



Season 3 | Bonus | The Wuensches

(Goin' band playing)

Taylor Peters, Host: IT'S UNUSUALLY WARM FOR NOVEMBER 2ND...

Peters: THE FEELING OF GAMEDAY IS ALIVE AND WELL, EVEN IF IT IS A THURSDAY NIGHT. THIS HOME FOOTBALL GAME AGAINST TCU WILL BE A MEMORABLE ONE FOR THIS SPECIAL FAMILY WHO IS ABOUT TO GET THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME.

(Music)

Peters: THE CLOCK ON THE SCOREBOARD READS 10 MINUTES TILL KICKOFF AND WE'RE GATHERING AT THE TOP OF THE HOME TUNNEL. ALMOST EVERYONE IS WEARING MATCHING RED AND BLACK JERSEYS WITH VARIOUS TWO DIGIT NUMBERS- THEIR GRADUATION YEARS. ACROSS THE BACK, ONE LAST NAME- WUENSCH.

Taylor Carter, Alumnus, Texas Tech University: "I've got my little one in a 42... we are projecting.

Someone: 42? 42.

Carter: 2042 would be the estimated year she'd graduate from Tech...

Peters: TAYLOR CARTER IS MANIFESTING ANOTHER RED RAIDER TO ADD TO THE FAMILY TRADITION. HER YOUNG DAUGHTER ELLIS' RED HAIR SHINES IN THE SUNLIGHT AS SHE SITS ON HER DAD'S SHOULDERS... FLOWERED SUNGLASSES AND ALL. JUST AFTER KICKOFF, WE SLOWLY MAKE OUR WAY DOWN TO THE FIELD TOGETHER... ALL 58 OF US. IF YOU COME FROM A BIG FAMILY, YOU CAN RELATE... TONIGHT FEELS AND SOUNDS KIND OF LIKE EVERY FAMILY REUNION YOU'VE EVER BEEN TO.

Amber Parker, Alumnus, Texas Tech University: Hey, good to see you!

Angie: Remind me of your name...

Parker: Amber.

Angie: You changed your hair.

Parker: Well, yeah. I haven't seen you in 40 years!

Parker: Now is this your nephew?

Angie: Yes, this is my nephew Graham.

Parker: Hi Graham, you're number 110, right? laughter:

You're a freshman? So, we have had 110 family members attend Texas Tech. I didn't know about you, so you make 110.

Derek: And who are you?

Angie: Angie Heitmeyer.

Derek: Oh yeah, Angie Heitmeyer! I'm Derek Holden.

Angie: Oh, great, Derek! Good to see you.

Derek: We haven't met I don't think, have we?

Angie: We met a long time ago at a reunion. And we were at Tech at the same time. I'm Herman's granddaughter... Torine's daughter.

Derek: Okay! Okay!

Angie: My brother Nathan, this is his son and he's coming to Tech now too.

Derek: Okay! Excellent!

Angie: I know!

Graham: I'm happy to be here... happy to be here.

Parker: My nephew is a junior in high school and he took a tour today so hopefully he will be here in a couple of years.

Angie: Those people who want to break our record are going to have to work really hard. Now how many is it?

Parker: Okay, so the stats are... 44 turned in paperwork out of 52, 14 spouses turned in paperwork out of 27 and 110 have attended Texas Tech.

Parker: It took me 8 years to get this!

Angie: Listen, I had to dig up my diploma. It was in the attic in the last box in the very bottom!

Parker: I appreciate it.

Peters: AMBER PARKER HAS BEEN BEHIND SO MUCH OF THIS EFFORT- TO GET THE ATTENTION OF THE GUINNESS WORLD RECORD, CONTACTING FAMILY MEMBERS, GETTING THE GRADUATES AND ATTENDEES CONFIRMED. ALMOST A DECADE OF WORK PAYING OFF IN WAYS THEY COULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED THEN. INTERVIEWS FOR PODCASTS AND MAGAZINES, LOCAL TV STATIONS.

Keely: Did he ask you any questions you didn't know the answer to?

Katlyn: No, but I said some weird things! He asked me what we were here for and he said 'so that means that red and black runs deep in the family?' I was like, oh yeah it's in our veins.

Keely: Yeah.

Katlyn: He asked me how long we've known about it and then what does it mean to you. I said we're happy to rep not only our family but Texas Tech and Lubbock as a community.

Keely: That's perfect!

Peters: THAT'S KEELY LANGE HERE, TALKING WITH HER COUSIN, KATLYN ADAMS, WHO JUST FINISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL STATION.

Keely: I know, I was asking a bunch of my co-workers and people I knew if they're coming to the Tech game and they were like 'I don't know... maybe' and I was like you should because our family is being recognized.

Keely: I was like 'we have the most family members to graduate from one university.' All my patients and everyone I was telling about it thought it was so cool. They're like, wow.

Peters: KEELY IS IN HERE ELEMENT DOWN HERE. SHE'S A 2018 GRADUATE AND THREE-YEAR MEMBER OF ALL GIRL CHEER. SO, SHE HAS WALKED THIS FIELD, AND TUMBLED ACROSS IT, MORE TIMES THAN SHE CAN COUNT. BUT FOR OTHERS... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEIR FEET HAVE EVER TOUCHED THIS TURF. PEOPLE LIKE NORRIS WUENSCHÉ.

Peters: Have you ever been on the field? No?!

Norris: This is the first time. This is, this is something very special.

Peters: Aww that's cool.

Norris: Very special.

Angie: It's just about time.

Amber: Is it?

Angie: 20 seconds.

Amber: Oh!

Peters: AS THE CLOCK WINDS DOWN TO THE END OF THE 1ST QUARTER, THEY ARE PREPARING TO STEP ON THE FIELD TO BE RECOGNIZED. THE CROWD, THE BAND, THE ANNOUNCER... AND ONE UNEXPECTED GUEST WHO FOUND HIS OWN 15 SECONDS OF FAME AT THE EXACT SAME TIME AS THE WUENSCHES. AFTER ALL, THIS STADIUM IS KNOWN FOR IT'S LIVE MASCOT.

(Music)

Peters: FOR THIS BONUS EPISODE, WE'RE DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT. YOU'RE ABOUT TO HEAR TWO CONVERSATIONS- ONE IS BETWEEN ALLISON AND ME WITH GLENYS YOUNG, THE EDITOR OF TEXAS TECH'S MAGAZINE EVERMORE. AND ANOTHER THAT FEATURES MEMBERS OF THE WUENSCHHE FAMILY- SOME OF THEM WILL BE FAMILIAR- VOICES THAT YOU JUST HEARD. WE SAT TOGETHER WITH THESE FAMILY MEMBERS TO DOCUMENT THEIR REMARKABLE STORY OF WHO THEY ARE, WHERE THEY'VE BEEN AND HOW THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN FORMED AROUND THE DOUBLE T.

(Music End)

(Music)

Allison Hirth, Assistant Vice President, Office of Communications & Marketing: Who can explain to me... everyone in this room is related. Who can talk me through how we're all connected here?

Group: Amber?

Amber Parker: I do the family tree so I know all the genealogy. Norris and I and Derek are actually first cousins. Then you've got the three generations here: Norris' daughter Kim, and Taylor, her daughter. Karen. We're all first cousins.

>> No.

>> No. I'm sorry.

>> My dad was your first cousin?

>> Yeah.

>> So, we're second.

Amber Parker: So, Karen, Wendy and Kim are on the next level, and then these three are on the next level.

Peters: HEY EVERYONE, IT'S TAYLOR... AS WE WRAP UP SEASON THREE OF FEARLESS, I AM FIRST OF ALL REALLY GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF YOU THAT LISTENED TO SEASON THREE AND IT'S ALWAYS MY HOPE AND ALLISON'S HOPE THAT YOU LEARNED SOMETHING ALONG THE WAY. SO IN THIS SEASON, YOU WILL KNOW THAT WE TOLD THE TEXAS TECH STORY- PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE AND HOW THESE THINGS SORT OF ALL COME TOGETHER. AND I WANTED TO SHARE A STORY, I'M REALLY EXCITED ABOUT SHARING A STORY WITH YOU THAT WE FEEL LIKE REALLY EMBODIES THIS SEASON. SO ABOUT A YEAR AGO, ALLISON, YOU GUYS KNOW ALLISON, SHE WAS ABLE TO COME ACROSS A STORY THAT WAS SORT OF PRESENTED TO OUR OFFICE. ALLISON, IF YOU ARE OKAY WITH IT, I WANT TO SORT OF START WITH YOU. YOU WERE THE VERY FIRST ONE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THIS FAMILY SO LET'S GO BACK IN TIME AND SORT OF TALK ABOUT THAT.

Hirth: YEAH SO, I GOT AN EMAIL – I REMEMBER IT WAS LATE IN THE DAY ON A TUESDAY AROUND, I DON'T KNOW 4:30 OR SO – FROM A MAN NAMED DEREK HOLDEN. AND DEREK SAID THAT HIS FAMILY WAS APPLYING FOR A RECORD IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS FOR THE MOST FAMILY MEMBERS TO GRADUATE FROM THE SAME UNIVERSITY – AND THAT UNIVERSITY WAS TEXAS TECH. SO, I CALLED DEREK INSTEAD OF RESPONDING TO HIS EMAIL, I CALLED HIM AND HE EXPLAINED THAT THEY NEEDED TO SUBMIT A FAMILY PHOTO, AND SO HE WAS REACHING OUT TO US FOR HELP WITH THE PHOTO. BUT I KNEW HE WASN'T GONNA BE ABLE TO JUST GET AWAY WITH THAT. AS SOON AS I GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH HIM, I GOT OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS INVOLVED, BUT I ALSO WANTED TO GET GLENYS YOUNG INVOLVED – SHE'S THE EDITOR OF UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE EVERMORE.

Taylor: ENTER GLENYS YOUNG... MAKING HER BIG PODCAST DEBUT... WELCOME GLENYS.

Glenys Young, Editor of Evermore: I CAME TO KNOW THIS FAMILY WHEN I STARTED WORKING ON THE STORY WITH THEM FOR EVERMORE. DEREK INTRODUCED US TO HIS COUSIN, AMBER WUENSCHER PARKER, WHO HAD DONE THE BULK OF THE WORK TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION TO GUINNESS. MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF THIS FAMILY

WAS THAT THEY'RE A GROUP OF HARD-WORKING FOLKS WHO REALLY LOVE THIS UNIVERSITY. BUT WHAT I WANTED TO GET OUT OF THEM WITH THE EVERMORE ARTICLE WAS WHY – WHERE THAT LOVE CAME FROM AND HOW THEY HAD ALL FED INTO IT.

Peters: AND THIS STORY REALLY STARTS WITH FRANCIS WUENSCHÉ, RIGHT? THIS OF COURSE IS ALL IN THE AMAZING EVERMORE FEATURE THAT YOU WROTE, EVERYTHING SORT OF STARTS WITH HER, IS THAT RIGHT?

Young: PRETTY MUCH, YEAH.

Peters: SO WHAT YEAR WAS SHE ON CAMPUS?

Young: SHE CAME HERE IN THE LATE 40s OR EARLY 50s. I DO NOT REMEMBER THE EXACT YEAR OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD. BUT HER COUSIN, RAYBURN, WHO WAS NOT A WUENSCHÉ, HE WAS ON HER MOTHERS' SIDE, HAD COME HERE AFTER WORLD WAR II.

Peters: IT'S CRAZY TO ME TO THINK THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH TEXAS TECH HISTORY THAT EXISTS WITHOUT THIS FAMILY. I MEAN IT IS, IT REALLY IS REMARKABLE. AND SO, WE'LL KIND OF FAST FORWARD JUST A LITTLE A BIT. ALLISON AND I, WE SIT DOWN AND WE START TALKING ABOUT WHAT WE WANT SEASON THREE OF FEARLESS TO LOOK LIKE. AND EVEN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF OUR STORYBOARDING SESSIONS, WE WERE LIKE, 'WE KNOW THAT WE WANT THIS FAMILY TO BE INVOLVED WE JUST DON'T KNOW HOW. AND SO, BEFORE ANY OTHER DETAIL WAS SET IN STONE FOR SEASON THREE, WE WERE COMMITTED TO THIS FAMILY BECAUSE WE FELT LIKE THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO BE, SORT OF AMBASSADORS SEASON THREE. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, ALLISON, YOU AND I, WE, WE REALLY WANTED TO FIND A WAY TO TELL THEIR STORY IN A WAY THAT WAS REALLY UNIQUE.

Hirth: YEAH SO, WHAT WE DID WAS, WE REACHED OUT TO AMBER WHO YOU MENTIONED JUST A MINUTE AGO. WE SAID, 'WE NEED TO GET A GROUP OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS TOGETHER.' NOT ALL OF THEM LIVE LOCALLY SO WE HAD TO ARRANGE SOME TRAVEL. BUT WE GOT TOGETHER ABOUT 10 OR SO OF THEM IN THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING – IT WAS A SUNDAY AFTERNOON. AND IT WAS MULTIGENERATIONAL – SO WE HAD EVERYONE FROM DANE – HE WAS A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL AT THE TIME ALL THE WAY UP TO NORRIS. HE WENT TO TEXAS TECH IN THE 60'S. WE SAT TOGETHER FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND WE JUST TALKED ABOUT LIFE, LIFE AT TEXAS TECH. WE TALKED ABOUT THEIR FAMILY. WE TALKED ABOUT THIS REGION AND HOW TEXAS TECH SEEMED TO JUST WEAVE INTO EVERY FIBER OF EACH OF THOSE THINGS. IT WAS A REALLY MEMORABLE CONVERSATION.

Peters: YEAH, IT WAS. AND MY, WHEN THEY WALKED INTO THE ROOM, IT WAS REALLY UNIQUE BECAUSE OF COURSE THEY ALL KNOW EACH OTHER. BUT WE DON'T KNOW THEM. AND SO, WE KIND OF TOOK A ROLE WHERE WE SORT OF SAT BACK AND ALLISON, YOU WOULD PROMPT THEM ALONG THE WAY. IT JUST KIND OF BECAME THIS REALLY ORGANIC AND NATURAL THING THAT WAS. IT WAS JUST COOL TO KIND OF WATCHING IT PLAY OUT. AND I LOVE THIS STORY, AND I MAY GET THE DETAILS WRONG SO CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG BUT. SO YOU MENTION AMBER, YOU KNOW SHE FLIES IN FOR THIS RECORDING, FROM DALLAS. AND AFTER WE FINISH DOING THE RECORDING, SHE, SHE COMES UP TO US AND SHES SAYING, YOU KNOW I LISTENED TO SEASON TWO OF FEARLESS AND THERE'S ONE CHARACTER IN PARTICULAR WHO WAS A LOCAL BEEKEEPER. AND SHE KEEPS BEES, IS THAT RIGHT? YEAH! SO SHE GIVES US LIKE THESE LITTLE JARS OF HONEY AND I JUST REMEMBER THINKING THAT THAT WAS SO THOUGHTFUL. I MEAN SHE IS ALREADY COMING, YOU KNOW IT'S ALREADY A BIG JOB FOR HER TO TRAVEL ALL THE WAY HERE TO BE APART OF IT AND I JUST REMEMBER THINKING, 'THAT IS SO, THAT IS SO KIND.'

Hirth: IT WAS SO THOUGHTFUL, AND, AND REALLY SHOWS HOW MUCH WORK SHE PUT IN JUST TO COORDINATE ALL THOSE FAMILY MEMBERS TO GET HERE. ON A SUNDAY. YOU KNOW, THE HIGHSCHOOL STUDENT WHO ARE PLAYING SPORTS AND EVERYONE WITH FAMILIES. JUST TO GET EVERYONE HERE FOR THIS, IT SHOWS IN SOME WAYS THEIR LOVE FOR TEXAS TECH. THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR THIS INSTITUTION.

Peters: YEAH, JUST SO GRACIOUS, SO GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY.

Hirth: AND THE HONEY WAS GOOD, BY THE WAY.

Peters: IT WAS REALLY GOOD! I DRANK IT IN MY COFFEE, IT WAS DELICIOUS. AND YOU HAD MENTIONED THIS MULTIGENERATIONAL STORY. AND THEY SORT OF TOOK US ON THIS JOURNEY THROUGH TIME IT FELT LIKE! AND IT WAS REALLY NOSTALGIC AND IT WAS POWERFUL. YOU KNOW, THIS BONUS EPISODE REALLY IS A TRIBUTE TO THIS WUENSCHER FAMILY AND HOW THEY'VE TRULY STOOD THE TEST OF TIME.

HIRTH: Where did everyone live? Where did you live on campus? Did you live on campus?

DEREK HOLDEN: I lived on campus almost the whole time. Wells Hall. They tore it down, I don't think it's there anymore, but that's where I... I mean, I'm still friends with so many people from that dorm. I loved it there. Didn't have air conditioning, but... LAUGHING

AMBER PARKER: I lived at Knapp Hall, and then I lived in Stangel. I was the same way – I lived three years in the dorm, you meet so many people. For a big college, it was very helpful.

KAREN SIMNACHER: I lived in Stangel for one year.

ALLISON HIRTH: When you first got to campus, for some of you I know this was not yesterday, so bear with me here. When you first got to campus, what do you remember about this place? What stood out to you? Did it seem big? Did it seem small? What did it feel like?

WENDY ARMES: It was huge. It was absolutely forever to walk from one place to another place. Coming from what was the smaller high school in the area. You came here, and it was just huge. It just opened your eyes. But it was physically huge, beautiful. It was neat. It felt grown up, I guess.

KAREN SIMNACHER: It was huge for me also because I was from a 3A school where I had known everybody from kindergarten all the way through. And so I got here and at the time I think there were maybe 28-30,000 people on campus. It was just, like you said, it was huge physically, but meeting all those people, it was a fun experience. I still see some of those people today that I met 20, 30 years ago on campus. It was a great experience.

(Music)

ALLISON HIRTH: What does that look like, tell me about technology.

DEREK HOLDEN: There wasn't any. LAUGHING:

KAREN SIMNACHER: There wasn't any. We literally... I had a spiral. That would, you know... Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes... Tuesday, Thursday. So, I would have a section for each of my classes. You sit and you take notes, and if you don't go to class that day, you miss out, which is why we always went to class.

DEREK HOLDEN: When you registered, did you? It wasn't online.

KAREN SIMNACHER: It wasn't online.

DEREK HOLDEN: We went to the Coliseum, I think.

WENDY ARMES: We stand in the line at: like 5:00 in the morning.

KAREN SIMNACHER: We did it here at the SUB, and we had to get in line, and you'd have to just sit and wait and move up. There was... we went into the room upstairs, and there were computers all around, and you can go to the open computer, and they'd say, okay, you get your English class, your history class, whatever, but the math class is taken at that time. Then you would have to go, and they'd have to key it in, and somebody else was keying in all of that information, and then we'd get our schedule. Then we actually, physically, had to go to the bookstore to pick up the books. Unlike today...

MAX SIMNACHER: Yeah, I don't have any books. Everything's on my laptop.

Peters: I LOVE DEREK AND WENDY AND KAREN AS THEIR TALKING ABOUT REGISTERING FOR THEIR CLASSES... I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO SAY THIS BUT I'M JUST GONNA GO AHEAD AND GO THERE... TECHNOLOGY HAS MADE IT SO EASY FOR OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDENTS TO APPLY FOR CLASSES, OR TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES. AND I THINK ABOUT HOW HARD IT WOULD OF BEEN TO HAVE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS TO SHOW UP TO THE SAME PLACE AND GET REGISTERED FOR CLASSES.

Hirth: YEAH REGISTERING IN PERSON. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THE OLD COLISEUM, WHICH OF COURSE, WE KNOW DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE, BUT IN AND OF ITSELF HOLDS A LOT OF HISTORY ON CAMPUS. SOMETHING THAT STOOD OUT TO ME WHEN EVERYONE WAS SHARING STORIES IS HOW MUCH OF TEXAS TECH'S HISTORY THEY'VE ALL WITNESSED OR THEY WERE A PART OF. AND FOR GLENYS, WHO WAS TELLING THIS STORY THROUGH EVERMORE, THIS WAS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME KIND OF THING. ESPECIALLY THE TIMING OF IT... IT'S THE CENTENNIAL OF THE UNIVERSITY. SO, A GUINNESS WORLD RECORD, THE CENTENNIAL. HOW DID YOU APPROACH THIS STORY?

Young: WELL, FOR ME, THERE WAS SO MUCH TO THIS STORY. OBVIOUSLY, EVERY MEMBER OF THE WUENSCHER FAMILY THAT WE TALKED TO – AND THAT WAS LITERALLY DOZENS – FEELS A LOT OF PASSION FOR TEXAS TECH, AND I WANTED TO GET THAT OUT OF THEM. BUT BEYOND THAT, THE BIG QUESTION ON A STORY LIKE THIS IS, HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? SO THAT'S THE STORY I WANTED TO TELL -- HOW THIS FAMILY'S LEGACY STARTED. THAT TOOK US BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNING, WITH DEREK'S MOTHER, FRANCIS WUENSCHER, AND A COUSIN OF HERS, RAYBURN HAHN. IT TURNED INTO A GREAT STORY ABOUT THESE TWO PEOPLE, THE TIME THEY LIVED IN, AND HOW THEY MADE THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAME THEIR WAY. OF COURSE, TO PUT THEIR STORY IN THE MAGAZINE, WE REALLY NEEDED A GOOD VISUAL COMPONENT, AND WHEN WE SAT DOWN AND TRIED TO FIGURE THAT OUT, WE HIT SOME DEAD ENDS. THERE JUST WEREN'T ANY EXISTING PHOTOS TO SHOW MOST OF FRANCIS AND RAYBURN'S STORY BECAUSE IN THE 1940S AND '50S, CAMERAS JUST WEREN'T AS EVER PRESENT AS THEY ARE NOW. YOU DIDN'T CARRY ONE IN YOUR POCKET LIKE YOU HAVE WITH YOUR PHONE. SEPARATELY, WE DIDN'T WANT TO JUST SHOW FRANCIS AND RAYBURN – WE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT, WHILE THE WUENSCHER FAMILY'S TEXAS TECH LEGACY STARTED WITH THEM, IT HAS NOW GROWN TO INCLUDE MORE THAN 100 OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. AND TO US, THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE BOTH OF THOSE PROBLEMS WAS TO CREATE A FAMILY TREE IN THE MAGAZINE. WE WANTED TO SHOW SOME OF THOSE ADDITIONAL WUENSCHERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED OR GRADUATED FROM TEXAS TECH.

Hirth: SO SOMETHING ELSE THAT WE DID THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE MAGAZINE, GLENYS, WAS A PHOTOSHOOT WITH THE WUENSCHER FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE PART OF THAT GUINNESS RECORD. AGAIN, DEMONSTRATING THEIR COMMITMENT TO TEXAS TECH, THEY GOT TOGETHER, I THINK THERE WERE A LITTLE OVER 40 OF THEM. THEY CAME TO THE WOMBLE BASKETBALL CENTER ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY SO WE COULD LINE THEM ALL UP CLASS PHOTO STYLE SO WE COULD TAKE THEIR PHOTO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO DEREK'S ORIGINAL REQUEST TO THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS. SO THAT WAS ALSO A REALLY COOL MEMORY WITH THIS FAMILY THAT SHOWED, AGAIN, THEIR COMMITMENT TO TEXAS TECH. BUT ALSO HOW CLOSE THEY ARE. IT WAS INTERESTING TO SEE THAT SOME OF THEM DIDN'T REALLY KNOW EACH OTHER. DO YOU REMEMBER THAT GLENYS?

Young: I DO. IT WAS FUNNY TO ME BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME OF FAMILY REUNIONS THAT I'VE BEEN TO WHERE YOU MAY KNOW YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY AND FIRST COUSINS BUT THEN YOU HAVE THOSE EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS THAT YOU DON'T CROSS PATHS WITH REGULARLY. YOU MAY NOT LIVE IN THE SAME AREA. YOU MAY ONLY SEE THEM AT FAMILY REUNIONS. SO, YOU'RE MEETING NEW PEOPLE IN THAT PLACE. ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS THAT I HEARD ON THAT DAY WERE THESE TWO STUDENTS WHO WERE STARTING AS FRESHMEN AT TECH. THEY WERE BOTH GIRLS WHO WERE GOING TO BE IN THE SAME RESIDENCE HALL BUT HAD NEVER MET. THEY WERE DISTANT COUSINS AND I JUST WENT. 'HOLY COW! THIS IS PHENOMENAL.'

Hirth: YEAH, YEAH. THEIR FAMILY IS A PART OF THIS RECORD OR SOON TO BE RECORD AT THE TIME AND THEY HAD NEVER MET BUT THEY WERE ASSIGNED THE SAME RESIDENCE HALL. THAT WAS A REALLY COOL MOMENT, I REMEMBER THAT TOO. SO YOU KNOW, IN THE POSITIONS THAT WE HOLD, WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE A LOT OF GREAT CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO HAVE MADE TEXAS TECH THEIR HOME. AND SOMETHING THAT I GRAVITATED TO WITH THIS STORY IS HOW AUTHENTIC IT FELT – THEIR LOVE FOR TEXAS TECH. AND EACH GENERATION THAT COMES ALONG GETS TO HAVE THEIR OWN, SPECIAL MARK ON THE FAMILY TRADITION... AND THE TEXAS TECH TRADITION REALLY. AND SO WHEN WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT TRADITION AS WE DID EARLY ON IN THIS SEASON OF FEARLESS, I WANTED THEM TO SHARE WITH ME THE PARTS OF TEXAS TECH THAT THEY FELT MADE THIS PLACE WHAT IT IS. THERE ARE A LOT OF TRADITIONS, WE ALL KNOW THAT... AND SO THIS PART WAS REALLY FUN.

Peters: YEAH AND TO YOUR POINT ALLISON. I THINK IT IS IN EPISODE ONE WHERE WE TALK ABOUT TRADITIONS AND WE SAY THAT A UNIVERSITY'S TRADITIONS ARE WHAT SET IT APART AND WHAT MAKES IT UNIQUE. AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A STUDENT, IN FACT, A LOT OF TIMES YOU ARE NOT A STUDENT WHEN YOU BEING BACK YOUR FAMILIES AND YOU CONTINUE TO COME BACK TO EVENTS ON CAMPUS. I LOVED, THERE WAS A PART OF THIS PARTICULAR CONVERSATION. TAYLOR TELLS THIS

STORY OF BEING A LITTLE GIRL AND COMING TO THE CAROL OF LIGHTS WITH HER MOM AND NOW HOW SHE, AS A MOM, IS BRINGING HER FAMILY TO CAMPUS. I LOVE THAT STORY AND I THINK THAT REPRESENTS THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE GROWTH OF THAT FAMILY TRADITION OF REALLY BEING RED RAIDERS.

Hirth: Are there, Is there a Texas Tech tradition that you just love?

MAX SIMNACHER: Growing up here, one of my probably coolest memories was in 2008 when Tech beat UT. Crabtree was there. So we had been tailgating with some friends and at halftime we said, "Well let's go into the game, it's a good game." So we started to come back, you know, we went to the game and I remember being in the grassy section like we talked about earlier. We were able to get over there, you cute little kids asking, 'please let us sit over here.' So the security is like 'whatever, they are little kids, they aren't gonna do anything.' And so I remember sneaking in there and seeing Crabtree score in that end zone, and just the crowd goes wild, the whole stadium is going crazy. That was a really cool experience. So, I think that was probably my first really vivid memory that I have with Texas Tech. And that was something that was really cool. Everytime they show the video of it or I see the photo at the airport, I remember that I was there. A really cool piece of history.

Hirth: How old were you then Max? That was what, 13, 14 years ago?

MAX SIMNACHER: Yeah, I was probably five or six. I was young, but it was a great memory. I remember it.

DEREK HOLDEN: I like the Carol of Lights although I haven't been in forever. We need to go back again.

Hirth: You should go this year. If you are going to go a year, go this year.

KAREN SIMNACHER: I love when the horse rides down the field – that's my favorite thing.

TAYLOR CARTER: It just felt like I belonged... It felt like they knew who I was, and I wasn't just another, you know 200 people in the lecture hall or something like that. So I think the smaller class sizes with my college definitely made it feel more personalized to me.

KIM VANN: When I came to Tech, I was a single mom. So Taylor was, Taylor was with me some of the time... I can remember my babysitter couldn't watch her, and I brought her with me. Stuck her in the stroller and I put my backpack on the stroller, and I rode through, and I was headed to English. And that was a long time ago, she's 29 years old, so a lot has changed since then, but I remember having her in, I don't know if it was German, because I took German with Dr. Bacon, or if it was my English class, but she was just coloring. I remember the professor walked around, and she was like, I didn't even know she was here. I said, "That's exactly the point," I just need to get through my 50-minute class, so I can say I was here, those kinds of

things. But I definitely had that personal experience. And as Taylor said, I think the closer you get to your degree plan, you get relationships with those professors.

Max Simnacher: You know, I've had professors in a 300-lecture class, that the first day, they take roll just to see if anybody has dropped or not, and so they'll say, "Max Simnacher?" "Oh, I'm here." "Oh, I remember having your brother a few years back. I remember." The fact that someone with that big of a class remembers the names and faces out of it, feels really personal.

(Music)

WENDY ARMES: I lived at home my freshman year and I remember coming home and telling my mom and dad like, I'm amazed at how many people there are and just how it covers so many different things that I didn't even think were possible as a degree or an interest. Mine changed from the time I got here until I finished. You know what my degree pattern was. It changed and I think it had to do with the people that I met and how it just influenced you in a good way to help finding yourself and finding what you really liked.

KIM VANN: The diversity and opportunity is nice. I definitely came in with a whole nother mindset and then you realize, oh my God, there's so much more I can do with my interests. I did like the professors, especially in my degree plan. They were very open to explaining things and showing us different pathways that we can have.

Peters: TEXAS TECH LEADERS, AND ALL OF US REALLY, WE TALK A LOT ABOUT STUDENTS HAVING A REAL, ORIGINAL, VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AS A STUDENT HERE AT TEXAS TECH. ONE WHERE THEY'RE NOT JUST A NUMBER... AND WE WERE ABLE TO GET TO THAT SOME IN THIS SEASON. YOU KNOW HOW TEXAS TECH IS REALLY MOVING FORWARD TO FIND WAYS TO BE MORE AVAILABLE, MORE IMMERSSED WITH OUR STUDENTS. AND YOU KNOW IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE, I GET IT, BUT YOU HEAR A STORY LIKE MAX SAY THAT A PROFESSOR IN A LECTURE HALL REMEMBERS HIS BROTHER. AND THAT STORY REALLY TOOK ME KIND OF ABACK BECAUSE THERE ARE 40,000 STUDENTS ON CAMPUS. AND THAT'S A LOT. IT REQUIRES A LOT OF PEOPLE TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY STUDENT FEELS KNOWN AND HEARD AND SO STORIES LIKE THAT I REALLY APPRECIATE HEARING TO KNOW THAT THE PROFESSORS. IT REQUIRES EFFORT AND THAT IS WHAT THE STUDENTS ARE GETTING FROM THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS TECH.

Young: YEAH, WHEN YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S PRETTY FANTASTIC TO SEE GENERATION AFTER GENERATION OF THE SAME FAMILY CHOOSING TO COME TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY. YOU KNOW, YOU COULD EASILY HAVE CHILDREN WHO DECIDE TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT JUST TO BREAK AWAY FROM WHAT EVERYONE ELSE IN THE FAMILY IS DOING, AND THERE PROBABLY WERE SOME OF THOSE IN THE WUENSCHER FAMILY, TOO. BUT THERE WERE FAR MORE WHO DECIDED THAT TEXAS TECH WAS WORTH FOLLOWING IN THE FAMILY LINE. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS I ASKED THE FAMILY MEMBERS I TALKED TO, WAS WHETHER THEY CAME OUT HERE BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE DID, AND I GOT THE MOST INTERESTING

ANSWER. FOR SOME OF THEM, THE FAMILY CONNECTION WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, BECAUSE IT OFFERED A SENSE OF SECURITY, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO WERE FAR FROM HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME. BUT FOR OTHERS, THE FAMILY CONNECTION WASN'T NEARLY AS IMPORTANT AS THE FACT THAT TEXAS TECH JUST OFFERED THE PROGRAMS THEY WANTED TO STUDY. AND THAT'S WHAT WE STILL SEE TODAY – THERE ARE SIX YOUNG WUENSCHES PREPARING TO COME TO TEXAS TECH IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, SO WE KNOW THAT THIS LEGACY IS GOING TO CONTINUE.

Hirth: I LOVE THE IDEA OF THIS NEXT GENERATION BREATHING LIFE INTO AN EXISTING STORY. NORRIS WHO WE TALKED TO EARLIER, WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, THE DRAFT FOR THE VIETNAM WAR WAS GOING ON... SO, IN ORDER TO AVOID GOING TO WAR, HE WENT TO COLLEGE. AND THAT DECISION – IN A LOT OF WAYS – REALLY CARRIED ON THIS WEUNSCHE FAMILY LEGACY.

NORRIS WUENSCH: I didn't want to go to Vietnam, so I went to Texas Tech and enjoyed it. Got a degree. Because that was going on at that time. They were drafting. In '66 when I graduated from high school, they were getting Vietnam going real well and that was a chance for you to either get a degree and live a little longer or you know what happens, you know, it comes later on. It just worked out everything, by the Lord's will, didn't go to Vietnam, didn't go to the army or anything like that.

KIM VANN: I chose Tech, I wanted to be here. I felt like it was a great school. My parents had an amazing time here. They met here, and that was kind of fun to walk through campus. We still pass by the Lutheran center over there and they're like, this is where we met. We hear the story every time. The stories are fun. I think that you relive that little part of your parents that you didn't get to be a part of. Then obviously, we had family here, Wendy, and we saw people every Sunday. We had lunch at my grandma's house and so that's how you just became that tight-knit family. Even though we don't see each other very often anymore, we pick up where we left off. I think that was definitely something that I enjoyed about being home. Texas Tech was home.

TAYLOR CARTER: I think going from the oldest of the next-generation being in that, growing up in that, seeing cousins every Sunday. That's just where everybody went. It's what we grew up with. We've always, all of us have been Red Raiders. That's what we've been around. It just was a natural next step. There wasn't ever any pressure. I think, on our side of the family anyways your brain just goes like, okay, graduated high school, I'm going to go to Tech now type of a thing.

MAX SIMNACHER: Part of it was everybody, like they've said, it's just a close family community that we have going to Tech. Part of that was growing up in Lubbock. When it was my turn to decide where I wanted to go, I looked at some other places, looked at other options, but Tech was something that I was familiar with. That was my main reason for choosing Tech.

(Music)

DEREK HOLDEN: For me, I remember it being \$4 an hour. That, at that time, was taking 16 hours, well okay, that's, do math, it's not that much money. Then you add in housing and books and everything else, and it got a little more expensive. But if you're out of state – this always got me too – out of state was \$40 an hour, and I was like, man, I'm glad I don't live out of state, because \$40 an hour. But for us, I mean it was... we weren't wealthy by any means, but mom and dad made it happen. I worked all through college too, I worked since I got here.

AMBER PARKER: My tuition, I remember it being about \$400 and that was doable for my parents. The year me and my brother were both here at the same time, that was a little number crunching. My dad was a Dallas policeman. He just worked some overtime to get through that year.

Hirth: What does Texas Tech mean to each of you?

MAX SIMNACHER: For me, growing up in Lubbock, just across town, it literally is home, but other than that, it's just pride. I feel proud to be a Red Raider, to go here. CUT: A lot of people don't give Tech the credit that I think they should because it's a really great place to be, so I'm proud to be here.

TAYLOR CARTER: I think it's just home. Tradition, like they've said, we've all had choices, and it was an easy decision to make, I think for most of us. We've been immersed in it – from 18 months old. It just feels like home.

DEREK HOLDEN: For me, it was just a no-brainer. I went to community college the first year because I really didn't know right at first what to do. But then the second year I was just like I got to go somewhere else. Here's Amber over here, I was, well, okay, my best friend from high school already down here. Then there's always that Sunday lunch. It was more than just home. It's where we came from.

KIM VANN: I think it's your roots. Definitely your roots. You grew up hearing about it, and maybe it just feels good, it feels right. Like you said, you fight for it. I wear a shirt because I believe in the shirt. I don't wear the shirt because, I don't know. There's so much red, black in my... we just bleed red and black. It's just what it is.

DEREK HOLDEN: Yeah.

Hirth: SO IT'S REALLY APPARENT TO ME THAT THERE IS REALLY NO FAMILY THAT REPRESENTS TEXAS TECH'S PAST, [RESENT AND FUTURE IN THE WAYS THAT THIS FAMILY DOES. THEY WERE SO KIND TO SHARE THEIR STORY WITH US. OPEN THE THE CRAZY IDEAS WE HAD TO PUT THEM IN A PODCAST, FEATURE THEM IN A MAGAZINE, HIGHLIGHT THEM AT A FOOTBALL GAME. I THINK TOO, IT'S A LESSON TO ME TO ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR EMAIL BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN A

STORY IS GOING TO COME IN. WE ALL GET SO MANY EMAILS EVERY SINGLE DAY. AND LIKE I MENTIONED IN THE BEGINNING, THIS WAS THE END OF A TUESDAY AND I'M SURE THERE WAS A MILLION THINGS THAT HAPPENED THAT DAY. AND THIS POPPED IN AND I THOUGHT, 'HMM THIS SEEMS INTERESTING.' SO A LESSON TO ALL OF US - PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR EMAIL BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THE BEST STORY IS RIGHT THERE WAITING FOR YOU.

Young: WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW WE WANT MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS TECH COMMUNITY – PARTICULARLY OUR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI -- TO HAVE A REAL, AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE WITH THE UNIVERSITY. AND THAT WAS THE REAL TAKEAWAY FROM THIS STORY. BECAUSE THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I HEARD FROM DEREK AFTER THE MAGAZINE CAME OUT. HE WAS JUST KIND OF BLOWN AWAY THAT THEIR FAMILY HAD REACHED OUT TO US FOR A PHOTO FOR THEIR GUINNESS SUBMISSION AND IN RESPONSE, TEXAS TECH EMBRACED THEM THE WAY WE DID – NOT ONLY DOING A SPECIAL PHOTO SHOOT TO CREATE THAT IMAGE FOR THEM, BUT THEN CONNECTING WITH MORE OF THE WUENSCHES TO TELL THEIR STORY IN EVERMORE AND HELP THEM GET RECOGNIZED AT A FOOTBALL GAME. FOR ME, IT WAS JUST IT'S WONDERFUL TO KNOW THAT, IN THE COURSE OF DOING OUR JOBS – WHICH WE'RE OBVIOUSLY PASSIONATE ABOUT – WE ALSO GET TO DO THINGS THAT MATTER TO OTHER PEOPLE AND MAKE THEM FEEL SEEN AND HEARD.

(Music):

Announcer: 9:47 Texas Tech 7, TCU 7 guns firing:

Keely: Oh! That scares me every time! Wait, where did that come from?

April: He's stealing our thunder

Announcer Continuing: Over 75 years...

Keely: I can't believe that's a possum.... Do you like to pick it up?

Amber: Oh that is so cute!

Keely: This is cool!

Keely: That's so cool.

Lawrence: The possum stole the show. Somebody get over there and save that thing.

Taylor: Are you surprised at all that has happened?... Who would have thought it would become...

Norris: Yeah, who would have thought all this would happen just from 44 people graduating from Texas Tech and you see all the other stuff that goes along with it, and you just go... this is phenomenal. Lubbock has always been home... It has always been acceptable, and we help each other. Family is family. This is so beautiful... This is so beautiful. This is unbelievable.

Taylor: And it's a good turnout too! I love the jerseys.

Norris: It's like we look like family down here, don't we?

Taylor: How was it? Was it weird?

Keely: Yeah, I was trying to find Stephanie Rhodes... I found Bruce and gave him a hug, but I was trying to find Stephanie to give her a hug, but yeah, it's so cool being back on the field again.

Taylor: It's a nostalgic feeling.

Keely: It is. It's very nostalgic. It's like... I don't know. Everyone was saying they were nervous to go down there, and I was like no, this is my happy place!

Amber: Thank you so much.

That was fun, wasn't it?

Thank you, Amber.

That was so much fun.

Hirth: Thank you guys for coming.

Peters: THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US THIS SEASON. THIS BONUS EPISODE IS WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY ME, TAYLOR PETERS. WITH SPECIAL HELP FROM ALLISON HIRTH. ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSITION IS BY THOMAS BOYD, HE ALSO EDITS THIS PODCAST. IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT TODAY.TTU.EDU/FEARLESS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CHARACTERS AND TO SEE CONTENT FROM PREVIOUS SEASONS OF FEARLESS. READ GLENY'S STORY ABOUT THE WUENSCHER FAMILY IN ISSUE FOUR OF EVERMORE- GET YOUR COPY BY VISITING TODAY.TTU.EDU/EVERMORE... AND STAY TUNED, WE HAVE A SPECIAL READING OF THAT STORY THAT STARTS RIGHT NOW.

(Music Close)

