

SPRING 2023

SMU
MAGAZINE



CELEBRATING A DECADE

ON THE HILLTOP



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Join us July 20–23 in Taos, New Mexico, for a weekend filled with educational courses and engaging activities. Nourish your intellect and connect with others at our campus in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, surrounded by the Carson National Forest. Enjoy field trips, receptions, SMU's Ima Lee Hutchison Concert featuring Meadows School of the Arts students and free time to discover Taos at your own pace.

Register now at smu.edu/ci



Energizing our future

IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE THE GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OPENED ON OUR CAMPUS – making this an opportune time to reflect on what that has meant to our community and beyond. By bringing each of the former living U.S. presidents and other dignitaries here for a grand dedication ceremony that day, we elevated our international stature and proved that we could accomplish big things. A decade later, the cooperation, optimism, and innovation that made the center possible continue to fuel SMU's notoriety and propel us forward in our efforts to positively impact the world around us.

Nowhere is that can-do spirit more apparent than in the continued success of our comprehensive campaign for impact, *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*. At the recent Board of Trustees meeting, we were thrilled to announce that donors have contributed over \$991 million toward our \$1.5 billion goal, a remarkable show of confidence in our campaign's goal to empower students, improve our campus community, and enhance teaching and research.

Other examples of our impact are also highlighted in this issue of *SMU Magazine* – including the personal account of former student body president Austin Hickle '22, who is currently living in South Korea as a Fulbright Scholar, and his efforts to create two need-based scholarship programs for students in STEM and beyond. Another scholarship program, supported by Ann Warmack Brookshire '77 and Brad Brookshire '76, will benefit high-achieving students who enroll at SMU after completing an associate degree at Tyler Junior College. The new program has a personal connection for the Brookshires: Both have a passion for Dallas, Tyler,

and the opportunities that higher education can unlock, making the scholarship a fitting way to unite what they care about most.

The West Dallas STEM School's progress also showcases the successful partnership with the Dallas Independent School

“...we look forward to more moments and milestones that illustrate SMU's strength as a place that brings big ideas to life.”

District and Toyota USA Foundation that is transforming outcomes, lifting the community, and serving as a model for collaboration among higher education, industry, and municipalities nationwide.

SMU's recent launch of the Intelligent Systems and Bias Examination Lab (known as ISaBEL) is especially relevant in light of recent advancements in artificial intelligence. Located within the

University's AT&T Center for Virtualization and established in collaboration with industry leaders and academic researchers, the lab's goal of eliminating AI bias is crucial to building public trust in this rapidly evolving technology. Also, you will read about Raleigh Dewan '23. Inspired by his late grandmother who suffered from Parkinson's disease, he and classmate

Mason Morland '24 invented a self-stabilizing spoon to assist individuals who experience tremors.

These are only a few of the many stories of how our students, researchers, and donors are energizing our future. As we embark on the second decade of our partnership with the center that represents the former president and first lady, we look forward to more moments and milestones that illustrate SMU's strength as a place that brings big ideas to life. 🐾



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

R. GERALD TURNER
President



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Tools to succeed

WHEN I ARRIVED AT SMU, I HAD A DREAM OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET THERE. Over the next four years, the University not only provided me with the tools to achieve my goals, but also challenged me to think bigger and never give up on my dreams. Today, I am living in South Korea as a Fulbright Scholar, a Truman Scholar and a Rhodes Scholarship finalist.

Even before my first Boulevard, Dean Stephanie Knight was kind enough to meet with me and advise me on better finding my role in the fight for education equity. By inviting me to volunteer at the West Dallas STEM School project – a public school formed through an innovative partnership among SMU, the Toyota USA Foundation and Dallas ISD – Dean Knight taught me to think about education through a wider lens; a school isn't just a building but an opportunity for community development. Through service on the leadership team of the West Dallas STEM School, I saw how SMU is making a difference in Dallas.

Over the next four years, SMU continued to provide me with new tools and opportunities to grow. In Dr. LaiYee Leong's junior year policy seminar, we studied how to run effective meetings and how to avoid "groupthink." As student body president, I used Dr. Leong's playbook, restructuring the committee system and focusing on impact-led legislation. Active engagement of more student leaders led to projects like the Rotunda Scholarship, granting funds or items over and above the cost of tuition for our Rotunda Scholars and students

who are Pell Grant eligible. Just last month, the new scholarship helped pay part of a student's tuition after a parent experienced a job loss – Mustangs supporting Mustangs.

Now with graduation behind me, I'm sitting in a cafe in Cheongju, South Korea, working on next week's lesson plan. I wanted to come here to learn about an education system considered one of the best in the world, and I haven't been disappointed! Every day, I discover something about my school or curriculum that opens a world of options. I'm grateful for the strong liberal arts education I received at SMU that helps me integrate these new ideas and practices.

SMU has challenged me, through graduation and beyond, to step into uncomfortable places and do hard things. And, the University taught me how to solve new problems each step of the way. I'll always be grateful for that lesson. 🐎

AUSTIN HICKLE '22

Austin Hickle served as SMU's 2021–2022 student body president. He has also been recognized as a Truman Scholar, Tower Scholar, Richter Fellow and a Rhodes Scholarship finalist.



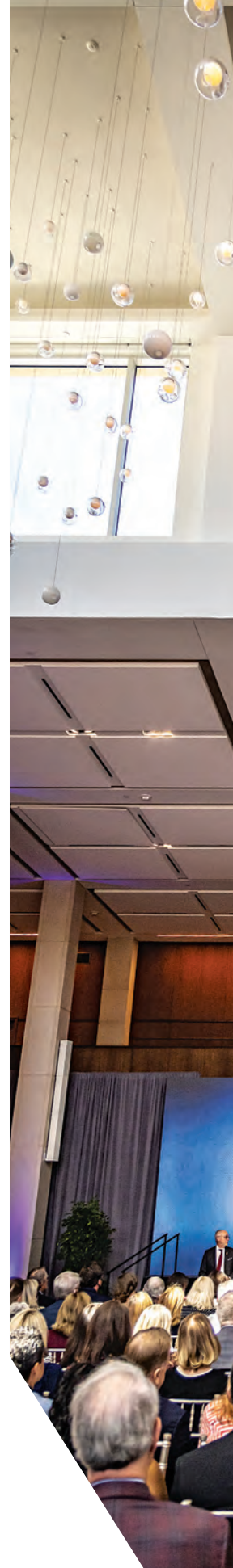
“...the University not only provided me with the tools to achieve my goals, but also challenged me to think bigger and never give up on my dreams.”

TRANSFORMATION

INSPIRING
SPACES
FOR
ASPIRING
ARTISTS

PAVING THE WAY TO THE FUTURE OF VISUAL ARTS EDUCATION ON THE HILLTOP, THE SMU MEADOWS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS celebrated the dedication of its enhanced visual arts facilities on September 16, 2022. Donors to the \$34 million redesign were led by The Meadows Foundation, Gene and Jerry Jones, Nancy C. and Richard R. Rogers, and G. Marlyne Sexton and family. Through these and other supporters of the project, Meadows School will fuel creative discovery by future generations of artists, visionaries and scholars from across the world.

“This project was not only a labor of love, but also a commitment to excellence and to our students,” says Samuel S. Holland, Algur H. Meadows Dean of the Meadows School of the Arts. “Our expanded and improved facilities will enable new creative breakthroughs, inspire groundbreaking artistic innovations and promote artistic collaboration across our programs.” 🐎





SMU's performing and visual arts complex has been home to the Meadows School of the Arts since its inception over 50 years ago. Located at the heart of the SMU campus between Bishop Boulevard and Hillcrest Avenue, the school's initial facilities were designed in the 1960s by noted architect George Dahl. Fueled by its project donors, the school's transformed facilities boast several sun-drenched indoor and lush outdoor spaces that welcome visitors to the center and inspire students and artists in their creative pursuits, multiple galleries for public art exhibitions, and renovated educational and administrative spaces where students can utilize technology and collaborate or create independently.



Countdown to kickoff

For over 20 years, Gerald J. Ford Stadium, named for SMU Trustee Gerald J. Ford '66, '69, has inspired athletic excellence, personal achievement and an ever-growing sense of Mustang pride on the Hilltop. On December 2, 2022, the University celebrated a new chapter for SMU Athletics and Mustang football with the groundbreaking of Ford Stadium's long-awaited renovation and expansion project, the Garry Weber End Zone Complex.

Supporting the latest investment in SMU's centurylong commitment to competing at the highest levels, the groundbreaking was attended by community members from across the region. Launched by the largest gift in the history of SMU Athletics from the Garry Weber Foundation, established by former Mustang football letterman Garry A. Weber '58, the new complex will provide the University's student-athletes with dedicated spaces for development and team building while offering expanded and upgraded facilities for SMU community members and Mustang football fans.

"I'm honored to be connected to this new chapter for SMU Athletics and the achievement and enthusiasm it stimulates across campus," says Weber. "I look forward to joining my fellow Mustangs in cheering on our team in these new spaces that we have created together as a community."

With the groundbreaking, SMU Athletics reaches a new milestone in its history with over \$250 million invested in championship-caliber facilities since 2013. Now in its second phase of fundraising efforts, the project was supported in its first phase by SMU's dedicated donors, alumni and community members, including renowned entrepreneurs Bill Armstrong '82 and Liz Martin Armstrong '82, who gifted \$15



million to the project in September. Meeting at SMU as undergraduate geology students, the Armstrongs are among the most recognizable faces at Mustang football games, regularly participating in its pregame "Boulevarding" tradition.

"SMU Athletics plays a vital role in the North Texas community, in the

experiences of SMU students and in our lives," says Bill Armstrong. "We're proud to invest in the bright future of SMU Athletics, which brings the highest level of collegiate competition to Dallas and prepares student-athletes to be champions in their pursuits on the field and throughout their lives." 

Celebrating excellence

Four former athletes were inducted into the SMU Hall of Fame on November 4, 2022.

Bobby Mills '57

SMU men's basketball

Bobby Mills '57 had the rare privilege of taking the first shot ever made at Moody Coliseum in 1956 and the last shot before the renovation in 2013. "I often think about all of the great players that have competed on that court," he says. Mills chose SMU because he wanted to help grow the basketball program. And that he did – helping the team get into the Final Four in 1956. "More so than the actual game itself, the memories I made with teammates, coaches, teachers and friends while attending the University tower above everything else," he says.

Katie Swords '98

Women's track and field

Australia native Katie Swords '98 recalls competing in the 1996 Southwest Conference meet – the last event before the dissolution of the conference. She won the 1,500-meter; the 3,000-meter; the 5,000-meter; and the 10,000-meter races. But when she looks back, she remembers slowing

her pace a bit in the 10,000-meter to run alongside a teammate. She thinks that decision might have given her the extra bit of endurance to win the 1,500-meter. "I like to think of it as proof that when you help others you end up winning, too," she says.

Robert Weir '85

Men's track and field

Robert Weir '85 puts it simply: "I just always did the things because I genuinely enjoyed doing them, you know?" When Weir started school at SMU, his father had just passed away back in England. Deferring to the spring semester, he set his sights on the Olympics as a way to get back home to visit. Weir did compete in the Olympics – and, he says, he gained a second family, too. "It's the overall experience, particularly the people I've met along the way, that really defined my time at SMU," he adds.

Berit Puggaard '96

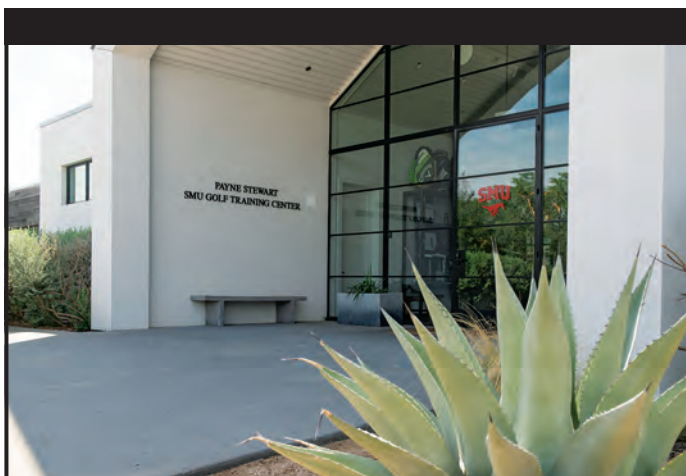
Women's swimming and diving

Berit Puggaard '96 had competed

in the 1992 Olympics for her native Denmark before coming to SMU. At the advice of her mom, she decided to give it one semester and see if she liked it before returning home. "I



don't think there's any coincidence that I completed some of my best times at SMU," she says – including her second Olympics appearance in 1996. "But none of it would have been possible without my teammates." Puggaard went on to place in the top four at the NCAAAs with her teammates during all four of her years at SMU. 🐎



Payne Stewart golf center hits 5 years

The Payne Stewart SMU Golf Training Center at Trinity Forest Golf Club recently celebrated five years of shaping the next generation of golfers. Since the center opened in 2017, the men's and women's golf teams claimed three American Athletic Conference individual champions, one AAC conference championship, five All-Americans and 10 tournament titles – just to name a few. The 6,700-square-foot facility is named in honor of SMU alumnus Payne Stewart '79, who went on to become the 1989 PGA Champion, two-time U.S. Open Champion, and member of five U.S. Ryder Cup teams.

Expanding access to an exceptional college education at SMU

As part of the \$1.5 billion *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* campaign for impact, the Opportunity SMU fund expands scholarships, financial aid and student support programs.

Through Opportunity SMU, donors support initiatives like Access SMU. The University launched the financial award in April 2022 to help cover the previously unmet cost of college for high-achieving Texas students who receive Federal Pell Grants and SMU merit scholarships. In the first year of Access SMU, 216 first-year and returning students qualified for financial support.

Carrollton resident and SMU senior Julie Tran '23 is among the SMU students benefiting from Access SMU. "I feel lucky to have received the kind of support I did," says Tran.

First-year students admitted to SMU are automatically considered for all available University scholarships for which they qualify. Once admitted, students are notified of the combination of financial aid available to them. Tran received a combination of federal and SMU institutional aid as an incoming student. Last year, she learned that she qualified for Access SMU support.

"We want every student with great academic talent to be able to attend SMU, regardless of their family's financial resources," says Wes Waggoner, associate vice president for enrollment management.

SMU expects to expand the



program, thanks in part to donors to *SMU Ignited*. The campaign aims to empower outstanding students to attend SMU and succeed, regardless of financial means.

"We want all outstanding students to learn more about SMU and to imagine themselves as a Mustang," says Elizabeth Lobo, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

As a first-generation student, Tran is pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in biological sciences and in health and society, plus a minor in psychology. Tran participates in faculty-mentored research as an undergraduate researcher within

SMU senior Julie Tran '23 enjoys a sunny spot on campus. Tran benefited from Opportunity SMU funds, which helped her pursue her studies of biological sciences and psychology.

the health and society program. She investigates health disparities, the use of integrative medicine, and resilience and health management in infrastructure deserts in the DFW area.

"SMU showed me that anything is possible," she says. 🐎

Visit smu.edu/opportunitysmu to learn more about how you can fuel success for future generations through Opportunity SMU.

Pioneering Dallas civic and arts leader honored

The achievements and legacy of 2022 SMU honorary degree recipient Anita N. Martinez were celebrated at a symposium in her honor on September 8, 2022.

SMU Spanish professor Elizabeth Russ led the discussion with historian Al Martinez, the honoree's son, and Lisa Mesa-Rogers, executive director of the Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklórico.

In 1969, Anita Martinez became the first Mexican American woman elected to the Dallas City Council, or any major city council, but her passion for community began much earlier. The fifth-generation Texan led her first campaign at 14, collecting signatures to pave Pearl Street in her Dallas community known as "Little Mexico."

Later, as councilwoman, Martinez led campaigns for a recreation center in West Dallas and for the founding of the Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic. In addition, her leadership secured funding for a much-needed renovation of Pike Park in West Dallas.

In 1975, Martinez established the Anita N. Martinez Ballet

Folklórico to educate Hispanic youth on the significance of their culture through traditional cultural dances from various regions in Mexico, Central America and the American Southwest.

Martinez received the Doctor of Humane Letters at SMU's May 2022 Commencement ceremony. 🇲🇽



Grant funds partnership between Perkins School of Theology and Wesley Theological Seminary

Wesley Theological Seminary, in collaboration with SMU Perkins School of Theology, is developing new non-degree courses and certificates supported by a \$5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

The grant enables both schools to develop a business model to better support comprehensive theological education: layered and articulated courses and programs that serve pastors and lay ministers throughout their ministries and across many contexts.

Lilly Endowment believes these programs can become models for other schools as they seek to strengthen the way they educate pastors and other congregational leaders.

Preserving the moment

A new historical marker honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1966 visit to campus. Students – both then and now – made it happen.



On March 17, 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered an hourlong address to a packed house in SMU's McFarlin Auditorium at the invitation of the Student Senate. This February, SMU unveiled a Texas historical marker to commemorate it— thanks to the efforts of another generation of students.

The event featured SMU President R. Gerald Turner, Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, SMU Trustee Rev. Richie Butler '93, SMU students – past and present, and the St. Luke Community UMC Choir. Students who invited or assisted Dr. King with his visit were honored, including the late Bert Moore '66; Charles Cox '67, '75, '79; and

Fred Hegi '66. Jerry LeVias '69, the first Black athlete to win Southwest Conference football scholarship, also met with Dr. King during his visit.

It was the 1980s before Clarence Glover, Jr., then director of intercultural education and minority student affairs, found the recording of Dr. King's speech in University archives, providing the bridge for the 21st-century students who later pursued the historical marker.

In 2018, Associate Professor Jill Kelly and University Archivist Joan Gosnell were working with students

interviewing alumni for what became the Voices of SMU oral history project.

"One continuous thing we kept hearing was how Martin Luther King had spoken on campus and how influential it was for the African American students on campus at the time," says Carson Dudick '20. Dudick's research helped secure the marker, but members of the SMU Student Senate, the Association of Black Students and others kept the project alive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The marker will be constant reminder that Dr. King's work is never ending," said Lamisa Mustafa '21. 🐾



Strengthening the University's future

Dallas-Fort Worth business leader and entrepreneur Jack Knox '60, '63 has given \$11 million to SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow.

SMU's Board of Trustees was notified of the gift at its February meeting and celebrated the enormous impact this gift will have on the future of the campaign.

"Jack has always been a leader – and has often seen opportunity long before others recognized it existed," says Ray Hunt '65, SMU trustee and *SMU Ignited* campaign co-chair.

Knox received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from SMU in 1960 and a Juris Doctor from Dedman School of Law in 1963. In addition to

his other endeavors and philanthropic work, Knox is general partner of Texas Flags Ltd., formerly Six Flags Over Texas Fund Ltd., which owns the real estate and facilities of Six Flags Over Texas.

"SMU helped shape me as a person and as a professional," says Knox. "I am pleased to support the exemplary work SMU does for its



students, the North Texas community and beyond."

SMU Ignited donors like Knox create widespread impact. Gifts to the campaign allow the University to attract and support outstanding students and faculty, explore new fields and technologies, inspire

athletic excellence and positively impact Dallas and the world. 🐎



“

Courage plus dreams equals success – that is my formula that reaffirms that each one of us has the strength to look at adversity as a positive, marry it with the desire to dream big and, if you do that, you can achieve success in anything you set your sights on.”

MARLEE MATLIN

Last December, actor Marlee Matlin spoke about her journey of perseverance and the importance of diversity, inclusion and access as part of the Tate Lecture Series. Matlin won an Academy Award for her leading role in *Children of a Lesser God* in 1986 and starred in the 2022 Best Picture winner *CODA*. She has also appeared in numerous television shows, starred on Broadway and written a bestselling autobiography as well as multiple children's books. Matlin has championed closed captioning and deaf representation in media and has developed an app to further education of American Sign Language.

RECIPE *for* SUCCESS

SMU alumni across the country are cooking up sweet treats and savory snacks – and using the skills they learned on campus to do it.

LAURYN BODDEN '14

Winner of Netflix's Snack vs. Chef

Soccer brought Lauryn Bodden '14 to SMU, but her summer internship in London “pulled her back into food,” she says. She completed an honors thesis on global food systems and moved to New York City



upon graduating, where she then attended culinary school. Today, she's the winner of Netflix's *Snack*

vs. Chef, launching her product line S'noods, a snackable noodle. “There's this whole world out there of different shapes and flavors,” she says.



BECKY NELSON '78

Le Gourmet Baking

Hearing Ina Garten speak at the Dallas Country Club changed the career of Becky Nelson '78. She emailed Garten for advice after the fundraiser (it was 2003, when email addresses were still easy to find). Fast forward to 2012, when Nelson launched her cookie company, using Garten's shortbread recipe as a base. “It became a canvas to personalize,” she says, using her salesman father and marketing professors as resources on how to conduct customer research. “It's a strength of mine, and I serve it well,” she adds.



ELENI GIANOPULOS '86

Eleni's New York

After graduating, Eleni Gianopulos '86 found herself in New York City among a group of entrepreneurial women. She decided to use cookies as her canvas. Today, her cookies are in grocers and retailers across the country – and in the hands of celebrities. She recalls, though, that SMU taught her to network. “You learn how to interact with your colleagues and be part of a community,” she says.



YASMEEN TADIA '04

Make Your Life Sweeter



When she became a single mom to her young son, Yasmeen Tadia '04 rolled up her sleeves and got to work on something sweet. The Cox School of Business graduate worked in HR for 10 years prior to launching her line of organic cotton candy, gourmet popcorn and assorted sweets. But she credits planning events with Program Council, Asian Council and other groups for preparing her for her future. "A lot of the experiences I had helped me get to where I am," she says.



TYRELL RUSSELL '16

The Kookie Box

You could say that former Hunt Scholar Tyrell Russell '16 got the travel bug while working on a service trip to Zambia with the George W. Bush Institute. He moved to China after graduation to teach English, but he started teaching cooking classes, too. When he returned stateside, he married the cooking and baking knowledge from his grandparents with his love of travel. Today, he runs The Kookie Box, a company with international flair. "I discovered I could reach people through food," he says.



LAUREN KITCHENS '98

Fancy Cakes by Lauren

Lauren Kitchens '98 started baking cakes as a student and sending them home to friends' moms – until one mom booked her for her niece's wedding. Today, she's among the most sought-after wedding cake bakers in the country – just ask Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani. But she credits her art history minor with developing her eye: "It helped me learn how to balance," she says.



HUNGRY FOR MORE?

View the DeGolyer Library's collection of cookbooks by visiting smu.edu/joyofcooking.

StediSpoon: Inspired by love

AFTER HIS GRANDMOTHER WAS DIAGNOSED WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE, RALEIGH DEWAN '23 WITNESSED THE DEBILITATING HAND TREMORS THAT WOULD NOT ALLOW HER TO EAT WITHOUT SPILLING FOOD EVERYWHERE, PREVENTING HER FROM ENJOYING THE FAMILY DINNERS SHE LOVED.

Now, SMU student partners Dewan and Mason Morland '24, and Emily Javedan, a Johns Hopkins student, are collaborating in a medical-tech startup named for its core product – StediSpoon™. It's a self-stabilizing eating utensil that allows people suffering from disorders that cause shaking to regain their ability to feed themselves with ease and dignity.

Their work has earned them thousands of dollars in seed money and invaluable mentoring at SMU,

including through participation in Big iDeas Pitch and Business Plan Competitions, events that give undergraduates the opportunity to win financial support for socially conscious, problem-solving ventures.

An estimated 80 million people globally suffer from Parkinson's or essential tremors. Disabling tremors can lead to depression, poor self-esteem and weight loss, all conditions that contribute to a patient's decline. StediSpoon uses proprietary mechanical mechanisms within the

handle to negate the chaotic shaking motion of a user's hand, which makes carrying food to the mouth a much easier process.

"For our entire team, this is not just an academic challenge, or a venture pushed to see if it could make money," Morland says. "We really do feel that we are doing something good, and our efforts will change lives for the better. That recognition is a very big motivator – and a reward in itself." 🦋



LEFT Raleigh Dewan and Mason Morland discuss how the mechanics of StediSpoon enable stability for those who suffer from tremors; **RIGHT** a prototype of the StediSpoon.

A recycling world changer

World changers identify problems and figure out solutions, and Kelly Hess '97 does just that as president and CEO of CompuCycle.

CompuCycle is a woman-owned business certified as a historically underutilized business focusing on end-of-life information technology asset management services for Fortune 500 and mid- to large-size corporations, creating tailored solutions for responsible electronic recycling and secure data destruction. The company has created clean electronic recycling solutions and grown its services to include data center decommissioning, on-site inventory, on-site data destruction and IT office relocations.

The company's end-of-life technology solutions are ethical and ecologically sustainable and comply with the highest regulatory standards. CompuCycle provides customers with liability protection and the best possible value for retired assets, as well as refurbished equipment, as a competitive alternative to new electronic purchases. The company oversees each step of the electronics recycling process, and with its e-scrap shredding services, CompuCycle can provide responsible, safe and secure data disposal and recycling services from start to finish, providing brand protection every step of the way.

Hess and her team are changing the world one electronic at a time.



Building bridges to success

Transferring from a community college is a cost-effective way to earn a bachelor's degree, and a new scholarship for Tyler Junior College graduates will cover the full financial need for selected TJC students to continue their studies on the Hilltop.

Made possible by an endowment gift from Mustang alumni Ann Warmack Brookshire '77 and Bradley W. Brookshire '76, the Brookshire Scholarship will provide scholarship funds to high-achieving students who enroll at SMU after completing an associate degree at TJC. SMU announced the new scholarship February 1 at the Robert M. Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center on the TJC campus.

Inspired by the September 2021 launch of *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* and their own experiences at the University, the new scholarship builds an academic bridge between Tyler Junior College and their alma mater, SMU.

"I told TJC's president, Dr. Mejia, 'We can do this!'" Ann Brookshire says. "I think SMU is so wonderful, in part because of the opportunities Dallas affords its students."

Her advice for TJC students just learning about the scholarship? "Dream big. Work hard, do well for two years – and make this happen."

Tyler Junior College is one of the largest community colleges in Texas, with more than 12,000 enrolled students. The college offers more than 115 degree and certificate programs.

"I think SMU is so wonderful, in part because of the opportunities Dallas affords its students."

– Ann Warmack Brookshire '77

"We are elated by the opportunity to strengthen our partnership with SMU," says TJC President Juan E. Mejia. "We are convinced this important scholarship will make history through the countless success stories that will be made possible by Ann and Brad Brookshire." 🐾



Ending *injustice*

by Chris Kelley

**How the
Deason Center
is helping
reform a
constitutional
crisis across
the nation**

In theory, the U.S. Constitution guarantees every American access to the court system, a right to legal counsel, and a fair and speedy trial. A landmark report published by the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center found that, in practice, these guarantees often turn into broken promises.

Housed in the SMU Dedman School of Law, the Deason Center has become a powerhouse in public defense research during its five years of operation, thanks to generous gifts from donors and the groundbreaking research being conducted there.

Funding from the Deason Foundation, the Charles Koch Foundation, Arnold Ventures and the Chrest Foundation allows the center to produce some of the most comprehensive studies to date on the state of criminal justice procedure as it relates to the initial appearance crisis.

The initial appearance is the first time an arrested person is advised of their rights, informed of the charges and presented with the right to counsel. This is usually the defendant's first chance to contest charges and request pretrial release.

The center's report, "Ending Injustice: Solving the Initial Appearance Crisis," exposes systemic flaws in the criminal justice system that often prevent the initial appearance process from running smoothly. The report is sparking conversations and partnerships with local judicial authorities and is being amplified by the American Bar Association.

The report shows that defendants may wait days, weeks or, sometimes, months behind bars before seeing a judge or even meeting with a lawyer. Without an initial appearance, defendants cannot argue for pretrial release or find out the facts of their case.

Only four states require an initial appearance within 24 hours of arrest, and a handful of states, including Texas, require it within seven days. Most states have no firm deadline.

"(We have a) system in which police essentially disappear people because the court system isn't there to perform its function in a timely manner," says Pamela Metzger, director of the Deason Criminal

Justice Reform Center and professor of law at SMU Dedman School of Law. "And that's not okay."

The center advocates for prompt initial appearances to prevent secret detentions and interrogations, provide an arrested person with critical information and advice needed to argue their case, trigger the right to counsel and facilitate pretrial release.

The center has also created a state-by-state report card system for grading initial appearance procedures. No states received an A in their handling of initial appearances, and only one

state, Maryland, received a B. Texas and 24 other states failed.

This research is making an impact on the local justice systems in several states and in Dallas County, specifically,

through a partnership with the Dallas County District Attorney's office. More reforms are expected in state criminal justice systems around the nation based on the Deason Center's research.

"We're looking at potentially convening a group of experts on criminal procedure to write out what a new model rule might look like," says Malia Brink, senior policy attorney at the Deason Center. "We don't do research to sit on bookshelves. We do research for reform." 🐶



The Deason Center's research efforts continue to be supported by generous donors. In 2022, supporters committed to \$5 million in new funding to go toward the next five years of impactful research in criminal justice reform.

The Deason Foundation, one of the center's founding donors, has committed \$2.5 million over the next five years in response to the center's proven track record of data-driven advocacy for nonpartisan reform in the criminal justice system. The Charles Koch Foundation, another founding donor, has pledged \$1,050,000 in 2023, the largest one-year commitment to the center thus far.

Arnold Ventures began supporting the Deason Center in 2021. To date, the philanthropic organization has supported grants of more than \$1.2 million to fund research on pretrial due process and early access to counsel.

Local donors are also taking note of the Deason Center's first-class research efforts. DFW-based Chrest Foundation, an organization supporting criminal justice reform initiatives nationwide, is supporting the center's partnership with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. The partnership includes the DALLAS initiative – District Attorney Learning and Leadership through Application of Science – which investigates the impact of pretrial reforms on racial equity and due process and works to reduce bottlenecks that hinder pretrial release.

"We're very fortunate to have partnerships with people who share an interest and a commitment to the values that we believe should be exemplified in the United States criminal legal system," says Pamela Metzger, center director. "I think we're doing something that's right for all."



New lab will measure and minimize bias in AI systems

Quantifying and minimizing bias in artificial intelligence systems are goals of a new lab established within SMU's AT&T Center for Virtualization. Pangiam, a global leader in artificial intelligence, is the first industry partner for the Intelligent Systems and Bias Examination Lab known as ISaBEL.

ISaBEL's mission is to understand how AI systems, such as facial recognition algorithms, perform on diverse populations of users. The lab will examine how existing bias can be mitigated using the latest research, standards and other peer-reviewed studies.

AI industry leaders know that end users must clearly understand bias measurement and the progress of bias mitigation to build trust among the public and to drive full market adoption.

"At Pangiam, we are fundamentally committed to driving the industry forward with impactful efforts such as this," says Pangiam Chief AI Officer and SMU alumnus Shaun Moore '10. "Bias mitigation has been a paramount focus for our team since 2018, and we set out to demonstrate publicly our effort toward parity

of performance across countries and ethnicities. SMU is the perfect institution for this research."

ISaBEL will design and execute experiments using a variety of data sets that will quantify AI system performance across demographic groups. Both AI and computer vision are quickly evolving and becoming increasingly accessible and adopted.

"How to study and mitigate bias in AI systems is a fast-moving area, with pockets of researchers all over the world making important contributions," says John Howard '10, '14, AT&T Center research fellow and biometrics expert. "Labs like ISaBEL will help ensure these breakthroughs make their way into the products where they can do the most good and also educate the next generation of computer scientists about these important issues." 🐎

SMU continues R1 progress

The Carnegie Classification system attempts to classify and distinguish universities in terms of their research productivity, with Research One (R1) being the pinnacle of distinction. Committed to advancing research with impact and elevating graduate education, SMU has made tremendous progress in recent years, moving from Research Three designation to Research Two. During the 2021 review cycle, released in early 2022, SMU was only two spots from reaching the R1 goal.

A RECORD YEAR FOR RESEARCH AT SMU

(2021–2022)

- **Highest total research awards in a single academic year**
(41% higher than 5-year average)
- **Near-record total research expenditures in a single academic year**
(16.3% higher than 5-year average)
- **\$7.99 million**
Department of Education grant awarded to Leanne Ketterlin Geller (Simmons School) represents the largest research award received by any SMU faculty member in a single fiscal year

TOP **20%**

of best national universities
(U.S. News & World Report 2023)

SMU Cox professor Sreekumar Bhaskaran uses his research to solve business problems

by Richard Ito

Sreekumar Bhaskaran studies the process of new product development and innovation to understand how products are designed, developed and brought to market. Why do some flourish while others fail? It helps to start with a great idea, he says, but even the best ideas are not guaranteed success. Any company that takes a new item to market must navigate a series of complex issues, from how they're going to design and manufacture their products to whom they're going to collaborate with, and finally, how they should optimize their supply chains.

"There's a significant amount of uncertainty that companies need to deal with, and also a lot of challenges from different angles," says Bhaskaran, an associate professor of information technology and operations management (ITOM) at SMU Cox. "Being able to bring some structure to this complex environment is indeed a fascinating problem."

Bhaskaran's academic and work background makes him ideally suited for the task. As an undergrad, he studied mechanical engineering. An MBA in operations and marketing came next, which included a strong grounding in information technology. At Cadbury's, Bhaskaran was involved in four product launches, including two that were completely new to the market. After that, Bhaskaran came to the University of Texas at Austin to pursue a Ph.D. in supply chain and operations management.

"New product development and innovation is a practical topic, one that all of us can relate to both as consumers and business professionals," he says. "And naturally, it was always something that fascinated me. However, the diverse academic training and work experience sensitized me to the unique challenges of this field, motivating me to think deeper about how the process of developing such products could and should be managed."

Bhaskaran currently teaches three graduate-level courses at the Cox School. Operations Management is a core ITOM class that looks at how businesses can improve efficiencies and processes and manage supply chains, among other things. He also teaches two elective courses, Project Management and Operations Analytics, both of which address how companies can manage uncertainty in all its various forms.

"There's uncertainty from a demand side, there's uncertainty from a supply side, there's uncertainty from a technology side," he says. "So how do you deal with all those things? First, you have to understand the uncertainty, and we do that by marrying the context with the data. And then we build models in class that enable students and managers to make better decisions in an uncertain environment. It is about combining what is theoretically possible to what is practically relevant."

Bhaskaran is also an active researcher, publishing his findings in *Management Science*, *Marketing Science* and *Production and Operations Management Journal*, along with other premier outlets. He's currently working on projects that look at how companies leverage technology – including data and information technology to sustain their development and innovation processes. He's also studying how to engage customers in the design process and how to bring them along as firms continue to develop new products. This requires an understanding of both the technical capabilities of products and how consumers use them.

"I discuss my research papers in my elective courses," he says. "I believe many faculty at Cox do this routinely, and this is what adds to the uniqueness of the programs here. This has led to many interesting discussions with students after class, and in some instances, that has motivated me to pursue new streams of research."

The discussions help Cox students apply what they learn in the classroom to their respective jobs. With many of his students coming from Fortune 500 companies, the in-class chats have real-world consequences. "The student body at Cox is very diverse and has a wealth of experience," he says. "In many cases, I've had students come back and tell me how they were able to apply what they learned in those discussions to the challenging projects in their jobs." 🐉

AWARD-WINNING INGENUITY

A hands-on approach to learning helped SMU's sustainability and development program win a 2022 Tech Titans Award, with Lyle School of Engineering's Jessie Marshall Zarazaga at the helm.

Last October, Zarazaga secured a win that is sure to bring recognition and funding to SMU Lyle School of Engineering's sustainability and development program. Zarazaga is a clinical associate professor in Lyle and director of the program.

"It's exciting for me to have the program be recognized and exciting for SMU to show how unique our school is," she says of the 2022 Tech Titans Award win in the university category.

The program offers a Master of Arts in Sustainability and Development and an undergraduate minor in Global Development. The flexible master's degree is structured around a three-course core with a specialization in one of four tracks: Sustainable Urban Design, Climate-Smart

Inclusive Economic Development, Environmental Justice and Sustainable Management, with customizable coursework for full-time or part-time study.

"We work with real communities and real sites in a very hands-on way," says Zarazaga, who is also a fellow in the Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity.

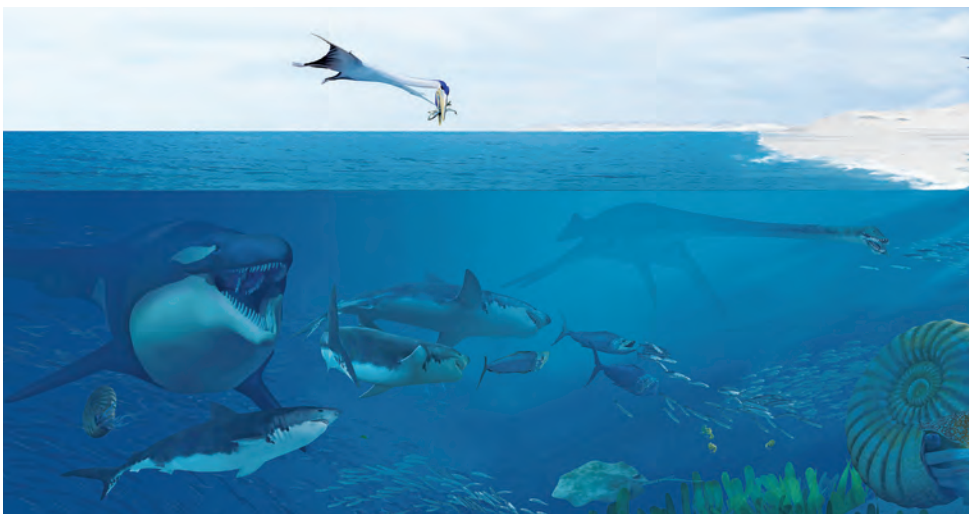
The program grabbed the attention of the DFW Alliance of Technology and Women, a group that invited Zarazaga to speak. An attendee then nominated her for the award.

But, in order to win, students had to give their input.



"Her program within the Lyle School is one of a kind, integrating human-centered approaches to engineering for a more sustainable future," says Cindy Hua '20, '24, who completed her master's in the sustainability and development program and is now working on her Ph.D. in applied science in engineering.

Zarazaga says the funding secured through the award – which came just as the program was celebrating its 10th anniversary – will be used for student travel and research in Tanzania this summer. 🦋



New pterosaur species found in sub-Saharan Africa

SMU paleontologists helped find a new species of pterosaurs in Angola, where fossils of other large marine animals have been found. With wings spanning nearly 16 feet, *E. otyikokolo* can be seen flying above the ocean in the ancient picture.

Artwork by Karen Carr Studio

Dallas leaders rely on SMU infrastructure desert research

Environmental engineering

professor Barbara Minsker is

becoming the go-to expert on Dallas' infrastructure deserts based on her research identifying 62 neighborhoods that lack sidewalks, crosswalks, parks, trees, public transportation access and health care. Her research found that low-income communities were up to four times more likely to be deficient in infrastructure.

Since her research was published, Minsker had numerous meetings to share data with Dallas city officials as the city adapts a racial equity plan addressing inequality in city services and resources. A *Dallas Morning News* editorial cited her research in an op-ed calling for equity in city funding. She also recently served on a Dallas Media Collaborative panel discussing modern redlining in Dallas and hosted Lyle Engineering Hunt Institute Impact Nights examining the inequities in Dallas infrastructure.

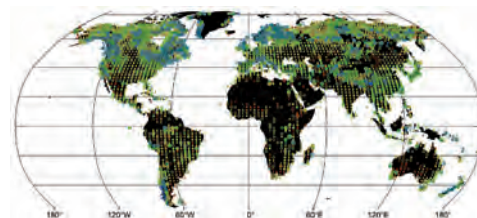
"I want my work to make a difference in the world, not sit on a shelf and never be used," she says.



Climate change is making lakes less blue

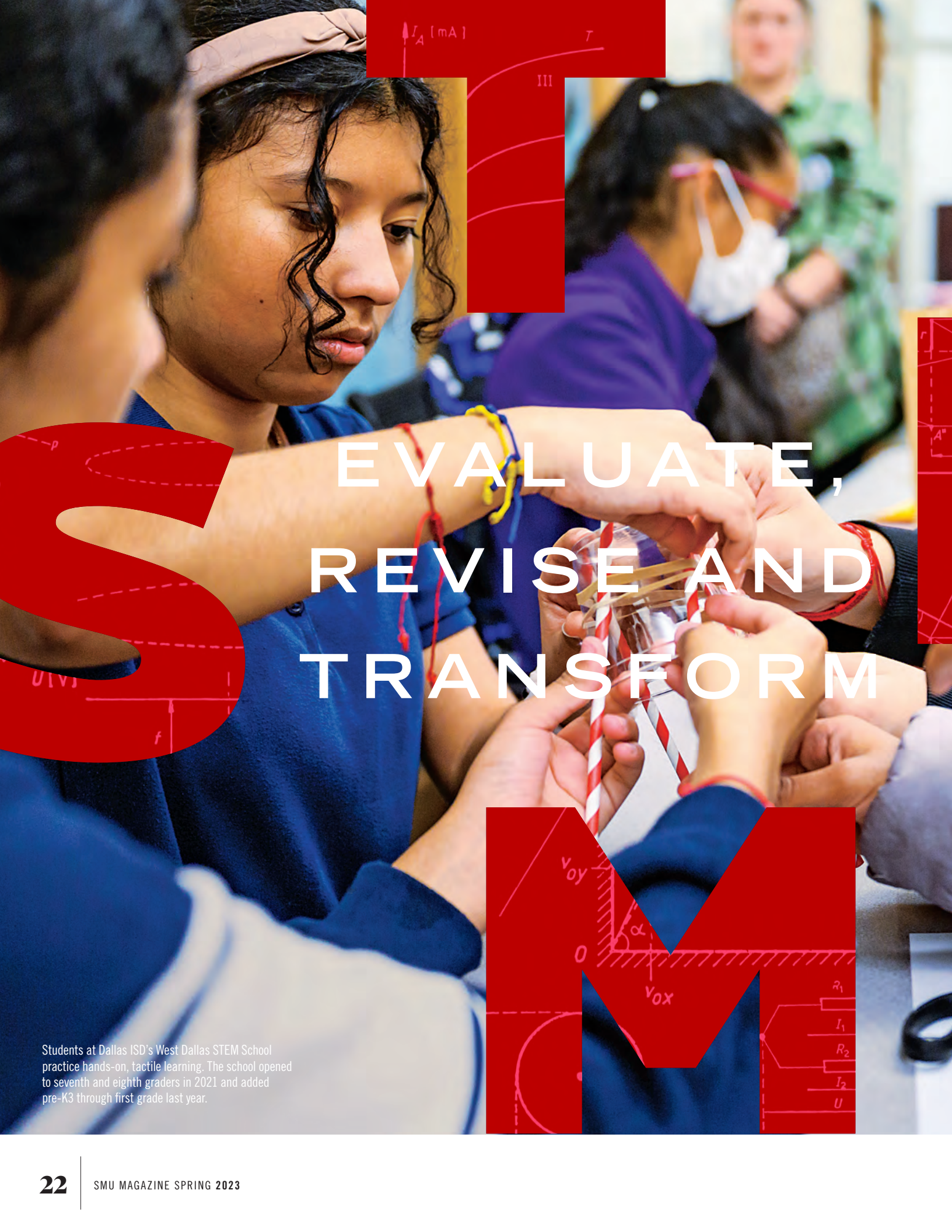
A new study finds the world's lakes are at risk of losing their blue hues because of climate change. The research was published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, American Geophysical Union's journal publishing high-impact, short-format reports with immediate implications spanning all Earth and space sciences.

Researchers used 5.14 million satellite images for 85,360 lakes and reservoirs around the world to determine their most common color. "No one has ever studied the color of lakes at a global scale," says Xiao Yang, assistant professor and co-author of the study. "There were past studies of maybe 200 lakes across the globe, but the scale we're attempting here is much, much larger in terms of the number of lakes and also the coverage of small lakes. Even though we're not studying every single lake on Earth, we're trying to cover a large and representative sample of the lakes we have."



While prior studies used more complex and finer scale metrics to understand overall lake ecosystem health, water color is a simple yet viable metric for quality viewable from satellites at the global scale, the authors say. This approach provides a way to study how remote lakes are changing with climate. 🇺🇸

The world's blue lakes, many of which are located at high northern latitudes, are at risk of losing their blue hues as a result of climate change, according to a new paper in *Geophysical Research Letters*.
Credit: Eric Stein-Beldring/Unsplash



EVALUATE, REVISE AND TRANSFORM

Students at Dallas ISD's West Dallas STEM School practice hands-on, tactile learning. The school opened to seventh and eighth graders in 2021 and added pre-K3 through first grade last year.

SMU PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN PIONEERING WEST DALLAS STEM SCHOOL

First grader Benjamin places four zebras in a row on his table. Karen Pierce, SMU project manager at Dallas ISD's West Dallas STEM School, helps him place three cats beside the zebras. Together they craft a story problem – four zebras plus three cats equal seven animals.

Benjamin struggles with math, so his teacher recommended his inclusion in the pilot study analyzing the effectiveness of activities that prepare students and stimulate their interest in a new subject *before* introducing it in the classroom, a practice known as anticipatory learning.

Pierce, an SMU STEM education expert who advises the school, observed that the activity works best one-on-one instead of as a small group activity. SMU's collection of data and analysis of what is learned guides the practices of the STEM school and will serve as a road map for other STEM schools derived from this model.

“He’s becoming more confident. He’s beginning to navigate his space like he belongs here.”

The West Dallas STEM School opened to seventh and eighth graders in 2021, a partnership among the Dallas Independent School District, Toyota USA Foundation, SMU's Simmons School of Education and Human Development, and the West Dallas community. Pre-K3 through first graders were added in 2022, and additional grades will be added each year until the school serves students from pre-K to eighth grade. SMU's comprehensive research and evaluation of the school's programs and practices will guide the school's operation. Toyota plans to invest \$110 million to help replicate this partnership model at 14 sites in the U.S.

The school brings together four integral components.

- Gives West Dallas students access to quality STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education.
- Provides professional development for educators.
- Offers services from community nonprofit organizations to alleviate issues such as literacy, nutrition, transportation and after-school care.
- Provides necessary measurement to support a model of continuous improvement through the Simmons School's Center on Research and Evaluation (CORE).

The school's anticipatory learning pilot project reflects a key aspect of the STEM school model: continuous improvement based on data science. Data about the anticipatory learning pilot project will be studied as part of a long-term study but is also used to quickly evaluate how acting out a preview to story problems might help other students like Benjamin.

And Benjamin? “He’s becoming more confident,” Pierce says. “He’s beginning to navigate his space like he belongs here.” 🐾



GEORGE W. BUSH INSTITUTE

CELEBRATING

25

by Andrea Luttrell '12



*“Our hope is that this
will be a center of
excellence not only to
benefit SMU but Dallas,
the United States, and
the rest of the world.”*

– President George W. Bush –



When the George W. Bush Presidential Center first partnered with SMU, the University knew the impact would be felt for generations to come.

A decade later, the center has enhanced SMU in a myriad of ways. Since SMU welcomed the Bush Center – composed of the George W. Bush Presidential Museum, the George W. Bush Institute, and the George W. Bush Presidential Library operated by the National Archives and Records Administration – on April 25, 2013, countless Mustangs have

perused art and history exhibitions at the library for free. Students have attended the Bush Center's forums and Engage programming, listening to guest speakers like Jay Leno, Jeff Bezos, Condoleezza Rice, Troy Aikman and even Bono discuss global politics. SMU faculty and staff have collaborated with Bush Institute scholars on research, and some lucky Mustangs have even had surprise classroom visits from President Bush himself, who fields questions about his time in office with warmth and grace.

Yet, the Bush Center's impact can be felt at the school level, too – take, for example, the Niemi Center at the Cox School of Business. Niemi fellowships develop undergraduate and graduate students into principled leaders, driving positive change and growth in the global economy and working in collaboration with the Bush Institute to create a “real-world” research project over the academic year. Similarly, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences students work with the Bush Center through the Nexpoint Tower Scholars Program,



2013 African First Ladies Summit

In Tanzania, former First Ladies Laura Bush '68 and Michelle Obama join moderator Cokie Roberts to discuss the important role women play in strengthening Africa.

2013

Future focused

President George W. Bush attends the refurbishing of the Mosi Oa Tunia clinic in Livingstone, Zambia, to continue his commitment to the people of Africa.



2015

Art of leadership

During a visit to the Bush Center and SMU, President Bush and the 14th Dalai Lama admire the president's portrait of the Dalai Lama.

2015

Celebrating leaders

Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton speak at the graduation of the inaugural class of Presidential Leadership Scholars.



2013

2013

Welcome to the Hilltop!

SMU welcomes the Bush Center to its campus with all five living presidents on hand to mark the celebrations.

Connecting with the community

Mustang student leaders happily greet President Bush at the opening of the Bush Center.



2014

Ride on!

In Crawford, Texas, President Bush bikes alongside veterans in the annual Warrior 100K, highlighting the service, sacrifice and resilience of our nation's service members.

2015

May flowers

Thousands of bluebonnets, Texas' state flower, grace the Laura W. Bush Native Texas Park at the Bush Center.



2016

Great minds

SMU President R. Gerald Turner mediates a discussion with President Bush during the Hart Global Leaders Forum, which allows high school students to hear from prominent world leaders.

a selective, multidisciplinary minor in public policy and international affairs that enables students from a variety of academic backgrounds to combine their interests with real-world experience in public policy. Tower Scholars intern at the Bush Institute, seeing firsthand how government policy affects communities.

The Simmons School of Education and Human Development, too, boasts its own partnership with the Barbara Bush Foundation to develop tools for increasing literacy. Simmons' Professor of Applied Physiology and

“SMU’s partnership with the Bush Center has transformed the Mustang experience for the better, offering unparalleled opportunities for education and engagement.”

– R. Gerald Turner –
SMU President

Sport Management Eric Bing has collaborated with the Bush Institute for 10 years on global health concerns. Dedman Law has co-hosted several Raggio lectures with the Bush Center, including with former senators Claire McCaskill and Kelly Ayotte. The Lyle, Moody and Meadows schools have all partnered with the Bush Center on postdoctoral fellowships and exhibits at the Bush Museum. Together, these initiatives have strengthened and empowered Mustangs, helping to establish the next generation of leaders. 🐎

2016

Pony Up!

President and Mrs. Bush, former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, and SMU President Turner and his wife, Gail, cheer on the Mustangs at an SMU men's basketball game.



2018

Looking ahead

Dr. Turner and Ken Hersh, Bush Center president and CEO, meet with Jeff Bezos before taking the Forum on Leadership stage to discuss how our world will change.

2022

A listening ear

Dr. Deborah Birx, former White House coronavirus response coordinator, speaks about pandemic response on an episode of *The Strategist* podcast during the Forum on Leadership.



2023

A decade of impact

SMU and the Bush Center celebrate 10 years of service to the local and global communities.

MAKING HISTORY

2023

2018

A history lesson

Visitors celebrating the Bush Center's fifth anniversary take in the permanent exhibits of the president's tenure in office.



2021

Enduring portraits

Brad Cheves, SMU's vice president for development and external affairs, speaks with President Bush about the exhibit of his art, *Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants*.



2021

An ace in the hole

At the Warrior Open, President Bush and a U.S. military veteran survey the golf course.

2022

Ensuring freedom

The George W. Bush Institute hosts a conference on *The Struggle for Freedom* in partnership with Freedom House and the National Endowment for Democracy.



At the George W. Bush Presidential Center's dedication, President George W. Bush outlined his hopes that the Bush Center would promote freedom and democracy worldwide, empower the disenfranchised, help more countries overcome poverty and disease, and stand behind those who have defended our freedoms here at home. A decade later, the Bush Center is achieving those goals.

In the past six years, the Bush Center's Forum on Leadership has hosted Ben Bernanke, former chair of the Federal Reserve and fellow at the Brookings Institution; John

program draws on the resources of the George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton, and Lyndon B. Johnson presidential centers, enabling midcareer professionals to hone leadership skills through interactions with former presidents, key administration officials, leading academics and business leaders.

Go Further, an innovative public-private partnership among the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Bush Institute, UNAIDS, Merck and Roche, was launched to implement a strategy to end cervical cancer and save lives. The partnership creates a healthier future for women

In education, the Lindsay Lloyd North Korea Freedom Scholarship for North Korean refugees living in the U.S. helps refugees and their children pursue higher education. The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries provides grants for low-income schools to expand their collections. To date, the foundation has awarded more than \$19.5 million.

The Bush Center inspires diverse groups to enact change – illustrated by the special exhibit *Out of Many, One*. The exhibit highlights the American immigrant experience as well as the contributions they make to the life and prosperity of our nation. Through 43

“This past decade, the Bush Center has worked to make a difference for our nation and our world by promoting the timeless values of freedom, opportunity, accountability and compassion. We are thrilled to continue building that work for the decades to come and honored to be part of SMU’s vibrant community.”

– Ken Hersh –
President and Chief Executive Officer
George W. Bush Presidential Center



Boehner, 53rd speaker of the House of Representatives; Dick Cheney, 46th vice president of the United States; Henry Kissinger, 56th United States secretary of state; and James A. Baker, III, 61st United States secretary of state. These leaders have inspired the community about how to enact change.

The Presidential Leadership Scholars program, supported by the Bush Institute, brings together trailblazers from the nonprofit, military, public and private sectors. The Presidential Leadership Scholars

by reducing cervical cancer cases by 95% among women living with HIV in 12 African countries. In the U.S., the Bush Institute's Veterans and Military Families program helps veterans, service members and their loved ones make successful transitions through programming and research-driven policy recommendations. Additionally, the Bush Institute is focused on developing the leadership skills of veterans and those who serve them and their families through the Stand-To Veteran Leadership Program.

four-color portraits – painted by the president – and their accompanying stories, *Out of Many, One* reminds us of how America has been strengthened by those seeking a better life. The Bush Institute believes that America needs the brightest, most talented and hardest-working people the world has to offer and has created immigration policy with the objective to affirm America as the land of opportunity.

The initiatives, exhibits and events seek to enhance our nation and world with freedom, hope and unity. 🇺🇸



WORLD CHANGERS MEET HERE The Bush Center has hosted countless leaders from all walks of life on the SMU campus. Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and fellow *Shark Tank* investor Damon John in 2020. Sgt. First Class Michael Rodriguez, now the CEO of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation, poses with his portrait painted by President Bush in 2017. North Korean escapees meet with President Bush in 2014. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the 2019 Forum on Leadership. In 2016, Dr. Oscar Biscet finally receives his Presidential Medal of Freedom, originally awarded to him while imprisoned in Cuba in 2007. Mrs. Bush meets with recent Afghan evacuees in 2022. Future First Lady Dr. Jill Biden delivers remarks on our nation's veterans at the 2014 Military Service Initiative Summit.

One teacher at a time

STUDENTS LIKE MARY CABANAS '23 CAN RELIEVE THE IMPACT OF WIDESPREAD TEACHER RESIGNATIONS. CABANAS WILL ENTER THE TOUGH PROFESSION WITH HER EYES WIDE OPEN, THANKS TO SMU'S SIMMONS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

The senior mathematics and education major has planned to teach since eighth grade. In high school, she observed and taught a pre-K class as a future teacher intern. At SMU, she is a recipient of the Noyce Teacher Scholarship, which commits her to teach math at a high-need school after graduation in exchange for a scholarship funded by the National Science Foundation.

Mentorship by Noyce Scholar faculty sponsors has opened other doors for Cabanas. She's assisting in an education research project comparing the effectiveness of using iPads versus virtual reality to teach geometry; she spent a summer researching best practices in math education; and she helped analyze the effectiveness of demonstrating real-life applications of math.

She also formed SMU's first student organization for education majors. Instead of taking field trips and hosting guest speakers, the Hilltop Educators discuss controversial subjects in education, like book bans and school shootings.

Cabanas' motivation is personal. When she was 12, she and her family moved from Mexico to Garland, Texas, and Cabanas faced the challenges of seventh grade while learning English and settling into a new home.

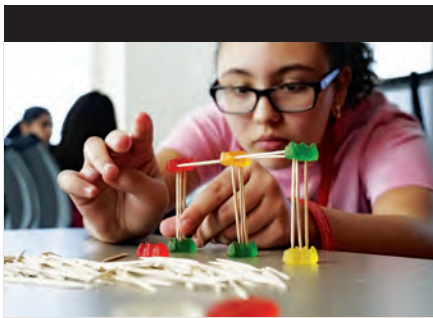
"My teachers saw my potential," she says. "As a newcomer, I was scared. It helped to know there were adults who were there for me."

Cabanas' dream is to teach math at North Garland High School, where her teachers were so influential to her. 🐎



Light up Dallas

On August 18, 2022, downtown Dallas lit up red and blue, honoring the more than centurylong connection between Dallas and SMU and providing an incredible backdrop for the 2023 football message, "Same Pony, New Express." In the message, Eric Dickerson '84 joined SMU legends Craig James '83 and Lance McIlhenny '84 along with Rhett Lashlee and the 2022 team. Earlier in the year, Dickerson keynoted the Dallas Literary Festival, where he released his memoir *Watch My Smoke: The Eric Dickerson Story*.



Kids tackle neighborhood challenges at engineering camps in Dallas

Students at an SMU engineering camp designed a conservation plan

for one of their neighborhood's most valuable resources: water. The sixth, seventh and eighth graders built models of water towers, designed filters to measure water quality and laid out a water system for a fictional community. The camp took place in their neighborhood, at the Jubilee Park Community Center in southeast Dallas last July.

Campers learned their neighborhood water system and built confidence in math and science and practiced skills they may not have learned at school, says Alain Mata, program manager for SMU's Hamon Engineering Camp at the Jubilee Park Community Center.

Most residents in Jubilee Park are Black and Hispanic – both traditionally underrepresented in STEM. To help build interest, the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education brought the camp to them.

"We shifted our curriculum to become more targeted to community needs and brought the camps to the neighborhoods," says Richard Duschl, executive director of the Caruth Institute for Engineering Education. "We intend to have a year-round STEM education presence in Jubilee Park."

Prize-winning paleo paper-folding

When SMU paleontology student Travis Nolan '24 chips a 287 million-year-old fossil from rocky soil, a unique skill helps him envision the complete creature – origami.

Nolan has been fascinated by dinosaurs since he was 3 when his dad came home with a dinosaur puppet. By 8, he was a member of the Dallas Paleontological Society. By 13, he was volunteering at the Whiteside Museum of Natural History in Seymour, Texas, assisting in the excavation of Dimetrodon and other dinosaurs.

Nolan plans to study the biomechanics of dinosaurs and earn a Ph.D. in paleontology while combining his interests in paleontology and origami.

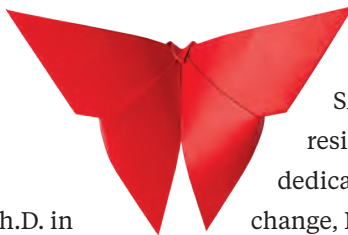
A church bulletin folded into a paper airplane inspired Nolan's interest in origami. Now, he has a reputation on the international origami circuit. He placed fifth in the 2021 International Origami Internet Olympiad, helping the U.S. rank third

for the first time. Nolan won the gold medal in the original origami design category for his interpretation of the contest theme by creating a 500 million-year-old predatory shrimp.

He also volunteers with Paper for Water, a Dallas nonprofit creating origami ornaments to raise money to fund water and sanitation projects. A resident of SMU's Service House, a residence hall for students dedicated to service and social change, Nolan is working to create an SMU Paper for Water chapter.

"Origami has led to friendships and lured me on adventures," he says. "But at the end of the day, I'm still that 3-year-old kid who thinks a dinosaur puppet is cool." 🦖

Read more: smu.edu/origami



NEW FELLOWSHIP FOR EARLY-CAREER WRITERS STRENGTHENS CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

Students in poet Samyak Shertok's creative writing class, *The Art of Listening*, started the semester standing outside, absorbing the sounds of the sky.



Hughes Fellowship Director Richard Hermes (center) stands with Hughes Fellows and Visiting Writers-in-Residence Afsheen Farhadi (left) and Samyak Shertok (right).

“Poetry is finding music in the everyday sounds,” says Shertok, one of SMU’s first two recipients of the Hughes Fellowship in Creative Writing.

The fellowship was created with resources from the Duwain E. Hughes Endowment to further strengthen the intellectual and creative community on campus by bringing two early-career writers to the English department. One of only a handful of similar fellowships in the country, SMU’s Hughes Fellowship in Creative Writing is generous in time and financial support, says Richard Hermes, director of the fellowship and English faculty member.

“This is one way for us to build on our reputation as a dynamic department and support the work of some of contemporary literature’s best emerging writers,” Hermes says. “We think the Hughes will come to be recognized as one of the most

prestigious fellowships of its kind in the country.”

As creative writing fellows, Shertok and novelist Afsheen Farhadi will spend two years at SMU as teachers and mentors to students and as resources to the Dallas literary community. In addition, the fellowship gives them a key asset for early-career writers – time.

Shertok is working on a book-length poem. Farhadi, who teaches a short story writing class, expects to complete a novel during the fellowship. In the meantime, students from a variety of majors fill their classes and gather to hear works-in-progress at readings.

As the fall semester ended, students who began Shertok’s class as listeners wrapped up the class reading their own poems out loud. Fellow students displayed their support with a quiet form of applause – finger snaps. 🇺🇸

Innovative, dedicated leaders join SMU

THREE NEW APPOINTMENTS TO POSITIONS ACROSS CAMPUS UNDERSCORE THE UNIVERSITY'S MISSION TO INSPIRE EXCELLENCE AND FUEL DISCOVERY.

Suku Nair has been named inaugural vice provost for research and chief innovation officer at the

University after serving as associate provost for research ad interim.

Nair has been an SMU researcher and educator for over 30 years and is a University Distinguished Professor in the Lyle School of Engineering. The founder of the University's cyber security program, he is also the founding director of the AT&T Center for Virtualization at SMU.

"I am grateful for this opportunity to support our faculty, students and research partners in such a meaningful way. The office will support and guide a thriving research ecosystem that is mindful



of the needs and aspirations of the community," Nair says.

Bishop Michael McKee '78 has been named dean ad interim of the SMU Perkins School of Theology, in addition to his recent appointment as the Perkins Bishop in Residence.

McKee previously served on the SMU Board of Trustees and as episcopal leader of the North Texas Annual Conference since his election by the South Central Jurisdiction in 2012.

"Because of the strong commitment to excellence exhibited by the school's faculty and staff, students and alumni, Perkins is well-positioned to continue making a significant impact in churches, communities and the academy," McKee says.



Nader Jalili has been named the new dean of the SMU Lyle School of Engineering. In his previous position as professor and head of mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama, Jalili was known for bringing the resources of engineering education and research to undergraduate and graduate students, industry partners and community outreach programs.

"The Lyle School of Engineering has unmatched potential to lead superior quality research and education programs as well as to prepare students to become leaders and innovators in solving the rapidly challenging problems of the 21st century," Jalili says. 🐉



Lit Fest explores themes of identity

Bestselling authors with February releases were invited to share their thoughts and insights at SMU's annual Dallas Literary Festival, which took place on campus March 4.

"The theme for the festival is 'identity,'" says Sanderia Smith, SMU executive director of the festival. "We're all trying to find out who we are after the pandemic."

It was a day celebrating authors and artists of all walks of life — from celebrated local authors and poets to high school and college students. Topics included mystery writing, children's books, poetry, translation and the publishing process.



Fun in Chaos watercolor, by Renee Taken. 2022.

Adelfa Callejo stands tall downtown

A new statue of Adelfa Botello Callejo stands tall in Main Street Garden in downtown Dallas, celebrating the pioneer who was the first Hispanic woman to graduate from SMU's Dedman School of Law in 1961. Callejo, a Mexican American civil rights leader, went on to become Dallas' first Hispanic attorney as well as a lifelong activist, fighting for expansion of education for Hispanic children in Dallas, immigrant rights and political representation for communities of color. The statue and accompanying plaque — inscribed in both in English and Spanish — were unveiled in September, just in time for National Hispanic Heritage Month.



GAME-CHANGING TALENT

Ra-Sun Kazadi '22 recalls the anticipation he had on the eve of turning 5, hopeful his parents heeded his atypical birthday wish.

by Karalee Miller

"I asked for a set of encyclopedias," the now 23-year-old says with a laugh. "I got a few, but not the whole set."

His inquisitive nature anchors his passion as an artist and has turned a lifelong interest in sketching and drawing into international sales of his work. Among his current projects: completing four pieces for SMU, each based on the University's brand content pillars.

"I want my art to inspire people to get up and do something, get up and move," says Ra – the moniker most people call him.

A former Mustangs football player, Kazadi began earnestly pursuing art in 2020. He garnered a whirlwind of attention after his Innovator of the Year nomination at the inaugural NIL Summit in June 2022.

In addition to his art, Kazadi is



"I want my art to inspire people to get up and do something, get up and move."

– Ra-Sun Kazadi '22

a partner in Collectible All-Stars, a Dallas-based startup giving student-athletes a marketing platform and road map to navigate the Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) era.

When he's not recruiting, creating or spending time with his family, Kazadi can be found giving back through The Detente Collective, the nonprofit he co-founded in 2020.

"The only goal we have is to keep moving and keep finding systems that make us more efficient," he says.

Although he never received that full set of encyclopedias, Kazadi's personal learning journey is proving to be his real work of art. 🐎



Empowering the future

A \$5 million gift from entrepreneurs Elisabeth Martin Armstrong '82 and William D. Armstrong '82 will further the academic and research excellence of the SMU Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences by endowing the school's dean position, renaming it the Elisabeth Martin Armstrong Dean. Through their gift, the Armstrongs will support Dedman College's future-focused leadership and strategic vision in perpetuity.

The Armstrongs' gift to Dedman College will also support one of the major goals of *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, the University's multiyear \$1.5 billion campaign for impact, by enriching teaching and research, as well as furthering

SMU's strategic plans to increase its number of endowed faculty positions in the coming years.

"Dedman College played a pivotal role in how Bill and I met and in our professional success," says Liz Armstrong, co-owner of Armstrong Oil and Gas and Epoch Estate Wines. "We are incredibly proud to support and strengthen the future of humanities and sciences education at SMU, and we are excited about the lifelong impact that this gift will have on students and faculty research."

The inaugural Elisabeth Martin



Armstrong Dean is Thomas DiPiero, who has served as Dedman College's dean since 2014. 🐉

LEFT TO RIGHT SMU President R. Gerald Turner; Robert H. Dedman, Jr. '80, '84; Nancy Dedman '50; Elisabeth Martin Armstrong '82 and William D. Armstrong '82; Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences Dean Thomas DiPiero; and Provost Elizabeth G. Lobo.



Honored for impact

Financier, philanthropist, television host and author David M. Rubenstein was awarded the Tower Center Medal of Freedom last fall. Rubenstein is the co-founder and co-chairman of The Carlyle Group, one of the world's largest and most successful private investment firms. During the event, Rubenstein shared in conversation with former state representative Dan Branch, who serves as chair of the SMU Tower Center Board of Directors.



Remembering Marshall Terry

The family of the late Marshall Terry '53, '54 – an SMU graduate, professor, administrator, advisor, mentor and author – honored his memory by naming a classroom in Dallas Hall after him. Loved ones gathered on December 27, 2022, for the plaque dedication. Nicknamed "Mr. SMU," Terry spent six decades with the University, where he held the E.A. Lilly Endowed Chair and founded and directed the creative writing program.

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 2023 issue is July 15, 2023.

59 The Rev. **BOB PAULEN** won 11 events and set three American records in the M85-89 age group at the 2022 USATF Masters Championships. Paulen, who ran track for SMU, has competed in masters track and field competitions around the world. He is enjoying retirement in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

62 **NANCY DAVIS LABASTIDA** and **CHARLES FRANCIS GUITTARD** '67 were married in December 2021. He is a former adjunct professor in negotiation at SMU Dedman School of Law. They live in Austin.

71 **RICHARD SMITH** published *Within the Ivory Tower*, available on Amazon.

72 **KELLY NEWTON** has received the Shipley Award from the American Gem Society. The award is given to a member of the American Gem Society for outstanding service to the society; for significant contributions to the science of gemology; and for exemplifying the high purposes, objectives and ideals of the society. Newton is a certified gemologist appraiser and president

of Newton's Jewelers, Inc. in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

76 Dr. **ROSEMARY G. CHRISTY** retired from her practice as a pediatric anesthesiologist after performing more than 38,000 anesthetics. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019, and after 12 surgeries, battling COVID-19, and mourning the loss of son Mike in 2014, she made the decision to retire. She is looking forward to celebrating her 40th wedding anniversary with her husband in 2023 and spending time with her happily married daughter and family.

80 **SUE LOWELL GALLION** published *Our World, Our Seasons; Pug & Pig series; All Except Axl; Tip and Tucker series*, available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Target. **MARCY PERKINS GREGG** published *Blank Canvas* (Tyndale Momentum, 2022), available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, booksamillion.com or marcygreggart.com.

81 **KATHERINE LINN CAIRE** published *Accidental Sisters* (Books Fluent, 2022), available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, bookshop.org, landmarkbooksellers.com or

klcairebooks.com. **WILLIAM JOYCE** has directed the animated short *Mr. Spam Gets a New Hat*, based on his book of the same name. It won Best Animation at the 2021 New York Shorts International Film Festival and LA Shorts International Film Festival; Best Animated Short at the Cleveland International Film Festival and Cordillera International Film Festival; and Best 3D Narrative Short at Spark Animation 2021. Joyce is the author of more than 50 children's books and novels and has directed several animated shorts based on his books. In 2012, he won an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film for *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*.

85 **JOEL LAGRONE** was selected as the new Santa at NorthPark Center. He is an aerospace engineer at Lockheed Martin where he has worked on the F-35 joint strike fighter jet for nearly 23 years. He has played Santa at Dallas Cowboys events, private gatherings of Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones' family and the Highland Village's tree lighting ceremony. He's also a guitarist, actor and singer who has performed the national anthem at Texas Rangers games for 23 seasons.

90 **LEE MULCAHY** exhibited paintings and sculptures focused on eviction in America at The University of Texas at Arlington's University Center in summer 2021. In October 2021, his family's work on Africa Water Wells, a clean water well ministry in Kenya started by his late father Edward Lee "Bud" Mulcahy, was exhibited at the University's Gallery West, celebrating the ministry's plans for its 10th water well in 2022 at an outlying clinic of Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya. Mulcahy also served in Ukraine in March 2022 at an all-volunteer militia hospital in Kyiv that was responsible for rescue and evacuation. His paintings and photographs of Ukraine were exhibited at the Four Seasons Mumbai in May 2022.

91 **BETHENY REID** published poem "Then We Know What Sacred Is" in the summer/fall edition of *Big Bend Literary* magazine.

95 **A. SHONN BROWN** (JD '98) and her late husband, Clarence B. Brown, III, were honored by Texas Appleseed, a public interest justice center, with its 2022 J. Chrys Dougherty Good Apple Award. The couple received the nonprofit's highest honor for their commitment

to advancing equity and their impact on the Dallas community and beyond. A. Shonn Brown has served as vice president and deputy general counsel for global litigation at Kimberly-Clark. She is immediate past chair of the Texas Women's Foundation, chair-elect of the Hockaday School, and a member of the Dallas Museum of Art and The Village Giving Circle boards. She has appeared in *D CEO's* "Top 500 Business Leaders in Dallas," *Texas Monthly's* "Texas Super Lawyers" and "Top 50 Women Lawyers in Texas," and Texas Lawyer's "Extraordinary Minority Lawyers." She also has received the *Dallas Business Journal's* "Top Women in Business" and "Top Minorities in Business" awards. Mr. Brown, who passed away in 2021, was vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at Kronos Worldwide. He served on the boards of Community Partners of Dallas, Readers 2 Leaders, St. Philip's School and Community Center, Parish Episcopal School, and the Dallas Chapter of Jack and Jill of America. **CLAUDE STUART, LAUREN HABER-MANNELLA '97**, and **ZAY HARDING '97** have launched 3 Degrees Entertainment. The TV and film production company has six feature films, two live action TV series, and an animated children's series in development. Haber-Mannella has worked for NBC, Disney Studios, E! Entertainment, and 20th Century Fox in casting and talent management. Harding hosted his own show for American Public Television, *Globe Trekker*, for 14 seasons, as well as shows on Discovery, History, Travel, and National Geographic channels. Stuart is a comedian who has toured internationally and has

written for HBO's *Dennis Miller Live!* and *Funny You Should Ask* starring Howie Mandel.

97 SHANTERRA MCBRIDE has co-authored a book with best friend Rosalind Wiseman. *Courageous Discomfort* is a handbook on how to have candid conversations around race and become a better advocate. McBride, a Black woman, and Wiseman, a white woman, discuss their friendship and tap into their decades of anti-racism work to answer 20 common, uncomfortable but critical questions about racism. **KATHLEEN VAN NEST PIERCE** is now global business head, new ventures at Dyson. Pierce spent 18 years at The Estee Lauder Companies Inc., most recently as senior vice president of global transformation, consumer experience and channel innovation.

98 PEGGY GREEN-ERNST continues to build coalitions and to write and publish books on national public policy issues. Appointed by former governor Ann Richards, Green-Ernst served on the Texas National Research Laboratory Commission after her efforts building the Dallas business coalition to support the State of Texas' successful bid for the Superconducting Super Collider. For 11 years, she was the executive director and on the board of directors of Housing Roundtable, a national public policy group for the housing and financial services industry. She has served in senior leadership positions with many organizations, including the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, Texas Association of Business, National Association of Manufacturers, Dallas Study Group,

Making the mark

Five SMU alumni who are partners at Bell Nunnally have been recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2023:

Nikki Hurst Gibson '85 Commercial Finance Law. She has been listed since 2017.

Randall K. Lindley '86 Commercial Litigation.

Mikel J. Bowers '87 Construction Litigation. He has been listed since 2013. He has also been named a "fellow" of the Construction Lawyers Society of America, an invitation-only international honorary association.

Tammy S. Wood '93 Commercial Litigation. She has been listed since 2016.

Alana K. Ackels '06, '09 Litigation – Labor and Employment. She has been listed since 2019. She was also named to Lawdragon's 500 Leading Corporate Employment Lawyers guide, with special recognition for litigation. 🐎

YMCA, and the city of Waxahachie. She is the author of three books, all of which are available on Amazon. com: *My Interview with Jesus: The Great Awakening of 2020; Love and Compassion...Spiritual Solutions for our Politics and Our Lives!* and the novel *Paradise in Puerto Verde*. **ERIKA LYNNE JONES** published *The Road Ahead*, available at erikalynejeones.com; *The Loud Librarian* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2023); and *Black Girls: A Celebration of You* (Harper Collins, 2023). Preorder on Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

00 MYE HOANG produced the documentary *Cat Daddies*, which explores evolving gender roles, animal companionship and feline overpopulation. *Cat Daddies*, the first feature Hoang has directed, won the audience award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2022 Dallas International Film Festival.

02 The Rev. **MICHAEL WATERS** (M.Div. '06, D.Min. '12) published *Liberty's Civil Rights Road Trip* (Flyaway Books, 2021), available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, Target and panafricanconnection.com

Arlene Manthey: One of a Kind

Beloved SMU employee recently retired after nearly four decades of service to students and the community.

After 37 years of firing up SMU students and alumni, Arlene Manthey retired on Dec. 31, 2022. The longtime director of student activities and fundraiser for Student Affairs stayed true to one mantra throughout her career: “It’s all about the students.”

Arlene joined SMU as adviser to Program Council and became director of student activities in 1998. She managed the student center and guided key campus organizations, such as Student Senate, Greek organizations, the Graduate Council and Mustang Corral Orientation Camp, along with over 180 other student organizations. Under her leadership, participation in campus organizations became a training ground for students’ future endeavors.

In 2006, Arlene left student activities to support students another way, by becoming a student initiative fundraiser for Development and External Affairs. Arlene’s influence and favorite expressions stay with former students long after they graduate. They know, to her, they are always “young whippersnappers.” 🐎

Seven students are recipients of the Arlene Manthey Endowed Student Leader Scholarship Fund, created by student leaders in 2016 to celebrate Arlene’s 30 years of service to SMU. To support the scholarship in honor of Arlene’s retirement, please visit smu.edu/mantheyfund.



03 WHITNEY ARONOFF relaunched the *Starseed Kitchen* podcast as *High Vibration Living With Chef Whitney Aronoff*, available on Cloud10 Media and iHeart Radio. **D.J. “SHANGELA” PIERCE**, co-host of HBO’s *We’re Here* and member of the Meadows Executive Board, embarked on the *Fully Lit* tour in January and February 2023.

04 JANINE N. BECKLES (BA ’05) was recently promoted to associate director of Philadanco (The Philadelphia Dance Company). Beckles, who is in her 13th season with Philadanco, will continue to perform as a principal dancer in addition to serving as associate director. **CRAIG LUCIE** published children’s book *Hold You* (InTandem

Digital Press, 2021), available on Amazon.

11 FILIPE MAIA published *Trading Futures: A Theological Critique of Financialized Capitalism* through Duke University Press in October 2022. Maia’s book argues that Christian hope can provide the means to build a future beyond the

strictures of capitalism. Maia is an assistant professor of theology at Boston University. **JAMES R. WEBB** published *Innovators Who Changed the World: Timeless Leadership Lessons from West Point, Green Berets, Sherlock Holmes, and Wall Street* (Breakthrough Strategy, 2022), available on Amazon or Barnes & Noble.

12 COURTNEY KELLY (MS ’13) published *Celeste Saves the City* (Courtney Kelly Books, 2022), available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble or courtneykellybooks.com. **FREDRICK LEACH** has been named the first Writers Program Fellow by the Sony Pictures Animation x The Black List Writers Program. He will spend six months as an in-house writer for Sony Pictures Animation, where he will craft dialogue, help develop scripts and pitch his own ideas. He is the writer and director of *Caged Birds*, which is available on For Us By Us Network and Amazon Prime. **JENNIFER ROME STOUT** and husband Rusty Stout recently published their first book, *Healthier Homes: A Blueprint for Creating a Toxin-Free Living Environment*. The nationally recognized healthy home builder duo founded their Austin-based construction company, JS2 Partners, in 2018. They recently launched their sister company, HealthierHomes.com, featuring nontoxic furnishings, decor, house paint and all things related to wellness and integrated living.

15 Lori Lizarraga has been named co-host of NPR’s *Code Switch*. She has reported at television stations KUSA 9News in Denver, Colorado and KGET/Telemundo in Bakersfield, California, and is now based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Return to the Hilltop



Stay tuned at smu.edu/homecoming for dates you won't want to miss! Watch for more information on the Homecoming parade, football game and reunion class parties.

An SMU love story, five decades in the making

An automated post on Classmates.com played matchmaker to SMU alums Nancy Davis Labastida '62 and Charles Guittard '67.

Guittard noticed the message on his account in 2021 suggesting he might remember Labastida from high school. Although her yearbook picture looked familiar, he didn't remember her *exactly*. When he clicked on her profile, Classmates sent a message to Labastida that someone from high school "remembered" her.

Labastida took the next step by emailing Guittard, using her father as her connection. Since Guittard earned his Juris Doctor from SMU and had been adjunct faculty at the University, Labastida thought he might remember her SMU law professor father. He did – and a match was made.

After an email courtship generated thousands of emails and some late-night phone calls, Guittard drove from Dallas to Austin in September 2021 to meet Labastida in person. By month's end, Guittard proposed to Labastida, and they married at her home in Austin that December.



Guittard recently published *I WILL TEACH HISTORY: The Life & Times of Francis Gervrier Guittard, Professor, Baylor University*, which explores the life of his grandfather, who was a founding chair of the Baylor History Department. 🐎

Grad student has heart for others

Inspired by his own experience, Jeffrey Kelley '21, '24 created a foundation to support children with congenital heart defects.

Jeffrey Kelley '21, '24 is a healthy SMU alum working on his master's in counseling at SMU and serving as graduate assistant to the Mustang Band and the Diamond M Club. He's often on hand when the band strikes up the *Mustang Fight Song* at basketball games.

The 24-year-old doesn't take his good health for granted.

He was born with a congenital heart defect and had his first surgery at 6 weeks old. His physical activity was limited until he had another surgery at 16. After his surgery, Kelley's dad, Garrett Kelley '92, sent emails to three friends suggesting they send cards to his son. To Kelley's surprise – and embarrassment – he received more than 1,000 cards.

Kelley is a person who would rather be the card-sender than the card-receiver, so he turned this avalanche of support into a foundation to help other kids with congenital heart defects: Jeffrey Has Heart. In nearly eight years, the foundation has raised more than \$575,000 and has helped 116 kids with CHD.

The COVID-19 pandemic kept Kelley and his board members from visiting kids hospitalized with heart defects, but they found donors to be even more generous during that time.

With increasing costs for food, gas and housing, the needs of families with a seriously ill child also have grown.

"Jeffrey Has Heart fills the gaps that insurance and government assistance don't cover," Kelley says. The foundation recently covered the travel costs for 6-year-old Sammy and his parents to travel to Boston for Sammy's 10th heart surgery.

The motivation that inspired Kelley to create Jeffrey Has Heart also inspired his goal to become a licensed counselor. He'll finish his master's in counseling from SMU's Simmons School of Education and Human Development in 2024.

"I knew from an early age that I wanted to help people learn to be their best selves," he says.

To support Jeffrey Has Heart, visit jeffreahasheart.org, or plan to attend the foundation's midsummer gala. 🐎



Code Switch features conversations about race hosted by journalists of color who tackle the subject with empathy and humor. It was named Apple Podcasts' first-ever Show of the Year in 2020.

16 **MADDY KLIMCZAK** and **BENJAMIN "FORBES" DUMAS** (MS '18) were married in New Orleans on January 8, 2022. He is the son of Krista Johnson Dumas '81. **ASHLEY WINSTEAD** recently published *The Last Housewife*, a thriller about a woman determined to destroy a powerful cult. It was included in *Cosmopolitan* magazine's "22 Summer Reads From 2022 That Need to Be in Your Beach Bag," *Today's* "30 of the best books to sink into this summer," and other notable lists. *The Washington Post* referred to it as "deliciously unputdownable." Winstead is also the author of *Fool Me Once*, which was named an Amazon Best Romance of 2022; and *In My Dreams I Hold a Knife*, which was one of *Library Journal's* Best Debuts of 2021.

18 **NATALYA CHERRY** has published *Believing into Christ: Relational Faith and Human Flourishing* through Baylor University Press. In the book, Cherry tracks the origins of the phrase "believing into Christ" and its loss in translation. She then addresses how to restore the original meaning of the phrase and all it entails. Cherry is an assistant professor in Methodist studies and theology at the Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University.

Precious Ponies



WYATT HUGHES BLACKWOOD, born February 9, 2022, is the son of Kimbrell Hughes Blackwood '13 and Bruce Blackwood '13 and the nephew of Brooke Hughes Ward '12 and David Ward '13.



ISAIAH MILHOUS BLINK, born August 14, 2022, is the son of Katherine Ladner Blink '14 and Samuel Blink.



ALEJANDRO JAVIER ENCISO, born November 7, 2021, is the son of Angela Enciso '12, '14 and Juan Enciso. He was welcomed by big sister Isabella Enciso.



NICO EDWARD HOWARD, born February 13, 2022, is the son of Jessica Hill Howard '16 and Kyle Howard.



AMAL LINA KHAN, born August 25, 2022, is the daughter of Imran Khan '11 and Asifa Khan.



SAHARA TRANG OKIROR, born April 25, 2022, is the daughter of Vyna Ho'Okiror '18 and Jesse Okiror.

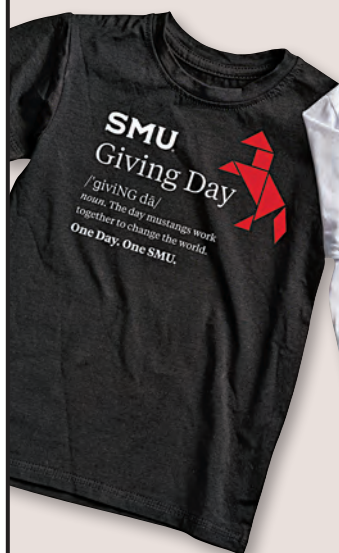


MICHAEL FRANCIS RAPONE, born November 15, 2021, is the son of Caroline Sullivan Rapone '08 and Robert Rapone.



PARKER GRAHAM SHAPLEIGH, born November 17, 2021, is the son of Michael Shapleigh '12 and Sarah Torrence Shapleigh '12.

Picture your pony here We would love to share a photo of your future Mustang. Submit your Precious Ponies to smumag@smu.edu by **July 15, 2023**. Please send an image file that's at least 1MB with the child's name and birthdate, along with the names and class years of alumni parents (and grandparents and/or other close relatives).



Student T-shirt designs win big for Giving Day

Students ponied up and showed their creativity when it was time to submit ideas for the SMU Giving Day T-shirt design contest. Sarah Tersigni '23 and Sofia Murillo Sanchez '24 were named the winners, as voted upon by the SMU Alumni Board. Tersigni's design is featured on the volunteer T-shirt, available in white, while Sanchez's design is featured on the premium shirt, available in blue and black. SMU Giving Day Champions and those who made a \$35 gift or more to the SMU Swag fund received the premium shirt. 🐎

Katelyn Hall and Alex Munoz are second-generation Mustangs in love

Katelyn and Alex were two active students on campus whose friendship eventually led them down the aisle at Perkins Chapel – just as the bride’s parents had done 50 years before.

Katelyn Hall ’15, ’17 and Alex Munoz ’13, ’19 have a true friends-to-lovers romance. Though they met through mutual friends, it wasn’t until their Greek organizations – Delta Gamma and Beta Theta Pi, respectively – teamed up for DG’s annual Anchor Splash event that their friendship made waves.

“He really showed his DG spirit in a choreographed swim competition,” Katelyn laughs. The two continued to build a solid friendship while each being highly involved on campus – Alex with Program Council and *The Rotunda* yearbook, and Katelyn as a Hunt Scholar and Meadows Scholar and a tour guide.

Their just-friends status changed a couple years after graduation when Katelyn needed a date to a gala. Alex willingly accompanied her. One month later, they were on their first date at The Rustic.

“We did get free peanut butter pie, I think because we looked so enamored with each other,” says Katelyn. Fast forward to November 2021 when the pair got engaged on the steps of Dallas Hall.



Above: Katelyn and Alex Munoz wed at Perkins Chapel on August 6, 2022.

Below: Cheryl and John Hall wed at Perkins Chapel on April 29, 1972.

“We were going to go to dinner with friends, and I had my friends call and say there was a wait at the restaurant,” says Alex, who used this stall for time to take photos of the Christmas lights on campus – and to get down on one knee.

But they’re not the only SMU love story in the family – Katelyn’s dad, John Hall ’71, ’73, ’79, recounts how resident assistants would set couples up on dates. And when he needed a date to an SMU Men’s Basketball game, an RA set him up with Cheryl Marchus Hall ’73. The pair attended the game and grabbed a drink at a nearby pub after. They later ran into each other once again at the Women’s Gym on campus and made another date to see a movie. The couple married during Cheryl’s junior year, and John went on to become a staff member in SMU’s Registrar’s Office.

Both couples honored the place their stories began by getting married at Perkins Chapel: Cheryl and John on April 29, 1972, and Katelyn and Alex on August 6, 2022 – 50 years apart.

“It’s very special ... to have a love story 50 years later,” says John. 🐎

In Memoriam

The following alumni deaths were reported to SMU from 06/01/22 to 12/31/22.

'42 MARTHA JOHNSON CHAPMAN
4/7/22

'44 FRED G. BENKLEY, JR. 7/19/22
JOSEPH N. FUNK 7/24/22
EUGENIA WHARTON RAIN 9/1/22

'45 CATHERINE CANFIELD RITCHIE
HOLLEMAN 6/1/22

'46 The Rev. WILLIAM F. MAXWELL
11/7/22 ELOISE BROWN
SWANSON '61 9/30/22

'47 OWEN C. BROWN, JR. 6/2/22
ANN TURNER COOK 6/3/22
LILLIAN KOPECKY CURRY 10/8/22
VIRGINIA DAWSON MUNDIE
11/21/20 DORIS WYATT SIMONS
'50, '74 11/11/22 JAMES K.
STEINER 8/4/22

'48 WANDA GOOCH LOGAN 12/3/22
CAROLYN CANFIELD LUPTON
11/24/22 Dr. BEN P. MCCARLEY,
SR. 7/26/22 NORMA DAVIDSON
ROBERTS 9/22/22 JOSEPHINE
MOIR SELLERS 8/22/22

'49 FRANK W. CASS, JR. 7/30/22
MARY GOODSON CASTEEL 7/8/22
JAMES W. CHENOWETH 11/17/22
BARBARA GREENGRASS EASON
10/12/22 JAMES R. GILPIN, SR.
9/12/22 BEN S. HARRISON, JR.
9/7/22 JOYCE THURMAN HASTY
12/8/18 Dr. EARLE G. LABOR '52
9/15/22 NANCY PRICE MURROW

10/2/22 WALTER R. PRASIFKA
10/3/22 Dr. DOROTHY G.
PURGASON 6/21/18 Dr. EDWARD
L. RHODES 6/25/22 LILLIAN
SEYMOUR SILLS '54 5/5/22
BETTY GEORGE STEWART 9/22/22
GWEN GAGE WILLIAMS 9/3/21

'50 SHEILA JOHNSTON BAUER
10/3/22 Dr. FRANK J. BRADLEY,
JR. 6/2/22 RAYMOND L. GIBBS
5/30/21 JACK D. HANNON
10/10/18 BETH BROGDON HIGBEE
12/16/20 FREDERICK V. LUHNOW,
JR. 9/23/22 BETTY CLARK NOE
10/13/21 EMILY MCLENDON
PINGREE 3/22/20 RICHARD K.
TROXELL 12/26/19

'51 HAROLD S. ASH 7/26/22 JOHN M.
CHEEK, JR. 1/7/20 BETTY FULLER
DUTTON 11/15/22 VIRGINIA
GOODMAN DYKES 8/10/22
JEROME M. FULLINWIDER
7/21/22 Dr. FRANCIS C. HIGGINS,
JR. 4/19/18 LYNN TRIMBLE
HILL 12/17/22 JEAN HOWARD
9/22/20 MARILYN LUST JOHNSON
8/30/22 NANCY MOORE MAPES
1/7/18 BERNICE COHN MAZER
11/13/22 IWEETA BLASIENZ
MCINTOSH '77 10/13/20 DORIS
HOWSON MITCHELL '54 6/6/22
Col. GERALD R. SENSABAUGH,
JR. 7/22/22 Dr. JOHN L. SMITH
6/10/22 Dr. JOE A. STALCUP '59,
'78 6/8/22 PATRICIA ELLIOT
TURNER 9/3/21 PEGGY MARTIN
WILLIAMS 9/6/18

'52 PATRICIA MEEKER CATHER
10/31/22 MARY ANN PLUMB
DE JERNETT 7/30/22 CURTIS L.
DOUGLASS 10/25/22 GEORGE T.
FOOSHEE, JR. 8/12/22 GLORIA
SLAUGHTER HAMMACK 9/28/22
LUTHER E. HEIZER '60 2/11/20
JERRY N. JORDAN 11/20/22 VILMA
VALENTINE KINNEY 10/19/22 Col.
DOUGLAS A. KRAUS 10/20/22
RAY M. MOORE 6/24/22 JAMES
W. PACE, JR. 6/12/22 Bishop
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GIDLEY RYNDERS 5/31/22
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MCDONALD STAPLES '53 9/10/22
DOROTHY EDWARDS THORNHILL
8/17/22

'53 PATRICIA YOST ALEXANDER
6/17/22 MARY CROW BLONKVIST
9/16/22 JOHN A. DURRETT
11/26/22 GENE R. GILLIS 5/22
MARY CATHERINE PATTERSON
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R. KEYES '58 12/22/19 JOAN
WURGLER MCCULLOUGH 10/2/22
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CAROL GARDNER ALPIGER
8/20/22 JEAN ROOKE CARTER
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BARBARA GORMAN GRIESSER
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Celebrating a lifetime of Mustang pride

In September 2022, SMU mourned the loss of Mustang football superfan, Paul Layne '76.

A famously familiar presence at SMU football games, Layne attended every game since he was first named a Mustang cheerleader in 1972. In total, Layne attended over 500 consecutive games in just over 50 years. In rain or shine, with chickenpox or across the world, Layne never missed the opportunity to cheer on his team.



In January, Layne's memory was honored through the Paul Layne 542 Endowed Excellence Fund for Spirit to support SMU's spirit programs, established by his longtime friend Tom Nelson and supported by his friends and family.

"Paul's school spirit and his love of the game were eclipsed only by his kind nature, his big heart and his love of community," says Nelson, president of LTN Properties, Inc. "I'm proud to honor my friend in a way that supports the Mustang pride he so embodied and the University that he was such a vital part of."

With the initial \$250,000 gift, the additional support from family and friends brings the total to more than \$300,000. The fund will support Peruna, the Mustang Band and cheer squads. It is the largest ever endowed fund to support SMU Spirit programs.

"This endowment is such a wonderful way to honor Paul's legacy at SMU," says Trina Rothwell, realtor at Dave Perry-Miller Real Estate and Layne's partner in life and business. "It's so gratifying to know that his memory will continue to support SMU's students and spirit organizations for years to come." 🐎

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'77 JONITA BOYD BORCHARDT
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10/22/22 **PAUL J. ENNA** 12/2/22
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DOROTHY HOUSTON SHEAD
7/31/22 **JANICE KISER TATLOCK**
9/11/22 Dr. **DANNY M. WILCOX**
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'78 MARIA SEPULVEDA CLINE-
HIRSCH 12/11/22 **BRUCE W.**
FICKE 6/18/22 **JUDITH R. GUERIN**
6/28/22 Dr. **JOHN B. HARVILL**
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8/27/22 **REBECCA OBERTHIER**
WINN 8/25/22

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10/17/22 **PRISCILLA STOVALL**
LONG 10/26/22 **DEDE ROGERS**
8/8/22 **JAMES P. TAYLOR** 11/10/22

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11/8/22 **JOHN S. STONEHOCKER**
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7/26/22

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10/26/22 **BESS C. SNYDER** 7/3/22

'92 BARBARA BUDDENHAGEN
CANNON 6/7/22 **GUY**
CHAMBERLAIN '05 9/20/22

'93 JEFFREY C. CARROLL 6/15/22
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'98 5/19/22 **CARL C. HELENIUS**
10/9/22

'94 Dr. SHERI J. BROYLES '95 8/9/22

'95 MARGARET BLANKENSHIP
RHOADS 10/8/22

'96 The Rev. NANCY S. DRAKE
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7/11/22

'97 MARY FRANCES MCCLURE
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SUSANNE FAULKNER OSBORNE
'99 11/29/22 **KELLY JANE L.**
SMITH 9/12/22

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THEODORE S. SCHLECHTE
9/18/22

'03 MATTHEW J. GANUCHEAU 6/25/22

'04 EMILY A. JOHNSON 8/20/22

'05 WINIFRED E. CANNON 9/23/21
WILLIAM M. DAY 6/18/22
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'06 CLARENCE A. GILYARD, JR.
11/28/22

'08 THEODORE L. JACOBSON
10/26/22

'09 JEFFREY M. BROCK 8/12/22

'10 MONICA M. EDWARDS-
WASHINGTON 8/8/22 **WILLIAM**
A. FRIEND 7/3/22 **RICHARD P.**
SHLAKMAN 11/6/22

'12 DAVID L. LISOT 10/15/22

'15 MORGAN H. BOSTON 8/8/22
BRETT A. WYATT 12/9/22

'20 ZENOVIA M. NWOSU 9/25/22
DANNY R. PHILLIPS, JR. 9/4/22

SMU Community

BOBBY COLLINS, former football coach who went 11-0-1 in his first season at SMU in 1982 when the Mustangs finished No. 2 in the nation. He won two Southwest Conference titles before leaving in 1986, 11/15/21

RONALD L. DAVIS, retired professor, William P. Clements Department of History; served as director of DeGolyer Institute for American Studies, coordinator of American Civilization Program, reader for SMU and University of Texas Press, and reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities; member of the advisory boards for SMU Press and Handbook for Texas; directed SMU's Oral History Project, 9/11/22

SHERRIL HARRELL ENGLISH, clinical associate professor at SMU Simmons School of Education and Human Development, 9/14/22

SONIA LEE JORDAN, doctoral student, 12/20/21

JOHN M. LEWIS, retired associate professor of English at Dedman College, 8/7/22

CHARLES "CHARLIE" LITEL, student, Cox School of Business, 12/7/21

JOHN A. MAGUIRE, retired professor emeritus of chemistry, Dedman College, 1/26/22

EVERETT F. PHELPS, retired assistant director of SMU Department of Public Safety, 3/26/22

ALICIA V. RODRIGUEZ, retired, Office of Budgets and Finance, 9/27/21

FRANCES MCCRELESS SUNDERLAND
'59, SMU Board of Trustees (1972–80); Student Affairs, Resolutions and School of Theology committees; supporter of the McCreless Chair in Evangelism, Perkins School of Theology, through the Sollie and Lilla McCreless Foundation; 10/15/22

BEN J. WALLACE, retired professor emeritus of anthropology, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 10/29/21

JEANNE P. WATHEN, retired legal clinic, Dedman School of Law, 1/5/22

Continuing a legacy of dedication

Honoring his decades of generosity and dedication, over 150 SMU students and alumni have created an endowed scholarship in recognition of the late Chester John "Don" Donnally, Jr. '67, '68, who passed away in May 2022.

A leader in the financial services industry for more than four decades, Donnally championed students and the SMU community as a longtime supporter, volunteer and mentor.



The son of SMU alumni, he earned a BBA in finance in 1967 and an MBA in 1968. After graduating from SMU, he began his career at Smith Barney, where he formed The Donnally Greenman Group. He served as a senior vice president of the group, which joined UBS Financial Services in 2015.

Throughout his life, Donnally maintained close ties to SMU. He supported causes and improvements across SMU's campus, impacting countless students through gifts to support Crum Basketball Center, Gerald J. Ford Stadium, the General Endowment Fund, the Mustang Athletic Fund, the Mustang Club, the Mustang Excellence Fund for Football/Basketball, the Moody Coliseum renovation and expansion, the SAE Fund and other vital areas.

Donnally's service to the University included membership on the Class of 1967 Reunion Committee (2012–2015), the Mustang Club board (2007–2008) and the Dallas Committee (1992–1993).

Through his service, leadership and advocacy, Donnally exemplified the kind of Mustang spirit that continues to strengthen the University. 🐎

The download

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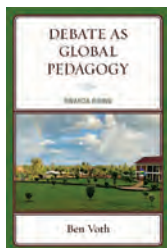


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¹ Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688.



Honoring *distinguished* Mustangs

Watch smu.edu/homecoming for more information on the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards, which take place annually as part of the Homecoming festivities.

Last year's recipients were (left to right): C.J. "Don" Donnally, Jr. '67, '68 (awarded posthumously; accepted by son Chester John Donnally, III '09); Emerging Leader Award recipient Emily K. Graham '07; Thear Sy Suzuki '96; A. Shonn Evans Brown '95, '98 and John Cartwright Phelan '86.



MAKING HISTORY

On April 25, 2013, the five living presidents and first ladies graced the Hilltop. Amid the fanfare and excitement, President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush '68 dedicated the George W. Bush Presidential Center to the American people. In the subsequent years, the Bush Center has not only touched the lives of SMU's professors, students and programs but also impacted the world at large.

