



TCU RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

Retiree Connections

SUMMER 2026 EDITION

"The joy of retirement comes in those everyday pursuits that embrace the joy of life; to experience daily the freedom to invest one's life-long knowledge for the betterment of others; and, to allocate time to pursuits that only received, in years of working, a fleeting moment." – Byron Pulsifer

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A New Year for the Retirees' Association



Karen Scott, President, TCU Retirees' Association 2026–2027

It's an honor to serve as your new President of the TCU Retirees' Association (TCURA). When asked to serve in the rotation for vice president and president, I questioned what I had to contribute as a relatively new retiree. Surely there were people more qualified than me.

Phil Hartman, then VP of the Association, gave me the confidence and encouragement to give it a go. He has been a wonderful mentor, and I'm grateful for his support. Being involved in the Retirees' Association has been a rewarding experience. As I was just telling a friend who asked about the TCURA, many people have known each other for years — and it's a way to keep in touch.

Working in Admissions for 39 years, we relied on partners from all across the campus to help bring in the class each year. I collaborated and called on many of you for help over the years. But just as importantly, the TCURA has allowed me to meet people for the first time — people whose paths I wouldn't normally cross. I've made wonderful new friendships and learned so much from my peers.

"Your kindness and compassion, so essential to the fabric of TCU, is appreciated. I also want to hear constructive feedback — I want to hear your voices!"

— KAREN SCOTT, PRESIDENT

As president, I hope to continue fostering dialog and relationship-building. The executive board has been brainstorming ways to be more inclusive in our programming, but we have a long way to go. Some of you have reached out with ideas or words of encouragement — thank you. I want to hear from all of you!

UPCOMING EVENT

Breakfast with the Chancellor



DON'T MISS OUT

Meet Chancellor Pullin — It's Free!

Join us for our summer breakfast with Chancellor Pullin. All retirees are welcome — no charge to attend.

Tuesday, July 7, 2026 • 10:00 AM
Legends Club, Amon Carter Stadium

LOCATION & PARKING

The Legends Club is on the east side of the football stadium. Enter in the middle of the east side and take the elevator upstairs to the club. Parking is in the **Kelly Alumni Center lot**, with overflow in the **Frog Alley Garage**.

How to Register

A free breakfast will be provided. Click on the link below to register.

When asked to “Register with Food” or “Registration Only,” select “Registration Only.” You will not be prompted to pay.

[TCURA Coffee with the Chancellor](#)

RECAP

May Luncheon & Awards

May's luncheon focused on community-building and getting to know one another better. Attendees rotated tables to address discussion topics with different tablemates throughout the event — a format the group enthusiastically embraced.

Retirees in attendance approved the slate of board officers. Your **2026–2027 TCU Retirees' Association Board** members (L to R): Jeff Moore, Sally Fortenberry, Wendy Crowley, Mike Scott, Mary Kincannon, Cheryl Cobb, Bo Soderbergh, Cheryl Wilson, Karen Scott, Steve Sherwood, Charme Cone, and Phil Hartman. See positions and contact info at the end of this newsletter.

Four members who rolled off the board in May were recognized with appreciation: Rich Enos, David Grant, Fred Oberkircher, and Shawn Wagner. Please join us in thanking them for their dedication to the Retirees' Association. We'll miss them at board meetings but look forward to seeing them at monthly luncheons and events!



Newly Elected Board Members



Rich Enos, David Grant, Fred Oberkircher, and Phil Hartman



Passing the Gavel!



Recognizing Phil's year as president.

Two individuals were recognized at the luncheon for their service to the university. The TCU Treasure Award and the Linda Moore Service Award were given to Don Mills and Leo Munson.



Don Mills — TCU Treasure Award

Created in 2018, this award recognizes a faculty or staff member for exemplary service during their working years at TCU. Don is frequently viewed as one of the architects of TCU's student-centered culture and among the university's most influential leaders of the last half-century.

He spent more than 50 years at TCU, serving as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, senior university administrator, professor, and later Distinguished Professor of Higher Education Leadership in the College of Education. Many retirees see Don as a living link to several eras of TCU leadership, having worked closely with Chancellors Tucker, Ferrari, and Boschini during periods of major institutional growth. Since retirement, he has remained highly visible in retiree activities and is regarded as one of TCURA's most respected members.



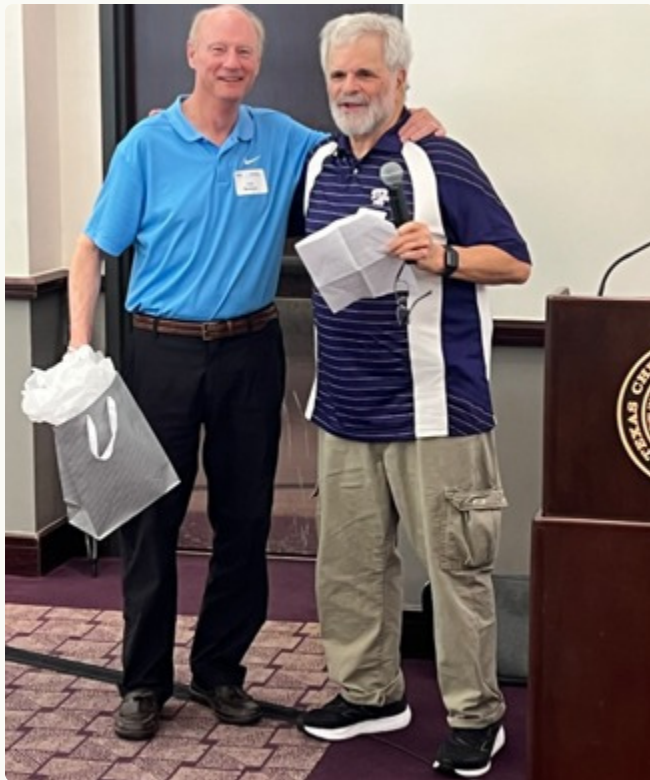
Don Mills receiving the TCU Treasure Award from Rich Enos



Leo Munson — Linda Moore Service Award

Created in 2024 and named in honor of Linda Moore (who joined TCU's Social Work Program in 1977), this award recognizes a TCU faculty or staff member for exemplary accomplishments and contributions made *during retirement*.

Leo is viewed as one of the key "institutional memory" figures at TCU. His career touched admissions, financial aid, enrollment management, academic affairs, facilities planning, and university history — developing relationships across nearly every part of campus.



Leo Munson receiving the Linda Moore Service Award

After retiring, Leo quickly became active in TCURA programs and events, regularly attending luncheons, meetings, and other retiree activities. TCURA highlighted him in a major "Retiree Spotlight" feature shortly after his retirement. He served on the TCURA Executive Board and has been active in working with University Compensation Advisory Committee advocating for retirees' benefits.

One of his most significant contributions has been his leadership in preserving TCU history. Working with Dr. Dan Williams and others, he helped establish and expand the TCU Oral History Project, recording the stories of faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni. He also served as an editor of *A Remarkable Story to Tell: TCU 1973–2023*, a major sesquicentennial history of the university drawn from oral histories and institutional memory.

After the luncheon, retirees were treated to a tour of the Simpson Family Restoration and Wellness Center. Everyone especially loved the snow room — despite the frigid temperatures! By the look on Brad Davis's face, it was indeed quite the "cold room!"



Ann Rice, Pat Miller and Brad Davis enjoy (endure) the snow room at the Simpson Family Restoration and Wellness Center



Simpson Family Restoration and Wellness Center staff member demonstrates a RelaxSpace Wellness Pod, an immersive, multi-sensory relaxation and recovery pod designed to reduce stress and boost mental clarity.

COMING THIS FALL

September Luncheon: Dr. Reuben Burch

TCURA is excited to welcome **Dr. Reuben Burch**, TCU's first Vice Provost for Research, to our fall kickoff luncheon on **September 15**.

Dr. Burch oversees the Office of Research and Creative Activity, Sponsored Programs, Research Compliance and Integrity, and the Natural Resources Research Initiative. As Vice Provost, he provides strategic vision to increase



funding, capabilities, scholarly productivity, and recognition — all in support of TCU's national R1 agenda, a key component of the university's strategic plan.

Prior to joining TCU, Dr. Burch served as Associate Vice President for Research, Executive Director and Founder of the Athlete Engineering Institute, Endowed Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship, and Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Burch will update TCURA on the University's commitment to gaining a "Research One" (R1) level classification as well as the recently announced **Roach Institute of Athlete Engineering** — a discipline he pioneered at Mississippi State.

FEATURED RETIREE

Karen Scott: A Life Well-Traveled

As Karen begins her term as president of the association, it seems appropriate to recognize her as the "Featured Retiree" in this month's newsletter. And since her husband (me) is the newly elected newsletter editor, this provides a great first attempt at writing the column! First — know that Karen is the humblest person I know. She never seeks attention and rarely talks about her accomplishments. More importantly, she would never have agreed to my writing this feature about her, so I simply did not tell her. Surprise!

Karen grew up in the western suburbs of Chicago in Glen Ellyn. Her father was a senior executive at Sears during the company's peak years — at one point leading its sporting goods division and creating an advisory board of prominent athletes and outdoorsmen. Through his work, the family forged friendships that led to some truly memorable experiences.

How many people can say they vacationed with baseball legend Ted Williams? Karen can. Or that they've met the famed explorer Sir Edmund Hillary? Karen has a cherished photograph of her sitting on his lap while Sir Edmund read her a bedtime story after dinner at her home.

From an Athletic Family

Karen has always been athletic. In her younger days she ran 10k races weekly and completed 100-mile bike rides like the famed *Hotter'n Hell Hundred*. She and her siblings were competitive speedskaters — her brother and sister rose to become national champions, and her brother-in-law became a two-time Olympic skater and one-time world champion. Her brother was also a professional golfer and competed on the PGA Tour for four years. Karen held her own in junior skating competitions and can tell you stories about babysitting future Olympian Bonnie Blair while the older siblings competed!



Coming to TCU

Karen arrived at TCU as an undergraduate in 1980, drawn by its midsize setting, fashion merchandising program, and — most importantly — its warm climate. (She was ready to leave Chicago's winters behind.) She brought fifteen credit hours of Spanish and continued her language studies throughout her career, eventually spending a month alone in Antigua, Guatemala at an immersive language school — a foundation that fueled her deep affection for Latin America.

A Career Without Borders



Karen at the Taj Mahal

Karen joined TCU's admission office in 1985, initially recruiting students from Texas, Colorado, and Illinois. While earning a master's degree in Non-Profit Business Administration, she relied on classmates who recorded lectures and overnighted tapes to her hotel. Later, the dean asked her to oversee all international recruiting, academic evaluation, and admission — launching an extraordinary career.

"Karen Scott's passport is as thick as a phonebook."

—Chancellor Boschini introducing Karen at an Employee Service Recognition

And thick it is — she maintained two passports simultaneously for years: one in active use, the other cycling through embassies for visa approvals. She has visited approximately 90 countries and will add at least five more this year. She has flown over two million miles on American Airlines alone — plus another million on international carriers — earning lifetime Executive Platinum status with American and lifetime Titanium Elite status with Marriott.

But this is emphatically not a glamorous story. For over thirty years, Karen spent roughly three months of every year traveling internationally, often in stretches of three to four weeks at a time. A luxury was staying two nights in the same hotel — long enough to do laundry. Most days she was working or enroute to the next destination. There were some fun times though. For example, once on a two-week India trip she may have had only a single day off, but she spent that day at the Taj Mahal.

Adventures in the Field

Karen has endured earthquakes, emergency landings in the wrong country, being stranded abroad on 9/11, and customs agents drilling holes in her new luggage looking for drugs. Most dramatically, she once spent four days in lockdown in Honduras during an attempted coup on

the very day she was to depart. The president closed the borders, instituted a 24-hour curfew, and shut the airport. Her hotel — conveniently located across the street from the capital building — was surrounded by tanks and military guards.

On the fifth day, when the curfew lifted briefly for shopping, Karen and a few travel companions convinced their hotel driver — despite his genuine fear of bandits on the route — to take them to the El Salvador border. They made it across and found a flight to their next destination.

A Pioneer in International Education



Karen with colleagues during one of her many recruiting trips to India

Karen is widely recognized as a pioneer in international student recruitment, having traveled the world meeting prospective students long before it was standard practice for American universities. As one colleague noted, she was recruiting internationally "long before it was popular," opening emerging markets that other institutions have since followed.

In November 2023, Karen received the **T. Michael Maybury Award**, recognizing a member of the international higher education community for exceptional service and leadership. Before retiring, she also received the **TCU Impact Award** — given only in extraordinary circumstances — for outstanding service and lasting impact on the TCU campus community. At her retirement party, Chancellor Victor Boschini thanked Karen for "having changed the face of TCU."



Karen receiving the T. Michael Maybury Award in Dublin, Ireland

Life in Retirement

In retirement, Karen continues to embrace international travel — now purely for pleasure — and recently completed a bucket-list goal of visiting all seven continents. When not traveling, she volunteers many hours at the Tarrant Area Food Bank as a core volunteer and "Mission Maker," mentors an elementary school student through the "Kid's Hope" program, enjoys classes as a member of Silver Frogs, and, of course, takes immense pleasure in her work with the TCU Retirees' Association!



Karen and Mike marking Continent #7 — Antarctica!



TECHNOLOGY

Let's Talk More About Artificial Intelligence

by Mike Scott, part 1 of an ongoing series

At our September luncheon, Dr. Bingyang "Bing" Wei, chair of TCU's computer science department, gave us a fascinating presentation about artificial intelligence (AI). TCU students are learning to use AI as a valuable skill for their studies and future careers.

I thought it would be helpful to share a simplified explanation of AI. So I asked an AI app called Claude to explain AI to a Baby Boomer with no technical background. Here's what it said:

"Imagine if that automated phone system you call for your bank could actually understand what you were saying — not just 'press 1 for English,' but really understand your question and give you a helpful answer. That's the basic idea behind AI.

AI is a computer program that's been trained to think through problems, kind of like how you learned things over your lifetime — except instead of living experiences, it learned by reading enormous amounts of text.

What it can do:

- Answer questions in plain English — no jargon required
- Write things for you — emails, letters, summaries
- Explain complicated topics in simple terms
- Help you think through decisions — like a sounding board that never gets tired
- Have a real conversation — not just one-word answers, but back-and-forth dialogue

Think of it like a very well-read assistant with no ego, infinite patience, and no judgment for "dumb" questions. You can ask the same thing five different ways until you get an answer you understand.

What it's NOT: It's not a robot. It's not all-knowing or always right — it makes mistakes. It's not "alive" or emotional. And it's not going to take over the world, despite what movies suggest. It's a tool — a very powerful one — like a calculator was revolutionary in its time. You don't need to understand how it works to benefit from it. You just talk to it like you'd talk to a helpful person, and it tries its best to help you."

If you haven't tried it yet, pull up one of these two popular sites and ask it anything. Both are free on a limited basis: [ChatGPT.com](https://chatgpt.com) · [Claude.ai](https://claude.ai)

A Little Humor to Brighten Your Day!



**Honestly, I don't care
how I look in photos
anymore...
As long as I look good
on Ultrasounds, CT
Scans and MRI's.**

**I see people
around my age
mountain
climbing, I feel
good getting
my leg through
my underwear
with out losing
my balance**

2026–2027 Luncheon Calendar

All luncheons are held on Tuesdays. Most events take place at the Kelly Alumni Center unless otherwise noted.

SEPTEMBER 15 Tuesday,2026 Kelly Center	OCTOBER 20 Tuesday,2026 Kelly Center	NOVEMBER 17 Tuesday,2026 Kelly Center
December 8 Tuesday,2026 BLUU Auditorium	JANUARY 19 Tuesday,2027 Kelly Center	FEBRUARY 23 Tuesday,2027 Kelly Center
MARCH 16 Tuesday,2027 Kelly Center	APRIL 27 Tuesday,2027 Kelly Center	MAY 18 Tuesday,2027 Kelly Center

LEADERSHIP

2026–2027 Executive Board & Contacts

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TCU Retirees' Association

Questions or contributions? Contact newsletter editor Mike Scott at m.scott@tcu.edu

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The Texas Christian University Retirees Association (TCURA) 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. [1]

A Note from Your Newsletter Editor

One of the great joys of the Retirees' Association is the wealth of experience, wisdom, and story that exists within our membership. And that's exactly what I'd love to see reflected in future issues of Retiree Connections.

I'm looking for contributions from fellow members! Whether it's a travel adventure, a reflection on your years at TCU, a hobby you've taken up in retirement, a book recommendation, a health or wellness tip, or simply something that made you laugh — I want to hear from you.

