Toward a Stronger Future

Chancellor Ann Stuart has been meeting with faculty, students, alumni and staff to explain the university’s strategic planning process, which will produce a blueprint for TWU’s future for the next five years. Here she meets with leaders of student organizations. From left: Reynalda Sanchez, Russell Marriott, Mamawah Kandeh, Pamela Islam, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Richard Nicholas, Center for Student Development Director Heather Speed, Kathalyn Nute, Tiffany Larsen, Saumya Babu and Lindsey Durham.

Gertrude Gibson Guest House Opens

Chancellor Ann Stuart, right, and Janet Johns Johnson, whose mother was the second owner of the house. 

Gertrude Gibson Guest House opened to guests. Gibson left the historically significant home to her beloved alma mater, TWU, upon her death in 2004. The home was the first residence designed by noted Texas architect O’Neil Ford and is a registered Denton Historic Landmark.

“Gertrude’s home is a wonderful gift to TWU and I was pleased to designate it a university guest house,” said Chancellor and President Dr. Ann Stuart. “The warmth and charm of the home will welcome guests and provide a special setting for events for years to come.”

A campaign launched by Institutional Development raised funds for repairs, a security system and more, as well as an endowment for ongoing maintenance. Meticulous care went into restoring the home and readying it for its debut.

The centerpiece of the house is the great room, featuring a vaulted ceiling, paneled walls, unusual pendant light fixture and brick floor. A large photo of Gertrude hangs above the fireplace.

The house features furniture, artwork and decorative objects not only from Gertrude’s estate, but also that of former student Josephine Henry Cox, TWU class of 1940.

Gertrude Gibson’s well-known hospitality continues as guests are again welcomed into the home of the late Texas Woman’s University good-will ambassador.

The Gertrude Gibson Guest House opened to visitors during Homecoming and will continue to be used for special events and distinguished guests. Gibson left the historically significant home to her beloved TWU upon her death in 2004. The home was the first residence designed by noted Texas architect O’Neil Ford and is a registered Denton Historic Landmark.

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Gertrude Gibson, continued on page 5

For more information about the strategic plan, go to www.twu.edu
Three graduates of Texas Woman’s University were honored as Distinguished Alumni during Homecoming. Margaret Beard is a community health activist and retired TWU nursing faculty member. Connie Sitterly is an author, motivational trainer and consultant. Betty Ferrell is a research scientist and expert on pain management and the elderly. Show are, from left: Chancellor Ann Stuart, Dr. Sitterly, Dr. Beard and Barbara Taylor, president of the TWU Former Students Association.

Dr. Wilkes Berry

The exceptional service Dr. Wilkes Berry has provided to Texas Woman’s University was recognized during Honors Convocation when he received the Award for Meritorious Service, an honor bestowed only nine times in the past 31 years. “Dr. Wilkes Berry has graced TWU with his presence for 24 years, and the university is a better place because of him,” TWU Chancellor and President Dr. Ann Stuart said.

Dr. Berry has served as professor of English, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, provost of the General Divisions, associate vice president for academic and cultural affairs, associate provost and interim provost. He has been an associate vice president to seven academic vice presidents, and has provided steady leadership in accreditation, program review, core curriculum and strategic planning. Dr. Berry, who will retire in August, said the people with whom he’s worked closely are his favorite memory of TWU. He recalled interviewing for a position at TWU with then-President Mary Evelyn Blagg-Huey. “I asked her what she considered to be the greatest asset of TWU,” he said. “Without much hesitation at all, she said ‘The people.’ I’ve come to agree with that.”

Dr. Berry said the fact that he has known all the recipients of TWU’s Meritorious Service Award made the award even more special. “It’s rather humbling to be in that company,” he said.

The award recognizes the exceptional service and/or the community. TWU Award of Excellence — Jerry Don Sprayberry, senior general services clerk for facilities management and construction. The award is the highest recognition given to a staff member who exhibits loyalty, dedication, initiative and reliability.

Outstanding Achievement Award — Jason Brison, manager of information systems applications support for information services, and Brenda Klingen, coordinator for university scheduling. The award recognizes the dedication of TWU staff members.

Outstanding Senior — med major from Sherman. Basham, a chemistry/pre-med major from Denton, and Rebecca Basham, a sociology major from Denton. Outstanding Doctoral Student Award — Nadine Barrett, a sociology major from Denton. Outstanding Senior Award — Sarah Godding, a nursing major from Houston, and Rebecca Basham, a chemistry/pre-med major from Sherman. Outstanding Master’s Student Award — Joy Christiansen, a photogra- phy major from Denton. Outstanding Student Awards These awards recognize academic excellence, service and extracurricular activities.

Three women with close ties to Texas Woman’s University have been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to serve on the TWU Board of Regents. Virginia Chandler Dykes of Dallas, Dr. Lou Halsell Rodenberger of Baird and Sharon Venable of Dallas will serve on the TWU governing board until Feb. 1, 2011.

Mrs. Dykes completed the occupational therapy program at TWU in 1952. She was director of the Occupational Therapy and Recreational Therapy Department at Baylor University Medical Center for 25 years. “TWU is a marvelous school, and I am extremely honored to have the opportunity to assist in spreading the knowledge that TWU is a major supplier of health care professionals,” Mrs. Dykes said.

Dr. Rodenberger, professor emeritus of English at McMurry University in Abilene, is a writer, lecturer, book reviewer and writing consultant. She earned her bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1947 from TWU. She was named a TWU Distinguished Alumna in 1987. “I’m an alum, I’ve been active as an alum, and I’m delighted to be serving in this capacity,” Dr. Rodenberger said.

Ms. Venable is vice president of international and technical business development for the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, where she promotes international business development and foreign direct investment and markets the DFW region’s technology industry. “TWU is an important institution with an exciting future, and I look forward to being part of it,” Ms. Venable said.

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The university broke ground in February for the new 10-story, 202,000 square-foot Houston Center located at the southern gateway to the Texas Medical Center. Joining members of the TWU Board of Regents and Chancellor Ann Stuart was Harris County Commissioner and TWU alumna Sylvia García, fourth from the left. The new campus opens in 2006.

Gifts Support New Houston Center

As Texas Woman’s University’s new Houston Center campus rises, financial support also continues to grow for educating the next generation of highly trained healthcare professionals in Texas.

“TWU serves the state of Texas with distinction in providing an educated workforce of health care professionals,” Chancellor and President Dr. Ann Stuart said. “The support we receive from corporations and foundations enables us to continue to take the lead in finding solutions to the ever-changing needs of the allied health fields.”

A $2 million gift from the Houston Endowment Inc. will support a new program for educating undergraduate nurses and fund technology and equipment at the new campus.

TWU’s relationship with Houston Endowment Inc. dates back more than five decades. The philanthropic organization’s previous gifts to TWU’s Houston campus have funded educational facilities, laboratories and facility development.

A $200,000 gift from the Cullen Foundation of Houston will go toward construction of the urban campus.

“My grandparents, H.K. and Lillie Cullen, donated funds in 1948 to build and equip a school for nurses at the old downtown location of Memorial Hospital,” said Roy H. Cullen, president of the Cullen Foundation. “Although there have been dramatic changes in the practice of health care since then, one thing that hasn’t changed is the need for good nurses and the facilities for their training.”

Previous gifts to the Houston Center building campaign include $3 million from the Stark Foundation, $2 million from the Houston Endowment and $250,000 from the Fondren Foundation.

Founders’ Day Awards

The late Troy and Sarah LaGrone and the Benjamin Lyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution were honored as recipients of the 2005 Founders’ Award for their support of Texas Woman’s University. From left: James Strawner and Joanna LaGrone Headrick, who accepted on behalf of their parents, Chancellor Ann Stuart and, representing the Benjamin Lyon Chapter, Ellen Samek, Judy Weir, TWU President Emerita Dr. Mary Evelyn Blagg-Huey and Diana White.

Yes! I wish to increase opportunity and excellence at TWU.

Here is my gift:

TEXAS WOMAN’S UNIVERSITY...where Excellence Rules!

EXCELLENCE FUND for TWU’s greatest needs and opportunities

THE HOUSTON CENTER BUILDING FUND

I wish to purchase ______ chair(s) at $100 per chair.

(You will be contacted at a later date to indicate how you wish the chair plaque to read.)

Chair(s) X $100 =

A contribution in the amount of $1,000 or more will provide you a space on the donor wall in the main lobby of the new building.

Donor Wall Space in the amount of $________

Please complete the following:

NAME (As you want it to appear in print) __________________________ Class __________

STREET ADDRESS _____________________________________________

CITY ______________________ STATE ______ ZIPCODE ____________

PHONE ___________________ EMAIL __________________________

TOTAL Contribution/Pledge $____ Enclosed: $____ Balance due: $____

Method of payment: ______ Check (Made payable to Texas Woman’s University)

TWU Payroll Deduction Credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card no.: _____________________ Exp. _______________________

NAME (As it appears on credit card) ____________________________

SIGNATURE ___________________ SETTLE PR ____________________

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P.O. BOX 425618 • DENTON, TX 76204 • 940-898-3863 • FAX 940-898-3877
Alumna Brings One-of-a-Kind Designs to TWU

TwU alumna Ruth Funk, second from left, brought her one-of-a-kind jackets to a Homecoming fashion show. Shown with Ms. Funk and Chancellor Ann Stuart are models wearing two of the designs from the show. Other jackets are shown at right.

The tools of Ruth Funk’s trade may range from note cards to sliced walnut shells to dried mushrooms. Inspiration may come from a piece of fabric or even an event. The result is “wearable art.”

The jackets Funk creates have garnered acclaim in fashion shows and museum exhibitions throughout the United States. The Texas Woman’s University alumna brought more than 35 of her one-of-a-kind creations to the Denton campus for a fashion show during Homecoming.

Funk, who earned her bachelor of science degree in interior design and her master of arts in design in 1945 and 1952, respectively, sewed clothing for her dolls as a child, but sewed only occasionally until moving to Melbourne, Fla., in 1985.

She began making jackets, using cotton material and a square-cut pattern. She also began decorating the jackets, using items not usually found on articles of clothing.

“I’m always using unorthodox things on these jackets,” she said, adding that she doesn’t necessarily work with a design in mind.

“I have a vague idea when I start, but it evolves as I make it.”

Funk would wear the jackets to museums and parties, where friends would encourage her to have a fashion show. Her first museum show was in 2000 in Maitland, Fla.

For Art’s Sake

Click on “University Art Collection” at www.twu.edu and you can take a virtual tour of many of the more than 200 pieces in the collection.

Chancellor Ann Stuart revived interest in the collection in 2001 with plans to support through annual acquisitions the works of TWU students, faculty, alumni and staff. The result is a rich display of artwork that can be toured online or when visiting the TWU campus. Since going live in January, more than 450 people have visited the site.

Dykes Leadership Award

Dallas business and civic leaders Gretchen Minyard Williams and J.L. “Sonny” Williams are the recipients of the 2005 Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award. The award is presented annually by TWU and the School of Occupational Therapy to a Dallas citizen who represents the caring, commitment and leadership Mrs. Dykes exemplifies. Shown are, from left: Ray Poliafko, husband of TWU Chancellor Ann Stuart, Chancellor Stuart, Roland Dykes, Virginia Chandler Dykes, Gretchen Williams, J.L. Williams and Leon Washington. Mr. Washington, a doctoral student at TWU majoring in occupational therapy, received the 2005 Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award Scholarship.

First Parliament, Then Congress

Jasmine Blackmeir

Growing up in Denton, Jasmine Blackmeir knew she wanted to be involved in creating change at a level beyond her hometown — and even beyond Texas.

She started down the path of public service as an intern in Britain’s Parliament, serving as a student at Texas Woman’s University, and even beyond Texas.

Blackmeir knew she wanted to make a difference at a level beyond her hometown — living change at a level. Blackmeir said both internships, though different, gave her experience and mentoring provided by the government department has helped as she pursues her law degree.

“I am so grateful to have been a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Blackmeir said. “They really go out of their way to help students.”

by Karen Treat

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A Texas Woman’s University family sciences team has brought international recognition to the university with a winning entry in a contest that recognizes outstanding online courses. The team of assistant professor Mary Bold, associate professor Karen Petty, professor Lillian Chenoweth and graduate student Sadguna Anasuri was one of five winners of the Blackboard Bionic Course Contest. The contest drew a total of 69 entries from educators in the international, K-12 and U.S. higher education communities. The entries submitted represented a diverse range of course titles. Each of the five winning teams received $5,000.

The TWU team chose the family sexuality course for its entry. Although the course has been taught for nearly two decades at TWU, 2004 marked the first year it was taught completely online, Bold said.

The contest featured a lengthy set of guidelines, including requiring participants to explain the choices they’d made in implementing the online course. The judges also considered the number of different supports built into the course. “Because we teach a graduate program, we do expect our students to be engaged learners,” Bold said. “Still, we put a lot of attention into the online course, blending many different styles of interaction.”

The TWU Team Wins Award

Golf Cart Parade

A photo of the Golf Cart Parade at TWU is shown. The parade drew 25 entries from student organizations and university departments. Among the winners was Information Technology Services, top right, as the most creative entry. Leading the parade along Redbud Lane were members of Alexandria’s Ragtime Band, center. Other entries included the Student Government Association Senate and the Residence Hall Association.

The theme for the 2005 TWU Golf Cart Parade is “Success, Think TWU.” The parade is a tradition at TWU and draws a large crowd.

Future, cont. from page 1

expresses what Chancellor Stuart believes is a key goal of the strategic plan: to achieve success and be perceived by others as successful.

“This is a great opportunity for TWU,” she said. “It is an opportunity for us to envision a TWU that is collaborative, dynamic, proactive, energetic and relevant. It is an opportunity to think big, think bold and think how to be and do our best.”

Gibson, cont. from page 1

The great room. For information, go to www.twu.edu

Gertrude’s personal touch also is evident in the wildflower tile that she had installed in the kitchen and one bathroom after she bought the house.

The relaxed feel of the home extends to the sunroom, which opens to a patio where guests may sit beneath an arbor covered in wisteria and look out over the lawn.

TWU’s connection to the property is as old as the house itself. The home was built in 1929 for Mary Marshall, chair of the art department. She sold the house to Ruth Martin Crary, assistant dean of women and director of student life, in 1964. Gertrude purchased the house from her in 1985.

Today guests will once again feel at home there – Gertrude would be pleased.
... hosted a breakfast at the Capitol Building in Austin for members of the Texas Legislature, including State. Rep. and former Speaker of the House James E. “Pete” Laney.

... attended the College of Nursing 50th anniversary celebration in Dallas with, from left: Dr. Marcia Herrn, dean of the College of Nursing; Dr. Shirley Chater, former president of TWU; and Dr. Carolyn Gunning, former dean of the College of Nursing.

... signed an agreement between TWU and Dallas County Community College endorsing the Rising Star Scholarship Program. Seated next to Chancellor Stuart is Dr. Jesus Carreon, DCCCD chancellor. Standing are, from left, Rising Star students Aldo Gurrusquieta, Trevor K. Osborne and Olubunmi Odewole.

... participated in the President's Round Table discussion at the 2005 Higher Education Symposium sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and Southern Methodist University. Shown are, from left: Dennis F. Michaelis, president of McClennan Community College; Chancellor Stuart; Gerald Turner, president of SMU; and Fred Azua Jr., regional director of the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs.

... attended the Houston Center Service Awards ceremony. Shown with Chancellor Stuart are faculty and staff who were recognized for their service to TWU.

... exchanged gifts with a delegation of students and two professors from Mukogawa University in Japan. Shown with the students are, from left: TWU Professor of English Dr. Hugh Burns, Chancellor Stuart, Leslie Thomas, TWU’s coordinator of the Living America Program 2005, Professor Mikio Mori and Professor Izumi Yamamoto.

... fulfilled community service hours for the Denton Benefit League by volunteering at the annual Denton Christian Pre-School plant sale. Shown are, from left: Ray Jordan, Virgil Strange, Chancellor Stuart, Bob Sherman and Betty Lynn Jordan.

DR. ANN STUART...

TWU’s “Chancellor On the Move”

... viewed some of the winning entries in the seventh annual Edible Car contest, sponsored by the TWU Science and Mathematics Center for Women. Teams of TWU, middle and high school students designed cars that were built of food items edible to humans and were able to roll down an incline without falling apart. The winners received cash prizes totaling $600.

... attended a reception honoring former TWU Regent Della Reyes of Dallas as the Nuestra Gente’s community volunteer of the year. Shown with Chancellor Stuart are, from left: TWU Distinguished Alumna Laura Estrada, Patricia Asp, Della Reyes and Cynthia Gonzalez.

... welcomed 140 fifth and sixth graders to the TWU campus for “College for a Day.” The students, from Newton Rayzor Elementary School in Denton and the Daniel “Chappie” James Learning Center in Dallas, visited kinesiology and dance labs, participated in a chemistry magic show presented by TWU students and were treated to lunch by the TWU Foundation.

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