

6 Graduates Due Honors

Six Texas A&M students will be presented College of Liberal Arts faculty achievement awards May 25, Dr. Lee J. Martin, associate dean, has announced.

Craig G. Buck of Tyler, Martha Ann Casbeer of Lampasas,

William H. Giesenschlag of Snook, Simeon T. Lake of Fort Worth, Weldon L. Merritt of Snyder and William S. Moore of Houston will be presented distinguished honor awards by Dr. Frank W. R. Hubert, dean of the college.

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TRIPLE AWARD WINNER

Lester Osbourn, right, receives a plaque from Dr. O. B. Butler during the Saddle and Siroin Club spring awards banquet. Osbourn was named outstanding junior in the club, received a \$500 scholarship and was awarded a watch and plaque as champion ham salesman in the annual club auction.

Financial Management Meet To Discuss Business Trends

Professional developments, trends and problems in accounting and finance will be spotlighted Thursday and Friday at the Financial Management Conference.

"This nineteenth annual conference is the first accounting conference in Texas to be sponsored jointly by the School of Business Administration and all the accounting societies and groups in Texas," said Dr. John E. Pearson, director of the school.

Scheduled for the Ramada Inn, the course will cover aspects of

activity in industry and business, with discussion periods following each presentation.

E. S. Packenham, head of the Department of Accounting, and J. E. Oliver and Alan Porter of the department will be discussion leaders for case studies in Economic Concepts for Management.

Speakers will be Donald Guth of Collins Radio Company, Dr. S. Allen Self of Texas Christian University, Fred Smith of Fred Smith Associates, Lee D. Herring of the Grand Prairie State Bank and William Oncken Jr. of William Oncken and Company.

Grad Schools Expected To Stiffen Standards

By JAMES SIZEMORE

After a tooth and toenail battle for their bachelor's degree, a majority of students pass up an attempt to enter graduate school, either through their own decision or an inadequate record.

But for the ever-increasing percentage who continue their education, just what are the requirements for admission and what can one expect of graduate school?

According to Dr. Robert W. Barzak, associate dean of graduate studies, graduate schools have somewhat flexible rules for admission, but they may have to begin adhering to strict requirements, developing a "cold fist attitude" for admission.

"Applications for admission have increased rapidly in the past four years and the processing of admissions is fast becoming a fulltime job," says Barzak.

He pointed out that the barrage of applications requires much handling as they go to the registrar, then to the department applied for, back to the Dean of the Graduate College for final approval and then to the registrar, who sends out letters of acceptance or rejection.

THE FLEXIBILITY of the admission requirements is mainly in the hands of the department head in question since he is the best able to interpret a student's record and determine the possibility of a student's success in graduate work. He will consider grade point ratios and the courses in a student's major which pre-

pare him for graduate school. "Grade point ratios are the most important measure of probable success in graduate study," said Barzak, "but a look at the last two years' grades are the most enlightening."

By observing the student's record in his last two years of undergraduate study, it is possible to determine the seriousness of attitude which a student develops, he added.

LETTERS OF recommendation, if available, are also taken into consideration for admittance as a routine, but they are not required. Letters from profs who know the student well are helpful in pointing out a student's strong or weak points and overall ability.

To be admitted to graduate school an applicant must hold his baccalaureate degree from some college or university of recognized standing, show an indication of his ability to enter advanced study, have the necessary course preparation to enter his field of study and submit scores on an appropriate test of the GRE. These, plus letters of recommendation or possible personal interviews, will comprise the points of consideration for a student's admission to the graduate level of study.

Once entered in the graduate school, a student's requirements become stiffer and more quality is demanded.

"A student should expect to be expected to do more than what he did in undergraduate school," Barzak said.

level of study is not just an extension of lectures and courses with a degree to be awarded at the end. The study is more specialized and detailed and requires a large amount of self-initiated study.

TO REMAIN in graduate school, a student must maintain an overall grade point ratio of 2.0 with no credit given on any course in which the grade is less than a C. If a student drops below this level he may be denied further registration in the school.

The type of study involved varies with the type of degree a student is pursuing and the field of study. Generally, the master of science and master of arts degrees require a thesis and are research-oriented, while the master of education is a professional degree with no thesis.

Barzak noted that some schools allow the graduate study to begin while a student is a junior or senior, which allows them to have the graduate degree in four or five years of college. This points to the idea that graduate courses are just more of the same study and, although some students may follow this reasoning and receive a degree, Barzak points out this attitude is wrong.

"STUDENTS HAD better not count on this," Barzak said. "The type of work is quite different. The students work in smaller groups and have closer association with course instructors to advise them."

Moving past the master's level into the doctorate study, a student finds himself even farther from the undergraduate style of study. Here the student engages more and more in seminars rather than lectures and works in even smaller groups of students.

"The Ph.D.," said Barzak, "is essentially the badge of office denoting a person highly trained or educated — knowledgeable and trained in self-initiated investigation. He is oriented toward research."

THE DOCTORATE dissertation is a paper to embody the material the degree candidate knows and is the basis of the final exam for the degree. It is frequently written in the language of the specialty, but must be literate, organized and accurate.

"A Ph.D. holder," says Barzak, "knows more and more about less and less. It's like climbing to the top of a pyramid. The study is more and more specialized and thus more detailed."

Barzak pointed out that although none of the departments at A&M have reached the saturation point of graduate students, some are approaching this level. Some fields must limit the number of students depending on the equipment or staff.

It is possible, then, that some departments may soon be filled and they will have to develop what Barzak described as a "cold fist attitude" as a general policy. This means that those requirements, which are now somewhat flexible, will become rigid and more discriminating.

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