

# CCNY Professor Serving as a NASA Mission Team Leader

Dr. Z. Johnny Luo, an associate professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and NOAA CREST Institute at The City College of New York, is one of 12 lead scientists on a NASA airborne mission to study how convective clouds help process and transport air pollutants, including those from wildfires. The mission, involving two aircraft that are crisscrossing the southwestern United States, began August 10. A NASA media day event for the mission will be held Wednesday, August 21 in Houston.

More than 200 scientists plus ground support personnel are involved in the mission. As a team leader, Professor Luo is charged with implementing the mission's scientific goals. At 39,

he is the youngest team leader chosen by NASA through an open competition.

"We scientists still don't fully understand how convective clouds transport pollutants from near the Earth's surface to the atmosphere," he said. "They are critical because without a clear understanding of these transport processes we cannot effectively predict how air quality will change in a changing climate."

"We know we are headed toward a warmer climate, but we also want to know whether air quality will deteriorate or improve and how clouds will play a role in changing air quality. It is a difficult question to answer."

The two principal aircraft assigned to the mission are a Lockheed ER-2 high-altitude



Dr. Z. Johnny Luo, associate professor in the City College of New York Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, is the youngest team leader on the NASA SEAC4RS mission.

reconnaissance plane and a converted Douglas DC-8 passenger airliner. Between them, the two airplanes have been outfitted with more than 46 instruments that will collect data on cloud microphysics, aerosols, trace gas pollutants and atmospheric states.

As they cover their territory, the two aircraft are flying beneath satellites that are gathering similar data from a much higher altitude. However, the aircraft are collecting data with much finer resolution near or inside

See CCNY Professor Serving, page 54

# Touro College Will Offer New Degree Programs in Nursing

School Introduces Bachelor of Science and RN-B.S. Programs

Touro College and University System President and CEO Dr. Alan Kadish recently announced that the State of New York has given final approval to two new baccalaureate degree programs in the field of nursing.

The two new Bachelor of Science degrees will be offered this fall at the Brooklyn campus of Touro College's School of Health Sciences.

The first degree is a four-year Bachelor of Science program with a major in nursing.

The second degree is known as an "RN to B.S.," a one- to two-year program for licensed registered nurses who have already graduated from an accredited nursing program and who wish to apply those credits toward a B.S. degree.

"Touro College is one of America's largest educational providers in the health science field, and these two new degrees further bolster our national leadership status as teachers of the next generation of healthcare providers," said Dr. Kadish. "Nurses today are required to address increasingly complex health challenges faced by the patients they serve. Because of advances in health



Touro College has announced that they will be offering new degree programs in nursing

science and technology, nurses must also possess a more comprehensive array of skills than in years past."

Professor Sandra Russo, M.S., RN, chairperson and program director of the Touro College School of Health Sciences nursing department, said that while nurses to date have generally not been required to carry a bachelor's degree to enter the profession, that pattern is changing.

"Growing numbers of employers in New York state and elsewhere are strongly encouraging nurses to earn their bachelor's degrees," Professor Russo said. "In fact, we expect that the degree will be required by virtually all major employers down the road. The bachelor's

diploma is rapidly becoming a critical stepping stone for professional advancement, especially for nurses aiming to take on management responsibilities."

In addition to the new bachelor's programs, Touro will also offer a combined Associate in Applied Science/Bachelor of Science (A.A.S./B.S.), which will qualify students to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Since its founding in 2005, Touro's nursing program has offered the two-year A.A.S. degree, with a major in nursing. Graduates qualify to take the NCLEX-RN. Touro graduates'

See Touro College Will Offer, page 54



A NASA ER-2 high altitude reconnaissance aircraft is one of two principal airplanes used on the mission.

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