

# A&M announces choice for dean of business college

By Melanie Perkins  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M announced the appointment of a new dean of business administration Tuesday.

Dr. A. Benton Cocanougher, senior vice president and provost at the University of Houston since 1985, will take over the position from interim dean Dr. Donald Hellriegel no later than August 1, Hellriegel said.

Hellriegel, a member of the A&M faculty since 1975, took the position from Dr. William H. Mobley in August of 1986, when Mobley was named deputy chancellor of the Texas A&M University System.

Hellriegel said he is looking forward to being a professor of management again, and did not consider himself a candidate for the deanship.

Cocanougher was dean of the College of Business Administration at Houston from 1976 to 1985. He also served as chairman and professor of the marketing department at Hous-

ton from 1975 to 1976 and as graduate programs director and associate professor of the Houston's business administration college from 1973 to 1975.

Cocanougher said he was pleased to be named dean.

"I think A&M has an excellent business program," he said. "I think it has the opportunity in the next few years to emerge and be recognized as one of the very best in the country."

He said he thinks the A&M business program is on the right track.

"I hope to work with the faculty and keep it (College of Business Administration) going the way it should and help it get the recognition it deserves," Cocanougher said.

Hellriegel said he feels good about the decision to hire Cocanougher as dean.

"He has all the skills and experiences in dealing effectively with all of the groups internal to a university as well as those external," he said. "His track record is magnificent."

# Rehabilitation center gives handicapped hope for 'normal life'

By Kimberley Roddy  
Reporter

A Texas A&M professor fell asleep while driving home from Austin in September of 1981, resulting in a tragic accident that changed his life. Medical professionals said Dr. Larry Thurston would never be able to walk or talk again.

The A&M professor of 15 years and director of the electron-microscopy lab was a candidate for the nursing home. He received serious brain damage, had no movement on the right side of his body, developed

therapy, in addition to offering audiologic and social-psychological services. The team develops a program, using whichever services are needed, to help individuals reach their maximum potential.

Physical therapy is aimed at strengthening muscles and gaining endurance to achieve maximum mobility. Rehabilitation includes exercises and activities to prevent, correct, improve and alleviate physical disabilities.

*They all have patience and tolerance toward all of us. . . I'd be nothing without my therapists. They made me a working human being again.*

—Dr. Larry Thurston, rehabilitation patient and former A&M professor

Occupational therapy helps people become more functional in daily activities such as eating, dressing and homemaking. The center has a specially equipped bathroom and kitchen area to teach patients these skills vital to everyday living.

Thurston, who undergoes physical, occupational and speech therapy, says he can dress himself, vacuum the house and wash dishes. His overall goal is to be independent in walking and standing, says his occupational therapist, Debbie McMillin.

contractures (inability to move from a tightened position) and weighed 98 pounds when he awoke from a 4-month coma in early 1982.

Now he goes to rehabilitative therapy three days a week at the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center in Bryan. The center is a non-tax supported treatment center that helps patients overcome physical handicaps.

The physical and occupational therapy departments must have a physician's referral for a patient to receive treatment. But the speech pathology and audiology departments will take patients by self-referral.

Evaluations for anyone having difficulty with expression or having difficulty understanding words of others are provided by the speech pathology department. The speech pathologist also helps people with defects from strokes, head injuries and cerebral palsy regain communicative skills.

The audiology department tests hearing acuity for problems and provides services such as hearing screening, lip reading and hearing device information.

Since Thurston came to the center in June 1983, he has learned to speak understandably, sit in a wheelchair and has regained physical movement, with a little difficulty persisting in his right hand and arm.

"The rehabilitation center has done a wonderful job," says the 47-year-old Thurston. "You should have seen me five years ago. I could do nothing."

Thurston, unable to talk, was very hostile, frustrated and angry when he arrived at the center, says his physical therapist, Dee Dee Hodges.

He went through behavior modification in the social-psychological department to help him cope with his problems. This department's goal is to help the patient and his family adjust to the illness or disability and aid in the eventual re-establishment of a productive lifestyle.

The teamwork program develops when the therapists from these departments work closely with the physicians and establish goals with the patients.

Last October, Thurston received the National Easter Seal Society Country Award, which is awarded to the Texas citizen who has done the most to overcome a handicap. Thurston has surpassed nearly all limitations medical professionals expected him to have with his strong self-motivation, and with the help from his family and the rehabilitation center.

One goal that Thurston reached last summer was that of lecturing again. He wrote a 15-minute speech that he has given at several local service clubs about his accident and his successful rehabilitation.

He also has another personal goal set for January 1988. Thurston, who says he used to be the best dancer in his class, plans to dance with his wife, Lynn, on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Jim Thompson, executive director of the center, says, "The main goal of the center is to help individuals with physical handicaps reach their maximum recovery potential. First, we try to eliminate the disability altogether. If we are incapable of eliminating the disability, we try to ease or alleviate it. If the patient is permanently disabled, we train him to live with the disability the best he can."

The center, located between St. Joseph and Humana hospitals, treated 1,497 patients last year. This year it is expected to exceed this amount because 904 patients already have been treated in the past seven months, Thompson says.

The center's only financial support is through patient fees and contributions, yet it offers financial assistance to patients with economic problems. Donations from individuals and fund-raisers, such as the Easter Seal Telethon, which raised \$54,000 in March, constitute the largest percentage of funds.

The center, with 26 staff members, offers a team approach to rehabilitation. Physicians, therapists and counselors make up the team, which meets every 60 days to evaluate each patient's progress.

The center provides services in physical, occupational and speech

Frances Tieman, executive secretary, says the team therapy is great.

"The girls (therapists) are so understanding, warm and kind," Tieman says. "They're excellent with the patients."

Thurston says the staff at the center is fascinating.

"They all have patience and tolerance toward all of us," Thurston says. ". . . I'd be nothing without my therapists. They made me a working human being again."

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