

Library offers computer use

by Wanda Winkler
Battalion Staff

The Sterling C. Evans Library is offering its Automated Information Retrieval Service on a free one-time basis to graduate students who are proposing or beginning work on a thesis or dissertation.

AIRS is a computerized system that compiles an extensive bibliography of publications that relate to a particular research topic. The bibliography provides titles, authors, publishers and summaries of publications such as books, magazine articles, professional journals and governmental works.

"It gives you a list of the initial publications you need to look up," Charles L. Gilreath, head of AIRS, said. "You can pick and choose from what's there."

AIRS, part of the library reference department, strives to improve the quality of reference services offered to Texas A&M students and faculty.

"We're looking for new ways to deliver information services to faculty and graduate students," Gilreath said. "We hope this (free computer run) is one step in the right direction."

The retrieval service has been offered for 10 years at Texas A&M, but this is the first semester it is available free of charge to qualifying graduate students. The University library plans to offer the service throughout the 1983-84 school year. AIRS will be reassessed by the department in December to determine whether the free service will be continued after

May 1984, Gilreath said. The bibliography will probably contain more sources than needed for a research project, he said.

Using AIRS in the preliminary stages of research is advantageous because it can tap into computer centers throughout the world. It produces a thorough source list by simultaneously indexing two key words from a particular research topic.

A graduate student who plans to use the service should schedule an hour-long conference with a University reference librarian to discuss the research topic. The librarian will explain the operation and advantages of AIRS and will teach the student how to locate publications from other libraries.

"People are wanting easier and easier access to information," he said. "Within an hour they have a feel for the kind and amount of reference material that's available."

The printout of a bibliography takes about a week to receive because it has to be mailed from the computer center that compiled the information.

The goal of AIRS is to provide useful reference information that will further a student's research. The service caters to graduate students because they will "make use of it more liberally than other groups we might target," Gilreath said.

Graduate students who are interested in the service should call the AIRS office at 845-5741.

Student's design chosen as model for Houston medical building

by Maria Gautschy
Battalion Reporter

The Texas Medical Center of Houston has chosen a design by Jim Vandenberg, an environmental design major at Texas A&M, for its new Central Facilities Building.

Vandenberg's design won first place and \$1,000 in a statewide contest sponsored by the Texas Medical Center Inc. and the American Institute of Architects Committee on Architecture for Health.

Vandenberg's design includes a health club, library, cafeteria and several shops. The building will be the tallest in the Center.

Vandenberg designed the building according to guidelines set by the Medical Center, he said. Because the area allotted for the building was small, he decided to make it a tower. The diamond-shaped tower is 36 stories and is surrounded by a four-story base.

He said that when thinking of the design, he first considered its use of space, shape and look.

"Once I came up with the basic concept all I had to do was

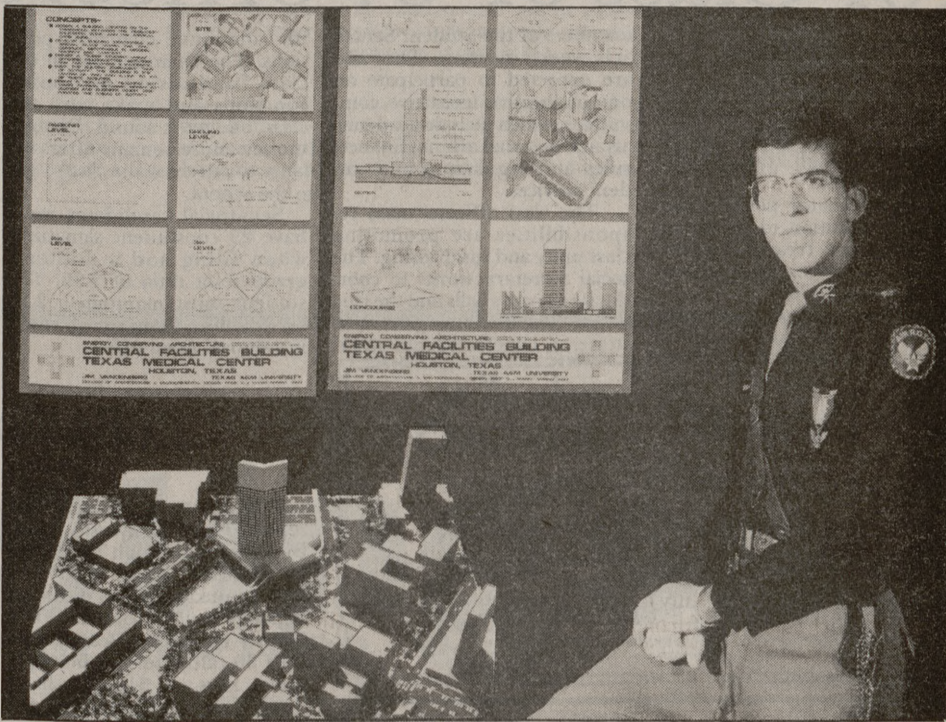
work out the kinks," Vandenberg said.

Dr. Philip G. Hoffman, president of Texas Medical Center Inc., will present Vandenberg with his prize money at a luncheon today. Texas A&M environmental design students Connie Stephens and Glenn Fuhrman will receive honorable mention awards.

Vandenberg said he would like to oversee the building of the project, but the architect who devised the contest, Victor Gelsomino, said the Center probably will commission a firm to detail the drawings and manage the rest of the work.

Vandenberg undertook the two-month project because he wanted to enter in at least one contest before he graduates in the fall, he said.

With the \$1,000 prize money he can afford to continue school here, he said, and receive his master's in architecture. When he completes his master's, Vandenberg said he hopes to design other large projects like the Medical Center.



Jim Vandenberg, a senior in environmental design, sits next to his prize-winning design for the Texas Medical Center of Houston.

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