



## Homeland Security comes to A&M

By Shawn C. Millender  
THE BATTALION

Secretary Tom Ridge of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced Wednesday July 14 that the Department will allocate \$18 million to start the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense at Texas A&M.

"The Aggies will work closely with others in academia, industry and government to address potential health risks such as foot-and-mouth disease and avian flu," Ridge said in a speech at the University of Minnesota.

A&M joins the University of Southern California and the University of Minnesota in the defense

effort. Ridge announced a \$15 million grant to Minnesota to start the National Center for Food Protection and Defense. USC is home to the Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events.

A representative from the office of the vice president for research at A&M said the Center's location within the University has not been decided.

Neville Clark, director of A&M's Institute for Countermeasures Against Agricultural Bioterrorism, will be the coordinator of the program. He was unavailable for comment Monday.

Zoonotic diseases are infections that can be spread to humans through animals. The program will concentrate its efforts on the three that are most clearly a threat to national security: avian

influenza, commonly known as bird flu, foot-and-mouth disease and Rift Valley fever.

According to the Texas Department of Agriculture Web site, foot-and-mouth disease is a "severe, highly communicable viral disease of cattle and swine. It also affects sheep, goats, deer and other cloven-hoofed ruminants."

The United States has not had a case of foot-and-mouth disease reported since 1929.

Southeast Asia has seen severe outbreaks of Influenza that resulted in human deaths. The source of human infections is not known, according to the TDA.

**Farmers Fight War on Terror**

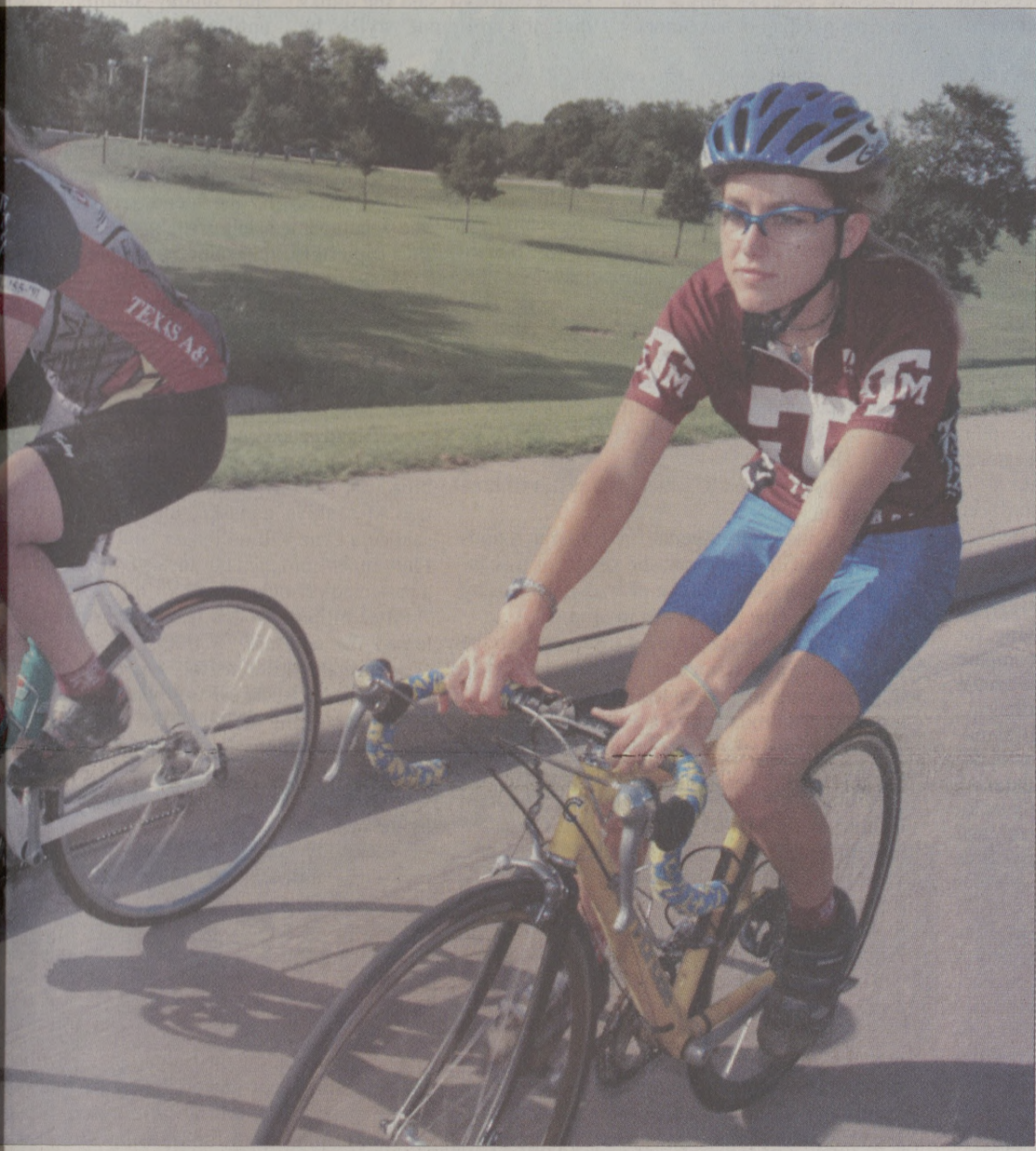
A&M will receive \$18 million to start the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense at Texas A&M.

- A&M will be partnered with the University of Southern California and the University of Minnesota
- Zoonotic diseases are spread to humans by animals
- The Center will concentrate its efforts on avian flu, foot-and-mouth disease and Rift Valley fever
- The Center's location is to be determined

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SOURCE: U.S. DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

See Security on page 2

## Ahead of the game



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

Kathleen Weber, Class of 2007, rides along Barbara Bush Drive near the George Bush Presidential Library with other members of the Brazos Valley Cycling Team on its Monday evening social ride that is open to beginners. Weber competes mainly in mountain bike courses, where she ranked first in the expert class nationally.

## Faculty Senate meeting addresses vacation policy

By Chelsea Sledge  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M faculty debated several issues at the Faculty Senate meeting Monday.

Don Hellreigel, a Faculty Senator for the College of Business, made it clear that he was disturbed by the current policy on faculty vacation, which "reassigns" faculty who need to take leave, rather than calling their vacation an emergency leave.

"I have a problem with it when you get audited," Hellreigel said. "What task would you tell them you were doing in New York? Why not just call it emergency leave?"

This problem of reassignment exists, for example, when a faculty member's daughter gets married the week after spring break, when faculty are not supposed to take business leave. Department heads can "reassign" faculty members temporarily to the location they need for a brief period of time without

leave, said Karan Watson, dean of faculties.

"If somebody is going to New York on a personal basis I don't think you should be saying it's for another purpose," Hellreigel said. "Don't call it being assigned to New York. Just be general and say you are being granted leave."

Taking time off is a problem for faculty members. Even leaving for small tasks such as meeting with an accountant can be difficult, said Martha Louder, former Faculty Senate speaker.

Out of the 2,400 faculty at Texas A&M, Watson said she sees about a dozen "reassignments" to different locations every year.

"All we're saying is you have obligations as a faculty to do appropriate leave practices and inform the University of where you are," Watson said.

Vince Casone, a senator for the College of Science, also spoke at Monday's meeting. He informed the Senate

**"We haven't decided how (the life sciences building) will be supported ... We need to figure it out."**

— Vince Casone  
College of Science senator

See Senate on page 2

## The Prairie Print Makers on display at Stark Galleries

By Joanna M. Jemison  
THE BATTALION

After the stock market crash and during the oncoming tides of the Great Depression, 10 print makers began to collaborate on affordable and available art that Americans everywhere could enjoy.

Currently on display at the Sara & John H. Lindsey Gallery within the J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries is a collection of gift prints made by "The Prairie Print Makers," a Kansas-based printing society.

The collection has a range of many different printing techniques such as etching, lithography, drypoint, wood engraving and aquatint.

The 34-piece collection includes works depicting scenes of everyday life. With dramatic contrast of black and white and splashes of color, the overarching detail composed within the works allows the viewer to take a glimpse into the artists' works on display.

Catherine Hastedt, Director of Art Collections and Exhibitions at the Stark Galleries, said "The Prairie Print Makers" typified what they call the Regionalist art period which glorified the American countryside.

The exhibit displays various scenes from

**Prairie Prints**  
The J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries are showing a collection of gift prints made by the "Prairie Print Makers"



- The complete collection of prints runs from 1931 to 1965
- The Kansas-based Print Makers traveled across the United States to promote sale of its work
- The collection contains art made using various techniques including etching, lithography, drypoint, wood engraving and aquatint
- The collection is representative of the Regionalist period of American Art

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: CATHERINE HASTEDT, GALLERY CURATOR

See Prairie on page 2

## Interim assistant provost named

By Suzy Green  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies Alice Reinartz was named interim assistant provost for enrollment service, effective Aug. 1.

"I have come to love A&M; I've met a lot of great colleagues here and I'm enthusiastic about this new challenge," said Reinartz, who is also a clinical professor of pathobiology.

The position was formerly filled by Frank Ashley, who is now the dean of education at Texas A&M Commerce.



REINARTZ

Increasing the enrollment of underrepresented students remains a main goal, Reinartz said.

"I'll be trying to maintain the momentum that we've had and continue outreach and recruitment efforts," Reinartz said.

Reinartz has dealt with a variety of issues with undergraduate students, said Mark Weichold, dean of undergraduate programs and associate provost for academic services.

"She has an excellent set of experiences," Weichold said. "Her background and people skills set her apart."

Reinartz will oversee recruiting, admissions and record keeping efforts.

"We're doing more work with community colleges, as well as expanding and creating new centers around the state for recruiting,"

Weichold said.

Reinartz held faculty and administrative positions at the University of Michigan and the University of Texas before coming to A&M in 2003.

"I've had a career in undergraduate education that spans a variety of roles and I really appreciate the unique and wonderful opportunity at Texas A&M," Reinartz said.

Reinartz is the recipient of several awards for undergraduate education, including the Carski Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award. The Carski Award recognizes outstanding teaching of microbiology to undergraduate students.

John Giardino, dean of graduate studies, is chairing a search advisory committee to find a permanent assistant provost for enrollment.

## Militants holding Filipino hostage extend deadline

By Ravi Nessman  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents killed three U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi civilian in separate attacks, and a militant group threatening to kill its Filipino hostage extended until Tuesday its deadline for Manila to agree to withdraw peacekeepers early.

The Philippine government previously rejected that ultimatum.

Iraqi interim President Ghazi al-Yawer said his government will soon offer an amnesty to those

who have fought against the U.S.-led coalition, a British newspaper reported Monday.

"We are offering an amnesty definitely, for people who have not committed too many atrocious acts," al-Yawer was quoted as telling The Financial Times. "Everybody except murderers, rapists and kidnapers."

He said the amnesty would be offered within "a couple of days."

The proposal was first mentioned earlier this month by a spokesman for interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, signaling the new government's desire to distance itself from the 14-month U.S.-led

occupation of Iraq.

Iraq's national security adviser, Mouwaffaq al-Rubaie, said Sunday the country would honor the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and other international agreements banning the use of chemical and biological weapons.

"Iraq officially declares it will be a country free of any weapons of mass destruction," al-Rubaie said. "Iraq will never again resort to threatening its neighbors, as Saddam did."

Saddam Hussein's alleged possession of such weapons was one of President Bush's declared reasons for invading Iraq. The hunt

for weapons of mass destruction has proved largely unsuccessful.

On Sunday afternoon, a roadside bomb exploded as U.S. patrol passed in Samarra, a hotbed of violence 60 miles north of Baghdad, killing two soldiers and wounding three others, the military said.

Earlier, a U.S. convoy was attacked in Beiji, 90 miles south of the northern city of Mosul. After a roadside bomb exploded, an enemy vehicle raced toward the convoy and fired at the soldiers, who

See Hostage on page 2