

Off Campus Center reorganizes to keep up with changing needs

By Melissa Kennedy
Reporter

The Off Campus Center staff is reorganizing programs to meet the changing needs of off-campus students.

"Next year, due to new residence halls, we will be seeing fewer freshmen and will have more time to focus on upper-class students," Mary Ann Rausch, off-campus student adviser, said.

The OCC plans to implement an outreach program to students moving from the dorm to off-campus homes.

Past efforts to reach students while they still live on campus have not been extensive, Rausch said.

"Last spring, we spoke to a couple of halls about what to look for in a lease and how to deal with high pressure apartment managers," Rausch said. "It was successful primarily because resident directors and advisers saw a need for it and were willing to put effort into it," she said.

Rausch said she believes speaking to dormitory residents who plan to move off campus is important because many of them don't realize the responsibilities that come with living away from the University.

"I have talked to quite a few students already who don't necessarily draw the clear connection between signing their name on a lease and being bound legally," Rausch said.

After a recent statewide conference focusing on commuting students and adult students, the OCC staff began discussing ways to let the University know about those students' special needs.

The staff learned that working around regular business hours can pose problems for commuting students.

"Many students schedule classes in a block so they can go to work, attend classes and go back to work or to their families," she said. "Many times it is hard for these students to get to offices between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m."

Rausch said solutions such as partial workdays on Saturday or swing shifts from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. are unlikely due to strong resistance in many institutions.

"These solutions are much more common in community colleges or technical schools which aim specifically at adult and part-time students," she said.

Rausch said the OCC also is considering establishing an area specifically for off-campus students.

She said the OCC would like to designate a lounge area for commuting or off-campus students.

"The MSC partially fulfills this function, but students aren't really aware of locker facilities around campus and they certainly have no place to store a bag lunch," Rausch said.

Although the OCC staff is focusing more effort toward upper-class students, new programs for freshmen also are being developed.

Rausch said the OCC has an opportunity to speak with incoming freshmen during the freshman student conferences.

"We've just finished a video in the David Letterman-type style," Rausch said. "It is entertaining and the freshmen get a lot of basic information. We end with a question and answer period and strongly suggest they visit the OCC for additional information."

Another growing segment of the Texas A&M student population constitutes minority students.

The Center staff attends and speaks at minority-student orientations and provides a roommate referral box at the Multi-cultural Center.

"That is as specialized as we get at the Multi-cultural Center," Rausch said. "We'd like them to come to the OCC for the rest of their housing resources."

This year, the off-campus population comprises almost 75 percent of the A&M student body.

To effectively answer the increasing number of inquiries about off-campus living, the Center has begun a program

called SHARE (Students Helping Aggie Residents Everywhere).

The volunteers in SHARE are trained by the OCC staff in the laws and rights of managers, owners and residents.

The volunteers also are trained to address roommate conflicts, safety and security.

The SHARE volunteer phone numbers are recorded on the OCC answering machine, printed on fliers in the Center listing room and posted at some apartment complexes.

"Off-campus housing doesn't just end with finding a roommate," Rausch said.

"The demand for Off Campus Center services is cyclical," she said.

Before a semester begins, those visiting the OCC are looking for information on apartment availability and prices as well as roommates and subleases, she said.

"We try to orient people on the information available and what to look at in a

lease and in an apartment," Rausch said. "Many days we're just out there talking all day to people as they come in."

As the semester progresses, the OCC staff takes an advisory role.

"Now, I am quite frequently helping students who have problems with their lease, management or their roommate," she said. "In November, we'll begin getting questions regarding problems with a roommate moving or the penalties for breaking a lease."

While the OCC is continuously updating their programs to meet the needs of a changing student body, its primary goal is to help students become educated housing consumers.

"There is so much to know, but the key is to know the things that will get you through with a minimum of worries," Rausch said.

"There is enough red tape in the world and students certainly don't need to go through it trying, for example, to get a manager to make repairs."

Parties campaign for open seat in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Bill Sarpalis trails his Republican opponent, Larry Milner, in fund-raising and campaign spending in what both sides point as a down-to-the-wire race for Texas' only open seat in Congress, the Panhandle's sprawling 13th District.

Reports filed with the Federal Election Commission this week show Milner raised \$135,490 between July 1 and Sept. 30, while Sarpalis' campaign brought in \$95,805. For the same period, Milner spent \$125,418 to the \$91,020 in campaign spending by Sarpalis.

Milner had \$28,684 cash on hand at the end of September to the \$22,237 in

Sarpalius' warchest. Both campaigns had debts and outstanding expenses — \$37,894 for Milner, \$20,876 for Sarpalis — at the close of the reporting period.

A targeted race by both the national Republican and Democratic parties, the seat in the rural district opened up when Republican Rep. Beau Boulter challenged Democratic Sen. Lloyd Bentsen's re-election bid for a fourth term.

Since the first of the year, Milner has raised \$311,076 and spent \$292,393, while Sarpalis has raised \$177,828 and spent \$186,952.

Faculty goes overseas to teach

Program gives opportunity to travel

By Holly Becka
Staff Writer

People who have the desire to travel, see foreign lands, experience different cultures and meet new people don't have to join the Armed Forces. For some Texas A&M faculty members and students who have taught overseas, teaching is the profession that is becoming an adventure.

The Study Abroad Office has many pamphlets and books for A&M educators and students interested in teaching overseas. The publications describe the programs by their location and their prerequisites for application.

Joseph Hutchinson, a professor of architecture who has taught in Europe three times, participated in the Study Abroad program last summer.

He spent more than a month overseas teaching a three-hour arts and civilization class to Aggies who traveled to England and Paris. David Anderson, an associate professor of English, went to Europe with Hutchinson to teach British literature.

"There are lots of opportunities for faculty and students to travel overseas if they want to," Hutchinson said.

He said he and Anderson began preparations for the trip a year and a half in advance.

"Colleges across campus were notified by Study Abroad that proposals for courses overseas were being taken," he said. "We wrote a full proposal that included the trip itinerary, lectures, textbooks and assignments."

Study Abroad Director Mona Rizk-Finne said that each college evaluates proposals and decides which ones to include in the Study Abroad program.

"The Interdisciplinary Committee on campus reviews them and makes recommendations, and the Coordinating Board in Austin has the final say in the proposal," Rizk-Finne said. "The course needs to justify why we should teach a course in 'x' location."

She said that usually two courses are taught together overseas. "The courses should be complementary and not compete with each other," she said.

Hutchinson said that when the proposal was approved, he and Anderson recruited students to take the trip.

"Thirty students from study fields across the University went and there were about a half a dozen on the waiting list," Hutchinson said. "In Spring 1988 we offered a one-hour preparatory course for the students who were going to England and Paris. It was an orientation to the program and to Europe. We told them how to act and how to adjust to a different culture and made sure everyone got their passports and visas."

He said that as a teacher and as a visitor to a foreign country, he thought the experience was wonderful.

"I got to lecture in cathedrals, museums and English manors, and when we went to Canterbury, David (Anderson) lectured about Canterbury Tales by Chaucer," he said. "Going to London and to Paris was a cross-cultural experience. It was wonderful to compare the two."

"We had a terrific time," he said. "I don't think the students slept two hours a night — they were constantly on the go."

David Ekroth, associate professor of architecture, has spent a total of five years teaching overseas in Asia with the Peace Corps, at the University of Science in Malaysia and most recently, at the Institute of Technology in Malaysia.

"I was hired by the Texas International Education Consortium and the Malaysian government to teach architecture to Malaysian students who would come to America if they passed two years of rigorous study," Ekroth said. "There were seven faculty members from all over the state who taught 230 students."

Ekroth said he found out about the program when an associate dean of architecture sought interested faculty members for the project.

He was willing to go to Malaysia because of his previous experience there and because he could adjust to the different lifestyle more easily because he had lived abroad.

"There are lifestyle adjustments you have to make," he said. "You can't just go to a foreign country and carry on business as usual. You have to adapt. Until

you get used to it, it might be a little difficult."

He said he thinks A&M faculty members should take advantage of teaching overseas.

"I think it promotes A&M's involvement in work abroad," Ekroth said. "It's pretty important because we have 3,000 international students on campus and because the University has the notion of wanting to move into the international arena."

Mary Beth Butler, a graduate student in English, participated in a Study Abroad program in Great Britain as a assistant teacher in Spring 1987.

"I taught literature, tutored students in English and helped them with papers and essays and did basic troubleshooting," Butler said. "It was the greatest thing that ever happened to me. I would definitely recommend it — it was a great teaching experience."

"On a personal level, I didn't even believe Britain was there," she said. "You know how sometimes you have to see something to believe it? Teaching overseas was a really valuable experience. I did some great research at the British Library. The culture difference was also an experience. You bet I'd love to do it again."

Rizk-Finne said that very few students get to serve as teaching assistants.

Butler said assistant teaching is a matter of whether funding and a position — are available.

A&M English and French major Andrew Gardner got his job teaching in Brazil in an unconventional manner.

"My brother knows a guy in a private language school in Brazil," Gardner said. "The director of the school was looking for a native English speaker to help teach students and teachers. As an English major, I know grammar, so the job worked out pretty well."

"In Brazil, if you know English you can get ahead in the business world. Most students who want to get ahead take English from a private school. The English program in the high schools usually aren't too great."

Gardner said he stayed with the director of the school and was paid the same salary as the other teachers.

"It was a great experience," he said.

AIM HIGH

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING MAJORS!

The Air Force has openings for men and women in selected science and engineering fields. To prepare you for one, you can apply for an Air Force ROTC scholarship. See what it can do for you. Contact the campus Air Force ROTC representative today.

CAPT KEVIN GAMACHE
845-7611

Leadership Excellence Starts Here

GO WITH BATTALION CLASSIFIED

845-2611

Notes-N-Quotes

846-2255
112 Nagle St.
FREE PARKING

LET US HELP YOU
MAKE THIS A
GREAT SEMESTER

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Study Guides | Binding |
| BANA 217, BOTN 101 | Copying |
| Lecture Notes | Laser Printing |
| Cliff Notes | Resume Packets |
| Scantrons/Bluebooks | Club Printing Discounts |
| Professor Course Packets | Colored, Bond, 11"x17" Paper |

FEED BARN

Mon-Thurs 11-8:30
Fri 11-9:30
Sat 11-3:00
expires 10-29-88

Texas' Best

2 Chicken Fried Steak Dinners \$4⁹⁹

with french fries, cream cravy & toast

Call for Directions
822-9488
2017 Fountain

MSC Political Forum

Election '88:
Texas Candidates Series
presents

BEAU BOULTER

Senatorial Candidate

Monday, October 24
7:00 p.m.
701 Rudder
Free Admission
Reception to follow

This program is presented for educational purposes, and does not constitute an endorsement for any speaker.

SOMETHING'S BREWING!

happy hour friday 2-6

free beer!

movie rental
over 5,000 titles
\$1.99 feature films
99¢ Tues. & Wed.

all books
25% off
(excludes remainders
and sale books)

OPEN: Sun.-Thurs., 10-10 Fri. & Sat. 10-11

25% OFF Paperback Bestsellers! EVERYDAY
30% OFF Hardback Bestsellers! EVERYDAY

hastings

Something's Always On Sale!

VISA College Station • Culpepper Plaza MasterCard

• Music • Books • Movies • Video • Music • Books •

A Night at

Think Before You Drink!

Reduced cover - \$1.00

Non-alcohol and alcohol drinks

Free Food!
Door Prizes!

When: Thursday, October 20
Where: Graffiti, 313 S. College Ave.
Time: 8:00 pm - close

Sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, Graffiti,
Mission Jewelers, Garfield's, Putt-Putt
Golf, Popabilities and *K&K*

Texas A&M University

Choices of a new generation

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week 1988

For more information, call the
Center for Drug Prevention and
Education 845-0280