

Research Week showcases student projects

By JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

The first annual Student Research Week at Texas A&M will give students a perspective on the importance of research through informational presentations and posters. Student Research Week will host speakers from various institutions and corporations. More than 100 students will win awards for high poster and oral presentations. Nancy Sawtelle, director of communication for research and graduate studies, said

the purpose of research week is for student groups to get together and find out what types of research the groups are doing.

"Many people do not realize that students do research work and this does not happen at all universities," she said.

Sawtelle said many universities do not have the technology and facilities that A&M has to give the students these opportunities. She said this week will also help students share their research with others and learn more about the different methods of research.

"Research teaches students to think and

analyze, and how to present the ideas that they develop to other people," she said.

The week will kick off Wednesday with an opening reception in Rudder Tower at 4 p.m. Dr. Howard Kaplan, professor of sociology, will speak on the importance of research.

Kaplan will prepare students on how to acquire and collate information, understand the process of gathering information and teach research methodology.

"With the information explosion that is occurring and the increase of knowledge, it is much harder to teach the methodology of acquiring knowledge," he said. "Two

skills that will help students are to conceptualize and to gather information so they can be able to collate the knowledge and transmit it for themselves."

Kaplan said to do this, students must have practical research experience. He said this week provides a chance for students to be active in their research.

Thursday, students will prepare posters and oral presentations.

Sawtelle said the students created posters, which will be on display in the exhibit hall of Rudder Tower, to visually display the research they conducted.

"We would really like for the community and the students to take the opportunity to walk through and take a look at the posters," she said. "They will be amazed."

Sawtelle said other students will give short oral presentations to display their research ideas.

Participants will be assigned categories to their areas of study and will be eligible to win prizes based on their ability to communicate ideas verbally or in graphic form.

PLEASE SEE RESEARCH ON PAGE 2.

A watchful eye



David Stroman, a sophomore history major, looks on as Hutch Butler, a senior recreation parks and tourism science major, plays hacky sack between classes Monday afternoon.

MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Deadline looms

April 6 marks last day students can Q-Drop classes, advisors suggest ways to avoid use

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

An increasing number of students must decide to drop or keep classes as April 6, the Q-drop deadline, approaches.

Margie Dyer, an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts, said students often wait until the last day to drop classes. She said students need to use Q-drops only when necessary.

"Use them sparingly, particularly early in your college career," Dyer said. "Take a careful look at a professor's syllabus (during the first week of classes)."

Texas A&M allows students only three Q-drops, excluding special appeals for an additional Q-drop.

Dyer said Q-drops provide students a chance to experiment with different classes.

"One positive is that the Q-drop allows students to take classes they might not otherwise take," Dyer said. "It gets students to try a class for a longer period of time."

Dyer said students can take measures to reduce the likelihood of Q-dropping a course. Students may check grade distributions, read through course descriptions and visit with faculty members before selecting courses for the next semester.

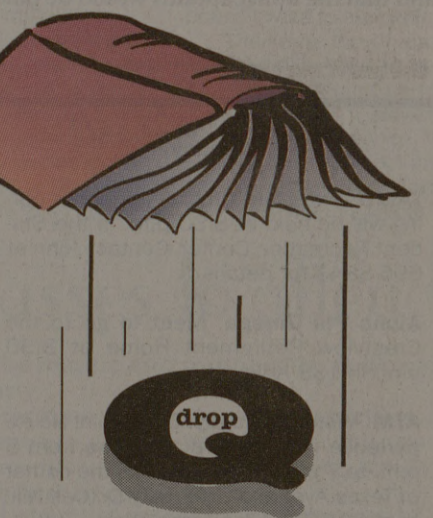
"Make the schedule doable as far as classes go," Dyer said. "It would be good to have variety. Students should try to balance the type of work they will be doing."

Kris Boyd, the director of General Academic Programs, said a limit of three Q-drops was implemented after the College of Engineering and the College of Business expressed concerns about students dropping and re-taking courses.

"Students were retaking courses three, four and five times," Boyd said. "This causes a backlog due to increased demand for the same courses. Now every college limits students to three Q-drops."

Boyd said other universities have adopted drop limits since A&M limited the number of drops students can have as undergraduates.

Dr. Hillary Jessup, a professional



counselor in the College of Business, said students should talk to the professor before talking to an advisor about Q-dropping a class.

"Students should go by and talk to the professor," Jessup said. "Sometimes students think they are doing poorly. Students should really listen to the professor and listen to their advice."

Students in the College of Business and most other colleges on campus may talk to an academic counselor before deciding to Q-drop a class but they are not required, Jessup said.

"Quite a few students drop because of their grade in a class or they may decide to change their major," Jessup said. "Students can raise their grades by dropping a class and (devoting) more time on their other classes."

After dropping a class, some students choose to continue attending the class before taking it again.

Katie DuFour, a sophomore community health major, said she began attending another section after she Q-dropped her biology class last year.

"I do think that it helped me because I knew that the material was going to get harder," DuFour said. "It helped me to see the more difficult information before I took the class again the next semester."

PLEASE SEE Q-DROP ON PAGE 2.

NEWS BRIEFS

Committee to hold hearing on campus

The Texas House Committee on Transportation will hold a public hearing at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at Bush Presidential Library Conference Center.

Committee members will focus specifically on two major subjects affecting transportation: issues related to speed and highway safety, and the effects of oversize and overweight trucks on roads and bridges, including the impact of NAFTA-related traffic.

Wednesday's public hearing will be the second held this year by the committee, which has jurisdiction over all transportation matters in the state, including: commercial motor vehicles, the state highway system, railroads, ports and waterways.

The hearing, which will be hosted by the Texas Transportation Institute, is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the TTI Council, the institute's industry advisory group.

Officials from the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Public Safety will participate in the hearing.

Candidates appear in Flagroom forum

Texas A&M Student Body President and yell leader candidates will participate in a campus forum Tuesday in the MSC Flagroom at 2:30 p.m.

The forum will be an opportunity for students to hear candidates and answer questions from a panel of student leaders. Candidates will have an opportunity to respond to each question.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Student Government Election Commission and Political Forum.

Russian cabinet ousted

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin picked a little-known reformer as acting prime minister Monday after firing his entire Cabinet without warning. He promised that Russia's biggest government shakeup since the Soviet Union dissolved would not derail democratic and free-market reforms.

Yeltsin shocked many Russians when he dismissed the Cabinet, including his stolid and loyal prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. Few had ever heard of the man named as Chernomyrdin's acting replacement, Sergei Kirienko.

Despite the shakeup, leaders from Yeltsin on down insisted that Russia was not teetering on the verge of a political crisis.

"There is no governmental crisis in the country," Chernomyrdin said after losing the job he had held since 1992. "This is a natural and routine process of renewing power. One thing is clear: The course of reforms in Russia is irreversible."

Most of the Cabinet members were ordered to stay on temporarily and many, including Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, were expected to keep their posts.

Yeltsin said he needed a fresh government to re-energize economic reforms, which he said were moving too slowly, jeopardizing the future of democracy in Russia.

"Unfortunately, people don't feel changes for the better," he said, speaking slowly and calmly in a nationwide television broadcast. "I believe that recently the government has been lacking dynamism and initiative, new outlooks, fresh approaches and ideas. And without this, a powerful breakthrough in the economy is impossible."

Health Center offers services to women

By JILL REED
Staff writer

Texas A&M University is celebrating Women's Week this week, but the Student Health Center cares for women's health every week.

Reagan Mensch Brown is a nurse practitioner who has headed the gynecology clinic at the health center since it opened in June 1995.

Brown said the Women's Clinic offers students Pap smears and other reproductive health services, and the Beutel pharmacy offers students low-cost birth control products.

A student can buy ten condoms for two dollars and birth control pills for five to ten dollars per month.

For limited emergencies, the Health Center offers morning-after pregnancy prevention.

With about 25 appointments per day, Brown said, a small percentage of women at A&M use the women's clinic.

She said there is now a three-day wait, and the clinic probably could not handle more women without expanding its facilities.

Dr. Lucille Isdale, director of the Department of Student Health Services, said the women's health clinic is awaiting available funds for

expansion.

She said nine physicians at Beutel are able to handle gynecological medicine, but the students like the privacy and isolation of the women's clinic.

"We have an excellent staff of

diseases or eating disorders.

Dr. Jane W. Cohen, Health Education Coordinator and nutrition specialist for the Department of Student Health Services, said students with questions about their nutritional intake can use a com-

"We are here to provide primary health care and we want to provide the best service we can."

Margaret M. Griffith
Assistant coordinator of Health Education Center

physicians," Isdale said. "Over half of them are board certified, and we now have more female doctors now than we've had in the past."

The health center also offers a sexual health education program, a nutrition education program and a drug education program.

Margaret M. Griffith, who has a master's degree in health education, is the assistant coordinator at the Health Education Center at A&M.

Griffith said students may visit the Health Education Center for counseling about personal health issues such as sexually transmitted

puterized diet analysis program and in less than 20 minutes, calculate daily nutrients.

Cohen said the health education center is a good service for students because it would cost \$50 more to consult a private practice dietitian.

She said students can consult her with questions about anorexia, bulimia, obesity and other binge-eating disorders.

"National statistics say that anywhere from 20 to 40 percent of women have eating disorders," Cohen said. "The sooner they can get

help, the better. However, the individual must take responsibility for their problem."

Cohen said that the Health Center uses a team approach with a physician, dietitian and a psychologist for student nutrition counseling because an eating disorder can be a sign of an underlying problem such as family stress or personal experiences.

"We refer some students to student counseling, which can help with self-esteem, body image and eating disorders," Cohen said.

The Health Education Center has educational videos and a health library that students can use as a resource for research papers or for other purposes.

"We would like more students to use our service and we would like more student input on what they would like to see us do," Griffith said.

"We are here to provide primary health care," Isdale said, "and we want to provide the best service we can."

As of April 1997, the Health Center is one of the 110 health services out of 2,500 that has voluntary subjected itself to and acquired national accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Care Inc. Isdale said.

INSIDE

aggielife



Local family makes good with local restaurants and rich Italian background.

See Page 3

sports

Furtick: Baseball's National League Central stumps handicappers.

See Page 7

opinion

Meier: The myth of a color blind Hollywood is dispelled with this year's Oscars.

See Page 9

online

<http://battalion.tamu.edu>

Hook up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.