

Memories

Lessons learned at BCC helped me navigate
turmoil: June Scobee Rodgers, PhD '71
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Compiled by Rachelle Rea

What are some of your favorite memories of your time at CSU?

My favorite memories at CSU tend to flow together around the Reflection Pond from springtime walks racing through the rain trying to make it to my next class on time to those days that I could actually take a few minutes to soak up some winter sunshine and actually “reflect” on the joy of having the opportunity to study at then Baptist College. Also, gathering with friends in the Buccaneer room or hearing great messages of encouragement during Chapel.

Why did you choose to attend CSU?

The campus was well located to my residence in the Charleston suburbs, and it supported my faith base. In addition, the course offerings were exactly what I was hoping to study.

What was your first impression of the school?

The campus looked pristine and a little intimidating from a distance, but after walking across campus and down the halls, I soon learned it was also filled with joyful and interesting people – both students and faculty.

By graduation, I was rewarded with a greater worldview of the true benefits of a college education and a much better understanding of who I was and what I wanted to accomplish in life.

Can you share a story about how something you learned at CSU influenced you?

Little did I know at the time, but every class I took supported some activity in my future – career or personal life. The education course work confirmed my interest to be a teacher and research professor. My major studies in Biology and Chemistry classes filled my yearning to know those subjects. English and literature (supported by history) gave me a confidence in communication skills and opened a world of new exciting literature that I treasure to this day. Math skills gave me the courage to apply for advanced study that led to a PhD. Foreign language studies seemed such a waste, but not only did they help me to understand other cultures but also to appreciate my own country and language.

What were you most pleased with during your time at CSU?

I was pleased with all that CSU had to offer, especially with encouragement for the lifelong joy of learning, but it was the faculty and many of the staff that made all the difference.

Can you share a story about how your time at CSU has shaped your life?

Like most lives, we are often challenged with turmoil and hardships on stormy seas, but I learned at CSU that it's how you react to problems that carry you across to a shore of calm with the rewards of overcoming difficulty that result in learning how to solve problems and seek new opportunities.



And many of those lessons, I learned in Dr. Charles Smith's literature classes. The heart-wrenching literature whether in the form of fiction, poetry or essays gave me strength to fall back on and actually to help lead a nation to overcome tremendous grief after the 1986 Challenger Space Shuttle “Teacher in Space” accident for which my husband Dick Scobee was commander.

In your writing/speaking ministry, how do you seek to make an impact?

Blessed with my God-given talents and the benefit of a marvelous well-rounded Christian education and experiences, it is my prayer that I can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

To learn more about the Challenger Center:
www.JuneScobeeRodgers.com,
www.Challenger.org