

TWU ALUMNI AUTHORS



Acclaimed Author Sheryl Luna

Award-winning author Sheryl Luna credits Texas Woman's University with giving her belief in her ability as a writer and scholar.

"I found I had a voice there within the classroom," she said. "The encouragement I received from my professors gave me the confidence to submit my work for publication."

Ms. Luna's work garnered national attention in 2003 when she was a finalist for the National Poetry Series award. The following year, her first book, "Pity the Drowned Horses," won the inaugural Andres Montoya Poetry Prize. Additional accolades soon followed. In 2008, Ms. Luna received The Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation poetry award.

Ms. Luna, a native of El Paso, currently teaches at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She holds a master's degree in English from Texas Woman's University.

When asked why she chose TWU, Luna said "My sister attended TWU and spoke well of the atmosphere. I visited the campus and thought it was beautiful. I loved the chapel and the pond on campus. I used to run and walk around campus and enjoyed the trees and lily pads and goldfish in the pond. I also liked that is as a women's college as I felt it would be a more supportive environment for graduate study."

A favorite professor of Luna's was Dr. Florence Winston. "Although she probably doesn't remember this, she said to me 'You are a talented poet.' I believe this encouragement gave me the confidence to later send my work out for publication?"

"I made some good friends at TWU and most importantly was able to spend a few years with my younger sister. It also made me recognize the value of mentoring students and planted the desire to become a mentor to my own students."

OTHER AUTHORS – Alumni and Former Faculty

Mary Huntley, PhD – Mankato MN; 1988, PhD Nursing

Mary has co-authored 3 books. One was based on research Mary did for her PhD in Nursing at TWU in 1988. The book titled "A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness" was published in 2007. Information about the book is on the following website, www.mirthfulspirit.com.

Lynn Sheffield Simmons - Argyle TX; 1976, BS Elementary Education and 1977, Masters in Special Education

Lynn Simmons is a children's author and local historian, a longtime writer for the *Denton Record Chronicle*, and a teacher. "The Place is Argyle, Historical Facts and Recollections," is her current publication. Her children's books include "Bo and the Christmas Bandit" and "Sugar Lump's Night Before Christmas." For more information see www.argylebooks.com

Shirley Jean Abbott Tomkiewicz - New York NY; 1956, BA in English and French

Shirley recently was inducted into the Arkansas Writers Hall of Fame. Many of her books are memoirs but her current work "The Future of Love," is her first work of fiction. This story tells of love and romance of senior citizens following the aftermath of 9/11. For more information see www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=1023

Mona Sizer (pen name Deana James) – Harlingen TX; 1955, BA and 1955, MA

Author of 33 titles, historical and contemporary romances including USA and Waldenbooks bestseller lists. Her most recent works are "Outrageous Texans; Tales of the Rich and Infamous" and "Glory Guys: The Story of the U.S. Army Rangers." For more information see www.flipkart.com/glory-guys-mona-sizer-story/1589793927-3sx3ftb73f

Sandra Minton - Littleton CO; 1981, PhD, Dance

She is a Dance Specialist for the Little Public Schools. This work is written for dance instructors "Using Movement to Teach Academics: The Mind and Body in One Entity." For more information see www.scmdance.com

Francis Radford Ray – Dallas TX; – 1967, BA Nursing

With more than 20 novels in print, her books can be found on bestseller lists such as Blackboard and Essence Magazine. She has also authored a made for TV movie for BET. "The Turning Point," her first mainstream novel was a finalist for the prestigious HOLT Medallion Award. www.francisray.com/bio.htm

Marjorie Jo Barton Simmons Garrison - Muskogee OK; BA and MA Mass Communications

Pen Name Marjorie Barton is a historical writer. Her most recent work "Leaning on a Legacy" was published through the Oklahoma Historical Society and recounts the work of the WPA in Oklahoma during the Great Depression.

Barbara Boucher - San Antonio TX; 1977, BS OT and 1985, MS PT

www.therextras.com Books are related to healthcare reform, Parenting, child development, lifestyle management

Annette Colby PhD - Dallas TX; 1993, MS Nutrition and 1994, PhD Nutrition

Helping people with relationships with themselves, their bodies and their lives is the goal of Dr. Colby. She is the author of "Your Highest Potential: The New Psychology of Understanding and Working with Self" and "Redesign: Goal Setting Secrets for a Thinner, Happier You." More information at www.annettecolby.com/biography.shtml

Skip Shockley - Dallas TX; 1993, BS Health Studies

Author of "Mother's Son," his own life story about living with Sickle Cell Anemia. Learn more about the author and the book at <http://skipshockley.com/index.htm>

Argelia Arizpe Guadarrama - Edinburg TX; 1967, BA Spanish

Authors of "Steps to English K" published in 1983 which became part of the Texas state's textbook adoption for English as a Second Language. It accompanied a large set of manipulative materials to help young children learn English. This book is no longer in print but it did serve as a base for English language teaching for 10 years in many school districts throughout Texas and other states as well as Puerto Rico.

P.J.Karr – Former professor for 27 years at TWU

P.J. Karr was a professor in the College of Professional Education, 1977-2004 and is now retired. Honors include 2010 Who's Who awards, 2003 Advisor/Mentor Award, Ohio State's 2001 Career Teacher Award and others. Affectionately known to many former students as "Dr. P.J.," she has published a creative nonfiction book entitled *AHA: Epiphanies to Release the Spirit Within*. This collection of thoughts are connected to themes like the journey, playtime, becoming and new dawn. The book is available at www.dorrancebookstore.com

Zona (Raymer) Crabtree—Class of 1963/BS/Speech

Welcome to Owl Hollow, featuring the *Corn Cave Series* written and illustrated by Zona Crabtree. The books of the *Corn Cave Series* are fiction and suitable for any age reader. <http://www.zonacrabtree.com/>

TWU Alumna Coauthors Book on Learning Centers



Judy Sower (on right) and Dr. Laverne Warner have recently coauthored the book *Differentiating Instruction with Centers* that is published by Prufrock Press, Inc.

The book discusses planning and organizing differentiated activities for the inclusive K-2 classroom using centers. Adapting centers to meet the needs of students at all levels of ability can be a challenge for any teacher. This book provides detailed information for easy-to-set-up centers which help teach children social skills and also help them practice important academic skills. Each center is designed to be adapted to prekindergarten through second grade inclusion classrooms. Themes covered in the 31 centers include archaeology, camping, farms and farm supply, amusement parks, offices, travel agencies, and many more. The book also describes inexpensive approaches to preparing and storing centers from year to year and provides assessment and observation forms for teacher use.

Judy taught 12 years in Birdville ISD earning Teacher of the Year in the district for 1986-87. She graduated from Texas Woman's University in 1987 with a Master's in Education. Judy also taught elementary education for 6 years in Huntsville ISD and for 10 years at Sam Houston State University where she retired in 2008. Laverne is a Professor Emerita at SHSU where she taught for 32 years and where she earned the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1992.

The book is available from Prufrock Press and outlets such as Amazon.com and is priced at a teacher-friendly \$19.95.