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Women administrators hope to inspire other

Education dean wants to place more women in leadership roles

By Renee Blackmon
Special to The Battalion

Jane Stallings holds an uncommon position at Texas A&M University for a woman.

As dean of the College of Education, Stallings is the only female dean at the University.

Stallings came to Texas A&M in 1990 after serving as a department head at the University of Houston. With her came a love of teaching and a desire to place more women in leadership roles.

"College and department committees must now include women, ethnic minorities and representation from more than one department," she said. "Diversity is essential to the development of professional educators serving the citizens of Texas."

Stallings credited the increase in the number of women and minorities hired at Texas A&M to the system for creating equity in committees. She said candidates who promise diverse perspectives on education are also pursued by the University.

"In examining the small amount of female tenured track faculty I have concluded there has been no conspiracy to keep minorities and women from being hired or placed in leadership positions, but rather a tendency for selection committee members to choose individuals sim-

Female engineers increasing, adviser says

By Renee Blackmon
Special to The Battalion

Karan Watson is a pleasant surprise to most of the female students in the College of Engineering. Watson, assistant dean of the college, advises many engineering students, including the 463 women in the college.

Watson came to Texas A&M in 1983. Throughout her career, Watson has seen rapid growth of the number of women who are receiving engineering degrees.

"In 1972 the graduation rate of women with a bachelor's degree was about 1 percent to 2 percent nationwide," she said. "Since then it has been increasing rapidly and now is about 18 percent."

Watson said the enrollment of freshmen women in engineering at Texas A&M is 22 percent, which is above the national average.

Watson credits the success of increased enrollment to the quality of the programs that are offered at A&M.

The University has to manage the enrollment because the amount of students can exceed resources, she said.

"Some universities are trying to increase their en-

rollment of engineering students," Watson said. "Texas A&M, we have to keep some of them out."

One of the areas Watson finds exciting about engineering is teaching and being able to help others with their research programs.

"Teaching is a fun way to take new information, especially innovative techniques, and present it to students so they can be excited about what they are learning," she said. "With so few women in the college of Engineering, this allows me to be a role model even if I don't intend to be."

Watson said women engineers tend to internalize failures which can make them feel isolated.

"Women don't get the opportunity to network, talk about engineering or feel that they are understood when they do," she said. "I have been able to provide them with links like graduate students who share the challenges."

Watson said the number of women in leadership positions is growing at A&M and nationwide.

"Seven or eight years ago there were virtually no women in high leadership positions, but today there are more," she said. "We are not in proportion to what we want to be, but it is changing."

ilar to themselves," she said. "Given that university leadership is predominantly Anglo and male, it is not surprising that committee composition reflected this leadership."

Stallings said appointing women and minorities to leadership positions is important to changing the social climate among female leaders at the University. "Seeking diversity among faculty and students is more than a slogan now," she said. "It has become an action item with proper recognition for results."

Stallings said many women in leadership positions feel isolated.

Most faculty members hold the

deanship in some mixture of awe and fear which adds to the distance of relationships, Stallings said.

"There are many intervening forces which contribute to the difficulty in developing sustaining friendships from the dean's office," she said. "It may be more difficult for women because of an unstated sexual social barrier which doesn't allow even professional relationships between men and women peers to go unnoticed."

Stallings said good leaders can visualize where they are going and are good listeners.

"My vision is being the crest of

the wave - not following behind it," she said. "I must listen to faculty, staff and students in their need."

One of Stallings' accomplishments at A&M has been her determination to build personal relationships with all faculty members.

"I have come to understand channels which flow between the dean's office, department heads, faculty are subject to twists, and misinterpretation," she said. "Clearly, more direct communication is needed between the dean and myself to combat rumors and establish trust."

Autopsy

Continued from Page 1

The baby was believed to have been born around 2 a.m. in the girl's room.

The woman denied having the baby when she was brought into the A.P. Beutel Health Center and continued to claim she was sick, Wiatt said.

Doctors at the health center and

later St. Joseph's Hospital confirmed the woman had just given birth.

UPD found the baby at approximately 4 a.m. in a garbage chute on the second floor, one floor below where the woman's room was located, along with bloody towels from the room.

Dr. Wade Birch, director of Student Counseling Services, said he does not know the specifics of the case, but said the woman may have acted out of confusion.

"Being in a situation like that can test where your support system is," he said. "Someone may be asking who their friends are, what it will do to their plans and what the young woman's relationship to the man was."

"I'm sure all during this period, it's got to have generated all these questions," he said.

Wiatt said UPD is also investigating the possibility that the woman was suffering from shock after the birth.

Birch said such a situation might have caused the woman to behave irrationally.

"In a traumatic situation, beings can do a number of things that under normal situations wouldn't do."

Charney Putney, assistant director of Residence Life, said the counseling center has been notified, students in Mosher Hall who are having a hard time dealing with events should go to them for help.

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