Robert Neely Named New TWU Provost

TEXAS WOman’S UNIVERSITY
TWU TIMES
FALL 2010 ISSUE NO. 2

TWU Awarded $3.7 Million for Reading Recovery®

TEXAS Woman’s University will help even more children learn to read thanks to a $3.7 million federal grant for Reading Recovery®, an early literacy intervention program. TWU’s grant is part of the “Reading Recovery: Scaling Up What Works” project, a collaboration of 15 higher education institutions. TWU is the only Texas institution to receive the funding.

TWU will use its grant to train 250 current teachers over the next five years. These teachers will work with the lowest performing first-grade students and 10,000 other students in classrooms or small groups.

"Children throughout Texas and the other states served by TWU will achieve early reading success because of this grant.”
— Dr. Anne Simpson

TWU will work with schools across its six-state network, which includes Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Washington. Teachers in participating schools will enroll in courses through TWU and complete six hours of graduate credit. Teacher leaders, who have completed their clinical training at TWU, will teach the courses within the school systems.

"This enables the teachers to have immediate impact on students’ literacy training,” said Dr. Ann Simpson, director of TWU Reading Recovery and president of the Reading Recovery North American Trainers Group. The funds are part of a $46 million award from the U.S. Department of Education to train 3,750 teachers across the nation in Reading Recovery, a program for first-graders who struggle with learning to read.

Dr. Simpson said the goal is to train 30 teachers each year for the next five years.

“TWU has been a leader in the research and implementation of Reading Recovery since 1989,” Dr. Simpson said. “The Department of Education awarded TWU this grant because of the proven and sustained success of Reading Recovery and Descubriendo la Lectura (the Spanish-language version of Reading Recovery) for our most struggling first-grade readers. Children throughout Texas and the other states served by TWU will achieve early reading success because of this grant.”

Robert Neely Named New TWU Provost

E nhancing the academic reputation of the university, working with faculty on a strategic academic plan and being proactive in serving the needs of the citizens of Texas are the goals of new TWU provost and vice president for academic affairs Dr. Robert Neely.

“I want to build on TWU’s excellence to help the university continue to provide an affordable and practical education for Texans, which is most important to me,” said Dr. Neely, who also will serve as TWU’s vice president for academic affairs.

Dr. Neely has more than 25 years of academic leadership experience at Eastern Michigan University, where he currently serves as the associate provost and associate vice president for research.

A native of Waco, he received his bachelor’s degree from Southwest Baptist College, a master’s degree from Baylor University and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

“I want to build on TWU’s excellence to continue to provide an affordable and practical education for Texans.”
— Dr. Robert Neely

“Dr. Neely is a strong academic leader, respects process and shared governance, and has a serious understanding of the challenges and opportunities that face higher education today,” TWU Chancellor Ann Stuart said. “With his leadership, I believe our faculty will pursue a continued quest for excellence, and I look forward to our years together.”

Dr. Neely, who begins work at TWU Jan. 5, replaces former TWU Provost Kay Clayton, who left the university last spring due to health reasons.

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Students Participate in National Conferences

TWU chemistry students Brenna Tucker and Sarah Sutherland have been recognized nationally after being selected to participate at prestigious science conferences. Ms. Tucker, a master's student, was one of four students internationally and the only graduate student in the U.S. invited to present her research at the 2010 North American Calorimetry Conference. She discussed her investigation of the sequences of DNA relating to cancer and cancer treating drugs. Ms. Sutherland, a senior, was one of only 32 students in the nation selected to attend the American Chemistry Society's 2010 Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference. She is developing “green” organic chemistry experiments for TWU students, which will create less toxic waste in the university’s labs.

TWU RECEIVES GRANTS TOTALING $2 MILLION

Grant for Nursing Research

TWU nursing professor Judith McFarlane is using a $900,000 grant to study the effectiveness of Houston-area shelters and civil protection orders and their respective roles in helping abused women and children transition into safety. “Safe families are dependent on evidence to inform practice and policy decisions,” Dr. McFarlane said. “This research will contribute to our understanding of how best to enable the well-being of abused women and their children, and ensure a safer future for all persons.” Dr. McFarlane holds the Parry Chair in Health Promotion at the TWU Institute of Health Sciences-Houston Center. She has a national reputation for her research involving abused women, in particular women who are abused during pregnancy. Her research findings have been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court, presented to U.S. congressional committees, included in national health objectives and used by clinicians in the U.S., Pakistan, South Africa and South America.

The grant was awarded to Dr. McFarlane by the Houston Endowment—a private philanthropic foundation established by Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones in 1937. The endowment supports nonprofit organizations and educational institutions that generate progress in the community by producing positive and enduring results for those they serve.

Scholarships for Nursing, OT

TEXAS Woman's University is providing scholarships to students in nursing and occupational therapy through a $900,000 federal grant designed to help economically disadvantaged students pursue degrees in those programs. TWU awarded a total of 228 scholarships for fall 2010 with funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The funds, provided through HRSA’s Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program, included $475,200 for scholarships to undergraduate nursing students and $266,000 for graduate students in occupational therapy.

One recipient says the scholarship provided a much-needed boost as she embarks on a new career. “I am returning to school after a long hiatus in the ‘real world,’” said Christina Bayer, a former freelance photo-stylist and freelancing occupational therapy lab, says the HRSA scholarship is helping her make a career change.

Funds for Weekend Nursing

TEXAS Woman's University’s award-winning weekend nursing program in Dallas will almost double its enrollment with a $744,422 federal grant. The grant will fund 80 new nursing students in the TWU Weekend/Online Baccalaureate Nursing Program over a three-year period from 2010 to 2013.

TWU’s weekend nursing program combines weekend and online classes for individuals with non-nursing bachelor’s degrees who want to earn a bachelor of science in nursing and become registered nurses. “Graduates of the weekend nursing program are helping to improve health access and decreasing health disparities within their selected communities, while bolstering the nursing workforce in the state of Texas,” said Dr. Stephanie Woods, associate dean of the TWU College of Nursing in Dallas. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board also recently recognized TWU’s innovative weekend nursing program by awarding it a prestigious Texas Higher Education Star Award.

Students Awarded National Scholarships

Sarah Adams, Carin Hunt Balusek and Victoria Loveland are among only 44 students in the nation to receive scholarships from the National Consortium of Measurements and Signals Intelligence Research (NCMIR) Scholars Program. This is the second consecutive year TWU students have received the $10,000 scholarships, which are awarded through the National Science Foundation. Ms. Adams is a senior biology and chemistry major and the current TWU student regent. Ms. Balusek is a senior biochemistry major whose undergraduate research on DNA quadruplexes has received national funding. Ms. Loveland, who graduated from TWU in spring 2010, is a post-baccalaureate biochemistry student and past president of the TWU chapter of the American Chemical Society.
Students Participate in National Conferences

Gov. Rick Perry and First Lady Anita Perry recognized the contributions of women to the state as they honored the 2010 inductees to the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame. The September ceremony took place on the Texas Woman’s University Denton campus, permanent home of the Hall of Fame exhibit. Joining the ranks of Texas women honored for their achievements in their fields are Dr. Nancy Dickey, president of the Texas A&M Health Science Center; Erma Johnson Hadley, Tarrant County College District chancellor; Dr. Teresa Lozano Long, philanthropist; Judy Castle Scott, director of the American Foundation for the Blind Center on Vision Loss in Dallas; and Pamela Willeford, former U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland.

Dykes Award Recipient Named

Health care executive Joel Allison, president and CEO of Baylor Health Care System in Dallas, is the recipient of the 2011 Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award. The announcement was made in October at a reception hosted by Amy Turner at the Dallas home of her parents, Julie and Jim Turner. Mr. Allison will be honored for his longtime commitment to health care at the ninth annual Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Luncheon in February. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and serves on the board of several national health care organizations, including the National Healthcare Leadership Council and the National Quality Forum. Bank of Texas is the presenting sponsor of the event.

Texas Women’s Hall of Fame

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TWU ENROLLMENT TOPS 14,000

Texas Woman’s University’s fall 2010 enrollment of 14,179 students has set records for both first-time freshmen and Hispanic students. First-time freshmen enrollment is up 29 percent to 972 students, and Hispanic student enrollment is up almost 9 percent to 2,226 students.

These increases have helped the university exceed both its 2010 strategic plan enrollment goal and the state’s 2010 Closing the Gaps goal for TWU. The Texas Closing the Gaps campaign is an initiative aimed at significantly increasing the number of students enrolling in universities and community colleges in the state by 2015.

“Not only are we beating our own goals and the state’s, we are retaining and graduating more students, providing Texas with the educated workforce it needs for continued growth and success,” said Dr. Richard Nicholas, TWU vice president for student life.

Enhanced recruitment efforts, increased marketing, additional scholarship dollars, community outreach and an influx of new high school graduates and community college transfer students are among the reasons behind TWU’s record-breaking enrollment, Dr. Nicholas said.

“More students and families are choosing TWU because they believe in the value of a TWU education.”

— Dr. Richard Nicholas

“We are seeing that more and more students and families are choosing TWU for their college experience, because they believe in the value of a TWU education,” he added. Overall, enrollment is up in both undergraduate and graduate students, and at TWU’s campuses in Denton, Dallas and Houston.

TWU also is seeing a large increase in students enrolled in online programs. More importantly, TWU’s total semester credit hours are up 7.6 percent from last fall to 139,136 hours — also a record. Student credit hours, not headcount, determine a university’s state funding.

Fall 2010 Enrollment*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Enrollment</th>
<th>Hispanic Enrollment</th>
<th>First-Time Freshmen</th>
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<tr>
<td>14,179</td>
<td>2,226</td>
<td>972</td>
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*Based on 12th Day Enrollment Numbers

In addition to setting records for first-time freshmen and Hispanic students, fall 2010 also marks the ninth consecutive year of enrollment growth for TWU.
Soccer Team Travels to England

The TWU soccer team prepared for its 2010 season in notable fashion this summer with preseason drills, practices and scrimmages in England. Head coach Fleur Benatar wanted the team to take advantage of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rule allowing sports teams an overseas trip once every four years. Assistant coach Nick Stavrou, a native of England, suggested the trip because of the huge popularity of soccer in that country. The team played exhibition games against club and semi-professional teams from Little Hampton, Millwall, Brighton and Queens Park, and visited several other English cities, including Grantham — the home of TWU’s study abroad partner Harlaxton College.

Student to Select Newbery Winner

Marianne Follis, a doctoral student in the Texas Woman’s University School of Library and Information Studies, will help select the winner of the 2011 John Newbery Medal, the most distinguished award in children’s literature. Ms. Follis is a youth services librarian in the Irving Public Library System, is the second TWU student in three years to serve on this important committee. “I had always hoped to one day serve on the Newbery Committee,” Ms. Follis said. “It’s a tremendous honor — and a tremendous responsibility. TWU has a strong children’s literature program, and I believe my studies have prepared me well for this incredible opportunity.”

Fulbright-Hays Scholar Elaine Cho

Elaine Cho believes that experiencing the history, culture and economy of China has helped her develop a global sensibility that is vital to her progress as a scholar and teacher.

“By sharing my experiences in China with my students, I am helping them gain global perspectives.”

— Elaine Cho

Ms. Cho, a doctoral candidate in rhetoric at TWU and an English professor at a Dallas County Community College, is one of 17 educators in the nation selected for the 2010 Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad to China Program.

Elaine Cho visits the Great Wall of China as part of her Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad.

“By sharing my experiences in China with my students, I am helping them gain global perspectives, expand their cultural knowledge and improve their academic studies so they are better prepared to enter today’s competitive job market,” Ms. Cho said.

Ms. Cho received her bachelor’s degree in English in 1998 and her master’s degree in English in 2004, both from TWU.

Students Attend Clinton Global Initiative

Eight TWU students learned how to address issues affecting the world during the third annual Clinton Global Initiative University Conference at the University of Miami. The conference brought together 1,200 college students and 100 university presidents, as well as non-profit organizations, social entrepreneurs and youth leaders. The students attended sessions on global issues such as poverty, public health and education.

Each year TWU awards almost $9 million in scholarships to more than 9,600 undergraduate, graduate and transfer students.

Measure of Excellence

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Measure of Excellence
Alumni Entrepreneur Achieves Success

Ramiro (Ramsey) Garza III, who received his EMBA from TWU in 2008, is one of an increasing number of TWU alumni who are using what they learned at the university to start their own businesses.

Mr. Garza is founder of Barrister Solutions, LLC, also known as the “Law Firm At Home.” The company is a virtual law firm for small to mid-sized law practices featuring a secure website where case information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The company also provides secure online communication between attorneys and clients and is an advertising venue for other law firms.

Mr. Garza came to TWU after seeing an ad for TWU’s online EMBA program in 2006. The idea for his business came from a project during his last semester in an e-business class.

“At TWU, I realized that today’s market is truly global and fueled by technology,” Mr. Garza said. “Class research showed that while some large law firms owned and used the technology in house, smaller firms were not being served, leaving a niche to be filled.”

Mr. Garza said his professors’ encouragement was instrumental in helping him develop the courage to step forward into the world of entrepreneurship.

“Actually applying the knowledge I learned is my greatest joy,” Mr. Garza said. “It is incredibly easy to learn the law, but making it happen is a different story.”

Read more about Ramsey Garza and other TWU entrepreneurs at www.twu.edu/alumni.

Alumni Group Supports Students

CITING a mission to support Texas Woman’s University’s long history of educating and graduating black students, five former students have come together to create the TWU Black Alumni group. The TWU Black Alumni group seeks to create a sense of community among TWU black alumni, to explore the rich history of TWU’s black graduates, to mentor current students toward graduation and to establish a scholarship endowment.

The group also was started in part to commemorate TWU’s nearly 50 years of graduating black students. “We want to give back to a university that was so important to us as students, so that TWU will have a strong black alumni base for the future,” said Dianne Randolph, B.S. ’69, M.A. ’71, a founding member of TWU Black Alumni. “We want to give back to a university that was so important to us as students, so that TWU will have a strong black alumni base for the future.”

- Dianne Randolph

TWU Black Alumni membership is open to anyone interested in supporting the goals of the group. More information about TWU Black Alumni, its founding members and upcoming activities can be found on the alumni website www.twu.edu/alumni or by joining the group’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TWUBlackAlumni.

Appraise Dana Gibson, Sam Houston State University President

Dr. Dana Gibson, recently named the first female president of Sam Houston State University, credits TWU with giving her the confidence to become a successful higher education leader.

“Faculty were committed to helping me develop as a leader both on and off campus,” Dr. Gibson said. “I remember attending an off-campus business event in Fort Worth with then president Dr. Mary Evelyn Blagg Huey. This amazing experience helped me realize that to receive a complete education, you must have opportunities both in and out of the classroom.”

Dr. Gibson has held leadership positions at several universities including TWU, where she served as vice president for academic and information services and was a member of the faculty. “TWU inspired me to do my best during my time there as a student, and then later as a faculty member and administrator,” Dr. Gibson said. “The TWU community always has been very supportive and urges you to achieve even more than you believed you could.”

Dr. Gibson received her bachelor’s degree and MBA from TWU and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Arlington.

To nominate an alumni for APPLAUSE, email alumnirelations@twu.edu.

Homecoming Reunion 2011

The TWU Class of 1961 – the first class to start and graduate under the name Texas Woman’s University – will celebrate its 50th anniversary during Homecoming Reunion Weekend 2011. The single red rose, which often was exchanged by the class of ’61 to recognize achievement or as a gesture of appreciation, will be the theme of the celebration. All TWU alumni are invited to the Denton campus April 14-17 for 2011 Homecoming activities, which include Honors Convocation on April 14, the Distinguished Alumni Luncheon on April 15 and class reunion activities for classes ending in “1” and “6.” See the complete schedule at www.twu.edu/alumni or call (940) 898-2586 for more information.
TWU Foundation Supports University

I want to support TWU Lead the Way Academic Scholarships

I want to help preserve the Little Chapel-in-the-Woods

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I want to support TWU Lead the Way Academic Scholarships

Help Repair the Little Chapel

Dallas Building Update

Texas Woman’s University... where Excellence Rules!

Lead the Way Campaign

ANY donation big or small can truly make a difference to a student in need at Texas Woman’s University. More than 73 percent of TWU students require financial aid to be able to pursue their studies.

The “Lead the Way... that Others May Follow” program was developed in 2008 to help provide much-needed scholarship assistance to TWU students. It is a designated scholarship campaign benefiting students in specific colleges, schools and departments.

Alumni and others are asked to designate their gifts for student scholarships in departments and academic units within the university.

Consider a designated gift supporting an academic area special to you. To give to the campaign, use the coupon below.

For more information, go to www.twu.edu/development.


For almost 60 years, the Texas Woman’s University Foundation has provided vital support to the university and its students. Established as a nonprofit organization in 1952, the TWU Foundation’s mission is to solicit, accept and distribute gifts that enhance the educational excellence at the university.

Through the TWU Foundation, alumni and friends may create named endowments to support a variety of areas. These endowments may be created through direct donations and through estate planning. Currently, the TWU Foundation has more than 200 separate endowments that support student scholarships, faculty development, educational programs and more.

The TWU Foundation is governed by a board of directors that represents a broad spectrum of both alumni and community leaders from throughout Texas. For more information, or if you have an interest in serving on the TWU Foundation Board of Directors, contact TWU’s Office of Institutional Development at (940) 898-3863.

TWU still is accepting donations to help repair the beloved Little Chapel-in-the-Woods. The university has begun work on the necessary repairs to the chapel, which include much-needed electrical wiring upgrades and a new copper roof. Please consider helping TWU preserve this TWU treasure so the chapel can be enjoyed by future generations. All donors who give a gift in the amount of $100 or more will receive a special commemorative watercolor of the Little Chapel-in-the-Woods suitable for framing.

Texas Woman’s University is nearing the finish line in raising funds for the new TWU T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center, which will open for classes in January. More than $53 million has been raised toward the $55.5 million goal for the building. However, it’s not too late to help the university meet its fundraising goal.

To contribute, visit www.twu.edu/dallascampus, or contact Tiffany Rupani at trupani@twu.edu or (940) 898-3872.

www.twu.edu
Leadership Institute Graduates Successful Students

Alumni of the Texas Woman’s University Leadership Institute continue to achieve success since the first class graduated in 2008. Linda Tchouaffe, a 2008 master of business administration graduate, is now a senior consultant for Deloitte & Touche, LLP in Dallas. Rae Lynn McFarlin, a 2010 mathematics and chemistry graduate, is one of only two students in Texas and 60 in the U.S. to receive a national fellowship from the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She is using her scholarship to pursue a doctorate in chemistry at Texas A&M University. Another success is A. Archana, a 2010 fashion design graduate who interned at O The Oprah Magazine in summer 2010. She is attending graduate school at the University of Delaware with a full scholarship and a $21,000 teaching assistant stipend.

WASP Receive Dole Award

The Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASP, received the 2010 Dole Leadership Prize during an October ceremony in New Century, Kansas. The award is presented annually by the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics to an individual or group whose public service inspires others. In honor of the WASP, the $25,000 prize was given to the Texas Woman’s University library, home of the WASP national archives. The library will use the funds to digitize the collection and create a new website about the women. “The Dole Award is a recognition that, through their letters, diaries and photographs, the WASP were creating an important part of the American record,” said Sherilyn Bird, director of the TWU Libraries. More information about the WASP is available at www.twu.edu/library/wasp.asp.

Native Plant Society

TWU’s conservation legacy was highlighted when the university hosted the Native Plant Society of Texas’ (NPSOT) 30th anniversary symposium in October. This nonprofit with TWU “roots” encourages native plant use, which can reduce water consumption drastically. Three decades ago, TWU leadership got NPSOT off the ground. The organizing committee included then-TWU president Dr. Mary Evelyn Blagg Huey; faculty members Dr. Robert Collier, Dr. Kenneth Fry and Dr. William Beale; and TWU staff including Gertrude Gibson and Audrey Tittle.

That tradition continues with TWU faculty member Cynthia Maguire serving as NPSOT’s president-elect for 2011. “It matters that we get a grip on how we use water and other natural resources,” Ms. Maguire said. “Texas’ population is predicted to double in the first 30 to 50 years of this century, and we won’t be able to double our water supply.”

The symposium attracted national experts who led dozens of field trips, seminars and workshops on native plants’ importance to sustainability and the ecological web. More than 250 people attended the event, which also raised $3,000 for scholarships for student research.

“Texas Woman’s University has made many great strides in its efforts with the state’s ‘Closing the Gaps’ program, and I commend them for their hard work.”

—Dr. Ray Brawell, Superintendent, Denton ISD

“Denton ISD works closely with TWU officials to close the gap on the number of students going on to higher education. The TWU Go Center, dual course offerings and other programs have helped to increase these numbers.”

—State Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls

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Friends and supporters of TWU congratulate the university on its record enrollment and exceeding the state’s ‘Closing the Gaps’ goal.

—Dr. Ray Brawell, Superintendent, Denton ISD

enrollment

“Are you and your school ready to take advantage of the cutting-edge programs and opportunities at TWU? We are ready to partner with TWU in this work.”

—Dr. Liliana Valadez, Executive Director - College & Career Readiness, Dallas ISD

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—by Betsy Friauf

Top photo: Members of the Native Plant Society tour the Dixon Water Foundation ranch on Bear Creek. Bottom photo: TWU faculty member Cynthia Maguire leads group members on a tour of the TWU gardens. These and other field trips were part of the group’s 30th anniversary symposium, hosted by TWU.

TWU Times staff

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welcomed high school students from the Irma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School to the “Fit to Lead Camp” at TWU. The camp helps prepare participants for a successful college experience with sessions on leadership development, nutrition and fitness.

…attended a performance at Redbud Theater of the play “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie,” part of the TWU Drama Program’s first-ever Children’s Theater Summer Series. Shown with Chancellor Stuart and children from the audience are, from left: TWU drama students Mallory Bryant-Gawne, who played Max; Cassie Henderson, who played the mouse; and Joanna Wesson, who played the mouse’s mirror image.

…read to children as part of the Summer Reading Program at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in Denton. The program was co-sponsored by the TWU chapter of the Association of Texas Professional Educators and Barnes and Noble.

…hosted more than 60 TWU student leaders at a picnic at University House on the Denton campus. The student leaders enjoyed food and music while mingling with each other, Chancellor Stuart and other university officials.

…cheered the cooks, judges and winners of the annual TWU Chili and Pie Cook-Off and Auction, part of the university’s State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) activities. Standing with Chancellor Stuart are, from left: TWU SECC Committee members Nora Sierra, Michelle Williams-Leung, Ruth Johnson, Elizabeth Spoons and Shari Dragon. Seated, from left: SECC Committee members Kathy Woods and Glenlay.

…hosted the Denton Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Membership Luncheon at Hubbard Hall on the TWU Denton campus. Shown with Chancellor Stuart are, from left: Stan Morton, president of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton; Sarah Adams, TWU student regent; State Sen. Craig Estes (Wichita Falls); and Chuck Carpenter, president of the Denton Chamber of Commerce.

…toured the construction site of the TWU T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health-Sciences-Dallas Center, which will open for classes in the spring. Shown with Chancellor Stuart are, from left: Malinda Potynski, executive assistant to the chancellor; Lauren Nitschke, co-owner of 3-DG Environmental Graphics; Jack Yardley, building designer and an architect with HKS in Dallas; and Harold Johnson, TWU associate vice president for facilities management.

…was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Austin chapter of the TWU Former Students Association at the Austin Women’s Club. Shown with Chancellor Stuart are, from left: Debra Winegarten, Austin FSA president, and Sandra Gonzalez Tegnelli, Austin FSA secretary.

DR. ANN STUART...

TWU’s “Chancellor On the Move”