

Basic Division Offers Counsel, New Guidance

By L. O. TIEDT

When the Class of 1952 first entered A&M, its membership was near 1,300. By the end of its freshman year, well over 100 had dropped out. By the end of its sophomore year, however, the class had dwindled to slightly more than 900.

These figures give much weight to the argument that, although the freshman year may have been more or less successfully conquered, during the second year—when individualized courses are met—the class number falls terrifically.

This loss of enrollment has been attributed to a number of causes, some of which include lack of personal application, perspective and sound objectives.

Should Improve

School administrators believe the Basic Division, beginning at the college this fall, will solve many, if not all, of these problems. The Division was established when school officials began to realize the necessity of aiding students who were unsure of their objectives in college.

Too many students problems went unobserved until the student's grades were such that his year had been wasted and he lacked initiative to re-attempt what had been lost the previous year.

The Basic Division's program has been divided into two general classifications for aiding freshman students. They are for individual guidance and group guidance.

Of the two, group guidance plans will be the more important to the entire class, as more students will receive its benefits.

Three Counsellors

For individual guidance, three counsellors and the dean of the division, all professionally experienced with helping students solve their problems will be on hand. Five dormitory counsellors will also aid the more practiced counsellors in deciding which of the students in their respective dormitories need individual aid and guidance.

Other members of the faculty will serve under the Division's organization in presenting the program of Freshman Orientation to the class. Those members of the faculty selected to aid in the Basic Division's program will present the aspects of the different schools, the college and its function, and methods of operation.

According to John R. Bertrand, dean of the Basic Division, weekly classes will be set up for the dormitory counsellors and faculty ad-

visers to give them added training in student psychology and guidance.

Orientation Classes

Under the present set-up for Freshman Orientation classes, students will attend classes in large groups in the Assembly Hall.

Other sections, much smaller in size and comprised of students who have decided their choice of a major will also be organized. In these sections, faculty advisors will explain the aspects of the school which the student has selected.

If a student, after learning the broad potentialities of one of the four schools, Agriculture, Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine, wishes to change majors from one school to another, he may do so. He may immediately change to an orientation section of the school of his new selection.

However, he must end the semester before changing courses. In the past, a student changing majors from one school to another would lose credit for certain courses not required in his new curriculum.

No Hours Lost

Under a plan worked out by officials of the Basic Division, deans of all schools will accept courses taken in either of the other schools as advanced electives in that particular school. That way, students need not be afraid that they will lose valuable hours by changing majors.

A remedial reading program headed by one of the Division's counsellors has been set up to aid either slow readers or students who are unable to interpret what they read. Part of this training will be given on the individual basis, while other parts will emphasize group guidance.

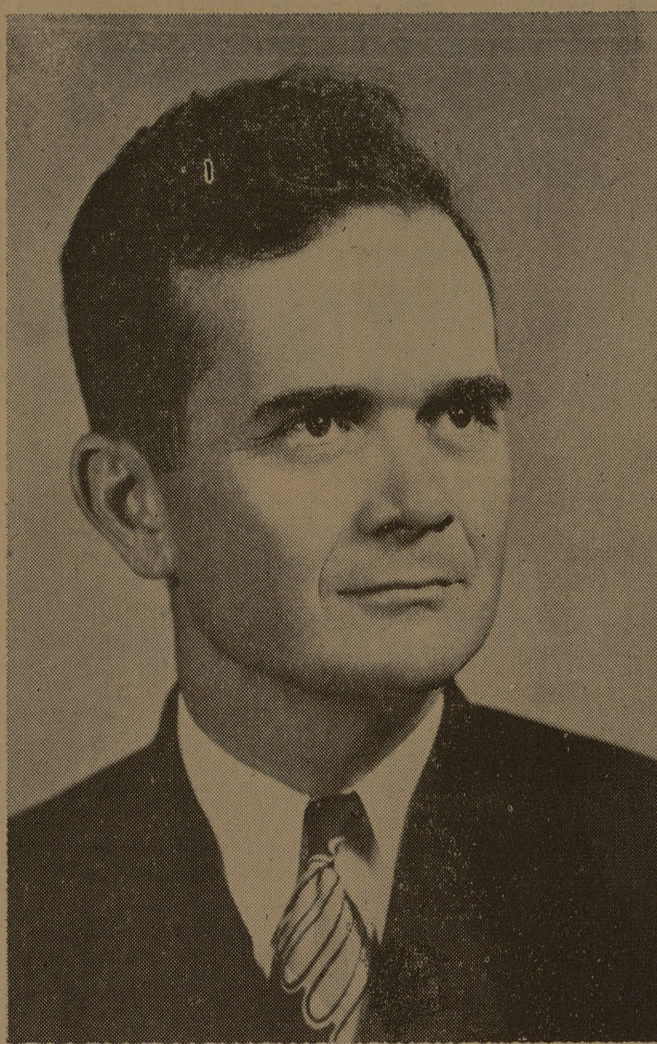
The operation and function of the Basic Division are ably combined in its aims:

- to give first year students closer supervision than is ordinarily given.

- to assist students who have not definitely decided on a field of study in making this decision during their first year of college work.

- to give beginning college students the benefit of guidance by people professionally trained to operate a guidance program.

- to supply the various schools of the college with a highly selected group of students fully prepared to carry on specialized training necessary for a profession and outstanding citizenship.



Dr. John R. Bertrand
Dean of the Basic Division

Hello there! It is good to know that you have joined us here at the A&M College of Texas. This year promises to be an eventful one in our lives. It is essential that you and the rest of us use every opportunity in making the year one during which we live fully, happily and soundly.

Several years ago, printed on the back of our college catalogue here, were these words by Milton, "I call therefore a complete and generous education that which fits a man to perform justly, skillfully and magnanimously all of the offices, both private and public, of peace and war." When I was your age these words had a deep meaning for me, even though conditions existing then made it impossible for me to become a Texas Aggie. These words have remained with me and, since these continue to be troubled times, I want to pass them on to you at the beginning of your college training in an institution made famous by its citizen-soldiers. What the future holds, no one can say with surety. It is known, however, that independence of thought, independence of person and independence of economy are three elements precious to our national heritage. These are also elements which you need to develop and maintain in your own person. Students, former students and faculty of the A&M College of Texas are anxious to help you do this.

You are a member of the first entering class in four years to be on the main campus. All of us are happy that you are here. Yours is the first class to enroll in the Basic Division which was established to serve you. Well trained and understanding men are available to you for counseling and guidance purposes. However, this great school and these men, while they are sincerely anxious to serve you, cannot think, make decisions or act for you. Only you can do these things for yourself. Use all of us at the A&M College of Texas as you think and act for and by yourself. Use us to help you prepare yourself to "perform justly, skillfully and magnanimously all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war."

I hope that you will let me be your good friend.

Sincerely yours,
John R. Bertrand
Dean, The Basic Division

beginning a study of marine life in the Gulf Coast area, realized that trained oceanographers were needed for this work.

At that time, Scripps Institute at La Jolla, Calif., and Woodshole on the Atlantic coast were the only major oceanography units operating.

They were Introduction to Oceanography 401 and Geological Oceanography 431.

Several years ago when swarms of oysters were dying on the Texas coast, A&M's Research Foundation,



J. Wayne Stark

This man receives our nomination for a free supply of headache powders. As director of the Memorial Student Center, Stark will coordinate work on both the "pay" and the "play" sides of the building's operations. The 1939 A&M graduate has been working for the past three years to ready one of the country's largest and most modern student centers. After winding up four successful years at A&M, Stark studied law for two years at the University of Texas.

New Memorial Student Center Begins Operations This Week

By BILL MEBANE

With the doors of the Memorial Student Center opening for Freshman Week, the Class of 1954 will be the first class to use the Center.

The modern completely air-conditioned building represents many long hours of planning and construction. From the time

ground-breaking ceremonies were held two years until now, the Center has grown from a mass of brick and steel to a beautiful piece of architecture.

On September 20, 1948, a dream long on paper became an actuality. President F. C. Bolton turned the first spade of dirt and construction began.

W. J. Lawson, president of the Former Students Association in 1942-43, told of the history of plans for the building. He traced the plans back to a meeting in Dallas which began the raising of the required money. He recalled that \$51,000 was gathered during the first year.

President Bolton expressed his belief that the beginning of the foundations of the Memorial Student Center would also begin the foundation of a closer union of those connected with A&M.

The first spadeful of earth was placed in a dragline bucket which transferred it to a dump truck. The band played, the audience cheered, and the work began. Now it is finished. The physical portion is ended, that is, while the operation of the MSC just begins.

The Center is a combination of the dreams of thousands of ex-students, students, faculty and staff members of the college. Students began this dream over a decade ago. The Classes of '36 and '37 left their funds to be given to the Center whenever it opened. They had enough belief in such a building and its purpose. Their gifts of money have been used to purchase buffet silver, which will be marked "Classes of '36 and '37."

Although there have been forms of "student centers" on the campus

for years, the MSC will be the first building to meet the entire needs of the A&M student body. The YMCA and its staff have served the college faithfully for many years in its limited capacity, but as the size of the college increased, it became unable to function sufficiently for all the students.

Director of the Center is J. Wayne Stark, who graduated from A&M in 1939. Stemming from his office, the Center's activities are divided into two main divisions.

One is a business department, which handles services such as the 66 air-conditioned guest rooms, the 32 rooms in the Aggeland Inn, a deluxe dining room serving 160, coffee shop seating 85, and a fountain room for 200.

This department also handles banquet rooms, the gift shop, bowling alley, barber shop, post office, and telephone center. This division is headed by assistant director and business manager Chris F. Gent.

The other division is the social and education department, led by Mrs. Ann Hilliard, former Center director at the Annex.

The social and cultural recreational program includes the browsing library, and art program, craft shop, dark rooms for photography, record room, dance areas, and housing for the bulk of the meetings for campus groups.

Stark Began MSC Work 3 Years Ago

By FRANK DAVIS

"For his consistently conscientious work and visionary planning on the Memorial Student Center," J. Wayne Stark, director of the MSC, received one of the five annual Battalion Awards given for 1950.

Stark came to A&M as director of the Student Center in October of 1947. At that time the ground had not been broken for the new building.

His job at that time was to work with the A&M System architect on plans for the Center, and to plan the business and social departments of this center.

In December of 1947 he negotiated for the school the purchase of the equipment of Casey's and George's and renovated the stores during the Christmas holidays.

Opened Confectioneries

On Jan. 4 the stores opened under the management of the Memorial Student Center.

The purpose of these transactions was to use these businesses as "pilot plants" for the services that would be important in the Memorial Student Center.

Also, it was aimed to hire a nucleus of managerial personnel for the future Center, to establish bookkeeping and accounting procedure, to establish purchasing channels and selling policies, and to gain knowledge of Student Center operations.

Studied Other Centers

During April of 1948, Stark made a comprehensive study of the business and social aspects of college centers, by visiting some of the nation's best Student Centers.

Student Centers at Purdue, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota, and University of Illinois were visited.

After returning from the trip, Stark continued to work with the architect before the building was started, making suggestions for possible changes.

In the past two years, Stark and members of his staff have made similar trips to other schools, hotels, cafes, and department stores throughout the nation.

Stark was graduated from A&M with a degree in liberal arts in 1939. His birth place was Lamesa, Tex. He attended public schools, and graduated from high school, however, at Winters, Tex.

While a student at A&M he was

associate editor of The Battalion for two years, club editor of the Longhorn for one year, president of the Glee Club, and president of the Biology Club.

Following his graduation from A&M, Stark entered the University of Texas where he attended law school for two years.

While at the University he was elected editor of the yearbook "The Cactus", but held office only a few weeks before he was inducted into the Army.

He was the first independent editor (belonging to no fraternity) at the University of Texas in 21 years. Better yet, he was the first Aggie to ever have held a major office on the Texas University campus.

Army Officer

In June of 1941 he entered the Army and served in an anti-aircraft unit for approximately three years.

The next two and a half years he spent in the general staff as assistant G-3 in the V-11 Corps which made plans for and landed with the assault forces in Normandy.

Stark was released from active duty as a major on Dec. 31, 1945 and presently holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Reserve Corps.

During the action in Normandy, he served under the command of Lt. General "Lightning" Joe J. Lawton Collins, now Army Chief of Staff.

After Stark was discharged from the Army he was employed with the Gulf Atlantic Warehouse Company, subsidiary of the Anderson, Clayton and Company of Houston, until coming to A&M.

While stationed in Hartford, Conn., in 1942 Stark married the former Miss Jean Stinson of Conroe, Tex.

Mrs. Stark is a graduate in geology from the University of Texas. She received her degree in 1940, and was employed by the Humble Oil and Refining Company as evaluation engineer when they were married.

Mr. and Mrs. Stark, living at 229 Milner, College Station, have two children. Their boy, John, is six years old, and they have a daughter, Sallie, seven months old.

Criminal Capone Isn't Only One

Monterrey Park, Calif.—(AP)—Citizens did a double take when the local paper informed them: "Al Capone in gun business here." But upon reading further they were reassured. Al Capone, the item continued, is not related to the late notorious gangster, and merely opened, with peaceful intent, a gun repair shop.

Bertrand Will Head Division

By B. F. ROLAND

One of the many and various duties of the A&M System Board of Directors is to select the men to head the administrative positions of the college. In its May meeting, the Board was faced with the problem of selecting a Dean of the Basic Division.

The future of the Division was in the hands of the Board. Were the members to select a man who had insufficient abilities and character to fulfill the obligations of his position, the Basic Division would ultimately fail in its purpose to aid new students.

The achievement record of the man they selected, John R. Bertrand, speaks for itself.

A Native Texan

Born on a North Texas farm, Bertrand graduated from high school in 1932. While in high school, Bertrand took an active part in school activities, particularly the Future Farmers of America. He was awarded the American Farmer degree, and has served as state vice president of the association.

Soon after graduation, he, with the help of his mother, a brother and two sisters, was forced to take

over the operation of their farm following the death of his father.

In 1937, Bertrand entered Texas Technological College where he majored in agricultural education. He received his Master's Degree from the same college in Rural Sociology and Economics. From Tech, the Basic Division's new dean attended the University of Missouri where he worked toward his doctorate in Rural Sociology.

Called Into Service

The Navy then stepped in to change any of Bertrand's plans for the immediate future. Entering the service in 1942, he received his indoctrination training at Notre Dame, and mid-shipman's training at Columbia. He was commissioned in October, 1942.

Because of lack of rank equality in the other services of the Navy, Bertrand entered the Submarine Services of the Navy, Bertrand entered the Submarine Service where all men were on an equal basis as a team. As construction and repair officer, he helped to construct the "Bowfin" on which he later served 18 months as Torpedo Gunnery officer in the Southwest Pacific. The "Bowfin" was commended for meritorious action, and

Bertrand, then a Lieutenant received the Silver Star and Gold Star.

He was then ordered to return to port to aid in constructing another submarine but was discharged soon afterward.

His next stop was Sam Houston State College where he served as professor of sociology and veteran advisor. He first arrived on this campus in September 1946 when he took a position in the Department of Rural Sociology. After a year in that position, he was named assistant to the Dean of Agriculture.

To Receive Ph.D.

In 1948, Bertrand was given a leave of absence to attend Cornell University on a General Education Board Fellowship. There he completed Student Personnel work for his Ph.D. thesis. The degree will be conferred Sept. 6.

He is the father of four children, three girls and a boy. Mrs. Bertrand is a graduate of TSCW.

He is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, the National Society for Study of Education, the American Sociological Society, and the Rural Sociology Society, as well as several others.

Oceanography Course Begins on Full-Scale

By FRANK DAVIS

Offering a complete curriculum for the first time, the newly-established Oceanography Department marked a year of preparatory work and planning yesterday as Dr. Dale F. Leipper's appointment as head of the department became effective.

When the idea for an Oceanography Department was realized in September of 1949, the problem of organizing the department fell upon the shoulders of Dr. Leipper, then acting head of the department.

After spending the Fall semester surveying the field, Dr. Leipper began releasing plans for the

complete curricula as early as January 16. The curricula which puts oceanography on its feet at A&M, is now in effect.

The department had been authorized by the Board of Directors January 14, when the group met in regular session on the campus.

Although the complete curricula had not been ready, two courses for graduate and advanced undergraduate students were offered during the Spring semester.

They were Introduction to Oceanography 401 and Geological Oceanography 431.

Several years ago when swarms of oysters were dying on the Texas coast, A&M's Research Foundation,

Three New Staff Members Named for Basic Division

By LOUISE JONES

Three guidance experts have been appointed to the basic division for the coming year. They are Dr. Robert Jacobs, Dr. Albert J. Kingston, and Clifford H. Ransdell. Their appointment was announced by Dr. John R. Bertrand, dean of the new division.

Dr. Jacobs will be administrative assistant to Dr. Arthur E. Traxler, director of the Education Records Bureau, as director of counseling for the Basic Division. From Murphysboro, Ill., he was graduated with an Education degree from Southern Illinois University.

He received his master's from the University of Illinois and his doctor's degree from Wayne University. At present Dr. Jacobs is teaching at the University of Arkansas. He has taught at Wayne University, Rutgers University, and the University of Alabama.

Chairman Seminar Committee

Dr. Jacobs is chairman of the seminar committee of the New York Vocational Guidance Association. He is a member of the American Psychological Association, National Vocational Guidance Association, American Educational Research Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Council on Measurement, and Phi Delta Kappa, education fraternity. He served as a clinical psychologist in the Army for three years and did research in personnel problems for the Ford Motor Company.

Dr. Jacobs is married and has a boy, 8, and a girl, 3.

Dr. Albert Kingston was named director of remedial reading for the Basic Division. He recently received his PhD in applied psychology from Cornell University and also received his master's there. He was graduated from Buffalo State Teacher's College with a

bachelor of science degree.

Airforce Veteran

Dr. Kingston, an air force veteran, has served as training officer for the Veterans Administration assistant in the Remedial Reading Clinic at Cornell and vocational appraiser of the Cornell Guidance Center. A native of Kenmore, N.Y., he spent four years with Curtis-Wright Aircraft Corporation.

He is a member of the National Society for Study of Education, and Phi Delta Kappa. He is married.

Mrs. Ransdell has been appointed assistant to the dean of the Basic Division. He is an associate professor of engineering drawing at A&M, and was formerly assistant to the dean of the college while heading the A&M Annex at Bryan Air Field this year.

He has been on the staff of A&M since graduating from Texas Technological College in 1937.