

Hopwood means loose ends for A&M, UT

Fixed results show declining minority enrollment in Texas' largest institutions, overall numbers remain steady in state

BY AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Despite declines in minority enrollment at Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Austin, minority enrollment at state's universities has remained about the same since the 1996 Hopwood decision, according to a report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The decline in minority enrollment at the state's two largest universities has been attributed by officials to the Hopwood decision, which banned affirmative action policies and scholarship incentives designated for minority students at Texas' colleges and

universities.

Dr. Emily Santiago, the assistant director of Multicultural Services at Texas A&M, said the declines in minority enrollment relate to finances.

"The same finances are not available anymore for minority students," Santiago said. "Highly qualified minority students before received special scholarships. People are now choosing to stay at home and go to school."

Only 64 fewer minority students attended Texas universities in 1997 than in 1995, a decline from 17,447 to 17,383, according to the findings in the report.

The study found that minority students,

particularly African-Americans and Hispanics, are attending smaller schools closer to home. Asian-American student enrollment increased 17 percent, adding 394 students, and African-American student enrollment increased by 64 students.

However, the number of Hispanic students enrolled in Texas' higher education institutions decreased by 542 students.

Santiago said Texas A&M needs to continue to focus on efforts to increase minority enrollment.

"The University needs to look into the funding issue," Santiago said. "We need to be more aggressive in looking at funding alternatives such as the provision of awards

to minority students who return to high schools and speak to universities about Texas A&M."

Applications for Fall 1998 from minority students at Texas A&M dropped, according to reports by the Office of Admissions.

The reports indicate that 21 percent fewer African-Americans students applied this year than last year, dropping the number of applicants from 629 to 498 applicants.

The number of Hispanic applicants decreased by 17 percent, from 1,257 applicants to 1,174.

The University of Texas at Austin increased enrollment by 15 percent, according to admissions reports by the university.

The increase in applicants to the university included 14 percent more applications from whites, 7 percent more from African-Americans and 21 percent more from Hispanics.

Augustine Garza, the deputy director of the Freshman Admissions Center at the University of Texas at Austin, said the university is slowly regaining minorities lost last year.

"We saw an increase in the number of applicants," Garza said. "We are reaching the point where we were before Hopwood. We are seeing applicants come back to us slowly, but the effects of Hopwood are still pretty obvious."

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Rural public health school gears up for fall

BY KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

Administrators of the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health are looking for ways to maintain and increase school enrollment for its first class of students in fall 1998.

The school, which will offer a master's of public health degree, was accredited by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on April 15. The program is the first of its kind in the United States.

The Texas A&M University School of Rural Public Health is the only school of public health that targets the problems of rural

communities. The school will serve as a training ground for doctors who choose to pursue careers in underserved rural areas. Currently, 58 of 254 Texas counties have no hospital and 22 of those counties do not have a primary-care doctor.

Dr. Ciro V. Sumaya, dean of the new school, said he welcomes the work ahead.

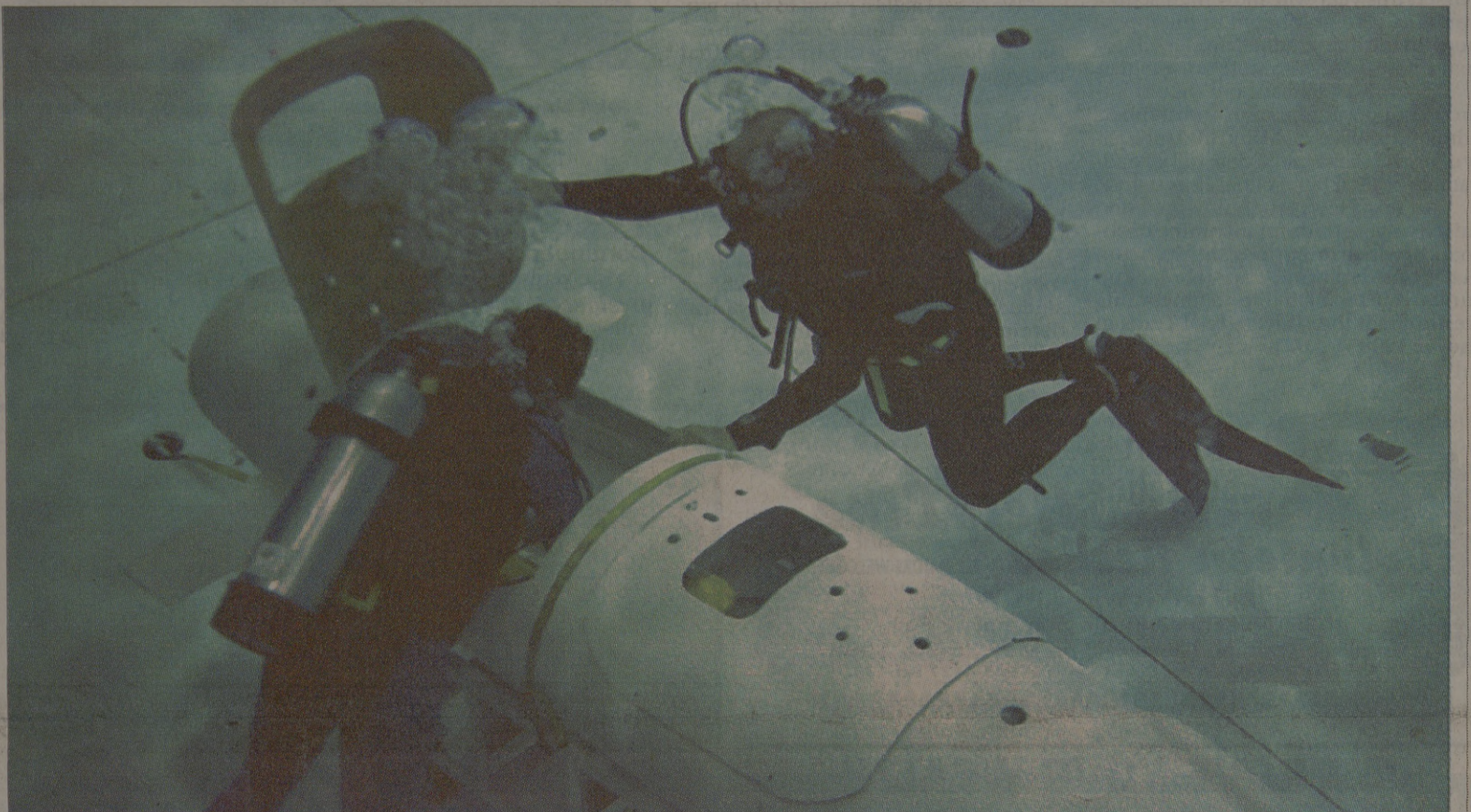
"We are glad to have been given the green light to move ahead with the establishment of the first

school of public health in the country to concentrate on the health of our rural communities," he said.

PLEASE SEE RURAL ON PAGE 2.

"We are glad to have been given the green light to move ahead ..."
Ciro V. Sumaya
Dean of school of rural public health

Nemo revisited



Jason Falls and Bob Tu, both senior ocean engineering majors, load air tanks into a human-powered submarine Monday night. They are part of a group of students testing the submarine at the Ocean Drilling Research Building for a contest that will be held in San Diego this July.

GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

NEWS BRIEFS

College Station cuts utility rates

The College Station City Council unanimously April 23 to lower electric utility rate by \$2 million a year, which will save the average homeowner about \$4.06 a month. The ordinance will go into effect Oct. 1.

Student designs placed on display

Students in Visiting Assistant Professor Wesley Henderson's second-year design studio will present some conceptual models for a teen recreational center to representatives of College Station Parks and Recreation Department and the Teen Advisory Board today.

The College of Architecture became involved last year as a source of design ideas and costs assessment.

Henderson's class was given the assignment and they met with the Teen Advisory Board for direct input on features for the Teen Center.

The students' designs will be on display at the College Station Conference Center at 1301 George Bush Drive, in the interim teen center from 7 to 8 p.m. today.

Student dies in automobile wreck

Guadalupe Alfonso Medina, a senior management major from Dallas, died early Thursday morning in an automobile accident.

Medina's funeral service will be held at the Cathedral Guadalupe Church in Dallas.

The traditional Silver Taps Ceremony will be held in his honor on Oct. 8.

CHEM 101, PHIL 240, Les Mis seats ...

OPAS allows students to purchase performance tickets through phone registration

BY RACHEL DAWLEY
Staff writer

With productions such as *Les Miserables*, *big, Madame Butterfly* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, MSC OPAS is offering an exciting variety of shows for the 1998-99 season.

A&M students will now have the option to purchase season tickets when registering for fall classes. The option costs \$140 and includes six tickets.

Stephen C. Stout, OPAS public relations director and a senior botany major, said incoming freshmen were offered the option last year, but this is the first year it has been available to all students.

"It's an easy way for students to see performances," Stout said. "It is flexible — they can bring their friends and there are good seats."

Stout said there are a limited number of tickets available and he encouraged stu-

dents to register for the option soon.

Participating students will be mailed a registration form this summer to select the performances they would like to attend. After the students return the forms to the MSC Box Office, they will be issued six ticket vouchers for their selections. Students can receive up to two vouchers for any one performance.

Students may redeem the vouchers for tickets to the performance and will have

their choice of the best available seats in limited zones in the orchestra, mezzanine and balcony levels.

Thurman Schweitzer, director of publicity and advertising and a senior geography major, said the option allows students to purchase the tickets at discounted prices.

"A&M does not have a real fine arts program, so the shows are an alternative education for students," he said. "You develop an appreciation for all kinds of art."

Line-item veto law brought under fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration got a skeptical reaction from several Supreme Court justices Monday in seeking to restore the historic "line-item veto" law that let the president cancel specific items in tax and spending measures.

The president's use of a line-item veto does not repeal part of a law, and therefore the separation of powers between Congress and the president remains intact, Solicitor General Seth Waxman told the court.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy responded that when the president exercises a line-item veto, "From a taxpayer's standpoint, this was a law that's been canceled" without a congressional vote.

"You can call it a different word," said Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "but it's the same thing — it's gone."

A federal judge ruled the line-item veto unconstitutional in February. But the

government could win at least short-term reinstatement of the law if the justices' ruling, expected by July, says those who challenged it lacked legal standing to sue.

Waxman argued that neither New York City nor an Idaho potato growers' group could sue because they were not directly affected by President Clinton's line-item vetoes.

The Supreme Court last year threw out a previous challenge to the law by six members of Congress, saying they lacked standing to bring the case.

"It's disappointing, you know," said Justice Antonin Scalia. "We went into a big windup last year without a pitch." He called it "astounding."

Congress voted in 1996 to grant the president line-item veto authority, sought by nearly every president this century as a tool to control "pork barrel" spending.

New network replaces CMT on cable service

BY COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

Beginning today, country music fans will see familiar faces such as Garth Brooks and George Strait singing on a new network.

The Great American Country (GAC) channel, a music video network, will replace Country Music Television (CMT) on Channel 23.

Tom Way, general manager of TCA Cable TV, said that when TCA sent out a 30-day notice of the change, many viewers thought there would no longer be a country music channel.

"We are basically looking to put a better product on the market," he said. "CMT serves its purpose in playing country music videos, but GAC delivers a lot more. Viewers see more videos with less national advertising."

GAC shows include "GAC's Top 15 Country Countdown," a one-hour program that is based on viewers' requests from the GAC Web site, www.countrystars.com; "On the Edge of Country," featuring alternative country music styles such as traditional country, bluegrass and country rock and "Fast Forward," a look at the week's new videos.

Robin Rothman, GAC media contact, said she believes people enjoy watching



music videos more than commercials.

"The simple answer is what we're best known for — airing 400 more videos a month," she said. "I truly believe that when viewers turn on a country music video channel, that's what they want."

Rothman said it may take viewers a little while to get used to the change.

"People are often unsettled by changes," she said. "Country music fans are the most dedicated and loyal of all fans. CMT has done a great job for 15 years at addressing what country music fans enjoy. But, I think, that if people give GAC a chance, they'll see that it is more interesting to watch videos than ads."

GAC, a subsidiary of Jones International Networks, Inc., started in 1996 and reaches 2.2 million viewers.

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aggielife



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