

TCU THIS WEEK

EVENTS AND INFORMATION FOR THE TCU COMMUNITY

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PeopleSoft to equip TCU for the future of information

WITH A NEW MILLENNIUM just around the corner, information services departments relying on mainframe computer systems are scrambling to figure out how their systems will handle the year 2000 problem.

The year 2000 problem refers to the inability of software applications to handle dates beyond 1999. Many systems, including TCU's own Legacy system, store date representations as six-digit fields—MM-DD-YY—accounting for only the month, day, and last two digits of the year. Hence, the date June 16, 2000 gets stored in exactly the same way as June 16, 1900 (06-16-00), with the system incapable of distinguishing between the two. After January 1, 2000, any computer calculation using this six-digit date format will yield incorrect results.

This problem, along with the fact that TCU's computer system is no longer state-of-the-art, led to the decision to move TCU from a mainframe environment to a client/server environment. The solution was to purchase and install software from California-based PeopleSoft and the hardware to run it.

Provost Bill Koehler said this will go a long way toward making the University more efficient. "This project was built with the goal of being on the competitive forefront through the leveraging of leading edge technology, enabling people to work faster and more effectively," he said.

PeopleSoft is the leader in developing human resources/financial software and TCU will be among the first 20 higher education institutions to implement the software. Other universities using PeopleSoft include SMU, University of Michigan, Duke and Northwestern. In the business sector, Alcon, Bell Helicopter, Tandy, Pier One and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram have all converted to PeopleSoft systems.

Dave Edmondson, assistant provost for information services, said the acquisition of the new software will once again put TCU on the cutting edge of information management. "It's the Cadillac of the industry," he said.

"Once in place the system will allow registration via the Internet, electronic purchase order generation and much more. Employees will be able to change

benefits and retirement information without going through human resources and they'll even be able to query the system to see how these changes will affect their pay."

While this transformation will not be 100 percent complete until summer 1999, meetings between TCU personnel and Ramos/Cambridge Technology Partners, a consultant group, have already taken place to determine what type of system would best fit TCU's needs.

A four-week scoping workshop in May brought TCU Information Technology Steering Committee members Gay Donohoo (advancement), Kirk Downey (Neeley School), Dave Edmondson (information services), Dick Hoban (controller), Leo Munson (academic affairs) and Carolyn Ulrickson (career services) firmly into the loop on the direction in which the project is headed. TCU will receive three major software modules from PeopleSoft: human resources, finance and student administration. Steering committee members also developed a communication plan to keep the campus informed as to the status of the project. Future plans might include a newsletter and/or Web site with the latest developments as well as frequently asked questions and information on training for the new system.

Currently the project is in the prototyping phase which will be followed by the customization phase, with initial implementation of certain components set for spring 1998. ♦

Neeley School debuts Master of Accounting program for Fall 1997

BEGINNING THIS FALL, the Neeley School will offer a one-year master's program in accounting. The program is in response to recent changes in requirements to sit for the Uniform CPA examination in Texas.

As of August 1997, students must complete 150 total credit hours with 36 hours of study in accounting. This change makes it necessary for a student to complete an additional year of study. The master's program provides incentives for potential accounting professionals to complete the necessary requirements.

Applicants must take the Graduate Management Admissions Test, receive letters of recommendation and complete

EVENTS

Now-June 17

New Student Orientation, session 2

Now-August 31

"Peru Before the Incas" exhibit, Mary Couts Burnett Library.

Now-July 15

African-American Mosaic exhibit, Mary Couts Burnett Library.

June 22-24

New Student Orientation, session 3

June 25-27

New Student Orientation, session 4

June 29-July 1

New Student Orientation, session 5

*Call human resources at ext. 7790 for more information.

an application and self-assessment essay for admission to the program.

The Neeley School is one of several business schools across the country that are developing single-year master's programs to accommodate the new requirements. Earning a master's degree in business administration will also satisfy the additional requirements. ♦

Coliseum gets makeover, Horned Frog style

THANKS IN PART to efforts by the Frog Club and its Paint it Purple fund-raiser, Daniel-Meyer Coliseum's 7,166 lime-green, orange and yellow chairs are being removed, refurbished and repainted purple and gray. Workers from S&J Equipment in Richardson began removing the seats last Monday.

Buck Fielding, project manager, said the workers took the seats apart down to individual slats. The slats were then loaded into the back of an 18-wheeler before being loaded onto a train bound for Country Roads, Inc. in Pennsylvania. Once there they will be stripped, painted and finished before making the return trip to Fort Worth to be reinstalled in early September. The entire project will cost less than replacing the seats with new ones and Paint it Purple, which will continue after the chairs are finished, will help underwrite the cost of the project. Donors of \$100 or more can have a plaque, with the name of the contributor as well as class year if he or she is a TCU alum. Season ticket holders may opt to have the plaque fastened to their regular seats. For more information on the Paint it Purple program, contact the Frog Club at ext. 7700. ♦

TCU joins Columbia as partner in Biosphere 2, students to go to Arizona

TCU AND COLUMBIA University's Biosphere 2 Center have finalized plans that enable us to partner with the unique facility outside Tucson as both a teaching tool and a research platform. TCU is the first of a number of institutions which will eventually work with Columbia to develop a new, experimental campus as a shared venture.

The formal, three-year agreement was signed last week at an on-campus luncheon hosted by Chancellor Tucker. TCU representatives included Provost Bill Koehler, Dean Mike McCracken, Nowell Donovan, Ken Morgan, Leo Newland and Wayne Barcellona.

Under the terms of the partnership and beginning in spring 1998, several TCU students each semester will travel to the Biosphere 2 campus in Oracle, Arizona to participate in "Earth Semester," an interdisciplinary, 16-hour credit course organized around the topic of global climate change, with conservation and water resource management as considerations. TCU students may also attend four or six-week summer sessions for credit.

All courses will be team-taught in biology, geology and earth policy and will include various field trips across Arizona. Sessions will be taught by Columbia University faculty and visiting lecturers, which may include TCU faculty. ♦

TCU THIS WEEK is published every Monday (every other week in the summer) by TCU's Office of Communications. Submit story information, classifieds and calendar items in writing one week before publication.

The office of communications also offers professional services and consultations. Contact us about:

- ♦ publicity planning for events or activities
- ♦ preparing news releases
- ♦ what to do when the news media call

Victor Neil, editor
Sandra Hawk Record, assistant editor
Rick L'Amie, director of communications
Correlia Warthon, assistant director of communications
Nancy Styles, administrative assistant
Brenda Schulte, student assistant

How to reach us:
921-7810
Campus mail: TCU Box 297050
E-mail: NEWS@TCU.EDU
Internet: WWW.COM.TCU.EDU/COM

Printing Services
David Grebel, manager
Joe Lusk

For delivery changes, call Judy Cartmill at 921-7899.

"This will add another dimension to our programs," says Koehler. "The academic thrust is planetary stewardship and enables our students to engage the issue of the future of this planet through the study of physical and life sciences, regulatory and legal issues and demographics. They will be grappling with questions that are humankind's common problems."

Leo Newland says, "From an educational point of view, the Biosphere 2 opportunity is very stimulating." Noting the enthusiastic reaction of students when the possibility of working in Arizona is discussed, Newland says they might as well have been invited to go along on a space shuttle. "Their eyes light up...this is very futuristic," he notes. ♦

Library offers series of summer readings

THE STAFF OF MARY COUTS Burnett Library has invited the campus community to attend "Summer Shorts," a program of readings from their favorite authors each Tuesday in July from noon to 1 p.m. in the lobby.

Jo Klemm opens the month with a storytelling session, "Black-Eyed Peas: A Tale of Frontier Life" on July 1. On July 8, Kerry Bouchard will read Donald Barthelme's "The King of Jazz" and "The Police Band" and James Alan McPherson's "Why I Like Country Music."

Barbara Standlee will read excerpts from humorous travel writer Bill Bryon on July 15. Bob Olsen will read selections from the works of noted child psychiatrist Robert Coles on July 22. Alexia Strout-Dapaz will read from Isabel Allende's "Eva Luna" on July 29.

Food and drink is not allowed in the library lobby. For more information about the series, call Sandy Schrag at 7117. ♦

Buck Fielding celebrates 50 years on the job

BUCK FIELDING MARKED a milestone June 6 ... parlaying a job he took as a teenager into a 50-year career. Now assistant director of Physical Plant, Fielding supervises maintenance of TCU's 50-plus buildings and is certainly the most veteran employee on campus today.

At a recent luncheon, organized by Vice Chancellor Edd Bivin to honor Fielding's service to TCU, Chancellor Tucker presented Buck (an avid deer hunter and football fan) with a pair of Nikon binoculars. Assistant athletic director Mel Thomas presented Buck with a framed TCU football jersey emblazoned with the name "Fielding" above the number "50." ♦

MARKETPLACE

Volunteer Guardians, a program of Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County, is offering training sessions for those interested in becoming court-appointed guardians for incapacitated elderly who need assistance with their personal and/or financial affairs. These training sessions will be held at Broadway Baptist Church, 305 W. Broadway on July 17, 24 and 31 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. each evening. The cost is \$25 which includes a comprehensive training manual and meals, and is refunded when you volunteer.

Volunteer Guardians was organized in 1985 to serve senior citizens unable to handle their own personal and/or financial affairs. These seniors have no family or friends, and some have been abused, exploited or neglected by those they trusted to care for them.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1991 Hotpoint washer and dryer, great working condition, currently in storage. \$225 or best offer. Call Teresa at 294-8168.

FOR SALE: Three-piece sectional couch, includes queen-sized hide-a-bed, corner piece and two recliners, \$600. Call Cynde at ext. 6459 or 7455.

FOR SALE: Armstrong intermediate flute with sterling silver head. \$350. Call Marty at ext. 6540 or 7422 or at 923-0955.

FOR SALE: Kensington 6-string acoustic guitar and case - \$100. Call Jim at ext. 5307, or at home, (817) 413-9958.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The human resources office lists the following vacancies as of June 11. For more information on any of these positions, call ext. 7790.

Director, Office of Extended Education — Extended Education
Director of Major Gifts — Brite Divinity
Residence Hall Director — Residential Services
Hall Director I — Campus Life
Director of the Center for Academic Services — Center for Academic Services
Technical Services Manager — University Advancement
Admissions Counselor — Admissions
Coordinator, Neeley Student Resource Center — M.J. Neeley School of Business
Director, Ranch Management Institute — Ranch Management
Executive Assistant II — VC/University Advancement
Administrative Assistant I — Major Gifts
Administrative Assistant I — Alumni
Data Entry Operator — Admissions
Administrative Program Specialist — Campus Life/ Student Center
Bookstore Assistant I (75%) — University Store
Library Assistant II (75%) — MCB Library
Computer Support Specialist II — Technical Services
Security Guard (75%) — Campus Police
Craft Tech Supervisor I/HVAC — Physical Plant
Craft Tech Supervisor II/Plumbing — Physical Plant
Craft Tech I/Electrical — Physical Plant
Craft Tech I/HVAC — Physical Plant
Craft Tech II/General Maintenance — Physical Plant
Drafting Technician — Physical Plant
Groundskeeper I — Physical Plant