

# STATE & LOCAL

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The Battalion

Monday, July 19, 1993

## Co-op offers students work experience

By CARRIE MIURA

The Battalion

Students are able to experience the "real" world while gaining on-the-job experience when they co-op, says Debbie Roberson, assistant director of the Cooperative Education Program at A&M.

"The Co-op (cooperative education) program is where students can integrate studies with professional work experience," Roberson said.

The Co-op program was designed specifically with the initial intent to help engineering majors, but is currently open to all majors except the College of Education and parts of the College of Architecture.

The program is now putting more emphasis on encouraging students in the science fields to co-op, she said. "There is a slight disadvantage to the Co-op program, because you have to stay in school a little longer, but you get

## Companies scout for future employees

so many opportunities when you do graduate," said Belinda Prihoda, a senior chemistry major from Needville, Texas.

"It's just a question of when you want to invest your time," she said.

Prihoda, who worked for Ethicon, a division of the Johnson and Johnson Corporation, said co-oping allowed her to gain professional experience, to support herself financially and to explore career opportunities.

"I enjoyed co-oping for three terms, because most of the student workers were Aggies," Prihoda said.

A&M has the third largest Co-operative Education Program offered to college students in the nation.

Virtually all A&M students who have served co-op terms graduate, Roberson said.

Students who are interested in

co-oping are encouraged to seek more information about the co-op program during the end of their freshman or at the beginning of their sophomore year.

Students must have a minimum 2.5 grade point ratio for any college, but the average suggested GPR is a 3.0.

"With the economy being very tight, employers are being more selective and they want students with marketable skills," Roberson said.

Various companies around the nation come to A&M during the year to scout for prospective students who may be interested in working for them, Roberson said.

The top five companies that employ A&M students through the Co-op program are Texas Instruments, IBM, NASA and the Johnson Space Center, Dow Chemical USA and DuPont. Over 3,000 A&M students are currently

co-oping in the United States.

Texas has eighty-five percent of the Co-op employers and 15 percent are out of state in places like Washington D.C., North Carolina and California. "Students get a tremendous amount of self-confidence and gain in maturity," Roberson said.

Many students are unaware of the differences between a co-op position and an internship, Roberson said.

"The Co-op program is a centralized program when students work a minimum of two semesters whereas internships are offered by different departments on campus in which students only work one semester," she said.

Internships may not be as extensive as a co-op position, but are still a considered a good move, because students are getting some job exposure, Roberson said.

Some advantages to co-oping include gaining interview skills, professional writing skills and networking, she said.

## Federal agency underestimates job site fatalities

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Federal and state records indicate that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigated no more than one in four deaths of Texans killed on the job during the last decade, the Houston Chronicle said Sunday.

The federal agency, which is charged with monitoring fatal accidents at virtually all work sites, investigated about 1,500 deaths on Texas job sites from 1983 to 1992, according to the Chronicle's copy-right story.

But during that time, the most conservative figures from state agencies listed nearly 6,000 workplace deaths. The newspaper said that in many cases, deaths went undiscovered by OSHA because of poor reporting by companies.

OSHA officials conceded they do not inspect the scene of every workplace fatality, but they blamed poor reporting by employers and a lack of jurisdiction in some deaths.

## Gramm

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fleet of trucks the company uses to deliver its product travel 60 to 70 thousand miles a week.

Standard said his company plans to expand in the future, but that expansion would be put on hold if a federal fuel or energy tax were passed.

Robert Walker, president of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, told the group that small businesses in the area could not stand the burden of a fuel or energy tax.

"It is the philosophy of your chamber of com-

merce that business in general and small business in particular cannot continue to carry the heavy burden of taxes and regulations already imposed on it and have any hope of surviving the difficulties our nation is in."

Although Gramm doesn't support either proposed tax, he said he plans to work to kill the idea of an energy tax once and for all.

"Since the president has not given up on the idea of some form of Btu tax, I would like to work as I have this weekend and in the state to put the final nail in the coffin of the Btu tax."

## Trial

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The prosecution rested its case Thursday with a series of witnesses that included Williams' grandmother, other boys present in the classroom on the morning of the stabbing, police and medical personnel that cared for Williams before his death and two medical examiners.

Williams' grandmother wept and then fainted during the testimony of a Bryan Fire Department paramedic who was describing her grandson's wounds.

The two 16-year-olds that testified Thursday said Greenwood provoked the confrontation by saying "What's up," a phrase meaning he wanted to fight.

"Then I said, 'What's up.' Then he came at me," the witness said. "I stepped back and he turned and

looked at Billy and stabbed him."

Williams did not attempt to hit or confront Greenwood, and Pulliam sent Greenwood to the office, the youth said.

Greenwood left, but then he came back in the cafeteria, grabbed a chair and said to the first boy he was fighting with, "Come on, I'll get you too," the first boy said.

As Williams was being escorted to the school nurse's office by another boy in the cafeteria, he saw Greenwood in the hall, the witness testified.

Williams asked Greenwood "Why did you do it, man? Why did you stab me?" the boy said.

"Then Dante said, 'I'll do it again if I have to,'" the witness testified.

Today will be the third day in this trial, which is expected to last until the end of this week.

## Attitudes

Continued from Page 1

classroom, students may face many obstacles such as their background, study techniques and curriculum, Paris said.

Most of the students who come into the Center for Academic Enhancement to get academic help come in their "terminally ill" state instead of when they first detected a problem, he said.

"They come in when they have gotten a really low grade and are really beaten," he said.

A lot of students simply don't have the background for the courses they are taking, and others simply don't have good study techniques, he said.

"Some freshmen who come to A&M haven't had to open a book in high school," Paris said. When they come to college they have to acquire study skills which they might not have needed in high school, he said.

"The average students in high school who have to study a lot may have an easier adjustment to college since they already know how to study," Paris said.

The center helps to prepare students to study by teaching such topics as time management, taking lecture notes, comprehending reading material, applying course material and preparing for exams.

Paris said it may be more difficult to learn because of the recent textbook's format.

In the 40s and 50s the books had more explanation of the facts, he said. Now the education system throws out more facts than explanations, he said.

Despite the possible hindrances to learning, only one person is ultimately responsible, he said.

"The student is responsible for learning for himself," Paris said.

But the instructors teaching the courses play a part in the learning process as well as the students because they are delivering the subject matter, he said.

"Most assume if they have a degree in the

subject they can teach it, which is not true," Dr. Don Self, professor and head of the department of humanities in the College of Medicine said.

The Center for Teaching Excellence helps some instructors with their teaching by being a resource for teaching techniques as well as offering to be a teaching mentor. One of the programs they have trains teaching assistants to teach. Topics included are lecturing techniques, discussions and instructor-student interaction.

Liz Miller, the assistant director of the Center for Teaching Excellence said it is important to train teaching assistants since professors come from this group.

Professors and other instructors also have the opportunity to make teaching portfolios. The portfolio has been cited by education professionals as the "most innovative and promising teaching evaluation and improvement technique in years."

Texas A&M is the largest and one of the most committed universities to good teaching, Miller said.



## Campus News Briefs

### Engineering leader receives Wofford Cain

Dr. John Niedzwecki, professor in the department of civil engineering at Texas A&M, has been named the Wofford Cain Professor of Engineering in Off-shore Technology.

Niedzwecki is a leader in structural engineering and engineering mechanics and with the Texas Engineering Experiment Station's Offshore Technology Research Center.

He has received numerous awards and has published more than 56 journal articles and conference papers.

### Dr. W. John Lee honored with engineering chair

Dr. W. John Lee has been awarded the L.F. Peterson '36 Chair in Petroleum Engineering at Texas A&M.

Lee is a professor of petroleum engineering and has received a number of honors for his work in teaching and research.

The L.F. Peterson Chair was established in honor of Texas oilmen W.A. Moncrief Jr. of Fort Worth and John L. Cox of Midland who attended A&M.

### Hyden receives civil engineering staff recognition

Joyce Ann Hyden, secretary with the coastal and ocean engineering area, has received the 1993 Texas A&M Department of Civil Engineering Outstanding Staff Award.

Hyden has been with the department for 18 years.

Funding for the award came from gifts to the department from alumni, faculty, staff and others.

### Deputy wins in national paper competition

A Texas A&M telecommunications specialist was one of three national winners in the International Communications Association student-paper competition.

Steve Deputy, a senior from Houston, wrote a technical paper on "Broadband Integrated Services Digital Network" and became a semifinalist in the association's national paper contest involving more than 15 universities.

Each winner received a check for \$750 and free airfare and hotel accommodations to the association's conference in Dallas.

### Zachry Teaching Excellence award given to engineers

The Zachry Teaching Excellence Awards for 1993 were presented to Dr. Stuart Anderson, Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud and Dr. Gerald Vinson all of the civil engineering department.

Recipients of the award are chosen for communications skills, creativity in the classroom, ability to motivate students and active involvement with students outside the classroom.

### Zollinger receives civil engineering teaching award

Dr. Dan Zollinger of the Texas A&M department of civil engineering has been recognized for his outstanding teaching with the 1993 Dick and Joyce Birdwell Teaching Award.

Zollinger is an assistant professor in the materials area. The award was given to him for his active involvement in the undergraduate teaching program and in student activities outside the classroom.

### Institute director changes structure of research studies

Dr. Richard Startzman, the new director of a Texas A&M University petroleum engineering institute wants a better pipeline between researchers and industry.

The reorganized Crisam Institute will serve as a coordination point and clearinghouse for researchers and prospective funding agencies or sources.

The institute now will include the existing centers, laboratories and research projects in the petroleum engineering department. All will continue to be managed independently, but being under the Crisam umbrella will allow more collaboration and coordination.

### Dr. Witt named head of recreation, parks, tourism

Dr. Peter A Witt, assistant vice president and associate dean of the Toulouse School of Graduate Studies at the University of North Texas, has been named head of the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences, effective July 1.

Witt, editor of the Journal of Leisure Research since 1990, has 26 years of academic and administrative experience. He has held a variety of positions at North Texas, including associate vice president for research and chair of the Division of Recreation and Leisure Studies.

## The Battalion

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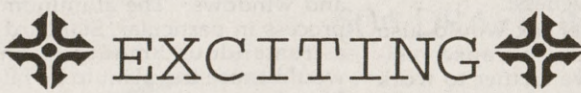
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AUGUST GRADUATES  
OF  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT  
ORDERS ARE HERE !!!!!

THEY CAN BE PICKED UP BEGINNING  
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