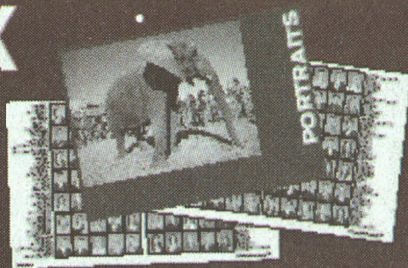


Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, grad students

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Applications close March 3 for students seeking to enter engineering majors.

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25X25 CONTINUED

Student Engineers' Council showed that while most students agreed with CFY in theory, they were frustrated by the inability or difficulty to get into engineering classes. The Battalion spoke with more than a dozen freshmen engineering students, and the responses largely matched the SEC survey, which is conducted every semester on current engineering topics.

Christina Sheldon, general engineering freshman, said CFY is a good plan, but it was poorly implemented.

"Their idea behind it was real good, but they implemented it very badly because their plan was to come in as general engineering and get more info about different engineering majors and then decide, but they didn't give us any info about different engineering majors," Sheldon said.

Sheldon said she felt Engi-

neering 111 and 112 — the classes designed to provide a scope of options to freshman students — fell short because they are filled with "busy work" that consumes much more time than necessary. Despite these drawbacks, Sheldon said the engineering college has been receptive to student feedback.

Valerie Taylor, senior associate dean for academic affairs with the Dwight Look College of Engineering, said the change of freshmen to general engineering allows students to learn more about each major before committing to any particular path of study.

"The change to having freshmen enter as general engineering students allows the students to have time to become familiar with the majors within the Dwight Look College of Engineering, so that they can make an informed decision when applying for entry into a major," Taylor said.

Taylor said departments

have a limit on seats within sophomore courses but the college anticipates sufficient room for freshmen students as they move into their degree plans.

"Departments have a limit on the number of seats available in the sophomore-level courses," Taylor said. "There is, however, sufficient capacity across all of the departments for the incoming freshman as well as some transfer students and change-of-curriculum students. It is recognized, however, that some majors within the Look College are in greater demand than other majors."

Taylor said all engineering classes will be capped at 100 students, and the college will continue to develop infrastructure and hire professors to accommodate new students.

The Spring 2015 application term for specific engineering departments opened Feb. 9 and closes March 3.

JAMES CONTINUED

Through stories like this, James said she wants to educate people on the importance of being aware of and involved with issues going on in the scientific community. She said that while something may appear completely unrelated to people's everyday lives, it can actually reveal amazing discoveries and insight.

"If the public doesn't understand what scientists are doing and scientists don't

tell them what they're doing, then it is very easy for the public to say what you're doing isn't worthwhile," James said.

In addition to encouraging awareness of the natural sciences, James said she was able to speak with many A&M professors during her time on campus, allowing her to educate herself about new ideas.

"There's just so much going on here," James said. "Academically you've got undergraduates, graduates,

researchers, books. The most recent person I talked to was talking about this observatory in Antarctica. The whole concept of clear dark skies for six full months — to me that's amazing."

Overall, James said the important takeaway from "Science, Unshackled" is that it's impossible to know where curiosity and creativity are going to lead you, and not just in the field of science.

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