

Volume 36, Number 4, March 10-23, 2014

TWU PRESENTS ‘CELEBRATION OF SCIENCE’ ON MARCH 28

Texas Woman’s University’s third annual Ann Stuart and Ray R. Poliakoff Celebration of Science will take place Friday, March 28 on TWU’s Denton campus. Featured speakers for the event, which celebrates “Women in Science,” are Cynthia Burrows, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor and Thatcher Presidential Endowed Chair of Biological Chemistry at the University of Utah; Jennifer Leeds, Ph.D., executive director of Antibacterial Discovery, Infectious Diseases Area, at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in Emeryville, Calif.; and Madeline Shea, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry at Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa.

The daylong event includes an interactive forum with students titled “Science for the Future: Problems and Major Challenges;” a luncheon with the speakers and TWU students; a symposium titled “Women in Science: Research at the Interface of Biology and Chemistry;” and a reception. Most activities will take place in the Ann Stuart Science Complex.

During the afternoon symposium, Dr. Burrows will present “Examining DNA Damage in a Yoctoliter Measuring Cup.” Dr. Leeds will present “Discovery of LFF571 as an Investigational Agent for *C. difficile* Infection.” Dr. Shea’s presentation is titled “Calcium-Triggered Conformational Switching of Calmodulin on Voltage-Dependent Sodium Channels.”

TWU Chancellor Ann Stuart established the Ann Stuart and Ray R. Poliakoff Celebration of Science series in 2011 with a \$200,000 gift to the university. Through a commitment of two decades of funding, the Celebration of Science Series intends to provide the opportunity for the Departments of Biology and Chemistry/Biochemistry to develop a sustained program of promoting and celebrating the wonders, truths and mysteries of science.

The Celebration of Science series will continue annually through 2032. Although events will vary from year to year, the intent always will be to engage current TWU students and faculty, alumni, K-12 students in Denton and others in the community.

Both Dr. Ann Stuart and Mr. Ray Poliakoff, wife and husband, were first-generation graduates of public higher education, and both often said it was their education that

enabled them to pursue the opportunities that enriched their lives.

Dr. Stuart, a professor of English, loved the quest of learning, the pleasure of reading, and her career in education both as a teacher and as an administrator.

Mr. Poliakoff served in a reconnaissance intelligence unit in Europe during World War II and was twice wounded in combat. After the war, he graduated from law school and spent the majority of his professional career working with various national and international concerns and individuals in coal, oil, gas, and other natural resource ventures and concessions in the U.S., Alaska, Canada, Europe, Australia, the Mid-East and the Far East.

They both gave generously to create opportunities for young people to pursue their goals.

*** **

WILLIAMS RECEIVES CHANCELLOR'S ALUMNI EXCELLENCE AWARD

University of Texas at Austin dance professor Holly Williams, associate dean of the UT College of Fine Arts and former head of the UT Dance Program, is the 2014 recipient of the Texas Woman's University Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award. She is being honored for her distinguished career in dance, choreography and higher education.

"I am greatly honored by this award and particularly gratified that women artists in higher education are now being recognized on a wider scale," Ms. Williams said. "Creativity is at the center of how we problem-solve, imagine, and achieve – it's a wonderful fit for those who teach students looking toward their own future in the world."

Ms. Williams currently is completing her term as president/past president of the American College Dance Festival Association (ACDFA) and is the coordinator of the 2014 South-Central ACDFA Conference at UT. By recommendation of UT President Bill Powers, she will represent the University of Texas at the 2014 Leadership Texas, a forum for women leaders in business and education.

She has performed nationally and internationally with the companies of Laura Dean, Jose Limon and with Mark Morris. With the Mark Morris Dance group, she was in residence for three years in Brussels, Belgium and performed in original casts of such works as *The Hard Nut*, *L'Allegro il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, *Gloria*, *Love Song Waltzes*, *Going Away Party* and numerous others. In 2010, she completed a Fulbright Specialist residency at the Taideakatemia Turun in Turku, Finland.

Ms. Williams has taught dance at UT since 2003, advancing to professor in 2009. In addition to her teaching duties, she served as head of the dance program and also served as interim chair and associate chair for the UT Department of Theatre and Dance.

She has been commissioned to create choreography by the American Ballet Theatre Summer Intensive, the State Street Ballet in Santa Barbara, the Ballet Austin Senior Young Artists program and by other companies. She also has been a guest artist at numerous university programs throughout the United States. Three of her works have been selected by adjudication for ACDFFA's National Festival.

Ms. Williams' choreography for the Houston Grand Opera, Dallas Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Austin Theatre Alliance, Dallas Theater Center and the concert stage also have won her national acclaim. Her dance/video work *Bolero* made its international debut at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland and her signature work *Black Magic* was performed in several cities in Austria as part of the Tanzsommer Festival in 2004.

In addition, she has served on dance panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, Dance/USA and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation. A noted writer and critic, she has contributed articles on dance to *The New York Times*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Austin American-Statesman* and other publications.

Ms. Williams received her bachelor of arts *cum laude* from Barnard College/Columbia University and earned a master of fine arts in dance from Texas Woman's University in 1994. She is married to author and journalist Bill Minutaglio and has two children, Rose and Nicholas.

In 2011, TWU Chancellor Ann Stuart donated \$120,000 to fund a 20-year program to bring the recipients of the Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award to campus each year to share their experience and expertise with the TWU community.

*** **

NEWSBRIEFS

Information and news about activities, programs or TWU people may be sent to the Office of Marketing and Communication through campus mail or by e-mail to info@twu.edu. The deadline to receive information is the first and third Tuesday of each month 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.

Registration for the **2014 Academic Success Lecture** continues through Wednesday, March 19. The event, scheduled Friday, March 21 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., will feature award-winning author Dr. Ken Bain, president of Best Teachers Institute. The lecture will take place in ACT 301 on the Denton campus and will be available via videoconference in Dallas (room 3510) and Houston (room 3115). For more information or to register, visit <http://www.twu.edu/TLT/events.asp>

TWU Fitness and Recreation invites TWU staff, students and their families to the **first-ever Family Fitness Day** on Thursday, March 20. The come-and-go event is scheduled

from 5 to 7 p.m. in front of the Fitness Center. The free event, developed by TWU student and Fitness and Recreation intern Alison Ventura, will consist of active, fun stations to be completed by both adults and children in order to encourage healthy living and family time. Families that complete all of the stations will receive prizes. For more information, contact Michelle Reeves at 81-2908.

UPDATE ON TWU PEOPLE

Please submit "People" items (faculty and staff only) to the Office of Marketing and Communication by campus mail or by e-mail to info@twu.edu. Include first and last names (no initials, please) and appropriate titles (ie. Dr.)

Dr. **Peggy Gleeson** (physical therapy, Houston) was honored for her four years of service as president of the Education Section and 12 years of service on the Executive Board of the American Physical Therapy Association during the group's national meeting Feb. 3-6 in Las Vegas.

Dr. **Ann Medley** (physical therapy, Dallas) was elected secretary of the Geriatric Section of the American Physical Therapy Association during the group's national meeting Feb. 3-6 in Las Vegas.

Dr. **Mahesh S. Raisinghani** (School of Management) and Dr. **Molly Russ** (School of Management) co-authored a paper that has been accepted at the 2014 International Business Conference of the Society for Advancement of Management, scheduled April 3-6 in Orlando, Fla. The paper is titled "Escalated Commitment in Information Technology Project Management: A Managerial Perspective."

Dr. **Phyllis Bridges** (English) was a judge on the panel selecting the winner of the 2014 Lou Halsell Rodenberger Book Prize in History, Culture, and Literature. The award is named for Dr. Rodenberger, a TWU Distinguished Alumna and former TWU Regent. The recipient of the 2014 award is Amy Porter's *Women in the Central Spanish and Mexican Borderlands: Their Lives through Their Wills, 1750-1846*. The award is presented biennially by Texas Tech University Press.

Dr. **Jessica Gullion** (sociology) recently published her book, *October Birds: A Novel about Pandemic Influenza, Infection Control, and First Responders* (Sense Publishers Social Fiction Series, 2014). Grounded in public health practice, sociological research, and emergency management, the novel is a work of arts-based research.

Lisa Haynes (Institutional Research and Data Management) was elected to a two-year term as secretary of the Texas Association for Institutional Research during the organization's annual conference, held Feb. 18-21 in Addison.

Chuck Thetford (housing) was a recipient of the Southwest Association of College & University Housing Officers' 2014 Bob Cooke Distinguished Service Award during the

association's annual conference, held Feb. 16-18 in Fort Worth. The award recognizes service, dedication and significant contribution to student housing.

*** **

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AT TWU: MARCH 10-23, 2014

Mon., Mar. 10

- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Bookstore open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Tues., Mar. 11

- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Bookstore open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.

Wed., Mar. 12

- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Bookstore open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Professor's Corner, 7 p.m., Denton South Branch Library, 3228 Teasley. "Nobel Laureate Mo Yan's Short Stories," presented by Dr. Lei Zhang, adjunct instructor, TWU Department of English, Speech and Foreign Languages. For more information, contact Dr. Stephen Souris at ssouris@twu.edu or 81-2343.

Thurs., Mar. 13

- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Bookstore open 9 a.m.-noon; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Pioneers Softball vs. Cameron, 7 p.m., Lone Star Conference Showcase, away.

Fri., Mar. 14

- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Bookstore open 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Pioneers Softball vs. Angelo State, 1:30 p.m., and Texas A&M-Kingsville, 6:30 p.m., Lone Star Conference Showcase, away.

Sat., Mar. 15

- Library closed; Bookstore closed; Fitness and Recreation open 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Pioneers Gymnastics vs. Arizona, BYU and Bridgeport, 5 p.m., away.
- Pioneers Softball vs. West Texas A&M, 1:30 p.m., and Eastern New Mexico, 6:30 p.m., Lone Star Conference Showcase, away.

Sun., Mar. 16

- Library open 2 p.m.-midnight; Bookstore closed; Fitness and Recreation open noon-10 p.m.
- Pioneers Softball vs. Midwestern State, 12:30 p.m., Lone Star Conference Showcase, away.

Mon., Mar. 17

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; Bookstore open 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.

Tues., Mar. 18

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; Bookstore open 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.
- TWU International Festival, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., second floor, Student Union, Denton. Free.

Wed., Mar. 19

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; Bookstore open 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.
- Global Connections Women: Book Club Discussion Group meeting, 12:30-2 p.m., Pioneer Center 225 (second floor, Blagg-Huey Library). For more information, visit <http://www.twu.edu/global/events-calendar.asp#march>

Thurs., Mar. 20

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; Bookstore open 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.
- Global Connections Women: Book Club Discussion Group meeting, 12:30-2 p.m., Guinn Commons. For more information, visit <http://www.twu.edu/global/events-calendar.asp#march>

Fri., Mar. 21

- Library open 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Bookstore open 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.
- Pioneers Softball vs. West Texas A&M, 6 p.m., home.

Sat., Mar. 22

- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Bookstore closed; Fitness and Recreation open 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Pioneers Gymnastics at MIC Championships, 4 p.m., away.
- Pioneers Softball vs. West Texas A&M, 1 and 3 p.m., home.

Sun., Mar. 23

- Library open 2 p.m.-midnight Bookstore closed; Fitness and Recreation open noon-midnight.

*** **