

NEW SEMESTER, NEW YEAR FOR TCURA

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



DAVID GREBEL

A couple of years ago, TCU Retirees' Association (TCURA) President Pat Miller wrote about the coming of

fall and how it reminded him of the academic cycle that we all lived in for so many years. I thought after three years of retirement I would shake off that cycle and develop some new ones. And yet here we are beginning a new semester at TCU and a new year for TCURA.

Regardless of the life cycle, academic or otherwise, that you're living now, I am glad that you've chosen to be part of the retirees' cycle this year. Our new TCURA Vice President, Rich Enos, has prepared a delightful series of programs for us. You'll find information about our September meeting and program under 'Mark Your Calendar' below.

We gather, not only for our programs, but for the opportunity to be with cherished colleagues again. As TCU concludes its celebration of 150 years this fall, I reflect on my 27 years with the University which represents 18 percent of TCU's total

history. Each of us are significant parts of that 150 years of service together, with many of us serving a much larger percentage of TCU's history than I have. Our relationships with the thousands of students over that time have certainly changed our lives and hopefully had an impact on theirs. But our relationships with each other, as colleagues and friends, have had an even greater influence on us. That's the whole reason for TCURA - to continue and expand those friendships.

I look forward to seeing you at our first lunch together on September 19. There'll be a place for you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 19: BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING

Karen Cone, business development director for Brookdale Senior Living in Fort Worth, will speak on "Why Purpose Matters" at the September 19 TCURA meeting. Karen has been with Brookdale since 2005. She serves as a bridge between Brookdale and other professional partners, such as medical groups, churches, Area Agency on Aging, etc. ([CLICK HERE for more.](#))

TIME/LOCATION/PARKING - We will begin at 11:30 am in the ballroom of the Dee J. Kelly Alumni & Visitors Center. Parking is available in the Kelly Center lot or the adjoining visitors parking garage.

REGISTER TO ATTEND - A buffet lunch is provided for \$15. Please register a week in advance on the TCURA website (<https://tcura.tcu.edu>) or email Linda Moore at l.moore@tcu.edu. ***Newly retired TCURA members attending their first meeting will get a complimentary lunch!*

2023-2024 MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 19
 Tuesday, October 17
 Tuesday, November 14
 Tuesday, December 12
 Tuesday, January 16
 Tuesday, February 20
 Tuesday, March 19
 Tuesday, April 16
 Tuesday, May 21

All meetings will begin at 11:30 am in the ballroom of the Dee J. Kelly Alumni & Visitors Center.

SPOTLIGHT ON SHAWN WAGNER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

BY: NANCY MADSEN

Shawn Wagner is the newest member of the TCURA Executive Council, serving as Membership Chair. Shawn started at TCU in 2001 as a member of the Student Affairs Division working in the Fraternity and Sorority Life office. She then transferred to the Student Center and worked there through the implosion of that facility and the opening of the University Union. She was director of events for the University Union until her move to the School of Medicine in December 2017. She worked in the Narrative Medicine and Patient

Communication department before retiring in January 2023 as Manager of Business Operations and Facilities for the Medical School.

Shawn's favorite part of working at TCU was interaction with the students, who she said added "purpose, dimension, a new point of view, challenge and delight and joy to all my work." In addition, she said she has been honored to work with wonderful people at TCU, who are "committed to the best for the students and for the university, never losing their focus on the university's

purpose of educating students."

Shawn was named as the Student Affairs Division nominee for the Chancellor's Staff Award in 2008 and in 2011 was selected as the winner of that award. She enjoys reading, crafting and travel.

In retirement, Shawn said she has gotten very used to following her own schedule and being able to drop everything to go on a quick trip. She has missed the busyness of the workplace, but most of all, she has missed "the students and the joy that they have always added to my life."

KAY SANDERS SWORN IN THE TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

Kay Sanders from Dallas/Fort Worth was sworn in as a member of the 20th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) at its Orientation Session held July 16-20. Seventy-one delegates from 23 of the 28 Area Agency on Aging regions in Texas were sworn in at the Texas State Capitol for a two-year term by the Honorable Gary VanDeaver, member of the Texas House of Representatives from New Boston, Texas.

The Orientation Session was the first of three TSHL sessions over the next biennium. The delegates will research issues of concern to older Texans, prepare resolutions for proposed legislation, pass them through committee, and vote on them in full chamber at the TSHL Legislative Session to be held in the Spring of 2024. Approved resolutions will be included in a TSHL Legislative Report that will be delivered to all Legislators, as well as to the Governor and Lt. Governor, in advance of the 2025 State session.

"We sincerely thank our elected officials for the significant number of bills passed to address the needs of older Texans," said Sherry Hubbard, elected TSHL Speaker for the 20th Session. "We also remind them we'll be back to address unfinished business and we have started that process with this Orientation Session and



swearing-in of our new delegates. Citizens can be proud of, and comforted by, the 38-year relationship of the TSHL and the State Legislature that has produced over 275 pieces of legislation related to concerns for the ever-growing population of older Texans," she stated.

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is a non-partisan body authorized by the 69th Texas Legislature with the adoption of SCR 37, on April 3, 1985.

Additional information is available on the website, www.tshl.org

MEET YOUR TCURA 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



From Left: Melinda Rubenkoenig, Past President; Fred Oberkircher, Educational Programming Chair; David Grebel, President; Richard Enos, Vice President; Bo Soderbergh, Secretary; Wendy Crowley, Treasurer; Shawn Wagner, Membership Chair; and Nancy Madsen, Newsletter. **Not pictured:** Lenelda Pennington, Communications Chair; Ashley Sutton, Newsletter Designer; and Robin Scruton, TCURA HR liaison.

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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.

JULY LUNCHEON PHOTOS



1. Chancellor Victor J. Boschini spoke at the July TCURA meeting.



2. Past TCURA President Melinda Rubenkoenig passes the gavel to current President David Grebel.



3. Mary Nell Kirk, Debbie Mar, Betty Nance, Sharon Campbell



4. Mary Beth Hartman, Nadia Lahutsky, David Grant, Phil Hartman



5. Harold Leeman, Leo Munson, Joan Sullivan, Maureen Munson, Mary Ruth Jones, Kay Higgins

RE-ENVISIONING LONG-TERM CARE FOR OLDER PERSONS AND SOCIETAL BENEFIT

BY: CAROLYN SPENCE CAGLE PHD, RNC-E

Our population's increasing aging population pushes society to identify and implement creative and responsive long-term care solutions. Currently 17% of the U.S. population comprises the aging population with an expected 22% of elders by 2040. Although our country spends the most on health care of any country, insufficient older care infrastructure, housing, and transportation prevent accessible, cost-effective, and quality health care for many. Many experts note the current older care system is underfunded, fragmented, and lacks a medical care and social/personal support integration deemed critical for responsive elder care. Current programs such as Medicare do not pay for long-term care and Medicaid ends up as a primary payer of LTC for lower income Americans. Often the 8M middle income Americans have too many financial assets to receive Medicaid support but not enough to afford current "pricey" care.

How can our society re-think our current long-term care programs to better address our aging population's needs? Here are some creative and responsive ideas to do so:

- Increase federal and state funding for innovative and personalized community based long-term care options; several national programs such as PACE (Program All-inclusive Care for Elderly) and CAPABLE (Community Aging in Place – Advancing Better Living for Elders) have successfully bundled interconnected services for elders to decrease their depression and hospitalization, saving Medicare/Medicaid an average of \$10,000/year/participant.
- Increase use of technology to support aging persons' home stay and address the caregiver labor shortage; technology will drive more efficient and safe care and give elders more control over their living environments.
- Increase societal discussion of extending the retirement age to lengthen working lives of older persons; this would

give those persons purpose, allow mentoring of younger employees, help workplace efficiency, and decrease loss of aging persons' income to fund later caregiving and societal costs.

- Advocate for public policy change to enhance society's attitude toward aging and elder needs; in April 2023 the President directed the USDHHS and Veterans' Affairs to better address pay and benefits of family caregivers, elder care, and those recently discharged from the hospital.
- Expand educational and financial support to better train long-term caregivers, especially for community-based care of elders with disability or those living alone and at risk for depression and shorter life expectancy.
- Increase salaries of home health aides and long-term care nurses, many whom are women of color who face societal devaluation for their work.
- Revisit issue of adequate retirement savings throughout working persons' lives now with longer life expectancies impacting sufficient living funds during retirement.
- Encourage states to develop a master plan for Aging to project the need for caregivers, jobs, housing, and supportive services; Texas is one state with a plan.
- Work with municipal communities to design planned communities accessible to elders and perhaps elder-caregiver pairs for healthy aging.

REFERENCES CITED

Abrams, A. Elder care grows up. Time (2021, June 21/28). 197(21-22), pp. 84-90.

Expanded support for family caregivers (2023, June). AARP Bulletin, 64(5), p. 4.

*In
Memoriam*

H. Kirk Downey
Professor Emeritus of
Management and former Dean,
M.J. Neeley School of Business
April 3

Jake Martinez
Grounds
June 20

Todd Charles Nalder
Athletic Trainer
June 20

HEADLINES OF INTEREST

KEY TCU NEWS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED



TCU MAGAZINE'S SPECIAL EDITION SHARES 150 YEARS OF HISTORY

Two years in the making, TCU Magazine's 100-page Sesquicentennial issue is now live. The special edition divides TCU's 150-year history into three 50-year sections, as well as a section devoted to looking at the future. "Through compiling this issue, I've really come to appreciate how a spirit of unity, while respecting the individual, has kept the university afloat and tethered it through both rocky and exciting times," said editor Caroline Collier.

[CLICK FOR MORE...](#)



TCU PRESENTS 150 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP: AN INTERVIEW WITH KIT MONCRIEF

In our 150th year, the university is featuring leaders of impact through the "TCU Presents: Celebrating 150 Years of Leadership" series. Kit Moncrief is the newly elected chair of TCU's board of trustees and the first woman to hold the position. We're proud to honor her and her family's long legacy of service to TCU.

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TCU LEGENDS IN ENERGY HONOREES CELEBRATED IN INAUGURAL CLASS OF INSPIRING LEADERS

Barry Davis and six more leaders who have influenced the future of energy and TCU's prominent role at the forefront of the industry were named to the first TCU Legends in Energy during a moving dinner this spring. Barry Davis appeared to be at a loss for words as he stepped to the mic after being inducted into the inaugural TCU Legends in Energy class alongside six prestigious honorees.

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BURNETT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE SECURES \$45 MILLION THROUGH CHALLENGE GRANT

The Anne Burnett Marion School of Medicine at Texas Christian University was awarded more than \$45 million in philanthropic support thanks to a challenge grant from the Amon G. Carter Foundation. In December 2022, Fort Worth's Amon G. Carter Foundation "challenged" the Burnett School of Medicine to secure \$30 million in new gifts and pledges by May 31, 2023, offering a \$15 million additional grant if the challenge was achieved.

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TCU TO GAIN 'CEREMONIAL FRONT DOOR' OFF BERRY STREET

Even with the construction of The Harrison on the south side of campus, the little white house has remained TCU's longtime neighbor. Now, the small residence at 3071 Wabash Ave. is scheduled for removal, and the entrance off Berry Street will have a new, inviting space. "This is really a new ceremonial front door to the university off of Berry Street," said Todd Waldvogel, associate vice chancellor...

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