There are two applicants for Texan ME (fall):

Matthew Adams & Michelle Zhang
TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA APPLICATION FORM
MANAGING EDITOR OF THE DAILY TEXAN

check one or both terms of office:  □ June 1, 2017 - August 15, 2017
☑ August 16, 2017 - December 31, 2017

This application and supporting materials must be submitted to the TSM Business Office
(HSM 3.200 / William Randolph Hearst Building, 2500 Whitis Avenue) by
Monday, April 24, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

These positions are due to be appointed at the TSM Board meeting scheduled for
Friday, April 28, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
Please plan to attend and discuss your application with the Operating Trustees.

Applicant Information

Matthew Adams
Name
m3a2348
UT EID
matthew-adams@utexas.edu
Email Address
Journalism & RTF
Major

Applicant Attestation / Authorization for Release of Information

1. I am currently enrolled as a UT-Austin student.

2. By the start of my term of office, I will (if an undergraduate) have completed 12 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 2.0 or (if a graduate student) have completed 9 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 3.0.

3. I agree to complete and pass a media law and libel test administered by the Editorial Adviser prior to taking position.

4. I have obtained and included signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan supporting my application.

5. By the start of my term of office, I will have completed at least two semesters as a permanent-staff member of The Daily Texan in an area other than opinion.

6. By the start of my term of office, I will have served in a Daily Texan management position with supervisory and design responsibilities (as defined by the Daily Texan Handbook) for at least one semester.

Note: if no qualified applicant has filed by the deadline, the Board shall make an appointment using the Handbook qualifications, each of which shall be waivable by an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications, and hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director, Texas Student Media, to verify said information. Further, I understand that this information will be provided to the TSM Board of Operating Trustees and will become part of the public record of TSM.

Matthew Adams
Signature of Applicant

4/24/17
Date
Supporting signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan:

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of (list positions and dates):

- Sports blogger - August 2014 to May 2015
- News Senior Reporter - June 2015 to Dec. 2015
- News Desk Editor - Jan. 2017 to May 2017

It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as:

- A résumé
- A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
- Letters of recommendation
- Samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)
Supporting signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan:

[Signatures]

[Signatures]

[Signatures]

[Signatures]

[Signatures]

[Signatures]
Matthew Schafer Adams
817-475-0774
matthew-adams@utexas.edu
@MatthewAdams60

Education
The University of Texas at Austin
Bachelors in Journalism and Radio-Television-Film

Experience

Raleigh News and Observer (work in progress) May 31-August 10
I would be working as a reporter for the state government team.

900 Thompson Street
A short documentary about alumni of Old Anderson High School fighting to preserve the history of their school by recalling its impact on the African-American community of East Austin. Working to expand it into a feature documentary.

Responsibilities ranged from editing and producing video, covering higher education and covering Legislature committee meetings. Some of the top stories include University of Texas President Gregory Fenves announcing the school’s campus carry policy and going to Lakeway after the deaths of Sean and Brodie Copeland in Nice. In addition to that, I produced and edited the first political podcast for the Chronicle.

KXAN News- Sports Department August 2016-Dec 2016
Learned new ways to film with broadcast equipment and how to edit on Avid. My responsibilities include making packages, cutting video for shows and transcribing interviews.

The Daily Texan January 2017-May 2017
Fall 2014-Fall 2015
The first two semesters with the paper were spent as a sports blogger and general news reporter. After that, my focus was on the news department. I spent two semesters as a news senior reporter and spent most of my time cover the UT System. I received a seventh place award in the Hearst multimedia contest for a video on campus carry.

TSTV Sports Spring 2015-Present
Assistant sports director for the department, responsible for producing the sports debate show, College Crossfire.

Weatherford Star-Telegram Fall 2012-Spring 2014
This was my first journalism experience back in high school. My school did not have a paper, but I worked out an agreement with the local paper to submit stories and photos on my high school’s sports. The sports ranged from football, basketball, volleyball, track, golf and tennis.
To the Texas Student Media Board:

As my sophomore fall semester came to an end, I wanted an internship. After 145 articles and a video that was recognized for a Hearst award I did not think there was anything else to do. I was fortunate to get an internship with the Houston Chronicle that spring because Madlin Mekelburg recommended me for the position. It seemed like too good a situation to pass up. Yet what stands out to me when I made the decision was not people’s excitement but the disappointment other’s had when I left. Several Texan staffers said they wanted me to stick around and pass on knowledge and experiences to other journalists coming up the ranks.

My internships with the Houston Chronicle and KXAN I gained a lot from. I was satisfied where I was in life but somehow the Texan basement kept creeping up in my mind because I would not be where I am today without it. Yet talking with professional journalists, they had a different take on the Texan. Brian Rosenthal, a 2017 Pulitzer finalist for the Chronicle, said he worked all four years at Northwestern’s school paper. He said you were expected to have a summer internship but come back to the school paper and pass on advice to younger staff members. His big critique of the Texan was the lack of senior leadership.

Naturally, I took offense to his comments but he had a point. In sports and news, I’ve seen more and more sophomores having to step up and take charge. Even just last summer a soon to be junior was managing editor. I understand if you can keep moving up at the Texan it looks good but if all you do is keep learning from your peers, you aren’t going to grow as much as others who are getting internships. Being back as a news desk editor, my goal is to make their stories better but also give them advice on the real world. Whether they recognize or not, editors at papers like the Chronicle or Dallas Morning News are already watching what we do. I also see that while we work to encourage staffers to come back, every year there is a lot to deal with.

So why am I the right person for managing editor? Although I was not the news editor, I had to assume some of those responsibilities. Between senior reporter duties, I remember filling in during budget because no one else would do it. Those times filling in made me realize how critical it is to know what is happening and know the progress of where certain stories are at. Those experiences helped me better understand the basics of budget when I sat in on the Houston Chronicle’s meetings. When they debated how they could get in touch with Carli Lloyd when she played for the Houston Dash when the U.S. women’s soccer team were protesting for equal pay or how they could make the story about the transgender wrestler better than what the Morning News did, I began to see the depth at which those meetings went. And the pressure only got worse at KXAN because if a video was not ready for the 6:00 news, you were scrambling to figure out how to fill the script. Whether it is video that drops, or a story that falls apart, you have to be prepared to adjust at all times.

As managing editor, you bet I will be keeping up with what the major publications are doing because there are always ideas we can gather from those outlets. Seeing national stories help you understand how to make your local audience connect with the issue. However, I can’t just look there. I have to pay attention to what student papers such as Northwestern, Missouri, USC and others are doing. Indiana’s sports department recently tried doing a feature on how Bob Knight
has changed since his being fired from the school. The story had some issues only quoting one
source but I give the reporter and sports department props for being creative. At the Texan, we
should never be limited by the possibility of ideas. I hope everyone at the Texan is reading
multiple newspapers or news outlets. I know that is not always happening but I hope there is
more collaboration between departments. I will want to be as hands on as I possibly can but
sometimes a little space between all of us will be good. I hope different levels within individual
departments expand on story ideas but I hope other departments will seek advice from various
departments. While someone in news may not like it, someone in life and arts might ask a
question about the story news may not have thought of. At the end of the day we are all curious
reporters. The more ideas and questions we can raise, the better our coverage will be.

Looking at the staff, the news department will be solid. There are a few veteran staffers coming
back which will help keep some consistency in the department that has been missing for
sometime. My biggest goal with the department is working with reporters in different beats to
file as many FOIA requests as possible. Currently when people do not trust the media, some will
be reluctant to talk. From the crime reporter to even the campus reporter, there is no reason they
should not be filing several FOIAs a week. This makes reporters dig deeper and become more
investigative within their beat. In the past, we’ve always had investigative reporters but
sometimes that did not work out. This means I’m expecting more from the senior reporters but
they should be capable of balancing this.

For sports, the biggest goal will be how to cover Tom Herman in his first season. I want the
football reporters to be on top of every move the players and coaches make. Whether it is the
first loss for Herman to how the team is bonding, I want deeper stories. Some people don’t like
sports but that is the one section most people turn to. I’m sure when I look at what other sports
writers are saying I will role my eyes because either they just scratch the surface of the story or
they sensationalize the most trivial thing. When people turn to the Texan sports section, I want a
reader to feel like they actually learned something new and they weren’t reading something that
felt like aggregated news.

Journalism today is a digital platform. When it comes to social media, videos or podcasts, we do
not do enough to drive viewers to this content. There have been many protests in Austin
regarding Trump’s presidency but not a lot of content on Twitter. The city-state reporter Lisa
Dreher would work to gather information for her story and juggle tweeting at the same time.
However, who ever was suppose to be driving tweets and information on the Texan page was not
always doing that. These days videos are what catches people’s attention. I expect to see more
collaboration between social media and the video department to push some of this out. More and
more news outlets are starting to get creative with text and video so it is more engaging with
audiences. Buzzfeed and VICE were the first to do this but slowly your traditional outlets like The
Washington Post are starting to do some of it as well.

The other thing I want to see is more diversity in the office. While the Texan department has
some diversity, I do not think we do a good job of getting African-Americans or Hispanics to
come out. We need to work with minority journalism groups on campus to develop a relationship
and start incorporating more of their members into the basement. And you have to start there
because if you don’t then how do you expect students of minority to come in on their own if they
don't see anyone who looks like them. These journalism groups I want them to feel like they are welcomed and can come to us as an ally. By building a good relationship with them, I hope they feel like their members will join the Texan.

The Texan is still a great paper but the paper still has some room to improve. I believe with my background, I am confident I would fit in and contribute as managing editor. I look forward working with you throughout this decision process.

Sincerely,

Matthew Adams
List of References

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Sweatt family files a brief supporting UT in Fisher case
In 1946, Heman Marion Sweatt was an African-American denied admission into the UT School of Law on the basis of race. This case was the first time the Supreme Court found that diversity, including racial diversity was a compelling component of higher education and would be referenced again in the University of California Regents v. Bakke and Grutter v. Bollinger at the University of Michigan.

Former University president Theophilus Painter wrote a letter to the Texas Attorney General that Sweatt was a citizen of Texas “duly qualified for admission to the Law School at the University of Texas, save and except for the fact that he is a negro.”

Once again, the University’s admission practices are in the spotlight. The Supreme Court will hear the Fisher v. University of Texas for the second time addressing the legality of affirmative action.

After UT filed a response on Oct. 26 to the brief Abigail Fisher filed in September, the family of Heman Marion Sweatt filed the first brief in support of the University.

Hemella Sweatt-Duplechan, the daughter of Sweatt and a dermatological pathologist, said the family filed a brief when Fisher v. UT was heard in 2013. Sweatt-Duplechan said the family has been invested in admissions equality dating back to her father’s case that paved the way for Brown v. Board of Education but said race and education is more than just an issue UT has to address.

“It has been important that we find not only a great institution but one that has diversity, not just ethnic diversity but social and economic diversity,” Sweatt-Duplechan said. “I think all of those factors are important, especially today as the world becomes more global, so that is why it is important for universities to have a diverse population.”
Sweatt-Duplechan said aside from the issue of race in admissions, figuring out how to educate low-income minority students is crucial.

“It is important to not only acknowledge but begin to change that experience prior to getting to college,” Sweatt-Duplechan said. “That is really our next step in my mind. I feel like getting students more prepared for college, especially from lower economic families despite ethnicities is important because as a country we don’t value it as much as other countries and we are paying the price.”

Edmund Gordon, chair of the department of African and African diaspora studies at UT, said the University’s low African-American representation in the student and faculty population, which is less than 5 percent, is an issue that needs to be addressed.

“Black faculty in particular are very much in favor of affirmative action, that we recognize its importance in creating this university,” Gordon said. “And the great majority of us would think this university should do more in its use of affirmative action to make sure the student population, graduate student population and faculty population is as diverse.”

Student government president Rohit Mandalapu said with UT’s initiative for diversity, having the Sweatt family is an important step.

“Heman Sweatt is the face of diversity and battling through diversity here at UT,” Mandalapu said. “The fact that his descendants are now in support of UT’s use of race as one of its factors in the admissions process speaks volumes about how racial issues are prevalent in society even today.”
With Jade Helm 15 underway, all quiet on the Bastrop front
After the U.S. Army military training exercise dubbed Jade Helm kicked off in Bastrop, Texas, despite conspiracy theories and media hype, citizens of Bastrop reported — well, nothing out of the ordinary.

The two-month long military training exercise, Jade Helm 15, began in a dozen counties across Texas, including Bastrop, on July 15. After the announcement of the training exercise and after a map
With Jade Helm 15 underway, all quiet on the Bastrop front | The Daily Texan

A poll, which the Texas Politics Project from UT and The Texas Tribune conducted, reported June 25 that nearly 44 percent of Texans believed the federal government would likely send troops to impose martial law, and 43 percent believed the federal government would likely confiscate their firearms.

Conspiracy theories then grew to connect the shutting down of Blue Bell Creameries and the unusual amount of rain Texas received this year to the federal government.

In an attempt to ease citizen concerns, Gov. Greg Abbott announced the National Guard would monitor the exercise from start to finish.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mark Lastoria held a public forum April 25 in Bastrop, explaining the purpose of Jade Helm and said the exercise would help the military “hone their skills.”

Multiple attendees at the public forum questioned Lastoria about a possible federal government takeover.

Since Jade Helm officially started, Lastoria said he spoke with officials and residents of Bastrop County and that people are starting to settle down and understand the purpose of the exercise.

“The situation is not as contentious as it was back in April when it was viewed with a lot of concern and skepticism,” Lastoria said. “It is now met with understanding as people realize training like this is a necessity to ensure we have the best trained special operations forces in the world.”
Becki Womble, president and CEO of the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce, said she has not seen any suspicious behavior now that the military has arrived. She said having the military personnel has boosted the town’s economy while the town has always supported the military through the military base located in Bastrop, Camp Swift.

“Our economy is booming,” Womble said. “[These men and women] are buying our food, gas and other services we have to offer. Having Camp Swift — we have always had a good relationship with the military and we are happy to accommodate them.”

Devon Michalik, part-owner of Crosshairs Texas gun store with her husband, said she has experienced some “suspicious” activity since the exercise began.

Michalik said two men came into her store to try to sell their guns. She said she could not buy the guns because neither of the men were Texas residents.

“The first man that came in — you could tell was military,” Michalik said. “He looked Middle Eastern and had a very heavy dialect. After he left, one of our customers told us the guy was an Army translator. The second guy we saw was from California.”

Michalik said on a separate occasion, someone called the store and asked about what was going on in Bastrop. She said it sounded like she was on “a radio show” and someone called to “dig” for information about Jade Helm.

Despite these incidents, it is hard to tell if something controversial will occur, she said.

“Yes, we have dealt with some fishy incidents, but, so far, everything is very quiet,” Michalik said. “Whether something happens — I do not know.”
Preamble to Confederate Constitution decorates the wall of the Tower
Since the shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, last month, discussions and actions have focused on removing Confederate symbols. While UT has formed a task force to address issues surrounding the Jefferson Davis statue, one piece of Confederate history in the heart of the Tower has not received the same attention.

In the main atrium of the Life Science Library, located within the Tower, the nations that made up a part of the “Six Flags over Texas” are represented by their coat of arms and the relevant constitutional preamble —
including that of the Confederate Constitution.

Some people may not be familiar with the Confederate Preamble in the library. When asked about it, Student Government Vice President Rohit Mandalapu and University spokesman Gary Susswein did not know about its existence.

Gregory Vincent, chair of the task force to review the statues (http://www.dailytexanonline.com/2015/06/23/university-will-form-task-force-to-address-future-of-jefferson-davis-statue), said the purpose of the Confederate Preamble in the library is to represent the history of the state and is not the same as statues.

“I am an adopted Texan, but I had heard of the ‘Six Flags over Texas’ and it representing the different governing structures,” Vincent said. “That is very different than [the statues] we are talking about.”

Vincent said he spoke with representatives from the library and there have not been any complaints about the Preamble thus far.

Marshall Davis, a spokesman for the Texas Sons of Confederate Veterans, said people should leave the Preamble alone in the library. Davis said the Confederate Preamble should not be removed from the library because it is not much different than the United States Preamble.

“The only difference in the Confederate [Preamble is] the extended sovereignty of the states,” Davis said. “Once [Abraham] Lincoln denied the states their rights, the Southern states left to have this.”

Justin Nguyen, senior in the College of Natural Sciences and employee at the library, said he had not noticed the Confederate Preamble before. He said the Preamble on the wall is used to teach history without honoring the Confederacy.

“This is different from what is out on the South Mall,” Nguyen said. “What Littlefield created there was used to honor men and not the history. It is one thing if it going to used to teach history but to honor something means you are walking on thin ice.”
Biology senior Melinda Lawrence said she walks into the library everyday to study but had not noticed the writing before. Lawrence said it is disturbing to see so many Confederate symbols on the UT campus.

“Walking around campus and seeing nothing but Confederacy related images,” Lawrence said. “It is disturbing. At the time the statues or writing were put in place, it was normal, but you would have thought Texas would be above the Confederacy and be a part of the United States.”

Lawrence said, growing up in West Virginia she thought supporting the Confederacy was okay. Until she came to UT, she said, she did not recognize the meaning of the Confederacy and how hurtful it can be for some people.

“If these kinds of things on campus can elicit emotions from people, then it should go,” Lawrence said. “Why would you want to keep something that is hurtful?”
Indicted Montgomery County judge asks panel to let him return to work

Montgomery county judge denies violating state's open meetings law

By Matthew Adams  |  July 26, 2016  |  Updated: July 26, 2016 8:44pm

AUSTIN - Montgomery County's chief executive on Tuesday asked a Texas panel to lift his suspension while he fights charges that he violated the state's open meetings law.

County Judge Craig Doyal told the State Commission on Judicial Conduct that he didn't think he did anything wrong in trying to galvanize support for a $280 million road bond package passed by voters last fall. Doyal, two county commissioners and an adviser were indicted by a grand jury last month on charges that they circumvented the Texas Open Meetings Act by talking in private about the potential structure of a bond plan before placing it on the ballot.
"I felt like I did my job ... to create a bond package that worked for the county and addressed the issue," Doyal told the commission.

Valerie Ertz, chairwoman of the state commission, said at the outset of the hearing that the panel would like to rule on Doyal's appeal by its next meeting on Aug. 10-12.

Doyal, a Republican in his first term, was suspended without pay in June after he was accused of conducting official business by phone, email or other means of communicating without a public quorum.

Doyal has denied the charge, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $500 or a jail term of up to six months.

The commission is an independent agency that is responsible for investigating alleged wrongdoing by judges. While the Montgomery County judge no longer has a judicial role, many county judges, particularly in rural areas, preside over misdemeanor criminal civil cases and probate matters, among other duties.

Houston attorney Rusty Hardin, who represented Doyal, said the commission did not have the right to suspend Doyal because he argued that his client is an executive officer, not a judicial officer.
"This man is needed to help run the county, and it needs his reinstatement," Hardin said. "If he wasn't in this position, he would be paid, working and helping the citizens of Montgomery County."

As county judge, Doyal earns $170,705 annually.

Passage of the road bond package came months after voters rejected a $350 million measure bond measure for new and improved roads.

After that proposal failed, Doyal told the commission, people were demanding a new road bond referendum.

He said he had doubts, especially when the Texas Patriots PAC - which had helped defeat the $350 million road bond - expressed interest in talking about a revised bond for the fall.

Conversations about scheduling a meeting took place, but Doyal said he did not think it would happen. Once it took place, Doyal and other county officials met with representatives of the Texas Patriots PAC. County leaders settled on the scaled-back $280 million bond, which did not include a highly controversial road extension west of The Woodlands that had helped sink the earlier proposal.

"There were so many similarities between the May bond, I felt comfortable with the compromise we achieved," Doyal told the state commission.

He said a news release was then sent out about the meeting.

It was decided that a bond election would be called at a special commissioners court meeting on Aug. 24, the last day for placing a measure on the ballot.

Doyal said adequate public notice was given about the meeting.

Asked how the suspension was affecting him financially, Doyal said the loss of pay has made
it difficult for he and his wife to finish building a new home and keep up with the mortgage on their current home.

Members of the state commission questioned Doyal about any communications with county officials, but he denied any unlawful conduct.

Four speakers from Montgomery County testified that Doyal was a good, honest and dedicated public servant and meant no harm. "We are going through budget right now and it would be appreciated to have his help," said Montgomery County Precinct 5 Constable David Hill, who was first elected in 1982.

Hill went on to say that the bond package was desperately needed and that he admired Doyal for being willing to work with the Texas Patriots PAC to get something done.

"If I had been in his shoes, I would have told the (PAC) to go away but he did not do that," said Hill. "I admire that in a public servant."

As for the criminal proceeding, Doyal, Commissioners Charlie Riley and Jim Clark and political advisor Marc Davenport are scheduled for arraignment Aug. 2 in Montgomery County's 221 District Court. Doyal and Davenport have denied wrongdoing; Clark and Riley haven't responded to Chronicle inquiries.

Judge Lisa Michalk has recused herself from the case because Doyal and the county commissioners have the authority to set the court's budget.

Matthew Tresaugue contributed to this report.
Austen area mourns father and son killed in Nice attack

Father, fifth-grade son from Austin area killed while on Europe vacation with family

By Matthew Adams | July 15, 2016 | Updated: July 15, 2016 9:06pm
LAKEWAY, TEXAS – It was the last day of school, and Brodie Copeland wanted to make it a memorable one for everybody.

The fifth-grader waited until a group of kindergarteners were in gym class, and then he burst in, clapping and singing "We Will Rock You." Slowly the rest of Brodie's class joined, forming a flash mob of singers and dancers that brought smiles to the faces of young and older kids alike.

"The kindergartners just ate it up," said Brodie's fifth-grade teacher, Coleen Serfoss.

On Thursday night, just a few weeks after that joyous day, Brodie and his father, Sean Copeland, were killed in the terror attack in France, bringing another international tragedy home to Texas.

The attack in which a man drove a truck into a crowd celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, France, killed at least 84 people and injured another 200. Ten of those who died were children, a French prosecutor told CNN.

A relative first said on Twitter that the two Copelands were killed while the family vacationed in Europe.
confirmed the deaths Friday, sparking shock in this suburb west of Austin.

Several friends and teachers described Brodie as a charismatic and intelligent boy who loved entertainment and baseball.

He had been selected to the district's honor choir, participated in school productions of Cinderella and Peter Pan and had been playing baseball at Hill Country Baseball Club since the fall of 2014.

"Nobody deserves this type of fate, especially not such a wonderful family," wrote Jonathan Paiz, the head of the club, on a GoFundMe page created to raise money for the Copelands. "Rest in peace, Brodie and Sean, you will be remembered by many."

"It is hard to understand the loss," family friend Bill Bishop commented on the page, "but I am sure you two great men have been called and needed in a better place."

'Lives ... changed forever'

Sean Copeland, 51, was remembered as a loving father and hard worker.

He was the vice president of North and

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TEXAS

Man sentenced to 80 years in prison for strangling co-worker

Death sentence on line for would-be rapper in triple killing

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Costs mount despite Waco motorcycle gang
South America for a software division at Lexmark, a technology company based in Kentucky.

"Sean was not only a terrific leader in the company but a phenomenal person who will be dearly missed," the company said in a statement.

Sean was married to Kim and had two older children from a previous marriage - Meagan and Austin, according to a statement released by the family late Friday.

"Our lives, along with so many others in France, have been changed forever," the statement said. "The overwhelming support we have received from friends and strangers has been comforting, and we deeply appreciate your condolences and prayers. Our hearts go out all of those in France and elsewhere who have loved ones lost or injured in this event, and we pray for each of you."

The entire family was on the trip, which was meant in part to celebrate Austin's 22nd birthday. The vacation began in Spain, with stops in Pamplona and Barcelona.
French leaders extended the country's 8-month-old state of emergency and vowed to deploy thousands of police reservists on the streets after a Tunisian man drove a truck through crowds celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, killing 84 people and wounding 202 others.

31-year old Nice resident, Mohamed Bouhlel, began driving a large truck on the promenade at 10:45 p.m. local time. Bouhlel plowed through crowds the entire way, killing at least 84 people and injuring at least 202.

Bouhlel shot at three officers at the Negresco hotel. They fired back and followed the truck and the truck halted at the Palais Mediterranean, where he was killed.

Few people opened their doors in the family's neighborhood Friday, and none wanted to speak
with a reporter.

**Bright future cut short**

At Lakeway Elementary School, district Superintendent Brad Lancaster held a news conference along with Serfoss.

Serfoss said she had been informed about the death the night before, but still was adjusting to the news.

"This morning when I woke up, I was hoping it was just a dream," she said.

Serfoss said Brodie had been talking about the trip for quite sometime. One thing he was excited about, she said, was that he and his father were going to participate in the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona.

As she shared stories, including the flash mob, the teacher became emotional.

It was especially difficult, Serfoss explained, because of its proximity to the end of the year, when teachers wish students goodbye and wonder about their futures.

"I had told him on the last day of school, 'when you get your Academy Award, I hope you remember me,'" she said. "It is heartbreaking that this wonderful child won't be finishing what he dreamed of."

**Matthew Adams**

Austin Bureau Reporter, Houston Chronicle
UT president OKs guns in classrooms but not dorms

Exception for residence halls rankles backers of law

By Mike Ward and Matthew Adams | February 17, 2016 | Updated: February 18, 2016 12:39am
Concealed handguns would be banned in most dormitories but not in classrooms at UT.

AUSTIN - Concealed handguns would be banned in most dormitories but not in classrooms under campus carry rules announced Wednesday by University of Texas at Austin President Gregory Fenves, who called the decision "the greatest challenge of my presidency to date."

The decision - UT-Austin is the largest state school to set its rules so far - appears to conflict with a nonbinding legal opinion issued two months ago by Attorney General Ken Paxton, a divergence that promises to ratchet up the politically charged debate by both supporters and opponents.

Paxton and other top state officials who have supported campus carry in the past offered no immediate comment on Fenves' decision.

Within hours of Fenves' announcement, supporters and critics took issue with the decision and said lawsuits are likely before the fight over the new law is resolved.

With the state's conservative Republican leadership lined up in support of gun rights and university officials generally opposed to allowing guns on campuses, the outcome of UT's decision on its campus carry had been anticipated for months.

Officials at Texas A&M University, where concealed weapons already are permitted in some areas, are working on their own open carry policy, after Chancellor John Sharp earlier expressed support for it.

Highlighting the growing tension on the
issue, two graduate students who support a gun-free campus interrupted an afternoon briefing on the new rules by shouting at Fenves.

"No confidence in Greg Fenves," hollered Robert Oxford, a graduate student who teaches writing and is a representative in the Graduate Student Assembly. "He won't do what he believes is right. He won't come out and make the tough decision. That's a question of his leadership."

'Significant concerns'

Fenves acknowledged he is uncomfortable with guns on campus but said the new law gave him little choice but to approve the recommendations of a task force he named last year to study implementation.

"I have significant concerns about how the law will affect our ability to recruit and retain faculty and students," Fenves wrote of the new rules in a letter to UT System Chancellor William McRaven, his boss.

In a message on Twitter, McRaven, who previously said he preferred not having guns on campuses but understood that the Legislature had made the decision to allow them, said: "It's a challenging task but reps
from all UT schools are working hard to both follow the law and protect the campus environment."

Under the new rules, concealed guns will be allowed in classrooms and dining halls but prohibited in most university dorms and residence halls, laboratories, and specific classrooms and areas that host programs for pre-K through 12th grade. Faculty members and employees with private offices will be able to designate them as gun-free zones, but offices regularly open to the public will not.

Per Texas law, campus carry is limited to persons with a state license to carry a handgun, which requires holders to be at least 21.

The rules laid out by Fenves also would require that someone carrying a semi-automatic weapon not have a round of ammunition in the chamber, and that holsters completely cover triggers to prevent accidental firings.

"I do not believe handguns belong on a university campus, so this decision has been the greatest challenge of my presidency to date," Fenves said in a statement emailed to students and faculty. "However, as president, I have an obligation to uphold the law."

And while he personally disagreed with allowing guns in classrooms, Fenves wrote, "under the law, I cannot adopt a policy that has the general effect of excluding licensed concealed handguns from campus. ... A classroom exclusion would have this effect."

Fenves said UT lawyers believe the ban on guns in dorms and residence halls is legal, despite Paxton's declaration last December that public universities may violate the new campus carry law by prohibiting handguns there. Paxton's office said Wednesday that the ruling speaks for itself.
Fenves said he believes the new law allows UT discretion in regulating firearms in university housing.

While some residence halls will be gun-free zones under the new law, Fenves said, guns will be allowed at some apartment-style residences.

"On the whole, we felt we were balancing the requirements of the law with the specific safety issues of students predominantly under 21 and in a shared living situation," he said.

Under Senate Bill 11, signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott last June, students 21 and older will be allowed to carry concealed handguns across much of the campus for the first time if they have a state handgun license. Concealed handguns are now permitted in certain public and common areas, but not inside buildings. The law takes effect Aug. 1 for the state's public universities.

Open carry will remain illegal on university campuses.

Debate continues

The campus carry law has generated both protests and applause in a state where gun rights rank as a top priority for a conservative electorate, despite almost unanimous opposition from top university officials who have insisted that guns pose an unwelcome and dangerous presence that will compromise the learning environment.

Supporters had complained that gun-free designations for colleges and universities violated their Second Amendment rights.

Private universities, which under the law retain the option of barring weapons, have said they would not allow guns on their campuses. Baylor University in Waco was the latest, opting out on Tuesday.

Fenves said the university's board of regents can amend the rules by a two-thirds vote within
90 days. He said the rules could be changed if problems arose.

C.J. Grisham, founder of Open Carry Texas, generally praised the UT recommendations are good but said the ban on guns in dorms is "not going to fly."

"When you ban guns in dorms, where else is a law-abiding citizen supposed to keep their guns - in their car?" he said. "As a bad guy, all I have to do is wait until you put your gun in your car, and then I break into your car and I have a gun."

Joan Neuberger, history professor and a member of Gun Free UT, criticized Fenves and McRaven for not banning guns from classrooms and for not putting someone from her organization on the committee. She said her organization is considering legal action to keep guns off the UT campus.

In contrast, Madison Yandell, president of College Republicans at UT, said her group generally is pleased with guns being allowed in classrooms and accepts the dorm prohibition and the requirement that holster full cover the trigger.

However, she criticized "gun-free" zones in offices and requiring semiautomatic handguns to be carried without a chambered round."It forces one to draw their weapon and then load the first round, which is a serious impediment to being able to quickly react," she said.

Xavier Rotnofsky, student government president and a member of the Campus Carry Working Group, said the new rules are workable.

"This is the outcome of wanting to keep the campus as safe as possible while understanding the limits placed on us by the Texas Legislature," he said.
TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA APPLICATION FORM
MANAGING EDITOR OF THE DAILY TEXAN

check one or both terms of office:  □ June 1, 2017 - August 15, 2017  
☑ August 16, 2017 - December 31, 2017

This application and supporting materials must be submitted to the TSM Business Office
(HSM 3.200 / William Randolph Hearst Building, 2500 Whitis Avenue) by   
Monday, April 24, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

These positions are due to be appointed at the TSM Board meeting scheduled for
Friday, April 28, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend and discuss your application with the Operating Trustees.

Applicant Information

Michelle Zhang
Name

wz2589
UT EID

mwzhang @ utexas.edu
Email Address

Plan II, Business Honors
Major

Applicant Attestation / Authorization for Release of Information

1. I am currently enrolled as a UT-Austin student.

2. By the start of my term of office, I will (if an undergraduate) have completed
   12 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 2.0 or (if a graduate student)
   have completed 9 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 3.0.

3. I agree to complete and pass a media law and libel test administered by the
   Editorial Adviser prior to taking position.

4. I have obtained and included signatures from at least five staff members of
   The Daily Texan supporting my application.

5. By the start of my term of office, I will have completed at least two semesters
   as a permanent-staff member of The Daily Texan in an area other than opinion.

6. By the start of my term of office, I will have served in a Daily Texan
   management position with supervisory and design responsibilities
   (as defined by the Daily Texan Handbook) for at least one semester.

Note: if no qualified applicant has filed by the deadline, the Board shall make an appointment
using the Handbook qualifications, each of which shall be waivable by an affirmative vote of
two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my
scholastic and experience qualifications, and hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director,
Texas Student Media, to verify said information. Further, I understand that this information will be
provided to the TSM Board of Operating Trustees and will become part of the public record of TSM.

Signature of Applicant  

Date  4/20/17
Supporting signatures from at least five staff members of The Daily Texan:

[Signatures]

My experience at The Daily Texan consists of (list positions and dates):

- Copy Editor  (Fall 2015)
- Associate Copy Desk Chief  (Spring 2016 - Fall 2016)
- Associate Managing Editor  (Spring 2017)

[Additional comments]

It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as:

A résumé
A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
Letters of recommendation
Samples of published work (on 8 1/2" x 11" paper)
Michelle Zhang.
Hi there. I'm an art aficionado & creator in
Austin, Texas.

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin [May 2016]
B.B.A., Business Honors; B.A., Plan II Honors

WORK EXPERIENCE

Project Consent \ Managing Director
JAN 2015 - PRESENT
Global nonprofit addressing sexual assault prevention, awareness, and support.
Coordinate internal relations, including new project assignments and hiring processes.

The Daily Texan \ Associate Managing Editor
AUG 2015 - PRESENT
Official student newspaper of UT-Austin. Manage 100+ students across all departments,
working weekly 9-hour shifts of budgeting articles, fact-checking, copy editing using AP
Stylebook, and directing staff members — usually with a large coffee in hand.

LEADERSHIP & ORGS

Texas Spirits \ Royal Spirit Haunt
SINCE SPRING 2016
Oldest women's spirit and social organization at UT. Executive board position managing
social media and PR, interacting with overall 4k+ followers. Planned and edited Fall 2016
recruitment video, garnering 2.2k views on Youtube. Initiated blog redesign using
Wordpress, using new graphics and post scheduling.

The Nocturnal Literary Review \ Design Editor
SINCE FALL 2016
Design annual spring literary journal distributed to 700 Plan II Honors students.
Spearheaded total platform redesign, including website, banners, and logos.

Honors Business Association \ Communications VP
SINCE SPRING 2016
Manage social media accounts, website, and blog reaching an audience of 400+ Business
Honors students. Oversaw communications team members to produce promotional
content, photograph events, and update social media in timely manner. Redesigned weekly
newsletter using MailChimp.

mwzhang@utexas.edu • (512) 619-1657 • @ohanewz on most social media

SKILLS

Copy editing (AP Style)
Microsoft Excel
Access/SQL
Adobe InDesign
Adobe Photoshop
Adobe Illustrator
Wordpress
Squarespace
Final Cut Pro

INTERESTS

Young Adult fiction, playing
instruments (piano, violin, viola,
ukulele), film auteurs, stockpiling
photos of sunsets on my phone
To the TSM Board of Trustees,

When I first joined The Daily Texan, I wasn’t looking for anything more than a way to fill my free time. A year and a half later, I’m still here. There’s a magnetism coming from this dinky basement office, where coffee-fueled writers, artists, and editors conglomerate every weeknight to produce our standard 8-page issues. The magnetism comes from the people, the passion, the click of the computer keys — and it’s that magnetism that’s kept me here since I first stumbled my way down those daunting stairs in sophomore year.

If you want to know why I’m right and ready for the managing editor position, my work experience can show you that. Looking back at my history at the Texan, it feels like just a week ago I was a tiny copy editor learning the keyboard shortcuts on InCopy for the first time. I quickly climbed into the associate copy desk chief role after some nudging by the previous copy chief, my immediate boss on the Sunday nights that I worked. Being an ACDC taught me to embrace the Type A grammar nerd within me, mining through every article for something as small as an extra space at the beginning of a paragraph to something as erroneous as entire name corrections. But mostly, it taught me how to oversee a team, meet deadline, work closely with the management team, and operate under the Texan hierarchy and structure.

After fulfilling my ACDC position for two semesters, I received the fateful message from Akshay: “Are you interested in being associate managing editor?” Having never been a department head, I was initially surprised by (and scared of) the question. But I took the shot, landed the job, and this past semester I’ve learned quintessential lessons about the management of conflict, team-building, motivation, and running a newspaper on a daily basis. Simply being a part of this corner office for the past semester has been an incredible learning experience. From the last-minute breaking news to miscommunications leading to page redesigns an hour before deadline to senior staffers insubordination to dropped articles and misprints and online corrections — I’ve seen it all, even if it’s just through observation of Akshay handling the near-meltdowns. That’s experience that separates me from all others in the applicant pool, and it’s valuable, crucial experience at that.

As for my visions for the paper, I have as many as anyone positioned at the crux of an organization must have. When I first started out as AME this semester, I was ignorant to all the inner workings of the Texan, as I had been previously grounded in my little section of the office; even though copy, like design, works with the vast majority of the sections and is one of the last to leave, there was still so much I didn’t know about the way the paper was run.
There are changes within the organizational structure of the Texan that I’d like to implement. For example, the caption system has been awful since I was a mere copy editor, causing frustration every time we had to rewrite entire captions because of the photo department’s lack of copy training, or when captions would come in at 10 or 10:30 p.m. (or sometimes not at all). Rather than relying on the photo department to turn in captions, I envision a system where reporters and photographers work together to construct a caption. The photographer would notify the reporter as soon as the photo was chosen, and the reporter would then write a caption knowing the content of the photo. Direct communication is a key feature of the reorganized Texan I envision.

Story content can always be improved. While we’ve made some great strides with unique and interesting articles this semester, it seems I’m always devouring the Life & Arts stories during my reviewing process and quickly skimming News and Sports. Last week, while reviewing headlines that the copy editors had written for the Friday issue, one of the editors wrote as a joke: “UT Senate discusses the same boring things.” While I chuckled at the lighthearted jab at Student Government stories’ monotonous content, the sentiment was a real concern: We do cover the same “boring” content every time with SG or Senate or even the Texas government articles. The ledes read the same, the persons of interest are the same, and the syntax is virtually identical save for a replacement of what new bill they’re covering now. The same goes for Sports, although I’ve seen some improvement with the increase in feature stories this semester. If it’s not a feature story, the sentence structure reads the same every time.

Improving content can be as simple as setting the mission statement early on in the semester and sticking to it. If the team — specifically, the department heads — decide to pursue interesting and engaging article content for the semester, it will happen. The mission enforces all the way down from the managing office to department heads to senior staffers and below. Enforcement of common ground mission statements is a crucial managerial task that seems more simple than it is; not everyone can set standards effectively, but I believe I can from my knowledge of how the Texan works, my relationships with the rising leadership in the office, and my observation of Akshay’s managing style this semester.

There is so much I love about the Texan, but so much room for improvement as well. Given my expertise within the managing office, astute eye for detail, and vision for consolidating a common ground mission statement to motivate employees toward better content, I believe I have what it takes to be the managing editor of the Texan. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to discussing my qualifications further at the board meeting.

Best,

Michelle Zhang
To the members of the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees:

I write this letter to strongly recommend Michelle Zhang as The Daily Texan's managing editor for the fall 2017 semester. Michelle and I worked closely this semester during my tenure as managing editor, and I can assure you of her qualifications and ability to lead the paper.

Michelle’s original plan for this semester was to move into the copy desk chief position. She quickly rose the ranks of the copy department and excelled as an associate copy desk chief. I wanted someone on my management team who was a gifted copyeditor and showed the drive to want to make the Texan better. Michelle checked those boxes. I approached her to apply for an associate managing editor position and selected her without hesitation.

I was a better managing editor and we benefited as a paper with Michelle in management. Her eye for copy was evident, and crucial for us in management — Michelle has the ability to catch mistakes that others can miss. She's a tough editor, both before and during the process. She always asks questions of our department heads' pitches and found holes in ideas before they were even written. She knows what is newsworthy and what isn’t, and forces outside-the-box thinking. I have no doubt the Texan will be as clean as possible under Michelle's watch.

Michelle also flourished as a leader this semester. She had not served as a department head before, but there was no growing pains with her jump to management. Her leadership style is firm, but fair and she commands respect and excellence. She won't settle for subpar quality, and it will show when the paper hits the stands everyday. She held everyone, including myself, accountable. Anytime I had to make a hard decision, Michelle brought perspectives and ideas that I didn't think of, which fostered creative discussions and ideas.

But, most importantly, Michelle truly knows and understands the specifics of the Texan. Her work in copy exposed her to every single department, and she developed a knowledge of how each department operates. This semester, she was constantly thinking of new ways to improve our structure.

She might not be a journalism major, but Michelle is more than capable of this position. We inherited a very young staff brimming with potential this semester. This spring was about laying the foundation for what the Texan would look like in the future. That was evident through our new design and breaking news system, among other things. We have a foundation in place, but there's still work to be done. Michelle knows that, and she will continue to build on everything we have accomplished. If you have any questions about Michelle, please contact me. I am more than happy to speak further.

Sincerely,

Akshay Mirchandani
Managing editor, spring 2017
To the members of the Texas Student Media of Operating Trustees,

I am delighted to support Michelle Zhang as a candidate for The Daily Texan's managing editor in the fall of 2017. I have had the privilege of knowing Michelle since last spring, when she worked as an associate copy desk chief at The Daily Texan and I was associate managing editor. Since my only prior experience at the Texan was as a reporter, I knew nothing about the workflow of the newsroom. Michelle answered my many, many questions about how the production end of the paper operated. It was always a joy working the same nights as Michelle, as she did her job efficiently, effectively and with an easy-going attitude.

Michelle continued to work as an associate copy desk chief last fall, and kept up her excellent performance. She acted as a guide for the younger staff, a steadying presence in times of crisis and a reliable source of information whenever anyone in the Texan office had copy questions. When she decided to apply for associate managing editor this spring, I was disappointed she would not be leading the copy department, but confident in her abilities to help oversee and improve the rest of The Daily Texan. As an associate copy desk chief, she worked closely with every department at the paper, and gained valuable experience from doing so.

Michelle has balanced her role as associate managing editor with the other facets of her life beautifully. Her outside interests have bolstered her capability to perform well in a management role at the Texan, and from what I have witnessed as an observer, she has gone above and beyond in her responsibilities this semester. Michelle is flexible and dependable — two traits absolutely vital in a successful newsroom. She is invested in every aspect of The Daily Texan, and has valuable experience in photo, video and social media from other activities. She also has the singular quality of fostering a friendly work environment simply by being in the office, and truly cares about her staffers' wellbeing. The Daily Texan can be a stressful place — either from breaking news or broken servers — and Michelle’s adaptability will help the rest of the paper flourish. And as associate managing editor, she has already experienced what handling the stress of 200-or-so people is like.

Michelle’s dedication to The Daily Texan has become more and more apparent to me in the time that I’ve known her, and I strongly recommend her as managing editor. If you have any questions, please reach out and I will be happy to answer.

Sincerely,

Jackie Wang
Managing editor, fall 2016
Hey Copy Cats,

I'm sending this email to remind you guys to please be diligent when you're uploading content online. Over the past couple weeks, I've seen a lot of articles that have incorrect formatting in terms of the paragraph spacing, italics, or line breaks. I know it's at the end of the night when you upload articles, but a lot of people read our online articles and when the content looks bad, we look bad. You should be pasting the text using the "Paste as plain text" button. That's this button:

Here's what the paragraph spacing should look like when you're finished uploading:

If it looks different from that, please fix it! Usually what I do is backspace the following paragraph until it's on the same line as the first paragraph, and then press enter. (It has to do with the weird way the coding works in HTML and <p> and whatnot — just do what I do and it should work.)

Also, please make sure the teaser looks correct. The teasers that writers put in InCopy are weirdly worded sometimes. Just make sure it's a complete sentence and not missing periods — I've noticed many of those errors with teasers online.

Finally, headlines should be sentence-case. In other words, they should not all be capitalized like This Is A Wrong Way to Write a Headline. Ofentimes I see this error with Science & Tech articles. If so, please fix it.

Thank you for all your hard work! You guys have been doing a great job, I just wanted to remind you of some important copy things that I've seen slipping through the cracks. You guys have the hardest job sometimes, and I definitely don't forget that. Your diligence is what makes this paper as great as it is. :-)

Lots of Copy Cat love,
Michelle
---
Michelle Zhang
Business Honors | Plan II Honors
The University of Texas at Austin
mwzhang@utexas.edu | (512) 619-1657

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=7508d12506&view=pt&q=important%20reminder%3A%20online%20uploads&seq=true&search=query&th=15a6c186a7f...
HBA Company Field Trip Takes Students to San Francisco

Posted on January 25, 2017 by Erin Huddleston

Written by Michelle Zhang

This past weekend, BHP students traveled to San Francisco, California to tour tech giants Google, Facebook, and Adobe, and to see the sights. Despite the gloomy clouds and uncharacteristically rainy days, students enjoyed visiting company campuses, hearing from alumni panels, and taking in the laid-back California scene.

The first company visit was to Facebook, where they received a warm welcome from BHP and Plan II alumna Surveen Singh and were given a comprehensive tour of the Facebook campus. Designed by Disneyland engineers, the campus was illuminated by vibrant, colorful walls and typographic signs showing off the various restaurants and amenities available to employees (including a dentistry, barbershop, and dry cleaners!). Students were particularly excited to spend a few minutes in the arcade, stocked full of old-school games such as Street Fighter and Dance Dance Revolution. The tour concluded with an alumni meet-and-greet at the Sweet Shop, where students and BHP graduates chatted over plates of smores cupcakes and lemon poppyseed bars.

Next on the list was Google, where alumna Elyse May provided a quick walk-around tour of the Googoplex campus. Immediately hit by the scent of the food trucks parked outside, students continued through the fields of lawn chairs and volleyball courts — all painted Google primary colors, of course — and past such eccentricities as a large-scale model of a dinosaur skeleton. Back in the building, an alumni panel greeted students and answered questions ranging from undergraduate degree focuses to work culture.

Last on the company visits was Adobe, where students got to see the clean, modern architectural layout of the offices and amenities. The tour showed off Adobe’s recreation center, which featured ping-pong tables and large television screens, as well as its affordable and delicious cafeteria. Students spent some time at the earthquake-proof skybridge, peering out over the San Francisco landscape, before heading into the employee panel full of representatives from departments ranging from HR to finance. After the panel, students munched on some light appetizers and networked at tables with the employees on the panel, getting to ask some more in-depth questions about their experiences at Adobe.
HBA Company Field Trip Takes Students to San Francisco | BHP News

Afterwards, students headed off into the city on their own that Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Popular destinations included the Golden Gate Bridge, Haight-Ashbury district, Ghiradelli Square, and Chinatown. For dinner, students met up at Firenze by Night in Little Italy to enjoy a five-course meal with various BHP alumni working in the area.

Come Sunday, students left the vibrant Bay Area to head back home, now dreaming of summer internships in sunny San Francisco on the creative campuses of Facebook, Google, and Adobe. Thanks to HBA Financial Committee for putting on a great CFT!

This entry was posted in Event Recaps, News and tagged Adobe, Facebook, Google, San Francisco, Texas Honors Business Association. Bookmark the permalink.

LEAVE A REPLY

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

COMMENT

ANTI-SPAM*

To prove you are a person (not a spam script), type the words from the following picture or audio file.

border it

NAME *

EMAIL *

WEBSITE Not required

NOTIFY ME OF FOLLOWUP COMMENTS VIA E-MAIL

Freshman Leadership Kickoff Top 10

Posted on September 2, 2015 by Erin Huddleston

Written by Michelle Zhang

If you were to walk past the McCombs Family Statue at 9 a.m. last Saturday, you would have seen 140 BHP freshmen, faculty, and student leaders getting ready to board three charter buses to the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunsfeld. The event: the annual BHP Leadership Kickoff—a jam-packed 28 hours of outdoor activities, formal convocation, and comprehensive introduction for freshmen to the world of the UT Business Honors Program.

This year, I was lucky enough to have been able to plan Leadership Kickoff with my fantastic and fearless co-chair Kate Shanks. Although the weekend was filled with an abundance of exciting moments, here are the top 10 things we’ll remember from BHP Leadership Kickoff 2015.

1. How helpful our student leaders were

With 12 peer mentors, eight HBA Executive Board members, and two Ethics Board chair (with overlap between PM and Exec and Ethics Board—wow, BHP students really do do everything!), we had a great deal of student help this year. Student leaders led groups in the many activities throughout the weekend, commanded attention at the appropriate times, assisted at morning check-in, and so much more without complaining for one second. You’re the real MVP’s, student leaders.

2. The thrill on students’ faces during the high ropes

Part of Saturday’s afternoon activities was the high ropes course, which ranged from a 450 foot zip line to partner rope challenges to the terrifying Screamer. Whether or not students chose to take a Leap of Faith (a climb and jump off a wooden pole to reach a suspended rung several hundred feet off the ground) or watch their peers instead, we loved seeing the enthusiasm for action and adventure.

3. Teams bonds being formed through the low ropes

On the flip side of the exciting high ropes, the low ropes course allowed for peer mentor groups to collaborate on team-building exercises such as the Spiderweb. In this activity, teams had to work together to make it through a "web" without touching the rope. However, each team member had to...
make it through a different section of the web, making for a challenging strategic and trust-forming exercise.

4. Everyone dressed in business casual singing The Eyes of Texas

What is there to explain except that everyone looked great in their ironed shirts and shiny shoes? These freshmen are going to fit right in at McCombs.

5. Peer mentor group chants at BHPlayoffs

If we were to explain BHPlayoffs, we'd say that it's a culmination of all the team-bonding of the low ropes + action of the high ropes + natural competitive nature of BHP students into a two-hour face-off between all the peer mentor groups. The first activity of the night was peer mentor group chants, which elicited a conglomeration of huddles, carefully crafted disses, and even some choreographed dance moves from the talented teams. We even witnessed a student doing a backflip over another student.

6. How hyped up everyone got during the Rock Paper Scissors tournament

Seriously, just look at this picture.

![Image of Rock Paper Scissors tournament](image)

7. Two words: Orange Hug

If you've never played this game, you basically have to pass an orange down a line of people using your neck. There are two reasons we chose to use this game: 1. you get to know your teammates very well, and 2. the priceless photos.

8. Going through all the Scavenger Hunt photos

To spice things up this year, we added a photo scavenger hunt led by 18 student leaders in randomized groups. Some criteria items included spelling out BHP with their bodies, getting the farthest away from the starting point (one group made it all the way to the New Braunfels Fire Station - *two miles away*), and recreating Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*.

9. Working with Tisha

Even with a lot on her plate already (namely, carrying twins!), our amazing advisor Tisha was with us every step of the way. She kept a comfortable distance so that we could set our own goals and accomplish our own tasks, but supported us with any resources we needed. Thank you, Tisha! You rock.

10. Seeing it all come together at the end

Special thanks to BHP academic advisors Tisha Mooney, Paul Pritchett, and BHP career advisor Greta Fenley, for their help this past weekend. We couldn't have done it without you!