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Dr. Beebe
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Finding Home

Purpose

At the end of my speech, the audience will know how Dr. Beebe affects and changes people from all aspects of his life.

Introduction

Dr. Beebe mentioned this once towards the beginning of the semester. All he wanted to be was a footnote. As our semester comes to an end, how much do you really know our professor? Not only have we spent half a year with this man, but what is it that makes him the Regents' Distinguished Professor? Today I will tell you. I will tell you what a previous student, a colleague, and a family member think are his greatest accomplishments and how Dr. Beebe has made an impact on their lives.

Central Idea

Dr. Steven A. Beebe is an outstanding Regents' Distinguished Professor whom has impacted numerous students', colleagues', and family members' lives. He gives effortlessly, invests time, and takes everyone under his wing.

Transition: Let's talk about how Dr. Beebe makes an impact right here in River City San Marcos and across the pond.

Body

I. Dr. Beebe's influence on Leela Schooler as a professor

A. Schooler is a junior whom transferred here to study mass communication. She attended Dr. Beebe's Oxford study abroad course this past summer. According to Schooler, Dr. Beebe's dearest accomplishment throughout his teaching career has been those summer trips to Oxford. During those trips, he is able to share his love and passion for communication through his abundant amount of research on C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien. Do you all remember those times when Dr. Beebe is telling us a story of Aristotle or Socrates or Plato and you feel like he had taken us to Ancient Greece? Well through his Oxford trips, he is able to stand where Lewis stood and teach where Lewis taught. I have been told that he is like a magician. On all of their tours around Oxford, he knows exactly what to say and when to say it.

B. Schooler said that the Oxford program is why she transferred to Texas State. She distinctly remembers "meet the professor night" in the Honors College. From the moment she met him to saying their goodbyes in England, he was encouraging and supportive through the whole experience. He increased her confidence in her own abilities. She once was scared and felt overshadowed by the world. Now, she feels that the world is a place

to conquer all because of Dr. Beebe and his mentorship. He encouraged her to find home.

Transition: Now back to River City San Marcos where he affected the life of colleague, Mr. Seth Frei.

- II. From a professor to a colleague, Mr. Seth Frei, has been able to learn a lot from Dr. Beebe.
- A. Frei would say that one of Dr. Beebe's major accomplishments was being the chair of the communication studies department for 25 years. Within those years, Dr. Beebe has played a major roll in shaping the department. He elevated our department to be nationally ranked and well known across the country.
 - B. Another accomplishment was being the president of the National Communication Association (NCA). There through leadership positions, he was able to work his way up. Dr. Beebe always quotes his summer boss, "do you know what you're doing" and in this case, he knew what he was doing.
 - C. A dear moment to Mr. Frei was when he was deciding where to pursue his Masters degree. Dr. Beebe was the department chair at the time. They talked and shook hands. Dr. Beebe told Frei that he was very bright and knew Frei probably had a lot of offers from other universities but Dr. Beebe thought Texas State needed him the most. In that moment, Frei knew that this person cared about their students. This department cared about their students.
 - D. Another moment that Frei reminisces on is his very first faculty meeting. He sat there among his previous professors. He said that experience was neat, having Dr. Beebe there. Frei said that he had come full circle. He had found home.

Transition: Now let's travel to the Mississippi River where Luke Dye grew up admiring his Uncle Steve in Hannibal, Missouri.

- III. Luke Dye talks about how he would not be the same person, if he did not have his Uncle Steve.
- A. Dye says that Dr. Beebe's main accomplishment is that he is a father to not only his children but to his students. He has been a source of guidance, support, teaching, and knowledge. "He has irrigated desserts" -C. S. Lewis. In Dye's opinion, his biggest accomplishment has not been being the president of NCA or being a best selling author, but his influence that he has had on others.
 - B. From the beginning, Dr. Beebe has been Dye's number one fan. He hold Dye that there is nothing that Dye can do or say that would make him love Dye less or be less proud of Dye. Dye says that Dr. Beebe always sees the best in people. He doesn't see what keeps you from success but sees how you can improve. He has helped Dye tremendously on his journey to find home.
 - C. Dye thinks that Aunt Sue has influenced Uncle Steve's life the most. Life is beautiful and it is too beautiful to be by yourself. The definition of communication is "making sense of the world" which Dr. Beebe has, but the latter part of the definition that only comes true with Aunt Sue. Dr. Beebe "share[s] that sense of the world with others." He shares it with his wife.

D. Dr. Beebe knows how to read people and how to talk to people because of his relationships with his wife, his nephew, etc. He embodies the academic discipline. He acts it. He is both the answer and the example.

Transition: Luke might be fortunate enough to actually be related, but Dr. Beebe makes us all feel like we are the magician's nephews.

Conclusion

Today we have seen Dr. Beebe's journey through a previous student, Leela Schooler, a colleague, Mr. Seth Frei, and a family member, Luke Dye. It was a joy interviewing these people and learning more about Dr. Beebe. May the Communication Studies Department find an equally educated, motivated, and life changing professor. They will have big shoes to fill. In the words of Leela, modified from the play *Wicked*, "because we knew him, we have been changed for the better." And not only has he surpassed 'just becoming a footnote,' he has left his mark on the communication studies discipline and in many hearts. Here's to a well deserved retirement, Dr. Beebe.

References

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