

SERVICE

Volunteer fair to inform students of non-profit opportunities across state

Leadership and Service Center to host event Wednesday

By Sam Scott

With all the career fairs on the calendar for the semester, one fair works toward the Aggie value of selfless service by informing students of volunteer opportunities.

The Leadership and Service Center will host a number of organizations Wednesday for the Spring Volunteer Opportunities Fair.

The goal of the fair, held in the fall and spring semesters, is to provide students the opportunity to interact with local non-profit and for-profit agencies looking for volunteers.

Susan Miculka, administrative coordinator in the Leadership and Service Center, said 38 organizations are registered to participate Wednesday, including local groups such as Voices for Children, Elder Aid, the American Cancer Society and Scotty's House.

"We have agencies representing elder care, nursing homes, so on and so forth," Miculka said. "We have agencies that work with children, agencies that work with animals, outdoor opportunities, local government agencies, sometimes we have representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation from College Station."

There will also be agencies from outside College Station looking to recruit volunteers for summer opportunities in different parts of the state.

Kate Mason works as the recruitment and education coordinator at Voices for Children, a local court-appointed non-profit organization that helps find foster children permanent homes. She said the Volun-

teer Opportunities Fair isn't just a good opportunity for students, but also for organizations like Voices for Children.

"It's a great opportunity for us to get to meet students and let them know what we do in the community and how we do it and how they can help," Mason said.

Melissa Shehane, assistant director of Student Services, said the event gives Aggies insight on how to serve the local community, and similar to a career fair, how to network with local service organizations.

"Many of these agencies, or organizations, are meeting social needs in the local community, and it allows students to have the opportunity to volunteer with those specific needs," Shehane said. "At times some students find internship opportunities, but oftentimes that is after they volunteer. It kind of depends on how the student builds that relationship with that agency."

Miculka said the Volunteer Opportunities Fair has grown over the past few semesters.

"It's hard to determine how many students we actually reach, but in the fall we had over 300 students come by and visit the agencies in the time that we were there," Miculka said. "We would like to reach lots more students."

Miculka said anyone can find a volunteer opportunity that's a right fit for them and meets the needs of the community as well.

"We hope that we'll have a great turnout of students, we're really excited about the number of agencies participating, and I really think that there is something for everybody who wants to volunteer," Miculka said.

The fair will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in MSC 2406.

YOUNG CONTINUED

"What we discovered is that sharing that house with former students, the Aggie nation, could result in a lot of goodwill and a lot of fundraising and things like that that were far more valuable than having somebody live there," Sharp said.

Young joked about the housing decision.

"The explanation to me was, 'Get your own damn house,'" Young said.

Chancellor John Sharp introduced Young at the press conference and expressed excitement that the nationwide search yielded such a qualified candidate.

"He is, as you know, one of the elite presidents in the U.S.," Sharp said. "We are very fortunate to have him here."

Young said he was happy on the shores of the Puget Sound, but the move to Aggieland represents a new and exciting venture for his career in academia.

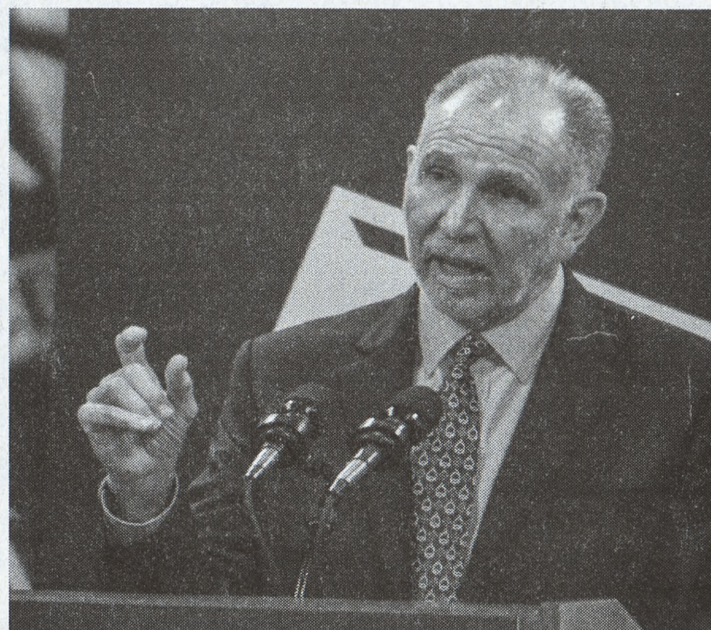
"For me, A&M represents a unique opportunity and a different type of challenge than I've ever been involved with before," Young said. "The areas at which the university works and the degree that it has penetrated the state are different, and I'm excited about that."

Young said the attitude of A&M leaders was especially appealing when he was first contacted with the job opportunity.

"I was fascinated by [Sharp's] vision for this university," Young said. "I've been preaching to deaf ears for quite some time how important to the future of the United States great public research universities are. These are the institutions that have transformed America, and at a fundamental level, made it what it is."

While Young believes that vision is a strong foundation, he said leaders should always be prepared for a changing landscape, unexpected obstacles and input from more than just an elite few.

"If you bring in someone that has a fixed vision, then you've got the wrong person," Young said.



Tim Jai — THE BATTALION

The sole finalist for president, Michael Young, visited campus on Monday to give his thoughts on his upcoming term.

"I'm a firm believer in building on what is strong about this university and taking ideas from the bottom up and top down, meeting somewhere in the middle to develop a grand vision."

This vision could include some of the most pressing issues debated in the state capitol daily, including concealed carry on campus, in-state tuition for immigrants who entered the country illegally and whether or not schools should have the ability to individually set their own tuition rates. While Young declined to comment on the concealed carry issue, he was straightforward in communicating his belief that state schools have a responsibility to educate all that will stay in their state, and that individual universities should be able to make most of their own decisions without getting caught up in the red tape of overly influential government policies.

While many recent holders of the office have had some connection to A&M, Young is an outsider. He has already embraced this role, however, even joking that he's still getting used to saying "Howdy" to greet and get the attention of

a crowd of Aggies. This outside perspective, Young said, will have both pros and cons, but will hopefully bring fresh, new ideas.

"There are always advantages and disadvantages to picking someone from the outside to come in as a university president," Young said. "[They bring] a fresh set of eyes to things and new ideas that may or may not work, but at least get put into the intellectual mix."

These new ideas and perspectives can be important, but Young said they are nothing if they tarnish the traditions Aggies hold dear.

"This place has traditions that have served it well, not just that they are cute things to do, but that they have meaning," Young said. "When you think about Muster, the ring and things like that, they communicate a connection and kind of community that is representative of something that matters."

Young will be named president of the university pending a vote by the Board of Regents after a mandatory 21-day period after being named finalist.

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS
1 Starts in on
6 Fly sky-high
10 Baby's bed
14 Sharp, as vision
15 Whittle down
16 Vein of ore
17 Optimistic time on Wall Street
19 Kitchen hot spot
20 Annoy
21 Tissue-paper layer
22 "Nothing to it!"
24 Graduation cap dangle
26 British noble
27 Pleasant scent
29 Very unfortunate
33 Fuse metal with a blowtorch
36 Distort
38 Make a swap
39 Corrosive chemical
40 Fathered
42 Stare at rudely
43 Turtle's covering
45 Oral history
46 Takes advantage of
47 Pretend to be
49 Choose to take part
51 Radiator heat source
53 Emphatic agreement
57 "Be my guest"
60 Zero
61 Earth-friendly prefix
62 "Do... others..."
63 Lightweight descending aid

DOWN
1 Ingrained activity
2 Lexus competitor
3 Pouts
4 The "A" in NATO: Abbr.
5 Tendency to get angry
6 Nimble
7 Tree with acorns
8 Gladiator's venue
9 Snappy comeback
10 Act silly
11 Roam about
12 Inventor's starting point
13 Flexed
18 Gives permission for
23 Alphabetize, perhaps
25 Fashionable '50s footwear
26 Tavern
28 Postal delivery
30 One-liners
31 Not working today
32 Mediocre grades
33 Stinging insect
34 Rebounding sound
35 Untruths
37 Criminal, to a cop
41 Report fully
44 Not on time
48 Scorched
50 Trailing everyone
52 Be very fond of
54 Row of bushes
55 Whale's home
56 Fret
57 US Pacific territory
58 Formerly
59 S&L cash dispensers
60 Hatchling's home
64 Skillet
65 "With all... respect..."

AT THE RODEO by Billie Truitt
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