

SPRING 2018

— *Combining Art And Science*

— *Healing Soul Sickness*

— *An Inspiring Legacy*

# SMU

MAGAZINE



Thanks to the SMU community, Dallas is at the heart of a groundbreaking partnership to reduce adult illiteracy. PAGE 12



## A community garden to go, please

Putting their own unique spin on a food truck, SMU students developed an innovative solution to Dallas' food deserts: Evie, a vintage camping trailer "upcycled" as a greenhouse. Designed to go anywhere it's needed, the sustainable gardening prototype now resides at Fair Park's Big Tex Urban Farms, where junior Alisa Llort '19 (right) shared stickers with young visitors at an open house and demonstration. The student-led initiative started as a Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity research project that received seed funding through Mustangs Give Back, SMU's annual one-day giving challenge.

**View this year's projects at [smu.edu/mustangsgiveback](http://smu.edu/mustangsgiveback) and make an instant impact on March 8!**





## Features ▾



## Merging His Love Of The Sciences And Arts

Senior Sam Weber '18 is on track to graduate in May with degrees in biological sciences and chemistry, and multiple minors that include Latin, musical theatre and human rights. In between conducting research on circadian clocks and rhythms in the lab of chemistry professor Brian Zoltowski, Weber has found time to direct SMU's 24-Hour Musical and work with groundbreaking public theatre in downtown Dallas.

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## INVESTING IN LEADERSHIP AMONG UNDERGRADUATES

NANCY ANN '65 AND RAY L. HUNT '65 (WITH TATE LECTURE SPEAKER INDRA NOOYI, CEO OF PEPSICO, CENTER) HAVE MADE A \$15 MILLION COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THE LONGEVITY OF ONE OF SMU'S PREMIER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.

## ON THE COVER



## For God And Country

As a chaplain and bioethicist for the U.S. Army, Major Jeff Matsler '93 is helping to heal souls of combat veterans experiencing post-traumatic stress.



## Unseen Catalysts

Two Mustangs whom Aleena Taufiq '18 never met are powering her mission to engineer excitement about science and math in middle school.



Dallas is at the heart of a groundbreaking community partnership to reduce adult illiteracy, thanks to SMU faculty, students and alumni who are creating a game-changing app as part of a national competition. Story on page 12.

# One Powerfully Smart Pony



President R. Gerald Turner

*Being able to leverage advanced computing power and make sense out of massive amounts of data are critical to the future of businesses and the 21st-century university.*

**If you had to guess**, where do you think SMU's advanced computing and data analysis capabilities rank nationally?

Over the past few months, I have enjoyed surprising community leaders, alumni and donors with the answer. Thanks to \$85 million in investments over the past five years, SMU now has top 20-caliber supercomputing power.

Furthermore, SMU now offers 13 graduate programs in data science – including an online master's that enrolls hundreds of students each year.

What does that mean for our faculty and students?

Being able to leverage advanced computing power and make sense out of massive amounts of data are critical to the future of businesses and the 21st-century university. Employers face a deficit of people with data science expertise, and they need graduates in every discipline who know how to work with data intelligently – to know what questions it can answer well and also to understand its limitations.

For the University's growing research efforts, ManeFrame II – our super-computer with an appropriately equine name – is powering research into tough questions facing our city and world:

- How can we fight cancers that resist chemotherapy?
- What can we do to protect financial information from hacking?

- Which kinds of afterschool programs do the most to improve student outcomes?

Importantly, because of donor generosity and University investment, SMU's high-speed supercomputer is accessible with no waiting to faculty, students and outside partners that work with SMU on federally funded research. Efforts that might otherwise be stuck in a traffic jam are instead speeding along in the equivalent of the HOV lane.

You can read more about the impact of SMU's investments in supercomputing and data science on page 7. Please also keep an eye on SMU emails and social media for an upcoming announcement about a gift to the planned Gerald J. Ford Research and Innovation Building that will further expand our interdisciplinary data science efforts and research impact.

R. GERALD TURNER  
President

**P.S.** Speaking of the futures of data, business and culture, SMU is pleased to partner with the George W. Bush Presidential Center to present Amazon chairman and CEO Jeff Bezos at Moody Coliseum on April 20, Founders' Day. For more information, visit [smu.edu/foundersday](http://smu.edu/foundersday).

## VOL. 68, NO. 2 SPRING 2018

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





# INVESTED IN LEADERS

## HUNTS ENDOW SMU'S SIGNATURE LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**A \$15 million gift from the Nancy Ann Hunt Foundation** (a supporting organization of Communities Foundation of Texas) will ensure the long-term support of the Hunt Leadership Scholars Program, which is one of SMU's signature scholarship programs attracting academically talented student leaders from throughout the United States to SMU.

In 1993, Nancy Ann '65 and Ray L. Hunt '65 and SMU announced a vision to create an annually funded leadership program to preserve the well-rounded and entrepreneurial nature of SMU's student body while the University grew its academic standing. They believed that an SMU education fosters, and benefits from, students who exhibit demonstrated leadership skills, intellectual ability, a spirit of entrepreneurship and a strong work ethic, combined with a desire to grow these skills and apply them in service to the community.

"SMU has benefited enormously from Nancy Ann and Ray Hunt's historic generosity," said President R. Gerald Turner. "Today SMU receives three times the number of applicants than it did in 1993, with many now having proven leadership, entrepreneurial and academic strengths. Therefore, although the Hunts feel that the original program's objectives have been accomplished, we were delighted when they agreed to make this significant gift that will enable the University to create an endowment to ensure the long-term continuation of the Leadership Scholars program and the legacy that the Hunts have created."

With this gift, the Hunts will have contributed \$65 million to the Hunt Leadership Scholars Program, a nationally recognized scholarship program for SMU.

"We are grateful for the impact this program has had upon the lives of so many students, both at SMU and beyond, in terms of preserving and enhancing the entrepreneurial spirit and 'Texas



Nancy Ann Hunt '65 (third from left) and Ray L. Hunt '65 (fifth from left), shown with Tate Lecture Series speaker Indra Nooyi, CEO of PepsiCo; members of the Hunt family; and Hunt Leadership Scholars and program administrators.

**"We wanted to help SMU attract truly outstanding students who demonstrate a strong potential to be leaders throughout their lives; young men and women who will stand up, speak out and make a positive difference to a broader community."**

**– Nancy Ann Hunt**

heritage,' which Nancy Ann and I enjoyed years ago when we were both students at SMU," said Ray L. Hunt.

"Our intent was to create a scholarship program that would be based upon more than just strong academic credentials," said Nancy Ann Hunt. "We wanted to help SMU attract truly outstanding students who demonstrate a strong potential to be leaders throughout their lives; young men and women who will stand up, speak out and make a positive difference to a broader community."

Ten million dollars of the Hunts' gift will be placed in an endowment that will generate funds in perpetuity. The remaining \$5 million will be spent over the next several years as the endowment matures, allowing time to develop

additional sources of support for the Hunt Leadership Scholars Program.

Hunt Scholars span majors across all disciplines at SMU and are leaders in all spheres of campus life. They have served as officers of the Student Body, Program Council and Student Foundation. They have been leaders of SMU's hundreds of student organizations and editors for campus newspapers and publications. To date, the program has provided scholarships to 372 students who, after graduation from SMU, have had a significant impact in many diverse fields ranging from medicine and law to theology, teaching and politics.

For more information: [smu.edu/mag18hunt](http://smu.edu/mag18hunt).



# Tribute Gifts Create Programs, Scholarships

**More than \$5 million** in contributions to his alma mater from a consortium of donors will honor SMU alumnus and energy industry leader Kyle D. Miller '01. SMU Trustee Tucker S. Bridwell '73, '74 led the effort to assemble tribute gifts in recognition of Miller's extraordinary success in the energy industry. Bridwell and his wife, Gina, personally contributed to the effort, along with other SMU alumni and industry colleagues.

In recognizing Miller's expertise and accomplishment in the energy finance arena, the majority of the tribute will establish the Kyle D. Miller Energy Management Program and the Kyle D. Miller Energy Management Scholarship Fund in the Edwin L. Cox School of Business. Both initiatives will receive endowment and current-use funding. The gift also will include a naming opportunity honoring Miller and his love of athletics within SMU's planned Indoor Performance Center.

"It's a fitting tribute that Kyle's colleagues have chosen to honor him by supporting both academic and athletic programs," said President R. Gerald Turner.

"Kyle was named outstanding young alumnus for the Cox School of Business in May 2015, and these contributions will help position other students to find the kind of success he has achieved in energy finance."

For Bridwell, the opportunity to lead the effort to honor Miller while supporting SMU students and student-athletes was a perfect combination. "Kyle's education at SMU helped lead to his success in energy finance," Bridwell said. "The creation of



Kyle D. Miller

this new program, scholarship fund and the plans for the new Indoor Performance Center provided all of us a chance to help future SMU students and student-athletes succeed and aspire to great careers while honoring Kyle, his achievements so far and his passion for the Mustangs."

The Energy Management Program will be based in the Maguire Energy Institute. It will augment the Cox School's existing M.B.A. Concentration in Energy Finance and will strengthen the undergraduate offering in energy to meet the rising demand for B.B.A. graduates in the energy sector. The program will also offer the Cox School multiple opportunities in executive education.

The academic management of the program will be provided by Professor Kumar Venkataraman, who will be appointed to the Cary M. Maguire Chair of Oil and Gas Management and will work closely with Bruce Bullock, director of the Maguire Energy Institute, to provide modern and relevant curricula.

The Kyle D. Miller Energy Management Scholarship Fund will provide funds for both B.B.A. Scholars and M.B.A. scholarships.

Construction of an Indoor Performance Center will provide valuable space to facilitate athletic training and competition at the highest level. The facility also will serve the University community as a location for select campus events.

Miller received his B.B.A. in finance from SMU in 2001. Prior to its acquisition in 2016, Miller served as the president and CEO of Silver Hill Energy Partners, LLC, a private oil and gas company that he founded in 2011. Before founding Silver Hill, he was principal and senior vice president of Energy Trust Partners. Miller holds leadership positions in a number of energy industry organizations, and serves as a member of SMU's 21st Century Council and the Mustang Club's Board of Directors.

For more information: [smu.edu/mag18miller](http://smu.edu/mag18miller).

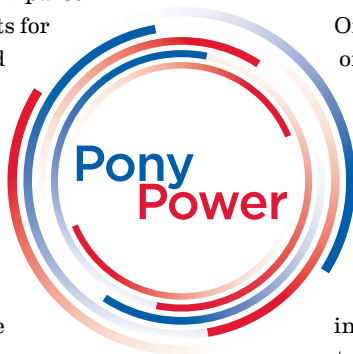
## Pony Power Giving On The Rise

**Thousands of alumni have recognized** the importance of current-use gifts to SMU and supported *Pony Power: Strengthening the Stampede*, giving more than \$42 million as of December 31, 2017. Compared with the previous year, gifts for current use have increased 50 percent.

*Pony Power* is a three-year initiative aimed at improving the academic and campus experiences of students at the University, right now. By focusing on current-use funds, *Pony Power* seeks to maximize resources available to the provost, deans and faculty to address the most pressing needs and best ideas on campus.

In January and February, the "I ♥ SMU" challenge encouraged alumni to give to

the SMU Fund for the schools of their choice. Each school dean recorded a video message describing the ways they invest current-use gifts to address immediate opportunities.



On March 8, thousands of SMU donors will participate in the University's annual one-day giving challenge, Mustangs Give Back. Last year, more than 3,000 donors gave nearly \$500,000 to exciting projects and inspiring causes in every part of the University. This

year, new projects and matching grants give donors an opportunity to set a record for generosity.

For more information or to make a gift, visit [smu.edu/ponypower](http://smu.edu/ponypower).



# Congressman's Gifts To SMU Reflect A Life Of Service And Patriotism

**Venerable statesman and decorated war hero Sam Johnson '51** made two recent gifts to SMU that will support the education of military veterans and preserve historic papers and materials from his distinguished life and career.

Johnson's gift of \$100,000 establishes The Hon. Sam Johnson Endowed Military Scholarship Fund at SMU. The Collin County Business Alliance (CCBA) provided seed funding to make the scholarship operational for the 2018-19 academic year.

He will leave Congress at the end of 2018, and his papers and other materials covering 26 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives will go to DeGolyer Library's special collections.

"SMU helped shape me into the person I am today, and I can't think of a better way to say thank you to my alma mater than with this scholarship and library gift," Johnson said.

Johnson's dedication to public service spans a 29-year military career and 26 years in the U.S. Congress.



President Turner presents a certificate of appreciation to the Hon. Sam Johnson (right).

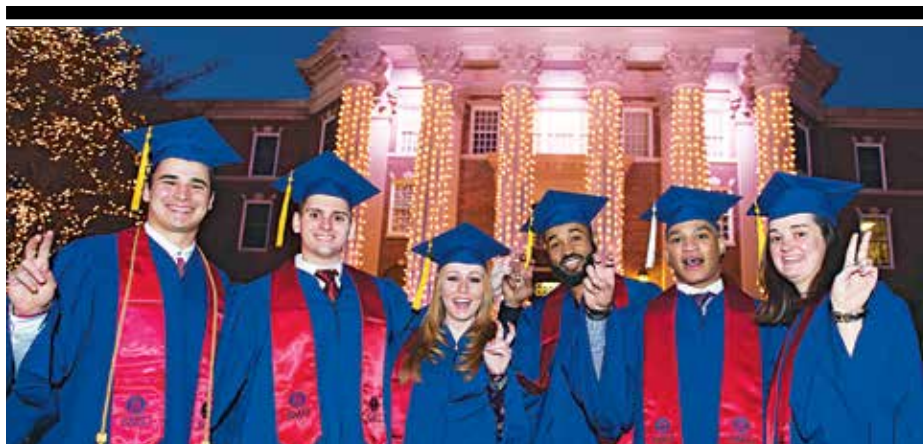
"We have always been proud to hold up Sam Johnson as an example to our students," President R. Gerald Turner said. "His courage and strength of character helped him survive nearly seven years as a prisoner during the Vietnam War."

He began his long career in service in ROTC at SMU, where he also was a member of Delta Chi and Alpha Kappa Psi fraternities. He graduated from SMU in 1951 with a B.B.A. in insurance and real estate. He and Shirley Melton Johnson '51 married the year before they graduated. She died in 2015.

Johnson, who received a Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU in 1994, has served on several boards for the University.

He has represented Texas' 3rd congressional district since 1991. The Republican congressman serves as House Deputy Whip and is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, where he has served as chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee since 2011. He also sits on the Health Subcommittee.

In 2016, Johnson received the Bipartisan Policy Center's first Congressional Patriot Award. In 2009, Johnson's peers recognized him as the "most admired" Republican member of the House and the prestigious Congressional Medal of Honor Society honored him with its highest civilian accolade, the National Patriot Award.



SMU awarded more than 700 degrees at its December Commencement ceremony in Moody Coliseum. Kenneth A. Hersh, president and CEO of the George W. Bush Presidential Center, was the featured speaker. He told the graduates: "It's easy to say what we're against, but it's harder to say what we're for, and stand up for that. It actually requires affirming a goal, a set of values and taking a stand, and that often makes us uncomfortable. Life does have discomfort, but your character is revealed in how you deal with it."

To see the full speech: [smu.edu/mag18commencement](http://smu.edu/mag18commencement).

For more information: [smu.edu/mag18johnson](http://smu.edu/mag18johnson).



# Something Strange In Usain Bolt's Stride

**Usain Bolt is the fastest sprinter ever** in spite of – or perhaps because of – an uneven stride that upends conventional wisdom, according to SMU researchers.

The *New York Times* reporter Jeré Longman covered the research of SMU biomechanics expert Peter Weyand and his colleagues Andrew Udofa '14 and



Andrew Udofa

Laurence Ryan for a story about Usain Bolt's asymmetrical running. The article, "There's Something Strange in Usain Bolt's Stride," was published July 20, 2017.

While not noticeable to the naked eye,

Bolt's potential asymmetry emerged after researchers in the SMU Locomotor Performance Laboratory dissected race video to assess his pattern of ground-force application – literally how hard and fast each foot hits the ground.

Biomechanics researcher and doctoral student Udofa presented the findings in June at the 35th International Conference on Biomechanics in Sport in Cologne, Germany.

The analysis thus far suggests that Bolt's mechanics may vary between his left and right legs. The existence of an unexpected and potentially significant asymmetry in the fastest human runner ever can help scientists better understand the basis of maximal running speeds.

Running experts generally assume asymmetry impairs performance and slows runners down. Udofa has said the observations raise the immediate scientific question of whether a lack of symmetry represents a personal mechanical optimization that makes Bolt the fastest sprinter ever or exists for reasons yet to be identified.

Weyand is the Glenn Simmons Professor of Applied Physiology and professor of biomechanics in SMU's Annette Caldwell

Simmons School of Education and Human Development and is director of the Locomotor Lab.

An expert on human locomotion and the mechanics of running, Weyand recently was part of a team that developed a concise approach to understanding the mechanics of human running. The research has immediate application for running performance, injury prevention, rehab and the individualized design of running shoes, orthotics and prostheses. The work integrates classic physics and human anatomy to link the motion of individual runners to their patterns of force application on the ground during jogging, sprinting and at all speeds in between.

They described the two-mass model last year in the *Journal of Experimental Biology*.



"The two-mass model provides us with a new tool for assessing the crucial early portion of foot-ground contact that is so important for sprinting performance," said Udofa.

Support for the research came from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

– Margaret Allen

For more information: [smu.edu/mag18bolt](http://smu.edu/mag18bolt)

## Monitoring North Korean Nuclear Activity

**Albritton Professor of Earth Sciences Brian Stump's seismology research** has led him to a critical role in monitoring shock waves from North Korea to help determine that country's nuclear capabilities.



Operating two seismic detectors for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization, Stump focuses on using a combination of sound-wave and seismic-wave detection to understand the type of these explosions better and faster. Through the use of two seismic stations, located in Big Bend National Park in Texas and in Mina, Nevada, Stump and his team analyze the data resulting from the sound and seismic waves that occur when nuclear weapons are detonated.

The *Dallas Morning News* interviewed Stump in September about his work after SMU's seismic stations picked up shock waves from a massive explosion at North Korea's nuclear test site. "The magnitude of this event is bigger than any U.S. or Russian test since the early '70s," he said.

To read more, visit [smu.edu/mag18stump](http://smu.edu/mag18stump).





# Investments In Data Powering SMU's Future

**Thirteen graduate programs** in data science and supercomputing capacity among the top 20 in Northern American higher education are some of the more visible results of \$85 million in University investment over the past five years. President R. Gerald Turner described the impact during his November presentations to business and civic leaders in Dallas and Houston.

Applying advanced computing power and data analysis capabilities in every school and discipline is a key to expanding SMU's impact, Turner said. Because data is critical to the future of business and to the future of Dallas, SMU has committed to growing data-related initiatives into a major differentiator.

Unlike at many other universities, SMU's high-performance computing cluster – named ManeFrame II – has

virtually no wait for computing time for faculty, students and research partners. Turner said this has helped the University recruit new faculty, some of whom initiated contact with SMU.

The University's specialized graduate programs in data science span not only engineering and business, but also the humanities and arts. Turner said SMU also aims to soon have one of the nation's first bachelor's degrees in data science.

Other examples of the new programs in advanced computing and data analysis developed in recent years include:

- Cyber security research that spans computer science, politics, law, economics, business and more.
- AT&T Center for Virtualization, which investigates issues related to cloud computing.

- SMU's National Center for Arts Research, helping arts organizations leverage data to make strategic decisions.
- SMU Guildhall digital gaming graduate education and joint research projects with faculty in education, engineering, fine arts and the sciences (see page 12 for an example).

During his speeches to community leaders in Dallas and Houston, Turner said that returns on investments made in SMU over more than 100 years remain strong. SMU continues to broaden the impact of its innovative research and to equip students with the skills they need to become leaders in their professional fields and their communities.

Find out more about SMU's investments in data and the opportunities they create for students and faculty on page 2 and at [smu.edu/datapowered](http://smu.edu/datapowered).

## NSF Awards \$2.5 Million To Simmons Researchers

**A \$2.5 million grant** from the National Science Foundation to researchers at SMU targets the ongoing struggle of U.S. elementary and high school students with math. The four-year NSF grant to the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development is led by K-12 math education experts Leanne Ketterlin Geller and Lindsey Perry '16. They will conduct research and develop an assessment system comprising two universal screening tools to measure mathematical reasoning skills for grades K-2.

"This is an opportunity to develop an assessment system that can help teachers support students at the earliest, and arguably one of the most critical, phases of a child's mathematical development," said Ketterlin Geller, the Texas Instruments Endowed Chair in Education and director of Research in Mathematics Education in Simmons. She is the principal investigator for the grant developing



Simmons researchers Lindsey Perry (left) and Leanne Ketterlin Geller

the "Measures of Mathematical Reasoning Skills" system.

Teachers and schools will use the assessment system to screen students and determine who is at risk for difficulty in early mathematics, including students with disabilities. The measures also will help provide important information about the intensity of support needed for a given student.

Few assessments are available to

measure the critical math concepts taught during those early school years, Ketterlin Geller said. "Providing teachers with data to understand how a child processes these concepts can have a long-term impact on students' success not only in advanced math like algebra, but also success in STEM fields, such as chemistry, biology, geology and engineering."

Early mathematics is a better and more powerful predictor of future learning, including reading and mathematics achievement, compared to early reading ability or other factors such as attention skills, according to one 2007 study on school readiness.

"I'm passionate about this research because students who can reason spatially and relationally with numbers are better equipped for future mathematics courses, STEM degrees and STEM careers," said Perry, co-principal investigator who earned her Ph.D. from SMU in 2016.

For more information: [smu.edu/mag18math](http://smu.edu/mag18math).



# Making A Big Splash With New Aquatics Home

**On November 3,** SMU dedicated the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center, the new home of SMU's international championship swimming and diving programs. The 42,000-square-foot center, located on the University's east campus on SMU Boulevard, makes a big splash in Division I swimming and diving with facilities, coaching and training technology designed to prepare men and women swimmers and divers for the highest level of competition.

"For more than 70 years, SMU swimming and diving has produced Olympians, All Americans and NCAA champions," said President R. Gerald Turner. "The completion of the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center reaffirms SMU's commitment to providing first-rate facilities to support our student-athletes."

The Aquatics Center natatorium, named for legendary Mustang swim coaches Coach A.R. "Red" Barr and Coach George "Mac" McMillion '55, features an indoor Olympic-sized pool configured for eight 50-meter competition lanes or 22 25-yard lanes. The diving area features a 10-meter diving tower with four springboards. The natatorium also features seating for 800 spectators on the mezzanine level. Three large, high-definition video boards across from the seating area display swimming times, live video or graphics and swimming and diving scores.

"I will always be grateful to have had the opportunity to be involved with SMU swimming while attending SMU," said donor Bruce Robson. "This new aquatics center will do its part in helping the current and future coaches at SMU attract the top swimming and diving talent to SMU for years to come."

As a practice facility, the center features the SwimPro video system, with underwater and above-water cameras to analyze swimmers' performances. The diving well also features cameras to capture 1-meter, 3-meter and platform diving.

The pool deck includes varsity and visitor locker rooms, a student lounge



***"With the opening of the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center, our student-athletes now have a world-class competition and practice facility commensurate with our championship tradition and aspirations for the future." – Rick Hart***

and classroom, and offices.

"With the opening of the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center, our student-athletes now have a world-class competition and practice facility commensurate with our championship tradition and aspirations for the future," said Rick Hart, SMU director of athletics.

The Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center was built with funding support from former SMU swimmers, divers, coaches and friends of men's and women's swimming and diving.

Lead donors include Bruce A. Robson '74 and Emily K. Robson, Joe Robson '76 and Hannah Robson, and Steven J. Lindley '74 and Shelli Mims Lindley. They are joined by Sheila Peterson Grant and Joseph (Jody) M. Grant '60, The J.E. and L.E. Mabree Foundation, Inc., and Robert A. Wilson '67 and Susan Cooper Wilson '67.

The final fundraising push for the Aquatics Center received a significant boost when the Grants contributed

\$1.5 million while also creating the Sheila and Jody Grant Challenge, which encouraged other donors to give the remaining \$1.5 million to complete the center's \$22 million funding goal. John M. Haley '64 and Margie Jackson Haley '67, '68 committed a \$500,000 gift, in addition to their original gift, to help complete the challenge in December.

The SMU swimming and diving programs boast a proud history, highlighted by the men's and women's teams earning 58 conference championships and qualifying for 95 appearances at the NCAA National Championships. SMU swimmers and divers have earned 155 national titles and been honored as All Americans 1,465 times. Six Mustangs have been recognized as NCAA Swimmer of the Year or Diver of the Year.

SMU swimmers have qualified for 109 Olympic appearances since 1952, winning eight gold, eight silver and four bronze medals.

For more information: [smu.edu/mag18aquatics](http://smu.edu/mag18aquatics).



# Payne Stewart Golf Center Opens

**SMU Athletics** dedicated the new Payne Stewart SMU Golf Training Center at Trinity Forest Golf Club October 13. The center, home to SMU's women's and men's golf teams, is named in honor of Payne Stewart '79, the 1989 PGA Champion, two-time U.S. Open Champion and member of five U.S. Ryder Cup teams.

The 6,700-square-foot facility features team locker rooms, coaches' offices, a conference room, hitting bay, a workout center and kitchen. It also includes 70,000 square feet of teeing ground, a 45,000-

square-foot putting and chipping green and a challenging nine-hole short course.

The facility was made possible through the support of major donors Ann Park Roberts Gibbs '66 and James R. Gibbs '66, '70, '72, Carolyn L. Miller and David B. Miller '72, '73 and the David B. Miller Family Foundation, The Dedman Foundation and family, and the Payne Stewart Family Foundation, Inc. Numerous other donors also contributed to the initiative.

For more information: [smu.edu/mag18golf](http://smu.edu/mag18golf).



The new Payne Stewart SMU Golf Training Center features numerous amenities, including a lounge area and teeing ground, for SMU golfers.

## Cox Professor Named To SEC Committee



Kumar Venkataraman

**Kumar Venkataraman**, the James M. Collins Chair in Finance at the Cox School of Business, is one of only two academics appointed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to serve on its newly formed Fixed Income Market Structure Advisory Committee.

The committee, with an initial focus on the corporate bond and municipal securities markets, will provide advice to the Commission on the efficiency and resiliency of these markets and identify opportunities for regulatory improvements.

The SEC's Fixed Income Market Structure Advisory Committee consists of a diverse group of 23 outside experts.

"Kumar's appointment to the SEC's Advisory Committee shows the kind of far-reaching impact his research has, and it exemplifies the kind of high-quality research that is a hallmark of the Cox School," said Cox Dean Matthew B. Myers.

Venkataraman, who served as chairman of the Finance Department from 2012-15, specializes in the area of market microstructure and writes about the functioning of equity, fixed-income and energy markets. He has published research on the impact of transparency and banking regulation on the bond market. In 2011, he was named to "The Best 40 B-School Professors under the Age of 40" by *Poets & Quants*.

For more information: [smu.edu/mag18sec](http://smu.edu/mag18sec).





# Sonny Dykes Named Head Football Coach

**Sonny Dykes** was introduced as SMU's new head football coach in December. He replaced Coach Chad Morris after he was named head coach at Arkansas. Dykes arrives on the Hilltop after serving head coaching stints at the University of California, Berkley and Louisiana Tech.

"This is home and this is a program I grew up watching," Dykes said when he was introduced at the press conference December 11 announcing his appointment. "I watched Mustang legends compete and I could always see myself putting on that iconic pony. Today, I'm proud to do just that."

"This is a proud football program with a rich tradition. It is also a proud academic institution. I place great emphasis on both. We will set lofty goals for our program, but will keep our primary focus on improving every day in all phases on and off the field to ensure we build a total program and shape champions," he said.

Prior to SMU, Dykes spent four seasons at Cal (2013-16) and three seasons at Louisiana Tech (2010-12). He served as an offensive analyst at TCU in 2017.



Sonny Dykes spoke to the media and SMU community after he was introduced as SMU's head football coach December 11.

Dykes, the son of the late longtime Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes, boasts a résumé that includes additional stops in the Pac-12, Big 12 and SEC, where he served under head coaches Mike Stoops (Arizona), Mike Leach (Texas Tech) and Hal Mumme (Kentucky).

*For more information: [smu.edu/mag18dykes](http://smu.edu/mag18dykes).*



Trey Quinn

## FOOTBALL ACHIEVES WINNING SEASON, RECEIVES BOWL BID

**Mustang football** ended its 2017 season with a 7-5 record and received an invitation to the inaugural DXL Frisco Bowl game against Louisiana Tech Dec. 20. It was SMU's first bowl appearance since 2012.

Wide receiver Trey Quinn and defensive end Justin Lawler were named to Phil Steele Publications All-America teams. Quinn is a member of the third team on offense, while Lawler is a third-team defensive selection.

Quinn was also a first-team All-America selection by Pro Football Focus and a semifinalist for both the Biletnikoff Award and Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award.

Lawler was a member of the final Ted Hendricks Award watch list, among other preseason accolades.

Courtland Sutton was named an honorable mention All-America selection by SB Nation.

In addition, offensive lineman Will Hopkins and kicker Josh Williams were among 25 student-athletes named to the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America Division I Football Team.



## MEN'S BASKETBALL KEEPS ON ROLLING

**The defending American Athletic Conference champions** opened the 2017-18 conference play December 27 at Moody Coliseum by knocking off UCF 56-51. Forward Akoy Agau (23) follows scoring leaders Shake Milton (1) and Jarrey Foster (10) up the court during the game. Pre-season games included a win over then No. 2-ranked Arizona on Nov. 23 at the Battle 4 Atlantis in the Bahamas. For games remaining at Moody Coliseum, visit [smumustangs.com](http://smumustangs.com).



## MUSTANG SPORTS ROUNDUP

### A STELLAR SEASON FOR SOCCER

**The SMU men's soccer team** finished the season ranked No. 10 and reached the third round of the NCAA Men's Soccer Championship, after winning both the regular season and the American Athletic Conference Championship. It became the first team to ever win both the American regular season and tournament titles in the same year. The Mustangs finished their season 17-3-1, the most wins since 2006.

The United Soccer Coaches Association named Mauro Cichero a semifinalist for the 2017 Missouri Athletic Club's Hermann Trophy, the most prestigious individual award in intercollegiate soccer. He also was named the AAC Midfielder of the Year and a unanimous first team

all-conference selection. The senior led the Mustangs in assists (7) and was second in shots (38), points (25) and goals (9).

The AAC Championship win gave SMU its first conference tournament title since 2011 and the first under head coach Kevin Hudson '04. Six Mustangs were named to the All-Tournament team: Emil Cuello, Most Outstanding Offensive Player; Jordan Cano, Most Outstanding Defensive Player; Jared Rice, Michael Nelson, Bryce Clark and Nicky Hernandez.

Three Mustangs garnered All-America honors, and four were named to the



All-East Region First Team by the United Soccer Coaches. Cichero was recognized as a first team All-American, while Cano and Garrett McLaughlin were named to the third team. Nelson joined the trio on the All-East Region First Team.



### CROSS COUNTRY CHAMP

**The SMU cross country team**, led by Hannah Miller's individual title, earned runner-up honors at the American Athletic Conference Championship in October. The Mustangs earned 63 points, placing four of their scorers in the top 20 and three in the top 15 to earn All-Conference honors. Tess Misgen and Marlene Gomez-Islinger also earned All-Conference honors for the Mustangs, placing eighth and 10th, respectively. Miller (shown) led SMU to a fourth place finish at the NCAA South Central Regional Championships with a record-setting performance in the 6-kilometers. She capped off her sophomore season at the NCAA Championships. Miller was named the AAC Women's Runner of the Year.



### EQUESTRIAN REIGNS

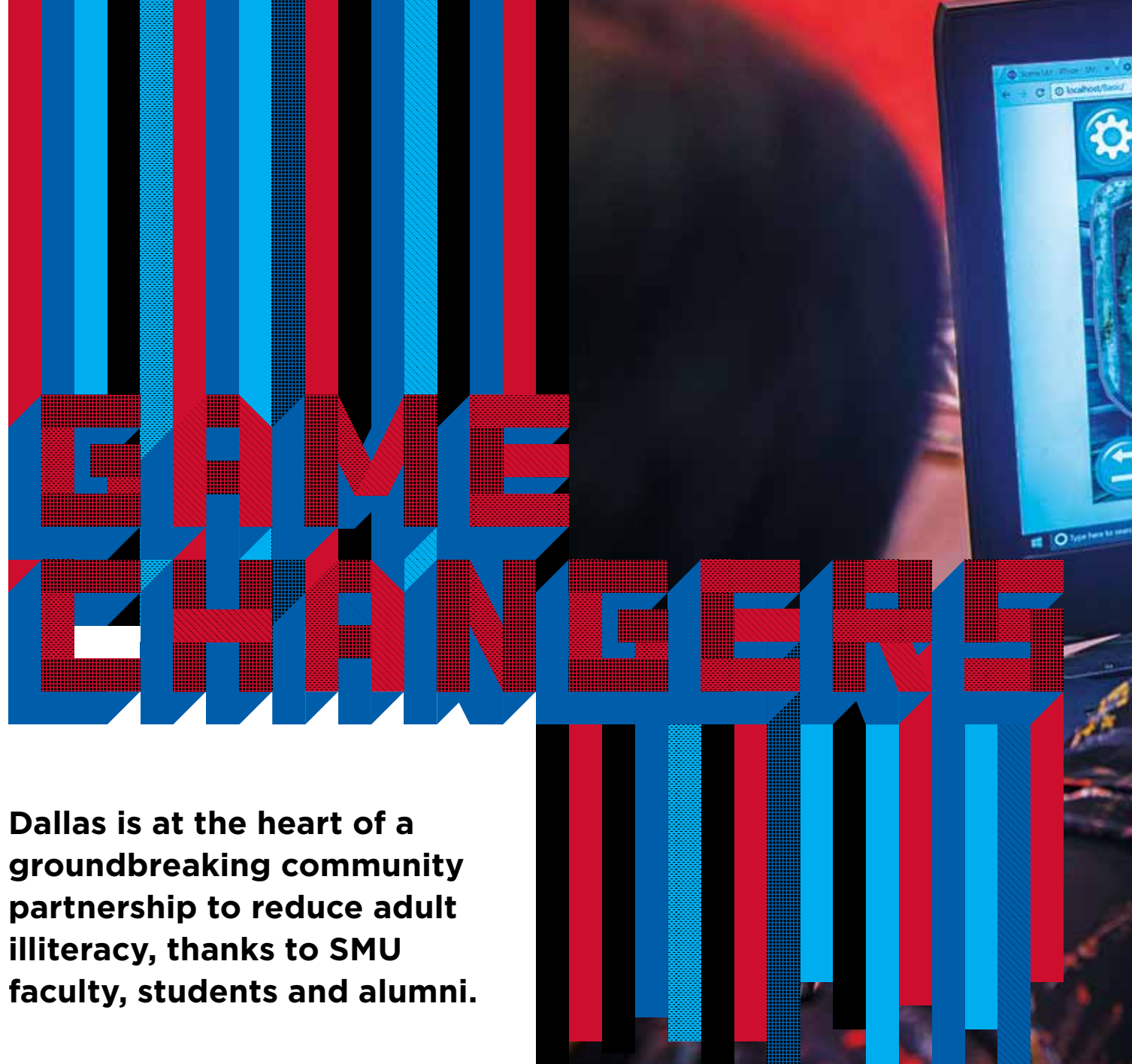
**The SMU equestrian team** was ranked a program-best No. 2 in the final National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) Farnam Poll of the fall season. SMU, aided by a win from Nora Gray (shown) in the Equitation over Fences event against Oklahoma State, is the first team outside the SEC or Big 12 conferences to earn a spot in the top three. The Mustangs moved up from No. 3 thanks to a perfect 5-0 record in the fall and a Texas A&M loss. SMU rounded out the fall with a pair of wins on the road against conference opponents to claim the 2017 Masterson Farms Invitational championship. The Mustangs kicked off the spring season on February 3 against South Carolina at the Dallas Equestrian Center.



### VOLLEYBALL DIGS IN

**The volleyball team** finished the season 21-11 overall and 15-5 in the American Athletic Conference (tied for second). SMU has won 20 matches for the fifth straight year and advanced to the post-season in each of the past three years. Lauren Mills (shown) and Katie Hegarty were named to the All-American Athletic Conference First Team, and Kendall Patterson and Brittany Adams earned second-team honors. The Mustangs met Texas Tech in the first round of the National Invitational Volleyball Championship in San Marcos Nov. 30.

For more information: [smumustangs.com](http://smumustangs.com)



**Dallas is at the heart of a groundbreaking community partnership to reduce adult illiteracy, thanks to SMU faculty, students and alumni.**

**G**ame artist Jackie Gan-Glatz '05 knows how confusing it can be to try to piece together unfamiliar words into an intelligible sentence. The

daughter of Chinese immigrants, she spoke only her parents' native language until she started preschool. Although she mastered English quickly, she occasionally experiences linguistic hiccups. "I might use an English word a bit differently or think of a phrase in Chinese before it comes to me in English," she explains.

She draws on her own language acquisition journey to understand the challenges faced by the adult learners

testing *Codex: Lost Words of Atlantis*.

Gan-Glatz and other SMU video game developers and education experts created the puzzle-solving app in collaboration with Literacy Instruction for Texas (LIFT), a nonprofit service provider for low-literate adults in Dallas.

The engaging game with an educational mission earned the SMU/LIFT team, People ForWords, a place among the eight semifinalists chosen from 109 international teams competing for the \$7 million Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE presented by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

The first-of-its-kind global competition aims to transform the lives of adult

learners reading English at or below a third-grade level. Adult illiteracy has been described as a "crisis hiding in plain sight." Low literacy is linked to high rates of poverty, high health care costs and low labor productivity. According to the *American Journal of Public Health* and the National Council for Adult Learning, low-literacy skills cost the United States an estimated \$225 billion in lost productivity and tax revenue each year and add an estimated \$230 billion to the country's annual health care costs.

Near SMU, the number of adults needing intervention is staggering. "There are about 600,000 adults in Dallas County who have less than a third-grade reading





**WORD PLAY** SMU's People ForWords team of Guildhall game developers and Simmons School education experts are currently working on additions and modifications to their app, an Adult Literacy XPRIZE semifinalist.

level," says Corey Clark, deputy director for research in the SMU Guildhall game development program and People ForWords development lead. "If we could help 10 percent of those people, that's 60,000 people who could learn to read proficiently. That makes a difference in a lot of people's lives."

SMU alumna Lisa Hembry '75, LIFT president and CEO *emerita*, brought the idea of joining forces for the XPRIZE competition to SMU. Founded in 1961, LIFT spearheads the effort to mitigate the problem by delivering the educational resources, tools, teaching and support needed by struggling adults learning to read and write.

"Here we are, two years later, with a viable phonics-based app in a gamified solution that helps low-literate people learn to read the English language while having fun," Hembry says.

"In North Texas, where one in five adults cannot read, this is more than a competition," she adds. "This is a dedicated effort by our team to tackle the growing issue of low literacy and poverty."

SMU's strong relationship with Dallas and the surrounding region offers myriad opportunities for students, faculty and alumni to gain meaningful experiences while strengthening the community and making a difference in the lives of others. The city provides a unique launch pad for

realizing an ambition, making an impact or developing a revolutionary innovation.

"Working with LIFT and SMU Guildhall in the Adult Literacy XPRIZE competition highlights how communities and academia can collaborate to improve the public sphere," says Paige Ware, the Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Endowed Professor in the Simmons School.

A national leader in K-12 literacy research, the Simmons School became involved with the initiative to expand its work on literacy issues. Diane Gifford, a clinical assistant professor, and Tony Cuevas, director of Instructional Design and clinical professor, both in the school's Department of Teaching and Learning,



**MAJOR PLAYERS** (above) The People ForWords team continues to make app improvements; (upper right) Simmons' Diane Gifford and LIFT's Lisa Hembry '75; (bottom right) The Guildhall development team included alumni (from left) Brian Rust '15, Jackie Gan-Glatz '05 and Victoria Rehfeld Smith '14.



oversee the instructional design and curriculum of the game, ensuring that it improves the literacy levels of users.

"I started my career teaching children to read, but low-literacy adults face different challenges. Just opening the door to walk into an adult literacy class can be challenging for them," Gifford says. "We have the potential to touch millions of people who never walk through that door."

Even though national studies show more than 36 million U.S. adults lack basic English literacy skills, "there hasn't been as much significant research as you might expect, considering the magnitude of the problem, and there is almost no research on the use of video games to teach low-literacy adults," Cuevas says.

Teaching and technology weave together throughout Cuevas' career. He designed SMU Guildhall's top-rated master of interactive technology degree program and served as the program's academic director before joining the Simmons faculty. He specializes in integrating emerging technologies into teaching and learning and serves as director of Simmons' Teacher Development Studio, where simulated pre-K-12 classroom environments and other leading-edge technologies are used to train SMU students to become effective teachers.

For Cuevas, the long-term goals at the heart of the project strike close to home. "I have two sons with special needs who have struggled to learn to read, so I

understand how children can fall through the cracks easily into adult illiteracy," he says.

His sons, ages 13 and 18, have used the app and found it engaging and helpful. Both Cuevas and Gifford see future potential in modifying the game for use in a structured K-12 classroom setting.

While struggling children and adults share some learning weaknesses, the approach for ameliorating those deficits is very different, says Gifford, which is why the app development process started with focus group sessions with more than 20 LIFT adult students.

"We heard firsthand about what interested, motivated and concerned them about using a mobile app to learn to read," Cuevas says.

Those conversations and playtesting revealed that maintaining motivation is key, meaning harried adult learners have to feel that playing the game is worth their scant free time. "They need chunks of learning, instead of small pieces, so that they feel a more immediate benefit," Gifford says.

*Codex: The Lost Words of Atlantis* whisks participants to Egypt, where they play as enterprising archaeologists solving puzzles as they hunt for relics of the once-great civilization of Atlantis. Audible prompts for each letter and sound that appear on the screen teach the look and feel of written English. To minimize frustration, players learn to read very simple sentences from the beginning.

"We want them to have a sense of accomplishment immediately so they keep moving forward," Gifford explains.

The 24/7 convenience of the app obliterates other obstacles, such as a lack of childcare, transportation and free time during the day. "Users can download it at home and play to their heart's content when it's most convenient for them, even if that's at 3 a.m.," Gifford explains.

Games also provide safe environments for learning, says the Guildhall's Clark. "They allow you to fail in ways that aren't overwhelming. They let you keep trying until you succeed."

The XPRIZE project serves as one example of how research is incorporated into the curriculum at SMU Guildhall. Students explore a vast range of interests within video game development and its global implications and diverse uses. Both current students and alumni are able to apply their analytical and research skills by participating as funded research assistants on an array of Guildhall's "games for good" projects.

"All research is based on the idea that games have more purpose and value to society than just entertainment," says Clark, whose expertise lies in finding solutions to large-scale problems by combining several areas of study, such as gaming, distributed computing, analytics and artificial intelligence. His recent work in reverse engineering gene regulatory networks and integrating gaming techniques into cancer research led to his appointment as adjunct





**PUZZLE MASTERS** (top and right) LIFT adult learners tested the puzzle-solving app and provided feedback that helped developers improve it; (above) The Guildhall's Corey Clark.

research associate professor of biological sciences in SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

Out of the gate, the Guildhall team had to grapple with the vexing issues of designing an adventure for gamers who can barely read and write and have likely never touched a computer.

"This was the first time some participants had used a desktop computer," Clark says. "Registering was a challenge for them, clicking and dragging was a challenge. So we had to think about how to make a game that's fun and interactive,

over and over again. And this is the same process that reinforces learning."

And at its core, every game is about learning. "You learn something new with every move you make," Clark says.

People ForWords takes players from Egypt to Sydney, Australia, and the Great Barrier Reef for its next learn-as-you-go adventure. The Guildhall team includes Gan-Glatz, programmer Brian Rust '15, artist Victoria Rehfeld Smith '14 and research assistant Lauren Breeding '18, a level designer working on her thesis for a Master of Interactive Technology

games that will synthesize skills and guide players to test themselves in real-life situations, such as reading street signs and a bus route map, within the safe haven of the app.

Meanwhile, Clark, Gifford and Cuevas meet periodically to deliberate progress and strategy. People ForWords has until April 2018 to complete additions and modifications.

Testing of the literacy software created by the semifinalists began in July 2017, with the participation of 12,000 adults who read English at a third-grade level or lower in Dallas, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. Postgame evaluation of the literacy gains among test subjects will help determine up to five finalists, to be announced in June 2018. The winner will be named in 2019.

Two years into the project, all involved admit that maintaining momentum over the protracted timeline has been a challenge, but they believe this critical experiment in improving adult literacy will be world-changing.

"I've volunteered with nonprofits that help people who have fallen on hard times for a number of reasons. I feel like this project would give some of them a second chance in life," says Gan-Glatz. "Literacy would open doors of opportunity and allow them to contribute to society in ways they never thought possible."

**Watch a Codex demo at [smu.edu/magi8codex](http://smu.edu/magi8codex).**

**"In North Texas, where one in five adults cannot read, this is more than a competition. This is a dedicated effort by our team to tackle the growing issue of low literacy and poverty."**

**-LISA HEMBRY '75**

yet simple and intuitive enough to be a first experience with technology."

He and his colleagues collected and analyzed data on game elements such as the amount of time players stuck with a task, how many times they repeated moves, how quickly they progressed and whether performing the game actions translated into the desired learning outcomes.

"First, games have to be fun," Clark says. "From story to characters, you want to engage people enough for them to play

degree from SMU Guildhall. They are joined by Dawn Woods '09, '18, a Simmons Ph.D. candidate, for weekly meetings where they dive into the nitty-gritty of development. Nuance matters for beauty, function and efficacy, so the conversation zigzags from topic to topic: Should an orb be recolored to look like an empty crystal? Where should punctuation marks appear? How should the capitalization of words be introduced?

They also discuss supplemental mini

# MERGING SCIENCE AND PERFORMANCE

## At SMU, Sam Weber Has Explored His Love Of Two Vastly Different Fields

By Susan White '05



**rowing up in Overland Park, Kansas, Samuel Gage Weber became fascinated with science by watching *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius*.**

The first 3-D animated feature film made outside Hollywood was directed by SMU alumnus John Davis '84. Weber, whose mother is a nurse, imagined being Jimmy Neutron while he played with a child's chemistry set. Later, when he stumbled upon the Harry Potter novels and films, he says, his interest in science became intertwined with magic.

In seventh grade, after Weber heard a neurologist speak to his class about the wonders of the brain, he began to make the connection between science and medicine. While his fellow students were enthralled with the brain-shaped gummies she passed around the class, Weber locked onto the floating pink blob in a jar she had brought for show and tell. "She said the brain was 'the last true frontier of science,'" he recalls.

In high school he straddled the two worlds of science and art – taking AP

biology and chemistry courses and working downtown at a neurology lab, while participating in theatre, rehearsing for plays and musicals nightly. He thought that when he got to college he would have to keep his two loves – the sciences and the arts – separate.

But when he got to the Hilltop, he says he realized he could successfully combine those seemingly disparate worlds.

Weber, a Dedman College Scholar and University honors student, is now on the pre-med track to graduate in May 2018 with B.S. degrees in biological sciences, and health and society, and a B.A. in chemistry, with minors in Latin, classical studies, musical theatre, history and human rights. In addition, through numerous campus opportunities, SMU has enabled him to explore his interests in the performing arts. In his senior year, he has even found interesting ways to fuse his interests.

### **Patience With The Process**

As a first-year student in his general chemistry course, Weber made such an impression that Associate Professor Brian

Zoltowski considered him a natural to work in his lab.

Before enrolling at SMU, Weber had already gained lab experience at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Zoltowski says Weber "displayed a unique combination of creativity, passion and deductive reasoning that is, frankly, atypical anywhere. His ability to devote himself to any task, and complete it at the highest possible level, made me trust him right away."

Nearly four years later, Weber runs the entire cell biology focus of Zoltowski's lab, which conducts research on circadian clocks and the molecular mechanisms of blue-light photoreceptors. The senior trains graduate and undergraduate students who work with cell culture and drug discovery projects. He is instrumental to the research group's mission as he leads and directs multiple projects, which has enabled Zoltowski to greatly expand their research scope.

On a Thursday afternoon in November, Weber is working in the tissue lab at Dedman Life Sciences Building on what he calls the "downstream biological application of manipulating proteins." His project focuses on a protein complex that is responsive to





light “much like the rest of our circadian biology; our rhythms are linked to the sun and the light we have available,” Weber says. During a process called transfection, he forces some human cells to take up and incorporate foreign DNA into their own. Once that DNA is incorporated, the cells start to express that altered form of the protein, “so we can see how the overall complex functions with these changes in response to light.”

The transfecting process is precise and time-intensive, requiring a lot of tedious work, Weber says while adding one of 2,112 pipette strokes to different wells. After this step, he puts the cells under a blue LED lamp to simulate an “awake” state. The next day he treats these cells with a solution that causes them to glow in varying intensities.

On this particular day, the experiment doesn’t generate any usable data. The blank wells show the same or higher luminescence than some samples, which shouldn’t be physically possible, he says. “This tells me something was wrong. In this case, one critical reagent, a substance or compound added to a system to cause a

chemical reaction, was running low.” So he orders a new bottle and repeats the experiment, troubleshooting until it doesn’t have an error.

The setback doesn’t bother Weber. “So many things can go wrong in biochemistry – the temperature in the room, the humidity, how bright the room is, how much air the AC is moving, shelf life of reagents and more can all contribute, just like human error, to poor results. Things don’t work all the time; science is slow and crawling,” he adds.

### Finding The Magic

“I’m the type of person who needs to stay busy and wants to be involved,” Weber says, adding that SMU enabled him to engage in many different activities, take on several majors and sample numerous minors because it accepted all 46 hours of his AP credits, allowing him to get ahead in his biology degree plan. “There are lots of opportunities to get involved at SMU,” pointing out that funding often is made available through Program Council or Student Senate for events like SMU’s 24-Hour Musical.

“So many things can go wrong in biochemistry ... Things don’t work all the time; science is slow and crawling.”

– SAM WEBER

Outside his classroom and lab work, Weber joined the student-run Program Council, overseeing campus concerts and entertainment events and directing Sing Song, the annual competition among student organizations that perform musical revues. He also served as a resident assistant in Virginia-Snyder Commons for two years, providing resources and programming on mental health, career planning and handling social stressors. And he's president of Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society and on the Embrey Human Rights Program Student Leadership Board, to name only a few of his numerous roles.

He's studied abroad with SMU in Oxford, Rome and Paris, and went on SMU's most recent human rights trip to Poland over the winter break. All the while, he also applied to medical schools, a time-consuming and

demanding task in itself.

With the 24-Hour Musical, Weber is following in the footsteps of his older brother, Charlie '16, who along with Ally Van Deuren '15 began the musical in spring 2015 to provide nontheatre majors an opportunity to perform on campus. The production is choreographed, blocked and rehearsed during 24 hours spread over three days. Last fall, Weber directed Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, staged on the quad in front of Dallas Hall in September during Family Weekend. This was his fifth 24-Hour Musical.

During the first year of the SMU 24-Hour Musical, Van Deuren recalls, "Sam, then a freshman, walked in the first day ready to work. He took partial or total lead in choreography, tech, production and costume design, graphic design and many more day-of tasks that no one else had the headspace to handle. He was a

much-needed source of organization, whether he was lending a hand with heavy lifting, maintaining order with a cast of 40 students after a long day of rehearsing or finding quick solutions for any last-minute costume mishaps."

Weber also is recognized for maintaining a cool head in the face of possible disaster. During rehearsal and the staging of *Into the Woods*, the sprinklers came on in the flowerbeds where the orchestra sat. Weber was unflappable.

During the chaos that a tightly developed production engenders, Weber found time to mentor the next generation of 24-Hour Musical leaders. Sophomore theatre major Stevie Keese '20 assisted Weber with *Into the Woods* and found him generous and approachable. "Sam helped me articulate my artistic thoughts through our late-night passionate debates on the future of theatre and the arts," she says. He also taught her about ambition and "how to ask for exactly what you want with no apologies, while continuing to be gracious and grateful."

Weber has found working on 24-Hour Musical to be invaluable in developing skills that will carry over into his post-SMU life. "It is some of the best training students can get working in professional environments. We hold the project to a very high standard, and I'd like to think that learning on the fly, making bold choices and the time management that are required for 24-Hour to be successful are the same kinds of skills professional theatre artists develop," he says.

He's also been grateful to his professors, who have given him leeway with his classes and studies to spend time cultivating and following his theatrical interests. Last year, Weber worked as a choreography fellow for the Public Works Dallas musical production of *The Tempest*, co-produced by Meadows School of the Arts and the Dallas Theater Center. The community outreach production used local community groups and 200 nonprofessionals to stage Shakespeare's play. Weber found it "motivating to work with people who had never done performance art before, but still got it; they understood movement and narrative. It really reaffirms how art is truly innate in all people."



Senior Sam Weber works in the tissue lab at Dedman Life Sciences Building on what he calls the "downstream biological application of manipulating proteins."





Last fall, Weber directed students of all majors in Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, staged on the quad in front of Dallas Hall in September during Family Weekend.

## Putting It All Together

As a capstone to his four years at SMU, Weber is merging his love of science and the arts through an Engaged Learning project that explores the relationship between performing arts and public health from a medical anthropology angle. He is studying how theatre performance can help engage the public in a discussion of mental illness, thereby reducing the stigma it often creates. His research is supported by a Mayer Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship.

Weber says that everything he's done or achieved at SMU has helped prepare him for medical school and a life in the profession. As an undergraduate, he didn't want to be what is called a "gunner," a term applied to pre-med students who adhere solely to a regimen of science courses and, while making high GPAs, explore little else outside that regimen.

As his passions for pure science and performance have intersected, he's come to understand that "medicine is an art. Physicians perform for and with their patients, seeking to achieve an honest and productive outcome," Weber says.

Zoltowski, who has observed how

Weber has grown in multiple ways, regards him more as a colleague than as a mentee. "Sam as a student is unique. In the sciences people often forget that you need to be extremely creative, have excellent abilities in deductive reasoning and be skilled in computational methods," he says. "Creativity is a key part of the scientific process, as we have to find unique ways to combine disparate concepts or new

approaches to tackle complex problems. Often young scientists will be unable to combine the deductive and computational approaches with creative insight. Sam is different – he excels in all three capacities, even in this early stage of his career. Most important, his strength is in creativity and thinking outside the box. That is why he will have tremendous success in anything he pursues."

**“Creativity is a key part of the scientific process, as we have to find unique ways to combine disparate concepts or new approaches to tackle complex problems.”**

— ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BRIAN ZOLTOWSKI



# AFTER WAR, SEEKING PEACE

ARMY CHAPLAIN HELPS VETERANS  
WORK THROUGH 'MORAL INJURY'



BY  
SUSAN WHITE '05



**N**ear the military base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina – the Army’s largest – there are several dozen Army-Navy stores. They sell the usual used military equipment and also T-shirts with the logos of the various forces. But to Perkins School of Theology alumnus and U.S. Army Major Jeff Matsler ’93, another shirt stands out.

It’s popular with soldiers returning from deployment in Afghanistan. Black T-shirt. White Gothic letters. One word: “Guilty.”

Matsler says choosing the “Guilty” shirt reflects the shame and alienation many soldiers returning from combat areas bear because they took actions “that can violate their moral code, their paradigm of what is right.”

A chaplain and the Army’s Bioethicist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, Matsler says, “It’s a volunteer Army. Most young soldiers in the infantry units and on the

In light of the 2016 Veterans Affairs report that on average more than 20 veterans died daily from suicide in 2014, Matsler’s work is extremely important. In November 2017, the PBS series POV debuted “Almost Sunrise” focusing on the issue of “moral injury,” defining it as “a wound to the soul inflicted by violating one’s own ethical code.”

### ANSWERING GOD’S “STILL SMALL VOICE”

Matsler grew up working on his family’s farm in Floydada, a small rural community in West Texas. As a high school freshman, he attended a United Methodist Church summer camp where he first encountered Connie Nelson, then a youth counselor and now Perkins School director of public affairs and alumni/ae relations.

“I had the opportunity to watch Jeff grow in size, stature, maturity and faith,” Nelson says. “I remember particularly a workshop that I led one summer on discernment, listening for God’s voice and Christian vocation. At the conclusion of the workshop, Jeff came up to my co-leader and me to tell us he felt called to ministry. He was only 17 or 18, but it was clear that he had heard God’s ‘still small voice.’”

## “SOLDIERS ON THE FRONT LINE NEED TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS AND REDEMPTION.”

— JEFF MATSLER

front lines will tell you they signed up to serve God and country. They are very patriotic.” But to succeed as soldiers, they are trained to follow orders, and that can mean taking lives, sometimes those of unintended targets such as civilians.

For more than a decade, Matsler has made it his mission to study “moral injury,” a condition associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in which combat soldiers understand themselves to be morally deficient. They return not only psychologically and emotionally battered but also spiritually injured.

After high school, Matsler attended McMurry University, a Methodist institution in Abilene, Texas, where he was first exposed to the field of bioethics by his philosophy professor and mentor, Joseph Stamey, who received his Ph.D. in medical ethics. Matsler recalls thinking as an undergraduate, “What on earth would be debatable about medical ethics?!”

After earning a B.A. degree in history and religious studies with a minor in philosophy in 1989 from McMurry, Matsler attended Perkins Theology, where he encountered professors such as Joseph L. Allen, now professor *emeritus* of



Major Jeff Matsler serves as a chaplain and the Army’s Bioethicist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (in background).

ethics, and the late Frederick S. Carney, professor *emeritus* of moral theology and Christian ethics whose background also was in medical ethics. Matsler says, “The theological training I received at Perkins has grounded me to this day.”

Matsler represents the third generation of his family to graduate from SMU’s Perkins School of Theology. His grandfathers, the late Dr. Charles E. Lutrick ’49 and Cyrus Barcus ’27, ’33 (also founding director of the Mustang Band), both attended Perkins and became Methodist ministers. His uncle, the Rev. Dr. Robert C. Monk ’54, is one of many SMU and Perkins alumni who taught at McMurry.

After graduating from Perkins in 1993, Matsler entered the ministry as an associate pastor at Polk Street United Methodist Church in Amarillo. During his three years there, he also served as a staff clinician for the substance abuse unit at the Amarillo Veterans Affairs Medical

Center. His time at the VA convinced Matsler he could provide much-needed ministry in service to his country with the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps.

In 1995, while Matsler waited to go on active duty, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed. Matsler went to participate in rescue efforts, provide stress debriefings and minister to victims of the tragedy and to teams searching for survivors. The emotional wreckage he encountered in Oklahoma sparked his interest in and thinking about how traumatic events can wreck the soul.

Matsler says there were two issues in Oklahoma City that made it a significant magnet for moral injury among those involved in the rescue effort: The first was the overwhelming sense of horror that accompanies any disaster relief effort – particularly if it is man-made. “My first day at OKC consisted of helping the team searching for survivors, realizing that we had entered the building’s nursery and debriefing the team afterward. No young soldier – not even a seasoned veteran – is ever emotionally prepared to deal with that type of carnage.”

One of the key elements of moral injury is a sense of betrayal felt by the individual or group members involved in such an event. “The significant issue at OKC became clear on day five when we learned that those responsible were not only Americans (Timothy McVeigh, Terry Nichols and Michael Fortier) but also veterans – a feeling of betrayal that grew as we also learned they were combat vets. Moral injury isn’t just over things done, but also things observed – things you didn’t or couldn’t prevent,” Matsler says.

## IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

He went on active duty in 1996 as a battalion chaplain with the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and served until 2000, when an injury led to a medical discharge. After serving as Senior Chaplain at Cal Farley’s Boys Ranch and then pastor at First United Methodist Church in Panhandle, Texas,



Major Jeff Matsler teaches a class on medical ethics to U.S. Army MEDCOM personnel at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in 2016.

## FOR U.S. ARMY MAJOR JEFF MATSLER '93, ANOTHER SHIRT STANDS OUT. IT'S POPULAR WITH SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM DEPLOYMENT IN AFGHANISTAN. BLACK T-SHIRT. WHITE GOTHIC LETTERS. ONE WORD: "GUILTY."

Matsler returned to active duty in 2007.

During the past 10 years Matsler has served several tours of duty in Afghanistan as brigade chaplain. While one duty included presiding over liturgical services in Bagram (2008-09) and another in Kandahar (2013), the main effort of his ministry consisted of traveling around the country counseling with soldiers and providing mentoring and oversight for the battalion chaplains in his unit's footprint. It was while ministering to soldiers in combat zones that Matsler began to understand what “moral injury” truly meant.

“Soldiers on the front line need to hear the message of forgiveness and redemption,” he says. “More than anything, they need to hear that no matter what you’ve done, where you’ve been, what you’ve done in the service of your country, whatever act you had to do – whether it was right or wrong – God still loves you. There is nothing we can do that can separate us from the love of Christ and restoring us to who he intended us to be.”

Between postings to Afghanistan, Matsler’s commander at Fort Bragg asked him to gain advanced education to support his chaplaincy duties. He enrolled in the Master of Theological Studies program at Duke University Divinity School in nearby Durham and focused on ethics. He continued to study combat trauma and its effect on rebuilding character when he earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree in bioethics in 2015 from Yale Divinity School.

His 2012 thesis, “Post Traumatic Saint,” looks at the life of Saint Francis of Assisi and his experiences as a combat veteran and prisoner of war during the early 13th century. Francesco Bernardino was born into a wealthy family in Assisi, and, as did so many of his childhood friends, he became a seasoned professional soldier and officer. By his 22nd birthday he had gained over six years of grueling combat experience. In 1202, he helped lead a military expedition against the neighboring city-state of Perugia. One of only 12 survivors, he became a prisoner of war and spent a





# “DOCTORS ASK, ‘WHAT CAN WE DO?’ A BIOETHICIST ASKS, ‘WHAT SHOULD WE DO?’”

year in captivity. After his release, Francis had a spiritual conversion and began experiencing visions. He eventually rejected his wealthy family and embraced a life of poverty and isolation, and he made it his mission to restore the chapel at San Damiano, where the icon of the crucified Christ told him to repair the ruined church.

Matsler argues that Francis’ actions – hearing voices, seeing visions, isolating himself from family and avoiding community – constitute behaviors that when encountered today would be symptomatic of post-traumatic stress disorder. Looking for release from his pain, Francis eventually found it in the community of fellow veterans, he says.

## FINDING FORGIVENESS, RESTORING JOY

Although his research on Francis informs Matsler’s approach to moral injury, it was his training at Perkins that taught Matsler to find in stories the truth being shared. “What does it mean when Jesus walked on water? I try to apply that same understanding when a veteran comes in and tells me something that sounds far-fetched. What do you do with that guy who claims that a cross came to life or that God spoke to him in the middle of the night? Initially I just listen and affirm what I hear them saying. It’s way too easy to discount their stories. My goal is to get nonveterans to take seriously what they hear veterans say,” Matsler adds.

Speaking to conferences throughout the country about aspects of moral injury and spiritual recovery, Matsler distinguishes between the standard approach to healing and the early Franciscan model he advocates. “The way we deal with PTSD now is through talk therapy and pharmacology. It can eliminate the physical pain but it cannot restore joy.”



Chaplain Jeff Matsler presides at a Christmas Eve service at Fort Bragg in 2010. Matsler served his first tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2008-09.

In contrast, the early Franciscans sat in the community of other veterans and talked about their experiences and how their actions harmed others and themselves. Matsler says of soldiers, “By owning their actions they can move to a stage of forgiveness, and restore joy.”

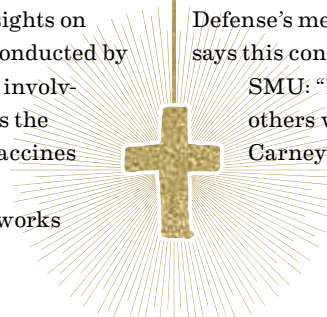
As the Army’s Bioethicist, he works with Walter Reed’s medical personnel to help determine what decisions are best for a patient. He says, “Doctors ask, ‘What can we do?’ A bioethicist asks, ‘What should we do?’”

Matsler also provides insights on medical experimentation conducted by the Department of Defense involving human subjects, such as the testing of Ebola and Zika vaccines before any public use.

The medical center also works

with amputees and researches new methods for improving prosthetics. “After soldiers have sustained injuries in service to their country, we want to ensure that they don’t just exist but have a quality of life,” Matsler says. “My job is to advise in such a way that we not do something that might cause undue harm now while trying to find a better way for them in the future.”

Matsler also teaches medical ethics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the Department of Defense’s medical school in Bethesda. He says this connects him back to his time at SMU: “I am now seeking to do for others what professors Allen and Carney did for me at Perkins.”







# TOTAL SPECTACLE

**Thousands flocked to SMU's Main Quad** when the Department of Physics hosted a look-and-learn extravaganza on August 21, 2017. The epic teachable moment coincided with the total solar eclipse, which overshadowed the sun, physics faculty fanned out to teach for watching the 75-percent eclipse: a telescope with a projection of the eclipse in the Rotunda and associated activities on the sidewalk mimicked the celestial display. SMU was the only place in North Texas when North Texas will be in the "path of totality."

*See video of "eclipse fest" at [smu.edu/mc](http://smu.edu/mc)*

Photos by Hills  
and Jeffrey





# ALLY ACULAR

man College of Humanities and Sciences and the  
avaganza during the partial solar eclipse on August  
with the first day of classes. As the moon slowly  
answer questions and offered an array of safe options  
with a viewing cone set up on the steps of Dallas Hall,  
orted cardboard pinhole viewers. Even shadows on  
U expects an even bigger crowd on April 8, 2024,  
n of totality" for the next solar eclipse.

*ever" on the Hilltop at  
ug18eclipse.*

man S. Jackson  
McWhorter







Geared Up founder Aleena Taufiq '18 uses fun, hands-on projects to introduce basic engineering principles to middle-school students.  
*Photo by Kim Leeson.*





# UNSEEN CATALYSTS

**How two Mustangs she never met power a student's mission to spark excitement about engineering and college in middle schoolers**

By Patricia Ward

**A**fter her first semester at SMU, Aleena Taufiq '18 knew the pre-med track she had chosen was not the right path. Three years later, the senior majoring in mechanical engineering and math runs an afterschool enrichment program she developed to inspire middle-school students to pursue engineering, math and science in college.

And none of it would have happened without people like Jim Caswell '63, '66, '70 and Chuck Lingo '90 – neither of them an engineer and neither of whom Taufiq met.

Taufiq found her major when she signed up for an immersive design challenge offered by the Lyle School of Engineering's Deason Innovation Gym and joined a team assigned to remake the Slurpee experience for consumers.

The fusion of brainstorming, problem-solving, designing and building sparked an unexpected result. Instead of refreshing the frozen beverage industry, Taufiq reinvented her future.

"I learned my passion through the project," she says. "I fell in love with engineering."

To encourage the next generation of students to find the knowledge path that's right for them the way she did, Taufiq developed the afterschool program Geared Up. Her curriculum blends fun, hands-on projects with talks about engineering careers by fellow Lyle students and other guest speakers.

While Taufiq hopes some youngsters follow her footsteps into engineering, she

devised the educational series to catalyze unbridled learning in all areas.

She targets low-income middle-school students because "that's an important age to engage their interest in engineering, math and science, and get them to start thinking about college." Geared Up launched last year at Dallas' Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School and expanded this year to Life School Oak Cliff and Edward H. Cary Middle School in northwest Dallas.

"On the first day, the kids are always excited when I tell them I'm a mechanical engineer, and they get really excited when they hear I'm from SMU," she says. "They may not know exactly what a mechanical engineer does, but they definitely know SMU."

Support from SMU's Caswell Leadership Development Program has been critical to her project's success. Offered by SMU Student Affairs' Community Engagement and Leadership Center, the Caswell Leaders program accelerates students' leadership skills by enabling them to discover their gifts while combining their passions for academics and public service.

**"I couldn't do Geared Up without Caswell Leaders. The program provides so much support – funding, mentorship and friendship."**

**- Aleena Taufiq '18**

"I couldn't do Geared Up without Caswell Leaders. The program provides so much – funding, mentorship and friendship. We have monthly meetings for reflections about our project, where we think of next steps and opportunities to move it forward," she says. "We make really personal connections in the program. It feels like we're a Caswell family."

## FORGING FRIENDSHIPS, DRIVING ACHIEVEMENT

SMU created the Caswell Endowment for Leadership Development and Training in 2007 as a tribute to alumnus, educator and longtime administrator Jim Caswell '63, '66, '70 while he was preparing to retire. The program seeks to extend his legacy of molding "reflective and authentic leaders dedicated to improving their local communities."

Ask anyone who knew Caswell at SMU, and there's a good chance they'll tell you a story about a windmill. A four-foot version and assorted smaller models of the picturesque precursor of the wind turbine decorated his Perkins Administration Building office. Like the windmill's agile gear system that converts a natural resource into energy to pump water or grind grain, Caswell guided students on a journey of self-discovering, harnessing their innate abilities and steering them toward successful careers and lives of purpose after graduation.

"He felt like students' time at SMU was a

## **“The Chuck Lingo gift exponentially increases our future opportunities to support the development of student leaders at SMU.”**

**- Stephanie Howeth**

**DIRECTOR OF SMU'S  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND  
LEADERSHIP CENTER**

unique opportunity for him to help them find their true direction and grow and develop into the people they wanted to be,” remembers his widow, Jackie Caswell Wallace.

Thomas Kincaid '05 first got to know Caswell during his junior year when he served as student body president. He met weekly with Caswell, then vice president for student affairs but also an ordained Methodist minister, and continued to do so as a senior and student member of the SMU Board of Trustees. Then a finance major, Kincaid didn't know that his true direction would become the ministry.

Now an Episcopalian priest and vice rector of Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, he keeps one of Caswell's small windmills on his desk as a daily reminder to carry forward the example of a “person who really cared about others.”

“Dr. Caswell taught me what it was to never be too busy to care about someone,” Kincaid says. “He had plenty of demands on his time, but he was able to make time for a student or find a place where his support would be useful.”

Caswell's wisdom continues to influence Roy Turner '88 as well. When Turner was a junior accounting major and president of Kappa Sigma fraternity, Caswell – then dean of student life – tapped him as a member of a student leaders advisory forum convened to examine campus challenges and strategize solutions. As president of the SMU Interfraternity Council the following year, Turner relied on the high ethical standards set by Caswell when working through issues governed by the group.

“Lessons from Jim that I've carried forward are to do the right thing, stand up for what's right and hold everyone

accountable,” says Turner, a partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City and a loyal donor to the Caswell Endowment. “I'm almost 30 years away from that experience, but it still resonates with me.”

Caswell understood the SMU student experience so well because he had lived it. He first arrived on the Hilltop as an undergraduate in 1959. He was active in campus life and served as president of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. After receiving a bachelor's degree in social science from Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences in 1963, he went on to earn a bachelor of divinity in 1966 and a master of sacred theology in 1970 from the Perkins School of Theology. He also received a master's and Ph.D. in educational management from Columbia University.

His career in higher education began as a graduate residence hall director at SMU from 1964–66. A short time later, he was named an instructor in Dedman College. Over the next two decades, he held a number of pivotal administrative roles, including dean of men, dean of residential living and dean of student life.

As vice president of student affairs from 1988 to 2007, he became an iconic campus leader known as a caring friend, reliable sounding board, chief cheerleader and beloved mentor. His door was always open, and one of his frequent visitors was Chuck Lingo '90.

### **CREATING CONNECTIONS, CEMENTING A LEGACY**

Lingo never really needed words to communicate his ardor for all things SMU. Although he suffered from a debilitating neurological disease that impeded his speech, he refused to allow his physical limitations to curb his enjoyment of life. His Highland Park High School friends cherish their memories of the “Super Scot” cheering on their team at football games and pep rallies.

He enrolled at SMU in 1986, determined to capture all that he could in the classroom and fully participate in the Hilltop experience. He took a job in the Student Activities Center during the summer months, helping with AARO (Academic Advising, Registration and Orientation) and other tasks to prepare new students.

Fellow students admired his enthusiasm

and can-do attitude. The Student Foundation embraced Lingo, eventually honoring him with the Mike Miller Outstanding Service Award. He served as a Student Senate committee member and was recognized for outstanding service.

Often decked out in spirit gear, the “Super Mustang” became a familiar sight in Caswell's office. The two never missed an opportunity for some friendly facetime. Their conversations hopscotched across topics, from personal news to sports to current events, and usually ended in a goodbye hug.

When the University created the Caswell Endowment for Leadership Development and Training, Lingo was among the first donors. The friends shared a huddle and hug at Caswell's retirement dinner in May 2007.

In the following years, Lingo attended many SMU Centennial Celebration events, never missed Celebration of Lights, his favorite SMU tradition, and faithfully remembered Caswell, his dear friend who succumbed to cancer in October 2007, with an annual gift to the Caswell Endowment, hand-delivered to the Student Affairs office.

On May 24, 2016, Lingo lost his battle with the disease that had claimed his mother years earlier, but he had taken steps to ensure his connection to SMU and to Caswell would endure: He bequeathed a significant portion

**“Dr. Caswell taught me what it was to never be too busy to care about someone. He had plenty of demands on his time, but he was always able to make time for a student or find a place where his support would be useful.”**

**- Thomas Kincaid '05**

of his estate to the Caswell Endowment.

“The Chuck Lingo gift exponentially increases our future opportunities to support the development of student leaders at SMU and further the legacies of servant-leadership and involvement established by both Dr. Caswell and Mr. Lingo,” says Stephanie Howeth, director of SMU's





**(ABOVE)**  
SMU's Caswell Leaders program honors the late Jim Caswell '63, '66, '70.



**(LEFT)**  
An estate gift from Chuck Lingo '90 helps support the leadership development program.

Community Engagement and Leadership Center. "Thanks to their example and foresight, students today will learn and experience the many benefits of discovering their purpose as well as develop a passion for creating a more positive global community and SMU campus."

The influence of Caswell, Lingo and many other donors lives on through current Caswell Leaders whose projects advocate for abused women, alleviate poverty with microloans, bridge international divides through language acquisition and inspire middle-school students to pursue engineering and math.

## FLIPPING A SWITCH, IGNITING SUCCESS

On an October afternoon in Dallas' Cary Middle School, 18 boys and girls seated at cafeteria tables chatter, giggle, nudge and generally act like typical seventh and eighth graders. They have no idea they are about to witness the Caswell Endowment in action.

Aleena Taufiq explains how they'll use the tools spread out in front of them – wires, putty, tape and batteries – to craft a simple LED circuit to light up polystyrene Halloween pumpkins. They get to work, and the

**"Lessons from Jim that I've carried forward are to do the right thing, stand up for what's right and hold everyone accountable. I'm almost 30 years away from that experience, but it still resonates with me."**

**- Roy Turner '88**

cacophony builds as she moves from group to group, fixing a few glitches and praising their efforts. Soon tiny candy-colored bulbs and 100-watt smiles light up the room.

"When I started, I was terrified of working with kids because I hadn't before, but once you build a small connection with them, they're so much fun," she says. "They are very creative and aren't afraid to try out their ideas."

After the buses arrive and the class breaks up, a student wanders from table to table, rescuing abandoned materials. "I want to make more lights at home to show my family," he says proudly. Just two hours earlier, that boy had no idea he could complete a basic electrical engineering feat so easily.

Taufiq makes sure he has everything he needs to wow his audience the way he has just impressed her.

That's the reaction she was aiming for when she started planning Geared Up. She remembered watching bright high school classmates flounder "because they didn't really see a pathway to college. They didn't have parents or siblings who went to college, so they didn't have that exposure and weren't encouraged to continue their education."

Her parents were both born in Pakistan, but met, married and became naturalized citizens in the Dallas area. Although higher education wasn't an option for them, "they made it clear they wanted us to go to college," she says.

She considers herself lucky that her mother "pushed me to make the most of every opportunity available in school." As a high school student in her hometown of Irving, Texas, she played on the tennis team, worked on the yearbook, competed in

state math, science and literary criticism competitions, and joined the National Honor Society. Because she had always excelled in math and science, well-meaning high school teachers steered her toward a medical career without introducing her to the array of disciplines where her talents could flourish.

The youngest of four children, she already had two Mustangs in the family – sister Tasmia Taufiq Noorali '10, '11 and brother Khurram Taufiq '12 – and knew "SMU was a great school." After receiving several scholarships, including the University's academic Founders' Scholarship and a Discovery Scholarship for students focusing on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines, she joined the class of 2018.

After her first semester, she knew she didn't want to go to medical school, so she became a fearless explorer, diving into unfamiliar topics and



Aleena Taufiq will discuss Geared Up as a conference presenter at the Imagine Social Good Student Summit on March 23 in Richmond, Virginia.

developing new competencies.

She was selected for a multiyear research project led by SMU's Wei Tong, a mechanical engineering professor specializing in biomechanics, in partnership with UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. They conducted tests on six taping methods commonly used in hospitals to secure intubation tubes, which keep airways open in acutely injured and sick patients. Preventing tube displacement can be a matter of life and death.

"There's no standardized method, so we tested a lot of variables," she explains. "We're still working on the analysis, but so far, the easiest method seems to be the fastest and strongest as well."

A Hamilton Research Scholarship allowed her to broaden the scope of her research last year through an ongoing project with mathematics professor Daniel Reynolds, whose scientific computation expertise encompasses biomedical applications. Among the skills she added to her portfolio was proficiency in a CAD (computer-aided design) program she used to create a three-dimensional rendering of a human lymph node for modeling the flow of lymphatic fluid.

"Both experiences taught me so much about different aspects of engineering, and it gave me such a good feeling to be part of research that can have real impact," she says.

As she was in high school, Taufiq has continued to be actively engaged at SMU.

**"If the students step into the shoes of an engineer and get a taste of what it's like to work together to create something or solve a problem, then they get excited and want to learn more. I hope they become more excited about school, learning and challenging themselves."**

**- Aleena Taufiq '18**



Aleena Taufiq invited her summer internship mentor, John Everett, to talk to Geared Up students about his career path. Everett, an industrial engineer, is corporate vice president, project and program management services, at New York Life Insurance Company in Dallas.

She's wrapping up her second term as a Lyle School senator in the Student Senate and participates in Theta Tau engineering fraternity and the Muslim Student Association.

Through Lyle's "4+1" program, she will receive her bachelor's degree in May and continue studying at SMU for another year before earning her master's degree. She's leaning toward a nontraditional trajectory for a mechanical engineer, "something more on the tech side of things, maybe in big data or tech consulting."

Last summer, an internship she found through Handshake, SMU's jobs and recruitment portal, took her to the Dallas office of New York Life Insurance Company for a taste of project management in the technology department.

After a few weeks, with a green light from her manager, she launched a weekly team-building activity dubbed "Fun Friday." Little did her colleagues know that the gummy bear bridges they built and the edible cars they crafted with Rice Krispies treats and Life Savers candies were prototypes she was testing for Geared Up.

"It really broke the ice. People had fun and started talking to one another," she says. "I think it created a friendlier work environment and much more of a community atmosphere."

Taufiq will achieve her longstanding goal to expand Geared Up into a national program this spring. With funding from an SMU Engaged Learning Fellowship, she will travel to Harper McCaughan Elementary School in Long Beach, Mississippi, on February 16; Pioneer Middle School in DuPont, Washington, on March 2; and Shapleigh Middle School in Kittery, Maine, on March 30, where she will lead one-day, hands-on engineering extravaganzas for students and teachers.

"If the students step into the shoes of an engineer and get a taste of what it's like to work together to create something or solve a problem, then they get excited and want to learn more," Taufiq says. "I hope they become more excited about school, learning and challenging themselves."

*See a video with Aleena Taufiq discussing the Geared Up program at [smu.edu/magt18caswell](http://smu.edu/magt18caswell).*





## 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 fall 2018 issue is June 8, 2018.




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'52

**James Cleo Thompson** was inducted into the Petroleum Museum Hall of Fame in May 2017. The posthumous award honored his integral role in helping develop the Permian Basin into one of the state's major oil producing areas. While a student at SMU, he studied engineering and geology and played on the football team. As an alumnus, he served on the SMU Board of Trustees, Maguire Energy Institute Advisory Board and Dedman School of Law Executive Board. He received the SMU Distinguished Alumni Award in 2000 and the SMU Dedman School of Law Honorary Alumnus Award in 2002. He died on November 19, 2010.

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'55

**Lucien Leinfelder** (M.M. '60), renowned classical concert pianist and former SMU piano instructor, is the subject of a new documentary film, *Lucien Leinfelder, the Pianist Who Played Through Parkinson's*. In 1999 Leinfelder was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, a neurological disorder that affects movement, and told by doctors he would never play the piano again. Yet through persistence and talent, he continued to play, performing weekly for visitors and staff in the lobby of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, where he undergoes treatment. Leinfelder

was the guest of honor at a screening of the documentary at the hospital on January 16. The film was produced by SMU alumnus **Art Greenhaw '76**, a former student of Leinfelder's and Grammy Award-winning musician best known for his work with the renowned Texas band, The Light Crust Doughboys.

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'62

**Rebecca J. Blackwell** and **James C. Neely** have relocated to Siena, Italy. She is working on a definitive article on Virgil's *Eclogue IV*, to be published in late summer 2018 in collaboration with two other scholars from Hunter College. He is finishing up his collection of fables in English and Italian, *Swine Lack*, due to be published in mid-2018.

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'69

**Mary Anna Clark** and her husband, Bill, opened the Literarity Book Shop in El Paso, Texas. They sell new and used books, including rare and out-of-print books as well as signed first editions. **Jim Hart**, whose screenwriting credits include *Hook*, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, *Contact*, *Epic* and the upcoming *Anubis*, conducted a screenwriting workshop during the 2017 West Texas Film Festival in Odessa, Texas.

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'72

**David B. Miller** (M.B.A. '73) was honored with the 2017 Robert S. Folsom Leadership Award, which recognizes individuals whose demonstrated commitment and excellence in community leadership emulate the achievements of the late Dallas Mayor Robert S. Folsom. Miller is co-founder and managing partner of EnCap Investments, L.P., the leading provider of private equity to the oil and gas industry. He has served on the SMU Board of Trustees since 2008 and is chairman of the executive board of the Edwin L. Cox School of Business. He is a recipient of Distinguished Alumnus Awards from both SMU and the Cox School. In 2009, he was honored with the Silver Anniversary Mustang Award by the SMU Lettermen's Association. **Sherry Owens** has been a successful artist in media ranging from weaving and macramé to welding bronze sculptures. Today she is best known for complex sculptures made with crape myrtle branches. Her work has been shown throughout Texas and the Southwest as well as in Greece, India, Peru and Turkey.

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'73

**Donald E. Godwin**, chair and CEO of Godwin Bowman & Martinez, has been named to *Best Lawyers in America* for a seventh consecutive year in recognition of



## A Big Idea To Help Fellow Veterans

**Iraq war veteran Jason Waller** knows how challenging it can be for veterans to find civilian work when they leave the military. He heard it firsthand from the men and women he served with during his own deployments overseas.

Now he's positioned to help both veterans and Americans who lost their homes in a hurricane season unlike any in living memory.

Thanks to seed funding from SMU competitions, campus support services and mentoring, the recent graduate launched his own company, Emergent Services LLC, to provide on-the-job training for vets to work as independent property insurance adjusters.

Waller, an Army veteran who served 15 months in Iraq and four years as a U.S. Department of Defense contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan, received a bachelor's

degree in management science from SMU's Lyle School of Engineering in December. Launching a company is the realization of a dream that had seemed impossible when the Army veteran arrived at SMU in 2014.

He's following a blueprint that earned top prizes at SMU. His concept for pairing returning veterans with proven professionals for civilian career training was a Big Ideas Pitch Contest winner in 2015. The startup plan for his new company won the 2016 Business Plan Competition.

"My motto is: If something seems completely unrealistic, what does the first step cost me?" Waller says. "What would it cost me to talk to the organizers of SMU's Big Ideas contest about my idea? Nothing. So I asked them what they thought, and they liked the idea."

The cash prizes from the competitions provided some of the startup funding he needed to get his idea off the ground. The legal clinics at SMU's Dedman School of Law helped Waller – at no cost to him – file the



Iraq war veteran Jason Waller '17 and his son, Brinnen, at a Dallas Mavericks game.

paperwork that established his company. SMU's Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility and the SMU MilVets helped give him the support and mentoring that enabled him to achieve a 3.8 grade point average.

But that's not to say the effort hasn't had a cost. While attending classes, Waller was up most mornings before his wife Kristen, 10-year-old son Brinnen and 4-year-old daughter Gatlin, to drive the 65-mile commute between his home in Sherman, Texas, and SMU. Some nights, he didn't get home until after his kids were asleep. Other days, he raced home to coach his son's football team.

"Six of the 10 years my son has been alive, I've been deployed overseas," Waller says. "When you miss that much, you do everything you can to get that time back."

See video of Jason Waller at [smu.edu/mag18waller](http://smu.edu/mag18waller).

his commercial litigation practice. He is board certified in civil trial law and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He has earned recognition in *Chambers USA* and the *Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America*. He is ranked regularly by Thomson Reuters among the *Top 100 Super Lawyers in Texas* and by *D Magazine* among the *Best Lawyers in Dallas*. **Kent Hofmeister** (J.D. '76), founding partner of Brown & Hofmeister in Dallas, was selected by the Federal Bar Association as the 2017 recipient of the Earl W. Kintner Award for Distinguished Service, presented as "a lifetime contribution award to an FBA member who has displayed long-term outstanding achievement, distinguished leadership and participation in the activities of the association's chapters, sections and divisions throughout the nation over a career of service." He received the award at the Bar's national convention in Atlanta on September 16, 2017. **Stephen Tobolowsky**, actor and author, discussed his newest book, *My Adventures with God*, with Nathan Cone of Texas Public Radio during a Texas tour in October 2017 that included appearances in San Antonio and Houston.

## '74

**Ken Malcolmson** has been appointed the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce's new CEO and president. Malcolmson is a longtime healthcare executive and volunteer, most recently serving as CEO of Afferent Provider Solutions. He is past chair of the SMU Alumni Board and has served on numerous boards of directors, including SMU's Board of Trustees, Friends of the Katy Trail, Dallas Friday Group, Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce and YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas. **James Nations** (Ph.D. '79) learned Lacandón Maya, an indigenous language spoken by 1,200 people in the rainforest of Chiapas, Mexico, while researching his dissertation in anthropology from SMU. In 2014 he retired from a career helping to establish and protect indigenous reserves and national parks throughout Latin



America and the U.S. In September 2017, he published *Lacandón Maya: The Language and Environment*, a dictionary and grammar of the language to help the Lacandónes in their work to preserve their language and forest. The book is available in English and Spanish from Amazon.

## '75

**Sharen King Bradford** (M.F.A. '80) earned degrees in dance from SMU's Meadows School of the Arts and now uses her performance expertise as a professional dance photographer. View her work at [thedancingimage.com](http://thedancingimage.com). **Mark Seibel** serves as national security editor for BuzzFeed News, the international online publisher. He previously held the position of chief of correspondents for McClatchy, which operates newspapers in 29 U.S. cities. In a 42-year career, he directed Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Iran-contra affair and the Elian Gonzalez immigration battle. He serves on the advisory board of the Division of Journalism in SMU's Meadows School of the Arts.

## '76

**John Rodgers**, an attorney practicing in Alexandria, Virginia, received third-place ribbons for his Fairfax Fire Fig Jam and Fairfax Green Fig Preserves at the Virginia State Fair in fall 2017. **Ira Terrell**, former Mustang basketball star, was recognized at the SMU vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff game on November 18 when SMU President R. Gerald Turner announced The Ira Terrell Endowed Athletic Scholarship Fund, established through an anonymous gift to support men's basketball. Terrell played at SMU for four years and was named the Southwest Conference men's basketball co-player of the year in 1976. He was drafted by the Phoenix Suns in 1976 and spent three seasons in the NBA. He was inducted into the SMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012.

## '78

**David R. Cassidy**, partner in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, office of Brazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, and a board certified specialist in tax law, has been named to the 2018 edition of *Louisiana Super Lawyers*. **Michael McKee**, resident bishop of the Dallas Area of The United Methodist Church, received the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award from SMU's Perkins School of Theology on November 13, 2017. He has been a member of the SMU Board of Trustees since 2012 and currently serves as chair of the Perkins Executive Board.

## '80

**Lauren Embrey**, president of the Embrey Family Foundation and an internationally recognized advocate for social justice and human rights, received the 2017 Hope for Humanity Award presented by the Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance. The Embrey Human Rights Program at SMU grew

from a \$1 million gift from Lauren Embrey and her sister, Gayle Embrey, in 2006.

**Bob Phillips**, a.k.a. the "Texas Country Reporter," president and CEO of Phillips MediaSource and Texas Country Tours, was presented with the Tall in Texas Award by the Texas Travel Industry Association at the group's annual summit in October 2017. Phillips started his television career while an undergraduate at SMU, and for more than 40 years, he has traveled the back roads of the Lone Star State to tell the stories of everyday Texans and highlight forgotten history. His media company specializes in online and offline marketing, content development and HD video production, while his hospitality company operates Escondida, a boutique hotel and spa in Medina, Texas. **Clyde M. Siebman** (J.D. '84) has earned selection as the Dallas/Fort Worth Lawyer of the Year for patent trials in the 2018 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. In addition to his patent litigation expertise, Siebman was recognized for his extensive work in commercial litigation and copyright and trademark law. He is the founder of Siebman, Burg, Phillips & Smith, LLP,



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which maintains offices in Plano, Sherman and the other Eastern District cities of Marshall and Tyler. He is board certified in civil trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and has appeared as counsel in more than 400 federal court cases during his career.

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**'82**

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**Paul E. Hardin** was the first author, as a postdoctoral researcher, on one of the fundamental papers from a body of circadian rhythm research to win the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Hardin, Distinguished Professor and John W. Lyons Jr. '59 Endowed Chair in Biology at Texas A&M University, has continued groundbreaking research over the past two decades that has helped establish the fruit fly as a model organism for studying the circadian clock in humans and allowed scientists to unravel myriad ways in which that natural timekeeper affects our health. These discoveries may lead to new treatments for a wide range of afflictions – from jet lag and sleep disorders to obesity

and heart disease. **David Yates** was named managing director and group head of SunTrust's Acquisition Finance Group, which provides debt structuring, underwriting and execution of leveraged finance for the Atlanta-based bank's investment banking, corporate banking and commercial banking businesses.

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**'83**

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**Joe Beard** is co-founder, president and CEO of Westdale Real Estate Investment and Management, one of the longest-standing and largest property owners in Dallas' Deep Ellum neighborhood. His current ventures include the Case building apartments and The Epic, a mixed-use development. **Kevin Burgett** retired in 2017 from the Central Intelligence Agency after 33 years of service as an analyst, manager of analysts and tradecraft instructor. He is the recipient of the Intelligence Commendation Medal for his war-zone service and the Career Intelligence Medal. He is now working for a defense contractor. **Linda Grinde** directed *Love, Loss,*

*and What I Wore* at the Downtown Dance Collective in Missoula, Montana, November 11–12, 2017. A longtime member of Montana's theater community, she has directed many productions at the Bigfork Summer Playhouse and Whitefish Theater Company and acted for two seasons with the Philipsburg Opera House Theatre.

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**'84**

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**Elizabeth Ames** is senior vice president of marketing, alliances and programs at the Anita Borg Institute, a social enterprise that supports women in technical fields, the organizations that employ them and the academic institutions training them. She has held management positions in marketing and strategy at Apple, Verifone, Netcentives, Vontu, Certive, Plastic Logic and RETHINK Partners, where she was founder and CEO.

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**'85**

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**George Killebrew** received the SEAL Legacy Foundation Unsung Hero Award on November 14, 2017. The award recognizes outstanding support for the U.S. Armed Forces. Killebrew serves as executive vice president of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. He earned a B.B.A. from SMU and is actively involved with his alma mater as a member of the SMU Alumni Board and volunteer.

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**'86**

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**Alan Peppard** retired from *The Dallas Morning News* after three decades of documenting Dallas and its social scene as a columnist and staff writer. While an undergraduate at SMU, he joined *D Magazine*, where he worked as a writer and editor for three years before moving to *The News*. **Marcia Stolee Zeidler** left the full-time practice of law in 2002 to pursue a career as a professional pilot. On October 1, 2017, she was promoted to the rank of captain for 3M's Aviation Department, making company history as its first and only female pilot/captain.

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'88

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**Eric Burris** has been named chair of the litigation department of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. He has represented high-profile clients in the health care, financial services, real estate and other sectors for almost 30 years. **Jan Jolliffe's** lifelong love of books has led to a fulfilling career as a librarian. She recently was named director of the Western Library System, part of the Nebraska Library System. She previously served as a science librarian at Frito-Lay, interim director of the Frisco Public Library and as a librarian in several Texas school districts.

**Kathleen Mulligan**, associate professor of voice and speech at Ithaca College, along with husband David Studwell and Linda Alper, collaborated with Theatre Wallay in Islamabad, Pakistan, on an original music-filled glimpse into the lives of Pakistani artists. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, the project explores the effects of violence and other forces on public space. It was presented at the Artists Repertory Theatre in Portland, Oregon, and The Oregon Shakespeare Festival in June and July 2017.

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'89

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**Craig Owens**, a Los Angeles-based photographer and historian, has released *Haunted by History, Vol. 1*. The book examines decades of paranormal folklore related to eight historic hotels in Southern California and uncovers the truth behind the stories through historical documents and photographs. For more information visit [bizarrela.com](http://bizarrela.com).

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'90

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**Joe Lawrence**, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Porsche Cars North America, was the subject of a recent [cnet.com](http://cnet.com) profile. He said his average day "always starts out well" behind the wheel of a 911 Carrera GTS stick shift. From mobile interfaces to electric cars, technology has a huge impact on what and how we drive, he said. "It's a challenging

## A Seat At Regina Taylor's Table

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**As an SMU undergraduate, Regina Taylor '81** was a writer planning a career in journalism. She never imagined that an acting class she took as an elective would change everything.

She "fell in love with acting," and it wasn't long before casting directors were impressed by her talent. While collecting a trove of acting accolades – a Golden Globe, a Peabody Award and three Emmy nominations – she never stopped putting pen to paper.

As a playwright and director, Taylor "likes to play with form and style." Her new play, *Bread*, was recently awarded an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. Its world premiere run will be April 13–May 16 at WaterTower Theatre in Addison, Texas. Set in Dallas' Oak Cliff neighborhood, the "compelling family drama of hopes, fears, thwarted dreams and dark secrets is set against a turbulent backdrop of racial tension and social upheaval."

In some of her other plays, the daring dramatist transports Anton Chekhov out of pre-revolutionary Russia and into the black American experience. In *Magnolia* she reimagines *The Cherry Orchard* in 1963 Atlanta as the civil rights movement gains momentum. Last spring she spent two days with Meadows School of the Arts students and actors from the Dallas theater community in workshops and open rehearsals for a public reading of the play at Meadows.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to take them through my process," she says, "and to work with some very promising students and experience and explore their reactions to the characters."

She says it was exhilarating to be back where she developed "a great bag of tricks" and acquired "a solid foundation that prepared me to go out into the world."

While an SMU student, she was cast in *Crisis at Central High*, a television movie about the 1957 integration of Little Rock, Arkansas, schools. She played one of the nine black students who broke the color barrier.

Five years later, in 1986, she made history as the first black actress to play Shakespeare's Juliet on Broadway. Her Romeo was former SMU scene partner René Moreno '81.

At the moment, theater work takes center stage in her career. The Dallas native continues a longtime association with the Goodman Theater as a member of its prestigious Artistic Collective and is a playwright-in-residence at the Signature Theatre in New York City.

This is an interesting time for artists, she says. "The arts can be an igniter, an educator. They provide an opening for very necessary conversations about complicated issues like race and gender. They also help us draw connections between our experiences that build bridges between communities."



Regina Taylor '81 (left), award-winning actor, playwright and director, discusses her play *Magnolia* with student and community actors before a performance at SMU.



and kind of scary time, but there has never been a more exciting time in the industry.” As an SMU undergraduate, Lawrence took a summer job selling cars at a Ford dealership in his hometown of El Paso, Texas. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in economics from SMU’s Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, he worked at Nissan prior to a 15-year career at BMW, where he held a variety of sales and marketing roles before joining Porsche. **Lee Mulcahy’s** art was displayed at Classic World in Santa Fe, New Mexico, through January. His Aspen gallery’s winter/spring 2018 exhibit features work by pleine aire painter Sue Tatem.

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## ’91

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**Anthony Chaney** teaches history and writing at the University of North Texas and is the author of *Runaway: Gregory Bateson, the Double Bind, and the Rise of Ecological Consciousness* (The University of North Carolina Press, 2017), a biography of a groundbreaking anthropologist considered “a lost giant of 20th-century thought.” The book is available from Amazon.

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## ’92

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**Laura Salinas** serves as vice president of sales for the U.S. and Latin America with Avalon Distribution, an independently owned production house operating in London, Los Angeles and New York. On August 20, 2017, she and her 10-year-old daughter, Ava Juliette Salinas Golder, were chosen to kick off the 30th Annual Pat Pincus Poetry Fest in Brentwood, California, with two original poems they wrote. **Mindy Tucker** serves as vice president of marketing and communications for Tri Delta. Her new position builds on a career of supporting and promoting women, whether in politics or, more recently, in working with startup companies. “This is an incredible opportunity for me to work with an organization that has meant so much to me since I pledged in January 1989 as an undergraduate at SMU,” she said.

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## ’93

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**Carolyn R. Raines**, shareholder in Godwin Bowman & Martinez, earned *Best Lawyers* recognition in 2018 for a fifth time, based on her commercial litigation work. A 25-year veteran of the legal field, she has extensive experience in litigation, contract negotiations and corporate governance. **Allison V. Smith** has documented Marfa, Texas, and surrounding West Texas towns for years as an ongoing study of landscape and light. Some of the fine-art photographs compose “Plain View,” an exhibit at The Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas, September 15, 2017–February 10, 2018. **Bradley Spinelli** is the author of *The Painted Gun* (Akashic Books, 2017), a noir novel about a washed up ex-journalist framed by a Guatemalan hit man for a series of murders while searching for a missing girl in San Francisco. *Publisher’s Weekly* described Spinelli as “definitely a talent to watch.” The book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

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## ’94

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**Wendy Bradbury** was selected to serve as special assistant to the Department of Justice Inspector General in Washington, D.C. She has been employed in the Office of the Inspector General since 2010.

**George Seay** was named chair of the Texas-Israel Chamber of Commerce in June 2017. The Dallas-based business leader is founder and chairman of Annandale Capital, a global investment company. Seay carries on a family tradition of public service exemplified by his grandfather, **William P. Clements, Jr. ’39**, the late Texas governor. **K. Tyler** has been named partner by Morgante Wilson Architects based in Evanston, Illinois. Tyler, associate principal of interior design, helped launch the firm’s interiors group in 2007.

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## ’95

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**Erin Nealy Cox** was sworn in as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of

Texas on November 17, 2017. She is the top-ranking law enforcement official in the district that includes Dallas, Fort Worth, Lubbock and Amarillo. **Julie Lawson Timmer’s** latest novel, *Mrs. Saint and the Defectives*, follows the ups and downs of a single mother navigating the challenges of raising a son. She says the novel is lighter and more comedic than her previous two books, *Five Days Left* and *Untethered*. She lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with her husband and children and serves as in-house counsel for Maxion Wheels.

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## ’96

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**Kim Cochran Heathcott**, founder and CEO of Clarion Security, has been named the 2017 Woman Business Owner of the Year by the National Association of Women Business Owners. The award recognizes an entrepreneur who excels at strategy, operations, finance and problem-solving; has overcome adversity; and gives back to her community. Heathcott founded Clarion in 2010 in Memphis, Tennessee.

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## ’98

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**John Engle**, president and CEO of King Oscar, Inc., a manufacturer of brisling sardines and premium canned seafood, brought his expertise in product development and innovation to the role of judge in the *Daily Herald’s* cooking challenge in suburban Chicago. **Jamie Singer** (M.L.A. ’05) has launched Crown Control, a modern-vintage line of custom-made jewelry. Among her creations is the “Boulevard Collection” with pieces inspired by her alma mater, including pony pendants. She also makes custom pieces with SMU themes. For more information, visit crown-control.com.

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## ’99

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**Daniel Hart** composed the score for the acclaimed indie film *A Ghost Story*, continuing a collaboration with director David Lowery that includes *Pete’s Dragon* (2016), *Ain’t Them Bodies Saints* (2013)





## PRECIOUS PONIES



**Ashton Ivy Bailey**, born May 26, 2017, is the daughter of Richlynn Kaiser Bailey '96 and David Bailey.



**Banks Jared Blue**, born May 25, 2017, is the son of Brock Blue '05 and Madison Blue. He was welcomed by big sister **Berkeley Grace**, 2.



**Vance Alexander Heerwagen**, born July 14, 2017, is the son of Lesley Heerwagen '08 and Troy Heerwagen '06.



**Landon Jones**, born January 20, 2017, is the son of Brea Jones '08, '10 and Victor Jones '12.



**Kenton Bryan Jones**, born August 1, 2017, is the son of Tamara Lynnette Jones '06 and Jason Bryan Jones '08. He was welcomed by sister **Madeline Rose**, 2.



**Tennyson Joon Thai Lee**, born April 9, 2017, is the son of Tammy Nguyen Lee '00 and George Lee. He was welcomed by sisters Gabriella, 6½, and Austen, 5.



**Philip Stanford**, born April 5, 2016, and **Nora Stanford**, born March 5, 2014, are the children of Brian Stanford '02 and Kathryn Stanford. Donald Stanford '75 is their grandfather.



**Emma Kay Heckmann**, born August 8, 2017, is the daughter of Julie and Jonathan Heckmann '15.



**Carter Taliaferro Keeney, Jr.**, born August 15, 2017, is the son of Taylor Thornley Keeney '09 and Carter Keeney.



**Fletcher James Kerley**, born May 21, 2017, is the son of Beth St. Lawrence Kerley '04 and James Kerley III '03. He was welcomed by big sister Campbell.

Submit your Precious Ponies to [smumag@smu.edu](mailto:smumag@smu.edu). Please send image files at the largest size with the names and class years of alumni parents (and grandparents) and your child's name and birthdate. Photographs will be published as space allows.



# Living Up To A Legacy Of Leadership

**Biko McMillan '17** was destined to be a leader. Born in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, he was supposed to be named "Stanley," after his grandfather. But his father wanted a name that came with a legacy, so he named him after Steve Biko, the South African anti-apartheid activist.

"When I think of my name, it's a lot to carry," says McMillan.

Last December, he received bachelor's degrees in Spanish and biology and is currently applying to research programs with an eye toward graduate school. His dream? To become a scientific researcher and leader at the National Institutes of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The new graduate is well on his way to living up to his name, says Creston Lynch, SMU director of multicultural affairs and a mentor to McMillan.

"Biko is an amazing example of how SMU shapes leaders," Lynch says.

McMillan is former president of Sigma Lambda Beta fraternity and the United

Student's Association, an organization designed to unite campus communities through diverse leadership. He is a four-time alternative spring break leader and trainer, and former president of Open Minds, a mentorship program for foster care children of color. He also is a liaison between Hillel, SMU's Jewish student organization, and the campus multicultural community.

He found another meaningful leadership role serving on the SMU Greek Life Diversity Task Force, formed in 2015 to review diversity issues in the SMU fraternity and sorority community. Several task force recommendations have been implemented, including the addition of cultural intelligence workshops to sorority and fraternity recruitment and the establishment of an all-Greek council designed to implement Greek community programing. For his service, McMillan received a 2016-17 A. Kenneth Pye

Outstanding Greek Leader Award.

"I gained confidence from serving on the task force," he says. "I learned to facilitate conversations about race relations and better understand the dynamics of leadership."

Read more at [smu.edu/mag18biko](http://smu.edu/mag18biko).



and *St. Nick* (2009). **Deve Sandford**, art rep, curator and partner in DBrand Distribution, was a finalist for the 2017 Culture-Map Stylemaker Award. A self-described "cosmopolitan girl," she speaks five languages, grew up in Switzerland and splits her time between Dallas and Stockholm, Sweden, where most of her family lives. **Travis Tygart**, CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, was guest speaker at the Davis Leadership Forum: The Business of Sports hosted by Jacksonville University.

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**Sue Ashton**, vice president, enterprise analytics and consumer insight, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, was among the Bizwomen Mentors named by the *Dallas Business Journal*. **Mary Catherine Burke** has been named the artistic

director of Cape Fear Regional Theatre in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She previously worked in New York, where she segued from acting into directing with an emphasis on new works. **Lana Harder**, a volunteer for Dallas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) since 2009 and a member of its board of directors, was nominated for The Dallas Foundation's eighth annual Good Works Under 40 Award. Harder, a pediatric neuropsychologist at Children's Medical Center and an associate professor at the UT Southwestern Medical Center, teaches other CASA advocates how to identify problems or abnormalities in children's brain development and links advocates to resources for the children. The award highlights young leaders improving the future of Dallas and inspiring their peers to make a difference. **Molly Rhode** directed the musical *Annie* at the Skylight Theater in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 17-December 27.

She previously directed *The Sound of Music* and *Les Miserables* for the theater. **Jonathan Rinehart** has been named president of the Salt Lake City Stars, an NBA G League affiliate of the Utah Jazz. He's a 12-year veteran of the Utah Jazz front office and has served as vice president of communications for the past three years. He and wife Ashley have two children: Dylan, 5, and Juliet, 4. Rinehart earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from SMU's Meadows School of the Arts and credits his Hilltop experiences with setting the stage for his success. "I certainly wouldn't be where I am today if not for my experiences and connections developed during my time at SMU." **David Wicker**, a partner in Stites & Harbison, PLLC in Nashville, Tennessee, was a finalist for the 2017 Nashville Emerging Leader Awards, which recognize young leaders under age 40 for



significant professional accomplishments and contributions to the community. His legal practice encompasses all aspects of the development, acquisition, sale and finance of commercial real estate.

'01

**Allison Hoeltzel** is the founder and designer of Officina del Poggio, a collection of luxury bags inspired by her fascination with saddles, vintage vehicles and classic utilitarian bags. The bags are designed, developed and manufactured in Italy, where she resides, and are sold online – [officinadelpoggio.com](http://officinadelpoggio.com) – and at fine specialty stores throughout the world. **Patricia Mastropierro** has been promoted to partner at Haynes and Boone, LLP. She is a member of the international practice group and splits her time between the Dallas and Mexico City offices and has been advising companies doing business in Latin America and the Caribbean for more than 15 years. She was recognized by *Latinvex* among the Top 100 Female Latin American Lawyers in 2017 and was named a Latin America Rising Legal Star in 2015. **Doug Pickering** is the executive chef, owner and pitmaster behind Ferris Wheelers Backyard & BBQ, a barbecue restaurant in Dallas' Design District featuring craft beer, live music and a 50-foot Ferris wheel.

'03

**Dominic Lacy**, the first deaf president of Dallas' Deaf Action Center (DAC) board, was nominated for The Dallas Foundation's eighth annual Good Works Under 40 Award. Lacy, a senior manager at Accenture Strategy, has served on the DAC board for 10 years and focused on developing facilities, including financially accessible housing and a client center. **Ana Rodriguez** became the executive director of the Latino Leadership Initiative in the Cox School of Business on August 1, 2017. The Cox alumna brings almost 20 years of leadership experience in higher education, nonprofit and corporate sectors to the role.

'04

**Maryam Afshari Khreibani**, owner of the Baanou clothing boutique in Houston's River Oaks District, led a volunteer effort that reached across the state to collect donations and supplies for Hurricane Harvey victims.

'05

**Laura Baldwin** and **Louise Kee '80** are part of a leadership team for Golden Seeds, a New York-based early-stage investment firm that's focused on women-led startups.

'06

**Helen Davis** is the owner and creative force behind Helen Davis Interior Design in Atlanta. Her fresh and timeless designs have been featured in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as well as *Atlanta*, *Better Homes & Gardens* and *Glamour* magazines. **Lydia Hance**, dubbed Houston's "queen of

curious locations," is the executive and artistic director of Frame Dance Productions. She has been named an Emerging Leader by Dance/USA and has led Frame Dance performances on the Galveston pier and the backs of U Haul trucks, in downtown tunnels and museums, stage and warehouses throughout Texas for the past six years. **Vance Heerwagen** and wife **Leslie Heerwagen '08** live in Seattle, Washington. He is a technology project manager and pedestrian safety advocate, and she recently received a master's degree in teaching from Seattle Pacific University. **Ashley L. McMillian** has been promoted to partner at Susman Godfrey LLP. She has successfully litigated cases in federal and state courts across the country, representing clients in various types of complex commercial cases. **Michelle Merrill**, associate conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, made her Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra debut in November as guest conductor of the Classics series. She earned bachelor's degrees in saxophone and music education and a master's degree in

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'08



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music education in 2012 from SMU's Meadows School of the Arts. **Joshua Peugh**, internationally acclaimed choreographer and founder of Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, created two new works for the company's fifth anniversary in October. *Big Bad Wolfe*, featuring an original score by fellow Meadows alumnus **Brandon Carson '16**, and *Les Fairies* had their international premiere in Seoul, South Korea, just days before the company returned to Dallas to open its new season. **Brittany Merrill Underwood** received the 2017 Champion of Human Rights Award from Mosaic Family Services, a Dallas haven for survivors of human rights abuses, including sex trafficking and domestic violence. Underwood is the founder of the Akola Project, a nonprofit social enterprise that invests all profits in vocational training, social services and community infrastructure for disadvantaged women.

'07

**Matthew Lopez** is the co-founder of MBL Title, a Dallas-based title business that has closed more than 1,200 transactions worth more than \$2.5 billion in insured value. He earned a J.D. from SMU's Dedman School of Law and an M.B.A. from the Cox School of Business. **Michelle Rich** put her Ph.D. in anthropology from SMU to work as a Mellon postdoctoral curatorial fellow in the Art of the Ancient Americas department at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, where her background in iconography and archaeological context was "a good fit." As a fellow she curated the exhibition "Ancient Bodies: Archaeological Perspectives on Mesoamerican Figurines." **John Tancabel** has joined the business litigation practice group of Winstead PC as a shareholder in the Dallas office. He represents businesses and individuals in complex, high-stakes disputes in state and federal court as well as arbitration.

**Thomas Adams**, curator of paleontology and geology at the Witte Museum in San Antonio, Texas, unearthed a new species of prehistoric crocodile, which he named *Deltasuchus motherali* and described in an article published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. The ancient reptile was about 20 feet in length and a top predator in the food chain when it roamed Texas millions of years ago. **Amber Venz Box** and **Baxter Box '11** shared the story of rewardStyle, an international digital business influencing an estimated \$1 billion in sales last year, at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' Global Perspectives speaker series in December 2017. **Luisa del Rosal**, executive director of the Tower Center and founding executive director of Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center at SMU, received the Latino Up-And-Comer Award as part of D CEO's 2017 Latino Business Awards. The awards honor the top Latino "visionary thinkers and industry pioneers" in North Texas. **Erin England** has been promoted to partner at Haynes and Boone, LLP. She is a member of the finance practice group in the Dallas office and was named a Rising Star by the *Texas Super Lawyers* directory in 2017. England is active in several organizations committed to the hiring, retention and promotion of diverse attorneys, including Haynes and Boone's Attorney Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Diversity Committee, which she co-chaired for two consecutive terms. She is a member of the Leadership Dallas Class of 2018; the Women's Finance Exchange of Dallas, where she served two consecutive board terms; and the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Young Leaders Society. **Ken Morris** launched Cineglitch Entertainment, a boutique film and television production and financing company focusing on diverse, character-driven content with broad domestic and international market appeal. The first two feature films on the Cineglitch slate are *The Fare*, which will begin shooting this spring, and *The Allnighter*. Morris is also co-writing *Minnesota Society for the Paranormal*, a half-hour comedy in



development. **Elizabeth Carlock Phillips** and **Michelle McAdams '10** are co-founders of Gems by the Foot, a jewelry line with a philanthropic mission to support refugee women rebuilding their lives in North Texas. Learn more and view the product line at [gemsbythefoot.com](http://gemsbythefoot.com).

**Evan Rice** has published his first book, *The Wayfarer's Handbook: A Field Guide for the Independent Traveler* (Black Dog & Leventhal, 2017), an offbeat guide to the wide world of travel, partially inspired by his SMU Abroad experience in Australia.

## '09

**Cory Feldman** has been promoted to partner at Haynes and Boone, LLP. She is a member of the finance practice group in the Dallas office and was named a Rising Star by the *Texas Super Lawyers Directory*, 2015–2017. Feldman is actively involved in the community as a board member of Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas and American Jewish Committee (Dallas Region). She is a member of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, Women's Finance Exchange of Dallas, Ben-Gurion Society, Cardozo Society and Mustang Mentor Exchange. **Page Goss** has completed more than 200 pieces for the University Medical Center of New Orleans' permanent collection and had her first solo exhibit at Dallas' Cinq Gallery in September 2017.

**Bianca Horn** is touring the country this year in the cast of the Tony Award-winning revival of *The Color Purple*. Among her theater credits are the national tour of *Hairspray* and numerous regional roles. "*The Color Purple* changed my life at 12 and continues to bless me!" she says.

**Emmanuel Sanders**, wide receiver for the Denver Broncos, rallied his teammates to help with relief efforts in Houston after Hurricane Harvey. Their contributions provided food, water, diapers and other supplies to families in need. The two-time Pro Bowler and Super Bowl 50 champion has family and a home in the Houston area. **Lindsay Venable** is engaged to Warren Mertz. The couple will marry on June 2, 2018.

# Cyber Grad's Long And Winding Road To Quantum Computing

**Michael Taylor will be the first to tell you** that he was not ready for college when he graduated from Plano East High School in 2006. And he'll also tell you that nobody was more surprised than he was when SMU admitted him in 2014, a little later than the average undergrad.

But Taylor's disciplined approach to life, honed through five years in the Marine Corps, combined with the intelligence he learned to tap, earned him a master's degree from SMU's Lyle School of Engineering in December 2017.

He proved his mettle as a student researcher in Lyle's Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security, where he worked on a novel technique to detect ransomware, and was awarded the first Raytheon IIS Cyber Elite Graduate Fellowship. It will fund his Ph.D. at SMU, then put him to work as a Raytheon employee.

"Michael showed that data already present internally in computers – information recorded by sensors that measure things like power usage and temperature – can be used to detect a ransomware infection, even if it is a new strain," explained Mitch Thornton, research director for the Deason Institute and Cecil H. Green Chair of Engineering at SMU. "This method works so well that SMU has filed a patent based on it."

Perhaps one of Taylor's proudest accomplishments is following in the footsteps of his father, engineering alumnus Jim Taylor '89, who attended SMU on a scholarship from Texas Instruments.

"He was a technician there," says his son, "and they paid for him to come here. As a kid, if you'd told me I could do something like that, too, I'd never have believed you. For me there was Albert Einstein – and Jim Taylor."

Michael Taylor came to the Hilltop on the GI Bill, and SMU's Yellow Ribbon program for military veterans covered what the GI Bill didn't. The Deason Institute picked up the cost of his master's degree.

He was interested in computer hardware when he arrived at SMU, but the Deason Institute opened the door to the contributions he could make in cyber security. He received the Lyle School's 2017 Rick A. Barrett Memorial Award for outstanding work in computer science and engineering and is looking forward to pursuing his doctorate in quantum computing.

"Quantum computers solve problems that are too difficult for classical computers to solve," Taylor says. "Certain problems in classical computation are intractable – there's no way you can solve them in this lifetime. It's only a matter of time before quantum computers render all encryption obsolete."



Michael Taylor '17

Read more about Michael Taylor at [smu.edu/mag18taylor](http://smu.edu/mag18taylor).





## Dream Careers Combine Compassion And Purpose

**“People with human rights degrees** aren’t just citizens of a country; they’re citizens of the world,” says Samantha Matthews ’12. Matthews and fellow alumna Shireen Tavakoli ’12 earned the first bachelor of arts degrees in human rights conferred by SMU, one of only seven universities in the United States to offer it. Since 2012, 79 students have embraced the “world changers” degree and embarked on careers ranging from medicine to business to politics.



Matthews recently returned to Dallas to lead a nonprofit after earning a master’s degree in early education and serving Teach For America in the New York City area. Tavakoli followed her three human rights-focused degrees from SMU with a law degree and now helps build a better future for refugees around the globe. They share the SMU Embrey Human Rights Program’s mission to defend the rights of marginalized or exploited people and eradicate social injustice and say the skills they developed at SMU give them a competitive edge.

In January Matthews accepted the position of executive director of the Frisco-based Texas Legends Care, which is associated with the Texas Legends, an NBA G-League basketball team affiliate of the Dallas Mavericks. The organization helps disadvantaged children learn character-building and teamwork skills via educational and sports initiatives.

Shireen Tavakoli ’12 (left) and Samantha Matthews ’12

Now that she’s back in Texas, she has enjoyed rekindling her friendship with the three Myanmar-born sisters she mentored as a student.

“Two of the sisters have graduated from high school; they’re now in college,” she says with pride.

Like Matthews, Tavakoli found a career that is a natural fit for her human rights interest: legal fellow for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Washington, D.C. Currently she’s responsible for drafting determination assessments on whether asylum-seekers in the Caribbean qualify for refugee status.

“Being an immigrant definitely shaped my life’s work,” she says. “Even as a child in Iran, I was very sensitive to human rights violations happening around me – especially the inequality between men and women.” After building a new life with her family in Plano and ultimately becoming a U.S. citizen, “I’ve felt obligated to take advantage of every opportunity to bring about positive change.”

Read more at [smu.edu/mag18embrey](http://smu.edu/mag18embrey).

## A New Dino Find With A Familiar Name

**When the fossilized remains** of a previously unidentified bird-like dinosaur were discovered in China, a team of Ph.D. alumni named the new find after their SMU mentor

Lead researcher Junchang Lü ’04 and colleagues Yuong-Nam Lee ’95 and Yoshitsugu Kobayashi ’04 christened *Corythoraptor jacobsi* (“Jacobs’ crested raptor”) in honor of world-renowned vertebrate paleontologist Louis Jacobs. Jacobs, professor of paleontology in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, serves as president of SMU’s Institute for the Study of Earth and Man.

An almost complete skeleton of the

crested oviraptorid theropod was unearthed in Ganzhou, a city in southern China. The researchers say the long-necked creature would have stood about 5.5-feet tall and sported a distinctive head crest similar to that of the modern cassowary, a flightless bird that’s native to New Guinea and Australia.

The discovery was covered by *Live Science*, *Daily Mail*, *Scientific American*, *USA Today* and other media. Writers

had some fun describing the dinosaur as “the creepy love child of a turkey and an ostrich” and an “ostrich gone bad.”



*Corythoraptor jacobsi*

Image by Zhao Chuang





## '10

**Jeanie Greenidge** was named an American Graduate Champion by KERA News for her work with at-risk students at O'Banion Middle School in Garland, Texas. **Hope Hicks** was appointed White House communications director by President Donald Trump in September 2017. One of the president's longest-serving White House advisors, she previously held the post of director of strategic communications for the administration. **Cam Kirkpatrick** teamed up with **Lauren Smart '11** for *Rejected: Stories Untold*, a literary series at Wild Detectives bookstore in Dallas' Bishop Arts District. The series welcomes writers to read their rejected works before a live audience. Learn more at [storiesunsold.com](http://storiesunsold.com). **Elizabeth Mills Viney** won The Dallas Foundation's eighth annual Good Works Under 40 Award. Offered in partnership with *The Dallas Morning News*, Good Works Under 40 honors up-and-coming leaders who are improving the future of Dallas and inspiring their peers to make a difference. Since 2013, Viney has logged more than 400 volunteer hours with Advocates for Community Transformation (ACT), where she works with West Dallas residents, law enforcement and the civil justice system to reduce crime. In addition to her own service, she recruited many other attorneys to volunteer with ACT, together donating nearly 1,200 hours of pro bono legal counsel.

## '11

**Josh Deininger** starred alongside his wife, Elizabeth Voiles, in Central Oregon School of Ballet's production of *Sleeping Beauty* in July. They are artists in residence at the school. **Whitney Wolfe Herd** graced the cover of the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 issue published on December 12, 2017. Herd founded Bumble, "America's fastest-growing dating-app company," just three years after receiving a bachelor's degree in international studies from SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. This is her second consecutive appearance on the business magazine's list of top "youthful visionaries" in 20 industries.

## '12

**Margus Hunt**, defensive end, signed with the Indianapolis Colts after four years with the Cincinnati Bengals. **Punam Kaji**, an associate with Haynes and Boone, LLP, relocated from Dallas to Houston a week before Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas Gulf Coast. As chair of the Asian Pacific Interest Section of the State Bar of Texas, she spearheaded hurricane relief legal training with a coalition of Bar organizations and community groups in Houston. **Lindsey Prowse** earned a master's degree in political communications in 2017 from Science Po, a political science university in Paris, France, and completed a six-month internship with the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, headquartered in Paris, as part of a degree in public affairs and media.

## '13

**Ricardo Araújo** has set up the PaleoMoz project to preserve the fossil heritage of Mozambique and train the country's paleontologists. As a Ph.D. student in geology at SMU, he wrote his dissertation on Angolan plesiosaurs, Loch Ness monster lookalikes, and described a new species of the extinct marine reptiles, *Cardiocorax mukulu*. **Yvette Blair-Lavallais** and two other black female preachers created The Gathering Experience "to cultivate a Dallas-based faith community offering healing and authentic worship, womanist preaching and social justice ministry." Learn more at [thegatheringexperience.com](http://thegatheringexperience.com). **Andrew Giordano** and fellow SMU alumni **Andrew Krimm '13**, **Zachary Reaves '11** and **Joshua Ulrich** formed the Altius Quartet in 2011 as graduate students at SMU. The chamber music ensemble has released its debut CD, *Dress Code*, which is available on Amazon, iTunes, Spotify and ArkivMusic. Read more about the quartet at [altiusquartet.com](http://altiusquartet.com). **Mark Marynick** is breathing new life into Casci Ornamental Plaster. The company, founded in Dallas in 1930, employs new and time-honored techniques to sculpt timeless ornamental home design

elements. **Trenton B. Owens**, assistant vice president and financial advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, was named to the *Forbes*/SHOOK's 2017 list of America's Top Next-Generation Wealth Advisors. The inaugural ranking recognizes advisors deemed the "industry's future leaders" and "best positioned to represent their clients' needs." **Tareen Rahman** and **Shumon Hossain '10** married in August 2017 after meeting at SMU eight years ago.

## '14

**Michelle Alexander** won second place overall in the international Wagner Society Singing Competition in London on November 5, 2017. She also won three additional awards: the Audience Prize; the President's Award, which entitles her to a master class with opera legend Dame Gwyneth Jones; and a Bursaries Award to attend the Bayreuth Festival in Bayreuth, Germany. **Claire Carson's** latest play, *Shadow Woman*, combines the supernatural campiness of some of her favorite horror films with the everyday fears that accompany womanhood in today's world. It was presented by House Party Theatre in Dallas in October 2017. **Kian Hervey** launched *Forty Magazine* to help young professionals transition from college life to building their dream careers "whether that's in corporate America or outside the office." **Eleanor Rosler** (M.S. '15) and **Richard Putnam '14** became engaged on July 28, 2017.

## '15

**Emily McClure Blackmore** moved to London with her husband and completed an M.F.A. at the University of East London in 2017. While in graduate school, she opened her studio Sirimiri Artistry. Her art celebrates diversity, both in the range of media and scope of subjects she uses in visually representing the complexities of the human condition. Her work has been exhibited in Athens, Barcelona, Berlin and London. **Myles Blakemore** was named one of the Minnesota Orchestra's first-ever



FALL 2018

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 214-768-2586 or 1-888-327-3755

Rosemary and David Good Fellows. During the fellowship, he plays the trombone with the orchestra at selected concerts as well as rehearses, trains and prepares for the next steps in his music career. Rev. **Vanessa Sims** recently published *Thoughts from the Depths of My Heart: Poems of Inspiration and Comfort*. The book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Her writing links to her work as founder and CEO of Thou Art My Sister, which provides consultation services, custom motivational workshops and other services. She is also a community activist and recipient of the City of Denton Juneteenth Community Service Award in 2016.

'16

**Adrian Aguirre** founded the dance group Uno Mas, which made its debut at the Dallas DanceFest in September 2017. As a guest artist with the LakeCities Ballet

Theatre, he danced the role of Dracula in *Le Ballet de Dracula*, October 13-14, 2017. **Emily Bernet** co-founded the Bombshell Dance Project contemporary dance company to "investigate the depth of the female choreographic voice." The fledgling troupe will perform *Meant to Be Seen* at the Austin Dance Festival on April 7. **Bryson DeChambeau** came from four strokes behind to win the John Deere Classic, his first PGA Tour victory, earning a spot at the British Open. The young golfer was overcome with emotion when he learned that the tournament was the first tour victory for the late golfing legend and fellow Mustang **Payne Stewart '79**. **Jenny Haglund** placed third in the 2017 Ladies European Tour Rookie of the Year rankings. The Swedish-born golfer turned pro after graduating from SMU, where she was a four-year all-conference selection. **Brendan Healy** serves as the artistic director of performing arts, overseeing three performing arts venues in Brampton, Ontario, Canada, and

devising a master plan for the booming city's cultural life. He formerly served as artistic director of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto. **Justin Lemieux** won Best Emerging Actor for *Warm Soda* at the United Solo Theatre Festival in New York on November 19, 2017. He wrote and starred in the poignant monologue about childhood friendship. Before his festival appearance, he presented the one-character play at a one-night, sold-out performance at Dallas' Theatre Three's Theatre Two followed by a one-night performance at Theatre Row in New York. **Lindsey Perry** studied students' spatial and relational reasoning with numbers in her SMU Ph.D. dissertation, which has resulted in a \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a mathematical reasoning screening system for grades K–2. **Holly Settoon** made her New York acting debut as the lead in *Get Hit*, an original play by Dylan Guerra presented at the Medicine Show Theatre Ensemble.

'17

**Parker Holloway** created the curriculum and spent the summer sparking engineering interest through hands-on challenges during weekly camps for middle and high school students held in the Deason Innovation Gym at SMU. **Gbemi Maiyegun**, associate marketing manager, Fiber One Snacks at General Mills, was named a 2017 M.B.A. To Watch by *Poets & Quants*, a news website covering business schools. While earning an M.B.A. with concentrations in marketing and strategy and entrepreneurship from SMU's Cox School of Business, she served as president of the Black Graduate Students Association, a Cox Ambassador and a Marketing Club officer. **Semi Ojeleye** made an eventful NBA debut with the Boston Celtics on October 17 during the team's season opener against the Cleveland Cavaliers. When a teammate suffered an ankle fracture, Ojeleye stepped up and led the team in prayer for the injured player.



# In Memoriam

The following deaths were reported to SMU between 6/2/17 and 12/4/17:

'00 (Kidd-Key College)

**Frances Cheatham Burnecke** 2/19/02

**Marjorie Blackburn Terhune** 8/9/02

**Frances Gibson Threalkeld** 11/18/95

'27 **George S. Link, Jr.** 11/24/68

'31 **John P. Falconer, Sr.** 12/15/57

**Eloise Eubank Lesan** 10/12/98

'32 **Maud P. Anderson** 1/25/95

'34 **Joseph T. Lee** 5/31/98

'39 **Wilfred G. Bruce** 12/28/62 Rev. **Carl R.**

**Hatfield** 10/3/14 **Eugene C. Hodges, Jr.**

4/15/48 **Henry I. McGee, Jr.** 6/22/98

'40 **Edith E. Brown** 3/13/17 **Hiram O.**

**Childress** 2/10/1 **Charlotte Ware Haley**

6/12/17 **Hortense Weir Smith** 5/27/17

'41 **Frank M. Bray, Sr.** 7/9/96 **Mary**

**Alexander Long** 7/25/17 **Alfred W. Resch**

12/9/78

'42 **William M. Bludworth, Jr.** 11/29/17

**Ellen Yates Cassell** 6/8/12 **Bishop John**

**W. Hardt** '46 6/18/17 **Otis E. Holmes, Jr.**

6/27/17

'43 **Eloise B. Cullum** 9/4/17

'44 Rev. **Frank A. Boutwell** 7/16/17 **Vivian**

**Anderson Castleberry** 10/4/17 Dr. **Don**

**E. Edmondson** 5/22/17 **Joseph C. Flath**

'47, '54 1/25/17 **Jacelyn Reynolds Hall**

11/2/17 **Jacquelyn Hurst Jameson**

5/16/17 **Nancy Green Scheffler** 7/10/08

'45 Dr. **Don E. Edmondson** 5/22/17 **Joseph**

**C. Flath** 1/25/17 Dr. **Herbert L. Shessel**

9/1/17 **Sarah Brazil Thames** 11/6/17

**Patricia Campbell Warrick** 11/2/17

'46 **Audrey Williams Ford** 10/17/17

Dr. **Margaret Reames Hutchinson** '62

7/24/17 **Louise LaPrade Webster** 7/11/17

'47 **Donald R. Brown, Sr.** '66 7/21/17 **Ecile**

**Speer Gee** 9/25/17 **Cleo Rogers**

**Haleblian** '71 6/11/17 **Choyce B. Kendrick**

9/25/17 **Anne Giles Kimbrough** 10/11/17

**Anna Price Lyle** 10/23/17 Dr. **Horace N.**

**McFarland** 7/14/17 **Frances Snow Meyer**

5/16/17 **Henry E. Russell** 7/22/17 **Paul P.**

**Steed, Jr.** 10/4/17 **Marjory Kent**

**Vickery** 5/4/17

'48 **Niels G. Beaman** 10/12/17 Rev. **Sabas D.**

**Casas** 5/5/17 **Charles W. Dillard** 1/28/17

**Raymond C. Dyess** 7/15/04 **Lee R.**

**Gibson, Jr.** 9/4/17 **Robert M. Johnson**

2/17/02 **Charles D. Kisling** 4/24/11 Dr.

**Percy E. Luecke** 10/29/17 **Dorothy**

**Olson Matetich** 10/14/17 **William B.**

**Reaves, Jr.** 2/28/17 **Charles W. Reed** '56

7/15/17 **Irene Payne Shepard** 7/30/17

**Arthur C. Willis** 2/28/00

'49 **Fred C. Hannahs** 8/26/17 **John M.**

**Hollingsworth** 10/16/17 **Jack D. Howell**

5/20/08 **Forrest R. Kelly, Sr.** 10/19/17

**Anna Jagoe Kinnear** 5/27/17 **Sidney L.**

**Livingston** 7/15/17 Lt. Col. **Donald K.**

**MacGregor** 5/29/17 **Jessie J. McCauley**

9/5/17 **John R. McClure** 8/16/17 **Richard**

**A. Polakoff** 9/18/17 **Jean Laycock Pratt**

10/25/17 **Palmer N. Ransdell** '61 8/31/17

**Carl W. Short** 7/23/17 Rev. **Richard R.**

**Smith, III** 10/22/17 Col. **Thomas G.**

**Snipes, Sr.** 6/2/12

'50 **John K. Bowlin** 5/25/16 **Richard H.**

**Crosby** 9/30/17 **Charles W. Kollhoff**

5/12/17 **Roy C. Lehmberg** 9/23/14 **Carl F.**

**McClellan** '53 10/18/17 **Patricia**

**Manning Parnell** 10/23/17 **Ralph E.**

**Roberts** '68 1/9/09 **Charles B. Roessler**

'51 5/1/17 **John J. Russell, Jr.** 1/26/17

**George C. Rutherford** 10/18/17 **James A.**

**Scrimshire** 8/19/17

'51 **Joan Kessler Bailey** 1/28/17 **Raymond**

**L. Britton** 5/19/17 **James C. Hardwick**

6/26/17 **Orrin D. Hawley** 7/24/17 Col.

**Frank M. Isbell** 10/6/08 **Mary Thomp-**

**son Johnson** 10/23/17 **Ramon D. Mallow**

10/27/17 **James A. Matetich** 2/5/72 Rev.

**Gordon L. Richards** 5/15/17 Dr. **Donald**

**F. Sellers** 10/24/17

'52 Rev. **Donald G. Coke** '56 8/21/17 Dr. **Paul**

**K. Conner, Jr.** 8/19/17 **Joe B. Elkins**

5/5/17 **Billie Craddock Groesbeck**

7/11/17 Rev. **George A. Holland** 5/22/17

**Edwin S. Kajihiro** 9/3/17 **Jack D.**

**Kinard** 6/2/17 **Dorothy Wallace Lowden**

10/15/17 **Ann Wade Lowrey** 8/31/17

**Joanne Wasoff Smith** 6/20/17 **Nicholas**

**G. Vafiadis** 5/12/17 **Henry Wheeler**

7/25/17

'53 **Gladys Bohanan Arrington** 5/9/17

**Louise Crowder Davis** 10/5/17 **Erwin L.**

**Gaubatz** 9/26/07 **Hermann R. Hartwig**

10/25/17 **William S. Hogan** 5/31/17

**Anthony T. Oddo** 7/20/17 Rev. **Henry J.**

**Rhodes, Jr.** '58 4/24/12 **Earl E. Tweed**

8/18/17 **Eugene D. Wilson** 3/29/16

'54 **Clifford L. Barlow** 7/2/17 **Joanne Peak**

**Bradley** 7/30/17 Rev. Dr. **Thomas H.**

**Cloyd** 6/28/17 Dr. **Robert M. Collie**

5/1/17 **Paul D. Dague** '80 9/29/17 **Forrest**

**M. DeLany** 10/24/17 **Beverly Berry**

**Douglass** 11/11/17 **Jeanne Roach**

**Johnson** 6/9/17 **Jan Davison McAtee**

9/13/17 Dr. **John P. Miles** 11/2/17 Rev.

**William E. Pearce** 7/16/17 **Donald D.**

**Presley** 8/25/17 **Robert A. Sanford**

6/24/17 **Elizabeth A. Wedgeworth**

11/16/17

'55 **Paula Krueger Avinger** 3/28/17 **Mary**

**Martin Ellard** 10/2/17 **Sara Mays Kolley**

8/21/17 Dr. **Bobby R. Kristensen** 6/4/17

**L. G. McMillion** 11/7/17 **David R. Milton**

1/30/17 **Myra Brooks Turner** '56 10/7/17

'56 **Etta J. Brand** 8/13/17 **Don C. Hancock**

10/26/17 **David P. Harbin** 6/11/17 **Herma**

**Hill Kay** 6/10/17 **Katrina Thompson**

**Ladwig** 7/8/13 **Marilyn Fitzgerald**

**Moser** 3/10/09 **Susanne Sandberg**

**Northcutt** 11/17/17 **David I. Olschwanger**

8/30/17 Rev. **Thomas E. Richardson**

3/13/17 **John R. Sanderson** '58 6/21/17

**Virginia McCollum Sone** 5/31/17

'57 **Robert G. Christopher** 8/28/17 **Donald**

**R. Earles, Sr.** 10/8/17 **Gayle D. Fogelson**

6/5/17 **Roger A. Hansen** 10/3/17 **Eugenia**

**Lary Martinez** 3/11/17 **Carolyn Moffitt**

**Nelson** 7/3/17 **Betty Lish Plumlee**

10/6/17

'58 **Richard H. Deaton** 9/15/15 Dr. **Nancy**

**Campbell Fox** 2/20/17 **William R.**

**Gillham, Jr.** 10/14/17 **Herbert C.**

**Hamilton** 9/10/17 **Ronald E. Kitchen**

8/29/17 **Nacy Hendricks Liakos** 4/2/17

**Catherine Sammons Simmons** 6/7/17

**Aubrey G. Spence** 5/10/17 **Barbara**

**Kreditor Thum** 10/31/17

'59 **Richard C. Bean** 9/26/16 **Lloyd D.**

**Blaylock, Jr.** 7/11/17 **Paul E. Cowdin**

11/4/12 **Allen F. Dunn** 5/12/17 Rev.

**Richard M. Freeman** 8/16/17 **John S.**

**Grounds, Jr.** 8/21/17 **James W. Hindorff**

5/20/17 **James P. Leake** 8/22/17 **Nancy**

**Lee Lennard** 7/16/17 **Lucian L. Morgan**

10/15/17 **Vernon F. Perry, Jr.** 9/28/17

**Katherine Foltz Peters** 8/1/17 **Sarah**

**Wrigge Pickren** 5/8/17 **Jimmy P.**



# In Memoriam

- Shipley** '64 9/11/17 **Marjorie Denton Van Seyoc** 11/1/17 **Robert H. Wellborn, Sr.** 10/29/17
- '60 **Richard F. Barrows** 1/29/14 **William A. Bauman** 9/23/17 **David S. Curtis** 6/27/17 **Jo Boozer Fawcett** 11/14/17 **Samir N. Issa** '66 8/28/17 **Martha Roll Leavell** 10/20/17 **Rev. Richard P. Lord** 7/16/17 **Kenneth C. Lowe** 11/10/17 **The Hon. Shigeharu Negishi** 7/22/17 **Dr. Haddon W. Robinson** 7/22/17 **Tom Rubio** 6/2/17 **David A. Stewart** 10/18/17 **Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Williams** 5/25/17
- '61 **Don R. Allen** 10/27/17 **Barbara Patterson Collins** 5/9/17 **Martha Gee Council** 5/11/17 **Herman B. Crews** 8/31/17 **Jack L. Jackson** 9/4/17 **Rev. Richard D. Lilljedahl** 11/9/17 **Jon R. Matthews** 6/3/17 **Robert R. Owen** 8/24/17 **Willodean Burris Ream** 8/10/17 **Leah Stephenson Tillotson** 8/31/17 **Patricia Carstarphen White** 11/2/17 **Suzanne Brown Wolff** 11/8/17
- '62 **William J. Boodee** 10/23/17 **Martha Desch Brumbaugh** 7/9/17 **Arthur C. Caviness** 9/29/17 **Janice West Delay** 6/5/17 **Woodfin C. Henderson** '65 9/12/17 **Mettie Goodwin Jaynes** 3/24/17 **Ian C. McDonald** 6/16/17 **Sidney Wilson Renfro** 5/30/17 **Dr. Milo L. Thornberry** 3/8/17 **Arthur E. Turner, Jr.** 3/5/01 **Bluford D. White** 12/6/96 **Dr. Edward P. Willard, III** '63, '64 7/13/17 **Rev. Bobby G. Williams** 7/26/17
- '63 **Winston W. Doran, II** 7/24/17 **Barney M. Hardy** 2/23/14 **Relda Schon Mainard** 11/13/17 **Loren D. Morrison** 1/10/16 **Suzanne Butler Shaver** 9/11/17 **Don P. Teague** 8/2/17 **Paulette DeLaney Wingert** 10/28/17
- '64 **William D. Hayden** 10/13/17 **Gerald R. Jenkins** 7/2/17 **Michael B. Macaulay** 7/2/17 **Janet Greeman Mayo** 8/9/16 **Joe H. Ward, Jr.** 9/12/17
- '65 **Alma Jones Carr** 8/5/17 **Thomas M. Cherryhomes** 6/16/17 **Dr. Carol Coffman Ferguson** 5/18/17 **Virgil B. Graves** 4/9/10 **Martin B. Hunter** 6/27/17 **Daniel M. Jones** 7/19/17 **Marsha Gear Oliver** 6/29/17 **Hon. Patrick A. Robertson** 12/19/15 **David O. Turner** 10/9/17 **Linda Rich Williams** 11/14/17 **Willie W. Wright, Jr.** 6/20/17
- '66 **Reedy R. Buzbee** 10/27/17 **Scott L. Carnal** 6/7/17 **Richard L. Cunningham** 5/17/17 **Lt. Teddy M. Ivy** 6/24/13 **Norman R. Johnson, Jr.** 1/20/14 **Robert C. Litton** '71 8/26/17 **Travis E. Peace** 2/15/02 **Raymond F. Ratcliff, Jr.** 10/1/17 **Nancy C. Reddick** 8/25/17
- '67 **Laura Irwin Derby** '78 9/15/17 **William E. Everheart, II** 8/24/17 **Charles W. Finady, III** 5/22/17 **Ann McConnell Glynn** 8/29/17 **Raymond A. Haddock, Jr.** 9/22/17 **Rev. Dow C. Harleston** 6/2/17 **Howard B. Jarrell** 7/1/98 **Laurence W. Jones** '72 3/12/16 **Dina M. Moor** 11/26/12 **Dr. Steven M. Neuse** 5/26/17 **Edwin E. Prichard** 7/15/17 **Robert L. Runyon** 10/10/17 **Suzan Napier Stratton** 6/4/17 **Marie Schmidt Stultz** '73 5/10/17 **Michael J. Sullivan** 11/19/17 **Benny R. Wall** 1/4/14 **Rev. Reinhard H. Wuensche, Jr.** 7/25/17
- '68 **Lewis W. Graves** 7/30/17 **Lilian Schwartzenburg Prather** 10/26/17 **Bobby L. Townsend** 6/2/17 **Clyde R. White** '71 10/13/17
- '69 **Evelyn Parker Irwin** 5/7/17 **Hubert D. Johnson, Jr.** 5/20/13 **Karen Kennedy Johnson** 6/23/17 **Sulinda Cole Mann** '71 5/5/17 **Rev. Wayne H. McCleskey, Jr.** 9/25/17 **Lynn H. Murff** 6/19/17 **Dr. Elmer J. Tew, Jr.** 11/20/17
- '70 **Ben L. Crow** 5/4/17 **David B. Davies** 10/13/17 **Dick Dirks** 10/9/17 **Charles D. Fay** 4/7/04 **Laura Muther Finger** '74 10/14/17 **John K. Ford** 11/16/17 **Roger P. Fryar** 6/19/17 **Suzanne Mason Glasgow** 11/1/17 **Grover Hartt** '86 8/14/17 **Philip L. Kehler** 3/15/17 **Robert E. McGregor** 9/27/17 **Barry S. Morris** 8/21/16 **William A. Stewart** 5/29/11 **James D. West, Jr.** 10/11/17
- '71 **Catherine L. Chastain** 9/16/17 **Rev. Dr. Henry C. Coke, III** 11/15/17 **Rickey V. Evans** '73 8/20/16 **Carolyn M. Lewkowski** 6/8/17 **Helen Hays Lodwick** 8/13/17 **James T. Mitchell** 8/28/11 **Murphy L. Moore** '72 10/5/17 **Elizabeth Lee Thomas** 7/3/17
- '72 **Max H. Beasley, Jr.** 8/31/17 **Dorothy Davis Bourek** 4/5/15 **Rev. Tommy N. Evans** 9/20/17 **Walter C. Holmes, Jr.** 3/12/17 **Kenneth L. Larson** 6/21/17 **Timothy R. Mahoney** 8/26/17 **Joel E. Molyneaux** '73 10/12/17 **John D. Naberhaus** 5/12/17 **Donald R. Patterson** 10/10/17 **Dr. John P. Sommers** 10/5/17 **Charlene Ward Vardeman** 7/3/17
- '73 **Gail Edge Alpert** 7/17/17 **Rev. William D. Bruce** 6/17/17 **Philip A. Canavespe** 7/16/17 **Michael F. Gibbons** 8/15/17 **Margaret Edwards Hogg** 6/25/17 **Joyce Jay Hunter** 10/26/17 **Jowanda Jackson Jordan** 6/27/17 **Susan R. Mattheson-Murray** 4/26/17 **Jeff W. Mays** 3/10/17 **Peggy Bayless Peters** 6/17/17 **Edwin T. Simons, Jr.** 11/18/17 **Nancy Coffman Van** 10/6/17
- '74 **Marc W. Barta** 6/7/17 **Peggy J. Cargile** 11/6/17 **David P. Derber** 6/17/17 **Isaac A. Gathings** 6/20/17 **Mildred E. Goodman** 8/28/17 **James W. Hallmark** 5/22/99 **Kathryn Patzke Head** 11/23/17 **Virginia Streeter Jackson** 8/6/17 **Henry W. Livingston, VII** 6/19/17 **Marilyn K. Oswalt** 7/31/17 **James A. Wheeler** 7/21/17
- '75 **Dr. Cathy Freeman Albergo** 7/3/17 **Linda A. Barton** 7/14/17 **Margaret Wade Benton** 10/20/17 **Kenneth W. Coleman** 7/14/17 **Harley G. Cunningham** 8/26/17 **Woodie E. Davis** 5/17/17 **Roy W. Denney, Jr.** 9/20/17 **Alan R. Forney** 10/6/17 **Paul W. Gertz** 10/21/17 **Dr. James L. Hess** '77 7/5/17 **Barbara James Hickey** 9/20/17 **Patricia A. Wilson** 8/10/11
- '76 **Richard A. Banks** 6/2/17 **Robert (Mark) Galloway** 6/23/17 **Granville C. Hammond** 10/7/17 **Eugene W. Rockefeller Jones** 1/1/17 **William G. LeMonds** 10/11/17 **Robert L. Parish, Jr.** 10/6/17 **Dr. James M. Wise** 10/12/17
- '77 **Rebecca S. Brown** 1/1/16 **Rev. Dr. William J. Bryan, III** '86 8/27/17 **Jo Ann Ellis Combs** 9/14/17 **Robert M. Farquhar** '80 10/7/17 **James W. Jones** 11/2/17 **James H. Penick, III** 11/10/17 **Evelyn Dugan Sommers** 8/25/17



- '78 **Randolph E. Beckham** 7/6/17  
'79 **Gerald J. Bonniol** 5/30/17  
**Jerry D. Dickinson** 9/23/17  
'80 **Walter R. Darby** 7/29/15  
**Rosalind Hight Lacey** 7/21/17  
Rev. **Bobbie D. Weber** 6/17/17  
'81 **Barbara Anne Lovin Buring** 2/5/02  
**David L. Gardner, Jr.** 8/27/17  
Rev. **Samuel R. Marion, Jr.** 6/7/17  
Rev. **Frances Gomez Mitchell** 8/2/17  
'82 Rev. **Earl T. Moreland** 7/26/17  
Rev. **Carolyn Pullen Volentine** 11/13/17  
'83 Dr. **Lawrence C. Barber** 8/29/17 **Emma Dawson Byrd** 12/30/09 **Nancy Baker Calhoun** 9/20/17 **Tim D. Monnich** 1/20/15 **Karen Davis Roberts** 5/18/17  
**Mark A. Tharp** 7/31/17  
'84 **Susan M. Abrahamson** 11/14/17 **Patrick A. Alessandra, Jr.** 8/28/10 **Darlene S. Haber** 7/30/17 **Susan J. Perry** 10/18/17  
**Clifton R. Sanders** 8/7/17  
'85 Rev. **Cornelius Betz, Jr.** 5/1/17  
**John P. Hall, III** 8/3/17  
'86 **Cleta Cogburn Alger** 3/7/17  
**Kevin L. Clover** 7/15/17  
**Henry McDowell, Jr.** 9/11/17  
'87 **Sheri Scholz Carpenter** 7/9/17 **Stuart H. Kemp** 11/13/17 Rev. **Lazarus C. Krohn** 6/20/17 **Stephen J. Livens** 11/6/17  
**Steven H. Phelps** 11/27/17 **Bernard W. Tooker, Jr.** 6/3/17  
'88 **Allison Ridgeway Doan** 8/4/17 **David W. Jones** 9/8/17 **Fiona I. Young** 10/30/13  
'89 Dr. **Christopher D. Collinivitti** 11/7/17  
'91 **Curtis R. McKinney, Jr.** 5/13/17  
'92 **Marjorie R. Stamper** 2/7/17  
'93 **Donya Cannon Folco** 11/17/17 **Gregory P. Gorman** 7/31/17 **Mona F. Magnis** 10/26/17 **Damon P. Smith, IV** 12/29/98  
'94 **Elizabeth A. Champlin** 5/3/17  
'95 **Suzanne Spann Gardner** 10/13/17  
'96 **Jennifer Elstner Nadalo** 6/28/17  
'97 **Jerri A. Payne** 9/11/17  
Rev. **Earl W. White** 7/5/17  
**Vanessa Lewis Wynn** 5/13/17  
'99 **Carol Weegee Garrard** 5/21/17  
'00 **Candace F. Netzer** 11/28/17  
Dr. **Mona K. Whitley** 10/18/17  
'01 Lt. **Carr P. Collins, IV** 8/29/17  
'02 Rev. **Clifford G. Egner** 9/21/17

- '03 **Daylen K. Gallman** 11/26/17  
**Steven F. Hartung** 5/20/17  
'05 **James A. Ashbaker** 6/13/17  
**Suzanne Muzzey Seminara** 6/16/17  
Lt. **Brenda J. Slovak** 7/25/17  
'07 **Phyllis Field Buckroyd** 10/9/17  
**Sean E. Simigran** 12/10/16  
'09 Rev. **Carolyn Jackson Allbritton** 10/12/17 Rev. Dr. **Salatheia V. Bryant-Honors** '14 11/10/17  
'10 **Paul V. Mielcarek** 10/22/16  
'12 **Alexander W. Bolton** 10/21/17  
**Wai B. Tso** 6/26/15  
'13 **Marion McIntyre Johnson** 10/26/17  
'14 **William T. Keene** 6/11/17

## SMU Community

- Nicole Atzbach**, curator, Meadows Museum, 11/4/17  
**Toni Beck Bosner** founder of the Division of Dance and former chair, 1962-85, Meadows School of the Arts, 6/17/17  
**William Jennings Bryan, III**, retired associate dean of student affairs, Perkins School of Theology, 8/27/17  
**Joan G. Byrne**, retired staff member, SMU Development and External Affairs, 1/6/17  
**Regis Campfield**, professor of law *emeritus* and the Marilyn Jeanne Johnson Distinguished Law Faculty Fellow *Emeritus*, Dedman School of Law, 10/27/17  
**Jeff D. Chalk, III**, professor *emeritus* of physics, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 9/10/17  
**Marvin Carlson**, professor *emeritus*, Cox School of Business, 8/29/17  
**Someshwar C. Gupta**, professor *emeritus* of electrical engineering, Lyle School of Engineering, 7/23/17  
**Paul Hardin, III**, former president of SMU, 1972-74, 7/1/17  
**Robert Hunter**, professor *emeritus* of English, 11/18/17  
**H. Neill McFarland**, professor *emeritus* of history of religion, Perkins School of Theology, 7/14/17  
**Dillon Wackerman**, staff member, Hamon Arts Library, 9/26/17

## Guiding Hand, Giving Heart

**Renowned civic and philanthropic leader Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler** died December 8, 2017, leaving a legacy of leadership, friendship and generosity focused on institutions dedicated to improving lives.

As a leader she was known for her intelligence, decisiveness, legendary fundraising skills and sense of humor. As a result, Altshuler became the first woman



Ruth Altshuler '48

to lead numerous Dallas boards and organizations, including the Board of Trustees of her alma mater, SMU. Education, health and services for some of the most downtrodden members of society were areas that attracted her support, but her generosity touched nearly every Dallas civic organization. Her influence, however, went far beyond Dallas. Altshuler was recognized nationally and internationally as a dedicated civic leader and philanthropist.

A Dallas native and 1948 SMU graduate, Altshuler served as an SMU trustee for almost 50 years. Altshuler received nearly every award the University confers, including the 2011 J. Erik Jonsson Ethics award, presented by SMU's Cary Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility to individuals who exemplify the spirit of moral leadership and public virtue, and the 1966 Distinguished Alumni Award. With her husband, Kenneth, the Altshulers were presented the 1998 Mustang Award for extraordinary philanthropy to the University.

Altshuler was a driving force behind SMU's momentum for more than 50 years and enriched the lives of countless Dallas individuals and organizations. Her legacy will continue through the lives changed by her leadership, kindness and generosity.

# Wearing many hats – and a crown

It's hard to keep up with **Averie Bishop '19**. The reigning Miss Asian American Texas and SMU junior has her hands full as a double major in human rights and political science, vice president of Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity and co-founder of a humanitarian charity. She segued from the Hilltop to Capitol Hill as a Congressional Fellow last summer and participated in the Clinton Global Initiative University annual meeting in October. Senior **Alexis Kopp '18**, a double major in English and education with a journalism minor, recently convinced the dynamo to take five for a chat about her academic and philanthropic passions and her fairy tale Family Weekend.

## **Q. Have you always done pageants?**

No! It was the very first pageant I'd ever competed in. This pageant circuit is very different. Instead of a bathing suit competition, it had a cultural attire competition, where you wear clothing that represents your ethnicity; in my case, that's Filipino on my mother's side. It also emphasized the interview portion more than other pageants usually do.

## **Q. What are some of your duties as Miss Asian American Texas?**

I've been hosting community events, volunteering with many organizations and doing a lot of work with my nonprofit organization. I was also a part of the opening State Fair parade. That was a lot of fun!

## **Q. What did you do as a Congressional Fellow, and what did you take away from the experience?**

I worked in the U.S. House of Representatives, primarily with Sheila Jackson Lee of Houston, organizing committee hearings and briefings and writing talking points. I also helped draft bills. I think a lot of people assume that the government is in shambles, and everything is chaotic and hectic and polarized. I found that people were willing to have candid conversations and listen to other opinions. That experience made

me realize that I should listen more closely and think about what people are really saying.

## **Q. What's new with your nonprofit, The Tulong Foundation?**

My mother, Marevi, grew up in a poverty-stricken community in the Philippines, where access to education was limited by your ability to pay for it. We started the foundation in 2015 as The Bishop Outreach Fund but have changed the name to better reflect our mission. "Tulong" means "help" in the Filipino language. We are currently helping impoverished children in the southern Philippines get an education. We also built a water well in the Banga, South Cotabato province – where my mother's from – to provide easier access to clean water. I represented our organization at the Clinton Global Initiative conference, and I learned a lot. It made me rethink our efforts and expand our focus. We want to reach other countries in Southeast Asia and broaden our efforts to teach sustainable farming skills.

## **Q. You transferred to SMU from Texas State. Describe that experience.**

Both of my parents work two jobs, so it was very important that I received additional financial support. I was awarded an Honor Transfer Scholarship, which covers half of my tuition. Had I not received that assistance, I would not have been able to attend SMU, so I'm very grateful for that. Transferring here, finding a place to live and finding a good community and friends were much easier than I expected. I'm so glad I'm here!

## **Q. Why did you choose your majors?**

Prof. Rick Halperin, the compelling classes and my mother's story. She struggled to get to the United States and become a citizen. I feel like the political science-human rights combination is good preparation for my future. I hope to become a lawyer with a focus on immigration or civil rights.



Averie Bishop '19

## **Q. What was it like to play Cinderella in the Family Weekend Musical, *Into the Woods*?**

It was hectic, to say the least, because we learned everything in 24 hours. Sam Weber was an incredible director! (See page 16.) I got to meet so many different people, and I think I really found a sort of family on campus. Before I transferred to SMU, I majored in acting, so it was great to get back into the arts. While academics are very important, I think it is important for people to have their niche or hobby, something they really enjoy doing, to go back to when they need a creative release.

## **Q. What do you like best about SMU?**

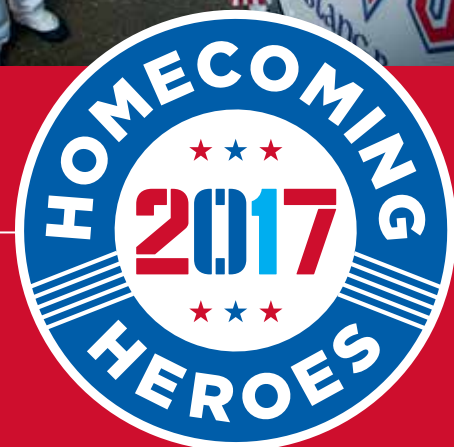
The community of students. The university I previously attended was very large. The classes averaged about 100 students, so people weren't as motivated to speak to one another or contribute in class. But SMU is a good size – it's not too big and not too small – and people are so willing to exchange ideas and listen to one another. The community is very understanding, open and accepting.





## In Celebration Of Heroes

Thousands of alumni, students, faculty and staff celebrated "Homecoming of Heroes" during SMU's Homecoming weekend November 2-5. SMU students who are veterans of the U.S. military served as grand marshals of the University's annual Homecoming parade. One of the floats included American heroes "Rosie the Riveter" and "Uncle Sam," represented by Karly Zrake of Alpha Chi Omega and Alex Porter of Kappa Sigma, who were crowned SMU's Homecoming king and queen. The Mustang Band celebrated its 100th anniversary of marching with style, and wide receiver James Proche ran 86 yards for a touchdown against the University of Central Florida.





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## A Colorful Night On Campus

SMU celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month September 15-October 15 with a variety of events. "The Colors of Kahlo," a step-by-step tutorial on how to paint an original artwork in the style of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, was held under tents on the main quad in front of Dallas Hall. Events were sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and College Hispanic American Students. *Photo by Kim Leeson.*

