

*Volume 31, Number 25, December 14-27, 2009*

## **TWU SCHEDULES WINTER COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

The fall 2009 semester at Texas Woman's University will draw to a close with commencement ceremonies scheduled in Denton and Houston. Approximately 1,317 degrees will be awarded.

The Denton ceremonies, scheduled Saturday, Dec. 19, include candidates from TWU's Dallas Center. Ceremonies are scheduled for 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. in Pioneer Hall. Receptions hosted by TWU Chancellor Dr. Ann Stuart will follow each ceremony on the second floor of the Student Union.

TWU's Houston commencement will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20 in the George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida de las Americas. Mr. Chris Reading, president and CEO of U.S. Physical Therapy, Inc., will deliver the commencement address.

The Denton ceremonies are divided as follows:

- The 9 a.m. ceremony is for candidates in the College of Arts and Sciences. Candidates in the General Studies program will attend the noon ceremony. Mary Odom, a retired Hallmark Cards executive and a 1995 TWU Distinguished Alumna, will deliver the commencement address.
- The noon ceremony is for candidates in the College of Health Sciences, the General Studies Program and the School of Library and Information Studies. Dr. Donna Israel, president and CEO of Professional Nutrition Therapists in Dallas and a TWU alumna, is the speaker for the ceremony.
- The 3 p.m. ceremony is for candidates in the College of Nursing and the College of Professional Education. Dr. Ray Braswell, superintendent of the Denton Independent School District, is the speaker for the ceremony.

Chancellor Stuart will preside at each ceremony.

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## **TWU RECEIVES TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION STAR AWARD**

Texas Woman's University's Partnering for Teachers program with the Dallas Independent School District has received a prestigious 2009 Texas Higher Education Star Award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

TWU was one of six in the state to receive a Star Award, which recognizes contributions toward achieving the goals of the THECB's Closing the Gaps program.

"This recognition highlights the value of collaboration in helping the state meet its education goals," said Dr. Barbara Lerner, director of academic outreach at TWU.

TWU's long-standing partnership with DISD is working to "close the gap" in student success by increasing the number of certified math, science and bilingual teachers in Texas. Since 1986 TWU and DISD have trained more than 6,000 new teachers through the Dallas Alternative Certification Program. TWU provides curriculum support, course development and evaluation, graduate course supervision and scholarships to students participating in the Dallas Alternative Certification Program. The program was expanded to include an alternative certification program for school librarians, and currently includes a collaborative program between TWU and DISD to train future school principals.

Established in 2001, the Star Awards recognize institutions of higher education, public and private schools, school districts, organizations, groups and individuals for exceptional contributions toward one or more of the goals outlined in the Texas higher education plan "Closing the Gaps by 2015." Adopted by the THECB in 2000, the plan established four goals – to close the gaps in student participation, student success, academic excellence and research. For more information, visit [www.thecb.state.tx.us](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us).

TWU's G-Force student mentorship program also was a finalist for a 2009 STAR award.

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## **TWU'S STARK COLLEGE OF NURSING RECEIVES \$480,000 IN GRANTS**

Texas Woman's University's Nelda C. Stark College of Nursing in Houston recently received \$483,301 in grants for its Education Center for Clinical Innovations and Advanced Technologies.

The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation awarded TWU a \$278,308 grant to continue a collaboration with the Baylor College of Medicine to train both medical and nursing students at the TWU Nursing Education Center. The partnership is known as the Interdisciplinary Clinical Collaborative Practice Project (ICCP) and will use targeted TeamSTEPPS™ communication strategies in a simulated clinical environment.

“This is a significant project because it allows us to bring medical and nursing students together to learn effective communication skills,” said Dr. Ann Coleman, director of the TWU Education Center for Clinical Innovations and Advanced Technologies. “Both medical and nursing students can practice these skills during a simulated patient care scenarios using high-fidelity patient mannequins, where the outcome of their teamwork impacts the condition of the ‘patient.’”

The Texas Workforce Commission also awarded TWU \$204,993 for the Texas Gulf Coast Regional Faculty Development project. The project will increase the use of patient simulation in nursing education in the Gulf Coast region to help address the nursing shortage.

“Many faculty in the region need more instruction and practice in using new technological teaching tools such as high-fidelity patient mannequins,” Dr. Coleman said. “This project will build an infrastructure for future sharing of knowledge and resources among the nursing programs and service partners in our region.”

The TWU Education Center for Clinical Innovations and Advanced Technologies is a program funded by the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System to assist faculty with integrating technologies — simulation, clinical technology and informatics — seamlessly into nursing education. For more information, visit [www.twu.edu/nursing](http://www.twu.edu/nursing).

The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation is a private foundation based out of New York City that supports programs designed to improve the education of health professionals in the interest of the health of the public. For more information, visit [www.josiahmacyfoundation.org](http://www.josiahmacyfoundation.org).

The Texas Gulf Coast Regional Faculty Development grant proposal was developed in cooperation with the Gulf Coast Health Services Steering Committee, an informal association of business leaders, hospital executives and nursing school deans and directors dedicated to solving the nurse shortage in Houston and the surrounding 13-county Gulf Coast region of Texas. For more information, visit [www.gchssc.com](http://www.gchssc.com). For more information on the Texas Workforce Commission, visit [www.twc.state.tx.us](http://www.twc.state.tx.us).

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## **NEWSBRIEFS**

*Information and news about activities, programs or TWU people may be sent to the Office of Marketing and Communication through campus mail or by e-mail to [info@twu.edu](mailto:info@twu.edu). The deadline to receive information is the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. for the following week. Student information for the “People” section is not published unless it is submitted by or in conjunction with a faculty member and that faculty member’s related activities.*

This is the final issue of the **TWU Update** for fall 2009. The Update will resume publication Jan. 11, 2009.

TWU Chancellor Dr. Ann Stuart invites the university community to a **Holiday Celebration** from noon until 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14 in the ACT 2 lobby. Music will be provided by TWU's Redbud Ringers.

During the week of final exams (Dec. 14-18), the **Center for Qualitative Research** will provide e-mail user support to faculty and graduate students. Appointments for face-to-face support can be scheduled during this week by notifying the graduate assistants at [Qualitative@twu.edu](mailto:Qualitative@twu.edu) or phoning 81-3796. The center will be closed Dec. 19-Jan. 11. E-mail user support will be provided during the week of Jan. 11-15, 2010. Contact the center at [Qualitative@twu.edu](mailto:Qualitative@twu.edu) if you need to arrange for face-to-face user support. The center will reopen with full service Jan. 19, 2010.

## **UPDATE ON TWU PEOPLE**

*Please submit "People" items (faculty and staff only) to the Office of Marketing and Communication by campus mail or by e-mail to [info@twu.edu](mailto:info@twu.edu). Include first and last names (no initials, please) and appropriate titles (ie. Dr.)*

Dr. **Lin Moore** (early childhood development & education) presented two research poster sessions at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference on Nov. 20 in Washington, D.C. "Parental Considerations: Taiwanese Parents' Selections for Preschool Programs" was co-authored by **Li-Fen Jang**, of Tzu Chi University, Hualien, Taiwan, a recent graduate of the TWU doctoral program in Child Development. "Effects of a Professional Development Intervention on Low-income Children's Knowledge of Mathematics: Lessons from Research" was co-authored by Dr. David L. Brown, Texas A&M-Commerce.

Dr. **Ellina Grigorieva** published a paper titled "Hierarchical Differential games between manufacturer and retailer" in the *Journal of Discrete and Continuous Dynamical Systems (DCDS-B)* 2009, pp. 500-514. DCDS-B is a prestigious mathematics journal that ranks 12th among all mathematics journals worldwide.

"Transplant," artwork by **Susan Sponsler** (marketing and communication) was accepted for the 13<sup>th</sup> International Open group exhibition at Woman Made Gallery in Chicago. The exhibition is scheduled March 5-April 22, 2010. For more information, visit [www.womanmade.org](http://www.womanmade.org).

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**THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AT TWU: DECEMBER 14-27, 2009**

- Mon., Dec. 14 -Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; bookstore open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.  
-Chancellor's Holiday Celebration, noon-1 p.m., ACT2.  
-Pioneers Basketball vs. Abilene Christian, 7 p.m., home. Free admission with new, unwrapped toy donation to "Toys for Tots" program.
- Tues., Dec. 15 -Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.
- Wed., Dec. 16 -Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; bookstore open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.
- Thur., Dec. 17 -Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; bookstore open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.
- Fri., Dec. 18 -Library open 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Fitness & Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.
- Sat., Dec. 19 -Library 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; bookstore open 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fitness and Recreation open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
-Commencement, Denton ceremonies, 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m., Pioneer Hall.
- Sun., Dec. 20 -Library closed; bookstore closed; Fitness and Recreation open 2-10 p.m.  
-Commencement, Houston ceremony, 2 p.m., George R. Brown Convention Center.
- Mon., Dec. 21 -Library closed; bookstore closed; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-midnight.
- Tues., Dec. 22 -Library open 7:30 a.m.-midnight; bookstore closed; Fitness and Recreation open 6 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Wed., Dec. 23 -Holiday break; university closed.
- Thur., Dec. 24 -Holiday break; university closed.
- Fri., Dec. 25 -Holiday break; university closed.
- Sat., Dec. 26 -Holiday break; university closed.
- Sun., Dec. 27 -Holiday break; university closed.

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