

Settling into the Fall Semester

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



PAT MILLER

A sister retiree noted recently that she still lives her life in semesters. So do I and we have started another Fall semester. Of course this means it is time to begin working on the Spring semester. Semesters are relentless and unforgiving.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Fall semester is how quickly students and faculty adapt

to an entirely new daily routine. Walk around campus on the third day of classes, amidst the hustle and bustle, and it always amazes that no one seems lost. Everyone appears to know exactly where they are going; what they are doing; and, why they are at the university. Visions are clear. Success seems certain. The University community seems timeless. And I guess it is.

My hope is that TCURA continues, like semesters, to serve all of us as a source of friendship, enjoyable and helpful programming, and advocacy for the best interests of TCU and its retirees. See you soon.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Dear Fellow Retirees,

Many of you have joined me in expressing excitement to once again gather as a group for lunch, fellowship and an interesting presentation. The Executive Committee has been diligently working to enable our gathering.

At the same time that we look forward to time together we are aware that COVID-19 is still with us. In fact, its current presentation may be more dangerous than any previous version. We know that transmissibility for the Delta variant is much higher than past versions. We know that our health care system is severely stressed. In short, this is a time for great care.

Your Executive Committee has discussed options for TCURA. We considered, once again,

Continued on Page 4



MEET YOUR NEW TCURA BOARD MEMBERS

It is so wonderful that TCURA is finally back up and running after a year and a half of downtime due to the pandemic. New officers ready to guide us through a new year are Pat Miller, President; Melinda Rubenkoenig, Vice President; and Richard Enos, Membership Chair. Below are their bios and photographs. Many thanks to Linda Moore, outgoing President, who faithfully led us through some difficult times. -- *Nancy Madsen*



**PAT MILLER,
PRESIDENT**

I came to TCU from North Carolina State University in 1981 as Associate Director of The Center for Organizational Research and Evaluation Studies (CORES). My specialty was building and installing data management

systems that produced information in support of strategic planning and outcome evaluation. A great deal of the work was related to prevention of substance abuse where I have maintained a working interest.

At TCU within a few years I was Coordinator and then Director of Enrollment Management. In 1986 I became University Registrar, a position I held until a few months before my 2016 retirement. During my tenure as Registrar the University awarded 75% of its total degrees.

Beginning with a paper registration in the Rickel Gym that gave way to web services now taken for granted, we all rode a wave of technology as higher education moved into this century... sometimes a bit awkwardly... but moving forward nevertheless.

At TCU I had the privilege of working with the finest people one could imagine. My colleagues in the Office of the Registrar, literally hundreds of faculty, many Deans and a multitude of administrators all demonstrated remarkable patience and commitment as we worked to build a better university.

Ann and I have two daughters, one in Plano, one in Austin, who have given us four grandchildren. My job is to spoil them and I am diligent.

I look forward to continuing efforts to build a significant role for TCURA in the Frog community.

-- *Pat Miller*



**MELINDA RUBENKOENIG,
VICE PRESIDENT**

I worked in the Registrar's Office at TCU, August 1994 through February 2017. I scheduled the academic classrooms for classes and events. There were moments of great excitement. An example is being given a classroom number

in a newly renovated building and scheduling classes in the room only to find out on the first day of class that it was an office! The good news is it was during a summer semester. I share this story because it helped prepare me for being given the task of finding a meeting location, speakers and catering at the last minute as VP of TCURA...exciting!

I began Kindergarten and graduated from high school in Burleson, Texas. I attended TCJC for two years. I am married to David Rubenkoenig whom I met when I was in elementary school. We have three children who graduated from TCU. Leah, class of 1998, Andrea class of 2002 and Ryan class of 2003. Our 6 grandchildren have been attending TCU events since they were born!

Retirement is wonderful! My favorite thing about retirement is my love and scheduling of Disney cruises is not dictated by an academic calendar! What I miss about my work is the wonderful colleagues that I have the privilege of calling lifelong friends. I always look forward to TCURA meetings to reconnect with those friends. Since retirement I have learned a new hobby, mosaics! Once a week, I drive to The Mosaic Hideaway in Waxahachie to my "happy place". I enjoy creating mosaic pieces. Many of which are gifts to family and friends. Plus, I have made new friends!

-- *Melinda Rubenkoenig*

Continued on Page 3

MEET YOUR NEW TCURA BOARD MEMBERS*Continued from Page 2***RICHARD ENOS,
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

My name is Richard Enos and I will be Chairing the Membership Committee for TCURA. I retired as an Emeritus Professor in September 2019 after teaching rhetoric for 46 years at The University of Michigan, Carnegie Mellon University and my

last 24 years at Texas Christian University. My late wife Jane Helppie and three of our six children came to TCU in 1995 where I held the Lillian Radford Chair of Rhetoric and Composition in the Department of English. Two of my children, Alex and Sus, graduated from TCU and my

son, Nathan, graduated from Rice University where he also played football. I have continued to stay active in my research on Classical Rhetoric and hope to re-activate my travel to archaeological sites in Greece, Italy and Turkey when the present medical and political problems are resolved. I also enjoy spending time with my puppy—Luna the Wonder Dog—and working on Ole Betsy, my 1965 Chevy C10 pickup truck that my children gave me when I turned 70. I very much enjoy retirement, although I miss seeing my colleagues and (of course) the students on a daily basis. I was pleasantly surprised to see how many of my friends are active members in TCURA; I feel like every TCURA luncheon is like a homecoming for me! I am delighted to see our TCURA grow and I am eager to help foster that growth.

-- Richard Leo Enos

*In Memoriam***Larry Alland**

Brite Adjunct Faculty

August 14

Kay C. Murray

Library Specialist

August 23

Paige Elizabeth Ruiz

College of Education

August 15

Ramsay H. Slugg

Neeley Accounting Adjunct Faculty

August 2

Sharlie Tomlinson

Brite Administrative Assistant

August 23

NEXT TCURA MEETING: OCTOBER 19

The Tuesday, Oct. 19 meeting of TCURA is scheduled to be held at 11:30 a.m. in the TCU Neeley School of Business, Hays Hall Banquet Room, Room 2303 and 2305 (second floor). More information will be sent regarding location and parking availability.

Kim Blouin, director of marketing for the Cliburn Piano Competition, will speak on the 2022 competition. The first two competition concert rounds will be hosted at the new Van Cliburn Concert Hall on the TCU campus.

Register to attend by contacting Linda Moore at l.moore@tcu.edu or 817-924-5330 by Oct. 11.

TCURA MISSION STATEMENT

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 the retirees and the University.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Continued from Page 1

canceling our luncheons. We considered meeting outside. We considered super-Zoom meetings. Our discussion was wide ranging. We diligently examined alternatives.

Ultimately, we concluded that our best option is to hold our luncheons relying on a four-point approach:

- Our strongest protection is the vaccine. We request that

only fully vaccinated persons attend any of our meetings. Our membership is a more vulnerable population and we must provide the best possible protection.

- Masks must be worn (properly) except while eating. This follows TCU policy.
- We will do our best to arrange seating that does not crowd us together.
- Rather than gather at a buffet, we will have box lunches.

I realize these protections will be insufficient for some and intrusive for others. If we are not able to make these work our alternative will be to cancel the TCURA lunches.

It is clear that no protections are 100% effective. Please assess your own health and well-being to determine if you can safely join us. I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Respectfully,
Pat Miller*

PHOTOS FROM SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON



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3



2

1. New TCURA President Pat Miller presided over the first meeting of the year in September.
2. TCURA Vice President Melinda Rubenkoenig holds a bagged lunch served at the September 21 meeting.
3. Melinda Rubenkoenig, past TCURA President Linda Moore and current President Pat Miller pose with Colin Plante and Rick Selcer, who spoke on 1940s music at the September meeting.

TCU'S TOTAL ENROLLMENT UP 4.9%

TCU ADMISSIONS

In a year where universities nationwide waited to see what the bounce back would be amid COVID-19, TCU's enrollment climbed 4.9% to 11,938. This includes a 5.3% increase in undergraduate students to 10,222 and a 2.4% increase in graduate enrollment to 1,716. All numbers are in comparison to Fall 2020.

"These numbers are a testimony to TCU's academic reputation and the unrivaled student experience. Students want to be here," said Chancellor Victor J. Boschini, Jr. "I am so proud of how our faculty stayed connected with our students last year, how our admissions team remained diligent, how Student Affairs supported our students, how the financial aid team stayed the course and how our entire dedicated staff contributed to these many efforts."

Retention from Fall 2020 of first-time, full-time students was 91.3%, and retention of transfer students was 81.3%. TCU added 430 transfer students and 2,560 first-time-in-college students for Fall 2021.

"This year was a year like no other in university admissions," said Dean of Admission Heath Einstein. "But TCU is a special place, and our students and prospective students understand the value of being a Horned Frog. When we combine that with the incredible dedication of our admissions team, financial aid and all who contribute, it's a recipe for success."

TCU was at the forefront of making admission test-optional when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, presenting

obstacles to testing for many. TCU is remaining test-optional for both 2022 and 2023 admission.

"This method is proving to provide us with the kind of diverse, well-rounded student we seek at TCU," Einstein said. "While applicants may still provide a test score if they feel it would enhance their application, we continue to employ a truly holistic review process that highlights personal character and the ability to engage with the community."

Notable increases in undergraduate enrollment included the Neeley School of Business adding 319 students for a total of 2,861, up 12.5%. The College of Science & Engineering added 148 for a total of 2,085. In graduate education, the most notable jump came from the TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine, which added its third class of incoming students for a current total enrollment of 180 students.

TCU is dedicated to enrolling an academically-talented, diverse student body and making TCU more accessible to students and families in today's ever-changing higher education landscape – while maintaining responsible enrollment growth for the future and maintaining its low student-to-teacher ratio. The university is committed to continuing its trend of increasing financial aid to better support students, compete with universities across the country and increase both the academic profile and diversity of incoming students.



HEADLINES OF INTEREST

KEY TCU NEWS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED



AWARD WINNERS RECOGNIZED AT CONVOCATION

Winners of several prestigious university awards were announced Tuesday as TCU's Convocation ceremoniously launched the beginning of the academic year. The full event is available to view online. Awards included the Wassenich Award for Mentoring in the TCU Community, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award, the Maryrose Short Teaching Excellence Award and the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Achievement as a Creative Teacher and Scholar.

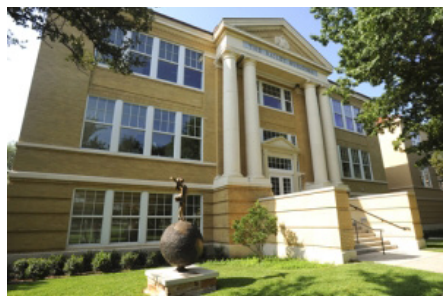
[CLICK FOR MORE...](#)



TCU DINING HELPS FELLOW COLLEGE STUDENTS DISPLACED BY HURRICANE IDA

First came COVID-19. Then came the 2021 winter storm. Then global supply chain disruptions. Now, after feeding people through unprecedented circumstances, TCU Dining is assisting in feeding about 175 students and staff that were displaced by Hurricane Ida. The evacuees from Xavier University of Louisiana turned to TCU for help since they both utilize Sodexo for food service.

[CLICK FOR MORE...](#)



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION APPOINTS THREE NEW FACULTY MEMBERS TO ENDOWED CHAIRS

The College of Education and Dean Frank Hernandez at TCU has named three faculty members to hold seats of endowed chairs. Endowed faculty positions are essential in creating new knowledge and shaping a vibrant future through exemplary research and teaching and are among the most prestigious and enduring investments a donor can make.

[CLICK FOR MORE...](#)

TCU RETIREES' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2021-2022

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