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PAGE BY LAUREN ROUSE

We want you!

'Rock the Vote' encourages the younger demographic to go to the polls

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

Lehm Greene, president of "Rock the Vote," an organization that tries to increase youth voter turnout and focuses on youth in the political process, encouraged 18- to 35-year-olds to vote in the 2004 presidential election during an online press conference Tuesday.

"Most of the polls I have seen are addressing 'likely voters,'" Greene said. "Since this generation probably doesn't qualify for what traditionally would be thought of as likely voters, I think these polls are inadequately assessing where the

hundreds of thousands of new voters are on the issues. These other polls sure aren't calling cell phones to ask their questions. I think they miss young voters."

Greene is managing a nationwide effort to get out the youth vote for the 2004 election. Greene makes appearances on national television programs such as CNN's Inside Politics and NBC News and has provided commentary for The New York Times and Time magazine.

Maroon 5, which has been with "Rock the Vote" all year, kicked off the bus tour and joined "Rock the Vote" at the Democratic National Convention. "Rock the Vote" has also worked with

Hoobastank, Snoop Dogg's 213, Q-Tip, Jada Pinkett Smith, the Dixie Chicks and many others.

"The biggest impact the musicians and celebrities have is to draw attention to the need to register to vote and learn about what's at stake in the election," Greene said. "In a lot of ways, we have a celebrity-driven society and they help to get massive media attention."

Greene said if either candidate hopes to have young voters in his corner, they need to address issues such as jobs and the economy, the war in Iraq, the rising cost of higher education and providing adequate health

care for all young Americans.

"Students are more engaged, and candidates cannot afford to ignore them," Greene said. "Students have to fight for their right to register to vote on campus this year."

To vote in Texas, registration must be postmarked by Oct. 4 for the 2004 election.

President of Aggie Democrats Dorothea Pitikas, a junior sociology major, said everyone should vote regardless of living in a dominantly conservative district.

"Of course I think Democrats should vote. I don't think that should stop anyone from voting," Pitikas said. "I

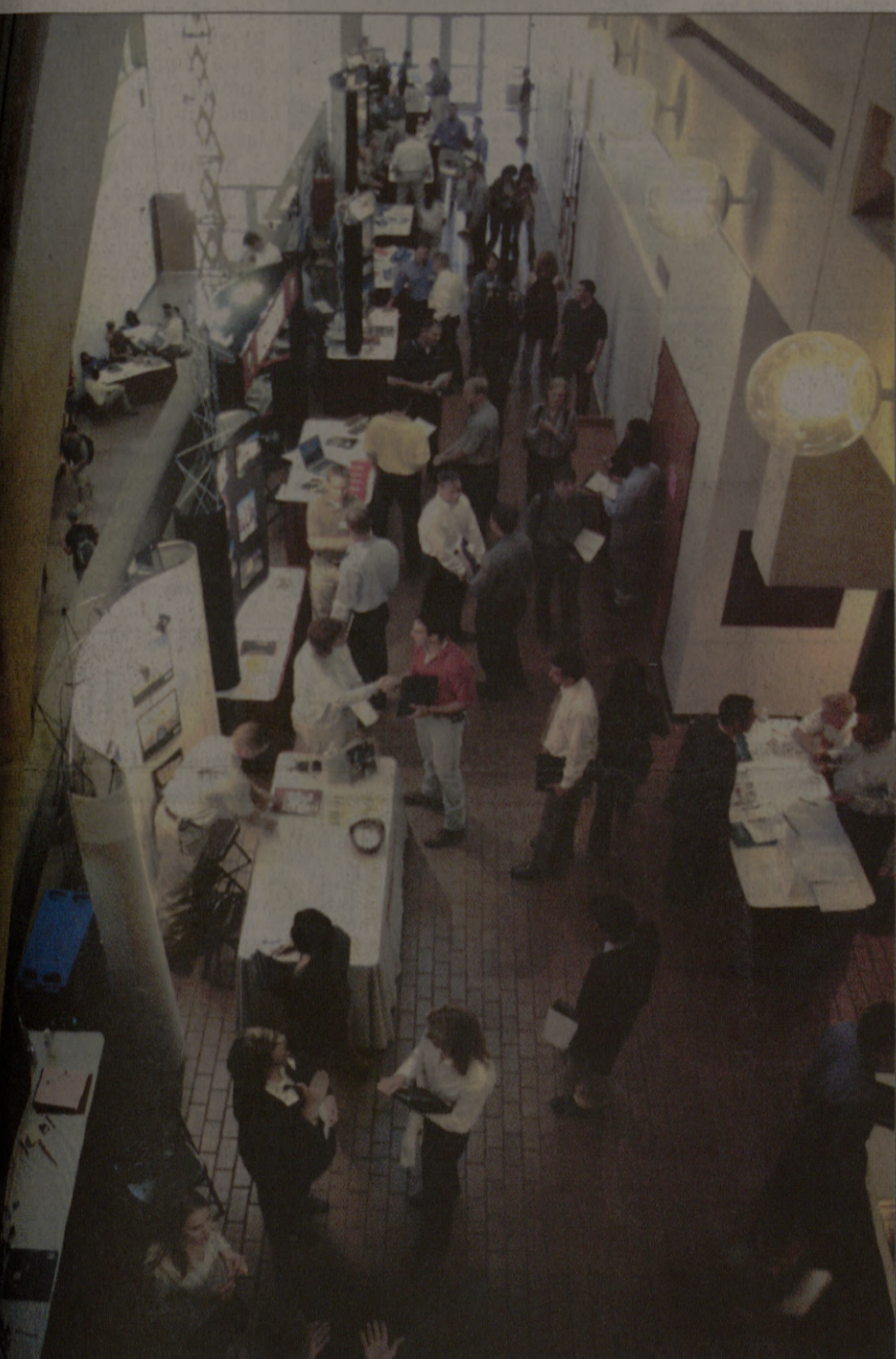
think the youth should vote because we should have a say in the government and what goes on."

Amanda Hahn, a junior management information systems major and A&M College Republicans communications director, said it is important for A&M students to vote in the presidential and congressional elections.

"Texas A&M students definitely need to go out to vote to show that President Bush will win the popular election as well as the electoral college," Hahn said. "Also, we as college Republicans need to vote for

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Job search



DAVE MORRIS - THE BATTALION

Students in the A&M Construction Science Department attend the fall semester career fair in the Langford Architecture Building Tuesday afternoon. Many companies from all over the United States send representatives

to talk to students about careers in the field of construction science, and students have the opportunity to pass out resumes and schedule interviews with prospective employers.

Enrollment figures increase for minority students at A&M

By Stacy Thompson
THE BATTALION

Minority enrollment has increased at Texas A&M this year with minority scholarships and improved recruiting from the University, said A&M Vice Provost Bill Perry.

Although enrollment figures show that overall enrollment decreased from 44,813 to 44,521 last year, minority enrollment increased across the board.

According to preliminary 12th day enrollment figures, African-American freshman enrollment is up by 35 percent for a total of 213 African-American freshmen. Hispanic freshmen also increased by 26 percent after the addition of 177 students for a total of 869 Hispanic freshmen. Asian-American freshmen enrollment increased by 34 students to a new total of 268, an increase of 15 percent. Finally, Native-American freshmen experienced an increase of 41 percent with 11 students being added, for a total of 38.

Although the enrollment data became official Friday, Lane Stephenson, deputy director for University Relations, said the data was not yet available to the public. According to an e-mail from Dr. Cindy Dutschke, director of Institutional Studies and Planning, there should not be much of a change from the 12th day figures to the official 20th day data.

A&M President Robert M. Gates said he is im-

Minority Enrollment Increase

Minority enrollment has increased at A&M this year despite a decrease in overall enrollment, according to preliminary data.

- African-American freshman enrollment increased 35 percent, for a total of 213.
- Hispanic freshman enrollment increased 26 percent, for a total of 869.
- Asian-American freshman enrollment increased 26 percent, for a total of 268.
- Native-American freshman enrollment increased 41 percent, for a total of 38.

ANDREW BURLESON - THE BATTALION

SOURCE - LANE STEPHENSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

pressed with the minority gains.

"We are obviously pleased to have reversed the downward trend in minority freshman enrollment," Gates said. "And (we) expect to see continued progress as our new initiatives take full effect even as we

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Language split

Department forms two studies programs

By Emily Guevara
THE BATTALION

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages split into two departments this fall; Hispanic Studies and European and Classical Languages and Cultures or "Euro Studies."

As of Sept. 1, Spanish language and cultural studies were placed into the Department of Hispanic Studies,

and French, German, Russian, Classics (Greek and Latin), Italian and Japanese make up Euro Studies.

Richard Golsan, head of Euro Studies, said the split allows each department to go after its own goals and better serve the students.

"For Euro Studies, it gave us a chance to pursue a new identity. We're looking to create a Ph.D. in Euro Studies, (and) we're working to create a major in Classics which has never ex-

isted before," Golsan said.

Golsan said because relations between the United States and Europe are increasingly important, Euro Studies tries to facilitate an awareness of this through its curriculum.

"Creating a Euro department allows us to work more in that direction," Golsan said.

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Renovated Duncan Dining Center welcomes public

By Ji Ma
THE BATTALION

For more than 60 years, Duncan Dining Hall has been a part of many Corps members' lives.

From the family-styled dining before 1988, where food was passed around among the cadets, to the cafeteria-style modern dining facility, it has catered to the cadets' dietary needs throughout the years.

"We have breakfast there Monday through Thursday and lunches as well," said freshman computer engineering major and Corps member Adam Friedli.

A half million-dollar renovation project on Duncan began earlier this year. Completed in late July, this facelift bestowed Duncan with top dining environment to serve Corps members and regular students alike.

"Students from the Corps wanted something done to improve aesthetics of the facility," said Assistant Director of Food Services Cynthia Zawieja. "They took their concerns to the commandant, Gen. Van Alstyne, who then made the request to food services."

The refitted dining hall features classic columns, palladium styled windows, skylights, new painting and ceiling tiles, two crystal chandeliers and new outfit signs on the walls," Zawieja said.

In addition to University funding, the project was also

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Biology and math merge in new curriculum

By Liang Liang
THE BATTALION

The National Science Foundation granted the College of Science \$1.25 million to develop an interdisciplinary undergraduate program at Texas A&M that will incorporate biology with mathematics and statistics.

The 1,144 undergraduate students in the Department of Biology are required to only take basic mathematical classes. Students on the biology track in the integrated program will be required to have 23 credits in mathematics, six credits in statistics and 104 credits in biology, chemistry and genetics. Students on the mathematics track will need 61 credits in mathematics, six credits in statistics and 60 credits in biology and the biology-related sciences.

Dean of the College of Science Dr. H. Joseph Newton said the Interdisciplinary Training for Undergraduates in Biological & Mathematical Sciences (UBM) program is a four-year experiment and A&M is one of five places chosen to conduct the experiment.

"Biology is becoming more and more mathematical, (although) it historically had been the least mathematical," Newton said. "For example, the students in biology were not required to take calculus. Now it has changed. Research projects like the Gene Project indicate a trend for biology majors to know about math."

The program is designed to recruit 10 stu-

dents to concentrate on biology with a minor in mathematics and 10 students to concentrate on mathematics with a minor in biology, but has recruited only 12 students this fall.

Adam Stevenson, a senior computer engineering major, has been studying in the program since last December, even before it officially started.

"I came to the program because it integrates computer science with math and biology. My goal is to be able to use mathematics to learn and understand concepts that cannot be understood without mathematics because of their abstract nature," Stevenson said. "Mathematics allows us to reduce complex biological problems into simple equations and to gain further insight into those problems that were not originally noticeable."

Having studied in the program for nine months, Stevenson said he is planning to go to graduate school to pursue an advanced degree in biology.

Some undergraduate students in biology who are not involved in the integrated program expressed different points of view.

"I think biology and mathematics are different things. I don't see much mathematics involved in biology. The program should be designed as a graduate program which is more geared toward research," said Barry Hamilton, a senior biology major.

Clayton Smith, who is also a senior biology major, said math is not essential to biology.

UNDERGRADUATE BIOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS PROGRAM DEGREE PLAN

The National Science Foundation recently gave A&M \$1.25 million to start an interdisciplinary undergraduate program that incorporates biology, math and statistics.

Biology Track:

- ▲ 133 credit hours in four years
- ▲ 23 math credits
- ▲ 6 statistics credits
- ▲ 104 credits in biology

Math Track:

- ▲ 127 credit hours in four years
- ▲ 61 math credits
- ▲ 6 credits in statistics
- ▲ 60 credits in biology and biology-related sciences

WILL LLOYD - THE BATTALION

SOURCE - VINCENT M. CASSONE, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

"The more you know about math the more theory it becomes. I took calculus I and II. They didn't help a lot," Smith said.

Dr. Vincent M. Cassone, head of the biology

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