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Aggie doctors earn top honors

LINDA SANTINOCETO
The Texas A&M College of Medicine graduates have once again earned top honors on the Federal Licensing Examination, a national test taken by all physicians.

All three of the 1984 graduating classes, the seventh graduating class for the College of Medicine, earned top scores on the FLEX.

Mary Ann Dickson, assistant to the dean of the College of Medicine, attributes the high performance to the personal attention and outstanding clinical training students receive. She said having the medical school on the main campus is another advantage because it allows students to do collaborative research.

The College of Medicine accepts only 48 students each year out of the 1,500 applications submitted. Only 1,200 students are accepted into all Texas medical schools annually.

Applicants are selected on the following criteria: Medical College Admission Test scores, grade point average and a personal interview by four faculty members.

"Superior quality, medical education, and medical research are the primary goals of the College of Medicine," Dickson said.

She said small class sizes also close association with faculty members in all phases of the curriculum.

The medical school's four-year program is divided into two parts. The first two years are spent taking basic medical science courses at Texas A&M. Students complete their clinical training on the main campus at either Scott and White Memorial Hospital or Olin E. Ross Veterans' Center.

"The medical school has a strong commitment in education and in building research programs of national status," Dickson said.

Some research being developed in cooperation with other campus departments includes: microcirculation (hyper-tension and heart disease), geriatrics (the study of the elderly), ocular pharmacology (glaucoma research), molecular and cellular biology (genetic research and cancer).

A medicine science library, to be completed in June 1985, will be shared by the College of Medicine and the College of Veterinary Medicine. A tunnel being constructed under University Drive will connect the library to the Veterinary Medicine Complex.

RHA prospering, president says

By **JEFF WRIGHT**
Reporter

The Residence Hall Association at Texas A&M University is alive and doing well, says president Gina Harlow.

The dorm president and one delegate from each of the 27 dorms at A&M are automatically members of RHA. Other dorm residents are encouraged to become members through payment of an optional dorm fee. The association works on problems within the dorms, works with the administration and plans dorm activities.

The RHA was established in 1973 by Student Affairs Director Ron Blatchley. Since that time, RHA has become a strong organization that serves as the connection between the dorm resident and the University. Through committees, it works directly with the administration on matters such as getting longer visitation hours, microwave ovens and better security.

Along with improving dorm life, RHA sponsors events such as RHA Halloween and Almost Anything Goes. In the latter event, dorm teams compete against each other in games involving such oddities as cracking raw eggs in the participants' mouths and smearing mud all over their bodies in an effort to raise money for United Way. The biggest event is Casino Night, which offers

would-be gamblers a chance to try their luck in a casino atmosphere created by game tables, card dealers, saloon girls and play money.

Community programs are a big part of RHA's program. All through the year, the dorms host barbecues and games such as tug-of-war to raise money for the Village of Hope, an African village helped by the Christian Children's Fund and Texas A&M. RHA also organizes Adopt-A-Fish program with the Campus Aggies. This program is for freshmen unable to get on campus but who want to be a part of a dorm. They can join any dorm by paying the dorm activity fee, which allows them to participate in all dorm functions.

In addition to these programs, RHA provides educational programs for the dorm councils. It covers subjects including alcohol awareness, rape control, safety conditions and party planning. The program has helped in the past and it will be continued in the future, Harlow says.

The RHA participates in three conferences during the year: the Southwest Association of Residence Halls and Universities, the Texas Residence Hall Association and the National Residence Hall Association of Colleges and Universities. RHA plans to put in a bid for the National School of the Year Award given by the national association, Harlow says.

Computer network helps A&M campus

By **BONNIE LANGFORD**
Staff Writer

Convenience has its price. For the student of using computers, the convenience of having a computer terminal in the dorm room means several things. Currently, that student has one choice: a phone modem to link his computer to the AMDAHL or the PRIME or any of the mini-computers for doing his homework in his room. The modem must convert the computer's digital (electronic) information to analog (sound) information for transfer by telephone. The phone links are slow and not extremely reliable. And computer sessions can take hours at a time. This all adds up to a frustrated programmer, a tied-up phone line, a mad roommate and a parent wondering just who junior has been yakking with for hours on end.

For the University, the problem goes beyond just tying up phone lines. It compounds when computers communicate between the main campus and the area across the tracks. The price tag on this interaction is large; phone tariffs increase because a major thoroughfare is crossed. But Texas A&M is working to solve these problems.

Currently, the Data Processing Center is studying a pilot Local Area Network system to help the situation, says Butch Kemper, assistant director of DPC technical services. The LAN system has linked the DPC, the DPC annex and the space research building. The network uses cable similar to that used by cable television, he says, but LAN allows two-way communication. The cable information for television only goes into homes — no reply can be made from the home back to the original source. With LAN, both input and output are possible.

LAN allows quick, inexpensive communication while eliminating redundant cables. Before networking, computers could communicate in two ways only: phone modems and direct lines. Direct lines allow computers to go anywhere and the amount of time for communications is cut — no one has to worry about missing phone calls, as with modem use. But direct lines also mean hooking up to each and every computer you want to communicate with.

"If you want to communicate with computer A, and then with computer B," Kemper says, "then you have to have a line to both. The system of direct lines grows astronomically."

Three computers computers require three lines; four need six; and having five computers talking to each other requires 10 lines.

The best analogy of LAN would be of the system used by banks for the car lanes, Kemper says. The computer cables are like the transmission tubes. They carry the packets (computer information) from the car (terminal) to the main office (computer). All the terminals are connected to the main cable by small branches. The terminals can hook onto the main line and communicate with other terminals without needing a direct line, because the other terminals would also have their branch to the cable.

Though the pilot LAN system has been in operation for about two months, don't expect to hook up right away. Kemper says if the pilot system is approved, it would take at least a year to install cable for the campus. And those would only be the major trunk lines. Installation of all the minor branch lines would take at least a year and a half.

However, once the system is up, the possibilities for uses go beyond computers. Cable television could be pumped to classrooms as well as dorm rooms. Educational programs could be originated at KAMU-TV for use in classes. A University phone system could be established.

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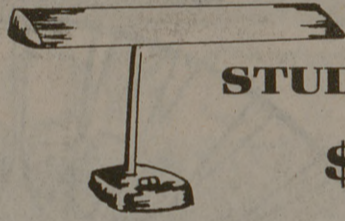
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