

Now in Fifth Year at A&M

SCONA Promotes Leaders

By JACK HARTSFIELD
Battalion Staff Writer
What are the students of A&M doing to prepare themselves as future leaders in America?

The answer can be found in the 1958 Congressional Record where Sen. Hubert Humphrey addressed the Senate of the United States on the outstanding work of SCONA — the student-sponsored conference held at A&M each December to promote a generation of responsible leaders in international affairs.

The fact is well worth nothing that SCONA is the only conference of its kind to be recorded in United States Congressional Records.

For the last four years A&M has held a Student Conference on National Affairs. SCONA, as it is commonly called, began in the winter of 1954 as a student's dream. This dream originated in the mind of Herbert W. Whitney, then a student here. Whitney attended a conference on Foreign Affairs held by the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., in the fall of 1954.

SCONA Is Born

When he returned, Whitney began selling his fellow students

on the idea of having a similar conference primarily for those colleges in our area of the country. A student body, headed by the inspired Whitney, requested the Memorial Student Center Council to establish a new committee called Student Conference on National Affairs.

The request was approved and SCONA became a reality.

Inspired, planned and carried through by students, with the encouragement of faculty advisors and the financial backing of public-spirited sponsors, SCONA has acquired a national reputation in its four short years of existence.

Expansion

Since SCONA I, in 1955, the conference has expanded in all directions. The number of conferences has increased, more colleges and universities are represented at the Round Tables, and more sponsors have signified their endorsement with contributions.

It has grown from a representation of 48 schools of two delegates from each into a conference of 75 schools with 176 students representing them. The delegates are selected by the president of the respective schools. SCONA's only requirement being that they be school leaders. These delegates come from all over the South and Southwest, including

Canada and Mexico, with most expenses paid by SCONA.

SCONA's success is compounded of many ingredients; the keynote speakers, Round Table chairmen, observers, recorders, and nine working committees for whom the three-and-a-half day conference climaxes a year of fund raising and planning.

1959 Conference

The Fifth Student Conference on National Affairs is moving at a swift pace toward this year's program scheduled to be held in the Memorial Student Center Dec. 9-12. The theme will be "The United States: Problems of World Leadership."

Principal speakers who have been named at the present time are Howard R. Bowen, president of Grinnell College in Iowa; Ambassador from Ceylon R. S. S. Gunewardene; and Gen. John B. Medaris, head of Redstone Arsenal.

Two other major speakers will be named at a later date.

A&M will be represented at the three-day conference by Dean of Students James P. Hannigan and Dr. Paul J. Woods, associate professor of history. These two men will serve as Round Table co-chairmen.

Student delegates from A&M will also be selected soon.

"We are planning for a bigger

and better SCONA V. The effects of the first four conferences have already been felt. Other schools such as North Carolina State and the United States Air Force Academy are sponsoring conferences modeled after SCONA," commented Jarrel Gibbs, SCONA V chairman.

"All of us working on this year's preparation for SCONA V feel we are well on our way to accomplishing SCONA's purposes of informing future leaders in America," Gibbs added.

Governing Body

The SCONA V executive committee, which is responsible for co-ordinating the nine groups that make up the SCONA working roster, is composed of Gibbs, SCONA V chairman; Syd Heaton, vice-chairman; Kenneth Keller, vice-chairman for finance; Gustavo Barrera, secretary; John Vaughan, conference manager; Herbert Whalen, arrangements chairman; Percy Mims, housing chairman; Frank Buchanan, planning chairman; Bruce Keith, program chairman; Jack Hartsfield, publicity chairman; Charles Bell, secretariat; Mike Reid, transportation chairman; Ronald Buford, MSC Council and Directorate president; and Mike McGuire, Great Issues chairman.

The nation's eyes are on SCONA V.

CPS Chapter Sets Filing Deadline

Mrs. Orlena Newton, chairman of the Bryan-College Station Chapter of The Certified Professional Secretaries Study Committee, has announced that Dec. 1 is the deadline for applications to take the CPS examination.

The test, which covers business law, personal adjustment, human relations, business administration, secretarial accounting, skills and procedures, will be held in May at test centers located in various cities throughout the United States.

Upon passing the test, each individual receives the CPS status. This status is the highest achievement possible for a professional secretary.

All applicants for the test must meet the following requirements: at least 25 years old, a total of seven years verified secretarial experience, a full time (or the equivalent) post-high school education and at least 12 months continuous secretarial experience with one firm.

Persons who have not graduated from high school and who have had no post-high school education must have eight years of verified secretarial experience.

Anyone interested should write to the Committee on Qualifications, The Institute for Certifying Secretaries, 1103 Grand Avenue, Kansas City 6, Mo.

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