



## Aggie Honor System cracks down on cheating

By Jibrán Namji  
THE BATTALION

As Aggies returned to school this semester, a new addition was found on every syllabus across campus, regardless of major or year: "Know the Code!" which will be emphasized during Academic Integrity Week starting next Monday.

With the creation of the Aggie Honor System Office (AHSO), Texas A&M now has a formal process for dealing with academic dishonesty. The AHSO officially opened this fall on Sept. 1.

"Before the Aggie Honor System was created, the only honor system was the Aggie Code," said Jeri Ann Henry, academic affairs chair for the Student Senate. "If someone was accused of cheating, there was no process of appeal, no way to defend yourself or even to clear your name. Everything was up to the specific departments and each individual professor."

It was students who suffered and got the short end of the deal, Henry said.

"Now, all faculty and students can anonymously report cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty to one centralized office," Henry said. "Cheating is clearly defined, a formal appeals process is now in place, and students can anonymously report cheating incidents."

Henry said that during her freshman year at A&M, a girl in her math class was caught looking at her test. As a result, both she and the student who cheated received zeros.

"I was a scared little fish. I thought I would get kicked out of school," Henry said. "I tried talking to the professor, but she said that the zero would stand. I had no way to appeal her decision, and I had to eat the zero."

Former Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Bill Kibler ran an anonymous survey among undergraduates last spring. More than 80 percent of those who responded to the survey admitted to participating in some form of academic dishonesty throughout their college careers.

"If we want to be one of the top-10 universities in the nation, it is essential that we address this problem and fix it," Henry said. "We

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY WEEK

Academic Integrity Week will run from Sept. 20 to Sept. 24 and will feature on-campus events for students and faculty.

Sept. 20:	1 p.m.	Robert M. Gates and Marcarena Hernandez	MSC 292
	3:30 p.m.	Faculty Event	Faculty Club
Sept. 21:	5 p.m.	"Leadership and Ethics"	Kleberg 113
	7 p.m.	"The Power of One"	MSC 292
Sept. 22:	11 a.m.	Billy Gillespie	MSC 292
	3 p.m.	David Callahan	MSC 292
Sept. 23:	10 a.m.	Nick Rigsby	MSC 292
Sept. 24:	10:30 a.m.	Student Faculty Panel with Dean Bresciani	MSC 292
	3 p.m.	Reception	Stark Galleries

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SOURCE: NICOLE BRADFORD, DIRECTOR OF ASHO

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## Dog dodger



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Senior civil engineering major Adam Hughes watches his dog, Luke, swim after a duck in Research Park Wednesday afternoon.

## Ivan slams Gulf Coast, two die in tornadoes

By Garry Mitchell  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOBILE, Ala. — Hurricane Ivan and its 135-mph winds churned toward this historic port city with frightening intensity Wednesday as the storm began its assault on the Gulf Coast, lashing the region with heavy rain and ferocious wind, spawning monster waves that toppled beach houses and spinning off deadly tornadoes.

The storm was expected to make landfall early Thursday near Mobile and could swamp the coastline with a 16-foot storm surge and up to 15 inches of rain. Ivan offered a daylong preview of its destruction as it took aim at the coast: sheets of rain across the region, a series of tornadoes and escalating winds that shredded signs, knocked out power and made traffic lights and oak trees whipsaw.

"We have never seen a hurricane of this size come into Alabama," said Gov. Bob Riley, who earlier asked President Bush to declare much of the state a disaster area.

An 11th-hour shift turned Ivan away from New Orleans, but the sheer size of the storm could create catastrophic flooding in the bowl-shaped city. Officials warned that the levees and pumping stations that normally hold back the water may not be enough to protect the below-sea-level city.

In the Florida Panhandle near Panama City, tornadoes produced by the storm killed two people and trapped others in the rubble of their damaged homes. Several people were injured, and more than 70 homes were damaged.

"We have a report from a deputy that it looks like a war zone," said sheriff's spokeswoman Ruth Sasser.

Hurricane-force winds extended out 105 miles from the Category 4 storm, threatening widespread damage no matter where it strikes. After reaching land, Ivan threatened to stall over the Southeast and southern Appalachians, with a potential for as much as 20 inches of rain.

At 11 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Ivan was centered about 65 miles south of the Alabama coast and was moving north at 12 mph. The storm, which plowed through the Caribbean, has now killed at least 70 people in all.

Ivan's waves — some up to 25 feet — were already destroying homes along the Florida coast Wednesday. Twelve-foot waves boomed ashore at Gulf Shores, Ala., eroding the beach. A buoy about 300 miles south of Panama City registered waves more than 34 feet high.

In Mobile, majestic oaks that line the streets swayed in gusting winds as the city of some 200,000 braced for a hurricane expected to be even more destructive than Frederic, which killed five people 25 years ago.

At least 11,000 people crowded into 95 shelters across Alabama, and thousands more went to homes of relatives and friends.

Betty Sigler, a 57-year-old substitute teacher, evacuated her home in Mobile and found shelter in a high school cafeteria.

"Say a prayer, say a prayer, say a prayer that I'll have some place to go when I

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## Construction begins for new Rural Public Health complex

By Pammy Ramji  
THE BATTALION

Six years ago, the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health (SRPH) department had four rooms, which have since evolved into offices rented from University Plaza and the Wells Fargo building.

Wednesday morning, a groundbreaking ceremony marked the unification of the scattered buildings in a new SRPH complex that will open for occupancy in January 2006. This complex is the first facility built for the SRPH.

"This is an important step not only for A&M but also for the state of Texas," said Benton Cocanougher, interim

chancellor for the A&M University system. "The school is making a profound impact in Texas."

Dean of SRPH, Ciro Sumaya, is anxiously awaiting the completion of the complex.

"Even though the ground has already been 'broken,' we wanted to host a formal groundbreaking ceremony," Sumaya said. "We just started a 4+1 program that attracts even more students. We are growing, and we need more space."

The 4+1 program allows students to complete four years plus an extra year to receive their masters in Public Health as well as their undergraduate degree.

"I am proud to say that we just beat the University of Texas by building a

MPH degree program," Sumaya said.

The new complex is close to the Veterinary Medicine Administration Building, Mays School of Business and Reynolds Medical Science building. A tunnel will connect the new SRPH building to the Vet School. SRPH officials say they also want to build an auditorium, not only for SRPH's use, but for all life sciences.

President of the Health Science Center and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, Dr. Nancy Dickey, said this is exciting not only for the SRPH but also for A&M.

"The sky is the limit, and this is the next step," Dickey said.

The new complex is 100,000 square

### SCHOOL OF RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH



The new SRPH complex will contain three buildings with a total of 100,000 square feet.

- A tunnel will connect the complex to the vet school.
- An auditorium might be built for the use of all life sciences.
- The complex will be ready for occupancy in January 2006.

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SOURCE: CIRO SUMAYA, DEAN OF SRPH

feet and is made up of three buildings — one for administration and faculty, one for laboratories and the last for fully equipped classrooms.

The complex is divided into three

buildings because a "clustered" look was desired and it would help with air conditioning and noise problems.

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## RHA backs student voting

By Sara Foley  
THE BATTALION

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) decided to promote voter registration among on-campus residents and set a date for a forum on the closure of the Commons Dining Center at its meeting Wednesday night.

RHA Director of Affairs Kristin McClenny and RHA Director of Public Relations Kyle Sanchez have teamed up with MTV Rock the Vote and will visit as many residence halls as possible before the voter registration deadline to encourage residents to vote in the upcoming election.

"We are in a little bit of a time crunch. Ev-

erything has to be dated by October 3, so we have to do this right away," McClenny said.

Sanchez contacted Rock the Vote to get information about registering voters in residence halls and decided to register voters himself.

Eligible voters must become registered at least a month before they are able to vote.

RHA and SGA will hold a forum Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. in the area formerly used as the Commons Dining Center to gather student reaction to its closure. RHA President Michael Vargo said there has been mixed reactions among residents about the closure.

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## WMD terror exercise held in Houston

By Emily Guevara  
THE BATTALION

The National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) conducted a weapons of mass destruction exercise in Houston to test Harris County's ability to respond to weapons of mass destruction.

The NERRTC is a part of the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), which is a part of the Texas A&M University System.

The exercise took place at Reliant Park on Wednesday and Thursday and involved anyone in the Har-

ris County departments who wanted to participate, said Frank Gutierrez, operations coordinator for the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Jason Cook, communications director for TEEX, said there were 458 participants from a variety of Harris County agencies.

"These are the people who would respond to a WMD event. (This exercise) puts all the training that they have been involved in into action," Cook said.

Cook said there were two exercises during the two-day event.

"The tabletop, or simulated,

exercise guided the participants through the process of identifying the (bacterial) agent and then determining the number of the affected population," he said.

Gutierrez said the participants were given a scenario and then had to determine the appropriate responses.

Cook said the scenario involved dispersing a bacterial agent through the ventilation system at 22 high schools during a baseball game.

The scenario continues with people going to hospital emergency rooms a few days later with flu-like

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