Dr. Gordon Kidd Teal (1907-2003)

Gordon Kidd Teal was born in Dallas, Texas, on January 10, 1907. He was the son of Olin Allison Teal and Azelia Clyde Kidd. From an early age, Gordon excelled in academics, particularly in mathematics and the sciences. In 1924, at the age of 17, he graduated as valedictorian of Bryan Street High School (Dallas).

Over the next few years, Teal attended Baylor University where he served as a model for academic achievement and communal involvement. Teal served as the President of the Scholarship Society and Latin Club, as the Vice President of the Senior Class, as a member of the Baylor Chamber of Commerce, and as a member of the track team. He graduated from Baylor University in 1927 with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Chemistry.

Teal continued his education at Brown University where he earned his Master’s degree (1928) and his Ph.D. in Chemistry (1931). Under the tutelage of Dr. Charles Kraus, Teal examined the chemical and electrical properties of germanium, which to that point had been deemed relatively useless by most scientists. On March 7, 1931, Teal married Lyda Louise Smith with whom he had three sons: Robert Carroll, Donald Fraser, and Stephen O’Banion Teal.

By 1930, Teal had begun what would prove to be a successful scientific career at Bell Telephone Laboratories. For the next twenty-two years, Teal made one scientific discovery after another. He perfected the growth of high purity single crystal germanium and silicon, co-developed the junction transistor, created the grown junction single crystal technique, and secured approximately forty-five patents. In 1952, Teal moved back to Texas when a position opened at Texas Instruments.

In 1953, Gordon Teal was hired as an Assistant Vice President at Texas Instruments. Arguably his greatest invention, the first commercial silicon transistor (1954), launched Texas Instruments into a period of unprecedented success. The military, astronomical, and commercial implications for such a transistor were limitless and resulted in many of the innovative technologies our society enjoys today. Teal worked at Texas Instruments until 1965 when he was appointed the first Director of the Institute for Materials Research at the National Bureau of Standards. He served a two-year term, and then returned to Texas Instruments where he remained until retirement in 1972.

Retirement, however, did not mean idleness for Gordon Teal. Along with his numerous awards and honorary degrees, Teal continued to serve as a consultant for both Texas Instruments and the Department of Defense. Throughout his life, Teal was actively involved in many scientific organizations including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemists, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, American Physical Society, Council of Scientific and Engineering Societies of Dallas-Fort Worth, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Institute of Radio Engineers, and the Texas Academy of Science. Dr. Gordon Teal passed away on January 7, 2003 a few months after his papers were delivered to Baylor University by his son, Dr. Donald Teal.

Significance of Naming Proposal

Dr. Gordon Teal was one of the most influential yet understudied American scientists of the twentieth century. His strong personal ties to Baylor University abound. Teal earned his undergraduate degree at
Baylor (1924-1927), served as a Baylor trustee (1970-1979), and donated his papers to The Texas Collection.

Below is a list of awards given to Dr. Teal from Baylor University. These can be found in his papers at The Texas Collection:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>BU Sigma Pi Sigma Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Distinguished Service Plaque</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>BU Outstanding Alumnus Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Honorary Law Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>BU Medical Center Service Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>BU Outstanding Alumnus Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986-1987</td>
<td>BU Service Award: Trustee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>BU Student Foundation Award</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BU Founder's Club Award</td>
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Sources


Gordon Kidd Teal Papers, Accession #3820, Box #4, Folders #1-6, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.


Dr. Hallie Earle (1880-1963)

Hallie Earle was born on September 27, 1880, on a farm near Hewitt, Texas. She was the youngest of eight children born to Major Isham Harrison Earle, a veteran of the Tenth Texas Infantry, and Adaline Graves Earle. Earle’s family tree was populated by physicians on both sides, a foreshadowing of the path her life would take.

Due to her family’s proximity to Waco, Earle chose Baylor University as the vehicle to achieve her educational aspirations. President Oscar H. Cooper praised Earle for her mathematical abilities, suggesting that she could become a good math teacher, but Earle sought to challenge gender roles by pursuing a professional career in medicine. She graduated from Baylor in 1901 with a Bachelor’s degree and needed only one more year to attain a Master’s of Science. The quality of her work was such that a copy of her thesis was placed in the cornerstone of the Carroll Science Building in 1902.

After teaching at a school in Gainesville, Texas for three years, Earle returned to Baylor to complete her education. In 1907, she graduated from Baylor University Medical School in Dallas as the first female graduate to date. She conducted post-graduate work in Chicago, New Orleans, and New York.

For seven years, Dr. Earle practiced at Torbett’s Hospital in Marlin, Texas. When she failed to find work through medical advertisements, she chose to take a chance and start her own practice in Waco, Texas, becoming the first licensed female physician in McLennan County history. Specializing in internal medicine and gynecology, Earle’s clientele consisted primarily of women and the poor. In addition to her doctoral practice, Earle maintained the family farm and served as the sole Central Texas weather observer for over forty years.

Dr. Earle never married, choosing instead to live with her sister Mary and cousin Lucille Pearré. By 1948, Mary and Lucille had both passed away. Dr. Earle retired from her practice, still the only female physician in Waco. She died on Nov. 1, 1963, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery. In 1996, the Texas Historical Commission placed a marker on her grave commemorating her accomplishments in the community.

Significance of Naming Proposal
Dr. Hallie Earle fought for women’s rights and exemplified the struggle for empowerment through her pursuit of a career in medicine. She challenged the gender roles of early 20th century America. Her ties to Baylor University and the local community are also important factors that make Dr. Earle an ideal person to honor by naming the south building of East Village Hallie Earle Hall.

Sources
