

Summer Freshman Orientation Conferences Begin

Summer conferences are under way for new students who begin studies next fall at A&M.

The two-day conferences continue twice a week through the summer.

TAMU officials assist the new student with all academic placement and orientation during the sessions. When the students complete a conference, they know what courses they will take this fall, where their classes meet and

where they will live, among other things.

Two conferences of up to 200 students each are scheduled each week on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday. Wednesdays are reserved for credit examination.

Conferences are conducted by a committee composed of representatives from all TAMU offices and services that work with entering students.

The first six conferences,

through June, are filled, noted S. Auston Kerley, Counseling and Testing Center director. He said more than half of the Class of 1977 has made conference reservations.

"It is encouraging to have so many new students attend the conference this early," Kerley added.

He said one reason for the early turnout is that the conference is recommended to new and prospec-

tive students by current students. This year's senior class was summer conference participants when they entered TAMU.

Kerley said there is a "marked increase" in the number of new students taking the Wednesday exams for course credit.

Another plus is the number of parents visiting TAMU during the conferences.

"We average 150 parents per conference," Kerley said. "That's

a very fine turnout. Over 2,000 will stay two days and two nights at their own expense this summer."

While attending an informal orientation and sitting in on parts of the student conference, they gain understanding of TAMU programs, procedures and the grading system.

"A college education is a sizeable investment which we want parents to understand as thor-

oughly as possible," Kerley said. "We also feel the parent will receive information that will preclude later problems."

Personal attention is the key factor of the summer conference, started by Texas A&M in the mid-1960s. By conferring with deans and department heads and registering in small groups, new students get individual attention.

Housing, measurement for ROTC uniforms if the student

will be in the Corps of Cadets and other details, such as purchasing or reserving fall semester books, are also included.

When the new student returns Aug. 31, he need only pick up his room key and attend a student life orientation to be ready for the fall semester.

Returning students preregistered for the fall semester in April. Delayed registration will be Aug. 27-31. Fall classes begin Sept. 1 and

Orders Now Accepted For Seedlings

Orders for pine tree seedlings are being accepted now by the Texas Forest Service for the 1973-74 planting season, according to Mason C. Cloud, head, Forest Environment Department, College Station.

Seedling production has been increased about 20 percent this year, Cloud said, to provide for an expected increase in seedling demand. Texans are showing greater awareness of the important part trees play in helping to alleviate pollution problems and improve the environment and this, Cloud claims, is creating an accelerated demand for seedlings.

Although regular pine seedlings should be plentiful, the quantity of genetically improved seedlings will be very limited this next year. Seed collections at the Service's seed orchards and seed production areas were small, Cloud stated, and only Bastrop drought-hardy loblolly and seed production area shortleaf pines seedlings will be available.

A limited quantity of Virginia pine seedlings will be offered at the Indian Mound Nursery for the first time. This species is suitable for Christmas tree plantings, but plantings should be on a very small scale, Cloud suggested. Guidelines for planting and caring for Christmas tree plantations are available at all Texas Forest Service district offices and from county agricultural agents.

Prices of regular pine seedlings have been increased 50 cents per thousand trees due to higher shipping and labor costs this year. Regular slash, loblolly and shortleaf pines will sell for \$6.50 per thousand seedlings plus the 4% state sales tax. Bastrop drought-hardy loblolly and seed production area shortleaf pine seedlings will sell for \$7.50 per thousand plus tax. Virginia pine seedlings will sell for \$8.50 per thousand plus tax. All prices are FOB the Indian Mound Nursery near Alto.

The minimum order accepted is for 500 seedlings of any one species or genetic quality.

Seedlings may not be used for ornamental or landscape plantings. Tree seedlings for these purposes can be obtained from commercial nurseries, Cloud stated.

Applications for seedlings, recommendations for planting and other information may be obtained from County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices, Soil and Water Conservation Service area and district offices, district and county Extension Service offices, and from the Texas Forestry Association at Lufkin. Applications and other information may also be obtained from the Texas Forest Service districts and from the College Station office.

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