

Engineering field remains integral part of life at A&M

By Jena Atchison
Reporter

Part of the academic foundation of Texas A&M is as old as the institution itself. Engineering has been an integral part of the University since its inception and through change and diversification, it still is.

There are many different fields of engineering: aerospace, agricultural, biological, chemical, civil, electrical, industrial, mechanical, mining, nuclear, ocean and petroleum.

These diverse departments provide students the opportunity to develop skills in a specific field of study. Each department, excluding agricultural engineering, incorporates the same curriculum for a freshman student in the College of Engineering.

Dr. Robert Chenoweth, the assistant dean of engineering for undergraduate programs, says the electrical and mechanical engineering departments are the two largest programs.

Last fall the freshman class in the college totaled 1,910. This included students who had been at A&M a

few semesters but had not accumulated 30 hours in the engineering department. The freshman enrollment for this fall, comprised of new freshman only, is up to 1,949.

Although engineering may seem to be a purely scientific program distinguished by technology and advancement, it's actually much more.

Chenoweth says there are distinguishing factors between A&M's engineering department and the engineering programs of other institutions.

"It is not so much the school as it is our students," Chenoweth says.

He says the quality of the students over anything else is the distinguishing factor. They have the ability to work with people, he says.

"We receive regular reports from companies that A&M graduates produce quicker than other graduates," Chenoweth says. "They see a job that needs to be done and they do it, rather than look for someone to tell them what to do."

An engineering education is a good education because it keeps doors open, he says. An engineer

can be employed in research and development as well as personnel and management, he says.

The fundamentals of electrical engineering are supported by the basic sciences of physics, chemistry and mathematics.

The mechanical engineer works in several different areas, such as design including construction, materials specification, manufacturing and plant engineering.

Aerospace engineering includes four major technologies: aerodynamics, structures and materials, propulsion and flight mechanics.

Chenoweth says the branch of civil engineering teaches skills in several areas concerning everyday life. These specializations involve the planning, design, construction and operation of physical facilities including streets and highways, commercial buildings, lakes, railroads and many others, he says.

These four branches of engineering combine skills geared toward diverse needs of modern life, he says. The College of Engineering provides the working world with a quality graduate, he says.

College of Science at A&M gets top marks for programs, research

By Greg Sellers
Reporter

In its quest to be a world university, Texas A&M is setting high marks with its science program, making it one of the finest research institutions in the country.

The College of Science offers a variety of curricula to the science-minded student at A&M. While consisting of five departments, the College of Science enables undergraduates and graduates alike to experience a variety of courses.

Students in the College of Science can major in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and statistics, all which offer Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Master's and doctoral programs.

H. Elton Lacey, head of the mathematics department, says research is a high priority.

"We do a considerable amount of research here, which is funded through state, federal, foundation and industrial grants," Lacey says.

For the 1985-86 school year, the College of Science received more than \$13 million in research grants. Lacey says the grants are used for research done by individual professors, who must submit proposals regarding the "pure research" that they wish to pursue.

Pure research occurs when a professor receives a

grant and is free to use it as he sees fit, as long as it complies with the original proposal, Lacey says.

Over the past few years, the College of Science has received many grants and in 1984-85, received approximately \$14 million to use for research projects.

Enrollment in the College of Science has remained relatively stable, with 1,734 undergraduates as of September 1986. Graduate student numbers have seen a steady increase, with 592 as of September 1986, up from 1982 when the number was 514.

Lacey says that the majority of the graduate students were not undergraduates at A&M, and that most come here because a graduate degree is not offered at the institutions they attended as undergraduates.

Students majoring in disciplines in the college can be sure they are getting a quality education, he says.


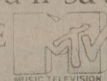
"Of A&M's 27 distinguished professors, one-third (10) are in our college," Lacey says.


Lacey also says that the College of Science does a fair amount of service teaching, which entails a student taking classes in a field not in his major.

He says that the College of Science does the majority of the service teaching for the engineering department, as engineering students must take several math courses.

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