

## **Chapter One – The Founding of Polytechnic College 1890**

In August 1890, Reverend Milton Koger Little bounced around in his buggy examining three tracks offered to Fort Worth Methodists for a new regional college. The Methodist Episcopal Church South Northwest Texas Conference pastors and congregants saw the growth of the city to twenty-thousand in that year's census as an opportunity to educate nearby city youth and those on ranches near and far. Interested Methodists had offered three tracks: a large one in Arlington Heights, a smaller one on the south side of downtown, and fifty acres four miles east of Fort Worth. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, hot as only Texas can be at the end of summer, Little, pastor of Missouri Avenue Church, climbed down from his buggy and drove a stake in the middle of the tract on a hill over a hundred feet above the Trinity River to the north. Early Fort Worth settlers Arch Hall and his brother W.D. Hall, along with their nephew, George Tandy, had offered the site for the college. The North Texas contingent proposed the new college at the conference's November meeting at the fifth-day's afternoon session in Abilene where it was unanimously approved to open a Methodist institute of learning in young, but burgeoning, Fort Worth.

**Fort Worth, 1890 ( in scanned pics, not on list)**

**Tarrant County Courthouse, 1890 (no pic scanned)**

**Founder Arch S. Hall (1)**

**Founder W.D. Hall (2)**

**Founder George Tandy (3)**

Fort Worth had only been a city for seventeen years, incorporated in 1873 with a population near a thousand. It was also barely removed from the frontier encountered by

West Point graduate and Mexican-American War veteran Major Ripley Arnold on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1849. Arnold arrived near the bluff where the first white settlers had settled only months before, with waist-high prairie grasses concealing populations of deer and antelope and bears and panthers. His force contained Company F, Second Dragoons, composed of one officer and forty-two soldiers. Settler George Preston “Press” Farmer, his wife, Jane Woody, and infant daughter, Susan Ann, had survived one Indian attack, losing their log cabin to fire. Arnold enlisted Farmer as the fort’s “sutler” to manage the post and serve as quartermaster. As the community grew around the fort, named for Commander of the Texas troops, Major General William Jenkins Worth, the area gained a doctor, J. M. Standifer, who lived at nearby Johnson Station with his wife and three daughters, and its first civilian store, opened by Archibald F. Leonard.

With reports such as the one Arnold sent in 1849 showing the nearby Indians bringing horses to trade and Wichita chiefs assuring peace, the army moved west abandoning the outpost and locals moved into the structures or used them for their own construction. In November 1849, with the growth of Fort Worth, Birdville, and nearby settlements, the Third Texas Legislature carved a new county out of northern Navarro County. The legislators named the fifty by fifty square-mile parcel for state legislator General Edward H. Tarrant. The 1850 census showed 600 whites and 65 slaves resided in the county. Although county commissioners elected in August chose the nearby community of Birdville as county seat, Fort Worth leadership called upon the legislature to authorize a vote to move the seat to the city. The 1856 election-day encouraged voting with free whiskey, and over the next few months, supporters of each city tried to settle the contested election with street fights and gunfire. After the state settled the matter, sweetened by Fort Worth citizens promising a courthouse, the year 1860 found the new county seat with 6000 residents, including 850 slaves.

Fort Worth's growth, unfortunately, did not continue, as the issue of slavery and state's rights broke out into Civil War in 1861. Although Union Supporter Sam Houston won Texas' governorship, the state voted to secede; Tarrant County's vote for secession had only a 27-vote margin, out of eight hundred voters. The Civil War had a devastating effect on areas of Texas only recently won-over from the frontier. With men away fighting, Indian raids on outlying farms increased and the population found supplies scarce with crop production supporting the southern war effort. The war's end left the city with less than a thousand remaining residents. However, just as settlers had seen the potential of the open prairie in 1849, veterans looked to the west for a new life. The courthouse construction resumed and families arrived, coming through East Texas and up from the port at Galveston. Wagon trails and stage lines made their way to the city.

It was within this history that the Hall and Tandy families made their way to North Texas from Kentucky. Traveling over a year with oxen-yoked wagons filled to their brims with all of the accoutrements of frontier farming life: plows and tools, looms and candle molds, rifles and handguns. Horses and cattle and women and children all walked behind, sometimes moving so slowly that a rider went back for embers from the previous night's campfire! Arriving in 1852, they found Fort Worth little changed from Arnold's first view. Arch Hall, his younger brother, W.D., and their brother-in-law Roger Tandy eagerly searched out their land boundaries southeast of the old fort site: the Halls had a 320-acre parcel, with Tandy having an additional 320 acres running from what is now Lancaster Avenue to Stop Six and back to Collard Avenue. Building log cabins and planting corn and wheat, the families prospered, constructing nicer homes within a few years with East Texas Pine. The area around popular Tandy Lake soon became a small village with the Manchester Cotton Mill and post office inside.

Regardless of their prosperity, the Halls were not untouched by the Civil War. Although the families came from a middle state where many tried to remain out of the fighting, W.D. served the Confederacy. While imprisoned, he devoted himself to learning, especially Latin. Upon his return, he taught in Tandy Lake's first school on Sycamore Creek. Arch Hall donated land for a second private school in 1883 where Tennessean Mary Young taught the Hall and Tandy children and tenants.

Despite the hardships of the Civil War years, Fort Worth and the nearby settlements were poised for growth. The first cattle drive in 1867 on its way to Kansas was followed over the next few years by herds with as many as 75,000 head of cattle and ten to twelve cattle-drivers. Fort Worth, or "Cowtown," soon supplied not only food stuffs and frontier gear, but had a thriving stockyard with its own Hell's Half Acre, offering baths, whiskey, and prostitutes. In 1873, the Katy Railroad completed a line from St. Louis to nearby Denison and began shipping cattle out of Fort Worth and the city's importance to the industry was without competition. The opening of the first bank, the publishing of competing newspapers, the completion of the courthouse, and the visits to Fort Worth by railroad magnates were clear signs Fort Worth was on the edge of a boom in the mid-seventies.

It was the rumor of expansion of the Texas and Pacific Railroad that excited Fort Worth businessmen. Railroad magnate Thomas A. Scott had traveled through the city seeking the westward route of the rails from Marshall and Jefferson in east Texas. When construction began, speculators rushed to the Fort Worth, fueled by stories in the *Democrat* and the *Standard*. Editor B.B. Paddock published his Tarantula Map with nine lines coming into the center of Fort Worth. The Texas Legislature encouraged the expansion to Fort Worth, granting large land grants as long as the T & P reached the city by January 1, 1874. Prominent city fathers promised 320

acres under the same requirement. Notwithstanding the financial panic of 1873 and Scott's own financial collapse, railroad construction rushed to complete the line to the city before the new deadline, the closing of the Constitutional Convention of 1857. Tarrant County Representative Nicholas Darnell, carried into the chamber on a cot, voted no to an adjournment and managed to give the engineers the fifteen extra days needed to reach the city's edge, even if some of the rails were laid on dirt roads and the ties over Sycamore Creek lacked a trestle. The arrival on July 19, 1876, at 11:23, of No. 20 steam engine heralded the city as the place where everything could be found, newspapers, theaters, saloons, and painted women. Growth was so quick that housing could not keep up and by 1877 a thousand people lived in tents nearby.

#### **Put map of Tarantula Railroad lines here**

Despite the city's reputation by 1880 as the wildest town in the western part of Texas, Fort Worth founders and citizens had laid a firm civil foundation for the city. The need of Fort Worth citizens for religious and fraternal gathering was met in the early years first with ten masons meeting in 1854 to form the Blue Lodge. Their first Hall, on East Belknap and Grove built in 1857, opened its first floor for school and church meetings. Almost all denominations had representatives in the community, but most were too small to support their own preacher or build their first building. Although the Disciples of Christ were the first to build their own worship site in 1857, the Methodists soon followed. With the first Methodist sermon in Fort Worth being preached by John W. Chalk in 1855, the Texas Conference created the Fort Worth District in 1856 with the services held at the Masonic Hall. With their numbers large enough to support a church, they built a one-room building on Fourth and Jones downtown. The Fourth Street Methodist Church soon moved the original structure to build a new church, becoming First

Methodist in 1890. With the city's growth, Methodist adherents built two more churches, Mulkey Methodist and Missouri Avenue Methodist to serve their growing congregation.

**First Methodist Church (scanned pics, not on list)**

**Mulkey Church (scanned pics, not on list)**

**Missouri Avenue Church (scanned pics, not on list)**

It was therefore not unexpected that the Fort Worth District began to envision its own institution of higher learning. The Methodist Episcopal Church established its first school, Cokesbury College, in Abingdon, Maryland, in 1784 at its first conference. Bishop Francis Asbury admonished its churches to provide schools to further the training of its members. Resolutions in the 1820s encouraged each conference to build colleges in their boundaries. During the Texas Republic, Texas Methodists built three institutions: the first in higher learning in Texas at Rutgersville College (1840), McKenzie College (Clarksville, 1841), and Wesleyan College (San Augustine, 1943), with only the northern Methodist supported Soule University of Chappell Hill (1856) surviving the Civil War. After the war, the Methodist Episcopal Church South founded its first college, Southwestern, at Georgetown in 1873.

The Northwest Texas Conference held its twenty-fifth meeting in November in 1890 in Abilene. It was at this meeting presided over by Bishop Joseph S. Key, DD, the Fort Worth leadership emphasized the necessity for a new college to serve the city's growing population. Reverend Little's survey of the land offered for the college had already resulted in agreement to accept the Hall and Tandy offering. The Andrews and Tandy Real Estate and Loan Brokers detailed the Hall and Tandy gift to the college. The campus' twenty-five acre site was cut out of

the approximately 360 acre gift. The agreement deeded 140 acres to the Trustees for ten years. The plotted streets and alleys with 50 by 150 feet lots would furnish one-half of the proceeds to the college, with the remainder rescinded to A.S. Hall. Any unsold land reverted to A.S. Hall. A third provision plotted W.D. Hall land adjacent to his brother's to be sold in the same manner. The agreement further stated that proceeds up to one-hundred thousand dollars were meted to building costs and anything above to go into an endowment.

**Dillow Grocery Store**

**Dillow Grocery Truck**

**Dillow House**

**Put plat of college here (pic not scanned)**

**Bishop Joseph Key (scanned pic, not on list)**

Bishop Key immediately set to obtaining a charter, appointing thirteen trustees. The Texas Secretary of State charter authorized a private corporation under state law for educational purposes on December 23, 1890. The Polytechnic College of the Methodist Episcopal Church South could now begin operations, providing instruction beyond that of a classical or literary nature. Poly-technical or Arts and Mechanical colleges had sprung up after the 1862 Morrill Act authorized the sale of federal lands to fund state colleges that taught students subjects in addition to the traditional arts and letters. The Methodist Church South's Southwestern College at Georgetown and the Methodist North Fort Worth Texas Wesleyan College taught the classics and literary arts to the exclusion of the newer fields of commerce and industry. Fort Worth's

growing industrial base made a ripe location for the newer educational focus on college instruction in many areas, thus “poly.”

**Polytechnic College First President, J. W. Adkisson, 1892-94 (check initials, in scanned pics, not on list)**

**Pictures here from Centennial Album p 2:**

**Skyline**

**Interurban Streetcar**

**Boosters**

**Farmer’s Club**

The trustees proceeded to engage Reverend J. W. Adkisson as president. Adkisson, born in Missouri in 1841, was described as “an erudite scholar and an eloquent preacher.” Beginning his preaching in 1861, he served as a high school principal for seven years. In 1873 the Methodist Mississippi Conference appointed him president of East Mississippi Female College in Meridian. Transferred to the Northwest Texas Conference in 1883, he was president of the Central College in Sulphur Springs when the Polytechnic board met on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to elect him to lead Fort Worth’s new institution. By September he had opened the college with eleven faculty and one hundred and five students enrolled in the Department of Liberal arts, Languages, and Literature, with the sciences and music following the next year. The catalogue also promised the practical and mechanical programs to follow giving instruction in business and professional life. The entrance exam consisted of English grammar, arithmetic, algebra, Caesar’s Gallic Wars, and Greek grammar and lessons. The college also offered first and second grade

primary classes for children of the new community growing nearby. Without sufficient educational opportunities, many students arrived without high school training. The preparatory program enrolled students, enabling their passing of the required entrance exam. If the student was not known by the president or faculty, they also furnished a letter of reference attesting to their industriousness and moral character.

**Put picture of Ladye Dennis here**

Once admitted the young men and women of the college followed a strict personal and academic schedule. Young men boarded in a dormitory located across the street from the main quad, with the young women residing in the president's home under the "immediate care and supervision of his wife." Ladye Dennis, an 1895 Polytechnic College graduate, reminisced in 1966 at the age of 92 that the college hosted an occasional Open House allowing the students to mix. Despite the faculty efforts to supervise, Dennis with "that merry twinkle in her eyes" admitted to meeting her future husband, E.P. Hall, on the Poly grounds. It is likely that other young women agreed with Dennis about the catalog's "Rules for Young Ladies Boarding in the College":

1. All must retire and have lights out by ten o'clock.
2. Rise at six, breakfast at seven.
3. No one allowed to be late at meals or absent from meals unless sick enough to be in bed.
4. All must go to Sunday school and church unless sick enough to be in bed.
5. *No young lady permitted to receive young gentlemen callers*, or visitors of any kind except near relatives or very special friend, for a short time.
6. Young ladies not allowed to visit in the city or to spend the night away from the College, except with a near relative.
7. No young lady allowed to correspond with gentlemen, or with any on besides her immediate family, *except on written permission of parents*. Careful supervision of all letters written and received will be exercised.
8. Girls and young ladies must take a long walk every afternoon, in company with one of the teachers. This is in the interest of good health, and none will be excused except for sickness.
9. Other regulations relating to study hours, or matters of prudence and propriety will

be announced as needed.

Students commuted to the college using the Polytechnic Street Car Line, built by George Tandy in 1892. Students and faculty using the line often had to assist the mules on the Vickery hill by getting out and pushing. However they arrived at campus, they attended classes from 9-12 and then again from 1-3:45, with every other minute of the day arranged for them. Personal care, eating, prayer and Bible study, and recreation all had their set time, with study from 7:30 to 9:00. The week ended with a Friday evening prayer service. The students had a bit more latitude on Saturday with no classes, but the regular daily schedule held, with the exception of morning letter-writing or other domestic activities and faculty approved activities in the afternoon. Sunday held opportunities for Sunday school at the college and worship in the morning at the city's various churches. Sunday night faculty and student ministers preached at the college.

### **Put student schedule here**

The Poly Catalogue also, in addition to declaiming its academic credentials and the students' learning opportunities, declared the College to have a "charming landscape, pure atmosphere" on a bluff two miles from the temptations of the city. The College assured parents their sons' distance from the temptations and allures of city, declaring neither the parents nor the College were want to allow their sons to fall prey to unwholesome activities. The College, therefore, to offer distractions other than classes and church, offered three societies the first year. The Epworth League, a Methodist organization open to both sexes, promoted religious piety and mission education. Two literary societies, the Susan M. Key for women, named for Bishop Key's wife, declared "victory crowned labor" and sported a white and gold and chose the daisy as it flower. Both the Key Society and the Philosophian Literary Society for men, involved their

members in discussion, recitation, and sketches on historical, scientific, literary, and artistic topics. Above all, the wide intellectual, religious, professional, and business opportunities of the Polytechnic College's proximity to what Reverend W.F. Lloyd in the *Wesleyan Advocate* described as "the most delightful city for residences from New Orleans to San Francisco" made the newest Fort Worth college a tremendous draw.

**Ann Waggoner, 1893 (scanned pic, not sure which it is on list)**

**Polytechnic Administration Building, 1902**

**Polytechnic Panorama (scanned pic, not on list)**

To welcome its one hundred and seventy three students the first year, the college's board quickly hired J.J. Kane & Son to design the first building, a mansard-roofed three-story structure. With only ten thousand dollars available, contractors built only the south wing facing Rosedale Street, slicing off a story. This building, later with additions to be Ann Waggoner Hall, served as administration offices and classrooms. A two-story frame structure to the east became the promised men's dorms, and on the southwest corner local Methodists built a frame chapel and church to serve students and local residents. Whereas there were no homes nearby except for the Hall and Tandy homesteads a half-mile to the east and north, families eager to send their sons and daughters to the college and remove themselves from what one father called the "shenanigans" of the city, bought lots and the a community of Polytechnic Heights grew up around the college's twenty-five acre center.

From 1892 to 1899, the college's surroundings, academics, and administration evolved slowly. The year the college opened, businessman Samuel Selkirk Dillow moved from

Grapevine, opening a grocery store across the street to the south. The second year, the college added its science program with classes in physics, chemistry, math, zoology, and botany. Non-degree seeking courses were added in the music program, with the 1892 catalog proclaiming the quality of the program and comparing it to the nationally acclaimed Cincinnati Conservatory. These program courses also included elocution, voice, chorus, art, and book-keeping. With degree-seeking students increasing from 105 to 165 the second year, the school proudly announced in the 1894 catalog the addition of a School of Commerce. With Fort Worth business growth, the college met training needs with courses in book-keeping, penmanship, business practice, commercial law, correspondence, and shorthand. The end of that academic year, in the spring of 1895, Polytechnic College graduated its first two students, C. L. Browning, with a Master of Arts, and its first undergraduate, T.L. Rippey, with a Bachelor of Science.

### **C. L. Browning, First Graduate 1892 (scanned pic,**

Changes in the academic offerings continued through the next few years. The 1895 Catalog listed Bachelor of Arts and Sciences, an Arts Masters (AM), and a two-year degree for women, Mistress of Literature. The school was arranged into two schools, the liberal arts, and the school of commerce. The other programs were listed as departments and courses. In 1897, the school organized the disciplines into Schools of English, History, Latin, Science, and others.

There were also changes in Polytechnic College's administration. During February of the school's second year, the bankruptcy of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad signaled the beginning of the Panic of 1893. The resulting loss in investments and run on banks created business losses, especially in railroading, Fort Worth's main source of financial growth.

Unemployment in Texas spread into farming also with an ongoing drought. These lean economic times were difficult also for the college, as it depended on the sale of the nearby lots to build its physical plan and endowment. Hard times called for change in leadership with President Adkisson resigning at the end of the 1893 to 1894 term.

**Polytechnic College President, W.F. Lloyd, 1894-1899 (scanned pic, not on list)**

The Methodist leadership called on minister of First Methodist Fort Worth, Dr. W.F. Lloyd to step up to the position. Born in Georgia in 1855, he began preaching in 1873, being appointed to increasingly more important positions. In 1890, the Northwest Texas Conference accepted his transfer to First Methodist Fort Worth, where he held the position until 1894, even being paid by the church while president of the college as it could not afford his salary. President Lloyd contributed over seven thousand dollars of his own funds to pay salaries and other college expenses. Despite the difficult times, Dr. Lloyd saw the growth of the library to twenty-five thousand volumes and the construction of a two story, eight room classroom building. In October 1895 the board of trustees gave stock in the Polytechnic Building and Loan to supporters of the college to secure their loans to the college. Most turned around and gave the stock back, keeping the college going until times began to improve by 1896. In March 1899, having lost all of the income from the Poly Heights lots that had sold as these loans too were foreclosed, trustees called a meeting at Fort Worth's City Hall to raise funds for the college. Bishop Charles B. Galloway, convincing the listeners of the value of a Christian education, raised funds to cover the college's indebtedness. This was despite the growing opposition

among Texas Methodist and supporters of Southwestern University at Georgetown that saw Polytechnic College as interfering with the older institutions' role.

**Polytechnic College Interim President R. B. McSwain (in scanned pics, not on list)**

**Polytechnic College President G. J. Nunn, 1900-1902**

When Lloyd resigned suddenly at the end of the 1899 session, Methodist leadership appointed Professor of Ancient and Modern Languages, R.B. McSwain, MA, President Pro-tem for the next school year. McSwain left to become a faculty member at Southwestern. In 1904 he became the president of Epworth College, a new Methodist institution in Oklahoma City. Professor of Latin and Modern Languages, J.G. Nunn, MA, took the office of president in the fall of 1900. Although income was still low and dependent on tuition, the college through support of its donors built a new women's dorm. In April 1902, Nunn resigned after two difficult financial years. The Board of Trustees, searching for a strong administrator and fundraiser, and with the recommendation of Bishop Key, elected Hiram Abiff Boaz to the presidency of the college asking him to devote as much time as possible to the college immediately.

**President H.A. Boaz, 1902-**

Boaz, born in Kentucky in 1866, spent most of his youth working his family's farm in Benbrook. He attended Sam Houston Normal Institute and afterward taught school in Fort Worth, planning to practice law on his way to a life of politics. Instead he received a call to preach and after several years, mentors suggested a higher degree. Intending to go to Vanderbilt, church leaders persuaded him to stay in the state and go to Southwestern for his Bachelors. After

attaining his BS, he stayed an additional year to finish his MA. Within a month of graduating from Southwestern University, Fort Worth's Presiding Elder Dr. W.L. Nelms of Fort Worth asked him to serve as assistant pastor to First Methodist Fort Worth, aiding Dr. W. F. Lloyd, the newly appointed Polytechnic College president, until the Northwest Conference met in November. At the conference that fall in Hillsboro, he received his first full-time pastorate at the second-oldest Fort Worth Methodist church, Mulkey Memorial. He subsequently served at Abilene and Dublin where he secured new sanctuaries and parsonages.

President Boaz, finding the college's debts larger than its assets, immediately set out to bring funds into the college. As students were one of the main sources of income, an instructional building was first on his list. Raising funds and building only what was paid for, businessmen and board members William J. Boaz (unrelated to the president) and George Mulkey built the first phase of the Dublin rock building in 1902. After an expansion in 1909 it contained the administrative offices, the college store, the library, the literary society meeting rooms, and the auditorium. Boaz even enlisted physics professor J.D. Boon to design and oversee the construction of additions to the old main building at a cost of \$28,000 in 1905. Also in 1904, George Mulkey built a men's dormitory on the North side of the campus, housing one hundred. The building also had a two-hundred person dining hall. The college addressed the women's housing issue by adding on to the campus' first building. The women's dorm now held eighty students, a reception hall, and a dining hall.

### **Put 1908 panorama of buildings here**

After addressing the pressing needs for instruction and student accommodations, by 1906 Boaz embarked on additional building projects. With the music program's growing reputation and student numbers, Boaz again asked Boon to design the Boaz-Benbrook Conservatory, a

\$9,000 brick building with offices and classes on the bottom floor and rooms for music students on the second. The school named the building after the President's mother, Louisa Ann Ryan Boaz, and stepfather, J.M. Benbrook. Next the college built a new science building with classrooms and labs for \$15,000. Finally, the administration completed the gym in 1909 at a cost of \$10,000. Students had actually raised funds to lay the foundation in the 1905-1906 year but were unable to complete it. On September 17, according to the school's newspaper, *The Independent*, the Polytechnic community celebrated with "songs, cheers, and speeches," a grand opening of the new brick building's running track, basketball court, two-lane bowling alley and the colleges heating plant. Polytechnic Heights-residents were excited as the building also housed a new YMCA. Women students, furthermore, were gratified to be offered the gym two days a week as they were already practicing to begin intercollegiate basketball.

**"Thou Shall Not" Cartoon**

***Panther City Parrot Yearbook***

***The Independent Newspaper***

Boaz' administration saw the college grow not just in its physical plant but in the student body. Each year enrollment reached its maximum, with the 1906-1907 enrollment in collegiate classes reaching 712. Students attending non-degree courses raised the number to 802. The college printed its first yearbook in 1906, with the *Panther City Parrot*, dedicated to Bishop Key. Young men occupied themselves with sports, playing baseball, football, and basketball, with intercollegiate sports beginning during these years. *The Independent*, exhorted fans to attend the annual Thanksgiving football game, played in 1909 against Fort Worth University. Necessary to the life of a college, the newspaper called upon students to buy a subscription at a cost of fifty

cents per year. An editorial in its first issue, September 18, 1909, brashly called for a loosening of the rules governing male-female behavior and interaction. The *Fort Worth Star Telegram* picked up on the story and ran a “Thou Shall Not” cartoon, bringing city attention to the campus. Both young women and men also attended the many literary society meetings, publishing a journal, the *Polytechnian*, holding fiction, poems, and famous speeches of the day. The student body also unilaterally changed its mascot from a parrot to a panther, with the football players wearing black jerseys with a red “P.”

In 1910 the growing attention of the city and Methodists given to Polytechnic College began to stir interest in creating a new educational institution to serve the growing Fort Worth and Dallas region. Although alumni and supporters of Southwestern, founded in 1873, put forth that school as a candidate for the increased funding, boosters in north Texas proposed a new school be built where the Methodist population resided. Besides, Southwestern did not have the advantage of easy transportation with the railroad and Interurban stops that the north provided. President Boaz received both positive and negative treatment from interested parties over the next several months for his position. With Southwestern raising significant funds for a new memorial hall signaling its intent to make itself the pre-eminent college, Boaz and Fort Worth leaders even offered to Southwestern the Polytechnic grounds and a \$250,000 endowment to move to the city. When made public, outcries emerged from supporters and opponents, with some decrying this break among Methodism. Finally, in the five Texas Conference meetings in the fall, attendees voted to create an Educational Committee to make the determination concerning the question of a new university and the outcome of any remaining institutions.

Over the next several months, Fort Worth and Dallas Methodists and interested business and political leaders campaigned for the new institution. Financiers offered dinners and adults

and children waved flags as the committee toured the offered sites. Both cities offered land and cash incentives and many believed Fort Worth's package worth more. When the committee met on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1911, the decision went to Dallas. Until the new Southern Methodist University opened the Educational Committee controlled the functioning of both Southwestern and Polytechnic, appointing a new Committee to run each college from its own membership. Whereas Southwestern retained its status, Polytechnic College was to be a new college for Methodist women. From 1911 to 1914, students graduating from the college received diplomas reading "Polytechnic College of Southern Methodist University."

The years 1911-1914 were difficult for the college. Students were not sure of the college's future and many male students transferred out immediately. Faculty members were not confident of their positions. Adding further to the discontent, Boaz resigned in May to become Vice-president of the new Southern Methodist institution, fundraising for the new school in Dallas. The Educational Commission appointed Reverend Frank Culver, of Birmingham, Alabama, to the presidency of the college. Culver resigned in November 1912 to return to the ministry, expressing deep concern about the college's \$60,000 debt. Dean R. A. Hearon finished out the school year. Hearing of the college's distress and disappointed in his own position as vice-president at SMU, Dr. Boaz resigned his position to return to Polytechnic. Determined to leave the institution in good stead as it became Texas Woman's College, within the year, Boaz had secured promises of \$40,000 to reduce the school's debt. In September 1914, Texas Woman's College welcomed its first students to the newly named school.

## **Chapter Two: Texas Woman's College**

The transition years 1911-1914 were difficult for the “little college on the hill.” Faculty members were not confident of their positions. Students were not sure of the college’s future and many male students transferred out immediately. Those students who remained to graduate from the college received diplomas reading “Polytechnic College of Southern Methodist University.” One such student was David Fentress Guion, who became a leading American composer and arranger of Western folk music, including the most popular versions of cowboy songs “Home on the Range,” “Turkey in the Straw,” and “Arkansas Traveller.” Another Polytechnic College alum was Paul S. Hollis, later a trustee of Texas Wesleyan College, and inventor of “Poly Pop,” a powdered soft drink popular on the campus and in the city. (#1) (#2)

Adding further to the uncertainty, Boaz resigned in May to become Vice-president of the new Southern Methodist institution, and began fundraising for the new school in Dallas. The Educational Commission appointed Reverend Frank Culver, of Birmingham, Alabama, to the presidency of Polytechnic College, but Culver resigned in November 1912 to return to the ministry, expressing deep concern about the college’s \$60,000 debt. Hearing of the college’s distress and disappointed in his own position as vice-president at SMU, Dr. Boaz left to return to Polytechnic and preside over the transition to its new function as a woman’s college. Within the year Boaz had secured pledges of \$40,000 to reduce the school’s debt.

In September 1913, the Methodist Educational Commission resolved that Polytechnic College remain in Fort Worth as a “Grade A” college for women. On May 13, 1914, the Board of Trustees officially adopted the name Texas Woman’s College, a “name clearly expressive of its purpose.” (#3)

The new college began to recruit students by promising parents that their daughters “would be safe at a Christian college.” The Catalogue of 1914 calmed parents fears by

understanding that “many parents hesitate to send their daughters away for fear they will miss the care and culture they receive at home.” To reassure the anxious parents, the catalogue continued, “The girls live in the midst of comfortable and attractive surroundings. Each teacher mingles with his students to know them better and find out their needs. The standards are high and are rigidly maintained.” Costs to attend T.W.C. were reasonable; the nine month school year was divided into three terms, and total tuition, room, board, and fees amounted to \$261.00 for all three terms. (#4) (#5)

Formal opening ceremonies for Texas Woman’s College were held in the auditorium of the Administration Building on September 24, 1914. Local residents, alumni of Polytechnic College, dignitaries from Fort Worth, and new women students from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Mississippi attended. Speakers predicted that Texas Woman’s College would “soon become the leading college of its kind in the Southwest.”

That September, 317 girls and eight faculty members began classes on a campus that contained six buildings: the original Ann Waggoner Hall built in 1891 and since remodeled twice (in 1905 and 1913) provided a dormitory and dining hall for eight-six girls; and the five buildings built during President Boaz’s tenure as head of Polytechnic College—the Administration Building housing classrooms, offices, the auditorium and the library, and the “society halls;” the Science Building, a two-story structure built in 1906 “thoroughly equipped with the latest in scientific equipment” for Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and the Household Arts and Sciences; the Boaz-Benbrook Conservatory, a three-story Fine Arts building finished in 1906 containing teachers’ studios and student practice rooms on the first floor and a dormitory on the second and third floor for women studying Fine Arts; and the Gymnasium with its basketball courts and bowling alleys. These buildings provided space for the four schools of

Texas Woman's College: the College of Liberal Arts; the Preparatory School; the School of Fine Arts; and the School of Household Arts and Sciences.

The School of Fine Arts was the largest of the degree-granting schools at Texas Woman's College, and its Dean, Carl Venth, the most famous member of the college faculty. Dean Venth was born in Cologne, Germany, and studied violin at the city's conservatory. At eighteen, he was the concert master of the Utrecht Symphony Orchestra and the Flemish Opera House and later concert master of the Offenbach *Opera Comique* in Paris. After immigrating to the United States in 1880, he performed as a violin soloist for four years before joining the Metropolitan Opera House Orchestra. In 1908, he organized the Venth Violin School of Brooklyn and founded and conducted the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra. Venth moved to North Texas in 1908 to direct the violin department at Kidd-Key College in Sherman. In 1911 he helped to resurrect the Dallas Symphony and became its music director, a position he held until 1914. In that year, he left Dallas to become Dean of Texas Woman's College's School of Fine Arts and concurrently, to become the music director of the Fort Worth Symphony. He and his wife Cathinka, a pianist, introduced the European romantic musical tradition to Texas Woman's College students and attracted other conservatory-trained faculty to the School. (#5) (#6)

Academic standards and requirements notwithstanding, students at T.W.C (as Texas Woman's College was known) left plenty of room in their schedules for extra-curricular pursuits. So much so that the college wrote parents that "we especially beg that they will not write for students to come home on a visit, or give permission for them to go to fairs, expositions, circuses, etc. We cannot do much with them if these diversions are allowed to interfere." Rules adopted by T.W.C. in 1914 attempted to enforce the high standards expected of its students. Young women were expected to attend all Fine Arts recitals, and attendance at the

Majestic (a vaudeville emporium) or “other places of amusement” was “absolutely forbidden.” On exceptional occasions, however, young ladies might be permitted to attend “high-class” plays, but only with written permission from their parents.

If attendance at vaudeville performances was forbidden, T.W.C. students found plenty of other activities fill their days. The two literary societies established for women in the Polytechnic days, the Susan M. Key society and Korosophian, continued to be the center of most social activities, sponsoring teas and dances, as well as lectures, debates, and musical programs. Competition between the two societies was intense. Both groups organized annual overnight outings to Lake Worth, where young ladies wearing knickers and big straw hats drove motor boats, ate hamburgers, and rode the merry-go-round. Each dormitory also organized its own club and held dances. One young woman reported that the Ann Waggoner Hall fall party was especially well-attended by “lots of boys” and “everyone [had] a great time.” (#7) (#8)

Many clubs made their appearance in the first decade of Texas Woman’s College. The Young Women’s Christian Organization (YWCA) began in 1914 with a membership of sixty-seven. The YWCA sponsored the Fall Carnival, always held on the weekend closest to Halloween, and crowned a Carnival Queen. A Glee Club also started in 1914 with twenty members and presented *a capella* performances on the campus and around Fort Worth. The Thespian Club began to present three plays a year in the 1914-1915 academic year, and, “since public speaking has become an important factor in the young woman’s education, an Oratorical Association organized to stage an oratorical contest and debate every year.

Student publications also began in the first years of Texas Woman’s College. A yearbook began publication in 1915, the *Texwoco*, and the student newspaper, *The Handout*,

earned its title in 1917 from the brown-bag Sunday evening meal handed out to all students in the dining halls. (#9) (#10)

Festivals and pageants also provided diversions from the young ladies. In the spring, dormitories held open houses and receptions to celebrate Washington's Birthday. When fall came, over 200 T.W.C. students performed another pageant about Joan of Arc at the State Fair of Texas. Other traditions involved the separate classes. In the fall, freshmen crowned the Freshman Queen; on Junior Day in the spring, juniors planted a tree on the campus and held a banquet in the evening; the first day of May marked the beginning of Sophomore Week, when the sophomores hung baskets of wildflowers around campus and celebrated with a weekend party at Lake Worth. (#11)

But the most eagerly anticipated event of the spring was the May Fête, held to coincide with Homecoming for alumni. The first May Fête was held in 1915. Lucy Pope was elected May Queen by the student body in December, and then the lucky young woman selected her friends as attendants. Wearing an elaborate gown and escorted by her father, the Queen and her procession paraded from the Administration Building to a clump of trees known as "the Jungle" where the president of the student body crowned her. Following the ceremony, the faculty gave a banquet to honor the May Queen. By the end of the decade, an extravagant pageant, often designed and composed by Dean Carl Venth, had been added to the festival. In 1919, the student paper, *The Handout*, described how "with myriads of different colored lights, a beautiful moon, and thousands of twinkling stars overhead, the campus of Texas Woman's College was changed into a veritable fairyland." In 1920, the pageant was a series of vignettes of fairytale characters—Cinderella, Snow White, Robin Hood, King Arthur, Pied Piper, Prince Charming, and Hansel and Gretel—held outside on the "college green." Queen Willie Galiga of

Midlothian, “the sweetest, prettiest, and most suitable girl on campus,” presided over the 1920 Fête.

(#12) (#13) (#14)

By the end of the first decade of Texas Woman’s College, restrictions had eased and the young women students were enjoying outings with young men in “motor cars” and even attending the Majestic Vaudeville Theater. In 1919, “moving pictures” arrived on campus. The first “movie” shown was a five-reel picture, “The Uplifters,”—“wholesome, clean, laugh-provoking, and cleaver throughout.” The film was the first of a series—for thirty weeks, two films per week would be shown at a cost of \$4.00 for sixty films. On the first evening, three reels of travel, current events, history, and comedy would be shown; on the second, a five-reel picture of the “best and latest” pictures, including “Daddy Long Legs,” “Peggy Does Her Darndest,” “Deluxe Annie,” and “Julius Caesar.”

Serious world events did intrude on the college activities. In 1917, when the United States reluctantly entered the “Great War,” student government passed a resolution of support for President Woodrow Wilson; “realizing that a condition of war calls for sacrifice upon the part of every citizen,” the young women pledged themselves to “economy and sacrifice” for the war effort. President Wilson replied with a warm personal note. A Red Cross chapter organized on the campus, and every girl was encouraged to learn to knit and told that “to be stylish” she must carry her knitting bag. When Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, arrived, the campus celebrated. A flag was raised, the chapel rang with patriotic songs, and dinner that night included Veal á la Woodrow Wilson and Patriotic Ice Cream.

“New” was the watchword of the 1920s, and the college offered new courses in journalism, physical education, home economics, public speaking, kindergarten teaching,

accounting, stenography, and typewriting. Academics were reorganized, with the Schools of Fine Arts and Household Arts and Sciences absorbed into the College of Liberal Arts. In 1922, Texas Woman's College joined the smaller colleges in Texas, in organizing a Scholarship Society to recognize the top ten percent academically of the junior and senior classes. By 1924, enrollment in the School of Liberal Arts reached 350, with seven states represented in the student body, and the faculty grew from the original eight to twenty. An Alumni Association began in 1920 and organized a Homecoming celebration to coincide with the May Fête.

Debates provided both education and entertainment for T.W.C. students during the 1920s. Topics ranged from Resolved: that the child labor amendment should be ratified, to Resolved: that exams should be abolished. One especially humorous topic resolved that “riding in a buggy is more romantic than riding in a Ford.” The Affirmative team argued that buggy riding was more peaceful and that “Romeo may tie the reins thus leaving both arms free with which to carry on his side of the conversation.” The Negative team countered that “horses carry tails!” *The Handout* reported no decision reached. (#15)

New traditions at Texas Woman's also appeared in the decade of the Roaring Twenties. President Dr. Henry Stout brought a ceremony to Texas Woman's from his own alma mater, Central College in Missouri—the “wedding” of “Miss Old Girl” to “Miss New Girl.” Symbolizing the induction of new freshmen into the community of TWC, a freshman “bride” was “married in friendship” to the student body president by the president of the college. After the first ceremony, held in September 1919, Dr. Stout commented that “the groom was unaccustomed to wearing trousers!” (#16)

In 1925, seniors began to receive their caps and gowns from the hands of the faculty at a special assembly held in February. They would wear those academic gowns every Wednesday at

chapel and other special events from February to May. The Korosophian Literary Society introduced “rush week” in 1927, when freshmen girls were chosen for membership. Within a year, both literary societies held elaborate rush parties for prospective members, including a “Gypsy Campfire” in Sycamore Park, a “Colonial Tea” in Ann Waggoner Hall, and a “Progressive Calendar Party,” with entertainments of the four seasons at different places on the campus. (#17)

A new campus beauty also appeared—the “Smile Girl,” chosen for her charming smile of joy and happiness.” In 1927, while speaking at an assembly, Judge J. H. Burney, a member of Texas Woman’s Board of Trust, remarked that every girl at T.W.C. had a \$100 smile. He offered that amount as a prize to the girl with the prettiest smile. President Stout accepted his offer and held a campus-wide election to elect the first Smile Girl—Willie Mae Lee. (#18)

However, not everything new was acceptable at Texas Woman’s College. In November 1921, students began a “crusade against jazz, bobbed hair, and foolish and improper dress.” T.W.C. students should not wear clothing that was “too scanty, too low, or too short”—knees of T.W.C. students should not be visible! *The Handout* reported that the T.W.C. student should “wear a little powder, a wee bit o’ paint, but never let your complexion appear what it ain’t.” (#19)

Although new academic standards and scholastic achievement brought increased enrollment to Texas Woman’s College in the 1920s, problems remained. Financial troubles haunted T.W.C. from its inception. Texas Woman’s College had no initial endowment, but its charter claimed “assets in hand, including real and personal property including the promises of subscriptions, amounting to over \$400,000.” Unfortunately, the new college also had considerable debts. Not all of the promised funds secured by new President Boaz had

materialized, and a new building campaign added to the college deficit. Crowded conditions in the dormitories made the addition of a new dorm essential, and in 1917, Mrs. Ann Waggoner gave the college \$25,000 for a building to be named after her late husband. Mrs. Waggoner continued to be a principle benefactor of the college; eventually three buildings on the campus would bear the Waggoner name. The new dorm had rooms for sixty girls and cost \$40,000, partially offset by the Waggoner gift, but also adding to the college debt. (#20)

Another new addition to the campus came when Polytechnic Methodist Church became part of T.W.C. The campus church, located on the corner of the college property bordering Rosedale and Wesleyan streets, had remained the property of the Methodist Church during the first years of the college, but the college's growing enrollment and the church's growing congregation reconciled the needs of both institutions. The college bought the church property, which became a new Fine Arts Auditorium, and paid for it with a borrowed \$25,000 plus three lots adjoining Dan Waggoner Hall that the church would use for its new sanctuary. Remodeling the building was possible thanks to a gift of \$30,000.00 from Mrs. Waggoner, at that time the largest single gift to T.W.C., and the building was named in her honor as the Ann Waggoner Fine Arts Building. (#21)

By the time Polytechnic Church was added to the campus, President Boaz had resigned to accept the position as Secretary of the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. His replacement, Dr. J.D. Young, Vice-President of the College since 1915, served only a few months. The Board of Trustees considered many candidates and chose as the next president of Texas Woman's College Dr. Henry E. Stout, former president of Howard-Payne College for Women in Fayette, Missouri. (#22)

The first years of the Stout administration saw the campus grow and enrollment remain steady. In 1920, George E. Tandy gave the college sixteen acres just north of the campus, known as the George Tandy Memorial Addition. The Senior Class of 1923 raised \$4150.00 to build a swimming pool, to the delight of all students. Faculty salaries, however, had stagnated, and the college was operating at a loss every year. The Southern Association of Colleges denied Texas Woman's application for membership because it lacked an endowment of at least \$500,000. By 1925, the college faced a financial crisis. To meet the standards of the educational committees of Texas and other educational associations (especially the Southern Association of Schools), Texas Woman's needed to raise faculty salaries, build new classrooms, add science equipment, add volumes to the library, build and maintain additional dorms, and create an endowment where one had never existed. After arranging to borrow \$125,000 to refinance the college's debt and cover its expected \$20,000 operating deficit that year, the Board launched a campaign to raise a "good and substantial" endowment for the college. Dr. J.O. Leath, Vice President of the college, traveled Texas to organize ex-student clubs (the Texwoco Clubs) to foster a feeling of loyalty and interest among former students. At the same time, the Board hired J.F. Isbel to travel the state visiting Methodist congregations asking for financial support for the college.

All these campaigns failed. Many who had made pledges found themselves unable to pay. At this point only the willingness of Fort Worth banks to continue loaning money allowed the school to continue operations.

At the Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting in 1928, the possibility of closing the college arose for the first time. President Stout presented a letter from Methodist Bishop Moore who suggested that Texas Woman's College be closed and all its property sold. Its assets

would be given to Southwestern University in Georgetown, which would be renamed Texas Wesleyan University. No one welcomed the suggestion, but President Stout indicated that he hoped the Bishop's proposal would spur the Fort Worth community into supporting the continued existence in Fort Worth of Texas Woman's College. The Executive Committee had few options. President Stout was urged to reduce expenses, especially faculty salaries, and the committee approved a new loan to pay past-due promissory notes and to cover another year's shortfall. In June 1928, the college lost its greatest donor when Mrs. Ann Waggoner died. She had given over \$108,000.00 to T.W.C. (including \$10,000.00 in 1925 to cover an operating deficit), and she left an additional \$84,000.00 in her will to establish a scholarship fund. Welcome as these funds were, they did little to solve the financial troubles of the college.

The Executive Committee continued meeting monthly, seeking a solution to the increasingly desperate financial situation. Many Board members questioned the commitment of the Methodist Church to the support of Texas Woman's College. President Stout told his board that until the Educational Commission of the Church made a statement of support for T.W.C. and a recommendation that it be maintained as a Fort Worth institution, the college could not hope to gain backing from the Fort Worth community. No endowment campaign could succeed until "the Commission had acted with finality and the public mind was settled once and for all, and no further talk about removal or change was indulged in from any source."

No such statement of support appeared. Rumors about the stability of the college abounded on the campus and in the community. Women students who had previously enrolled, left because, as President Stout reported, "the question mark raised as to our future." In March, 1929, representatives of Texas Woman's presented its latest "Enlargement Campaign" to the Fort Worth Association of Commerce. The presentation was not well-received; no leading

citizen willing to chair the campaign stepped forward, and the Association declined an endorsement. Sadly, the consensus of the Board was to end the campaign, declaring it “impossible at the present time,” but they hoped that an improving business climate would make resumption possible in October of 1929.

Most Americans did not recognize that the stock market crash of late October 1929 signaled the beginning of a decade-long depression. Although the trustees of Texas Woman’s College understood that the business outlook made raising large sums unlikely, they continued their fundraising by focusing on smaller donors. An Ex-Students Permanent Endowment Fund began to solicit donations and raised \$38,174.50 in subscriptions. Another appeal to the Fort Worth Association of Commerce for “the financial relief of Texas Woman’s College by Fort Worth businessmen and citizens,” met only the suggestion that the college refinance its current mortgage and borrow still more money. The seriousness of the financial circumstances of the college caused at least one major donor to reconsider. Mrs. Ben J. Tillar had previously given Texas Woman’s College a \$50,000 scholarship fund to honor her late husband; in 1927, she had pledged \$12,500 as an initial gift to begin the planning for a new science building. But in May, 1930, the Board of Trust received a letter from Mrs. Tillar with notification that, due to the “precarious conditions of the college,” she had decided to stop the plans for the science building and asking that her initial gift be added to the Tillar Scholarship Fund.

At the Executive Committee meeting of the Board of Trustees in March 1931, President Stout reluctantly recommended that “the college close at the end of the semester.” The total debt of the college amounted to \$270,541.34, and no prospects of paying that sum existed. President Stout concluded, “the constant and rapid rise of standards, the necessity of large facilities of library and laboratory, the increase of salaries for teachers, the competition of the State

Education with unlimited support forces institutions without big endowments—not to speak of those having none—out of business.” The Board urged President Stout to make one final “appeal for action” to Texas Methodists, and to advise the college’s creditors that the appeal had been made.

When Stout met with the presiding bishops of the Texas Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church South, Bishops Hay and Boaz, they advised him that “it would be impossible to relieve Texas Woman’s College through an appeal to Texas Methodists.” The Conference could not afford to support both Southwestern and Texas Woman’s College; additionally, the Conference was committed to the support of the recently opened Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth. The bishops suggested that Stout inform the Fort Worth Chamber that “unless the citizens of Fort Worth could come to the immediate relief of Texas Woman’s College, that it would be necessary to close it permanently.” When Stout did inform the Fort Worth organization of the imminent closure of the college, its reply reported the “complete failure to secure any pledges whatever for Texas Woman’s College’s endowment.”

Faced with the failure of his pleas, President Stout submitted his resignation as president of the college. The Board of Trustees voted to close the college in June 1931. But another special meeting of the Board on Commencement Day, changed that decision. The faculty had voted to take a forty percent pay cut, and local creditors had agreed to hold off legal action until the beginning of the fall semester. With new-found optimism, the Board selected Dr. Tom W. Brabham as the new president of the college. (#23)

Despite the decision to keep the college open, the future of Texas Woman’s remained uncertain. Plans to close the school had gone so far that many faculty, including Dean Carl Venth of the School of Fine Arts and Dean F. B. Isely of the College of Liberal Arts, had secured

other employment. The college's science lab equipment had been sold to Texas Christian University, which refused to return it when T.W.C. remained open. Nevertheless, the college opened in fall 1931 with a good enrollment—250 students, only eight less than the previous September.

Student life at Texas Woman's College continued with few changes as the college faced its financial troubles. The YWCA crowned its Carnival Queen in October, and the May Queen was announced in January and crowned at the May Fête. The "wedding" of "Miss New Girl to Mr. Old Girl" on September 25 was especially elaborate in 1931, and included the singing of "Oh Promise Me," and bridesmaids dressed in "bouffant frocks of blue organdy carrying bouquets of brilliantly colored zinnias." A ring-bearer with long curls carried the ring on a pillow of satin and lace, and a flower-girl in gold organdy carried a basket of rose leaves. Escorted by her father, the freshman bride wore "a princess model in white organdy, with a train cascading from a tiny cap of rosebuds." The college president performed the ceremony in a garden illuminated by arches of lights, and a reception followed in Ann Waggoner Hall complete with three-tiered cake. (#24)

The Fish initiation by the sophomores of Mulkey and Ann Waggoner Halls in 1931 included ghost stories (screams were reported) and a trip to the cemetery to copy the tombstone inscriptions (more screams). For one week, Freshmen Fish reported to their assigned sophomores every morning for chores. Tables were turned, however, during Fish Week in the spring. As the freshmen raised their flag and crowned the Freshmen Queen, all upperclassmen had to bow down to the lowly fish. (#25)

Enrollment in 1932 held steady at about 250 students as the college administrators coped with continuing financial distress. One year after the closure scare, the debt of the college had

reached the staggering sum of \$302,337.35. Little changed over the next two years. The college managed to pay the expenses of operation (with an actual profit in 1934 of just under \$600.00), but could not pay any of the accrued interest on its bonded debts, bank loans, or bills payable. Early in 1934, the Board of Trustees sold a large portion of the remaining forty-three acre campus to the Fort Worth Board of Education to build a high school. The funds received retired a portion of the mortgage on the remaining campus land.

As the college administrators coped with the reality of the Depression and college debts, students also faced austerity. The last class of Texas Woman's College aptly named themselves the "Great Depression Class of 1933." Many paid their tuition in meat, butter, eggs, and other home-grown produce. One student from Crockett, Texas, paid her tuition in asparagus; another student remembered that "we ate asparagus every day for six months!" Another student remembered that "the menu was often a green salad and beans, alternated by beans and a green salad." Faculty members moved into the dorms in order that they might "live and eat the tuition." Residence hall students saved their nickels to help the "town-girls" pay their bus fares. In 1958, when the Class of 1933 established a scholarship fund for an incoming woman senior, its members agreed that the money should be specified as "spending money." (#26) (#27)

### **Chapter Three: Texas Wesleyan College**

The board of trustees, knowing of Sone's impending retirement, established the presidential search process by creating a board committee to receive nominations and a faculty advisory group to recommend qualifications. While the committee began gathering names, the faculty listed criteria including membership in the Methodist church, an earned doctorate, and

academic and financial administrative experience. Importantly, the president should be committed to higher education philosophy and academic freedom principles, and especially, able to articulate these to supporters of the college. The board-committee, chaired by Ralph L. McCann, after winnowing the field settled on William M. Pearce, Texas Tech University academic vice-president. Sone probably had influence in the decision as William M. Pearce, Jr., could claim that a serendipitous lunch seating led to his presidency of Texas Wesleyan College. In 1966, President Sone was placed next to the Texas Tech executive vice-president at Texas Governor Grover Murray's inaugural lunch. Pearce and Sone discovered their similar West Texas backgrounds and at an accreditation meeting the next year, Sone approached Pearce about the Wesleyan presidency, sowing the seed for Pearce's inclusion in the search process for the college's thirteenth president.

**Picture of Pearce here**

Pearce was especially suited to the position as he was born into Methodist education. His father, also William M., was president of Methodist Seth Ward College near Plainview when his wife gave birth to their first son in the women's dormitory. Although William Sr. left the academic life to become a minister, he encouraged William Jr. to achieve further learning after graduating from Amarillo High School in 1930. Pearce pursued this by enrolling in Kemper Military School in Missouri where he received his associate degree. Although the depression forced his departure from SMU, Pearce joined his parents in Lubbock and graduated from Texas Tech University in 1935, attaining his MA in Archaeology in 1937. When World War II interrupted his teaching as a history lecturer at Tech, he attended officer candidate school and then participated in four European campaigns in the tank corps, earning the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts for his wound and valor. Returning home he discovered the need for a doctorate to

continue teaching at Tech and he moved to Austin to study with famed Texas historian Walter Prescott Webb. After completing his coursework, Tech took him on and he earned his PhD in history in 1949.

Pearce's background at Tech as a history professor and then academic vice-president directing the university's self-study and then his role as executive vice-president where he filled in regularly for two presidents, prepared him for his many responsibilities as Wesleyan's president beginning in June 1968. The college's freshman enrollment had declined in 1967 with the opening of the Tarrant County Junior College campuses and renovation and building needs loomed. Nevertheless the college was in good financial stead and hired eight new fulltime faculty members in the fall of 1968. Pearce encouraged faculty recruitment outside of the Fort Worth area, resulting in the hiring of political science assistant professor Dr. Ibrahim Salih, Ph.D. from American University, and a new head baseball coach, Al Peters, ME, from Kent State, among others. Pearce showed his support for faculty and ideals of shared governance by encouraging the creation of the first faculty assembly with its own executive committee, faculty council. The 1969 Constitution and Bylaws for the Faculty Assembly of Texas Wesleyan College, after little opportunity to express their views during Sone's administration, gave faculty the responsibility to maintain open communication with the administration in academic policy-making. Permanent standing committees now had the chance to influence athletics, student affairs and procedures, admissions, tenure, and budget, as well other areas of the college. Even more importantly for faculty academic freedom, Pearce advocated the creation of the college's first tenure policy and the writing of the first Faculty Handbook, delineating faculty responsibilities and rights in 1971.

**Picture of Salih and Peters here**

The college also made changes in its admission policies and programs under Pearce. Competition from the junior colleges for freshmen forced recruitment activities toward the transfer student with the hiring of the college's first admission counselor. Pearce also instituted changes in admission requirements, requiring higher scores on the ACT or SAT. The Wesleyan student body during the Pearce years remained fairly constant with 50 percent transfer, 10 percent more male, and 20 percent more single. Most were first generation and Vietnam War veterans increased for the first half of the seventies. Minorities made up 17 percent, reflected by the school's Black Studies Week in April 1970. Alpha Chi National Honor Society sponsored the four nights of events culminating with a panel on Black dissent and representatives from Southern Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). The increasing diversification of the region and student body also saw the approval in 1974 of a Bilingual Education Specialization beginning with thirty students.

### **Picture of Black Studies Week in 1970**

#### **Hispanic students**

Student issues began to gain more importance, reflecting the naming of a fulltime Dean of Student Affairs, Jerry G. Bawcom, in 1973. Bawcom's office set policies and coordinated co-curricular activities to retain students once they enrolled at the college. Changes in societal norms challenged the college to offer coeducational dormitory living, resulting in a trial run in Elizabeth Means Armstrong. With upper-class men on the first floor and women above, the successful experiment continued through Pearce's administration. The college also published the first official Student Handbook, written by Pearce, in October 1969, stating student conduct guidelines in addition to student rights and responsibilities. Behavior subject to disciplinary

action included plagiarism, possession of alcohol or drugs on campus, and hazing. The building of the Sid W. Richardson Center added a basketball court, offices, classrooms, and a pool, increasing significantly co-curricular facilities. Although Wesleyan had social fraternities and sororities since its founding, declining participation coincided with the Sixties de-emphasis on tradition and the groups asked for permission to affiliate with national organizations in the fall of 1971. President Pearce supported this effort, and by 1972 all six had aligned with Greek organizations. The Entre Ami or “among friends” women’s sorority founded in 1943 became the Epsilon Theta Chapter of Phi Mu and the male Sons of Sakkara became a chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Additionally, the female Gamma Phi Beta and Alpha Xi Delta and the male Lamda Chi Alpha and Kappa Alpha Greek organizations became a part of Wesleyan student life.

#### **Picture of Bawcom as Dean of Student Affairs**

#### **Picture of Sid Richardson Gym**

#### **Pictures of Greek Life in 1970s**

Wesleyan students had other activities to occupy their life outside the classroom including the school newspaper, *The Rambler*, and the annual, *TXWECO*. *The Rambler* won its first All American rating in Associated Collegiate Press competition in 1968, with both publications winning recognition throughout the decade. The Wesleyan Singers performed across the state, participating in the Bicentennial celebrations in Washington, D.C., in 1976. Theatre faculty Mason Johnson, Director of Speech-Drama Department, John A. Roberts, and Chair of Division of Fine Arts Dr. Donald Bellah, produced, directed, and choreographed Wesleyan musicals including *Camelot*, *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, and *Funny Girl* to wild success. Chemistry students joined the newly created Wesleyan chapter of the American Chemistry Society beginning in 1977 and Phi Alpha Theta welcomed history scholars.

## **Pictures of the Rambler**

### **TXWECO**

### **Musicals**

### **Wesleyan Singers**

### **Chemistry Society**

Students participated in or supported six athletic programs, men's basketball, baseball, golf, and tennis and women's basketball. Although competing in the Big State Conference of NAIA at the beginning of Pearce's administration, Wesleyan entered the new Texoma Athletic Conference in 1973. O.D. Bounds, coach since 1946, led men's golf to national championships in 1969 and 1974. Wesleyan baseball won district three times and were Texoma Conference Champions in 1978, with the men's basketball team being Big State Champions in 1975.

## **Pictures of 1970s Athletics**

### **O.D. Bounds**

In May 1978, the Wesleyan Board of Trustees named William Pearce President Emeritus of Texas Wesleyan College and Professor Emeritus of History. Faculty remembered his presidency best for its collegiality and commitment to shared governance. During his tenure, the endowment doubled, but despite his efforts and a doubling of income mostly through tuition increases the college had a \$275,000 deficit. Anticipating his retirement, trustees had agreed that in addition to the Pearce's organizational skills, the next president must have expertise in fund-raising with a personality to make him successful.

For the first time in Wesleyan's history a faculty member chaired the search committee for a new president. Dr. William Hailey, Faculty Assembly Chair, headed a committee including several trustees, faculty members, administrators, staff, and the student government president,

Perry Cockerell. Whereas the previous committee had solicited names from the Methodist Conference, the college placed an advertisement in the Chronicle of Higher Education in April 1977. Taking the committee's four possible candidates, the Board chose Dallas native Jon H. Fleming, Executive Vice-president of Texas Woman's University. Fleming received both his BA and ThM from SMU, completing his Doctorate of Religion at Claremont in 1968. Wesleyan welcomed the fourteenth president officially at his inauguration on April 20, 1979, where former Texas Governor John B. Connally spoke. Fleming promised college renovations and a new student center at the afternoon board meeting and announced his restructuring of the college.

### **Picture of Fleming**

### **Picture of inauguration with Connally**

Admiring business organization, Fleming restructured along the lines of a corporation, creating four units: academic, financial, student life and external affairs with vice-presidents heading all but the academic side where he created the position of provost. Pearce's seven academic divisions became the schools of business, fine arts, science and humanities, and education. Under Provost Bill Hailey, Wesleyan made a major change to its general education, adding six hours of humanities focused on cultural values and a three-hour junior-level writing requirement. A new major in mass communications reflected the growing fields in radio and television broadcasting and newspaper reporting. Additionally, the science department increased its computer terminals from two to three, excited giving students database access. Nine new faculty members began the 1979 year and the M.D. Anderson Pre-professional Program focusing on student access to professional careers started with a \$50,000/four year grant.

### **Pictures of students in this period, MD Anderson?**

**Picture of Psi Chi Psychology founded in 1979. Other honor societies joined the Wesleyan community, including the history society Phi Alpha Theta and the social science society Pi Gamma Mu.**

**Picture of Willie IV Ram, 1<sup>st</sup> live in 15 years, Wilma: Caption: President Fleming brought back the live Rambouillet mascots after a fifteen-year hiatus to encourage school spirit.**

Athletics continued to be important at Wesleyan during the Fleming years. Men's baseball, golf, and tennis continued to win state and conference titles. The Ram's baseball team even beat #1 ranked Texas Longhorns in a double-header, 3-0 and 6-4. Men's tennis finished fifth in the nation in 1979, with Kyle English making Academic All-American and competing in NAIA nationals in 1981. Furthermore, Danny Mijovic broke all collegiate golf records during his four years at Wesleyan. Coached by O.D. Bounds, the NAIA Coach of the Year for 1979, the business major was the individual high scorer in NAIA competition and made All-American, going professional and being inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2011. Women's basketball, having entered intercollegiate sports only in 1969, had its highest wins in 1979, with a 32-5 record and in 1982, women's volleyball finished behind Hawaii-Hilo at its first invitation to NAIA nationals. In 1978, in addition to volleyball, the college added softball, attempting to comply with Title IX requirements to bring women's sport spending on par with men's sports.

### **Picture of sports between 1979 fall and 1984 spring**

**Danny Mijovic**

**Kyle English**

Reflecting the college's financial needs, Vice-president of Public Relations and Fundraising Jake Schrum announce on October 5, 1979, the ten-year Second Century Campaign,

with a capital improvement goal of \$30 million and an additional \$30 million for the endowment. By spring of 1981, the endowment had increased by \$10 million and an additional \$6 million came into the unrestricted accounts, allowing the college to embark on building renovations. Elizabeth Means Armstrong gifted an additional \$100,000 to continue improvements to Dan Waggoner Hall, built in 1917 as a women's dormitory. Cora Maud Norton Oneal, Polytechnic drama alumnus, contributed \$100,000 to remodel the Murray Case Sells Administration building. Along with building being renamed O'Neal-Sells, she received an honorary doctorate of humanities in 1980. Also having long association with the college, Audrey Dillow donated her family home on Rosedale. Her father, Samuel Selkirk, started Polytechnic Heights' first store in 1892, was the first postmaster, and president of the First State Bank. The prairie-style house became the alumni office in 1982.

### **Picture of young Cora Maud Norton 1913**

### **Dillow House**

In addition to these gifts, Wesleyan College received its largest donations to date during the early Fleming presidency. Trustee James L. West and his wife, Eunice, gave 150,000 shares of Tandy stock valued at \$12 million for a new library. West, past president of Tandy Corporation, served on the Wesleyan board from 1975 until his death in 1983 and was a generous supporter of education. The gift included instructions for the creation of two endowments: the first to cover the approximately \$10 million construction cost, with the remainder to fund purchases of books, publications, and needed improvements. The library's construction on the campus' highest center-point was unfortunately delayed most of the decade with an announcement in May 1983 to move the historic campus to Fort Worth's west side.

### **Picture of Wests**

## **West Library**

Although Texas Wesleyan's 1978 Ten-Year Master Plan had proposed buying property around the campus to create a buffer and the building of a new campus center, little progress had been made. As early as the April 1982, trustee minutes reflect a proposal from Fleming to enter into an agreement to team with Harris Methodist Hospital in the relocation. Early plats locate the hospital on the north side of Loop 820 and Wesleyan on the south and include mention of donated land. Trustees initially expressed support of the proposal, but as projected costs grew to over \$125 million, doubts grew. Furthermore, in November 1983 the board became aware of internal accounting issues and in April 1984, the United Methodist University Senate placed Wesleyan on a two-year probation because of its "grave financial situation" due to "fiscally irresponsible management." The board, facing an \$800,000 deficit, eliminated five sports, baseball, swimming, tennis, cross country, and softball. With the faculty voting no confidence in the president in April, on May 24, 1984, the board accepted Dr. Fleming's resignation effective July 1<sup>st</sup> and appointed vice-president Jerry Bawcom interim president.

## **Picture of Jerry Bawcom**

The college began to slowly rebound financially during the tenure of the Wesleyan's fifteenth president, Jerry Bawcom. President Bawcom, Texas Tech BA and MED and North Texas PhD, spent twenty-one years at Wesleyan, beginning as O.C. Hall manager in 1969. The search committee, again composed of trustees, faculty, deans and the director of alumni and student body president, recognized Wesleyan's precarious financial position, probation, and public reputation, required inspiring leadership. Bawcom had revealed he had those qualities during his interim year with the sending of a reassuring letter to staff in July and more importantly, his securing of a line of credit to support the 1983-84 year. After the board

unanimously appointed him president, he set out to refinance the \$5 million debt and reduce the almost \$3 million per year deficit.

### **Pictures of inauguration**

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1985, Bawcom's inaugural speech reflected his emphasis on leadership and service. Issues before the college would severely challenge his abilities and the decision to move the campus from its historic home loomed large. Although the acceptance of part of the land as a gift could be delayed until 1989, the uncertainty of the move and its related costs and the college's financial mire had affected the institution's ability to move forward despite reassurances to its supporters, the students, and the community. The 1985 enrollment decreased by 8 percent and capital improvements loomed, moving the board to rescind its resolution to relocate the Poly campus. Moreover, it recommended immediate construction of the West Library and the commencement of a capital and endowment campaign, believing that Wesleyan could be the catalyst needed to re-energize East Fort Worth.

### **Pictures of Library dedication**

#### **H. Ross Perot**

#### **Law Sone Fine Arts**

#### **Business Building**

#### **Picture of 1988 women's tennis (first year) 13-8; men's tennis 11-10**

By October 1985, Wesleyan's financial situation showed significant improvement with the debt reduction to about \$2 million and an increase in the endowment to \$14.7 million due to the Ella McFadden Charitable Trust distribution, more than double that at the beginning of Fleming's presidency. The sight of the \$10 million construction in the campus' heart encouraged the Wesleyan community, so that its dedication on October 21, 1988, with guest H.

Ross Perot, was an exciting moment. After the West Library opening, the old Armstrong Library was a prime location for the school of business and Bawcom announced a \$1 million challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation that was met within the year with donations from the Joe and Lois Perkins Foundation and others. A gift from the Moncrief Family Trust and an anonymous donor allowed the college to purchase the Polytechnic Baptist Church on the west side of the campus to renovate into the Law Sone Fine Arts Center. The McFadden gift resulted in the renaming of the science building in 1984 to the Ella C. McFadden Science Center. Supporters had rallied around the struggling college so that by the end of 1989, over \$10 million had been pledged for capital improvements and the endowment.

Despite the importance of the financial standing and capital improvements, one more event stands above all. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1988, the Board of Trustees unanimously changed the institution's name to Texas Wesleyan University. Stating no change in its mission in the "development of students to their full potential," the trustees insisted the move recognized the widened academic scope of the college. Fall 1988 enrollment had improved and there were fifty-six majors and master degrees in education and nurse anesthesia. Wesleyan was primed to finish the decade and celebrate its one hundred-year anniversary, continuing under the able leadership of President Bawcom.

## **Chapter Four: Texas Wesleyan University**

The October 1988 announcement of the name change to Texas Wesleyan University caused quite a stir. Beginning as Polytechnic College in 1890, the coeducational college became Texas Woman's College in 1914, educating young women in the liberal arts, especially music, in a supportive Christian environment. To increase enrollment during the difficulty years of the

Great Depression, the trustees decided to welcome young men back to the Poly school. After much discussion as to its new name, Texas Wesleyan College emerged triumphant and the educational institution prevailed through the Depression and onto World War II. Although financial struggles continued to plague the school, as was common among private tuition-dependent colleges, Texas Wesleyan University persisted and remained in its historic location with the support of its donors, trustees, administrators, faculty, students, and alumni.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1989, doors opened on the newly named university. Students graduating in the previous December's ceremonies were able to choose the name on their diploma, but the May 12<sup>th</sup> awardees were the first with Texas Wesleyan University scrolled at the top. One of those first grads, Louis Sherwood, now University Archivist, even won a contest to rename the school's annual. Although since 1936 *TXWECO*, awkward in the minds of some students, adequately reflected Texas Women's College, the intertwining of the 1989 annual into *TXWEUN* seemed strange to all. Sherwood's entry, *Ram's Horn*, rationalized by its ancient Biblical use in celebrations and as a mode of communication, won the history major \$100.

### **Picture of *TXWECO***

Wesleyan, furthermore, in the spring of 1989 began planning for its Centennial. The celebrations began with Texas Wesleyan University Day at the Poly United Methodist Church on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Central to the founding of Polytechnic College, Fort Worth's First United Methodist Church began Centennial Week, honoring the college on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Theatre students offered up the grand musical, *Fantastiks*, with its best known song, "Try to Remember," continuing the program's decades-long excellence. On Saturday, alumni celebrated at the Round-up Inn and attended the School of Business' Open House in the renovated Armstrong-Mabee Business Center. The business faculty continued the fete with its 22<sup>nd</sup> Business Hall of

Fame dinner, naming CEO of Union Pacific Resources William L. Adams executive of the year on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the spring, the School of Science and Humanities earned the focus displaying clothes and memorabilia from the Poly years during February, coinciding with Black Emphasis Week on the 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. The School of Education held an open house, unveiling the Wesleyan presidential portraits in April. The Sciences opened its labs for demonstrations and language and literature sponsored an essay contest.

### **Picture of Poly Technic Methodist Church?**

### **Centennial Seal**

### **Picture of Bawcom raising Centennial Flag**

### **Centennial Business Center Dedication**

### **Picture of Fantastiks**

Student activities during Dr. Bawcom's years ran the gamut from palm reading in the quad to decorating the Christmas tree in the library. Scrapping the traditional homecoming parade, SGA hosted a decorating contest, with Sigma Phi Epsilon winning with their basketball dunking player in front of the West Library. "Student Hangouts" included C.C. Shea's for owner Bill Green's advice and Mama's for her pizza. When it came time for music and dancing, the SGA sponsored Howdy Dance and the Sigma Phi Epsilon's Boxer Rebellion and Annual Air Band Jam events drew crowds along with their twenty-one new pledges. Women especially interested in service joined Gamma Sigma Sigma. They along with Alpha Phi Omega volunteered hundreds of hours to the Polytechnic neighborhood, the Eastside Boy's Club and the Masonic Home.

Unfortunately for those that held good memories of Bawcom's years at Wesleyan, the president announced in November effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1991, he was resigning to accept the

presidency of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Bawcom assured the college that the only reason he was leaving was that he had dreamed of leading a higher institution within his Southern Baptist denomination. While at Wesleyan he oversaw the renaming of the college to a university and the dedication of the West Library and Armstrong-Mabee Business Center, but more significantly for the university's future, he had assisted in the doubling of the endowment to \$27 million. To fill the leadership gap until a search could be completed, former provost Dr. William L. Hailey, became interim president.

Once again a trustee-lead committee, chaired by James Nichols, and composed of faculty, staff, the SGA president, and an alumnus, perused applications for the leadership of Texas Wesleyan University. The Law Sone Fine Arts Center was unfinished and faculty salaries low when the Board appointed Jake Schrum seventeenth president. Schrum attended Southwestern, completing his BA in 1968 and his Master of Divinity in 1973 at Yale, before serving as President Fleming's Vice-president of Public Relations and Fundraising in the late seventies and serving as Emory University's Vice-president of Development and Planning. In November of 1991, Southwestern honored him with a doctorate, recognizing his service to higher education. In the April *Rambler*, Schrum described himself as a "servant leader," dedicated to raising staff and faculty salaries and improving the campus. He expanded further in December's alumni magazine, *Wesleyan Today*, on his vision of a values centered, church-related institution prepared to deliver career preparation within the liberal arts tradition of the historic college. The school adopted a new master plan, projecting Wesleyan within the community as the New Urban University, among others that described themselves as "small, urban, private." Schrum instituted "coffee talk" where students could compliment or complain about any issue and improved security with additional lighting and perimeter fencing.

### **Picture of Jake Schrum**

The Wesleyan, Fort Worth, and university communities formally recognized Schrum at his Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> inauguration. On the West Library portico, Fort Worth Mayor Kay Granger, '65, and Dr. Jerry Bawcom, listened as President Jimmy Carter lauded Wesleyan's decision to stay in its historic neighborhood and admonished the audience to embrace environmental and humanitarian issues. The fall semester of 1992, Schrum took over the president's office overseeing a twenty-six-year peak in enrollment with 1,772 students attending Wesleyan and dorms were full. Wesleyan faculty received their first computers and administrative functions began to be computerized. The campus accessed the Internet the first time in fall 1995 through TCU, adding its own server the next year. A state grant allowed the library to convert its card catalog to a digital version in fall 1999. Other changes occurred in the academic area with an inter-disciplinary women's studies minor teaching courses on women in literature and history among other topics. Additionally, philosophy and religion professor Ron Reed, Bebessee Distinguished Scholar, founded University College Day with the first student and faculty scholarship conference having thirty-six sessions on the theme "Transformation: Where We Have Been, Where We Are Going."

### **Pictures of President Jimmy Carter**

### **Pictures of Ron Reed**

Even more important to Wesleyan's community and state-wide profile, in the summer of 1992, the University board of trustees voted unanimously to expand the school's graduate offerings by purchasing the Dallas/FortWorth School of Law. Founded in 1989 and located in Irving, the school became Texas Wesleyan University School of Law on August 1<sup>st</sup>. That fall, 357 part-time and 94 full-time students joined the student body, taking classes with twenty-one

full-time faculty under the new entity. One of its early principles, former assistant district attorney, Frank Elliott, became the first dean, ushering it through early accreditation processes and assisting in its attaining provisional certification by April 1994 under new dean Frank Walwer. In 1997, the University, understanding a Fort Worth location nearer the main campus to be advantageous to full accreditation, purchased for \$2.8 million a building and three blocks of parking in downtown across from the nationally famous Water Gardens. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, President Jake Schrum hosted dignitaries United States Congresswoman Kay Granger '65; President Elect of the Tarrant County Bar Association, Wade H. McMullen; the School of Law Dean, Frank K. Walwer; and Fort Worth Mayor, Kenneth Barr at the dedication service for the new site on Commerce Street. Within two years, the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law proudly announced full American Bar Association accreditation on August 10, 1999. Over the next few years, the school's flexible schedule for full and part-time students, its downtown location, and growing reputation brought enrollment growth so that by 1996, over 670 students attended the Fort Worth school.

### **Picture of law school downtown Fort Worth**

For the historic campus the \$33.5 million capital campaign "Of High Endeavor," co-chaired by Louella Baker Martin and Gary Cumbie, began to bear fruit. In 1997 Ralph and Sue McCann gave \$1.7 million for a professorship and student scholarships. The next year, builders moved the home of J.B. Baker, Sr., Baker's grandfather and Polytechnic College board member, to the corner of Wesleyan Street and Avenue D to serve as a new admissions office. A gift established the O.C. Bounds fund for golf students and Gene '54 and Ann '54 Burge and the James S. Dubose family built Martin Field for the soccer program.

### **Picture of Baker Martin House**

## **Martin Field**

**Pic of Dr. Anita Hill at Spring 2001 Goosetree Symposium, began in 1981. Hill, a professor of law at Heller Graduate School at Brandeis, served as a witness against the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, bringing to light the issue of workplace sexual harassment.**

Students of the Nineties continued to participate in some of the traditional out-of-class activities of their predecessors. Homecoming 1994 featured Wesleyan alumna and Fort Worth Mayor and President Jake Schrum leading the parade with Alpha Psi Omega again winning first place with their car decorated as a plane. Volunteer opportunities continued in the Poly neighborhood, with students helping the Fort Worth Chapter of Habitat for Humanity build a frame home. Wesleyan students also had an opportunity to hear from famous science fiction writer Ray Bradbury. The author of *Fahrenheit 451* told eager listeners he never took a vacation in his life as he loved his work.

Again, however, Wesleyan faced another presidential search when President Schrum's alma mater recruited him to serve as their president and he announced his resignation in January 2000, effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. Chair of the Board, Gary Cumbie, appointed trustee Dan Boulware to chair the expanded committee including board member John Maddux, two deans, the chair of faculty assembly and another faculty member, two staff persons and two students, and Alumni President Janie Faris. After an ad in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the committee narrowed the field to three candidates with all visiting the campus and addressing the board, faculty, and students that summer. On August 1st, Harold "Hal" Jeffcoat became Wesleyan's eighteenth president. Graduating from University of South Florida with a BA and MA in history, Jeffcoat went on to earn a PhD in educational policy from University of Kentucky. He completed a LLM

in European Union Law from University of Leicester in 2001. Jeffcoat's goals included doubling the endowment, improving of student and faculty relationship with the administration, enriching current programs, and improving technology. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Jeffcoat's mentor Dr. Steven C. Beering, President Emeritus of Purdue, officiated at his inauguration on the front lawn of the Oneal-Sells Administration Building.

**Picture of President Jeffcoat**

**Picture of Jeffcoat at President's Picnic in cowboy hat Aug 22, 2000**

**President's honors concert, Began in 1996**

**Pic of *Hair* musical. The Scott Theater was the site of Texas Wesleyan Theater's program presentation of *Hair*.**

Jeffcoat's administration continued to build upon Schrum's "Of High Endeavor" capital campaign, renovating or completing eighteen buildings. The Amon Carter Foundation and other donors built Nenetta Burton Carter Building for the growing psychology program in 2001. The next year, the university opened a newly renovated Ann Waggoner Music Building with new classrooms, studios, and labs. The old Methodist church on the corner of Rosedale and Wesleyan reopened with wonderful acoustics as Martin Hall. In 2003 two programs benefitted from gifts. The Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesia, having graduated its first class in 1984 and grown to the largest in the country, built a \$2.4 million structure with a 180-seat videoconferencing lecture hall, two classrooms, and a human patient simulator lab. Theater students in 2003 welcomed the conversion of the old Polytechnic Baptist Church/Law Sone Fine Arts Building into a black box theatre with moveable lighting and floor-to-ceiling black velour drapery. The modern languages, religion, and social science faculty benefitted from the 2005 transfer of ownership and \$1.25 million renovation of the Poly United Methodist Church funded

by Betty and Bobby Bragan and the Hesta Stuart Christian Trust and others. The school also embarked on building the West Village, a \$6.5 million dorm project. Board member Louella Baker Martin contributed funds to build a 3,500 square foot reception hall in 2006. Students and faculty began to affectionately call the pavilion Lou's Place after many successful events in the beautiful facility.

**Pic of Nanetta Burton Carter Bldg**

**Nurse Anesthesia**

**Pic of Chemistry Camp: Dr. Ricardo Rodriguez and sponsors, Texas Methodist Foundation, Alcon Laboratories, Inc., and American Chemical Society, conduct Chemistry Camp to spark interest in the sciences among grade schoolers.**

Furthermore, in 2007, the University opened the Ed and Rae Schollmaier Science and Technology Center with the building's \$1.8 million cost covered by a 2002 Department of Energy \$969,000 grant and other gifts including \$250,000 from the Alcon Foundation. Addressing the mental health needs of students and providing a learning tool for the new graduate counseling program, an \$85,000 renovation of Dean Walter and Marie Glick's home allowed for the dedication of the Glick House Community Counseling Center on November 16<sup>th</sup> that year to coincide with her one-hundredth birthday. The University, to address physical health needs on campus announced the beginning of a campaign to raise the \$3 million to build a new fitness center. Three years later, ceremonies celebrated the opening of the Jack and Jo Willa Morton Fitness Center on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, federal funding from Housing and Urban Development helped convert the theater scene shop on the west corner of Wesleyan and Rosedale into a \$1 million community center. Originally holding a dry cleaner, grocery, Bank of

Polytechnic, and the *Polytechnic Herald*, the building had been the site for twenty five years where hard work and paint created theater scenes. By 2009 theater students had a new workshop on Binkley, the Claudia Stepp Scene Shop.

### **Picture of Schollmaeir**

**Pic of Cemetery Dedication: The Polytechnic Cemetery received the 1000<sup>th</sup> Texas State Historical Commission's Historical Cemetery Designation in fall 2008. Polytechnic community founders, including the Halls, gave the land in the 1800s and some of the early settlers are buried in the cemetery.**

### **Fitness Center**

President Jeffcoat's presidency saw changes in other areas of the university. The School of Arts and Sciences grew so large that by 2009, the administration with faculty input created two schools, Arts and Letters and Natural and Social Sciences. In fall 2006, the School of Business began offering a MBA and the School of Education added a master in school counseling and again showing its prestige, nurse anesthesia added a doctorate in August 2008. University communication also evolved with the creation of Ramlink in 2008, providing email, class registration, and degree auditing. Furthermore, despite some student dissatisfaction, the University made the move back to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics from the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Although analysis showed part of the 15 percent drop in enrollment in the fall 2000 semester was due to the departure of some athletes, the school rebounded, showing increased enrollment through most of the decade. Sports also shone out when men's basketball won its first NAIA Division 1 National Championship in 2006. Additionally, Coach Terry Waldrop became Wesleyan's winningest basketball coach in 2008 with 161 wins, and Red River Championships from 2008-10. Stacy Francis, women's basketball

coach, tied the school's record of 105 wins in 2008, with softball coach Shannon Gower becoming the winningest coach at 226 wins. Volleyball won Red River Championships in 2004 and 2005 and men's soccer won in 2005, with Baseball winning in 2007 and 2010. Wesleyan's newest sport, table tennis, started in 2001, continued to astound the Wesleyan community with its wins and national reputation. Finally, the NAIA noted Wesleyan's sports leadership awarding Kevin Millikan ('98) Red River Athletic Conference Director of the Year in 2010, with the baseball team winning the championship that year. That year also saw the addition of men's and women's cross-country and track teams, bringing Wesleyan's athletic program to thirteen sports.

### **90s Athletics**

The Wesleyan School of Law continued to grow under Jeffcoat's presidency. Beginning the decade with Dean Richard Gershon, Frederick G. Slabach became dean in 2003. By that time, the third floor of the building had been vacated and expansion of physical space began. After a \$6.5million campaign, the University added 40,000 square feet, with the addition of an auditorium, four classrooms, offices, and expansion of the library named for lawyer and philanthropist, Dee J. Kelley.

The Texas Wesleyan University School of Law began the middle of the decade with the October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005, dedication ceremony, inviting Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy to give the keynote. Other honors for the university followed. In 2006, the Black Law Student Association inducted Dean Slabach into its Hall of Fame, the school entered the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, and the *Princeton Review* listed it in its "Best 170 Law Schools." In keeping with the facet of community responsibility in its mission statement, the school operated a law clinic and began its chapter of the Innocence Project in 2005. The 2006-2007 year showed its growing profile with an enrollment of over eight hundred students.

### **Picture of Wesleyan School of Law renovation opening**

In 2010, President Jeffcoat having served as president for ten years, the longest tenure since Law Sone's retirement in 1968, retired. The board quickly appointed Reverend Lamar Smith, longtime Fort Worth Methodist leader and trustee interim president. Smith attended Texas Wesleyan College, graduating with a BA in theology in 1950 and earning a MA in theology from SMU. Trustee Beverly Volkman-Powell chaired the committee searching for a strong supporter of shared governance, academic freedom, tenure, and due process. Additionally Wesleyan's new president must value its historic relationship with the Methodist church while having all the qualifications necessary to manage an institution of higher learning: interpersonal skills, fundraising success, and administrative experience. Wesleyan now had four schools with twenty-five major fields of study, and graduate programs in law, business, education, counseling, and nurse anesthesia. Its over three thousand students were one-third minority, with one-half undergraduate. Eighty-one percent of its 165 faculty members held terminal degrees or doctorates in their field.

The committee worked quickly, announcing on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the presidency of Fred Slabach, former law school dean. The CEO of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, where he managed a \$55 million trust, Slabach had received his BS at Mississippi College, JD at the University of Mississippi, and his LLM at Columbia School of Law. Having been a higher education administrator in Florida and California as well as spending thirteen years in state and federal government, he was well prepared to take Wesleyan into its second decade of the twenty first century.

### **Pic of Slabach**

President Slabach entered the office during difficult financial times nationally. Although enrollment had remained stable after the 2008 financial crisis, 2010 and 2011 saw some undergraduate declines, but by the fall of 2012 Wesleyan's undergraduate applications had increased by 40 percent. The 3,204 enrollment was the third highest in its history and the fall 2013 enrollment had increased by 12.5 percent. The University began its "Smaller.Smarter." marketing-campaign the same fall, focusing on the close attention given to students by Wesleyan faculty members. Six advertising spots, new graphics, and cleaner, modern signature logo won Wesleyan communications seventeen Collegiate Advertising and Annual Educational Advertising Awards. These improvements drew the attention of not just potential students, but Wesleyan received its first ranking in the top tier of regional universities in the West from *U.S. News and World Report* in 2011, continuing the honor through 2014. Victory Media also named the university a "Military Friendly School" for the last four years.

### **Smaller Smarter Campaign**

President Slabach's inauguration on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, heralded the beginning of a great decade for the school. Long-time supporter and friend from the Truman Foundation, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, lauded Slabach's clear vision for the future of the university. Over twelve hundred attended the investiture, with over a hundred and fifty alumni joining faculty members in the ceremonial march. That spring Wesleyan's 2020 Strategic Goals, Objectives, and Measures guided university administrators. Critical Thinking became the number one goal, with student campus experience, campus enhancements, financial vitality, and marketing and brand recognition joining the mix. The president, furthermore, improved campus communication with open forums held monthly and open to students, staff, and faculty members.

### **Pics of Inauguration**

Academic programs continued to excel during Slabach's presidency, with the athletic training program having a 100 percent pass rate on the first try of the certification exam through 2014. The program received additional academic credentials when in 2006 it won certification by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) and its Quiz Bowl team won regional championship in 2012, representing Texas and Arkansas at the national championship. Any major can also attain a minor in scuba, with underwater graduation ceremonies making the local news. Wesleyan furthered its graduate programs with the addition in 2014 of the PhD in marriage and family therapy, filling a shortage in qualified therapists in master-level supervision, graduate teaching, research, and public and private leadership positions.

#### **Pic of Athletic training**

**Pic of Classroom Next: Caption: Professor of History Dr. Elizabeth Alexander and five history students preparing secondary teaching positions won a Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning contest to create a state of the art teaching classroom integrating technology and collaborative learning.**

Coeducational activities also drew students. Baseball had its most wins since 1980 in 2008, 2009, and 2012, producing nineteen All Americans, and five NAIA Scholar Athletes. Furthermore, major league player, Coach Mike Jeffcoat, lead the baseball team to its record 396 wins under his thirteen-year leadership, just one game short of the NAIA World Series in 2012. Softball broke their ten-year dry spell, winning the Red River Conference in 2010 and 2012. In basketball, both women's and men's teams had success in 2011, with men winning the Red River Championship and women qualifying for the NAIA Nationals. Soccer joined them in 2011, advancing to NAIA for the first time in Wesleyan's history. In fall 2013, volleyball

acquired coach Kimberly Weaver to continue its winning history, having made eight trips to nationals and producing twenty All Americans and 13 NAIA Scholar Athletes since its inception in 1978.

### **2000s sports**

Two new sports also gained headlines. Wesleyan added men's and women's cross country and track and field in spring 2010, hiring Eritrean native and Northwood graduate Natnael Amare to continue his winning coaching record in Fort Worth. All four programs showed quick promise with three runner-up conference finishes in the first year. In 2012, men's and women's cross country and women's track and field won the Red River Championships, with the teams continuing their performances in 2013. Every year, Amare sent individual runners to the NAIA nationals. Furthermore, Wesleyan added another women's sport program, with golf beginning in fall 2012. Although expectations were not high for the first season team, the Lady Rams took the lead early, placing third in the conference. The program looks forward to recruiting even more golf students with the announcement in fall 2014 of the Ben Hogan Foundation gift of \$400,000, funding full scholarships through the First Tee of Fort Worth. Wesleyan also made athletic news in fall 2013, announcing a move to the Sooner Athletic Conference, along with long-time Red River competitors Northwood and Southwestern Assemblies of God Universities. This more competitive conference allows for less travel on the road for Wesleyan athletes, allowing more time in class.

### **Cross Country**

### **Women's Golf**

**Pic of : Blue and Gold Pride, Spring 2013 Homecoming Queen and King Johnathan Bravo and Samantha Max**

**Pic of theater students in NYC: Professor of Theatre Connie Whitt-Lambert founded Playmarket as an opportunity for Wesleyan students to present their original scripts. Since the first Playmarket, more than 25 scripts have been featured.**

President Slabach's announcements in summer 2012, however, made the most news. Conversations with Texas A&M University had been ongoing since the fall 2011 concerning the sale of the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. After an initial agreement touting a partnership whereby Wesleyan retained ownership of the downtown site along with four adjoining blocks, President Slabach heralded a "win-win-win" for both the universities and the city of Fort Worth. In August 2013, all staff and faculty, current and incoming students became part of the A&M system. Extending over a five-year period, Wesleyan received \$73.2 million. The sale of the law school brought in an initial \$54 million, with \$19.2 million for lease/purchase of the property. Slabach and trustees pronounced the sale allowed Wesleyan to focus on the historic campus mission and Rosedale Renaissance project.

**Prominent Wesleyan graduates Democrat Marc Veasey, '95, Texas State House Representative for four terms, and Republican Kay Granger, '65, served as Fort Worth mayor and U.S. Representative.**

**Pic of 2013 Induction of Executive Hall of Fame by School of Business Honoree Texas Ranger Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan and 5000 Strikeout Great. Former President Pearce founded the program in 1970 to honor outstanding Fort Worth business leaders.**

#### **Pics of Rosedale Renaissance**

The fall 2013 semester opened with anticipation of what the sale of the law school allowed. In fall 2012 the Tulsa-based Mabee Foundation announced a \$500,000 challenge grant toward Wesleyan's \$6.5 million campus improvement component of the Rosedale project.

Whereas \$32 million in public funding will transform East Rosedale Street from U.S.287 to Miller Avenue, almost \$2 million enhances the four blocks adjacent to the campus. Wesleyan will use \$1.3 million to give the campus its first “front door” at the intersection of Vaughn Street and Rosedale. A clock tower and horse-shoe drive with improved lighting and landscape will serve to give visitors a new look at the improved campus. Also in the mix, the Methodist Central Texas Conference and the Office of the Bishop will move into a \$3 million building on the south side of Rosedale, nearer Collard. The historic Poly fire house on Vaughn will be renovated as a Business Incubator Center, providing students internships and Fort Worth entrepreneurs consultation services. By summer 2014, the Wesleyan campus had already undergone significant improvements with native landscaping, wrought-iron seating, and new sidewalks. A \$750,000- gift from James C. Armstrong, son of O.C. and Elizabeth Means Armstrong, allowed for renovation of both dorms, elevator repair across campus, and remodeling of Dora Dining Hall.

**As Texas Wesleyan University approaches its 125 Anniversary in 2015, .....**

**Dr. Slabach writes a hopeful Final part!!!**