

# Entomology graduates enter fast growing field

A&M's entomology department is one of the largest in the nation.

**Brad Dressler**  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University has the largest and one of the most renowned entomology departments in the nation because of its diverse research and top-quality faculty and students, professors say.

Entomology, the science of studying insects and their relationships, reaches into diverse areas, including agriculture and genetics.

Entomologists work in various scientific areas including pest control, physiology, biological control and integrated pest management.

Texas A&M's entomology department has the largest number of faculty and students in the nation.

The department has 35 cur-

rent undergraduate students and 72 graduate students. The department also has 42 faculty in College Station and 20 faculty and staff throughout the state at various experiment extension services.

Dr. Pete Teel, professor and associate department head in entomology, said that high quality contributes to A&M's success nationwide.

"Three areas that help make the Texas A&M's entomology program one of the top in the nation are quality teaching, research and extension service," he said. "It is extremely important for academics that students relate to real world problems through these areas."

Teel said the students also play an important role in Texas A&M's success and recognition.

"A University is only as good as the quality and success of the students it puts out," he said.

Texas A&M, Teel said, has leading students in the entomology field from coast to coast.

Aggie entomologists can also

be found in international agencies, national agencies, state institutions and major corporations.

Teel said the demand for graduating students continues to exceed the supply.

Demand for entomologists has grown over the past few years, he said, because of the field's expansion into areas such as genetics and food production.

Dr. Ray Frisbie, head of the Department of Entomology, said the demand for high-quality graduates continues, partly because of public need and awareness.

"The threat of crop loss or damage is a continual demand for entomologists," he said. "Also, the public is much more concerned about health risks from substances such as pesticides. Entomologists work to reduce such impacts upon public health and the environment."

Dr. Horace Van Cleave, professor and undergraduate coordinator in entomology, said Texas A&M encourages its students to get out and learn from their experiences.

"The field of entomology continues to become more diversified," he said. "I have found that students want to get out, apply their knowledge and learn about the growth of the field."

Teel said Texas A&M entomology students and faculty lead in many research areas.

In the area of biotechnology, students study insects at the molecular level.

Students work to develop viruses that will eliminate insect pests without risking human health or the environment. Insects' cell cultures are also used to produce pharmaceutical materials for human and veterinary medicine.

Students study landscape level problems to deal with the threat of cattle fever ticks, pine bark beetles and the elimination of weevils.

"Texas A&M students and faculty are leaders in areas such as these and others. Texas A&M played a pivotal role in the growing field of integrated pest management, Teel said."

# Texas Center for Climate Studies expanding

The Center provides a unique atmosphere for students and tries to raise money for research projects.

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Experts in climate studies share information and experiences through the Texas Center for Climate Studies.

The center, which is in Texas A&M's College of Geosciences and Maritime Studies, was founded in October 1993 and currently has more than 20 members.

Climate study involves moni-

toring and understanding climate change, developing an ability to predict changes and determining the long-term implications on society.

Dr. Worth Nowlin, director of the Texas Center for Climate Studies, said the center can provide great opportunities for anyone in the climate studies field.

"The center is used to bring people together to share and study the physical basis for climate and to raise seed money for climate research projects," he said.

Nowlin said the center promotes climate studies to the general public.

Dr. Robert Duce, dean of the Department of Geosciences and

Maritime Studies, said climate studies have generally been of great interest to the public.

"Most people want to know more about the study of the climate," he said, "since it is a tangible area that affects them directly."

This year, the center had its first climate studies seminars to encourage interaction and the spread of knowledge throughout the field.

Ken Bowman, associate pro-

fessor in meteorology, said the seminars allow all interested people to share their experiences.

"The seminars allow those in the climate studies field to educate each other by exchanging information," he said.

Spring 1995 is also the first semester that students in the Departments of Oceanography and Meteorology have the opportunity to pursue a Ph.D. with an emphasis in climate studies.

Three students have shown interest in pursuing the climate studies emphasis so far.

Nowlin said he is confident that once the new climate studies emphasis is well known, it will attract a great deal of attention.



# Apollo 13 survivors still regretful 25 years later

Crew wonders what might have been if space craft's oxygen tank had not exploded in space.

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** — Every time Jim Lovell looks at the moon, he feels regret.

Twenty-five years ago this week, the Apollo 13 commander was supposed to land there. Instead, he wound up zooming around it in a race for his life as an oxygen tank in the spacecraft exploded 200,000 miles from Earth, four-fifths of the way to the moon.

Lovell and his crew, Fred

Haise and Jack Swigert, did return safely to Earth. Lovell is grateful for that. But it was the second time he flew to the moon and didn't land.

"That is my one regret," said Lovell, 67.

Lovell first circled the moon in 1968 on Apollo 8, a dress rehearsal for the first manned lunar landing the following year. During Apollo 13, he should have become the fifth man to walk on the moon and Haise the sixth; Swigert was going to wait for them as they explored the Fra Mauro highlands.

It never happened.

Many consider Apollo 13's safe return one of NASA's finest moments, right up there with Neil Armstrong and Buzz

Aldrin's stroll on the moon nine months earlier on Apollo 11.

"Looking at it in retrospect, I think it's probably one of the most amazing and incredible rescues of all history," said Gene Kranz, its lead flight director. The tank exploded on April 13, 1970, two days after the colossal Saturn 5 rocket blasted off from Kennedy Space Center.

Cursed or not, Apollo 13 remains NASA's only in-space disaster in 99 human space flights.

The Apollo 13 spacecraft fire, which killed three astronauts in 1967, occurred at the launch pad during a countdown test. The Challenger explosion, which killed all seven aboard in 1986, occurred 73 seconds after liftoff.

For four days in April 1970,

hundreds of flight controllers and engineers worked feverishly on a daring rescue plan.

With Kranz calling the shots, Lovell, Haise and Swigert moved into the cramped, dark and frigid lunar lander while rationing their dwindling oxygen, water and electricity. They swung around the moon and aimed for Earth as people around the world waited and prayed.

On April 17, 1970, the command module, minus the jettisoned service module and lunar lander, parachuted down into the Pacific Ocean.

Men returned to the moon four more times and landed. But none of the Apollo 13 astronauts flew in space again.

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