

**From:** [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)  
**To:** [ProvostNotes](#)  
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**Date:** Monday, October 9, 2023 7:31:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [TBB OTC Flyer.pdf](#)

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Good morning!

What do the Beach Boys, Explore OTC, and therapy dogs all have in common? Not much of anything...BUT they are all topics for this week's *Provost's Notes*:

**The Beach Boys** – Our friends at Drury University are offering OTC students, faculty, and staff steep discounts on concert tickets at the O'Reilly Family Event Center, starting with **The Beach Boys** on November 4. OTC has a block of 50 tickets (all in the same section) at half price. They can be purchased through the QR code on the attached flyer or by using **code PDAB3X** if you purchase through [drurytickets.com](http://drurytickets.com).

**Explore OTC** – We're excited to welcome around 800 (maybe more!) high school sophomores to the Springfield campus on Thursday for Explore OTC. These students will explore all the technical and health sciences programs available to them as high school juniors and seniors through the OTC Career Center. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time to help out.

**Meet Some Very Good Pups** – The Hamra Library on the Springfield campus will host some good boys and girls to offer some stress relief to students (and – who are we kidding – faculty and staff, too) just in time for midterms. The therapy dogs will visit **today**, October 9, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Knowing and Doing Better** - At College Development Day last week, full-time employees heard OTC Board of Trustees chair, Paul Sundy, talk about his childhood experiences with education and later, his experiences at OTC. Though Paul has gone on to accomplish great things as an entrepreneur and the owner of a national restaurant franchise, he shared about his humble beginnings and his lackadaisical attitude about school. He shared with us his OTC GPA – a 2.3 – which barely qualified him for graduation. Despite not being academically gifted, Paul credits certain people – and teachers – along the way who helped him find success.

As I listened to Paul speak, I wondered what I would have thought of him had he been a student in my class. He was likely a student we all know well: one whose attendance is spotty and whose assignments are sometimes turned in, but often not. We've all had Pauls in our classes – and that is what we need to remember: We've all had Pauls in our classes. We've all had students whose academic performance was marginal at best, but who had the potential to do great things. Did we see them for who they were, or did we see them for who they *could* be? I'm guilty of becoming frustrated and judgmental at a student's lack of effort – and listening to Paul's story made me deeply regret that. But as Maya Angelou said, "...[W]hen you know better, do better." Just as we want and expect our students to grow and mature as professionals, I'm grateful to have colleagues who hold the same expectations of themselves. We inspire each other to know and do better. My hope is that we all show a bit of grace to the Pauls we have the honor of serving and help them see who they *can*

be, even when they can't see it themselves.

Have a great week!

Tracy

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