

the  
**North Texan**

A UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

VOL.68, NO. 1 | Spring 2018



**CANCER FIGHTERS**

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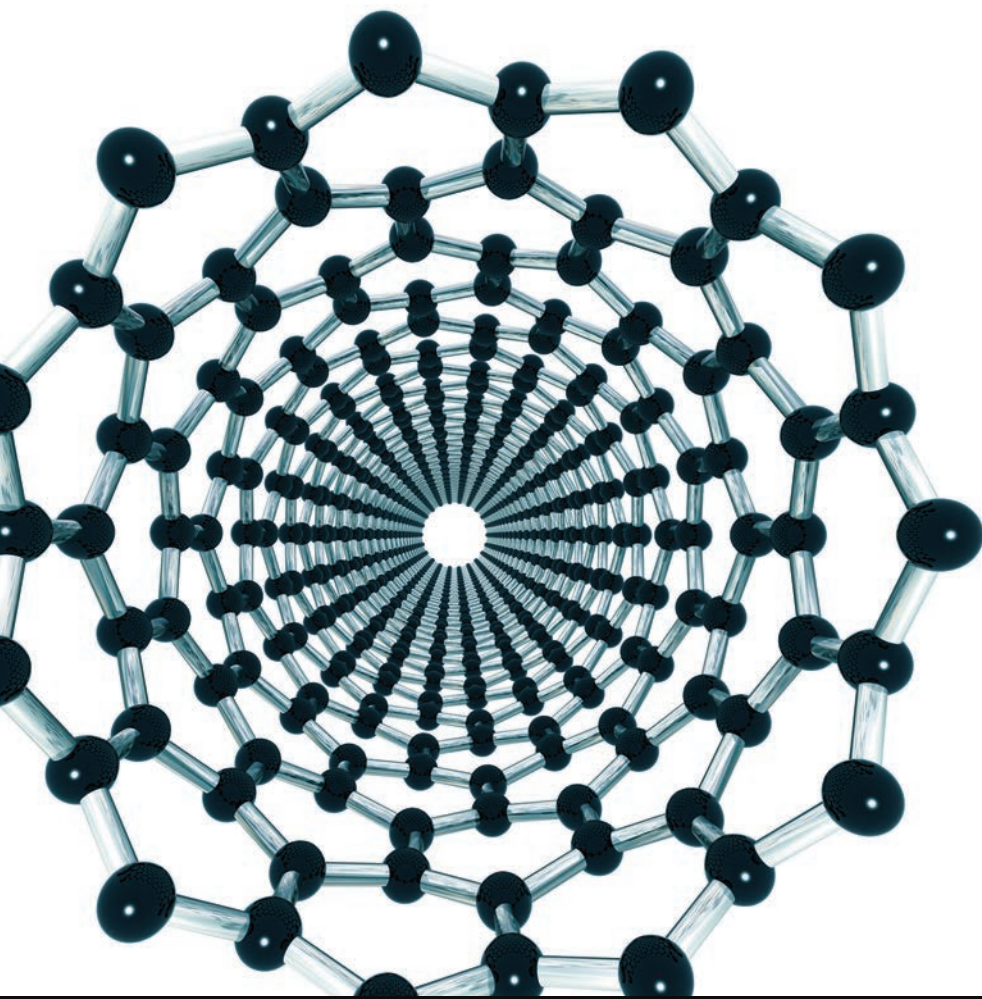
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# Create it.

Whether it's used in a biomedical application or a gigantic structure, a new material can save lives and millions of investment dollars. The collaborative researchers and scientists at the **Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Processes Institute (AMMPI)** process, test and develop next-generation structural and sensing materials. AMMPI, one of UNT's Institutes of Research Excellence, partners with industries all over the world on cutting-edge technologies to push the boundaries of materials science and engineering.

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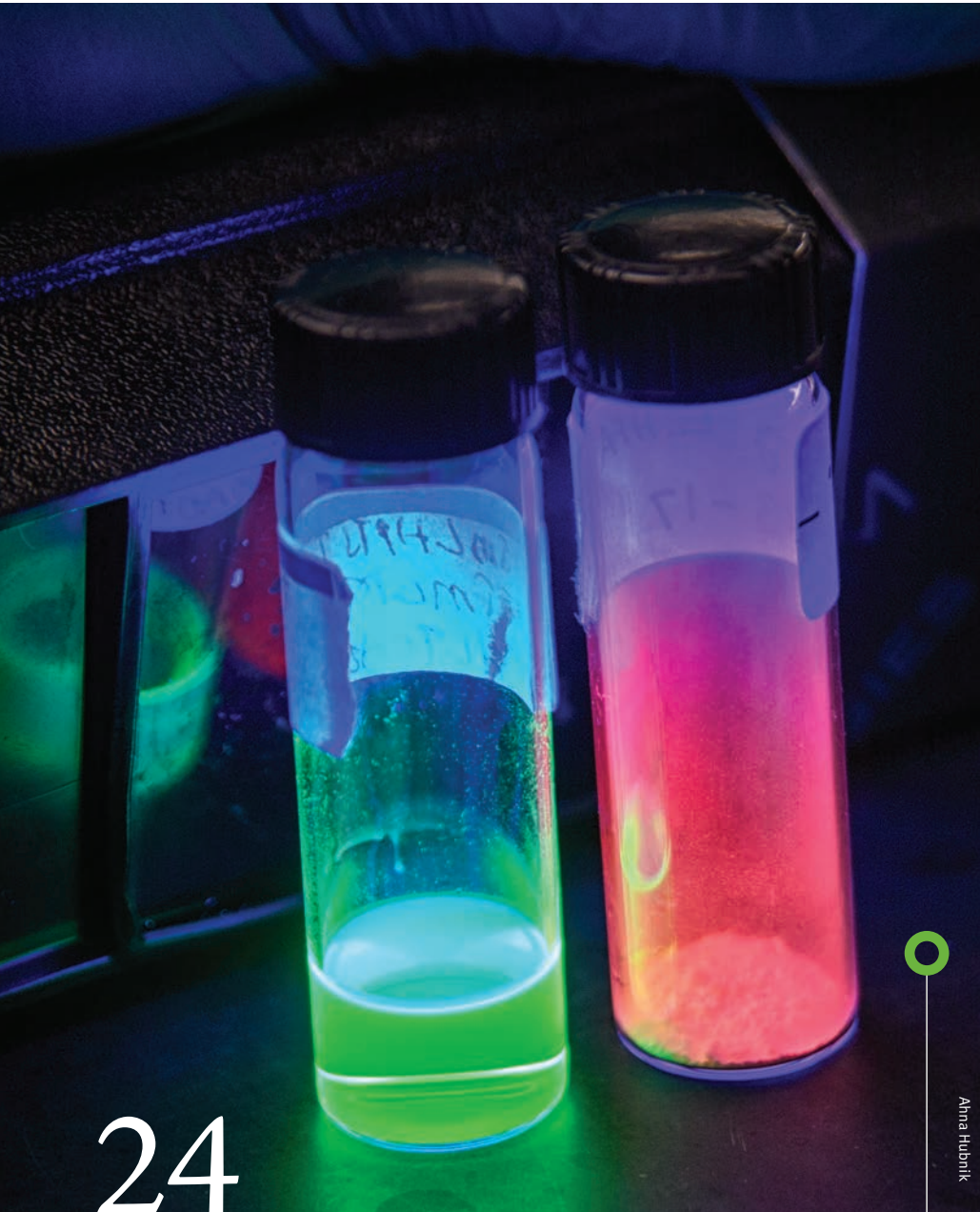


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## Cancer Fighters

IN THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS WAR AGAINST CANCER, UNT FACULTY AND ALUMNI ARE DRAWING THEIR BATTLE LINES. WHETHER THEY ARE DOCTORS, RESEARCHERS OR RESOURCE SPECIALISTS, ALL ARE COMMITTED TO THE SAME MISSION: CONFRONTING A DEADLY HEALTH CRISIS.

*By Jessica DeLeón*

Cover: Sreekar Marpu ('11 Ph.D.) conducts cancer research in a chemistry lab at UNT. Photography by Anna Hubnik

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Anna Hubnik

# Online

EXCLUSIVES

northtexan.unt.edu/online



## #TogetherWe

WATCH THIS VIDEO TO SEE HOW, WITH DETERMINATION AND TALENT, THE UNT SYSTEM'S UNIVERSITIES CONSISTENTLY STRIVE TO SERVE, INSPIRE AND DRIVE THE NORTH TEXAS REGION.



When you see this arrow, join our North Texan community online at [northtexan.unt.edu](http://northtexan.unt.edu).

## ONLINE FEATURES



**LOVE STORIES**  
Cupid has taken aim on campus over the years

more times than we can count. See which UNT couple's tale of romance won the hearts of voters.



**ROCK STAR TREK**

Alumnus rubs elbows with music royalty after winning

a trip to the Grammys as part of the 2017 Hilton Rock Star contest.



**A LEGACY OF SERVICE**  
Paul Poston Sr., 100, received a UNT Presidential

Citation nearly 76 years after leaving UNT to serve in World War II. The citation recognized his willingness to sacrifice education goals to support the war effort.

## GET CONNECTED



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## Soaring higher

### UNT CONTINUES STRIDES TO BETTER SERVE STUDENTS WITH MORE OPTIONS



Michael Clements

President Neal Smatresk and his wife, Debbie, visit with National Merit Finalists.

talents, professional goals and dreams for the future.

With our location in the heart of one of the nation's most vibrant economies, we will continue to equip the next generation of professionals and leaders — and keep our students' needs top of mind. We've been expanding our online and on-campus classes in Frisco and Denton and offering more options for summer, eight-week and 16-week courses. Significant increases in spring enrollment over last year — up 16.6 percent for online classes and 72 percent at UNT's New College at Frisco — indicate our efforts are working.

As part of our goal to best prepare students for the increasingly digital future, we're introducing new innovative degree programs such as the nation's first in consumer experience management, which you can read about in this issue (page 6).

You'll also read about exceptional alumni and faculty. Our "Cancer Fighters" include UNT researcher Sreekar Marpu ('11 Ph.D.), who is creating sensors that can more easily distinguish deadly cancer cells and developing nanomaterials to destroy them (page 24). Look at some of our research highlights (page 30) and our state-of-the-art facilities, including the Materials Research Facility (back cover) where researchers from UNT, industry and other universities have open access to conduct materials analysis.

UNT is soaring higher to achieve excellence, and with the support of family members like you, we are able to become a stronger university for the students of today and tomorrow.

UNT proud,

Neal Smatresk  
President  
president@unt.edu

 @UNTPrez

SPRING IS AN EXCITING time at UNT as we prepare to launch another class of intelligent, hardworking and determined graduates into the workforce.

Debbie and I hosted an informal get-together with some of the university's 55 National Merit Finalists earlier this semester.

They always inspire me with their

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#### The North Texan

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cards in those days, she signed me up for education classes. It was pure fate.

Fate also took my hand, and I met the man I married that year. It was Dutch Week and so I asked several nice guys out to various things. One stuck: Don Baker, who was on the football team.

We married after three months of dating. I had just turned 18 and we eloped to the infamous Rockwall, were married by a woman justice of the peace and went back to Denton to a party at the lake with the rest of the football team. The next day, I had a final and passed!

In the fall of '53, the team nominated me for football queen. My husband gave me roses in the middle of the field. We had a great time there for the rest of our stay.

We danced to 'Fessor and the Aces and went to see all the celebrities at the auditorium. I watched Don run a kickoff back 101 yards in a game. We were both in *Who's Who* for our respective fields, and he won Outstanding Athlete.

We walked across the stage to get our degrees together and went on our way after a four-year stay in Amarillo to Scottsdale, Arizona.

I had a very successful 30-year teaching career (Spanish, of course), and he had such a successful football team at a high school that

## 1915 treasure



My father, J.E. Foust III, who attended North Texas in 1949, passed away in October, and I found several items of historical interest while cleaning out his home office. One was a panoramic photo, 45 inches long, of the North Texas Normal College Class of 1915. My grandfather, J.E. Foust II, is seated in the bottom row, all the way to the left side of the photo.

Funny story: My grandfather needed a little extra spending money while he was attending North Texas. He found employment at a local dance studio, teaching ballroom dancing to some lovely co-eds. He always told us he couldn't believe he was

actually getting paid for that. He left school to serve in World War I.

Every one of us loved our time at North Texas. I attended from 1974 to 1980, first studying industrial arts and then moving to advertising. Today I own an automotive restoration service, buying, restoring, dismantling and rebuilding Cadillacs.

I read each copy of *The North Texan* from cover to cover the day I receive it. The articles regarding the school's history are always my favorite.

John Foust IV  
 Denton

*Editor's note: Thank you so much for donating your grandfather's class photo to the university. Before sending it on to the archives, we pieced together a scan. The full-length photo can be viewed at [northtexan.unt.edu/1915-treasure](http://northtexan.unt.edu/1915-treasure).*

## Football couple



When I get your magazine, I am simply amazed at all the wonderful things that North Texas is doing. Why? Because I was a 17-year-old freshman in the fall of 1952. I arrived not knowing much about what I wanted, for there were no counselors at my school.

I arrived there in my new clothes and suede loafers and got in a line. When the woman asked me what I wanted to do, I meekly told her I liked Spanish; after all I had taken three years in my Dallas high school.

She signed me up for a major in Spanish and a minor in English, and for good measure, since a woman rocket scientist was not in the

Frank Kush asked him to join him at Arizona State University. He was there for 16 years.

Don passed away in 1989. I am now going on 83 and look back on our time at North Texas fondly.

Shirley Warren Baker ('56)  
Scottsdale, Arizona

## A rolling car

I recently received a copy of *The North Texan* and enjoyed reading the different articles. I

had a funny experience I wanted to share that happened to me in 1956 while attending North Texas.

My friend and I were going east on Hickory — I believe that was the street's name — and we saw a car without anyone in it rolling down a driveway. The vehicle belonged to one of the football players who was in the athletic fraternity, the Geezles.

Since my friend's vehicle was old and beat up, we blocked the driveway so the

other car would not come out onto the street. We stopped it, got out and pushed it back up the drive.

The problem was we did not want the football players to think we were "messing around" with their car. They didn't see us and never knew we saved their vehicle and prevented a possible collision!

Wallace "Bud" Coats ('58)  
Tempe, Arizona



The Magellanic penguins are pretty curious birds! We got some great pics and enjoyed sweeping sunsets through the Straits of Magellan.

— @UNTPrez



I will Dewey Decimate you.  
#finals #mlis #UNT  
— @mrssoundlady

A squirrel and I just had a 30 min lunch date. #UNT  
@UNT\_Squirrels  
— @Devan\_Jones

I'm sorry to all of my friends because the only thing I seem to be talking about is going to college ... AHHHHHHH bear with me, I'm too excited.  
#UNT22  
— @maresanicolei

So can I graduate hs yesterday so I can move to Denton now pls&thx?! #UNTPreview  
— @albunnz

Follow us on Twitter. We look forward to staying connected!  
@northtexan

## f UNT Facebook



### Do you have any snowy campus memories?

1964 — more of an ice day than snow. It was the only time the dean of women actually allowed the girls to wear pants on campus. It was a fun day slipping everywhere because classes were not canceled. — **Susan Smith McMahan**

I have fond memories of January 1978 when I started my master's program. Lots of snow — and coming from Tennessee I had never experienced "thunder snow." Great memories, great time of my life. — **Steven Fullks ('83 M.S.)**

January 1989. UNT closed due to snow and ice. Got my transfer request from Maple to Bruce approved that day. No car. Moved across campus courtesy of one borrowed Sack 'n Save grocery cart. One load at a time. My reward? First-ever Bruce Hall Ice Jam! — **Bonnie Bownes McCabe ('91)**

The igloo by Bruce Hall, complete with some dude just chilling in there. Making a giant snowball and rolling it around campus until it was 5 feet tall and too heavy to move (that thing took months to melt). Taking the tops off of our plastic storage containers and sledding down the berm on the side of the Music Building. A few brave souls sledded down the brick retaining wall ... and into the street.  
— **Hannah Ulbrich ('10, '13 M.S.)**

February 2015, sitting in 10 a.m. freshman biology and classes got canceled. We went to Dollar General, bought a trash can and cut it in half. Then we went over to the PEB and Apogee to sled down the hills. Best snow day ever. — **Amanda Choate**

1963 was my last year at NTSU, but I don't remember snow. Of course, I can't remember where I put the keys on most days ... — **Gary Mosse ('64)**



# Today

See Tim Love  
at Celebrity  
Chef Series  
page 14



Michael Clements

## NEW DEGREES

To ready students for high-tech careers, UNT offers 13 new degree programs, with more on the way.



For more information on UNT locations and degree programs, visit [locations.unt.edu](http://locations.unt.edu).

UNT DOUBLED DOWN ON ITS COMMITMENT to innovative learning this year by introducing 13 new degree programs, many of which center on readying students for the cutting-edge demands of a 21st-century workplace.

The offerings are designed to continue the school's transformation as a next generation research university to best prepare students for success after graduation.

"UNT's degree plans must provide students with practical hands-on experience and career insight so they're capable of achieving a long, satisfying career in today's high-tech marketplace," President Neal Smatresk says.



### Turning students into trailblazers

UNT is the first university in the nation to offer a B.S. in consumer experience management, providing students with the know-how to take on changing consumer expectations in retail, hospitality, tourism and other industries. Those expectations largely focus on 24/7 digital access to products and services.

“There is a huge opportunity for graduates who can be ahead of the trends,” says Judith Forney, dean of the College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism. The program is offered at UNT and UNT’s New College at Frisco.

The Mayborn School of Journalism now includes an online-only M.S. in digital communications analytics among its degree offerings, while the College of Information began offering an M.S. in data science this spring. The digital communications analytics program enables students to build the skills necessary to extract, report, model and analyze communications data critical to public relations, marketing or advertising. The M.S. in data science focuses on areas such as statistical analysis, natural language processing, computational linguistics, information retrieval, information visualization, social network analysis, text analytics and data mining.

“The need for data science has been identified as critical,” says Kinshuk, dean of the College of Information, who notes much of the demand for the degree came from students and alumni interested in preparing for careers in DFW’s high-tech boom. “We want to meet the demand for highly skilled data science and data analytics professionals.”

UNT’s New College at Frisco also has added several forward-thinking graduate degree programs, including an M.S. in advanced data analytics; an executive master’s in computer science; an M.B.A. in business studies with a focus on sport, entertainment and event management; and an M.A. in design with a focus on interaction design. The interaction design program is ranked 38th in the nation by *ValueColleges.com*.

### More in-demand offerings

And there are more degree programs on the horizon. After heeding calls for expanded degree offerings in liberal arts and social sciences, as well as in health, education, public service and biomedical engineering, UNT also will begin offering a B.A. in nonprofit leadership studies, a B.S. in professional and technical communication, an M.S. in emergency management disaster science and a Ph.D. in performing arts health for the 2018-19 school year. ●

#### B.A. in Japanese

UNT’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

#### B.A./B.S. in integrative studies with a thematic concentration in Latina/o and Mexican American studies

UNT’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

#### B.S. in consumer experience management

UNT’s College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism  
UNT’s New College at Frisco

#### B.S. in public health

UNT’s College of Health and Public Service

#### Executive master’s in computer science

UNT’s New College at Frisco

#### M.A. in design with a focus on interaction design

UNT’s New College at Frisco

#### M.A. in women’s and gender studies

UNT’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

#### M.B.A. in business studies with a focus on sport, entertainment and event management

UNT’s New College at Frisco

#### M.S. in advanced data analytics

UNT’s New College at Frisco

#### M.S. in biomedical engineering

UNT’s College of Engineering

#### M.S. in data science

UNT’s College of Information

#### M.S. in digital communications analytics

Online via UNT’s Mayborn School of Journalism

#### TWU-UNT joint M.S.W. in social work

UNT’s College of Health and Public Service  
and TWU’s social work program

# BRILLIANTLY GREEN

Pass it on: Great things are happening at UNT. Learn about them here and share our successes with your family and friends.

- **FASHIONABLE WIN.** Four UNT students are \$5,000 richer thanks to the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund. Seniors Andrew Bridges, Ruthanna Harry, Asia

Montague and Maia Wilson were among the more than 200 college students from member schools around the country to receive money from the fund, which awards the largest total number of scholarships in the fashion community to future fashion leaders.

- **OLYMPIC BROADCAST DREAMS.** Mean Green alumni traveled to Pyeongchang, South Korea, in February to share their expertise as sports broadcasters at the Olympic Games. Leila Rahimi ('02) covered the women's hockey tournament for NBC Sports Chicago, and Ralph Strangis ('16) did play-by-play for the USA men's and women's hockey games, as well as the gold medal games, for Westwood One radio. Read more at [northtexan.unt.edu/online](http://northtexan.unt.edu/online).

- **DEFINING DFW.** UNT's Alan Baylock ('94 M.M.) joined Roger Staubach, Ron Kirk and Krys Boyd on *Visit DFW's* list of 10 People Who Define Dallas-Fort Worth. Baylock earned his master's degree in jazz studies from UNT before a 20-year career as chief arranger for the Airmen of Note, the U.S. Air Force's premier jazz ensemble. He returned to UNT in 2016 as director of the Grammy-nominated One O'Clock Lab Band.



Kara Dwyer



Ahna Hubnik

### TAMS students honored

TAMS students Ashwin Kumar, Ted Zhao, Sarah Zou, Abhishek Mohan and Tan Yan, pictured from left, were named semifinalists in the 2018 Regeneron Science Talent Search, one of the nation's most prestigious pre-college science competitions.

Each year, only 300 students are named semifinalists from more than 1,800 students who enter their research projects. Each semifinalist receives a \$2,000 award from the Regeneron Foundation, with an additional \$2,000 going to each student's school.

### Rising star

UNT freshman Emma Restivo attended the National Retail Federation Big Show and Student Program in January thanks to the Rising Star Award.



The award is granted by the National Retail Federation to a student who shows promise in digital retailing. At the New York City-based event, industry executives mentored attendees.

"It was really inspiring to hear from people who started

out just like me and then reached these top-level positions," says Restivo, who is double majoring in digital retailing and home furnishings merchandising.

Linda Mihalick, senior director of UNT's Global Digital Retailing Research Center, says Restivo won the scholarship based on her drive to learn more in class and her dedication to the UNT chapter of the National Retail Federation Student Association.



## RECORD CROWDS AT APOGEE STADIUM

Average attendance this fall at Apogee Stadium reached 22,362, the highest average season attendance since the stadium opened in 2011. The Mean Green also recorded a perfect 6-0 home record at Apogee for the first time in stadium history. In addition, season-ticket revenue increased by 10.9 percent from 2016 to 2017 and single-game revenue increased by 52 percent.

## SAFEST

Named one of the Safest College Campuses in the nation by *Alarms.org* two years in a row.

## ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

UNT has five art galleries on- and off-campus, and is a center for artistic and literary expression in the North Texas region and beyond.

# 15,910

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN UNT'S ONLINE COURSES FOR THE FALL SEMESTER.

## TAKING FLIGHT

UNT'S Emerald Eagle Scholars program has helped 4,000 students pursue their degrees since its inception in 2007.



UNT has been named a Best in the West college by *The Princeton Review* nine years in a row.

## RANKS AND RECOGNITION

### MILITARY FRIENDLY

UNT was named one of the Top 10 Military Friendly Tier One Research Institutions in the nation by *MilitaryFriendly.com*

# 19

Hospitality and hotel management program ranked 19th in the nation by *CEOWORLD* magazine.

# 4

UNT's online graduate education program ranked fourth in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.

# 10

UNT earned Tree Campus USA recognition for the 10th consecutive year for promoting healthy trees and conservation.





**New dean of HPS**

Neale R. Chumbler has been named the new dean of UNT's College of Health and Public Service. His appointment will begin July 1.

He replaces Linda Holloway, former chair and faculty member in the Department of Rehabilitation and Health

Services, who has served as interim dean since Thomas Evenson retired in August.

Chumbler has served as dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Western Kentucky University since 2015. During his tenure, he implemented a strategic plan to guide the college through 2020 and raised its research and pedagogical profiles.

Prior to arriving at WKU, Chumbler — who earned his doctorate in sociology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio — was a faculty member in the University of Georgia's

Department of Health Policy and Management and chair and graduate coordinator for the department.



**New dean of libraries**

Diane Bruxvoort will serve as UNT's new dean of libraries beginning April 1. She replaces Cathy Hartman,

interim dean of libraries and former associate dean of libraries, who stepped in for former dean Martin Halbert.

"UNT is thriving, the library has an international reputation, and I am honored to take on this new role," Bruxvoort says.

Most recently, Bruxvoort was the university librarian and director of libraries, special collections and museums at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. Prior to that, she served as senior associate dean at the University of Florida.

**FACULTY FOCUS**

**Empowering youth**



Michael Clements

Mariela Nuñez-Janes' story is all about helping migrant and Latino youth tell theirs.

That's one reason the associate professor of anthropology won the UNT Foundation's 2017 Community Engagement award, which she received at UNT's Salute to Faculty Excellence award ceremony.

Nuñez-Janes — a Venezuelan native who joined the UNT faculty in 2003 after earning her master's and doctorate from the University of New Mexico — was recognized for her research

addressing the educational and social injustices young Latinos often face.

"I came to the U.S. at age 13, so I went through the educational system in great part here in the U.S.," she says. "That experience raised a lot of questions for me. As an undergraduate, I found anthropology and realized those experiences had a name."

As a professor, Nuñez-Janes began working on various projects — including "IamWe," a digital storytelling program that paired UNT students with Denton High School students — to help foster self-empowerment in the youth she researches.

She also collaborates with the North Texas Dream Team, a youth-led organization that focuses on improving educational opportunities for undocumented students. In the years to come, she says she wants to continue to help migrant and Latino youth pursue their goals without fear.

"I take my responsibility very seriously," Nuñez-Janes says. "I want to be able to use the knowledge I have, and the little power I have, to help them open doors to share their stories."



Read Nuñez-Janes' top three tips on how to make a difference in your community at [northtexan.unt.edu/online](http://northtexan.unt.edu/online).

## UNT WELCOMES GOODALL

UNT's Distinguished Lecture Series will welcome acclaimed environmental and animal conservationist Jane Goodall on April 9 at the UNT Coliseum. Goodall has dedicated more than 50 years to showing others the need to protect chimpanzees from extinction and has redefined species conservation to include the needs of native people and the environment. "We are excited to be welcoming a woman who embodies what it means to be green," says Brittany Landau, coordinator of the series. Tickets can be purchased by visiting [untuniontickets.com](http://untuniontickets.com).



### College of Business partners with Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay

UNT's College of Business partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay's Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management to host the first-ever International Conference on Entrepreneurship and Family Business in Mumbai, India, in January.

The conference brought together scholars and researchers from different parts of the world to discuss the ways in which entrepreneurship can help individual companies and the larger, worldwide economy grow.

Manjula Salimath, associate professor of management at UNT, served as program chair alongside IIT-Bombay professor Shivganesh Bhargava.

Salimath says that organizing and chairing the conference was an intensive two-year process that included program creation, website development, calls for papers, worldwide marketing and more.

"This international collaboration between UNT and IIT-Bombay is the first of its kind," Salimath says. "It was a herculean task with many dynamic components coupled with the complexity of an international collaboration. The success of the conference and the positive response from the participants made this endeavor worthwhile."

Discussion at the conference centered on entrepreneurship and innovation as engines of economic growth.

"Everyone has entrepreneurial talent within, and that begins from the family," says Bhargava. "Organizations in the new digital era of knowledge economy will find it hard to sustain if people and leaders are not entrepreneurial."

Salimath says emerging economies are growing at a much faster rate than developed economies, providing opportunities for businesses to go global — but "the question is how they can do this most effectively."



From left, Shivganesh Bhargava, head of Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management, IIT-Bombay; P.V. Balaji, dean of research and development, IIT-Bombay; Marilyn Wiley, dean of UNT's College of Business; Manjula Salimath, associate professor of management, UNT; Audhesh Paswan, associate dean for academic affairs, UNT.

Bharath M. Joslam



Keya Wu

### Logistics win

A team of UNT logistics and supply-chain management students won the top prize at Operation Stimulus, a prestigious, highly competitive collegiate case study competition.

Seniors Chelsea Jones, Woodrow Weaver and Carlos

Castro with junior Joshua Intondi (pictured with Julie Willems-Espinoza, associate director of UNT's Center for Logistics Education and Research, from left) beat 19 teams from nationally and internationally ranked logistics programs — including last

year's winner, Dalhousie University. Juniors Kristopher Henny and Pritti Gill (pictured right) attended as observers.

"We knew if we could get past universities like Penn State, Iowa State, Dalhousie and Texas Tech, then we had a good shot at winning," says Weaver, the team captain.

In the competition, students took on the role of consultants hired to assist a fictional retailer in growing its business by leveraging its supply chain.

### OLLI summer kickoff

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNT will host its

summer kickoff from 2 to 4 p.m. May 16 in The Hub Club at Apogee Stadium.

The event is an open house where community members can learn more about OLLI at UNT, a lifelong learning program with classes, events and trips designed by and for adults age 50 and better.

If OLLI at UNT hits its goal of 500 members by Aug. 31, UNT will be eligible for a \$1 million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation. Those interested in joining OLLI at UNT or gifting a membership should visit [olli.unt.edu](http://olli.unt.edu).

## GREEN PRIDE

## Graduation Block Party marks major milestone



Gary Barber

Commencement is all about the transformation from student to graduate, and it's time to celebrate that milestone the UNT way.

UNT will honor its new grads with all the fanfare they deserve at one of the university's newest traditions, the Graduation Block Party.

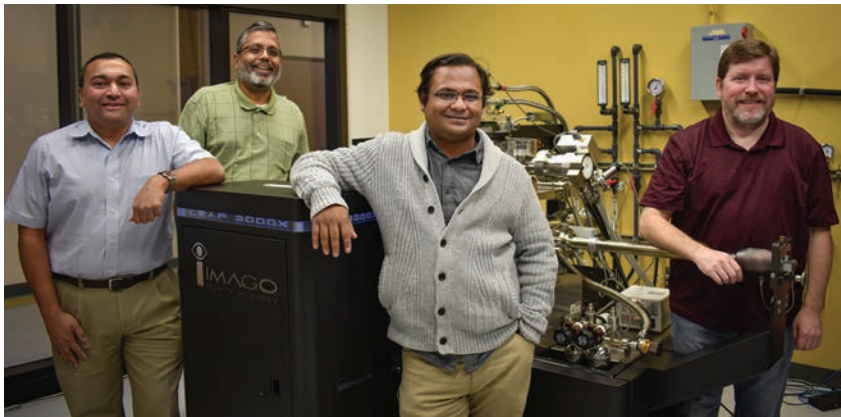
**What is it?** A celebration filled with festivities such as commemorative giveaways, a special gift for graduates, free festival-type food, food trucks, live music, games, photo ops, Scrappy, and UNT merchandise and memorabilia. Everything wraps up with fireworks and the UNT Alma Mater at dark.

**Where is it?** The University Union south lawn off Highland Street and the Onstead Plaza in the Library Mall.

**When is it?** 5-9 p.m. May 11

**Who can attend?** All UNT graduates from the current academic year, along with family, friends, alumni, current students, faculty and staff. Graduates should bring their tassel and UNT ID to receive a free graduation gift and be entered into the drawings.

For more information on additional commencement events, visit [commencement.unt.edu](http://commencement.unt.edu).



Anna Hudnik

From left, Distinguished Research Professor Raj Banerjee, associate professor Srinivasan Srivilliputhur, research assistant professor Deep Choudhuri and senior research scientist David Jaeger teamed up to develop an ultra-light, highly heat-resistant alloy by engineering bonds at an atomic level.

### Revolutionary research

Researchers in UNT's Department of Materials Science and Engineering have found a way to create an ultra-light, highly heat-resistant, magnesium-based material by engineering bonds at an atomic level. Their research was published in the *Nature Communications* journal.

"The fact that we can peer into atoms and are able to connect the bonding between atoms and the material properties for practical use is amazing," says Deep Choudhuri, research assistant professor.

Choudhuri — together with Srinivasan Srivilliputhur, associate professor; David Jaeger, senior research scientist

in UNT's Materials Research Facility; and Distinguished Research Professor Raj Banerjee — used this discovery to create a magnesium alloy that can withstand usage at higher temperatures, such as those experienced in aircraft and automotive engines.

Banerjee also was awarded a \$900,000 grant by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to develop and investigate multi-phase high entropy alloys to enhance structural performance in aircraft and for other engineering applications.

Another set of researchers — including Wonbong Choi, professor of materials science and engineering and mechani-

cal and energy engineering, and two of his doctoral students — created a uniform, thin, two-dimensional material that could lead to the design of next-generation ultra-thin opto-electronic devices. Their research was published in *Nature's Scientific Reports* journal.

### Bettering military logistics

UNT Air Force Lt. Col. John Dickens and Maj. Aaron Glassburner are completing their doctoral degrees in logistics systems at UNT as part of a unique program with the Air Force Institute of Technology, a graduate school at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

The program provides professional training and continuing education opportunities for service members.

Much of AFIT's training is done in-house, but the institute periodically sends students to external universities.

"They send us out to get the breadth of knowledge we wouldn't necessarily get at a military-specific school," says Glassburner, who along with Dickens will use his academic know-how to advance logistical and supply chain planning for the U.S. Air Force.

Dickens and Glassburner are in their final year at UNT and expect to graduate this summer.

### MAKING THE CUT

For years, the University of North Texas has lived up to its mission of shaping the future and cultivating excellence in the next generation of scholars and leaders. This year's Dallas 500 — a special, stand-alone edition of *D CEO* magazine that recognizes the top business executives in the North Texas region — features many UNT alumni, faculty and administrators on its list, including UNT System Board of Regents Chairman G. Brint Ryan ('88, '88 M.S.), who is featured on the cover, UNT President Neal Smatresk, UNT System Chancellor Lesa Roe and Marilyn Wiley, dean of the UNT College of Business. To see who else made the cut, visit [northtexas.unt.edu/online](http://northtexas.unt.edu/online).





Courtesy of Tim Love

## Celebrity Chef Series

The UNT Celebrity Chef Series will feature restaurateur and television personality Tim Love on April 23 for an evening of “Food. Love. Hospitality.”

The event, which benefits the hospitality program in UNT’s College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism, will take place in the Gateway Center Ballroom.

The night will begin with a general reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. During the event, students will cook, serve and learn side-by-side with the Tim Love team.

To purchase tickets, visit [celebritychefseries.unt.edu](http://celebritychefseries.unt.edu).

## Professor hits runway

Justin Watts, assistant professor in UNT’s Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services, was a model at the American Cancer Society’s You’re Beautiful! Luncheon and Style Show in January at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center.

The annual event allows local cancer survivors to connect and share stories with each other and the larger community.

“It was inspiring,” says Watts, who triumphed over testicular

cancer after a diagnosis nearly two years ago. “Not only did it put my life into perspective, but it also was amazing to be around people who could relate to what I have been through. I also was very moved by all of the attendees’ support and generosity.”

The luncheon raised \$103,500, which will go to local patient services, research, education and advocacy.



# Ask an Expert

## How can you grow a garden using native plants?

A beautiful garden is a must-have for many, but few fully understand the benefits of creating a space full of native plants. Gary Cocke ('10), who served as UNT sustainability coordinator and We Mean Green Fund advisor, offers tips on how to create a sustainable, low-maintenance garden full of plants that can easily adapt to the local environment.

“Enjoy planting your garden and have fun,” Cocke says. “If you go with native plants, you generally can’t go wrong.”

### Plan your garden

- ✦ Gardens aren’t one-size-fits-all. Before planting, determine the plants you want. Winter-blooming or spring-blooming? Shrubs or flowers?
- ✦ Consider what works best where. Native plants supply fantastic color and use less water.

### Take advantage of resources

- ✦ Use your library. Libraries have a wealth of resources on gardening and the use of native plants. Be sure you are looking at the right zone so you don’t accidentally use non-native plants.

- ✦ Use botanical research institutes for help and resources on gardening with native plants. Some of the most popular in Texas are the Botanical Research Institute of Texas in Fort Worth and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.
- ✦ The internet is your friend. One site that is especially useful for native plants is [TXSmartScape.com](http://TXSmartScape.com). Hosted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, it provides a search feature for choosing the perfect plants for your garden.

### Why use native plants?

- ✦ They are suited for the environment. While they take the same amount of effort to plant as non-native varieties, they will require less effort to maintain and will thrive in their home conditions.
- ✦ Your garden will be abuzz with life. Native plants help reinforce the local ecosystem by attracting native butterflies, bees and birds.

—Jennifer Pache



Gary Payne



## PRESERVING THE LAMKANG LANGUAGE

A UNT graduate student trying to save her disappearing language is getting some unique help in keeping it alive. Sumshot Khular, an Indian native from the northeastern state of Manipur, has worked with UNT linguistics professor Shobhana Chelliah and several other UNT students to create a writing system for the Lamkang language that will provide the community, students and researchers access to the fascinating ways the language puts sounds and words together for communication. Lamkang is labeled as “critically endangered” since fewer than 10,000 speakers remain, according to UNESCO. The UNT team wants to change that with the Lamkang Online Lexical Database.

### Nobel Prize winner visits

Nobel Prize-winning biologist Randy Schekman will bring his knowledge to UNT for two lectures.

Schekman will present a research seminar at 1:15 p.m. April 20 in the University Union Lyceum. His research focuses on how proteins travel in cells, with implications for developing vaccines and producing human insulin.

At 7 p.m., he will present a broader lecture, “From Pond Scum to Stockholm: A Life in Basic Science,” sponsored by the Office of the President. The event will be in the Union’s Emerald Ballroom. Tickets are free and can be reserved at [untuniontickets.com](http://untuniontickets.com).

### Equity and diversity

Rosa Clemente, a journalist, scholar-activist and community organizer, delivered the keynote address at the 2018 Equity and Diversity Conference at UNT in February.

Themed “Access Granted: Building Bridges to Inclusion,” the conference offered workshops on topics such as coalition building, citizenship and immigration, and organizational change as a way to promote dialogue, awareness and action.

Clemente addressed identity intersectionality as a bridge to inclusion. Scholar, educator and activist Dafina-Lazarus (DL) Stewart also spoke at the conference. ●



Kasey Kamenitsky '04 / FW Creations

## UNT Alumni Association

The UNT Alumni Association is expanding its regional chapter programming in response to the number of UNT graduates who pursue careers across the state. As a way to celebrate the broadening of UNT’s reach and reputation, the association will offer more events in areas such as South Texas to provide increased opportunities for alumni to celebrate their college experiences.

“Alumni chapter events are an ongoing source of enrichment and a great way to sustain lifelong relationships with fellow alumni and with the university,” says Rob McInturf, executive director of the UNT Alumni Association.

For alumni who reside in the DFW area, the Alumni Association has scheduled its spring mixers. Collin County alumni will meet April 5 at Sixty Vines in Plano; Tarrant County alumni will meet April 12 at HG Supply Co. in Fort Worth; and Denton County alumni will meet April 26 at Marty B’s in Bartonville.

All events include an appetizer buffet, free parking, prizes and one drink ticket. Prices are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. More information on regional chapter events can be found at [untalumni.com](http://untalumni.com).

In addition, the Alumni Association is currently accepting nominations for the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony. Completed nomination packets are due April 15. Forms can be downloaded at [untalumni.com/alumni-awards](http://untalumni.com/alumni-awards).



To join the association or learn more, visit [untalumni.com](http://untalumni.com), email [alumni@unt.edu](mailto:alumni@unt.edu) or call 940-565-2834.

# Elliotte Dunlap

by NANCY KOLSTI

*Distinguished alum who co-founded UNT's Multicultural Center as a student more than 20 years ago continues to make strides for supporting student success.*

**E**lliotte Dunlap ('97) knows how to motivate people. In his first semester at UNT in 1992, he noticed the campus didn't have a dedicated space with staff to promote the success and inclusion of students from cultural and ethnic minority groups.

Passionate to effect change, Dunlap, together with some of his Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity brothers and a few other students, wrote a proposal to create a Multicultural Center. They petitioned and led marches for students, faculty and staff to show their support of the proposal.

When Dunlap and 11 other student leaders met with then UNT Chancellor and President Alfred F. Hurley, Dunlap says he learned a lesson he'll never forget.

"After Dr. Hurley listened to our suggestions, he offered us ice cream and brought in folders containing our transcripts. To those struggling in their classes he said, 'UNT is excellent and will support its students, but are these students excellent and supporting UNT?'" says Dunlap, now a senior partner solution sales executive at Microsoft Corp. in Las Colinas. "I thought that was a great insight, and to this day, I make sure my brand symbolizes excellence. He taught me my No. 1 rule — inspect what you expect."

The mass communication studies major committed to studying two hours each day in the library, worked on his time management skills and made sure the proposed Multicultural Center received continued attention. In 1995, the center — which Dunlap originally sketched as thoughts on

a napkin — opened on the fourth floor of what was then the University Union, under Hurley's leadership.

"It's a great honor to be part of a movement that was ahead of its time," Dunlap says. "I had imagined the Multicultural Center as a place for students like me to find support, and seeing its contributions to UNT's gender, race, lifestyle and religious groups and all the students served today is far beyond my wildest dreams. Anyone can come to UNT and fit in."

The center now is part of UNT's larger Office of Diversity and Inclusion and its initiatives. More than 1,500 students walk through its doors on the third floor of the new University Union each month.

After graduation and a brief stint selling and financing cars, the persistent Dunlap landed a job with Viastar Services and then accepted a sales job with IBM. During his nearly 12 years there and seven with Microsoft, he has won top leadership and sales awards.

And his commitment to serving UNT hasn't stopped. In 2016, he joined fraternity brother Andre Lewis ('95) and UNT parent Shondrick Hill to start A Few Good Men, a professional mentorship program for diverse students on campus. The group's focus is getting the students internships and preparing them to compete in the business world.

"Experience has taught us that internships are key to job placement after graduation," says Dunlap, adding that the students have already been connected to paid internships totaling \$70,000.

Dunlap received the Outstanding Alumni Service Award last fall. He says we all can do much more.

"I want to eliminate students' doubts and let them know lots of people will help them," he says. "It's up to them to seek and ask for help." ●



Anna Hahnrik

**Elliott Dunlap ('97)**  
Dallas, Texas



**Living on campus:**

I lived in Bruce Hall and learned how to adjust to being around those who were not like me — people with different colors of skin, lifestyles, backgrounds and religions. It was so eye opening.

The Bruce jams and the cafeteria were the best.

**Family ties and a surprise:**

My mom Kitty, who passed away, and my mom Sherry have been major influences in my life and career. And my father, Leonard ('71), is one of the top defensive football players to have played at North Texas, was a first-round draft choice of the Baltimore

Colts and is in the UNT Athletic Hall of Fame. When I was choosing a college, I visited my high school counselor's office and looked at a shelf with 50 college viewbooks. I saw a book that was green and had Eagles on it. It was UNT's, and I took it. When I came home I said, "I'm going to UNT," and my dad said, "That's where I went. The name changed." I had no idea it was the same school.

**Secrets to success:**

Self awareness, curiosity, networking and leadership are very important. Your network is your net worth. It's important to have people in your corner who will give you the benefit of the doubt.



Visit [northtexan.unt.edu/online](http://northtexan.unt.edu/online) to read more Q&A and see a video about UNT's Multicultural Center.

**Q**  
|  
**and**  
|  
**A**



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Join us at the  
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Visit [unt.edu/dentonjazzfest](http://unt.edu/dentonjazzfest)  
for more information and performance schedules.

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## FINDING HIS BEAT

Alumnus Ed Stephan's hard work led to performing on a Grammy-winning album.

TIMPANI PLAYER ED STEPHAN ('99) says the conductors and repertoire he encountered at UNT helped prepare him for his work with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra on an album that won two Grammys this year. The orchestra's *Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5; Barber: Adagio* won Best Orchestral Performance and Best Engineered Album (Classical).

Another College of Music alumnus, Frank David Greene, who attended from 1984 to 1987, played lead trumpet for the Christian McBride Big Band on *Bringin' It*, the Grammy-winning recording for Best Large Jazz Ensemble.

Stephan, who now plays for the San Francisco Symphony, says the most valuable part of his training at UNT was playing timpani in Eugene Corporon's Wind Symphony and the late Anshel Brusilow's Symphony Orchestra.

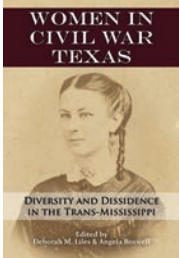
"I was basically playing timpani full time, for very demanding conductors, and on challenging repertoire," he says. "I have no doubt that without those experiences, I would not have had the career I've had."



Read more about Stephan's career highlights at [northtexas.unt.edu/finding-his-beat](http://northtexas.unt.edu/finding-his-beat).

## Books

### Women during wartime



When Deborah Liles ('13 Ph.D.), lecturer in history, was writing a paper for

a graduate class at UNT, she discovered there were no books about Texas women's activities during the Civil War. That inspired her to edit *Women in Civil War Texas: Diversity and Dissidence in the Trans-Mississippi* (UNT Press).

The essays include topics such as Texas women's support of secession and the effects of

ethnicity on their experiences. Beverly Rowe ('99 Ph.D.) and Linda S. Hudson ('99 Ph.D.) are among the contributors.

The book won the Ottis Lock Award for the Best Book on East Texas History from the East Texas Historical Association in 2017 and the Liz Carpenter Award for Best Book on the History of Women for 2016.

### Youth and the internet

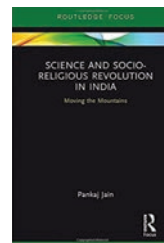


Many parents are concerned about porn, sexting and bullying when their children go online. But Jacqueline Ryan Vickery, assistant

professor of media arts, found youth use the internet in positive ways, such as writing blogs to explore marginalized identities and build communities.

In *Worried About the Wrong Things* (MIT Press), she argues that society should focus on the social, technical and material obstacles that prevent low-income and other marginalized young people from joining the community-building and creative experiences that are possible online.

### Building community



Can science and religion work together in communities? That's an issue Pankaj

Jain, associate professor of philosophy and religion, explores in the book *Science and Socio-Religious Revolution in India* (Routledge).

Jain specifically looks at the Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization, founded in the 1970s to provide economic and developmental solutions to rural villages in the Indian Himalayas.

The organization promoted the use of dharma, the religious concept that provides order in the universe, as well as local resources for self-reliance. Jain concludes that the group's work is an example of science and religion coming together.

## Writing their future



Andrew Olson

At UNT, Kayla Olson ('04) learned how history is shaped by small details. Farrah Penn ('10) discovered she could have a career in creative writing.

And now they've used those lessons to publish young adult novels.

Olson's novel *The Sandcastle Empire* has drawn widespread attention, with movie rights optioned by Leonardo DiCaprio's production company. Her next book, *This Splintered Silence* (HarperTeen), comes out in November.

Olson, pictured above, says her major in international relations helped her plot the book, which focuses on a teen trying to survive a dystopian revolution. She noted one political science class taught her that the course of history is influenced by a wide range of tiny details that add up in just the right way.

"That class engrained in me a mindset that looks at the big picture and the tiny details," Olson says. "It helped me to think about how the details in a certain society might combine to create a given atmosphere."

Penn ('10), pictured below, wrote *Twelve Steps to Normal* (Jimmy Patterson Books/Little, Brown), published in March. The book depicts Kira, a teen girl who moves back home with her dad after he spent a year in sober living rehabilitation — and what happens when he brings his funny, interesting friends with him. Penn also works as a staff writer for the website BuzzFeed.

She was an Emerald Eagle Scholar and says UNT helped her reach this point.

"Here's my answer in the form of a list: 15 Ways UNT Helped Shape My Career As A Writer," Penn says. "Just kidding. It wasn't until I switched my major to creative writing that I realized, hey, maybe I could do something creative for a living. The professors were always so helpful and encouraging and pushed me to be my very best, and I absolutely carried that with me."



Nina Mohan



Music man Jonathan Camacho ('08) is fulfilling a dream he's had since he was a kid.

"I've wanted

to be a record producer since I was 10 years old," he says. "I started playing piano at 8 at church and since then, I was enamored with the idea of creating and helping others create music."

Camacho's music was featured in *Destination: Team USA*, a feature about 2016 Olympic athletes that is streaming on Netflix. This led him to scoring the film *What Carter Lost*, about the 1988 Dallas Carter High School football team, which aired as part of ESPN's *30 for 30* series.

Camacho is currently producing the new *Hello Shannon* album, a collaborative project with his wife, Shannon Camacho ('11), a music education major he met in front of UNT's Music Building. He runs the all-genre production company, C-Factory Productions, with Christian Chavarria. And he teaches at Septien Entertainment in Addison.

"Music was always pulling me in so many directions," he says. "Being a producer was the best way for me to create all the styles I love without having to commit as an artist to just one lane."

## Dance and Theatre

### Creating conversations



Sebron Snyder

At 25, Shay Youngblood wrote the play *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery*. Last year, 30 years later, she saw it performed by the Pegasus Theatre in Chicago.

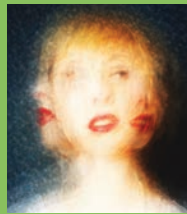
Playwriting is one of the many talents of Youngblood, who is executive assistant to the director of the Onstead Institute for Education in the College of Visual Arts and

Design at UNT. She also is a novelist, essayist and teacher. Oscar-winner Viola Davis recently read one of her short stories, *They Tell Me, Now I Know*, on NPR's *Selected Shorts*.

*Shakin'* follows a 25-year-old orphaned black woman reflecting on her family and community members influential to her growing up.

"Seeing the play confirmed my intention for my work to be a catalyst for difficult conversations about race, gender, sexuality and alternative ways of creating family and to move audiences to act on issues they are passionate about," Youngblood says.

## Upcoming Events



UNT photography students in the Parallax organization will show off their work — including senior Megan Gellner's portrait (pictured) — during the exhibition *Waxing and Waning*, running through April 13 at UNT on the Square. Visit [untonthesquare.unt.edu](http://untonthesquare.unt.edu) for more information.

The Dallas-based Eyakkam Dance Company will present *Release, Reach, Rejoice*, a presentation of four Indian stories. The free event begins at 7 p.m. April 4 in the University Union Lyceum. And two voices of the popular TV cartoon series *Bob's Burgers* — *H. Jon Benjamin* and *Eugene Mirman* — will come together at 8 p.m. April 24 at the UNT Coliseum. Find tickets at [untuniontickets.com](http://untuniontickets.com). Both events are sponsored by the Mary Jo and V. Lane Rawlins Fine Arts Series.

Music professor Joseph Klein's solo works, inspired by Elias Canetti's 1974 novel *Earwitness*, will be presented at *UNT Music in the City: Canetti-menagerie* at 7:30 p.m. April 11 at Moody Performance Hall in Dallas. The program will include readings of the Canetti texts to introduce each character, as well as photographic interpretations of the Canetti characters by local artist Jessica Leza ('05). The UNT Symphony Orchestra and Grand Chorus will perform *Verdi's Requiem* at 8 p.m. April 25 at Winspear Performance Hall in the Murchison Performing Arts Center and at 2 p.m. April 29 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. For tickets for all three events, go to [thempac.com](http://thempac.com).

UNT will be a sponsor for *Thin Line*, a festival featuring documentary films, live music, and photography exhibitions and competitions. The event takes place April 18-22 at various locations in Denton. Learn more at [thinline.us](http://thinline.us).

Ten contestants try to win a brand new truck in a most unusual way — by keeping their hands on the vehicle for as long as possible. UNT's Department of Dance and Theatre will present the musical *Hands on a Hard Body* at 7:30 p.m. April 26-28 and 2 p.m. April 29 at the University Theater in the RTVFP Building. Learn more at [danceandtheatre.unt.edu](http://danceandtheatre.unt.edu).



Visit [calendar.unt.edu](http://calendar.unt.edu) for more upcoming events.



Jeremy Scott

## Spreading music

Kathy Scherler ('05 Ph.D.) was looking for a way to continue the humanitarian work of her niece, Kelly Beth Cosby, who died at 25 from melanoma. Cosby had worked on the rights of human trafficking victims, and in the spring 2016 issue of *The North Texan*, Scherler read about an alumna who created an app to report human trafficking.

Scherler contacted Dallas-based Mosaic Family Services, which helped with the app and provides a safe shelter for immigrant women and children who are survivors of domestic violence or human trafficking. For the last two summers, Scherler, an assistant professor of music education at Oklahoma Baptist University, has organized the Oasis Summer Music Camp to provide free music classes to the children at Mosaic with her students' help. The camp was nominated for the 2017 International Music Council Music Rights Award, and Scherler was a quarterfinalist for the 2018 Grammy Music Educator Award.

The children sing, dance, play recorders and learn piano improv. "This last summer one of our young students told me, 'Miss, I was born with music inside of me!'" Scherler says. "Their positive reaction to music as a means of beauty and joy in the midst of their difficult lives is truly inspiring."

## Music

### Movie musician



Carla Toledo Dauden

Daniel Rojas ('10) works primarily as a composer and producer, but at the beginning of his career, he got more gigs as a session guitarist. His work can be heard on such films as *Downsizing* and *Money Monster*, as well as TV shows such as *Transporter: The Series*.

He says it's important to know the language of film and many movies, scores and songs because composers and directors often use film and pop references instead of musical terms.

And he does listen to himself when he's watching one of the movies he's working on.

"I try to enjoy the movie as a whole but of course there's always a part of me that focuses on the scenes I have music on," says Rojas, who majored in jazz studies. "It's always great when the movie goes to theaters because there's nothing like watching it on the big screen."

## Composing careers



Zachary Ashcraft

Two alumni entered a contest for young composers and thought their works might be too unconventional.

But Drew Zaremba ('13, '15 M.M.) and Garrett Wingfield ('16 M.M.) were both winners of 2018 Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards presented by the ASCAP Foundation.

Zaremba, pictured above, is a saxophonist and pianist who is pursuing a career as a composer, arranger and performer.

"The piece that won was one of my most ambitious to date in terms of its programmatic nature, so it's a huge honor and an encouragement," Zaremba says.

Wingfield is moving to Los Angeles to work as a freelance composer and saxophonist.

"The brand of jazz and improvised music I like to write and perform is a bit wild and experimental," he says, "so to get support and national recognition for it is a great feeling."

## Television and Film

### Historical honor



Tammy Bean

When Tom Weger ('89) and his wife, Kristy ('90), moved to Saint Jo — a small town near the Oklahoma border on the actual route of the cattle trails of North Texas during the post-Civil War era — he discovered most of the accepted routes given in books were wrong or misleading.

After a year of research, Weger submitted a 50-page research paper to the National Parks Service, which is considering the Chisholm and Great Western Trails for designation as National Trails.

At the urging of friends and historians, he turned the research paper into a book and documentary, *North to Kansas: The Real Chisholm Trail*, produced by Tammy Bean ('92).

Weger's research won the Texas Historical Commission's Award of Excellence in Preserving History.

"To have your work recognized as historically significant is unbelievable," Weger says. "I could not be more honored."



## Winning work



Tayondra Howard

Christine Williams ('17) was thrilled — and surprised — when she was named runner-up in the Best College Short Films category at the Denton Black Film Festival in January.

"Honestly, I was thinking, 'Wow, people like my film!'" says the media arts major.

That film, *Fostered*, examines how siblings are handled in the

foster care system and what happens when one ages out.

She also wrote an original song for the movie, which has been screened at film festivals in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and New York City.

"It still amazes me how far *Fostered* has come from an idea I had to now winning runner-up," she says.

"I also thought, this is just the beginning. One day, hopefully, I'll be putting an Academy Award next to my Denton Black Film Festival award!"

## Visual Arts

### Letter perfect



Simon Walker's ('99) designs have graced Brené Brown's bestselling book *Rising Strong* and the *Peter Rabbit* television series on Nickelodeon.

Walker, who majored in communication design, created the title fonts for those

works. He mastered the skill over time, starting as a graphic designer who only uses fonts. A client then asked him to create custom lettering.

"I started to enjoy the challenge, and I love it so much, it's all I really want to do," says Walker, who lives in Austin.

"There isn't really a method to it — it's about going with a vibe, a feeling. Does it need movement or texture? Does it feel fat, thin, modern, vintage? I sketch loosely and let my mind go, and after a while a solution (or two, or three) presents itself that feels right." ●

## Behind the scenes

Yvonne Valdez ('90) had just landed in Los Angeles after graduation. The radio, television and film major was looking to break into the movie scene. In Denton, she worked as an intern on the movie *Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got the Will?*, and its production coordinator told Valdez to call her when she arrived.

"As luck would have it, she needed a production assistant on her current project," Valdez says. "So within 22 minutes of arriving in L.A., I had a job on my first feature — *Madonna: Truth or Dare*."

It was an auspicious beginning to a long career in Hollywood. Valdez has been an assistant editor for 22 years, an editor for the last seven years and a producer and editor for three indie films. Her most recent movies are *A Wrinkle in Time* with Oprah Winfrey and *Death Wish* with Bruce Willis.

In the editing room, her job is to make sure the story flows and represents the characters, even their flaws. She says it is the subtle nuances that can build up the tension and tug at the heartstrings.

The editorial team is sometimes tasked with writing a new scene or rewriting the ending.

"I look at editing like a puzzle," Valdez says. "You have all these pieces that can fit together in so many ways, and figuring out the best fit is what I love."

Fitting those pieces is the most challenging part of the job. But it has its perks too. As a horror film buff, she enjoyed working with Wes Craven for eight years and appeared in the movie *Scream*.

But one of her favorite experiences is *The Legend of Bagger Vance*.

"I got to hang out with Robert Redford for a year," she says. "He would tell stories about his life. We even did a few Sunday jogs through Central Park with him. Come on, who wouldn't love that?"



Brit Peters



# CANCER FIGHTERS

Story by JESSICA DELEÓN  
Photography by AHNA HUBNIK

**FROM CONDUCTING RESEARCH TO ASSISTING PATIENTS, UNT ALUMNI ARE FINDING WAYS TO ATTACK ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST ENEMIES.**

In a laboratory at UNT, Sreekar Marpu ('11 Ph.D.) is on the hunt to kill cancer. The research assistant professor of chemistry is working to develop optical sensors that have the ability to differentiate deadly cancer cells from normal benign cells. He also is researching biocompatible nanomaterials that help obliterate cancer cells.

Other UNT faculty have made their own innovative findings, from discovering a protein that could be the cause of some breast cancers to creating a device that can detect cancer in its early stages.

UNT alumni, too, are fighting one of the leading unsolved health crises of our time. Some are physicians and medical professionals who diagnose patients and set up radiation treatments. Others are advocates who conduct research on helping underserved populations and assist patients and their families in securing the financial and emotional support they so desperately need. The work is of dire importance. More than 1.7 million new cancer cases surface each year, and more than 600,000 people will die from the disease in 2018, according to the American Cancer Society.

For many, the fight is personal. Marpu was inspired to conduct this research by his Ph.D. advisor, Zhibing Hu, who was a Regents Professor of physics. Marpu describes Hu as a “great, inspiring personality” ahead of his time as a researcher and says he also encouraged students to learn from their failures.

Hu died of leukemia in 2012. Oussama El-Bjeirami ('06 Ph.D.), one of Marpu's colleagues who was a postdoctoral researcher in chemistry at UNT, died of stomach cancer that same year.

“People around each of us have been sacrificed to this disease,” Marpu says. “They remind us we must do something to help find a cure.”

## PERSISTENT RESEARCH

Marpu's mind is constantly considering the next new project.

“What will happen if I mix these chemicals or reactants together?” he asks.

This curiosity leads him to try 10 experiments per day. As a graduate student, he often slept in his lab so he could watch over and monitor the chemical reactions. He doesn't get discouraged if one of his studies fails, just looks ahead.

“If one reaction works, it will give me a new project,” says Marpu, who first came to UNT in 2005 as a chemistry major before switching to materials science and engineering.

His experiments as a graduate student also got him thinking about cancer cells, which in the early stages are often difficult to diagnose or differentiate from healthy tissue. Then, once the disease is diagnosed, it is difficult to target and kill cancer cells without affecting healthy cells and causing side effects like those that can come from chemotherapy.

Marpu's research focuses on the creation of biocompatible gold nanomaterials and optical sensors. The optical sensors have the ability to differentiate between healthy and cancerous cells based on differences in optical properties, while the gold nanomaterials have the capacity to absorb light and generate heat that eventually can be selectively directed to kill the cancer cells.

Though such heat-generating nanomaterials were known before, Marpu and his team are working to make these biocompatible and viable to the human body with minimal to no side effects. Current state-of-the-art nanomaterials with similar properties suffer from toxicity issues, a challenge this research is addressing.

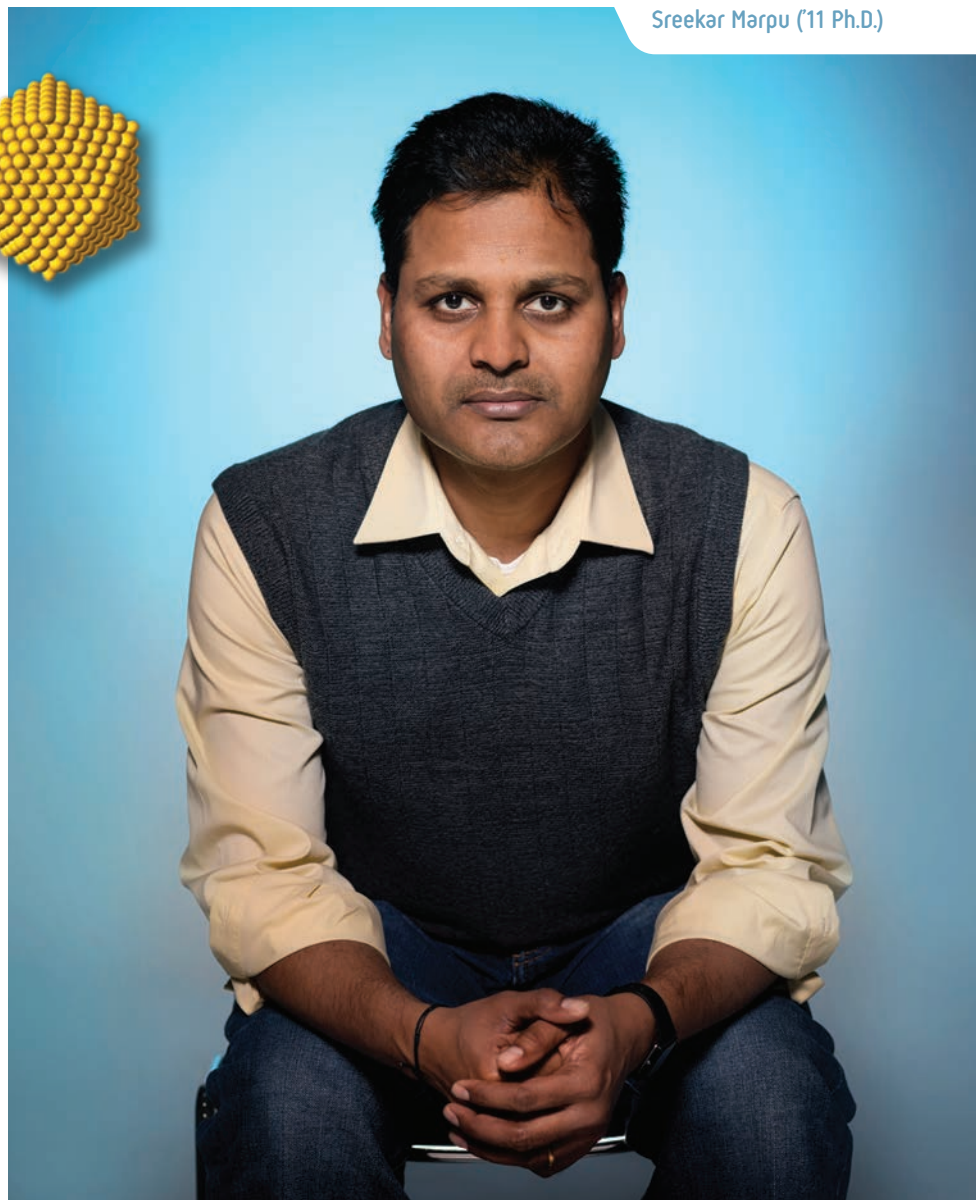
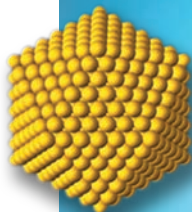
Marpu's work on the project with Mohammad A. Omary, University Distinguished Research Professor of chemistry, physics, and mechanical and energy engineering, has resulted in one patent with another pending. They have obtained materials from collaborators at the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Cell Biology to explore the possibility that the UNT nanoparticles might overcome some of the defined mechanisms of drug resistance in cancer.

Other UNT researchers also are looking at innovative ways to fight cancer. Ron Mittler — professor of biological sciences and researcher in UNT's BioDiscovery Institute, one of the university's Institutes of Research Excellence — is part of a team from two countries and several universities that has made major discoveries.

The team connected a single protein to some of the most lethal types of breast cancer and then found a way to suppress the protein and stop

**“PEOPLE AROUND EACH OF US HAVE BEEN SACRIFICED TO THIS DISEASE. THEY REMIND US WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO HELP FIND A CURE.”**

— Sreekar Marpu ('11 Ph.D.)



Sreekar Marpu ('11 Ph.D.)

Charlea Muñoz ('17 M.A.)



**“NOT ONLY DO WE NEED TO LOOK AT CURING THE CANCER, BUT ALSO AT HOW WE CAN ADDRESS THE BARRIERS THESE PATIENTS FACE.”**

— Charlea Muñoz ('17 M.A.)

tumor growth. They are now conducting clinical trials.

Chemistry professor G. Andrés Cisneros and doctoral student researchers Alice Walker and Pavel Silvestrov have discovered and characterized a novel genetic mutation associated with African American men who have prostate cancer. Francis D'Souza, University Distinguished Research Professor of chemistry, is collaborating on a chemical sensor device that could detect cancer in its early stages, giving patients their best opportunity for recovery.

Biostatistics professor Xuexia “Helen” Wang has studied young cancer patients’ health records at several hospitals and the Children’s Oncology Group to determine whether certain genes are behind later health problems connected to chemotherapy and radiation. And history professor Constance Hilliard has pioneered the field of “African evolutionary history,” which explores the intersection of genetic adaptations and ecological environments. She uncovered the link between an ethnic-specific genetic variant and black Americans’ unusually high susceptibility to a certain class of cancers.

Su Gao, dean of the College of Science, says UNT’s work in the fight against cancer demonstrates not only the high quality of the faculty’s research abilities but also their sense of social responsibility.

“Our university should be a place where humanity can look to find solutions to its problems, and I am proud that our faculty are making great contributions to this crucial field,” he says. “What our students are learning is directly tied to addressing society’s needs, and they are encouraged to take part in such research to help make the world a better place for everyone.”

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## BREAKING BARRIERS

Charlea Muñoz ('17 M.A.) received her first lessons in helping patients as a linguistics student at UNT. As a graduate research assistant in the audiology and speech language pathology department, she worked with clients who suffered from aphasia, a language disorder caused by stroke or traumatic brain injury.

Now, as a patient resource specialist for the American Cancer Society in Austin, she educates and assists patients with cancer to find the services they need — from transportation to medical resources and many others. She may set them up with Road to Recovery, in which volunteer drivers transport patients to appointments, or refer them to the Health Insurance Assistance Service program that provides guidance on health insurance options.

“I’m just helping people with long-term illnesses get their voice back,” she says.

For example, she recently helped a single mother in her 30s who was diagnosed with breast cancer. The woman was scared and confused.

Muñoz enrolled her in a Look Good Feel Better class, which helps women cope with the side effects of radiation, surgery and chemotherapy by providing wig styling tips as well as makeup and skin care for damaged skin. She also helped her find financial resources by referring her to national foundations that provide assistance for basic needs, such as rent or utilities.

“Just knowing I have your number gives me relief,” the woman told Muñoz.

Muñoz says her job can be tough when patients are upset, but she never takes it personally.

“I know their reactions come from a place of stress. They have so much on their plate,” she says.

While exciting discoveries are being made in cancer research, she is motivated to focus on different aspects of the patients’ needs. She notes the American Cancer Society’s motto is “Attacking cancer from every angle.”

“I’m attacking it from the social services angle,” Muñoz says. “Not only do we need to look at curing the cancer, but also at how we can address the barriers these patients face.”

And the rewards of her job?

“That happens every day,” Muñoz says, “when I’m able to help patients receive the services they need. That’s what I love.”

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## HELPING THE UNDERSERVED

Researcher Evelinn Borrayo (’97 M.A., ’99 Ph.D.) works to address cancer health disparities that affect Latinas and other underserved individuals — populations that are often labeled “hard to reach.”

She spearheaded a \$1.8 million public health program to encourage Latinas to take the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer. HPV brings stigmas with it, so her team members have to be creative.

“A brochure won’t do it,” says Borrayo, a professor of psychology at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. “But if you create a video in a soap opera format, and they hear from other Latinas, they’re likely to get it.”

The program also trains health workers to educate Latinas about the vaccine and the importance of pap smears.

Borrayo began her research as a graduate student at UNT. She was working in the lab of Chuck Guarnaccia, associate professor of

psychology, who was studying how health beliefs influence breast cancer screening behaviors of certain populations. Borrayo suggested that Latinas be included in the survey and found that those born in the U.S. had higher incomes and more access, while those born in Mexico had more disparities and were less likely to engage in breast cancer screening behaviors.

In another of Borrayo’s research projects, which received \$1.9 million from the Patient Center Outcomes Research Institute, she is conducting a clinical trial on an intervention to address the mental challenges that head, neck and lung cancer patients and their caregivers encounter.

“When your face is disfigured or you can’t talk or hear, it can be very psychologically traumatic,” Borrayo says. “It’s important to think about



Evelinn Borrayo (’97 M.A., ’99 Ph.D.)

**“WHEN YOU HEAR PATIENTS TALKING ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH CANCER, IT GIVES YOU FUEL. YOU’RE GOING TO WORK EVEN HARDER TO HELP THEM, WITH ALL THAT YOU HAVE, TO FIGHT THIS HORRIBLE DISEASE.”**

— Dana Rosencranz (’98 M.S., ’02 Ph.D.)

Jorge Roman (’13)



cancer holistically because patients also will often suffer from depression and anxiety.”

Similarly, she notes that caregivers suffer but are “the hidden patient” in literature.

“These are people with real needs who are going through a lot, too, while patients are going through treatment,” she says.

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## COMPASSIONATE CARE

When Jorge Roman (’13) examined a patient in her 90s with lung cancer who had come to the emergency room for pneumonia, he saw something more. The cancer had advanced to her liver and brain. Because she was too frail to take on more treatment, he helped to transition her to hospice care.

“I got her the right care,” he says, “and was able to alleviate the suffering she would have had.”

As a physician at the outset of his dermatology career, Roman sees patients with cancer as part of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas’ teaching service. He’s committed to helping ease their pain and find the appropriate treatment.

“What makes me happy,” he says, “is increasing a person’s quality of life. This epitomizes my work, not just in fighting against cancer itself, but in fighting for patients with cancer.”

Roman grew up in Fort Worth and received a full scholarship through UNT’s Emerald Eagle Scholars program — becoming the first in his family to graduate from high school and college. At first, he was undecided about his major, but he took to medicine while conducting research on cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia in veterans with psychology professor Daniel Taylor and developmental physiology with biology professor Ed Dzialowski.

Roman, who graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 2017, will begin a three-year dermatology residency at New York University in June after completing his internship at Texas Health.

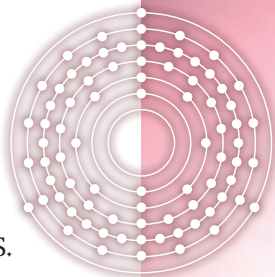
He has published several articles on skin cancer and plans to focus his dermatology practice on its prevention and treatment.

“Taking care of people is humbling,” Roman says. “These are very powerful experiences.”

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## BATTLING FOR HOPE

Sometimes when Dana Rosencranz (’98 M.S., ’02 Ph.D.) works with patients who are undergoing radiation, it can be emotionally



challenging for her as well as for them.

“I don’t try to hide it,” she says. “If I feel like I need to cry, I cry.”

As chief medical physicist of Texas Oncology in Paris, a member of the U.S. Oncology Network, Rosencranz creates specialized radiation treatments prescribed by a radiation oncologist for cancer patients and makes sure the equipment meets safety standards. She oversees sites in Greenville and Mount Pleasant in addition to Paris.

Rosencranz has always been interested in physics thanks to her father, who holds degrees in mathematics and physics. Her career in medical physics took root when Floyd McDaniel, UNT Regents Professor of physics, was visiting a conference in her native Romania and suggested she come to UNT for graduate school. After earning her degrees, she worked for two years establishing and supervising a lab at Advanced Molecular Imaging Systems in Denton, a company that made products for nuclear medicine.

In 2003, Rosencranz started her job with Texas Oncology so she could work with patients directly in a clinical setting. She has always been fascinated with how radiation can be used in treating cancer, but she realizes that patients can be intimidated by radiation therapy.

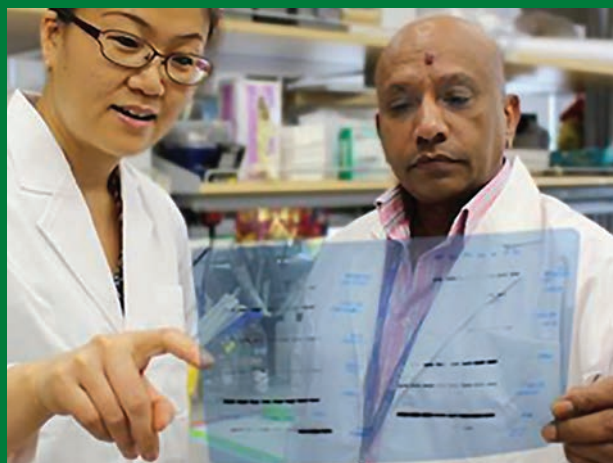
“I work to make them comfortable by answering their questions,” she says.

She also leads a cancer support group, filling a much-needed gap in the rural community of Paris. One patient drove in dark, rainy weather to tell the group his latest scan had shown no presence of cancer.

“When you hear patients talking about their experiences with cancer, it gives you fuel,” Rosencranz says. “You’re going to work even harder to help them, with all that you have, to fight this horrible disease.” ●

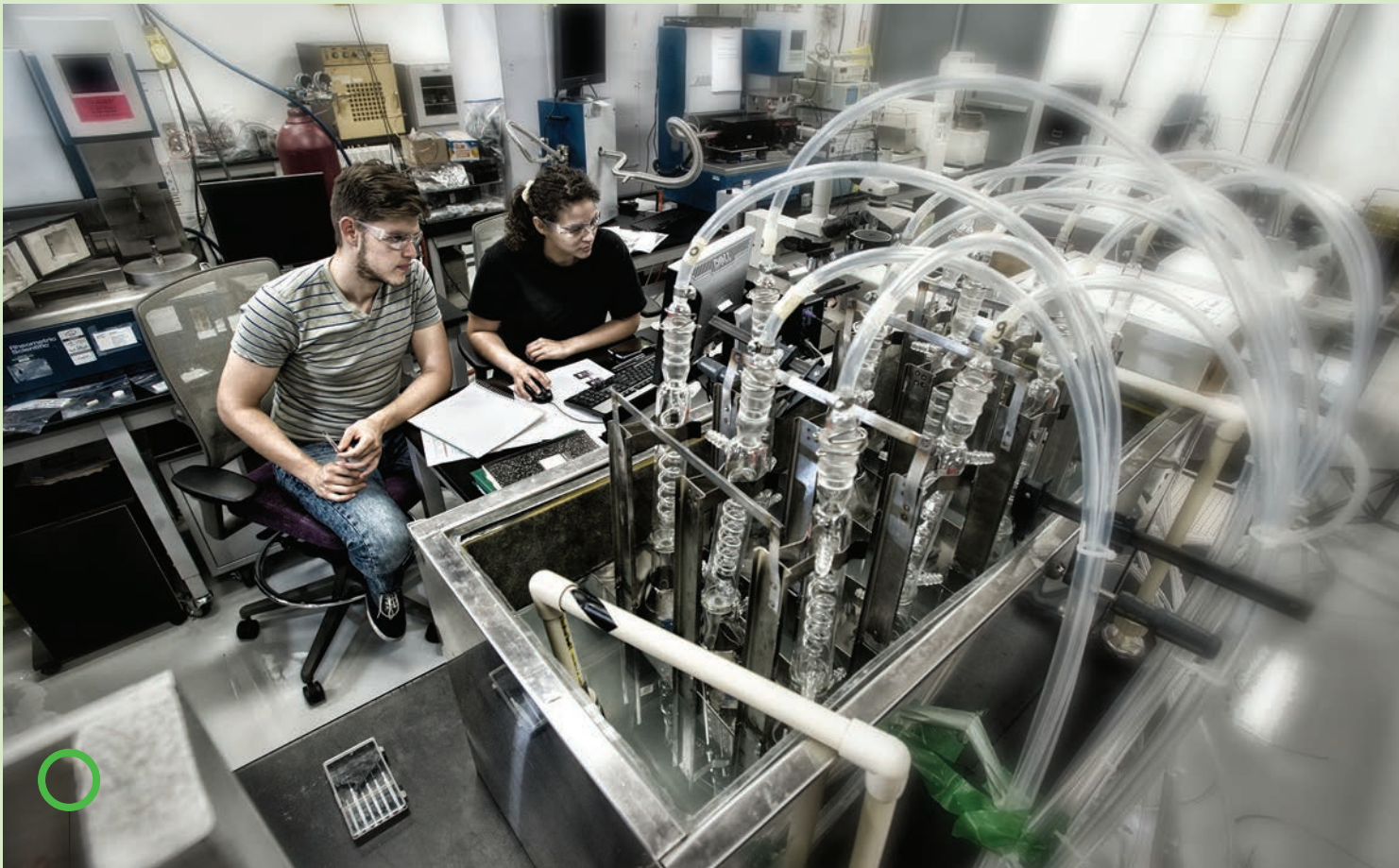


Dana Rosencranz ('98 M.S., '02 Ph.D.)



## ONLINE EXTRA

Learn about two UNT alumni who have dedicated their careers to fighting breast cancer — one of the most common forms of cancer. These cancer combatants include Alan Kumar ('93, '98 M.S., '03 Ph.D.), pictured, a principal associate at the Cancer Science Institute of the National University of Singapore, who is researching how to help women with metastatic cancer respond better to chemotherapy. And Midlothian-based surgeon Katrina Emmett ('92 TAMS), a graduate of UNT's Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, is on the front lines treating breast cancer patients for Texas Breast Specialists in Dallas, Mansfield and Waxahachie. Read more at [northtexas.unt.edu/online](http://northtexas.unt.edu/online).



Gary Payne

## Research and Innovation

*Through collaborations and creativity, UNT advances interdisciplinary research and industry partnerships.*

Ranked a Tier One research university by the Carnegie Classification, UNT is at the forefront of new ideas and technologies. In every corner of campus, faculty and student researchers are discovering solutions to the grand challenges of the 21st century.

At the same time, UNT is working to strengthen its research and innovation culture by investing in its people, collaborative programs and spaces, which is leading to an environment where innovation is rewarded and collaborative research efforts are lauded. In the last year, UNT had more than 50 patents filed, eight patents issued and six licenses executed — and is negotiating several more.

“UNT is actively working to grow its research enterprise to improve the university’s reach and more meaningfully impact the world,” President Neal Smatresk says. “Our researchers are being awarded more large program grants that really have the potential to impact the world. This is just the start of what we will achieve.”



Read more about UNT’s research at [research.unt.edu](https://research.unt.edu).





### PROMOTING INNOVATION

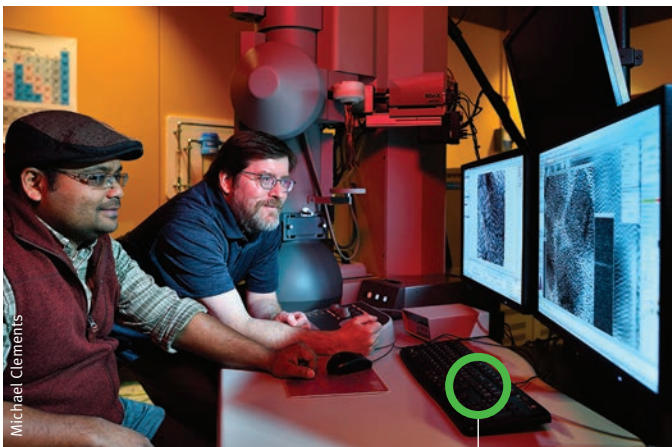
UNT's Innovation and Commercialization unit has continually increased its output in recent years to better support faculty in converting research discoveries into useful, marketable products. "To be stewards of the public's trust, universities must find new ways to ensure that new ideas and solutions find a way to market for communities to thrive," says Michael Rondelli, UNT's associate vice president for innovation and commercialization. "Universities like UNT are working to do just that." Check out UNT's 2017 Research Annual Report at [research.unt.edu/research-impact](http://research.unt.edu/research-impact).

### PARTNERSHIPS TO INSPIRE STARTUPS

UNT recently partnered with Denton's Stoke, a co-working space to offer entrepreneurship programs for community members. And in Frisco, home to UNT's New College and the Collin Higher Education Center, UNT is working with the Frisco mayor's office and other key stakeholders through Inspire Frisco to build an innovation engine for the entire North Texas region. Rondelli is spearheading these efforts for UNT.



David Minton



Michael Clements

### PUSHING BOUNDARIES

UNT's 900-acre campus features research facilities, makerspaces and laboratories, where faculty and student researchers push the boundaries of science, technology and creativity. UNT is home to 342 research labs and non-classroom creative spaces, and labs such as UNT's Materials Research Facility also are partnering with industry experts to investigate, beta test and produce solutions and real-world applications. Learn more on the back cover.

Tara Owens  
(’11, ’13 M.S.)



UNT criminal  
justice alumni work  
to reduce crime and  
increase security for  
communities around  
the world.

# Seeking Justice

by AMY ARMSTRONG

Tara Owens ('11, '13 M.S.), a crime scene investigator with the Grapevine Police Department, was just about to walk out of the station to enjoy her day off when her boss said a body had been found in the city.

When Owens and her colleagues arrived at the heavily wooded area, they came upon a horrific scene — a dismembered, burning body. Owens would spend the next 15 hours at the site collecting evidence, and that work helped to identify the victim.

A suspect was arrested on capital murder charges less than a week later. As Owens waits for the trial to wind its way through the judicial system, her job goes on.

“There really is no such thing as a typical day in law enforcement,” she says. “You never really know what you are going to be facing.”

Cases can run the gamut from auto burglary to assault to murder.

“We work the scene and provide the information needed to make an arrest,” she says.

Owens, who spent a year working at a firearms lab before joining Grapevine PD in 2015, says that while seeing dead bodies is a weekly, sometimes daily, part of the job, some cases are hard to forget.

“You meet the friends and family, and it does stick with you,” she says. “The best part of the job though is making sure justice is served.”

Owens earned both of her degrees from UNT’s Department of Criminal Justice, part of the College of Health and Public Service. The criminal justice major — one of UNT’s 10 largest undergraduate majors — prepares students for careers in law enforcement or in the corporate world, where organizations need help investigating internal theft and fraud. The UNT graduate criminal justice program offers classes on the Denton campus, or students can choose a 100-percent online option, which is ranked 34th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The Cyber Forensics Lab housed at UNT’s New College at Frisco is under the direction of Scott Belshaw, associate professor of criminal justice. Through digital forensics, research and education, the lab helps law enforcement and the military with cyber innovations needed for modern crime-fighting, particularly in the analysis of cell phone data.

Owens’ focus of study while in graduate school was bullet deflection off human tissue and small bones. She was able to teach labs for the undergraduate criminalistics students.

“I continue to teach classes at local high schools,” she says, “and I use the skills and knowledge that being a graduate assistant taught me.”

Two criminal justice professors stand out in her mind for their impact on her education and career. She says Adam Trahan, director of graduate programs in the department, was a major influence in



Anthony Carter ('94)

Savannah Rae  
Martinez ('16)

her decision to attend graduate school.

"He was always available with an open ear to toss ideas around and discuss educational opportunities," she says.

When it comes to her career, she credits lecturer Edward Hueske with helping her decide on a major.

"After taking one of his courses and being intrigued by his experience and love for the job, I made my decision to stick with criminalistics," Owens says.

Hueske, a firearms examiner himself, was her research mentor at UNT, and when she worked for the private firearms lab after graduation, she was able to do ballistics testing for law enforcement cases from across the country. She ultimately would like to get back to that type of work.

"My job with Grapevine is a great opportunity for me to be out in the field," she says. "When I do eventually get back into the firearms lab, I'll have a better idea of what I need from the scene investigators."

## On the front lines

During his 19-year career with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Anthony Carter ('94) has found himself in a variety of locations and challenging situations — from Detroit to McAllen, to working with foreign counterparts in Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Jordan and Cyprus.

"Our role overseas is to work with local cops to bridge the gaps in what they can provide due to a lack of resources as well as to find an illegal drug nexus in the U.S.," he says.

After a stint in Arizona and Arlington, Virginia, Carter is now an assistant special agent in charge of the Dallas Field Division. One of the many units he oversees is the Tactical Diversion Squad devoted to fighting the opioid crisis.

"We are going after the doctors who are overprescribing and the pharmacies that are handing out drugs like candy," he says.

Carter, who began his career as a Dallas police officer, says UNT provided him with a strong foundation.

"That made things easier when I became a law enforcement official," Carter says. "The critical thinking skills I learned at UNT have been so valuable in the field."

He says criminal justice professors like Peggy Tobolowsky, along with an internship at the Denton County Sheriff's Department his senior year, helped pave his way to a successful career.

When he received the Firearms Proficiency award at the DEA Academy in Quantico, Virginia, he says he was most proud to hear the announcer say, "Graduated from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, with a criminal justice degree."

## Protecting the border

Savannah Rae Martinez ('16) has a family tradition of service. Her father is a police officer and her mom and stepdad both work for the federal government. So her job as a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer is a perfect fit. Martinez began her career with Customs last March,

and was assigned to Pembina, North Dakota, a northern border port of entry from Canada.

She says her career of choice has brought with it many surprises.

"I think the hardest part to get used to is people lying to me when they are seeking admission into the U.S.," Martinez says, then adds, laughing, "That and the language barrier, since they sometimes speak German or Chinese."

She is not only checking people's passports but also inspecting commercial shipments such as produce or construction equipment.

"We have to make sure that the commercial shipments are following Customs laws and regulations," Martinez says, "and be really vigilant for potential terrorist activities."

When asked to name her favorite part of the job, Martinez doesn't even hesitate: "The people."

"I get to meet and talk to so many people every single day," she says. "I love hearing their stories and what they are doing and experiencing."

She says she has interest in the special response team, the K-9 unit and perhaps even working overseas.

"My journey began at UNT," she says. "I am grateful for the guidance and support during my time there as a student."

## Fighting crime

Brendan Iber's ('01) career with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and



Brendan Iber ('01)

Explosives began with an internship during his senior year at UNT.

“That gave me an opportunity to find out what the ATF’s mission was,” Iber says. “I would have ended up in law enforcement, but I don’t think I would have become an ATF agent without the internship.”

Following graduation, with the ATF not hiring, Iber spent three years with the Carrollton Police Department before rejoining the ATF in 2004.

After stints in Arizona, Oklahoma and Georgia, he is now the assistant special agent in charge of the ATF’s Chicago Field Division.

“I oversee groups who are responsible for combating the violent crime that has affected the great city of Chicago and other parts of Illinois,” Iber says. “When we can take violent career offenders, trigger pullers, etc., off the streets and away from the public, I cannot help but feel encouraged.”

Iber says criminal justice professors like Tory Caeti, who passed away in 2006, gave him a solid base on which to begin his career.

“Every semester, I’d scour the course catalog for classes he taught,” he says. “I would like to complete this career and be able to look back and say that I actually made a difference, that I was a positive influence on people and that I never gave up no matter how difficult the task.” ●

## UNT CYBER FORENSICS LAB

UNT’s Cyber Forensics Lab, which opened in 2017 at UNT’s New College at Frisco, is a research facility that analyzes cell phone data from devices used in criminal activities for law enforcement in the North Texas region, and designs products and software for law enforcement and the military.

“We have three components to the lab — the digital forensics aspect, research and innovation, and the educational piece,” says Scott Belshaw, associate professor of criminal justice and lab director. “We blend the components together by training people to understand the importance of cyber innovation in fighting crime in a modern world.”

Monthly brainstorming and training sessions at the lab bring together area law enforcement experts, students from various UNT departments and others from the defense community to determine immediate needs in the industry.

Currently, the research and innovation component is partnering with Richardson-based Cyber Defense Labs where researchers and students — including some from UNT’s Department of Computer Science and Engineering — have developed anti-piracy technology for movie theaters. They also have developed and licensed software to help law enforcement create maps of data to assist in catching suspects with cell phones, and UNT art students are designing packaging for the project. GIS faculty from the Department of Geography and the Environment are helping with new software that tracks cell phone data to determine if a suspected criminal was in a specific area at the time of a crime, which can be used as evidence by court prosecutors.

“We’ve taken cell phone data analysis that used to take three months down to seconds,” Belshaw says. “And, in law enforcement, we know that every second counts.”

Read about how Steven Glassner ('09, '11 M.S.), assistant professor of criminology, criminal justice and strategic studies at Tarleton State University, is helping his students find success at [northtexan.unt.edu](http://northtexan.unt.edu).





Rick Yeatts

Mean Green women's basketball player Terriell Bradley, a junior guard, earned first team all-conference recognition for Conference USA this season.

## Action-packed Season

Mean Green basketball buoyed by new school records during 2017-18 season.

Mean Green basketball boasted an action-packed season full of new records, with the women's team beating Louisiana Tech for the first time ever to advance to the Conference USA semifinals co-hosted by UNT in March. Junior guard Terriell Bradley earned first team all-conference recognition after scoring 578 points, leading C-USA in 3-point field goal percentage and making a school-record 164 free throws this season. In February, she made nine consecutive 3-pointers in a game, setting a school and conference record.

"For Terriell to accomplish all the feats that she has in just her second year is amazing," says head coach Jalie Mitchell ('02), a senior on the 2001-02 team that last made a conference semifinal.

On the men's team, sophomore guard Roosevelt Smart earned second team all-conference honors. He finished the regular season fourth in C-USA, averaging 18.8 points per game, and made the most 3-pointers in a season at UNT. The Mean Green broke the school record for most 3-pointers as a team and celebrated the program's first-ever win in the College Basketball Invitational.



Read more about UNT athletics at [meangreensports.com](http://meangreensports.com).

## Mean Green Scholarship Fund supports UNT student-athletes

UNT athletics kicked off its 2018-19 membership campaign with the introduction of the Mean Green Scholarship Fund, an enhanced version of the Mean Green Club that provides scholarships and support for UNT student-athletes.

“Annual scholarship and program support for our student-athletes remains a critical component in our mission of building champions and preparing leaders,” Vice President and Director of Athletics Wren Baker says.

The fund has its own website, [meangreenscholarshipfund.com](http://meangreenscholarshipfund.com), which details the changes, including revised membership levels and new benefits such as annual gifts, Team Store discounts and a 110% Champions gift for members who increase their contribution by at least 10 percent or new members who contribute at least \$110.

This also marks the implementation of minimum per-seat contribution requirements for season tickets in premier sections of Apogee Stadium and The Super Pit beginning in 2018-19.



**For additional information on priority seating and new member benefits, visit [meangreenscholarshipfund.com](http://meangreenscholarshipfund.com) or contact the Mean Green Scholarship Fund office at 940-369-7284 or [mgsf@unt.edu](mailto:mgsf@unt.edu).**

### Football off to productive start

The Mean Green football team had a busy winter after returning from the bowl game in New Orleans.

Coach Seth Littrell added a new director of recruiting in Luke Walerius, who previously served as a recruiting assistant at Kentucky.

The Mean Green signed 19 recruits in December and February in a class that emphasized defense. UNT’s 14 high school players and five junior college transfers feature five linebackers and four defensive backs. The class includes two quarterbacks, including Manvel’s Kason Martin.

### Soccer adds highly touted transfers

The defending 2017 Conference USA champion women’s soccer team has added

two experienced transfers. Ansley Bunger, the all-time leading goal scorer at Byron Nelson High School in Trophy Club, and Kelsey Brann, a goalie who was a member of the Mexican Women’s National Team youth system, are expected to compete for starting positions in 2018.

Bunger comes to UNT from the University of Arkansas where she played one season. Brann joins the Mean Green after one season at the University of Tulsa.

### Tennis player upsets No. 2 player

UNT junior tennis player Maria Kononova recorded the best singles win in school history when she defeated the No. 2 ranked player in the country in February.

Kononova beat Florida International’s Andrea Lazaro — the highest-ranked player a Mean Green tennis player has

ever beaten — 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. Kononova, a native of Ufa, Russia, has been ranked as high as No. 41 in the nation this year after earning first team all-conference honors as a sophomore last season.

### Athletic achievement

Mean Green swimming and diving was named a Scholar All-America team by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America. UNT had a team GPA of 3.31 in the fall.

“Our student-athletes work hard both in the water and the classroom,” UNT head coach Brittany Roth says.

To earn the honor, teams must post a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The Mean Green have been recognized as a Scholar All-America team each semester for the past 13 years. ●

## NEW INITIATIVE CREATES CAMPUS IMPACT

A group of dedicated UNT alumni and friends joined efforts to create a lasting impact on campus through UNT's newest annual giving initiative. Less than a year after its creation, the Diamond Eagles Society has revealed its first project to fund — the Diamond Eagles Family Patio at the UNT Alumni Pavilion near Apogee Stadium.

The UNT Diamond Eagles Society uses a venture capital model to annually pool its resources to select, and financially support, an on-campus project to positively impact the UNT community. The brainchild of co-founders Debbie Smatresk, Cathy Bryce ('91 Ph.D.) and Shari McCoy, the society launched in 2017 with 77 founding members, each contributing a minimum of \$1,000. The group generated more than \$80,000.

"It is a joy to be among dedicated UNT donors whose gifts steer great change on campus and foster growth for the future," Smatresk says.

Members voted on proposals submitted by campus leaders to fund a single project benefiting the university. The proposals are required to have a wide and lasting impact on the Mean Green family as well as to not need additional funding beyond what is raised each year.

This year's funded project, the Diamond Eagles Family Patio at the Alumni Pavilion, will provide increased opportunities for UNT's growing alumni base to engage together during football games and will be available for other events.

Nearly doubling the usable square footage, the Diamond Eagles Family Patio includes a permanent stage as well as electrical upgrades and a drainage system to the pavilion. This new outdoor space will provide an enhanced game day experience for alumni, family and friends.

"The Diamond Eagles organization is an exciting new donor engagement program that is filling an important need for UNT," says Rob McInturf, executive director for the UNT Alumni Association. "We are honored to be the first project funded by



Ranjani Groth



Top from left, Diamond Eagles Society co-founders Cathy Bryce ('91 Ph.D.), Debbie Smatresk and Shari McCoy; at the bottom is a rendering of the Diamond Eagles Family Patio at the UNT Alumni Pavilion.

the program. We are so grateful to the donors who are making such a tangible impact for our university."

The patio is expected to be ready for use at the first home football game against SMU on Sept. 1.

"As our alumni family grows, so should our spaces to serve them," Bryce says.

Pleased with the overall success of the society in its inaugural year, David Wolf, vice president for advancement, is looking forward to future growth.

"By joining their voices, members are able to leverage making an annual investment to have a larger impact on the university," Wolf says. "The society's key advantage is the immediate influence its investments will have on UNT."

Membership for 2018 is now open. ●



For more information or to join UNT's Diamond Eagles Society, visit [one.unt.edu/diamondeagles](http://one.unt.edu/diamondeagles).





# Nest

Get connected at upcoming alumni gatherings

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Michael Clements

## TAKING THE PLUNGE

Alumnus leads business to new heights as sales manager of iFLY Indoor Skydiving in Frisco.



See a video and learn more about how Hooks is helping to create iFLY experiences for those with special needs and for students learning about STEM at [northtexas.unt.edu/taking-the-plunge](http://northtexas.unt.edu/taking-the-plunge).

ONE THING YOU CAN CONSISTENTLY EXPECT from Ryan Hooks ('16)? He'll defy expectation. After all, Hooks has done exactly that ever since he arrived at UNT as a communication studies undergrad who passed up parties and football games in favor of a full-time job. That expectation-smashing spirit led him to his current position. At 22, Hooks swallowed his doubts and applied for the role of sales manager at iFLY Indoor Skydiving in Frisco.

He became the youngest person named to the position in the company's history.

"I think often we tell ourselves, 'I'm not quite ready for that' or 'I'm not good enough for that,'" Hooks says. "And this job in particular has really taught me otherwise. Whenever the opportunity arises, take it."

# CONNECTING WITH Friends

Keep up with the latest developments in the UNT family and tell your peers what you've been up to since leaving the nest. Send your news to *The North Texan* (see contact information on page 4). Members of the UNT Alumni Association are designated with a ★.



Read more, share comments and connect with friends at [northtexan.unt.edu](http://northtexan.unt.edu).

Grant Martin Photography



*Donna Dupuy ('93, '97 M.M.), of Toronto, Ontario, met Prince Harry as part of her duties as the Ontario Division program coordinator for the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, in ceremonies that took place in September. She helps coordinate the award program that celebrates service, skill development, physical recreation and outdoor adventure for youth ages 14-24. Her job is to manage and facilitate youth participation in the program, which has more than 18,000 participants in the province of Ontario. She was formerly a high school band director and now serves as a conductor for New Horizons Band of Toronto.*

## 1957

**Bobbie Nelson Wood** ('69 M.A., '74 Ph.D.), Fort Worth :: and her husband, Britton, have published their most recent book, *Marriage for the Everyday*: 365

*Conversation Starters Designed to Deepen Couple Relationships.* Bobbie previously published *Building Lasting Marriages* and the couple, married for 60 years, lead marriage enrichment events. Bobbie is retired as chair of Trinity Valley School in Fort Worth.

## 1963

★ **R.L. Crawford**, Denton :: was honored by the Million Dollar Round Table, a trade association for financial professionals, with a lifetime membership. He began his 53-year career with Northwestern Mutual as the result of a campus interview in 1963. He has served on the UNT Board of Regents, the UNT Foundation Board of Directors and is a member of the Mean Green Club. He and his wife, ★ **Brenda** ('63), met on campus and have been married for 53 years. They have two sons, ★ **R.L. 'Trey' Crawford III** ('88), a member of the UNT Foundation board of directors, and **F. Guy Crawford** ('92).

## 1964

**Richard Menchaca** ('65 M. Ed.), Irving :: was honored in August for 50 years of service at El Centro College, where he is director of career advancement. He was a star track athlete at North Texas from 1958 to 1962 and has been inducted into the UNT Athletic Hall of Fame and the National Hispanic Sports Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Geezles.

## 1970

**Jack Murphy** ('74 M.P.A.), Wichita Falls :: retired in August as Wichita Falls' parks and recreation director after serving in that

position for 32 years. During his tenure, he oversaw extensive beautification of the city's parks, highway medians and public building grounds. He previously worked in the cities of Farmers Branch, Richardson, Garland, DeSoto and Victoria.

## 1978

**Ronnell B. Townsend** (M.S.), Independence, Mo. :: taught in the chemistry department of Towson State University in Towson, Md. He also worked in child care and in a nursing home in Kansas City. He has donated 19 gallons of whole blood in his lifetime. He currently spends his time reading and poring through his extensive stamp collection.

## 1980



**Mackie Spradley** ('13 Ph.D.), Austin :: has been elected president of the National Association for Music Education, the largest professional association of music educators in the U.S. Before becoming the coordinator of secondary choral and general music studies in Dallas ISD for 10 years, she taught music in Fort Worth ISD and Dallas ISD for 16 years. She is the director of enrichment education for the Texas Education Agency and an adjunct professor in UNT's College of Education.

## 1981

**William David Rhame**, Clearwater, Fla. :: founded Life Lesson Coaching (LLC) featuring POWER with Words, a program that teaches children and adults effective communication skills. He has been a broker and tennis coach. He co-wrote the 1999 book *Business Golf: The Art of Building Relationships Through Golf* with the late sportscaster Pat Summerall. He also wrote *The Voyagers* series, which offers a life lesson for children in every chapter. His favorite UNT memory is starting the 3D Club (Delta Dudes & Dolls), a “frasority.”

## 1982



**Celia Alvarez Muñoz** (M.F.A.), Arlington ::

had her work featured in the Getty Exhibition “Radical Women: Latin American Art 1960-1985” at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. The exhibition presents works in a range of media, including photography, video and installation, that women of the region produced, often in harsh political and social conditions. It will run at the Brooklyn Museum from April 13 to July 22 and later travel to Brazil.

## 1989

**Allan Escher**, Land of Lakes, Fla. :: was appointed chair of the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology. He is an anesthesiologist in the Tampa-St. Peters-

burg area. At UNT, he was a member of Alpha Phi Omega and NT40.

## 1990

**Jeff Antoniuk** ('92 M.M.), Annapolis, Md. :: is the founder of JBM Business Training, which helps jazz musicians develop their businesses, and has served as a guest lecturer in UNT's new entrepreneurship in music program. A former member of the One O'Clock Lab Band, he is a saxophonist who has performed with Ray Charles and Bobby McFerrin. He plays in the bands the Jazz Update and The MARS 4-tet and is married to **Terry Del Bello Antoniuk** ('92).

## 1991

**Debbie Denmon**, St. Petersburg, Fla. :: joined HSN as a host in 2017. She worked at WFAA as an anchor for eight years before leaving to become a spokeswoman for the Dallas County DA's office and contributing to TV's *Texas Daily*.

## 1992

**Martha Werner**, Houston :: was named executive director of human resource services for elementary education in Klein ISD. She will oversee human resource services for 32 elementary campuses. Prior to this position, she served as senior director of elementary staffing and employee relations in Leander ISD. She has spent 25 years in education.

## Upcoming Alumni Gatherings

Many exciting events are planned for alumni to reunite and celebrate UNT this spring:

**Guest Chef Day:** The Club at Gateway, a student-run restaurant at UNT, will host two culinary greats for Guest Chef Day on April 3. Jean-Claude Plihon, executive chef at the Grand Hyatt DFW, and Kalani Guerrero, the chef de cuisine for the Grand Met at Grand Hyatt DFW, will work in tandem to prepare a special gourmet luncheon. Reservations are required and can be made online at [htm.unt.edu/content/club-reservation](http://htm.unt.edu/content/club-reservation) or by calling 940-565-4144.



**Spring Mixers:** Get out on the town with the UNT Alumni Association's spring mixers hosted by its regional chapters. Join Collin County alumni April 5 at Sixty Vines in Plano, Tarrant County alumni April 12 at HG Supply Co. in Fort Worth, and Denton County alumni April 26 at Marty B's in Bartonville. Visit [untalumni.com/springmixers](http://untalumni.com/springmixers) for more information.

**Flight Memorial:** At the annual Flight Memorial on April 11, UNT will remember students, faculty, staff and alumni who passed away the previous year. The memorial will begin at noon in the Library Mall.



**Debate Alumni Reunion:** Get ready for some awe-inspiring arguments as students and alumni battle it out at the third annual UNT Debate Alumni Reunion from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 20. The event, which includes a cocktail hour with heavy hors d'oeuvres, is free, family-friendly and open to the public. Be sure to RSVP by April 2. For more information, contact event coordinator Emma Carnes at 940-565-2048 or email [emma.carnes@unt.edu](mailto:emma.carnes@unt.edu).

**Engineering Spring Alumni Reception:** Reconnect with computer science and engineering faculty and fellow alumni at the College of Engineering's spring alumni reception and networking event set from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 21 at Maggiano's Little Italy in Plano. Dress is business casual. For more information or to RSVP, contact Lisa Martin at [lisa.martin@unt.edu](mailto:lisa.martin@unt.edu).



**Class Rings:** The official class ring presentation ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. May 1 at the UNT Library Mall. Visit [untalumni.com/unt-official-ring](http://untalumni.com/unt-official-ring).

**Eagle Business Network Breakfast:** The College of Business' next Eagle Business Network Breakfast will take place from 7 to 9 a.m. May 3 at Maggiano's Little Italy located in Dallas' NorthPark Center. For more information, visit [one.unt.edu/the-eagle-business-network](http://one.unt.edu/the-eagle-business-network).



**Coaches Caravan:** The Mean Green Club and the UNT Alumni Association are set to host the 2018 Coaches Caravan in May. Coaches and student-athletes will mingle with the crowd to personally meet attendees and discuss UNT and athletics. For more information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 940-565-2834.



## Food allergy advocate

During a routine grocery shopping trip, **Michelle Jernigan** ('91) never expected to see her 13-month-old son, Morgyn, in such a troubled state — eyes swollen shut, regurgitating the small portion of a cookie he had sampled. Unknown to Jernigan, Morgyn had life-threatening peanut and tree nut allergies.

"There was just a little voice in my head that said it wasn't a stomach bug," Jernigan says. "I called the store after a suggestion from our pediatrician, and they said there was peanut butter in the cookie."

Since that fateful day 16 years ago, Jernigan — who earned her bachelor's degree in elementary and special education — has made it her mission to further educate. In addition to her work as a reading and math tutor, she has volunteered her time for seven years as an attendee and chair of the Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) Food Allergy Heroes Walk of Dallas. The event raises money for food allergy education, research and advocacy.

"Food allergies can be isolating," Jernigan says. "Once we started attending the walk, Morgyn got to see other kids just like him."

She says the North Texas Sweethearts, a UNT philanthropy organization, contributed several volunteers to the walk the past few years. Her daughter, Maryssa, a human resources major, is a member.

"I grew up learning how to protect my brother from having a reaction," says Maryssa. "It's become second nature to help him and others."

Jernigan also is a member of the Dallas Community Engagement Council, where staff work with local volunteers and FARE Clinical Network sites to raise awareness of food allergies, which affect about one in 13 kids. In recent years, FARE has been instrumental in getting legislation passed to increase the availability of epinephrine auto-injectors, widely known as EpiPens, at K-12 schools.

"Be gentle with what you say or how you handle those with food allergies, just like any other disability," Jernigan says. "Compassion is key."

— *Alaetra Smith*

**Derrick White** ('96 M.F.A.), Tyler :: has served as art professor and art department chair at Tyler Junior College since 2001. He previously worked as gallery director of The Art Corridor at Tarrant County College Southeast in Arlington, taught at Eastfield College in Mesquite and was the membership manager of the Arlington Museum of Art. His paintings appear in regional and national exhibitions. His colleagues include **Paul Jones** ('03 M.F.A.) and **Chance Dunlop** ('14 M.F.A.). Other former or retired Tyler Junior College art professors include **Jake Allee** ('03 M.F.A.), **Barbara Holland** ('68) and **Charles Cavanaugh** ('68).

## 1998

**Margaret Combs** (M.F.A.), Oak Park, Ill. :: gave a TedX talk in Chicago titled "Building Generation Kindness," about how children can make a difference in the world. A Montessori teacher for 16 years, she has brought philanthropic endeavors into the classroom and taught children about giving. Projects include making toys for animals in shelters, cancer caps and homeless blessing bags.

## 1999

**Priscilla Staley**, Allen :: is director of marketing and communications at El Centro College, part of the Dallas County Community College. In her 15-year tenure, she has advanced from public information officer to director, and her role has evolved in areas from marketing to PR, crisis communications, branding,

community relations and advertising. "UNT holds a special place in my heart, and I truly believe that it was due to my professor, **Meta Carstarphen**, who made a huge difference," she says.

## 2000

**Mark Tonelli** (M.M.), Decatur, Ill. :: was selected as a Coleman Entrepreneurial Faculty Fellow for 2017-18 at Millikin University in Decatur, Ill., where he is assistant professor of music and coordinator of guitar studies. He will be working on a project at Millikin that helps students learn the intricacies of operating a live performance venue.

## 2003



**Jacqueline H. Abernathy** ('12 Ph.D.), Garland :: and her husband, Jacob Abernathy, welcomed their first child, Owen, in July. Owen attended the College of Health and Public Service alumni Homecoming brunch and met **Linda Holloway** ('78, '87 M. Ed.), former interim dean and professor of rehabilitation and health services. Jacqueline began her tenure-track position as an assistant professor of public administration at Tarleton State University in Fort Worth.

## 2005

**Nicholas McCoy, Plano ::** recently won the Ninkasi Award for the homebrewing beer, Draft Punk, which he created with his friend, the Rev. **Jeff Poirot**. They won first place in the Strong Belgian/Trappist Ale and Specialty IPA categories. Nicholas runs a printing company, FBS, in Dallas. Jeff is a Catholic priest who attended UNT in the 1990s, and is the son of **James Poirot**, Regents Professor of technology and cognition.

## 2006

**Zarina Blankerbaker (Ph.D.), The Colony ::** was inaugurated as president of the Tarrant County

College Northwest Campus in June. She has worked for more than 23 years in higher education, as a faculty member, financial counselor and administrator. She recently served as executive vice president of academic affairs and student success at Richland College in Dallas.

## 2007

**Shawn Edwards, Dallas ::** serves as tournament operations director of the \$125,000 RBC Tennis Championships of Dallas, which ran Jan. 28-Feb. 4. The event is one of the biggest indoor professional tennis tournaments in the country and celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. Shawn says his time and experiences at UNT, where he majored in jour-

nalism, helped lead him into the professional sports industry.

## 2008



★ **Brian Hale, Fort Worth ::** traveled to the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl with his father, Robert, and got to meet President Smatresk. His daughter, Landry Grace, then about six weeks old, wasn't able to attend, but her mommy had her all decked out

and cheering on the Mean Green from their home in Fort Worth.

**Preston Howell, Dallas ::** is vice president of 03Energy, which has been ranked as the 10th highest solar developer in the country and the No. 1 solar developer in Texas by *Solar Power World* magazine. The company recently completed the largest solar project in Denton County at Chase Bank and was featured in the *Texas Economic Development Guide*. The company was founded by **Bradley Stutzman ('05)**. He and Preston met each other as members of Sigma Nu fraternity. They began working together in 2012.



Denis Trapp

## Sliding into victory

The mission of **Kellie Delka ('11)** as an athlete in the sport of skeleton is to slide face-first on a tiny sled down an ice track for at least 1,000 meters. It's like going down a roller coaster with no brakes or seat belt. And it doesn't scare her at all.

"I get so fired up when I'm top of the track," she says. "I'm so ready to slide."

Having earned several high places in international competitions, Delka is determined to make the Olympic team in 2022. She has endured endless practices and is spurred by lifelong ambition to reach her goal.

"Since I was little, I've always been fascinated with the Olympics and sports," she says, noting that she participated in gymnastics as a young girl and once dressed up as track star Florence Griffith-Joyner for Halloween. As a kinesiology student at UNT, she participated in the pole vault and also was a UNT cheerleader.

Delka was intrigued when former Mean Green football and track star Johnny Quinn ('06) was working to make the Olympic bobsledding team, and Quinn gave her advice about what she needed to work on. In 2011, she went to a combine in Dallas hosted by the USA Bobsled and Skeleton Federation and was tested for strength and quickness in sprints, weightlifting, standing broad jump and a between-the-leg shot put toss. From there, she went to a push championship to compete and learn more about the sport, and she attended a driving school in 2011-12. While she didn't make the Team Trials for 2012-13, she didn't give up. Instead, she trained all season and performed so well at the next nationals that she made the Team Trials for 2013-14.

She participated in the North American Cup tour and has been competing in the Europe and Intercontinental Cup tours for the last four years. She was third overall in the European tour and in 2017 placed sixth and ninth during her two races at the European Cup. Not bad for someone who doesn't like cold temperatures.

"I don't really like winter," says Delka, who grew up in Collinsville. "But I absolutely love the sport. I'll weather as much as I can."

Since participation can cost up to \$10,000 a year, Delka has a GoFundMe page and seeks sponsors. Her parents built a dry push track in their backyard for her.

"It's definitely a long road, but it's totally worth it," she says. "You're only young once, so you live it up while you can."

— Jessica DeLeón

..... IN THE // News



**David Opegbemi** ('12) made it into Marvel's *Black Panther* movie as an extra after flying to Atlanta where thousands of hopefuls attended an open casting call. The aspiring actor with Nigerian roots, who earned an accounting degree from

UNT, plays a Jabari warrior in a scene with Lupita Nyong'o. He told WFAA-TV that "to just be on set and ... see how much work goes into one scene made me realize this is what I really want to do."

**Joseph Klein** revived his Music of Frank Zappa course this semester for the first time since 2015, catching the attention of the *Dallas Observer*. Klein, Distinguished Teaching Professor and chair of composition studies, began teaching the class in 2001. Open to all majors, it has been known to feature guests such as **Arthur Barrow** ('75), longtime Zappa bassist and collaborator, and covers Zappa's viewpoints and influences as well as his music. "Zappa was such a critical social and political commentator," Klein says. "The injustices and hardships he was commenting on are still, unfortunately, part of our society today." In April, Klein will be the guest lecturer for a performance of Zappa's *The Yellow Shark* by Orchestra 2001 in Philadelphia.

The *Dallas Observer* also tells "a Dallas tale of one taco stand's coming of age" and the story of its founder, **Mahbub Zaman** ('88), in a series examining the histories of beloved area eateries. Zaman, a finance and banking alum who traveled to Texas from Bangladesh, left the corporate world of Taco Bell and PepsiCo to open a taco stand with an umbrella, a portable grill and one thing on the menu — steak tacos. Eighteen years later, you can find his Tacos Y Mas restaurants in five Dallas-area locations and with a much-expanded menu. "I didn't like the office environment," he says, "so I started to explore."

2010

★ **John Paul Goode** (M.S.), Dallas :: has become a certified member of the United Kingdom's Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. He is a senior auditor with PWC in Dallas and is also a licensed CPA in Texas and Oklahoma.

2011



**Aaron Powell**, Denton :: was inspired by a trip to Copenhagen to launch a new line of Danish-style family cargo bikes from his company, Urban Tribe Cargo

Bicycles. The three-wheeled bicycles include a cargo box in front of the handlebars that allows parents to talk to their kids while riding and can fit up to four children. He received help from UNT's student-run Family Business and Entrepreneurship Club to reach more clients.

2015

**Adam Hasley**, Washington, D.C. :: is director of advocacy research and insights for the National Restaurant Association, where he uses data, research and technology to provide insight into how public policy can impact the restaurant industry. He previously worked as the chief operating officer for NextGen Language and Business Center, an international firm providing market analysis for Chinese companies looking to expand into U.S. markets. ●



*Alumni traveling to see the Mean Green in the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Dec. 16 included (back row) Chris Santa Ana ('94), Frank Bracken ('63), Jerry Pinkerton ('62), Jim Grandey ('67) and (front row) Judy Pinkerton ('62), Jennifer Santa Ana ('94), Diane Grandey ('68) and Janet Bracken ('14). All are members of the UNT Alumni Association.*

# FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

UNT's alumni, faculty, staff and students are the university's greatest legacy. When members of the Eagle family pass, they are remembered and their spirit lives on. Send information about deaths to *The North Texan* (see contact information on page 4).



Read more, write memorials and connect with friends at [northtexan.unt.edu](http://northtexan.unt.edu).

## 1940s

**Hazel M. Hadley ('41), Palmyra, Penn. ::** She worked as a mathematics teacher for various high schools and universities including the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Ohio State University. She also worked as a civilian instructor in mathematics for the U.S. Navy V-5 and V-12 programs. At North Texas, she was elected to Alpha Chi and Kappa Delta Pi.

**Virginia Bess Gabbert McCoy ('47), Horseshoe Bay ::** She taught elementary school for 40 years in Port Neches Groves ISD. She earned her master's degree in education from the University of Houston. After retiring, she volunteered at Seton Hospital, was active in her church and played bridge. At North Texas, she belonged to Alpha Delta Pi.

**J.E. Foust III, Grapevine ::** He attended North Texas in 1949 and owned and operated J.E. Foust &

Son Funeral Directors in Grapevine from 1950 until his retirement in 1995. He was a lifelong resident of Grapevine, where he was a community leader and gifted speaker. His father, the late J.E. Foust II, attended North Texas in 1915. His son, J.E. Foust IV, attended from 1976 to 1980 (see page 4).

## 1950s

**Mary Bruce Shilcutt ('50, '53 M.Ed.), North Richland Hills ::** She worked as a librarian for Big Spring and Lake Worth ISDs, Fort Worth Christian School, the U.S. Air Force base in Sherman, and Texas Electric Service Co., among others. She retired in 1992 after serving as the head librarian at Richland High School in North Richland Hills for 25 years.

**Billy Bob 'B.B.' Trotter ('50), Abilene ::** He completed medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He interned at Denver General Hospital and was a

resident at University of Texas Southwestern. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserve and was a physician in the U.S. Air Force. He worked for 38 years at Hendrick Medical Hospital in Abilene, and served for many years as chief pathologist and medical director. He was named an outstanding alumnus in biology at UNT in 2008.

**William Crawford ('52), Denton ::** He was a dentist from 1956 to 1989. He served on the Denton ISD school board for four terms, and was president for two years. A former member of the U.S. Navy, he was a licensed pilot, real estate broker and certified real estate appraiser. He was a member of the President's Council and the Alumni Association. He met his wife Gladys Hudgins

## Howard W. Smith



**Howard W. Smith, 88,** Professor Emeritus of education whose 36-year UNT career included serving as ad interim president and chancellor, died Dec. 29 in Denton. He first taught in a one-room school-

house in Newton County, Missouri, when he was just 19. After serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, he earned his bachelor's degree at Southwest Missouri State University, and master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Missouri. He taught at SMU before joining UNT in 1961.

He was nationally recognized for his work in the improvement of teacher education and higher education and made news in the 1960s with a micro-teaching laboratory, developed with colleague Louise Allen, to observe student teachers as they conducted class. He served as the College of Education's first associate dean and as acting and interim dean. He became associate vice president for academic affairs in 1976 and vice president in 1980, before serving as ad interim president and chancellor in 1981.

Throughout his UNT career, he mentored and advised more than 100 doctoral students and worked with many international students who became college presidents and high-ranking education officials. He also served as an educational consultant in countries including China, the former Soviet Union and Thailand. In 1994, he received a UNT Citation for Distinguished Service to International Education, one of his many honors.

When he retired in 1997, former students established the Howard W. Smith Jr. Education Scholarship Fund, to which he contributed through the years. He also was a member of the President's Council.

Crawford ('46, '49 M.S.) on campus. She taught for 50 years in the biology department, and he established The Gladys H. Crawford Biological Sciences Scholarship Endowment in 1998 for her retirement.

**Frank Christian** ('53, '57 M.Ed.), El Paso :: He worked in the insurance industry and as a teacher and coach. He served in the U.S. Marines for two years and the U.S. Air Force Reserves for 28 years. He enjoyed flying and kept up his license until his 70s. He also was an Eagle Scout. While at UNT, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn 'Lynn' Campbell ('53, '54).

**Ray Piner Jr.** ('53), Meridian :: He worked in the oil industry, rising from salesman to the corporate offices of Cosden Oil, later American Petrofina, during his career. Before starting his

career, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

**Louise 'Lollie' Silliman Reese** ('57), Dallas :: She was a teacher who loved spending time with her grandchildren and playing tennis. She was a Sigma Phi Epsilon sweetheart. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Reese ('56).

**Mickey Jones**, Simi Valley, Calif. :: He was a drummer, playing on Bob Dylan's *Live 1966* album, and an actor, best known for his role as Pete Bilker on *Home Improvement*. He also appeared in *Sling Blade*, *National Lampoon's Vacation*, *Justified* and *The Incredible Hulk*. He often played drug dealers and bikers for shows and commercials, and frequently appeared in the music scene, notably in the gatefold of the Eagles' *Hotel California* album and as a drummer for Kenny Rogers

and the First Edition. He was a freshman at North Texas in 1959 but left a few years later when his work as a drummer for Trini Lopez became a full-time gig. He was a member of Delta Sigma Pi.

### 1960s

**Dave Clark** ('60), Duncanville :: He was the first student from North Texas to compete in the Olympics, participating in the 1960 games in Rome. He was the first Texan ever to pole vault 15 feet, and later reached a record of 15 feet 3 inches. After his pole vaulting career, he worked in education for 30 years, teaching driver's education at Dallas ISD. He also was a volunteer coach, giving pole vaulting and swimming lessons in his backyard. While at North Texas, he was a two-time Missouri Valley Conference pole vault champion and two-time All-American. He was inducted into the UNT Athletic Hall of

Fame in 1988 and into the Texas Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2014.

**Donald Rudell Marth** ('62 M.S.), Monte Vista :: He worked as a doctor with a private practice in adolescent psychology in San Antonio and was an expert witness for Social Security disability hearings for 30 years. Before his practice, he served in the Texas National Guard Reserves and then worked at the State Hospital in Galveston. At North Texas, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He was a lifetime member of the UNT Alumni Association.

**Dennis Eugene Dietz** ('67), Stone Mountain, Ga. :: He spent most of his career working as a database analyst for major corporations, retiring in 2005 from Oracle Corp. He loved to travel and collected stamps from all over the world. He sang with the Gwinnett Choral Guild, BJ

### University Community



**Joel Brown**, ('03, '09 M.B.A.), 36, of Roanoke, communications

supervisor for the UNT Police Department, died Jan. 14. He was a 911 dispatcher for 16 years and received the Silent Hero award from the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications and the UNT Police Department Civilian Employee of the Year award for his work. Survivors include his wife, **Melinda 'Mindy' Wolf Brown** ('02), and three children ages 12, 10 and 7.



**Anshel Brusilow**, Professor Emeritus of music, violinist

and longtime conductor at UNT, died Jan. 15. He began playing the violin at age 5, became a student of world-famous violinist Efram Zimbalist at 11, and was accepted as a conducting student by renowned conductor Pierre Monteux at 16. He performed as a soloist with major U.S. orchestras and was associate concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra and concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra. In 1970, he

began conducting the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. In his first tenure at UNT from 1973 to 1981, he established the UNT Chamber Orchestra. He returned to UNT from 1989 to 2008 and, under his leadership, UNT orchestras performed at the Mozart Bicentennial at Lincoln Center, toured Spain and other countries, and performed in Monterrey, Mexico. The Anshel Brusilow Chair in Orchestral Studies was created in 2009 primarily to raise scholarship money for orchestral students.



**Edward Mattil**, 99, Professor Emeritus and former chair of the art

department, died Dec. 19. He began his career as an art teacher in public schools in Maryland and Pennsylvania after earning bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Penn State and serving in the U.S. Army. He then taught at Penn State, where he served as president of the National Art Education Association and helped develop one of the first children's TV art programs. He served as dean of fine arts at



Chorale and Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church choir.

**Ken Flory** ('67), Longview :: He was a doctor at Christus Good Shepard Medical Center. He practiced internal medicine.

**Terry Hamilton** ('68), North Richland Hills :: After a stint in Alvarado ISD, he spent 33 years teaching history and driver's education in Birdville ISD. He was named BISD Secondary Teacher of the Year for 1996-97. After retiring in 2001, he worked as a historical interpreter at Log Cabin Village in Fort Worth. He and his wife of 50 years, Lynda Navratil ('67), met at North Texas.

**Alan Hayden Bush** ('69), Aledo :: He began his career as an accountant with Price Waterhouse in Fort Worth. He then became CEO of ICo Inc., an oilfield service company in Odessa he turned into a publicly traded

company. In 2003, he and his friends purchased a struggling taco stand called Fuzzy's and turned it into a chain with 100 stores across the nation.

**Bill Ledbetter** ('69 M.S., '72 Ph.D.), Gainesville :: He taught at Cooke County College beginning in 1970 and then practiced law before returning to the college in 2001. At UNT, he was a member of the President's Council and the 1890 Society for his commitments to the Ledbetter Family Endowment, a scholarship for history students. The fund was established by Bill and his wife, Pat ('70 M.A., '75 Ph.D.), in memory of their daughter, Shay, a UNT graduate student killed by a drunk driver. Bill was a life member of the Alumni Association and served on the advisory board of the history department, which named him Alumnus of the Year in 1997.

## 1970s

**Mamie McKnight** ('70 Ph.D.), Dallas :: She worked as an educator throughout Texas and was known as the "historian of black Dallas." In 1983, she founded Black Dallas Remembered. She also preserved Freedman's Cemetery. She was one of the first black faculty members at Southern Methodist University and was an assistant professor and chair of communications, mathematics and developmental studies at El Centro College. She later was a community development consultant at Dallas County Community College District.

**William Wallace Ritchie** ('75, '76 M.A.), Austin :: He attended Southern Methodist University at age 16 on a baseball scholarship before serving in the U.S. Air Force, where he was trained in computer technology.

He then came to North Texas and later did graduate work at Duke University. He worked in information systems.

**Jerry Jack Roberts** ('76, '77 M. Ed., '80 Ph.D.), Campbell :: He taught industrial arts education at North Texas while working on his doctorate and spent much of his career at what is now Texas A&M University-Commerce. He served as a missile mechanic in the U.S. Air Force from 1960 to 1965. An accomplished woodworker, he built his own home in Campbell, employing many of his students.

## 2010s

**Amanda Clairmont**, Sandwich, Ill. :: She was a senior majoring in business with an interest in religious studies.

**Prithvi Sankar**, Irving :: He was a sophomore studying business. ●

St. Cloud State University before coming to North Texas, where he taught from 1971 to 1985. As the art department chair, he helped bring the collections of the Dallas Museum of Fashion to campus as the Texas Fashion Collection in 1972, and later established the Industrial Training Laboratory, where he served as director. He was a member of the President's Council and the 1890 Society for his commitments to The Edward and Betty Mattil Scholarship and the Betty Marzan Mattil Scholarship.



**Jim Sybert** ('55, '56 M.A.), Professor Emeritus of physics, died

Dec. 15 in Naples, Fla. He taught at UNT from 1956 to 1958 and from 1961 until his retirement in 2004. He served as physics department chair from 1969 to 1980 and helped establish the physics Ph.D. program. His research interests, in addition to solid-state physics, included media techniques in the teaching of science, and his work was funded by the Department of Defense and National Science Foundation. He

also was a visiting professor at the Instituto Politecnico Nacional in Mexico, Institute Teknologi MARA in Malaysia and several other colleges. Survivors include his daughter **Julia Sybert** ('92, '94 M.B.A.) and son-in-law, mathematics professor and past vice president for advancement **Michael Monticino**. Donations may be made to the Jim Sybert Memorial Fund.

## Memorials

**Send memorials to honor UNT alumni and friends**, made payable to the UNT Foundation, to University of North Texas, Division of Advancement, 1155 Union Circle #311250, Denton, Texas 76203-5017. Indicate on your check the fund or area you wish to support. Or make secure gifts online at **one.unt.edu**. For more information, email [giving@unt.edu](mailto:giving@unt.edu) or call 940-565-2900.

## TO CHILE AND BACK

By Shan Gao ('12 Ph.D.)

Despite the fact that Chinese philosophy encompasses a spirit of what is called “harmony between nature and human beings,” wilderness has long been considered negatively in Chinese culture — an uncultivated place full of wild grass and of little value.

But when I began work on my doctoral degree in philosophy at UNT after graduating from Beijing Normal University, one trip left me with an altogether new viewpoint on wilderness.

In December 2007, I participated in a course on field environmental philosophy, also known as Tracing Darwin’s Path. This was based in Punta Arenas, in the UNESCO Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve in southern Chile. It is an interdisciplinary study offered by the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program at UNT in partnership with the University of Magallanes and the Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity in Chile.

This was the first time in my life I encountered pristine wilderness. I hiked about eight hours a day with biology professor James Kennedy and a group of students from different disciplines and camped at night.

Despite my never having taken a biology class, this course had a lasting influence on me. I was totally conquered by the beauty of wilderness: the vastness, the tranquility, the diversity of life in the plants and animals, and the importance of conserving them.

Environmental aesthetics is a research area of my major advisor, Professor



Eugene Hargrove. Before I went to Chile, I wrote an essay criticizing his view that the beauty of nature is the foundation for environmental ethics. I wrote: “For me, bread should be listed No. 1. It is difficult for people to appreciate the beauty of nature if their basic needs are not satisfied.” However, my trip to Chile changed my view, and the title of my dissertation became: “Environmental Aesthetics as the Foundation of Environmental Ethics: China and the West.”

While writing my dissertation, I spent the weekends visiting wilderness areas around Texas and organized a Friends of Nature Club. Before experiencing it firsthand, I had learned about environmental philosophers and conservationists such as Aldo Leopold, John Muir and Holmes Rolston. At that time, it was very difficult for me to understand why they loved wilderness so much. But after two years of personal exploration and appreciation with a group of my friends, I gained a deeper understanding of their theories and their passions.

In 2014, I was offered an associate professor position in the philosophy department of Soochow University in southeast China. My passion for wilderness drives my research and

teaching on environmental philosophy. I am working on a book, *Chinese Philosophy Goes Into Wilderness*, in which I argue that China’s effort to establish national parks is an important part of its strategy to implement “ecological civilization.”

Promisingly, many academic societies and journals have started to focus on this topic. Each month, I invite professors or environmental conservationists to give talks through an online platform called International Forum on Environmental Humanities. Its mission is to foster academic communication and cooperation between China and the West and to support public participation in the conservation of wilderness areas.

I would like to thank Professor Ricardo Rozzi, the initiator of the Tracing Darwin’s Path course, for having given me that unique opportunity.

**Editor’s note:** This article is an edited version of one that originally appeared on chinadialogue.net. The Chilean government has awarded the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program \$20 million for a new center to promote sustainable development in the Cape Horn area. ●



MARIA KONONOVA  
JUNIOR INTEGRATIVE STUDIES MAJOR

# MEAN GREEN GRIT

Dedication to training and excelling in the classroom has made Maria Kononova an ace on and off the court. After leaving Russia to attend UNT and pursue her passion for tennis, she achieved an elite national ranking and holds many program records including most wins in a single season.

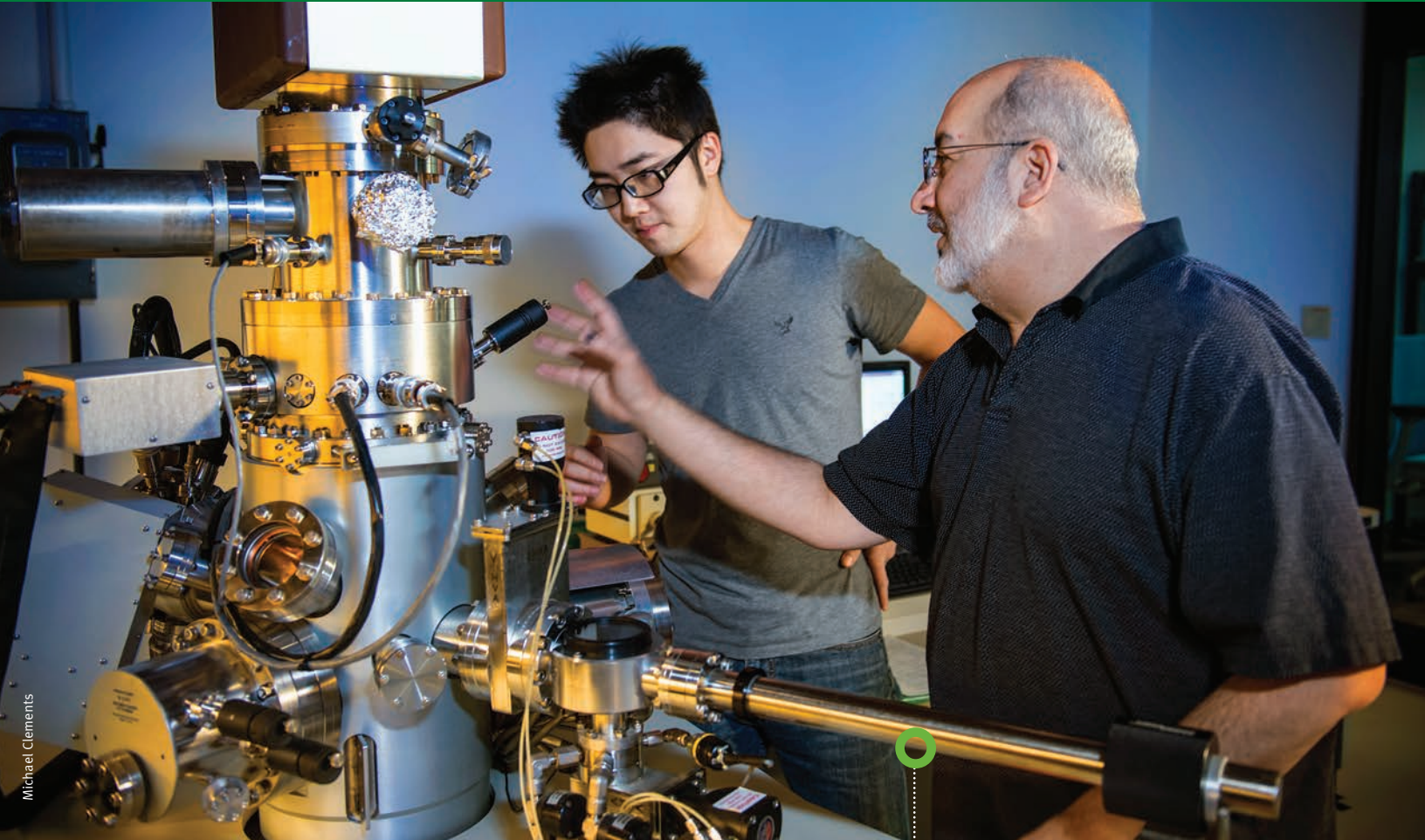
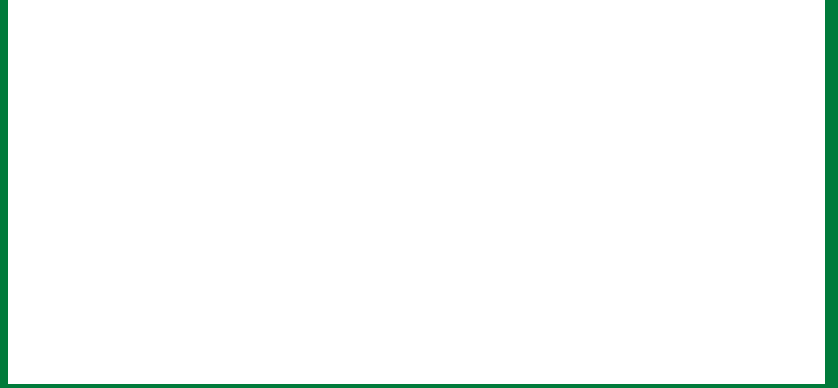
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Michael Clements

## PARTING SHOT

Among UNT's top-notch research labs and spaces is the Materials Research Facility, which plays host to cutting-edge discoveries made by student and faculty researchers. The facility supports research in multidimensional fabrication and characterization with its more than two dozen sophisticated machines that allow for the analysis of materials from the micro to atomic level. And it's not just UNT researchers who reap the benefits of the facility's instruments — MRF also collaborates with other universities and industry partners.

