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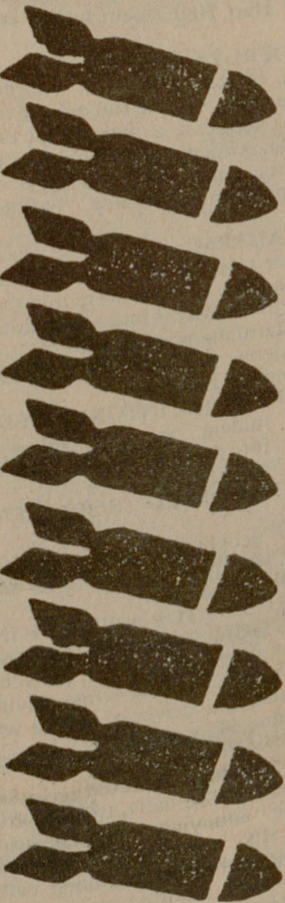
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## Administrator treats students like humans, not ID numbers

By Shawn Edwards  
Reporter

Although many college administrators consider students nothing more than Social Security numbers, one administrator makes it a policy to remember students as what they are — humans.

That administrator is Dr. John Koldus, vice president of student services. During his 16 years at A&M, Koldus has made it his policy to keep the student aspect of his title foremost.

"I keep a 3-by-5 card on everyone I meet with," Koldus said. "I just jot a few words down on the subject matter. It's very confidential, and if we talk about something personal I don't write it down. I have symbols for certain things."

Until recently, Koldus had a policy of remembering students by name. If he met a student once and failed to remember his name, he would have lunch with that person.

Tracy Wenkel, a senior journalism major, said, "At my fall leadership conference he had a crowd of about 100 people give their name and organization. He said if he didn't remember our name the next time he saw us, he would buy lunch. The man has an incredible memory."

Melissa McConnell, Koldus' secretary, said that because A&M's enrollment has increased drastically in the last year, Koldus decided to abandon the lunch policy, but he has not abandoned the effort to remember students.

"Dr. Koldus would say that he had to stop the policy because he is getting older, but that's not the real reason," she said. "With the increase in students at A&M, it's now virtually impossible for him to remember everyone he meets."

Despite discontinuing that policy, Koldus still invites about 25 students to lunch each Thursday to discuss current topics.

Koldus' energy is infectious. Several faculty members said he maintains sharp attire, pageboy energy and constant enthusiasm. Only the receding hairline intermixed with gray reveals his 58 years.

McConnell said, "He always gives me when he greets me in the office. And he always greets most students with similar enthusiasm."

Koldus heads nine departments in student services — from the commandant's office to recreational sports. He is also a teacher and serves on master's and doctoral degree committees.

Even though his responsibilities are tremendous, he said he remains loyal to students in all aspects of his work.

"During Fish Camp I tell everyone to come and see me if they ever have a problem," he said. "I meet with several students and faculty on a day-to-day basis."

"In my position you have to be able to adjust, without pressure, to a daily change in priorities," he said. "You cannot allow problems to pile on, but you must deal with each problem individually and then move on to the next one. By doing this, you're not overwhelmed."

Although Koldus is widely known and



Dr. John J. Koldus III

highly regarded by most students, he said he is continually trying to improve himself.

"I keep a notecard on my desk to re-emphasize I should always improve myself," he said. "It says, 'Give life your best shot — but enjoy it!'"

Koldus said he likes to know his strengths and weaknesses because they change each year.

"Age helps improvement, but you constantly have to work at it," he said. "Ideally, I want to be consistent with everyone."

"It's interesting to note how you spend your time, because then you can see how you can improve," Koldus said. "If you aspire to a position of prominence it's important to realize the time it takes to get there. If you enjoy what you do, then time is never a problem."

on file all the speeches he has made so he updates them when he speaks to a same group again.

"He's very well organized," McConnell said. "Each secretary in the office has her own personal color of stationery."

Although his attention is needed on campus, Koldus said he does not concern for his family, health and success are most important in his life.

He and his wife Mary Dell Koldus have four children. Melissa, the oldest at 29, then Cynthia, Jane and Deborah, the youngest at 23. They graduated from Texas A&M.

"I make a weekly schedule for my wife so she'll know exactly what I'm doing," Koldus said. "I even make a monthly schedule so she'll know when I'm going out of town and when she

**"I keep a notecard on my desk to re-emphasize I should always improve myself. It says, 'Give life your best shot — but enjoy it!'"**

— Dr. John J. Koldus III

Patience, human concern and extreme organization represent the most important of Koldus' characteristics.

"I play poker . . . and you always play your best odds," he said. "You can't always be perfectly sure of the outcome, but you take the hand that's dealt to you. It's the same for anything you do in life."

Bob Rogers, head of the department of journalism, who worked with Koldus for 10 years, said, "He's genuinely interested in the welfare of the students. He's always done what he could to be helpful.

For example, one semester a journalism student was injured. She couldn't get around on her own until she was better into his own home until she was better. I think that's far beyond the expectations of a vice president. That just shows clear concern."

McConnell said students generally are able to see Koldus whenever they need to.

"Not many in administration will do that for students," she said.

Koldus not only works closely with students but also hand-in-hand with faculty, staff and the community.

Koldus makes many presentations at meetings and other functions. He keeps

go with me."

Koldus shies away from office work ends to catch up on paperwork.

"When the papers are done, I find I takes off pressure for me to attend more individual concerns," Koldus said. After an average 12-hour workday Koldus said, he enjoys relaxing at home and watching an old movie with his wife. In his spare moments he likes to golf with friends.

Many of his friends are students. Angela Funk, a senior accounting major who directed Fish Camp '88, said that although Koldus is a big person campus, he is still approachable.

"You don't hesitate to come to him because he offers no intimidation," Funk said. "He's very professional, but at the same time very personable. This year I had an unpleasant situation arise as a student, and I found Dr. Koldus was concerned. He always remembers my name. I'm sure most everyone has the same things about him."

Although there are many reasons why Koldus has for wanting to be at A&M, said the people — especially students — are the major reason.

## Funding proposal criticized

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposal to give incentive payments to schools that show improvement in student performance was criticized Wednesday by the House sponsor of sweeping school reforms.

Rep. Bill Haley, D-Center, objected to a tentative proposal by the State Board of Education to link money to student scores on the Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills.

The proposal says other performance indicators also would be used, but none are specified in a list of recommendations presented SBOE Chairman Jon Brumley made to the Legislative Educa-

tion Board on Wednesday. The recommendations have been tentatively approved by the State Board of Education.

Haley serves on the Legislative Education Board — along with Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, House Speaker Gib Lewis and other elected officials — and heads the House Public Education Committee, which also discussed the proposal Wednesday.

If he still were a teacher, Haley said, "I would retire before I ever would submit myself or my students or the public in general to such a scam."

Linking test scores with money would

be like linking Medicaid reimbursements for doctors with how quickly a patient covers, Haley said.

Haley sponsored the 1984 education reform bill, which included the basic skills test. He also sponsored the 1981 curriculum reform bill.

"Testing is not what some politicians want to think it is. It is not something that tells you everything there is to be told," Haley said.

Haley also expressed concern about teachers spending a more time on tests to be tested, neglecting other areas.

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