

A&M Prepares To Greet Class of '58



Message From The President

I appreciate this opportunity provided by the "Batt" to give you, our new students, a "pre-welcome." Each year the faculty and staff view with interest the new arrivals because from these untried boys will come, in only a few years, the men—the leaders of our Corps of Cadets and of our Student Body and from them will come leaders of our country in both civilian and military pursuits.

This year, even more than in the past, you will find that A. and M. truly lives up to its reputation as the friendly campus. The Corps of Cadets has rededicated itself to the spirit that has made A. and M. famous and its students outstanding.

For those not interested in R.O.T.C., an expanded program of student body activities will be available to supplement the many excellent academic majors in developing well-rounded citizens.

You are indeed welcome! The faculty and staff stand ready to assist you, and the door to the President's office is always open to you. We sincerely hope that you will find your years with us most enjoyable as well as profitable.

David H. Morgan

MSC, President Plan Reception

The Memorial Student Center directorate will sponsor a reception for the freshmen from 2 to 4 p. m. Sunday, Sept. 12, in the MSC ballroom.

The purpose of the informal reception is to introduce new students to President David H. Morgan and show them the MSC.

Other high-ranking college officials and their wives whom the students will meet are Dean and Mrs. J. P. Abbott, Dean and Mrs. W. H. Delaplaine, Dean and Mrs. W. W. Armistead, Dean and Mrs. C. N. Shepardson, Dean and Mrs. John Bertrand, and Dean and Mrs. Ide P. Trotter.

During the reception all the MSC committees will have booths in the ballroom with leaders present to welcome students and explain their committees. At this time students who wish to sign up for work with these groups may do so.

Also on hand to greet the incoming freshmen will be girls from College Station and Bryan. They will meet the students at the door and bring them to the ballroom.

Punch and cookies will be served in the ballroom. All parents still on the campus are welcome to attend the reception.

During the afternoon the House committee will conduct tours of the MSC. The tours begin at 1 p. m. at the House committee booth near the main desk in the Center.

The Bowling committee will have a tournament for new students in the bowling alley, and the Music committee will present a series of organ concerts in the main lounge.

The Basic Division

Help for the First Year

The need for some agency to help men through their first year of college led to the establishment of A&M's basic division in 1950.

Since then, every man who has gone through A&M has had experience with the Basic Division, and each of them has praise for it.

The Basic Division is, technically, a non-degree granting school of the college, on an equal footing with the other four schools.

Everyone is assigned to the Basic Division when they enroll in A&M, and they normally stay there for two semesters.

If a man does not pass all of the first year's work, he is kept

under the Basic Division's guidance until he completes the work.

Students who have already decided what they are going to major in just go ahead and take the regular course for that major, even though they are in the Basic Division.

Those students who are undecided about a course of study take a general course their freshman year, one that can be used for credit on any major, while the Basic Division helps them choose a major.

The Basic Division's testing and counseling service is available to all students at A&M regardless of their classification. The Division

All A&M Students Have Choice Of Military or Civilian Status

All students entering Texas A&M now have their choice of being military or civilian students.

Military students, those in the ROTC program, will live in the corps of cadets by military units, and wear the uniform all the time. All classes will be housed together. Until this year, freshmen were housed in a separate area.

Civilian students, those who are

not taking ROTC, will live in civilian dormitories. A student activity program similar to the corps of cadets has been planned for civilian students, including the new Civilian Students Council.

This new military-optional ruling was established by the A&M system board of directors to allow a Texas boy to take a course at A&M without having to take ROTC.

Before, all students had to take military their first two years, unless they were veterans or physically disabled.

If a student takes military, he will take basic ROTC for the first two years, and then will be eligible for an advanced contract.

To get an advanced contract, a student has to elect it, be acceptable to the training officers, and have a satisfactory academic record.

Students in the advanced contract program are paid 90 cents a day for the two-year advanced contract period, and are eligible for a commission at graduation.

A&M offers military training in all army branches and the air force.

Both civilian and military students are eligible for a draft deferment, if their grades are good. Civilian students get a scholastic deferment, and military students get a ROTC deferment.

If the grades of either a civilian or military student do not stay above passing, he is not eligible for deferment.

A&M Is Member Of Complex System

Texas A&M is the biggest part of a complex educational institution called the Texas A&M System.

Headed by Chancellor M. T. Harrington, the A&M System is composed of A&M, Prairie View A&M, Tarleton junior college, Arlington junior college, the Agricultural Extension service, the Agricultural Experiment station, the Engineering Extension service, the Engineering Experiment station, and the Forest service.

Each of the colleges or departments in the system is headed by its own president or chief.

Over everybody is the A&M System board of directors, appointed by the governor. Present members

of the board are G. R. White, chairman, A. E. Cudlipp, E. W. Harrison, W. T. Doherty, Harold Dunn, R. H. Finney Jr., H. L. Winfield, J. W. Witherspoon, and Bob Allen.

Texas A&M College, headed by President David H. Morgan, is composed of four schools, each with a dean in charge.

They are arts and sciences, W. H. Delaplaine; agriculture, C. N. Shepardson; and veterinary medicine, W. W. Armistead. At present, there is no dean of engineering, since H. W. Barlow is leaving A&M in September.

The college also has a Graduate School, headed by Dean Ide P. Trotter sr., and the Basic Division, headed by Dean John R. Bertrand.

The schools are then broken into departments, each under a department head.

The dean of the college, John Paul Abbott, is in charge of the academic side of the college. All of the deans report to the president through him.

The newly-created position of dean of student personnel services is in charge of the student life program of the college. He has under him civilian students, military students, student activities, and part of the Basic Division's functions. The man to be dean of student personnel services has not yet been named.

The Academic Council, composed of all the heads of departments, is the governing body of the college. It makes the rules that go in the rule book. The Executive Committee of the Academic Council, composed of all the deans, passes on certain academic and student life matters.

Saturday Tests Will Help You

Saturday, the day after you get here, you will be given a seemingly endless series of tests, and you will probably wonder what it's all about.

These tests are ability and achievement tests, given by the Basic Division, and their purpose is to let the Basic Division learn a little about you.

From the results of these tests, plus personal conferences, some students will be allowed to take advanced work, and some will be put in special sections to improve some part of their background.

This testing program is concentrated mainly in chemistry, English, mathematics, and reading. Simply, they mean that if you make a high grade on your English achievement test, you may be allowed to skip part of the regular freshman English program, and take some advanced work.

Some of the tests are ability, or aptitude tests, used to help the Basic Division suggest possible vocations for any student unsure of a major.

The Basic Division people say it is silly for anyone to try to "cheat" on an achievement or aptitude test, because there is no actual "grade," and the tests are only to help the students.

Don't Come To School Early

Just a reminder: Don't come to school early. The dormitories will not be open before the set date, and the dining halls will not serve meals.

So come sometime on Friday, Sept. 10.

The earlier you get here that day, the better it will be. There are always lines to stand in, and you might get to be first in some of them.

A Short Note To The New Students

This issue of The Battalion is yours; it's kind of an unofficial welcome to the school, and we hope it will be a help to you.

We suggest that you, and your parents, read it carefully. It is a compilation of the experience and knowledge of the students of The Battalion staff, other students, and some of the faculty and staff of the college.

We'd tried to answer in advance some of the questions you will ask about A&M. We hope we've succeeded.

- - The Editors

1,500 Expected For Fish Week

Once again A&M is preparing to welcome a new class, the class of '58.

About 1,500 freshman are expected to enroll this fall, the first class to go through school under the new military-optional plan.

Freshman week will begin Sept. 10, with the "Fish" in for a busy time until registration Sept. 17.

No definite count on the number of military or civilian students is available at the present time, but it is expected that most students will choose military.

Arriving with the new students will be a cadre of upperclassmen—cadet officers and civilian student leaders—to help the new students get acquainted with A&M.

Here is a schedule of what will go on during new student week:

Friday, Sept. 10

From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. students can pay fees and receive their housing assignments on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center.

At 7 p.m. there will be a general assembly at the Grove. The program will end with group singing and a yell practice.

Saturday, Sept. 11

Students will spend the day Saturday being tested and issued uniforms. Those students who have participated in A&M's testing program during the summer will meet at 7:45 in Guion Hall.

There will be a general assembly in the Grove at 7 p.m. The corps chaplain, Cadet Lt. Col. C. M. Cummings, will speak on "The Place of Religion in the Life of the A&M Student." Local ministers will be introduced. Following this assembly the local churches will hold open house.

Sunday, Sept. 12

Students are urged to attend the church of their choice for both morning and evening services.

From 2 to 4 p.m. the MSC directorate will sponsor a reception in the Center to introduce to new students the president of the college and other members of the staff and faculty.

Uniforms will be issued as scheduled throughout the afternoon.

Monday, Sept. 13

From 8 to 9:30 a.m. students will assemble in Guion Hall. There will be addresses by Col. Joe E. Davis, Col. John A. Way, Lt. Col. Taylor Wilkins, and B. A. Zinn.

Throughout the day will be unit meetings, identification photographing, and issuance of uniforms.

(See FRESHMAN, Page 5)



GUESS WHAT? — Fall brings football season, football season brings the University of Texas game, and the University of Texas game brings the bonfire. Work on wood gathering for the bonfire starts weeks before the game, and the actual construction starts with the hoisting of the

50-foot centerpole about two weeks before the game. The bonfire is usually touched off the Wednesday night before the Thanksgiving game, after weeks of building and guarding against premature burning.