

Aggie Advisors, Trainers Cover All Corners Of Globe

Texas A&M's International Programs Office is in the business of institution-building in far-flung corners of the world.

Currently, A&M has 71 representatives working full-time in overseas development programs in East Pakistan, the Dominican Republic, Tunisia, Argentina and Mexico. Thirty-one others are on temporary assignments.

"Our work has three main aspects," explained Dr. Jack Gray, International Programs director. "We provide advisory service and in-service training to faculty and staff of the host institutions and assist in developing physical facilities."

"These projects are a cooperative advisory relationship with host governments," Gray continued. "Although we are supported by the Agency for International Development and the Ford Foundation, most resources are furnished by the host countries."

Agriculture, veterinary science, engineering, architecture, business, education and home economics are the disciplines involved.

Dr. Gray estimated that more than 220 man years of faculty and staff time and \$5.5 million have been spent in A&M's overseas programs since 1954.

In addition, Gray pointed out, more than 150 faculty and staff members of host institutions have been trained in degree-oriented programs and returned to their home campuses.

The largest contingent of A&M staff members is in the Dominican Republic. Thirty-nine persons work in two programs coordinated by Dr. G. M. Watkins. Of that total, eight are affiliated with Ford Foundation Agricultural Education and Research Program at Santiago. Thirty-one others are involved in general agricultural development programs supported

by AID. Dr. Jarvis Miller is party chief.

Most assignments for overseas duty by A&M personnel are for two years. Several "short term" assignments range from one to three months.

"This is a small agricultural education and research advisory program supported by the Ford Foundation," Dr. Gray commented. "We have exchanged personnel on an informal basis. The relationship is one of friendship and mutual respect. They have a topnotch staff."

Six plant scientists from A&M spent two weeks at the University of Coahuila in September, assisting in planning and research. John Holcomb is program chief for

Mexico operations.

Four specialists for agricultural economics research projects in Argentina are continuing work in building research capabilities of that country. Four more are to join them next year in Buenos Aires and other areas of the country.

Begun in 1964, the project is projected for four more years. Dr. Vance Edmondson is party chief.

Each project has a coordinator on campus. They include Pakistan, Dr. Gray; Dominican Republic, William Beach; Tunisia, E. P. Creech; Argentina, Clifford Bates; Dominican Republic for the Ford Foundation, Dr. Watkins, and Mexico, John Holcomb.



EARLE DEEG

"I understand he has a major quiz Friday before th' Christmas Holidays!"

Schools Accepting Federal Programs

Federal education guidelines are being accepted and implemented in a large majority of state public schools, a Texas Education Agency official declared here.

Dr. Leon Graham, TEA's assistant commissioner for administration, said only four Texas school districts have not filed compliance programs for school desegregation with the U. S. Office of Education.

He spoke this week at a school public relations seminar at Texas A&M for the Texas East Central Cooperative School Association and area members of the Texas Association of School Administrators.

"Communities that have best accepted criteria for federal support of education were convinced by school administrators that desegregation is the law of the land and the moral thing to do," Graham said.

In discussing federal programs, the state official cited communications and effective public relations as the key to acceptance.

"School administrators must keep the community and school board informed and explain how a more comprehensive program can be offered with dual systems combined into one," Graham explained. "Many districts began desegregation under their own initiative, before civil rights legislation came along."

Graham believes citizens must understand the philosophy of Title I (federal aid to disadvantaged children.)

"It provides assistance for children who need to learn remedial reading. They can't learn if they need glasses or they are hungry and cold," he said.

"School administrators have a personal challenge to evaluate changes in federal support to education," Graham continued. "They should be willing to analyze changes, to see if there are ways of improving their educational system to help the youngsters."

Attending the one-day conference at A&M's Memorial Student Center were administrators from an East Central Texas area including Huntsville, Navasota, Giddings, Brenham and Somerville.

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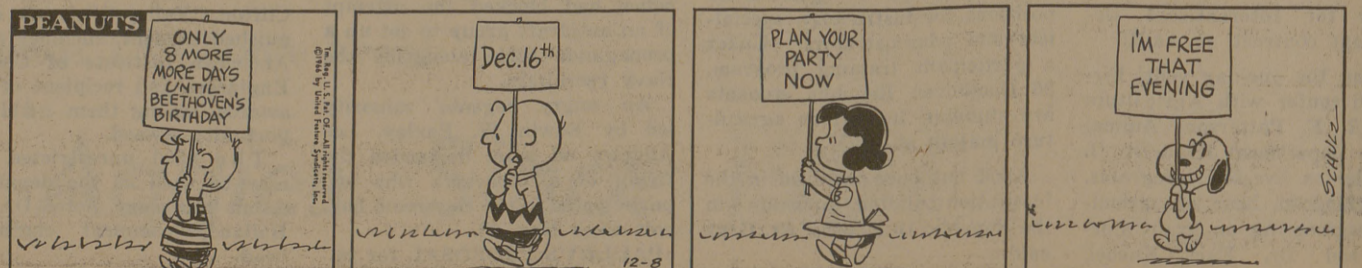
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By Charles M. Schulz