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A&M senior plans year overseas

By LIBBY KURTZ
Of The Battalion Staff

While many Texas A&M students plan to return home for the summer or attend summer school, one A&M student will travel to West Germany to participate in a work-study program.

Janna Derkits, 22, a senior geography major, has been selected to attend The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals.

CDS International Inc. administers the program in the United States through a grant agreement with the United States Information Agency.

The program, now in its seventh year, provides young American and German professionals the opportunity to work abroad and learn about a different culture.

Derkits, who leaves for West Germany in August, said she is very excited to be able to participate in the exchange program.

Student travels to participate in German work-study program

"Three years ago, I spent six weeks in West Germany while I was studying abroad," Derkits said. "I really enjoyed myself. I've always wanted to return and feel more involved. I want to be more than a tourist. The exchange program will give me that chance."

Derkits will spend one year in West Germany studying and working. "I'm not sure what city I'll be living in, but I do know that I'll be put in some difficult situations," she said.

Derkits said she will have an extensive two-month course in German and study environmental science for four months at a local university.

During the last months of the program, she will work for a German

company. Derkits said she probably will be working for a non-profit organization or a business that is related to her major.

Charles Grant, a coordinator of the exchange program, said Derkits is the second student from A&M to participate in the program.

"We have more Germans participating in the program than Americans," he said. "The Germans push the program more than us. It's a novelty for the Germans to visit and work in the United States."

Eighty German students were selected to join the program this year. And of the 350 American applicants, 55 were selected.

The individuals selected must be between the ages of 18 to 24. Besides that qualification, Grant said they look for outgoing young profession-

als. "Those selected must be able to adapt to different situations," Grant said. "Everything is different in West Germany from their food to their culture. We want individuals that will be able to adjust to the changes that they will face."

Grant said the individuals they look for don't have to be college students, but they should have a strong vocational background.

"It's much easier to place a person who is vocationally oriented, opposed to someone who is a history major, in a German company," he said.

Grant said the exchange program pays for everything except the participant's spending money.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for a student to see and study another culture," he said.

Derkits said she thinks of the program as post-graduate work.

"I'll graduate in May," she said. "The exchange program will let me become more internationally aware."

EPA finds high level of toxin in seafood

HOUSTON (AP) —Disturbing levels of highly toxic dioxin have been found in fish, oysters and crabs in the Morgan's Point region, the Houston Post reported Thursday.

In a copyright story, the Post said state health officials plan additional testing before deciding whether to restrict seafood catches in that area.

Peak dioxin levels were found in blue crabs from the Houston Ship Channel at the San Jacinto Monument by the Environmental Protection Agency, which did the original testing.

The crabs contained 54.8 parts per trillion of dioxin — the highest level found in the marine life at 39 sites in a three-state test area.

Twenty-five parts per trillion of dioxin has been designated as the "level of concern" in fish by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

Despite the findings, Texas De-

partment of Health spokesman Kirk Wiles said he didn't think there was "any reason for great panic or concern."

"I'm not sure anybody consumes enough crabs to make it an immediate health crisis," Wiles said. "However, we do need to collect more data and define the problem and make a decision on what to do."

The EPA also found 14.8 ppt of dioxin in sea catfish and 6.1 parts per trillion in oysters at Morgan's Point, where the ship channel enters Galveston Bay.

In reporting its findings to the state about a month ago, the EPA recommended that the health department consider issuing a fishing consumption advisory.

But Wiles said the agency wants to do additional testing before deciding on an advisory.

Quayle visits flooded neighborhood, campaigns for Republican candidates

DALLAS (AP) — Vice President Dan Quayle's whistle-stop tour on behalf of Texas GOP candidates was briefly sidetracked by storms Thursday, as he made an impromptu inspection of a flooded neighborhood where hundreds were evacuated.

"It's scary any time that the floods hit," Quayle said, noting that last year his parents' home was flooded in Roanoke, Ind.

"It took them months to clean up," he said, calling the incident "a very sad predicament."

"That's why I wanted to stop by to at least offer my assistance."

Earlier Thursday during a press conference to promote the state's Republican candidates, Quayle announced President Bush had signed a federal disaster relief measure for four Texas counties battered by violent storms last week: Brown, Comanche, Erath and Parker.

Standing inches from a flooded intersection, Quayle said if Gov. Bill Clements applies for federal aid for other areas he will find "a very cooperative president."

The vice president toured Rochester Park in South Dallas, flooded by the Trinity River.

Quayle urged residents to move their belongings to higher ground, warning them the water was expected to keep rising.

"Let us know if we can help," he said while shaking hands with several residents.

Earlier, Quayle stumped for Texas GOP gubernatorial nominee Clayton Williams and other Republican office-seekers at a downtown hotel.

He called the Midland oilman-rancher's election "a key priority for President Bush."

"The White House will be involved energetically," Quayle said, promising return campaign appearances. "Texas is very important to the president."

Quayle said he is impressed by Williams' energy "and his understanding of what leadership is all about."

Quayle sidestepped questions about whether Williams' admission that he frequented prostitutes in his youth would hurt the candidate. He also refused to discuss a remark Williams made in March, comparing bad weather to rape.

Williams faces Democratic state Treasurer Ann Richards in the November election.

Lab animals exchanged for computer simulators

By JOE FERGUSON
Of The Battalion Staff

The computer age has claimed another victim at Texas A&M.

Laboratory animals that have played a central role in the education of generations of biology students are being replaced with computer simulators.

"When computers are appropriate they are a very effective way to teach the concepts of the (physiology) course," William Perry, assistant dean of the College of Science, said.

"When appropriate" is determined by which students are taking the class.

Health education, physical educa-

tion, pre-nursing and pre-nutrition majors are a few of the possible users of the computer simulators, Dr. Vincent Cassone, an assistant biology professor, said.

Cassone said the move came because of the simulators' potential to promote financial and academic efficiency.

With the cost of laboratory animals at \$2,000 per year, Cassone said the mistakes of non-science majors can get expensive.

Computer simulation also is a more efficient way of teaching a non-science major class, Cassone said.

Non-science majors, for the most part, only need the data gained from the experiment, whereas science ma-

jors also need to know how to get the data.

The three Hewlett-Packard computers used for simulations have been on-line in the biology department since Fall 1989. The three computers total \$18,000.

But with enrollment around 300 for the physiology course, more computers are needed.

"The class needs three times as many (computers) to accommodate the number of students," Cassone said.

Perry said, however, he is waiting to see how things work out initially before getting more computers.

The computers were financed by a grant from the computer science department.

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