

Laura Merkh and Family



Laura at graduation time.



Three of the four generations!

FOUR GENERATIONS!

Laura Merkh is a fourth-generation graduate of Texas Woman's University!

Laura writes, "Several people in my family have attended TWU. My great-grandmother and her sister, my grandmother and three of her sisters, my mother and 2 of my mother's cousins."

Laura received her bachelor of science degree in nursing in December 2009, following in the footsteps of her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Laura wore to graduation ceremonies the class ring belonging to her great-grandmother, **Florence Gleason Eudaly**, a 1908 graduate of what then was the College of Industrial Arts. Florence's sister, Geneva Gleason Randalls, also graduated about that same time. Both Florence and Geneva were born in Hico, TX, and after graduating, both were homemakers.

Laura's grandmother, **Geneva Eudaly Ashwander**, graduated from TWU in 1943, when it was known as the Texas State College for Women. "After graduation, my grandmother got her Masters in Education from UT Pan American and taught as a school teacher for many years. She was born in Fairy, TX, but currently lives in a nursing home in McAllen, TX."

"Grandmother Geneva's sister, Barbara, studied business but did not graduate from TWU. She was one of 12 women allowed to attend Texas A&M during the Depression and was one of the first women to finish school there. Her sister, Paula, attended TWU for a year, but ended up transferring to Baylor to finish her degree there. My grandmother's other sister, Mildred studied Library Science and graduated from TWU, though we are not sure what year," Laura continues.

Laura's mother, **Nancy Ashwander Merkh** graduated from TWU in 1979 with a degree in Education. She was born in Houston, Texas but currently lives in Waco and teaches a 2nd grade bilingual class in Waco ISD.

"My grandmother recently wrote down some of her memories while attending TWU. I hope to transcribe them and would be happy to share that with the university."