



**PRESIDENT’S COLUMN: INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN HISTORY**

I recently ran across two lists purporting to be of the most influential persons in history. I’m not advocating for either but they are certainly thought provoking, both in terms of their similarities and differences. The first (below left) is from G NEW J and the second (below right) is from Nazza Times. They both have decidedly Eurocentric (and from the Times, US-centric) perspectives. And you’d also think there was only one gender of humans to look at the G NEW J list. Nonetheless, they are interesting. Are there surprises to you, in terms of both inclusions and exclusions?



1	Muhammad	11	Louis Pasteur	1	Jesus	11	Henry VIII
2	Isaac Newton	12	Galileo Galilei	2	Napoleon	12	Charles Darwin
3	Jesus	13	Aristotle	3	Muhammad	13	Elizabeth I
4	Buddha	14	Euclid	4	William Shakespeare	14	Karl Marx
5	Confucius	15	Moses	5	Abraham Lincoln	15	Julius Caesar
6	St. Paul	16	Charles Darwin	6	George Washington	16	Queen Victoria
7	Cai Lun	17	Oin Shi Huang	7	Adolf Hitler	17	Martin Luther
8	Johann Gutenberg	18	Augustus Caesar	8	Aristotle	18	Joseph Stalin
9	Christopher Columbus	19	Nicolaus Copernicus	9	Alexander the Great	19	Albert Einstein
10	Albert Einstein	20	Antoine Lavoisier	10	Thomas Jefferson	20	Christopher Columbus

I’ve always enjoyed such compilations, whether they be historical or sports related (e.g., Pick your 5 top Lakers or Celtics of all time; Is Michael Jordan better than LeBron James? Is Wilt better than Kareem? What was the best college basketball team that failed to win an NCAA championship?). But let’s put a TCU spin on this, so I toss out the following questions:

- Who are the 10 most influential individuals in TCU’s history? (I’ll give you the Clark brothers and Mary Coutts Burnett but let you come up with the rest).
- Who were the 10 most influential individuals at TCU during your years of employment?
- Who are the top ten athletes in TCU’s history (all sports)? (Please include Sandora Irvin on your list.)
- Who are the 10 TCU employees who most impacted your career?
- Who are the 10 TCU employees you most admire?

My hope is these “thought experiments” (love that term, by the way) will provide you the opportunity to reflect on the many people who have enriched TCU.

This is my last President’s column, and the baton will shortly be passed into the exceedingly capable hands of Karen Scott. I’ve truly enjoyed the past two years, first as Vice President and now as President. Working with the Retirees’ Association Executive Board and some key folks from HR has been both stimulating and enjoyable. Perhaps most importantly, this experience has heightened my appreciation of the many talented and dedicated individuals who call themselves TCU retirees. With but few and mostly minor exceptions, we are no longer active contributors to TCU, but I firmly believe we were instrumental in sustaining and in fact enriching the fabric of a remarkable place.

So off into the sunset I ride (on my bike, not a horse). As Dale and Roy remarked, “Happy trails until we meet again!”

**FROM OUR APRIL MEETING:**

Jason Soileau, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planning, Design, and Construction at TCU, was our featured speaker. His influence and expertise have contributed to TCU’s national recognition for providing an exceptional student experience at one of the top 5 most beautiful campuses in the US!

Jason reviewed details and highlights from the current “Campus Master Plan,” which projects possible improvements to the campus infrastructure identified in the strategic plan. <https://www.tcu.edu/campus-master-plan/index.php> for more info. The planning is guided by seven “key priorities.” These include improved academic



facilities (for example, Ed Landreth Hall is about to close for a two-year renovation project), creating best-in-class athletic facilities, connecting TCU's east campus to the Trinity River Trails, and making Berry Street Fort Worth's "place to be."

This ambitious plan serves as a blueprint for how the campus will evolve over the next decade. It was truly amazing to learn about the thoughtful physical expansion, as TCU's enrollment is projected to grow to 15,000 undergraduates and 2,500 graduate students by 2033. Jason gave prizes to Don Mills and Paul Hartman, for the most years worked at TCU and the most years since leaving from TCU, respectively.

*Jason presents Paul Hartman with a door prize for being the longest retired from TCU.*

*Jason presents Don Mills with a door prize for the longest tenure at TCU.*



After Jason's talk, retirees toured Hill Hall (one of the new first-year residence halls) and Gutierrez Hall, the new dining facility on the east side of campus. Residents Levyn Einstein (daughter of vice provost Heath Einstein) and her roommate Sam showed us their beautifully decorated and *very clean* room! Their space was arranged for maximum efficiency and is part of a pod of three rooms with a bathroom. Hill and neighboring Walsh residents share a very cool free-standing facility. The space is complete with study areas, comfy seating and even a fireplace! It's a great place to hang out with friends. Retirees were impressed by the open and inviting Gutierrez Hall (named in honor of Trustee Joe Gutierrez and his wife Faith), featuring "all-you-can-eat" options from multiple food stations. Despite the rain, it was a truly memorable day.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR (last luncheon of the academic year):

**Tuesday May 19-The Retirees' Association is treating you to a free lunch this month!** 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 dining tables. Immediately following the luncheon, please join us for an optional tour of the new Simpson Family Restoration and Wellness Center, designed for TCU student-athletes. This is conveniently accessed through the Schollmaier Basketball Arena, next to the Kelly Center parking lot. You'll see features such as the cryo lounge, cold plunge pool, hydro massage pods, sauna, and of course the famous "Snow Room," complete with purple flurries. TCU is the only school in the nation—and just the third facility (including pro teams) in the United States—with a dedicated Snow Room.

**TIME/LOCATION/PARKING:** The luncheon begins at 11:30 am in the Kelly Alumni Center. Parking will be available in the Kelly Center lot, with overflow in the Frog Alley Garage.

**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](mailto:c.cobb@tcu.edu).

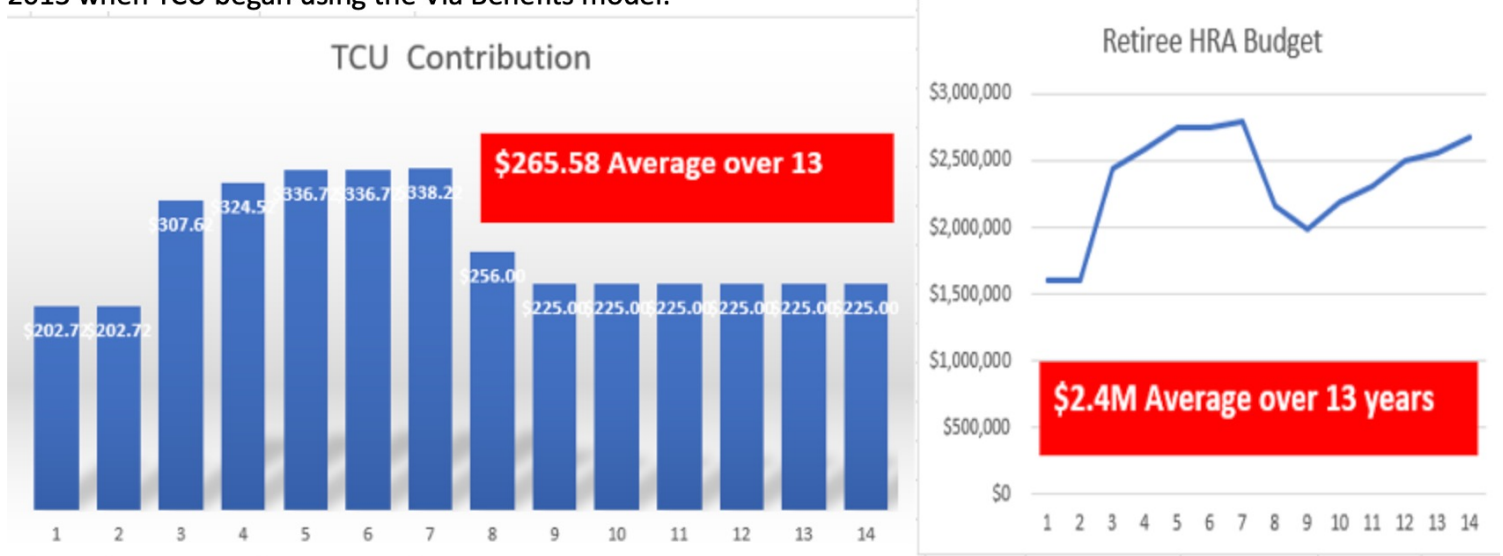
**MENU:** Taco/Salad Bar- Beef and chicken, charro beans, lettuce, tortilla chips, corn and flour tortillas, and all the trimmings. Tea and Water will be provided. Those who have dietary restrictions should so indicate when registering.



**HEALTH CARE BENEFITS UPDATE:** (from Jeff Moore, UCAC Representative on behalf of the TCURA Benefits Committee)

Retirees are valuable to organizations by providing deep institutional knowledge, specialized expertise, mentorship, and bridging generational gaps. TCU retirees also support the institution through contributions and participating in athletic and other university activities. They offer stability and high reliability. Employers support retirees by providing retirement planning and comprehensive health benefits.

The subject of health care benefits has become an area of particular concern. There are currently 997 retirees and spouses covered by TCU’s health insurance program. Shown below are some key components since 2013 when TCU began using the Via Benefits model:



The key concern is the lack of change in the TCU contribution since April of 2000. On two occasions it was recommended to the TCU Cabinet that the amount be increased. In both cases the request was rejected. The flat distribution flies in the face of the health care environment in the United States. Although the monthly Medicare (Part B) premium is not covered by TCU’s contribution, it is an indicator of the rising costs impacting retirees. The average increase in the Medicare premium is 8.1% and overall inflation is increasing by 4.5%. Shown below are the numbers:

**Medicare Costs in Texas 2025**

Year	Plan G	Plan F	Medicare PDP	Medicare Advantage (MAPD)
2020	\$ 130.00	\$200.00	\$30.00	\$25.00
2021	\$ 135.00	\$210.00	\$31.00	\$23.00
2022	\$ 140.00	\$220.00	\$32.00	\$22.00
2023	\$ 145.00	\$230.00	\$33.00	\$20.00
2024	\$ 150.00	\$240.00	\$33.50	\$18.00
2025	\$ 155.00	\$250.00	\$34.00	\$17.00

The benefits committee is in the process of preparing a proposal to be presented to key members of the TCU administration to rectify the situation. Retirees are being severely impacted by the rising cost of health care. After six years of **no** change, it is time for the medical contribution to increase. Unfortunately, the proposal will not take place until the fiscal 2028 budget since 2027 is almost finalized.

The TCURA Benefits Committee has spent enormous time and effort in the process of studying the issue and making recommendations. This includes numerous meetings and time researching the issues. The members of the committee are Barbara Herman, Jeff Moore (chairman), Leo Munson, and Stuart Youngblood with input from Don Mills. If you see one of these individuals, please thank them for their time, effort, and dedication.



## PAULA REAVES

Paula passed away on March 28 at the age of 89. She worked for 40 years in financial services. You can find her obit at:

<https://www.greenwoodfuneralhomes.com/obituary/paula-reaves>



## 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). This month's feature is Jeff Waite. Jeff was the director for Marketing and Communications at the Neeley School of Business and was awarded the Wassenich Award for Mentoring in the TCU Community in 2018.*

*Here's Jeff's account of some of his retirement activities:*

After retiring in February 2022, I remember standing in the kitchen on my very first morning, unsure of what life would look like after 43 years of working. That moment of uncertainty didn't last long. Purpose found me quickly — through serving as vice president of our HOA, mentoring TCU veteran and international alumni, becoming the neighborhood handyman, car detailer, and yard guy — and stepping proudly into year five as a cancer survivor. But the greatest sense of meaning has come from giving back beyond our neighborhood. Marc and I volunteer with **Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County**, and it has changed us in ways we didn't expect. Every Friday, when we knock on a door and hand someone a hot meal, we're reminded how powerful simple human connection can be. Once a month, we deliver pet food and pantry items, and the gratitude we see — from both clients and their four-legged companions — stays with us long after the route is done. If you've ever wondered whether a small act can make a big difference, this is the place to find out. Visit the Meals on Wheels Volunteer page to explore how you can help. We also volunteer with **Road to Recovery** through the American Cancer Society, a program that means the world to me as a survivor. We drive clients who have no transportation to their cancer-related appointments. Sometimes the ride is quiet; sometimes it's filled with stories, fears, or hope. But every ride matters. You choose your service area, and the commitment is just two rides a month — yet those two rides can be life-changing for someone fighting the hardest battle of their life. More information is available on the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery volunteer page.

Of course, life still has its joys — our annual trips to Puerto Vallarta, visits to family in New York, Alabama, and Georgia, and my newfound green thumb growing peppers from seed to harvest. I've turned them into jams, pickles, and sauces, always chasing the next level of heat. And our newest adventure, e-bikes, makes riding through the Texas wind feel like pure freedom.

Life on the other side of work is good — deeply good — and even richer when you spend part of it lifting someone else up.





## MAY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:

**Tarrant Area Food Bank:** Wednesday 20 from 1-4pm in the Distribution Center on Cullen Street. Please email Phil Hartman ([p.hartman@tcu.edu](mailto:p.hartman@tcu.edu)) if you'd like to volunteer. See <https://tafb.org/volunteer/> for more details.

**ReFrog:** Various shifts available May 5-9. The Sustainable Move-Out Initiative is working to reduce waste at TCU by collecting gently used furniture, clothing, electronics, and more, that will be redistributed to the community. By volunteering just a few hours, you can make a meaningful environmental and social impact.

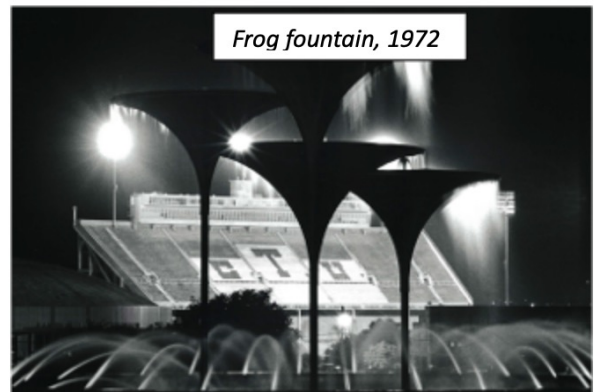
As a volunteer, you'll work alongside a small team to accept donations, keep collection areas organized, and track participation. The work is simple, flexible, and not physically demanding.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F44ABA82DA3FC1-63132289-refrog#/>

## 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. This month's feature is perhaps the most iconic campus structure of all, Frog Fountain.*

Originally situated in front of the Brown-Lupton Student Center and costing \$69,000, Frog Fountain was designed by Texas artist Buck Winn in 1969 and was installed by the Fort Worth architectural firm of Joseph R. Pelich Associates. Lotus flowers have widespread historical, cultural, and spiritual significance, including that of symbolizing education. In this case the four lotus petals represent the passing of knowledge between the four classes—first year through senior—of the student body. Frog Fountain took a one-and-a-half-year hiatus in 2006 and 2007 during the construction of the east end of the Campus Commons. It was relocated slightly to its present position directly in front of Scharbauer Hall. Version 2.0 enjoys wraparound seating, a larger pool, and LED lighting (of course with purple!). As well, the lotus petals underwent a thorough cleaning and the pumps were upgraded. The reinstallation of Frog Fountain coincided with the March 2008 dedication of the Frog Plaza, upon which it sits. In recent years Frog Fountain and Plaza have become a solemn place the TCU community gathers to reflect on the passing of one of its own, usually a faculty, staff, or member of the student body.



Frog fountain, 1972



Frog fountain, 2014

## HOW ABOUT TWO MORE LISTS?

### FIRST, THE 50 MOST ICONIC CARTOON CHARACTERS (FROM G NEWJ)

- |                        |                               |                   |                           |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Micky Mouse         | 2. Tom and Jerry              | 3. Bugs Bunny     | 4. SpongeBob Squarepants  | 5. Homer J. Simpson           |
| 6. Donald Duck         | 7. Scooby-Doo & Shaggy Rogers | 8. Daffy Duck     | 9. Pikachu                | 10. Road Runner               |
| 11. Fred Flintstone    | 12. Betty Boop                | 13. Goofy         | 14. Popeye the Sailor Man | 15. Woody Woodpecker          |
| 16. Tweety Bird        | 17. Eric Cartman              | 18. Garfield      | 19. Taz                   | 20. Elmer Fudd                |
| 21. Marvin the Martian | 22. The Pink Panther          | 23. Felix the Cat | 24. Johnny Bravo          | 25. Casper the Friendly Ghost |



**SECOND, THE TOP SONGS OF THE CENTURY (FROM A POLL CONDUCTED BY THE RECORDING INDUSTRY)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. "Over the Rainbow" Judy Garland                      | 2. "White Christmas" Bing Crosby                         |
| 3. "This land is your land" Woody Guthrie               | 4. "Respect" Aretha Franklin                             |
| 5. "American Pie" Don Mclean                            | 6. "Boogie Woogie Bugle boy" The Andrews Sisters         |
| 7. "West side story" (Album)                            | 8. "Take me out to the ball game" Billy Murray           |
| 9. "You've lost that loving feeling" Righteous Brothers | 10. "The Entertainer" Scott Joplin                       |
| 11. "Rock around the clock" Bill Haley & the Comets     | 12. "When the saints go marching in" Louis Armstrong     |
| 13. "You are my sunshine" Jimmie Davis                  | 14. "Mack the knife" Bobby Darin                         |
| 15. "Satisfaction" The Rolling Stones                   | 16. "Take the A train" Duke Ellington                    |
| 17. "Blueberry Hill" Fats Domino                        | 18. "God bless America" Kate Smith                       |
| 19. "Stars and Stripes forever" Sousa's Band            | 20. "I heard it through the grape vine" Marvin Gaye      |
| 21. "Dock of the bay" Otis Redding                      | 22. "I left my heart in San Francisco" Tony Bennett      |
| 23. "Good vibrations" The Beach Boys                    | 24. "Stand by me" Ben E. King                            |
| 25. "Stormy weather" Lena Horne                         | 26. "Johnny B. Goode" Chuck Berry                        |
| 27. "I want to hold your hand" The Beatles              | 28. "Midnight train to Georgia" Gladys Knight & the Pips |
| 29. "Imagine" John Lennon                               | 30. "Yesterday" The Beatles                              |

**AND A BIT OF HUMOR**

Recycled From a 1998 Issue of the Retirees' Association newsletter, here are some unintendedly funny headlines

- Include your children when baking cookies
- Local high school dropouts cut in half
- Enraged cow injures farmer with ax
- Stolen painting found by tree
- Man struck by lightning faces battery charge
- Eye drops off shelf
- Miners refuse to work after death
- Two sisters reunited after 18 years in checkout counter
- Kids make nutritious snacks

**And closing it off with a few puns:**

- I couldn't figure out how seatbelt worked then it clicked.
- I had a fear of speed bumps but am slowly getting over it.
- Sleeping on a corduroy pillow definitely makes headlines.
- Why do we tell actors to "break a leg?" Because every play has a cast.
- Writing with a broken pencil is pointless.
- My friend's bakery burnt down last night. Now it's toast.

Another cartoon for the Retirees' Association from Chris Manno:

**Macbeth at the plate.**



"Fair is foul and foul is fair ..."

**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 recognize the accomplishments of its members, and to strengthen the relationship between the retirees and the University.



