

SMU MAGAZINE | FALL 2021

# SMU

# *Ignited*

**BOLDLY  
SHAPING  
TOMORROW**

THE THIRD COMPREHENSIVE  
CAMPAIGN IN SMU'S HISTORY  
IGNITES THE FUTURE OF  
OUR UNIVERSITY



As the premier private university in North Texas, SMU exists to shape future leaders who transform communities and organizations through ingenuity and thoughtful problem-solving. Building on our history of excellence, we now embark on ***SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*** – our multiyear, \$1.5 billion campaign to attract and support outstanding students and faculty, to explore new fields and cutting-edge technologies, and to positively impact Dallas and the world beyond. We invite you to join us and empower the bold, the curious and the creative to better their professions and their communities.



[smu.edu/ignited](https://smu.edu/ignited)

# Igniting the future

**AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER IN OUR HISTORY OPENED SEPTEMBER 17 WITH THE PUBLIC LAUNCH OF *SMU IGNITED: BOLDLY SHAPING TOMORROW*, our \$1.5 billion campaign for impact. With your support, we're re-imagining the role of education – and of SMU itself – in an era of rapid change, by focusing on the opportunities created through research and teaching, scholarships and community.**

Just a year ago, the thought of moving forward with a campaign seemed unlikely. But, undaunted even by the pandemic, Mustangs did what they always do – they came together for our University. During the campaign's planning phase, SMU received over \$654 million, including 90 gifts of \$1 million or more and contributions from tens of thousands of donors. This extraordinary generosity makes an impressive statement about the value our community places on all that we do. It also drives us toward even more ambitious goals for the future: the largest fundraising target ever set by a private school in Texas.

*SMU Ignited* will fuel our strengths to meet tomorrow's challenges through three major objectives:

- **Empowering outstanding students.**

Students will always be our top priority. With your support, we will transform the lives of high-achieving students by enabling them to come to SMU regardless of means. We want to broaden student support by offering more need-based merit scholarships – including meeting full financial need for high-performing Pell

Grant-eligible students – and providing a financial safety net for students who could be derailed by sudden financial crises.

As you'll read in this issue of *SMU Magazine*, the Class of 2025 was the largest and most academically qualified incoming class in our history. *SMU Ignited* will ensure we continue to attract such outstanding students to campus.

- **Enriching teaching and research.**

*SMU Ignited* will have a significant impact on our attainment of R1 research status, the highest level of research capability recognized by the Carnegie Classification system. To that end, we will invest in faculty pursuits that have substantial societal impact, and we'll support excellent corporate, industrial and teaching partnerships while bolstering Dallas' emergence as a technology hub.

And we'll build on the research we're already doing in such areas as computational drug discovery and human speed – both highlighted in this issue – to continue our trajectory toward the top tier of research excellence.



- **Enhancing campus and community.**

By increasing partnerships with corporations and nonprofits such as the West Dallas STEM School, which you'll read about in this magazine, and Dedman School of Law legal clinics for those who cannot afford representation, we will continue to make a positive difference in our community. And by investing in facilities, programs, student-athlete success and community outreach programs, the University will bring more people together on campus.

I've just skimmed the surface of what we will accomplish with the generosity of you, our alumni, faculty, staff, students, families and supporters – our SMU family.

Since our founding, each generation of Mustangs has answered the call to blaze a new path for our University. It's time to imagine the future at its fullest potential with *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*. 🐎

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "R. Gerald Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" and "T".

**R. GERALD TURNER**  
President



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**FAMILY LEGACY**

Through their leadership and philanthropy, Nancy McMillan Dedman '50 and her family have shaped a vision for a brighter tomorrow extending far beyond SMU.



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**COMMUNITY COLLABORATION**

The pathbreaking partnership igniting an innovative model for public education marked a milestone in August when the new West Dallas STEM School welcomed its first students.



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**VIRTUAL LABORATORY**

ChemGen, a set of computational routines developed by SMU researchers, can slash the time and resources needed to begin the development of successful drugs, including for the treatment of recurrent cancer.



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**TIME TRAVELER**

For digital age archaeologist Mark McCoy, hands-on research can mean using drones to map landmarks or deploying scanning systems to reveal a site without lifting a trowel.

**SMU IGNITED**

The University kicked off the public phase of *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* September 17, gathering alumni, guests, students, faculty and staff on the Main Quad in front of iconic Dallas Hall to celebrate the investment in the future of SMU and beyond.

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# Leading bold change

**IT IS MY HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE SMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES, especially during this transformational time. Like proud alumni everywhere, I am excited about what *SMU Ignited* means for the future of this great University and for the generations who will follow our lead to the Hilltop.**

**O**ur family has found that SMU is the best investment we have ever made. We have long appreciated the University's role in creating a culture that allows people to achieve their highest personal and professional potential. All who contribute to our University's future make a positive difference that starts on campus and expands to communities far beyond the Hilltop.

SMU has made incredible strides over the past 25 years, thanks to the generosity of Mustangs everywhere. It has been exhilarating and gratifying to be part of this progress. But as we have shown time and again at SMU, we don't rest on our accomplishments; instead, they propel us toward even grander challenges. That's what *SMU Ignited* is all about.

I think SMU is one of the very few institutions that has the ability to dramatically change the quality of life for all people in Dallas and beyond. Throughout the city's history, our alumni have been involved in many major initiatives that have improved life for the entire community, including current innovations in education, such as those at the West Dallas STEM School, and the criminal justice reform happening at Dedman School of Law.

This campaign will create new opportunities to expand partnerships and outreach beyond our campus, elevate the quality of our graduate programs and raise our national visibility. And, in the process, our SMU degrees will become even more valuable and respected.

While SMU has long been an exemplary teaching institution, the University's growing research portfolio is



***“All who contribute to our University’s future make a positive difference that starts on campus and expands to communities far beyond the Hilltop.”***

– Robert H. Dedman, Jr. '80, '84

drawing international recognition and creates opportunities for new collaborations. Building the University's capability to hire star-quality research faculty and provide them with the resources they need to meet head-on some of the world's most complex challenges is a major component of this new campaign.

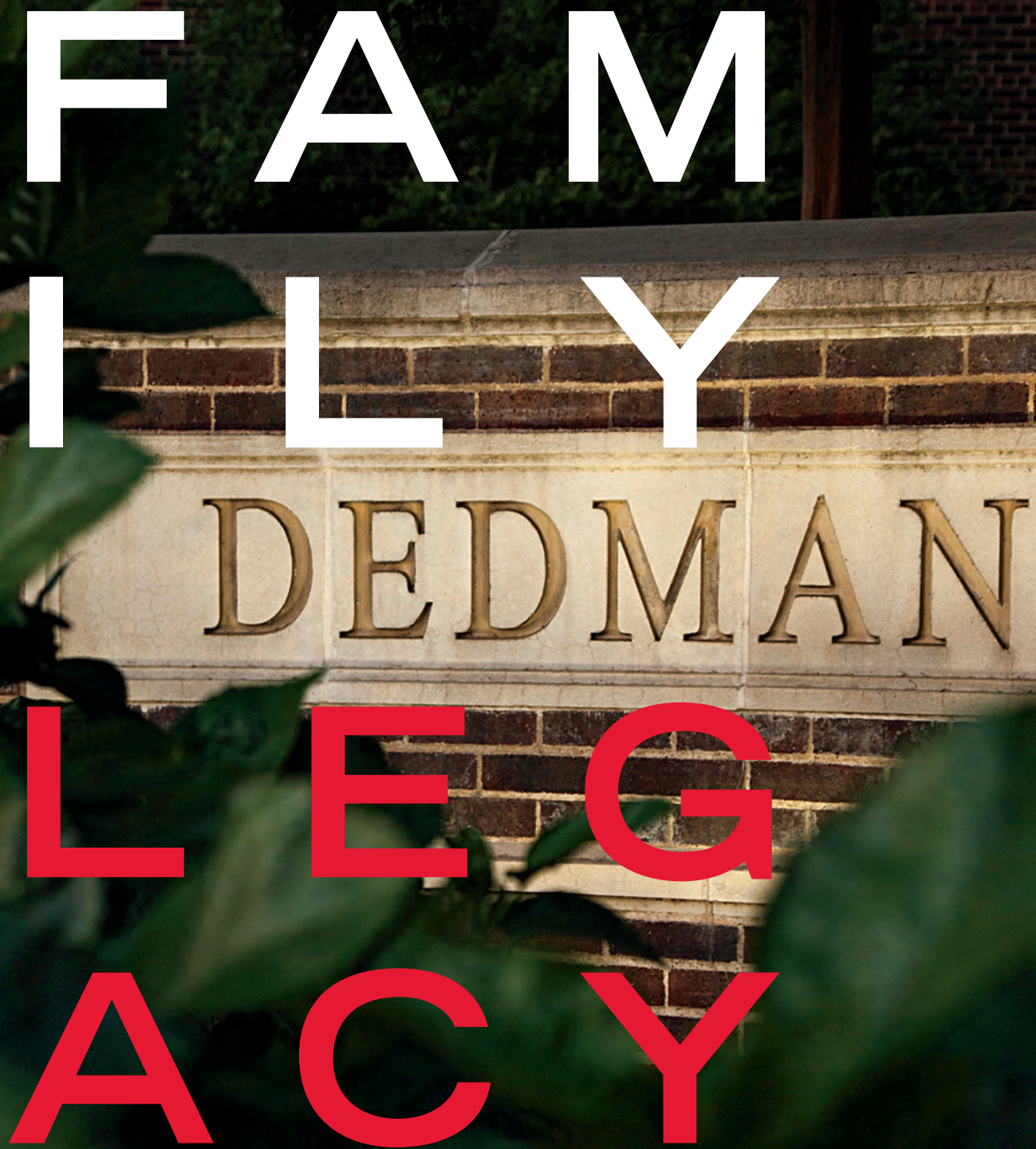
Along with faculty support, more investment in graduate and doctoral fellowships will amplify the endeavors of the Moody School of Graduate and Advances Studies.

One of the great opportunities and responsibilities for SMU is to become more diverse and inclusive – that's what drives creativity and innovation. The campaign will increase scholarship support for outstanding students, regardless of their financial means, and investments in programs targeted to meet the needs of underrepresented students. These goals fortify our commitment to a campus where all Mustangs feel valued.

*SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* will catapult SMU further into the top tier of U.S. institutions of higher learning and establish a legacy benefiting generations of world changers to come. My family and I are so proud of what this University has accomplished so far, and feel the best still lies ahead. 🐎

*Robert H. Dedman Jr.*

**ROBERT H. DEDMAN, JR. '80, '84**  
Board of Trustees Chair



# FAMILY LEGACY

DEDMAN

*by* Andrea Luttrell '12



# A year of milestones for SMU

## THROUGH THEIR LEADERSHIP AND PHILANTHROPY, NANCY MCMILLAN DEDMAN '50 AND HER FAMILY HAVE SHAPED A VISION FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW EXTENDING FAR BEYOND SMU.

Over nearly five decades, the Dedman name has become synonymous with the University's growth as a global research and teaching institution. Virtually every student at SMU has been touched by their generosity in some way. Gifts have included endowments naming Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences and the Dedman School of Law, the lead gift constructing the Dedman Life Sciences Building and support for endowed professorships and life-transforming scholarships.

"What we've invested in has just gotten better and better," Dedman says. "We believe SMU is a great 21st-century university that is making an immeasurable impact on our lives and in our world. SMU has become the economic and cultural leader in Dallas and beyond."

### **The roots of transformative impact**

The University was forever changed when Nancy McMillan enrolled as a junior after attending Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa honor society and earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1950.

"SMU brought me to Dallas where I met my husband," Dedman says. "He and I made a lot of close friends because of our involvement at SMU, and the education, perspectives and

relationships that SMU fostered have changed our lives immeasurably for the better."

Legendary businessman Robert H. Dedman, Sr. '53 received a Master of Laws degree from SMU and practiced law before founding ClubCorp International Inc., a leading operator of golf courses, private clubs and resorts. He lived his life according to a Biblical reference he often quoted: "Of those to whom much is given, from them much is expected." In addition to financial support, he gave generously of his time to SMU. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1976 and served as its chair from 1992 to 1996. He passed away in 2002.

Their son, Robert H. (Bob) Dedman, Jr., received an MBA from Cox School of Business in 1980 and a JD from Dedman School of Law in 1984. He continues his father's legacy of service as the

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SMU benefactors  
Nancy McMillan  
Dedman '50 and  
her son, Robert H.  
Dedman, Jr. '80, '84,  
who serves as chair  
of the SMU Board of  
Trustees.



current chair of the SMU Board of Trustees, which he joined in 2004. Their daughter, Patricia Dedman Nail, received a Master of Arts in counseling psychology from Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences in 1981.

The Dedman family's commitment to supporting SMU has been a constant over two generations.

"Nancy, Bob and Bob, Jr. and the entire family have supported the University, day in and day out, in countless ways, inspiring other alumni, family, students, faculty, staff and friends," says SMU President R. Gerald Turner. "I cannot overstate how much the Dedmans have meant to SMU. It would not be the place we all know and love without the Dedman family and Nancy's unfailing leadership."

#### **The real reward of giving: students' success**

The Dedmans' passions for education and enacting positive

change are visible across the Hilltop. This year marks milestones for many of their major investments, the first of which was the Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports, which celebrates its 45th anniversary in 2021.

For Dedman, watching as SMU empowers students to go out into the world and make it a better place is the real reward of giving.

"I enjoy seeing the impact SMU has on young people and entrepreneurs like Blake Mycoskie [founder of TOMS Shoes] and Whitney Wolfe Herd, to name a few," Dedman says. "Blake's philosophy of one-for-one philanthropy has been replicated by many other businesses to help people in need, and Whitney works to empower women with the skills she learned at SMU. I admire how our students embrace the diversity of people to make the world better. It's inspiring. It gives real meaning to the

saying, 'World changers shaped here.'"

And she does, too. Dedman is a force for good both on and off the Hilltop, supporting a host of causes focused on education, health care and the arts. In the Dallas community, she has been involved with the boards of the St. Paul and Zale Lipshy University Hospitals (part of UT Southwestern Medical Center), Shelter Ministries of Dallas and the Salvation Army. She has been an active supporter of the Dallas Museum of Art and the Texas Ballet Theater.

At SMU, Dedman currently serves on the Dedman College Executive Board. She has served on the boards of the Willis M. Tate Distinguished Lecture Series, Godbey Lecture Series in Dedman College and the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection in Hamon Arts Library. In 1995, she and her late husband received the Mustang Award in recognition for their

**The generational impact of donor generosity is visible across the Hilltop in investments made over decades by benefactor Nancy McMillan Dedman '50 and her family. This year we celebrate these milestones of their transformative giving.**

**March 1981** Gifts establish the Robert H. and Nancy Dedman Professor in Economics and Trustee Professor in Economics and Robert H. and Nancy Dedman Professor of History in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences and support the Dedman College General Endowment.

**1976** Lead gift launches the Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports. Additional support from the Dedman family in **2006** funds renovation and expansion.



**April 1981** One of the largest personal investments in higher education history at the time named SMU's biggest and most diverse school the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences in honor of Robert H. Dedman, Sr. and Nancy Dedman.







**We want to leave the world better than how we found it, and hope that we can be a catalyst for others in the community to get involved.”**

– Nancy McMillan Dedman '50

outstanding philanthropy to SMU. For her service to Mustangs everywhere, she was honored with SMU's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005.

Dedman's wisdom, humor and passion for education inspire Mustangs to follow her path and make a difference.

"I feel honored to know and work with Nancy," says Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad E. Cheves. "She epitomizes the Mustang spirit – smart, courageous, bold and welcoming. SMU is truly lucky to have her as one of our greatest champions."

As SMU enters into its next comprehensive fundraising campaign, Dedman is excited to see how the University builds on its culture of excellence to reach new heights. She hopes "alumni, donors and supporters become involved by contributing their time, their talent and their treasure in

their areas of interest."

SMU would not have been able to accomplish all that it has without donors like the Dedman family, who understand that funding universities means funding our community's future.

"I hope our family's legacy will be in giving to universities that are not subject to political whims of the state Legislature," she says. "Dallas needs a great public and a great private university to become one of the top 20 metropolitan centers in the world in the 21st century. I hope we made a positive difference in helping SMU become a premier national university with a strong liberal arts tradition complemented by world-changing research capabilities. Striving for excellence and continuing to improve the quality of life for everybody in this community is the hope of the Dedman family." 🐎

**1998** Endowment opens new opportunities for future Mustangs through the Robert H. Dedman SMU Scholars Program at North Dallas High, the high school from which the late Mr. Dedman graduated.

**December 2001** SMU dedicates the Dedman Life Sciences Building made possible with a lead gift from the Dedman family and support from other donors.

**April 1997** A \$30 million commitment from the Dedmans and The Dedman Foundation – the largest single gift in University history at the time – helped launch *A Time to Lead*, SMU's first comprehensive campaign.



**February 2001** Endowment from law alumnus Robert H. Dedman, Sr., Nancy Dedman and The Dedman Foundation names the Dedman School of Law.



**December 2012** Gift from the Dedman family and The Dedman Foundation launches the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute to bring together faculty and students across disciplines for collaborative research.

# GAME. SET. MATCH.

**A \$4 million gift from Mark '87 and Jennifer Styslinger '86 and the Altec/Styslinger Foundation will shape and sustain future tennis champions in the newly named Styslinger/Altec Tennis Complex. This gift is in addition to a long history of support for the SMU tennis programs and complex.**

Since its opening in 2015, the 45,000-square-foot complex has quickly become recognized as a premier facility for the greater tennis community in Dallas and beyond. It earned the 2019 USTA Facility Award, which was awarded during the 2019 U.S. Open.

“The Styslinger/Altec Tennis Complex has enabled SMU to attract top-ranked student athletes, to build on our excellent tennis programs and to continue partnering with outside organizations for community outreach,” says SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

The Styslinger/Altec Tennis Complex reinforces SMU’s commitment to

competing at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics.

“Jennifer and I met at SMU, and we were thrilled to have the chance to support a place that has been so important in our lives,” says Mark Styslinger, senior vice president of sales and service for Altec Inc., a manufacturing company founded in 1929 by his grandfather, Lee J. Styslinger, Sr.

Mark Styslinger earned his BBA from SMU in 1987 and was a member of SMU’s men’s tennis team from 1983 to 1986. He earned 81 individual victories and played in four NCAA team championship finals. The team won three Southwest Conference titles

during his tenure. Styslinger ranked among the top 20 players nationally in 1984 and was selected as an All-American in 1984–1985.

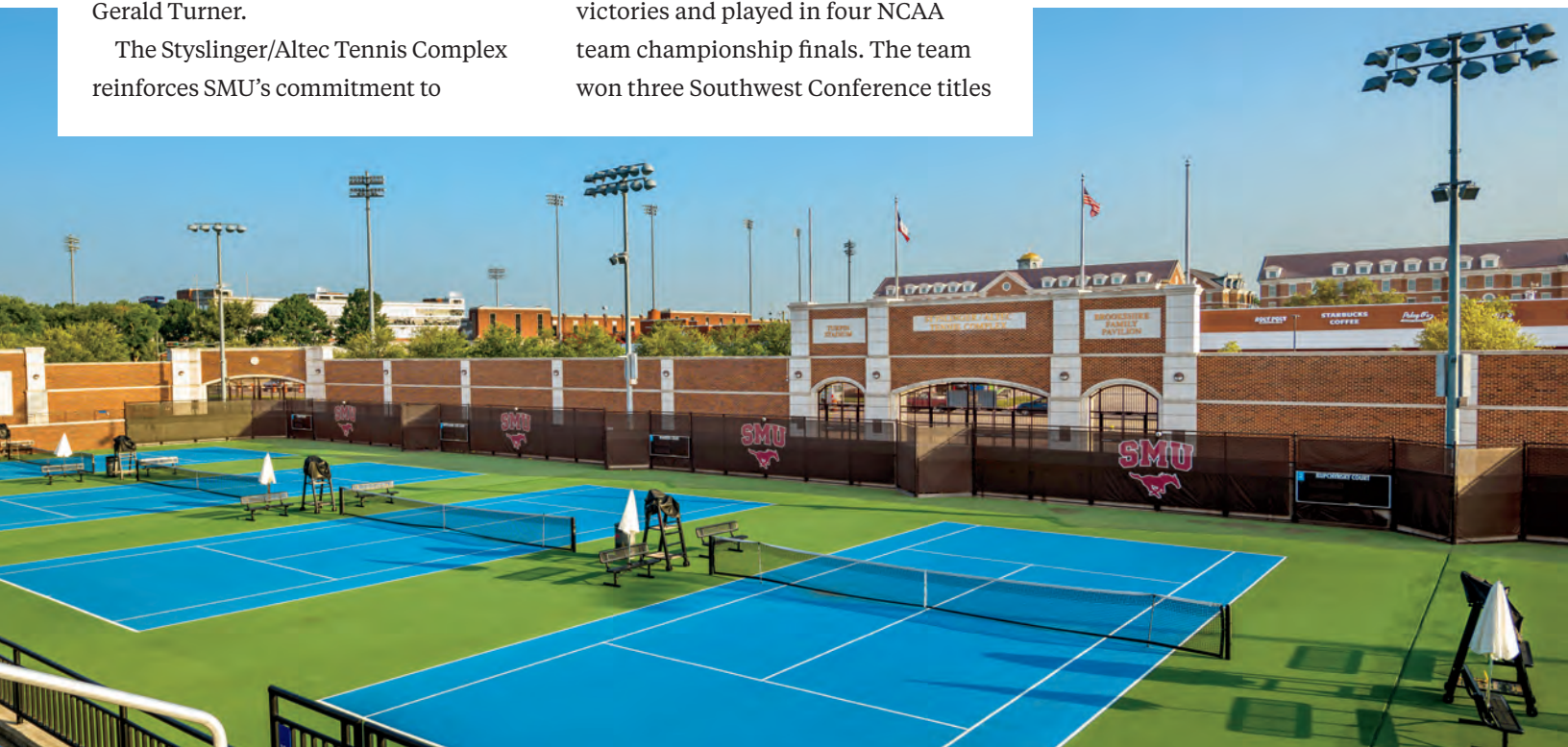
Jennifer O. Styslinger earned her BBA from SMU in 1986. She is a community volunteer, serving as a member of the board of trustees for The Highlands School, Altamont School and Grace House Ministries. She co-chaired the 2008 Maestro’s Ball in support of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. The Styslingers are members of the Mustang Club.

The Styslingers reside in Birmingham, Alabama, and have four children. 🐎

**Read more:** [smu.edu/smumag21styslinger](http://smu.edu/smumag21styslinger)

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The Styslinger/Altec Tennis Complex has enabled SMU to build on its excellent tennis program.







## Time to Boulevard!

**Game day revelry along Bishop Boulevard came back in a big way this fall.** Friends laughing and chatting, the Mustang Band playing and football fans cheering provided a soundtrack capturing the energy and excitement of traditional gridiron festivities on the Hilltop. The football season opened September 4 in Ford Stadium with junior Tanner Mordecai tossing seven scoring passes – an SMU record – as the Mustangs beat Abilene Christian 56-9. For Family Weekend, September 11–12, the Mustangs hosted UNT and on September 25, the team played its 100th game against TCU as a warmup for the Homecoming faceoff against South Florida October 2. Great games are still to come. Find ticket information at [smumustangs.com](http://smumustangs.com).

## SMU Spirit wins NCA championship

The SMU Spirit squad placed first in the Game Day D1 category at the 2021 National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) and National Dance Alliance (NDA) Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida, earlier this year. SMU Cheer, SMU Pom, Peruna mascot and the Mustang Band performed a game day routine together to win national bragging rights. This latest honor builds on SMU Cheer's previous winning streak as 2016–18 NCA collegiate champions.



# Coaching with fire and passion

**When Toyelle Wilson first got the job running SMU's women's basketball program, she didn't know she was making history. She only found out she would be the University's first Black female head coach when she started seeing it mentioned on social media.**

And she's overjoyed to be a "first." "That's a blessing," she says. "I'm humbled, I'm appreciative, I'm excited." And, hopefully, she says, "I'm not the last."

The representation of SMU hiring a Black woman head coach definitely matters, she says. For young Black women playing basketball, she says her selection for this role "shows they can be whatever they want to be, they can do whatever they want to do."

Wilson, who was hired in April, comes to the Hilltop after two seasons with the University of Michigan women's basketball program, where she served as the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. Before that, she spent six years as an assistant coach at Baylor University and three seasons as the head coach at Prairie View A&M University.

Joining SMU was an easy call, she says. When Wilson interviewed with Director of Athletics Rick Hart and others at SMU, she says she could tell right away that "it was a family

atmosphere."

And that kind of caring climate fits in with her coaching philosophy.

"Relationships matter," Wilson says. "A player doesn't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

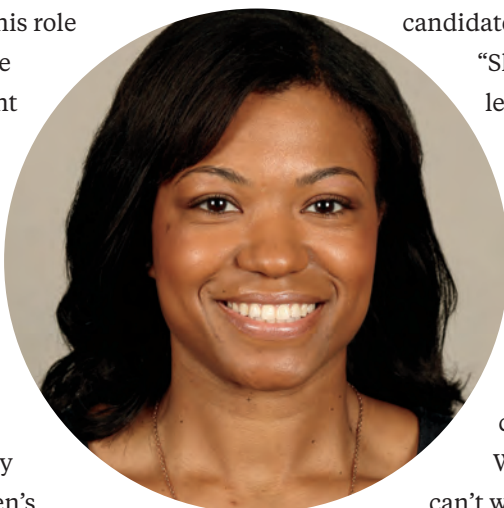
Hart says that Wilson was picked from a very talented group of candidates.

"She is a respected leader, and her positive energy, strong work ethic and ability to connect with and inspire others are qualities we look for in a head coach," Hart says. Wilson says she can't wait to get her team playing – and she's bursting with excitement.

"I coach with fire, I coach with passion," she says. "I'm ready for this moment. I'm ready to shine."

A native of Voorhees, New Jersey, Wilson earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Manhattan College in 2003 and was a four-year letter winner for the women's basketball team.

She has one child, a son, Kash. 🐾



## Making a comeback

**SMU DataArts is set to help nonprofits use technology to speed their recovery from COVID-19.**

The national center for arts research based at SMU Meadows School of the Arts is one of 46 arts organizations worldwide selected for the new \$30 million Digital Accelerator Program launched in July by Bloomberg Philanthropies in New York.

The goal is to assist arts groups in recovering from financial hardships created by the pandemic by providing tools and training aimed at building audiences, increasing fundraising, driving revenue and continuing to deliver programming virtually and in person.

The grant will allow SMU DataArts to streamline data collection, increase data storage, provide more sophisticated data integration and management, and enhance computing power to support increased national demand for data analysis and machine learning.

SMU DataArts also will work with Bloomberg Philanthropies on the design of its program evaluation.

"The investment in strategic planning and technology combined are so important to long-term sustainability," says SMU DataArts Director Zannie Voss. "Boosting our data collection and management capabilities will enable us to deliver critical insights to the field more quickly and comprehensively."





# Threading the needle

The Meadows Museum's *Canvas & Silk: Historic Fashion from Madrid's Museo del Traje* is the first major collaboration between Spain's national fashion museum and an American museum.

The major exhibition includes 40 works from the Meadows collection alongside contemporaneous examples of historic dress and accessories from the renowned Museo del Traje.

"Not only will our collection be seen by audiences in the U.S. for the first time, but it will also be displayed in a completely new light," says Elvira González, curator of the historic apparel collection at the Museo del Traje. "We're excited to see what kind of scholarship and new ideas might be generated by presenting these works in a new environment and alongside these paintings and drawings."

*Canvas & Silk* is accompanied by *Image & Identity: Mexican Fashion in the Modern Period*, a focused exploration of how national identity formation is reflected in fashion. The featured works from the 19th and 20th centuries are drawn from the collections of the Meadows Museum and SMU's DeGolyer Library.

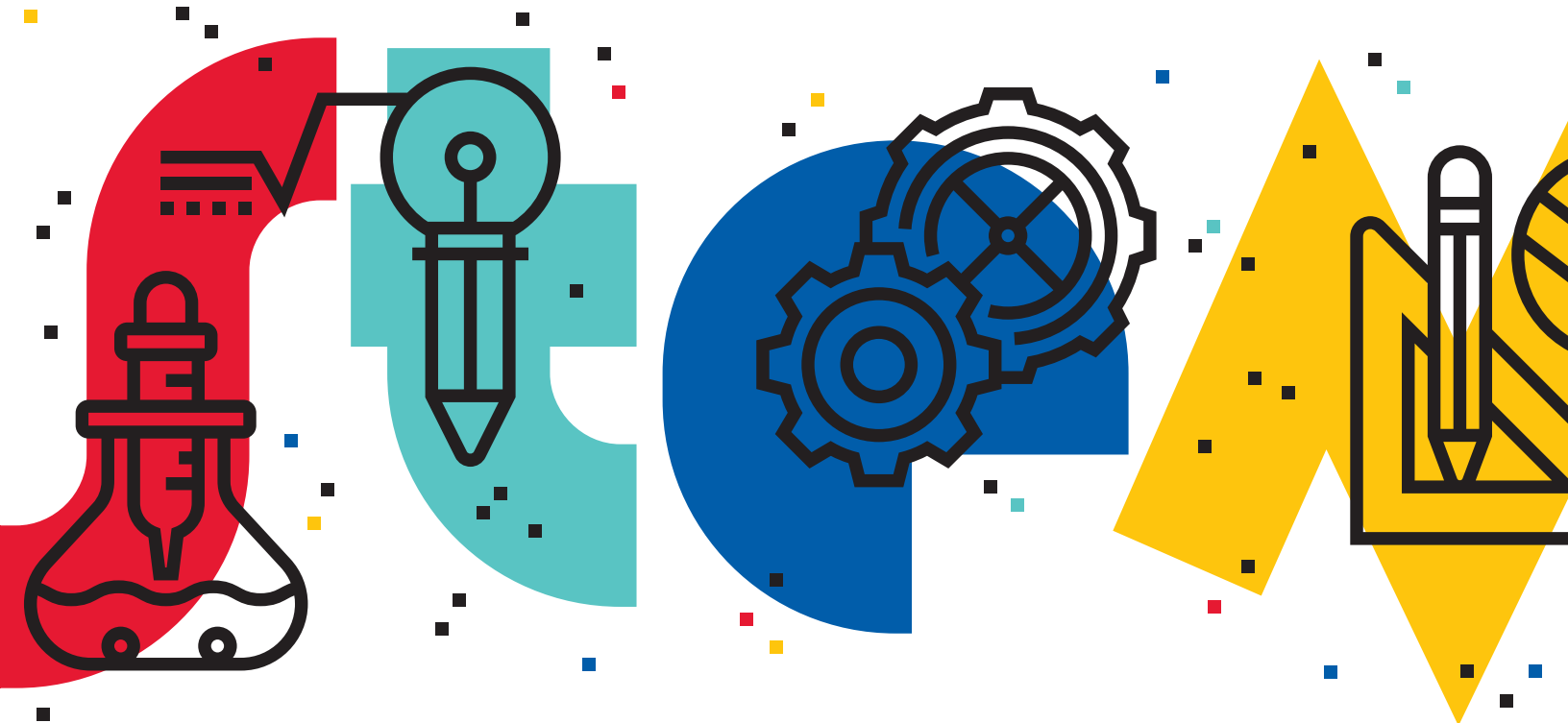
Both exhibits continue through January 9, 2022. Timed-entry tickets may be purchased at [meadowsmuseumdallas.org](https://meadowsmuseumdallas.org). 🐘

## A new era of engagement

A gift of \$3 million from Linda P. Custard '60, '99 and William A. Custard '57 – with matching funds of \$3 million from The Meadows Foundation – will establish the Custard Institute for Spanish Art and Culture at the Meadows Museum. Read more about this exciting new institute in the next issue of *SMU Magazine*.



**TOP** Carl Nebel (German, 1802–1855), *Poblanas from Voyage Pittoresque et archéologique, dans la partie la plus intéressante du Mexique*, Paris: M. Moench [etc.], 1836. DeGolyer Library. **BOTTOM** Traje a "la francesa" [French Costume], 1795–1800. Silk, linen, and cotton. Museo del Traje, Madrid. ©Museo del Traje, Centro de Investigación del Patrimonio Etnológico, Madrid, Spain; CE000663–65. Photo by Jesús Madriñán.



# Launching a new model for community collaboration

**THE PATHBREAKING PARTNERSHIP IGNITING AN INNOVATIVE MODEL FOR PRE-K–8 PUBLIC EDUCATION MARKED A MILESTONE IN AUGUST WHEN THE NEW WEST DALLAS STEM SCHOOL WELCOMED ITS FIRST STUDENTS.**

**T**he new school is the result of more than three years of collaboration between the Dallas Independent School District, SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, the Toyota USA Foundation and the West Dallas community. Every step – from the beginning of the public-private partnership to what's happening at the school today – is being documented by Simmons School researchers and educators to codify a process that can be successfully duplicated in other Dallas schools and, eventually, across the nation.

From the beginning, bringing neighborhood stakeholders to the table was crucial to understanding the needs and aspirations of the families served by the school, which is housed

in the L.G. Pinkston High School building, a West Dallas landmark.

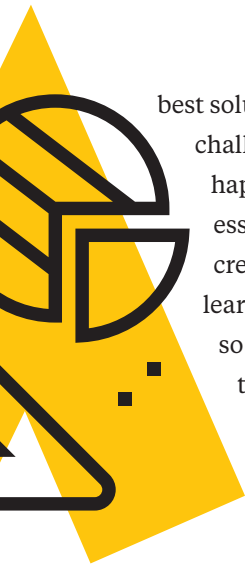
The STEM school launched with seventh and eighth grades this year and will eventually enroll students in Pre-K through eighth grade.

Simmons School faculty provided their expertise in developing the project-based, industry-informed STEM curriculum meant to inspire and prepare students for college and careers in a rapidly changing world. That readiness also requires addressing issues outside the classroom that can derail learning. "We want our students to learn new ways of thinking and find the

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Science teacher Elizabeth Blue-Allen (right photo), the school's STEM curriculum coordinator, leads project-based lessons with students working in teams.





best solutions to emerging challenges. For this to happen, guidance is essential, so we have created strong professional learning groups for teachers so they can advance too,” says Stephanie L. Knight, Leon Simmons Endowed Dean of the Simmons School.

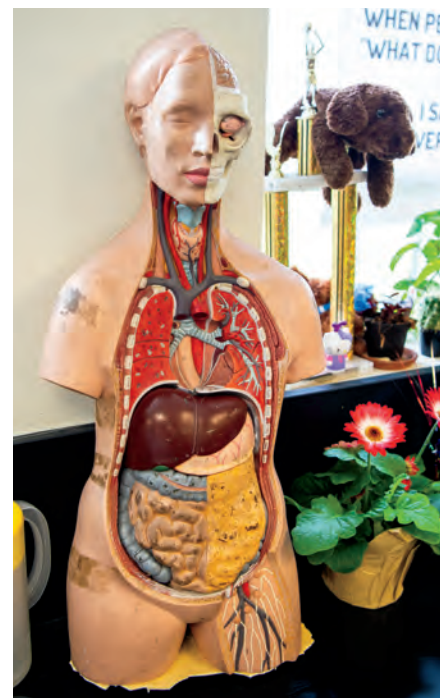
“Wraparound” academic and social services will be delivered by local nonprofits directly to students to help with such issues as literacy, nutrition and after-school care.

“Together with the community, we have worked on everything from building design, teacher development, curriculum and before- and after-school care. This extends also to

addressing broader community needs, including access to transportation,” says Sean Suggs, director, Toyota USA Foundation and group vice president, Toyota Social Innovation.

Prior to the school’s opening this fall, the Toyota USA Foundation approved a grant of \$3 million to SMU, adding to the \$2 million grant the foundation awarded in September 2018. This is in addition to Toyota’s teacher and community grants, West Dallas scholarship and mentorship programs, and the recently launched transportation circulator in the area.

The school’s innovative ecosystem recently received another boost from business leader Carter Creech ’60, an SMU alumnus with a passion for education philanthropy, who pledged an additional \$3.5 million, following his initial gift of \$1.5 million to the



project. Creech’s contribution will go toward a new middle school career and college readiness pilot program at the school, as well as efforts to replicate the West Dallas STEM School.

Master Principal Marion Jackson has described her school as “the jewel of West Dallas.”

“This is an opportunity of a lifetime for the students and community of West Dallas,” Jackson said during the virtual groundbreaking for the school in May. “This partnership has afforded us the space to realize what’s possible when we focus our collective efforts on changing how we meet the needs of our students and families.”

As the model school continues to take shape, Simmons School educators and researchers will work alongside DISD teachers on state-of-the-art educational practices, professional development, and continuous monitoring and evaluation of the program. 🐾



# Energizing business education

**A \$15 million gift from Sharoll and Bryan S. Sheffield '01 to SMU's Edwin L. Cox School of Business will empower future entrepreneurs by creating new technology-equipped collaborative spaces.**

Their generous commitment will establish Bryan S. Sheffield Hall, part of the future Cox School renovation and expansion project.

"Bryan is a wonderful example of how SMU shapes world changers. His forward-thinking leadership in the energy industry is a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit and the financial acumen he developed as a business major in the Cox School," says SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

Located on the southwest corner of the renovated business school quad, Sheffield Hall will serve as the new hub for Cox School's Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program, including BBA admissions, academic advising and student records. In addition, it will house

classroom space on the lower level and faculty offices on the second floor.

"This facility will give our next-generation CEOs experience in a data-driven, collaborative environment – and the skills to build trust with customers. Combined, technology and public trust are critical to supporting our future energy landscape," says Bryan S. Sheffield, who received his BBA from Cox School in 2001.

To further enhance the real-world experiences shaping the next generation of business leaders, the second floor of Sheffield Hall will provide a home for the Brierley Institute for Customer Engagement. The unique academic institute brings together students, marketing faculty and

corporate leaders to explore customer engagement and how it drives loyalty and value.

Bryan S. Sheffield is founder and managing partner of Formentera Partners, an energy-focused investment firm based in Austin. Prior to Formentera, he founded Parsley Energy, an independent oil and gas company. Credited with leading the second-most successful exploration and production IPO in history, Sheffield was recognized among *Forbes'* 40 Under 40 and as *Austin Business Journal's* CEO of the Year.

At SMU, Sheffield was honored with the Cox Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2016. He serves on the Maguire Energy Institute Advisory Board. In 2014, the Sheffields committed to creating the Scott Sheffield Energy Investment Lab in the Maguire Energy Institute in honor of Bryan's father, veteran energy industry leader Scott Sheffield.

Sharoll Sheffield serves as principal at Marbella Interests, where she advises the Sheffield family's personal interests and philanthropic giving. Under her leadership, the Sheffields have become generous advocates for the millions of neglected and abandoned animals in Texas. 🐾

**Read more:** [smu.edu/smumag21sheffield](https://smu.edu/smumag21sheffield)



The gift from Sharoll and Bryan S. Sheffield '01 offers a new home for SMU's leading customer engagement institute.





## Sparking student success

A \$1 million gift from the Hegi Family – Fred '66 and Jan Hegi '66 and their sons and daughters-in-law, Peter and Amy '96 and Brian and Elisabeth (Libby) – will equip students to navigate today's fast-changing work environment and find lifelong career success through the renovation and expansion of SMU's Hegi Family Career Development Center, located in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center. The Hegis' generous commitment will modernize conference rooms and the lobby of the center, as well as fund the addition of two new career counselors to equip students with skills that position them for professional success.

**Read more:** [smu.edu/smumag21hegi](http://smu.edu/smumag21hegi)



Photo by James Edward

## Modeling STEM roles

Paleontologist Myria Perez '18 stands next to her digitally generated likeness featured in the #IfThenSheCan – The Exhibit at NorthPark Center in Dallas. Perez is among more than 120 STEM innovators highlighted in the collection. Her statue holds an air scribe, one of the tools of her trade as a fossil preparator now working at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. As a student, she helped prepare fossils for the SMU-led exhibit, *Sea Monsters Unearthed*, currently at the museum.

## Longtime academic leaders honored for career achievements

An all-University reception in September celebrated the academic and campus leadership of professors Caroline Brettell and Tom Fomby, recent recipients of SMU Faculty Career Achievement Awards in recognition of their teaching, scholarship and service to the University.

Brettell, the 2020 honoree, serves as chair and Ruth Collins Altshuler Professor of Anthropology. World-renowned for her expertise in the fields of migration and the immigrant experience,



Brettell has written, co-authored and edited 19 books and written more than 100 journal articles and book chapters. In 2017, she was elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Fomby, the 2021 recipient, has been a professor of economics at SMU since 1975. Fomby has



published 50 professional articles and written a leading textbook. Over the years, the trailblazing teacher has been involved in all University enterprises: research, publications, presentations at professional conferences, directing numerous doctoral dissertations, teaching advanced analytics courses and participating in the governance of SMU.

# Education researcher named to national academy

**R**ichard Duschl, executive director of the Lyle School of Engineering's Caruth Institute for Engineering Education, was selected for membership in the National Academy of Education in recognition of his education-related work and research. He was one of 22 scholars across the nation elected to the association in March.

A widely recognized expert in both STEM and science education research, Duschl also holds an appointment in the Simmons School of Education and Human Development in the Teaching and Learning Department. He joined SMU in 2018.



Duschl is a past president of NARST, a global organization to improve science teaching through research, and received the NARST Distinguished Career in Research Award in 2014. He also served as director of the Division for Research on Learning at the National Science Foundation. 🐉

## Prestigious early career awards fuel rising stars

### Two researchers driving innovation in education and engineering recently

received national early career awards in recognition of their contributions to their fields.

Dominique Baker, assistant professor of education policy in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, earned the Early Career Award from the Association for Education Finance and Policy. The awards are given to scholars who show an exemplary early career trajectory and whose research substantially contributes to the field of education finance and policy.

Baker joined SMU in 2016. Her research focuses on the effects of higher education access policies on students, particularly those who are underrepresented within higher education.

Her work and expertise have been highlighted

by *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Inside Higher Ed* and other national news media.



Janille Smith-Colin, assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Lyle School of Engineering, received a 2021 Early-Career Research Fellowship from the Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

Smith-Colin joined SMU in 2018.

Her wide-ranging research on transportation infrastructure will continue

as one of seven fellows selected for the academies' new human health and community resilience track focusing on root causes of individual and community health and well-being. Each fellow receives a \$76,000 award, mentoring and support for two years of research.



## Women's leadership initiative launches

This school year, SMU Dedman School of Law launches the **Jennifer M. Collins Women's Leadership Initiative** to explore the unique challenges women will face in their education and in the legal profession. The program is made possible by a lead gift from The Braly Family Foundation in honor of Dean Collins.

Law alumna Angela F. Braly '85, co-trustee of The Braly Family Foundation and former chair of the board, president and CEO of WellPoint Inc., a health care insurance company now known as Anthem Inc., serves on the boards of The Procter & Gamble Company, Lowe's Companies Inc., Brookfield Asset Management and Exxon Mobil.

SMU's law school has a long history of training leaders in the fight for gender parity. The late Louise B. Raggio '52, for example, played a pivotal role in the enactment of Texas' Marital Property Bill in 1967, enabling women to conduct certain financial and business transactions without their husbands' permission. Less than a decade later, Chief Judge Barbara M. Golden Lynn '76 was among five female law students filing suit against firms that denied them summer internships in favor of male students. Lynn went on to become the first woman appointed as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, and she has been honored by the University for her accomplishments with a 2021 SMU Distinguished Alumni Award (see page 33).





## Fighting the ‘COVID slide’ with one-minute tests

When the pandemic forced her kindergartners online during the 2020–21 school year, teacher Michelle Davis ’21 deployed quick reading assessments to assist with keeping their learning on target.

Last year at F.P. Caillet Elementary in the Dallas Independent School District, Davis used a program called DIBELS to test a range of literacy skills. Students read grade-level passages to display such competencies as identifying letter sounds and comprehending text. The assessments take about one minute and are typically done at the beginning of the school year and continue every few weeks until the end.

“We need to assess the students to know where they are developmentally,” says Davis, who received her master’s degree in bilingual education from SMU in May.

This kind of rapid, low-key test can be an essential tool for teachers as they try to help our communities’

youngest students catch up and remain motivated to learn.

Training teachers to use these tests has been a focus for Diane Gifford, clinical associate professor in SMU’s Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

“It’s increasingly important that teachers offer these assessments and determine where weaknesses are,” she says. “Early assessments should be part of school whether or not there’s a pandemic. Every year, teachers get in a new batch of kids, and they need to know what is happening with those kids.”

Last year a lot of the assessments had to be done virtually. “That’s not ideal,” particularly for younger students, Gifford says.

Despite some drawbacks the virtual experience taught everyone involved valuable lessons for the future, she says.

“We know we can do a lot of things online now that we didn’t think we could before.”

***“Early assessments should be part of school whether or not there’s a pandemic. Every year, teachers get in a new batch of kids, and they need to know what is happening with those kids.”***

– Diane Gifford

Regular evaluations have become even more vital as youngsters returned to more traditional classroom settings this fall. Davis now teaches third grade at Caillet, and the learning gaps are even more pronounced. None of her 44 students reads at grade level.

“Right now, it’s figuring out how to keep them from falling even farther behind,” she says. “It’s a huge challenge.” 🦋

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Teacher Michelle Davis ’21 ends the quick assessment with a celebratory fist bump to Angelique Luciano, 6, at F.P. Caillet Elementary in May. Photo by Lynda M. González/*The Dallas Morning News*.

# VIRTUAL LABORATORY

**SMU'S CHEMGEN  
TECHNOLOGY CUTS  
TIME, COSTS,  
PERSONNEL NEEDED  
TO RESEARCH  
LIFESAVING DRUGS**

**by Jessica Good**

At SMU, big ideas become big breakthroughs. What started as a scrappy research project conducted in a lecturer's spare time now has the potential to accelerate findings about lifesaving drugs.

Structural biochemistry and computer programming don't, at first glance, seem to have much in common.

But Associate Professor John Wise in Dedman College's Department of Biological Sciences links the two disciplines in a way that has led to a breakthrough in the important work of drug discovery.

Now, SMU has a patent pending for a set of computational routines under the name ChemGen. The computer-driven process can mimic chemical





reactions in a lab, slashing the time and number of scientists needed to begin the development of successful drugs for specific applications, such as the treatment of recurrent cancer.

That approach could save time and money. Medicinal chemists, whose specialty is making the compounds found in the discovery phase into drugs, are extremely well-paid organic chemists, Wise says.

“In the old-school way, the head of the research would pick a couple of projects and put 10 to 20 chemists on each project,” says Wise, ChemGen’s lead inventor. And that gets expensive.

Wise has been working for more than a decade with other SMU scientists, including students, to develop what became ChemGen. The idea came while Wise and biology Professor Pia Vogel, founding director of SMU’s Center for Drug Discovery, Design and Delivery, were trying to find compounds that can reverse chemotherapy failure in aggressive cancers.

Wise’s current lab group members include a graduate student and several undergraduates – reflecting SMU’s commitment to helping students conduct research as early as their first term on the Hilltop. SMU graduate student Hang Zhao and undergraduates Keola Ching ’22, Kyra Rozanitis ’22, Justin Chung ’22, Patrick Isaac ’23, Zuhair Almahayni ’23 and Bela Pathak ’25 are the current members of the Drug Discovery at SMU lab group.

SMU’s support for research helped Wise develop his area of expertise

from the very beginning of his nearly two-decade career at SMU.

After his biochemistry education at Syracuse University and University of Rochester Medical Center and his early work as a scientist, Wise arrived on campus in 2002. He started as a lecturer – not a tenure-track position – so, for a while, he couldn’t apply

## What is structural biochemistry?

**Structural biochemistry, a subdiscipline of biochemistry, is concerned with elucidating the molecular structures in living organisms that make life possible. It encompasses the structures of the thousands of different proteins in each cell that actually do the work of life, as well as the RNA and DNA molecules that encode the information for building the organism.**

for grants or have a team of graduate students assisting him with research.

But, he says, “If I don’t do research, I stop breathing.” So this structural biochemist found a way – through computers.

Despite a heavy teaching load, Wise started an evening computational research program. With the SMU Office of Information Technology’s


help, he collected about 300 used desktop computers. OIT helped network the machines into a “commodity cluster” – a kind of tiny supercomputer – housed in basements and spare rooms across the Hilltop.

From humble beginnings like those, SMU has grown into a supercomputing powerhouse. SMU’s ManeFrame II, one of the most powerful supercomputers in North American higher education, is completely accessible to SMU students and faculty, as well as to research partners outside the University.

Why are computers so much faster at this work than scientists? Imagine a drug-researching scientist as a blindfolded auto mechanic, Wise suggests. That mechanic might get really good at fixing cars, but having eyes on the problem would be a vastly faster approach.

Even for skilled organic chemists, the early part of drug discovery is like working with a blindfold on, Wise says. Scientists find the specific proteins causing the disease on a molecular level, then attack them by optimizing that vulnerability. But the only way to see what’s happening on such a small scale is via still pictures.

Wise’s team’s new computational routines give researchers a look at how these proteins actually move in the cell, not only taking off the metaphorical mechanic’s blindfold, but also giving them a video that shows exactly what movements are happening at a molecular level so they can seek the most effective way to target a disease.

Part of his work, Wise says, “is bringing these snapshots alive.” 

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Lead inventor John Wise (center) and a team of professors and graduate students developed ChemGen computational routines.

# Biomechanics society honors Peter Weyand

Renowned biomechanist and human performance scholar Peter Weyand received the Jim Hay Memorial Award for Research in Sports and Exercise from the American Society of Biomechanics during its annual conference in August.

The award recognizes “originality, quality and depth of biomechanics research that addresses fundamental research questions relevant to extraordinary demands imposed in sport and exercise.”

Weyand, a biomechanist and physiologist, holds the Glenn Simmons Endowed Professorship of Applied Physiology and Biomechanics in the Department of Applied Physiology and Wellness in SMU’s Annette Caldwell Simmons School of

Education and Human Development. He joined SMU in 2008.

His scholarly work focuses on mechanics, metabolism and performance at the whole-body level. He directs the SMU Locomotor Laboratory and has done extensive analysis of many top runners, including Usain Bolt, the retired Jamaican athlete widely considered to be the world’s greatest sprinter.

The award topped off an eventful spring and summer for the researcher.

“Running Fast vs. Running Far,” an interactive experience published on *The New York Times* website in July, brought three elite runners to SMU for testing in the lab on the world’s fastest treadmill and analysis by Weyand. As Weyand explained in the feature, “how much force runners deliver into the ground with their legs is the single event that determines a runner’s velocity.”

In May, Weyand’s work assisted the governing bodies of track and field athletes to make an equitable participation ruling prior to Olympic competition in Tokyo. The World Athletics panel ruled that sprinter Blake Leeper could not use unnaturally long, blade-like prostheses in competition because they gave him “an overall competitive advantage.”

The ruling followed testing by Weyand and University of Montana professor Matt Bundle on Leeper and his running specific prostheses at the SMU Locomotor Laboratory in February and March. The researchers provided a detailed explanation of why, all other things being equal, increased leg length leads to increased running speed. 🏃



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Peter Weyand directs research at the SMU Locomotor Laboratory, home of the world’s fastest treadmill. His biomechanics research has received national recognition for its “originality, quality and depth.”





## SMU astrophysicist's 'extreme' research earns NASA grant

**Astrophysicist Krista Lynne Smith will use a grant from NASA to study some of the most extreme objects in the universe: galaxies that feature a supermassive black hole that greedily feeds on a disklike flow of gas.**

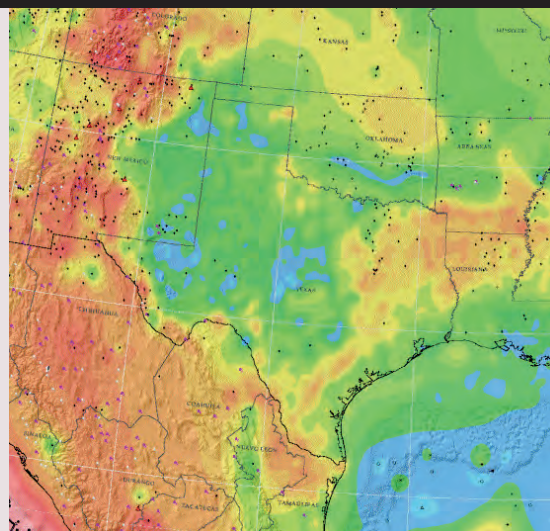
The two-year award of \$215,000 will allow Smith to analyze data from NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite – known as TESS – to answer a variety of questions about active galactic nuclei (AGN) and the gas that fuels them. TESS is an optical telescope that collects light curves on everything in its field of view, every half hour, in an attempt to find new planets outside of our solar system.

Learning more about AGN could shed new light on supermassive black holes, the most powerfully persistent sources of energy in the universe. Smith, an assistant professor of physics in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and her team are part of a worldwide effort deploying instruments on Earth and in space to unlock new information about how the universe works.

Smith has already used TESS data to study other high-energy objects in space. For example, the light curve data helped Smith and her team spot a gamma-ray burst, one of the brightest explosions in the universe. 🐎

## Celebrating 51 years of research with impact

SMU Geothermal Laboratory got a Texas-size salute this year for its more than five decades of research and outreach to advance the understanding of geothermal resources throughout the United States. The Texas House passed HR Bill 2077 during the regular session of the 87th Legislature to congratulate the lab on its legacy of research on geothermal energy – the heat produced inside Earth. The lab was established at SMU in 1970 by David Blackwell, professor emeritus of earth sciences in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, whose pioneering work included the first geothermal map of North America. Today, Professor Matt Hornbach and the lab team continue to build on that foundation. The lab has received research grants from the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the Texas State Energy Conservation Office and Google.org, among others.



# ALZHEIMER'S BREAKTHROUGH

A new SMU study shows how a “good” protein has the ability to remove a toxin from the brain that’s associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

by Monifa Thomas-Nguyen

The finding could lead to new treatments for the disease that affects nearly 6 million Americans. That hope motivated lead researchers James W. McCormick '17 and Lauren Ammerman '21 to pursue the research as SMU graduate students after they both lost a grandmother to the disease.

In the Alzheimer’s brain, abnormal levels of amyloid- $\beta$  proteins clump together to form plaques that collect between neurons and can disrupt cell function. This is believed to be one of the key factors that triggers memory loss, confusion and other common symptoms associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

The team used computer simulations and cell studies to confirm the ability of P-glycoprotein (P-gp) to expel this Alzheimer’s-related protein. Similar to how a sump pump in your house removes water from the basement, P-gp swallows harmful drugs or toxins within the cell and then spits them back outside the cell.

Amyloid- $\beta$ ’s large size created questions about whether P-glycoprotein could actually inhale it and pump it back out.

“Amyloid- $\beta$  is maybe five times bigger than the small, drug-like molecules that P-glycoproteins are well known to move. It would be like taking New York pizza and trying to stuff that whole slice in your mouth and swallow it,” says John Wise, associate professor of biochemistry and senior author of the study.

The fact that P-gp appears to be able to do just that “greatly expands the possible range of things that P-gp can transport, which opens the possibility that it may interact with other factors that were previously thought

impossible,” says McCormick, who received his PhD in molecular and cell biology from SMU.

SMU researchers might never have investigated the link between P-gp and amyloid- $\beta$  proteins if not for McCormick’s dogged pursuit of the connection. He devoted hours of his own time to use a computer-generated model of P-glycoprotein that he and Wise created.

McCormick completed the computational work with the help of his fiancée, Ammerman, who received her PhD in biology from SMU. 🐶



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For Lauren Ammerman '21 and James W. McCormick '17, who are getting married in November, Alzheimer’s disease research was personal. Both lost a grandmother to the brain disease.





## A dino discovery with teeth

**The discovery of the first juvenile dromaeosaurid lower jawbone on the North Slope of Alaska supports a growing theory that some Cretaceous Arctic dinosaurs did not migrate with the seasons but were year-round residents, according to new research by SMU paleontologist Anthony Fiorillo.**

**D**romaeosaurids are a group of predatory dinosaurs closely related to birds. Researchers have tended to believe that this group of dinosaurs migrated through the area but did not make their homes there. Baby dinosaur bones don't preserve well in the fossil record because they are small and delicate, which makes this discovery of a baby's jawbone particularly unique, Fiorillo says. But don't be fooled by their fine bone structure. Velociraptors, the dinosaurs that terrorized the kids in the famed *Jurassic Park* kitchen scene, are members of this same sharp-toothed family, he says.

For the last 22 years, Fiorillo has



spent his summer camping on the riverbanks and mountainsides of Alaska, searching for fossils.

Although his fieldwork was derailed last year, he picked it up again this summer. *The Washington Post* documented his eight-day trek with colleagues from Alaska and Japan on the hunt for dinosaur footprints that could help explain how "they were living, breeding, doing things that dinosaurs did to be successful," Fiorillo explained in the article. 🐦

Rendering by artist Andrey Atuchin of a juvenile dromaeosaurid 70 million years ago on the Prince Creek Formation in northern Alaska.

# TOP 20%

National universities ranked in  
*U.S. News & World Report 2022*

### Top STEM rankings

SMU programs in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences and Lyle School of Engineering are represented in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education's* prestigious Top Producers of Minority STEM Graduates:

No. **14**

**Mathematics and statistics,**  
topping Harvard at No. 17

No. **42**

(tied with Harvard)  
**Computer and information sciences,**  
master's degree

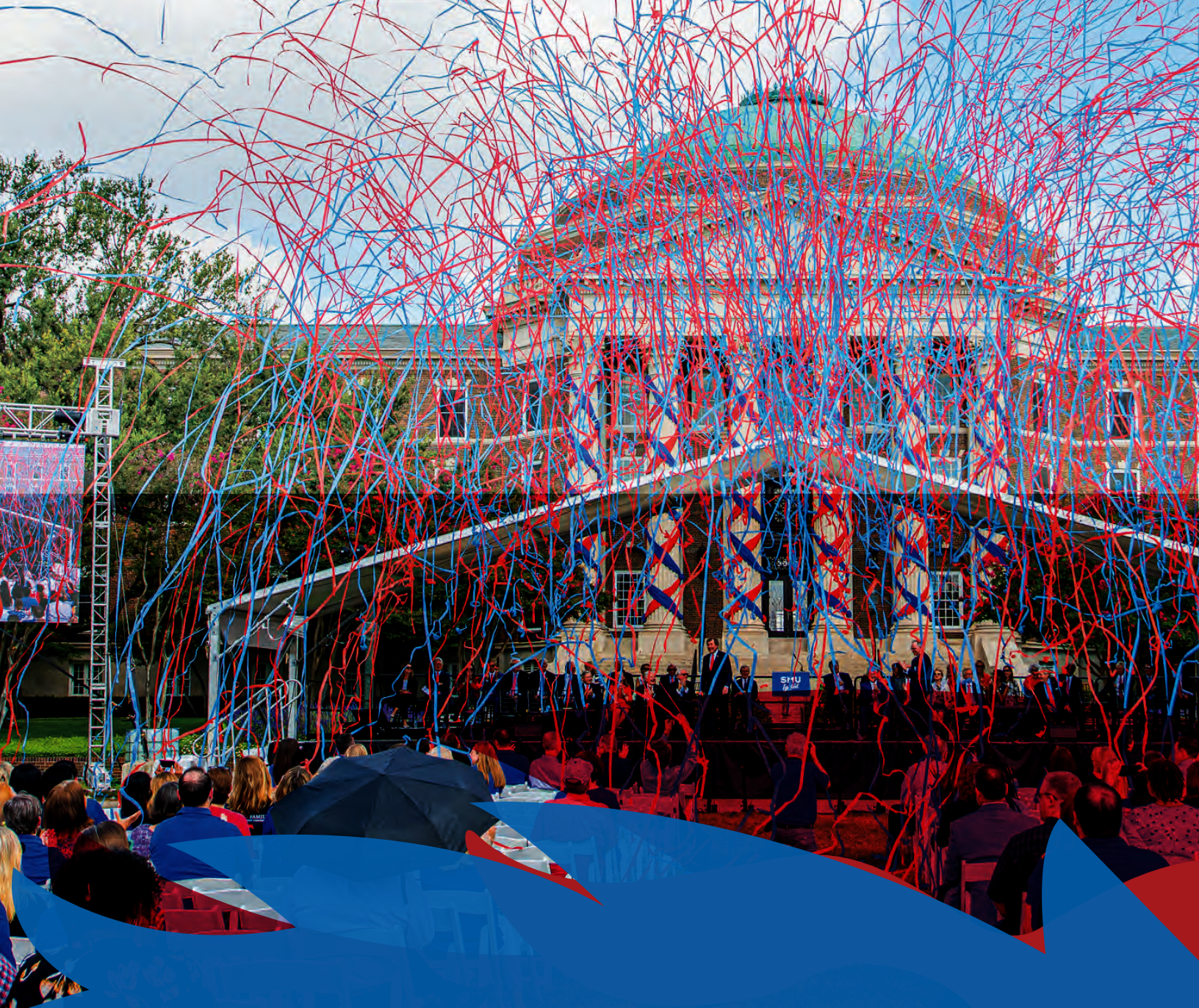
No. **45**

**Engineering, master's degree**



# SMU *Ignited*

*Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*







The University kicked off the public phase of *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* September 17, gathering alumni, guests, students, faculty and staff on the Main Quad in front of iconic Dallas Hall to celebrate the investment in the future of SMU and beyond. Applause reverberated across the Hilltop as President R. Gerald Turner, joined by the SMU Board of Trustees, introduced the multiyear campaign for impact. The festive announcement was followed by an all-University picnic, accompanied by the SMU Mustang Band and cheer squads, and an opportunity for Mustangs to add their pictures to a photo mosaic.

Watch campaign and event videos, and learn more about *SMU Ignited*: [smu.edu/smumag21ignited](https://smu.edu/smumag21ignited).



# Time traveler

by Chris Kelley

## HOW AN SMU ARCHAEOLOGIST USES FUTURISTIC TOOLS TO DISCOVER SECRETS ABOUT THE PAST

For digital age archaeologists like Mark McCoy, hands-on research often means using drones that can map far-flung landmarks in a matter of hours; creating 3D models that reveal stunning structures lost for thousands of years; and deploying scanning systems that reveal sites without lifting a trowel.



Photo by Elizabeth Lavin



McCoy harnesses an array of data-rich tools to unearth new discoveries, and he is bringing his findings to the public in a fresh way. His latest book, *Maps for Time Travelers: How Archaeologists Use Technology to Bring Us Closer to the Past* (University of California Press, 2020), recently earned the 2021 Popular Book Award from the Society for American Archaeology, who called his approach a “first of its kind.”

An associate professor in the Department of Anthropology in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, McCoy joins a prestigious list of winners that includes the late Lewis R. Binford, SMU Distinguished Professor of Archaeology, considered one of the most influential archaeologists of the 20th century.

Blending fictional storytelling and scholarly research, McCoy’s book taps into readers’ imaginations to show modern archaeological practices in action. It’s engaging and educational, lauded as “a brilliant introduction to the frontiers of archaeology ... lucid, entertaining and highly informed in the art and science of geospatial archaeology” in the spring 2021 issue of *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*.

McCoy understands the power of a good story. He was hooked by the film exploits of Indiana Jones as a kid growing up in Delaware, but his intense curiosity about history fueled his future. Before he even entered college, he was already fascinated by fieldwork.

“I was very fortunate to have been on my first dig when I was a teenager,” McCoy recalls. “It was at a Boy Scout camp in the Pocono Mountains. The camp was founded on what was an old tannery town built just after the Mexican War. We were just a bunch of kids scraping the ground, but it was a heck of an experience, and it certainly left a great impression on me.”

***“The past is populated with real people, and if I can help create for students that kind of empathy that we often lack for each other in the present, then curiosity will follow naturally.”***

– Mark McCoy

On his journey from teenage explorer to award-winning researcher, McCoy earned his PhD in 2006 from University of California, Berkeley and soon became a leader in the field of geospatial archaeology with a regional focus on islands of the Pacific. After a stint at the University of Otago in New Zealand, he was recruited by SMU for his interdisciplinary expertise.

“SMU has an established department and a strong reputation in archaeology specifically,” says McCoy. “It was an easy ‘yes’ to SMU.”

Reconstructing ancient societies is no easy task, but McCoy is revealing details once lost to time while training a new generation of archaeologists. Three anthropology PhD candidates

from SMU are currently working on their own research under his supervision: Adam Johnson and Spencer Lambert in Hawaii and Samantha Lagos in New Zealand. He also advised undergraduate anthropology major Joseph Panuska ’21, recipient of the Edward I. and Peggy C. Fry Award for Academic Excellence in Undergraduate

Anthropology, whose senior honors project involved fieldwork in Hawaii.

McCoy keeps the focus of his research on the humanity of both the people he’s learning about and his students.

“The past is populated with real people, and if I can help create for students that kind of empathy that we often lack for each other in the present, then curiosity will follow naturally.” 🐾

Chris Kelley is a veteran journalist and founder of The Kelley Group, a Dallas-based strategic communications company, and a fellow at the Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity at the Lyle School of Engineering.

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In his new book, Mark McCoy takes a novel approach to explaining modern archaeological practices in action.

# Mapping the road to change through public policy

by Nancy Lowell George '79, '18

**A prestigious Truman Scholarship for future public service leaders will continue to fuel Student Body President Austin Hickle's journey.**

Austin Hickle '22 had something of an epiphany last summer: If college campuses like SMU were going to successfully return to on-campus learning in fall 2020, student engagement would be key to compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols. Within three months, he organized the College Health Alliance of Texas, which conducted student opinion research and became a conduit to Congress for student pandemic concerns.

Hickle worked with 54 student leaders from 27 Texas universities to represent the student voice in fighting the pandemic. He organized two congressional roundtables, formed partnerships for a statewide mental health hotline and, ultimately, received a congressional tribute for advancing public safety.

Now Hickle's leadership skills and proven ability to create change have earned the senior economics and public policy major a Truman Scholarship, the premier graduate fellowship for future public servants. He plans to earn both a law degree and a master's degree in education after completing his undergraduate studies in May 2022.

At SMU, he is a Hunt Leadership Scholar, a member of the University Honors Program and one of eight students in his class tapped for the Tower Center Scholars Program, a selective minor in public policy and international affairs.

Hickle grew up in Lubbock, Texas, and his own childhood experiences and the learning challenges faced by his younger sister have informed his interest in education. His focus on the intersection of youth education and public policy has led him to teach in Kenya and intern for two members of Congress.

"Effective policy carves a more sure-footed path to systematic change than any single nonprofit can offer," Hickle says. "In the long term, I'd like to serve as an elected leader with the influence to shape evidence-based policy that provides equitable education for all."

With SMU support, he's developing a sustainable platform for education access. He used a Richter International Fellowship and an Engaged

Learning Fellowship to conduct a needs assessment in Cameroon, where civil war had curtailed learning for hundreds of thousands of students. In response, he founded the Global Education Mission, which now connects a class of Cameroonian students to high-quality teachers from around the world. 🇳🇬







## Coding a ‘smart’ solution

**R**ecent law graduate Madison Arcemont '21 has written computer language for a smart contract that, if adopted by courts, could make it much easier and less expensive for someone to sort out the estate of a loved one who dies without a will.

Her innovative approach uses blockchain technology to replace some of the work now done manually in what the law calls “intestate succession.” That’s the legal term for when a judge in the probate court system must oversee the payment of any debts and determine who can inherit the estate of a deceased person with no will.

“Technology could make intestate succession more accessible, affordable and efficient,” Arcemont says.

She used a program called Lexon to write the computer code. Lexon allows noncoders, like attorneys and the family members of the deceased, to write and understand smart contracts. Those smart contracts may then be stored using blockchain technology, meaning any information loaded into a smart contract by a personal representative or a judge would be saved on multiple computers instead of a single one. Because multiple versions are stored, a smart contract can’t easily be tampered with and can be validated by several randomized computers to ensure the information is correct. 🐾

***“I’ve never followed anyone’s act, and neither should you. Be your own act. If you want to fulfill your greatest potential in life, the key is to do things your way.”***

Whitney Wolfe Herd '11, founder and CEO of Bumble Inc., was the featured speaker at SMU’s May Commencement Convocation honoring 2,611 candidates from SMU’s undergraduate, graduate and professional programs.





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# THEAR SY SUZUKI '96: 'CHOOSE TO LIFT EACH OTHER UP'

Many of you have already seen the painting of Thear Sy Suzuki '96 by former President George W. Bush in the *Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants* exhibit at the Bush Presidential Center and in the accompanying book. Suzuki and her family escaped from Cambodia as war refugees, eventually moving to the United States when she was 8. Today she is global client service partner for EY and serves on the firm's Americas Inclusiveness Advisory Council. In August, she received the Corporate Leadership Excellence Award from *D CEO* magazine, an honor that recognizes her commitment to leading with courage and compassion.

We asked Suzuki to talk about her experiences and share her insights about leadership.

My leadership journey started at Skyline High School when I ran for the student senate and eventually served as student body president during my junior year. The Herkimer Leadership Scholarship at SMU led me to become a Mustang. I studied biomedical engineering, and I loved my experience as a student leader.

In 2018 I attended the Bush Center Forum on Leadership and learned about the Presidential Leadership Scholars (PLS) program. Intrigued by the opportunity to take my leadership development to the next level, I enthusiastically submitted my application. PLS is a collaboration amongst four presidential centers – George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H. W. Bush and Lyndon B. Johnson – that brings together bold and principled leaders who are committed to facing critical challenges, both at home and around the world.

My PLS experience left me feeling inspired, challenged and hopeful. I loved being in the company of a diverse cohort, from all walks of life, who believe in something bigger than themselves; people who see and believe that they can



Thear Sy Suzuki's portrait by former President George W. Bush is featured in *Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants*.

do something about it; people with the courage to take action to change what's not working in our communities, country and world. Seeing their work challenged me to press forward with mine.

I went into PLS expecting to learn leadership lessons. What I didn't expect was how my experience as a refugee would be additive to President Bush's project, *Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants*. The book released in April 2021, during the increase in anti-Asian hate in America. I'm grateful to President Bush for publicly shedding light on the issue and offering his strong perspective on our role as Americans to stand up against all forms of hate and care for one another. I felt seen, heard and valued.

I envision a world where all people feel free and safe to be themselves and use their talents and gifts to help others. My personal purpose is to inspire courageous actions in others so they can lead more impactful lives. Regardless of our profession or what the world throws at us, we can each choose to love, lead inclusively and lift each other up. 🦋

**Learn more:** [bushcenter.org](https://bushcenter.org)

# What's new with you?

New job? New baby? Share news about your career, family and adventures with the SMU community in the Alumni section of *SMU Magazine*. Submit your news online at [smu.edu/submitanote](http://smu.edu/submitanote) or email [smumag@smu.edu](mailto:smumag@smu.edu). Deadline for the spring 2022 issue is **November 19, 2021**.

**63** The Rev. **BILL B. HEDGES** is now the archivist for the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church at the Archives Center in Conroe, Texas.

**65** **LINDA WERTHEIMER HART** and husband **MILLEDGE (MITCH) A. HART, III** will be honored with the 2021 Robert S. Folsom Leadership Award by the Methodist Health System Foundation. The gala event raises funds for Methodist Health System's programs and services as designated by award recipients. The Harts have selected renovation of the Women's Imaging Center at Methodist Dallas Medical Center. The Folsom Award is given to "recognize individuals whose demonstrated commitment to, and excellence in, community leadership emulate the achievements of former Dallas Mayor Robert S. Folsom." Together, Linda and Mitch Hart are also among SMU's most generous donors. Their generosity has made possible the SMU Hart Global Leaders Forum, SMU Hart Center for Engineering Leadership and the Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at SMU. They are also loyal sponsors of the Tate Lecture Series and serve on numerous SMU boards and committees.

**69** **DAVID GRAVELLE** has been reappointed to the Texas Historical Commission. His term will expire February 1, 2027. Based in Dallas, Gravelle is a branding/marketing consultant. He is a member of the Dallas Friday Group and a former member of the Texas State Historical Association, Dallas Assembly and the Dallas Museum of Natural History.

**72** **JON WALTON**, a fine arts photographer with a focus on nature and botanica, was the featured artist at Art Fair Off the Square, presented by the Wisconsin Alliance of Artists and Craftspeople in Madison, Wisconsin. The juried show showcases artists from across Wisconsin and draws exhibitors from around the nation.

**73** **JULE SELBO** has released the mystery *10 Days* through Pandamoon Publishing. Selbo has written for George Lucas, George Romero, Lindsay Duran, Aaron Spelling and Geena Davis. Her plays have been performed off-off Broadway and in regional theaters. Selbo has a PhD in film and has taught at California State University, Fullerton. Her books on story structure and screenwriting, film genre and the history of women screenwriters are used in university courses.

**75** **EDWARD RINCÓN**, president of Rincón & Associates, recently published *The Culture of Research*. Rincón, who has a doctorate in psychological quantitative methods and has taught at SMU and other North Texas universities, says there is a growing disconnect between the research industry and the increasingly diverse, multicultural population in the U.S., leading to a decline in survey responses and misleading conclusions. In his book, he identifies methodological problems in high-stakes studies and offers practical solutions to combat errors and improve outcomes.

**76** **BRENDA CHRISTIAN** recently published *Jobless: Navigating the Unemployment Benefits System*. It provides guidance for those seeking unemployment benefits in a pandemic economy and others who are covering the increasingly complicated system. A retired lawyer, Christian worked for the Texas Workforce Commission for more than a decade and was an assistant district attorney in Dallas. **FRED W. HUNTER**, a retired U.S. Navy commander and chaplain and United Methodist pastor, was the featured speaker at the annual Memorial Day Service in Garland County, Arkansas. He also performed the national anthem

and other patriotic songs with the Arkansans, a group from his church.

**ALAN OPPENHEIMER** recently published *Workplace Secrets Revealed – Passing the Baton to the Next Generation*, which discusses how to effectively address workplace issues and problems. Oppenheimer – who spent more than four decades working for major companies such as JC Penney, Sally's Beauty, Zale Corp., Neiman Marcus, Tony Roma and Texas Land and Cattle – now works as a consultant.

**77** **CHRIS ABOOD** has retired after 16 years, first with the Children's Hospital and then in the Office of Community Relations. His days are now taken up with volunteer work, enjoying live concerts and playing golf and pickleball.

**78** **ROY BROWN** showcased his pottery in the 18th annual Texas Master of Fine Art and Craft Exhibition in Kerrville. The event attracts art aficionados from across the U.S., and invited exhibitors are recognized masters in their chosen medium. **DAVID R. CASSIDY** has been listed in the 2021 *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business for Louisiana*. He specializes



in tax law at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson LLP. Chambers USA ranks the leading firms and lawyers throughout America.

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**79** **SALLIE STRATTON** recently published her memoir *Losing Chuck, Finding Sallie: The Thirty-Six Year Odyssey of a Wife Whose Husband Was MIA in Vietnam*.

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**83** **ANTONIO GARZA** has been named to the board of directors for Greenbrier, a leading international supplier of equipment and services to global freight transportation markets. Garza is the counsel in the Mexico City office of White and Case LLP, a director and adviser to both publicly and privately held companies, and a member of the SMU Board of Trustees. **JANE MILLER** — CEO of Lily's Sweets and a board member at the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business, Watson Institute and Eldorado Springs Artesian Water — was featured in Thrive Global Community's interview series "Women of the C-Suite." **RICK**

**STANSBERRY** is the new priest at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Stansberry worked briefly as an accountant after receiving his degree, then he embraced his long desire to join the priesthood and was ordained in 1992. His most recent appointment was at Christ the King Church in Oklahoma City, where he served for 14 years.

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**84** **RANDY LASER** is now vice president of products and revenue management at Monaker Group. Based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Monaker is a technology-driven travel company focused on the alternative lodging rental market.

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## Distinguished Alumni Award: Barbara M. Golden Lynn '76

**Barbara M. Golden Lynn '76 shattered gender barriers early in her career and continues to open doors for women in the legal profession.**

Shortly after earning her Juris Doctor from SMU's Dedman School of Law, Lynn joined Carrington Coleman in Dallas as the firm's first female associate, and, later, its first female partner, before assuming the bench as a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Texas in 2000. Lynn made history in 2016 as the first woman to attain the position of chief judge.

As an SMU law student, Lynn earned membership in the Order of Barristers and Delta Theta Phi honor societies before graduating summa cum laude, Order of the Coif. She fondly recalls graduating first in her class and serving as the standard-bearer in the presence of her parents and grandfather, and being hooded



by her husband, Mike Lynn, who received his SMU law degree in 1975. He is founder and chairman of Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann, a leading commercial litigation firm in Dallas.

Despite a full docket, Lynn finds time to give back to her alma mater through service on the Dedman Law Executive Board and as an Alumni Community Fellow. She also serves on the Tate Lecture Series board of directors.

As a leader in her profession, Lynn has held numerous positions with the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, the Dallas Bar Association and other professional organizations.

In recognition of her impact on intellectual property and patent law, The Honorable Barbara M. G. Lynn American Inn of Court was chartered in 2011 and meets at SMU.

Lynn's accomplishments have been celebrated with many awards, including Dedman Law's Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice in 1999 and the inaugural Louise B. Raggio Award from the Dallas Women Lawyers Association. *National Law Journal* named her one of the most influential women attorneys in the country, and the International Women's Forum presented her with the Women Who Make a Difference Award. 🐾

# Meet SMU Alumni Board Chair Kristin W. Henderson '82

*"Never stop learning and improving" is Kristin W. Henderson's motto.*

Whether continuing to set world records with her U.S. Masters Swimming relay team or honing her public speaking skills, she always strives for growth. In her new role as SMU Alumni Board chair, she aims to improve communication throughout the alumni network and strengthen relationships.

## BUILDING A STRONGER ALUMNI NETWORK FOR ALL

Kristin is passionate about SMU and the differences it can make in the lives of alumni, students and the community. Focused on collaboration, she is working with the board chairs of Young Alumni, Hispanic Alumni of SMU and Black Alumni of SMU to increase alumni engagement opportunities and highlight each board's unique initiatives, such as scholarships and mentorships for underrepresented populations.

In Fort Worth, Texas, Kristin is a longtime community volunteer who has served on the boards of Jewel Charity, the Cliburn Foundation and the Junior League and on the Baylor Scott & White Women's Health Council as board chair. In Dallas, she most recently chaired the Mustangs Give Back Committee of the SMU Alumni Board where she inspired Mustangs to think big and do good.

"SMU is an incredible place where anyone, no matter the background, has opportunities," she says. "Mustangs are strong; they can take on any challenge. They are world changers. SMU is enriched because of the differences we each bring to our time on campus, and when we come together, we are Mustang strong."

Kristin is just as connected to the SMU campus today as she was in 1978 as a first-year engineering student and athlete on the SMU women's swimming and diving team. She returns year after year to cheer on swimmers, volunteer, attend building openings, Boulevard and meet students. She remains close to fellow Kappa Kappa Gammas, swim team members and mentors from her time as a student. When she brought her oldest son to campus for his first year at SMU, she was delighted to discover that some of his classmates were the children of her own classmates.

She encourages all alumni to get involved and stay involved with their alma mater. "Volunteer, mentor, return to campus often and make an annual financial commitment to the University in any amount. These are all great habits to start as soon as you can." 🐎



*To learn more about Kristin, visit [smu.edu/alumni/stories](https://smu.edu/alumni/stories).*

**85** **JOHN CHRISMAN** has joined the law firm Dentons as a partner, focusing on corporate, M&A and capital markets matters. **CYNTHIA HOSTETLER** was elected to the board of directors of Textainer Group Holdings Ltd., a lessor of intermodal freight containers headquartered in Bermuda. She is also on the boards of Trilinc Global Impact Fund, Vulcan Materials Company and Resideo Technologies, and serves as a trustee of Invesco Ltd. **NIKKI HURST** (JD '85), **ALANA ACKELS** (BA '06, JD '09), **JEFFREY ANSLEY** (JD '94), **TAMMY WOOD** (JD '93), **MIKEL BOWERS** (JD '87) and **RANDALL LINDLEY** (JD '86) are among 21 lawyers at Bell Nunnally who have been named to the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Since it was first published in 1983, *Best Lawyers* has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. Bowers has made the list since 2013, Ansley since 2018, and Wood since 2016.

**87** **JOHN ABIO** has started a scholarship for business undergraduate students interested in starting their own businesses. Abio worked at several insurance companies before establishing successful companies in the medical, oil/gas, finance and real estate industries. The deadline for the John Abio Scholarship for Future Entrepreneurs, worth \$1,000, is December 15, 2021.

**BARBARA LOMONACO** took over as vice president for student life at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, on July 1. Prior to that she was associate vice president for student affairs at Rhode Island School of Design and vice president for student affairs at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island.



**88 ANTHONY LADAY** has been nominated for the Board of Directors of The Container Store and appointed to its Audit Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. He is the CFO of Fogo de Chão. The board will vote on his nomination at the annual shareholder's meeting in September. **BEN SCHUPP** has been elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Members are nominated by their peers and selected by the foundation's board. Just 1% of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction are elected fellows. Schupp, based in New Orleans, leads the maritime and admiralty practice of McGlinchey Stafford, a business law firm offering services in 15 offices in more than 40 practice areas. **THOMAS WARSOP**, the CEO of One Call, was featured in the Thrive Global series "How to Take Your Company from Good to Great." He is a fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors and serves on the board of directors of ACI Worldwide, Nation Safe Drivers and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

**89 LEE MULCAHY's** exhibit on home, loss and renewal was shown at the University of Texas at Arlington's University Center and the Instituto in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. He will be exhibiting at Art Basel Miami Beach later this year and in Bogota, Colombia, in 2022. He earned a Master of Liberal Arts from SMU and a PhD from the University of Texas at Arlington.

**90** Andy Smith has received a 2021 Obelisk Award from the Business Council for the Arts. The Dallas Theater Center nominated Smith, the executive director of the Texas Instruments Foundation, in the Business Champion for the Arts

category. The Obelisk Awards honor regional businesses, municipalities, nonprofits and individuals for their extraordinary support of arts and culture in North Texas.

**91 NATALIE MUNRO** recently published a paper in *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* on early fishing techniques at Nahal Ein Gev II, Israel, an Epipaleolithic site near the Sea of Galilee. Munro is currently studying two village sites in Turkey from the Neolithic period. She was recently profiled in *UConn Today*.

**92 TIMOTHY L. NEWELL** and **ERIKA EYL** have relocated to Dallas from Mexico City. Timothy Newell will lead the expansion of U.K.-based Brand Finance as managing director for the Americas. Brand Finance is a global brand strategy and financial valuation consultancy.

**DAVID W. OSBORN**, president and COO of WestStar Bank in El Paso, was elected treasurer of the Texas Bankers Association for the 2021–22 fiscal year. He also serves on the boards of McMurry University and Las Palmas Del Sol Healthcare. **TAYLOR H. SMITH** has been named CEO of Joerns Healthcare, based in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has had leadership roles at Performance Medical, Hill-Rom and Cardinal Health. **DAWN WEEKS-SPALDING** co-founded Integrity Booking agency. The Dallas-based company specializes in booking top musical acts for private events, concert halls, stadiums, arenas and festivals as well as discovering and nurturing new talent.

**93 JOANN FEY** is the new superintendent for the Midlothian Independent School District. She discussed her career and goals for

MISD in a profile by *Focus Daily News*. **CHRISTY FORTNER GREEN** has been promoted to senior vice president of professional services and consulting at Billtrust. She's been employed at Billtrust since October 2016 and is based in Denver. **AYAZ PIRANI** has published to two collections — *Happy You Are Here* (Word Works, 2016) and *Kabir's Jacket Has a Thousand Pockets* (Mawenzi House, 2019).

**94 MECOLE "COLE" BROWN** joins American Airlines as chief people officer, putting her in charge of the teams supporting global talent and recruitment; benefits and compensation; people operations; and diversity, equity and inclusion. Prior to this post, she was a vice president at Amazon, Conifer Health Solutions and Walmart. **DAVID ROSE**, vice president of mission cloud solutions at Oracle, is a member of The Potomac Officers Club — a division of Executive Mosaic — which is dedicated to connecting and empowering executives involved in government contracting. Rose, a 20-year veteran of the tech industry, specializes in technology strategy, business development management, engineering management, program management, systems analysis, quantitative decision methods, contract negotiations, government, intelligence and general management.

**95 ERIN NEALY COX**, a former U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas, has joined Kirkland & Ellis as a partner in the Dallas office, and a member of its government, regulatory and internal investigations group. During her prosecutorial career, Nealy Cox served as chief of staff and senior counsel to the assistant attorney general in the DOJ's Office of Legal Policy in Washington, D.C. Prior to her appointment as U.S. attorney in 2017,

Nealy Cox worked in cyber security at consulting firms McKinsey & Co. and Stroz Friedberg. She has also served on the board of Sally Beauty. **ALLISON JOHANSON** has joined Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty as vice president of sales over the firm's six Houston offices. Johanson has more than two decades of experience in real estate law and management. **DANIEL KAHL** has stepped in as acting director of the Division of Examinations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. He joined the SEC in 2001 and has been deputy director of the Division of Examinations since 2018 and its chief counsel since 2016. Before joining the SEC, Kahl was an attorney at the Investment Adviser Association, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the North American Securities Administrators Association. **TIM O'HARE** has announced plans to run for Tarrant County judge in 2022. O'Hare previously served as a council member and mayor of Farmers Branch, Texas. **LUKE WILSON** starred in the summer release *12 Mighty Orphans*, based on a true story. He reflected in a *Dallas Morning News* article on shooting the movie in Fort Worth with Hollywood legends Robert Duvall and Martin Sheen and the evolution of his career from comedy sidekick to leading man.

**96 TOBY ENQVIST** has been promoted to executive vice president at United Airlines, where, as chief customer officer, he will continue to oversee in-flight services, corporate real estate, contact centers and customer care, customer strategy and innovation, and customer experience and analytics. **REX KURZIUS**, the founder and CEO of Asset Panda, discussed his latest company with *SUCCESS* magazine. The article was later picked up by Verified News

Explorer Network. Asset Panda, a customizable software platform for tracking and managing assets, has won a slew of recognitions, including being named best IT asset management software by GoodFirms and digital.com. It is Kurzius' sixth startup.

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**99 STEVEN BRADY** has been appointed vice president, general tax counsel for Entergy Corp. He will lead the company's tax function, including compliance, planning and strategy. Brady, who joined Entergy in 2007, has held various roles at the company and was most recently vice president, deputy general tax counsel. **ANGIE CHAN ECKELKAMP** has been promoted to chief marketing officer at Nothing Bundt Cakes. Eckelkamp joined the company in 2016 and was most recently vice president of marketing. Prior to that, she worked in marketing at On the Border and Bar Louie.

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**00 SCOTT BARADELL** has published his first book, *Trust Signals: The New PR*. Baradell founded his unified PR and marketing agency Idea Grove 15 years ago. In 2020, it was recognized as one of the top PR firms in North Texas by the *Dallas Business Journal*. **LAUREN COOLEY**, senior vice president of retailer and brand solutions at RetailMeNot, recently published the article "How Travel Restrictions Will Impact Retail and Consumer Spending This Summer" for the online publishing network Retail TouchPoints. **ALAN GARDNER** was named chief people officer of Frontier Communications Parent Inc. He was most recently senior vice president for human resources at Verizon Communications. **MARK KUMMER** graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

earning an MBA with concentrations in economics and finance, which was taken at the Sloan School of Management with cross registration at Harvard Business School. Kummer was one of the 21 Americans selected amongst 97 global executives, military and government officials representing 37 countries for the 2021 Sloan Fellow cohort at MIT. **NICOLE PORTWOOD** has joined Live Nation Entertainment in the new position of chief brand officer. She has been a vice president at PepsiCo and Tito's Handmade Vodka. **KYLE SHEPHERD** was elected to the board of directors for Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District. It is a six-year term. He is also general manager with the Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement project.

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**01 JENNIFER KUKLA** has joined the global law firm Greenberg Traurig LLP as counsel for its real estate practice in the Dallas office. **JENN WEDDEL**, after a successful dance career in New York, has returned home to Longmont, Colorado, where she is teaching modern dance and ballet at Vie De Danse, a dance studio for adults.

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**02 MICHAEL BREED** has been promoted to senior vice president of marketing of domestic operation and virtual spinoff concepts for Chili's Grill & Bar. The casual dining brand is owned by Brinker International. Breed most recently served as Brinker's VP of digital innovation and advanced analytics, helping to develop and launch the virtual concept It's Just Wings. **KELLY RENTZEL** is the new executive vice president, general counsel of First Foundation Inc. Based in Dallas, she will support both First Foundation Bank and First Foundation Advisors. She has worked with Texas Capital Bank and in private practice

and was a staff attorney for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. **SHELBY WANSRATH** has been appointed managing director, corporate growth initiatives for Vista Equity Partners. She will be based in Austin.

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**03 SONJA BLUMOFF** and **DODEE CROCKETT** were each named to "America's Top Women Wealth Advisors" for 2021 by *Forbes* magazine. Crockett is managing director at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. Blumoff, who made the list for the second year in a row, is a senior vice president at Cecil, Blumoff & Associates. **LAWRENCE KING**, founder and CEO of Headstorm, was featured in the Thrive Global series "How to Take Your Company to the Next Level." Headstorm is a computer software firm based in Addison. **JALONNE L. WHITE-NEWSOME** has launched Empowering a Green Economy and Environment LLC, a consulting firm that guides companies toward solutions for climate change while fostering equitable solutions for lower income communities and communities of color.

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**04 KYLE BURKE** has been elevated to partner at ClearLight Partners, a private equity firm based in Southern California. Burke joined ClearLight in 2006. Prior to that, he was a management consultant with Bain & Company. **ROGERS HEALY**, CEO of Rogers Healy and Associates Real Estate, gave a motivational talk to the Mustang football team this spring as part of the "Life After Ball" program. Healy has been a regular presence on campus, helping students prepare to transition from college to the business world and offering opportunities for students and new graduates at his company. **MIKHAIL ORLOV** and his company Weby Corp have opened

GRITR, a gun store and shooting range in North Richland Hills. **BENSON VARGHESE** was elected president of the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Varghese, a former prosecutor, is the founder and managing partner of Varghese Summer-sett PLLC, one of the largest criminal defense firms in Tarrant County. He is a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas. He also has been named an Entrepreneur of Excellence, a Minority Leader in Business, a Top Attorney and a Super Lawyer Rising Star, among other accolades.

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**05 FRANK ALMARAZ** is now chief power, sustainability, and business development officer at CPS Energy. He has been with CPS Energy for 10 years. He previously worked for TXU, Energy Future Holdings, General Electric and Lockheed Martin. He was an executive officer and platoon leader in the Army National Guard. **LINDSAY BARBEE**, who practices family law, has been selected to Best Lawyers in America; Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars: Up-and-Coming 100 Attorneys and Up-and-Coming 50 Women Lawyers; *D Magazine*: Top Lawyers Under 40; and *D Magazine*: Best Lawyers in Dallas. **KIRK MCPIKE**, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Mark Takano of California, was one of the top finishers in the Democratic primary for Alexandria, Virginia, City Council and will be on the ballot in the November general election. **ANN SHEU** (BBA '05, MA '08, JD '11), an entrepreneur coach, **PUNAM KAJI** (JD '12), assistant general counsel at Ben E. Keith, and **HANNA KIM** (BA '13, JD '17), an associate attorney at Zelle LLP, founded the nonprofit The Podium, which seeks to connect and support Asian Pacific American women lawyers.



# Distinguished Alumni Awards: Liz Martin Armstrong '82 and Bill Armstrong '82

**L**iz Martin Armstrong '82 and Bill Armstrong '82 met as Geology majors at SMU and married in 1984. Both attended geology field camp at SMU-in-Taos, where they fell in love and later provided the funding for Casita Armstrong. Together, they propelled a startup into Armstrong Oil and Gas, an energy exploration juggernaut; founded the award-winning Epoch Estate Wines; and established The Armstrong Foundation, which focuses on arts and education philanthropy.

Through their leadership and loyal support, the Armstrongs have been change-makers at SMU. Bill Armstrong serves on the SMU Board of Trustees and co-chairs the Campaign Steering Committee for Athletics. He currently spearheads the Vision 2025 campaign for football excellence. Liz Armstrong serves on the Development and External Affairs Standing Committee of the SMU Board and co-chairs the Campaign Steering Committee for Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. Both also serve on the executive boards of SMU-in-Taos and Dedman College, for which Liz is a former chair. Their past service includes co-chairing the Parent Leadership Council and the *Second Century Campaign* Steering Committee for Denver.

The Armstrongs are among three generations of family to attend the University – including their daughters Lindsey Strawn '10 and Leigh Young '11 – and their investments across the campus reflect their commitment to enhancing the student experience. In 2011, they were the first to commit toward the construction of Armstrong Commons. More recently, they made possible Armstrong Fieldhouse, the primary component of the Indoor Performance Center. A passion for ballet led them to fund the Armstrong Visiting Artist-in-Residence in Ballet at Meadows School of the Arts during the 2020–21 academic year, and they also endowed a Dedman College Scholarship.

The couple now lives in Dallas after years in Denver, and they're active in numerous civic and professional

organizations. Bill Armstrong is a member of the Tourmaline Oil Corp. board of directors (Calgary) and the National Petroleum Council and is a former chair of the All-American Wildcatters. In 2020, he received the Norman H. Foster Outstanding Explorer Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and this year he will be honored as Wildcatter of the Year by the Western Energy Alliance. In 2018, he was chosen as Explorer of the Year by the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists. He also served as a trustee of the Denver Art Museum and is a trustee emeritus at Colorado Ballet. Liz Armstrong serves on the boards of the School of American Ballet (New York City) and St. Martin's Episcopal School (New Orleans), and is a trustee emerita at Westminster School (Simsbury, Connecticut). She is also trustee emerita and a former board chair of Colorado Ballet. Her numerous affiliations include the George W. Bush Presidential Center Executive Advisory Council, the Central City Opera National Advisory Council (Denver), Pi Beta Phi Dallas Alumnae Club and The Dallas Woman's Club. 🐾



# Precious Ponies



**GWEN ADRIANA ALVEN**, born September 21, 2020, and **CLAIRE MARIE ALVEN**, born June 28, 2018, are the daughters of Katy Robbins Alven '06 and Billy Alven and the great-granddaughters of Bill Zimmerman '54 and Patsy Zimmerman.



**PETER GARESCHÈ DETREMPE**, born March 15, 2020, is the son of Carly Bender DeTrempe '12 and Andrew DeTrempe '13 and the grandson of Carolyn Jensen Bender '81, Robert "Gary" Bender '81, Peter DeTrempe '83 and Rose Salvaggio DeTrempe '84.



**REECE ELIAS FRAZIER**, born on August 28, 2020, is the son of Brittany Dewan Frazier '08, '09 and James Frazier '08, '12. He joins big brother Quinn.



**YUSRA NAZIA HOSSAIN**, born on April 17, 2018, is the daughter of Nazia Ahmed Hossain '17, '20 and Mohammed Hossain.



**CAMILLE COLLINS JACOBS**, born February 10, 2021, is the daughter of Jacque Kennedy Jacobs '12 and Matt Jacobs '12.



**ADAM NUR KHAN**, born June 3, 2021, is the son of Imran Khan '11 and Asifa Khan.



**CHASE MATTHEW KOZLOWSKI**, born September 2, 2020, is the son of Christine Kozlowski '00 and Kevin Kozlowski. He joins big sister Lillian.



**JAMES HENRY LONG**, born November 13, 2020, is the son of Lee Lynch Long '14 and James Long '14.



**RORY SCHWARTZ MORAVEC**, born April 20, 2018, and **GEORGIANA LEE MORAVEC**, born January 13, 2021, are the children of Matthew Moravec '05 and Margaret Moravec, nephew and niece of Emily Moravec '09, and grandchildren of Randolph Moravec '75.



**GABRIEL LANE POULIN**, born January 15, 2021, is the son of Amanda Kovach Poulin '11 and Stephen Poulin '12.



**JAMES MICHAEL SMITHERMAN**, born October 2, 2020, is the son of Erin Hedrick Smitherman '13, '15 and Parker Smitherman '15. He is also the grandson of Erin's father, Michael Hedrick '80, and Parker's mother, Julie Jones Smitherman '86.



**BENJAMIN, JACK and CHARLES WASILOFF** are the sons of Colin Wasiloff '18 and Theresa Wasiloff.



**MATTHEW ASPINWALL WELLES**, born December 1, 2020, is the son of Amanda Throckmorton Welles '14 and Samuel Aspinwall Welles '13.

## Picture your pony here

We would love to share a photo of your future Mustang. Submit your Precious Ponies to [smumag@smu.edu](mailto:smumag@smu.edu) by November 19, 2021. Please send an image file that's 1MB with the child's name and birthdate, along with the names and class years of alumni parents (and grandparents and/or other close relatives).



**06 JAMES HANCOCK** has been named president of Hemp Inc. Hancock has served in management positions in financial services, investment banking, telecommunications and other industries. Hemp Inc., founded in 2008, manufactures a wide range of hemp-based consumer products. **MARK E. HANSHAW** joined the Louisville, Kentucky, office of the law firm Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, where he will focus on higher education. He previously served as associate general secretary for the United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministry and dean of the School of Arts and Letters at Texas Wesleyan University. **SUSAN KIHKA**, a senator from Nakuru County in Kenya since 2017 and president of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians has declared she will run for the Nakuru gubernatorial seat in 2022. **STEPHEN O'BRYAN** has been appointed to the board of directors of Primus Aerospace. O'Bryan is executive director of GBD Defense Group and previously held leadership roles at L3Harris and Lockheed Martin. He served more than two decades as a U.S. naval officer, commander and F/A-18 pilot.

**07 P. LINDLEY BAIN** has been elected managing partner of Goranson Bain Ausley, its third managing partner, and at age 40, its youngest. She joined the firm in 2007 and was named a partner in 2014. A fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Bain is a Collaborative Divorce Texas member and was chair of the State Bar of Texas, Collaborative Law Section. Bain has been recognized on several rising star lists and has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the field of family law. **TRENT J. CORCIA** is the new CEO of Citation Jet Pilots Owner Pilot Association after nearly

## Distinguished Alumni Award: Claire Babineaux-Fontenot '92

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot '92 leads the charge to keep food on the table for millions in need.

As the chief executive officer of Feeding America, Babineaux-Fontenot oversees a national nonprofit network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and programs that served more than 6 billion meals during the pandemic. Her inspiring work earned recognition on the 2020 *TIME* 100 and NBC's Inspiring America 2021 lists.

While growing up in Louisiana, she witnessed the devastating effects of poverty and the power of compassion. She has 107 brothers and sisters through birth, adoption and foster care. Her parents valued education and nurtured her big dreams.



Babineaux-Fontenot received a Master of Laws in Taxation from SMU's Dedman School of Law in addition to a bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana and a Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center.

For nearly three decades, Babineaux-Fontenot has directed corporate, legal and philanthropic teams. Prior to joining Feeding America in 2018, she spent 13 years with Walmart, serving most recently as executive vice president and global treasurer. Before

Walmart, she was partner-in-charge of the Baton Rouge office and tax practice leader for Adams and Reese LLP. Earlier in her career, she was dispute resolution practice group leader at PwC and an assistant secretary for the Office of Legal Affairs for the state of Louisiana.

Under Babineaux-Fontenot's leadership, Feeding America assisted SMU Law in creating two volunteer events for alumni and students that allowed Mustangs to give back to their community. She also participated in a "fireside chat" hosted by the law school in December 2020.

With a deep personal commitment to strengthening communities, Babineaux-Fontenot has volunteered in the fight against hunger and other causes since her youth. She has served on numerous nonprofit boards, including the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and the National Urban League. She also served on the global board of directors and executive committee of the Walmart Foundation. 🐎

a decade with FlightSafety International. **JESS GARLAND**, a Dallas-based singer-songwriter and composer, has released her debut single *Glow*. She has been featured in the podcast Lone Sound, *Dallas Weekly*, *Dallas Observer* and KERA's Art & Seek. She also founded the nonprofit Swan Strings, which provides free music lessons and sound therapy. **JENNIFER DOLIN LOWREY** has assumed the role of head of technology campus recruiting and programs for Capital One. She is responsible for all the campus hiring for Capital One's technology organization. **EMILY MORROW**, after dancing professionally for many years in Las Vegas, including with Cirque du Soleil, has started her own studio, The Whitefish School of Ballet, after moving to Whitefish, Montana.

**ADANWIMO "ADA" OKAFOR** was named the first chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer for the American Board of Surgery, the national certifying body for general surgeons, vascular surgeons and related specialists. She will also serve as its associate general counsel. **TED SKINNER** has been appointed assistant secondary principal for Texas Leadership Public School's Cedar Hill campus. He has previously taught neuroscience, biology, government, economics, world geography, Texas history and theology. Texas Leadership opened its doors in 2009 and now has five charter schools serving 3,500 students.

**08 TRICIA KAGERER** has published her second book, *The B Words: 13 Words Every Woman Must Navigate for Success*. Kagerer says her goal with this book is to help women define their own success — especially in male-dominated fields — rather than focusing on work-life balance. Kagerer is executive vice president of risk management at

Jordan Foster Construction. **WILLIAM A. KNIGHT** is seeking the Republican nomination for Criminal District Court No. 4 in Tarrant County. He is an assistant district attorney in Tarrant and was recently recognized as a *Fort Worth Magazine* Top Attorney for 2021. **TREY ROME**'s company Home Tax Solutions is again ranked in the Inc. 5000, a listing of the nation's fastest-growing private companies. Rome is founder and CEO of the company, which has become the largest property tax loan originator in Texas. For the past two years, HTS has been included in both *Inc.* magazine's fastest-growing, Texas-based private companies list and SMU Cox's Top 100 fastest-growing, privately held entrepreneurial companies in the Dallas area.

**09 LAMAR DOWLING** (BBA and BA '09, MBA and JD '13), an associate in the real estate practice of Jackson Walker's Dallas office, has been selected for the 2021 Texas Rising Stars list by Super Lawyers. He also serves on SMU Dedman School of Law Emerging Leader Board. **TAYLOR KEENEY** is founder and executive director of Little Hands Virginia, a nonprofit that provides essentials to children from birth to 3 years old in need in the Greater Richmond area.

**PARVEEN KUMAR** has completed the Executive Leader Program — Essential for Accounting and Finance course and was recently promoted to solution architect manager at Accenture.

**JONATHAN LANE**, assistant vice president and director of Urbantech NYC, part of the New York City Economic Development Corporation, discussed "Improving NYC through Innovative Business & Government Collaborations" with Ladderworks.com. The article was also featured on NASDAQ.com. **BROOKS THOSTENSON** is CIO and

co-founder (with CEO Kyle Hawari) of Taos Bakes. The healthy snack company has brought Troy Aikman and Erin Andrews on board as equity holders and brand ambassadors. Taos Bakes, based in Taos, New Mexico, makes small-batch, gluten-free bars, nuts, bites and granola from non-GMO organic ingredients.

**10 DESIREE BROWN** (BS and BA '06, MS '10) was reelected to a second term as secretary of the Young Republican National Federation at the group's convention in Indianapolis. Brown was named 2021 Young Republican National Woman of the Year at the convention. She won Texas Young Republican Woman of the Year in 2020.

**11 Dave Hilton** — the owner of Resolution Stream, a conflict resolution, coach and mediator consulting firm — was recently featured in a two-part series for *American Coin-Op* magazine on how to successfully resolve disputes with dissatisfied customers. **JESSICA HUSEMAN** was named the editorial director of votebeat.org, a nonprofit news organization that focuses on elections and voting. She previously served as the lead elections reporter for ProPublica and helped manage its Electionland project for three federal election cycles, sharing information and tips with hundreds of newsrooms across the United States.

**LOLA OBAMEHINTI** was named a 40 Under 40 award recipient for 2021 by *Silicon Valley Business Journal*. She is the global cyber security training and communications lead and business ethics officer for eBay. She was featured earlier this year in *The Wall Street Journal* as an influential woman who is changing the narrative of women in the tech industry. Last

year, she founded Nigerian Techie LLC and Tech with Style on Clubhouse, which features discussions about tech, culture and current events.

**AARON STEWART** received the Circle of Excellence Emerging Leader Award from the American Resort Development Association. Stewart went from the inaugural class of the Diamond Resorts Marketing Mentorship Program to senior vice president of sports marketing and executive director of the Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions in just eight years. **HENRY WATERS** received a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the Conservatory at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in May 2020.

**DEEPTI YENIREDDY**, vice president for product and conversational AI at Phenom People, was featured in Techie Tuesday on YourStory.com. Yenireddy's HR tech startup My Ally was acquired by Phenom People last year.

**12 ANDREA LUTTRELL** wrote "Hold on for your life," the entertaining account of her turn as the mother of a genuine rodeo "mutton buster," published in the September 2021 issue of *Texas Highways* magazine. When she's not wrangling her son, she is SMU Marketing and Communications' lead writer for campaign communications and development.

**13 CONRAD STEELE** has joined the Dallas office of Winstead PC as counsel in the real estate development and investments practice group. Prior to joining Winstead, he was an associate and then a partner with Kirkland and Ellis.

**14 JEHADU ABSHIRO** has been promoted to president and CEO of Advocate Media in Dallas.



She is guiding its transition from print magazine to digital media and also spearheaded the company's conversion to nonprofit status. **ALICE MCCALL** has joined the Texas Christian University staff as a swimming and diving assistant coach. She is one of six WeCOACH Coaches council members and was a member of the Great Britain Open Water National Team. Last year, McCall was named a Top 100 Visionaries in Education nominee by the Global Forum for Education and Learning. **KELLY PURDOM** is a principal at Two Roads Consulting, which has made the Inc. 5000 list. The rankings highlight the fastest-growing privately held companies in America based on revenue growth. Two Roads Consulting, which is based in Dallas and launched in 2015, helps companies tackle complex business transformation challenges. **GABE RINCÓN** has joined the Houston office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP as an associate in the construction practice group. He earned his JD from South Texas College of Law in Houston, where he was the development editor for the *South Texas Law Review*, a member of the Student Bar Association and an officer on the Board of Advocates. He has a BA in Spanish and psychology from SMU.

**15** Dr. **SETH BERNACKI** is in the latest class of the Sampson Regional Medical Center's Transitional Year Residency program. Transitional year exposes physicians-in-training to different disciplines before they choose a specialized residency program. Sampson Medical Center is in Clinton, North Carolina. **LAUREN CASTLE** is now a reporter for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* covering social services. She has covered legal system and criminal justice issues for *The*

## Emerging Leader Award: Bryson DeChambeau '16

**Bryson DeChambeau '16 brings a physicist's knowledge and an inventor's imagination to professional golf.**

**H**is first major title came at the 2020 U.S. Open, which he dominated by an impressive six strokes. Among his eight PGA Tour wins is the 2021 Arnold Palmer Invitational. Nicknamed "The Scientist" for his SMU physics major and analytical approach to the sport, DeChambeau has been celebrated in the media and by fans as a true game-changer.

Hailing from Clovis, California, DeChambeau earned a golf scholarship to SMU. In 2015, when he was a junior, he became only the fifth player to win both the NCAA and U.S. Amateur titles in the same year. DeChambeau played in the 2016 Masters as an amateur, tied for 16th place and finished as the top amateur.

After the Masters, DeChambeau turned pro. A week later, he finished fourth at the RBC Heritage. His first professional win was the DAP Championship, which also earned him a PGA Tour Card for the 2017 season. His first PGA Tour victory came that season in the John Deere Classic. He has eight PGA Tour titles. In 2019, he picked up his first European Tour win by seven shots at the Omega Dubai Desert Classic in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

DeChambeau often talks about the impact of his SMU physics training on the development of his distinctive style. The mechanics of his unconventional swing have been dissected in countless articles and videos. Unlike most players on the tour, DeChambeau uses irons and wedges of equal length – 37.5 inches, the average length of his favorite 7-iron.

Despite a grueling tour schedule, he hosts a variety of events annually that raise funds to improve lives and communities. Key to his philanthropic efforts is the Bryson DeChambeau Foundation, which supports Shriners Hospitals for Children, the National Kidney Foundation and the Northern California Golf Association. The foundation also focuses on health, education and junior golf initiatives. 🐾



# Mustangs' 'goodwill' at work in the community

A shared commitment to making a positive impact has drawn the SMU community and Goodwill Industries of Dallas together for almost a century. The challenges created by the pandemic sparked new opportunities for that bond to grow stronger.

Under the leadership of SMU alumnus Tim Heis '01, president and CEO, Goodwill Dallas is expanding its presence and finding innovative ways to augment its mission of "changing lives, one job at a time."

Over five generations, SMU community leaders have helped advance that goal. Alumni David B. Miller '72, '73; Bill Vanderstraaten '82; Donald Berg '70, '77; R. Brooks Cullum, Jr. '70; Roland K. Robinson '72; Jim Johnston '70, '71; Stephen Sands '70; Matt Hildreth '88; Frank Mihalopoulos '77; Ronald J. Case '54 and Charles M. Solomon '61 each served as chair of the board of directors and left an indelible mark on the organization, Heis says.

Through the years, a host of alumni have served on the board, including Pat Bolin '73, C. Fred Ball, Jr. '66, Ray Hunt '65, Harriet E. Miers '67, '70 and Jeanne L. Phillips '76. An active Mustang contingent is currently involved on the board, including alumni Tucker Bridwell '73, '74; Wood Brookshire '05; Pete Chilian '97; Ward A. Kampf '85; Craig Keeland '76; Andrew Levy '89; Peter Lodwick '77, '80; Kris Lowe '04; John C. McGowan '03; Douglas C. Nash '04; Kyle Miller '01; Kirk Rimer '89; Mark Sloan '90; and Brooke Holman West '96; as well as Matthew B. Myers, dean of SMU's Cox School of Business.

## Building careers, one internship at a time

With companies shifting to remote operations and cutting back on expenses, many summer internships melted away in 2020. In response, Myers and Jason Rife, senior

assistant dean of the Cox Career Management Center and Graduate Admissions, reached out to alumni. Heis answered the call.

"We saw an opportunity for SMU students to help, and we recruited and hired five interns to work on our most strategic projects," Heis says. A first step was growing Goodwill Dallas' footprint "to dramatically increase the number of lives we could impact."

Heis enlisted Jimmy Tran '03 to lead the store footprint and real estate expansion strategy. Tran had recently left CBRE, where he headed corporate strategy and mergers and acquisitions, to focus on his own enterprises,



including Oaklawn Group, a real estate investment firm he founded in 2007.

Over eight weeks in summer 2020, Tran and SMU intern Gabriela Barcelos '21 analyzed which of Goodwill's stores performed best and why, then identified 12 target submarkets where new stores and career centers could be successful.

Based upon their recommendations, a new Goodwill store opened in Plano June 17. More than a dozen SMU alumni, including board members, friends and employees of the organization turned out to celebrate. 🐎



Arizona Republic and was a member of the 2019 Journalism Law School fellowship class at Loyola Law School. **NINA SADAUSKAS, NÉE RANGELOVA**, a former Olympic swimmer, brings Bulgaria-based Delfina Ltd.'s custom swim gear to the U.S. as founder and CEO of Delfina Athletics. **VANESSA SIMS** wrote the poem "Don't Take My Breath Away." It was inspired by the murder of George Floyd in May 2020 by a Minneapolis police officer. The poem was expanded into a song and is available at CDbaby.com and on YouTube. Sims is an ordained minister with the Association of International Gospel Assemblies and is the CEO of Thou Art My Sister LLC, which provides training, personal development and student advisement. **PAUL TORRISI**, a trumpet player who joined the Utah Symphony just six months before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, shared his journey in an article in the *Deseret News*.

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**16** **VICTORIA GILBERT** and **CORMICK "CHIP" MOLONEY** (both '16) were married Nov. 21, 2020. **MATT TURNEY** was hired in June as chief strategy officer of the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes. He also serves as CFO of Dundon Capital Partners. Previously, he was a senior associate at Citi within the mergers and acquisitions team. **KYLE WALDREP**, CEO and founder of commercial real estate technology platform Dottid, raised more than \$4.5 million in a round of capital funding in spring 2021.

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**17** **ALICIA SMILEY** and **JOE HUTCHINSON** were married June 13, 2021, in Austin. **JACK STUDENT** and **ARDEN LEONE** were married April 24, 2021. **CYNTHIA MCLAUGHLIN** is now the evening anchor for the

Suncoast News Network in the Tampa-Sarasota market in Florida. She most recently was the morning news anchor in Tyler, Texas. **FLINT MITCHELL's** book *Seeking Authenticity: Essays and Stories on Values and Travels* will be released in October. He also will appear at SMU's Tables of Content as one of its 10 Haute Young Authors. Mitchell is a research scientist based in the California Bay area. He has two published patents related to genetic sequencing and hosts a podcast.

**COURTLAND SUTTON**, a receiver for the Denver Broncos who is recovering from a torn ACL suffered early in the 2020 NFL season, recently shared his words of wisdom for standout rookies Jerry Jeudy and K.J. Hamler with Yardbarker.com. **MIKE TODRYK** and wife Jennifer Todryk have purchased the former Nine Band Brewing in Allen, Texas, and plan to turn it into a brewery and coffee roastery. The spot is just a few miles from their shop Armor Coffee Co., which recently added beer and wine service. Todryk is a West Point graduate and a Purple Heart recipient. Jennifer Todryk is the host of the new HGTV show *No Demo Reno*.

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**18** **MICHAEL FECHNER** has joined the Dallas law firm of Lyons & Simmons LLP as an associate. His trial practice focuses on complex catastrophic personal injury cases and business disputes. Fechner is an author, publishing *Lessons on the Way to Heaven: What My Father Taught Me* in 2016. He also has worked with the nonprofit BridgeBuilders and with Legal Aid of Northwest Texas. **SHELBY REED** has been named to *Automotive News'* 40 Under 40 for 2021. The list, in its 10th year, recognizes the best in the automotive industry. Reed has been president of World Class Automotive Group and Reed Family

Enterprises since 2019. She recently led the successful launch of the six-story luxury Planet Lincoln Dallas Love Field dealership. **ALEENA TAUFIQ** has been promoted to senior engineer-applied research within Verizon's technology and product development organization. Her areas of focus are artificial intelligence and machine learning, hardware engineering and quantum computing. She was recently accepted by United Way of Metropolitan Dallas' Social Innovation Accelerator with the intention of scaling up and growing Geared Up, a mentorship program she started as an SMU student and continues at Verizon as a non-profit. Geared Up launched a virtual mentor program in the fall to prepare high school students for college and beyond. **WYNONA WANG**, an award-winning pianist, performed at the OKM Music Festival in Oklahoma and was featured in the *Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise*. She is currently studying at The Juilliard School in New York City.

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**19** **GABRIELLE GARCY** launched Geri Gabi, a luxury lifestyle brand focused on modernizing entertaining while keeping with traditional values and design. **CASEY KROLL** has founded The Big Man Foundation. Kroll was inspired to form the nonprofit watching his mentor and former SMU offensive line coach Jamal Powell battle colon cancer and Guillain-Barre Syndrome. The Big Man Foundation raises funds and provide services to coaches – and their families – who have fallen on hard times due to illness and other unexpected circumstances. **PRICE PEDDICORD** has been promoted to chief compliance officer and in-house counsel at United Advisors America. He also serves on UAA's Investment Committee. Peddicord

joined UAA in 2020 as a deputy compliance officer. United Advisors America is an SEC-registered, fee-only investment firm. UAA provides a range of wealth and investment management services for individuals and families as well as their businesses.

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**20** **SHANE BUECHELE**, who went unclaimed in the NFL draft, has signed with the Kansas City Chiefs as a backup to quarterbacks Patrick Mahomes and Chad Henne. **SAM FISHMAN** has joined Hallett & Perrin's litigation group. His practice areas include litigation and real estate. **TAI GREEN** completed the Nonprofit Leadership Certification at SMU. Green is now the development officer for Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services for Dallas and East Texas. The nonprofit offers foster care and adoption services and assists families in crisis. **MADDIE HANRATTY** was commissioned to design and paint the front stairs of the Henderson County Library in Texas. The four steps are based on the spines of the children's classics *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *Frog and Toad*, *Charlotte's Web* and *The Velveteen Rabbit*. **DIANA MILLER** has been accepted to the Joint Graduate Program at the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. She has been awarded three scholarships: the International Graduate Student Entrance Scholarship, the University of Winnipeg History Graduate Studies Scholarship, and the University of Winnipeg's Robert Painchaud Memorial Scholarship in Canadian History. Miller hopes to study the intersection of women and the Hudson's Bay Company.

# In Memoriam

The following alumni deaths were reported to SMU from 11/28/2020 through 06/01/2021.

'37 FLORENCE ALLEN ROSEBOROUGH  
2/3/20

'40 MARGARET HILGER GRAVES  
3/16/21 SARAH FAIRMAN  
MCGRATH 11/7/20

'42 MARIANNE WOLFF MCCALL  
4/11/20

'43 MARGARET CASTLEBERRY  
RHEUDASIL 1/31/21

'44 BEATRICE LICHENSTEIN  
WEISBROD 3/10/21

'45 MARGIE BRYAN GENTRY HOLT  
5/26/14 ELBERT H. MARSHALL  
4/3/21 RUTH NEUFELD MCGUIRE  
'46 12/22/20 MARY BARLOW  
VOWAN 12/1/20

'46 BETTY CHRISTENSEN BOWIE  
12/14/20 Dr. ROBERT N. WATKIN,  
JR. 3/31/21

'47 JACQUELINE JOURDAN CLARK  
12/23/20 BETTY BRENNEKE  
DEAN 5/12/21 MARY HAMLETT  
SHAW 1/29/21 DONALD W. SNEED  
1/29/21

'48 JACK H. BLEULER 4/1/21 PEARLE  
COLDWELL DUKE 4/27/21 OSKAR  
L. ELSAS 11/1/17 MARGARET  
MEAD GILBERT '52 2/9/21 OBIE  
P. LEONARD, JR. 5/21/21 EUGENE  
MALLORY 8/26/14 YVONNE  
GARWOOD NANCE 8/28/20  
WILBUR J. ROBERTS 12/12/20  
The Rev. LEE F. SOXMAN, JR.

2/4/21 GLORIA GRAHAM STROUD  
'49 12/16/20

'49 MARIAN MCMASTER ASHLEY  
12/22/20 GEORGE R. BIRDWELL  
7/29/15 GLYNDA HAWKINS CONN  
3/18/17 ROBERT J. COWAN '53  
11/19/20 VIRGINIA MCIVER  
FULTS 5/28/21 EDGAR J.  
GARRETT, SR. 1/8/21 WALLACE  
B. JOHNSON, JR. 1/22/21  
AUDREY MILLER KRUSE 12/5/20  
ELIZABETH HACKMAN VILFORDI  
12/23/20 Dr. FREDERIC H.  
WAGNER 2/28/21

'50 VANCE G. FRIDRICH '58 3/1/20  
SHERIDAN YOUNGBLOOD FUQUA  
3/11/21 DONALD L. HARRINGTON  
2/25/21 KARL W. HUDGINS  
1/14/21 LLOYD M. KERR 12/31/20  
LORAN A. LIST, JR. 12/24/20  
ELEANOR J. MACLAY 11/25/20 Dr.  
WILLIAM S. MAXFIELD 3/25/21  
YVONNE POLNACK PIERSON  
12/11/20 JAMES W. PONDER  
12/14/20 Dr. HOWARD L. RAMSEY  
'53 1/24/21 ELIZABETH WHITNEY  
SMITH 12/29/20 JAMES B.  
TEMPLE 5/25/21 EDITH THOFERN  
TYLOCH 3/28/21

'51 NELL FILKINS CARRELL 2/21/21  
HAZEL DEASON CARROLL 2/5/21  
Col. DONALD L. CLARK 12/5/20  
CLAIRE WILKEN DOERING  
4/6/21 JOHN E. GAY '54 1/26/21  
DORIS QUICKSILVER KATTEN  
12/7/20 MILDRED MCLEOD KEITZ  
1/16/21 RICHARD R. OWENS  
'67 7/23/18 RAY L. POLLOCK  
2/13/21 CHARLES W. SETTLE, SR.  
11/16/20 BEVERLY SONE SMITH  
1/28/21 SOPHUS A. THOMPSON

4/22/21 LYNNE DICKENS VAMMEN  
3/24/21 EDMUND F. VANSTON  
3/1/21 WILLIAM D. WILKINSON  
4/26/18

'52 LAURA HILLHOUSE CADWALLADER  
5/20/21 ROBERTA SMITH  
CANTWELL 1/17/21 ROBERT  
W. KRAUEL 3/7/21 The Rev.  
CLEVELAND A. MANGHAM 4/2/21  
MILDRED BECK MCCLENNY  
1/31/21 Lt. Col. JOHN D.  
MORROW, USAF, Ret. '64 2/5/21  
BETTY GOSNEY MOTT 3/6/21  
BENJAMIN E. PICKERING '54  
12/11/20 CURTIS L. SAWYER  
4/21/21 NANCY WILEMON SMITH  
12/2/20 ELAINE EASTLAND VIAL  
5/18/21 TRACY S. WARREN  
1/10/21 NANCY GIBSON WITT  
2/16/21

'53 CHARLES R. ALLEN 5/8/21 Dr.  
ROBERT D. BROWN '80 5/10/21  
THOMAS M. CAIN, JR. 1/11/21  
JULIA ROGERS CHARLTON 1/15/21  
SUE HALL CHILDRESS 3/22/21  
HUGH A. FITZSIMONS, JR. 4/17/21  
GERALD N. FURSETH 1/4/21 MARY  
NASCHKE HARGROVE 12/30/20  
WILLIAM G. HOBGOOD, JR. '59  
1/8/21 ANN R. JONES 11/24/20  
DIANE MOSCRIP KENNEDY 2/5/21  
The Rev. VAUGHN C. PURTELL  
11/30/20 ALVIN B. SCROGGIN  
2/19/21 RUFWILL W. WHITE, JR.  
1/2/21

'54 THOMAS O. BAILEY, SR. 1/19/21  
DEIRDRE BRUMMAGE DAY '71  
12/12/20 HARRY F. DEAN, SR.  
12/19/20 STEVEN M. FULDA  
2/3/21 Dr. CLAY W. GILBERT  
2/5/21 MILDRED HENDERSON  
GRINSTEAD 4/3/21 DONALD

H. KOBLER 3/12/15 Lt. Col.  
ROBERT N. MCKITTERICK, JR.  
1/3/21 ALBERTINE FOSTER  
SCHACHT 2/12/21 JOAN MINGS  
SLAUGHTER 12/30/20 LOGAN H.  
STOLLENWERCK, JR. 3/2/21

'55 JANE BEASLEY BAILEY 4/5/21  
DAVID C. BOWMAN 1/29/21  
ROBERT W. CALLOWAY '58 5/4/21  
BARBARA MCPHERSON CAULEY  
5/14/21 SYLVIA WEIR CLINE  
4/1/20 WILLIAM J. GARRETT  
4/10/21 NANCY BURRIDGE  
HOFFMANN 1/27/21 The Rev.  
SULLINS M. LAMB 12/5/20 Dr.  
DEAN C. LOMIS 2/13/21 YEOLA  
STEED MITCHELL 3/4/21 The Rev.  
Dr. WAYNE C. ODOM '76 12/17/20  
ALITA LOGAN PHELPS '57  
10/20/20 CHARLOTTE HERNBLOM  
SNELL 11/23/20 Dr. JOHN W.  
STEVENSON, SR. 12/5/20 JOYCE  
EDWARDS STURGESS '58 5/5/21  
Dr. PEGGY RIGGS WILDMAN  
3/21/21

'56 BARBARA BURGHER ALDEN  
11/26/20 Dr. CHARLES M. BAKER  
12/9/20 Dr. RICHARD L. DEATS  
4/7/21 RICHARD C. DUDLEY  
12/11/20 JOHN G. ROACH 2/18/21  
WENDALL W. TEY 12/8/20  
GEORGE P. VOSE 3/7/16

'57 FELICE M. ANDERSON 11/28/17  
THOMAS A. BENKE 2/7/21 BETTE  
DODD BESHEARS 4/23/21  
WILLIAM W. BRACKEN, JR. '99  
2/28/21 The Rev. GEORGE A.  
DUERSON 3/17/21 BARBARA  
KABNICK EVERETT '61 11/29/20  
MATTHEW J. KAVANAGH, III  
3/17/21 CHARLES M. KING, III



2/4/21 **ALBERT W. MCCULLIN, JR.**  
4/26/21 **BERNARD C. MCGUIRE**  
12/23/20 **HUGH W. MOODY**  
2/14/21 **ARTHUR B. NAYLOR**  
10/18/20 **NANCY MOCK SWANSON**  
11/23/20 **BERNARD WEIL** 1/12/21  
**MARY MACK CRABB WHITE**  
4/21/21

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'58 **JORDAN V. BURKART** 1/31/21 Dr.  
**LAWRENCE R. BURKE** 5/15/21  
Dr. **JAMES W. COLE** 1/15/21  
**WILLIAM R. COOPER** 11/28/20  
**HELEN FASON COPLE** 3/12/21  
The Rev. **JAMES F. DEAN, JR.**  
1/14/21 **CHRISTOPHER C.**  
**ELKINS** 12/9/20 **ZELWANDA**  
**HENDRICK** 12/9/20 **MARILYN**  
**HUGHES JETER** 12/29/20 **JURIS V.**  
**JUREVICS** 1/13/21 **FREDERICK H.**  
**PETERSON, JR.** 4/20/21 **FREDNA**  
**SCHROEDER STEWART** 5/30/21  
**HARRY R. SHAWVER, JR.** '73  
12/1/20

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'59 **ROSALIE CINNAMON ALEXANDER**  
2/3/21 **CURTIS H. HINKELMAN**  
3/4/21 **GEORGE R. HOLCOMBE**  
7/30/20 **PATRICK A. HUDSON**  
11/28/20 Dr. **MALCOLM L.**  
**JERNIGAN** '62 2/23/21 **GEORGE**  
**W. NIEMANN** '63 12/12/20  
The Rev. **JAMES W. PHARES**  
1/25/21 **JAMES T. RUDD** '61  
5/19/21 **THOMAS L. SPRATT** '62  
1/20/21 **KATHLEEN HUGHES**  
**WEATHERFORD** 2/1/21

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'60 **RAY G. BESING** 4/16/21 Chaplain  
**LESLEY G. BUCK** 5/12/21 **MARTHA**  
**CRONIN CARROLL** 12/15/16 The  
Rev. **WILLIAM B. FORRESTER** '61,  
'68 1/22/21 **TIMOTHY D. GOVER**  
12/3/20 **DONALD R. GRAY** '67  
1/24/21 **HARRIET HILL HUGHES**  
1/2/21 **NANCY LEATHERWOOD**  
**KENDRICK** 4/1/19 **JANE PHILP**  
**MORELAND** 11/29/20 **COLLEEN**  
**CHILDRESS NEWCOMB** 2/22/21  
**MAJOR W. RISING** 8/8/19 **DAVID**  
**L. STRANG, SR.** 4/15/21 **NEAL E.**

**VELVIN** 3/31/21 **DOROTHY BOWE**  
**WINGERD** 5/25/21 **DONALD K.**  
**YOUNG** 1/16/21

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'61 **KENYON V. ALBRECHT, JR.** '67  
2/9/21 **CHARLES R. CARTER**  
2/9/21 **WILLIAM K. CONNOR**  
1/4/21 **ROY L. CROW** 12/11/20  
The Rev. Dr. **JERRY M. DOOLING,**  
**SR.** 1/1/21 **EDWARD C. GRIFFITH,**  
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**KENNETH LANE CARROLL**, professor emeritus of religious studies, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 2/25/21

**PATRICIA H. DAVIS**, retired associate director of the Human Rights Program, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 1/11/21

**JAMES E. DORFF** '72, earned a Master of Theology degree from SMU and served on the SMU Board of Trustees (2011–15), on the Board's Student Affairs, Finance and Audit standing committees and on the Perkins School of Theology Executive Board (2009–16), 6/7/21

**JANET K. FLYNN**, retired administrative assistant, Cox School of Business, 11/29/20

**RUTH C. GANTT**, retired administrative assistant, Meadows School of the Arts, 5/18/21

**IAN GLADWELL**, professor emeritus of mathematics, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 5/23/21

**BEVERLY J. GREEN**, retired key entry operator, Enrollment Services, 7/6/21

**DOROTHY G. HARALSON**, University secretary emerita, 6/2/21

**HARRIET H. HUGHES**, retired as assistant to the dean, Meadows School of the Arts, 1/2/21

**PHYLLIS N. JOHNSON**, retired administrative assistant, Perkins School of Theology, 6/27/21

**RUTH P. MORGAN**, a professor of political science at SMU for 20 years and the University's first female provost, she retired in 1995 as provost and professor emerita, 3/8/21

**JIM R. MORRIS**, retired associate professor of communication arts, Meadows School of the Arts, 1/15/21

**LADISLAV P. NOVAK**, professor emeritus of anthropology 1/15/21

**MARY ANN PUCKETT**, retired administrative assistant, Dedman School of Law, 7/21/21

**JAMES B. ROE**, retired typesetter, SMU Auxiliary Services, 1/19/21

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**STANLEY J. STUBBLEFIELD**, retired facilities coordinator, Office of the Provost, 4/25/21

**CRISTOBAL "CHRIS" TRUJILLO**, served SMU-in-Taos for 30 years in a variety of roles, 4/17/21

**HAL J. WATSON, JR.**, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering, 5/31/21

**NEVA J. YOUNG**, retired administrative secretary, SMU Athletics, 1/4/21

# Championing ethics and energy education

SMU mourns the loss of Cary M. Maguire, Sr., SMU trustee emeritus, who passed away on August 10 at age 93. Maguire, a long-standing leader in the community, was among SMU's most active and generous donors, as well as a dedicated and innovative leader in the energy industry.



Maguire became a part of the Mustang community through his late wife, Ann Thompson Maguire '52. His service to the University included 24 years on the SMU Board of Trustees, membership on the Executive Committee and co-chair of the Cox School of Business Campaign Committee for the *Campaign for SMU*, as well as numerous other boards and committees.

Maguire's gifts to the University were as numerous as his active roles in its development. He was a key donor to and supporter of the Cox School, establishing its Maguire Energy Institute in 1974, the Maguire Chair in Oil and Gas Management and the Maguire Building, which houses undergraduate programs.

Other gifts established the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility – which offers University-wide ethics-related education and activities to students and faculty – and endowed its directorship.

Maguire served as chair and president of Maguire Oil Company and Maguire Energy Company and chair of Components Corporation of America and Staco Inc.

A national leader and well-respected businessman, Maguire will long be remembered on the Hilltop for his generosity, his dedication and his outstanding service. 🐎

# The download

Catch up on the latest news about our community's creative endeavors.

## Tune in to these podcasts by alumni, students and faculty.

### Maladjusted

Shara Jeyarajah '22, a human rights and music major, explores racial justice at SMU in her podcast. Interviewees include representatives from Greek life and SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

**Find it:** Apple Podcasts, Spotify, SoundCloud

### 'The Office' Deep Dive with Brian Baumgartner

Brian Baumgartner '95 played Kevin Malone on the NBC sitcom *The Office* from 2005 to 2013.

Now, each week Baumgartner sits down with a member of the cast or crew — including co-stars

Steve Carell, John Krasinski and Jenna Fischer and producer Greg Daniels — to talk about the little-known details of the Emmy-winning show.

**Find it:** Most podcast apps

### The Pony Pod

SMU'S student newspaper, *The Daily Campus*, offers a look at stories about campus and beyond.

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### Sages and Seekers

SMU's Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity, a program focused on improving quality of life, connect listeners to historical and current issues that affect our world.

**Find it:** SoundCloud

## Check out these new titles.

### Flint Mitchell '17

*Seeking Authenticity* (Amazon, 2021)

flintmitchell.com

### The Rev. Shirley Wallace Reaves '01

*Eternity Is Here* (eBooks2go, 2021)

## Celebrating words and creativity

Acclaimed photographer Laura Wilson of Dallas is the recipient of the 2021 SMU Literati Award.

Wilson, mother of actors Owen Wilson and SMU alumnus Luke Wilson '99, has published six books and is currently working on two projects. *Writers* is a book and exhibition documenting 35 writers who are destined to have a lasting legacy. *Making Movies* spotlights directors, cinematographers and actors behind the scenes.

The Literati Award was created by the Friends of the SMU Libraries/Colophon in 2010 and was established in honor of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the organization to celebrate the power of the written word and to recognize significant achievements in creativity.



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<sup>1</sup> Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688.



# Meet our newest Mustangs!

SMU's Class of 2025 managed amazing achievements even as the pandemic persisted. The titles "founder, co-founder and president come up hundreds of times for this class," noted SMU Dean of Admission Elena D. Hicks at Opening Convocation August 22. This class also includes entrepreneurs, inventors, caretakers, tutors, volunteers and allies. These talented new first-year and transfer students begin their SMU journey as the highest-achieving, most diverse and perhaps one of the most compassionate classes in University history. Welcome home, Mustangs!

**1,572**

Total incoming  
first-year and  
transfer students

**33%**

First years  
identifying as  
students of color

**3.59**

First years'  
grade-point average

**126**

First in their families  
to attend college

**304**

Continuing their  
families'  
Mustang legacy







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