

TAMU becomes focal point in palynology research

Learning about the geologic past and early man has traditionally involved study of stones and bones.

Science has added another tool that can pry more powerfully into primitive man, his diet and culture.

TAMU has become a focal point for the unique research through its anthropology program and the work of Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant, a palynologist. Only two institutions in the United States have the same capability.

Palynology is the branch of science concerned with the study of living and fossil pollen and spores. TAMU next fall will become the only state institution with a course in the subject. It is of growing concern to archeology, but also vital in geology,

oceanography and biology.

The offering and Bryant's research is expected to attract archeology graduate students to Texas A&M. The university has been approved for a bachelor degree in anthropology, in which course enrollment has boomed in two years.

Archeological samples are sent to TAMU from all over the world for analysis in the Bryant-directed Anthropology/Palynology Laboratory, part of the College of Liberal Arts Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Bryant works on samples for Texas Highway Department archeologist Frank Weir and from ancient Pueblo Indian sites for the National Park Service. The TAMU lab will soon start analysis of materials from one of the

world's richest archeological finds in France.

"Dr. Bryant is nationally recognized as the leader in his field," commercial Liberal Arts Dean W. David Maxwell. "He is a new breed of anthropologist."

The scientist's analysis of microscopic pollen grains from archeological finds can reveal information of a subtle nature not possible with other methods.

Pollen analysis provides a means of relative dating, a method of determining past environmental conditions and insight into the diet, culture and migration of prehistoric man.

These offer clues of how primitive man adapted to conditions of his environment.

More botany than anthropology, palynology as an archeologi-

cal research technique has flourished in the last two decades. Suddenly, archeologists began to ask palynologists for help.

"They want to know," Bryant explained, "what the biological remains in a soil sample can tell them."

From pollen extracted from samples, the palynologist can learn whether a primitive people was practicing agriculture, among other things. "Through the process, an archeologist can get more information out of a site," Bryant explained.

The TAMU lab located in Bolton Hall has analyzed samples from all over Texas, Florida, Arkansas, Kentucky, Arizona, Peru and Coahuila, Mexico. Bryant's work has helped push back by 2,000 years the date agriculture

was introduced into coastal Peru.

He is also working on samples from the ancient city of Chan Chan of the old Chimor empire in Peru.

The lab is studying samples from noted TAMU geographer Dr. George F. Carter. From a California dig he worked last summer, the samples are expected to help determine whether man has existed on the North American continent longer than is generally accepted.

Carter believes it has been as long as 100,000 years.

Enroute to TAMU for analysis is a set of samples from the famous Terra Amata excavation at Nice, France. Discovered by French archeologist Henry de Lumley in 1966, the site was found by traditional methods to

be a hunting camp occupied several days by Homo erectus some 400,000 years ago. It contained the most ancient footprint of man ever discovered.

"The Terra Amata samples will be the most significant I have yet worked on," commented Bryant, a crewcut, energetic scientist who admits the forthcoming studies excite him.

De Lumley chose the TAMU lab for the critical study. His samples consist of more than 100 human coprolites. They will be delivered by courier. The French scientists expect the analysis to reveal information about Homo erectus' diet and confirm the season of the year the ancient camp on the French Riviera was occupied.

Bryant and his lab technicians

provide such detailed data by separating pollen grains from earth or coprolite samples and then studying the pollen. Extraneous materials are removed chemically. A thin sludge remains that contains mostly pollen grains. This is mounted on microscope slides for analysis.

It is here that the palynologist's expertise becomes important. Plant life of a particular area and time is reconstructed by determining pollen grain types and amounts found of each. The pollen of each plant has its own characteristic appearance. Pollen grains can be classified by genus and species through study under the light microscope and scanning electron microscope.

The state's only ethnobotanist, (See TAMU becomes, page 3)

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The Battalion

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Weather

Today and Thursday will be fair and mild. High today was 78° and the low will be near 50°.

Delayed registration begins today

Over 17,000 students expected for spring semester

With 13,300 students already pre-registered, as many as 17,500 students are expected to be attending classes this spring as delayed registration starts today.

"This was the largest and the smoothest pre-registration we ever had," said Director of Registration Donald D. Carter. "We foresee no problems and everything should work real smooth during delayed and late registration."

Although delayed registration and the start of classes were set back a week because of the energy crisis, it may prove to be a

gift rather than a bother because it gave the school an extra week to prepare.

Also, the Registration Center and the Drop/Add Center are now both located in the same building (the old Exchange Store) instead of being on opposite ends of the campus as in the past.

"With everything located in the same building, registration should go faster and with less confusion," said Carter.

In order to register a student must first secure his registration card packet. All students who were not enrolled at A&M during

the 1973 fall semester will receive their card packet in the foyer of the Richard Coke Building. Any student who was enrolled at A&M last semester will secure his registration packet at his major department.

The student will then meet with a registration advisor at his major department and have all his courses assigned for the spring semester. The advisor will enter the courses on the Courses Request Card in the card packet.

The student should then report to the Registration Center to have fees assessed and turn in registration card packet and have I. D. photos made.

Fees may be paid and schedule of classes secured the following

day after turning in the card packet. Fees will be collected at G. Rollie White Coliseum January 17 through 23, fees will be collected in the Fiscal Office in the Richard Coke Building. Fees may be paid between 8 a. m. to 11 a. m. Saturday in G. Rollie White.

Identification cards may be picked up beginning Monday at the Registration Center.

Classes begin at 8 a. m. Monday and January 25 is the last day for enrolling in the university.

The Drop/Add period will begin January 16 and will end January 25. The Drop/Add Center will be open from 8 a. m. till noon and from 1 p. m. till 5 p. m.

Registration Center will be open daily the same times as the Drop/Add Center.



CHAMBER SUPPORT FOR TAMU — Texas A&M University's liberal arts dean Dr. W. David Maxwell (left) receives a \$300 scholarship check from Don Ladewig, agriculture vice president for the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce. The award is made each year to a different college at TAMU.

Remington artwork to be shown here

Arrangements are under way to present the Sid W. Richardson Collection of Remington-Russell paintings at TAMU.

The famous paintings of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell will show in the glass-walled exhibits hall of the J. Earl Rudder Conference Center.

The show will open Jan. 31, announced Charles Stinson, chairman of the sponsoring TAMU organization.

The Remington-Russell paintings which Richardson spent his life collecting will be on exhibit at TAMU for six months.

Viewing hours will be announced, noted Stinson, pre-med major from Temple and chairman of the visual arts subcommittee of the Memorial Student Center Fine Arts Committee.

The Richardson Collection is world famous. Part of it was recently exhibited in the Soviet Union. It was shown at the LBJ Library opening. The collection

was most recently seen at the opening of a new Tyler museum. A catalogue will be published in connection with the TAMU show.

The Amon G. Carter Museum of Western Art will loan a Frederic Remington bronze titled "Bronco Buster" and three Charles Russell bronzes for the exhibit.

Arrangements for the show, the most prominent ever presented to TAMU students, faculty-staff and area citizens, include a special hanging and lighting system. Insurance for the six-month show will be nearly \$5,000. Special University Police protection is planned.

LaTonya Perrin of Gillette, Wyo., chairs the MSC Arts Committee. Environmental design Prof. Philip Kropf advises it. Special advisors for the show are Bill Fore and Alan Staecil, head, and Graham Horsley of the Environmental Design Department.

Coed killed in car wreck

A 19-year-old Texas A&M University coed was killed at 9:05 a. m. Tuesday on Highway 6, approximately seven miles north of Calvert, according to Department of Public Safety personnel.

Patricia A. Ward, daughter of Joyce F. Ward, 2314 McArthur, Apt. 208 in Irving, was a sophomore zoology major. She was killed in a two-car accident involving her vehicle and an oncoming automobile on rain-slick pavement.

Three people in the other vehicle were taken to Robertson County Memorial Hospital in Hearne, and two were later transferred to Temple hospitals.

Robertson County Justices of the Peace O. H. King said local arrangements are being handled by Hodges Funeral Home in Hearne.

Silver Taps will be scheduled for the student following Jan. 21 resumption of classes at TAMU.

Shuttle bus routes changed for spring

Shuttle bus routes have been altered at Texas A&M University for the spring semester.

Three of the four routes were changed to serve larger areas and more students, announced Dean Charles Powell. Route 1 remains the same.

Powell, chairman of the bus committee, said changes approved Tuesday are the results of a committee survey.

Route 1 will continue to serve the Plantation Oaks, Travis House, Barcelona and Tanglewood apartment areas. Principle streets of the route are University Oaks, Munson, State Hwy. 30, O'Hara and Butler.

Route 2 was changed to provide service to the newer apartment complexes south of TAMU, Powell said, no longer going down Southwest Parkway to Wellborn Rd. Shuttle busses on the loop will go from Jersey onto Rosemary, Hwy. 6, Southwest Parkway, Welch, Holleman and Anderson. They will service Monaco I and II, University Terrace, Parkway, Southwest Village, West Knoll, Holicks and Scandia apartments. The campus turnaround is G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"Route 3 was extended north to the Fairway apartment area," the dean of men reported. From College Main, the university-operated buses will go out on Old College Road, North Avenue, College Ave. to Ehlinger and return. They will enter and depart the campus by Spence and Ireland.

Route 4 previously served only the College View and Hensel areas Powell noted. It will include the Casa del Sol, Boyett and First Street apartment areas. The route follows University Drive, Boyett, Spence, College Main, Cross, Nagle and Inlow before making Hensel and College View stops. Route 4 buses will also use the Ireland Street stop on campus.

"But service goes into effect Monday at 7 a. m.," Powell said. All persons should be prepared to present bus passes to drivers when boarding no later than Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Spring classes begin Monday, allowing two days to acquire bus passes.

Passes are available through the Dean of Men's office. Rates per semester are \$9 for a student, \$11 faculty-staff member and \$12 for student and spouse.

Aggie Players hold tryouts for 'Rain'

Auditions for Rain, the first Aggie Players show of the Spring semester, will be January 22nd in the Forum Theater, University Theater Arts Complex, at 7:30 p. m.

The drama, set on the South Sea Isle of Pago Pago, was adapted from Somerset Maugham's story "Miss Thompson".

Directed by Robert W. Wenck, Rain concerns a fanatical missionary and his obsessive efforts to reform Miss Sadie Thompson, an ex-prostitute.

University National Bank "On the side of Texas A&M." Adv.

Persons interested in working on set, light, costume, house, program, prop, or publicity crews are also urged to attend the casting.

Production dates are February 2 thru March 2nd with performances in the Forum.

Other shows on the agenda for the remainder of the Players' 28th season include: Greensleeves Magic, a children's show; Play It Again, Sam, directed by C. K. Esten; and Glass Menagerie, a student directed show.

For information concerning any of the Theater Arts activities, phone 845-2621 or come by room 308 in Bizzell Hall.

