

A Night to Remember



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS WITH AN EVENING OF GREAT CONVERSATION

There's no denying it—everyone loves a good party. On February 27, 2025, that's exactly what we had the pleasure of experiencing. We gathered to celebrate a truly monumental occasion—the 100th anniversary of the Mary Coats Burnett Library with *An Evening of Great Conversation*. And in fact, exactly 100 years ago to the day, on February 27, 1925, the library celebrated its opening!

For a century, this remarkable institution has served as the intellectual heart and cornerstone of Texas Christian University. Its rich history and dedication to knowledge have impacted generations of students, faculty and staff. The evening was filled with engaging conversations, shared laughter and a sense of community, all with one common purpose—raise funds to ensure the continued success of our students and support the evolving needs of our researchers and the entire Frog Family for the next 100 years.

Mary Coats Burnett, an illustrious friend and benefactor of TCU, gave the university its largest single gift, a portion of which was used to construct the library that bears her name and still functions as an intellectual hub. Her legacy of devotion to education and service to the community is nothing short of awe-inspiring and it's this legacy that we strive to secure for the future.

This evening also marked the fourth fundraising event in honor of Mary Coats Burnett's incredible impact. To celebrate her enduring influence, we were joined by a group of distinguished and influential women who have made their mark in various fields:

Rose Alvarez '89

Volunteer Director, Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo

Beverley Bass '74

First Female Captain, American Airlines Commercial Plane

Judy Bernas

Senior Associate Dean and Chief Strategy and Communication Officer, Burnett School of Medicine at TCU; Chair of the Fiesta Bowl Board of Directors

Tiffany Collins Blackmon '87

My So-Called Fabulous Podcast Host; Influencer, Author and Chef

Krys Boyd '92

Host and Managing Editor, *Think*, KERA

Sandra Brown '08

New York Times Bestselling Author

Julie Butner '88

President and CEO, Tarrant Area Food Bank

Brenda Cline '82

CEO, Treasurer and Secretary, Kimbell Art Foundation

Jo Ellard

Owner, Bowie House

The Honorable Macy Hill '02

President of Macy Hill and Company; Fort Worth City Council Member

Melissa Ice

Founder and Executive Director, The Net; Co-Founder of The Worthy Company

Dione Kennedy

President and CEO, Performing Arts Fort Worth, Inc.

Sainty Nelsen

Actress and Producer, *Gabby's Dollhouse* on Netflix; *Glamour and Grit* Podcast

Kristen Saarloos

First Lady of TCU Baseball

Tracy Renee Williams '04

Leadership Development Facilitator, Speaker and Coach; Founder of TraComm Development Group

The evening began with a lively cocktail reception to connect and converse, where guests had the opportunity to explore a Special Collections exhibit. The display highlighted the rich and storied history of the library and TCU, offering a glimpse into the university's treasured archives.

Once everyone made it to their seats for the main program, TCU President Daniel W. Pullin took to the stage, delivering insightful remarks that emphasized the library's profound effect on the university. "It's a place where our students might



Table host Beverley Bass mingles with Joy Rich during the pre-dinner reception.

make lifelong friends, study, discover new ideas and knowledge," said Pullin, setting the tone for the evening ahead.

Guests then enjoyed a delicious dinner paired with vibrant conversations, creating an atmosphere of community and shared excitement. The evening's true highlight came when TCU student Garrett Robinson took the stage to share his personal experiences with the library. Garrett spoke passionately about how the library has been a pivotal part of his academic journey, from accessing cutting-edge research materials to receiving invaluable guidance from expert librarians. His heartfelt testimony resonated deeply with the audience, captivating everyone in the room. More than just a place to study, Garrett's story showcased the library as a space that nurtures personal and academic growth.

Following Garrett's presentation, guests watched a moving video that paid tribute to the library's journey from its inception to its present-day significance. The video highlighted key moments in the library's history, underscoring its importance as a central hub for students, faculty and the entire TCU community.

To close the evening, Library Dean Tracy Hull, delivered a powerful reflection on the mission that has guided the Mary Coats Burnett Library for the past century. "For 100 years, the Mary Coats Burnett Library has fulfilled its mission to organize and provide access to quality information resources that inspire curiosity, creativity and innovation throughout the TCU community," said Hull. She stressed that the library is a place where ideas flourish, where innovation thrives and where learning takes place—values that will continue to shape the future for generations to come.

The evening was a poignant reminder of the power of education and the importance of preserving our past while looking toward the future. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and supporters, we are confident that the legacy of the Mary Coats Burnett Library will continue to inspire and empower future generations of Horned Frogs. Here's to the next 100 years!



President Pullin addresses guests, highlighting the profound impact and enduring legacy of the Mary Coats Burnett Library.