

FLASHING BACK TO MY 50-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



DAVID GREBEL

I've done a surprising amount of traveling this fall. Between conferences, funerals, and a 50th high school reunion

I've flown about 6,000 miles in the past month.

Admittedly the high school reunion is not something that I'd planned on attending. For many of us our experiences in our adolescence were a mixed bag. So, I spent the past six months waffling over whether or not I would attend. In fact, I only made the decision to return 12 days before the reunion began.

This is the point where I should begin to reflect on how delighted I

was to meet old classmates as we regaled each other with stories, some true, about our good old high school days. But those days weren't always so good for some of our classmates as we reviewed the list of those who had passed. And surprisingly, or not, many of the old behaviors and old cliques appeared. There was the class slacker who was always good for a

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER 12: TEXAS BOYS CHOIR

Join us for a performance by the Texas Boys Choir, directed by Dr. Todd Prickett, who holds bachelor and master of music degrees from TCU.

JANUARY 16: DR. DAN WILLIAMS

Dr. Dan Williams of TCU Press will make a presentation on "A Remarkable Story To Tell: TCU 1973-2023," based on a book by the same name. The book is a multi-voiced work incorporating the perspectives and observations of TCU community members from the 1970s to the present. There were four editors in addition to Williams: Sarah Horning, Abigail Jennings, Leo Munson and Mark Wassenich. There were also five student associate editors: Chloe Creed, Emma Graham, Kareyn Hellmann, Wafa Shaikh and Amy Yin and more than 40 student assistant editors who assisted in the TCU Oral History Project and helped compile more than 140 interviews. For the January 16 luncheon, Williams will be joined by Abigail Jennings, Leo Munson, Mark Wassenich and Peggy Watson. Meeting and parking information is the same as for the December meeting.

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 by contacting Lenelda Pennington at l.pennington@tcu.edu.

2023-2024 MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 12
 Tuesday, January 16
 Tuesday, February 20
 Tuesday, March 19
 Tuesday, April 16
 Tuesday, May 21

TIME/LOCATION/PARKING

All meetings 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.

***Newly retired TCURA members attending their first meeting will get a complimentary lunch!*

FLASHING BACK*Continued from Page 1*

joint and came to the reunion high. There were the cheerleaders and the jocks took over the dance floor. And there were the geeks and outsiders, also known as my people, gathered to observe and comment, or judge, the evening's activities. I suppose that's what you should expect from a class of more than 1,000 students (although only 100 attended the reunion).

But there were two unexpected joys. The first was I met several members of my class whom I didn't know in high school but connected with around the tables over the two days. We had similar life experiences and a shared perspective that we were happy with our lives and were looking forward to what comes next.

The second was a chance



encounter with my high school's soccer team. I'd played on the original team 50 years ago and decided at the last minute to attend the men's soccer game. After introducing myself to the coach I was asked to speak to the team and sit on the bench as their "good luck charm" during the team's 3-0 victory over a rival. I was delighted, and slightly anxious, to be in close contact with a group of high school boys but they took me in as one of

theirs (see photo above).

Both experiences led to a sense of connection with both past and present. That's how I think about our retirees' association. We come together with colleagues and friends to reflect on our past work with each other and seek new connections with one another. We'll have that opportunity again on December 12 at our holiday lunch. I hope you'll gather with us. There'll be a place for you.

THE TCU LEGACY OF LARRY LAUER

BY: NANCY MADSEN

You might have seen Larry Lauer at a TCURA meeting sporting his customary beret. Or perhaps you have witnessed him and his wife Sterling "cutting a rug" on the dance floor at some TCU event. Or...maybe you have seen him tooling around town on his motorcycle. In any event, the guy who started at TCU in 1966 as an instructor in radio-TV-film (RTF) has witnessed a lot of changes in his 50-year career.

When Larry came to TCU, Dr. George Tade was chair of the Speech Department, in which RTF was housed at the time. Dr. Tade eventually became Larry's mentor and actually secured him tenure as an instructor!

"My teaching evaluations were strong," he said, "so I requested a promotion to assistant professor, but Dr. Tade said he thought he could get me tenure, which he did!"

Larry subsequently wore many hats at TCU, starting

with head of the Evening College and Summer School under the new title of Director of Continuing Education. At the time, Larry said that continuing education programs were "trendy," so TCU aimed to be a leader in the field. Among the changes and improvements Larry instituted in the program were changing scheduling to better accommodate part-time students, making it possible to take a full semester's work in the summer.

When Dr. William Tucker returned to TCU as Chancellor, he asked Larry to consider handling university relations for the entire university. Handling crises was added to his job description when a number of athletics crises emerged.

In the 1980s, Larry recognized that higher educations

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FINDING A NEW DOCTOR IN AN EVOLVING HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

BY: CAROLYN SPENCE CAGLE PHD, RNC-E

As we approach a New Year, you may decide to find a new doctor to manage your healthcare. My husband and I changed our doctor last fall due to our primary care doctor retiring, and we wanted to find an internal medicine doctor at our age. We were lucky to find an exemplary provider who thus far meets our needs. But the healthcare environment has changed based on several factors: more doctors choosing retirement, high doctor burnout due to COVID, localized shortages of doctor positions, high medical debt, and about 10% of doctors choosing concierge medicine aimed at decreasing patient load to gain more practice control. Concierge medicine involves patients paying an annual or monthly membership fee for broad care access. A current push by private equity companies, that purchase and control doctor practices and healthcare agencies, also may complicate your choice of a new doctor. Another push for single-payer (federal government) healthcare, opposing private equity healthcare control, may further influence your choice.

Despite the evolving care environment, what suggestions may work to find a doctor meeting your needs for quality healthcare?

- Start your search early; check hospital websites (“find a doctor”) for names of doctors accepting new patients and meeting your language, gender, and preparation responsive to your healthcare needs.
- Decide whether you would benefit most from a primary care doctor (PCP) who provides continuity of care and works with specialist doctors; PCPs are usually an internist, family or general practice doctor.
- Seek input from family or friends and consider how suggestions meet your older persons’ healthcare needs.
- Consider doctor location and office structure for easy care access, including: wheelchair access, space for walkers, safe movement, length of time to get an appointment, use of nurse practitioners or physician

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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.

FINDING A NEW DOCTOR

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assistants, use of telehealth, etc. to affect your care?

- Consider ways a doctor or office staff communicate between appointments such as use of email, text, patient portal or phone calls to meet your needs.
- Evaluate the match between your health insurance and the doctor acceptance of that for in-network or out-of-network care (Medicare Advantage model) or Traditional Medicare (fee for service).
- Ask your pharmacist for doctor recommendations based on their broad knowledge.
- Ask whether a doctor under consideration practices only concierge medicine or also takes health insurance.
- Consider local faith-based clinics that may offer low-

cost care on a sliding basis; one of my friends found care for her daughter in such a place after problems accessing care.

- If possible, visit a doctor under consideration to assess his match with your personality, educational approach to your needs, listening and caring skills, ethical care approach, and working relationship with staff.

Persistence will pay off to find a doctor meeting your needs. Good luck in the journey!

REFERENCES CITED

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Moeller, P. (2023, May 21). Get ready for benefits squeeze in 2024. Retrieved from <https://philmoeller.substack.com/get-ready-for-benefits-squeeze-in?utm>.

LARRY LAUER

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was changing, so he started writing articles and eventually books about marketing universities. “I called my ideas ‘integrated marketing’ and when Dr. (Mick) Ferrari became Chancellor, he promoted me to Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communication.” Larry eventually was honored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) with several communication research and marketing achievement awards.

Larry and Ferrari recruited Bob Schieffer to chair a Commission on the Future of TCU, which Larry managed. Later, the entire College of Communication was named after the venerable newsman.

TCU had many difficult issues to handle during Larry’s tenure, and he is grateful to not have to deal with today’s problems. He started retirement with teaching in the Honors College and more recently, in the Silver Frogs program. He still writes an occasional blog, www.larrydlauer.com.

While many people wait until retirement to travel, Larry says he is “traveled out” since he traveled enough during his career to become a 2-million-miler on American Airlines.

“I think higher education will go through a period of major changes. Some parents and prospective students will balk at extremely high costs and will make other choices. But TCU will find its way, and talented people will figure it out. My intention is to watch what happens from a distance.”

In Memoriam

Dr. John A. Breyer
Emeritus Professor of Geology
October 21



NOVEMBER LUNCHEON



1. A full crowd enjoyed Phil Hartman's program on the new edition of *Walking TCU*.



2. Mary Beth Hartman and Marinda Allender



3. Tom Rogers and November speaker Phil Hartman

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON



4. Phil and co author Joan Swain



5. Tricia Dietz and Maureen Munson



6. TCURA members at the buffet

LIVING TCU LEGEND: WILMA JEAN TADE



TCU retiree Wilma Jean Tade, who turned 101 November 20, might be TCU's oldest living retiree. She came to TCU as a graduate student in speech language pathology in 1966 and subsequently taught Kindergarten and pre-Kindergarten students at the Miller Speech-Hearing Clinic, which was founded by Dr. Dorothy Bell in 1949. Wilma Jean taught there 20 years before retiring from TCU May 30, 1990. She was married to Dr. George T. Tade, Dean of the Colleges of Fine Arts and Communication. You can hear Wilma Jean's story in her own words in this video from TCU's 150th anniversary celebration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD-A0YG7ZQs&list=PLDPPOGOgoRp4yTeyInb2-KMUIpa4907VP&index=2>



NEW TCURA MEMBERS

MAY

Leigh Holland
Reinaldo Garcia
Nancy Styles

JUNE

Carlene Coover
Bill Montigel
Laura Weisbrod
David Muzzy

JULY

Margaret Kelly
Chris Farley
Angela Cantrell

AUGUST

Cindy Coffin

SEPTEMBER

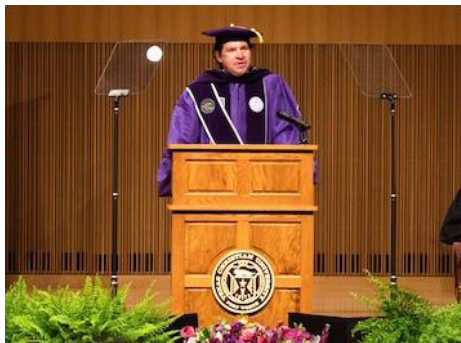
Bob Akin
H. Joseph Butler
Lewis Glaser
Scott Langston
John Ownings
Bill Moncrief
William Galyean
Joe Eckert
Homer Erekson
Komla Aggor
Susan Austin
Michael Katovich
John Horner
Rhonda Hatcher
Ted Legatski
Roma Flowers
Jacque Lambiase

OCTOBER

Lisa Aven
David Muzzy
Murielle Wright
Anne Quevereaux
John Hernandez
Cathy Moody

HEADLINES OF INTEREST

KEY TCU NEWS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED



TCU ANNOUNCES FORMAL INVESTITURE OF PRESIDENT DANIEL W. PULLIN

The TCU Board of Trustees and Chancellor Victor J. Boschini, Jr. hosted the investiture of President Daniel W. Pullin today, formally conferring the responsibilities of the president. In recognition of long-held academic tradition, the reverent ceremonial occasion served to acknowledge the great responsibility of stewarding a timeless institution and a university legacy, as well as commemorate the first year of Pullin's presidency. "I am honored to be entrusted with the role of helping lead TCU into its next 150 years," Pullin said.

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ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH ONE HORNED FROG AT A TIME

A tumble on a campus sidewalk, papers scattered from a backpack, a struggle with a heavy door. As witnesses to such incidents, we'd make sure that the person who fell is OK, lend a hand collecting the paperwork and hold the door open. Other signs of distress aren't always as obvious. Stress, anxiety and depression are less recognizable, and, for college students, they are always a concern. Fortunately, TCU has made mental and emotional health a priority for students as well as faculty and staff. "Over the last 20 years, there's been a change in society around mental and emotional health. As society changed, the university had to change too,"...

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MARKETING, COMMUNICATION EFFORTS WIN BIG AT CASE

TCU is leading on in many ways, including in the field of marketing and communication. The university received several Best of District Awards for its efforts from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). "We are tremendously proud of the work underway in our division to elevate our brand and academic reputation," said Tracy Syler-Jones, vice chancellor for marketing and communication. "This has been a year like no other at TCU. From our 150th anniversary to our football championship run to the progress of the Burnett School of Medicine at TCU and the culmination of our \$1 billion endowment campaign.

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BLUEBONNET BATTLE: IT'S OFFICIAL. THE BAYLOR GAME IS A RIVALRY GAME

Texas football fans love a good rivalry. And the game-day clash that has grown between TCU and Baylor University soon will be declared official. The matchup will be known as the Bluebonnet Battle, with the first officially named rivalry game to be played at TCU's Amon G. Carter Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023. The student government associations at both universities recently introduced and successfully passed resolutions in their respective houses of student representatives to make the declaration for the match as old as any in Texas. "TCU and Baylor have a long rivalry with 118 football games played since 1899, making this football game one of the most consistently played in the country,"...

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