

A&M Faculty Senate names Fike speaker-elect

By Chelsea L. Sledge
THE BATTALION



FIKE

John Fike, speaker-elect of the Texas A&M Faculty Senate, has led an interesting life. He worked at the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, was employed by NASA in the 1960s when man first landed on the moon and he loves riding trains.

"Last spring break, we took the Freshman Learning Committee to London," said Martha

Loudder, former speaker of the Faculty Senate and accounting professor. "And all he did was ride the trains!"

Fike, an associate professor for the Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution, was recently named the first speaker-elect of the A&M Faculty Senate.

Next year, Fike will serve as speaker of the

Faculty Senate. In addition to presiding over meetings, this title deems the speaker a representative of the entire A&M faculty.

There are three components of the University — the faculty, the administration and the student body. The Faculty Senate is similar to the Texas Legislature in that proportional numbers of faculty representing each college make up the Senate. The Student Senate and the Faculty Senate make recommendations to the administration, which is the governing body of the

University.

"We are very fortunate in that we have an administration that believes in shared government," Fike said. "They don't always make the decisions we like, but at least they're good about listening."

The Faculty Senate deals with issues such as parking, salaries, standards for grading and new courses and degree programs. Most importantly,

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Cheer up!



DAVE MORRIS • THE BATTALION

Over 600 junior high and high school cheerleaders from around the state gathered at the Texas A&M Student Recreational Center basketball courts Tuesday for a cheerleading camp put on by the Universal Cheerleading

Association. During the camp's weeklong run, the cheerleading squads divide into intermediate, advanced and elite classes based on the squads' skill level.

A&M health school gets accreditation

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

rural and underserved populations, according to the school's Web site.

After a five-year evaluation process, the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health received full accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health.

The process began in 1999, and the school was granted pre-accreditation status in 2001. The school is now one of 36 public health schools accredited by the organization and the only accredited school of rural public health in the nation.

The school's goal is to improve the health of communities with an emphasis on

The accreditation will last for seven years, the maximum duration granted. CEPH accreditation is an endorsement that adds value for graduates, prospective students, the school and prospective employers.

Dr. Nancy Dickey, president of the Texas A&M Health Science Center and vice chancellor for health affairs, said she was proud of the school.

"This is a superb recognition of how hard and effectively the

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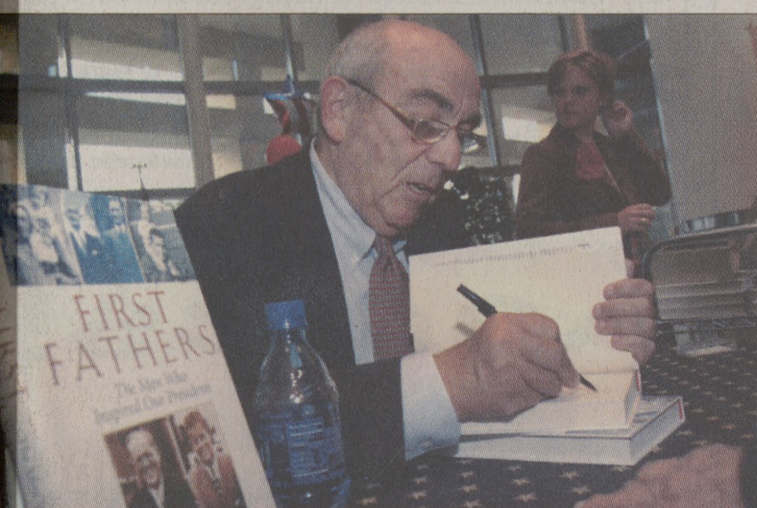
TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Received full accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health.

- The evaluation process took five years
- A&M now has the only accredited school of rural public health in the nation
- The school's research dollars have increased to \$6 million annually
- The accreditation will last for seven years, the maximum duration granted



WILL LLOYD • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: CIRO SUMAYA, DEAN, SCHOOL OF RPH



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

Author Harold I. Gullen signs copies of his book, "First Fathers" in the rotunda of the George Bush Presidential Library.

'First Fathers' know best for their sons

By Suzy Green
THE BATTALION

The main characteristic that fathers of United States presidents have in common is their pursuit of happiness, said Harold Gullen, author of "First Fathers: The Men Who Inspired Our Presidents," Tuesday at the Bush Museum Issues Forum to an audience of 50 people.

"First fathers care more about high achievement than politics or high office," said Gullen, who recently appeared on C-SPAN's "Book T.V."

The fathers of presidents are diverse in background and social class, but all

of them inspired and motivated their sons in different forms, Gullen said.

"I can't think of any father who didn't make some contribution in some way to his son," he said.

Even the worst fathers, such as those of presidents Fillmore, Clinton and Lincoln, influenced their sons, Gullen said.

For example, former President Grant's unimpressive father forced him to go to West Point, a decision that led to a much better life than Grant would have had otherwise, Gullen said.

The only father who specifically wanted his son to become president was Joseph Kennedy, Gullen said. However,

Kennedy's second oldest son, John, was actually his third choice to take the position after himself and his oldest son, Joe, failed to achieve it.

Many presidents greatly respected their fathers.

Reagan declared his father, a shoe salesman, the strongest man of principle he had ever met, Gullen said.

Jefferson saw his father as the example of what he wanted the new republic of the United States to be, Gullen said.

Gullen is the author of other books, including "Faith of Our Mothers," which is about the mothers of American presidents.

Board reviews A&M's performance

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

The Texas Legislative Budget Board is commissioning a review of Texas A&M to gather opinions of students, faculty, staff and alumni on the University's management and performance.

MGT of America Inc., a national higher education consulting firm, is conducting the review. As part of the review, MGT held an open forum from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday in Room 301 of Rudder Tower.

Seven notepads, each labeled with a different category, were posted on the walls of the room, where markers were available for writing comments.

Alvin Larke, professor of agricultural education, wrote his comment with an orange marker on a pad titled "University Governance and Leadership."

"Someone really needs to be accountable for the hiring of faculty," Larke wrote. "You cannot depend on search advisory committees. They are composed of the majority

race and they seek to hire their own."

The open forum was just one part of the review, which began May 15, said Mary McKeown-Moak, MGT project director for the A&M review.

She said student focus groups will be chosen by the vice president for student affairs. The students will be asked about class availability, their experience at A&M and whether A&M is contributing to their success.

"We definitely want to get more student input than we had today (at the forum)," McKeown-Moak said.

A&M President Robert M. Gates, vice presidents, deans, department chairs and other administrators will also be interviewed, she said.

"We're asking them about how their offices function and how decisions are made and how resources are allocated," she said.

McKeown-Moak said MGT is

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Suicide attempts at prison came after new general takes charge

By Matt Kelley
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Three months after a get-tough general took command of the Guantanamo Bay prison for terror suspects, prisoners began a flurry of suicide attempts, according to military records.

Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller took over as commander at Guantanamo in November 2002 after interrogators criticized his predecessor for being too solicitous for the detainees' welfare.

Between January and March 2003, 14 prisoners at Guantanamo tried to kill themselves, according to Pentagon figures. That's more than 40 percent of the 34 suicide attempts by 21 inmates since the prison was opened in January 2002.

"Our concern is that the totality of the conditions at Guantanamo ... may have ... pushed people to attempt suicide."

— Alistair Hodgett
member, Amnesty International

Miller is now in charge of all military-run U.S. prisons in Iraq, a job he took after news broke of beatings and sexual humiliations last fall at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad. Miller had visited Abu Ghraib in

August and September and recommended interrogation techniques that military lawyers said had to be modified to comply with the Geneva Conventions on treating prisoners of war.

Human rights groups say the suicide attempts at Guantanamo Bay may be evidence that conditions there amounted to torture.

The Bush administration calls the men "enemy combatants," similar to traditional prisoners of war but not subject to the guarantees of the Geneva Conventions against torture and other abuses. The administration contends their treatment nevertheless is humane.

"Our concern is that the totality of the conditions at Guantanamo — starting with the prolonged detention

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