



JOHNSON AT HER DESK IN THE DEAN'S OFFICE IN THE GODDARD BUILDING.

# Graduating a Legacy

For the last 22 years, she has prepared thousands of students in the College of Agriculture Science and Natural Resources for graduation and entrance into life after college. Her interaction with present and prospective students, along with faculty, truly demonstrates her utmost dedication to the college. Ramona Johnson is a woman capable of many things.

Johnson was born in Abilene, Texas and grew up in West Texas. She attended Texas Tech University and graduated with a degree in social welfare in 1976. Shortly after, she married Bobby, her husband of 35 years.

After working for the Red Cross, they moved to Houston where Johnson began working in a bank as an employee in personnel. This is where her knack for advising began, "I was in personnel for 10 years. I did recruiting and hiring, and those sorts of things."

In 1991, when the opportunity to move back to Lubbock arose, Johnson and her husband jumped at the chance. She interviewed with Dr. Cepica and began working shortly after, "I

interviewed when I was home for spring break, then I started after that, and that's where I've been ever since."

Her tenure at Texas Tech has collectively been with the College of Agriculture. She has been in the same position since then, but was promoted to an exempt employee in 2008.

Co-workers of Johnson's like Mary Lou Flom, say that she is very good at her job as an academic advisor for the college.

Flom states, "She stays on track to make sure

that everyone gets what they need to get graduated. We are lucky to have her."

Professor and Associate Dean, Dr. Cindy Akers stated "Every meeting I attend across campus, someone tells me how lucky the college is to

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When asked what has motivated her to stay at Texas Tech University, Johnson answered the interaction with the students and faculty. "Having been here 22 years, I really enjoy the faculty within the college. I

enjoy working with them and the students,” Johnson stated.

Although Johnson loves interacting with the students, graduating them is most memorable to her. “Every graduation is always memorable,” Johnson said, “because you get to see kids you’ve worked with for a long time – some who have had no struggles and some who have lots of struggles. And you get to see them graduate and that’s the best!”

She may think it is the student connection that makes her job so special, but it is her kindness and involvement that makes her so special to students. Mallory Dyess, who graduated in 2009, recalls the sincerity Johnson imparted on her at the time of her graduation.

“I could tell she was just as excited about my graduation, as I was,” she said. “Ramona made my graduation experience so special, and I am forever grateful for that.”

Flom, who has been employed at Tech for 40 years, also feels that Ramona makes student’s college experience unique. “When you [students]

get there she is going take care of you and make you feel at home before you ever get here,” Flom shared.

Johnson’s enthusiasm for the university has trickled down through her sons. Her oldest son Eric graduated with a degree in natural resources management and as well as attending the Texas Tech School of Law. Stephen graduated with a degree in Mass Communications.

When she isn’t working Johnson loves to go to the movie theater and fishing. She also declares her support of Texas Tech football, “I am a huge football fan,” she says. “Through both good and bad years.”

Although Johnson’s loyalty has been more than apparent in the last decades, she plans on joining her husband in retirement in the near future. Johnson does plan to leave her position one day, but she is not shy to tell how CASNR has affected her life, “It has been the best experience of my life, and the most wonderful job I have ever had.” **T**