



Lybby “scholarship lady” Brown

You have most likely visited her office on the first week of school for each year you have been a student to collect scholarship donor information on colored paper. She looked up your information, making asterisks on your sheet next to the donor addresses, all the while laughing and visiting before closing with instructions for your thank you card.

Starting out as the secretary in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) Office, Lybby Brown has been in the Dean’s Office for a total of 21 years. For the past 15 years, she has been the scholarship guru, overseeing scholarships from the previous paper-based process to the current online process.

Next fall, when you make the trip to the CASNR Office during the first week of school, it will be a different experience. At the conclusion of this school year in May, Lybby Brown will retire from her position and stop making her commute from Levelland, Texas.

Although she is tired of making the commute, she will miss interacting with students. She particularly enjoys the fall semester when she may visit with up to 50 students in one day that stop by her office. If she could she would give every student a scholarship.

“I think they have had more impact of my life than I have had on theirs,” she said.

Aside from making her career a rewarding experience, students have also done a great job keeping her young at heart, she said. She realized her age when she heard an advertisement for senior citizen day at the South Plains Fair.

“Oh, I’m a senior citizen! Isn’t that terrible? My mother should be a senior citizen.” she said, with her hand on her cheek, laughing.

The decision to retire did not come easy. Every time Lybby would set a date for retirement, she would always push it back. First, it was retirement in August and before long the date was set for December. After talking to her brother, currently battling terminal lung cancer, he convinced her that this May was the time to retire.

Retirement does not mean you will find Lybby Brown at home. She plans on getting a part time job in Levelland, because she said she does not want to get so comfortable that she will still be in her pajamas at five o’clock in the evening. This is the same woman that comes to work dressed to the nines, short hair perfectly groomed, and on some occasions wearing her leopard boots.

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Aside from working part time, you may find her behind a canvas oil painting, a hobby that she has refined throughout her life by learning from her mother and taking lessons from various artists. You may find her travelling to visit loved ones as far as Washington D.C. or helping out at her church, serving a meal to someone that has lost a family member. Or if you do find her at home, she will be there smiling, schnauzer dog in her lap. **T**

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