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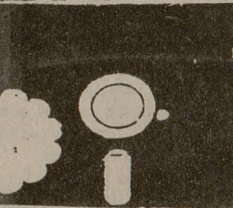
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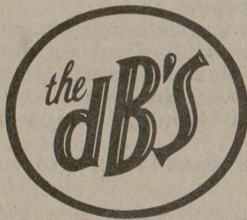
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67-year-old A&M student sets sights on obtaining Nobel Prize for science

By Bridget Harrow
Reporter

It is late, and a Texas A&M student sits slumbering over a chemistry book. Music plays in the background — a little on the loud side — as the student works on formulas that will be on the next day's test. The life of a typical college student?

No, not really. This student is not as "typical" as he seems. Pictures of his two grandchildren are encased in a frame, and the large American flag hanging over the living room means more to him than it might for another college student.

The gray-haired, 67-year-old student is Ed Moreland, a junior meteorology major and a World War II and Korean War veteran.

After serving 22 years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves — several of them as a pilot — Moreland said he has come back to college to "learn to give."

"All my life I really have been doing things for Ed Moreland," he said. "In other words, I never really felt I contributed to society. Although I guess I did. I went out there and fought a war for everybody who is in school today. I refer to it as striking a blow for democracy."

Moreland began his college education in 1985 — 45 years after he struck his first blow for democracy. He enrolled in Texas A&M at Galveston, where he lived in a campus dorm for two years before transferring to the College Station campus in Spring 1987.

But Moreland didn't come to college without a specific goal in mind.

"I read about this 91-year-old woman who keeps going back to college and getting different bachelor's degrees just to satisfy her thirst for knowledge, but my goal is a little more focused," he said.

Moreland said his ultimate goal is to win the Nobel Prize.

"The greatest accomplishment is going to be the day when I receive the Nobel Prize for discovering a method of steering hurricanes and the possibility of causing hurricanes to diminish in magnitude," he said.

Moreland said he knew he would major in meteorology because he formulated his theories through his Marine experience. He went to a Marine forecaster and observer school, and forecasted weather reports for military aircraft. He also

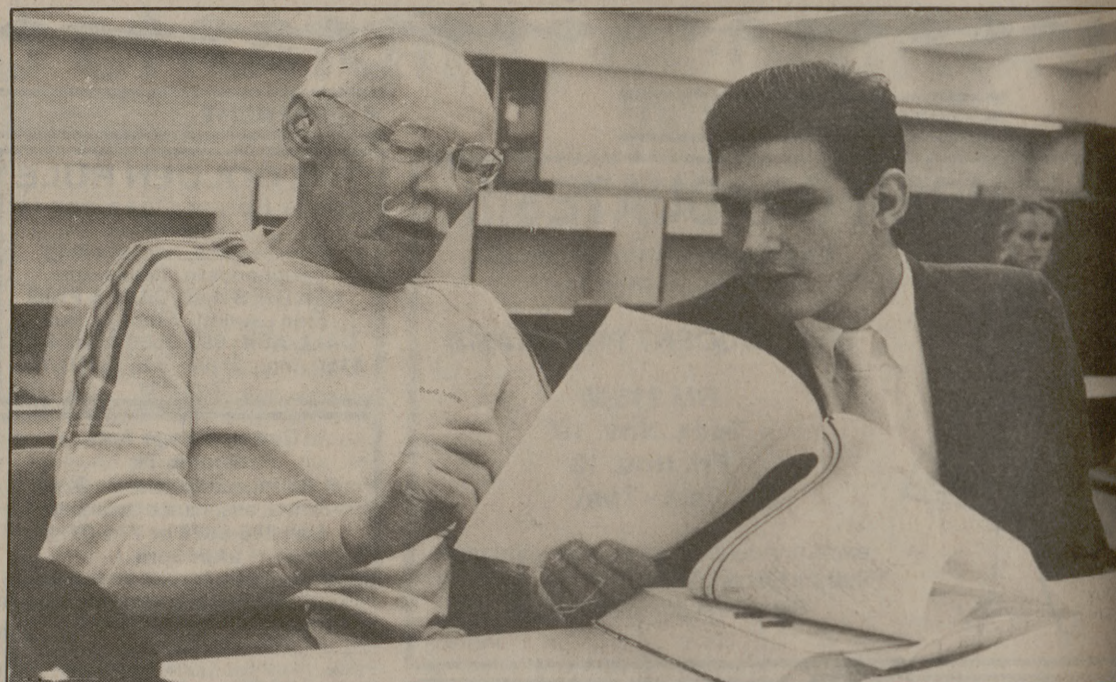


Photo by Sarah Cowan

Ed Moreland, left, studies with friend William Oestreich in Sterling C. Evans Library.

managed a national weather station at a Marine base in El Toro, Calif.

"That is when I figured how I could give to society and accomplish what I want to do," Moreland said. "I want to set myself to getting my bachelor's, then my master's, and then I want to get into research work. Next I'll have to massage these theories, and hopefully I can get some results from which I can write a thesis, and I'll get my Ph.D."

Moreland said he probably will not be alive to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his theories, but he hopes eventually to be recognized as the person who did the research.

When asked why he didn't go to college after World War II, Moreland straightened up and indignation blazed in his eyes. Not many students today have lived through the Great Depression, he said.

"It was very impressionable to me, and security was more important to me than going to college," he said.

"So I elected to stay in the Marine Corps."

After retiring from the Marines in 1964, Moreland flew nine years for Air America Airlines, which operated under clandestine conditions in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos eras.

"We had 25 percent attrition, meaning roughly 25 percent of our guys didn't come back," he said. "They were shot down or they crashed or whatever. It was the kind of excitement of, 'Am I going to cheat the devil today?'"

Moreland said he continued to fly for Air America until he foresaw the North Vietnamese takeover of Saigon.

Although Moreland has a wealth of military adventures to recount, he prefers to give advice to both older and younger college students.

"Don't be afraid of going back to school and don't be afraid because you happen to be older than all your

peers," he advised. "Just blend and they will accept you."

The most impressive aspect of his peers, Moreland said, is the friendship and sharing of ideas. The sharing works as a stabilizing force that keeps him in touch with the present generation, he said.

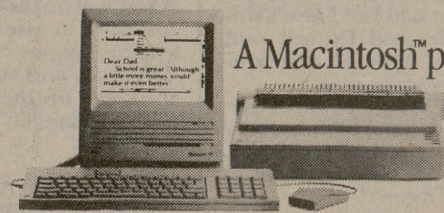
"I am not bothered at all that my peers are younger than I," Moreland said. "I have found it a pleasure to meet and know so many of them. After all, they are the future leaders of our country. One of them might become president of the United States."

To younger people, Moreland gives different advice.

"College is a lot of fun," he said. "You go to college not because your mama or papa tell you that you have to go, or because the state said you have to go. You go because you want to go. When you graduate from high school, life is only beginning, so be sure to go to college, or you'll miss the fun."



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