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TWU VP ROBERT BENFIELD SUCCUMBS TO HEART ATTACK

Robert Benfield, vice president for fiscal affairs at TWU, died of a massive coronary in Austin on Thurs., July 20. He was in Austin to attend a quarterly meeting of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as a representative for TWU. He suffered a heart attack in his hotel, the Holiday Inn Tower Lake.

Benfield, age 54, came to TWU as vice president for fiscal affairs in January 1977. As head of fiscal affairs, he represented the university before the Texas legislature, the Legislative Budget Board, the Governor's Budget Office and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He managed the development of a 10-year campus master plan, implemented in 1979, as well as the update for that plan this year.

Benfield came to TWU from the University of Houston, where he held several positions, including assistant vice president for planning and budgeting, director of the office of management analysis and budget, and research associate. Previously he was a supervisor of financial reporting for TRW Systems Group in Houston and served as a consultant to Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco; to the minister of higher education in Brazil; and to the University of Guadalajara in Mexico. Benfield received his bachelor's degree from Lamar University and his master's degree in business administration from the University of Houston.

He was actively involved in the Texas Association of State Senior College and University Business Officers and served as TASSCUBO's president from 1986-87; president-elect from 1985-86; and treasurer from 1983-85. He also was a member of the National Association of College and University Business Officers, the Denton Rotary Club, the Denton Chamber of Commerce, the TWU President's Council and the TWU Pioneer Club. Benfield also served on a number of university and statewide committees.

Dr. Carol Surles said, "Mr. Benfield's death is a tremendous loss to TWU, to Denton and to the state of Texas. He has served ably for 18 years, and his death is a great personal loss to me. He was tremendously helpful during my first year as president at Texas Woman's University -- especially with the Texas legislature during my tenure. Our hearts go out to the entire Benfield family. We at TWU are all part of his extended family."

He is survived by his wife, Patrice Shoemaker Benfield of Denton; sons Robert Jr. of Dallas and Raimy of Houston; and sister Nancy Finchum of Orange, Texas. Mrs. Benfield, a TWU alumna, works in the university's office of institutional advancement.

Visitation is scheduled at DeBerry Funeral Home in Denton on Mon., July 24, from 7 to 8 p.m. A memorial service will be held on Tues., July 25, at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Denton, followed by burial at Roselawn Memorial Park.

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS VP APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED

Dr. Beverley Byers-Pevitts, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of Northern Iowa-Cedar Falls, has been named vice president for academic affairs at Texas Woman's University, following a national search. The appointment was announced by Dr. Carol Surles (president's office).

"I am pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Beverley Byers-Pevitts as the new vice president for academic affairs at Texas Woman's University," said Surles. "Dr. Byers-Pevitts has visited and exchanged ideas with faculty, staff and students in Denton, Dallas and Houston, and I am delighted that both she and our university community share enthusiasm for the mission of Texas Woman's University.

"Dr. Byers-Pevitts is a distinguished scholar, playwright and administrator. She also brings an interdisciplinary approach to TWU -- a view which is critical in an everchanging society and borderless world. Our students, faculty and staff will benefit from her background and leadership," added Surles.

"I look forward with pleasure to joining Texas Woman's University in the office of academic affairs," said Byers-Pevitts, "and to a productive and lengthy association with Dr. Carol Surles and the university. TWU is a quality academic institution that I shall proudly represent and serve. We in higher education are under increasing scrutiny from both the public and private sectors. As we pursue the quality liberal arts education within a framework of change in technology and systems, we must be unceasing in our pursuits, particularly in demographics."

She added, "I remain committed to a strong liberal arts program that provides our students with a depth of understanding for a global society, an appreciation and capacity to integrate technology and an ability to establish community. Establishing community means connecting ourselves with others who live in Denton, Dallas, Houston, across Texas and beyond." Byers-Pevitts will report to work in August.

The new vice president, who also is a professor of communications studies and theater, has held her current position at UNI since 1990. As dean, she administers and manages nine departments with a faculty of 175 and a staff of 50. Her responsibilities include 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. Departments in Byers-Pevitts' college include art, communicative disorders, communication studies, English language and literature, modern languages, philosophy and religion, theater, the school of music and broadcasting services for the university.

A TWU search committee invited Byers-Pevitts and four other finalists to visit TWU's locations in Denton, Dallas and Houston during the interview process. The candidates were asked to talk to students, faculty and staff about TWU and the role of the vice president for academic affairs within the institution and among external constituencies.

Surles commended the search effort: "We had several outstanding candidates; Dr. Byers-Pevitts was among those forwarded to me by the search committee. The search committee worked diligently to make recommendations for a new vice president whose leadership will be crucial as we approach the 21st century. I wish to thank the members of the search committee and their able and courageous chair, Dr. Janice LaPointe-Crump."

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NEW VPAA, continued

"On behalf of all of us, I extend our appreciation to Dr. Wilkes Berry, who has served as interim vice president for academic affairs and will continue to serve until Dr. Beverley Byers-Pevitts reports to work in August. Dr. Berry's academic leadership during our transition has served the university well. His professionalism in every regard has graced this transition," added Surles.

LaPointe-Crump said, "The search committee worked as a cohesive group for many long hours. We are excited about Dr. Beverley Byers-Pevitts' appointment and look forward to working with her. Her openness with faculty, staff and students is refreshing, and she expressed a number of times her strong desire to support TWU's mission. Her interdisciplinary background will enable her to forge ahead with TWU's goals of becoming more adventuresome in the curriculum and bring a broad perspective to academic affairs."

Byers-Pevitts 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.); and Young Harris College (Ga.). 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.

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.

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REMINDER TO CLEAR SMITH-CARROLL ANNOUNCED

TWU faculty and staff who may have property stored in Smith-Carroll Hall are asked to call the inventory department at about removing materials in the building, which is scheduled to be torn down some time in September. Property left in Smith-Carroll Hall after Thurs., July 27, will be considered obsolete or surplus and will be disposed of by the university. Removal of both Smith-Carroll Hall and Bralley Hall was approved by the TWU board of regents at their June 23, 1995, meeting as part of the updated TWU campus master plan.

Anyone who has property in storage in Smith-Carroll Hall, needs to view the buildings contents and wants to make arrangements to remove departmental property should call inventory at ext. 3140. Alternative campus storage is very limited; as a result, property removed by request from Smith-Carroll Hall must be relocated within each department's own area.

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SAFETY ON CAMPUS ACKNOWLEDGED

Safety courses and an increased awareness of each employee's work environment at TWU has resulted in a decrease in reportable employee injuries last year -- an accomplishment that

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CAMPUS SAFETY AWARD, *continued*

recently was acknowledged by the risk management division of the Attorney General's Office in Austin. TWU received a bronze award for safety on July 18 for "having low frequency rate of reportable employee injuries," said John Erwin (public safety), who accepted the award on behalf of the entire university.

Over a five-year period, TWU has reduced its rate of employee injuries by at least 10 percent (the bronze award). TWU was one of the few larger agencies that received an award; 240 are enrolled in the program, and a total of 37 agencies earned bronze, silver or gold safety awards.

"This recognition means that we do not spend as much money on employee injuries at TWU," said Erwin, "and that our employees are working more safely than those at many other agencies." He credits the decrease in injuries to safety training and programming through the health and safety division of the TWU department of public safety -- getting the information out to employees about the appropriate ways for them to do their jobs without injury. An increased awareness of the potential for injury also has decreased the rate.

"The university's administration has placed an emphasis on reducing the number of injuries and accidents on our campus," said Erwin. "We also have had good cooperation from line supervisors, directors and administrators, who have allowed employees to attend safety programs. And employees themselves have been very cooperative. They have modified their work habits to ensure that they are doing things in the most safe manner -- which usually is the most efficient way, too. The money that we save as an institution by reducing employee injuries also can be re-channeled into other university endeavors."

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KOBLER SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

The friends and family of Dr. Turner S. Kobler (English, speech and foreign languages) have established a scholarship in her honor through the TWU Foundation. The Dr. Turner S. Kobler Scholarship Endowment Fund annually will provide a scholarship to a student in the department of English, speech and foreign languages who has shown excellence in historical rhetoric, one of Kobler's many fields of expertise. Kobler has been a member of the TWU faculty since September 1968.

Persons who wish to contribute to the scholarship fund may send their checks, made payable to the Dr. Turner S. Kobler Scholarship Endowment Fund, to the TWU Office of Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 425618, Denton TX 76204-3618. Contributions postmarked by Dec. 15, 1995, will be listed in a *festschrift* that will be published in 1996 honoring Kobler. The theme of the *festschrift* is literature and film, another of Kobler's areas of specialization. Contribution categories are: producer, \$500 or more; director, \$250 to \$499; star, \$150 to \$249; co-star, \$50 to \$149; and supporting cast, up to \$49.

Information on criteria for the scholarship and applications will be available to students in the departmental office of English, speech and foreign languages. For information, call Dr. Frank Longoria at ext. 2324.

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NEWSBRIEFS

The approved pre-professional practice program (AP4) in the department of nutrition and food sciences recently has changed its name to the dietetic internship; the program currently is under developmental accreditation. Also...students in the AP4 program scored a 100 percent pass rate on the national board examination to become registered dietitians. Thirteen students took the exam -- TWU's third consecutive testing on which AP4 students earned a 100 percent pass rate.

Reminder: Defensive driving courses will be taught by the TWU department of public safety on July 27, Aug. 17 and Sept. 29, all from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on ACT 501 (with a one-hour break for lunch). These courses are for persons who will drive state vehicles and have not had defensive driving within the past three years. These courses do not include ticket dismissal certification. Cost for the defensive driving course is \$20 per person, payable in cash, by check to TWU or through interdepartmental transfer. The practical skills portion will be taught, at no charge, on Aug. 24 and Sept. 21 in the public safety office at 8:30 a.m. Each course is limited to 30 people. For more information or to register, call Vicki Byrd (public safety) at ext. 2924. The final day to register is the Friday prior to each date listed.

The office of institutional advancement has received an award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for overall fundraising improvement in the Circle of Excellence 1995 Awards for Educational Fundraising. Any educational institution is automatically eligible if it regularly participates in the educational fundraising industry's "Voluntary Support of Education" survey, which is conducted annually by the Council for Aid to Education.

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UPDATE ON TWU PEOPLE

Dr. **James Galloway** (library) reviewed *MIT on Disc: Catalog of the MIT Libraries on CD-ROM* for the June 1995 issue of *CHOICE: Current Reviews of Academic Books*.

Dr. **Francine Lancaster** (biology), kinesiology student **Tamara Brown**, plus biology students **Judi Elliott** and **Sam Wren**, presented their research project, "Beer Drinking by Young Sprague Dawley Rats," at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism in Steamboat, Colo., June 17-22. Elliott and Brown are supported by TWU's Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) grant.

Dr. **Mary K. Sparks** (mass communications) will present the honors lecture for the scholastic journalism division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications at AEJMC's annual convention in Washington, D.C., in August.

Dr. **Lyman Caswell** (chemistry and physics) served as a reader of Advanced Placement examination in chemistry for the Educational Testing Service at the University of Maryland June 4-9.

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PEOPLE, continued

Patricia Devereaux and **Dr. Barbara Presnall** (both history and government) presented a paper titled "Profiles of Gendercentric Voting Behavior" at the Western Social Science Association meeting in Oakland, Calif., recently.

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THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AT TWU: JULY 24-AUG. 6:

July 24-Aug. 31	-WASP exhibit, Blagg-Huey Library.
Mon.-Fri., July 24-28	-Blagg-Huey Library open 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wed., July 26 -	Exit interviews for loan recipients, Denton, ADM 129, 10 a.m. (Ext. 3067)
Thurs., July 27	-Exit interviews for loan recipients, Denton, ADM 129, 4 p.m. (Ext. 3067)
Sat.-Sun. July 29-30	-Blagg-Huey Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun.: 2-9 p.m.
Mon.-Fri., July 31-Aug. 4	-Blagg-Huey Library open 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Wed., Aug. 2	-Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the university, 5 p.m. -Exit interviews for loan recipients, Denton, ADM 129, 10 a.m. (Ext. 3067)
Thur.-Sun. Aug. 3-6	-Student orientation to prepare for the fall semester. (Ext. 3611)
Thurs., Aug. 3	-Exit interviews for loan recipients, Denton, ADM 129, 4 p.m. (Ext. 3067)
Sat.-Sun. Aug. 5-6	-Blagg-Huey Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun.: 2-9 p.m.

CAMPS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

July 24-26	-American Drill Team, Hubbard Hall, South Side. (Ext. 3644)
July 27-30	-SHOWTIME Dance/Drill Team, Hubbard Hall, South Side. (Ext. 3644)

OTHER EVENTS

July 27-30	-Church of South India, MCL Auditorium. (Ext. 3644)
July 30-Aug. 12	-AFS International Program. (Ext. 3644)