

# THE SKIFF



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LAUREN HEARD TALKS  
BASKETBALL AND LIFE  
OFF THE COURT

A STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

# BASKETBALL HEADED TO NCAA TOURNAMENT

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## CAMPUS NEWS

# Frogs First directors look to diversify student applications

By **BREANA ADAMS**

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

Frogs First leaders introduce incoming students to the TCU culture. However, reaching out to a diverse population of students to apply for this position has been a challenging task for Frogs First executive directors.

“Frogs First is a compilation of events that get students excited about TCU and show them a glimpse of what their next four years will look like,” said Grace Watson, junior child development major and director of logistics and administration for Frogs First.

Shelby Johnson, a graduate advisor for the First Year Experience (FYE) executive board

and TCU alum, said she’s concerned about the applicant demographics.

“It’s alarming when you have a low percentage of representation in your applications because the numbers only go down because there’s a selection process,” said Johnson.

Last year, applicant demographics were 63% Caucasian, 25% Hispanic, 14% Asian, 9% African American and 3% Native American. Only 16% of applicants were men.

Lucas Robinson, senior political science major and Frogs First director of recruitment and leadership development for the FYE, said having a diverse group of applicants is important for incoming students.

“FYE has always had problems with recruiting men and people of color to come to these programs,” said Robinson. “Now that we have the willingness to vocalize that there’s a big underrepresentation of students in leadership, we have been getting a big response because it is something we have created a need for.”

FYE leaders have been meeting with students and other organizations on campus to expand their outreach.

“We’re reaching out to leaders of different prominent cultural base organizations or greek life organizations. Then, we’re coming to their meetings and talking to students in spaces they’re already involved in,” said Robinson.

Additionally, Johnson said COVID-19 has caused a “gap of knowledge and experience” for current sophomores who didn’t get the Frogs First experience.

“Students who did not experience Frogs First or Frog Camp due to the pandemic are unaware about its history and tradition within the university,” said Johnson. “I was talking to some students and they didn’t know what Frogs First was because they did not have it their first year.”

For more information on First Year Experience at TCU, visit TCU’s Leadership & Student Involvement website.



## The Skiff

TCU Box 298050

Fort Worth, TX 76129

skiff-editor@tcu360.com

Phone (817) 257-3600

Fax (817) 257-7133

**Editor** LONYAE COULTER

**Design Editor**

Kristen Pastrano

**Chief Ad Designer**

Tatum Smith

**Associate Editor**

Grace Morison

**Director of Student Media Sales and Operations**

Leah Griffin

**Director of Student Media**

Jean Marie Brown

**Chair, Department of Journalism**

Uche Onyebadi, Ph. D

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## WORLD NEWS

# Professors give insight into Russia’s invasion of Ukraine

By **BROOKE GIANOPULOS**

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

Ten days after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, people around the world are talking about what the future holds for these two countries.

Russia has an extremely strong military, and yet Ukrainian citizens continue to wake up every day and engage in the fight of their lives.

Kara Dixon Vuic, a history professor at TCU, said the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine is related to the previous Cold War. Ukraine broke away, contributing to the

demise of the U.S.S.R.

Russian President Vladimir Putin continues to see the situation through a “lingering Cold War lens,” Vuic said.

Over the past 30 years, Putin has viewed any expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a threat to Russia, said Vuic. NATO was born out of the end of World War II in 1949 as a way for Western countries to deter the spread of communism and prevent Soviet expansion into Europe.

Vuic said Putin believes Ukraine and other past Soviet republics are rightful Russian territories. Ralph

Carter, a political science professor at TCU, agreed.

“It seems clear that he thinks if a country was ever a part of the Russian empire, it should still be Russia’s,” Carter said.

The conflict is dangerous, yet delicate.

As of now, many countries are trying to support Ukraine through funding and sanctions. Putin said on Saturday that he views any international sanctions against Russia as a declaration of war, according to the Washington Post.

Carter said he believes the future outcome of this war is grim. “I don’t see a good ending to this. I wish I had more

optimistic news,” he said at a recent political science distinction talk.

Carter specializes in Russian politics and believes Putin will win, whether by controlling a portion of Ukraine or its entirety. He predicts Putin will implement a pro-Russian leader.

The question remains whether the public will continue to resist and fight back, as they did in the conflict between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan in 1979. So far, the people of Ukraine are putting up a tremendous fight, and if Putin wins, it will be at a great cost, said Carter.

## SPORTS

# California Love: Basketball heads to San Diego as a 9th seed in NCAA tournament

By COLIN POST

SPORTS EDITOR, TCU 360

Five months ago, Mike Miles made it clear that this TCU team was different.

“We’re a lot better, I feel like this team is more focused, more focused on the main goal, and that’s winning,” Miles said on Nov. 15.

At that point, the Frogs were just 2-0 with wins over only

weak nonconference opponents, and there was no real evidence that this TCU team would build on their 12-14 record from 2021.

But Miles was right.

For just the second time since 1998, TCU basketball was selected for the NCAA tournament on Sunday afternoon, entering as a 9th seed.

“Me and him [Eddie Lampkin] came in here

with a plan to get this team to the tournament,” Miles said. “That’s what we do, but we obviously couldn’t do it without the help of our teammates.”

Part of the South region, the Frogs will take on 8th seed Seton Hall on Friday in San Diego, California, at a time to be determined.

After finishing 20-12 this season, TCU makes the NCAA tournament for just the 9th time in

school history and the 2nd time under head coach Jamie Dixon.

“We’ve got to raise our standard. We’ve got to raise our bar,” Dixon said of his message to the team.

The Frogs were last in the NCAA tournament in 2018, where they fell to Syracuse 57-52 in their first game.

TCU set program records over the course of this year with five ranked

wins and seven Quad 1 wins. They also tied for their best Big 12 regular season finish (5th) and tournament finish (semifinals).

On Thursday, the Frogs came back from a 20-point deficit to beat No. 22 Texas 65-60 in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 tournament.

Following the tournament, Miles became the first Frog to make the

Big 12 tournament All-Tournament team after averaging 13 points, 4.5 rebounds, and 3 assists in the two games.

“Our ceiling is, obviously, we want to win a championship, but it starts with Seton Hall,” Miles said. “We want to do something that’s never been done at this school.”

# Women’s club basketball wins first at conference tournament

By ALEXIS BERRY

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

The TCU Women’s Club Basketball Team was not a team in 2020. Now, they are first in the Southern Conference.

The team came in first at the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) Women’s Southern Conference Tournament on Feb. 19-20.

“Going to our first tournament as the youngest school there and beating five other schools feels so good,” said team captain and

senior Kynnedi Rone.

The team defeated opponents from Sam Houston State University, Oklahoma State University, Texas State University, Texas A&M University and Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

The fall of 2021 was the first semester where the team could fully operate as a club sport due to university restrictions on club sports from COVID-19.

“We had our team, but there was a restriction on club sports, so we couldn’t travel,” Rone,

a strategic communications major, said. “When you can’t travel, you can’t play games. When you can’t play games, you can’t charge dues— which means you can’t hold your student-athletes accountable.”

Last fall, the team participated in locally-organized tournaments that were put together by team leadership.

The team was originally formed to foster a sense of equality in women’s athletics at TCU.

Haley Lupkes, a first-year criminal justice student on the team, said she has grown in confidence and become empowered through the team environment she is a part of.

“It’s sad to see in general how when you go to the Rec, there aren’t many girls there playing,” Lupkes said. “The basketball team offers a great safe space for us to all go and play.”

In November, the team participated in its first travel tournament of the season. TCU

played Texas State, Baylor, Stephen F. Austin University and Sam Houston at Texas State.

The team started with eight players. Now, 16 women can take to the court.

“Look[ing] at us today with girls coming from all different parts of the world wanting to be apart of the girls club basketball team, giving up their Saturdays, giving up their Tuesday nights just trying to play the game, to give up their time, and [to] let me lead them, is my proudest moment,” said head coach Kevin Harvey.

The chemistry of the team was another contributing factor to the team’s success at the Women’s Southern Conference Tournament, according to student coaches Tay Spears and Henry Nixon.

According to Nixon, the chemistry of the team on and off the court was something extremely noticeable at the tournament.

“They showed out, they played really well,



PHOTO COURTESY OF KYNNEDEI RONE

The TCU Women’s Basketball Team at their tournament in San Marcos, Texas.

they made adjustments; not only did they beat every team, but we blew out three out of the five teams we played,” Nixon, a junior engineering major, said. “Everyone wanted to win, so it was easy.”

The team now has a chance to win a straight bid to the NIRSA National Championship at their tournament this weekend. The team is excited going into the weekend, and for junior player and nursing major Kaylee Cunningham, the

practices will pay off.

“Being able to go out there and represent TCU and win it all just shows all our practice is worth it,” Cunningham said. “This is an actual team that’s capable of doing those things.”

The tournament was held at the Maverick Activities Center at the University of Texas Arlington on March 4. Fans can follow the team’s Instagram page for updates.



PHOTO BY ALEXIS BERRY

A member of the TCU women’s basketball team shoots a basketball at practice.

## CAMPUS FEATURE

# Heard Mentality: Lauren Heard is rewriting TCU basketball history

By **SEDERICK OLIVER**

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

There are three things in life that are certain: death, taxes and Lauren Heard leaving everything out on the basketball court.

Embodying the spirit of one of her favorite players, Russell Westbrook, she hardly takes a single play off.

“I love his [Westbrook’s] competitive edge and his explosiveness,” Heard said. Adding, “Everything he does is aggressive and he takes whatever the defense gives him.”

Heard also cited Candace Parker, Kobe Bryant, and LeBron James as early influences on her playing style.



TCU guard Lauren Heard (20) cuts through the lane in a win versus Texas Tech Jan. 23, 2021.

PHOTO BY JD PELLIS

***“Growing up I kind of idolized these players because of their dominance over the game. I found it crazy how everyone could be so good in a professional league, yet you have these individuals that’ve clearly set themselves apart.”***

-**LAUREN HEARD**

TCU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL GUARD

Heard’s relentlessness and passion has propelled her to star status with a coveted career cemented in TCU basketball lore.

With a mom who played at the high school and collegiate levels,

Heard was introduced to the game at an early age.

By five she was playing in the “Little Dribblers League” at the Martin Luther King Center in Denton, Texas.

Heard ran track and played volleyball and

softball, but basketball won her heart.

“It got to the point where I was having more fun with basketball, and so it stuck with me.”

## Sticking with it

Committing herself to basketball, Heard improved her skills and became a standout player, garnering attention at Guyer High School in Denton, Texas.

Ranked a 4-star recruit by Premier Basketball Report, she was the No. 4 point guard in Texas and the No. 66 overall guard in the nation by ESPN HoopGurlz. Heard was named TABC Girls’ All-State, District 6-6A MVP and TABC All-Region 6A-1 after her senior season.

She scored over 2,000 points in her high school career, and averaged 24.5 points, 9.0 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 4.1 steals per game as a senior. She also led Guyer to the UIL 6A state playoffs as a sophomore and junior.

On Aug. 31, 2016, she committed to TCU, where she would play as a point guard.

Heard was headed for greatness.

But the transition from high school to the collegiate level had its difficulties.

Namely, the speed of the game.

At the collegiate level, the game is much faster and requires more thinking ahead, especially as a point guard.

Heard is in charge of dictating the flow and

rhythm of the offense and ensuring that every single possession ends with an efficient shot attempt.

“You have to make quick decisions and not hold the ball,” Heard said. “In high school, you do what you’re told with no purpose behind it but in college you have to make reads on your own and know how to read defenses and run an offense.”

Despite the challenges, she has succeeded and broken virtually every women’s playing record.

## A record breaker

Among her many records at TCU include: setting the program single-game steals record with 11 at Oklahoma, the

program single-season record for free throws made with 171 in the 2019-20 season, the single-season record for scoring average with 21.2 ppg in 2020-21, and owning the program record for free throws made with 484 (at the time of this writing) in a career.

With records comes awards.

***“My favorite current record would have to be the free throw ones, because it’s something I’ve already secured. I’m not fighting anyone for it and if anyone wants to take it after me they can.”***

-**LAUREN HEARD**

TCU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL GUARD

Boasting honors such as multiple Big 12 Player of the Weeks, 2019-20 All-Big 12 First Team, 2020-21 All-Big 12 First Team, and 2020-21 Big 12 All-Defensive Team, Heard is as decorated as they come.

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Heard also said obtaining the all-time scoring record would be the highlight of her career. On March 2, 2022, she did that.

But despite all the accomplishments and accolades Heard said, “the team always comes first.”

### No ‘I’ in team

In an age of advanced analytics and perceived stat-padding, it is rare a player truly has a team-first mindset.

Her selflessness has a ripple effect, allowing the team to truly play an unselfish brand of basketball. This is evident in the dip in her scoring average this season compared to her 2020-21 numbers.

“I think it’s cool to show you can score consistently and be that for your team, but I do like it when the load is a little lighter, it’s more fun that way,” Heard said.

Prior to this season, Heard experienced an increase in her points every single season, doubling her averages

***“I’m not too fond of scoring 30 and the show being about me when everyone else can eat.”***

**-LAUREN HEARD**

TCU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL  
GUARD

between her sophomore and junior years, going from 9.1 to 18.4 points per game.

This culminated in her averaging a career high while simultaneously setting a TCU single-season record of 21.7 points per game in 2020-21, her senior season. But she has returned for her fifth year taking less shot attempts to get other team members more involved.

“I know they (scouts and general managers) look for that type of unselfishness and team-oriented play at the next level, as well,” Heard said.

### Changing perceptions

Historically, women’s basketball players have been subjected to criticism regarding their play.

Heard said she sees this as a misguided lack of judgment and wishes viewers could watch and appreciate the women’s game for all that it is.

“It’s not relying on physicality and freak of natures that are pinning layups off of the backboard like Ja Morant,” Heard said. “It’s hard work, it’s communication, strategy and working together.”

She believes the point of reference for most viewers is the NBA, which has a certain “wow factor” that the WNBA is said to not provide.

Times are changing and professional athletes such as Brittney Griner (Phoenix Mercury), Caitlin Clark (Iowa Hawkeyes), are bringing a certain flair to the game that could potentially grow the audience of women’s basketball.

With the WNBA recently celebrating its 25th anniversary,



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOFROGS.COM

TCU guard Lauren Heard moved into 1st all-time on the TCU basketball scoring list with a 21-point performance against Texas Tech on March 2, 2022.

the game continues to expand globally.

The “W” has hit many milestones including its new collective bargaining agreement with the league in 2020. The league also expanded its broadcast reach a few years back in a new deal with CBS.

Austin billionaires, Michael and Susan Dell have invested an undisclosed amount as part of a \$75 million fundraising haul for the WNBA.

“Susan and I are excited about the growth opportunity in women’s sports and specifically the WNBA,” Michael Dell said in a WNBA news release.

The funding will help contribute to the growth of the WNBA brand, including the potential addition of new teams.

“We also are proud to support a league that is committed to empowerment, and we look forward to

supporting [WNBA commissioner, Cathy Engelbert] and all the accomplished and diverse women of the WNBA to make a positive impact in the world.”

### What’s next?

Heard said the “ultimate goal” is to either play overseas or in the WNBA.

But she also takes great pride in her academics.

She graduated from TCU with a major in

psychology and is now in grad school at the TCU Master’s of Liberal Arts program.

Heard said that while some players do not know their identity outside of sports, she has been “fortunate enough” to find her passion outside of basketball.

More than an athlete, she is determined to not be defined by the success of her basketball career.

On and off the court, Heard’s legacy is cemented at TCU.

***“I do have aspirations off of the court, and after playing I would like to get into counseling, branding and marketing and social media influencing.”***

**-LAUREN HEARD**

TCU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL GUARD



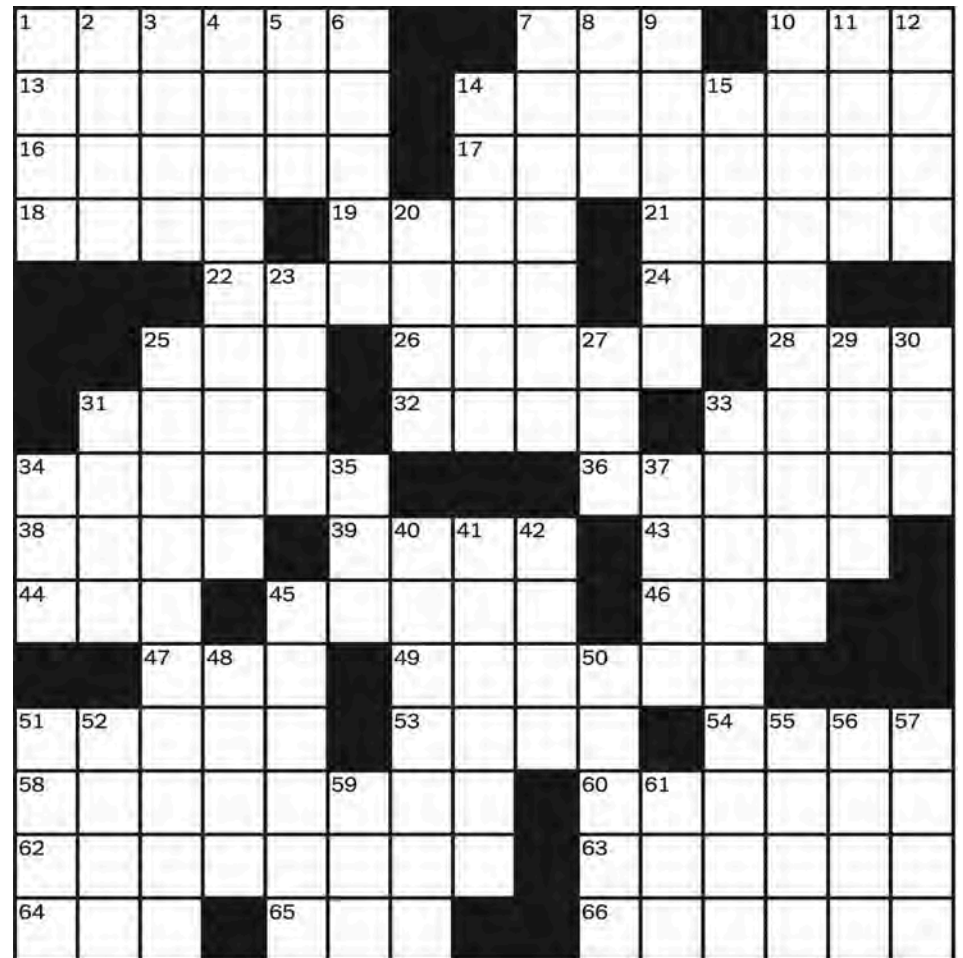
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOFROGS.COM

TCU guard Lauren Heard lays-in a contested bucket at the rim over an Oklahoma State defender.



## The New York Times Edited by Will Shortz

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25 "\_\_\_ Blues" (song on the Beatles' "White Album")  
26 Treatment plants?  
28 Letters of qualification  
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33 Prey for a heron  
34 \_\_\_ Poovie ("Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C." character)  
36 Sounds from a pond at night
- 38 French agreements  
39 Stone with "fire" and "water"  
varieties  
43 "Ish"  
44 Unspecified ordinal  
45 Travelocity spokescreature  
46 Make a pick  
47 Bird found in the mud?  
49 Pea, e.g.  
51 "Death of a Salesman" surname  
53 It may turn slowly in a horror movie  
54 Denny's competitor  
58 "What a pity"  
60 Liken  
62 Attend to details ... or a hint to entering six Down answers in this puzzle  
63 Applies, as lotion  
64 [Some of us are trying to watch the movie here!]  
65 "Success!"  
66 Trickled
- failure  
2 Trickle  
3 Rock genre for Roxy Music  
4 Southern border city in a Larry McMurry title  
5 Game measured by its number of points  
6 Elements No. 7, 8, 9 and 10, e.g.  
7 Certain martial arts takedown  
8 Word after bad or hard  
9 \_\_\_ monkey  
10 Trendy brunch order  
11 Benefit  
12 Really hope  
14 Proportionate size for some model trains  
15 It's a lot to carry  
20 Online status  
23 1982 film set in a mainframe  
25 "It's not hard to guess how this will end"  
27 Key to a quick exit?  
29 Shark species with the largest brain-to-body ratio
- 30 Some E.R. cases  
31 Strike  
33 Underwater weapon-launching apparatus  
34 Horror star Chaney  
35 Stop start?  
37 2003 cult film known as the "Citizen Kane" of bad movies," with "The"  
40 Spotty pattern  
41 Modifies  
42 Kind of block  
45 Afraid to commit, say  
48 Actor Bomer of "Magic Mike"  
50 Gets a ride, in a way  
51 '65 Ford debuts  
52 "Me! Pick me!"  
55 Locking mechanism  
56 Great Plains tribe  
57 Await a ruling  
59 "Isn't that obvious?"  
61 "\_\_\_ es eso?"
- DOWN  
1 Destine for



## Carpe Diem by Niklas Eriksson





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**Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker**



## Horoscope

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) ★★★ You don't feel much like working today. Ideally, you would rather kick back and relax. Nevertheless, some ideas might lead to new ways to make money or get the best use out of something. Tonight: Check your pet.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Today is a pleasure-loving day. Enjoy social outings, sports events and the arts. You might meet a new face today, or perhaps someone younger will surprise you. Ah, that infectious boost of youth! Tonight: Socialize!

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★ This is a good day,

partly because you feel that you can rest. Parents or bosses and VIPs approve of you, which is why you feel you don't have to knock yourself out today. Tonight: Family confusion.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★ Travel plans might change suddenly. Alternatively, you might have a last-minute chance to travel. Something fun will drop in your lap. Enjoy meeting people from other cultures. (Think twice before picking up the tab for everyone.) Tonight: Wishful thinking.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ This is a tricky day because something unexpected might arise regarding shared property, inheritances or the financial support that you receive from another source. But at the same time, your financial judgment is a bit fuzzy

today. Hmm, tread carefully! Tonight: Clarify your finances.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ This is a great day for you because the Moon is in your sign dancing with Jupiter, which will tend to make you generous with others. Meanwhile, someone close to you might throw you a curveball or do something you least expect. Tonight: Confused communications.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Even though you are focused on getting organized, today you feel a bit lazy. That's OK. Be gentle on yourself. Instead of trying to get caught up, focus on the present. The future comes one day at a time. Tonight: Fuzzy thinking.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ An unexpected invitation might come your way today. Social plans might

change. Parents, take note that this is an accident-prone day for your kids. New love or flirtation might catch you off guard. Tonight: Someone might disappoint you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Stock the fridge, because unexpected company might arrive today. Something will change your home routine -- hopefully, not a broken appliance. This is a good day to entertain at home or just relax and enjoy a guilty pleasure, perhaps daytime TV. Tonight: Be clear.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ This is a lovely day to make contact with siblings, relatives and neighbors, because you feel friendly and generous to others. However, this is also a mildly accident-prone day, so please pay attention to everything you say and do. Tonight: Be discerning.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Be careful of financial decisions and shopping today, because you're tempted to make impulse purchases. Oops. It also will be easy to go overboard and be extravagant. You might be overly generous to someone. Tonight: Check your finances.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★ Relations with close friends will be pleasant because you feel generous to others. Something unexpected might occur because of spontaneous behavior on your part. Be ready for anything! Tonight: Be forgiving.



## CAMPUS NEWS

# Officer brings free self-defense lessons for students to campus

By Kyla Vogel

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

A TCU Police officer is teaching free self-defense classes in locations convenient for busy students.

Although there is a 16-hour self-defense course in place for students to take, TCU Police Sgt. Richard Martinez recognized students do not always have that time to spare.

“Everybody’s in a hurry, everybody’s got schoolwork, everybody’s got plans with their friends and stuff,” he said.

So as a certified defensive tactics instructor, Martinez proposed he teach one-hour self-defense classes at locations across campus, such as Milton Daniel Hall, Colby Hall and the University Recreation Center. He now conducts these short lessons four times a month.

“It helps the students, male or female, gain some confidence in how to handle themselves if they’re in a situation where they can get themselves out,” Martinez said.

With an assault last semester on campus, some students want to take these extra safety precautions to ease their minds. The student who experienced the attack said what saved her was yelling loudly.

Martinez said the TCU campus is safe. However, incidents still occur and students should be prepared.

Olivia Parr, a junior strategic communication major, said she feels safer while out by herself or with friends after taking the course. “I’m so glad I know more about how to defend myself, even

if I am never in that situation,” she said.

Martinez said his tactics are basic but are similar to what he teaches other police officers.

Matthew Dena, senior political science and philosophy double major, has a background in karate and has since taken multiple classes with Martinez to keep his self-defense skills sharp.

“The ability to defend oneself and others is invaluable,” said Dena.

With high ratings from students, and even garnering some returning students, Martinez said



PHOTO BY KYLA VOGEL

Students in Milton Daniel Hall participating in a self-defense course.

he is excited about where the program is going.

“It’s enjoyable. It’s fun. It’s easy,” Martinez said.

Additional safety precautions for students

to be aware of include the Frog Shield App, knowing the locations of the blue emergency towers and walking in groups when possible.

# NASA astronaut shares lessons learned from the Columbia tragedy

By Katherine Lester

MANAGING EDITOR, TCU 360

It’s not every day that a NASA astronaut lectures in Sid Richardson Hall.

To kick off last week’s National Engineers Week, TCU’s College of Science & Engineering

welcomed Charles Camarda, an astronaut and engineer.

Camarda was part of the STS-114 “Return to Flight” mission – NASA’s return mission to space following the Columbia space shuttle disaster. For his presentation, Camarda taught

engineering students, faculty and audience members how to learn from safety issues and prevent tragedies.

The visit was part of the Green Honors Chair program. Notable scholars and artists from all disciplines are brought to campus for short residencies as Green Chairs.

After space shuttle Columbia disintegrated upon re-entry into the atmosphere in 2003, Camarda sprung into action. The thermal structure engineer was part of the research team that figured out what went wrong and how to prevent the accident in the future. Not only did he conduct this research on the ground, but he also experimented while onboard the International Space Station two years later.

In the Columbia

shuttle, a piece of foam insulation had broken off of the space shuttle and hit a key area of the leading-edge of the left wing, leaving a gaping hole for hot gasses to seep inside the vehicle.

While on the ISS, Camarda explained how he and crew members experimented with repairs astronauts could use for future missions, should foam damage occur again.

Foam insulation breakage was commonplace in previous missions, but it was thought to pose no safety concern, Camarda said.

“We never were able to figure out what made the foam break off, but we still kept flying,” said Camarda. He said this oversight cost the lives of “seven friends and classmates.”

Even though the issue was technical, Camarda

said the tragedy stemmed from the internal culture at NASA. Proper safety preventative measures were not calculated for foam break-off, and some engineers were pushed to the side when they brought up concerns. Transcripts retrieved by the New York Times from NASA the week before the launch show that NASA scientists thought the foam insulation posed “no safety of flight” concern.

Camarda showed video footage of foam breaking off from his own flight in 2005 that nearly missed the leading-edge of one of the wings – the same spot where foam hit the Columbia space shuttle.

“It was interesting how [Camarda] put personal responsibility into perspective for engineers because that’s something we learn

about in a lot of our other classes,” said David de Oliveira, a junior mechanical engineering major. “I think there were a lot of people that tried to speak up and that was a massive perspective that was given to us, that there was a loss of life because people didn’t take responsibility seriously.”

After explaining how cultural issues can cause disasters, Camarda told students to pay attention to the internal culture of an organization before they start looking for jobs. He said having mentors who protected him early in his career was essential.

“Find out who is going to be your mentor,” Camarda said. “Are you going to be able to learn from this person? Do they have values you respect?”



PHOTO BY KATHERINE LESTER

Charles Camarda, an astronaut and engineer, explains to a curious young scientist what it feels like to be in space at his Green Honors Chair presentation on Monday, February 21 in Sid Richardson Hall.