

"Redbud History" Video Script

Narrator: In the 1930s, a movement began to develop a Redbud trail through Denton. The project had already been initiated at TWU as a campus beautification project during the spring semester in 1930 by, then, President L. H. Hubbard, for whom Hubbard Hall is named. The city-wide project picked up on campus, wound around Quakertown Park, and through residential areas, of the time, across town to the campus of UNT, then back toward the TWU campus. At one time, thousands of visitors flocked to Denton each year to visit our campus and view the millions of tiny blossoms. By 1937, two thousand trees had been planted.

The Redbud Festival began in 1939 as a ball. Princesses were nominated from each class, with one lucky woman receiving the title of "Redbud Queen." Nominees prepared for the ball during a week-long festival centering around the idea of improving women's poise and appearance. This festival of charm, which included special lectures, forums on posture, proper etiquette, makeup, and fashion, was held in an effort to promote self-development.

By the mid-1960s, interest in the pageant began to decline, and the program was scaled down. By 1986, the student body seemed fed up with, what it view as, an antiquated tradition that really undermined what women's education is about now. That year, a group of eight students protested the Redbud Festival. One protester, Valerie Blankenship, summed up the protest groups,' and likely a majority of the students,' feelings on why the festival should be changed.

Student-Protestor: We would like to see women who are active, scholarly individuals at this university, honored, but in a different way. Calling someone a princess and placing a crown on their head is simply for fairy tales and not for women in 1986.

Narrator: Starting in the '90s, the Redbud program was reevaluated, and the format changed. Instead of recognizing individuals for their poise and appearance on the runway, individuals were recognized for their qualities and leadership, character, and the pursuit to make a difference. The Redbud Award recipients of today excel in academic and community pursuits, embody what it means to be a global citizen, and are

known by their actions more than their external appearances. The criteria have changed over the years to make the awards more inclusive and representative of the student population.

The Redbud Awards recognizes TWU student leaders, student organizations, faculty, and staff in the following categories: emerging student leader, outstanding campus leader, chartered student organization of the year, university-sanctioned organization of the year, Glenda Brock Simmons Community Service Award, and outstanding faculty or staff advisor for a student organization.

For a few years now, the original Redbud evening gown and crown, worn by the Redbud Queen, have been highlighted and displayed on the stage for the attendees to see. The Redbud tree will always be honored during the annual Redbud Festival, glorifying all the beauties and wonders of the spring. Although the festival has changed over the years, one central theme has endured the test of time: recognition and honor for outstanding achievements of some very remarkable students at Texas Woman's University.