IS BEING OVERLY VIGILANT BAD FOR YOUR HEART?

We’re studying the role that stress and hypervigilance play in the development of heart disease — the nation’s No. 1 killer. Smoking, obesity and diet are well established influences on cardiovascular health. At UNT, we’re leading the way in measuring the effect that other equally significant variables contribute to this major public health concern. We hope our research helps create more effective coronary therapies.

— John Ruiz
Assistant professor, psychology
Leading the World
FROM HELPING FIGHT THE SPREAD OF EBOLA AND EDUCATING YOUTH THROUGH MUSIC TO ADVANCING ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD MARKET, ALUMS ARE USING CROSS-CULTURAL SKILLS LEARNED AS STUDENTS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE ACROSS THE GLOBE.

By Adrienne Nettles

Cover: Photo illustration by Kit Young. From left, Dominic Murer ('14), April Scarroy ('95), Petronel Malan ('96 M.M., '01 D.M.A.), Pradit Wanaarat ('94 Ph.D.) and Tolkunbek Abdygulov ('07 M.P.A.)
Happy Holidays, UNT!

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, WE’RE GIVING THANKS FOR THE BRIGHT, TALENTED UNT COMMUNITY AND WE’RE ALSO CELEBRATING OUR CREATIVE SPIRIT. SEE AND HEAR FOR YOURSELF WHAT LIFE AT UNT SOUNDS LIKE AND HOW WE WORK TOGETHER IN HARMONY.

When you see this arrow, join our North Texan community online at northtexan.unt.edu.
Driven by creativity
UNT BLAZES PATH, PROPELLED BY IMAGINATION AND KNOWLEDGE

FROM OUR HUMBLE origins in Denton to our rising national prominence, UNT is growing as a first-choice institution and partner known for creativity and excellence.

Creativity is alive in everything we do, whether it’s musical and artistic excellence (see page 34) or thought-provoking education, research and scholarship. We see problems and find innovative solutions. We use our knowledge, talent and skills to make the world better, as you’ll see in our cover story on alumni who are making global impacts (see page 24). And as a place where art and science converge, we educate, inspire and innovate.

I’m especially proud of how we change our students’ lives in a style all our own at UNT. We captured the harmony of how our campus community works together in this year’s holiday video. Check it out at northtexan.unt.edu/online. And be sure to look for our creativity-inspired billboards throughout the North Texas region.

We also celebrated the close of our first comprehensive campaign, The Campaign for UNT; this fall with more than $210 million, exceeding our goal. These gifts provide scholarships to our students, support faculty research and scholarship, and bolster our academic programs. Together, they ensure that our students get the best educational experience at UNT. Most importantly, gifts help our students achieve their dreams. You can show your support at giving.unt.edu.

Debbie and I have been part of the UNT community for just 10 months, but we were embraced immediately as family and everyone has been so welcoming. Our love and pride for this great university grows stronger each day. We’re excited about what the future holds for UNT.

UNT proud,
Neal Smatresk
President
president@unt.edu
@UNTPrez
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.

Online: northtexan.unt.edu
(follow the “Contact Us” link)
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University of North Texas
Division of University Relations,
Communications and Marketing
1155 Union Circle #311070
Denton, Texas 76203-5017

Logistics

As a UNT graduate and business accounts sales executive with FedEx, I was so pleased to see the piece touting logistics in the fall issue. The remarks by faculty member Wesley Randall were terrific in describing the importance of such a contemporary curriculum at UNT.

His comments make me proud to be a North Texas graduate working as a professional in logistics, transportation and supply chain networks.

Jillien Garrison
Anthony (’76)
Camano Island, Wash.

Food for Thought

What are some of my favorite “foodie memories” from UNT (fall 2014)? Walking down the hill from Bruce Hall to go have some chocolate orange chip ice cream at Swenson’s! Big bowls of Fruit Loops cereal at a Bruce Hall dorm party. Pizza at Bullwinkle’s. A Denton County hamburger and french fries on the square downtown. Bruce Hall had the best dining hall when I was at UNT.

Anne Strybos Vrolyk (’85), Bruce Hall wing rep and food rep
League City

We were eating unhealthy back in the early ’70s, but we didn’t yet know it. Besides my fast-food fave, 25-cent Jack tacos, the smells from the Charco Broiler lured me in when I could afford it.

For late-night insanity, we ventured forth after midnight to Harry Hines in Dallas to Mama Coquita’s for a $2 huge plate of enchiladas.

The best indulgence was heading to Ranchman’s in Ponder for a slice of the absolute best apple pie. We couldn’t afford a steak. On the way home, we would stop to watch tarantulas cross the farm-to-market road. No kidding! We even caught one in a Mason jar. NTSU ~ NUTS!

Margie Mashek Davis (’75)
Italy

I entered North Texas in June 1986. One of the big hang-outs was the Flying Tomato pizza restaurant. On one particular night, the Flying Tomato was hosting a contest of physical agility and balance (one-legged squats). I managed to do more than any of the other entries.

One of the prizes was a gift certificate for any pizza I wanted. Being a poor college student, I went for the most expensive pie. It was a Chicago-style deep-dish pizza. I had never had deep-dish before.

I ordered the pie to go, took it back to the dorm, and my friends and I pigged out. I thought it was the best pizza I had ever had.

Not long ago I was in the Windy City and ordered a deep-dish. The memory from the one at Flying Tomato still stands as the best I ever had.

Derrall Ahart (’92)
Houston

When I read your invitation to share memories of food on campus, I immediately thought of the cinnamon coffeecake in the old UB (Union Building).

If you were lucky and got there early enough, you might get a piece that was just from the oven. There also were times you were told there was no more. What a disappointment!

I entered North Texas in fall 1962 and pledged a sorority in spring 1963. This was the hub of the activity on campus while I was there. We “hung out” in a room in the back of the UB, ordered coffee, drank coffee and cokes, visited and danced the North Texas “Push” to the music on the jukebox. It was a magical time and full of great memories.

Janie Lindsey Grimes
(’70, ’93 M.Ed.)
Denton

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Janie Lindsey Grimes
(’70, ’93 M.Ed.)
Denton
I came to North Texas the year the beautiful new Student Union Building opened, about 1976. I was lucky to be hired on as a banquet waiter, and was also hired to work as one of the lunch waiters in the new and exciting Rock Bottom Lounge on the lower level. It was built to be a fun, contemporary eatery during the day and possibly a music venue at night.

We thought it was beautiful; it was a tiered space in red and black with an open ceiling, track lighting and exposed black ductwork, small tables and a jukebox. I don’t think I will get “Paloma Blanca” or “Afternoon Delight” out of my head ever.

The lunch shift was only about an hour, only two “cooks” prepared the food and service was unconscionably slow. It was not a very workable concept. However, I will always remember that time with the greatest fondness and still think of friends made then.

James Gatewood
Corpus Christi

Raising awareness

When I opened the summer North Texan and saw the picture of my journalism professor, Keith Shelton, this brought back a flood of memories. When I was a photojournalism student in the ’70s, Smith “Smitty” Kiker, head of the photo lab, assigned a “picture” page for the student newspaper.

My bank of inspiration was empty until I observed a student carrying his tray. He wore a prosthesis where his hand had been, and I wondered what a typical day was like for him. So I interviewed four students with disabilities, and my picture page turned into a two-part feature story.

It was shocking to watch a student in a wheelchair get a “running start” to bounce up the steps to the Administration Building. A student who was blind showed me how her guide dog kept her from being injured by trash bins placed on posts at her head level.

Smitty told me it was the first time our newspaper had run a story like this. After it appeared, I was able to take a photo of a ramp being cut into one of the street curbs. Later, a photo I took of a bike rack bolted to concrete in the middle of a passageway was printed. I smiled the next time I walked by that area. The rack had been moved away from foot traffic.

Thomas Hart (’76)
Lomita, Calif.

Sounds of music

I arrived on campus as a shy boy from the small West Texas town of Brady and grew and matured at North Texas in what may have been the best four years of my life. I went on to earn a D.D.S. and practiced in New Mexico for 33 years.

One of my fondest memories is walking past the un-air-conditioned music building with all of the windows open. The music students were singing and playing their instruments and the sounds of music were in the air. These were special moments every day and I often wished there was a way to broadcast the music across the entire campus.

Dan Salter (’65)
Wills Point

Tell us about ... traditions

There’s nothing like Homecoming to remind us of the traditions UNT has celebrated through the years, like the parade and bonfire, the ringing of the Spirit Bell, the green light on McConnell Tower and our energetic Scrappy. Do you have a memory of a favorite tradition from your time on campus? We’d love to hear about it as we think back over all our decades of green pride. Send a letter or email to the addresses at top left.

@northtexan

So grateful for the teachers here at UNT that actually care about my success. #UNT #GoMeanGreen — @MaddyNeusel

It’s been a while since a pen exploded in my hand. At least it was green ink! #UNTproud — @JackieDemeritt

The University of North Texas campus is so beautiful. — @emilyannnn21

UNT has some of the greatest advisors I have ever met. Truly love my school. — @jeannine_vargas

Love that Homecoming bonfire. #GMG #UNTHC14 — @livelavalauren

#UNT Homecoming parade was fun! Shout out to the Green Brigade. Love you guys! — @michagb

There’s no gameday like #UNTHomecoming! #gomeangreen #untaide #meangreenfamily — @meangreenmaniac

Follow us on Twitter. We look forward to staying connected! @northtexan
LIKE ANDY WARHOL’S ART STUDIO — THE Factory — UNT’s new creative space of the same name in Willis Library is a hub for art and design. Housed on the library’s first floor, the facility is a makerspace for library users to create three-dimensional objects with tools such as a 3D scanner and printer, and to record videos and photographs hands free with Google Glass. This mashup of creativity and technology promotes self-directed experimentation and research and is helping UNT stand out.

“Libraries are shared places for learning and collaboration, and makerspaces are the newest kind of facility that libraries are providing,” says Martin Halbert, dean of the UNT libraries.

UNT’s Willis Library opens new space for students and users to explore innovative learning and new technologies.

Learn more about The Factory and other services the UNT libraries provide at library.unt.edu/services/factory.
Distinguished lecturer
Actor, social justice activist and social media mega-power George Takei shared his life experiences with students, faculty and alumni in October as a guest speaker for UNT’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

The audience got a first-hand account of Takei’s career, which spans five decades and gained the national spotlight with his founding role in the acclaimed television series Star Trek, in which he played Hikaru Sulu, helmsman of the Starship Enterprise.

He also shared his experiences as a Japanese American forced into U.S. internment camps during World War II. Today, the openly gay Takei is an outspoken supporter of human rights issues and a community activist. In 2007, the Asteroid 7307 Takei, located between Mars and Jupiter, was named in his honor.

Takei has been ranked the most influential person on Facebook by Mashable.com and has more than 7.7 million likes on Facebook and more than 1.3 million Twitter followers.

UNT’s Distinguished Lecture Series introduces the UNT community to the excellence of world-class speakers whose messages enhance student learning outside the classroom.

New engineering degree
UNT’s new Ph.D. in mechanical and energy engineering is the first degree of its kind in Texas and one of a few doctoral programs specializing in energy applications in the field of mechanical engineering in the U.S.

Beginning in spring 2015, students can enroll in the program, which will provide unique opportunities to study and do research for solving energy problems. Program graduates can pursue careers in industries such as alternative and sustainable energy, energy management and conservation, oil and gas, automotive and aerospace, and manufacturing.

TOP FEMALE CHEMIST
Regents Professor of chemistry Angela Wilson will be honored by the American Chemical Society this spring as the recipient of the 2015 Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal, recognizing top women chemists for distinguished service and contributions to the field of chemistry.

Wilson leads a research team at UNT that develops and uses computational chemistry approaches to predict accurate thermodynamics, which is critical to understanding chemical reactivity. UNT has built one of the largest computational chemistry programs in the U.S. thanks to Wilson’s dedication and the university’s commitment to invest in high-performance computing.
The North Texan | northtexan.unt.edu | Winter 2014

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

- Science meets art. At only 16, Aditya Vaidya, a first-year Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science student working with Armin Mikler, professor of computer science and engineering, has created a computer model that uses weather and climate change data to predict mosquito populations. Also a consummate violinist, Vaidya has been invited by the High School Honors Performance Series, a program that brings together some of the best young performers around the world, to perform at Carnegie Hall in February.

- Number-crunchers. As the host for American Math Competitions, UNT this fall began helping eighth grade and high school students from the North Texas region sharpen their math skills. UNT is the first university in the Dallas Fort Worth area to host the free competitions in which students tackle 25 multiple choice questions in 40 minutes — a creative exercise to help strengthen their problem-solving abilities.

- Winning investors. Team GoMeanGreen — sophomore finance majors, from left, Bao Lam, Josue Leija and Mason Hendrickson — won TD Ameritrade’s First Collegiate Trading Competition, the thinkorswim Challenge. Their virtual stock portfolio grew 213 percent to $1,565,176 at the end of four weeks of trading. They each won $3,500 to deposit in a brokerage account. And, TD Ameritrade donated $30,000 to UNT to create an endowment benefiting UNT’s Student Investment Group. Hendrickson discusses strategy on CNBC’s Closing Bell at northtexan.unt.edu/online.

- Intermodal award

Three College of Business students this fall won the Intermodal Association of North America’s fourth annual Intermodal Challenge at the 2014 Intermodal EXPO. Their win marks the second year in a row that UNT students took top honors in the competition.

Seniors and aviation logistics majors Jesse Dolan and Sterling Harden and senior Regina Siwuwuh, a logistics and supply chain management major, clinched the top prize for developing a solution to a case study involving shipping intermodal containers for a luggage company from Asia to the U.S.

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BRILLIANTLY GREEN

EPA fellowship

Alexis Wormington, a junior biology major, earned a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Greater Research Opportunities undergraduate fellowship this fall to study how tiny particles found in everyday products like sunscreen are impacting aquatic ecosystems.

Working with faculty mentor Aaron Roberts, associate professor of biology, Wormington will use the fellowship to further study how sunlight and various concentrations of ultraviolet radiation change the toxicity of titanium dioxide nanoparticles in aquatic ecosystems. The particles are found in everyday products like sunscreens, cosmetics and paints. Wormington plans to become a toxicologist after earning a doctorate in the future and study various toxicology issues in several countries.

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GLOBAL CONNECTION

Mexican Consulate agreement

A partnership between UNT and the Consulate General of Mexico in Dallas has created an education information center housed in the Mexican Consular offices to serve the North Texas region.

Through the center’s “Ventanilla de Oportunidades Educativas” program, also known as the Educational Opportunities Station Program, this fall, UNT began providing information on educational opportunities to the Mexican community in the North Texas region, strengthening UNT’s community engagement, says Gabriel Carranza, assistant vice provost for international affairs at UNT.

“As it has done since its creation as a school for teachers, UNT continues to contribute to the education of the residents of the region,” Carranza says. “UNT is proud to work with the Consulate of Mexico, the business community and educational institutions and organizations in the region to disseminate knowledge and educational opportunities to the Mexican community.”

More than 500 people and their families visit the Mexican Consulate in Dallas every day, including Mexican nationals with visas, permanent residents, U.S.-Mexican citizens, and U.S. citizens, among others. Offices in the “Ventanillas” program have previously been established in Los Angeles and Chicago.

Another outreach effort of the consulates is the “Ventanillas de Salud” program, which addresses health care issues.

“These are the kind of partnerships that cultivate new, meaningful relationships,” Carranza says. “They bring value to UNT and the communities around us.”

Read more about how UNT alumni are making global connections and impacts on page 24.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

This fall, President Neal Smatresk announced the university’s Quality Enhancement Plan, a plan to improve learning that is required as part of UNT’s reaffirmation of accreditation in 2016 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Colleges. Soar Beyond the Classroom, a plan that will engage students in action-based learning and give them real-world experience in the regional community and abroad, was chosen after a year-long process that included feedback and participation by students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners. This plan will give students more opportunities to interact with the surrounding community, solve problems and gain valuable work experience that will strengthen their critical thinking and communication skills.

Learn more about the plan and keep updated with the progress of implementation at qep.unt.edu.

From left, Dallas ISD Board President Miguel Solís, UNT Provost Warren Burggren, Consul General of Mexico José Octavio Tripp and Mito Financial representatives celebrate the Ventanilla de Educación ribbon cutting at the Mexican Consular offices this fall.
Plant research
UNT researchers have discovered that plant-based building materials can provide up to 20 percent energy savings, reduce energy consumption and the overall carbon footprint compared with synthetic building materials currently on the market.

Led by Nandika D’Souza, professor of engineering, the researchers studied and tested kenaf, a plant in the hibiscus family that is similar to bamboo. Their studies over a three-year period show that kenaf materials, including composite panels, provide the energy savings compared to fiberglass or steel and Styro-foam products.

Their research was funded by a National Science Foundation grant. Learn more at news.unt.edu/kenaf.

Siemens finalists
Students in UNT’s Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science have earned more placements as semifinalists and regional finalists in the 2014 Siemens Competition than any other school in the U.S.

The Siemens Competition is the nation's leading original research competition in math, science and technology for high school students. In total, 22 TAMS students were named semifinalists and seven were named regional finalists.

The regional finalists are Napasorn Kuprasertkul of Keller, Sumedha Mehta of Irving, Laura Pang of Houston, Susmitha Sayana of Allen, Akash Wadawadi of Flower Mound, and Gerald Hu and Sanchit Sachdeva of Plano.

How can you reinvent yourself for the new year?
Many people see the start of a new year as a chance to reinvent themselves. In his new book Experience Passport: 45 Ways to Broaden Your Horizons, Alex Egner, assistant professor of communication design, offers tips for enriching your life. Reflecting on the world and your own actions can help you tune into your life and spark creativity, Egner says. In the book, loosely based on a project created by UNT design faculty, he suggests a variety of exercises.

“The tips in the book are aimed at helping people break out of their routines and experience more in their own lives,” Egner says.

He offers these suggestions for spurring creativity in your life in the new year:

Explore self-discovery
• Find someone whose cultural tastes are different. Ask about their favorite song and movie. Listen to and watch their selections. Did your perception of that culture shift?
• Walk or drive a different path to work or school every day for a week. Consider and list the new things you saw.
• List three of your most strongly held convictions. Choose one and, using a minimum of 500 words, try to persuade yourself to change your mind.

Guide yourself
• Think about what you can rework. New ideas are sometimes just an old idea transformed.
• Find activities that allow you to explore a variety of different subjects, such as those based on math, sports, philosophy and other topics.
• Consider all opportunities. New experiences don’t require world travel. You can start with a museum you’ve never been to in your own town.

— Margarita Venegas
Students and alumni watch the bonfire and pep rally during Homecoming this fall. A longtime UNT tradition, the bonfire is built by the Talons.

A student float makes its way in the Homecoming parade, which is enjoyed each year by the Denton community.

Mean Green running back Antoinne Jimmerson scored the Homecoming game’s first points on a 41-yard run, his longest of the season, to win over Florida Atlantic 31-10.

See a slideshow of more images from Homecoming 2014 at northtexan.unt.edu/homecoming-2014.
Mean Green

‘Mean’ Joe Greene, C-USA honors, basketball

He was a No. 4 overall pick by the Steelers in the 1969 NFL Draft, leading the team to its first Super Bowl in the 1974 season and to three other bowl wins as part of the famed “Steel Curtain” defense. Greene is pictured with Steelers president Art Rooney II, left, and chair Dan Rooney, right.

Conference honors
This fall, the Mean Green women’s soccer team and the men’s cross country team won their first Conference USA championships. Junior Karla Pineda and sophomore Rachel Holden earned first-team all-conference soccer honors, and Holden also was named to the first team C-USA All-Academic squad.

First-team all-conference honors in men’s cross country went to junior Troy Taylor, who also advanced to the national meet. Stefanie Slekis was named conference Coach of the Year.

In women’s volleyball news, junior outside hitter Carnae Dillard earned the conference’s top award — C-USA Player of the Year. It is only the second player of the year award ever earned by a Mean Green volleyball player. She also was named Sports Imports/AVCA Division I National Player of the Week on Nov. 11 by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Basketball madness
The 2014-15 Mean Green basketball season kicked off this November, with high expectations for both the men’s and women’s teams.

Players to watch this season on the men’s team are seniors Jordan Williams and Colin Voss. Williams ranks 19th in school history in scoring and is expected to rank in the Top 10 before the season is over. Voss is the Mean Green’s second-leading rebounder.

Women’s basketball is looking to improve its 12-18 record from the 2013-14 season with the help of standout players like sophomore guard Candice Adams.

Swimming to success
The Mean Green swimming and diving team was recognized as having the second-highest GPA among all such programs in the nation last fall.
Swim team members, from left, senior Krista Rossum, junior Michelle Balcaen, and seniors Chloe Tong and Sarah Manning are using their academic success to set the stage for potential careers in medicine. The four student-athletes are enrolled in UNT’s pre-medical program. Balcaen, Tong and Manning each major in biology, while Rossum majors in biochemistry.

They are a perfect illustration of the team’s academically focused mindset, says their head coach, Brendon Bray.
“| really want to encourage them to make an impact in health care and medicine,” he says. “I will do anything I can to encourage them and help them in their paths.”

Find the latest Mean Green news and schedules, and buy season tickets at meangreensports.com.
Membership in the UNT Alumni Association is growing and so are the many ways alumni can stay connected with each other and the university. For the 2013-14 academic year, the alumni association’s network grew to 10,451 members, a 35.1 percent increase over the past five years.

“We’re reconnecting with alumni through multiple channels to continue the growth of the alumni association,” says Gina Lowe, director of marketing and membership. She says more people also are turning to the association’s social media and networking sites. The association has more than 8,000 friends on Facebook, more than 3,000 followers on Twitter and more than 15,000 members in its LinkedIn group.

This fall, alumni also showed support for UNT football before home games at GameDay Grille events at the alumni pavilion and at area events before away games.

Houston-area alumnus Samuel P. Golden (’74) and his wife, Valerie, welcomed about 60 alumni to their home in October. During the event, alumni met with President Neal Smatresk and his wife, Debbie, and shared stories about UNT. The event was followed by an alumni tailgate before the Mean Green vs. Rice game.

“Thousands of alumni are in the Houston area,” Golden says. “This was my way to encourage involvement with UNT.”

To keep alumni better informed, the association relaunched its website this fall with a new look. Visit untalumni.com to learn about upcoming events and ways to get involved and support UNT through the alumni association.

To join the association or learn more, visit untalumni.com, email alumni@unt.edu or call 940-565-2834.
Brian D. Sweany ('94) came to UNT to become an English teacher.

“I thought if I could teach literature and maybe coach the baseball team and write weekends and nights, that would be a pretty nice life,” he says.

Thanks to one professor — Brian May, then assistant professor of English — Sweany found a new path that led the way to his appointment in July as editor-in-chief of Texas Monthly, one of the nation’s most prestigious magazines. The title caps a 15-year tenure writing and editing for the publication, known for its well-crafted, award-winning narrative stories.

But his first years at UNT, he was most active in “Riprock’s Social Club,” he quips. When he took a 20th-century British literature class taught by May, the course changed his perspective. He took a broader view of the world intellectually.

May, who now teaches at Northern Illinois University, always knew Sweany was ambitious.

“Brian was the sort of student who made you want to bring your A-game to class,” May says. “This sense of expectation he had — he really, really wanted to have a great intellectual experience — distinguished him from other even very good students.”

May encouraged Sweany to pursue a master’s degree.

“He was the first professor who took me aside and said I was graduate school material,” Sweany says. “When you connect with a professor, it’s a very powerful feeling.”

After graduating, Sweany worked as a special education teacher in his hometown of Plano. He then earned a master’s in English literature at the University of Texas at San Antonio, and in 1996 he landed an internship at Texas Monthly.

He was exposed to its fixtures of Texas journalism and experts in politics, food, travel, music and history. When he sat in at monthly editorial meetings, Sweany says, “It was the smartest room in Texas.”

Eventually, he landed a full-time position, and aside from three years when he taught journalism at Ithaca College in New York and wrote and edited for D Magazine in Dallas, he’s built a career there.

Sweany also is writing a biography of Charles Goodnight, The Kingdom of the Saddle, about the Civil War ranger, cattle driver and rancher famed for developing the Goodnight-Loving Trail and the Texas Panhandle, due out in 2016.

UNT runs deep for Sweany. He and his wife, Noelle Wall Sweany ('94), now an associate professor at Texas A&M University, were students together.

And he maintains connections to UNT by serving on the board of the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism, and has been a speaker at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference.

“The Mayborn has been transformative for narrative storytelling,” he says. “Its conference has become a perfect symbol of what UNT can accomplish with vision, resources and talent.”

Sweany says his big task now is to live up to the expectations of former Texas Monthly editors.

“I have long felt that this was the best magazine in the country,” he says. “Now, to be the editor, it is the peak. I’m a native Texan. My children go to school here. Under every editor, the magazine has become better and better.

“The real challenge is how do you take something so good and improve upon it?”
Brian D. Sweany
(’94)
Austin

Favorite Denton memories:
I lived in Bruce Hall for four years — I was that guy. And this was before the rooms had window units. I enjoyed shows on Fry Street and Deep Ellum (I was a big fan of Course of Empire and Funland). And one night Noelle and I and some other friends drove out to see the Anson light, near Abilene, which I later wrote about for Texas Monthly.

On reading:
I read everything I get my hands on. For a story I’m working on now, I’m rereading The Gay Place, by Billy Lee Brammer, one of the great novels on American politics. Brammer, by the way, was a UNT guy who later worked at Texas Monthly.

Favorite TM article:
Oh boy, that is a tricky, tricky question. I worked with Skip Hollandsworth in 2009 on his story, “Still Life,” about a football player at Hillcrest High School in Dallas who was paralyzed from the neck down. The story was nominated for the National Magazine Award, the highest award to win. When Skip called me from New York to say that he won, I thought he was kidding. Texas Monthly had never won for feature writing before. How do you top that?

Visit northtexan.unt.edu/online to read more Q&A.
Bobby McFerrin

Most famous for his a cappella hit “Don’t Worry, Be Happy,” McFerrin is a 10-time Grammy winner who combines pop music with fine art. As this year’s Glenn E. Gomez Residency Artist in the College of Music, he will join the One O’Clock Lab Band for its annual spring Glenn E. Gomez Endowment concert. Presented by the Fine Arts Series.

8 p.m. Feb. 5
Murchison Performing Arts Center — Winspear Hall | Tickets: thempac.com/tickets

Laverne Cox

Cox, an actress who can be seen on Netflix’s popular series Orange is the New Black, is a producer and transgender advocate who will talk about the transgender experience and representation of issues in the media. Presented by the Fine Arts Series.

7 p.m. Feb. 24
UNT Coliseum | Tickets: untuniontickets.com

Ben & Jerry

Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, who started their company with an ice cream shop in Burlington, Vt., will speak about their experience building Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream into a cultural icon and popular consumer favorite. Presented by UNT’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

7 p.m. April 9
Murchison Performing Arts Center | Tickets: studentaffairs.unt.edu/distinguished-lecture-series

Once in a Lifetime

This comedic play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart — guest directed by Susan Sargeant, award-winning artistic director of Wingspan Theatre — takes place in 1927 Hollywood when the movie industry was on the cusp of the talkies revolution. Presented by the UNT Department of Dance and Theatre.

7:30 p.m. April 23-25, 30, May 1-2 and 2 p.m. April 26, May 3
Radio, Television, Film and Performing Arts Building — University Theatre
Tickets: danceandtheatre.unt.edu/productions-ticket-purchasing
IN HER OWN VOICE

Opera soprano Latonia Moore, who will perform with the Dallas Opera in January, is touching audiences’ hearts with her powerful voice, one she found as a jazz student.

LATONIA MOORE DEBUTED at the Metropolitan Opera in 2012 singing the title role in Aida, armed with the advice her former UNT vocal professor had given her years before.

“Sing with your natural voice,” Moore remembers Pattye Johnstone directing her. “I could sing it like this ideal voice I have in my head of how Aida is supposed to sound, or I could do what she said and sing it in my own voice.”

Moore received an enthusiastic ovation from the Met’s audience as well as calls from companies worldwide to perform as their Aida. Her latest role in the Dallas Opera’s version of La Wally this winter returns the Houston native to Texas.

“I’m excited to perform La Wally. It is more along the lines of verismo opera — the kind you see in dramatic Italian operas,” Moore says. “It’s very pour your heart out on stage.”

Read more about UNT’s influence on Moore’s career along with a Q&A at northtexan.unt.edu/her-own-voice.
Books

A lifetime of work

English professor B.H. Fairchild released The Blue Buick: New and Selected Poems (WW. Norton), a collection of poems he wrote throughout his career. Fairchild says it was difficult to choose the poems, but he was surprised by how proud he was by the finished book.

“When I held it, finally, in my hands, my memory of my life outside the book, rather than the poems inside the book, swept over me,” he says. “That is, the struggles to find time to write, the great piles of freshman essays I had had to grade, the towns and houses we had lived in, driving my daughter to ballet classes, driving my son to baseball games, seeing my wife coming home exhausted from teaching middle school math, standing in the backyard at 3 a.m. looking up at the moon and waiting for a poem to come. I was not only immensely proud of the poems but of the life, too.”

Ancient music

In Holy Treasure and Sacred Song: Relic Calls and Their Liturgies in Medieval Tuscany (Oxford University Press), associate professor of music history Benjamin Brand explores the music, prayers and rituals inspired by relic cults in the Middle Ages.

“Although their significance has long been recognized by historians, the music and liturgy devoted to these cults has been largely neglected,” he says. “I wanted to demonstrate how important this music was in fostering the veneration of relics in the Middle Ages.”

Mob ties

Two faculty members and an alumna wrote Galveston’s Maceo Family Empire: Bootlegging and the Balinese Room (History Press) about a family that brought crime and prosperity to Texas.

The book was written by Nicole Boatman (’12, ’14 M.S.), a private investigator whose master’s thesis became the basis for the book; Scott Belshaw, assistant professor of criminal justice, and Richard McCaslin, history professor.

Belshaw grew up in the area and was intrigued by its mob history, which goes back to the days of Al Capone and includes illegal gambling parlors and drinking establishments.

“We were able to trace the family, their relatives and their debauchery back many generations,” he says.

Real life in words

In 1997, Mark Dostert (’97 M.A.) began working at Chicago’s 500-cell juvenile jail as a “children’s attendant,” thinking he would serve as liaison between the inmates and the actual guards.

“How wrong I was,” he says. “We were the guards — no uniform, no badge, no cuffs, no mace. Nothing. ‘All you have is your mouth,’ as one coworker explained to me my first week there.”

Dostert writes about his one-year stint in the just released book Up in Here: Jailing Kids on Chicago’s Other Side (University of Iowa Press), hoping to let readers experience what it’s like to interact with America’s most at-risk youth. For his job, he had to supervise showers, meals and recreation — and break up fights about once a week.

“No many people have worked a cellblock where they are outnumbered 12 to 1 or met anyone charged with murder, much less someone under 18 years old,” he says.

His essays, which have appeared in The Houston Chronicle, Ascent and other publications, have been cited as notable in editions of The Best American Essays and The Best American Nonrequired Reading. Dostert now teaches seventh-grade English in the Houston ISD and is working on a master’s degree in English at the University of Houston.

The first draft of Up in Here took nearly five years, and he credits Laura Stern, associate professor of history, for helping him out years earlier during the writing of his master’s thesis.

“Dr. Stern held my writing feet to the fire,” he says. “She purged anything and everything that was confusing or extraneous. From her, I’ve gained an appreciation for paying extremely close attention to each word, sentence, paragraph, page, chapter, so as not to waste the reader’s time or insult the reader’s intelligence and to write with a purpose.”
A lasting gift

Jon Kellis, who was a percussionist and doctoral student in the College of Music, died in 1999 after being struck by a car while crossing the street — but his life will be celebrated for years to come thanks to a generous donation in his memory. An anonymous donor has pledged a $1.5 million planned gift to the college to honor the former steel drum musician, who was awarded a doctoral degree posthumously in 1999. With matching grants, the gift is expected to more than double to potentially $4.1 million and establish an endowed faculty position, the Jon Kellis Chair in Percussion. Additionally, the “Jon Kellis Steel Drum Room” in the Music Building was dedicated in November.

UNT friends and faculty who knew him say it’s a fitting way to pay tribute to Kellis’ magnetic personality, constant smile and willingness to assist others in music and in their personal lives.

“Ultimately, he became the teacher,” says Regents Professor Robert Schietroma, who led the percussion area at UNT from 1977 to 1999.

“Although he is gone, there is a little bit of Jon in everyone who knew him.”

Dance and Theatre

Leading light

Robert Bowen enjoys “painting with light” — capturing different settings and moods for the stage.

Bowen, who is pursuing his master’s degree at UNT in documentary filmmaking, won Most Outstanding Lighting Design for a Musical from the International Music and Entertainment Association for a production of Big River in Kansas City, Mo.

Bowen also has worked in other productions in New York City and Olathe, Kan., and is a teaching fellow in UNT’s dance and theatre department. He earned an M.F.A. in lighting design from the University of Missouri in Kansas City.

“There is a sense of enjoyment when you take on the challenge of not only revealing the beauty of the set or the emotion of various scenes,” he says, “but also of enhancing these aspects to intensify the experience for the audience.”

Visit calendar.unt.edu for more upcoming events.
he was inducted into the Southwest Advertising Hall of Fame in 2011 by the American Advertising Federation 10th District for outstanding contributions to the advertising industry and community. He worked on campaigns for Haggar, Mrs. Baird’s, Pearl Beer and First National Bank and founded Point Communications, where he was president and CEO. His career took shape in the classrooms of North Texas, where Cora Stafford, the legendary art teacher who taught from 1921 to 1964, encouraged him to go to art school in California.

From art school, he went on to advertising. For one campaign, he worked on auto illustrations, which led to his full-time career as a painter of automobiles and race car drivers, creating work for Shelby Automotive and Automobile, Road and Track, Car and Driver, Motor Trend and Cavallino magazines. His work has won awards in the U.S., Europe and South America.

Neale competed as a racer himself and owns two Mustang race cars. A former Navy pilot, he also enjoys aviation.

Racing and flying brought the same excitement he gets when seeing his art in national magazines. “It was a thrill,” he says.

Gospel truth

Robert Darden (’78 M.J.) became fascinated with black gospel music as an Air Force brat. His interest led him to co-found the Black Gospel

Music

Restoration Project, the largest initiative in the world to identify, acquire, digitize, catalogue and make accessible rare gospel vinyl, which will be part of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture.

He also is the author of 2005’s People Get Ready: A New History of Black Gospel Music (Continuum) and this fall’s Nothing But Love in God’s Water I: Black Sacred Music from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement (Penn State University Press).

Darden, who teaches journalism at Baylor University, says, “I love the passion in the words and performance. Gospel artists believe they are called to sing, so they sing just as hard whether there are five or 500 present.”

Historic harps

David Williams (’78) studied harp construction for his thesis. Now, after building a career as principal harpist for the Dallas Opera and the Fort Worth Symphony, Williams has donated three 18th- and 19th-century harps to the College of Music, valued at $36,000, that he spent years rebuilding and restoring.

Williams says he enjoyed getting to know UNT harp students and Jaymee Haefner, senior lecturer in harp. He sees in her the same qualities he admired in his harp professor at UNT in the ’70s, Charles Kleinsteuber.

“We have a real teacher here who can promote her students and the harp program,” Williams says. “I’ve heard them perform, and they were solid as a rock — very impressive.”

Watch video about the harps at northtexan.unt.edu/online.

Auto art

Bill R. Neale’s (’48, ’53 M.A.) professional life has been all about art, advertising and automobiles. The famed automotive fine artist worked in advertising agencies in Dallas for much of his career, and

Music

Drummer Boy

When Craig Pilo (’95) came to UNT, he was a bit intimidated.

“I remember starting the first semester surrounded by 200 young, hungry drummers and about 199 of them were better than me,” he says.

He definitely improved. The Los Angeles-based Pilo has drummed for fellow alumnus Pat Boone, Frankie Valli and other musicians, as well as for a variety of TV shows. He’s recorded three CDs, including his most recent Drummer Boy.

He credits much of his success to his time at UNT, especially Regents Professor Robert Schietroma and music professor Ed Soph.

“They did a good job shaping our practice habits and preparing us for auditions in the real world,” he says.

Television and Film

Winning film

Daniel Keith got into acting thanks to his roommate at UNT. Now Keith has won
Anila Quayyum Agha (‘04) describes her time at UNT as rigorous and challenging, which helped her not only survive but thrive in the art world.

Agha won the $300,000 Public Grand Prize and shared the Juried Grand Prize at ArtPrize 2014, one of the most prestigious art awards in the world. She won the awards for her art piece *Intersections*, a black lacquer laser-cut wood cube with a light source that casts shadows while suspended from the ceiling.

“I was really excited and elated,” she says. “Being judged by respected art professionals means a great deal for an artist. And then the absolutely wonderful reaction from the public was amazing.”

Agha is an associate professor of drawing at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her exhibition *Quicksand: Landscape of the Feminine* was presented at the Arts Council of Indianapolis this spring. It was curated by the council’s vice president, alumna Shannon M. Linker (‘94).

Agha used a cross disciplinary approach in her art practice, creating both large sculptural installations and embroidered drawings to explore the complexities of global politics, cultural multiplicity, mass media and social and gender roles in the current cultural and global scenario.

She credits Annette Lawrence, professor of studio arts, and Jennifer Way, professor of art education and art history, for inspiring her as a student.

“My time at UNT was sometimes difficult, often enlightening and ultimately very rewarding.”
UNT has 1,400 outstanding faculty, which includes many distinguished scholars, researchers and artists who are widely known as experts in their fields and dedicated mentors.

This fall, the university celebrated Salute to Faculty Excellence Week, with UNT’s highest awards to recognize the many accomplishments of UNT faculty. Events across campus showcased the dedication of faculty to teaching, research and service. The week was capped with a black-tie dinner at UNT’s Apogee Stadium, where recipients of the distinguished UNT Foundation Awards were recognized and other faculty achievements were honored.

“Faculty are the linchpin to everything we do as a university,” says President Neal Smatresk. “They are the reason UNT stands out as a caring community dedicated to supporting our students and their path to success.”

UNT celebrates faculty for their extraordinary teaching, scholarly research and community service.
Faculty awards and recognition

Showcasing faculty greatness is at the heart of Salute to Faculty Excellence Week, but it’s also an opportunity for students to say thanks to teachers for their hard work. UNT’s faculty members help students by challenging and supporting them. This fall’s week of celebrations and networking events included a Pechu Kucha presentation by UNT’s Distinguished Teaching Professors and the Thank a Teacher program, which provides an online portal for students to send notes of appreciation to faculty who have made a difference in their lives. UNT also bestowed 30 awards and cash prizes on faculty for their accomplishments in teaching, research, leadership and service. The top three awards are supported by the UNT Foundation.

EMINENT FACULTY AWARD

Richard Rogers, Regents Professor of psychology, earned the UNT Foundation’s Eminent Faculty Award. The award recognizes a faculty member who has made outstanding and sustained contributions to scholarly-creative activity, teaching and service. Rogers has been recognized nationally for his major contributions in examining the intricacies of Miranda warnings and common pitfalls in Miranda reasoning. His research prompted the American Bar Association to call for clear and concise Miranda language for juveniles across the country. As one of the highest faculty achievers at UNT, the Eminent Faculty Award recipient serves as an inspiration for the entire UNT community.

FACULTY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Stanley R. Ingman, a professor in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, received the foundation’s Faculty Community Engagement Award. The distinction is given to a faculty member who has the sensitivity to understand and work across organizational boundaries and the leadership to build bridges among community institutions. Ingman established the Texas Institute for Research and Education for Aging at UNT and at the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth. His work in the Denton and Dallas areas on community programs for public housing, building sustainable neighborhoods, after-school care and preschool immunization has received several national grants. Some of those projects have been the basis to develop sustainable neighborhoods and businesses in Mexico.

FACULTY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Mark Voswick, associate professor of psychology, was honored with the UNT Foundation’s Faculty Leadership Award. The award recognizes a faculty member who makes a significant impact on the academic enterprise through innovative initiatives, leadership and service. His research examines quality of life, stress and coping in HIV-positive patients marginalized in society due to their sexual, gender or racial/ethnic minority status. Voswick was instrumental in the UNT Libraries’ acquisition of the archives of Resource Center Dallas. He has served as chair of the UNT Faculty Senate and is the director of UNT’s Center for Psychosocial Health Research and director of the LGBT studies program at UNT.
hen one of the most severe Ebola outbreaks in history struck the West African country of Sierra Leone this year, Dominic Murer (’14) found himself facing a tough decision — return to the comfort of his life in the U.S. or stay to help a country facing a deadly public health crisis.

Murer works as a project information manager helping to find donors for Hilfe Direkt, a nongovernmental organization that operates Gila’s Children and Community Hospital in Sierra Leone.

Without a second thought, he chose to stay. “In my field, your career isn’t about yourself,” he says. “It’s about the greater good.”

As an international studies major at UNT, Murer says he was prepared to meet the serious global challenges of the 21st century. A study abroad trip his senior year to Sierra Leone, where he worked with Caritas International and with Doug Henry, associate professor of anthropology, influenced his current work, which also includes mapping Ebola cases and quarantining homes. “I was able to network and gain access to field work...
as a student,” says Murer. “It opened my mind and provided me with a different way of looking at the world.”

UNT gives students many opportunities to take part in global learning experiences — from studying abroad to mentoring non-English-speaking students and learning in a diverse community of students, faculty and staff on campus. Dual degree programs and other international collaborations link UNT to the world. And in turn, UNT welcomes about 2,500 international students representing 129 countries. They choose the university for its nationally recognized programs in areas such as music, business and public administration and focus on global leadership and research.

Richard Nader, vice provost for international affairs at UNT, says students who have international experience are more likely to learn a second language, more accepting of other cultures and more comfortable with new and challenging situations — important skills for an ever-increasing global marketplace.

“The presence of such diverse nations on our campus and the many opportunities for global learning bring the world to all of our students,” Nader says.

“Through these new connections and friendships, they are able to expand their points of view and go on to make significant contributions to the human race through education, research and outreach.”

Protecting public health

By the time the first Ebola case was reported in Sierra Leone in May, Murer — who fell in love with the country’s people, including his future wife — was a UNT graduate working on the front lines at Gila’s Children and Community Hospital.

“There were days when we visited the Ebola wards, and there were days when we gave immunizations or food donations,” says Murer, who was both concerned and inspired by the situations he experienced.

“In the midst of absolute poverty and despair, people kept smiling.”

Ebola has since stymied travel in parts of West Africa and forced Murer and other workers to evacuate the hospital for lack of personal protective equipment and safety.

But he continues to try and make a difference through his work, conducting public outreach, educating students and using social media to attract donors to support development projects in Sierra Leone.

Murer also serves on the National Ebola Task Force, a joint effort between the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and nongovernment organizations like Doctors Without Borders and the American Red Cross.

He is sharing the knowledge he gained at UNT with others, from Ebola doctors and United Nations officials to Sierra Leone’s president and government ministers.

That’s the biggest impact he can make, he says.

“I have a passion for what I do.”

“In my field, your career isn’t about yourself. It’s about the greater good.”

— Dominic Murer
Pledging foreign service

A comprehensive academic experience as a UNT student inspired and guided April Scarrow (’95) to her dream job as a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State.

Scarrow first came to the university as a talented student in UNT’s Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, an accelerated residential program for gifted high school students with an interest in math and science. Fascinated by the study of other cultures since her youth, she remained at UNT to pursue an undergraduate degree in anthropology with minors in German and art history.

“UNT taught me that I could have big dreams and that my path is only limited by my imagination,” she says.

Today, Scarrow’s work as a foreign service officer takes her all over the world to help Americans living or traveling abroad.

During her last three-year assignment overseas, she served as chief of the American Citizens Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador, where her duties included finding missing Americans and reuniting children with their parents.

The work can be grueling, says Scarrow, who recalls helping a U.S. family who could not find their son, a young veteran with mental health issues. They had heard he might be in El Salvador.

“Finding someone with no contact information in a country of 6 million people is challenging,” she says.

Her office was able to locate the son, who had been hit by a car, then arrange for medical care and convince an airline to let him fly despite his medical condition so that he could receive long-term care in the U.S.

“When I’m having a tough day, I read the thank you card from his dad and immediately feel better,” she says.

At UNT, Scarrow says she learned about how to turn her academic interests into a career through the Career Center, which suggested foreign service as a possibility. She is now assigned to the Foreign Service Institute at the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center in Washington, D.C., where she coordinates and teaches consular courses for foreign national staff, preparing them for work at U.S. embassies and consulates around the world.

“My ability to adapt and embrace change was a skill that I began to develop at UNT,” she says. “And my classes helped me see that I could shape and influence the world around me. Sometimes a simple action done with purpose can have a large impact.”

Educating leaders

With one of the largest business schools in the nation, UNT was an ideal place for Pradit Wanarat (’94 Ph.D.) to earn his doctorate in management science, a degree that helped him become a top official in Thailand higher education.

As the president of the National Institute of Development Administration in Bangkok — Thailand’s leading educational...
institution for graduate studies related to national development — Wanarat holds a major stake in shaping Thailand’s education system and its society. He recently presented a proposal from NIDA to the government for reforms in politics, the judiciary and governance, including new electoral rules and improved access to justice for the poor.

“My degree has helped me with such policy making and the development planning work that I’m doing at both the university and national levels,” says Wanarat, who was an international student at UNT with a background in engineering. “This work is extremely important because of its huge impact on the entire kingdom and its citizens.”

Since graduating, he has worked as a lecturer, professor, dean and vice president for academic affairs at NIDA. Named the institute’s president in 2013, he is focused on continuing the high quality of education there, working to obtain international accreditation for all of its graduate programs and to make that a model for other institutions in Thailand.

“Our students must be competent and capable,” he says. “NIDA alums become leaders of their organizations and the nation and agents of change in all government, nongovernment and people sectors.”

Wanarat — who credits Robert Pavur, professor of information technology and decision sciences, for guiding his career success — says he works to build strong relationships with his own faculty and partner-ships in Thailand today. In July 2014, he was named a member of the National Legislative Assembly of Thailand to contribute to the country’s security and stability.

“The key resource for my success undoubtedly is my education,” says Wanarat, who serves as honorary alumni ambassador for the College of Business in UNT’s growing Thai alumni network, which is more than 1,000 members strong. He values the college’s multidisciplinary atmosphere.

“Students learn how to incorporate technology with the administrative know-how for running a business,” he says. “It’s world class.”

**Inspiring musicians**

By the age of 10, South African native Petronel Malan (’96 M.M., ’01 D.M.A.) was an accomplished pianist, appearing as a soloist with the Johannesburg Symphony. Today, the three-time Grammy nominee and concert pianist performs in major venues throughout the world. In 2012, she was honored with UNT’s Distinguished Young Alumni Award for being an “unmistakably creative force in the classical music industry.”

“It takes elements of determination, hard work, some craziness and lots of lucky breaks,” says Malan, who has performed in concerts since the age of 7.

Attracted by Texas’ warm weather and UNT’s nationally recognized music school, Malan says she felt right at home when she started her graduate studies as an international student. She also was enamored with
the opportunity to study under music professor and award-winning pianist Joseph Banowetz.

“It was important for me to attend a university where I could focus on my piano performance degree, but also benefit from a solid academic background,” she says. “At UNT, the music faculty treated graduate students as colleagues. It fostered a mentality of collegiality.”

Today, she’s paying it forward. Malan regularly tours and performs in her native South Africa, giving back whenever possible by offering master classes after her concerts to young, aspiring music students. She also collaborates with the University of South Africa and the Afrikaans Language and Culture Organization, South Africa’s most prominent and largest organization for the arts, to offer music education workshops for students and their teachers in rural communities.

“I feel strongly that every child should have some music education,” she says. “They don’t have to make a career of it, but the background is such an asset for all other elements of life.”

She says bringing classical music to the students is rewarding.

“Their enthusiasm is contagious,” says Malan, who will release her fifth CD in 2015. “You can’t help but want to do more, for yourself and for them.”

### Impacting economies

When Tolkunbek Abdygulov (’07 M.P.A.) was seeking to advance his economic career to help his home country of the Kyrgyz Republic, he sought out UNT’s Master of Public Administration degree program, which is ranked eighth in the U.S. and first in Texas for city management and urban policy by U.S. News & World Report.

Since May 2014, Abdygulov has served as governor of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic (Central Bank). He oversees the monetary policies and supervises the banking system of the developing nation, a former Soviet republic that borders western China.

“The price level and exchange rate impacts everybody in the country, making my job very important to the people,” he says. “Through my work, I want to see that the citizens have access to education and health services while being socially protected with an efficient public administration system.”

Abdygulov, who also is an assistant professor of economics at the American University of Central Asia, says he first realized his passion for working in public administration while interning at the Central Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic in 1996. His internship grew into a six-year career with the bank, where he became the chief economist.

“As I was stepping up the bank’s ladder,” he says,
“it became obvious that I needed to have additional knowledge.”

After receiving a prestigious Department of State Muskie Scholarship, which supports master’s-level studies for emerging leaders in Eurasia, he enrolled at UNT in 2006. As a graduate international student working with distinguished faculty members such as Bob Bland, professor of public administration, he gained invaluable knowledge about government financial management.

“I learned how to deal with challenges in the public administration field,” he says, “but I also learned to challenge myself in my own career.”

In 2009, Abdygulov was appointed acting state secretary of the Ministry of Economic Regulation of the Kyrgyz Republic. That same year, he was named a John Smith Memorial Trust fellow and served in the country’s Department of Economic and Social Policy. Today, Abdygulov holds three master’s degrees and in June completed his doctorate in economics. He’s held several key appointments in the U.S. and in the Kyrgyz Republic, including working as a consultant at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C. — an internship afforded to him after studying at UNT.

“Working in government-level positions, you’re on the front line of all major economic policies, making everyday decisions that impact the lives of ordinary citizens,” he says. “And, thanks to UNT, I’m well prepared for this work.”

UNT International provides intercultural experiences for students and faculty and showcases UNT’s excellence to the world. “Our mission is to contribute to the quality of life through education, research and outreach, with a sense of respect, tolerance, values, leadership opportunities and UNT spirit,” says Gabriel Carranza, assistant vice provost for global engagement.

In addition to study abroad opportunities to learn about new cultures and languages, students can take part in dual degree programs that UNT offers in partnership with institutions around the world, such as the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México and, as part of a new partnership, the Burgundy School of Business in France. (See page 9 for another partnership.)

UNT International also provides international students with resources to help them become proficient in English and learn about American culture through programs and courses in UNT’s Intensive English Language Institute. With such cross-cultural communication skills, international students leave UNT well-prepared for global work.

UNT International also cultivates alumni networks with former international students, recruits students and pursues international research.

“Our students and faculty have access to world-class research opportunities,” Carranza says. “This supports UNT’s quest to become a nationally prominent research university.”
A Season of Gratitude

UNT celebrates the successes of its first comprehensive campaign, The Campaign for UNT, which has directly impacted academic programs and students.

Senior social work major Jackie Davis calls being named a recipient of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service’s William A. Luker Award for Student Involvement the highlight of his college career. Davis, who rotated through 12 foster homes and shelters before being adopted at age 13, says the award signaled his UNT family’s commitment to his success.

“To know that you are surrounded by caring and dedicated faculty and lifted up by alumni and donors you may never meet, it’s humbling,” he says. “Thank you just doesn’t seem sufficient.”

As a founding member and president of Persevere UNTil Success Happens (PUSH), a student organization that provides support to foster care alumni seeking a college education, Davis says he looks forward to when he can give back to help others succeed.

“The remarkable opportunities afforded to me at UNT have changed my life,” he says.

Learn more how you can support UNT at giving.unt.edu.
Davis and thousands of UNT students like him benefited from support raised during *The Campaign for UNT*, which concluded Aug. 31 and raised more than $210 million. This kind of support helps students in a powerful way, making higher education a reality. As graduates, they go on to help change the world.

“So many individuals deserve our deepest gratitude for their commitment to philanthropy in support of education and for making the dreams of so many students and their families come true,” UNT President Neal Smatresk says.

Smatresk, his wife, Debbie, and campaign leaders hosted the university’s top donors and community advocates Dec. 6 for “A Season of Gratitude,” an event to celebrate the campaign’s success. Bolstered by more than 37,000 generous donors, *The Campaign for UNT* is the university’s most successful fundraising campaign to date. By the close of the campaign, UNT had exceeded its original goal of $200 million, building support for scholarships, fellowships, innovative programs and cutting-edge research.

Led by campaign co-chairs Janet ('14) and Frank Bracken ('63), Gayle Strange ('67) and UNT System Board of Regents Chair G. Brint Ryan ('88, '88 M.S.), more than 100 dedicated volunteers championed UNT’s fundraising effort.

“This was our chance to make new learning opportunities, state-of-the-art facilities and scholarship support available to UNT’s future generations,” Ryan says. 

*The Campaign for UNT* focused on three main goals: supporting students and programs; engaging more alumni and friends in the life of the university; and strengthening the university’s culture of philanthropy. Gifts to the campaign came from all 50 states and supported a wide array of initiatives such as the Emerald Eagle Scholars program, student affairs, financial aid, the UNT Alumni Association and UNT Athletics.

The campaign made notable accomplishments related to the university’s growing philanthropic culture. Individuals making their first ever gift to UNT comprised 65 percent of campaign donors, and faculty and staff also gave back to the university in record numbers. Matching gift opportunities, the Texas Research Incentive Program and the We Care We Count Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign helped leverage additional and new commitments.

For senior Kathryn Krevo, an Honors College student studying public relations and fashion merchandising, the success of *The Campaign for UNT* can be summed up simply: “It’s an overwhelming example of how caring and generous the UNT family can be.”

**CAMPAIGN IMPACTS**

Fueled by thousands of donors who responded with extraordinary generosity, *The Campaign for UNT*’s key successes galvanized UNT’s future momentum and growth.

- **First-time UNT Donors**
  Sixty-five percent of campaign donors were making their first gift commitment to UNT. Their gifts promoted student and faculty achievements in research and creative activity, accelerated UNT’s areas of excellence and made a college education possible for future generations of students.

- **Student Scholarship Commitments**
  *The Campaign for UNT* bolstered critical support for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships and student-athlete scholarships. Of the 230 endowments established during the campaign, 202 directly benefit students, keeping UNT affordable and accessible to dedicated and deserving future Eagles.

- **Alumni Engagement**
  A record number of alumni and friends connected with the university during the campaign — participating in networking events, joining the UNT Alumni Association, mentoring students and working with the UNT Career Center to hire promising graduates. *The Campaign for UNT* re-energized university pride, laying a foundation for ongoing spirit and fundraising success.

- **Matching Gift Opportunities**
  Thanks to generous donors and key initiatives like the Texas Research Incentive Program, UNT secured important new gifts and commitments as a result of matching gift opportunities. Matching gift programs magnify the impact of gifts by providing additional support toward the donor’s intent.

- **Planned Gift Commitments**
  Planned gifts, which include bequests, gifts of insurance, charitable trusts and gift annuities, enable donors to establish a legacy for future generations of students. During *The Campaign for UNT*, more than $69 million was committed through planned gifts.
INNOVATION

Financial services senior Aaron Presley says he’s ready to tackle new horizons thanks to the problem-solving and leadership skills he has gained at UNT. Presley, a Terry Scholar, says he believes UNT’s support for innovation extends beyond academics and research.

Presley, whose college career has been marked by leadership roles in the Interfraternity Council, the Student Government Association and the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, says new ideas thrive at UNT because students are “eager to influence the world around them and hard working enough to do what it takes to be successful.”

CREATIVITY

Tabatha Diloreto says without the fellowship support she has received, she would not be pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in ceramics at UNT. Diloreto says she chose the university in part because UNT “offers a remarkably supportive environment for creative people.”

From support for unique projects like UNT’s Natural Dye Garden to funding for research facilities like the College of Engineering’s revolutionary Zero Energy Laboratory, The Campaign for UNT inspired cutting-edge discovery across academic disciplines.

Watch a video to learn more about how gifts to UNT have impacted students at northtexan.unt.edu/online. And for information on ways that you can help support UNT, visit giving.unt.edu.
OPPORTUNITY

Doctoral student Roberto Aguilar was the first person in his family to complete a college degree. Now, he is researching ways to use nanoparticles to develop non-chemical treatments for cancer and other disease. Aguilar says as part of the research team working with renowned UNT chemistry professor and Royal Society of Chemistry member Guido Verbeck, he’s participating in the kind of cross-disciplinary, cutting-edge nanotechnology research that’s “sure to change the world.”

“Funding from donors makes it possible for me to focus on my work without worrying about my finances,” he says. “That’s a great relief, and it frees me to work harder and more creatively.”

MEAN GREEN SPIRIT

Mean Green volleyball standout and medical laboratory sciences senior Hanna Forst says her scholarship means being able to represent the university as a student-athlete. She defines Mean Green spirit as “fans and students supporting each other in every aspect of UNT.” The Campaign for UNT has reinvigorated the Mean Green spirit at UNT, which has more than 400 student organizations, 16 varsity sports and a growing alumni association.

Increased student philanthropic activity, increased faculty and staff contributions and the endowment of faculty positions honoring former professors demonstrate the Mean Green Spirit of the UNT family.

EXCELLENCE

Mechanical and energy engineering junior Sarah Pena says UNT’s unique combination of world-class faculty mentors, leadership opportunities and high-quality academic programs makes it “a university where students are encouraged to be their best — by the best.”

The Campaign for UNT supported many of the university’s top facilities and initiatives including the Business Leadership Building, the Greek Life Center and UNT Athletics’ Mean Green Village. Special collections in the UNT libraries also were enhanced thanks to gifts to the campaign.
In 1963, a group of UNT students began meeting weekly to play classic and current songs. Then they went on to change the music world.

Folk Music Club

English professor Stan Alexander had an idea. In 1963, he suggested starting a club at North Texas in which students could play folk songs together. Alexander, who had sung at Austin’s popular Threadgill’s venue while he earned his Ph.D., asked his young colleague Julian O. Long to help him organize the first meeting.

“All these kids showed up,” Long says.

Several of those students — like generations before and after at UNT — would become well known in the music world. They went from playing in the Folk Music Club to blazing trails in country and Texas music as songwriters, musicians and entrepreneurs, cementing UNT’s reputation as a hub for creativity. The club boasts its own Wikipedia page and a passage in the book *The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock* by Jan Reid, former senior writer for *Texas Monthly*.

Its members included the late Steve Fromholz, whose songs have been recorded by Willie Nelson and Lyle Lovett; Michael Martin Murphey, the Grammy-nominated country music star, best known for the hit “Wildfire”; and Eddie Wilson, who founded the Armadillo World Headquarters in Austin, which hosted the biggest names in rock and country music in the 1970s. Others such as Donnie F. Brooks and Travis Holland also had successful careers.

Even after the club disbanded in the mid-1960s, the folk music scene on campus influenced students Ray Wylie Hubbard, who became part of country music’s outlaw movement in the 1970s, and B.W. Stevenson, who wrote and recorded the hit song “My Maria.”

And it all began in the faculty lounge of UNT’s Auditorium Building.

Creating music

The club’s meeting format was simple. Its members, from a variety of majors, met every week and sang to each other.

“It was just a crowded room full of music,” says Wilson, who majored in
Ahna Hubnik

Eddie Wilson with a portrait of young Stan Alexander, at Threadgill’s in Austin
English and philosophy. "A number of them had guitars, half of them wanting to play and half not wanting to hear what the others wanted to play. Whoever spoke up first with authority carried the day."

“We never had any dead time,” says Long, who left North Texas in 1965 and then returned to work for 25 years in the English department and graduate dean’s office. “There was music the whole meeting.”

The songs ranged from bluegrass classics to current hits. Students also sang from the popular album of 1964 — Bob Dylan’s *The Times They Are A-Changin’*. Some members stood out — the sponsor, Alexander, being one of them. A classmate told Wilson about the club that was run by the teacher with a rich baritone voice.

“And I knew it had to be Stan Alexander,” Wilson says, adding that he had heard Alexander perform at Threadgill’s when he was growing up in Austin. “All I remember is the reason to go was to hear Stan sing.”

Fromholz, who served as president of the club, was also noted for his singing.

“Steve always had a magnificent, big voice,” Wilson says.

That voice blended well with the voices of two other students — Murphey, who went by the name Mike, and his high school friend Patti Lohman Brooks (’67). Called the Mike Murphey Trio, they modeled themselves after Peter, Paul and Mary, the popular folk group. They first performed at a 1963 Homecoming talent show, singing “Man of Constant Sorrow.” They also played at campus events and the Denton country club.

“We walked around like troubadours,” says Lohman Brooks, who majored in elementary education. “We never pretended we were anything special.”

Murphey, who also played with The Dallas County Jug Band, served as freshman class president and was active in student groups, such as the Independent Students’ Organization and Debate Club.
“People like Mike Murphey were stars,” Long says. “Playing better than any of us.” The club disbanded after Alexander left to teach at Stephen F. Austin University in 1965. But its influence remained. When Hubbard attended from 1967 to 1968, he saw students, dressed in corduroy jackets and pants, playing the guitar on campus.

“Denton had a very cool folk music scene,” says Hubbard, who majored in English and wrote for The Campus Chat while at North Texas. “The town was very small, but it was a very knowledgeable music community.”

The local Presbyterian church hosted hootenannies, and Hubbard played with Stevenson, who attended North Texas as an opera student from 1967 to 1968 before joining the U.S. Air Force.

Students protested against the Vietnam War and for the civil and women’s rights movements, while listening to new music from the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.

“It was a very exciting, vibrant, turbulent time,” Hubbard says, adding that since the Internet didn’t exist, “you heard about culture and politics through albums.”

Making legends

After they left North Texas, the club members ventured out into the world, playing in coffeehouses and clubs in Texas and New York City. Murphey, Fromholz and Stevenson often played at a Dallas club, the Rubaiyat. Wilson held several jobs, including managing the band Shiva’s Headband, headed by Folk Music Club member Spencer Perskin, after settling in Austin.

“Well, you got to do something,” Wilson says. “I found this gigantic empty building and became an entrepreneur.”

He turned that building into the Armadillo World Headquarters, which hosted such acts as Nelson, Bruce Springsteen, The Clash, the Grateful Dead and AC/DC during its tenure from 1970 to 1980 — becoming one of the most legendary venues in music history. Arts and Labor Magazine recently put out a list of the “Twenty-Five Most Significant and/or Notorious Nights in Austin Music History” — and five took place at the Armadillo.

“It was quite humbling,” Wilson says. He now runs another legendary Austin landmark — Threadgill’s. One of its two locations features memorabilia from the Armadillo. Wilson’s former classmate Murphey also played at the Armadillo, one of many stops in his storied career. In the 1970s, Murphey produced such songs as “Geronimo’s Cadillac” as part of the “Cosmic Cowboy” movement — progressive country and outlaw country music that distinguished the Austin music scene. His biggest hit came in 1975 with “Wildfire,” which peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard Top 100 chart.

Long remembers waking up one morning and hearing the song on the radio.

“My,” he thought, “I knew that kid at North Texas.”

Murphey later scored other country hits on the charts, including “What’s Forever For,” and he’s best known for his cowboy songs.

Fromholz, who died in 2014, also saw great success on the radio as a songwriter. He penned “I’d Have to be Crazy,” which became a hit for Nelson, and Lovett and other artists have recorded a set of his songs dubbed “Texas Trilogy.” Fromholz, an English major at North Texas, served as the Texas Poet Laureate in 2007.

“He was just this fabulous character,” says Lohman Brooks, a longtime teacher who is now head of the lower school at Lakehill Preparatory School in Dallas. “He was a normal guy who loved music and was grateful that others enjoyed his music.”

Don F. Brooks and Holland had careers as back-up musicians. Holland played guitar for Fromholz, Murphey and other acts. Brooks, a harmonica player, joined the folk music scene in New York City. He played as part of Waylon Jennings’ band and in sessions for Jerry Jeff Walker, Billy Joel, Murphey and others. His work can be heard in the Ken Burns documentary The Civil War and the movie Fame. Brooks died in 2000.

“You need a harmonica player?” Hubbard says. “Don was just phenomenal.”

Hubbard became well known in the 1970s with songs such as “Up Against the Wall Redneck Mother” recorded by Walker. A frequent presence on the tour circuit, he continues writing and performing, with hits like “Snake Farm” and “Wanna Rock and Roll.”

Stevenson scored with the single “My Maria” in 1973. He died in 1988, but the song became a hit again when Brooks & Dunn took it to the top of the country charts in 1996.

The success of the Folk Music Club’s members makes sense to Hubbard.

“It left its mark on people because they were drawn to each other. It was folks hanging together, coming together because of folk music,” Hubbard says.

The club’s atmosphere and camaraderie inspired others to unleash their creativity. Alexander, the group’s founder, says the collaborative experience of the club encouraged members to perform well.

“Folk music is very engaging,” he says. “The best sort of club is when everybody wants to participate.”

But he says its purpose was simple. “Mostly it was just fun.”
PARTNERS IN SUCCESS

Marketing alums’ growing forklift company racks up industry and business awards.

Read more about how UNT is tied to Hoffmann and Barr’s business success and watch a commercial in which they are featured at northtexan.unt.edu/partners-success.

UNT roommates Brian Hoffmann (’00) and Bobby Barr (’97) realized their college dream of owning a business together, and then surpassed it. In the last two years, they have expanded their Grapevine business, CE-DFW Warehouse Solutions, which sells and services forklifts and loading dock equipment, and more than doubled revenues.

“Our biggest growth factor is word of mouth,” says Hoffmann of the company that counts Small Business of the Year among its honors. “That comes from doing things the right way.”

The partners, whose wives are also alumni, credit persistence, great employees and a strong reputation for their success.

“It didn’t take us long to realize that this was going to be a career,” Barr says.
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.

1952

∗ James M. Hilz, Palm Desert, Calif. ∗ published his third novel, I Never Held You In My Arms. The retired surgeon has written two others novels, Beyond Expectancy and Pillars of Salt, and two children’s books, Ms. Olive Owl’s School for Hooligan Cats and Jack’s Guardian Angels.

1956

∗ William Woodruff, San Juan, Puerto Rico ∗ is a professor of voice at the Conservatorio de Musica de Puerto Rico. He is the founder and director of the International Institute of Vocal Arts festival in Italy, Florida and Puerto Rico. He also is on faculty of the Brooklyn College Conservatory.

1959

Edward Mycue, San Francisco ∗ has published several books of poetry, including Song of San Francisco, I Am a Fact Not a Fiction, The Torn Star, The Singing Man My Father Gave Me, Root Route and Range: The Song Returns and Damage Within the Community.

1960

David Clark, Duncanville ∗ will be inducted into the Texas Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame in January. The vaulter participated in the 1950 Rome Olympics and was inducted into the UNT Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988.

1961

Frank Lynn Payne (M.M.), Oklahoma City, Okla. ∗ is the composer of a short sonata for tuba and piano that received its world premiere at the International Tuba and Euphonium Convention. The work is published by Potenza Music.

1965

Muriel Brounstein (’68 M.Ed.), Folsom, Calif. ∗ was appointed to the Sacramento County Grand Jury for the 2014-15 year and will serve as secretary. She is a community activist who has leadership roles in Kiwanis, Soroptimist, the Democratic Party and the area-wide Holocaust Remembrance Day event.

1966

John Castleman (M.Ed., ’72 Ed.D.), Lubbock ∗ has written his autobiography, Stay on Your Feet: A Life Journey From 1935 to the Present, about how he overcame a troubled youth to become a professor at a Christian college.

1969

∗ Rhys Best, Dallas ∗ was named 2014 Director of the Year by the National Association of Corporate Directors. He serves on several company boards and presides as chair of the board of Austin Industries, a construction and industrial services company. He recently retired as chair of the board of Crosstex Energy Services, now EnLink Energy Partners, and served as chair and CEO of Lone Star Technologies Inc.

1970

∗ Jack Adkisson (Ph.D.), Menifee, Calif. ∗ and his wife, Robbie, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in August with a special dinner. Jack, who was an education professor at UNT from 1970 to 1973, says he and his wife met when they were 13 during a Vacation Bible School in Dallas. “She’s been my inspiration and my helpmate during all these years,” he says.

1972

∗ Jane Nelson, Flower Mound ∗ was named chair of the Texas Senate Finance Committee, becoming the first woman to hold that position. She also is chair of the Sunset Advisory Committee and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. She has represented District 12 since 1993 and also served on the State Board of Education.

1973

Jay Weber (’75 M.B.A.), Round Rock ∗ celebrated his 40th year as a member of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors. He received his entry-level diver training in 1972 at North Texas, where his first scuba course was taught by gymnastics coach William “Bill” Cornelius at the outdoor swimming pool. Jay went
My Brother’s Keeper

The Rev. Kyev Tatum (’91), who was a teen father who grew up poor and ill-prepared for college, says he found his purpose with the help of mentors, including many at UNT. Now he’s helping others do the same.

In October, a White House representative asked the former Mean Green wide receiver to serve as White House ally for President Barack Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative in Fort Worth.

“When the president sends out a call to address those in need,” says Tatum, a Fort Worth pastor, “you answer the call.”

My Brother’s Keeper, a “cradle-to-college-and-career” strategy, was launched this year to help boys and young men of color in particular realize their full potential. Tatum, who leads the Tarrant County chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a civil rights group founded by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., says the initiative is about closing opportunity gaps and helping young men who need support in school and in life.

He organized an action summit in December that included UNT students, and he’s working to bring in more White House allies to help with the effort.

“We can change the course of history for these children,” he says. “I’m the perfect example. There were people in my life who said, ‘You can do it.’”

Tatum, who majored in criminal justice at UNT, says Greg Sawyer, the dean of students at the time, introduced him to King’s message and encouraged him to attend a Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration.

“He got a whole new feeling about himself,” Tatum says, adding it propelled him to get involved with student organizations and student government.

Others who impacted him included coaches Corky Nelson and Ron Shanklin, as well as Alfred Hurley, then president and chancellor, and Bill Luker, who was the dean of what was then the School of Community Service.

“Places like UNT did not give up on me,” Tatum says. “That’s why I’m excited about the My Brother’s Keeper challenge.”

For more information, visit whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper.

— Megan Middleton

1974

Virgie Holbrook (’77 M.A.), Pottsboro :: was named a Friend of Education in the private citizen category by the Texas Classroom Teachers Association. She created a scholarship fund, founded an after-school care program and established a program that provides meals for eligible students in the Pottsboro ISD. She is president of W.P. Cooper Inc., a real estate firm, and a former pastor in Denton.

1976

* Teri Hornberger, Dallas :: was elected as chair of the Dallas CPA Society, a non-professional association that serves 6,000 members in a 13-country area.

1980

Casey Edward Greene, Galveston :: married Carol Anne Hanson (’97 M.S.) in August 2012. Casey retired as department head of the special collections and museum at the Rosenberg Library and is now a part-time scholar on staff. Carol Anne retired as a corporate communications specialist from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and is now a counselor for charitable organizations.

1981

Kevin Shay, Rockville, Md. :: published It’s a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Trip: On the Road of the Longest Two-Week Family Road Trip in History, which depicts his 7,000-mile, 17-day travels from Washington, D.C., to the Pacific Ocean with his children Preston and McKenna. The website RecordSetter certified the adventure as the longest family road trip in a two-week span.

1983

J. Steven Fulko (M.S.), Wilson, N.C. :: received the Lincoln Financial Faculty Member of the Year award from Barton College. He serves as director of Barton’s gerontology program and also has taught at Utah State University, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Bowling Green State University.

1985

* Timothy Kloth (D.M.A.), Springfield, Va. :: joined the music faculty of the Fairfax County Public Schools in north-
ern Virginia. Previously, he taught music for 25 years in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is active in the American Orff-Schulwerk Association, an organization for music educators, for which he serves as treasurer of the Middle Atlantic chapter and earned his Level III certification.

1987

Terry Kottman (Ph.D.), Cedar Falls, Iowa. :: received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Play Therapy at the organization’s annual conference in October. She founded The Encouragement Zone, where she provides play therapy and supervision. She served on the counselor education faculty at UNT and as director of the Child and Family Resource Center.

1990

Dave Reiter, Muenster :: has started several successful small businesses and is co-owner of Crossroads Express Stop, a convenience store that is the first of its type in Texas to accept Bitcoin currency as a method of payment. He also helps other businesses open Bitcoin merchant accounts.

1991

Deann Badura, Coppell :: was named an account executive for Endicott and Co. Public Relations in Dallas. She will oversee all account and staff management. She has worked in development, sales and marketing, public relations and special events with the Texas NF Foundation, Dining Out in Dallas and in the hospital, human resources, corporate communication, special events and nonprofit sectors for more than 20 years.

* Randall M. Good, Denton :: had his exhibition Deities, Demigods, & Disegno, featuring oils, watercolors and numerous drawings, featured this fall at Oxide Gallery in Denton.

1993

Tracey Brown, Forney :: earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Walden University. She has worked for Dallas ISD as a teacher, counselor and counselor supervisor. She released her first book, Single Mom, Ph.D: Practical Strategies for Building an Effective Co-Parenting Relationship, co-written with former NFL player and co-parent Dave Thomas. She also established “The Giving Back Scholarship” for children of single-parent families.

1995

Matthew Mailman (D.M.A.), Oklahoma City, Okla. :: participated in the 2014 Baltimore Chamber Orchestra Summer Conducting Seminar as a fellow with Markand Thakar and Henry Fogel. He is in his 20th year as professor of conducting in the Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University. In October, he conducted the musical Bonnie and Clyde.

1996

Alicia Simmons Linn, Sachse :: was named principal of Alpha Charter School in Garland. She also will serve as director of special education for the district. She previously worked as assistant principal of Grand Prairie ISD.

* William Singer (M.S.), Enterprise, Ala. :: published a book, Dear Dad, From Afghanistan, with his father, Richard J. Singer, that features their letters to each other when William was deployed to Afghanistan in 2005 for the U.S. Air Force. He retired from the Air Force in 2009 and now works for the U.S. Army in Fort Rucker, Ala.

Mary E. Casselberry Thompson (Ph.D.), Celina :: received the American Physical Therapy Association’s Lucy Blair Service Award at its annual meeting in June. The award honors members who have made exceptional contributions to the association. She is a professor in the School of Physical Therapy of TWU in Dallas and a contract physical therapist for homebound older adults in rural Collin County.
Vela Reunion

More than 30 microbiology alumni returned to campus from labs and universities as far away as Thailand to honor their mentor, Professor Emeritus G. Roland Vela, in November. Vela, who joined the UNT microbiology faculty in 1965, supervised 20 Ph.D. students and 40 master's students before retiring in 2000.

After graduating, Joel Escamilla ('80 Ph.D.) crossed paths with his major professor a few times during his career as a microbiologist with the U.S. Navy, and this year he decided to arrange a reunion. He and other organizers were able to track down many of the graduates and invite them back to honor Vela.

Patamaporn Sukplang ('00 Ph.D.), director of biomedical sciences graduate programs at Rangsit University in Thailand, says they could not do anything less. "Dr. Vela was my mentor, not just in microbiology but in life," she says. "I was far away from my home in Thailand and he welcomed me and supported me in every activity I've been involved in. I know he will always do his best for all of us."

Sukplang, who was Vela's last doctoral student, was the third to conduct research on a bacterium now named after Vela: Paenibacillus velaei. Guadalupe Virginia Nevárez-Moorillón ('95 Ph.D.), graduate studies coordinator in the School of Chemical Sciences at the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, and Acharawan Thongmee ('99 Ph.D.), head of the microbiology department at Rangsit University, first studied the bacterium from soil samples Vela collected three decades earlier. The story of their work was just one of those told during the three-day reunion.

Vela, whose many honors include being elected a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, describes his students' return as "humbling."

"I'm overwhelmed by their kindness. I can't believe that they all remember me," he says, to a chorus of laughter.
Florina Ardelean, Fayetteville :: Her tree root and stained glass sculptures inspired by science fiction and fantasy were on display there in August. She was also featured in the Fayetteville’s Visual Arts Guide.

Kristy Loye, Dickinson :: was published in the anthology My Other Ex from the HerStories Project. Her other writing has appeared in Under the Gum Tree and The Winter Tangerine Review. She received her master’s in liberal studies from Rice University in 2014 and is president of the MLS Writers Group.

Calvin Sexton, Dallas :: was named a quarterfinalist for a Grammy Music Educator Award. He teaches at Beltline Elementary School in Lancaster.

2004

Michelle A. Lucero Villagran (M.S., ’08 M.B.A.), Alhambra, Calif. :: married Rodolfo Villagran in May at Para dor de Oropesa in Toledo, Spain.

2005

J. Kirby McDonough, Tampa, Fla. :: was named one of the 2014 Rising Stars by Florida Super Lawyers magazine. The award recognizes outstanding attorneys who are age 40 or younger or have been practicing for 10 or fewer years. He practices business litigation at Quarles & Brady in Naples and Tampa, Fla.

2007

Brenna Scoggins Newman, Denton :: a former teacher in the Denton ISD, and Jessica Steger Cozens, a former adjunct professor at UNT, have founded Focused Ed LLC. The educational consulting business, with a focus on the North Texas region, tutors students and provides webinars and online training for teachers to receive their continuing public education hours.

2008

Erich M. Spoor, Denton :: graduated with honors in May as a doctor of veterinary medicine from Texas A&M University and is serving a one-year internship in animal surgery at Louisiana State University. He hopes to be awarded a three-year residency in neurology. He wishes to thank his professors at UNT for the excellent education that helped him survive veterinary school.

Jacob Williams, Round Rock :: completed his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Florida. While at UNT, he

### Clues to climate change

Environmental science alum Marius Necsoiu (’98 M.S., ’00 Ph.D.), left, is searching for clues about global climate change in the mountains of Eastern Europe. With the help of a National Science Foundation grant, Necsoiu traveled to his native Romania twice this year to investigate the movements of rock glaciers. A principal scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, he is conducting the research with Petra Urdea, right, and other scientists from the West University of Timisoara in Romania.

The interdisciplinary team is testing remote sensing techniques — analyzing high-resolution optical and radar satellite imagery — to measure rock glacier movement in the Southern Carpathian Mountains for the benchmark study. The key to his current research in Romania lies within the permafrost — ground that remains frozen for at least two consecutive years and is particularly sensitive to climate change.

“Investigating rock glacier dynamics is a key factor in understanding the evolution and movement of permafrost-related formations under changing climate conditions,” he says.

As an environmental scientist and electrical engineer, with previous work experience at NASA, he uses his expertise in remote sensing systems, GPS and geospatial technologies.

“Remote sensing, a blend of science, technology and art, is an essential tool to further our understanding of climate change and permafrost dynamics,” Necsoiu says.

The field allows him to share knowledge and learn from other science disciplines — an interdisciplinary approach he was exposed to at UNT.

Studying in the Retezat Mountains, which he describes as “one of the wildest and lesser-known mountainous areas,” is especially meaningful for Necsoiu, who hiked there in his high school and college days. He says it’s an exciting opportunity, with little research having been done there.

“I love these wild mountains,” he says, “and to connect with people from around the globe who have different experiences and interests.”

— Megan Middleton
Jay Lombardo ('86) made news in Italy when he served as master of ceremonies for Dallas' first Columbus Day Parade Oct. 12. The parade, a celebration of Italian heritage hosted by the Committee of Italians Living Abroad, was covered by Italian newspaper Il Fatto Quotidiano as well as Dallas-Fort Worth media. Lombardo, founder of Lombardo Custom Apparel, called on his fraternity brothers in UNT’s chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon (above) to escort entries in the parade, which ran from the West End across the Continental Avenue Bridge.

Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae ('02) was featured in Rolling Stone, The New York Times, Vibe, The Atlantic and even in Qatar this fall for his album, Anomaly, for which he recently received three 2015 Grammy Award nominations. It was the first ever to debut at No. 1 on both the Billboard gospel chart and the Billboard 200 chart, which covers all genres. The 2013 Grammy-winning artist, who studied sociology, tells Qatar’s Gulf Times that he came to UNT with the idea of becoming an actor, but then volunteered at a juvenile detention center where he also performed some of his songs. “Their response convinced me I should try to offer hope and encouragement through my music,” he says.

Mark Followill, television play-by-play announcer for the Dallas Mavericks, was profiled in The Dallas Morning News in October for his “Lone Stardown.” Followill, who studied broadcasting at UNT from 1989 to 1992, is the only one of the full-time television or radio announcers calling pro basketball, football, baseball or hockey games in Dallas-Fort Worth who was born and raised in the area. He and color commentator Derek Harper won the 2014 Lone Star Emmy as the top broadcast team in Texas.

worked with associate professor of psychology Daniel Taylor. He is working with him again on a study investigating cognitive-behavioral treatments for insomnia among active duty military.

2009

Terri Gonzales (M.Ed., ’12 Ph.D.), Lewisville :: received the Student Research Award from the Association for Play Therapy in October for her dissertation research, “The effects of Teacher Child Relationship Training on at-risk children identified with clinical level of behavior problem.”

2010

Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam, Denton :: has had 28 short stories published or accepted for publication in both speculative and literary magazines such as Hobart, Room, Clarkesworld and Lightspeed. During her master’s studies at the University of Southern Maine, she put together an Art & Words Collaborative Show, where she coordinated and featured collaborations between 12 writers and 12 visual artists.

2013

Samantha Parker, Clarksville, Ark. :: was named the assistant women’s soccer coach at the University of the Ozarks. She has interned with the FC Dallas Youth team and later managed FC Dallas in its inaugural season of the Women’s Premier Soccer League. She was the women’s club head coach at Ohio University and served as head coach and coordinator for Play Soccer Appalachia in 2013-14.

Zachary Carson Richardson (M.S.), Dallas :: is working as a full-time professional librarian at El Centro College in Dallas. He previously worked part-time in the same position at El Centro and was a full-time library assistant at Dallas County Law Library.

Mendy Sass, Fort Worth :: joined Balcom Agency in Fort Worth as social media community manager and public relations specialist. She previously worked as a media associate for GolinHarris, where she managed social communities and blogger relations for national brands such as Texas Instruments.

Ana Margarita Gonzalez, Weatherford :: married Chris Lowetz this summer in a ceremony held at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Mineral Wells. Chris is the son of Pennie Lowetz ('85).
UNT’s alumni, faculty, staff and students are the university’s greatest legacy. When members of the Eagle family pass, they are remembered and their spirit lives on. Send information about deaths to The North Texan (see contact information on page 4).

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

1940s

Morgan Moses (’49, ’50 M.S., ’64 Ed.D.), Longview :: He served in the U.S. Army Air Force as a radio/radar operator and flight gunner in World War II. He had a long career in education, serving as a teacher, coach and principal in the Judson ISD and as a principal in the Garland ISD. He also was a professor and department chair at Stephen F. Austin State University. After he retired, he worked for the Southern Association of Schools. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Francis Franklin (’47), whom he met at North Texas.

John Marvin Pollard Sr. (’49, ’51 M.M., ’77 Ed.D.), Denton :: He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a professional choir director and singer for more than 60 years all over the nation. In Denton, he performed with the Denton Bach Society and Sterling House. He was an active member of the Texas Music Educators Association and served as secretary of the Texas Choral Directors Association. He also was president and “Rotarian of the Year” for the Henderson Rotary Club.

1950s

June Wright Carley (’50), Giddings :: She taught English in the Fort Stockton, Alice, Plano and Brownwood ISDs. After receiving her master’s degree in library science at St. Mary’s University in the 1970s, she worked as a public school librarian until 1984. She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Carley (’51).

University Community

Jerome Duggan, Emeritus of physics, died Aug. 31 in Denton. He served on the physics faculty from 1973 to 2012. He earned his North Texas degrees in physics and earned a doctorate from Louisiana State University. Before coming to UNT, he served on the faculty at the University of Georgia and worked at Oak Ridge Associated Universities. He started the International Conference on the Application of Accelerators in Research and Industry in 1968 and brought the biennial conference with him to UNT, where it drew the world’s top physicists to discuss the applications of particle accelerators. He attended the 23rd conference this year in San Antonio as Conference Chair Emeritus. He received the UNT President’s Award in 1987 and a special medal at the 1995 meeting of the Particle Induced X-Ray Emission Conference in Padua, Italy. He was made a fellow of the American Physical Society in 2000. Memorials may be made to the Dr. Jerome L. Duggan Memorial Scholarship in Physics at UNT.

John James Haynie, 89, Professor Emeritus of music, died Sept. 30 in Denton. He joined the music faculty in 1950 and served as professor of trumpet for 40 years, renowned for his innovative instruction and virtuoso solos. His pioneering research in the field of video-fluoroscopic studies, in which he used moving X-ray images with sound to learn more about trumpet-playing mechanics, influenced trumpet pedagogy. In 1984, he earned the "Fessor Graham Award, the highest honor given by the student body, and in 1996, he received UNT’s Honorary Alumnus Award. Other honors included the Award of Merit from the International Trumpet Guild and the Edwin Franko Goldman Memorial Citation from the American Bandmasters Association. He wrote three method books for trumpet and in 2007 published Inside John Haynie’s Studio: A Master Teacher’s Lessons on Trumpet.

James Bradford (’51, ’52 M.S.), Abilene :: He served as a professor of mathematics for Abilene Christian University for 37 years, including 13 as department chair. He received the Meritorious Service Award from the Mathematical Association of America and served as president of the Big Country Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Kennith Gerald Hurley (’52), Quitman :: He worked for 32 years with Aetna Life & Casualty, retiring as regional claim manager. He loved country life and cattle ranching and...
EAGLES’ Nest

enjoyed hunting and fishing. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Korean War and attended North Texas with the help of the GI Bill. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Edna Mae Jungbecker Hurley (’51).

Dwight Richard Otto (’53), Dallas :: His career spanned 60 years in the insurance and financial industry. He earned many sales and service awards and achieved the highest industry designation of Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant. He operated the Dwight R. Otto Brokerage Agency for 20 years. At North Texas, he was a member of Phi Alpha Tau and helped bring Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity to campus in the 1950s.

Cora Lee ‘Corky’ Van Arsdall Clevenger (’54), Seabrook :: She was a teacher for 48 years, teaching in Port Arthur, Galveston and Seabrook. She was an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma sorority and Clear Creek Association of Retired Teachers and was a member and volunteer of the Friends of the Evelyn Meador Library. She also was an election worker for the city of Seabrook for many years.

Billy John Hall (’54, ’59 M.S.), Cincinnati, Ohio :: After graduation, he served two years in the U.S. Army and taught in Dallas, in Shaktoolik, Alaska, in Taiwan and in Cincinnati. During his second career as a real estate investor, he founded Hali Enterprises. He served as president of both the Real Estate Investors Association of Cincinnati and the Ohio Real Estate Investors Association. He is survived by his wife, Betty (’59 M.Ed.).

Annice Mauldin Elliott (’57, ’64 B.B.Ed., ’76 Ed.D., ’79 M.Ed.), Benbrook :: She studied business education and worked for many years as a teacher and administrator for the Fort Worth ISD. She was one of five sisters from Italy, Texas, who attended North Texas and taught public school. Survivors include her sister Faye Mauldin Chapman (’70 M.S.).

Billy John Hall (’59 M.S.), Cincinnati, Ohio :: After graduation, he served two years in the U.S. Army and taught in Dallas, in Shaktoolik, Alaska, in Taiwan and in Cincinnati. During his second career as a real estate investor, he founded Hali Enterprises. He served as president of both the Real Estate Investors Association of Cincinnati and the Ohio Real Estate Investors Association. He is survived by his wife, Betty (’59 M.Ed.).

Carl Seal (’71 D.M.A.), McAllen :: He was the conductor of the Valley Symphony Orchestra from 1973 to 2001, bringing classical music to the Rio Grande Valley. He also taught music at the University of Texas-Pan American from 1971 to 2001 and served as department chair for eight years. UTPA named him Professor and Composer Emeritus. He is survived by his wife, Jan Seal (’69 M.A.).

Philip Duwayne Wilbanks (’71, ’78 M.Ed.), Wylie :: He taught industrial arts in Plano and Wylie and coached 17 years of Facilities and Operations at Texas Instruments facility that became Discovery Park. He also helped UNT develop the former Liberty Christian School campus into athletics facilities that met NCAA standards, and he played a major role in the construction of Apogee Stadium and other buildings. He served as a consultant for the UNT System after he retired. He previously was director of facilities management at the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers, retiring as a colonel. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Auburn University and his master’s from the University of Missouri-Rolla.

Vern Leon Kagarice, 71, died Sept. 16 in Chautauqua, N.Y. He had been a professor of trombone and a conductor of the UNT Trombone Choir since 1983. Prior to joining UNT, he taught trombone at Youngstown State University in Ohio. He was a member of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra since 1979 and traveled the globe as a clinician and recitalist. He received awards from the International Trombone Association, where his contributions included serving as executive manager and journal editor, and conducted UNT trombone choirs that won the prestigious Emory Remington Trombone Choir Competition. He co-wrote books about trombone literature and arranged music for...
in Wylie. Then he taught in Garland and Farmersville. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Wilbanks (’70, ’83 M.Ed.).

1980s

D’Anne Cowden Barrow (’80 M.M.Ed.), Russellville, Ark. :: She had a 35-year career in education including elementary music, elementary classroom and administration. She earned an Ed.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. At the time of her death, she was director of elementary curriculum for the Russellville school district. Survivors include her husband, Gary (’69, ’82 Ph.D.), and daughter, Jill (’05).

Walter Demetris Hardts (’81), Dallas :: He was a working professional actor for more than 30 years on the Dallas stage, television and film. At North Texas, he appeared in many productions, including playing the lead in Tartuffe and Ceremonies in Dark Old Men. He was one of the founding members of Present Company Included, a comedy troupe formed by North Texas theatre alumni that performed in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for four years.

1990s

Jeanne Heartsill (’93 M.F.A.), Denton :: She studied under Rob Erdle and Myra Walker and taught computer graphics at UNT before working as a flight attendant with Southwest Airlines. She had Signature status in the Southwestern Watercolor Society and was a 35-year member and past president of the Visual Art Society of North Texas. She is survived by her husband, Gary Heartsill (’92).

2000s

Patrick Charles Boland, (’03), Garland :: He worked for the American Heart Association for many years. He earned his B.S. in rehabilitation studies at UNT at age 59.

2010s

Susan Lee Schmidt, Denton :: She was an artist who attended UNT from 2008 to 2010 as a student in the College of Visual Arts.

Melinda Dunlap (’14), Euless :: She graduated with a degree in home furnishings and enjoyed restoring antique furniture, traveling, cooking and camping. She loved Dachshunds and volunteered for organizations that helped animals.

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.
GOLDEN MEMORIES

Members of the Class of 1964 reminisced at the annual Golden Eagles luncheon. Here are a few of their memories.

I was a French major at North Texas and a dorm hostess in Kendall Hall. I vividly remember room check each night and working the switchboard to direct phone calls to the women. We had to wear a raincoat over our leotards to cross the street to the Women’s Gym and could never be seen in rollers in the cafeteria. It was always a treat when there was snow on the ground so we could wear pants.

Each fall Imogene Bentley Dickie, the dean of women, would gather all the freshman girls in gloves and hats in the English building auditorium to go over the rules and regulations of being a lady. That did give you the chance to see all the ladies in your class. — Marsha Keffer (‘64, ’67 M.Ed.), Denton, retired director of UNT’s program for academic readiness

We spent a lot of time at the Union — the UB, we called it then. It was the center of activity. We’d go over and have coffee and coffeecake in the morning. You did not want to have a class from 10 to 11 a.m. In the afternoons, we’d go back over and have a coke. It was the place everyone congregated. You could drive right up and park in front in those days.

Most of my memories center around my fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha. We always had a big Homecoming decoration on the front of the fraternity house on Hickory. One year it was a huge flag, another time it was an Eagle. The year it was a hand of poker we were disqualified.

From left, Jack Wall (‘64), Susan Kennedy Stinson (‘64), Marsha Keffer (‘64, ’67 M.Ed.) and Mike McNutt (‘64) celebrate at the Golden Eagles luncheon.

The Geezles claim they stole our Eagle, but I don’t remember that. — Jack Wall (‘64), Dallas, former UNT Regent

Many Americans know Michael Martin Murphey as a great singer and songwriter. Mike was the freshman class president in 1963-64 and I was the senior class president. For the 1963 Homecoming game at Fouts Field, it was decided that each Homecoming Queen candidate would be escorted by a class president. The announcer began with the first candidate, who was escorted by Mike Murphey. He announced, “The first candidate, escorted by the freshman class president, Mike McNutt…”

Well, I had a lot of friends and Greeks who knew me since this was my fourth year at North Texas. There was some loud laughter and I joined in. The announcement made for the candidate escorted by me went like this: “She is escorted by the senior class president, Mike Murphey!” I turned around and faced the throng of fellow North Texans and waved at them with a big smile. When our team won the game, it was long-time head coach Odus Mitchell’s seventh Homecoming win in a row. For me, I was Michael Murphey for a day! — Mike McNutt (‘64), Kingwood

(See page 34 for more about Murphey.)

When I moved into the new McConnell Hall my sophomore year, the air-conditioning provided relief from the heat, and in the winter, students engaged in snowball fights and buried unsuspecting Volkswagens under tons of snow.

However, the night of our 1964 graduation topped everything weather-wise. Commencement was in the old Men’s Gymnasium, a relic even in those days. The hail and rain ripped through the happy scene and pounded down on the metal roof. The speakers quickly ended all attempts to speak over the din. As the crowd hurried to open the doors to head home, they were hit by a torrent of rain.

My father, who had come to see the graduation from New York City, traveled home with my aunts. He had to get out of their car in the driving rain to find the cutoff road to Grand Prairie. It simply was not visible. The night proved to be an attention-getting end to our North Texas years! — Susan Kennedy Stinson (‘64), Richardson

(See page 34 for more about Murphey.)
Like many UNT students, senior Colin Voss is tenacious and versatile. After helping his high school team win four state football titles, he was a top recruit for a number of Division I football programs. But Colin, a multi-sport athlete, hungered for a different challenge. He chose to pursue a collegiate career in his primary passion — basketball.

Colin, who comes from a coaching family and now studies a well-rounded curriculum in applied arts and sciences, is a natural leader. Registering double-digit scores in a third of last season’s games and ranked 14th in C-USA field goal percentage, he sends fair warning to our rivals ... we’ve got some domination in the house.

Buy your season tickets now and cheer the Mean Green to victory!

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Mean Green victory lights are now shining brighter and more efficiently in the McConnell Tower on the Hurley Administration Building. This fall, UNT Facilities installed new LED green lights in the tower — expected to provide a 70 percent cost savings. The upgrade to one of UNT’s spirited traditions — another example of the university’s commitment to sustainability — gives deeper meaning to our Green Pride. Watch for the lights after wins. Go Mean Green!