

FAMOUS FACES

OF THE CY-FAIR AREA

Jenny Law graduated from Langham Creek High School



Two Cy-Fair Graduates are Household Names

Written by Lee Butler

Rachel McNeill graduated from Cypress Creek High School



What high school student doesn't dream of one day being famous? For these two Cy-Fair ISD alumni, the dream was theirs from the start. Jenny Law, a '97 alum of Langham Creek High School, is a morning disc jockey on a local country station, 93Q, KKQB. Rachel McNeill, a graduate of Cy-Creek, is a reporter and anchor for Channel 2, KPRC-TV news. Both credit their interest in broadcasting back to their high school days, and know that life beyond graduation can offer up many amazing possibilities.

Life's a Zoo

Jenny says that teacher Katie Ferraro helped tremendously in developing her desire to make broadcasting a career. "I haunted her," Jenny laughs, "I kept asking her questions and expressing my desire to enter the field and received a lot of encouragement from her." But, Jenny had other interests too. "I also liked sports while in school," she says. "I played softball and basketball, and in general, was a tomboy."

She shares air time weekday mornings with Tim Tuttle and Kevin Kline on 93Q's Morning Zoo. The format is Contemporary Country and is very popular in the area. "Tim and Kevin are characters," she grins, "It's all I can do to keep them in line!"

The Journey

Jenny worked on the Cactus Jack evening show in 1997, pulling music and learning from him. "I loved what I did then, and I still do," she says. "I will be forever grateful to those who have helped me along the way."

Jenny says she has met a lot of very interesting people during her years in broadcasting. "But, my favorite is Craig Biggio." Biggio recently retired from the Houston Astros baseball team. "I have interviewed him and observed his work on various projects. He is just as good and caring a person as



Jenny Law - part of 93Q's Morning Zoo

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he appears. I remember when he got drafted and I fell in love with him immediately. I instantly identified with him because of his size and his interest in others. When he was drafted, he did not fit the stereotype of the typical catcher. He was small, and I am too. He proved it was not the size of the body, but the size of the heart and determination that matters." Jenny says she has been an Astros fan from as far back as she can remember. "And I still am," she reminds.

Life Beyond Fame

Jenny lives alone, except for her Australian Blue Heeler, Bailey. Bailey is eight months old, and helps give Law her down to earth nature that makes her just another one of the girls. She is humbled by her listeners. "I am especially grateful for those who choose to listen to the show. We exist for our audience and have a lot of fun with them and enjoy interacting with our listeners."

The Beginning of a Dream

It was spring 1992 when beautiful Rachel McNeill walked across the stage of Cy-Creek High School and received her diploma. This was not the only thing she received however. While at Cy-Creek she developed an interest in television news reporting. That interest has never left her and through the years since high school, Rachel has progressed in the profession to where she is now - working at one of the country's top television stations, KPRC-TV, Channel 2, in Houston. In addition to reporting various stories that come through the Channel 2 newsroom, Rachel is the weekend anchor for the station. "My interest in the media goes back to my days of living in Lakewood Forest," she remembers.

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Rachel McNeill of Channel 2 News

Though born in Jamaica, Rachel moved to the Cy-Fair area when she was only six years of age. Following her Cy-Creek graduation, Rachel attended and received an undergraduate degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin. She later worked at several television stations in Texas and elsewhere, including New Orleans.

Lights, Camera, Action

She has had many thrills as a reporter, including extensive interviews with Governor Edwin Edwards of Louisiana. Rachel says she likes covering all kinds of stories, with the possible exception of hurricanes. "They are nearly all so disastrous," she states. "It's constantly reporting on things bad that are happening to others...to say nothing of having to wade in water up to your waist and having wind and rain in your face being a constant hindrance." "On the other hand," she says, "covering the Super Bowl in Houston was one of the most thrilling events for me." Rachel emphasizes that the almost thirteen years she has been a part of the broadcast media have been very satisfying for her. "I don't ever want to have to leave and get a real job," she laughs.

Life Off Camera

In 2004, Rachel had one of the greatest moments in her life. She married Dr. Wayne Franklin, a cardiologist from the Texas Medical Center. Now, within just a matter of months, she will present her husband a bundle a joy...a baby boy. Rachel comes from a family of medical people, and at one time wanted to be a physician herself. "I met my husband on a blind date and I was very impressed," she recalls. "It didn't take long before I fell in love. We were engaged only five months later! He's wonderful," she says with a smile.

Cy-Fair Fame

Rachel and Jenny are just two of the many graduates of the Cy-Fair school district to make a name for themselves in this world. Others include Thomas McGaughey, Special Teams Coach for the New York Giants of the NFL, Woody Williams, former pitcher for the Houston Astros, Mike Dodson of the David Crowder Band, and Martha Madison (Butterworth), actress on Days of Our Lives. These are just some of the many area natives who have become known for their work and proficiency in their profession. **CFM**

LEE BUTLER was a long-time news reporter in all media in Texas. He is the father of five grown sons and is now retired, but enjoys writing in his spare time.

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