



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: HURRAH FOR THE GROUNDS CREW!



When I was interviewed by a young Biology departmental chair by the name of Mike McCracken in 1980, the campus was a far cry from its current splendor. It was punctuated at regular intervals by bare ground in shady areas, exposed rocks here and there, and tired-looking fire hydrants replete with faded purple paint. And if one runs the clock back even further, to 1910 and the decision to relocate the campus to wind-swept hills that stood as an outpost to Fort Worth, there was but a single scruffy tree to be found on the hard-scrabble prairie. Instead, Johnson grass and horned toads were the predominant life forms. Oh my, have things changed since then! For example, the *Princeton Review* recently listed TCU's campus as the 4th most beautiful campus in the nation, the only one in Texas to be so named! The *Review* mentioned Frog Fountain as an iconic landmark and the fact that TCU has been continuously recognized as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Of course, the beauty of TCU's campus is the sum of more than stately trees, statues, monuments, buildings, and congruent architecture. The shrubbery, grass, and even more so the flowers combine to render the land of Horned Frogs a veritable botanical



wonderland. A tip of the hat to the grounds crew for making this happen. They utilize the TCU greenhouses located behind the Physical Plant building to grow various plantings that hold visual appeal and can withstand the climatic extremes of north Texas weather. The begonias, impatiens, geraniums, petunias, dianthus, marigolds, zinnias, snapdragons, and caladiums are then transplanted around campus into rototilled flower beds, over 11,000 square feet in all, amended with landscaper's mix soil and compost. This is in addition to over 15,000 square feet of perennial flower beds. The spring plantings, especially the tulips, are particularly striking. These bulbs are planted annually and then discarded after vividly decorating campus. The expense of maintaining this wonderland is not borne by TCU's operating budget but instead comes from an endowment initiated in 1987 by Board of Trustee's member Mary Evans Beasley, which now exceeds \$1.74 million.

I'm proud to have gotten to know some of the grounds crew well as we regularly ventured into the Rickel Building to play spirited games of noon-time basketball during which comradery and sportsmanship were as important as the physical workout. As a result of my nascent friendships, I began to take note of the pride with which the folks on the grounds crew took in maintaining TCU's beauty. We all know how important these dedicated men and women are to making TCU a special place, and establishing these friendships on the court reminded me just how lucky I am to have them as colleagues! So, the next time you're wandering campus, you might just offer them a hearty "thank you" for enriching our campus. They deserve it! Again: hurrah for the grounds crew!

Happy Spring to all,

FROM OUR MARCH MEETING:

Retirees were entertained by *David, Kent and Trish*, a local band performing acoustic folk and Americana music from the 50's and 60's. The trio has performed together since 1997 and is led by David Grant, TCU Retirees' Association executive board member. The group played a fun selection of familiar songs that we all recalled



from our “younger” days and frequently inspired us to sing and clap along. Prior to each selection, they shared fascinating stories about each song’s origin and a bit about the artist’s life. For example, we learned that many of the big hits by popular band *Peter, Paul and Mary* were “lifted from” earlier and lesser-known artists. Many thanks to *David, Kent and Trish* for such a memorable day!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR (upcoming luncheons):

Tuesday, April 21-Our speaker will be Jason Soileau, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planning, Design and Construction: Learn about the latest developments in campus construction, the master plan and Berry Street improvements.

TIME/LOCATION/PARKING: The meeting will begin at 11:30am in Neeley School of Business Room 1520A&B, in the Hays Business Commons. This was formerly known as Smith Entrepreneurs Hall Room 104. Parking will be available in Lot 19 on Lowden Street, directly across the street and north of Smith Hall.

Immediately following Jason’s talk, we’re offering an optional tour of nearby Gutierrez Hall (the newest dining hall) and one of the new first-year residence halls.

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 May 19-In keeping with May tradition, members will vote on the slate of candidates for board positions and recognize award recipients. There will not be a formal speaker. Instead, we’ll have social time with old and new friends and small-group discussions at our tables. The luncheon will be held in the Kelly Alumni Center at 11:30 am.

Immediately following the luncheon, please join us for an optional tour of the new Simpson Family Restoration Center. This is conveniently accessed through the Schollmaier Basketball Arena, next to the Kelly Center parking lot. You’ll get to see features like the “Snow Room” with purple snow and cryo lounge used by TCU student athletes. See what media across the US are raving about.

HR UPDATE:

HR Benefits welcomes new employee, Leslie Sanchez, into the role of Benefits and Retirement Consultant. Perla De La Fuente was previously in the position. She was a great contributor in her short tenure on the team. Unfortunately for us, Perla took an opportunity outside of TCU. We are excited to have Leslie join the team. She comes from Tarrant County with ten years of HR experience. With the county, she met with



potential retirees and handled day-to-day benefit issues, so she will be able to make an immediate impact in our department. Leslie will be responsible for all day-to-day benefit issues, inquiries, and assistance to both active and under 65 retirees. She will handle educating incoming new employees on the complete TCU benefit offerings as well as making sure they get enrolled on a timely basis. She will also be the day-to-day contact for current employee inquiries about retirement plans as well as ensuring that the vendors receive all contribution funds. Please help us in welcoming Leslie to the team.

For any Benefits related communication, please reach out to HRBenefits@tcu.edu or call (817) 257-7790

NEW TCU MOBILE ID NOW IN EFFECT!

Be sure to create your new TCU Mobile ID because the traditional “hard copy” version in your purse or wallet became obsolete on March 31!

TCU Mobile ID is available in Apple Wallet and Google Wallet. Anyone with an active TCU ID number, including retirees, can add their mobile ID to a compatible device. **Tap your iPhone, Apple Watch, or Android device at readers across campus** to use it conveniently. Once added to your digital wallet, it works just like a physical card.

Setting up your TCU Mobile ID is quick and easy. Most users can add their Mobile ID to their phone in just a few minutes. Please note that you must have an approved photo on file for your TCU ID card. If you have not yet submitted or taken a photo for your ID card, please visit the [TCU ID Center](#) in the Brown-Lupton University Union. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, and no appointment is necessary.

Download the “Get Mobile” app to get started:



For additional information and a list of frequently asked questions, please refer to the TCU ID Center website: [TCU ID Center | TCU Mobile ID](#).

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’s feature is Patti Warrington, who retired in 2018 as an Emerita Associate Professor of Fashion Merchandising after 12 years at TCU. Patti received a B.A. in Home Economics (Fashion Merchandising) in 1975 and participated in the commencement procession with the Class of 2025 as a part of the 50-year reunion.

Here’s Patti’s account of one of her passions:

Ten years ago, our youngest daughter, a high school senior, wanted to get certified to scuba dive, so I took the course with her. My husband, Gary, started diving in his teens, and I thought it might be fun.





As I gained more experience, Gary and I decided to try a liveaboard dive cruise when I retired. We spent a week exploring the Exuma Cays in the Bahamas aboard the Aqua Cat, a 102-ft catamaran with 11 passenger cabins. Liveaboard experiences allow divers to visit multiple sites over an extended period. Other features common to many liveaboards include a dive deck for storing tanks and gear, a main salon for relaxing, a dining area, sun decks with outdoor bars, and, occasionally, a hot tub.

Since then, our liveaboard experiences have taken us to the Red Sea twice, the Philippines, Belize, Bali, and Palau. Last summer, we explored the coral gardens, reefs, and pinnacles of the islands in Komodo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Indonesia. The 12-day excursion with friends, a seasoned, well-traveled group of divers, included a morning ashore to see the Komodo dragons at Loh Buaya on Rinca Island. Other land-based side trips in our travels include climbing Mt. Sinai in Egypt to watch the sunrise and visiting a Tarsier sanctuary in the Philippine jungle.

I'm often asked, "Aren't you afraid of sharks?" The answer is both yes and no. Shark feeds are part of recreational diving and are safe when conducted by experienced dive masters. Scuba diving opened a world of true wonder for me, including not only sharks but also giant manta rays, schools of jackfish and barracuda, spawning snapper, moray eels, seahorses, and tiny sea creatures no bigger than a thumb, to name a few, as well as the excitement of exploring wrecks and even cenotes in Mexico. Now with an advanced open water certification and almost 300 dives, I can't wait for the next adventure.

MARIACHI CONCERT-Emerging from behind the purple curtain, please welcome the TCU Mariachi Sangre Royal Band!

Set your planners for **Tuesday, April 28th at 5:30** as the TCU Mariachi Sangre Royal Band makes its Spring Concert appearance at Ed Landreth Auditorium. Admission is free.



As traditional folk music originating in the southwest Mexican state of Jalisco, mariachi has helped define the country and culture for a century and a half. The term mariachi refers to the ensemble and individual performer as well as to the resonate music itself. Full-size mariachi groups consist of at least a dozen performers, and the style ranges from polkas, waltzes and marches to serenades and mournful ballads, often about love, death, heroes, and betrayal.

Now, for the back story...This is a story about passion; musically, culturally, and personally. It begins with an article written by Lisa Martin for an issue of *The TCU Magazine*. Quoting from this article: "Laura Singletary, associate professor and program coordinator for instrumental music education, was in the FWISD's North Side High School audience cheering that night. A 20-year veteran of teaching band and orchestra in middle and high schools, she now serves as the TCU division chair of Music Education. Through years of interaction, Singletary had learned that the mariachi program teaches students performance skills along with history and culture. The opportunity to perform as individuals within the larger context of a group creates outsized student engagement. When it comes to mariachi, there is a stylistic element that has to be learned in sort of an apprenticeship style, Singletary said, adding that some compare mariachi teaching to learning jazz, where notation is only an approximation."

More recently, several of Singletary's TCU students encouraged her to form a mariachi group on campus. It began as a student organization before becoming an accredited course. As one of her former students (a first-



generation student who recently graduated with a degree in music education) noted; “the group helps students celebrate their heritage through song.”

The story continues through conversations with Estee Hernandez, Assistant Director, Leadership & Experiential Learning, as she carefully explained that music in general, and mariachi, in specific, is an experiential sensory endeavor. (I heard....) It requires that the human body successfully interacts with a mechanical device to produce a series of pattered tones, matched in such a way with the ear, that the result, confirmed by others, is considered “music.” Beyond that, such sounds are then received by an audience in such a way that the result is a sensation that is stored in memory as an identified emotion. This musical “language” can only be taught and learned through extended successive approximation (practice) that usually takes years to perfect. The result is a bonding of the participants that is often life changing. (She said...) The effort involved in this practice is so powerful as to often be life-changing.

... And concludes, with a personal invitation from Wendy Imelda Martinez and Ramon Nino, adjunct professors of music at TCU to join in celebrating the joy of mariachi music at TCU and become part of its extended family.

Hope to see you on April 28th!

Gracias! (Contributed by Fred Oberkircher)

MAY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT:

Now in its fourth year, the ReFrog Initiative diverts usable items to various worthy causes as students move out for the summer. These items would otherwise find their way into dumpsters. Items are collected at a series of pods located close to the dorms on campus. Last year:

- Over 180 volunteers gave 408 hours of their time.
- ReFrog diverted an estimated 74 dumpsters from the landfill, more than twice last year’s amount.
- \$4,000 worth of services were donated between DFW Capsule and Firefighting’s Finest Moving and Storage.
- The Welman Project was able to provide 628 items, worth over \$30,000, to local educators.

See <https://www.tcu.edu/news/2025/third-annual-refrog-doubles-donations-impact.php> and the figure to the right for more details.

This year’s ReFrog Initiative will run from May 4 through 9 with 1-hour shifts. Stay tuned for sign-up details. You can volunteer at any of the seven pods on campus, but you might be interested in signing up for the pod that will be sponsored by the TCU Retirees’ Association, which will be on Pond Street with on-street parking available.


In addition, you can even sponsor a pod by contacting any of the ReFrog Coordinators at ReFrog@tcu.edu. This involves helping with the initial setup of the pod, plus being present each day to open and close the pod. Note that pod sponsors are not responsible for finding volunteers to work the various shifts.

This is a great way to interact with students, their parents and most importantly to make a true environmental impact.






CELEBRATION OF DAVE FINN'S LIFE:



Dave Finn
April | 4th | 2026
11am - 3pm

Courtside Club at the TCU Basketball Arena
3000 Stadium Dr Fort Worth, TX, 76109

Let's Celebrate Dave!



In honor of Dave, who was colorblind but still brought so much color into our lives, we ask that you wear bright colors; pick one or combine as many as possible (think: Easter eggs and rainbows!). Together we will fill the room with color and celebrate the vibrant life he lived.

Live music will be performed by Southwest Sound (the local barbershop chorus that Dave performed with back in the day) and Tom Heischer (a local guitarist who plays Texas folk covers).

Coffee and pastries will be served at 11am, and charcuterie and dips at 1pm. An open bar of beer and wine (and champagne) will be available for the duration. Hot chocolate and sodas, too!

(NOTE: No outside food or beverages are allowed in the party venue.)

RSVP not required. Everyone is welcome!
(Please, no gifts. Your presence is the gift.)

PARKING: Use the free visitor lot in front of the TCU football stadium (see photo for detailed map of parking and venue location).

IN MEMORIAM—Kaye Dysart Thornton (July 2, 1941 — March 12, 2026)

Kaye began her career at TCU as director of nursing recruitment and joined the Office of Admission as an admission officer in 1985. Later, Kaye was instrumental in forming Tandy Technology Scholars, a partnership between Tandy/Radio Shack and TCU. The Scholars program was a nation-wide endeavor for students and teachers who excelled in math, science or computer science. She traveled the country promoting the program and the University.

Kaye loved TCU. She enjoyed attending Retirees' Association luncheons, most recently the February meeting featuring Harry Parker of TCU Theatre, promoting the upcoming show *Merrily we Roll Along*. Kaye attended all TCU Theatre performances, including *Merrily we Roll Along*, just 9 days before her death. She also enjoyed cheering on TCU sports teams.



Friends will remember Kaye for her brightly colored clothing and signature multi-colored hair ribbon, along with the over 100 cakes she made and gave as gifts each year. She was a generous soul who was grateful for all her many friends. She was so proud of her family (son Bart-TCU alum, daughter-in-law Kristina, and grandchildren Copeland and Tristan).

See her obituary at: https://www.thompsonfunerals.com/obituaries/kaye-thornton?ttm_pid=211067633&ttm_affiliate=legacypro&ttm_affiliatetype=standard&ttm_campaign=legacy.



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 feature is the Bailey Building and Palko Hall, home to the College of Education.

Although the legend above the columned entrance proclaims "The Bailey Building," it was built as the home for Brite College of the Bible. The fifth structure to be built on the Fort Worth campus, the Bailey Building is situated at the southernmost boundary of the 1914 campus. In 1958, after the religion programs had moved to new quarters, the old Brite College building was renovated under the direction of architect Preston Geren. Coupled with enrollment growth and the inevitable erosion through the passage of time of Bailey's beauty and functionality, Dean Sam Deitz made a presentation to the Board of Trustees advocating for improvements to the facility. By 2006 over \$11.5 million had been raised, exceeding the target by \$1.3 million, and including a lead gift from Betsy, Nick, Alexis, and Steffen "Steve" Palko. The game was on! In 2007, Palko Hall was dedicated. The 24,600-square-foot structure is seamlessly connected to the Bailey Building, which resulted in nearly tripling the footprint of the College. In addition to its harmonious merger with Palko Hall, the Bailey Building was restored to its original splendor. As Chancellor Victor J. Boschini stated at the complex's reopening in September 2007: "TCU has always had a wonderful school of education, and we will finally have a facility to match."

Some of you might recall that temporary buildings once stood on the ground now occupied by Palko Hall. Among others, these structures' denizens included the faculty and staff of the Ranch Management Program, which relocated to the Rockefeller Building on the northwest portion of campus. And some years later, faculty in TCU's fledging Department of Engineering were housed here prior to the opening of the Tucker Technology Center on the east campus.

Finally, situated directly in front of the Bailey Building is a ninety-six-inch tall bronze statue, that is fittingly entitled "Teaching to change the world." Weighing in at more than 1,200 pounds, the statue of a little girl, blissfully posed atop a globe, is intended to inspire education students and other passersby. Added to the campus in 2008, it serves as a perfect symbolic prelude to the buildings that house the College of Education.



Brite College of the Bible (1928)



The Bailey Building and Palko Hall (2013)

SOME INTERESTING FACTOIDS AND A BIT OF HUMOR:

Some phrases William Shakespear coined that we use without knowing:

"Breaking the ice" (*The Taming of the Shrew*)

"Wild goose chase" (*Romeo and Juliet*)

"In a pickle" (*The Tempest*)

"It's Greek to me" (*Julius Caesar*)

"At one fell swoop" (*Macbeth*)

"Too much of a good thing" (*As you like it*)

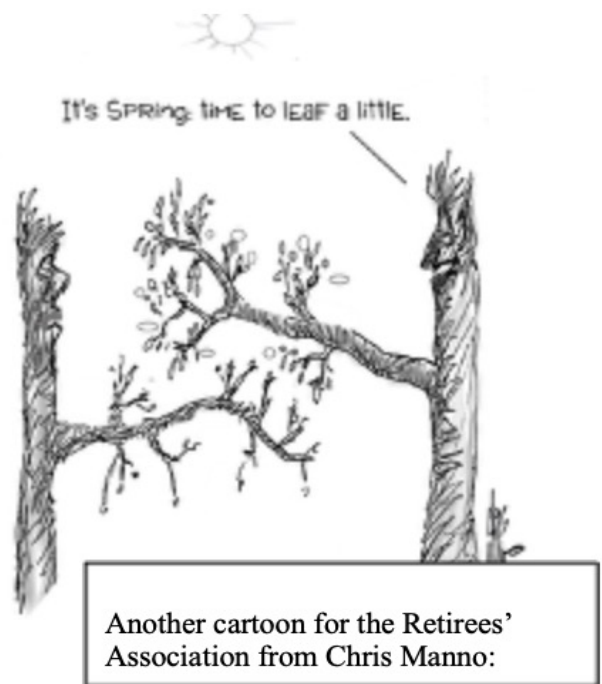


“Knock, knock! Who’s there” (*MacBeth*)
 “Love is blind” (*The Merchant of Venice*)
 “Foregone conclusion” (*Othello*)
 “Catch a cold” (*Cymbeline*)
 “The world is my oyster” (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*)
 “Wear one’s heart on one’s sleeve” (*Othello*)

“The game is up” (*Cymbeline*)
 “Seen better days” (*As you like it*)
 “Into thin air” (*The Tempest*)
 “Dead as a doornail” (*Henry the VI*)
 “Heart of gold” (*Henry V*)
 “Fair play” (*The Tempest*)



(source: GNews)



Some artists of the 50’s and 60’s are revising their hits with new lyrics to accommodate baby boomers. Here are a few:

Herman’s Hermits- Mrs. Brown you’ve got a lovely walker.
 The Commodores-Once, twice, three times to the bathroom.
 The Beatles-I’ll get by with a little help from depends.
 The Bee Gees-How can you mend a broken hip?
 Bobby Darin-Splish splash I was having a flash.
 Marvin Gaye-Heard it from the Grape Nuts.
 Willie Nelson-On the commode again.
 Procol Harem-A whiter shade of hair.
 Helen Reddy-I am woman hear me snore.
 Abba-Denture Queen.

HEALTH HELP NOW. Addressing your Skin Health: A Priority for 2026

Carolyn Spence Cagle PhD, RNC-E

I suspect each of us has looked in a mirror to discover common skin changes as we age. Our skin loses its moisture and oil production and shows our earlier life choices, including age spots caused by sun damage. We may bruise more easily as we age due to loss of collagen (that adds padding under our upper tissues) and more wrinkles to define us as older. As we age, our immune system becomes less effective in repairing our



skin. Particularly, if we spent our earlier lives outdoors, we may experience skin cancers resulting from cumulative sun exposure and needing dermatologist care.

So, what actions can you take to prevent major problems with your skin?

- ❖ Do a monthly check of all your skin to identify changes; make sure your annual Medicare wellness physical includes a skin assessment of your full body.
- ❖ See a dermatologist or get a PCP referral if needed to assess skin issues that need attention.
- ❖ Avoid sun exposure by wearing a brimmed hat to protect ears, head, and neck, especially mid-day when the UV rays cause most skin cancers; seek available shade, wear long sleeves and pants or wear clothing of at least 50 SPF or a rash guard coverup at the pool.
- ❖ Use sunblock of at least 30 SPF (containing both UVA and UVB protection) and according to product directions; find evidence of the best sunblock (e.g., Consumer Reports’ annual review); evidence shows that people who extensively use sunblock have less aggressive skin cancers.
- ❖ Do not smoke.
- ❖ Exercise to perfuse blood to your skin and hydrate it.
- ❖ Drink at least eight glasses of water/day to moisturize your skin; some common OTC products with glycerin or hyaluronic acid help maintain/improve skin moisture with aging.
- ❖ Eat lean protein fruits and vegetables that help feed the skin for health.
- ❖ Use mild cleansers or exfoliants to increase skin texture and help maintain moisture in that body organ, particularly the face.

What are skin changes needing further PCP or dermatologist assessment?

- ❖ Itchy and painful skin areas that may represent bothersome eczema or dermatitis.
- ❖ Sunspots that are irregular in shape, have irregular borders, or have changed colors over time; those may represent melanoma, a serious cancer that is preventable if caught early.
- ❖ Wounds or sores that do not heal after one month or those that have a milky discharge, redness or swelling.
- ❖ Advances in dermatology and doctor managed skin salons can improve your skin health and overall well-being. Salons may provide injectable Botox for wrinkles, retinoids for fine lines, acne scars, and “lack luster” skin. Laser treatment may also ease the appearance of age spots and improve collagen production to address sagging skin. These interventions usually require out-of-pocket payment, due to limited health insurance coverage.

References cited:

Foulad, D. (September 2025). Addressing skin concerns. *UCA Health: Healthy Years*, 22(9), 3.
 Loria, K. (September 2023). How to stay healthy longer: Your skin. *Consumer Reports*, 88(8), 33.
 Wadyka, S. (July-August 2025). Stay safer in the sun. *Consumer Reports*, 90(5), 58-65.

| TCURA 2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: CONTACT INFORMATION | | | |
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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 support the interests of its members, and to strengthen the relationship between retirees and the University.

Screenshot