

Texas Woman's University University Archives

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Founders' Day

In 1924, the Ex-Students association chose January 10 as College of Industrial Arts Pancake Night. The date was selected to honor the laying of the corner stone of the Administration Building on January 10, 1903. A pancake carrying 21 birthday candles was a special feature at the occasion.

In 1936, about the same time CIA became Texas State College for Women, the name Pancake Night was changed to Founders' Day. Students provided the programs and sponsored fund-raising projects in honor of the event.

The observance of Founders' Day was discontinued in 1955, but was revived on February 24, 1978, by President Mary Evelyn Huey, who asked the National Alumnae Association (now known as the Former Students Association) to assist in its planning. The pancake buffet tradition was continued, but the occasion was delayed twice that year by ice storms.

The pancake tradition came from a legend that in the Middle Ages monks returning from a long journey would be served a cake baked in a pan – a real luxury since most cakes were baked in the ashes – while they told their fellow monks, gathered about them in the warmth of the fire, of their travels.

In 2006, current Chancellor and President Ann Stuart decided to move the Founders' Award Luncheon to early April to coincide with the date legislation was signed creating what is now Texas Woman's University – April 6, 1901.

The event provides an opportunity to reflect on the history of TWU and on the contributions of those visionaries who set TWU on a solid foundation for success.

--Founders' Awards Luncheon Program, 2007

Founders' Award

Texas Woman's University, the TWU Foundation and the TWU National Alumnae Association began presenting the Founders' Award in 1998. Recipients have been:

- 1998** City of Denton
 Ariel Club
 Woman's Shakespeare Club of Denton
 Texas Instruments Corporation

- 1999** Texas Federation of Women's Clubs
 GTE (now Verizon)
 Denton Chamber of Commerce

- 2000** The Morrison Milling Company, Inc.
 United Methodist Women
 Sid W. Richardson Foundation
 The Texas Medical Center

- 2001** Houston Endowment
 Hoblitzelle Foundation
 First State Bank of Texas
 Ben E. Keith Foundation

- 2002** Margaret and Gus Davis
The Denton Record-Chronicle
Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
- 2003** Andre J. "Frenchy" Rheault
Denton Area Teachers Credit Union
Ann Bradshaw Stokes Foundation
- 2004** Frank Martino
The Wendell W. Mayes, Sr. Family
DeBerry Funeral Directors
- 2005** Troy Howard and Sarah Lea LaGrone (posthumous)
Benjamin Lyon Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
- 2006** Lillian Moore Bradshaw
Nelda C. and H. J. Lutcher Stark Foundation
- 2007** Jo Kuhn
National Council of Jewish Women – Greater Dallas Section
PointBank