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Shannon Brothers Revive Old Art Of Glass-Blowing

Jack Shannon never cries over broken glass—his office is filled with it.
Of course, he has more than just mere curiosity over pieces of glass. The staffer is a senior glass blower.
The former Moulton High School science teacher's job is rather unique. Except for his brother, Jerry, who works with him, Shannon's job is the only one of its kind on the campus.
This makes both Jack and Jerry rather special in several ways, although it is not possible to detect anything special when talking with them. "It's a job that must be done," said Jack.
BUT THE two brothers are craftsmen in an art that was known over 4,000 years ago to the ancient Egyptians. Glass-blowing later turned up among the Greeks and Romans who turned craftsmen's talent to household items such as vases.
And it was in the Middle Ages that the Venetian glassmakers became famous the world over.
Methods have not changed much in the past four hundred centuries, however, admits Jack, even though equipment has become modern.
While mass production has become the by word of industry, the Shannon brothers — hidden away in a small basement laboratory of A&M's Chemistry Build-

ing — continue their ancient craft for many university departments.
THE GLASS blowers spend their time turning lengths of glass tubing into intricate pieces of special design glassware to meet the ever-increasing demands of research.
Jack attributes government assistance to research projects for the rise of glass blowers who were almost extinct a decade or more ago.
"There are more than there used to be," Jack said, noting that his request file for work remains at an all-time high.
Jack, now with A&M eight years, learned the art of glass-blowing from a friend at Dow Chemical. He set up the A&M laboratory in 1961.
"The demand for glass was tremendous," he recalled.
The demand turned out so great he talked his brother into joining him two years later.
THE TWO men work steadily to create the scientific apparatus from plans drawn by the various researchers.
"It is not uncommon to spend all day on a single object," said Jerry.
Cost is expensive. A&M charges six dollars an hour for labor alone.
Then, of course, there are repair jobs. Broken glassware is repaired by fusing it together.



GLASS BLOWING
The lost art of glass blowing has returned on the Texas A&M campus. Brothers Jerry and Jack Shannon (left to right) head up the university's program. Work is restricted to research needs.

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Speed Reading To Be Taught This Summer

Stretching time is possible through a speed reading and comprehension course to be offered both summer sessions by the Education Department.
The one-hour course to meet at 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays both sessions is for graduate students, faculty members and community adults, according to Dr. Mario C. Di Nella.
"Persons enrolling for the course may expect to double their reading rates without experiencing a loss of comprehension," the assistant professor said.
"TIME saved in reading might be used to study assignments more thoroughly, do additional reading, evaluate materials, reflect on controversial issues or for social, recreational or professional activities."
He noted that students taking Education 681 during the spring semester raised the class mean reading rate from 283 words per minute to 864 WPM. Comprehension scores from the Nelson-Denny Reading test at the start and finish were 73 and 85 per cent, respectively.
"The starting average usually is between 150 to 380 WPM," he added. "Course goal is to double the rate. Some students go beyond this by learning the technique of skimming, or selective reading, by which 500 WPM or better is achieved."

DI NELLO said enrollment will be limited to 25 for each summer session but that other sections would be opened if required. He noted that some undergraduate students who are ready for standardized tests such as the GRE or law school entrance exams are enrolled. More details are available by phoning Di Nello at 845-4829.
Registration for the June 8-July 11 summer session will be June 2. Students enroll July 14 for the July 15-Aug. 22 session.

STUDENT
(Continued From Page 1)
the current state appropriations bill.
Texas Gov. Preston Smith, who recently advocated allowing political speakers on college campuses, did not give a definite answer to the question, but referred Kelly back to the A&M policy.
"I believe that in this situation, the administration of Texas A&M would be the logical source for policy in the area you are concerned about," the governor said.
Kelly had conducted the survey as preparation for a term paper in a political science course this semester.
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