



Welcoming the Chancellor's Century Council

Friday, February 19, 2010

Excerpts from President Dottavio's remarks...

Tarleton is spirit. Tarleton is tradition. Tarleton is pride. And, this morning, Tarleton is honored to welcome The Texas A&M University System Chancellor's Century Council to our campus. We are delighted that you are here.

Our faculty, staff, and, especially, our students will show you Texan pride today and highlight some of our long-standing traditions. I've been around a number of universities, and I can tell you that Tarleton is a place of uncommon tradition. To fully understand who we are, it is important to know something of our unique history.

John Tarleton came to Texas from New England in the 1870s. A rancher and farmer, he died in 1896, leaving a substantial bequest to create an educational institution to be known as John Tarleton College in Erath County. Having no formal education himself, he wanted to found a university where all young people would have an opportunity to continue their education.



Dr. F. Dominic Dottavio

John Tarleton College opened in 1899. In 1917, Tarleton was just the second university to join the new Texas A&M University System. On that occasion, W. B. Bizzell, president of Texas A&M University, said, and I quote:

“John Tarleton still lives through his benefaction. Students who come here in increasing numbers will feel grateful for the educational opportunities he has made possible for them.”

At the Freshman Convocation each fall, new students hear these words: “You are the sons and daughters of Tarleton; you are the beneficiaries of the dream of itinerant farmer and rancher John Tarleton, a man of little education but unlimited vision, whose children of knowledge are scattered to the four corners of the world.”



Chancellor Mike McKinney and Ms. Laurie Gaiser

the curriculum, it became Tarleton State College in 1949 and Tarleton State University in 1973.

John Tarleton’s legacy inspires new students to reach higher and dream bigger. His generosity reminds them of the privilege of education and the power of philanthropy. Surely he never dreamed that his idea would become this remarkable university.

When we joined the A&M System, we were John Tarleton Agricultural College. Our College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences today is one of the largest non-land grant universities in the field of agriculture. As Tarleton grew and enriched

the curriculum, it became Tarleton State College in 1949 and Tarleton State University in 1973. Grounded in our roots as a private college, growing as a state university, Tarleton effectively blends preparation for professional practice with strength in the liberal arts. Today, practical information and its related skill set – in business, education, nursing, or agriculture – are not enough for success. The liberal arts provide graduates with a context for managing change and leading progress in a diverse, global economy.

When I came to Tarleton in 2008, there was a comprehensive strategic plan in place. In an effort to bring it to life and keep it in focus, I sought to distill a lengthy document into language we could all remember and use in our decision making. From that plan, we identified four Strategic Goals. They are known around campus as the 4Es:

Excel in scholarship, teaching, and learning - by developing nationally recognized programs.

Expand our horizons - by developing cultural competence and global awareness in our graduates.

Encourage leadership, service, and student success - with an array of out-of-class experiences.

Extend our reach - by developing partnerships and programs that will impact the people of Texas and beyond.

These four goals are focusing our efforts and fueling innovation. The university has embraced the 4 Es. I heard them as a cheer in the College of Education, and a skit at freshman Duck Camp. They are on mugs, shirts, coasters and even this branding iron given to me by our rodeo coach. Guided by our strategic goals, propelled by the excellence of our faculty and students, Tarleton is ready to take our place as a great regional research university. Our success and that of our colleague institutions strengthens the entire A&M System.

To the Aggies in the room, there is a lot about Tarleton that should feel familiar.

There is a military presence on our campus. The World War I cannon and the Tarleton Military Memorial are favorite campus landmarks. Students in our Army ROTC program have been honored as



Tarleton students welcome Hunter Bollman, The Texas A&M Student Regent

among the best in the nation. The Aggies and the Texans share a passion for football. We show it here by banging a drum from Wednesday until the Homecoming game kicks off. My first Homecoming bonfire was unforgettable. I was awed by its size. I was inspired by the spirit of community surrounding it.

I would brag about the Tarleton football team – 10 and 3 and advancing to the second round of the Division II playoffs. But, in head-to-head competition, the Tarleton football team has gone to College Station twice – in 1924 and 1931 -- with the same result. We have yet to score a point on the Aggies.

The bond that connects The Texas A&M University System today is the same bond that John Tarleton has with this university through his gift 111 years ago: a commitment to spread education, research, and service to the people of Texas and the world.

Today, as you meet our students, faculty, and staff, I hope you will feel the passion and pride of the Tarleton family. A student in the late 1920s, wrote The Tarleton Creed. In it Robert Wood says: “Before I came to Tarleton I had only a vague idea of what school spirit really means . . . but I had been here only a short while until I became a small part of the school, and the school a large part of me.”



Dr. Mike McKinney, Chancellor of the TAMU System



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I hope that today, you will find a part of Tarleton spirit in your heart! Thank you, for being here. More importantly, thank you for your commitment to quality higher education in our state and beyond.



Chancellor Mike McKinney addressing the Chancellor's Century Council



*William Gordon, San Antonio,
Niky Jackson TAMU System
Pat Gordon, San Antonio and
Lou Ann McKinney, the Chancellor's wife*



*Mr. Brad Allen and Dr. Kam Ip
discuss the 2020 Tarleton Campus Master Plan*



***Linda and Tim Jones, Tarleton,
and Janet Smalley, TAMU System***



***Rick Richardson, VP Institutional Advancement
and Dick Birdwell, Tarleton Alumni***



***Caryl Chilton, Donna Strohmeier, Rick Richardson and Wanda Mercer
Tarleton VP's, Staff and friends welcome the Chancellor's Century Council***

Photos provided by Ms. Kari Lewis