

State of the art

Journalism program combines technology, liberal arts

BY SUZANNE BRABECK
The Battalion

The Department of Journalism has formed a union between the worlds of science and the arts through its science and technology graduate program.

Texas A&M received approval from the state in 1995 to implement a Master of Science program in science and technology journalism. The graduate program, which first opened its doors in 1996 to a small number of students, remains small for a reason.

Dr. Barbara Gastel, an associate professor of journalism and of humanities in medicine, said A&M is similar to other universities in this regard because individual attention

is important.

"Texas A&M, long known for its strength in science and technology, has a nationally accredited journalism department with particular expertise in science communication," she said.

Students who chose to apply for this program can either have a background in journalism or science, but some additional prerequisite courses may need to be fulfilled to start the program.

Tiffany Inbody, a graduate of the program and associate editor of the office of the Vice President for Research, said the program is designed to let students choose the area of focus on for their master's degree.

The program allows students to

emphasize either their journalism or science background, but both areas of the curriculum are integrated into their studies.

Gastel said the program has not changed much since it started two years ago, but they are fine-tuning it.

There are many job opportunities available for graduates of the program in the media industry and organizations concerned with public policy.

They may find career opportunities in public relations or public information. Graduates can also find careers at hospitals to universities, drug companies and with government agencies.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do with my biology degree and this has given me many more options," Inbody said.

Doctor kills ex-wife, self following custody dispute

SOUTHLAKE, Texas (AP) — A doctor infected with rage over an apparent custody dispute crossed half the country and shot his ex-wife to death before putting the gun under his chin and killing himself Monday.

Police said Dr. Scott Chester Stone Jr., 32, of Tarboro, N.C., ambushed his former wife, Dr. Marisa Deneen Jackson, as she took a morning jog on a lakeside path.

Jackson had been staying with her ex-husband's sister, whose house was visible from the spot where her husband shot her several times before shooting himself around 8 a.m.

The killings leave two daughters, ages 6 and 8, without parents. A divorce court in North Carolina last week awarded the mother custody of the two girls, whose names were not released.

Family members said there was no warning or indication trouble was on the horizon, Southlake police spokesman Robert Finn said.

"It was, from the family's standpoint, unexpected," Finn said. "You never know what precipitated it. Crimes like this cross every known socioeconomic boundary."

First lady awarded NEA's highest honor

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Described as "a national treasure," Hillary Rodham Clinton accepted the National Education Association's highest honor Monday for her commitment to public education.



CLINTON

Besides her work advocating smaller classes and other classroom improvements, Clinton has promoted childhood immunization and equal access to quality education for girls and students with special needs, NEA president Bob Chase said.

"Hillary is a unique woman and a national treasure," Chase told 9,000 delegates at group's 137th representative assembly. "She has spoken passionately about the need to reduce class sizes and other critical issues. She is among our staunchest allies and dearest friends."

Clinton praised the NEA's work for school reform but criticized school voucher programs that allow some students to use public funds to attend private or parochial schools.

Beach ball



Shaun Gordy, a senior petroleum engineering major braves the heat for a game of beach volleyball Monday at the Student Recreation Center.

GRADUATION

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won't shake hands with (A&M) President (Dr. Ray M.) Bowen."

Hurd said the University is looking into holding a separate ceremony for graduate students during next year's spring graduation.

Hurd said many people do not

realize the way in which the University holds commencement is a tradition and a celebration of the successful completion of an undergraduate or graduate education.

"From a student perspective, I want to continue walking across the stage, receiving the actual diploma and shaking hands with the president of the University," Hurd said.

Bugs

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Roger Gold, a professor of urban entomology at A&M, said the hot and humid weather also has allowed a boost in the populations of insects that require the heat and humidity to breed, such as fleas, cockroaches and termites.

"People should keep a constant watch for signs of fleas and termites this summer," he said. "And they should call in a professional exterminator if they think they might have an infestation."

Gold said scorpions and spiders have also been bigger problems this summer because they have more to feed on with the increase in the insect population.

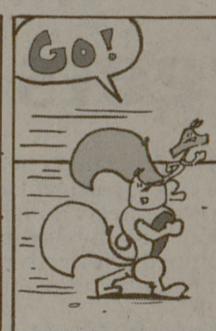
DRIVE

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"The volunteers will be trained in defensive driving, basic first aid, alcohol awareness and nighttime driving," he said. "These services are being donated by Grin and Take It defensive driving school, Bryan Police Department, Department of Student Life and others."

Winkler said they want to get bartenders around the area to wear their [Car Pool Inc.'s] bright fluorescent green T-shirts, which will have the phone number and sponsors on them so students will be aware of the program.

NUTZ



BY R. DELUN

AGGIE RING ORDERS

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS
CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER
DEADLINE: July 8, 1999

Undergraduate Student Requirements:

- You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of 95 undergraduate credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated and passed, cannot count as additional credit hours.)
- 60 undergraduate credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you do not qualify under the successful semester requirement described in the following paragraph. Should your degree be conferred with less than 60 undergraduate resident credits, this requirement will be waived after you graduate and your degree is posted on the Student Information Management System.
- 30 undergraduate credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University, providing that prior to January 1, 1994, you were registered at Texas A&M University and successfully completed either a fall/spring semester or summer term (I and II or 10 weeks) as a full-time student in good standing (as defined in the University catalog).
- You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
- You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements:

If you are a August 1999 degree candidate and do not have an Aggie ring from a prior degree, you may place an order after you meet the following requirements:

- Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and
- You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

However, if you have completed all of your course work prior to this semester and have been cleared by the thesis clerk, you may request a "letter of completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies (providing it is not past their deadline). The original letter of completion, with the seal, may be presented to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

Procedure to order a ring:

- If you meet all of the above requirements and you wish to receive your ring on September 16, 1999, you must visit the Ring Office **no later than Wednesday, July 7, 1999** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to complete the application for eligibility verification.
- It is recommended that you do not wait until July 7 to apply for your ring audit. Should there be a problem with your academic record, or if you are blocked, you may not have sufficient time to resolve these matters before the order closes out on July 8.
- Return **no later than July 7, 1999** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to check on the status of your audit and if qualified, pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Discover, Visa or MasterCard (with your name imprinted).

Men's 10K - \$323.00	14K - \$426.00
Women's 10K - \$201.00	14K - \$223.00

* Add \$8.00 for Class of '98 or before.
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The Battalion

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