



'Softly call the Muster'

Aggies gather around the world as A&M Qatar campus celebrates Muster

By Sonia Moghe
THE BATTALION

Thousands of students, alumni, family members and friends came together to remember 139 fallen Aggies and the values of tradition and change at the on-campus Muster Wednesday, while thousands of miles away the Texas A&M-Qatar campus held its inaugural Muster.

"What it is that continues to bring us together has not changed," said Cindy Abbot, senior chair of the Muster committee. "(Muster is) a sort of family reunion, rekindling times."

Muster, which was held in Reed Arena, is an A&M tradition that celebrates the lives of Aggies who died during the year and has been celebrated in some form on April 21 for more than 120 years with about 400 ceremonies worldwide, said Charles Ellison, Class of 1976 and president of the Association of Former Students.

Student Body President Matt Josefy, a senior

accounting major, said he took part in a teleconference with the Qatar campus for its first Muster Wednesday.

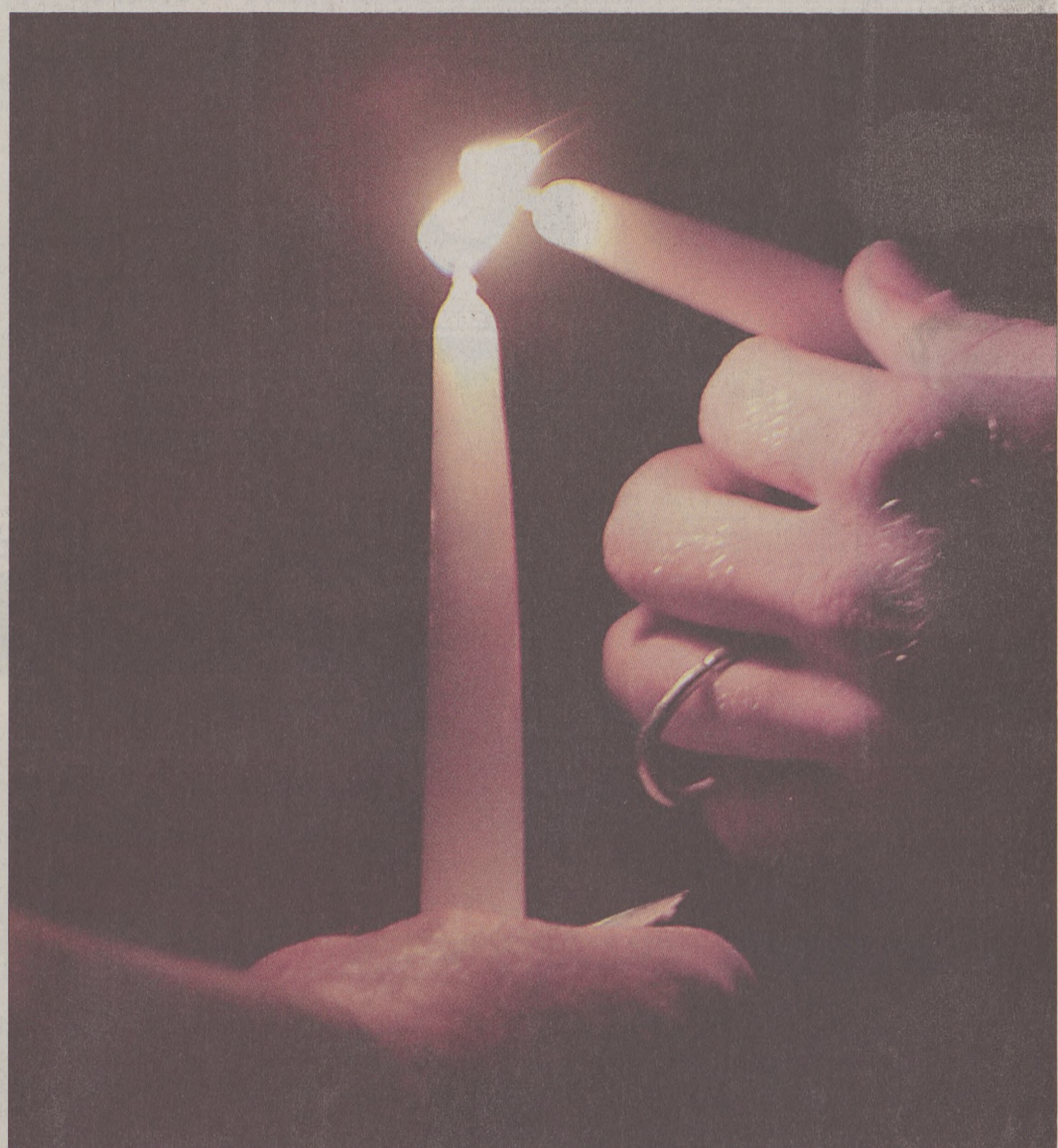
"The venue has changed, but the concept is still the same," Josefy said.

He said he spoke with a student from the Qatar campus who said he was glad to know that his life will one day be celebrated in a Muster and people all over the world will remember him.

Erika Prochaska, Class of 2002, and Wendy Ridings, Class of 2003, shared remembrances of the Class of 1954, including a visit by John Wayne, the popularity of hitchhiking by Corps of Cadets members, the atmosphere of an all-male university, the dedication of the Memorial Student Center during the Class of 1954's freshman year and visions of Corps members waiting for "sugar reports," otherwise known as letters from their girlfriends.

Franklin Tipton, Class of 1954, attended Muster

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PHOTOS BY JOSHUA L. HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Family and friends light candles during roll call at Muster in Reed Arena Thursday night in constant remembrance of the 139 Aggies who lost their lives in the last year.

Aggies celebrate largest ring day

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

Belle Palmer, a senior English major, is prepared for a hectic Aggie ring day. Palmer said she will stay busy because she has to go to work as a bus driver afterward, but that she is going to make the most out of it by wearing a maroon sombrero and passing out candy to passengers on her bus route.

"I am going to show off my Aggie ring and celebrate with everyone," she said. "My bus route just happens to be Bonfire."

Palmer is one of 2,872 Aggies who will be picking up their Aggie rings Thursday, making it the largest distribution ever, said Julie Scamardo, Aggie ring program coordinator.

Palmer is also one of seven Aggies who will receive their rings because of an organization called Change, which raises money for a scholarship fund to give an Aggie ring to students who may not be able to afford one.

Change began last year when a student who could not afford his Aggie ring went to the 12th Man Cafeteria and started to collect spare change from patrons, said Keith McSpadden, chairman of Change and a junior biomedical sciences major. Within an hour he

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Couple honored as Parents of the Year

By Jason Hanselka
THE BATTALION

In spring 1971, during a blind date in Yoakum, Texas, two college students had a feeling that they were experiencing something special.

The moment was so special that on Sept. 18 of that same year, Eugene and Elaine Baumann were married at the A&M All Faiths Chapel. And they attribute it all to a little matchmaking from a mutual friend.

"My wife had a friend at Southwest (Texas State University) that I met when she was getting her master's at Sam Houston State (University)," Eugene Baumann said. "She set us up on a blind date in Yoakum and we were married in the fall of that year."

The Baumanns were honored Sunday during the conclusion of Parents' Weekend at the All University Awards Ceremony with the honor of being selected as Parents of the Year for 2004-05.

The Baumanns currently live in Gause, Texas, which is about 30 miles northwest of Bryan-College Station, and have two Aggie daughters, Kimberly, Class of 1998, and Melissa, Class of 2004.

Eugene Baumann started his teaching

career after graduating from Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Texas, in 1961 with a degree in elementary education. He taught history at a junior high school in McAllen before he moved to Baytown, where he taught junior high school science and was the head basketball and tennis coach.

He received his master's degree in education from Sam Houston State University, during which, he became certified to assume counselor, principal and superintendent duties. Eugene retired from Hearne Independent School District, where he was the principal of Eastside Elementary and director of school services.

Elaine Baumann graduated from Southwest Texas State University in 1964 with a degree in education. She currently

teaches first grade at Ben Milam Elementary in Cameron, Texas.

Elaine said her daughters told her that she and her husband had been nominated for the award a week before the ceremony.

"My daughter (Melissa) came home for Easter and told us that she had nominated us for the award," Elaine said. "They (my daughters) knew we had won, and they were keeping it a secret from us."

Their daughter, Melissa, a senior renewable natural resources major and Memorial Student Center Hospitality chair, said the big hearts her parents have is one thing she emphasized when she nominated them.

"What I tried to portray in the application was the little things that they do in life for the community, the church and the elderly," Melissa said.

The Baumanns would always cook food for the elderly in their community during holidays, especially Christmas, Melissa said.

Libby Whitehead, Parents of the Year co-chair and a junior accounting major, said the

"What I tried to portray in the application was the little things they do in life for the community, the church and the elderly."

— Melissa Baumann daughter

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Bush library features Barbara Bush exhibit

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Former first lady Barbara Bush is a dream subject for an exhibit because she is a remarkable woman with a great life, said Patricia Burchfield, curator of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Burchfield said the exhibit showcases a wonderful woman's life as a wife, mother, grandmother and spokeswoman for her literacy cause.

"Barbara Bush: An Extraordinary Journey" is the central theme of "The Year of the Woman" at the Bush Library. The exhibit opened on April 17, and it will remain open until Sept. 19.

"It's a trip through her life from a young lady to the peak of power, a woman who raised a family with her husband as a president, a son who became president and another son the governor of Florida," said Edward Douglas Menarchik, director of the Bush Library.

Menarchik said this is the first time the Bush Library has had an exhibit focusing on the former first lady. The museum features many items belonging to Bush such as pictures of the Bush family and events throughout the years, evening gowns, handmade purses, jewelry, her famous pearls, gifts from various people, a needlepoint, rug that she made by hand, speeches, letters and many other items, some of which are on loan personally from Bush herself.

"The exhibit allows you not only to see Bush as the for-

Barbara Bush: An Extraordinary Journey



For the first time, the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum is featuring an exhibit on former first lady Barbara Bush.

- Will remain open through Sept. 19

- The exhibit features items of Bush's such as evening gowns, handmade purses and her famous pearls.

- For more information log on to <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu>

ANDREW BURLISON • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: BRIAN BLAKE, PR DIRECTOR & PATRICIA BURCHFIELD, MUSEUM COORDINATOR

mer first lady, but as a woman of content, substance and elegance," Menarchik said.

Brian Blake, public relations specialist of the Bush Library, said the items that are on loan from Bush personally are the most priceless items of the exhibit.

"She was very generous in loaning items to us; it really gives the exhibit a perspective of Mrs. Bush that people have never really seen before," Blake said.

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A&M charters honor society

By Brian D. Cain
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M has joined 270 universities nationwide in creating a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, a national honor society aimed at honoring students who have been academically successful.

The honor society recently announced its new members of the Class of 2004.

"The Kappa of Texas Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa has named about 103 students out of this year's graduating class," said David Carlson, president of Kappa of Texas. "The students are chosen by their GPAs, but also by the breadth of their education. In other words, by how challenging their curriculum was."

Carlson said Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest honor society, founded in 1776. It honors students who seek a broad education through liberal arts and social science courses, he said.

The universities chosen to host the society are selected by the organization

for the quality of the faculty as well as the institution, Carlson said.

Ed Elmore, an adjunct professor at A&M and a member of Phi Beta Kappa who served on the nominations committee, said A&M deserves to shelter the chapter, and that it is an honor for the school.

"I think it is a tremendous honor that we are getting a chapter here at A&M, and it is long overdue," Elmore said. "It is an honor for the school as well as for the students elected."

Elmore said induction into Phi Beta Kappa means one has instant academic and intellectual credibility.

"In an academic realm, the most prestigious thing you can have on your resume is a Ph.D.," Elmore said. "After that, it's Phi Beta Kappa."

Lauren Barbier, a senior journalism major, said she is glad to have been elected for induction into Phi Beta Kappa this year.

"I certainly feel honored because it

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