

# THE BATT

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## Volunteering

**VOICES:** Writer Spencer Davis argues that "voluntourism" can be more self-gratifying than helpful **pages 2 & 3**

**NEWS:** The Volunteer Career Fair is coming to campus and bringing with it philanthropic opportunities

Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

# A fresh, Young take

INSIDE: THE BATTALION EDITORIAL BOARD ARGUES THE EXCITEMENT AROUND NEW PRESIDENT DISRUPTED BY MOVING YOUNG OFF CAMPUS

President-to-be touches base with campus, chancellor says Young will not live in on-campus president's house

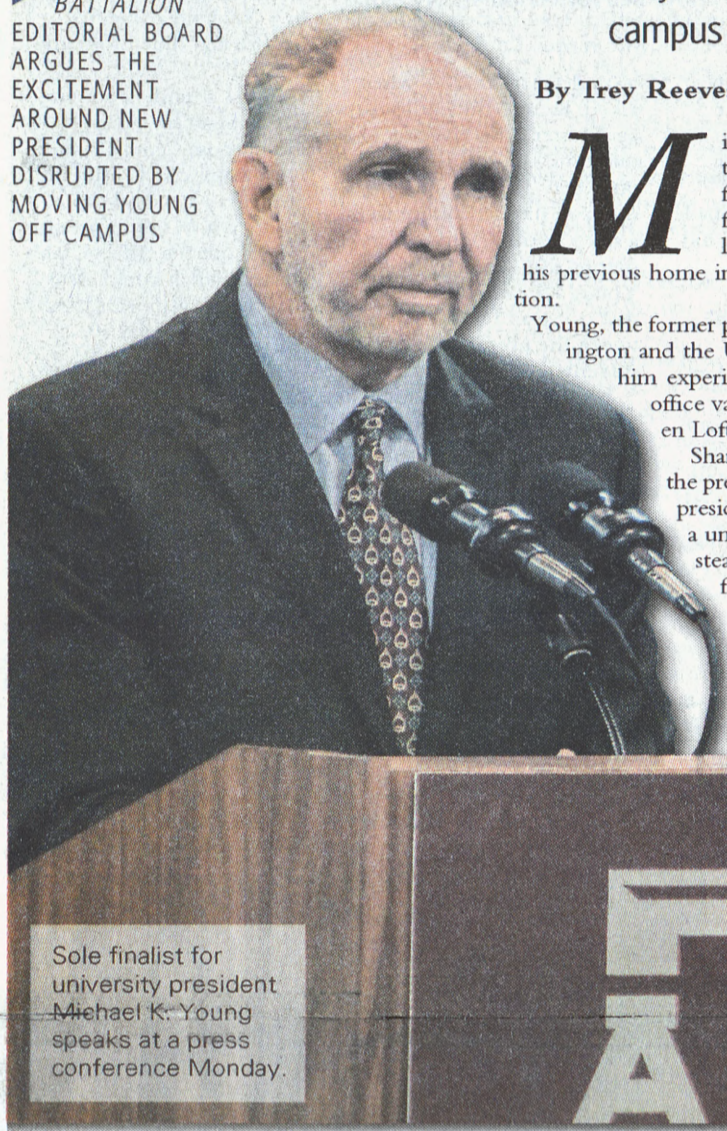
By Trey Reeves

**M**ichael K. Young, the sole finalist for the university president position, fielded questions Monday ranging from his policies, practices and beliefs to his reason for uprooting from his previous home in Seattle to re-plant in College Station.

Young, the former president of the University of Washington and the University of Utah, will bring with him experience in academic leadership to the office vacated by former president R. Bowen Loftin.

Sharp announced Young will not live in the president's home — occupied by every president since Earl Rudder, according to a university website. The home will instead be used to host visiting dignitaries, former students and donors. Young and his wife will find a home off campus.

YOUNG ON PG. 3



Sole finalist for university president Michael K. Young speaks at a press conference Monday.

### BATTASKS

What are your thoughts on moving the president off campus?



"It is a free choice that he doesn't want to live on campus, and at the same time it's really cool that they're going to open up the house for visitors."

Nada Radwan, nutrition senior

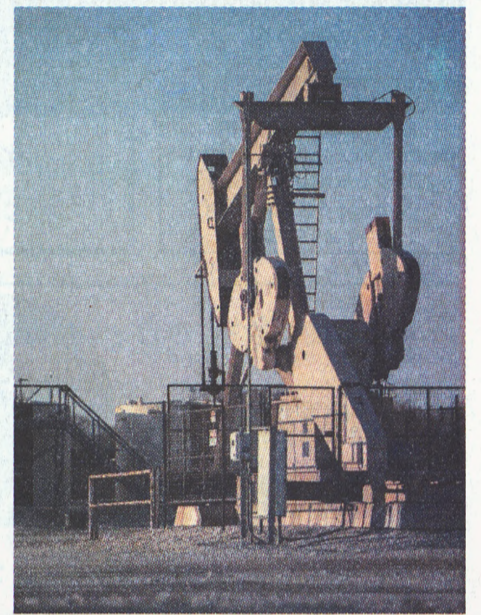


"He wants to show that, 'Hey I'm here to change the academia of the school not live in this house,' and maybe he's trying to show, 'Hey I'm different.'"

Brandon Lee, agricultural communications and journalism senior

Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

### ENERGY



Tanner Garza — THE BATTALION

A&M researchers Gregory Gause and James Griffin released a study advocating that the U.S. lift the current ban on oil exports.

## A&M study adds a voice to oil export ban debate

Researchers argue restriction is contrary to market's global nature

By Lindsey Gawlik

Despite low U.S. oil prices, U.S. producers are still pushing to end a four-decade-old export ban on crude oil and natural gas. And according to a recent study by two Texas A&M researchers, it's time for the ban to go.

The ban was enacted by lawmakers in the 1970s to keep production domestic after American aid to Israel caused OPEC, an intergovernmental agency in the Middle East that aims to unify petroleum policies, to impose an oil embargo on the United States, leading to skyrocketing gas prices and fuel rationing. Lawmakers also imposed price controls on crude oil to combat inflation.

By executive order in 1981, former President Ronald Reagan put an end to the price controls on crude oil in the United States, but did not put an end to the ban on exportation. Reagan said he wanted to ease the situation by letting freedom solve the problem through the "magic of the marketplace." Since then, no president has made any move on the export ban until Barack Obama.

Those who support lifting the ban saw a glimmer of hope in December when the Obama administration allowed select companies to ship lightly processed oil in an attempt to help compete in a world market with cheap crude oil.

With Obama's move again stirring talk about the ban, A&M researchers Gregory Gause and James Griffin, professors at the Bush School of Governance and Public Service, have released a study titled, "Free Trade in Oil and Natural Gas: The Case for Lifting the Ban on U.S. Energy Exports," arguing the ban hurts the United States both from a security standpoint and an economic standpoint.

In the study, Gause and Griffin said supporters of the energy export ban insist the ban serves a number of domestic interests, such as keeping gasoline prices low, supporting the profits of domestic refiners and keeping a steady supply of liquefied natural gas for U.S. petrochemical plants.

However, in the study Gause and Griffin argue these arguments do not hold up because they ignore the global nature of energy markets.

Gause said the export actually increases the likelihood of allowing any oil embargoes against the United States again by adding our own oil to "the bathtub," or the world supply of oil, keeping oil prices low.

"With prices low now, the leverage of oil exporters like Russia and the OPEC countries is down," Gause said. "Having American oil potentially on the world market — even potentially, doesn't have to be a lot of American oil on the market — makes it less likely that these oil producers can regain leverage."

Griffin said fracking, or the process of extracting oil from shale deposits with water pressure, in the United States has unlocked

OIL ON PG. 4

### TRADITION

## Class of 2015 looks to follow up cannon

Class Councils solicits funds for potential second gift

By Lenae Allen

Having paid off a new cannon for the Corps of Cadets, the Class of 2015 Class Councils is seeking more funding for secondary class gifts.

Using the slogan "Fifteen for '15," Class Councils and the Association of Former Students have created a donation website so graduating students can donate \$15 toward the cause and register as a member of the Association.

"The main idea behind 'Fifteen for '15' is that we're trying to get every student to feel more ownership in the class gift than they ever have before," said 2015 Class President Paul Smith. "The end goal is that everybody would become a part of what we're trying

to do."

The original class gift was the 105 mm Howitzer cannon, restored by the Museum of The American G.I. The Howitzer has been on campus since last semester, and was used by Parsons Mounted Cavalry for announcing touchdowns at home football games this past season.

Made for a 105 mm shell, the cannon was primarily used in World War II in both the European and Pacific theatres and, when loaded, has a range of seven miles.

For possible secondary gifts, Class Councils is looking into options that were listed on the ballot for the original class gift but that did not win, such as funding improvement to Student Counseling Services waiting areas or improving the crisis waiting areas in Cain Hall.

CLASS GIFT ON PG. 4



Lenae Allen — THE BATTALION

Parks Walker, Rolly Moreno and Thomas Wiggins pose with the 105 mm Howitzer, donated by the Class of 2015.



Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

Route 6 is the first to incorporate the new busses into the transit system as part of an initiative to phase out older buses like the one seen above.

## 10 new buses to replace old models

By Lindsey Gawlik

The first of 10 new transit buses hit the road Monday morning, giving riders of Route 6 the Cadillac bus treatment.

Transportation Services ordered 10 new buses last spring in an effort to begin phasing out five older buses and increase the number of buses on the busiest routes.

Travis Walters, biomedical sciences senior and student services chair in Student Senate, said the new buses are slightly larger and lower to the ground to allow easier access for riders. Walters said the new buses would look to go on Routes 5, 6 and 36 because they are the busiest routes.

In September 2014, Kenneth Kimball, assistant director of fiscal affairs and compliance for Transportation Services, said the buses are an effort to help ease the transportation needs of an increasing student population.

"[The spring of 2014], 10 new transit buses were ordered and should be delivered in April '15," Kimball said. "This will allow us to take five failing, smaller buses out of service and replace them with larger, higher-capacity transit buses."

In October, Peter Lange, executive director of Transportation Services, said Transportation Services is aware of the long lines for riding the buses and has been working to alleviate them and hopes to work better to do so through future funding requests.

"We need buses and drivers and fuel to make this happen," Lange said.