

THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

CONTENTS

Elizabeth Gunby: Pages 1-2

Dallas County - Where 1915 meets the Future: Pages 2 - 3

The Winston School: Pages 3- 8

27th Legacies Historical Conference: Page 9

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Yasir Arafat, Dist. 4
Maiya Bangurah, Dist. 3
Deah Berry Mitchell, Dist. 1
Anthony A. Cornell, Dist. 2
Christopher Cornell, Vice Chair- Dist. 2
Priscilla Escobedo, Dist. 4
Patricia Hicks, Dist. 1
Alejandro "Alex" Martinez, Dist. 1
Jearlene Miller, Chair- Dist. 4
Coy Poitier, County Judge
John Roppolo, County Judge
Donald Erick Thomas II, Dist. 2 .

SUBSCRIBE TO THE DCHC NEWSLETTER
SCANNING THE QR CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE. t



Thank you, Elizabeth Gunby

In 2019 Commissioner Mike Cantrell asked Elizabeth Gunby to join the Historical Commission.

She was the best appointee with a plethora of community activism. Elizabeth has a strong affiliation with Dallas Heritage Village, Preservation Dallas, the Dallas Historical Society and the Park Cities Historical Society.

Elizabeth was instrumental in helping to secure the Texas Historical Marker for the Dallas County Medical Society Alliance Foundation.

With such expertise Elizabeth added tremendous value and dialogue in our monthly meetings. As we brainstormed and focused on the mission statement and goals to create more awareness of the historical commission Elizabeth eagerly made a suggestion. Everyone agreed to honor the life work of Lindalyn Adams as "Dallas County's First Lady of Historic Preservation" with a program and reception. After several months an artist was commissioned to paint a portrait of Mrs. Adams. The event was attended well and very successful with Commissioner Price addressing the honoree. Her portrait was hung in the Old Red Courthouse.

Another goal of the historical commission in 2022 was to partner with other history organizations. We received an invitation that stood out from Preservation Dallas. Elizabeth understood the need to broaden our scope of connectivity. Many commission members went with great anticipation to witness this tribute to a magnificent author; Virginia Savage McAlester. It was a beautiful summer afternoon on Swiss Avenue in Savage Park. Afterwards, everyone strolled across the street to view the art sculpture unveiled in the rose garden of the Aldredge House. This author brilliantly wrote a book, A Field Guide to American Houses, is a tool for professionals, for preservation groups around the country.

Elizabeth Gunby (con't)

"Virginia united Americans behind our movement with a common language and cause for the places that tell their story and make their neighborhoods feel more like home."

-National Trust for Historic Preservation

Another major project under Elizabeth's leadership was the collaboration with the Texas Historical Commission to formulate an app of RTHL, Recorded Texas Historical Landmarks. This project was time consuming, capturing pictures of structures around Dallas County but, successfully planned and implemented within the state's timeline. Lastly, thank you Elizabeth for your conscientious spirit for intricate details and going beyond to attend as many marker dedications throughout Dallas County.

Dallas County: Where 1915 Meets the Future

By Elba Garcia, Dallas County Commissioner for District 4

Dallas County is reaping the rewards of a nearly decade-long undertaking that preserved more than 100 years of history, from the courtroom that hosted the trial of one of the most notorious assassins to the death-row location that held public executions.

Preservation Dallas recently honored Dallas County with a 2024 Preservation Achievement Award for the renovation of the Records Building Complex, which incorporates three historic buildings in downtown Dallas that were constructed separately and asynchronously from 1915 to 1955. One of four Institutional Building Restoration Projects recognized by Preservation Dallas, the \$200 million, seven-year renovation is the largest in Texas history for a county government building.

The original facilities catapulted into U.S. history in 1963 as the backdrop of John F. Kennedy's assassination route. Enveloped by a façade restored to the 1963 era, the remodeled 304,000-square-foot complex houses artifacts and overviews throughout its seven floors, commemorating people and events that made history on its premises. This includes a former courtroom location that held the world-famous, 1964 trial of Jack Ruby for the assassination of Lee Harvey Oswald and the location where five criminals were publicly hanged before executions were moved to a state prison in Huntsville.

Spearheading this monumental project as the chair of the Facilities Maintenance Commission was no easy feat. The first step was getting approval for a Building Study committee to conduct an extensive analysis. The study ended up proving my vision that preserving and renovating, versus building anew, would reduce the annual \$100 million deferred maintenance cost of operating these and other Dallas County dilapidated facilities.

Along with a first-class showcasing of rich history, the restored complex provides a state-of-the-art building for conducting business and an incentivizing workplace. Filled with comfortable visitor and work areas, natural lighting, and options for healthy eating and fitness, the Records Building Complex is the first government building in the Lone Star State to earn WELL certification for providing thoughtful and intentional spaces that positively impact well-being and health.

It was equally important to build an environmentally responsible facility. Under my lead, Dallas County had committed to having all of its buildings achieve, at minimum, silver certification in Leadership in Energy and Environment Design. Built with sustainable materials and boasting superior indoor air quality and energy and water efficiency, the Records Building exceeded expectations. A year after occupancy, the U.S. Green Building Council upgraded the facility's rating to LEED Gold – making it the first building in Dallas County's history to achieve this certification level

Today's Records Building Complex embodies the past, present and future of Dallas. Built to last at least 100 years, the facility will relay Dallas County's historic contributions for many generations to come.

The Winston School - 1975

Beginning with this issue, The Chronical will present various narratives submitted to the Commission as part of Historical Plaque Application process. All narratives will be presented with the author's permission.

I. CONTEXT

The Winston School has been serving Dallas area neurodivergent learners for fifty years. Winston is a co-educational, college preparatory school designed to meet the needs of students who do not thrive in traditional classrooms. To date, nearly 900 students have graduated from The Winston School and have gone on to meet success in life. Students from six foreign countries have traveled to Dallas and earned diplomas from Winston. Winston was the first Dallas area school designed from the start to serve neurodivergent students of average to above average intelligence who planned to attend institutes of higher learning.

II OVERVIEW

In the early 1970's, a group of concerned parents, led by Lester Levy and Jerrold Trim, decided that Dallas needed a school to accommodate college bound, learning-different children. Originally, they envisioned creating a two-track system at Greenhill School, but later decided to go in a different direction, which ultimately led to the establishment of The Winston School. It was decided that the school would be named for Sir Winston Churchill - as an example of a person who accomplished great things despite his learning differences (Cassidy). The school's Articles of Incorporation were accepted and approved by the State of Texas on September 27th, 1973.

From the start, Winston would accept only students with a diagnosed learning difference. To diagnose their prospective students, the Winston School's Testing and Evaluation Center was established. The center uses standardized diagnostic tests to determine the presence and intensity of a student's learning differences. Academics, intelligence, language, and executive functioning are combined with background information, parent and teacher input, and observations to develop individual recommendations to support each student's unique learning profile. The Testing and Evaluation Center serves both Winston's students as well as private clients from the greater Dallas community. This is in line with the founders' stated goal of Winston being a model for educating students with learning differences and serving the public sector with viable medical research and curricula.

In the fall of 1975, The Winston School opened its doors on the Greenhill campus with 51 students in grades 1st through 9th grade. The school administration, faculty, and staff consisted of Headmaster J. Wynn Harkless, Assistant Headmaster Paul Erwin, Medical Director Dr. Warren Weinberg, School Secretary Ellen Thomas, and a six-member faculty. On the evening of October 24, 1975, a fire tragically destroyed the new school's facilities forcing the school to relocate to temporary offices on the Greenhill campus (Testing & Evaluation | The Winston School).

In 1976, Paul Erwin was named the second Head of School. Erwin would lead the new school through the vital process of accreditation. Winston earned accreditation as a private day school from the Texas Education Agency in 1977. The following year, Winston earned accreditation from the prestigious Independent School Association of the Southwest. Next, the school began a capital campaign to build a permanent facility on Royal Lane

Winston relocated to its new facility in North Dallas with a student population of 135 in 1st through 9th grade. Former President Gerald R. Ford dedicated the school on September 13th, 1978. Ford noted that "there is not much compassion in government;" however, pointing to the new facility, "this building contains a compassion that the government couldn't express.

The Southwest. Next, the school began a capital campaign to build a permanent facility on Royal Lane.

Winston relocated to its new facility in North Dallas with a student population of 135 in 1st through 9th grade. Former President Gerald R. Ford dedicated the school on September 13th, 1978. Ford noted that “there is not much compassion in government;” however, pointing to the new facility, “this building contains a compassion that the government couldn’t express.’

the spring of 1979, Winston graduated its first 9th grade class, and the students went on to successfully attend other private and public schools. In the early 1980s education reform in Texas prompted parents to ask about a college preparatory high school curriculum that addressed learning differences. As a result, Winston’s parents successfully completed a capital campaign to open the Winston Upper School in the fall of 1983. The Upper School was located on the campus of The University of Dallas. Originally, the Upper School had both 9th and 10th grades, with plans to add 11th and 12th grade over the next two years

Winston’s success encouraged the opening of The Winston School in San Antonio, a school that patterned its curriculum and teaching methods after the original campus in the fall of 1985

In May 1986 Winston graduated its first senior class. The class was composed of twenty-seven students. Included in this number was a future University of Texas Professor, a Grammy winning guitarist, and the head of a Dallas law firm.

Head of School, Paul Erwin, left in 1988 to establish a similar school in San Diego, California. Following his departure, Stuart P. Smith was appointed as Interim Head of School. The following year, Rita J. Sherbenou, Ph.D. was appointed as Head of School, and the Upper School moved from its temporary facility at the University of Dallas into the new campus located at Royal Lane and Tollway.

In the early 1990’s the Winston science faculty decided to replace the annual science fair with a series of competitions called Winston Science. Winston Science would comprise three components: Competitions – Science Lectures – Science Museum Tours. They started small with just Winston and seven other schools taking part in these events, but the project grew into one of the major science events in the country. At its height, the event had 30,000 students, teachers, and families taking part in our annual events.

Competitions included a popsicle stick suspension bridge competition, the “magic marble” event, the Rube Goldberg contraptions, and the large catapult constructions. There was also a life-size catapult category. Included were several Art Events such as photography, science fiction sculpture, science fiction short stories, science fiction art projects, science fiction films, and “food art.”

Winston Science included lectures by some of the finest scientists from around the country. These included a Paleontology Lectures by Dr. Robert Bakker, the famous paleontologist who helped reshape our modern understanding of dinosaurs. Archaeology Lectures by outstanding SMU paleontologists or Crow Canyon Archaeology Center's Dr. Mark Varien; Astronomy Lectures by Dr. Randii Wessen from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory or Mark Wetzel from McDonnell Observatory. There were also tours for the students, often highlighted by presentations and hands-on labs at UT Southwestern Medical School.

At its height, Winston Science produced a huge regional turnout from more than 700 schools from five states participating in 45 competitions, lectures, and tours stretched over two weeks (Last Renaissance Man).

1990, nine high school students decided to take up a solar car project in the wake of the University of North Texas' decision to terminate their solar car program. This first Winston Solar Team spent their first months learning the basics of mechanical engineering, but it was apparent that no project would be possible without sufficient funding. The team launched a secondary project to learn how to "fundraise," and approached Texas Instruments for help. As a result, the team created a more complete presentation including videos, slides, and individual team presentations

Next the team built their first solar car with the help and support of many good friends at Texas Instruments and The Acclivus Corporation. The team placed second in the Phoenix 500 (1993), completed the grueling 1100-mile SUNRAYCE from Dallas to Minneapolis, Minnesota (1993), experienced the Tour de Sol (1994), and placed third in the first high school solar car competition, the Winston Solar Challenge (1995). The team went on to represent the United States in both the 1996 and the 1999 World Solar Challenge in Australia. Driving 1800 miles across the Outback, the team earned the admiration and respect of both racing officials and the public.

The team launched its own Solar Education Program in 1993. Inspired by events that focus on colleges and corporations, the Winston Solar Challenge now provides high school students with an equal opportunity to experience science at its very best, while at the same time providing a level playing field for competition. To accomplish this goal, the Winston Solar Car Team developed field guides, videos, and curriculum, as well as conducting periodic workshops and on-site visits. The team has visited more than 1000 schools and colleges from Melbourne, Australia, to New York City, and shared its project with hundreds of thousands of people. The highlight of the Challenge Education Program is its famous high school solar car race held each summer, hosted by the Winston Solar Car Team. The first race, conducted in 1995, completely circled Dallas County bringing solar racing to hundreds of thousands of people. The 1997 and 1999 Winston Challenges offered a cross-country race between Dallas to San Antonio, and Dallas to Los Angeles, respectively. Races conducted on even-numbered years are held at the world-famous Texas Motor Speedway. More than 1250 high schools from 20 countries have taken part in the Winston Solar Education Program.

By the end of 1992, Winston completely eliminated its nearly \$1,000,000 debt thanks to the success of Operation Clean Slate. Following the success of this initiative, the board launched a capital campaign to remodel existing facilities and build a gym and additional classrooms. On October 2, 1996, the new gym and classrooms were opened adding 36,350 square feet of space.

Dr. Sherbenou retired in 1999 and was succeeded by Pamela K. Murfin, Ph.D. Dr. Murfin successfully led the school through its re-accreditation. In addition, the school started the development of a \$5,000,000 endowment campaign to be used primarily for financial aid and revamping faculty compensation. As a result, the school experienced dynamic growth in the student body during her tenure.

Dr. Murfin retired due to health reasons in 2006. In her honor, an endowment for the Head of School position was created and named the Pamela K. Murfin Head of School. F. Richard Hayse, Head of the Upper School, served as the interim Head of School.

July 2007, Polly Peterson, Ph.D. joined Winston as Head of School. During her headship she focuses on refining the school's mission statement, the integration of new technology, curriculum revisions, and an increase in rigor. The adopted mission statement read: "The Winston School is a small college preparatory school designed to maximize the potential of bright students who learn differently. Through individualized learning strategies our students are empowered to meet confidently the challenges of tomorrow."

Dr. Peterson left Winston at the end of the 2014 school year, and Rebbie J. Evans succeeded her as the school's fifth Head of School. Ms. Evans spent the first three years of her headship dedicated to the school's second capital campaign for the construction of the N. Best Center for the Arts. The new Center for the Arts opened in August 2017.

In 2018, Ms. Evans started the initiative to create the Innovation Studio. In addition, Chromebooks were issued to all 10th through 12th grade students; this program was eventually expanded to include all 3rd through 12th graders. During the 2020 - 2021 school years, Winston navigated the Covid-19 pandemic using a combination of online classes and extensive in-school safety practices. The all-new Innovation Studio opened to the community in the fall of 2022.

In October 2022, Rebbie Evans announced that she would retire in June 2024, and a search for the next Head of School began. In May 2023, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Jenn Milam the next Head of School effective July 1, 2024.

III. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In summation, The Winston School has served the Dallas community for 50 years. In this time the school has had its graduating students be accepted to nearly 500 institutions of higher learning. Among these schools: Abilene Christian University, Auburn University, Baylor University, Brigham Young University, California Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Columbia University, Howard University, Rice University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M, Trinity University, University of Arkansas, University of Dallas, and the University of Texas. In addition, many of our students have proudly served in all branches of the armed services.

IV. DOCUMENTATION

Works Cited

Cassidy, Ellen. Personal Interview. 4 December 2025.

"Last Renaissance Man." Lastrenaissanceman.com, 2025,
www.lastrenaissanceman.com/educator/. Accessed 30 Jan. 2025.

"Testing & Evaluation | The Winston School." Winston-School.org, 2025, www.winston-school.org/private-services/testing-evaluation. Accessed 12 Jan. 2025.

"Welcome to the Winston School." Winston-School.org, 2023, www.winston-school.org/.
Accessed 29 Jan. 2025.

"The Winston School Solar Car Team - Team History." Solarcarchallenge.org, 2025,
www.solarcarchallenge.org/team/2009/history.html. Accessed 16 Jan. 2025.

Please examine the attached file of supporting documents.

Disclaimer Statement: The articles contained in this Chronicle represent the work and opinions of their authors. They do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Historical Commission or its members.

27th Annual LEGACIES Dallas History Conference

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Doing Business in Dallas

The organizers of the 27th Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference welcome proposals from both professional and lay historians on topics related to the theme: "Doing Business in Dallas," including examples of innovation and entrepreneurship. Papers might focus on individuals with vision who had a lasting impact, inventions created here, or diverse businesses that started in Dallas like 7-Eleven (convenience stores), Brinker International (restaurants), Texas Instruments (electronics), GameStop (entertainment), Neiman-Marcus (retail), and Mary Kay Inc. (cosmetics).

All papers must be based on original research and must not have been presented or published elsewhere. The best papers will be published in a subsequent issue of *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*. Those interested in presenting papers should submit a brief summary of their proposal by JULY 15, 2025, by email to LegaciesDHC@gmail.com. Those selected will be notified by August 31, 2025.

The 27th Annual *Legacies* History Conference will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

The Conference is a collaborative project jointly sponsored by organizations such as the African American Museum, the Dallas County Historical Commission, the Dallas County Medical Society Alliance Foundation (Aldredge House), the Dallas County Pioneer Association, the Dallas Genealogical Society, the Dallas Historical Society, the Dallas History & Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library, the Dallas Jewish Historical Society, the Dallas Municipal Archives, the DeGolyer Library at SMU, Legacy Dallas: A Virtual Museum of Dallas County History, Preservation Dallas, Preservation Park Cities, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, the Texas State Historical Association, and the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at SMU.

innovation & entrepreneurship