Celebrating the Grand Opening of the New Institute of Health Sciences-Houston Center

Texas Woman’s University ushered in a new era of providing quality healthcare professionals to Texas when it celebrated the grand opening of the new TWU Institute of Health Sciences-Houston Center Nov. 9.

“This new star in the state’s educational facilities is central to TWU’s intention to increase enrollment, maintain the quality of both students and programs and be an aggressive partner in the state’s goal of adding to the number of students who graduate from our public institutions,” TWU Chancellor and President Dr. Ann Stuart said at the opening ceremony.

The new Houston Center is a 10-story, 202,000-square-foot “campus in one building” located at 6700 Fannin Street, at the southern gateway of Houston’s renowned Texas Medical Center. The building was funded at no cost to the state through an innovative public/private partnership with the Houston philanthropic community.

“We are hardly ever approached about a project without a request for public money,” said Robert Shepard, chair of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. “The fact that generous donors provided the resources for this building is a major accomplishment for the university and Chancellor Stuart.”

So far TWU has raised nearly $40 million in construction and programming costs for the new Houston Center. Major donors to the Houston campaign include: The Methodist Hospital System, the Nelda C. and Leon L. Ford Foundation.

The new Houston Center-Dallas also will be housed in the facility.

“The Institute of Health Sciences-Houston center, beginning a new era in health education for TWU and Texas.

$5 Million Gift Will Name New Dallas Center for T. Boone Pickens

A $5 million gift from T. Boone Pickens to Texas Woman’s University will help fund construction of TWU’s new T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center. Mr. Pickens’ donation is the largest single gift from an individual to TWU.

“T. Boone Pickens’ generous gift lays the foundation for a building that will allow TWU to continue graduating quality healthcare professionals for years to come.”

TWU is conducting a $32 million fundraising campaign to build the new Pickens Health Sciences Center, which will combine TWU’s current education sites near Parkland and Presbyterian hospitals. The state-of-the-art facility will be built at the TWU Parkland location in the heart of Dallas’ renowned Southerwestern Medical District.

TWU will offer programs in nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, healthcare administration and library science at the new T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center. The TWU Stroke Center-Dallas also will be housed in the facility.

“Mr. Pickens’ generous gift lays the foundation for a building that will allow TWU to continue graduating quality healthcare professionals for years to come.”
Leadership Institute Luncheon

Building on the university’s history of producing exceptional leaders, Texas Woman’s University has launched the TWU Leadership Institute under the direction of Maj. Gen. Mary Saunders, USAF (Retired), a 1998 TWU distinguished alum. Welcoming its first students in spring 2007, the Institute will prepare student leaders for success in an increasingly global society. An introductory luncheon on Oct. 17 welcomed four TWU Distinguished Alumni to speak about the importance of the Institute’s core values of integrity, accountability and excellence. From left: Sheila Whitaker-Kellagher, founder of True Care Health Systems Inc. and a 1995 distinguished alum; Maj. Gen. Saunders; TWU Regent Ann Williams, founder and artistic director of the Dallas Black Dance Theatre and a 1990 distinguished alum; Dr. Ann Stuart, TWU Chancellor and President; and Laura Estrada, president of Garza Business Services Inc. and a 1998 distinguished alum.

A corner glass tower facing Holcombe Boulevard and Fannin Street allows sunlight to blanket two-story student lounges. Classrooms are located on every academic floor of the building, which also includes several 120-seat lecture halls and a 250-seat lecture hall. Seminar rooms were designed for traditional instruction, conferences, video conferencing and distance learning. Instruction stations are equipped with high-resolution display screens, high quality audio and voice reproduction, DVD and VHS video, high speed Internet and intuitive touch panel control components. Nursing, occupational therapy and physical therapy laboratories are equipped with the latest healthcare technology available, including human patient simulator mannequins and rehabilitation equipment, in order to create a seamless transition from the classroom to the workplace.

The building’s décor also features more than 30 original art pieces created by TWU students, alumni and faculty.

In spring 2007, the university will open the Memorial Hermann and TWU Center for TeleNursing and Health Informatics. The TeleNursing Center builds upon an already-existing collaboration between Memorial Hermann and TWU in the education of nurses for telemedicine and patient care.

More than 1,300 students majoring in nursing, physical therapy, library science, healthcare administration, occupational therapy and nutrition began classes at the TWU Institute of Health Sciences-Houston Center in August 2006. The new Houston Center will allow TWU eventually to more than double its Houston enrollment.

“By housing nursing, occupational and physical therapy, healthcare administration and nutrition all under one roof, TWU’s Houston Center will meet the healthcare industry’s demand for a multidisciplinary approach to patient care,” said Therese Bartholomew Bevers, M.D., chair and presiding officer of the TWU Board of Regents.

TWU began operating in Houston in 1960 by expanding its nursing program to the Texas Medical Center. Construction of the new center was driven by changes in healthcare education and the need to expand to meet enrollment needs. TWU-Houston’s enrollment increased more than 50 percent from fall 1999 to fall 2004, strainning the existing facilities.

“I commend the university and Dr. Stuart for entrepreneurial spirit behind this new educational facility,” State Representative Geanie Morrison, chair of the House Higher Education Committee, said. “TWU has raised the bar for all of Texas with a new Institute that will dramatically increase enrollment in the areas that are needed most.”
Dr. Judith McFarlane: Distinguished Researcher Award

Nursing Professor Dr. Judith McFarlane was recognized for her work involving women who are abused during pregnancy when she accepted the 2006 Southern Nursing Research Society’s Distinguished Researcher Award.

Dr. McFarlane’s research findings have been presented to congressional committees, included in national health objectives and used by clinicians in the U.S. and abroad to set the standards of care for pregnant women. “There is no greater honor than to be recognized by one’s peers,” said Dr. McFarlane, who teaches at the TWU Institute of Health Sciences-Houston Center. “Peers have consistently mentored, sustained, critiqued and supported my research efforts. When one researcher is recognized, I believe we are all acknowledged and our efforts toward improving the health and wellbeing of others is elevated to a higher level.

The Southern Nursing Research Society is an organization dedicated to promoting the development and utilization of nursing research in all health care agencies and educational settings throughout a fourteen-state region in the Southern United States, plus the Caribbean, Latin America and South America.

Dr. Roberta Nutt: Psychologist of the Year

Dr. Roberta Nutt, founder and director of the TWU doctoral counseling psychology program, recently was named the 2006 Psychologist of the Year by the Texas Psychological Association.

“I have good people behind me,” Dr. Nutt said, citing her colleagues and students. “Both students and faculty work hard and are open to new ideas. That’s not only rewarding; it’s inspiring.”

Professor Nutt’s research, publications and presentations have focused on gender issues, feminist therapy, ethics and licensure and regulation. She is past president of the Society of Counseling Psychology of the American Psychological Association, and recently was elected to the 2007 chair of the APA’s Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology.

Dr. Robert Martin: National Council on the Humanities

Dr. Robert Martin, the Lilian Bradshaw Endowed Chair in Library Science at Texas Woman’s University, has been appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as one of only 26 members of the National Council on the Humanities.

The council plays an indispensable role in the endowment’s pursuit of excellence in funding projects to enhance access to — and appreciation for — the humanities,” Dr. Martin said.

Dr. Martin also serves on the United States National Commission for the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a representative of state and local interests. He is a member of the board of directors of the Urban Libraries Council, a membership organization of North America’s premier public library systems and the corporations that serve them. He was named a Distinguished Fellow of the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) for 2005-06.

From 2001-05, Dr. Martin was recognized as director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The IMLS is a federal grant-making agency dedicated to helping the nation’s museums and libraries serve their communities. President Bush also nominated him to that post.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Online MLS Fourth Largest

The Texas Woman’s University online Master of Library Science degree is the fourth-largest graduate program in the field, according to U.S. News & World Report magazine’s 2006 E-Learning Guide.

The magazine ranked these TWU programs among the best in the nation.

■ Health librarianship graduate program is ranked 5th nationally

■ Occupational therapy graduate program is 9th nationally and the only OT program in Texas to be ranked among the nation’s top 10

■ Physical therapy graduate program ranks 31st in the nation

■ Nursing master’s program is ranked 33rd in the nation

Texas Woman’s University is the first public university in Texas to offer a graduate-level specialist degree.

The TWU Department of Psychology and Philosophy began offering a specialist in school psychology (SSP) degree, which is above the typical 36-hour master’s degree and below a 90-plus hour doctoral degree, this fall. Graduate students in the SSP program will complete the specialist-level, 60-plus hours of training who will now receive a degree, rather than the master’s in school psychology degree.

According to Dr. Daniel C. Miller, chair of the TWU Psychology and Philosophy Department, the new SSP degree is more in line with state licensure terminology, because school psychologists in Texas are certified as Licensed Specialists in School Psychology.

“Our although our master’s students have received training. Dr. Martin was her specialist-level for years, they were only recognized with a master’s degree,” Dr. Miller said. “This ‘value added’ specialist degree will be more reflective of our curricula and will accurately reflect our students’ high-level of preparation.”

TWU to Offer State’s First Graduate-Level Specialist Degree
Partnerships Yield More Than $1 Million in Stipends, Scholarships for Nursing Students

Texas Woman’s University will address the nation’s nursing faculty shortage and give more scholarships to undergraduate nursing students thanks to more than $1 million in grants.

The College of Nursing recently was awarded a $507,688 Department of Education’s Graduation Innovation Grant to address the national nursing faculty shortage. The grant will be distributed over a three-year period and will allow TWU to recruit four doctoral nursing students who plan to become nursing faculty.

“TWU is engaging in partnerships that enhance student preparation and benefit Texas,” said Dr. Nicholas, TWU chancellor. “We have outstanding leaders in all facets of the university as we move forward.”

Increasing the amount and type of research conducted by faculty and graduate students and seizing opportunities for partnership with Texas Medical Center institutions are the goals of Dr. David Watson, Texas Woman’s University’s new director of the Houston Office of Research.

His arrival coincides with the opening of the new state-of-the-art TWU Institute of Health Sciences-Houston Center in the Texas Medical Center. The facility includes a research wing on the 10th floor to accommodate current and future researchers. Dr. Watson comes to TWU after serving as the associate vice chancellor for Sandia Operations in the Office of Research and Technology Transfer for the University of Texas System in Albuquerque, N.M. He served as a liaison to encourage collaborative research between the UT System and the Sandia National Labs and facilitated educational outreach efforts.

The foundation for excellence in research already exists at TWU in Houston,” Dr. Watson said. “I just want to bring everything together and tap into existing resources at the Texas Medical Center, so our faculty and graduate students can be the leaders in clinical and biomedical research in collaboration with other institutions.”

He holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Millikin University in Decatur, Ill., and a master’s degree in marine biology and a Ph.D. in molecular biology from the University of Houston. Dr. Watson has more than 20 years of experience in research management in both higher education and the private sector.

“The College of Nursing also recently received $550,000 from the Helene Fuld Health Trust, HSBC Bank USA, N.A., Trustee to establish a scholarship endowment for undergraduate students pursuing nursing baccalaureate degrees. The funds will be distributed to TWU over a three-year period with $180,000 to be held in a permanent endowment fund. The remainder of the initial grant funding and future income from the endowment will be distributed over a three-year period and will allow TWU to recruit four doctoral nursing students who plan to become nursing faculty.”

“The Program will help us to attract the best and brightest students to nursing for years to come, thereby enhancing our efforts to expand the pool of nurses,” said Dr. Marcia Herrn, dean of TWU’s College of Nursing.

“Presbyterian Hospital of Denton added $90,000 in matching funds to help the students, who will be known as the Denton Presbyterian Nurse Scholars and will be eligible for $30,000 in annual stipends.”

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Texas Woman’s University has partnered with the Office of Research and Development Department for Sandia Operations in the Office of Research and Development Department for Sandia Operations to study ways to increase alumni involvement.

The goal of the Fort Worth ISD program is to recruit 120 teacher aides, recent college graduates without education degrees and mid-career professionals for intensive teacher preparation in math, science, bilingual education and special education.

“Teacher shortages are soaring,” said Dr. Claudia Sanchez, assistant professor of teacher education at TWU and co-author of the grant proposal. “It’s important to bring highly qualified teachers into the classroom, especially in these high-need areas.”

During the initial phase of the program, teachers aides will be given time to work in the district who have associate’s degrees will earn their bachelor’s degrees and teacher certification through courses offered by TWU. Those classes begin in January.

“We have outstanding employees in the district who aspire to be educators,” Dr. Catherine Dikes, director of the Fort Worth ISD’s Grants and Development Department, said. “This is a wonderful opportunity for them to achieve that goal.”

The program also will recruit mid-career professionals to become certified teachers through TWU’s master of arts in teaching (MAT) program. TWU’s MAT program prepares individuals who hold a bachelor’s degree for initial teacher certification while they also earn a master’s degree.

Transition to Teaching grant funds will be used to help pay the tuition and fees for participants in the program.

“Answering a call from its Board of Regents, Texas Woman’s University has formed an Alumni Relations Task Force to determine how TWU can increase alumni involvement.”

Representing the Board of Regents is Virginia Chandler Dykes, who also is a TWU alumna.

“Over the last five years, TWU has experienced a tremendous increase in online and blended technology, built new facilities and is implementing a new strategic plan,” Dr. Nicholas said. “We want to better involve our alumni in all facets of the university as we move forward.”

Dr. Nicholas said the TWU Alumni Relations Task Force will meet at least twice a year to present recommendations to TWU Chancellor Dr. Ann Stuart. Dr. Stuart will present the task force’s recommendations to the Board of Regents.

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www.twu.edu

New Director of Houston Research Office Will Develop Opportunities for Faculty, Students

Task Force to Study Ways to Increase Alumni Involvement

Increasing the amount and type of research conducted by faculty and graduate students and seizing opportunities for partnership with Texas Medical Center institutions are the goals of Dr. David Watson, Texas Woman’s University’s new director of the Houston Office of Research.

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Mr. Pickens founded Mesa Petroleum Co. in 1956, which he grew into one of the nation's largest independent oil and gas firms in his four decades of leadership. He left the company in 1996 and founded BP Capital, one of the nation's most successful energy investment firms that has consistently ranked as one of the most successful hedge funds in the U.S. His recently updated 1987 autobiography, Boone, was listed for 15 weeks on The New York Times best-seller list. Throughout his professional life, Mr. Pickens has made million-dollar-plus contributions to a wide range of charitable causes, including: The Simmons Foundation, The Pollock Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Jere W. Thompson, Mrs. Orien Woolf, Ann Stuart, the Abe Zale Foundation, the Robertson Communities, Baylor Health Care System, the Gaston Episcopal Hospital Foundation, W.P. & Burl Luse Foundation, The Eugene Straus Charitable Trust, the Thompson & Knight Foundation and Siwala and Gary Marlow. The new TWU T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center project will create a 143,000-square-foot, multi-building campus that will include renovation of the existing education building and construction of a new 50,000-square-foot education building and a 600-car garage. This will add approximately 17,000 square feet of expanded program space and allow for future growth. The center will be built in two phases so classes will not be interrupted. Groundbreaking is planned for 2008, and the complex is scheduled to open in 2010. TWU's presence in Dallas began in 1954 through a $2 million, two-story educational building and a seven-story dormitory for nursing students opened at Parkland. TWU students began training at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas in 1974, and the university opened its Dallas-Presbyterian campus in 1977. In 1992, TWU established The Stroke Center-Dallas at the Parkland campus, which provides cutting-edge research and training in neurological rehabilitation for stroke patients. For more information on TWU's new T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center, visit www.twu.edu/dallascampus.
attended a meeting of the Houston High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Friends advisory board with, from left: Jerome R. Simon, Northern Trust Bank managing director and wealth strategist, and Sylvia Brooks, president and CEO of the Houston Area Urban League.

…launched TWU’s 2006 State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) with, from left: Stan Morton, CEO of Presbyterian Hospital of Denton and 2006-2007 United Way of Denton County campaign chair; Lilia Chávez Dynum, president and CEO of United Way of Denton County; and TWU SECC co-chairs Sheri Dragoo and Michelle Williams-Laing.

…attended a tea honoring Lindalyn Bennett Adams as the recipient of the Fifth Annual Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award. Shown with Chancellor Stuart are, from left: Roland Dykes, Virginia Chandler Dykes, Lindalyn Bennett Adams and Dr. Kern Widenthal, 2006 recipient of the Dykes award.

…gave the keynote speech at the Dallas Arboretum’s Women’s Council Leadership Development Luncheon. Shown with Chancellor Stuart are, from left: Dr. Jeannine Sandstrom, guest speaker; Virginia Chandler Dykes, first vice president of the Women’s Council; and TWU Regent; Ruth Barnard, member of the Women’s Council; and Mary Brinegar, president and CEO of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society.

…toured the new Redbud Theater construction site with, from left: Richard Lanier and Mitchell Meyers of Joe Funk Construction Engineers, architect Nestor Bottino and Harold Johnson, associate vice president for facilities management and construction at TWU.

…attended a community luncheon hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas. Shown with Chancellor Stuart are, from left: Richard W. Fisher, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; Guillermo Ortiz Martinez, governor of the Bank of Mexico and guest speaker; State Rep. Helen Giddings of Dallas; and Gloria Vasquez Brown, vice president of public affairs for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

…judged the Great Jack-O-Lantern contest at the TWU Kinesiology department picnic along with, from left: Patrice Frisby, development associate, institutional development; Dr. Adelaide Griffin, professor of business, School of Management; Dr. Jimmy Ishee, dean of the College of Health Sciences; Dr. Carolyn Gunning, provost; and Carolyn Ishee, executive director of institutional development.