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CAN A SMART PHONE APP SAVE YOUR LIFE?

A green light to greatness.
Mobile technology is opening doors for on-site emergency medical care, and our research is providing engineering applications that can save lives. From acting as a remote heart monitor to offering virtual CPR guidance and reporting vital signs to 911 operators, your smartphone soon will be a critical medical device. With these software advancements, a smarter emergency response system is a reality.

— Ram Dantu
UNT professor of engineering visiting at Massachusetts Institute of Technology
FROM OUR President

The road ahead
MAKING UNT A FIRST-CHOICE INSTITUTION AND PARTNER

It’s an honor to serve as UNT’s 16th president and to lead our great university into the next phase of its evolution. I am committed to working with you, our campus community and the greater North Texas region to further build UNT’s reputation as a nationally prominent research university.

In the first months of my tenure, I have focused on learning about our campus and listening to our constituents. I want UNT to support our region’s economic growth by matching our attributes and resources to the needs of the region and state. As we build our research capacity and the quality of our educational programs, we will emerge as a first-choice institution for students, faculty and staff and a partner of choice for alumni, communities and industry.

Our alumni are a vital part of UNT, and there are so many of you who are having an impact in the workforce and our communities. I had the fortune of meeting some of you at the UNT Alumni Association’s Young Professionals Luncheon during my first weeks on the job. It was exciting to feel the emerging strength of the UNT alumni network.

As a network, you can help our students make the transition to the job market while serving as role models and mentors. As your alma mater, we want to ensure that we provide lifelong value to you by giving you plenty of opportunities to stay engaged, which is why we’re creating more ways to connect and network through the luncheon and other alumni events.

I hope to meet more of you at events here on campus and in the communities. If you see my wife, Debbie, or me anywhere, please stop and say hello so we can get to know you better!

I look forward to working with you in building a prosperous future for UNT, our region and state. I know we will go far together.

UNT proud,
Neal Smatresk
President
president@unt.edu
Managing Emergencies

Alumni use the knowledge and skills learned as students to help prevent and prepare for some of the world’s most devastating emergency situations — destructive weather, industrial accidents, terrorism or war — and then offer support to recover and rebuild.

By Ellen Rossetti

Sports Marketing Innovator
BILL SCHMIDT (’70), THE 1972 OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST IN THE JAVELIN THROW, CARVED OUT A REMARKABLE CAREER IN SPORTS MARKETING. LEARN WHY HE IS BEING HONORED BY SPORTSBUSINESS JOURNAL AS ONE OF “THE CHAMPIONS: PIONEERS AND INNOVATORS IN SPORTS BUSINESS.”

ONLINE FEATURES

GAME SHOW WIN
Learn how Katie Hoodie, a graduate musicology student, plans to use her Wheel of Fortune winnings to help others.

LATE NIGHT TALK SHOW
Watch alum band Parquet Courts’ musical performance debut on the Late Night with Jimmy Fallon show this spring.

MORE ONLINE FEATURES

• VIDEO: ZERO ENERGY LAB
• MUSIC: ALUMNI GRAMMY WINS
• VIDEO: SUMMER ENROLLMENT
• VIDEO: CEMI
• PHOTO GALLERY: BOWL GAME

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DEAR North Texan

Let us know what you think about news and topics covered in The North Texan. Letters may be edited for length and publication style.

Read more letters and share your comments at northtexan.unt.edu.

Awesome sight

Each morning I drive into Dallas on I-35 from the south. The ball at Reunion Tower will have logos and colors of the Mavericks, the Cowboys and the Stars when they win.

On the day after the Heart of Dallas Bowl, the ball showed a heart and then “UNT.” The Omni Hotel, with its large west side display, alternated between “UNT” and the green eagle with “Mean Green” written there.

It was an awesome sight. I wish I had my camera.

Gene “Red” Maples (‘59, ’62 M.Ed.)
Cleburne

Editor’s note: Dallas going Green for New Year’s was an awesome sight. The photo above, courtesy of Michael Soto, shows the Omni’s “UNT” display leading up to the game. For more photos from bowl week, visit northtexan.unt.edu/online.

Familiar mentor

The 1955 picture you published (“Dear North Texan,” fall 2013) illustrated, more than you know, the mentoring relationship between North Texas professors and their students.

I am the student in the white blouse next to Dr. Mary Patchell, English professor extraordinaire. The picture was taken in front of a display case in the English department that Dr. “Pat” had asked me to decorate.

The real story began when I enrolled in Dr. Patchell’s world literature class. At the end of class one day, she asked to speak to me. As she expected one’s best efforts, I was afraid that she was displeased with me.

To my surprise, she asked what I was majoring in. When I replied business because I was good at stenography and typing and hoped to support myself as a professional secretary, she suggested that I could do the same as an English teacher!

She advised me to consider this and to discuss the decision with my parents.

And so, I became an English major under her guidance. She arranged for me to take an exam in Latin to gain language credits and to stay on target to graduate in the summer of 1956.

All of the English professors were excellent teachers, and their primary goal was to aid us in discovering the English language and its literature. Dr. Lomax’s “Methods of Teaching English” sent one into the classroom prepared for the first and subsequent years.

I found my true calling and happily and successfully taught Latin, English and humanities in Texas, Wyoming and New Mexico for more than 20 years.

I loved North Texas and tried to emulate Dr. Patchell’s love of language and of her students in my teaching.

Thank you for recognizing the professors who change lives!

Anne Whitten Welder (’56)
Kingsland

High technology

I was a student in the Master of Public Administration program in the early ’70s, and Dr. John Thompson suggested that I look for a course I could take to learn something about computers, the coming thing in local governments.

To my great surprise, there was in the upcoming summer session a beginning
Sigma Nu friends’ 40th reunion

In the fall of ’73, I attended the UNT Homecoming party at the Sigma Nu house — members referred to it as “The Rock.” I enjoyed seeing my old friends, many who were teammates on the football team. I said that many of us would probably not see each other in the future and mentioned that maybe we should have our own reunion. My friend Clyde Hebert stated, “Well, Mashek, if you want to put on a yearly reunion, I’ll be there.”

Everyone at the table said they would also attend. So in 1974, the first Sigma Nu reunion was held at Lake Whitney, which was close to my hometown of West. We had 12 couples attend that year. After nine years camping out on the lake, and families growing and getting older, we decided to go back to Denton for our 10th anniversary. We visited the Sigma Nus and they were overwhelmed at our reunion.

We have gone many different places through the years, and in June 2013, we celebrated our 40th anniversary reunion. Three couples of our group have never missed a single year, and I am one of them! Throughout the years, we have become more like family than just friends. We have seen children born, watched them grow, attended weddings and athletic events, and always look forward to the next reunion.

Joe Mashek (’73), West

computer course for grad students. I took it and learned an immeasurable amount, including how to keypunch IBM data cards, a skill that proved amazingly useful when I was a budget analyst with the city of Austin a few years later.

I still chuckle about some of the things from those relatively early days of “data processing,” including being told to leave the computer center one night because it was closing, and the time that I could not run my program because the computer was tied up running the university’s payroll! I did not begrudge anyone his or her salary, but I really wished that North Texas had a second computer somewhere in its pocket!

Blain Keith (’73 M.P.A.) Austin

I enjoyed the piece on high technology (winter 2013). With the exception of some punched card equipment in the basement of the business school, there was no computer science department at North Texas when I attended.

My business and accounting degree, however, was the ticket into computer science training as a Marine officer and, after retirement, on to a great career in IT management at Northrop Grumman and the Computer Science Corp. Interesting about alum Larry Sullivan working at Microsoft. My son-in-law is an optical engineer there now.

Lt. Col. James Ray (’65), U.S. Marine Corps Allen

Honored officer

In September, UNT lost a distinguished military alumnus on a drop-zone in North Carolina (“Friends We’ll Miss,” winter 2013). Army Col. Darren Lee Wright (’91) passed away during a training parachute jump at Fort Bragg, where he was the 18th Airborne Corps assistant chief of staff. He had served for 26 years in the U.S. Army.

I met him back in 1990 on campus and he encouraged me to look into ROTC, which I did, and I was sincerely grateful for his advice.

Twenty years later, I made contact with him again in regard to his combat experience in the Sunni Triangle...
Tell us about ... your summer school experiences

Do you have favorite memories from your summers on campus? The outdoor swimming pool was a popular spot for decades — from 1926 to 1986 — and the site for swimming classes, pageants and fraternizing. Many a summer school student earning quick credits toward a degree took a break there from the heat. Let us know about some of your summer school memories, and we’ll share them in our next issue. Send letters or email to the addresses at right.

Food was cheap — five hamburgers for a dollar, a hot roast beef plate for 45 cents, a full all-you-could eat meal at the Hopkins House for 65 cents, and we often just ate once a day. Saturdays we had breakfast at Dyche’s Corner and would often golf until dark.

What a wonderful time in my life.

Joe D. Taylor (’62)
Overton

Editor’s note: The photo we uncovered of Dyche’s is from around 1942. Advertised specials at that time included a T-bone steak, fries and a salad for 50 cents, and a strawberry sundae made with real strawberries for 15 cents.
MEAN GREEN FOOTBALL’S 2013 SEASON culminated with a crowning victory in the Heart of Dallas Bowl at the historic Cotton Bowl on New Year’s Day, making the entire Mean Green Nation proud. Before a sea of cheering fans and a national television audience, the team rolled to a 36-14 win over the Rebels of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

The victory capped an excellent season that began on a high note, celebrating 100 years of Mean Green football and the first year of play in Conference USA. Led by head coach Dan McCarney, the Mean Green made UNT the home team for the entire North Texas region.

For the first time in more than a decade, the Mean Green football team captured a bowl championship — and 38,000 fans were in the record crowd.

See a photo gallery of the pregame events and the victory at northtexan.unt.edu/online.
The Mean Green will play the annual Green and White spring scrimmage at 2 p.m. April 12 and kick off the 2014 season Aug. 30 in Austin against the University of Texas. The home opener is Sept. 6 against Southern Methodist University. Go to meangreensports.com to view the 2014 football schedule and to buy season tickets.

A new era

The Mean Green’s win in the Heart of Dallas Bowl on New Year’s Day will go down in history as the beginning of a new legacy under McCarney.

The championship win — UNT’s first bowl win in 11 seasons — also was a sweet victory for 22 Mean Green teammates playing in the bowl game as seniors.

“T’m really proud of my football team,” McCarney says. “I dreamed of the day these seniors could go to a bowl game and win. It’s just a jolt of confidence, and something to really show for everyone’s hard work.”

The North Texas region celebrated the Mean Green win with pride. The Denton and Dallas city councils congratulated the team by presenting proclamations to UNT.

“The football program’s successes this year topped with the tremendous support from loyal students, alumni and fans prove that the Mean Green is the team for the North Texas region,” says Rick Villarreal, athletic director.

McCarney says the win leaves a lasting impression of what his players are capable of achieving through teamwork. Not long after his arrival in Denton, McCarney began talking about legacies and how the players could be remembered by future Mean Green teams for establishing the foundation on which a successful program is built. He says he is proud to have seen his players follow through, bringing the season to a climactic end and finishing one of the most historic campaigns in Mean Green history to earn a bowl invite.

With the bowl win, the Mean Green finished the season with a 9-4 record. More than half of the Mean Green’s games during the 2013 season (seven of 13) were against teams that went on to play in bowl games this season — the most bowl teams UNT has ever played in a single season. The team won four of those games, the most victories for UNT over bowl-bound teams in a season.

“They achieved this by their daily actions with their behavior, with their class, with their leadership, with their pride and with their just never-say-die attitude,” McCarney says. “We sent a message that this is a program that is clearly on the rise.”

Valuable players

Mean Green football’s first-ever New Year’s Day bowl win was a team effort, but some players — Zach Orr (’13), Brelan Chancellor (’13), Carlos Harris, Richard Abbe, Will Wright, Drew Miller, James Jones and Derek Thompson (’13) — showed drive on the field that will go down in the record books.

Orr, a senior linebacker, led the Mean Green with nine tackles in the bowl game and led in tackles for three straight seasons. In 2013, Orr, a first-team All-CUSA pick, earned the Mean Green’s Odus Mitchell MVP, Joe Greene Outstanding Defensive Player and Byron Gross Outstanding Linebacker awards.

Mean Green quarterback Derek Thompson was named the Heart of Dallas Bowl’s MVP, finishing his career on a high note at UNT and ranking second in school history in passes attempted, passes completed and passing yards. Thompson, who earned the 2013 Steve Ramsey Outstanding Player award, says the bowl game was a game changer for the Mean Green football program.

“It means the 2013 team will be remembered forever,” Thompson says. “The atmosphere was electric, and being named the game’s MVP really made it a game I will never forget.”

Mean Green quarterback Derek Thompson (’13) receives the Heart of Dallas Bowl’s MVP award.
**BRILLIANTLY GREEN**

**Equity and diversity**

Film and television actress Vivica A. Fox is committed to helping advance women of color in the arts. Fox, known for roles in *Independence Day*, *Soul Food* and other films, was the keynote speaker at UNT’s 14th Equity and Diversity Conference this spring.

With the theme “Celebrating Diversity, Building Inclusion,” the conference brought together students, educators and professionals who are committed to equity and diversity in higher education.

Topics included immigration reform, workplace bullying, diversity conflicts in classrooms, economic status of women of color and LGBT family violence.

Documentary filmmaker Lee Mun Wah also was a keynote speaker. He is the founder and executive director of StirFry Seminars & Consulting, a diversity training company in Berkeley, Calif., and has produced award-winning documentaries addressing racism and diversity issues in higher education.

**McNair scholars**

UNT McNair scholar Clifford Morrison, a chemistry and biochemistry major, was among 125 scholars from across the nation to present their research at the 16th annual Texas National McNair Scholars Research Conference at UNT this spring. He and his mentor Rob Petros, assistant professor of chemistry, researched targeted drug delivery in pancreatic cancer patients.

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

- **Starring UNT Libraries.** The UNT Libraries played a role in the three-time 2014 Oscar-winning movie *Dallas Buyers Club*. The movie’s producers used the expertise of the Special Collections department to gather a letter, newsletters and photographs of Ron Woodroof, the real-life activist who started Dallas Buyers Club to obtain non FDA-approved drugs for his AIDS treatment. Some of the memorabilia, now a part of the Resource Center LGBT Collection of the UNT Libraries, was used as background research for the film, and UNT was included in the movie’s closing credits.

- **Super Bowl Alumni.** The Seattle Seahawks clinched this year’s Super Bowl title, but UNT turned out winners for the game, too. Jeff Rodgers (’00), a former Mean Green linebacker, served as the special teams coordinator for the Denver Broncos, and Scott Steenson (’70) was the field judge, part of the seven-man crew of officials working the game. It was the last game of Steenson’s 23-year career as an NFL official.

- **TAMS Students Make a Difference.** Alberto Him, 17, and Arun Yagnamurthy, 16, started their own nonprofit, EverCare Medical, which provides medical supplies to free clinics in Venezuela. Read more about how the dynamic duo is recruiting their dream team of other UNT students to raise their goal of $12,000 by May at northtexan.unt.edu/evercare.
Distinguished lecture

Army Lt. Dan Choi’s life was changed forever by three words: “I am gay.”

Choi made the revelation in 2009 on The Rachel Maddow Show, and soon after, the soldier was notified by the U.S. Army of upcoming discharge proceedings against him.

A West Point graduate, war veteran and now former U.S. Army lieutenant, Choi today is an activist, advocating for LGBT civil rights and veterans’ health. This spring, he spoke at UNT as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series, addressing students about his work that led to the eventual repeal of the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

Students also participated in a Q&A session with Choi, who served as an Arabic translator in the U.S. Army in Iraq from 2006 to 2007. He joins a growing list of world-renowned faculty experts in the college’s new Department of Biomedical Engineering, students will get hands-on experience in biomedical instrumentation, biomechanics and bioinformatics and can collaborate on research with faculty at the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

Working with world-renowned faculty experts in the college’s new Department of Biomedical Engineering, students will get hands-on experience in biomedical instrumentation, biomechanics and bioinformatics and can collaborate on research with faculty at the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

New biomedical degrees

More Americans are relying on medical devices, equipment and technologies, creating more job opportunities in the biomedical field. This spring, UNT launched a new program in the College of Engineering that will offer bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biomedical engineering, helping to address the growing demand for graduates in this field.

The U.S. Labor Department expects biomedical engineering to become the fastest-growing engineering field in the next decade. Learn more at engineering.unt.edu.

NATIONAL ACADEMY FELLOW

This spring, Narendra Dahotre, Distinguished Research Professor of materials science and engineering, was named a National Academy of Inventors fellow for his lifetime research of laser material interactions and the application of high power lasers in advanced materials processing and manufacturing. The fellowship is a high professional distinction given to academic inventors for creating or facilitating inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society. Dahotre’s recent creation of a new laser machine and bone-cutting technology, which is pending for a U.S. patent, could change the way surgeons operate.
Strong grant
UNT field courses, research and internships in Chile can expect to have a robust increase in students participating, thanks to President Obama’s 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative.

This spring, Secretary of State John Kerry, left, shaking UNT’s Vice Provost for International Affairs Richard Nader’s hand, announced that UNT is the first of four U.S. higher education institutions to receive grants under the initiative.

The UNT Sub-Antarctic-Biocultural Conservation Program was awarded the grant to support about 30 undergraduate and 20 graduate students participating each year in field courses, research and internships in Chile, including at Omora Ethnobotanical Park at the pristine UNESCO Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve.

The grant will more than triple the number of students who participate in research and courses, including the UNT “Tracing Darwin’s Path” study abroad course.

The goal of the initiative is to increase the number of U.S. students studying in Latin America and the Caribbean to 100,000, and vice versa.

Intermodal award
A team of College of Business logistics students this spring provided solutions for the growing intermodal industry, earning them the top prize in the third annual Intermodal Challenge, a national competition hosted by the Intermodal Association of North America.

Curtis Pogue (’13), Sarah McLaughlin (’13) and Chris Turner (’13), who graduated in December, impressed judges with their paper and presentation focusing on opportunities and challenges of growth in the industry.

Students competed thanks to UNT being recognized by the association as one of its “scholarship universities” and a top school for studying logistics and transportation.

Green Pride
Coming off a win in the Heart of Dallas Bowl, it’s a great time for alumni and fans throughout the Mean Green Nation to show their green pride.

Alumni, students and Mean Green fans can shop for green in more ways now and reap rewards for being proud and loyal members of the Mean Green family. The new Barnes & Noble at UNT bookstore is offering a larger selection of UNT gear, from T-shirts and caps to casual attire, such as polo shirts and vests, inscribed with “UNT.” Look for a complete selection of Mean Green apparel geared for alumni at unt.bncollege.com. And don’t forget meangreensports.com also offers a selection of Mean Green gear for fans and alumni in a one-stop location online to make it easy to suit up for the home team when attending athletic events.

Denton businesses also are showing their pride in UNT by offering discounts and other special offers to anyone wearing green to their establishment on Fridays. Learn more at meangreenpride.unt.edu/discounts. Also, you can answer UNT trivia questions and win a T-shirt by following Instagram and Twitter using the hashtag #UNTPride. Find out more about the competition at meangreenpride.unt.edu/connect.

Ordering a UNT-branded license plate is another great way to show your pride everywhere you go while also helping students. A portion of your cost goes toward UNT student scholarships. Order your Mean Green plate online at myplates.com.
GLOBAL CONNECTION

Student teacher exchange

This spring, the College of Education’s international student teacher exchange program marked its second year.

Five seniors aspiring to be teachers from the University of Seville in Spain came for a month and taught in Denton Independent School District schools and learned in UNT classrooms. In return, five UNT students will teach primary and middle school grades in an English/Spanish dual language school in Spain beginning in late March.

“The program provides our university students with experience teaching in schools and learning about education in other countries, while it gives our school children an opportunity to learn from teachers who live and teach in schools in another country,” says Lisbeth Dixon-Krauss, associate dean of UNT’s College of Education.

Student participants say the international experience from teaching abroad has been a life-changing opportunity.

“This was an irreplaceable experience,” says Pablo Galan Lopez, who was a student teacher in a physical education class at Denton High School. “It is always good to have different points of view when you’re learning how to lead students from different countries.”

Lopez also noticed the cultural differences in sports played in Spain and the U.S.

“We don’t practice sports in Spain like football and baseball. It was a great opportunity to get to know and enjoy these sports up close,” he says.

Lucia Moruno Salvador, who served as a fourth grade student teacher at Ginnings Elementary School, says UNT’s welcoming campus and classroom environments also helped to make the studying abroad experience memorable.

“We appreciated the freshness, kindness and multicultural style that are offered by UNT,” Salvador says. “Our time here was such a special academic and cultural opportunity.”

UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

For her expertise and commitment to defending women’s rights and promoting world peace, women’s studies instructor Kristin Alder (’09, ’13 M.A.) was appointed this spring as a United Nations representative for the U.S. section of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom organization. One of two American women selected for the job, she will advocate for the organization’s mission to end and prevent war, ensure that women are included at all levels in peacebuilding processes, defend the human rights of women, and promote social, economic and political justice.
Business honor

Joshua Urbanovsky is a high achiever. He is pursuing a degree in business entrepreneurship from the College of Business and seeking a minor in computer science and engineering from the College of Engineering. For his dedication, he was named one of the state’s top business students by the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation. Urbanovsky plans to use his scholarship award from the foundation to earn a doctoral degree in computer science and engineering from UNT, beginning this fall.

Sustainability research

Yong Tao, chair and Distinguished Research Professor of mechanical and energy engineering and director of UNT’s Zero Energy Laboratory and PACCAR Technology Institute, was awarded a National Science Foundation Research Coordination Networks — Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability program grant.

For Tao’s project, he will bring together researchers in areas ranging from engineering, construction and computer science to environmental science, business, architecture and social science to identify gaps in sustainable building knowledge and better understand human behavior related to sustainability.

By understanding human behavior, as well as government policy and business, they hope to shed light on how to better use energy-efficient structures and create new technologies.

Organizing your finances may seem like an immense task, and deciding how to save for your future may be even more daunting. But it’s easier than you think, says Marilyn Wiley, senior associate dean of the College of Business and professor of finance.

“You can become a smart financial planner with diversified investments and fully funded retirement accounts,” says Wiley. “The key is watching markets and investing wisely. In time, your portfolio will grow.”

She recently was named president of the Chartered Financial Analysts Society of Dallas-Fort Worth and is an expert on financial markets, derivatives pricing and international market risks. She offers the following tips:

Plan for the future

- Create a list of your existing investments — include home ownership and retirement plan contributions.
- Determine how much you need to save to fund your future — your child’s college fund or retiring by age 60 so you can travel.
- Use online tools to calculate how much you need to save to achieve your goals.

Invest early

- Take advantage of your employer’s retirement plan. Make pre-tax contributions to 401K or other savings plans.
- Double your savings by contributing as much as your employer will match. Employer matches can be as high as 5 to 10 percent.
- Save regularly with no excuses.

Explore options

- Consider diversified mutual funds. With as little as $500, you can get started. Invest in funds with a low expense ratio, typically 1 percent or less.
- Exchange Traded Funds let you trade on the stock exchange with a small investment. Young investors can build stock portfolios for long-term investing without a lot of assets.
- Diversify and invest in international stocks and mutual funds. They may do well when the U.S. market drops.
- Lower-risk investors seeking income should consider bonds and bond mutual funds. U.S. government bonds are the most secure.

— Adrienne Nettles
Michael Clements

This spring, the UNT Alumni Association kicked off its first Young Professionals Luncheon, a quarterly luncheon series open to young alumni hosted by the association’s Young Professionals group. The event, held at the Park City Club in Dallas, drew more than 100 young professionals and alumni under age 40 from across the North Texas region. The luncheon series is hosted by the UNT Young Professionals and serves as a networking event for all UNT alumni to showcase the ways that UNT and alumni in Dallas-Fort Worth impact the region.

“There is nothing more potent than the power of people who network and believe in something. UNT’s alumni network has 237,000 members in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and there is a great advantage in everyone coming together to support each other and UNT,” says President Neal Smatresk, who gave a keynote speech and announced that he and his wife had become lifetime UNT Alumni Association members.

Alumni also can stay connected through the Alumni Today directory — an easy and fast way to track down old school friends. This spring, the association will work with Harris Connect to update contact information of alumni around the world. UNT grads will be contacted by phone, email and mail to verify their contact and career information. The new directory will publish in 2015 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the university. For details on upcoming Young Professional Luncheons or the 2015 alumni directory, visit untalumni.com.

SMARTPHONES AS HEARING AIDS

Many people diagnosed with impaired hearing delay using traditional hearing aids because of the stigma of old age or disability. In a study published in the December 2013 issue of The Hearing Review, Amyn Amlani, associate professor of speech and hearing sciences, and a team of researchers hope to show that the use of ear buds or headphones connected to a smartphone with a hearing aid application will encourage people to get help sooner because it is a more universally accepted practice. The apps are low-cost and available without the need for medical referrals. They can reduce stress and encourage use, serving as a stepping stone to promote hearing health awareness.

Intel semifinalist

Justin Zhong, a second-year student in UNT’s Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, was named a semifinalist in the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search. Zhong was chosen for his research project “Self-Cleaning Mechanism of Gecko Setae: Observation, Modeling and Implication in Biomimetic Design,” on which he worked with his mentor, Zhenhai Xia, associate professor of engineering. They investigated the quick-release adhesion and self-cleaning mechanisms of gecko feet and hope to develop an adhesive with similar features for consumer use.

Bollywood study

College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism researchers Bharath Josiam, Daniel Spears, Tammy Kinley and Sanjukta Pookulangara studied the influence of the Hindi-language film industry, Bollywood, on how Indians perceive European travel destinations.

They worked with Kirti Dutta, assistant professor of marketing at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans Usha & Lakshmi Mittal Institute of Management in New Delhi, to survey New Delhi residents about travel destinations. Switzerland, a popular setting for Bollywood films, topped the list. The study is the first of its kind.

To join the association or learn more, visit untalumni.com, email alumni@unt.edu or call 940-565-2834.
Leader with Vision

With experience leading a growing public research university, Neal Smatresk will help UNT take its rightful place at the top.

by Ernestine Bousquet
UNT’s new president, Neal Smatresk, is a man of contrasts.

Smatresk, 62, grew up in a blue-collar part of Buffalo, N.Y., working for his father’s construction business from age 12 — summer and winter. Yet, he was a "science nerd," spurred on by the space race and the era of discovery in the 1950s to conduct homegrown experiments.

He eventually earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology and a Ph.D. in zoology, becoming a professor and studying how the respiratory neurobiology of vertebrates changed in the transition from water to air breathing.

Today, Smatresk is a natural-born administrator who leads by consensus, a big-idea guy who pores over the details. Yet his scientific curiosity and fix-it background are still what drive his leadership.

"In construction, you have a very practical workman-like approach and you get things done. In science, you solve problems and make discoveries, and it involves creativity," Smatresk says. "I learned discipline from my background, and that you start a job by just doing it and you solve problems as you go along."

Smatresk (pronounced SMAH tresk) solved one sticky problem before his tenure started. UNT played in the Heart of Dallas Bowl on New Year’s Day — after he had been appointed UNT’s 16th president but before he had finished his presidency at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Mean Green’s opponent? The UNLV Rebels.

On game day, Smatresk wore a red and green striped tie — symbols that he was cheering for UNLV but pledging future allegiance to UNT. And with that deft, lighthearted handling of the unexpected bowl matchup, Smatresk and his wife, Debbie, endeared themselves to the UNT community.

Smatresk, who was UNLV president for more than four years and provost for two years, will focus on helping UNT to emerge as a nationally prominent research institution and a strong regional partner. He succeeds V. Lane Rawlins, who retired in February and is now serving as President Emeritus.

Smatresk has a proven track record of achieving a grand vision while focusing on the nuts and bolts and overcoming tough challenges. He strengthened UNLV’s quality, reputation and impact and moved it closer to Tier One — or national research university — status while steering the university through tough state budget cuts. He held campus listening sessions and reached out to community and business leaders — moves that transformed UNLV from an “island” to a well-respected regional partner.

Having led an institution with qualities and ambitions similar to UNT’s, Smatresk understands UNT’s trajectory to reach the top tier and what it will take to get there. He leads the university when it has record enrollment and is making gains across the board — from academics to research to athletics.

"President Smatresk’s experience in leading a university similar to UNT combined with his knowledge of our region and state is powerful," UNT System Chancellor Lee Jackson says. "He is the right person to help UNT fulfill its potential and maintain its momentum."

As a leader, Smatresk focuses on student success, research and partnerships, and believes that access and quality are the hallmarks of a good university. Under his direction, UNLV completed a $537 million fundraising campaign that included creating the university’s largest active scholarship program, established an Academic Success Center to help students graduate on time and opened Brookings Mountain West in partnership with the prestigious Brookings Institution.

Throughout his career, Smatresk has supported kindergarten to doctorate science outreach programs, teacher professional development, and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career development.

Returning to the North Texas region brings the Smatresks’ lives full circle. Living here puts them closer to their two grown children and their first grandchild and to Smatresk’s career roots.

He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, studying at the Port Aransas Marine Laboratory. After serving as a post-doctorate fellow at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, he became a biology professor in 1982 at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Smatresk’s UTA career spanned 22 years and, in that time, he served as biology chair from 1994 to 1998 and dean of science from 1998 to 2004. Prior to joining UNLV, Smatresk was vice chancellor for academic affairs and deputy to the chancellor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa from 2004 to 2007.

His main focus now is to further UNT’s value and impact.

“I want to build on our foundation, taking our attributes — all of the things that make UNT great — and matching them against the region’s and state’s needs to ensure that we are being a really great partner for communities and industry,” Smatresk says.
Experience a three-day musical journey at the UNT Showcase Stage during the 2014 Denton Arts & Jazz Festival. Enjoy UNT’s smooth jazz ensembles, spirited mariachis, internationally acclaimed One O’Clock Lab Band and more — all performing for you on one stage.

UNT’s College of Music — a shining example of UNT’s commitment to greatness.

Visit dentonjazzfest.com for more information and performance schedules.

Denton Arts & Jazz Festival
Quakertown Park
5–11 p.m. April 25
10 a.m.–11 p.m. April 26
11 a.m.–9 p.m. April 27

unt.edu
MICHAEL LEAGUE, THE HEAD OF SNARKY PUPPY, sat at the Grammy Awards show in January as a nominee to hear the band had won a Grammy — a long way off from its first gig in the basement of J&J’s Pizza. The 30-member band won for Best R&B Performance for its song “Something,” with Lalah Hathaway, from its DVD/CD Family Dinner, Volume One. The group also has received international acclaim for its innovative combination of jazz, funk and world music.

“It felt unbelievably fulfilling,” League says. “This band has spent 10 years working and touring harder than any other band I’ve ever seen in the least glamorous conditions imaginable.”

Snarky Puppy wins for Best R&B Performance and other alumni rake in Grammys spanning jazz, opera, chamber music, tropical Latin and alternative.

Read more about Snarky Puppy and other UNT Grammy winners at northtexan.unt.edu/grammy-wins.
Examine atheism


They were inspired to write the book after interviewing about 2,500 people for their 2012 book *What Motivates Cultural Progressives* and found a large sample of atheists who provided extensive information on their attitudes toward the cultural and religious right. Williamson was struck by the intensity of feelings atheists have toward the far-religious and political right. “Rationality they understand. Faith they don’t,” he says.

**The legacy of Strauss**

In *Leo Strauss’s Defense of the Philosophic Life: Reading ‘What Is Political Philosophy?’* (University of Chicago Press), editor Rafael Major (‘02 Ph.D.), a lecturer in the Honors College, and the book’s contributors explore the political philosophy of Strauss and its relevance today. Major says it is the first book-length study examining a single work by Strauss, whose writings deal with issues about politics and happiness that have been wrestled with since antiquity.

Major hopes the book, which was named a 2013 Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice* magazine, makes older writers relevant to modern life. “This is especially helpful when attempting to get my own students excited about texts above and beyond class assignments,” he says.

**Mexican Americans**

Roberto R. Calderón, associate professor of history, explores Mexican American history in North Texas in his book *Más allá del Río Bravo: breve historia mexicana del norte de Texas*.

The book, written with Manuel García y Griego of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, focuses on migration, demography and civil rights. It was written in Spanish and published by the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Mexico, whose officials encouraged the publication. “They recognized that this was a valuable project and that it provided the research and narrative — absent up until its publication — for a specific Mexican community abroad,” Calderón says.

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**Up in smoke**

When it comes to his vivid photographs of colored smoke in everyday places, Irby Pace (‘12 M.F.A.) battles the elements — and himself. “It has to be challenging,” he says. “It can’t be simple.”

But the work has received notice, appearing on the cover of the *Dallas Observer* and the German-based *Emotion* magazine. He is represented by Galleri Urbane in Dallas. Pace became obsessed with making the smoke photography work, often running back and forth between the smoke and the camera. Sometimes the wind would blow the smoke away. “I just kept doing it,” he says. “I had to make it work. I had to know. I couldn’t give it up unless I made a successful photograph. If it works, I shot it. If it doesn’t work, I shot it.”

By contrast, he stumbled upon another one of his projects — using the selfies people take on iPhone models at Apple stores — which won the *Observer’s* “Art Heist” award and was picked up by *Wired* magazine and the *Huffington Post* website. Pace says he was browsing at an Apple Store when he noticed the selfies on the phones. He felt compelled to keep them by downloading them to his iPad. “These are amazing,” he says. “Why am I not keeping them? I have to document them. What if someone erased all the cave paintings?”

Pace honed his photography skills at UNT, which he chose because of the strong reputation of the College of Visual Arts and Design. He especially appreciated Matthew Bourbon, assistant professor of studio arts. “He just didn’t take no for an answer,” Pace says. “He knew how to push you to be a better artist.”

Learn more about Pace’s work and the recognition he’s received at northtexan.unt.edu/up-in-smoke.
Dance and Theatre

Global performance

Marjorie Hayes, managing director of theatre production and associate professor of acting and directing, premiered her one-woman cabaret act Finding Home in Wroclaw, Poland, last fall at the WROSTJA Festival of One Actor.

The show recounts Hayes’ journey from Los Angeles to working in Wroclaw during the Communist era to work at the world-famous Polish Laboratory Theatre of Jerzy Grotowski. She called the experience “very fulfilling” and the Polish audience “very sophisticated and well educated in the arts.”

“Theatre shares stories which allow us to more fully understand our common humanity,” Hayes says. “I aspire to assist my students in the performance of their personal stories and journeys, as Grotowski and my Polish mentors did for me.”

Historical art

In 2003, the words “White Only,” previously covered by a metal plate, were discovered above the water fountains in the Dallas County Records Building. Controversy erupted over what to do about the markings. A decade later, artist Lauren Woods (’02), who in following family tradition doesn’t capitalize her name, has created the multimedia A Dallas Drinking Fountain Project to teach visitors about the significance of segregation.

Woods, who majored in radio/television/film and Spanish, received approval from the Dallas County Commissioner’s Court in 2005 to create the project, and then spent nearly 10 years raising funds and getting it organized. The project was unveiled last fall. When people push for a drink, the water is withheld while a video projection shows newsreel footage of the protests from the 1960s in which law enforcement used water hoses against civil rights activists. Visitors can take a drink after the video.

“I strongly believe the discovery of the artifacts in this particular public context affords us a unique opportunity to reflect on the courageous activism of everyday citizens,” she says.

Learn more about the project at adallasdrinkingfountain.com.

The 54th annual Voertman Student Art Competition, April 8-26 at the UNT Art Gallery, will feature new works in all media by graduate and undergraduate art and design students. The exhibition Rob Erdle, His Students, His Influence, April 23-May 21 at UNT on the Square, will feature the works of the longtime art professor and former head of the watercolor program. Erdle passed away in 2006.

The Fine Arts Series presents John Bohannon and Black Label Movement: A Modest Proposal at 8 p.m. April 10 in the Main Auditorium. The event combines Bohannon’s work in science with the innovative dance of the Black Label troupe. Tickets are $10 for the general public; $5 for faculty, staff and alumni association members; and free for students with ID. Learn more at union.unt.edu/fas or call 940-565-3805.

Janis Siegel of the Grammy Award-winning group The Manhattan Transfer will perform with the UNT Jazz Singers at 8 p.m. April 11-12 at Voertman Hall in the Music Building. The Symphony Orchestra and Grand Chorus will perform a series of works, including Brahms’ Alto Rhapsody and Stravinsky’s Firebird Suite, at 8 p.m. April 23 at the Winspear Performance Hall in the Murchison Performing Arts Center. Tickets for each concert cost $10 for adults; $8 for faculty, staff and seniors; and are free for students. Visit music.unt.edu/mpac to purchase tickets.

This year’s Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference — celebrating its 10th year — will take place July 18-20 in Grapevine and focus on “Narratives on the Cutting Edge: Writing about science, technology, medicine and innovation.” Speakers include David Quammen, a writer for National Geographic; Lawrence Wright, left, author of Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood and the Prison of Belief; and Sheri Fink, author of Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital. For more information and to register, go to themayborn.com/registration.

Visit calendar.unt.edu for more upcoming events.
Nice arrangements

Richard DeRosa, jazz composition and arranging professor, has won several prestigious assignments.

He will serve as chief conductor of the WDR Big Band, a German government-supported organization in Cologne, for the 2014-16 season.

In New York City, DeRosa contributed his arrangement of “Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea” for the Broadway show After Midnight. And he arranged seven Stephen Sondheim compositions with a jazz flair for A Bed and a Chair: A New York Love Story, a show featuring four vocalists including actress-singer Bernadette Peters, with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra that premiered at City Center last fall.

“It was wonderful to hear these outstanding singers perform with the arrangements,” DeRosa says. “Stephen Sondheim was pleased and impressed, so that was even more gratifying.”

Back on campus

The College of Music welcomed alumnus Billy Harper (’65) for a weeklong residency in February. Harper was the first African American to earn a spot in the One O’Clock Lab Band, in 1964.

He worked with the One O’Clock members and other students, gave a short performance and talked about his career path and what he looks for in working with other jazz musicians. He says it’s important for professionals to come back to UNT and work with students to reinforce the work professors are doing.

“Think it means a lot to these students that I used to go to school here and now I’m working as a professional in New York,” he says.

Television and Film

Literary podcast

William F. Strong (’78 M.S.) and John Cook (’81 Ph.D.) met as students at UNT. Now they host the program “Good Books Radio,” which runs on the PBS station in the Rio Grande Valley KMBH 88 FM and has attracted nationally known authors.

The duo, who were founding faculty members of the communications department at the University of Texas at Brownsville, started the radio program seven years ago. Strong says former UNT communication professor Ted Colson influenced his love of literature — which Strong tries to pass on.

“We thought if people could...
hear directly from inspiring authors that it might inspire them to read, too,” Strong says. “If not, we could at least expose our audience to beautiful ideas and beautiful words.”

Find the podcasts and Facebook page at northtexan.unt.edu/literary-podcast.

**Video maestro**

As a sports reporter for the North Texas Daily, Matt Sophos had to produce stories under pressure — a skill he uses now as a writer and director for video games.


For Lost Planet 3, he created the characters, cast the actors and served as director on the motion capture stage and in the voiceover booth.

“While it was a tremendous amount of responsibility and stress, I learned a lot about myself and wouldn’t trade the experience for anything,” he says. “Well ... maybe I’d trade parts of it for some of the hair I lost in the process.”

**Visual Arts**

**Books as art**

The UNT Libraries’ Artists Book Competition and Biennial Exhibition, which will run through June 13 at Willis Library, attracted 36 entries — the most since the first competition 12 years ago.

The first-place winners were a booklet accordion, pictured, from Yuri Hiratsuka, a professional artist in Oregon, and a limestone book from Kai Peter Martin, a graduate student in the painting and drawing program.

The Purchase Prize went to Heavens by Adam Rowlett, a graduate art student.

His book will be permanently displayed at the Judge Sarah T. Hughes Reading Room in Willis Library.

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**New art gallery**

Five illustrious alumni from the College of Visual Arts and Design had their artwork highlighted during the grand opening of UNT ArtSpace Dallas. CVAD’s newest gallery is located in the lobby of the renovated UNT Systems Building at 1901 Main Street in Dallas.

“We are excited to share with residents of Dallas and surrounding areas the opportunity to view artworks from UNT’s talented faculty and alumni,” says Director of UNT Galleries Tracee Robertson. “This gallery brings the College of Visual Arts and Design closer to Dallas and the outlying communities.”

The gallery officially opened in December but welcomed visitors from Denton, Dallas and surrounding areas for the grand opening, which featured the works of Shirin Askari (’08), a fashion alumna and former Project Runway participant; Brian Fridge (’94), whose videos are exhibited, among other places, at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York; Howard Sherman (’06 M.F.A.), whose paintings are exhibited internationally; Erick Swenson (’99), a sculptor best known for his polyurethane resin sculptures of animals; and Dana Tanamachi (’07), known for her chalk lettering and work with Target and Nike. A trio of the College of Music’s excellent jazz musicians headed by graduate student Gabriel Evans helped make the evening special.

For more information, visit gallery.unt.edu/exhibitions/artspace-dallas.
As first responders, community preparedness experts and emergency managers, UNT alumni create promise and hope from disaster and destruction.

by Ellen Rossetti
Emergency room physician Martin “Ed” Thornton ('77) unloaded patients arriving in helicopters at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport as flooded hospitals evacuated people after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The then-50-year-old doctor carried patients over his shoulder to the makeshift triage center within the un-air-conditioned airport. There, he faced one of the most challenging situations he had ever seen.

Thornton and his colleagues had been deployed to offer medical help as part of the Texas Disaster Medical Assistance Team for Region 4 — a Dallas-based team of medical professionals activated during disasters. He and fellow rescuers had to figure out how to treat thousands of patients without the medical supplies needed to keep some alive.

“There wasn’t time to be depressed, but I saw some things there that people should never see,” he says. “It was a first-world city that was turned into a third-world city overnight.”

Alumni such as Thornton are making a difference in difficult emergency situations around the world through careers in medicine, emergency management and more. Whether those emergencies are related to tornadoes, hurricanes and other destructive weather or are of human origin — such as industrial accidents, terrorist acts or war — alumni are reaching out to help prevent or prepare for them, recover and rebuild.

UNT has earned a reputation as a leader in emergency management and has been building on that foundation since 1983 when offering the nation’s first undergraduate emergency administration and planning program. And numerous faculty research and expertise extend the program’s relevancy around the world. Take Sudha Arlikatti, associate professor and emergency administration and planning program coordinator, who recently studied flash flood response strategies in India after thousands of people died in last June’s flooding in Uttarakhand in the Himalayan foothills, and Gary Webb ('92, '94 M.S.), associate professor and interim chair of UNT’s Department of Public Administration, who teaches a fire and emergency management course at the Korean National Fire Service Academy in South Korea. And David McEntire, professor and member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) advisory council and recipient of the Dr. B. Wayne Blanchard Award for Academic Excellence in Emergency Management Higher Education, has conducted extensive research on community preparedness and homeland security.

In addition to a bachelor’s degree, students can earn an academic certificate in volunteer and community resource management, the first of its kind. And they gain hands-on experience learning how to handle emergencies in UNT’s state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center, a learning lab, giving them an opportunity to put critical thinking skills into action.

“UNT isn’t just the nation’s first program, we also are a leader in the disaster profession,” McEntire says. “Through a solid foundation in emergency management theory and valuable practical experience and connections, UNT’s program is the model academic degree program in the U.S. and around the world.”

Thornton’s interest in medicine began early. At 2 or 3 years old, Thornton “operated” on a stuffed toy, sewing up a toy kitten with a needle that his mother gave him while using a cone-shaped lamp from his granddad as an “X-ray machine.”

He earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and biology from UNT and learned from English faculty member Jerry Vann that he must always give people his best effort — he remembers that today when he’s treating patients.

After earning a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the UNT Health Science Center, Thornton embarked on a career in emergency medicine. His interest in disaster medicine began after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, when he sat on an airport tarmac waiting for someone to take him to New York City to offer medical help.
“And it turned out there really weren’t people to treat,” he says. “I remember the feeling that I wanted to be available after disasters for my country and even in the world,” says Thornton, now an emergency medical physician at Baylor Emerus Emergency Services in Aubrey. “I knew that it would never happen going by myself into disaster zones. You can do that, but it is really hard because you don’t fit into anyone’s system.”

After that, Thornton began his involvement in the Texas Disaster Medical Assistance Team for Region 4, for which he serves as chief medical officer, and has become an expert in disaster education and planning. Thornton also is chair of the American Academy of Disaster Medicine and has traveled to countries such as Guatemala, Haiti, Malawi and Tanzania to offer medical assistance. Closer to home, he has offered help after hurricanes Ike and Rita in addition to Katrina, and has spoken across the country, including at the 2007 World Hazmat Expo. When Thornton arrived in Haiti to offer help after the 2010 earthquake, he found that about half of the 300 people in one of the rescue camps were sick with nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. He cleaned the water with bleach and iodine tablets, and within three days, everyone in the camp was well.

Disasters are in some ways “the ultimate emergency room,” he says. “You may have few or little supplies and have to come up with things that don’t exist.”

Holistic view

David McCurdy (‘89, ’01 M.P.A.), now manager of the Office of Emergency Management at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, developed a taste for adventure as an 18-year-old chasing tornadoes in Mineral Wells.

He earned an associate’s degree in nursing and bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and came to UNT for a second bachelor’s degree — this time in emergency management and planning — while working as a Grapevine police officer. He returned to UNT for a Master of Public Administration degree, learning from such quality faculty members as Robert Bland and Charldean Newell.

Decades ago, the fire chief or a public works employee handled emergency management, McCurdy says. But as issues became more complicated, people needed more training — and UNT filled that need. The profession has become more sophisticated over the years, he says. In the early days, setting up an emergency operations center meant getting a box of phones and supplies, setting up tables and plugging in the phones — which could take 30 to 45 minutes. By that time, the emergency could be over, McCurdy says.

“Now we have a state-of-the-art type facility and everything is already in place,” he says. “It has evolved from getting stuff out of the closet to now just turning on the lights, and we are in business.”

McCurdy joined DFW Airport in 1991 and worked as a first responder in various roles, including paramedic, EMS training officer and battalion chief in the fire/rescue division. He has worked at the airport through such emergencies as hurricanes Rita, Katrina, Ike and Gustav and during wildland fire outbreaks. He also participated in the airport’s emergency management operations during the 2011 ice storm that brought the North Texas region to a near-standstill — just as it was hosting the Super Bowl — and more recently managed emergency
operations during the night shift at the airport in December’s ice storm.

Under his supervision, the airport emergency management team also offers training exercises around the region, state and country, often in cooperation with the state of Texas or the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Through his career, McCurdy also has worked as a registered nurse in emergency departments. Although he doesn’t practice nursing today, he uses the knowledge in emergency operations.

“It gives me a holistic view of the community, not only from a fire and police perspective — where we squirt water on a fire or get people out of a flood zone — but also from the perspective of the hospitals and health care system, which play a big role in emergencies,” he says.

Recover & rebuild

Kent Baxter (’88), management analyst in the Office of the Regional Administrator at FEMA Region 6 in Denton, began working for the agency after graduating from UNT’s emergency administration and planning program.

Spanning a 23-year career, he has worked with local communities to ensure they were prepared for hazardous material emergencies, evaluated nuclear power plant exercises and helped with the national flood insurance program. And he served as hurricane program manager in the early ’90s and again in the late 2000s.

Through those years, Region 6 has endured the Oklahoma City bombing, the space shuttle Columbia crash and several hurricanes, among others.

Although the agency had dealt with other hurricanes, Katrina was a disaster of an unprecedented scale, he says.

“There was nothing like Katrina where you pretty much had a whole city where everyone had left and nobody could return after the hurricane,” he says. “It was a difficult time.”

At that time, he was senior mitigation specialist, traveling into the communities and talking to local government officials about developing plans to distribute assistance.

Baxter says that although weather events can’t be prevented, FEMA and other emergency management agencies do their best to lessen the impact of disasters — by making a home more fire resistant in mountain regions or elevating houses in floodplains.

“What you can’t mitigate, or what is too costly to mitigate, you prepare for,” Baxter says. “Then when an event occurs, you go into recovery. You start rebuilding. And you want to build back stronger.”

“Through a solid foundation in emergency management theory and valuable practical experience ... UNT’s program is the model academic degree program in the U.S. and around the world.”

— David McEntire, UNT professor
Behind the scenes

While in the Coast Guard, Juan Ortiz (’94) helped evacuate people from Brazoria County in South Texas after a flood. Then studying at UNT, he realized his Coast Guard experience fit well with emergency management.

“I realized I was in the right place and this was the program for me,” Ortiz says. “The staff at UNT really made me feel at home and showed how they could work with me to help me get my degree and make the right connections.”

They helped him secure an internship with the city of Fort Worth, where he began his career as an emergency management officer. He worked for Fort Worth for nearly five years — a period including a 1995 hailstorm that injured people attending the city’s Mayfest event. Ortiz responded to the Emergency Operations Center, addressing issues and dealing with damage assessments.

Later, Ortiz moved to Corpus Christi to serve as that city’s emergency management coordinator. There, he earned experience preparing for hurricanes, tropical storms and disasters from petrochemical industries and refineries in the area and helped create a city emergency operations center.

He handled about five tropical storms and two major hurricanes, including Hurricane Bret that caused the evacuation of Corpus Christi in 1999. Fortunately, the hurricane headed south of the city to a less heavily populated area. But the lessons learned from the evacuation led to a statewide committee that improved hurricane planning.

After returning to the city of Fort Worth in 2003, Ortiz, as the emergency management coordinator, oversaw the development of a modernized 28,000-square-foot center in the city that also could be used by the county and the local Texas Disaster District during emergencies. And his leadership during the 2011 Super Bowl winter storm — which encased the area in ice and led to water main breaks and rolling blackouts — improved coordination of efforts.

“We are not the police officers, we are not the fire fighters, but we are the folks behind the scene responsible for making sure everything works well,” Ortiz says. “And if something doesn’t work well, we figure out what went wrong, and learn from those mistakes.”

He credits UNT’s emergency administration and planning program with preparing him.

“I know other academic programs in emergency management like this program are popping up in other parts of

Juan Ortiz (’94), emergency management coordinator for the city of Fort Worth

“What you can’t mitigate ... you prepare for. Then when an event occurs, you go into recovery. You start rebuilding.” — Kent Baxter, FEMA

ONLINE EXTRA:

Learn how Sarah Nowery (’05, ’07 M.P.A.), deputy country director for an international relief organization, right with family, is using her emergency management and international disasters and crises skills to help refugees in Kurdistan, Iraq at northtexan.unt.edu/managing-emergencies.

Also read tips from David McEntire, professor of public administration, on how you can prepare for an emergency and watch a slideshow documenting some of the ways students, faculty, staff and alumni have responded to victims from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike and Gustav to help others.

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the country,” Ortiz says, “but still today UNT is the leader.”

**Catalyst for region**

While working at a bookstore during her college studies, Molly Thoerner (’02, ’05 M.P.A.) flipped through an emergency management textbook — and realized she could have a career dealing with tornadoes and terrorism.

Within weeks, she switched her major, eventually earning a bachelor’s degree in emergency management from UNT.

“The topics that I learned about were very different — from hazardous materials to tornadoes to planning to social services to recovery. It appealed to my nature to serve the community and be a part of something bigger,” she says.

Faculty members’ experience and accessibility created a supportive learning environment for her, she says, and she gained hands-on experience at an internship at Southwest Airlines, working on disaster recovery plans for plane crashes.

In 2002, Thoerner began working for the North Central Texas Council of Governments, a voluntary association of local governments. She rose to her current position as director of emergency preparedness. She helps with emergency management planning and homeland security grant administration for the region, which includes 234 municipalities in a 16-county area, equivalent to the state of Maryland in population and mileage.

Thoerner’s job often involves preparing for the unthinkable — and trying to prevent it.

What if a major tornado swept through the DFW area? How could residents get enough warning to take cover? The council was one of several organizations that helped work toward the installation of state-of-the-art weather radar equipment, called CASA, at UNT’s Discovery Park. Installed in 2013, the radar is expected to provide more detailed information about impending bad weather, potentially saving lives.

The council also helped coordinate a major emergency preparedness exercise called Urban Shield that took place in November at about 25 sites with thousands of people participating. Response teams practiced different scenarios — terrorist attacks, car crashes, plane crashes and mass casualties. They found areas that worked as expected and identified areas they needed to tweak, Thoerner says, making them better prepared for future emergencies.

“UNT has been a catalyst for the level of professionalism in emergency management in the region,” she says. “Graduates are outstanding local emergency management coordinators, and they make our region a leader in the state and nation.”

Photography by Gary Payne.
The mounted portraits of each alum began with submitted art from the subjects related to their field of work, which were projected onto separate images of each subject photographed in the studio on a white background.
The UNT experience shaped alum’s career as a pediatric surgeon and researcher helping children fight cancer at St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

During his time at UNT, John Sandoval (’96) conducted research, took sculpture classes and taught gymnastics to children — all of which have played a role in his career as a doctor at one of the country’s best-known hospitals.

Sandoval works as a pediatric surgeon and researcher at St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., which is recognized for its cutting-edge cancer research and treatments. As a surgeon, he is able to see many aspects of a tumor, which helps guide his research.

“I like that I can operate and use my creativity in the lab,” he says.

At UNT, he majored in biochemistry and biology and was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. The McNair program offers undergraduates firsthand research experience and encourages first-generation or underrepresented students to prepare for doctoral study.

Through the program, he worked in the lab of Kent Chapman, Regents Professor of biochemistry, conducting research on lipid metabolism. Chapman says Sandoval was bright and not bashful about sharing his ideas, even though he was working with graduate students and postdoctoral scientists.

“John was a natural,” Chapman says. “He had a knack for research — good lab hands, as they say — and a dedication to push ahead with the next experiments.”

Sandoval completed a research thesis at UNT and became the first author on a publication from the research work he conducted in Chapman’s lab — “quite a rare and impressive achievement for an undergraduate,” Chapman says.

And a minor in sculpture proved to be complementary toward his work.

“Performing surgery requires a perception of depth and the appreciation of three dimensional spaces,” he says. “Before removing a large solid tumor, I go through the operation mentally and then visually anticipate the final outcome.”

Sandoval also taught gymnastics to children at a Lewisville gym, giving him the experience of interacting with youngsters.

“Every age group was different with regard to capturing their attention,” he says. “I still have to have a carefully planned approach not only for kids, but parents as well when we discuss surgery and cancer.”

After he graduated from UNT, he earned his medical degree from Texas A&M Health Science Center. He then completed his general surgery residency in Indianapolis and obtained his subspecialty fellowship training in pediatric surgery in Denver before joining St. Jude’s in 2010.

His research there focuses on neuroblastoma, a form of cancer specific to infants and young children that develops in nerve tissue and can arise from the neck, chest, abdomen or pelvis. He is working to find a fingerprint or biomarker in the blood to see if certain medications can be used to treat the cancer. Sandoval combines his research with conducting three to five operations a week. The work can be challenging when it comes to performing surgery on children.

“You’re dealing with a very small environment,” he says. “And you have to be very precise. There is no room for error.”

His job also offers great opportunities.

“I think cancer doctors tend to be optimists,” he says. “They may not always be able to save the child, but they can certainly offer hope. And the research makes that possible.”

by Jessica DeLeón
John Sandoval
('96)
Memphis, Tenn.

Degree in:
Biochemistry and biology with a minor in sculpture

Traits of a good doctor:
Compassion, caring, strong character and patience

On mentors:
My career in medicine has been a profound and rewarding experience and, at times, very painful and agonizing. But having good mentors throughout all phases of my training has made those challenges more manageable.

Advice for students:
I was inspired to work in medicine after shadowing James Conyers ('70), a general surgeon who was the father of one of my friends during my high school years. Find mentors in the particular career path you want to follow, develop relationships with them and learn from their experiences.

Free time activities:
I spend time with my family. I continue to follow Dallas Stars hockey, meeting former classmates in Dallas for a game once a year, and am trying to get my three young daughters to appreciate the sport (at least on TV).
Students learn in an environment rich in opportunities as UNT advances scholarship, research and creativity.

UNT’s biocultural conservation work in Chile includes the “Tracing Darwin’s Path” study abroad course, one of the first programs supported by a 100,000 Strong in the Americas grant. Students learn about the importance of preserving the diversities of life while studying in the UNESCO Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve, one of the world’s last pristine wilderness areas (pictured above). This program and other innovative research initiatives at UNT are featured in the 2014 UNT Research magazine.

“Our students learn from faculty pushing the boundaries of knowledge and discovery through funded research,” says Tom McCoy, vice president for research and economic development. “And they have access to state-of-the-art equipment purchased through competitive awards that our faculty have earned.”

Read UNT Research magazine at unt.edu/untresearch.
HONORS COLLEGE RESEARCH

Students in the Honors Research Track are inspired by faculty mentors who guide them in their work. Pictured are senior Corina Gomez, left, and her mentor, Irene Klaver, professor of philosophy and religion studies and director of the Philosophy of Water Project. When Gomez was searching for a thesis topic in Klaver’s “Philosophy of Water” class, Klaver suggested she look at how the Latino population has been affected by water issues. Gomez examined how Dallas’ beautification of the Trinity River affected residents of Oak Cliff. She hopes to pursue a master’s and law degree in environmental policy.

CAN WE ENGINEER A BETTER FUTURE?

Researchers in the fast-growing College of Engineering are working on innovative technology in a variety of fields — from a patented Stirling engine that draws energy from temperature changes rather than fossil fuels, to a fabric that could sense cardiac troubles and a companion robot designed to help senior citizens overcome depression. A new biomedical engineering program will increase students’ opportunities for hands-on research solving real-world issues.

ART MEETS SCIENCE

UNT researchers mix science with creativity, pushing the boundaries of their fields. At left, Marcus Young (’97), art alum and assistant professor of materials science and engineering, and graduate student Matthew Carl are the first to use a focused ion beam system to examine metal museum artifacts — a novel technique they developed to learn about the manufacturing of silver and silver-plated pieces from the Dallas Museum of Art.
As a boy, Ethan Wheeler wondered how medicine took the pain away. But thanks to biology and pharmacology classes taken in UNT’s pre-pharmacy program as an undergraduate, Wheeler (‘12), now a student in the UNT System College of Pharmacy that opened this fall in Fort Worth, understands the complexity of how medicine relieves pain and treats illness. Because of that solid foundation, the biology graduate is flourishing in the North Texas region’s first four-year pharmacy program. Meanwhile, Joy Nnama, who will earn her bachelor’s degree in applied arts and sciences from UNT in May, is soaking up knowledge so that she is a strong applicant for the UNT Dallas College of Law that opens in fall 2014.

Students have an excellent pathway for health and legal careers through UNT’s comprehensive degree offerings. Math and science programs lay the foundation for health professions while programs in fields such as political science, business and communications prepare students for law professions. Professors, advisors and alumni provide guidance and mentoring along the journey. And students get hands-on experience and career insight through internships and student organization involvement.

With the UNT System College of Pharmacy and the UNT Dallas College of Law, budding pharmacists and lawyers can access two new programs — ones built from the same high-quality mold as UNT. Like UNT, both programs emphasize access, affordability and hands-on experience and symbolize the UNT System’s expanding impact in the North Texas region.

Nnama balanced her classroom learning by job shadowing Lara Tomlin (‘07), an assistant district attorney in the Denton County District Attorney’s Office, through the UNT Career Center’s Take Flight program.

“The professors teach you there is a world out there so I can take what I learned in school and apply it to real life,” Nnama says. “It’s one thing to dream to be a lawyer, but it’s another thing to experience it.”
Lisa Killam-Worrall ('96) with UNT System pharmacy student Ethan Wheeler ('12)
Health careers

In Wheeler’s pharmacology class, he learned how drugs affect the body — essential knowledge for pharmacy school — while a neuropsychopharmacology course exposed him to innovative research on how drugs affect the brain.

“I got a great education from my professors because of their teaching style and research,” Wheeler says.

Besides his classes, his biggest boost came from health professions advisors Debrah Beck (’73, ’83 M.A., ’95 Ph.D.) and Patavia Whaley.

The advisors make sure students take the right classes, keep up their grades, volunteer, get involved in student organizations and job shadow.

They also help students to prepare to apply for medical, dental, veterinary or pharmacy schools, which can take up to one and a half years. Their one-on-one guidance gives students the best chance of being accepted.

“We help them be competitive candidates,” Beck says.

Wheeler also gained leadership skills and connected with pharmacists as president of the Eagle’s Pre-Pharmacy Association at UNT, which Beck and Whaley advise.

They steered Wheeler to the UNT System College of Pharmacy, which has been a perfect fit. Wheeler says he likes its metropolitan location, its ties to the healthcare industry and, most importantly, its inter-professional focus.

Housed at the UNT Health Science Center, the pharmacy college is the first in Texas to be located on a health science center campus. Pharmacists are educated alongside physicians, physician assistants, public health professionals and researchers — each benefiting from the other’s insight.

“You get to think about a patient’s experience from all different healthcare perspectives, so you can give better treatment,” Wheeler says.

The pharmacy college’s founding dean, Myron Jacobson, says the program stands out because of the “team sport” approach, which ultimately is about improving healthcare.

“UNT does an excellent job of preparing students for professional careers,” says Jacobson, who taught chemistry at UNT from 1974 to 1985. “They not only get a strong grounding in education but they also have an opportunity to do research. That coupled with a good advising system allows them to develop realistic career expectations.”

Jacobson and Beck are working on aligning classes and recruitment between the pharmacy college and UNT. Beck hopes to establish a formal bridge program.

Lisa Killam-Worrall (’96) knows just how well UNT prepares students for a health profession. The excellent lab and academic research training she received as a biology student was an advantage in pharmacy school and in her career.

Killam-Worrall was a drug information specialist and professor after earning her Doctor of Pharmacy, but she had her eye on joining the faculty of the pharmacy college when it was proposed. She knew it would have the same quality as UNT and UNT Health Science Center programs.

Now in her work as assistant dean for experiential education and associate professor, Killam-Worrall helps students, like Wheeler, get clinical and preceptorship experience. She’s also a role model, proudly hanging her UNT degree in her office so pharmacy students see the fruits of success.

“It helps put them at ease and shows them that they can make it,” Killam-Worrall says.
Legal careers

Nnama is on her way to making it, thanks to mentors who include Myra Hafer, UNT’s admissions liaison at Collin College, where she earned an associate’s degree. Now seven years after leaving Nigeria, the mother of four is preparing for her LSAT so she can apply to the new law school next year.

Shadowing Tomlin, who is an appellate attorney for the DA’s Office, Nnama sat in on trials, read legal briefs and networked with other attorneys. Tomlin, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in international studies, gives job shadow students a realistic view of the demanding profession while also sharing her love for it.

“When working with students makes me proud of my profession, reminding me of the importance of what I do,” says Tomlin, who decided to become a lawyer after her internship in Washington, D.C., through UNT’s North Texas in D.C. Program.

Judge Royal Furgeson Jr., founding dean of the UNT Dallas College of Law, says coming from an undergraduate program with high standards and rigorous coursework is a recipe for law school success. Like the pharmacy college, the law college, which is the first public law school in the city of Dallas, has a unique approach to education. A lab component requires students to do real-world exercises such as designing a litigation plan.

Furgeson, who was a U.S. district judge for 19 years, says the lab work is essential because many young lawyers need more practice-ready competency.

“Our law school will be full of innovative ways to help people prepare for the law profession,” Ferguson says.

That innovation and the law school’s emphasis on affordability and quality are key to its mission.

Kimi King, associate professor in UNT’s nationally recognized political science program, is excited about the new law school’s natural synergies with UNT, as well as the potential for collaboration. King, who earned a law degree, has helped many students pursue law school, serving as the pre-law advisor for six years and as the Moot Court advisor for 14 years.

“I have a taxpayer view of higher education. We have to be accountable to students,” King says. “That guides everything I do.”

Her influence as a mentor is evident on students like Eryn Mascia. The political science freshman and Honors College student recently won a Moot Court Champion title in her first college tournament. It was a coup since she had only a year of high school debate and had to switch arguments and learn a new law and case precedents a day before competition.

Thanks to coaching from King and the captain of UNT’s team, which ranks fifth in the nation, Mascia and her debate partner won — and Mascia is now focused on pursuing a law career.

“Dr. King helped me cement that I wanted to do this,” Mascia says. “She cares about all of us and wants us to do well.”

Listen to a KERA podcast about the UNT Dallas College of Law at northtexan.unt.edu/legal-health and learn more about the UNT System law and allied health colleges at untsystem.unt.edu.
This March the UNT Foundation presented the 2014 Emerald Eagle Honors: Recognizing a Lifetime of Contributions to the American Landscape — celebrating UNT’s legacy of outstanding alumni who are making a difference in the UNT community and the world. The second annual event held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas benefited the Emerald Eagle Scholars program, which has helped nearly 3,500 high-achieving but financially challenged students pursue their college dreams by providing financial aid and academic support.

This year’s honorees included alumna Phyllis George, the first female sportscaster on national TV, actress and 1971 Miss America; Larry McMurtry (’58), Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and Academy Award-winning screenwriter; and Peter Weller (’70), actor and Academy Award nominee.

Learn more about the event at unt.edu/emeraldeaglehonors.
Left: Sportscaster and announcer Brent Musburger presents an alumni award to Phyllis George during the 2014 Emerald Eagle Honors event held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas.

Top row: 2014 alumni honorees Peter Weller ('70) and Phyllis George with George Getschow, principal lecturer in the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism, accepting for Larry McMurtry ('58).

Middle row: UNT President Neal Smatresk welcomes the audience; "Mean" Joe Greene, one of the 2013 alumni honorees, with Sara Sue and Don ('63) Potts at their home in Dallas during the Emerald Eagle Honors Kickoff event they hosted in November; junior Emerald Eagle Scholar Giselle Garcia with 2014 alumni honoree Peter Weller ('70), and presenter and actress Ali MacGraw.

Bottom row: Emerald Eagle Scholars take a selfie while enjoying the event.
MEAN GREEN ATHLETICS HALL OF FAMER

Johnny Quinn (’06) didn’t win a medal at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, but he did win the Internet. Quinn, whose four-man bobsledding team came in 12th place, became a viral sensation when he tweeted a picture of the bathroom door he rammed himself through when he became trapped inside. The picture resulted in the hashtag #quinning and appearances on several TV shows. The games represented a lifelong desire to compete athletically for Quinn, who had been cut from three professional football teams and forced to retire due to injuries. “I was fired up to find I was on the Olympic Team,” Quinn says. “It’s been a humbling athletic career. At 30, what a reward.”
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). Members of the UNT Alumni Association are designated with a *. Read more, share comments and connect with friends at northtexan.unt.edu.

1950
Fred Bruce and Mae McRae, Hilltop Lakes :: celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in December. Fred earned a degree in industrial arts and was a member of the Falcon Fraternity. He retired from Tenneco in 1986. Mae, a member of Phi Sigma Alpha, completed a B.S. at the University of Houston in 1983. The photo was taken on their 60th anniversary.

1953
Luther B. McDaniel, San Antonio :: began a career with the U.S. Air Force as a civilian employee in the human resources field. He worked in Pennsylvania, Alabama, Germany, Oklahoma, Hawaii, and three times in San Antonio, where he became director of civilian personnel for Air Training Command Headquarters. He retired in 1990 after 36 years with the Air Force.

1964
Richard V. Menchaca ('65 M.Ed.), Irving :: received the Chili Bowl Scholarship Gala Honoree Award in San Antonio for outstanding leadership in the Hispanic community and contributions to education. Last fall, he was honored for 45 years of service to El Centro College, where he is director of reading. He is a member of the UNT Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in track.

1968
Ann Truyman Ackerman ('69 M.A., '84 Ph.D.), Nashua, N.H. :: associate professor of education at Rivier University in Nashua, co-presented the workshop “We Don’t Bite – They Don’t Bite: Examining and Dismantling Predisposed Concepts of Culture” at the 36th annual Fulbright Conference in Washington, D.C. Her Fulbright study was to Greece and Bulgaria in 2008.

* Roger Durham, Dallas :: was elected to a third term as regional vice chair of the American Mensa board of directors and represents the five-stage Southwest region. He is an attorney at Epiq Legal Solutions in Dallas, a real estate broker, a former municipal judge and a Vietnam veteran.

1969
Carol Lindsay Lohman, Grand Prairie :: retired in 2013 after 42 years of teaching and serving in administration positions in the Dallas ISD and private Christian schools. She received numerous Who’s Who of American Teachers awards and twice was named Teacher of the Year. She lives in Grand Prairie with her husband, Dean.

1970
Bob Reed ('76 M.A.), Glen Rose :: wrote The Red-Winged Blackbird (CreateSpace), a novel about the Colorado coal strike of 1913-14, the bloodiest and costliest labor dispute in American history.

1977
Phyllis Booles (M.A.), Austin :: published her first book, Reversing Dyslexia: Improving Learning and Behavior Without Drugs (Square One Publishers). A doctor of chiropractic and clinical nutritionist with almost 30 years in practice, she considers both the neurology and the anatomy of dyslexia and presents a new perspective on a diagnosis traditionally considered permanent.

Mark A. Cornelius, Franklin, Tenn. :: published The Singularity (Tate Publishing), an end times thriller involving a microquasar that affects the galaxy in inexplicable ways. He has worked as an executive recruiter, business development consultant and wealth management specialist.

Barry Davis, Houston :: with Thompson & Knight LLP, was recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2014. He practices corporate governance law in the firm’s Houston office.
Wildlife CSI

Bonnie Yates (’70, ’82 M.S.) dedicated her career to protecting endangered species and combating wildlife crime. She spent 20 years with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s National Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Oregon as a forensic morphologist, in charge of the identification of mammalian parts and products confiscated in wildlife crime investigations for the federal government. But she got her start at UNT.

Yates earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education. She later returned and became one of the first graduates of the master’s program in environmental science. As a graduate student, Yates worked in the Zooarchaeology Lab at the Institute for Applied Sciences, where she learned how to identify bones for scientists, and after graduating served as assistant director of UNT’s Center for Environmental Archaeology until 1992 when she began work at the National Wildlife Forensics Laboratory.

“I’ve had so many amazing experiences. I’ve examined elk teeth, tiger skin rugs and bones that people were trying to import to the U.S.,” she says. “Every day was filled with something new, something interesting.”

Yates retired in fall 2012 from the laboratory, and was chosen as one of 10 people worldwide for the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award for her accomplishments in combating wildlife crime. Along with being a pioneer in wildlife forensics, examining more than 7,000 pieces of evidence for more than 2,000 cases, Yates developed new species identification techniques for use in fighting wildlife trafficking and trained the service’s new recruits of wildlife inspectors and special agents.

“It’s very humbling to be among the recipients because some were game wardens in Africa who were killed in the line of duty,” she says.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Office of Law Enforcement Chief William Woody says he was very proud to see Yates recognized.

“Her work, and that of her colleagues,” he says, “has been critical to our success in investigating and exposing blackmarket wildlife trade.”
— Leslie Wimmer
and administration, presented him with a replica UNT football jersey bearing his name and old No. 2 in honor of his community work since his UNT football days.

1993

W. Joe Calfee, Denton :: is associate missions pastor for operations at Denton Bible Church.

Todd William Grogan, Bartonville :: is celebrating 10 years of service with James R. Thompson Inc. in Dallas, where he was promoted to vice president of operations. But he says his greatest promotion is being a dad to my beautiful baby girl, Reagan Shea.”

1994

Cathy Ritchey-Hernandez, Baton Rouge, La. :: was appointed the executive director of the Louisiana Division of the Arts. She directs grants to the arts across the state. She also is an adjunct graduate faculty member in arts administration for Drexel University.

1995

Rosiland Davis, Texarkana :: was selected for the Leadership Texarkana 2013-14 class, made up of 30 members from the Texarkana community. She is a special education teacher with the Liberty-Eylau ISD.

Matthew Mailman (D.M.A.), Oklahoma City, Okla. :: professor of conducting at Oklahoma City University, conducted the OCU Orchestra and a 200-member chorus in a televised memorial concert for the victims of last year’s Moore tornado. At OCU this academic year, he conducted the operas Street Scene and Our Town and conducted the orchestral work “Spider Brings Fire” for the State of Creativity Forum in November.

1997

Kim Fenneman, Frisco :: published her first book, the memoir Corn-fed With Rice on the Side, a collection of stories about growing up as a Korean adoptee. She was a member of one of the first classes of UNT’s Professional Leadership Program and has recently re-connected with the program.

1998

Carlos N. Leal, McKinney :: accepted a position as resource coordinator with JDA Technical Services Group in Irving, a resource integration firm. Carlos’ supervisor, Rich Long (‘93, ’97 M.B.A.), senior vice president of operations, also is an alum.

* Kerri Dane Shelton, Aubrey :: her husband, Chris, and two sons, Mark and Evan Mayes, announce the birth of their daughter and sister, Sara Elizabeth Shelton. Born in August, Sara weighed 9 pounds and was 21 inches long.

1999

Christina Kitchens (’05 M.B.A.), Dallas :: moved an energy finance team to CTB Energy Finance at Community Trust Bank and now leads the energy lending group for the bank.

Hiro Komae, Cairo, Egypt :: is a photo editor on the Middle East Photo Desk of The Associated Press. He began working there in June 2013.

Upcoming Alumni Gatherings

Alumni and friends celebrate UNT. Here’s a sampling of events:

UNT Career Fairs: Career and internship fairs offered by the UNT Career Center are free to alumni job seekers. Visit careercenter.unt.edu/events for a full schedule.

College of Business Speaker Series: David T. Seaton, chairman and CEO of Fluor Corporation will speak at 10 a.m. April 4 in the Business Leadership Building, Room 155. The speaker series features top business executives who share insights on industry-related issues, tips for successful leadership skills and advice on career paths. Admission is free. For information, contact tasha.wells@unt.edu.

Green and White Game: The 2014 spring football scrimmage will take place at 2 p.m. April 12 at UNT’s Apogee’s Stadium. Admission is free. Get season tickets at meangreensports.com.

UNT Kuehne Speaker Series: Author and geopolitical analyst Robert D. Kaplan, chosen by Foreign Policy magazine as among the world’s “Top 100 Global Thinkers” will speak at noon May 6 at the W Hotel in Dallas. Tickets for the event sponsored by Ryan LLC, which includes luncheon and presentation, are $45 for alumni. To register, go to kuehneseries.unt.edu.

For more information or to join the UNT Alumni Association, call 940-565-2834 or go to untalumni.com.
Johnny Quinn’s break-out role at the Winter Olympics — tearing through the jammed bathroom door in Sochi’s Olympic Village — led to media mentions around the world and instant Internet fame for the USA Bobsledding pushman and former Mean Green standout. Quinn (’06), or “Johnny Bobsled” as he became known, appeared on TV shows such as Good Morning America, Access Hollywood, Piers Morgan Live and national nightly news broadcasts. He received tweets of support from his former Green Bay Packers teammate Aaron Rodgers and actor William Shatner (“Checking in on my bob sled team. Is @JohnnyQuinnUSA staying out of trouble?” the former starship captain wanted to know). And the new Quinn-inspired verb and hashtag on Twitter had fans tweeting photos of themselves “Quinning” through various obstacles in their lives — including UNT students posing behind a door that had been Quinned. The bobsledder’s post-Olympics life also has been bursting with activity, with appearances on local newscasts, a training session with the Denton SWAT team to learn a few things about door breaching, and an autograph session at a Mean Green basketball game, to name a few. Above, Quinn tweeted this shot after flashing the Eagle claw several times during the Opening Ceremony in Sochi — hashtag #CAWW.

EAGLES’ Nest

IN THE // News

Erica Range Rogers (’01 M.S.), Plano :: was named treasurer and head of the finance committee as well as a director on the board of City House, which operates an emergency youth shelter and other programs. She is a tax partner with Dallas-based CPA firm Montgomery Coscia Greilich LLP.

2001

Sarah M. Broom, New York, N.Y. :: was awarded a William Steeple Davis residency, a year-long writing fellowship in Orient, N.Y. She will finish her first non-fiction book, The Yellow House, to be published by Grove/Atlantic.

Jessica Bender Gorman and Joshua Gorman, Scottsdale, Ariz. :: welcomed their first child, a son, William Wolfe Gorman in August. They met at UNT in 1997, their freshman year.

Caleb Simpson, Austin :: runs Bearded Brothers, producing raw, vegan, gluten-free energy bars with organic ingredients. The company is raising funds for its newest product line — sprouted, seasoned nuts and seeds. The bars are available in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana through Whole Foods and at several locations in Denton.

2004

Tammy Jo Burns (M.S.), Granbury :: published her first novels, A Traitorous Heart and A Thin Line. When not writing, she is the librarian for Granbury High School and Crossland Ninth Grade Center.

2005


2006

Dana L Sanders, Memphis, Tenn. :: a graduate of the Texas Academy of Mathematics and
Expecting greatness

As a 6-year-old, Chris Abraham ('91) sold books and magazines from a wagon that he pulled down the neighborhood street.

“I always knew I wanted to run a business one day,” he says. “I always had the entrepreneurial spirit.”

Now the chief executive officer of Service King Collision Repair Centers, Abraham built a foundation in business at UNT, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing. He played football for the Mean Green, appeared as a stunt double in the football-themed flick Necessary Roughness and met his wife Tiffany Coogan ('93, '02 M.Ed.), at UNT. After graduation, he worked for Airborne Express overnight mail before joining Service King, working his way up to CEO in 2012 and leading the company in a national expansion.

“I am a very collaborative business leader, and I believe in getting input from the team, from the boots on the ground, and making good decisions based on the right direction of the company,” Abraham says. “I believe in setting strong, aggressive company organizational goals, allowing everybody to understand what their role is in achieving those goals and stepping back to allow them to execute the goals.”

At UNT, he found lifelong inspiration from position coach Bob Finklea — “always expecting greatness” from the team, he says — and Linda Rollins, an academic advisor for athletics.

“Linda Rollins was a very big inspiration to all of us, keeping us focused on the big picture beyond sports and athletics — keeping us focused on our education and on leading a successful life after graduation,” Abraham says.

And he hopes other UNT students find the same success.

“I look forward to giving back to the university in as many ways as I can,” he says.

— Ellen Rossetti
UNT’s alumni, faculty, staff and students are the university’s greatest legacy. When members of the Eagle family pass, they are remembered and their spirit lives on. Send information about deaths to The North Texan (see contact information on page 7).

Read more, write memorials and connect with friends at northtexan.unt.edu.

1940s

Charles ‘Chuck’ Graves ('47), Anson :: He served in the U.S. Air Corps as a gunner on a B24 during World War II. In Anson, he owned and operated Graves-Neville Department Store with his wife and her parents. His mother, Ethel Conner Graves, also was a graduate of North Texas. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his friends and family.

1950s

Gilbert Lee ‘Skip’ Packer ('50), Dallas :: He graduated from Sunset High School in Dallas and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was serving aboard the light cruiser USS Honolulu when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. He continued to serve on the ship throughout the war and became the boxing champion of the Pacific Fleet. He and his wife, the late Beth Kinder, met at North Texas, where he was a Geezle. He had a long career in the envelope manufacturing business, starting with U.S. Envelope in 1951. He retired in 1994.

Donald E. Claxton ('55), Austin :: He served in the U.S. Navy before graduating from North Texas and later attended SMU law school. He worked in the insurance field for many years, including 25 years with Hartford Insurance Co. His daughter, Rita Claxton Stringer ('84), also is a graduate of UNT.

1960s

Steven Fromholz, Eldorado :: He was a singer and songwriter who attended North Texas from 1963 to 1965. He performed his own music and wrote songs for other artists, including “I’d Have to be Crazy” recorded by Willie Nelson. Two of his best-known works were “Bears” and “Texas Trilogy,” covered by Lyle Lovett. He also was a published author and poet and was named Texas’ state poet laureate in 2007. At North Texas, he was part of the Folk Music Club, which also included singers Ray Wylie Hubbard and Michael Martin Murphey. He began his music career after serving in the U.S. Navy.

David Joseph Ballauer ('65, '66 M.Ed.), Azle :: He played football at North Texas and was a discus thrower and shotputter in track. He had a long career as a math teacher and football and track coach at area high schools, including Azle, Boswell, Keller and Justin Northwest. He also served briefly at Graham and

Mary Elizabeth Evans ('39, '50 M.S., '54 Ed.D.), 94.

Professor Emeritus of human resource management, died Jan. 17 in Denton. She was the first woman to earn a doctoral degree from UNT and later served as dean of the School of Home Economics, retiring after 30 years of service in education. She earned her graduate degrees while working full-time as a teacher at Wylie High School. She also had five sisters who were alumni — their combined North Texas degree total reached 12 when she earned her doctorate in secondary education. She joined the home economics faculty in 1958 and was named dean in 1969. She was a nutrition expert who had articles published in the Journal of Home Economics and U.S. News & World Report. In the early 1960s, she served as chair of the State Board of Examiners for Teacher Education. She was known for the desserts she baked for faculty, staff and other friends. She once made an 85-pound cake in the shape of the Capitol Building for a U.S. congressman’s visit to campus.

Donald H. Kobe, 79, Professor Emeritus of physics, died Dec. 3 in Denton. He joined the physics faculty in 1968 and had been on modified service after retiring in 2008. He made significant contributions to quantum theory and to other areas of theoretical physics. He published papers concerned with quantum mechanics, quantum field theory, statistical mechanics, classical mechanics and electromagnetism. He had served as a research associate and visiting professor in Sweden and Denmark as well as at Ohio State University in Columbus and Northeastern University in Boston. He also lectured in China and Kenya.

1970s

Bishop Sarah Frances Davis (’70), Houston :: The third woman to be elected a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, she was the vice president of the World Methodist Council and the presiding prelate of the 16th Episcopal District, which includes churches and schools in South America, the Caribbean and Europe. She was focused on rebuilding orphanages and churches in Haiti. She was the first woman in Texas to be appointed to a major A.M.E. church when she served for seven years as the pastor of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in San Antonio.

Stephen L. Haslund (’70, ’73 M.Ed., ’78 Ph.D.), Friendswood :: He studied music education and earned his doctorate in college and university teaching. He joined the Texas Chiropractic College as dean of student services in 1994 and served as vice president of student affairs and vice president for administrative affairs before retiring.

1980s

Thomas C. Moroney (’88), Plano :: He earned his degree in psychology and minored in biology, chemistry and French. His family says he loved his time at North Texas and living in Clark Hall, where he met his best friends — Roger Bray and Dennis Franko, his future brother-in-law.

1990s

Brian Dorroh (’91), Dallas :: He grew up in Littleton, Colo., and graduated from Columbine High School in 1986. After earning his degree in radio/television/film and photography from UNT, he earned a degree in photography and multimedia from the Art Institute of Dallas. He lived and worked in the Dallas area, most recently at SourceHOV as a VMWare specialist.

2000s

Staff Sgt. Alex Viola (’06), Keller :: He was a graduate of the College of Engineering who was stationed in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, on his first deployment. He joined the Army National Guard as an engineer sergeant in 2009. His last assignment was with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) out of Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. Among his medals and badges were the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Special Operations Dive Badge and the Special Forces Tab.

2010s

Baffour Boahen (’13), Denton :: He was a senior studying psychology and was awarded his degree posthumously in December. He also was a student employee at UNT’s Kristin Farmer Autism Center.

Jose R. Cruz Jr., Watauga :: He retired from Ford Motor Credit and was working on his master’s degree in counseling at UNT.

Amanda Brianne Lizzio, Colleyville :: She transferred to UNT in fall 2013 and was studying pre-hospitality management. She worked at the Grand Hyatt hotel at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

Memorials

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

by William “Bill” Worrell (’74 M.F.A.)

THIS IS NOT A LOVE STORY AS one might think when one considers Feb. 14, but it is a love story — and a true one.

Wilfred Higgins was my professor of art when I was a graduate student at North Texas starting in the summer of 1972. I needed a master’s degree to keep my teaching job at Odessa College. He was a painting teacher and former director of the Dallas Museum of Art.

I had some fine ideas for paintings — non-objective renderings and large ones, but I lacked the funds to purchase the necessary materials to be able to render them. I tried diluting the cadmium reds to extend them, which resulted in nauseating pinks rather than vibrant crimson colors. A similar thing would happen with the other primary colors, and this transformed my visions of intense renderings into weak, pastel appearances. I envisioned making creations that would impress Higgins, who we students came to affectionately call “Flip.” I painted a few really bad canvases, weak, sickly and non-vibrant, and then it came time for my first weekly critique. I was scared.

In came Flip. He looked at what was hanging on the wall and said nothing, or very little, except that he would see me next week. I knew I had bombed and I was even more frightened. I thought to myself that if I were going to “bust out,” I should at least do so creating what I really wanted rather than attempting to create something that would impress Higgins. So I spent money I did not have, bought what I needed, and painted and painted and painted, and painted some more.

Another week passed, and in came Flip. He stood before my array, silently. I was sweating when at last he broke the silence.

“I like that!” he said, pointing to several paintings. “I like that, and I like that!” I stopped sweating and he said, “You can paint anything you want from now on. Just paint.”

He looked at one particular rendering — a small study on a large canvas, a white field with vibrant reds and yellows separated by intrusions of the ground — and told me to paint some more like it. I said, “But Flip, I’m afraid I will repeat myself.”

He said, “Think so? Try it. I dare you. One of the characteristics of a mature artist is that he paints the same thing time and time again. But nothing is the same. Everything is different, although similar. Try repeating yourself.”

What a breakthrough! I roughly calculated that I painted a surface area of canvas that summer that would have covered 100 yards by 4 feet. Flip took me to the Dallas Museum of Art for an event opening. He introduced me to the director as “the best graduate student we have ever had.”

There were other fine teachers at UNT, too, who supported and inspired me: Ray Gough, Don Scaggs, Richard Davis, Don Schol, Ray Stevens and others.

I have had a lot of love stories with UNT. •
Senior Rebecca Taylor is the complete student-athlete. As a three-time conference Diver of the Week and the UNT women’s swimming and diving 3-meter and tower record holder, Taylor is integral to a program ranked No.1 for academics among the nation’s 318 NCAA Division I institutions. Equally comfortable on stage in a theatrical production or on the diving platform, she exemplifies performance and focus.

An integrative studies major with concentrations in communication studies, behavior analysis and biology, Taylor represents the creativity and diverse talents of UNT students and alumni.

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Neal Smatresk started his first day on the job as UNT’s 16th president Feb. 3 with an early morning interview on Dallas-Fort Worth’s WFAA-TV (Channel 8) by alumna Cynthia Izaguirre (’97), who was recently promoted to WFAA’s evening co-anchor. As UNT president, Smatresk will lead the university to strengthen its research, scholarship and artistic endeavors. Watch the interview at northtexan.unt.edu/online and learn more about Smatresk’s experience and vision on page 16.