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Hurd was campus leader in 'one of the worst times in our history'

## Leader after the Collapse, speaker at Muster

Rep. Will Hurd will speak at campus Muster this year.

By Gracie Mock

Will Hurd said he would trade every leadership lesson he learned from the 1999 Bonfire Collapse if it meant keeping the 12 students who died alive — a campus tragedy that set his student body presidency apart from those before and after him, and an experience that this year's Muster organizers hope will resonate with the tradition.

Hurd was announced Tuesday as speaker of the 2015 A&M campus Muster ceremony, the largest of more than 400 Muster ceremonies that take place around the world every April 21. Muster ceremonies honor the students, current and former, who died in the past year. The campus muster also honors members of the 50-year reunion class who died in the last year.

Clayton Cromer, Muster executive and economics senior, said Hurd's time as student body president during the Bonfire tragedy will add another connection to the ceremony.

"He has a really special connection to the Muster ceremony and to A&M and really knows firsthand what it's like to lose your brothers and sisters in the Aggie family," Cromer said. "We are really excited to hear his insight, what Muster means to him and how Muster has affected him not only as a student at Texas A&M, but going out in his career with the CIA and to now being a congressman for the U.S. House of Representatives, and just how his A&M experiences have shaped him and how he still connects to Muster through that."

Hurd spent nearly a decade as a CIA officer after graduation. He is now a U.S. Representative in Congress.

Hurd said he plans to talk about his memories of Texas A&M. He has also listened to stories from the Class of 1965, which will celebrate its 50-year reunion at this year's Muster, to learn more about what the university was like when they were here.

Hurd said he learned a lot from handling the crisis of the Bonfire collapse, especially about the significance of the Aggie family.

"To be in a position to help the Aggie family through one of the worst times in our history, I learned a lot about crisis communication and dealing with grief and I realized also how important the Aggie family was to all of us," Hurd said.

Chelsea Potter, communication senior and Muster executive, said Hurd was decided on

MUSTER ON PG. 4

## Elections in flux



(Left) Michael Murtha is present at the Judicial Court hearing regarding to alleged SBP election violations. (Middle) Chief justice Brenton Cooper hears testimony. (Right) Senior Yell Leader-elect Steven Lanz hugs a colleague pre-trial.

### Push to penalize alleged SBP campaign infractions rolls on

By Wade Feielin

A Student Government Association Judicial Court case that could have bearing on next year's student body president will move forward after a Wednesday pre-trial hearing.

Murtha v. Benigno and Douglas will proceed to a full trial at 9 p.m. Monday after J-Court justices decided enough evidence was present to debate whether the defendants would face penalties resulting from the election season.

The appeal, filed on Murtha's behalf by former Student Senate speaker Christopher Russo, outlined violations of election commission guidelines in

a campaign video released by Student Body President-elect Joseph Benigno.

In the video, "Go(Pro) With Joe," Benigno rides a moped around College Station and the appeal alleges he violates several campaign regulations and state traffic laws — failure to stop at a stop sign, operating a motorcycle without a helmet under the age of 21 and driving on the left side of the roadway in a no-passing zone, among others.

The appeal is also filed against Election Commissioner Emma Douglas, and claims the commission "neglected their duty to properly and fairly enforce

SBP ON PG. 2

### J-Court to hear argument for a Senior Yell Leader recount

By Sam Scott

If a ruling affirms an appeal claiming up to two thirds of student votes went uncounted, a recount could shake up the Senior Yell Leader ranks.

After the Judicial Court of the Student Government Association heard Lanier v. Douglas and Lanz Wednesday night, it entered deliberation of two questions from consolidated appeals regarding election results.

The first appeal, filed by Gregory Lanier, finance junior and Five For Yell campaign manager, argues Senior Yell Leader votes were miscounted and warrant a recount.

The ballot allowed each

student to vote for up to three candidates, reflecting the number of Senior Yell Leader positions, but only students' first-place votes were tabulated in the election results announced Friday, the appeal argues.

If each student had the opportunity to vote for three candidates, the number of votes tallied should significantly outnumber the number of ballots, the appeal states. With 10,811 votes counted, Lanier's appeal said the 10,811 counted votes were inconsistent with regulations, since there was the potential for around 33,000 votes.

A counter appeal, filed by

YELL LEADERS ON PG. 2

### W. BASKETBALL

## A&M to play last home game Thursday

Senior Night rolls around as Aggies shoot for 5th straight

By Cole Stenholm

As Texas A&M women's basketball team looks to extend its winning streak to five Thursday night in its home finale against Missouri, head coach Gary Blair can pinpoint a facet that has driven his team's recent upswing — improved post play.

"My guards were not throwing the ball in the first part of the year," Blair said. "Our kids couldn't catch

it. And who was getting the turnovers? Our guards. Now they're throwing it in and the turnovers are not there as much and now they're getting assists. They like assists, they don't like turnovers. But I would say 50 percent of the turnovers that were early in the season were post-related hands, not the guards' passes. Now we're working better."

An increased interior presence will only help the Aggies, who seek another victory over the Tigers (15-12, 5-9) after a 55-48 rout on Feb. 5 in Columbia, Mo.

"They're going to pack it in,"

Blair said. "They're going to pack it in and they want you to shoot those jump shots, which generally we accommodate them. What I want to do is to, now, we're so much better at the post position than we were when we played up at Missouri, we want to make sure we have touches inside and outside."

No. 12 Texas A&M (22-6, 10-4) appears to be peaking at the right part of the season, making the most of a recent four-game winning streak, which featured an 81-69 rout of then-No. 11 Kentucky in Lexington.

SENIOR NIGHT ON PG. 3



Courtney Walker won SEC Player of the Week honors for her play during A&M's win streak.

SENIOR NIGHT

TEXAS A&M  
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
vs MISSOURI TIGERS

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