

## REFLECTIONS WITH DEVONNA TINNEY

BY: NANCY MADSEN



DeVonna Tinney worked for 35 years at TCU, all in University Advancement. She grew up in Fort Worth and attended Fort Worth public schools, graduating from Arlington Heights High School. She left Fort Worth only long enough to attend Texas Tech, where she

earned a BBA degree, and to live with her husband in Dallas, State College, Pennsylvania, and Silver Springs, Maryland.

DeVonna returned to Fort Worth in 1979 and began

her 35-year career with TCU in July of 1980. The first 12 years she spent in Alumni before moving to the fund-raising arena as Director of the Parents Fund.

“My claim to fame there,” she said, “was a cold call on Sarah Smith, which eventually culminated in (construction of) the Smith Building (Smith Entrepreneurs Hall, Neeley School of Business).”

DeVonna said her last and best assignment at TCU was as development officer for Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

“I had the privilege of working with the late Dr. Paulette Burns and watching up close what a great job they do developing outstanding nurses,” she said. “I

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## JOIN US FOR THE NEXT TCURA MEETING

### MAE FERGUSON - FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

Since 2000, Mae Ferguson has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Fort Worth Sister Cities, which manages the City of Fort Worth's nine sister city relationships around the world from Nagaoka, Japan, to Toluca, Mexico. Fort Worth Sister Cities' mission is to promote Fort Worth globally and enrich the local community through international education, exchange and commerce. Fort Worth Sister Cities has been recognized 10 times as having the best program in the nation, most recently in 2020.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 11:30 AM**

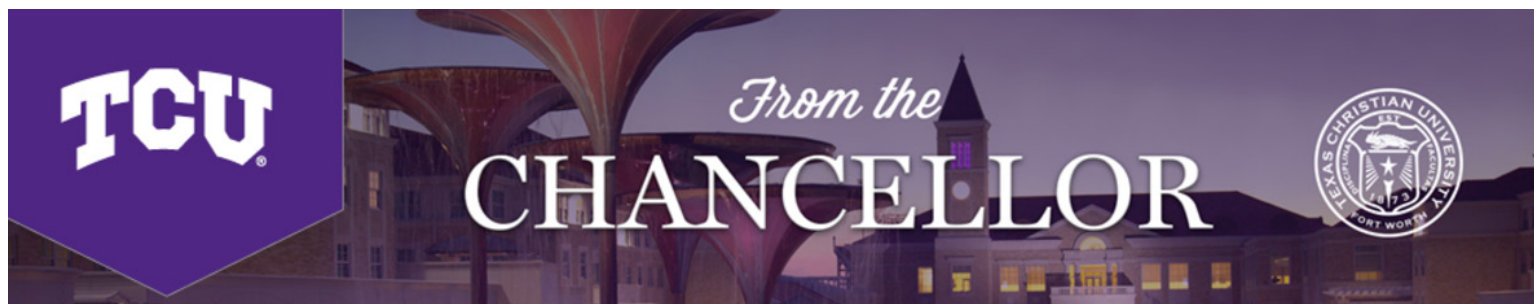
**HAYS BANQUET HALL, NEELEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

### REGISTER TO ATTEND

Register online on the new TCURA website (see page 3 for details) or email Linda Moore at [l.moore@tcu.edu](mailto:l.moore@tcu.edu).

### LUNCH & PARKING

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



October 17, 2022

Dear TCU Community,

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you today that Dr. William Edward “Bill” Tucker ’56, former Chancellor of Texas Christian University, passed away this weekend. Chancellor Tucker was a visionary and beloved leader during a pivotal time of growth for TCU, 1979 - 1998. He was also a friend and mentor to me and my family as we became a part of the Horned Frog family.

Chancellor Emeritus Tucker and his family have remained a vital part of the fabric of our TCU community over the years. For those who did not have the pleasure of meeting him, he always had a kind word for everyone he met - and he knew everyone on campus. As Chancellor, he could often be seen walking around campus and greeting students.

Dr. Tucker was a proud Horned Frog and was instrumental in taking TCU from a regional university to the highly regarded national university we are today. He was lauded as an American academic administrator and minister, and he touched the lives of so many students, faculty, staff and alumni. His legacy also extends well beyond TCU; Chancellor Tucker was one of the most respected and faithful leaders in the Disciples of Christ Church.

Generations of Horned Frogs are fortunate to have had Chancellor Tucker as a leader who exemplified integrity, intelligence and grace. The TCU flag will be lowered in loving memory and respect for this remarkable leader, who left an indelible mark on TCU.

Please keep the Tucker family in your thoughts and prayers. We send our deepest sympathies to his family, and especially beloved wife Jean ’56 and their daughter, TCU Trustee Jan Tucker Scully ’79. Even as we mourn, we also celebrate his life and legacy, and remain forever grateful for his leadership.

Sincerely,  
Victor J. Boschini, Jr.  
Chancellor



## TCURA REMEMBERS CHANCELLOR TUCKER

We are soliciting TCURA members for their memories of Chancellor Tucker to be included in the next newsletter. If you have a short statement about Bill’s impact on you, humorous or inspiring stories about him, please send them to Nancy Madsen, [n.madsen@tcu.edu](mailto:n.madsen@tcu.edu), by November 15.

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have unfortunately had the occasion to see some of the graduates at work and know firsthand of their competence!”

In retirement, DeVonna has volunteered for the food pantry and clothes closet with her church, Arborlawn United Methodist. She currently serves her Sunday School class as treasurer. She also did lots of substitute teaching before the pandemic hit, and particularly enjoyed teaching at her former junior high school, W.C. Stripling.

“I loved the students and was amazed at the dedication of teachers in some difficult situations. I have the greatest respect for what they do.”

DeVonna is an avid TCU sports fan, but for the first time since 1980 did not purchase football tickets, although she does watch the games on television. She enjoys attending TCURA meetings, where she keeps up to date on TCU and sees lots of friends and acquaintances from her working days.

“Working at TCU was more than a job,” she said. “It was a commitment to something special. I met some remarkable people who have remained my friends. They too have that same commitment – something special goes on at TCU!”

“I will always be a Red Raider but carrying a purple flag! Go Frogs!”

**INTRODUCING THE NEW TCURA WEBSITE:**

**<https://tcura.tcu.edu>**

We are pleased to share with you our new TCURA website (link above). Our purpose is to have the website comply with accessibility requirements, provide an easy way to register for our luncheons and archive our newsletters/articles. We have completed this task and hope you will find it helpful in the future. Since we purchase lunches for our meetings, it is helpful to know as closely as possible how many will attend each meeting. You can now register for meetings in two ways:

- 1. ONLINE:** On our website, using your TCU username and password, you can register yourself and guests and pay with credit card. If you need help resetting your password, you can contact the Help Desk at 817-257-6855.
- 2. EMAIL:** If you do not have a TCU username or are not able to use your username, you may still email Linda Moore at [l.moore@tcu.edu](mailto:l.moore@tcu.edu).

**THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH...  
FOR TCURA MEMBERS!**

At their October meeting the TCURA Executive Board (happily) agreed to give members a free lunch when they attend our gatherings on the month of their birth! TCURA members are encouraged to mention that moment of celebration upon arrival and your lunch on that day is gratis! In much the same spirit, we are asking TCURA members to encourage their retired colleagues to join us at our monthly luncheons and we will announce which unit/department has the most members in attendance! Remember to tell your colleagues that first-time attendees at our TCURA monthly luncheons is free for them, too!

Rich Enos  
Membership Committee



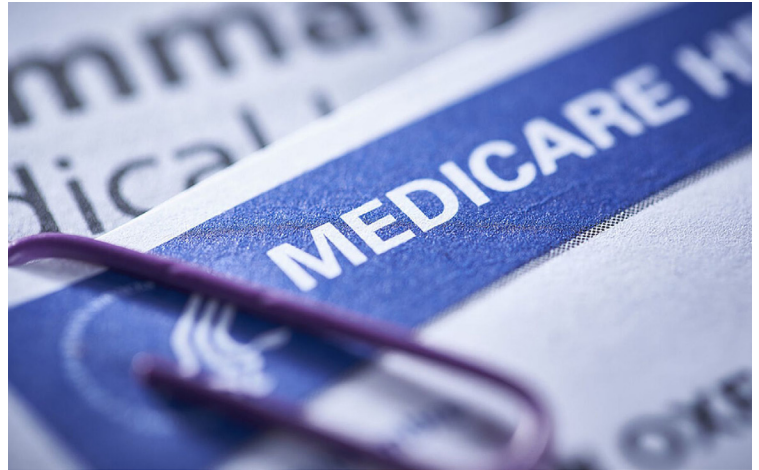
# BE ON ALERT: FEDERAL DISCUSSIONS ON MEDICARE'S FUTURE

BY: CAROLYN SPENCE CAGLE

We've heard that by 2028 the Medicare Part A Trust Fund will be depleted and unable to cover all beneficiary expenditures. Fewer workers paying into the Trust Fund, more "baby boomers" accessing Medicare services, and escalating health care costs have contributed to that depletion. Fewer retirees choose Traditional Medicare plans compared to Medicare Advantage plans but by 2030 half of retirees will choose a Medicare Advantage plan. This concern has led the government to consider options to fund Traditional Medicare and respond to the large growth in Medicare Advantage recipients.

## WHAT OPTIONS MAY BE ON THE HORIZON FOR MEDICARE CHANGE GROUNDED IN FACTS ABOUT MEDICARE NOW?

- Medicare is the largest purchaser of U.S. health care and covers an estimated 62 mostly retiree beneficiaries. Thirty-eight percent of retirees currently choose a Traditional Medicare (80/20 plan), along with a Medigap and Medicare D policy, to cover health care costs.
- Others (24M) currently choose a Medicare Advantage plan to cover the same Traditional option benefits plus others (vision, dental, and hearing.) They often pay no or low monthly premiums. Offered by private insurance companies (UnitedHealthCare; Humana, etc.), these plans receive federal subsidies to cover Medicare recipients and cost more than Traditional Medicare. Some authorities argue for closer monitoring of these plans that inflate beneficiary risk ratings to increase governmental cost. These persons note that private companies "pocket" many profits by limiting beneficiary coverage through provider network restrictions and drug formularies.
- More underserved Medicare beneficiaries enroll in Medicare Advantage plans. These often focus on preventative health care that improves some quality care outcomes at a lower cost than Traditional Medicare; Advantage plans may better address sociocultural factors related to some higher disease rates among those communities as compared to



Traditional Medicare.

- A pilot program called REACH ("Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health"), a new provider network and team-based model of health care delivery and payment, will be tested in 2023 with Traditional Medicare recipients to compete with current Medicare Advantage plans. This model will involve networks of providers who will earn incentives to meet beneficiary quality indicators and earn profits for saving health care dollars each year. This concerns many who believe this will privatize Traditional Medicare and compromise beneficiary access and quality of health care.
- Experts agree that the federal government needs to quickly address ways to address the Trust depletion. These might include increasing payroll taxes (particularly among richer Americans) to fund the Trust Fund, decreasing payment to Medicare providers, decreasing low-value and costly Medicare benefits, increasing beneficiary insurance premiums, allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, and restructuring Traditional Medicare for more efficiency (less of a problem for Medicare Advantage).

Challenges lie ahead for maintenance of the current Medicare program. It is time for a bipartisan federal

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## FEDERAL DISCUSSIONS ON MEDICARE'S FUTURE

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Congress to propose creative and feasible plans to address current program deficits to ensure continued health care to deserving older Americans.

### REFERENCES

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Eisenberg, R. (2022, June 1). Why value-based health care can be costly for people in Medicare. <https://www.nextavenue.org/value-based-care-costly-for-medicare>.

McWilliams, J. Michael (2022, March 24). Don't look up? Medicare Advantage's trajectory and the future of Medicare. Health Affairs Forefront. Retrieved from <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/doi10.1377/forefront.20220323.773602>.

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## CICERO ON THE BEAUTY OF BEING A SENIOR ROMAN CITIZEN: A SHORT REVIEW OF A VERY OLD BOOK

BY: RICH ENOS

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BCE) was a Roman statesman, orator, the leading advocate of his day, and a brilliant rhetorician. So elegant is Cicero's writings that his Latin artistry became a standard for Roman prose not only for his own time but through the Middle Ages and into the Renaissance. Cicero wrote on many subjects that bear on our lives today. Friendship, ethics, social responsibilities and education all benefited from Cicero's insights and wisdom. One of his more famous works is a short treatise called *De senectute* or "On Old Age" but is sometimes referred to as *Cato Maior* since Cato the Elder was a principal participant in the dialogue that Cicero created to discuss the benefits of old age. *De senectute* is dedicated to Cicero's life-long friend Titus Pomponius Atticus whom Cicero simply refers to as Atticus. Cicero dedicated *De senectute* to Atticus because he was concerned about how his dear friend lamented growing old. This dialogue was intended to help Atticus by changing his outlook on growing old, to see all the advantages of being a senior citizen. Cicero's *De senectute* is best appreciated by reading this short work itself, but here are a few of the insights that Cicero offers to those who are seniors. Cicero believed that while every age has its burdens, each age also has its benefits. It is futile to fight against Nature; we all (if so fortunate) will age. This

is Nature's route and there is no other path for us to take. A desperate clinging to youth, Cicero believed, distorts our view of the beauties of growing old. In his *De senectute*, Cicero challenges misconceptions that many have about old age. For example, some think that old age removes us from being useful, beneficial and helpful to our society. Cicero disagrees. He argues that it is not only by physical prowess, speed and nimbleness that we can contribute but we may also contribute by having a noble character, possessing sound judgement and life-long reflection. These traits come only with age and experience. Cicero also recognized that a loss of memory may come with old age but he believes that devotion to exercising one's memory through practice and diligence can help us all to remember better, and to share the benefits of remembering our experiences with others. Cicero believed that it is essential for senior citizens to continue to socialize, that we re-invigorate ourselves and each other through our interaction. In this spirit, we should see learning as a life-long activity, because through learning we not only continue to grow but help others to grow by sharing what we have learned. There are, Cicero noted, many ways to learn, not only by reading and talking with friends but also

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**CICERO ON THE BEAUTY OF BEING A SENIOR  
ROMAN CITIZEN***Continued from Page 4*

by traveling and benefitting from the new insights that traveling brings. Cicero believed that these benefits start from seeds that are planted in an education dedicated to raising noble youth, and that the fruits of this nobility are harvested in the latter years of a life well spent. Sometimes, Cicero notes, the faults a senior citizen may exhibit are not because of old age but rather of

character. Finally, Cicero believed that everlasting life follows our temporal lives and that “passing into the shades” should be no cause for grief. Of course, there are many more insights from Cicero’s wisdom on the beauty of old age but, as I mentioned earlier, those are best understood by reading Cicero’s own words. It is best that he speaks directly to you as his reader, as he does so well in his *De senectute*.

*Richard Leo Enos**Emeritus Professor of Classical Rhetoric***PHOTOS FROM OCTOBER LUNCHEON**

1. David Grebel with speaker Jim Riddlesperger at the October meeting.



2. Photographer Deana Ray and David Grebel get in the Halloween spirit with their skeleton friend.

**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



### CHANCELLOR WILLIAM TUCKER '56: A SERVANT LEADER

William Edward Tucker '56 BDiv, who served as TCU's chancellor from 1979 until 1998, died Oct. 14. He was 90. Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, Tucker devoted his life to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and, eventually, Texas Christian University. "I think TCU was always part of my dad's destiny," said daughter Jan Tucker Scully '79 (MBA '81). Tucker first learned of TCU during his undergraduate days at Atlantic Christian College — later renamed Barton College — in Wilson, North Carolina.

[CLICK FOR MORE...](#)



### THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IS NOW TCU GLOBAL

The Center for International Studies has a new name: TCU Global. The rebranding reflects broader programming for active engagement both domestically and abroad. TCU Global brings together students, faculty, staff, global partners and local partners to impact and enhance the Horned Frog community. Programs encourage students across all disciplines to develop intercultural competence, face global challenges and apply global learning to their lives. "Many people think of us primarily for offering Study Abroad.

[CLICK FOR MORE...](#)



### TCU'S FALL 2022 ENROLLMENT RISES 2.8%

Texas Christian University's enrollment for Fall 2022 increased 2.8% to 12,273. This includes a 2.9% increase in undergraduate students to 10,523 and a 2% increase in graduate enrollment to 1,750. All numbers are in comparison to Fall 2021. "These numbers are a testimony to TCU's mission and values. Our students and families seek – and find – at TCU an unparalleled campus life experience, vital connections and the opportunity for growth that only TCU can offer," said Chancellor Victor J. Boschini, Jr. "Our faculty, our admissions team, Student Affairs, staff, Board of Trustees--everyone remains committed to all our students."

[CLICK FOR MORE...](#)

## 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 view plan options and make changes at [my.viabenefits.com/TCU](https://my.viabenefits.com/TCU).

### TCU OPEN ENROLLMENT

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

## VOLUNTEERISM OPPORTUNITIES

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES WITH MEALS ON WHEELS OF TARRANT COUNTY

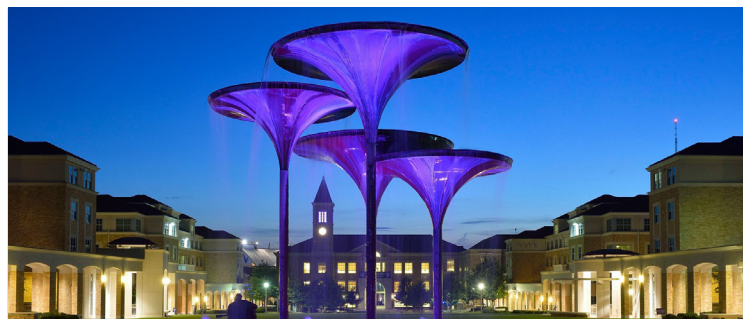
Caring volunteers freely give of their time and personal resources to ensure that our homebound, elderly and disabled clients receive a nutritious meal. These compassionate individuals do more than just provide a meal and a friendly home visit. They are trained to contact our office if a client does not answer the door. This daily safety check gives many of our clients and their families an added peace of mind. In addition to delivering meals, there are lots of ways to give back to the community by helping our homebound, elderly and disabled clients remain living independently in their own home.

*For more info, please visit [mealsonwheels.org](http://mealsonwheels.org)*



### SHARE OPPORTUNITIES WITH TCURA

If you have a volunteer activity you would like to see featured, please send the information to Nancy Madsen at: [n.madsen@tcu.edu](mailto:n.madsen@tcu.edu)



## *In Memoriam*

### **Reva P. Houston Bell**

Former Associate Professor,  
College of Education  
*September 12*

### **Fran Colpitt**

Former Deedie Potter Rose Chair,  
College of Fine Arts  
*September 12*

### **Bill Harrell**

Former Ex-officio Trustee  
*September 12*

### **Bill Tucker**

Chancellor Emeritus  
*October 14*

## TCU RETIREES ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2022-2023

### **Officers**

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#### **Past President**

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### **Educational**

#### **Programming Chair**

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