

# University System Affects Every Texan

Freshmen entering A & M this fall are enrolling in one of nine major parts of one of the largest educational, research and extension organizations in the south.

The A & M University System, established in 1948, is a statewide organization, charged with the responsibility for education, research

and extension services in the broad fields of agriculture and engineering and in such other areas as the Legislature of the State of Texas may assign it from time to time.

The System's four schools are Texas A & M University, oldest publicly-supported institution of higher learning in the state; Prairie

View A & M College, at Prairie View; Arlington State College at Arlington; and Tarleton State College, at Stephenville.

The five service organizations are the Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, Texas Engi-

neering Extension Service and the Texas Forest Service.

In terms of size, the System has more than 6,400 full-time employees; its work is conducted in all 254 Texas counties; its staff works on problems ranging from control of insects to development of better traffic control systems.

During the long terms, the four colleges provide educational programs for more than 15,000 Texas men and women.

The service organizations, and the colleges, provide adult education training programs for about 35,000 persons annually. Courses range from those for Civil Defense crews concerned with radiation to firemen, vocational teachers, bankers, egg-graders, beef producers and schoolmen.

on latest research to farmers and ranchers.

The Texas Engineering Experiment Station engages in research ranging from finding better processing methods for cottonseed to highway design and construction work.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service provides training at short courses on the campus and through programs held in Texas towns and cities. Itinerant teachers provide information in fields which include the natural gasoline paint industry, police and firemen's training, supervisory training and instruction for municipal water and sewage plant operators.

## Counselors Aid In Search To Find Vocational Choice

The real benefits of attending college is the opportunity to learn more about yourself. The A & M University Counseling and Testing Center can provide important help along this line, Director S. A. Kerley said.

"One of the most important decisions that any student must make during his university career is that of his vocational choice. . . . Students with definite vocational choices are more likely to graduate," Kerley said.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE is one of the major services provided by the Counseling and Testing Center across from Sbis Hall. Other services of the center are in the areas of helping the individual with study, reading skills and personal problems.

More than 1,000 Aggies last academic year received individual help at the Center.

Experience shows that half of all freshmen at A & M or elsewhere will change their vocational objectives at least once, Kerley said.

"Many students will change these objectives two or three times as they learn more about themselves their aptitudes and interests," he continued.

Kerley pointed out it is dangerous for a student to make a vocational decision by random choice or by trying different areas of study.

THE COUNSELING center director said it is much more desirable for the student to avail himself of professional help from vocational counselors. Otherwise, there is a danger that the student will get behind in his studies and become discouraged before the final decision is made.

Ample help is available for any Aggie whose thinking about career objectives may become somewhat confused at times, Kerley and others at the Center stress.

"One time when these doubts may arise," Kerley said, "comes in the fall semester of the freshmen year as mid-semester grades are issued. A student begins to wonder if he should be a scientist, a mathematician or whatever.

"Low grades are not necessarily indicative that a student should change his course of study, but it is indicative that something is wrong with his university career," Kerley said.

Careers and job opportunities change rapidly, and it is wise for

a student to gain a firm understanding not only of his aptitudes and interest, but of the many opportunities of the vocational fields.

A student who visits the Counseling and Testing Center for vocational counseling has an initial interview. He and the counselor discuss his academic progress, his background and other matters.

In many instances, not a vocational problem but a study problem is disclosed in the interview. Whatever the reason, once it is determined attention can be focused upon helping the student to gain "a realistic appraisal of his abilities and interests."

THE STUDENT is asked to take several appropriate tests at his convenience.

The reports as scored by the psychometrists are turned over to the professional counselor. After study of the results he invites the student in for a conference and discussion of the interpretation of the results and the implications.

"The emphasis here is upon the student doing his own thinking, we simply supply the facts," Dr. Lannes Hope explained. He is a member of the staff at the center and an assistant professor of psychology.

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