

State and Local

Chinese students excel at A&M

By Olivier Uytendaele
Staff Writer

On a campus of more than 33,000 students, 71 students from the People's Republic of China may be easy to overlook.

But there are twice as many mainland Chinese at Texas A&M this year as there were last year.

Most of the 36 new Chinese students are here on graduate assistantships.

The departments they are working with include physics, chemistry, engineering, geology and business administration. One is a doctoral student in sociology.

They are here as a result of a determined recruiting effort by A&M faculty and administrators, anxious to tap this rich vein of academic talent.

The People's Republic of China long has been reluctant to let its star students leave the country, says physics professor

Dr. Chiarin Hu, whose department has gotten most of the new Chinese students. American universities didn't have access to mainland Chinese students until about five years ago, he says.

This year the physics department has picked up two winners of the prestigious China-United States Physics Exam Admission test, which selects the top 200 physics students in mainland China, Hu says.

Offered to only 600 graduates of undergraduate physics programs in China, the CUSPEA examination is about as rigorous as the qualifier examination the A&M physics department requires its doctoral students to take, physics professor Dr. Che-Ming Ko says.

In the last six months, two mainland Chinese have made the top two scores any doctoral students ever have made on A&M's

examination, Ko says.

Two of A&M's new students entered the University of Science and Technology at the age of 15, Ko says.

These two students, together with the two CUSPEA winners, are here as a direct result of A&M President Frank Vandiver's trip to China in the spring of 1984 and both are funded by president's scholarships, says Ko.

For most Chinese students, however, going to school in the United States is no easy trick.

Of the 150 applications the physics department received from Chinese students for this academic year, only 20 were accepted, Ko says.

And of these, three were unable to come because the University delayed in sending out the I-20 form the Immigration and Naturalization Service requires of students entering the United States, Ko says.

Jun Li, president of the A&M China Club, says that in an effort to avoid losing its top students, the Chinese government has imposed a new law, effective Oct. 1, that students already enrolled in a graduate program in China will be unable to continue their education in the United States.

Li says that since some of the new students here this year decided to come now to avoid getting caught by the new law, he expects that the number of new Chinese students will not rise so dramatically next year.

But other developments may work to increase the number of mainland Chinese at A&M in future years.

John Norris, director of the Office of International Coordination, says that over the past year several of China's leading universities have signed agreements with A&M for professor and student exchanges.

UT researcher says use of technology enhances success

By Patty Pascavage
Reporter

Using information technology effectively can enhance a person's power of success, a communications researcher told about 200 Texas A&M students and faculty members Wednesday at Rudder Tower.

Dr. Frederick Williams, Director of the University of Texas at Austin's Center for Research on Communication Technology in Society, said that people can get ahead in life by learning to control the media and make use of its technology for gaining what they want.

"If you know a little more about the information technology and are creative with it, you can get ahead of the pack," he said.

Williams said the new generation of information technology is marked by the growing use of computers.

He said a study conducted last summer showed that one out of every three Texans uses a computer at

work and one out of every five Texans has a computer at home.

"We've gone from an era where the computer was something that was hidden in a refrigerated room on a special floor behind electronically locked doors to where it's sitting around on the playdesks of small children," Williams said.

"Our whole lives are tied into computers, so students should look ahead now to see how their careers will be affected by information technologies," he said.

He said, however, that people should be aware of the negative consequences of technology if its effect on society is to be positive.

Use of technology will be successful only if it is kept closely monitored and controlled, he said.

"I fear that technology is moving along so fast that we will witness some of the negative consequences before we will decide it's something that we have to govern and balance," Williams said.

Bonfire makes 'hot topic' for symposium audience

By Cindy Bomba
Reporter

Safety and grades are the main goals of the bonfire committee, six senior redpots told a crowd of 50 people at Sully's Symposium Wednesday.

The redpots explained bonfire procedures and encouraged students to get involved with bonfire at the weekly symposium.

Eric Wittenmyer, a senior redpot, opened the discussion by explaining the hierarchy of the bonfire committee. Wittenmyer said the committee consists of 29 people, with eight senior redpots in charge of the whole operation. The senior redpots were junior redpots last year and teach this year's junior redpots how to build the bonfire safely, he said.

John Truitt, senior redpot and head stack, addressed the myth about redpots having bad grades and missing classes.

"As redpots you may smell us a few feet away," Truitt said, "but we usually make it to class and last year we had a 2.8 overall."

But senior redpot Bryan Tutt said, "Once the centerpole gets here and we start working on stack, the junior redpots don't do much of anything. They eat, sleep, study, and work on bonfire."

The entire student body is able to work on the bonfire. Truitt said redpots and brownpots usually are men, either cadets or civilians. Each civilian dorm has a yellowpot and three or four crew chiefs to help motivate the dorm, he said.

Women usually join in as pinkpots, Truitt said. He said the duties of the pinkpots are to provide the cutting crew with lunch at the cutting site and help the cookie crew. Truitt, Wittenmyer and Tutt were joined at the symposium by senior redpots Kent Hamaker, Brian Lehne and Tom Kelley.

Tom Kelley ended the symposium answering a question about why they became redpots.

"As a freshman and a sophomore at A&M, the school gives a lot to you. Being a redpot is our way of paying back the school for what it has done," Kelley said.

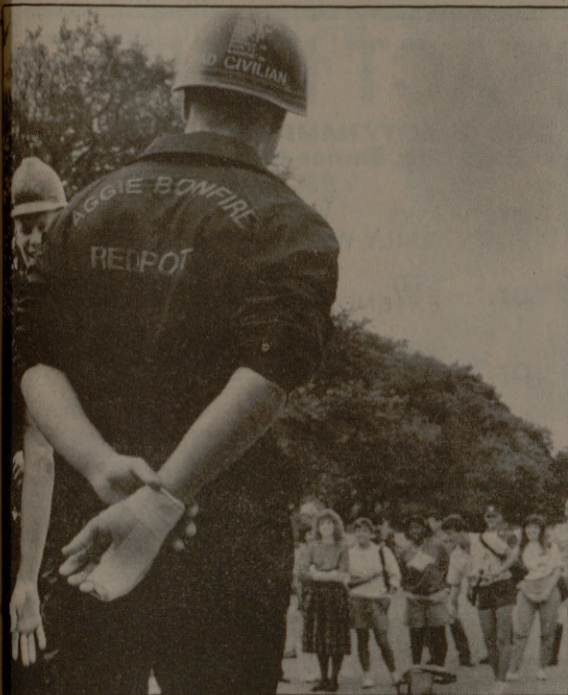


Photo by Tom Ownbey

Redpots speak at Sully's Symposium.

Geren tells Student Senate he'll emphasize education

Congressional candidate Pete Geren told the Student Senate Wednesday that he is committed to education and will represent Texas A&M's best academic interests if elected as the U.S. 6th District candidate Nov. 4.

Geren and current 6th district Rep. Joe Barton were invited to speak at the senate meeting, but Barton declined the invitation.

"It's critical to have someone committed to education," Geren said. "It's also important to have effective representation — somebody that can get things done for Texas A&M."

Geren said the U.S. government is the biggest founder of re-

search funding in the world, but A&M presently isn't getting the number of grants it deserves.

"I want to make sure that Texas A&M has the opportunity to participate and make a contribution to the rest of the nation which will only be available if A&M gets its share of the grants and the research funding that's going to come out of Washington," he said.

Geren also criticized Barton's endorsement of the tax reform bill which Congress passed recently.

The bill increases tax on the oil and gas industry at a time when Texas can't afford it, he said.

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