

Students to make study presentations

By JANET M. DUREN
Reporter

The culmination of two semesters of research will be presented by 58 seniors in Rudder Tower today at 4 p.m. and again on April 11.

The University Undergraduate Fellows Symposium is in its ninth year of giving seniors who have above 3.3 grade-point averages "real" research experience says Dr. Nick Pace, the program coordinator. The Fellows strive to create original material considered publishable in professional literature.

The Fellows are aided by advisers in their department. Advisers devote time obtaining relevant information, guiding lab visits, teaching research methods, and giving helpful advice. Part of that helpful advice is getting the Fellows to narrow down topics, Pace says.

"Most of them bite off more than they can chew," he says.

Patricia Sullivan, a horticulture major, says her adviser helped her "tons," but she did much of the work herself. The total research earns the Fellows six credit hours, but Sullivan says it feels more like nine.

Dr. Jack Nation, a fellows adviser in the psychology department, says the amount of work involved depends on whether the topic is book research oriented or if it is lab research oriented.

Sullivan spent 10-11 hours counting chrysanthemum roots during some of the lab tests she conducted. The work does not always go smoothly, she says.

"We have a standing joke

about Murphy's law," Sullivan says.

Dr. Lawrence Cress, an adviser in the history department, says the commitment of advisers is substantial. He says it is an extra burden but it is fun too, because he learns from what the student finds.

"I've never done anything of this caliber," says Thomas Solomon, an English major. The project is so different because it is all original material that no one else has ever covered, he says.

Even though the project is different, Thomas Kostecky, an environmental design major, says it is more satisfying than any other research type project.

"You answer your own questions," Kostecky says. He says he can find out things that he is truly interested in discovering.

Satisfaction of curiosity is not the only aim. The ultimate goal is to create work that is worthy of publication, Nation says. If a first attempt accomplishes this, it is a good predictor of the Fellow's future, he says.

The exposure is good for gaining job contacts. Kostecky says that while working on his project, he traded names with businessmen who told him to keep in touch.

Solomon says the research is hard work, but that he has two semesters to concentrate on one big project. There is time to create something really good in preparation for the final symposium, he says.

"Through this I'm doing something never done before that is advancing scholarship," Solomon says.

Patton authority to lecture tonight

By ROBIN BLACK
Staff Writer

Gen. George S. Patton Jr., perhaps one of America's most memorable military leaders, will be the subject of the first address in the Gen. Earl Rudder Military Lecture Series starting at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.

Historian Martin Blumenston, a professor at the National War College, is an authority on Patton, and will give the lecture. He is editor of "The Patton Papers" and is the author of several studies of the military campaigns of World War II.

Blumenston has held teaching and research appointments at the senior military colleges.

The lecture will concentrate on Patton's military career and leadership.

The lecture series, named in honor of World War II army

officer and past Texas A&M president J. Earl Rudder, is the first activity sponsored by the newly-established Military Studies Institute.

The institute sponsors research on past and current military topics and supports teaching and special seminars and lectures.

Created in January, the institute will also serve as a depository for military documents and related items of historical significance while also providing a facility for studying defense policy.

The idea of establishing the institute at Texas A&M came from then-Gov. Bill Clements, who initially discussed the matter with Texas A&M Board of Regents Chairman H. R. Bright.

The lecture is open to the public without charge.

Lecturer to discuss space black holes

The phenomenon of black holes in space will be the subject of a speech to be given in Rudder Forum at 7:30 tonight by Dr. Kip S. Thorne.

Thorne is a professor of Theoretical Physics at California Institute of Technology. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics from California Institute of Technology and a master's and doctoral degree from Princeton.

Thorne will also be giving technical presentations on various topics Wednesday through Friday in 146 Physics.

On Wednesday the topic will be "The Search for Cosmic Gravity Waves;" Thursday, "Black Holes: The Membrane Viewpoints" and Friday he will talk about "Gravitomagnetism, Gravity Probe B and a Foucault Pendulum at the South Pole."

The address on black holes is part of the President's Lecture Series in the physics department.

The President's Lecture Series is co-sponsored by various academic departments throughout the University.

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