

Local

New head involved with students

No big changes in store for MSC

by CATHY SAATHOFF
Battalion Staff
The new director of the Memorial Student Center plans no "sweeping changes," but wants to improve what the MSC is doing now.

The paperwork says Jim Reynolds took over the reins of the MSC from Wayne Stark on April 1. But symbolically, his new job didn't begin until the MSC Council and Directorate banquet, April 12.

He's still in his old office along the edge of the Student Programs Office, and he's still trying to "sense the full range of responsibilities" he has inherited.

"Primarily, what we will try to do is to do those things that the MSC has historically done," Reynolds said, "and to do a better job of doing them."

These things include offering services, facilities and programs for the development of students individually and collectively, using sound business management at the same time.

"The better the job we do in handling routine business practices, the more time we have to spend in working with the students," Reynolds said.

However, the students are also involved in the business end. They handle all the budgeting and public relations for the committees. Reynolds and the staff of advisers are there to keep the whole operation in order.

"The MSC has grown substantially in the last two years," Reynolds said. This growth has included a bigger staff and an improved budget, he said.

"We have made some significant strides forward in terms of developing the budget and financial processes that the MSC operates under," Reynolds said.

In doing this, the staff has improved its ability to "be accountable to the administration and students of Texas A&M," he said.

The MSC budget is in "pretty doggone good shape" now, he said, compared to two years ago, when Reynolds arrived here from Northeastern Oklahoma State University to become associate director of the MSC.

He spent his youth in Roxana, Ill. "I was one of those kids that came out of high school and went down to enlist in the Marine Corps, because that was the cool thing guys from my high school did," Reynolds said.

However, Reynolds tried to sign up during peacetime.

"Being 5-foot, 7-inches tall, I was not one of the kind the Marines wanted," he said.

This left him with three options: play baseball, which he did for a time, in the minor leagues, work in an oil refinery, or go to college.

He wound up studying zoology at Southern Illinois University, ignoring a high school counselor's opinion that he wouldn't make it.

Two years of heavy studying rewarded him with a GPR of about 3.9. "I achieved some success academically," Reynolds said, "but one day it occurred to me that I really didn't know that much about how the world worked."

The student union provided a place where things seem to "fit together," Reynolds said.

"In terms of becoming an educated person, I needed something outside the classroom and the library," he said. "I came very close to majoring in co-curricular activities."

Reynolds said he wanted to stay close to student unions when he graduated, but figured he needed to give zoology a shot after studying it for four years.

He received an assistantship with E. Raymond Hall, the "godfather of taxonomic mammalogy," at the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas.

"As fate would have it, my office at the museum looked out over the student union at the University of Kansas," Reynolds said. "Every day I'd sit there measuring bat skulls and drawing range maps, and I'd also be watching out of the corner of my eye all those people coming and going from the student center."

After six months, the call of the center lured him to the union director's office, where he discovered there was an opening for an adviser. He took the job.

Experience with student unions at four universities landed him the associate director's job here, but the job wasn't the only reason he came. "I want to continue academically," Reynolds said. He is enrolled in the College of Business Administration as a special student, working toward a master's degree.

He has taken business and education courses here, and said they help him to keep "tuned in" to students as well as forcing him to read and write outside of his job requirements.

Otherwise, he said, he would probably just "watch Monday night football," when he's not working.

Reynolds isn't taking any courses this semester because, as he anticipated, it has been a "hairly" semester. However, he will join the ranks of students again over the summer or by next fall. He said one class at a time is all he can handle mentally and physically.

Reynolds' first business class here was Management 363, a class which he said he stood out in even though it was large, but no one knew who he was.

However, he is often put on the spot in his graduate level courses, although he said it is usually in fun.

"Occasionally, I have to take the fifth amendment," he said. "People always perceive that you know a lot more about what's going on on campus than what you really do."

When he isn't being a student or directing the MSC, Reynolds takes time off to hunt, fish, ski and play tennis and softball. He is planning on going on a canoeing trip with the Outdoor Recreation Committee this summer.



Jim Reynolds

Balancing his time between handling administrative matters and being with students is a tough decision for Reynolds. He wants to be "as

involved as possible, but see that the MSC has its act together administratively."

Outdoor Rec to improve equipment

by CATHY SAATHOFF
Battalion Staff
The MSC Outdoor Recreation Committee plans to improve its equipment despite a proposal by the intramurals department to take over its rental, said Chairman Bryan Hall. The equipment, worth \$10,000, was originally purchased with money allocated to ORC from student service fees in addition to revenues it generated.

One improvement under consideration, said Don Rohel, ORC staff adviser, is a roller-skating rink in the Grove and possibly a bicycle rental.

However, Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said he is "not interested in further consideration" of the proposal by the intramural department until it or the ORC proposes a storage facility for the equipment. The present storage area in the Grove is only temporary. ORC members have built shelves, but the recently purchased canoes are presently housed in the snack bar, and must be moved whenever a movie is shown in the Grove.

Jim Reynolds, director of the MSC, said the building is not conveniently located and security isn't adequate.

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