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 Thursday, July 15, 2004

MSC

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involved. "Getting involved in student leadership makes all the difference," Oeffinger, Class of '75, said. "It's what will set you apart from other college students who didn't do those things. It really gives you the competitive edge."

Oeffinger is now self-employed, producing custom distance-learning courses for numerous corporate, university and non-profit organizations.

"Being self-employed has been the best of both worlds," Oeffinger said. "However, I will tell you I haven't worked this many hours since I was a student."

Oeffinger stumbled upon his presidential position during an MSC Open House where he was trying to find a way to get involved to set an example for the underclassmen in his Corps unit.

"For the past three years being self-employed, I have done nothing more than the student work I did at the MSC, such as marketing, budgeting and planning," Oeffinger said. "The skills I have all go back to the MSC and I have used the same tools my whole life."

Oeffinger has also been actively involved in politics since graduation, citing his first boss as Chet Edwards during Edwards' congressional campaign. He was also the creator and co-chair of the International Informatics Access '87 conference in Dallas.

"It was way ahead of its time; a think-tank seminar of international delegates from newly industrialized countries interacting with people throughout a four-day time period," Oeffinger said. "It was basically modeled on the SCONA program at A&M."

Oeffinger has also won 14 awards for creating and leading the McMurphy Nursing Project, a national nurse recruitment project.

"Throughout my entire career I've organized people locally and across nations to take some sort of action," Oeffinger said. "And that's definitely a student skill I got at A&M."

Oeffinger said the skills he learned during his term, such as setting goals and learning to realistically set priorities, were invaluable.

"It's still amazing to me that A&M caught on quite a bit faster than other universities in the arenas of getting students involved and offering so many leadership opportunities," he said. "No other university fosters leadership as much as A&M."

Oeffinger has written his first non-fiction book, entitled "A Soldiers' General: The Civil War Letters of Major General Lafayette McLaws." He is also recognized by the 51st edition of the Marquis Who's Who in America.

Without his experience as MSC Council president from 1979-80, Brooks Herring, Class of '80, does not think he would have been nearly as prepared to face challenges in the work environment.

"As a student leader I was exposed to many people on campus that were extremely engaged in activities at A&M," Herring said. "And being able to simply observe their behaviors and ways of doing business was extremely beneficial."

Herring is a marketer for Shell Oil Products U.S., and leads all the activities related to brand management strategy and retail business. Although he graduated with a degree in chemical engineering, he credits the experiences at A&M with helping with the transition to marketing.

"As MSC Council president I had a very big responsibility, and that experience helped me

learn how to manage multiple activities and prioritize what is important," he said. "It's been a real help in my current roles."

Herring has attended some exclusive social functions over the past few years. Last year, Herring and his wife were invited to attend the White House Correspondence Dinner in Washington, D.C.

"We saw lots of media folks and had a good chance to visit with several editorial staff members for Time magazine," he said. "We also got to shake hands with some real prominent people like Colin Powell and Donald Rumsfeld. It was a real thrill; I felt like I was really in the know."

Another recent thrill for Herring was when he and his group won the Shell Houston Open and he got the chance to meet Arnold Palmer.

"However, the accomplishment I'm most proud of is having a very close family," Herring said.

After graduation, Trey Lary, MSC Council president from 1994-95, has been focused on getting through law school and building his career. Although he began working at a large law corporation last summer, a group in his specialty area of law, public finance, left the company to start a new firm, Allen Boone & Humphries.

"It's been very exciting and rewarding," Lary, Class of '95, said. "I've been able to do outstanding things with this group of remarkable lawyers, and am grateful for being able to learn from them."

Lary said he still uses a lot of the same talents he needed at the MSC, such as good communication and people skills. Working with complicated financing structures, Lary stresses the importance of being able to break these concepts down into explainable terms for his clients.

"I did this same type of thing as a student leader," he said. "For example, I had to make policies and then put them into terms other students could understand."

The most rewarding aspect of his work as a lawyer Lary said has been helping build communities. While he is never in the courtroom or doing any litigation, he is instead helping the local government build schools, roads and bridges.

"I'm able to do great things in society through my clients, which is the opposite of what people usually think of lawyers," he said. "Being civic minded is definitely a quality A&M instilled in me."

Lary said everything he did in the MSC was a service to the campus or community, all through outreach programs.

"So it was a natural transition in the processes of looking for jobs and practices of law to choose public finance," he said.

During his term, Lary's biggest goal was to minimize conflict between the MSC and other student governments to focus on being more productive. He credits developing his negotiating and team-building skills as qualities he got from his work at the MSC.

"Now I spend a lot of time trying to help put together programs and teams of people where everyone has the same goal but different ideas on how to get there," Lary said. "And I have to figure out how to find common paths and get everyone to the same resolve."

As a student leader, Lary said, the focus should not be on the end product, but on what you learn and how you develop and grow through the processes.

"It's amazing how fortunate I was to attend a school that gives so much emphasis on getting students involved," Lary said. "There's nowhere else in the world like A&M that focuses so much on leadership and citizenship."

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

"One Tree Hill" co-stars engaged

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stars of "One Tree Hill" Chad Michael Murray and Sophia Bush announced Monday that they are engaged to be married. The couple, who have performed together on the show, are expected to marry in the fall.

The actor, now promoting his new romantic comedy "A Cinderella Story," made the revelation on CBS' "The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn."

Murray said he popped the question while they were in Australia, where he was doing work on the movie "The Wack." Bush is being honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Songwriter Guthrie honored in LA

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma troubadour Woody Guthrie is being honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at the state Capitol.

Guthrie wrote hundreds of songs after leaving Oklahoma, as a teen, including folk anthems "This Land Is Your Land" and "Pasture Perfect."

His "Oklahoma Hills" is an official Oklahoma state song. Artists from Bob Dylan to Bruce Springsteen have cited Guthrie as a major influence on their careers. His son Arlo Guthrie is an important musical figure in the 1960s and 1970s with songs such as "City of New Orleans" and "Alice's Restaurant."

Jackson case faces more delays

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge in the Michael Jackson child molestation case, who has been keeping most evidence and documents secret, set a motion Wednesday in Los Angeles to postpone the trial.

Judge Rodney Melville gave the reason for sealing the records was that it was in the best interest of the child. Other than to say it was done with "good cause having been shown."

It was impossible to tell from the motion notice how long the delay is sought.

"We've been arguing that the public has a right to know what happens in court," said Theodore Boutros Jr., a lawyer representing news organizations that want more documents in the case unsealed. "Now we don't even know when it's going to happen."

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 Volunteer NOW For
Residence Hall Move-In Assistance Day
Sunday, August 22, 2004
 Volunteers are needed in ALL campus residence hall areas to help unload cars, carry belongings to rooms, and assist new and returning students.
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Residence Hall Move-In Assistance Day Starts Gig'Em Week

Worship Directory

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St. Mary's Catholic Center
 603 Church Avenue in Northgate
 (979) 846-5717
www.aggiecatholic.org
 Student Summer Fellowship Every Tuesday at 7:30 PM
 Daily Masses Mon.-Fri.: 5:30 p.m. in the Church
 Weekend Masses Sat: 2:00 p.m. (Korean), 5:30 p.m. (English), 7:00 p.m. (Spanish), Sun.: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.
 Confessions Wed. 8:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 4:00-5:15 p.m. or by appointment..

Christian

First Christian Church
 900 South Ennis, Bryan 823-5451
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Robert D. Chandler, Minister

Episcopal

St. Thomas Episcopal
 906 George Bush Dr. • College Station, TX 696-1726
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