

THOUGHTS OF GRATITUDE

DAVID GREBEL

When Nancy Madsen asked me to write a column for the TCU Retirees newsletter, she said her only guidelines were that it could be on any topic “as long as it’s not political or raunchy!” Having eliminated all of the interesting topics, I wondered what I possibly would have to say.

Having just completed a long trip to the northeast ending in Maine, I could bore you with my personal travelogue. But thinking about that recent trip, my mind was filled with thoughts of gratitude. For my wife and our love, for new friends made on the journey, and for cooler temperatures. It reminded me of the words of Diana Butler-Bass, who wrote, “In normal life one is not at all aware that we always receive infinitely more than we give, and that gratitude is what enriches life.” So, I’d like to explore that awareness of gratefulness in the context of our retiree community.

I’m grateful for leaders of our Retiree Association, who kept the possibilities of community alive through the pandemic. I’m especially grateful for past presidents, Linda Moore and Pat Miller, who went third and fourth miles to bring us and keep us together. I’m grateful

for the encouragement of our new president, Melinda Reubenkoenig, and Rich Enos, who helps us stay connected through his gift of words. I’m grateful for the dedicated work of Wendy Crowley, who greets us at each lunch with a smile, while she relieves us of our \$15; and Lenelda Pennington, who is bringing back to life a website that will enhance our connections. I’m grateful for Judy Groulx, who does the thankless work of keeping our lists straight so we can maintain and expand our network; and to Fred Oberkircher who has taken on the behind-the-scenes task of preparing educational programs for us to help us make our way in, what is for some, the new environment of retirement. I’m grateful for new leaders like Bo Soderbergh, who brings his enthusiasm and love for our community of retirees. And I’m grateful for Nancy Madsen, who, although she makes me do my homework, provided me with the opportunity to reflect on gratitude.

And I’m grateful for each of you, colleagues at one time in our common work, and now friends who enjoy the experience of “comrades true.”

I look forward to being with you again when we gather for lunch on October 18.



NEXT TCURA MEETING:

A POLITICAL SCIENTIST’S PERSPECTIVE ON THE MID-TERMS WITH DR. JIM RIDDLESPERGER: A TCU professor of political science, Jim will give a non-partisan analysis of issues and trends in this political cycle.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 AT 11:30 AM
HAYS BANQUET HALL, NEELEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

RSVP TO LINDA MOORE: l.moore@tcu.edu or 817-924-5330

LUNCH & PARKING: Box lunches are available for \$15. Parking is available in the Visitor Lot on Lubbock Avenue across from Hays Hall.

VOLUNTEERISM OPPORTUNITIES

We are starting a monthly column regarding volunteer opportunities that retirees might be interested in. Below are some upcoming opportunities. If you have a volunteer activity you would like to see featured, please send the information to Nancy Madsen at:

n.madsen@tcu.edu

SHOE AND COAT DRIVE FOR DOLORES HUERTA ELEMENTARY: SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 14

Dream Big - PSP Counseling is a local non-profit founded by TCU alumna, Gaby Garcia '94, PsyD, LPC in 2018. Dream Big's primary mission is to provide mental health services to uninsured and underinsured children, teens, and adults. In addition, Dream Big hosts service projects to benefit the community. This year, in a collaborative effort to provide new shoes, coats and/or hoodies to students at Dolores Huerta Elementary, Dream Big is excited to partner with TCU's Hispanic Alumni Alliance, Black Alumni Alliance, and the Fort Worth Chapter.

[Click to Learn More](#)

BROADWAY BAPTIST CHURCH AGAPE MEAL: OCTOBER 27

Broadway Baptist church hosts a weekly banquet for the community that averages 175 guests. Volunteers are needed as table hosts and servers. Children 12 & above are welcome to serve alongside their parents.

[Click to Register](#)

ONGOING ASSISTANCE FOR TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK (TAFB)

TAFB has numerous opportunities to fight hunger in Fort Worth every week, from mornings to evenings. Volunteers can help process and distribute food at the main distribution center, in the field at mobile pantries, at TAFB West in Parker County, work in community gardens, and much more.

[To see all opportunities and sign up, please visit *tafb.org*.](#)

CHECKING IN WITH DALE YOUNG

NANCY MADSEN

You could say that TCU retiree Dale Young has done it all, as evidenced by his various roles as athlete, singer/entertainer, cheerleader, teacher, mentor and coach, and he has excelled at each. During his 35-year tenure at TCU, he was recognized for his work with teacher certification as well as education in general, and his work with spirit groups and Frog Camps demonstrates his blood truly does run purple.

He grew up in Brock, Texas, where he started on the high school basketball team all four years and graduated as valedictorian. He received an academic and

athletic scholarship to Weatherford College, where he played basketball and tennis, sang in the choir and performed in two musicals, "The Boyfriend" and "Little Mary Sunshine." He later received an academic scholarship to TCU, where he majored in secondary education with history and English emphasis.

As a student, Dale was elected a cheerleader and served as president of the College of Education Texas Student Education Association. He continued his musical interests by performing in "The Boyfriend" at Casa Manana. Upon graduation in

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CHECKING IN WITH DALE YOUNG*Continued from Page 2*

1966, he was named a Departmental Assistant in the College of Education and received his master's degree in school supervision. An additional 24 hours earned him school superintendent certification.

Before returning to TCU in the summer of 1978 as Director of Teacher Certification, Dale taught 10 years at Wedgwood Middle School, where he coached basketball and tennis. While there, he twice received the Ross Perot Award for Creativity in the Classroom.

Eventually Dale became Director of Student Teaching and Career Services in the TCU College of Education. He was the TCU liaison to the European Teacher Education Network, which allowed student teachers to do a month of student teaching in nine countries in Europe. During the 14 years he was in

charge, more than 600 TCU students participated in the program and more than 300 European students came to TCU.

His interests in cheerleading and athletics led to his assistance in recruitment of athletes to TCU, and he served as sponsor for the TCU cheerleaders for two years. He also established the 200-member Spirit Wranglers. Dale served on the initial committee that started Frog Camp and attended more than 20 camps.

His activities and accolades in the education profession are numerous, including serving as president of the Texas State Teachers Association, president of Texas Employment in Education for three years, national president of the American Association of Education, selection to the National Education Association Public Relations Committee and later the NEA Committee of Higher Education.

When he retired in February

2014, Dale said his favorite thing about retirement was “saying ‘no.’” However, he continues to volunteer with the Frog Club and is busy with alumni activities, including serving as president of Quinq Club for the last three years. As past president, this year he will start a two-year term on the National Alumni Board. He also enjoys sleeping late and traveling, most recently to Hawaii and Maine.

Regarding the future of TCU, Dale said he hopes it stays small, with a limit of 10,000 undergraduates. He also hopes that TCU will continue to increase its national reputation and will hire “great professors who know how to teach, not just researchers.”

Other ideas?

“We need more parking garages for students and visitors,” he said, “and more support of our faculty/staff and retirees.” Amen!

NOTES FROM TCU HUMAN RESOURCES**MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT**

TCU Medicare Open Enrollment will run from October 15 – December 7. If you do not choose to make changes to your plans during this period, your current benefits will automatically roll into 2023. If you are interested in exploring other plan options, contact VIA Benefits at 1-888-429-8490 early in the process as wait times on the telephone will increase significantly as the end of the Open Enrollment period approaches. You can preview plan options prior to Open Enrollment at my.viabenefits.com/TCU; however, the system will not allow you to enroll until October 15.

TCU OPEN ENROLLMENT

TCU Open Enrollment for pre-65 retirees will occur at the beginning of November. Information will be sent on plan options and premiums for 2023 in October.

VIA BENEFIT ACH/DIRECT DEPOSIT ENHANCEMENT IS COMING TO YOU!

The easiest, fastest, and safest way to receive reimbursement funds from VIA Benefits is through direct deposits. There is no chance of checks being lost in the mail. Checks will not have to be reissued. Checks cannot be stolen from mailboxes. Once a reimbursement is issued, paper checks take 7-10 days to reach participants. Through direct deposits, the funds hit the participant's bank account in one to three days once the reimbursement has been issued. VIA Benefits will begin mailing communication to participants mid-September. The requirement for all reimbursements to be delivered through direct deposit begins December 1, 2022. Direct deposits can be set up on line, or you may contact VIA Benefits. Avenue across from Hays Hall.



In Memoriam

Rene' Cote'

Department of Engineering

June 27

Dr. James Comer

Department of Computer Science

August 9

Kent D. Young

Video Network Engineer

August 22

MEM'RIES SWEET, COMRADES TRUE

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PHOTOS FROM SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON



1. TCU head basketball coach Jamie Dixon spoke at the September luncheon.



2. Jamie Dixon and Tom Rogers chat at the September meeting.



3. Kathryn Schrub and Bob Vann at the September luncheon.



4. TCURA Board Members: (Back Row, Left to Right) Richard Enos, Bo Soderbergh, David Grebel, Pat Miller. (Front Row, Left to Right) Robin Scruton, Lenelda Pennington, Nancy Madsen, Wendy Crowley, Melinda Rubenkoenig

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.

HEADLINES OF INTEREST

KEY TCU NEWS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED



WATCH TCU TAKE THE NATIONAL STAGE AT THE NYSE

TCU leaders rang the iconic bell at the New York Stock Exchange Friday as Horned Frogs gathered in the nation's epicenter of media, business and arts and entertainment. At the NYSE, Chancellor Victor J. Boschini, Jr. joined Daniel Pullin, John V. Roach Dean of the Neeley School of Business, and other TCU alumni, students and leaders to celebrate 150 years of leadership and Neeley Horned Frogs leading in business. "This is an exciting moment for TCU. For 150 years, we have been educating students to lead in the global community," Boschini said.

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KEITH GADDIE NAMED INAUGURAL AL AND DAWN HOFFMAN CHAIR OF THE AMERICAN IDEAL

Keith Gaddie, Ph.D., has been named the inaugural holder of the Al and Dawn Hoffman Chair of the American Ideal, a newly endowed position at Texas Christian University. A leading national scholar of American politics, Gaddie will assume the chair in the fall 2023. The Al and Dawn Hoffman Chair of the American Ideal was recently established by former U.S. ambassador to Portugal, Al Hoffman, and his wife, Dawn, to bring a renowned scholar to TCU's AddRan College of Liberal Arts and the Department of Political Science.

[CLICK FOR MORE...](#)



HORNED FROGS IN THE NEWS: THE PERFECT PRESCRIPTION FOR PARKINSON'S PATIENTS

Spectrum News 1 recently featured Dr. Chris Watts, the Marilyn & Morgan Davies Dean of the Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences, and his ongoing research to fight Parkinson's disease. In 'Boxing is the perfect prescription for these Parkinson's patients,' Watts explained his research partnership with former professional boxer Paulie Ayala who conducts boxing classes called Punching Out Parkinson's.

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STUDENT EXPERIENCES A RUNWAY TO FASHION SUCCESS

Fashion Merchandising student Sloan Dando was one of only 23 students from 15 universities at this September's New York Fashion Week. This unique academic enrichment program provides future fashion leaders a behind-the-scenes look at the industry, including entry into select runway shows, panel discussions and networking opportunities with industry leaders. "Participating during the opening weekend of New York Fashion Week gives each student participant a glimpse into the realities of the industry and one-on-one connections with industry professionals," said Sally Fortenberry, professor and department chair of fashion merchandising.

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