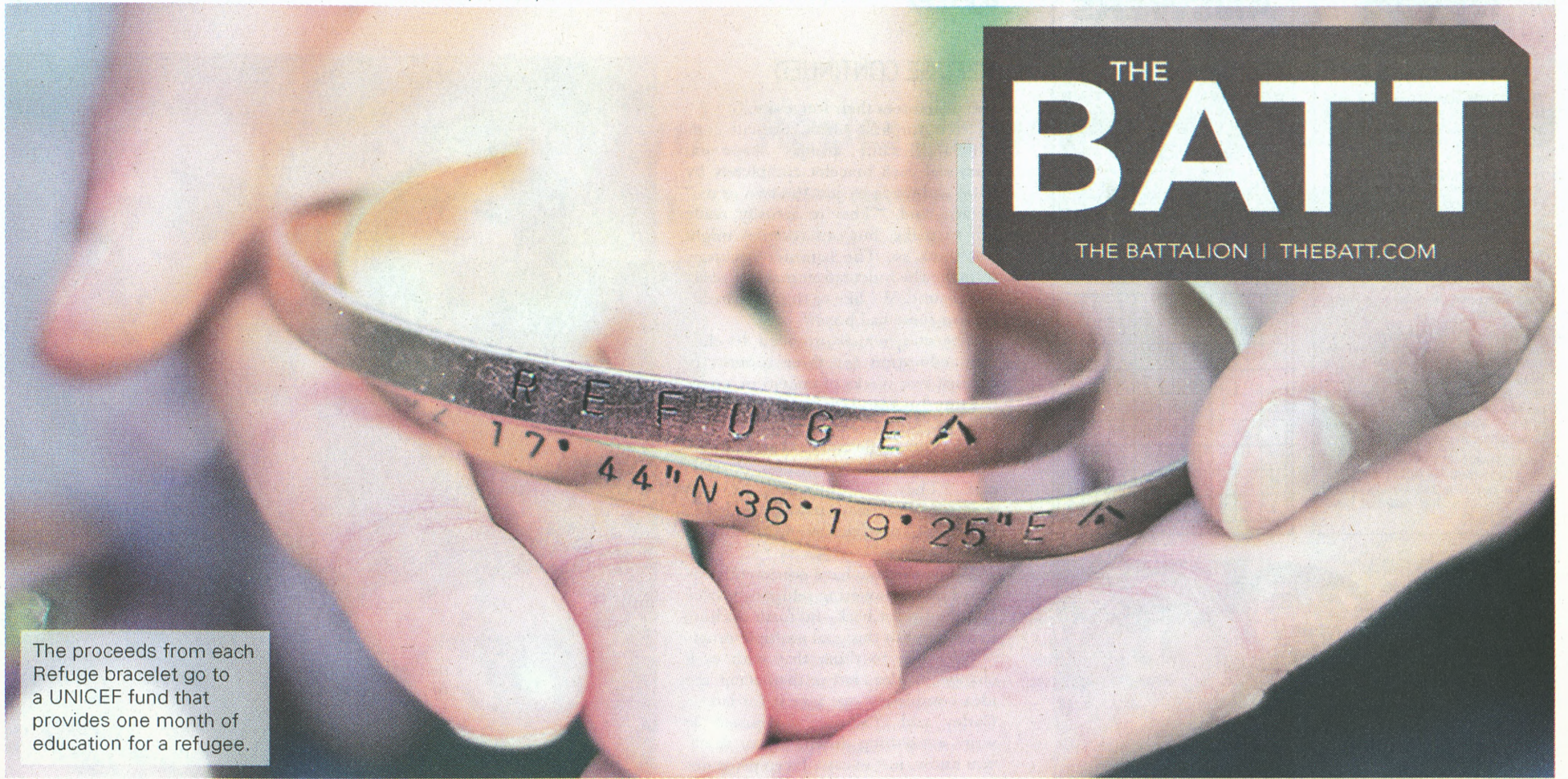


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The proceeds from each Refuge bracelet go to a UNICEF fund that provides one month of education for a refugee.

Allison Bradshaw — THE BATTALION

# Copper-stamped gift of education

Duo hopes to tackle illiteracy in developing countries

By Mason Morgan

For two A&M students, breaking the cycle of poverty in developing countries starts with copper wristbands.

According to a research study done by the United Nation's educational, scientific and cultural body, 86 percent of all refugees migrate to developing countries. In those countries, one out of four children is illiterate. They can't read, they can't write and the inadequacy of their education guarantees a difficult future.

In response to this, students supported by Startup Aggieland work to fund education for refugees all around the world.

"Refuge," founded by international studies junior Andrea Batarse and international studies senior Lexi Carley, supports refugee education with handmade bracelets, promising the proceeds from every brace-

let sold are donated to UNICEF, which then provides one month of education for a refugee.

"Back in 2014, we, two fresh Texas A&M undergrads, were inspired by the stories of the refugees we worked with, along with our organization MSC Freshmen Leadership International," Batarse said. "We were shocked listening to the

stories of those who had fled their homes and arrived in the U.S. with hardly an education or skills. Their perseverance to thrive and create their own future inspired us to help pave a way."

The bracelets, each taking about a week to make, are sealed to prevent oxidation and tarnish. This process

REFUGEE ON PG. 2



Frederica Shih — THE BATTALION

# The hazy future

Handful of Texas proposals call into question the state's marijuana forecast

By Nikita Redkar

The chatter surrounding marijuana law in Texas intensifies this week as four proposals go before a Texas House committee hearing Wednesday.

The Texas House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, led by state Rep. Abel Herrero, will consider marijuana criminalization through a number of lenses. One bill seeks to make possession of less than an ounce a civil infraction, while two others would make it a Class C misdemeanor. A fourth aims for wholesale legalization.

"[The bills] range from allowing just one medicinal component of marijuana to legalizing the drug in its entirety," Texas A&M School of Law professor Frank Snyder said.

More than half of the United States permits the drug in at least one of its forms, with 23 states recognizing medicinal usage of marijuana and four legalizing it for recreational use — Colorado and Washington since 2012, and Alaska and Oregon since 2014. Other states, including Texas, have pending ballot measures to allow the drug medicinally or recreationally.

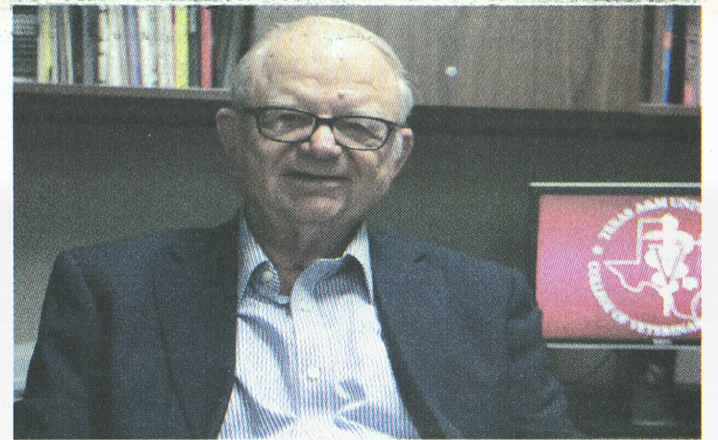
Heather Fazio, Texas political director of the Marijuana Policy Project, works to mobilize grassroots efforts in support of broader marijuana policy in Texas. Fazio said the organization's priority right now remains the removal of all penalties for medical marijuana and lighter charges for those found in possession of the drug recreationally.

"We are pushing for the possession of a small amount of marijuana — one ounce or less — to be ticketable and without jail time," Fazio said. "Additionally, the charge will not remain

MARIJUANA ON PG. 4

NEUROSCIENCE

# 'Memory Medic' talks nuts and bolts of learning proficiency



Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

Dr. Bill Klemm, who earned the name 'Memory Medic' for his research, has been a professor at A&M since 1966.

Professor encourages students to exercise mind

By Spencer Davis

When Dr. Bill Klemm was 20 years old, he would memorize the content of magazines and newspapers down to the page number to practice his skill. He said by adjusting memorization techniques, anyone can have similar memory proficiency.

Because of his knowledge, Klemm, a professor of neuroscience

at A&M, said people call him the Memory Medic.

Klemm has taught in the Texas A&M Department of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences since 1966. He has covered the study of memory in three books, several dozen journal articles and in a well-read blog. Klemm also holds numerous speeches across the country, including one he held at a TEDx event.

Most of Klemm's work focuses on how students can study

MEMORY ON PG. 4

Q&A

## Student bodybuilder juggles work, school

The Battalion news reporter Nikita Redkar sits down with human resources senior and competitive bodybuilder Cory Hageman, who recently won second place overall in a statewide bodybuilding competition.

**THE BATTALION: What made you want to begin bodybuilding and pursue it competitively?**

HAGEMAN: I have been interested in bodybuilding competitions for a couple years now. I followed girls on Instagram who posted their fitness routines and results and it piqued my motivation

to train. The more research I did, I found the idea of these girls training months at a time to get their bodies exactly where they want very appealing. It was their perseverance and healthy approach that motivated me.

**THE BATTALION: What are some fitness philosophies you have trained by during your preparations?**

HAGEMAN: Success in these competitions is a symbol of commitment, a technique that takes steady dedication and not extremity. I chose to do this competition because

HAGEMAN ON PG. 4

FACULTY

## \$2 million institute grant brings cancer researcher to Texas A&M

By Gracie Mock

One institute's effort to bring notable cancer researchers to Texas institutions has landed the A&M Department of Chemistry a new associate professor this fall.

The associate professor, Jonathan Sczepanski, is one of three statewide recipients to receive a Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, CPRIT, \$2 million First-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Member recruitment grant. This one-time award brings cancer scientists and researchers to academic institutions across Texas.

According to a 2014 CPRIT report, an estimated

119,115 Texans were diagnosed with cancer and 44,150 died of the disease last year. The report states the CPRIT grants program has been highly successful in enhancing Texas' cancer research efforts and increasing the external visibility of the state in this field.

To be eligible for the grant, Sczepanski was nominated by the Department of Chemistry. After an initial interview for a faculty position with the department head and another faculty member from the Department of Chemistry, Sczepanski said he then applied for the grant which was reviewed by the CPRIT and

GRANT ON PG. 2



PROVIDED

Jonathan Sczepanski is one of three statewide recipients to receive a CPRIT grant.