TCU graduates more than 800 at Fall Commencement

August and December degree candidates participate in ceremony

FORT WORTH, Texas (Dec. 19, 2009) – TCU today bestowed degrees on 868 students at its fall Commencement, graduating students from 38 states, including Texas, and 37 countries in a formal ceremony held in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. Students received their diplomas from Chancellor Victor J. Boschini, Jr.

Chancellor Boschini delivered the commencement address. Besides those receiving bachelor’s degrees, there were 215 graduate candidates, 27 doctoral candidates and 32 Brite Divinity School graduate candidates. One hundred and two students graduated with Latin Honors: 54 cum laude, 31 magna cum laude and 17 summa cum laude. Three students graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA and 12 students received double degrees.

TCU graduates Mel Owen and Wayne Bradley will finally receive degrees 44 years after they were originally scheduled to graduate. The men, who met as freshmen roommates in 1961, were friends, fraternity brothers and psychology majors, minoring in applied sciences. Both should have graduated in June 1965, but neither did because they were drafted into the Vietnam War. Both walked in today’s ceremony. Mr. Owen’s 89 year-old-mother attended with several family members.

The University also bestowed, for the fifth time, the Michael R. Ferrari Award for Distinguished University Service and Leadership. Dr. Keith Whitworth, a member of TCU’s sociology faculty, was chosen as this year’s recipient for his determined and focused approach to bringing sustainability to the TCU campus.
The university also recognized professors for their outstanding teaching and quality research or creativity. Nominees for the Deans’ Creativity or Research Award include Dr. Jeff Ferrell, AddRan College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Charlotte Hogg, AddRan College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Charles R. “Bob” Greer, M.J. Neeley School of Business; Dr. Chris Sawyer, College of Communication; Dr. Frank Thomas, College of Education; Dr. T.J. Walsh, College of Fine Arts; Dr. Dennis Cheek, Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Nominees for the Deans’ Teaching Award include Dr. Curt Rode, AddRan College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Carrie Currier, AddRan College of Liberal Arts; Ms. Janice Cobb, M.J. Neeley School of Business; Dr. Paul Witt, College of Communication; Dr. Cecilia Silva, College of Education; Ms. Susan Douglas Roberts, College of Fine Arts; Dr. Tracy Dietz, Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences; Dr. Anne VanBeber, College of Science & Engineering.