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Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

Thousands of student volunteers gather for The Big Event kickoff ceremony.

The Biggest Event

Student-run service project breaks attendance records with a big 'thank you' to B-CS residents

By Josh Hopkins

More than 21,000 students streamed to the far reaches of West Campus to Research Park early Saturday morning to embark on the largest single-day student-run

service project in the nation — The Big Event.

Students canvassed Bryan College Station, serving residents by pulling weeds, raking leaves, painting homes and more.

Robert Killion, industrial distribution junior and The Big

Event outreach executive, said The Big Event saw a large increase in students participating and job requests compared to last year.

Killion said this year's estimated attendance of between 21,000 and 22,000 volunteers was a solid increase from last

year's 20,000. Killion said students served around 2,500 job sites.

Event organizers tie The Big Event to the A&M core values.

"Texas A&M had instilled the value of selfless service in its students for generations," said assistant director Megan Rans-

leben at the opening ceremony.

"It is because of this that The Big Event was started 33 years ago. Today we have the privilege to live out this value through serving 2,500 residences in Bryan and College Station."

BIG EVENT ON PG. 4



Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

(Left) Teammates celebrate with No. 8 Logan Nottebrok at homeplate. (Right) Logan Taylor beats the tag Sunday.

A&M baseball whips Missouri 14-6 to clinch weekend series

With LSU loss, Aggies move to top of SEC West standings

By Andre Perrard

The Texas A&M lineup showed Sunday why it is a pitcher's nightmare in a 14-6 win over the Missouri Tigers to take the weekend series win.

The wins over the weekend place the Aggies atop the western division in the SEC. Also, with LSU losing this weekend, the Aggies might find themselves at No. 1 in most, if not

all, major baseball polls come Monday afternoon.

"Well, we are off to a really good start," said A&M head coach Rob Childress. "Today we found something out about our team. We hadn't been in this situation before where we are playing to win a series on Sunday. We responded quite well. So far, so good. I am proud of our guys and the new month will start for us on Tuesday."

The series got started Friday night in front of a record crowd of 7,391 at Olsen Field, the largest crowd since the stadium underwent renovations

in 2012. A&M overcame a sixth-inning charge by Missouri with four runs of its own to earn a 7-4 win to start the series.

Aggie starter Grayson Long had a good night, surrendering only three earned runs, but Andrew Vinson came in behind him to effectively shut down Missouri (20-9, 6-3 SEC). Vinson pitched three innings of scoreless baseball out of the bullpen to earn the win on the night.

Saturday saw a different outcome. The Aggies (27-2, 7-2 SEC) took an early 2-0 lead, but Missouri

BASEBALL ON PG. 3

COMMUNITY



Lenae Allen — THE BATTALION

Professor Rodney Hill and wife Sue Hill created the wood carvings seen in the MSC.

The Big Event lends a hand to long-tenured prof

By Lenae Allen

As part of The Big Event, cadets from Company D2 helped clear the yard of Rodney Hill, a man with 46 years of Aggie land history to tell.

Hill joined the faculty at Texas A&M in 1969 after receiving architecture degrees from the University of California-Berkeley and Texas Tech.

He first taught in the Department of Environmental Design and in 1980 moved to the Department of Architecture. In 46 years of teaching, Hill has helped make the visualization and the architecture programs what they are today.

Hill said visualization started as a graduate program in 1989, and the architecture department didn't have the undergraduate program until about four years ago.

"We would construct special classes for [those students] in their junior and senior year so that they could go other routes to experience visualization, rather than taking mechanical or electrical systems and structures — those things wouldn't do them any good at DreamWorks," Hill said.

Hill's creative nature is expressed in his house and his yard. The Hills have an elaborate environmental

design in their garden and greenhouse.

"The best part was the back yard," said Sam Hilgendorf, human resources freshman. "You go in there and it's like you're in a forest. They've got tons of different types of plants."

Inside the house, many of Rodney Hill's handmade wood carvings decorate the walls. The wood carvings are similar to the six-panel wood carving done by Hill and his wife Sue inside the Memorial Student Center.

Among the hustle of raking leaves, the Hills worked alongside the students.

"They didn't have to buy us lunch, and they bought us pizza," said David Wolff, agricultural and biological engineering senior. "[Sue Hill] was out here helping us with the yard work. She certainly didn't have to do that."

Hill said he was appreciative of The Big Event and the cadets who worked on the yard for what they did. He said it was important that students know the power of volunteerism at A&M.

"It's taking care of everyone," Hill said. "You find people that want to come and interview Aggies because Aggies don't lie, cheat or steal, and we're hard workers. You learn to give a lot when you're here."

FESTIVAL OF COLORS



Alli Bradshaw — THE BATTALION



The Indian Tradition of Holi, or the Festival of Colors, was brought to Simpson Drill Field Sunday afternoon with free food and color.