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SPOTLIGHT



UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE AT SALT LAKE

Number 14

For Employees of the College

July 1, 1991

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH NEARLY COMPLETE

Five recommended candidates and their wives were interviewed Tuesday, June 30th, by members of the Utah State Board of Regents. An announcement is expected shortly.

While names of the candidates have not been released, it is known that three in-state, two out-of-state male individuals were highly thought of by the search committee.

The Regents were busy, as they reviewed also candidates for the job of Commissioner of the Utah System of Higher Education. Former commissioner Dr. Terrel H. Bell now serves as United States Secretary of Education. The acting commissioner is Dr. Leon R. McCarrey.

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS FEASIBILITY STUDY UNDER WAY

Facilities director Paul R. Gundersen has just been named chairman of an educational community group making a feasibility study of the Downtown Campus.

The State Board of Regents is concerned as to the desirability or otherwise of pouring money into the 431 South 6th East facility. A former commercial laundry building, constructed more than 80 years ago, the Downtown Campus needs substantial renovation to make an educational facility of the quality desired.

The study is being conducted under extreme time pressures.

Members of the feasibility study committee include chairman Richard Prows and John Klas from the Institutional Council; two members of the faculty, representing both campuses; Brent Goodfellow, Judd Morgan, Verlaine McPhie and Max Lowe from the college staff and administration; students attending the college; and a representative from the Skills Center Advisory Council.

JUDD MORGAN ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Carol Marie Henderson, a native of New York but with recent work ties on the west coast, has been selected as the new Alumni Director for the college, Dean of Students Judd Morgan announced Tuesday.

Ann Erickson, chairperson of the search committee, noted that the position was advertised in-state. Approximately two dozen people responded and, after screening applications, the committee presented a short list of recommended candidates to Judd Morgan for final selection.

The new director has public relations, sales and administrative skills. She has served recently as assistant to the director of the Center for Collaborative Problem Solving, in San Francisco, California.

FOUR STUDENTS WIN MEDALS AT NATIONAL V.I.C.A.

There were four very happy Utah Tech students returning to Salt Lake from their week's activities at the national Skills Olympics contests of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America. The competition was held at Atlanta, Georgia, in mid-June.

Second place silver medallions were won by Larry Miller in Heavy Duty Mechanics; Jeron Mahoney, Bricklaying; Michelle Rook, Commercial Art. Dennis Huston won third place in the Extemporaneous Speaking contest.

Additionally, one of the students from Utah Tech at Provo won first place nationally in Auto Body. He noted that part of his success belonged to UTC/SL, where he had had first year Auto Body. Jeff Finley said "I credit Utah Tech at Salt Lake with good early training." He'd better - Bryan Gardner is his father-in-law.

FINANCIAL AIDS DIRECTOR NAMED

Following weeks of extended meetings, a search committee headed by Gary Cole with representation from students, faculty and Student Services division has sifted credentials of 54 candidates for the position of Financial Aids Director at the college.

Peggy Hewlett, who most recently has served as assistant director of Financial Aids and Scholarships at the University of Utah, has been named by Judd Morgan to this key position in Student Services.

Peggy will assume her new responsibility during the latter part of July or early August.

While she has been with the university since 1974, she has had previous educational experience with the Salt Lake City Public school district.

PARKING REGULATIONS NOW IN EFFECT

Formal parking regulations as published in the "UTC Parking & Regulations" leaflet, went into effect this past Monday. All members of the campus community are expected to abide by them.

For the convenience of those who inadvertently find themselves at variance with the published regulations, the fines for ticketed offenses can be paid on campus at the Cashier window in the Administration Building rather than by making a trip to the local Justice of the Peace. Appeals can likewise be heard on campus.

It is anticipated that by fall quarter 82 parking meters will have been installed for visitor use. Meters will be at the rate of 25¢ per hour; there will be provision for some meters to cover two-hour parking privileges.

UTC's SOLAR HOUSE ON TV

Utah Tech's solar house - which was used by former president Dale S. Cowgill as the president's residence - will be seen on television on KUTV on the "PM Show", July 14th.

It is thought the sequence will be on energy resources in Utah.

Profile:

ALEX STECKER

Look for an expressive face with a ready smile, thicker-than-average glasses, sandy-colored thinning hair and a high-pitched laugh...and you have found Alexander Stecker, head librarian at Utah Technical College.

When you engage him in conversation, you'll likely find yourself in awe of his talents, skills and abilities. It's not that Alex flaunts them or brags of his accomplishments. Rather they sneak up on you unawares. For example, he reads in 14 languages...including Hebrew, Yiddish, German and Dutch.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Alexander Stecker was reared in a home where German was required to be spoken. His father was an accountant in the home office of the J.C. Penney Company; his mother, a professional tailor and designer. Alex soon gained an appreciation for cultural activities as his parents took him to concerts, operas, museums and other attractions.

Just prior to his senior year of high school the family moved to Utah. It was natural that following his graduation from Pleasant Grove High School he should enroll in B.Y.U., where he studied for 2 years.

A 3-year tour of Europe saw this young man doing such things as being a translator for the American Embassy; tour guide in various cities; custodian, farm worker and visiting his "uncle" who had a stained glass factory in Wuppertal-Barmen, Germany.

Back at Brigham Young, Alex decided he must lose some weight. Instead of eating lunch, he took a class in Hebrew. That began his interest in Judaism. Following graduation from the Mormon university he went to Brandeis University (the only non-sectarian Jewish university in the United States). He was the only Christian student in the department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. Additional to

his studies there he worked in the library as an assistant circulation librarian, assistant reference librarian and, later, Semitic librarian to the college. It is intriguing to note that he became a member (and subsequently president) of the select Semitic Librarians Association - the only non-Jew to have membership. He earned an M.A. from Brandeis.

Librarian Stecker was offered a scholarship and named a Fellow of the Jacob Haitt Institute. With that support he studied in the department of Judaic Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. From there he received the Master of Hebrew Literature degree.

With his father dead, Alex felt the need to return to Utah to care for his mother. He completed an M.L.S. at B.Y.U. In due course he wound up at Utah Tech, a college which will have substantial impact upon the people of Utah in the years ahead, he feels.

Alex worries, naturally, about funding for the library. No more so, certainly, than any other librarian with any other organization. He points to the 42.6% increase in price of books during the 1980-81 year; and the even more horrendous 36.1% magazine subscriptions increase. "But no library in the state is getting that sort of financial increase for purchases. The result, of course, is that we will be getting fewer books for the dollars available. That's critical at this institution, where we need to build our total collection so we can more nearly approximate accreditation requirements."

On the positive side, Alex notes that many state organizations are asking for help from the UTC library. "For example, we have the only known collection anywhere in the State of Utah of printed materials required for contractors to take their licensing examinations."

In addition to enjoyment and pride in creating stained glass pieces, Alex also is a craftsman in wood. And upholstering, gardening, and cooking Chinese delicacies (he has attended the Julia Child French cooking school in Boston) are other interests. A couple of books - one in Hebrew, the other in German - and the writing of a play currently about the sacrifice by Abraham of Isaac, are further examples of his talents.

For all his scholastic achievements, Alex Stecker has his feet firmly on the ground and enjoys practical accomplishments.