

BLACK & GOLD GALA RECOGNIZES TECH LEGENDS —*TERENCE DE SOUSA CONTINUES TO INSPIRE*

When the young instructor in Pakistan received the welcoming letter from Bosco Tech, he knew it was the school for him, “It was so warm and different, like they knew me before I’d arrived,” says Terence De Sousa, who has taught for 58, 43 of which were at Bosco Tech.

After 15 years of service, the respected dean of science and mathematics at Karachi’s long-established St. Patrick’s College applied to the Tech in 1975, having decided to emigrate to Southern California with his wife, Joannette, and two young children, David and Patricia. The political unrest in the Asian sub-continent was the reason for this move, even though teachers were revered by students in Karachi, an area that was once British-ruled India. “The students there looked upon their teachers as gods,” he remembers. “If there wasn’t room in the class, they would ask to come to your home to study with you.”

Once Mr. De Sousa joined the Bosco Tech faculty, the late Fr. William Schafer was most instrumental in his introduction to the Salesian system of education. “He opened my eyes,” Mr. De Sousa says. “He’s God’s own man. He worked ten times harder than anyone, but he knew every student by name and important details of each of their lives. I asked him about it once and he said, ‘I make it my business.’”

As Mr. De Sousa enjoys the early days of retirement, the self-taught concert pianist, plans to spend his time traveling to other countries, playing concerts and composing liturgical music among several other hobbies he plans to pursue. Mr. De Sousa was organist and choir director at Divine Savior Church in Cypress Park, where he volunteered his services for 27 years. His great interest in math is somewhat overshadowed by his passion for music, ignited at eleven years old, after watching a movie on the life of prodigy Frederic Chopin. “From that point, I knew that music was for me,” he explains. “I see the sheet music and I hear the notes in my head.”

Choosing piano practice over play at a young age, he earned a licentiate diploma with honors in pianoforte playing from London’s prestigious Trinity College of Music while he was still a student at the University of Karachi where he pursued his studies in mathematics.

Many Bosco Tech graduates feel he is also a math virtuoso. That caring and abiding commitment, developed so many years ago, has impacted thousands of one-time students, who keep in touch and share their stories, like a struggling young freshman who could not grasp the concepts of algebra.

“I told him I was here to help him whenever he needed it, morning, noon or night,” recalls Mr. De Sousa. “Pretty soon, I couldn’t get out of my car in the school parking lot in the morning, but he was there with math problems. Morning, lunchtime, afterschool--we worked.” Today, that former student is a math professor, sharing the same level of concern for students that Mr. De Sousa’s example set for him.

While touched by the many honors and awards that have been bestowed upon him, he judges his life’s work from a different standard. “I’ve had a wonderful opportunity to spend a life being a part of the divine plan for the kids, being available to do what God wants me to do,” he says. “I’ve had several opportunities through the years to move to other schools, but I felt that this school provided an opportunity, a chance to do something more valuable.”

“I’m here for the students, not myself, and I’ve enjoyed every moment of it, despite a few obstacles along the way. I’ve been given the chance, which I consider a great privilege, to help young men realize their full potential and become responsible citizens to make the world a better place.”

