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Making the Grade

For many students, professional educations are the next step after graduation

By Heather Campbell

AggieLife

THE BATTALION

mportant to see Medicine, walked across the stage at graduation knowing what aign off wanted to do with his life — help others. But this would mean Station and pany more years of school and the determination to get through his thanks . Many students decide to study even harder after college and ort the area ha ursue professional school.

The preparation for medical school involves a seven-hour e are really ACAT exam, application processes and interviews with a Ph.D.

de able to nd M.D. at each school," Hitchcock said.

Mike Freeman, a first-year student at Southern Methodist oday for stude ional school and his past work experiences convinced him to ity of the sucception with higher education.

The application for law school involves recommendations

"[Texas Gov. and several essays," Freeman said. "Schools place a lot of weight

The atmosphere is different because everyone knows nd the same hat they have to do well," Hitchcock said. "Medical school olves a lot of competition within yourself. It's a lot of

inued from Follege of Medicine, said the demands come in the volume of

The intensity they have to prepare for and volume of said a replacemed AcCord said. erials presented to them is incredibly greater,

Dr. Thomas Carr, a graduate professor of academia n the math department at Southern the private set Methodist University, said that he assumes raduate students will be more independ-

The big difference is that some undergraduates are requesting here just to fulfill the requirements and every graduate stu-Hiler said here just to fulfill the requirements and every graduate stu-lent has chosen their specific field," Carr said. "Overall, I

Freeman added that the students are more intense and competitive compared to undergraduate studies.

The grueling schedule can increase stress levels, but Hitchcock keeps his mind focused on the reciprocity he will receive in the

"There is no way I can imagine four years, so I think about the

is more focused because everyone is studying one specific subject. contact I will have with patients and the satisfaction gained from healing them. I enjoy helping people and the rewards come in being able to serve those who need it the most," Hitchcock said. "I traveled to a country to assist people and we had to turn away some that desperately needed surgery. I have their names on a piece of paper that sits on my desk. Anytime I get overwhelmed I remember that I'm doing this for them."

Graduate students can be seen sleeping in libraries, eating between labs and classes and studying until late at night. After hours of intense learning each day, students look for ways to alleviate the pressure.

"My motto has become 'study hard and play hard.' The books are intense and we can't do it for 10 hours straight," Hitchcock said. "Breaks are a necessity. My roommates, Jason Campbell and Joel Massey, and I find ways to relieve the stress. We go rock climbing and ride bikes. Our medical school class also interacts a lot." Redden said he enjoys interaction with his professors and that

while they expect a lot from the students, they are always available and even attend parties.

"They are really nice and care about the students' progress. It's neat to be able to communicate with professors and get to know them," Redden said.

Carr said math is not always appealing to students, but

'It's fun to get beyond the textbook and see what

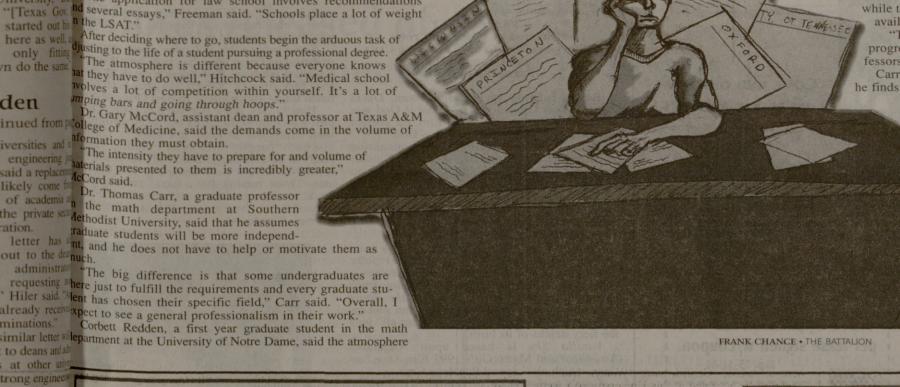
the students are actually learning," Carr said. Hitchcock said that at the A&M medical school, the professors care about them and

> while they crack down in class, outside of it, they gain satisfaction from befriending the students. 'This school has made an

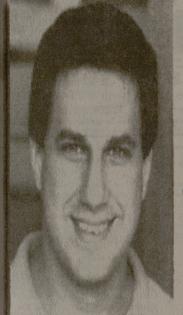
investment in us and they want to see the investment through," Hitchcock said.

Dr. McCord said that the biggest reward is when a student understands and he sees the light come on in their eyes.

'Knowing that these students are going to be helping patients gives me satisfaction,' McCord said. "A lot of gratification comes in giving them the equipment to do it very well. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

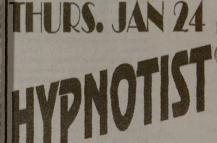






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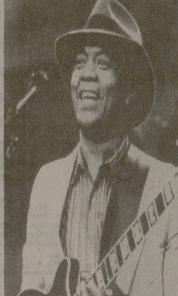


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