



A&M helps China review education in oil engineering

By Debbie Monroe
Reporter

A seven-man team from Texas A&M is helping to shape the future of petroleum engineering education in the People's Republic of China.

Dr. Doug Von Gonten, head of the A&M petroleum engineering department, is team leader for a project that sent several A&M faculty and a graduate student on a six-week tour of the five Chinese petroleum institutes in August. Their task was to find ways to bring the institutes up to world-class level.

"The main area they have problems with is in faculty," Von Gonten says. "That's due primarily to the cultural revolution, because they really didn't turn out any faculty for about 15 years."

"They have a faculty that graduated back in the 1950s, and then the next group of graduates are from the 1980s."

Team member Dr. Wayne Ahr, professor of geology, says a lack of faculty is a serious problem in many academic disciplines.

"There is a generation gap in all the intellectual work," Ahr says. "It stems from the cultural revolution when all intellectuals took part in a 'learning exercise,' you might say politely."

"They were sent out to be bricklayers, wood-carvers and to work in the fields."

Von Gonten and Ahr joined other team members in China March 1 to present their final report and recommendations to China's Ministry of the Petroleum Industry. A major part of their advice will center on

upgrading the present faculty, a process that will include graduate school at A&M for some instructors.

"We're not telling the (Chinese Petroleum Ministry) leaders anything they don't already know," Von Gonten says. "They know they need to improve their faculty and equipment."

"But just because they (the Petroleum Ministry) advise it doesn't mean it's going to be done. If they can get some world-class experts to tell them what they need to do, then everybody will listen."

The A&M team also is recommending a change in teaching style. The current Chinese education system is based on the Russian system of the 1950s, which is no longer in use even in the Soviet Union.

"It (class) is taught by somebody who lectures straight from the syllabus," Ahr says. "The student really doesn't ask questions, and there isn't any discussion."

"It's very programmed, very rigid, with little communication between faculty and student."

With A&M's help, Von Gonten says the Chinese potentially can have a very good petroleum engineering program within 10 years.

"I think it (the Chinese-A&M relationship) is going to be more extensive than what we have so far," he says. "They're going to be sending a lot of their graduates and faculty over here, and we're going to be sending some faculty over there."

A&M also will be conducting joint petroleum engineering research with the Chinese, Von Gonten says.

What's up

Monday

- UNIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES:** will present "1787: The Invention of American Federalism" at 8 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
- INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:** will hold a Bible study at 8 p.m. in the meditation room of the All-Faiths Chapel.
- AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS:** new volunteers will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 108 Harrington.
- HART HALL RA'S AND FOOD SERVICES:** will hold an open forum for students to comment about food.
- HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder.
- DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING:** Dr. David Rhoke will present a review and help session on fluid mechanics and heat transfer at 6:30 p.m. in 103 Zachry.

Tuesday

- SILVER TAPS:** will be held at 10:30 p.m. in front of the Academic Building.
- ALTERNATIVE CINEMA:** will show Rossellini's film "Paisan" at 8 p.m. in Langford Auditorium.
- DELTA SIGMA PI:** will hold a general meeting at 6 p.m. followed by a pledge class meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 130 Blocker.
- AGGIE DEMOCRATS:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
- STUDY ABROAD OFFICE:** students interested in studying abroad should meet at 9:30 a.m. in 251 Bizzell West.
- MSC GREAT ISSUES:** will hold a mandatory general meeting at 7 p.m. in 401 Rudder.
- MSC HOSPITALITY:** will present a progressive European-style fashion show at noon in the main lounge of the Memorial Student Center.
- ANTHROPOLOGY SOCIETY:** will show "The Gods Must Be Crazy" at 7 p.m. in 301 Bolton.
- SPANISH CLUB:** will meet at 8 p.m. at the Flying Tomato restaurant.
- ECONOMICS SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 125 Blocker.
- SOCIOLOGY CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 125 Academic.
- BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 201 Veterinary Medical Sciences.
- GREEN EARTH SOCIETY:** Dr. Jane Packard will present a slideshow on Manatee preservation at 7 p.m. in 226 MSC.
- HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
- RUGBY CLUB:** will practice at 4:30 p.m. behind the parking lot of Zachry Engineering Center next to the polo field.
- TAMU MEN'S TENNIS:** will play North Carolina at 1 p.m. at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.
- INTRAMURAL RECREATIONAL SPORTS:** entries for badminton singles, volleyball triples and innertube water polo close at 6 p.m. in 159 Read.
- COOKE COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 305 A-B Rudder.
- NEW YORK HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder.
- STUDENT GOVERNMENT/PARENTS WEEKEND:** tentative schedules for Parents Weekend are available in the Memorial Student Center through Thursday.
- PEER ADVISOR:** applications are available in 108 YMCA through March 27.
- BRAZOS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB:** invites students, faculty and any beginners to come at 7 p.m. on Thursdays at College Station Community Center.
- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the meditation room in the All Faiths Chapel.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days prior to desired publication date.

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Mattox predicts executions will become more frequent

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Texas leads the nation in executions since the U.S. Supreme Court ended a 10-year moratorium in 1976 and it appears inmates will be put to death even more frequently in the future, a top state official says.

With most of the major points of appeal already decided by the Supreme Court, appeals are moving faster through state and federal courts, Attorney General Jim Mattox said.

"The floodgates have been opened," Mattox said. "We will see more and more executions taking place. The number of executions is going to continue to rise rapidly."

Last week, Gov. Bill Clements said he was unlikely to grant clemency for most of the condemned.

"The death penalty will go forward," Clements said. "I'm in favor of the death penalty. I always have been. I haven't changed my opinion at all."

Last year, more than half the executions in the United States — 10 out of 18 — were in Texas. The 22nd person to be executed since Texas reinstated the death penalty was killed by an injection of drugs last Wednesday.

An air of routine has begun to surround Texas executions. In contrast with earlier executions, there have been no television cameras awaiting the witnesses. Also absent have been the earlier chanting crowds of college students favoring capital punishment and anti-death penalty protesters.

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