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### A&M center international in scope

#### Students, economy benefit from international business program

By Juliette Rizzo

Of The Battalion Staff

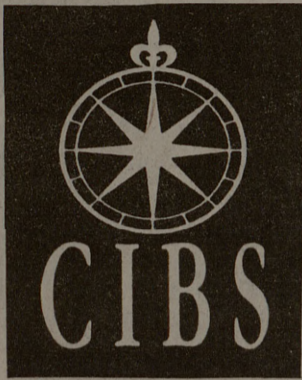
In the future, the Texas economy, as well as the world economy, will benefit significantly from strong international business relationships. Texas A&M's Center for International Business Studies (CIBS) has taken the first steps in getting the University firmly established in a wide variety of educational, business and research programs beyond the international threshold.

According to John T. Cater's editorial overview in the *Texas A&M Business Forum*, the role of international business is critical to the diversification of Texas. For Texas, he said, taking advantage of global opportunities will produce "significant and immediate" benefits to the state and its citizens. He said that in order for such diversification and growth to occur, business people from abroad need to feel comfortable doing business in the state; thus, international relations need to be continuously monitored.

Cater said Texas has a lot to offer the international market. He stated that due to the abundance of natural resources in Texas and its advantage of having access to several major seaports, an estimated 340,000 jobs in Texas are directly or indirectly linked to the sale of Texas goods overseas. Another 150,000 jobs result directly from foreign investments in the state.

Through the College of Business Administration and CIBS, Texas A&M is doing its part to develop and enhance instructional programs in international business.

CIBS was created in 1985 by the A&M Board of Regents as an educational and research resource for the University, Texas and the nation. Since its creation, one of the center's primary objectives has been to promote the offering of international business courses at A&M and abroad at universities such as Stirling University in Scotland, the University of Lancaster in England and the Kob-



lenz School of Business in Germany. In addition, Texas A&M is in the process of strengthening ties with yet another country, Japan, by establishing an A&M branch in Koriyama. Beginning in 1990, faculty and student exchanges between the Koriyama campus and A&M will take place.

Les Fiechtner, associate director of CIBS, said that although A&M's international involvement has not been too visible in the past, the ef-

forts of CIBS are making people realize that the University is a tremendous resource to facilitate getting into the international business scene.

"A&M is a respectable institution," Fiechtner said. "While most people do not think of A&M as an international mecca, we are becoming better known. Now, the University is a mechanism by which people can be assisted and views can be broadened."

To facilitate the actual teaching of business courses overseas, the center acts as a liaison between the College and the Study Abroad Office. Numerous internships and exchange programs are available to students and faculty and information about such programs is available from CIBS.

Several A&M students have benefited from inquiring about internships with international businesses in Great Britain, Germany, Hong Kong, France and Mexico.

CIBS not only provides internship opportunities; it also gives students incentives to study international business by administering schol-

arships. On Aug. 8, Mitsui and Company, a leading Japanese firm, formally awarded A&M with 10 \$2,000 scholarships to be distributed to undergraduate students demonstrating interest in international business. The awarding of this funding makes A&M the only other American university besides Harvard to receive funding from the firm. Fiechtner said "we're in good company" as this honor speaks well of the University and its international business program.

The center seeks to make students and faculty realize that the best way to learn is through actual hands-on experience in real-world settings. CIBS is committed to the support of research and education that contributes to the understanding of the role of Texas and the United States in the world economy. By familiarizing students and faculty with the vast number of opportunities available internationally, the center hopes to contribute to strengthening both the local and international business communities.

### General Studies office, Counseling Services help students decide career

By Kelly S. Brown

Of The Battalion Staff

Many students enter college not knowing what they want to major in, so they choose a concentration that sounds 'interesting' or 'money-making.' Then, too often, they wake up their junior or senior year unhappy in their major with a feeling that they've gone too far to change.

The General Studies program tries to prevent that situation. It is designed for students with less than 60 credit hours who are undecided about a major, who have declared a major and later found it unsatisfactory or for students who know what they want to major in but want to take the core curriculum a little slower.

Jora Odom, an academic adviser for the 12-year-old program, said general studies is an option to being tied to a structured major and a good path for

any student to take.

"The biggest bonus with the program is its flexibility," Odom said. "The students don't have any course mandated for them to take so they can ride the fence for a while and get a feel for what's out there academically, while they're getting an excellent base for their eventual major."

The program, which has advisers who meet with students one-on-one, works in conjunction with Student Counseling Services, a free counseling program available to all A&M students.

The counseling service offers interest-inventory testing, career-interest clinics and a computerized career-search system.

The University admitted 10,564 freshman last fall, of which the program received 1,624.

Odom said the numbers of those entering the program is increasing, and she doesn't expect anything to stop the numbers from rising.

### Frustrated men can tie one on with the Shelby knot

NEW YORK (AP) — For men who think fumbling with a tie each morning is a pain in the neck, here comes a new wrinkle in the quest for a firm, symmetrical knot. It's an inside-out style called the Shelby.

Touted as the "first new knot for men in over 50 years" by a Midwest clothier, the knot was introduced to a Minneapolis TV anchorman by a viewer who chafed at his lumpy, twisted neckwear.

"I got sick and tired of looking at his tie every night. He always had a big knot in it," said Jerry Pratt, 92, a retired manager for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce who lives in Minnesota.

So in 1986, Pratt collared Don Shelby in the lobby of WCCO and, quick as you can say clip-on, shared a formula he had used for at least 40 years.

The secret is to start with the seams out.

"The beauty of it is the knot won't twist to one side or the other. A tie sets the whole theme of dress. If it's twisted, that's the first thing people notice"

— Jerry Pratt.

With a bit of sartorial sleight-of-hand, the knot forms securely and the broad part flows down the shirt, finished side out.

The shorter blade underneath still has the seams and the label facing out, although it can be clasped with a pin or twisted so the seams will turn in. It's simple to tie and works best with wider collars.

Pratt, as humble as he is meticulous, said he

stumbled across the knot by accident and never thought of giving it a name through decades of secure wear.

"One morning I put my tie on inside out, I tied it and it worked. That was it," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "The beauty of it is the knot won't twist to one side or the other. A tie sets the whole theme of dress. If it's twisted, that's the first thing people notice."

Joseph M, a custom men's clothier in St. Paul, Minn., learned of the knot, refined it and established the tie-in with Shelby. It printed a five-step diagram for customers seeking alternatives to the bulbous Windsor knot or the tightly tapered four-in-hand, the most common knot among American men.

"You're getting a balanced knot, but it's small and precise, not big and bulky like the

Windsor," Kingford Bavender, an executive with Joseph M, said. "I made up the cards because I had so many customers ask me, 'Why does your tie hang so much better than mine?'"

But because the knotting begins with wrongside out, purists may not like it.

"It's not for everybody," Bavender said. "You'll never see one of the Kennedys wearing it."

The knot's newness apparently is legitimate.

The method of creating the Shelby doesn't appear in "Getting Knotted — 188 Knots for Necks," a reference guide for ties, scarves, ascots and cravats distributed by Ratti Silk Mills of Como, Italy, and used by the Neckwear Association of America.

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