

TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY
UPDATE
DENTON/DALLAS/HOUSTON

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HALF-DAY WATER SHUTDOWN SET FOR SOME BUILDINGS

A planned water shutdown in a number of buildings on TWU's Denton campus has been scheduled for Fri., July 16, from 7 a.m. until noon. The shutdown allows workers to install new shutoff valves in the water mains on Bell Avenue; the valves will improve the reliability of TWU's water service, according to Larry Harrison (facilities management). However -- because the air conditioning depends on a water source to function -- several buildings will not have both air conditioning and water during that time period.

Those buildings/facilities are: the Undergraduate Laboratory Building, the Human Development Building, Old Main, the Multipurpose Classroom Laboratory Building, Jones Hall, Reagan-Houston Hall, Pioneer Hall, the outdoor pool, the Dance and Gymnastics Laboratory Building, Mary Hufford Hall, Student Health Services, Redbud Theatre, Stark and Guinn halls, the Little Chapel-in-the-Woods and the offices of alumni services and the TWU National Alumnae Association.

Buildings that are not on the list receive water from a different main on Oakland Avenue, and they will not be affected.

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TWU STUDENT FINDS LINK TO SIDS

When parents put their newborn infants to bed each night with a lullaby or quiet words, they look forward to a morning filled with smiles, bottles and diapers. But the fear of SIDS -- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or crib death -- sometimes creeps into their minds, and research among members of the medical and scientific communities continues as they seek to find its cause.

Population studies of large numbers of people already have shown that pregnant women who smoke or who are exposed to others who smoke may increase their babies' risk of suffering from SIDS; the reason for this increased risk of SIDS is unknown. However, a recent study conducted by Dr. Jan Wheeler-Sherman at the Texas Woman's University Institute of Health Sciences Houston Center has found a relationship between prenatal nicotine exposure and the heart rate of newborn infants.

Wheeler-Sherman's doctoral dissertation for the TWU College of Nursing comprised the study. She currently is a neonatal nurse practitioner at the University of California-San Francisco.

"Exposure to cigarette smoke during pregnancy has been shown to increase the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS," said Wheeler-Sherman. "The reason for this

increased risk is not known, but nicotine has been shown to cause cardiac effects in animals. This study examined the relationship between nicotine exposure during pregnancy and the heart rate of newborn infants after birth."

She added, "The time after birth is a period in which the heart function of the infant is changing. I believed that any changes in the infant's heart rate would be more obvious immediately after the birth. Also, measuring the newborn heart rate during the time immediately after birth allowed me to assess fetal drug exposure (specifically nicotine) under the challenging conditions associated with birth. Measuring the heart rate under challenging conditions, rather than at a time when the baby was not under stress, more likely would reveal problems."

A total of 130 infants and their mothers were involved in the study, which was done in Kingwood, Texas, and completed in May 1999. All of the infants were full-term, well newborns whose mothers had no health problems, as well as an uncomplicated labor and delivery.

Following each baby's delivery, blood was drawn from the umbilical cord, which is attached to the placenta. (The umbilical cord provides nourishment, oxygen and any substances to which the mother is exposed directly to the fetus.) The sample of blood then was analyzed for cotinine. Cotinine is the primary product that is made when the body breaks down nicotine; it also is considered the best measure currently available to measure exposure to nicotine. The heart rate of each infant then was measured at one-minute intervals during the baby's first four hours of life.

The cotinine samples were analyzed by Dr. John T. Bernert at the Tobacco Exposure Biomarkers Laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control.

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SIDS, continued

"The study found that newborn babies with higher levels of cotinine had a significantly lower maximum heart rate and a lower variance in heart rate when compared with infants with lower levels of cotinine. In other words, newborn infants with higher levels cotinine had much lower heart rates," explained Wheeler-Sherman. "The output of blood from the heart of an infant depends primarily on heart rate. If the baby is not able to increase and vary the heart rate during times of stress, then the baby could possibly be at an increased risk for SIDS."

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TWU STUDENTS LEARN THE ROPES OF LEADERSHIP

Have you ever done the Wild Woozy, the Spider Web or the Mohawk Walk?

They may sound like they have something in common with the Funky Chicken or the Bunny Hop, but they actually are initiatives found in Project Leadership, a new low ropes/challenge course at TWU.

Described as a unique endeavor linking TWU, the academic departments of the College of Health Sciences and the Center for Research on Women's Health, TWU Project Leadership is located in a wooded site on the Denton campus and features open activity areas as well as conversation areas. In addition to activities already mentioned, initiatives such as Trust Fall, the Tension Traverse and the Commitment Bridge were designed to help teach a wide range of groups about issues such as teambuilding, communication, leadership, trust, self-confidence, conflict resolution, listening skills, cooperation, decision making and respecting differences.

This summer, a class of 16 TWU students will spend four hours a day, four days a week learning the skills necessary to become low ropes course facilitators. The class, which will be held from July 13-26, will be taught by TWU instructors Dr. Sinah Goode (kinesiology) and Dr. Susan Ward (health studies).

"It will be a very active class," said Ward, who, along with Goode and eight other TWU faculty members, received her low ropes course facilitator certification last year. "Basically, it's going to be a combination of learning and participating in activities, and we'll be taking everyone through the course to teach them the different initiatives."

The summer II ropes course class is the first class of its kind offered to TWU students. So far, various organizations from TWU and the community have used the course. "The main thing that people come for is teambuilding, followed by trust and communication," Ward said. "The other facilitators and I plan initiatives according to a group's goals."

The course, which took about a year to build, was funded by strategic planning money from the university; it was designed by Ward and the other nine low-ropes-course-certified faculty. Ward said that plans are currently under way to add some high ropes elements to the course.

For details, contact Ward 8-1-2843 or Goode at 8-1-2592. For more general information, call Beez Schell (Center for Research on Women's Health) at 8-1-2974.

PIONEER CHAIRS, *continued*

"Our goal is to get more community involvement," Ken Ingram explained. "What other school in this area has two nationally-ranked programs (gymnastics and softball)? It really is a dynamic university with a great campus and great facilities. However, what really impresses us about TWU is academics. Look at the number of Academic All-Conference and Commissioner's Honor Roll players on our softball team. They are both top quality students and athletes, which seems to be the kind of individual that TWU attracts in all of its sports. All of the administrators and the coaches do a great job stressing the importance of academics to their student athletes."

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STAFF COUNCIL RECEIVES APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD

The TWU Staff Council -- several years in the planning stages -- has become a reality, following final approval from the university's executive staff in June. "I am pleased to announce that the executive staff has approved the constitution and by-laws of the Staff Council for Texas Woman's University," said Dr. Beverley Byers-Pevitts (president's office), in a memorandum to all members of the university community. "For the past three years, a steering committee of 14 longtime staff members from components across the university -- from Denton, Dallas and Houston -- have worked to formulate these documents."

The Staff Council's mission statement says: "The Staff Council is organized to foster a spirit of unified community among staff members of Texas Woman's University and to provide opportunities for their democratic representation." Its goals are: to facilitate communication between university staff members and other constituent groups; to provide opportunities for leadership and professional development for university staff members; to provide a high quality, efficient work environment for university staff members; and to recognize and celebrate accomplishments of university staff members.

"I encourage all TWU staff members to take an active role in this organization," added Byers-Pevitts. "I am certain that all of us will work together to provide necessary resources and support for staff members to participate in this important endeavor."

Byers-Pevitts has asked the department of human resources to coordinate the first Staff Council elections until the new organization's elections committee is formalized. All staff members below the levels of director, registrar and assistant vice president will receive a copy of the constitution and by-laws -- and other relevant election materials -- in the near future from human resources. The documents also will be available in the offices of deans and directors, as well as the reserve desk in the Blagg-Huey Library.

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MEMORIAL GIFTS INVITED FOR TWU EMPLOYEE

Friends, faculty, staff, students and colleagues who knew Janie Martinez (registrar's office) are invited to send donations in her memory to either the ASSET Endowment at TWU or the TWU General Scholarship Fund. (Checks should be made specifically to that endowment or fund.) Mrs. Martinez will

receive memorial cards from TWU that will notify her of gifts made in Janie's name. For more information, contact Jane Erwin (institutional advancement) at 8-3-3863.

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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 AHatch@twu.edu or s_hatch@twu.edu. The biweekly summer 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.

TWU Update is posted biweekly during the summer months. The deadline for items is 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before publication. Don't forget to send changes in dates and information for events, programs and other activities to the office of public information so that *TWU Update* and master calendar information will reflect the correct details.

Free HIV testing will be offered at Student Health Services on Wed. and Thurs., July 21 and 22, from noon to 1 p.m. The free screening will be available on a first-come, first-served basis; all testing is confidential, and results will be returned within two weeks. The service is offered jointly by TWU Student Health Services, the Denton County Health Department and AIDS Services of North Texas. For details, call 8-1-3826.

Reminder: Construction to improve safety along Bell Avenue begins on July 12 -- the first day of the second summer session -- and should be finished by the end of the month, weather permitting. *In conjunction with that project, parking along Bell Avenue between University Drive and Withers Street will be permanently discontinued (and no parking thus enforced) beginning July 11.* Construction on a parking lot north of Pioneer Hall will start at the same time and should be finished by the beginning of the fall 1999 semester. The project includes constructing a median along the Bell Avenue route and moving several of the traffic lights and pedestrian crossings -- specifically to Bell and Chapel Drive and to Bell and College Street. As soon as the lights go in and the median is finished, the university will work on parking spaces along Administration Drive, which eventually will be one way, west, from Bell Avenue to Oakland Avenue.

Reminder: TWU will host College for Kids from July 12-29, a summer enrichment program that allows kids to explore a variety of subjects -- ranging from chemistry and self-defense to video production and computer-aided design -- through imaginative, hands-on classes. Eligible students must be in grades 3 through 6 in the spring of 1999. Classes meet Monday through Thursday at TWU. For \$139, students may take four classes of their choice; a \$5 fee is required for some courses to cover supplies. For details, call Franklin at 8-1-3408.

Reminder: TWU will co-sponsor a special five-day workshop with the Texas Council for the Humanities (the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities) from July 19 to 23 to explore the fascinating world of "Mythology and the Ancient World" -- and how to make that journey more exciting in the classroom. Interested teachers should submit their name, telephone number, address, highest degree earned, school where they will teach in the fall and grade(s) they will teach. The information can be faxed to Tanner at 8-1-2297 or mailed to him; call 8-1-2324 for detailed instructions. Benefits include: a \$20-per-day stipend (\$100 total) upon completion of the course; a certificate for 30 CEUs of advanced training, awarded by TWU; course materials; publications related to the THRC exhibit at TWU; five days

of guided training on the Internet; a free CD-ROM version of online use for the teacher's use in school; and access to library resources.

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NEWSBRIEFS, *continued*

"The TWU Student: A Collection of Perspectives for Newcomers" is the title of a compilation of observations from current members of the TWU community for distribution during new faculty orientation in August. Any faculty or staff member, administrator or current student who would like to contribute words of advice to newcomers that will be considered for the volume should send comments to Dr. Stephen Souris (English, speech and foreign languages), by Mon., Aug. 9. Writing may be formal or informal, and comments may be extensive or brief. (Brief, information submissions are especially welcome!) Send materials by campus mail or fax (8-1-2297) or e-mail (ssouris@iglobal.net).

For Houston Center faculty and staff: The Texas Medical Center library will implement a fee for printing at the public-use computers available in the library, effective Sept. 1, 1999, at a cost of 10 cents per page. TMC students, residents and fellows will receive print discounts. The same copy cards will be used as debit cards for purchasing photocopies and for printing.

Reminder: The TWU Center for Research on Women's Health is seeking participants for a study on systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), which was discovered by a French dermatologist in 1828. The study will offer participants a \$20 stipend, a free bone mineral density scan, a free dietary analysis and information on preventing osteoporosis. The criteria require that each participant be female, aged 18 to 45, be on a regular menstrual cycle, be a nonsmoker and be diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus. Interested persons should contact the center at 8-1-2792, or they can call Lynn Antisell at (940) 390-1544 after 5 p.m.

TWU's annual orientation for graduate assistants will be held on Fri., Aug. 27, in CFO 205 from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. The program is presented primarily for all new graduate teaching and research assistants, but returning assistants may attend if they would like to. Departments that are hiring new assistants are asked to forward those students' names and addresses to Adele Petty in the Graduate School. The program will include presentations from a number of components on campus, including academic advising and support programs, student life, the library, information technology services, safety, insurance and other areas. For details, call Petty at 8-1-3415.

Reminder: Audiences will be rolling in the aisles during TWU's Summerfest '99, scheduled June 25 through July 18, when they see feature performances of the second of two comedies. *Mama Drama* will be presented at 8 p.m. on July 16 and 17, and at 2 p.m. on Sun., July 18. Ticket prices are: \$10 for general admission; \$7 for TWU faculty and staff; and \$5 for TWU students. For more information, call 8-1-2500. **(Please note: *Mama Drama* is meant for mature audiences.)**

Reminder: Employee benefits information was distributed in June by the department of human resources; additions and changes in coverage can be made July 1-31. Anyone who is "gone" for the summer should make arrangements with her or his academic department or office to send that information on. Questions? Call 8-1-3555.

TWUMOO, a homegrown, cyberspace environment, now can offer special-interest electronic mailing lists that can be used by special interest groups at TWU. Any group of students, staff, faculty or administrators with a special interest and a desire for an e-mail list to discuss group issues asynchronously (by e-mail) may request establishing a list for the group. Before anyone can subscribe to a TWUMOO

list, they must have membership status, which is free. Send requests for the special interest mailing lists to Dr. Stephen Souris (English, speech and foreign languages) at ssouris@iglobal.net.

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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 AHatch@twu.edu! Include first and last names (no initials, please) and appropriate titles (ie. Dr.).

TWU is one of 24 schools considered from a pool of 60 institutions participating in the Under-graduate Cooperative Access to Information Resources program which received a \$26,000 grant from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation for the project's third phase, UCAIR 2000. **Elizabeth Snapp** (library) serves on the project's advisory committee, with representatives from Trinity University, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Houston-Clear Lake, the University of Rochester and Texas Wesleyan University. UCAIR 2000 is a scientific forum conducted in cooperation with the American Chemical Society and *Chemical Abstracts*. Pilot project participants are receiving special training in the acquisition and management of more than 90 years of chemistry-related journals, abstracts and publications that now are accessible online. The project was developed by Dr. Bob Landolt, professor of chemistry at Texas Wesleyan, and three other chemistry professors to teach chemistry faculty and science librarians how to acquire chemistry resources.

Susan Sponsler (public information) is exhibiting her works in several shows: the 1999 Juried Membership Exhibition and 1998-99 Photography Fellowship Exhibition at the Houston Center for Photography from June 25 to Aug. 1; and at the Korean American Museum in Los Angeles, Calif. The membership exhibition in Houston includes a show that spotlights the works of HCP Fellowship recipients Sponsler (her exhibit is titled "Assumed Identity," which explores cross-cultural adoption and experiences of an Asian American), Will Michels, Suzanne Paul and Cathy Spence. Sponsler also was named by HCP as the first recipient of the Carol Crow Memorial Fellowship, established in 1998 to honor the memory of Houston photographer Carol Crow.

Sponsler's other exhibit, in the show "SNAPSHOT: A Portrait of Korean Adoptees," opens in California on July 25 and then will tour for a year with stops in Chicago, New York, Paris and Seoul, South Korea. She was commissioned to produce an original work of art for the exhibit; it is titled "Piecing Together Our Histories: A Korean Adoptee's Quilt." The piece will join the permanent collection of the Korean American Museum and represents the inclusion of Korean adoptees in the greater Korean American community. The quilt comprises blue photographs printed on fabric using an alternative photographic process called cyanotype. The images depict Sponsler and 16 other Korean adoptees who submitted their photographs and brief statements about their adoptions or feelings regarding adoption. (Three other works by Sponsler also were chosen for the exhibit.)

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THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AT TWU: JULY 12 - 25, 1999

July 12-29

- College for Kids.

July 12-15

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

Tues., July 13

- First day of classes for Summer II; late registration.

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CALENDAR, continued

Wed., July 14

- Safety training: "Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control," BHL 101, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Safety training: "Back Safety/Safe Lifting," BHL 101, 1-2 p.m.
- Safety training: "Fire Safety," BHL 101, 3-4 p.m.
- Financial aid deadline for fall 1999.

July 16-17

- Performing arts, drama: *Mama Drama*, Redbud Theatre, 8 p.m.

Fri., July 16

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
- HR: "Performance Appraisal for Supervisors: The Legal Side -- You Be the Judge," Dallas-Parkland, DED faculty conference room, 10 a.m.-noon.
- Last day to file theses, dissertations and professional papers from students completing their graduate degree requirements by August 1999.
- Web hours must be online by 5 p.m. for the period through July 15.

Sat., July 17

- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wellness Center open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

July 18-30

- ACES Camp.

Sun., July 18

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wellness Center open 1-6 p.m.
- Performing arts, drama: *Mama Drama*, Redbud, 2 p.m.

July 19-27

- Alama Travel office closed.

July 19-22

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Last day to drop a class, but not withdraw, and receive a refund.

July 21-22

- Free HIV screening, Student Health Services, noon-1 p.m.

Mon., July 19

- Approvals due for hourly employee timesheets.

Wed., July 21

- Safety training: "Adult CPR," BHL 101, 8 a.m.-noon.
- Safety training: "Infant and Child CPR," BHL 101, 1-3 p.m.
- Last day to withdraw, drop all classes and receive at least 50 percent of refundable tuition and fees.
- Last day to drop a class without academic penalty.

Fri., July 23

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wellness Center open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Sat., July 24

- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wellness Center open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- TASP test, CFO and MCL, registration from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sun., July 25

- Library open 2 p.m.-10 p.m.; Wellness Center open 1-6 p.m.

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