

Local

Profs' program offers paid leave

By DIANA SULTENFUSS
Battalion Reporter

A University program gives some Texas A&M professors a chance to take a paid vacation for research: the Texas A&M Faculty Development Leave Program.

"The program provides an opportunity for a faculty member to develop added knowledge and research skills in his field," Dean of Faculties Clint Phillips said.

Faculty members are allowed one semester of leave with full pay or two semesters of leave with half pay.

Applicants for the program, funded by the Texas A&M Research Development Fund, are asked what they propose to do and learn during the leave. They must file a report about the leave within two months after they return.

Faculty members are eligible if they have been employed at Texas A&M for at least five consecutive years in a position with duties of teaching, research or professional services. They must then return for at least two years following completion of the leave.

E. Muri Bailey, professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology, is on leave this semester with the Animal Feed Safety Branch of the Bureau of Veterinary Medicine in Washington, D.C.

Last semester, finance professor Kerry Cooper went to the University of Manchester, England, and researched the British tax system for comparison with the U.S. tax system.

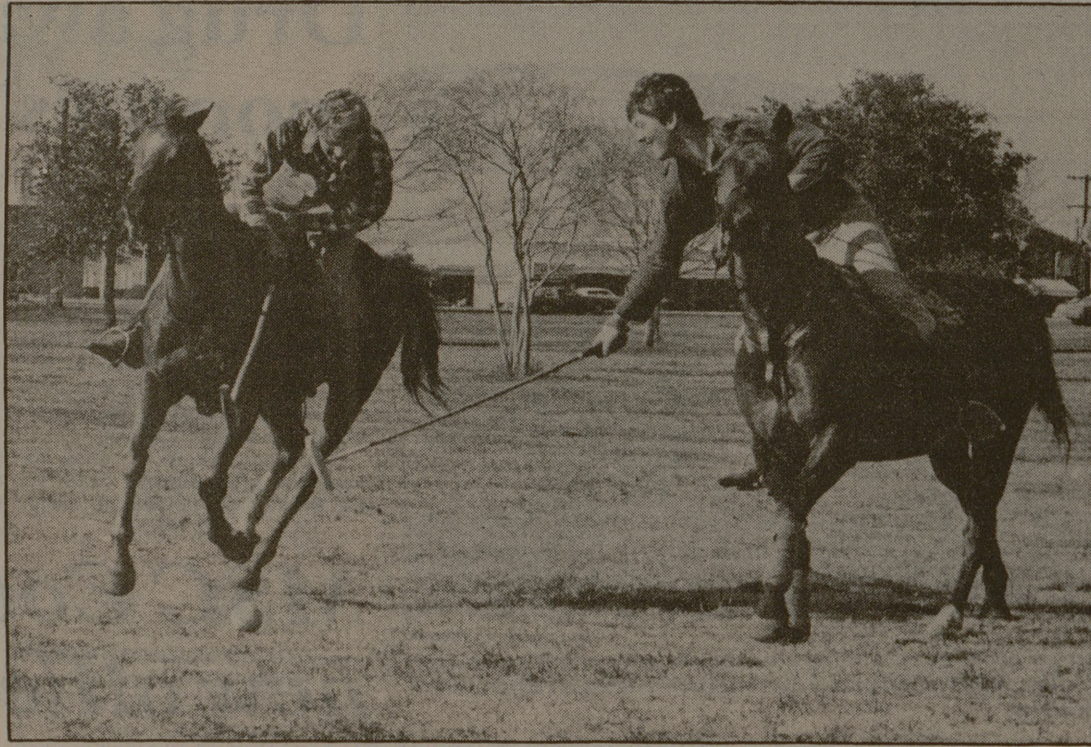
John M. Logan, professor of geophysics, was invited by the Chinese Scientific Academy to give lectures and to advise on research last semester.

W. Graham Horsley, professor of environmental design, spent his leave in New Mexico and southern Colorado observing Spanish-Colonial art and architecture.

The number of recipients is limited by available funding. A list of the top applications is sent by an advisory committee to Dr. J. M. Prescott, vice president of academic affairs, and Acting President Dr. Charles Samson, who make the final decision.

Recipients may accept grants for study, research or travel from charitable, religious or educational foundations or any government agency. However, they may not accept employment.

The program was reactivated recently as a Texas A&M University program funded by the Texas A&M Development Foundation.



R. J. Roberts and John Cole battle for control of the ball during a Polo Club practice session with the Texas A&M Polo Team. Roberts, on the left, is riding one of five horses donated to the Polo Club.

Polo Club gets new horses, begins searching for housing

By SHEILA FRAZIER
Battalion Reporter
The Texas A&M University

Polo Club has gained five thoroughbred gelding horses, valued at \$5,000 each, for the use of members without horses.

Polo coach Mike McCleary said the horses are valuable and versatile. "A horse that has been trained for polo can be trained to do just about anything. I've seen a polo horse sell for over \$30,000," he said.

Four horses were donated by Cliff Wilderspin of Midland in summer 1980, and one by Bill Pryor of Houston in December.

Polo Club President Richard Roberts said three of the horses have been temporarily assigned to club members who are responsible for feeding, grooming, veterinary care and expenses; two horses are yet unassigned.

McCleary said the horses are being kept at the Equestrian Center on FM 2818 during school semesters but the club does not have a permanent place to keep the horses during Christmas and summer breaks.

In the past the club has relied on individuals' donations of pasture use during these times, McCleary said, which gave the horses a healthy break. However, recent land developments have made pastures harder to find.

The polo club practices three times a week across from the golf course on the east side of campus. Roberts said the club needs a polo arena for practice and competition since the nearest one is in Houston.

The donation of the horses was made to the Development Foundation for the use of the Polo Club. The Foundation, which works independently of the University, is trying to transfer the horses' titles to the Animal Science Department.

Development Foundation Assistant Director John Creel said this transfer would ensure that a full-time University department had the horses on their inventory list for accountability purposes.

Free U program begins sign-up drive

By DAVID CALVERT
Battalion Reporter

Playing guitar, dancing country and western and studying foreign languages and customs are three classes the MSC Free University Committee offers.

Free University, an organization supported by the Office of Student Programs, offers non-academic courses to people in the College Station area for a small fee.

This semester, Free University has gone to a non-refundable fee system.

By using non-refundable fees, the committee is able to reduce fees, said Ann Barrier, in charge of Free University publicity.

"Last year, the minimum fee was \$5, but this semester the minimum fee has been reduced to \$2," she said.

In the past, the program was set up on a refundable fee basis. The student paid an initial fee at the beginning of the semester. At the end of the course, the student received a percentage of the money back. If the student attended 75 percent of the classes, he would receive a 75 percent refund.

David Peterson, Free University chairman, said that until now unclaimed money went into the Free University fund.

"This is fine with me," Peterson said, "but we are not supposed to be a money-making organization."

Barrier said another problem with refundable fees is the paper work.

"Any money we take into our fund has to be accounted for on paper work," she said. "Filling out forms in triplicate can get tiring."

Peterson said the committee will offer 30 classes this semester. He estimates 2,000 to 3,000 people signed up for classes last semester, and he said he expects an equal number to sign up this semester.

The courses are taught Sunday through Friday nights, and most start after 5 p.m. Topics range from different skill levels of guitar to types of dance to cooking to Bible study.

Teachers for the classes usually work on a voluntary basis, although Peterson said some instructors do receive a fee. Peterson said half the teachers are people who have taken the classes in the past. The remainder of the instructors are faculty members at Texas A&M and citizens from the community.

Courses which carry a fee greater than \$2 cover the equipment and materials used in the classes. Peterson said the larger fees are also used to pay instructors.

"Some of the instructors are professionals who have studied, they charge a fee for their services," he said.

Peterson said some of the courses are going to be taught at the Harrington Education Center Complex. Other classes will be taught off-campus.

Classes are as follows:

Dance: Country and Western (beginning and advanced), Jitterbug, Social and Recreational, Aerobic Danceercise.

Outdoor Recreation and Sports: Judo, Juggling, Frisbee, Defensive Driving.

Technical Courses: Introduction to Videotape Production, Microcomputer Programming in Basic, Introduction to Microcomputer, Novice Class Amateur Radio, General Class Amateur Radio.

Indoor Recreation: Yoga, Joy of Movement, Age-Cooking School, Beginning and Intermediate Guitar, Pole Aerobics, Slimnastics, Beginning Banjo.

Other Classes: Dating, Engagement and Marriage, Wedding Planning, Mythology, Beginning Chinese and Culture Introduction, Heredry, Book of Revelation, Effective Communication for Women.

Free University registration will be held Feb. 17 in Room 224 of the Memorial Student Center.

Arctic front freezes pipes, shatters old temp records

By CATHERINE J. THOMAS
Battalion Reporter

Even though shorts and footballs came out Sunday, temperature records fell last week when an arctic cold front moved through College Station.

Wednesday morning's 17 degrees broke the old record of 22 degrees for Feb. 11, recorded in 1933 and 1955.

The 32 degree high on Wednesday was the lowest maximum temperature recorded for Feb. 11. The old record was 42 degrees.

State climatologist John Griffith said Tuesday's 55-degree drop, from 72 degrees at 2 p.m. to 17 degrees at 6 a.m. Wednesday, was extremely unusual. "It's only happened half a dozen times in the past 70 years," he said.

He added Wednesday's temperatures were the third lowest recorded to date this winter.

On Feb. 18, 1910, the low was 17 degrees and on Feb. 17, 1936 the low was 16 degrees.

Griffith said last week was the coldest spell this winter.

Charlie Brenton, weather station manager for Texas A&M Department of Meteorology, explained the lower temperatures were because the front was an arctic front, instead of a polar one. Arctic fronts are generally more severe, he said.

But considering the extreme cold, Texas A&M's buildings were left almost undamaged.

Pipes that burst in the Reed McDonald Building and a coil in the Civil Engineering Building were the only serious damage to the campus Wednesday. Physical Plant Director Joe J. Estill said.

Frozen pipes on the fourth floor burst and water made its way down the elevator shaft, which was taken out of service until later that afternoon.

Estill said copper coils in air conditioning and heating systems on campus are susceptible to freezing temperatures, and they cut off automatically if the weather gets too cold.

"This time they didn't cut off and the coil burst," Estill said.

Estill said the only other damage was to water lines to outside drinking fountains.

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THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee		
FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee	SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL Yankee Pot Roast (Texas Salad) Mashed Potato w/ gravy Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee	SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable

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