

State and Local

Recruitment program provides money for minority fellowships

By Doug Driskell
Staff Writer

Minority applications to Texas A&M's graduate program have doubled in the last year, an official in the graduate department said.

This increase is a result of an intensified minority recruitment program funded primarily by the Commitment to Texas program created by the Texas A&M Board of Regents last year, Duwayne M. Anderson, associate provost for research and graduate studies, said.

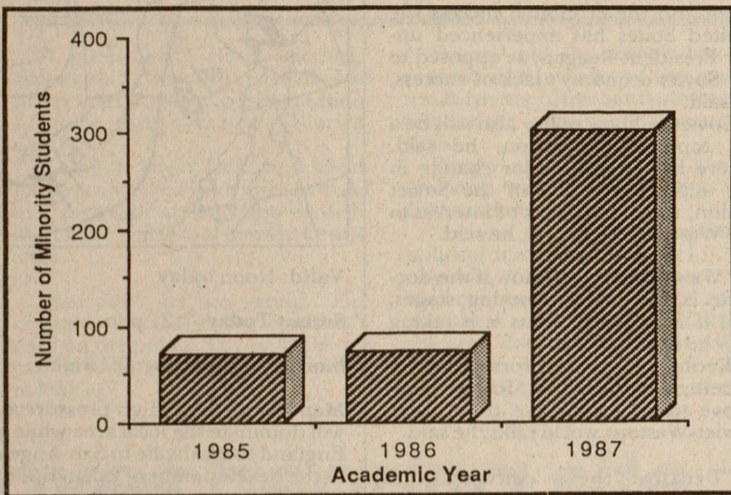
"We want to increase the total number of graduate students and at the same time we will be working hard to increase the representation of minority students," Anderson said.

In the Commitment to Texas program, \$5 million of A&M's Available University Fund allocation is provided for the recruitment of minorities. It has been predicted that an estimated 40 percent of the college-age population will be black or Hispanic by the year 2000.

"This money only gets us started, but it is not sufficient to do the whole job," Anderson said. "It is the administration's intention to try to raise additional funds to allow this program to grow."

Part of this money is allocated for minority merit fellowships, he said. These fellowships are offered to black and Hispanic U.S. citizens who are accepted to the A&M graduate program.

Estimated Increase in Minority Graduate Registration



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

Jack Ivin, assistant to the director of graduate studies, said A&M is unique in offering these fellowships.

"We are one of the few who offer \$10,000 a year," Ivin said. "There are several universities that offer \$10,000, but that is only for one year. At A&M, students receive this every year on a monthly basis as long as they take 12 hours and keep in good academic standing."

The students who receive this money are not required to work for the University, Ivin said.

An estimated 50 percent of those accepted into the graduate program will register at A&M, he said.

Based on this estimation, 71 minority students attended in 1985. In 1986, approximately 75 attended, and this year 303 are predicted to attend A&M. That would be a 103 percent increase in actual registrations to A&M in the graduate program since 1985.

"When you look at this increase, it is quite impressive, especially when you are looking at a very select

group of highly qualified minorities around the country," Anderson said. "These applicants are being offered excellent opportunities at all of the big schools. To get them to apply in the first place is a major victory."

Eric Lee, from Tennessee, is a minority student who decided to register in A&M's graduate program. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in June 1986.

"Initially I researched many colleges around the U.S.," he said. "I applied to the University through normal channels and was later notified of my acceptance into the physics doctorate program. I came on a visit to A&M and I was impressed with the facilities provided for research."

The fellowship turned out to be the determining factor in his decision to attend A&M, Lee said.

"I was notified of my eligibility to the fellowship before I decided to come to A&M," he said. "Research in low-temperature physics is just getting off the ground, and I think it would be good to get in on the ground floor."

"There are other places that have good, if not better programs, but because they have so many students, it is hard to support each student the way this University does. Cash and research development — coupled with the fact that it is a lot closer to home than some of the other schools I applied to — got me to come to A&M."

Class to start fundraiser to revive eternal flame

By Drew Leder
Staff Writer

The inscription on the marble that holds the eternal flame says the flame is "to symbolize the undying spirit all Aggies have for Texas A&M." If the flame is an accurate symbol of Aggie spirit, then the undying spirit must have died.

"It's kind of like an Aggie joke," Student Body President Mason Hogan said of the flame, which hasn't burned in the past two years.

Located at the north end of Kyle Field next to the graves of Reveille I, II and III, the structure of the eternal flame — lacking a flame — stands surrounded by a pool of polluted water. The structure was donated in 1983 by that year's graduating class.

However, Ann Horne, the agent of the Class of '83, told Student Government representatives Saturday that the class will try to raise the funds needed to re-light the eternal flame.

Hogan, along with other Student Government representatives and former students, is trying to get the flame relighted, a task that will require raising money.

It will cost about \$3,000 to \$4,000 to fix the flame and another \$500 a year for the gas needed to keep it "eternal," Brian Banner, vice-president for administration in Student Government, said.

The Class of '83 is attempting to raise \$6,000 to \$7,000 for an endowment to repair the flame and keep it burning — for a while, at least.

Horne said she hopes the money will be raised by next fall through donations from Class of '83 members.

"We're trying to see what we can do to get it right," she said.

The class will hold its five-year class reunion next fall. Hogan said there will be a big push to get

the flame burning by then. If the Class of '83 doesn't acquire enough money to repair the flame, he said, Student Government will attempt to raise the necessary funds from present classes.

"If they don't come up with the money we'll try to go to the class councils (to raise it)," Hogan said, "but hopefully they will be able to generate the funds."

The flame was designed by an

"It's kind of like an Aggie joke."

— Mason Hogan, student body president, describing his reaction to the eternal flame, which hasn't burned in two years

A&M student, but its original design wasn't set up to be eternal, Hogan said.

After it was constructed, it remained lighted for a while, but when rain or a strong wind came along it would go out.

Eventually, Hogan said, the flame was only lighted on days when A&M had a football game at Kyle Field so the former students would see it burning.

Horne said a member of the Class of '83 attempted to fix the eternal flame about three years ago but was unsuccessful.

Hogan said the problem of an eternal flame that doesn't burn is one of the many minor problems on the A&M campus that he hopes this year's Student Government will help remedy.

"If we get the little odds and ends done, we'll be doing more than a lot of past Student Governments," he said.

UT researchers test new electrical weapons

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas researchers are testing three types of electric guns, which military officials say could allow an outnumbered U.S. force to beat a numerically superior Soviet force.

Engineers at the Center for Electromechanics are testing an electromagnetic railgun — a revolutionary anti-tank weapon — in a 150-foot deep hole in North Austin.

Texas researchers in the two-year test program, which is funded by the Army at about \$21

million, are competing with California and Michigan researchers to design the railgun.

Another electric gun is part of the star wars research program for a space weapon to shoot down Soviet nuclear missiles. It is being funded at about \$11 million.

The third weapon being tested is a rapid-fire electric gun, which is funded at \$3.5 million by the Army and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The rapid-fire gun could be used in a battery

to protect a military headquarters from enemy missiles, said John Gully, deputy director of the center. It is a complete success and will be finished by month's end, he said.

Eventually, the center plans to build a 40-ton package consisting of a 21-foot-long electric gun, with its power supply bolted to a steel platform.

The Texas design will compete in 1989 with guns being developed by Maxwell Laboratories of San Diego, Calif. and Kaman Sciences of Detroit, Mich.

OPAS 15



Bringing the house down!

The MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society is bringing the house down with the premier performance of the 1987-88 season, the Nikolais Dance Theatre in Rudder Auditorium Tuesday, September 22 at 8 p.m.

Nikolais Dance Theatre has championed modern dance around the world since 1953. The company blends form, motion, sound, light and color in vibrant displays of expressive dance. Award winning Alwin Nikolais is a one-man composer, choreographer and designer whose trademark incorporates quicksilver muscular control into beautifully synchronized movements.

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