

Engineering Students Gain Experience In Work-Study Program

A&M's College of Engineering offering outstanding engineering students an opportunity to gain both invaluable practical experience in their chosen fields and earn money to finance their education through the Cooperative Education Program.

The program, headed by College of Engineering Assistant Dean J. G. McGuire, allows the student participating in the program to alternate semesters of the-job work experience with classroom studies.

The cooperative program, begun at TAMU in 1963, offers students a year-round study-work program, with short vacation

periods between work and study, that will allow them to complete a Bachelor of Science degree program in the usual four years in most cases.

Dean McGuire said the program is beneficial not only to the student but also to participating industry. The employer has the opportunity to take a long term look at the student for future employment plans, and the student is given the chance to get to know the company to decide on his post-university career.

"We find that permanent offers for employment are made by participating companies about 90 percent of the time, and the students

accept about 70 percent of these offers," McGuire said. "There is, however, no requirement that the company offer to hire the student, and the student is under no obligation to accept a job offer."

There are two phases of the cooperative program at A&M. The Industrial phase places students with companies for training in their major field of interest. The Texas Engineering Experiment Station Scholars program takes outstanding cooperative students and places them in research environments under leading scholars within the TAMU research structure.

The more than 425 students currently enrolled in the cooperative education program are placed with nearly 90 companies, primarily in Texas. This gives A&M

the largest engineering cooperative program in the state.

Students in the program are usually assigned to a participating company in pairs, allowing one student to work while the other attends class. The students change places each semester, allowing a continuation in job productivity for the company.

While the primary goal of the program is met by giving the student a broader education in his chosen field, cooperative graduates are in greater demand by industry. Graduates of the program generally have more favorable starting salary offers, some as high as \$1,000 per month.

While in the program, the student makes an average of \$550 per month after two school periods, providing he measures up to

company expectations, and, according to Dean McGuire, a typical cooperative student will draw a salary of about \$750 per month after the fourth work period.

"The program gives the student excellent budget training," McGuire said. "The student is not paid by the company during his school periods and he must learn to save enough during his work periods to meet school expenses the following semester. We have found that most of the students adjust to the situation quite well."

Although most of the students find themselves away from campus during their work periods, they are considered full-time lab students and must submit a comprehensive research paper to College of Engineering faculty members at the end of each work period. The papers are of a high-level nature, and the students spend about 45 hours compiling information and presenting their

information in a professional manner.

"We find that the cooperative students are generally better motivated in their studies than those not in the program," McGuire said. "While we do have some exceptional engineering students not enrolled in the cooperative program, the students in the program generally make better grades than those who are in the total classroom environment."

Graduating high school students are encouraged to enter TAMU the summer after their graduation. They complete one or two semesters of classroom instruction to satisfy the College of Engineering faculty of their learning abilities. They then begin the alternate work and study periods and continue them until graduation.

Junior college transfers are encouraged and welcome in the co-

operative education program, and McGuire said a junior college transfer student usually completes his degree work within two and one-half years.

Students working in the Bryan-College Station area are allowed to maintain on-campus residences during their work periods. On-campus employers include Data Processing Center and Campus Utilities. The Texas Highway Department, city engineering offices, and Alenco are among the local off-campus employers participating in the program.

State-wide employers include large urban utility companies, chemical and petroleum companies, and state engineering agencies.

Texas high school and junior college students interested in the program are urged to contact TAMU's College of Engineering for further information about the cooperative program. Dean McGuire said he welcomes direct contact with him from interested students.

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A&M's International Programs Gets Aid For Uruguay Work

A&M's International Programs Office has received a \$147,493 subcontract with the U. S. Agency for International Development to provide agricultural consulting services to Uruguay.

The AID contract is a consortium agreement with Penn State the prime contractor and Michigan State and TAMU the subcontractors. Paul E. Creech, assistant director of the International Programs Office, serves as campus coordinator.

Creech said the 15-month contract began Jan. 1. He expects renewal in March of 1974.

TAMU is involved in two phases. The contract includes \$70,354 for agricultural production and marketing services and

\$77,139 for agricultural development planning and administration.

Creech reported the agricultural program is for the Uruguay Ministry of Agriculture.

TAMU staff members, to be named later, will include a two-year assignment for an agricultural economics advisor and a two-year tour for a citrus pathologist.

Short term assignments of two to three months will involve two agricultural economists, one citrus production advisor and one citrus entomologist.

A&M has similar AID agreements in Argentina and Dominican Republic.

Bulletin Board

WEDNESDAY

Sophomore Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 304 of the Physics Building. Sophomore week-in will be discussed.

THURSDAY

A&M Horseman's Association

will meet at 7:30 p.m.

Golden Wings & Anchors Club will meet at the Cushing Library at 2 p.m. A Navy SP-2H Neptune Patrol Plane will be on display at Easterwood Field, provided by C.O. Patrol Squadron 94 from Naval Air Station New Orleans. There will be room for a limited number of students to have a short flight. Bring flight type overalls.

Aggie Players Tryouts Begin Wednesday

Aggie Players tryouts will be conducted Wednesday for the conducted Wednesday for the spring semester production, "Caligula."

Parts for 23 men and five women will be read at 7:30 p.m. in Building J, announced C. K. Esten, Aggie Players director.

Work will begin Thursday at A&M for the play to be presented Feb. 26 through March 3. "Caligula" director Robert Wenck said rehearsals will be from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

POW Bracelets

A few POW-MIA bracelets remain available through the Commandant's Office at A&M.

The bracelets honor one of the 1,500 American fighting men who are either prisoners of war or missing in action in Southeast Asia. Each is inscribed with the name of a POW-MIA and the date he was lost.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

Official notices must arrive in the Office of Student Publications before deadline of 1 p.m. of the day preceding publication.

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree

Name: Hall, William Henry

Degree: Ph.D. in English

Dissertation: ASCERTAINING THE SUB-LIME IN SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS' DISCOURSES.

Time: Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1973 at 2:30 p.m.

Place: Room 428 Academic Building

George W. Kunze

Dean of the Graduate College

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree

Name: Champ, Michael Augustus

Degree: Ph.D. in Biology

Dissertation: ORGANIC AND INORGANIC CARBON CYCLES IN A POND ECOSYSTEM.

Time: Jan. 12, 1973 at 8:30 a.m.

Place: Room 223 in the Library

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