

Freshman seminar teaches leadership

Spring registration continues

By Juliette Rizzo
STAFF WRITER

By participating in the Emerging Leaders Seminar, freshmen at Texas A&M have the opportunity to become more than just fish in the sea of students competing for leadership positions on campus.

Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of student activities, initiated the non-credit seminar course 11 years ago to provide entering students with a behind-the-scenes look at A&M and to promote interest in campus activities.

The two semester class, which Adair taught during its first five years, was composed of several outstanding freshmen, as determined by their respective deans. Meeting once a week throughout the semester, they became familiar with the campus and were introduced to prominent figures.

"We started this program to see if this kind of exposure for freshmen would help them become more confident and successful in the future," Adair said. "We tracked quite a few students who took the class and have determined that they are the early joiners of organizations and tend to move faster to higher positions within those organizations."

She said the students find the class to be informative and beneficial to their college careers.

One student, Kevin Buchman, is currently involved in Student Government as the Speaker of the Senate, and others have gone on to receive Rhodes Scholarships.

"Many of them also make the Who's Who list and win college spirit awards," she said.

The class is offered twice a year. In the fall semester, the class is directed at those freshmen who graduate from high school with a strong background of participation in student activities. These students go through a nomination process and

are selected to participate in the class by their deans, she said. An additional orientation class is offered in the spring to those students who have an interest in leadership on the college campus.

"The classes today are more self-directed," Adair said. "The activities the students participate in are generated from the motivation of the class."

Tim Sweeney, associate director of student activities, said the leadership class is a step beyond Fish Camp.

"We want the students to be exposed to all the resources available on campus and to a variety of people at the University, including the president, the Board of Regents and various professors," he said. "We also teach them about what is available to them as far as leadership possibilities within the Memorial Student Center and Student Activities."

The Student Activities department now offers several credit courses in student leadership including the Management of Student Organizations.

Adair said the department hopes to start a program in which all the leadership courses will be available on a credit basis to all freshmen.

However, she said if a student is willing to devote time to the non-credit course, the rewards may be worth more than the credit would, and the student would have a fantastic head start on those who do not take the course.

Sweeney said, "The students get an opportunity to see things on campus that most students enrolled for four to five years never even get a chance to see."

For a fee of \$10, students can enroll in the course at the Student Activities Office in the Pavilion until the end of this week.

Those enrolled will meet with President William H. Mobley in February.

Fired officers regain jobs at command of arbitrators

HOUSTON (AP) — Most Houston police officers who have been fired for such reasons as beating prisoners and stealing have won their jobs back by turning to arbitrators.

During a four-year period, records show that 19 of 30 fired officers who appealed before third-party arbitrators won their jobs back, the *Houston Post* reported in a copy-right story Sunday.

Since its inception in Houston in September 1985, the issue of arbitration has pitted city management against rank-and-file police officers and firefighters. Police Chief Lee Brown and Fire Chief Robert Clayton claim arbitrators have wrested away control of their respective departments and have lowered the standards of morality, legality and efficiency within their forces.

"I think it stinks," Clayton said of the arbitration system.

Employee groups, on the other hand, say arbitration is the only fair recourse a disciplined or fired worker has to appeal his case.

Arbitrators, who act as judge and jury in the appeal process, charge between \$300 and \$500 a day for their services, records show. The bills, which almost always exceed \$1,000, are paid equally by employee groups and the city.

The only other appeal option for fired and disciplined police and firefighters is the Houston Civil Service Commission — a three-member appeal board which is appointed by Mayor Kathy Whitmire and confirmed by City Council.

Records show that no fired Houston police officer has turned to the commission since arbitration was passed into law in September 1985.

According to unofficial records at the city Legal Department, 136 police officers and firefighters have ap-

pealed to arbitrators on cases ranging from one-day suspensions to firings. Out of that number, disciplinary measures and firings were upheld in 48 cases, 55 cases were reversed and 33 resulted in a reduction of discipline, the records showed.

Another 120 cases are currently scheduled to be heard by arbitrators, records with the city's Personnel Division revealed.

According to records, cases in which Houston police officers have won their jobs back — with full pay or after reduced suspensions — include:

- An officer who was fired by Brown for beating a handcuffed juvenile suspect. An arbitrator agreed the officer was an "unprovoked aggressor" who did "verbally and physically abuse" the teen-ager, but ruled that firing was "excessive." The hearing officer added "stress" from the confrontation "clouded his (the policeman's) judgment and adversely affected his temperament."

- A police sergeant who was fired after he admittedly stole \$9.61 worth of produce from a company where he moonlighted as a security guard. Though the theft was small, Brown argued that "stealing is stealing." An arbitrator disagreed and wrote: "This may have been a situation where a basically honest and normally law-abiding man was tempted to pick up a few inexpensive produce items for the family..."

- A Houston firefighter who is back on the job after being fired by Clayton for alleged unethical conduct leading up to the slayings of the firefighter's estranged wife and the woman's lover.

The firefighter is the prime suspect in the double slaying, though the case remains open, according to authorities.

Officer tries to quiet music, kills man during struggle

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston police officer, called to quiet loud music at an apartment complex, shot a tenant to death after the man attacked him, police said.

Martin Nana, 33, was shot in the chest and right arm about 3:20 p.m. Saturday and died at Ben Taub Hospital shortly after arrival, authorities said.

Nana was shot as he struggled with patrolman Juan Rosario in the parking lot and driveway near Nana's southwest Houston apartment complex, police spokesman Dan Turner said.

According to Rosario, Nana appeared "highly intoxicated." The officer said when he arrived at the

complex, he could hear Nana yelling, "Jesus is coming."

Rosario said he told Nana to turn down the music, but he refused and went back inside the apartment.

Rosario reported that Nana confronted him two more times, demanding that he leave. When Nana, who outweighed the officer by 50 to 75 pounds, lunged at him, he used his nightstick in an attempt to fend Nana off, but felt he was being over- come, Rosario said.

The officer said he fired a shot to scare Nana, but that Nana "became even more aggressive" and continued to struggle. Rosario said he fired twice more, hitting Nana once.

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