

UNT[®]

Tier One
research
university
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the
North Texan

A UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

VOL.66, NO.1 | Spring 2016



CAREERS
WITH A CAUSE

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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF
NORTH TEXAS
unt.edu

BUILDING ON 125 YEARS

UNT has come a long way from its founding as a small teachers college in 1890 to one of the nation's largest public universities. Ranked as a Tier One research university by the Carnegie Classification, UNT is a catalyst for creativity, fueling progress, innovation and entrepreneurship for the North Texas region and state. A record-breaking 37,000 students study with a renowned, award-winning faculty conducting groundbreaking work that makes a difference — from preserving waterways and solving logistics problems to breaking down barriers with music and art.

Visit us and learn more about how we're growing, improving and building on a legacy of excellence more than a century in the making.

See what UNT has to offer



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EST. 1890

UNT®



Careers with a Cause

ALUMNI ARE COMBINING COMPASSION WITH THEIR RICH STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCES — FROM VOLUNTEER WORK TO INTERNSHIPS AND CARING MENTOR RELATIONSHIPS — TO INSPIRE MEANINGFUL WORK IN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

By Jessica DeLeón

Cover: Photography by Ahna Hubnik. Above: MADD's "You Always Have a Place" wall, dedicated to victims of drunk and drugged driving.

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Alumna part of Oscar-nominated team for creating out-of-this-world special effects

for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

By Jessica DeLeón

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As a hub of creativity from the arts to the sciences, UNT is fostering collaborations to push innovation and discovery.

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Accounting alums use strategic skill sets to communicate financial information in globally linked economies.

By Monique Bird

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Faculty recall campus life, teaching and research.

Online

EXCLUSIVES

northtexas.unt.edu/online



Improved Plants, Big Impacts

WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT THE CUTTING-EDGE WORK HAPPENING AT UNT'S BIODISCOVERY INSTITUTE TO ENHANCE CROPS THAT CAN ADDRESS FOOD SHORTAGES AND BE USED TO MAKE PRODUCTS NEEDED FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY.



When you see this arrow, join our North Texan community online at northtexas.unt.edu.

ONLINE FEATURES



CAREER CONNECT
Read about UNT's new program to give students learning experiences in the community and skills that employers desire.



FRONT & CENTER
UNT alums Snarky Puppy graced the cover of February's issue of *Downbeat Magazine* and won their second Grammy Award.



WFAA8 ON THE SQUARE
See the live broadcast from the Denton

square Feb. 11 that features President Neal Smatresk talking about UNT's 125th anniversary and latest accomplishments.

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- Learn more about your fellow alumni
- Write memorials about friends we'll miss
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FROM OUR **President**

Increasing national prominence, impact and value TOP-TIER RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DESIGNATION

I HOPE YOU'VE HEARD BY now that UNT ranks as one of 115 top-tier research universities in the nation, according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education™. We're focused on increasing our national prominence, and this ranking is a significant step in that process. It's an achievement that reflects our steadfast commitment to excellence and quality, and it's an incredible tribute to our university family. This ranking reinforces our standing as a university on the rise and adds value to your degrees.

To move to the top tier during our 125th anniversary is especially meaningful. It's amazing to think that an institution that started as a teacher training school with 70 students is now one of the nation's largest universities with 37,000 students who go on to do great things. Join us as we celebrate our transformation and our people at the Wingspan Gala, a formal green tie event April 16 at the new University Union. Learn how to buy tickets or sponsor a table at 125.unt.edu/wingspan-gala.

Speaking of the power of possibilities, UNT's New College at Frisco moved from idea to reality in six months, and with our launch in January, we're off to a great start. The New College, an off-site instructional facility, is a symbol of things to come as we expand our reach and impact — going where the market and needs are.

We're also investing heavily in academic initiatives to support student success, expanding our research infrastructure and increasing our visibility throughout the region, state and nation. And we're looking forward to a strong football season this year with our new head coach, Seth Littrell.

Our planning and hard work will help us fulfill our vision to be a university that is known around the world for excellence — the first choice for students and the go-to partner for communities and industry.

UNT proud,



Neal Smatresk
President
president@unt.edu
[@UNTPrez](https://twitter.com/UNTPrez)



President Neal Smatresk visits with guests at UNT's Great Conversations event in February.

Michael Clements

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Thank you for the article and for *The North Texan* as a whole. I always enjoy it.

Leroy Whitaker
(’50, ’52 M.S.)
Dallas

The Marquis bench



As I read the winter issue, my eyes fell upon a photo on page 40 that is both fascinating and memorable. It was there on the Marquis bench that I presented my future wife, Ann Sills (’55), our engagement ring on a fall evening under a full moon in 1954. Ann still wears the ring with some enhancements to this very day, Dec. 26, 2015, our 60th anniversary. This issue is a keeper.

Clifford L. Helbert
(’56, ’66 M.Ed.)
Fort Worth

Editor’s note: Our call for UNT memories brought many mentions of favorite professors. Here are a few from our mailbox:

Best decision

Three generations of Linns have walked the campus of



Jason Zhao/Daze Pictures

Christmas present

I went back to the campus during the holidays to reminisce a bit. I noticed a lot has changed and you were finishing the new Union. I also saw a breathtaking shot of the Hurley Administration Building, so I decided to go grab my camera from my car and took it.

When I posted it on Facebook and one of my friends tweeted it, it got lots of likes and shares. A few people even contacted me for prints. I’m sending this as a late Christmas gift to the school. I hope everyone at UNT is doing great.

Jason Zhao (’15)
Lewisville

Not the first

In your article on alumni awards (“Soaring Eagles,” winter 2015), you stated that I was the first research chemist working for Shell Chemical Co.

My first job was as a research chemist for Shell, but they were doing research long before I came on the scene.

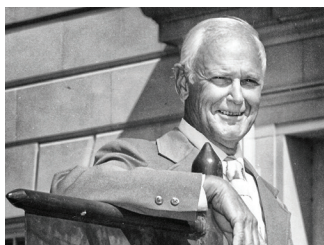
UNT and in a couple of years the fourth generation should be ready to carry on the tradition. My time at North Texas in the 1960s was the catalyst for a 40-plus-year career in state government.

I have watched the campus and university grow in a very positive direction over the years and have always been proud to call UNT my home. It was a fun school and we got a great education from day one. We had some of the top names in higher education, such as Horace Brock, Tom Rose, Jack Robason, George Christy, David Fitch, James Riddlesperger, Lewis Abernathy and Paden Neeley. We worked hard to gain a solid education and we played hard every chance we got.

Attending UNT was one of the best decisions of my life and I know the same is true for countless thousands who have followed that first group of students who met 125 years ago.

Dan M. Linn ('71)
Dallas

Scholar in every way



Dean O.J. Curry taught our Business Problems and Trends M.B.A. class in the

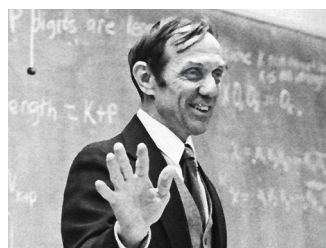
summer of 1963. I will always remember his wisdom.

Dean Curry arrived in Denton to head up the business department in 1944. An accountant by academic training, he led the business department to school and then college status, with The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accreditation.

He was a scholar in every regard — an esteemed teacher, a respected author, and a proud and capable leader. Faculty and students referred to him as Dean. Never once did I hear anyone call him by his first name. He will always stand as a lighthouse to ethical and honorable pathways for North Texas alumni.

John D. Pettit Jr.
(’62, ’64 M.B.A.)
Argyle

Quoting Dr. Stevens



I came to Denton as an English graduate student in the fall of 1989, planning to specialize in 20th century British literature. That changed when I took Dr. L. Robert “Bob” Stevens’ seminar entitled “Victorian Science and Religion.” The “religion” part was a bigger draw than

the “Victorian” angle, but I became a convert early in the semester (perhaps during the very first class meeting).

I went on to take many more classes from Dr. Stevens and greatly enjoyed them all. When it came time to do the dissertation, he helped me decide to write about the sermon, which has been my research specialty ever since. I currently direct, in fact, the Center for Sermon Studies at Marshall University, where I am an assistant professor of English.

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and I find myself often quoting Dr. Stevens’ words to my own students. The ones I use the most are, “If college doesn’t change your mind about at least one thing, you probably ought to ask for your money back.”

I close with a line from Robert Browning that Dr. Stevens wrote in the book he gave me as a graduation gift. It comes from the poem “Fra Lippo Lippi,” and it reads “God uses us to help each other so, / Lending our minds out.” For that thought, and for everything you did to set me on the path to where I am today, I say, “Thank you, Dr. Stevens!”

Robert H. Ellison
(’91 M.A., ’95 Ph.D.),
Huntington, W.Va.



Proud to say that #UNT is now Tier One! I love my school/ place of work!

— @KMacintyreUNT

Congratulations to #UNT alums @RealSnarkyPuppy on their @TheGRAMMYs win for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album!

— @UNTsocial

#UNT alum Dave Pietro wins @TheGRAMMYs for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album w/ Maria Schneider Orchestra!

— @UNTsocial

Love, love, love UNT

— @MadisonM19

So blessed to have been accepted to UNT. It’s going to be an amazing adventure. I can’t wait! #UNT #accepted #blessed #cantwait

— @AdddisonLee09

Been a wild ride these last 72 hours, love all the support from everyone and can’t thank you enough #MeanGreenNation

— @SethLittrell

I visited UNT today and fell even more in love.

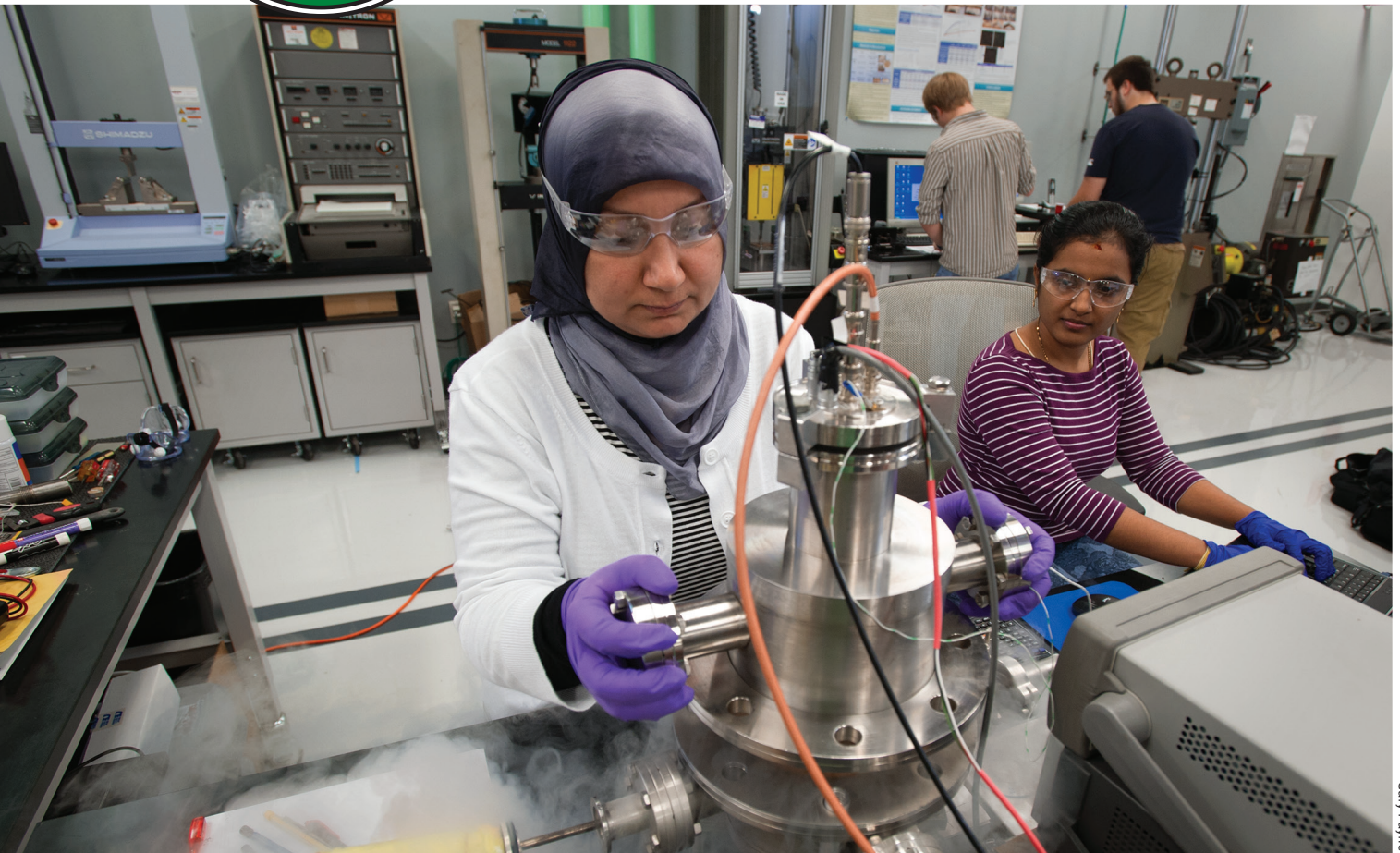
— @queenofdisast3r

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



Today

Get Mean Green gear
page 12



Gary Payne

TIER ONE

The latest Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education™ ranks UNT among the nation's top-tier research universities, a key milestone in the journey toward increasing national prominence.



Learn more about UNT's research at research.unt.edu.

UNT IS RANKED AMONG THE NATION'S 115 top-tier research universities, according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education™ released in February. Tier One status is defined, in part, by how a university ranks in the Carnegie Classification, which is a leading framework for measuring institutional characteristics. This achievement is commonly considered the most significant step in the evolution of a research university and marks a key milestone in UNT's commitment toward national prominence, UNT President Neal Smatresk says.

"We moved up in the Carnegie classifications by staying true to our roots as an institution focused on creativity as expressed

through our research, scholarship and educational activities,” Smatresk says. “All along, we’ve paid attention to what matters most, providing our students a great education and helping to build tomorrow’s workforce and the next generation of globally relevant scholars.”

UNT officials noted that the latest Carnegie rankings give strong consideration to UNT’s impact as a broad-based research institution that awards a large number of doctoral degrees each year. UNT consistently leads the region and ranks among the state’s top universities for the number of doctoral degrees it awards annually.

Tom McCoy, UNT’s vice president for research and economic development, says being ranked in Carnegie’s top tier is a result of UNT’s comprehensive focus on its level of research activity and on helping doctoral students succeed.

“UNT’s official Carnegie Classification as a Doctoral University: Highest Research Activity (R1) matters for many reasons,” McCoy says. “Tier One universities attract top students and faculty, drive innovation and technology through high-level research and scholarship, and contribute significantly to the region and state through intellectual capital and economic development.”

Smatresk stressed that while reaching Tier One status is a big milestone, there is still work ahead to help UNT increase its national reputation.

“This achievement reflects our commitment to excellence in our education and research mission and the quality of our students and graduates,” Smatresk says. “Today’s recognition is an important step in our journey — but it’s not the end. ●



Alina Hubnik

Awarding more than 270 doctoral degrees annually, UNT leads the region and ranks among the state’s top universities for its number of doctoral graduates.

1913

First library building opened on campus.

1919

First four-year bachelor’s degrees were awarded.

1935

First funded faculty research on water quality began with the work of biologist J.K.G. Silvey.

1936

First master’s degrees were awarded in summer 1936.

1953

First doctoral degree, a Doctor of Education in administrative leadership, was awarded to Harold Hitt.

1961

North Texas State College became North Texas State University.

1967

First Ph.D. in science was awarded in chemistry to Linda Truitt Creagh.

1987

The university was designated an “emerging national research university” by the state’s Select Committee on Higher Education.

1988

North Texas State University became the University of North Texas.

2002

Development began on 300-acre UNT research park — today’s Discovery Park.

2016

The Carnegie Classification designated UNT as a top-tier research university.

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

- **COMMUNICATION DESIGN RANKED BEST IN SOUTHWEST.** UNT's tuition costs, location and admission rates are some of the reasons Animation Career Review ranked the communication design program as the No. 1 graphic design program in the Southwest. An independent online source for people seeking careers in animation and gaming, ACR also ranked the program fifth among public universities and 22nd nationally.
- **ALUMS CREATE 'CAMPUS IN YOUR POCKET' APP.** UNT innovation and entrepreneurship go hand in hand, as proven by alumni Trey Tartt ('08, '11 M.S.) and Adam Selby ('14), who also is an IT specialist on campus. They created a free app, *Mochila: Campus in Your Pocket*, to help students navigate campuses and college life. They launched the app, which shows campus buildings, events and more, at UNT, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of South Carolina, University of Southern California, Texas Tech and Cornell.
- **A SUPER BOWL REUNION AT APOGEE.** Alum "Mean" Joe Greene, Pittsburgh Steelers legend and Super Bowl 50 Golden Team member, returned to his alma mater this February to reminisce about an iconic commercial for CBS' *Super Bowl Greatest Commercials All-Star Countdown* special. In a segment shot at UNT's Apogee Stadium, Greene reunited with Tommy Okon, the actor who as a 9-year-old shared a Coca-Cola with him in the award-winning ad that ran during Super Bowl XIV in 1980. It was voted by viewers as the fourth best Super Bowl commercial of all time and can still be enjoyed on the video board at Mean Green games.



Courtesy of CBS

BRILLIANTLY GREEN

Michael Clements



Human trafficking app

Design research graduate Lisa Mercer ('15 M.F.A.) created the smartphone app *Operation Compass* to help people report incidents of

human trafficking, especially truck drivers hesitant to share crimes they witness with authorities. Mercer was invited to be a keynote speaker at a design research conference

hosted by the Swiss Design Network in January and has been invited to present her research at the international conference of the Design Research Society in June in Brighton, England.

Her research continues to evolve through work with Mosaic Family Services, a Dallas-Fort Worth nonprofit that serves as a haven for survivors of human rights abuses, including human trafficking and domestic

violence. Mosaic case managers follow up on incidents reported by users of *Operation Compass*, reporting to law enforcement or providing shelter, counseling or legal services.

Mercer created the app as part of her M.F.A. thesis and with the help of Keith Owens and Michael Gibson, associate professors of communication design. Her next goal is to compile a database to collect and sort incidents so agencies can coordinate efforts.

SHOUT OUT

U.S. News & World Report named UNT's online M.B.A. degree in the College of Business No. 15 in the nation in its 2016 rankings.



W. Kamau Bell spoke to guests at a Mary Jo and V. Lane Rawlins Fine Arts Series lecture, co-presented as part of UNT's annual Equity and Diversity Conference in February.

The W. Kamau Bell Curve

American stand-up comic and TV host W. Kamau Bell explored the state of racism in America in his February lecture at UNT, "The W. Kamau Bell Curve: How to End Racism in About an Hour."

The presentation, which included a mix of stand-up comedy, history lessons, video and audio clips and personal stories, was sponsored by the Mary Jo and V. Lane Rawlins Fine Arts Series. It also was among events attended by guests of UNT's annual Equity and Diversity Conference.

Bell is the ACLU's Ambassador of Racial Justice and sits on the advisory boards of Race Forward, a racial justice think

tank, and Hollaback, a nonprofit movement to end street harassment. He is a CNN correspondent, host of the travel show *The United Shades of America* and former host of the FX series *Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell*, which was nominated for both an NAACP Image Award and a GLAAD Award.

New degree programs

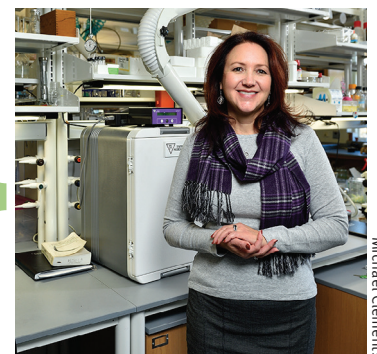
Starting this fall, two new UNT degree programs will help industry fulfill critical needs. A bachelor's degree in retailing, offered by the College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism, will prepare students to master the complexities of the retail

marketplace, providing consumers with a seamless experience between in-store and online shopping. With this degree, UNT is the first university in the U.S. to integrate courses in the three main components of retailing: merchandising, digital retailing and operations.

UNT's public health degree, with focus areas including population studies and biological sciences, will complement other programs offered by the College of Education. It will put students on track to careers in hospitals, health departments and nonprofit health organizations and the cutting-edge of preventing disease outbreaks.

STEM LEADERSHIP

Pamela Padilla, associate professor of biology, will encourage more students and professionals to participate in STEM research, attain advanced degrees and advance in STEM leadership as a newly elected board member of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science. In her own research, Padilla studies cellular, genetic and molecular responses to environmental stressors such as oxygen deprivation and high sugar diets, relevant to heart problems, diabetes and obesity in humans. Her research is supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, and her honors include the prestigious NSF CAREER award.



Michael Clements

MEAN GREEN

Recruits, spring game, Hall of Fame, Cowboy call

New coaches and recruits

Since arriving in December, new head football coach Seth Littrell has been busy rebuilding UNT's football program, starting with bringing in a strong new coaching staff and new class of recruits.

As part of National Signing Day in February, Littrell, the former assistant head coach at North Carolina, signed a talented group of incoming freshmen and some key transfers. They include offensive lineman T.J. Henson from Trinity Valley and defensive end Josh Wheeler from Tyler Junior College. UNT also landed former Alabama quarterback Alec Morris and Kansas State defensive tackle Bryce English.

Littrell's Mean Green coaching hires include former Texas Tech and NFL quarterback Graham Harrell as offensive coordinator and Mike Ekeler as defensive coordinator. Harrell comes to the Mean Green from Washington State, while Ekeler coached at Georgia last season.

The 37-year-old Littrell, a native of Muskogee, Okla., is the youngest coach in Conference USA and the fifth youngest in the nation. He played on Oklahoma's 2000 national championship team and coached at Texas Tech, Arizona and Indiana before heading to North Carolina.

The Mean Green will **open the season against SMU** for the second year in a row. They face the Mustangs **Sept. 3 at Apogee Stadium**. Go Mean Green!



Anna Hlubnik

Coach Seth Littrell and his wife, Becca, join the Mean Green family.



Michael Clements

Akunne with the Cowboys

In December, former Mean Green linebacker Derek Akunne ('15) joined the Dallas Cowboys practice squad in Week 17, going on to sign a futures contract

with the club. The contract means the Cowboys have secured his rights for the 2016 season.

As a senior at UNT in 2014, Akunne led Conference USA with 108 tackles, three sacks and two interceptions. He was named the team's MVP and finished his career with 308 tackles and 23 tackles for loss, both of which rank eighth most in school history. He played on the Atlanta Falcons practice squad last fall before being released. A few months later, he got the call from the Cowboys.

Spring game and Hall of Fame

Mean Green fans can get a preview of the football team in action at the annual **Green and White Game beginning at 2 p.m. April 23 at UNT's Apogee Stadium**.

A luncheon before the game will celebrate the induction of six new members into the UNT Athletic Hall of Fame: John Baker ('00), Scott Bowles ('92), Andy Brewster ('05) and Jonas Buckles ('04), football; Pat Hicks ('84), men's basketball; and the late Dick Whetzle, golf.



Find the latest Mean Green news and schedules, and buy season tickets at meangreensports.com.

DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST HONOR

Ian Parberry, professor of computer science and engineering, was named a 2015 Distinguished Scientist by the Association for Computing Machinery, the world's leading association of computing professionals. Distinguished members were drawn from leading academic institutions and corporate and national research labs around the world. Parberry is the author of more than 100 technical publications and has taught game programming to undergraduates since 1993, the year he established UNT's top-ranked Laboratory for Recreational Computing (LARC).



Gary Payne

GLOBAL CONNECTION

Field testing in Chile

Chemistry associate professor Guido Verbeck and a group of student researchers took a 40-pound mobile mass spectrometer to UNT's sub-Antarctic field station in Chile in December to collect air and water samples throughout the region.

Verbeck created the mobile device, which can be mounted in an electric hybrid car or carried as a backpack, to support chemical analysis in the field. It readily and accurately checks air quality and provides a list of chemicals in the air. It also can be used by crime scene investigators.

"This helps scientists and researchers collect data on the spot in real time, eliminating the need to revisit the site," Verbeck says. "Portable mass spectrometers also will be cheaper, making them available to scientific fields that have limited budgets."

The samples the group took at the Chile field

station, which is located in the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve at the southern tip of South America, make up the first-ever recorded data set on the region's air and water chemistry.

The areas tested have not yet been impacted by humans, but the tourism and energy industries are expected to begin moving in over the next several years as part of the planned sustainable development of the reserve.

Verbeck's readings — all tagged with GPS — provide a baseline for future research-

ers to revisit the same locations and evaluate if and how industry has affected the environment.

Verbeck has created and patented modified parts for mass spectrometers for private companies like Inficon and 1st Detect and patented a nanomanipulator in 2012. He also collaborates with researchers at Cardiff University's School of Bioscience, UT Southwestern and the University of Liverpool.



Annah Verbeck

Guido Verbeck, associate professor of chemistry, center, with doctoral students Phillip Mach, left, and Roberto Aguilar, right, in Chile



Keya Wu

Retailing student challenge

Merchandising and digital retailing students Ashley Nudge, Katelyn Patrick, Nichole Fallis and Mckenzie Hibler took first place in the National Retail Federation Student Challenge in January, beating 16 teams.

The four developed the Medici RFID Trattoria Tote concept for the online retailer eBags to capture the first-ever first place win for UNT’s Department of Merchandising and Digital Retailing in the competition. Billed by the group as a “modern woman’s

briefcase,” the tote would include specially designed compartments to store, protect and organize digital devices and essentials. They were awarded scholarships for their pitch of a product worthy of a national retailer.

UNT is the only university to have a team in the top-three finalists round in all three years since the competition began.

Top Moot Court award

Political science students and Moot Court members Taylor Ledford ('15) and Eryn Mascia took first place for their

written appellate brief at the American Collegiate Moot Court Association National Championship Tournament in January.

The fictional court case that teams argued at tournaments this year centered on an imaginary federal act that prohibited all public and private colleges and universities in the U.S. from accepting students who are undocumented immigrants. Ledford and Mascia wrote the brief on behalf of the fictional petitioners — a private college and an undocumented student who won a scholarship.

GREEN PRIDE

Mean Green license plates and UNT tartan



Michael Clements

Alumni and members of the UNT community can ride with Mean Green pride every day by sporting a “Mean Green” license plate. Since 1991, the license plate program has been a fun way for fans to show their green pride, and now is the perfect time as UNT celebrates its 125th anniversary year. A portion of the proceeds goes to support student scholarships. Learn how to order your plate and more at meangreenplates.unt.edu.

Also as part of UNT’s 125th anniversary celebrations, community members can show their UNT spirit by buying UNT tartan gear. UNT’s official tartan design, created by Casey Heidt ('15) when she was a fibers student, was accepted by the Scottish Register of Tartans and is on shirts, scarves, ties, kilts and other UNT merchandise. Proceeds from the sale of tartan gear also go to support student scholarships. Learn where to shop for UNT tartan at 125.unt.edu/shop.

And for Mean Green fans who frequent Texas and Oklahoma toll roads, the North Texas Tollway Authority has released specialty toll tags featuring UNT’s diving Eagle spirit mark for new and existing customers. Visit specialtytolltags.com for more information.



Three minute thesis

Doctoral candidate Garima Bajwa's research implements a framework on android devices to allow people to monitor their brain signals. This spring, she presented her research at

the Three Minute Thesis, or 3MT, competition at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools annual meeting after winning the Toulouse Graduate School's first 3MT competition in November.

At the national competition, students give oral presentations covering their methodology, their major findings and the relevance of their research in no more than three minutes, using one PowerPoint slide.

After graduating this spring, Bajwa plans to continue her research on applications for biomedical data in a teaching or postdoctoral research position.

Logistics win

Four logistics students took the top award at the 35th annual Operation Stimulus Case Competition, hosted by the Denver Transportation Club in February. The UNT team — Jacob Koren, Mary Catherine Schoals, Dylan Smith and

Laura Catalina Quinones Rios — defeated 15 teams from major logistics schools to earn the first-place win. Competitors were challenged to step in as the hypothetical managing team for an underperforming warehouse facing multiple issues in areas such as budgeting, managing inventory, safety and improving operations.

The case competition win marks a year-long winning streak for students in UNT's logistics program.



Ask an Expert

How can you add style to your home or office space?

The smell of fresh flowers and the outdoors makes the spring season the perfect time to freshen up your home or office. Danielle Burbidge ('12), a graduate of UNT's interior design program and a design assistant at Mary Anne Smiley Interiors in Dallas, has a few tips to get you closer to a bright, open and trendy new space. She says it's important for designers to experiment with ideas, think outside the box and have an eye for detail.

"Anyone can use these tips to design the space of their dreams and continuously expand on their design to keep a room or work space fresh and on trend," she says.

Keep an eye out for designs you like

- Start a look book. You don't have to be a professional designer to have a look book. Keep photos of your favorite designs to help you create designs entirely on your own.
- Use online resources. The designer-friendly websites Pinterest or Houzz are good places to start. You can learn about wall colors, patterns and furniture pieces that are on trend for small or large spaces.

Own your style

- Buy things you actually like. No matter how beautiful the space, if you don't like the décor, it won't work.
- Good designs are timeless. Trendy styles might look good

now, but will they still look good in a year? You may prefer a wall color you find relaxing rather than a color that's trending.

- Don't be afraid to throw away décor. Get rid of the old for the new to help make your space feel inviting and fresh.
- Or mix the old with the new. Whichever you choose, design a space that helps you feel at home.

Tailor your design for your lifestyle

- Know what you need. If you have kids or pets, choose more durable materials and paints. Get things that will last well and look good for years.
- Functional also can be fashionable. Select accessories that are pleasing to the eye and that give you a good vibe when in your new space.
- Change things up. It's always fun to change details every once in a while. Switch out throw pillows or add a new rug when you get tired of the 'old' look.

— Jennifer Pache





UNT Alumni Association

Each year, the UNT Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards recognize the outstanding career achievements, service and support of UNT alumni and friends. The UNT Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for the 2016 awards, which will be presented at an event during Homecoming Week this fall. Nominations can be submitted in five categories: Distinguished Alumni Award, Distinguished Young Alumni Award, Ulys Knight Spirit Award, Outstanding Service Award and Generations of Excellence Award.

“As a student, UNT provided me with a great education, a fun campus life and the ability to be a part of something bigger,” says Mike Friedman (’72), who received the Outstanding Alumni Service Award in 2013 for his service to the community and university. “This award was one of the most meaningful honors in my life and has made me so proud.”

Friedman is a senior vice president of retail brokerage services for CBRE Group Inc. and for many years also was known as “Smiley the Clown,” bringing laughter to terminally ill children at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas and Medical City Dallas.

“With more than 225,000 graduates as part of the UNT family, our alumni are changing the world for the better,” says Robert McInturf, executive director of the UNT Alumni Association. “They are entrepreneurs, business leaders, innovators, artists, teachers, scientists and change agents who inspire us all.”

The deadline to submit nominations is April 15. Download a nomination form at untalumni.com/AA16nominationform.



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

IMPROVING ACL REHAB FOR ATHLETES

A new UNT study will determine the effectiveness of different psychological interventions in improving athletes’ physical rehabilitation after ACL, or anterior cruciate ligament, surgery. It will examine their psychological responses to injury, overall well-being and confidence in returning to their sport. Throughout 2016, researchers at UNT’s Center for Sport Psychology and Performance Excellence will recruit 75 to 100 people, involved in at least six hours of athletics per week, who are scheduled for ACL surgery. The study will be important to help treat ACL tear injuries, which in the U.S. annually impact about 300,000 people in sports and recreation activities. For more information or to volunteer, contact Trent Petrie, center director, at sportpsych@unt.edu.

\$1.25 million commitment

This spring, university donors committed more than \$1.25 million to create a sustainable fund for the UNT Kuehne Speaker Series. The series, a vision of alumnus and philanthropist Ernie Kuehne (’66), is one of UNT’s signature events in Dallas and is known for hosting speakers who lead thought-provoking conversations on globally relevant topics.

Businessman and philanthropist T. Boone Pickens will be the series’ featured guest May 10 for a conversation with G. Brint Ryan (’88, ’88 M.S.), chair of the UNT System Board of Regents. Learn more at kuehneseries.unt.edu.

National teaching honor

Karen Anderson-Lain, a senior lecturer who has taught in the Department of Communication Studies for more than a decade, was named a 2015 Teachers on Teaching honoree by the National Communication Association for her enthusiasm and dedication to teaching.

The association’s highly competitive honor recognizes instructors who have enriched students’ lives, helped expand their intellect and encouraged them to embrace new opportunities. Anderson-Lain, nominated by a group of current and former students, was one of six instructors in the nation to receive the award. ●

LEGACY OF LOVE AND GIVING BACK

Janet ('83 M.B.A.) and Rob Pittman ('85 M.B.A.) fell in love with each other — and UNT — as students. And they have been consistent UNT supporters since their graduation.

“UNT has been a big part of my family’s life for the last 40-plus years,” Janet says.

Janet’s father, Marvin Berkeley, was the dean and a professor of management in the College of Business, and her mother, Betty Berkeley ('80 Ed.D.), earned her doctorate in adult/continuing education.

Janet met Rob while they were both pursuing master’s degrees in business computer information systems.

“He was the cute boy in the back of the class, so I sat next to him,” Janet says.

They began hanging out at the Rock Bottom Lounge in the University Union and Rob helped Janet with a program-ming class she was struggling in. Their relationship flourished.

And even though Janet took a job in Houston after graduation, Rob commuted on weekends so they could be together.

She eventually moved back to Dallas to accept a job with Rob’s employer at the time, and they married in 1984.

Janet learned the value of giving back



Janet ('83 M.B.A.) and Rob Pittman ('85 M.B.A.)

from her parents. Janet’s father established the Dr. Betty Berkeley Graduate Award in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Toulouse Graduate School in 2003.

“When my father passed away in 2009, my family wanted to establish a scholarship to honor his contributions to the College of Business and support the students,” Janet says, adding that her mother also arranged for memorial contributions to benefit students. “The Division of Advancement was very supportive and quickly established the Dean Marvin Berkeley Scholarship. They made the process so easy for us during a difficult time in our lives.”

In 2012, UNT dedicated a tree at the new Business Leadership Building in honor of her parents. Janet also has served as a mentor to students with the

Professional Leadership Program. She is passionate about supporting the College of Business because of the opportunities afforded to her as a result of her education.

“When I graduated, I had several job offers in the IT industry that I wouldn’t have received with just my undergraduate degree in psychology,” Janet says.

Through giving back, she has been able to honor her family, and her memories, in perpetuity.

“You don’t have to be a multimillionaire to support our students,” she says. “You can be someone like me or a member of my family who has a heart for the university.” ●

— Teresa Love



You too can share your heart with UNT by contributing to the Inspire UNT Fund at one.unt.edu/inspire125. Your investment strengthens the future of our university by enhancing students’ educational opportunities. A gift today impacts the future of our students and transforms our university for years to come.

Kim Wasson

by JESSICA DELEÓN



All her life, Kim Wasson ('09) has been a *Star Wars* fan. As a child, she went to Disneyland and immediately sought out R2D2 and C3PO. In high school, she sewed a Darth Vader costume to wear at a midnight screening of a prequel. And this year for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, she watched her name scroll in the credits for her work on the movie.

A production coordinator for Industrial Light and Magic, the George Lucas-founded company, Wasson helps make the visual effects for many of today's top movies. Her credits include action-packed films such as *Transformers 3*, *Battleship*, *Tomorrowland*, *Lucy*, *The Lone Ranger* and the upcoming *Captain America: Civil War*.

But *The Force Awakens* — the highest-grossing movie of all time in North America, which was nominated for five Oscars, including visual effects — is thus far the pinnacle of her career.

"I take great ownership in some of the things I've helped contribute to," she says, adding there is a huge range in the work her team does to make effects believable.

"Anything you see that can't be shot on camera is done in visual effects, from creating and animating the Millennium Falcon flying through space to replacing a green screen shot on location with footage of a different environment."

Wasson wanted to work in the movies since *Varsity Blues* was shot in her hometown of Georgetown when she was in the fourth grade. In high school, she filmed the football team practices and games.

"I always wanted to be behind the camera and making movies," she says.

She enrolled at UNT as a radio, television and film major in what is now the Department of Media Arts. She volunteered as a cameraperson for UNT's student-run television station NTTV, and she especially liked her film theory classes.

After graduation, Wasson moved to California, where her father lives, so she could pursue jobs in the movie industry. She landed an internship at Lucasfilm Animation, where she worked on *Clone Wars*, the animated version of *Star Wars*.

She learned the technology used for visual effects and the roles of the crew.

"I was overwhelmed at first — just to think you're touching something that so many people watch and enjoy," she says. "It's surreal to know you're a small part of that."

From that internship, she made contacts at Industrial Light and Magic and was offered a position there six months later.

Wasson's job is to oversee the visual effects shots in the pipeline, the workflow in which every single image is composed of different elements. The process can range from one artist making a few tweaks in a few days to multiple artists, all with a different role, working on various elements of a shot for months. For *The Force Awakens*, 2,100 different shots were made.

"The shots go by so quickly in the movie, people may not realize how much work goes into them," she says.

Wasson first saw the finished film at the Alamo DraftHouse in Austin when she came home for the holidays in December. The hardcore fans dressed as their favorite characters, and she enjoyed her special insights into the movie.

"Watching a film is like seeing all your memories from the past year," she says. "Everything about it feels so special. It's cool when people can love their job." ●

The radio, television and film alumna was part of the team that brought stunning visual effects to the screen for the Oscar-nominated *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.



Michael Clements

Kim Wasson ('09)
San Francisco, Calif.



Most challenging *The Force Awakens* scene:

Our team worked tirelessly to make challenging scenes such as the big planet destruction sequence look real. A group of 20 of us met every morning to

make sure every single detail was moving forward. Watching that sequence makes me so proud of the amazing team we had.

Keeping the top-secret plot secret:

We don't know everything that happens — just the parts we're working on. There was never a time during the filming when I wanted to spill the beans. You

feel special knowing what not everyone else knows.

Influence of the media arts program:

Working with other students for different film projects helped me learn to be part of a team. Visual effects is a very team-driven field and requires strong communication skills, patience and collaboration. I loved seeing the other

student films. You really learn a lot about your classmates from watching what they create.

Advice for students:

For those seeking a career in the entertainment industry, take advantage of any opportunity you get!

Visit northtexas.unt.edu/ online to read more Q&A.



Q
|
and
|
A

Experience UNT's Jazz Tradition

A man with a beard, wearing a light blue t-shirt and dark shorts, is playing a double bass. He is looking down at the instrument with a focused expression. The background shows a large crowd of people sitting on the grass at an outdoor festival, with trees and a bright sky. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early evening.

UNT started the first jazz program in the nation and has been developing amazing jazz performers ever since. Experience the newest generation of musicians from UNT, including the Grammy-nominated One O'Clock Lab Band, at the **UNT Showcase Stage.**

Denton Arts & Jazz Festival

Quakertown Park

Friday, April 29, 5-11 p.m.

Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Sunday, May 1, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Visit unt.edu/dentonjazzfest for more information and performance schedules.

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Muse

Check out
upcoming
events

page 21



Jimmy Katz

GRAMMY TIME

Once again, UNT and the world-renowned College of Music were well represented at the Grammys, with alums and faculty earning wins and nominations.



Read more about Pietro's career at northtexan.unt.edu/2016-grammy-winners.

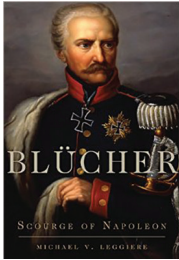
ALUMNI HAD A GOOD NIGHT AT THE 58TH Annual Grammy Awards in February. Saxophonist Dave Pietro ('87), above, of the Maria Schneider Orchestra won Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album. Snarky Puppy won for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. And bassist Marc Johnson played on and co-produced the Best Latin Jazz Album, by his wife, Eliane Elias.

"I love the challenge of playing with top-notch musicians," Pietro says, "and the wonderful sounds that we can make together."

Nominated alumni also included Don Henley, Cameron Beauchamp and Dave Love ('85). And Rich DeRosa, director of jazz composition and arranging studies, was nominated for Best Instrumental Composition for his song "Neil," named for former One O'Clock Lab Band Director Neil Slater, on *Lab 2015*.

Books

Military legend



The subject of the book by Michael Leggiere, professor of history and deputy director

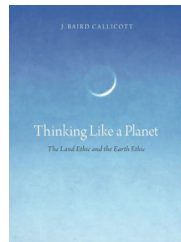
of UNT's Military History Center, is a Prussian general who outwitted a legend.

"I was interested in knowing more about the man who did so much to defeat Napoleon," Leggiere says.

Blücher: Scourge of Napoleon (University of Oklahoma Press) focuses on the military career and personal life of Geb-

hard Leberecht von Blücher. The biography won the 2015 Distinguished Book Award from the Society for Military History, which is considered one of the most prestigious associations of military historians in the world.

Land ethic



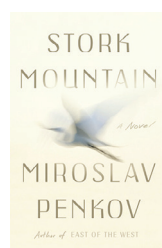
J. Baird Callicott, Distinguished Research Professor of philosophy, tackles a

new philosophy for the environment in his book *Thinking Like a Planet: The Land Ethic and the Earth Ethic* (Oxford University Press). He was inspired by conservationist Aldo

Leopold's 1949 work *A Sand County Almanac* that featured the essay "The Land Ethic," about contemporary environmental ethics.

In *Thinking Like a Planet*, Callicott provides a full philosophical foundation for the land ethic, covering biotic communities, ecosystems and landscapes, and an "Earth ethic" covering the global scale in the age of climate change.

Powerful memory



As a child, Miroslav Penkov saw men and women dancing barefoot across glowing coals

in the Strandja Mountains of

Bulgaria. That image inspired the associate professor of English to write the novel *Stork Mountain* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), in which a young immigrant searching for his grandfather ends up in those same mountains. Penkov wrote the book with the support of UNT's Institute for the Advancement of the Arts.

"The memory never really left me," he says. "I read about the tragic history of this place, about the countless wars, the massive migrations of people forced to abandon their homes. It came to me that the Strandja itself was a fire dancer. That for millennia, she had passed through fire, been reduced to ash and risen again."

Music man

Azim Rashid ('94) has gone from entertainment director of UNT's University Program Council as a student to senior vice president at Capitol Music Group.

Through two decades in the music industry, Rashid has worked for Motown, MCA, Universal and Atlantic and artists Stevie Wonder, Mary J. Blige, Wiz Khalifa, New Edition, Katy Perry, Tyrese and others. And that career took root during his days at UNT.

Rashid grew up in Dallas, where he was a member of the rap group NEMESIS, which recorded several albums in the 1980s and 1990s. After the group split up, he studied radio, television and film at UNT.

He landed an internship at then-100.3 JAMZ. He also was active in fraternity life on campus and was voted the 1994 Homecoming King. In his work with UPC, he helped diversify UNT's entertainment selections and considers his biggest coup bringing rapper KRS-One to campus.

During Rashid's senior year, he earned an internship at Motown Records, where he was able to soak up the culture of various genres and work behind the scenes. He landed a job there after graduation and has worked his way up to his current position as senior vice president of urban promotion at Capitol, which now owns Motown, and handles artists such as Sam Smith. But Rashid can't pinpoint one highlight of his career.

"It just keeps getting better," he says. "I work with the biggest names in music."

He says he remains professional but occasionally — such as when he's in the same room with Jay-Z — he's taken aback.

"Those moments come and I take a deep breath," he says.

Rashid is in a business that has changed significantly since he began back at the advent of the digital age, but he remains devoted to it.

"I think that having witnessed the transition, I have a perspective that a lot of guys wouldn't have," he says. "Music has never really changed as an expression of an art form. The way we consume has changed, but good music is good music."

John Rycard





Kelly Britt Williams

Acting veteran

Libby Villari ('80) has been acting in Texas for 30 years. Now she's ready to take on Hollywood.

Villari, who majored in theatre, has appeared on stage in numerous productions, but her best-known roles include the grandmother in the Oscar-winning movie *Boyhood* and the mayor of Dillan, Texas, in the TV version

of *Friday Night Lights*. And, she appeared in a recent episode of *Grey's Anatomy*. Villari didn't take the stage until she appeared in the UNT production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She was 27 years old and had only seen one play in her life.

"I was hooked after my first rehearsal," she says. "It was thrilling to transform myself into someone else, to collaborate with other students doing the same, to put on a show."

Villari has appeared in more than 30 films, including *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* and *Boys Don't Cry* and worked with directors Clint Eastwood, Robert Rodriguez and Robert Altman.

"I'm ready for the next chapter," she says. "Another series would be lovely. Actors are never done honing their craft so I continue to learn. No plans for retirement!"

Dance and Theatre

Behind the scenes



Ron Castle

Jayme Marrs Castle ('06) may have one of the most important jobs in the theatre — even though she's never seen on stage.

Castle has carved a career as a stage manager for musicals and operas in Austin, Dallas, Nashville, New York City, Los Angeles and Salt Lake City.

She's involved in every aspect of the production, working with actors, designers, the director, technicians and sometimes the musicians.

"I like the organization aspect as well as the control of making it all happen," says Castle, who majored in theatre with an emphasis on stage management.

She credits her teachers for her going in this direction.

"UNT gave me a strong base from which to launch my career and be successful," she says.

Upcoming Events

The UNT Opera and Baroque Orchestra will present *The Coronation of Poppea*, the story of a woman who schemes her way to the top of the Roman Empire, at 8 p.m. April 7-9 and at 3 p.m. April 10. In celebration of UNT's 125th anniversary, the UNT Concert Orchestra will perform *Suite for an Anniversary*, composed by Grammy nominee Richard DeRosa, professor and director of jazz composition/arranging. The concert will be at 8 p.m. April 20, after its premiere April 16 at the Wingspan Gala (see page 39). The Symphony Orchestra will join the 150-voice Grand Chorus in a performance of Haydn's *The Creation* at 8 p.m. April 27. The concerts take place at the Murchison Performing Arts Center. Visit thempac.com for tickets.



The works of Jude Landry and Alex Egner ('03) — an assistant and associate professor, respectively, of communication design in the College of Visual Arts and Design — will be featured in *Jude & Alex: An Exhibition* April 7-May 14 at UNT on the Square. Visit untonthesquare.unt.edu.

The 56th annual **Voertman Student Art Competition**, running April 14-July 23 at the UNT Art Gallery, will feature a plethora of media from students in the College of Visual Arts and Design. The awards ceremony is at 5 p.m. April 14. Learn more at gallery.unt.edu.

The Department of Dance and Theatre will present *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by William Shakespeare at 7:30 p.m. April 21-23, 28-30 and at 2 p.m. April 24 and May 1 at the University Theatre in the Radio, Television, Film and Performing Arts Building. Learn more at danceandtheatre.unt.edu.

The Mary Jo and V. Lane Rawlins Fine Arts Series presents *The Story of Silk*, South Indian classical music from vocalist Sikkil Gurucharan and pianist Anil Srinivasan, at 8 p.m. April 22 at the University Union Lyceum. Visit untuniontickets.com. The 15th annual **Campus Songwriters Competition**, with musicians vying for a spot at the Kerrville Folk Festival, is at 7:30 p.m. April 28 at the University Union Syndicate. Admission is free. Visit studentaffairs.unt.edu/fine-arts-series.



Visit calendar.unt.edu for more upcoming events.



Jeff Wilson

Memorable date

Clara Bensen ('10) turned one unusual date into a book. That adventure was a 21-day trip from Istanbul to London with a man named Jeff she met online. That experience led to an article on Salon.com in 2013 that went viral and was turned into a book called *No Baggage* (Perseus Books). The book, released this year, has been optioned as a possible movie.

"The last few years have been a wild ride," she says. "It's been a crash course in writing and the publishing industry."

Bensen lives in Austin, where she is a freelance writer and is still dating Jeff. Would she encourage others to go on similar dates?

"I'm always a little hesitant to say, 'Yes, you should quit your job and run off into the sunset with some stranger you just met online,' for obvious reasons," she says. "But I do believe that the basic philosophy behind our adventure is something that has the power to inject energy into any relationship. Exploring together, letting yourselves be vulnerable and introducing a little playful chaos is a great way of keeping the dynamic fresh and evolving."

Music

Honest music



Simon Yu

For his album *Lamar*, guitarist Brad Allen Williams ('03) wanted an honest capture of a musical moment — three musicians playing together in one room in half a day without rehearsal. *Lamar* received praise

from *The New York Times* and other reviewers. Besides session and songwriting/arranging work, he produces and mixes records primarily at The Bunker Studio in Brooklyn.

He said his time at UNT, where he studied jazz guitar performance, helped create a network and taught him all aspects of performance, from copying charts to conducting. "There was a basic sense of personal responsibility and professionalism that was instilled by the staff across the board," he says. "That has paid major dividends."

Winning violinist



As a young girl, Seula Lee ('13) became entranced when she heard her mother play the piano. Now Lee, second from left, is enchanting audiences when she plays the violin. She is a member of the Zorá String Quartet, which received first prize in the 2015 Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York and the coveted grand prize and gold medal in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition at Notre Dame.

The group plans to continue to participate in competitions and to mentor young artists. Lee says the key to their success is being encouraging and positive.

"All four of us are different and unique, which is very special to us, and we try to bring the best to the melting pot," says Lee, an assistant instructor of violin at Indiana University.

Rock star with a flute



Jonathan Moesman

When doctoral student Rachel Woolf first picked up a flute, she simply wanted to

get out of a junior high school physical education class. But she has mastered the instrument. She was named a semifinalist in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, has performed for the Dalai Lama and just came off a tour with choral rock band Polyphonic Spree.

Faculty members worked around her schedule, allowing her to Skype with a class and write a paper about the touring experience, which she describes as unique and exciting.

"It's funny, in high school, I was voted 'Most Likely to Be a Rock Star,'" Woolf says. "Now that dream has come true."

Television and Film

Courting fame



Rowan Daly

Brandi Maxiell ('07) was an active student at UNT, whether as a member of the track team or as a business major. She's just as active today as the owner of Midway Salon Suites in Carrollton and as a cast member of the popular VH1 reality show *Basketball Wives LA*.

"Being on the show has been a wild experience," says Maxiell, who is married to forward Jason Maxiell.

"I'm used to the spotlight being on my husband and not me. But that has all changed. I'm happy that the response

I get from others is positive, and listening to people tell me how they love how I handle myself makes me smile.”

Visual Arts

Comic relief



Megan McKay is just finishing up a degree in journalism with a concentration in advertising and a minor in art

history, but she's already gained praise for her work as a cartoonist. Her blog, Doodle for Food, got the attention of the website The Daily Dot, which featured her as an artist-in-residence for a week last spring. Her work also has been featured in CollegeHumor and LINE Webtoon.

Her cartoons, which depict the messy life of a college student, began when she started drawing goofy comics to relieve stress.

“People seemed to really relate to those comics, so I kept making more and more,” she says. “I enjoy making people

laugh, and I think comics are the easiest way to convey my humor. Plus, the community of webcomic creators is amazing, and I love being a part of that.”

Art historian



Sarah Dwider ('15 M.A.) is using her studies in art history at one of the most well-known museums in the world — the Guggenheim Museum.

As curatorial assistant, she will help build a collection for the Guggenheim's new building in Abu Dhabi. She conducts research on potential acquisitions for the museum's collection, assists in developing exhibitions and does other general curatorial work.

“Working at the Guggenheim is an absolute joy,” she says.

“It's a very enriching environment to work in, and I'm continuously learning and reevaluating my understanding of art history as I work.” ●

Exploring America

David Hares ('86) is used to planning and making lists after working as a business analyst for 27 years. But when it came to photographing U.S. national parks, he took a less structured path.

“I decided to approach this with the mantra, ‘Have a direction, but not a destination,’” he says. “It allowed me to enjoy the journey by being open to whatever pops up along the way.”

The result is *Exploring America: A Photographic Journey*, a traveling museum exhibit containing 85 photos that cover 40,000 miles and 45 national parks. It was on display at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History and will continue on to museums across the nation this year. A book by the same title, published by rabbitpress.org, accompanies the exhibit and contains the majority of the work on display and a few additional photos.

Hares always has loved national parks. As a child, he visited the parks during summer vacations with his family and, after graduating from North Texas, delayed his first job for six weeks to take an 8,000-mile trip out West, camera and journal in hand. In 2011, he took a buyout from his job so he could set up his own photography business and made the goal to publish a book about the parks.



David Hares

He says he learned patience in gathering content for the book — especially when he spent 100 days observing multiple bald eagles at the San Juan Islands National Monument in Washington. He was able to catch one moment when a male eagle decided to steal food from an immature female eagle.

“She put her talon on his head and flipped him on his back,” he says. “After a look of surprise, he flew away.”

Hares adds that capturing such moments is a challenge.

“You learn to be patient and wait. This image is one of thousands and the result of many hours of sitting, watching, adjusting settings and waiting.”



David Hares

At left, Eagle Pair, which Hares photographed at San Juan Islands National Monument in Washington



CAREERS WITH A CAUSE

by JESSICA DeLEÓN

Alumni in nonprofit organizations help make a difference in the lives of others.



Amy George ('95), senior vice president of giving, marketing and communications with MADD



Amy George ('95) learned some troubling news from one of the victim volunteers she works with at Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The woman's father was killed in a car crash caused by a drunk driver, and the offender had just been released from prison after completing a five-year sentence. George, who says the families of victims are faced with "a life sentence without their loved one," sent the volunteer a supportive text to let her know she was thinking of her.

George received a reply: "You have no idea how much that means to me."

She lives for such opportunities, even the smallest compassionate gestures, to positively impact people's lives. As one of the top spokespeople at MADD, George hones communication skills that she learned as a radio, television and film major at UNT. She is one of many alumni serving social causes they are passionate about in high-ranking positions in the nonprofit industry, one of the largest employers in the U.S.

Many of them got their first taste of service on campus as student leaders and volunteers. UNT fosters the concept of giving back through service learning projects and community engagement opportunities such as Alternative Spring Break and The Big Event, a day of service sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Service each spring.

A new program, UNT Career Connect, will help to ensure that students' opportunities out of the classroom include volunteer work and service learning courses, as well as internships, classroom research and projects, study abroad,

student employment and co-curricular activities related to their course of study.

UNT's College of Public Affairs and Community Service offers many degrees and programs, including nonprofit studies, that are designed to put students in careers that help others. And graduates across disciplines have pursued community service through different majors and found mentors who have encouraged them to work for the greater good.

Nonprofit work is tough but satisfying, George says.

"You have to look for people and moments that inspire you."

Raising awareness

As a senior vice president of giving, marketing and communications with MADD, George is passionate about her work. She talks to a wide range of people — from individuals affected by drunk and drugged driving to executives whose organizations can help raise awareness.

"It's heart wrenching to hear victims' stories that are absolutely preventable," she says. "That motivates me to work harder."

George's path to MADD began at UNT. She followed in the footsteps of her parents, Sandra and Kennard ('75), who played in the One O'Clock Lab Band. She came to study film, but now-retired associate professor Sam Sauls told her she was too impatient for that field.



Lynn Davis ('89 M.S.),
CEO at Dallas Children's
Advocacy Center

He suggested she try TV. She fell in love with it and worked for UNT's student-run television station NTTV and as an anchor for Denton's community access channel.

"It was an organic transition," George says. "Each step led me to where I am today."

After graduation, she worked at TV news stations, before moving to crisis communications at The LeMaster Group, where one of her clients was MADD. She then worked full-time for MADD for five years and, after a stint with Cooper Aerobics, returned to the organization two years ago.

As part of her advocacy role, she secured the app-based ride-sharing company Uber to serve as a national sponsor for MADD, which created the designated driver concept in 1986.

"I work to help prevent an innocent family from becoming a victim of a 100-percent preventable crime," she says. "Every time I speak for MADD, I honor a victim."

Advocating for children

Like the work at MADD, advocating for children who have suffered abuse and witnessed violent crimes can be intense. But alumni in the North Texas region such as Dan Leal ('95), the executive director at Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County, are providing justice and healing through interagency collaboration and community education.

And Lynn Davis ('89 M.S.), CEO at the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, has made the organization one of the most effective nonprofit agencies in Dallas by coordinating the investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse. He's also seen lives transformed. During Davis' tenure, the center doubled the number of clients and staff and built a new building. It also

hosts the Crimes Against Children Conference, which brings in nearly 4,000 people. The Center for Nonprofit Management Connect named Davis CEO of the Year in 2013 and recognized the center as Nonprofit of the Year in 2010.

Davis always has been involved in community service, inspired by his mother who worked as a volunteer after she survived cancer. He was working as a drug and alcohol abuse counselor when he attended UNT to get his master's in health education from the College of Education. A comment by Chwee-Lye Chng, Regents Professor of kinesiology, health promotion and recreation, stuck with him.

"He said, 'So many things in our lives are dependent on our health,'" Davis recalls, and says that gave him a broader view of health and administration.

It also inspired him to pursue leadership positions for nonprofits. He served as CEO for Dallas Challenge, an organization focused on improving youth's lives, for 16 years before moving to the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center in 2005.

At the center, he is responsible for the overall organization, including fundraising and hiring, often recruiting alumni and providing student internships. He makes sure staffers remain motivated and have helpful resources such as an exercise room, a quiet room and a debriefer to talk with them.

One evening about eight years ago, Davis was walking out of the building when he saw a boy sitting with a caseworker in the hallway. He couldn't help but notice that the boy was full of life.

"You know who this is?" the therapist asked Davis. She said it was the same boy who came in eight weeks earlier after his mother threw him off a bridge.

"The remarkable work we do to help children cope with their difficult situations and survive affirms why I am here," Davis says.

Helping take the next step

Sarah Nejdil ('00) was burned out from her corporate job and began looking for volunteer work. While she was touring a women's shelter, a worker told her that they only had 26 beds and often turned people down if there wasn't enough room.

Nejdil realized that other shelters may have vacant spaces — and she could transport clients there.

"I thought, 'This is where I need to be,'" she says. "Nobody else is doing this. If I don't step it up and do it, people are going to be trapped in bad relationships."

Last September she founded Families to Freedom, a nonprofit organization that drives and flies women fleeing from abusive situations to shelters or to family members who can house them.

To build the organization, Nejdil drew on the communications skills she learned at UNT, where she earned an applied arts and sciences degree with a focus in English.

"My education has helped me in every single job and every single relationship I've had," she says.

She and her husband have started several small businesses and both hold pilot's licenses.

Nejdil planned Families to Freedom for about a year before the first flight took off. The organization works with four Dallas agencies who refer clients that could use the nonprofit's services.

In six months, they have transported about 20 women. In one case, one client needed to go to another state but had an injury.

The flight was quicker and less painful for her than a long car ride. In another case, Nejdil flew a client to safety who feared her husband had hired a hitman to kill her.

"We got her from a place of fear to a place where she is thriving," she says.

Experiences like these have sparked Nejdil to continue her work helping others.

"It has been the fuel under my feet," she says.

Building social enterprises

As a student attending UNT's Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science, Suzanne Smith ('94 TAMS) felt like she had found her place.

"I was around people who were a lot like me — people who were into mathematics, were creative problem solvers and wanted to make a difference in the world," she says.

Now Smith has turned those attributes into her life's mission. She is founder and managing director of Social Impact Architects, a Dallas-based firm that helps nonprofit organizations build strategies to reach their goals.

After graduating from TAMS, Smith earned a government degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She worked as planning director for Phoenix House, a substance abuse agency, and as a national advocate for the American Heart Association. But she saw a consulting need that wasn't being filled in the nonprofit sector and decided to get her M.B.A. at Duke.

"When I was in the nonprofit field, there weren't any consulting groups that knew what we needed," she says. "I thought, 'What if I start a firm that understands the nonprofit industry, including all the demands for staff, resources and

You have to look for people and moments that inspire you.

— Amy George ('95)



Sarah Nejdil ('00), founder of Families to Freedom

“ I feel like it’s my responsibility to contribute in the most positive way. — Sherasa Thomas (’11 M.P.A.) ”

fundraising, and provides high-quality strategy plans?’ That’s what I set out to do.”

After graduating in 2008, she founded Social Impact Architects, working with organizations across the nation to help them develop plans, collaborations and metrics to build a stronger social sector. She’s currently working with After the Bell Alliance, a group that wants to increase the number of young people in quality after-school programs in Dallas.

Smith, who also works as an adjunct professor teaching social entrepreneurship in the College of Business at UNT, enjoys making keynote speeches at conferences. She was even invited to give a TedX talk, “Everybody Can be a Changemaker.”

She says goals in the nonprofit sector can be hard to quantify compared to the private sector, where the focus is on making a specific profit.

“People think working for a nonprofit is easy. It’s a lot harder,” she says. “What is ‘making a difference’? It’s a lot more complicated, so I find it a lot more challenging.”

Fostering mentorships

When a family tells Sherasa Thomas (’11 M.P.A.) they’re unsure their children can go to college, she responds by telling them how it’s possible.

“Spending an hour with families to show them the ropes, it’s euphoric for me,” says Thomas, director of educational initiatives for Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star in Irving. “There are lots of daily victories.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters is an organization that helps to match adults with youth for mentoring. In her position, Thomas expanded the focus of their time together from participating in enriching activities to also include discussions about education.

Service always has been part of her life. Thomas has been active in church and student organizations since she was a child. In her first career, as an elementary and middle school teacher, she started mentoring programs and discovered how nonprofits can improve people’s lives.



Suzanne Smith (’94 TAMS), founder and director of Social Impact Architects



Sherasa Thomas ('11 M.P.A.), director of educational initiatives for Big Brothers Big Sisters

She honed her leadership skills and knowledge through the nonprofit management concentration in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service. For one project, Thomas detailed how she would start her own nonprofit. But Lisa Dicke, professor of public administration, reminded her that she didn't have to start from scratch. She could work with other nonprofits.

Another inspiring faculty member, Abraham Benavides, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Public Administration, gave Thomas an understanding of how nonprofits and governments work together.

"He explained the importance of providing services that are fair and equal and that manpower, media and partnerships are vital to achieving results," she says.

After earning her master's degree, Thomas landed her job at Big Brothers Big Sisters. In addition to designing educational programs for the organization, she serves as a spokeswoman across Texas.

Thomas' commitment to helping improve the lives of others runs deep. In celebration of her recent 40th birthday, she commissioned a tattoo inspired by a quote by Muhammad Ali that she learned as a student in Delta Sigma Theta: "Service to others is the rent we pay for a room here on earth."

The tattoo on her inner wrist reflects her life's mission. It says, "A Servant's Heart."

"When it comes to my community," she says, "I feel like it's my responsibility to contribute in the most positive way." ●

Photography by Ahna Hubnik

Get involved

Making a difference can take just a few hours a week.

Interested people who want to volunteer in their free time can find plenty of opportunities, says Lisa Dicke, professor in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service and coordinator for the Master of Public Administration program.

"If you care about kids, you can read to kids after school," she says. "If you care about animals, you can get the word out about spay and neuter programs or clean out kennels."

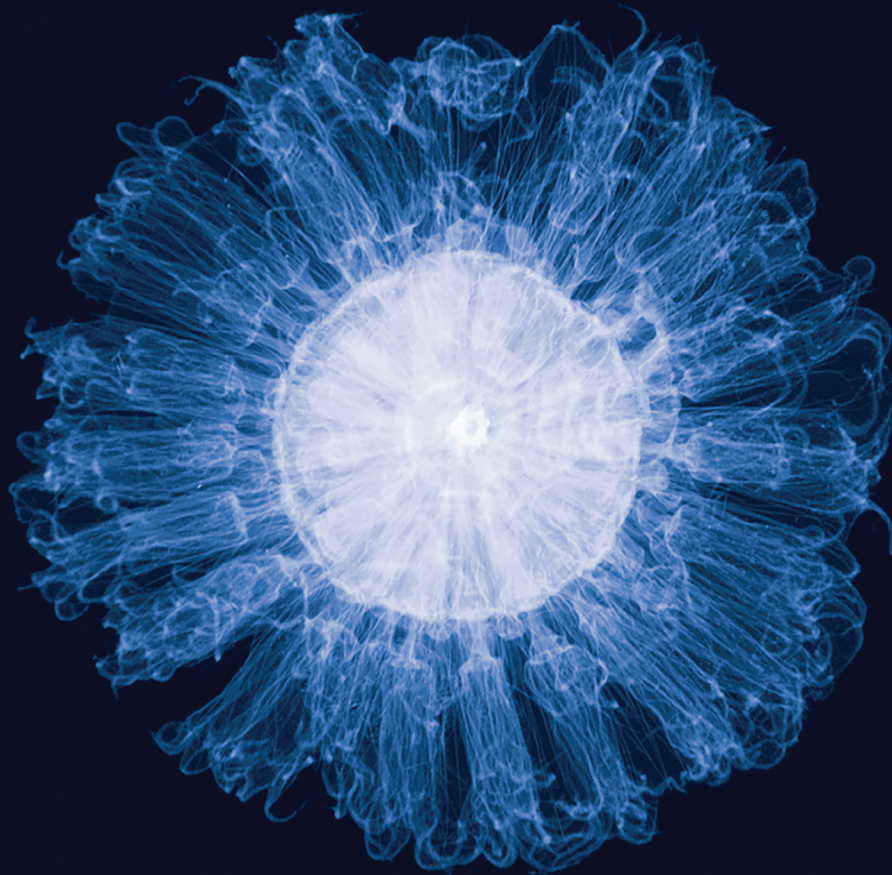
She offers the following tips:

- Match your interests. Visit the website of your local United Way, area nonprofit organizations or municipal government and find the tab that says "how to volunteer" or "how to get involved." The website volunteermatch.org also can point people to organizations that match their interests.
- The organizations AmeriCorps and SeniorCorps offer long-term opportunities for young people and those 55 years and older, respectively.
- Check with your employer. Many businesses will have community engagement activities in which employees can get involved.
- Create new relationships. Volunteering can lead people to new friendships and leadership skills, as well as supporting their favorite cause.
- Become a UNT alumni mentor. Learn how to volunteer one hour a week by mentoring a child at a Denton County school through Mentor Denton at mentordenton.org. You also can participate as a presenter, panelist or mentor in UNT student programs (for example, industry-specific networking events, career days, skill development workshops, company presentations, etc.). Call 940-565-2105 or email the Career Center at careercenter@unt.edu.



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Visit northtexan.unt.edu/online to learn how alum Jaron Benjamin is lobbying for the homeless and those with HIV/AIDS as vice president of community mobilization and national advocacy for Housing Works in New York City.



Gaillardia by Dornith Doherty

Art and Innovation

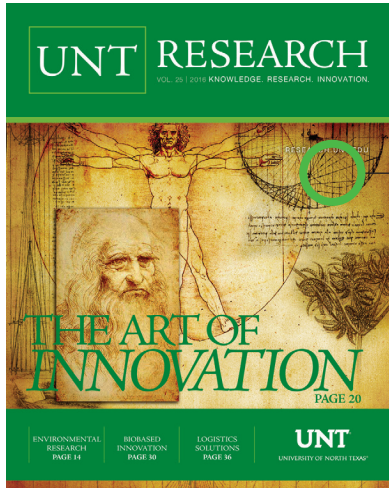
Through collaborations and creativity, UNT advances interdisciplinary research and industry partnerships.

Leonardo da Vinci — artist, engineer, inventor — embodied the convergence of art and science, which ultimately leads to a greater understanding of the world. Today, that same concept is very much alive across UNT's campus as evidenced in the launching of collaborative Institutes of Research Excellence, the investment in arts technology programming, and UNT's leadership in the STEM to STEAM movement. As a hub of creativity and innovation in all forms, UNT is championing the art-meets-science approach to further understanding and discovery.

"The da Vinci model is not about left brain vs. right brain or art vs. science. It's about engaging the whole brain and all of the tools of exploration and discovery," says Tom McCoy, vice president for research and economic development. "That's what we're doing at UNT — breaking down the barriers of linear thinking and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations to push innovation."



Read more about UNT's research at research.unt.edu.



COLLABORATIONS FOR DISCOVERY

Collaboration among artists and scientists, among academics and businesses and among students and faculty members are leading to innovative discoveries in biology, environmental science, materials and logistics, both at home and abroad. Learn more in the 2016 *UNT Research* magazine at research.unt.edu.

THE INNOVATION ECONOMY

“Economic success depends on a firm’s ability to continually reinvent itself through a steady process of innovation,” writes Michael C. Carroll, the university’s economist.

As director for UNT’s new Economics Research Group, Carroll explores “The Innovation Economy.” You can read his first commentary in the latest issue of the magazine where he explains how knowledge, culture and collaboration influence innovation, and how those factors lead to the strength or weakness of the economy.



Angilee Wilkerson

COMMERCIALIZATION AND LICENSING

As UNT researchers make ground-breaking discoveries and inventions, Michael Rondelli works to help them ready their innovations for the marketplace. As UNT’s new associate vice president for economic development, Rondelli is leading the university’s commercialization and licensing efforts. “Michael will contribute substantially to UNT’s ability to positively impact the region, and beyond,” McCoy says.



Angilee Wilkerson

Don Millican ('74)



Accounting alumni use strategic and problem-solving skills to guide their work as executives in national public accounting firms, Fortune 500 companies and government agencies.

Language of Business

by MONIQUE BIRD

As the son of a certified public accountant, Don Millican ('74) always knew he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps.

"Everyone else wanted to be a baseball player or fireman, and I wanted to be a CPA," Millican says, recalling that he didn't even know what those three letters meant then or what it would mean for his future.

In high school, he was courted by many universities because of his abilities on the track field, but he was swayed to UNT because of its highly regarded accounting program and distinguished instructors known nationwide.

"There were so many greats — Paden Neeley, Horace Brock, Paul Breckenridge, Donald Jones, Ben Copeland — the perspective they were able to give students was amazing," says Millican. "Not only were they research-oriented faculty, but they gave great value to teaching."


After earning his degree, Millican passed his CPA exam. And today, he is the chief financial officer for Kaiser-Francis Oil Co. in Tulsa. He spent 29 years in public accounting, first with Price Waterhouse and then with Ernst & Young, where he was the Oklahoma office managing partner, helping clients ranging from Walmart to ExxonMobil. Following his 2003 retirement, he was approached by George Kaiser, owner of the oil and gas exploration company, with a career opportunity incorporating his tax and audit expertise and his financial reporting background.

"There are so many different possibilities with an accounting degree, and it's a tremendous resource to help you move into other careers," says Millican, who is in charge of negotiating acquisitions, managing financial transactions, overseeing tax planning, financial reporting and creating debt structures to help grow the company. "My education gave me a platform to really do something different and transform my life."

Legacy of leaders

Since the 1940s, UNT's program has prepared students for careers in tax accounting, auditing, accounting information systems and the legal profession. Today, with the world's globally linked economies, new challenges such as the analysis of big data and cybersecurity threats are making the processing and communicating of financial information more important than ever. And established alumni and new grads are making their mark with positions in top public accounting firms, consulting groups and Fortune 500 companies. They are top-level executives, rising stars and business owners adapting to the changing roles of accounting and helping to reshape the landscape.

Outstanding accounting alumni include members of the UNT System Board of Regents. Chair

A portrait of Melisa A. Denis, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blazer and a blue patterned scarf. She is smiling and has her hands clasped in front of her. The background is a blurred cityscape.

Melisa A. Denis
'86, '86 M.S.)

Michael Clements

A portrait of Randy Robason, a man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. He is standing in an office with large windows in the background showing a city skyline.

Randy Robason

Michael Clements

G. Brint Ryan ('88, '88 M.S.) is the CEO of Dallas-based Ryan LLC, the leading tax services firm in North America. And Laura Wright ('82, '82 M.S.) is a consultant with GSB Advisory LLC after serving the last eight years of a 25-year career as Southwest Airlines' CFO and senior vice president of finance. She and Ryan are active with prominent tax and accounting committees, including UNT boards.

"Many of our graduates are making big impacts in the financial world, but what is really unique is their commitment to our programs and our students," says Marilyn Wiley, dean of the UNT College of Business. "They believe in us, and alums are helping recruit UNT students for internship and employment opportunities."

Changemaker

Melisa A. Denis ('86, '86 M.S.) is one of those alumni. A senior partner with KPMG, a worldwide powerhouse of professional audit, advisory and tax services, Denis leads the company's national tax initiatives in the food, drinks and consumer goods sector.

Named a "Top 25 Changemaker" by the *Dallas Business Journal*, Denis has nearly three decades of experience in international tax accounting that goes well beyond business. She helped start KPMG's Network of Women, which helped recruit and retain more than 600 women in its Dallas location, and she is helping to craft the company's diversity plan through its Women's Advisory Board.

"I use my career as a platform," says Denis, who received UNT's Outstanding Service Award in 2014 for her exceptional volunteer service to the university. "I help empower women to be the CEOs of their own careers, and accounting is a great place to do that."

Her involvement at UNT includes service on the College of Business' advisory board. Most recently, she spoke to students about leadership as part of the college's Distinguished Speaker Series. For Denis, connecting with UNT is important because of her own student experiences.

"My graduate admission scores were not what they needed to be, but Dr. (Hershel) Anderson looked me in the eyes and said he would help me navigate through the process," says Denis, who was accepted on a provisional basis. "He took a chance on me, and that's a huge part of my success."

She went on to complete dual bachelor's and master's degrees from the university.

"I have a responsibility and an obligation to pay it forward," says Denis.

Core values

Randy Robason, a national managing partner of Grant Thornton's tax services practice, attended the Laboratory School, the model training school on campus, for 10 years and completed two years at the university. His father, G.A. "Jack" Robason, served on the accounting faculty and later as vice president of fiscal affairs.

"My experiences as a kid growing up on campus were unique, and the core elements

of the university — connectivity and concern — are always there," he says.

After completing his accounting degree at the University of Texas in Austin, where he worked as a top assistant to the dean of the Texas House of Representatives, Robason earned his master's and law degree at Texas Tech. Working with Arthur Andersen for 25 years, he moved up the ranks and now has more than 38 years' experience in financial and tax consulting for clients ranging from Fortune 100 companies to the Carolina Panthers.

He has been quoted in publications such as *The New York Times* and *American Banker* magazine, and he often appears on radio and television and writes for industry journals. In Robason's current role, he is in charge of growth and strategy on a global scale for a \$450 million business.

"Accounting is changing at an unbelievable pace. The global economy along with big data and data mining are having a major impact on this profession," he says, adding that the scope of his travels — six continents last year alone — would have been unprecedented when his career began.

Like Denis, Robason has remained active with the university, endowing a scholarship in his dad's name and serving on the boards of the Professional Development Institute and the UNT Foundation.

"The value systems of my UNT professors have kicked in throughout my career," he says. "The students were important to faculty and they helped shepherd us to success."



Krystle Pond
(’13, ’13 M.S.)

Michael Clements

Preparation for the future

Like Ryan, Wright and Denis, Krystle Pond (’13, ’13 M.S.), an internal auditor for Southwest Airlines, completed UNT’s five-year dual bachelor’s and master’s degree in accounting program.

The accounting department launched an Integrated Master of Accounting Professional Program in 2014. The program not only allows students to complete two degrees in five years, it also connects them to internships, career opportunities and workshops that give UNT grads the edge.

“An undergraduate degree is extremely valuable, but the master’s program really teaches you how to think like an auditor. It gives students the opportunity to develop and apply their teamwork skills, which are essential in today’s business environment,” says Pond, named one of *Internal Auditor* magazine’s 2015 emerging leaders.

As a student, Pond worked as an auditor for the Denton-based nonprofit Interfaith Ministries as part of a class project, joined the Beta Alpha Psi accounting honor society and completed four internships. The experiences helped ready her for work as a hybrid internal auditor providing assurance and consulting activities for Southwest Airlines in areas such as finance and technology.

“We are not in the same world we once were,” she says. “It is vital to have a secure environment from a financial and IT perspective, and UNT helped prepare me for my role in assessing and analyzing organizational risk and controls.” ●

UNT’S INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM ACCOUNTING

The U.S. is the No. 1 oil producer in the world, with Texas leading the way. The oil industry is known for its boom-and-bust cycles, and the economic implications for business and government alike can be serious. At UNT, the Institute of Petroleum Accounting helps to solve the latest challenges in the oil and gas sector, such as global fluctuations in oil prices and cybersecurity threats from hackers. The institute, created in 1980, also helps address questions on how to increase gender diversity in the industry and how to financially manage the risks that come as companies explore merger options as a survival mechanism.

Under the direction of accounting expert Harvey Zimmerman (’70, ’72 M.B.A.), the institute publishes the *Petroleum Accounting and Financial Management Journal* three times a year and helps facilitate conversations between industry leaders and academic experts in petroleum accounting — connecting academic research with working professionals.

“Today’s petroleum industry is complex and requires specialized financial expertise to be able to meet its needs,” says Zimmermann, a senior lecturer at UNT. “Over the past three-and-a-half decades, the institute has evolved and expanded to offer thought leadership in a way that blends academic insight with the critical financial, economic and tax issues facing the field.”



Read how alumnus William Tillman (’15, ’15 M.S.) used his experiences at UNT to launch a career with PwC, ranked No. 1 among the “big four” audit firms in the world at northtexas.unt.edu/online.



Nest

Celebrate UNT at Wingspan events
page 39



Anna Hubnik

BOOKS FOR BABIES

New mothers at Parkland Hospital learn about the importance of reading to their children.



Read more about Park and Africawala and the joint literacy project at northtexas.unt.edu/books-babies.

SOME MOTHERS DON'T REALIZE HOW helpful reading to their children can be to their development. Kate Park ('02), executive director of the Friends of the Dallas Public Library, and Jasmine Africawala ('10 M.S.), adult services administrator at the Dallas Public Library, are working to change that. They helped customize a bilingual children's book to encourage mothers to read to their children and to visit the library. The book is given to every mother who gives birth at Parkland Hospital. Park, who majored in English, and Africawala, who studied library science, say they were heavily influenced by their time on campus.

"UNT values creativity, collaboration and a strong work ethic," says Park. "This project reflects all of those characteristics."

CONNECTING WITH Friends

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



Read more, share comments and connect with friends at northtexan.unt.edu.



Charles Liddell ('57), granddaughter Stephanie Edwards ('15) and daughter Lisa Liddell ('83) show off their North Texas rings. Charles' second book on philosophy was released in December. ★ Stephanie began her teaching career in the fall in the Plano ISD, and Lisa is a counselor in the Birdville ISD.

1950



Fred Bruce and Mae McRae Bruce, Hilltop Lakes :: cele-

brated their 65th wedding anniversary in December. They were married at Polytechnic Methodist Church in Fort Worth. Fred worked as a Tenneco draftsman and retired in 1986. Mae is retired from Bryan ISD as an administrative secretary. Fred has been active in Lions Club, and Mae is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

1952

James M. Hilz, Palm Desert, Calif. :: has published his third children's book, *Jack and the Gang Search for a Pot of Gold* (AuthorHouse). He also has published three novels. He is a retired surgeon.

1968

Ann Trugman Ackerman ('69 M.A., '84 Ph.D.), Nashua, N.H. :: was elected president of the New Hampshire Fulbright Alumni Chapter. She has served as a teacher and administrator at high schools and universities in multiple states and is now an adjunct professor of humanities and history at Nashua Community College in New Hampshire and a visiting associate professor of education at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts.

1969

★ Frank A. Camp III ('71 M.S.), Plano :: retired in November as director of the Office of Environmental Quality for the city of Dallas, where he has worked since 2004. He managed the Environmental Management System group for seven years and was director of OEQ for four years. At North Texas, he studied under J.K.G. Silvey, Distinguished Professor and

chair of biology, who led him to a grant to conduct water pollution research as he worked on his master's. He also was a Talon and once even wore the mascot costume at one of the games.

1970



★ Pat Ledbetter (M.A., '75 Ph.D.), Gainesville :: was named a

2015 Piper Professor by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation, which honors Texas professors for academic excellence and commitment to teaching. She has been teaching at North Central Texas College for more than 30 years. She also serves on the UNT History Advisory Board and on the planning committees for UNT's Teaching History and Equity and Diversity conferences.

David Schweig and son ★ Brad Schweig ('03), Dallas :: run Sunnyland Patio Furniture, which was a 2015 recipient of the Small Business Award for Corporate Social Responsibility from the Governor's Small Business Forum. The award is presented by the Texas governor's office to a company that has demonstrated a positive impact on the community. David is the president of Sunnyland, and Brad is the vice president of operations.



Scientist and congressional fellow

David K. Visi ('10, '15 Ph.D.) is advancing the study of science and microbiology through an unusual petri dish — the U.S. Congress. Visi earned three degrees from UNT — bachelor's degrees in philosophy and biology and a Ph.D. in molecular biology and microbiology — but instead of moving into a traditional science career, he's working as the 2015-16 Congressional Science Fellow sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology and American Association for the Advancement of Science. He advises Rep. Louise M. Slaughter of New York on matters of science and technology.

"I focus on areas Rep. Slaughter is particularly interested in, health care and agriculture," Visi says. "One area where I help guide policy is within the president's Precision Medicine Initiative and the implications it has with her signature bill, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. With my background, I'm in a good position to understand the intricacies and contribute an empirically and scientifically based view to the conversation."

As a student at UNT, Visi worked in the labs of Michael S. Allen on an interdisciplinary project with professors Nandika D'Souza and Brian Ayre. He studied the microbial constituents of kenaf, a fibrous plant that shows a strong potential for use as an environmentally friendly biocomposite. He was selected as the 2015 Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the National Academy of Sciences, where he worked on the Board on Science, Technology and Economic Policy.

His work in Congress gives him the opportunity to offer a helping hand to scientists all over the nation, and he says legislative matters are an area in which all scientists need to become more involved.

"Positions in science policy give an opportunity to graduate students in the sciences to pursue a different route," he says. "You're involved with the science and helping enact real change that will affect everyone. Appropriations and the budget are dry subjects, but these are things universities and researchers have to be aware of. If there's a cut in research funding, that's going to affect researchers and universities."

— *Scott Slemmons*

1972



★ **John** and ★ **Lindy Rydman**, **Houston** :: are the owners of Spec's Wines, Spirits and Finer Foods, one of 10 businesses from across the nation honored in October by the nonprofit Americans for the Arts through its Business Committee for the Arts. Spec's commitment to the arts includes support for UNT's One O'Clock Lab Band and the Houston Symphony.

1973

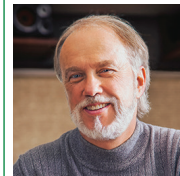
Charles (M.Ed., '86 Ed.D) and **Suzette Carona** ('71, '79 M.S.), **Dallas** :: have retired after a combined 87 years in education. Charles was a teacher and administrator in the Richardson and Highland Park ISDs and Trinity Christian Academy in Addison and was dean of the College of Education at Dallas Baptist University. He teaches part-time at Cornerstone Crossroads Academy and El Centro College. Suzette taught in the Richardson ISD, at Richland College and at Episcopal School of Dallas, where she was named Texas Teacher of the Year and started the humanities and film studies programs. She volunteer teaches at Vickery Meadows West Learning Center.

1975

Cranston Dodds, **Corsicana** :: joined the American Association of Community Theatre staff as member engagement director. He managed the Denton Community Theatre and toured with dinner theatre productions, was a company member of Casa Mañana in Fort Worth and was director of the national touring theatre, Bravo Productions, for 10 years. He is a past president and current board member of Texas Non-profit Theatres.

1976

Phillip McGraw (M.A., '79 Ph.D.), **Los Angeles, Calif.** :: was inducted into the Broadcast & Cable Hall of Fame in October. He is the host of the *Dr. Phil* daytime talk show, which has received 27 Emmy nominations, five Prism Awards and a MADD Media Award. He also has written eight No. 1 *New York Times* best-sellers.



Don Tomlinson (M.J.), **Houston** :: released *Desiderata The Book*

(Tate Publishing), analyzing the poem "Desiderata" by Max Ehrmann through chapter-length treatments of each of its 23 phrases. He has been an attorney, a law professor at Texas A&M University and the University of Houston, a TV and wire service reporter, a TV producer, a fiction author and a professional musician and songwriter.

1977

Barry Davis, Houston :: was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2016. He practices corporate governance law for Thompson & Knight LLP in Houston.

1978

Jacob Flournoy, Little Rock :: was named a recipient of the American Institute of CPAs' Outstanding CPA in Government Impact Award. The honor recognizes CPAs who have contributed significantly to increased efficiency and effectiveness of government organizations and to the growth of the CPA profession. He is the internal audit director for the University of Arkansas System.

1984

Richard Miller (M.Ed.), Uniontown, Pa. :: is the arranger and composer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8543 Band, which played the opening ceremony and concert at the 116th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in July in Pittsburgh. He has conducted and arranged for the band since retiring from public school teaching in 2011. At North Texas, he was the marching band's chief music arranger from 1977 to 1993.

1985

Alice Ann Dailey (M.S.), Uniontown, Pa. :: wrote *Dailey Strengthening: 6 Keys to Balance Core Muscles for Optimal Health*.

She was an elementary music teacher who transitioned into physical fitness, teaching aerobics and then Pilates in her Dallas studio until 2010. As a graduate student, she worked with **Allen Jackson**, Regents Professor of kinesiology, health promotion and recreation, and had a highly cited paper that became her thesis published in *Research Quarterly*.

Kathy Vogel, Fort Worth ::

married Gordon Ray Vogel in August in Fort Worth. Kathy is a teacher at Elmer C. Watson High School and the Alternative Discipline Center in the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD. Her son, **Joshua Barber** ('12), and daughter, Hope, join Gordon's daughter, Kayla, and his son and daughter-in-law, **Kristopher Vogel** ('10) and Alta Vogel.

1987



Matt Michel, (M.B.A.), Flower Mound ::

CEO of Service Nation Inc., was inducted into the Contracting Business Hall of Fame in St. Louis, Mo., in September for a lifetime of work in the heating, ventilating and air conditioning industry. At 55, he is the youngest person to be inducted. In 2002, he founded Service Nation, which operates Service Roundtable, the world's largest private contractor business alliance.



I Heart UNT Day: Hosted by UNT's Student Alumni Association April 11, with opportunities for members of the UNT community to show why they love UNT and how they give back to the university

Lab Band Performances: Music by the jazz lab bands, noon-12:50 p.m. April 14-15, Syndicate, University Union

Scrappy Exhibit and Ice Cream: Historical Scrappy exhibit April 9-18, Art Gallery, University Union; Talons answer questions about mascot history and hand out free Scrappy ice cream 1-4 p.m. April 14

Mayborn Media Mania: Tour the media facilities 4-6 p.m. April 14, first floor of the General Academic Building; snacks and photo booth at the *North Texas Daily*

Thursday Night Music: Works composed by faculty and students, 7-9 p.m. April 14, UNT on the Square

University Day: Flag parade 11 a.m., program 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., including time capsule presentation, April 15, Library Mall

Union Dedication/Ribbon Cutting: 1:30 p.m., April 15, South Lawn off Highland Street

Nobel Prize Lecture: Robert Grubbs, 2005 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, talks about his work in catalysis, 3:30 p.m., April 15, Lyceum, University Union

Wingspan Gala: Green tie formal event, 6:30 p.m., April 16, University Union, includes archive exhibit, premiere of Richard DeRosa's 125th anniversary composition, dinner and dancing. To purchase tickets or reserve tables, visit 125.unt.edu/wingspan-gala.

Talons Alumni Banquet: Event for Talons spirit group alumni and current members, 1-3 p.m., April 17, Small Ballroom 333, University Union, with a silent auction, lunch and remarks. For more information, go to untalumni.com/talonsreunion2016, email alumni@unt.edu or call 940-565-2834.

For more information, go to
125.unt.edu/events

John Gentry Tennyson, New York, N.Y. :: played keyboard in the orchestra for the musical, *Breaking Through*, about a young singer/songwriter trying to navigate the music business. It premiered last fall at The Pasadena Playhouse in Pasadena, Calif.

1989



Chris T. McAllister

(Ph.D.), Broken Bow, Okla. :: was

awarded tenure and professor status at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Idabel, Okla. He is involved in biological research on fish, amphibian and reptile parasites, including descriptions of

new species, and has published more than 400 articles in various scientific journals. His oldest son, **★ James T. McAllister III** ('14 M.S.), is an instruction librarian at UT Dallas.

1992

Robert P. Stephens, Blacksburg, Va. :: received the 2015 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award from Virginia Tech, where he is an associate professor of history and associate dean for undergraduate academic affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. He has won several teaching accolades and is the founding principal of the Honors Residential College.

1994

Leslie Stanley-Stevens

(Ph.D.), Stephenville :: professor of sociology at Tarleton State University, was selected as a 2014-15 Regents Professor. She joined the faculty in 1995 as assistant professor and has written and had scholarly articles appear in more than two dozen publications, including a book, *What They Didn't Know When They Were Expecting: And How They Became Better Parents* (2012). Her honors include the 2012 A&M System Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 2005 Tarleton Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award.



Jennifer Teisinger, Vail, Colo. ::

is the new executive

director of the Bravo! Vail Music Festival. She previously worked for the Sun Valley Summer Symphony, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony and the San Jose Symphony.

1995

Casey Thomas II, Dallas :: was elected to the Dallas City Council District 3, where his constituents are in southern Dallas. Mayor Mike Rawlings also appointed him to the Grow South Advisory Council. During



Dominick Reuter

Making the brain better

When Edward Boyden ('95 TAMS) enrolled in UNT's Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science in 1993, he asked big questions: How can we better understand the human condition? How do we explain the nature of existence? A 14-year-old Boyden began working in a UNT chemistry lab, where he would mix various chemicals to see if he could create from scratch the molecules that make up DNA. Along with his math and science courses, he also studied philosophy and literature.

The skills he developed in those courses, including critical thinking and argument formation, have helped him explore answers to his big questions. His research has earned him a 2016 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, among the top awards scientists can receive.

Today, Boyden is an associate professor of media arts and sciences at MIT, and he also leads the MIT Media Lab's synthetic neurobiology research group. He co-invented optogenetics, now used by thousands of researchers around the world. The tools use light to control brain cells.

"In all sorts of single-celled organisms there are molecules that convert light into electric signals, almost like little solar panels," Boyden says.

"We placed the genes that encode those molecules into neurons, since neurons compute using electricity. This allows us to switch those neurons on or off using light signals."

He says this could one day allow scientists to turn off cells that trigger epileptic seizures or turn on cells that lessen the effects of Alzheimer's disease. "We can make the brain better," he says.

Boyden has received the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award, the Society for Neuroscience Young Investigator Award and the Carnegie Prize in Mind and Brain Sciences, among many other honors.

UNT's Homecoming weekend, he was elected president of UNT's Black Alumni Network. At UNT, he was a part of the Zeta Upsilon fraternity.

1996

Jason Hicks ('96 M.B.A.), Meredith, N.H. :: was promoted to chief financial officer of New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp. He will continue leading the management of investment portfolios and treasury functions of Merrimack County Savings Bank and Meredith Village Savings Bank, which he joined in 2009 as vice president of finance and controller after an extensive career in public accounting and banking.

1997

George Fowler ('98 M.S.), Norfolk, Va. :: is serving a three-year term as university librarian at Old Dominion University. He has been working for Old Dominion since 2011, holding positions as associate university librarian for information resources and technology and interim librarian. He previously worked for the University of Arkansas as the head of library systems development and Temple University as systems librarian.

★ **Craig Woodcook** ('01 M.S.), Keller :: was named general counsel, secretary and vice president of legal affairs for Ben E. Keith Co. He joined the company in 1997, working in a variety of roles from warehouseman to financial analyst. In 2010, he was promoted to assistant general

counsel. He also serves on the State Fair of Texas board of directors and was named to the "Forty Under Forty" list and a "Top Attorney – Corporate Counsel" by the *Fort Worth Business Press*.

1998

Chrissy Daly, Dallas :: published her first novel, *The Academy*, the first book in a planned series about a super-secret government organization that is after "gifted" civilians. A trio of kids living in New Mexico is chased in the first book.

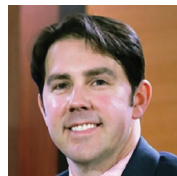
David Das, Los Angeles, Calif. :: produced a new album by Los Angeles-based band Secret Trees called *Till We Find Ourselves*. It includes influences as diverse as Bon Iver, Tears for Fears, Simon & Garfunkel and the Beach Boys.

Laini Smith Giles, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada :: released her second novel, *The Forgotten Flapper: A Novel of Olive Thomas*. The book is a fictional biography in which the ghost of a silent film actress tells the story of her short life. Laini has worked as a technical writer and moved to Canada with her husband in 2009. Her favorite campus memories include "all the good friends I made during my years, there, both in Maple and Bruce halls. And Hickory and Fry the way it was, all those years ago."

1999

Rachel Crowe, Denton :: was recognized as 2015 Denton

County Employee of the Year. She is the manager of the Geographic Information Systems with the county's technology services and has been there for more than 16 years.

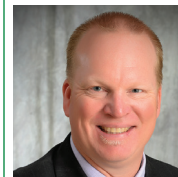


Jeremy Park, Memphis, Tenn. :: vice president of communications at Lipscomb Pitts Insurance, is the author of the books *Giving Back With Purpose* and *Giving for Growth: Achieving Success Through Giving Back*. He also produces and hosts a weekly radio show and a monthly television program, *The SPARK*, and writes a weekly column for *The Commercial Appeal* of Memphis titled "Giving Back."

County Employee of the Year. She is the manager of the Geographic Information Systems with the county's technology services and has been there for more than 16 years.

Russell Willerton, (M.A.) Boise, Idaho :: wrote the book *Plain Language and Ethical Action: A Dialogic Approach to Technical Content in the Twenty-First Century* (Routledge Press), which examines the principles and practices of plain language that technical content producers can apply to meet their audiences' needs in an ethical way. He is an associate professor of technical communication at Boise State University and secretary and past president of the university's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

2000



Robert Harmison (Ph.D.), Harrisonburg, Va. :: was named a fellow of the Association for

a fellow of the Association for

Commemorative book celebrates UNT



A new commemorative book, *Independent, Original and Progressive: Celebrating 125 Years of UNT*, will be available for purchase in mid-April. The book includes expanded content from the 125th anniversary blog created

by the UNT libraries' special collections department and new material, all with photography, clippings and images from archives. A free reception, featuring Brave Combo, celebrates the book launch from 6 to 8 p.m. April 12 in the Forum of Willis Library.

Visit northtexas.unt.edu/125-book for more information and to sign up to be notified by email when the book is available.



Applied Sport Psychology at its annual conference in October in Indianapolis. The international professional organization promotes the development of science and ethical practice in sport psychology. Robert became a certified consultant in 2002. He is the Kibler Professor of sport psychology at James Madison University.

2001

Brenda Kays (Ed.D.), Kilgore :: was named the first woman president of Kilgore College. She previously was president of Stanly Community College in North Carolina, vice president of student learning and success at Guilford Technical Community College in North Carolina and chief academic officer and dean of instructional services at Vernon College in Texas.

Cindy McClanahan, Milledgeville, Ga. :: earned the Certified Auxiliary Services Professional designation from the National Association of College Auxiliary Services. She is director of marketing and communications at Georgia College.

2002

Lesley Cano (M.Ed., '09 M.S.), Arlington :: published her first book, *3D Printing: A Powerful New Curriculum Tool for Your School Library*. After adding a 3D printer to her makerspace, she could not find a book to fit her needs so she wrote her own. Her goal was to write a book that would encourage librarians to jump into 3D printing and add it to the curriculum.



Jeremy Enlow, Weatherford :: self-published his first photo book, called *Cowboys of Waggoner Ranch*, about the famous ranch located near Vernon, Texas. The book is a photo essay documenting the old-school, electronics-free way of life on the ranch. Freelancing at various publications, Jeremy is the owner of Steel Shutter Photography and Jeremy Enlow Fine Art Photography.

2003

Dave Ragan, Argyle :: was named a Five-Star Wealth Manager for the third year in a row and appeared in a special section in the August issue of *Texas Monthly*. Since his promotion to senior financial planning specialist in 2012, he develops investment and wealth management plans, including running various scenarios for clients. He also is an adjunct professor in the College of Business.

Jeff B. Woodmansee (M.S.), Sherwood, Ark. :: was appointed to a three-year term on the American Association of Law Libraries Digital Access to Legal Information Committee and received the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting Chapter Registration Award for the Southwest-

ern Association of Law Libraries. He is an assistant professor of law librarianship at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law.

2004



Marissa Webb Marmolejos, Dallas :: celebrated her

one-year anniversary with H&M Interior Design, a company specializing in high-end residential design and construction that she founded with fellow industry veteran Hugh Scarbrough in September 2014. She has more than 10 years of experience in interior design, and she also serves as 2015-16 president of the Texas chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers.

2005

Tiffani Butler, Houston :: is a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in the Houston region after a 10-year career in TV news. When she attended UNT, the broadcast news major was a member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

James K. Lambert (M.F.A.), Minneapolis, Minn. :: produced, directed and edited a new documentary, *Conspiracy Theorists Lie*, a rebuttal of the conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the conspiracy mindset. His film background includes work on the Sundance

Union pavers ready for engraving

4x8
SCRAPPY EAGLE
CLASS OF 2014
GMG

You can leave your mark on campus as part of a walkway of engraved stone pavers at the Highland Street entrance to the new University Union. With a 4-inch by 8-inch paver (\$100) or an 8-inch by 8-inch paver (\$150), you might congratulate a new graduate, honor or memorialize friends and family or commemorate your own years at UNT. Greek letters also may be engraved. Proceeds will benefit the Union Excellence Fund and your gift is tax deductible. The deadline for all paver orders is June 30.

To learn more and to place your order, visit studentaffairs.unt.edu/union-pavers. Or for more information, call Blair Condon at 940-369-7474.

Award-winning documentary, *TV Junkie* (2006).

2006

Sarah Lindberg Adams, Denton :: is the co-creator, executive producer and co-star in the web series, *Supporting Roles*. A fundraising campaign for the series received more than \$20,000 to produce more episodes. *Supporting Roles* also was named an official selection at the 2015 Austin Film Festival.



Rodney Bridgers, Coppell :: and his family and friends throw the Eagle Claw on their vacation to Gulf Shores, Ala. Rodney is director of procurement for TriMark Strategic, a company that provides equipment, supplies and design services to the food service industry.

Amina El-Ashmawy (Ph.D.), Prosper :: was named a 2015 U.S. Professor of the Year for undergraduate teaching and mentoring by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She also was one of 10 Texas college professors to win the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award, which honors professors for their teaching. She has been a

chemistry professor at Collin College for more than 20 years.

David Gilmore ('09 M.P.A.) and **Kayla Ketcham Gilmore** ('11), Grapevine :: were married in June at the Belltower Chapel in Fort Worth and honeymooned in Cabo San Lucas. David is a Dallas paramedic and firefighter and Kayla is a middle school math teacher at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Grapevine.

2007

Tara Artho, Fort Worth :: was promoted to president/CEO of the Texas Grain and Feed Association. She joined the organization in 2013 as their director of communications and public relations. She grew up in the Texas Panhandle on a farm outside Wildorado. She earned her degree in radio, TV and film and worked for a cluster of radio stations in Dallas and as a traffic anchor for several years.



Jordan Foreman, Denton :: married Amy Stratbucker in June in the Hub Club at UNT's Apogee Stadium. The couple met at the stadium in 2011 as athletics department employees. Jordan now works for Conference USA in Irving as a video producer and as director of the C-USA Digital



Down to the wire

Dariusz Rad ('88) graduated from UNT as an aspiring professional musician. But six years ago, he added president and CEO to his list of titles.

Rad launched a music cable company called Asterope after acquiring the rights to a technology that helps solve the problem of "out of phase" sound waves, which cause less clarity and more distortion in traditional cables. The company's cables are now being used by artists in recording studios and performance halls around the world.

"I never thought I would become a CEO," Rad says. "It's 180 degrees from being an artist and producer."

He was heavily involved in music on and off UNT's campus, recording an album called *Crossplanes* with his band, Dariusz Rad and the System. That album did well on AAA (adult album alternative) radio, getting picked up nationally and internationally.

First starting as a music major with a concentration in jazz studies, he later switched to sociology, which he says has helped him infuse the social aspects of the world into his music.

Moving to Nashville after graduating, Rad continued writing and producing music, working with world-renowned session players and engineers. He began working on internationally broadcast video and film projects and, after he saw his first interactive CD, he got involved with graphic design and interactive multimedia. In the mid-'90s, he opened Niroomand, one of the first web design companies in Nashville.

His skills in composing, producing and multimedia began to build on one another, and he was approached by audio pro Larry Fishman to act as Asterope's distributor.

Today, Asterope products are available worldwide. In 2012, the company was named Best New Manufacturer of the Year at the National Association of Music Merchants in Anaheim, Calif.

"I knew this is where I was supposed to be," Rad says.

— Jordan Ottaway

..... IN THE // News



Dylan Nadwody

➔ **Ralph Strangis**, former longtime play-by-play announcer for the Dallas Stars hockey team, began his first semester as a UNT student this spring to finish a degree he worked on in Wisconsin more than 30 years ago. In a Jan. 20 *Dallas Morning News* piece, he writes about his return to the classroom and how preparing for 82 hockey games a year gave him “the most proficient study habits imaginable.” As an example, he mentions a class taught by **Richard Lowe**, Regents Professor of history: “I’m the guy locked into Dr. Lowe when he’s talking about Aztecs and Spaniards and Native Americans. I’m the guy with the bright smile. He says maybe we wanna read the textbook after the week is over, maybe Friday or Saturday night. I make a note to do that. Everybody else laughs.”

➔ A Jan. 15 *Money* magazine “Ask the Expert” article titled “How to Get Your Slacker Co-Workers to Pull Their Weight” features advice from **Chris Lam**, assistant professor of technical communication. In response to a question about how to make co-workers step up their efforts on team projects, Lam says the medium used for communication makes a difference. For instance, he suggests using email for detailed information and avoiding phone calls for complex information that needs to be reprocessed in the future. “Keeping these detail-rich decision points in a retrievable document that is written for everyone to access, [like an] email thread or project management software, can curb slacking,” he says. His research on social loafing has been published in the *Business and Professional Communication Quarterly*.

Network, while Amy is an event operations coordinator for the Dallas Cowboys.

2010

Keith A. Morgan, Hurst :: started his new job as an account manager for B2B Industrial Packaging in February after previously starting his own business where he handcrafted Red Western Cedar outdoor furniture. As an account manager, he is responsible for quoting and processing orders, product demos, customer inventory management and customer interaction.

Mary Simon, Athens, Greece :: completed an artist residency at the Skopelos Foundation for the Arts, where she experimented with local plant life and raw materials to render paintings. She also had her second annual solo exhibition at the American Embassy in Athens. Her work has been exhibited across the U.S., Greece and Japan, and she has a permanent installation at the Department of Public Safety Museum in Austin. She is preparing to move back to Texas this year.

2011



Scott Armstrong, Houston :: joined the law firm of Abraham, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend as an associate attorney. He built his legal experience advocating for clients who suffered serious personal injuries, and his practice focuses on cases

involving oil field accidents, maritime accidents and car accidents. During law school, he was the champion of the 43rd annual John Black Moot Court competition. He also serves as the chief articles editor of the *Houston Law Review*.

Lydia Thomas, Oklahoma City :: released her debut novella, *The Field* (Vox Dei Publishing), which follows the story of three women lured into a forbidden field by a charming philosopher.

2013



Melissa ‘Mel’ Finefrock, Plano :: self-published a book titled *Patchwork Poetry*, chronicling her personal journey. Melissa, who is blind, has won several awards for her works, including first place in the poetry division of the 2012 Coalition of Texans with Disabilities’ creative writing contest. She also is a contracting transcriptionist; a guest blogger with *Disability.gov*, *The Mighty* and the *Huffington Post*; and an editor for independent authors. She enjoys singing and playing guitar, and her work can be found on YouTube. ●

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

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



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

1940s

Betty Ann Fladger Williams Barrow, Denton :: She studied journalism and then theatre at North Texas in the 1940s and early '50s. After her first husband, Navy pilot Welby Williams ('46), died in 1953, she married former classmate Frank Barrow, who later

served as Denton mayor. They ran several clothing shops, including the Varsity Shop near campus, and were longtime leaders in the Denton Community Theatre, where she was an actor, director and costumer. Survivors include sons David Barrow ('83, '86 M.A.) and Mike Barrow, who attended in the early 1980s.

Allen Kent Lacy ('44), Houston :: After retiring from a career in the insurance business in 1985, he focused on managing operations at his family's Woodly Farm in Elysian Fields. He was a church volunteer, a worldwide traveler and an avid photographer. He also served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Eual Clifton Wyles ('48), Duncanville :: He worked in royalty disbursement with Sun Oil Co. before retiring after 35 years. He served in the Army during World War II in Italy, Tunisia, North Africa and Sicily.

Bobby Gene Davidson, Tyler :: He worked for the Atomic Energy Commission Idaho Testing Laboratory and worked in construction and architecture

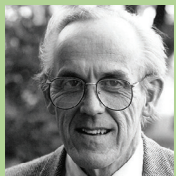
in Dallas, Idaho, Alaska and Hawaii. He served in three branches of the armed services, joining the Coast Guard, the Air Force and the Marines. He attended North Texas from 1948 to 1950.

1950s

Anna Ray Bishop Edwards ('55 M.Ed.), Temple :: She was a longtime resident of Dallas, where she worked as a teacher for the Dallas ISD for 21 years before her retirement. She was 101 years old.

A.J. Triggs ('55), Tyler :: He compiled one of the state's most impressive amateur golf records by winning 55 tournament titles. He was a member of the North Texas golf team that won four

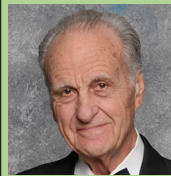
University Community



Cecil Adkins, 83, Professor Emeritus of music who

served on the musicology faculty from 1963 to 2000, died Nov. 4 in Denton. He founded UNT's early music program and was named a Regents Professor and a Toulouse Scholar. He and his wife, Alis Dickinson ('73 Ph.D.), who also was on the music faculty, edited *Doctoral Dissertations in Musicology* for 30 years and collab-

orated on other publications. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. Many of his eight children are musicians he instructed who performed as the Adkins String Ensemble. The family received the College of Music's Honored Alumni Award in 2013. In addition to his wife, survivors include children Alexandra ('96), Anthony ('93, '08 M.B.A., M.S.), Christopher ('80), Madeline ('98) and Clare Cason ('91). Memorials may be made to the Adkins-Dickinson String Scholarship at UNT.



Jim J. Bezdek ('50, '54 M.Ed.), 86, Professor Emeritus of

education, died Nov. 17 in Denton. Serving on the faculty from 1967 to 1996, he was a curriculum instruction management specialist and authority on mathematics education who had served as a consultant and co-author of a math textbook series. In 2011, he received UNT's Ulys Knight Spirit Award. He and his wife, Rose, were members of the Chilton Recognition Society and established The Czech Educational Foundation

of Texas Dr. Jim J. and Rose A. Bezdek Endowment Fund Celebrating Czech Music and Culture. He was proud of his Czech heritage and had played the accordion since he was a child. He received his degrees in public school administration from UNT and his doctorate from Cornell University. He also served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953.



Nancy Renee Kent ('94), 45, a data analyst who

had worked in the Division of University Relations,

straight national titles from 1949 to 1952. He was inducted into the Texas Golf Hall of Fame in 2013. He had never played golf until he got to college. He also worked as an insurance executive and was a member of the Texas Golf Association board of directors.

1960s

Johnny Wayne Cooper ('61), Milipitas, Calif. :: He established a high school mile run record for Texas when he was a senior at Fort Worth Tech in 1958 and ruled the mile and long distance races during the time he ran track for North Texas. His college friends say he would often sleep on the cement floor of his room to make him a tougher and stronger runner.

The Rev. **Eldridge Pendleton** ('62, '68 M.A.), Chelsea, Mass. :: He taught at Prince-

ton and other universities and worked as the curator at the Old York Gaol Museum in Maine before becoming an ordained Episcopal priest. He joined the monastic order of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in 1984 and was known for his kind spirit, wisdom, sense of humor and cowboy boots. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

C. Shane Wilbanks ('64), Grapevine :: He was a member of the Grapevine city council for three decades and was serving as mayor pro tem. He helped the city grow into a tourist destination, developed its parks and recreation programs and was the first chair of its convention and visitors bureau. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon at North Texas, where he met his future wife of 51 years, **Paula Snelling** ('65, '72 M.Ed.).

Travis A. Cox, Springfield, Mo. :: He taught violin at Abilene Christian, Stephen F. Austin, David Lipscomb and Harding universities. He served as an assistant concertmaster of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and played with several orchestras before his retirement. He attended UNT from 1964 to 1965 after earning a master's degree from SMU. Before graduating with his bachelor's from De Paul, he studied oboe at the U.S. Navy School of Music.

Joe L. Atkins ('66 M.Ed.), Dallas :: His lawsuit in the 1950s paved the way for African American undergraduates to attend UNT. He enrolled at Texas Western College in El Paso while the lawsuit was pending and earned his bachelor's degree as one of that college's first African American students. He later earned his master's

degree from North Texas. He taught in the Dallas ISD and worked as a real estate broker. In 2004, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from UNT, and a scholarship is named in his honor.

James Allen Kirkeby ('67), Sioux Falls, S.D. :: After graduating from high school, he was accepted into the U.S. Air Force Band in Texas as a trumpet player and played "Taps" for military funerals. He directed the South Dakota State American Legion Band and belonged to the El Riad Shrine as a member of its swing, concert, rock and big bands. He also operated North Cliff Iron and Brass Inc. in Sioux Falls.

1970s

W. Travis Hunley ('72, '74 M.B.A.), Plano :: His banking

Communications and Marketing for almost 25 years, died Dec. 20 in Dallas. She began work as a student assistant in 1991, becoming indispensable with computer support and her genuine desire to help others in any way. She was hired full time after she completed her UNT degree in interdisciplinary studies. She loved cats and through the years adopted and cared for many strays. Memorials may be made in her name to the UNT Feral Cat Rescue Group, 1155 Union Circle #310475, Denton, TX 76203, 940-390-0555.



Barbara Ann Cowan MacDonald, 60, retired assistant director

of financial aid and scholarships, who worked at UNT for more than 25 years, died July 8 in Denton. She enjoyed gardening and reading and was passionate about her work and, most especially, her family. She was the recipient of the Star Performer Award, the Staff Contribution Award and the Outstanding Employee Award. Memorials may be made to the Ms. Barbara Ann MacDonald scholarship fund in the Department

of Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Law.



Laurel Miller, 81, Denton, Professor Emerita of voice, who worked at

UNT from 1977 to 2004, died Oct. 25, 2014, in Denton. She worked as a professional singer and teacher, appearing in operas in Boston, Dallas, Houston, New York City and Philadelphia, as well as the Czech Republic. She specialized in the performance of 20th century, oratorio and chamber works. She was active

in the National Association of Teachers of Singing, serving as president of the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter, and belonged to the boards of the Deep Ellum Opera Theatre and the Denton Bach Society. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in vocal performance from Juilliard.



Peter Mark Scott III, 61, who had served as an adjunct professor of

sacred music since 2004, died Oct. 17, 2014, in Fort Worth. He was a Nordan Fine Arts Scholar at

operations career spanned 30 years in the cities of Houston, San Antonio and Dallas. Having earned his Eagle Scout award as a young man, he spent the rest of his life involved in Boy Scouts. He led a Sunday school class and enjoyed many outdoor activities, such as golf, fishing and sailing.

Agnes Lucille Greene ('73), Flower Mound :: She received a degree in management from the College of Business. She and her husband, Joe Greene, contributed to several initiatives at UNT including the Emerald Eagle Scholarship program, the Mean Green Club and the North Texas Exes Scholarship. Other survivors include her sister, Marjorie Craft ('68), brother-in-law Robert Craft ('69), and sons Charles M. Greene ('91), and Edward Greene ('93).

2010s

Joshua Wilkins ('10), Los Angeles, Calif. :: He received a degree in sociology with a minor in marketing. When he came to UNT, he signed with a Dallas-based talent agency and landed several commercial, print and acting jobs. After graduation, he pursued his acting career full time, appearing in several films and TV series. He moved to Los Angeles in 2013 and was in the process of making a new web series.

Ngozi Justina Benstowe, Denton :: She attended UNT as a postbaccalaureate student, completing a graduate academic certificate in autism intervention in 2012.

Tahshal Fletcher Kimani, Denton :: She studied sociology as a postbaccalaureate student at UNT. She graduated

from World Harvest Bible College in 2002 and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Woman's University. She received a certificate from the International Business School of Finance and Economics at Yunnan University in China after participating in UNT's joint cultural and educational exchange program. She had hoped to return to China and help the poor.

Marylinn Alvarez ('15), Allen :: She was a senior marketing major minoring in political science and was a member of Kappa Delta sorority. Her degree was awarded posthumously.

Julio Santos III ('15), Denton :: He was scheduled to work in an internship at Nordstrom's and was known for his thrift store fashion savvy and vibrant personality. His degree in

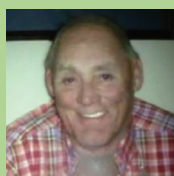
digital retailing and merchandising was awarded posthumously.

Thomas Cascella, Denton :: He was enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences and studying for a degree in medical laboratory sciences.

Gabriel Klein, Denton :: He was enrolled as a sophomore and majoring in social science. He was interested in natural science, languages, technology, political science and thought-provoking films. He is survived by his father Joseph Klein, Distinguished Teaching Professor and chair of the division of composition studies in the College of Music.

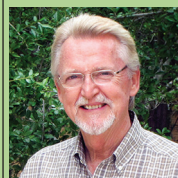
Brandon Robinson, Denton :: He was a freshman majoring in broadcast journalism. Through his life, he was active in sports and church, participating in several mission trips. ●

Texas Christian University, where he earned his degrees in organ performance and church music. He was the minister of music and organist at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth for 39 years. In 2000, he was granted a sabbatical leave, which he spent in America, Great Britain and France, to study plainsong.



Hulon Jones Sharpton, 63, a maintenance technician in the facilities department since 2009, died Aug.

29 in Denton. He was known to be able to fix anything, especially air conditioners. He was a member of the Elks Lodge and a charter member of the Decatur Country Club as an avid golfer.



David Hall Sundquist, 74, Professor Emeritus of voice, who

worked at UNT from 1989 to 2012, died Aug. 8 in Denton. He was a tenor who sang in operas across the nation and spent much of his career in the 1970s and 1980s in

Europe, performing in famous operas in Austria and France. His roles were filmed for French television and he won first place in the Salzburg Opera Film Prize Competition. He continued to perform around the U.S. and in Italy after joining UNT. He attended the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University. He also served in the U.S. Army Band and Chorus. In Denton, he sang in the First Methodist Church choir.

Memorials

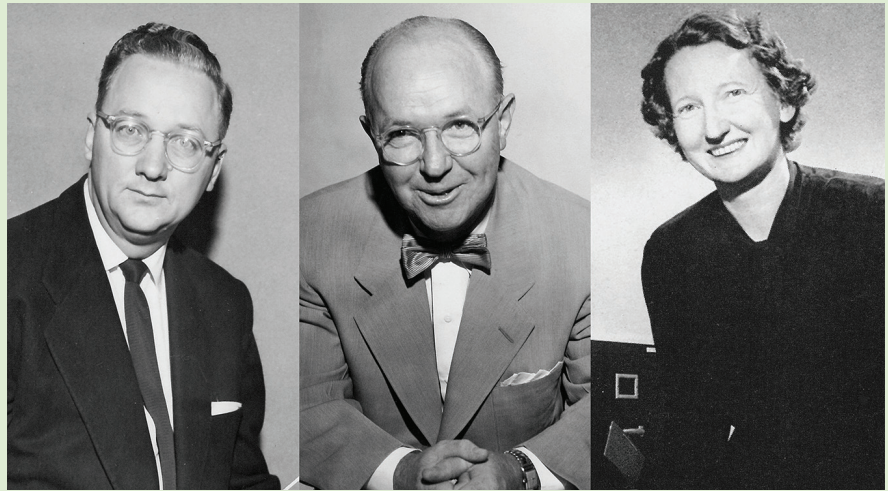
Send memorials to honor UNT alumni and friends, made payable to the UNT Foundation, to University of North Texas, Division of Advancement, 1155 Union Circle #311250, Denton, Texas 76203-5017. Indicate on your check the fund or area you wish to support. Or make secure gifts online at development.unt.edu/givenow.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

FACULTY MEMORIES

Longtime faculty members through the years comment on campus life, teaching and research. All quotes except for J.K.G. Silvey's come from UNT's oral history collection. Silvey's words are from a speech he delivered at the 1959 Honors Day ceremony.

We went down to the student center every Thursday afternoon at our rehearsal time, which was 2 o'clock then — now they've changed to 1 o'clock — and played for an hour down there, and all the students would come and dance. It got to be quite an institution. ... In fact, I had complaints from other faculty members in the general university that students were reluctant to sign up for classes on Thursday afternoon at 2. ... I said, "Well, you are going to have to learn some new jokes or something to get people to come to your class." (chuckle) — *Gene Hall ('41, '44 M.A.), jazz studies founder, professor and lab band director, 1947-1959, speaking about the lab band of the late '40s and '50s*

I got here in the summer of 1949, and it was a big enrollment. I was the assistant dean at that time and head of the Department of Education. A big problem we had that summer and the following summer was a large crowd of people because the Gilmer-Aikin legislation (education reforms that sent teachers back to school) had just passed. One summer we had 5,000 master's students in education on the campus. ... By 1960, we were the 10th largest teacher education institution in the country, producing more teachers than all but nine other schools. Half of those people were



From left, former faculty Gene Hall ('41, '44 M.A.), jazz studies; J.K.G. Silvey, biology; and Imogene Bentley Dickey Mohat, English and dean of women

graduate students. — *Witt Blair ('33), education professor, dean and placement director, 1949-1975*

This was the day of rules. There was a right and a wrong way to do things. ... The rules for men were these: Conduct yourself as a gentleman at all times. That takes in a lot. — *Imogene Bentley Dickey Mohat, English professor and dean of women, 1944-1979, recalling campus life in the 1940s and 1950s*

I always had an open door. I'd walk in the first day and write my room number on the blackboard. I think there might have been two phones (chuckle) in the whole building. ... It was small, we knew each other, we appreciated each other. ... I really believe when people know each other and understand each other, they can respect each other better, and they can accept each other better. It's the fear of the unknown that sometimes really, really upsets people. — *Gladys Crawford ('46, '49 M.S.), biology professor, 1948-2003, speaking about the 1950s during desegregation*

(Creative thought) has made men free. It has separated the individual from the masses. It has given a foreground and a background to the artist, the musician, the language scholar, the political scientist, the philosopher and the scientist. ... The more we develop scholarly and individual thinking in all of the disciplines, the greater our nation will be in these realms. — *J.K.G. Silvey, pioneering water researcher, biology professor and chair, 1935-1977*

Each generation has its own coloration, but ... in other words, what is liberal in 1920 is different from what liberalism is in 1930 and what it is in '40 and '50 and '60 and so on. But the same patterns are there. I mean, all right, so we've got a campus radical. He's a campus radical. What he's after and the way he talks is not quite the same language as it is 10 years later. But he's still my campus radical. I've heard him before (chuckle). My campus conservative, I've heard him before. No, I think human nature doesn't change much. — *C.E. Shuford, founding journalism professor and chair, publicity director, Texas Poet Laureate, 1937-1942, 1945-1974* ●

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