

Meet ... Roy Prichard

The Creative Arts Are the Pulse of His Life

By Pamela Lewis, Public Affairs

Graphic designer Roy Prichard draws “for this supper,” but sings for his spirit.

Prichard, who’s worked in Graphic Communications at the UT Medical School at Houston for seven years, says he’s always been into the creative arts, singing in church and school choirs, studying both music and art at San Jacinto Junior College and finally focusing on art at the University of Houston. “I decided that I had more career options through art than through music.”

His work at the Medical School is varied, he said, “some medical illustration, some brochure design. I also work on the school’s alumni magazine, continuing medical educa-

tion seminar brochures and poster presentations displays, among other projects.”

However, music still has a great hold on his life. He became interested in barbershop quartet singing 24 years ago, during his last year in college, after reading about an open barbershop singing rehearsal. He joined the Houston Tidelanders, the Houston Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and has won several competitions as the tenor voice in quartets.

The local men’s singing organization, which performs a cappella — without accompaniment by instruments — includes quartet groups and a 90-man performing chorus. It

is said to be, next to the Houston Symphony, the oldest continually existing performing arts organization in Houston. The singers present two formal concerts each year at the Wortham Theatre — one in the summer, one in the winter — as well as a cabaret-style concert in the spring.

Several years ago, Prichard became assistant musical director of the Tidelanders and in January 2004, he became the musical director. He loves barbershop-style music, he said, because it is arranged to enhance the sounds made by the human voice, the tones and overtones that can’t be heard when voice sounds are covered by the sounds of instruments.

“Also,” said Prichard, “the music we sing is G-rated, wholesome, family entertainment — a feel-good kind of music. People really seem to enjoy our concerts,” he said. “It’s pretty common in Houston for people to stand up and applaud at the end of the final song, but when they give your group a heartfelt, standing ovation before you have finished a piece, it is very powerful!”

Note: Rehearsals for the Tidelanders are open for participation by any man interested in taking part, said Prichard. Rehearsals are 7-10 p.m., Mondays at Bellaire Presbyterian Church, Bellaire Boulevard at Rice Avenue, west of the West Loop. ★



Roy Prichard at work in Graphic Communications. Photo by Pamela Lewis



Roy Prichard, musical director, and the Houston Tidelanders during a Christmas concert at the Wortham Theatre. Photo courtesy of Roy Prichard

HR Addresses Classified Personnel Hiring Process Issues Following TWC Audit

By Pamela Lewis, Public Affairs

More science is being added to the art of hiring classified staff at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. And the Department of Human Resources is offering assistance in those “hiring sciences.”

The UT Health Science Center at Houston received Texas Workforce Commission certification following the recent audit, as noted in an article in the March edition of *The Leader*. However, several areas of concern surfaced during the audit that could, if not addressed appropriately, prevent recertification in the future, said Paul Kattapong, manager of employment services in the Department of Human Resources.

The specific deficiencies identified by the auditor relate to inconsistent or non-existent documentation:

- of questions used when interviewing job candidates;
- of candidate responses to questions during the interviewing process; and
- of evaluation or decision-making tools used to select candidates.

The TWC auditor said that the health science center needs to better document information collected during the hiring process and show how it is used in order to be able to justify hiring decisions.

“We believe we will have to provide more thorough documentation in the intermediate future; however, our immediate focus is to heighten hiring managers’ awareness of these issues and offer educational opportunities to help them better handle the process,” said Kattapong.

So, Human Resources has developed tools, guidelines and other resources for hiring managers to help identify the best available candidate for their needs while at the same time

ensuring a sound hiring process.

“Of course, we’re undertaking this to comply with TWC but, more importantly, because maintaining a fair and consistent hiring process is the right thing to do for our current and future employees. This is another of the ways we are moving the health science

center toward being a workplace of choice,” he said.

Additionally, staff members in Human Resources are holding workshops with hiring managers to discuss TWC findings and implications, and to review resources available to them.

For further information, hiring managers should contact the recruiter or recruiters in HR with whom they work. Resources about hiring of classified staff are available to hiring managers on the HR Web site at http://hr.uth.tmc.edu/Supervisors_Toolkit/how_to_hire_employees/hire_employee.html. ★

