

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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The extra education

Students opt for more years of college in order to earn Ph.D.s

By Heather Campbell
THE BATTALION

Pursuing an undergraduate degree wasn't enough for Jaemin Choi, a first-year Ph.D. student in the English literature department. Coming from Korea, Choi knows how to make adjustments at a different university and country. "When I first entered the masters program here, I was thinking about pursuing my Ph.D. at another university," Choi said. "But, ultimately, I am quite convinced that Texas A&M is the right place to study in many ways, such as the quality of the faculty and their warm and kind encouragement. These factors are what keeps me in this program."

Chad Wade, a second-year Ph.D. student in economics, decided to continue school after being dissatisfied with his job.

"I had been working in a family business and I decided that it was more stress than I wanted in my life," Wade said. "I really wanted to do something that I enjoyed and that was on my own terms."

Challenges Ph.D. students face are often balanced with a desire to learn. Motivation becomes a key factor after students realize that four to five more years of school lie ahead.

Ahmet Caliskan, a third-year Ph.D. student in the economics department, came to A&M from Turkey after earning a bachelor's degree

in industrial engineering. Upon receiving a master's degree in economics, he applied to A&M. Caliskan said that adjusting has been "harder at times, but manageable so far" and he hopes to keep it that way.

Choi agrees with Caliskan and feels the major changes in his life have been in his workplace.

"I really wanted to do something that I enjoyed and that was on my own terms."

— Erin Hollis
A fourth-year Ph.D. student in the English department

"Now, I am working as a graduate student at the Melbern G. Glasscock Center, which primarily supports diverse interdisciplinary academic conferences and lecture series on campus," Choi said. "I am proud to be a part of this center and really enjoy working there. As one is getting into the Ph.D. program, more responsibilities and obligations are added each year."

Erin Hollis, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the English department, is continuing her education to become a college professor. She said the amount of studying required, as well as the interaction with professors, has been a major change from undergraduate studies.

"There is a lot more reading, longer papers and more discussions within the classroom," Hollis said. "The information is more advanced and since the classes are 10-15 people, we are more involved with the teachers than at the undergraduate level. The biggest assignment is the dissertation, which is 300 pages."

Wade said receiving a Ph.D. usually involves three years of course work and two to three years of working on the dissertation along with related research. While this sounds like an overload of work, Wade said he sees it as an opportunity that is well worth the time.

"It is pretty hard, but I feel that it is definitely worth the effort," Wade said. "I am really enjoying the program here at Texas A&M. The faculty have been excellent here and are always willing to help and provide insight."

Caliskan said it is worth spending extra years in college because he will have more career options when he enters the workforce.

"I have several alternatives for after graduation," Caliskan said. "I might work on a faculty or apply for an advisory position in the private

sector. I will also decide when or if I am going back to Turkey."



SARAH FOWLER • THE BATTALION

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Lennon's killer denied parole for second time

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — John Lennon's killer was denied parole for a second time, state officials said Wednesday.

Releasing Mark David Chapman after 22 years in prison would "deprecate the seriousness" of the crime, the parole board said in a statement released Wednesday morning. The board said Chapman had "acceptable" behavior in prison but that did-

n't guarantee he wouldn't pose a threat to society.

At his first parole hearing two years ago, Chapman said he did not deserve to go free. He will be up for parole again in 1994.

Chapman, 47, is serving 20 years to life for shooting Lennon outside his Manhattan apartment in 1980 as the former Beatle returned from a late-night recording session.

Transcripts of the latest hearing were not immediately available. At his parole hearing two years ago,

Chapman said: "I believe once you take a person's life, there's no way you can make up for that. Period."

Chapman lives in a housing unit separate from the general population and works as a clerk in prison, said James Plateau, spokesman for the state Department of Correctional Services.

He was involved in three "minor incidents" between 1989 and 1994 for delaying an inmate count and refusing to follow an order, but nothing since 1994, Plateau said.

Actor Lamas divorces former Playmate wife

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lorenzo Lamas has filed for a divorce from former Playboy Playmate Shauna Sand, his wife of six years.

The actor said Monday in a statement that he and his wife had separated "due to problems of incompatibility" but they had "mutual respect for each other" and are ensuring their children "are protected and loved."

On Tuesday, Superior Court divorce documents showed the 44-year-old son of actor Fernando Lamas and actress Arlene Dahl separated from Sand, 31, last Friday.

Lamas cites irreconcilable differences in the documents. Terms of custody and spousal support were not detailed. The two married in April 1996 and have three daughters: Alexandra, 4; Victoria, 3; and Isabella, 1. Lamas, starred in the TV series "Renegade."



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