

Scholarships, fellowships entice graduate students

A&M departments compete for top applicants

By Mia B. Moody
REPORTER

Most departments at A&M recruit by offering fellowships and sending brochures to prospective graduate students, but many departments have resorted to other measures.

The physics department recently sponsored a weekend extravaganza in which prospective graduate students were given VIP treatment.

"The students got to meet with important faculty members including a Nobel Prize holder, attend a poster session, attend a shrimp boil and engage in other activities," said Elizabeth Porter, a staff assistant in the chemistry department.

Porter said the chemistry department's recruitment techniques were successful last year.

Ward Wells, interim department head of innovation in the architecture department, said his department recruits in and outside of the state for future graduate students.

"Our department recruits undergraduates by visiting universities in and out of state where we tell them what the A&M graduate department has to offer," Wells said. "We also place ads in newsletters from different clubs and societies."

04205501Dr. Eckhard Krots-

check, chairmen of recruitment in the physics department, said his department recruits through networking.

"We ask colleagues at other schools to spread the word about our department," Krotscheck said. "We get many students because A&M has graduates who are professors at other colleges who encourage their students to look at A&M's graduate program."

Krotscheck said the physics department is having problems recruiting because of administrative rules.

"One of our problems is the rule that applications must be held by the Office of Admissions if they have something wrong with them," he said. "So we don't know who some of the students are who apply because we don't receive their applications."

The other problem is the \$25 processing fee that A&M charges to graduate applicants. Most undergraduates can't afford to pay \$25 to have an application processed, so this puts us at a disadvantage with other universities."

Dr. Richard Alexander, associate department head for the graduate department in mechanical engineering, said his department encourages its undergraduate students to participate in the graduate

program by allowing them to participate in research programs with the faculty.

"This gives them a glimpse of what graduate school is like," Alexander said. "It also gives them the opportunity to make a little money, which is an extra incentive. After they participate in this program, a lot of them decide to attend graduate school."

He said his department looks for prospective graduate students who meet University guidelines. Students must have a 3.0 grade-point ratio and an acceptable Graduate Record Examination score. In addition to these requirements, he said the department looks at letters of recommendation and the student's initiative.

Alexander said students search for specific qualities in a university and its faculty when considering graduate schools.

"They look for faculty members with expertise in the student's area of interest," he said. "They want faculty members who have made scholarly publications and done a lot of research work. They also want faculty members who are interested in their welfare."

Perks, allowances help boost earnings of state legislators

AUSTIN (AP) — State lawmakers earn \$7,200 per year, which is below the federal poverty level for a family of two.

But there the similarity ends. During the legislative session, state senators receive \$15,500 per month and House members \$7,000 for office expenses.

And the allowances don't stop when the session ends.

During the last interim period between regular legislative sessions, Senators received \$13,000 per month to run their operations, while House members received \$6,000 per month.

Many lawmakers have complained the low salary for state legislators prevents Texans with limited resources from serving in the Legislature.

Lawmakers are considering a proposed constitutional amendment for the ballot that would set legislative pay at 25 percent of the governor's salary boosting it from \$7,200 per year to about \$23,000 annually beginning in 1991.

Voters last gave lawmakers a pay raise in 1975 — a 50 percent increase from \$4,800 annually to \$7,200.

Under the monthly allotments, senators have fewer items to pay for with their larger allotment than House members.

House members use their monthly stipend for staff salaries, office supplies, district office rental, telephone, postage, subscriptions to newspapers and magazines, advertising, travel, copying service and photography.

Senators' monthly allowance goes toward staff salaries and intrastate staff travel. Senators are not limited on the amount they can spend for office supplies, district office rentals, telephone service, postage, subscriptions and copying service.

Reports for the six-month period

from Sept. 1, 1988 through Feb. 28, 1989, show a wide variance in expenses on the part of senators.

According to the reports obtained by the Associated Press, the top-spending senators for this period were Don Henderson, R-Houston, \$112,178; Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, \$108,682; John Whitmire, D-Houston, \$108,588; and Frank Tejeda, D-San Antonio, \$103,638. Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville; Gene Green, D-Houston; and Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, each spent more than \$102,000.

Aside from newly elected senators who have not served during that entire six-month period, the five lowest-spending senators were: Bob McFarland, R-Arlington, \$59,219; John Leedom, R-Dallas, \$63,704; Bill Sims, D-San Angelo, \$67,375; Bob Glasgow, D-Stephenville, \$70,632; and Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, \$72,577.

Another perk members of the Senate receive are photographs. Photographs taken of senators at work or with constituents are free, unless it is determined the photos will be used for political purposes.

On the House side, lawmakers pay for their photos. House members spent approximately \$5,300 of their stipends for photographs in January and February, according to records filed with the House Business Office.

The top 10 spenders in the House for photography in January and February were Betty Denton, D-Waco, \$368; Ron Wilson, D-Houston, \$257; David Counts, D-Knox City, \$207; Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, \$195; Jerry Johnson, D-Nacogdoches, \$192; Bob Melton, D-Gatesville, \$163; Mike McKinney, D-Centerville, \$152; Larry Evans, D-Houston, \$152; and Robert Saunders, D-LaGrange, \$141.

Gulf's sea level will rise, says Rice scientist

GALVESTON (AP) — A geologist envisions the day Galveston Island will be a fraction of its current size and the Gulf of Mexico coastline will be 5 or 10 miles farther inland than it is now.

As in the past, the changes in the Texas coastline will be caused by events in the Antarctic, Rice University geologist Dr. John Anderson said.

"We've had these very rapid rises in sea level long before there was a greenhouse effect," Anderson told the Dallas Morning News.

Anderson has gathered evidence in the Antarctic and along the Texas coast that he said supports the idea that a rise of 250 to 300 feet in sea level after the end of the last ice age 18,000 years ago was not a long, even process.

Underwater sandbanks off the Texas coast — ancient barrier islands that were submerged virtually intact rather than eroded — indicate that sea level at times has risen rapidly, not slowly, Anderson said.

Other scientists have found similar evidence of rapid rise in sea level elsewhere, he said.

"There's enough unstable Antarctic ice now to raise sea level 30 feet," Anderson said.

A rise of just 10 feet would submerge most of Galveston Island and would move the Gulf Coast inland as far as Texas City and Port Arthur, according to U.S. Geological Survey maps. A rise of 30 feet would cause Galveston to disappear and the coast to move even farther inland.

Mean sea level on tidal gauges along the Texas coast has risen one foot in the past 100 years, but 90 percent of that change is due to subsidence, Anderson said. The possibility of a faster rise in sea level is another reason to consider stronger regulation of coastal development, he said.

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