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Hispanic

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believes numbers may be up because of the efforts that A&M has made to boost Hispanic enrollment.

"We have done a lot of recruiting in the Rio Grande Valley in the past few years, and we have a full-time recruiter and admissions center in San Antonio," he said. "We have made good relationships."

Ashley said one of the main reasons he believes Hispanic women come to A&M is because it is such a safe campus.

"One thing I know that we have really done in the last couple of years is talked with a lot of Hispanic fathers about Texas A&M being one of the safest campuses in the nation," Ashley said. "One time, when I was recruiting in Brownsville, a Hispanic dad came up to me and said, 'This is my only daughter, and I'm entrusting her to you.'"

Ashley said A&M attracts Hispanic women because of the warm, friendly campus atmosphere and the idea of an Aggie family.

"A big selling point is that we really stress the idea of the Aggie family, and family is very important in the Hispanic culture," Ashley said.

Ashley said he hopes to see the number of Hispanic women rise now that A&M offers a doctorate degree in Hispanic studies.

"I think it will attract more Hispanics to the University," he said.

Laura Rodriguez, a graduate teaching assistant of Spanish, said she attended A&M because of the prestigious Department of Modern Languages. She said she believes that with the addition of the Hispanic Studies program, Hispanic women such as herself will be more attracted to the University.

"In Texas, our Department of Modern Languages is one of the best programs," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said she believes the reason the Hispanic women population is so high now is because of the push A&M is making toward a diversified campus.

"I think they are admitting so many Hispanics because A&M needs so much diversity," Rodriguez said.

Deborah Flores, a sophomore petroleum engineering major, said she was attracted to A&M because of the scholarships offered to her because she was a Hispanic woman.

Flores said she would recommend that Hispanic women take advantage of those scholarships to come to A&M.

"It's a great opportunity to come to this institution," Flores said.

Lorena Martinez, president of Sigma Lambda Gamma, a Latina sorority formed in 1997, said she is excited that the population of Hispanic women has grown.

"That's a pretty great achievement for A&M, but I wish it was a higher number," Martinez said.

Martinez said that she would recommend A&M to other Hispanic women.

"The reputation that A&M has is great," Martinez said. "I don't think I would go to any other university."

The report also ranked A&M as the eighth highest-ranked school for enrolling women in the nation with 16,294 and the fourth highest-ranked institution for giving bachelor's degrees to women, with 3,923.

Africana

Continued from page 1

he was coordinator of the English Department at Prairie View A&M University for two years.

Muana said his focus and preference in teaching has been mainly in African Diaspora and post-colonial African literature.

Muana said he sees no differ-

ence teaching at a predominantly white university compared to Prairie View A&M, which is predominantly black.

"When I teach, when I interact with my students and when I interact with all my colleagues, frankly, I don't see color," Muana said.

Muana said that his academic experience and interaction with students has made him

optimistic about "taking on this particular mantle" for the Africana Studies minor.

He said it's beneficial that A&M is embracing diversity with the addition of this minor.

"I see the focus of interaction really, as being what we are studying and how we are relating to it," Muana said.

Brad Coleman a junior political science major, said he

thinks the study of African culture is unknown to many and probably has a lot to offer.

"Every culture should be explored," Coleman said.

Muana has been at A&M for three years as an assistant English professor, and said that although he could have left after one year to teach at another institution, he stayed because of the academic standards that A&M maintains.

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