

Student WICI chapter earns national honor

by Clara N. Hurter
Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M student chapter of Women in Communications Inc. was one of five university chapters to receive an award this month for outstanding achievement.

The WICI national organization presented the Texas A&M student chapter with a plaque for its achievement at its National Professional Conference in Philadelphia on Oct. 13.

Chapter President Kim Schmidt, a senior journalism major, says chapter members are excited and proud of the award.

"It's a pretty big achievement because we've only been around for a year," she said. The Texas A&M chapter of WICI was chartered on March 25, 1982.

All of the chapter's accomplishments should be attributed to the 1982 officers, Schmidt said.

"They sort of established a good reputation and a sound foundation on which future WICI members will be able to

build," she said.

WICI was founded in 1909 at the University of Washington. It was then called Theta Sigma Phi, and was a college honorary organization for women in journalism.

National headquarters for WICI was established in Austin in the 1930s. In 1972, the name Theta Sigma Phi was changed to Women in Communications, Inc., and men were granted membership in the organization.

There now are 170 professional and campus chapters of WICI. The five campus chapters being honored are Boston University, Hampton Institute in Virginia, Miami University of Ohio, Southern Methodist University and Texas A&M.

Chapter members have a good reason to be proud. The Texas A&M chapter was a rookie vying for first place amidst seasoned veterans. Texas Tech, for example, has had a chapter for 50 years and Boston University has had a chapter for more than 60 years.

The awards were given on the basis of programs the chapters sponsored during 1982. The Texas A&M chapter produced eight programs and a Fireman's newsletter.

"The programs we put on to win the award were done with a grand total of 17 members," Schmidt said.

Now that the Texas A&M chapter has received the award and recognition, the chapter is changing the focus of its goals.

"Our focus has shifted," Schmidt said. "Instead of building programs, we're trying to build up membership."

The membership drive has been very successful, she said.

The chapter has added 14 new members, and 12 more applications have been sent to national headquarters in Austin for approval.

The goal shift resulted from a loss of members in May. Many of the officers were seniors and graduated, Schmidt said. Only nine members remained in the chapter last May.

Overseas study programs meet many students' goals

by Rhonda Snider
Battalion Reporter

Imagine spending your next semester studying in an Italian monastery just south of Florence or in the museum district of London, or spending three weeks touring Europe with your classmates.

A number of Texas A&M students have done precisely that through the help of the university Study Abroad Office, which works with colleges and departments coordinating overseas study programs.

Coursework for a study abroad program is tailored to best take advantage of the locale, Mona Rizk-Finne, study abroad coordinator, says.

A group of students from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design spent the spring semester in La Poggerina monastery in Italy.

Ron Edwards, a senior environmental design major who participated in the program, said he gained an understanding of Italian architecture that he could not have learned sitting in a classroom here.

"I picked up some methods of thinking," Edwards said, "through studying there and seeing the buildings that I couldn't have picked up through watching a slide show.

To really understand about foreign architecture, you have to know about their culture."

Edwards said he recommends participating in a study abroad program, but with the right attitude. Students need to be willing to reach out and try to understand the people and the culture, he said.

"If people are going just to get away from here, they need to re-examine their motives or the trip for them will be a waste," he said.

The Study Abroad Office also helped the finance department coordinate a summer session in England.

Pam Pritchett and Judy Law spent five weeks in London attending their Finance 454 class between field trips and excursions in the area.

The students talked with management people in foreign banks and witnessed first-hand the banking system in London, senior accounting major Law said.

Pritchett, a senior finance major, said the program was beneficial and worth the more than the \$2,000 which each student paid to go on the trip.

Pritchett said the living expenses worked out to be about the same as it would have been if they had stayed here.

Nicotine, alcohol among socially accepted drugs

by Holly Powell
Battalion Reporter

Nicotine, caffeine and alcohol have become accepted drugs in our society, a local neurophysiologist told a group of local citizens at the College Station Community Center Friday.

"Because these three drugs are commonly used in our society, they have come to be socially acceptable," Dr. Clifford Sherry said.

He said part of the problem is that people don't realize they are taking a drug.

"I think the number one reason why alcohol is so popular is that it decreases all our inhibitions," he said. "It's an icebreaker."

After a few drinks, a shy person is much more likely to approach a stranger at a party, he said.

A problem with alcohol, Sherry said, is that people don't realize the effects it has on the body. He said alcohol has the most profound effect on the nervous system — it impairs the vision and muscle coordination.

"I can think of a lot of organs that we can do without, but without a liver, we're in bad shape," Sherry said. Sclerosis, or scarring, of the liver is the leading cause of death among alcoholics, he said.

Nicotine is as much of a problem as alcohol, he said. In 1975 there were 4,200 cigarettes sold for every man, woman and child in the United States, he said.

Nicotine increases the respiratory and heart rates, and constricts the blood vessels so that the smoker feels cool, he said.

Studies show that three out of four smokers want to quit smoking cigarettes, but less than one out of four can do so successfully.

"The real tragedy with nicot-

tine products is that less than 15 percent in that circumstance will be able to remain abstinent," he said.

Nicotine is a very potent drug, Sherry said. Two and one-half grams of nicotine are needed for a euphoric feeling compared to 10 grams of morphine by injection needed for the same feeling.

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