

THE BATTALION

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Half century

Krueger devotes career to A&M poultry science



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Poultry science professor **Willie F. Krueger** sits in front of a collection of paintings of various breeds and varieties of chickens. The paintings are appraised at more than \$75,000. The collection was donated by Ideal Poultry-Breeding Farms out of Cameron, Texas.

By Dan Orth
THE BATTALION

Willie F. Krueger, an endowed professor of poultry science, has achieved a rare milestone by teaching at Texas A&M for 50 years.

Krueger has dedicated his life to poultry science and the students he teaches.

Krueger said he is an Aggie at heart who has remained at A&M despite opportunities to take positions at other universities and in the private sector.

He said students have made it possible for him to continue teaching for so long.

"I enjoy students, being around them and motivating them," Krueger said. "I like public service and research, and A&M was a perfect fit because it allows me to do both."

Krueger has been actively involved in poultry science judging for the past 20 years. In the 40 competitions he has taken teams to, the teams have brought home 16 national championships and eight second place awards.

Cheyenne Campbell, a senior poultry science major and member of this year's judging team, has worked with Krueger on the team for the past seven semesters.

"Dr. Krueger is a great motivator and gets us excited for competition," Campbell said. "It is amazing how Dr. Krueger hasn't lost his edge at all and still has a passion for judging."

Campbell said she and other members of the poultry science team think of Krueger as their grandfather.

Krueger said he is motivated by the change he sees developing in students during their time at A&M.

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Dove's poetry unites people

By Lauren Smith
THE BATTALION

In former U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winner Rita Dove's poem "Thomas and Beulah" (1986), her character Beulah "wants to taste change." Dove shares this desire as she writes poetry that transcends borders separating groups of people.

Dove began the 2003-04 season of Texas A&M's Distinguished Lecture Series Thursday in Rudder Theater, where she read several of her poems and answered questions from the audience.

Serving as the U.S. poet laureate and consultant to the Library of Congress from 1993 to 1995, Dove also received the 1987 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

The poet laureate is the official poet of the country and seeks

to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry. The appointment to the position is made annually by the Librarian of Congress.

Dove was the nation's youngest poet laureate and is the only African-American to hold the nation's highest official literary honor.

Dove said she started reading Shakespeare when she was 10 or 11 years old and felt lucky to have parents who encouraged her to read everything.

"When I was 11, I headed to the adult section of the library and when they wouldn't let me check books out from there, my mom sent a letter to school the next day saying that I could," she said.

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JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Rita Dove speaks at Rudder Theater Thursday night. Dove is a former U.S. poet laureate and consultant to the Library of Congress.

Campus Master Plan committee finalizing draft

Campus Master Plan

Details of the University's Campus Master Plan were presented to the Student Senate at its meeting Wednesday. The plan outlines all future construction at Texas A&M.

- ▶▶ The total cost of all proposed construction is between \$1.8 billion and \$2.5 billion.
- ▶▶ The University aims to build affordable, attractive and modern buildings with attached garages for parking.
- ▶▶ Several Northside residence halls may be demolished and replaced with apartment-looking style rooms or suites.

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

The Campus Master Plan committee is finalizing its draft for a presentation to the Texas A&M Board of Regents in January, Associate Vice President for Administration Mary Miller told the Student Senate Wednesday night.

Miller was candid with senators about the process leading up to the plan as it currently stands. She said the quality of A&M's students and faculty far outdistance the quality of the surrounding visual environment.

"We're a much better place than we look to be on this campus," Miller said.

She listed several buildings on the Campus Master Plan's demolition "hit list," including some Northside residence halls, the Biological Science Building East, Bizzell

Hall and Cain Hall.

Miller said cost is a major factor in determining how quickly new buildings are added. The total cost of all proposed changes is between \$1.8 billion and \$2.5 billion, she said.

While the beauty in the trim of the old buildings will be preserved as much as possible in buildings such as the Academic Building, Sbsa Dining Hall and the YMCA building, the University will not be able to afford such intricate architecture in the future, she said. Instead, the University will try to build affordable, attractive and modern buildings with parking garages attached on the back side, much like the Koldus building.

Ross Street construction will begin in the spring of 2004, after the Chemistry Engineering Building on the corner of University and Ireland Streets is completed,

so that vehicles unable to travel on Ross Street will have an alternate route.

Once the road work on Ross is completed, within about two years, the University plans to shut down Ross Street except for buses during the day, and open it up to all vehicles at night, Miller said.

The cost of the recent construction on Old Main Street was around \$5 million, she said. Due to the high cost and current lack of funds, other roads that need repaving will be patched until money becomes available or the more expensive road work becomes more urgent.

Miller said the Department of Residence Life submitted a demolition list of Northside dorms to the committee. The department has a plan to build more apartment-looking style rooms or suites that will be more in line with

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Texas Forest Service dispatched to California fires

By Jacquelyn Spruce
THE BATTALION

Being a firefighter can be a difficult job, but for some, it is a rewarding experience.

Ronnie Perry, fire mitigation and suppression specialist for the Texas Forest Service, said he was honored to be asked to help fight the California wildfires.

"We're always ready to go help," he said. "It's basically like helping a neighbor. It makes us feel good."

Marilynn Grossman, communications manager for Texas Forest Service, which is part of the Texas A&M System, said about 10 Texas Forest Service personnel were released on Oct. 29 to

fight the raging wildfires in California. Along with them on a transport trailer went a Type III fire engine, built to operate in both urban areas and wild land. Among many other amenities, the engine contains its own water to be used in case a fireplug isn't available.

Perry, whose job included operating the engine, said that although he has worked as suppression specialist for the past three and a half years, this was his first out-of-state assignment. He said when the group arrived in California, the first thing they did was go to the base camp to go through a check-in process in which the engine was checked. Next they were sent to a staging area where they waited for their assignment.

"You must be ready to respond to what is necessary within three minutes when you are in the

staging area," he said.

Although the personnel were prepared to take action and help, the weather took a twist and rain began to fall, helping the wildfires die down.

Grossman said the rain was the greatest help for the firefighters and residents of the area.

"It really took a weather event to change things," she said. "At one point there were about 14,000 firefighters working with the fires."

Perry said even though their resources weren't used, his trip to California was a learning experience and he was proud to offer a hand to those in another state.

"We were welcomed, as far as being there," he said. "There were a lot of firefighters that were surprised to see us. They kept asking, 'Are you all really from Texas?'"

Dan Horton, Class of 1999 and a San Diego resident, said the wildfires affected everyone around him.

"They closed all the schools and even the freeways. At one point, the fires were just a couple miles away from our home," he said. "Everyone was wearing masks, and it was very hard to breathe."

Horton said it's nice to be able to go outside without walking through clouds of smoke.

Along with the individuals from the Texas Forest Service, the Texas Interagency Coordination Center also dispatched personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and personnel from the U.S. Forest Service. Personnel from the National Park Service were sent to help out as well.

Trial under way of Parsons Cavalry suit against Texas A&M

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

Members of the Texas A&M Parsons Mounted Cavalry, who were reprimanded in April for alleged hazing violations, are currently pursuing a civil suit against Texas A&M.

Opening arguments began Wednesday in the Brazos County

Courthouse. The Cavalry filed a civil suit against A&M after being suspended in October 2002 by Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne, the Corps of Cadets commandant. According to KBTX-TV, the reprimanded Cavalry members claim the disciplinary proceedings against them were unfair and illegal, the students' attorneys said.

The suspension occurred after the unit's student commander, Ty Keeling, reported hazing incidents to Van Alstyne in the fall of 2002. The University Police Department and a Brazos grand jury ended

their investigations of the alleged hazing by the end of October 2002.

Rodney McClendon, A&M President Robert M. Gates' chief of staff and a witness in the case, declined to comment.

"It is University policy for litigation in any case that a witness cannot comment," McClendon said. "The judge has instructed me not to talk."

The case will resume at 9 a.m. on Friday in the 272nd District Courtroom at the Brazos County Courthouse, 300 E. 26th St.