

Satellite system could be used for forecasting

Student project set to find 'weather' or not

by Lisa Thompson
Battalion Reporter
About 40 Texas A&M meteorology students will gather and analyze weather data this weekend as part of a project to determine if a new satellite weather data gathering system can be used for weather forecasting.

The students will set up and collect data from 12 stations between College Station, Corwell and Menard, Texas and Durant, Oklahoma. The stations form a network spread out far enough to provide accurate and independent measurements. If the data were taken from only one area, the results could be distorted, Dr. James R. Scoggins, coordinator of the project, said.

"We'll be evaluating the accuracy of the sounding data that is obtained from the satellite," said Scoggins, also head of the Department of Meteorology. The project, which will be funded by the National Aero-

navics and Space Administration, will also show relationships between thunderstorms and the earth's environment. The students will compare temperature and moisture data collected from the satellite system to data collected from weather balloons sent up to evaluate the new satellite system for weather forecasting.

Data collected from a national weather service station in Texas will also be used. The experiment will take place five times during the semester. Few faculty members will be present, making the project almost totally a student effort.

Teams of students will leave for each station site today. Each team will set up a station tonight. Data will be gathered Saturday. After each experiment has been conducted, the students will process the raw data on campus. Some students will participate in analyzing the data toward the end of this summer.

Students will be well-prepared for the series of experiments, Scoggins said. Many of them were trained with the equipment last summer in a field program in Montana. Severe thunderstorms were studied in that project, which involved about 250 scientists around the world, he said.

Financial planning program to offer money matter tips

by Cindy Manicom
Battalion Reporter
Few people become millionaires by promising themselves: "I'll start saving ... next week." Next week becomes next year. Plans to save go ignored. If this sounds familiar, don't worry — help is on the way. Ways to plan, organize and succeed in reaching financial goals will be discussed in a family financial planning symposium "Money Matters," scheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Investment strategies and a common-sense approach to financial planning. Representatives from the First City National Bank of Bryan will discuss managing credit and the advantages of consumer uses of credit. Smart investments, tax advantages and ways to enhance savings and investments will be discussed by Rose Van Arsdell, of A.G. Edwards & Sons, a Bryan financial consulting firm.

The symposium, to be sponsored by the Brazos County Extension Service and the American Association of University Women, will be held at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 305 Wellborn Road. A \$2 registration fee is required, and refreshments will be provided. Programs to be offered include ways to manage credit, in-

vestment strategies and a common-sense approach to financial planning. Representatives from the First City National Bank of Bryan will discuss managing credit and the advantages of consumer uses of credit. Smart investments, tax advantages and ways to enhance savings and investments will be discussed by Rose Van Arsdell, of A.G. Edwards & Sons, a Bryan financial consulting firm. The common-sense approach to financial planning will focus on the basic building blocks for a financial plan. Investments and risks at each level of planning will be discussed by Patricia L. Shaughnessy, of Alex Brown & Sons, a Dallas consulting firm. Additional workshops on retirement planning, banking services and balancing a checkbook will be provided.

Counseling offices planning merger

by Lori Weldon
Battalion Reporter
The Academic Counseling Center will close by September, transferring its services to other offices at Texas A&M University. Dr. Garland E. Bayliss, director of Academic Services, says. Dr. Ron Lewis, assistant director of the Academic Counseling Center, said the Center's student counseling activities will merge with the Personal Counseling Service, sharing office space in the YMCA building. This merger will create a new counseling center that will eliminate some confusion that existed between the two services.

academic testing and academic research, will be transferred to the Division of Institutional Analysis and the Office of Planning and Institutional Analysis. University President Frank E. Vandiver approved the change after recommendation from an ad hoc committee of the vice president for academic affairs. The Academic Counseling Center was meant to handle academic testing and career-oriented counseling, but both counseling services have developed similar programs to meet a wide variety of student needs. Among the duplicated services are career counseling, interest and aptitude testing and test interpretation. Both centers also provide individual and group counseling and reference libraries.

Although the three major functions of the Academic Counseling Center will be handled by other offices, no staff reductions will result from the merger, Bayliss said. The incoming student conference, one primary function of the Center, will be handled by the Office of Admissions. The other two primary functions,

reading, translation and writing a professional essay. In addition to this test, students may be tested on translation and interpretation of cultural or technical areas of their field. Those interested in taking the test should meet with a counselor in the department to learn the specifics of the exam. No date has been set for the exams, but Elmquist said they probably will be given in March. "Mastery of a foreign language is good for career opportunities," Elmquist said. "There are several institutions in Texas offering certificates, and nationally there is a real trend in that direction."

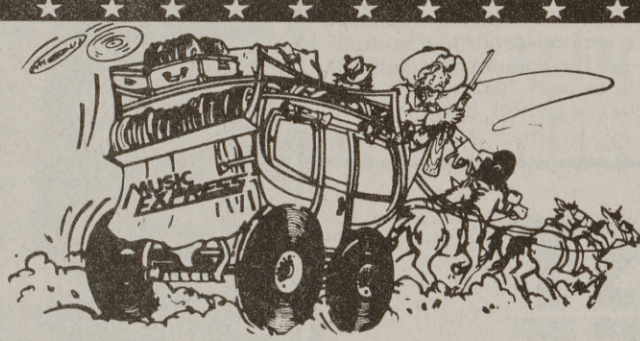
Foreign language certification given

by Sheila Frazier
Battalion Reporter
Texas A&M students with working skills in French, German, Russian or Spanish, will have a chance to qualify for a certificate of competency in those languages.

The Department of Modern Languages has, for the last two years, offered a four-part skills test to students, except native speakers, who wish to broaden their career opportunities. With the certificate, the student has official proof of professional ability in a foreign language.

Dr. Anne Marie Elmquist, head of the modern languages department, said many students at Texas A&M University have developed fluency in a language, but have no official credit for their skill. The certificate is designed for these individuals, she said. The examinations test ability in speech, oral comprehension,

Once a student has met the requirements, he will be given a certificate that will state the language area, specializations and exam score. Those who do not pass the exam may repeat it once. A \$35 exam fee will be charged.



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