

STATE AND LOCAL

Facility could open in March

Lab may entice more recruits

By BRIAN PEARSON
Staff Writer

The new Physiology Research and Condition Lab, which is expected to open in March, could bring more athletes to Texas A&M, a University Athletic Department spokesman says.

Wally Groff, associate athletic director for finance, says the 23,000 square-foot facility will be used for weight training classes, athletic train-

ing and research. The lab will be located near the southwest corner of Kyle Field.

"I'm sure its going to be one of the largest physiology research and training facilities in the country," Groff says. "All of our coaches are excited about it, and it should help recruit more athletes."

Groff says other athletic facilities under construction also should help in recruiting athletes.

He says construction on both the

Additional Physical Education and Intramural Playing Field and the Track and Field Events Center should be completed by December.

The \$3.3 million center, located west of Olsen Field, will have an intercollegiate track, an intramural field complex similar to one on the north side of Olsen Field and a golf driving range.

Groff says the track should bring larger collegiate track and field events to the University, such as

NCAA meets. Currently, most events are held on a rotating basis with other Southwest Conference schools.

When the track is completed, temporary stands will be installed, but permanent stands with about a 6,800 seating capacity will be placed there later, Groff says.

The track will not be open for public use, he says.

"It will be a first-class facility," Groff says.

Salutes

Dr. Donald T. Sawyer, of California, has been named as head of the chemistry department. Sawyer, one of the nation's top researchers in the study of oxygen reactions, was trained as an electrochemist. He started his research career in 1956 by studying the electrochemistry of oxygen dissolved in water. Since then, he has taught chemistry and has published more than 200 research publications and four books. Sawyer will assume department head duties Sept. 1.

Dr. John J. Dinkel, associate dean of the College of Business Administration, has been named associate provost for computing and information systems at A&M.

In his new position, Dinkel will manage existing computing resources and assume responsibility for computing-related institutional planning including administrative, instructional and research computing. He also will coordinate planning and implementation for the acquisition and upgrading of computing resources, including networking, support services, administrative applications, and research and instructional computing facilities and support.

Dinkel's appointment is effective Sept. 1.

Monique Louise DuBrule, of El Paso, a senior ornamental horticulture student at A&M, has won a national competition sponsored by the American Society for Horticultural Sciences.

DuBrule will receive the L.C. Chadwick Outstanding Senior Student Award in ornamental and landscape horticulture at an ASHS awards banquet Aug. 1 in recognition of exceptional scholastic and leadership abilities.

Maintaining a 3.99 grade point ratio, DuBrule is the top horticulture student at A&M and will graduate in the top one percent of her class. She also is a National Merit Scholar, a member of several national honor societies, and is the recipient of the Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in the Department of Horticultural Sciences.

State senator making bid for Mattox's job

Associated Press

AUSTIN — State Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown launched his campaign for attorney general Wednesday, attacking incumbent Jim Mattox for spending nearly \$260,000 in political contributions on his successful commercial bribery trial defense.

Brown, a Lake Jackson Republican who has served in the Texas Senate since 1981, said Mattox's use of political funds for his defense — even if legal — reflects badly on the office.

According to financial reports filed this week with the secretary of state, Mattox, a Democrat, paid almost \$260,000 in fees for his defense in the trial. He was found innocent of charges that he threatened a Houston law firm's bond business when it sought to question his sister in an oil rights case.

Tom Green, Mattox's political treasurer, has said that while state law prohibits personal use of political funds, it doesn't apply in this case because the charges against Mattox resulted from his official actions.

Brown said he won't make an issue of the trial.

"The people of the state saw an exhaustive presentation of that trial in the media, and I think whatever their opinions are, they are already made," he said.

Brown, 44, is the second Republican to enter the race. Last week, Ed Walsh, the Williamson County district attorney, resigned his post to run.

As did Walsh, Brown accused Mattox of failing to devote enough effort to criminal law enforcement.

Brown said that although the attorney general's office primarily is to deal with civil and constitutional issues, he believes an attorney general also can take the lead in criminal justice matters before the Legislature and elsewhere.

He also discounted reports he may not be eligible to run because of a constitutional prohibition on legislators seeking offices for which they approved higher salaries.

Brown said the salary hike included in the appropriations bill was minimal, and he said lawmakers attached a rider to the bill saying the raise doesn't apply if one of them is elected to the post.

Australian Aggie striving to reach goal

By SALLY TAYLOR
Reporter

Australian Graeme Wren has worked on outback cattle stations, mined for gold, climbed mountains in Tasmania, explored the Great Barrier Reef and now hopes to go into space.

Wren, 28, a flight lieutenant in the Royal Australian Air Force, is at A&M on a Rotary Foundation scholarship and is working toward his master's in aerospace engineering.

Wren came to A&M last summer after speaking to engineers and receiving the University's enthusiastic response to his letter of inquiry.

But the diploma isn't the only reason he came to the University.

"A bit of paper doesn't mean a thing," Wren says. "Study and all that type of thing is fine, but the real meaning of coming over here is to get to know and see things. That is the education — the other is just icing on the cake."

"I'll never stop looking for the opportunity to learn — whether it be technical or otherwise. There is so much to get involved in."

Wren has been getting involved in things all his life.

"I worked every chance I had," he says. "That provided some marvelous opportunities. I worked on a two and one-half million acre outback station mustering and branding cattle, and I worked in an iron ore

"I'll never stop looking for the opportunity to learn — whether it be technical or otherwise. There is so much to get involved in." — Graeme Wren

mine and I drilled for gold. I built ships and I worked in blacksmith shops.

"There is truth in the saying that hard work is a cure for a lot of things. It helps give you personal confidence, personal pride, a sense of achievement and stamina," Wren says.

He added that despite being busy, he still managed to have fun. While working on a cattle station called Cosmo Newbry, he said he raised a joey (a young kangaroo).

"I was a stockman at Cosmo Newbry, and we lived on kangaroo because that was all there was," he says. "The local aboriginal tribe killed a mother kangaroo to eat, so they had a little joey. I made a little pouch and had it swinging around my neck with his little head sticking out."

Wren says he hasn't slowed his pace since he came to the United States. He spends a great deal of time traveling and making speeches about his country. He has spoken at Tulane University in New Orleans and at the space center in Houston.

"And I love giving talks to schools — I've spoken to every primary

school in the district," Wren says. "That's what I like doing."

He says that in talking with children both here and in Australia, he has found they often lack "the aim and the goal."

"Children need to learn that aim — perseverance — is the important thing," he says. "If you have a goal, you reach for the top. If you never reach it, that doesn't really matter as long as you can look back and say 'I tried.'"

When he is not studying or visiting schools, Wren says he likes going for drives and listening to music. But he doesn't enjoy rock 'n' roll.

"I find that you don't have to spend a lot of money to enjoy yourself," he says.

Wren says he doesn't get homesick very often. His mind is on someplace even farther away than Australia.

"My ultimate desire is to get into space," he says.

When Australia was offered a position on the space shuttle, he applied for the position, but it was later postponed.

"It was postponed because the po-

sition was originally meant for more of an observer, and that's a little bit of a waste of a good spot," Wren explains. "Instead of sending someone up as an observer now, we could wait a little longer and then really utilize the position."

Wren says he thinks he has a pretty good shot at the position. "Right now, I'm just trying to improve my chances," he says.

Wren will be at A&M another year improving his chances before he returns to Australia. He says he could continue his studying at A&M, but he would rather go home to spend some time with his mother, who has been ill.

"I've been recommended for a Ph.D.," he says, "and I would really like to stay because there are things I haven't done and things I haven't seen."

But "my mum is pretty sick," he says, "and I keep on thinking here I am over here pursuing all this technical stuff, which in the big scheme doesn't really matter much. If I lose out seeing Mum or spending good time with Mum, it's just not worth it."

He says he does know that he will continue to aim for his goals.

"My ultimate career objective is, of course, to get involved with the space program," Wren says. "My other objective is to be satisfied and content with my life. The important thing is to have a goal."

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