

Office provides help for women doing research

By KIRSTEN DIETZ
Reporter

Texas A&M women students and faculty members working on specialized research projects can find help at the Women in Development Projects Office, says Dr. Elizabeth Maret, projects office director.

The associate professor of sociology said about 30 students and faculty members from the English department, the social sciences departments and the Agricultural Experiment Station have used the office which opened last spring.

The office provides help in three main areas: research projects, technical projects and the Master of Agriculture program.

Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in classes requiring research projects on women are eligible to use the projects office.

These classes include Sociology 424, Sociology 689, the 489 Special Topics classes under Maret and classes required for the Master of Agriculture program.

"Texas A&M is unique at this point," Maret said. "It's one of the few centers of higher education in the world to offer a graduate level program of women in development."

Although the use of the office is restricted, she said, "we'll try not to turn anybody away, but our funding is limited at this point, as well as space."

The office will, however, try to help those working on extended projects, such as for a 485 class.

In the past, the office provided limited financial assistance for the student's travel or materials needed in conjunction with the courses. Sometimes outright support is given to students working in the projects office, Maret said.

The office also tries to provide funding and internships for graduate students. Because the program began last spring, students enrolled will not be eligible for internships until next year.

The State Department or the International Center for Research on Women in Washington, D.C., and private industry provide internships. Maret said the office also would work with the College of Liberal Arts' Study Abroad Program to place students in other countries.

"Really the possibilities are only limited by the student's desires," she said.

Technical assistance projects are usually projects on the international

level, such as in the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa.

Women in Development is a priority of the State Department, Maret said. She also is the Women in Development coordinator for A&M. Women In Development comes out of the Percy Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act, a congressional mandate.

The mandate emphasizes increased productivity by the Third World poor, so a university with a strong agricultural program is needed to accomplish the mandate's objectives, she said. Maret said women and children constitute three-fourths of the world's poor.

Maret is also the coordinator for the Master of Agriculture program. Administered through the sociology department in the College of Liberal Arts, the program combines specializations in agriculture with core courses in the social sciences. The program is open to all students.

"I think it's a really innovative and exciting program for students," Maret said. "This offers students an opportunity to take courses in two colleges and a third area of the student's choice."

She said it is unusual for two colleges to work so closely together.

Students in the three areas the Women in Development Projects Office aid can get help from a variety of research materials. Films, slides, resource kits, working academic papers, newspapers and periodicals from organizations with women in development divisions or offices are available. These come from Maret's personal library, the International Center for Research on Women and funded projects.

Data archives are being set up for access by a computer terminal. The office has regional, national and international data, such as statistics, concerning the status and roles of women.

The Women in Development Projects Office receives funding from the State Department's Office of Women in Development, the College of Agriculture through the Strengthening Grant, the Southwest Institute for Research on Women at the University of Arizona at Tucson, the College of Liberal Arts and the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency.

The office is on the third floor of the Academic Building. It is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 to noon.

Black woman becomes Texas secretary of state

United Press International

AUSTIN — Myra Atwell McDaniel was sworn in Tuesday as Texas' secretary of state, becoming the highest ranking black in state government and the first woman to hold the post in 50 years.

McDaniel, 51, took the oath of office from Gov. Mark White as some 400 people watched the swearing-in ceremony in the Senate chamber.

With her appointment by White as the state's chief elections officer, McDaniel becomes the only black to hold a statewide, although unelected, office. Only one other woman — Ann Richards, who was elected state treasurer in 1982 — holds as high a position in Texas

government.

"In my term as secretary of state, my aim in office is to be socially responsible, to be a public servant in the best sense of that term," said McDaniel, a Pennsylvania native. "In my opinion, to be a good public servant is to listen, to be open, to be creative..."

White, who used his term as secretary of state in the early 1970s to catapult him first to the attorney general's office and later to the Governor's Mansion, joked that McDaniel was "the finest individual available for this post in at least 11 or so years."

He said McDaniel would "bring new hope and new feelings of dedication to this state."

Around town

Who's Who applications available now

Applications for **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges** are available at boxes located in the Commandant's Office, MSC, Student Activities Office, Zachry Engineering Center, Sterling C. Evans Library, Kleberg Center, the office of the dean of Veterinary Medicine, and the office of the vice president for Student Services. Completed applications must be returned by 5 p.m. Sept. 28.

Students must meet requirements for grade points and completed credit hours. From the qualified applicants, 55 students will be selected to Who's Who by a committee composed of faculty, staff and students appointed by the vice president of Student Services and the student body president. Any questions should be directed to Chris Carter in 110 YMCA.

Big Event job requests accepted now

Job requests are now being accepted from the Bryan-College Station community for projects for the **Big Event**. Student organizations wishing to volunteer for this 4-hour service project are encouraged to pledge. Deadline for organization pledges is Nov. 1. Job requests will still be accepted after that date. Contact Mark Maniia at 696-5930, or Maritza Pena at 764-0770.

Driver safety course begins Friday

The TAMU After Hours Program will sponsor a **Driver Safety Course** on Saturday. This course may be used to have certain traffic violations dismissed and to receive a 10 percent discount on automobile insurance. Registration is held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in room 216 MSC. For more information, call 845-9352.

Bizarre

Troupe uses black lights to create optical illusions

By ROBIN BLACK
Senior Staff Writer

Bizarre.

The Black Light Theatre of Prague, sponsored by the MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society, was bizarre. The program opened OPAS' 12th season Tuesday night in Rudder Auditorium.

The crowd's reaction was mixed as the Czechoslovakian troupe used black lights — hence its name — to create convincing optical illusions.

Dressed from head to toe in black, the actors performed in front of a black backdrop, manipulating various phosphorescent-coated props that seemed to come to life under the black light.

The group opened its performance with three short introductory acts that gave the audience an idea of what was to come.

The most entertaining of these was titled "Lamps." In the short production, a somewhat inebriated man has an interesting encounter with two street lamps that join him in a dance of sorts.

The main story — "A Week of

Dreams" — started off strange and got stranger. The theme of the story revolved around a taxi driver who dreamed about a particular passenger he had carried that day or some object a passenger happened to leave behind.

The best of these was Tuesday's dream "Magician." A passenger leaves a walking stick in the cab, and the driver dreams it's a magic wand that enables him to perform various tricks.

The performance lagged for a while, however, especially during the spider-and-fly dream sequence.

The sequence was somewhat hard to follow, and at one point there was a great deal of symbolism that weighted down the idea as a whole.

But, it was quite a change from the typical OPAS season, and not a bad one. A noticeable portion of the audience left during the intermission, probably because the show was so off-the-wall.

OPAS should bring more things like this to the University to break up the drudgery that can develop during the typical season.

Muhammed Ali victim of Parkinson's disease

United Press International

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Former world heavyweight champion Muhammed Ali suffers from Parkinson's disease, his doctor said Tuesday.

Dr. Martin D. Ecker said the disease could reasonably have been caused by beatings on his head from his boxing career.

Ali, who had been on tour in West Germany with Dr. Ecker, said, "I always feel very tired, but I don't feel no pain. I don't know what it is. I will

have to take this patiently, which is not very much my habit."

Ecker, in an interview on the Luxembourg radio station RTL, specified that Ali had undergone tests at the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York that revealed Ali had symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Ali reportedly was returning to New York for treatment.

Parkinson's disease, a chronic and progressive disorder of the nervous system, is marked by a tremor and a weakness of the muscles.

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Wed.	LaBare	Women only 'till 10 p.m. Four for One at 7 p.m. Free Champagne for Ladies after 10 p.m.
Thurs.	Comedy Workshop	Professional comedians from around the country 2 great shows 9:30 p.m. & 11 p.m. 4 for 1 drinks - 7 p.m.- 8 p.m.
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In the Student Government Office 214 Pavilion