

STATE AND LOCAL

Service helps enhance skills of employed

By CHOYCE ELSIK
Reporter

Although most Texas A&M students are unaware of the Texas Engineering Extension Service, its activities are a significant part of the Texas A&M System as well as the education process.

"Our mandate," said the organization's director, James R. Bradley, "is to provide vocational and technical training on an extensive basis to the citizens of the state of Texas."

Bradley said that all of the courses offered by the Texas Engineering Extension Service are basically for the employed worker. They were designed to enhance present skills and training and to help the worker keep up to date with changing technology, he said.

Although the Texas Engineering Extension Service is headquartered in College Station, right in the middle of the Texas A&M campus, more than 90 percent of its activities occur off campus, he said.

Bradley said educational training is provided through 15 different training divisions spread throughout Arlington, Corpus Christi, Floydada and San Antonio, as well as College Station.

Through these divisions, the Extension Service organization is responsible for conducting more than 2,300 classes each year, Bradley said.

The Law Enforcement and Security Division of the service provides training in investigative hypnosis, electronic eavesdropping counter measures and dignitary and counterterrorist training for police officers and other security personnel, he said.

The largest division in the Texas Engineering Extension Service is the Fire Protection Training Division. More than 18,000 students were enrolled last year.

This division, which offers classroom education as well as actual fire fighting exercises and emergency rescue on a 120 acre training field in College Station, teaches the latest technology to firemen from all parts of the state, said Bradley.

Other divisions which make up the Texas Engineering Extension Service include a Telecommunications Training Division, which trains telephone industry personnel; an Oil and Hazardous Material Control Training Division, which trains workers to handle oil spills; and a Public Works Training Division, which trains workers in street construction and maintenance.

Bradley said that since the Texas Engineering Extension Service be-

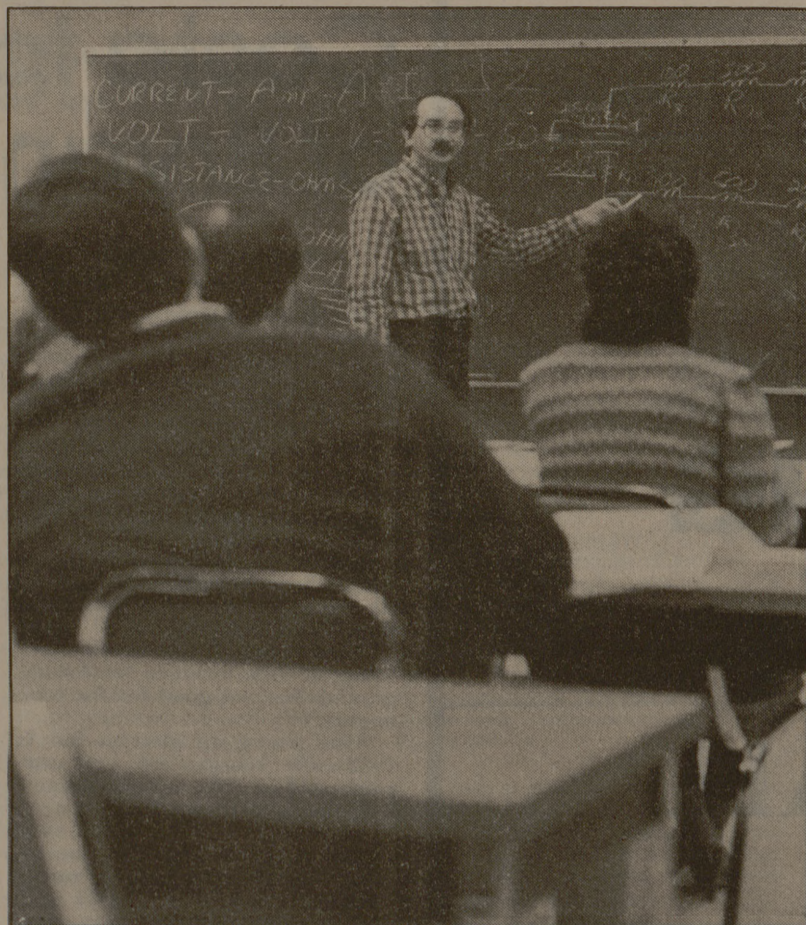


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Charles Taylor teaches a class on electronic surveillance.

gan in 1948, more than 50,000 people have been trained.

"We are a rather unique agency, in that we are a self-supporting agency," Bradley said.

With an annual budget of approx-

imately \$15 million, 85 percent of the organization's revenue comes from fees and contracts charged to program participants, Bradley said.

The remaining 15 percent is from general revenue, he said.

Change in habitat causing drop in bird count

University News Service

Rapid loss of coastal habitat is causing a decline in bird populations in the wetlands, say two Texas A&M wildlife specialists.

"It's a very complex situation," says wildlife sciences professor Dr. Keith Arnold, published by Texas A&M's Sea Grant College Program.

"A number of organisms depend upon the flow of water to disperse the eggs from where they're hatched to where they're going to mature.

"If they don't have that flow, they stay where they are and never survive," he explained.

Dr. Doug Slack, a Texas A&M expert on coastal wildlife said the major cause of the decline of bird populations across the board is habitat loss.

"And in coastal environments, habitat loss is advancing at a rather rapid rate," Slack said.

Biologically, birds are one of the earliest indicators of changes in the environment, according to Arnold. "Along the coast, when you put in

a development, you lose your shorebirds that nest on the open beaches or vegetation areas," he said.

"You will not have colonies of herons and egrets nearby unless developers maintain adequate feeding and resting sites in nearby marshes — which is very rare."

Texas has the largest bird population in the country, Slack said.

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Physicians

A&M growth reflects need

By BRIAN PEARSON
Reporter

A greater demand for physicians over the past few years has enabled the Texas A&M College of Medicine to squeeze a few more applicants into its curriculum.

Since 1983, the A&M medical school has accepted 48 new applicants every year. In 1977, it was accepting only 32.

Dr. William E. Ward, the college's associate dean of student affairs, said the medical school has expanded to "satisfy the perceived need for more physicians."

The increase in class size has been

more cost effective because 48 can be educated as easily as 32, Ward said.

Though the number of medical students fluctuates with the demand for more physicians, the number of students accepted is expected to remain stable for several years, he said.

The total enrollment in the medical school increased from 149 in 1983 to 164 in 1984. The 10 percent increase was the largest in Texas, Ward said.

A flood of new physicians in the future would force the school to decrease its enrollment, Ward said.

More split personality cases on books now

University News Service

TEMPLE — More cases of multiple or "split" personality are being documented than ever before, and such disorders may be tied to child abuse, says a psychologist with Texas A&M's medical school.

Many people are aware of multiple personality disorders through the widely publicized cases of "Eve" and "Sybil," subjects of books and films.

But psychiatrists are just now coming forward to report documented cases of multiple personalities they have seen, said Dr. Joseph Rickard, chief of psychology services at Teague Veterans Center here and one of the few professionals in Texas to observe a case firsthand.

Until now, he explained, most psychiatrists either didn't believe multiple personalities existed or they felt the disorder was caused by the incompetence of the therapist. Many professionals are still wary.

Perhaps the most significant development of pioneer researchers in the field has been a possible link between child abuse and the onset of multiple personality disorders, added Rickard, a Texas A&M professor of psychiatry and behavioral

science.

It is believed that children "split" into personalities as a mental defense against sexual, physical and psychological abuse, Rickard said. Some may have one personality where all stress and anger is filed away, effectively blanking the incident out of the patient's normal memory.

Long-term psychotherapy lasting at least six to eight years is required for the patient to recognize the different personalities, to integrate them into one and "to teach them new methods of living without blanking out," he explained.

Slowly growing acceptance of bona fide multiple personality disorders is so new that no universal agreement of the disorder yet exists, Rickard said.

However, it is recognized and defined in the most recent diagnostic manual for psychiatric disorders.

Multiple personality patients, most frequently young females, appear marked by distinct personalities — usually at least one each to express repressed anger, sexual feelings or the childish side, Rickard said.

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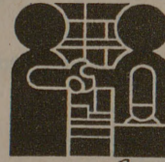
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