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Provost Gage sets sights on education

Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

Dr. E. Dean Gage admits he had to consult Webster's dictionary about his title when he became Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for Texas A&M in July of last year.

"A provost is a chief academic officer for an institution," Gage says. "That definition makes my title a bit redundant, and that is one reason the title is going to be changed."

On Sunday, Gage became Senior Vice President and Provost. He says the title more clearly reflects the responsibilities of the second-ranking individual at A&M.

"The change brings my title more in line with other institutions of this size," he says.

Gage says he hopes to bring recognition of A&M's faculty and also raise expectations for the University's students.

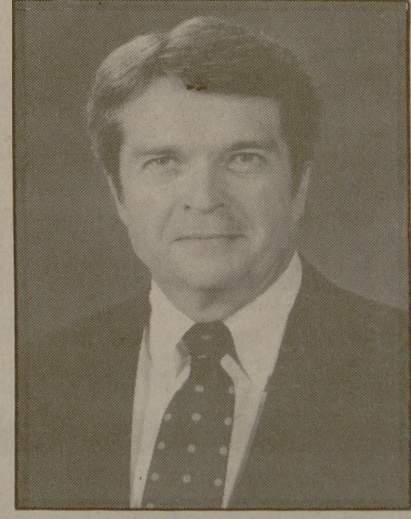
"We are not in the major East and West Coast media centers, and we don't have the long-standing prestige associated with some other schools," he says. "But we are rivaling Harvard, Stanford and other prestigious schools with many of our accomplishments."

President George Bush's decision to build his presidential library at Texas A&M is an example of this type of accomplishment, he says.

"National prestige is very

important to every graduate who walks out of here with a diploma in hand," he says. "I think it is very true that if you graduate from a school that is considered one of the best, the degree is considered one of the best also."

Gage's list of duties



E. Dean Gage

seems never-ending. As provost, he is responsible for overseeing all academic and research programs at A&M. He serves on the President's Executive Council, and chairs the group in University President William Mobley's absence. Gage also chairs the Academic Programs Council, the chief academic policy-making body of the University.

"I oversee the full range of academic services, from recruitment and admission all the way to the placement center," he says. "I give administrative oversight to

all the academic programs."

Gage says he also keeps busy meeting with University and external groups, often two or three times a week.

"Due to the size of the University, one person can't cover everything," he says. "I give numerous speeches, welcomes and presentations for the academic programs or representing the University president."

He says 70- to 80-hour work weeks are not uncommon, and teamwork is a must with all the social and University events that must be covered.

The work has begun to pay off, he says. Several programs he helped initiate are already in place, and will begin serving students and faculty this semester.

"I am very excited about our new Career Center," he says. "It will combine placement, co-operative education programs and career education."

Gage says the center's goal is to provide students with the best career advising possible throughout their education. The center will stress competitiveness in job interviews, and ensure relevancy of the curriculum toward meeting the needs of employers.

Gage says he believes the center will give A&M graduates a competitive edge when they enter the job market. He says Aggies could also gain an advantage from his efforts to gain national prestige for A&M students.

"I've been working diligently, searching for ways to get

more of our students into competitions for national awards and memberships to the National Academies of Science and Engineering," he says.

Gage says he would like to see the process institutionalized at A&M.

"We are the eighth largest school in the nation in research," he says. "We should get more national attention for these efforts."

Three weeks ago Gage approved the creation of a scholarship committee. The committee will focus on getting students at A&M national recognition.

"To be more competitive at having students recognized as Rhodes scholars and such, the process must begin around the sophomore level," he says.

"Texas A&M students were two of the four Texas undergraduates chosen for the prestigious Goldwater Scholarships this year. By institutionalizing the process we should be able to give our students the kind of recognition they deserve."

Gage says he is also excited about plans to re-emphasize teaching at A&M.

"We have some new programs designed to show our commitment to teaching, but in a way that will not diminish our efforts in scholarship and research," he says. "We have realized that we have to have the best teachers available in the classrooms."

To achieve this goal, Gage

See Gage/Page 3

'There's a meal plan for everyone'
Food Services expands options, dining areas

by Jeff M. Brown
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Department of Food Services operates 20 dining facilities on campus and proclaims there is a meal plan for everyone.

Stephanie Lawrence, marketing manager, said there will be two new places to eat on campus this year in the MSC.

The Memorial Student Center Cafeteria will reopen with two different cafeteria-style serving lines and the new 12th Man Burg-

ers & Snacks will offer sandwiches, soups, fresh fruit, hamburgers and drinks.

Lawrence said there will also be a new Aggie Bucks program called Bucks for Books.

The program will allow students to purchase books on campus with an account similar to a checking account. The minimum deposit is \$300 and students will use their IDs to access the account.

Lawrence said there will be a Food Show in the MSC on Sept. 3-4 where food wholesalers will be giving away free samples. All students and faculty are welcome to come and enjoy muffins, juices, sandwiches and new

items like hot potato chips, he said.

Bernie's Place and the Underground Food Court Market also will give away free samples of pizza, Mexican food and fortune cookies when school starts.

Meal plans remain basically the same this year ranging in price from \$763 to \$1113, each providing a specific amount of meals each week.

Aggie Bucks can supplement meal plans or can be purchased separately to be used similar to a checking account at all campus restaurants

See Food/Page 4

Easterwood Airport takes pride in services, cleanliness



SCOTT D. WEAVER/The Battalion

Easterwood Airport serves the Brazos Valley community as well as military

and commercial needs. The airport is located west of the A&M campus.

by Nicole Ferguson
Special to The Battalion

Easterwood Airport offers Brazos Valley residents many luxuries most small airports do not have, says Easterwood's associate director of aviation.

Richard Arnold says the University-operated facility provides A&M and the Brazos Valley residents with commercial airline services that connect with Continental Airlines in Houston and Delta and American airlines in Dallas.

"This provides a small community like College Station with larger community benefits in that the residents and businesses have access to large airports," Arnold says.

The local airport also has many benefits larger terminals enjoy.

"Easterwood Airport is a first-class airport serving a world-class university," Arnold says. "We have two rental car agencies, a comfortable waiting area, a baggage claim area and a nice bar."

These services became available in February 1990 when McKenzie Terminal was completed. Arnold says the building resembles an architect's replica of what a larger airport might look like.

Bryan Lilley, a senior journalism major at A&M, uses Easterwood Airport frequently.

Lilley flies from Easterwood to Dallas/Fort Worth Airport and on to New York twice a month. Lilley, who works for CBS Sports, says he has been using Easterwood regularly for the past year.

"I've been in small airports before and usually they're really bad," he says. "But Easterwood is really nice. It's one of the cleanest there is."

Arnold says Easterwood has 22 departures and 22 arrivals from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day, for about 80,000 passengers a year.

The terminal, however, is not just a departure point for people flying to larger airports. Arnold says army helicopters often stop at Easterwood for fuel when traveling from Fort Hood to Houston.

"We offer military and general aviation services as well as commercial airline services," he says.

We're On The Move ...

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