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TEXAS CITY CONTINUED

He said the explosion can be used as a lesson for all.

"The problem in the oil and gas field is that there will always be top-side pressure for production," Buzbee said. "It takes a well-trained work force, with discipline, to resist that management pressure. When management puts production above safety, people die."

Eric Newell, Class of 2000, works for Brent Coon and Associates, a firm that represented about 400 people, including the well-known victim Eva Rowe, who lost both her parents in the explosion. Newell said at the heart of the explosion was BP's initiative to cut costs by 25 percent.

"There were any number of relatively cheap things they could have done to prevent the explosion," Newell said.

A culture existed at BP, Newell said, that disregarded workers and their safety in favor of profit. To address this, Newell said there are documents from the time of investigation that other companies can use to show their employees what they can do to prevent explosions occurring in the future.

Other efforts have been made to improve safety. Newell said part of the settlement in the Rowe case required BP to donate \$32 million to university programs and hospitals, including the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center at Texas A&M.

Sam Mannan, director of the O'Connor Process Safety Center, said one objective of the center is to make safety second nature in process industries. The center was established in 1995 in response to a 1989 chemical plant explosion in Houston, killing Mary Kay O'Connor along with 22 other workers.

"The center's mission is to lead the integration of process safety through education, research and service into the education and practice of all individuals and organizations involved in chemical operations," Mannan said. "The vision



PROVIDED

An overhead view of the refinery site after the explosion in 2005.

of the center is to serve as the premier process safety resource for all stakeholders so that safety becomes second nature for managers, engineers and workers."

Mannan said lessons from the explosion permeated various areas including design issues, technical safety issues, management system flaws and safety culture.

"A major finding was how risk should be managed with regard to placement of occupied buildings within plant boundaries," Mannan said. "Yet another finding was related to the differences between personal safety and process safety and the need to have separate and specific performance indicators for each."

Looking forward, Mannan said he does not think there is a quantifiable way to look at changes made.

"There is presently no reliable means for evaluating the performance of industry in limiting the number and severity of accidental chemical releases," Mannan said. "There is also limited data with which to prioritize efforts to reduce the risks associated with such releases."

Newell said he would want people

to look at the events surrounding the explosion and remember that it was preventable.

"There was absolutely no reason for it to have occurred," Newell said. "I wasn't an engineering student when I was at A&M, but I became fairly knowledgeable about things like process safety, which is something that A&M has one of the foremost centers in the country."

Newell said engineering students going into the industry, especially in management, need to be aware that it is their job to make safety a priority and try to not focus only on profit.

"If you focus too much on the short term to make some money, people can get hurt," Newell said.

At an academic level, Mannan said universities like A&M can respond by adjusting and changing curriculum.

"Academic and research organizations as well have a societal responsibility to respond to incidents such as Texas City in studying these incidents in order to determine what changes may be needed in the curriculum to better prepare our graduates," Mannan said.

FEDERAL BUDGET CONTINUED

which is essentially the final clearing-house before Congress," Issa said. "Our director works directly with the president."

Starting in the summer, federal agencies finalize their individual budgets for consideration by OMB. Issa said these agencies compete for money as OMB works through the fall and winter holidays to finalize the budget. After completion, the budget is sent to Congress in early February as a request, pending amendments and approvals.

Arnett, Class of 2014, and Stalcup, Class of 2013, also act as representatives for federal agencies. Stalcup said although he has never worked for the Department of Homeland Security, he provides budgetary oversight for the various agencies within the department.

"I took courses in nuclear threat assessment as well as engineering courses ... I interned at the U.S. Pacific Command and the Pentagon in offices that dealt with countering and responding to nuclear threats," Stalcup said. "Much of what I do is oversee programs that aim to prevent attacks with these weapons."

All three Aggies said their experi-

ences at the Bush School and in extracurricular involvement contribute to their success within the national government.

"Academics are of course very important, but my extracurricular involvement gave me skills to think on

my feet, get to know people and be comfortable talking," Issa said.

Stalcup said the Bush School yielded lasting connections to people in the organizations he had dreamed of working for.

"During my two years at the Bush School, I picked up some incredibly important skills ... but without a network it's difficult to get face time with the people who hire," Stalcup said. "As a direct result of research I conducted at the Bush School, I landed an internship at the Pentagon."

Stalcup also said active involvement in his classes at A&M was integral.

"My professors taught me how to disagree and challenge others, and my classmates taught me how to agree and find common ground," Stalcup said. "I learned a lot from my classmates and our experiences together made me a better analyst and colleague."

Issa said the last six months spent crafting the budget and being part of such a historic process was incredibly rewarding.

"These are a handful of people making really important decisions that go into the president's budget," Issa said. "We're working on things most people don't get to work on."

▼

"Academics are of course very important, but my extracurricular involvement gave me skills to think on my feet, get to know people and be comfortable talking."

Patrick Issa,
Class of 2013

THE BATT
The Independent Student Voice of Texas A&M since 1993

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THE TEXAS A&M STUDENT MEDIA BOARD INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR

Editor-in-Chief

THE BATT
The Independent Student Voice of Texas A&M since 1993

Fall 2015-Spring 2016
(The fall and spring editor will oversee print and digital editions, and serve Aug. 16, 2015, through May 14, 2016)

Qualifications for editor-in-chief of *The Battalion* are:

REQUIRED

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (4 if a graduate student) during the term of office (unless fewer credits are required to graduate);
- Have at least a 2.25 cumulative grade point ratio (3.25 if a graduate student) and at least a 2.25 grade point ratio (3.25 if a graduate student) in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (4 if a graduate student) must have been taken for that semester.

PREFERRED

- Have completed JOUR 301 or COMM 307 (Mass Communication, Law, and Society) or equivalent;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable daily college newspaper, -OR- Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, -OR- Have completed at least 12 hours in journalism, including JOUR 203 (Media Writing I) and JOUR 303 (Media Writing II) or JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Sandi Jones, Student Media business coordinator, in Suite L406 of the MSC. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

THE TEXAS A&M STUDENT MEDIA BOARD INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR

Editor

AGGIELAND 2016

Qualifications for editor-in-chief of the *Aggieland* yearbook are:

REQUIRED

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (4 if a graduate student) during the term of office (unless fewer credits are required to graduate);
- Have at least a 2.25 cumulative grade point ratio (3.25 if a graduate student) and at least a 2.25 grade point ratio (3.25 if a graduate student) in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (4 if a graduate student) must have been taken for that semester;

PREFERRED

- Have completed JOUR 301 or COMM 307 (Mass Communication, Law, and Society);
- Have demonstrated ability in writing, editing and graphic design through university coursework or equivalent experience;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible position on the *Aggieland* or comparable college yearbook.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Sandi Jones, Student Media business coordinator, in Suite L406 of the MSC. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

THE TEXAS A&M STUDENT MEDIA BOARD INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR

Editor-in-Chief

THE BATT
The Independent Student Voice of Texas A&M since 1993

Summer 2015
(The summer editor will oversee print, digital and special editions, and will serve May 17, 2015, through Aug. 15, 2016)

Qualifications for editor-in-chief of *The Battalion* are:

REQUIRED

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (4 if a graduate student) during the term of office (unless fewer credits are required to graduate);
- Have at least a 2.25 cumulative grade point ratio (3.25 if a graduate student) and at least a 2.25 grade point ratio (3.25 if a graduate student) in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (4 if a graduate student) must have been taken for that semester.

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