

Looking for an academic challenge?

University Honors Program offers students opportunity to excel

By Cindy McMillian
STAFF WRITER

Small classes, individual attention and independent research often are difficult to come by at large universities such as Texas A&M, but the University Honors Program offers these and other services for students willing to take an extra academic challenge.

The campuswide program encompasses all undergraduate colleges in the University and provides opportunities and services not available to all students.

The goal of the Honors Program, said program director Dale Knobel, is to provide students who have achieved a certain level of success in previous academic work with academic challenges that meet their needs and interests.

Small classes, dynamic professors and a more participatory learning process are part of that challenge, Knobel said.

"Undergraduate honors classes are like graduate seminars," he said. "The students and instructors are engaged in teaching one another through interaction rather than through passive learning."

The average honors class has about 25 students, Knobel said. Some of them take one or two honors classes each semester and complete the 36-hour requirement to graduate with University honors, but others take just a few honors courses during their college careers.

Knobel said the program enrolls about 5 per-

cent of all undergraduates, about 1,700 students. This fall the program offers 140 sections of honors classes from every academic college.

In addition to individual attention and an academic challenge, the Honors Program offers several services to its students. Any students who have taken nine honors hours previously or are enrolled in an honors class at the time of registration may participate in priority pre-registration, signing up for classes the same day as seniors no matter what their classification.

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— Dale Knobel,
honors program director

The program works with the scholastic honor societies and the Honors Student Council, which allows students to advise program directors about development and help with recruiting of high school students.

Academic and career counseling are offered to program participants, especially those seeking acceptance to graduate schools and applying for national scholarships, including the Rhodes Scholarship, Truman Scholarship and Jr. Fulbright Fellowship for international study.

One recent development is Lechner Hall, an honors residence hall located near Sbsia on North Campus that will house mostly freshmen honors students with academic scholarships. Knobel said activities for all honors students will be offered at the hall, which he hopes will bridge the gap between residence hall life and academic life.

Also new in the fall are honors study sequences offered by individual colleges, including the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Engineering and Veterinary Medicine. With the exception of the College of Business Administration, these are the first colleges to outline specific honors sequences.

In order to graduate with University Honors, students must take a minimum of 36 honors hours or combine independent honors study with honors courses. University Undergraduate Fellows complete a full year of honors research and write a senior honors thesis.

A recent study showed that many graduates of the program received large fellowships to attend top graduate schools around the nation, including Harvard University, Dartmouth College and Stanford University. Other graduates went straight into the job market, landing jobs with major firms such as Arthur Andersen and Shearson, Lehman and Hutton.

Incoming freshmen who score 1,100 or above on the SAT and graduated in the top quarter of their high school classes are eligible for the program. After the first semester, any student with a GPR of 3.25 or higher may enroll in honors classes.



Albritton Bell Tower, which can be seen, and heard, from all parts of campus, stands at the west entrance of A&M.

Albritton Bell Tower enlivens 'Aggieland' with chorus of chimes

By Mia B. Moody
Of The Battalion Staff

The Albritton Bell Tower, located at the West entrance of Texas A&M, does more than tell time. It chimes the melodies of many songs, including A&M's "The Spirit of Aggieland."

The tower, the largest of its kind in Texas, contains a series of 49 bells pitched in a chromatic series of at least two octaves. The carillon, housed atop the 138-foot structure, can be heard at a maximum distance of a quarter-mile away.

The bells, ranging in size from 28 pounds to three and one half tons, were cast by a 188-year-old

French foundry. The bells are programmed by computer to sound the Westminster Chimes every fifteen minutes. They also play a variety of pre-selected pieces for special University occasions such as commencement, commissioning and military reviews. Special music for holidays including Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter also have been programmed.

The tower also plays the theme from the "Pink Panther" movies as well as an old commercial tune for Budweiser beer.

Ford D. Albritton Jr., Class of 1943, provided more than \$1 million for the construction of the tower and established a separate endowment for the tower's upkeep.

The grand ladies of A&M, Reveilles I-V, have been Aggies' best friends since 1931

By Sherri Roberts
Of The Battalion Staff

A cow, sow and horned frog are just a few of the mascots, in actuality or representation, that adorn the sidelines of Southwest Conference football games. But at Texas A&M, man's best friend has served as the mascot since 1931.

The tradition began when a group of A&M students accidentally ran over a puppy late one night

while driving a Model T near Navasota on their way back to school. Taking pity on the dog, who they affectionately dubbed "Home Brew," they took her back to campus. Home Brew's name was changed to Reveille the next morning, when she began howling during the reveille bugle call. She became the University's official mascot after sneaking onto Kyle Field while the Aggie Band was performing during the first half time of that football season.

With prestige came fringe bene-

fits for Reveille I, a short-haired black and white non-pedigreed dog. She had access to all buildings and classrooms on campus, including the dormitories and Sbsia Dining Hall. The cadet in whose bed she chose to curl up at night would sleep on the floor.

A page in the 1942 A&M yearbook, *The Longhorn*, featured a portrait of Reveille I donning a military cap and named her the recipient of honors including best dressed co-ed, most-traveled Aggie, and most-popular Aggie.

After a 13-year reign as mascot, Reveille I was buried with full military honors on Jan. 18, 1944, at the entrance of Kyle Field so she always could see the scoreboard.

For eight years after her death, the school had no Reveille mascot. Two dogs, Rusty and Spot, had brief runs as A&M's mascot, but never achieved the prominence of Reveille I.

It wasn't until 1952, when Arthur Weinert, Class of '00, donated a Shetland Shepherd puppy to the University that the Reveille tradition resumed.

She was succeeded by Reveille III, a collie, in 1975. Reveille III was the first of the mascots to accompany her keeper, the mascot corporal, to his classes. The mascot corporal is traditionally a member of Corps of Cadets outfit E-2.

The mascots that have followed, Reveille IV and current A&M mascot Reveille V, also have been collies.

The respect bestowed upon the A&M mascot has remained a tradition as well. Corps freshmen are required to "whip out" to Reveille and address her with the phrase, "Howdy, Miss Reveille, ma'am."

She sports a corsage and maroon cape at football games, where she is guarded by Corps sophomores.

Security to protect Reveille is stepped up a week before the football game that pits A&M against the University of Texas, also known as the t.u. game. During that week, E-2 freshmen have the "privilege" of guarding the door of the room in which Reveille is sleeping.

Because of this protection, Reveille is the only Southwest Conference mascot that has never been stolen.

Senior cadets stand tall in leather-crafted boots

By Michael Kelley
Of The Battalion Staff

The pride and joy of seniors in the Corps of Cadets is their senior boots. These English-style riding boots are more than expensive leather; they symbolize the rank of cadet officer achieved after three years of hard work and dedication to the Corps and to Texas A&M.

Boots became part of the Corps uniform in 1915 when they were adopted from the style of uniform worn by U.S. Army officers in World War I. These were, for the most part, leggings that were laced above the shoes, or were work boots used for cavalry or artillery practice on horseback.

The style of cavalry boots worn today by cadets became an official part of the senior uniform in 1925.

Aggie boots are unique because the barrels are not soft, like most riding boots, but are made of stiff leather, allowing them to be shined easily.

The first pair of Aggie senior boots were made by Jack Alesci in 1921 at Randolph Army Air Field in San Antonio.

In 1926, Lucchese's, also in San Antonio, followed suit.

Aggie bootmaking started locally in 1931 when Johnnie Holick began

making senior boots at his father's shop in College Station.

Holick's today, as it was then, is located at Northgate. Before World War II, Holick produced between 500 and 850 pairs of boots per year. Today the shop makes about 200 pairs annually.

Victor's II Just Boots in Bryan is another local boot shop and has been selling Aggie senior boots since 1970. Victor's orders its boots from Dehner's of Omaha, Neb.

The only two other present-day Aggie bootmakers are located in Houston. Model Boot Company, owned by Joe Cecala of Houston, has made senior boots since 1945. RJ's Boot Company, owned and operated by Rocky Carroll, also of Houston, is not only known for making Aggie boots but also has gained national fame for producing cowboy boots for U.S. presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Senior boots cost between \$395 and \$500 per pair and take an average of 22 hours to produce. They come in four different colors, but the 'Tan Imported French Calf' is the most popular choice.

Senior cadets wear their boots for the first time at Final Review, a ceremony in which they become the new leaders of the Corps.

Boot Dance is held the same night so the seniors can celebrate their new status.

Hint for Aggies — prepare for 2 careers

PRINCETON JUNCTION, N.J. (AP) — In this era of corporate downsizing and entrepreneurial uprising, the second career may be the norm.

"We're beginning to see changes in the way the working economy is structured, with more people leaving the corporate environment and going into smaller businesses or into business for themselves," says placement specialist Phyllis Macklin. "I don't have any figures for it, but it is a dramatic shift."

The average person usually changes jobs five times in his work life, she observes.

Macklin, a partner in Minsuk, Macklin, Stein & Associates of Princeton Junction, specializes in outplacement, most often working with people who have lost their jobs in corporate cutbacks. But many of her clients are employees who initiate change themselves. "They know they want to move, but they can't quite figure out what they want to do. They want to be sure they make a good move."

Both the fired and the restless employee face

changes in fields, income and attitudes, Macklin says.

She encourages the terminated employee to look at his new situation positively. "If he has the resources to hold up for a while, that person has the opportunity to look backward as well as forward. Very often that person will find that what he was doing was not as satisfying as it should have been."

Many people, she says, aren't even aware of the changes they've already made in their work lives. "For example, someone who worked for one company for 20 years may have started as an engineer, then moved on to project management and other activities in which engineering was no longer the primary function."

She says that those who change fields often discover that their income drops, at least for a while. But since the changes frequently occur at mid-life, when children are out of the nest, the financial demands are not as high. People at this stage are in a better position to take risks.

"Highly paid executives may come to recog-

nize that they're looking for something else. They begin to think of what they want for themselves personally. Their values change."

Some people shift to a self-employed or entrepreneurial status because they truly enjoy independence, Macklin says. But if a still-angry dismissed employee says he wants to be on his own because he says he'll never work for a company again, she tries to discourage him.

"We have to get him to look for something to go to rather than something to escape from."

Being let go by a large corporation is especially painful because corporate culture has encouraged the idea of loyalty — "the feeling of family, the security, the trappings, the idea of going to the office."

"Very often, when people start their jobs, they think of the company. They don't think of their careers as something apart."

These people need to become attuned to the business, not the corporate, environment. "That business environment, she observes, is one that is demanding higher skill from employees and is forcing them to change."

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