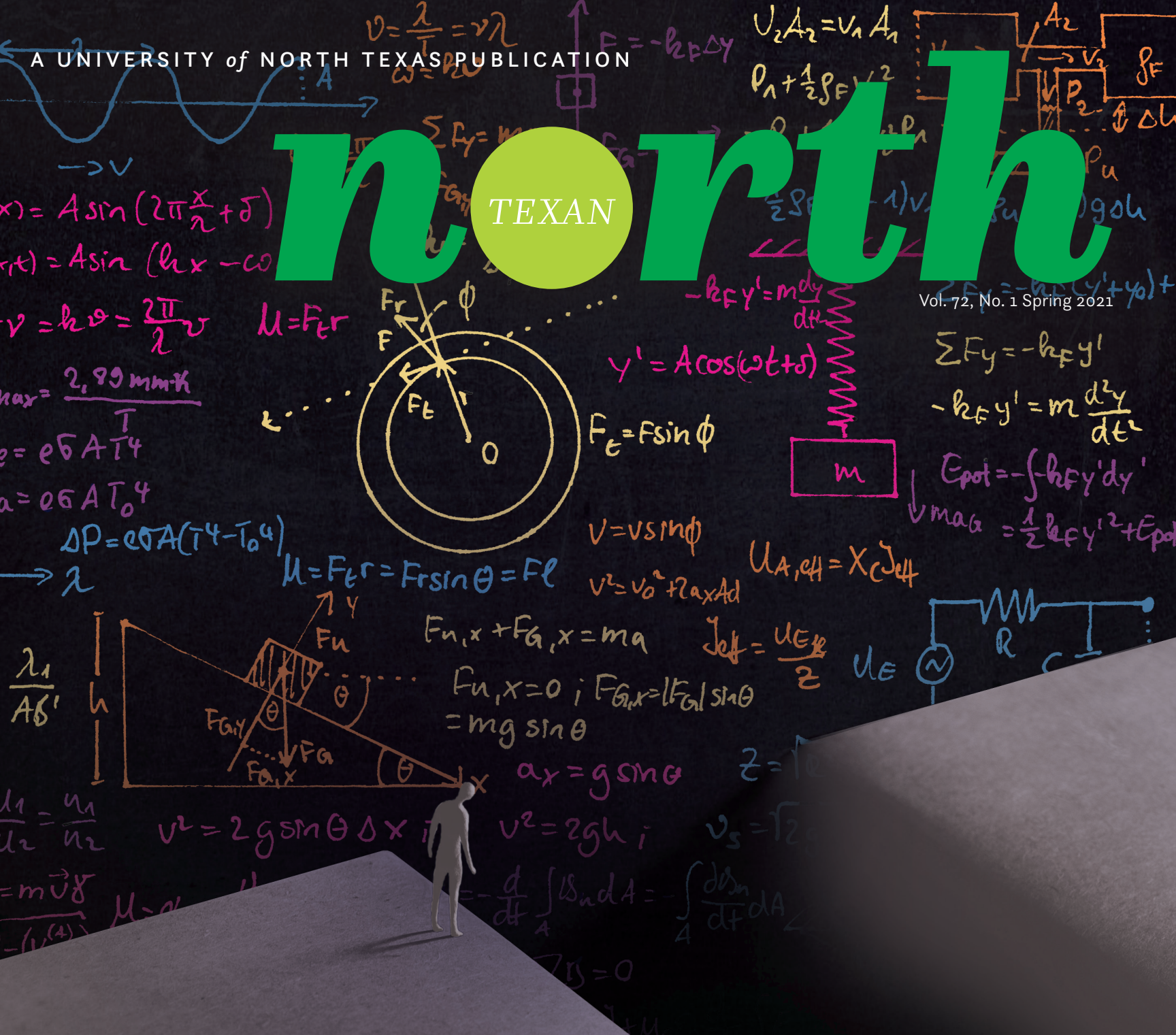


north

TEXAN

Vol. 72, No. 1 Spring 2021



Bridging the Gap

EDUCATORS FORGE CREATIVE APPROACHES TO COMBAT THE CHALLENGES CREATED BY COVID-19.



A large green sculpture of a hand holding a wooden stump, set in a snowy landscape. The sculpture is the central focus, with the hand painted in a vibrant green and the stump in a dark brown. The background is a bright, snowy field with a blurred orange building in the distance. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

COLD CALLING

Scrappy wasn't the only one braving the freezing conditions when a winter storm blew through in mid-February. Staff from Housing and Residence Life, Dining and Facilities worked tirelessly to ensure students living on campus had access to food and that dorms remained as warm as possible. "Our hard-working emergency crews did an amazing job keeping our residential students safe and our campus operational," UNT President Neal Smatresk says.

— *Photography by Ahna Hubnik*

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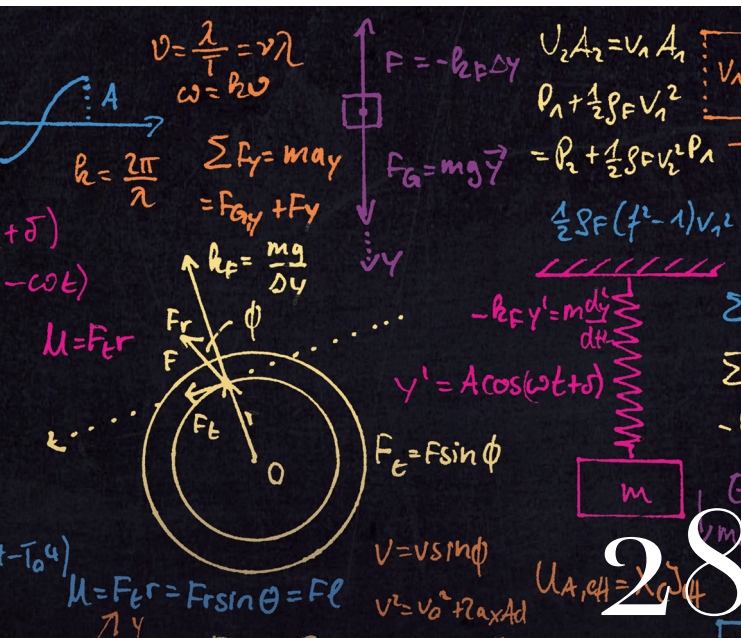
Bridging the Gap

The past 12 months have been a trying time for educators and administrators, who have been tasked with everything from providing equitable access to technology to reopening campuses safely to ensuring that students don't fall irreparably behind. A year after COVID-19 first altered the traditional educational landscape, they reflect on the lessons they've learned, the problems they've solved — and the implications for pedagogy moving forward.



Living 'Soul'

Mike Jones pursued his love of movies as a student at UNT. That commitment to his cinematic dreams has paid off big, as he's now the co-writer of Pixar's new animated film *Soul*.



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Advancing Intelligent Mobility

From autonomous vehicles to aerial drone technology, UNT researchers are working to improve intelligent mobility systems in both urban and rural settings.



Close to Home

Xavier Henderson's ('14) unwavering commitment to improving the lives of residents in his South Oak Cliff neighborhood has landed the communication studies alum on *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 Social Impact list.

ONLINE

AMERICAN DREAM

Jermaine Stegall ('03 M.M.) saw *Coming to America* as a kid. He composed the music for its sequel *Coming 2 America*, fulfilling his longtime goal to write for film.

JOURNEY TOWARD HYPNOSIS

Nicole Hernandez ('02, '04 M.J.) is the first hypnotist to partner with Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts as an appointed Resident Healer at the brand's downtown New York property.

SURVIVORS' ADVOCATE

Sarah Burns ('04) uses her personal experience as a sexual abuse victim to inform her role as chief marketing officer at the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, which seeks to improve the lives of abused children.

northtexan.unt.edu/online

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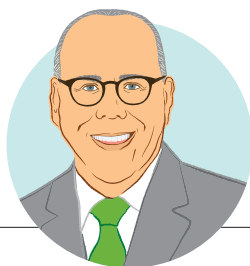
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[[FROM OUR PRESIDENT]]



SOCIAL MOBILITY ELEVATOR

Providing Access and Affordability for Students

For 130 years, UNT has been a social mobility elevator for students from all walks of life, helping them to push creative boundaries and transform the world. We know students have a choice when selecting a college, and we want to continue being a springboard for difference makers like Xavier Henderson ('14), who recently landed on *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 Social Impact list for his work in the Oak Cliff community (page 48).

To continue inspiring future graduates like Xavier, UNT establishes programs and services for our ever-changing student body. This spring, we opened the First Generation Success Center (page 9) to support the 33% of our student body who self-identify as a first-generation student — the first in their family to attend a four-year university. We also are focused on increasing access and improving affordability for all students by decreasing textbook costs, addressing housing and food insecurity, and redistributing scholarship funds to students who may have traditionally been overlooked. We were ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as a top 10 destination for transfer students, and overhauled our Transfer Excellence Scholarships (page 10) to better serve this growing student population.

As a new landscape for education emerges, our alumni are leading change for many K-12 public schools (page 28). As higher education, too, transforms we will be nimble and innovative in addressing the challenges our students face, while continuing to deliver a Tier One education. This decade's challenges will require creative ingenuity and the ability to think outside the box. I know our UNT community is resilient and equipped to rise to the challenge, much like Judge Emily Miskel ('99 TAMS) has done (page 44).

When our alumni, students, faculty and staff work together, our strengths shine, and we fulfill our mission of empowering students to thrive in our rapidly changing world.

UNT proud,

Neal Smatresk

President

president@unt.edu

@UNTPrez

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North Texan

North Texan magazine (ISSN 0468-6659) is published two times a year by the University of North Texas, 1155 Union Circle #311070, Denton, Texas 76203-5017, for distribution to alumni and friends of the university. The diverse views on matters of public interest presented in the *North Texan* do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the university. Publications staff can be reached at northtexan@unt.edu or 940-565-2108.

Postmaster: Please send requests for changes of address, accompanied if possible by old address labels, to the University of North Texas, University Brand Strategy and Communications, 1155 Union Circle #311070, Denton, Texas 76203-5017.

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Harold ('48) and Tina ('45, '54 M.Ed.) Larimer are pictured in 1947.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Reading through UNT's 130 years story in the Fall issue reminded me of my deep family educational connections to UNT. My grandfather, W.A. Larimer, was head of the business department from the 1920s to the 1940s. My mother, Tina ('45, '54 M.Ed.), and father, Harold ('48), earned degrees in physical education and physics, respectively.

I have attended UNT athletic events from the time I was a young teenager and as a physical education major. I participated in the spring football game in 1987, when the varsity played against the alumni, and my wife, Angie, and I have attended athletic events since 1988.

Gregg Larimer ('78, '86 M.S.)
Carrollton

FOND MEMORIES

As a graduate from the G. Brint Ryan College of Business, it was good to

read about the latest at UNT in the last issue. I have many fond memories of my years beginning in the fall of 1956. I recall the low tuition, living in the dorm my first year and working part-time at the Hopkins (Hop) house, which was across the street from Terrill Hall, waiting on tables for 50 cents an hour. No car, I walked to class as many others did.

Several professors were a big help to me, such as Dr. Clete Littlefield, who was my faculty advisor and head of the management department, and Dr. Horace Brock, who was head of the accounting department at the time. Wonderful mentors.

I recall that special day in the spring of 1960 — graduation day. My parents, who made so many sacrifices for me, were proud of me for hanging in there and earning my degree. What a wonderful moment that will always be.

James F. (Jim) McDonald
Duncanville ('60)

SOUND INVESTMENT

I read the article "What class had the most impact on you?" in the Fall issue. For me, now a retired CPA, that's a very easy question — Dr. George Christy and his investments class. In class one day, he asked, "What investment has historically kept up with inflation?" (Inflation was super high in the '70s.) Common stocks was his answer.

"What!" I thought to myself. My family had always told me the stock market was gambling, a surefire guarantee to lose money." (My elders lived through the Great Depression.)

In 1971, I was two years out of Vietnam, and two years was how long it took the Veterans Administration to finally catch up my monthly disability checks. For the first time in my life, I had close to a thousand dollars.

I never missed one of Dr. George Christy's classes. And I paid close attention. Later in the semester, I opened a brokerage account and bought some common stocks. Years later, the *North Texan* did a two-page article on Dr. Christy. I replied with a letter, stating how Dr. Christy had educated me. My letter was printed and Dr. Christy reached out to me. After that, we got together two to three times each year and talked about a lot of things, but always investments and the economy. We became good friends and remained so until his passing in 2005. I never really knew my father. But I knew Dr. George Christy, and I am blessed for that in more ways than one.

Philip Watson ('74)
Dallas

TELL US ABOUT

GOOD NEWS

My wife, Lori Kindler, and I met late one night in 1993 in the old choir room of the Music Building. I'd reserved the room for a jazz small group rehearsal, and she was using the piano in the room to practice singing. I barged in, scaring the bejeezus out of her. She promptly left, but I was very interested to find out who she was. I asked around and a friend in common helped make introductions. We started dating soon thereafter.

I've spent my career as a computer programmer, mostly working in bioinformatics and research computing. In 2019, I completed my M.S. in biosystems engineering at the University of Arizona, and I have now published two books called *Tiny Python Projects* (Manning Publications) and *Mastering Python for Bio-informatics* (O'Reilly).

Lori graduated with a bachelor's degree in vocal performance in 1996. We wed soon after, and then she completed her Master of Music at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Lori has become a successful independent grant writer and sang in the Tucson Symphony Orchestra's chorus, but the TSO has entirely canceled its season due to COVID.

We both miss having the opportunity to continue performing music, but we'll have to wait for times to change. This year we celebrate 25 years of marriage and have three children ages 13, 15 and 17. I wanted to share that two people who found each other as undergrads at UNT have managed to stick together and make a good life.

Ken Youens-Clark ('95)
Tucson, Arizona

We asked our UNT community "What are your favorite Mean Green sports memories?" Here's what some said.



@FScottFitz

2001 — Mean Green vs MTSU. We tore down the goal post after the win and marched to Fry Street! Our first bowl game in forever.

@TaeLynJacobs *NTSU men's basketball in Blakeley years. Attended many games in the Super Pit. Started in my high school years. Continued as NTSU student. Anyone else remember the O'Jays song "For the Love of Money" being played during the games?*

@craigsirois *Personal memory is being part of the 2006 UNT men's lacrosse team that was down by 8 goals at halftime against SMU. We came back and won the game to send UNT to the playoffs for the first time in team history!*

@JacobFlores11 *Traveling to Fayetteville with @Psmitty115 @ryanbotts2 @robertbotts to see us take down Arkansas and then paint Dickson St. GREEN. #Peterpan #GoMeanGreen*



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1.



2.



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1. @harlet leia

storm

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I love repping my Pawrents
alma mater!

#Shihpoo #PetsofInstagram

#Cuteness #UNT

#GoMeanGreen #Love

2. @makailasantos

Ah yes, The University of
North Texas

3. @gabriel sigala

Go Mean Green baby

#UNT

4. @erinlikesfood

Freshman Class of 2037

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75%

**of Students Receive
Scholarships and
Financial Aid**

BG

BRILLIANTLY GREEN

UNT's newly created First Generation Success Center will be the first line of support for inquiries from students (like Ramon Williams and Diana Zavala, pictured) whose parents did not earn a four-year degree. In partnership with departments across campus, the center will host programs and workshops that address areas such as financial literacy and aid, career exploration and leadership development.





SCHOLARSHIPS

INCREASED FUNDS FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

UNT is a top 10 destination for transfer students, according to *U.S. News & World Report* — and the university has unveiled new ways to help those students. Undergraduate students transferring to UNT for the first time from a community college or another university now will be considered for enhanced scholarship opportunities.

UNT's Transfer Excellence Scholarships, a merit-based scholarship program, recognizes transfer students with a proven track record of academic success. UNT has increased the value of the scholarships, which now range from \$1,500 to \$4,000 per year based on the student's GPA. The awards began this spring and will be offered for spring and fall semesters.

The university is the school of choice for many transfer students living in the North Texas region and across Texas. This fall, UNT welcomed more than 3,800 new undergraduate transfer students. UNT is the only Texas public university named to the Phi Theta Kappa Excellence in Community College Transfer Honor Roll for five consecutive years and is a top-three transfer destination in the state.

Program Rankings

The UNT College of Education's online master's programs are among the nation's top 10, according to new rankings released by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The university ranked No. 10 in the nation and No. 2 in Texas on this year's list of Best Online Master's in Education Programs. Individual education program rankings included No. 13 for UNT's online master's in curriculum and instruction and No. 15 for its online master's in special education. Those programs ranked second and third, respectively, in Texas.

The online master's degree in criminal justice (No. 26) and online bachelor's programs (No. 53) also rose in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2021 Best Online Programs. UNT's online M.B.A. program landed at No. 51 nationally, and the university debuted on the list of Best Online M.B.A. Programs for Veterans at No. 30. In Texas, UNT was first on the list of Best Online M.B.A. Programs for Veterans, ranked third for its online bachelor's programs and fourth for its online M.B.A and online master's degree in criminal justice.



66 THIS AWARD IS A TESTAMENT TO UNT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE AND OUR POTENTIAL TOWARD BECOMING A MORE EQUITABLE, DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE CAMPUS COMMUNITY." — *Joanne Woodard, vice president for Institutional Equity and Diversity, on UNT once again receiving the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.*

Partnership

UNT, Frisco ISD Offer New Opportunities

UNT and Frisco ISD are teaming up to offer students a head start on a college degree.

As sophomores, Frisco ISD students who meet the requirements can apply for half-day dual credit classes at a discounted tuition rate starting their junior year. The students earn credit that applies to both their high school diploma and bachelor's degree and is transferable to most Texas colleges and universities.

The program, called North Texas NOW!, is the first collaboration between the

university and Frisco ISD as UNT prepares to open a new Frisco campus in 2023.

"Our collaboration with Frisco ISD offers juniors who are academically ready for university-level classes the opportunity to accelerate their higher education experience without missing out on high school experiences," says Jennifer Cowley, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

New Program

Expanded Access

UNT is expanding its offerings for young adults with intellectual disabilities with a new, four-year inclusive postsecondary

education program debuting in Fall 2021.

The state of Texas has the second-highest population of individuals with disabilities in the U.S. North Texas K-12 public and charter schools serve nearly 23% of the state's students with a primary diagnosis of ID, yet there is no current postsecondary program in the region to serve these students once they age out of the public-school system.

UNT ELEVAR, which stands for Empower, Learn, Excel, enVision, Advance and Rise, will give young adults with intellectual disabilities the educational training to pursue a meaningful career and skills to lead an independent life. It also will create a transition pathway by partnering with local districts to mentor and support high school students with ID. Seed funding for the program comes from a nearly \$2 million U.S. Department of Education grant.

IN THE MEDIA

KRLD covered part two of UNT President Neal Smatresk's State of the University address in February. Watch the address at northtexan.unt.edu/online and learn about UNT's achievements in the *President's Annual Report* at president.unt.edu/2020-presidents-annual-report.

UNT PROFESSORS were featured experts in more than 160 pre- and post-election news stories. Among them were political science professors Valerie Martinez-Ebers, cited in *Texas Monthly*; Kimi King, featured in MSN National News Network; and Matthew Soha-Eshbaugh, quoted by the *Dallas Observer*.

OUR VERY OWN LUCKY became a national superstar after affiliates across the country aired a WFAA piece about the elusive squirrel.

THE ATLANTA VOICE highlighted UNT as one of 17 universities to receive funds from NBCUniversal News Group for a new multiplatform journalism training and development program.

CHRISTOPHER LONG, assistant professor in UNT's Department of Teacher Education and Administration, shared his research about teaching during the pandemic with the *Dallas Observer*.



STAR STUDENT



IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AGE IS ONLY A NUMBER

Ian Taylor-Schlitz is a senior integrative studies major. He's also only 15 years old.

Taylor-Schlitz began college at the age of 12, taking courses at Tarrant County College before transferring to UNT to finish out his undergraduate degree.

"Originally, I thought it would be scary because I didn't know if other students would accept me or not," he says. "But, as I took more classes, I realized people there didn't care how old I was — they treated me like any other student. It was the opposite of what I was expecting."

Outside of the classroom, Taylor-Schlitz also is the creator and CEO of Kidlamity Gaming, a company he launched in 2018 that hosts video game tournaments for children ages 8 to 17.

"I used to attend the big esports tournaments, and I was the only kid there," he says. "I realized I must not be the only kid who wanted to come to tournaments like these. So I created a safe place for kids to get together and play games they want to play."

Kidlamity doesn't have its own space just yet, so in order to host tournaments, Taylor-Schlitz (pictured standing) partners with local businesses in the Keller area, providing them a spot to gather while also giving their partners free publicity.

"Currently we're mobile because we didn't want to buy a building if the idea didn't work," he says. "We wanted to gain a following first. We went to restaurants and set up there because

we wanted to see if people were interested. Once our following is big enough, that's when we can talk about hosting a building."

From *Super Smash Bros.* to *Fortnite*, Kidlamity can host a variety of tournaments, along with birthday parties and other social events.

For Taylor-Schlitz, running Kidlamity hasn't been too stressful — he says he's actually learning a lot from it.

"For me it's exciting because I get to control everything in the business," he says. "It's made me more responsible and really helped me manage my time."

Prior to COVID-19, Kidlamity was doing well, enjoying a stable partnership with Comic Warriors, a comic bookstore in Keller.

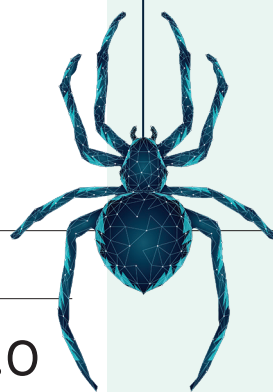
"We grew phenomenally," he says. "My dad created a website, and we pitched our ideas to multiple businesses in the area. As we progressed, we started developing our social media as well."

Kidlamity is currently halting operations during the pandemic to prevent spreading the virus. Taylor-Schlitz is continuing his coursework at home as a student in the Honors College and is set to graduate this May. He's been accepted into the M.B.A. program at UT Dallas, and hopes to continue growing his business.

"My dream for Kidlamity is to become one of the huge video tournament hosts," he says.

— Ta'Corian Tilley

Learn more about Taylor-Schlitz's business, Kidlamity Gaming. kidlamitygaming.com



Q&A

Getting to Know Spidey 2.0



He might just be the perfect superhero for our current times: A masked crusader whose web slinging has a way of keeping bystanders 6 feet at bay. But UNT Spider-Man's origins far predate the pandemic — it was back in 2014 that the original New York-bred incarnation swung onto the radar. And while his graduation in 2018 left a Peter Parker-sized hole in Mean Green hearts, a worthy (and equally anonymous) successor has stepped up to assume the mantle.


Q: How did you become the second UNT Spider-Man?

A: When I was a senior in high school and I had just gotten my acceptance letter for UNT, I was super excited, and I looked up stuff about the university on Twitter and Reddit. I saw that UNT actually had a Spider-

Man, and me as a cosplayer kind of nerdy kid, I was like, 'Oh my god, that's so cool.' And then I found out he was graduating the year that I was coming in. So I was like, wait — it can't die.

Q: How do people react when they just randomly see you around campus in costume?

A: I would ride the campus buses in the suit and the bus drivers loved it. There were other people who would make a face and just be kind of rude about it. But I like having fun with it. People will take a picture and tell me, 'You made my day.' And that to me is really what it's all about.

 **Want to learn more about UNT heroes? Check out Episode 21 of UNT Pod. anchor.fm/unt-pod**

Green Goals

The UNT Police Department is moving toward a green fleet with the introduction of six new hybrid police vehicles, ordered in 2019. The police department estimates they will save more than \$3,000 per vehicle annually and eliminate an estimated 19,539 pounds of CO₂ per year. "UNT has a clearly established mission with 'green' philosophies and groups like the We Mean Green Fund," says UNT Police Capt. Jeremy Polk. "We knew we could help in that area by moving to hybrid patrol vehicles once they became available."



Faculty Honor

Joseph Oppong, academic associate vice provost and academic associate dean of the Toulouse Graduate School and professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment, was recently awarded the 2021 American Association of Geographers Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors. The award recognizes Oppong's service and commitment to the discipline of geography and geographers in the United States and abroad.

UP FIRST

▶▶ UNT WAS NAMED ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN TEXAS BY *LENDEDU.COM*. AND GOOD NEWS: THERE WILL BE EVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY OUR LOVELY CAMPUS WHEN IN-PERSON EVENTS AND CLASSES RESUME FOR UNT'S FULL REOPENING IN FALL 2021.



1891 Photo Added to UNT Archive

UNT's Special Collections has deepened its **University Archive** with a new photo portraying some of the university's earliest students. Donated by Marilyn Showalter, the granddaughter of UNT alum John Virgil McReynolds (pictured first row, third from left), the card-mounted photo features 15 men posed in front of a photographer's backdrop. It is dated 1891, just a year after the university's founding. It's now the oldest photograph available in the University Archive and one of the first known photos to include any of the 28 members of the Muscogee Creek Nation who were students in 1890-91.

PARTNERSHIPS

GLOBAL VENTURE

UNT sport and entertainment management team adds sports innovation hub to growing list of collaborators.

The UNT sport entertainment management program is collaborating with Stadia Ventures, a global sports innovation hub for entrepreneurs, industry partners and investors headquartered in St. Louis. Together, Stadia and UNT will cohost an exclusive summer event where students can showcase their creativity and business knowledge by developing a startup pitch with the added advantage of a coaching assist from Stadia executives acting as mentors. As part of the collaboration, students also will work with Stadia to conduct research and collect data relating to emerging global sports technology and innovation. Stadia will support educational programs alongside the UNT sport entertainment management curriculum, and offer unique internship opportunities for UNT students across Stadia events and cohorts.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



UNT alums demonstrated their unwavering commitment to caring for others by helping their fellow Texans during the state's extreme winter weather in February.

Jim McIngvale (pictured) — better known as “Mattress Mack” — opened up his Houston-based Gallery Furniture locations to house those without electricity. **Randi Skinner ('08)**, co-founder of Denton Grassroots Water Crew, worked with other local volunteers, including

Keely Gilchrist Briggs ('99) and **Keri Caruthers ('94)**, to help distribute necessities. **Seth Morgan ('93)**, owner of Denton County Brewing Company, filled containers for visitors from his brewery's 700-gallon tank of filtered, distilled water and handed out cases of free water to the community. **Ben Esely ('08)**, owner of Bearded Monk, along with alums **John Williams ('05)** and **George Ferrie ('20)** helped distribute water in collaboration with Fisher 59 and the volunteer disaster recovery nonprofit The Cajun Army, and donated to nonprofits such as Our Daily Bread, Monsignor King Outreach Center, Good Samaritan Society, Denton County Friends of the Family and Rivera Elementary School.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY

Social Worker of the Year



Hadidja Nyiransekuye, an assistant professor of social work in UNT's College of Health and Public Service,

has won the prestigious Social Worker of the Year Award from the National Association of Social Workers that honors a member of the organization that exemplifies top-tier values and achievements.

Nyiransekuye, a former asylee from Rwanda and a survivor of genocide along with her four children, specializes in policy advocacy focusing on the refugee crisis that affects communities across the globe.

"I know what it feels like to not have a home," she says. "There are people who have helped me and opened their homes to me, and for that I am grateful. I owe it to humanity to do what I can to help others."

Nyiransekuye's research demonstrates the problems faced by refugees that are global issues, including acts of violence and loss of freedom. Her work also emphasizes the resiliency of ref-

"I KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO NOT HAVE A HOME ... I OWE IT TO HUMANITY TO DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP OTHERS."

ugees and their contributions to their adopted country of final resettlement.

"If we don't address these human rights violations, they will only continue," she says. "Ninety percent of these refugees have suffered from trauma and need the opportunity to heal and rebuild."

Nyiransekuye moved to Texas to work with refugees directly and provides her students at UNT a unique learning opportunity to acquire real-world experience in the field of social work, such as working hands-on with applicable cases within their interest.

"I continue to hear from my former students about how this work has impacted their lives," she says. "I learn as much from them as they do from me, and I am honored and humbled to have received this award."

In her next project, Nyiransekuye will work with survivors of genocide to document their experiences and produce a repository of their survival stories. She says that when trauma survivors are provided the opportunity to share their stories, it is a way for them to reconcile their experiences and begin to heal.

Food Donation

Thanks to a generous donation from the Dallas Indian Lions Club, of which UNT System Regent A.K. Mago is a charter member, UNT international students were able to get much needed groceries during a food distribution event on the UNT campus in March. Lions Club International is a service organization with a mission to serve the community through more than 46,000 local clubs in more than 200 countries. The Dallas chapter was founded in 1985 and takes to heart its motto of "We serve" through its prolific work supporting local charities and schools throughout Dallas-Fort Worth.

Art Achievement



The light sculpture "This Present Moment" — created by Alicia Eggert, an associate professor and coordinator for the sculpture program in the UNT College of Visual Arts and Design — has been acquired by the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C. The acquisition by the Smithsonian marks a career first for Eggert. "This Present Moment" will debut at the Renwick Gallery as part of the museum's 50th anniversary exhibition in 2022.

EXPERT TAKE

Successful Goal Setting

For most of us, the COVID-induced chaos of the past year has made it harder than ever to stay on track with our goals — just making it through, day by day, has been victory enough. But as we prepare to pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off following 12 months of unprecedented upheaval, it's once again time to keep our eye on the prize ... whatever that may be.

Whether your goals are health-and-fitness inspired, career- or family-focused or anything in-between, there are plenty of ways to get — and stay — on track, even if you've previously struggled with a particular goal.

"The most important thing for people to remember is that we set goals for where we are now, and where we wish to be in the future," says Michael Savoie, clinical professor in operations, logistics and supply chain management in the G. Brint Ryan College of Business.

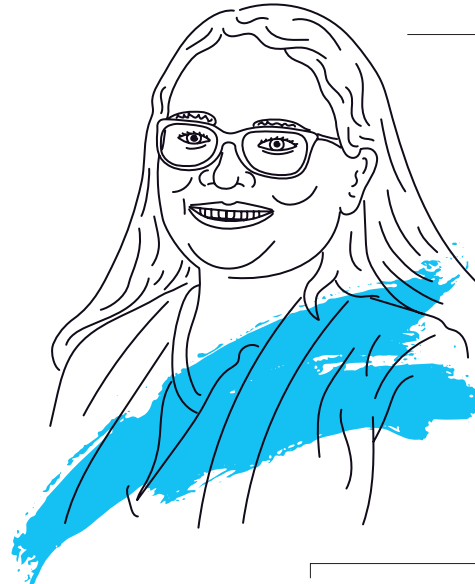
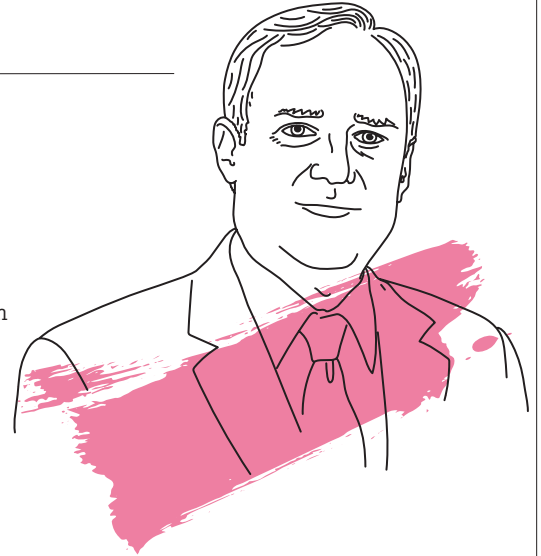
Here, our UNT experts offer advice on how to tackle any goal (and don't forget, they say, to always celebrate your successes, no matter how big or small).

 Listen to Savoie discuss the goal-setting mindset on Episode 23 of UNT Pod. anchor.fm/unt-pod

MICHAEL SAVOIE

Clinical professor of operations, logistics and supply chain management in the G. Brint Ryan College of Business and certified trainer in the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and Brian Tracy's Phoenix Seminar on the Psychology of Achievement

"Setting goals that are achievable and measurable is key. Also, being honest with yourself about where you are in your life at this time is critical. People have a very difficult time being honest with themselves. Most people magnify their weaknesses and downplay their strengths."



MARGARET OAIKENA

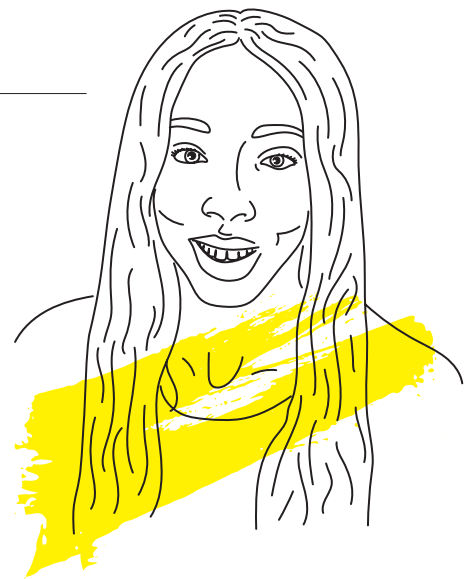
Career coach, UNT's Career Center

"It is important to visualize and assess your goals often. A great way to do this is by writing your goals down and putting them somewhere you can see them. Reflect on them often. Ask yourself if you're on track or if you need to adjust. This will help you keep your goals at the forefront of your mind."

SARAH DEEMER

Assistant professor in UNT's Department of Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation

"When approaching goal setting for health/fitness outcomes, it is important to make your goal "action- or behavior-oriented" rather than "outcome-oriented" or focused. Action-oriented goals help you focus on the behavior change and actions that YOU can control and therefore help you learn sustainable behaviors/habits that help you throughout life."





RESEARCH POWERHOUSE



Passion with a purpose — that's what has molded the University of North Texas into one of the nation's largest and most diverse Tier One public research universities. Through research we are creating next-generation manufacturing, safe and accessible autonomous vehicles, as well as combating COVID-19 and health inequities — just some of the many ways we're shaping a better world for the North Texas region and beyond.






Above
 Kayode Oluwabunmi, a doctoral student and graduate research assistant, works with sustainable insulation in Regents professor Nandika D'Souza's lab.

A Safer Approach to Insulation

Researchers develop sustainable foam that could reshape building industry.

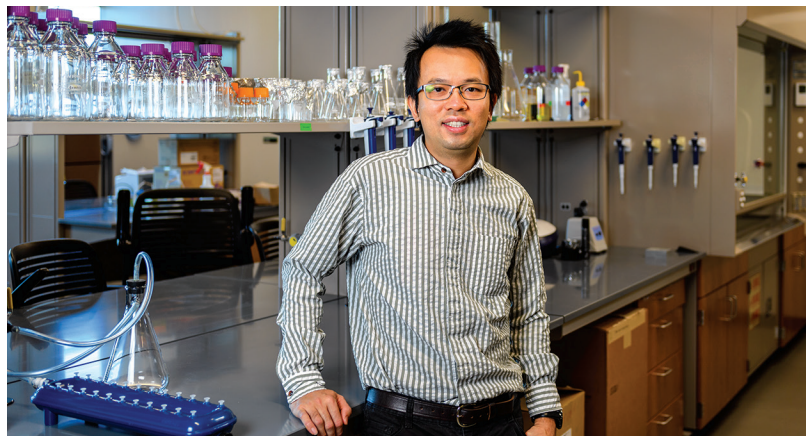
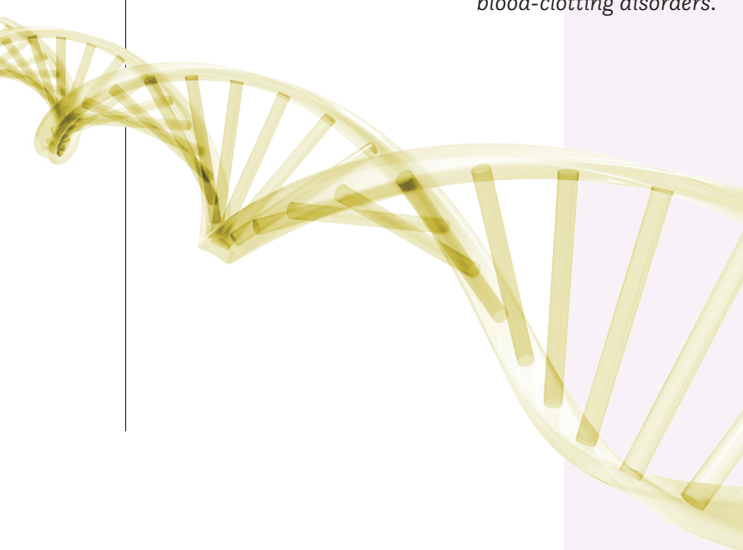
Researchers in UNT's College of Engineering have developed a new building insulation product that is stronger, safer and more sustainable than the conventional polyurethane-based products currently used. Current conventional insulation releases volatile compounds into the atmosphere, adversely contributing to the home or workplace environment as well as to climate change. Nandika D'Souza, Regents professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and her lab received a \$326,285 National Science Foundation grant in 2017 to help solve this problem. The team found that by mixing corn-based polylactic acid with cellulose fibers and using supercritical carbon dioxide, they were able to create a foam that was not only safer, but also compostable and energy efficient.

 Read more about the lab's cutting-edge work.
northtexas.unt.edu/safer-insulation

“It is our hope for the research to move forward to help identify genes that cause a variety of diseases so that specific interventions can be designed using this technology.”

— Pudur Jagadeeswaran

A professor of biological sciences, he has developed a technology to simultaneously knockdown multiple genes in zebrafish — which have a similar genetic structure to humans — to more rapidly examine each of the organism’s approximately 25,000 human genes and identify those associated with human blood-clotting disorders.



MONITORING DISEASE

Clement Chan (pictured), an assistant professor in UNT’s Department of Biomedical Engineering, and his research group are working on a new, more affordable method to test and diagnose if a person has a disease or has accidentally consumed harmful toxins that can be present in contaminated food and water.

“Our research approach is to take specific proteins from various organisms, study them and then modify them using genetic methods,” Chan says. “These modified proteins would then be harnessed to generate new functions and new behaviors in cells and organisms.”


Chan, a protein and cellular engineer, plans to explore the development of cellular devices for tracking physiological changes in the biological systems using a \$391,722 grant from the National Institutes of Health. The group’s long-term goal is to engineer bacteria to specifically recognize, detect and report a range of pathogens or toxins and these new bacteria would be safe for humans to ingest.

DISTRIBUTING VACCINES

A team of UNT researchers has developed a cloud-based computer program called RE-PLAN to help state and local public health agencies distribute the COVID-19 vaccine to ensure its timely availability according to each state’s guidelines.

RE-PLAN is a program that pulls data from a variety of sources to help public health agencies create response plans to use during an epidemic. These response plans include locations where medications or vaccines will be distributed. RE-PLAN uses population information to help public health agencies place special resources in the proximity of people who need them.

The RE-PLAN system has been successfully used to create response plans by agencies, including the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

 Watch a video on RE-PLAN. northtexas.unt.edu/replan

Powe Award Winner

Yijie Jiang, an assistant professor in UNT's College of Engineering, earned the prestigious 2020 Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award from Oak Ridge Associated Universities for his research into passive control of internal structures in 3D printed composites.

Jiang and his team of researchers will explore a new method of the 3D printing process that could result in better performance of composite materials. The new method, working together with direct ink writing 3D printing, involves controlling the orientation of the materials internally through designed channels, rather than using traditional methods that require very strong external mechanical interventions to make the fibers align in the desired direction.

In-Situ Sensors

Haifeng Zhang, a professor in UNT's Department of Mechanical Engineering, is a co-principal investigator in a new \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. He, along with researchers at Penn State University, will develop and fabricate an in-situ sensor that will be used to assess the quality of the part and material properties of a microstructure during the additive manufacturing process. "By detecting a possible defect earlier in the process, we could revise the manufacturing parameters sooner, saving time and money," Zhang says.

Plant Science Discovery

New discoveries in the College of Science laboratory of Richard Dixon, Distinguished Research Professor of biological sciences and associate director of UNT's BioDiscovery Institute, could help develop biomass crops better suited for processing into products such as aviation fuel, plastics and other industrial products.

Dixon and researchers Xin Wang, a visiting scientist, and postdoctoral fellow Chunliu Zhuo recently published their findings in *Plant Cell*, the nation's top plant science journal. The research, in collaboration with Oakridge National Laboratory's Center for Bioenergy Innovation, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, is part of the biotechnology industry's goal to genetically modify crops to be more efficiently processed into these valuable products.

Their work involves lignin, the substance that makes plants woody and firm and helps them stand upright.



By the Numbers



\$1.5M

Researchers from UNT's College of Engineering will collaborate with the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the largest U.S. Department of Energy science and energy laboratory, as part of a \$1.5 million grant from the DOE to advance 3D printed materials for automotive body frames.

Principal investigators Wonbong Choi, a professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Yijie Jiang (pictured above left), an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, received more than \$400,000 of the overall grant to develop the fabrication of a lightweight, 3D printed carbon fiber composite material equipped with embedded sensors for use in car structures.

66 | THIS IS A WONDERFUL TESTAMENT TO THE CALIBER OF OUR RESEARCH FACULTY WHO HAVE CEMENTED UNT AS A TIER ONE RESEARCH INSTITUTION.” — *UNT Vice President for Research and Innovation Mark McLellan on professors Richard Dixon and Shengqian Ma being listed among the top 1% of researchers in their field to be cited by other researchers, according to Clarivate Analytics.*

SPOTLIGHT

Turbulent Motion Moves Research Forward



UNT RESEARCHERS HAVE DISCOVERED YOUNG STARS ARE DANCING TO A SECRET COSMIC TUNE. Yuan Li, assistant professor in UNT’s Department of Physics, and doctoral student Trung Ha are researching the movement of gasses in the Orion Nebula by examining the memory of turbulent motion in young stars.

“This is the first time anyone has looked at stars in this way to study turbulence,” Li says. “The idea is that since the interstellar clouds are turbulent, stars that have just formed out of these clouds should carry the memory

of that turbulent motion. We analyzed young stars in the Orion Nebula, and indeed found the signature of turbulence in the motions of the stars.”

Previous studies of the evolution of stars examined turbulence in interstellar gas. These studies rely on theoretical models, estimates and assumptions because many parameters (three-dimensional position and movement) of interstellar gas are difficult or impossible to observe. After discovering turbulence within stars, Li and Ha are now able to get precise, observable data

using a star’s exact position and movement, eliminating many of the uncertainties of prior research.

“This is an important discovery that will help us understand not just stars, but also planets, galaxies and the universe itself with more precision,” Ha says.

Li and Ha treated the stars as tracers of interstellar gas and discovered a turbulent pattern among Orion’s loosely connected star groups. This pattern

revealed the relationship of the stars’ velocity and movement and gave insight into the evolution of the Orion Nebula never seen before.

By using stars’ exact location and movement to get a six-dimensional view of interstellar turbulence, Li and Ha offer new evidence that strongly supports the theory that the Orion Nebula is impacted by a supernova explosion.

“Our research opens up a window that allows us to look at turbulence in a new exciting way and will likely lead to many new discoveries in the future,” Li says.

Li and Ha collaborated with Siyao Xu, NASA Hubble Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study; Marina Kounkel, a postdoctoral scholar at Western Washington University; and Hui Li, NASA Hubble Fellow at Columbia University. The teams research, “Measuring Turbulence with Young Stars in the Orion Complex,” was recently published in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.



Discover more research breakthroughs at UNT.
research.unt.edu



Power Trip is (from left to right) Riley Gale ('10), Chris Ulsh, Blake Ibanez ('16), Nick Stewart and Chris Whetzel

Leading a Grammys Gold Rush


UNT alumni, faculty reap wins and nominations in an array of categories for music's top awards.

More than a dozen UNT alumni and faculty earned wins, nominations or collaborated on projects recognized — across 15 categories — in the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards that took place March 14.

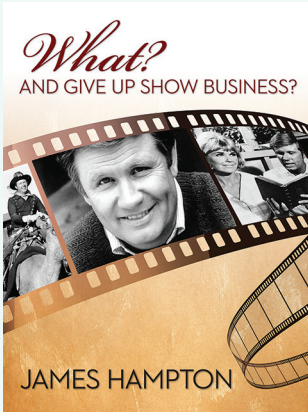
Winners include Bobby Sessions, co-writer of the Best Rap Song; Snarky Puppy, Best Contemporary Instrumental Album; and Latonia Moore, Best Opera Recording. College of Music faculty member Scott Tixier performed violin on John Legend's "Bigger Love," winner of Best R&B Album. Saxophonist Dave Pietro ('87) played with the Maria Schneider Orchestra, which won for Best Instrumental Composition and Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album.

For Dallas-based band Power Trip, their nomination for Best Metal Performance for their song, *Executioner's Tax (Swing of the Axe) (Live)*, was a welcome surprise after the death of lead singer Riley Gale ('10) in 2020.

"With this whole year, it was a much-needed shot in the arm to get excited about something," guitarist Blake Ibanez ('16) says.

 Read more about our Grammy wins and nominations and about how UNT influenced Power Trip. northtexan.unt.edu/grammys-gold-rush

66 IT WAS VERY VALIDATING. IT WAS JUST EXCITING AND REASSURING THAT MORE THAN MY MOM LIKED THE BOOK.” — *Taryn Sounders ('01), author of Coop Knows the Scoop, on being nominated for Best Juvenile book at the Edgar Awards, considered literature's highest honor in the mystery genre. Read more at northtexas.unt.edu/taryn-sounders.*



Books

What? And Give Up Show Business?

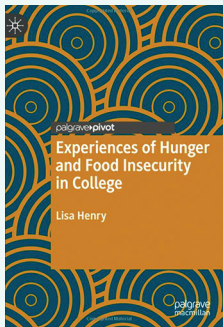
James Hampton's ('57) life has been one adventure after another.

He's best known as Bugler Private Hannibal Shirley Dobbs in *F Troop*, the military sitcom that ran from 1965 to 1967, but his 50-year career includes memorable roles in *The Longest Yard* and *Sling Blade*, and numerous television directing credits.

His memories are compiled in his new autobiography *What? And Give Up Show Business?* His wife, Mary Deese Hampton, assisted him with the book.

"He had been encouraged by friends and colleagues for years to do this," Mary says. "He has so many terrific stories."

Read more about Hampton's college days and career. northtexas.unt.edu/show-business



Experiences of Hunger and Food Insecurity in College

Lisa Henry

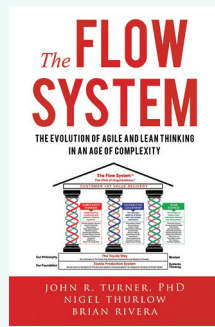
The anthropology professor and department chair found students face negative emotions, such as stigma, shame and mental health issues when dealing with food insecurity.



Better Living Through Cats

Clark Pomerleau

This book of poetry considers family narratives. The history professor offers cats, nature and relationships as ways to acknowledge anxiety or grief from childhood while nurturing hope.



The Flow System: The Evolution of Agile and Lean Thinking in an Age of Complexity

John R. Turner, co-author

Leadership, management and team techniques, built on the Toyota Production System, are examined in this book from the learning technologies assistant professor.

Destined for Movies

Alum draws on optimism for his career in Hollywood.

When Trey Haley wrecked his car, it turned out to be one of the best things that happened to him.

He had just arrived in Los Angeles after studying radio-television-film at UNT from 1994 to 1995. Instead of moping about the accident, a friend convinced him to work on a music video — and it provided the connections he needed to pave the way for his career as a filmmaker. He has directed the movies *Always a Bridesmaid*, *Influence* and *Throwback Holiday*, and the BET+ TV show *The Family Business*, starring Ernie Hudson.

While at UNT, he filmed and edited local events as a cable programmer for Sammons Cable Company. Then a family member had a room available in Los Angeles — and Haley knew it was his chance to move from his apartment on Eagle Drive and make Hollywood his home.

After the music video shoot, Haley interned for Revelations Entertainment, Morgan Freeman's company, and worked his way up. In 1998, he co-founded the production company Tri Destined Studios — eventually, he wants to establish permanent facilities and to direct a superhero/adventure movie. He credits his optimism for getting him through the competitive field of filmmaking.

"The No. 1 thing I tell people is to stay positive," he says. "Sometimes what you think is a bad or traumatic moment in your life is setting you up for the big thing."



Read more about Haley's career. northtexas.unt.edu/destined-movies

▷ DALLAS ISD WILL VOTE TO NAME ONE OF ITS CAMPUSES THE “JESÚS MOROLES EXPRESSIVE ARTS VANGUARD SCHOOL” IN HONOR OF THE LATE '78 ALUMNUS, SCULPTOR AND AWARDEE OF THE 2008 NATIONAL MEDAL OF THE ARTS, WHO ATTENDED THE SCHOOL AS A CHILD.



Funny Bone

Comedian credits his career to time on Fouts Field.

Bone Hampton’s (’93) years at UNT transformed him for a lifetime.

For starters, he acquired his nickname here. Hampton, who played defensive tackle for the Mean Green football team, was called “Hambone” by his high school teammates and the name was shortened to “Bone” in college.

While filming as an extra on *Necessary Roughness*, the comic Sinbad noticed Hampton’s comedic skills and encouraged him to pursue a career in entertainment.

Hampton has built a 30-year career in comedy that has included a stint on *America’s Got Talent* and appearances as a co-host on *The View*. His comedy is clean, free of curse words and sexual innuendo, allowing him to perform at churches and for family audiences.

His degree in emergency administration and disaster planning has helped him survive on the stage as he repeats the mantra he learned from his studies.

“Every time I’m ready to do a show — are you prepared, are you ready?” he asks himself.

 Read more about Hampton.
northtexas.unt.edu/funny-bone

Time to Create

From an augmented reality musical performance app to art depicting the resiliency of the human spirit, three UNT professors will pursue creative projects as the 2020-21 Institute for the Advancement of the Arts Faculty Fellows. The program enables UNT faculty to focus on creative endeavors for a semester and then bring their enhanced perspectives to teaching.

Elaine Pawlowicz, associate professor of drawing and painting in the College of Visual Arts and Design, will be creating a body of new paintings following trips to Joshua Tree National Park, South Africa and Kenya to depict how emotional politics can be harnessed to create social change.

Drew Schnurr, assistant professor of composition and media arts in the College of Music, is developing ARCH (Augmented Reality Concert Hall), an app that will facilitate an immersive interactive classical music concert hall experience.

Sally Vahle, associate professor of voice and acting in the Department of Dance and Theatre, will collaborate on the play, *Dear Donald, Dear Hillary (Their Secret Correspondence)*, which will be performed at theatre

festivals in the U.S. and Canada later this year.



Preserving Music




Music has always been a part of Veronique Medrano’s life — whether she’s performing it or preserving it.

Medrano is a Tejano artist whose new albums, *La Novela* and *Como Dice El Dicho*, were released this year. While attending a museum exhibition about Tejano music, she wondered why it took so long to collect the genre’s oral histories and memorabilia. She decided to become an archivist.

She researched every college in the state and found that UNT’s College of Information offered the best program in library sciences. Medrano, who lives in Brownsville, pursues her online studies while working a full-time job at Citibank.

Medrano now educates other artists to preserve their items, such as costumes and posters.

“Preservation equates to strengthening the fabric of our cultural identity in the United States,” she says.

 Read more about Medrano.
northtexas.unt.edu/preserving-music

To Hell and Back

Chef learned much from her stint on popular reality show.

When friends suggested chef Mary Lou Davis ('13) try out for *Hell's Kitchen*, the reality TV show known for chef Gordon Ramsay's outbursts toward contestants, she was reluctant.

"Would I ever go on the show?" she told them. "Absolutely not. He's going to yell at me, and I'm either going to cry or yell back."

But she says she couldn't be happier with the experience. Davis, executive chef for Whiskey Cake, a farm-to-table restaurant in San Antonio, landed on the show when producers noticed her Instagram feed, @geeksandgrubs. Davis, an Emerald Eagles Scholar, honed her skills as a hospitality management major in the College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism and the Culinary Institute of America of San Antonio before working at several restaurants in San Antonio.

Ramsay never yelled at her, but gave her the "disappointed dad" look. She says the show made her a better chef.

"*Hell's Kitchen* just boosted my confidence," she says. "It made me a stronger individual. It's like my plating techniques. I'm my own individual, and I need to do what's best for me."



Read more about Davis.
northtexan.unt.edu/hell-and-back



Forward Thinking

How Has COVID-19 Affected How You Perform Your Art?

"The changes all started with the script, but it also affected the set and the costuming and the makeup. In terms of productions I've been involved in, this was perhaps the most complicated. It became a film through Zoom. It was extremely gratifying. We had a good ending to a very difficult time."

— **Theatre professor Andy Harris on the Department of Dance and Theatre's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which honored the legacy of late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and was presented via Zoom**

"It's been a productive year, but we haven't been able to play. It will be nice to be back in front of people. Playing on the stage has always been the ultimate experience. It is the highest of the highs. You feel that. It's really awesome for everybody, not just us, but the audience, too. It feels like a party up there."

— **Travis Curry, who attended UNT in the 2000s, and is a violinist for the cowpunk band Vandoliers. The band produced a new song, "Every Saturday Night," about missing interacting with friends during the pandemic.**

"I had a moment where I wanted to offer more of my photography to the world. I thought 'What is something that is underappreciated in a society?' The world stopped, but I was able to keep moving."

— **Don Thomas II ('15), who took up photography during the pandemic and uses the name Tortellini Photography for his work capturing women's nails and the homeless in Dallas**



Read more about these artists' work.
northtexan.unt.edu/covid-arts



History Made

This year's C-USA champs, men's basketball wins their first NCAA tournament game in an upset against Purdue.

The Mean Green men's basketball team made North Texas athletic history and broke countless brackets in March when they beat Purdue 78-69 in overtime in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

In their first NCAA tournament game since 2010 and fourth of all-time, the Mean Green finally broke through with a victory by stunning the fourth-seeded and 20th ranked Purdue Boilermakers. The win was UNT's first ever in the tournament, first over an AP Top 25 opponent (No. 20) since 1971, and first over a Big 10 opponent since 1967.

The Mean Green held Purdue scoreless in the overtime period until there were under 30 seconds to play in the game. North Texas (18-9), the 13-seed in the South Region, started the extra period on an 11-0 run and had four players in double-figures, led by Javion Hamlet's 24 points.


Before the final buzzer had even sounded, Hamlet made his way to the Purdue fan section and had some words for them.

"Don't ever doubt me, that's what I told the Purdue fans," Hamlet says.

Just the week before, the North Texas team won the 2021 Air Force Reserve C-USA Men's Basketball Championship after beating WKU 61-57 in overtime in the finals — earning an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament.

The team's dance came to an end in their next NCAA game, with an 84-61 loss against fifth-seeded Villanova, but not before the Mean Green's scrappy attitude made many new fans across the country.

"It's a great feeling to be the first team in history to win a tournament game," Hamlet says. "Can't no one ever take that away from us. We showed the world we're gritty. We showed the world we can play with anybody."

 See more coverage of the history-making team. meangreensports.com/sports/mens-basketball

Mean Green Track and Field Milestone

North Texas men's track and field completed the most decorated Conference USA Championship meet in Mean Green history with an overall team second place showing, four individual titles and a school record Feb. 21 inside the Birmingham Crossplex. Antonio Delacruz became a two-time C-USA champion, the first Mean Green ever to do so, with his victories in the 60- (6.74 seconds) and 200-meter dash (21.22). Joseph Squire improved his own North Texas record in the 60-meter hurdles to 7.93 seconds in his title-clinching race. Chris Samaniego's sixth and final throw of 16.22 meters in shot put moved him to the top spot to clinch his victory.

New Defensive Coordinator

Phil Bennett, one of the most experienced defensive coordinators in college football, has been named the Mean Green's defensive coordinator and safeties coach.

Bennett brings 40 years of coaching experience to Denton, including six seasons as the head coach at SMU (2002-07) and nine stints as defensive coordinator at nine different schools, most recently Arizona State (2017). Throughout his career, Bennett has overseen the growth of 56 different players that have gone on to NFL careers.

By the Numbers

3

That's how many Mean Green women's soccer players were named Conference USA Preseason All-Conference — more than any other school in the league. Forwards Berklee Peters and Allie Byrd, along with goalkeeper Kelsey Brann, earned the preseason recognition.

2021 MEAN GREEN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT. 4 vs. NORTHWESTERN STATE

SEPT. 11 at SMU

SEPT. 18 vs. ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

SEPT. 25 at LOUISIANA TECH

OCT. 9 at MISSOURI

OCT. 16 vs. MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

OCT. 23 vs. LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

OCT. 30 at RICE

NOV. 6 at SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

NOV. 13 at UTEP

NOV. 20 at FIU

NOV. 27 vs. UTSA

Check for the latest ticket and Return to Play information: meangreensports.com



Kaleigh's Journey

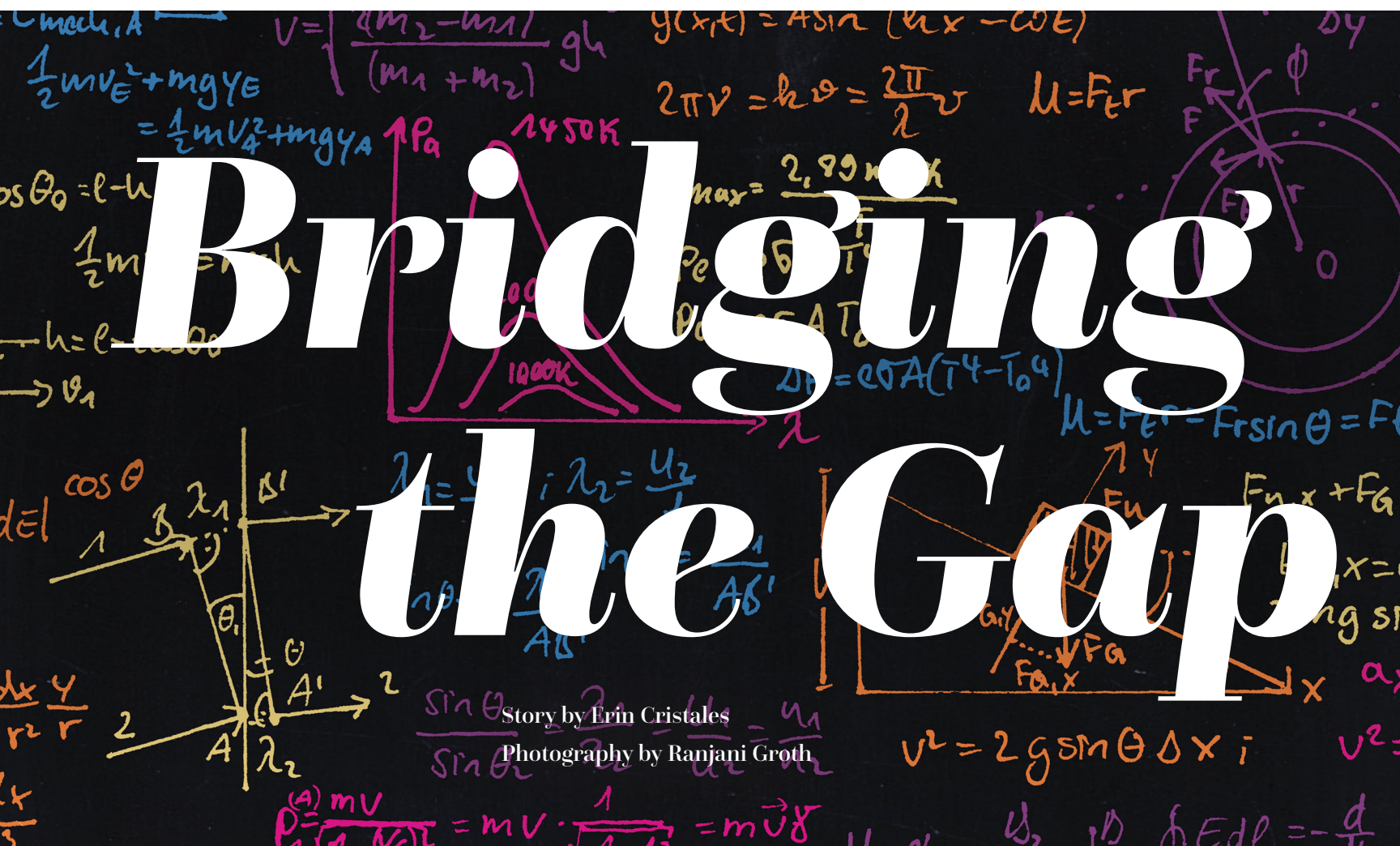
Following a battle with Guillain-Barré syndrome, Mean Green volleyball player returns to the court.

Many of Kaleigh Skopal's teammates saw her as the backbone of the Mean Green volleyball team. A captain, Skopal led Conference USA in assists during the 2019 season. That year, Skopal and the team headed to Florida for a road trip against FIU and FAU — if they kept their eye on the ball, there was a good chance they'd find themselves back in the C-USA regular season title race.

But that trip brought more than surprises on the court. Right before the walk through with FIU, Skopal presented with a migraine. She spent the game in the locker room, but her symptoms only worsened. Skopal received treatment for the migraine at Boca Raton Hospital, and was sent home. By the next morning, she felt worse. A battery of tests at the ER revealed a startling diagnosis: Guillain-Barré syndrome, a condition in which the immune system attacks the nerves.

Over the next few months, Skopal began a long road to recovery. The girl who could once deadlift 175 pounds could now only lift six. She had to relearn basic motor skills like opening her hands. Still, she says, she "prayed every day that I get that chance to play for one more season."

This spring, that dream finally came true. The UNT senior returned to the court Feb. 4 in UNT's season opener against Wichita State. Skopal finished with 13 digs and led the Mean Green with 17 assists.



Story by Erin Cristales

Photography by Ranjani Groth

After a year of fighting through the challenges created by COVID-19, administrators and teachers reflect on their toughest battles — and the implications for the future of education.



Above
Ana Lopez, associate professor of metalsmithing and jewelry, instructs her students in her socially distanced studio.

It's Election Day in America, and while much of the citizenry is in the throes of nail-biting, nerve-shredding, heat-map-induced anxiety, this might just be the most relaxing 24 hours Jamie Wilson ('91, '99 M.Ed., '12 Ed.D.) has had in roughly eight months. Denton ISD is shuttered since many of its schools are designated polling locations, meaning the 2020 Region 11 Superintendent of the Year's calendar finally boasts a few blank spots.

He knows the respite won't last long.

"It's been 24/7," says Wilson, who eight years ago assumed the reins as the district's top administrator. "Our leadership team, principals and teachers have worked harder than we've ever worked before."

Ever since COVID-19 forced Denton ISD to close its doors in March 2020 — along with virtually every other K-12 and higher education institution in the U.S. — it's been a breakneck effort on all fronts to solve the jigsaw puzzle created by that seemingly no-win situation. Educators are trained to guide students to the right answers, but the questions introduced by an ever-worsening pandemic tested even the most seasoned problem solvers.

How do we provide equitable access to technology? Protect the physical and emotional well-being of students? Reopen our campuses safely? Avoid instructor burnout? Prevent our students from falling irreparably behind?

And now, as the light begins to glimmer at the end of a more than yearlong tunnel, another question has emerged from the slowly dissipating darkness: *How do we move forward in a landscape that has been utterly, and perhaps even permanently, altered?*

"This is a whole new frontier," Wilson says. "It's like when Lewis and Clark arrived at the Royal Gorge — what did they have to think about to make it to the other side? And that's where educators are. What do we do? All we know is there's no turning back."



JAMIE WILSON
SUPERINTENDENT, DENTON ISD

Major challenges: As district leader, just about everything under the sun. But one of the biggest was navigating the various expectations of parents, teachers, students and school board members as Denton ISD prepared to reopen for fall 2020, with support breaking roughly 50/50 for resuming in-person instruction.

“The way I approached it was that we have local health experts for a reason,” he says. “So we hitched our wagon to the health department early on and worked to follow their recommendations. Then, in the middle of all that, the Texas attorney general comes out and says, ‘You don’t have to do what the health department asks you to do.’”

Problem solving: Ultimately, the district pushed the in-person start date to the Tuesday following Labor Day, with elementary students returning full time and middle and high school students on a hybrid schedule. Students who preferred to attend classes 100% online had the option of enrolling in Connected Learning, an all-virtual platform, and families could reevaluate the in-person or connected options at the beginning of each new grading period.

“It’s just been a constantly evolving process,” Wilson says. “Either way, you have to start and stay with the experts.”

And while providing academic support has been a major motivator, so has ensuring the basic needs of all Denton ISD students. For 27 consecutive Saturdays during the pandemic, Wilson and other district leaders partnered with the local nonprofit Mission Moms to deliver groceries to low-income families.

“It was just another opportunity to connect with the community,” Wilson says, “and put eyes on our kids.”

Implications for the future of education: Many saw it in early January, when much of Texas experienced a rare, and surprisingly significant, snowfall (the one that *didn’t* involve rolling blackouts). Several districts opted to keep schools open — online — instead of losing an instructional day.

“If we have extended periods of time where schools are closed, like for weather or a natural disaster, there will be ways for students to stay connected and continue with their learning,” Wilson says. “Now that we’ve been through this, we have a toolkit to pull from.”



ADAM FEIN
VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIGITAL STRATEGY AND INNOVATION, UNT

In February, there were roughly 10,000 Zoom connections in use across UNT. By April — 500,000.

“We were able to move almost 8,000 courses remote over a long weekend,” says

Adam Fein, vice president for UNT’s Division of Digital Strategy and Innovation. “Let’s just say it’s been a wild year.”

Major challenges: When Fein, an industry leader in online and innovative education, was hired to lead the DSI division in November 2018, he and his team hit the ground running. In addition to pioneering partnerships with entities such as Coursera, Merit America and JP Morgan Chase, they created a Canvas shell for all UNT courses, whether in-person, online or hybrid. Fein’s no fortune teller, but by March 2020 — when all of UNT’s 7,700 in-person course sections were forced to transition online in the space of a week — that move was nothing short of clairvoyant.

“We had put a lot of infrastructure in place that enabled us to get through this situation,” Fein says. “I was pretty optimistic that we’d be successful.”

But that lightning-fast transition meant many instructors inexperienced in online teaching faced a sharp learning curve. And it was largely up to Fein’s division to bridge the gap.

“We knew we had a lot of people who might panic, and we wanted to be a steady, calming source of help,” he says.

Problem solving: DSI launched *teach-anywhere.unt.edu* and *learnanywhere.unt.edu* to provide professors and students with Zoom and Canvas basics, along with tips on everything from online security to accessibility. Whereas online pedagogy trainings in the past typically hosted around 30 faculty members, now hundreds were in attendance.

“I think we did a pretty good job of having the right topics available to faculty, starting with the simple things and moving into the more advanced things,” says Fein, who also notes that his team’s 24-hour turnaround in providing security provisions and communications to prevent Zoom “bombings” was another important milestone in their ability to respond to an ever-evolving crisis. “I expect post-pandemic, we won’t be reverting back to where we were.”

Implications for the future of education: Pre-pandemic, about 10% of UNT students were fully online, with roughly 50% having taken at least one online course. A year later, more than 95% have experience with online classes.

“I don’t think a lot of people are going to say, ‘Let’s go back to more paper and scantrons,’” says Fein, whose team works closely with faculty to develop world-class courses using the latest pedagogical strategies and cutting-edge technology. “So I think one of the lessons learned is that we’re going to have a lot more people to serve in the digital space. That’s our challenge moving forward, and we embrace it.”



JENNIFER COWLEY
PROVOST, UNT

Although much of the UNT community didn’t feel the effects of COVID-19 until mid-March, university leadership pulled out the campus pandemic plan in January. By February, health crisis teams were activated to monitor the evolving situation, and in early March, UNT’s Emergency Operations Center was in full swing.

“I was like, ‘OK, this is where the FEMA training kicks in — this is where I get to use what I’ve been teaching my students,’” says Jennifer Cowley (’97 M.P.A.), UNT provost and professor of emergency management and disaster science and public administra-

tion. “We need to start alerting our community that change is coming, and we need to get ready.”

Major challenges: As Provost, Cowley is responsible for UNT’s academic mission, which means she had to consider everything from providing equitable access to technology — administered through initiatives such as the UNT Libraries’ laptop checkout program — to ensuring that professors had the support they needed to teach and financial aid kept flowing. Between the CARES Act and state and federal funds, roughly \$20 million was distributed to students in need, with more aid coming.

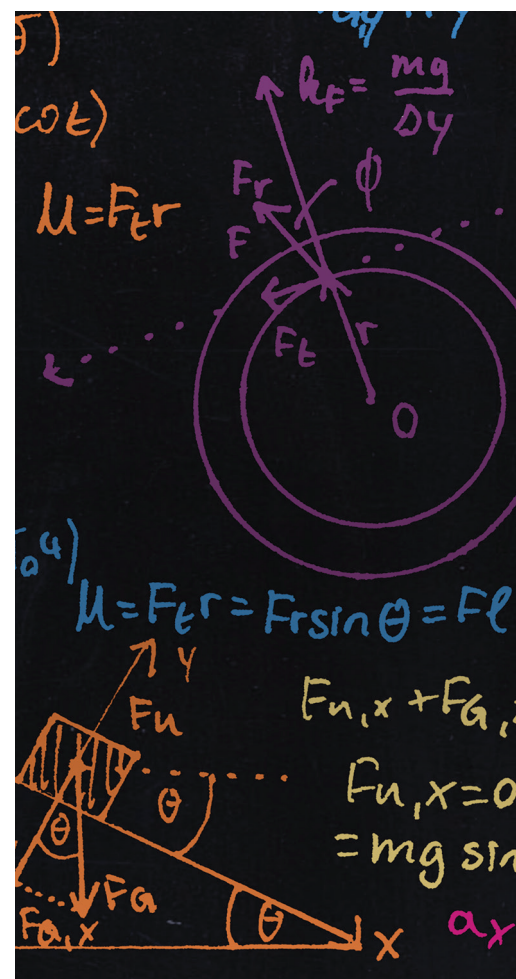
“We’ve really focused on being as caring as we can,” Cowley says. “For instructors, that means learning to be flexible so that students feel supported, while at the same time helping them maintain accountability so that they’re staying on track.”

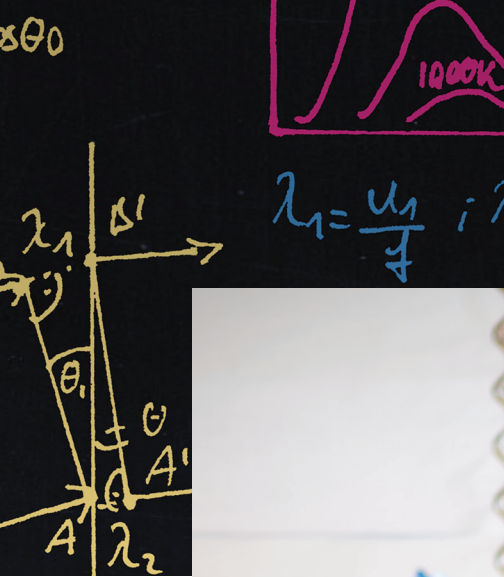
Problem solving: Fears of enrollment declines hung heavy over higher education institutions over the summer, with UNT ultimately posting record numbers (nearly 41,000 students) as the fall semester commenced. Freshman enrollment, however, was noticeably down.

“More students delayed post-secondary education because they wanted to have the full college experience and felt like taking a gap year was maybe in their best interest,” Cowley says. (On a side note, UNT is preparing to fully reopen for fall 2021.) “So what can we do to encourage students to make their way back to us?”

One answer from a budget perspective, Cowley says, is retention of talent.

“I don’t want to lose our faculty because they are the lifeblood of this university and the ones who ensure our students have a great experience in the classroom,” she says.





Above
Alejandra Medrano, a fifth-grade teacher in Irving ISD, has focused on relationship building with her students both virtually and in person.

Implications for the future of education: A broader reach. Part of promoting academic success meant ensuring the 106 international students who couldn't secure a visa due to their embassies being closed were able to begin fall classes via UNT's remote start program. On campus, UNT serves 2,500 international students hailing from 138 different countries. Just imagine the potential for global enrollment with remote learning.

"With remote start, we had students in time zones across the world participating in classes, from 10 at night to 5 in the morning, who really wanted to be part of our Mean Green Family," Cowley says. "We have some really fantastic online programs we've been growing, so we'll see how much that reach can expand."


 Watch a student's account of what it's like to learn during a pandemic.
northtexas.unt.edu/bridging-gap

Photo courtesy of Beaumont ISD



TYRELL WHITE

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, BEAUMONT ISD; FORMER DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR CLAY-JACK COUNTIES SHARED SERVICES

For much of his career, Tyrell White ('07) worked as a special education teacher in Dallas ISD, the second-largest school district in Texas with a total enrollment of more than 150,000. So when he assumed the role as director of special education for Clay-Jack Counties Shared Services — which supports seven districts across a 70-mile radius with enrollments ranging from 120 to 1,000 — the experience was illuminating.

“Some of these campuses only have one teacher per grade, so it’s almost impossible to offer virtual instruction,” says White, who in November 2020 became senior director of special education for Beaumont ISD.

Major challenges: There have been plenty. The lack of resources in rural districts (see above). Inconsistent application of mask mandates among schools. And perhaps the toughest of all: helping students with disabilities navigate a devastatingly stressful, and unfamiliar, landscape.

“Virtual instruction doesn’t, in most cases, work for our kids with disabilities,” says White, who is on the board of directors for the Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education. “And many can’t wear a mask because they have sensory issues — having something on their face for hours sends them into sensory overload.”

Problem solving: Special education teachers in the Clay-Jack districts worked to create outdoor learning activities or develop areas for “mask breaks.” For kids who can’t wear masks, classroom windows were left open to improve ventilation, and individualized, partitioned spaces were designated — when possible.

“A lot of the older schools aren’t built for social distancing — they have classrooms the size of closets,” White says. “So it’s really hard to distance in that environment. I think the issue is, no matter which side of the aisle they’re on, legislators just haven’t been in many schools. They’re not educators.”

Implications for the future of education: “I hope what comes out of this is that more people will realize and respect the work of teachers,” White says. “But one thing that’s for sure is we now have plans in place if something like this ever happens again.”

But, he says, even once COVID-19 is no longer an imminent threat, the wreckage it left behind will remain.

“Even after we return to ‘normal,’ the aftereffects of all this — both from an academic and mental health perspective — will be felt by all kids,” White says, “and in particular, kids with disabilities.”

Photo courtesy of Round Rock ISD



REVATHI BALAKRISHNAN

TEACHER, ROUND ROCK ISD; TEXAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR, 2016

Revathi Balakrishnan’s ('18 M.Ed.) students are ready for their latest hands-on experiment. They may be learning from home, but that doesn’t mean every second is spent behind a computer screen. Take, for

instance, today’s lesson, which involves each student physically dropping books and pieces of paper to explore force and motion before coming back together in groups to record their observations via Google Docs and discuss their findings in Zoom breakout rooms.

“This has been another opportunity for students to learn independence,” says Balakrishnan, a fifth-grade teacher in Round Rock ISD and the 2016 Texas Teacher of the Year. “We do a lot of hand-holding in school, but I don’t believe in that philosophy. I believe in giving kids time to think and explore and make mistakes — and learn from them.”

Major challenges: There’s one risk that remains especially inescapable for the entire teacher pool, whether they’re teaching in-person, virtually or both: burnout.


“You have to be good at your job, but you also have to be realistic given the circumstances,” Balakrishnan says. “Some teachers are working 14-hour days trying to implement everything online that they implemented in the classroom. You can’t do that. After nine hours, I walk away from my computer.”

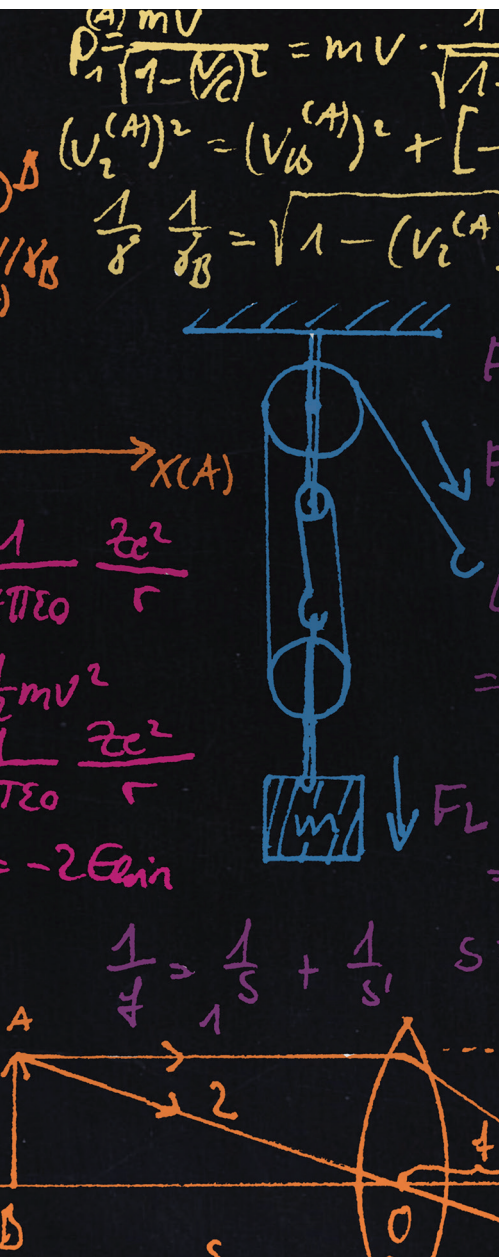
Problem solving: As a member of the Leading the Profession Task Force and the Texas Aspires Educator Board, Balakrishnan advises teachers to reach out to mentors who can help them prioritize amidst the chaos.

“This pandemic has created a lot of stress, and teachers have been the ones expected to take everything in and still survive,” she says. “Veteran teachers can help you weed out the noise and stay true to yourself. If you don’t have a happy teacher, you won’t have a happy classroom.”

Implications for the future of education: A more sustainable approach.

“Every staple is a landfill problem,” says Balakrishnan, who grew up acutely aware of environmental issues in her native India. “I mean, wouldn’t it be great if you had a school district where one teacher per grade taught virtually and students who wanted to learn from home could? It would alleviate overcrowding. The pollution would go down. Not all is bad with online learning.”

 Learn about Balakrishnan’s journey to Texas Teacher of the Year. northtexas.unt.edu/bridging-gap



ALEJANDRA MEDRANO
FIRST-YEAR TEACHER, IRVING ISD

As an interdisciplinary studies major, Alejandra Medrano ('19) learned the ins and outs of classroom management from UNT professors she describes as “amazing.” Still, neither she nor her professors imagined a scenario in which a teacher would be tasked with managing more than a dozen elementary students on Zoom, in addition to in-person learners. But in June, when the first-year teacher was hired by Irving ISD to teach fifth grade dual-language math and science, that was exactly the experiment that awaited.

“It was difficult, because you learn the traditional techniques of handling behavioral issues in the classroom, but on Zoom, what do I do?” Medrano says. “Turn off their screen? Mute their microphone? Kick them out? I can’t do that. They won’t come back.”

Major challenges: In addition to the classroom management quandaries presented by Zoom, there were the anxieties of welcoming kids back in person as COVID-19 raged on.

“I was worried that it would be a constant struggle to have students wear their mask or make sure it was over their nose,” Medrano says. “And when we first started, it was difficult for them. But my students have been good.”

Problem solving: To increase engagement, particularly among her online students, Medrano learned the value of flexibility — and a points system.

“Once they earn enough points for participation, they can select something from the online prize box,” she says. “And I mail it to

them with a little note. That’s gone a long way in building relationships with them because they see I told them I’d do something, and I did it.”

Medrano also carves out social-emotional learning time into each day as a way to better understand her students and gauge their overall well-being.

“I just ask them about their day and how it’s going,” she says. “Some kids are super open about it, and some don’t want to talk about it. Those moments are check-ins where I can let them know if they don’t want to say anything in front of the class, that’s fine, but they can always talk to me one on one.”

Implications for the future of education:

More excitement on everyone’s part to be back in the classroom — and cautious optimism about what that may mean for more positive student interactions.

“The five kids I have in the classroom have become best friends — they can’t be picky about who they play with,” Medrano says. “I’m hopeful students will come back to in-person schooling ready to learn and build better relationships.”



ANA LOPEZ
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
METALSMITHING AND JEWELRY, UNT

As an associate professor of metalsmithing and jewelry, Ana Lopez is known for crafting incredible pieces. But since last March, she’s expended nearly as much energy (or more) crafting videos — in fall 2020 alone, she shot 75 video lessons and announcements. Since social distancing

prohibits the normal approach of students crowding around Lopez as she demonstrates a new skill, they instead are tasked with watching demo videos in advance of class. As with many flipped classroom models, not everyone completes the homework — meaning students play the videos during in-person class time.

“I walk around the studio, and I hear my own voice coming out of 10 different cell phones,” Lopez says. “It’s really strange.”

Major challenges: There’s the time it takes to prepare, shoot and edit the instructional videos, for one thing. This semester, her classes are capped at 18 students, and for social distancing purposes, Lopez typically has to break them into four groups working on four different aspects of a project — meaning four different instructional videos have to simultaneously be prepped and ready to go for a single class period.


“It’s exhausting,” she says.

Problem solving: Lopez has worked to ensure her classes — which have all been in person since fall — meet the strictest safety protocols. She enlisted the help of department technician Sarah Loch-Tess, who over the summer set up sneeze guards at each workbench and ensured every work area was spaced at least 6 feet apart.

“I cannot imagine where we would have been at the start of the fall without her,” Lopez says. “We’re very lucky we have a technician — not all programs do.”

Implications for the future of education: A more democratic approach. Lopez can’t wait to fully return to more traditional studio-based lessons, but she notes others in the metalsmithing community are embracing online and video-based learning as an opportunity to reach more students in more locations.

“You can see that pattern throughout history where an easier way to learn something becomes much more widespread,” Lopez says. “While it may dilute the knowledge, it also makes it more accessible to a lot of people.”

 Learn how UNT is planning to fully reopen campus this fall. northtexas.unt.edu/bridging-gap

By the Numbers

93% Percentage of people in U.S. households with school-age children who reported that their children engaged in some form of “distance learning” from home.

64.7% Percentage of students enrolled in degree-granting postsecondary institutions in the U.S. who had never taken a distance-learning course prior to the pandemic.

85.8% Percentage of people in U.S. households with incomes of \$100,000 or more who reported that their children were using online resources for distance learning. By contrast, 76.5% of households with incomes of \$50,000-\$99,999, and 65.8% of people in households with incomes of less than \$50,000, reported that children were using online resources.

78% Percentage of countries that used television programs as a distance-learning method during the pandemic. 74% also used government-supported online platforms, 59% used radio learning programs, and 54% used SMS/mobile technology or social media.

84.1% Percentage of adults in U.S. households where at least one adult was planning to take post-secondary classes this fall, but for whom those plans have either been canceled or changed in some significant way.

307 Million As of December 2020, the number of children worldwide who were out of school due to school closures linked to the coronavirus pandemic.

3 Million Estimated number of students attending in-person classes in Texas public schools (as of January 2021).

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey; UNICEF; UNESCO; Texas Department of State Health Services; National Center for Education Statistics



LIVING ‘SOUL’

MIKE JONES PURSUED A CAREER IN THE MOVIES AS A STUDENT AT UNT. NOW HE’S CO-WRITTEN ONE OF THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT ANIMATED FILMS OF THE YEAR.

TEXT BY JESSICA DELEÓN

MIKE JONES CAME TO UNT to be an English teacher. Then he got to talking to his Clark Hall suitemates, and the subject of movies came up all the time.

“Why don’t you go watch *8 1/2*?” one of them asked, referring to the famed art film by Italian Federico Fellini.

This was in the 1990s, so Jones went to the UNT Media Library to watch it with visor-like plastic headphones on VHS tape.

“I was totally captivated by the film,” he says. “My head really hurt from those headphones, but I couldn’t take them off.”

That incident inspired Jones to pursue a career in film. Now 30 years later — and after many, many attempts — he has found success as the co-screenwriter for the Pixar movie *Soul*, which has earned Golden Globe awards and Oscar nominations for Best Animated Feature Film and Best Original Score this year. The film not only caps Jones’ quest to see his words play out on screen, but it earned a devoted audience for its plot that examines the meaning of life.

“It’s been a watermark I hope I can reach again,” he says. “I think this film has an important message for right now.”

Life is Not One Thing

As an avid movie fan, Jones took a few film classes and often chatted with his friends about cinema.

“The idea of writing and being involved in movies was floated by somebody — let’s all apply to film school!” he says.

He transferred to New York University, known for its strong film program, to become a cinematographer, but a writing teacher took him aside and said, “You ought to think about writing.”

“That got into my head,” Jones says, adding that after graduation, he began writing screenplays and editing *Filmmaker* magazine. He wrote for years. Studios often bought his scripts, but the screenplays didn’t get made into movies.

But he never gave up.

“You have to con yourself into believing that ‘this one’ is going to get made,” he says.

He really knew that possibility could become reality four years ago when he landed at Pixar, the Disney studio known for its animated works. Director Pete Docter had an idea for a movie after the birth of his son, who seemed to be born with a personality already intact and wondered, “What if there was a place and time where souls are given a personality?”

“Together we came up with the story idea — a soul who doesn’t want to die meets a soul who doesn’t want to live,” Jones says.

Lessons Learned

The movie depicts a music teacher, Joe, who is about to play his dream gig, but a near-fatal accident puts him in “The Great Before” where he meets an unborn soul named 22 who is afraid to become a human. They both travel to Earth so Joe can perform that gig — but not without a few adventures along the way.

Joe learns in the movie — a measure of a fulfilling life is not one thing, but many things. While I wrote that lesson, I’m still trying to learn from it.

Does Jones consider himself similar to Joe?

“Joe learns in the movie — a measure of a fulfilling life is not one thing, but many things,” he says. “While I wrote that lesson, I’m still trying to learn from it.”

Jones worked on the project for four years — and it was always changing. For example, in an early version, Joe didn’t go back to Earth.

“At Pixar, that’s all we do,” he says. “We redo and redo for years and years.”

His next movie, called *Luca*, will release this summer. It’s about two boys — who are sea monsters — as they experience their most memorable summer while living in the Italian Riviera. He describes it as one of Pixar’s most beautiful movies.

And even though not everyone can go to the theater during this time of COVID, Jones is ready to return to that magical experience of the movies.

“There’s something in particular about the movie theater,” he says. “You can’t tweet, you can’t get up, you can’t pause the movie or rewind it. The experience forces you to get to the next moment. Your attention is directed to that screen.”

 [View a *Soul* movie trailer.](https://northtexan.unt.edu/mike-jones)
northtexan.unt.edu/mike-jones

ADVANCING INTELLIGENT MOBILITY

Story by Amy Brundeen
Photography by Michael Clements

UNT RESEARCHERS FROM ACROSS DISCIPLINES WORK TOGETHER TO DEPLOY INTELLIGENT MOBILITY SYSTEMS, INCLUDING AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE AND AERIAL DRONE TECHNOLOGY, IN RURAL AND URBAN SETTINGS.





Personal drones to pick up groceries and cleaning supplies, apps that help the elderly navigate public transportation, and robots that deliver food and social interaction to underserved populations. What would have seemed like luxuries prior to 2020 now look like valuable solutions during a global health crisis.

That's just part of the objective of a group of UNT researchers who are using their combined expertise to advance a broad integration of intelligent mobility systems spanning freight, people, airways and roadways, above ground and below ground — and use them to solve challenging and pressing problems facing our transport world today. UNT has strong research and development programs in air and ground autonomous vehicles, supply chain logistics and artificial intelligence, and ongoing partnerships with industry and public organizations. A new Center for Integrated Intelligent Mobility Systems (CIIMS) launched this year to capitalize on the interdisciplinary research of UNT faculty in areas including business, engineering, science, information and health and public service.

“The whole concept of mobility we’re tackling is very broad and encompassing,” says Terry Pohlen, associate dean of the G. Brint Ryan College of Business, director of UNT’s Jim McNatt Institute of Logistics and co-director of CIIMS. “It ranges from personal mobility to supply chains and the movement of freight.”

Integrating Solutions

Technology to automate the movement of goods, services and people is progressing rapidly, but an integrated approach is a must for successful deployment in safe, affordable, accessible and resilient ways.

“It’s not just about the smart transportation, it’s about

the integrated structure of this mobility,” Simon Andrew, professor of public administration, says.

Andrew, together with others in the College of Health and Public Service and the College of Engineering, have been exploring intelligent mobility systems for some time, with grants from NASA, the Office of Naval Research, the Army Research Lab and the National Science Foundation. UNT’s unique approach to air-to-ground vehicle integration uses modern tools like meshed networks, data sharing, machine learning and artificial intelligence integrated into 3D intelligent mobility systems. Kamesh Namuduri, professor of electrical engineering, collaborated with Andrew using networked drones to enable emergency communications during disaster recovery.


“It’s critical for local governments to be aware of different technologies and how they can be implemented in terms of policy development and adoption,” Andrew says.

Namuduri also is part of NASA’s Advanced Air Mobility National Campaign, which works to address the drastic increase of low-flying traffic over U.S. cities expected during the next decade by sharing airspace hazards data from multiple sources.

And with a focus on improving unmanned aircraft in the military, materials science and engineering researchers Diana Berman, Samir Aouadi and co-director of CIIMS Andrey Voevodin have been working on solutions to improve drone engines. They are using tribology — the study of friction — to develop more efficient and durable unmanned aerial vehicles.

Quality of Life

A Texas-based partnership center, CIIMS will bridge these research breakthroughs in intelligent technologies and workforce preparation.



Computer science and engineering researchers Qing Yang and Song Fu have partnered for connected and autonomous vehicle research to link all autonomous cars via wireless communication techniques, creating a network through which the vehicles can get a better sense of their surroundings. They also are working to address a shortage of engineers trained in autonomous vehicle technology. Graduate, undergraduate and TAMS students consistently assist them in the research and many have landed internships with companies like Fujitsu America and Nokia Bell Labs. The duo also hosted a 10-week summer camp in 2019 for underrepresented populations in the computer science industry to learn about autonomous vehicles.

Additionally, a demonstration laboratory for autonomous vehicles has been established at UNT's Discovery Park — a joint project between the College of Engineering and the G. Brint Ryan College of Business. Initial projects include ground-to-air drone tracking and interactions between robots and IoT infrastructure in smart building environments. And new collaborations continue to percolate, such as researchers in the G. Brint Ryan College of Business addressing supply chains for COVID-19 reagents and vaccines, and an interdisciplinary group led by Lauren Ames Fischer in the College of Health and Public Service, that is working to help the elderly, disabled and those with limited English use public transportation.

“When we develop the tools, business models and technologies into a cohesive focus, and when we help our industry partners, all of this is for one purpose: to improve the quality of life for citizens and communities in Texas and beyond.”

— Andrey Voevodin,
associate dean of the College of Engineering and
co-director of UNT's Center for Integrated and
Intelligent Mobility Systems (CIIMS)

Autonomous vehicles have the potential to improve the lives of many, but many still question their safety. Researchers at the Jim McNatt Institute for Logistics Research believe that their field-tested technologies in freight logistics will provide a necessary confidence level to transport through intelligent mobility systems.

“I envision an autonomous truck backing up to a warehouse and unloaded by robots,” Pohlen says. “Another set of robots will pick up the goods, with humans doing value-added activities, and then another loads them into an autonomous truck or drones will pick up the goods and deliver them to your home. It's possible. It's just how do we put it all together?”

Cohesive Focus

Part of the answer, Voevodin says, is collaborations with public and community organizations. And UNT's expertise and DFW-area industry connections position it at the forefront of the development of intelligent mobility systems that can solve those problems and more. These are big, bold goals — but their success is critical, particularly as the global pandemic has placed an unprecedented emphasis on quick solutions, such as the large-scale distribution of vaccines and medical supplies. There is an increased demand for contact-free delivery, along with demonstrated weaknesses in supply chains, taking the potential advantages of automated delivery systems like autonomous vehicles and drones way beyond novelty and simple convenience.

“When we develop the tools, business models and technologies into a cohesive focus, and when we help our industry partners, all of this is for one purpose,” Voevodin says. “To improve the quality of life for citizens and communities in Texas and beyond.”



INTEGRATED SMART TRANSPORTATION

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING TEAM LEAD THE U.S. IN DEVELOPING AN AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE.

Qing Yang and Song Fu, researchers in UNT's College of Engineering, are working to advance the safety and awareness of autonomous vehicles by developing a method for them to work together. They have earned \$1 million in grant funding from the National Science Foundation for various projects in connected autonomous vehicles.

"Consensus is growing among engineers and researchers that self-driving cars aren't yet perceptive enough to make them safe to drive on public roads," Yang, assistant professor of computer science, says.

Creating a Network

Yang and Fu, together with student researchers, are developing a way for vehicles to exchange fully processed data to others around them to better detect objects near them while

on the road. The goal of their work is to link all autonomous cars via wireless communication techniques, creating a network through which the vehicles can get a better sense of their surroundings, communicating information about everything from traffic flow to malfunctioning stoplights.


"Machine learning programs will utilize the collected data to build an informational map to make a decision about what actions to take regarding the object on the road," Yang says.

Workforce Training

The two also are creating workforce development trainings for researchers in connected autonomous vehicles. They plan to offer annual trainings along with summer research opportunities for undergraduates and at international conferences. Additionally, they

are creating an industry advisory board that includes researchers from companies such as Fujitsu Network Communications, Texas Instruments and Microsoft Research, as well as government agencies like the National Science Foundation, Texas Department of Transportation and researchers from other universities to ensure the training stays up-to-date with current trends and developments within the field.

"It's combining all the new technologies, like self-driving cars, Internet of Things and also edge computing — all new technologies the industry is very interested in," Fu, associate professor of computer science and engineering, says.

 Learn more about CIIMS and UNT's other emerging research centers. research.unt.edu

EN

EAGLES' NEST

The Class of 2020 faced untraditional times as they finished their studies during a pandemic — but their resilience never wavered. To commemorate, UNT hosted a socially distanced event at Apogee Stadium to confer graduates' degrees in December, along with virtual recognition ceremonies that honored individual graduates from each college. In all, more than 10,000 students graduated in 2019-20, a record year.



CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS

CLASS NOTES

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 7).

1963 ROBERT B. MORGAN ('65 M.M.), Houston, was the 2020 inductee into *DownBeat* magazine's Jazz Education Hall of Fame. Now retired, Morgan served for 23 years as director of jazz studies at Houston's Kinder High School for Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA), the school that has spawned many of the jazz world's current pacesetters, including saxophonist Shelley Carrol ('92). Prior to his HSPVA career, he was director of jazz studies at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. In 2000, Dr. Morgan and his wife, Helen — assisted by SBC Foundation — endowed the Bob and Helen Morgan Jazz Scholarship at UNT, dedicated to graduates of HSPVA. While at North Texas, Morgan played trumpet and trombone in the One O'Clock Lab Band and piano in the Two O'Clock Lab Band. He directed two lab bands and taught arranging while serving as a teaching assistant to Leon Breeden, who also is a member of the Jazz Education Hall of Fame.

1970 DREW ALLBRIGHT, Carrollton, was presented with a 50-Year Banker Award from the Texas Bankers Association. Drew began his banking career while attending North Texas as a commercial teller in Dallas. During his career, Drew worked for several institutions in the Dallas area. He has been with The Independent

Bankers Bank in Farmers Branch since 1997, providing expertise in IT, facilities and project management. He was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma at UNT.

1976 GEORGIANNE BURLAGE, Denton, edited the book *Living in the Shadow of a Hell Ship* (UNT Press), which is the story of her father, **George Burlage** ('61, '69 M.A.), a prisoner of war of the Japanese during World War II. His experiences were compiled from his personal writings, speeches and articles. While at North Texas, Georgianne was a member of the Mortar Board, *NT Daily*, history department committees and Sigma Delta Chi.

1977 LAWRENCE MUGG (M.B.A.), Aiea, Hawaii, is working for the Department of Defense in Hawaii after a career that has included stints at General Dynamics in Fort Worth, multiple aerospace companies, two telecom companies and several government agencies, including NASA and the FAA, in the U.S. and Europe. He also served in the military during the 1970s. He plans to return to the mainland when the pandemic is over. He says the most important thing he got out of UNT was "Teamwork! What have I stressed at every place that I have worked? Teamwork!"

1980 KEN BURCHETT (Ph.D.), Branson, Missouri, released his new



THE 40-YEAR FRIENDSHIP


The friendship was born at freshman orientation.

Six women came to North Texas State University in 1980 and found a connection at that event.

At a sorority rush party, six of the new friends met two other women — and the squad of eight women calling themselves the "NTSU Divas" was formed.

Their friendship has endured for 40 years — through the university's name change, numerous boyfriends, job changes, weddings, divorces and their parents' funerals.

"I believe it was a really good start, and over the years, we have become more family than friends," says Deb Chatman ('84), who works as a senior capital acquisition specialist for the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. "There is a saying, 'Friends are the family you get to choose.'"

 Read the full story. northtexan.unt.edu/40-year-friendship

ALUMNI PROFILE

COURTING INNOVATION



WHEN THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC MADE IT DIFFICULT for large groups to gather, Judge Emily Miskel ('99 TAMS) brainstormed solutions about how her court could still proceed. “There aren’t a lot of judges who were math and science nerds, so I bring that to the table,” she says.

Miskel, a former engineer who often speaks on technology issues and the law, oversaw the nation’s first online jury trial this May for the 470th District Court of Collin County. The trial led to Miskel winning the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence from the National Center for State Courts for demonstrating “outstanding qualities of judicial excellence.” U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts congratulated her on the award in a virtual ceremony.

“I’m a practical problem solver,” Miskel says. “I’m not going to dither about why we’re in this situation.”

When the Texas Office of Court Administration suggested testing a virtual trial jury on a group text with judges, they responded with all sorts of questions and concerns.

But Miskel found a way. She proposed a summary jury trial, an alternative dispute resolution process that involved a one-day trial over an insurance issue that would go to mediation — a process that uses juries, but is nonbinding.

Juries deliberated in breakout rooms and reviewed evidence on Dropbox. Miskel helped troubleshoot technical issues with the jury, such as instructing one juror to rotate her phone into landscape mode. At one point, a juror hadn’t returned after a 15-minute break, and they had to call him. But the trial went smoothly — and also won national attention from such news outlets as *Inside Edition* and even a few jokes from *The Daily Show*.

“Oh my gosh, I was so relieved,” she says. “There were no big snafus. The jurors were very engaged with the process.”

Technology has been part of Miskel’s wheelhouse since she came to UNT as a high school student to attend the university’s prestigious Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, the nation’s first early-entrance, residential program for gifted students interested in pursuing STEM fields. After TAMS, she studied mechanical engineering at Stanford University and worked as a project engineer overseeing oil and gas pipelines and refineries for a California firm. But she wanted a change.

“I like solving problems, but I like it better when people are involved,” she says.

She received her juris doctorate from Harvard Law School, then worked on intellectual property litigation and family law before going into the judiciary. The work can be tough — but it has its rewards.

“We are the third branch of government,” she says. “We work for the people. It’s a proud opportunity to serve our country.”

— Jessica DeLeón

book, *An Immigrant Story*, about an immigrant family who experienced the hardship of the American Civil War. The book was inspired by family connections and a deep interest in 19th century history. He previously wrote *Battle of Carthage* about the Civil War in Missouri. He retired from the University of Central Arkansas, where he served as an art professor for 32 years. While at UNT, he was a teaching assistant in the art department.

1986 BOBBY J. WILLIAMS ('13 M.B.A.) and SANDY BICKHAM WILLIAMS ('87), Sanger, run Christian Brothers Automotive maintenance and repair shops in Bedford and north Fort Worth. They were both students at UNT when they met at Highland Baptist Church in August 1984. "I lived in Clark Hall so we went on a lot of dates to Swenson's Ice Cream shop and the Lyceum on campus since both were in walking distance of my dorm," Sandy says. They married in 1986 and bought the shop in Bedford in 2015.

1986 LAURA COBB HAYES (M.S.), Allen, became president of the board of Head Start of Greater Dallas — which she attended as a child. She also received the designation of certified fundraising executive from CFRE International. Hayes is national executive director for Urban Specialists and has spent her 35-year career as a teacher and administrator.

1990 BRIAN JONES, Dallas, principal timpanist of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, collaborated with composer and Princeton University composition professor Steven Mackey on Mackey's composition "A Different Drummer"

at its world premiere with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in 2019. This was Jones's third world premiere of a timpani concerto with full symphony orchestra.

1992 LISA DAY, Haslet, has been named Region 11's 2020 Secondary Teacher of the Year. In 2005, she joined Northwest ISD, and for the past six years, she has been the team lead for the freshman English teachers at her campus. She serves as a National Honor Society faculty council member, as well as the Gifted and Talented coordinator. She was cited for her work in bringing community and collaboration to her classroom.

2001 THOMAS BLACK, Keller, saw his business, Napali Capital LLC, listed in *Inc.* magazine's annual 5000 list of the nation's fastest-growing companies. A former emergency room physician and real estate investor, his company works with physicians to expand their wealth beyond traditional investment platforms. He is a member of the College of Science's Advancement Board and is working to create an endowed Health Professions Scholarship.

LISA TAVARES, Richardson, has founded PopUp Funds, a website that helps busy people collect money online with a temporary storefront — with a more formal look than other apps but less work than setting up an online storefront. Tavares worked as a teacher in Richardson ISD before raising her children.

2005 JUSTIN TISCHLER ('07 M.S.), Flower Mound, was named president of Intalytics, an Ann Arbor,




SHOWCASING ALL COLORS

Soon after launching **Baptiste Beauty**, Jazy Baptiste — who attended UNT from 2008 to 2009 as a journalism major with a minor in political science — was showcased among other up-and-coming Black, queer entrepreneurs in *Forbes* for Pride Month in June this year.

"I still can't believe it happened. It felt amazing," Baptiste says.

Although he didn't plan to be an entrepreneur as a student, UNT helped Baptiste by giving him the tools to be a business leader. While attending, he participated in the National Association of Black Journalists, Sweat Dance Movement, the *North Texas Daily*, and participated in UNT's Next Top Model.

"UNT helped catapult me into starting Baptiste Beauty and encouraged me to take a leap of faith," he says.

 Read Baptiste's full story.
[northtexas.unt.edu/
showcasing-all-colors](http://northtexas.unt.edu/showcasing-all-colors)

ALUMNI PROFILE

A FEMININE APPROACH

FEMME FATALE HAS MANY MEANINGS — from “attractive” to a “man-eater” — but Anna Barringer’s (’18) *Femme Fatale* has a more wholesome and inspiring connotation, specifically for women in need of entrepreneurship assistance or general confidence-boosting and networking.

Inspired by author and motivational speaker Tony Robbins, Barringer wanted to follow his example but with a twist — to solely help women in their endeavors. The psychology and communication and media studies alum named her global community and creative agency *Femme Fatale* to reflect how she interprets the real meaning of a “fatal woman.”

“*Femme fatale* is a woman that is killing it in every aspect of her life,” she says.

The mission of *Femme Fatale* is to “give women the resources and community to be their best selves,” which Barringer advances by hosting events that emphasize community, inspiration and social orientation. Barringer actively pursues *Femme Fatale*’s mission by helping women with their entrepreneurial goals using creative branding tactics like designing logos, social media templates and websites.

Alongside fellow alum Ose Okogbo (’18), a contracted employee for *Femme Fatale* who handles web coding, the two are currently working on Ashley Michaelson PR’s Showroom for an upcoming fashion show in Los Angeles. During COVID-19, Barringer has seen her most productive season yet, with the company’s financial growth tripling as she’s helped brick-and-mortar stores establish a profitable online experience.

“The pandemic ramped up my business since people were forced to move online,” she says.



Another way Barringer pursues her company’s mission is by hosting events. Previous events included speakers such as Suzy Batiz (founder of Poo-Pourri), Brittany Madrid (founder of BZen TV), Ana Rhoden (wellness coach) and National Physique Competition bikini competitor Bethany Durst who taught women how to be confident. Barringer also hosts in-person social events like group fitness and photo shoots.

“Connecting with people is not just a one-on-one thing,” she says. “Bringing women together for different events with speakers is part of helping them be their best selves.”

Barringer continues to find innovative ways to expand her services to her clients, like developing templates they can use on their websites, launching a podcast to connect with the community on a weekly basis, and hosting events outside in the spring.

Her advice for up-and-coming female entrepreneurs is to find role models and study everything they know and did.

“It is imperative to find people who have gone before you,” she says. “Also have a good community of people who love you as a person, because the journey can be faced with a lot of uncertainty. Know where you want to go and what type of business you want, and be flexible with your plan and approach.”

— Sydney Cooper

Michigan-based company that specializes in location-based predictive analytics. He has worked there for nine years, previously serving as senior director. He has served as an adjunct lecturer in economics and continues to be a guest lecturer at UNT. He was the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus in the Economics Department.

2007 KATHY DIERINGER (Ed.D.), Double Oak, was elected president of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA). Beginning in June 2021, she will lead the organization of 45,000 members for three years. Kathy is a certified and licensed athletic trainer and is the original owner/founder of D&D Sports Med in Denton, Sanger and Aubrey. She served on the board of directors of the Greater Denton Sports Commission and was an athletic trainer for Olympic organizations such as USA Gymnastics and USA Volleyball.

ADAM HOLMES, Los Angeles, is working as a storyboard artist on *Puppy Dog Pals* on Disney Junior. He previously worked in the advertising field in Dallas. He met his wife **Natalia Daniels Holmes** (’07), who works as a graphic designer at Illumination Animation, at UNT.

2009 WILLIAM SEALE (M.B.A.), Dallas, is an accounting manager with Transformco — a job he found through a career fair sponsored by the UNT Career Center. He also is an adjunct instructor for Dallas College. While at UNT, he was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma.

Mean Green Pride



1 THE SMITH FAMILY is making sure baby Samirah Jo Smith is inheriting their love for Mean Green sports. Akii Smith ('15) played on the Mean Green football team, while Camille Cherry Smith ('15) played on the volleyball team. Akii was riding the Eagle Point bus from Victory Hall to campus when Camille hopped on the bus at the athletic complex. "We became best friends throughout college and got married in 2019," he says.

2 FRED ('50) AND MAE BRUCE celebrated their 70th anniversary Dec. 26. Fred grew up in Denton, spent two years in World War II, then became a

student at North Texas where he was a member of the Falcon Fraternity and met Mae, a member of Phi Sigma Alpha. They have enjoyed their retirement for more than 30 years in their lakeside home in Hilltop Lakes.

3 STEVEN SCIRE ('20 M.L.S.) married Miranda Leddy ('17 M.S.) in December 2020 in Fredericksburg. The two were engaged under the Sustaining Arch next to Willis Library. Steven works in the library and archives field and Miranda is working at TWU as an instructor while she finishes her Ph.D. there.

4 EVIE MCNAMARA is already a Mean Green fan at the tender age of 10 months (pictured here at 6 months). She is the daughter of Renée McNamara ('08, '12 M.S.), associate dean of students, and Sean McNamara ('11 M.Ed.), career coach in the Career Center for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

5 THE CHILDREN OF BROOKE ('06, '08 M.S.) and Josh Rodriguez ('04, '16 M.Ed.) — Jacob, 10, Owen, 7, Madeline, 4 — put on their Mean Green best.

Close to Home

XAVIER HENDERSON ('14) MAKES *FORBES*' 30 UNDER 30 SOCIAL IMPACT LIST FOR BETTERING THE LIVES OF THOSE IN HIS SOUTH OAK CLIFF NEIGHBORHOOD.

TEXT BY ERIN CRISTALES

The community center established by For Oak Cliff — a nonprofit committed to increasing the social mobility and capital of the community's residents — is just a stone's throw from the house where Xavier Henderson's ('14) grandmother raised his father and the home where his father raised him. It's situated within an area the For Oak Cliff cofounder and UNT communication studies alum refers to as the "75216 Superblock," a place where friendships were formed, memories were made, dreams were hatched.

The 75216 zip code represents home to Henderson — and also the opportunity for some long-overdue change. The reality, he says, is that South Oak Cliff houses a lot of great people battling a host of historic inequities. About 2.2% of the community's population is incarcerated — the highest percentage of any Texas zip code. Roughly 40% of residents ages 25 and older don't have a high school diploma or GED. Health disparities — stemming from issues such as physician shortages and a lack of medical insurance — have cemented South Oak Cliff as one of the unhealthiest areas in Dallas County.

"Those data points are real, and they're incredibly sobering," says Henderson, who also earned an M.Ed. from SMU in 2017 and is currently working on an online master's in nonprofit management from Columbia University.

So in August 2015, Henderson and fellow UNT alum Taylor Toynes ('12) began the movement that evolved into For Oak Cliff. The two pooled their talents and contacts to launch an annual community festival where families could come together to celebrate and kids could pick up back-to-school basics.

For Oak Cliff is now a full-fledged 501(c)(3) that over the years has garnered some impressive attention — in February 2017, for instance, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg visited South Oak Cliff to help start the organization's 10th Street Community Garden. And Henderson, now the nonprofit's full-time director of strategy, has amassed some attention of his own. His commitment to the South Dallas community — from his role at For Oak Cliff to his fellowship with the social justice and innovation organization Echoing Green — in 2020 landed the 28-year-old a spot on *Forbes*' 30



Under 30 Social Impact list.

He's excited about the designation, but more excited about the work he and Toynes and the rest of the For Oak Cliff team are engaged in. At their recently renovated community center, they offer free GED courses, academic enrichment for K-12 students, family counseling and COVID-19 resources, among other services.

And Henderson has seen the difference a little investment can make. One young man, after earning his GED with the help of For Oak Cliff, received a \$5,000 raise from his employer. Other residents, who once were uncertain they'd even graduate from high school, have gone on to college. That doesn't mean the nonprofit's "2-Gen" approach — boosting the potential of not just kids but entire families — isn't a long-term, and challenging, endeavor. But change, Henderson knows, is rarely quick and never easy.

"I didn't choose the path of social impact expecting sudden wins overnight," he says. "It takes consistency, it takes being able to navigate failure. That's part of the fight."

 Learn more about For Oak Cliff's outreach work. foroakcliff.org

RIGHT: PHOTO BY MICHAEL CLEMENTS

ABOVE: PHOTO COURTESY OF FOR OAK CLIFF



OAKCLIFF

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I didn't choose the path of social impact expecting sudden wins overnight.

— Xavier Henderson ('14)

ALUMNI PROFILE

MISSION IS FULL OF HEART — AND SOLES



FRAGMENTS OF THAT DAY ARE
ETCHED INTO KIA DAVIS' ('06)
MEMORY LIKE SCARS.

The malignant blankness in her boyfriend's eyes, his fingers pressing into her throat. The screaming and thrashing, the feeling of her legs

connecting just hard enough to kick him away, her hands grasping the knob of her apartment door and throwing it open. She recalls looking up at the sky, then down at the stairs. *A way out.*

This time, she thought, I'm going to take it.

"I was yelling and running for help with no shoes on," says Davis, whose ground-floor neighbor summoned the police as her boyfriend fled. "I could feel the pebbles from the stairs on my bare feet."

Several years later, she found herself wondering, *What if I would have had to keep running that day?*

"It was really about the shoes in the beginning," says Davis, a Fort Worth native and interdisciplinary studies alum who is the CEO of *WeTalkRadio.com* and founder of Heels on the Move to Heal, a nonprofit that brings awareness to domestic abuse and sexual assault while empowering and supporting survivors. "And then people were like, 'Wait, can I give you clothes?' And it just kind of grew from there."

Since its inception in 2018, Heels on the Move to Heal's events and programs have served more than 5,000 families in counties across the state, including Dallas, Collin, Tarrant, Denton, Harris, Rockwall, Kaufman and Ellis. The nonprofit sponsors educational programs for area youth to create and produce local events, allowing them to explore roles like emcee, performer, producer, DJ, photographer and videographer. Those opportunities also are part of Heels on the Move to Heal's annual charity fashion show, in which participants sashay down a runway that ends in a good cause — a donation box where they can contribute shoes to be gifted to local women's shelters. The most recent event took place virtually in

December 2020.


"When we started, I didn't realize that it would be a movement," says Davis, who notes one in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. "I didn't realize what we were going to do. I didn't realize that we were going to save lives — that we were going to get women out of abusive homes, place them in shelters, make sure they have all the items they need. Whatever they need, we're going to make it happen."

It might be more understatement than cliché to say that Davis has walked a mile in their shoes. In a video on the Heels on the Move to Heal site, Davis shares the details of her abuse — how her relationship, which began when she was 23, devolved into a seemingly endless cycle of physical violence and apologies. Her apartment walls were marred with holes, her body with bruises.

"I was so sick of it," she says. "I was worn out."

Empathy for survivors of domestic violence isn't the same as understanding, and Davis's bone-deep recognition of the guilt and fear and paralysis that can plague women and children in abusive situations has made her a particularly effective advocate. Still, she says, it's not uncommon to see victims return to their abusers.

"There are some who go back — I went back many times before I finally left," says Davis, who encourages women in need to reach out any time, day or night. "I never want to push myself on anyone, but they know I'm here to help. They know they can come to me with that information, and I won't judge them." — Erin Cristales

 Learn more about Heels on the Move to Heal's mission. heelsonthetovetoheal.org

2012 BLAKE BARRETT, Blue Ridge, and DAVE WANDERSEE ('12), Little Elm, have run Dad Wilder, a dad-and-mom apparel business in McKinney and online since 2018. They give back to charities such as St. Jude and Folds of Honor. Blake was a business major and Dave was a teaching major who teaches third grade for McKinney ISD.

JACKIE WILHITE, Houston, joined the Houston office of Shackelford, Bowen, McKinley & Norton. Her practice involves contract negotiation in the commercial and nonprofit sector involving compliance/ethics, bankruptcy, foreclosures and employment law. She previously worked for the firm Baker Donelson.

2014 BRITTNEY YOUNG, Sachse, runs the online-only store Fat Rhonda Apparel. A portion of the store's proceeds are donated to a local domestic violence shelter and outreach.

2015 LATOYA LYNN ROWELL, Plano, was promoted as the new community affairs coordinator for Comerica Bank. She also was selected as the 2019-2020 Communities Foundation of Texas Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy Fellow. Her favorite experience on campus was the UNT Ring Ceremony. "Receiving my ring made me feel like I was a part of the spirit and traditions of UNT," she says.

2017 FRAZIER ALEXANDER, Denton, wrote the fantasy novel, *The Lost King*, about the children of a vanished king who embark on a quest to find their father. Frazier works as a

customer service representative for the Toulouse Graduate School. While he studied at UNT, he was an Eagle Ambassador whose training program in 2014 led him to meet his wife **Nicole Harberson** ('16). "We were walking through campus with the other Eagle Ambassadors during our summer training. There was a snow cone stand set up, so naturally we all stopped to get snow cones — except for Nicole and I. We stepped off to the side and just started talking. I knew at once that she was the girl I was meant to marry."

PAMELA SKJOLSVIK (M.S.), Richland Hills, wrote *Forever 51* (Fawkes Press), a novel that follows a vampire — who is "eternally bloated, short-tempered and thirsty for blood" — as she regains her mortality. She won second place for her nonfiction manuscript *Death Becomes Us* at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference in 2013.

2018 MATT ARTZ (M.A.), Jersey City, New Jersey, spoke at SXSW in March on how anthropology plays a role in advertising research. He also presented a TEDx Talk that was based on his UNT applied anthropology thesis research in genomics. He is head of product and experience at Cloudshadow Consulting and also owns the anthropological-based research firm, Azimuth Labs, that focuses on startups in healthcare technology. He also blogs about his research and user experience (UX) and product management.

AMANDA O'TOOLE (M.M.), Dallas. The vocal performance alum was a finalist for the Dallas Opera Guild Biennial Lone Star Vocal Competition, which was online in 2020.


ALUMNI EVENTS

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

1 | UNT ALUMNI LIVE! Check out Quentin Moore and the DaxTones streaming live on April 22; one of OLLI's most popular classes, Music in the Movies, taught by Max Morley ('79 D.M.A.) on May 13; the Green Brigade uniform unveiling on May 27; and a discussion with Woolley's Frozen Custard owners John Woolley ('03) and Brett Allen ('00) on June 10. To learn more or to check out past Alumni Live! recordings, visit untalumni.com/alumnilive.

2 | CAREER CONVERSATIONS: The UNT Career Center is offering virtual sessions on everything from interview preparation and resume building to major-focused virtual chats and career expos. Check out the full list of offerings at careercenter.unt.edu/events.

3 | COMMENCEMENT: Spring 2021 in-person commencement and virtual college recognition ceremonies are planned for April 30 and May 1. The in-person ceremonies will take place at Apogee Stadium. On April 29, Spring and Summer 2020 graduates will be recognized at a special in-person ceremony (RSVPs were accepted through March 26). To learn more about the ceremonies, visit commencement.unt.edu.

 Learn more about the
UNT Alumni Association.
untalumni.com

GIVING IMPACT

NEW LATINX ALUMNI NETWORK SUPPORTS STUDENT SUCCESS

Just after his retirement in 2017, business alumnus Bob Garza ('74) walked into a meeting with a blank pad of paper and a single goal — to find a way to help the UNT community do more with and for Latinx students. That pad of paper filled over the years, and in early 2021, Garza became the first president of the UNT Alumni Association's new Latinx Alumni Network (LAN).

The program's mission? To engage Latinx alumni who will support the recruitment, retention and success of Latinx students.

"We're creating a community for alumni and, at the same time, saying that we need their help. We need alumni to come in and be an example of what it means to be UNT friendly to Latinx students," says Garza, who won the Outstanding Alumni Service Award in 2019.

As a first-generation, non-traditional college graduate who was already married and had four years of military service when he enrolled at North Texas, Garza knows how difficult it can be to navigate the university system. George Esquivel ('91), vice president of LAN, had a similar experience as the youngest of eight children and the first to attend a four-year university.

"There were so many questions I had at the time — some were as simple as wondering what a credit hour was," Esquivel says. "And I've talked to enough people who were in a similar position to know that I'm far from alone in that experience."

After working with the university to attract Latinx students, members of LAN will connect students with resources that help them succeed academically, as well as give them more opportunities to love campus life.

The first goal is to keep students enrolled until they cross the stage in a cap and gown, but LAN's work will not end at graduation.

"We're going to mentor students and help them achieve successful careers," says Esquivel, now the co-founder of



Four Corners Brewing in Dallas. "I felt inadequate going out into the workforce — the transition to my first job was harsh. With a strong network, I'm confident we can provide valuable guidance."

The founding members of LAN hope to move beyond helping individuals. They want to give back to the North Texas region by grooming top talent into a workforce that will bring more companies and jobs into the area.


"We have to invest in people now if we want a better tomorrow. We need to help create our next generation of leaders," Esquivel says.

For Garza, the core of LAN's mission is finding new ways for alumni to get involved and give back. He's encouraged that LAN is an official organization affiliated with the UNT Alumni Association and backed by university leadership.

"I feel really good about it, and I'm just so proud of UNT that we've come to this point and they've embraced it — they've embraced it wholeheartedly," Garza says.

— Amanda Yanowski

LAN board (left to right): President Bob Garza ('74), Executive At Large Gloria López Carter ('82), Executive At Large Rebeca Perfecto ('12), Secretary Ernest Martínez ('11), Vice President George Esquivel ('91)

 Interested in joining Latinx Alumni Network? Visit untalumni.com/lan for more information.

“Mean Green Mobile Media is going to dramatically expand our capabilities and open new avenues for students who want to work in the production of live events, movies and television.”

— **Andrea Miller**

Dean of the Mayborn School of Journalism

MEAN GREEN MOBILE MEDIA

For Andrea Miller, dean of the Mayborn School of Journalism and interim chair of Media Arts, a used trailer presented a world of possibilities for the UNT community in the age of COVID-19. With a little help, she thought, the trailer could be transformed into a mobile production unit that would allow students to safely bring live events to the homes of fellow students, alumni and friends of the university.

The Mean Green Mobile Media project, a joint venture between the Mayborn School, the Department of Media Arts and Mean Green Athletics, is moving forward thanks to the UNT Diamond Eagles Society — donors who work together to create high-impact change on campus.

Every year, Diamond Eagles members make \$1,000 contributions, which are pooled together to fund a project determined by a majority vote. This year’s support, announced Feb. 25 during a virtual event, will create invaluable, real-world experiences for students in the media arts and journalism programs.

“Our members are proud to support this ambitious project,” says Cathy Bryce, who co-chairs the Diamond Eagles Society with Debbie Smatresk. “We’re excited to help our students grow and learn as they work to bring our UNT family closer together.”



UNT Alumni Association

Part of the UNT Alumni Association’s mission is to serve, support and celebrate the university, and its board of directors is taking that to heart with the creation of the new UNT Alumni Association Board of Directors Annual Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund — the 12th created by the association — was started with an initial \$19,000 gift made by the board. Awards will be given to eligible students with a family member who is a UNT graduate, to help create Mean Green legacies and support future alumni.

“We know that scholarships are critical,” says Cathy Bryce, chair of the UNT Alumni Association Board of Directors. “They can change the course of your life.”

The board’s focus on student success isn’t new — a scholarship committee has been in place since 2016, helping individuals and alumni association chapters establish funds. Now, the board is using earnings from an investment fund to deepen that support.

“We’re trying to create a perpetual scholarship machine,” says Stephen Westurn, treasurer of the UNT Alumni Association Board of Directors and chair of the Finance and Investment Committee.

The board hopes to establish a connection with students to grow the UNT Alumni Association, as well as raise awareness with graduates about the importance of creating endowments and contributing to scholarship funds. The main goal, however, is to see students excel in college and advance to successful careers.

“We all love the University of North Texas,” Bryce says. “We just want to see our students do well.”



To help make a transformative UNT education possible for more students, visit untalumni.com/scholarship-donation.

ESTATE GIFT

TRANSFORMING LEGACY



WHEN THE LATE HORACE BROCK and his wife, the late Euline Brock ('74 Ph.D.), met at North Texas in 1954, they made attending concerts on campus a dating tradition — one they continued for more than 50 years.

Now, with a \$6.5 million estate gift, the Brocks have left a legacy that will transform the futures of students in UNT's College of Music.

The couple's profound appreciation of the arts preceded their lifetime of giving.

"When my parents got married in 1955, they bought a hi-fi before they had a couch — that's how strong their love of music was," says Alan Brock, one of the couple's three children.

For Horace, Professor Emeritus of accounting, and Euline — who taught English at North Texas and served as mayor of Denton — a connection to the College of Music stemmed directly from that passion for keeping music and the arts as a central part of their lives, as well as their deep belief in the importance of what UNT's music program provided them, their family and the many others who benefited from it.

"Euline and Horace Brock were truly impactful citizens of this university, this community and the world," says John Richmond, dean of the College of Music. "Global leaders in every sense, they chose nevertheless to focus so much of their energy, enthusiasm and legacy right here in Denton."

Throughout their lives, the Brocks' UNT contributions extended beyond the College of Music to the College of Business, athletics, the libraries and the Emerald Eagles Scholars program. Their scholarships include the Euline and Horace Brock Merit Scholarship, which supports music students; the Brock Endowment for Strings, a full-ride scholarship given to an outstanding string player each year; and the Euline W. Brock Centennial Presiden-

tial Scholarship, which recruits top academically performing students.

In recognition of decades of service to the university, the Brocks received the Wings of Eagles Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. And if you walk into the Murchison Performing Arts Center, you will find yourself standing in the Euline and Horace Brock Grand Lobby.

"Horace and Euline Brock deserve the highest honor," says David Wolf, vice president for university advancement. "Their dedication to making a difference at our university during their lives, and now through their estate plan, will continue to change lives for generations."

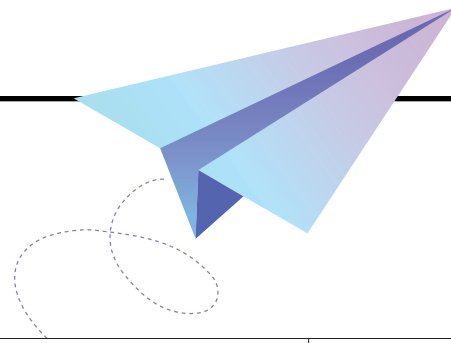
The estate gift — one of the largest the university has ever received — will be used to fund scholarships in the College of Music.

"Their extraordinary generosity demonstrates a profound commitment to our college and to the future of our diverse musical culture," Richmond says. "We are humbled and extremely grateful to the entire Brock family for their philanthropic legacy."

The Brocks' lifetime of generosity to both the university and the community was tied to their commitment to working with ferocity — not just for their own personal success, but for the success of others.

"My parents knew that a truly meaningful life doesn't come from a focus only on yourself, and that's what this legacy is about — others benefiting from their tremendous good fortune," Alan Brock says.

— Amanda Yanowski



AVIATION PROGRAM HAS HELPED STUDENTS SOAR



UNT'S AVIATION LOGISTICS PROGRAM — the first four-year program of its kind in Texas — is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this academic year. The historical milestone is particularly meaningful as many of the program's graduates have been responsible for delivering essential supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program began after a conversation at the North Texas Council of Governments highlighted the need for four-year aviation programs. With the help of Tarrant County College, the U.S. Aviation Academy and Denton Enterprise Airport, the aviation logistics program was born and implemented in Fall 2010 at UNT's main campus.

"We decided to focus our educational programs on the non-flying aspects of the aviation industry but still show students how they could go on to obtain a pilot's license," says Terrance Pohlen, director of the Jim McNatt Institute for Logistics Research.

UNT developed the aviation logistics degree program, as well as the Bachelor of Arts and Applied Sciences program with a concentration in aviation logistics, and collaborated with TCC to provide flight training programs. A four-year degree is preferred for aspiring pilots to become a commercial pilot.

"We made a very compelling argument that our program was about the business of aviation," Pohlen says. "Pilots often move into non-flying positions later in their career, and this program enables them to successfully make this transition."

Aviation logistics students benefit from UNT collaborations with Southwest Airlines, Hillwood Properties — which operates the Fort Worth Alliance Airport — and Lockheed-Martin Aeronautics, all of which have provided students with internship opportunities.

A HISTORY OF FIRSTS

Throughout its 130-year history, UNT has been the first to address industry needs in launching other academic programs, including:

- The first jazz studies program in the U.S.
- The first undergraduate emergency administration and planning program in the U.S.
- The first bachelor's degree in digital retailing and in consumer experience management in the U.S. and the first Master of Science program in merchandising offered completely online
- The first undergraduate program in applied behavior analysis in the U.S. and the first accredited master's program in behavior analysis in the world
- The first graduate applied anthropology program in the U.S. offered completely online
- The first school library certification program in the U.S. offered completely online
- The first and only Ph.D. program in art education in Texas
- The world's first graduate program in environmental philosophy and the world's first field station in environmental philosophy, science and policy at Cape Horn, Chile
- The first master's program in international sustainable tourism in the U.S. and the first to require a year abroad
- The first and only standalone M.S. program in artificial intelligence in Texas

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

UNT 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 7).

1940s

DOUGLAS LAYNE ('49, '50 M.A.), Denton. He was a member of the President's Council and donated to the Department of Chemistry and the James L. Carrico Memorial Fund. In the late 1990s, he served on the advisory board of the Department of Chemistry and on the executive advisory board of the Department of Marketing. For two years, he worked for the Chemical Corps at Dugway Proving Ground and in 1954, joined Dow Corning Corp. in Midland, Michigan. He served as vice president of global business and market development for Dow Corning before retiring in 1984. Upon retirement, he became a member of the Planned Innovation Consulting Group, and he was active in his church.

1950s

CRESWELL "DEAN" DAVIS ('53), Austin. While at North Texas, he was a member of the debate team and was the national college debate champion. He then served in the U.S. Army in the 1950s and earned his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. He had a legal career representing health care and insurance organizations for more than 50 years. In both 1967 and 1983, he was appointed to the UNT Board of Regents and in the 1970s helped with the formation of the UNT Foundation, serving as its first secretary-treasurer. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1990. In 2013, he accepted the Generations

of Excellence Award for the C. Dean Davis Family — nearly 40 members of his extended family have attended UNT over a period beginning in 1910. He and his wife, Mollie, made numerous contributions to UNT and were members of the McConnell Society.

SANDRA HODGES GAMAL, Cairo. She served as librarian for the Cairo American College from 1962 to 2003. She attended North Texas in the 1950s, and was active in the Baptist Student Union.

1960s

DELMELIA DUNN ('64), Stephenville. She was a retired home economics teacher, county extension agent and active member of her church. She loved crafting, cooking and was always working on a project. When she was born, her 2-year-old brother asked to "hold the doll." From then on, she was known as Doll to the family.

JUANITA WILLIAMS CLARY ('65), Russellville, Arkansas. She was an elementary school teacher for 30 years in Texas and Arkansas. She was married to **Dr. Eldon Clary Jr.** ('62, '64 M.Ed., '68 Ed.D.). While at North Texas, she served as a resident assistant in Oak Street Hall during her junior year.

T.C. 'SKIP' COX JR. ('65), Graham. He attended UNT with a scholarship as a student trainer and was a member of the Geezles. He became an athletic trainer at Palo Duro High School in

Amarillo and Odessa High School before returning to UNT as head athletic trainer from 1968 to 1973. He left for Baylor University, serving as its head athletic trainer, assistant and associate athletic director until his retirement in 1993. While at Baylor, he was part of the 1974 and 1980 Southwest Conference Football Championship, the 1975 Cotton Bowl, the 1979 Peach Bowl and more. He was named president of the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association in 1972 and was named to the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame in 1991. He also was inducted into the Mineral Wells High School Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Baylor University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010.

GRADY WINSTON TROUTE ('65, '68 M.A.), Dayton. He served in the Arkansas National Guard and worked as a private contractor on the F-111 aircraft, the Minuteman Missile, the P-3C military aircraft, the Space Shuttle and more. He also worked as a manager with GM and EDS before retiring and becoming a real estate agent in the Dayton area. He was the author of four books and active in his church.

CLINTON LORANCE GANTT, SR. ('67 M.B.A.), Plano. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 and served during World War II and the Korean War until he was discharged in 1952. He worked at Texas Instruments, and was active in the Knights of Columbus and his church. He was preceded in death by his son **Clinton Lorance "Larry" Gantt Jr.** ('83).

JOE MARK CULWELL ('68), Flower Mound. He served as commander in the U.S. Navy, flying the EA-6B Prowler and becoming one of the first Naval officers to work as a master training specialist. He received the Vice Admiral John Perry Prowler Excellence Award in 1985, and was awarded the Navy Commendation medal, the Navy Achievement medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation medal, among other awards. In 1986, he received his master's degree from Webster University, and in 1988, he retired from active duty and became a Naval Junior ROTC Instructor in Corpus Christi ISD.

1970s

BARBARA STODDARD ('71 M.Ed.), Dallas. She attended Southern Methodist University as the youngest freshman in school history, majoring in art with a minor in education. She went to Monterrey, Mexico, where she grew up, to teach for a few years before moving back to Texas to teach art and ESL at San Antonio and Dallas schools. She was an avid dollhouse miniature hobbyist and was an active member of the Society of American Miniaturists.

THAD MCCOLLUM ('72), Argyle. A graduate of the G. Brint Ryan College of Business, he had a successful career in sales for the electrical industry. He and his wife, Becky McCollum, donated to the College of Music and were members of the President's Council. Thad enjoyed baseball, traveling, gardening and golfing.

1980s

CLINTON LORANCE "LARRY" GANTT JR. ('83), Allen. A member of the UNT Alumni Association, he was an avid fan of UNT Athletics and the Texas Rangers. He was proud of his family and Irish heritage. His father was the late **Clinton Lorance Gantt, Sr.** ('67 M.B.A.).

1990s

DR. DANIEL LEWIS GENTRY ('95), Rockwall. He earned his doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1999 from Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. He worked for Lake Ray Hubbard Emergency Pet Care, now the Veterinary Referral Center of East Dallas, and in 2006 opened his own clinic, Timbercreek Animal Hospital, in Rockwall. He was a member of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association, as well as Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He is survived by his wife, **Beverly Barton Gentry** ('95).

DR. ALAN CHRISTOPHER WIENANDT ('95 Ph.D.), Fort Worth. He was an editor at *The Dallas Morning News* and reporter at the *Copperas Cove Leader-News*, *Abilene Reporter-News* and *Stars & Stripes* in Darmstadt, Germany. He was one of the founders and president of the American Copy Editors Society.

2010s

JEFFRY HUGH ECKELS, Denton, was a doctoral student at UNT from 2002 to 2012 and a teaching fellow. A double bass musician, he performed around the world in chamber orchestras and jazz groups, recorded albums and was a regular musician on the NPR quiz show *Whad'Ya Know?* He taught at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Universidad San Francisco in Quito, Ecuador, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. While at UNT, he played with the One O'Clock Lab Band and directed the Five O'Clock Lab Band.

MORGAN ALISE MICHAEL ('19), Rhome. After graduating with honors from the Mayborn School of Journalism, she worked as a marketing communication specialist at Alterity Inc. in Arlington.

2020s

DREW CROW, Nocona. He was a junior journalism major in the Mayborn School of Journalism. He was studying to be a political writer.

TRISHARAN KHATRI, Fort Worth. He was a biology major in the College of Science who wanted to become a doctor. He was a soccer player known for his optimism and hard work.

KHAMEY W. LIBY, Houston. He was a finance major in the G. Brint Ryan College of Business. He had hoped to pursue a career in the financial industry.

University Community

JAMES BREWER ('53, '58 M.Ed.), 90, a North Texas letterman who was a member of the football coaching staff from 1990 to 1992, died June 28, in Fort Worth. He was inducted into the UNT Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995. He played with the Philadelphia Eagles for one year and was stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army Special Services after college. He then coached football for 45 years in Fort Worth ISD and the University of Texas at Arlington, in addition to UNT.

DR. YVONNE CHANDLER, associate professor of information science who headed UNT's law library program and was a 2020 inductee into the American Association of Law Libraries Hall of Fame, died Aug. 8, in Denton. She came to UNT in 1993 as assistant professor and director of the Law Librarianship and Legal Informatics Program in what is now the Department of Information Science. She received the President's Council Outstanding Teaching Award in 2008 and was a lifetime member of the UNT Alumni Association. She earned her bachelor's degree from Clark College, her master's in library science from Clark Atlanta University and her doctorate from the University of Michigan.


FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

University Community



DR. BERTINA HILDRETH COMBES, 62, vice provost for faculty success and professor of special education who had worked at UNT since 1989, died Feb. 19 in Denton. She also had served as coordinator of special education programs and as associate and interim dean of the College of Education. After earning a bachelor's degree from Oral Roberts University, she worked as an elementary school teacher specializing in learning and intellectual disabilities and emotional and behavior disorders while earning a master's degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin and served as an assistant professor at Texas Tech University before joining the UNT faculty. In UNT's Department of Educational Psychology, she focused on preparing professional educators to meet the needs of diverse students receiving special education services, including those with learning disabilities. She was the director for Project TELL: Training Effective Leaders for High-Needs Schools Through Local Partnerships. She was named a Student Association Honors Professor and a Mortar Board Top Prof, as well as receiving the first Ulys and Vera Knight Faculty Mentor Award and a President's Council Teaching Award. She also was honored for her leadership in supporting inclusion and diversity at UNT and was known as a guiding light and mentor to her

colleagues on campus and beyond. She was active in numerous professional organizations through the years, including the International Council for Learning Disabilities. She also was an active member of Delta Sigma Theta. Students remember her as an understanding mentor who shaped their interest in the field of special education and encouraged them to turn possibilities into plans. She was a deeply religious person who also believed in the power of education to transform lives. The child of college educators, she created the Drs. Eddie and Gladys Hildreth Scholarship at UNT, named for her parents. This scholarship is now endowed because of her dedication and commitment to it. Survivors include her two children, **Ashley** ('17) and **Julius** ('19), both UNT alumni. **Memorials to the Dr. Bertina H. Combes Scholarship fund may be made through University Advancement, 1155 Union Circle #311250, Denton, TX 76203-5017. Contact Shelly Lane at shelly.lane@unt.edu or 940-891-6860.**

 **Read more about Combes' impact on education and memories from the UNT community.** northtexan.unt.edu/bertina-combes

MELANIE DEWEY, 40, an administrative specialist and graduate coordinator in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering since 2015, died July 9. She is survived by her 7-year-old daughter, Rossleigh, with her husband, **Lance**, who previously worked with UNT's TRIO-Upward Bound program.

DR. ELIZABETH FIGA, 65, who taught at UNT from 2000 until her retirement in 2018 as an associate professor in the Department of Information Science, died July 31, in Bloomington, Illinois. In 2009, she received the Provost's Award for Extraordinary Professional Service to the university. She earned her

bachelor's degree from DePauw University and a master's degree from Illinois State University before earning a master's and doctorate in library and information sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

DR. ALLEN JACKSON, 69, Regents Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation for more than 40 years, died Aug. 5, in Maine. He helped create the applied physiology laboratory, authored more than 100 research publications and helped establish the interdisciplinary doctoral programs in the College of Education. Allen, who worked at UNT from 1978 to 2019, also served as department chair and was working on modified service in the department. He gave generously to the Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation Excellence Fund.

DR. DANIEL JOHNSON, 80, former dean of what is now the College of Health and Public Service who went on to become president of the University of Toledo, died July 1, in Washington Township, Michigan. His higher education career spanned more than 40 years and brought him international recognition. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Christian University and his doctorate from the University of Missouri. He worked in various leadership roles at Virginia Commonwealth University, then served at UNT as a professor of sociology and dean of the then-called School of Community Service from 1991 to 1997. Dan left UNT to become provost at the University of Alaska. He then led the University of Toledo and served in various positions before retiring as distinguished university professor of public policy and economic development. He also was provost and chief operating officer of Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates from 2008 to 2011.

DR. KEITH JOHNSON ('63), 77, Regents professor of trumpet and renowned trumpeter, died July 31, in Denton. He taught at UNT from 1986 to 2014 and received the Distinguished Teaching Professor Award in 2011. In 2012, he won the Award of Merit from the International Trumpet Guild for his service to the trumpet profession. He earned his master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and before joining UNT, taught at the University of Northern Iowa. He and his wife, Cecile, contributed to UNT's College of Music and were members of the President's Council. Donations can be made to The Keith Johnson Trumpet Graduate Scholarship Endowment.

DR. ROBERT FRED KERN, 75, of Dallas, Professor Emeritus of music and specialist in piano education at UNT from 1980 to 2011, died Aug. 14. Previously, he was a professor at William Rainey Harper College and Northwestern University. He earned a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University, master's degrees from Illinois Wesleyan and Northwestern University, and a doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy.

JAN KILLEN, 79, of Irving, a strong supporter of UNT, died Aug. 11, in Irving. She was a lifelong philanthropist and a licensed interior designer. She served as the first president of the Irving Cultural Affairs Council and had the lead role in Irving's Great Days of Service program. She and her husband of 35 years, **Byron** ('63, '65 M.Ed.), were members of the President's Council for their generosity to UNT, especially to the College of Education.

DONALD JOE MCNABB, 77, who served in the UNT Physical Plant from 1989 to 2004, died Aug. 3, in Aubrey. He owned and operated McNabb Tile for more than 30 years and was a member of the Aubrey ISD School Board for more than 10 years.

RAYMOND LOYD MORAN, 76, who worked for UNT Facilities from 2002 to 2013, died Oct. 2. He was born in Sherman and was a longtime business owner of the Glass Center in Denton. He enjoyed riding motorcycles when he was growing up and later traveling in his RV with his family around the country.

DR. EUGENE OSADCHY, 68, a professor of cello at UNT since 1999, died Oct. 3. He served as a principal cellist with the Plano Symphony, Dallas Chamber Orchestra and Richardson Symphony, and regularly performed and gave master classes around the world. He was born in Kiev to a family of professional musicians and started his own musical education at the age of 5 on the piano and a year later on the cello. After graduating from The Special Music School for Talented and Gifted Children, he continued his education at the Kiev State Conservatory of Music, graduating with honors, and became a Laureate of the Republic of Ukraine Cello Competition.

BARBARA POLE, 88, of Denton, who was a member of the Chilton Society alongside her husband, **Fred**, died Sept. 24, in Denton. Barbara raised her family while Fred served in the U.S. Army and then worked at UNT as vice president for Administrative Affairs. She was active in her church.

DR. MILAN REBAN, 87, Professor Emeritus of political science who taught comparative and international politics for more than 40 years at UNT and lectured at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, died Sept. 13. Milan was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and fled to Germany in 1949 to escape the Communist takeover and be with his father. Together, they emigrated to Florida, where Milan finished high school and became a U.S. citizen. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami, and continued his education as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Vanderbilt University, where he

received his master's degree, and then at Michigan State University, where he received his doctorate. He joined UNT in 1967 and retired in 2008. Much of his research focused on ethnicity and nationalism in East and Central Europe and the U.S.S.R.

THOMAS 'TOM' SCHRIMSHER, 72, who worked on electronics in the Department of Physics from 1984 to 2004, died Aug. 23, in Denton. He served in the Vietnam War as a member of the U.S. Air Force and was an instructor at Sheppard Air Force Base. While working at UNT, he repaired malfunctioning equipment and designed printed circuit boards. He was a gifted musician — he built and played his own theremin and was skilled in playing the hand saw and guitar. He is survived by his wife, **Rheta**, who worked at UNT with Housing custodial services.

BILLY TUBBS, 85, of Norman, Oklahoma, who served three seasons as an assistant basketball coach for UNT, died Nov. 1. Tubbs played basketball then launched his coaching career in 1960 at his alma mater, Lamar State College of Technology, now Lamar University. He served as head coach for Southwestern University and coached at UNT from 1973 to 1976, aiding the team in achieving a turnaround from a 6-20 record in 1975 to 22-4 in 1976. He later coached at Lamar, the University of Oklahoma and Texas Christian University, and was the ninth coach in the NCAA to record 100 wins at three different schools.

MEMORIALS

Send memorials to honor UNT alumni and friends, made payable to the UNT Foundation, to University of North Texas, Division of University 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/giving. For more information, email giving@unt.edu or call 940-565-2900.

PERSPECTIVE

“ARTISTS, AT THIS POINT IN TIME ESPECIALLY, NEED TO BE INVESTED IN WAYS TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC AND THIS SEEMED LIKE A REALLY GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ARTISTS TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE COMMUNITY.” — David Stout, who along with fellow College of Visual Arts and Design faculty member Alicia Eggert and staff member Zak Loyd, created installations for the Dallas-based art organization AURORA’s drive-thru immersive art exhibition Area 3, which was on display in a downtown Dallas parking garage from October 2020 to January 2021. Stout’s “The Chamber” is pictured.





UNITY

“Our mission is to build champions and prepare leaders. Now, more than ever, we need champions and leaders on issues of diversity and inclusion and that is going to be a primary focus for us as we move forward together.”

— Wren Baker, Vice President and Director of Athletics

Learn how student athletes are using their voices in the pursuit of unity at unitymeangreen.com/platform.





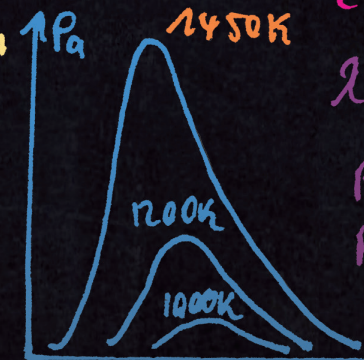
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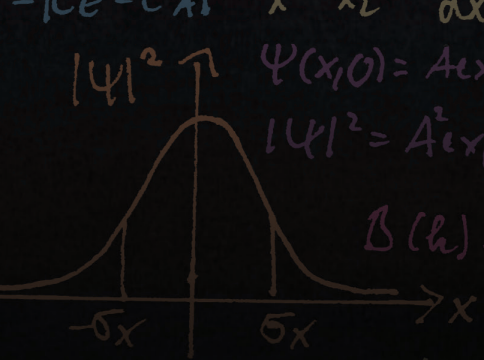
$\sum F_y = 0 \Rightarrow F_n - mg \cos \theta = 0$
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 $|\Psi|^2 = A^2 \exp(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2})$
 $B(h) = \frac{\sigma_x}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\sigma_x^2 (h - h_0)^2}$
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 $a = \frac{dv}{dt}$
 $= \frac{(m_2 - m_1)gh}{(m_1 + m_2)}$
 $v = \sqrt{\frac{2(m_2 - m_1)gh}{(m_1 + m_2)}}$
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 $e(\psi) = A \cos(k_0 x - \omega t)$



$\lambda_1 = \frac{u_1}{f}$; $\lambda_2 = \frac{u_2}{f}$
 $\sin \theta_2 = \frac{\lambda_2}{AB'}$
 $\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} = \frac{u_1}{u_2}$

$P_1^{(A)} = \frac{mV}{\sqrt{1 - (V/c)^2}} = mV \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}$
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$\Psi(x, 0) = A \exp(-\frac{x^2}{4\sigma_x^2}) e^{ik_0 x}$
 $|\Psi|^2 = A^2 \exp(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2})$
 $B(h) = \frac{\sigma_x}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\sigma_x^2 (h - h_0)^2}$
 $e(\psi) = A \cos(k_0 x - \omega t)$