

Recognition



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

The International Excellence Awards were held at the J. Wayne Stark Galleries to honor Texas A&M faculty and staff for their international involvement.

Bishop speaks on education

By Tanya Nading
THE BATTALION

The second speaker for the Texas A&M Future of Higher Education Lecture Series, Dr. Peter Bishop, lectured on the possible future of higher education and the changes it could face in the Memorial Student Center Tuesday.

"As a card-carrying futurist, I can't tell you what the future of higher education is because we can't predict. Prediction is impossible," said Bishop, an associate professor of Human Sciences at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. "What I can tell you is what future could hold for higher education."

Bishop explained that as a futurist, his job is to tell stories about the future and talk about the "what ifs" that may come along.

"If none of the things we talked about happened, wouldn't it be nice to know that we were prepared?" Bishop said.

"If none of the things we discussed happen, we're still ready to face fundamental change in

whatever shape it comes."

Bishop described two types of change people face. One, continuous change, happens over long periods of time. Disruptive change happens suddenly and is unexpected.

"Discontinuous (disruptive) changes in our lives become the most important forces of the future," Bishop said. "In the past, there were disruptions to the airlines, telephones, health care and so on. In every case, these disruptions were the cause of eradication of a monopoly and the appearance of competition."

Bishop said there have been no major disruptions for higher education and that the alternatives of the future are whether there will be changes in the education system.

"With transportation change, we go through three stages," he said. "In the first stage we're still in the old ways, comfortable with the 'good old things.' We then move to the second stage where we are exposed to new ideas, things become chaotic. Fortunately, we don't stay in this chaotic stage, we move on to the third level where

everything evens out."

Bishop spoke of dematerialization, changing from paper-based to computer-based office, from mail to communication and from schools to education.

"We have a 'no time, no place and no matter' way of thinking," Bishop said. "Things are instantaneous. It takes no time to send things. We don't care where things take place at, meaning no place. Since things can be dematerialized, there's no matter."

"How can we get to a new school, where we get results, self management, responsibility and the influencing of others?" Bishop said.

There will be two more lectures in the Future of Higher Education series. The third will take place Sept. 11, 2002, and the fourth will be held Nov. 12, 2002, said Mary Broussard, program coordinator and chair of the lecture series.

"Students are encouraged to participate because when you have scholars and educators at the table, the students have valuable input that we want to hear," Broussard said.

Graduate Student Mix and Mingle



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5:30 pm - 7:00pm

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