

# THE BATTALION

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## Chancellor Graves, 64, loses fight to cancer

By Sarah Szuminski  
THE BATTALION

Howard Graves, former chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, died peacefully in his home Saturday, ending a two-and-a-half year battle with cancer.

The 64-year-old resigned from his post as chancellor just two weeks ago on Aug. 31, having held the position since August 1999. Friends and colleagues regard Graves as a man whose dedication to service stayed with him to his dying day.

"He spent every day thinking of how he could serve other people rather than himself," said Bob Wright, director of communications for the System. "He even tried to serve others by being an example in the dignified way he went through his illness and faced death."

Graves stepped down as chancellor due to his failing health, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family and at church. Pastor Dwight Edwards of Grace Bible Church said Graves and his wife, Gracie, were active and faithful members since moving to College Station in 1999.

"He was completely at peace right up through the end," Edwards said. "He (Graves) said, 'I'm going home to be with the Lord.'"

Graves had undergone chemotherapy treatments to his abdomen and lungs after being diagnosed with a rare form of sarcoma in January 2001. At the time, he decided to remain dedicated to serving the A&M System.

"I would like to continue to serve Texas and Texans," Graves said in January 2001. "I will stay as involved as possible."

In early August of this year, Graves decided to abandon treatment and let the cancer take its course.

University President Robert M. Gates said he met Graves 15 years ago in the White House situation room when Graves was the assistant to the

chairmen of the joint chiefs of staff. Gates was then deputy director of Central Intelligence. He said Graves brought the same sense of duty and integrity to his role in Washington as here to the System.

"He was someone who brought people together," Gates said. "He will be greatly missed."

Gates said the greatest long-term impact Graves helped institute is the progress he made in bringing the System schools together.

As chancellor, Graves worked with the state Legislature to create the Central Texas and San Antonio A&M campuses, and oversaw the

growth of A&M's Health Science Center to what it is now. It includes five A&M System institutions and colleges of nursing at five A&M System universities.

"(Graves) has a great amount of courage and character to have run the System so effectively since his illness arose," said

Lowry Mays, chairman of the A&M Board of Regents, when Graves announced his resignation. "He will always be remembered for his dedication to the System through his period of health problems."

Graves also implemented an initiative to help meet the state's growing demand for public school teachers. The initiative outlines a path for System universities to follow that will increase the quality and productivity of programs that prepare future teachers.

"Howard Graves was the epitome of public service, a man who dedicated his entire life to giving back to others," said Gov. Rick Perry in a news release. "From serving our country in the U.S. Army to serving our state as chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, his life was always about helping others and never about himself. I was honored to have called him a friend."

Graves, a native of the Texas Panhandle town of Roaring Springs, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1961, according to a release from the A&M System. He later attended Oxford



Chancellor Graves announces, in an informal press conference on Tuesday, January 30, 2001, that he had been diagnosed with sarcoma cancer.

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"I was honored to have called him a friend."



PERRY

of all the positions he's held throughout his life."

Graves' family issued a statement after his death, according to the Bryan-College Station Eagle: "We would like to thank those who have prayed for Howard and have expressed their support and concern for him and for our family. He died peacefully, and we know that he is now rejoicing with his Savior, Jesus Christ, and that he will be for eternity."

Graves is survived by his wife, two children, Gregory Howard Graves and Gigi Renee Kail, and five grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Grace Bible Church at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Graves will be buried at West Point.

## Affirmative action policies still hazy for Texas schools

By Eric Ambroso  
THE BATTALION

Following the Supreme Court's June decision that race can be considered in a university's admission policies, Big 12 schools in Texas are taking stances on affirmative action policies.

"(Texas A&M) President (Robert M.) Gates would like to see the student body be more representative, but we are not going to lower any standards," said Rodney McClendon, chief of staff for Gates. "We are not going to give preferential treatment to any one group of people, and we will protect the fundamental values of Texas A&M University."

Gates appointed a task force in August, headed by Karan Watson, dean of faculties and associate provost, to research the University's admissions policies. The task force completed its work earlier this month and submitted its recommendations to Gates. He will review these recommendations before any final decision will be made about whether the University will change its admissions policies, McClendon said.

The administration is still in the information-gathering stage, and Gates has indicated that he will give students, faculty and staff an opportunity to give input on his decision.

However, the implementation of any changes

made to the University's admissions policies will be delayed for at least a year. According to the Texas Education Code, a university must publish its admissions requirements at least one year prior to the date that applicants for admission are considered using the new guidelines. The statute requires delaying implementation of any new admissions policies until Fall 2005.

Unlike A&M, the University of Texas has been vocal in its plans for alterations to admissions policies.

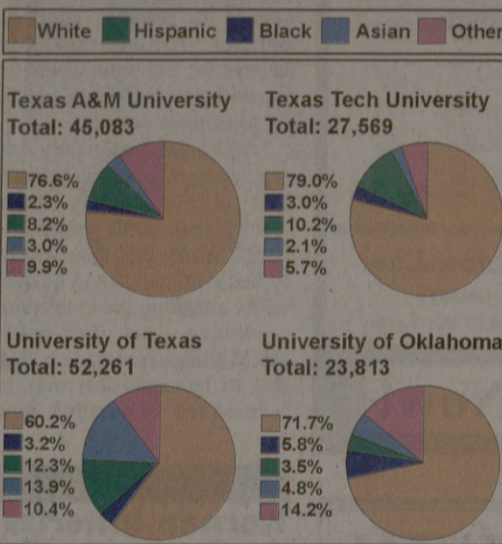
"We support the use of race in admissions policies," said Augustine Garza of the Office of Admissions for the UT. "We need to go much further, we are not as diverse as we would like to be. If changed, we would want a new policy to be in place by the summer so that we can start to publicize and inform students that are interested in us for the fall 2005 semester."

UT plans to challenge the requirement that any change in admissions policies must be published one year in advance. The university had planned to implement changes in fall 2004 but was hindered by the state law. UT President Larry R. Faulkner hopes to work with the state legislature to put affirmative action procedures into action as soon as possible.

Officials are excited about the chance to reassess admissions policies, said Frank Ashley,

### Diversity Statistics

A&M will decide whether to alter its admissions policy. Here's how A&M's student body compares with other schools in Fall 2002.



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SOURCES: WWW.TAMU.EDU, WWW.IRIM.TTU.EDU, WWW.UTEXAS.EDU, WWW.OU.EDU

acting assistant provost for enrollment at A&M. Many believe the Supreme Court's ruling will give A&M the ability to achieve diversity.

"One thing that we always talked about was that we would like the student body to represent the population of Texas," Ashley said. "We try to enroll racially, geographically and economically

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## Perry praises the passage of Proposition 12

By Natalie Gott  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The passage of a constitutional amendment to allow limits on some civil lawsuit awards means that medical students from the Rio Grande Valley can return home after school and serve the community that they love, Gov. Rick Perry said.

They will "not have to look everyday behind their back for that frivolous lawsuit that could run them out of business or run them out of their hometown, the part of the state that they love," said Perry, who had toured the state urging voters to support the amendment.

Voters on Saturday approved Proposition 12, which permits the Legislature to place caps on non-economic damages such as pain and suffering.

Supporters of the amendment included business groups and doctors, who said their medical malpractice liability insurance has skyrocketed because of large jury awards and frivolous lawsuits.

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## Wehner expansion brings trading center to A&M

By Nicole M. Jones  
THE BATTALION

The Wehner Building, home of Texas A&M's Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business, has recently expanded to include the Jerry and Kay Cox Graduate Business Center.

Dedicated on Sept. 6, the new facility totals 66,000 gross square feet and includes seven classrooms, eight team-learning rooms and the Reliant Energy Securities & Commodities Training Center.

"The idea for the center came from needing space," said Jerry Strawser, dean of the Business School.

The new center provides additional classroom space, small group

breakout space and extra rooms for corporate companies to come in for interviewing and interaction with the students, Strawser said.

A state-of-the-art trading center, sponsored by Reliant Energy, will give students real-life experience in trading similar to the business that takes place on Wall Street, Strawser said.

Jerry and Kay Cox of Houston, classes of 1972 and 2002, helped raise private contributions to finance the building of the new graduate center, in addition to donating \$1.5 million to the cause.

The Cox Center will be used by undergraduate and graduate business students.

## Bats migrate south through College Station

By Rebekah Kratochvil  
THE BATTALION

This October, hundreds of thousands of bats will migrate through College Station en route to Mexico for the winter, said John C. Patton, a research scientist with Texas A&M's department of wildlife and fisheries science.

This drastic increase in the bat population, though only temporary, will inevitably multiply the number of student and staff encounters with bats, Patton said.

"The thought that there are bats living in areas around campus that students frequent, that I frequent, and that a good portion of them could be carrying rabies, is alarming," said sophomore biomedical sciences major Steven Goodman.

Only about one in 1,000 bats carries rabies, and other mammals such as raccoons are much more likely to be rabid, Patton said.

"I don't think we have to do anything to avoid the bat population," said Chris Meyer, director of environmental health and safety.

Patton said bats don't want any more to do with humans than humans do with them.

"Just give it respect — give it space," Patton said.

Three years ago, roosts of bats lived in Sterling C. Evans Library, the Business Management Services Building (now occupied by Financial Services) and Kyle Field, Meyer said. During this time, only a handful of students had direct contact with the bats that lived on campus, Meyer said.

In 2001, a female student was bitten

by a bat while studying in Evans Library. The bat crawled inside her shoe after she had taken it off, and bit her in self defense when she tried to put her shoe back on.

Meyer said the bat tested negative for rabies, but died because of an injury that resulted from the encounter. Had it tested positive, the student would have undergone treatment for rabies. The treatment no longer involves 13 shots in the stomach, but a round of five shots in the arm and one in the hip, Meyer said.

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