

# Vanilla Ice rocks the Hall ■ 3



Philip Crowson — THE BATTALION

# the battalion

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## Sports

Big 12 football notebook

Sports editor Brad Cox weighs in on Week 2 of Big 12 college football.

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## Politics

McCain response

Sen. John McCain accepted the Republican bid for the presidency Thursday night. The Battalion reacts. ■ 7



## Local

Aggie spirit is disappearing

As A&M attempts to move into the top tiers academically, it is losing what made it unique. ■ 7

# Spaced out sensor

■ Aggie engineering students develop sensor technology that detects the smallest particle in space, even life on Mars



Courtesy Photo — THE BATTALION

**Christie Tipton**, junior biomedical engineering major, **Nikhil Bhatnagar**, junior aerospace engineering major, and **Brannon Veal**, junior electrical engineering major say Gig'em Aggies while aboard the "Weightless Wonder" during one of their eight zero-g parabolas in which they were testing their bilayer.

"The purpose of the team is to design, fabricate, fully, and evaluate the effects of gravity on a single-molecule nanopore sensor. This will lay a basement for the sensor as a space life exploration sensor."

— Xiaofeng Kang, professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Medicine

**Melissa Appel**  
The Battalion

Over the summer, a team of Aggies conducted an experiment aboard the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's "Weightless Wonder" that could have results important to future space travel to Mars.

The Space Engineering Institute (SEI) Materials Team is a group of students and faculty from the Department of Molecular and Cellular

Medicine at Texas A&M. In October 2007, they submitted a proposal to NASA's Microgravity University regarding their experiment, "Analyte Detection via Protein Nanopores in a Microgravity Environment." The team began the design process of their experiment in the fall semester before receiving confirmation by NASA in December 2007 that their team could fly on the "Weightless Wonder."

Inspiration for the design of the experiment came from the patent technology of the single-

molecule nanopore sensor chip, developed by Xiaofeng Kang and Allison Ficht, professors in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Medicine. Erin Bishop, a graduate student from the Department of Aerospace Engineering, led the student team in the experiment.

"The program of the SEI Materials Team is to work on a NASA-sponsored project in the development of the International Space

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## Murano says it's time to move forward with MSC

**Calli Turner**  
The Battalion

President Elsa A. Murano said Thursday that she is pushing the Memorial Student Center renovation forward.

"When I came on board as president in January this project was already under way," she said. "As time was going on from January through the summer, nothing much was happening.

"If we're going to charge students a fee, we need to get cracking," Murano said. She asked to get immediately involved in the process.

No forward motion was made since the referendum vote in October, until Murano

came aboard and the committees were selected.

Nick Petree, Memorial Student Center Council president, said a pause from action was needed to catch the administration up. Three administrations — Robert M. Gates, Eddie J. Davis and Murano — have convened during the renovation process.

"What we're doing now is going back with the new administration and re-evaluating our project," Petree said. "I do believe it was pushed back because of the change of administration."

Student Body President Mark Gold said

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**Richard Kardys**, former student and president of The Association of Former Students was appointed to the Board of Trustees.

## Member of Board of Trustees is both Aggie and Longhorn

**Melissa Appel**  
The Battalion

Richard Kardys may have degrees from both Texas A&M and the University of Texas, but his allegiance was clearly with the former as he was inducted into the A&M Foundation Board of Trustees in July.

Kardys graduated from A&M in 1967. He majored in government and minored in economics. After graduating, he studied at the University of Texas Law School, where he graduated in 1970. Two weeks after his graduation, he joined the Air Force and served as a JAG officer during

the Vietnam War. He left the Air Force after six years and began working at Frost Bank in 1976, where he continues to work.

While at A&M, Kardys was in the Corps of Cadets. He participated in Ross Volunteers and was Squadron Commander.

Kardys has been giving back to A&M since he left. He is a past president of The Association of Former Students and was nominated for a position on the Board of Trustees by The Association.

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