

A&M professor receives Fulbright Scholarship

By Beth McDonough
Reporter

A Texas A&M professor will conduct geological research in Belgium next semester as a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship from the American Scholars Program.

"I'm so excited," Dr. Wayne Ahr, professor of geology, said. "I'll get to learn something about Belgian art, history, music, culture and exactly what makes them tick."

Ahr will be working at the Catholic University at Louvain-la-Neuve of Louvain in Belgium with Dr. Alan Aerts, a residing professor. He will leave for Brussels in January and will return in May.

Ahr met Lees while in England on sabbatical in 1984. The two have kept in close contact since then and Lees was a major force in Ahr's interest in the scholarship program.

Since that meeting their work has converged more, Ahr said, and they decided it would be a beneficial experience to combine their efforts.

Lees and Ahr will research the similarities and differences between prehistoric plant and animal life that lived in American and European reefs and sea-floor sediments. They decided to collaborate their research on the 350 million-year-old reefs, hoping to obtain better results than they could have individually.

Mentioning a more practical side of the research, Ahr said oil can be found in these reefs and if researchers learn more about them, this ultimately can help the oil industry.

"I really want to make this an international cooperation and study so that when we finally finish we can publish our findings in an interna-

A&M students can earn scholarships for overseas study

By Connie Johnson
Reporter

Texas A&M students have had success in obtaining national scholarships that allow them to study abroad in countries in which they are knowledgeable and speak the national language.

Students and professionals at A&M and around the country are awarded Jr. Fulbright Scholarships and Fulbright Scholarships that give them opportunities to travel to a foreign country and promote their academic development.

The two programs are funded by the U.S. Congress and some individual countries. Jr. Fulbright Grants are awarded to choose graduate students, from those with a bachelor's degree to doctoral candidates.

Gary Beason, a graduate assistant in the Study Abroad Office, said funds are generally for maintenance and travel in the host country for one year.

The Fulbright Scholarships are for faculty members holding a doctorate in their field. Dr. John Norris, director of international coordination at Texas A&M, said,

"Mentioning a more practical side of the research, Ahr said oil can be found in these reefs and if researchers learn more about them, this ultimately can help the oil industry."

The Fulbright scholarship will cover traveling expenses to and from Brussels, university lodgings and a monthly paycheck.

Ahr said he will be doing his own grocery shopping and cooking be-

cause restaurant dining in Europe is extremely expensive. It isn't unusual to be charged \$50 per person at a European restaurant as compared to a mid-priced restaurant in the United States, he said.

The prices differ so much because Europeans prize the talents of their chefs, he said, who are considered highly admired professionals, whereas Americans don't admire them as much.

While on his sabbatical, Ahr observed many aspects of European life that are different from American culture. He said the younger generation of Belgium seemed to be more relaxed and open about romantic relationships while in public. They were not as embarrassed as the younger generation of Americans.

In addition, he said the European people went out of their way to make

him feel at home and comfortable in their country.

"I had a very good experience there and I look forward to traveling again," Ahr said.

Ahr reiterated that he wants to find out more about the Belgian culture by talking with and learning from the people.

"We as Americans don't take the time to explore other countries," he said. "What are the people like? What can we learn from them and how can they enrich our lives?"

Beason encourages any graduating senior who is interested to find a professor now who will help develop a topic and find contacts in the chosen field of study.

Although all applicants are given equal consideration, he said, there is a slight preference for graduating seniors because they are "novice scholars and people who haven't traveled much."

After an A&M committee has evaluated the applications, those chosen are sent to the Institute of International Education in New York in late October.

Along with those from other universities, the A&M applications are reviewed until February when the institute sends selected applications to the host country committees. The finalists are announced in June.

Other overseas programs are available through the Study Abroad Office for graduate and undergraduate students. Representatives from these various programs will have tables in the MSC on Oct. 13, Overseas Day.

Beason advises students to be culturally and politically sensitive in the wording on the application. He said the screening committees consider the feasibility of the project proposal, the applicant's level of knowledge of the subject matter and country, the applicant's level of maturity and adaptability and — most impor-

tant — the applicant's motivation.

To apply for the grant, a student must first submit a proposal to the Study Abroad office explaining the intention of the study and how the research will be conducted.

Mona Rizk-Finne, director of Study Abroad programs, will help the student complete the final proposal and give the student an application which has to be turned in with a curriculum by Oct. 2.

Beason said six A&M faculty members were accepted into the program. This was the largest number ever selected from A&M, he said.

Two Texas A&M graduates, Joanie A. Kleypas and Mary J. Keough, have received Jr. Fulbright Scholarships and are doing research abroad this semester. Kleypas, a geology doctoral candidate, is working at James Cook University of North Queensland in Australia. Keough, a May agricultural journalism graduate, is studying in West Germany at the University of Göttingen and the University of Kiel.

A&M graduate students generally have good luck in winning grants, Beason said. Last year six students applied and three were awarded grants, although one declined the offer.

Beason said, 10 to 15 students are expected to apply this year. He said this will be the "largest crop A&M has ever had."

Since communication is a necessity for research, applicants must show an ability to speak and write

JT anti-apartheid protesters blame actions on university

AUSTIN (AP) — Anti-apartheid protesters who barricaded themselves in the University of Texas president's office testified Tuesday that they were driven to the action by university indifference to their concerns.

Members of the "UT 16" had participated in efforts such as anti-apartheid rallies before the brief October takeover of the office, said Kelly Severin, the first defendant to testify in the jury trial of 11 of the protesters.

The protesters shared "frustration" over their inability to stop university investment in companies doing business in South Africa, she said.

"Because of this frustration, we did some brainstorming and thought of what we could do to make the regents take us seriously," Severin said. "They didn't take us seriously. They treated us like school kids."

The protesters, who are being prosecuted by the county attorney's office, are charged with disruptive activity, a Class B misdemeanor. If convicted, they face up to six months in jail and a \$200 fine.

One protester, graduate student Chester Wilson, was tried and convicted but has not yet been sentenced. Trials are pending for the remaining four.

All the protesters except two were uni-

versity students at the time of the office takeover, the defendants said. Now, only Wilson and Daniel Gohl, a graduate student in physics and one of the 11 currently on trial, is enrolled.

The defendants said they share a deep concern about the plight of South African blacks.

Attorney Virginia Ramond said, "This is not a clique of people. This is a group of people of diverse backgrounds and diverse personalities who had one thing in common: strong convictions about South Africa. These individual defendants did not

intend to interfere with education or any other authorized activity."

Marc Salomon said he became involved in anti-apartheid activities because he saw similarities between the treatment of blacks by South African whites and the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany.

"Whether it is Nazi Germany persecuting the Jews or South Africa persecuting the blacks, what came to mind to me was, 'Never again,' " he said. "This has to be stopped."

Severin said the protesters were careful not to damage the president's office during the takeover.

After hanging a banner from the office

balcony that said, "Apartheid Kills. Divest Now," Severin said she went back into the office and "very carefully" moved desks to barricade the door. She said she first removed typewriters and computers from the desks and placed them on the floor.

The protesters called the press and state lawmakers, publicizing their takeover and a list of demands for the regents.

After making the calls, the group linked arms and sat in a circle on the floor. They were arrested by police who broke into the office.

The trial, which began Monday with testimony from the prosecution, is expected to last through the week.

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