

Internship replaces dissertation

Engineering doctorate to stress the practical

TAMU will soon offer a new and unique doctoral program oriented toward the actual practice of engineering rather than research. Changes in engineering in the years since World War II and the demands of a technologically oriented economy have brought engineering education to a crossroads," said Engineering Dean Fred J. Benson. The engineering profession is

under attack for its failure to anticipate the effects of its products and processes on the environment and on society," Benson said. "There is a need for engineering graduates trained to consider these matters." To better meet the needs for engineers to perform in the industrial, political and social arenas, the College of Engineering of TAMU will begin accepting students in a new

doctor of engineering program this September. Educators at TAMU think it's time to bring engineering education into focus. They say engineering graduates have been too narrow, interested only in technical problems. A team of TAMU administrators and professors have set out to end this with the new program for students interested in the professional practice of engineering application

and design. The program combines engineering courses with business management and other courses needed by the practicing engineer to solve a multitude of problems in our society. "The emphasis of the program will be on complex engineering problem solving, rather than research. In addition to the academic program with breadth in engineering, business and professional

courses, we've included a one-year engineering internship in industry or government, instead of a dissertation," Dean Benson explained. "The talents of these graduates will be applied broadly in their selected field of engineering," Gen. J. F. Thorlin, a member of the planning team, said. "They will have a depth of knowledge in all critical phases of their field of engineering: the managerial—the legal—the

financial—and the technical. They will be equally at home in the Board Room or out on the job site with craftsmen and technicians. They will be able to communicate with personnel at any level, grasp their problems and recommend in understandable terms the most practical solutions." The program is based on recommendations made by top industry executives who have been in indus-

try for up to 50 years. The goal is to lay the rudiments of 30 years of experience in the mind of each graduate. The idea is to produce more engineers who are available for complex tasks earlier in their lifetime. These same people will be able to advance faster because they are better equipped to meet the challenges. The longer program is one way to give students the added knowledge they need. A committee member, Professor Edwin S. Holdredge explained, "Essentially the degree will require two years of college level pre-professional education plus four years of professional training topped by a year internship in engineering work." "It's unique," he said. "There's nothing exactly like it in the country. It's more relevant to the needs of industry today and tomorrow."

Lime run road rally set tonight

A "lime run" rally will follow the Texas A&M Sports Car Club meeting Wednesday at the old College Station City Hall. TAMSCC President Bill Williams said the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. The lime run, a simplified type rally, will start immediately afterward. Rally entry is 50 cents per team, and visitors are welcome to participate. In a lime run, printed instructions are replaced with spots of lime on the roadway for competing teams to follow. The team, of driver and navigator, that most skillfully follows the correct route wins. The event follows public roads with all traffic regulations in force. Lime runs usually cover about 40 miles, but a lost team may go farther so a full gas tank is a must, Williams said. Other requirements are an odometer, normal safety equipment for night driving, including seat belts and functional lights and good tires.

Vocational education developed

A project headed by Dr. G. Dale Gatcher, Industrial Education professor at TAMU, will develop a framework for structuring cooperative vocational education program, for students at TAMU. Gatcher said the project will involve personnel and students of several Texas community colleges with cooperative programs. In cooperative vocational education, a student attends classes half a day and gets on-the-job skill experience the other half. "The value of the cooperative program is that the student gains general knowledge from classroom work," Gatcher said, "and, in the economically depressed communities, acquires working skills without the expense of equipped technical training programs." Gatcher's research will involve a series of special tests to determine the effectiveness of occupational skills development. Comparisons will be made between structured and unstructured cooperative experience programs. Eight students each at four community colleges will be given 64 tests of the National Occupational Competency Testing Program, currently administered by the Education Testing Service. An industrial education graduate assistant, Delman Thompson, a retired Air Force officer, will assist Gatcher with the project.

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