

# Environmental jobs increasing in Texas

## Private industry fills work gap

by Carol Smith  
Battalion Staff

Private industry offers new opportunities to wildlife and fisheries graduates from Texas A&M University at a time when the number of federal and state jobs for those graduates is declining.

Dr. Wallace Klusmann, head of the wildlife and fisheries department, said jobs in ranch management, environmental agency consulting and teaching have all increased while the traditional government jobs with agencies — such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — have declined.

"The government jobs were our backbone for many years," Klusmann said. "Ten years ago they employed just about everything we produced. But, they're the ones in the crunch right now, and they're not picking up where we left off."

But, the increasing number of jobs offered in private industry has kept the overall number of jobs from declining drastically.

The number of graduates entering the ranch management field has grown because of the increased economic importance of wildlife on ranches, Klusmann said.

The market for wildlife is stable because prices have increased and the profit margin has been good, he said. Turkey and deer are especially valuable to the ranch owner.

A ranch manager looks after the land, takes care of the habitat and handles all of the hunting operations.

Other opportunities have opened up in the aquaculture industry and teaching, Klusmann said. The aquaculture program provides the basic background in present techniques of aquatic animal management. The conservation education program provides approaches for increasing the general public's awareness of the natural resources.

"I think we turn out the best high school biology teacher anywhere because our people are field-oriented and have a touch of reality with the environment that no other curriculum provides," he said. In addition to teaching, jobs also exist in nature centers, museums and zoos.

"Any kind of field that deals with interpreting nature for people offers jobs," he said.

Environmental assessment is important to industries concerned with the environment, such as power companies, water quality agencies and consulting firms dealing in environmental impact statements, Klusmann said, and wildlife and fisheries graduates can be a valuable asset.

"We turn out an individual who can go into any of these areas where the need is to take data from an environmental standpoint and measure the changes — be it water, fish or wildlife," he said.

Undergraduate enrollment in wildlife and fisheries at Texas A&M ranks fifth in the nation with 235 students, and first in the nation in graduate enrollment with 165 students. A recent survey of all wildlife and fisheries graduates indicated that 70 percent of them had found jobs in the natural resource area, Klusmann said.



## A&M grads benefit from travel growth

by Carol Smith  
Battalion Staff

The travel industry in Texas continues to grow despite the recession, and Texas A&M recreation and parks graduates are taking advantage of the jobs the trend is creating.

"It is probably the only segment of the economy that continues to grow, particularly in the South," said Dr. Clare Gunn, a recreation and parks professor at Texas A&M.

Last year, total industry receipts for Texas travel increased from \$10 million to \$12 million.

One segment of the travel industry that is increasingly important is tourism, which includes commercial resort management and recreational travel. The tourism specialization offered by the recreation and parks department emphasizes development, management and expansion of commercial resorts and travel destinations for tourists and vacationers.

The department has offered classes in tourism for 15 years at the undergraduate, graduate

and doctoral level, Gunn said, but only in the last year has the department started to emphasize tourism, especially at the undergraduate level.

"We've always offered tourism but were conservative in promoting it because we weren't sure if we were giving enough hands-on training, especially at the undergraduate level, for specific jobs," he said.

But graduates started to get jobs in tourism fields (restaurant management, airline ticketing or hotel management, for instance), Gunn said. The department found that if a student is given a basic background, he can learn specific skills while working at different jobs.

The emphasis on tourism hasn't changed the basic curriculum, Gunn said. Elective hours are added in business, accounting, political science and marketing to strengthen the management and development aspects of the program, he said.

When a student graduates, he may find a job in the public or private sector. Public jobs are

those relating to municipal, state and national recreation and parks departments. Private sector jobs are attractions that are owned and operated by a private enterprise, like Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington.

"The public sector jobs are not drying up and blowing away because of the poor economy," Gunn said.

Recreation and parks bridges the gap between the public and private sectors because many of the public areas, especially the national parks, are operated on a concessions basis, he said. For instance, Trans World Airlines operates hotels in Yellowstone National Park, and Music Corporation of America operates hotels in Yosemite National Park.

"Public sector opportunities are increasing because travel is continuing in spite of all the economic problems," he said.

## Infant cases linked to VD rise

# 2 Houston newborns die

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Twenty-two cases of congenital syphilis, including two deaths, have been reported among newborn infants in Houston so far this year, health department officials said.

"This is a very serious problem, but one that is totally preventable," said Martin Goldberg, administrator of the venereal disease control program of the city health department.

Goldberg said the 22 cases of inherited syphilis found among infants represented an increase over 19 such cases reported last year and eight in 1980.

The increase in congenital syphilis is linked to a 42 percent rise in infectious syphilis in Houston in 1981 and what appears to be a 30 percent increase in the sexually transmitted disease so far this year, Goldberg said.

Of the 22 infants born with syphilis this year in Houston, eight suffered central nervous system deficits, eight had en-

larged spleens and possible liver damage, nine had body rashes or lesions and seven had bone defects which appeared in x-rays.

The two deaths included one infant who was stillborn and another who died soon after birth from multiple complications of the venereal disease.

The majority of the mothers with affected infants had not received any prenatal care during their pregnancies and only one of the five women who had prenatal care was given a blood test which could have detected syphilis late in her pregnancy.

Health department officials announced Thursday the formation of the Congenital Syphi-

lis Impact Group to conduct a massive public and physician education program to help stop the increase in cases of congenital syphilis.

Goldberg said when syphilis is diagnosed early during a pregnancy, penicillin treatment can prevent most problems for newborns.

## Book-banning protest planned

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Several authors will read excerpts from "forbidden books" next week to protest the appearance of fundamentalist textbook critics Mel and Norma Gabler before the State Board of Education, the Texas Institute of Letters announced today.

"An Evening of Forbidden Books" is scheduled for Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Burdine Auditorium on the campus of the University of Texas. Its sponsors include the Texas Institute of Letters and People for the American Way, which have protested textbook censorship.

Humorist John Henry Faulk, author and Texas Monthly

magazine editor Stephen Harrigan, novelist Laura Furman and Rice University author-professor Max Apple are among the scheduled participants who plan to read from books that have been banned from some public school classrooms.

The readings — which will be excerpted from books including "The Diary of Anne Frank," "Catcher in the Rye" and "Huckleberry Finn" — are scheduled for the night before the Gablers, who have been described as the most influential textbook critics in the nation, appear at a meeting of the Board of Education, which will adopt new state textbooks.

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