

## State and Local

# Language department teaches Chinese, Italian

By Cindy Milton  
Staff Writer

New courses help meet increasing language demand

Along with the growth of the Texas A&M student body comes an expansion of the modern language department in the College of Liberal Arts.

Chinese and Italian are two new courses taught at A&M this fall which may help satisfy an ever-increasing demand for language courses, said Dr. Luis Costa, head of the modern language department.

"The languages do something that other studies don't," Costa said. "By studying a language, students can get a different interpretation of self. Languages are an essential part of modern education because they reflect different values and lead to a better understanding of the world."

Students of all majors express an interest in modern languages because they feel knowledge of different languages will help them with their careers, Costa said.

"The languages are important in business and every other endeavor in the modern world," he said. "The United States no longer is the market for everything — we're becoming internationalized."

New this fall are courses in Chinese and Italian. Initially, only one section of each course was to be offered, but the classes filled immediately, Costa said. As a result, an additional section has been opened in the Chinese class and future development will include follow-up and cultural courses in both languages, he said.

Dr. Xiao-nan Shen and Dr. Van Kelly, both new to the University, expect the courses to expand within the next year.

Shen, who is teaching two sections of beginning Chinese and a Chinese culture class, came to the United States from China in 1981 to pursue

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her Ph.D in French at the University of California at Berkeley. She recently accepted a position here to teach both French and Chinese.

Joy Lou, a senior marketing major currently taking one of Shen's beginning classes, expressed her interest in the class: "I'm really excited. We've already learned so much, and we've only been in the class for a week." Lou became interested in the class because she is Chinese and she

wanted to learn the language of her mother country.

Hui-jen Shiau, another of Shen's students, feels the language will help him with his future career. "I plan to go into Air Force Intelligence," he said, "and knowing Chinese may be important in the next century. The United States has great political and economic weight in China."

Kelly, originally from Dallas, also is new at A&M. He became inter-

ested in Italian when he took a beginning Italian course during his freshman year at Vanderbilt University. Since then, Kelly has earned his Ph.D in French literature with a minor in Italian. He recently taught French and Italian for two years at the University of Iowa.

Saralyn Flores, a senior modern languages major from Killeen, is especially interested in the Italian course. "I'm well-specialized in the romance languages," Flores said. "I heard from another professor that Dr. Kelly was a really good teacher and I'm very impressed with the way that he teaches."

"He's animated. He makes you speak with your hands, just like an Italian would."

Kelly, who has been to Italy several times, said many of his students became interested in the language because they have been to Italy and

want to learn more about the language. But one of his students, Keith Wilkinson, a sophomore physics major from Corpus Christi, has other motives for taking the course.

"I'm half Italian," he said, "and I've always been interested in learning how to speak the language."

The modern language department plans to keep adding to its already long list of courses, Costa said.

"Right now we offer Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Russian and Spanish," he said. "The next language to come aboard will be Japanese."

Portuguese also may be added within the next few years, he said.

"Eventually we hope that we can create more language majors, but the process takes a while to come about," Costa said. "Right now we're simply offering courses and seeing if there is an interest."

## Fraternity pledge's death, hazing law increase caution at UT, officials say

AUSTIN (AP) — The drinking death of a University of Texas fraternity pledge last autumn and stronger penalties in a new anti-hazing law have increased caution about group activities, UT students and officials said.

While not claiming that problems of hazing and alcohol abuse have been eliminated, many say students have more information about the dangers of those activities and that they are aware of the legalities of hazing, which leads officials to believe that the new hazing law will be a deterrent.

"At this point there is a heightened awareness of liabilities as far as penalties go," said Glenn Maloney, an assistant dean of students who works with student organizations.

Maloney and Scott Wilder, director of the Interfraternity Council, plan a meeting to discuss the new hazing law and related issues with the presidents and pledge trainers of the 29 fraternities that belong to the council.

Maloney said he hopes the meeting will provide an opportunity for him to listen to concerns of the fraternity leaders and encourage closer co-

operation between the university and the student groups on problems such as alcohol abuse.

Wilder said the meeting will be a good way to impress on fraternities the seriousness of the hazing law.

"Once they see it down on paper and see it has very serious penalties, then I think it will be a deterrent," Wilder said.

Until the Legislature revised the law this year, hazing carried a maximum penalty of a \$250 fine and 90 days in jail. Now anyone convicted of hazing will face a minimum penalty of a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail.

An incident that results in death would carry a fine of \$5,000 to \$10,000 and a jail sentence of one to two years. An organization found guilty of hazing will face fines of \$5,000 to \$10,000, and people who fail to report a hazing incident to authorities also could be prosecuted.

Revision of the law was partly a response to the death last September of Mark Seiberger, a UT freshman who was a Phi Kappa Psi pledge when he died of alcohol poisoning.

A Travis County grand jury declined to indict anyone in the death, but UT officials disciplined several students who were involved in the incident and suspended the fraternity from campus activities for at least four years.

The Seiberger case and the memory of a 1985 hazing incident in which at least nine UT fraternity pledges were hospitalized after being kept awake for days and pelted with rotten eggs "have had a profound effect on students," Wilder said.

"As far as forced consumption of alcohol goes or sleep deprivation, I would be almost certain that something like that is not going to happen again at fraternities at this campus," Wilder said.

Increased pressure against hazing also is coming throughout the country from alumni of fraternities and the national fraternity organizations, Maloney said.

"There is a growing awareness among alumni about their liability," he said. "They are seeing that they can be sued for what a fraternity does."

## Labor Day weekend continues Texas trend of fewer traffic deaths

(AP) — The 26 traffic-related fatalities over the Labor Day holiday weekend, far fewer than the 42 predicted, continues a recent decline in state roadway deaths, the Department of Public Safety said Tuesday.

"We're very hopeful this is a tradition that is starting in Texas," DPS spokesman David Wells said.

He cited the safety belt law and increased awareness of drunken driving as contributing to the decline.

The number of roadway deaths was the lowest since 1975, when 27 deaths were reported. In 1980, 29 people died on Texas roadways, Wells said. He added

that the DPS began keeping the traffic count in 1970.

"One factor that I think brought about the lower number was that there was not a single accident that caused more than one death," Wells said.

Five people were killed in accidents involving pedestrians, two in head-on crashes, three in two-vehicle broadsides, two in rear-end collisions, two in multi-car accidents and two in accidents involving bicycles, he said.

The DPS counting period began at 6 p.m. Friday and ended at midnight Monday. The toll predicted this year was slightly lower than the 48 deaths predicted for the holiday period in 1986.



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