

## TCU RETIREES' MARCH LUNCHEON

# Come and learn about Fort Worth's new Dickies Arena!

Alissa Cunningham, marketing director for Trail Drive Management Corporation, will join us in March to talk about the new Dickies Arena. Dickies Arena will be a 14,000 seat, spectacular multipurpose venue located adjacent to the Will Rogers Memorial Center campus in Fort Worth, Texas. The facility is the result of a pioneering public-private partnership between the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, the State of Texas and a group of private-sector participants, including foundations, individuals and organizations. The arena will be owned by the City of Fort Worth and managed by the not-for-profit operating entity, Trail Drive Management Corp. (TDMC). The state-of-the-art arena, scheduled to open in November 2019, will host concerts, sporting events and family entertainment, and will be the new home to Fort Worth Stock Show Rodeo performances. For more information, visit [www.DickiesArena.com](http://www.DickiesArena.com).

Alissa came to Fort Worth after working for Spectra Venue Management as the director of marketing in Loveland, Colorado,



**ALISSA CUNNINGHAM**

where she oversaw all marketing efforts at the Budweiser Events Center and the Ranch Events Complex. Alissa created and implemented marketing, grassroots and public relations plans and focused on digital marketing and data acquisition. She assisted with the management of the customer service experience through the How You Doin'? program. Alissa was also the Midwest Region director of marketing, where she managed 13 venue -marketing departments and

pitched Spectra Venue Management as a facility management solution to potential clients. Prior to working at the Budweiser Events Center, she worked for Spectra Venue Management as the director of marketing at Chaifetz Arena in St. Louis, Missouri; the marketing manager for Children's Mercy Park in Kansas City, Kansas; and the marketing coordinator at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Alissa graduated from Drake University with bachelor's degrees in Journalism and Mass Communication and Law, Politics and Society in 2009 and earned her master's degree in business administration at Colorado State University.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**Reservations for the March meeting are due Monday, March 11, so please RSVP as soon as possible online at [tcu.ra.tcu.edu](http://tcu.ra.tcu.edu) or by contacting Joan Yates at [j.yates@tcu.edu](mailto:j.yates@tcu.edu) or 817-292-7087.**

**LUNCHEON  
DATES**

**MAR 19  
APR 16**

**MAY 21**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

# Taking Things for Granted

I have to admit that writing these columns relies on some amount of inspiration that is usually based on what's on my mind and/or in my heart the day it's due to the editor. Today is no different.

Two events this week have shaped my heart and mind – spending time with a young Venezuelan woman and the death of a longtime friend.

Today I had the good fortune of spending a couple of hours with Estefanía. We've become friendly over the past year as she's worked behind the counter at the donut shop where I buy coffee every day. She is bright, kind and ambitious. Currently enrolled in intensive English at Texas Wesleyan, her goal is to study international business at TCU. Last week we met with Karen Scott in Admission, so she is armed with information about what classes to take when she begins her basics at TCC. She is determined and hard working so I know her future will be bright.



JANET GEORGE HERALD

Estefanía's family escaped the horrible situation in Venezuela, but she has some stories to tell. My "adopted" son, Jacob, escaped from Sudan in 2006 to avoid military service in the Muslim army. Even now that his home country of South Sudan is independent, it has experienced civil war and brutality since its inception. I am proud of Jacob who is an American citizen and a 2015 TCU graduate. But it isn't, nor

hasn't been, easy for either of these young people that I admire so much.

On Wednesday, a friend and fellow TCU graduate, died of pancreatic cancer. As is usually the case with this horrible disease, her demise was quick. I had seen her at a board meeting in early December and now she's dead. Hard to believe.

Evan Davis, English economist, journalist, and presenter for the BBC, said, "It's not a bad idea to occasionally spend a little time thinking about things you take for granted. Plain everyday things."

For most of us, I suspect there are any number of things we take for granted: warm homes, clean air and water, education, the beauty around us, our health (good or bad), time, information. You fill in the blank.

Today I'm thinking about freedom and life.

## TCU RETIREES' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2018-2019

TERMS OF OFFICE END MAY 2019.

### Officers

#### President

Janet George Herald  
817-360-1061  
jgherald@gmail.com

#### Vice President

Julie Baker  
817-938-6318  
j.baker@tcu.edu

#### Secretary

Donna Johnson  
817-927-4620  
d.m.johnson@tcu.edu

#### Treasurer

Wendy Crowley  
817-657-6687  
wencro@aol.com

#### Past President

Larry Adams  
817-926-7314 or  
817-965-6655 cell  
l.adams@tcu.edu

#### Other Council members UCAC representative

Linda Moore  
817-924-5330  
l.moore@tcu.edu

#### Membership Chair

Richard Sybesma  
817-343-1547  
r.sybesma@tcu.edu

#### Communications Chair

Chuck Lamb  
817-939-5715  
c.lamb@tcu.edu

#### Health and Wellness Chair

Stan Hagadone  
972-393-8688 or  
214-8937551 cell  
j.hagadone@tcu.edu

#### Representatives-at-Large Development

Paul Hartman  
766-720-5777  
paul.hartman@tcu.edu

#### Bridge Committee Representative

Kirk Downey  
972-863-3628 or  
214-632-0314 Cell  
k.downey@tcu.edu

#### Membership List Master

Judy Groulx  
817-366-5333  
j.groulx@tcu.edu

#### Newsletter

Nancy Madsen, Editor  
817-938-4341  
n.madsen@tcu.edu

TCURA email address:  
tcura@tcu.edu

COLUMNIST NANCY MADSEN

# Retiree Spotlight: Suzanne Huffman



You could say that TCU has been very good to Suzanne Huffman. She is still friends with her first-year roommate at TCU and she met her future husband (Augie Schilling) at TCU. She attended TCU on a four-year M.E. Sadler National Merit Scholarship and graduated in 1973 with a double degree in journalism and dance. She returned to her alma mater in 1999 as an associate professor of broadcast journalism.

Originally from an unincorporated farming community in the far northeast corner of Tennessee near the birthplace of Davy Crockett, Suzanne graduated from Washington College Academy High School in 1969 as valedictorian. She was a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition and listed TCU as her

first college choice. After graduating from TCU, she earned a master's degree at the University of Iowa and worked as a television news reporter and anchor for several years before earning her Ph.D. at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Suzanne said she quickly learned that TCU is "much better behind the scenes than at other universities" where she had taught.

"The classrooms are well maintained, requested equipment is provided, new ideas are welcomed and processes are in place to handle conflicts that invariably arise," she said. "This seems like ancient history now but what I wanted to do in 1999 was stream my students' broadcast news packages and anchor segments to the web so their parents could see

their work. That was all new then and acquiring the equipment and internet connections to do it was an adventure."

In order to help with her increasingly frail parents, Suzanne retired in 2015 as professor emerita. Following her parents' passing, she and Augie increased their traveling and in 2018 embarked on Holland America's Grand World Voyage, a four-month circumnavigation during which they visited 39 different ports.

She and Augie have also served TCU as donors and each has served on the Board of the Clark Society, a TCU leadership donor group. In 2011 they endowed the Huffman and Schilling National Merit Scholarship for students with financial need earning National Merit Finalist status. As TCU sports fans, they have enjoyed traveling to bowl games, the College World Series, and NIT and NCAA tournaments.

"TCU is now an 'it' school," Suzanne said. "It's becoming more diverse. And some 1960s rules for first-year women students have changed. Dorm mothers no longer do bed checks at midnight to make sure first-year women are in their beds. It's my understanding that students can now have visitors in their rooms. And they can now wear pants and shorts on campus – some changes are good!"



COLUMNIST CAROLYN SPENCE CAGLE PHD, RNC-E

# End-of-Life Work: Feedback From the Experts

End-of-life discussions involving a loved one pose challenges for most families. Some persons with limited life may be too private to engage in discussions and decisions with family, while others comfortably share their decisions with close family members that will assume responsibility to act on a family member's end-of-life choices. Even those members may be uncomfortable in their role due to a belief that discussions minimize needed hope for a dying person's continued treatment. End-of-life discussions also place "front and center" a dying person's and family's need to face their own mortality, an unsettling issue for many.

Experts in end-of-life, however, note great value in talking about one's plans for anticipated remaining earthly life, even if that person seems to be healthy. Most end-of-life practitioners encourage adults to assume values and attitudes of dying patients (the real experts) to free themselves from future end-of-life struggles with limited life. Practitioners and dying

patients recommend the following to individuals and families for talking about end-of-life issues, particularly when a family member has a life limiting disease:

- \* Evaluate life priorities to support meaningful work and relationships (follow the adage, "the most valuable things in life are not things but people"); prioritize time with family members during wellness and particularly at end-of-life periods.

- \* Share deep feelings and have meaningful conversations with those you love to connect with one another; people are moved deeply with sharing of common values and support/love for each other. Regular expression of "I love you, I forgive you, please forgive me, and thank you," as part of family communication, build relationships and improve the quality of life of all family members.

- \* Prepare for the worst: make sure a family member with life limiting disease has an advance directive to clarify the person making decisions on behalf of a loved one unable

to exert their choices; share that document with responsible persons for a meaningful conversation; unfortunately, only 34% of healthy people have an advance directive, despite their limited predictive knowledge about when they may need another to make decisions on their behalf.

- \* Involve health care personnel in end-of-life discussions; Medicare covers those without a co-pay or deductible; increasingly, medical and health professionals receive training to insure patient well-being during all phases of life, including the dying process; Medicare covered benefits such as interdisciplinary team services, hospice, and palliative care help improve the quality of life when one's life becomes limited.

References: Fields, L. (2018, July 2). Life lessons from end-of-life experts. <https://www.nextavenue.org>

Johansen, B. (2018, July 19). How these medical schools are improving end-of-life instruction. <https://nextavenue.org>.

## TCURA Needs Our Support

"There are many ways our gifts to TCURA enhance the organization's effectiveness," Janet Herald told Executive Council members at its February meeting, "but right now we are 'between a rock and a hard place.'" With Sodexo's most recent price increase, TCURA's treasury balance is declining rapidly, she said.

The Executive Council expressed its intent to keep the meal price as

low as possible to maintain access to the monthly luncheons for all TCU retirees. Reluctant to sacrifice either food quality or service, all agreed increased gift support for TCURA can be an important part of the solution while the Council searches for other potential subsidies.

TCURA members have contributed more than \$3,500 this fiscal year including 44 who made

gifts on TCU Gives Day, a sizeable increase over the \$1,000 given in the previous year. Gifts to TCURA are tax deductible and may be made to TCU either by mail (TCU Office of Advancement, 2800 South University Drive, Fort Worth 76129) or online ([advancement.tcu.edu](http://advancement.tcu.edu)) noting the designation for TCURA.

# Special Interest Group Announcements

**Bridge** will meet Friday, March 8, at 1 p.m. at Nancy Madsen's home, 3936 Stonehenge Road, Fort Worth 76109. Nancy's phone is 817-938-4341.

**Coffee, Books and Conversation** will meet Wednesday, March 20, at 10 a.m. in Room 202 of University Christian Church, Paul Hartman will lead a discussion of the novel, "Unsheltered," by Barbara Kingsolver. All retirees are welcome.

Judy Smith, 817-921-4798

**Arts and Antiques** will host a tour of the exhibition, Another Frontier, Frederick Remington's East, at the Sid Richardson Museum, 309 Main Street, Thursday, March 21, at 3 p.m. Validated parking is available in Sundance Garage 1, 201 Commerce, immediately north of Second Street, and Sundance Garage II in the 400 block of Calhoun Street. Free valet parking is available on the west side

of Main Street at Third Street. Bring your parking ticket to the Museum for validation,

If you are interested in joining the **Mah-jongg** group, contact Jane Mackay at [j.mackay@tcu.edu](mailto:j.mackay@tcu.edu).

**TCU This Week** is now available on our website at [tcuira.tcu.edu](http://tcuira.tcu.edu). Click on the link in the lower right corner of the home page.

## Shirt Sales

Richard Sybesma is spearheading an effort to procure shirts for TCURA members. The purple polo shirt is a dry fit material with the TCU

Retirees' Association logo on the chest. Members desiring to purchase a shirt should write their size, men's or women's, and include \$25 cash or

check payable to the TCU Retirees' Association in an envelope that will be collected at the April meeting.

### 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.



**Anne Tomme**, Library  
**Scott Sullivan**, Retired Dean,  
College of Fine Arts

#### **CORRECTION:**

Last month's deceased was incorrectly listed as Jane Livesay; her name was actually Julia (Judy) Livesay

**IF YOU ARE  
INTERESTED IN  
STARTING A SPECIAL  
INTEREST GROUP,  
CONTACT CHUCK  
LAMB AT  
[C.LAMB@TCU.EDU](mailto:C.LAMB@TCU.EDU).**





**Photos from the February TCURA luncheon (from top left):** 1) Bobbie Wygant signs a book for Linda Smith 2) Fort Worth broadcast legend Bobbie Wygant spoke at the February TCURA luncheon 3) Suzanne Huffman and Bobbie Wygant 4) Jack Hesselbrock, Ray Keck of Texas A&M, Commerce, a guest of Larry Adams 5) Larry Lauer and Jean Walbridge 6) Chuck Lamb and Kathryn Schrub 7) Susan Shaw and Cynthia Chapa 8) Mark and Jeffica Toulouse and Nancy Grieser 9) Patricia Bradley and Alison Moreland. *All photos taken by Deana Ray*

#### NOTE

If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, notify the newsletter editor or any of the others listed as contacts here.



#### FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Search "TCU Retirees' Association" in the search line, and filter by groups. Click the "Join" button.