Public speech classes present at A&M for 100 years

By BEVERLY MANJEOT

Whether they're "shooting the bull" with their roommates, conversing with professors about low grades, or gossiping with friends at the Dixie Chicken, Texas A&M University students have proved they like to talk.

Since the beginning of the English department almost a hundred years ago, Speech Communication has been taught at Texas A&M. It is a humanistic and scientific field of study, research and application.

"Public speaking isn't just getting in front of an audience and giving an oral speech," said Dr. Josh Crane, associate professor in the English department. "A good public speaker should not only be able to give a variety of public speeches very well, but he should also know what he is doing and why he is successful. He needs to know how to analyze a pubilc speech."

In the current fall catalog there are three courses listed under Speech. The most popular class is Public Speaking 403, said Crane.

"Public Speaking 403 has 30 sections and almost 650 students each term. We could possibly have over 1,000 students in the fall," Crane said.

Crane said his primary responsibilities as "multicourse chairman" are to further develop the speech teaching field by adding more classes to the curriculum, developing a speech degree program, consulting with various departments so the new courses will reflect the needs of students in those areas and making recommendations regarding the hiring of more speech teachers.

"We're planning a degree in teacher education that will help elementary and high school teachers," Crane said.

The the new courses going through the lengthy approval process are: Principles of Speech Communication which involves theory and practice of human communication; Technical Speaking and Speech Writing (404), which involves writing, developing and delivery of technical material through speechs using multi-media equipment; and Group Communication and Discussion (409), which involves interview principles and techniques, roleplaying and problem-solving.

"It takes about a year before a proposed course is accepted because the bureaucracy is unbelievable," Crane said. "So far, however, everything is going remarkably smooth," said Crane.

Last December, Crane attended a speech communication convention, a national convention for all people interested in speech communication, in San Francisco. The convention is divided into three parts, a "slave market" for people looking for work, an organizational business meeting and the reading of outstanding academic papers, said Dr. John Powers, a speech professor.

Crane went to interview people interested in filling two speech teaching positions available in the Texas A&M English Department.

He made his recommendations to Dr. David H. Stewart, head of the English department. From these recommendations, Stewart selected Dr. Dorothy Kirn, instructor and director of the Debate and Forensics Team, and Dr. Powers, who teaches speech with an emphasis on drama.

As "multi-course chairman," Crane said, he is also concerned with rooms and instructors, getting video tape equipment to use in participative speech programs and finding a way to eliminate the wide divergence in grading techniques between professors.

"Public speaking is a very complicated process," Crane said. "A good constant public speaker must think about what he's doing, watch himself, listen to himself and watch his audience. He needs to look into the whites of his audience's eyes."

Gov't jobs increase

Continued from p. 11

In the industry division, government has grown faster than any of the others. From 1960 to 1974, the number of government employees increased from 8.4 million to 14.5 million, a 70 per cent increase. Most of this growth was at the state and local levels.

Goods-producing industries are predicted to have slower increases in jobs than the industry division.

For example, agriculture, which until the late 1800s employed more than half of all workers in the economy, employed about four per cent or 3.5 million workers in 1976. The book stated that although the worldwide demand for food will rise, farm employment will continue to decrease because of increased technology.

According to Daniel Harrison, reference librarian in the documents division, the book is heavily used.

So you want to repair electric signs? Well the outlook is good. "More signs will be needed as new businesses open and old ones extend and modernize," states the book.

But the outlook for bowling pin machine mechanics is not so good. "Bowling machine pin mechanics were employed in every state but jobs are scarce; although openings should be available as a mechanic trainee," the book states.

Openings limited

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Optometry, podiatry, dentistry and pharmacy school applicants do not generally come from the pool of medical school hopefuls, Schroeter said. Each of these schools has an admissions test, such as the Dental Admissions Test (DAT).

Schroeter said he tries to make students aware of all their options when they come to him for advice.

"What I tell a student who has not been accepted into medical school depends on the student," he said. "I try to be candid. I don't try to delude anybody. I try to evaluate the student's credentials."

Schroeter also said he advises students to choose a curriculum based on their alternative choice of career.

Pacific storm brings high winds, seas

United Press International

A deadly Pacific storm, described as one of the worst in 15 years, swept the Washington coast Tuesday with wind gusts of up to 125 mph, kicking up 20-foot waves.

Down the coastline, it was one of those days Southern California likes to brag about: spotless, sun-drenched skies with summery temperatures in the upper 80s and 90s.

Gale warnings remained in effect for coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest today and travelers advisories were posted for the Cascade Mountains, where the storm's rain turned to blowing snow.

Heavy rains in the Cascades prompted flash flood watches for the Snoqualamie, Snahomish and Nooksack rivers, which were approaching bank-full early today.

The storm's high velocity winds blew a canopy from a pickup truck crossing the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and sent it smashing into a car driven by Lisa McKell, 20. She died of head injuries.

The National Weather Service, which described the storm as one of the fiercest in 15 years, clocked a gust at Rattlesake Ridge, Wash., at 125 mph. The winds averaged about 80 mph. Waves broke from 14 to 16 feet above normal.

In Seattle, falling trees and branches knocked down power lines, causing numerous outages to tens of thousands of residents. A gust shattered a large glass plate at the Seattle City Light Building, where extra workers were handling emergency calls, but no one was injured.

In the Seattle suburb of Newcastle Hills, the plastic bubble covering a municipal swimming pool collapsed, but the swimmers scrambled to safety.

The Coast Guard fought high seas most of the day trying to tow a derelict 45-foot fishing trawler to safety. Most vessels, however, sought inport when the storm struck.

In Southern California, warm desert winds funneled through mountain passes and swept the sky clear of clouds and pollutants.

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