



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: REMEMBERING CHANCELLOR BILL TUCKER



I thought it would be worth sharing a few thoughts about Chancellor Tucker and what I feel is his continued legacy to TCU. A number of you would be much better qualified to write this than me, because much of my TCU overlap with him was spent wandering the 5th floor of Winton-Scott Hall as an assistant professor far from the then Sadler-based epicenter of TCU. Nonetheless, here goes:

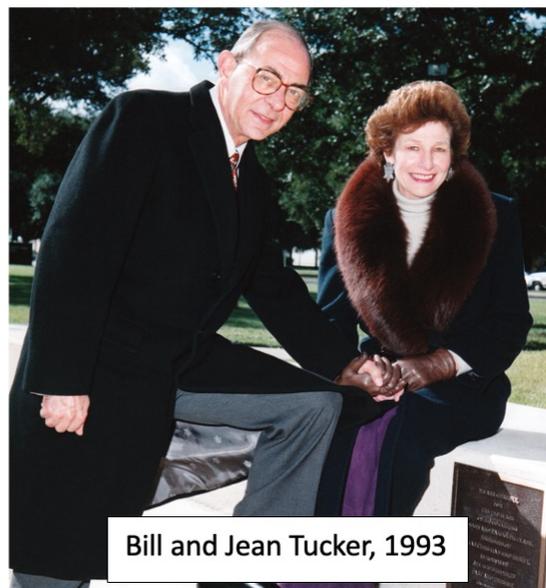
William E. "Bill" Tucker (1932-2022) served on the faculty of Brite Divinity School from 1966 to 1976, the last five years as Dean. He returned to TCU in 1979 as Chancellor dispatching his duties with grace, dignity, humor, energy, and enthusiasm until his 1998 retirement. Under his leadership, the campus gained five buildings, doubled the size of its library, and launched an engineering program. The University's

endowment increased substantially (from a mere \$53 million to over \$750 million) during his tenure as Chancellor. Of course, Chancellor Tucker was by no means solely responsible for this increase, but his focus on building the endowment for its long-term benefits to TCU was an important driving force. You could safely argue that this spurred TCU's explosive growth, both in reputation and the square footage of its physical plant, over the ensuing twenty-five years. Stated differently, the aspirations codified by Chancellor Mick Ferrari as laid out in the 1999 "Commission on the Future of TCU" and realized under the leadership of Chancellor Victor Boschini would have not been possible--certainly not in their current grandeur--without this financial underpinning. Even more challenging were TCU's struggles to maintain enrollment during the early years in Bill Tucker's chancellorship.

Specifically, total enrollment had dropped from 7,340 in 1968 to 5,874 in 1978. Moreover, a relative paucity in the number of applications (only 1,560 in 1981) mandated that only 184 be rejected...hardly selective save for a pulse and pocketbook. This compared to 7,395 students enrolled (and climbing each year) when Bill Tucker retired in 1998

Bill and his wife Jean made at least two concrete (pun intended) and enduring contributions to TCU, the first a plaza situated in front of Sadler Hall featuring three flagpoles that proudly fly the US, state, and TCU flags. At the direction of the Chancellor's Office, the TCU flag is periodically lowered to half-mast to memorialize the passing of individuals, primarily faculty, staff, and students, who played key roles in TCU's present or past. The second is the Clark Brothers' Statue, once known as the Founders' Statue, that is located south of the library. The brothers Addisor and Randolph Clark are portrayed walking across campus as the youthful thirty- and thirty-one-year olds they were when founding what is now Texas Christian University. And of course the Tuckers are the namesakes to the William E and Jean Jones Tucker Technology Center, dedicated in 2002 and home to the College of Science & Engineering's Dean's Office as well as the Departments of Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics. Bill once bemusingly stated that it was ironic that a technology building was named in his honor, given he was quite old school in that regard. In contrast, there is no question but that his contributions to TCU were transformational and enduring.

Here's wishing you a fulfilling start to our spring,



Bill and Jean Tucker, 1993

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE ON THE BOARD?

Elections for the TCU Retirees' Association Executive Board will occur at our May meeting, and we are currently looking for individuals to fill a few key positions. This is a fun and rewarding experience, as any and all current board members will attest. Please give this some thought and nominate yourself or someone else you think might be interested by emailing Rich Enos (r.enos@tcu.edu).



FROM OUR FEBRUARY MEETING:

We were treated to a presentation by Dr. Harry Parker, distinguished professor of theatre, who overviewed the current status of TCU's renowned Department of Theatre, described his the upcoming play he'll direct (Merrily We Roll Along; <https://calendar.tcu.edu/event/merrily-we-roll-along>), and overviewed the scheduled and much-needed multi-year renovation to Ed Landreth Hall. We were also treated to a sneak preview of two songs from the play, as sung by two amazing students. Wowie!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR (upcoming luncheons):

Tuesday, March 17-We are in for a musical treat at this luncheon as our very own David Grant will appear as part of David, Kent and Trish. The trio will perform acoustic folk and Americana music from the 50's and 60's



TIME/LOCATION: The meeting will begin at 11:30am in the Kelly Alumni Center. Parking in the Kelly Center lot (lot 6) should be available.

REGISTER TO ATTEND: please register at least a week in advance on the TCURA website (<https://tcura.tcu.edu/>) or by contacting Cheryl Cobb at c.cobb@tcu.edu.

Tuesday, April 21-Jason Soileau, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planning, Design and Construction: Learn about the latest developments in the campus master plan and Berry Street improvements. Location: Smith Entrepreneurs Hall (Room 1520A&B) in the Hays Business Commons (Neeley School of Business).

Tuesday May 19-TBA

HR UPDATE:

The HR Benefits team is currently comprised of five employees who manage all benefit programs, including medical, dental, and vision. The team also manages the tuition benefit, retirement benefits for active employees, leaves and ADA requests as well as billing and budgeting. In addition, all members of the Benefits team provide support to both employees preparing for retirement from TCU and those who are already retired. TCU currently has more than 2,700 benefits-eligible employees and over 700 retirees.

The Benefits and Retirement Consultant role includes dedicated support for retirement and retiree benefits at TCU, including retirees both under and over age 65. Retirees under age 65 have the option to remain on TCU's health plans, and HR continues to provide support for their coverage and billing. Once retirees reach age 65, they transition to Medicare, and benefit administration shifts to Via Benefits if they are eligible for the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). At that point, all benefits administration is handled directly through Via Benefits.

Perla De La Fuente, the current Benefits and Retirement Consultant, accepted a position outside of TCU. Her final day was February 20, 2026. Her replacement, Leslie Sanchez, will join TCU on March 2, 2026.

If you are enrolled in TCU Benefits and have questions, please call (817) 257-7790 or email hrbenefits@tcu.edu.

For Via Benefits, call 1 (888) 429-8490 or register through the Via Benefits portal at <https://my.viabenefits.com/>.



FEATURED RETIREE:

We'd like to feature a retiree or two each month who has done something interesting (travel, a class taken or taught, or any other retirement activity of interest). Please email Phil Hartman (p.hartman@tcu.edu) or any other Board member with information about you or another retiree. This month we feature David Grebel, who retired in 2021 after 23 years as Director of Extended Education. Here's how David tells it:

A number of years ago, Leo Munson invited his directors to participate in a conversation with Human Resources representatives about retirement options. We were each asked what we wanted to do in retirement. I heard typical answers involving hobbies and travel. But when the conversation came to me, I said, "I'll keep on working. I can't imagine being retired."

Then at the end of 2020, like many of us, I had to stretch my imagination because I found myself eligible for membership in the TCU Retirees' Association. I found volunteer opportunities including doing grant reviews for the United Way, continued board service at Child Care Associates, and civic engagement with the city of Arlington's Community Relations Commission. And, like some of you, I foolishly said "yes" when Pat Miller asked me to join the TCURA board. I also leaned heavily into my favorite hobby, cycling, with a plan to cycle across the United States in the summer of 2022. That was sidetracked by a nearly fatal heart attack four years ago at the end, ironically, of a 47-mile bike ride.

Throughout that first year of retirement, I remained engaged in the work that had great meaning for me, serving as the Agape Meal pastor at Broadway Baptist Church. I served in that volunteer role for almost 13 years, and it led to my next career. Sort of.

Prior to coming to TCU, I'd served as a pastor for several years but believed when I entered higher education those days were in my past. The Agape Meal was a way of maintaining a connection to that past vocation, but it led to two opportunities to reengage with pastoral work in a local congregation. For six months in 2023 and then from October 2024 through January 2026 I served as interim pastor of Celebration Community Church in Fort Worth. Although it was an interim position I worked full-time, and I probably worked as hard as I ever have in my life (sorry Leo). Between preaching, pastoral care, and business and financial administration I participated in a calling that the late Frederick Buechner described as "...the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Whether baptizing children, blessing pets, sitting in committee meetings, presiding over weddings and funerals, or simply engaging in the ordinary conversations of life I found my deep gladness. Celebration is a unique congregation; 33 years old, it is one of the largest primarily LGBTQ congregations in Tarrant County. Its members come from many faith traditions and reflect the diversity of its community; and it gladly received me as its pastor.

Alongside this work, I traveled this past year, first as a representative to the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Dachau, then as a member of a clergy delegation sponsored by the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center and the European Union which met with pastoral leaders in Palestine. That last experience led to an invitation to





take part in a certificate program in peacemaking through the Bethlehem Institute for Peace and Justice and a return visit to Palestine later this spring.

So, I still can't imagine being retired. And should I try, my wife Katherine Godby, a Brite alum and director of the Justice Network of Tarrant County, will gently remind me that there are still "deep hungers" waiting for my "deep gladness."

CAMPUS STRUCTURE OF THE MONTH:

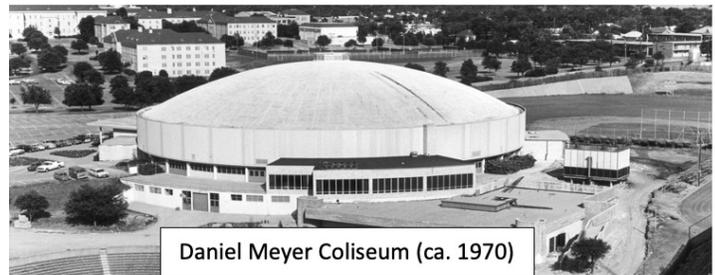
Our memories of TCU are centered around events that involve colleagues and students, but of course they occurred in buildings and other campus structures. Consequently, the University's campus plays an important role in our recollections of TCU. Please let me know if you have a fav, and I'll try to include it in an upcoming issue. This month's structure is the Ed and Rae Schollmaier Arena, still remembered to many of us as Daniel-Meyer Coliseum (DMC), named in honor of Milton E. Daniel and Leo R. "Dutch" Meyer.

When TCU moved from Waco to Fort Worth in 1910, the upstairs gymnasium of the First Baptist Church served as home court. In 1921, the little gym (now Erma Lowe Hall) was built, which provided a campus court until 1926 when a larger facility, the wooden "big gym" was constructed. The popularity of the sport and the condition of the "barn," as the big gym came to be called, forced the Frogs in the mid-

'40s to seek another place to play. That was Will Rogers Coliseum from 1947-1954 and then a Public Schools Gymnasium from 1955-1961. Daniel-Meyer was complete in December, 1961 at the cost of \$1.4 million. It went through a number of upgrades and renovations through the years, including adding a Lettermen's Club, spiffing up the dressing and training rooms, upgrading the sound system and scoreboard, the playing surface and the seats themselves. There have indeed been some memorable games played in DMC, including the Frog's 1981 four-overtime conquest of a University of Houston squad that included future NBA star Clyde Drexler. Or how about future coach Jamie Dixon's 1986 last-second, thirty-five-foot heave, resulting in a win over the University of Texas and securing a regular-season Southwest Conference co-championship for the Frogs? And let's not forget Sandora Irvin's record-setting sixteen-block effort in 2004 against the University of Alabama-Birmingham. Yup. Sixteen in one game. Indeed, the highlight list could go on and on, and they are not confined to basketball. DMC served as a concert hall to, among others, Simon & Garfunkel, Joe Cocker, Jefferson Airplane, and the Grateful Dead. The arena is also the site of TCU graduation exercises, including in 1968 when President Lyndon B. Johnson gave the commencement address.

The upgrades described above are dwarfed by the complete overhaul of 2013 to 2015, relegating the Frogs to play home games in a local high-school gym for two years. It was worth the wait. The new name—Ed and Rae Schollmaier Arena—honors the couple who provided a \$10 million lead gift toward the \$72 million price tag. The names Milton Daniel and Dutch Meyer have not

been completely relegated to the history books, as the entire athletic complex now bears their names. The Arena includes a spacious lobby opening into the Jane and John Justin Hall of Fame, well worth a browse through the TCU Athletic Hall of Fame that includes Rose Bowl and Heisman trophies. The arena floor was lowered four feet to improve sight lines and situate some sections closer to the floor. Seating was reduced from 7,166 to 6,800, and there's not a bad seat in the place. As you can imagine, the locker rooms are plush and the team lounge includes a



Daniel Meyer Coliseum (ca. 1970)



2021 Fall commencement in Schollmaier Arena



twenty-five-seat theater-style video room. The Stuart Family Courtside Club is where the high rollers can hang out prior to games and during half-time. As well, the Arena includes office suites housing various athletic support staff. An additional one thousand chairs can be comfortably placed on the covered playing surface, allowing for special events such as commencement exercises. In addition to men’s and women’s basketball, TCU’s volleyball team calls Schollmaier Arena their home.

HOW ABOUT SOME HUMOR?

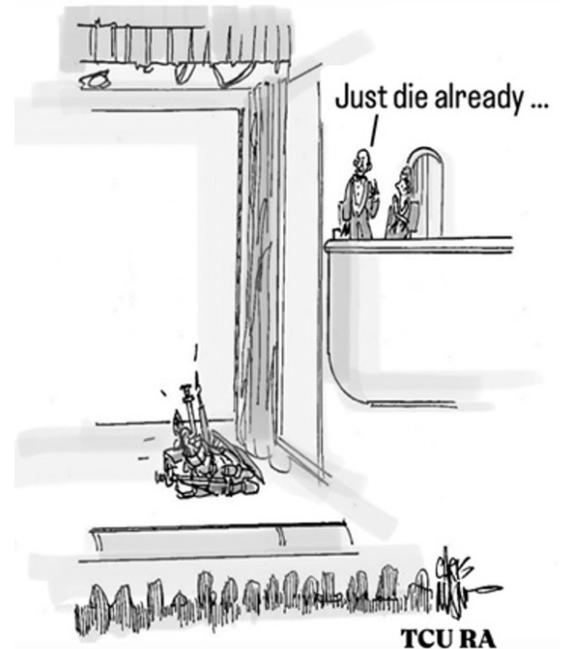
The Wonder Years:

- I wonder where I parked my car
- I wonder where I left my phone
- I wonder what day it is
- One minute you are young and cool, maybe a little dangerous, and the next minute you are reading Amazon reviews for birdseed

Kids have safety scissors now, but we were free to use the classroom guillotine at 10 years old:



Shakespeare ...



WANT TO FEEL OLD?

“Bonanza” premiered 66 years ago.
 The Beatles split 56 years ago.
 “Laugh-In” premiered nearly 58 years ago.
 Elvis has been dead for 44 years.
 -and Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin for 55 years.
 Mickey Mantle retired 57 years ago.

The “Thriller” video is 42 years old.
Back to the Future is 41 years old.
 “The Ed Sullivan Show” ended 53 years ago.
 The triplets on “My Three Sons” are 56.
 The Corvette turned 72 this year.
 The *Wizard of Oz* is 82 years old.

HEALTH HELP NOW.

Aim for More Fish Intake to Add to Your Health
 Carolyn Spence Cagle PhD, RNC-E

Research studies show Americans lack diets rich in fish to promote their health. Up to 90% do not eat enough fish, a reliable source of protein, minerals, omega-3 fatty acids, and vitamins that our bodies cannot manufacture. There is limited focus in consumer literature on the benefits of eating fish and other seafood. Evidence shows brain and heart benefits, less inflammation, and longer lifespans among adults eating 4 oz (size a pack of cards) of fish twice or more times/week. Reasons for low fish intake might include access to fish, concerns about the environmental impact/sustainability of commercial fishing, or possible neurotoxic effects of eating fish, particularly fish with high mercury levels. The cost of some fish may cause people to avoid buying it to experience, thus losing the documented



health benefits of eating fish. *The best fish are sustainable, available, low in mercury and high in omega-3 fatty acids, and affordable.*

Which fish provide the most benefits?

Salmon: the healthiest option. Low in mercury, high in protein and omega-3 fatty acids, farmed salmon is a bit cheaper but may have higher mercury levels due to raising methods compared to wild salmon. Canned salmon or frozen salmon burgers may serve as less expensive options to fresh salmon and are available in most grocery stores.

Tuna: another healthy choice. But it may have high mercury levels to prevent frequent eating. Canned Skipjack or other light tuna often contains less mercury compared to albacore tuna. Due to mercury concerns, recommendations are to eat no more than three servings/week (total of 12 oz. for an adult) of tuna.

Rainbow trout: excellent source of vitamin D and B12 (needed as we age). It has good amounts of protein, minerals, and omega-3 fatty acids. This fish is less expensive than other fish and less damaging to the environment.

Shrimp, tilapia, catfish: acceptable choice. Many people eat these products low in mercury, high in protein but low in omega-3 fatty acids compared to other seafood.

Sardines, Atlantic mackerel, and anchovies: acceptable choice. A high protein and omega-3 source and low in mercury and other toxins; due to high reproduction rate, these products minimize concern about seafood sustainability.

Oysters: a desirable choice. High in vitamins and minerals, omega-3 fatty acids, and low mercury levels, this farm raised seafood meets the sustainability criterion. However, first cook oysters due to potentially harboring of unsafe bacteria.

Mussels: an often-ignored source of protein, omega-3 fatty acids, zinc, iron, and vitamin B12. Also low in mercury, easy to prepare, and, if farm raised, environmentally sustainable.

Which fish to avoid due to high mercury levels?

Avoid tilefish, shark, orange roughy, king mackerel, and swordfish in your diet.

Also, seek to expand your diet with *other sources of foods high in omega-3 fatty acids*. Those include fatty acids available in soybean and canola oil, and walnuts, flax, chai, and hemp seeds. These are easy to get into your diet: I add flaxseed in my spinach smoothie, chai seeds to my oatmeal on alternate breakfast days, and walnuts to my high protein Greek yogurt at many lunches. Other sources of precursors of omega-3 fatty acids include spinach, brussels sprouts, milk, eggs, and organic dairy products.

Current evidence notes “food is medicine,” and choosing a healthy diet, including fish, supports your health. Good luck with finding sources to promote your 2026 well-being!

References cited:

Gulbin, S., & Korav, K, (XX). Anti-inflammatory foods to add to your diet. Retrieved from <https://www.goodrx.com/well-being/diet-nutrition-anti-inflammatory> diet.

O’Conner, A. (June 25, 2025). Most people do not follow this important dietary advice. Are you? Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2025/06/11/healthiest-seafood-fish-benefit>.

TCURA 2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: CONTACT INFORMATION

President:
Phil Hartman
p.hartman@tcu.edu

Secretary:
Bo Soderbergh
bo.soderbergh@outlook.com

Communications:
Cheryl Cobb
c.cobb@tcu.edu

Member-At-Large:
Charme Cone
c.cone@tcu.edu

Vice President:
Karen Scott
k.scott@tcu.edu

Treasurer:
Wendy Crowley
wencro@aol.com

Membership:
Mary Kincannon
m.kincannon@tcu.edu

Member-At-Large:
David Grant
d.grant@tcu.edu

Past President:
Rich Enos
r.enos@tcu.edu

Educational Programming:
Fred Oberkircher
f.oberkircher@tcu.edu

UCAC Representative:
Jeff Moore
j.moore@tcu.edu

Member-At-Large:
Shawn Wagner
s.wagner@tcu.edu

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.