

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL / WINTER 2019



TARLETON WELCOMES 16<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT

*Dr. James L. Hurley*





# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Member of The Texas A&M University System

## Tarleton State University Magazine

FALL / WINTER 2019 | Volume 11 Number 1

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Cover Image: Tarleton's 16th President, Dr. James L. Hurley

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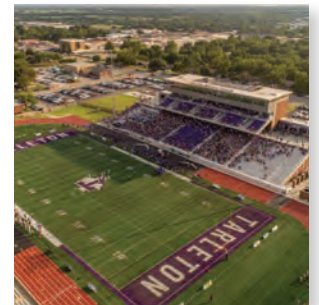
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# A LETTER

## FROM TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CHANCELLOR JOHN SHARP



JOHN SHARP

“

Tarleton is destined to be known not only for its commitment to student success, but for innovative research and as an engine of economic and cultural development.

”

As chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, I am excited about the future of Tarleton State University and the vision of its 16th president, Dr. James Hurley.

I have every confidence that with his energy and drive Tarleton *will* become a leading comprehensive regional university. And he'll beat the clock getting it done.

With the support of dedicated faculty and staff, Tarleton is destined to be known not only for its commitment to student success, but for innovative research and as an engine of economic and cultural development.

James Hurley hit the ground running. Many of his accomplishments are showcased in this issue of the *Tarleton State University Magazine*.

Effective next July, Tarleton Texans join the Western Athletic Conference and transition to NCAA Division I. The move is about more than athletics; it's about raising the university's profile and growing the value of a Tarleton education.

That's the Hurley heartbeat.

A first-generation university graduate from the coal country in Appalachia, he will ensure that students from low-income backgrounds receive an affordable, high-quality education that increases their know-how and elevates their standard of living — a continuation of the 120-year dream of Tarleton's founder and benefactor.

Dr. Hurley is determined to share that dream with students in Tarleton's own backyard. He's providing scholarships and guaranteeing admission to area high school seniors in the top 25 percent of their class. It's a partnership designed to prepare worthy young people for successful careers.

President Hurley has a clear vision for the future of Tarleton State University. Read about it in the pages that follow. I think you'll agree: He's the right choice at the right time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Sharp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

# PAVING THE PURPLE WAY



## MYERS RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

Longtime Texas businessman and Tarleton Distinguished Alumnus Mike A. Myers received an honorary doctorate of humane letters during August commencement ceremonies for his extraordinary contributions and service to higher education.

Myers attended Tarleton for two years before earning his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. At Tarleton he ran track and was on the first football team to win a conference championship since 1928. He was voted a class favorite and served as vice president of the student council.

Tarleton honored Myers as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1978 and Ring of Honor recipient in 2004. He received the President's All-Purple Award in 2005 and was inducted into the Tarleton Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2017 he was presented the President's Legacy Award for Excellence through Leadership and became a platinum member of the John Tarleton Society.

In 1993 he established the Mrs. Harold Myers Presidential Honors Program Scholarship at Tarleton in honor of his mother, and in 2005 Tarleton track-and-field alumni honored him and legendary track coach Oscar Frazier with a scholarship in their names.

As chairman of Myers Financial Corp. for almost 50 years, his business career includes owning and operating 13 community banks in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and developing thousands of residential lots in multiple communities throughout Texas. He was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame in 2008, and UT Austin Track and Field Stadium bears his name.



## ALUMNA HONORED AS TOP TEXAS HUMANITIES TEACHER

The educational organization Humanities Texas named Dr. Karen Galley, a graduate of Tarleton's doctoral program in education, the 2019 James F. Veninga Outstanding Teacher of the Humanities.

Galley teaches social studies at Success High School in the Fort Worth Independent School District. She credits the university's program for giving her the flexibility to remain in the classroom as she explores career options in administration.

"The (Tarleton) faculty support critical thinking and awareness about a broad range of educational issues, but they also encourage you to individualize and think how you can apply your learning on your own campus," Galley said. "Whatever we were learning about, we were encouraged to think about in terms of our own practice."

Galley, who was previously named the Fort Worth ISD Teacher of the Year and the district's Chair for Teaching Excellence in Humanities, teaches in one of the most challenging educational arenas in Fort Worth.

Success High School, an alternative campus, caters to older returning students who dropped out and to older international newcomers. Galley teaches both groups.



## DOCTORATE IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP NAMED FOR McCABE

Tarleton's doctoral program in educational leadership honors the school's 14th president, Dr. Dennis P. McCabe, who has spent more than four decades as an educator and administrator.

During his 17 years as president, Tarleton increased degree options from 48 to 94 and established outreach locations in Fort Worth, Waco, Killeen — now Texas A&M-Central Texas — and online. He also oversaw construction of the Dining Hall, Recreational Sports Center and Barry B. Thompson Student Center.

"Having Tarleton State University's first academic doctoral program carry your name is truly unique and a memorable honor," he said. "I am in very special company. So many Tarleton faculty members, staff leaders and academic administrators have contributed to the Tarleton educational legacy. That is why our 120-year-old school is publicly viewed as a 'teaching university of the first order.'"





Mike A. Myers receives honorary doctorate.



Haven Meged at CNFR

Following his retirement, McCabe returned to the classroom to teach in the EdD program, sharing more than 41 years of experience and knowledge with leaders in public and higher education.



## HUGGINS NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Michael Huggins is the new dean of Tarleton's College of Science and Technology, effective Jan. 13, 2020. He served in a similar position at the University of West Florida, where he taught in the Department of Chemistry and leads research focused on the synthesis of organic molecules.

He replaces Dr. James Pierce, who retired at year's end.

Huggins began his career at UWF in 2002 as an assistant professor of chemistry and worked his way up to department chair; interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Health; and founding dean of the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering.

He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from UWF and his PhD from the University of Nevada. He is a graduate of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education and did postdoctoral research at the University of Texas at Austin.

He is a member of the American Chemical Society.



## TARLETON ROPER WINS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR, TIE-DOWN WORLD TITLE AND COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Winning big at big events is becoming a habit for Haven Meged. The Tarleton rodeo team member claimed the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association world title in tie-down roping at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in December.

Coupled with his 2019 College National Finals championship, the NFR win puts Meged, a senior agriculture industries and agencies major from Miles City, Mont., in good company.

He is the first PRCA rookie to win a tie-down roping gold buckle since 1985. He also became just the fourth person in ProRodeo history to win a college championship and a professional world championship in the same year, following in the footsteps of Ty Murray (all-around, 1988), Matt Austin (bull riding, 2005) and Taos Muncy (saddle bronc riding, 2007). ■

THE 16<sup>TH</sup>  
PRESIDENT OF  
TARLETON STATE  
UNIVERSITY

*Dr. James L. Hurley*

by Phil Riddle

Good leaders have vision and inspire others to help them turn vision into reality,” Roy T. Bennett wrote in his book *The Light in the Heart*. “Great leaders create more leaders, not followers. Great leaders have vision, share vision and inspire others to create their own.









*Dr. and Mrs. Hurley showcase the President's Tarleton ring.*



## Tarleton's new president, Dr. James L. Hurley, has vision.

Dr. Hurley has had a vision of what he wanted for his life's work since sitting in Irene Strong's fifth-grade class in an eastern Kentucky coal camp.

"She was the first Miss Basketball in the state of Kentucky in 1975," Hurley says. "She went on to become an elementary school teacher and basketball coach. For us in East Kentucky, coal and basketball were the core activities."

The culture surrounding coal, the ebb and flow of the market, stifled not only economic growth but educational attainment rates in Appalachia. An athlete from an early age, Hurley realized his track to breaking the poverty cycle revolved around the classroom.

"I knew that my ability to play a sport, basketball, and to be a great academic student was my way out," he said. "That was my way of making it beyond working in the coal mines. Irene Strong instilled in me the belief I could do anything I wanted to do, but I had to always outwork my competition."

Hurley received a scholarship to play basketball at Kentucky's University of Pikeville. In 2013 he became the first alumnus of the school to serve as its president.

"Both of my grandfathers were coal miners, so that influenced me," he says. "I come from a very hard-working, loving family. Neither of my parents went to college, but instilled in me the importance of education. I was a first-generation college graduate."

Hurley comes to Tarleton from Tusculum University in Greeneville, Tenn., where he was president for two years. In 23 years in education, he has been instructor, professor, dean, vice president and president.

As Tarleton's chief executive officer, he supervises 1,400 employees, manages a \$185 million annual budget and provides vision for a comprehensive curriculum to serve more than 13,000 students at Stephenville, Fort Worth, Waco, Midlothian, The RELIS Academic Alliance in Bryan, and online.

He took the helm at Tarleton in August and began to implement his own vision for the university – to become the leading comprehensive regional institution in the country.

He took the helm at Tarleton in August and began to implement his own vision for the university – to become the leading comprehensive regional institution in the country.

The first step toward that goal is formulating a new strategic plan.

"Our current strategic plan has served its shelf life and is coming to an end. Now we're ready to transition to what we look like from 2021 to 2030 – the next 10 years. We want to define our future. We do not want those around us to define our future. We don't want circumstances to define our future. For us, strategically, we have to think about becoming a 'first choice' institution in our region."

Hurley believes the key is retaining the area's top students.

"If we recruit them in the region, train them in the region, they'll stay in the region, and the region will prosper," he says. "That will help us build a really robust *educonomy*, an economy built on education."

As a first-generation student, Hurley can pinpoint the importance of Tarleton and similar universities.

"We were created as an institution of opportunity," he says. "That opportunity has evolved from a college of agricultural opportunities to the comprehensive regional public institution we are today."

"When half of your students are first-generation and Pell eligible, that exemplifies opportunity. Institutions like Tarleton are providing

opportunities for those students some institutions may not consider first on their list to recruit. We want to treat each student as a person and as a valued member of the Tarleton family."

To enhance the opportunity piece of his vision, Hurley is already planning steps to prepare Tarleton students for the 22nd century.

"The 21st century came and went so quickly in terms of technology. Technology has evolved so quickly that it has truly outpaced all the economies that comprise our GDP here in the United States. We're now in a knowledge-based economy founded on the success and failures of technology."

"Eighty percent of the students graduating over the next 20 years will work in a field or a job that has not been created yet, through education and technology. That's why it's important to keep students thinking one century ahead, one step ahead, one model ahead."

Hurley's vision for Tarleton also hinges on raising the university's profile outside Erath County. He has been









*Dr. Hurley and wife Kindall with their family, sons Carter (top left) and Drew and daughters Brooklyn (bottom left) and Blayklee*

on the front lines of negotiations that led to Tarleton's invitation to move into the Western Athletic Conference of the NCAA's Division I.

"By joining the WAC, we can tell more people more broadly about Tarleton. I've always said that academics will always be the most important focus. Athletics, though, provides a much larger scope of acknowledgment and awareness.

"The WAC gets us into new markets. We're not currently in California, Washington, Utah, Arizona or Illinois right now, but we will be. We're going to become a much better known institution."

As a proven leader, how does Hurley envision his legacy?

"I want it to be 100 percent focused on student success," he says with evangelical fervor. "I always want our students to know that, as their president, I care not only about them as students but as people. We want to focus on meeting the needs of our students and giving them every advantage of being successful when they leave Tarleton — but they also should know this is home."

Now that's a vision.



# REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

by Phil Riddle

So many stories surround the recently replaced flagpole that served the Tarleton campus for nearly 100 years.

It was 75 no . . . 100 no . . . 150 feet tall.

They could all be true.

The tale is best told by *J-TAC* writer Mary Joe Fitzgerald in the Feb. 6, 1948, issue of the student newspaper.

According to Fitzgerald's research, an extremely poor John Tarleton College needed a flagpole.

President J. Thomas Davis wanted one tall enough to be seen "from every direction out of Stephenville." Lacking the cash, a fundraising plan was born of necessity.

The Brotherhood of Buddies, a World War I veterans organization, backed a drive in which donors paid for the flagpole in exchange for having their names inscribed on an accompanying plaque.

Supporters ponied up \$500 and Davis got his grand flagpole, planted in a concrete base eight feet deep and six feet in diameter in front of what is now the E.J. Howell Education Building.

It was dedicated Nov. 2, 1920, with a retreat parade.

According to a telling of the event in *The John Tarleton College Story: Golden Days of Purple and White* by C. Richard King, a bugler identified only as Wallace played "To the Colors," followed by "America" sung by those in attendance.

The dedication continued as Jake Patterson spoke on how "service creates patriotism," and H. Andre Schmidt discussed courtesies due the flag. A male quartet sang a medley of patriotic songs. The event concluded with the Tarleton Military Band playing the national anthem.



Flagpole dedication, Nov. 2, 1920

Fitzgerald hypothesized the college may have been overly ambitious when selecting the pole. Her research never mentioned a specific height, but her story reported the original reach was 60 feet above what it was when she wrote the story in '48.

Being able to see Tarleton's flag from such a distance created some engineering issues.

"The pole was so tall that the high wind swayed it, base and all, enough to crack the wall around it," she wrote. "Because of the high wind the chain (used to raise and lower the flag) wore the pole,

making it too dangerous for a boy to attempt to climb it."

Since climbing the unstable pole was out of the question, a plan was floated to make it telescope by cutting the pole and sliding one section into the other.





Over almost a century, the flagpole has stood witness to the passing of countless students, parades and processions.

It has held Old Glory high through peacetime and wars that saw Tarleton's finest make the ultimate sacrifice.

The new flagpole, a 35-footer, has been installed just a few feet from where the original stood – off the loop on Military Drive between the historic cannon and Alumni Island. After nearly 100 years of faithful service, the beloved landmark rusted through at the base.

The new location provides a more prominent focal point and makes room for events like the monthly University Retreat Ceremony re-established by the Texan Corps of Cadets in 2017.

The plaque dedicating the flagpole to Tarleton soldiers who died in battle moves to the new site, and the original globe has been restored. The flag is spotlighted, and brick pavers replace the grass.

Now we can begin telling new stories. ■





# New buildings bring excitement, energy, opportunity

*by Harry Battson*



Phenomenal!

- The gleaming new Engineering Building towering over Washington Street
- A hilltop edifice visible from Fort Worth's Chisholm Trail Parkway
- The back-to-our-roots Animal and Plant Sciences Center
- A renovated Memorial Stadium welcoming nearly 10,000 fans

Within the past few months, Tarleton has opened four major structures. They have energized the university while enhancing academic programs and student spirit.



## ENGINEERING A BRIGHT FUTURE

The \$54 million three-story engineering facility hosts the School of Engineering and its more than 800 majors. The nearly 100,000-square-foot structure features the latest teaching and classroom technologies.

High-bay and heavy-use laboratories – with main corridors wide enough to move materials and equipment – are a dominant feature. State-of-the-art industry and research equipment provides real-world experience. A wind tunnel, advanced 3-D printing and prototyping, and a 100 kN (kiloNewton, a measure of force) universal testing machine highlight the lab technologies.

“That’s what this building is about. It’s about that passion, that inspiration and that hands-on learning,” Dr. Denise Martinez, associate dean for the School of Engineering in the College of Science and Technology, said at the ribbon cutting. “Our students are getting first-hand experience with

technology they’re going to be using as soon as they get out in industry or grad school.”

The building “represents a major part of the A&M System’s robust investment in meeting the demand” for an educated workforce, added Elaine Mendoza, chairman of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

Nationally in the next few years, 65,000 new engineering jobs will be available, Mendoza noted, more than in any other field except computer science. “Simply put, there’s a bright future for anyone who comes out of this building with an engineering degree.”

Tarleton’s renewed focus on engineering, including developing new degree programs, has doubled the number of majors since 2010. “This building and these students are a game changer for Tarleton,” said A&M System Chancellor John Sharp. They put Tarleton “at the forefront of educational delivery and research.”

The building will help the program continue its growth. “It’s a great facility for our students,” Martinez said. “It’s going to boost our ability to impact the high-tech workforce, the graduate programs, all those needs.”

## A HOME IN FORT WORTH

Old Main on a hilltop portends a new era.

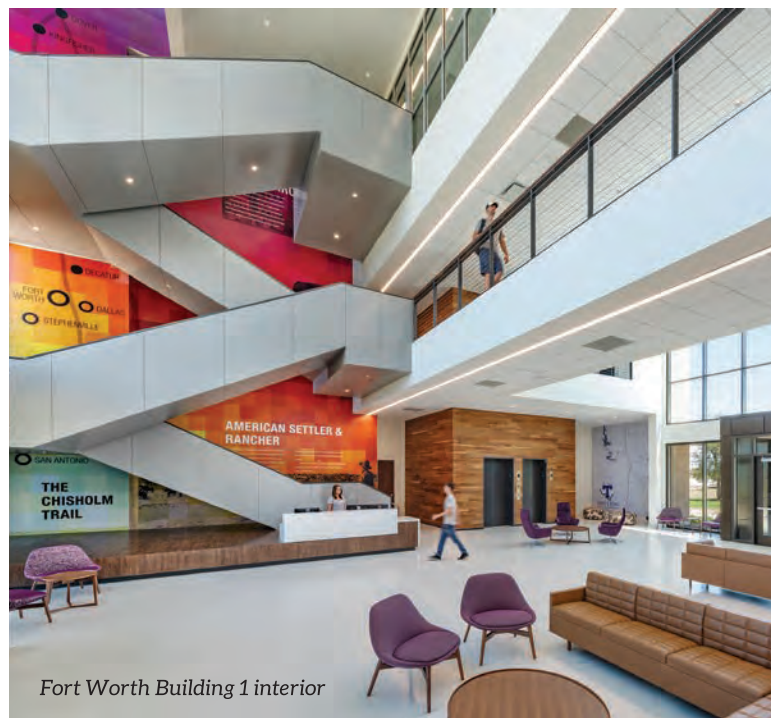
The first building, the academic multi-purpose, three-story Tarleton home, launches a fast-track campus on 80 acres along the Chisholm Trail Parkway.

“You ain’t seen nothing yet, Fort Worth,” A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp said at the ribbon cutting. “This is going to be an amazing campus that is going to grow like a weed.”

Already serving almost 2,000 students, the 76,000-square-foot, \$41 million building results from the support of municipal leaders, state legislators, the A&M System and private donors, including Walton Development, which gifted the land.

Plans are underway, with \$63 million already approved by A&M System regents, for a second building. Tarleton projects the campus, with additional buildings, could accommodate 9,000 students by 2030.

Tarleton began offering classes in Fort Worth in 1978 and now provides more than 50 certificate and degree programs,



Fort Worth Building 1 interior

including the university’s only PhD (in criminal justice).

The new facility boasts bright and spacious learning areas, common gathering spaces and a large event area. It provides a convenient one-stop shop for student support services and counseling.

State Rep. Craig Goldman (District 97) applauded Tarleton’s commitment to education, calling the first building of the

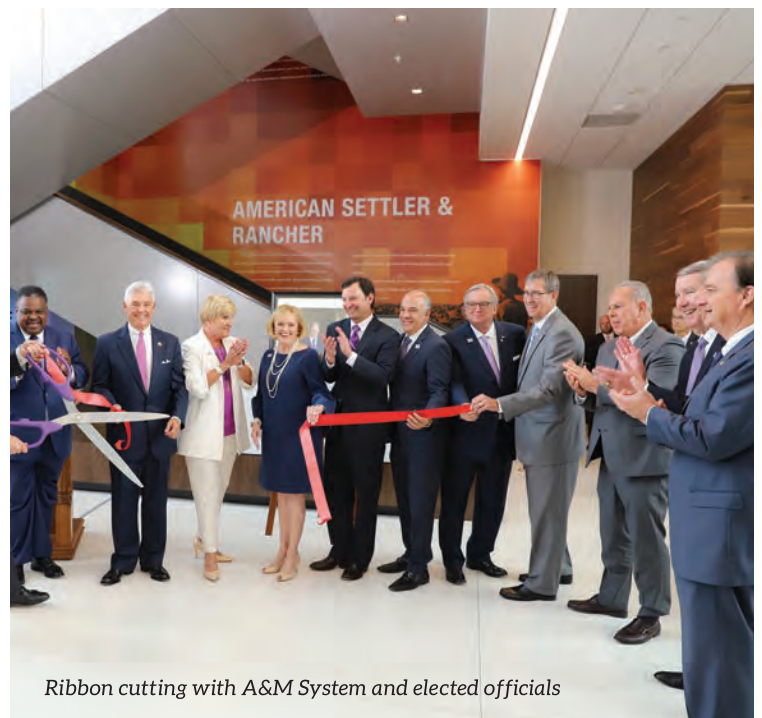
new campus an innovative marvel — an extension of the competitiveness and community outlined in Fort Worth’s economic development plan.

“Tarleton-Fort Worth is expanding access to higher education and helping Fort Worth, Tarrant County and Texas meet the strategic goals of this decade and beyond. That’s what fuels our economy and makes us the economic engine we are.”

Fort Worth’s need for an educated workforce drives that growth. “An education economy, an economy where you have the right education opportunity to meet the changing economic opportunity, that is exactly what this campus brings to Fort Worth and to the surrounding areas,” Mayor Betsy Price said. “Tarleton is a huge partner for us in developing the education we need.”

The new campus strengthens Tarleton’s ability to partner with North Texas business and industry leaders in expanding current degree programs and designing new ones to meet the region’s needs.

“As our North Texas economy rapidly evolves through technological advances, colleges and universities play an integral role in providing the answer to workforce needs through academic programs and training,” Tarrant County College Chancellor Eugene Giovannini said. “Tarleton and TCC are leaders in preparing today’s students for tomorrow’s



Ribbon cutting with A&M System and elected officials

economy while also sharing the values of academic access and opportunity.”

A&M System Regent Bill Mahomes referred to Tarleton’s home on Chisholm Trail Parkway as “good news” for Fort Worth and the Metroplex, and Fort Worth Councilman Jungus Jordan (District 6) called the strategic location of Tarleton’s new campus a catalyst for continued development





Tarleton Fort Worth Building 1





ANIMAL AND PLANT SCIENCES CENTER



and a tremendous benchmark for the future success of higher education in North Texas.

Which brings everything back to students. “Above all else, this university will unlock opportunity for its students,” said state Rep. Chris Turner, chairman of the Texas House Committee on Higher Education. “Many will be first-generation college students who maybe didn’t think college was in their future. Now a new world of learning and limitless possibility awaits them.”

## FOCUSING ON OUR ROOTS

The Animal and Plant Sciences Center amplifies Tarleton’s agricultural heritage while enriching its capacities for applied learning.

Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp said the new center is a place where Tarleton Texans will get the know-how to find real-time solutions to real-world challenges. “Students choose Tarleton for hands-on learning



Ribbon cutting with the Stephenville Chamber of Commerce

experiences, and this fantastic new facility takes that to the next level.”

“In addition to supporting our philosophy of hands-on learning, we expect the Animal and Plant Sciences Center to become an important interface with Stephenville and the surrounding community,” added Dr. Steve Damron, dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

The center’s teaching laboratories and livestock areas are supplemented by a product retail sales center offering frozen and processed meats and vegetables, ornamental, vegetable and bedding plants, and woody ornamentals to the Erath County community.

Students will learn to manage a retail space by stocking and marketing products from the Tarleton Agriculture Center.

The multipurpose facility is part of \$11 million in improvements and modernization of structures damaged in a 2016 tornado. The facility is at Tarleton’s Agriculture Center along College Farm Road (County Road 518) adjacent to the recently completed Agricultural Field Machinery and Fabrication Laboratory.

With six state-of-the-art laboratories for teaching animal and plant sciences, individual teaching labs will spotlight anatomy and physiology, genetics, nutrition, horticulture and crops science, and soils and entomology.

A 42,000-square-foot covered, open-sided livestock area allows for observation and hands-on learning with animals. Working and sorting areas for cattle, sheep and goats feature pens, alleys, corrals, scales and squeeze chutes.

A teaching arena can be divided into multiple spaces for animal demonstrations, livestock evaluation classes and competitive events. Students will safely be taught how to



42,000-square-foot, open-sided livestock area

assist at the birth of calves, lambs and kids (baby goats) in special areas.

Four greenhouses, an outdoor demonstration garden for food, forage and ornamental plants, elevated planting beds, and teaching plots will support horticulture and plant science programs.

Calling the center's grand opening a great day for the university and for Erath and surrounding counties, state Rep. J.D. Sheffield (District 59) commended the Texas Legislature for stepping up to help rebuild after a natural disaster. "It's been solid for decades upon decades that Tarleton State University knows agriculture."

## THE EXCITEMENT KEEPS COMING

Big time.

The \$26 million stadium renovation and expansion improves the game-day atmosphere for fans, the student-athlete experience and the lustre of Texan athletics.

"Building a facility as beautiful as this was a dream we all shared," said Athletic Director Lon Reisman at the grand opening. "August 20, 2019, will forever be a memorable day in Tarleton State University history. A day when a dream became reality."

As Tarleton prepares to transition to NCAA Division I athletics, adding 1,326 reserved seats to create a nearly 10,000-fan capacity shows support. Taking Tarleton fans to the west side, no longer facing into the sun, turns up the excitement and energy.



Cheer team, Plowboys and students rally the Texans.

The modernized press box, suites, entrances and ticket booths elevate Memorial Stadium to state-of-the-art standards.

Track-and-field surfaces also received upgrades.

A \$2.4 million donation from longtime Texas entrepreneur and Tarleton Distinguished Alumnus Mike A. Myers resulted in naming Memorial Stadium's west side after Reisman, a Hall of Fame basketball coach credited with creating one of the strongest sports programs in the NCAA. Since moving from the NAIA to NCAA Division II in 1994, Tarleton consistently has placed in top 25 polls and qualified for national playoffs in every sport.

Additional Texan fans donated toward improvements and special features, including a 66x22-foot video board. Fundraising continues to renovate the football fieldhouse and upgrade locker rooms and offices.

Built in the 1940s as a tribute to the 179 Tarleton faculty, staff and students who died in World War II, Memorial Stadium opened in 1951. A 1977 reconstruction and 1989 expansion brought the stadium to 7,600 seats, added the fieldhouse and improved the track-and-field facilities.

"Today we fall in love with Memorial Stadium all over again," A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp said at the grand opening. "This is as good as it gets. It's well done. It's classy."

The same could be said for all four new structures. ■



Band with new scoreboard





MEMORIAL STADIUM

LONN REISMAN ATHLETIC CENTER

ALLSUP'S

FIRST FINANCIAL BANK

MEMORIAL STADIUM

Memorial Stadium on game day



A  
**100-YEAR**  
MUSICAL CONNECTION

Tarleton bands celebrate a century of tradition

*by Phil Riddle*





Tradition is a synonym for Tarleton State University.

Nowhere is that tradition more deeply rooted than in Tarleton's band program, which celebrated its 100th anniversary on campus this year.

Beginning in 1919 with a nine-man military band, Tarleton today features 150-plus members performing on stages and in athletic arenas across the country.

Director of Bands David Robinson has been at the helm for only two years, but he understands the importance of such a milestone.

"There is so much history, but so many different types of history," he says, "from the Corps of Cadets period to the transition with the marching band to the drum corps style, to the separation of concert band, marching band and jazz band.

"Obviously, the program has grown. It has been through a lot of permutations but still has the same feel to it. All at the service of Tarleton. That's been the mission all the way through."

Dr. Gary Westbrook, director of athletic bands, shares the duties of safeguarding Tarleton's musical legacy. Leading The Sound and The Fury marching band, Westbrook is in charge of one of the most visible entities on campus.

"The marching band at most universities is sort of the window to the university," he says. "Here at Tarleton, while still being a window or a voice, we are a vehicle. I have found that to be so true in my 11 years here. The marching band is asked to help carry the brand, to help be Tarleton in places that maybe the university, as a whole, can't go.

"To be a place to merge the academic side and the spirit side or the student life side, we cross a lot of boundaries, sit in a lot of seats, and we take that responsibility seriously."

Tarleton President J. Thomas Davis and professor of music Charles Froh hired iconic band director Dennis Hunewell in 1919 to serve as brass and woodwinds teacher and director of the marching band and stage orchestra.

"Davis recognized that a band could play an important role in his strategy of improving the image and reputation of Tarleton through a carefully orchestrated publicity campaign,"

wrote Dr. Christopher Guthrie in his book, *John Tarleton and His Legacy: The History of Tarleton State University, 1899-1999*.

Yearbooks from the era suggest there were only nine members in the original band, and onlookers at the first concert deemed them "very enthusiastic," although the musicians knew no marches and had never performed in public.

Under Hunewell's tutelage, the group expanded to 20-30 members and turned

into what was called the Military Band. Its main function was to support Tarleton's ROTC unit.

"The band has played a lot of roles in 100 years," Westbrook says. "If you look back over the history, there are several people who were here as director for two years, and that's because they were fulfilling their military service and then going off and doing the next thing."

As would be expected with any program that endured for a century, the band had to negotiate some difficult times.

Initially there was the lack of musical instruments. In the '20s, recruited students had to bring their own.



Tarleton College Band

*“We need to celebrate our history.  
Remember different times, different directors.  
Different parts that have developed  
over the years.”*

In 1929 with the onset of the Great Depression, finances threatened the band’s future, but Hunewell worked with the Department of Military Science to obtain a complete set of 28 instruments from the U.S. War Department.

Constantly touring with the band, Hunewell visited small towns and almost every county in Texas during his tenure at Tarleton. His charges played at Tarleton Day at the 1922 State Fair, for a live radio broadcast over WBAP in 1924, and at the inauguration of Texas Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson in 1933.

“Knowing your history is important,” Dr. Robinson says. “The Tarleton band started under the Corps of Cadets umbrella back in 1919, and there have been a number of phases of the band program. It has always had a visibility on campus and huge support. The service-minded mission has kept it going through some difficult times.”

In the last several years, band members have continued the traveling precedent. They played at the McDonald’s Thanksgiving Parade in Chicago in 2014 and as an exhibition band in the Texas State Band Championships in 2015.

The Wind Ensemble has performed at Carnegie Hall, and the Jazz Band in Italy.

In December, The Sound and The Fury marching band played at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade. Before the trip to Hawaii, though, the band recreated that first 1919 outing, with nine current members playing a Friday afternoon concert Nov. 8, kicking off a series of performances that culminated with a Grand Gala Concert on Nov. 17.

“We need to celebrate our history,” Robinson says. “Remember different times, different directors. Different parts that have developed over the years. Make sure people understand our history, where we came from. Also, what we intend to do with that history. How we use that history for century number two.

“If something has been around for 100 years, there’s something enduring about it. It means there are principles in play that have kept it in existence.”

Being a tuneful force since the Woodrow Wilson administration, the band has exhibited the virtues that come with having a long-standing obligation to its many roles at Tarleton.

“The importance of the century is it shows longevity, persistence, endurance,” Westbrook says, “but most importantly it shows that what we do here at Tarleton stands the test of time.” ■





Bicentennial Band with high school students



Hunewell Bandstand, 1927



The Sound and The Fury, 2019



Military Band



Tarleton band during football game, 1966



Band French horns



2019 Wind Ensemble, Centennial Concert

# 100 YEARS OF TARLETON BANDS

**1919**

Dennis G. Hunewell is hired to serve as brass and woodwinds teacher and director of the marching band and stage orchestra.

**1920**

Band begins with a nine-man brass ensemble.

The band expands to 20-30 members and turns into what is called the Military Band. Its main function is to support Tarleton's ROTC unit.

**1922**

The Military Band plays at Tarleton Day at the 1922 State Fair. The cadets exhibit their marching precision in a parade through the fairgrounds and present a concert for the fairgoers.

**1924**

The Military Band performs several songs on a national broadcast on WBAP radio.

**1929**

Finances threaten the band's future, but Hunewell works with the Department of Military Science to obtain a complete set of 28 instruments from the U.S. War Department.

**1933**

The band plays at the inauguration of Texas Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson.

**1942**

Hunewell conducts the band until his retirement in 1942.

**1949**

The most elite ROTC unit, the Wainwright Rifles drill team, is established.

**1961**

The Rifles perform at John F. Kennedy's presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C.

**1974**

Tarleton Jazz Ensemble plays at the World's Fair in Spokane, Wash., as official goodwill ambassadors from Texas.

**1996**

The marching band plays at the London New Year's Day Parade.

**2006**

The marching band plays at the London New Year's Day Parade for a second time.

**2013**

The Sound and The Fury plays during halftime at AT&T Stadium, home of the Cowboys, when the Texans take on Florida Tech.

**2014**

The band leads the State Fair of Texas Parade.

The Sound and The Fury marches in the McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade in Chicago.

**2015**

The marching band performs in the Texas State Band Championships.

**2019**

100-year celebration of Tarleton Bands.  
The Sound and The Fury marching band plays at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade.

[trltn.info/Band100](http://trltn.info/Band100)



# *Bleeding* PURPLE, *going* GREEN

Athletic bands convert music from paper to digital

*by Phil Riddle*

Purple, of course, is the chosen color for the uniforms of Tarleton's athletic bands.

Now director Gary Westbrook has infused some green.

The Sound and The Fury marching band; Foul Play, the basketball band; and Texan Thunder, the volleyball band, have moved from paper copies of sheet music for their performances to a digital platform that invokes two shades of green.

First, the downloadable music, viewable on band musicians' phones or tablets, saves natural resources by slashing the number of paper copies needed.

Then there's the other green.

"Cost," Westbrook says candidly. "I was at a conference three years ago and a colleague had just gone paperless, and they saved about \$30,000 a year."

Westbrook took the paperless plunge last year when the band received a grant from Tarleton's Student Life Circle.

"We decided to use that as seed money. We pilot tested the idea with the basketball band last winter, and it worked well. So we said, 'Let's just move all our music to digital.'"

Instead of buying sheet music and making thousands of copies each year, the band uploads each piece into the cloud, where students may download the songs.

Making that many copies was expensive. Overage charges on the copy machine ran almost \$2,000 annually.

Band members now view the music from their own devices mounted on their instruments or arms with specialized holders.

Besides the savings in resources, paperless music is less time-consuming to edit.

"If we need to make a change in the composition, we can pull it down, make the change, push it back up, and it's ready to download again," Westbrook says. "With paper copies, changes could easily take a day to make. We can do it now in an hour."

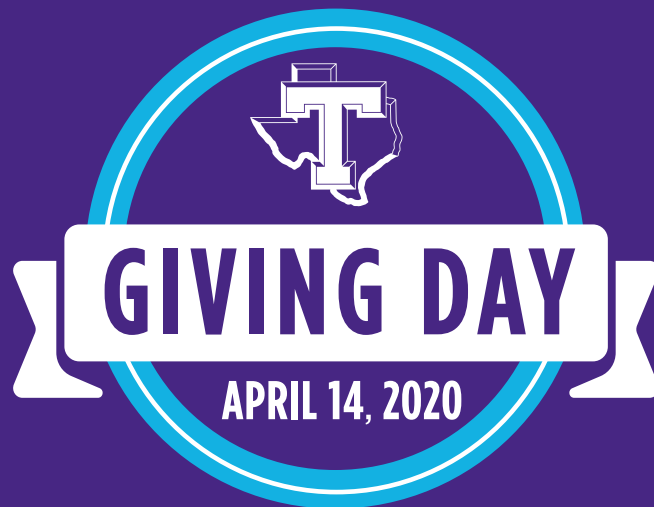
And band members are more diligent keeping up with their music now that their personal phone is attached.

"After every game we used to find three or four flip folders left behind in the stands. That doesn't happen now. People don't leave their phones." ■



# Be *the* Reason.

SAVE THE DATE | TARLETON GIVING DAY | APRIL 14, 2020



**Giving Doesn't Matter.  
Unless YOU want a better world.**

We can sit by, observing, waiting, passive. We can pretend it doesn't require effort, resources, commitment.

But anything good does. And if we care, it matters. Giving matters.

Our alumni, friends, faculty and staff understand that it takes significant and continued private financial support to transform generations through high-quality education. Your contributions help students expand horizons, pursue passions and prepare for a successful career.

Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. Lives are changed. The world becomes a better place. Texans Know How.





LEAVING A LEGACY

HELPING IN MANY AREAS

As a student, Tarleton affects you. Not just at that moment, but for life. That's why most donors are alumni – former students who have gone on to careers and life attainments that reflect the knowledge, the understanding, the know-how developed at Tarleton.

For donors, gifts matter in different ways.

Lance Zimmerman, '68, has donated to Tarleton through the years. He gave as a Texan Club member and to the renovation of Memorial Stadium. Through his donations, he joined the President's Circle, Student Life Circle and the John Tarleton Society. He has contributed for scholarships and the Tarleton Fund.

Now he has taken the ultimate step, with a planned/estate gift that will create four initiatives and add to another. Each matters in a special way.

First, Lance wanted to honor his parents, who instilled his work ethic and provided the greatest gift, "a belief that I could do anything I set my heart to."

In creating the Ruth Zimmerman Endowed Duck Camp Award for a music major, preferably in piano performance, Lance honors his mother. "She loved music. She played in church all through her life." While preserving an eternal memory of his mother's musical interests, Lance will benefit future students following her path.

Similarly, Lance honors his father in establishing the O.L. Zimmerman Endowed Scholarship for an industrial technology or mechanical engineering major, with a preference to a Tarleton Aeronautical Team member. His father wasn't able to attend college, but he studied aviation and worked in the Apollo and space shuttle programs.

The Lance Zimmerman Endowed Scholarship for a business student attests that "my major stood me in good stead." With a partner, he launched three computer-based corporations. "It was amazing how much, in working day to day, that I would think of what (professor) Clinton Smith and others had taught me in the business department."

The Lance Zimmerman Endowed Duck Camp Award will make it possible for disadvantaged students to participate in the first-year activity. Having visited Duck Camp, Lance praised the enthusiasm. "Every student should have that opportunity. I wish they had that when I was here."

His final gift will add to the Student Affairs Excellence Fund, supporting student activities. "I learned so much more outside the classroom. How to deal with people, how to deal with systems, how to get things done, how to lead. So many things."

Because Tarleton matters to Lance means that future students will have opportunities to enjoy that same impact on their lives. Giving matters.

Hear Lance talk about how Tarleton matters.



[trltn.info/Zimmerman](http://trltn.info/Zimmerman)



“If I were to receive a scholarship, I would be extremely grateful and use that money wisely in my studies.”

CARLOS CANALES

*Junior, Nursing  
Stephenville, Texas*

PAYING BACK AND PAYING FORWARD

# SCHOLARSHIPS HELP STUDENTS



When three sons follow you to your alma mater and earn scholarships to help pay their way, the idea of creating a scholarship to benefit future students flows from your gratitude. It did for Patti and Terry Miller.

“The thought of creating a scholarship of our own to benefit other students was heavy on my heart,” says Patti, ’94.

The Millers created a \$1,000 scholarship for a sophomore who will receive an equal amount for another two years as he or she progresses toward graduation. By annually adding another student, they hope to help three students at a time, from sophomores to seniors.

“We’re impacting someone’s life, just like someone impacted our children’s lives 15 years ago,” says Terry, ’79. “It’s now time to pay it forward for someone else’s child.”

The first scholarship was awarded last year to finance major Josiah Mendoza from Atlanta, Texas. The Millers were happy to meet him at a donor-scholar event on campus “and hear his story and how appreciative he was,” Patti says.

This year’s recipient is Nicole Nelson, an applied science major with a business administration concentration. After being home schooled in Duncanville, Nicole earned an associate degree in occupational therapy from Navarro College and enrolled at Tarleton-Midlothian.

“This scholarship has certainly made a difference in my education,” she says. “A small weight has been lifted off my shoulders as a result of the Miller Scholarship, and I feel supported as I earn my

degree. This scholarship has helped cover my tuition costs, allowing me to work slightly fewer hours as I navigate this school year.”

Nicole works as a certified occupational therapy assistant. “I find so much joy in serving the geriatric population, and I want to further pursue a rehabilitation career to encourage quality of life and independence.”

Her bachelor’s program enhances her understanding of business components in the medical field. With scholarship support, she hopes to graduate without debt and then pursue a master’s in occupational therapy.

“Ever since the age of 11, becoming an occupational therapist has been my dream. Each year, this dream becomes closer to a reality. Tarleton State University is an important part of this journey.”

Tarleton also has been important for the Millers, who own Miller Show Goats in Dublin and Dove Creek Ranch. Their sons, Slaten, ’07, Callen, ’08, and Landen, ’12, all graduated with business degrees. They also all married Tarleton graduates: Slaten’s wife, Coe, majored in nursing; Callen’s wife, Aubrey, in wildlife biology; and Landen’s wife, Jacy, in animal production.

“When there is a need, there’s also a responsibility to carry on and help others if we have the ability to do that,” Terry says.

“Without the support of sponsors like the Millers, completing my degree without student loans would be immensely challenging,” Nicole says. “I am so grateful for the Millers’ generosity. By supporting a student through scholarships, you never know the impact you could make on the world.”

Hear Patti and Terry Miller talk about why they wanted to fund scholarships.

 [trltn.info/TheMillers](http://trltn.info/TheMillers)



“When someone makes a gift to Tarleton, it is meaningful because the person is investing in our school and all that it does. My scholarships have helped lift some financial stress from my family. Both of my younger siblings are now in college, and any amount helps. I am working on campus, just for extra spending money. My scholarships helped pay some of my tuition. The financial aid has helped me with free time to invest in organizations and my education.”

SAMANTHA HERNANDEZ

Senior, Biomedical Science, Pre-Veterinary Emphasis  
Mansfield, Texas

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

BENEFITS PLOWBOYS



Chris Cain wasn't your typical Plowboy. Or maybe he was.

Coming to Tarleton in 2000, he joined the Plowboys and immediately found a passion for the all-male spirit organization and its members.

Chris pushed through the recruitment process, finally succeeding after several failed attempts, and engaged eagerly in Plowboy activities.

“Chris never let his physical challenges interfere with his commitment toward achieving his goals,” Dell Burdick, '97, says of the quadriplegic Plowboy. “He insisted on successfully completing the recruitment process, refusing any special treatment.”

Burdick's Cross Timbers Title Co. played a major role in creating the Chris Cain Memorial Plowboy Endowed Scholarship. Additional donors include Members Trust Federal Credit Union and current members of the Plowboys.

The scholarship, announced at the Community Celebration on Giving Day 2019, recognizes the perseverance and dedication Chris exhibited with the Plowboys. He kept that same enthusiasm and energy throughout his life.

Founded in 1983, the Plowboys adopted Tarleton's former athletic nickname. Members attend campus events, and they spend weeks preparing for the Homecoming bonfire; they also oversee the blaze the night before the football game. They are known by their black shirts, cowboy hats and brown leather chaps.

“Chris truly 'bled purple' and was even buried in his Plowboy chaps, with members of the Plowboys among his casket bearers,” Burdick says.

The initial Cain Memorial Plowboy scholar is Ellett Vann, an agricultural education major from Burnet, Texas, who plans to become an agricultural science teacher.

“I am very honored to be the first individual to receive this award,” Ellett says. “This is my first year as a Plowboy, and I am learning how great it is to be so involved with the school and all of its events.

“Being a Plowboy is one of the best decisions I ever made. It has allowed me to meet a group of guys I can call brothers for the rest of my life. It has also allowed me to break out of my shell.”

Ellett, in his second year of college, already has junior rank. He credits the \$500 award with helping him get closer to his goal of graduating debt-free.

The Plowboys hope that future donations to the endowment will allow an increase in the scholarship amount, or in the number of student recipients.





## IN MEMORIAM: CONTINUING TO INFLUENCE, BENEFIT STUDENTS

A passion for Tarleton and for dance created a wonderful student experience for Marily Considine as a member of the Texan Stars. Now students with a similar passion benefit from the Marily Considine Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

“The scholarship really affects one of her great loves through the dance team,” says her husband, Maj. John Considine, who established the memorial.

“Marily created her own legacy in her actions, the way she supported Tarleton and the Texan Stars. This scholarship builds on what she did in her life and allows her to continue to influence and benefit students.”

Taylor Givens, who knew Marily through her support of the Stars, is the first recipient. Taylor is a third-year member and two-time captain of the Texan Stars, the 2018 Division II American Dance and Drill Team Collegiate Champion.

“Marily Considine was a beautiful human being who revealed how selfless one could be,” Taylor says. “To be anything like her would be a tremendous accomplishment. I hope to leave a lasting impression, like she will have on me and many others.”

The scholarship will enable Taylor, a junior kinesiology major with a concentration in sports pedagogy, to take classes this summer. She plans to obtain her teaching certification, become a high school drill team director and pursue a master’s degree in sports communication.

After working at a number of children-based jobs during high school in Garland, she now instructs students at Happy Toes Dance in Stephenville.

“This scholarship will preserve Marily’s memory and love for Tarleton for years to come,” Taylor says.

Marily, who earned her bachelor’s degree in 2000 and a master’s in 2017, was a member of the Tarleton Alumni Association Board of Directors and involved with the Texan Stars Alumni Chapter. She and John met on campus and were married in the student center.

John, ’01, is cadet training officer for the Texan Corps of Cadets and John Tarleton Leadership Academy. “Once we knew we were coming back several years ago, we wanted to set up a scholarship. After she passed in February, and knowing how much Tarleton meant to her and the dance team, I was able to establish a scholarship that would start paying out immediately.”

The couple wanted to help a military child affected by cancer or with a parent who has cancer, or a member of the Texan Stars dance team. John endowed the scholarship and created the first award.

The Texan Stars have been an integral part of Tarleton since 1974. The team performs at football and basketball halftime shows, Homecoming events and Midnight Madness.

“Marily loved Tarleton from the moment she stepped on campus,” John says. “She was involved in student organizations and loved to dance. The scholarship celebrates that.”





POLLINATOR GARDEN BENEFITS

**BEES, BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES**

Texas' growing population threatens insects and hummingbirds, an issue Tarleton faculty and students will address this spring with a pollinator garden on an acre at the university's W.K. Gordon Center for Industrial History in Thurber.

"With long stretches of highway and mowed fields acting as 'food deserts' for pollinating insects, a pollinator garden full of native, nectar-laden flowers can serve as an oasis," says Dr. Adam Mitchell, assistant professor of entomology in the Department of Wildlife, Sustainability and Ecosystem Sciences.

The garden will provide food and shelter for such pollinators as bees, butterflies and moths.

Pollinating insects are declining across the country due to loss of native flowering plants. Pollinators are necessary for the environment and the economy, Mitchell notes. "We've lost over 90 percent of monarch butterfly populations in the U.S. since the 1990s."

With funding from private donors and the university's Center for Environmental Studies (CES), the garden will enlighten by showing examples of beneficial insects and native plants, and by demonstrating to landowners how they can improve their property.

"Our family has been in the ranching business in Shackelford County for 100 years," says Ted Paup, who along with his wife, Nancy, donated to the project. "We have a history of studying native grasses and ecotypes, and we understand the importance of the pollinator garden."

Students and members of the Prairie Oaks Master Naturalist Chapter, housed at Tarleton with both student and community

members, will create the garden in the spring. This summer, the students will observe how insects use roadside habitat, and Mitchell's ecology class will use the garden as a laboratory for monitoring pollinators.

If the CES finds additional donors, students may travel to conferences to share their research, says CES Director Anne Egelston, an assistant professor in the Department of Government, Legal Studies and Philosophy.

Using the Gordon Center land makes the pollinator garden a low-cost way to expand Mitchell's research. As curator of the Tarleton Insect Museum, which houses 100,000 specimens for research and education, Mitchell hopes to add insects for observation and loan.

"The W.K. Gordon Center is a jewel in the Tarleton crown," Paup says. "The pollinator garden will give families one more reason to exit I-20 and learn the history and the fascinating industrial stories at the museum."

Private support makes efforts like the pollinator garden possible. "Regardless of the size of the donation, donors make significant contributions to helping our students further their academic and professional goals while protecting the environment," Dr. Egelston says.

Adds Paup: "Nancy and I have heard many times that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and it is absolutely true. We get so much satisfaction from seeing others' faces light up when they make a discovery or learn something new. There is joy in being able to give and make a difference in others' lives."



“Thanks so much for caring about our education, and for giving us so many opportunities to thrive as students. As soon as you step foot on campus, you feel a sense of welcoming. Tarleton is like a second home.”

NARDA ROMAN DELGADO

*Junior, Pre-Law  
Elgin, Texas*

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACULTY TO MENTOR STUDENTS

While Tarleton’s low student-to-faculty ratio fosters mentoring opportunities, private donations recently enabled three programs to bring more students under faculty wings:

- A semester-long book study and dialogue to link faculty and students in considering research ethics, resulting from a \$10,000 gift from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas. The donation is in addition to a \$1 million grant from BCBSTX that enables researchers in Tarleton’s Analytics Institute to study healthcare claims and develop novel methods to identify fraud.
- A project led by Faculty Research Fellows to teach undergraduate and graduate students how to craft fellowship and external funding applications, with four of the first 12 participating students successful.
- A plan to send three students, as undergraduate research scholars, and their faculty mentors to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in March.

“The knowledge gained during this book study will serve our students throughout their careers,” says Dr. Barry Lambert, dean of the College of Graduate Studies. The gift, presented by Dr. Dan McCoy, BCBSTX president and a 1989 Tarleton graduate, supported the study as well as other President’s Circle and university-wide initiatives.

In the external funding project, each student received a stipend through the donor-funded President’s Circle and Tarleton Fund to support their efforts. A four-part workshop series trained the students in developing funding proposals for research or fellowships, with each student applying to at least two funding sources.

### SUCCESS GREETED:

- Biology graduate student Breena Riley received a fellowship from the National Science Foundation to travel to Sweden as one

of the first cohort members of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography research exchange program.

- Lane Allen, graduate student in biological sciences, obtained funding from the Paleontological Society for a summer research project to research X-ray fluorescence of sediment samples from Texas lakes.
- Mathematics graduate student Edward Smith won an assistantship and fellowship to attend Baylor University’s PhD program in mathematics.
- Preston Ward, an undergraduate in mathematics and computer engineering, received Google’s Cloud Platform grant for ongoing efforts to help quantify and fight gerrymandering.

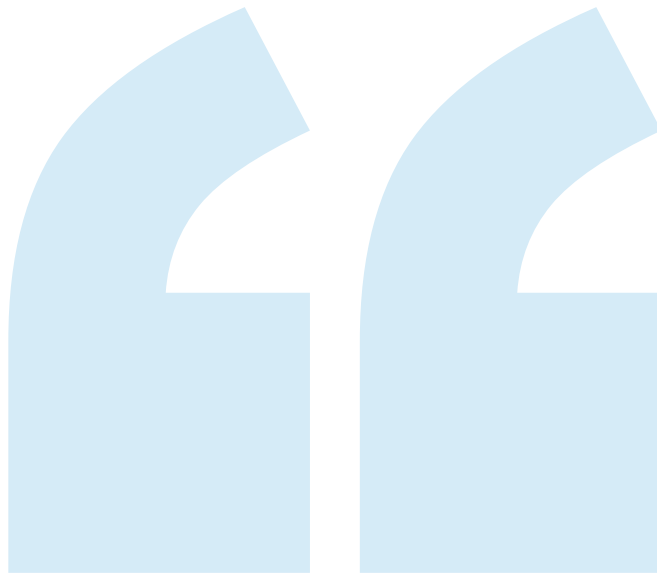
A new student group will go through workshops and make applications this year.

The NCUR plan will receive \$9,000 from the President’s Circle and Tarleton Fund to cover participants’ expenses. Undergraduate research is recognized as a high-impact practice, increasing student engagement and retention.

The Office of Research and Innovation coordinates these initiatives, encouraging scholarly engagement and providing resources to support faculty and student research.

“We have strategic goals related to supporting undergraduate students in research programs,” says Dr. Lesley Leach, associate dean for research. “Even small amounts of private funding can make it possible to add new projects or involve more students. That can make a real difference in a student’s future.”





“As a student, monetary gifts help us in ways people never imagine because maybe you’re only donating \$50, but that’s \$50 less a student has to take out on a loan. The way these gifts affect our present and future is enormous.

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Our donors are an important part of student success. The stress that comes from not knowing how we’re going to pay for college weighs heavily on our shoulders, and to receive a scholarship of any sort takes some of that weight away.

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Without my scholarships I would not be able to finish my undergraduate program with so little debt, and because of that I have the opportunity to pursue my graduate degree.”

**SHELBY HEYMAN**

*Senior, Psychology  
Plantersville, Texas*





GIVING MATTERS



GIVING DAY

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OCT. 13-19, 2019

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[trltn.info/Homecoming2019](http://trltn.info/Homecoming2019)



**Tarleton Forever**  
TRADITION WORTH KEEPING



# NEX LEVEL READY



## Texans prepare to transition to NCAA Division I Athletics

by Phil Riddle

The long-awaited invitation has been extended.

The Tarleton Texans are going Division I.

The Western Athletic Conference asked Tarleton to join Sept. 30, and university Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Lonnie Reisman said the Texans intend to become the 11th member institution of the conference.

Reisman said the advancement to NCAA Division I completes a three-decade trek that began with competition at the non-scholarship level.

“To see Tarleton move from an NAIA school to a Division I university in 30 years is a testament to The Texas A&M University System, our administration, student body, alumni and fans,” he said. “This is a historic time for Tarleton State University and the beginning of what will be great things ahead.”

Being in Division I will mean bigger names for competition and bigger venues for potential success, and it will give Tarleton a more recognizable national profile.

“This is an exciting time as we look to enhance our institutional profile as an NCAA Division I university,” said Tarleton President James Hurley. “It is a milestone in our quest to show the country that Tarleton is next-level ready.”

In a Nov. 12 campus celebration, Tarleton joined California Baptist University, Cal State Bakersfield, Chicago State

University, Grand Canyon University, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, New Mexico State University, Seattle University, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Utah Valley University and fellow newcomer Dixie State University in the WAC.

“This is a big deal,” Hurley said, responding to the Texans’ invitation to join the conference. “On behalf of our 13,226 students, our 709 marvelous faculty, 681 incredible staff, 85,000 loyal alumni, the Texas A&M System and thousands of dedicated parents, fans and supporters from across the world that make up Texan Nation, we enthusiastically and officially accept the invitation to become the newest member of the Western Athletic Conference.”

Becoming a member of the WAC means more than athletic recognition for the Purple and White.

“What it does, not just for Tarleton State but for the Texas A&M System, is it puts us in some of the major media markets of the country,” Reisman said. “It puts us in Seattle, LA, Phoenix, Chicago, Salt Lake City. These people are going to know where Tarleton State University is. That’s exciting, getting an opportunity to go into these cities and showcase our university.”

Receiving the invitation was big, but to accept, Tarleton students had to approve an increase in intercollegiate athletic



fees. The initiative garnered 68 percent of the votes in one of the largest voter turnouts in school history.

“We wanted to make sure our students had a voice in this,” Reisman said. “They told us that they support the decision by the way they voted.”

The Texans begin conference play in 2020.

Tarleton fields teams in football, volleyball, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, cross country, men’s and women’s basketball, women’s golf, baseball and softball, and Reisman said don’t be surprised if that menu expands.

“There is some discussion, and I foresee us adding sports,” he said. “One of the sports up high on my list is women’s soccer.”

The WAC currently does not play football. Tarleton will join New Mexico State and Dixie State as independents for the next few years while the conference re-establishes the sport among member schools.

**“To see Tarleton move from an NAIA school to a Division I university in 30 years is a testament to The Texas A&M University System, our administration, student body, alumni and fans.”**

As Reisman predicted, the invitation to become a Division I university almost instantly boosted Tarleton’s athletic standing in the area.

He has been contacted for stories by Metroplex television and print media outlets, and discussions are ongoing about the possibility the Texan basketball teams could play in the new Dickies Arena in Fort Worth.

“There are also discussions about the possibility that in 2021 we’ll open the football season against TCU,” he said. “You’re going to see us play at a higher level, and there will be a much higher level of competition.”

The Texans have also been invited to play football at Kyle Field in 2025 against Texas A&M.

The Texans are Division I. They are next-level ready. ■

[trltn.info/NextLevelReadyEvent](http://trltn.info/NextLevelReadyEvent)



*Dr. Hurley with WAC Commissioner Jeff Hurd accept the conference’s invitation during the official signing along with A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp and state Reps. J.D. Sheffield and DeWayne Burns.*



# INFLUENTIAL CENTENARIAN

Decorated Wayland Coach Redin,  
'39 Tarleton grad, celebrates his  
100th birthday

by Danny Andrews

It's difficult to mention women's basketball without thinking of Harley Redin. Very difficult.

The 1936 graduate of Silverton (Texas) High School and coach of the nationally known Wayland Baptist Flying Queens turned 100 Aug. 29. The Tarleton Distinguished Alumnus has had a profound influence on both women's and men's basketball.

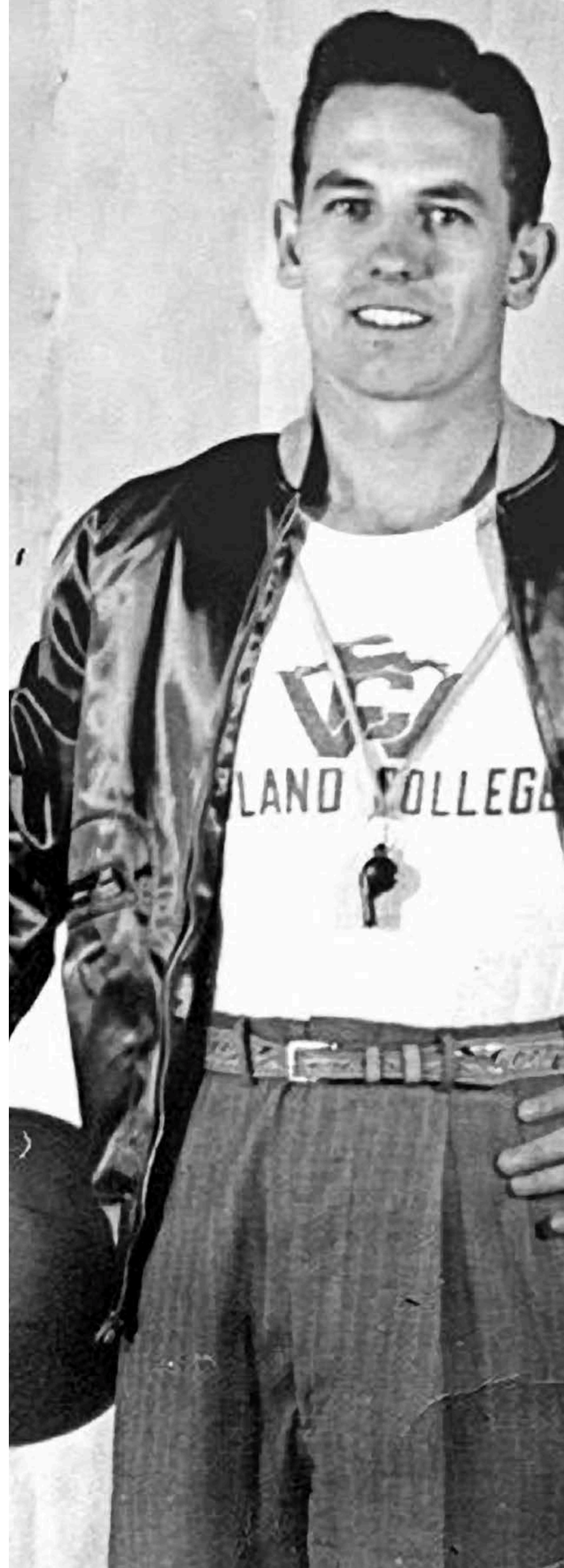
Redin garnered numerous honors over his career, the most prestigious being the John Bunn Award from the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., in 2018 for meritorious service to the game. In September he was enshrined in the hall as one of the coaches of the Flying Queens teams from 1948-82 that predated the NAIA and NCAA programs. Those teams were inducted into the Wayland Athletic Hall of Honor in November.

Redin was nominated several times for induction as an individual in the Naismith Hall of Fame, one of the few honors that has eluded him.

A member of a John Tarleton Junior College team that was part of an 88-game win streak under coach W.J. Wisdom, Redin later would coach the Queens to 76 of their national-record 131 consecutive wins, which ranged from the first game of the 1953-54 season through the semifinals of the National Amateur Athletic Union tournament in 1957-58. Those teams were named Trailblazers of the Game by the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013.

From 1955-73, Redin directed the Queens to a 437-68 record (his first two teams were unbeaten) with six national AAU titles and six second places, usually to arch-rival Nashville Business College. Wayland Baptist – a private, coeducational university based in Plainview, Texas – was a leader in offering athletic scholarships for women.

He coached the U.S. women's team in the 1959 and 1971 Pan American Games to gold and bronze medals, respectively, and directed the U.S. team in the 1964 World Championships. He also coached all-star teams against Russian competition.





Redin served on several Olympic and AAU rules committees that promoted the five-player game, the 30-second clock and unlimited dribbling (in the early days, players could dribble only three times before having to pass or shoot).

He also was among the first to adopt the full-court press and the fast-break offense, first used in 6-on-6 competition that prevailed until the 1970-71 season.

A stickler for fundamentals and for good behavior on and off the court, Redin was cited by the *Plainview Daily Herald's* Citizenship Hall of Fame for promoting sportsmanship.

A 1939 graduate of Tarleton, Redin holds two degrees from North Texas State University, earning them around a distinguished career as a Marine pilot who flew 38 bombing missions in the South Pacific.

He used his aviator skills as a pilot for the Queens when they went to out-of-town games. Sponsor Claude Hutcherson, owner of Hutcherson Flying Service, furnished the team with four Beechcraft Bonanzas. The Queens name came from the team's first sponsor, Harvest Queen Mill, a local grain elevator.

Redin came to Wayland in 1946 to serve as men's basketball coach and athletic director. The college had halted all sports during World War II, so he and his players, many of them military veterans, spent much of their time getting the neglected small gymnasium back into shape.

He guided the Pioneers to a 181-97 record with several district titles and four appearances in the NAIA national tournament in Kansas City from 1948-57. Between the Queens and Pioneers, he coached more than 40 All-Americans.

Getting the itch to return to the hardwood after devoting full time to being athletic director and then a banker, Redin coached two seasons at nearby Hale Center High School in the early 1980s.

A member of the inaugural class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1999 and the Wayland Athletics Hall of Honor in 1992, he also is a member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame and the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame.

The Atlanta Tipoff Club tapped Redin as the 2000 Naismith Women's Outstanding Contribution to Basketball Award winner for lifetime achievement, impact on the game, and honor and exemplary service.

In 2000 the *Amarillo Globe-News* named him one of the 100 Sports Legends of the Texas Panhandle, 19 years after his induction as the 55th member of the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame.

*Sports Illustrated* named Redin one of the top people in sports in Texas from 1950 to 2000.

Wayland named its Athletic Hall of Honor for him, and the Harley Redin Coaching Award has been given periodically since 1999 to outstanding alums in the coaching profession.

A former president of the Plainview Chamber of Commerce, Redin coached in the Lions Club summer baseball program and spearheaded an effort to have all of the residents on his street decorate their homes with white lights for Christmas, motivating others in Plainview to utilize outdoor lighting.

In 2007 he and his wife, Wilda Hutcherson Redin, were named Distinguished Benefactors of Wayland. The playing surface at Hutcherson Center – named for Mrs. Redin's late first husband, Claude Hutcherson – bears the name Wilda and Harley Redin Court.

Mrs. Redin, 98, served as a surrogate mother to Flying Queens teams for years, setting a tone of grace and style.

The players were hosted in the Redins' homes in Plainview and Ruidoso, N.M., on many occasions.

Harley Redin credits his time at Tarleton for shaping his desire to coach. He said he is proud of "just having the opportunity to be in on the ground floor of coaching student athletes," the majority of whom went on to successful careers in a variety of fields, including coaching.

He has kept in close contact with many of his players and is as proud of their accomplishments after college as he was of them as Flying Queens.

"We were probably the first college team that could compete with strict eligibility rules," he noted, adding that Wayland provided an excellent forum for women's college basketball, predating Title IX mandates in the early 1970s. "There had always been AAU teams, but all those players had to do was just be amateurs."

Redin, who published two books, *The Queens Fly High* in 1958 and *A Basketball Guide for Girls* in 1971, said that sometimes he wishes he had "hung around coaching" a little longer. "I got out just when women's basketball was really taking off."

A sport he helped to fly high for many years toward the game it is today. ■



Danny Andrews covered the Flying Queens as a Wayland student and then sports editor of the *Plainview Herald* from 1967-78 and periodically as editor of the paper from 1978-2006. He served as Wayland's director of alumni development from 2006 until retiring in 2016.



# Floating ideas

Tarleton grad handles marketing for international company based in her hometown

by Phil Riddle



Courtney Wagley knew what she wanted from the marketing degree she earned at Tarleton State University. And she was willing to wait for it.

After getting her diploma in 2010, she moved back to Abilene, her hometown, and worked temporary jobs for two years before that opportunity presented itself.

"I graduated in the middle of the recession," she said. "There were literally zero marketing jobs."

Rather than accept a position in sales as some of her classmates had done, she patiently bided her time. "I'm not a salesman. That's not what I wanted to do with my degree. I wanted to go into creative, strategic marketing."

Tigé Boats, Inc., hired her seven years ago as communication coordinator. In 2019 she was promoted, for the second time, to marketing director for the international company.

She credits her study abroad adventures with making her an attractive candidate.

"A couple of things gave me a leg up in getting the job," she said. "I was local, someone who would stay with the company a long time. Also, my experience with study abroad made me a candidate who had experienced the world."

At Tarleton, Courtney was active in Alpha Gamma Delta international women's sorority, earned the John Tarleton

Spirit Award and traveled twice for international study. She went to Argentina and Chile on a South American study abroad trip and, later, to China.

"That international business experience was a big help," she said. The quality of her degree enhanced her professional climb, too.

"I work with people from all over the country. People move from everywhere to work here at Tigé. What gave me a bigger opportunity with our brand is that my degree is very broad. I understood a lot of different aspects of the business."

She chose Tarleton after spending lots of time in Stephenville as a participant in 4-H and FFA contests. She knew so many people who went to Tarleton that it felt like home. "My parents felt comfortable with me going there because it wasn't a huge university. It felt like an easy next transition in life. I think it was the perfect decision."

Now Courtney makes major marketing decisions for a global company. She oversees social media, websites, print catalogs and online advertising, all done in-house in Abilene.

"It doesn't really suck to work on boats," she said with a laugh. "I think the best thing about my job is that I get to work with people all over the world, I get to go places all over the world to represent our brand, but I still get to work here in Abilene. I'm still home."

Just what she wanted. ■

**I work with people from all over the country. People move from everywhere to work here**





# Stick-to-it-iveness

Recent Tarleton grad adds Hall of Fame induction to list of achievements

by Phil Riddle



Neelley Armes is quite the accomplished Texan.

Two-time College National Finals Rodeo qualifier and member of Tarleton's 2005 national championship women's rodeo team. Two-time all-state softball player. Wife of a professional rodeo cowboy, mom to two kids and, as of August 2019, college graduate.

Now add member of the Tarleton State University Rodeo Hall of Fame.

She and three other members of the 2005 women's championship team — Jackie Hobbs-Crawford, Sarah Scott Verhelst and Tessie Doyle — were inducted into the hall during ceremonies in November in Stephenville.

"I'm humbled and blessed to get this honor," Neelley says of her Hall of Fame induction. "I got the opportunity to rodeo with some amazing athletes at Tarleton, and some of my good girlfriends were recognized with me."

Neelley played softball and honed her rodeo skills from a young age. Being a two-sport threat gave her options as her high school career came to a close. She chose to continue her rodeo career at Texas A&M.

She competed there for a year, then made the life-changing decision to give professional rodeo a try. On the pro circuit she met Bray, her husband-to-be. The two young rodeo athletes eventually resumed their studies and headed to Big Spring and Howard College where they got a taste of the competitive nature of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's Southwest Region.

Their performances drew the attention of Tarleton's coaching staff, and they both were offered scholarships to wear purple vests.

"Our 2004-05 rodeo season was a dream season," Neelley says. "Bray and I were newly engaged in December, and we both qualified for the College National Finals in Casper, Wyo., in June."

It was a dream season for Tarleton rodeo, as well. Both the men's and women's teams brought home national titles from Casper.

Neelley and Bray were married in 2006, a year that also saw Neelley finish sixth in the nation among collegiate breakaway ropers and qualify for another trip to the CNFR. The next year she became a stay-at-home mom as the couple's first child, daughter Breely, was born, followed a year later by son Drake.

For a dozen years Neelley took care of her family on their farm near Gruver in the Texas Panhandle.

But she still had things she wanted to do.

Last summer, she returned to the virtual classroom to pursue a career in education, earning a degree in general studies at Tarleton.

She was approached about a job as head softball coach at Gruver High School. She was interested, but to get the job, she needed to finish her degree. Luckily that required

just six hours of coursework she completed online at Tarleton.

"Finally graduating meant a lot. Whether I did or did not get the coaching job, it was a huge bucket list item for me to get my degree."

Besides coaching her hometown Gruver Greyhounds High School softball team, she works with special education students in junior high.

Quite the accomplished Texan. ■

**"I'd like to say thank you to the entire Tarleton State University administration and coaching staff for what you do for not only education but for the sport of rodeo."**

 [trltn.info/NeelleyArmes](http://trltn.info/NeelleyArmes)



RIDE TRINITY METRO.

**YOUR  
BACHELOR'S  
IS JUST THE  
BEGINNING.**



TARLETON  
STATE UNIVERSITY

**TexansKnowHow.com**



# There's knowledge, and there's **KNOW-HOW**

Tarleton imparts both.

"It's time we show the world that Tarleton Texans receive more than knowledge," said university President James Hurley. Tarleton's first branding campaign — Texans Know How — will do just that.

Intended to increase recognition and raise awareness, Texans Know How makes use of digital and traditional media to proclaim Tarleton's diverse degree programs and commitment to equip students with the skills they need for promising careers, no matter the field they study. Billboards went up this fall and Trinity Metro buses in Fort Worth became rolling advertisements.

Built around research by Tarleton's Division of Institutional Advancement and Belmont Icehouse, a Dallas-based creative agency, the campaign showcases students who want more than classroom knowledge. They want the know-how to make a difference.

"At Tarleton students get the know-how to build businesses, create products and conduct life-changing research, to make their mark," Hurley says, "to find real-time solutions to real-world challenges."

Texans Know How unifies the Tarleton story, a story that began 120 years ago when the university's founder and

benefactor, John Tarleton, envisioned a school where students have access to the knowledge and skills that improve their lives and communities.

With more than 100 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, four outreach locations and more than 13,000 students, Tarleton has come a long way since its 1899 start. But, Hurley notes, there's still a lot of room to grow, both programs and enrollments.

"A unified message, experience and environment give us a significant competitive advantage when recruiting and retaining top student talent," he explains. "Texans Know How fortifies our presence across Texas and beyond, resonating Tarleton's innovative, can-do spirit. It's the spirit behind our graduation rates — among the best in the state — our alumni honor roll, and our quest to become the leading comprehensive regional university in the nation."

For too long, "some have considered Tarleton State University the 'best-kept secret' in higher education," Hurley says. "No one can say that anymore." ■

 [trltn.info/TKH](https://www.youtube.com/trltn.info/TKH)





# CLASS NOTES BY DECADE

Each of us can play an important role in the continued success of Tarleton State University. Remember, big accomplishments begin with small acts. The Tarleton Alumni Association encourages all former students and friends of the university to join in this tradition of promoting excellence.

## 80

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**'85, BOB HARVESON**, BS plant and soil science, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award for the American Phytopathological Society's North Central Division. Harveson is the extension plant pathologist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Panhandle Research and Extension Center. The award recognizes outstanding contributions in teaching, control of a significant plant disease, or service to the science of plant pathology beyond the recipient's job or responsibility.

**'87, LEW KYLE HUNNICUTT**, BS animal science, has been named president of North Carolina's Nash Community College. He previously was the assistant provost and campus director for the University of Georgia Griffin Campus. He began his career as an assistant professor in the Department of Agriculture at McNeese State University and later served in the same capacity at Southwest Texas State University. He was vice president of extended services at Frank Phillips College in Borger, Texas, prior to joining the University of Georgia.

## 90

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**'91, BRANDI DIAZ**, BS business administration, was elected mayor of Copperas Cove, Texas, for the second term. She received more than 60 percent of the vote in a special election. She was first elected in 2004, becoming the youngest person and the first woman to hold the job.

**'93, JASON PHILLIPS**, BA business administration, has been named Replay Center Principal for the National Basketball Association. Phillips, a top-rated NBA official for 19 years, will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the NBA Replay Center in Secaucus, N.J. His duties include creating training videos and interpreting the rules of the game for officials, teams, broadcasters and the media. Phillips has officiated more than 1,100 regular-season games since joining the NBA for the 2000-01 season. He has worked 94 NBA playoff games, including nine in the NBA Finals. He finished his on-court career officiating Games 1 and 5 of the 2019 finals.

**'95, SUSAN KINCANNON**, MEd in leadership, was named Waco ISD superintendent. She has served in public education for 30 years as a teacher, principal, assistant/deputy superintendent and superintendent.

**'98, JUSTIN BOX**, BBA finance, has been named vice president and chief information officer of Driscoll Health System, headquartered in Corpus Christi. He will serve as the chief strategist and overall information technology administrative and operations leader. Before joining Driscoll, Box worked for Mary Washington Healthcare in Fredericksburg, Va., where he was senior vice president and chief information officer.

**'98, APRIL GOFF**, BA interdisciplinary business, has joined Perkins Coie as a partner in its tax, benefits and compensation practice. She joins the firm in Dallas after serving as senior counsel at J.C. Penney Corp., where she oversaw employee and executive compensation matters as well as cybersecurity and data privacy issues. She serves as chair of the Fiduciary Responsibility, Administration and Litigation Committee for the American Bar Association Section of Real Property Trusts and Estate Law.

**'99, BRIAN HARRIS**, BS biology and exercise and sports studies, has been named head baseball coach at Brownwood High School. He went to Brownwood after 20 years as an assistant coach in Brenham.

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**'00, KELLI LEHMAN**, BS human sciences, has been chosen the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service community health agent for Randall County. The Vernon native began her AgriLife Extension career in 1998 as a program assistant at the Texas 4-H Center in Brownwood, then was a family and community health intern in Childress County. She is a member of the Texas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the National Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and a past member of the Texas and National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.



**'02, RYAN AALSMA**, BBA management, has been promoted to executive vice president and general manager overseeing regional operations in the Greater San Antonio area for Skanska. Aalsma joined the company in 2002 and most recently served as senior vice president and account manager. He has led several high-profile projects.

**'03 and '12, JASON HODGES**, BS education and MEd in leadership and administration, has been named head girls basketball coach and head girls and boys golf coach at Stephenville High School. He led the Midlothian Heritage varsity girls to the Class 4A playoffs in each of his four seasons there.

**'06, SAMUEL SKIDMORE**, BS kinesiology and exercise science, has been named Belton ISD athletic director. He will work in a dual role this fall, remaining the Tigers' head football coach until shifting to full-time AD after the season. He is beginning his 13th year in education and has been at Belton since 2014. He has served as assistant athletic director and the team's offensive coordinator and strength and conditioning coach.

## 10

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**'10, COURTNEY WAGLEY**, BA marketing, has been named marketing director for Tige Boats. She was recently recognized by *Boating Industry* magazine as one of the Top 25 "Women Making Waves." She also is a three-time guest speaker at Dreamforce, a Salesforce convention.

**'10, CRYSTAL DUMBECK**, BA human resources management, became the human resources director for Bastrop County in May. She worked at UT Austin as a human resource business partner and in various capacities in the School of Undergraduate Studies since 2014. She is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management.

**'11, HEATHER ROBERTSON**, MS agriculture, has been promoted to ruminant account manager for Arm & Hammer Animal and Food Production. She will support the company's dairy and beef customers with nutrition products. She previously served as animal productivity specialist and played an integral role in expanding the company's presence in the region. She has more than 18 years experience working in the livestock production industry.

**'12, MATT BEREND**, BA social work, has been reappointed to the Rehabilitation Council of Texas as a vocational rehabilitation supervisor. The council works with the Texas Workforce Commission to advocate for people with disabilities. Berend is a licensed social worker and a certified rehabilitation counselor, and a member of the National Association of Social Workers, Texas Rehabilitation Association and the Texas Rehab Action Network. He is a former risk management officer of the Tarleton State University Student Social Work Organization.

**'15, JON GIMBLE**, BA accounting, has been appointed to the Texas Judicial Council by Gov. Greg Abbott. The council studies the court system in Texas and looks for ways to improve it. Gimble's term expires June 30, 2025. He is serving his second term as the district clerk of McLennan County. He is secretary of the McLennan County Bail Bond Board and a member of the District Court Alliance of Texas, and has served two years on the state board of the County and District Clerks Association of Texas.

**'16, PAYTON KEIFER**, BS agricultural sciences in development, has been named Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Pecos County. The extension office is a partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife and provides information on economic development, environmental stewardship, family health and agriculture. Keifer's focus will be on range, forest, livestock, farming and ranching.

**'17, MELLANIE MICKELSON**, MEd in management and leadership, is the new Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent for 4-H and youth development in Bastrop County, responsible for designing, planning and implementing educational and life-skill development programs focused on youth interests. She also will interpret and market 4-H activities to legislators and other key stakeholders and provide guidance, training and oversight to 4-H volunteers and adult leaders.

**'19, LONDON JONES**, BS wildlife sustainability and ecosystem sciences, has joined Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as a family and community health agent for Burnet County. She previously worked as an AgriLife Extension family and community health intern for Brown County. While there, she conducted Better Living for Texans educational programs for youth and adults. She interned in Tarleton's Food and Nutrition Department, where she assisted in coordinating community events, including Dinner Tonight, Better Breathers and Ag Awareness Day.

### CONTACT US

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