

# Student workers enjoy variety of different jobs

By Fiona Soltes  
Staff Writer

It's hard to tell how many there are; they seem to be everywhere. Student workers drive your shuttle bus, help teach your lab, and sell you tickets to football games.

The jobs are diverse, but most who work on campus will agree — the hours are flexible and it's a great way to meet people.

Natalie Geislar, clerk II for the Student Financial Aid office, says that flexible hours are a big attraction in most on-campus jobs.

"Most campus jobs are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.," Geislar says. "That's great when you consider that others, like those working in malls, need to be there evenings and weekends. Staying on campus gives students extra time to study."

She says campus employers usually are more responsive to the students' needs.

The number of students employed at Texas A&M is difficult to determine, she says, but student

workers can be found in most departments.

Among the most visible student workers on campus are shuttle bus drivers.

Kathie Mathis, assistant manager of shuttle bus operations, says she employs about 200 students in addition to a few budgeted drivers.

"The drivers have to work either Monday, Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday and Thursday," she says. "Of course, they can work all five days, too."

But as far as being flexible, bus driver Ted Willison says his bosses are reasonable.

"We pick the routes and the hours we want to work at the beginning of the semester," Willison, a junior business administration major, says. "We keep those hours throughout the semester but if something comes up, we can always take off."

Willison says the bus drivers' starting pay is \$4.14 an hour.

Bus drivers are eligible for a raise after 9 months, making the job among the highest-paying student

employment opportunities on campus.

Mathis attributes the high pay to an extensive training program.

"All of our drivers must take a 48-hour driving course," Mathis says. "During this training, they have written and driving tests every day and a three-hour final exam at the end. They also must take a test given by the state to be able to drive others in the bus."

Student worker David Massey's job also required extra training.

As a computer draftsman for the Archaeological Research Lab, Massey draws maps of surveyed sites and plots them on a computer-aided design system.

"The job is great experience for me as a mechanical engineering major," Massey, a sophomore, says.

"The CAD system has many engineering applications." The lab surveys land to assess its historical value before developers build on it, he says.

"As far as working on campus, there are many benefits," Massey says. "My employers are especially understanding if I have a test, for example. But it also has risks. With lab jobs, the budgets are usually limited, meaning there's a higher risk of being cut."

Some student workers, such as Lisa Murray, a junior speech communications major, have less risk of being cut from the payroll.

Murray, who sells football tickets at G. Rollie White Coliseum, says the job is open to her for as long as she wants it.

"Most of the time, people come back fall after fall," Murray says. "Once someone's hired for this job, they usually stay for a while." Murray got the job through contacts she made as a member of the Diamond Darlings, she says.

She is paid minimum wage, but says that does not bother her.

"I don't have any complaints," she says. "It's a great way to meet a lot of people."

Other student workers, such as Carrie Hood, don't get paid at all, but work for credit hours instead.

Hood, a senior zoology major, receives three credit hours for taking care of turtles used for research in A&M's Sea Grant program.

Hood says she enjoys her job not only because of the experience she is gaining while caring for the turtles, but also because she can work in the evenings.

"It's definitely a time-consuming job," she says. "But since I'm planning on working with marine mammals, it's definitely worth it."

# Diabetes association forms A&M chapter

By Patti Easterling  
Reporter

A student chapter of the American Diabetes Association was officially created Thursday by a group of Texas A&M University students and faculty members.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body cannot make use of sugars in a normal way because of an insulin deficiency.

Insulin, a hormone produced in the pancreas, acts on the glucose in the body to facilitate its use for energy. The person with diabetes does not produce sufficient insulin, which causes excess glucose to accumulate in the body.

The third leading cause of death in the United States, diabetes is also a major contributor to heart and kidney disease and the number one cause of new cases of blindness in adults.

According to an article published in the Louisiana American Diabetes Association newsletter, one person is diagnosed as having

diabetes every minute in the United States.

"Aggies against Diabetes," a tentative name for the student chapter, is the brainchild of Cindy Mumm, a junior chemical engineering major from Lake Charles.

Mumm, who has been a diabetic for eleven years, said organizing this chapter has been a lifelong goal of hers.

"Before I came to college, I didn't know any other diabetics," Mumm said. "I thought this program would be a good way to meet other diabetics my age that have the same experiences and problems that I have."

Dr. William Ward, associate dean for Student Affairs and American Diabetes Association volunteer, is the student chapters sponsor and adviser.

Ward, who has been an American Diabetes Association volunteer for a number of years, stressed that the mission of the ADA chapters in Texas are twofold.

# A&M emergency care team gives beat-the-heat advice

Although fall officially has begun, the summer heat has not completely disappeared. The Texas A&M Emergency Care Team treats as many as 150 people for heat-related injuries at football games early in the semester, says Karen Holmes, TAMECT public relations director.

The Emergency Care Team recommends taking the following precautions against heat-related injuries:

- Do not drink alcohol before the game since it leaves you prone to dehydration. Drink plenty of water if you drank alcohol the night before.
- Drink lots of liquids, especially water (but not alcohol) before and during the game.
- Get a good night's rest the night before the game.
- Dress appropriately. Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing that deflects the sun's rays and permits adequate evaporation of perspiration.
- Eat a good meal no more than an hour or two before the game, especially if you drank alcohol the night before.
- Recognize the signs and symptoms of heat injuries.

If you experience any of them or feel ill in any way, do not hesitate to go to the first aid station. If you are not certain about feeling symptoms of heat injury, get out of the sun and get something to drink. You are welcome to sit in one of the air-conditioned first aid stations to cool down.

- If you do have to come to the first aid station to get a medic for a sick friend in the stands, bring a ticket stub so the medics can find the patient quickly, and stay with the medics to guide them.

Signs and symptoms of heat injury include:

- Pale, cool, clammy skin
- Dizziness, light-headedness
- Headache
- Nausea
- Cramps in extremities or abdomen
- Weak, rapid pulse

First aid stations are located on both sides of the second and third decks at the north end zone of the stadium.

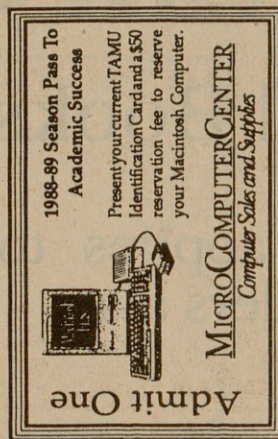
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