

CELEBRATING THE



# THINGS

HAPPENING HERE





## Homecoming 2019: Celebrating 'Traditions as Old as Time'

Thousands of alumni, parents and friends joined students on the Hilltop for SMU's 95th annual Homecoming Weekend, November 7-10. Highlights included the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony and dinner; class reunion parties; the parade and Boulevard celebration leading up to the football game in Ford Stadium, where the Mustangs clinched an exciting 59-51 victory over East Carolina University, and Lucas Rhamy of Beta Theta Pi and Olivia Matthews of Chi Omega (above) were crowned the Homecoming king and queen at halftime.

SMU recognized (from left) Distinguished Alumni Scott J. McLean '78; Whitney Wolfe Herd '11 (Emerging Leader Award); Jennifer Burr Altabef '78, '81; and Martin L. Flanagan '82 at the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards celebration and dinner on November 7.







## Features

## Departments

TRANSFORMATIVE  
INVESTMENTS AND EXCITING ACHIEVEMENTS

Pg.

03

## Shaping SMU For A Changing World

SMU celebrated unprecedented investments and exciting achievements last fall, with two history-making gifts and an unforgettable football season.

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## A FALL TO REMEMBER

MUSTANG ATHLETICS GENERATED ITS OWN EXCITEMENT ON CAMPUS: FROM A 10-3 FOOTBALL SEASON (35 YEARS IN THE MAKING) TO ANOTHER MEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP TO A WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM REGULAR SEASON FINISH IN FIRST PLACE IN THE AAC WEST.



## Unprecedented Gift

The Moody Foundation made the largest gift in SMU history with a \$100 million commitment to create the University's eighth degree-granting school – the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies.



## Visionary Impact

A \$50 million gift from Carolyn L. and David B. Miller '72, '73 to the Cox School of Business builds on their decades-long support of academics, athletics, scholarships and other areas.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



SMU alumni don't shy away from tough topics as they help create a climate of understanding and inclusiveness in our communities. Pastor Richie Butler '93 (left) leads honest conversations about race relations;

Ashlee Hunt Kleimert '88 advocates for sex trafficking survivors; and Hallie Hovey-Murray '16 provides a public voice for those with autism. Their stories begin on page 16.

Photo by Hillsman S. Jackson

# Big Things Are Happening Here

**Dallas-Fort Worth** is one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the country. People move here for jobs, opportunities and quality of life. Like our surrounding city, SMU embraces a world of people and possibilities, creating a place that everyone can call home. With that inviting attitude, big things happen here, exceeding expectations and clearing the path for world-changing impact.

In the past few issues of *SMU Magazine*, we have shared stories that highlight our University's key differentiators – "Enterprising Spirit," "Research With Impact" and "SMU, Dallas and Beyond." This edition looks at another defining characteristic: our "Welcoming Community." It takes note of the breadth of backgrounds and experiences that makes us dynamic and the purposeful connections that make a difference.

What happens on our campus magnifies opportunities for the greater community. This fall, the vision and generosity of our donors set the stage for a limitless future for our campus and beyond. In these pages, we celebrate the launch of our University's eighth degree-granting school, the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, made possible by a historic gift of \$100 million from the Moody Foundation. You'll also learn how David B. Miller's 1968 basketball scholarship to SMU was the beginning of a long history with the University that

led to a \$50 million commitment to the Cox School of Business, the largest single alumni gift in SMU history. We also gathered to initiate a new strategic plan for our Lyle School of Engineering. Through these unprecedented partnerships, we become an even more attractive campus for potential students.

Making people feel like they belong comes naturally to us, but it is also strategically nurtured. We seek out top-performing students from all walks of life and all parts of the world, knowing they'll thrive here because all Mustangs are valued. This issue of the magazine illustrates how living, studying and socializing with fellow students of many backgrounds in our Residential Commons enhance our students' college experience. And we take a moment to celebrate the success of several of our athletic teams that have drawn national attention and reenergized Mustang pride.

Our commitment to having candid conversations and embracing diverse perspectives creates graduates who take those values to their communities and find their own ways of championing tolerance, respect and inclusiveness. Pastor Richie Butler '93, Ashlee Hunt Kleinert '88 and Hallie Hovey-Murray '16 are great examples of how our alumni advocate for finding common ground on polarizing issues, open hearts and minds to embrace change and support



President R. Gerald Turner

individuals fighting to overcome major life challenges.

SMU's culture of inclusion embodies who we are as a University, where we are in a cosmopolitan city and what we can do with a shared passion. Whether it is a student's first day in class, an alum's return for Homecoming, an out-of-town visitor's trip to campus or a donor's commitment to the school's future, it is my hope that all feel more than welcome here.

R. GERALD TURNER  
President

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





# WHAT A SPECTACULAR FALL IT WAS ON THE HILLTOP!

IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW, WE CELEBRATE THE

# TRANSFORMATIVE

INVESTMENTS AND EXCITING ACHIEVEMENTS SHAPING

# SMU FOR A CHANGING WORLD

# \$100 M COMMITMENT C



**SMU will take a major step forward in serving the talent and research needs of a challenging world, thanks to a landmark \$100 million commitment from the Moody Foundation that will fund the University's eighth degree-granting school – the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies.**





# MILLION CREATES MOODY SCHOOL



## MOODY FOUNDATION MAKES LARGEST GIFT IN SMU HISTORY

The Moody Foundation commitment is the largest gift in SMU history.

“We cannot overstate the power and reach of this gift,” said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. “This is a transformational moment for SMU and Dallas, signaling that SMU is a premier institution with the means to be a full partner in commercial and global problem-solving, and a pipeline for leaders to tackle those challenges.

“As the Texas economy booms, companies and institutions look to universities like SMU for innovative ideas, data-driven research and technology that can create opportunity,” Turner said. “The Moody School will be the portal to all of our resources – the entry point for any organization with a research challenge to approach the University for partnership.”

The Moody Foundation gift will include:

- Endowment and operational funds in support of SMU faculty and renowned visiting faculty, as well as a deanship
- Endowment and operational funds to

provide competitive financial support for graduate students

- Endowment and operational funds to recruit leading scholars conducting world-changing research
- Endowment and operational funds to provide flexibility in stimulating interdisciplinary work
- Construction of Moody Hall, to serve as headquarters for the Moody School and facilitate faculty and student interaction that generates interdisciplinary research

“The Moody Foundation exists to strengthen the future of Texas and Texans through big ideas like this one,” said Frances Moody-Dahlberg '92, the Foundation's executive director and chairman. “We all know that transformative discoveries come when people from different disciplines and broad perspectives are free to collaborate in unique ways. SMU's Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies will encourage and support such innovative connections. I am eager to see what the combination of world-changing students and faculty

coupled with exceptional resources will produce on this campus, in the region and across Texas.”

The Moody School will begin formal operations during the 2020-21 academic year.

**“WE CANNOT OVERSTATE  
THE POWER  
AND REACH OF  
THIS GIFT.”**

*SMU President R. Gerald Turner*



“The profound nature of the Moody Foundation’s gift is the latest example of the growth of SMU’s status academically, programmatically and philanthropically,” said SMU Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad E. Cheves. “With the sophisticated way the Foundation has structured this investment, SMU and the new Moody School will be well prepared in terms of facilities, endowed resources and operating funds to execute its important mission, which itself supports the University’s strategic plan.”

**The investment in graduate-level education and research is expected to:**

- Inspire and enable greater interdisciplinary collaboration and creative problem-solving
- Attract students with the strongest academic backgrounds and potential
- Increase research grant funding
- Boost the University’s reputation for research excellence
- Place SMU shoulder-to-shoulder with other prestigious private universities that historically focused on undergraduate education, but have strategically expanded services and support for graduate students

- Strengthen collaborations with other universities, including UT Southwestern Medical Center, major corporations and other entities in producing high-impact research projects

The creation of the Moody School will increase the reputational value of an SMU graduate degree. Research with impact depends on strategically growing SMU’s talented pool of exceptional faculty and attracting the best and brightest master’s and Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows. Together they provide the academic framework for discovery.

“SMU has long offered premier undergraduate and professional programs,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs *ad interim* Peter K. Moore. “The creation of a graduate school will enable the University to build on its excellent graduate educational programs in the sciences, humanities, engineering, arts and education to fuel research, strengthen teaching and reputation, and deliver greater impact in everything we do. It also means more opportunities for undergraduates, who are mentored through association with research faculty, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.”

The broad endowment funding provided

by the Moody Foundation will guarantee the strength of the school in perpetuity, while the operational funds included in the gift will provide for immediate impact.

SMU currently offers 25 Ph.D. programs, awarding about 70 of the advanced degrees annually to students from all over the world. These degrees are administered through the students’ individual schools – Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Lyle School of Engineering, Meadows School of the Arts and Simmons School of Education and Human Development. Eventually all graduate degrees granted from Dedman, Lyle, Meadows and Simmons Schools will be administered jointly through the Moody School, and graduate students will receive a diploma that credits their master’s degree, doctorate or Ph.D. to both their individual school of study and the Moody School.

The Cox School of Business, Dedman School of Law and Perkins School of Theology do not offer Ph.D.s and will continue to manage internally the highest degrees awarded in their respective fields. But the Moody School will link interdisciplinary research and professional development from all SMU schools.

## ABOUT THE MOODY FOUNDATION

William L. Moody, Jr. and his wife, Libbie Rice Shearn Moody, laid the groundwork for the family’s dedication to community involvement and philanthropy when they established the Moody Foundation in 1942 in Galveston, Texas. The Foundation was created to benefit present and future Texans, and, starting in the 1960s under the leadership of Mary Moody Northen, it began awarding grants throughout the state, often focusing on capital projects for private colleges and universities, as well as support for children’s health projects, libraries and historical preservation initiatives.

Beginning in the mid-1980s, led by Robert L. Moody, Sr., now chairman *emeritus*, major investment in local Foundation-initiated projects related to traumatic brain injury and the development of tourism in Galveston were a key focus. As the reach of the Foundation expanded and strengthened, the need for a permanent location in North

Texas became evident, and, in 1966, a Dallas office was established to oversee local initiatives.

Now, the great-granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Moody, Jr. and a 1992 graduate and trustee of SMU, Dallasite Frances Moody-Dahlberg, along with her brother, Ross Moody, and niece, Elizabeth Moody, leads the Foundation as chairman and executive director. Under their guidance, the Moody Foundation has expanded its statewide giving and continuing partnering with local groups to fund major projects.

At UT Southwestern, they have supported the Children’s Research Institute with major equipment and created the position of Robert L. Moody, Sr. Faculty Scholar. In 2017, they collaborated with the City of Dallas to support the AT&T Performing Arts Center and, in order to enhance small and growing nonprofit performing-arts organizations in Dallas, they established the Moody Fund for

the Arts. In recognition, the City Performance Hall was renamed Moody Performance Hall.

SMU and the Moody Foundation have enjoyed a decadeslong partnership. During those many years, the two organizations have joined forces to make SMU facilities such as Fondren Science Building in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Owen Arts Center in Meadows School of the Arts and Moody Coliseum exceptional resources for the SMU campus and the greater Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

In addition, the two organizations have collaborated to empower faculty research at the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, aiming to quantify data and identify solutions to homelessness among students in the Houston/Galveston area as well as developing cutting-edge programs to help adults and students achieve literacy.





# VISIONARY

# IMPACT

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**CAROLYN L. AND DAVID B. MILLER '72, '73  
MAKE A \$50 MILLION COMMITMENT TO  
SMU AND THE COX SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

When former Mustang basketball standout David B. Miller and his wife, Carolyn, made the largest single alumni gift in SMU history, the Hilltop milestone made headlines in Dallas. Longtime business columnist Cheryl Hall '73, who earned her journalism degree from the University, wrote about the publicity-shy couple for *The Dallas Morning News*. In this excerpt of the newspaper profile, their generous spirit and their love for family, community and SMU shine through.



BY CHERYL HALL '73

How does a guy who went to Southern Methodist University on a basketball scholarship strike it so rich that he can give his alma mater more than \$100 million?

He parlays the finance education that he earned at its Edwin L. Cox School of Business into co-founding one of the world's largest private equity firms.

And just how David B. Miller came to do that is one of those under-the-radar success tales that Dallas is so famous for.

Last month, Miller and his wife, Carolyn, made headlines when they gave SMU \$50 million — the biggest individual donation in the University's 108-year history.

The Millers' moment in the spotlight was unusual for this Highland Park couple who have quietly given tens of millions of philanthropic dollars since 2006.

The Miller name is already on the event center of Moody Coliseum and the floor of its basketball court, the campus student center at SMU-in-Taos and the ballroom of the new indoor training center.

The couple's latest donation is intended to keep the Cox School competitive by modernizing and building facilities, hiring additional endowed faculty and expanding undergraduate and graduate scholarships to increase student diversity.

# “HE TREATS PEOPLE WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEIR LOT IN LIFE IS. HE'S A BELIEVER IN COLLECTIVE THINKING FROM SMART MINDS.”

*Kyle Miller '01 speaking about his father, David Miller '72,'73*

But frankly, a lot of people outside the SMU community don't know who Carolyn and David are.

David was a three-year varsity standout center from 1968-72 and earned his undergraduate degree and M.B.A. in finance at Cox in the early 1970s.

Today Miller is a co-founder and managing partner of global private equity firm EnCap Investments LP, which completed its 21st fund last year with 350 institutional partners. That brought the total amount of funds under its management to nearly \$40 billion since its inception in 1988.

Carolyn, a former elementary school teacher in Garland and social worker, closely guards her privacy while rolling up her sleeves to work for social causes such as aiding seniors,

protecting battered women and sheltering the homeless.

But \$50 million is hard to keep under wraps, especially when one intent of the Millers' huge gift was to lead others to SMU's next major fundraising campaign.

The Millers sat down for the first time ever as a couple to share how they came to spread such enormous largesse.

## MAGICAL MOMENT

David Miller keeps a scrapbook close at hand in his home office. Its title: “A Dream Come True.”

“That dream was to play basketball at SMU,” he says, flipping through the worn pages of newsclips and mementos assembled by his mother.

As Miller was about to graduate from Richland High School, the team's star center had nearly a dozen scholarship offers but not the one that really mattered to him — SMU.

“There was just nothing bigger in the southwestern part of the country than SMU basketball,” he recalls. “Doc Hayes was their legendary coach. My senior year, SMU beat Louisville, the No. 2 team in the country, in the NCAA regional tournament. I was a passionate fan.”

Two days after National Signing Day, the first day high school players can commit to a college, David told his mother at breakfast that he'd reconciled himself to becoming a Red Raider at Texas Tech University. But Fay Ann Miller, now a 92-year-old SMU alum, urged her son to hold out for one more day.







"It was magical," he recalls. "I show up at the high school the next day, and there is the legendary coach Doc Hayes and his replacement, Bob Prewitt, who was actually my coach, and they offer me a scholarship. And the rest is history. My dream came true."

Miller earned his undergraduate degree on a basketball scholarship and his M.B.A. in finance on a teaching fellowship, so he never paid a dime in tuition. He says that as he crossed the stage to receive his M.B.A. diploma, he promised himself that he would give back if he ever could.

His first donation was a \$25 gift to the Mustang Club and a \$100 pledge to SMU's general operational fund in 1979.

Little did he know just how much he'd be able to pay it forward.

He started his career in energy lending for Dallas' Republic National Bank, which was one of the largest financial institutions in the Southwest.

In 1980, the 30-year-old and his buddy, Bob Zorich, left Republic to form an oil and gas company in Denver. Seven years later, when energy boom times went bust, the partners sold out and moved back to Texas.

That same year, Miller — backed by the late, legendary oilman L. Frank Pitts and his son-in-law, Bill Custard — formed PMC for Pitts, Miller and Custard, scraping together energy properties viewed as worthless by most investors.

"The major oil companies had all decided that domestic onshore opportunities wouldn't move the needle," Miller recalls. "So they had moved to the deep waters in the Gulf of Mexico and international exploration and were selling their domestic properties. There was a wealth of opportunity to buy. You just had to find the money."

## PATH TO BIG RICH

PMC's first fund raised \$20 million with three institutional investors: Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a huge medical foundation in Washington, D.C., and two major insurance companies.

PMC eventually became part of EnCap (short for Energy Capital) Investments — co-founded by Miller, Zorich and three other friends from Republic Bank.

Frank Pitts considered Miller his adopted son, says Linda Pitts Custard, Pitts'

daughter and wife of Bill.

"Daddy was a wildcatter, as you know, and he appreciated David's entrepreneurship and his ethical approach to business," she says. "David is a very personable, warm, affable man. None of his success has gone to his head. He remains just as down-to-earth as he was when I met him 30 years ago."

"The business partnership separated, but the deep friendship remained."

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

David's son, Kyle Miller, made headlines of his own three years ago.

In 2012, Kyle started Silver Hill Energy Partners LLC, an independent oil and gas company, with \$12 million in seed money. He sold it four years later for \$2.4 billion to Dallas-based RSP Permian Inc., a publicly held Permian producer. The *Oil & Gas Journal* called it the "2016 M&A Deal of the Year."

Kyle says his father taught him and his sister, Meredith Miller Bebee, that their most valuable assets were their word and integrity.

"He treats people with dignity and respect regardless of what their lot in life is. He's a believer in collective thinking from smart minds," says the 40-year-old founder of Silver Hill Energy Holdings LLC, which he founded last year.

## MUTUAL ADMIRATION

David and Carolyn married 19 years ago — the second marriage for each.

"I have massive respect for her and what she thinks," David says, looking over at Carolyn on the couch. "And while I may not agree with some of her political leanings, I respect them. Frankly, if you think about the discord that's going on in the country, that's probably the solution."

"She's softened me."

Carolyn grew up in Magnolia, Arkansas, a town of about 12,000, before earning her degree in elementary education at Hendrix College in 1974. She also holds master's degrees in elementary education and in gerontology.



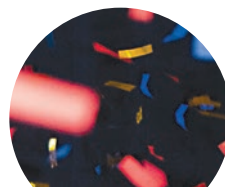
The causes closest to her heart are The Senior Source and Shelter Ministries of Dallas, parent of the Austin Street Center and Genesis Women's Shelter & Support.

"It's so important for women to feel empowered to leave an abusive relationship," Carolyn says. "Most abusers are controllers. So Genesis gives women a sense of control over their lives. And with the increase in homelessness in Dallas County, the need for the Austin Street Center is obvious."

SMU trustee Caren Prothro says Carolyn is a story in her own right. "She's an extraordinary person who has a great humanitarian persona. An example of that is her involvement with New Friends New Life, a program for trafficked girls," Prothro says. "She and David are a wonderful duo. They both have their great strengths and passions. Carolyn holds her own and then some."

"SHE'S AN EXTRAORDINARY PERSON WHO  
**HAS A GREAT  
HUMANITARIAN PERSONA."**

*SMU Trustee Caren Prothro  
speaking about Carolyn Miller*





HERE'S TO THE  
RED & BLUE

WE'RE THE MUSTANGS FROM  
GIVE A CHEER! GIVE A FIGHT!

THERE'S VICTORY  
IN SIGHT

AND OUR  
BATTLECRY  
WILL BE:

FIGHT!

SPIRIT'S THE BEST  
IN THE LAND

& RIGHT TO  
THE END WE'LL  
STAND  
FOR  
THE

M-U-S-T-A-N-G

FIGHT!

FIGHT!







# A FALL TO REMEMBER

What a fall semester it was for the Mustangs! Football posted its most wins since 1984, achieving a 10-3 record and receiving an invitation to the Cheribundi Boca Raton Bowl to play Florida Atlantic University (11-3). Although FAU, playing on its home field, won 52-28, the loss didn't diminish a season of numerous highs for the Mustangs, which included recapturing the Iron Skillet by beating TCU 41-38 on its home turf. The men's soccer team (18-2-1) again won the American Athletic Conference Championship and reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament. The women's volleyball team finished its regular season in first place in the AAC West, propelled by the efforts of Holly Heim '22, who earned the AAC Setter of the Year title. And men's basketball bounded off to an 8-0 start.

For more information on all SMU athletics, visit [smumustangs.com](http://smumustangs.com).

V-G-S  
FIGHT!





# SMU Welcomes A Boulevard Game Changer

**The SMU community celebrated the beginning of a new era** on the Boulevard with the dedication of the Indoor Performance Center, featuring Armstrong Fieldhouse, on September 6. Located at the corner of Bishop Boulevard and Binkley Avenue, the Indoor Performance Center is constructed in a Collegiate Georgian architectural style that blends with the traditional campus environment and features an indoor turf field as well as training, fitness and special event spaces.

“The Indoor Performance Center has long been a goal for our University, and we thank all the donors for making it a reality,” SMU President R. Gerald Turner said. “Students and student-athletes are already filling this beautiful multipurpose facility with Mustang spirit. We look forward to all the ways this welcoming space will enhance the SMU community and the Dallas community.”

Armstrong Fieldhouse, the primary component of the facility, was made possible by Bill Armstrong ’82 and Liz Armstrong ’82 and The Armstrong Foundation.

“Our family has a time-honored tradition of ‘boulevarding’ before home games, and some of our fondest memories involve SMU football,” Bill Armstrong said. “Events of all kinds are at the heart of the college experience, so we see this project as a real win-win for SMU.”

“We believe the college experience extends well beyond the classroom and is integral to a full education,” Liz Armstrong said. “It’s really fun to be involved on campus and very rewarding to know we are impacting the future of SMU.”

Many generous donors made the Indoor Performance Center possible. In addition to the Armstrongs, donors of more than \$1 million are Gary T. Crum ’69 and Sylvie P. Crum; Paul B. Loyd, Jr. ’68 and Penny R. Loyd; David B. Miller ’72, ’73 and Carolyn L. Miller and The David B. Miller Family Foundation; and Garry A. Weber ’58.

They are joined by \$1 million donors Kathryn H. Arata ’87, ’91 and Stephen L. Arata ’88; Stephanie Chantilis Bray ’85



Members of the SMU community, including donors, alumni and students, celebrated a new era on the Boulevard with the dedication of the Indoor Performance Center, featuring Armstrong Fieldhouse, on September 6.

***“The Indoor Performance Center is another visible, tangible reflection of the University’s commitment to competing at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics.” – Rick Hart***

and Bennie M. Bray; Richard H. Collins ’69 and The Calvert K. Collins Family Foundation; Daniel M. Doyle, Jr. and Nicole Kudelko Doyle ’94; Jennifer Gelety Flanagan ’82 and Martin L. Flanagan ’82; a gift in honor of Kyle D. Miller ’01; Ashley B. Smith and G. Stacy Smith; and William J. Ware ’01 and Richard ’68 and Katherine Ware.

Other major donors include Blake P. Bozman ’93 and Tara Bozman; Ashlee Hunt Kleinert ’88 and Chris Kleinert ’88; Rogge and Cathy Dunn Family; Kate Dykes and Sonny Dykes; Albon Head ’68, ’71 and Debbie Head; Irina Huemiller and Thomas L. Huemiller ’91; Lane M. Seliger; Kim M. Shaddock and William C. Shaddock ’74; Natalie Green Stollenwerck ’64 and Tom J. Stollenwerck ’62, ’65.

“This is beyond exciting to celebrate this special facility that elevates the SMU experience and inspires new energy for our campus community, our alumni and everyone who visits the Hilltop,” said Brad Cheves, SMU vice president for

development and external affairs. “We are grateful to our supportive donors who share our commitment to creating an outstanding campus environment in every way.”

The 67,000-square-foot Indoor Performance Center is located in the heart of campus on the former site of Perkins Natatorium and Barr Pool, in close proximity to the Loyd All-Sports Center. In the past two decades, SMU has invested more than \$200 million to build new athletics facilities and renovate others – all reflective of championship-level competition.

“The Indoor Performance Center is another visible, tangible reflection of the University’s commitment to competing at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics,” said Rick Hart, SMU’s director of athletics. “The future is bright for SMU Athletics.”

*To learn more about the Indoor Performance Center’s features, or to make a gift, please visit [smu.edu/ipc](http://smu.edu/ipc).*



# High Speed, High Tech, High Impact For Lyle School

**Dallas entrepreneur, industry leader and educator Bobby B. Lyle '67** builds on the farsighted generosity that named the Lyle School of Engineering 11 years ago by designating \$10 million to power a new strategic vision for the school. The bold future-focused model will combine innovation, agility and swift responses to shifts in technological capabilities with enduring institutional support.

"Bobby Lyle's vision, then and now, speaks to the core needs of engineering education to prepare students to solve problems, drive the economy and change lives through problem-driven research and real-world experience," said SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

The ability to react quickly to promising new ideas is essential for technological trailblazers. To take advantage of opportunities with transformative potential, Lyle's investment will support the school's Future Fund by establishing endowments for Accelerating Emerging Research and Accelerating High Tech Business Innovations. The fund also will support two additional strategic portfolios: Transforming the Engineering Education Experience and Transformative Technology for Social Good.

"Researching and prototyping new ideas must happen quickly to be competitive, while traditional fundraising takes time," Lyle said. "This transformational plan allows engineering school

researchers to be nimble in the fast-changing tech landscape."

The Lyle Future Fund will provide seed capital to bridge the gap between a new idea's conception and its maturation to the point where it can draw external funding. Qualified projects will receive significant backing for up to five years – long enough to establish a leadership stake in a promising field. By partnering with thought leaders and industry captains at the vanguard of emerging research, the Lyle School will be able to select strategic investments for the greatest impact based on market needs.

Lyle hopes others will be inspired to follow his lead and invest in problem-driven research and practical experiences that will prepare students to become innovators, creators, entrepreneurs and leaders.

Since his generous commitment in 2008, Lyle has remained engaged as a mentor and advocate for the school, designating funds to endow key faculty positions, including the Bobby B. Lyle Endowed Centennial Distinguished Chair in Cyber Security; the Bobby B. Lyle Endowed Centennial Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship to advance engineering entrepreneurship education; and the Bobby B. Lyle Professor of



Junior civil engineering major Darriana Druery '21 and Bobby B. Lyle '67 at the launch of a new strategic vision for the Lyle School of Engineering on October 25.

Engineering Innovation, held by Lyle School Dean Marc Christensen.

Lyle also has directed financial support to Lyle School scholarships, the Lyle School Research Impact Fund, SMU Fund for Lyle Engineering, TEDxSMU and the construction of Caruth Hall. During the past 11 years, the Lyle School has followed his lead and developed impact- and solution-focused education by establishing the Hunter and Stephanie Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity, the Hart Center for Engineering Leadership, the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education and the Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security.



## REIMAGINING THE HEART OF SMU

The 32-year-old Hughes-Trigg Student Center is undergoing a multi-phase renovation to create a contemporary space where SMU students can gather to socialize and study. Phase One of the renovation began on the first level and was completed in time for the fall 2019 term. New features include expanded dining options in the Mane Course with the addition of a Cinco Taco and full-service Chick-fil-A. The Varsity (left) features new seating, game tables and big-screen televisions. Phase Two, which began in December, will renovate the third level, which comprises offices for student life and leadership. Completion is expected by the end of the spring 2020 semester. To learn more about naming opportunities, visit [giving.smu.edu/hughes-trigg-renovation](http://giving.smu.edu/hughes-trigg-renovation) or contact Paula Voyles, assistant vice president for school and project development, at 214-768-4686 or [pvoyles@smu.edu](mailto:pvoyles@smu.edu).



# Transforming Arts Education

*Owen Arts Center renovation kickoff inspires a new challenge*

## SMU's Meadows School of the Arts

paved the way toward the future of arts education with a kickoff of the Owen Arts Center renovation on November 8. The \$34 million initiative will improve academic spaces in the north wing for visual arts, art history and creative computation, while creating grand, welcoming and accessible exterior entrances.

At the celebration, a \$1.8 million challenge gift from Indianapolis philanthropist and former SMU Meadows parent G. Marlyne Sexton was announced, creating a new incentive for others to become part of this transformative project. Previously, Sexton had given \$3.2 million toward the project, bringing her total commitment to \$5 million.

With this new gift, Sexton encourages admirers of the arts to help the Meadows School reach the remaining \$3.4 million needed for the revitalization of the arts hub, which will enrich the experiences of students and the community for years to come.

The renovation launched as the Meadows School of the Arts marked the 50th anniversary of its naming. Established at SMU in 1969 and named in honor of benefactor Algur H. Meadows, it is one of the foremost arts education institutions in the United States.

"The improvements will serve as a catalyst for Meadows to attract the next generation of talented and diverse visual artists, art historians and multidisciplinary creatives and draw scholars and visitors from across the region and around the world," SMU President R. Gerald Turner said. "We thank our donors for their generous support."

A community of supporters has made the Owen Arts Center renovation possible. Initially, The Meadows Foundation provided a \$10 million matching grant as part of its historic 2015 commitment of \$45 million to SMU.



Celebrating the Owen Arts Center renovation kickoff were (top row, from left) SMU Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad E. Cheves; Nancy C. Rogers; Gene and Jerry Jones; Algur H. Meadows Dean Samuel S. Holland; Linda Evans, past president and CEO of The Meadows Foundation; and SMU President R. Gerald Turner; (bottom row, from left) SMU Student Body President Darian Taylor '20; G. Marlyne Sexton and her daughters, Nicole Sexton '87 and Tracy Copeland '82; and SMU Trustee Caren Prothro, chair of the Owen Arts Center Transformation initiative.

"For us, art, education, SMU and Dallas just go together," said Linda Perryman Evans, past president and CEO of The Meadows Foundation. "We've supported the Meadows Museum and the Meadows School, which have risen to exciting new levels of renown, and we are proud of the stature both have achieved."

The Foundation's commitment became the impetus for several significant gifts.

Reflecting their passion for connecting the arts to the community through public spaces, Gene and Jerry Jones committed \$5 million to transform the east entrance. The Joneses' commitment will create the Gene and Jerry Jones Grand Atrium and Plaza.

Dallas art collectors and patrons Nancy C. and Richard R. Rogers committed \$5 million to establish the new Nancy C. and Richard R. Rogers Center for Visual Arts, which will provide a physical space that expands academic

and artistic opportunities for students and faculty.

G. Marlyne Sexton's gift will establish the Sexton Family Courtyard, the renovated west entrance to the building; the Sexton Family Art Studio and Terrace, an expansive indoor-outdoor space; and the Sexton Family Creative Computation Suite, where students will push the artistic boundaries of technology.

Additional major donors to the project include the Hoblitzelle Foundation; the Moody Foundation; the Vin and Caren Prothro Foundation; Barbara Thomas Lemmon; Jennifer Burr Altabef '78, '81 and Peter A. Altabef; Sarah F. Perot '83; The Spaht Family Foundation; Martin S. Cox '75, '78; Nancy M. Dedman '50; Lee H. Ford; Chadwick/Loher Foundation, Arlene and John Dayton; Charlene Cline Marsh '91; PMC Esping Foundation; Ann M. Shaw; and Emily Rich Summers '66 and Steve Summers '66, '67.



"The University is grateful to these generous donors for their part in strengthening the Meadows School as a top arts and cultural institution," said SMU Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad E. Cheves. "Their support will continue to benefit generations and contribute to SMU's rising national and international reputation as a trailblazer in arts education."

## INSPIRING SPACES FOR ASPIRING ARTISTS

Composed of three interconnected buildings designed by noted architect George Dahl in the 1960s, the 250,000-square-foot Owen Arts Center is the largest academic building on the SMU campus and a top arts and cultural institution in Dallas.

This first phase of the Owen Arts Center renovation will modernize the north wing of the building from Hillcrest Avenue to Bishop Boulevard. Highlights include:

**Nancy C. and Richard R. Rogers Center for Visual Arts:** Home to the academic pursuits of art, art history and creative computation, including renovated studios, galleries, classrooms and offices with a new formal entrance on the north side of the building.

**Gene and Jerry Jones Grand Atrium and Plaza:** Revamped Bishop Boulevard entrance and glass-enclosed atrium creating ample space in a natural light environment for formal and impromptu performances, concerts and events.

**Sexton Family Courtyard:** Lush space along Hillcrest Avenue suitable for performances and gatherings, serving as the west entryway for the Greer Garson Theatre and Hamon Arts Library.

**Main Gallery:** The original home of the Meadows Museum restored as a gallery to display rotating exhibitions and to serve as an elegant entertainment space, with access to the Dean's Suite.

**Dean's Suite:** Offices for the Dean of Meadows School of the Arts and key academic leadership prominently located on the first and second floors adjoining the Main Gallery.

**William B. Jordan Gallery:** New gallery for student critique sessions, temporary exhibitions and gallery talks named in memory of William B. Jordan, founding director of the Meadows Museum and former chair of the Division of Fine Arts, through a fundraising effort spearheaded by Dr. Jordan's friends, former students and colleagues.

**Gallery Conference Room:** Elegant conference room located next to the Main Gallery and Jordan Gallery used for meetings with distinguished guests of the University and for faculty and student presentations and seminars.

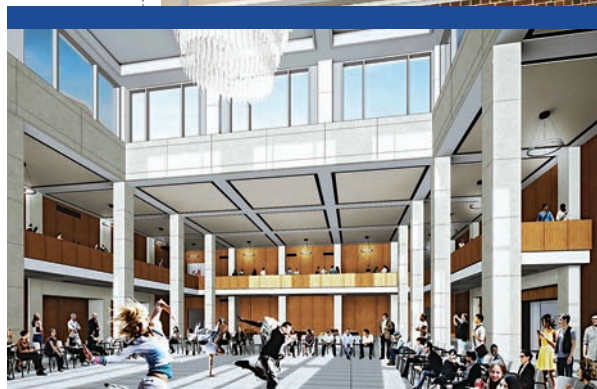
**Studios:** Specialized studios for drawing, painting, printmaking, photography and other disciplinary studies located on multiple levels, including the newly created, expansive **Sexton Family Art Studio and Terrace** on the top floor, with accompanying terrace suited for en plein air painting; and on the first floor, a new **Foundations Studio** for learning the fundamentals of techniques, processes and principles involved in the creation of art.

**Sexton Family Creative Computation Suite:** Fully equipped technology labs and classrooms for students to explore computing as a creative medium, integrating aesthetic principles and practices from the arts with analytical theories and processes from computer science and engineering.

**Jennifer Burr Altabef Student Lounge:** Located on the third floor of the Greer Garson Theatre, an informal space for students to work, study and relax.

**Barbara Thomas Lemmon Art History Suite:** Offices for key art history leadership and The Lady Tennyson d'Eyncourt Visual Resources Laboratory.

*Learn more at [smu.edu/TransformOwenArts](http://smu.edu/TransformOwenArts).*



▲ (from top)

1. Sexton Family Courtyard along Hillcrest Avenue will serve as the west entryway for the Greer Garson Theatre and Hamon Arts Library.
2. William B. Jordan Gallery, named in memory of the founding director of the Meadows Museum.
3. Sexton Family Art Studio
4. Gene and Jerry Jones Grand Atrium



“What  
unites us  
is greater  
than what  
divides us.”

— RICHIE BUTLER '93

LET'S



**Pastor Richie Butler '93  
creates opportunities  
for safe conversations about  
the divisive issue of race**

By Susan White '05





## TALK

**P**astor Richie Butler '93 remembers a particularly heated discussion during a town hall at his church, St. Paul United Methodist in downtown Dallas.

The community event, billed as an opportunity to discuss policing and race relations, took place shortly after a white police officer shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, on a street in Ferguson, Missouri, on Aug. 9, 2014. Butler was St. Paul's new senior pastor, after its merging just a month earlier with Union Cathedral, the nondenominational church he had founded in 2002.

He says the conversation grew fiery among the many members of the community in attendance to speak with then-Dallas Chief of Police David Brown, then-Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins and then-Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez.

"I noticed every negative emotion and energy – division, anger, mistrust, frustration, hate," and many in attendance felt that justice would not be served, he says.

But out of that meeting, Butler says, came a calling from God: to serve as an activist in Dallas race relations, to unite factions on both sides of a fractious issue and to build bridges among people of all colors. That's where Project Unity was born.

Through Project Unity, Butler has galvanized the community around the idea that conversations, not confrontations, will create and sustain relationships among diverse groups. And he has brought the topic to a place where many avoid discussing the issues of politics and religion altogether – the dining table – as well as to a place where differences are put aside during the heat of athletic competition – the basketball court.

"What unites us is greater than what divides us," Butler says.

## HAVING A CONVERSATION

Project Unity has developed various events aimed at helping heal race relationships between law enforcement and Dallas citizens. One of the earliest, "Together We

Ball," is an annual day of family activities for the community culminating in a basketball game between pastors, police officers and community leaders held each August at the P.C. Cobb Stadium in Dallas. The event draws more than 1,500 participants.

"Together We Learn" is a partnership among the Dallas Police Department, the Black Police Association of Greater Dallas, Dallas ISD, the Dallas County Sheriff's Department and others to provide opportunities for teens to interact with law enforcement. Several hundred high school students have lunched with officers and received instructions on how to handle traffic or pedestrian stops.

However, Butler knew he needed broader engagement from the community after five police officers were ambushed and gunned down at a peaceful rally in downtown Dallas in July 2016. The gunman, killed in a standoff with police, was an Army Reserve Afghan War veteran who was angry over police shootings of black citizens and stated that he wanted to kill white people, particularly police officers.

After multiple conversations with faith and community leaders across the city, Butler called for a Year of Unity in 2017. In partnership with white Dallas attorney Rob Crain, then-incoming Dallas Bar Association president, the pair engaged leaders statewide and from organizations, businesses and faith institutions, with former President George W. Bush serving as honorary chair.

Year of Unity rolled out more events with "Together We Heal," a day of activities at the American Airlines Center that honored the fallen officers. A Year of Unity Choir was created with more than 100 diverse voices, and the group performed at the 2017 State Fair of Texas and at a benefit for Hurricane Harvey victims.

The signature event from Year of Unity, one that is close to Butler's heart, is "Together We Dine." The project is a series of safe conversations about race over dinner. At tables of six to eight diners and a facilitator, they answer questions about race while others at the table listen. After everyone answers the question, the table opens for discussion.

Highland Park United Methodist Church hosted a "Together We Dine" in December.

**(UNITY ADVOCATE)** Pastor Richie Butler '93 mingles with students (above) from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, across the street from St. Paul United Methodist Church, on "Walkover Wednesdays." The church provides snacks and sodas for students, who take advantage of the afternoon break in their busy schedules.

**(LEFT)** At an Easter on the Bridge event, held annually for the community at the Ron Kirk Pedestrian Bridge, Butler engages with former council member Monica Alonzo, former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and several members of the Dallas Police Department, including Senior Corporal Soo Nam and now-retired Sgt. Robert Munoz (far right).

The event has been held by design several times at the church, in majority white and upper-class University Park, to send a message, Butler says, because it is an area where people of color perceive they are not welcome.

Dozens of members from the church have participated in “Together We Dine,” which has provided “enlightening experiences for our congregation,” says the Rev. Paul Rasmussen ’04, HPUMC senior pastor and a member of SMU’s Board of Trustees. “Sharing a meal and being in conversation with people from different parts of Dallas, who had different experiences growing up around race and discrimination, was powerful. It reminded me that the more we understand what someone else has lived through, the greater the possibility for connection and relationship, even if opinions differ.”

Some of the diners have continued to participate in small, diverse groups around the topic after dining together to learn more “about the realities of racism in our community in a setting that allows for openness and honesty,” Rasmussen says. Others have taken “Together We Dine” back to their places of employment, where there were racial tensions that aren’t discussed openly.

Butler hopes that individuals at “Together We Dine,” who come from across racial, economic and social spectrums, experience

an epiphanic moment when hearing stories of encounters with racism, just as he did.

He relates his own moment of clarity: A 70ish white man was asked the question, “What was your first encounter with racism?” At the time, Butler says he thought: “How can he speak to that?” But the man went on to recall that when he was a child, his family was driving through West Texas and stopped at a diner to eat. They were served by an African-American waiter, and the little boy said, ‘Thank you, sir.’ His father told him to never say ‘sir’ to a Negro. Even though he was a child, he knew this man was a human being and wondered why couldn’t he say ‘sir’ to another person. The man said he and his siblings spent the rest of their father’s life trying to liberate him from racism.

“I tell this story because it made me realize that race affects us all in different ways,” Butler says. “Views on race are formed at an early age and are deeply rooted in personal experience.”

## SETTING THE GROUNDWORK

Butler was raised by a single mother in a low-income area of East Austin. He attended a Baptist church and excelled in athletics, which led to a scholarship to play football at SMU in 1989, when the football program was being revived after a two-year ban because of sanctions (known as the “death penalty”) imposed by the

NCAA for recruiting violations. He was recruited out of high school to play defensive back by the late SMU alumnus and pro football great Forrest Gregg ’55, whom Butler still considers a mentor.

“He was good man who modeled hard work, discipline and focus, and didn’t allow us to settle for second-rate,” Butler recalls. “Even though the odds were stacked against us (the team went 2-9 in 1989), win, lose or draw, we were to fight, to give our best effort and not back down.”

Other mentors for the double major in psychology and religious studies included Clarence Glover, who taught the course “Black and White”; history Professor Kenneth Hamilton; law Professor C. Paul Rogers III, who has served as the SMU faculty athletics representative since 1987; and religious studies Associate Professor Richard Cogley. He also interned with then-Congressman Martin Frost (D-Texas) in Washington, D.C. “I found people who saw potential and took an interest in my development,” Butler says. “They encouraged me to push forward, to be all that God wants me to be.”

Butler says his SMU experience helped shape who he is today. “I learned how to think critically and reflect on the information I was receiving, rather than just memorize and regurgitate facts. At SMU I was exposed to a world different from my working-class upbringing in East Austin.”



“It’s hard to demonize the ‘other’ when you have a relationship with them, when you see them as a human being.”

— RICHIE BUTLER

**(HAVING A CONVERSATION)** Butler leads a “Together We Dine” session at Highland Park United Methodist Church.



# “The more we understand what someone else has lived through, the greater the possibility for connection and relationship.”

—REV. PAUL RASMUSSEN '04

While a member of the football team, Butler reached out to other student-athletes around the Southwest Conference (of which SMU was a member at the time) to launch initiatives to help improve opportunities for them, and he lobbied the SMU Student Senate to create a seat for a student-athlete representative. “Activism is in my blood, and SMU helps foster that by directing students’ energies in a productive way toward improving the community,” he says.

Butler continues that activism today, and gives back to his alma mater by serving on the SMU Board of Trustees and Dedman College Executive Board, as well as on the Communities Foundation of Texas board of trustees, the Dallas Assembly and the Real Estate Executive Council. He has received numerous awards for his efforts on behalf of racial reconciliation, including SMU’s Emerging Leader Award in 2008; the 2018 Silver Anniversary Mustang Award; the Dallas Bar Association 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Award; Dallas Business Journal’s 2018 Minority Business Leader honoree; and the 2019 Juanita Craft Humanitarian Awards Visionary recipient, among others.

While at SMU, Butler established life-long relationships and networks among his classmates, including his wife, whom he met as a freshman. Neisha Strambler-Butler '93, vice president of compensation and benefits at American Airlines, serves on the advisory board of directors for Project Unity. Butler credits her with keeping him balanced.

“God brings people into our lives for a

reason. She recognizes my calling and cares deeply about social ills in society and how to make them right. She’s a brilliant woman, and I leverage her knowledge and experience with American Airlines for social good. We are partners in ministry together,” he says.

Former classmate Paige Dawson '94, founder and president of MPD Ventures in Dallas, provides marketing and communications pro bono for Project Unity. She and Butler met while living across from each other in Shuttles Hall. When she read in the newspaper about Butler’s work with Project Unity, she reached out to reconnect.

“A great community builder and fundraiser, Richie has that rare ability to get people to say yes, so naturally my firm joined on to support the mission and raise awareness,” Dawson says. She also has served as a host for several “Together We Dine” tables. “At every one there has been some poignant statement or example from a minority attendee that has literally left me stunned at what people still experience.”

## A SHEPHERD’S MISSION

Butler knew he had a calling to preach as an undergraduate, even preaching on occasion while in school. He earned his Master of Theological Studies from Harvard in 1996. When he moved back to Dallas in 1998, he put together his first real estate development deal in South Dallas called Unity Estates, a planned community of 285 single-family homes sponsored by the 70-member African-American Pastors’ Coalition.

For Butler, the merging of the non-

denominational Union Cathedral with St. Paul United Methodist Church in 2014 was a match directed by God because Union Cathedral was in search of a home, and St. Paul, a 145-year-old church, was in need of new members to infuse life among its aging congregation. The location was perfect, Butler says, because the church sits in the center of the city and is “strategically positioned to be an active voice in social change because of our geographic footprint.”

Butler chooses to go by “pastor” rather than the traditional “reverend” because the invocation of the shepherd brings him joy and affirmation, he says. “There’s a greater level of responsibility that goes along with being someone’s pastor.”

He contends that if African Americans could have solved the issue of racism, it would have been done a long time ago. “I believe there is a silent majority of people who care about the issue of race, but don’t know how to start or where to engage. We need our white brothers and sisters at the table with us if we’re to be on common ground. I don’t believe our political leaders will lead us on this issue. We have to lead them.”

And he takes comfort in the knowledge that he is making a difference for his two children and their generation through his efforts to bring diverse groups together.

Charlene Edwards '95, another classmate of Butler’s, holds out that hope for transformative relationships, as well. She became involved with Project Unity in 2017 when he was seeking program and event planning support to launch the Year of Unity, because she was compelled by Butler’s vision to bridge the divide between Dallas citizens and law enforcement.

Early on, she observed at “Together We Ball” events the “camaraderie among the different groups as they came together,” she says. “People’s lives, perceptions and actions are changed. They think before they say something that might be offensive, learn to become more compassionate about others.”

Adds Butler: “It’s hard to demonize the ‘other’ when you have a relationship with them, when you see them as a human being.”



**A** young woman carrying a backpack walked into the Fairmont Dallas bar, sat next to Ashlee Hunt Kleinert '88 and her husband, Chris '88, and ordered a glass of water. In her cutoff overalls and tank top, she stood out in the crowd of suits and cocktail attire. The Kleinerts, who were at the downtown hotel for a social event, thought she looked too young to sit at the bar. They guessed she was about 17 or 18.

More conspicuous, though, was the young woman's trembling discomfort. "She was constantly looking over her shoulder, scanning the room and scraping her nails along the bar's surface," Kleinert remembers. "She seemed terrified."

Kleinert, a longtime volunteer with New Friends New Life, a faith-based Dallas nonprofit offering a comprehensive program for human trafficking survivors, recognized the behavior of a young woman being exploited.

"Her pimp likely sat among the patrons, keeping watch while she waited to join a john in a hotel room," Kleinert says.

When her husband suggested passing along a note about New Friends and the phone number, Kleinert hesitated. Through her volunteer work, she knew that if the pimp were watching, such contact could put the trafficking victim in peril. Torn by the possible ramifications of their intervention, the couple decided not to risk placing her life in jeopardy. Eventually she walked out of the bar

**"Everyone can be part of the turnaround."**

**—ASHLEE HUNT KLEINERT '88**

alone, leaving the Kleinerts with a new perspective on a growing problem that has been termed a global epidemic.

That experience six years ago became their "paradigm shift," Kleinert says. The real-time glimpse into the darkness amplified her understanding of the women she had met at New Friends, who were rebuilding their lives with the help of counseling, support groups, education and job training.

"It made us sick when we didn't know what to do," she says. "We've never forgotten her."

Kleinert first got involved with New Friends through her mother. Nancy Ann Hunter Hunt '65 co-founded New Friends New Life in 1998 with civic leaders Pat Schenkel and Gail Turner, wife of SMU President R. Gerald Turner. Over the past decade of volunteering with the nonprofit, she has spent time with survivors as she assisted with meals and childcare and listened to their stories. On her own, she has devoured grim statistics about the international criminal scourge that affects millions worldwide.

She has learned a lot about human trafficking, maybe more than she ever wanted to know. On a topic that can be awkward – or even dangerous – to broach in public, Kleinert has become a vocal advocate for victims.

## WALK THE TALK

Creating a community that is welcoming to people from all walks of life starts with frank discussions about thorny topics. Since her student days, Kleinert has appreciated the freedom that SMU provides to explore and discuss crucial issues – when she was a student, when her children were students and today. "SMU students now have such high awareness and regard for human rights issues," she says.

She graduated with a B.A. in history from SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. One of her favorite professor was the late Glenn Linden, a revered historian.

"It touched me, the way he portrayed history as the lives of real people whom we could learn from," she says. "Through-out history, individuals have made a

difference by speaking up – and they still do now."

Ashlee and Chris Kleinert were involved with New Friends as their three children were growing up. However, like most kids, it took them a while to recognize their parents' wisdom.

Their oldest son, Tyler Kleinert '14, '15, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in sport management from SMU and serves as managing director of The Tritex Group, a startup venture firm focused on entrepreneurial and civic initiatives. The group's enterprises include Baldo's Ice Cream & Coffee, a popular artisanal ice cream shop located across from campus on Hillcrest Avenue. An undergraduate economics class taught by Beth Wheaton opened his eyes to the magnitude of the trafficking problem. Wheaton is a senior lecturer of economics in the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences who studies the economics of human trafficking.

"He told me, 'You're right, Mom, it's happening,'" Kleinert recalls about her son's epiphany. She applauds that "interesting and genius approach" to helping young people grasp the issue through the lens of its everyday economic impact.

Daughter Connie Kleinert Babikian '12, a senior finance analyst for Hunt Oil Company, holds bachelor's degrees in finance and economics from SMU and volunteers with New Friends New Life. She served as chair of its 20th anniversary recognition luncheon in 2018.

Their younger son, Travis "T.J." Kleinert '16, was motivated by his interest in human rights to pursue a law degree at SMU Dedman School of Law. Now a third-year student, he has provided pro bono legal services for the Genesis Women's Shelter and Support legal aid program, assisting women with restraining orders and custody rights. He also has volunteered as a children's activity director at Genesis as well as at St. Philip's School and Community Center in Dallas.

## A HUGE HUMAN COST

Kleinert continues a family legacy of taking action where there is need. Her parents, Nancy Ann and Ray L. Hunt '65, established the Judge B. Elmo Hunter





# HARD



# TO

## Ashlee Hunt Kleinert '88 shines a light on the tough topic of sex trafficking

**(VOCAL ADVOCATE)** Ashlee Hunt Kleinert '88 spreads the word about how to recognize and fight the trafficking of women and children.

By Cherri Gann '15

# SAVE

Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women at SMU Dedman School of Law in 2014 (see page 23). The Center is named in honor of Kleinert's maternal grandfather, a distinguished legal mind and public servant who served as a judge in Western Missouri for 38 years. New Friends New Life refers clients to the clinic, whose services include helping trafficking survivors clear their criminal records.

"Watching the previous generation do something about an issue fosters a feeling of responsibility to pass forward that hands-on, caring style," Kleinert says.

The work of the Hunter Center and New Friends is more important than ever. The Polaris Project, a nonprofit organization that operates the National Human Trafficking Hotline, describes sex trafficking as modern-day slavery. Traffickers prey on the vulnerable. They groom victims by creating dependency, often providing clothing, food, lodging and emotional support. Once they have established trust, they pressure or coerce victims into prostitution.

Traffickers are always on the prowl for new victims. They often approach runaway teens within their first 48 hours on the street, according to the Dallas Police Department.

The sex trade is big business in Texas. A recent study ranks the state as second in the nation, between California and Florida, for trafficking activity. In Dallas, sex trafficking is a \$99 million a year illicit industry, according to a 2014 report funded by the National Institute of Justice.

Addiction, domestic violence, homelessness and other social ills foster the feeling of powerlessness and vulnerability that traffickers home in on, Kleinert says. Once the victim becomes dependent, "a pimp will say, 'I've been taking care of you, and now I need you to help me,'" she says.

She points out that sex trafficking can be more lucrative and less risky than drug trafficking, which carries stiffer criminal penalties in Texas. A person can be sold 10 times per night compared to the one-time sale of cocaine or heroin, Kleinert explains. Also, today's technol-

ogy makes it easy for johns to remain anonymous. They can select their victims and pay in cash through websites and mobile apps.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline ranks Dallas as No. 2 in the state for trafficking activity – a stain on the city, as far as Kleinert is concerned. She worries about Dallas becoming defined by it.

"Trafficking is evil," she says. "A perpetrator sells human beings like commodities and eventually discards them like trash."

## CANDID CONVERSATIONS

While the topic of sex trafficking can be a conversation killer, it's too important to avoid. Dodging it doesn't mean the problem doesn't exist, Kleinert says. "Sex trafficking thrives in the dark," she says. "Awareness, education and dialogue light the path to stop it."

She embraces opportunities to talk about New Friends New Life's restorative programs and encourage the public to become involved. However, she's careful to assess her audience first.

"I've learned to gauge interest in how much they want to know," she says.

More often than not, people want to learn about the crime that hides in plain sight, she says. To engage as many people as possible in their efforts, New Friends created a men's auxiliary in 2015, the Men's Advocacy Group. Chris Kleinert served as the organization's inaugural chair.

The group spells out its mission as mobilizing men "to take action against sex trafficking and exploitation by raising awareness through advocacy, education and volunteerism." A key component of its educational focus is the manKINDness Project, an interactive learning curriculum aimed at teens and young men. It's designed to challenge masculinity myths and nurture respect for females and one another. MAG volunteers lead young men to connect the ways demeaning language, including obscene comments and jokes, attitudes and behaviors contribute to an environment where sex trafficking is ignored or tolerated.

Ongoing communication with state lawmakers is another crucial conduit for opening eyes to the problem and hearts to change. Kleinert and fellow New Friends volunteers actively support legislation that penalizes sex trade consumers and protects its survivors. Thanks to this steady discourse, the laws are catching up, she says.

After the state's 86th legislative session last year, two bills that help sex trafficking survivors were signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott at the New Friends New Life Youth Resource Center. Senate Bill 20 enhances tools to fight online sex trafficking, increases the penalties for buyers and creates a process for victims to clear their criminal records of certain offenses committed solely as a victim of trafficking. House Bill 2613 makes it a crime to operate a stash house for prostitution or human trafficking and allows law enforcement agencies to use money from asset forfeiture of contraband from a stash house to help trafficking survivors. The laws took effect on September 1, 2019.

## CALL TO ACTION

Last year, Kleinert partnered her popular Ruthie's Rolling Café food trucks with Dallas' Café Momentum, a nonprofit that works with at-risk youth, many of whom are homeless and vulnerable to traffickers. Graduates from that organization's culinary training program can secure paid externships on the food trucks. "We talk about signs of human trafficking with our employees," she said. "Unfortunately some of these kids have been on the inside of it."

Sex trafficking happens everywhere and touches all parts of society, Kleinert says. "It's hard not to see trafficking, once you know the signs."

A case in point: Kleinert contacted authorities after observing a suspicious situation at a Dallas-area business park where the Ruthie's business offices were located in 2011. She reported an uptick in parking lot traffic and a sudden surge of men frequenting a neighboring office space. After a period of surveillance, law enforcement shut down what was, indeed, a trafficking operation.



# HUNTER LEGAL CLINIC HELPS SURVIVORS WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN

To raise awareness, New Friends New Life and the Men's Advocacy Group sponsor a free monthly bus tour guided by representatives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Participants observe telltale signs of human trafficking and exploitation while learning about real cases worked by Dallas law enforcement.

Kleinert advocates bringing as many people as possible, especially those who regularly deal with the public, into the conversation. Electricians, plumbers and other trades professionals can be trained to spot red flags, such as a private residence housing an unusual number of young women.

In recent years, flight attendants have made headlines by spotting teens being trafficked, which points to the importance of training those in the airline, transportation and hospitality industries to learn the signs and join the fight.

"Everyone can be part of the turnaround," Kleinert says.

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**(FAMILY PROJECT)** Ashlee and her husband, Chris Kleinert '88, at SMU's The Big Event last spring.



**In 2015, Robbie Hamilton turned to SMU's Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women for help in cleaning up the criminal record she acquired over 25 years of working in Dallas strip clubs, battling drug addiction and experiencing repeated arrests for drug possession.**

On January 11, 2020, on Human Trafficking Awareness Day, she was issued a full pardon by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott after a unanimous vote by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. The pardon wiped away convictions for petty crimes that were the final trace of a dark era in her life.

"I'm humbled and thrilled with this. It seems like the beginning of something bigger," says Hamilton, a youth mentor and survivor advocate at New Friends New Life, the Dallas-based nonprofit that offers a comprehensive program for formerly trafficked women and children.

The Hunter Legal Center, established in 2014 with a gift from alumni Ray L. '65 and Nancy Ann Hunter Hunt '65, is named in honor of Mrs. Hunt's father, a distinguished judicial leader and public servant who served as a judge in Western Missouri for 38 years. The clinic's services include helping trafficking survivors

determine whether their criminal record convictions can be cleared either by order of nondisclosure or expungement. As public information, criminal records appear on housing, employment and other background checks and get in the way when victims try to rebuild their lives.

"Since its founding, the Hunter Center has worked to ensure that survivors of human

trafficking do not carry the burden of criminal convictions resulting from their victimization," Nanasi says.

For about four years, Hamilton worked with Natalie Nanasi, director of the Hunter Legal Center and assistant professor of law, and student attorneys who filed legal petitions to seal or expunge five convictions from her record, including three of her four felonies. In 2017, student attorneys began using the web-based Texas Fresh Start Application, a legal app developed by Dedman School of Law students to streamline the process.

"We have successfully represented many clients like Robbie and celebrate this hard-earned victory," Nanasi says. "We will continue representing survivors, removing hurdles that inhibit their ability to move past the trauma they endured."

Student attorneys in the Hunter Legal Center also engage in advocacy efforts, educating Texas lawmakers about the need to expand eligibility for post-conviction relief. "We will keep speaking out about this important issue," Nanasi says. "And joining with partners, advocates and lawmakers to ensure that criminal histories cease to be a barrier to survivors' healing."

For Hamilton, the pardon vindicates her own hard work and the persistence of her legal team and New Friends colleagues. "This feels like being part of a shift toward seeing that women are the victims in trafficking and exploitation, not the criminals," she says.

Now free to live wherever she likes, Hamilton plans to find a new apartment. She also wants to join a Dallas-based ministry that assists the homeless – an opportunity previously barred by her criminal record.

"I'm holding my head up higher," she says. "I can look the world in the eye and know I have every opportunity that others do."

— Cherri Gann '15





SO



MUCH

IN



COMMUNITY





**I**n 2014, SMU transformed campus living with the Residential Commons. Now students say there's no place like home on the Hilltop.

"The best thing about the Residential Commons is that it instantly connects you with other students," says Alvaro Flores '23, a double major in political science and economics. "Your neighbors will become some of your closest friends who will support and help you through the year."

The living-learning community was launched five years ago with new residential buildings and a dining hall made possible by these SMU families and their future-focused investments:

#### **ARMSTRONG COMMONS**

Bill Armstrong '82 and Liz Martin Armstrong '82  
and The Armstrong Foundation

#### **ARNOLD DINING COMMONS**

Anita Ray Arnold and Truman Arnold

#### **CROW COMMONS**

Harlan R. Crow and Katherine Raymond Crow '94

#### **CRUM COMMONS**

Gary T. Crum '69 and Sylvie P. Crum

#### **LOYD COMMONS**

Paul B. Loyd, Jr. '68 and Penny R. Loyd

#### **WARE COMMONS**

Richard Ware '68 and Family



To complete the plan, six long-established residential halls were renovated to align with the Commons model: Boaz Commons, Cockrell-McIntosh Commons, Mary Hay-Peyton-Shuttles Commons, McElvaney Commons, Morrison-McGinnis Commons and Virginia-Snider Commons.

Over the years, each Commons has developed a unique personality displayed in mottos, crests, special events and more. However, they share the idea that learning happens everywhere. Each Commons has a faculty member living on-site – a Faculty in Residence – and staff who help students make the most of their first two years at SMU, both academically and socially.

Aanika Gupta '22, a double major in health and society and psychology, feels she is connecting to friends for life, thanks to her Commons experience. "I love living in a community that feels like home."



At the dedication on May 9, 2014: (front row, from left) SMU President R. Gerald Turner, Katherine Raymond Crow '94, Liz Martin Armstrong '82, Anita Ray Arnold, Sylvie P. Crum, Penny R. Loyd; (back row, from left) Richard Ware '68, Harlan R. Crow, Bill Armstrong '82, Truman Arnold, Gary T. Crum '69 and Paul B. Loyd, Jr. '68.





# SPEAKING




## Hallie Hovey-Murray '16: A new voice for autism advocacy

By Catherine Womack '08

# UP





“This is not something I choose to be ashamed of anymore.”

— HALLIE HOVEY-MURRAY '16

**H**allie Hovey-Murray '16 is on a mission to make the world a more inclusive, welcoming place.

At just 24 years old, she has already made impressive strides toward accomplishing her goal. In 2019, in addition to graduating from William and Mary Law School, she competed in the Miss Virginia pageant and founded Gordian Partners, LLC, a consulting firm that advises companies, nonprofits and educational institutions on disability inclusion strategy. She did this while also continuing to grow the Autism Success Foundation (a nonprofit she founded last year), studying for the bar exam, and teaching herself ventriloquism.

Why ventriloquism? Because as Miss Commonwealth 2019, Hovey-Murray was in need of a talent she could use to compete in the Miss Virginia pageant and engage young kids during school presentations.

“I’m 6-foot-1, so I know that when I go into schools, I can be a little intimidating

**(ON A MISSION)** Hallie Hovey-Murray says she had to share her own truth before she could discover her life’s mission. She did that, she said, by writing about her autism during her senior year at SMU.





# “[I want to] make it easier for the next young woman



## who starts college with autism.”

— HALLIE HOVEY-MURRAY '16

to the kids,” Hovey-Murray says. “It’s so much easier and so much more fun for them to have that puppet, especially with students who are really shy or may not be verbal.”

Even with her background in theater and the performing arts, she said that learning ventriloquism was one of the hardest things she’s ever done. “Talking with your mouth closed is so challenging, and it takes months to learn how to move your hands the right way,” she says.

But, as her impressive resume and determined personality suggests, Hovey-Murray is not one to shy away from a challenge.

As an undergraduate history major at SMU, Hovey-Murray excelled in and out

of the classroom. She joined a sorority, “dabbled” in athletics as a rower and served as debate and speech president. She honed her critical-thinking skills and gobbled up advice and wisdom from beloved instructors, such as the late professor of history Jeremy deQuesnay Adams.

She thrived, but she also had a secret weighing on her. None of her professors or classmates knew how much she had struggled to get to where she was.

None of them knew she had autism.

Before she could discover her life’s mission and dedicate herself to making the world a more inclusive place, she had to share her own truth. She decided to do so during the final semester of her senior year at SMU.

It was an impulse decision, she says. She was on a deadline for an online article when she decided to use that opportunity to share her story.

“Hi, my name is Hallie and I have autism,” she began the piece.

In the post she explained how as a girl

growing up in Richmond, Virginia, school was not easy for her. She misbehaved in her elementary classrooms, acting out when she was overwhelmed. Before doctors diagnosed her with autism, she was expelled from multiple schools.

“Nobody [at SMU] knew that, and it was kind of my big secret,” she says. “I didn’t want anyone to know because I was very focused on being successful in my career and being able to do things like start a business and go to law school. I was going to be in professions where it’s important to have a good reputation, and I was concerned that autism would be considered this huge insurmountable character flaw.”

At the time, though, the secret weighed on her. So she prayed about what to do. And then she took a leap of faith.

“I wrote that article in about seven minutes,” she says. “It was very freeing in a way, because it was like, OK, this is out there, this is not something I choose to be ashamed of anymore.”

At her father’s suggestion, Hovey-Murray also published the article as an op-ed in her hometown newspaper in Virginia. She says she was overwhelmed by the positive responses she received both in Dallas and Richmond.

“The feedback was really positive, and that inspired me to continue using the small platform I’d been given to speak up about it and try to make it easier for the next young woman who starts college with autism,” she says.

Soon Hovey-Murray was being invited to give speeches and share her story to larger and larger audiences, something she says she was extremely well prepared to do in part because of skills she’d picked up at SMU.

“I’ve had to work so hard to be a good communicator,” she says. “I used to not be good at personal communication, so I made a point to transform myself into the best communicator I could possibly be. And at SMU, my debate coach, Dr. Ben Voth, was wonderful, absolutely wonderful. Doing public debates at SMU really gave me the tools that I needed to be successful as a speaker and presenter.”

Hovey-Murray likes to point out that she is not alone – around one in five Americans has a disability of some sort,



according to the Census Bureau.

“So this is a large percentage of the population that we’re leaving behind,” she says. “How do we really make sure that we have inclusive workplaces so that everyone is able to contribute, everyone is able to fulfill their potential?”

As she builds both her nonprofit and her consulting company, Hovey-Murray says she sees the work she does as uplifting everyone, not just people with autism or another disability.

“I truly believe there’s a space for everyone in our society,” she says. “I believe that having an inclusive society for every individual benefits us all.”

Hovey-Murray could have kept her secret. She could have succeeded in business or law without sharing her story. But because she took that step, more high school students with autism are receiving resources they desperately need; more companies and nonprofits are implementing more inclusive policies; and kids who feel like outsiders are connecting through puppets, being wowed by ventriloquism and finding inspiration in a role model who is living her truth.



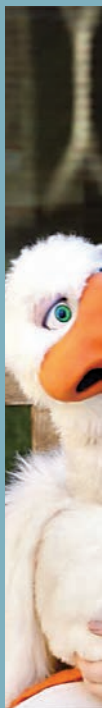
**(SETTING THE STAGE)** Hovey-Murray '16 stands in the McGlothlin Courtroom at the College of William & Mary in Virginia, where she attended law school. Hovey-Murray founded Gordian Partners, LLC, a consulting firm that advises companies, nonprofits and educational institutions on disability inclusion strategy.

**(CROWNING MOMENT)** Hovey-Murray, who has won several pageants, was named Miss Commonwealth 2019.



“An inclusive society  
for every individual  
benefits us all.”

— HALLIE HOVEY-MURRAY '16





# Up Close With The SMU Alumni Board And Young Alumni Board



SMU Alumni Board



SMU Young Alumni Board

**ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERSHIP** is open to all alumni through an application and nominations process. If you have questions, email [smualum@smu.edu](mailto:smualum@smu.edu). Self-nominations are due December 31.

**LEARN MORE:** [smu.edu/alumni](http://smu.edu/alumni)

**What is your favorite SMU tradition?** Did you have a favorite dish as a student? Think of your answers, then enjoy reading the responses to these and other questions shared recently by some members of the SMU Alumni Board and Young Alumni Board.

**Q. What was your go-to meal as a student?**

*Brenda Myers Brown '70, '77, Dallas, TX:* The yummy food in our on-campus cafeterias

*Carol Hallene King '76, Bethesda, MD:* In our room, tomato soup with cheese

*Billy Hightower II '14, San Francisco, CA:* Chick-fil-A, Pizza Hut and Torchy's Tacos

*Katelyn Hall '15, Dallas, TX:* Digg's Taco Shop hamburger

**Q. Complete this sentence: "If it weren't for SMU, ..."**

*Jennie Koets Nance '90, Atlanta, GA:* I simply would not be the person I am today. My closest and dearest friends are still my SMU friends. My first jobs out of college in Washington, D.C., occurred because of my school internships and my SMU colleagues, and my career grew out of my experiences and skill sets that SMU helped me develop. As much as I enjoyed my college years, the continued connections in the decades since have been just as rewarding.

**Q. What is your favorite SMU tradition?**

*Carol Hallene King '76, Bethesda, MD:* Football games and seeing Peruna run the field

*Bridget Brandon '84 Argyle, TX:* Greek life at SMU

*Geoffrey R. Small '86, Southlake, TX:* SMU Football and Celebration of Lights

*Bora Laci '13, Richardson, TX:* Celebration of Lights

*Billy Hightower II '14, San Francisco, CA:* Boulevarding

*Katelyn Hall '15, Dallas, TX:* Being a part of the MOB in SMU basketball's student section and cheering on the Mustangs

**Q. Why do you choose to give back to SMU?**

*Jordan Kragen '12, Dallas, TX:* After being involved as a student, it was natural for me to continue on the Young Alumni Board.

*Geoffrey R. Small '86 Southlake, TX:* SMU's impact on my life, then and now, is incomparable and giving back to SMU – first as an alum and now as current parents (three times over!), was an opportunity that I/we just couldn't miss.

*Billy Hightower II '14, San Francisco, CA:* The opportunity to give back to the campus that helped me get where I am, impact other potentials students and be a voice from a demographic that doesn't traditionally attend SMU.





## 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 2020 issue is **June 12, 2020.**

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**54**


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Dr. **Robert H. Dennard** (M.S.E. '56) received the Robert N. Noyce Award, the highest honor given by the Semiconductor Industry Association recognizing outstanding leaders in the field.

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**59**


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**Joan Jacobs Baker** joined fellow Mustangs **Norton Baker '59 L.L.B.**, **Beverly Young Lightbourn Herrscher '60**, **Rick Herrscher '58**, **Sally Kay Davis '56** and **Dick Davis '58 L.L.B.** for an impromptu reunion in Carmel, California, in August.

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**60**


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**Bess Fraser Enloe** received the 2019-20 Sustainer of the Year Award from the Junior League of Dallas. She is a member of the Meadows School Executive Board, and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU in 2015.

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**63**


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**Michael M. Boone** (J.D. '67), co-founder of law firm Haynes and Boone, LLP, was recognized by his hometown alma mater when the Highland Park ISD named its newest elementary school in his honor. Boone is a member of SMU's Board of Trustees, serving as chair in 2014-18. He is the current chair of Dedman Law's Executive Board. Boone's SMU accolades

include the Dedman Law Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991; SMU Distinguished Alumni Award in 1996; Cox School Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006 and the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award in 2008.

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**64**


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**Elisse Jones Freeman** received the 2019 Foundation for Fraternal Excellence Outstanding Volunteer Award for her lifetime commitment to Alpha Delta Pi and the ADPi Foundation.

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**66**


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**Fred B. Hegi**, **Jan Vestal Hegi '66** and their family, including daughter-in-law **Amy Davis Hegi '95**, received the 2019 Flora Award from the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park in Dallas. The honor recognizes outstanding citizens who have demonstrated a commitment to community service, education and the advancement of the environment and quality of life. The Hegis are dedicated supporters of numerous Dallas-area organizations. Fred Hegi serves on the SMU Board of Trustees. He was named a Cox Distinguished Alumni in 2007 and an SMU Distinguished Alumni in 2009. In 2001, the family provided the lead gift for a \$3 million endowment and expansion of the SMU Hegi Family Career Development Center. **Mary Elizabeth Moore** (M.A. '67) retired as dean of Boston University School of Theology, a post she had held since 2009.

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**67**


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**Roy H. May** (M.T.S. '70) spoke on behalf of the Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance. For 30 years he taught theology and ethics at the Latin American Biblical University in San Jose, Costa Rica.

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**68**


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**Laura W. Bush**, former first lady and member of SMU's Board of Trustees, was the opening speaker at the Guilford College Bryan Series in Greensboro, North Carolina.

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**69**


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**Delilah Boyd** (M.L.A. '70, J.D. '92) was among the 10 Best Dressed at the annual Crystal Charity Ball Fashion Show and Luncheon in Dallas. **Mary Brinegar**, who has served as Dallas Arboretum president and CEO for more than 20 years, was presented with its 2019 Honorary AIA Membership by the Texas Society of Architects in October.

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**70**


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**Allen B. Clark** has published his third book, *Soldiers' Blood and Bloodied Money*. As a double-leg amputee from the Vietnam War, he is a student of the history of warfare and consequent casualties.

**Nancy McIlveen Jackson** owns the Na'Kayshions Wedding and Event Center in Cedar Hill, Texas, which celebrated its 12th anniversary in business last summer. **Joe White**, founder of Kids Across America and president of Kanakuk Kamps, has received the 2019 Missourian Award, which acknowledges the most accomplished citizens of Missouri for their local, regional and national impact. He is a national speaker and the author of more than 20 books about leadership, faith training and navigating the struggles of everyday life.

71

**Leslie Mueller**, award-winning artist and producer, created and hosts the 30-minute TV series *Museum Access*, airing on PBS stations nationwide as well as on Amazon Prime. She takes viewers behind the scenes at some of the country's best museums, focusing on an intersection of entertainment and education. **Gerald Olson** published *Money, Morality and Law: A Case for Financial Crisis Accountability*. He holds a J.D. degree from SMU.

72

**Gary Hammond** was inducted into the Southwest Conference Hall of Fame. A former Mustang football standout from 1969-72, Hammond's NFL career spanned six years, during which he played for the New York Jets and the St. Louis (now Arizona) Cardinals. He is the senior vice president for office leasing at Sabre Realty Management, and lives in North Texas with his wife, **Beverly Kuck Hammond '72**. The couple have three daughters and 10 grandchildren. **Gail Norfleet** is a Dallas artist whose fifth solo exhibition of her work was held November 2-December 7 at the Valley House Gallery. **Gillian Triggs** was appointed assistant secretary-general to serve as the assistant high commissioner for protection in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She is a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia, vice-chancellor's fellow at the University of Melbourne, president of the Asian Development Bank Administrative Tribunal, and also holds several other prominent appointments. Triggs holds a Master of Laws degree from Dedman Law.

75

Dr. **David A. Fullerton** leads the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He also holds the John T.M. Wright Endowed Chair in Heart Valve Surgery. **Patsy Morriss** and **Donald Morriss '76** received the Spirit of Texas A&M-Texarkana Award to honor their support of the university's mission to prepare students for leadership and service. Donald is the president of F.W. Offenhauser and Co. Patsy is a community leader, serving on the boards of several nonprofit organizations. **Edward Rust, Jr.** received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Illinois Wesleyan University, his undergraduate alma mater. Rust, who holds J.D. and M.B.A. degrees from SMU, is the retired CEO of State Farm Insurance Co. He serves on the boards of Illinois Wesleyan University, Caterpillar, Inc., S&P Global and Helmerick and Payne, Inc.

76

**John U. Clarke** joined the board of directors for Thermon Group Holdings, Inc. Clarke is a partner of Dallas-based Turnbridge Capital, LLC. **Tim Wallace**, CEO of Dallas-based Trinity Industries, Inc., was included among *D CEO* magazine's Dallas 500 edition, which celebrates the most influential business leaders in North Texas. Wallace is the third generation to lead the company that was founded in the 1930s by his great uncle.

77

**Richard Green**, chairman and CEO of Firsttrust Bank, is the third generation to lead the family business started by his grandfather in 1934. Green was featured recently in Philadelphia's *Main Line* magazine for continuing the legacy of customer and community service. See his story at [mainlinetoday.com](http://mainlinetoday.com). **Peter Lodwick** (J.D. '80) was elected the 100th president of the Salesmanship Club of Dallas, a nonprofit dedicated to building and repairing emotional health through the programs of Momentous Institute. Lodwick is managing director and general counsel of RGT



## Class of 1970 50-YEAR REUNION MAY 15-16, 2020

Save the date for a once-in-a-lifetime reunion weekend experience!

This spring celebration coincides with SMU's 105th Commencement and highlights your many achievements since graduation.

Visit [smu.edu/50years](http://smu.edu/50years) for more information, including details about joining your reunion committee.

Look for your invitation in your mailbox this spring.

Questions? Call 214-768-9327 or email [reunionyear@smu.edu](mailto:reunionyear@smu.edu).



Wealth Advisors. **Laura Hensley Smith** received the Outstanding Lawyer Award from the Arkansas Bar Foundation and Arkansas Bar Association in June for excellence in the practice of law and outstanding contributions to the profession. She is an attorney with Eldredge & Clark, LLP in Little Rock.

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## 78

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**Mary Alice McSwain Ahlgren** completed a half marathon on all seven continents as a member of the Seven Continents Club. This will place her 44th on the worldwide Finishers List for women. **Trevor Rees-Jones** received the Lifetime Achievement Award as part of *D CEO* magazine's 2019 Oil and Gas Awards program. The Dedman Law alumnus is the founder and CEO of Dallas-based Chief Oil and Gas, LLC. He received the L. Frank Pitts Energy Leadership Award from the Maguire Energy Institute at the Cox School in 2017. The Very Rev. **Mark E. Wedig**, O.P., Ph.D., was installed as the 10<sup>th</sup> president of Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis on September 14. He previously served as associate dean for graduate studies, College of Arts and Sciences, and professor of theology in the Department of Theology and Philosophy at Barry University in Miami, Fla. Wedig is a Dominican Friar of the Province of St. Martin de Porres (Southern Province).

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## 79

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**Robert W. Dudley** retired this year as CEO of BP, a position he had held since 2010. Dudley, who holds an M.B.A. from SMU, worked at BP for two decades. **Lisa Fine**, a fabric designer and owner of Lisa Fine Textiles, published *Near & Far: Interiors I Love*. Her creations have been featured in several home decor publications, including *House Beautiful*, *Milieu*, *Elle Décor*, *Veranda* and more. **R. Lamar Haynes** was interviewed for *The Last Stand of Payne Stewart: The Year Golf Changed Forever*, a new book chronicling the last year in the life of the legendary golfer. Haynes was a friend and former SMU golf teammate of Stewart, who died in 1999. **Keith D. Jackson** was elected chair of

# Nicolás González '16: Evolution Of A Young Artist

The exhibition, *A Path Less Taken or El Camino Menos Tomado*, was the first one-person show for Dallas native Nicolás González (B.F.A. '16), on display in spring 2019 at Deep Ellum's Umbrella Gallery. González' art, a culmination of his work from the previous 11 years, displayed a range of emotions, moving from aggressive to ambiguous to pensive, a metaphor, perhaps, for the evolution of González as an artist.

And it was Meadows School of the Arts faculty and alumni who helped González hone his vision for the artist he has become today. When he enrolled in his first art class at Brookhaven College in 2009, he butted heads with his first art professor – and now mentor – Chong Chu '82, also an SMU art alumnus. "I really wasn't that interested in fine art and had never stepped foot in a museum. Chong encouraged me to take one of his painting courses. There, I discovered I was a natural painter and fell in love with the medium."

By 2014 he had earned his associate's degree and transferred to the Meadows School that fall on a full scholarship. The intimacy of SMU's art program enabled González to work closely with a number of the program's faculty, who encouraged him to take his painting in new directions.

While at SMU González also pursued work in the community through an Engaged Learning Fellowship and a Maguire Public Service Fellowship. In 2015, he collaborated with now Professor Emerita of Art History Janis Bergman-Carton to create and manage a summer program for children at Pike Park Rec Center, now named Santos Rodriguez Center.

González says he considers receiving the inaugural Mary Vernon Painting Prize in 2016 an inspiration boost for his career. Vernon, now professor emerita of art, told him it was time "to transcend from an art student into an emerging artist, and to invest in my passion and time with painting materials that are rich in pigment and surfaces that are delicate to the touch. She said, 'Let the world know that you are a painter, a serious painter, who knows how to paint.' When I received the Prize, it enabled me to purchase some higher-quality painting supplies .... Through these specific materials, my abilities as a painter have greatly expanded, and allowed me to have a better understanding that the quality of the painting surface and the type of paint are very important."

Today, González is working on creating and submitting an idea to the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs for a public artwork focused on the memory of Santos Rodriguez, a young boy shot and killed by a Dallas police officer in 1973. The project is a collaboration between González and three additional artists/fraternity brothers of Sigma Lambda Beta, with whom he co-owns the online Gallery 86.



Dallas artist Nicolás González '16

the Semiconductor Industry Association Board of Directors. He is the president, CEO and director of ON Semiconductor in Washington, D.C. **Idalene Kesner**, dean at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, was recently profiled in a Dean's Q&A column at *Poets and Quants for Undergrads* about her path to higher education.

## 80

**Robert H. Dedman, Jr.** (J.D. '84) received the 2019 Historic Hotels of America Steward of History and Historic Preservation Award from Historic Hotels of America. He serves as chair of SMU's Board of Trustees. **Marcy Gregg**, a Charlotte, N.C.-based artist, exhibited her solo collection *Standing Still* at the Anne Neilson Fine Art Gallery. Gregg's abstract paintings spring from a love of color and line. Learn more at [marcygreggart.com](http://marcygreggart.com). **Thomas G. Gresham** became president of the Delta Council, an economic development organization serving Northwest Mississippi. He is also the president of the convenience store chain Double Quick, Inc. **William L. Hutchinson** appeared on the Lifetime network's *Marrying Millions*. **George W. Jones** received a Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater Pekin Community High School in Pekin, Ill. Jones spent his career in Texas, serving as the director of Visual and Performing Arts at Garland ISD for more than two decades until his retirement in 2018. He is a recipient of the Texas Music Educators Conference Music Administrator of the Year Award and the Lifetime Music Administrators Achievement Award from the Texas Bandmasters Association. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Richardson Arts Alliance after serving as the community band conductor for 34 years. **Brad Kisner** and **Jane Collins Kisner '83** retired in June after more than 24 years as directors of music, worship and arts at First United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi. The 2015 recipients of the Soli Deo Gloria award from Perkins School of Theology, the couple continue their volunteer work while Brad continues as an adjunct professor of music at Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.

## 81

**Utpal K. Goswami** was named president of Santa Barbara City College. He was president of MCC-Longview in the Metropolitan Community College district in Kansas City, Mo. **Louis Weinzalbaum** joined Old Second National Bank in Chicago as its group market president and senior managing director. He is responsible for developing and growing commercial banking business and leading the professional services practice. **Cynthia LaFavre Yorks** published the novel *The Side Door*.

## 82

**Gary Goss** joined Barry Slatt Mortgage as senior vice president in the firm's San Diego office. **James Hildreth** performed a concert at Ohio Wesleyan University to showcase its new Rexford Keller Memorial Organ. Hildreth is an instructor in the university's Department of Music, and also plays the organ for Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Broad Street Presbyterian Church.

## 83

**Teresa Garrett** was named director of the Greater Lake Area Chorale, in Lake Ozark, Mo. Ambassador **Antonio Garza, Jr.** joined the Board of Directors for the *Texas Tribune* media company. Garza serves on SMU's Board of Trustees and serves as counsel in the Mexico City office of White and Case, LLP. He received SMU's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007 and the Dedman Law Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001. **Elizabeth Hixon Kerr** was sworn in January 2, 2019, as a special district judge for Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. **Beth Mooney**, CEO of KeyCorp, has been elected to the Board of Directors for Ford Motor Company. Mooney received the Cox Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008. **Joseph D. "Chip" Sheppard, III** was named Lawyer of the Year by *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* for his community service in bringing medical marijuana to the State of Missouri and helping draft Medical Marijuana Constitutional Amendment 2, now Article XIV of the

Missouri Constitution. He is a shareholder at Carnahan, Evans in Springfield.

## 84

**Mark Blinn** (J.D. '87, M.B.A. '98) was elected to the Emerson, Inc. Board of Directors. Blinn has more than 20 years of experience operating multi-industrial businesses. In 2014, he was named a Cox School Distinguished Alumni. **Robin Hazard** displayed her paintings at the Rockport Center for the Arts' *Standing Out* exhibition in Rockport, Texas, last summer. Her work has been exhibited throughout the U.S. and is included in many corporate and private collections, including the American Bank in Houston and the Cancer Treatment Center in Corpus Christi. Learn more at [robinhazard.com](http://robinhazard.com).

## 85

**Aart de Geus** is chairman and co-CEO of Synopsys, a California-based computer integrated systems design firm. He appeared in *Electronic Engineering Times* magazine, which featured lengthy profiles chronicling the careers of semiconductor industry leaders. He holds a Ph.D. from SMU, and received the Lyle School of Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award in 2008. **Cindi Jones** married Jack Rubarth on May 4, 2019, at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Dallas. They honeymooned in Venice, Dubrovnik, Santorini, Athens and London. She is a graduate of Northwestern Law School. They will continue to live in Dallas with a revolving door for their six children. Dr. **E. Michelle Morgan** is leading an effort to restore a vacant Dallas hospital building and reopen it as the Legacy of Hope Health and Wellness Center to serve a neighborhood in need of health care services. See her story at [dallasnews.com](http://dallasnews.com). **Joel Reifman** became the U.S. Consul General in Hyderabad, Telangana, India. **Michele Wong-Krause** was appointed to the American Public Transportation Association's Executive Committee. She is the owner of the Wong-Krause law firm



in Dallas, and also serves as secretary on the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors.

## 86

**John Bull** retired as San Antonio Municipal Court Presiding Judge after 20 years of service. **Jeffrey S. Hawn** was named among the nine Coolest Identity Governance CEOs of 2019 in *Solutions Review* magazine. Hawn is chairman and CEO of Quest IT. **Jill Lear**, a Hailey, Idaho-based artist, debuted *Urban Sprawl: Trees in Cities*, a new collection of multimedia paintings, drawings, works on paper and photographs that document living trees. Her work is among the permanent collections at Wright State University Art Galleries in Dayton, Ohio, and the Philip Isles Collection in New York. See more at [jilllear.com](http://jilllear.com).

## 87

**Clark K. Hunt** was named Master Entrepreneur of the Year 2019 by Ernst and Young. He is the CEO of FC Dallas and

chairman and CEO of the NFL Super Bowl LIV champion, the Kansas City Chiefs, and a member of SMU's Board of Trustees. He was profiled in *D Magazine* as a family enterprise leader. See his story at [dmagazine.com](http://dmagazine.com). **Stephen Konstans** has been promoted to senior vice president and named as the Financial Officers Practice Leader for Pearson Partners International, a global retained executive search firm. **Mark Styslinger** joined the Darden School Foundation Board of Trustees. He is the senior vice president of Altec, Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama.

## 89

**David Blewett** was elected to the Dallas City Council representing District 14. **Paul Caldwell** will direct the Seattle Men's Chorus in a world premiere of a new work, *Love Beyond Borders*, which he also contributed to as a composer. The work was inspired by the lives of LGBTQ Muslims who have settled in North America after years of seeking asylum. **Sabina Carr** joined the San Antonio Botanic Garden as its CEO. **Brad Greve** joined the

United Kingdom-based firm BAE Systems as group finance director. He also will join the defense, security and aerospace firm's executive committee. **Lee Mulcahy's** paintings were exhibited at the 24th annual community show in September in Redstone, Colo., and were on exhibit at Art Basel Miami in December. His gallery and studio are located in Aspen. **Huan T. Nguyen** was promoted to the rank of rear admiral last fall. He will serve as the deputy commander for cyber engineering at the Naval Sea Systems Command on the Washington Navy Yard. **Robert L. Patton** was appointed to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. Patton is president of Texas Capitalization Resource Group, Inc. **Amy Sabin** joined the Dallas office of Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC as a managing director and wealth manager. **William Erick "Rick" Talbot** joined the market research, analysis and consulting firm ACG Research as a principal analyst for intelligent transport networking practice. The Rev. Dr. **Jerry A. Taylor** (D.Min. '95) spoke last summer on the necessity of courage at Abilene Christian University, where he is associate professor of Bible,

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missions and ministry and executive director of the Carl Spain Center on Race Studies and Spiritual Action. **Gregory Webb** joined travel technology firm Travelport as its CEO.

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## 90

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**Marilyn Bennett**, who earned her M.Div. degree from Perkins School of Theology, is director and co-executive producer of the documentary *From Selma to Stonewall: Are We There Yet?*. The documentary features the Rev. Gil Caldwell, a black, straight preacher, and Bennett, a white, lesbian activist, who form a bond as they seek to find the intersection between the civil rights and the LGBTQ equality movements. Learn more at [fromselma-tostonewall.com](http://fromselma-tostonewall.com). **Huw Edwards** concluded a 17-year run as music director and conductor of the Olympia Symphony Orchestra in Olympia, Washington. **Richard House, Jr.** joined FlexShopper, Inc. as its CEO. Dr. **Nancy Loerke Kragt** received the Exceptional Achievement Award from the Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation. She is an emergency medicine physician in Anchorage, affiliated with Alaska Regional Hospital where she serves as Emergency Department chair. **Heidi Safer Lane** is co-founder and chef of Dallas-based The Juice Bar, which recently opened its fourth location. She recently discussed the popular healthy concept's success in a *D Magazine* feature. See her story at [dmagazine.com](http://dmagazine.com). **Michelle Latour** represented the United States in November in her third international Kettlebell Sport Lifting competition at IUKL Worlds in Serbia. She is a board member of U.S. Kettlebell Sport Lifting (USKSL) and is actively campaigning for this sport to be added to the Olympics. She and her coach own the only Kettlebell Sport Lifting gym in Las Vegas, Nevada, and are developing the sport though youth around the country. **Doug Motl** joined UMB Capital Finance, in Dallas, as senior vice president and director of originations. **Pamela Greenberg Stoutenburgh** joined Epic Insurance Brokers and Consultants as a principal consultant based in Dallas.

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## 91

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**Leslie Clay** joined The Warren Center as its vice president of development. The nonprofit agency provides evaluation, therapy services and support to children with developmental delays and disabilities. **Melissa Godbold** (M.S. '96) was promoted to special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Oklahoma City field office. She was the chief of staff for the criminal, cyber, response and services branch at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. **Steven Hudson** was appointed to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Hudson is the president and CEO of Hudson Capital Group. **Matt Pond** joined Corrosion Resistant Alloys LP in Houston as its CFO. **Claudia Schaefer** joined Caliber Collision, a leading auto body and paint repair company, as its chief experience officer. She was the chief marketing officer at Jamba Juice.

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## 92

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**Frances Moody-Dahlberg** was among the 10 Best Dressed at the annual Crystal Charity Ball Fashion Show and Luncheon in Dallas. Moody-Dahlberg is executive director and chairman of the Moody Foundation. She serves on the SMU Board of Trustees. **Allison McComiskey** is chair of the Environmental and Climate Sciences Department at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory. She has conducted research from Antarctica to Alaska and now oversees the agency's chief lab on climate research. **Michael Powell** joined Simmons Bank as mortgage division president, overseeing all aspects of the bank's mortgage process. **Molly Wood** exhibited her *Omnia Vanitas* photograph series at the Muscatine Art Center in Muscatine, Iowa. Her work focuses on botanicals as metaphors for human experiences and is displayed at Olson-Larsen Galleries in Des Moines and Talley Dunn Gallery in Dallas. Wood also teaches photography at Des Moines Area Community College.

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## 93

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**Monica Neal Hertzman** was elected president of the board of Attack Theatre, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit, contemporary dance company, for which she has served on the board for six years, the past three as vice president. She also is a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's Jack Heinz Society and serves on the PSO Board's Technology Working Group. **Jeff Matsler**, recently retired U.S. Army Bioethicist, became the newest clinical ethicist in March at Wellstar Health System's Center of Ethics in Atlanta. He is also part of the faculty for the Sherman B. Nuland Yale University Center for Bioethics teaching military medical ethics. He holds an adjunct position as Instructor of Ethics at the Uniform Services University of Health Sciences, the Department of Defense's premiere medical school, in Bethesda, Maryland. He writes and lectures nationwide on the cultural challenges surrounding medical ethics decision-making as well as issues regarding PTSD and moral injury. **Tasha M. Mosley** was named district attorney of the Clayton County Judicial Circuit in Georgia. She was the solicitor general in the same agency. **Andrea Solka** co-leads the Girls Inspired Greatly About the World of Technology (GIGAWOT) summer camp, led by IBM Dallas, for middle school girls interested in STEM fields. Solka, who holds an M.B.A. from SMU, retired from IBM after a 15-year career. **Albert Tan** was named to the *National Law Journal's* inaugural list of Finance, Banking and Capital Markets Trailblazers, which recognizes lawyers who have made an impact in the legal industry. Tan is a partner at Haynes and Boone, LLP. **Rahsaan Thompson** joined Opiant Pharmaceuticals, Inc. as general counsel.

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## 94

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**Paul Acker** joined Addison, Texas-based Fish City Grill and Half Shells as the company's first chief financial officer. **Karim Damji** joined WorkBoard, a strategy and results platform, as its CFO. **Lila Glasoe Francese** has written *The*



*Situation: A Radical Journey Thru Sisterhood*, the intimate true portrayal of two sisters, Carolyn and Lila, whose lives are deeply intertwined for over 40 years. The book will be released in May 2020 and will be available for pre-orders and on amazon.com. **Tim Kniffin** starred as "Erik" in San Jose Stage Company's production of *The Humans*, November 20-December 15, at The Stage in San Jose, Calif. **Pamela Jenkins Mason** was named chief compliance officer at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. She received her law degree and M.B.A. from William and Mary in 2000. **Betsy Schwartz** will perform the role of Henry VI in the 2020 Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of *Bring Down The House, Parts I and II*, an adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Henry VI* trilogy. It will be produced in association with upstart crow collective, a Seattle-based theatre company of which she is a founding member and which is committed to producing classical work with all female/non-binary casts. **John D. Simmons** and his wife, Jayne, were honorary co-chairs of the Salvation Army 2019 Christmas Campaign, in Alton, Ill. He is founder and chairman of law firm Simmons Hanley Conroy. **David F. Wood** joined the Nashville-based live event software management company Aloomba as its CEO.

95

Dr. **Abdulhamid Al-Khalifa** was elected director general of the OPEC Fund for International Development. **Amy Davis Hegi** was among the 10 Best Dressed at the annual Crystal Charity Ball Fashion Show and Luncheon in Dallas. Dr. **Robert David Martinez** was reappointed to the Texas Medical Board. He is the chief medical officer and chief physician executive at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg, Texas, and senior executive vice president of DHR Health. **Amy Prestidge** was among the 10 Best Dressed at the annual Crystal Charity Ball Fashion Show and Luncheon in Dallas.

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96

**Greg Brown**, general manager of the Sun Viking Lodge in Daytona Beach, Florida, was featured in the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* Fathers' Day story about the hotel his father has owned for more than 40 years. **Lisa Cornwell** was inducted into the Arkansas State Golf Association Hall of Fame. She is a TV anchor for the Golf Channel. **Ian L. Derrer** and Daniel James were married in August 2019 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Derrer is the general director and CEO of the Dallas Opera. The Rev. **Jane Graner** joined Trinity United Methodist Church in Duncanville, Texas, as pastor. Dr. **Sukanya Misra**, senior vice president of Mastercard's India technology hub, was profiled by the digital economic news portal YourStory.com about bridging the skill gap for women in technology fields.

97

**Emily Hughes Armour** ('02 M.B.A.) was named executive director for creative

marketing in SMU's Development and External Affairs division in July. She recently served as creative director for JC Penney. She has been married to **John Armour '96** since 2001, and they are raising a proud Mustang, Rowan (class of 2032). **Richard Beck** was a speaker at the Lenoir-Rhyne University Institute for Faith and Learning lecture series. He recently published *Trains, Jesus and Murder: the Gospel According to Johnny Cash*. **Ryan Berube** participated in the Swim Across America - Dallas Open Water Swim to raise funds for cancer research at Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center. He is a senior financial adviser at UBS. The 1996 Olympic gold medalist and former men's swimming team standout was inducted into the SMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015. **Jennifer K. Dunlap** was selected to serve as secretary for the YWCA Greater Charleston Board of Directors. She is a partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, LLP in Charleston, S.C. **Josh Lerner**, wealth management advisor, was recently recognized as Financial Advisor of the Year for Northwestern Mutual - Greater Chicago, which he joined in 2001. He has

been recognized with numerous awards throughout his career. He lives in Chicago with his wife and two children, and is a board member of GPF Foundation, which supports education and awareness of the dangers related to recreational drug use. The Hon. **Amy Clark Meachum** is campaigning to become the first woman elected Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court in 2020. Since 2011, she has presided over the 201<sup>st</sup> Civil District Court in Travis County. **Joseph Dax Phelan** returned to his hometown of St. Louis last year to shoot his second feature film, *Kirkwood*, a suspense thriller about a former police detective and his estranged son working together to solve a murder. He made his directorial debut in 2015 with the movie *Jasmine*, another thriller that received international acclaim.

98

**Toni Hickey** was named among the 2019 Women of Influence by the *Indianapolis Business Journal*. She is deputy general counsel and chief IP counsel at Cummins, Inc. in Indianapolis. **Kimberly Schlegel Whitman** was among the 10 Best Dressed at the annual Crystal Charity Ball Fashion Show and Luncheon in Dallas. **Andrea Williams** joined the Los Angeles Master Chorale Board of Directors. She is a managing director at Oaktree Capital Management. **Chad Wolf**, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Strategy, Policy and Plans, was sworn in as the new Acting Secretary of the DHS in November. He is married to **Hope Solomon Wolf '98**; they have two children.

99

**Ranjit Kodali** was nominated to serve on the Longview Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors. He is the college advising director at Trinity School of Texas in Longview. **Taylor Martin** celebrated his ninth year as The First Tee's top fundraiser during its 100-hole golf marathon. The First Tee is an international youth development organization that introduces the game of golf to kids and teens. Martin is the chief marketing



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officer at Senior Security Benefits, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas. **Kelly McNeff** joined Toyota Motor North America as its vice president of corporate communications. **Majed Nachawati**, trial attorney and co-founding partner of Dallas-based Fears Nachawati Law Firm, has earned recognition on the 2019 Texas Super Lawyers list and selection to the 2020 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. **Susana Rabel** co-chairs the Texas campaign of the National Board of State Funeral for World War II Veterans. The organization spearheads public awareness to ask the presidential administration to provide a state funeral in Washington, D.C., for the last remaining World War II Medal of Honor recipient upon his death. Rabel holds a J.D. degree from SMU. **Jeff Savage** is the president of the Sacramento River Cats Minor League Baseball team, which recently celebrated its 20th season by winning the Triple-A National Championship and the Pacific Coast League Championship. **Sherri Daye Scott** is associate producer of *Illegal Rose*, a short film on immigration starring Jasmine Guy, which had its Texas premiere at Dallas' Black Academy of Arts and Letters in October.

## 00

**Austin Adami** founded Cannon Recovery, a Magnolia, Texas-based transitional living and support program for military veterans recovering from post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse. **Courtney Caldwell** is the co-founder and COO of beauty-tech startup ShearShare. Google for Startups and the Google blog featured Caldwell and her husband, Dr. Tye Caldwell, as thriving entrepreneurs. The company also was named to the Inc. 2019 Female Founders 100 list. **Elyse Dickerson**, founder and CEO of Fort Worth, Texas-based biotech firm Eosera, discussed her business startup in a *D CEO* magazine Q&A feature. See her story at [dmagazine.com](http://dmagazine.com). **Kyle Freres** and his brother, **Tyler '99**, of Freres Lumber Co. in Oregon announced that the company was a winner in *The Architect's Newspaper's* 2019 Best Products of the Year award in the building materials category for its

industry-leading mass timber product, MPP (Mass Plywood Panel), and selected as one of *Portland Business Journal's* 2019 Manufacturing Companies of the Year in the family-owned category. **Porter Heath Morgan IV** joined law firm Malone Frost Martin PLLC as partner in its new Denver office. The Rev. **Michael D. Smith** became pastor of Muskogee First United Methodist Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma. **James W. Taylor** joined Delaware North Sportservice, a division of the global hospitality organization Delaware North, as its COO. He leads nearly 50 operating locations in the United States. **L. Eric Wagner** joined the Chicago office of real estate services firm Cushman and Wakefield as its vice president of global digital marketing.

## 01

**Richard Haayen** (M.B.A. '19) participated in the panel discussion "Artificial Intelligence: Real World Decisions Across Industries," hosted by the business-networking group ATBPDFW. Haayen is the senior director of commercial analytics and business intelligence at Nestle Skin Health. **Bernard M. Jones II** was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 19, 2019, to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. **Jeffrey M. Jones** joined investment bank TripleTree LLC as managing director in the firm's New York office. **Chip Keating** was named chair of the Criminal Justice Re-entry, Supervision, Treatment and Opportunity Reform (RESTORE) Task Force, created by Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt to assist criminal justice reform. Last year, Keating was appointed secretary of public safety by Stitt. **Stephanie Leonard Few** married John Few in October at St. Philip's Church in Charleston, S.C. She is a partner at law firm Womble Bond Dickinson in Charleston. **Sameer Parasnisi** was appointed executive vice president and chief commercial officer at Texas Pacific Land Trust. **Brad E. Wilson** joined Disney Streaming Services as its executive vice president of performance marketing for DisneyPlus and ESPN Plus.

## 02

**Courtney Davis Bristow** (J.D. '05) was named to the *Park Cities People* 20 Under 40 list profiling neighbors who are leaders in business, philanthropy and community volunteering. Bristow is managing partner of the Dallas office of Cassin and Cassin LLP law firm. **Jodi Warmbrod Dishman** was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 19, 2019, to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. **Heather Harper Ellett** published her first novel, *Ain't Nobody Nobody* (Polis), in September 2019. *Publisher's Weekly* calls it an "auspicious debut." Ellett teaches at The Writer's Path at SMU. **Catherine Funkhouser** joined the Houston office of law firm Steptoe and Johnson PLLC as of counsel. **John Santry** was promoted to executive vice president of real estate at Irvine, California-based Shopoff Realty Investments where he has worked since 2013. **Andrea N. Smith** was named principal of Stewart's Creek Elementary School in the Lewisville ISD in Texas. The Rev. Dr. **Michael Waters** ('06 M.Div., '12 D.Min.), lead pastor of Joy Tabernacle and Agape Temple African Methodist Episcopal Churches in Dallas, was named a Catalyst Award Honorable Mention by the Juanita Craft Humanitarian Awards. He is the author of five books, and has received numerous honors, including Community Leader of the Year from the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Humanitarian of the Year from the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, and SMU's Distinguished Alumni Emerging Leader Award in 2015. **Yulise Reaves Waters** (J.D. '08) was profiled by the *Dallas Weekly* newspaper for her role as the director of Dallas County Programs Lone Star Justice Alliance, a nonprofit that aims to reduce incarceration of children in the Texas justice system. She is a community courts prosecutor in the Dallas City Attorney's Office. She was named a Catalyst Award Honorable Mention by the Juanita Craft Humanitarian Awards. Dr. **Mary Ellen Weber** attended the annual Cradle of Astronauts reunion at Purdue University. She was selected into the 14th group of astronauts in 1992, responsible for technology commercialization work.

Weber is a veteran of two spaceflights – STS-70 in 1995 and STS-101 in 2000 – logging more than 450 hours in space. She works as a consultant in innovation and high-risk operations and is an acclaimed speaker.

### 03

**Dominic Lacy** is the chief innovation officer for Communication Service for the Deaf social venture fund, which builds partnerships with businesses owned or led by people who are deaf. **Stacy Malphurs** was promoted to vice president of supply chain management at Southwest Airlines Co., where she has worked since 2011.

**Matthew A. Miller** joined commercial real estate lender Greystone as managing director of its seniors housing finance team. **Gianna Ravenscroft** joined Reliant Funding in San Diego, Calif., as general counsel. She specializes in banking and finance law. The Rev. **Thomas A. Williams** joined Trinity United Methodist Church in Beaumont, Texas, as pastor.

### 04

**Gene Besen** joined the law firm Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP as a partner in the government enforcement and investigations practice in Dallas. **Gregory Francis** joined construction management firm Structure Tone Southwest, Dallas, as vice president of healthcare.

**Jacob Hayward** became principal at Siloam Springs Middle School in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. He was assistant principal at Har-Ber High School in Springdale, Arkansas. **Jeffrey Jensen** joined MedSys Group, a healthcare business management firm, as its client relationship executive. He oversees managing new and current client relationships across the healthcare IT spectrum from the company's office in Plano, Texas.

**Inna Kizenkova** was appointed vice president of Air Distribution Partnership at business travel management firm CWT. **Mikhail Orlov** is CEO of Weby Corp., an omni-channel retail company, which recently moved its headquarters from Arlington to North Richland Hills, Texas.

**Jared Pope**, a human resources attorney in Dallas, launched an innovative approach to workplace harassment called Work Shield, the only platform that removes the employer from directly handling the reporting and investigative process for workplace harassment claims. He earned his J.D. degree from SMU Dedman School of Law. **George Salazar**, the human-computer interface technical discipline lead at the NASA Johnson Space Center, received the John F. Kennedy Astronautics Award, given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution by promoting the nation's space programs. He was recognized for his passion surrounding education and dedication as a NASA outreach ambassador.

### 05

**Ryan Binkley**, CEO of Generational Group, received the Albert Schweitzer Leadership Award from Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) for exemplary leadership professionally and personally during the annual Albert Schweitzer Leadership Awards Gala in November. He received his M.B.A. from SMU. **William "Billy"**

**Crockett**, songwriter and creative director of Blue Rock Studio near Austin, participated in *The Dallas Morning News'* Duets live conversation event, where he performed and discussed storytelling. **Monika Ehrman** joined the board of directors for the energy firm Matador Resources Company. Ehrman, who holds a J.D. degree from SMU, is a professor of law at the University of Oklahoma. **Yodi S. Hailemariam**, an attorney with Drinker Biddle in Washington, D.C., was named a Rising Star for 2019 by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association. She is a senior associate in the firm's Information Privacy, Security and Governance group. Hailemariam was one of only 13 attorneys nationwide chosen by the MCCA "who are leading the charge for change in their communities and the legal profession."

**Elizabeth Tapp Ortega** joined HCA Houston Healthcare as CEO of The Woman's Hospital of Texas. **Hope Shimabuku** presented at Clemson University's first Patent Bootcamp for Women in Minorities in STEM. She holds a J.D. degree from SMU. **Omer Yousafzai**, owner of Afghan

Village restaurant in Gultton, Texas, wrote about entrepreneurship in a recent edition of *Houston Business Journal*. See his story at [bizjournals.com/Houston](http://bizjournals.com/Houston).

### 06

**Brandon Blaise Brown** and Laura Elizabeth Alfonso were married April 20, 2019, in Miami, Florida. He is a web developer at the University of Texas at Dallas. The couple live in Richardson, Texas. **Joshua Peugh**, founder and artistic director of Dallas-based Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, and **Brandon Carson '16**, a Los Angeles-based composer, have collaborated on the new production *Pete*, a modern twist of J.M. Barrie's classic *Peter Pan* story. Carson is pursuing a graduate degree at the California Institute of the Arts.

**Christina Stephenson** joined the Dallas office of law firm Crowe and Dunlevy as a director. **Emily Stroope**, an attorney with McGlinchey Stafford, has been named to the 2019 edition of *Texas Super Lawyers Rising Stars*. She regularly handles real estate title contests and contract disputes in the firm's Dallas office.

### 07

**Jason M. Graham** was awarded a 2019 Faculty Development Summer Grant from the University of Scranton where he is an associate professor of mathematics.

**Allison Bramlett London** was highlighted in *Birmingham* magazine, with her business partner Katherine Ross, as co-owner of Party Sally Greeting Cards. The cards feature watercolor illustrations and hand-lettered quirky messages ranging from plays on pop culture or witty banter between friends. Learn more at [partysally.com](http://partysally.com). **Jarrett Reed** joined the Dallas office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter and Hampton, LLP as a partner in the law firm's real estate, land use and environmental practice group.

### 08

**Jordan Bolch** was profiled by Yahoo Finance as a business executive juggling a parallel creative career as a recording



artist with two albums. He is the second generation CEO of Atlanta-based Race-Trac Petroleum, Inc. See his story at [jordanbolch.com](http://jordanbolch.com). **Andrea Bouressa** was appointed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to serve as the first judge of the 471st Judicial District Court in Collin County. **Amber Venz Box** is president and co-founder of style startup RewardStyle. The company recently announced the expansion of its Dallas headquarters in anticipation of adding more senior-level engineering positions. **Luca Cacioli** was promoted to CEO at CEIA USA, a leading manufacturing firm that specializes in security, military/ground search and induction heating systems. He holds an M.B.A. from SMU. **Rick Calero** joined BNY Mellon Wealth Management as head of Lending and Deposits where he is responsible for growth strategy. Dr. **Jonathan Chism** published the books *Saints in the Struggle* and *30-Day Journey with Martin Luther King, Jr.* He is an assistant professor of history at the University of Houston-Downtown. **Erin England** was named to the *Park Cities People* 20 Under 40 list profiling neighbors who are leaders in business, philanthropy and community volunteering. England is a partner at law firm Haynes and Boone, LLP. **Emily Ernst** performed in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* for the Flatwater Shakespeare Company in Lincoln, Neb., and also recently directed the Lincoln Community Playhouse's production of *Mame*. **Jordan Mathis**, a Fort Worth, Texas-based visual artist, was interviewed on KERA's *Art and Seek* program about his passion for time-lapse videography. His photography clients include HBO, BBC, MTV and the NFL. See his story at [artandseek.org](http://artandseek.org). **Thomas Morstead**, Pro Bowl punter for the New Orleans Saints, recently joined the ownership group of a New Orleans-based juice and smoothie bar franchise, Main Squeeze Juice Company. **Daniel C. Porter** joined the Bellmead Police Department in Bellmead, Texas, as its chief. **Trey Rome**, founder and CEO of Home Tax Solutions LLC (HTS), was honored by two business magazines: *US Business News* named Home Tax Solutions as Best Property Tax Lender 2019 in Texas, and *Wealth & Finance Magazine* presented it with the 2018 Money Management Award.

## PRECIOUS PONIES



**Sloane Isabella Bailey**, born on June 17, 2019, is the daughter of Richlynn Kaiser Bailey '99 and David Bailey. She joins big sister, Ashton Ivy.



**Harper Catherine Cucinotti**, born on July 17, 2015, and **James Logan Cucinotti**, born on April 18, 2019, are the children of Sara Rankin Cucinotti '18 and Joe Cucinotti.



**Charlotte Marianne Jelliffe**, born on April 29, 2018, is the daughter of Katherine Hall Jelliffe '08 and Christopher "Chip" Miller Jelliffe '12. Grandparents are Dawn Renzetti Hall '81 and David Manchester Hall '81.



**Frances Deyo Keeney**, born on May 8, 2019, is the daughter of Taylor Thornley Keeney '09 and Carter Keeney. She was welcomed by big brother, Taliaferro, 2.



**Rylynn Sinclair Nelson** and **Brayden Hollister Nelson**, born on May 9, 2019, are the daughter and son of Stephen '14 and Megan Nelson '14.



**Gustav Andrew Nollmann**, born on June 19, 2019, is the son of Andrew '13 and Cassandra Robinson Nollmann '13.



**Camila Pirkey**, born on November 26, 2019, is the daughter of Xinia '14 and Derrick Pirkey.



**Everett Ryan Taylor**, born on March 3, 2019, is the son of Josh '99 and Rebecca Taylor.



**Henry Day Webb**, born on November 23, 2018, is the son of Daniel '08 and Isabel Webb. He was welcomed by big brother, Harrison.

Submit your Precious Ponies to [smumag@smu.edu](mailto:smumag@smu.edu) by June 12, 2020. 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.

# Mickey Dollens '11: On A Wild Ride From Bobsledding To Legislating

**For someone only nine years out of college**, it's been a wild ride for Mickey Dollens '11, but he'll be the first to say that SMU shaped him in ways he didn't realize while he was on the Hilltop, which has enabled him to maintain a steady course since

Born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, a town of about 35,000, Dollens arrived at SMU on a football scholarship in fall 2006. His SMU experience broadened his perspective and exceeded his expectations, he says. "I met new friends from different parts of the world. One of my roommates was from India, and we still keep in touch today. SMU opened up my mind to different cultures, beliefs and possibilities."

He majored in English with a creative writing specialization and minored in psychology. In creative writing he learned the importance and structure of storytelling; in poetry, he learned how to deconstruct a poem. "Those things are applicable

to things I do every day. I didn't know it at the time, but SMU was preparing me for everything that I am doing now."

Dollens was only months away from graduating when his brother, who had a history of depression, died by suicide. Because his brother had always wanted Dollens to try out for the NFL, he showed up for SMU's Pro Day, where he did not impress the NFL, but did get recruited to the U.S. bobsled team. "I played defensive line at SMU, so I got pretty good at pushing things around. And it just so happens that my body type, speed and power were what they wanted. I ended up competing on Team USA for three years," he says.

When his bobsledding days ended, an old friend from SMU put Dollens to work in the Oklahoma oil fields. But the oil business was on the wane, and after working a year in the field, Dollens and most of his crew were let go.



Mickey Dollens '11

He then parlayed his SMU English degree into a teaching job at U.S. Grant High School, a Title I school in South Oklahoma City. "Many of the young people I taught came from tough backgrounds. But I loved teaching so much that I bought a house right down the street from Grant High," he says.

Within two years, however, Oklahoma cut millions of dollars in state education funding and about 800 teachers were furloughed across the state, including Dollens.

He decided to channel his life experiences and SMU degree to run for the Oklahoma state legislature – as a Democrat in a Republican stronghold. Running on a platform of public education, better mental healthcare for people like his brother, and economic diversification for an oil-dependent economy, he took almost 60 percent of the vote in the general election.

Today Dollens splits his time between serving as a state representative in the Oklahoma Legislature and as executive director of the Energy Assist Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the OKC Energy FC soccer team, which plays in the USL. And he still lives down the street from U.S. Grant High School with his wife and two children.

"SMU prepared me for all things life has thrown my way," he says. "I'm very grateful to be part of the SMU family."

His company was named a winner of the 2019 Dallas 100™ Awards by the Cox School of Business' Caruth Institute for Entrepreneurship. **Lauren Romo** married Andrew Morrison in September at La Mesita Ranch Estate in Santa Fe, N.M. She is the marketing manager at Lovely Bride in New York. **Geoffrey M. Smith** has been appointed Gulf Coast office leader at human resources consulting firm Mercer, where he has worked for 17 years.

## 09

**Alana K. Ackels**, a litigation, labor and employment attorney with Bell Nunnally, has been named to *Best Lawyer's Best Lawyers in America* list for 2020. **Markus Neubauer** was named to the *Park Cities People* 20 Under 40 list profiling neighbors who are leaders in business, philanthropy and community volunteering. Neubauer is associate principal and civil engineer at Pacheco Koch, Inc. He and his wife, Lilly, run the family and lifestyle blog *Open Hearted Home*. **Sarah Nolen** performed *Judy Saves the Day!* at the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry at the University of Connecticut last summer. Nolen is the resident artist at Puppet Showplace Theater in Brookline, Mass. **Theresa Pham** and her husband, Leo Bienati, co-founded wellness beverage company Holy Kombucha. *The Dallas Morning News* featured the couple's story from startup business to empire. **Alissa Reitmeier Rothermich** joined WIAT CBS 42 in Birmingham, Ala., as the morning news co-anchor.

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**Katlin Maw Alavi**, a vice president in the San Francisco office of Aon, has been named to the 2019 Young Guns list published by *Insurance Business America* magazine. Dr. **Sara Cooper** joined the staff of Georgetown OB-GYN in Georgetown, Texas. **Christina Jones Dandar** (M.Ed. '14), an educator at West Dallas Community School, was recently profiled in *D Magazine* for her lifestyle blog *The Potted Boxwood*, launched in 2014 as a creative pursuit. **Katrina Eash** was named



to the *Park Cities People* 20 Under 40 list profiling neighbors who are leaders in business, philanthropy and community volunteering. Eash is a partner at law firm Winston and Strawn LLP. **Rachel Ellis** is graduating *cum laude* in May from Loyola Marymount University's Loyola Law School with a post-bar associate position at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough's Los Angeles office. **Katherine Frost** has been included in Marquis Who's Who in recognition of her dedication to professional event planning. She is the owner and CEO of Denver-based A Frosted Affair event planning firm. **Tracy Glesby** and William Northington were married on New Year's Eve 2019 in Houston.

**Cheryl Lowber** joined North Texas Performing Arts as a resident director/choreographer. Lowber is a Dallas-based professional actor, director and acting coach. She has appeared onstage throughout North Texas, in New York City and in South Korea, where she had a role with the Eurasia Shakespeare Theatre Company's production of *Richard III*. The Rev.

**James Scott Moore**, executive director of the Mission Center disaster relief ministry run by the United Methodist Church Texas Annual Conference, was recently profiled in *The Courier* newspaper as the "disaster pastor" taking the lead to help the citizens of Montgomery County in Texas. **Joshua Nakazawa**, cellist for the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, has fostered a dual musical life as a chamber player who also loves jazz and blues. See his story at fluxhawaii.com. **Astrud Villareal** received her M.D. from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 2016. She was awarded the Minnie Lee Lancaster, M.D., Scholarship in family medicine. She completed her family medicine training at UT Southwestern; during her second year, she received the AAFP Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education (given to 12 residents out of 3,500 who are eligible nationwide) and was elected chief resident during her third year. Last fall, she joined the faculty at UT Southwestern's Department of Family and Community Medicine. **Christopher G. Wicker** writes about human contributions to the accounting profession in the age of technological disruption in *Accounting*

## 2020: Destination USA



### SMU-IN-TAOS CULTURAL INSTITUTE

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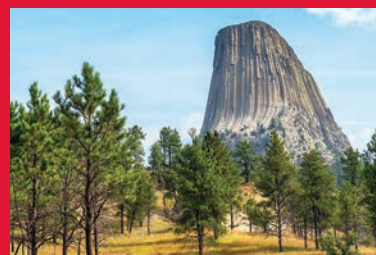
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Stay in Philadelphia and tour the City of Brotherly Love along with the historic Independence Hall and Liberty Bell; day visits to Valley Forge National Historic Park, Brandy Wine Valley and Amish Country to enjoy an Amish farmhouse and family-style dinner.



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

Today magazine. See his story at [accountingtoday.com/opinion](https://accountingtoday.com/opinion).

## 11

**Taylor Adams** was named food editor for the *Dallas Observer*. **Brittany Barnett** was profiled on the digital news portal OZY for her efforts to free 17 federal prisoners last spring under the First Step Act, a new federal law that aims to provide support for former inmates transitioning back into the community. She is the co-founder and director of the Buried Alive Project and the founder and president of Girls Embracing Mothers, Inc. Learn more at [brittanykbarnett.com](https://brittanykbarnett.com). **Cullen Brown** joined Southern Hills Hospital and Medical Center in Las Vegas as its COO. **William P. Cagney** and Caroline Passano were married in June at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Baltimore. **Jarrett Daniel** and **Alexandra**

**Sisto '12** were married in June 2018 in Florence, Italy. **Gary Fox** (D.Min. '18) published *Understanding Atonement* in September 2019, available from Wipf and Stock Publishers' Resource Publications. **Michelle Goolsby** joined the Board of Directors for the Simply Good Foods Company. **Jonathan Norton** had the world premiere of his play, *A Love Offering*, staged in October at Kitchen Dog Theater in Dallas. It was directed by **Tina Parker '91**, co-artistic director of KDT. **Meredith Shamburger**, editor of *The Panola Watchman* in Carthage, Texas, was selected from 400 applicants to participate in the Poynter Institute Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media. **Aaron Stewart** was promoted to vice president of sports marketing at Diamond Resorts in Orlando, Fla. He also will serve as the executive director of the Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, overseeing the LPGA Tour event.



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**Yasir Bashir** participated in the panel discussion, "Artificial Intelligence: Real World Decisions Across Industries," hosted by the business-networking group ATBPDFW. Bashir is the senior data science architect at Saxony Partners in Irving, Texas. **Jon DeLord** joined piLYTIXSports, a division of artificial intelligence leader piLYTIX, as president. **Fredrico Fajardo** appeared at the Anime Expo 2019 in Los Angeles for the season four premier of *My Hero Academia*. He is the voice actor for the show's character Mirio Togata. His other acting performances include numerous anime productions, television commercials and theatre venues. **Janielle Kastner** created the *Untitled Dad Project* podcast with Spoke Media, a production company founded by fellow SMU alumna **Alia Tavakolian '12**. Actress/playwright Kastner co-founded Dallas' Shakespeare in the Bar, and has performed with Second Thought Theatre, Kitchen Dog Theater and Amphibian Stage Productions. **Roland Sperlich** was elected vice president and general manager of the Interface Products business unit at Texas Instruments. He holds an M.B.A. from SMU. **Trigg Watson**, illusionist and magician, performs a cabaret magic show at Dallas' South Side on Lamar, as well as close-up performances for corporate events.

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## 13

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**Justin Amos** has joined McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC's Consumer Financial Services Litigation and Commercial Litigation practice groups in Boston. **Ruben Carrazana** premiered the screen adaptation of his stage play, *Stacy Has a Thing for Black Guys*, in October at Stage West in Fort Worth. Carrazana wrote and directed the independent feature film using an all-local cast and crew. The Rev. **Cottrell King** joined Highland Park United Methodist Church as pastor of Church at the Square. **Conrad Steele** joined the Dallas office of law firm Kirkland and Ellis, LLP as an associate. **Samantha Wakely** joined accounting

firm Siegfried Group, LLP as a senior associate. **Eunice Yi** joined the Polsinelli law firm in Dallas as an associate.

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## 14

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**Paul Bishop** is an attorney at Lucero | Wollam, PLLC in Houston and practices litigation defense. **Cannen Cunningham** joined Oklahoma State University as assistant basketball coach. **John Kappel** joined boutique family law firm Orsinger, Nelson, Downing and Anderson, LLP as an associate in its Dallas office. **Carson McCain** directed the play *Lungs* by Duncan MacMillan in July at Fort Worth's Stage West Theatre. See her story at theaterjones.com. **Jason Napolitan** opened Top Round roast beef restaurant in Dallas. **Taylor Miller Turner** is the founder and owner of Hazen and Co. jewelry. The company was featured in the *Dallas Observer* as among the most unique brands in Dallas.

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**Robert "Cayman" Clevenger** became COO of the *Bayou Brief*, a nonprofit digital news publication for Louisiana. He was the organization's board chair. Clevenger holds a law degree from SMU.

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**Lance Crosby** was profiled by *Insights Success* magazine as an innovative visionary who recognizes and capitalizes on early opportunities in the internet sector. He is CEO and chairman of the Dallas-based cloud-computing firm StackPath. **Dustin Draï** was profiled by the pop culture-focused digital platform *Complex* for his genius in bringing hip-hop's rising stars to Las Vegas megaclubs. **Kristin Barker Hames** was inducted into the Commerce ISD Hall of Honor, the youngest ever to receive the honor. Hames, who holds a Master of Music degree from SMU, is the director of bands at Hill Country Middle School in Austin. **Savanah Louie** joined the St. Louis NBC network affiliate KSDK-TV as the weekday morning anchor and multiskilled journalist for

the *Today in St. Louis* program. **Rachel Welch McCune** was inducted into the Weatherford High School Athletic Hall of Fame in Weatherford, Texas. McCune, who holds a Master of Science degree from SMU, was a softball standout while a student at Weatherford ISD. She works as an engineering supervisor at Lockheed Martin. **Cassandra Mlynarek** joined KVUU-TV, the FOX affiliate in Las Vegas, as a reporter. **Abaigeal Musser** joined law firm Taft Stettinius & Hollister in Indianapolis as an associate in its litigation practice group. She focuses on commercial and general litigation. The Rev. **Peter Norton** joined the ministry staff at Warrensburg United Methodist Church in Warrensburg, Missouri. **Harrison Papaila** has joined Winstead PC's Real Estate Development & Investments Group as an associate in the Dallas office focusing on commercial financing transactions, real estate transactions and other business matters. Papaila most recently practiced at Kane Russell Coleman Logan PC, in Dallas. **Taylor Toynes** received the 2019 Catalyst Award of the Juanita Craft Humanitarian Awards as an individual under the age of 40 who is making an impact in civil and human rights in the city of Dallas by creating new initiatives and opportunities. He is founder and executive director of For Oak Cliff, which aims to provide culturally responsive programming in South Oak Cliff by creating a culture of education and increasing social mobility and social capital. After earning a Master of Education degree from SMU, he became a fourth-grade reading and writing instructor at W.W. Bushman Elementary School and later became an urban specialist at Sarah A. Zumwalt Middle School.

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**Regan Donnenfield** joined KoonsFuller Family Law as an associate attorney in its Denton, Texas, office. **Monica Gonzalez** owns Blu Creative Agency, a creative and digital marketing agency with offices in Dallas and Monterrey, Mexico, working on fast-growing national and international brands.



**Daniel Knoll** was promoted to principal at Momentous School in Dallas. Knoll holds a Master of Education degree from SMU. **Myria Perez** was one of 125 women innovators nationwide who was selected to be an American Association for the Advancement of Science IF/THEN ambassador to share their stories and serve as high-profile role models for girls, to encourage a new generation of young women to enter into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. Perez is a fossil preparator at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas. **Emma Staak** ('19) and **Ian McManus** wed across the street from their freshman year dorm at Perkins Chapel on July 6, 2019. They met on their first-year move-in day to McElvaney Residential Commons – living across the hall from each other – and began dating two months later.

The Rev. **Chase Burns** joined First United Methodist Church of Paragould, Arkansas, as its associate pastor. **Dylan Patterson** launched Born From A Wave, a collection of eco-conscious swimwear. See her story at [dallas.culturemap.com](http://dallas.culturemap.com). **Lauren Steele** performed in *Queens Girl in the World* for the Clackamas Repertory Theatre in Oregon City, Oregon. Steele also performed in the theatre's 2017 production of *Irving Berlin's The Melody Lingers On*. **Yash Sutaria**, who recently founded Fat Bear Coworking in Dallas, was profiled last summer in *Park Cities People* newspaper for his entrepreneurial determination. See his story at [parkcitiespeople.com](http://parkcitiespeople.com). **Esau Williams**, a journalist with the BBC World Service in London, wrote an article on the United Kingdom's new Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, for the History News Network in July.

## In Memoriam

*The following deaths were reported to SMU from 06/02/19 through 11/27/19:*

- '33 **Lois Cardwell Tidwell** 5/23/13
- '39 **Paul M. Harris** '47 8/8/19 **Max M. Morrison** 5/23/19
- '41 **Robert C. Bryan** 8/13/19
- '42 **Lila Banks Cockrell** 8/29/19 **Jean H. Fowler** 9/18/19 **Katherine Carwile Fry** 11/4/19 **Mary Jo Forrest Merriman** 3/18/15 **Martha J. Morehart** 2/5/13 **Frances Pouns Stoner** '49 8/16/19
- '43 **Mildred E. Cornett** '51 6/9/17 **Lois Penniman Kelley** 8/13/15 **Mary Patterson Roberts** 9/4/19 **Selma Corchine Wade** 11/10/15
- '44 **Robert R. Hair** '47 4/20/13 **Sylvia D'Albergo Knudson** 6/3/19 **Alice Fleming Stultz** 10/28/19
- '45 **Barbara Reynolds Crowell** 10/6/13 **Sidney P. Glasser** 9/24/13 **Mary Ward King** 8/26/19 **Marjorie Pinson Larkin** 5/28/13 **Dorothy Hyles Manes** 10/10/16 **Peggy Dorrance Powers** 9/30/15 **Patricia Garrott Wagoner** 2/14/13 **Jean Lynch White** 7/10/19
- '46 **Ann Moore McLean** 6/12/16 Rev. **Earl A. Perry** 9/2/19 **Emily Kuykendal Tucker** 3/20/13
- '47 **George F. Duthie** 9/27/19 **Donald W. Greaves** 7/29/19
- '48 **John B. Best, Jr.** 6/22/13 Maj. **Oscar M. Bushwar** 6/5/19 **Mark A. Clement, Jr.** '50 6/18/19 **Odie E. Conine, Jr.** 7/29/19 **Doris Hill Eichler** 6/25/13 **Stan Harrell** '49 10/11/13 **Barbara Lomax Hitzelberger-Wooten** 8/3/19 **Shirley Henderson Johnson** 8/5/19 **Virginia Moore Miller** 10/13/19 **Flurnoy W. Reese** '50 4/10/14 **Peggy Whittington Wilson** 7/15/14 **William L. Young, Jr.** 3/3/15
- '49 **Vincent G. Ahern** 10/21/19 **Edith Wilkes Beutell** 11/12/19 **Beverly Williams Bolin** 7/22/19 **Sheila Kennard Clinger** '52 6/2/18 **Betty Harrell Hendricks** 9/30/19 **Betty Magbee Holloway** 6/3/19 **Alice Miller Lawrence** 6/25/17 **William F. Menefee** 7/2/19

- Louis J. Reeg, Jr.** 6/12/19 **Howard W. Regester, Jr.** 10/26/19 **Mary Brooks Sharp** 5/24/19 **Warren G. Singletary, Jr.** 6/8/14 **Dennis D. Temple** 2/18/19 **William G. Walker** 2/18/13 **John E. Warner** 1/10/18
- '50 **Richard F. Bacon** 6/28/19 Dr. **George O. Crisp, Jr.**, 6/12/19 **Eugenia Watkins Farrow** 8/18/19 **Sam E. Giller** 9/8/19 Dr. **Robert E. Gowan, Jr.**, D.D.S. 6/6/19 **HelenLee Wright Hearon** 7/23/19 **Robert E. Hendrix, Jr.** 9/25/17 **Frances O'Connell Kilbourne** 6/4/18 **Eleanor Fox Krebs** 10/21/19 **Thomas J. Manton, Jr.** '51 10/13/19 **John Maroney, Jr.** 6/28/19 **Virginia M. Rogers** 9/2/19 **Peggy Dechert Skaggs** 8/6/19 **Stuart R. Tears** 8/31/19 **Nelia Peyton Thorp** 5/18/19
- '51 **Inez Hunter Amirkhan** 6/2/19 **Franklin T. Buell, II** 9/15/19 **Sherwood Turney Cooley** 11/12/19 **Anton C. Dirksmeyer** 10/11/19 **Jarvis W. Ford** 11/2/19 **Cecil W. Hargrave** 12/12/18 **John R. Lester** 11/8/19 **Donald E. Marquis** 6/10/19 **George R. Murphey** 12/20/13 **Dorothy Shelton Nagy** 10/24/19 **Richard B. Prideaux** 1/19/13 **Ernest E. Raines** 7/14/19 **Ruth Wilson Sherman** 8/13/19 **John T. Tanner** 10/31/19 **Lloyd A. Wheeler** 11/5/19 **James A. Williams** '52, '71 7/18/19
- '52 **Glynda Haberle Beall** 11/2/19 Dr. **Retta Cook** 8/15/19 **Esther Schroeder Ellis** 10/25/19 **Marion Hardy Emerson** 8/22/17 **Betty J. McLain** 6/25/17 **Janice Workman Simmons** 6/27/19 **Robbie M. Tunnell** 8/28/19 **James D. Webb, III** 7/25/19
- '53 **Jack E. Anderson, Jr.** '65 11/17/19 **Lou Whitehead Brown** 9/10/19 **Bonnie Gordon Cohen** 7/10/19 **Morton Dearing** 9/21/13 **Juliet Blevins Hay** 7/26/19 **Raymond B. Lovely** 10/9/19 Rev. **Milton C. Propp** '56 5/30/19 **Barbara Chase Purtell** 10/2/19 **Rosemary Redditt** 6/29/16 Dr. **Lawrence S. Wrightsman, Jr.** 7/28/19



# In Memoriam

- '54 Rev. Dr. John F. Allen, Sr. '89 9/11/19 Ruth Mathison Beeman 7/20/19 Roger W. Blackmar, Jr. 9/7/19 Dr. James N. Cather '55 7/26/19 Judy McVeigh Cordell 10/29/19 Durwood D. Crawford '59 11/13/19 John W. Earnshaw 6/5/14 Wilton J. Goodwin 10/31/19 Patricia Krebs Irvin '72 10/28/19 Leroy G. Johnson '56 10/17/13 Sue Smith Kelly 8/13/19 Renvia Jernigan Lander 7/1/19 Julia Thomas McLaran 10/20/19 John C. Ramey 6/17/17 John H. Reese 11/2/18 Rev. Robert E. Scoggin, Sr. 7/27/19 Roberta Heilhecker Skidmore 8/4/19 Charles R. Tabor, Sr. '61 7/20/19 Rev. Buist B. Wilson 7/6/19
- '55 Donald C. Apeland '57 7/17/19 Louis J. Boudreaux, Jr. 2/8/19 Rev. Dr. Kenneth M. Dickson '58, '75 8/13/19 John W. Hicks, Jr. '59 6/12/19 Rev. Mansfield E. Hunt 10/22/19 Linda Jackson Lockett 9/22/19 Joan McDougle 9/21/19 Thomas H. Seltzer, Jr. 10/6/19 Dr. Patrick R. Thomas 9/14/19 Dr. James N. Wurgler 11/13/19 Nicholas J. Zotos 9/2/19
- '56 Benjamin R. Collier 7/24/19 Rev. Braxton L. Combs 8/19/19 Conrad K. Dean 11/3/19 Beverly Mahoney Jones 5/28/19 Patty Boothe Kirby 10/16/19 Llewellyn Douglas Krech 3/13/13 Robert A. Mitchell 10/17/19 Dr. Darrell P. Patton 7/9/19 Bryan L. Simms, Sr. 7/11/13
- '57 Alice Fleet Dickey 8/3/19 Dr. Patrick E. Green '61 10/20/19 Rev. Glenneth A. Harrington, Sr. 10/10/19 Dr. Dee H. Norton, Jr. 10/14/19 Joe Waddill, Jr. 10/31/19 James F. Weldon 6/9/19
- '58 Rev. Thomas B. Adams 5/30/19 Linda Hensley Fields 8/28/19 Patrick D. Fremming 9/27/19 Jack T. Hill 6/27/19 Dr. John L. Humphrey 6/5/19 Dr. Billie Johnson Laney 7/27/16 George F. Moss 9/27/19 Joan C. Mulcahy-Thompson 7/1/19 William G. Robinson, Jr. 11/11/19 Robert W. Shrader 6/2/19 Kenneth R. Slawson 8/17/19 James F. Smith, Jr. 10/13/19 Sue Espenshade Smith 10/4/19 Capt. John N. Wolcott, USN, Ret. 5/29/19 Donna L. Younker 11/1/19
- '59 Mary Louise Shay Christie 8/20/18 Mary Iley Cox 9/19/19 Dr. Chickford B. Darrell 10/22/19 Marvin B. Dunn '62 10/12/19 Charles J. Gillespie 10/19/19 Benjamin L. Grimes, III 10/3/19 Helene Smith Irwin 9/18/19 Rev. Robert E. Langley 8/5/19 Jack K. Leeka, Sr. 11/7/19 Martha A. Madden '63 7/30/19 Grace Ducles Miara 11/17/14 Dr. Paul S. Michaelson 8/5/19 Rev. Martin C. Oetting 10/19/19 Donald P. Pettingill 5/13/13 Rev. Charles D. Saviers 8/22/19 Russell B. Smith '62 6/24/19 John P. Tate 5/24/19 James R. Waller, Jr. 7/30/19 Martha Toler Williams 3/7/18
- '60 John J. Baird 9/3/19 Rev. Edward C. Blythe, Jr. 2/24/19 William P. Bowdry, III 8/21/19 Franklin D. Eckert 9/12/13 Robert A. Fanning 11/2/19 Robert L. Lott, Jr. 6/1/19 Rev. Edwin T. Silliman 7/6/19 Hope Monagin Thompson 6/10/19 Sam A. Turneabe 9/10/19 Dr. David L. Wilemon 8/18/19 James F. Williams, Jr. 9/24/19
- '61 Robert L. Beeman 8/29/19 Roy L. Epp 6/7/19 Ellen Rosenfeld Harrison 9/18/19 William T. O'Connor, III 10/26/19 Thomas D. Pinion 6/28/19 Howard D. Rose '66 7/28/19 Charles L. Weidner 6/17/13
- '62 Reyburn U. Anderson 10/3/19 Ward F. Beebe 7/7/19 Harold R. Cobb 8/9/13 Richard F. Coerver, III 12/10/18 Dr. W. C. Ferrell, Sr. 9/5/19 Rev. Ira L. Grissom 4/2/19 Dr. Donald B. Hall '75 6/10/19 James M. Herold 11/20/19 Benjamin F. McWilliams 8/11/19 James D. Miller 6/26/19 Leslie F. Noell, Jr. '69 9/7/19 Heidi Holt Pain 11/16/19 Dr. Charles L. Sledge 4/30/19 Gareth W. Tolman 6/1/18 Wallace E. Walker 6/27/19
- '63 Frances Roberts Albright 6/15/19 Henry B. Angus 10/14/19 Robert M. Bath 9/6/19 Rev. Tony G. Campbell 6/14/19 Lance C. McFaddin 11/22/19 Rev. Donald D. Murphy 1/20/18 Jerry D. Sebek 6/25/19 Rev. Dr. David E. Stephens 6/21/19 Homer C. Turner, Jr. 8/10/19 Weldon E. Wink 10/7/19
- '64 Dorothy Demaree Anderson 6/6/19 Michael L. Dennis 9/27/19 Shirley Williams Crabtree 11/18/19 Rev. James W. Hardwick 7/25/19 Sharon Jobe Hegi '67 8/28/19 Peter G. Martens '70 6/16/19 Rev. Robert R. Sewell 8/1/19
- '65 Cloyd J. Dowling, Jr. 8/26/19 Byron E. Franklin, Jr. '67 6/3/19 Ronald J. Minner 9/14/19 Michael W. Ramsey 7/27/19 Joan Roberts 5/1/19 Rev. Dr. Arnel B. Smith, Jr. '91 6/28/19 John R. Witcher 10/27/19
- '66 Henrietta Herbert Cragon 7/11/19 Dr. Thomas R. Cuthbert, Jr. '80 10/28/19 Eddie P. Howell 11/3/19 Linda Reid Medlen 9/10/19 William R. Neil 5/29/19 Ronald M. Reel '67 8/20/19 Rufus S. Scott '69 10/30/19 Marion Moore White 8/23/19 George B. Williams '74 8/10/19
- '67 Roy M. Brown 8/5/19 Philip H. Jackman 10/13/19 Emlyn M. Miller 9/2/19 Daniel M. Millet 6/9/19 James C. Sadler 7/7/19 Jack S. Singleton 7/27/19
- '68 Virginia Dunlap Arsers '72 7/14/19 Fred H. Boyd 8/3/19 Robert L. Coburn 11/8/19 Thomas E. Egbert 11/9/19 Dr. Janet Koch Ellis 10/28/19 Jeffrey T. Whipple '70 5/18/19 William J. Witt, III 7/10/19
- '69 Rev. Brian G. Eble 10/4/19 George W. Fazakerly 8/28/19 John M. Fincher 5/27/19 Robert J. Fletcher 6/6/19 Thomas A. Fry, III 8/7/19 Thomas G. Gartrell 6/11/19 Dr. Arvis B. Henderson 11/18/19 Tedford E. Kimbell 7/5/19 Raymond M. Love, Jr. 5/18/18 Clyde W. Schremp 11/7/19 Sylvia Lichtenstein Silven 9/5/19 Dr. Eugene I. Taylor, Jr. '72 1/30/13 Rev. Abel Vega, Sr. 6/24/19
- '70 Dr. Alexis Pedden Clayton 7/17/19 Robert L. Ellis 6/24/19 James P. Graham 11/13/19 Charles D. Mulhearn





- 11/19/19 Col. **Jerry B. Smith**, USAF, Ret. 10/27/19 **Charles F. Sugg** 11/22/19 **Ronald E. Wierzbowski** 11/22/19
- '71 **Billy G. Bassett** 9/24/19 **Edward A. Millis** 9/2/19 **Jack L. Paris, Jr.** '74 7/16/19 **Scott R. Presley** 10/10/19 **Gregg G. Sauter** 11/3/19 **Paul G. Veale, Jr.** 10/16/19
- '72 Rev. **William B. Boyett** 12/21/18 **Mary Rogge Bynum** 10/25/18 **Thomas W. Hanlon, III** 10/10/19 **Cmdr. Steven F. Letchworth**, USN, Ret. 3/30/19 **Terry Horak Mapes** 8/19/19 **David K. McIntosh** 1/22/19 **John P. Reilly** 7/2/19 **Delward G. Renegar** '73 9/4/19 **Marvin L. Underwood, Jr.** 11/20/19 **Anne P. Vogel** 8/17/19
- '73 **Carl J. Franklin** 10/20/19 **Haskell H. Gray** 11/20/19 **Barbara Russell Mascorro** '78 10/4/19 **James R. Moss** 7/6/19 Rev. **Carthel V. Pruitt** 8/28/19 Rev. **Jerry W. Styles** 10/24/19 Dr. **Richard E. Worringham** '77 9/27/19
- '74 **Charles B. Afill** 11/19/19 Rev. Dr. **Donald R. Benton** 10/23/19 **Gary L. Blevins** 8/18/19 **Herman W. Eubanks** 6/12/19 **Clarence J. Handlogten** 6/28/19 **Doris Paxton Johnston** 6/4/19 **Andrew D. Koustoubardis** 11/3/19 **Rudolf E. Krochman, Jr.** 10/1/19 **Katherine K. Landes** 11/16/19 **Diane Holmes McKee** 8/26/16 **Pamela Dillard Stone** 8/31/19 **Thomas H. Sweeney, III** 6/24/19 **Scott K. Tompkins** 9/3/14
- '75 **Dolores Miente Corley** 7/24/19 **Nancy Flowers Malone** 7/2/19 Dr. **Richard M. Mooney** 11/16/19 **William D. Ratliff, III** 7/7/19 **Wenford G. Sanders** 6/12/19 **Milo H. Segner, Jr.** 8/3/19 **Vaughn B. Venters** 9/2/19 **Brian L. Webb** 11/8/19
- '76 **David G. Barber** 9/27/19 **Bruce W. Bogusz** 9/21/19 **John W. Hamilton** 8/17/19 **Robert E. Hicks, Jr.** 10/26/19 **Andrew M. Miller** 9/27/19 **Pamela Phillips** 5/30/19
- '77 **Timoteo F. Gonzalez** 10/25/19
- '78 **Kun-Man Chow** 6/20/18 **Jeri J. Crowley** 8/7/19 **Mitchell K. McMurry** 11/22/19

- Dwight M. Moore** 10/1/19 **Thomas L. Petrus** 10/11/19 **Clay M. Schroepfer** 4/4/19
- '79 **Joseph P. Abraham** 7/12/19 **Theresa Bowman DeJarnette** 8/2/18 **Patricia Hyde** 6/6/19 **Elizabeth Waterhouse Layman** 10/12/19 **Warren S. Zeller, III** 11/29/17
- '80 **Mildred Roushey Segroves** 8/16/19 **Marylee Kois Skwirz** 9/25/19
- '81 **James L. Bunch** 7/29/19 **Melissa C. Stout** 10/29/19
- '83 **Mary Wilson Titus** 6/30/19
- '84 **Dan D. Davison** 10/11/19
- '85 **Elizabeth Sheen Helm** 7/5/18 **Alan V. King** 9/11/18 Rev. **Priscilla Wood Neaves** 8/30/19 **Mary Lukert Peek** 6/16/19 **Darrell R. Thedford** 11/2/19
- '86 **Alan N. Peppard** 6/8/19
- '87 **Thomas P. Kennedy, III** 11/20/19
- '90 **Kimberly S. Foley** 8/19/19
- '91 **Thomas B. Cochran, Sr.** 8/19/19 **Andrew G. Khoury, Esq.** 8/24/19 **Juanita M. Swetman** 7/27/19
- '92 **Timothy W. Heinen** 11/12/19 **David M. vonHartzsch** 3/24/18
- '93 **Contessa L. Fincher** 8/28/19 **Gregory E. Haywood** 10/1/19 **Leslie E. Hodge** 8/16/19 Rev. **Roger H. Templeton** 10/1/19
- '95 Rev. **Christy Germany Summers** 10/22/19 **Mark R. Willis** 10/6/19
- '97 **Alexis Snyder Tinney** 12/11/17
- '98 **Mechtilde Palacios Garcia** 6/13/19 **Kalpesh R. Patel** 7/27/19
- '99 **Kyle J. Blake** 9/14/19 **Samuel J. DeMaio, Jr.** 7/25/19 **John H. Lyon, Jr.** 10/29/19
- '01 **Jeffrey S. Gannon** 10/8/19 **Dean M. Pilkington** 4/22/19
- '02 **Jens P. Brock-Utne** 9/6/19 **Timothy M. Wheeler** 5/30/19
- '04 **Kellie M. Nelson** 5/30/19
- '06 **Tiffany Stringfellow Johnson** 9/19/19
- '07 **Celeste Mullen Barrett** 11/5/19 **Jerrold A. Dash** 6/5/19
- '08 Dr. **David D. Feinstein** 10/31/19 **Glenn A. Schools** 9/11/19

- '09 Dr. **Michael Duren** 8/16/19 **Callan Harrison VanLandingham** 11/14/19
- '10 **Sarah Dodson Schultz** 6/21/19
- '11 **Cheryl Jankowski Christopherson** 11/26/19 **Michael C. Duda** 9/4/19
- '14 **Jordan D. Kelly** 7/3/19 **Jared S. Wilson** 10/15/19
- '15 **Michael B. Frank** 7/22/19

## SMU Community

- Janet P. Balch**, editorial advisor and publications coordinator, Dedman School of Law, 1966-96, 8/31/19.
- Christopher Berti**, Dedman School of Law first-year student, 9/28/19.
- Edward R. Biehl**, professor *emeritus* of chemistry, 1962-2017, 10/14/19.
- James E. Brooks**, professor *emeritus* of earth sciences and provost *emeritus*, 1952-2011; dean of Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 1973-80; SMU president ad interim, 1980-81; and vice chair, Institute for the Study of Earth and Man (ISEM), 9/13/19.
- Haotian Chen**, graduate student, Cox School of Business, 12/23/18.
- Jack DeWayne Clay**, professor of theatre and head of acting and directing curriculum, 1966-1992, 9/2/19.
- Sterling R.E. Havens**, junior, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 1/11/20.
- John C. Lunsford**, adjunct associate professor of art history, 1968-96, and former director, Meadows Museum, 6/30/19.
- Donna K. Morris**, SMU staff member, retiring from Dean of Student Life's office, 1980-1999, 9/25/19.
- Ami Patel**, Dedman School of Law second-year student, 9/22/19.
- Clarence "Shorty" Perkins**, staff member, Office of Facilities Management, 1969-2011, 8/20/19.
- Douglas E. Yeager**, director of alumni development, Dedman School of Law, 10/28/18.

# SMU Cox: Envisioning The Second Hundred Years

## Under the leadership of Matthew B. Myers,

dean and Tolleson Chair in Business Leadership, the Edwin L. Cox School of Business marks a century of business education at SMU in 2020. As the Cox School enters its second hundred years, Myers – the school's ninth dean – shares his vision for SMU Cox and for how Carolyn and David Miller's recent \$50 million gift will enable SMU to prepare students for a 21st-century global marketplace.

### Q. What is your vision for the Cox School of Business?

You'll hear me say this often because it's true: You cannot have a world-class city without a world-class university, and more often than not, a world-class business school is a part of that university. Our vision for the Cox School is to strengthen key relationships with our partners in North Texas and beyond and expand our considerable strengths. That includes the recruitment and retention of high-achieving students and world-class faculty members who teach them while also engaging in cutting-edge research; a competitive yet supportive academic environment; the implementation of innovative academic programs and multidisciplinary degree options; the dedication of a hardworking staff; and the advantage we have of being located in a business-friendly state in the heart of an economically diverse city.

### Q. How do SMU and the Cox School educate students for a rapidly changing marketplace?

Curricula in SMU Cox degree programs, as with programs in other business schools and universities, need to adapt quickly to the changing marketplace and address the fact that we are preparing our graduates for jobs in the post-industrial world that don't even exist yet (the World Economic Forum predicts that by 2022, 75 million jobs will have disappeared while 133 million new jobs will have emerged, many unidentifiable today). While there is no way to build



Matthew B. Myers

future-proof curricula, those programs that focus on building complex skill-based graduates (technologically skilled with leadership and problem-solving strengths, combined with social acumen) will attract the attention of the best employers, and thus the best students.

### Q. What are challenges in the business world that the Cox School faces today?

Today's and tomorrow's students, be they business or other majors, are earning their degrees in an evolving world. One of the big shifts underway is the rapid growth of technology and innovation in the global economy. Data-driven decision-making is creating new opportunities. The nimbler we are in meeting varied career interests and in providing students options about how best to prepare themselves to pursue those interests, the better the career outcomes. The Cox School offers experiential learning courses that prepare students for real-world projects, making them competitive when it comes to post-graduation job opportunities and helping prepare them for leadership roles once they take those jobs.

In addition to multidisciplinary undergraduate degree options that the Cox School offers with other SMU schools, we have expanded degree offerings at the graduate level. Beyond traditional

programs, Executive Education, which provides a two-way learning opportunity for executive "students" and the faculty members who teach them, offers another avenue for outreach into the business community.

### Q. How will the Miller family's \$50 million gift transform business education at SMU?

David Miller '72, '73, who attended SMU on a basketball scholarship, earned his B.B.A. and M.B.A. at SMU Cox. David and his wife, Carolyn, understand the value that a strong business school brings to a dynamic, evolving global city. Their gift will support the Cox School's strategic plan, which seeks to modernize the business school curriculum, offer more and broader scholarships to be competitive in continuing to attract high-achieving students, collaborate across the SMU campus on a range of interdisciplinary programs and enhance the school's facilities. In short, the Millers are making it possible for SMU Cox to continue expanding our influence as a business school, and thereby helping expand the University's influence and that of Dallas and North Texas. We are so grateful to the Millers for their vision and generosity.

### Q. How can SMU alumni support the Cox School's goals for the 21st century?

Alumni play a huge role in the success of SMU and the Cox School, and we strive to make our alumni proud of their alma mater. Our global alumni network is critical – both in the importance of word of mouth and in the willingness of alumni to help current students and fellow alumni. Through their generous support, SMU and the Cox School will shine brightly throughout the 21st century and beyond.

*To buy tickets to the Cox 100 Anniversary Gala, which will benefit Cox School scholarships, or to support the Cox School of Business, visit [www.smu.edu/coxgiving](http://www.smu.edu/coxgiving) or contact Ashley Pitts, [apitts@smu.edu](mailto:apitts@smu.edu).*



Save the date for Founders' Day Weekend, April 16-19, when you can enjoy the blooming beauty of the campus and a variety of activities. Highlights will include Celebrating 100 Years of Business Education at SMU, a special evening spotlighting the Cox School of Business and commemorating a Hilltop milestone, and Sing Song, the annual student musical competition, both on Friday. On Saturday, there will be family-friendly fun at the Meadows Museum open house and at the annual spring football game in Ford Stadium. For more information: [smu.edu/FoundersDay](http://smu.edu/FoundersDay)





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