

State and Local

3 A&M grads win Fullbright Grants, get chance to study in foreign lands

By Kirsten Dietz
Senior Staff Writer

Three Texas A&M graduates recently were given the chance to continue their studies in a foreign country by winning a Fullbright Grant.

Christopher Conrad Eugster, Joanie Anne Kleypas and Mary Jean Keough will spend one year in a foreign country researching a problem related to their field of study.

Eugster, a May electrical engineering graduate, will study semiconductor lasers and diodes at the Max Planck Institute in West Germany. According to his grant application, he wanted to study in West Germany because a telecommunications corporation there is planning to install 500,000 miles of optical

fiber by 1990. Eugster is from College Station.

Kleypas, who is working on a doctorate degree in geology, is studying the Great Barrier Reef through the James Cook University of North Queensland in Australia. On her application, she said she will compare different sections of the reef to determine the history of the sea level in the formation of the reef. She said this information will help people understand the interaction between the global climatic, ecologic, sea level and sedimentologic changes. She is from College Station, and earned a bachelor's degree in oceanography and a master's degree in marine science from A&M.

Keough, a May agricultural journalism graduate, also is studying in

West Germany. According to her application, she wants to study the European Common Market, which issued mandatory production controls on dairy products in 1984. She said she wants to find out if farmers are better off with these controls, as the United States is considering implementing similar controls. She is working through the University of Göttingen and the University of Kiel. Keough is from Monticello, Wis.

The bulk of the money for the grants is appropriated by the U.S. Congress, although host governments and institutions also contribute, said Gary Beason, a graduate assistant in the Study Abroad Office.

He said applicants must have a

bachelor's degree, but not have completed a doctorate degree. The applicant also must show a proficiency in the language of the chosen country. To apply for the grant through A&M, the student first submits a proposal for the research project to the Study Abroad Office. Mona Rizk-Finne, the office coordinator, helps the student with the final proposal and gives the student the application for the grant.

A&M sends the selected applicants to the Institute of International Education in New York by Oct. 31. The institute decides in February which of the applicants to send to committees in the countries the students choose. These committees review the applications and award the Fullbright grants in June.

Houston officers questioned about incident

HOUSTON (AP) — Six Houston police officers are being investigated by the department's internal affairs division for reportedly drinking alcohol and firing guns into the air at an abandoned apartment complex while on duty, officials said.

The officers will remain on the job while the internal affairs division looks into the alleged July incident, police department spokesman J.C. Mosier said Monday.

A resident nearby heard several shots and called police, officials said.

An officer answering the call was led to the complex, where he found the six officers sitting in their patrol cars, officials said.

Discharging firearms in a public place is a misdemeanor that carries a fine of up to \$1,000.

Safety board blames accident in '86 on faulty map of gas lines

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 1986 blast in downtown Fort Worth that caused more than \$1.5 million in damage may have occurred because Lone Star Gas Co. failed to show the line on its maps, the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday.

The explosion shook downtown Fort Worth the morning of March 12 after a work crew operating a backhoe punctured a natural gas line. Twenty-two people were injured, one building and 57 automobiles at a car dealership were destroyed and 40 other buildings were damaged, the NTSB report said.

"Safety issues raised by this accident concern the accuracy of gas company maps, the gas company's emergency response procedures, the training of gas company employees and how gas companies use civil agencies to respond more rapidly and effectively to major pipeline emergencies," according to the report.

The NTSB said Lone Star Gas contributed to the explosion by inadequately training employees in locating gas lines, and failing to use civilian emergency authorities, evacuate accident sites and ventilate buildings.

According to an NTSB spokesman, the building may not have gone up in a fireball if the doors and windows had been opened to allow the gas to dissipate.

Howard Matson, director of communications for Lone Star Gas, said the company would not discuss the report because the utility was involved in several lawsuits arising from the blast.

"We feel confident the facts, including the NTSB report, will be presented in the courtroom, and we will address any and all remaining questions after the lawsuits are disposed of," Matson said from the company's corporate offices in Dallas.

Although the company has not seen the report, Matson said it disagreed with points officials had heard had been made by the NTSB.

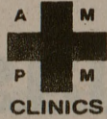
In recommendations to the gas company, the NTSB issued a series of suggestions:

Update and maintain system maps to show the location of all active gas mains and service lines.

Review emergency procedures to determine if they encompass all response actions expected of employees who could be dispatched to an accident.

Conduct periodic training and testing in emergency procedures with particular emphasis on employees hired before 1982.

In addition, the NTSB recommended that the Transportation Department's office of pipeline safety require that gas company system maps and records be maintained accurately to identify the locations, size and operations pressure of all of the company's pipelines.



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71	1045 ⁰⁰
71	1175 ⁰⁰
71	1055 ⁰⁰
71	1095 ⁰⁰
71	895 ⁰⁰
71	1195 ⁰⁰
71	1175 ⁰⁰
70	890 ⁰⁰
70	795 ⁰⁰
69	775 ⁰⁰
67	775 ⁰⁰
67	760 ⁰⁰
63	815 ⁰⁰
63	975 ⁰⁰
62	715 ⁰⁰
61	775 ⁰⁰
61	715 ⁰⁰
60	895 ⁰⁰
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55	695 ⁰⁰

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