

NEW DEAN NAMED

Dr. Michael Droge (biology) has been appointed by Dr. Lois Smith (academic affairs) as dean of graduate studies and research, effective Sept. 1, 2000.

"It is a pleasure to announced that Dr. Droge has accepted the position of dean of graduate studies and research," said Smith. "Dr. Droge has a distinguished record of teaching, research and service at TWU, and he will assume responsibilities currently held by Dr. Leslie Thompson, who has announced his plans to retire at the end of August. On behalf of TWU, I want to thank Dr. Thompson for his years of dedicated service and extend to him all good wishes for a joyful and healthy retirement."

She added, "In addition, I welcome Teresa Mauk, who joined us in late June as director of admissions. She is in the process of developing recruiting goals and strategies for the new academic year, and we are extremely pleased that she is here."

Droge, who also has directed the TWU Center for Student Research Support, is looking forward to his new role. "I am really excited about graduate studies and research, and I already have begun meeting with staff members and administrators to plan for the future," said Droge, who wants to continue interacting with students as he assumes his new responsibilities.

He added, "I like working with students in the classroom and through the Center for Student Research Support. I particularly enjoy the annual symposium we hold each spring that gives both graduate and undergraduate students a chance to showcase their own research and help plan the event itself. Students are the reason we are here."

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ALUM STUDY CONFIRMS THAT TEXAS SCHOOLS HELP SPECIAL ED KIDS

Education in Texas is better than critics would have parents believe, especially for students in special

education. A statewide study of every school in every district throughout Texas -- more than 6,000 campuses -- by TWU graduate Dr. Betty Grubbs reinforces campus rankings and indicates that mainstreamed special education students are doing well. Grubbs researched and wrote the study for her doctoral dissertation; she was awarded her doctorate in May 2000, and the Birdville Independent School District administrator is pleased with the results.

"Overall, my results affirmed that Texas campuses with the highest accountability rating have successfully included students in special education as they have achieved the state's highest ranking of 'exemplary' status," said Grubbs, who examined the data by school and rating, district size and other factors to determine whether special education students were overrepresented in accountability ratings.

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EDUCATION STUDY, *continued*

Grubbs, who is a special education administrator for Birdville ISD, said, "The general perception is that schools are over-identifying special education students. I wanted to know whether the two factors are linked and asked: As special education numbers in schools increase, does the school's rating accountability increase?"

In Texas, accountability -- or an individual school's student success rate -- is linked to passing the TAAS test, which earns a campus one of four ratings that involves a specific percentage of all students who pass the test, as well as all student subgroups. Those rankings are: exemplary (90 percent pass rate); recognized (80 percent pass rate); acceptable (45 to 80 percent pass rate); and low performing (less than 45 percent pass rate).

In her research, using data provided by the Texas Education Agency for each campus from kindergarten through grade 12, Grubbs discovered that schools earning the highest accountability rating had the fewest number of special education students identified. Those exemplary schools also had the largest number of special education students taking the TAAS test. Conversely, schools with the lowest accountability rating identified the most special education students and also exempted the most special education students from taking the TAAS test.

"The results show that the accountability system works," said Grubbs. "I was really surprised to find that the highest performing schools had the least number of special education students and that the lowest performing schools had the highest number of special ed students who were identified." She added,

"This (situation) is positive because it means that exemplary schools are including special education children in the general education curriculum. Those students have to be exposed to the general education curriculum to pass the TAAS test."

According to Grubbs, Texas public schools are educating all children more effectively. "In the past, special education children have been exempted from taking the TAAS test -- and they still have that option today. However, districts with the highest ratings are not excluding as many students." The number of exempt students in Texas was 106,529 in 1998 and the number in 1999 was 144,473. Those totals increased because special education students' scores were tabulated as part of a school's accountability rating. "During that first year of accountability, schools exempted special education students who they knew could not pass the test," explained Grubbs, "but they did give those students an alternative assessment, in which more students participated."

Beginning in 1998-99, the TAAS scores from special education students have been counted in the factors that determine a campus's accountability rating. "Educators anticipated that the rating would drop, but that didn't happen," said Grubbs. "Exemplary campuses in large districts are doing an outstanding job of educating children; for example, more than 50,000 students exempted only 5.6 percent of the total population from taking the TAAS test. Small districts exempted at several times that level." Grubbs said this trend occurs because large districts have more programs that help serve diverse populations among students. Smaller districts have only special education programs to provide their students with extra services. Larger districts with more funds can support those diverse programs, while smaller districts must seek other solutions.

Little research has been conducted in the field, and Grubbs' results contradict previous state and national findings. "The focus of the research essentially should be on the good news about education and students in special education, and the progress they are making," she said. "We're doing a good job in Texas. We now need to focus more on special education students, ensure they pass TAAS and encourage them to participate in the test."

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COMMENCEMENT SET NEXT WEEK

The smiles of graduates, family members and friends -- along with the strains of *Pomp and Circumstance* and the rustle of academic regalia -- are part of tradition on a college campus. Those familiar sights and sounds will mark summer commencement exercises at TWU on Sat., Aug. 12.

Ceremonies will be held in Pioneer Hall at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and two Texas legislators will talk to graduates as the students launch their professional careers or pursue graduate work.

Texas Rep. Jesse Jones will talk to candidates from the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Nursing, School of Occupational Therapy and School of Physical Therapy during Ceremony I about "The New Millennium and the Dot.Com Generation." Jones, who represents District 110 -- which comprises a portion of southwest Dallas County, is serving his fourth term in the Texas House of Representatives. A professor of chemistry at Baylor University, Jones was first elected to the House in 1992. He completed his undergraduate work at Texas College in Tyler, earned his master's degree from Highlands University in New Mexico and received his doctorate from Arizona State University.

Jones currently is vice chair of the House committee on elections; he also is a member of the local and consent calendars committee and the House committee on higher education. During earlier sessions, he served as a member of the committee on higher education; the committee on elections; the committee on rules and resolutions; and others. He has introduced more than 70 bills, with an emphasis on crime and the family. Jones is involved in a number of community and civic organizations, and he has received many awards from education organizations, as well as local and statewide groups.

Texas Rep. Anna Mowery will discuss "Beginnings and Endings" during Ceremony II with candidates from the College of Education and Human Ecology, the College of Health Sciences and the School of Library and Information Studies. Mowery represents District 97 in Fort Worth. She was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1988, and she currently serves on the appropriations committee and the land and resource management committee. Mowery earned her bachelor's degree in drama/speech and political science from Baylor University and her master's degree in teaching (history and speech) from Central State University in Edmond, Okla.

Mowery previously served as president of and political consultant for Trinity Associates; as a petroleum landman; and as Tarrant County Republican chairman (1975-77). She is involved in several community organizations, including the Rape Crisis Coalition, the Women's Policy Forum, the Fort Worth Republican Women's Club and the Greater Fort Worth Literacy Council. A member of the Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Mowery has received a number of honors and awards from organizations such as the Texas and New Mexico Hospice organizations, Young Conservatives of Texas and the Fort Worth Press Club.

The number of degrees earned during the summer 2000 semester includes 217 undergraduate and 268 graduate degrees, according to Dr. Jim Stiles (registrar). Approximately 380 students are expected to participate in their graduation ceremonies. A reception for graduates, their families and guests who attend ceremonies I and II will be held in Hubbard Hall between the two events. Dr. Ann Stuart (chancellor's office) will preside at both ceremonies, which include an academic procession, certification of degrees and a commencement address.

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GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Several TWU faculty members have received grants in recent weeks, according to Dr. Sondra Ferstl (research and grants). Those persons and their grant awards are listed below:

- Houston faculty members Dr. **Ann Walker** (Physical Therapy) and Dr. **Diana Garza** (health care administration) -- \$408,856 from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for their project, "Interdisciplinary Health Education Using Distance Learning Technology in Rural Texas," through Aug. 31, 2001. The grant will enable faculty members from five academic disciplines to provide instruction for health care professionals or for individuals who are interested in a health career from the LaGrange, Texas, area, in cooperation with Fayette Memorial Hospital (see the July 17, 2000, issue of *TWU Update* for specifics).
- Dr. **Lynda Uphouse** (biology) -- \$163,987 from the National Institutes of Health for her project, "Reduced Lordosis Behavior after Intracerebral 8-OH-DPAT," through June 30, 2001. Uphouse explained, "The proposed studies are designed to provide information about the mechanisms and significance of interactions among serotonin (5-HT) receptors in the control of female rat lordosis behavior. The specific aims of the present application are to identify mechanisms responsible for this interaction. Studies also are designed to test the hypothesis that 5-HT's dual function within the VMN (ventromedial nucleus of the hypothalamus) enables the organism to modulate its behavior repertoire in a manner conducive to both species and individual survival."
- Dr. **Leslie Sinclair-Worley** (biology) -- \$42,628 from the National Institutes of Health for her project, "Estrogen Modulation of 5-HT Receptor Subtypes," through July 21, 2001. This project provides funds for a post-doctoral fellowship.
- Dr. **Kelley Moseley** (health care administration, Houston) -- \$40,601 for his program, "Health Administration Traineeship and Special Project," through June 30, 2003. Moseley said, "This project is designed to: 1) provide opportunities for individuals from underserved communities to pursue a career in health administration; 2) to enhance opportunities for graduates to be employed in public or nonprofit health organizations; and 3) to provide continuing education for individuals who currently are practicing in public or nonprofit settings."

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. The weekly deadline to receive information is 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.

Reminder: The Quick TASP test will be administered at TWU on Thurs., Aug. 24, at 8 a.m., CFO 202. Interested students can register to pay at the door (\$29) by calling 8-1-3950, the office of academic support programs at TWU.

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NEWSBRIEFS, *continued*

TWU Update is posted biweekly online during the summer months; the deadline to submit items is every other Tuesday at 5 p.m. for the following week. Questions? Call Ann Hatch at 8-1-3456.

Reminder: Purchasing deadlines are closing -- Staff members in the controller's office remind all departments, colleges and schools that several important purchasing and accounts payable deadlines will occur within the next few weeks. A list of those deadlines is provided below; anyone who has questions should call 8-1-3525.

Purchasing

- \$0 to \$2,000 -- Orders for \$2,000 or less must have an approved requisition in RHEA and related documents submitted to purchasing by Aug. 4, 2000.

Accounts Payable

- For expensed items (those coded as "81" in M&O) that will be paid with FY 2000 funds, invoices must be dated no later than Aug. 31, 2000, and they must be in the accounts payable office by Fri., Aug. 8, 2000. In addition, items must be received both physically and on-line by Aug. 31, 2000. (Note: Capital items, or those coded as "83," may be received after Aug. 31.)
- FY 2000 open purchase orders coded as "81" in M&O or "82" in travel that are related to a fund 10, 12 or 14 account will be closed if an invoice and/or goods are not received by Sept. 8.

- Purchasing card charges prior to Aug. 15, 2000, will be paid from FY 2000 funds; card charges after Aug. 15 will be paid with FY 2001 funds.
- All travel documents related to FY 2000 purchase orders must be in the accounts payable office by Fri., Sept. 8, 2000, for payment.

The Graduate School will offer a "Virtual Graduate Assistant Orientation" online from Aug. 15 through Sept. 30, 2000. This program, which can be accessed through the Blackboard online training program, is primarily for all new graduate teaching and research assistants, but returning assistants also may review this information if they wish. Departments that are hiring new assistants are asked to forward those students' names and addresses to Adele Petty (Graduate School) by calling her at 8-1-3402 or by sending e-mail to her at Apetty@twu.edu.

Reminder: Please note -- As work progresses on the construction of an external fire escape on the Classroom Faculty Office Building, a safety fence has been erected on the west side of the building near Redbud Lane. The fence extends south, beyond Old Main. Persons who have classes and business in Old Main should use the south and east entrances; access to CFO is open on the building's east side, facing Bell Avenue.

Reminder: TWU's Alamo Travel representative, Shirley Dane, will be out of the office from Aug. 19 to Sept. 4 for vacation. Any department, office or school representative who needs to make travel arrangements should do so before Aug. 19 -- as soon as possible; call 8-1-3496.

Reminder: All benefits-eligible staff and faculty are advised that annual group insurance and TexFlex program information has been sent through campus mail by the department of human resources. Faculty and staff are asked to review their benefits during the annual summer enrollment period for group insurance and TexFlex programs. **The deadline to make changes is Aug. 11, 2000.** Anyone who has questions should call the department of human resources at 8-1-3554, 8-1-3518 or 8-1-3552 in Denton; 8-2-6600 in Dallas; and 8-4-2331 in Houston.

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NEWSBRIEFS, continued

Reminder: The TWU department of university housing wants *you* -- TWU faculty and staff -- to be a part of students' experiences on campus when they arrive for the first time -- especially when they check into the residence halls. With that goal in mind, housing staff members are asking faculty and staff to volunteer a few hours of their time in August to help students and family members make the move to

campus life. Participating faculty, staff and administrators will be available in the residence halls between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Wed., Aug. 23, to help new students and their parents move in belongings; to greet them as they check in ; and to serve refreshments. Other volunteers are needed that evening from 7 to 9 p.m. during a room decorating program to walk the floors, greet students and hand out supplies for the decoration project. All volunteers will receive a special T-shirt. Interested persons should fill out the housing volunteer form for the "Welcome to Campus" program and return it by July 10; volunteers are asked to sign up for a two-hour time slot. For forms or more information, call housing at 8-1-3676.

Reminder: Research abstracts are being accepted now for the fourth annual Houston International Community Health Summit, scheduled on Sept. 21 and 22, at the Crowne Plaza Houston Medical Center. This year, TWU is an HICHS sponsor, according to Dr. Kathryn Peek (Institute for Women's Health), and several faculty members will speak. The 2000 summit will focus on the topics of cultural competence and spirituality; substance abuse and mental health; community health and outcomes; and special issues facing vulnerable populations. A limited number of sites is available to display relevant research posters that have been presented at recent professional meetings. To request poster space, fax the following information to Margaret Equopi Bate at (281) 564-9674*51: a one-page abstract; contact information (your name, title, mailing address, phone, fax and e-mail address); and a one-page biographical sketch or curriculum vita. **This information must be received by July 31, 2000.** For more information, contact Peek by phone at 8-1-2482 or by e-mail at kpeek@twu.edu.

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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.).

Sgt. **Ken Adams** (public safety) will be the first TWU officer who will represent the university at the International Law Enforcement Games in Cocoa Beach, Fla., Aug. 3-13, 2000. Adams, who will compete in shot put, discus and benchpress, said, "I will go with two other law enforcement officers from Denton to the games, which will be the first time a TWU office will represent the school at a meet this large." He leaves with Jim Wells of the Denton Police Department and Joe Kinslow, a deputy constable for District 4, on Aug. 4. Good luck!

Dr. **Reginald Rezac** (Management) has written the 2000 edition of his two texts, titled *Tax Update for the Corporate Accountant* and *Tax Elections for Small and Closely-Held Businesses*. Both texts will be published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and are used by AICPA as part of its national continuing education offerings. Classes using Rezac's 1999 texts were offered by AICPA in more than 20 states; the courses are designed for CPAs who want to update their tax knowledge.

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TWU PEOPLE, *continued*

Sherri Williams (career services) has been nominated as the 2000-2001 "Emerging Leader" by the president of the Texas Career Development Association. Williams will receive a plaque in honor of her accomplishments during the fall conference of TCDA, which will be held in Houston. Williams has been a member of TCDA for three years and is serving as chair of membership for the organization for the second consecutive year.

Congratulations to **Cathy Orr Candler** (Occupational Therapy, Dallas), who was married in June.

Sympathy is offered to family members of Dr. **Wallace Woolsey**, who died on July 29, 2000, at age 94. Woolsey, who volunteered his time in the library during recent years, served as previous chair of the department of foreign languages at TWU. Services are scheduled in Denton at Roselawn on Tues., Aug. 1.

An artistic work titled *Piecing Together Our Histories: A Korean Adoptees Quilt*, created by **Susan Sponsler** (public information) now is included in the Korean American Museum's permanent display in Los Angeles. Sponsler was asked to create an art piece that would reflect the experience of Korean adoptees for the exhibit "SNAPSHOT: A Portrait of Korean Adoptees." She circulated an e-mail request and asked Korean adoptees to send their photos and text, expressing their feelings about adoption. Seventeen adoptees -- including Sponsler -- are pictured on the quilt, which was commissioned by the Association of Korean Adoptees-Southern California.

Carolyn Ray (dental hygiene) presented a poster titled "Success Rates of Candidates Who Initially Failed a Regional Board Examination," which was co-authored by **Chris French-Beatty** (dental hygiene) during the annual session of the American Dental Hygienists' Association, held in Washington, D.C., in June. Senior dental hygiene majors **Tamara Bishop** and **Christy Brannock** collaborated on and presented two posters, "Do We Practice What We Were Taught" and "Do We Practice What We Teach," at the same conference.

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THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AT TWU: JULY 31-AUGUST 13, 2000

July 31-Aug. 3

- 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.

Aug. 4-5

- New student orientation.

Fri., Aug. 4

- 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. Purchasing deadline: purchase orders for \$2,000 or less must have an approved requisition in RHEA and related documents submitted to purchasing.

Sat., Aug. 5

- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wellness Center open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sun., Aug. 6

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

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CALENDAR, continued

Aug. 7-9

- 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.

Wed., Aug. 9

- Last day of classes for summer II and III.

Thurs., Aug. 10

- Final exams.

Aug. 10-11

- 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.

Fri., Aug. 11

- Deadline for benefits-eligible faculty and staff to make changes in their plans for 2000-2001; see human resources for details.

Sat., Aug. 12

- Commencement, Pioneer Hall: Ceremony I, 10 a.m.; Ceremony II, 2 p.m.
- Library open 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wellness Center open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sun., Aug. 13

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

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