

# Co-ed values college education: late is much better than never

By DEBBI PIGG

Elizabeth Taylor, freshman general studies major at Texas A&M University, is learning to start over. After 16 years, Taylor, 34 is teaching herself how to "sit down and study a book again."

Taylor graduated from Lincoln High School in College Station in 1962. The faculty at Lincoln named Taylor as the outstanding senior homemaker student, and Lincoln's chapter of Future Homemakers of America (FHA) granted her a scholarship.

Taylor never used her scholarship to attend Prairie View A&M University after graduation as she had planned.

For two years she helped her father pick cotton at her family's farm in the Brazos River bottom, coming home from the fields with burning sores on her legs.

A few weeks before Taylor graduated from high school, a doctor

diagnosed the sores on her legs as ulcers. He said the ulcers were caused by a chemical in the insecticide used to dust local cotton crops. Taylor had developed a strong allergic reaction to the chemical.

Four Bryan-College Station doctors treated her.

"I almost lost my leg," she said. But eventually the doctors cured her.

The medical bills, however, cost Taylor her immediate college education.

After high school graduation, Taylor earned a living by sewing.

"I started messing around with a sewing machine when I was 15," Taylor said. "It was natural for me to be a seamstress. I advertised on KTAM's Tradeo and people called me."

She also quilted, babysat, cared for bedridden invalids and cleaned private homes.

In 1970 Taylor began cleaning

house for an employee at the Texas A&M University Health Center. The employee told Taylor of an opening at the center for a part-time assistant. Taylor applied and got the job.

A year later she began working as a full-time nurse's assistant. She has worked at the health center for eight years.

Her duties include taking the patients' temperatures, giving them juice, cookies, food and keeping them company.

Being around students encouraged Taylor to enroll at Texas A&M in the summer of 1977 as a part-time student.

"I enrolled at A&M because I live close. I love the students here. I

wanted to get an education and I wanted to better myself," she said. "It was all my idea and my friends encouraged me."

Taylor lives in a trailer house in Wellborn and pays her tuition with earnings from working at the health center.

This semester, she is enrolled in Math 165, the History and Nature of Mathematics. She takes only one or two classes each per semester because of her full-time job.

How long will it take her to graduate?

"At the rate I'm going it will take me 10 years," Taylor said. "I wish I had started five years ago."

Taylor has not decided what she will do when she graduates. Her

problem now is learning to start over again. "I'm having to teach myself how to sit down, pick up a book and study it," she said.

When Taylor first started attending classes, she felt out of place because she was older than most of the students. "But when I started walking around campus, I saw many students older than me," she said.

Taylor likes working at the health center and she likes her classes.

"I get a kick out of the students," she said. "They all have different personalities and I never can guess how they are going to act. I'm never bored. The students are always laughing in the health center, even though they are sick."



Battalion photo by Pat O'Connell

# Dollars, contracts increase for faculty research grants

By TRICIA BRUNHART

The Texas A&M Research Foundation accepted about 300 contracts for grants in its last fiscal year, amounting to about \$15 million, said Dr. J.M. Lewallen, director of the foundation.

In the last decade both the number of contracts and the volume of dollars have increased from 10 percent to 15 percent per year, he said.

More faculty members are doing research, and competition is increasing at Texas A&M, Lewallen said. The size of the contracts are down, but the number of them is increasing.

The research foundation is a non-profit organization helping to stimulate the research program within the University System by identifying,

acquiring, and administering research contracts and grants, Lewallen said.

A potential sponsor for research will make two types of proposals: unsolicited and solicited, he said. Unsolicited proposals set no rigid requirements so the money can be used for any type of research project. The solicited proposals are made toward a particular subject so the money can be used for a specific purpose only.

Normally contracts and grants are given to institutions, not individuals, he added.

Sometimes sponsors want to have sole access to the research they pay for. In these circumstances the research foundation is reluctant to accept the proposal unless conducting the research will be of value through learning to the University, said Lewallen.

The sponsors of research programs include state government and its agencies, the federal government, private persons and organizations, profit and non-profit organizations,

and local and regional governments.

Of the \$55 million a year for research funding for the University, 40 percent comes from the state, 40 percent comes from the federal government, and 20 percent comes from other sources, Lewallen said.

The research foundation does not accept any state contracts, because these go directly to the University, he said. The foundation mainly handles federal contracts and private industry contracts.

Faculty members are the ones who apply for grants, although sometimes they apply for graduate students whose work they support, Lewallen said.

Approximately 55 percent of the proposals made in a year become funded, he added.

For research projects, one might not know right away if it is a success or not, he said. Most of the projects at Texas A&M will lay out certain objectives and see that they are met.

Sponsors will often retain a part of the funds, until the project objectives are met, he added.

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## 'One, two, three...'

Janet Nufer, graduate student in geology, and Fred Wilson, graduate in meteorology, dance an Asian step called the "kumume" during Tuesday's meeting of the Texas A&M International Folkdancers. The group meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center. For more information, call president Rob McGeachin at 846-3495.

## CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Marshall-Harrison County HomeTown Club, 7:30 p.m., 147 Rudder Tower</p> <p>Bridge Club, 7:15 p.m., MSC</p> <p>MSC Hospitality Committee, Fashion seminar, 7:30 p.m., 601 Rudder</p> <p>Pentagon Area HomeTown Club, 8 p.m., 301 Rudder</p> <p>Aggie Players, "A Streetcar Named Desire," 8 p.m., Rudder Forum</p> <p>Aggie Cinema, "Long Days Journey Into Night," 8 p.m. and "Little Women," 10:30 p.m., Rudder Theater</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>CAMAG, Leonel Castillo, director of U.S. Immigration &amp; Naturalization, 7:30 p.m., 206 MSC</p> <p>El Paso HomeTown Club, 7:30 p.m., 203 MSC</p> <p>Snow Ski Club, 7:30 p.m., 701 Rudder</p> <p>Dance Arts Society, modern jazz, 8 p.m., 266 C. Rollie</p> <p>Modern Languages, "Bizarre Cert.," 8 p.m., Rudder Theater</p> <p>Aggie Players, "A Streetcar Named Desire," 8 p.m., Rudder Forum</p>
<p>Friday</p> <p>Baseball, Houston vs. Texas A&amp;M, 7:00 p.m., Travis Park</p> <p>Aggie Players, "A Streetcar Named Desire," 8 p.m., Rudder Forum</p>	

# TAKE THIS AD TO DINNER

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The Peace Corps is alive and well. Call toll free: 800-424-8580. Or write: The Peace Corps, Box A, Washington, D.C. 20525

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