

# Fellowships are benefit to grads

by Angel Stokes  
Battalion Reporter

High industry salaries have caused graduate programs at many universities, including Texas A&M University, to offer fellowships and assistantships to attract qualified students.

Sherri Stolleis, graduating in December with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering, is trying to decide between industry and graduate school. Others in her field have been offered starting salaries between \$24,000 and \$30,000 a year but fellowships and assistantships offered by Texas A&M might influence her decision.

"If I apply and get accepted to graduate school before Nov. 1, I can probably get an assistantship," Stolleis said.

She said she is being encouraged to continue her education now because she doesn't have the obligations of a family and job.

"Having a master's degree would increase my starting salary by two or three thousand dollars," she said.

But Stolleis would have to get an assistantship to continue school right now.

The Graduate College awards fellowships to attract outstanding students to continue their education here. A fellowship is a monetary gift or grant from individuals, foundations, industries and state and federal funds.

Dr. George Kunze, dean of the graduate college, said about 50 fellowships have been given out. He said the students chosen for fellowships are top students and fellowships allow them full-time work on their studies.

Fellowships are available as a form of financial aid, Kunze said, because most students need financial aid to continue on to graduate school. University sponsored fellowships range from \$600 to \$650 a month, but those sponsored by industries are usually more, Kunze said.

Most fellowships for one year, but there are some for two or three years.

Fellowships are awarded through academic departments to qualified students. The fellowships usually require no service, but students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic work. There also may be a one-fourth time requirement of teaching activities during one semester or one 12-week summer session over a year. A student also is expected to register for 12 to 16 credit hours per semester and six hours per six-week summer session.

Suzanne St. Clair, a graduate student from Austin, graduated

from the University of Denver last spring with a degree in finance. St. Clair is working on a master's degree in finance at Texas A&M on a Graduate College Merit Fellowship.

"I came to A&M because they offered me the most money," St. Clair said.

She said that she must take a minimum of 12 hours each semester and maintain a 3.2 grade-point ratio to receive her fellowship.

Assistantships are also available to graduate students needing financial aid to continue their educations. An assistantship is different from a fellowship because students are required to work approximately 20 hours a week in their academic departments.

There are three types of assistantships: teaching, non-teaching and research.

At Texas A&M there are about 750 teaching, over 400 non-teaching, and 375 research assistantships this semester, Kunze said. He said the pay ranges from \$450 to \$1,100 a month, depending on experience and field of study. Engineering graduate students usually make more than the average graduate.

Debbie Moy, a graduate student in the English department, is here on an assistantship. Moy, from Ocean Beach, N.J., graduated from the University of Missouri in 1981.

"I came to A&M because the faculty and the facilities in the English department are very good," Moy said.

She said the money offer was better here, because being a teaching assistant waives out-of-state tuition.

"I don't make much money compared to the time I spend grading papers, but not having to pay out-of-state tuition makes up for the pay," she said.

Dr. Leo Berner, associate dean of the graduate college, said the graduate program needs more money to be able to grow the way it should.

"To get the best students we need to be able to offer three times the number of fellowships that we do now," Berner said.

He said there is a recruiting program through which representatives from different departments visit other institutions to try and attract more students to Texas A&M.

Some departments have a shortage of students, especially the engineering department, Dr. Kunze said, but the graduate program is expanding each year. Last year about 5,300 students enrolled and this year about 5,500 students enrolled.

# District

(continued from page 1)

physically impossible.

Neece said all the property in Brazos County has not been reappraised

because the taxing entities involved did not want to spend the amount of money necessary to do the job.

"We didn't have the money to hire people needed to do the job they (the taxing entities) evidently expected," he said. "In the interest of saving tax dollars and by verbal agreement, the taxing entities said they would turn over all the information necessary to perform the appraisals. That's what we based our low budget on."

"If they weren't going to give us the information, our budget would've been twice what it was."

The appraisal district budget for 1982 was \$419,000. Neece said a complete reappraisal in one year would require a budget of at least \$750,000. He said the appraisal district's board of directors and the taxing entities did not want to spend that much money.

Wheeler said based on the average amount spent by other counties, the budget for the Brazos County appraisal district would have been about \$697,000.

The 1983 budget request is for \$618,000. That budget has been disapproved by two of the five taxing entities in Brazos County. If three vote for disapproval, then the appraisal district must prepare another budget. The City of College Station will vote on the disapproval at tonight's city council meeting.

The taxing entities in Brazos County are the City of Bryan, the City of College Station, the Bryan Independent School District, the CSISD and the county. "The CSISD has not been

cooperative," Neece said. "They have refused to give us some information and any help they have given has been in a derogatory manner."

Neece cited the appraisal of new improvements in rural areas as an example of the lack of cooperation.

"When my appraisers went out to measure the property, we found out the school district had already done the appraisals," he said. "I called them to get the information because it would save us about three weeks of work."

"Faye Davis refused to give us the information on new improvements in rural areas of the school district until after we had completed the measurements ourselves. Don Ney refused and Superintendent Bill Anderson refused to give us the information."

"We did the measurements ourselves, and it took us three weeks."

Davis said: "To my knowledge, he never sent appraisers out to measure the new rural improvements. We did the appraisals as a monitoring measure."

Ney said the Peveto Bill's charge is clear.

"The bill says that beginning in 1982, property shall be reappraised at full market value," he said.

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