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ATM | REC SPORTS

Freedom Rider to speak at MLK breakfast

Diane Nash to discuss experience as a civil rights activist

By Kylee Reid

Civil rights activist Diane Judith Nash, founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and member of the Freedom Riders, will speak at Texas A&M Thursday morning at the 8th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.

Kristan Poirot, assistant professor of communication, said Nash is a strong and important figure in civil rights movement history.

"She is credited for saving the Freedom Rides, she is one of the few women featured in Selma for her work in the voting rights campaign, she was heavily involved in the Nashville sit-in movement and she is actually one of the few women highlighted in the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, which is a museum in Birmingham," said Poirot, who teaches a course on the rhetoric of the civil rights movement.

Kalli Mcwhinney, bio-

medical sciences senior and Woodson Black Awareness Committee Chair, said the goal of the Freedom Riders was to challenge legislation by riding a bus through the South.

Mcwhinney said Nash was the same age as many college students when she began her involvement in the movement.

"Just thinking about who Diane Nash is and how she got involved with the civil rights movement and how she took an active role in what she was passionate about at such an early age, it's inspiring," Mcwhinney said. "She was a college student when she joined SNCC and the Freedom Riders — she was our age when she was doing all these things."

The event will have an interview portion moderated by John Singer, assistant professor of health and kinesiology.

Singer, who teaches a class on diversity in sports, said he will hold his class at the breakfast Thursday morning as it overlaps with the class's meeting time.

"I think it's important for students at A&M because



Diane Nash

Ms. Nash was actually a co-founder of SNCC during the civil rights movement," Singer said. "What better opportunity for these students to hear from a student who sat in their seats, albeit during a different time period, as a student who organized for the right of all."

Singer will question Nash about her involvement as a civil rights activist as well as her friendship with Martin Luther King Jr.

Faculty and students hope the event will provide Bryan-College Station insight on the civil rights history of the

United States.

"A&M has a bad reputation when it comes to race and diversity," Poirot said. "And I think it's good that not only that we have a breakfast every year, but that we bring in high profile people to show that we are making an effort to invite the community to think about black freedom now and then and what it means."

The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. Thursday in MSC 2300 and is open to the public. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$8 for students and \$10 for non-students.

NATION

Takeaways from the State of the Union Address

1 Terrorism

President Barack Obama said the United States will continue to hunt down terrorist groups and shut down their operations. He addressed partnerships with countries overseas to stop providing safe havens for terrorist groups. While he reported the combat mission in Afghanistan is over, America is not done on the Middle East with conflict with the Islamic State group still ongoing.

2 Cyber security

Along with encouraging the idea of a free and open internet for all communities, Obama addressed the issue of cyber security. "We are making sure our government integrates intelligence to combat cyber threats, just as we have done to combat terrorism. And tonight, I urge this Congress to finally pass the legislation we need to better meet the evolving threat of cyber-attacks, combat identity theft and protect our children's information," Obama said.

3 Middle-class economies

"The idea that this country does best when everyone gets their fair shot, everyone does their fair share and everyone plays by the same set of rules," Obama said. During his speech, he encouraged Congress to focus on finding ways for working class families to feel more secure. He supported the idea of an economy that creates "chances for everyone that makes the effort."

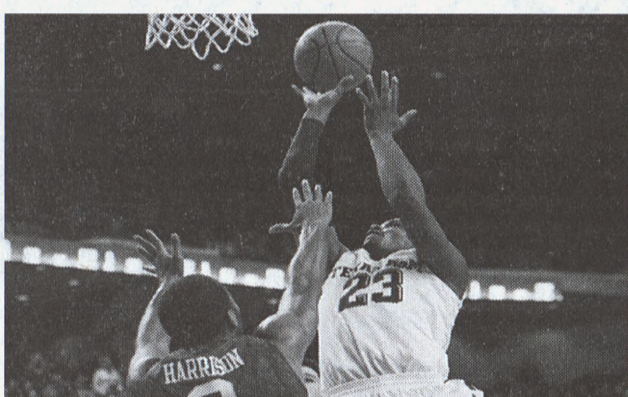
4 Economy

Obama reported that America's economy is growing and creating jobs at the fastest pace since 1999. The unemployment rate is lower than it was before the financial crisis, and more people are insured than ever before. Obama spent a good portion of the speech discussing how America can continue to improve the economy by creating more American-based jobs and addressing tax reform.

5 Broad speech

In an effort to cover as many issues as possible in his hour-long speech, Obama broadly spoke on issues. While he did give some concrete examples for military issues and economy, other issues like civil rights and tax reform were addressed in more general terms. While he covered a wide number of topics, depth into each of them was lacking.

By Jennifer Reiley



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Danuel House shoots over a Kentucky defender in A&M's double overtime loss on Jan. 10.

MISSOURI CONTINUED

overtime despite Alex Caruso's 28 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

The Tigers are led by forward Johnathan Williams III, who leads the team in scoring and rebounds at 12.7 and 6.8 per game, respectively. In the 2013-14 campaign, Williams III averaged only 5.8 points per game, but has more than doubled his production under new head coach Kim Anderson.

"They're better defensively," Kennedy said. "They may not have the maturity or talent that they had the last year or two with skilled guards or guys that could score, but as a team they're better defensively. [Johnathan Williams III] hurt us last year and he is having a good year again this year."

The Tigers fell to the Tennessee Volunteers 59-51 in their last game Saturday. Missouri guard Namon Wright led the team in scoring with 13 points and went 3-of-7 from behind the three-point line.

GREENHOUSE CONTINUED

adds more than 30,000 square

feet of classroom space for engineering undergraduate programs. The greenhouse-inspired designs are a nod to the agricultural greenhouses that used to stand at the facility's location.

The two office buildings will also house the new location of the Engineering Academic and Student Affairs office.

The site was under construction for the fall semester and engineering facilities director Tell Butler said the timing of the project saw work coming down to the wire to ensure the classrooms were ready for the spring semester.

"Construction [was] completed enough for sufficient occupancy on Monday, January 19, and we began holding classes in the buildings on Tuesday, January 20," Butler said. "All of the final touches were put into the classrooms the weekend prior, and were ready to go for Tuesday."

Butler said he believes students will be impressed when they see the completed project, which will include many efforts to make the area more

aesthetically pleasing.

"There's a really cool landscaping project that will encompass the whole site that will kick off some time in the next two weeks," Butler said. "It is set to be completed in April, and will include a lot of really cool areas for students, much like some of the other outdoor areas on campus."

The space will provide a relaxing area for students to unwind or study, and include two water features, artificial turf berms, new vegetation and shaded seating areas.

General engineering freshman Joseph Rotello said the new facilities will bring a much-appreciated improvement.

"The new location is closer to the center of campus, so it should be more convenient for everyone," Rotello said. "When everything else is done, we should have some of the best engineering areas around, so it's really exciting."

General engineering freshman Robert Heilman also feels that while mass construction can cause pains, the long-term gains for the college are

something to look forward to.

"Obviously it'll be a pain right now with the construction, but in the long run the new projects will provide great new educational opportunities," Heilman said. "Down the line in a few years when people come see the nice new facilities, they'll think they're really cool."

While it's easy to look to the future, Butler hopes students will begin to be inspired by the new facilities as early as this spring.

"The overall look of both the brick buildings and classroom areas are kind of a high-tech, industrial look," Butler said. "Hopefully that will make it fun and interesting for the students to sit there and visualize how the different mechanisms of buildings like these function."

Expansion of Look College facilities will continue with the transformation of the Zachry Engineering Center to the Engineering Education Complex and the completion of the Engineering Research Building in Research Park, which is already under construction.

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