

TCU RETIREES' FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Dr. Darron Turner '87 and Dr. Claire Sanders



DR. DARRON TURNER '87

Dr. Darron Turner '87, TCU's first chief inclusion officer, will speak at the February 18 TCURA meeting in the Cox Ballroom of the Dee J. Kelly Alumni & Visitors Center. Lunch, which costs \$15, starts at 11:30, and the program begins at noon. Please RSVP by February 10 online at TCURA.tcu.edu or by contacting Joan Yates at j.yates@tcu.edu or 817-292-7087.



DR. CLAIRE SANDERS

Darron holds a bachelor of social work and a Ph.D. in educational leadership from TCU, as well as a master's of human relations and business from Amberton University. He was a student-athlete in the 1980s on Coach Jim Wacker's football team. He served 22 years in TCU Student Affairs where he was responsible for the areas of inclusiveness and intercultural

services, international student services, community engagement, veteran services and assessment. As the University's first chief inclusion officer and Title IX coordinator, he works to recruit a diverse student body, hire and develop strong role models and mentors for students of color and ensure that curriculum and instruction mirror those efforts. Additionally, he focuses on policies and practice as well as issues management.

Darron expresses his vision for a better TCU thusly: "If a student walks out of here never having had a conversation about the topic of inclusiveness, then we've failed. Because they are going to walk into an environment of mixed gender, race, religion, orientation and social economics, they are going to have to interact with those issues both where they work and where they live. We should be helping students

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PLEASE NOTE:

Reservations for the February 18 meeting are due Monday, February 10, so please RSVP as soon as possible online at tcura.tcu.edu or by contacting Joan Yates at j.yates@tcu.edu or 817-292-7087. The February TCURA meeting coincides with Ministers Week, so parking may be sparse. Please consider carpooling or come early to find a spot; the parking garage might be the best option.

**LUNCHEON
DATES**

**FEBRUARY 18
MARCH 17**

**APRIL 21
MAY 19**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Shortest Month

We are truly into the new year charging ahead. I remember my grandparents and aunts and uncles talking about how time goes by faster as you get older. I of course, just thought they were weird but now I get it. The days fly by and you wonder what you have accomplished in the short time of each day. As January zips by we move to the shortest month - February. While short, it is packed with important dates. There is a lot to accomplish in February in little time. This year at least we have an extra day for Leap Year and it's on a Saturday! That's a gift. However, don't forget Valentine's Day!

Most importantly though, February is Black History month. There are many events on campus throughout the month and I encourage you to check the TCU website for information about them. We are excited to have Dr. Darron Turner, Chief Inclusion Officer & Title IX Coordinator, and Dr. Claire



LINDA MOORE

Sanders, Provost's Faculty Fellow and Inaugural Academic Affairs DEI Advocate, at our luncheon on Feb. 18. They will share with us TCU's progress on inclusion issues, efforts to improve the DEI culture, celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. day, our indigenous peoples'

monument, and information about intercultural, gender, disability and spiritual services. Many of you have been and continue to be involved in the efforts to increase the diversity of the campus and to make it more inclusive. The work has not always been easy but it is exciting to see the progress over the years as TCU has become a more diverse, inclusive campus that respects and supports all of its members. The university mission to prepare ethical leaders and global citizens is working. Students of color are now 20% of the student population and the efforts continue to make sure TCU reflects our diverse society in all of its arenas.

We are in an interesting and difficult time in the U.S., a time of division and silos. We need to remember how important it is to communicate openly and respectfully, to listen before attacking in order to truly hear *continued on page 3*

TCU RETIREES' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2019-2020

TERMS OF OFFICE END MAY 2020.

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**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN,
CONTINUED**

another's perspective, and to be open to new ideas that take time to evaluate. As retirees, we have experience with change, new ways of doing things, and different perspectives. Hopefully we have the wisdom to hear how all of that impacts others outside of our silos and help all of us work toward openness.

We have other important events coming this spring. Come to the luncheon in March when we hear about scams and how to protect against them. Our TCU Treasure Award will be presented in April. Please note the Call for Nominations in this newsletter and nominate people who have represented the best of TCU. Also in April we will have our '2nd Annual Pathways to Successful Retirement' panel for folks considering retirement or those in retirement who want some ideas about how to spend it. Watch your mail and the newsletters about it and encourage colleagues and friends to participate!

Pray for spring and sunshine. Hope for the end of mountain cedar. Value life and learning. Thanks for being a part of TCURA

**IN MEMORAM**

Kay Reuter
Dr. Mike Harville,
professor of professional
practice in engineering

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February Luncheon

look at what their values are, but also challenging those values."

Schedule permitting, Dr. Claire Sanders plans to join Darron at the meeting to discuss TCU's new diversity agenda. Claire is the provost's faculty fellow and the inaugural Academic Affairs DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) advocate. Claire is the senior instructor in the Department of History and co-director of African American and African Studies. She

earned an undergraduate degree from Mount Holyoke College and a Juris Doctor, master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Since joining TCU in 1998, she has taught a range of history courses and developed a course that helps liberal arts students prepare to enter the job market.

Please join us in February for a stimulating discourse on TCU's initiative to become more inclusive and diverse.

Special Interest Groups Announcements

Book Club: Coffee, Books & Conversation is scheduled to meet Wednesday, February 12, to discuss the novel, "The Tubman Command" by Elizabeth Cobbs, based on a true story which inspired the movie, "Harriet." The discussion will be led by Paul Hartman. We will meet at 10 a.m. at University Christian Church in Room 202. All are welcome. Judy Smith, 817-921-4798

Bridge will meet Friday, February 14, at 1 p.m. at Julie Baker and Chuck Lamb's home, 6324 Arrowhead Road, Fort Worth 76132. All are welcome whether you play bridge or not; if not, we can teach you! If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Nancy Madsen, 817-938-4341. Julie and Chuck live in a gated community so we need to give names to the gate attendant.

SPECIAL NOTICE

A memorial service for Eugenia Luker Trinkle, who died Oct. 20, 2019 in Durham, North Carolina, will be held in Fort Worth on March 23, 2020, which would have been her 90th birthday. The service will be held at 4 p.m. at Robert Carr Chapel where she and her late husband, Jim Trinkle, married 65 years ago in May.

According to her daughter, Alison, TCU was "so important to Mom and to our family and I thought there may still be a few of her contemporaries involved with TCURA who might be interested in knowing about the service."

COLUMNIST NANCY MADSEN

Reflections on Retirement

When I retired in May of 2017, I wasn't sure what I was going to do with myself, aside from spending more time with my grandchildren and perhaps ramping up my volunteer activities. Then I saw an article on Facebook that had originally been published in Fort Worth magazine on the 44 area attractions that you never knew existed. I was enthralled since I was born and raised in Fort Worth and had lived here since returning from college in 1976. What was there in Fort Worth that I didn't know about?

Turns out there were a lot of things I didn't know about my hometown. I attended Paschal High School, worked for TCU, worshiped at a church across the street from TCU, so you could say I spent most of my life going up and down Berry Street and hadn't ventured much farther. So here are some of the hidden parts of Fort Worth I had never known.

Did you know there is a waterfall in Fort Worth? It's called Airfield Falls and is located across from the golf course on the Carswell Air Force base property. Its address is on Pumphrey Drive; you can drive to it from 183 close to White Settlement Road or can walk to it along the Trinity Trails behind River Crest and Westover Hills. It is truly an idyllic setting right in the middle of the city!

There are statues of Quirky Longhorns on Dartmoor Court in the Berkeley neighborhood off Forest Park Boulevard. There are larger than life avocado statues in a yard on Hazelwood in the River Crest neighborhood. There is a Monticello art exhibit on West 4th Street where TCU sculpture professor Cam Schoepp transformed a lot across the street from his home near the

intersection of Arch Adams and West 4th into an art exhibit of six sculptures constructed of carved limestone from Sweetwater, Texas.

Some of the most fascinating revelations of my quest to learn more about Fort Worth were the neighborhoods I had never explored, many of which are being successfully rejuvenated. The Samuels Avenue area is one of the most historic in the city. The Traders' Oak is located at 1206 Samuels Avenue and was the site of the first county election in 1850 as well as home to Fort Worth's first business, a log cabin that sold liquor because army regulations prohibited merchants from selling liquor within one mile of a fort; i.e., the original Fort Worth. Samuels Avenue was Fort Worth's first neighborhood, which featured spectacular Victorian homes, some of which still exist. Also in the Samuels Avenue neighborhood is Pioneers Rest Cemetery, one of the oldest in the county and where General Edward H. Tarrant is buried.

Race Street is experiencing multimillion-dollar streetscape improvements which has attracted several good restaurants, including Tributary Café and Enchiladas Ole. Other neighborhoods experiencing resurgence include River Oaks (aka the River District) and South Main Street.

Another old cemetery, Oakwood, is on the north side with a beautiful view of the river and downtown. Founded with property donated by John Peter Smith, most of Fort Worth's early movers and shakers are buried here, along with the notorious. Mary Porter, who operated a whorehouse on Rusk Street (now Commerce Street)

in the heart of Hell's Half Acre, which was located approximately where the Convention Center is now, was buried in an unmarked grave in a section of the cemetery called "Soiled Dove's Row." In 2009, local historians chipped in and bought a headstone for her grave. The headstone reads: "Mary Porter; Call Me Madam." (from Lost Fort Worth by Mike Nichols.)

My research into hidden Fort Worth has been a fascinating and sometimes challenging mission and has merely scratched the surface. I am glad I have discovered these hidden gems in my hometown and am looking forward to unearthing more!

Editors Note: The Reflections on Retirement column will be published occasionally to highlight retirees' unique experiences with retirement, including activities they enjoy, places they travel, suggestions for Fort Worth restaurants, volunteer pastimes, and general reflections on this stage of life. It will not publish controversial subjects, such as politics and/or religion. If you are interested in submitting a column for future issues, send it to Nancy Madsen, n.madsen@tcu.edu or call or text her at 817-938-4341 with questions.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Texas Christian University 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 the retirees and the University.

RON FLOWERS: A TCU TREASURE

On Being a TCU Treasure

Imagine my surprise at being named a “TCU Treasure” for 2019 by the Retirees Association. I have been called a number of things during my career, some of them complimentary, but never before have I been called a “Treasure.” I deeply appreciate the designation, but whatever value I have been to TCU is because I only did my best as I saw it.

I went to graduate school at the School of Religion at the University of Iowa (at the time the only state university in the country that offered a Ph.D. in religion). I completed my work and took my job at TCU in 1966. We all remember what the 1960s were like. At Iowa there were regular student demonstrations about the Vietnam war, the incompetence of the administration and faculty to operate the university, and various and sundry other things that students could get exercised about. TCU in those years was very different. Oh, students got

riled up about things now and again, but nothing like at many of the campuses in the country. I learned quickly after I arrived on campus that there was a Committee on Student Apathy, formed by the more activist students trying to build a fire of interest about something among the more passive (the majority). I remember the second year I was here, walking up the stairs to my office one morning, seeing a hand-lettered sign reading: “The meeting of the Committee on Student Apathy this afternoon has been cancelled because of lack of interest.” So, a freshly-minted Ph.D. (there were a lot of us in those days) could spend time writing lectures and thinking about how to generate interest among his/her students about the courses they were teaching.

I taught Freshman introductory courses (principally Introduction to World Religions) every semester (sometimes two sections) for the 37 years of my full-time teaching. I got to

the point that I could teach that course off the back of my eye-lids; I quit taking notes to class after a while. My teaching field was/is the history of religion in the United States. From that framework I developed a sub-specialty in church-state relations in the U.S. I did virtually all my publication in that area and regularly taught a course in the subject. I brought some attention to TCU among scholars in that field from around the country, part of my “treasurehood,” I guess. Given that no one else in the department could teach that course, I have taught it most years (once a year) since I retired in 2003.

My gosh, did I have fun!! TCU and I fit each other perfectly (at least I thought so). I respected and really liked my colleagues in the Religion Department. I even enjoyed (most of the time) being department chair 1990-1999. I was eager to come to work every morning and loved going to class *continued on page 6*

Call for Nominations “A TCU Treasure” Award

The quality and stature of TCU today is based on the work and accomplishments of its current and past employees. The TCU Treasure Award brings recognition each year to a selected retired faculty or staff member for contributions toward fulfilling the mission and values of the University.

This award is given yearly to a retired faculty or staff member for exemplary service during their career at TCU and beyond. The recipient will have brought recognition to the University through teaching, student

involvement, research, service, or contributions to various programs and activities, and been recognized informally or formally for that work and service. Simply, the person is a “TCU Treasure” for contributing to others and enhancing the reputation and stature of the University during past years.

Nominations for the Award

In order to nominate someone for the award, the nominator should provide a complete package of supporting material that includes:

1. A statement as to why the

nominee merits the recognition

2. Brief supporting statements from up to three (3) former students or colleagues

Nomination packages should be forwarded to Janet Herald, Chair, TCURA Award Selection Committee, at jgherald@gmail.com or mail to 3630 South Hills Ave., FW 76109.

The Executive Council will select the recipient of the award which will be presented at the TCURA luncheon on April 21, 2020.

The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2020.

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On Being a TCU Treasure

and interacting with students. (Well, there was the grading thing, which I did not dig too much.)

I was a good teacher. My student evaluations were always on the high side. I won some teaching awards (including the Chancellor's Award). The student comment I heard about my teaching more often than not was that I was "tough but fair." I will take that any day of the week. If I was a "treasure" at TCU, it was principally for my teaching. But I was a good teacher principally because of things not of my doing. Being a person of faith, I attribute whatever it was that made me relate to students well and gain their appreciation as a teacher and scholar was because of the talents that God gave me. To be sure, I worked at it. I did my best. But it was principally because of my God-given something-or-other. I give God the glory.

Nancy wanted me to write a bit about what I like about retirement. The thing that I have liked most about retirement is that TCU has allowed me to continue to teach religion and constitutional law. Not having to go to department and university faculty meetings has been a really good thing! But to continue to be able to teach has been the icing on the cake. I have also taught in the TCU Silver Frogs program since its inception. That has been and continues to be, as the students say, a blast. As much as I loved teaching

undergraduates, and I really did love it, I have discovered that teaching folk 50 years old and older is really fun, too. It is a different kind of teaching, having to think on my feet more, more interesting kinds of questions to answer, just a more fascinating audience.

Right now I am working on an article that will be published in an anthology on church/state relations in America. I am also working on the history of the TCU Religion Department (I am way behind on that). Great fun.

Retirement has enabled me to travel more than I ever did when I was full-time. Also, I get to spend more time with my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. My only regret, and it is deep and profound, is that my beloved Leah died six years ago from Alzheimer's disease. She died seven weeks before our 54th wedding anniversary. I was privileged to be her caregiver until the end; although I had some help, at the very end. She died at home, where I still live. I am not alone in this. Many retirees have had to give up a spouse. You know what kind of void it leaves in your life.

So, I have continued to maintain a relationship with TCU. I did not retire and turn my back on the place. I could not do that, for it has meant too much to my life, professionally and personally, for me to do that.

I am disturbed by recent

developments in the character of our university. Maybe it is just nostalgia on my part, but, for me, TCU has gotten too big. It has become too much like a business or corporation and has lost some the character of a family that it used to have. Some decisions of the Administration have tended to devalue the worth of the faculty and staff both in compensation and benefits, to think of us as numbers or units of production, rather than as valued persons with enormous abilities to offer to our students. Be that as it may, I will continue to love the place so long as I am able. (I became 85 last week).

I am uncomfortable with the "treasure" label the Retirees have bestowed on me. Do not get me wrong. I am very appreciative of it. I am just not sure it fits. But I am greatly honored by the label because it was bestowed on me by my peers; by retired faculty and staff representing various academic disciplines from all across the university. THAT means a great deal to me. I thank you all very much!



NOTE

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