

THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M Tradition Since 1893

Volume 110 • Issue 8 • 14 pages

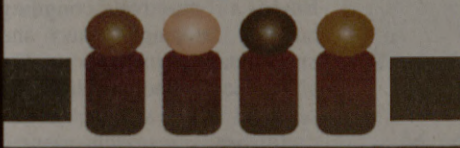
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Tuesday, September 9, 2003

MINORITY STUDENT RETENTION

Multicultural Services' new assistant director will be in charge of student success programs.

- 16 percent of A&M's student body is composed of minority students
- 65 percent of minority students entering A&M graduate
- 77 percent of white students entering A&M graduate



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

New position to aid student retention

By Bart Shirley
THE BATTALION

Multicultural Services is seeking to fill the position of assistant director, formerly known as coordinator of student retention, who will be in charge of student success programs.

Student success programs are efforts by the Multicultural Services office to aid all freshmen in their pursuit of graduation, said Megan Palsa, assistant director of Multicultural Services. They offer a year-long program that provides transitional help to new students.

"(The new administrator will) look at all the data to see where we're headed," Palsa said.

Retention has long been a concern for Texas A&M. Though 16 percent of the student body is

composed of minority students, A&M still has trouble shedding its homogenous image in the minds of prospective students, said Mark Weichold, associate provost for undergraduate programs and academic services.

"Historically, from retention and graduation rates, students of color are lower," Palsa said.

Minority students are statistically more at risk than white students of never crossing the stage at Reed Arena, Palsa said. Sixty-five percent of minority students entering A&M eventually graduate, compared with 77 percent of white students.

"Clearly, there's no one answer," Weichold said. "Some of the answers are not just academic. It's going to take the collaboration of many offices on campus."

Weichold said his office is working to get an indication of students who are at risk for not returning for their sophomore year. His office is using several assessment tools, such as the CSI and the NSE, to make that determination. Many programs exist to assist in retention alongside the Multicultural Services office, he said.

"The Multicultural Services has been a big part of our retention efforts," Weichold said.

The discrepancy in student retention is also one of the reasons for the hiring of the new vice president for diversity, Dr. James A. Anderson, Palsa said.

"Dr. Anderson will work with Multicultural Services," said Rodney McClendon, chief of staff. "He will (also) be working with all colleges in regard to retention."

Baylor regents seek change in school leadership

WACO, Texas (AP) — Five Baylor University regents called Monday for the ouster of university President Robert Sloan, saying a change in leadership is needed for the beleaguered school.

"Baylor has been given a black eye that will require a long time to heal," the regents said in a letter obtained by the Waco Tribune-Herald on Monday. "We feel a major step in the process of healing would be a change of leadership at the top."

The letter sent by fax and e-mail to the regents' 31 colleagues requests a vote of the full board on Sloan's future. The regents are set to meet Thursday and Friday.

The school is trying to recover from the death of basketball player Patrick Dennehy and the resignations of basketball coach Dave Bliss and athletic director Tom Stanton after the discovery of serious rules violations.

But Regent John Wilkerson said the call for resignation isn't about the basketball pro-

gram's problems or questions over the school's building initiative to move Baylor into the top tier of American universities by 2012.

Wilkerson told the newspaper he has concluded Sloan cannot effectively lead the "Baylor family" through the issues that have divided it.

"It's not about Bliss or Dennehy and it's not about 2012," he said. "It's about leadership and the lack thereof of our president."

The Tribune-Herald reported in its online edition Monday night that Carl Bell, Mary Chavanne-Martin, Toby Druin, Jaclanel McFarland and Wilkerson were calling for Sloan's firing. Bell, Druin, McFarland and Wilkerson had a conference call with Sloan before releasing the letter.

Baylor spokesman Larry Brumley said Sloan, who has been president for eight years, has no plans to step down.

"The board of regents determines the leadership of

See Sloan on page 2A

Keep on truckin'



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Andy Deuel, owner of a local hobby shop, works on the suspension of a 4x4 EMAX Radio Controlled off-road vehicle Monday afternoon at his store. The shop sells hundreds of different models and everything from trains, planes, games and puzzles.

Bush Library hosts 'Treasures of China'

By Nicole M. Jones
THE BATTALION

"The Treasures of China," an exclusive exhibit at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, is open to the public this week.

The exhibit, curated by Patricia Burchfield, was in the works for about a year and a half and coincides with the China conference that will take place at A&M in November, said Brian Blake, the public relations official for the museum.

The museum, which is a part of the American Association of Museums, acquired 200 artifacts from 40 different leaders, Blake said.

"Treasures of China" offers a rare journey into the Middle Kingdom's past, a past that has heavily shaped China's present and future," said Douglas Menarchik, director of the library.

One of Menarchik's favorite (a Director's Choice) artifacts is a three-foot-tall clay horse dating back 3,000 years to the Tang Dynasty.

U.S. presidents were popular in the People's Republic of

Museum Hours and Admission Rates

The new "Treasures of China" exhibit can be viewed through January.

Hours:	
Monday - Saturday	9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission:	
TAMU and Blinn Students with valid I.D.	FREE
Adults ages 18 to 64	\$7
Senior Citizens ages 65 and older	\$5
Children ages five and under	FREE
Children ages 6 to 17	\$2

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: GEORGE BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

China as many received exquisite gifts from China's leaders.

One of the gifts on display is a pale green porcelain jar adorned with leaves and vines, given to General Ulysses S. Grant by Prince Kung, Regent of China, during his post-presidential tour around the world in 1879.

Lenders with items on display in the exhibit include the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum, the Smithsonian Institution and private collectors in Bryan, College Station and Houston.

Texas, Florida senators criticize GOP 'three Rs'

By Rachel La Corte
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DANIA BEACH, Fla. — Three Texas legislators visited South Florida on Monday to say Republicans have shown a "national pattern of abuse of power" by trying to scrap Democratic congressional districts and overturn elections the GOP lost.

Texas state Sens. Mario Gallegos, Eliot Shapleigh and Gonzalo Barrientos, who left their state to block a vote on a Republican-backed congressional redistricting plan, were joined by several Florida Democratic legislators, who each wore small Texas flag pins.

Monday's visit comes one day

before President Bush visits Jacksonville and Fort Lauderdale. Several of the other 10 senators who went to Albuquerque, N.M., spoke at a similar event Monday in Philadelphia. Other events are planned over the next few weeks in New York, Chicago, Denver, Phoenix, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"We're here to tell the story of recount, recall and re-districting, the new three R's of Republican extremism," said Shapleigh, of El Paso.

Shapleigh said that the recount in Florida during the 2000 presidential election, redistricting conflicts in Colorado and Texas and the California gubernatorial recall are all

See Democrats on page 2A

Gates reveals hiring strategy

By Justin Smith
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates presented a report on the status of A&M's financial situation and a forecast for the next few years on Monday to the Faculty Senate.

With the hiring of 447 teachers over the next five years, tuition increases are likely for the next several years, Gates said.

Gates also summarized one of the methods in which faculty will be hired.

A college will initially hire a "superstar" of a certain field, such as a Nobel Laureate, and then hire junior faculty.

There was also discussion about if the current

foreign language requirement for applicants wanting admission to the University should be lowered from three years in high school to two years.

This idea was originally posed to the Faculty Senate in 2000 but was deferred for three years.

During Monday's meeting, the decision was deferred for another three years.

Also in the meeting, the Faculty Senate approved 16 new courses, nine of which are in the Educational Human Resource Development degree program.

It also approved Chemistry 107 - General Chemistry for Engineering Students, Agricultural Journalism - Communicating Agricultural Information to the Public and Accounting 320 - Accounting Communications, which will be core curriculum classes within their respective majors.

SILVER TAPS

George Wesley Cartwright
Computer Engineering

Wayne Robley Nalls
Landscape Architecture

Leslie Ann Snell
Business Administration

10:30 p.m.
Academic Plaza

THE BATTALION

The Battalion invites you to submit personal remembrances and thoughts as the nation approaches the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Please submit your 250-word letters to mailcall@thebattalion.net or stop by 014 Reed McDonald.

September 11, 2003

NEW THE BATTALION
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Oct. 3-5
7 Nov. 26-30
1 Jan. 11-17
12 March 14-21
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Wall.
orientation class
Thursdays at 3:30