

Friday, September 29, 1989

New minority program receives grant

By Steven Patrick

Of The Battalion Staff

High-achieving minority students pursuing research careers in the science and engineering fields at Texas A&M will receive additional funds and support soon thanks to a \$434,523 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The NSF grant will support a new program, beginning Monday, which will provide qualified minority students with funding in the form of annual stipends, research support and summer internships.

The program, Research Careers for Minority Scholars (RCMS), is designed to en-

courage minority students to pursue research in the fields of engineering and science as undergraduates and to continue this research at the graduate level.

Mike Cronan, senior academic business administrator of engineering, said he believes that the new program will increase A&M's competitiveness with other well-known research programs.

"Texas A&M is in competition with universities such as MIT and Stanford," Cronan said. "We believe that with the additional funding and prestige of the NSF grant, we will attract better quality students, with the eventual goal of getting these students into the graduate program."

The RCMS project involves 26 students from the engineering and science fields who hold an average grade point ratio of 3.5. The majority of these are upper level students, although some freshmen and sophomores are involved. Cronan stressed the fact that fifth-year seniors also are included because of the difficulty of completing an engineering or science degree within four years.

Students involved in the program will receive \$1,000 stipends their freshman year and \$2,500 per year afterward for research in their fields. Students also will have access to a general fund providing money for related research expenses.

In addition to these forms of funding, the

program allows students to gain professional experience through summer employment with research industries.

Herbert Richardson, director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, said the project will benefit the research industries involved.

"The program also will be important for industry because it will give them access to a pipeline of talented minority engineering and science professionals at the baccalaureate and graduate levels," Richardson said.

The RCMS program will be funded primarily by the NSF until 1993, after which it is expected to be funded solely by private industry, Cronan said.

Locals get homes with '89 for '89'

National group takes plan to B-CS

By Cindy McMillian

Of The Battalion Staff

Solving America's homeless problem is an overwhelming task, but Bryan-College Station residents can help take the first step by providing homes in this community.

The local chapter of Habitat for Humanity, a national organization that builds houses for needy families, begins its "89 for '89" fundraiser this week. Habitat members hope to convince each of the 115,000 residents of Bryan-College Station to donate 89 cents in 1989, enough money to complete the group's first house.

Patricia Burk, treasurer and chairman of fundraising for Habitat, said she thinks the group will get a lot of support from the com-

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Phoebe's Home offers help to battered women

By Cindy McMillian

Of The Battalion Staff

A fellow employee comes to work wearing sunglasses to hide a black eye. Last week she showed up with her arm in a sling and said she "fell down the stairs." You suspect she's hiding something, but you don't know how to help.

Phoebe's Home, a Bryan-College Station shelter for battered women and their children, is looking for volunteers. Susan Stegall, the volunteer coordinator, said no experience or training is necessary.

"You just have to care about the people involved," she said.

Those who feel uncomfortable about interacting with the abused women can volunteer in other areas, Stegall said. Phoebe's Home needs people to help with child care, clerical duties, fundraising, community awareness projects and donations collection.

An orientation for new volunteers will be Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Linda Cloud, administrator of Phoebe's Home, said she will show a film, provide some information and let some of the clients speak at orientation to help volunteers better understand what they're dealing with.

"People can understand a lot of

things, but they can't understand why women are beaten and stay around," she said.

Leaving an abusive situation is difficult because the women don't feel confident or capable, she said. They feel alone and isolated from family and friends, and they don't have enough money to find housing.

"Housing is a major problem in Bryan and College Station," Cloud said. "It takes \$800 or \$900 dollars to get into an apartment because of

all the deposits."

Phoebe's Home allows women and their children to stay free for 30 days and receive food, clothing, transportation and child care. Most women come because their basic needs are not being met anywhere else, Cloud said.

The women also receive in-house counseling from members of the Texas A&M psychology department who volunteer their time.

"The women need emotional heal-

ing," Cloud said. "The emotional trauma is incredible."

Cloud said providing definite answers or solutions to their problems is difficult.

"In 30 days, we hope they realize some options and some reasons why it happened."

Stegall, a senior political science major from Alvin, described working with the women as rewarding.

"It's not like writing a check for charity," she said. "You're spending

the time and seeing the results."

Stegall said anyone who can spend at least three hours a week is encouraged to help.

The location of Phoebe's Home is kept confidential, so those interested in volunteering should contact Cloud before the orientation at 775-5355 to get more information. Those unable to attend Saturday's orientation may contact Cloud or attend the next orientation session Oct. 14.

J.C. Penney chairman outlines business strategy

By Todd Connelley

Of The Battalion Staff

William R. Howell, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the J.C. Penney Company, detailed the strategy used to bring Penney's to the top of the retail business in a speech presented by the Center for Retailing Studies.

Howell, speaking to a full house in Rudder Forum, described how he led his company through a complete metamorphosis beginning in the early part of this decade.

"No major retail company in America has

changed as much as J.C. Penney," Howell said.

He said that the major changes occurred when he decided to improve the stores fashion credibility.

"For 80 years we were known for commodity merchandise," he said. "Our research shows that we are now being recognized as a leader in the fashion industry."

"In 1983 we eliminated appliances, hardware, lawn and garden, automotive and restaurants from our stores," he said. "We decided to focus more of our attention on men's and women's apparel."

Howell said Penney's has gotten a jump on

other retailers by becoming the first company to utilize the television industry.

The Direct Broadcast Television System links corporate headquarters in Dallas to buyers throughout the world via satellite.

"DBS is a way for us to view different merchandise quickly and efficiently," he said.

The most profitable change has been an effort to turn Penney's catalog department into a \$1 billion industry.

"Our goal with the catalog is for the consumer to think that catalog and retail sales are one entity," Howell explained. "Right now we are No. 2 in catalog sales; by 1990 we want to be No. 1."

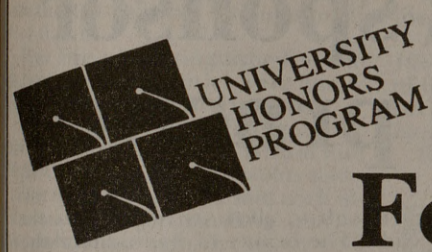
"Now that all these major changes are behind us, we can concentrate on making full use of the talent and skills our employees possess and focus it on the consumer," he said.

When asked what advice he would give the average college student, Howell stated that the most important thing is a good self-image.

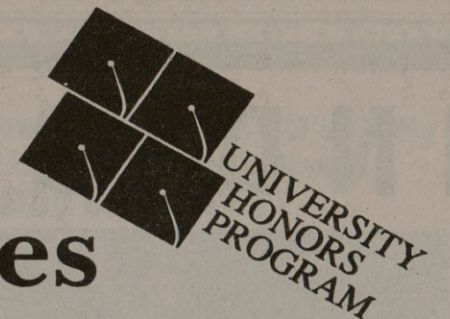
"There is no way at the age of 20 that you can have the same perspective of the world that you do at 30," he explained.

"You have to get comfortable with yourself and always say what you believe in."

Howell concluded his presentation with a short videotape about Penney's founder, the late James Cash Penney.



Scholastic Opportunities For Outstanding Undergraduates



The following scholarships are currently open for competition:

Truman Scholarship
Sponsored by: Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation
For: Current college sophomores intending to pursue careers in government service of all kinds, including scientific research.
Terms: Up to \$7,000 annually for tuition, fees, room, board, books for last two undergraduate years and up to two more years of graduate study.
Application Procedure: By nomination of Texas A&M University
Application Deadline: November 3, 1989.

National Endowment For The Humanities Younger Scholar Awards
Sponsored by: NEH
For: Current Freshman, Sophomores, & Juniors
Terms: \$2,200 for Summer research and writing in the Humanities; \$400 of which is allotted to your advisor for the project.
Application Procedure: Direct application by student and advisor.
Application Deadline: November 1, 1989.

Time College Achievement Award
Sponsored by: Time Magazine
For: Juniors
Terms: One time cash award of \$3,000, trip to New York.
Application Procedure: Direct application, applications will be available in the Honors Program Office late in the Fall term.
Application Deadline: February 1, 1990.

Smithsonian Internships
Sponsored by: The Smithsonian Institute
For: Undergraduate and Graduate Students
Terms: Stipends vary with program, positions are 3-4 months in duration.
Positions: Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; National Air and Space Museum; National Museum of African Art; National Museum of American Art; National Zoological Park; Office of Architectural History and Historical Preservation; Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.
Application Procedure: Individual Application
Application Deadline: (Vary According to Position.)

Smithsonian 10 Week Graduate Student Fellowships:
Sponsored by: The Smithsonian Institute
For: Individuals formally enrolled in a Graduate Program and who will have completed one semester of such prior to the appointment period.
Terms: Stipend of \$250 per week for 10 weeks. Travel to the Smithsonian to conduct research.
Application Procedure: Direct application and faculty evaluation of proposal.
Application Deadline: Postmarked by January 15, 1990.

Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities
Sponsored by: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
For: Current college Seniors.
Terms: \$11,000 annually plus tuition and fees for up to two years (possibly three) of graduate study in History, English, Philosophy, Languages, or American Studies.
Application Procedure: After nomination by a faculty member (no professor may nominate more than two students.)
Nomination Deadline: First week of November.

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships
Sponsored by: NSF/National Research Council.
For: Current college seniors.
Terms: \$12,900 annually plus tuition and fees for students pursuing graduate study in science or engineering.
Application Procedure: Direct application by student.
Application Deadline: November 9, 1989. Applications available in the University Honors Program Office in early October.

National Science Foundation Minority Graduate Fellowships
Sponsored by: NSF/National Research Council
For: Current college seniors of American Indian, Black, Hispanic, Native Alaskan, or Native Pacific Islander background.
Terms: \$12,900 annually plus tuition and fees for three years for minority students pursuing graduate study in the sciences, engineering or veterinary medicine.
Application Procedure: Direct Application by student.
Application Deadline: November 9, 1989. Applications available in the University Honors Program Office in early October.

Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowships for Minorities
Sponsored by: Ford Foundation/National Research Council
For: Current college seniors of American Indian, Black, Hispanic, Native Alaskan, or Native Pacific Islander background.
Terms: \$10,350 annually plus tuition and fees for up to three years of graduate study in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, engineering, mathematics, or physical and biological sciences.
Application Procedure: Direct application by student.
Application Deadline: November 9, 1989. Applications available in the University Honors Program Office in early October.

Eisenhower Graduate Scholarship
Sponsored by: Eisenhower Memorial Scholarship Foundation
For: Seniors/others who will be full-time graduate students in 1989-1990.
Terms: Minimum award of \$1,000; maximum of \$3,000 per year.
Application Procedure: Application requested, direct application by student.
Application Deadline: February 1, 1990.

Rhodes Scholarship
For: U. S. Citizen, unmarried, senior status, 3.75 or higher
Terms: Tuition, fees and maintenance allowance. Tenable at Great Britain's University of Oxford.
Contact: Dr. John Reading, 505 Physics, 845-5073 or 696-9190.

USA Today ALL—USA Academic Team
Sponsored by: USA Today Newspaper
For: Any full time undergraduate student. Selection based on original work such as published research, essay, poetry, art or music.
Terms: National recognition through USA Today, trip to Washington, D.C..
Application Procedure: nomination by faculty member, student may initiate.
Application Deadline: November 6, 1989.

Phi Kappa Phi National Graduate Fellowship
Sponsored by: The Honorary Society of Phi Kappa Phi
For: Outstanding seniors planning to attend graduate school in any field; GPA must be in the 3.8 to 4.0 range.
Terms: Up to \$6,000 for the first year of graduate study. Amount of award is dependent on other financial aid.
Application Procedure: Contact Dr. Ted Jones, 845-2031



Detailed information and applications are available through the University Honors Program, room 101 of the Academic Building. See Scott Shafer.

