

Vet Medicine Program Will Change Next Fall

A major curriculum change has been approved for veterinary medicine students effective next fall.

Students in the School of Veterinary Medicine will then register for classes under a trimester plan rather than the semester system, Dr. Alvin A. Price, dean of the school, has announced.

The new program has won approval from students, faculty and the A&M System Board of Directors. The proposal has been under study by A&M veterinary medicine officials since 1960.

Price said the trimester system is designed to provide additional student contact hours in the professional curriculum and reduce the total time investment on the part of the student.

First Of Its Kind

The new program is the first of its kind among the 18 schools of veterinary medicine in the United States. The trimester plan is also the first major change in veterinary education since adoption of the two-year preveterinary requirement.

Present training involves a six-year course of study, including two years of preveterinary medicine and a four-year professional study.

The trimester plan reduces the overall amount of time required in the professional curriculum by 9½ months. More specifically, the program provides for 9 trimesters of 15 weeks each or 135 weeks of professional training.

"It's a compromise between semester and quarter systems," Price said. "But the student's time invested is nine and a half months less than the semester plan."

A typical school year begins with the first trimester in early September and ends before the Christmas holidays. The next term begins after the New Year holiday and continues until mid-April. The final term continues from April to early August.

More Instruction

The trimester system provides 663 net days of instruction compared to 576 days in the present semester program.

At the same time, the holiday schedule would include four days for Thanksgiving, two weeks for Christmas, three days for Easter, three days for July 4 and five additional weeks per year.

Like any program, the veterinary school officials realize the program has some disadvantages.

"Advantages outweigh the disadvantages, however," Dean Price said.

That students may "burn out" under the faster pace is one disadvantage most frequently mentioned. Another is that the trimester plan leaves the student less time for summer employment.

Price was quick to point out, however, that a student could withdraw from school and work a full year, if necessary. Also student expenses in college will be reduced by one year.

Greatest advantage to the new approach will be more classroom exposure in fewer calendar years.

Major General Rank Received By 3rd Aggie

Brig. Gen. Raymond L. Murray, USMC, A&M '35, has been selected for promotion to Major General, becoming one of three highest ranking former Aggies in the history of the college.

Gen. Murray started his career in the Corps when he accepted a commission as a second lieutenant upon graduation from A&M.

A member of the "Old Corps," as the rugged members of the "new" Marine Corps are termed, Gen. Murray served as a model for the fictitious commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion Sixth Marine Regiment in the famous WW II novel, "Battlecry" by Leon Uris. Gen. Murray's nickname in those days, as the nickname of the novel's hero was, "Highpockets."

Gen. Murray commanded the unit, serving as a platoon leader, company commander, battalion executive officer and finally as the Commanding Officer during the great war. He was awarded his first silver star with the Regiment on Guadalcanal and his second such award on Tarawa.

Won Naval Cross

Still serving as commanding officer of the 2/6, Gen. Murray won a Naval Cross on Saipan, awarded for his heroism in remaining at his post, although seriously wounded, and continuing to direct his battalion during the initial assault.

As a Lt. Colonel, Murray landed the 5th Marines at Pusan as the Commanding Officer in the Korean War, and won his third and fourth silver star while commanding the unit.



Cadets Aboard New Ship

These four new Maritime Academy cadets are inspecting the TMA's new ship, a 7,000 ton vessel delivered to the academy during the summer. The new cadets are, from left, Frankie Lawless of Marlin, Carl Haglund of

Galveston, Paul Heermann of Galveston and Don Bilanchch of Kemah. The academy will open for the first time this fall, with the freshman class attending lectures on the local campus.

New Oceanography Ship Named For Old Explorer

An early-day explorer of the New World will be honored when A&M's new oceanography vessel puts to sea next year.

The 180-foot oceanographic research vessel will be known as the "R. V. Alaminos" in honor of Anton de Alaminos who accompanied Columbus, and later Cordova and Cortez on expeditions to New Spain between 1499 and 1519.

Suggesting the name "Alaminos" was Miss Ester Sell, research assistant at the A&M Marine Laboratory at Fort Crockett near Galveston. She submitted the name in a contest conducted by the Department of Oceanography and Meteorology.

The freight-type vessel is being converted and refitted as an oceanographic research ship under an \$875,000 National Science Foundation grant to the A&M Research Foundation.

It is expected to be ready for research voyages in mid-1963.

When renovation and refitting

is completed, the vessel will be the smaller R.V. Hidalgo currently being used by A&M oceanographers.

Researcher Begins Study Of Sea Water

The most complete study ever undertaken of the organic compounds, such as proteins, found in sea water is in the preliminary stage here.

Researchers around the world—including Russians—thus far have made only limited studies of these components. In addition to the proteins, there are the organic acids or their salts, including fatty acids and lipids, carbohydrates and other compounds.

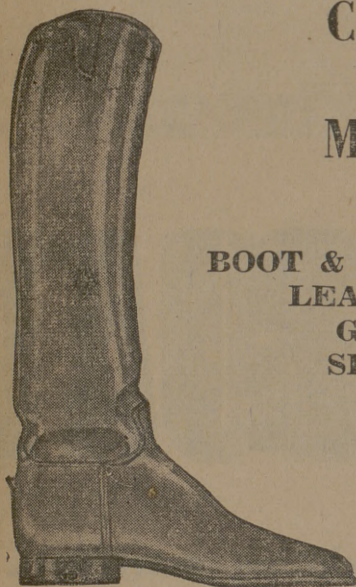
A two-year, \$40,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will finance the study by Lela M. Jeffrey, a research associate in the Department of Oceanography and Meteorology. The grant was received by the A&M Research Foundation, Dr. Archie M. Kahan, executive director.

"The ultimate purpose of this research," Miss Jeffrey said, "is to devise an analytical scheme for identifying the major organic compounds in large samples of sea water." Once the procedure has been worked out, samples will be taken at various depths and at various seasons of the year in both near—and off-shore locations in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Most people believe," Miss Jeffrey said, "that these components play a role in the life cycles of marine organisms. But much more must be learned about the components."

The organic compounds are found in minute quantities in sea water—at the ratio of only 1 to 10 milligrams to a quart of water research thus far indicates. That's not enough materials in the water to be seen easily by the naked eye.

Thus Miss Jeffrey's task is something like that of chemically identifying the needle found in a haystack.



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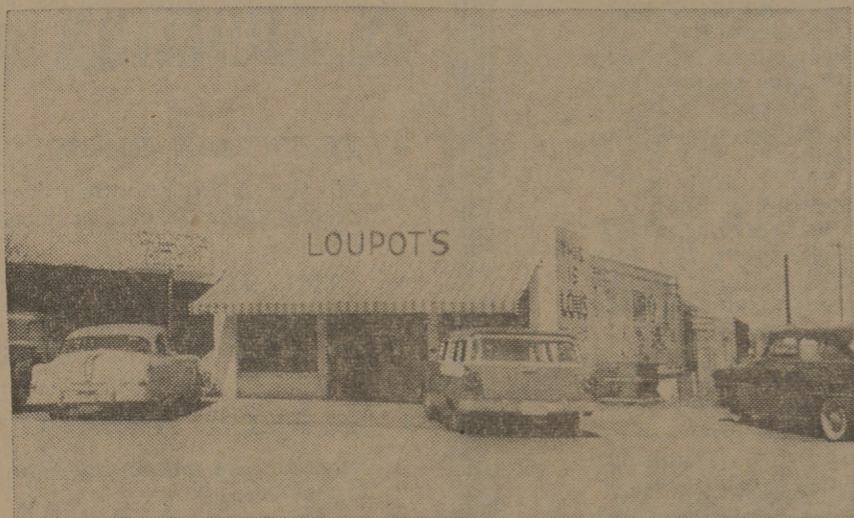
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