

INTERIM PRESIDENT APPOINTED BY REGENTS

On Sat., Dec. 18, 1998, the TWU board of regents unanimously appointed Dr. Beverley Byers-Pevitts (academic affairs) as interim president of TWU, effective Feb. 5, 1998. Byers-Pevitts will assume the interim president's position following the resignation of President Carol Surles, who is leaving TWU to become president of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill.

Byers-Pevitts told board members, "I will do my best to serve this university and to promote its mission. Under Dr. Surles' direction, TWU has begun work on a strategic plan that is creating a momentum which will continue to carry us forward as an institution."

She added, "I look forward to working with the entire executive staff -- especially our vice presidents. We already are a dedicated team, including faculty, staff, students and alumni. I accept this appointment with excitement, knowing that TWU has excellent leadership among administrators, the academic areas and with staff and students. I will call upon different organizations within the university -- the Academic Council, Dean's Council, Faculty Senate, staff groups and others -- to contribute to our team effort as the presidential search moves forward under the direction of the TWU board of regents."

Sheila Whitaker-Kellagher, chair of the board, congratulated Byers-Pevitts and told her, "We have confidence in your ability to lead TWU as interim president." Whitaker-Kellagher added, "We are very appreciative of Dr. Carol Surles' presidency and what she has accomplished since she came to TWU. We send her to Eastern Illinois University with our thanks and warmest wishes. We also offer our thanks to the new interim president, and we will move forward with our efforts. The executive staff and the interim president will work as a team during this period of transition."

The TWU board of regents tentatively is scheduled to meet again on Jan. 15, 1999, to receive materials from Whitaker-Kellagher about executive search firms that the board may wish to hire for the national presidential search. Following that step in the process, a search committee will be appointed some time in January or February.

Byers-Pevitts, former dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of Northern Iowa-Cedar Falls, was named vice president for academic affairs at TWU in 1995, following a national search. During her tenure as provost and vice president at TWU, a number of academic programs (nursing and counseling psychology, for example) have received accreditation from national organizations. The university recently added a new master's degree program in women's studies -- the only one of its kind in Texas -- as part of TWU's strategic planning initiatives. Efforts in field-based teacher education, early literacy and distance learning also have been expanded.

She has served on faculties at three private liberal arts colleges and three public comprehensive universities: University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Kentucky Wesleyan College; Pfeiffer College (N.C.); Western Carolina University (N.C.); UNI; and Young Harris College (Ga.).

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INTERIM PRESIDENT, *continued*

The new TWU interim president, who also is a professor of communications studies and theater, previously served UNI from 1990 to 1995. As dean, she administered and managed nine departments with a faculty of 175 and a staff of 50. Her responsibilities included representing UNI both internally and externally; hiring, promoting and working on tenure for faculty; fundraising; overseeing curricula and faculty development; administering the budget; and strategic planning, which involves information technology.

Byers-Pevitts earned her doctorate -- an interdisciplinary degree in English, philosophy, speech communication and theater -- from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. She holds a master's degree in theater from SIUC and a bachelor's degree in English from Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro. She also did post-doctoral study in 1993 at the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University.

She has held leadership positions in several national associations in her field as founding president of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education; president of the University and College Theatre Association; and others.

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PERFORMING ARTS TAKES SHOW ON THE ROAD TO HOUSTON

The TWU department of performing arts will break new ground when five components take music,

dance and theatre on the road to Houston for performances at the TWU Institute of Health Sciences Houston Center, plus three high schools and one community college. The shows, scheduled Jan. 26-28, are free and open to the public. TWU faculty members will accompany the tour group and also will have information about scholarship auditions, admissions information and student handbook materials. They also will be available to talk to prospective students about opportunities for study at TWU.

Described as the first joint performance trip by the TWU programs in dance, drama and music, the concert tour will include works presented by the TWU Concert Choir, TWU DanceWorks, TWU Folk Dance Company, TWU Music Theatre Ensemble and TWU Opera Ensemble. For details, call 8-1-2086. The tour schedule is listed below:

- *Tues., Jan. 26* -- TWU Institute of Health Sciences Houston Center, 1130 M.D. Anderson Blvd., noon; Klein Oaks High School, 5 p.m.
- *Wed. Jan. 27* -- Conroe High School, 9 a.m.
- *Thurs., Jan. 28* -- Houston High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, 9 a.m.; San Jacinto College-Central Campus, 2 p.m.

The TWU Concert Choir will perform works by Maurice Durufle, Ron Jeffers and James Quitman Mulholland. DanceWorks, TWU's modern dance company, will present pieces commissioned especially for them -- including *Quasar* by Michael Foley; *You, Me?* by Angie Dutton; and *Batucada* by Mark Taylor. The TWU Folk Dance Company will perform a Taiwanese ribbon dance, a Ukrainian "wind" dance, a Russian folk dance and a Spanish "farruca." In addition, the TWU Music Theatre Ensemble will present selections from an original work written and composed by its members. Finally, the TWU Opera Ensemble will perform works by Gian Carlo Menotti, as well as selections from a new opera, *The Bird's Gift*, by TWU faculty member Lanelle Blanton (performing arts, music).

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REP GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Application materials for TWU's 1999-2000 Research Enhancement Program now are available from the office of research and grants administration in Denton and Houston. "This internal competition provides support for faculty research projects or creative activities," said Dr. Sondra Ferstl (research and grants). "Eligible applicants must have an appointment for 1999-2000 as a full-time faculty member at TWU --

continuing faculty -- with instructional responsibilities in the classroom."

Interested faculty may apply for up to \$6,000, and awards will be made for the budget period of Sept. 1, 1999, to Aug. 31, 2000. Applications must be received by Mon., April 12, 1999. "The primary purpose of the program is to provide seed money so that a TWU faculty member will be able to compete more successfully for larger grants from outside sources for continuation of the research project or creative activity," added Ferstl. For more information, call 8-1-3375 in Denton or 8-4-2480 in Houston.

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TWU DANCE PROGRAM RANKED TOPS AGAIN

For the fourth consecutive year, the programs in dance at TWU were rated among the top 10 dance programs in the United States and Canada by *Dance Teacher Now* magazine. Dr. Penny Hanstein (performing arts, dance) believes that the ranking is particularly significant.

"I think what's especially wonderful about this is that the rating is based on a survey which is sent to dance program heads throughout the U.S. and Canada," she explained. "All of us who receive this survey evaluate dance programs and rank them, so I think it really reflects how our peers on this continent view us."

Both traditional and innovative, the programs in dance at TWU offer students "unlimited opportunities" for growth and achievement as dance artists through four graded levels of modern dance and ballet. Undergraduate degrees with a major in dance are offered in the areas of performance, choreography, methods of teaching, Laban movement analysis and dance history. Graduate students may earn a Master of Fine Arts degree or a doctorate in dance.

Hanstein added that the kind of recognition generated by a top-10 ranking in *Dance Teacher Now* is invaluable for programs in dance at TWU: "I think it really reflects the wonderful job that both our faculty and students are doing in the areas of choreography, performance and research."

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WIND ENSEMBLE WILL PERFORM

Members of the TWU department of performing arts program in music will join forces with members of the Wichita Falls Symphony and Midwestern State University for a free musical performance on Tues., Jan. 26, at 8 p.m. in Margo Jones Performance Hall. The Zephyr Winds -- which features TWU performing arts faculty members Dr. Pamela Youngblood, Dr. John Wheeler and Dr. Richard Rodean on flute, clarinet and bassoon, respectively -- is a chamber group that specializes in traditional and contemporary music; they perform regularly at TWU. Other members include oboist Laura Shouha, horn player Dr. Candler Schaffer and pianist Dr. Ruth Morrow. For details, call the TWU department of performing arts at 8-1-2500.

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AUDITIONS SET FOR SPRING PLAY

TWU is looking for a few good women -- and men -- to star in the Southwest premiere of a new dramatic production this spring. The department of performing arts program in drama needs five women and five men of various ages and ethnic backgrounds for roles in *Dakota Sky Diaries*, a new work by Kathleen Cahill, who wrote the book and lyrics, and Deborah Wicks Lapuma, who penned the music. Auditions will be held on Mon., Jan. 18, at 1 p.m. in Redbud Theatre. Performance dates are April 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11.

Introduced under the title *The Fifth Year*, the newly-renamed musical is based on the land lottery that took place in the early 1900s in North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. *Dakota Sky Diaries* is the story of five women who come from different locations to acquire land.

TWU performing arts faculty members Charles Harrill, Stuart Younse and J. Hammonds will handle direction, musical direction and choreography, respectively. Cahill and Wicks Lapuma both will be on hand for auditions and to work with the cast during the first week after auditions. Persons trying out for *Dakota Sky Diaries* are asked to come prepared to sing a 16-bar musical number suitable for high musicals or light opera.

For details, call the TWU department of performing arts publicity office at 8-1-2091.

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CONSULTANTS WILL MEET WITH EMPLOYEES

The consulting firm of Arthur Anderson LLP is conducting a staff compensation/job evaluation system review, which began with a project initiation meeting on Dec. 17, 1998. According to a Jan. 4 campuswide memorandum from the department of human resources, TWU officials provided information, data and procedures to the firm, whose representatives are in the process of meeting with the university's vice presidents.

The consultants will meet with employees -- regular staff, department chairs and deans -- based on the schedule provided below.

- **Denton** -- Tues., Jan. 25, 9 to 10:30 a.m., ACT 601; Wed., Jan. 27, 12:30 to 2 p.m. or 2:30 to 4 p.m., ACT 601;
- **Dallas** -- Tues., Jan. 26, 12:30 to 2 p.m., FPH 2nd-floor faculty conference room; and
- **Houston** -- Thurs., Jan. 28, 10 to 11:30 a.m., HMJ 724.

"A realistic date for the project's completion is mid-April of this year," said Carri Cronig (human resources). For more information, call human resources at 8-1-3555.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TWU's annual Founders' Day celebration -- and presentation of its newest honor, the Founders' Award -- will be held on Fri., Feb. 5, with a 5:30 p.m. reception in the Blagg-Huey Library, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Hubbard Hall. The cost to attend is \$20 per person, and reservations must be received by Feb. 1. More information about award recipients and the evening of activities will be provided in future issues of *TWU Update*. Mark your calendar now!

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UPDATE ON TWU ATHLETICS

Head coach Dianne Baker (kinesiology/intercollegiate athletics) completely filled her registration for a girls softball clinic on Jan. 10 She also held a coaches clinic last Thursday and Friday -- the Mizuno High School Coaches Clinic -- which is the largest of its kind in the Southwest. Baker, whose coaching skills are known nationally and who is a 1998 inductee for the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame, presented the clinic and focused on techniques, drills and coaching philosophies. The annual clinic features top collegiate coaches from NCAA Divisions I, II and III, as well as other recognized names in softball.

In other news:

- The TWU Pioneers basketball team has improved its overall record to 5-7 with three consecutive victories after the holidays but, more importantly, the team has won its first two games of the Lone Star Conference (South division) season. They have defeated LSC teams from Tarleton State and Midwestern State, and the leading scorer in both games was junior guard Angi

Traplena. Laura Kolenovsky is the team's top scorer for the season. The team plays tonight in Commerce against Texas A&M University-Commerce.

- Three young women have signed national letters-of-intent to become members of the TWU Pioneers gymnastics team, which has won the USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championship title five of the last six years. The new signees are: Kristin Bryan, a vault and floor specialist from Medford (Mass.) High School, who will come to TWU as a pre-med major; Stephanie Loudat, a vault specialist from Houston at Cypress Falls High School, who plans to major in biology; and Luci Romberg, a level 10 all-arounder from Cherry Creek High School in Foxfield, Colo., who will pursue a degree in kinesiology at TWU. The team's next home meet will be held on Sat., Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. in Pioneer Hall (Kitty Magee Arena).

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NEWSBRIEFS

Information and news about activities, programs or TWU people may be sent to Ann Hatch (public information), editor, either through campus mail or by e-mail to s_hatch@twu.edu. The weekly deadline to receive information is Tuesday at 5 p.m. for the following week. Student information for the "People" section is not published unless it is submitted by or in conjunction with a faculty member and that faculty member's related activities.

The university will be closed on Mon., Jan. 18, in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday. *TWU Update* will be posted online on Tues., Jan. 19; submissions are due by e-mail, fax or in writing to the office of public information every Tuesday at 5 p.m. for the following week's issue. For details, call Ann Hatch (public information) at 8-1-3456.

Reminder: Diversity Days will be held April 5-9, hosted by intercultural services. All TWU departments are invited to participate by developing programs or events that promote or encourage awareness of diversity within and outside of the TWU community. All program or event items must be submitted to intercultural services by Feb. 22; call Patrick Vasquez at 8-1-3679.

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NEWSBRIEFS, *continued*

TWU's school psychology and master's degree graduate programs have been granted "full approval" by the National Association of School Psychologists through Dec. 31, 2003. Dr. Daniel Miller (psychology and philosophy) received the news in December.

The purchasing office has moved to a new location, effective Dec. 18, 1998, from ACT 8 to the 2nd floor of the Patio Building (room 205). Their telephone number remains the same: 8-1-3585; their fax number is new: 8-1-3580. The old fax number, 8-1-3588, will be retained by the office of institutional research and statistics.

The office for community relations and diversity has opened its doors on ACT 8, effective Fri., Jan. 8, 1999. Dr. Rudy Rodriguez, who serves as executive assistant to the president for community relations and diversity, can be reached there at 8-1-3991 or 8-1-3992; he shares a fax number with the office of institutional research and statistics at 8-1-3588. The TWU board of regents approved Rodriguez' appointment, effective Aug., 1, 1998. Dr. Carol Surles (president's office) said the job "...is related to the EEO position that I requested two years ago, which will bolster our multicultural outreach and uphold federal laws."

A Saturday visit to welcome prospective students to TWU will be held on Jan. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. The free half-day program for students and family members begins with a campus welcome and overview at 9 a.m.; information about financial aid from 9:30 to 10 a.m.; and campus tours from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Register by phone: call 8-1-3018.

Reminder: TWU is seeking nominations for candidates who will be considered for the staff Outstanding Achievement Awards and the TWU Award of Excellence. Nomination guidelines and forms were distributed in December, and completed nominations should be returned to the office of human resources no later than Feb. 5, 1999. The awards will be presented during honors convocation on Fri., April 16. For details, call 8-1-3555.

The master's program in health care administration at TWU's Institute of Health Sciences Houston Center has received full accreditation status from the Accrediting Commission on Education for Health Services Administration. The re-accreditation process included a full site visit. "The faculty's hard work and exceptional quality has been acknowledged appropriately," said Dr. Jean Pyfer (Health Sciences). "I am very proud of them for achieving this milestone."

Student health services, in conjunction with the Denton County Health Department and AIDS Services of North Texas, will offer free HIV testing to all faculty, staff and members of the community on the first or third Wednesday of each month, from 3 to 5 p.m. Just stop by SHS on those days, during those hours, and ask for the free screening. Because of time constraints, a limited number of persons requesting the service will be screened. Testing is confidential and anonymous -- no name will be requested. For more information, call SHS at 8-1-3826.

Reminder: Come to the Baker's Dozen for faculty/staff "Happy Hour" from 2 to 3 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Student Center! Bring a faculty or staff TWU ID and get a free shot of your favorite flavored syrup with the purchase of a Grande coffee; or a free cookie with the purchase of any specialty coffee; or 50 percent off a second cup of coffee or decaf when you bring a friend and purchase the first cup at the regular price.

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NEWSBRIEFS, continued

During the week of Jan. 11, Chik-fil-A will be open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. That same week, the Baker's Dozen will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; all units will resume regular hours of operation on Tues., Jan. 19, when classes start.

A seminar titled "Interviewing People" will be offered free to all faculty and staff by the department of human resources on Fri., Jan. 15, library lecture hall 101, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Terry Clark, a representative of the American Management Association, will provide valuable information on how to prepare for job interviews, how to get to know a candidate and how to make the best hiring decision. Participants also will receive the most current information on the legal aspects of interviewing. The program is limited to 40 participants, so registration is recommended. To RSVP, call Michelle in human resources at 8-1-3552.

Students from TWU and the University of North Texas are invited to attend a special Valentine's event -- the Red and White Ball -- at TWU on Thurs., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. The ball -- a semi-formal dinner featuring swing dance and lessons -- is \$15 per couple and will be held in Hubbard Hall. TWU students who don't have a date may contact the Student Center office and -- for \$7 -- then will be paired with a UNT student. *Reservations are required by Feb. 8.* For more information, call the TWU Student Center office at 8-1-3641.

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UPDATE ON TWU PEOPLE

Please submit "People" items (faculty and staff only) to Ann Hatch in public information by campus mail or by e-mail to s_hatch@twu.edu! Include first and last names (no initials, please) and appropriate titles (ie. Dr.).

Sherrie Taylor (business and economics) will be the keynote speaker during two regional business advisory workshops for the 1999 *Working Woman* Entrepreneurial Excellence Awards. She will address a group in Phoenix, Ariz., on Jan. 22 and another group on Jan. 27 in Dallas. The awards program, sponsored by BankOne, celebrates the excellence of women business owners.

Dr. **Daniel Miller** (psychology and philosophy) recently was granted the Diplomate of the American

Board of Psychological Specialties in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the field of education and school psychology by the American College of Forensic Examiners.

Dr. **Phyllis Bridges** (English, speech and foreign languages) gave a talk and slide presentation on the history of TWU to members of the Denton South Rotary Club, at their invitation, during a breakfast meeting on Tues., Jan. 5.

Dr. **Rudy Rodriguez** (community relations and diversity) is a new grandfather (again!), following the birth of **Carlos Alejandro Vasquez** on Dec. 15, 1998. Rodriguez' daughter **Deanna** and her husband, **Carlos**, welcomed their first child last month; little Carlos weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces, and was born in Woodbridge, Va.

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THIS WEEK AT TWU: JANUARY 11 - 18, 1999

Jan. 11-15

- Blagg-Huey Library open 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 11

- Basketball: Pioneers vs. Texas A&M-Commerce, Commerce, 7 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 12

- HR: "Posting a Job Vacancy," Dallas, FPH faculty conference room (2nd floor), 1-2:30 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 13

- Residence halls re-open, Denton and Houston, 1 p.m.
- Payment for spring semester due by 4 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 15

- Faculty Senate meeting, SC 207, 10 a.m.
- Basketball: Pioneers vs. Eastern New Mexico, PH arena, 7 p.m.
- HR: "Interviewing People," Denton (limited to 40 participants), BHL 101, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 16

- Blagg-Huey Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore closed; Wellness Center open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Gymnastics: Pioneers vs. Oklahoma, PH arena, 7 p.m.

Sun., Jan. 17

- Blagg-Huey Library closed; bookstore closed; Wellness Center open 1-6 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 18

- Martin Luther King holiday: no classes; university closed.
- Basketball: Pioneers vs. West Texas A&M, PH arena, 7 p.m.
- Blagg-Huey Library closed.

Have a safe holiday on Martin Luther King Day -- January 18!

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