



**Annual Report
Texas Christian University Retirees' Association
2018-19**



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Mission

The TCU Retirees’ Association exists to provide opportunities for fellowship, to promote lifelong learning, to advocate for fair benefits, to recognize the accomplishments of its members, and to strengthen the relationship between retirees and the University.

Overview

Established in 1983, TCURA continues to grow and expand in our programs and services to our members. Our current mission has not strayed far from the original one envisioned by Dr. Jeff Horn of the School of Education and other faculty and staff from their respective divisions of the University.

Our goal is to help our members stay connected — both to each other and to TCU. We connect our members through our monthly luncheons, special events and programs as well as our monthly newsletter and web site.

The members of TCURA represent thousands of years of service to Texas Christian University, many of those years when TCU was not as prosperous as it is today in enrollment, finances and athletics among other things. Currently some 80 endowed scholarships are named for or in honor of TCU retirees. Most retirees have been longtime donors and season ticket holders.

TCURA is a member of AROHE, Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education. Janet Herald, President, and Julie Baker, Vice President, represented TCURA

at AROHE's biennial meeting in Atlanta in October, 2018, as the only school in attendance from Texas.

TCURA Executive Council 2018-19

President – Janet George Herald
Vice President/Program Chair – Julie Baker
Secretary – Donna Johnson
Treasurer – Wendy Crowley
Past President – Larry Adams
Membership Chair – Richard Sybesma
Communications Chair – Chuck Lamb
Health and Wellness Chair – Stan Hagadone
UCAC Representative – Linda Moore
Development Coordinator – Paul Hartman
Newsletter Editor – Nancy Madsen
List Master – Judy Groulx
Bridge Committee representative – Kirk Downey

Membership

Membership in the Association is open to faculty and staff who have officially retired from active association with Texas Christian University and Brite Divinity School.

Associate membership shall be open to spouses and partners, surviving spouses and partners, and others nominated by members and approved by the TCURA Executive Council. This spring, we welcomed Dr. Ray Keck, President Emeritus of Texas A&M-Commerce, and his wife to our association as Associate members as they now live in Fort Worth.

In 2018-19, TCURA continued its recent pattern of growth as evidenced by increased attendance at our monthly luncheons. Typical attendance has been in the range of 85-100 members and guests each month. As more faculty and staff are retiring from TCU each year and a concerted effort is being made to encourage retirees' participation in TCURA, we have seen our core group, defined by regular or occasional attendance at luncheons, grow from around 100 four years ago to approximately 150 this past year. Our active members are fairly evenly divided between former faculty and staff and range in age from mid-60s to over 90.

Programs

Monthly luncheons

Monthly luncheons are held usually on the third Tuesday of the month from September through May in the Kelly Center ballroom. An array of speakers from on and off campus enlightens us on a variety of topics. This year our speakers and their topics were:

September - Meredith Meuwly, director of appraisal services for Heritage Auctions – “Tales from the Auction House”

October – Dr. Jim Riddlesperger – TCU Political Science professor – “Mid-Term Elections”

November - Adrian Andrews, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Public Safety – “From the White House to the Pond”

December – Sunshine Singers – holiday music

January – J.R. (Jack) Edmondson – local historian – “The Story of Fort Worth Told by Two Characters of the Time”

February – Bobbie Wygant – local broadcast legend – “Seventy Years in Television”

March – Alissa Cunningham – Marketing Director for Trail Drive Management Corporation – “Dickies Arena”

April – Richard Sybesma, retired TCU swim coach – “Fifty years of TCU Athletics”

May – Dr. Teresa Abi-Nader Dahlberg – TCU Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Special events

July – Coffee with the Chancellor at Minor House

March – Exhibit “Another Frontier, Frederic Remington’s East” at Sid Richardson Museum sponsored by Art and Antiques special interest group

April – Theatre TCU production of “42nd Street”

Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups are started and led by members who have an interest in a particular topic or activity.

Art and Antiques – led by Gail and Jack Davis - NEW

Coffee, Books and Conversation – led by Judy Smith – meets monthly at University Christian Church

Bridge – led by Nancy Madsen – meets monthly at members' homes – NEW

Mah-jongg – led by Jane Mackay – NEW

Communication

A new and improved web site launched in September meeting all TCU standards for its appearance and under the supervision of the TCU Information Technology department. It includes a newsletter archive with featured articles on the site and online reservation capability for luncheons and other activities. We also have a descriptive brochure to share with prospective retirees.

Health and Wellness

From its founding, TCURA has been an advocate for retiree benefits, especially health benefits. This was never more pronounced than in 2013-14 when the University tried to reduce prescription drug benefits and the Retirees' Association and others on campus fought to have the existing "bridge" program instated through 2019. This past year the majority of effort by our Health and Wellness Chair Stan Hagadone was focused on serving on the Retirees Health Benefits Task Force. Along with Kirk Downey, they represented retirees past, present and future to secure benefits to replace the "bridge" program in 2020 and beyond.

Development

We solicit our members to designate TCURA for a portion of their donation to TCU each year to use to help underwrite luncheon costs and other expenses. Once again this year, TCURA promoted participation in TCU Gives Day to its members and raised \$3500 in one day for our association.

Recognition

Given to recognize teaching, research, creativity, innovation, leadership or contributions to specific programs and activities, "A TCU Treasure" is a living person recognized for both personal achievements and for enhancing the reputation of the university. At our April luncheon, we awarded "A TCU Treasure" to Dr. Ron Flowers and Dr. Charles (Chuck) Lamb for their outstanding contributions as teachers and scholars. "A TCU Treasure" award was presented for the first time in 2018 to two deserving retirees: Dr. Manfred Reinecke and Dr. Emmet Smith.

New Initiatives

Pathways to a Successful Retirement

On April 10, the Kelly Center Justin Boardroom was full as over forty faculty and staff who are considering retirement attended a panel discussion called “Pathways to a Successful Retirement” planned and led by TCURA members. The presentation, chaired by Larry Adams and Stan Hagadone, focused on the psychological and social aspects of retirement with things to consider based on the experience of current retirees. TCURA plans to make this an annual event as a service to the TCU community.

Exploring service and volunteer opportunities

With the support of Executive Council member Judy Groulx, TCURA polled our membership to ascertain what role our Association might play in facilitating retirees’ service activities. We gathered information from 114 survey participants, representing about 20% of all members who receive email correspondence from the Association.

The survey revealed that we are engaged in over 80 different areas, including churches, courts and prisons, libraries, gardens, museums, schools, political organizations, environmental agencies, neighborhoods, health agencies and hospices. We are serving the homeless and hungry, veterans, school children and youth, TCU students, victims, refugees, animals, and the elderly. Most frequently mentioned were church-associated activities, Meals on Wheels, and serving as a board member for non-profits.

Over 75% of survey respondents reported regular volunteering, from several times a month to more than once a week. Even though 45% said they are already very committed or otherwise occupied, many showed moderate or high interest in serving beyond their current levels. Nearly 50% indicated that they would participate in one-time service events; 25% report that they have time to learn about new volunteering opportunities and 12% would appreciate TCURA support for seeking volunteer and service opportunities.

As a result of these findings, beginning in the fall we will coordinate with TCU’s Office of Community Engagement to participate in one-day volunteer programs, publish service opportunities in our newsletter and on our web site and create a forum on our web site where our members can share descriptions of their service activities and invite others to join them.

