

THE BATTALION

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First VP of diversity takes office

Conservative student group opposes Anderson's position

By Lauren Smith
THE BATTALION

Dr. James Anderson is officially moving into Texas A&M's newly formed position of vice president and associate provost for institutional assessment and diversity today. Anderson will also join the College of Liberal Arts as a professor of psychology. His office is located at 607 Rudder Tower. Julian Lopez, a junior management major, has helped organize a movement to demonstrate the support of the student body in the University's attempts to become more diverse and increase awareness

of diversity issues.

Lopez said he called several organizations to help in the collaborative effort to pass out fliers about Vision 2020, the Student Government Association's commitment to diversity and free Little Debbie's desserts Wednesday.

The welcoming efforts are not the only events surrounding Anderson's arrival tomorrow. The A&M branch of the Young Conservatives of Texas is protesting the initiation of the position it calls the "VP of discrimination."

Mark McCaig, junior marketing major and communications director of YCT, said Anderson's salary alone, \$170,000, could cause funding for academic programs and stu-

dent programs to be cut.

The organization is putting on an affirmative action bake sale tomorrow at the Academic Plaza in which the price of baked goods is based on the race of the person purchasing, with whites paying the most.

"We are trying to show the ludicrous nature of racial preferences in not only higher education, but also in society in general," McCaig said.

Lopez said people should not be scared of diversity, which he said has little to do with minorities, but rather is concerned with other things such as being from a small or big town, being Catholic or Baptist, Jewish or Muslim.

"Diversity is so much more than race," Lopez said. "The new VP of

diversity is not mentioning affirmative action. People should consider what they are doing before protesting something like this, and making people feel unwelcome is not what Aggies do, because minorities do feel uncomfortable because of things like this."

YCT is also starting a pledge drive in which a white student can voluntarily give up a spot at A&M to give to someone who is more "diverse."

"They (YCT) have the right to say or do what they want," Lopez said. "We are not going against them, just supporting the administration and Vision 2020."

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Anderson Takes On New Job



Dr. James Anderson is joining Texas A&M as vice president and associate provost for Institutional Assessment and Diversity.

Previously served as vice provost for Undergraduate Affairs and professor of counselor education.

Holds a B.A. in psychology from Vellanova University and a Ph.D. in psychology from Cornell University.

Anderson will also serve as a professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts.

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SOURCE: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Gone to the dogs



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Recreation parks and tourism sciences majors junior Ben Morton and sophomore Adam Mayard walk their dogs through Research Park late Tuesday afternoon. Mayard's dog, Dodger, is a Rhodesian Ridgeback, originally bred to hunt lions. The Ridgeback has increased in popularity as a recreational dog.

A&M advisory board focuses on marketing

By Justin Smith
THE BATTALION

Marketing was the key at the Texas A&M Communications Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday.

The committee hosted former A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum, now serving as Special Adviser to the University president.



SLOCUM

Slocum outlined the goals of the A&M Communications Steering Committee, which he chairs, emphasizing that promoting the University's strong suits while squashing old, negative stereotypes can only help to build the University's reputation.

"(A&M) has grown rapidly, but the average person outside of College Station won't know that," Slocum said.

By marketing the University and highlighting its positive aspects, Slocum hopes to do several things.

"We hope to continue to attract quality students. We have an initiative right now to hire over 400 new faculty, so we want to be able to go out and get quality people to come and work for Texas A&M. We want to continue to pull in research dollars,"

he said. "We want to make sure the Texas Legislature has a good opinion of the work we are doing here at Texas A&M so when it comes time to appropriate funds to sustain or efforts here, we are seen favorably."

Slocum said the Communications Steering Committee has three separate task forces working under it to accomplish these goals.

The first is the task force on marketing, which Slocum is chairing.

This group knows A&M is lacking an infrastructure for marketing and is researching peer institutions to see how they market themselves, and how those institutions think A&M could market itself better, Slocum said.

To do this, the group has surveyed Purdue, the University of Texas, Kent State, University of California-LA and Pennsylvania State.

The second task force is on organization for marketing communications. This group will look more closely at A&M and its marketing flaws, striving to solve some of those flaws from within.

The final task force is the Web management task force, which is trying to cut frivolous Web page maintenance costs and create some uniformity in the Web pages hosted by A&M.

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UT system approves tuition increases

By April Castro
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The University of Texas System Board of Regents on Tuesday approved tuition increases at all nine campuses, using new rate-setting powers granted by the Legislature to offset state budget cuts beginning in the spring semester.

"The cuts we have suffered are astounding," UT System Chancellor Mark Yudof said. "It's clear to everybody that tuition is going to have to go up significantly."

After slashing appropriations to higher education, the Legislature in June gave public universities in the state permission to set their own tuition rates.

Yudof and the UT System have advocated deregulating tuition long before it was known how deep the budget cuts would be during the most recent legislative session.

The increases will affect about 178,000 students at campuses in Arlington, Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, Edinburg, El Paso, Odessa, San Antonio and Tyler. The

Brownsville and Edinburg campuses will not institute increases until the fall 2004 semester.

At UT-Dallas, for example, an undergraduate currently pays \$2,140 in tuition and fees for 12 hours. In the spring, that figure would increase 11 percent to \$2,380. For fall 2004, tuition and fees would be \$2,668, an increase of 25 percent over the fall 2003 rate.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst last week asked Texas universities to wait to implement tuition increases until lawmakers could review their impact. He said many of the proposals were higher than he anticipated.

"I will ask the Legislative Oversight Committee on Higher Education to convene in December to review accountability, affordability and accessibility at our public universities," Dewhurst said in a statement Tuesday. "I will ask the oversight committee to review current and future tuition

"It's clear to everybody that tuition is going to have to go up significantly."

— Mark Yudof
UT system chancellor

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"JavaShock"

What: A poetry slam

Where: P. David Romei Center for the Arts

When: Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

- ▶ A two-round competition with a \$25 first prize
- ▶ There will be an open mic for poets who do not wish to compete
- ▶ No cover charge

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: P. DAVID ROMEI

Javashock unites county poets

By Sonia Moghe
THE BATTALION

As a published poet who earned his doctorate in medieval history, P. David Romei, executive director of the Arts Council of Brazos Valley, said he is interested in bringing order from chaos. In his poem titled "Stockholm" from his book "A Thousand Feathers," he writes: "Bring the many to the one."

This Thursday, he will be doing just that as he allows slam poets and those interested in the art to gather at the P. David Romei Center for the Arts at Wolfpen for Javashock, the first of a series of quarterly poetry slams that will take place in different locations throughout the county.

"I am a firm believer that we need to support poetry and literature — they are underserved, underfunded and underappreciated around the world," Romei said. "But I think appreciation of the arts here is at a zenith. Brazos County has become a mecca for the arts, taking in groups from surrounding areas."

Javashock will present the county with a slam poetry contest, complete with a first place prize of \$25.

"We've gotten a lot of community sponsorships," said Kelli Hollinger, MSC Literary Arts Committee adviser. "We want to move the venue around to attract different poets."

See Javashock on page 2

GSC admits new gay student association

By Eric Ambrosio
THE BATTALION

The Rainbow Graduate Student Association was admitted as a non-departmental organization (NDO) at the Graduate Student Council meeting Tuesday night.

The group, which represents gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, is the second NDO to be admitted to the GSC.

The International Graduate Student Association was the first organization to be admitted last year to represent all international graduate students.

"Non-Departmental Groups

were created because there was a concern that there were groups of people that were not being adequately represented for whatever reason," said Matt Wilkins, legislative affairs officer for GSC. "There are certain broad categories of people that supercede departmental issues."

The GSC constitution was changed in 2002 to allow NDOs to participate in the GSC. The purpose of these groups is to deal with issues outside of departmental concerns, said Josh Peschel, GSC president.

"It attempts to ensure that groups within the University have representation and that

those issues are brought up in the GSC forum," Peschel said.

Texas A&M was rated the 12th least gay-friendly campus in the United States, according to the most recent Princeton Review survey.

Only about 10 percent of the student population is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered (GLBT), and it is difficult to represent GLBT issues among a larger constituency such as a departmental representative, said Michael Moore, financial officer for the Rainbow Graduate Student Association.

"GLBT students are often concerned with being outed," Moore said. "Even if someone

GLBT is a departmental representative, they may say nothing for fear of being exposed."

The Rainbow Graduate Student Association will also serve as a median to bring GLBT issues to the attention of University officials. Whereas Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Aggies is primarily a social group composed of mostly undergraduates, the graduate association will address issues that concern GLBT graduate students.

The first topic that will be addressed by Rainbow

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