

First week United Way drive collects 9.1 percent of goal

By CAMILLE BROWN
Staff Writer

The first round of reports of the United Way campaign's progress, which were released this week, showed the response from the community and Texas A&M's campaigns were 'super', Susie Vann, the University drive coordinator, said. "This is super compared to last year at this time," Vann said. "We are way ahead of ourselves compared to last year. I just hope we can keep the momentum going."

The results received Tuesday morning revealed the community total at \$38,548 with A&M donating \$20,278 of the total.

The contribution from A&M makes up about 52 percent of the campaign funds received so far. The

\$20,278, contributed by the A&M System sub-division and the University sub-division, represents 18.4 percent of the University's \$110,000 goal. No results have been reported from the student sub-division of the A&M effort.

University staff and faculty are responsible for most of the A&M contribution. Since the campaign began one week ago, they have given a total of \$16,222 — 29 percent of a \$55,000 goal. The rest of the A&M contribution came from system employees.

Executive Director of the Brazos County United Way Bob Fleischer said, "The University's contribution makes up a major chunk of our goal."

The large contribution received

from the University after only one week of the campaign is remarkable, he said.

Campaign workers were pleased with the \$38,548, which is 9.1 percent of the \$425,000 goal.

Celia Stallings, drive chairman for the county-wide campaign, said, "First of all, I am heartened by this very early report because it reflects only a few business responses. But it also points up the need for our volunteers to step up their efforts."

One unanticipated boost came from a \$3,000 contribution raised at an auction held during the Creek-side Grand Opening.

The money raised by the United Way goes to support service agencies in Brazos County.



Guatemalan Weaving

Photo by FRANK IRWIN

Rafaela Garcia de Apen demonstrates Guatemalan weaving Tuesday as she creates a huipol, a Guatemalan blouse, in the Memorial Student Center Main Lounge.

Immigration law — fact, fiction

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

The facts and fallacies of immigration law sometimes seem indistinguishable from one another. But foreign students who want to maintain their current status or prepare for future careers in the United States should know what is true and what is not.

Samuel Tidwell, a Dallas attorney specializing in immigration law, spoke Tuesday night at a seminar titled "Immigration Law: Understanding the Present; Planning the Future." The seminar was presented by the Texas A&M International Students Association. Tidwell discussed some of the misconceptions people have concerning immigration laws.

"For example," he said, "An approved visa doesn't guarantee entry to the States. It only means you can apply for entry."

Another common myth is that marriage to an American citizen will

guarantee an immigrant permanent residence. Unfortunately, Tidwell said, some people make a career of marrying immigrants for a fee. Usually, the local immigration office is aware of this person's activities and declares the marriage fraudulent. Tidwell said one of every three marriages to immigrants is fraudulent and can be criminally prosecuted.

He said a fraudulent marriage is one of three offenses for which an immigrant can be deported. The others are narcotics convictions and smuggling illegal aliens into the country.

Tidwell said immigrants often do not realize that filing for an approved permanent resident petition only means that person qualifies for one. It is not a guarantee of being allowed to remain in the country.

Adoption by an American citizen is another popular misconception, Tidwell said. Many immigrants adopted by American families don't

realize they must be 16-years-old or younger to claim the adoption as a reason for permanent resident status.

Tidwell said that people often cite the "seven year rule" as a reason why they should not be deported. It is true, he said, that those who have lived in the United States for seven years can file to delay deportation. However, to remain in the country they also must prove that leaving would cause them "extreme hardship."

"The first requirement is easy to prove," he said, "but the second is extremely difficult."

He cited as an example a boy who was brought to the United States at the age of three days. Years later, he was allowed to remain in the country because he had no family in his home country and did not speak the language.

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