

HIGH 94°
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Front Page Story:
Charitable organizations
lose manpower as a result
of Aggies leaving for
the summer.

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Sharing the wealth

Tuition reciprocity waives out-of-state fees for students attending Texas universities

By SARAH GOLDSTON
Staff Writer

Texarkana, Ark., resident Jessica McClory knew she wanted a career in marine biology. Unfortunately, the degree program was not offered in any of her home state's universities. McClory applied to Texas A&M University at Galveston to pursue her degree, despite the cost of out-of-state tuition.

"It was close to home, and it had the probability that Jessica wanted. It has cost us \$5,000 more a semester for her to attend than a regular resident," Charlotte McClory, Jessica's mother said.

But her mother remembered a better way. "I went to college at Southern Arkansas, and I remember Texas residents attending the university for in-state tuition."

McClory's memory served her well. A

Texas state law has long made it possible for residents of Texarkana, Ark., to attend Texas state universities for in-state tuition, and vice versa.

More recently, A&M-Galveston has made an agreement with out-of-state universities allowing students from counties adjacent to the Texas border to attend Texas public universities at in-state tuition.

Texas will waive out-of-state fees if a corresponding university grants the same privileges for students from Texas.

Armed with this knowledge, the McClories set out to pay less.

The family has been pursuing the in-state tuition since McClory's freshman year, 1995.

In February 1997, the Texas A&M Board of Regents authorized A&M-Galveston to enter into tuition reciprocity agreements because of the special nature of the marine

and maritime programs in Galveston.

A&M-Galveston has reciprocity agreements with Louisiana and Arkansas and is exploring agreements with Oklahoma and New Mexico.

W. Michael Kemp, vice president and CEO of A&M-Galveston, said there is proposed legislation that will allow students from states not adjacent to Texas to access the maritime programs in Galveston.

"We want to encourage students to come to Texas and take advantage of these programs," Kemp said.

McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., is also getting in on the opportunity.

Cheryl Grefenstette-Moon, director of admissions at A&M-Galveston, said McNeese State University President Dr. Robert Herbert signed a letter in August 1997 honoring the reciprocity program be-

tween McNeese and A&M-Galveston.

"We have a two-year agreement allowing the reciprocity program between A&M-Galveston and McNeese, which means it is good until Fall 1999," Grefenstette-Moon said. "After the fall, we will renegotiate the agreement and work to renew the program with McNeese."

"By allowing these out-of-state students to attend A&M-Galveston, we gain students who are interested in the programs we have to offer, and, of course, we add diversity to our campus. One-third of our student body is out-of-state students, and we are expecting an increase as more and more students become aware of this opportunity."

With only six-maritime accredited institutions in the United States, this reciprocity program benefits students in this region of the country whose state may not offer the

marine or maritime programs A&M-Galveston offers.

This is similar to the academic common market available to graduate students who want to pursue a program not available at a particular university in their state.

The benefits for students receiving this reciprocity waiver include a tuition reduction. Students involved in this program will pay \$36 per semester hour instead of the standard out-of-state \$249 per semester hour.

The McClories are looking forward to seeing the benefits of their research.

"Since there is a law on the books covering Arkansas, we are hoping for a refund. We will have ended up paying about \$30,000 extra for Jessica's school," said McClory. "We are middle class people, and if we do get a refund, we would use it to pay for Jessica's master's or Ph.D. degree."

Floral frenzy



Linda Nunez of Marfa, Texas, designs a table arrangement in the floriculture lab Monday. Nunez is attending the Benz School of Floral Design's two-week long summer program to learn how to become a commercial florist.

MATTHEW CRAWLEY/THE BATTALION

Checklist released for graduation in August

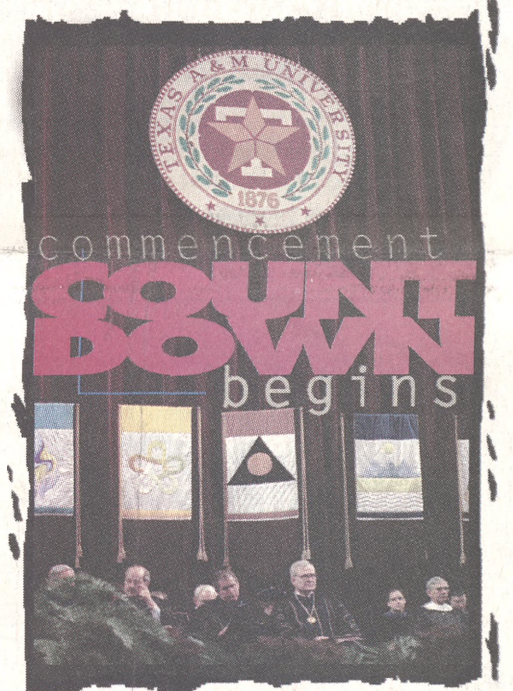
By SHATERA KENNEDY
Staff Writer

Graduation is a time for tears of joy and celebration. But those tears easily can change to tears of frustration if students learn they cannot receive their diploma.

The following are checklists for August graduates compiled from the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarship and the Degree Audit Office in Heaton Hall.

HONOR STUDENTS

- For students graduating with University or Foundation Honors, they must make an appointment with Academic Services Coordinator Don Curtis by June 30. Curtis' office is located in Academic Building Room 101.
 - A checklist of courses taken should be on file for students to review with Curtis during your visit.
- ### FOR ALL GRADUATING SENIORS
- Students must fill out degree applications in Room 105 of Heaton Hall. These forms enable the computer to flag names to receive all graduation information.
 - A diploma fee of \$20, if not paid, also can be handled at that time.
 - A packet with the degree audit and the ceremony times, location, speakers and attire will be mailed out at the end of June.
 - The next step is a student's adviser's office to double check course requirements, class substitutions and transferred credit hours.
 - The student should review their degree audits to make sure classes were properly applied and all necessary paperwork was completed by both the student and the adviser.
 - To receive a diploma at graduation, all transcripts and other paperwork must be turned in to Heaton Hall by August 13.
 - The final degree audit that tells what each graduating senior is lacking, will be posted in Heaton Hall on August 14.
 - Although students cannot receive their diploma at graduation with late paperwork, they have until the first Friday of the fall semester to complete everything and get their diploma.
 - Any student graduating with summa cum laude, magna cum laude or cum laude honors will be contacted.
 - All students after such time will be canceled



- from the computer and will have to reapply for Fall '98 graduation.
- ### FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS
- Exit debriefing packets will be mailed out in mid-July with dates, times and locations.
 - All financial aid recipients are required to attend an exit debriefing which will cover repayment plans, consolidations and answer questions.
- ### ANNOUNCEMENTS
- Official, personalized A&M graduation announcements can be ordered on the Internet at: <http://graduation.tamu.edu> until June 19.
- ### AGGIE RING ORDERS
- Today is the last day to order Aggie rings at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center, and they will be delivered September 17, 1998.
- ### GRADUATION TICKETS
- Tickets will not be given for August graduation.
- ### GRADUATION ACCOMMODATIONS
- Make reservations for restaurants and hotels as soon as possible.
 - Graduation screams chaos but the early preparation and double checking can ensure less frustration and forgotten details later.

Faculty Senate reviews curriculum proposal

By AMBER BENSON
City Editor

The Faculty Senate received information Monday from an ad hoc committee concerning proposed changes in the statewide curriculum proposed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The Senate accepted the report from the committee, which expressed concern with several points of the proposed changes, including a 45-hour cap on the number of hours a university can require in its core curriculum.

The current Texas A&M core curriculum contains 48 credits. The committee would like to see the requirements remain.

"We're concerned that these

changes will mark a lowering of academic standards," Thomas Wehrly, a professor of statistics and chair of the committee, said. "We want to make sure a degree from Texas A&M means something."

Another concern of the committee is that the proposed curriculum requires only 3 credit hours of college algebra. A&M requires finite math or calculus to fulfill the mathematics requirement.

Although the coordinating board already has voted down a proposal to upgrade the math component, the committee suggested rewording Chart II, which comprises the six hours of courses A&M requires beyond the 36 mandated by the state, to include "finite math, calculus, logic or above."

An amendment to the original re-

port added logic to the choices students have to fulfill their Chart II mathematics requirements.

"Over 1,100 students each year use the logic option," Deputy Speaker Arthur Hobbs said. "We want to keep that open."

Other points of contention involve the transfer of credits to the University.

The proposal would allow students to transfer complete blocks of lower-level requirements, regardless of whether they differ from A&M's core curriculum.

The committee wants to ensure that the integrity of both lower- and upper-level courses offered at A&M are maintained by restricting the amount of substitutions that can be made in a degree program.

Speaker of the Senate Diane Kaplan said that the concerns embodied in the report will be relayed to the administration.

The Faculty Senate also plans to join the Faculty Council at The University of Texas to provide a united front of four-year universities on the subject of the core curriculum when the Coordinating Board meets in July.

In other business, the Senate:

- Approved by consent various changes in curriculum in the College of Education.
- Passed a resolution supporting the rerouting of the railroad tracks that bisect the University, citing problems with safety and proposed increases in rail traffic.

