

Geography Academy

A&M, SWT offer joint course for teachers

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

Texas A&M and Southwest Texas State University received a \$409,000 joint grant from the U.S. Department of Education this fall to fund a summer geography academy for teachers.

The grant, one of 18 nationwide, created the Governor's Geography Academy for Teachers. Gov. Ann Richards endorsed the joint proposal last summer.

Next summer, the Texas A&M/Southwest State academy will offer 40 Texas teachers a four-week training period in geographic education. Participants will be at Southwest for the first two weeks and at A&M for the last two weeks.

Dr. Robert Bednarz, an associate professor of geography for A&M and co-director of the academy, said the course will concentrate on leadership skills and staff development.

"We will try to get people to

convey what they learned here to their colleagues," Bednarz said. "We want to spread our net a little wider."

The teachers will be required to conduct three in-service sessions for their colleagues after they complete the course, Bednarz said. If each participant reaches 600 teachers who teach 100 students apiece, then approximately 60,000 students will benefit, he said.

Bednarz said he expects more than 200 applicants for the 40 positions, and those chosen will represent a geographical, ethnic and grade-level mix.

Bednarz said this program is different than previous geography programs at A&M because it is the first joint program that A&M has been involved in and four different departments will be involved.

Both A&M's and Southwest's geography departments and educational instruction departments will be involved, he said.

Also, this course is different, he said, because it will involve the

largest group of teachers and will last longer than the other programs A&M has offered.

"Usually, there are 30 teachers involved, and the classes last three weeks," he said.

Dr. Lynn Burlbaw, an A&M assistant professor for the Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction, said he will do evaluations of the academy's progress.

Next fall, he said, evaluators will go to the participants' classes and in-services to see if they are properly teaching what they have learned.

"We want to see if their teaching is changing and if the students are learning geography better," Burlbaw said.

He said this program will be different from the others because the classroom visits have never been done before.

"We used to send questionnaires, but we've never had in-school follow-ups," he said.

In Advance

Researcher to discuss AIDS virus

Dr. Dorothy Lewis will speak on the pathology of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus at the Biomedical Science Association meeting scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

Lewis, an associate professor at the Baylor College of Medicine, will discuss the causes of

AIDS and its methods of transmission.

She conducts research which looks at the history of AIDS as well as the course the disease takes as infection progresses.

Richard W. Bailey, a doctoral student at Baylor, will join Lewis during the presentation.

Forum focuses on student development

The Texas A&M administration is encouraging students to express their points of view at the second University Forum from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. today in 601 Rudder.

The University Forum, second of five scheduled for this academic year, will focus on "Stu-

dent Development: The Other Education."

The forum is open to anyone, although student leaders are strongly encouraged to attend since the forum deals with student leadership and student-life support. The majority of time will be devoted to audience discussion.

Deadline for tech-writing entries ends today

Submissions for a technical paper contest are due by noon today in 238 Zachry.

Technical papers may be on any subject. For example, past entries have included pieces on a book, a co-op experience or any papers a student has written previously.

Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places. Winners of the first two places

will represent A&M's student chapter of the Institute of Industrial Engineering at the district conference in Spring '92 in Oklahoma. Travel expenses will be paid for by the student organization.

Papers can be worked on before going to the district conference. For more information, call Jeana at 847-7491.



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