

SPRING 2021

SMU MAGAZINE

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Rise & SHINE

It's a **new day** on the
Hilltop, and **we're ready**
for what's next

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DOING GOOD.**

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Mustang momentum

AS OUR 2020 SPRING ISSUE WAS GOING TO PRESS A YEAR AGO, no one could have foreseen the extraordinary events that lay just ahead of us. While the past 12 months have presented countless challenges, what stand out most are the opportunities we embraced.

With characteristic innovation, creativity and collaboration, our community turned ideas into action. This issue of *SMU Magazine* provides a snapshot of how faculty, students, staff and alumni stepped up beyond expectations and how donor support kept Mustangs moving onward.

Through it all, our research with impact has never been stronger. In this issue, Provost Elizabeth Loba explains the importance of our path to R-1, the Carnegie Classification system's "highest research" designation. Attaining this status will generate dividends for the entire University, fortifying our ability to recruit top faculty and students as well as enhancing how our peers evaluate us in the rankings and how employers view our graduates. Leading the way toward that goal is the internationally recognized seismic-acoustic team led by Brian Stump that recently earned the largest research grant in SMU history for its work with crucial national defense applications. Also playing a major role is the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies through increased research and Ph.D. offerings. Other projects in such areas as education, engineering and theology illustrate the scope of our work with life-

changing potential.

We continue to thrive thanks to key investments across the Hilltop by donors passionate about our mission. New gifts boost Cox School of Business' transformational curricula, scholarship and spaces where we're preparing tomorrow's leaders for careers that don't even exist yet. In December, we dedicated the Gerald J. Ford Hall for Research and Innovation, which expands the use of high-performance computing for interdisciplinary discovery. At the same time, we celebrate the long-term influence of landmarks like Gerald J. Ford Stadium and the Meadows Museum. Both have become bridges to our Dallas-area neighbors by offering exceptional art and sports experiences.

As we strive to reflect the world's richness of viewpoints and identities, experts like Ana Rodriguez '03, who directs the SMU Cox Latino Leadership Initiative, and others who know that our differences are powerful assets, bring a crucial perspective to the table. In addition, our growth toward becoming a more equitable and inclusive campus

took another step forward with the announcement by SMU Chief Diversity Officer Maria Dixon Hall of the new University Diversity Council. The 15 diversity officers selected by their schools and units will ensure campuswide coordination of our diversity efforts. Also in this issue, you'll notice that we've made a few adjustments in the magazine based on responses to a reader survey hundreds of you answered in the fall. Our intention is to better serve you by improving the magazine's design and expanding coverage of our alumni community. Please let us know what you think by sending a message to smumag@smu.edu.

Finally, we think you'll agree that an exciting story is unfolding on these pages as we build on the momentum that you helped create. We're already shaping the future. Stay tuned to see what's next.

Pony Up!



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "R. Gerald Turner".

R. GERALD TURNER
President



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SEISMIC SHIFT

Brian Stump and his team specialize in catching waves. Their internationally recognized seismic-acoustic analyses recently earned the largest research grant in University history.



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THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Recent gifts amplify business scholarship and education that will equip our graduates to lead economic growth on a local, national and global scale, whatever the future may hold.



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BREAKING BARRIERS

Being an outsider can be a superpower, says Ana Rodriguez '03, who advises some of the nation's leading corporations as director of SMU's Latino Leadership Initiative.



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BUILDING ON THE BOULEVARD

This spring, the Meadows Museum celebrates the 20th anniversary of its stately home – one of the Boulevard's crown jewels – and its special relationship with the University.

**TECH PIONEER SMASHES ANOTHER GLASS CEILING**

When she launched the Bumble dating app for women by women, Whitney Wolfe Herd '11 knew she was onto something. Investors agreed, making her the nation's youngest female CEO to take a company public.

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**SOLID GOLD MUSTANG MOMENTS**

Let's take a trip in the Mustang Wayback Machine to 1970 and 1971.

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Road to R-1

By Elizabeth Lobo, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

I AM EXCITED TO PARTNER WITH FACULTY IN SHAPING AND IMPLEMENTING SMU'S STRATEGY FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. We are calling this the "Road to R-1" – which is short for attaining recognition as a tier-one research institution in the Carnegie Classification system. Similar to the *U.S. News and World Report* national rankings of colleges and universities, the Carnegie Classification system attempts to classify and distinguish universities in terms of their research productivity, with "Research One" being the pinnacle of distinction.

There are seven key attributes Carnegie reviews to determine a university's classification:

1) Science and Engineering Research

Expenditures – The amount of money the university spends each year conducting research in the STEM fields. Examples might include lab equipment, travel expenses, salaries and stipends.

2) Science and Engineering Research

Staff – A count of the number of staff members dedicated toward providing staff/research support to STEM faculty researchers.

3) Ph.D.s Awarded in Science

and Engineering – At SMU: biology, chemistry, earth sciences, engineering, geology, physics, psychology.

4) Ph.D.s Awarded in Social Sciences

– At SMU: anthropology, economics.

5) Ph.D.s Awarded in Humanities

– At SMU: English, history, art history, religious studies.

6) Other Doctorates – At SMU,

examples of other doctorates would include the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Simmons School, the Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) in Dedman School of Law and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) in Perkins School of Theology.

7) Nonscience and Engineering

Research Expenditures – Finally, Carnegie takes note of the non-STEM money spent to conduct research each year in fields like the social sciences and humanities.

To reach our lofty, but, I believe, achievable research goals will require progress in each of the seven measures monitored by Carnegie. We have made tremendous progress in the recent past, moving from R-3 to R-2 in the Carnegie Classification system.

Let me emphasize that my focus will be on helping SMU advance in our ambitions toward Research One while maintaining our commitment to outstanding undergraduate education, artistic and creative contributions, and world-class professional degrees. R-1 and teaching excellence should never be viewed as either/or endeavors, but rather both/and initiatives.

At SMU, we are seeing an increasing number of our undergraduate students express an interest in research opportunities. For example, nearly one-third of our incoming first-year students expressly stated on their admission application that they plan to pursue undergraduate research while at SMU.

We do not see the road to R-1 as

leading to a choice between mutually exclusive goals, but rather as offering an orientation toward innovation and aspirations that we all share, as they are manifested in the unique contributions of every single discipline on campus. Pursuit of the R-1 path will not preclude this kind of continued excellence and striving across all areas of our academic mission and determination to shape world changers. ■

Read more: smu.edu/smumag21provost





SEIS MIC SHIFT

by Chris Kelley



RESEARCH BY SMU'S BRIAN STUMP AND HIS TEAM EARNED AN EARTHSHAKING \$18 MILLION GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK OF INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND PEACEKEEPING SIGNIFICANCE.

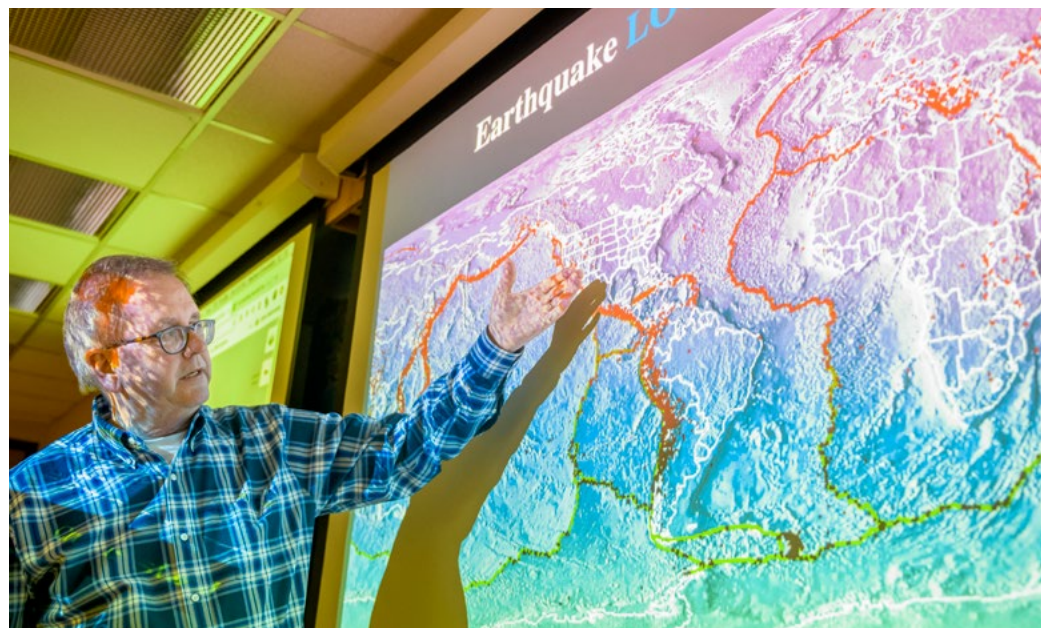
In 2008, when North Texas began experiencing strange underground rumblings in what historically has been a stable region of the country, curious reporters reached out to seismic detective Brian Stump, Albritton Professor of Earth Sciences at SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, to explain what was going on.

Once again, Stump is the center of attention as he and his team have been named the recipients of the largest research grant in SMU history. With the funding, the researchers will use a combination of acoustic and seismic waves to better distinguish between human-made events, such as nuclear tests, and nature's bumps and jolts, like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

SMU's seismo-acoustic analysis team has been doing this kind of work for over a quarter century. The team boasts other noteworthy experts in the field, including Stephen Arrowsmith, associate professor and Hamilton Chair in Earth Sciences; Chris Hayward, senior scientist in the Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences; and Paul Golden, director of the geophysics laboratory in earth sciences.

At the heart of their research is analysis of data collected at seismic arrays in the Big Bend area of Texas and in a remote region of Nevada – two extremely quiet places that allow recording instruments to clearly pick up acoustic and seismic waves. These waves are so subtle that they don't even register to the human ear, but the delicate devices can register nuances that allow them to identify underground anomalies happening around the world.

"In the cases of earthquakes and volcanoes, the waves provide new insight into the physical processes that accompany these natural events," said Stump. "For human-induced events, the waves similarly allow us to locate the sources as well as the processes that accompany the events. An example is mining explosions at the Earth's surface, which generate both seismic and infrasound signals that can be used to identify these activities." ■



SMU seismologist Brian Stump and his team were awarded the largest research grant in SMU's history, \$18 million, for their work on monitoring the Earth's acoustic and seismic waves.

‘Lab on a chip’

SMU RESEARCHERS’ DEVICE COULD MAKE A HUGE IMPACT ON COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTING

A new antibody test being developed by SMU researchers has the potential to detect the presence of antibodies generated in response to COVID-19 faster and with more accuracy than current methods.

Antibody tests are key to helping determine how many coronavirus cases have gone undetected and whether people who have had the virus might now be immune, which can help in managing the pandemic.

Researchers estimate the new test – dubbed “lab on a chip” – could detect immune responses to the coronavirus

in two to three minutes, versus the hours or days other methods require.

The test is performed by applying a drop of blood to a 2-centimeter microfluidic chip. A filter in the microchip pulls plasma from the blood sample. The chip is then placed into an electronic instrument that can check for specific antibodies and send results to a smartphone.

Ali Beskok and J.-C. Chiao are the lead researchers on the project. Beskok is the Brown Foundation, Inc. Professor of Engineering in Lyle School of Engineering. Chiao is

the Mary and Richard Templeton Centennial Chair in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Eva Csaky, executive director of SMU’s Hunter and Stephanie Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity consulted on the project.

“It would have a deep and significant impact on the world, given the devastating effect this coronavirus pandemic has had.”

– J.-C. Chiao
Mary and Richard Templeton
Centennial Chair



Their device has unlimited potential, Beskok notes. It doesn’t require medical training to implement, and the technology can possibly be used to detect other diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis.

And the price is right. The electronic instrument to read the chip will cost about \$15 to \$20. The disposable cartridge, which is where a drop of blood would go, would likely cost less than \$1.

SMU has a patent pending for the technology, which is called Multiplexed Assay for the Immune Response to COVID-19 (MAIRC). ▣

Read more: smu.edu/smumag21chip

SMU researchers originally developed the Multiplexed Assay for the Immune Response to COVID-19 (MAIRC) technology in 2018 to detect malaria and tuberculosis.

Nurturing stronger faith communities

A five-year \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. supports the Perkins School of Theology's Testimony as Community Engagement program.

The program, part of the renamed Perkins Center for Congregational Vitality, will help congregations master the practice of sharing stories of faith to build personal connections and become stronger spiritual hubs.

"My hope for the congregations who participate in the grant or utilize the materials we produce is that they will be able to talk about God's presence and activity in their midst in a way that is winsome and welcoming to insiders and outsiders," says the Reverend Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison, who is co-principal investigator on the project along with Bart Patton, director of youth and young adult ministry education at Perkins School.

Perkins School will work with 30 Dallas-area churches of varying denominations and diverse membership to capture testimony — people telling stories about God's presence in their lives — and embed it into their practice, so they improve the depth and vitality of each congregation.

Training will focus on improving connections within congregations, between congregations, and with the community.

"Thriving congregations provide safe places to discern when, where and how people have encountered God," says Patton. "The practice of testimony as community engagement, within and beyond the church walls, will become an indispensable part of the DNA of each cohort congregation."



Meet the inaugural Moody Dissertation Fellows

The Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, which commenced operations in fall 2020, has named its first cohort of Moody Dissertation Fellowship recipients.

The fellowships support SMU research in topics as diverse as drug discovery and molecular dynamics, bilingual education, U.S.-Mexico history, and 3D printing and additive manufacturing.

Lauren Ammerman '21 is a doctoral candidate in biology at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. Her research looks at drug discovery and molecular dynamics.

Veronica Mellado De La Cruz '07, '21 is a doctoral candidate in education research at Simmons School of Education and Human Development. She focuses on reading and assessment at the intersection of bilingualism and high-incidence disabilities.

Patrick Troester '21 is a doctoral candidate in history at Dedman College. His dissertation explores the American occupations of northern

Mexico during the U.S.-Mexican War as sites of cross-cultural interaction and conflict.

Bin Xia '21 is a doctoral candidate in mechanical engineering at Lyle School of Engineering. His research centers on 3D printing and additive manufacturing.

The Moody Dissertation Fellowship provides stipends of \$30,000 per year and other benefits to SMU students in the final stages of their Ph.D.s whose research shows exceptional promise. Selected students receive, in addition to the financial stipend, a tuition waiver and health insurance. ■

Read more: smu.edu/smumag21moody

SMU doctoral candidates (from left) Lauren Ammerman '21, Patrick Troester '21, Veronica Mellado De La Cruz '07, '21 and Bin Xia '21.

CREATING A STRONGER FOUNDATION

Education researchers earn major federal funding to develop better teaching tools

Future academic success is built upon basic reading and math abilities. Four Simmons professors are developing new ways of teaching and evaluating those skills using nearly \$7 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Education.

Jill Allor, chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning and a University Distinguished Professor, is receiving \$3.3 million over five years to continue her work on improving the reading and language skills of elementary students with intellectual

and developmental disabilities.

Stephanie Al Otaiba, who holds the Patsy and Ray Caldwell Centennial Chair in Teaching and Learning in the Simmons School, is finding new ways to jump-start vocabulary and reading skills in young learners inside and outside the classroom. Her “Project GROW: Growing Vocabulary Knowledge to Support Comprehension Development through a Kindergarten Dialogic Read-Aloud Intervention” was awarded a \$1.4 million grant over four years.

Aki Kamata, executive director of the Center on Research and Evaluation, will receive nearly \$900,000 over three years to test a computer-based oral reading program, which was developed with funding from a previous grant. The program helps teachers identify students at risk of falling behind and assess how well

interventions are working.

The fourth grant, worth \$1.4 million over four years, is for the development of a virtual reality game to improve students’ grasp of geometry. Candace Walkington, an associate professor and Gerald J. Ford Research Fellow, is exploring how using multiple senses can improve high school students’ reasoning and learning of geometry. The game will use a narrative format based on *Flatland*, a novella from the 1800s about an imaginary world run by geometric shapes.

All the grants were awarded by The Institute of Education Sciences, the statistics, research and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Education. ■

Stephanie Al Otaiba is among the grant recipients researching new methods and tools for helping struggling young learners.





Pioneering partnership propels cyber security research

ANAMETRIC, INC., AN AUSTIN-BASED COMPANY DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND DEVICES for chip-scale quantum photonics with a focus on cyber security, got its start years ago from a conversation with SMU researchers Mitch Thornton and Duncan MacFarlane.

Now, Anametric has awarded the Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security in SMU's Lyle School of Engineering more than \$1 million in new research grants for quantum-related research.

Back in 2014, Anametric's Chief Executive Officer Wil Oxford first met Thornton when the SMU engineer was working on a research grant

funded by Oxford's previous cyber security company. They enjoyed working together so much that they kept in contact – and had frequent talks about quantum informatics and the ramifications that might have on cyber security in the future.

"One of those monthly conversations resulted in us filling a whiteboard with some pretty radical

With a \$1 million grant from technology company Anametric, SMU's chip-scale quantum photonics research leaps forward.

ideas, and that whiteboard was the genesis of" Anametric, Oxford says.

The researchers note that this partnership exemplifies the way engineering should work, but doesn't always.

"A goal of Lyle's engineering entrepreneurship activities is to help SMU faculty increase their relevant research activity by supporting small engineering firms, startups and the private equity/venture capital funding communities," MacFarlane says.

Thornton and MacFarlane bring a combined expertise of more than 40 years in quantum information theory and quantum photonic integrated circuit design. Thornton is the Cecil H. Green Chair of Engineering and executive director of the Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber Security. MacFarlane is the Bobby B. Lyle Centennial Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship, associate dean for SMU's Engineering Entrepreneurship and executive editor for SMU's Hart Institute for Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship. ■

Disease detective deploys mathematical modeling

How does a germ-laced cough or sneeze wreak havoc with our health? SMU professor Vladimir Ajaev has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant to develop mathematical models that will help answer that question by describing the spread of diseases through tiny droplets formed in the respiratory airways.

While the project focuses on tuberculosis transmission, it shows potential for shedding new light on the airborne transmission of viruses such as influenza and COVID-19.

"Infectious diseases transmitted by tiny droplets of respiratory fluids affect tens of millions of people worldwide. Better understanding of the mechanism of transmission can lead to improvements in both treatment and protection strategies," Ajaev says.

Researchers will start by studying the dynamics of an individual evaporating droplet. The results will then be applied to a global model of transportation and interaction of multiple droplets.





Building the future of business

EDUCATION

Cox School of Business continues an exciting phase of growth and transformation with new investments by Gina L. and Tucker S. Bridwell '73, '74; Aurelia and Brad Heppner '88 and family; and Jane R. and Pat S. Bolin '73.

The Bridwells' gift of \$15 million includes \$7.5 million for the creation of the Bridwell Institute for Economic Freedom, which generates transformational economic research promoting free enterprise around the globe. The Heppners' commitment of \$11.5 million includes \$10 million to establish the Heppner Family Commons – part of the future Cox School renovation and expansion project – and \$1.5 million to support Cox faculty research. The Bolins' gift of \$7.5 million will join with \$7.5 million from the Bridwells to create the new Bolin-Bridwell Hall.

"This powerful support speaks to the future-focused generosity of the Bridwells, Heppners and Bolins, and the strength of their belief that SMU truly shapes world changers," says SMU President

ON



R. Gerald Turner. “Collectively, these gifts will equip Cox School students with the technology, collaborative opportunities and innovative spaces they need to become global business leaders, as well as advance faculty research with local, national and international impact.”

The Bridwell Institute is a research organization within Cox School that examines and promotes free enterprise in markets worldwide. It offers high-level programs that push students to visualize cycles of change and predict innovations before they happen.

“Gina and I are excited to support Cox and see the future impact of the Bridwell Institute,” says Tucker Bridwell, a renowned civic and business leader. “SMU is a place that encourages students to think and lead. This was true 50 years ago when I came to SMU as a freshman; it is still true today.”

Efforts already underway at the Bridwell Institute are contributing to one of Cox School’s most enduring pursuits – to train leaders ready to meet the world’s most complex challenges and drive economic growth in North Texas and on a global scale.

New facilities designed for learning beyond the classroom will elevate the school’s edge in recruiting the best young minds to SMU.

The Heppner Family Commons will serve as the collaborative heart of the Fincher Building in Cox School of Business. It will provide an elegant place for students and faculty from all disciplines, as well as community members, to generate and share bold ideas that spark meaningful action and positive results. The expansive,

“

SMU IS A PLACE THAT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO THINK AND LEAD. THIS WAS TRUE 50 YEARS AGO WHEN I CAME TO SMU AS A FRESHMAN; IT IS STILL TRUE TODAY.”

– Tucker Bridwell '73, '74

light-filled Commons will be a distinctive calling card for the school.

Additionally, \$1.5 million to support Cox School faculty research will be received from the Heppner Endowments for Research Organizations (HERO). HERO finds and funds innovative ways to make life better for individuals, families and communities in Texas and beyond.

“SMU’s Cox School of Business is a vital part of Dallas’ thriving business community,” says Brad Heppner, a recognized leader in the alternative investment industry. “We are proud to invest in the next generation of business leaders who are building their skills in the Cox School, and in faculty who conduct ambitious research.”

Another new learning environment, Bolin-Bridwell Hall, will mirror the evolving workplace, and use the latest technology to bolster students’ data fluency. Inside the building, classrooms and areas for collaborating outside of class will support



Gina L. Bridwell and Tucker S. Bridwell '73, '74



Brad Heppner '88 and Aurelia Heppner



Pat S. Bolin '73 and Jane R. Bolin

innovative teaching practices and build the skills that top companies seek and that entrepreneurs need.

Facing Bishop Boulevard and sharing the traditional Collegiate Georgian architectural exterior of other SMU buildings, the new facility will act as the northwest anchor of the rejuvenated business school quad.

“Jane and I were inspired by the generous gift to SMU made by Gina and Tucker, who have been great friends to us for more than 50 years,” says Pat Bolin, a longtime leader in the energy industry and the Dallas community. “We feel this is the perfect time to invest in the future of the Cox School and in preparing students for the ever-evolving world of business.”

Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad E. Cheves applauds the donors’ foresight in contributing to this defining moment for business education at SMU.

“We’re so fortunate to have donors like the Bolins, the Bridwells and the Heppners with the ability to visualize how their investments today will make a difference 10 years, 20 years, even 50 years from now,” Cheves says. “Their gifts will make possible important empirical research and technologically integrated learning environments that encourage the exchange of ideas and bring students together as a community.”

The dynamic and flexible approach that has been adopted by Cox School to anticipate the changes and challenges of the years ahead is nothing new at SMU, which has long been a launching pad for solutions-focused leadership and innovation. When the DFW

region was recovering in the 1970s from an economic downturn, the school created the Caruth Institute for Owner-Managed Business, the first academic center in the world to offer the fundamentals of starting a business for both students and the business community. As Cox School grew in prestige, major corporations like ExxonMobil, McKesson and now Toyota planted their roots in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Today, Cox School’s enrollment of out-of-state undergraduates regularly reaches about 70%, and has been as high as 73% in recent years. Of the total number of Cox BBA graduates who reported employment in May 2020, 76% accepted a job in Texas. As these numbers show, the business landscape in North Texas is rapidly expanding in no small part because of students propelled by forward-thinking donors and faculty.

While the transition from college life to the professional world has



WE ARE PROUD TO INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF BUSINESS LEADERS WHO ARE BUILDING THEIR SKILLS IN THE COX SCHOOL, AND IN FACULTY WHO CONDUCT AMBITIOUS RESEARCH.”

– Brad Heppner '88

never posed a greater challenge for graduating students, Cox School of Business has never offered more solutions that address the emerging need for expertise related to technology, the digital economy and entrepreneurial business practices through its acclaimed faculty and the advancements made possible by donors.

“We are grateful to the Bolins, the Bridwells and the Heppners for their

belief in Cox,” says Matthew B. Myers, dean of Cox School and Tolleson Chair in Business Leadership. “Their gifts will not only enrich existing programs and generate countless new opportunities for our faculty and students, but they also support contemporary pedagogy that builds the skills top employers look for.”

As a national leader in business education, Cox School equips students to take on the impossible, the unexpected, the *not yet*. It was established in uncertain times, and in the spirit of its founding, it will address the changing business landscape in new, creative ways. ■

Read more: smu.edu/smumag21cox

“

WE FEEL THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE COX SCHOOL AND IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE EVER-EVOLVING WORLD OF BUSINESS.”

– Pat S. Bolin '73

BELOW: The Cox School renovation and expansion project will include dynamic, upgraded academic spaces, including cluster-style classrooms such as the one pictured in this conceptual rendering.





Child Advocacy Clinic receives Texas Bar grant

Jasmine was better prepared than many teens who age out of the Texas foster care system. She graduated high school at the top of her class and enrolled in college. But the stress of college with little support and a foundering relationship with her birth mother unraveled her world.

She dropped out and became homeless. Traffic tickets she couldn't pay became warrants and then a night in jail. Without the more than \$1,500 to pay the fines or even transportation to get court, Jasmine was not just stuck, but at risk of her circumstances getting worse. The W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic at SMU's Dedman School of Law stepped in to help Jasmine as they have hundreds of others – and they recently received more funding to continue that work.

The Child Advocacy Clinic, launched in 2001, won a \$12,500 grant from the Texas Bar Foundation for its Aged Out Program, which provides legal services to former foster children. The gift also will support a law fellow who provides legal services, conducts know-your-rights sessions, and performs community outreach.

In Dallas County, about 100 youth per year age out of the

child welfare system. Many are sent on their way without essential documents such as an ID, birth certificate or Social Security card, making finding work and a home even more difficult.

"Youth rarely leave the system immediately ready to be productive, successful and independent adults, and they often have legal issues that follow them from foster care, further complicating their emancipation," says Diane Sumoski, director of the Child Advocacy Clinic. "Small legal issues can snowball quickly into large problems."

The clinic helps former foster children navigate legal challenges while giving law students hands-on experience. Student lawyers have represented more than 225 clients from infants to 18-year-olds. ▣

Read more: smu.edu/smumag21caruth

Bragging rights

Here are some recent rankings worth shouting about.

No. **3**

Sport management programs in the U.S.
niche.com 2021

No. **14**

25 Best Colleges for Math
GradReports 2020

No. **15**

Math and statistics
DIVERSE Issues in Higher Education 2020

Top **25**

Private graduate schools of education
U.S. News & World Report 2021

Listen and learn from these podcasts

Aged Out: The Stories that Built Us

Each episode of this series from W. W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic (see Page 14) features a firsthand account of growing up in foster care and experiencing the aging-out process. Together, these stories create a compelling call to action to change a system that often falls short in preparing former foster kids for the future. *Online @ smu.edu/Law/Clinics/Caruth/Resources-and-Programs/podcast*

Interfaith Encounters

Robert Hunt, director of global theological education at Perkins School of Theology, hosts consequential conversations with faith leaders about some of today's most pressing issues. The first season focused on responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, while the current season explores the topic of religious freedom. *Online @ interfaith-encounters.simplecast.com/*

The Past, The Promise, The Presidency: Race and the American Legacy

The Center for Presidential History's podcast focuses on the nation's most powerful office and its complex relationship with race. Look for special "breaking news" episodes as well. It is hosted by Sharron Conrad, a postdoctoral fellow at the Center; Jeffrey Engel, the Center's founding director; and Lindsay Chervinsky, scholar-in-residence at the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies and senior fellow at the International Center for Jefferson Studies. *On iTunes, Spotify and Google Play.*



Sea Monsters Unearthed: Life in Angola's Ancient Seas will continue this year at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Although currently closed to the public because of the pandemic, the museum reports tens of thousands of viewers have visited the exhibition webpage. Professor *Emeritus* of Earth Sciences Louis Jacobs, who leads the SMU researchers and students working with paleontologists from around the globe, continues to meet weekly via Zoom with international project participants to ensure the collection "is in good order" when it returns to its homeland, where Angolan scientists and educators will continue this groundbreaking investigation of the ancient seas with the next wave of bold and curious explorers.

BREAKING BARRIERS

by Chris Kelley

Meet Ana Rodriguez '03, the self-described outsider who corporations rely on to reach inside the Latino community.

PASSIONATE.

No other word is used more frequently to describe Ana Rodriguez '03, managing director of the SMU Cox Latino Leadership Initiative.

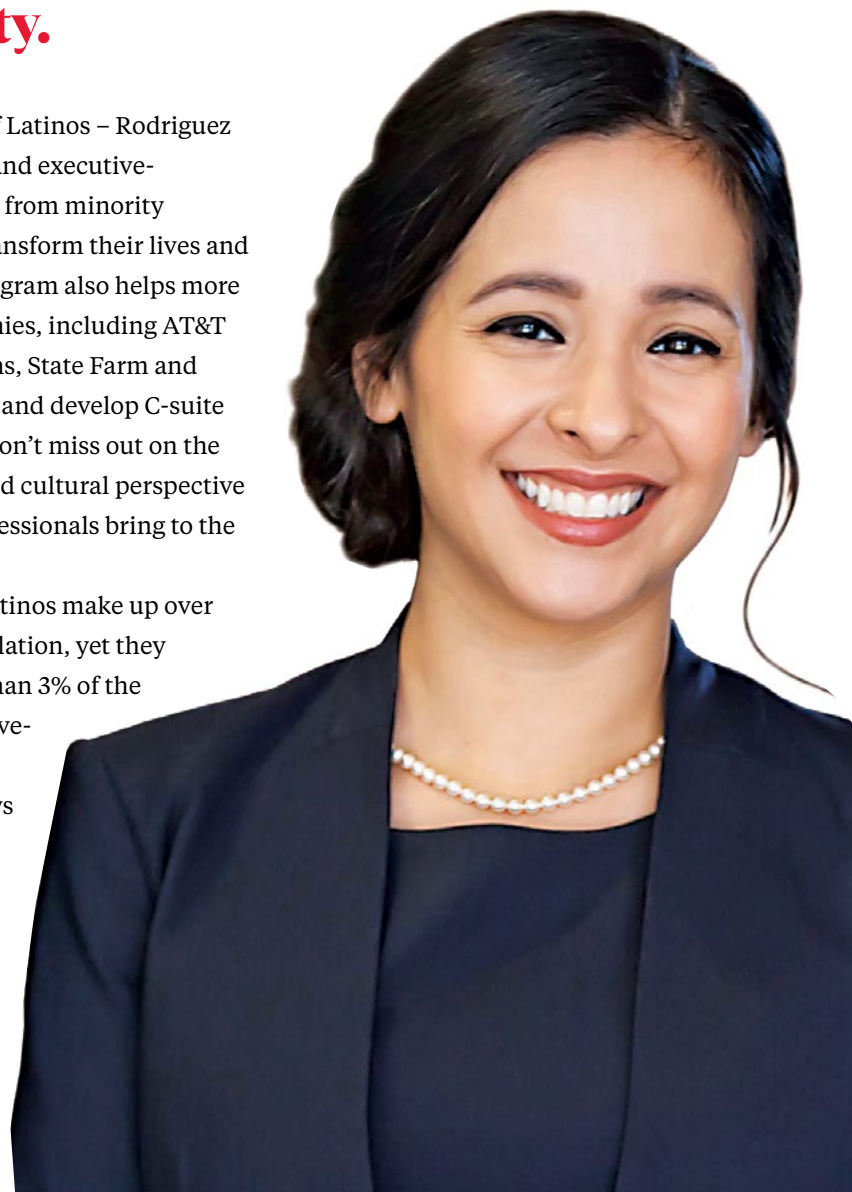
Spend a day in her office at SMU Cox School of Business, and you'll see just how much passion fuels this Dallas native, community bridge-builder and executive leadership adviser to some of the nation's largest companies.

"Ana is the right person at the right time with the drive and tenacity to make the difference we and our business partners need," says Shane Goodwin, associate dean of executive education and graduate programs at the Cox School. "She is absolutely a force of nature."

As the head of the Latino Leadership Initiative (LLI) – the nation's only executive education program dedicated to the professional

advancement of Latinos – Rodriguez helps students and executive-level employees from minority backgrounds transform their lives and careers. The program also helps more than 40 companies, including AT&T Communications, State Farm and Walmart, retain and develop C-suite talent, so they don't miss out on the market value and cultural perspective that Latino professionals bring to the workplace.

As of 2020, Latinos make up over 18% of the population, yet they represent less than 3% of the nation's executive-level positions. Rodriguez knows firsthand what it's like to struggle to gain a foothold in the U.S.



Born in the Bachman Lake neighborhood of Dallas, Rodriguez spoke exclusively Spanish as a child. She was raised by a single mother from Peru, and her father is from Mexico. Nuns at her small Catholic elementary school taught her English, which she spoke at school while continuing to speak Spanish at home. Later she received a scholarship to attend Ursuline Academy, one of Dallas' premier private schools for girls.

She went on to earn her BBA in finance from the Cox School.

With growing confidence and a ferocious work ethic, she became one of the youngest assistant vice presidents of Bank of America at just 25 years old. She quickly discovered that her outsider perspective and cultural background were not qualities she needed to suppress, but were actually some of her most valuable professional assets.

"I've always been the outsider – the person that just never really fit in – which is why I love what I do now at SMU Cox. The work we do at LLI is all about how to find power in feeling like an outsider – how to make sure you know that you're adding value even though you're different than everyone else. That's what corporate America needs right now," she says.

Rodriguez has devoted much of her life to guiding others to personal and professional success through the Latino Leadership Initiative.

A one-week program called Rising Latino Leaders helps managers see how their cultural identities can advance business objectives, and LLI's signature offering, the Corporate Executive Development Program, is a popular nine-month intensive

“

We help companies encourage minority employees to find their voices and just be authentic, rather than to assimilate.”

– Ana Rodriguez '03

workshop taught by acclaimed faculty.

Results are stellar: 85% of those in the corporate executive development program achieve an additional promotion. Of those who participate in LLI's program for first-time managers, 92% earn a promotion.

The Latino Leadership Initiative also invites middle and high schoolers to the SMU campus for tours led by current college students. They pair young Latinos with mentors who help them build the self-confidence they need to achieve success.

For Rodriguez, everyone has a role to play in moving young Latino professionals forward. "No matter where you are in the pipeline, you help," she says.

At LLI, Rodriguez adds, "We help companies encourage minority employees to find their voices and just be authentic, rather than to assimilate." ■

Read more: smu.edu/smumag21LLI



SMU Cox Latino Leadership Initiative Managing Director Ana Rodriguez (center) and LLI student interns and graduate fellows gather during the Initiative's "Hey Chica" Latina Leadership Summit, a conference focused on creating a community of encouragement and empowerment.



Visualizing the digital frontier

GERALD J. FORD HALL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, a new 50,000-square-foot interdisciplinary research hub, was dedicated on December 4, 2020. It equips faculty, students and industry partners with resources to power new enterprises in the digital world.

Gerald J. Ford '66, '69; his wife, Kelli O. Ford; and The Gerald J. Ford Family Foundation provided the lead gift for Ford Hall in 2013. The new facility includes the AT&T Center for Virtualization, the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute, high-performance computing and data science, and the innovative Visualization Lab. In addition, thanks to a significant gift from Linda Wertheimer Hart '65 and Milledge (Mitch) A. Hart, III, Ford Hall brings to SMU's main campus the Hart eCenter, which includes SMU Guildhall, the graduate game design program. ▣

Read more: smu.edu/smumag21ford

ABOVE Ford Hall's Visualization Lab is among the new research hub's signature spaces.

Navy calls on our virtualization expertise

SMU's AT&T Center for Data Virtualization will lead research and development while the Navy will provide its technical data through an agreement with the Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific. The research facility in San Diego delivers essential capabilities in the areas of command and control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance,

reconnaissance, cyber security and space.

As a result of the agreement, SMU students trained in data science, statistical science, computer science, software engineering, cyber security and systems engineering will be well positioned for recruitment opportunities in careers supporting U.S. Department of Defense initiatives.



Alum startups thriving with millions in seed funding

Innovative ventures helmed by SMU alums continue to sweep up funding and accolades.

ShearShare, founded by Courtney Caldwell '00 and her husband, Tye, and Dottid, founded by Kyle Waldrep '16, have each received millions in seed funding in the last year while nabbing spots on *The Dallas Business Journal's* list of 21 North Texas Startups to Watch in 2021. We're watching, too.

In January, Dottid and Waldrep also won in the Innovation in Real Estate category at the second annual Innovation Awards, presented by *D CEO* and Dallas Innovates.

Dottid's software streamlines leasing by providing a single space to manage leasing documents, correspondence and workflow. Waldrep spotted an inefficiency while working as a commercial real estate broker and moved to capitalize on it.

ShearShare also has startup circles buzzing. The company connects hair stylists and skin and nail technicians seeking flexibility with on-demand professional space. Started in 2017, ShearShare has listings in more than 700 U.S. cities.

Last year, ShearShare snagged \$2.3 million in an oversubscribed funding round. Investors include Mark Cuban, Jaylon Smith of the Dallas Cowboys through his Minority Entrepreneurship Institute and Thaddeus Young of the Chicago Bulls. *The Business Journal's* inaugural Inno on Fire Awards also honored the company.

The pandemic has accelerated ShearShare's growth, with a 157% increase in users.



TOP Courtney Caldwell '00 of ShearShare.

BOTTOM Kyle Waldrep '16 of Dottid.

SMU alumna leads blockbuster IPO

Whitney Wolfe Herd '11 shattered another glass ceiling as the youngest female CEO ever to take her company public.

Wolfe Herd, the 31-year-old founder and CEO of the dating app Bumble, made history on February 11. In a Twitter video posted by Nasdaq, she is seen ringing the exchange's opening bell virtually from her Austin headquarters while holding her 1-year-old son. As a result of the IPO, her stake in the company also made her the youngest self-made female billionaire in the country.

Her "by women, for women" philosophy gives Bumble a competitive edge in a crowded field. The dating app puts women in the driver's seat, empowering them to make the first move.

In the past year, 560 companies have gone public, and Bumble is just the third among them with a female founder and eighth with a female CEO, according to *Business Insider*. True to her female empowerment mission, 70% of Bumble's board members are women.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bumble added video chat and voice calling options, audio notes and a slew of other features designed for virtual dating. Wolfe Herd told *The Los Angeles Times*, "We're well positioned

to thrive in the sense that people have seen the true benefit of online dating. It's unlikely to ever revert back to how it was." ▣

Read more: smu.edu/smumag21bumble

"The importance of a woman making the first move is not exclusive to the world of dating, romance or love. It is a powerful shift, giving women confidence and control."

– From Bumble's SEC filing



STUDENTS TAKE TOP 2 SPOTS AT ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION

SMU's Aryan Bhatnagar '22 and Mona El-Gharby '21 took first and second place in the Dallas semifinals of the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards.

For Bhatnagar, it was another A+ for EZTutor, a peer-to-peer tutoring marketplace, and a trip to the GSEA finals, held virtually in late February.

He won \$11,000 in cash and in-kind gifts, bringing the company's funding total to more than \$50,000, nearly all from pitch competitions.

El-Gharby and CURLē – a line of hair care products designed for curly-haired people and people of color –

won \$1,000 at the GSEA semifinals.

Bhatnagar launched EZTutor in 2017. The initial focus of EZTutor is on students seeking help in K-12 subjects, test preparation and college applications, mostly in the Coppel and Flower Mound areas. The company is looking at branching into college, skills training, licensing and certification training.

EZTutor's algorithm considers more than just subject, availability

and location. Matches are also based on learning and leadership styles. EZTutor has matched more than 300 students with nearly 110 tutors. Revenue has topped \$180,000.

“Our goal is not to be just another platform that helps last-minute on a single homework assignment, or gets someone a big grade on a single test,” Bhatnagar says. “What we want is to be there for students consistently, and to improve their fundamental success in education through making them better learners.”

Bhatnagar wants to expand EZTutor's services and eventually partner with large school systems.

For El-Gharby, CURLē is the result of a journey that began in middle school to embrace her own natural hair. The pandemic forced her to adjust her launch date, but it also gave her time to refine her formulas and business plan, which includes more than just products, El-Gharby says.

“At CURLē we offer more than just hair products. We offer bespoke tools for our customers to embrace and be confident in their uniquely natural hair. Not only are we specializing in natural hair needs, but we are creating an encouraging platform and community around the natural hair journey.” ■



Aryan Bhatnagar (left) has won several pitch competitions, including SMU's Big iDeas contest in 2019 and the Big iDeas Business Plan Competition in 2019 and 2020.

Gaming health care

Corey Clark, an assistant professor in SMU's highly ranked Guildhall graduate video game design program, was nominated for the 2020 Tech Titans Chief Technology Officer of the Year award for his work with Balanced Media Technology, a crowdsourced health care artificial intelligence company that is fundamentally changing the diagnosis and treatment of diseases through gaming.

The Tech Titans award recognizes technical leadership, team building, creation and maintenance of a creative environment, and market research skills. Last year, Clark won the Tech Titans' Technology Inventor Award.

Balanced Media and Clark's work focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of disease using gamers to assist the use of artificial intelligence and empower machine learning.

Last year, the company used that focus to contribute to the fight against COVID-19. A joint effort from Balanced Media and Complexity Gaming, with help from SMU computational biologist John Wise, used an app called HEWMAN to harness gamers' processing power to evaluate the treatment potential of more than 200,000 FDA medications and compounds.

Beyond COVID-19, the company's signature research helps the artificial intelligence used to diagnose disease improve by crowdsourcing human help via video games.



Quinn Mason, composer studying at Meadows, receives DSO commission

QUINN MASON IS SETTING HIS OWN STANDARD IN CLASSICAL MUSIC. At just 24 years old, the musical prodigy recently completed his second commission for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

"Reflection on a Memorial" was one of the highlights of Unity Concert, presented by the DSO and the Dallas Black Dance Theatre in November to honor George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others who have lost their lives to racial violence and injustice. It was also a fundraiser for Project Unity, which was founded by Pastor Richie Butler '93 of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church.

Mason hopes the piece, which took him two months to complete, carries a strong message.

"Looking at the times we're living in, it's a very tumultuous time, but it's also a time of uplifting and looking ahead and that things will get better," Mason told KXAS-TV (Channel 5).

Mason, who studied composition and conducting with faculty at Meadows School of the Arts, discovered classical music on the radio at age 10. He began playing the piano, then the cello, and more. Before long, he began composing his own music.

Professor Jack Delaney recalls what it was like to "teach" Mason: "His first conducting lesson with me involved him walking into my studio, standing in the middle of the floor,



Temi Thomas/Dallas Symphony Orchestra

and conducting *The Rite of Spring* from memory. All of it. No score. No recording. Nothing. And he didn't miss a thing. Not one thing," Delaney says.

Last year, *Texas Monthly* said Mason may be "classical music's next superstar," and *The Dallas Morning News* honored him as a 2020 Texan of the Year finalist.

"I have a vision that I will be a role model to other young African American kids who want to make a career in classical music," Mason says. "My message is, you can do this, and you can feel comfortable doing it, like me." ■

20+

years of
GERALD J. FORD STADIUM





A big win for SMU and the Dallas community

Ford Stadium brings Mustangs together to celebrate some of the Hilltop's most memorable moments. Named in honor of SMU trustee Gerald J. Ford '66, '69, whose lead gift paved the way for construction, Ford Stadium returned football to campus from its temporary home at the Cotton Bowl and created a new bridge to the North Texas community when it opened in 2000.

Here are some milestones from Ford Stadium's first two decades:

2000 On September 2, 2000, in the inaugural Mustang football game in Ford Stadium, SMU beat Kansas 31-17 in front of a sold-out crowd of more than 32,000 – the first full-capacity home game since 1990.

2005 The Mustangs stunned No. 22 TCU in a 21-10 win to claim the Iron Skillet on September 10, 2005. This marked SMU's first win at Ford Stadium over a ranked team.

2009 Aloha, Mustangs! On November 19, 2009, SMU clinched its first bowl bid since 1984 in a 35-31 win against UTEP. The Mustangs proceeded to win the Hawaii Bowl against the University of Nevada on Christmas Eve 2009.

2015 On September 26, 2015, SMU capped a five-day celebration of the University's centennial with a spectacular fireworks display after

the Homecoming game against James Madison University.

2016 SMU defeated the University of Houston 38-16 on October 22, 2016. At the time, the Cougars were ranked No. 11 in the nation – the highest-ranked team the Mustangs have defeated in Ford Stadium.

2019 SMU triumphantly closed its regular season 6-0 at Ford Stadium with a 37-29 win against Tulane on December 1, 2019. The perfect record at home was SMU's first since 1968.

2020 On December 19, 2020, over 500 degree candidates donned regalia and face masks and supported social distancing for December Commencement. They followed the lead of May graduates whose Commencement celebration had to be postponed until August 15, 2020, due to COVID-19.





Meadows Museum celebrates a 20-year milestone

The opening of its iconic campus home two decades ago was a defining moment for the Meadows Museum. The stately landmark on Bishop Boulevard is six times larger than the Museum's original location. With more space came new opportunities to showcase a growing collection, host international exhibitions, expand educational programming for all ages and abilities, and welcome more visitors from near and far.



2015 Fireworks celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Meadows Museum light up the plaza, which features *Sho*, a monumental stainless steel mesh sculpture by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, made possible by The Meadows Foundation and the Pollock family.

2001

“In 20 years, we have doubled the size of our collection and assembled groundbreaking international loan exhibitions in collaboration with distinguished collections from around the world, most accompanied by notable publications,” says Mark Roglán, the Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum. “In Spain, we benefit from an ongoing relationship with the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, and have also organized major exhibitions with other prominent Spanish museums, including the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, the Museo Arqueológico Nacional and the Palacio Real — achieving the vision of our founder, Algur H. Meadows, to create a ‘small Prado for Texas.’”

Meadows’ vision started to take shape in 1962. Inspired by visits to Madrid’s Museo Nacional del Prado, the philanthropist and oil financier began to acquire his own Spanish art. Funds to construct and endow a museum to house his renowned collection were provided through The Meadows Foundation. The Meadows Museum opened in 1965 as part of the Owen Arts Center in Meadows School of the Arts.

As the Museum’s permanent collection grew over the years, so did its need for space. In 1998, The Meadows Foundation committed \$18.5 million to construct a new building worthy of its world-class collection.

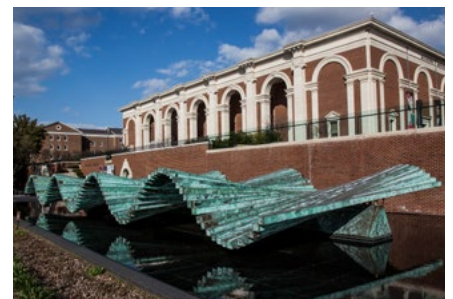
“The Museum’s new home would not have been possible without the generosity of The Meadows Foundation. Its lead gift spurred other patrons of the arts to contribute to creating a space worthy of the Museum’s internationally renowned collection, which will inspire visitors and scholars for years to come,” says SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

The new Meadows Museum opened in March 2001 with ceremonies chaired by SMU trustee *emerita* Linda Pitts Custard ’60, ’99 and attended by King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofía of Spain. The structure boasts 66,000 square feet of naturally lit studios, European-style galleries and the Gene and Jerry Jones Great Hall, a signature space within the building.

Over the past two decades, the acquisitions, projects and partnerships made possible by the new building have enhanced Meadows Museum’s international



2001 At the opening festival for the new Meadows Museum, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofía of Spain ceremonially pour water from their country into a special vase. That water is added to the reflecting pool at the dedication of Santiago Calatrava’s *Wave* sculpture.



2002 The Museum welcomes *Wave*, the first large-scale sculpture by Santiago Calatrava to be permanently installed in the United States. The perpetually moving sculpture is funded through the generosity of Mary Anne and Richard Cree of Dallas and the Rosine Foundation Fund of the Communities Foundation of Texas.



2009 With funding from Nancy Hamon, The Meadows Foundation and The Eugene McDermott Foundation, among others, the Meadows Museum renovates its plaza. Beloved sculptures such as Henry Moore’s *Three Piece Reclining Figure No. 1* are removed then reinstalled when the plaza is completed.



“The Meadows Foundation is proud to see how the Meadows Museum has expanded its collection and programs in large part because of its new location. We are excited to see what the next 20 years bring.”

– Peter M. Miller
President and CEO, The Meadows Foundation

2010 The Meadows Museum forms a historic partnership with Spain’s Prado Museum, signing an agreement enabling three annual loans of paintings from the Prado to Meadows, starting with El Greco’s masterpiece, *Pentecost*.



2015 The Meadows Museum installs a new exhibition – *Treasures from the House of Alba: 500 Years of Art and Collecting* – to celebrate its 50th anniversary. At the exhibit opening is Carlos Fitz-James Stuart y Martínez de Irujo, Duke of Alba.



2019 Peggy ’72 and Carl Sewell ’66 serve as honorary chairs and Pilar Tabarnero Henry as gala chair for the Meadows Museum’s inaugural Masterpiece Gala: *The Color of Dreams*, inspired by the work of Spanish Surrealist Salvador Dalí and featuring the accompanying exhibition *Dalí: The Poetics of the Small*. During the exhibit, the Museum hosts *Dalí in the Dark* after-hours events for alumni and students (above).

reputation as a leader in the field of Spanish art historical studies.

Two illuminating new exhibits bring into sharp focus the sweeping impact of this treasure trove.

Building on the Boulevard: Celebrating 20 Years in the Meadows Museum’s New Home pays tribute to the achievements made possible by the essential structure. To mark this year, the Museum’s permanent collection of Spanish masterpieces will be reinstalled along with highlights from the 250 exceptional works acquired since the building opened.

A complementary show, *Fossils to*

Film: The Best of SMU’s Collections, explores the Museum’s special association with the University. For the first time, the Museum will host prized pieces from nine collections across campus. The only surviving footage of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s visit to Dallas in 1966 and the earliest illuminated manuscript in the state are among the holdings on display.

Both exhibits continue through June 20. Visit the Museum website at meadowsmuseumdallas.org to purchase timed entry tickets and find information updates. ■



Meet our diversity officers

Fifteen faculty and staff members have added the role of diversity officer to their current duties within their schools and units. According to SMU Chief Diversity Officer Maria Dixon Hall, they will serve on the University Diversity Council, which will ensure campuswide coordination of diversity efforts.



STEVE DENSON
Cox School of Business
Assistant dean of diversity
and inclusion



JILL KELLY
Dedman College of
Humanities and Sciences
Diversity officer (faculty)
and Altshuler Distinguished
Teaching Professor/history



JOHN GEORGES
Dedman College of
Humanities and Sciences
Diversity officer (staff) and
director of Dedman College
Records and Academic Services



ERIKA FADEL
Dedman School of Law
Director of diversity and
inclusion



KATHY HUBBARD
Lyle School of Engineering
Assistant dean for diversity,
equity and inclusion



KAREN THOMAS
Meadows School of the Arts
Diversity officer, special advisor
to the dean and professor of
the practice/journalism



KERRI BENNETT
Moody School of Graduate
and Advanced Studies
Diversity officer and
associate director



HERBERT COLEMAN
Perkins School of Theology
Diversity officer and director of
retention and success



YOLETTE GARCIA
Simmons School of Education
and Human Development
Assistant dean for diversity,
inclusion and communication



HOLLIE GARDNER
SMU Libraries
Equity, diversity, inclusion
and accessibility officer and
director of strategic initiatives



ANDRE HARRIS
Athletics
Diversity and inclusion officer
and director of student-athlete
development



TRACY SCOTT
Business and Finance
Diversity officer and senior
compensation specialist



MICHELLE BAEHL
Development and
External Affairs
Diversity officer and director
of staff development



JESUS MARTINEZ
Office of Information
Technology
Diversity officer and desktop
support manager



JENNIFER JONES
Student Affairs
Diversity officer and
executive director for
student development



MARIA DIXON HALL
Chief diversity officer, Senior
Advisor to the President for
Campus Cultural Intelligence
initiatives and associate
professor of corporate
communications in Meadows
School of the Arts



A history-making chaplain

For the Rev. Lisa Garvin, helping people recognize their gifts and how to use those strengths for the good of the world defines ministry.

Garvin is making history as the first woman to be chaplain and minister to the University, but didn't realize it until the announcement of her hiring.

"I had a really profound sort of sense of privilege and responsibility in thinking about the fact that it wasn't top of mind for me, because I've had these amazing women role models that have blazed a trail for me," she says. "And in this context, I can be that for other people."

She replaces the Rev. Steve Rankin, who left to pursue other ministerial interests after 11 years with the University.

Before taking the post at SMU, Garvin served as associate dean of chapel and religious life at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and chaplain to her alma mater, Millsaps College. She has a Master of Divinity from Emory University and a Juris Master in Human Rights from Emory University School of Law.

Garvin has a special interest in human rights and racial justice, and has led journeys of reconciliation to South Africa, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the U.S.-Mexico border and Cuba.

Read more: smu.edu/smumag21ciq

ACE ANDERSON '13: 'KEEP GOING NO MATTER WHAT'

You may recognize Ace Anderson '13, actor and multifaceted creative, from his past role as SMU Giving Day spokesperson. This year, Anderson, who earned his bachelor's degree in acting from Meadows School of the Arts, will once again be the voice of SMU Giving Day, which takes place on April 13.

We asked Anderson to tell us what he's been up to in this extraordinary year, as he gears up to help get out the message about SMU Giving Day – a time when Mustangs and friends show up in force as a community to support the causes we care about.

Wow, what a year 2020 was! It started off with such promise. I remember distinctly how motivated everyone was to launch into a year labeled with numbers – 2020 – that represent clear vision and certainty. Little did we know that we would need all the certainty we could muster in order to survive the chaos to come.

I began 2020 in West Palm Beach, Florida, attending my 10-year reunion at Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, my high school. The class of '09 really showed out! I felt great, and I looked great, and so did everyone else who had stayed committed to their passion. That experience taught me something I kept in mind over the next 12 months: *Keep going no matter what.*

My wife, Gabrielle Reyes, and I came back to Dallas refocused and energized. "2020 is the year!" Gabrielle would exclaim, almost on a daily basis. We believe in the power of

manifestation. Together, we decided to make a list of all the things we wanted to happen during the year. Gabrielle would write a cookbook and appear on the Food Network. I would pursue film opportunities and finally produce my spoken-word-based solo performance series, *The Creation of An Asshole*.

Being the spokesperson for SMU Giving Day has strengthened my determination to find new creative opportunities. With 20 years of acting training for the stage, I've been desperate to transition into the film industry without compromising my position as a full-time company member at Dallas Theater Center. I had been praying about it when the pandemic hit, and the theater season was canceled. It was a strange sensation. I felt fear, relief, sadness and optimism – all mixed together.

This year, everything seems to be falling into place, with accomplishments like my winning the Leah Daniels-Butler

Casting quarantine monologue competition on Instagram, booking my first few Screen Actors Guild features, and getting to host a one-on-one live conversation with the legendary Spike Lee. [The special virtual event was presented during Homecoming Weekend 2020 by the Black Alumni of SMU Board in partnership with the Tate

Lecture Series and raised nearly \$40,000 for the Black Alumni of SMU Scholarship Fund.]

I've been unwilling to be deceived by the ever-present chaos of these "uncertain" times because, the thing is, life is *always* uncertain. ▣



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 or email smumag@smu.edu. Deadline for the fall 2021 issue is **May 17, 2021**.

53 CARL SCHWALM (M.S.E. '54) co-founded the Montessori Children's House and School in Dallas, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary in operation.

56 DAVID G. ORR, and his brother Maurice Orr, were featured in *Four States Living* magazine in celebration of their fourth-generation family business, Orr Honda, in Texarkana, Texas. See their story at fourstatesliving.com.

62 JAMES GRANT was included in *L.E. (Erv) Johnson's Betas of Achievement* business, finance and industry category. Since 1914, the publication compiles accomplishments by members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Grant was recognized for 56 years of banking leadership in Dallas. Now retired, he runs the Little Lake Ranch in Ennis, Texas.

64 JOHN COTTON retired from SMU in May 2020. He was an adjunct professor of astronomy since 1992.

67 WILLIAM A. HALL (M.B.A. '68) received the Cox School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award.

Hall is president of the Hall Family Foundation, a nonprofit philanthropic organization created by Joyce Hall, founder of Hallmark Cards Inc., and his wife, Elizabeth. Bill Hall and Joyce Hall are not related. For more than 75 years, the Hall Family Foundation has supported programs and initiatives to help people and enhance quality of life in the Kansas City, Missouri region.

68 ALBON HEAD (J.D. '71) is a partner at the Dallas-based law firm Jackson Walker LLP. Recently recognized by clients and peers as an outstanding lawyer, he was included on the *2020 Super Lawyers* and the *2021 Best Lawyers in America* lists.

NEVA HERRINGTON published her fourth collection of poetry *Among the Absent* (Finishing Line Press). She is a retired teacher and lives in Williamsburg, Virginia. **JOHN MUSGROVE** retired in July 2020 from Bechtel Oil, Gas and Chemicals in Houston. His 47-year career included engineering design and development on major projects in electric power, petrochemicals and LNG processing in Texas and around the world. **HOWARD RAMBIN**, co-founder and principal of Houston-based commercial real estate firm Moody Ramin, was honored with the

Houston Business Journal's 2020 Landmark Lifetime Achievement Award.

69 FRANK L. BRANSON III (LL.M. '74) is a Dallas-based attorney specializing in personal injury. In a recent *Lawdragon* profile, Branson shared personal and professional insights learned throughout a 50-year career. In 2010, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Dedman Law. See his story at lawdragon.com. **JERRY LEVIAS** is a Mustang football legend. When featured on the *Houston Chronicle's* television show *Texas Sports Nation In-Depth*, LeVias reflected on breaking color barriers and meeting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while an SMU student. He was inducted into the SMU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1980 and received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006.

70 J. STEPHEN STREET, a Honolulu attorney, was inducted into the *Marquis Who's Who Biographical Registry*.

71 JAN BARBOGLIO, a Dallas designer, was profiled by *PaperCity* magazine for a stellar fashion career before launching her own popular furniture and accessories

brand, the Jan Barboglio Collection. Her pieces can be found at Neiman Marcus and other specialty stores. More information: janbarboglio.com.

73 GEORGE CARLTON, and his wife, Rita, joined Chinoweth & Cohen Realtors in its Edmond, Oklahoma office. Dr. **CLAYTON L. SMITH** co-authored *Growing Through Disaster: Financial and Trauma Recovery Tools for your Faith Community* (Abingdon Press). This is his third published book. The Rev. **DONALD W. UNDERWOOD** received the Perkins School of Theology Distinguished Alumni Award. Underwood was lead pastor at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas from 1983 until his retirement in May 2020. Under his leadership, Christ UMC launched several ministries, including Project Hope, which helps struggling families break the cycle of poverty; House on the Corner, a homebuilding effort; Hotel Katrina, an emergency and long-term support shelter in 2005 for evacuees from Hurricane Katrina; and the School on Sunday tutoring program. Underwood is also the author of two books, *The Long View: Reflections on Life, God, and Nature* and *Pray Like Jesus: Rediscovering the Lord's Prayer*.

Solid Gold Memories

In honor of Mustangs
from two stellar classes returning for
Reunion Weekend May 14-15
on the Hilltop, we've borrowed
some Rotunda photos from their grad years
-1970 and 1971- for this trip
down memory Boulevard.
Find 50-year reunion information at
smu.edu/50years.

Class of 1970



CLASS OF 1971



Distinguished Alumni and Emerging Leader Recipients



CLARK K. HUNT '87

Distinguished Alumni Award

SMU trustee
Chairman and CEO,
Kansas City Chiefs
Chairman and CEO, FC Dallas



CONNIE BLASS O'NEILL '77

Distinguished Alumni Award

SMU trustee
Community volunteer
Philanthropist



**KATHRYN KIMBROUGH
WALDREP '72, '73**

Distinguished Alumni Award

Gynecologist and founding partner,
Vernon & Waldrep OB-Gyn Associates
Founder, Practice Research Organization



AMBER VENZ BOX '08

Emerging Leader Award

President and co-founder,
rewardStyle

74 **NATHAN L. HECHT** was elected to a second term as chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court. In 2020, Hecht received the Robert G. Storey Award for Distinguished Achievement from SMU Dedman School of Law. In 2000, he received Dedman Law's Distinguished Alumni Award.

75 **GINGER GEYER** (M.F.A. '78) is an Austin, Texas-based sculptor specializing in ceramics. Last summer, Geyer displayed her art pieces at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts in San Angelo, Texas, during the 23rd San Angelo National Ceramic Competition. Learn more about Geyer's work at gingergeyer.com. **MARILYN O'HEARNE** received the Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Coaching Federation Heartland Chapter for contributions and leadership in the organization and profession. In the book *The Successful Mind*, O'Hearne co-authored the chapter "Developing a Cultural Mindset." Dr. **WALDEN RHINES** joined

the high-performance computing firm Cornami Inc. as its president and CEO. He oversees technology development and deployment of computer technology and day-to-day operations.

76 **J. BRUCE BUGG, JR.** is a civic leader and chairman, president and CEO of Southwest Bancshares Inc. In 2020, Bugg served on Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's Strike Force to Open Texas, with a team of nationally recognized medical experts and other private and public leaders to advise the governor on the safe and strategic reopening the state of Texas during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FLORENCE CAUTHEN (LL.M. '80) was named county administrator for the Montgomery County Commission in Alabama. **THOMAS G. WIGGANS**, a veteran biopharmaceutical executive, joined the board of directors of Forma Therapeutics Holdings Inc. Wiggans founded Dermira Inc. and serves as its CEO.

77 **RICHARD CLEMMER** joined the board of directors for the global technology firm Aptiv PLC. Clemmer is a strategic adviser for NXP Semiconductors in Austin. **STEPHEN CRANE** retired in November as City of Mesquite municipal judge, where he served for more than 10 years. Crane holds a law degree from SMU. **DAVID RAMAKER** was appointed to the Mercantile Bank Corporation Board of Directors. He is the former chairman, president and CEO of Chemical Bank in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

78 **GLENN BEATTY** edited and self-published *The Language Theater*, written by his wife, Maria Beatty. The innovative English grammar book features the parts of speech as whimsical characters performing their roles in language. Learn more at thelanguagetheater.com. **C. DAVID R. CASSIDY** serves as counsel in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson LLP,

and has been included in the 2021 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. **WADE COOPER** is a managing partner in the Austin office of law firm Jackson Walker LLP. Recently recognized by clients and peers as an outstanding lawyer, he was included on the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America* list. **DIANE DURANCE** (M.P.A. '80) was elected to the Cape Fear Museum Associates Board of Directors. Durance is the director of the University of North Carolina Wilmington Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. **BARRY SORRELS**, Dallas white-collar and criminal defense attorney, earned national recognition for his work as a trial lawyer with selection to the 2021 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

79 **KELLY H. COMPTON** received the Cox School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award. Compton is the executive director for The

Hoglund Foundation, a nonprofit philanthropic organization. Since the organization's founding in 1989, the Foundation has contributed more than \$57 million in grants to over 575 agencies focused on education and family support in Dallas.

80 DAVID S. HUNTLEY, senior executive vice president and chief compliance officer of AT&T, received the Honorary Alumnus Award from SMU Dedman School of Law. Huntley, who serves on the SMU Board of Trustees, holds a bachelor's degree in political science from SMU. In 2013, he received the Black Alumni History Maker Award from the Black Alumni of SMU Board. **TIMOTHY E. POWERS** received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice from SMU Dedman School of Law. He is a managing partner at Haynes and Boone LLP.

81 JANE CORNISH SMITH (M.L.A. '01), a Dallas-based artist, exhibited her *Points of View* collection at The Forum gallery in Wichita Falls, Texas. The cold wax and oil paintings feature abstract environmental scenes. See more of her award-winning work at janecornishsmithart.com.

REGINA TAYLOR, award-winning actress, director and playwright, will serve as playwright-in-residence at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis. The three-year artistic partnership is supported by the National Playwright Residency Program in collaboration with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Taylor partnered with SMU's Meadows School of the Arts Division of Theatre for her new play, *the black album*. 2020. *resistance*. The three-part project explores the Black experience in 2020.

83 KALETA DOOLIN (M.F.A. '87), founder of the Dallas-based Kaleta A. Doolin Foundation, was recently profiled by *The Dallas Morning News* for her lifelong dedication to promote women artists.

DEBORAH HANKINSON is a Dallas-based attorney specializing in comprehensive conflict resolution. Last summer, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation named her chair of its board of directors. **ELIZABETH "SISSY" JEFFETT** is the author of *Silent Partners*, an Alex Sheridan thriller, which was released in paperback in the summer, and its sequel, *Crude Intent*, which was published in October. Dr. **IVAN PINON**, a practicing endocrinologist for more than 20 years, has joined the University of New Mexico Comprehensive Cancer Center.

84 ROBIN HAZARD BISHOP, an artist based in Rockport, Texas, showed her paintings at the Art Museum of South Texas in the exhibit *Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism through the French Lens*. The Rev. Dr. **SIDNEY G. HALL III** (D.Min. '88) received the Perkins School of Theology Distinguished Alumni Award. Hall is an ordained elder in the Rio Texas Conference. For 33 years he has served as lead minister of Trinity Church, a United Methodist congregation in Austin that co-affiliated with the United Church of Christ to become a Union Church. He is a leader in the Reconciling Ministries Network, which advocates full inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community in the United Methodist Church. Hall has served on numerous Austin nonprofit boards including Political Asylum Project of Austin, Texas Freedom Network and the Austin

Mayor's Task Force on Human Rights. In 1991, Hall received the first annual Jewish Community Friendship Award by the Jewish Federation of Austin. He is the author of *Christian Anti-emitism and Paul's Theology* and co-author of *Three Mystics Walk into a Tavern: A Once and Future Meeting of Rumi, Meister Eckhart, and Moses de León in Medieval Venice*. **MICHAEL D. PEGUES** was appointed by Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson to the board of commissioners for DHA, Housing Solutions for North Texas. Pegues is the Dallas-based shareholder and vice chair of the intellectual property

litigation practice at Polsinelli, an Am Law 100 firm. **THOMAS C. PRITCHARD** joined Waitr Holdings Inc. as general counsel.

85 JACK BALLARD joined law firm Bressler, Amery & Ross as managing principal in its new Houston office.

86 MARK CHANCY was elected to the Wells Fargo & Co. board of directors. He will serve on its Audit Committee and Risk Committee.

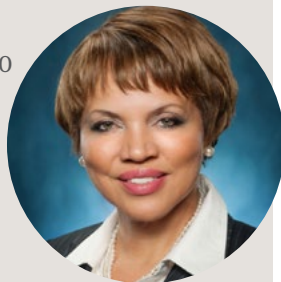


Alums fighting hunger

In looking for ways to give back to the community during the pandemic, Dedman School of Law grads were moved by the work of fellow alum Claire Babineaux-Fontenot '92, CEO of Feeding America (see page 34). In January, they joined forces with current law students as volunteers at the North Texas Food Bank, part of the Feeding America network. One group worked in the "cold sort line" to sort fresh produce, dairy and meat. Another group packed 6,720 pounds of food for the Food 4 Kids program, which provided 5,600 meals to children in need in North Texas. Because the food bank has implemented local and national safety guidelines, the law school volunteers were able to safely connect with one another while helping others. ■

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot '92

AS THE CEO OF FEEDING AMERICA, CLAIRE BABINEAUX-FONTENOT speaks for more than 50 million Americans experiencing food insecurity. The nonprofit organization oversees 200 food banks across the country. Her stirring advocacy for the hungry earned her a place on the TIME 100, the magazine's list of the most influential people of 2020. Babineaux-Fontenot earned her Master of Laws in taxation from Dedman School of Law, and after seeing her on the national news multiple times talking about the nation's hunger crisis, law school alumni and students were inspired to volunteer at the North Texas Food Bank in Dallas, part of the Feeding America network. Learn more about national challenges and ways to help at feedingamerica.org. ■



87 TROY LEMAILE-STOVALL joined the venture capital firm TEDCO as its CEO and executive director. He founded and serves as managing member of LeMaile Stovall LLC, a management consulting firm focused on strategy, operational performance and capital stack formation. **DAVID MENTESANA** was promoted to managing director at MyAMC LLC, a valuation services provider based in Dallas.

88 Dr. **ALLISON ANDREWS** (M.Div. '93) and Michael Adams were married July 10, 2020, at Scranton Veterans Memorial Park in Scranton, Pennsylvania. **ASHLEE HUNT KLEINERT** was appointed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to the Governor's Commission on Women. The commission develops

strategies and implements plans to help make Texas the No. 1 state for women-owned businesses, and to address the issue of human trafficking. Kleinert is the owner and president of Ruthie's Rolling Café, and serves on numerous philanthropic boards in Dallas. She holds a B.A. in history from SMU.

89 TRUDY A. HARPER was named the 2020 Trustee of Distinction by the Tennessee Hospital Association, where she has served as board chair since 2016. The honor recognizes her passion for quality rehabilitation therapy services. Harper is the former president of Tenaska Power Services Co. **ROB C. HOLMES** joined Texas Capital Bank as its CEO, president and member of the board of directors.

90 SHARON N. HUMBLE was sworn in to begin her four-year term as Supervisor At-Large for Tredyffrin Township, Pennsylvania. Tredyffrin is a historic suburb of Philadelphia, situated along the western Main Line and encompassing part of Valley Forge National Park and large areas of the British Army's encampment during the Revolutionary War. **FRANK MCGREW** was named managing director of J.P. Morgan's Regional Investment Bank. His coverage responsibility includes Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama, as well as the broader Southeast and Southwest territory. McGrew recently celebrated his 30th year working in financial services. He lives in Nashville with his wife, Neely, and two high school-age daughters. **JEFF ROBERTSON** joined equity research firm Water Tower Research as managing director, natural resources. He holds an M.B.A. from SMU. **TAYLOR H. WILSON** was promoted to managing partner at Haynes and Boone LLP, where he has worked for 30 years. Wilson is co-chair of the Dallas-based firm's investment management practice group.

91 ELDRIDGE BURNS joined home loan servicing firm Mr. Cooper Group Inc. as its executive vice president and chief legal officer. **GEORGE MARKLEY** was promoted to vice president of risk management at Cox Enterprises, where he has worked since 1995. **TIMOTHY McMENNAMY** is the president of Innerplan Office Interiors in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Recently he was interviewed by *Arkansas Business* about safer workspace designs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. McMennamy holds B.A. and BBA degrees from SMU.

TINA PARKER, co-artistic director and company manager, announces the 30th anniversary season of Kitchen Dog Theater, which includes the world premiere of *Last Ship to Proxima Centauri* and the 2021 New Works Festival Commission Series: *In the Works*. More information: kitchendogtheater.org. **SUSAN SALCH** celebrated 25 years of practicing law with Cantilo & Bennett LLP, in Austin, Texas. A managing partner since 2018, her practice focuses on rehabilitation and liquidation of insolvent insurers, small business enterprises and entertainment/sports law. Salch volunteers with the Austin Humane Society, where she serves as co-chair of the Volunteer Corps Steering Committee for the shelter's capital campaign. She also serves on the board of directors for the Austin Symphony Orchestra, and was recently elected vice chair of its board marketing committee.

92 CLAIRE BABINEAUX-FONTENOT was included on *TIME*'s list of the 100 Most Influential People in the world. She is the CEO of Feeding America. Dr. **JOHN E. FRIEND, II** joined Cellerar Biosciences Inc. as its chief medical officer. The clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company is located in Florham Park, New Jersey. **STEVE PIERCE** joined Alliant Insurance Services as executive vice president in its Dallas office. Alliant is a risk-management firm serving construction clients. **JERRY MOOTY** has joined forces with Rogers Healy and Associates as director of strategy, Realtor and attorney. He was recently included in the 2020-2021 Top DFW Realtors Guide on TopTenDallas.com.

93 **CHRISTY ALBANO**, who ran for Collin County family court judge in 2020, celebrated her campaign and her birthday with alumni friends **KATHY KENNEDY '01**, **STEVE BLUM '98** and **RACHEL HATTEN ADAMS '16**. **MICHAEL CRAVER** (J.D. '96) is a partner in the Centerville, Iowa-based law firm Craver, Grothe, & Cox LLP. The general practice firm recently opened a second location in Bloomington, Iowa. Craver specializes in corporate law. **ASHLEY DIEHL VANN** was reelected to her third term as trustee of the Katy (Texas) Independent School District board in November 2020. **W. ROSS FORBES** is a partner in the litigation section of the Dallas office of Jackson Walker. Recently recognized by clients and peers as an outstanding lawyer, he was included on the *2021 Best Lawyers in America* list. **RICHARD IANNELLI** was promoted to assistant general tax counsel at Fluor Corporation, where he has worked since 2006. He holds a law degree from SMU. **KATHRYN "KIT" SAWERS** received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service from SMU Dedman School of Law. Sawers is the president of Klyde Warren Park in Dallas.

94 **JAMES (JAY) DEWALD** is a partner at the Dallas-based law firm Jackson Walker LLP. Recently recognized by clients and peers as an outstanding lawyer, he was included in the *2020 Chambers USA Guide*, and the *2020 Super Lawyers* and *2021 Best Lawyers in America* lists. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics from SMU. **NATHAN JONES** joined Heartland Financial USA Inc. as its executive vice president, chief credit officer. He oversees the

firm's credit administration unit and leads its credit policies, processes and practices.

95 **JOHN C. HOFFMAN** was named deputy CIO of the Texas Department of Information Resources, where he has also served as the chief technology officer since 2015.

REBECCA POLAK joined Carlitz Inc. as chief commercial officer and general counsel. She holds a law degree from SMU. **LAUREN RICHARD** became president and CEO of Camp Fire First Texas, one of the national organization's largest councils, in October. **ERICA RIVERA** was promoted to vice president of engagement strategy at AbelsonTaylor, a health and wellness advertising agency based in Chicago. **DANA SPERRY**, an assistant professor of digital media at Youngstown State University, created the audio walk *The Why Here: 1877 Railroad Strike* about the 19th-century revolt in Pittsburgh. More information: mahoningmatters.com. **ANNETTE SULLIVAN** of Atlanta, Georgia, is incoming executive director of the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting, which offers comprehensive continuing education opportunities for dental professionals.

96 **BRADY BARBIER** joined National Valuation Consultants Inc. as senior managing director in the firm's Denver office. **MONICA BLACKER** joined corporate advisory firm Force 10 Partners as a partner. Blacker holds a J.D. from SMU. **HERSCHEL SHARP** joined Physical Rehabilitation Network as its senior vice president of operations. **JAMEY SEELY** joined Covetrus, the Portland, Maine-based animal-health technology and services company, as



Alumna performs in 5th inauguration

Master Gunnery Sgt. Leslye Barrett '94 became part of history January 20 when she performed with the United States Marine Band as Joe Biden was sworn in as our nation's 46th president.

Seated directly below the central platform, the band played "Hail to the Chief" after Biden took the oath of office and accompanied Lady Gaga as she sang the national anthem. Founded in 1798, the Marine Band has performed for every U.S. president since John Adams and has been known as "The President's Own" since the days of Thomas Jefferson.

It was Barrett's fifth presidential inauguration since becoming part of the storied band in 1997. She's the co-principal oboist and was appointed section leader in 2004.

A native of Liberty, Missouri, Barrett started her musical training at age 3. She graduated from the acclaimed Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan, before enrolling in SMU. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Meadows School of the Arts and went on to earn her Master of Music degree in performance from Arizona State University. She was a member of the Quintessence Chamber Ensemble in Phoenix, and performed with the Phoenix Symphony, the Arizona Opera in Phoenix and the Dallas Wind Symphony. ▣



its general counsel and corporate secretary. She holds a law degree from SMU. **KATHRYN STIEBER** was appointed secretary of the university at DePaul University. She has worked in the university's Office of General Counsel since 2005.

97 KRIS BALEKIAN HAYES was named to the list of *Best Lawyers in America* in September. **BALEKIAN HAYES** is the managing partner of Dallas-based Balekian Hayes, PLLC. She holds a BBA degree from SMU. **COOPER KOCH**, principal and founder of Cooper Smith Agency Public Relations in Dallas, was profiled in *D Magazine* for his diversity and bias experience as a member of the LGBTQ community. See his story at dmagazine.com. **JOHN NETHERY** joined Ballogy Inc., in Austin, as its COO and CFO. Ballogy is a training app for youth and amateur athletes.

98 PABLO G. MERCADO joined EnLink Midstream, LLC as its executive vice president and CFO. Mercado will also serve as a member of the energy firm's executive leadership team. **AIMEE PERILLOUX FAGAN** was named one of three Top Women in IP by *Texas Lawyer* for her patent trial work. She recently joined Sidley Austin's Dallas office as a partner where she will continue to practice commercial and patent litigation and trial work. She holds a law degree from SMU. **SHARON SNOWTON** received the Dallas College Distinguished Alumni Award, where she began her higher education by earning an associate degree. In 2018, Snowton retired from Highlands Elementary School in Cedar Hill, Texas, after a 27-year teaching career. She holds a Master of Bilingual Education

degree from SMU. **TONYA WOMACK CAMPBELL**, and her counseling partner Lawrence Randle, won the Lone Star State School Counselor Association Silver Award for school year 2019-20. The award recognizes school counseling programs that meet 12 areas of distinction and show evidence of highly qualified comprehensive counseling programs in the state of Texas. She is a school counselor at Young Men's Leadership Academy in Grand Prairie, Texas.

99 ALEXANDER S. BOKOR was appointed to Florida's Third District Court of Appeal by Gov. Ron DeSantis. Bokor holds a B.A. degree from SMU. **CARLA GHOSN** was named among the top 10 women in financial technology by *FinTech* magazine. She is the head of emerging financial technology at Visa Inc. **GURSHAMAN BAWEJA** was elected senior vice president and CIO at Texas Instruments. Baweja holds an M.B.A. degree from SMU, and has worked at the Dallas-based firm since 2001. **RUSH HARRIS** has earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CECd) by the International Economic Development Council. Harris is the director of business services for the Marshall Economic Development Corporation in Texas. **JORDAN HARPER** was named board chair of technology solutions firm Global Innovation Platform. Harper is CEO of Harrison, Walker and Harper, a fourth-generation industrial services contractor. **BLAKE MYCOSKIE** joined *Shark Tank*, ABC's award-winning entrepreneurial-themed reality show, as a judge. Mycoskie was the founder and CEO of TOMS Shoes. His latest company, MadeFor, promotes wellness by improving the body and brain. More

information: getmadefor.com. **MAJED NACHAWATI**, co-founder of Fears Nachawati Law Firm in Dallas, was named an "agent of change" by *Texas Lawyer* magazine in its 2020 listing of Texas Trailblazers. Pat Pefley was promoted to deputy director of strategic engagement for the Machine-assisted Analytic Rapid-repository System (MARS) Program with the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. She earned her EMBA from SMU's Cox School of Business. Dr. **MARIA LUBY PRODANOVIC-NUTIS** recently completed her tenure as president of the Junior League of El Paso, Texas, while keeping busy during the pandemic as a pediatrician. Dr. **ELIZABETH RILEY** (Ph.D. '01) was appointed assistant provost and vice president of faculty affairs at Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She had served as dean of its Harold Abel School of Psychology since 2018.

00 QUINTON CRENSHAW was promoted to chief marketing officer/strategic communications adviser at HudsonLake, a public relations firm based in Alexandria, Virginia. **PAUL K. KIRKPATRICK** joined the Dallas-based firm Omnitrac LLC as its chief legal officer. He will lead the firm's legal organization and provide strategic advice to the executive leadership team. **HAILEY ÅTERRELL** and Luis Solis were married September 26 at the Boulder Adventure Lodge in Boulder, Colorado. Terrell recently opened Get Outta Hair, an electrolysis salon in Boulder. **JASON S. YOUNG** joined Connor Commercial Real Estate as vice president, multi-family and Dallas market officer. He will oversee the firm's multi-family business in Texas. Dr. **KATHERINE WILDMAN** joined Virginia Commonwealth University as the second

assistant dean for student affairs. She will serve as the senior student affairs officer at VCU's School of the Arts campus in Doha, Qatar.

01 SAM ABUSAAD joined ML Realty Partners in Dallas as leasing manager. **LAUREN THOMAS COMPTON** was promoted to president of Thomas Financial Group LLC. She has worked at the investment firm since 2004. **BERNARD JONES** was appointed as U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. He previously served as federal magistrate judge. **COURTNEY N. NAUDO** received the Cox School of Business Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Nauda joined Walmart International in 2019 as vice president of international technology. Prior to Walmart, she served as a principal with Deloitte Consulting for 14 years. **MICHAEL D. RICKETTS** (J.D. '10) joined the law firm Forshey Prostok LLP as of counsel in its Fort Worth, Texas office.

02 CHRISTIAN DELZELL (M.B.A. '16) joined investment firm Blue Marlin Partners as managing director of its newly opened Dallas office. Dr. **MARK KOKES** was interviewed in *Vanguard Law Magazine* for his expertise on United States patent laws for biotech inventors. He holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from SMU. See the story at vanguardlawmag.com. **JODI WARBROD DISHMAN** was appointed as U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. She was a trial attorney at law firm McAfee & Taft in Oklahoma City. **YULISE REAVES WATERS** (J.D. '08) received the Emerging Leader Award from SMU Dedman School of Law. She is the

Luck of the draw

When they first met as SMU roommates, Beth McKeon '02 and Jaime Noble Gassmann '02 weren't sure they would be close friends. Flash forward to 2020, and they're reshaping the startup ecosystem together.

McKeon is the co-founder and CEO of Fluent, a Denver-based data technology company that developed the Fluency Score, which works like a FICO score for startups. Gassmann serves as the company's COO.

They believe Fluent is ahead of the curve with an information-based strategy aimed at opening the funding pipeline to a more diverse set of businesses.

The Fluency Score injects data into a process that often relies on investors' emotional judgments – and leaves behind worthy companies. "It's leveling the playing field for startup founders so that decisions about who gets access to resources and capital are based on the merits of the businesses," McKeon says.

Gassmann draws a direct line from their equity-focused mission to SMU, where they first dived into the history of disparity and learned to think critically.

"Our liberal arts education became a fulcrum for us to do good things in the world," she says.

Since graduation, their paths have diverged for long periods, but intersected at crucial points. The connection that took root in their campus home has kept them close through the years. That's something they didn't always see coming.

They both possess a natural inquisitiveness and a sense of adventure, so it's no surprise that they opted for random roommate assignments. SMU's Residence Life and Student Housing paired them in Virginia-Snider Commons. For the next two years, they liked being roommates, but they enjoyed separate lives, too.

McKeon hails from Tyler, Texas. Her selection as a Hunt Leadership Scholar made SMU an easy choice. As a French major, she spent her junior year in Paris. She eventually earned a master's degree in French cultural studies from Columbia University.

Jaime grew up Manhattan, Kansas, the home of Kansas State University. Earning a spot in SMU's prestigious President's Scholars Program enabled her to study in London before receiving a degree in English. She went on to complete her master's degree and Ph.D. in American studies at the University of Kansas.

After leaving SMU, they hopscoched across the country as their lives took off in different directions. A self-described "professional nomad," McKeon lived in 25 cities while working with business accelerators. Gassmann applied her talents in communications and policy research before starting a baby carrier company. It filled a need she discovered as an Army spouse and mother of two young children. Through it all, they were always there for each other. ■



LEFT Beth McKeon (right) is co-founder and CEO of Fluent, a Denver-based technology company. Jamie Noble Gassmann serves as COO. **ABOVE** Jamie Noble Gassmann (left) and Beth McKeon at graduation in 2002.



Hitting the high notes with John Holiday '07

John Holiday '07 started 2020 in the role of Orpheus' Double in the world premiere of Matthew Aucoin's *Eurydice* with the LA Opera in Los Angeles, California. By December, he was thrilling an audience of more than 7 million with his soaring countertenor as a finalist on the NBC TV show *The Voice*.

So how did the rising star of classical music land in the fizzy singing competition? When the pandemic wiped out his performance schedule, he decided to do what friends had been urging him toward for years. He auditioned for the hit show featuring four celebrity coaches and viewer voting. In the blind audition, he sang "Misty," the Ella Fitzgerald standard that's one of his grandmother's favorites and a perfect showcase for the upper register of his vocal range. The stunning performance earned him a place on hitmaker John Legend's team and legions of fans he nicknamed "HoliBaes" on Instagram.

Like many an "overnight" sensation, Holiday trained for this moment for decades. Faith is his guiding light, and the music he sang in church while growing up in Rosenberg, Texas, influenced his future in some unexpected ways. While performing at First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg as a high school senior, he "blew away" congregants Lee Leaman '72 and his wife, Jan '72. When Holiday earned a full ride to SMU, they helped fill in the financial gaps so he could focus on developing his talent.

At SMU, Barbara Hill Moore, Meadows Foundation Distinguished Teaching Professor of Voice in Meadows School of the Arts, quickly became a mentor. "He has something special. Many artists have amazing instruments, but it takes more than just an instrument. It must come with passion and respect for what you're doing. It's a responsibility, and he understands that responsibility," Moore told the *Fort Bend Herald*, his hometown newspaper.

He received a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from SMU and went on to earn a Master of Music in vocal performance from the University of Cincinnati College – Conservatory of Music and an artist diploma in opera studies from The Juilliard School in New York City.

Holiday has sung in venues across the globe and garnered numerous awards, including the 2017 Marian

Anderson Vocal Award from the Kennedy Center. He balances his performance schedule with training the next wave of classical vocalists as an assistant professor of music at The Music Conservatory of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. While competing on *The Voice*, he conducted classes via Zoom.

With his genre-bending repertoire and high notes that hover in the mezzo-soprano range, Holiday is ready for whatever comes next. He's continuing

work on an album begun before the TV competition in which he placed fifth. His much-anticipated Metropolitan Opera debut this spring has been canceled, but he is expected to debut the role of Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the Dallas Opera in April and perform other roles with Opera Philadelphia and the Utah Opera.

Despite the heady experience of *The Voice*, Holiday remains grounded. As he told the *Green Bay Press Gazette*: "More than anything, I hope my singing connects people. Outside of all the followers and the fans and the likes and the reshares and the reposts, the most important thing for me is that there is a connectedness, there is a tissue that connects us all, and I think that's the desire to be loved and affirmed." ■



deputy director of the Lone Star Justice Alliance. In 2013, she received the Black Alumni History Maker Award from the Black Alumni of SMU Board.

HOLLY F. SMITH and Lucas James Haswell were married April 3, 2020 at a lakeside ceremony in Mineola, Texas. Rev. Dr. **MICHAEL W. WATERS** (M. Div. '06, Ph.D. '12) led the four-week course of study *Makes Me Wanna Holler: Race in America*, which focused on systemic racism and Black experience to cultivate anti-racists. Waters is the founder and senior pastor at Joy Tabernacle A.M.E. Church in Dallas.

03 FRANK BAKER was promoted to partner at BKS Partners, a Tampa, Florida-based insurance brokerage and risk management firm. **DARIN DEEVER** joined law firm Plunk Smith PLLC, in Frisco, Texas. Deever specializes in procurement, development, and management of patents, trademarks, and other intellectual property. **PAUL LEE** was appointed entrepreneur-in-residence at Tailwater Capital LLC. He will cultivate and evaluate investment opportunities for the Dallas-based private equity firm. **LANCE SCOTT**, equity partner at David Kleinberg Design Associates in New York, was among the 2020 Houston *PaperCity* Design Award recipients. His work has been featured in *Architectural Digest* and *Veranda*.

04 ROB AGUERO joins Hayes Bicycle Group as an account manager for the Americas. Aguero is based in Draper, Utah. **YASMEEN TADIA**, founder and CEO of Make Your Life Sweeter, launched a 21-course dessert tasting of her luxury desserts in the upscale Galleria Dallas as a

way to weather a COVID-19 business downturn. Pre-pandemic, Tadia's artisanal cotton candy, popcorn, truffles and hot cocoa were available only at corporate and special events held around the globe. **JENNIFER D. THOMAS** was appointed CEO at Province Brands of Canada. Thomas is cofounder of the beverage technology and branded products company.

05 SHELTON GIBBS was elected to serve as the 422nd district judge in Kaufman County, Texas. Gibbs has served as a felony prosecutor in the Kaufman County district attorney's office since 2007. The Rev. **DANIEL IRVING** was named senior pastor at First Methodist Conroe, in Conroe, Texas. Irving holds a Bachelor of Arts in religious studies from SMU. **STEPHEN LIU** joined Carstens & Cahoon, an intellectual property law firm in Dallas, as partner.

06 ROBERT C. DYE was appointed to serve on the Dallas Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors. He is the mayor of Farmers Branch, Texas. **KATIE KLEIN** (M.S. '13) launched Ravenhawk Recovery LLC, with co-owner Diane Ryan. The Tucson, Arizona-based behavioral health outpatient program provides services to adolescents and adults who struggle with eating disorders, substance abuse, trauma and more. **MARK A. LAU** received the Cox School of Business Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Lau serves as global brand director for Ekin and Athlete Marketing at Nike. Ekin, Nike spelled backward, is a special outreach team of passionate Nike employees who evangelize the brand to stores and athletes through personal and grassroots connections. Lau joined Nike in 2007. **LLOYD LIM** joined law

firm Balch & Bingham LLP in its Houston office. **MANDY RAGLE AUSTIN** (M.B.A. '13) was promoted to Dallas market president at Bank of Texas, where she has worked for more than 14 years.

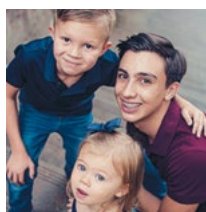
07 BRANDON A. JACKSON, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the sociology department at Purdue University, where his research and teaching examine race, gender, emotion cultures and social support. **JEFF C. PHILLIPS** joined Padgett Business Services, a major accounting and business consulting provider, as the firm's CEO. Phillips is co-founder of Accountingfly, a recruiting platform for accounting and financial recruiters.

08 LORELEI VANDIVER BOURLA, M.D., reports an eventful summer, beginning with her marriage to Dr. Michael Bourla of Roslyn Heights, N.Y., in May and continuing with her launch of a new allergy and immunology clinic at Saratoga Hospital in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in August. **CARLISLE BRAUN** joined Dallas-based law firm FBK PC as shareholder. He serves as outside general counsel for midsize and small businesses, specializing in the real estate, franchising, and hospitality industries. **ERIN ENGLAND** is a partner in the Dallas law firm Katten, LLC and a mom. She recently launched the free children's activity database PlaySource Dallas, a digital list of kid-friendly recreation opportunities throughout North Texas. More information: playsourcedallas.com. **EDWARD LOGAN**, president and CEO of Sport Clips Haircuts, offered insights on CNBC about the state of the hard-hit barbershop industry during

the pandemic. **MORA NAMDAR** co-founded BAM Beauty Bar in 2017. She recently opened a second location at the Legacy West complex in Plano, Texas. BAM debuted its original professional blowout and makeup salon in Dallas' West Village. Namdar, an attorney, is founder of Namdar Law PLLC. She holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in political science and international affairs from SMU. **AMBER VENZ BOX**, president and co-founder of rewardStyle digital platform for beauty, fashion and lifestyle influencers, received the SMU Emerging Leader Award in recognition of her innovative vision to monetize lifestyle content for top-tier influencers. rewardStyle, founded with husband and business partner **BAXTER BOX** '11, has expanded with the LIKEtoKNOW.it video shopping app. The new app allows influencers to produce and share two-minute videos featuring beauty how-tos, home tours and more. Amber's accolades include *Glamour's* Woman of the Year for Technology; Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year and Fashion Group International's Innovator of the Year. She also has been recognized among *Forbes* 30 Under 30, *Entrepreneur's* 15 Female Entrepreneurs to Watch *Inc.'s* 20 Most Influential Millennials, *Fast Company's* Most Creative People and *D Magazine's* Dallas 500.

09 DAN CARRILLO LEVY is the chief creative officer and co-president of entertainment companies Moxie 88 and Demon Worldwide. Last summer he signed with the Creative Artists Agency and became a member of the Producers Guild of America. In January 2020, Disney Channel granted a pilot order

Precious Ponies



MICAH EVAN ARDOIN, born February 3, 2005; **WALT ELIJAH ARDOIN**, born March 8, 2013; and **GWEN ELAINE ARDOIN**, born October 10, 2018. Their parents are Kelsey McKinney Ardoin '08 and Curtis Ardoin.



AMELIA CARTER AYRES, born March 18, 2020, is the daughter of Dana Wilcox Ayres '04 and Brad Ayres '01, '02.



NATALIE NORA BROWN, born December 10, 2019, is the daughter of Stephen "Nick" Brown '10 and Tara Hemphill Brown '10.



LUCAS ENZO CALABRESSI, born July 16, 2018, is the son of Whitney Davis Calabressi '09, '10 and Andres Calabressi.



JACKSON ASHER CANGEMI, born May 14, 2020, is the son of Lauren Roberson Cangemi '04 and Peter Cangemi and the nephew of Meredith Roberson Larson '98.



ELIZABETH ADELE DIAL, born November 29, 2019, is the daughter of Kari King Dial '01 and Chris Dial and the granddaughter of Ronald B. King '74 and Cindy King.



HUNTER DOYEL, born February 25, 2020, is the son of Stephen Doyel and Holly Fuller Doyel '99 and the grandson of the late Haydon Theron Fuller '63 and Gayle House Fuller.



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



LINEA CLEMENTINE HARGROVE, born June 5, 2020, is the daughter of Neil Hargrove '10 and Auburn Layman '10.



HADLEY ELIZABETH HARNER, born March 4, 2020, is the daughter of Lauren Harner '16 and David Harner '10, '11.



STELLA ELIZABETH HATCHER, born August 2, 2020, is the daughter of Katie Bandera '15 and Steven Hatcher '14.



AANSH KAPADIA, born September 16, 2019, is the son of Himanshu Kapadia '06 and Ami Shah.



LILLIAN "LILY" JAMES KEMP, born May 12, 2020, is the daughter of Garlyn Schwarzlose Kemp '07 and James Kemp.



HENRY JOSEPH KOEN, born December 14, 2019, is the son of Kim Osterberg Koen '08 and Will Koen '09. He is also the grandson of Mark Osterberg '72; great-grandson of Philip Koen '52, '55; and nephew of Ted Koen '09.



LILLIAN KOZLOWSKI, born February 6, 2019, is the daughter of Christine Oswald Kozlowski '00 and Kevin Kozlowski.



ADALINE ROSE KROCHESKI, born June 20, 2020, is the daughter of Emily Portillo Krocheski '15 and Brad Krocheski '12 and the granddaughter of Debbie Doyle Portillo '88 and Homer Portillo '88.

of his new show *Ultra Violet and Blue Demon*. He created the original superhero action-comedy program and serves as its co-executive producer.

SARAH COLODNEY married Oliver Davey at the Crescent Club in Dallas in November 2019. Colodney is the director of Lehmann Maupin Gallery in New York City. **LAMAR DOWLING** (J.D. '13, M.B.A. '13) is an associate at the Dallas-based law firm Jackson Walker LLP. Recently recognized by clients and peers as an outstanding lawyer, he was included on the *2020 Rising Stars* and the *2021 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* lists. **TUCKER HUGHES** is executive vice president, head of commercial real estate for Axos Bank. He is responsible for nationwide construction, bridge, value-add and stabilized lending products. **BRIAN SHELTON** was named senior vice president, interim chief financial officer and treasurer of RealPage Inc.

10 **KELVIN BEACHUM JR.** (M.L.S. '12) signed a one-year contract with the NFL's Arizona Cardinals as an offensive tackle. **JONATHAN CRANZ** was named to the *2020 Fort Worth Business Press* 40 Under 40 list. Cranz is a partner at law firm Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP. **TOM ELLIOTT** was elected chair of the board of directors of Campus Pride, the leading national educational organization for LGBTQ and ally college students. Elliott is the first alumnus of the program to lead the board. **SUMAIYA NASIR FITZPATRICK** launched the menswear online retailer The Button Down Store, specializing in high-quality and affordable shirts for men. More information: thebuttondownstore.com.

11 **BRITTANY BARNETT**, attorney and social entrepreneur, was featured in a *Texas Monthly* magazine Q&A as a tireless advocate for nonviolent drug offenders sent to federal prison under the state's mandatory minimum laws. Barnett is co-founder and director of the nonprofit Buried Alive. See her story at texasmonthly.com. **SARAH BRAY**, founder of fashion brand Sarah Bray Bermuda, was profiled in the *Houston Chronicle* for her Texas-made best-selling, eco-friendly sun hats. See the story at houstonchronicle.com. **NICOLE JACOBSEN** (M.L.S. '15) joined Topgolf Entertainment Group in Dallas as senior client relations manager. Dr. **IAN MCDONOUGH** (Ph.D. '14) was recently granted tenure at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he is an assistant professor of economics. **OLIVIA SMITH**, director at New York art gallery Magenta Plains, participated in the Dallas Art Fair/Culture Place partnership *Four x Five* in November. The collaboration featured four galleries showcasing art in the Dallas Art Fair physical space, plus a virtual edition presented by Culture Place. **WHITNEY WOLFE HERD**, founder and CEO of Bumble, was named to *Forbes* list of America's Richest Self-Made Women. In 2019, she received SMU's Emerging Leader Award.

12 **STEPHANIE BROWN SCHNEIDER** was promoted to principal at Five Elms Capital, a global investment firm based in Kansas City, Missouri. **KRISTAN PERRYMAN** was named principal of Austin Elementary School in Coppell, Texas. She holds a Master of Education degree from SMU. **BRITTANY**

SWEENEY joined financial services firm SWBC PEO as a sales executive in the North Texas area. After eight years in the retail industry, this move by Sweeney marks a pandemic-inspired career pivot.

13 **JUSTIN AMOS** was recognized in the 2020 Massachusetts list of *Super Lawyers – Rising Stars* by Thomson Reuters in the primary practice of Civil Litigation: Defense. Amos is a commercial litigation associate at McGlinchey Stafford law firm in its Boston office. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from SMU. **BRUCE BLACKWOOD** and **KIMBRELL HUGHES** were married October 19, 2019 in Greenville, S.C., at the home of Hughes' parents. **MICHAEL CLEAR** teaches social studies at Cedar Hill High School in Cedar Hill, Texas. He was featured in *Focus Daily News* as a Black educator making a difference. **JEFF COLANGELO** and **KATY TYE** '15 are the founders of Prism Movement Theater in Dallas. Last summer, their company's dance/theater production of *Everything Will Be Fine* was performed outdoors as a drive-in theater experience in both Dallas and Fort Worth. **SUMMER DASHE** joined WATE-TV, the ABC network affiliate in Knoxville, Tennessee, as an afternoon news anchor. **KATE ESBENSHADE HUSHION** continues to expand the ArtCart Program to all 15 elementary schools in the Wood County area of West Virginia, where she teaches art. In 2015, Hushion created ArtCart as a pilot at one school to provide creative opportunities for underserved elementary students and create awareness of the value of arts education.

14 **HILLARY DUNKLIN** (M.Ed. '17) and Stewart Horner were married July 11, 2020, at Five Oaks Duck Lodge in Humphrey, Arkansas. **JORDAN MILLER** (M.S.M. '15) was named to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list. Miller is the COO of Titus Industrial, a Dallas-based inventory management firm founded by CEO **MAXWELL FARLEY** '08. **BRI SMOCKS** (M.Ed. '16) is the co-owner and editor in chief of *Levi&Toonk*, a new biographical board book series chronicling the developmental experiences and milestones of an African American toddler – her two-year-old son – as he grows into a young man. **SHELBY SANDERFORD** is the founder and CEO of DOCPACE virtual waiting room system for healthcare professionals. She completed VILLAGEx, a 16-week accelerator program in New Orleans that advances emerging technology-enabled businesses.

15 The Rev. Dr. **DRAY BLAND** was named executive pastor at Watson Grove Baptist Church in Nashville. Bland oversees ministry leaders and leads ministry operations. **MATTHEW LEWIS** joined Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. as CFO in the Tulsa, Oklahoma office. **HEATHER MCKINNEY** received the Equal Justice Works Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Justice. McKinney will work at Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas for two years to address the gap in civil legal services for victims of elder abuse and exploitation, with an emphasis on serving rural areas. She holds a J.D. from Dedman School of Law. **BRIGITTE MENA** (M.Ed. '17), a Texas-based musical artist, released her second album, *Element*, in

Precious Ponies



THOMAS EDWARD MAZZONE, born September 26, 2020, is the son of Julia Biebighauser Mazzone '11 and Matthew Mazzone.



LOGAN ALEXANDER MCCOY, born July 10, 2016, and **SAMANTHA AURORA MCCOY**, born on February 20, 2020, are the grandchildren of Sarah Emerson '00 and Paul Emerson.



KINSLEY ROSE MCNEW, born September 4, 2020, is the daughter of Emma Cate Graham McNew '19 and Matthew Lee McNew '19 and the granddaughter of Traci Rose Graham '88 and Todd Dameron Graham '88, '91.



KUMI QUI OKIROR, born July 24, 2020, is the son of Vyna Ho Okiror '18 and Jesse Okiror.



KEEN WESLEY PETRONIS, born January 4, 2020, is the son of Savannah Campbell Petronis '13 and Richard Petronis.



LEIGHTON GRACE PULLIAM, born June 20, 2020, is the daughter of Erin Kennedy '07 and Richard Pulliam.



PRYOR LYMAN RACHAL, born February 11, 2020, is the son of Paige Pointer Rachal '11 and Travis Alexander Rachal '10 and the grandson of Carol McClaughry Pointer '81 and David Taylor Pointer '81.



LUCY ELIZABETH RAPONE, born August 16, 2019, is the daughter of Caroline Sullivan Rapone '08 and Major Robert Rapone.



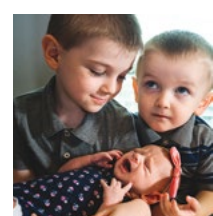
ELIZABETH "LIBBY" SPILLMAN REYNOLDS, born December 31, 2019, is the daughter of Mallorie Wicker Reynolds '12 and Hamilton Reynolds '12 and the grandchild of Julia Newton Reynolds '84 and Hamilton Reynolds.



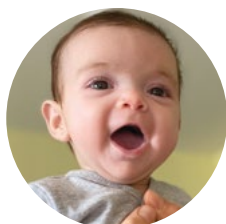
MARK EDWARD "TEDDY" ROONEY, born June 8, 2020, is the son of Katelyn Kuehl Rooney '11 and Matthew Rooney '11.



DANIELLA GRACE SALAZAR, born February 13, 2020, is the daughter of Jennifer Aleman Salazar '04 and Tito Salazar.



ELISHA ALIN SYBERT, born July 20, 2013; **GIDEON JAMES SYBERT**, born August 8, 2016; and **LIDIA MINA SYBERT**, born August 26, 2019. They are the children of Suzy Maracine Sybert '08 and John Sybert.



LAINE KATHERINE WALKER, born July 7, 2020, is the daughter of Elizabeth Bandera '12 and Wesley Walker '10.



GRETTA LI-MEI WILDMAN, born October 15, 2014, and Katherine Wildman '00 became a family in September 2016 through international adoption.



LILITH JANE WOODARD, born December 26, 2019, is the daughter of Nick Woodard '19 and Hannah Woodard and the granddaughter of Thomas Woodard '72.



EMILY LEIGH "EMMY" YOUNG, born January 30, 2020, is the daughter of Chris and Mary Ellen Cravens Young and the granddaughter of William Cravens '70, '71 and Janis Calvin Cravens '70 and Stephen F. Young '73 and Barbara Doran Young '76.

August. It explores nature, magic and fantasy. Her first album, *Maslow*, debuted in 2018, and delved into Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. **PHILIP PURCELL** was promoted to vice president at Flexpoint Ford. He joined the New York-based private equity investment firm in 2017. **MARK STINDE** joined The Kroger Company as vice president of asset protection.

16 **BRYSON DECHAMBEAU** landed on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* magazine's November edition after winning the 2020 U.S. Open golf tournament, held at the Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, New York, in September. It was DeChambeau's first major championship and ninth professional win. Dr. **ELIZABETH HOWELL LEYVA** joined Texas A&M University San Antonio as director of entry-level mathematics. Her new position serves entering freshmen in mathematics and develops pathways for underprepared students. She holds a Ph.D. in education from SMU. **MARGARET HUFF** was named principal at Mockingbird Elementary School in Dallas. Dr. **THOMAS ADAM VAN WART** published a revised version of his dissertation *Neither Nature nor Grace: Aquinas, Barth, and Garrigou-Lagrange on the Epistemic Use of God's Effects* (Washington, D.C., The Catholic University of America Press). Van Wart is an assistant professor of theology at Ave Maria University. He holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from SMU.

17 **MAXIME BLANDIN** and **DILLON BAXTER** ('20) launched PlantSwitch. The Dallas-based startup produces eco-friendly drinking straws

and cutlery made of recycled agave plants. **MABRIE JACKSON** joined the board of directors of the North Texas Food Bank. She is the director of public affairs at H-E-B Central Market and Honorary Consul-Royal Netherlands.

18 **ALEXIS BRANTLEY** joined the student-run Jackson Free Clinic in Jackson, Mississippi, as director of public relations and fundraising. Brantley is a third-year medical student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. **LAUREN DAVIS** is an emerging artist with the Gulfshore Opera Chorus in Naples, Florida. Currently, Davis is performing as a member of the company's women's ensemble, the GO Divas. **MICHAEL RILEY** joined the Park Law Firm as an attorney in its Huntsville, Texas, office.

19 Dr. **RACHAEL CARRANZA CAPUA** joined the board of directors of the Foundation for the Young Women's Leadership Academy of Fort Worth. She is the director of college and career success at the education-focused nonprofit Tarrant To & Through (T3) Partnership. She holds a Doctor of Education degree from SMU. **JARREY FOSTER** launched purpose-driven apparel line One Zero Athletics, with business partner **ANDREW GAUTREAUX** '05. Foster, a former Mustang basketball standout, aims to use the brand to foster a relationship between mental and physical wellness. **CHRISTIAN JESSE** won first place in the student choral division of The American Prize in Composition competition for 2019–20

for his work *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis*. Founded in 2009, The American Prize in Composition recognizes the best composers in America of works for orchestra, chorus, concert band, chamber ensemble, pops or theater music that have been read or publicly performed. Jesse has composed works for various ensembles, musicians, video games and film.

20 **CIARA ELLE BRYANT**, a multidisciplinary artist, curated the *Vivrant Thang* exhibit in August, at

500X Gallery in Dallas. The show focused on Black joy, featuring works by Black artists and other artists of color. She holds an M.F.A. from SMU. **OWEN CARTER** joined Stonebriar Commercial Finance in Dallas as credit analyst. **KALEIGH SHIELDS** joined Hope Cottage as a parenting case manager. Hope Cottage is a nonprofit, nonsectarian adoption agency in Dallas.



Madding family, Class of 2020

DECEMBER 19 IS A DAY THE MADDING FAMILY of Dallas will never forget. When Chad Madding (center), a software deployment and IT specialist with SMU's Office of Information Technology, received his Master of Science degree in data science that day, his family wasn't watching from the sidelines. That's because his wife, Jennifer '15, earned a Doctor of Education in educational leadership, PK–12, and their son, Tyler, received a Bachelor of Arts in film and media arts on the same day. Altogether, the Madding clan boasts five SMU alumni, including oldest son, Drew, who earned bachelor's degrees in markets and culture and human rights in 2018, and his wife, Kierson McGriff Madding, who received a BBA in accounting in 2018 and her master's in accounting in 2019.

In Memoriam

The following alumni deaths were reported to SMU from 6/1/20 to 11/27/20.

'40 LELIA OWEN HAMILTON 9/13/20

'42 MARTHA CARSON HARDT 8/22/20
SAMUEL A. WING, JR. 10/17/20
PHYLLIS CRAMER WRIGHT
9/23/19

'43 MADGE LEON MOORE 12/22/16
JOHN C. PEURIFOY '48 9/8/20

'46 LOU J. LONGINO BONNER 8/25/20
ELIZABETH ANN HARRISON
FAULKNER 9/21/20 FRANCES
ALEXANDER HAWKINS 10/2/20
MARY ELLEN MITCHELL JERICHO
6/6/20

'47 COLUMBUS B. BRYANT, III
10/1/20 DAVID T. GEISER 6/8/20

'48 Dr. ROBERT J. BERMAN '65
8/12/20 Col. PHILIP BROOKS,
USAF, Ret. 7/16/20 ALVIN B.
BROWN, JR. '57 8/27/20 Dr.
ARTHUR H. BUHL, JR. 9/27/20
CLYDE L. DAVIS, JR. '49 10/6/20
JEAN GLARNER ELLZEY 10/5/20
BOBBIE N. SIMS FERGUSON
6/2/18 WALLACE R. HUNT
6/20/20 Dr. JAMES W. PEAK
9/11/20 WILLIAM H. WALLACE
6/20/20

'49 WARREN R. BLACKMON, SR.
10/4/20 Dr. GERALD W. CHAPMAN
6/30/20 THELMA C. KING ELKINS
10/9/20 JOE T. FOX 10/29/20
ROBERT L. GOLDBERG 9/29/20
MARION H. HEARON 5/27/20

GEORGE S. JEFFERS, JR. 3/11/20
PHYLLIS PORTER JONES 9/11/20
MARGARET WEBSTER JORDAN
7/15/20 THOMAS W. KINDRED
6/1/20 PORTER L. LAYNE
10/28/20 ALICE M. NYSTROM
MACLIN '50 6/23/20 WALTER S.
MCKINNEY 4/13/18 WINIFRED E.
PASCHALL, II 5/31/20 MARY C.
BERWICK SMITH 6/25/20
MARILYN MARTIN STUTTS
10/30/20 GEORGE H.
WESTMORELAND 3/24/20

'50 LEE S. BANE 11/11/20 BILLIE J.
BARTON 6/19/20 JACK L. BYNUM
8/11/20 MARGARET L. TURNER
CHEATHAM 7/13/20 Lt. Col.
GEORGE R. FREEMAN USAF, Ret.
9/27/20 Lt. Col. ROBERT E. HAYS,
JR. 8/21/20 DONALD G. MORROW
10/27/20 PAUL H. O'DELL, JR.
7/13/20 MURIEL COX PEREGOY
6/15/20 JAMES W. PETTINOS, JR.
7/24/20 LOLA PETERSON
SANFORD 9/2/20 GWYNN T.
SUTTON 7/24/20 Dr. BILLIE L.
TURNER 5/27/20 BOB R.
WHITEHEAD 2/24/14

'51 DALE E. CUNNINGHAM '53
10/14/20 MARTHA A. MCDANIEL
ELLSBERRY 10/22/20 Rep. JAMES
E. FISHER '52 11/22/20
KATHERINE YOUNG HICKS 6/5/20
FLORENCE PARK HOLCOMB
9/12/19 MARTHA CAMPBELL
KENNARD 6/19/20 GEORGE A.
MCFARLAND, JR. 6/1/19
BENNETTE JOHNSON MORRIS

7/17/20 DONALD P. OLSON
10/7/20 JACK B. TATUM 8/12/20
ELLIS M. WILSON, JR. 11/14/20

'52 The Rev. JOSEPH H. BOWDON, JR.
7/9/20 JOSEPH C. DENTON, JR.
10/24/20 MARY L. WOOLDRIDGE
DETWEILER 10/16/20 The Rev.
JUSTUS H. EDMONDSON 6/27/20
BETTY ANDERSON GOOLSBY
8/12/20 DANIEL V. LOFLIN, JR.
7/31/20 MARY A. COLLINS
MARKHAM 6/17/20 ROBERT D.
WILROY, SR. 7/31/20 GEORGIA
MANOS ZIKOS 10/26/20

'53 GENE R. AUSTIN 11/24/17 PAT S.
COLLIER 8/25/20 DARLEENE
WHITE DELEE 10/27/20 BALIE J.
GRIFFITH 10/29/20 The Rev.
JOSEPH A. HAZLITT 9/4/20 ROYCE
MCKEE ICE 6/18/20 JAMES E.
LACY 8/8/15 The Rev. JAMES Q.
MCCRORY 7/2/20 PERRY R.
MCPHERSON '55 9/16/20
MAXWELL R. MURRELL 7/28/20
ROBERT H. RECTOR, SR. 6/16/20
LAWRENCE N. SKIPPER, JR.
8/26/20 MILTON H. THOMAS, JR.
6/28/20

'54 RICHARD R. DRAKE 8/24/20
VALERIE SELLORS DUNNAM
9/15/20 JACQUELINE A. BUNCH
GIVENS 8/4/20 Col. JOHN R.
HENNESSY, USAF, Ret. 11/14/20
The Rev. Dr. DEAN A. LANNING
8/20/20 ALLAN T. NANCE '57

9/9/20 HAROLYN D. MALONE
OLMSTEAD 9/5/20 DENYS R.
SLATER, JR. 5/30/20

'55 LEE M. BARRON '58 6/25/20
JAMES L. FRANCHELL 10/30/20
GERALD K. FUGIT 10/24/20 Dr.
RAMON E. GOFORTH 10/28/20
JAMES S. HAMBLIN 6/8/20 The
Rev. VICTOR R. HAND 6/2/20
DONALD C. HORTON 8/4/20
GUION M. LINDSAY 10/5/20 The
Rev. ROSS P. MCGUIRE 5/31/18
WILLIAM B. NABOURS 10/27/20
MARIE LOVE NICKLE 8/11/20
WANDA S. WEAGLY POTTS 6/4/20
PATRICIA JAMES SCHLIENZ
3/10/20 BOBBY J. TALLEY
11/16/20

'56 Dr. H. W. C. BAKER '59 8/13/20
ROBERT M. BAUMGARTNER
8/14/20 WILLIAM D. CASTLEMAN,
SR. 6/11/20 SARA ASHWORTH LE
VAN 11/7/20 ROBERT W.
MCLENDON 10/29/20 Maj.
HAROLD E. MEADOWS 7/17/20
RUSSELL O. MEYER 10/22/20
FREDERICK M. PENN 8/10/20
WALLACE W. PITTMAN 11/20/15
MERION B. REYNOLDS 9/10/18
DOROTHY J. GRATIGNY WHITE
10/18/20 The Hon. JAMES B.
ZIMMERMAN '61 12/14/16

'57 MARYHELEN SPRUIELL BOICE
7/25/20 ALICE R. WALLACE CATER
10/6/20 WILLIAM D. COBB
10/31/20 JIMMY D. HAYNIE

10/31/20 **MERITA L. WOOD HURST**
9/29/20 Dr. **TZE-CHUNG LI**
4/22/20 **DANIEL D. OTSTOTT, III**
8/10/20 **C. R. PALMER** '66
7/23/20 **DONALD R. RANEY, SR.**
8/7/20 **JIMMY A. ROBARDS**
10/26/20 The Rev. Dr. **DANIEL Z. RODRIGUEZ** 7/19/20 **CLAY C. SCOTT, JR.** 11/7/20 **ELAYNE STEELE SHULTS** 10/6/20 **SUSAN LAWRENCE SIPPEL** 7/18/20 **EDWARD R. SMITH** 8/12/20 **WILLIAM F. SMITH** '63 11/3/20 **EARL D. WEED, JR.** 8/19/20 **GERALD H. WISE** 5/17/20

'58 The Rev. Dr. **JOHN E. ALBRIGHT, JR.** '82 9/15/20 The Rev. **JOHN L. BRYANT** 7/4/20 **SARABETH GULLATT FARNEY** 3/14/19 The Rev. **CHARLES H. FRYE** 7/9/20 **MARJORIE AARON KAMINSKY** 8/1/20 The Rev. **ANSEL J. MAJOR** 7/15/20 **ROBERT L. MEYERS, III** '60 7/11/20 **NORMAN A. ZABLE** 9/25/20

'59 Judge **ROGER L. COPPLE** 6/13/20 **BENSON J. HARMON, JR.** 4/26/20 **ERVIN G. HOLLE** 5/29/20 **MARY J. JOHNSON** 10/26/20 **HOWARD H. LYLE** 10/1/20 Col. **JAMES V. POWERS** 2/8/16 **JIMMY C. SCOGGINS** 5/26/20 **OLIN R. STEPHENS** 8/31/20

'60 **ANN CANTWELL BASS** 6/16/20 **LESTER V. BAUM** 7/3/20 **NOLAN O. BEWLEY** 5/31/20 **ROBERT M. DREWRY** 10/20/13 **SARAH BALLARD HANKINS** 9/7/20 **RICHARD N. JOHNSTON** 8/5/20 **CHARLES W. KASTNER** 8/6/20 **HAROLD B. KROM** 7/26/20 **FREDERICK A. SKAGGS** 8/6/20

ROBERT B. SUNDERLAND 8/21/20
CHARLES T. TERRELL, SR. 5/30/20
JAMES C. WHEELER 8/10/20 Dr.
DONALD G. WILLIS 5/12/20

'61 **SCOTTIE H. ASHLEY, JR.** 10/5/20
KLINE D. BUSBEE, JR. '62 4/13/20
WILLIAM S. CHAMPLIN 7/2/20
DALE T. COX 6/13/20 **LEWIS H. GISSEL, JR.** 9/15/20 **HENRI J. GRAHAM HOPPESS** 11/19/20
WILLIAM L. JARVIS 9/19/20
BARBARA TOM JOWELL 10/8/20
JACK T. NIPPER 8/12/20 **JOHN R. SCARBOROUGH** 7/19/20 **SAMUEL J. SHELTON** 8/25/20 **RICE M. TILLEY, JR.** 10/28/20 **MARCELLA R. FLYNT WOMACK** 7/10/20
FRANK A. WOODYARD 7/16/20

'62 The Rev. **JESSE L. BAKER** 6/2/18
Dr. **JOHN B. BENNETT** '65 8/30/20
JAMES E. DRISCOLL 9/28/20
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JEAN SMITH CHERRY, retired director of graduate records, Meadows School of the Arts, 9/14/20

JAMES C. COLLINS '63, professor *emeritus*, information technology and operations management, Lyle School of Engineering, 9/12/20

DAVID R. COPELAND, former librarian, DeGolyer Library, SMU Libraries, 9/30/20

BART J. DESENDER, graduate student, 7/2/20

WONMO DONG, professor *emeritus* of political science and former director of Asian studies, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 7/13/20

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CARLENE E. ECONOMY, former research administrator, 6/10/20

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HANS J. HILLERBRAND, former provost and vice president for Academic Affairs (1982–86) and professor of history (1986–88), Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 11/14/20

C.H. KAPADIA, professor *emeritus* of statistical science, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 9/13/20

KATHLEEN E. LATOUR '74, '83, former adjunct professor, corporate communications and public affairs, Meadows School of the Arts, 6/19/20

CURTIS W. MCINTYRE, professor *emeritus* of psychology, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and adjunct professor in the counseling program, Simmons School of Education and Human Development, 8/9/20

GENEVIEVE GRIFFIN MEEK '68, retired as program manager of the Business Leadership Center, Cox School of Business, 9/9/20

ARDITH ANN "PEGGY" BRITTAIN PARK, retired staff, Office of Financial Aid, SMU Enrollment Services, 11/18/20

LOU BERTA SWAIN, retired senior building and service worker, Bridwell Library, SMU Libraries, 7/2/20

ROBERT "JADEN" URREA, student, 10/31/20

MARTHA "BUNNY" WILLIAMSON, retired director of academic services, Meadows School of the Arts, 6/24/20

FRANK A. YOUNG '42, professor *emeritus*, Cox School of Business, 7/10/20

Remembering a legendary leader

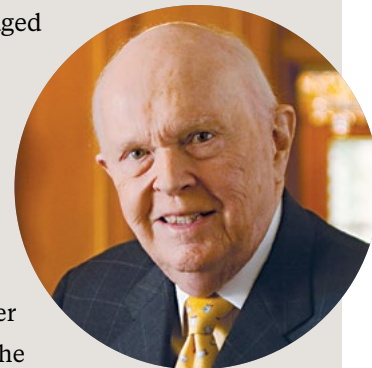
Dallas business leader and longtime University supporter and trustee *emeritus* Edwin L. "Ed" Cox, Sr. '42 died November 5, 2020. He had recently celebrated his 99th birthday and remained active and engaged with family and friends until his passing.

Cox was the chair and CEO of the Edwin L. Cox Company and the former chair of Cox Oil & Gas Inc., SEDCO Inc. and the Keebler Company. Over the years he had served on the boards of numerous corporations and philanthropic organizations.

His devotion to SMU began when he was a student in the School of Commerce and member of the Mustang Band and continued throughout his life. SMU's Edwin L. Cox School of Business was named in his honor in 1978 in recognition of his generous support for and decades of service to the University. In 2020, he was the inaugural recipient of the Cox School's highest honor, the Cox Visionary Award, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions. He had previously been honored by SMU with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1974, the Volunteer of the Year Award in 1985 and The Mustang Award in 1996.

The roots of the Cox Distinguished MBA Scholars Program, the Business Leadership Center for graduate students, the Edwin L. Cox BBA Leadership Institute for undergraduates and the BBA Scholars Program can be traced to the educational pioneer.

Remembered for his inspiring spirit and boundless energy, Cox's vision and support for educating future business leaders will be felt for generations. ■



The download

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

Check out these new titles

Brittany K. Barnett '11

A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom (The Crown Publishing Group, 2020)

brittanykbarnett.com

Laura Bull '18

From Individual to Empire: A Guide to Building an Authentic and Powerful Brand (River Grove Press, 2020)

laurabull.com

Sue Lowell Gallion '80

Our World: A First Book of Geography (Phaidon Press, 2020)

All Except Axle (Aladdin, 2020)

suegallion.com

Doreen J. Oberg '90

Mile Markers: A Memoir (Express Editions, 2020)

Available on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com

Promise Phelan '97

The Way of the Growth Warrior: 7 Non-negotiable Skills to Scale Your Business in Uncertain Times (Amazon Kindle, 2020)

thegrowthwarrior.com

Michael W. Waters '02, '06, '12

For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World (Flyaway Books, 2020)

Something in the Water: A 21st Century Civil Rights Odyssey (Chalice Press, 2021)

michaelwaters.com

Rebecca Oberthier Winn '78

One Hundred Daffodils: Finding Beauty, Grace, and Meaning When Things Fall Apart (Grand Central Publishing, 2020)

rebeccawinn.com

Cindy LaFavre Yorks '81

The Vault Door: Securing God's Truths and Promises (Side Door Ministries, 2020)

cindyorks.com

Happy 30th, Kitchen Dog Theater!

Founded by five graduates of Meadows School of the Arts' M.F.A. in theatre program, the celebrated Dallas company debuted in 1991. Marking this milestone season are streamed events, including a series of behind-the-scenes conversations moderated by Co-Artistic Director Tina Parker '91. The tentative plan is to return to live performances in June with the world premiere of *Good Latimer* by Angela Hanks. More information: kitchendogtheater.org.

Reel gems offer historical context

With the passing of legendary actress Cicely Tyson in January came remembrances of her many film roles, including her screen debut in *Carib Gold*. SMU's G. William Jones Film and Video Collection owns what is thought to be the only remaining 35mm print of the 1956 movie, notable for its largely Black cast and Key West, Florida, location. View the movie at smu.edu/libraries/digitalcollections/jon.

Other rare footage from the Jones Collection – clips featuring controversial auto executive Elizabeth Carmichael – appears in the current HBO docuseries *The Lady and the Dale*, according to curator Jeremy Spracklen.



Our World by Sue Lowell Gallion '80.



Pioneering Black actresses Ethel Waters (left) and Cicely Tyson in *Carib Gold*.

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

COMING TOGETHER *for our community*



Mitigating the Financial Impact of COVID-19

We are extremely appreciative of how our community has responded to COVID-19. Thanks to your support and extensive University cost-cutting measures, SMU continues to offer a first-class educational experience. However, the global pandemic is still affecting our students.

THE ATHLETICS AND PRESIDENTIAL FUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS

\$2M RAISED



\$5M GOAL

Athletics Fund for Immediate Needs

If you have ever attended a game on campus or on the road or enjoyed Boulevarding, you know how the energy and excitement sparked by SMU Athletics bring Mustangs together as a community. Your gift to the Athletics Fund for Immediate Needs today will go a long way toward keeping our spirited traditions alive and well for years to come.

\$85 1 student-athlete's
COVID-19 testing

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COVID-19 testing

Presidential Fund for Immediate Needs

Now is the time to rally together and support SMU's students by making sure the University's world changers can enter the 2021–2022 academic year focused on their studies and experiencing campus life, not on the lingering financial hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic.

\$5K One-year add-on scholarship
for a current student

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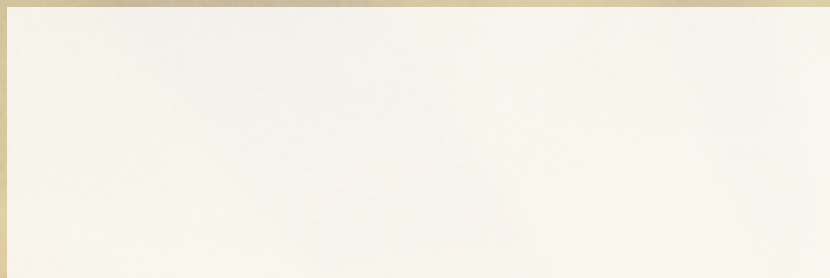
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SMU Homecoming

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