

Neeley in the News

June 2007



Star-Telegram

June 5, 2007

Heather Brust- by *Rhonda McKinney*

Heather Brust has joined the **Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University** as director of development.

The job: To advance the mission and vision at TCU and Neeley Business School to create partnerships and secure financial support for our programs. Meeting with alumni and friends of TCU and asking them to participate with us in supporting our programs.

Most challenging aspect: To secure all the financial support necessary to remain nationally competitive in order to keep and attract world-class faculty. To provide scholarship support to allow all students with the ability to study business at the Neeley school.

First job: Camp counselor with the parks and recreation district in Beaverton, Ore.

Ultimate goal: To attract all gifts necessary to TCU and the Neeley school so the university can achieve its highest goals.

Star-Telegram

June 12, 2007

Local energy firms spin off mature assets - by *Jim Fuquay*

With oil and gas prices relatively high, several local energy companies are planning to sell the public a different type of stock that offers to pay out a piece of their growing profits. But will these master limited partnerships be a good buy for individual investors?

Since the start of the year, Quicksilver Resources, Encore Acquisition and XTO Energy have announced plans to spin off part of their operations to the public in the form of MLPs.

MLPs offer companies a chance to raise capital by packaging and selling some assets, typically mature properties that have steady income but limited growth prospects. Meanwhile, investors get a shot at a relatively stable stream of income from the ongoing operation. Whereas investors buying a stock are looking for price appreciation and growth, an MLP investor is eyeing a high dividend and possibly some price appreciation. The companies keep a hand in the game by managing the MLP and serving as its general partner. Encore and Quicksilver also said they intend to retain ownership of a majority of

their MLPs. That means they collect fees and also share in the future performance of the MLPs.

“MLPs potentially are for anybody” looking for income and willing to assume the risks of volatile petroleum prices, **said Stan Block, a Texas Christian University business professor who follows investments.** “They would be the type of investment for people highly motivated by yield,” he said, such as investors looking for the kind of income high-yield bonds provide.

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June 25, 2007

TCU's Robert Vigeland, overseer of 2007 All-Stars

Robert Vigeland, who supervised the compilation of the 2007 All-Stars list, is chairman of the accounting department at Texas Christian University. He has been on the faculty of the **M.J. Neeley School of Business** since 1989.

Vigeland, 57, holds a bachelor's degree from Lehigh University and master's and doctorate degrees from Columbia University. He worked on the audit staff of Arthur Andersen & Co. in New York from 1970 to 1973 and became a certified public accountant in 1974.

From 1977 to 1989, he was on the faculty of the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota, serving as director of graduate studies in accounting from 1983 to 1987.

Since joining TCU, he has overseen the program's accreditation by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business and the addition of a master of accounting program. He co-authored a textbook, *Intermediate Accounting*, in 1994 and has published numerous articles on the role of accounting information in capital markets.

Star-Telegram

June 25, 2007

THE NO. 1 COMPANY

ALL-STARS: Now, there's no doubting Thomas' work - by Barry Shlachter

IRVING -- It's only natural that posters of fighter planes and other military artifacts festoon some work areas of the otherwise spare executive offices of the Thomas Group, the top-ranked company on this year's Tarrant All-Stars list.

The story of the Irving-based consulting firm's dramatic turnaround is based, Chief Financial Officer David English says, on applying its business-world solutions to a plethora of problems faced by the Navy....

In 2006, an 88 percent increase in market capitalization, combined with an 84.7 percent

increase in return on equity and 38 percent higher revenue, to \$59.5 million, made it the top regional corporate performer, according to an analysis by **Texas Christian University's Neeley School of Business**.