

Sacrifice and sanity

Aggie student parents committed to kids, classes

By Margaret Claughton

THE BATTALION

Most parents are in agreement that having children, even one, is definitely a full-time commitment. And many students will admit that college level courses, even when taken in moderation, are among the most time consuming and challenging undertakings. Judging from this, those who succeed in balancing both parenthood and an academic career must indeed be the kings and queens of time management.

Student parent Tammy Oliver, a junior English major and mother of two,

said the hardest part of being a student parent is deciding what is going to be sacrificed.

"Sometimes you sacrifice school and sometimes you sacrifice time with the kids," Oliver said. "And sometimes you sacrifice both for sanity. It balances out eventually. But it always seems like something has to give."

Indeed many student parents do sacrifice a lot of family time for an education they hope will provide them with admirable credentials.

Ellen Little, a senior recreation and parks major, lives six hours away from her husband and 13-year-old son in Del Rio.

"We used to get together every

weekend," Little said. "But lately it has been more like once a month."

Little is the publicity vice president of SOTA (Students Over Traditional Age.) In addition, she teaches first grade Sunday school and has a class load of 15 hours at A&M. At the same time, her husband is a law enforcement park ranger at Amistad National Recreation Area.

"I have my life here and he has his there," Little said. "It's difficult, but we'll see each other on Valentine's Day."

Oliver said she thinks the time shortage is sometimes hard on the kids.

"They don't get all of my attention, especially if I have to study. It's hard for them to understand," she said.

James Loy, a veterinarian working on his Ph.D., agrees.

"Our daughter Allyson doesn't understand deadlines and commitments. Her needs can't be put off," he said. "We must always tend to her first, then worry about school."

In addition to time constraints, going to school while being a parent requires financial sacrifices as well.

"I was requested to come back to school by my job," said Ann Renner, a '91 graduate and single parent of two children. "I take two classes now which all together cost me \$450. That's a big chunk out of a budget as tight as ours."

Renner works at the Burleson County Vocational Work Program for special education students and commutes to her office in Caldwell. She has a degree in education from A&M, but was requested to come back and get a special education endorsement. Her two children, Jessica, 11, and Michael, 8, have been right beside her all through her academic career.

"My kids have grown up at A&M," Renner said. "They've come to class with me and even taken naps on classroom floors."



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

Ann Renner (center), a '91 graduate and single parent of two, Jessica and Michael, came back to A&M to get a special education endorsement.

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A league all his own

Nautical archaeology professor known as pioneer in his field

By Paul Neale

THE BATTALION

Dr. George F. Bass digs shipwrecks. The words "first" and "oldest" are the key words when Bass, professor of nautical archaeology at Texas A&M, recounts the excavations he has been involved with.

"Every wreck we do has many firsts," he said.

Many of the sites he has excavated have produced new findings in the field.

Bass is currently involved with the excavation of the Bronze Age shipwreck at Uluburun, Turkey. From the 14th century B.C., the wreck is the oldest in the world.

The site, discovered in 1983, produced the oldest glass ingots, the oldest tin ingots, the oldest known book, the oldest known seagoing hull, and the first gold scarab of Queen Nefertiti ever found. The excavation yielded fifteen tons of artifacts all together.

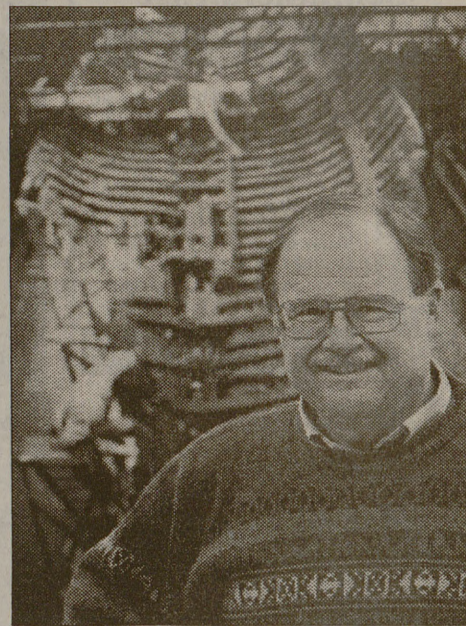
He describes such excavation as "studying the history of technology in a sense by uncovering these well-dated groups of artifacts from each century of antiquity."

His findings were published in a 40-page cover story in the December 1987 issue of National Geographic and were documented in a film for the television series "Nova."

Bass left the University of Pennsylvania in 1973 to found the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, an institute that has been a part of shipwreck research on four continents. In 1976, Dr. Bass came to Texas A&M and the private institute became affiliated with this University.

"The institute has the potential for making Texas A&M University the leading institute for archaeology in the world," Bass said. "I think we're already well recognized."

He said the only program comparable to Texas A&M's is that of East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. Most of their research takes place off North Car-



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

Dr. George F. Bass, a nautical archaeology professor, stands in front of a photo of the Bronze Age shipwreck.

olina and Bermuda, he said, and is strictly concerned with the New World (the Americas.)

Bass's continued work also includes an 11th century medieval shipwreck in Turkey with a cargo of 10,000-20,000 Islamic glass artifacts.

The medieval wreck excavations have provided the world's oldest chess set, weapons, tools, and the earliest example of the modern hull.

Bass has received many rewards throughout his career. He was one of fifteen to receive the National Geographic Society's Centennial Award in 1988. Fellow recipients that year included Sir Edmund Hillary, Jacques Cousteau and John Glenn.

His sixth and most recent book, "Ships and Shipwrecks of the Americas," was published that same year.

During the summer, Bass still visits the site of the Bronze Age shipwreck at Uluburun, Turkey. Although Bass limits his diving now, for thirty years, he dove twice a day for three months of the year.

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