Greetings! I am James R. Pierce, Dean of Tarleton’s College of Science and Technology. Former dean, Reuben Walter, has returned to teaching and hopes to continue his legacy of great leadership.

As I welcome you to the first edition of our newsletter, I would like to share some of my observations as a new Tarleton Texan. Tarleton, and particularly the College of Science and Technology, has a strong sense of tradition built on solid educational programs. Our faculty have worked to build the university’s current quality programs and are striving to develop new ones.

One example of our growth is our new nursing building, with groundbreaking scheduled for the fall of 2008. More information can be found about that inside the pages of this newsletter. This year we achieved Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) in Engineering Physics and have begun to seek ABET accreditation for Environmental Engineering.

One of the best indicators of our success is the success of our students. Two examples are Arun Mahendra and Amanda Barmore. Arun attended the Sigma Xi 2007 Annual Meeting and Student Research Conference. His research poster earned the elite “Superior” status and focused on his work studying the actions of robots under the direction of Dr. Mercea Agapie. Amanda recently received international recognition for her work as a supplemental instructor (SI). In December 2007, the International Center for Supplemental Instruction recognized Barmore as an outstanding SI leader. She has been a supplemental instructor in general biology at Tarleton for eight semesters.

Every week seems to bring a new event in which faculty and staff are working with surrounding communities to enrich educational experiences. Examples of these are the Science Olympiad, sponsoring UIL practice meets and producing planetarium shows for school groups. As we continue to offer these opportunities, we will keep you informed through this and future issues of the COST newsletter.
Engineering Technology

The Department of Engineering Technology recently began offering its first master’s degree. A Master of Science degree in Manufacturing Quality and Leadership was made available this spring.

The degree is designed to provide individuals with baccalaureate degrees in technology or business-related fields with an in-depth study of the organizational, technical, and strategic tools commonly used in manufacturing to improve productivity.

This degree provides employees who hold degrees in technical and non-technical areas to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to be more successful in all areas of manufacturing. The emphasis on leadership provides critical skills for advancing into manufacturing leadership.

Engineering Technology was included in a grant awarded to Tarleton by the National Science Foundation to recruit Hispanic students to Engineering, Math and Science careers. Programs to Increase College Opportunities and Successes is a scholarship and mentorship program intended to break down common barriers to higher education for the Hispanic community. For more information, visit www.tarleton.edu/~picos.

Mathematics, Physics and Engineering

Tarleton students Nicole Conner (Environmental Engineering) and Chris Wilde (Hydrology) won first and second place in the Water Environment Association of Texas annual design competition. The students were under the guidance of Beth Jones, who joined the faculty last year after serving as director of wastewater in New Iberia, La.

Dr. Xixi Wang joined Tarleton’s engineering faculty after serving as a research scientist at the University of North Dakota. Dr. Wang has a Ph.D. in agricultural engineering from Iowa State University and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Tsinghua University in Beijing.

This is the first year Tarleton will graduate students in Environmental Engineering. Initiated in 2005, the Environmental Engineering program extends Tarleton’s Hydrology program to provide Texas with trained engineering graduates capable of solving a wide range of environmental problems. Tarleton has applied for program accreditation from the ABET. The Engineering Physics program received its ABET accreditation in 2006.

Biological Sciences

Drs. Rathburn and Brady along with graduate students Jessica Castaneda and Tamisha Michalewicz and undergraduate student Rece Laney, presented a paper titled, “Analysis of dehydrin genes from Fescue” at the American Chemical Society in New Orleans La. April 5-7.

Dr. Nelson, along with undergraduate students Elizabeth Watson and Mark Nelson and Dr. Goetze presented a paper at the Texas Society of Mammalogists meeting this spring. The title of the paper is “Comparison of Ecological Preferences for the Texas Kangaroo Rat.”

Biology majors Juannita Britton, Shari Flanagan and Hannah Elkins were recently awarded $1,000 scholarships from the Texas Collaborative for Excellence in Teacher Preparation.

Dr. Max Sanderford and members of Tarleton’s Beta Beta Beta (national biology honor society) attended the regional convention at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station on Lake Texoma, April 4-6.

Spotlight Department

Nursing

While the United States faces a severe nursing shortage, the number of nursing students at Tarleton continues to grow. Nursing enrollment numbers were higher than any other major in fall 2006 and fall 2007 enrollment reached 467, a 191-percent increase since 2002.

Enrollment numbers and need have grown so much, Tarleton plans to break ground on a new nursing building by fall 2008. Cumulus changes have increased the need for more computers and other technological equipment. The $24.3-million facility will answer that need, as well as the need for more space.

The 75,000-square foot, three-story structure will include classrooms, multimedia rooms, project rooms and a health center. It will also house a state-of-the-art simulation-learning center using realistic nursing equipment to prepare students for a real health care environment.

The current nursing building was constructed in 1953 and served as the school infirmary throughout the ‘50s and ‘60s and as a health center throughout the mid-‘70s before housing the nursing program.

Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) students received first place in the Undergraduate Texas A&M University Pathways to the Doctorate Student Research Symposium held on campus in November. Students and faculty included: Issac De La Cerda, Amanda Franklin, Jeanette Anderson, Davis Nguyen, Veronica Duque, Mary Nguyen, Sam Rawal, Dr. Sara Taylor, Sally Lewis and Sally Hoger.

CLS opened a state-of-the-art Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory and introduced a Graduate Certificate in Molecular Diagnostics

Tarleton’s Molecular Diagnostic Certificate Program was taught by Dr. Sara Taylor, assistant professor of hematology and hemostasis and Dr. Heping Hahn, adjunct professor who also instructed molecular diagnostics techniques I and II.

Glenda Hood, histotechnology program director recently accepted a prestigious invitation from the American Society of Clinical Pathology and participated in an African Histotechnology Training Mission. She accompanied a team of educators and pathologists to Tanzinea and other African countries.

Sally Lewis participated in Virginia Commonwealth University’s (VCU) Molecular Diagnostics Practicum this fall, and worked for two weeks in VCU’s innovative molecular laboratory.

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