

**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SCIENCES  
THESIS / DISSERTATION DEFENSE**

Brenice Menzies Murlette MS, MEd,  
Ph.D. Candidate, Family Studies

**TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S INTERACTIONS WITH  
FAMILIES OF STUDENTS WHO ARE BULLIES OR VICTIMS:  
A QUALITATIVE STUDY**

Dr. Glen Jennings, Chair  
Dr. Lin Moore, Member  
Dr. Shann Hwa (Abraham) Hwang, Member

**Human Development Building  
Room 204  
Friday, February 17, 2012 11:00 a.m.**

All TWU faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend

\*\*\*\*\*

**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this qualitative study was to identify themes and strategies used when a certified Texas public school counselor learns of a bullying situation. This study identified if the families of students involved in a bullying situation (the bully, victim, or bystander) were contacted and by what means this communication took place. Region 10 Educational Service Center sent an email to the 80 public school districts in the North Texas area encouraging school counselors to participate in the survey. Participants were 28 certified Texas public school counselors. Through triangulated data analysis the findings included the strategies school counselors used and their approach to communicating with the families of students involved in a bullying incident.

.....

**Biographical Information**

Brenice Murlette is a certified school counselor in Richardson ISD and has a private family practice in Dallas. Her previous education is a BS degree from Texas Tech University in Elementary Education, a MEd from TWU, and a MS from Texas A&M Commerce. Brenice and her family look forward to the completion of her PhD.