Students appointed Ray Rothrock to the foundation, which raises and manages donated funds to the University.

Seven people serve on the board of trustees for seven-year terms.

Amy Glass, public relations director of the AFS, said Rothrock is a former board

member for the association.

"He fits the profile extremely well because he knows a lot about the Foundation and the Association," she said.

Rothrock graduated from A&M in 1977 and is currently the managing general partner at Venrock Associates, a venture capital firm with offices in California and New York City.

Rothrock has volunteered on the foundation's Investment Advisory Committee since 1995 and established the first endowed chair in A&M's Department of Performance Studies.

Rothrock was involved in the foundation's One Spirit, One Vision campaign to raise funds for A&M. Rothrock also co-chaired the

arts and sciences group for A&M's Vision 2020 initiative.

Rose Anne McFadden, director for public relations at the foundation, said one thing that qualifies Rothrock to serve on the board is his experience in the area of financial investing.

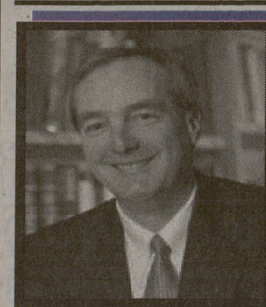
A candidate must be capable of managing funds for A&M and understand how the foundation operates, she said.

"I'm a rookie trustee here and I will be learning a lot," he said.

He said he was pleased when Ed Davis, president of the foundation, called to tell him

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### NEW TRUSTEE APPOINTED



#### Ray Rothrock

- Class of 1977
- Wants to finish fundraising plan and assist President Robert M. Gates in Vision 2020

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS

### Street rodeo



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Rosenthal Beef Center employees chase a runaway steer at noon on Wednesday. The steer broke out of the beef center at about 10 a.m., swimming through a pond near the George Bush School of Government and Public Service and heading toward the new tennis courts before being captured in a parking lot near University Police Department headquarters on Discovery Drive.

## Senate committee approves redistricting

By Natalie Gott  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — A Senate committee on Wednesday adopted a map of new congressional districts that likely would give the Texas GOP an advantage over the state's Democrats in Washington, but the plan seemed doomed this special legislative session.

The Senate Jurisprudence Committee approved the measure 4-3 on a party line vote.

Sen. Todd Staples of Palestine, who chairs the Senate Republican Caucus, sponsored the map, which he unveiled

Wednesday. He said it was fair and balanced.

"Clearly, I think the map that I laid before you today respects rural, east, west and south Texas and the Panhandle in enabling them to elect a candidate of their choice," Staples said.

Democrats objected to the map's passage, saying that most people who testified at public hearings didn't want lawmakers to take up redistricting.

"The redrawing of congressional district lines, in spite of overwhelming public opposition, amounts to the commission (of) an enormous abuse of the public trust," Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-

Houston, told the committee.

Staples' map appears as though it could give Texas Republicans as many as 22 seats in Congress, compared to 10 seats for Democrats, though Staples would not confirm that figure. Democrats now have a 17-15 majority in the delegation.

Lawmakers failed to draw congressional districts during the 2001 legislative session, leaving federal judges to create the current plan. The GOP, led by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Sugar Land, says that recent

See Senate on page 4

## U.S.: Saddam loyalist attacks may spike

By Steven R. Hurst  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. troops captured a senior Republican Guard official Wednesday, one day after killing Saddam Hussein's elder sons Odai and Qusai, but the guerrilla campaign against American forces persisted with two more soldiers killed.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of coalition forces in Iraq, said the deaths of Odai and Qusai Hussein would be a "turning point" in the war but could result in a temporary "spike" in attacks as Saddam loyalists take revenge.

Also Wednesday, a tape purportedly made by Saddam called on Iraqis to press their uprising against the U.S.-led occupation. The tape reportedly was made Sunday, two days before the killings of Odai and Qusai in a U.S. military raid in the northern city of Mosul.

The CIA was analyzing the audio message broadcast by Arab TV but has reached no conclusions about its authenticity, said a U.S. intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The head of the Special Republican Guard, Barzan Abd al-Ghafur Sulayman Majid

### U.S. Soldiers killed

One U.S. soldier was killed Wednesday in a convoy attack near Mosul, where the sons of Saddam Hussein were killed the day before. Another soldier was killed in a separate attack in Ramadi, west of the capital.



SOURCES: ESRI; Associated Press AP

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