

local

A&M trio may get health study funding

by Wanda Winkler
Battalion Reporter
Three Texas A&M professors may receive government funding for a study on family health care patterns in central Texas that will examine the uses of folk medicine — traditional medicine that reflects the customs and values of a society.

The federal government will decide in December whether to fund the program, Clarissa Kimber, professor of geography, said. She and two other professors, Ruth Schaffer, professor of sociology, and Harry Lipscomb, professor of family and community medicine, are interested in studying the Brazos County area because of its diverse population.

Kimber said about 3,500 citizens from the county and surrounding areas will be

chosen randomly for the study to insure a cross section of cultural, economic and ethnic groups.

Sociology and geography graduate students will interview participants and record their family medical history for the past year, she said. The trio will use the medical data to study health care patterns of other communities.

"The study deals with finding out what people actually did in the case of medical treatment," Kimber said.

Interviewers will ask participants how often they use prescription medicine or folk remedies, and how often they use a doctor or hospital for medical assistance.

"We're interested in how people are using all types of medicine," Kimber said. The program also will study

"ethno-medicine" — beliefs a society has about nutrition, sickness and health — to determine the relationship between folk medicine and family health care practices, she said.

Classical folk remedies include peppermint tea to aid digestion, cactus juice to heal sores and aloe vera, a laxative drug used to heal burns, Kimber said.

"We're interested in cultural herbs, teas, and poultices," she said. A poultice is a hot, moist mass of flour or meal which is used on sores.

The professors will evaluate the remedies used by participants to determine the degree of medical diversity in America.

Kimber said there is a good chance the study will receive government funding through the Texas A&M Research Foundation.



If the shoe fits...

staff photo by Irene Mees

Nancy York, left, and Judy Dunn participate in the Keathley Olympics shoe relay. The girls, grouped by floors, ran to their pile of shoes, found their

tennis, put them on, and ran back. York is a Finance sophomore from Dallas, and Dunn is a Business Administrations freshman from Sugarland.

American agriculture envied

by Patrice Koranek
Battalion Staff
Americans are the most envied people in the world, said Charles G. Scruggs, editor and vice president of the Progressive Farmer, at the 27th annual Agricultural Convocation, held Tuesday night in Rudder Theater.

"One of the most basic reasons (we are envied) is because of the successful agriculture and food abundance here," Scruggs said. However, Scruggs said that the Americans have been led to believe that the future of agriculture is doomed and that there is no hope for young people entering the field.

But, while it is true that the prices of farm commodities are not as high as farmers would like, American agriculture is not going out of business, Scruggs said.

Alpha Zeta, an agriculture honor and service society, recognized three students as out-

standing. They were freshman Denise Marie Komora of Houston, sophomore David James Lusk of College Station, and junior Mary Elizabeth Walsh of El Paso.

Brian Terrell of Plainview was chosen as the Texas A&M Alpha Zeta nominee for national scholarship competition.

Dr. Gary Smith, head of the animal science department, was presented the Outstanding Professor Award, given by the Stu-

dent Agricultural Council for service to the college.

The college presented merit awards, based on leadership, character and academics, to thirteen seniors.

- James William Boenig, Converse
- Adela Mireya Sosa, San Antonio
- George Theodore Boozalis, Lake Jackson
- Shirley Elaine Altenhof, New Braunfels

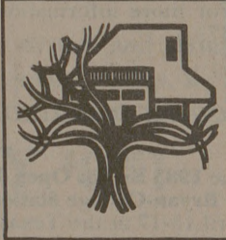
- Alan Dale Whittaker, Thrall
- Deanna Marie Hoelscher, Floresville
- Mary Teresa Borer, Woodland Hills, Calif.
- Lee Ann Johnson, Austwell
- Howard Kirk Esmond, Beaumont

- Charles Arthur Phillip, Boerne
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- James William Harris, Beeville
- Brenda Kathleen Kainer, Victoria

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