

BATT
THE BATTALION

Mark Doré, Editor in Chief

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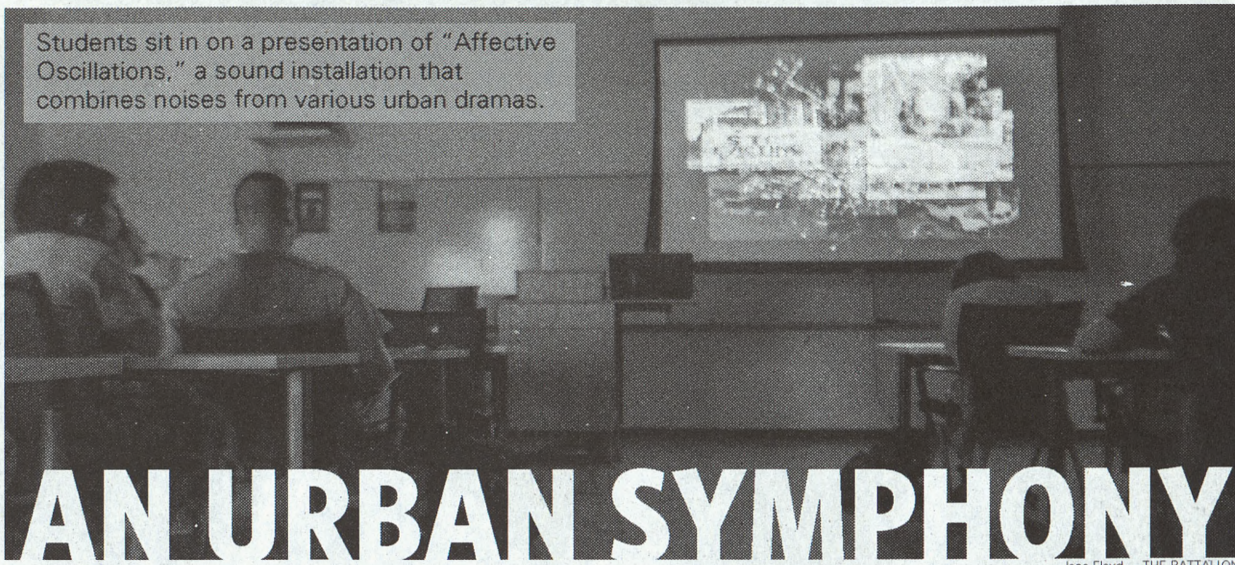
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The 114th edition of Texas A&M University's official yearbook will chronicle traditions, academics, the other education, athletics, the Corps, Greeks, campus organizations and feature student portraits. Distribution will be during Fall 2016.



Students sit in on a presentation of "Affective Oscillations," a sound installation that combines noises from various urban dramas.

AN URBAN SYMPHONY

Jena Floyd — THE BATTALION

Sound installation compiles noises from urban dramas

By Jack Riewe

▷ The sounds of Hurricane Katrina, the images of Carnival, the missile crisis in Havana — these and more are combined in a sound installation on campus.

Music lecturer Leonardo Cardoso and associate professor of performance studies Jeff Morris have created "Affective Oscillations," a sound installation of urban dramas that compares and contrasts noises from big events in metropolitan areas.

Cardoso, artistic director for the installation, said "Affective Oscillations" is a cycle of sounds played through speakers and paired with visuals projected on a screen in front of the room. The sounds and images depict scenes from five cities — New York, Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans, Buenos Aires and Havana.

"The sound installation is a collection of soundscapes, meaning sounds as they are apart of a specific environment," Cardoso said. "This sound installation is the acoustics in environmental sounds in five different cities."

After Cardoso came to Morris with the idea of the sound installation, they started brainstorming on how the project should look, sound and change

over time. Morris, programmer and designer of the installation, does interactive media work.

Each city has two scenes depicted — one of celebration and one of crisis. Cardoso said both types of events represent how urban spaces, and the residents, create an identity.

▽
"Art is most impactful when it creates an environment that makes it likely for your unique ideas to occur in your own head. Our goal is to create a compelling artistic experience and to provide enough stimuli so that those ideas can adapt in each person's imagination."

Jeff Morris, associate professor of performance studies

"So for instance, for New York City, a moment of celebration we chose was the Thanksgiving Parade, because it's something that attracts people and showcases New York City during a specific time period," Car-

dosido said. "It's an opportunity to understand some of the traditions that are related to that place. For the crisis we chose 9/11 because again, that event caused kind of a rupture to the public, to the spatial fabric and to the everyday life in the city."

Cardoso said he recorded some of the sounds, while others were collected from websites such as Soundcloud or YouTube.

Morris said the installation interested him because he looks for ways to create forms of art with multimedia.

"Art is most impactful when it creates an environment that makes it likely for your unique ideas to occur in your own head," Morris said. "Our goal is to create a compelling artistic experience and to provide enough stimuli so that those ideas can adapt in each person's imagination."

English freshman Alexandra Huerta came to the installation and said she thought it was a neat experience.

"I thought it was interesting, I didn't really know what it was actually going to be about," Huerta said. "I walked in and he didn't even explain anything, he just started playing the music and the pictures and it was all rushed. It actually kind of made me feel like I was in the environment."

The installation is available from 5:30-7:30 p.m. weekdays through May 1 in LAAH 109.

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Alison Bradshaw — THE BATTALION

John Reynolds presented "Agile Architectures and Their Evaluations" at the second panel on future developments of testbeds.

Workshop addresses power grid challenges

By Srinivas Harshal

▷ While few dispute the idea that aging U.S. power grids are overburdened, the solution is less clear.

To shed light on the matter, more than 100 students, faculty, researchers and industrial experts from various disciplines gathered at Texas A&M Tuesday for the third annual TEES Smart Grid Workshop. Through expert presentations and student research displays, attendees focused on ways to evaluate possible solutions for the complex problems associated with America's power grid.

The U.S. power grid is a complex network made up of power plants, transmission lines and transformers, which convert and distribute power into homes. Managing this network in a more efficient way through modern infrastructure and data analytics is the goal of a "smart grid" — a type of electrical grid that has been adopted in many places in Texas.

Mladen Kezunovic, electrical engineering professor and director of the TEES Smart Grid Center, said because the installation of new grid infrastructure is costly and risky, solutions such as smart grids need to be thoroughly evaluated beforehand.

"We have a host of new technologies such as microgrids, electric vehicles, solar and wind power penetrating our age-old system and we need to assess their development cycles between their initial research stage and commercialization," Kezunovic said. "Evaluating the benefits and performance as early as possible is the key to sustainable solutions. As such, there's a lot of hype with disruptive technology such as the smart grid but a lot of the solu-

tions don't make it to the market."

One key element to a smart grid is the installation of smart meters in homes and businesses. More than 50 million smart meters have now been installed across the country, replacing traditional meters to relay information about both supply and demand between producers and consumers. With this data, power plants and distributors are able to respond to periods of peak demand.

"Our systems have become more and more intelligent over time with such data," said Kenneth Mercado, senior vice president for CenterPoint Energy.

Mercado, who was one of the keynote speakers at the event, said CenterPoint Energy was able to benefit from smart grid technologies, which allow the company to reduce supply when less power is needed and quickly ramp up generation when peak periods approach.

"Our grid is being digitized and the engineering responsibilities have changed," Mercado said. "The proactive and predictive actions can now be taken with smart grid technologies."

Mercado said smart grid technology "proves indispensable" in times of natural disaster, but its benefit was also exemplified by an incident in 2013. Mercado cited a Friday in 2013 when electricity supply was cut off at 9:33 p.m. for more than 70,000 residents in Cypress, Texas.

"Thanks to smart grid technology the fault was isolated, supply re-routed and electricity restored within time for the 10 p.m. news," Mercado said.

Students also made poster presentations displaying their smart grid-related research on campus.

MUSTER CONTINUED

Vishal Kaushal, Class of 2013, tuned into his community's Muster from Dallas, despite commitments at work.

"[Muster] conflicted with my work schedule, but this morning I got a message that one of my former underclassmen had passed away," Kaushal said. "It made me realize that I needed to make this tradition a priority. It helps to have people by your side when someone important to you passes away."

Biomedical sciences sophomore Mark Griffin attended Muster to answer "here" for his friend and fellow Corps of Cadets member, Thomas Bratcher, Class of 2017.

"Hearing Thomas [Bratcher's] name at Muster was not only emotional, but it was also closure," Griffin said. "Hearing all the things said at Muster and knowing what it represents made me realize this was my last goodbye to Thomas. Not only will he continue to live on in my memory but through Muster, he will always be a part of the Aggie family."

U.S. Rep. and Muster speaker Will Hurd, Class of 1999, acted as student body president his senior year and led the A&M community through the Bonfire Collapse, one of the most trying times in the university's history.

"The 12 students we lost in Bonfire were among the many names called at that year's Muster," Hurd said. "Despite seeing tradition being transformed into tragedy, it was inspiring to see the Aggie spirit manifest itself in the acts of compassion and selflessness."

There's no better way to think about what each of us should be doing in our own lives than to reflect on the lives of those who are no longer with us, Hurd said.

Finance sophomore Travis McClendon said Muster is not about mourning — it's about celebrating those who not only passed, but also those who are here now.

"Even though you were here today for people you may not know, down the line, people you don't know will be there for you," McClendon said. "And that's really something special. This tradition is part of the reason I chose A&M."

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