

U.S. government re-awards aid to education doctoral program

By Karen Lawson
Reporter

The federal government gave, took back, and then recently re-awarded a grant for doctoral training to the Texas A&M College of Education.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded the grant for \$117,190 to the college for the Doctoral Training in Special Education/School Psychology and the Handicapped Hispanic Child program.

Earlier this year, Texas A&M submitted a proposal to the department to renew the three-year grant. A&M originally was approved for the funding, but was later notified that because of internal changes there

weren't enough funds to award the grant.

A&M regained its grant approval after the education department received nationwide complaints about funding.

"There was enough of a national uproar that the department decided to put money back into the original funding categories," said Dr. Doug Palmer, associate professor of educational psychology. "When that happened, we were notified that we had been approved."

Funding for this program began Sept. 1, and is renewable on a year-to-year basis for three years.

"We will now have nine years of support at a time where there has

been a reduction in the educational budget," Palmer said.

The funds provide student financial assistance and additional resources for the training program, he said.

It has been recognized that the Hispanic race has significant learning problems in school because of cultural or linguistic biases, and the drop-out rate for this race is very high, Palmer said. As a result, there is an overrepresentation of Hispanic children in special education programs.

The American Psychological Association approved programs to recruit students who are proficient in Spanish and have both extensive experience and commitment to this

population, he said.

"We have the largest cohort of Hispanic doctoral students in the country," Palmer said.

A&M's doctoral program offers training and research activities directed toward Hispanic children with learning and behavior problems.

There are 14 students enrolled in the program, most of whom have master's degrees and have experience working with Hispanic children with a variety of learning and behavior problems.

It is a four- to five-year program including 132 semester hours, a one-year internship and a dissertation.

Brenham grows by aiding local business

BRENHAM (AP) — Prevailing wisdom says money is better spent recruiting new industry than nurturing existing business, but Brenham is proving otherwise.

It began when city and county development officials suggested the Industrial Foundation sponsor a dinner for all major businesses in the 12,900-population town.

The plan to feed 250 business leaders drew strong opposition at first, but it has since drawn local favor and helped attract new business, said Brenham's economic development director, Doug Hutchinson.

The efforts apparently have produced inquiries from 10 serious prospects about locating operations in Brenham.

This compares with only six during the two years previous, Hutchinson said.

And two of those prospects have opened for business.

Brenham also is developing plans for a venture capital fund that would tap the resources of wealthy landowners around Brenham for investment in new and existing businesses.

Not every rural community in Texas is blessed with as diverse an industrial base as Brenham's.

The town has an unusually large concentration of manufacturers for a town its size.

Products range from ice cream to mattresses, and from cotton fabric to business forms.

Manufacturing accounts for roughly 20 percent of all jobs in Washington County, compared with only 7 percent in Bryan-College Station — the closest metropolitan area, about 40 miles to the north — according to a study by the Brazos Valley Private Industry Council.

Bryan Miller, president of Brentex Mills, said, "There has to be a blend of several things, but I think it was a good idea."

"With the size of Brenham, the ones that are here now really don't know each other."

Guidelines for the venture capital fund are being drawn up, but Hutchinson said he already has had several inquiries.

Expert: Computer animation helps clients visualize ideas

By Anita Anderson
Reporter

The use of computer animation improves architectural presentations by helping prospective clients visualize the architect's idea, a computer animation expert said to a group of about 150 architecture students Thursday afternoon.

David L. Munson, director of Computer Animation at Hellmuth, Obata, & Kassabaum (HOK) in St. Louis, spoke as part of the Computer Media conference sponsored by the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

The traditional presentation tools of floor plans and scale models are still in use, he said, but the computer animation enhances the visual concept beyond the usual methods. The videos provide a better perspective of size and space, he said.

Munson is the founder of HOK Animation and creates the animated videos without help from a staff. His talents generally cost clients \$1,000 per day.

"A presentation tape for a General Motors manufacturing plant required 6 days, 96 man hours and 36,000 pictures to create," he said.

"It's not the best way, but it is a new way," Munson said. "If it was the best way and the only way, then every other architect would do it."

HOK Animations, one of the few firms to undertake computer animation, also does three-dimensional drawings.

"The clients may not remember the presentation, but they will never forget having to put on those 3-D glasses," he said.

Munson accompanies his videos with contemporary music, mostly jazz.

"The music is important to selling the ideas to the clients," he said. "Trying to sell a contemporary building with Beethoven or Bach might not go over well. Jazz is what I like."

HOK Animations has made a very large investment in the video field.

The studio is complete with state of the art equipment. Along with the computers, the HOK Animations department has switchers, editing decks and a synthesizer — items usually found in television studio. The synthesizer is used to make background noises like rainstorms and crashes.

Although the making of a very short video is expensive, there are clients who don't mind spending the money.

HOK was commissioned by the city of Tampa, Fla. to do 15 seconds worth of computer animation depicting the proposed Tampa Convention Center at a cost of \$72,000, he said.

Kemp: Bush made mistake by not attending oil forum

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Jack Kemp made a solo appearance before a national oil organization Sunday and said Vice President George Bush made a mistake by not attending.

Raymond Hefner Jr., chairman of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, said 14 likely presidential candidates — seven Democrats and seven Republicans — had been invited to speak at a non-debate forum on the 1988 presidential election.

Only Rep. Kemp, R-N.Y., accepted, said Hefner, who is chief executive officer of Bonray Energy Corp. in Oklahoma City.

"I know that that was not meant as an insult by anyone else, but I want you to know I consider this the place to be," Kemp said at the outset of a 40-minute speech to representatives of the 7,000-member association.

Later, he was asked at a news conference how his campaign was doing in Texas, the official home state of Bush. "We think we look, 'A,' very competitive (and) 'B,' the vice president should have been here. I think other candidates should have been here in Austin to address this very important industry."

Bush has picked Houston as the place to officially start his presidential campaign Monday, and Kemp said, "I think announcing his campaign in Houston and Chicago without coming to Austin is a mistake."

"If I were at the cutting edge of America's energy industry and the vice president of the United States, who says he's a former entrepreneur, were not to come and speak to this very important industrial group in America — that represents not only industry in the Sunbelt but also throughout our country — I think

that is big mistake. And I think that can only help Jack Kemp."

"I'm not going to challenge motives. I think it was a mistake not to be here. I'm here."

"How is it possible to broaden the base of the Republican Party and not go where the people are?"

In an earlier speech to the association, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said he would not compromise in his efforts to repeal the so-called windfall profits tax.

Bentsen, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, noted that the Senate had voted 58-40 to repeal the windfall profit tax, but he said "the battle is far from over."

"The House version does not have the windfall profits tax repeal," Bentsen said. "In fact, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee — Danny Rostenkowski — has always opposed repeal."

Survey: Dallas ministers are best-paid clergy

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas ministers and Southern Baptist clergy are the best paid in the United States, according to a survey of compensation for people in the ministry or related jobs in 10 American denominations.

The study finds striking differences among denominations and regions in the average senior pastor's total compensation.

Heading the list are Southern Baptists, who pay their senior pastors an average annual package of \$50,458. Presbyterians run a close second at \$49,934, and Episcopalians are third, with an average of \$46,811.

The highest-paid minister reported in Dallas, a Southern Baptist earning \$149,150, was not identified by name in the survey, conducted by the Ministers' Financial Services Association of Lubbock, Texas. The company gathered infor-

mation from nearly 1,000 congregations in 10 Christian denominations.

The top pay doesn't go to Dallas' most prominent Baptist preacher, W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church.

"I wish," joked Criswell, who earns \$50,000 a year, excluding allowances, book revenues and housing. "I would be delighted if it were."

Independent Churches of Christ reported the lowest average — \$31,908, with the Nazarenes, at \$33,420, and Disciples of Christ at \$34,069, second and third from the bottom, respectively.

The survey also shows that Baptist provisions for their ministers' retirements are among the lowest.

Denominationally, Presbyterians, Lutherans and Episcopalians pay well above the average retirement package, at 11 percent of total compen-

sation. Disciples were just above the 10 percent level recommended in the study. But along with the Baptists, the United Methodists, the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, Assemblies of God, the Church of Christ and the Nazarenes all were below 10 percent.

The association examined the full financial package for pastors in the Assemblies of God, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Episcopal Church, Independent Churches of Christ, Lutheran, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Southern Baptist and United Methodist churches.

The response from Roman Catholics was so small that even though the results were published, they were not considered by those who took the survey to reflect an accurate picture of the compensation received by priests.

A&M expands Beaumont rice research center

By Mike Walters
Reporter

Almost \$2.9 million of new construction and improvements scheduled to begin soon at the Texas A&M Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Beaumont will further the center's internationally-recognized rice research, Dr. Jim Stansel, resident director of the center, says.

Construction will include three laboratories, a shop, graduate student housing, a state-of-the-art greenhouse and laboratory complex for biotechnology and other research projects, and a field equipment storage area, Stansel says.

In addition to the construction, seven laboratories will be upgraded, the center's road and irrigation system will be improved and the headquarters building will be remodeled, he says.

The project, which is to be completed in 1989, was approved by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in September.

Scientists at the Beaumont center have received international and national recognition for rice research.

Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng recognized the center with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Superior Service Award for Group Research.

Neville P. Clarke, interim deputy chancellor for agriculture of the

University System and director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, said the construction at the center is necessary.

"The Beaumont-center building program was funded because of the importance of rice research to the Texas economy, the high productivity of the center's rice and soybean programs, and the active support the research program receives from the rice industry," he said.

"This funding to upgrade the Beaumont facility will help the research momentum needed for continued regional economic impacts well into the 21st century," Clarke said.

More than \$2 billion annually is added to Texas' Gulf-Coast economy through the production of rice and soybeans, he said. These two crops help support one of the world's largest areas of grain drying, milling, packaging, storing and shipping facilities, he said.

The center, established by the Texas Legislature in 1909, employs 13 scientists, one extension specialist, and 72 support and technical staff.

The economic impact along the upper Texas Gulf Coast has increased by \$248 million per year for the past five years because of rice-research efforts at the center, he said.

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