

\$27,000 gift continues fellowship

Texas A&M has received a \$27,000 endowment to continue the P. T. Montfort Fellowship from 11 electric utility companies serving Texas.

A&M President Jack K. Williams accepted the endowment at a luncheon Monday in the Memorial Student Center. Honored were three members of the committee designated by the participants to coordinate with the University the memorial fellowship to assist worthy students in the field of electrical engineering and its application to agriculture in the state.

The fellowship was established in 1957 as a memorial to the late P. T. Montfort, Texas A&M faculty member who for more than a quarter of a century was a leader in the farm electrification program in the state. Recipients of the fellowship funds, either graduate or undergraduate, are selected by a committee from the Agricultural Engineering Department faculty at A&M. Prof. Price Hobgood heads the department.

Aggie toll in Vietnam 85 dead, 12 missing

Eighty-five graduates of Texas A&M University have been killed in the Vietnam war, 12 are listed as missing in action and four are confirmed prisoners of war, the Association of Former Students office reports.

The association said the figures represent correspondence received from families and friends of the servicemen.

All the POWs and MIAs are aviators.

Association officials currently are assisting in the coordination of petition and letter campaigns to North Vietnam for the release of a complete prisoner list and humane treatment for the POWs.

TMA cadet killed in auto mishap

James G. Thornton, Texas Maritime Academy cadet, was killed Christmas evening in an automobile accident at Jefferson.

The sophomore marine transportation major was the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Thornton of Route 3, Jefferson.

Funeral services were conducted in Jefferson Dec. 26.

Fire damages lockers at Wofford Cain pool

Fire from an overheated boiler caused an undetermined amount of damage Dec. 17 in a locker room at Wofford Cain Olympic Pool.

Fire Chief Douglas W. Landua said a water boiler appeared to be a complete loss.

The equipment in a large basement under the one-story brick and tile dressing room just south of P. L. Downs Jr. Natatorium furnished hot water to fixtures in the building and to warm the large outdoor pool.

Electrical equipment and pool chemicals in the basement were undamaged.

The outdoor pool was open but

not in use at the time of the fire. A faculty-staff physical fitness swimming program was under way at the Downs indoor pool.

381 enrolled for spring vet school trimester

The College of Veterinary Medicine registered 381 students Monday, the first day of the spring trimester.

The enrollment total was identical to last spring and the fall registration.

Included are 128 in the first year class, 127 in the second year and 126 third year students. Graduation for the third year class is scheduled Aug. 6.

The College of Veterinary Medicine is the only college operating under the trimester system at A&M. Spring semester classes for the remainder of the university begin Jan. 18.

Aggie gets Bronze Star for Vietnam action

Army Capt. Ronald F. Beyer of Burleson has been decorated with the Bronze Star Medal in Vietnam for service as a 1st Cavalry Division helicopter pilot.

A 1967 Texas A&M graduate, Beyer received the award at Phuoc Vinh, where he is with Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, of the airborne 1st division.

Captain Beyer studied agricultural economics here and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School. He was last stationed at Fort Hood.

Geophysics professor has papers presented

Dr. R. R. Unterberger of the Geophysics Department was co-author of two papers presented at the 40th International Meeting of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists held in New Orleans.

The papers represent the first public disclosure of research in electromagnetic wave propagation in salt, Dr. Unterberger said.

He has been working in this field for 10 years and is currently continuing the research at Texas A&M under a three year

program funded by nine salt companies.

Police school set for seminar series

Texas A&M's Police Training Division will conduct a three-day justice of the peace and constable conference in Longview Jan. 20-22.

A&M's Engineering Extension Service received a \$31,568 Texas Criminal Justice Council grant to provide the seminars in Longview, Odessa, Arlington, San Antonio and College Station.

Cooperating with the program is the Justice of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas.

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Hijack prevention method proposed by aero student

Aircraft hijacking prevention procedures that would fully utilize metal sensing devices for "searching" passengers have been suggested by a Texas A&M aerospace engineering student.

Melvin E. Durlay of Pittsburg described the process in a report for a senior aero engineering course.

"It's an interesting idea," commented Dr. Charles A. Rodenberger, course instructor who gives students opportunity to read, discuss and develop engineering-oriented ideas in the seminar.

The problem with the ferrous metal-sensing magnetometer is that as persons pass in front of it, objects such as keys and cameras set it off, Durlay pointed out. In such use, the device would indicate that virtually all passengers require a personal search.

The A&M senior's idea requires passengers to remove all such items, place them in "airline containers" to be locked and stored in separate plane compartments, before they pass the magnetometer at the entrance gate.

"Since he is supposed to be 'clean,' several people may pass through at once which aids in fast boarding," the student explained. "If a metallic object is detected the person is removed from the gate area and searched."

Durlay admits the process would require passenger cooperation, but believes it would deter skyjacking.

Other methods researched in his report are much more complex and costly.

He said locking the pilots' compartment, personal search of all passengers and handling a skyjacker by shooting, gassing or isolating him all have drawbacks.

"Experts agree that the best place to deter skyjacking is on the ground, before the airplane takes off," Durlay said.

Extreme prevention methods taken by Israel's El Al Airlines were described. The Israelis put up to four muscular, plainclothes security agents armed with low

velocity pistols on each flight. The weapons are powerful enough to kill but are unlikely to puncture an aircraft fuselage.

The airline also uses closed-circuit TV for crew members to observe passengers, equips planes to pump tear gas through the ventilation system (for which the crew is equipped with gas masks) and wash room inspection each time they are used.

Durlay suggested that in addition

to the "container" system, two or more security men could be placed on each flight to prevent a hijacker from using physical tactics on stewardesses or passengers.

"This method may at first seem inconvenient," he said, "but with methods as they are today and hijacking becoming as political as it is, this process is suitable. It gets the job done safely and without much delay."

FAA help needed, A&M senior says

Product liability laws are becoming widely accepted, making a manufacturer of an airplane or a component part liable to the passenger.

A Texas A&M aerospace engineering major believes the Federal Aviation Administration should take steps to make the flying public aware of its rights under the law of strict liability.

"Strict liability means that a plaintiff need only prove that a product had a defect when it left the manufacturer's control and that this defect was the cause of damages suffered," explained Jordan C. Gary, senior aero major of Dallas.

With wider acceptance of the doctrine of strict liability, it seems the public is well protected, Gary added.

Many victims of air crashes do not seek damages however, he said. He believes it is because of lack of knowledge about rights and cost of legal suits.

Gary proposed that in an air accident in which persons other than airlines company are injured or incur damages, the FAA supply certain information to injured parties.

"This should include a list of all other injured persons and their addresses, an explanation of the laws of product liability, a copy of the FAA accident report and suggestions as to who

might be liable for damages," Gary listed in a senior aerospace engineering research report.

The injury list will enable persons to file joint suits, sharing legal fees and requiring only one court action instead of several, Gary pointed out.

"This would save the courts and all parties, including the defendant, money," he said.

"A report explaining product liability laws would inform people of their legal rights," he went on. "It should be written so the average person could understand it and would not contain all legal details."

The FAA accident report and liability suggestions "would only suggest possible action and results, and who might be liable for the accident," Gary indicated. He believes the cost to the FAA to instigate his proposal would be manageable.

Gary, who was a pre-law student and plans to enter the ministry, said liability laws protect the public from dangers which the manufacturer can minimize.

"Because of the threat of large liability claims, manufacturers have often developed safer products and also recalled large numbers of their product when a defect is found after a sale, especially in the automobile industry," the 1967 Richardson High School graduate said.

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