

Teacher, graduate roles to change within two years

By GAIL SMILA

The Texas A&M University math department has begun making changes in graduate student assistance, math testing methods and student placement procedures, which will become effective in one to three years.

Dr. G.R. Blakley, head of the math department, said the role of the teachers and graduate students will change within the next two or three years.

Seven to eight years ago, faculty members taught about one half of the math courses. Today, better than 90 percent of the math courses are taught by faculty members, and in the next one or two years, all math courses will be taught by faculty members only, Blakley said. The graduate students have also

changed their function radically in the last six years.

"They now are really just assisting the faculty members in the teaching of a certain course rather than teaching the course themselves," Blakley said.

Graduate students will no longer teach math courses but will limit their duties to grading papers, teaching labs, and working in help sessions.

Blakley said the major function of the graduate student will be grading papers because the math department feels it could be beneficial for students to know how they are progressing in a course.

"There just hasn't been enough emphasis on day-to-day grading of problems in the last few years," Blakley said.

Blakley also said the math department is trying to coordinate instruction in the multi-section math courses.

"Obviously, at the point where we give a test the coordination has to be perfect. We've always had a common syllabus but until last year we had a much more loose system of coordination than we've adopted now," Blakley said.

"We now have a person who is a director of each course and that person meets with the instructors in different sections and keeps them on track."

Uniform tests and finals are also scheduled changes. Standardized finals will be used in spring, 1979, with standardized exams in the fall semester.

"You more or less have to test everyone at the same time because you couldn't give a test at 8 o'clock in the morning and one at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and expect the grades to be equal," Blakley said. "We really feel the students would be better served if they all took the same test in the same time."

Many lecture courses will be changed to lecture-lab courses, specifically freshmen and sophomore courses that enroll a large number of students.

Math 102, and 130, and Calculus 151, 152, 230, 253, and 308 will be changed to lecture-lab because each enrolls about 1,000 students a semester, while other courses enroll about 500 students.

"The idea is we want to have a student, at some point, be in a room with just 20 or 30 people," Blakley said. He added that course expansion to the lecture-lab format will allow students to receive more individualized help.

A pre-testing stem in math courses will also be started to see whether or not a student belongs in a course or should be placed in another course, Blakley said.

"We think we may improve course

placement as a result of this," he said. "Between lecture-lab courses and the improved course placement based on what a student really knows and where a student really fits in, we expect grades to rise some."

Dr. William Perry, assistant to the department head, said beginning this summer, placement tests taken by freshmen will have an emphasis on mathematics.

Due to an increase in the popularity of engineering, the College of Engineering has requested that new students take more math tests, Perry said. He added that scores will be used for advisory and placement purposes only. Each college will interpret the scores as they see fit.

Calculus 150, 151, and 253 were adopted last semester in response to the needs and requests of the College of Engineering, he said.

Blakley said he does not believe the changes will cost the math department much money. He said the department has more teachers and graduate students now than it did two or three years ago but added that the changes to be made in the future are the result of the increases in faculty and graduate students in the past. He said had the faculty and graduate student increases not been made, the upcoming changes would probably not be possible.

John Hill leading in governor's race

By BILL WILSON

Texas Attorney General John Hill came in smiling. He has good reason to smile. According to recent poll by VFAA television in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, he is the leading contender in the Democratic Primary for Governor with 43 percent.

His nearest competition, Gov.olph Briscoe has 33 to 35 percent. By the same poll Preston Smith has even to nine percent and 16 percent undecided.

Hill spoke Thursday to about 50 people at the College Station amanda Inn.

Hill's number one plank is education. He has the support of TEPAC, the political arm of the Texas State Teachers Association. Hill has come out in favor of spending \$900 million to \$1.3 billion for education in the 1979 and 1981 legislative sessions. At present, teachers in the state receive \$1,750 less than the national average. Hill said there was no specific mention of salaries to the TSTA.

Hill came down hard on Briscoe's lack of leadership. He said people were tired of politicians "overstaying their welcome" and "dynasty building" instead of managing the state. Briscoe was elected in 1972.

On property tax reform, Hill promised "more equitable administration" of property taxes. He also said he would try to consolidate tax offices.

Hill said the state needs spending controls and not "all this bureaucracy, waste and hidden employees." He said Briscoe has not devoted his time to the management of funds.

Hill said he would keep his office open to the public. He accused Briscoe of "working through power

brokers." He cited one of Briscoe's favorite projects, the Texas Highway Department, as an example of the lobbying power of certain groups. He promised that people "won't need a power broker to get to me."

Hill listed his accomplishments as Attorney General including stopping the Southwestern Bell telephone company rate increase for intra-state calls, obtaining 100 indictments against officials of Duval County and claiming approximately \$100 million of the Howard Hughes estate for inheritance taxes.

Hill is pleased with the way the election is going and will continue on his tour of the state as he winds his way towards El Paso. "I'm not cocky," he said, "I'm confident."


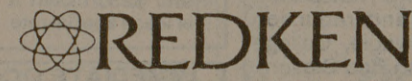
calling all artists!
THE ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR
April 26 & 27
Come by the Craft Shop and register for your booth.
Registration: April 12-25
\$5 for 2 days
SPONSORED BY THE CRAFTS & ARTS COMMITTEE



INSTANT PASSPORT PHOTOS
barker photography
405 University 846-5766



the VARSITY SHOP
announces the association of
GLADYS LISTER
Professional Personalized Hair Care for Men and Women
301 PATRICIA • NORTHGATE 846-7401

SHOP
Regan's
CULPEPPER PLAZA
MONDAY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHTS 'TIL 8:30 P.M.

drive friendly



ZALES
Time In!
Get the score on accuracy with his and her Baylor Quartz watches!
a. Men's Baylor day/date quartz, yellow or white, \$135
b. Ladies' Baylor bracelet quartz, yellow or white, \$160
Charge it!
Open a Zales account or use one of five national credit plans.
HOURS MON.-FRI. 10-8:30 SAT. 10-6
MANOR EAST MALL 822-3731
ZALES
The Diamond Store



Homecraft Electronics
1921 South Texas at Holleman - C.S.
GRAND OPENING
Saturday April 8 thru April 15 . . . 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
FOR THIS EXTRA-SPECIAL OCCASION WE'RE OFFERING FANTASTIC BUYS ON QUALITY NAME BRANDS OF STEREO — T.V. & ELECTRONICS.
SUCH AS • RCA • SONY • PIONEER • AR • MARANTZ • TDK • ELECTRO-VOICE • KOSS • SHARP • ANTENNA SPECIALIST • and many more
JUST A FEW OF OUR TERRIFIC VALUES!
KOSS HEADSET 12.88
MARANTZ RECEIVER 169.00
SONY COLOR T.V. 296.00
RCA COLOR T.V. 289.00
C.B. ANT. TRUCK MT. 6.88
SONY TURNTABLE 68.00
PANASONIC CLOCK-AM-FM. 28.00
BSR-AUTO RECORD PLAYER 38.00
RCA - B&W PORT. T.V. 88.00
* SUPPLY LIMITED *
PLEASE NO PHONE QUOTES ON SPECIALS DURING OUR GRAND OPENING
1921 S. TEXAS AT HOLLEMAN 693-8097 COLLEGE STATION
Homecraft Electronics

COME IN FOR REFRESHMENTS AND REGISTER FOR **FREE PRIZES!**
RCA - 12" T.V.
SONY TURNTABLE
SONY AM-FM RADIO
C.B. ANTENNA
GUSDORF STEREO CABINET
PIONEER CAR SPEAKER KIT
10 SURPRISE GIFTS
DRAWING TO BE HELD SAT. NOON, APRIL 15, 1978 - NO PURCHASE NEEDED. ATTENDANCE NOT NEEDED TO WIN.

CLOTHES HORSE
3801 EAST 29TH TOWN & COUNTRY CT.
GRAND OPENING
NEW OWNERSHIP
REGISTER FOR A \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE
TO BE GIVEN AWAY APRIL 15
ALL NEW
SPRING & SUMMER MERCHANDISE
NOW FEATURING TOP FASHION LINES FOR THAT FRESH LOOK OF SPRING!