

Local

Emphasis on telecommunications

New engineering degree offered

By RUBY A. DANIELS
Battalion Reporter
Texas A&M University is the first university in the nation to respond to industry demand by offering an undergraduate degree in telecommunications technology with an emphasis on telecommunications. An officer of the Texas A&M Telecommunications Society, Budak said. Telecommunications is one of the fastest growing fields in the country, and in the next several years it is expected to increase by 100 percent, society treasurer Mark

Budak said. The program deals with the service of providing electrical communication at a distance, he said, and examines the two basic types of communication: voice, between people, and data, between computers. WATS lines, television, electronic mail, data sets, telephones, telegraphs and better movie channel services are a few examples of modern applications of telecommunications, he said. "The (Texas A&M) program

was established primarily in response to a need from industry," society President David Nichols said. "People in industry have been hiring electrical engineers and then having to re-train them. That can take six months to a year, maybe longer, depending on their background." Lewis Martin, manager of a major telecommunication firm, wrote in a letter to a Texas A&M engineering technology professor, "The people we need for positions within the company are harder

and harder to find due to the lack of education in this area (telecommunications)." Effectively designed communications systems can save companies money, Nichols said. He cited Exxon Corp. as an example. "They spend \$50 million a year on telecommunications. That figure is only 60 percent of what they would pay if they bought all of their service from the local telephone company." In order for students to understand the costs involved, some

senior level project courses are making "mock bids" on phone systems at General Telephone Electric, American Telephone and Telegraph and the Rolm Corp., Budak said. "Essentially, the students learn the features of each company's system, how much it costs and the possibilities for future expansion." Engineering Technology Professor Bill Edwards said, "They (the public) think telecommunication is your telephone and the repairman with his set of tools. People are just beginning to understand what can be done." Texas A&M's specialty degree in telecommunications emphasizes students' understanding in the manufacturing, construction, operation and design of telecommunication systems.

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Society locates jobs in field

By RUBY A. DANIELS
Battalion Reporter
The Telecommunications Society at Texas A&M University works to promote a professional attitude toward telecommunications, the society's president, David Nichols, says.

degree with an emphasis on telecommunications, Budak said. The program examines electrical communication at a distance. Nichols said, "Probably 99 percent of the companies do not know that anyone offers such an undergraduate program."

The society tries to find jobs for its members with any firm that has a high telephone bill, like Exxon, he said. Nichols said the society plans to have guest speakers this semester from companies such as Texas Instruments, General Telephone Electric and the Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey.

Telecommunications Society are people involved in the engineering technology department's telecommunications program, Budak said. "We also have some electrical engineers and people from the computer center." Anyone interested in membership can contact professor Bill Edwards in the engineering technology department. The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8 in Fernier Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Book buffs have chance to profit from collection

By GARY BARKER
Battalion Reporter
Texas A&M University student book collectors this month have a chance to make their hobby financially profitable.

Judges for the 1981 contest are: Dr. Harriette Andreadis, Department of English; Dr. Salvatore Malguarnera, Department of Mechanical Engineering; and Dr. Pete Teel, Department of Entomology. In addition to eight \$100 prizes open to all submitted collections, three prizes are to be awarded for a specific subject. These include a collection submitted by a student of mechanical engineering, an outstanding collection of children's or young adult literature, and a collection of Western Americana.

Contest winners should be announced and prizes awarded Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. in the Conference Suite in Evans Library. The contest is open to all currently enrolled Texas A&M students. Previous winners may enter again if they submit a different collection. The deadline to enter the contest is Oct. 16.

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