

Teach for America program set to share teaching ideas at A&M

By COURTNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

The traditional four-year curriculum program to receive a bachelor's degree and teaching certificate may be changing as organizations such as the Teach for America program seek to place college graduates in teaching positions around the country after five weeks of training.

The Teach for America program is a "corps of teachers" who want to change the world for public school students. Some of its members are scheduled to visit Texas A&M in mid-November to hold informational sessions regarding the possibility of becoming a corps member. The Teach for America program will begin recruiting in the spring.

A&M education department officials declined to comment on the Teach for America program because they were not familiar with the specifics of the program. However, they said they are interested in seeing the program when Teach for America comes to A&M.

The program was started by Wendy Knopp, who graduated from Princeton University more than 10 years ago. The program's mission is for all children to receive an education, no matter what socio-economic background they come from or what type of neighborhood their school is in.

Teach for America alumni members recruit college graduates, train them and then place them in various schools throughout the nation. The recruits are hired at beginning teacher salaries based on what district they work for.

"Not only are the new teachers placed with mentors, but they are also kept in contact with alumni corps members," said Mary Stauffer, central recruitment director for Teach for America. "This provides a source of advice, support and encouragement."

The corps members go through a five-week training program at either the University of Houston or a new location on the East Coast, yet to be determined.

This training program teaches the recruits and provides interaction through hands-on experience and discussion groups concerning teaching theory and professional development.

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— Amy Willis
A&M sophomore elementary education major

ing theory and professional development. Corps members also attend workshops conducted by alumni and staff members in the evenings.

"I was a corps member from 1998-2000, so speaking from personal experience, I can say that the training program is very efficient," said Tamara Stewart, recruitment operations manager for Teach for America. Stewart added that most school districts hire on a trial basis, so a lack of classroom experience is not an issue.

However, Teach for America has received criticism at A&M for its fast program.

"It's not fair that they have only five weeks of training and are expected to go out there and teach," said Amy Willis, a sophomore elementary education major. "I don't think that the recruits will be able to pick up on

certain disabilities that students might have. I believe the teaching and training that we do to prepare for the classroom is important."

A&M education department officials said they strongly support theory work in the classroom and student teaching the final semester of a student's senior year. The department is one of the top in the nation for teacher-retention rate, Carr said. In the first year after graduation, 96 to 100 percent of A&M graduates remain teachers. For the second year, about 93 percent remain working as teachers, compared to the national average of about 30 percent.

"After the first year, it is harder to keep teachers in the field due to low pay and long hours," said Dr. Becky Carr, assistant dean of academic affairs for the education department. "A&M has been pretty successful in keeping its graduates in the teaching profession."

The curriculum at A&M is specialized, depending on what field students want to go into within the teaching profession. Classes range from psychology courses dealing with the educational development of children to the socio-economic backgrounds of the state in which students plan to teach. Many of the classes involve a great amount of theory work, compared to the Teach for America program, which encourages more hands-on training and less theory work, program officials said.

"Students interested in the Teach for America program need to be resourceful, intelligent, creative and have a desire to improve public education," Stauffer said.

For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.com.

News in Brief

White supremacist leaves compound to satisfy verdict

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler has moved out of the Idaho compound he lost in a \$6.3 million verdict against the white supremacist organization, a wealthy benefactor said Monday.

Vincent Bertollini said he bought a new home for Butler in nearby Hayden, Idaho, last week and that the 82-year-old neo-Nazi has moved in.

A woman at the Aryan Nations declined to answer questions. Bertollini said Butler is not finished spreading the message of white supremacy.

"Pastor Butler will continue preaching. Pastor Butler will con-

tinue printing, and Pastor Butler will continue to ride the Internet," Bertollini wrote in an email.

Butler must turn over the 20-acre property to satisfy part of a \$6.3 million judgment against him. A mother and son won the negligence lawsuit last month after they were attacked by Aryan Nations security guards in 1998. Butler is seeking a new trial, alleging juror misconduct.

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1.32	F	VS2	\$7950*
1.16	E	S12	\$6100* ECL Cert.
1.04	H	VS2	\$5600* ECL Cert.
.92	G	S12	\$4327* ECL Cert.
.81	I	S12	\$2375*
.80	J	S12	\$2175*
.72	I	S13	\$1500*
.71	J	S11	\$1990*
.71	I	S11	\$2190*
.68	G	S12	\$1350*
.48	G	S12	\$750*

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2.01	E	S12	\$13,500* ECL Cert.
1.39	F	S12	\$4500*
1.21	J	S12	\$4200*
1.00	F	S12	\$4130* ECL Cert.
.94	K	S12	\$3400*
.82	E	S11	\$3950* ECL Cert.
.49	F	S11	\$1736*
.41	H	S12	\$595*

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Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.00	G	VSI	\$5880* GIA CERT.

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Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.27	J	VSI	\$4150*
1.10	I	VS2	\$3961* GIA CERT.
1.09	H	VSI	\$4621* GIA CERT.
1.06	H	VVS2	\$4748* GIA CERT.
1.06	F	VSI	\$3950* GIA CERT.
1.05	F	VSI	\$4961* GIA CERT.
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1.02	I	VVS2	\$3825* GIA CERT.
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.86	F	VVS2	\$3400*
.72	E	VS2	\$3700* ECL Cert.
.70	J	VS2	\$1850*
.49	J	S11	\$875*
.27	G	S12	\$275*

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1.36	F	S12	\$6624* ECL Cert.
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.66	K	VVS2	\$1439*
.54	H	S12	\$1050*

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