

Local / State

Prof gets grant renewal for methanol research

A Texas A&M University professor has received a two-year renewal of a \$130,000 grant for his research efforts to make more effective use of coal as an energy source.

Dr. Jack H. Lunsford, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, is attempting to develop the steps which could lead to a cheaper and more efficient method of producing methanol.

Methanol is a form of alcohol that can be converted into conventional fuel or other chemicals. "It is the basic chemical of the future for utilization of coal," Lunsford said.

Methanol is a good, clean fuel for automobiles and has also been used to make formaldehyde, he said.

Presently, the industrial catalyst (a substance which increases the rate of chemical reaction) used for producing methanol is not very active, so high temperatures and large facilities are required, raising production costs. If a more active catalyst were used the production costs could be reduced.

"There is a great need for a more active catalyst," Lunsford said. "One fruit of our research may be the development of such an active catalyst."

The research project, which began in 1976, is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

600 Ags to honor Class of '31 grads

By NANCY FLOECK
Battalion Reporter

About 600 Ags, members of the Sul Ross Club, today will reunite on campus to reminisce and welcome the youngest members of their club — the class of '31.

Membership in Sul Ross is exclusive — only Aggies who graduated 50 years or more ago are in it. This year's reunion will honor the Class of '31.

Between 600 and 700 alumni are expected to attend the three-day reunion, Jim Jeter, associate executive director of the former students' association, said.

The club, founded in 1947, was originally intended for alumni who were students during Lawrence Sullivan Ross's presidency 1891-1898. Club membership was later expanded to include those former students who had graduated at least 50 years before.

This way the club is self-perpetuating — there will always be members, even when the originators die, Olive DeLucia said. DeLucia is in charge of class programs at the Forsyth Alumni Center.

The oldest member of Sul Ross is 101-year-old C.E. Toberman, class of 1900. But Jeter said he does not expect Toberman, one of the primary developers of the Hollywood, Calif., area, to attend the annual gathering.

"I'm sure someone who's 101 would have a hard time coming from Hollywood," he said.

Other prominent Aggies are expected, however, Jeter said.

James M. "Cop" Forsyth, who endowed the Association of For-

mer Students, is expected to attend, as is Ernest Langford, Class of '13, after which the architecture center is named. Also expected is C.E. "Pat" Olsen, Class of '23. The baseball field is named after the alumnus.

The participants may be elderly, but that doesn't hamper the fun, Delucia said.

"It's an absolutely delightful time ... the highlight of the spring," she said. "It's better than the senior bash."

Although all the members are grouped in one club, which has a banquet honoring the new class and a tea for wives, several classes have separate dinners and special events. Widows of Sul Ross members are also honored at a luncheon.

Baby returned to hospital after two day abduction

United Press International
HOUSTON — An eight-day-old baby abducted from her mother's hospital bed was returned to a different hospital late Monday, police said.

The baby, abducted Saturday from Jeff Davis Hospital, was left in the emergency room of a Sharpstown hospital about 8:45 p.m. Monday by a man police said matched the description of a man accompanying the abductor Saturday.

"He just left it in the emergency room and ran out the door," police Sgt. W.M. Casteel said.

Sharpstown hospital personnel called police, who returned the baby to Jeff Davis Hospital. Nurses and pediatricians there identified the infant as the one abducted Saturday, Casteel said.

The mother, Donna Pettaway, 21, was sleeping when an unidentified woman took her child from the crib next to her bed. Four other mothers and a nurse on the maternity ward witnessed the abduction.

"We have a procedure for checking armbands of babies and mothers, but no one checked this one," said hospital administrator

Richard Durbin.

Houston juvenile officers said the unidentified woman was seen by a nurse's assistant and four other mothers when taking the infant from her crib Saturday afternoon. Witnesses said they thought the abductor was authorized to take the child.

The woman reportedly told a hospital nurse she was taking the baby to the car and would return for the mother.

"The woman told the nurse to have a nice day," Casteel said.

More bilingual help sought for 1981-82

United Press International
TYLER — Attorneys for a Mexican-American group have asked a federal judge to include assistance to Spanish-speaking students in grades 6-12 for the 1981-82 school year as part of a previous court order requiring the state to provide bilingual education.

Representatives of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund said an amended order to the April 15 ruling was necessary to allow language training for upper grade students.

The request was made Monday before U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice.

Norma Solis of MALDEF said the current ruling would not affect students in their last two years of high school until 1987.

"We asked the court to require the schools to implement temporary measures for those injured children who are not covered immediately by the court order," she said.

While receiving additional help, Spanish-speaking students would still attend class with English-speaking students and instructors under the temporary plan.

Under Justice's program, Texas schools will have to offer instruction in English as a second language and provide bilingual teachers for instruction in required courses. That program requires bilingual education to be made available from kindergarten through grade 12 during the next six years.

But MALDEF attorney Peter D. Roos argued Monday that 64,622 children in grades 6-12 will complete their education without help unless the judge amends his order.

Roos said he also wanted Justice to issue a mandate requiring a ratio of five students per one teacher aide.

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.71	3A	1785	1610	.28	4A	625	565	.25	3A+	550	495	.38	3A	825	745	.49	3A	1225	1105
1.06	3A+	5500	4950	.33	3A+	710	640	.33	3A+	760	685	.49	3A+	1370	1235	.51	3A+	1425	1285
				.44	3A+	1071	970	.43	3A+	1050	945	.58	3A+	1700	1530	.64	3A	1600	1440
				.61	4A	1950	1755	.44	3A	1050	945	.72	3A+	2350	2115	.75	3A	1725	1555
				.66	3A+	2075	1870	.45	2A+	975	880	.73	4A	2400	2160	1.06	3A	3390	3050
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