

Brian's Story *EVERGREEN*



A 'Raging Thunder Lizard for Change' Brian Yeoman

I began my career at UTHSC in March of 1979. I had been working there about 6 months when a mutual friend introduced me to Brian Yeoman who at that time had just returned to UTHSCH as the Director of Purchasing. Brian offered me a position as his assistant and I took it.

This started an 18 year working relationship of collaboration, of friendship and mutual respect and a lifetime of friendship. I knew it was going



to be interesting when I was there about a week when Brian announced he was off for a week on one his great hunting adventures, and I was in charge of Purchasing. Needless to say, I was the deer in the headlights as I knew nothing about purchasing! Somehow, we all survived. As his career advanced to Associate Vice President of Procurement and Facilities Management, we grew our immediate staff from just the two of us to 7 with over 200 employees. Brian and I participated in many first at the UTHSC. One of the first major accomplishments was participating in developing the first online procurement accounting and purchasing software, better known as

TUFIMS. The purchasing module did not exist and this was mostly Brian's brainchild. Later modules for Stores and Travel were added to TUFIMS, and he also help develop those. Then UT bought the Operations Center Building (OCB) from 7Up. It became our responsibility to relocate Purchasing, Facilities, Stores, Mail Services, Copy Services and Records Retentions from other buildings to OCB. This was no small task and quite an adventure. The first job was to rid the building of the large rats that taken up residence! When the UTHSCH powers that be decided, a whole new department was needed to support TUFIMS, Brian was tasked creating Management Systems Support. If it was Brian's job, it was also mine. So, we set about writing job descriptions, recruiting applicants, and hiring people. Oh, we also had to build them office space at OCB! Our next great adventure was when Brian was given the responsibilities of the Physical Plant. That is when we became Support Services with over 200 employees. Through it all our entire team depended on Brian for his vision and mentorship. Support Services became our work family. Together we all work hard, but Brian always wanted us to play hard when the time was appropriate. Many of you will remember the Roach Motel at the Chili Cookoff! Personally, my family and Brian's became very close friends. He and Rene were married in my home, we celebrated our children's birthdays and holidays together, and my husband and Brian hunted together. Brian leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments, mentorship, and friendship. We of his Support Services Team are his opus. It is with a great sense of loss that I say farewell to one of my best friends.

Barbara Kelly

More than anything else, Brian Yeoman was a wonderful friend. Over forty years ago, Brian and I met while I was working a part-time job in a grocery store. He asked what my regular job was and I told him I worked for a local office supply dealer. His eyes got large and he asked if I would consider working at UT as a buyer of office supplies and small equipment. This began a tremendous career that still goes on today for me! I spent the next twenty years working for Brian and delighted in every moment. He was always encouraging me (and others) to learn new tasks; look to the future and be great at what you did. He expected only the best and would never settle for less. At me and Geri's wedding, he asked me to consider going to school and get my degree. Through some funding mechanism UT-Houston had an educational line item in the budget which he used for me and others so that we could go to school. Always the encourager, after I graduated, I was offered the opportunity to become Assistant Director of Purchasing at UH. He nearly cried. Two years later I was promoted to Director and became the youngest Purchasing Director at a major University at the time. He did cry.

Geri (who also worked with Brian) and I owe so much to this legend of a man. He was a wonderful leader, gentleman and friend! One of the special characteristics we both recall is that Brian always was focused on you. If you were visiting or confiding with him he made sure that you were the only person around. You were important to him. He surely followed the Commandment to "Love on Another"!

Rest in Peace my friend. Hug your precious Brandy! Have tea with you mom and dad!
Rest well until we all meet again!

Alan Phillips

Literally stunned, I reeled when I learned that Brian had died. Only recently, he had emailed me as he did intermittently over the last 15 years since we had seen each other. It was a curious email to me at the time but now I understand that he was saying goodbye. He shared his emotions about how our careers at UT ended and how much our friendship had meant to him. I was little taken aback, receiving this out of the blue so to speak, but I certainly responded in kind. Brian's eulogies and other communications will praise his accomplishments - deservedly so since there are many - but my memories are of sharing late evening conversations when we were posted to the OCB outpost, brainstorming solutions to challenges together and banding together when we shared a common "enemy" (oh, the intrigues that we experienced!). Our clashing egos sometimes led us to loud arguments and sullen silences but, in the end, we knew each other as a confidant and supporter, Such individuals are rare in any life and Brian was one in mine.

Judy Booker



BRIAN RECEIVED A CALL FROM CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE AND INFORMED HE WAS HAVING LUNCH THE NEXT DAY WITH THE "BOSS". HE SHOWED UP AT THE HOTEL AND SO DID BUSH!! IT WAS AN EXCITING DAY FOR BRIAN.

MARY MCBROOM



During the few years I worked for Brian at UTHSCH, I earned a lifetime friend. Brian had over 200 employees when I joined his department of Support Services, employees in Purchasing, Facilities, Copy and Mail services, Records Retention and Stores. But I didn't truly recognize how passionate he was about what he believed in until he was appointed Associate VP of Facilities Planning and Development and he started working on Sustainability, something he cared about deeply. I recall him being worried about the world for the future generations. A 'Raging Thunder Lizard for Change' - a turn of phrase he like to use - is what he was and still is in my mind. It was his commitment to share the teachings of 'The Natural Step Framework', to help communities and business take meaningful steps towards sustainability. These teachings he made

available to university faculty and staff, vendors and collaborators alike, and that created change at the university. He believed in his staff and gave them the liberty to choose for themselves how and when they wanted to grow, however he always challenged them. He always used to say, "You own your resume, your career. You are in charge of your life, so make it count." He treated everyone with respect and dignity.

His sign-off message on his phone or cards said it all. 'You too can do 'Great Things'.

Margaret Zambrano

In 1989, I joined Support Services' General Stores under the leadership of Brian Yeoman. As a young 22-year-old eager to grow professionally, I felt an immediate connection to his leadership style. It was a style that I wanted to emulate as I progressed in my own career. During that time, there were approximately 200 employees within his organization that was spread throughout the Texas Medical Center. Impressively, Brian knew all the employees by sight and name, even those who worked the nights and weekend shifts in the university's Physical Plant operation. Brian showed a genuine interest in his employees and always encouraged us in our career development and advancement. One of his gifts was recognizing our not-so-obvious talents and getting us to recognize and act on them ourselves. He encouraged many to continue on with their education, myself included. Brian impacted many people and will be greatly missed

Efren Pena

Brian was a people person



Each year the Clean Air Through Energy Efficiency (CATEE) Conference recognizes individuals, and organisations that have demonstrated outstanding and unique contributions to clean air in Texas. Nominations are invited from the public to celebrate leading efforts that contributed to improving the impact of buildings and development on cleaner air and environmental quality for Texas and especially its urban regions. C40's Brian Yeoman, City Advisor to Houston, has been awarded the CATEE Gregg Cooke Award for Excellence in Environmental Leadership.

"This was a totally humbling experience to be honored for a lifetime achievement award in sustainability and energy efficiency. Gregg Cooke was a legend in Texas at the State Natural Resources and Conservation Commission and later at the Region 6 EPA office. To be placed in the same sentence as Gregg made a great impression on me. I have been so fortunate to work with so many outstanding individuals who have contributed so much for the betterment of the planet that I could not begin to thank them all but they all know that I am a huge believer that we are all capable of doing great things."