

Nick Pena/The Battalion

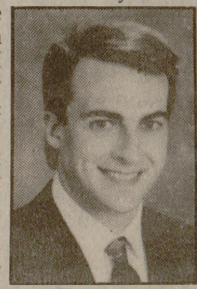
Gone fishin'

Ed Perry, a senior civil engineering major, from Lewisville, relieves some pre-finals stress by fishing in the Brazos river from the back of his truck, before he starts his typical cram sessions.

Student changes career goal after receiving grant

By Erin Bradley
The Battalion

T. Scott Murrell, a doctoral student from Indiana, made a 180-degree switch to soil chemistry after earning his bachelor of arts degree in history and has recently been awarded a J. Fielding Reed PPI Fellowship, which is one of four \$2,000 grants from the Potash & Phosphate Institute.



T. Scott Murrell

"I spent a year at Yale studying Assyriology, or ancient Near East language and literature," Murrell said. "But, as you can probably imagine, the job market in that field is zero. So I took a year off and worked with my dad's company in agronomy, then in a soil testing lab with a professor at Purdue, and I made the switch.

"Now I'll have several options open, either at the university level, as a professor of topics in soil chemistry and fertility, or maybe with my dad, in charge of a research project," Murrell said.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, with distinction, in history, from Purdue and spending the year at Yale, Murrell returned to Purdue and earned a master's of science degree in agronomy. In pursuit of his doctoral degree, Murrell's dissertation is titled "Gradient Diffusion of Nutrients for Crop Production."

"The best way I can explain this stuff is just by us-

ing the title," Murrell said. "It's kind of complicated."

Murrell's research, although "not yet specific," basically seeking to measure the extent to which particular element or ion moves over time. When the ion is applied to a plant as a fertilizer, it may be possible to measure how quickly it reaches the roots, and thereby it can be determined optimal when, and how close to the root, the fertilizer should be applied. "There's a certain mystique to this because lots of work has been done without progress," Murrell said. "It's challenging, in part because it combines so many different disciplines: physics, physical chemistry, quantitative analysis and lots of math."

"This is a lifetime project, and hopefully I'll have some understanding of the subject after the next few years," he said.

Of the approximately 40 applicants seeking graduate degrees in soil science, the four recipients were chosen based on outstanding scholastic record, original research and leadership abilities. "Each year we have the privilege of presenting this recognition to the applicants for the Fellowships have excellent credentials," David Dibb, PPI President, said in a released statement. "These individuals and their educational institutions can take pride in the level of achievement represented."

The Potash & Phosphate Institute is a market research company with offices world-wide which seeks to promote the use of fertilizers by educating the public with quality technical information, said Steve Couch, a member of PPI's circulation department.

Bush brings home big events

Houston expects more as president's 'adopted hometown'

HOUSTON (AP) — The Republican National Convention is expected to provide a shot in the arm to Houston's oil-dominated economy, and many are crediting President Bush for bringing his party to town. This is, after all, his adopted hometown.

Bush did tap Houston as the site for the 1990 Economic Summit, brushing aside suggestions to hold the prestigious event in San Antonio. The Alamo City is considered far more picturesque, but Houston got the presidential nod.

Many are quick to praise Bush for bringing the two high-profile and lucrative events to town, but others are wondering what else he has done for Houston.

"There's really nothing beyond those two things," Rice University sociologist Stephen Klineberg says. "There's been a lot of disap-

pointment with Bush. The oil companies are upset by his failure to address this country's dependence on foreign oil."

"A lot of people in the industry are wandering around in circles as to who to support (for president)," says Paul Taylor, a vice president at Anadarko Petroleum Corp., a Houston-based independent oil and gas exploration and production company. "There are a lot of my friends who are mad as hell at George Bush. But there are a lot of them who totally distrust the Democratic Party."

Houston officials see the GOP Convention as a tool to attract new business to the city, which has been trying to extricate itself from the energy industry's grip ever since the economy took a near-fatal nose dive when oil prices collapsed in the mid-1980s.

Diversification efforts have been focused on the Johnson Space Center, the Texas Medical Center at the Port of Houston, but the energy industry still accounts for 40 percent of the local economy. "Times are bad in the oil patch," said Michel Halbouty, an independent oilman who has been in the business for 63 years.

"The petroleum industry in the United States is in one of the most deplorable conditions I've ever seen," said Michel Halbouty, an independent oilman who has been in the business for 63 years.

"Wildcat drilling in the United States is practically non-existent and for that reason it has devastated the independent segment of the industry. There are very, very few independents left. I'm one of them," the 83-year-old Houstonian says.

Bush was once part of the industry, and many feel he has a good understanding of it.

Senate rejects amendment, saves super collider funding

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate breathed new life into the superconducting super collider Monday, fending off an attempt to follow the House and kill the \$8.25 billion giant atom smasher.

On a 62-32 vote, the Senate rejected an amendment by Sen. Dale Bumpers to eliminate funding for the super collider.

The House voted two months ago to kill the project, which would be the world's largest scientific instrument. Had the Senate followed course, it would have meant almost certain death for the super collider.

"There was reason to worry after the House vote that the superconducting super collider would become extinct, but the Senate today took this important basic research project off the

endangered species list," said Sen. Lloyd Bentsen.

"It was a very strong win," said Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas. "Our first objective was to win. Our second objective was to try to pile up a strong margin to help us when we go to conference with the House."

Gov. Ann Richards said the vote was gratifying.

"The superconducting super collider project insures that the United States will be preeminent in science into the next century," the governor said.

Super collider spokesman Russ Wylie said supporters in Waxahachie were delighted by the vote.

"We think it's a great victory for basic science that will extend our country's leadership in a very

important field," Wylie said. "Obviously, this strong support by the Senate will have a very telling effect."

The Senate Appropriations Committee allocated \$550 million for the super collider in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. That amount is \$100 million less than the Bush administration is seeking.

A similar amendment offered by Bumpers last year failed on a 62-37 vote.

Bumpers predicted he would garner more support this year and that growing opposition eventually would force the project's cancellation.

Bumpers argued Monday that halting the collider would be a step toward reducing the federal budget deficit.

The Battalion

TODD STONE, Editor-in-Chief

MACK HARRISON, Opinion Editor
JAYME BLASCHKE, Lifestyles Editor
MEREDITH HARRISON, News editor
HEIDI SAUER, News Editor
GARY CARROLL, City Editor
MARK EVANS, Asst. City Editor
J. DOUGLAS FOSTER, Sports Editor
ROBERT REED, Photo Editor

Staff Members

Reporters — Robin Roach, Chris Carroll, Robin Goodpaster, Juli Phillips, Christi Ray, Tanya Williams, Julie Chelkowski, Susan Westmoreland, Ursula Simms, and Erin Bradley.
Copy editors — Kyle Burnett, Kenneth McWatters, Ali Steere, David Thomas and Lauri Reysa.
Photographers — Darrin Hill, Sandra Alvarado, Nick Pena, Michael Marshall, and Huy Nguyen.
Lifestyles writers — Anas Ben-Musa, Tricia Martinez and Kim McGuire.
Sports writers — Michael Plumer and Don Norwood.
Columnists — Anthony LoBaido, Stacy Feducia, John Deshazo, and Paul Greco.
Assistant to the Editor — Darra Dees
Editorial Cartoonist — William Harrison
Graphic Artist — Jennifer Maxwell
Clerks — Allison Lewis, Shelley Rowton and Carrie Miura.
The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except university holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77840.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone number is 845-3316. Fax: 845-2947.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the contributor and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Texas A&M student body, administration, faculty or staff.

Advertising: For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 013 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-5408.

Subscriptions: Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year. To charge by VISA or MasterCard, call 845-2611.

Yes!
We have
student
airfares.

Belize \$129*
London \$349*
Paris \$365*
Madrid \$375*
Moscow \$455*
Sydney \$599*

*Fares above are one way fares from Houston. Restrictions apply. Taxes not included.

Council Travel

2000 Guadalupe St.
Austin, TX 78705

512-472-4931

We issue Eurailpasses on-the-spot!

DOUGLAS JEWELERS



Texas A&M
University Watch
by SEIKO

A Seiko Quartz timepiece officially licensed by the University. Featuring a richly detailed three-dimensional recreation of the University Seal on the 14kt. gold finished dials. Electronic quartz movement guaranteed accurate to within fifteen seconds per month. Full three year Seiko warranty.

All gold \$285.00
2-tone \$265.00
with leather strap \$200.00
pocket watch \$245.00
free engraving

Class of '75
1667-B Texas Ave.
Culpepper Plaza
693-0677

The f...
Bl...
Awfu...
stake...
"Buffy the...
Directed by...
Starring Kri...
Reubens, Lu...
Rated PG
Now playing...
So I keep...
with this m...
ago. I wish...
lozenge and...
mean, like, e...
his Hamlet c...
is a total ble...
Imagine...
got a pretty...
er," the new...
and Luke Pe...
lan McKay o...
"Buffy" t...
Fran Rubel...
the whole va...
this:
"In each...
female is bo...
vampires. S...
her in the ar...
It just so...
lays upon the...
leader intere...
her jock boy...
Buffy me...
Donald Suth...
and tells her...
and rid the...
plaguing So...
At first, I...
"Like, all...
marry Chris...
But after...
dostest frien...
butt.
Surprising...
bad. Swans...
the role as i...
Perry makes...
screen quite...
to the one h...
Also, Di...
in big name...
Rutger Hau...
Sutherland...
roles are ex...
result.
A&M...
Lo...
Lyle Love...
Joshua J...
MCA Rec...
Lyle I...
project an...
from him...
Ruth."
505...
Featu...
HP 48...
HP 48...
*32K B...
*Comb...
*I/O po...
*SX fea...
Appli...
HP 17...
Financ...
*Choo...
*Menu...
*Over...
Busi...
Mon...
Sat.