



Neeley School
of Business

Tributes to Dr. Robert Rhodes from TCU Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff



Dr. Rhodes was my MBA Business Law professor and our European Union class advisor for our International trip (Cologne, Germany 2000-2001). Throughout my academic journey all my teachers/professors had some impact, however, only a few truly changed the direction of my life. Dr. Rhodes was definitely one of those few. Dr. Rhodes expanded my view of the world. This change of view has passed on to my children, and I suspect will pass on to their children. His impact on me will live on well beyond my life.

Dr. Rhodes ended his lectures with “Now what are you going to do with this lecture”. In other words, the real power of our education was not the recall of information for some test, but instead, what nugget of information did I pick up on AND will I accept the responsibility to DO SOMETHING MORE with it!! I still remember this point in my everyday life 19 years after my Dr. Rhodes classes and I try very hard to accept the responsibility Dr. Rhodes insisted on.

Rod Pekurney PMBA '01

I had the pleasure of getting to know Dr. Rhodes at TCU like many others, through his contract law class. I recall coming to class twice a week, early in the morning, overly preparing to brief every case in the event that the famous Rhodes voice were to strike and call my name to lead the entire class discussion. You definitely did not want to get caught unprepared! He had a way of pushing you to think differently, think deeper, and connect with each student to empower them to be better. He was truly one of a kind leaving a long-standing impact on me. This is such a heavy loss for the TCU community and he will be missed. My sincere sympathies to the entire Rhodes family - I can only hope that there is some comfort in knowing that his memory will never be forgotten amongst the thousands of lives he has impacted around the world.

Matt Dwork MBA '19

He was such a memorable person from my TCU education. His ability to "hold court" in class and get everyone involved made his class among my favorites of all time. When all the students were thinking and questioning and commenting, you could tell how much he enjoyed teaching. I remember how, if someone asked a question that started to take the discussion away from the point of the lesson, he would grin and then add a new detail to the discussion to bring things back around. It never failed to amaze me how fast he was with the discussions and details. He rarely paused to think, or act like he was stumped, and if he did, it was for dramatic effect.

I know his family misses him dearly. Hopefully they know and can find comfort in the breadth and depth of lives that Dr. Rhodes affected in his lifetime. TCU's Neeley School has lost a truly great professor.

Steve Owens BBA '04

Professor Rhodes was one of the greatest teachers I've ever had. He was kind, passionate, and one of the most intelligent people I've ever met. He was such a worldly thinker and brought unique insights to the table. Not one day in class went by that he wasn't 100% devoted to helping us learn and challenging our thinking. Such a brilliant man was taken from us much too soon, but I'm glad I had the opportunity to know him. Although he is gone, the lessons and skills he taught me, will stick with me forever."

Nicole James

He was the best. I was a grad student at TCU '02-'04, and I will never forget gallivanting through Italy with Dr. Rhodes and my classmates. Life with Dr. Rhodes was life altering. He's unforgettable.

Tyrone Houston PMBA '04

Dr. Rhodes was my favorite Neeley professor, and he had some stiff competition. No one made me want to be smarter, quicker, more capable the way he did. He held the classroom rapt from the moment he began speaking until the moment we walked out. He was the definition of teaching his students not what to think, but how to think. He believed the best in us, and we tried to do our best for him.

I also had the privilege of completing my thesis under Dr. Rhodes' direction. Listening to him explain the intricacies of the international laws which were his deepest area of expertise convinced me that he was one of the most brilliant people I'd ever met. The way he pushed and guided and listened to my fumbling thoughts convinced me that Rob Rhodes was also uncommonly kind. I feel so honored to have known him. The world is a worse place without Robert Rhodes in it, but there are countless students who are more able and willing to make the world a better place because of him.

Hayley Henley BBA '18

Rob was not only a gifted educator, he was also someone you could earnestly call friend when you were a student. His embracing of those in his class was both heartfelt and professional at the same time. His class was probably the most enjoyable, compelling, and insightful of any I had during my undergraduate and graduate school years. It had been many years since I had seen Rob, and yet I am certain that if I had shown up in his office at any time in the last year, he would have greeted me as if we had remained close these many years.

Kyle Moore MBA '91

As I am sure many former students will account in the oncoming days, his Business Law class was the perennial favorite elective for every business major at Neeley. I still remember his engaging, genuine style, along with this great business and life experience that made learning in his classes so easy, and so fun. He will be missed!

David Radcliffe '05

He was one of my favorite teachers of all time and I looked forward to every class. I remember he and his wife had us over for dinner one time – he took the time to connect with the students and turned them into friends.

Matt Eckert

In my mind he was 10 feet tall. He exhibited such a dynamic energy and passion. Dr. Rhodes drew you in. He captivated us all.

I had the privilege of traveling abroad for our international business law class during one of the most incredible events: the creation of "a supra nation" as Rhodes called it. Being in Europe as the currency changed from francs, lire, pesetas... into Euros was historical. The infrastructure was not ready. We were witness to this under Rhodes' tutelage and discerning eye. It was

amazing. After many long discussions and lectures by day, we would venture to Cologne restaurants and continue in true Frog form for more dialogue into the evening. That was a learning event I always will cherish. I will never forget how much he cared about me and my contributions to class. Rhodes was my absolute favorite!!! I hope he is loud in heaven as he imparts his wisdom. May he soar on angel wings.

Mia Rosen Barajas

It was impossible not to get caught up in Rob Rhodes' BLaw class. His passion, his voice, his pacing back and forth and then articulating a point by raising up on his toes or pausing to point in the air or at one of us. That class changed my life. Aside from learning how to research and support an argument with factual evidence, I learned to look at business - and life - through a lens that included justice. I use the lessons he taught about critical thinking and ethics to the best of my ability in my work to this day.

But I also remember going to talk with him when I was having a career crisis. His door was always open. He asked me hard questions and pushed me to challenge myself and my own limitations. He was a professor that made a real and lasting impact on my life and I know I'm not alone in saying that.

Angela Reina-Greca BBA '98 MBA '00

Like so many other TCU business majors, I relished Dr. Rhodes' lectures while also being somewhat terrified of his exams. Everyone said "his class was hard but, oh, so worth it."

I remember one day he quoted a Bruce Hornsby song "The Way It Is" and wrote a lyric on the chalkboard. I believe it was the line about "passing a law in '64 to give those who ain't got a little more." Something stood out to me when he did that and, later on, at the end of the semester, while in a conference with him in his office, we started talking about music and I opened up a little about myself. I was a business major, but my heart was in theatre. I admitted I was getting a business degree because I thought that's what I was "supposed" to do, not what I wanted to do. I did enjoy marketing because it was a little more creative, but what I really wanted to do was sing in musicals. We got to talking about this new musical Chess out of London. It was one of the first new musicals released on DVD and the score was sensational and very electronic. He had not heard of it so I "turned him onto it", as we say. After that, we developed a kinship that had little to do with MJ Neeley and more to do with AL Weber. I knew Dr. Rhodes was an excellent pianist. It's always been funny and remarkable to me that after 30+ years as a professional singer, the most influential and memorable professors of my time at TCU were not in the theatre department, but rather in the business department. Dr. Rhodes was definitely at the top. He was a great man, an outstanding law professor and a fine musician. He will be sorely missed.

Rebecca (Becky Beeth) Lowe BBA '88

Dr. Rhodes was an amazing professor and an even more amazing man. I recall a lengthy chat with him sitting outside the business school, where for the first time I experienced conversation with a teacher that seemed more like I was talking to a friend. In the classroom, he took the time

and care to ensure that all students were engaged and listened to. Outside the classroom, he took the exact same time and care to greet you by name and make you feel like you were important. I am deeply saddened to hear that I will no longer be lucky enough to run into Robert in the hallways, but I am happy to recall the amazing memories that he has given myself and so many students at TCU. His memory lives on.

Trevor Short BBA '21

Dr. Rhodes was simply one of the best professors TCU will ever have. His lectures of Law were also life teachings. He taught us how to analyze and to break down problems into solvable solutions. He would often encourage the class to give both points of view and to not answer immediately. I can go on and on, but Dr. Rhodes style of teaching was profound.

To the family of Dr. Rhodes: He lives on through each and every student he taught since 1984. I can't imagine how many students changed their major to law after being in his class. I had a semester with him, and I still emulate things he did and said. My cousin a few months ago asked me, "are you smart?" One of Dr. Rhodes famous, booming speeches, came to mind and I copied him: "No. The more I learn, the more I learn how dumb I am!"

May Dr. Rhodes Rest In Peace. You will never be forgotten.

Nathaniel Khani

I signed up for the class. Business in Italy. I was enjoying lunch in Florence very close to the hotel we were staying. He saw me and then he decided to join me. We had a great conversation about life. It was one of my favorite 1-on-1, and the topic was about work-life balance and what was important. For some reason, I never forgot that conversation since it changed my perspective in life. He explained to me why he loved Italy so much and the things he wished Americans can learn from their culture, then he tailored that talking point and his thoughts to give me great advice that I will never forget. He was truly special and he was my favorite professor at TCU

Javier Prieto MBA '19

I am devastated like everyone else but a smile came to my face when I thought back to the first time that Rob actually inspired me; there were several times, but this one is most memorable. When Rob was named Alumni Professor of the Year in 2008, it was just a month or so after I moved from the PDC to my current role as Director of the Graduate Career Center. In the Fall 2008 semester, Dean Erikson hosted a NYC alumni event with our Alumni Professor of the Year as the guest speaker. I jumped at the chance to take my Class of 2009 and 2010 MBAs to NYC to visit companies and attend the alumni event. We had the event at The Houndstooth Pub, which at the time was owned by a Neeley MBA alum (can't remember his name). My 20 MBAs and I showed up at The Houndstooth Pub and although I had met and knew Rob, this was the first time I actually was able to have real talk with him. I remember him asking me what was my outlook for the MBAs given the failing economy. I sweated and stumbled through an answer and then he just stopped me and told me: "You're perfectly positioned for success. You're in this role at the perfect time because you are starting at the

bottom and will only go up from here.” After we chatted a while longer, his wife Andrea and (then) 5- or 6-year-old son Jacob came over and he introduced me to them. I remember trading stories with Andrea because my daughter Gabby was just a year younger than Jacob. We had a great event; as all expected, we were blown away by Rob’s presentation. To this day, his words are still with me; they were inspiring and confidence building, which I needed given the state of the job market for MBAs in the fall of 2008. Someone who didn’t know much about me made such a long-lasting impact on my tenure at Neeley.

One other memory, and this one made laugh. There are a few Neeley-ites that I refer to as the “Early Birds.” We all arrive at work pre-7am. We also have unwritten rules with regards to who parks where in the reserved lot. For the longest time, I would arrive at work and someone would be in my parking spot and I would grumble under my breath as I parked in the spot next to them. Well one morning, I beat my own ETA and pulled in right behind the parking space bandit; IT WAS ROB!!! I gave him an earful when we both parked and walked into the building. From that day on, even though he would always beat me to work, he left “my spot” empty and each day as I parked, I would smile and think “thank you. Rob.” Silly, I know, but it was more than the parking spot. It was Rob being Rob and always giving of himself to all who were blessed to call him a professor, a colleague, and a friend.

So many other fond memories during the course of my 15 years at Neeley. I count myself blessed to have known such a remarkable person. I am devastated by his passing and my heart aches for the beautiful wife, son and family he leaves behind. The legacy Rob leaves behind will be forever imbedded in the culture at Neeley and TCU.

LaTanya Johns, Director, Graduate Career Services

RIP Dr. Rhodes. Another good soul lost to COVID-related complications. You were undoubtedly one of my favorite professors during my four years at TCU. Your knowledge, personality, down-to-earth mentality, teaching style, and strong desire to ensure your students ended the semester as smarter individuals than at the start were all invaluable and reasons why I admired you. You sincerely enjoyed your role as a professor and taught because you loved doing so. I personally enjoyed the engaging classes, the challenges you presented which enhanced my critical thinking skills, and our numerous discussions during your office hours that I loved. I will never forget preparing for each class and coming in ready to learn. I know you would tell me today that I worked hard for that A, that you enjoyed having me as a student, and that my parents raised a good kid when you met them and we all talked. Never thought the last time we would speak would come so soon. Keeping your family and loved ones in my thoughts. TCU Neeley lost a good one.

Hunter Locks BBA '19

When asked what was wrong after receiving the news of Rob's passing, I responded, "My favorite professor was taken by COVID-19." But that was only half true. I lost a dear friend, and a mentor, and a confidant. I developed my senior honors thesis in collaboration with Rob. Since graduation, I haven't set foot on campus without picking up the phone to call him. To put it bluntly, Robert Rhodes was the greatest gift the Neeley School – and TCU – ever received.

Rob taught generations of students how to think critically, and did so with unwavering passion year after year. He somehow managed to continually meet his life goal: Every lecture he gave was the best he had ever given. Anyone can learn from him the value of striving towards perfection of one's craft.

His business law course is like a movie with unlimited replay value – I could watch it over and over. And now I deeply regret that I'll never have the opportunity to attend one of his classes as an alumni guest and once again experience his unparalleled capacity to excite a roomful of students, regardless of background or professional interest, in esoteric subject matter. Those presentations were so powerful that students with no inherent interest in legal cases found themselves contemplating law school as a post-graduate option. Even the significant recognition Dr. Rhodes received doesn't do him justice. Dr. Rhodes was deserving of the Professor of the Year award every year that he was a part of the faculty.

My deepest condolences go out to Rob's family and loved ones. The loss of Robert Rhodes leaves a hole that cannot be filled. I'll miss him more than words can express.

Anthony Micheli BBA '17

You never really believe the trope about educators who change your life until it happens to you. I spent less than forty hours with Dr. Rhodes, but in that time he taught me not just a bit about law - for that was his job - but also how to grab a room by its lapels and make it take notice, how to challenge every argument - even and especially the good ones - with an opposing perspective, how to use a masterful command of language and story and, at times, raw decibels to impart wisdom, and how to do it all with a depth of humility and a heartfelt desire to always do better.

I am deeply, profoundly saddened - for his wife and son, his co-workers, and for all of the future students who won't have the same privilege of learning from him that I enjoyed.

Christian I. Holston EMBA '19

Rob was a master teacher. His appreciation for critical thinking and his ability to develop the same in his students was truly remarkable. During my entire time as dean, he was my most trusted advocate for excellence in teaching. And most assuredly, he was beloved by alumni. Without exception, alumni would share that he was the most challenging and most effective professor they had ever had.

Dr. Homer Erekson

An incredibly inspiring and kind man. A daily example of how to live one's values. I will miss Rob dearly and hold his legacy and lessons tightly. I am so grateful for having known Rob.

Dr. Brad Harris

For the past 15 years, Rob was one of the first people that I would see each day. We were often among the first faculty members in the building and would regularly cross paths on the way to get early morning coffee in the dean's suite (he would make many trips, getting only half a cup of black coffee each time). It is difficult to talk about Rob without using the word "passionate." Yet, as a colleague of his in the management department for many years, what I always valued most about him was his fair and balanced opinion. No matter what the topic or how far removed it was from Rob's expertise, he always had a special way of chiming in with an objective view that everyone respected regardless of their personal agendas or perspectives. He will be uniquely missed.

Dr. Keith Hmieleski

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I have many fond memories of my MBA winter study abroad trip to Freiburg, Germany, December of 1996, hosted and led by Dr. Rhodes and his wife Andrea. It was the coldest winter they have had in that region for decades, but that did not slow our group, or our fearless leader, down. He taught us so much in the classroom and in our world. Dr. Rhodes will be missed, but left an incredible, lasting impact.

Andrea Beckner Bell BBA '93 MBA '97

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Not only did I immerse myself in the grandeur of his MBA Business Law course in the Fall of 2006, but I also participated in the study-abroad, International Business Law trip in Italy that he coordinated and led. Of all the collegiate professors from which I've had the pleasure of learning, Dr. Rhodes certainly imparted upon me the most memorable pearls of wisdom. Most of our MBA curriculum was excellent, but his engaging, dynamic teaching style certainly stood out, and seemed to tap into an area of intellect my mind had never explored. Dr. Rhodes's knowledge of Italian culture, history, and food also proved invaluable during our winter course there, even for someone like me, who had previously lived and worked in Italy for a year and a half. He was truly an inspiration to me, his presence will certainly be missed by all of the TCU family and community, and I'd like to think that whenever I instruct another soul in anything, that I'll be channeling my inner Dr. Robert Rhodes.

Ryan Keeler TCU Engineering '01 MBA '07

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I am deeply saddened by the news of Professor Rhodes' passing. He was an incredibly knowledgeable scholar, with an amazing talent for communicating information in ways that were unforgettable. He passionately taught us the importance of maintaining civility, even during the most contentious of discourse. This is something I still carry with me, today.

And not only did Rob give me the brief privilege of viewing law through the eyes of an accomplished attorney; he did so with humor, grace and just enough confrontation to make me dig deeper into the material to prove him wrong. I never could, of course, but I learned prodigiously in the process.

This was his goal. He will be so truly missed by all of us whom he inspired.

Dave Lloyd EMBA '15

He was such a bright spot during my time at TCU. His kindness, thoughtfulness, and commitment to challenging us will always stand out to me. From sitting in on his class during my campus visit to experiencing Italy with him, I'll always appreciate the role he played in my MBA experience.

Mike Schoenfelder MBA '19

Dr. Rhodes was one of my favorite professors, and I had the pleasure of taking three classes from him. One of which was a weeklong course in Germany where he taught us in the day and then showed us his highlights of the Cologne area. He had such a presence in his classroom, and I loved the way he would repeatedly follow the pattern of sitting on his desk then hopping off and striding around it as he was teaching, making various points and challenging us to think.

Chad Bailey

I am deeply saddened to hear the news of the passing of Rob Rhodes. My friendship with Rob dates over a quarter century, and his influence on me and on TCU will last forever. Rob's passion for teaching excellence was legendary. We will never forget Rob's voice, his smile, and his unique way of explaining his thoughts and opinions. Rob was a genuine treasure, and the lives of thousands of students and countless faculty and staff were deeply enriched from the leadership he provided to TCU. Rob will be profoundly missed.

Dr. Larry Lockwood

I had Robert Rhodes as my b-law professor. Rob was my favorite professor I've had at TCU and he made me realize my potential and how important dedication to school work is. He made learning so incredibly fun and made me feel valued and important in the business school. Professor Rhodes always motivated his students to be the best they could be and would always put his students' success first. I would always go into his office hours to just talk and get advice from him. He was unlike any professor I've ever had and was an incredibly kind and understanding man. I will deeply miss him and I truly appreciate everything that he has taught me. He is an incredible soul that will forever be appreciated and never forgotten.

Jacquelin Lawson

As a professor he was one of my favourites at TCU, he shared a vision & analysis of the world that wasn't defined by textbooks but by real life experience and critical thinking. His vibrancy and dynamism manifested itself in lecture and when he led the international trip to Italy. I thoroughly enjoyed learning from him and hope that his family finds peace in his legacy and the amazing impact he has had on all of my classmates and my life.

Andrew Brisbin MBA '15

Dr. Rhodes was a fantastic educator and person. Those who attended his lectures know that they were part education and part theater with a lot of debate mixed in between. He brought a level of energy to the classroom that very few teachers matched. I recall sitting in our START workshop listening to his welcome lecture and thinking about how excited I would be to take his classes. Like many professors, Dr. Rhodes had a few quirks that made him all the more lovable, like the multiple cups of coffee he would drink or the use of what seemed to be his favorite word, "indubitably" and the way he would draw out every syllable.

Outside the classroom was where I might have learned one of the most valuable lessons in my MBA program from Dr. Rhodes. After a midterm where I performed a little below expectations, I went to visit Dr. Rhodes in his office, like I did many times before. Dr. Rhodes pulled out my 10+ page written midterm and went through every single answer with me. In there he shared a piece of wisdom I literally think about almost every day. He said "to make a good argument, you must think of all of the reasons why you should be right" then with that booming voice in his small office he said "then IMMEDIATELY PIVOT and find all the reasons why you are wrong. Until you can do that, you don't understand it well enough to argue it."

That lesson in critical thinking has stuck with me for many years, it prepares me for negotiations and helps me develop marketing and ad campaigns throughout the world. I am incredibly grateful for the energy that he put into his work. It showed every day that he really cared about his students and what they could achieve.

I read the kind words that Dean Pullin wrote about Dr. Rhodes and I have to disagree with one thing he said. He called Dr. Rhodes a professor's professor, I disagree and say that he was a student's professor evidenced by the student voted awards he deservedly won almost every single year.

Today, my prayers are with his wife and his son and the sense of loss they must feel. I am sad because a great educator and a great man is no longer with us, and I am sad for the future students at TCU that will not get the opportunity to learn from him. I hope that all members of his family and our larger Frog Family can find peace with God in this time of sadness.

Dan Geer MBA '15

Ted and I loved Dr. Rhodes. He was a terrific teacher, a humorist, an actor, and a gifted piano player. We are sorry he passed away too early. Our hearts and prayers go to Andrea and their son.

Sheryl and Ted Doll

I first met Dr. Rhodes at a social event welcoming my MBA cohort a couple of years ago. I sat next to him at a table and we immediately bonded over our fondness for Italy. He led a school trip to Tuscany for many years and I spent a semester in Florence in my undergrad. We knew a lot of the same towns and wineries and of course the Tuscan food. The conversation was just a great introduction and common ground for a student-professor relation.

Fast-forward to my second year of the program and taking legal environment of business. We all have (if we are lucky) one or two great professors throughout our lives who truly challenge us. Dr. Rhodes perfected the Socratic method in his class, forcing us to think critically and pick apart the legal cases. We knew we had to come to his class fully prepared and ready to discuss. When a professor like Dr. Rhodes challenges you it is because they truly care about your education and development. He brought out the potential in each of us and tapped into something we didn't know we had. TCU has lost a giant in Dr. Rhodes. He was a fixture in the Neeley School of Business and his passing is very sad. However, I take solace in knowing what all of his students will accomplish. While he has left us, he will continue to work through us in our professional careers. Thank you Dr. Rhodes for everything you taught us. I will make you proud.

Maxwell Hamre MBA '20

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Dr. Rhodes was our Business Law professor for the MBA program and I had the privilege of being in his class in 1988. I think I speak for most of us who had his class during that time in stating that we always looked forward to it albeit with some trepidation. Dr. Rhodes was the one professor who combined a high level of subject matter expertise with an equally high level of passion and commitment to see to it that his students learned their best in his class. It was both what he said and how he said it that made us want to perform our best while aspiring to achieve more.

I am sure Dr. Rhodes would have been a known figure in Corporate America had he chosen that route, but I am thankful that he chose to teach and teach in an inclusive way that ensured everyone could learn their best. I have even told my kids stories of Dr. Rhodes from his lectures to his Moot Court at the Ft. Worth Courthouse and how he used every minute to both encourage and challenge us to learn and do better. Dr. Rhodes was an exceptional professor and person that brought out the best in people, and his impact will last for a very long time through the lives of us Frogs who had the good fortune of experiencing him as a master of his craft.

Jeff Lear MBA '90

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I remember in one class there had been a few people complaining of some difficult circumstances they had been in - a breakup with a girlfriend, making a bad grade in another class - stuff like that. I had recently gotten out of the Army and was going through some deep internal struggles with some of the things I had experienced in Iraq, although no one knew it at that time. After the class left I stayed, as I had a follow-on class in the same room.

After everyone was gone he probably noticed my being deep in thought and he looked at me and the bracelet I was wearing with the names of some of my former soldiers who had been killed and said, "Some of those problems probably seemed pretty small to you, huh?" I nodded quietly. He then thoughtfully proceeded to ask me a few questions - how I was doing, who they were, if I'd had a chance to talk with someone, and then - he stayed with me until the next class started coming in. No judgement, no more questions, no advice - just a quiet thoughtful presence that let me know he genuinely cared about me. At that moment in my life, this meant more than he would ever know.

No one but me knew until now that Dr. Robert Rhodes stopped to take the time out of his day that day to talk to a very quiet young man who needed someone, anyone, to ask. I will always be grateful for the kindness and compassion that Dr. Rhodes showed to me and many of his students throughout his time at TCU.

What an incredible lasting lesson to teach your students.

David Boelens MBA '11

Dr. Rhodes will be dearly missed by the TCU community, but his impact reached far beyond those on campus to many friends he had abroad, including those in Italy. A highlight of my MBA was the Italy Study Abroad experience with Dr. Rhodes and Dr. Cron. In my observation, Dr. Rhodes had a deep love for all aspects of Italy -- its landscape, its culture (including food and wine), and its people.

In leading up to the trip, Dr. Rhodes spent an hour with me in his office Googling all of his favorite towns, restaurants, and places that he encouraged me to visit in Italy following the planned MBA portion of the trip. I recall him specifically encouraging me to plan my trip with the expectation that I will return many times in my life -- because all that Italy has to offer.

I enjoyed seeing Dr. Rhodes interact with his friends who owned local restaurants in Bologna and Florence -- many friends who Dr. Rhodes and Dr. Cron returned to every year with the next group of MBA students. When the airline lost my luggage for several days upon arrival in Italy, he bought me a gelato at one of his favorite local places. Dr. Rhodes had such deep pride in exposing his students to the country and ensuring they had a fulfilling experience.

I'm uncertain when I'll make it back to Italy, but I am certain that when I do, Dr. Rhodes and these fond memories will be on my mind.

Frank K. Blau MBA '16

Although it has been 20+ years since I took Dr. Rhodes' business law class, I have never forgotten his passion for teaching and the dynamic, engaging style he brought to the classroom. Business law was brought to life thanks to Dr. Rhodes' passion for the subject matter and his obvious concern for his students' understanding/appreciation of it. I also attended Dr. Rhodes' class in Cologne, Germany (my first visit to that great country), where we experienced not only EU business law but also Dr. Rhodes' mad piano skills and the joys of cold cuts in the morning.

Wishing hope, strength and peace for Andrea and Jacob, and to all who loved Rob.

Jim Kelley MBA '01

I first met Dr. Rhodes in spring 1993 at a graduate school fair at Texas A&M. Because of my conversation with him and the endorsement of the MBA program from my marketing professor, I applied to enter in fall 1994. Dr. Rhodes made TCU my first choice, so I immediately accepted my admission. Suffice it to say, finding out later I would be Dr. Rhodes' graduate assistant for

two years while in the program just solidified I was in the right place. Beyond being a great professor, he was a mentor and a friend to me. He challenged me to think in different ways, explore new interests, and have the courage to pursue opportunities I thought might be out of reach. Of course, I am not the only student who can say these things...that is who Dr. Rhodes was. He will be missed. What a true gift to have had his influence, even for a short time. My thoughts and prayers to his family and the TCU community.

Lisa Weimer Anderson BA '96

From the first interaction I had with him, I knew Dr. Rhodes was beyond talented and that I was going to learn an incredible amount in his class. He made it a point to challenge each and every one of us every time we walked into his classroom, but the way in which he did this was what I loved so much about him; he respected us as if we were fellow peers and showed us how to think the way he did. His passion for teaching always showed through his teaching methods, too, and I looked forward to visiting him during office hours to discuss concepts I was having a hard time understanding. He had a way of explaining things so that when he was done, you sat in silence for a moment as you absorbed his brilliance and then scrambled to respond with half as much elegance. He quickly became a mentor to me, and running into my favorite professor on campus past his class was such a pleasure.

I truly believe that Dr. Rhodes was unaware of the impact he made on TCU's campus. His way of intelligently communicating extremely complex ideas was inspiring, and yet he never came across as anything but humble. The news of his passing is beyond devastating because of many reasons, and I can confidently say he has left a gaping hole where he was rooted in TCU's culture. I only wish I could have one last exchange with him. You are so missed, Dr. Rhodes.

Sydney Bettis BBA '20

I had the privilege and honor of taking him for Business Law in the Fall 2017 semester. He was an excellent instructor who taught us how not all answers are clear-cut, how to think critically, and how prevalent law is in our society and in our interactions with the world. I was fortunate to have Dr. Rhodes assist me with applying to law school, a mission he inspired me to go on. He also gave me advice on entering the legal profession. One reason I believe I was so lucky to attend TCU was Dr. Rhodes' expertise, teaching abilities, and how much he cared about his students.

Coury Malooly BBA '20

In addition to his booming voice (that we could hear down the hall, whether we were inside or outside his classroom) and Dr. Rhodes throwing dry erase markers at the white board, I often think about a specific discussion I had with Dr. Rhodes. After spending an entire semester, almost always taking the incorrect side on every argument, I remember going into his office with a question I had about the Final. After patiently listening to me do my best to try and explain to him my convoluted understanding of a legal issue, Dr. Rhodes calmly looked at me, and in his quiet voice said, "I've never thought about it that way." Then, he sat there quietly for a moment. As he sat there looking at me, and I sat there looking at him, I remember lowering my

shoulders, thinking to myself, here we go, wrong again. But then, in classic Dr. Rhodes style, after a long, deliberate pause, he cracked a big smile. After he smiled, I thought to myself, I must have really screwed this one up and been way off. But then, he quietly said, "That's not the answer I was looking for, but I liked your answer and the way you explained it." Then he said, "I would have given you full credit on the Final for that answer." Since 1992, I have thought about that day many times, sitting there in his office. For years, I wondered why Dr. Rhodes would accept a legal argument from one of his students that was not entirely correct, and I wondered why he cared more about his students' ability to defend their positions, rather than his students' ability to regurgitate the explicit text of the law. Now, 30 years later, still thinking about that day in his office and our discussion, my best guess that may explain why he took such an approach to teaching, was because Dr. Rhodes understood the law was about "intent" -- specifically, the intent of those who write the law and the intent of those who are bound by the law. Certainly, I do realize my understanding of Dr. Rhodes' methods and approach to teaching, may once again be convoluted and really screwed up, but I would like to think if I was sitting there in his office, he might have said to me, "That's not the answer I was looking for, but I liked your answer and the way you explained it."

Bradley Johnston, MBA '92

Rob was a professor, mentor and friend. He inspired me in more ways than I can describe. I came to him with an idea in 96 to do a minimester in Europe, and by late December we were in Freiburg Germany. He brought the best out of me and many of my classmates. If you didn't show up for class having read your assignments, he could smell you out. He will always be one of my heroes and forever missed.

Brian Ebersold MBA '97

I'm a native of Miami, Florida, and visited an MBA Campus Fair at the time. Dr. Rhodes was manning the booth and his attentiveness and communication to what I wanted in my future was memorable. He is the direct reason I ultimately moved to Texas, attended and graduated the TCU MBA program. A great teacher, mentor and overall great person, he will be sorely missed.

David Jaramillo MBA '00

It feels like yesterday when I wrote a page-long thank you note to Dr. Rhodes on the back of my final exam. Was it because his class was a walk in the park? No, it was arguably the most difficult class among the Business Law courses offered at TCU. The difficulty of Dr. Rhode's course was heavily outweighed by his passion and engagement in the material. Dr. Rhodes did not believe in the typical power point lecture-style classroom. There was no textbook, no homework to turn in, and no online postings for his class. All he wanted was the class to actively participate and find interest in the assigned topics. Rhodes knew the learning would come if his students were passionate about the material. Dr. Rhodes' exams were all essay based and therefore subjective. This required students to come to a conclusion based off critical thinking instead of just memorizing vocabulary words that would likely be forgotten shortly after an exam. I found this style of learning more engaging and applicable to solving problems in and outside of work.

Despite taking his course at 8am, Dr. Rhodes created such an enjoyable curriculum that I was excited to wake up in the morning; I have never seen a classroom more awake at 8am. I found myself going into class early and having all sorts of conversations with Dr. Rhodes. Dr. Rhodes was extremely knowledgeable outside of B Law and had all sorts of advice to offer. I cannot thank him enough for all he has done for myself and everyone else he impacted. Without him, I would not be where I am today as he wrote the recommendation letter that ultimately started my career in finance.

I will miss seeing him around campus in his classic black tucked in t-shirt and khakis. Rest in Peace Dr. Rhodes.

Lucas Jacob BBA '21

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Dr. Robert Rhodes was such an inspiring professor and a wonderful friend. While I certainly learned a lot in terms of law, it was the conversations outside of class and after graduating that really hit home. Traveling with his class to Italy and talking to him as an alum, I deeply admired his sense of the world. And I am saddened to not be sending him any more postcards from abroad. Our conversations about travels, law, and justice have always stayed with me. My sincerest condolences for his family and the Neeley community.

Annie Nguyen BBA '15

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It's hard to beat Dr. Rhodes. He was the best and I will always treasure the privilege of knowing him and being a Rhodes scholar, ha! He guided me on a hybrid "self-study/study-abroad" class in Spring 2008 to Koln, Germany. Though we haven't seen each other in many years, I'll always remember that class and that trip. He greatly blessed me and my family and I will miss him dearly. He also made a recommendation to visit Umberto and Dania in Tuscany and gave us handwritten instructions on how to get there on a bar coaster, I'll bet he'd done it many times before and since. We went down after class was over and had, what we consider, the best meal of our lives. That just epitomizes how much he loved his students and wanted great things for us. I'll miss you Dr. Rhodes.

Mark D. Phillips MBA '08

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Dr. Rhodes is unforgettable. He was a mind-molder, concerned not with students' memorization of information but with shaping the way we think, the questions we ask, the assumptions we should reconsider. He was not a lecturer, but a mentor. When you came to him wanting the right answers, he instead gave you the tools to grow on your own, to come to understand the process not just a result. He brimmed with positivity and instilled confidence in his students. His significant impact on me, my classmates, and the scores of students before and after me is profound. He is beloved by so many, and I am exceedingly grateful for his influence on my life."

Madelyn Carter '17 and recent graduate from Georgetown University – Law School.

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I worked with Rob in the EMBA program was it was a new program many years ago. Rob was awesome. Always at the top of his game, he never wanted to let any of his students or colleagues down. He would often ask me, "Did I do okay? Do you think they liked the class? What could I do better?" My answer was always the same – "They loved you, Rob! You were fantastic!" He made a lasting impression and positively impacted so many during his tenure at TCU. His memory will endure.

Charlotte Cole Kirk

Few people in my life have assumed the role of teacher better than Dr. Rob Rhodes. Beyond pure professorship and academic guidance, he served as a mentor and friend to me and many others--impacting me both professionally and personally. Dr. Rhodes changed the way I approach questions and challenges, helping me achieve perspectives I once couldn't. In what limited time we had, he transformed the way I learn. I looked forward to every class where Dr. Rhodes' booming voice would guide me to new lessons and discoveries. From the stomach drop of hearing my name cold-called to recite a case about a BB gun malfunction to the amazement I felt as he excitedly explained the intricacies of European Union law, I was completely mesmerized by Dr. Rhodes' passion and enthusiasm for the topics he taught to me and the rest of his students.

As a mentor, Dr. Rhodes helped mold my career and self. Always empathetic, he actively listened and provided endless encouragement to me, especially when I questioned my life's plans and considered law school (mostly because he made it sound like one of the best and most life-changing experiences in the world). I will cherish the hours I spent in his office discussing law and the uncertainties of life. Dr. Rhodes invested full compassion in every student, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to cross his path, learn from his wisdom, and form an unforgettable friendship.

Dr. Rhodes lived each day full of life, and it devastates me that I cannot rewind a clock to experience another day or even a goodbye. The Neeley School and TCU will forever miss such a wonderful man--including those to come who will only know of his greatness through our stories and memories. I am so lucky to have known him, and I will never forget the lessons of law and life from my dear friend and mentor, the one and only, Dr. Rhodes.

Hayden Mahaney BBA '19

Rob Rhodes' practical real life & current knowledge of business law was one of the most beneficial classes I have ever attended. The information presented would have been very beneficial during my 10+ years at TV stations prior to starting my MBA education. He always was engaging and thought provoking. My fellow class members realized that the information presented was vital and would likely be utilized during each of our careers.

David Watrous MBA '96

I was his graduate assistant from 1998 - 2000 while getting my MBA at the Neeley School. I am confident that I had the best graduate assistant position of anyone during my time at TCU.

Rob was a great mentor to me as well as an outstanding professor. I still recall exact exam questions and fact patterns from his business law classes. Those exam questions not only tested one's knowledge of business law but also gave you unique insight into Rob's personality. One question in particular referenced a scenario at Arnaud's restaurant in New Orleans, one of Rob's favorite restaurants. In the years following my time at TCU, it has become one of my favorite restaurants that I visit when I go to New Orleans.

Passion for life is what you got with Rob. He had passion for teaching, but also for the finer things in life, food, wine, travel, and music. He further instilled in me a love of Italian wines and fine dining. I had the pleasure of sharing quite a few meals with Rob and Andrea during my time at TCU. I also have fond memories of him jetting around Ft. Worth in an electric blue Mustang convertible blaring music at full volume or playing the piano at home. He was a unique character and there is no one else like him. I could tell Rob Rhodes stories for hours and I only had the pleasure of knowing him for two years.

Stephen Holloway MBA '00

Dr. Rhodes was one of the best professors and teachers I've had in my entire life. He so obviously cared deeply for all of his students. Every day before class you could find him sitting outside on the bench chatting with students about life. He also cared to truly teach his students and challenge all of us every day. Each class, his voice and stories captured our attention right away. He and his powerful voice will be missed greatly, but I am so thankful to have known and learned from Dr. Rhodes.

Julia Biest BBA '21

Dr. Rhodes, was an excellent example of a Professor. He made my TCU EMBA experience in international business law relevant then and now. Unanimously, the EMBA class of 2005 selected Dr. Rhodes as an Outstanding Faculty and he still holds that position in our hearts. My deepest sympathy to Dr. Rhodes family and loved ones. Although Dr. Rhodes' work on earth is done, his legacy and greatness lives on in many.

Regina "R.J." Blair EMBA '05

When I met Rob Rhodes, my life changed. Now that I hear of his passing, due to COVID-19, I am changed again. Rob was my teacher, my mentor and my friend. He was cut from a different cloth - truly he was one of a kind. There was style to his substance, a razor-sharp wit backed by a fearless method of inquiry that forced you to think, to learn, and to grow. He was a renaissance man of epic talents yet humble beginnings - a studio-level musician, wine connoisseur and an international traveler who never met a stranger. Most of all, he was one of the most gifted and talented speakers I have ever heard. No one commanded a room like Rob Rhodes. I am who I am because of his teaching and his influence. (I can still tell you what I missed on the business law final - and that was the spring of 1994.)

I learned about storytelling just listening to the master. That experience impacts my work to this day. I tell stories for a living because Rob Rhodes told me that I could - and his encouragement

helped me to launch my career, on multiple levels. Thank you, Rob, for the gifts you gave to me and to all who knew you. You will be missed.

Chris Westfall MBA '95

Dr. Rhodes was one the most impactful and unforgettable professors I've ever had. It's hard to describe his method of teaching because it never felt like a traditional teacher-student interaction. Never a PowerPoint. Never a lecture. Always a dialogue. Always an "a-ha!" moment at the end of each class. But even more impactful than his teaching was his love for his students. I'm sure every one of his students has a story about a conversation with him in which they felt like he truly cared about their success and well-being. I'll never forget the time he casually asked about my plans after graduation. I told him my fiancé and I were first taking a trip to Hawaii. Instead of the common, "oh, fun" response, Dr. Rhodes sat me down and told me in great detail about an awesome restaurant. No, not just the name of the restaurant. He told me exactly what time to make the reservation, where to sit, and what to order. I took his advice and to this day, my wife and I still claim that to be the best dinner experience we've ever had. Dr. Rhodes' real gift was developing relationships (even though he claimed to be a strong introvert), exploring the world, and sharing his wealth of knowledge and kindness. He just knew how to make people feel good. I'll never forget Dr. Rhodes, our conversations, and how he made me feel.

Dustin Schelle MBA '14

Professor Robert Rhodes has been the primary reason why I was so determined to pursue a career of teaching with confidence, faith, and passion. He is incredibly talented at challenging students in classrooms and simultaneously encouraging them in their life endeavours. He is a relentless advocate of learning trumping grades. He has always reminded us to ask for the unknown when solving problems. He has lived so humbly, wholeheartedly, and wisely. He is a big believer in the impacts one can make through teaching and mentoring. His students, including me, will honor him and his legacy by living out what we have learned from him. Professor Rhodes, thank you for being an exemplar of a brilliant mind that never stop being critical and curious, and a warm heart that never stop dedicating and caring. He has led a remarkable life, and dare I say, taught so many great lives.

My Hoang Bao Nguyen BBA '20, pursuing a PhD in Organizational Behavior and Human Resources at Singapore Management University.

I remember coming into the MBA program as a First Year and meeting Dr. Rhodes at the Welcome Dinner at Joe T's. He made us all feel so welcome. Both in his class and outside of it, he taught us how to think. A fond memory is visiting him during his office hours. He had been listening to a CD when I walked in. Before we started to talk, he said "listen to this song, don't they sound good?" The song was "When She Cries", by Restless Heart. I will always be grateful for his love for his students and passion in the classroom. Dr Rhodes truly cared about each of us. He made us each a better person. I also remember his Rhodes Rally of 1992. Such a fun day and a great way to get to know him and my classmates! I saw Rob not too long ago across a crowded room and walked over to talk with him and give him a hug. I am so thankful for that last encounter.

Ellen (Cleveland) Williams MBA '94

I couldn't have asked for a better first boss. Rob saw something in me (a quiet, English major who had no idea what she wanted to do in life) and gave me a chance to work with him in Neeley's International Programs. He taught me so much about study abroad and higher education, and thanks to him, I still work in those fields today. He was a wonderful mentor to me and I will never forget his kindness and gentle demeanor.

I will always remember our time with the MBA study abroad students in Italy, where he taught me all about one of his favorite places -- Florence. Me not being a drinker, he had me try samples of wine until I finally found one I liked--the most expensive wine in the whole restaurant; he always teased me about it since. I also worked with the Neeley Fellows, and I heard such wonderful things from the students on how much of an inspiring professor he was.

Cassie Cure, Administrative Program Specialist for International Programs & Neeley Fellows Program (2007-2014)

Rob was a giant at TCU! Best prof I had in my time there and was lucky to have him as my prof on both of my MBA Europe trips. Wonderful man, professor, friend, travel guide, etc. He was larger than life. RIP Dr Rhodes.

Jim Ahlfinger MBA '03

Dr. Rhodes had an incredible love for learning and life. He inspired his students to think deeply and crave knowledge. His lectures were electric and passionate. You always knew you could find him sitting at that table outside Neeley and eager to catch up with any of his students. He will be dearly missed.

Brian Campbell BBA '21

I first met Dr. Rhodes when he taught our Global Law course for our Executive MBA class in 2002. I first met his wife, Andrea when we went to her hometown of Cologne, Germany for our trip abroad. It was clear to see Rob's love for Andrea. After their son Jason was born, Rob was the proudest father ever and remained that was every time I asked how Jason was doing. He would simply light up when he talked about his family.

Rob Rhodes is remembered as the most passionate, enthusiastic professors and advocates for our EMBA program. He also is remembered as a man that truly loved his family.

John Merrifield, EMBA '02