

Shell to donate Pet. E. chair

Shell Oil Co., through the Shell Companies Foundation, has announced plans to donate \$750,000 to Texas A&M University to establish the Shell Distinguished Chair in Petroleum Engineering.

The grant, to be provided over a five-year period, will go to a promising young scientist with an established reputation as an outstanding performer and with potential for a continuing brilliant career," said University President Frank E. Vandiver.

The Shell grant establishes the first academic chair ever for the petroleum engineering department, which is now among top producers of graduates

worldwide; 185 have graduated from the department in the past year.

Last April, Hughes Tool Co. of Houston announced it would donate \$250,000 over four years for the department's first endowed professorship.

Dr. Douglas von Gonten, department head, said he was grateful for such chairs and professorships because they lend the University a competitive edge with industry in solving the high faculty-to-student ratios that have resulted from tremendous growth. Petroleum engineering enrollment at Texas A&M is up 12-fold since the 1973 OPEC oil embargo, he said.

Texas A&M now has the world's largest undergraduate petroleum engineering program, with 1,775 enrolled students this fall.

Vandiver said the Shell Distinguished Chair will provide its holder with the means and incentive to "move steadily forward in unlocking nature's secrets in the search for solutions to society's most pressing problem — energy."

The Shell grant caps a number of honors and professional activities which have recently drawn attention to Texas A&M's petroleum engineers.

Texas A&M faculty members Dr. Stephen Holditch and Dr.

H.A. Merklein were awarded two of 11 nationwide distinguished lecturer positions this year by the Society of Petroleum Engineers, more than any other organization.

Texas A&M's student chapter of the SPE was chosen 1982's best worldwide by the society at its annual meeting in New Orleans.

At the same meeting, Dr. John C. Calhoun, deputy chancellor of engineering for the Texas A&M System, was presented the DeGolyer Distinguished Service Medal for his accomplishments and contributions to the field of reservoir engineering.

SPE also has chosen faculty member Dr. John Lee for a \$3,000 SPE Distinguished Achievement Award for Petroleum Engineering Faculty this year and graduate student John Spivey was one of 11 chosen by SPE for a \$5,000 Graduate Fellowship this year.

Texas A&M now has about 20 academic chairs and 11 other professorships, which are among the highest honors a university offers to attract and reward outstanding faculty members.



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University replacing land once used for ag research

by Rebeca Zimmermann

Battalion Staff
New facilities constructed on the west campus of Texas A&M University have used up land which previously supported agricultural research. But now, plans are underway to replace the research land.

The University has been purchasing land as part of an overall plan to replace agricultural field research land, said W.C. Freeman, Texas A&M executive vice chancellor for administration.

A purchase of five acres of land was approved by the state coordinating board for colleges and universities in late October. The University also purchased 56 acres at University Drive and FM 2818 about six months ago and 20 acres between the 56

acres and F and B Road three months ago.

"We requested President Vandiver to assign that land to us," said Dr. O.D. Butler, associate deputy chancellor of agriculture. Vandiver makes all assignments on land, he said.

Butler said if Vandiver approves, the five-acre plot will be assigned to the veterinary research park because the plot is adjacent to the park.

The 20-acre plot of land will be used by Dr. Luther Bird for research on multi-resistant cotton. Butler said the land Bird is using now for his research is adjacent to the railroad and F and B Road.

"The expectation is that the University will continue to utilize land near the railroad," he

said. "We have to replace research plots there."

Butler said 600 acres of agricultural research land has been reassigned in the past 10 to 15 years for construction of intramural fields, the Kleburg center, medical buildings and a power plant addition now being constructed.

More land will probably be needed for the proposed high technology industrial park, Butler said.

"In general we have been able to relocate displaced research," he said, "but it has been at a cost: the actual money outlaid to re-establish research facilities, delay in research results."

The purchase of the five-acre tract leaves two five-acre tracts in the immediate area which are

not owned by the University, Butler said.



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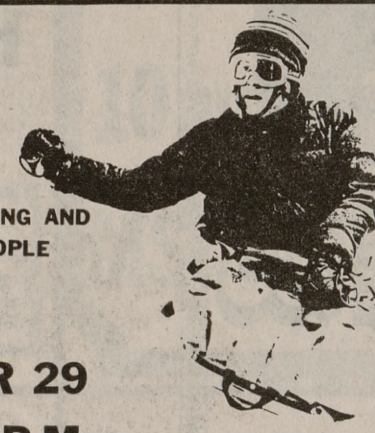


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