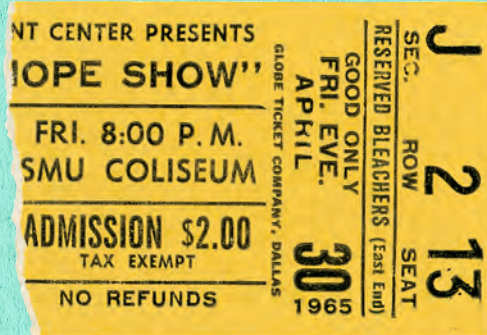
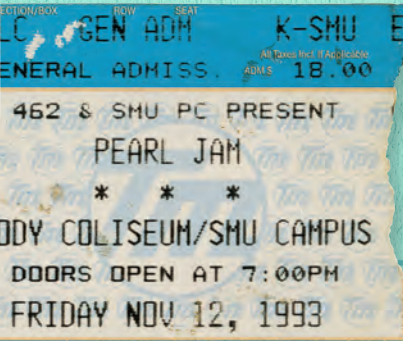


What's inside

THE MUSTANGS HAVE ARRIVED | 4

SHARING THEIR TALENTS | 16

GRADS IN THE GARDEN | 34



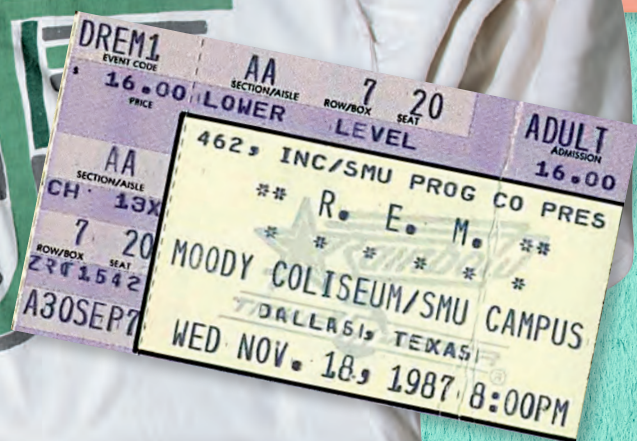
SOUNDS LIKE A

good time



Mustangs from almost every decade recall memorable concerts on campus as part of a longstanding history.

PAGE 26





Enchantment awaits at SMU-in-Taos Cultural Institute

Join us, July 18–21, 2024, in Taos, New Mexico, for a weekend filled with educational courses and engaging activities. Nourish your intellect and connect with others at our campus located in the the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, surrounded by the Carson National Forest. Enjoy field trips, receptions, SMU's Ima Leete Hutchison Concert featuring Meadows School of the Arts students, and free time to discover Taos at your own pace. Register now at smu.edu/taosci

ENJOY CLASSES INCLUDING:

- Cities of the West
- Los Alamos and the Manhattan Project: A Walking Tour Through Time
- *Oppenheimer*: Movie Viewing and Discussion
- Taste of Taos: The New Mexico Food Tour with a Twist

Marking decades of impact

THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, COMMEMORATING SMU'S MILESTONES HAS PROVIDED OUR COMMUNITY WITH OCCASIONS TO GATHER AND HIGHLIGHT THE UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE. RECENTLY, WE HAVE HAD AN ABUNDANCE OF REASONS TO CELEBRATE ON THE HILLTOP.

Our athletic programs concluded one of their most successful fall seasons, clinching eight conference championships as we bid farewell to the American Athletic Conference. With this surge of momentum, we eagerly anticipate our transition to the Atlantic Coast Conference this summer, where we will compete with some of the most academically focused universities in the nation.

Among the anniversaries we are celebrating, this spring marks 10 years since the implementation of our Residential Commons structure. Inspired by similar models at Oxford and Notre Dame, SMU's Residential Commons system combines a Faculty in Residence, academic resources, social events, and a distinct culture to cultivate a strong sense of community and belonging for students residing on our campus. Within these pages, you can learn more about how it has proven to be a unique experience that sets our students up for success.

The Dedman School of Law marked its 75th anniversary of providing Dallas-area residents with low- or no-cost legal assistance through its various clinics. The initiative, first envisioned by Robert G. Storey, Dedman Law's dean from 1947 to 1972, has provided meaningful skills for

our students and a pathway to equal justice for some of our community's most vulnerable populations.

At the Lyle School of Engineering, the Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity is recognizing a decade of impact both locally and globally. Through the institute, scholars and academics work with those in the public and private sectors to address some of the most pressing environmental and social challenges facing our society today.

In October, the White House and Department of Commerce chose SMU to lead a federally funded initiative for economic development in the semiconductor supply chain. The Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub is the only one of its kind in Texas among 31 hubs nationwide. This appointment, highlighted in this edition, furthers our ascent as a top-tier research institution.

SMU's tradition of bringing world-class concerts, performances, and speakers to Moody Coliseum and McFarlin Auditorium has enriched the cultural and intellectual life of our community for decades. In this issue, you will find highlights and memories from Mustangs over generations of their favorite concerts and performances, from longtime SMU



friend Bob Hope to famed rock musician Bob Dylan.

Our graduates continuously remind us why the Hilltop is special. Trigg Watson '12; Crystal Tigney '23; and Adam Waheed '16, whose work in the entertainment industry has delighted audiences worldwide, attribute their successful careers to the foundation laid at SMU.

In various fields and disciplines – be it athletics, law, engineering, the arts, and beyond – the many achievements of our community merit our collective pride. We continue to uphold the values and traditions that define SMU, inspiring current and future generations of students to strive for greatness. 🐎

R. GERALD TURNER
President



4

THE MUSTANGS HAVE ARRIVED

It's a new era in SMU Athletics as Mustangs of all sports prepare for their first season in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Plus: Alums across the country give you their best travel tips.



16

SHARING THEIR TALENTS

SMU grads in the entertainment industry take on a variety of fields – through magic, music and comedy – and gain loyal followings both online and on the screen.



22

LEADING THE FUTURE

Thanks to the Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub, SMU is at the forefront of the national priority to increase the production of semiconductor chips in the U.S.



34

GRADS IN THE GARDEN

As Mary Brinegar '69 retired from her 27-year tenure of running the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, fellow SMU alumna Sabina Carr '89 plans to build on her legacy.

**THE POWER OF COMMUNITY**

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Residential Commons structure, we're taking a look at what impact it's had on the SMU campus – for students and beyond.

10

Welcoming community 4

For the win
Reaching a career coda
Achievement unlocked
Cracking the code for innovation

Enterprising spirit 16

Alternate snacks from an alternate universe
Eye for design with a heart of gold
On a Wim and a prayer

Research with impact 22

75 years of serving Dallas
A collaboration to create justice
Learning through play

SMU, Dallas and beyond 34

Noteworthy in every sense
A new permanent home
Tangible memories

Class notes 40**In Memoriam 46****The download 51****CHASING A LEGEND**

Andrés Ruza '09 pours his researching skills into Peru's famed Boiling River.

30

Storming the coast

AS THE MUSTANGS PREPARE TO JOIN THE ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS RICK HART SHARES WHAT HE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MOST – AND HOW ALUMNI LIKE YOU CAN PARTICIPATE.

What are you most excited about as SMU prepares to join the ACC?

I'm most excited for the loyal Mustangs who believed and invested in our vision for SMU Athletics. Joining the ACC gets us back where we belong – competing at the highest level of college athletics. Beyond that, this is a civic moment for the city of Dallas and the entire University community. Affiliation with ACC member institutions will enhance the SMU brand and, by extension, the student experience, and it positions us to elevate all aspects of institutional engagement and success.

Why is this conference a good fit for Mustang sports?

The ACC is a highly competitive league with a commitment to comprehensive excellence across all sports. The values and priorities of the conference align with SMU's mission to shape world leaders and champions. Achieving greatness in the classroom, in competition and in the community is what we strive to accomplish each day. Success begets success. Our programs are competing at a national level and affiliation with other like-minded programs will push us to even greater heights.

What are our teams bringing to this conference athletically?

SMU has a long and storied history of program-wide success, boasting nine overall national championships, almost 200 team conference championships, over 100 individual national championships, more than 150 NCAA Top-10 finishes, nearly 2,000 All-American honors and over 150 Olympic appearances. Over the past decade, all of SMU's 17 programs have reached the postseason and 16 different programs have won conference championships. During the 2023 calendar year alone, we took home nine championships. We will be bringing this championship mindset with us to the ACC!

How are the Mustangs preparing for this move?

With a lead time of just 10 months, we are working quickly and collaboratively. We are tapping into the experiences and expertise of colleagues, friends and national

partners to anticipate challenges and maximize opportunities – known and unknown – in preparation for joining and competing in the ACC. It is an energizing process, and we only get one shot to get it right!

How can alumni support this transition?

This is our time! Joining the ACC is an “all-call moment” for Mustangs near and far. Broad participation will be critical as we seek to develop the support and resources needed to recruit, develop and retain talent as we compete for championships in the ACC. This means buying tickets and attending games. It means showing up early and staying until the final buzzer. It means investing in the ACC Competitiveness Campaign and joining the Mustang Club. It means being an advocate and introducing others to SMU Athletics. We must have an “and” mentality. The table is set – let's feast! 🐎

Visit smu.edu/joinmustangclub for more.



SMU[®]



x

ACC[™]



*ATHLETES OF ALL SPORTS PREPARE FOR THEIR
FIRST SEASON IN THE ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE –
WITH SMU FOOTBALL LEADING THE CHARGE.*

by Sarah Bennett '11

THE MUSTANGS HAVE ARRIVED

It's a new era in SMU Athletics.

This July, the Mustangs will officially join the Atlantic Coast Conference, meaning a whole new lineup of competitors and host cities.

After beginning the season against Nevada in Reno on August 24, SMU football will host the home opener against Houston Christian University on August 31, followed by BYU on September 6 and the “Battle for the Iron Skillet” against TCU on September 21.

Then, the eight-game slate of ACC competitors begins with Family Weekend on September 28 versus Florida State.

During the month of October, the Mustangs hit the road, first in Louisville on October 5; then, against Stanford on October 19; and Duke on October 26.



BRANDON CROSSLEY '24

SATURDAY AUGUST 24	NEVADA	at NEVADA Mackay Stadium, Reno, NV
SATURDAY AUGUST 31	HCU	vs HCU Gerald J. Ford Stadium, Dallas, TX
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6	BYU	vs BYU Gerald J. Ford Stadium, Dallas, TX
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21	TCU	vs TCU Gerald J. Ford Stadium, Dallas, TX
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28	FLORIDA STATE	vs FLORIDA STATE Gerald J. Ford Stadium, Dallas, TX
SATURDAY OCTOBER 5	LOUISVILLE	at LOUISVILLE L&N Federal Credit Union Stadium, Louisville, KY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 19	STANFORD	at STANFORD Stanford Stadium, Stanford, CA
SATURDAY OCTOBER 26	DUKE	at DUKE Wallace Wade Stadium, Durham, NC
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2	Pitt	vs PITTSBURGH Gerald J. Ford Stadium, Dallas, TX
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16	Boston College	vs BOSTON COLLEGE Gerald J. Ford Stadium, Dallas, TX
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23	VIRGINIA	at VIRGINIA Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, VA
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30	Cal	vs CAL Gerald J. Ford Stadium, Dallas, TX

Want to grab tickets? Call 214-SMU-GAME or email tickets@smu.edu

For our first ACC Homecoming, SMU will host Pittsburgh on November 2 before a rematch with Boston College on November 16.

Finally, one last away game takes the team to Virginia on November 23 before closing out the season at home against Cal on November 30.

Though times and televised information may not be out yet, it's never too early to start thinking about season tickets to support the Mustangs at Ford Stadium – especially with the new Weber End Zone Complex ready to welcome fans. 🐎

Stay up to date with all your favorite SMU sports and watch for more schedules to be announced at smumustangs.com.



The ACC is a highly competitive league with a commitment to comprehensive excellence across all sports. ... Our programs are competing at a national level and affiliation with other like-minded programs will push us to even greater heights.”

Director of Athletics Rick Hart
See more on Page 3



HADLEY DOYLE '23

PLANNING A TRIP?

If you're planning to take a trip to cheer on the Mustangs while on the road, take some pointers from a few of our graduates in our new ACC cities.



San Francisco, California

As a proud SMU alum and with my wife being a Berkeley alum, we're intimately familiar with the excitement of college rivalries. We've curated a list of some of our favorite spots in San Francisco for SMU ponies and Cal bears to enjoy during game week. For brunch or coffee, head to **Café Reveille** or **Red Bay Coffee**. For happy hour, we love **a Mano**. And for dinner, our favorites include **La Mar** and **KAIYO**.

—Elie Nabushosi '19 and Allison Nabushosi

Louisville, Kentucky

When I visit friends in Louisville, some of my favorite spots are the **Omni Louisville Hotel** for a cocktail, **Haraz Coffee** for some caffeine and **Volare** for great Italian food. I also recommend **Eggs Over Frankfort** for breakfast and the **21C** art gallery for some contemporary art.

—Laurie Ann Ross, Director of Development for SMU Libraries, SMU-in-Taos and Academic Affairs



Durham, North Carolina

I recommend going to get coffee at **Cocoa Cinnamon** or **Joe Van Gogh** with small bites from **Monuts** or **Isaac's Bagels**, which are all near the campus. For dinner, there are several different places to go like **Juju**, **Rose's Noodles** or **Nikos**. The **Sarah P. Duke Gardens** are relaxing and peaceful to walk through.

—Brooke Sullivan '18



Charlottesville, Virginia

I attended UVA for my MBA, and I highly recommend a visit to **Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyards**, which has *the* best view in town. Also, for those Mustang fans who frequent Shug's, I recommend **Bodo's Bagels** located across the street from "Grounds" (UVA speak for "campus"). Grab a bagel and coffee and walk around campus including the famous "**Lawn**" where you'll see the precursor to Dallas Hall.

—Stephen Reiff '10, Alumni Board Member





LUCREZIA NAPOLETANO '26

Be a part of it

IN ANTICIPATION OF OUR TRANSITION TO THE ACC, OUR GOAL IS TO REACH 3,500 MEMBERS IN THE MUSTANG CLUB BY MAY 31 – A NEW DEPARTMENT RECORD. Can you help us? Show our student-athletes that you support them by making a gift of any size to any athletic program.

Donations help our 484 student-athletes succeed in the classroom and in competition. Your support will assist in a variety of ways, including team operations, travel, recruiting, nutrition, academic support and more. Mustang Club members can be alumni, fans, coaches and friends who want to support our 17 sport programs.

Visit smu.edu/joinmustangclub for more.



KNUT AHLANDER '21, '23

“

Can you imagine what it's going to feel like to be in Moody Coliseum when Duke, North Carolina, UVA, Louisville and Syracuse come to Dallas? Or when Clemson, Notre Dame and Miami come to Ford Stadium? Truth be known, I'm excited about every team in the league.”

SMU Board of Trustees Chair
David B. Miller '72, '73

See more on Page 52

FOR THE WIN

2023 was a remarkable year for our student-athletes.
Take a peek at the highlights.

by Sarah Bennett '11

It was a year of athletic achievement for Mustangs of many sports – all in all, our teams brought eight American Athletic Conference championships back home to the Hilltop, plus one first-ever national championship in equestrian.

For some teams, the conference championship was one in a series. For others, it was a celebratory first-time conference win. For others still, the win marked their first conference title in a number of years for a triumphant comeback.

Men's tennis, men's swimming and rowing were all repeat champions.

"This one is truly special," says Men's Tennis Head Coach Grant Chen. "I'm so proud of the boys and this entire

program for competing in the manner they have been."

Women's tennis celebrated their first AAC title.

"This is a huge step forward for our program and the credit goes to this team," says Women's Tennis Head Coach Jeff Nevolo. "They came out ready to play and believed they could get it done. This was another total team effort and that's what makes it so special."

Women's golf, volleyball and football enjoyed their first conference titles in several years.

"I could not be more proud of you guys," Football Head Coach Rhett Lashlee said to his players in the locker room following the game. "This is as uncommon a team as I've ever seen. And the win today says it all."



Riding high

Congratulations are in order for the SMU equestrian team, which won the National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) National Championship after defeating No. 2 Auburn. This was SMU's ninth national championship and its first in equestrian, marking the first time a school outside of the Big 12 or SEC conferences won the equestrian National Championship. "There really aren't words to describe this feeling," SMU Head Coach Carol Gwin says.

“

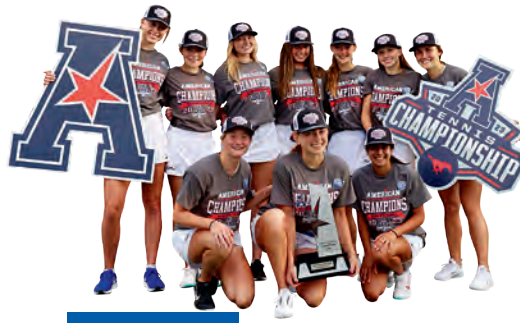
THIS IS A HUGE STEP FORWARD FOR OUR PROGRAM AND THE CREDIT GOES TO THIS TEAM. THEY CAME OUT READY TO PLAY AND BELIEVED THEY COULD GET IT DONE. THIS WAS ANOTHER TOTAL TEAM EFFORT AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO SPECIAL.”

Jeff Nevolo

Women's Tennis Head Coach

And it didn't end there – men's soccer went on to the third round of the NCAA tournament for the fourth time in nine seasons, and football competed in the Wasabi Fenway Bowl in Boston on December 28.

Each team serves up a story of perseverance, hard work and determination – each proving they're prepared to take on the next challenge as the Mustangs of all sports join the Atlantic Coast Conference later this year. Congratulations to all our 2023 champions! 🐎



Women's tennis

Women's tennis won the AAC championship for the first time in the program's history.



Men's tennis

The men's team won its second consecutive AAC championship.



Men's soccer

Men's soccer won the AAC championship and played through the third round of the NCAA tournament for the fourth time in nine seasons.



Women's golf

Women's golf won the AAC championship with a 14-stroke victory at Southern Hills Plantation Club – the team's first conference title since 1992.



Volleyball

SMU volleyball won the AAC championship for the first time since 2016, the team's third conference title.



Men's swimming and diving

The men's team secured its third consecutive AAC championship this year.



Football

The Mustangs won their first conference championship in 39 years and competed in the Wasabi Fenway Bowl on December 28.



Rowing

The SMU team clinched its third consecutive AAC championship this year.



THE *POWER* OF



COMMUNITY



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE RESIDENTIAL COMMONS SYSTEM



by Shelly Kelley

This year, SMU is proudly commemorating a decade of delivering a unique living and learning experience to its students through the Residential Commons system. Through this experience, the University offers students the chance to develop long-lasting connections, participate in exclusive events and access exceptional resources. It offers the perfect balance between intimacy and opportunity.

“It facilitates a seamless integration between academic and residential life,” says Jennifer Post, director of residence life. “The Residential Commons program creates a supportive and engaging environment.”

Before implementing the Commons system in 2014, SMU employed a traditional housing model for predominantly first-year students. However, this approach saw little to no faculty involvement, and a significant proportion of students relocated off campus after their first

academic year. The demand for on-campus housing prompted SMU to embrace the idea of residential commons and construct five new buildings in the southeast area, enabling the University to guarantee housing for first- and second-year students while



integrating academic, residential and social experiences.

“In the past, there were specialized housing options centered around certain interests or majors. While these programs provided benefits such as increased faculty involvement



and a greater sense of community, only a few students had access to them,” explains Post. “The Residential Commons model was introduced to expand these opportunities and ensure all students could benefit from them. Today, students are interacting more with faculty members outside of the classroom and even developing strong relationships with their Faculty in Residence (FiR).”

Increased faculty interaction has proven effective in creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for SMU students. Over the past decade, the Residential Commons have had 25 FiRs, who have hosted weekly programs with an average attendance of 40–50 residents. These faculty members come from diverse academic disciplines and areas, even working to connect other faculty affiliates with their residents. With SMU being one of only 12 colleges in the nation to employ a residential commons system, its student-faculty interactions are as unique as its commitment to developing a tradition among students.

“One of the Commons’ best traditions is the weekly FiR event. This long-standing tradition is a favorite of students, who count on it as a chance to relax and socialize,” says Post. “With events like Tapas y Mas, hosted by Mary Hay-Peyton-Shuttles Commons’ own Alberto Pastor, students can experience new cultures through food and information. And at Boaz Commons, FiR Jack Levison’s Boaz Break on the patio is a popular gathering spot for residents to catch up

with friends and enjoy snacks.”

All 11 residences have established similarly unique traditions, gatherings and activities that encourage lifelong friendships among residents. The



Signature Events, in particular, are the year’s highlight, with each Commons organizing large-scale programs to bring residents together. From the summer fun at

Camp McElvane to the festive celebration of Mardi Gras at Krewe de Ware, these events offer something for everyone. But the Residential Commons aren’t just about fun and games. They also work diligently to address the needs of South and West Dallas through Engage Dallas, a place-based community engagement initiative.

“Through partnerships with local organizations, student leaders from each Commons plan monthly service opportunities to ensure their residents have the chance to give back and make a difference in the community,” explains Post. “By living and serving together, students not only build stronger connections with



OPPOSITE PAGE: Students gather outside Armstrong Commons. **ABOVE, FROM LEFT:** Crum Commons provides a relaxed place to study. In Mary Hay-Peyton-Shuttles Commons, residents find camaraderie. Students have a visible reminder of community values in Kathy Crow Commons.

each other, but also develop a sense of civic responsibility that will serve them well into the future.”

Boasting an eventful decade of success, it’s clear the SMU Residential Commons go well beyond just providing a place to live. By embracing the power of community building, both on and off campus, they offer a complete student experience to prepare Mustangs for success in all aspects of life. From academics to career and community, they’re ready to take on the world. 🐎

Reaching a career coda

TOMMY TUCKER '84 RETIRES AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SMU MUSTANG BAND AFTER 25 YEARS

by Steven Lindsey

After more than 25 years of service, SMU Mustang Band Assistant Director Tommy Tucker '84 is ready to write his next chapter – or verse – after his final day this May 31.

Tucker's journey began in 1973 when he attended SMU for one year before taking a full-time job. He returned in 1980 and double-majored in psychology and history, graduating in 1984. During his last three years as an undergrad, he started arranging music for the band. Upon graduation, he became an assistant director and served until 1988.

During his time away, he arranged music on an ad hoc basis. He returned in 1996 as the interim assistant director, a position made permanent that December. Upon the retirement of Don Hopkins as director in 2021, Tucker was named interim director and served in that capacity until the hiring of the current director, Charles Aguillon, in July 2022.

Though his title and duties changed over the years, Tucker's dedication to music and students never wavered.

Having a near-front-row seat at football and basketball games where SMU reigned victorious ranks among his favorite recollections, from the 1983 Cotton Bowl Classic to the 2023 American Athletic Conference championship game this past December in New Orleans.

He also wrote all the music for the Pigskin Revue for the first time in 1982, something he would do every year thereafter with one exception.

"Getting to work with Bob Hope when he filmed a special on campus," he recalls, was another top moment.

Other key moments

include meeting former SMU Mustang and Heisman Trophy winner Doak Walker '50; having his picture taken with President George W. Bush; and being on campus long enough for President Turner to call him by name.

"A meaningful thing to me is how much I have been able to include my wife and daughters in my career," he says. "The girls have grown up attending SMU games and have been adopted into the Mustang Band family."

He took his wife on many band trips, too, including Hawaii, New

Orleans and France, where the Mustang Band performed at the D-Day ceremonies in June 2022.

Perhaps most importantly for his SMU legacy,

he will continue to arrange music for the band.

"When I returned to SMU in 1980, I learned that the longtime arranger, Jack Rohr, would be retiring and decided I wanted to take his place," he says. "Since then, this is the only job I've ever wanted to do." 🐎



ABOVE: The Mustang Band performs its signature Diamond M formation. LEFT: Tommy Tucker stands with band members at the D-Day commemorative trip in June 2022 in Normandy, France.

Achievement unlocked

SMU Guildhall celebrates 20 years of video game development

Aiwen “Emily” Zhang ’24 enrolled at SMU Guildhall after studying the classics at the University of Washington.

The fast-paced, intensive program recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Seasoned industry veterans serve as faculty at the Guildhall, which offers specializations in art creation, level design, production and software development. The program simulates a real-life studio through GameLab.

The goal is to get them “plug and play ready” by graduation, says Steve Stringer, GameLab director and a professor of production and team game projects.

They’re first tasked with creating a tablet game. Then, a cohort develops an arcade racer game. The next few terms are reserved for a capstone project.



Zhang’s team is working on a first-person, bow-and-arrow shooter game titled *Asurya’s Embers* that takes place in the Himalayas. Inspired by Chinese mythology, the

game homes in on the idea that sunshine is bad and shadow is good.

“It’s a level designer’s job to make you feel challenged, but guided at the same time,” Zhang says.

The quick turnarounds teach students how to work under deadlines, communicate and solve problems at scale.

“We gradually just take the training wheels off,” Stringer says.

Most students come with an arsenal of video games that fuel their desire to get into the industry.

Several of the games created by students at the Guildhall can be played for free through Steam, a digital

distribution service.

When the program launched two decades ago, not many people were given the chance to seriously consider gaming as a career, says Elizabeth Stringer, the Guildhall’s director of academics.

Now companies are constantly looking to hire the next generation of SMU graduates because the students know how to work on a team, have a portfolio and skills from their specialization, and have been exposed to the latest tools and technologies in the industry.

“Achievement unlocked,” Stringer says. “We’re game changers.”

—Valeria Olivares

This story originally ran in The Dallas Morning News.

ABOVE: SMU Guildhall is housed within Gerald J. Ford Hall. **LEFT:** Guildhall alumnus Yan Zhang ’21; Guildhall Clinical Professor of Design Myque Ouellette; alumnus Jacob Lavender ’17; alumnus Larry Shen ’18 and alumnus Ronald Wang ’21 celebrate at the Guildhall anniversary event last November; a light sculpture creates a striking focal point in the atrium.

Cracking the code for innovation

DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST, EXECUTIVE TO LEAD SMU O'DONNELL DATA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COMPUTING INSTITUTE

SMU's O'Donnell Data Science and Research Computing Institute has named Neena Imam its inaugural Peter O'Donnell, Jr. Director, advancing the University's goal of pursuing data-focused education and next-gen computational research. Imam arrives with expansive experience in research and computer engineering. SMU's Data Science Institute launched in 2020 as a hub for interdisciplinary research. Two years later, the O'Donnell Foundation endowed a \$2 million fund by establishing the Peter O'Donnell, Jr. Director position. This past spring, Provost Elizabeth G. Lobo consolidated SMU's Center for Research Computing into the Data Science Institute.

"Dr. Imam brings an exemplary

depth of skills and experiences to SMU at a time of tremendous momentum," Lobo says.

Imam joined the O'Donnell Institute in October 2023. Previously, she served as director of strategic researcher engagement (North and Latin Americas) at NVIDIA, the accelerated computing leader that invented the GPU. Imam received her Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. She served as the science and technology fellow for U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander in Washington, D.C. (2010–2012), assisting in the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act.



In her role at NVIDIA, Imam worked with academic researchers to enable the development of GPU-accelerated and artificial intelligence/machine learning applications. Before NVIDIA, Imam served as a distinguished scientist and deputy director of research collaboration in the Computing and Computational Sciences Directorate at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Last year, SMU announced an additional \$30 million gift from the O'Donnell Foundation, half of which will include endowment and operational funding for the O'Donnell Data Science and Research Computing Institute. —Andrea Luttrell '12

Taking center stage

Joel Ferrell collaborates to cultivate the next generation of performers as inaugural director of the Sexton Institute for Musical Theatre.

Philanthropist and Broadway producer G. Marlyne Sexton's landmark gift of \$15 million to the Meadows School of the Arts at SMU last April established a specialization in musical theatre to empower graduates with expertise,

creativity and leadership in the performing arts. But to bring Sexton's vision to life, the University needed a leader to build the new program from the ground up.

Enter: Inaugural director Joel Ferrell.

With extensive experience as a director, choreographer and consultant, Ferrell was the ideal candidate for integrating Meadows' existing disciplines into the newly established Sexton Institute for Musical Theatre. By utilizing his expertise,

he hopes to fulfill the institute's purpose.

"I'm honored to have been selected for this role and to work closely with Meadows faculty and leadership," says Ferrell. "We're going to offer an incredible level of depth and strength to the new program, which — combined with the rigor of SMU's liberal arts education — is essential for young theater makers who need to sustain a career as it changes and grows over a lifetime."

Designed to allow students to participate in cutting-edge productions while receiving training and guidance from world-renowned faculty and performers, the program will bestow graduates with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre. And while establishing a program of such caliber is daunting, Ferrell finds the challenge exhilarating.

"Anytime I start a production as director, there's that moment of, 'Oh gosh, there's a massive show and people to steer and a due date,'" he says. "But the minute I'm in collaboration with the other creatives, that fear is replaced by the sheer joy of teamwork. Working with the welcoming community at Meadows, I feel that joy now more than ever." —Shelly Kelley



MEADOWS MARKS A NEW ERA

The dedication of the Custard Institute for Spanish Art and Culture

On October 4, 2023, the Meadows Museum hosted an inauguration ceremony to commemorate the opening of the Custard Institute for Spanish Art and Culture. This event marks a new chapter in the museum's dedication to promoting the rich cultural heritage of Spain, solidifying its position as a leading institution in the realm of Spanish art.

The establishment of the Custard Institute was made possible by a generous contribution from esteemed SMU alumni, Linda Pitts Custard '60, '99 and William A. Custard '57. This gift was later matched by The Meadows Foundation. The primary objective of this institute is to advance research on the art of Spain while also extending valuable support to emerging scholars. With



a renovated educational area spanning approximately 1,600 square feet, the institute boasts state-of-the-art facilities – including a seminar room, research library, lounge and offices for fellows and staff – which are well-suited to

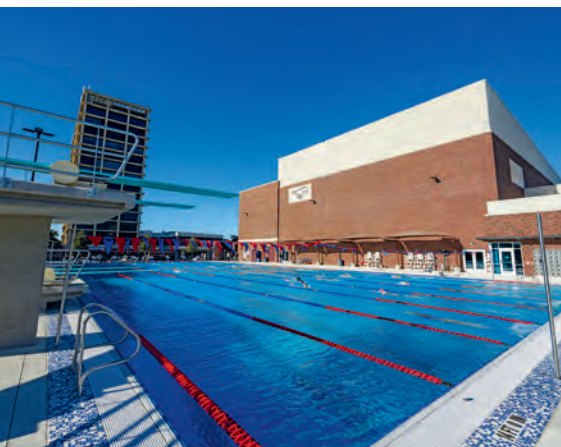
facilitate cultural exchange and academic learning.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests were free to explore the newly renovated spaces, including the lounge, dubbed the museum's "living room," which will now function as a salon with flexible furnishings to accommodate both informal and formal gatherings. –*Shelly Kelley*

The Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool makes a big splash

SMU rises above U.S. universities for swimming and diving facilities

Swimming pools may be among the biggest necessities for living through Texas summers – but nothing compares to the new Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool, which officially opened and was dedicated on December 8, 2023. Now, thanks to millions of dollars in generous donations from the Hickman,



Robson and Lindley families and others, this addition to the aquatics center places SMU ahead of the competition.

The facility is now known as the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium/Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool.

"It sets us apart," says Greg Rhodenbaugh, SMU head coach of men's swimming and diving.

The women's and men's swimming and diving teams began using the outdoor Olympic pool for training in mid-November.

"We are most excited about being able to train outdoors whenever we can," Rhodenbaugh says, adding that the eight-wide, cross-course lanes allow athletes to better train while not getting in each other's way.

The pool features 1- and 3-meter diving boards and a 20-by-40-foot instruction pool that

will be used for swimming and diving lessons, as well as rehabilitation and other water therapies.

"We are looking forward to the teaching/therapy pool getting used this spring and summer as we bring back the SMU learn-to-swim program," he adds. "This will help regain our outreach into the community."

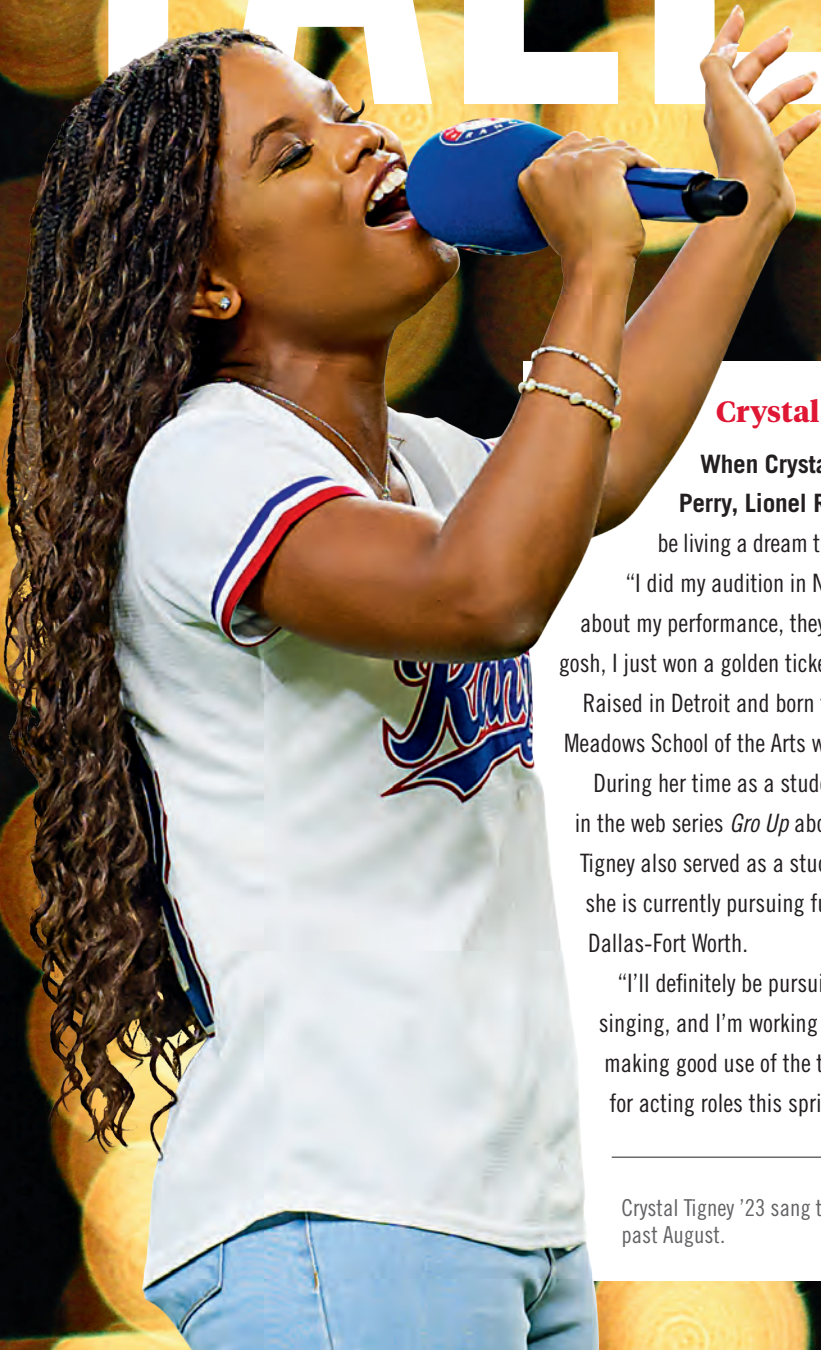
It will also help attract national events, including swimming and water polo events.

Other new amenities include a locker room that can be accessed from both the indoor and outdoor pool, plus an indoor dryland training area to be used by the SMU diving members. A decorative overhang offers shade for spectators.

"It is an incredible complement to our already existing beautiful indoor facility," Rhodenbaugh says. –*Steven Lindsey*

Sharing their TALENTS

by Chris Kelley



Crystal Tigney '23

When Crystal Tigney '23 stepped on set to audition in front of Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan, she never expected she would soon be living a dream that only a handful of people experience each season on *American Idol*.

"I did my audition in Nashville. It was so surreal," she recalls. "After the judges talked about my performance, they were like, 'OK, now it's time to vote.' And I got three yeses. Oh my gosh, I just won a golden ticket. I always see it on TV, and I was like, this is actually my life now!"

Raised in Detroit and born to perform, Tigney moved to Texas in 2019 to study theatre at SMU Meadows School of the Arts where she honed her music and acting skills.

During her time as a student, she performed in various productions, including a starring role in the web series *Gro Up* about three girls who have just been released from juvenile detention. Tigney also served as a student ambassador for SMU Meadows and as a leader for CRU, where she is currently pursuing full-time Christian missions work on college campuses around Dallas-Fort Worth.

"I'll definitely be pursuing ministry for the long run, but I'll also be doing acting and singing, and I'm working on a lot of original music right now," she says. Tigney plans on making good use of the theater work she did at SMU Meadows when she begins auditioning for acting roles this spring.

Crystal Tigney '23 sang the national anthem at SMU Community Night at the Texas Rangers this past August.

Trigg Watson '12

Trigg Watson '12 had a magical 2023. Appearing on *America's Got Talent* for the second time in two years, he thrilled audiences with one of his signature cutting-edge magic acts. And while his first appearance was brief and felt like a dress rehearsal, this time he made it to the semifinals.

"I wasn't necessarily planning on submitting for *America's Got Talent* last year, but I started working with all kinds of new technology that made some of the stuff I did on the show possible," he says. "In the span of about a month, I went from having just an idea in my head to having this finished product that I was presenting on national television."

What sets Watson apart from so many magic acts is his unique use of technology to confound and astound. He incorporates robots, tablets, cameras and futuristic tech that doesn't seem to exist yet to play tricks on your perception of reality.

A graduate of the SMU Cox School of Business and SMU Meadows School of the Arts, Watson says he double majored in "show business" at SMU because those were the skills he needed to become a better magician.

Watson has taken his talents to big stages, like *Penn & Teller: Fool Us*, and to more intimate and targeted performances for corporate gatherings where he often uses his magic to inspire innovation and communicate a message.

"I feel like as a magician, my job is to stay one step ahead of the rest of



the world," says Watson. "A lot of magicians, if they're using technology, might hide it. I choose to embrace it openly."

Above all, Watson's tech-enriched craft is expanding minds and giving audiences a sense of childlike wonder about the world.

"If there was any goal I had with my magic, it would be to use magic to explore the future, spark imaginations and give people a glimpse of what might be possible 10 years from now," he says. "Because as a magician I'm allowed to cheat. I can create the illusion of bringing the future into the present."

Adam Waheed '16

For most social media users, Adam Waheed '16 needs no introduction. You may know him as AdamW on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube – or simply as that guy who makes all the funny videos.

Waheed has racked up over 50 million followers across his social media channels and over 1.5 billion views per month on social media and over 30 billion lifetime views. The secret to his success is his universal approach to comedy and the work ethic he learned as a student-athlete at SMU.

"My goal is to make the entire world laugh," he says. "One of the rules that I have when I create content is if I can't watch the video on mute and laugh or understand what's going on, I won't post it."

Waheed learned how to be tenacious and work for every inch as a walk-on defensive back for the SMU Mustangs. When his dream to play in the NFL didn't pan out, he spent the next year and a half struggling to find a path forward. He got his big break in 2016 when one of his comedy sketches went viral. He's posted almost daily ever since.

"If I did it once, I'll do it 1,000 more times, and a lot of that mentality comes from playing football at SMU and being a walk-on, being someone who has to fight to get on the field," Waheed says. "Everything's earned; nothing's given. That's stuck with me through my years at SMU and really translated over when I started to do what I do now."

Waheed now produces videos every other day with a team of eight. His commitment to the craft has landed him significant partnerships with Dr Pepper, Little Caesars, T-Mobile and the NFL. He enjoys regular national media and entertainment program exposure.

His advice to young influencers starting out in the business?

"Just start. There's never a perfect time. A lot of time we sit here and we're like, I need to get this camera, or I need to be with this guy or have these shoes," he says. "And the reality is, there's never a perfect time. The perfect time is right now."



For Todd Andrews '96, Tasc Athleisure is a beloved family endeavor with international ties

Based in New Orleans, the innovative sportswear company recently expanded to Dallas and is bound for Atlanta in 2024.

In the last three years, the booming athleisure company Tasc (stylized lowercase “tasc”) has doubled in size and expanded its footprint to include a new storefront on Lovers Lane in Dallas, Texas. CEO and co-founder Todd Andrews '96 has grown the company to 55 employees and almost \$100 million in annual revenue, yet the company is still having Christmas parties at his mom's house.

Even the company name, Tasc, is grounded in the family: *T* for Todd; *A* for his dad, Al; *S* for his brother, Scott; and *C* for his mom, Cindy. Al Andrews, the beloved patriarch of the family who passed away last summer, was the company's forerunner who got his start in the apparel industry while attending law school in New Orleans.

“He came down to Tulane on a basketball scholarship in the early '60s, graduated, went to law school, passed the bar, but was renting an apartment from a family that had the

largest U.S.-based tie manufacturer,” says Andrews. “And so that's how he started his career. He didn't practice law; he got into the apparel business, for better or worse.”

It was for the better. When Andrews graduated from SMU in 1996, he moved back to New Orleans to interview for jobs in a range of industries, but when he walked into his dad's office to see what new industry ideas he had up his sleeve, Andrews never looked back.

Andrews says the influence of his father's passion is why Tasc has been so successful: “That spirit is what we've kept going forward in our company.” “Our dream was always to build a brand,” he adds.

Tasc now sells products wholesale in all 50 states, has established partnerships with the PGA Tour and the U.S. Open, and is looking at long-term storefront growth with four locations now open across the South and a fifth location coming to Atlanta, Georgia, in 2024. —Chris Kelley



Brittany Cobb '04: eye for design with a heart of gold

Creative visionary. Experienced cultivator.

Over the past 15 years, Brittany Cobb '04 has built a brand celebrated for many things.

“Somebody told me curiosity and consistency are the key to success,” she says. “I now know how true that is.”

In 2009, a then 27-year-old Cobb was launching a new business: The Dallas Flea, a quarterly pop-up shopping event featuring various vendors.

“I was completely naive,” she reflects. “But I had the tools to figure it out.”

Figure it out she did, and in 2015, she rebranded to Flea Style, a name the California native chose because she says, “it embodied the brand's love for flea markets.”

Cobb, now 41, is slated to open two new sets of doors: one in Prosper, Texas, and one in Nashville,

Tennessee. In September 2023, Cobb's Hat Bar, which offers customers a hands-on experience to create their own hat, opened inside the Omni Louisville Hotel in Kentucky. Cobb also owns Wide Brim, a specialty boutique inside Hotel Drover in Fort Worth, Texas.

She credits her journalism degree for her marketing ideas, communication skills and ability to stay curious. Cobb embraces the “bevy of perspective, knowledge and new ideas” she has gained.

One thing, though, has remained steadfast: a coping tactic she inherited from her father.

“Whenever I feel overwhelmed, I go back to my dad's favorite saying: ‘Inch by inch, everything is a cinch.’ I still tell myself this mantra daily,” she says. —Karalee Miller

SMU alum co-founds company that crafts “alternate snacks from an alternate universe”

Taos Bakes bars, granola and nuts capture the spirit of the mountains with healthy, taste-great treats

After spending summer 2009 at SMU-in-Taos, Brooks Thostenson '09 fell in love with the town. After reconnecting with lifelong friend Kyle Hawari in Taos after college, the duo decided to explore northern New Mexico — but they struggled to find nutrition bars that didn't contain bad ingredients. So, Taos Bakes was born.



“We choose to build our products from the ground up with taste, texture, mouthfeel, moisture content and nutrition equally balanced,” he says. “While it is much more expensive to be picky about the quality and overall nutrition of ingredients, it is an ethic we've always held. Additionally, we do not outsource our manufacturing, meaning that every product is made in house in northern New Mexico.”

Though neither went to business school, their college experiences prepared them to get their company off the ground.

“I chose a markets and culture degree because the course selections



seemed like a better fit for my overall interests,” he says.

Perhaps of equal importance is the friendship between Thostenson and Hawari, which plays a part in the company's prosperity.

“The best part about owning a business with a lifelong friend is that we already knew how each other worked,” he says.

One challenge they had to learn as they went along was the importance of delineation of roles and responsibilities and clarity on each other's work-life balance philosophies.

“If you can do this, you will have a much higher chance of protecting the friendship and, ultimately, business,” he adds. —Steven Lindsey

On a Wim and a prayer

Alum left big-brand advertising firm to pursue his garage hobby — and Lakewood Brewery is serving up sips all across Texas.

Originally an advertising major at SMU and an advertising professional at Tracy-Locke, Wim Bens '00 took a chance on his “garage hobby” in 2011 and channeled his marketing expertise to take the North Texas craft beer scene to the next level.

When his homebrewing operation turned into winning national brewing competitions, Bens left his advertising job to start Lakewood Brewing Company. The business has since grown from three

to 25 employees, and the craft brewing scene in North Texas has grown with it.

Having found success, Bens is giving back to his alma mater by setting aside \$1 from every sale of the Pony PILS, Lakewood's special 4.5% American lager, to fund scholarships for SMU students.

Inspired by his time at SMU, Bens hopes future SMU students will benefit from the same outstanding educational opportunities he received and that helped him succeed in the brewing business.

“We really want to inspire the next generation of brewers,” he says. “Whether you're going into food science, engineering or logistics — those are things we think are important to really have an educated



next generation of brewers.”

Bens, who designed the Pony PILS can himself, glows with pride: “It's not just an homage. Pony PILS is a beer for SMU things — for Mustang fans, for Mustang alumni or any Mustang over the age of 21.”

He hopes to begin awarding scholarships next year. —Chris Kelley

A BORN CONNECTOR

by Laura Barrera

Everyone thinks Rogers Healy '03 is a real estate guy – for good reason: In the 23 years since Healy became a licensed real estate agent while studying at SMU, he's launched and grown an independent real estate company into one of the largest in the country. Today, Rogers Healy and Associates Real Estate has over 500 agents and reached over \$1 billion in sales transactions in 2022.

But if you ask Healy, his strength isn't real estate – it's his ability to connect with people. "Everyone's got a superpower, and mine is giving people confidence," he says. "So that means I've got a decent eye for seeking talent."

Which is why Healy knows he's found his true calling with the new venture capitalism firm he launched in September 2022: Morrison Seger Venture Capital Partners.

Healy first got a taste of venture capitalism thanks to SMU. A few years after he graduated, SMU put together a group of alumni and partnered them with undergrad students to provide mentorship. Healy was partnered with Kevin Lavelle '08. They became close friends and years later, Lavelle approached Healy about an idea he had to make a men's dress shirt out of dry-fit material. Healy loved the idea and became the first seed investor for the business, Mizzen+Main.

"I fell in love with connecting the dots," Healy says. "Finance really is about who you know and who knows you. If you can earn their trust and help them create revenue, then that's really the qualification."

Healy quietly invested in more than 100 startups since 2011,

“

SMU BUILDS WINNERS, AND IF YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THE WINNERS, IF YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, THEN BY PROXY, YOU'RE GOING TO WIN, TOO.

”

but his decision to launch his own venture capital fund came after a serendipitous evening.

About seven or eight months before launching Morrison Seger, Healy's wife, Abby, who was pregnant with their first child, gently told him one evening that he was bringing home too much negativity. At dinner with his high school friends that night, one of them mentioned another friend started a company called Winwood Collins, after Steve Winwood and Phil Collins. Winwood Collins was never a real company, but it inspired Healy. He declared he was going to launch Morrison Seger, in honor of two of his favorite musicians, Van Morrison and Bob Seger.





At that moment, Healy didn't know what Morrison Seger was going to be – he added Venture Capital Partners to the name later – but he knew it was the next step in his career. Since launching the fund, Healy has essentially retired himself from a role in real estate to focus on venture capitalism full time.

"It felt natural, which is really not my story with real estate," he says. "It was like God telling me I've got to really bet on myself differently."

Since Morrison Seger launched, the company has raised over \$30 million and invested in over 25 companies, including Siempre Tequila, G.O.A.T. Fuel and Tiff's Treats.

Just like his reason for launching his real estate business – "I just wanted to be proud of the people I was surrounded by versus just being around people who were making money" – Healy's focus with Morrison Seger is all about partnering with great people that the fund can add

OPPOSITE PAGE: Healy – who has built his professional career around his passion for connecting with people – takes part in a roundtable discussion with his team.

value to.

But Healy takes it a step further and aims to build connections between his startups by introducing the founders to each other and getting them in the same room with the investors. He says this creates a more interactive experience and brings dimension through everyone's personality.

Healy's ability to connect people stems back to SMU.

"SMU gives you so much access to people," Healy says. "SMU builds winners, and if you can get access to the winners, if you can find a way to build relationships, then by proxy, you're going to win, too."

Healy gives SMU a lot of credit for his success. With his mom being an alumna, Healy knew from a young age that he wanted to attend SMU. When he was a high school freshman, he went to the SMU admissions office every week and told them he probably wasn't going to have the best grades or test scores, but if given the chance, he thought SMU would change his life and help him change the lives of others.

"SMU is the first place that I think really gave me the chance and just said 'I believe in you,'" Healy says. "I think it gave me the ability to hone in on being a leader and appreciating the potential about people that others can't really see – because SMU did that to me." 🐉

LEADING THE FUTURE

INCREASING THE PRODUCTION OF SEMICONDUCTOR CHIPS IN THE U.S. IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY – AND SMU IS AT THE FOREFRONT.

by Heather Zeiger

When J.-C. Chiao speaks to high school students about working with semiconductors, he tells them, “If you can bake a cake, you can make a semiconductor chip.”

Chiao, the Mary and Richard Templeton Centennial Chair and professor in electrical and computer engineering at the Lyle School of

Engineering, says students think they have to get A’s in chemistry and earn at least an undergraduate degree to work on cutting-edge technology, but there is a role for anyone at any academic level, especially now that that plans are underway for the implementation of the SMU-led Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub. An area covering 29 counties spanning North Texas

and southern Oklahoma was identified as one of 31 Regional Innovation and Technology Hubs across the United States as part of the Biden administration’s CHIPS and Science Act.

Chiao, with SMU Professors Scott Douglas and Jennifer Dworak in the Lyle School’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, will lead the Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub

Consortium, a 41-member group of private businesses, public institutions, nongovernmental organizations and universities that will coordinate and develop the semiconductor ecosystem in North Texas and Oklahoma.

Their aim is to spur innovation and economic growth, including creating jobs for all levels of education, so that in the next 10 years, the Texoma region will become a leader in semiconductor manufacturing.

According to the White House, the goal is to combine federal resources with regional assets, expertise and coalitions. North Texas and southern Oklahoma already have an established semiconductor industry in Texas Instruments and GlobalWafers, among others, as well as national security and aviation connections with Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Many industries that rely on semiconductors, such as the automobile or medical industries, are thriving in this area.

“Health care, environment, defense and all the different things people think about when they think about traditional careers, technology and chips are a part of that,” says Douglas.

The Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub is the only Tech Hub in Texas and is one of only four national Tech Hubs that focuses on semiconductor manufacturing and innovation. The Tech Hub will employ “fablet” based manufacturing, in which several organizations share lab facilities.

The Texoma region was one of only

“ IF YOU CAN BAKE A CAKE, YOU CAN MAKE A SEMICONDUCTOR CHIP.”

Professor J.-C. Chiao

11 applicants to receive both the Tech Hub designation and the Strategy Development Grant, a grant awarded to those regions that are close to being ready to apply for \$75 million in implementation funding.

“The supply chain is also an important issue in terms of national security and economic growth,” Chiao says. “For example, if chips are out of stock or need to be shipped from foreign countries, like we have experienced during the pandemic period in the automobile industry, medical devices and systems cannot be made or are delayed.”

The Tech Hub will directly affect local communities by creating new jobs for people of all educational

levels through workforce development programs and K-12 educational outreach.

Douglas, who became an engineer because of his interest in music, says that one way to get people interested in semiconductors is to find out what their passion is and how technology enables that. “What we’re really after is setting up educational pathways for individuals from any background or starting point to get into this industry and be successful.”

By focusing on the entire process of chip manufacturing, from design to commercial application, the industry can include a wider base of people and industries. For example, the consortium includes the Choctaw Nation, which has an aviation testing facility for manned and unmanned aerial vehicles through the FAA’s BEYOND program.

“Semiconductor manufacturing services many industries,” says Chiao. “Within a complementary ecosystem, barriers can be reduced or eliminated allowing better innovation and commercialization. It will create a huge impact not only financially but also to human well-being and lives.” 🐎



Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub stakeholders gathered at SMU to watch President Joe Biden's announcement of 31 tech hubs across America.

75 years of serving Dallas

SMU'S DEDMAN LAW SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS LAW CLINICS

by Andrea Luttrell '12

Seventy-five years ago, then-dean of Dedman Law School Robert G. Storey dreamed of a way to help Dallas' poor access much-needed legal services while also providing an opportunity for passionate SMU law students to gain hands-on experience. In the basement of Dallas Hall, Storey began plans for SMU's inaugural law clinic. Over the better part of a century, Storey's initial law clinic led to 10, assisting tens of thousands of Dallas residences.

In 1948, when Storey founded the law clinic, it was one of only two in Texas. "We work as hard on these \$10 lawsuits as we would if millions of dollars were involved," one early student director of the clinic proudly said.

Three quarters of a century later, the passion for law remains while the clinics have grown. Each term, more than 80 students now participate in 10 clinics with the assistance of 12 faculty members, six fellows and three dedicated staff members.

With the help of experienced faculty, Dedman Law students participating in law clinics dive into First Amendment cases as well as assisting victims of sex trafficking and parents in need of help with family law.

Students have logged about 30,000 hours of free legal services per year – the equivalent of 10 to 15 full-time lawyers. Additionally, law clinics have inspired some alumni to integrate pro bono work into the practice of their law firms. Other alumni who participated in SMU's law clinics were motivated to pursue public service, including Irma Carrillo Ramirez '91, the newest judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit; Sarah Saldaña '84 as the director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement under Barack Obama; and John Ratcliffe '89 as director of national intelligence under Donald Trump.

"I love being able to see these students come in, shy and unsure, and then after time in the clinics have them walk out standing up straight with confidence in their legal abilities and the knowledge that they've been able to make a difference in the lives of their clients," says Dedman Law professor Mary Spector, director of the Civil/Consumer Clinic and associate dean for experiential learning at the law school.

And what a difference SMU students have made through Dedman Law clinics. "We are delighted to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our legal clinics," says Jason P. Nance, Judge James Noel Endowed Dean of SMU Dedman School of Law. "We view our clinical education program as an important partnership with the DFW community and an opportunity to teach students to become competent lawyers who also have a public service mindset." 🐾

A tradition of service to those in need

From one law clinic in 1948 to its current robust offerings of 10 clinics, SMU's Dedman Law students, overseen by faculty, have helped thousands of local residents in need of legal advice.

Dedman Law now offers the following clinics:

- W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic
- Civil/Consumer Clinic
- Criminal Clinic
- Federal Tax Clinic
- First Amendment Clinic
- Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women
- Innocence Clinic
- Patent Law Clinic
- Small Business Clinic and Trademark Clinic
- VanSickle Family Law Clinic



A collaboration to create justice

SMU Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center partners with the Child Poverty Action Lab to improve criminal justice in Dallas County

A new partnership between SMU Dedman School of Law's Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center and the Child Poverty Action Lab (CPAL) in collaboration with the Dallas district attorney's office aims to improve outcomes for families across North Texas by helping Dallas County prosecutors, judges and defense attorneys make informed decisions – faster – about whether to file criminal charges against individuals.

This collaboration stemmed from the understanding that lengthy times between an arrest and a formal charge – sometimes up to 180 days – profoundly affect families and parents' ability to care for children.

"When people are incarcerated unnecessarily, it causes trauma to



families and to the children who are relying on those adults," says Pamela Metzger, executive director of the Deason Center.

A pretrial detention in jail can jeopardize a person's employment, family stability, housing and health. Parents detained in Dallas County jails are separated from their children

for more than a month, on average. The Deason Center and CPAL both seek strategies to reduce family separations, and this partnership allows the organizations to share resources to improve the criminal legal process in Dallas County.

"I hope what we're going to see is that prosecutors are empowered to make better decisions in a prompter way," says Metzger.

CPAL President and CEO Alan Cohen shares Metzger's excitement. "All too often, children are the hidden victims who suffer when a parent goes to jail," Cohen says. "We need an efficient justice system to keep our community safe, but the research is clear about the urgent need to rethink pretrial detention." –Andrea Luttrell '12

Learning through play

SMU's Center on Research and Evaluation has been chosen for a study by the LEGO Foundation.

It sounds like fun and games, but SMU Simmons' Center on Research and Evaluation (CORE) is conducting a key part of the Active Playful Learning national study. The LEGO Foundation has awarded a \$19.98 million grant to fund the study. CORE is the local site lead and will receive \$2.8 million over five years to conduct work in the Dallas area.

In partnership with the Dallas Independent School District, a one-year pilot study is underway with pre-K through first graders. The researchers are studying how creating active, engaged, socially interactive classrooms can bring about deeper learning and joyful teaching.

CORE Executive Director Annie Wright is the

principal investigator locally. "We believe results from the study will reignite joy in teaching and bring meaningful, active learning to students by moving away from 'drill and kill' direct instruction that we know does not work well," she says.

While designed to be used across content areas, all pilot-year coaching for Dallas ISD is designed to support delivery of Eureka-based math lesson plans, which is a priority for Dallas ISD.

"SMU CORE's involvement in this study speaks to the caliber of work being done by Annie Wright and her staff," says Leon Simmons Endowed Dean Stephanie L. Knight. "I know they will add valuable data to this equation that could

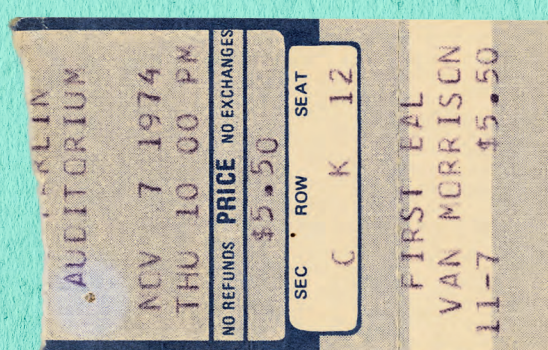
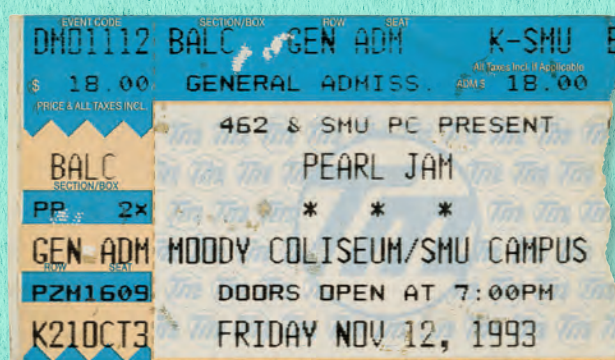
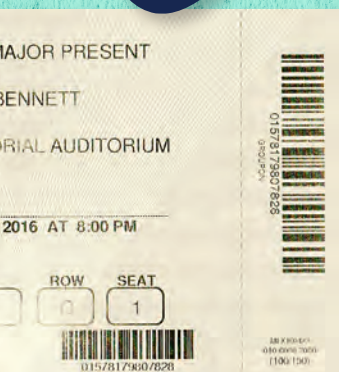
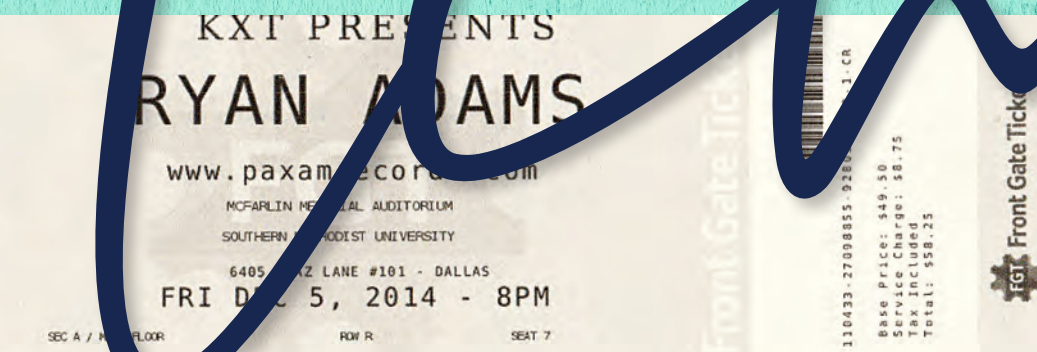
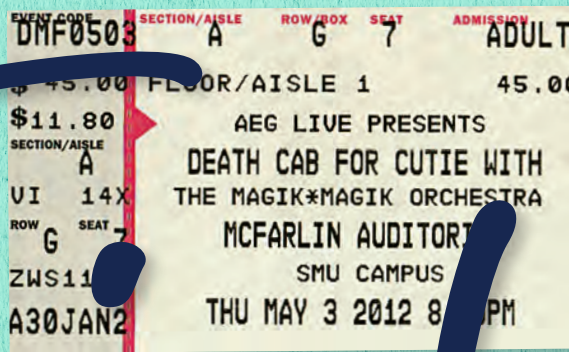
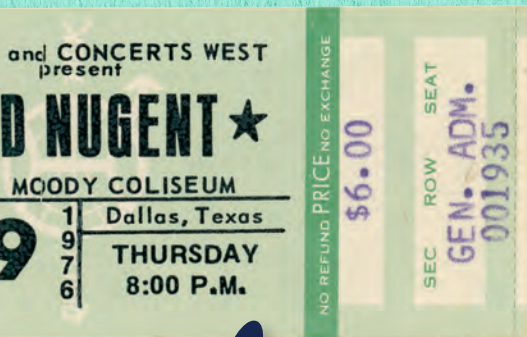
ultimately lead to a way to reimagine education in and out of the classroom." –Annette Taylor



SMU Simmons is the No. 1 ranked private graduate school of education in the state and in the top 50 among public and private graduate schools of education in the 2023–2024 U.S. News & World Report rankings.

by Sarah Bennett '11

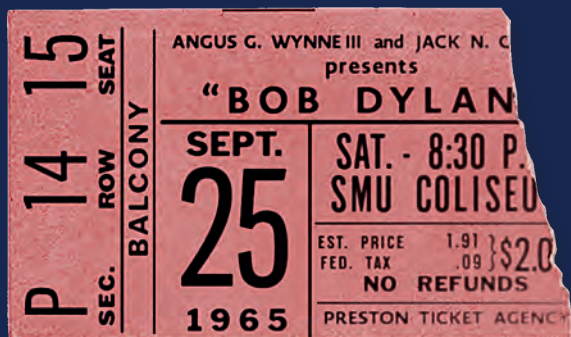




YOU WALK INTO THE DARK AUDITORIUM. SPOTLIGHTS SWIRL AROUND. THE BASELINE PULSES THROUGH THE ROOM AS THE BAND WARMS UP. STUDENTS TRICKLE IN, AND SOON ENOUGH, MOODY COLISEUM FILLS TO THE BRIM. YOU'RE READY FOR A NIGHT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.

Mustangs from almost every decade can recall at least one memorable concert - ranging from Bob Hope to Khalid - in Moody Coliseum or McFarlin Auditorium. This long-standing history of bringing great acts to campus lives on in ticket stubs, favorite photos, set lists, T-shirts and posters. "It draws the campus community together," says Program Council President Ayan Khan '26. "It's powerful to see these events happening and see people having a good time."

1950-60s



"The rumor was that Bob Hope was on campus. Every time he was sighted, I just missed him. Then I found out he was doing a show on campus and saw him live there. During a dance number the canned music stopped. The girls froze in position and waited and waited. Bob Hope finally quipped some jokes to fill out the silence. The music was restored and the show went on."

Cynthia Whisenand '79



Bob Hope 1968

1970s



"I remember some of the great concerts at SMU as I was an usher at the great Crosby and Nash concert in 1977 at Moody Coliseum and sat on the floor – fourth row. In 1976, I saw Linda Ronstadt and Jerry Jeff Walker at McFarlin – great for a small venue." – John Dornheim '78



1980s



"In the early '80s, SMU had a battle of the bands contest and the winner opened for The Outlaws. The stage was set up near the end of Ownby Stadium, near the field where the Mustang Band practiced. Police shut down The Outlaws after a few tunes. The giant stacks of Marshall amps on each end of the stage created sound heard across campus, and residents complained. At least the student band was able to play their set!"

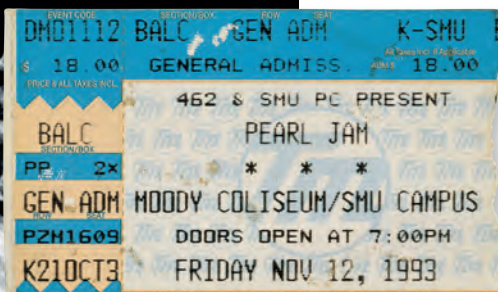
Douglas Lutz '83



1990s



Pearl Jam 1993



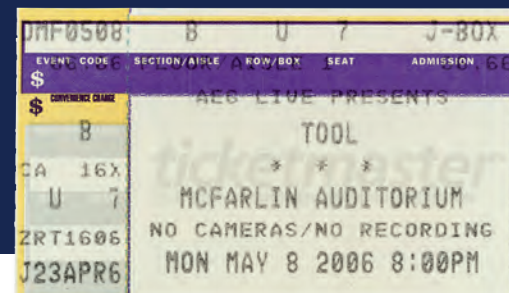
"I believe with all my being that Moody Coliseum was actually 'moving' that night because there was not a single person in that crowd who remained seated for the entire concert but instead they were ecstatically jumping up and down for hours."

Arlene Manthey
Longtime Advisor to SMU Program Council

2000s



Sheryl Crow 2007



2010s

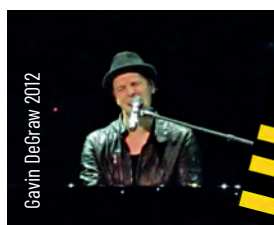


Eli Young Band 2015



"I'll never forget being part of the Program Council executive team my senior year when we hosted Ke\$ha in April 2011. It was a ton of work but so much fun. We worked all day and only finished cleaning up at 2 a.m. For some of us, it was our last event at SMU; there were a lot of bittersweet tears that night!"

Kate Herman Maatkamp '11



Strike a chord

This is just the opening set. Want to improvise? Browse more of the collection and submit your own memories at smu.edu/stories

CHASING A LEGEND

by Heather Zeiger

ANDRÉS RUZO '09 RESEARCHES PERU'S BOILING RIVER

Talking to author, TEDx speaker, National Geographic Explorer and SMU Ph.D. candidate in geophysics Andrés Ruzo '09, you find out how much he loves what he does. He considers his work with National Geographic a dream job. "Geology is a career for someone who likes to get outside. ... This year alone, I got to visit 16 different countries for work."

Ruzo is known for his research on the Boiling River in the Amazon region of Peru. Growing up in Lima, Peru, and Dallas, Texas, Ruza had heard about the river, called Shanay-Timpishka in the local language, from his grandfather's stories. Many believed the mythical river did not exist. His aunt knew the wife of the local shaman and took him to see it. This was the beginning of Ruza's career as a geophysicist.

Several years later, Ruza became the first scientist permitted by the local leadership to study the river. His 2016 TED Talk describes what he found, including temperature measurements of up to 200 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to make tea or boil an egg. The river is likely caused by geothermal vents along a fault line.

Ruza believes every place, even concrete jungles like Dallas, has a story to tell. He has on his shelf a 100-million-year-old fossil of a shark's tooth that he found in Dallas in 2015 after record-breaking floods swept across Texas.

"We have a lot in our backyard that we don't take advantage of," Ruza says. "I hope I haven't perpetuated it too much that you can only make crazy discoveries in the Amazon or the polar regions, or in Serengeti, or wherever. The truth is it's everywhere. ... It's what's hidden in the everyday."

Lately, Ruza splits his time between his work as a National Geographic Explorer; his nonprofit

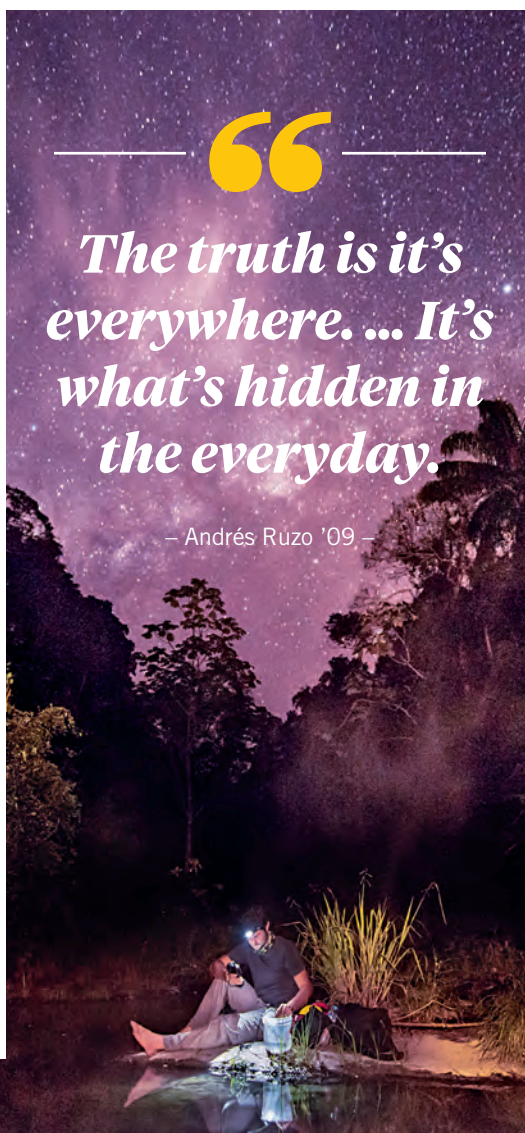
organization, The Boiling River Project; and finishing his Ph.D. work under the supervision of SMU Associate Professor Andrew Quicksall. His research involves making a geothermal map of Peru and finding the cause of the Boiling River.

COVID-19 put his Ph.D. work and other projects on hold for almost three years. It also was personally challenging. Ruza had become close friends with many people in the Amazonia community. But Peru had a 9% death rate from COVID-19, partly because the lack of tourism depleted financial resources. "I know 12 people who died," Ruza says. Among those was one of his mentors.

Since then, he has helped the shaman to survey his land so he can claim legal ownership of it, and Ruza has worked with the Peruvian government to attract tourism and protect the land from illegal logging. He has also worked with researchers to catalog new species found in the Boiling River region.

Recently, Ruza's uncle, a psychologist and father figure, passed away. He once advised Ruza to find what he loves to do, or all the extra money he makes doing what he does not enjoy will be spent on people like him to make you feel better about where you are.

Ruza has certainly taken his uncle's advice. 🐉



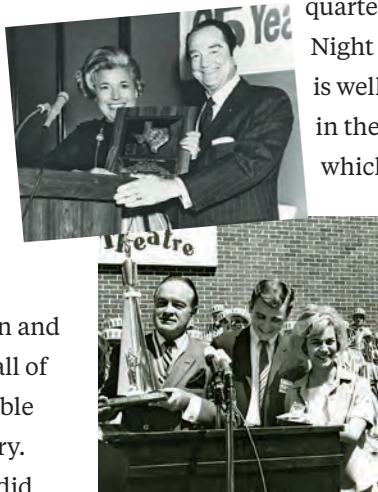
Through their eyes

UNCOVERING THE LEGACIES OF THREE SMU LEGENDS

SMU Libraries has recently acquired three collections available for scholarly research and pursuits: the papers of real estate mogul Ebby Halliday, entertainment giant Bob Hope and football legend Don Meredith. The collections were curated with the hope of uncovering the untold stories of these illustrious legends. SMU invites its community to delve into the past through their eyes – and perhaps catch a glimpse of their contributions to society.

Ebby Halliday

Ebby Halliday was widely recognized as the “First Lady of Real Estate” for her exceptional business acumen, philanthropic vision and civic engagement, all of which left an indelible mark on the industry. Although Halliday did not attend SMU, she had a deep connection with the University and its alums, even acting as a benefactor and esteemed speaker. The collection of her business activities, civic contributions and personal life is a testament to her remarkable legacy, spanning an impressive 139 linear feet.



Bob Hope

Leslie Townes “Bob” Hope – an iconic comedian, actor, producer and entertainer – was awarded an honorary degree from SMU in 1967 to recognize his influence on the entertainment

industry. His collection features 5.5 linear feet of material that documents his visits and interactions with the University, including his “M” Award, Arden Club key, program for the grand opening of the Bob Hope Theatre in 1968, varsity letter jacket and more.

Don Meredith

Joseph “Dandy” Don Meredith was a celebrated quarterback for SMU’s football team in the 1950s before becoming a renowned Dallas Cowboys quarterback, actor and Monday Night Football commentator. He is well known for his participation in the legendary 1967 “Ice Bowl,” which cemented his place in football history. His collection – featuring 11 linear feet of material that include legal documents, photographs, scrapbooks, correspondence and his personal vinyl copy of *The Party’s Over* – relives moments of his incredible journey.

–Shelly Kelley



Powering up

SMU Simmons sport management graduate program ranked No. 1 in Texas and No. 14 in the nation.

SMU’s sport management program has earned the rankings of No. 1 in Texas, No. 3 private university in the U.S., No. 14 in the United States, and No. 18 in the world by SportBusiness. And it’s a good thing, since Dallas was named Best Sports Business City of 2023 by *Sports Business Journal*.

SMU’s rankings are based on factors including: quality of faculty and teaching; ability to connect alumni and industry executives; program support in finding a job after graduation; value for money provided by the master’s program and employment in the sports industry sector.

“SMU draws extensively on the fact that North Texas is home to some of the biggest names in the sports industry, ranging from professional sports teams to marketing and sponsorship agencies,” says program director and Clinical Assistant Professor Peter Carton.

Founded in 2012, the master’s in sport management degree in the Department of Applied Physiology and Sport Management is an interdisciplinary degree between the Simmons School of Education and Human Development and the Cox School of Business at SMU.

–Andrea Luttrell ’12

The Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity: 10 years

by Heather Zeiger

Walking through the Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity, you'll find a collaborative space with wood decor reminiscent of Africa. Bookshelves house materials once belonging to Dallas architect James Pratt. Toward the back, a conference table is equipped for in-person and virtual participants, which SMU Associate Professor and Director of the Sustainability + Development Program Jessie Zarazaga says is the most-used part of the workspace.

In the 10 years since the launch of the Hunt Institute, members have contributed to work impacting all 17 of the United Nations' sustainable

development goals.

"What we've done over the last 10 years is create a platform," says Executive Director Eva Csaky.

The institute was designed to be a hub where people from various disciplines in the private and public sector come together to address environmental and social challenges facing vulnerable communities locally and globally.

One example is Impact Nights, a monthly informal discussion about timely topics of interest to the institute's 2,000-plus network. These discussions lead to collaborations between groups that wouldn't

normally interact. "You can only make progress in these areas if you are trans-disciplinary," says Csaky.

Csaky describes their platform as a "toolbox" in which all the programs can be adapted for other communities. For example, Impact Nights has been adapted for Tunisia as part of a larger program that included bringing a select group of young women, all engineering students, to the institute to work on solutions for women artisans. The institute's work earned recognition from Tunisia's prime minister.

Future projects include the launch of the institute's impact map in April, which is spearheaded by SMU alumna Jasleen Dhillon '18. "Our data is mapping out the impact enterprises in Texas," Dhillon says. The map combines publicly available data with survey data conducted by the Hunt Institute to provide an overlay of where there are community needs along with services already being provided.

Csaky says she is not thinking on a 10-year scale but in one- and two-year increments: "My objective in the next two years is to exponentially scale our impact." 🐾



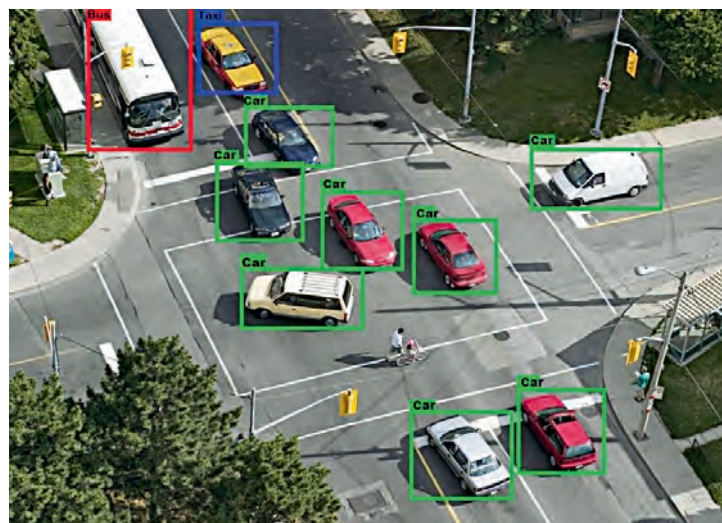
Hunt Institute Executive Director Eva Csaky (center) conducts a roundtable with students and colleagues.

AT THE FOREFRONT

Catch some of the latest research announcements from across campus.

PHILLIPS FOUNDATION FUNDS SMU IMPACT LAB

Phillips Foundation has announced a \$1.7 million multiyear grant to SMU to establish the SMU Impact Lab, a student-focused initiative to invest in commercial opportunities that produce substantial financial and social returns. It's a collaboration between the Meadows School of the Arts and Cox School of Business, combining arts entrepreneurship and traditional investing and financial expertise. A portion of the grant will support the existing Real Estate Impact Investment Fund, a student-led fund that spurs innovative investment in underserved communities in North Texas.



SMU WORKS WITH RESEARCH PARTNERS TO MAKE TRAFFIC SAFER

A \$1.2 million Federal Highway Administration grant to SMU, Georgia Tech and the University of Tulsa will fund a three-year study using artificial intelligence to make intersections safer and more efficient. Khaled Abdelghany, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, is the lead researcher on the grant. The grant is part of the Federal Highway Administration's Exploratory Advanced Research (EAR) Program, which collaborates with universities, private companies and public entities on research.

LYLE PROFESSOR AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS GRANT

Congratulations are in order for Professor MinJun Kim and his team, who have been awarded a \$1.8 million R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health for research related to gene therapy. Fewer than 10% of applicants receive the grant, which will provide funding over the next four years. Kim serves as the Robert C. Womack Chair in the Lyle School of Engineering at SMU and principal investigator of the Biological Actuation, Sensing and Transport Laboratory (BASTLab).



Grads in the GARDEN

As Mary Brinegar '69 retires from her 27-year tenure of running the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, fellow SMU alumna Sabina Carr '89 plans to build on her legacy.

by Laura Barrera

When **Mary Brinegar '69** stepped into the role of president and CEO of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden in 1996, the arboretum was in dire straits. In its 12 years, the 66-acre garden had gone through four presidents and was struggling.

But Brinegar's background in fundraising for organizations like The Dallas Opera, The Science Place and KERA-TV was exactly what the arboretum needed. Despite no background or knowledge of horticulture, Brinegar kept the Dallas Arboretum operating in the black for nearly three decades and oversaw improvements worth more than \$100 million, turning it into one of the most popular public gardens in the nation.

One of the most notable improvements involved SMU: the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden. The arboretum partnered with the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development to create exhibits that meet the state and national curriculum standards for children K–6. That collaboration benefitted

the arboretum in more ways than one.

"I could take that to different foundations and corporations, and more money came from it because you have a source evaluating the work you're doing at the highest standards," Brinegar says.

After 27 years, Brinegar stepped down last fall. A special committee chose fellow SMU alumna Sabina Carr '89 as her replacement.

Brinegar is impressed with Carr's track record with previous gardens, particularly her role in marketing at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

"If you can get people through the gate, you can maintain relevance with the community," she says. "There has to be a reason for people to cross the city and say, 'I want to pay to see this.'"

Brinegar hopes that everyone will give Carr all the support to take the Arboretum to the next level, and she's confident Carr can make that happen.

"That's what I would want more than anything from the time I spent there," Brinegar says, "that it will be in better shape in the future."

Sabina Carr didn't intend to end up in horticulture.





After graduating from SMU in 1989, she had a successful career in marketing for companies like Condé Nast in New York City.

But when her husband's career relocated them to Atlanta, Georgia, she felt a little lost. So, her mother offered some advice: Take two organizations she felt close to and volunteer. Carr always loved nature, thanks to the time she spent as a child on her family's 40 acres in New Jersey, so she volunteered at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

As fate would have it, the garden soon hired a new director, who brought on Carr to lead marketing. Together, they quintupled every metric over 15 years, turning Atlanta into one of the top 10 gardens in the U.S.

But Carr had a gut feeling she'd return to Texas one day. That came in 2019, when the San Antonio Botanical Garden hired her to be its new

CEO. She spent four years doubling metrics, including visitation, household memberships and the annual operating budget.

When the Dallas Arboretum approached her about becoming Brinegar's successor, it was an opportunity she couldn't refuse. Carr says the arboretum has been "the garden of my dreams" since she first visited it in 2002.

Carr's passion for public gardens stems from their ability to build communities and connect people with nature. One of her favorite moments of this happened to be on her last day at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Just as she was leaving, she saw a Muslim woman on top of the green roof above the gift shop on her prayer rug, performing the Salah.

"I said, 'Good. My job is done. I can go now.' That she feels that comfortable to do her prayers at sunset in a place that brings joy



Mary Brinegar really built a world-class botanical garden, basically from nothing. Now my job is to magnify the excellence she's left here."

Sabina Carr '89



LEFT: Sabina Carr stands before A Tasteful Place, a 3.5-acre potager garden, pavilion and kitchen on the Arboretum's grounds. **ABOVE:** Mary Brinegar.

and happiness and love to so many people, that just filled my heart."

Now Carr's sights are building upon the legacy that Brinegar has left.

"[Brinegar] really built a world-class botanical garden, basically from nothing," Carr says. "Now my job is to magnify the excellence she's left here. I'm so humbled to follow in her footsteps." 🐾

Barbara Hill Moore: Noteworthy in every sense

by Karalee Miller

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INFLUENCE AND TEACHING FOR BARBARA HILL MOORE AT SMU'S MEADOWS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS.

"I have grand-students – students of my first students," says Barbara Hill Moore.

If you know her, you know she's lovingly called "Prof" by students and colleagues. You know she's a world-renowned concert artist, opera singer and voice teacher, having performed with orchestras throughout the United States and Europe. She's likely regaled you with anecdotes centering on her two granddaughters, whom she and her husband of nearly 58 years, LeAndrew Moore, call "the sunshine of our lives." And you may even be familiar with Hill Moore's dedicated work as founder and executive director of SMU-in-South Africa, which takes place on the campus of Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth).

What you may not be as well versed in is that SMU-in-

South Africa, which launched in 2011, gives its students far more than a safari-filled, musical production, study abroad experience.

"The students can think it's going to be a vacation, but they get a rude awakening – and they love it," Hill Moore says.

The curriculum is equal parts challenging and rewarding, which seems fitting for a program that Hill Moore works tirelessly to garner funding for to enable as many students as possible to relish the experience. Through the Barbara Hill Moore and Bruce R. Foote Foundation, which began awarding scholarships in 1989 and was founded in 1995, Hill Moore awards scholarships to underrepresented students in SMU's graduate and artist certificate programs who are pursuing an advanced degree in classical vocal study.

Since 2000, with support from her namesake foundation, Hill Moore has helped bring nearly 30 students to SMU from South Africa. Now, many of those students travel the globe to perform and teach, with four heading university programs in South Africa.

In May 2024, Hill Moore will travel to South Africa once again, along with her husband, who is the program's assistant director, and SMU students. This year's trip will differ from years past as the students will, for the first time, not perform a musical from the Golden Age of Broadway.

"I've always wanted to keep stretching myself so I could stretch my singers," she says. "I think if I ever stopped, I would just be overwhelmed with the emotion of it all. ... I lead the warmup exercises in the beginning of my musical theater classes and my students say, 'Can you give us a break here, Prof?'"

Not likely – and no doubt, the prof's students would have it no other way. 🐾

"I've always wanted to keep stretching myself so I could stretch my singers."

Barbara Hill Moore



A new permanent home for four artworks by an SMU faculty member

Associate Professor of Art Nishiki Sugawara-Beda brings her twist on Japanese tradition to the Dallas Museum of Art.

The Japanese tradition of Kakejiku (a hanging scroll) typically features painting or calligraphy printed on silk with the intent to hang temporarily. So when Nishiki Sugawara-Beda, associate professor of art and director of graduate studies for the Meadows School of the Arts, had her four-piece collection of Kakejiku acquired at the Dallas Art Fair in April 2023 by the Dallas Museum of Art for their permanent collection, her interpretation of the art form would challenge many aspects.

The work, *KuroKuroShiro – The Four Seasons*, plays with the ratios used in traditional Kakejiku. Her scrolls are shorter, and she had the fabric custom made by Japanese merchants. She also discussed her vision with a dealer in Japan on how to best mount the work without glass separating her art from its admirers.

“I needed to have my own format because I knew they would probably end up exhibited in the United States,” she says, adding that most of her previous work was ink on wood.

On the scroll fabric, Sugawara-Beda painted abstract landscapes, each one representing a different season. She also hand-wrote four fortunes for luck and positivity on fortune paper, rolled them up, shuffled them around, and placed one vertically toward the top of each scroll. They add a bit of mystery for the artist and viewer.

Mixing traditional Japanese

elements with her modern style makes her work an exciting addition to the “Arts of Asia – Japan” gallery on the third floor of the DMA. *KuroKuroShiro – The Four Seasons* was installed at the end of February.

and she mentioned how happy she was to see a piece from Ekaku at the DMA. The curator then shared that not only was her *KuroKuroShiro – The Four Seasons* going to be in the same museum, but it would replace the



But the placement of her work in the museum brought Sugawara-Beda to tears.

“I went to the Japan gallery because I knew that’s the place,” she says, noting that she saw a work by Hakuin Ekaku, a Japanese monk who lived in the 17th and 18th centuries. “I admire him a lot because of his freeform brush marks.”

Realizing her work would be under the same roof as an artist she admires so much, she started crying. A few minutes later, the curators showed up

Ekaku work on the wall.

“At that point, I just lost it,” she says.

Now her work will be part of the DMA forever – preserved and protected – and interpreted by people for generations to come.

“I’m so happy and humbled to be in the DMA because there are many, many great artists there,” she says. “I feel a strong sense of responsibility as an artist to create works that are meaningful now and maybe for future generations.” –Steven Lindsey

TANGIBLE MEMORIES

by Sarah Bennett '11

Jane Chu '81 tells inspiring stories of immigrants through her drawings.

Last fall, visual artist Jane Chu '81 displayed her work through the exhibit *What We Keep: The Objects of Immigrants to America* in Hamon Arts Library. The former chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts creates pieces that at once appear simple and striking – black-and-white drawings of a scene with an object in full color laying overtop, giving the optical illusion of a 3D piece in 2D form. Yet it's the meaning behind them that perhaps is the most significant.

In the exhibit, Chu explores themes of perseverance, determination, sentimentality and identity through the lens of immigrants. Fifteen drawings center around her mother's journey out of her native China as a teenager in 1949 during the Chinese Revolution. One depicts the first

letter she received from her father, 24 years after her escape.

"After 24 years of no communication with her family in China, there it was – this airmail letter, thin and delicate and fragile – from her father, whom she called Baba," Chu says. "So here, her mind is just racing with excitement and anticipation of opening this letter: 'Is my family doing okay? Was anybody punished for my escape 24 years ago?'"

And though this collection told her mother's story, Chu says that people from all over contact her to share their own stories of keepsakes – which, then, inspires her to translate them into works of art.

"I used to call anybody I knew who either had a story or knew somebody. My neighbor from Ethiopia had a great story. Now people tell me, 'I

would like for you to tell my story,'" she explains.

At the opening of her exhibit, Chu paid visits to her alma mater, taking part in a Lunch and Talk in the Owen Arts Center and a wine reception and artist's talk in the Hawn Gallery of Hamon Arts Library. She also spoke with students in the Master of Management in International Arts Management program. These intimate opportunities for members of the SMU community to meet with Chu provided a peek into her process.

"I want my art to reflect how we can embrace multiple perspectives at the same time," she told Beverly Mitchell, Hawn Gallery curator and assistant director of Hamon Arts Library. "Sometimes, society pressures us to fit into one framework at the expense of another. But





“

Sometimes, society pressures us to fit into one framework at the expense of another. But in reality, it is totally possible to incorporate disparate mindsets simultaneously, and this is reflected in the style of my drawings.”

Jane Chu '81

in reality, it is totally possible to incorporate disparate mindsets simultaneously, and this is reflected in the style of my drawings.”

Chu received her master's degree in piano pedagogy from Meadows School of the Arts. Her piano teacher, David Karp, was in attendance at her artist's talk. She explained to the audience that the artistic endeavors like drawing and music helped her communicate her thoughts and emotions as a child growing up in a household with multiple languages.

“In the arts, you get to create, and that's how you solve new problems,” she says. “You have that element of creation and you're going to figure it out because we know how to create.”

You can find many of her illustrations in *Smithsonian Folklife Magazine*. 🐉



ABOVE: Chu's work *Goodbye to Baba* depicts Chu's mother saying goodbye to her father in China. **FROM LEFT:** A visitor admires Chu's work; attendees of the exhibition opening walk through the display.

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 2024 issue is **July 15, 2024**.

60 JODY GRANT has been inducted into the Texas Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame. He was a three-time winner of the 1,500-meter freestyle in the Southwest Conference Championships from 1958 to 1960, winner of the 440-yard freestyle in 1959, and a collegiate All-American. He is a distinguished alumni of SMU and of the Cox School of Business, a member of the Texas Business Hall of Fame and the Texas Bankers Hall of Fame, and founder of Texas Capital Bank. He and his wife, Sheila, were founders of Klyde Warren Park and major contributors to Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium.

64 ROD LAUGHLIN's latest book (co-authored by Susan Tough), *The Anointed One: The Complete Life Story of Jesus Christ*, was released in November 2023 by Fidelis Publishing. The book integrated the Gospel material and other historical information about Jesus. He is the founder of the Gospel Challenge Foundation and GospelGivingSunday.com.

77 TIM SEIBLES had his poem *Here engraved on a panel at the Martyr's Park memorial*

near Dealey Plaza in Dallas. The memorial, called *Shadow Lines*, honors the victims of lynching and racial violence. Seibles is a former poet laureate of Virginia (2016–18) and a retired professor of English and creative writing at Old Dominion University. He is the author of several poetry collections, including *Fast Animal* (2012), which won the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize and was nominated for a 2012 National Book Award. Seibles' honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, as well as an Open Voice Award from the National Writers Voice Project.

85 CHARLA ALDOUS, founder of Aldous\Walker LLP, has been recognized in *D Magazine's* Best Lawyers in Dallas Hall of Fame for the second consecutive year. An attorney must have received a mention in its Best Lawyers list at least 15 times to qualify for the Hall of Fame. In 2023, she also was designated a Living Legend by the Dallas Bar Association, listed among the state's top three lawyers in the annual Texas Super Lawyers survey, and selected by The Best Lawyers in America as plaintiff medical malpractice "Lawyer of the Year" for Dallas-Fort Worth. Aldous\Walker represents clients in civil

litigation, personal injury, medical malpractice, products liability and wrongful death cases. The firm was recognized by *Best Law Firms*, a Best Lawyers in America publication.

87 HILARY JONES BYATT is the clinic director at Parkinson Voice Project in Richardson, Texas. Parkinson Voice Project is a nonprofit organization with the sole purpose of helping people with Parkinson's regain and retain their speech and swallowing with SPEAK OUT! Therapy. The organization's speech pathology team treats patients living in Texas either in the clinic or by teletherapy. They also train speech-language pathologists and graduate students worldwide. Their vision is to make SPEAK OUT! Therapy accessible to patients across the globe.

88 MARK HARRIS has joined the law firm Blank Rome LLP as a partner in the firm's Finance group. He is regularly named to Best Lawyers in America in the areas of securitization and structured finance law and banking and finance law and was listed as the 2022 "Lawyer of the Year" for his work in securitization and structured finance law in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

89 DEBORAH KRAUSE MISCOLL has been named chief mental health officer at Deloitte U.S. Miscoll — a licensed psychologist with over 25 years of experience — developed, launched and leads an innovative psychology services program with the U.S. firm, with both high performance and clinical psychology components and strong advisory capabilities.

96 TODD ANDREWS, co-founder and CEO of Tasc athleisurewear, opened his Dallas-area shop in the Park Cities in August 2023. Tasc, launched in 2009, has three other stores in New Orleans; Birmingham, Alabama; and Houston. Tasc, which uses materials such as bamboo and beechwood to create its activewear, recently announced a partnership with PGA Tour player Eric Cole as a brand ambassador.

99 PAT PEFFLEY is working in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, as a director of personnel for the Joint Intelligence Operation Center-Korea. As J21 division chief, Peffley leads cross-functional U.S. Forces Korea teams; her section collaborates with Combined Forces Command and United Nations Command to provide and integrate human capital capabilities with emerging

technologies to enable their missions.

02 KELLI LEWIS, marketing director and public information officer for the city of Carrollton, and her team won five awards from the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers, three from the National City-County Communications and Marketing Association, and two from the National Association of Government Communicators for stellar communications and marketing efforts. **LOIS LYDA** was named gallery manager for Gallery 19C, an international art gallery that focuses exclusively on the 19th century. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the gallery, builds strong relationships with visitors and the community, and promotes the gallery

through publicity and programming. **JUSTIN SCHMID** is now director of sales for Horizontal Digital's Salesforce consulting practice. He was previously a sales executive and sales leader for Simplus, a Salesforce consultancy. **STACEY SCHUMACHER** founded and oversees the Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP), which has eight stand-alone clinics throughout North Texas. Recently, TCAP was featured on the Discovery Channel through *Dirty Jobs* with Mike Rowe. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity highlighted the work that TCAP does throughout North Texas and talked about animal rescue, organizational development and the role of nonprofits in the fabric of the community. Schumacher later was a guest on Rowe's international podcast *The Way I Heard It*.

04 J. AUSTIN CURRY of Dallas' Caldwell Cassidy & Curry has earned a selection on the 2024 Lawdragon Leading Litigators in America listing based on his work in intellectual property trials. Curry focuses on patent infringement disputes and cases involving advanced technologies, including in the fields of electrical engineering, computer science, oil field services and medical devices.

06 ALANA ACKELS (J.D. '09), a partner at Bell Nunnally, has been selected for the 2024 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Listed since 2019, Ackels specialize in litigation – labor and employment.

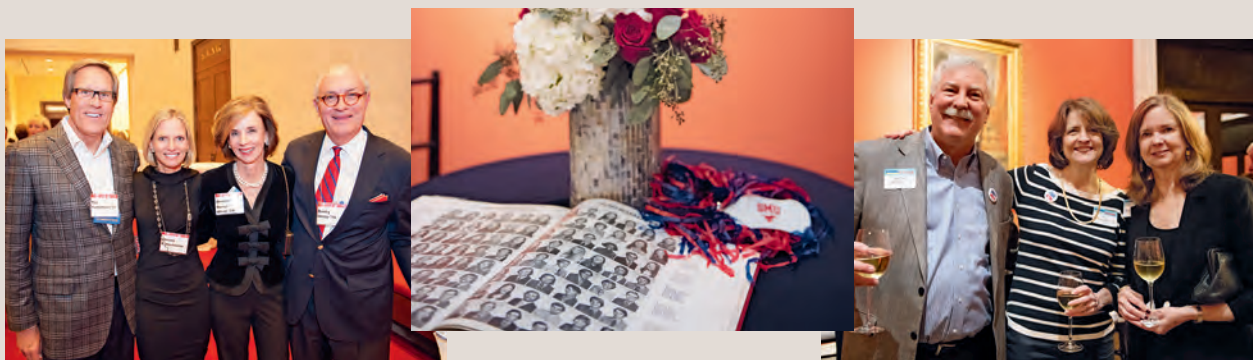
08 SARAH GRIFFIN married Chris Chumley in October

2023. She was also recently promoted to associate director of property management at CBRE. Chumley owns a primary care practice, Itinerant Primary Care, and is a physician focused on geriatric home-based medicine and preventative care. The couple visit the Hilltop often for basketball and football games and look forward to seeing the new Garry Weber End Zone Complex next fall.

11 BIBEK KARKI (B.S.E.E. '11, M.S. '13) was named to *Consulting-Specifying Engineer* magazine's 40 Under 40. He is an electrical engineer at Integrated Power Services Inc. Karki is also part of a mentorship program with SMU and Hillcrest High School.

A Golden Opportunity

SMU CLASS OF 1974 | 50-YEAR REUNION WEEKEND
MAY 10–11, 2024



Share your SMU memories, join your reunion committee and learn more about weekend activities online at smu.edu/50year.

Questions? Contact SMU Reunion Programs at reunionyear@smu.edu or 214-768-9327.

13 TRENTON OWENS was named to the *Forbes* 2023 Top Next-Generation Wealth Advisors Best-in-State list. He was named to this list in 2019 and also the *Forbes* Top Next-Generation Wealth Advisors list in 2017–18. He is a first vice president and senior financial advisor at Price & Associates, involved at Watermark Church, and serves as the SMU 2013 class ambassador.

15 DONI MAZAHARI has been made a partner at the firm of Nowak & Stauch, PLLC and was also listed among *D Magazine's* Best Lawyers Under 40 for 2024. "I am forever grateful for my education at SMU," he says.

16 CASEY QUINN was recently named to the 30 Under Thirty: America's Rising Republican Operatives by Cygnal, a polling and analytics firm. She is a professional

staff member to U.S. Rep. Jason Smith of Missouri, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. During her time at SMU, Quinn worked as an intern at the George W. Bush Presidential Center. She was recently on campus as a guest lecturer for a political science class.

17 MAXIME BLANDIN '17 and **DILLON BAXTER '20**, founders of PlantSwitch, opened a 52,000-square-foot facility in Sanford, North Carolina, that turns agricultural residues into a plant-based resin that can then be used by companies to make plastic products such as forks, straws and more. The two SMU grads have been named to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list. **REGINA DEBILIO** (B.A. '17, M.S. '23) is collaborating with her father on a new charity in California. 3 for 99 Charity is a 501c3 organization that raises awareness and funds for the medical research divisions of these

three children's diseases: Friedreich's ataxia, hemophilia and Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Her family came up with the idea because they had three loved ones, each with a different condition, and they wanted to find a way to pool their resources to benefit all three research causes.

18 CAROLINE SHERIDAN '18 and **LARKIN DOBSON '20** were married in Linville, North Carolina, on September 16, 2023. Forty-two SMU alumni attended the celebration. The couple reside in Dallas.

19 W. HOLT GARNER graduated from UT Southwestern Medical Center with a medical degree and received an award for his work in women's health care. He plans to become an obstetrician/gynecologist with possible additional training in maternal-fetal medicine. **ISABEL GATES** founded and is CEO

of Gates Paper, which is based in Brooklyn. She designs luxury wedding invitations and has been featured in *British Vogue* multiple times. **LUKE COLLINS** (J.D. '22), an associate at Bell Nunnally, has been named to the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America 2024 list. He works in commercial litigation.

22 GWINNETH CAMPBELL is a content strategist for Social Practice, a Dallas-based marketing agency and a professional dancer for the NBA.

23 KATY ROBERSON was honored with a 2023 award for Outstanding Early-Career Teaching by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is a seventh grade social studies teacher at KIPP Pleasant Grove Leadership Academy in Balch Springs.

Join the online SMU Network and connect with your peers today!



Sign up for our private digital community today to go, give, help and connect with fellow Mustangs.

smu.edu/network

Precious Ponies



SOFIA MAIA AMORIM, born May 24, 2023, is the daughter of Maiana Maia '18 and Vinicius Amorim '17.



LILY JEANETTE ANTAKI, born September 11, 2022, is the daughter of Heather Weems Antaki and Nicholas Antaki '11.



SAMARA SNOW ASTLEY, born August 5, 2023, the daughter of Mimi Snow '01 and Amy Astley and granddaughter of Phillip Snow '81.



GWEN OLIVE AYERS, born July 31, 2023, is the daughter of Grant Ayers '22 and Alyssa Ayers '21, and sister of Grace.



FLORENCE LAUREN BLACKWOOD, born June 21, 2023, is the daughter of Kimbrell Hughes Blackwood '13 and Bruce Blackwood '13 and the niece of Brooke Hughes Ward '12 and David Ward '13.



CHARLES VANDERSLICE CRAWFORD, born August 14, 2023, is the son of Gillian Crawford and Robert Crawford '20.



MILA JAMES CURRELL, born October 11, 2023, is the daughter of Addison Fontein '14 and James Beals Currell, III.



ELIJAH JAMES DUNN, born September 4, 2023, is the son of Kalinda Kundomal Dunn '11 and Jeremi Dunn.



ASHTON ALEKSANDER EDGLEY, born September 4, 2021, and **AUGUSTYN ANTONI EDGLEY**, born December 1, 2022, are the sons of Anna Edgley '21 and Brandon Edgley.



NORA ELIZABETH and **HAZEL GRACE ERVIN**, born September 1, 2023, are the daughters of Abbey Bybel Ervin '16 and Zachary Ervin.



JOHN WILLIAM "LIAM" FERTIG, born June 9, 2023, is the son of Courtney and Dan Fertig '11 and grandson of Kris and John Cousins '77.



MADELINE MARGARET FLORES, born July 23, 2023, is the daughter of Ashley Howe Flores '09 and Omar Flores.



THEODORE JAMES GILBERT, born October 24, 2023, is the son of Eliana Gilbert '19 and Boston Gilbert '19.



LUKE ANTHONY GODDARD, born November 25, 2023, is the son of Andrea Graham Goddard '13 and John Goddard.



PAIGE LAUREN GREENE, born April 29, 2019, and **EVAN STANLEY GREENE**, born June 18, 2023, are the daughter and son of Ryan Greene '14 and Claire Greene '18.



BROCK RUGER HERNANDEZ, born May 15, 2023, is the son of Fermin "Bubba" Hernandez '05 and Laura Duque.



CHARLES MALCOM HOLLAND, V, born November 1, 2022, is the grandson of C. Malcolm Holland, III '82 and Ann Marlow Holland '82, great-grandson of Charles Malcolm Holland, Jr. '55 and Allison Allen Holland '56, and nephew of Taryn Holland Sutton '90 and Edie-A Holland '85.



DAVID ERICSSON HUGHES, born February 27, 2023, is the son of Chelsea Glasgow Hughes '06 and Eric Hughes.



CHARLIE BETH HUHN, born April 14, 2023, is the daughter of Angela Canas '06 and Jared Huhn.



ALEXANDER DAVID KOLODOSKI, born July 3, 2023, is the son of Matthew Kolodoski '13 and Candace Kolodoski.



AVERY LORRAINE KROCHESKI, born August 14, 2023, is the daughter of Brad Krocheski '12 and Emily Portillo Krocheski '15, and granddaughter of Homer Portillo '88 and Debbie Doyle Portillo '88.



EUANNE LI, born May 9, 2023, is the daughter of Shuqi Yang "Iris" '19 and Siwei Li.



SERENA MICHELLE LOPEZ, born July 14, 2023, is the daughter of Sarah Santoyo Lopez '18 and Anthony Lopez, and niece of Steven Santoyo '21.



HARPER MACDOWELL, born on July 1, 2022, is the daughter of Joowon MacDowell '07 and Conor MacDowell '25.



MAGDALENA MAE MEEHAN, born March 10, 2023, is the daughter of Evan Meehan '14 and Lacey Rybarczyk Meehan '14, and the niece of Jodi Rybarczyk '15, Robby Rybarczyk '17, and Mary Meehan '20.



DARVISH NUR MOHAMMED, born October 20, 2022, is the son of Alyssa Mohammed and Nayeem N. Mohammed '13.



HENRY KENT MOYNAHAN, born May 24, 2023, is the son of Eleanor Moynahan and Colin Moynahan '12.



WELLS GLESBY NORTHINGTON, born October 18, 2023, is the son of Tracy Northington '10 and William Northington.



THOMAS JAMES ROSE, born June 1, 2021, is the son of Elizabeth Bright '05 and Jared Rose '03.



MASON AARON RYCZYN, born June 9, 2023, is the son of Jodi Morris Ryczyn '14 and Michael Ryczyn.



VIRGINA RAYE SESSIONS, born August 27, 2023, is the daughter of Kayle Stevenson Sessions '15 and William Steele Sessions, II.



MADISON STEFANCZYK, born July 5, 2018, and **HARPER STEFANCZYK**, born February 19, 2020, are the daughters of Katelyn McGuire '07 and Kyle Stefanczyk.



KENDALL AUDREY SUTTON, born July 21, 2023, is the daughter of Katie Sutton '17 and Zack Sutton.



RAYJI VENKATACHALAM, born June 5, 2023, is the son of Balaji Venkatachalam '19 and Yomara Eiranova.



BANKS WILLIAM YEAGER, born May 18, 2023, is the son of Carson Yeager '20 and Ali Yeager '21; grandson of Stephen Yeager '90, '93 and Amy Yeager '93, and Aaron Garrett, III '82; and great-grandson of Aaron Garrett, II '51.

Picture your pony here

Send us your Precious Pony! Submit a color photo to smumag@smu.edu by July 15, 2024, with the child's name and birthdate, and the names/class years of alumni parents or grandparents (or other close relatives). Please ensure the image is at least 1 megabyte.

In Memoriam

The following alumni deaths were reported to SMU from 7/15/23 to 12/29/23.

'44 CATHERINE CURRY GRINNAN '77
12/18/23

'45 WINNELL CASON HERRINGTON
9/26/23 DORIS DELHOMME
HERVEY 11/22/23

'46 GLADYS CRAIN HOLDER '50
9/7/23

'47 EVELYN MILLER JACKSON
11/5/23 FRED A. SMITHAM
9/17/23

'48 EDWIN O. SWAIN 5/22/19
GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, JR.
9/1/23

'49 CLAIRE PICKENS CUNNINGHAM
'84 8/6/23 MERLE HARRIS RICE
10/23/23 WILLIAM J. SAMPERT,
JR. 11/22/23

'50 MARY RICHEY BYRD 7/18/23
ALICE HARRIS COLLIER 7/19/23
JOHN P. GOREE, SR. 8/17/23
FORREST L. JONES 9/11/23
Dr. SARA RICKEY LUNDSTEEN
'56 8/25/23 BERNEDETTE
WHITEHEAD MONTUORI 8/28/23
LEONA DAVIS PONISH 8/8/23

'51 SHIRLEY BURNS COOPER 8/3/23
LEE R. SLAUGHTER, JR. 11/20/23
JOHN L. WEBB 10/2/23

'52 FLORENCE STOREY BECK
8/15/23 The Rev. WALDO B.

HARRIS 10/27/23 THOMAS H.
OVERSTREET 9/29/23 GLENN H.
REID 7/16/23

'53 Dr. RICHARD M. CHISHOLM
7/14/23 WILLIAM F. FARRELL,
JR. 11/18/23 The Rev. RUFUS T.
HIGGINBOTHAM, JR. '55 7/21/23
LORNA REELY JOHNSON 12/7/23
DORIS BASS MASSEY 8/17/23
JAMES A. MCLEAN 3/1/23
ARLENE WIEMERS RICHARDSON
9/2/23 JOAN POTTER STOUT
7/7/23 Dr. FRANK N. VICKERS
10/7/23 CAROLYN HOPKINS
WALTON 9/8/23 BARBARA
FRANKLIN WIGGINS 9/10/23

'54 GEORGE A. BUCKSTAFF 7/24/23
The Rev. THOMAS A. JAX '83
10/19/23 MARY PRENTISS
MATTHEWS 9/18/23 DONALD
S. MINSKY 7/15/23 HORACE A.
MITCHELL '58 7/25/23 BARRY
D. PRIDE 8/29/23 Dr. RICHARD
T. SCOTT 7/30/23 SAMUEL W.
SCOTT 7/10/23 TENNYSON L.
WHORTON, JR. 7/21/23

'55 PERRY M. DAWSON 8/12/23
JAMES H. LAMBERTH 10/18/23
GUS N. LEFES 9/4/23 BILLY
J. MANN 11/22/23 MORRIS D.
SHANNON, JR. 11/5/23 The Rev.
DONALD B. ZOOK 9/30/23

'56 JULIA SANFORD BURGEN
10/4/23 ROBERT W. CARROLL
1/28/23 SALLY ANN KAY DAVIS

8/3/23 JAMES R. FULTON '58
6/14/23 MARILYN SHRIVER
HANSEN 9/8/23 The Rev. JOHN
H. FOSTER '59 3/29/23 Dr. GLEN
O. MILLER 7/11/23 MILBURN A.
MUIRHEAD 12/10/23 CHARLES
F. PITTMAN 4/15/23 BILLY M.
SCHOCHLER 9/1/23

'57 ALEENE BLOCK 11/19/23
JUDY JARRETT HALL 10/6/23
JANET WOODWARD HOLLAND
7/30/23 Dr. JUDITH M. LEBLANC
11/24/23 JACQUELINE HUGHES
MEENA 12/2/23 PAT L. PACE,
SR. 8/30/23 Dr. CLEATUS H.
RATTAN '98 10/7/23 GORDON M.
WILKINSON '59 11/14/23

'58 PATRICIA BROWNING BEALL
10/17/23 GENE W. CARLETON
12/13/23 KENNETH E. DAVIS
10/26/23 VERNON W. FROST, JR.
8/2/23 The Rev. ROGER L. GREEN
12/16/23 EARLE A. HALEY
8/12/23 JANET I. JOHNSON
11/27/23 SHIRLEY KOST KIRBY
9/26/23 The Rev. WILLIAM A.
MILLER, SR. 8/2/21 LARRY E.
RAMEY 8/3/23

'59 GEORGE M. BARNEY 8/3/23
EUGENE L. H. BERGER 9/21/23
BETTY MANTOOTH GARRETT '74
8/29/23 CHARLES A. GIRAND
'62 10/23/22 The Rev. JESSE M.
HARRIS 6/2/22 Dr. GEORGE E.
HOPKINS 9/28/23 MICHAEL J.
O'HAGAN 5/24/23 JOSEPH W.
PINSON, JR. 10/26/23

'60 BETTY ANN EPSTEIN ABLON
8/24/23 Dr. ROBERT D.
BARNES 12/17/23 BILL H.
BRADLEY 7/19/23 GRAYDON
J. BUSHART, JR. 9/2/23 EBBA
EVANS JARVIS 8/26/23 MARY
D. MILLER 10/5/23 WELDON D.
MONTGOMERY 7/19/23

'61 LOU ANNA HURT CHAMBERS
9/19/23 Dr. ROBERT M.
ESCH 9/10/23 JOE ELLETT
HANNA 7/6/23 JANE BROOKS
HIGGINBOTHAM 7/21/23
JOSEPH J. KOS 12/26/23 FRED
A. LUMMUS 11/5/23 JOHN W.
MEREDITH '66 9/22/23 HENRY
NUSS, III 10/9/23 The Rev. R.
GARY REGAN 6/10/22 SARAH
WEATHERBY STEPHENS 8/30/23
JAMES A. ULMER, III 9/21/23
JOHN M. WATSON 8/24/22
WILLIAM R. WEST 9/11/23
JACQUELINE RICE YOUNGBLOOD
9/10/23

'62 DENNIS D. ADKINS 9/29/23
GARY B. BETTS '65 12/7/23
BARBARA EASTHAM BURRIS
4/18/22 TRUETT G. CRAFT
12/11/23 HAROLD J. HARMON
11/17/23 JANE KRAUSS
HIBBETTS 10/22/23 ROBERT D.
HUNT 9/7/23 STANLEY J. LASTER
11/14/23 BOB W. MASH 11/20/23
FREDERICK S. MERRILL, JR.
8/27/23 The Rev. JULIAN B. RUSH
'64 11/28/23

'63 L. DONALD BARR 12/3/23

WILLIAM B. BERNING, JR.
 11/8/23 **ERNEST H. FONTAINE,**
 III 10/22/23 **RALPH E. HASSEL**
 '68 12/14/23 **C. MARKS HINTON,**
JR. 9/20/23 **JUDITH JAMES-**
SANDIDGE 4/30/23 **The Rev.**
THOMAS C. PRICE 7/29/23
FLORENCE MCCLAIN PRIEBE
 7/9/23 **GERARD B. RICKEY** '66
 10/26/23

'64 **LYNNE BUTLER ADAMS** 10/13/21
JACK S. ALLDAY '05 7/16/23
WILLIAM H. BROWN 7/31/23
JOHN L. COKE, JR. '67 11/14/23
RONALD H. COSPER 10/26/23
Dr. GRANT CRAIG, II 9/27/23
WILLIAM P. DAVIS 10/18/22
DIANA LEAMAN HARRISON
 9/23/23 **ALFRED T. HEARNE, JR.**
 11/21/23 **DOUGLAS L. POTEET**
 11/2/23

'65 **CHARLES L. CABE** 11/24/23
Dr. JAMES B. CLAYTON, III '78
 10/9/23 **MICHAEL D. DAVIS** '69
 10/8/23 **RICHARD L. GARVER**
 11/17/23 **DAVID W. GLEESON**
 9/20/23 **HOWARD D. GREENE**
 8/3/23 **JERRY L. HOLMES**
 10/11/23 **JOHN R. HYINK** 9/9/23
KENNETH R. MILLIGAN 10/6/23
PAUL F. VERNON 9/8/23 **ROBERT**
L. WORRELL 10/31/23 **FREDERIC**
E. ZIMRING 9/19/23

'66 **The Rev. RICHARD N.**
CLARK 8/16/23 **GAYLON**
R. KORNFUEHRER 7/25/23
ANDREW R. LARSON, JR. '67
 9/24/22 **DON L. MATHEWS**
 10/8/23 **JOHN E. MCFALL**
 9/24/23 **JAMES S. RAMSEY, JR.**
 9/7/23 **Dr. JOHN D. STONEKING**
 7/12/23 **JOHN M. WEBB** 8/24/23

'67 **RONALD C. BRIGGS** 5/27/23

The Rev. JAMES R. BUSH 12/8/23
SHIRLEY WIEMERS DELK
 9/24/19 **CHARLES H. HATFIELD,**
JR. 10/27/23 **CAROLYN VESTAL**
KELLY '83 9/26/23 **The Rev.**
TOM E. SMITH 10/25/23 **NANCY**
NUCKOLLS WHITE 10/17/23

'68 **WESLEY D. BELZER** 9/8/23
SUSAN SCOTT BRANDT 10/13/23
The Rev. Dr. BUEL FITZGERALD
 '75 8/31/22 **HERBERT H. HICKS**
 8/1/23 **RICHARD G. HOFFMAN**
 8/1/23 **THOMAS L. KELLY, JR.** '71
 11/29/23 **JOHN R. KIDD** 7/15/23
WILLIAM R. MCCALL 10/15/23
SUE RITTER NORTON 7/30/23
BELLE DRYE PETKAS 9/12/23
ROBERT W. SHERRILL 9/12/23
ROBERT A. STEHLIN, SR. '73
 11/8/23 **PAUL C. VAN SLYKE**
 12/3/23

'69 **LYNVOL J. ARTHUR** 10/24/23
DON W. DURAN '72 8/18/23
DONALD H. PONDER 10/27/23

'70 **ELIZABETH A. ADKISSON**
 11/10/21 **SELMA LEYSHON**
HUGHES 8/28/23 **PATRICK N.**
MOORE 11/2/23 **MARC K. RIEKE**
 8/6/23 **WILLIAM E. TRANTHAM**
 11/2/23 **WILLIAM E. WATSON,**
JR. 2/20/21 **JOHN L. WEEKS**
 10/3/23 **DAVID A. WELCH**
 10/14/23 **SHENG M. YIN** 8/17/18

'71 **Dr. JAMES S. CRABBE** 7/30/23
WALTER K. HULSE 7/12/23
HARRY JEFFERSON, III 7/15/23
The Rev. Dr. RICHARD W.
JENKINS, JR. 11/24/22 **RUSSELL**
B. THORSTENBERG, JR. '73
 11/10/23 **The Rev. Dr. RICHARD**
F. VIETH 12/8/23 **Dr. WILLIAM**
F. WEBBER 8/18/23 **SHERRY**
CASTLE WHITLEY '75 9/27/23

Longtime supporter and chairman emeritus of Moody Foundation

Robert L. “Bobby” Moody, Sr., honored for his business acumen and love for his family, and for his lasting commitment and generosity across the state of Texas, passed away November 7, 2023, at the age of 88.

“We are saddened by the loss of Robert Moody, whose spirit and legacy will always be remembered within the SMU community,” said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. “He was highly respected, and his impact will be felt all over Texas. He will be missed.”

Known for his exceptional leadership, Moody was the grandson of W.L. Moody, Jr. and Libbie Shearn Moody, founders of the Moody Foundation. SMU and the Moody Foundation have celebrated a long partnership which has seen the creation of SMU facilities such as Fondren Science Building in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Owen Arts Center in Meadows School of the Arts and the renovated Moody Coliseum. In 2019, the foundation gifted SMU with \$100 million to build Frances Anne Moody Hall and establish the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies.

In addition to the foundation’s support of SMU, Moody’s ties to the University are numerous. He generously contributed his time to many initiatives and is a former member of the Dedman College Executive Board (1988-1991).

His daughter, Frances Anne Moody-Dahlberg '92, is a current SMU trustee. His mother, Frances Lambert Russell Moody, also attended SMU.

The contributions of Moody, of both his time and through the Moody Foundation, will have a lasting impact on the SMU community. 🐾



Former U.S. representative and dedicated public servant

Eddie Bernice Johnson '76, the first registered nurse elected to the U.S. House of Representatives who served Congress for 30 years, passed away on December 31, 2023.

"Eddie Bernice Johnson devoted her life of service to the people of North Texas," said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. "Her trailblazing leadership and advocacy will continue to have profound impact on SMU, Dallas and the surrounding community. She will truly be missed."

Born in Waco, Texas, Johnson graduated from SMU in 1976 with a Master of Public Administration. She was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1973. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Johnson as the regional director for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare – now the Department of Health and Human Services – and she was the first Black woman to serve in the role. Prior to her election to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served from 1993 until 2023, Johnson was elected to the Texas Senate in 1986.

As chair of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Johnson helped secure the CHIPS and Science Act, through which SMU has been designated the lead agency for the federally funded economic development initiative to strengthen the semiconductor supply chain in North Texas and Oklahoma.

SMU honored Johnson with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011 for her congressional service and in 2014, she was named a Black Alumni History Maker by Black Alumni for SMU. 🐾



'72 CARLA J. BISHOP 4/24/23
KAY HACHTEL BRASHEAR
7/19/23 Col. BRUCE F. EAKLE,
USAF, Ret. 10/30/23 SHERRIE
SONKIN MATYAS 8/23/23 KENT
C. ROGERS 9/22/23 THOMAS P.
SHACKELFORD 8/23/23 MARK G.
SNYDER 8/25/23

'73 BENJAMIN H. BEST, II
8/14/23 PAULA CHRISTIAN
DELZELL 10/28/23 NANCY
ACKER FLESHMAN 10/16/23
MARGARET FARNSWORTH
FONTEBASSO 8/14/23 DORIS
PARKS GONZALES 10/18/23
BETTY A. HOLT 11/26/23
JAMES A. MURPHY, II '76
10/5/23 ELIZABETH FOLEY
NELSON 7/27/23 WALTER G.
SHEFFIELD 7/13/23 PEGGI
STERLING SMOTHERMON
'79 8/20/23 DOROTHY LONG
SPRINKLE 7/6/23 DONNA ADAMS
VANDERWOUDE 7/14/23 DENISE
G. VAN SCHOYCK 7/8/23 ALAN E.
WHITEHEAD '76 8/11/23 JACK L.
ZOGG, SR. 12/7/23

'74 SUSAN LANE BUCKNER 10/24/23
JUDITH S. FULLER 6/26/23
SUSAN DRING GEE 9/12/23
ROBERT F. HUNTER, SR. 8/17/23
ROBERT F. MARIS 9/11/23 JOHN
H. PARMA 9/28/23 CATHY COOK
PHILLIPS 10/23/23

'75 THOMAS J. FADOIR 6/5/23 GARY
L. FINKBEINER 9/24/23 WALTER
J. HAAS 11/20/23 JOAN TURNER
LANHAM 11/15/23 HARRIET
MADELEY LINZ '76 11/5/23 Dr.
DOLORES VALADEZ MUÑOZ
8/19/23

'76 PATRICIA A. MENDENHALL '82
11/8/23 MARY CLENDENING

RAGSDALE 9/26/23

'77 Dr. GARY D. BOYD 8/9/23 HARRY
H. HARRISON, JR. 12/23/21
TIMOTHY G. QUINN 7/19/23
WYNNELL ROACH SCHRENK
7/25/23 CHARLES T. WILLIAMS,
JR. 10/15/23

'78 MARTIN E. BLACKMON, JR.
10/26/23 Dr. STACY N. BROUN
7/20/23 JANET M. HELLMICH
10/12/22 CLIFFORD W. JOHNSON
7/26/23

'79 DAVID R. CORMAK 7/27/23 The
Rev. JOE N. ROBINSON 8/15/23

'80 PATRICIA BLACKLEDGE BLIDE
1/21/22 JAMES F. CLARK 9/6/23
Bishop SUDARSHANA DEVADHAR
7/18/23 MICHAEL R. HOFFMAN
9/16/23 MONTGOMERY J.
KUKLENSKI 9/4/23

'81 JACK BARNETT 12/22/23 LEWIS
W. KREPS 11/2/23 JOHN W.
VINSON 8/29/23

'82 KATHRYN ANDERSON PORTER
7/13/23 KAREN GARDNER STOCK
10/5/23 LAURA A. TILL 9/25/23

'83 THAD T. DAMERIS 8/16/23
JAMES H. HEFNER, JR. '85 7/9/23
BOBBY J. NUNN 8/15/23 MARTHA
M. RUTLEDGE 9/18/23

'84 STEPHANIE D. DERUSHA-
BURLESON 9/24/23 MICHAEL
G. FARMAR 7/31/23 DORIS
TREVINO MULDOON 8/31/23
MARTIN R. PRYOR 12/2/23

'85 MARY L. ALLEN 9/28/23
WESLEY E. BANKSTON 7/12/23

CLOTHILDE PARKER CLOUD
11/29/23 The Rev. **LOIS GEIGER**
COOPER 12/11/23 **MICHAEL G.**
FOSTER 10/26/23

'86 ROBERT T. ANDERSON 8/18/23
The Rev. Dr. **RODNEY J. BOOKER**
11/22/23 The Rev. **VIRGINIA**
KINGSOLVER 8/12/23

'87 The Rev. **GEORGE D. DUNSON**
5/21/23 **RONALD L. SANDS**
7/12/23 **CLAIRE E. WILLIAMSON**
12/3/23

'88 GREGG S. GARRISON 3/12/23
KEVIN D. MCSPADDEN 1/17/22

'89 JOSH KENYON 3/27/23 **STEPHEN**
D. WOOD 10/22/20

'90 PHILIP M. DUDA, JR. 7/24/23
JEFFREY W. GEORGE 8/8/23
CHERYL DEWEY SMITH 8/1/23

'91 The Rev. **CYNTHIA BARNES**
JOHNSON 11/13/23 The Rev.
CYNTHIA K. REED 10/19/23
GREGORY B. ROOT 3/12/23

'92 CHIEN H. HSIEH 10/21/23
DOUGLAS B. WILDE 12/16/22

'94 WENDY ADAMS DOMINGUEZ
7/26/23 Dr. **JACQUELYN**
DONALD-MIMS 8/14/23 **BONNIE**
DE ROACH SUELFLOHN 8/4/23
The Rev. **JAMES M. TURLEY**
1/24/22

'95 The Rev. Dr. **SUE YEAGER WHITT**
11/11/23

'96 BRUCE S. DRYBURGH 12/1/23
ROGER N. REDDING 7/12/23

'97 RIO A. PUERTOLLANO 11/25/23
DAVID A. TROUGHT 9/5/23

'98 BRADLEY R. WATSON 11/9/23

'99 JOEL A. BLACK, III 11/22/23 Dr.
RONI DEAN BURREN 11/24/23
RICHARD E. MORRISON 8/28/23

'00 YUHANG ZHU 7/28/19

'01 HAAKON T. DONNELLY 7/15/23

'02 The Rev. **MIKE W. CLINE** 9/9/23

'03 The Rev. **BRENDA THOMAS**
LUCAS 12/5/21

'05 DOMINICK J. MARSALA 8/20/23
MICHAEL S. MAZEY 11/26/23

'08 The Rev. **WILLIAM M. RAMSEY**
7/26/21 Dr. **WILLIAM E.**
WESTERMANN 12/15/23

'09 JOHN E. GIBBONS 11/19/23

'10 The Rev. **DEBORAH A. GILES**
9/14/22 **BRADLEY B. STOUGH**
8/20/23

'11 MERRITT A. MILLIORN-MANNING
9/16/23

'13 The Rev. **TERRI J. PHILLIPS**
10/17/23

'18 AMANDA L. PAYNE 7/31/23

'19 The Rev. **LISA L. BOZEMAN**
8/2/23

'22 The Rev. **DANIEL SOLIZ** 8/15/22

Iconic Dallas photographer and friend of the University

James T. “Brad” Bradley, renowned SMU photographer and World War II veteran, known throughout Dallas and North Texas for over 70 years, passed away at the age of 101 on October 13, 2023.

“Brad was central to telling the story of our University’s history, and I cannot express with words the loss we feel at his passing,” said SMU President R.

Gerald Turner. “His incredible talent and visionary storytelling captivated millions of SMU alumni, Dallas residents and sports enthusiasts. His memory will live forever in the photographs he captured throughout his near-century career.”

Raised on a farm near Arlington, Texas, Bradley studied business at the University of Texas at Arlington before joining the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He married his sweetheart, Betty Laughead, in 1946. Needing assistance in his photography business, Bradley joined his father-in-law to jointly open Laughead Photography across from SMU.

Bradley attended his first college bowl game where he photographed legendary Mustang football player Doak Walker facing off against the Penn State Nittany Lions. Bradley became an intrinsic part of the history of SMU, Dallas and universities across Texas. To date, Bradley is the only photographer ever inducted into the Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame.

In 2019, the SMU Lettermen’s Association awarded Bradley with the Legends Award. He celebrated his 100th birthday in 2022 on SMU’s campus with a surprise event held in his honor. 🐾



SMU Community

The Rev. Dr. **CHARLES L. AARON, JR.** '85, adjunct professor, co-director of the intern program in the Perkins School of Theology, 11/29/23

H. BARRY BAILEY '51, member of the Board of Trustees from 1980–1996, and the Perkins School of Theology, Meadows School of the Arts, and SMU Libraries executive boards; and the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs committees; 1981 SMU Distinguished Alumni Award, 11/2/23

GLENN A. COX, JR. '51, member of the SMU Board of Trustees from 1988–96, member of the Perkins School of Theology and SMU Libraries executive boards and the Finance, Audit, and Buildings and Grounds committees, 9/29/23

LEE J. DANIS, donor with wife Pedie Oliver Bramblett Danis '95, 9/28/23

RICHARD G. HAYES '59, son of former SMU basketball coach E.O. "Doc" Hayes, 8/3/23

JAMES E. KOONS, associate vice president of Campus Planning and Plant Operations and University engineer, 12/13/23

WILLIAM F. MAY, founding director of the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility and the first Maguire University Chair of Ethics, 10/27/23

ELIZABETH JEANNE MILAZZO, GFCP facilitator at SMU Cox School of Business, former administrative assistant in the Academic Support area of the Cox School of Business, 11/8/23

LUCY V. TOTON, retired administrative assistant for distinguished chairholders, Cox School of Business, 11/1/23

ANDRÉ WINANDY, professor of French in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences; director of SMU-in-Paris and chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures; professor emeritus of French, 12/18/23

VOL. 74, NO. 2 SPRING 2024

Vice President for Development and External Affairs
Brad E. Cheves

Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications
Regina Moldovan

Executive Director, Creative Marketing
Emily Hughes Armour '98, '02, '22

Senior Editor
Sarah Bennett '11

Contributors
Jamie Abbott '03, **Laura Barrera**, **Kim Cobb** '20, **Logan Edwards**, **Stephen Fashoro**, **Nancy Lowell George** '79, '18, **Laura Graham** '17, **Katherine Hill** '05, **Chris Kelley**, **Shelly Kelley**, **Steven Craig Lindsey**, **Andrea Luttrell** '12, **Karalee Miller**, **Greg Ramirez**, **Ellen Rossetti**, **Erin Prather Stafford**, **Carol Taylor**, **Georgette Taylor**, **Monifa Thomas-Nguyen**, **Amanda Upton**, **Bindu Varghese**, **Gina Wang**, **Heather Zeiger**

Designers
Brooke Carlock, **Caitlyn Greene**

Photography
Kevin Gaddis, Jr., **Hillsman S. Jackson**, **Kim Leeson**, **Jeffrey McWhorter**, **Catherine Ramsey**, **Guy Rogers, III**, **Allison V. Smith**, **Kevin Todora**, **University Archives**, **Jennifer Crenshaw Urbano**

Printer
ColorDynamics

Copyright © Southern Methodist University 2024

SMU MAGAZINE is published by the Office of Marketing and Communications, Development and External Affairs, in fall and spring for alumni and other friends of SMU. The Office of Marketing and Communications retains the right to determine editorial and advertising content and manner of presentation. The opinions expressed in the magazine do not necessarily reflect official University policy. Letters to the editor and contributions to the Class Notes section are welcomed. Send correspondence to: Editor, *SMU Magazine*, Office of Marketing and Communications, PO Box 750174, Dallas TX 75275-0174; email: smumag@smu.edu.

Southern Methodist University (SMU) will not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, education activity, or admissions on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. SMU's commitment to equal opportunity includes nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. The Executive Director for Access and Equity/Title IX¹ Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies, including the prohibition of sex discrimination under Title IX. The Executive Director/Title IX Coordinator may be reached at the Perkins Administration Building, Room 204, 6425 Boaz Lane, Dallas, TX 75205, 214-768-3601, accesssequity@smu.edu. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX may also be directed to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.

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

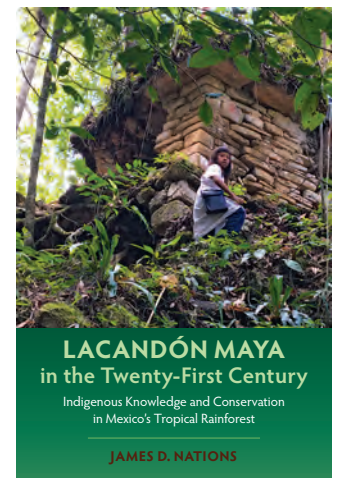
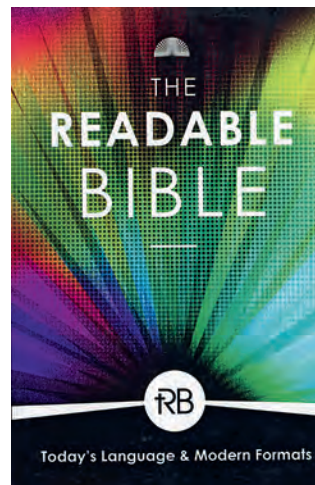
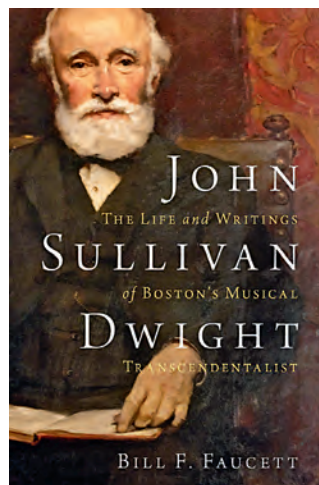
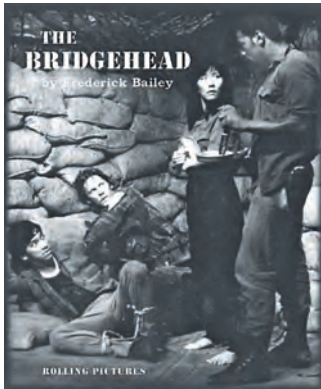
We need your help!

Upcoming SMU Magazine readership survey

We want to make sure *SMU Magazine* remains a compelling and relevant source of news, insight and stories about the Hilltop and our distinguished alumni. To do that, we need your input!

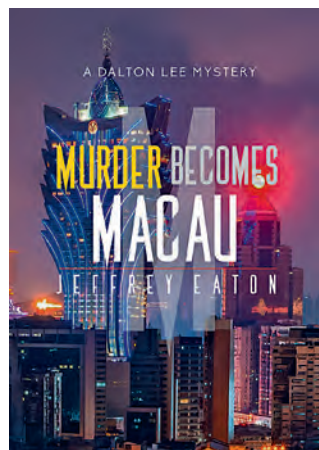
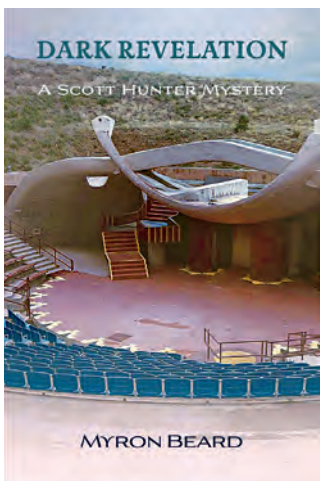
Our team is preparing to launch a comprehensive readership survey where you can share your thoughts, preferences and suggestions to help us tailor our content and better reflect our diverse alumni network. Thanks in advance for helping us share these stories of world changers. Pony Up!

Watch for the survey to hit your inbox this spring.



The download

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



John F. Bailey, II '67

The Bridgehead (Barnes & Noble Press, 2023). Available at [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com).

Myron Beard '68

Dark Revelation: A Scott Hunter Mystery (Sunstone Press, 2023). Available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Bill Faucett '87

John Sullivan Dwight: The Life and Writings of Boston's Musical Transcendentalist (Oxford University Press, 2023). Available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Jeff Herrington '77

Murder Becomes Macau – writing under the name Jeffrey Eaton (The Cornet Group, 2023). Available at online booksellers and at murderbecomes.com.

Rod Laughlin '64

Scripture, The Readable Bible (Iron Stream Media, 2022). Available anywhere books are sold.

Lisa Johnson Mitchell '82

So as Not to Die Alone (Finishing Line Press, 2024). Available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

James Nations '74, '79

Lacandón Maya in the Twenty-First Century: Indigenous Knowledge and Conservation in Mexico's Tropical Rainforest (University Press of Florida, 2023). Available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [target.com](https://www.target.com).

Shelly Wilfong '99

This Is Texas Wine podcast. Available everywhere you stream podcasts.

Gearing up for success

SMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR DAVID B. MILLER '72, '73 GIVES US A PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF THE ACC TRANSITION

Why is SMU a good fit for the ACC?

It's pretty common knowledge that we had serious engagement and discussions with three power conferences, but from the very beginning of the initiative, we said if we were ever so fortunate to have a choice, it would be the ACC. Think about being in the same fraternity, if you will, with so many high academic institutions like Duke, The University of Virginia, Notre Dame, North Carolina and Wake Forest. And then add in Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley. That's tall company, and it undoubtedly very significantly raises SMU's profile nationally.

What does this transition mean for you personally?

As I said at the press conference the day we were invited, we're back where we belong. SMU has a very deep and rich athletic history, and we're absolutely committed to compete successfully at the highest level. We belong in a power conference, and the ACC is a perfect fit for us.

I'll also share a personal note with you. Shortly after we received the invite, I got a call from President Bush. As always, his words were profound. After offering his congratulations, he said, "When history is written, this will be one of SMU's finest moments."



How does this move support academics as well as athletics?

I received calls and emails from the deans of every one of our schools following the ACC announcement, and their message was very consistent. The words that virtually every one of them used were "this is a game changer." And, they added, "Thank you for helping us attract higher quality students and higher quality faculty."

I've always said smart kids like sports, too! Look at all the great universities around the country, both public and private, that have outstanding athletic programs, including – by the way – virtually every school in the ACC.

As board chair, I'm asked frequently what my highest priority for SMU is. The answer, very simply, is for the University to continue its rapid ascent academically. And I would tell you that is the overarching goal for every member of our 42-person Board of Trustees. But at the same time, I want our athletic programs to be nationally prominent and something the SMU community can be proud of.

What are you most looking forward to as we switch to the ACC?

I'm looking forward to being back on the big stage. There was an absolute stigma attached to being in a so-called Group of Five conference as opposed

to a Power Five, now Power Four, conference. It was very challenging to attract the highest quality student-athletes who insist on playing on the big stage, and it was difficult to gain relevancy from a media standpoint.

Can you imagine what it's going to feel like to be in Moody Coliseum when Duke, North Carolina, UVA, Louisville and Syracuse come to Dallas? Or when Clemson, Notre Dame and Miami come to Ford Stadium? Truth be known, I'm excited about every team in the league.

What do you hope to see from alumni during this transition?

Once again, this is a game changer for the University. Or stated differently, it's a transformational opportunity to substantially elevate the stature and brand of SMU, not just athletically, but academically, as well.

The response of our alums and the entire SMU community has been overwhelmingly positive. The resounding success of our ACC Competitiveness Campaign, where we raised over \$100 million in a week, speaks loudly to the level of pride and excitement this has generated. But I must add one closing plea to our alums: It's imperative that we fill Ford Stadium and Moody Coliseum every game, so please buy season tickets. 🐮

THANK YOU

FOR EMPOWERING STUDENTS



*Your gift on SMU Giving Day powers a
brighter future. Donors like you show what
a difference a day can make.*

See the impact at smu.edu/givingday

