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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Gov. Perry deploys task force in response to Ivan

Gov. Rick Perry has approved the deployment of Texas Task Force 1, the state's elite urban search and rescue team, in preparation for Hurricane Ivan's landfall along the Gulf Coast. Texas Task Force 1, one of 28 teams in the national urban search and rescue system under the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will provide needed assistance with rescue and recovery efforts in the hurricane's aftermath. The Task Force is capable of responding to mass-casualty disasters and is trained and equipped to locate and rescue victims trapped by flooding, collapsed structures and confined spaces in highly populated areas. Task Force members have been on alert the past several weeks to provide assistance to victims of former Hurricanes Charley and Frances. The team is armed with a more than a \$2 million state-of-the-art equipment cache and is designed to be logistically self-sufficient for the first 72 hours of operation and able to function for up to 10 days. Texas Task Force 1 has responded to severe flooding in several areas throughout Texas as well as Tropical Storm Allison that hit Houston in 2001. The Texas Engineering Extension Service, a member of The Texas A&M University System, serves as a sponsoring agency for Texas Task Force 1.

Patrons contribute to engineering fellowship

National Academy of Engineering member Dr. Stephen A. Holditch and his wife Ann have pledged \$125,000 to increase a petroleum engineering fellowship at Texas A&M University. Their gift will more than triple the original fellowship endowed in 1999.

"The Holditch family has shown an impressive example of 'giving back' to Texas A&M. Steve already provides exemplary leadership as department head and his contribution further underscores his commitment to the excellence of petroleum engineering and the college as a whole," said Dr. Kemble Bennett, vice chancellor and dean of engineering.

The Steve and Ann Holditch Fellowship in Petroleum Engineering will assist students with tuition and other educational costs and most living expenses — needs of particular interest to Holditch as he leads the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering.

"In the next few decades, it will take substantially more new technology for the oil and gas industry to provide the energy supply the world is demanding. To develop that technology, we need more and better graduate students and research initiatives. This fellowship will allow Texas A&M University to attract the graduate students we need to maintain excellence," Holditch said.

Holditch earned three petroleum engineering degrees from Texas A&M: a bachelor's degree in '69, a master's in '70 and a Ph.D. in '76. He was a production engineer for Shell Oil Co. before joining the Texas A&M petroleum engineering faculty in 1976.

Rec center to host 'Aggie Nights'

Texas A&M students are invited this Friday to "Aggie Nights" at the Recreation Center from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The event features free rock climbing from 8 to 10 p.m., free class demonstrations such as yoga, hip-hop, Pilates, belly dancing and more, plus free food and dancing. At 9 p.m. the "dive" movie "JAWS" will be shown at the outdoor pool.

"Aggie Nights" is typically held every Friday in the Memorial Student Center. This program is presented by the Department of Recreation, Sports, Hispanic Business Student Association and the Memorial Student Center. Persons with disabilities, please call (979) 845-1515 to address any special needs.

Campus briefs are compiled by Texas A&M's Office of Public Relations.

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