Since becoming dean, Berner lege for only one year.

Fraduate dean is By MARY MewHORTER

Med students rank first in state

By LYNN RAE POVEC Staff Writer

Mention anything about the College of Medicine, and Dean Robert Stone, M.D. gets that twinkle in his eyes. He's enthusiastic and truly dedicated to his job.

Once a week, his secretary updates his schedule. He keeps a list of dates of his obligations --- right now the last date on his list is December 7, 1986 — and a list of tasks.

"I do the easiest ones first and hope I never get to some of them,' Stone says, but a plastic paperweight on one of many neat stacks of paper on his desk belies his words. "Do It Now" it tells him in bold,

black letters. "Oh, I don't ever lift that," he says, eyes crinkling at the corners." never want to get to that stuff."

The paperweight was a gift from his secretary at the University of Oregon where Stone was dean of the medical school before coming to Texas A&M seven years ago.

After high school, Stone completed his liberal arts education in a free college established by New York City. He then spent four years in the Navy where "I just sort of swam around," before he went to medical school.

When he graduated, Stone joined the staff at the University of California at Los Angeles when the school was just being established. From there, he went to the University of New Mexico where he was dean of the medical school for a while.

Having been a dean on and off since 1968, Stone has developed a thorough description of his duties.

"I do whatever the faculty tells me to do," he says. "They tell me to keep the walls painted, the rugs clean, and the place well-maintained."

If Dr. Stone's office is any indication of the job he's doing, he's certainly fulfilling his responsibilities.

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other a photo of his daughter. His daughter majored in Spanish and biology at Stanford University, and now she's a senior at Baylor medical school.

> "She's interested in neurology, Stone says. "Not urology — neurolo-

nly a brass lamp and two picture

rames are on Stone's desk. One

shows off a photo of his wife, the

But he's quick to add that pursuing medicine was his daughter's decision.

"I in no way pushed her into it," he says. "She made her own decision."

He moves his daughter's picture he spins around in his chair to face the computer and laser jet printer on the table behind him.

"I just got this two months ago and I'm thoroughly enjoying it," he says. With his computer, he can go on line anytime and get updated information on medical economics available drugs, and treatment of disease.

"Let's dial up (the Associated Press headquarters in) Chicago and see what news we get," Stone says, outting a disk into the drive.

He presses a couple of keys, and gets a dial tone. A few keys later, a click and it begins to ring.

The ring is answered, and a voice asks him to please be patient while his request is being processed. Then a list of articles appears for him to choose from.

"Isn't that nifty," he asks. "You can see why this is better than working. What do you want to read about? You want to read about the rhythm method? Nah, that's obsolete."

He calls up an article about a study involving 400 newborn babies, prints a few paragraphs of the story to demonstrate his printer, types in "bye" to sign off, then again swivels around in his stuffed leather chair

"The first thing I do when I get here in the morning is turn on the

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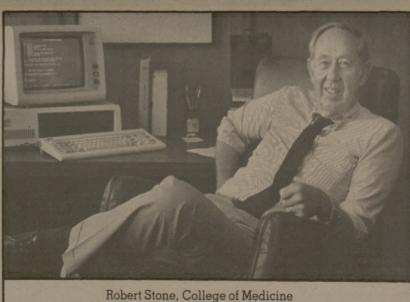
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the world at your fingertips.

His conversation returns to his favorite topic: the College of Medicine. "Being a part of this institution has been a great advantage for (the college)," he says. "Most medical schools are sponsored by a univer sity, not a part of it. But if A&M's is to be established, it has to be a part of this university."

Stone isn't worried about how the College of Medicine will fare in view of the state's recent budget cuts.

"Our development will be a lot slower, and there's still a lot in the development phase," he says. "But stacks at his right. Nothing is ever the quality will remain the same, the least bit out of place. His office unless the pause lasts more than four years.'

Stone says there really isn't a national system that ranks medical schools, but he explains a few factors to illustrate its status.

In terms of size, the College of Medicine is one of the smallest in the country, each year only 48 students are admitted. A&M is near the bottom of the list in terms of research support from the state, but it's near the top of the list in research support from individual faculty.

Based on students' performances Other than the piles of papers, computer," Stone says. "You've got on the state license exam over the good with a good, stiff bread."

last four years, Texas A&M is ranked first in the state, Stone says, and based on preliminary figures, it appears A&M will retain that status when this year's results are in.

For proof, he takes out a list of percentages showing the preliminary results and leans across his desk.

"I really don't like to talk to people across my desk," Stone says. "It immediately establishes a gradient, and I resent that. It's an insensitive thing for an administrator to do."

He explains the figures on the list then puts it back onto one of the stays neat, clean and organized.

Stone calls being organized a "de fensive posture" he's developed as a result of his career. It's made doing his job a lot easier, but it also extends to things he does around the house.

To relax, he cares for his yard, but he maintains he's not a gardener. He also enjoys cooking, and soup is his favorite thing to prepare.

"I can homogenize everything, he says, "and nobody knows what they're eating. Then I can feed it to unsuspecting victims. It's especially

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