



When the TCU admissions staff talks about diversity, they aren't just referring to race and ethnicity.



Graduating seniors are saying goodbye to college life and hello to the workforce.

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Officials: New instrument will aid biology research

Grant to promote genetic studies

By TASHA HAYTON
Staff Reporter

TCU has \$100,613 to buy a scientific instrument to allow genetic sequencing, officials said.

LI-COR Biosciences, a company that manufactures scientific equipment, gave around

\$50,000 of the amount through an education matching fund program, said Phil Hartman, professor of biology.

The TCU biology department matched the LI-COR grant to reach the \$100,613 needed to buy the genetic sequencing equipment, Hartman said.

Hartman said the equipment will be of general utility to a wide number of people

with various uses. The equipment will attract more faculty into the biology and psychology departments, he said.

Though TCU is not "setting any trends" by buying the equipment, it is "keeping pace," he said.

Giridhar Akkaraju, an assistant professor of biology, said the equipment will sequence DNA and is useful in molecular

biology. It will help on research and teaching levels, he said.

The equipment is useful, Hartman said, because "biology is increasingly molecular."

Michael Misamore, assistant professor of biology, said the equipment will allow researchers to identify the functions of different genes. With the instrument, Misamore said, researchers can start at the very

beginning: at the gene level.

Gary Boehm, assistant professor of psychology, does neuroscience research and said his main interest in the instrument is for single nucleotide polymorphism analysis.

A single nucleotide polymorphism is a "DNA sequence variation, occurring when a single nucleotide in the genome is altered," accord-

ing to wikipedia.org.

Boehm said the equipment will be great for lab classes and will allow new classes to begin.

"We have wanted to begin a neuroscience laboratory course," Boehm said.

Hartman said the equipment will be useful for both undergraduates and graduates for their thesis work.

'Tis the season



Photos by Ty Halasz / Staff Photographer

(Above) Senior broadcast journalism major Darcy Deupree (left) passes on a gift from senior fashion merchandising major Ashley Engberg after the Holiday Tree Lighting on Wednesday night on the steps of Sadler Hall. (Left) Senior political science major Tom Casey recites "Twas the Night Before Finals" with the members of the Order of Omega. (Right) Sophomore premajor Austin Uebele holds his candle as sophomores Kelli Jones (left) and Nisha Dulip sing "Silent Night."



Team established to monitor parties

Each Greek group has sober members watching events

By ERICA MAREZ
Staff Reporter

Two hundred people in their best suits and dresses began to serve themselves at the buffet lines full of pasta, chicken and steak.

It was a typical formal for Sigma Phi Epsilon.

As the formal continued, the fraternity president received word that someone was ill from drinking too much alcohol. In a matter of minutes, a cab was called, university officials were contacted, and the female student was safe and sound in her residence hall.

To deal with incidents like this, TCU's Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils established a student Risk Management Team within each Greek chapter this fall to provide better safety at events.

"The team got together and made sure the person was checked on and everything was OK," said Matt Owens, president of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Phi Gamma Delta President Drew Corbett said Campus Life, the two councils were responding to an increasing number of incidents at social events.

"It became a liability issue

for us, so we sat down and worked together to fix the problem," Corbett said.

Stephanie Williams, program coordinator for Campus Life, said some fraternities and sororities had already adopted the risk-management team policies through a program called the Fraternal Information Programming Group, which is based in Lexington, Va. However, this semester, all the chapters under the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils agreed to adopt the policies.

"The presidents took the initiative to lay a foundation and establish communication," Williams said.

Bradley Beacham, president of Fraternal Information Programming Group, said the group provides risk-management guidelines and educational resources to help members of fraternities and sororities be more effective in preventing incidents related to alcohol, drugs and sexual abuse.

"Throughout the years, I've seen more and more efforts from colleges and universities to provide awareness for students and to decrease alcohol-related injuries," said Beacham, a TCU alumna and executive director of Sigma Nu Fraternity.

James Parker, assistant dean of Campus Life, said the chapter presidents voted to more on TEAM, page 2

Deferred recruitment unlikely

Council members: Spring rush could benefit students

By DARREN WHITE
Staff Reporter

Gregory Weaver didn't plan to join a fraternity.

In fact, Weaver was moving into Milton Daniel Hall before his freshman year when members of Pi Kappa Phi helped him carry boxes. He recognized most of them from orientation and Frog Camp, and before long, Weaver signed a bid to join Pi Kap.

"I decided that I only wanted a Pi Kap bid," Weaver said. "It became something I really wanted to do."

he said getting to know the Pi Kaps outside formal recruitment made him want to join.

"I got to know them better when they were outside, not trying to recruit me," he said. "They were just being themselves."

Although TCU Greek organizations recruit in the fall, some say they feel students would ben-

efit from a spring — or deferred — recruitment, which would give new students more time to adjust to university life.

Senior George Ferguson, Interfraternity Council vice president of fraternity recruitment, said he is in favor of a deferred recruitment.

"It would give more time for people to get to know each other," Ferguson said. "It's hard to really know someone your first week here."

Ferguson said while high fall recruitment numbers may be good for organizations as a whole, he said he thinks they don't always benefit the student. Having more time to focus on academics without Greek activities would probably benefit the individual student, he said.

Ferguson said he proposed a spring recruitment earlier this year but received a negative response from other students and advisers.

"I honestly think it would be beneficial," he said. "But it seems like everyone thinks, 'Why

change it if nothing is wrong?'"

TCU Panhellenic Adviser Stephanie Williams said there are not enough problems with fall recruitment to consider a change.

"At first glance, it seems like it would solve everyone's problems," Williams said. "But Greek grades are good, and retention is good. Why fix it if it's not broken?"

Senior Brennan Barnes, Panhellenic director of recruitment, said that while it might help students find their place, it could also lead to a negative recruiting atmosphere.

"Chapters are very competitive," Barnes said, "and spring recruitment would give them a full semester of that competition."

Fall recruitment gives students equal time with each Greek organization, Barnes said, instead of spending too much time with only one chapter.

Unlike TCU, SMU has used deferred recruitment for more on RECRUITMENT, page 2

Students: Ads provoke drinking

Drink specials aid consumption of alcohol, they say

By JAMIE CRUM
Staff Reporter

College students are prime targets for advertising about clothes, electronics, clubs and even alcohol promotions.

College students ranked drinking beer as their favorite activity in a recent survey taken by the Student Monitor spring 2005 Lifestyle and Media survey of 1,200 full-time undergraduates from 100 campuses.

Alcohol producers and distributors see college students as their most valuable consumers, said Kim Miller of the Center for Science in the Public Interest based in Washington D.C.

Universities around the nation and consumer watchdog groups, such as the Center for Higher Education, say the survey results are disconcerting. As alcohol advertisers

continue to find new ways to tap the college market, these groups are concerned about underage drinking and excessive drinking on campus.

TCU students say alcohol advertisements and promotions have an effect on how college students view alcohol.

Meg Smith, a junior political science major, said she believes alcohol companies advertise directly to her as a college student.

"Advertisers are just so smart," Smith said. "They always know exactly what I want to hear. Most alcohol ads make me really want to go out and have a good time."

Miller, who works for the Alcohol Policies Project at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, said this type of direct advertising to college students is inappropriate and irresponsible. She said alcohol is known to cause health problems, academic difficulties and increased levels of crime.

"I understand there is a strong incentive for compa-

EXTRA INFO

• Nearly 80 percent of TCU undergraduates are under the legal drinking age of 21. — Core Survey 2005.

• College students spend \$5.5 billion a year on alcohol. — www.securityoncampus.org

• 38 percent of TCU students reported they had participated in high-risk or binge drinking in the last 30 days. Most of those students reported having a serious personal problem and missing classes as a result of drinking. — TCU survey.

panies to target college students," Miller said. "But they have no right to advertise to a group that is, for the majority, under age."

Miller said companies should weigh the problems they could cause against their own profit.

TCU Police Chief Steve McGee said alcohol does cause students to do things they would not normally do, such as urinate in public. He said with alcohol consumption comes an increased risk of getting into trouble.

In 2004, 376 liquor-law violations were issued to TCU more on ADS, page 2