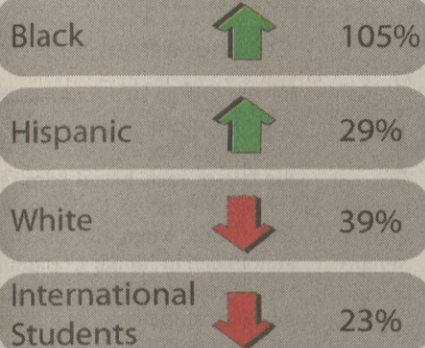




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INCREASED DIVERSITY IN GRAD SCHOOL

Preliminary enrollment figures for the Fall 2004 indicate increased diversity among graduate studies at Texas A&M.



WILL LLOYD • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: JOHN GIARDINO, OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Diversity increases in graduate studies

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

The Office of Graduate Studies at A&M announced it has made significant strides in increasing diversity among graduate studies programs. Overall graduate enrollment is up as well.

"These increases reflect our commitment to the goals articulated by President (Robert M.) Gates," said Dean of Graduate Studies John R. Giardino. "But we realize we have far to go to attain the levels of overall graduate and minority graduate enrollment we would like."

While graduate admissions numbers for fall 2004 have not been finalized, preliminary figures indicate a 105 percent rise for black students from 2003, and a 29 percent rise in Hispanic students. White enrollment, meanwhile, is down 3 percent and international enrollment is down 23 percent.

The rise in minority admission has been aided by new financial initiatives aimed at allowing

more students the ability to afford another few years of school.

The A&M University System unveiled its "Pathway to the Doctorate" program to funnel students from all system schools into post graduate studies programs.

Dean of A&M's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences John Quarles said deans from the system started working on this project three to four years ago.

"Something it does is bring information about graduate programs to schools in the system," Quarles said. "It introduces a lot of career pathways to students they might not have thought of."

The program is valued at \$21,752 for Texas residents and \$27,416 for out-of-state students.

Attracting qualified minority candidates in the past has been a challenge for the school. After implementation of programs aimed at underrepresented minorities, enrollment has increased.

In June, the Board of Regents voted unanimously to allow A&M's Health Science Center to use race-based admissions.

Nancy Dickey, Health Science Center president and vice chancellor for health affairs, said that while the school does have language in its admissions policy about increasing minority enrollment, it is not satisfied with what it has.

James Hallmark, dean of graduate studies at West Texas A&M University, said the program helps his students by offering them opportunities they wouldn't have otherwise.

"We have 1,600 grad students here and only one doctoral program," Hallmark said. "If I can tell them that if they do well here I can guarantee them a spot in A&M's graduate school with a good stipend, it's a good thing for my students."

The Diversity Fellowships, a program offered

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Astronaut to speak at Bush Library forum

By Chelsea Sledge
THE BATTALION

The first time Lisa Steiner visited the Johnson Space Center, she told her parents that she was going to be an astronaut. Although her plans have changed, Steiner, a senior education major, still enjoys learning about astronauts and reading about space missions.

Peggy Whitson, astronaut and deputy chief of NASA, will be speaking at the George Bush Library Issues Forum Thursday, July 15 at 7 p.m.

"I'm really excited that an astronaut is coming to A&M," Steiner said. "I'd like to go hear her speak because there are a lot of things I've always wondered about living in space."

Whitson was a member of the Expedition-5 crew that docked in June 2002 with

the International Space Station for six months. While in orbit, Whitson installed the Mobile Base System, the S1 truss segment, and the P1 truss segment and activated the Microgravity Sciences Glovebox and a facility class payload rack; all of which were crucial to the progress and stability of the space station itself.

"Being in space is a rare opportunity that most people will never experience," Nicole Cloutier, spokeswoman for NASA said. "It's especially neat because not that many astronauts log as many hours as Dr. Whitson. She has also received a lot of honors."

Whitson was named the first NASA Science Officer during her stay, and she conducted 21 investigations in human life sciences, according to the NASA

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ASTRONAUT IN AGGIELAND

Peggy Whitson, astronaut and Deputy Chief of NASA, will speak at the George Bush Library Issues Forum tonight at 7 p.m.



Whitson lived on the International Space Station for six months
Served as first NASA Science Officer on the space station

Whitson will speak in the Museum Orientation Theatre
Admission is free to the public
Reservations preferred; not required

WILL LLOYD • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: NICOLE CLOUTIER, NASA

Clowning around



DAVE MORRIS • THE BATTALION

Bello the Clown provided non-stop antics and performed daredevil stunts during Wednesday afternoon's performance of the 133rd Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at Reed

Arena. Bello's stunts include tightrope walking and battling with a bouncy bungee. Bello has been named America's Best Clown by Time magazine.

TS receives awards for services

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M received two awards from the International Parking Institute June 20 in New Orleans for the design of the West Campus Parking Garage and Wellborn Road pedestrian passageway.

The 3,700-space garage and the passageway earned A&M second place in the category "parking facilities design with more than 800 spaces" and third place in the "aesthetics and architectural achievement" category.

Kim Jackson, interim president of the Parking Institute, said she was impressed when she toured the facilities at A&M.

"The pedestrian passageway is a feat unto itself," Jackson said. "The garage is high tech, built to suit surroundings and the fact that it is multi-functional, for academics, football and other large events, is great."

The awards ceremony took place during the 2004 International Parking Conference and Exposition.

Jackson said the event was the largest parking exposition ever held in the United States.

A&M Transportation Services staff were also asked to speak on marketing approaches and trends at the conference.

Peter Lange, TS associate director, said being selected as a speaker was exciting.

"Over 80 percent of the attendees for our marketing session were other universities from around the nation looking to us as leaders in this area," Lange said.

Lange said he focused on the January 2003 name change from Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services to the name Transportation Services.

"(We talked about) the products and services we have introduced over the past 18 months in order to back up the name change and further distance ourselves from the old way of doing business," Lange said.

See Awards on page 2

NWSA elects Bethman as Women's Centers chair

By Joanna M. Jemison
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Women's Center has earned bragging rights after receiving national honors.

Brenda Bethman, Women's Center program coordinator, was elected by the National Women's Studies Association to be the new chair of its Women's Centers Committee. Bethman will serve as chair for three years and will assist the organization in its goals to promote feminist education, research, and professional and community service across all grade levels.

"Given Brenda's talent and intelligence, we at the Women's Center are not surprised," Rollyn B. Carlson, office manager at the Women's Center, said.

Bethman received her bachelor's and master's degrees in German Literature from Dickinson College and Temple University, respectively. Currently, Bethman is a candidate for a doctorate in Modern German Literature and a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

The NWSA is a politically active organization that promotes research and development that advances the study and knowledge of all women.

Bethman has taught courses within the Women's Studies Program, the Liberal Arts Honors Program and the Modern and Classical Languages Department.

As the program coordinator of the Women's Center, Bethman has helped create a library of more than 400 books for students to become more informed on feminism and a positive environment for people to discuss women and gender issues.

"I'm very happy to be elected," Bethman said. "It's a wonderful, supportive group that helped me figure out what I was doing (with the Women's Center) and what I needed to be doing."

With the growing importance of women's centers within the



BETHMAN

Congress approves bio-weapons vaccines

By Jim Abrams
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—Lawmakers who experienced the dangers of anthrax firsthand sent President Bush legislation Wednesday to give private companies \$5.6 billion in incentives to develop antidotes to biological and chemical weapons.

"This is the largest first responder program ever enacted in American history," Homeland Security Committee chairman Christopher Cox, R-Calif., said before the House voted 414-2 to pass the Project

Bioshield Act.

Over the next 10 years, the act would give the pharmaceutical industry the financial guarantees it says it needs to research and produce vaccines and antidotes for bioterror agents. Otherwise, the industry said, such products would have little marketable value.

"What's the incentive today to develop a vaccine for Ebola or for the plague when there is no real market for such a vaccine in this country?" asked Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., a chief sponsor of the legislation.

With the House vote, Congress com-

pleted work on legislation Bush requested in a State of the Union speech 18 months ago. Agreement between the House and Senate was delayed by a dispute over how to guarantee a steady stream of funding to drug makers without taking away Congress' authority to make annual decisions on spending levels.

Protection against the weapons is of personal interest to many lawmakers, who have seen their offices closed and their lives disrupted twice by biological threats

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