

Doctoral student lectures in India for two months

By Melody Dunne
The Battalion

He spent two months in a foreign land for the price of the round trip plane ticket.

Robert L. Frenza, a doctoral student in industrial education, planned to visit India last December to give one lecture on safety management, and found himself traveling and lecturing throughout the country for two months, for free.

Frenza said it all began when he represented A&M last August at the World Safety Organization conference in Houston and met R. K. Sinha, the president of a similar conference in India. Sinha invited Frenza to visit India and give a lecture on security and safety management.

In December, Frenza traveled to India, only planning to stay for a week or two. After he gave the planned lecture for the Indian Institute of Security and Safety Management Seminar (IISSM), he was invited to speak at several other seminars, which led to the extension of his trip.

"India is a Third World country without knowledge of safety procedures," Frenza said.

All in all, Frenza gave 12 lectures and toured India extensively while being entertained by Sinha and the sponsors of the seminars in which he spoke.

Now Frenza wants to share

his experiences with other A&M students in hopes that they too would like to journey to India. There's only one catch, he said.

Students must be willing to pay \$1,300 for a round-trip plane ticket, and also must be willing to give one 45-minute lecture related to security, safety, industrial management, motivation or industrial education at the next IISSM Seminar this December.

Frenza said the Indian people were extremely hospitable, and the differences in the Indian and American cultures was a source of interest.

While he was there he witnessed an Indian wedding, in which the bride and groom adorn one another with wreaths instead of the common wedding ring.

On another occasion Frenza said he ate an entire sparrow, which is considered a delicacy in India.

"It would have been impolite to refuse it in their culture," he said.

One of Frenza's favorite tourist stops was his visit to the Taj Mahal, the monument to an Indian emperor's wife.

Frenza will be giving an informational talk on April 8 from noon to 1 p.m. in room 616 of the Harrington Education Center for those interested in learning how to apply to be a speaker in India.

MDA recalls 50 years of work

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

More than fifty years ago, a small group of parents concerned about their children who had muscular diseases created the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

Today, the MDA is the primary research and support organization for people across the nation with muscular and neuromuscular diseases.

"It started in one city with a small handful of parents, and now we are nationwide," said Mary Scherer, program coordinator

with the MDA. "We have an office and or clinic in every major city across the nation."

The MDA has 240 clinics that provide medical and support services to patients and their families. Workers who volunteer their time help patients and their families in conjunction with staff persons with the MDA.

Scherer said the organization's primary goal is to find treatments for 40 neuromuscular or muscular diseases.

"There are specific muscle diseases that are considered muscular dystrophy - that's where we get our name," Scherer said. "Others deal with motor neurons."

In muscular dystrophy diseases, the muscle itself weakens. In neuromuscular diseases, motor skills and nerves in the body are affected.

"Some are very wicked diseases that strike very quickly, and there's not much we can do," Scherer said. "But we are making progress in the research."

MDA researchers have located the gene that is responsible for Lou Gehrig's Disease, which is a type of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. This is a big step in finding a cure, she said.

"These diseases are more common than most people think," she said. "Some are hereditary and

some aren't. They can affect baby or someone who's very young."

The other major purpose of MDA is to provide patients with services, such as medical advice and providing wheel chairs and other medical equipment. The association also provides emotional support and financial assistance.

Scherer said usually people contact them for help, but sometimes they are referred to MDA by their doctors.

"Part of what we do is to provide public information and the part comes through the media."

See Telephone

Mental Retardation Month ends with seminar

By Gina Howard
The Battalion

The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Brazos Valley will be topping off celebration of Mental Retardation Month with a networking seminar this weekend.

The seminar, "Planning for the Future: Crystal Ball Not Required," will be held March 28.

"This is really our big event," said Melodee Hursey, Program Manager of Diagnostic and Evaluation and Mental Retardation Month Planning Committee chairwoman. "We've had several other smaller activities, but this is the

main one."

The main focus of the event is to give families and individuals a chance to share ideas and problems.

Other topics such as living arrangements, guardianship and alternatives, and wills and trusts will also be discussed.

"What we are trying to do is to develop a system of networking that will be a way to pull people together and to hopefully develop some personal resources," Hursey said.

"So many times people feel they are alone when they really aren't."

Awards will be presented at the seminar to an outstanding em-

ployee based on work with individuals and to an outstanding person with mental retardation.

"The award for an outstanding person with mental retardation will be given to an individual who has beat the label of 'mentally retarded' in dealing and living," Hursey said.

Hursey said the other activities of MHMR this month included participation in a health fair, a luncheon, and television and radio coverage of the events.

Janie M. Velasquez, a public information officer with MHMR, said many different volunteer projects and service projects are taking place throughout March to improve facilities.

These will be conducted by volunteers from the community service organizations and members of the center.

Hursey said she does not want the community to forget MHMR after March is over.

"The main thing while celebrating is that it is important for the community to understand we provide the same services month after month," said Hursey.

"We have lots of services in seven counties and we are involved with all ages. Some programs are actually conducted seven days a week."

For more information on Mental Retardation Month programs, call 779-MHMR.

South Padre's police chief reports 383 arrests

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

Students who partied on South Padre Island during spring break kept local police officers busy, but generally remained in control, said one officer.

Chief of South Padre Island's Police Department Ed Sanders said 383 arrests were made on the island during Spring Break and most of them were for public intoxication.

Aside from the problem of drinking and driving, no major car accidents were reported, he said.

"We had a lot of accidents with injuries, but there were no fatalities this year," he said.

Sanders said drinking and driving is always the most serious problem for officers to handle, but students are beginning to party more cautiously.

"We try to get them to party smart and it has caught on," he said. "It's even caught on in Matamoros and Brownsville."

Mexican police cracked down this year on intoxicated students who wandered the streets of Mexico, said Sanders.

"The mayor of Matamoros called me to tell us that they

would be arresting students and putting them in jail," he said. "So if you go to Mexico, remember that you can end up in jail!"

Other problems Sanders and his officers experienced were robberies and students possessing concealed weapons.

"This spring break, it seemed like students were more destructive," said Sanders. "We took a lot of knives and guns away from students."

More serious than robberies, he said, were the two sexual assaults that occurred. One of the victims would not give her name or press charges against her assailant.

"They (students) seem to have a lack of concern for themselves and it's very amazing," Sanders said. "In this case, the guys just beat the hell out of this but she kept blaming her partner."

A minor problem the police department tackled was vandalism. Sanders said students spent the day on the beach and they would drive around preparing to go to a nightclub.

"We had some traffic accidents," he said. "There were a couple of lights in town that were changed to flashing lights."

In general, Sanders said students had a good time.

NOTICE

Candidates can submit campaign platform for publication in March 31 Voter's Guide

The Texas A&M Voter's Guide will be distributed March 31. It includes a listing of candidates for student government positions. Individuals running for Student Body President, Yell Leader, Class Presidents, Off-Campus Aggie President and RHA President may submit a written campaign platform for publication. Student Body President and Yell Leaders need to set up times for pictures. Additional information can be obtained in room 013 Reed McDonald or call 845-3316.

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Applications are due March 27 no later than 5:00 p.m.

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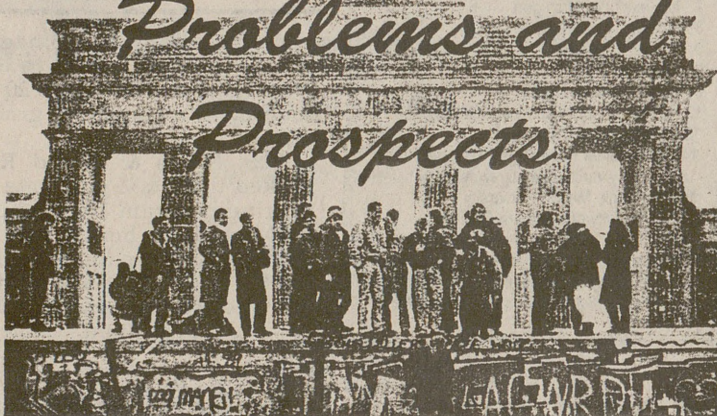
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HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE STUDY

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Individuals with spring allergy symptoms to screen for upcoming research studies.

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TENSION HEADACHE?

Individuals with moderate to severe Tension Headaches wanted to participate in a 4-hour headache relief research study with an investigational medication in tablet form. Flexible hours. \$75 incentive for individuals who are chosen and complete the study. Daily, till 6:30 776-0400.

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WANTED: Individuals, age 12-65, with mild to moderate asthma to participate in a clinical research study for 6 weeks with an investigational medication in inhaler form. Individuals must be using inhaled steroids and bronchodilators daily to qualify. \$400 incentive paid to those completing the study.

SKIN INFECTION STUDY

Individuals age 13 and older wanted to participate in a research study for bacterial skin infections such as: abscess, infected burns, boils, infected hair follicles, impetigo, and others. Investigational oral antibiotic in capsule form. \$100 incentive for those chosen who complete the study.

For more information call:
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