

PROFILE

A deep thinker with a mind for business

AFTER DAILY QUADRUPLE ESPRESSO, HARD-WORKING DEAN JOLTS THE STATUS QUO



Schreiber starts her work day early while she catches up on some breaking news headlines.

NICK SIMONITE / STAFF

Nancy Schreiber, recently appointed dean of the The Bill Munday School of Business at St. Edward's University, has spent the past nine months determining what direction the school's programs should take. Since arriving on campus in July 2014, she has been listening to stakeholders, including the business community, building her team and challenging the status quo.

Schreiber uses her psychology background and corporate experience when collaborating with diverse groups to build the partnerships necessary to shape a "high-impact and relevant" masters program. A new curriculum is set to launch for the fall 2015 semester. Schreiber's team is laying the groundwork to earn prestigious AACSB accreditation for the school – a multiyear process.

As much as the social interaction at work energizes her, off-the-clock, Schreiber says she would rather be golfing with her husband – a favorite pastime she has enjoyed only four times since taking the helm of the business school. To maintain her sanity despite a whirlwind schedule – from breakfast meetings to evening events – she prefers to keep her professional and private worlds from colliding. She's not inclined to host a party at home anytime soon.

Schreiber does not have a bucket list,

NANCY GREEN SCHREIBER

Title: Dean, The Bill Munday School of Business at St. Edward's University

Hometown: Detroit

Family: Married to Martin Schreiber, 26 years

Pets: Two rescue dogs, Pepper and Yenta

Education: Oberlin College (1982-1985), bachelor's degree in sociology; University of Detroit Mercy (1986-1991), doctorate in clinical psychology

Board memberships: Texas Association of Business; Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, International; Women Administrators in Management Education.

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saying instead that she looks forward to times when she can just hang out, take her dogs for a walk and enjoy her home's Hill Country views. In fact, her fondest college memories are of hanging out and talking with friends in a dorm room.

How do you describe what you do as dean? The order of this list changes daily: strategist, psychologist, teacher, banker, salesperson, politician, public-speaker, coach/cheerleader, fundraiser, and high-wire artist.

Is there one job or pivotal event that put your career on the fast-track to dean? It was really a "one thing lead to another kind of climb." I think the only pivotal behavior involved was saying "yes" to these opportunities even when I knew it would be easier and safer to say "no."

How do you help the school and students realize a positive return on their investment respectively? Is that part of your job? I see it as part of my job. We must create academic programs and co-curricular experiences that resonate and align with the business community. To do this, we need to bring the business community to campus and our campus to the community so that we construct dynamic programs to match students to market needs.

When during your career have you had to work the hardest? Right now. Business school deans today have a significant number of challenges as higher education and business education are both in transformation mode. I'm bringing a lot of organizational change to the school to address these challenges.

In the corporate world, do you think women still face obstacles men don't? Yes. It starts with pay equity.

What's your morning routine? Quadruple espresso, e-mail, read the obituaries of my hometown newspaper, review headlines of Austin Business Journal, Dallas Business Journal, New York Times, Huffington Post.

What's the best lesson you learned the hard way? Truth-telling can be painful and risky but necessary to create a culture of integrity, equity and performance.

What's your favorite quote? "From what we get, we can make a living; from what we give however, we can make a life." – Arthur Ashe

What is your most prized possession? After buying a house in Austin this past year, I would say that my house would be my most "pricey" possession.

What's something others may not know about you? When I taught, I could recite all of the students' names at the end of the first class period.

What did you want to be when you grew up? Sportscaster.

How would you describe your personality? Type A-plus.

What are your strengths? Resiliency and a sense of humor.

What about weaknesses? Impatience.

What annoys you? Duplicity.

What is your favorite guilty pleasure? Watching football.

What's one thing you have too many of? Socks.

What's on your list when you splurge? Eating out.

– Interview by Patricia Rogers, @ABJresearcher