THE BATTAL

rds

ued from page

this award.' nent's way of s

particular year la "It felt good b ual basis at the

a previous CLAS

glia and Ford ha

vorker in the psychol opened up for dep

isor, she jumped to isor for all 1,400 s the psychology depa l we all trust her de

nt of Psychology nt and is reliable as always gone abo and student worker

ned to a staff men nination process and

she said. r of them are leader AGGIELIFE THE BATTALION

Page 3 • Friday, October 17, 2003

Whoopin' western style Aggie Wranglers boot, scoot n' boogie their way around A&M, the globe

By Jessica Lenchner THE BATTALION

Aggie Wrangler President John Riggs is busy tis week unpacking his Texas-size cowboy hat, black Wrangler jeans and boots made for scooting. Riggs, an agricultural education graduate stutent, was one of six Aggie Wranglers who twosepped all the way to Doha, Qatar, to perform at Texas A&M's newest campus in the Middle East. The Wranglers showed off their dance moves and ave the 29 Qatari students a taste of the Aggie spir-

it at a Texas-style barbeque. Traveling around Texas, the United States and the world has become the norm for the Aggie Wranglers. The organization has gone from a group if students who shared a love of dancing when it ist formed in 1984 to a group of ambassadors

Riggs said it has been a great experience for the Wranglers to work closely with the University and represent A&M.

"We're not just a group that likes to go out to larry's and dance," he said. "We spread love for A&M through what we do best - dance.

And, dance the Wranglers have. Their highpeed polka and freestyle jitterbug routines have xen seen all around the globe. From Japan to fermany to Costa Rica, people everywhere are geting a glimpse of the Aggie version of country and

The Wranglers are up to dancing just about any where. Public Relations chair Kristen Mobley said she had fun performing last summer on a Caribbean mise the Wranglers took to Montego Bay and the Cayman Islands

"It was amazing how everyone was standing and lapping for us in the huge auditorium," said Mobley, a junior bioenvironmental science major. 'It definitely adds a level of difficulty dancing on a

The Wranglers made new fans on their trip, but also ran into an old fan when the ship stopped in the Cayman Islands, Riggs said. They visited the Lone Star Bar and Grill, where they'd heard the owner

was an Aggie. Riggs said the owner was thrilled to see fellow Aggies and asked them to perform.

In Qatar, the Wranglers had the chance to interact with the Oatari students. They performed five times and helped teach them about A&M traditions like Howdy, Gig 'Em and whooping

"It was like going to Fish Camp for them after being in school for a month," Riggs said. "We really bonded in the short time we had.'

Former President George Bush is also fond of the Wranglers and has invited the Wranglers to the White House in the past, Mobley said.

'He gets a kick out of seeing us perform every time," Mobley said. "We love performing for him."

The Wranglers look forward to performing for Bush again next month when a Chinese delegation is scheduled to visit the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Riggs said.

After one show, Bush gave the Wranglers an autographed photograph of himself skydiving that read, "Here I am - sky high. This is how I felt when the Wranglers performed at the Bush Library."

Along with working closely with the University, an Aggie Wrangler must also find a partner whom they can work closely with.

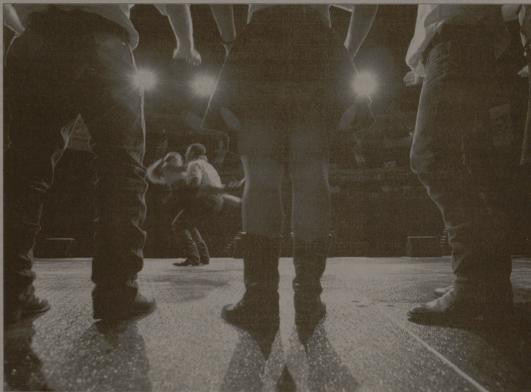
Riggs said he was fortunate to find his partner, senior Wendy Covert.

"We really clicked in our dancing abilities and fed off each others' strengths," Riggs said. "She had experience with tap and ballet and was good at remembering sequences, and I had experience in music and knew about rhythms, beats and tempos."

As well as the weekly group practice on Tuesday nights, Wrangler couples spend countless hours practicing together. Mobley said practice is definitely year-round for the physically demanding and vigorous routines.

Aggie Wrangler tryouts consist of two parts and are held each April so the focus of the summer can be for everyone to learn the routines, Riggs said.

First is dance ability, in which potential Wranglers demonstrate their dance skills by doing the two-step, polka and jitterbug. The second part is teachability where those trying out must repeat a dance taught to them only minutes earlier. An interview process is also involved, Riggs said, to make sure members will



The Aggie Wranglers perform onstage at Reed Arena in September 2001.

have the right morals to be a Wrangler.

Aggie Wrangler adviser Kim Novak said some memorable moments working with the Wranglers include seeing Wrangler alumni and current members come together to select the best new members.

"To see the former students come back to support and choose who will be part of their team was inspirational and reminded me just how phenomenal an experience being a Wrangler is intended to be," Novak said.

The most intensive practice is done months before making the team, Riggs said. He recommends that anyone interested in trying out should

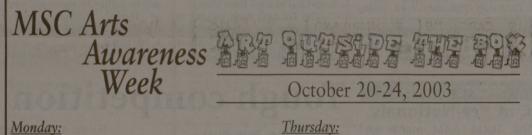
FILE PHOTO . THE BATTALION

take the lessons offered by the Wranglers twice a semester and take advantage of the dance partner database at aggiewranglers.com.

'The style we teach is the style we look for in tryouts," Riggs said. "I guarantee, if you're dedicated, then we can teach you how to dance.'

To the Wranglers, each performance is as important as any other, no matter who they are performing for, Novak said

They are highly trained professionals who spend hours improving their performance," Novak said, "because they truly love their school and the art of Aggie Wrangler dance.'



Monday:

12pm Noon Time Concert @ Langford Atrium Lunchbox Concert @ Rudder Fountain 12pm "Carpe Diem" - Rudy @ MSC 292A

12pm Slam Poetry @ MSC Flag Room 12pm Lunchbox Concert @ Rudder Fountain 2:30pm Poetry Performance Workshop @ Rudder 401

coalition and a U.N. cil by Dec. 15 with a olding elections. Coalition Provision

:tion

ggies"



ION

THE ROAD TO RETIREMENT MAY SEEM SMOOTH, BUT IT'S LITTERED WITH TOLLS.

savings you're working so hard to build. Contact us, a company known for keeping

TIAA-CREF.org or call 800.842.2776



Managing money for people

TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, Inc. and Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc. distribute securities products. For information and prospectuses, call (877) 518-9161. Read them carefully before investig nt Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), 730 Third Avenu

Tuesday:

12pm Hip-Hop Freestyle Contest @ Rudder Fountain Friday: 8:30pm Open Mic Night @ MSC Visual Art Gallery

Wednesday:

1:30pm "Saxomophones" @ Sul Ross Plaza Ron Clark Art Opening @ MSC Visual Art Gallery 11-2pm Creation Table @ Rudder 7pm 7:30pm The Pianist @ MSC Forsyth Center Galleries

7:45pm CineStudent: Kill Bill @ Cinemark Coffeehouse - Poetry Night @ Rumours 8pm

8pm MSC Aggie Nights @ MSC The Debut @ MSC 201 8pm

All Week Long:

11-2pm Big Banners @ Rudder/Wehner

Brought To You By: MSC ACE, MSC ALOT, MSC Film Society, MSC LAC, MSC OPAS, MSC Town Hall, MSC VAC and PhilSA For More Information Visit www.msc.tamu.edu

