



RUNNING THE RACE

He is a runner.

He wakes at 5:00 a.m. and starts his day by reading the local newspaper on his iPad. Then, he hits the trail for a three-mile run.

"It's how I prepare for the day," he said. "Running clears my head and sets my priorities."

As the recently appointed fourth chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, Robert Duncan has a lot of priorities. But first on his daily list, is reading, running and his staple breakfast – usually a blueberry kale smoothie, but always two fried eggs. Then, he heads to work.

Parking in front of the Administration Building on Texas Tech campus, Duncan cannot help but look across the parking lot to his old building, Agricultural Sciences.

"We had good faculty over there," Duncan said, recalling memories of his days in undergrad. "They were interested in us and wanted to make sure we succeeded."

As an undergraduate majoring in agricultural economics, Duncan was heavily involved on campus through the Agricultural Economics student organization and Ag Council.

He had no interest in politics at the time, but when a fraternity brother encouraged him to run for Student Government, Duncan thought it might be fun. After serving as the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources senator for a year, he was hooked. He always wanted to be a farmer, but realized his passion for agriculture lied in politics. He ran for Student Body President in 1975, which signaled the start of his race at Texas Tech.

"I look at where I am today and I know I could not have succeeded without the guidance I received from the agricultural economics faculty," Duncan said. "They were hard and they made us work."

Duncan's race continued when he worked as special

the needs of each of the component institutions: Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center - El Paso, and Angelo State University. He may fly to San Angelo or El Paso, even the Capitol, for more meetings.



"It's a lot of fun, actually," Duncan said. "You get to see the accomplishments of this office."

In the first 60 days of his race as chancellor, Duncan met with each of the four presidents in the University System. He says one of the major roles of chancellor is to make sure each institution has the resources it needs.

His role as chancellor is both manager-CEO and Chief Fundraising Officer. Currently, Duncan is focusing on setting his goals for the future of the Texas Tech University System.

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assistant for the Dean of Students and helped organize the first college day for prospective students. Later, he attended Texas Tech School of Law, became partner at a prominent law firm, and once he continued his political career, Duncan was named "one of the best" state legislators by "Texas Monthly" more times than any other individual.

"I guess I got inspired at Texas Tech," Duncan said. "We say 'from here, it's possible,' and that was definitely the case for me, even back then."

Today, anything is possible for Chancellor Duncan. He said no two days have been the same since he took office. From the moment he enters the Administration Building, his day is packed.

"We have meetings all day long," Duncan said. "We'll go from 8:30 a.m. to dinner and then have a dinner meeting. It's fast-paced, but I enjoy it."

Duncan's meetings include the necessary administrative meetings, goal setting, and understanding

"Each chancellor who has held this office has really taken the System to another level," Duncan said. "The challenge is to do that."

He runs to his favorite type of meeting today; lunch with a long-time donor.

"I enjoy sitting down with the people who have helped shape Texas Tech and the system," Duncan said. "They are full of knowledge and are able to give me the best advice on what I need to do moving forward."

Duncan is quickly shaping his goals for the future. He says the next step for the System is for each component institution to grow its endowment funds. He said when university systems are evaluated, size and capability of the endowment funds are a major factor.

"The System, under Chancellor Hance, just finished a billion dollar campaign," Duncan said. "We need to reload our priorities now. That's the first step in my job."

Duncan's priorities include taking Texas Tech to

the next level by reaching the Association of American Universities accreditation status. There are currently only 62 universities with this accreditation, and membership is by invitation only. According to the association's website, invitations are based on quality of academics, research, scholarships and general excellence of the university.

Duncan said the university is started on the right track to reach this elite group of universities, and he hopes to be at the front when Texas Tech reaches that mile marker.

For a man who starts his day running, Duncan never slows down.

"The best advice I've been given is, 'It's not a sprint, it's a marathon,'" Duncan said. "Chairman [Mickey] Long told me that and I agree. I think you have to have patience to move forward."

Moving forward through this race would be impossible without his running partner and wife, Terri, by his side.

"This is a partnership," Terri said. "I try to travel with Bob as often as possible and be able to help where I can."

Terri said she knows this first year will be busy for both of them. In addition to all the changes, the Duncans now live in the Chancellor's House, owned by the Texas Tech University System.

"We've really made it our own," Terri said. "I love the history there and it shows our love and commitment to Texas Tech."

Chancellor Duncan has a private office in their home and tries to bring work home when he gets a chance.

"I try to cook whenever I can," Terri said with a laugh. "The kitchen is our favorite place in this house, but aside



from breakfast, we're rarely there."

For the first time this week, the Duncans end their day with Terri's meatloaf, one of Bob's favorite meals. Even though the Duncans appear relaxed, their minds never stop running and they still talk business.

The Chancellor runs all of his ideas by his wife – his pacesetter – who previously worked in economic development. They both finish work in their home office, and head to bed, prepared for another early morning and another day on the job.

"I'm really excited for this opportunity," Duncan said. "This is a job any alumni would be proud to have."

He ends his day by setting out his turquoise sneakers and heads to bed, prepared for another day of running. **T**

Erin Warren
GRAHAM, TEXAS



HELPING STUDENTS RUN THE RACE

The Senator Robert Duncan Texas Legislative Internship Endowed Scholarship was created by Tech agricultural economics alumnus and Chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, Robert Duncan. Funds generated by the endowment will be used to give scholarships to students participating in the long-running CASNR government internship program. Specifically, recipients of this scholarship will intern for Texas' 28th Senatorial District.

"When we initiated this program early in my Senate career, our goal was to expose students to the broad set of issues challenging West Texas legislative leaders and provide them with an opportunity to actively engage in a process aimed at developing workable solutions," said Duncan. "As a graduate of the college, I am excited that this endowment will solidify a partnership between Senate District 28 and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and will continue for perpetuity a program that has sought to seed future leaders for the State of Texas."

While completing his undergraduate degree at Tech, Duncan served as student body president. He went on

to receive his law degree from the Texas Tech University School of Law in 1981. He was elected to District 84 in the Texas House of Representatives in 1992. In 1996, he won a special election to the Texas Senate. During his more than two decades in the Texas Legislature, Duncan crafted major legislation impacting public and higher education, water rights, health care transparency and affordability, the integrity of public investment funds, eminent domain, and the efficiency and effectiveness of the civil justice system.

Established in 1998, the CASNR government internship program has turned out to be one of the most significant programs the college has ever put into place. Since its inception, more than 100 students have served as interns in congressional and legislative offices in both Washington, D.C. and Austin.

For more information on the Government Internship Program, or to give to Texas Tech:

www.ttu.edu/gov_interns

www.give2tech.com