

New class examines global effects of NAFTA

Technology allows teleconferencing with students in Canada and Mexico

By JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

Students now have the opportunity to see new perspectives on the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in a new class that interactively links them with other students in Canada and Mexico. The class, offered by the Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, uses the technology of video teleconferencing. Lorraine Eden, faculty coordinator of International Affairs in the Americas at the Bush School and an associate professor of management, coordinates and teaches the class that connects A&M to the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México in Mexico City, Mexico. Eden said the class helps students understand Mexican and Canadian perspectives on NAFTA and touches on difficulties in international management. The class enabled us to take students and really expose them to the culture

and economics of Mexico and Canada," she said. The class organizes students into teams with members from each country. The students work on projects with their members through the use of the Internet

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Lorraine Eden
Faculty coordinator of the International Affairs in the Americas

and e-mail. They present their projects during class when all three countries are linked by the video teleconference. Eden said the class met with the two countries 10 times during the semester to share and discuss assignments. She said

the class is very beneficial to students because it provides them skills they could not get any other way.

"It brings the world into the classroom instead of taking them to Mexico or Canada," she said.

Eden said the class is assigned three projects. The international teams work on all three together which explore the impacts of NAFTA on countries, industries and firms.

She said for the analysis of NAFTA on firms, the teams analyzed different automobile companies and used new software that was donated to them that simulated software actually used by automobile companies.

Eden said many students had the opportunity to personally work with advisors at Chrysler and GM.

"In the workplace, most people will end up working in cross-country and cross-cultural teams, and this class is a way to give students those skills to prepare them for international business," she said.

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Students trek across the world with study abroad program

By KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

While many students are planning to take classes in their hometowns, others are staying in College Station this summer and some have chosen to study abroad.

Mona Rizk-Finne, director of Study Abroad programs, said about 700 Aggies studied abroad last year.

"It's a wonderful experience and opportunity for students to learn about other cultures and make wonderful friendships," she said.

Dr. Howard Marchitello, associate professor of English, has taken groups of Aggies to Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy in the summers of 1994 and 1997 and is taking another group in the summer of 1999. Marchitello encourages students to consider studying abroad for the experience.

"It's actually living, rather than visiting, a

culture," he said. "Students actually live and learn the culture from within as compared to the tourist model."

Kim Bailey, a senior civil engineering major who studied in Italy, said the study abroad experience made her more marketable.

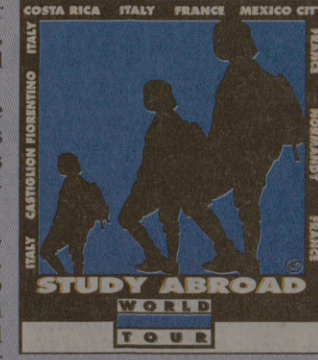
"It helps with job interviewing because a lot of employers see it as a positive experience," she said.

Cathy Frysinger, a secretary with the Study Abroad office, said option packages include 5-6 week summer programs in Italy, Normandy, France; and Mexico City. Prices start at \$2,300 for the Mexico City package.

Interested students can apply for financial aid, grants and scholarships, Frysinger said.

A 12-week orientation class is required the semester before the students are to study abroad.

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Marion takes charge



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Marion Grafe, a member of the archery team and freshman general studies major, practices Wednesday afternoon for an upcoming tournament this weekend.

Big 12 commissioner may leave position

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Steve Hatchell, who helped form the Big 12 Conference and became its first commissioner, may soon be leaving under pressure, sources told The Associated Press.

Hatchell has recently interviewed for a top position with the Salt Lake Organizing Committee which will oversee the Winter Olympics in 2002.

"I would not be surprised if we are interviewing candidates to be commissioner when we hold our spring meetings (May 18-21)," a source close

to the situation told The AP. "There may be a vacancy."

Dr. Ray Bowen, president of Texas A&M University, has been appointed spokesperson for Big 12 presidents on the matter and could not immediately be reached. Bowen was quoted by the Fox affiliate in Kansas City Wednesday night as saying that Hatchell was "interested in change. We've got some management problems there and there might be some people glad to see him go. He's very demanding."

Bush supports Clinton with Secret Service letter

WASHINGTON — Former President George Bush jumped unexpectedly behind Secret Service efforts to keep agents from testifying about what they saw while protecting President Clinton. The nation's largest women's group, however, stayed out of the fray and decided not to support Paula Jones' lawsuit.



Bush

Just days after toying with the idea, the National Organization for Women announced it would not file a court brief in

support of Jones' effort to reinstate her sexual harassment civil suit against Clinton.

NOW President Patricia Ireland said the group's national board and local chapters were overwhelmingly against filing a friend-of-the-court brief because the "highly charged political" lawsuit should not be used as a test case on sexual harassment.

"The disreputable right-wing organizations and individuals advancing her cause...have a long-standing political interest in undermining our movement to strengthen women's rights and weakening the laws that protect those rights," Ireland said at a news conference.

Judge dismisses appeal

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge took a slap at Attorney General Dan Morales' representation of the University of Texas in an affirmative action case but dismissed a bid by Hispanic Black groups to intervene. U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks, in an order issued Wednesday, said the groups should not seek to intervene in the case at the appellate level because proceedings in his court were concluded. Sparks recently issued an injunction against using racial preferences in law school admissions while considering attorney fees and damages in the so-called Hopwood case. It was

named after one of four students who sued after being denied admission to the law school. The case, decided in 1996 by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, has left Texas universities unable to consider race in admissions or financial aid.

UT has requested that Morales use Sparks' injunction to mount a fresh appeal of the case. But Morales, citing his opposition to racial preferences, said he hasn't decided whether to pursue an appeal.

PLEASE SEE HOPWOOD ON PAGE 6.

Charity donates \$50 million

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A private foundation went to one of the poorest parts of San Antonio Wednesday to launch a million school voucher program for low-income students to attend private schools. The Children's Educational Opportunity Foundation said it will provide \$5 million annually for 10 years for students in Edgewood School District to go to a school of their choice. It is the first time in the United States school vouchers have been offered to students in an entire district.

"We are doing it now because the time is right, the funding is secured and, more importantly, because the need is great," said Robert Aguirre, managing director of the non-profit CEO Foundation.

Nearly all of the 14,000 students in the Edgewood district would qualify for the program.

Critics immediately cried foul, claiming the program will not help all the district's poor children and that it is merely a gimmick to pressure Texas lawmakers into passing a state-funded school voucher plan.

"This is, I think, a huge public relations stunt. But frankly, I think the people of Texas are smarter than this," said John O'Sullivan, secretary-treasurer of the Texas Federation of Teachers, which opposes publicly funded voucher programs.

Voucher opponents also questioned why the CEO Foundation chose Edgewood, a predominantly Hispanic district where the landmark legal fight for equalizing public school financing in Texas was begun.

Six million remembered

Holocaust Remembrance Day prompts reflection

SPRINGFIELD, N.J. (AP) — Norman Salsitz met his wife-to-be in early 1945. He had come to kill her.

Amalie Petranker, a Polish Jew masquerading as a Christian to stay alive, was working for a German business that had planted mines throughout Krakow, Poland. The Germans planned to blow up the city before Soviet forces arrived.

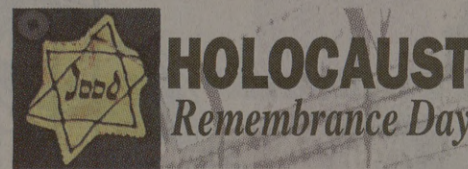
Salsitz, also a Polish Jew passing as a Christian, was a member of a Soviet-controlled Polish resistance group. He had been ordered to obtain the plans for the mines and then kill the person who supplied them.

Petranker looked at Salsitz and thought he might be Jewish. She tried to prove that she was, too, by reciting the prayer Kol Nidre in Hebrew. Suspicious that she might be a German who had learned Hebrew, Salsitz asked her when Jews observe Kol Nidre — the eve of Yom Kippur.

She answered correctly. And then, eyes filling with tears, she pointed a finger at him. "She said, 'You? You? You too?'" Salsitz recalled. "I said, 'Yes. I too.'"

"I tell and I tell and I write and I speak," says Salsitz, 77. "We shouldn't let people forget."

His latest project is the collection of six million pennies — one for each Jew killed by the Nazis. He began the collection in January and had hoped to raise the \$60,000 by Thursday, Holocaust Remembrance Day,



AP/Wm. J. Castell

but so far has come up with only \$11,000. He plans to give the money to the New York-based Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, which pays 1,400 monthly stipends to Christians or Muslims in 26 countries who rescued Jews from death.

By posing as a non-Jew during the war, Salsitz was able to rise through the ranks of the Polish resistance. The Poles, he says, always thought that Jews had dark, sad eyes. His eyes are light blue.

"I survived because I did not have a sad face," he says.

Twenty-one members of Salsitz's immediate family were shot in raids or died in concentration camps. His wife was the only member of her family to survive in Poland. She lost her parents, her sister, cousins, nieces and nephews.

"God wanted me to live," she says, "to bear witness and to tell the world what happened to my brothers and sisters."

Salsitz can still hear his father's screams the day the older man was shot in front of an outhouse in his village of Kolbuszowa, Poland.

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