

Enrollment down due to career alternatives, competition

A&M med school applicants find competition keen, but fare well state-wide

By KARIN KNAPP

Students who want to go to medical school face frustration and keen competition, but there are alternative careers for those who don't get accepted, said Texas A&M University pre-medical advisor Dr. Gilbert Schroeter.

"Many of our students who have not been successful in gaining admittance to medical school pursue graduate work in another area, such as biology, chemistry, zoology or psychology," Schroeter said. "Some may keep applying to medical schools, but others decide they'd rather stay in graduate school."

Schroeter is chairman of the Pre-Medical Pre-Dental Advisory Committee in the College of Sciences. Each medical school has its own formula for selecting students, based on grades, Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) scores and interviews, he said.

In 1977, 85 out of 154 A&M applicants were accepted for admission to medical school. This represents 55 per cent of those who applied.

Schroeter said this is a good record. Data from three years ago shows that the number of A&M applicants who were accepted compared very favorably to the number of accepted applicants from other large Texas institutions, he said. More recent data was not available, and Schroeter said some schools may not want the information publicized.

A&M students who took the MCAT in spring, 1977, scored slightly higher than the national average and the average of other Texans who took the test, Schroeter said. The MCAT, given each year in the spring and fall, involves an entire day of testing in four areas: biology, chemistry, physics and science.

"The MCAT has been changed this year and is much harder and longer," Schroeter said. "The old test predicted the student's success in the didactic (classroom) aspects of medical school. The new MCAT is designed to predict a student's success in the clinical area as well. Where the old test was a recall of factual knowledge, the new test demands analysis as well."

Scores in physics and science problems were right at the national average, Schroeter said, but this will not affect the A&M curriculum. "If we did gear the courses toward those areas, we would be dictating the course content for a select number of students," he said.

The new MCAT was first administered last spring. Fall, 1976, scores on the old MCAT were three points below the national average, although the test was "easier" then, Schroeter said.

"I can't explain the higher scores in the spring, except perhaps it's because there is no general information portion on the new exam," said Schroeter. "That was the area where students generally fell down." The general information portion included questions on literature, English, vocabulary and other information.

This year, 608 students are declared pre-medical majors and 106 are pre-dental, Schroeter said. This does not include students who are majoring in other subjects with the intent to apply to medical school, he said.

There are fewer declared pre-medical students this fall than last, Schroeter said, although he did not have exact figures.

"One explanation for the drop in pre-med enrollment may be that we are counseling students to seriously consider 4-year programs leading toward a degree in their alternative choice for a career," he explained. "Another reason is the competition. It's very keen and more and more people are realizing this."

Schroeter said the attrition rate is also quite high for declared pre-medical students. Some students enroll in pre-medical studies and find after several semesters that they don't have the motivation to continue, Schroeter said. He added that the curriculum is rigorous and many students, knowing the competition that exists for admission to medical schools, become frustrated and change majors.

"A highly motivated student, though, will go on and apply to medical school regardless of the competition," he said.

Some students have the motivation and a very intense desire to become physicians, but have less than competitive grades and MCAT scores. Schroeter said chances of such a student getting into medical school are slim.

"You have to get the attention of an admissions committee," he said. "They just won't ask you for an interview if you can't catch their eye with those scores."

A&M's pre-medical curriculum is a rigorous three-year program involving a course load of 103 hours, with emphasis on sciences, Schroeter said. The curriculum does not lead toward a degree, but students from the program who are accepted into medical school may submit a transcript after completion of the first year of medical school, he explained. Depending on the grades, Schroeter said these students may be eligible for a degree in zoology.

Students who don't get into medical schools may go into the allied health field of nursing, osteopathy (manipulative therapy), medical technology, physical therapy, occupational therapy and dental hygiene, Schroeter said. Entrance into most of these programs requires an admissions test, but grade requirements are not as strict, he said. He added, however, that competition for acceptance into these programs is keen.

(See "Openings," p. 12)

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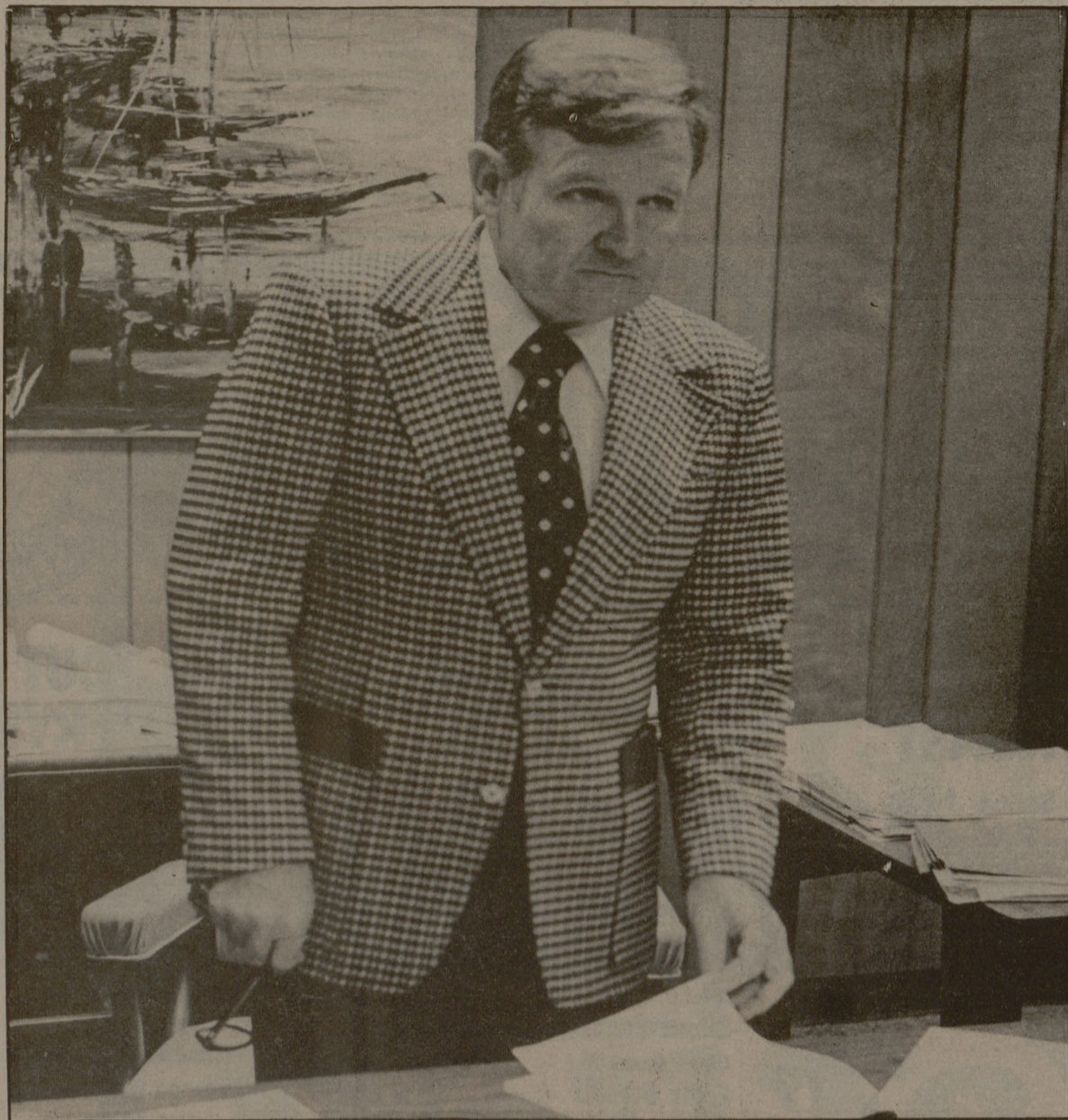
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Dr. William B. Bay, associate dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, counsels pre-veterinary students on how to apply, how

to improve their chances of being accepted and what degree plan to follow.

Battalion photo by Deb Kilgore

Applicants are reminded that only one out of four are accepted to vet school

By DEB KILGORE

Only one out of every four students that apply to Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine is accepted.

While 600 qualified students applied to the college for fall 1977, 350 were interviewed and 138 were accepted. The majority of those accepted were 22 years old and had applied at least twice. They had a 3.51 grade point ratio and four years of college preparation.

Since 75 percent of all qualified students are rejected, Dr. William W. Bay, associate dean of the college, counsels students about their chances of acceptance. He encourages students to enroll in degree programs that will "make them the happiest," since there is no one specific degree plan for aspiring veterinarians.

"Enroll in the degree program that is your first choice, fulfill 66 semester hours, including certain required courses for vets, and then apply to the vet school," Bay says. "At the end of the college program if you aren't accepted, you can pursue another field."

Despite the difficulty of entering vet school, Bay does not discourage students from applying unless they have no chance of acceptance. The decision whether or not to apply is left to the student.

"Each applicant knows exactly how many students can be accepted, how to apply, what their competition is likely to be, how they

Students are urged to enroll in degree programs that will make them happiest.

will be selected and what the statistics are," Bay says.

There is also no job counseling for students rejected by the vet school.

"I don't advise students concerning other job opportunities, and I don't make any job placements. The departments they're in do job counseling," Bay says.

"I try to counsel students as to why they weren't accepted by analyzing what their deficiencies are. There is no single factor causing rejection. However, there are two areas we look at very hard: subjective evaluations and academic qualifications," Bay says.

"We evaluate students to see if they really want to be veterinarians and to know what they've done to demonstrate interest."

To qualify academically, a student must complete 66 semester hours, including the certain required courses, maintain a 2.5 grade point ratio, take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and preferably be a Texas resident, Bay says.

Applications must be made between Dec. 15 and Feb. 1 for the following year. Students can re-apply each year, although only 138 will be selected.

"We accept only 138 students each year since it's all we can accommodate with our facilities, faculty, financial resources and animals," Bay says. However, we have the largest entering and graduating class of any college of veterinary medicine in the nation," he says.

While 21 veterinary colleges exist in the United States, there is only one vet school in Texas, at A&M.

"Most Texas residents who want to enter vet school will have to enter A&M's vet school, since it is the only one in Texas and most out-of-state schools have very limited enrollments," Bay says. "Only a few out-of-state schools have contracts with surrounding states to educate out-of-state students."

Handbook describes odd jobs

By ROBIN LINN

There are several careers your folks may not have suggested for you, such as bowling pin machine mechanic, funeral director, neon sign repairer and piano tuner.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook describes these and 850 other jobs.

The yearly publication gives the title and description of the job. It also gives an employment outlook, how much to expect in wages, working conditions and sources of additional information.

"The difficulties young people experience when making the transition from school to work has been recognized by leaders in government and education as a serious national problem," states the forward of the book.

The book also advises readers not to rule out a potentially rewarding career simply because the outlook is not favorable. It stresses that readers discuss their abilities and aptitudes with their counselor.

The book divides jobs into two groups, service-producing indus-

tries and goods-producing industries.

The handbook states that most of the nation's workers are in industries that produce services: education, health care, trade, repair, maintenance, government, trans-

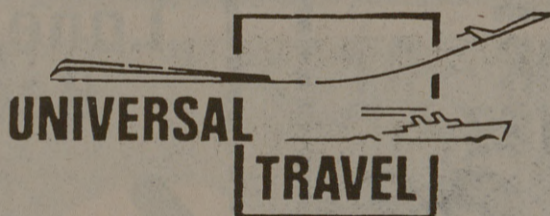
portation and insurance.

Goods-producing industries such as raising food crops and building and manufacturing require one-third of the country's work force, according to handbook information.

See "Gov't," p. 12

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Tuesday, November 1

AC: "Breakfast at Tiffany's," 8 p.m. 701

OR: Rudder

PF: Rock Climbing Seminar, 7:30 p.m. 501 Rudder

VT: Senator Walter Mengden, 12:30 p.m. 206 MSC

OR: Warner Bros. Cartoons, "Rockin' in the USA," all week

Wednesday, November 2

Arts: Rice Percussion Ensemble, 8 p.m. Rudder Theater

CV: "Seven Faces of Dr. Lao," 8 & 10:30 p.m. 701 Rudder

OR: Winter Camping Seminar, 7:30 p.m. 504 Rudder

Thursday, November 3

AC: Clint Eastwood Weekend — "A Fistful of Dollars," "Play Misty for Me," 8 p.m. Rudder Theater

BC: John Vandiver, 8-12 p.m. in the Coffee-house

Friday, November 4

AC: Clint Eastwood Weekend — "A Fistful of Dollars," "Play Misty for Me," 8 p.m. Rudder Theater

BC: John Vandiver, 8-12 p.m. in the Coffee-house

OPAS: Julian Bream, 8 p.m. Rudder Auditorium

Saturday, November 5

AC: Clint Eastwood Weekend — "Magnum Force," "Where Eagles Dare," 8 p.m. Rudder Theater

Arts: "The Sorrow & The Pity," 2 p.m. Rudder Theater

BC: John Vandiver, 8-12 p.m. in the Coffee-house

TC: Wursthfest Trip, Sign-up in 216 MSC

Sunday, November 6

AC: Clint Eastwood Weekend — "Kelly's Heroes," 2 p.m. Rudder Theater

Monday, November 7

Arts: "Women in Love," 8 p.m. Rudder Theater

GI: "Genetic Engineering," Dr. Arthur Caplan, Noon 701 Rudder

Rec: ACU-I Games Tournament all week, Sign-up in 216 MSC

VT: "The Mathis Session," "The Flying Deuces," Warner Bros. Cartoons, all week

Tuesday, November 8

AC: "Macbeth," 8 p.m. Rudder Theater

Wednesday, November 9

AC: "Adam's Rib," 8 p.m. Rudder Theater

BA/GI: "Is Intelligence Genetically and Racially Determined?" — Dr. William Shockley and Dr. Richard Goldsby, 8 p.m. Rudder Auditorium

C&A: Brown Bag Seminar at Rudder Mall

Rec: Greased Pig Chase, 7 p.m. Animal Science Pavilion

Thursday, November 10

CV: "Carrie," 8 & 10:30 p.m. Rudder Theater

Friday, November 11

TH: Flash Cadillac, Meisburg and Walters, 8 p.m. G. Rollie White

Saturday, November 12

AC: "Network," 8 p.m. Rudder Auditorium

TH: "Gumball Rally," 12 p.m. Rudder Theater

AC - Aggie Cinema
BA - Black Awareness
BC - Basement Coffeehouse

C&A - Crafts and Arts
CV - Cepheid Variable
GI - Great Issues

OR - Outdoor Recreation
PF - Political Forum
Rec - Recreation

TC - Travel Committee
TH - Town Hall
VT - Video Tape