

# THE BATT

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(right) Zack Castillo adjusts the mic for artist John Marc Kohl before a Modest House Session.

Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

## A little more than a 'modest house'

Housemates create an in-house recording studio to foster B-CS music

By Katie Canales

When three housemates went looking for a way to tap into the local music scene, they found the solution in the dining room.

Industrial engineering senior Tim Dorman, Zach Castillo and mechanical engineering senior Will Davis transformed part of their small white "modest" house into a recording studio in October 2014, and Modest House Sessions was born.

The studio showcases local and touring artists on its YouTube channel, which has garnered up to 8,000 views on its videos.

They have recently started booking shows to expand beyond in-house recordings. In February, they collected bands that had previously done sessions to perform in what they called the Modest House Showcase at the Grand Stafford.

"Mainly what we're focusing on right now is really enriching and cultivating a music and art scene in the Bryan-College Station area," Dorman said.

Inspiration came to the three one night when they recorded and filmed a session of their own, which was later uploaded to their YouTube channel and named "Prelude."

Dorman said they see more and more independent artists emerging in the music world, which is why they focus on not only live sessions, but also booking shows, managing bands and working on their craft with them.

"We're trying to make ourselves a one-stop shop where people can come to record because in the future, there's not really going to be labels as far as music labels are concerned," Dorman said. "When you're looking into the future, a lot of artists are going more independent. So if we as a studio became more serious about [making] this a lucrative endeavor, we'll kind of have to figure out how to adapt to how the future's going to be like."

One of Modest House's goals is to track bands touring within its proximity and invite them to the house to do sessions. The recording studio got its first big break when a Nashville-based band called Judah and the Lion agreed to do a live session at the house.

"They played on Letterman, which is really cool, and it was cool that we got to have them in our house because it was the first legit artist coming through," Dorman said. "And we've had more luck on that — getting artists who are touring through the area."

The recording group also maintains a focus on local talent, inviting students and residents in Bryan-College Station to perform in their house, in addition to branching out to outside artists.

MODEST HOUSE ON PG. 3

NATION

## Bush School grads pitch in on federal budgeting

By Nikita Redkar

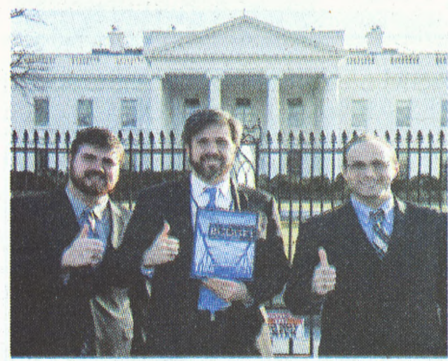
Three Texas A&M Bush School graduates helped lend an Aggie touch to the presidential budget, assisting in its construction for Fiscal Year 2016.

Benton Arnett, Travis Stalcup and Patrick Issa acted as program liaisons to the Office of Management and Budget, the largest office within the Executive Office of the President.

Issa, Class of 2013, is employed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that coordinates responses to disasters in the United States. He said he took part in a presidential management fellowship that allowed him to be employed by FEMA while simultaneously working on the budget.

"The federal budget process takes six months and begins after all federal agencies send their own budget requests to OMB,

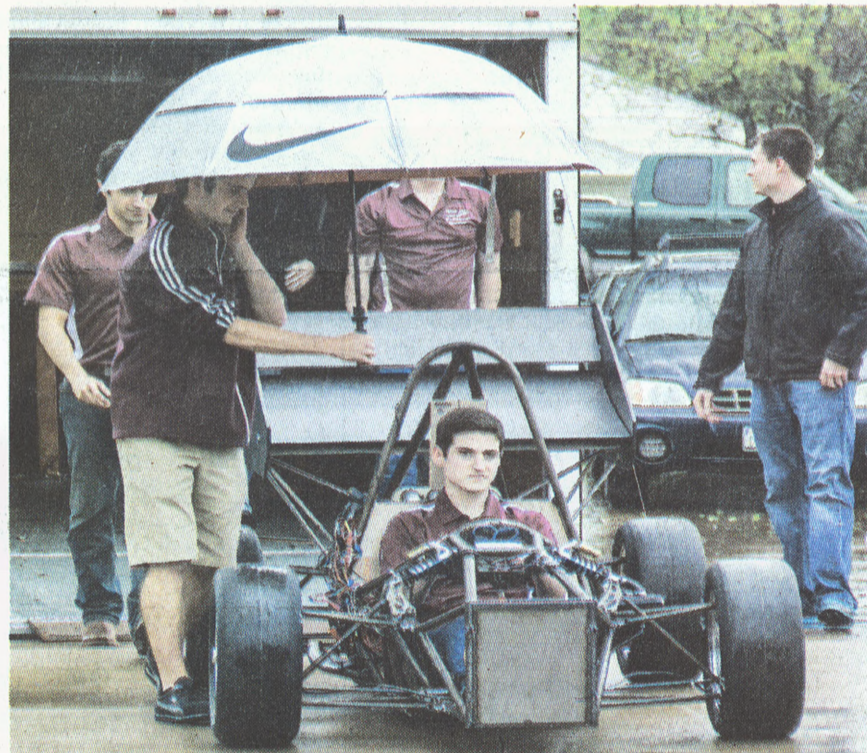
FEDERAL BUDGET ON PG. 2



PROVIDED

Former students Benton Arnett, Travis Stalcup and Patrick Issa were program liaisons involved in creating the budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

ENGINEERING



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Mechanical engineering senior Andrew Nelson demos the race car Saturday built by 21 A&M students with a budget of \$52,000.

## Aggie engineering students turn \$52,000 into a race car

By Srinivas Harshal

A team of 21 senior mechanical engineering students will showcase the race car it built over a course of nine months as part of its senior capstone design course with the ultimate goal of a podium finish in June at the Formula SAE International event in Lincoln, Neb.

Formula SAE is a student design competition organized by SAE International, formerly Society of Automotive Engineers, in which teams are charged with designing, building, testing and competing with a prototype race car across a series of static and dynamic events. A&M students built the race car with most parts and systems manufactured in-house with a budget of just \$52,000.

"It is the pinnacle of my education at

Texas A&M and the greatest thing I've ever done in my life," said Natalie Marshal, leader of the powertrain team and mechanical engineering senior.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, the group was split into five basic subsystems: aerodynamics, chassis, electrical, powertrain and suspension.

"From extensive studies using lap simulation software to see variations with change of weight, torque, transmission ratios, power curves and general intuition on how things would actually work out on the track, we chose the 600 CC 2008 Yamaha-R6 Engine," Marshal said, describing the team's decision in choosing an engine.

Katherine Letourneau, a member of

RACE CAR ON PG. 3

TEXAS

## 10 years later, Texas City explosion serves as benchmark



PROVIDED

The oil refinery explosion in Texas City on March 23, 2005 killed 15 workers and injured hundreds.

Oil refinery safety measures have changed in the decade since the blast

By Jennifer Reiley

Ten years ago Monday, a hydrocarbon vapor cloud explosion tore through the Texas City oil refinery, killing 15 workers and injuring more than 100 others. Today, those affected have played a role in changing the way safety is viewed in the petroleum industry, an industry brimming with Aggies.

Texas A&M Regent Anthony Buzbee represented 165 clients who were injured in the explosion in cases against British Petroleum, the company that owned the refinery at the time.

"I think the industry learned a lot from the explosion," Buzbee said. "I know from my involvement in other refinery accidents that the BP 2005 explosion has been studied by its competitors and those in the industry in an effort to learn from the disaster."

Buzbee said he has seen change in the industry over the last decade, but said he still has doubts as to whether BP itself learned a lesson. He said BP admitted fault right away, but continued to challenge the severity of the workers' injuries.

TEXAS CITY ON PG. 2



TEXAS A&M MEN'S BASKETBALL

vs LOUISIANA TECH BULLDOGS

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