

JOIN US October 31-November 3, 2024

GOBIG AND COME

SMU HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND

BIG WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

October 31



SMU DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Recognizing extraordinary achievement, outstanding character and good citizenship

FRIDAY
November 1



CLASS REUNIONS

SMU Undergraduate Classes '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, '14, '19

COME BACK. GIVE BACK.

Support current students, faculty or programs that matter to you

saturday
November 2



HOMECOMING PARADE AND SMU ALUMNI & REUNION VILLAGE

Food, family activities and more

SMU MUSTANGS vs.
PITTSBURGH PANTHERS

Gerald J. Ford Stadium



A new era on the Hilltop

WITH OUR ENTRY INTO THE ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE, SMU LOOKS FORWARD TO AN EXCITING SEASON OF ATHLETICS AND PROMISING NEW OPPORTUNITIES ACADEMICALLY.

The start of a new academic year is always invigorating on the Hilltop. New opportunities – to learn, connect, and form lasting friendships – generate a sense of anticipation throughout campus and beyond. This fall is no different.

Adding to this term's excitement, in early September we will dedicate the Garry Weber End Zone Complex, the \$100 million expansion and improvement project at Gerald J. Ford Stadium. Constructed just in time for our first season in the Atlantic Coast Conference, this facility will further inspire our student-athletes to excel and create enduring memories for our Mustang fans.

To mark our aforementioned official entrance into the new conference, SMU alumni, students, parents, and supporters gathered on July 1 for a spirited celebration featuring mascots from each ACC institution, a live broadcast on the ACC Network, and the Dallas skyline illuminated in SMU colors. Whether you joined us in person or from afar, you can relive the day's excitement and explore our football schedule and exclusive alumni travel packages in this issue of SMU Magazine.

Athletic programs from the entire University are also gearing up for their first season in the ACC. Notably, Andy Enfield takes over as head coach of the men's basketball team with an impressive pedigree of success at University of Southern California. Women's sports highlights include the volleyball and golf teams building on their conference championships and the tennis team hosting the ITA National Team Indoor Championships in February. With recent successes in cross country and track and field, our Mustangs are poised for a strong year.

This month, we were delighted to welcome our first cohort of students into their new spaces at the David B. Miller Business Quadrangle, home of the Cox School of Business. This \$140 million renovation and expansion provides state-of-the-art facilities designed to nurture the next generation of business and community leaders.

As communicated before, the Spears Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership will hopefully drive future opportunities on campus for students like Maxime Blandin '17 and Dillon Baxter '20 who launched PlantSwitch with \$20 million in funding to produce bioplastic pellets from agricultural byproducts. Trevor Gicheru '25 introduced Nurovant AI, a widely lauded app simplifying lectures into summaries and quizzes. Jude Lugo '25 was awarded \$74,000 at SMU's Startup Launch Competition

for creating a tracking system that facilitates communication between students and faculty and streamlines attendance reporting.

More features in this edition include the newly opened Center for Digital and Human-Augmented Manufacturing in the Lyle School of Engineering, SMU-in-Taos' 50th anniversary, and the honorary degree awarded at May Commencement to Opal Lee, whose activism was instrumental in establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

With each new achievement and opportunity, we continue to expand the boundaries of what is possible, creating a vibrant and dynamic future for the SMU community.

R. GERALD TURNER
President

INSIDE





TIME TO RUN WILD

It's our first season in the ACC — get ready to support your Mustangs on the road and on the Boulevard.





TACKLING THROUGH TECH

These students and alumni are making the world a better place by putting their STEM skills to work.



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The Lyle School of Engineering's new Center for Digital and Human-Augmented Manufacturing combines research and industry.



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50 YEARS OF TAOS

As SMU-in-Taos celebrates its 50th anniversary, we're taking a look back at the campus' beginnings and how it's developed over the past several decades.

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Peruna's newest friends

his fellow ACC mascots —
came from far and wide to
celebrate our entry into the
conference on July 1.

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Welcoming community

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WATCHING THE SKIES

Thousands gathered on the SMU campus on April 8 to watch the total solar eclipse.

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FORMER UNIVERSITY PARK MAYOR AND SMU-IN-TAOS EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR ROY COFFEE, JR. REFLECTS ON THE HISTORY OF SMU, UNIVERSITY PARK AND TAOS, NEW MEXICO.

Tell us about your relationship with SMU.

My wife, Janis, and I have owned property in Taos since 1979. Gov. Bill Clements and his wife, Rita, became good friends because of our Taos connections. The governor gave me a tour of the SMU-in-Taos facilities, introduced me to the late Professor Fred Wendorf and told me his vision for the development of the property. Even though I was a University of Texas at Austin graduate, he selected me as a "preferred walk-on" and asked me to join the executive board. I've been on that board since 2003 and I became the chairman in 2010.

How do you view SMU's impact on Dallas?

It's one of the finest and most impactful universities in Dallas and in the country. It's also a part of one of the fastest-growing areas in the United States. With the expansion of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and the Cox School of Business David B. Miller Business Quadrangle, we're making an even bigger impact for years to come.

As SMU-in-Taos celebrates its 50th anniversary, how have you seen the Taos campus benefit SMU?

The late Professor Fred Wendorf found about 400 acres in the Pecos Wilderness area owned and operated by a lumber mill. The owner of the mill, Mr. Rounds, had heard that Fort Burgwin was located on his property. Wendorf rebuilt the fort. Gov. Clements was chairman of the Board of Trustees and recognized the importance of the property and purchased it for the University.

You've got the mountains and ponderosa pines at 7,500 feet altitude, which gives SMU students an opportunity to have a completely different atmosphere than where they study in Dallas.

University Park is also celebrating its centennial. As former mayor, how do you view the relationship between SMU and University Park?

I served on the Legacy Advisory Group and wrote the foreword for the Centennial Book. The history is that citizens of the surrounding area were told in 1924 that they had to look elsewhere for water and sewer service. They were turned down by Highland Park and Dallas. So, they incorporated with 540 acres that has now grown to 2,350 acres and celebrated its 100th anniversary in complete harmony with SMU. They named it University Park after SMU. By adding the George W. Bush Presidential Library, the campus has grown substantially. They've kept the Collegiate Georgian architecture, and it makes a beautiful part of University Park.

With a sound relationship between University Park and SMU, the area has grown into one of the finest places anywhere to live and raise a family.

What are you most looking forward to this academic year?

I want to increase the number of students taking advantage of the SMU-in-Taos campus. We've had a fabulous development of the facility: the William P. Clements, Jr. Great Hall; the dining hall; the chapel; and casitas for students and faculty. It's a fantastic place, and we have more improvements planned for the campus. I know of no other universities that have this type of satellite campus. We have money for scholarships through the SMUin-Taos Executive Board and the Clements Foundation and can give the students an experience that's really special.





Join us on the road!

Through a partnership with On Location, we're bringing you the best of each location's culture through curated packages.

Louisville, Kentucky

OCTOBER 4–6 \$695 per person

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Two-night accommodations at The Brown Hotel with concierge guest services; Friday Mustang Welcome Experience at Churchill Downs; ticket to SMU vs. Louisville game with official SMU Pregame Tailgate access and deluxe, round-trip gameday transportation. *Airfare not included



Bay Area, California

OCTOBER 18–20 \$715 per person

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Two-night accommodations at the Westin St. Francis San Francisco with concierge guest services; Friday Mustang Welcome Experience at Monticello Vineyards; ticket to SMU vs. Stanford game with official SMU Pregame Tailgate access and deluxe, round-trip gameday transportation. *Airfare not included



Durham, North Carolina

OCTOBER 25–27 \$745 per person

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Two-night accommodations at the 21c Museum Hotel Durham with concierge guest services; Friday Mustang Welcome Experience; ticket to SMU vs. Duke game with official SMU Pregame Tailgate access and deluxe, round-trip gameday transportation. *Airfare not included



Charlottesville, Virginia

NOVEMBER 22–24 \$795 per person

WHAT'S INCLUDED: Two-night accommodations at the Omni Charlottesville Hotel with concierge guest services; Friday Mustang Welcome Experience at the Jefferson Monticello; ticket to SMU vs. Virginia game with official SMU Pregame Tailgate access and deluxe, round-trip gameday transportation. *Airfare not included



To learn more, visit onlocationexp.com/college-sports/smu-mustangs

Andy Enfield shoots and scores

ENFIELD WILL LEAD THE MUSTANGS INTO THEIR FIRST SEASON IN THE ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE.

Riding the wave of new energy around SMU Athletics, Andy Enfield joins the Mustangs as head men's basketball coach ahead of the team's first season in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"Coach Enfield is enthusiastic about joining the Mustang family and the ACC," says SMU Director of Athletics Rick Hart. "He has a strong track record of building winning teams on the court and in the classroom and pursuing championships with integrity. We believe he is a game changer for SMU men's basketball."

A proven winner, Enfield burst onto the coaching scene in 2013 in his second year as head coach at Florida Gulf Coast when he led his team to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. Following that success, he led the University of Southern California to five of the last eight NCAA Tournaments, including a run to the Elite Eight in 2021.

"With the investments the University and its donors have made in support of SMU basketball, we are charging confidently into the ACC," says SMU President R. Gerald Turner. "With all that our campus and community have to offer, we believe we are well positioned to compete alongside the nation's best programs." Enfield arrived on the Hilltop just

three months before the University joined the ACC. He comes to SMU after 11 seasons at USC, where he compiled a 220-147 record and led the Trojans into the postseason six times in 10 possible seasons (the 2019-20 postseason was canceled due to COVID-19), including five NCAA Tournament berths and one NIT appearance. Over his final six seasons at USC, the Trojans had six players selected in the NBA draft.

"To have a chance to be



the head basketball coach at one of the finest institutions in America, at SMU, is an incredible honor for me," Enfield said before a packed crowd at his first SMU press conference on April 2. "We want to have tremendous success at Moody Coliseum and get our SMU community and the Dallas community to fill this place up. The incredible support and energy, the commitment to winning here and to go to the ACC is what drew me to this job."

Watch **smumustangs.com** for the 2024–2025 men's basketball schedule.

A LIFETIME OF IMPACT

by Nancy Lowell George '79, '18

She's known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," and on May 11, 2024, 97-year-old Opal Lee became a Mustang. Dressed in SMU's brilliant academic robes, Lee stood before thousands of SMU graduates and their families to receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from University President R. Gerald Turner and a standing ovation from the crowd.

retired teacher and lifelong activist, Lee – at age 89 in 2016 - walked more than 1,400 symbolic miles from Fort Worth, Texas, to Washington, D.C., as part of a campaign to convince lawmakers to designate Juneteenth as a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery after the Civil War. Juneteenth has been celebrated by African Americans since the late 1880s, recognizing the day enslaved Texans first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation, two and a half years after it was issued. She received the nation's highest honor for her efforts, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a few days before SMU's Commencement.

At an SMU honorary degree symposium, Lee encouraged the audience and moderator Candice Bledsoe to call her "Grandmother," and then she shared with guests the stories of her life, offering insight and challenges.

"You can be a committee of one to change somebody's mind," she said. "It's not going to happen in a day – you're going to have to work on it. But if people have been taught to hate, they can be taught to love – that's your responsibility."

Pamela Bailey, program coordinator in the Simmons School Center on Research and Evaluation, nominated Lee for the honor and served as her staff host. "Telling the truth and having difficult conversations can be healing," she said. "By bringing Juneteenth to the forefront, Opal Lee has chosen to be a healing agent as opposed to someone divisive."

At the symposium, Lee said her spirit of grace is inspired by her maternal grandparents. They cared for 19 children, she said, but still found time to help others.

After spending three days with Lee during Commencement festivities, faculty co-host Ashley Stone, clinical assistant professor of education Morning News editorial board, Fort Worth Inc.'s 2022 Person of the Year and was a 2022 Nobel Peace Prize nominee. In 2023, she became the second African American to be honored with a portrait in the Texas State Senate chamber.

Soon after receiving the SMU honorary degree, Lee left for speaking engagements in Japan.

"I'm just going to keep on walking and keep on talking," she said.

"...if people have been taught to hate, they can be taught to love..."

policy and leadership, found inspiration from Lee.

"The joy and happiness I saw when she received the

"The joy and happiness as when she received the honorary degree is the same joy I saw in every setting," Stone says. "She treated everyone with the same enthusiasm, turning the conversation to focus on them."

The recipient of seven honorary doctorates, Lee was named 2021 Texan of the Year by *The Dallas*

TOP OF THEIR GAME

by Sarah Bennett '11



SMU VOLLEYBALL

For the first time, you'll need a ticket to attend an SMU volleyball game. The 2023 American Athletic Conference champs will take on 2023 NCAA runner-up Nebraska on September 3 at 7 p.m. for their home opener.





WOMEN'S TENNIS

After winning their second straight AAC championship, the Mustangs will host the ITA National Team Indoor Championships in February and ACC conference matches in March and April.



ROWING

The Mustangs won their fourth-straight AAC championship this spring and went on to finish 21st in the NCAA championship.



CROSS COUNTRY

This team took home the 2023 Gerald Richey Invitational Championship and went on to place third in the AAC Championship.



WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Twelve student-athletes earned a spot on the AAC All-Conference team this year and captured six championship titles at the event, hosted at SMU's Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center.



TRACK AND FIELD

This summer, the Mustangs achieved their highest team placement at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship in 13 years.

In addition to men's AAC championships in football, soccer, tennis and swimming and diving, SMU women's sports are leaving the AAC on a high note and starting the next season at peak performance.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The back-to-back AAC champions finished 24th in the NCAA championships and finished out their season with five tournament titles.





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Mustangs take Europe! Women's basketball kicked off their season early during a 10-day trip to Greece and Croatia from August 3–13, where they played two games. Highlights included touring Athens, the Acropolis, the Adriatic Sea, Krka National Park, Split and taking part in a youth clinic in Dubrovnik.



WOMEN'S SOCCER

This team is ready for home matches against Texas, TCU, Baylor, Florida State, Stanford, Syracuse, Boston College and Wake Forest. Plus: Allie Thornton '19 returns to Dallas as she joins the newly founded Dallas Trinity FC.









EQUESTRIAN

This team took home its second consecutive national championship and is starting its season with a new head coach, Brad Kearns.

Visit **smumustangs.com** to keep an eye on all upcoming schedules.

Celebrating the *power of art*, inspiring creativity

by Shelly Kelley

n April 16, Stewart Copeland – founder and drummer of the iconic English rock band The Police – took the stage with the Meadows Symphony Orchestra at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center for the 31st annual Meadows at the Meyerson gala, leaving the audience spellbound. The seven-time Grammy Award-winning rock musician and composer delivered a captivating show titled *Police Deranged for Orchestra*.

The nearly sold-out event aimed to celebrate the transformative power of art and would not have been possible without the efforts of SMU Division of Music Director Thomas Keck, who played a pivotal role in bringing the necessary elements together.

"One of our professors mentioned that Stewart had worked at our institution 10 years ago on another project and that he still had his contact information," explains Keck. "It was the perfect convergence of these three factors: I was keen on it, the University was interested and we had Stewart's direct phone number."

Copeland's involvement was solidified with his reception of

the esteemed Meadows Award, at the concert by Samuel S. Holland, Algur H. Meadows Dean of the Meadows School of the Arts. Created in 1983, this award symbolizes artistic excellence and has been pivotal in nurturing partnerships with previous honorees, including choreographer Martha Graham, actress Angela Lansbury, contemporary music ensemble Eighth Blackbird and many others. The award provided Copeland with an on-campus residency, enabling

him to collaborate with and inspire current Meadows students, ensuring a lasting impact on the next generation of talent.

"Throughout his residency, Stewart not only rehearsed and performed but also actively engaged with our film composition, orchestration, arranging, entrepreneurship and production students," says Keck. "We facilitated an interactive town hall Q&A session where he and the moderator addressed inquiries from a diverse audience encompassing students, faculty, alumni and community members."

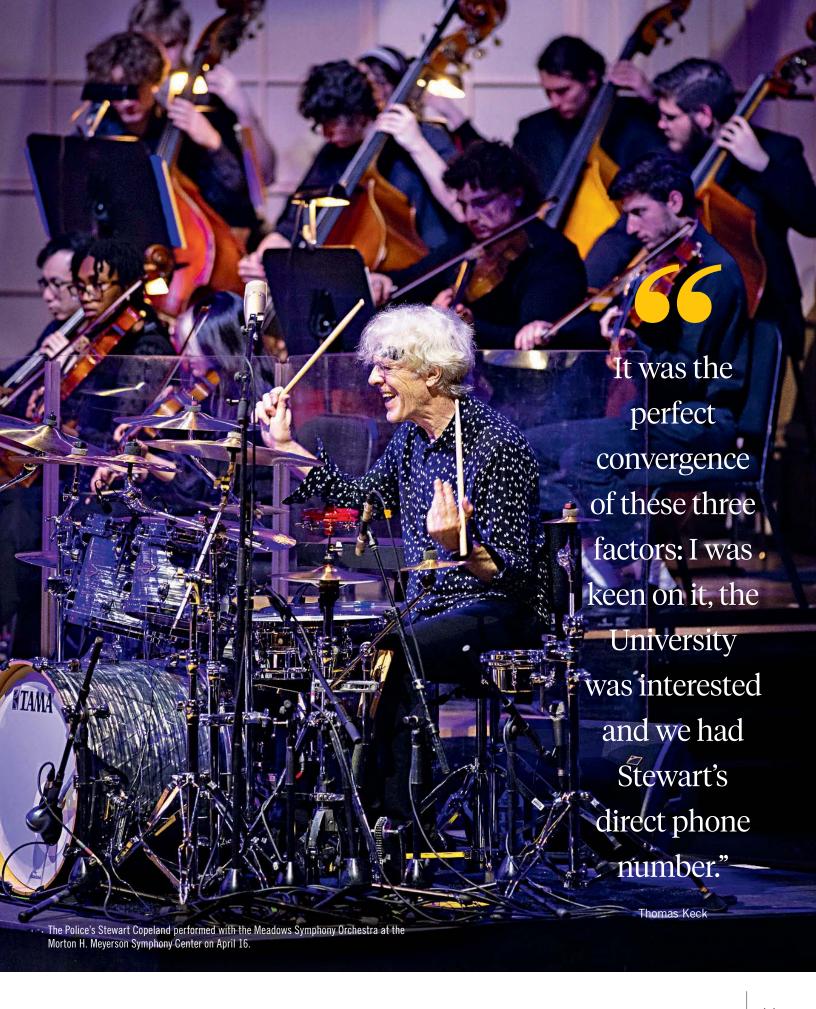
Featuring influential artists like Copeland showcases the Meadows School's dedication to fostering artistic excellence

and innovation. The proceeds from Meadows at the Meyerson support the Meadows Impact Scholarship Fund, a crucial initiative that aims to provide financial aid for students who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend SMU. By empowering the University to uplift and support talented students – especially those from underrepresented backgrounds – SMU's dynamic and innovative community will



continue to produce proactive changemakers who integrate art, entrepreneurship and social impact for a brighter future locally and globally.

"We successfully raised funds from generous donors and sponsors to support our newest Meadows Scholars," says Keck, who feels that even beyond division director, he is first and foremost a musician, and together with his students, they can create beautiful music.



Forging the future of business education

by Katherine Hill '05

SMU COX SCHOOL OF BUSINESS DEDICATES THE DAVID B. MILLER BUSINESS QUADRANGLE.

n May 3, SMU celebrated the dedication of the David B. Miller Business Quadrangle, home of the Edwin L. Cox School of Business.

The \$140 million project increases the school's footprint by 32% and provides the facilities needed to prepare students for an ever more collaborative and technologically integrated world.

"We have completely reimagined the way our classrooms work, the sizes of our classrooms and the way our classrooms allow for team building," says Matthew B. Myers, dean of the Edwin L. Cox School of Business, Tolleson Chair in Business Leadership and David B. Miller Endowed Professor in Business. "We want to make sure our graduates are ready the first day on the job. Our new alumni won't have to learn to work; they will already know how to work because we've taught them inside the educational arena at Cox."

The David B. Miller Business Quadrangle, the principal name for the renovated and expanded facilities, encompasses the existing Fincher, Crow and Maguire buildings; The enhancement of the Cox School of Business facilities shows that we're serious about business education for the long-term future."

SMU President R. Gerald Turner





OPPOSITE PAGE: The ribbon cutting on May 3. THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Provost Elizabeth G. Loboa, SMU President
Dr. R. Gerald Turner, Board of Trustees Chair
David B. Miller '72, '73, Cox Executive Board
Chair Tucker S. Bridwell '73, '74, Cox School
of Business Dean Matthew B. Myers, Board of
Trustees Vice Chair Rich Templeton, Senior Vice
President for Development and External Affairs
Brad Cheves; the quadrangle; the crowd in
Armstrong Fieldhouse.



the new Bolin-Bridwell, Shaddock, Sheffield and Southeast halls; and the new outdoor Katy and Kyle D. Miller Courtyard.

"The enhancement of the Cox School of Business facilities shows that we're serious about business education for the long-term future," says R. Gerald Turner, SMU president. "We thank David and Carolyn Miller and our other generous donors for their commitment that benefits the Cox School and also makes a positive impact on the University and North Texas."

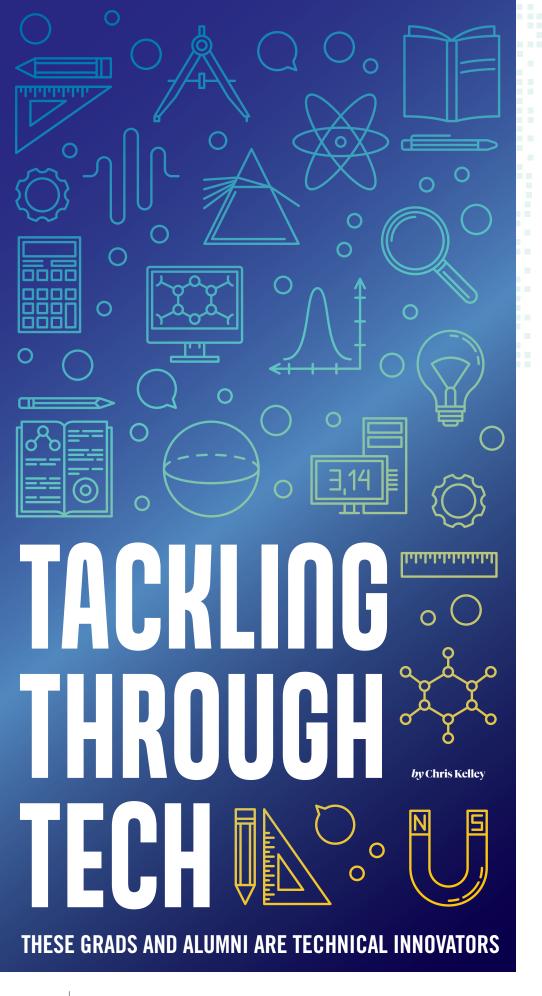
Carolyn Miller and David B. Miller '72, '73, co-founder of EnCap



Investments LP and SMU Board of Trustees chair, helped launch the renovation and expansion project as part of a \$50 million gift in 2019. Nearly 60 donors have made principal gifts of \$1 million or more toward the project and nearly 300 other alumni and supporters have joined the milestone endeavor.

"The Cox School of Business is committed to excellence, and we are

excited that so many have chosen to invest in the future of the school by advancing the education of future business leaders at SMU and across North Texas," says David Miller.







Nurovant

Trevor Gicheru '25 is an SMU computer science major who

has turned a challenging academic situation into a business startup that is winning awards, raising funds and attracting new users. While taking biology at SMU, Gicheru found himself struggling to keep up with lectures. He tried recording them but found that it took too much time to rewatch and absorb what the professor was teaching. He had an idea: What if you could use AI to condense lecture material into digestible bits to save time and make studying easier? His idea came to life in Nurovant AI, an innovative learning app that turns recorded lectures - up to 90 minutes in length - into digestible summaries, flash cards and guizzes. Hundreds of SMU students are already integrating Nurovant Al into their university experience and singing the app's praises. Gicheru believes his app could also improve learning outcomes for students with dysgraphia, a neurological condition that inhibits a person's ability to write down what they are thinking.

"I want to take this startup as far as I can,"
Gicheru says. "I'd like to see it acquired by a big
company that can put it into as many schools
as possible to help as many students as it can.
I'd like to have both a student-facing version
and a school-facing version. I've been talking to
investors and some engineers to help with coding,
and I'm looking forward to seeing where this can
go in the future."





After four years of fits, starts and start-overs, the innovative PlantSwitch, co-founded by Maxime Blandin '17 and Dillon Baxter '20, may have hit the

bioplastics jackpot. The dynamic duo are former SMU men's golf teammates who spent their first few years leading PlantSwitch through a trial-and-error development process to find novel alternatives to single-use plastic products. Through painstaking effort, they found a market-competitive method of turning plant waste into bioplastic pellets. Nearly \$20 million in financial backing has rolled into the

young company's coffers to help fund a massive facility under construction in Sanford, North Carolina, that will turn the nation's agricultural byproducts such as wheat straw and rice husks - into 50 million pounds of plant-based plastic each year. A multimillion-dollar grant from the USDA will provide regional hemp farmers and PlantSwitch a mutually beneficial arrangement that will set the company up for long-term success. For their innovative work. Baxter and Blandin landed in the latest Forbes' 30 Under 30 list. "The singleuse plastic industry is very, very big - way bigger than we anticipated, to be honest with you," says Blandin. "The key is to come out with as many products as we can over the next six months to a year and turning every single plastic out there into our technology and making it compostable and widely available."



LectureLogger

College life provides a level of freedom that causes some students to lose track of their classes and attendance and ultimately fall through the cracks. Jude Lugo '25, an SMU management major,

recognized the problem when he tried to keep track of his own absences and determine which ones were and were not excused. He came up with the idea for LectureLogger — a comprehensive attendance tracking system that gives students and faculty a common portal to see who's missing class and who's falling behind. Lugo first presented his idea at SMU's Big iDeas pitch contest and later won over \$74,000 in prize money as the first-place winner at the SMU Startup Launch Competition. Administrators are now finding ways to incorporate LectureLogger into the classroom experience and already noticing improvements in student engagement. The app provides a feature that facilitates student-professor communication and uses a dynamic QR code system that streamlines attendance reporting. About 84% of students have reported that they are more likely to attend classes when using LectureLogger.

"It started out, for me, just seeing my professor struggle with attendance," says Lugo, who also serves as student representative to the SMU Board of Trustees. "I saw it was taking up a lot of their time, and it was hard for me to keep up with attendance because of all my extracurriculars. It was a problem to solve for both parties." Today, Lugo sees LectureLogger as an "opportunity to really help students succeed in a larger sense."



SMU's ACC designation means more than just athletics

MASON MORLAND '24 AND RALEIGH DEWAN '23 COMPETED IN THE ACC INVENTURE PRIZE.

hen most people hear
Atlantic Coast Conference
or "ACC," their minds go straight to
the basketball court or football field.
However, SMU's recent inclusion
in the ACC offers Mustangs with
opportunities to compete in more
than just athletics. This spring, Mason
Morland '24 and his business partner,
Raleigh Dewan '23, were the first team
to represent SMU in the ACC InVenture
competition held at Florida State
University.

The ACC Inventure Prize allows students to pitch their innovative business ideas to a panel of judges for prizes of \$30,000 and to interact with fellow undergraduate entrepreneurs from across the conference, forming business contacts and friendships. "It was a fantastic experience," says Morland. "There was a lot of camaraderie. Every time I introduced

myself, people would say, 'How does it feel to join the ACC?' There was this cool element to being a newcomer to the group."

Morland and Dewan met in a finance class, where Dewan enlisted Morland to join his burgeoning business, SteadiSpoon, a utensil designed for Parkinson's patients to make eating easier despite the debilitating tremors that come with the disease. The duo pitched their project at SMU's Big iDeas entrepreneurship program, after which Jennifer Ebinger, senior director at SMU's Office of Engaged Learning, encouraged them to enter the competition for the ACC InVenture Prize.

Morland says he felt "a bit like an outsider" at first, given SMU's new inclusion in the ACC Conference: "But everyone was so welcoming. The ACC has a lot of impressive academic



institutions, which is not always the case for conferences based on sports, so it was cool to see how everyone there was just highly intelligent and very motivated, and they all had such interesting ideas of their own."

Though they didn't take home the grand prize, the conference offered the SteadiSpoon team other rewards. "It's common for college business founders to feel very isolated," says Morland. "There are certain sacrifices you make in terms of social life and even academics at some points to really work on a business while you are in college. The ability to see other people going through that same struggle was so inspiring. It was a motivator to keep pushing forward, to know other people are trying to do the same thing."

-Andrea Luttrell '12

Texas titans inducted into Hall of Fame

Outstanding Texas business leaders Michael M. Boone '63, '67 and David B. Miller '72, '73 were recognized for their positive achievements in Texas and inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2024 for their contributions in both business and community.

Boone, co-founder of the law firm of Haynes and Boone and former chair of the SMU Board of Trustees, is well known for his devotion to the SMU community and his passion for advancing educational improvements.

Miller, co-founder and managing partner of EnCap Investments LP and current chair of the SMU Board of Trustees, has been instrumental in SMU's move to the Atlantic Coast Conference, spending countless hours promoting and advocating on behalf of the University.

"Their servant leadership is the distinction of this award and what makes the honor so special — the combination of transformational economic impact and the wanting to use that impact to make the world better," says David S. Huntley '80, chairman of the board of Texas Business Hall of Fame. —Katherine Hill '05



Inspiring a generation

Megha and Nirav Tolia put their entrepreneurial and executive expertise to work in a new way.

Intrepreneurs Megha and Nirav
Tolia joined the SMU community
in September 2023 as co-founding
directors of the William S. Spears
Institute for Entrepreneurial
Leadership in SMU's Cox School of
Business, which focuses on equipping
students and faculty to invest in new
ventures and startups.

Megha Tolia is president and COO of television production company Shondaland, founded by Hollywood showrunner and storyteller Shonda Rhimes, creator of Grey's Anatomy, Scandal and Bridgerton.

Nirav Tolia is cofounder and CEO of neighborhood social networking service Nextdoor, the world's largest local social networking service.

In their new role, the couple work

in collaboration with managing director Joshua Taylor and cofounder and benefactor William S. Spears, who describes the three as the "trifecta of strategy-minded, entrepreneurial leaders."

In addition to heading up the Spears Institute, the couple gave the keynote address to more than 3,000 SMU graduates at May Commencement. In it, they stressed the power of community in both their professional and personal lives.

They summed up their speech with these thoughts: Stand on the shoulders of giants. Treat life like a jungle gym, not a ladder. Build community, because together we can do anything.

-Heather Zeiger and Nancy Lowell George '79, '18



Spears Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership welcomes new managing director Joshua Taylor

In March 2024, Joshua Taylor joined SMU Cox School of Business as the managing director of the William S. Spears Institute

for Entrepreneurial Leadership. Taylor brings 20 years of experience as a strategy consultant and in leadership roles for Fortune 500

and startup organizations. Relevant to the work of the Spears Institute, he has worked closely with entrepreneurs as a corporate venture lead and an advisory

The Spears Institute is part the Innovation Triad of entrepreneurial institutes at the Cox School of Business and focuses on equipping students and SMU faculty to invest in new ventures and startups. Corporate ventures, where businesses invest in startups, are a key driver for developing new ideas and seeing new research come to fruition. Taylor's experience in this area, as well as his time as a mentor in SMU Cox's Unbridled Venture project, makes him a natural choice for heading the Spears Institute.

Taylor says he is excited about working with SMU students, faculty and the broader community to foster the acceleration of entrepreneurial spirit, new innovation and venture creation and economic growth in the North Texas region. –Heather Zeiger





This talented playwright received his B.F.A. in theatre studies in 2000. He had the privilege of premiering the Drama Desk Award-nominated Spaceman (written under the pseudonym Leegrid Stevens) in New York with his wife, Erin Treadway '00, starring in the production. Since that debut, the play has been translated into German, staged in Switzerland and made its regional premiere at the Amphibian Stage in Fort Worth, Texas, last year. In addition to his writing career, Gridley works as a sound designer, composer and director, while simultaneously working as an investment group assistant at Capital Group Companies.

"SMU gave me the knowledge and access to do theater on my own," he says. "It allowed me to make my own opportunities."

Since his *Spaceman* days, he staged a show called *War Dreamer* and has a synthwave musical titled *The Trojans* set to open in Manhattan in spring 2025.



Founded in 1990 by five graduates of the M.F.A. theatre program, Kitchen Dog Theater has continued the tradition of SMU alums at the helm. The artistic integrity instilled in each student guided their approach and led the quintet to stay in Dallas after graduation to broaden the local creative community.

Today, Tina Parker and Tim Johnson, who both graduated a year after the theater company's founding, have settled into leadership roles and have worked together since the beginning.

"[The founders] brought me in to direct Howard Brenton's *Sore Throats* in 1993, and I cast Tina in the show. It was the first KDT show for both of us," Johnson says.

"I think it was important to me to keep the way we work at KDT alive, which is so deeply steeped in the training we received at SMU as grads and undergrads, as part of our ongoing legacy," Parker says. "Our mission statement is the same as when the company was founded 34 years ago and is still our touchstone when making artistic decisions today."

LAURA GALT '91 Founder and CEO, Galt & Co.

Anyone working in theater likely dreams of one day crossing the stage to accept Broadway's most prestigious honor. And for SMU alum Laura Galt, that dream came true on June 16, 2024.

"Winning a Tony Award is a dream come true," she says, acknowledging the recent best musical win of *The Outsiders* musical for which she served as co-producer. "Broadway has been something

I have aspired to since the age of 12, so winning a Tony is the ultimate reward for years of keeping a goal in sight, fortitude and overcoming obstacles."

Galt & Co. is a theatrical and film production company that coordinates all aspects of production with creatives and companies. Galt is also a speech-language pathologist, so she provides voice, diction, dialect coaching and accent modification for people and professionals who speak English as a second language.

Galt says SMU set her up for success by providing her with a breadth of experiences. Currently, her daughter, Campbell Snavely '25, enjoys those same educational benefits while also working at Galt & Co. to form a powerful new mother-daughter team.

Pushing boundaries of digital innovation



The future of manufacturing is based on human-machine collaboration.

That's what Nader Jalili, Mary and Richard Templeton Dean of SMU Lyle School of Engineering, has spent his academic career exploring through research on automation, human-robot integration and augmentation.

His vision for engineering education at SMU Lyle is guided by one key question: As machines rapidly evolve into intelligent systems, how do we prepare an intelligent workforce to collaboratively work alongside them?

"The future of manufacturing is not about replacing workers with robots," Jalili says. "Instead, we should view this challenge as an opportunity and elevate workers with the tools and technology they will need to work collaboratively with machines. That is what human-augmented means."

To empower the next generation of engineers, a new, one-of-a-kind center is now open at SMU Lyle in the J. Lindsay Embrey building to help students, researchers and industry partners redefine the traditional boundaries of manufacturing.

The 5,000-square-foot Center for Digital and Human-Augmented Manufacturing, which opened in April, will explore how digital modeling, simulations, augmented reality, robotics, automation and artificial intelligence will shape the future of engineering and Industry 4.0.

THIS PAGE, FROM LEFT: The 5,000 square-foot facility opened in April; A mechanical engineering Ph.D. student works with a co-bot. OPPOSITE PAGE: The center allows students, researchers and industry partners to explore digital modeling, simulations, augmented reality, robotics, automation and artificial intelligence.

Uniquely positioned for research innovation

When Jalili joined SMU in the spring of 2023, he realized SMU Lyle needed more room for growth with experimental manufacturing.

Previously, he led the creation of the Alabama Initiative on Manufacturing Development and Education at The University of Alabama, designed to better prepare future highly skilled workers and guide research on automation, human-robot collaboration and augmentation.

The new center at SMU Lyle has similar objectives and leverages one of the top three high-performance computing clusters in the Southeast to create a virtual, digital twin concept.



"You build a digital model in virtual reality and start experimenting in your imagination," Jalili says. "This is now becoming a trend in many industries – aerospace, manufacturing, health care and others."

Digital twins: a competitive edge for students

Computer science major David
Berberian '25 isn't taking any
chances with his team's design for
the Spaceport America Cup in New

Mexico this year. The last time SMU's Mustang Rocketry club entered the competition, hopes for their rocket prototype came crashing down around them – literally. An error during assembly caused the design to fail.

A digital model and checklist of each rocket component will overlay their physical model through



augmented reality goggles during assembly, ensuring quality control that will allow the team to seamlessly train new members on how to build their design.

Digital twins are virtual models of objects, systems or processes that can be used to tweak variables

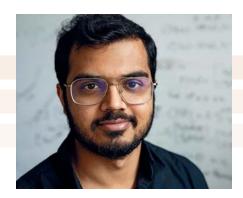
and study the effects – all without the cost of experimenting in the real world. By fusing together AI and machine learning with virtual and augmented reality, engineers can optimize processes, simulate assembly and testing, and account for every last screw in their physical design.

This is where the future of manufacturing is headed and how SMU Lyle engineering students will be prepared to lead the way.

SOARING AHEAD

by Sarah Bennett '11

See how our faculty honors and research endeavors keep us at the top of the class.



Digvijay Boob
Operations Research and Engineering Management,
Lyle School of Engineering
CAREER Award by the National Science Foundation



J.-C. Chiao

Electrical and Computer Engineering,
Lyle School of Engineering

National Academy of Inventors Fellow



MinJun Kim

Mechanical Engineering, Lyle School of Engineering

American Institute for Medical and Biological

Engineering Fellow



Carla L. Reyes
Law, Dedman School of Law
American Law Institute Member



Jeffrey Engel
History, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences
Fulbright Diplomatic Academy Visiting Professor of
International Studies



Xi Wang
Music, Meadows School of the Arts
Guggenheim Fellow



Zhen Zhang
Management and Organizations, Cox School of Business
American Psychological Association Fellow



Anna Lovatt
Art History, Meadows School of the Arts
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer
Stipend Recipient



Gordon Law
Advertising, Meadows School of the Arts
American Advertising Federation Southwest Advertising
Hall of Fame Inductee



SMU team explores earthquake detection



Time watching videos can stunt toddler language

A new study by SMU psychologist Sarah Kucker and colleagues reveals that passive video use in toddlers can negatively affect language development – but it depends on usage.

To stay up to date with more research news, visit **smu.edu/research**.



Experiencing nature can help you make better food choices

A paper by SMU Cox marketing professor Maria Langlois suggests that exposure to nature helps drive people to make healthier food choices.



DFW educators gather at Texoma Semiconductor Tech Hub event

Industry leaders discussed curriculum development and plans for high-paying chip industry jobs at the event, co-hosted by SMU and Jarvis Christian University.



SMU and Thomson Reuters host Human Trafficking Data Conference

More than 100 law enforcement agents, nonprofit organizations, government officials, researchers, data scientists and others attended the first-of-its-kind event in June.



Continum profess took a Cowboy Globe Life Field As sports fanatics themselves, the ACC mascots had to start with a tour of the Texas Rangers' home at Globe Life Field in Arlington. The lucky fans even got a sneak peek at the Commissioner's Trophy.

AT&T Stadium

Continuing their tour of Dallas-area professional sports, the mascot squad then took a peek into the home of the Dallas Cowboys, AT&T Stadium. Touchdown!





Dallas, Peruna took his friends up to Reunion Tower to survey the

city from above.



ise; Mr. Wuf, NC State; Louie the Cardinal, Louisville; Blue Devil, Duke; Demon Deacon, Wake Forest; Peruna, SMU; Oski the Bear, Cal; Buzz, Georgia Tech; Sebastian the Ibis, Miami; The Tiger, Clemson; and Seminoles, Florida State



Pegasus Park

Just before the city skyline lit up in a celebratory red and blue, Peruna took the crew downtown to Pegasus Park for the day's final photo op.



Happiest Hour

Peruna and the gang cooled off and celebrated with 900 of their closest friends at Happiest Hour downtown. Thanks to those of you who attended!



and Fondren Library.



Watching the skies

by Erin Prather Stafford

People started gathering before noon on April 8 throughout the SMU campus to view the total solar eclipse. The predicted cloud cover was easing up, and the sun was starting to push through with moments of brilliant intensity.

The moon began moving in front of the sun at 12:23 p.m., and each time the clouds broke, cheers erupted.

When the moon slid completely across the face of the sun at 1:40 p.m., dropping the campus into sudden and near-total darkness, it was nothing short of stunning. Shouts and whoops went up across the crowd, with tears staining many of the upturned faces.



Rock solid evidence

n SMU-led team of researchers
has published a paper in The
Geological Society of London's Special
Publications demonstrating how
ancient rock formations along the
Angolan coast – along with the fossils
of extinct marine animals within



those formations – provide one of the most complete geological records of South America splitting from Africa and the formation of the southern Atlantic Ocean.

The team was led by Louis L. Jacobs, SMU professor emeritus of earth sciences and president of the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man (ISEM); lead author of the paper, Michael J. Polcyn, research associate in the SMU Huffington

Department of Earth Sciences and senior research fellow at ISEM; and Diana P. Vineyard, SMU research associate with ISEM. They began conducting research in the region in 2005 as part of Projecto PaleoAngola, an international paleontology consortium lead and organized by SMU.

"There are places you can go to in South America where you

can see this part of the split or that part of it, but in Angola, it's all laid out in one place," says Jacobs.

Previous research relied on piecing together the sequence of events that

occurred as the two landmasses split, often looking at ocean floor core-well analyses and geophysics models. Angola's Namibe region is unique because it provides a geological timeline of events dating back from 130 to 70 million years ago, and it is accessible to anyone who wants to study it.

"It's one thing for a geophysicist to be able to look at seismic data and make inferences from that," Polcyn says. "It's quite another thing to be able to take a school field trip out to the rock formations, or outcrops, and say this is when the lava was spreading from eastern South America. Or this was when it was a continuous land."

Several of the fossils have been on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and were part of the Smithsonian's traveling exhibits. In November, the exhibit will return to Angola. –Heather Zeiger

Artifact could be linked to Spanish explorer Coronado's expedition across Texas Panhandle

It's a small piece of obsidian, just over five centimeters long, likely found on a hardscrabble piece of ranchland in the Texas

Panhandle. But when SMU anthropologist Matthew Boulanger looks at it, he gets a mental image of Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado making his way across the plains more than 470 years ago in search of a fabled city of gold.

Boulanger believes that the flaked-stone tool with its sharp edge was likely dropped by a member of Coronado's expedition, which included people indigenous to Mexico, as they trekked across parts of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and Kansas. His theory is backed by spectrometer analysis of the blade's chemical composition, which ties it to Central Mexico's Sierra de Pachuca mountain range, where indigenous people used obsidian to produce cutting tools until the Spanish conquest.

"This small unassuming artifact fits all of the requirements for convincing evidence of a Coronado presence in the Texas Panhandle," says Boulanger. "It is the correct form of artifact, it is fully consistent with other finds, the correct material, found in the correct location, and there are no indications of an intentional hoax."

Boulanger, director of the Archaeology Research Collections in SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, published his findings in the *Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society* with coauthor Charlene Erwin. –*Erin Prather Stafford*



LAUNCHING LEGAL OPPORTUNITIES

SMU Dedman School of Law is looking to the future with a vital scholarship challenge fueled by the generosity of The Dedman Foundation.

The Dedman Law Centennial Scholarship Challenge will make an SMU legal education even more attractive and feasible for bright students from across the country. Donors to the initiative will strengthen the law school's ability to offer financial aid packages that are competitive with other highly ranked schools, particularly for students with exceptional educational achievements and test scores.

Made possible by a reimagined distribution of The Dedman Foundation's 2001 gift that named the law school, the innovative program seeks gifts of \$100,000



or more through May
31, 2026. Once fulfilled,
these commitments will
be matched in amount to
create a permanent endowed
scholarship in the donor's
name to extend their impact
on future students in
perpetuity.

"SMU Dedman School of Law plays a vital role in training future legal

experts who work in influential positions around the world. Many choose to stay, contribute to the thriving economy in Dallas and become leaders in our community," says Robert H. Dedman, Jr. '80, '84, SMU trustee and president of The Dedman Foundation. "We encourage others to join us in this drive to invest strategically in the future of a singular institution and the legal minds it shapes."

Throughout its century of training legal minds, the Dedman School of Law has offered distinctive programming, renowned legal journals, pro bono legal clinics, and unique learning and networking opportunities. The first law school in the city of Dallas was founded at SMU in 1925 and was the only such institution in the city until 2014. In 2001, the school was renamed the Dedman School of Law in recognition of benefactors Nancy McMillan Dedman '50 and Robert H. Dedman, Sr. '53 and their family.

Donors to the Dedman Law Centennial Scholarship Challenge will further elevate the standing of this historic law school and its offerings by attracting future leaders who will make vital contributions to law, business, politics, international affairs, public interest and more. – *Amanda Upton*

Excelling in rank

The Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Dedman School of Law and Cox School of Business rank in the top 50 for 2024.

Three SMU graduate schools are listed among the top 50 graduate schools in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2024 Best Graduate Schools.

The Simmons School of Education and Human Development moved up one spot to No. 48 of 255 — placing it among the top 19% of participating public and private graduate schools of education around the country. Simmons maintains the No. 11 spot among all private universities on the list.

Dedman School of Law moved up three spots to No. 42 of 196 of law schools ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*. That position among the top 21% of law schools reflects the school's success in employment outcomes, including placement at top law firms and prestigious judicial clerkships.

The **Cox School of Business** full-time MBA ranks No. 34 out of 124 — in the top 27% of such programs — and continues to boast record-breaking outcomes for its graduates, including job placement and average base salary.

"Our faculty and staff are highly motivated to support outcomes and success for our students in these graduate programs," says Elizabeth G. Loboa, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

-Kim Cobb '20

SMU-IN-TAOS

celebrates 50th Anniversory

by Karalee Miller

From ruins to reconstruction

While working for the Museum of New Mexico in 1956, noted archaeologist Fred Wendorf was enlisted to locate the pre-Civil War Fort Burgwin, also known as Cantonment Burgwin, a military base approximately 10 miles from Taos, New Mexico. After finding the buried ruins, Wendorf oversaw the site's intensive excavation and reconstruction, transforming it into a research center.

In 1964, Wendorf joined SMU, establishing the Anthropology Department. That same year, SMU began acquiring the Fort Burgwin property, the merger spurred by the involvement and interest of former Texas Gov. William P. Clements, Jr., then chair of the SMU Board of Governors.

"It was Fred joining the SMU faculty that got all of this in motion," says David Lee, assistant vice president for curricular operations and strategy.

"But Gov. Clements helped secure the property for SMU."

The northern New Mexico campus held its first classes during the summer of 1973.

"For almost half the life of the University, SMU-in-Taos has been a part of the SMU experience," Lee says. "As a specialized satellite campus, 50 years is a tremendous legacy."

After four decades on SMU's faculty, Wendorf retired in 2003. He died in 2015 at the age of 90.

Enhancements foster enriched experiences

Nestled in the Sangre de Cristo
Mountains and surrounded by the
Carson National Forest, the SMUin-Taos campus is situated on 423
acres and includes 31 buildings. Over
the past 50 years, the campus has
leveraged its "classroom without
walls" philosophy by expanding both
in land and facilities.

For example, the Fred Wendorf Information Commons and the campus' library opened in 2004. Five years later marked the dedication of Casita Clements, a 3,350-square-foot residential student facility. It became the first commercial or institutional building in the Taos area to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification for sustainable, environmentally responsible construction.

Centrally located is the Carolyn and David Miller Campus Center,



CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE PAGE: a view of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains; the Taos Pueblo Cemetery; participants enjoy time to explore the town; beautiful flora of Taos; a participant in the Taos Cultural Institute.







dedicated in 2015, which includes a great hall accommodating up to 100 guests, seminar rooms, classrooms, plazas and deep porches. Upcoming plans center on renovating the dining hall, for which early artist renderings have been completed.

Breathtaking backdrop yields immersive learning

SMU-in-Taos offers small class sizes, nurturing engagement and connection for all undergraduate courses. Lee says between 90 to 100 students typically take one class per term; two-week terms are held in January, May and August.

"We are working to add new programs in the future to expand student opportunities," he says.

Each term, students connect with the local community by participating in field trips, for example, to notable sites such as Picuris Pueblo, Earthships and Chimayó in Santa Fe.

In addition to for-credit courses

for students, the annual SMU-in-Taos Cultural Institute provides a summer weekend of informal classes taught by SMU faculty members for nonstudents. The four-day event offers courses on a variety of subjects, from local cuisine to the history of the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos.

"Most universities don't have anything like this to offer," Lee says. "When we look back on this legacy, we see what an important part SMUin-Taos plays in the identity of the University - how it sets us apart to have a place like this."



How sweet the sound

A historic organ finds a new home in Perkins Chapel after water damage prompted the search for a new instrument.

Visitors to SMU's Perkins Chapel may notice a different sound the next time they sit in a pew.

Back in 2018, a steam leak caused damage to the chapel as well as its organ. A search began for the perfect replacement, resulting in the acquisition of a 1927 E.M. Skinner

organ, Opus 563, which had been in possession of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan – a denomination that does not typically include organ music in worship. Prior to that, the organ was owned by the Fourth

Presbyterian Church of New York City, the congregation for whom the organ

aused as the gin the nner was originally built.

was originally built.

Because the instrument sat undisturbed for

so long, it had minimal tuning or servicing – meaning it was in

pristine condition. However, proper restoration was needed to make it ready for use. Gay F. Solomon and William T. Solomon '64 gave the lead gift for the restoration and installation of the organ, which was completed this spring.

A team of experts led by Alden Organ Service in Plano worked with Perkins leadership and faculty members Stefan Engels and Christopher Anderson to bring the project to fruition.

The Solomons chose to recognize their friends Caren H. Prothro and her late husband Vin by naming the organ in their honor. The Caren and Vin Prothro Organ will be ready for its first concert for donors on September 30.

-Sarah Bennett '11

SMU grad brings the North Pole to NorthPark

With high school dreams of being a rock star, Joel Lagrone '85 arrived at SMU with a guitar in hand and began singing in church at the Baptist Student Union. Soon, he took on the role of Jesus in Christian musical pageants, launching his career as a performer.

Now, with 40 years of entertainment experience under his belt – including 25 years of anthem singing for the Texas Rangers – Lagrone is playing one of the most beloved characters for NorthPark Center: Santa Claus.

While this isn't the first time he's stepped into the role of Father Christmas, Lagrone says he wanted to be Santa for the city's largest shopping center because it's a "cultural icon in Dallas-Fort Worth with national recognition" whose fundraising programs during the holiday season do a lot of good for the communities they support.

"My heart and talents very much align with that mission," Lagrone says.

When he is not performing during story time or making trips in the Santa mobile — a red Mustang convertible — to visit patients at Children's Health, he's working on F35s at Lockheed Martin, a career that started thanks to SMU's engineering co-op program.

While one might think a technical degree like mechanical engineering may have nothing to do with being Santa, Lagrone has found some of the most creative thinkers are engineers.

"We tell the children that the reindeer fly with magic, but really, it's good old-fashioned problem-solving and ingenuity that makes things fly," he says.

-Laura Barrera



by Sarah Bennett '11

Mapping the way

TWO NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR THE REES-JONES LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN WEST OFFER A PEEK INTO THE PAST.

s excitement builds for the upcoming Rees-Jones Library of the American West, artifacts are steadily coming into the hands of the SMU Libraries staff.

Two new acquisitions – an 1833 map of Texas commissioned by Stephen F. Austin and a sketchbook by a member of the Kiowa Tribe – are especially

notable and add color and life to the collection.

The map was donated by Dallasite Salle Stemmons, who had it framed and on display

in her home for decades. The piece had been a family heirloom, originally discovered folded and tucked inside of an antique book – written and published in German, the native language of many a Texas settler. (The book, Eduard Ludecus, *Reise durch* ... *Texas im Jahre 1834*, is also now in the possession of SMU Libraries. Ludecus was the great-great grandfather of Stemmons.)

The Stemmons' gift represents the first major donation to the library by someone outside of the Rees-Jones family. "Of all the Stephen F. Austin maps of Texas, the 1833 edition is the rarest," says Russell Martin, director of the DeGolyer Library. "Only two other copies are known, at the Texas State Library and at the Bancroft Library at Cal-Berkeley." In addition

to the book and 1833 map, Stemmons also donated to the collection two manuscript maps of the Dolores Colony, each drawn by Ludecus.

Another acquisition, simply referred to as the "Kiowa ledger," displays the sketches of Kiowa warrior Etahdleuh Doanmoe. The collection of 24 drawings was completed in

August 1876
while the warrior
was imprisoned
at Fort Marion
in St. Augustine,
Florida,
following the
Red River War of
1874–1875.

In the sketchbook, Doanmoe depicts Kiowa life on the plains as well as scenes from his imprisonment. Trevor Rees-Jones purchased the artifact at an auction from Sotheby's and has since added it to the collection at SMU. "Native American ledger art is incredibly rare," says Martin. "Doanmoe's example has much to tell us, about his life in particular and the clash of cultures in the Southwest in general."

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: the Kiowa ledger; Salle Stemmons shares her family artifact with Russell Martin, director of the DeGolyer Library.



Bringing poetry to the public

Before the city even had one, Mag Gabbert dreamed of becoming Dallas' poet laureate.

A born-and-raised Dallasite, Gabbert first encountered poetry as a civic service through her undergrad professor Jenny Browne at Trinity University, who was the poet laureate for San Antonio and the state of Texas

for San Antonio and the state of Texas.

"I just admired Jenny so much and saw what she was able to do with that role, how she was able

to bring poetry to folks who had no exposure to it," Gabbert says.

Now Gabbert, a clinical assistant professor in SMU Simmons'
Department of Human-Centered
Interdisciplinary Studies, aspires to do the same as she serves a two-year term as Dallas' second poet laureate.

One way she plans to expose more people to poetry is through public art installations. In partnership

with the Thanks-Giving

Foundation, Gabbert's working with 15 to 20 local poets to publish poetry via QR codes around Thanks-Giving Square. People can scan the QR codes to read each poem or listen to the poet read it.

Gabbert is also holding

weekly office hours at the downtown public library and will host workshops at the various branches.

"Those are opportunities where poetry can be experienced by folks who maybe weren't expecting to encounter it that day, but then they might want to incorporate [it] into their lives or their own work," she says.

For Gabbert, encountering poetry as an undergrad was life changing.

"It really upended everything I understood about the world," she says. "It gave me so much more perspective on what it means to be human."

Gabbert encourages anyone interested in supporting the program to email her at dallaspoetlaureate@dallas.gov.

Ray Schoenke '63 wins multiple awards with debut memoir

Author hopes his book will inspire SMU students to pursue their dreams.

Former Cowboys and Redskins football player and CEO of Schoenke and

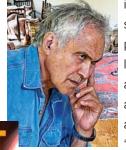
Associates Ray Schoenke hadn't considered writing a book until a journalist friend suggested Schoenke's life story would make an excellent memoir. Thus, Fat Girl Sings: Discovering, Embracing, and Leveraging Racial Identity on the Football Field, in Business, and in Life was born. The book chronicles Schoenke's rise from a "chubby brown boy" facing traumatic loss and enduring racism based on his Polynesian heritage to his graduation from SMU and triumphs on the football field and in the arena of business. A civic advocate, Schoenke played a pivotal role in helping to establish the Special Olympics

and even campaigned for three U.S. presidents. Still, writing a book proved a new challenge for Schoenke.

"Because I am more of a storyteller than a writer, the editorial process was critical," he says. "The challenge was to take an orally dictated

memoir and place it in meaningful chronological order while still preserving my storytelling voice." His hard work paid off — Fat Girl Sings garnered Schoenke the highly prestigious Independent Press Award. Schoenke recalls feeling humbled by

this win. "The endorsements, the accolades and the general acceptance by the public have been



incredibly affirming," he says. He hopes that young people will take away life lessons from his book in addition to diving into a compelling story. He advises SMU students: "Don't be afraid to take

risks or to pursue your dreams. Be a visionary.
See how what you learn in one area of your life
can be applied to other areas of your life. Seek out
mentors who can provide you with advice about
options and then look for opportunities. Once you
commit, never give up. Go all the way!"

-Andrea Luttrell '12

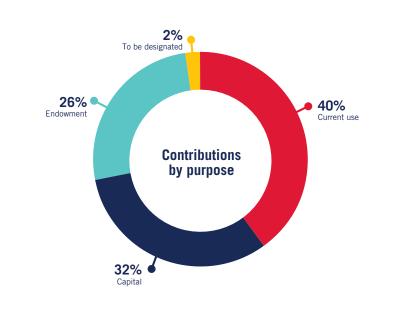
IGNITED FOR CHANGE

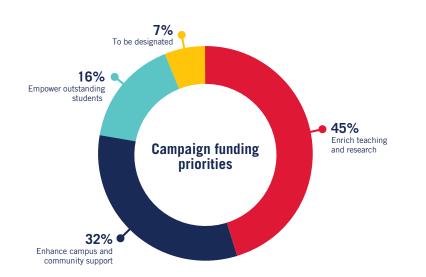
by Sarah Bennett '11

Since its launch in September 2021, the *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* campaign has fueled immeasurable impact on the Hilltop and beyond. As we draw nearer to our \$1.5 billion goal, check out the ways this influence is felt across academic life, campus facilities and community engagement.

\$1.316 billion

*as of May 2024





Academic investments

- Dozens of new endowed academic positions
- Hundreds of new endowed scholarships
- New academic initiatives across the University

Campus improvements

23 new facilities and major renovations, including:

- 14 academic facilities
- Several athletics projects
- · Student life enhancements

Historic gifts

- Largest gift in University history, to create the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies
- Largest gifts by an alumnus and by a non-alumnus
- Largest single gifts to SMU Athletics and to SMU Libraries

Impact on student community

- Rising average SAT/ACT scores
- Rising average high school GPA
- · Increasing ethnic diversity
- Rising number of Pell-eligible students admitted
- Increasing percentage of student need met

To learn more or contribute a gift of your own toward our goal, visit **smu.edu/ignited**.

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 spring 2025 issue is **November 1, 2024**.

Congratulations to Distinguished Alumni, Emerging Leader and Honorary Alumni honorees

JORGE BALDOR '93

Founder/Board Chair, After8toEducate
A lifetime advocate for underprivileged youth

KELLY HOGLUND COMPTON '79

Executive Director, The Hoglund Foundation

A champion of family support services and education

HON. TERRY R. MEANS '70, '74

Senior District Judge, United States District Court, Northern District of Texas

A passionate legal force with a devotion to justice

2024 SMU Emerging Leader Award Recipient

TRENT REDDEN '06

General Manager, Los Angeles Clippers An enterprising athlete with a track record for success

2024 Distinguished Honorary Alumni Award Recipient

CAREN PROTHRO

Owner/President, Prothro Clark Company A servant leader with a proven dedication to philanthropy Don Metcalfe and John McClellan Marshall '75, both retired Dallas County state district judges, have co-authored a history of the first 50 years of the SMU Law School in conjunction with the 2025 Centennial Celebration. In May, they presented the first edition to Dean Jason P. Nance at SMU.

62 Aubrey Burer – SMU's first Olympian in any sport – and his wife, Judy, visited the new Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool and the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center in February 2024. He swam freestyle events in the 1960 Rome Olympics for South Africa. Later in the day, he was joined by his teammate and friend Vernon George "Butch" Schimmel '64 and his wife, Mary Geldernick.

has been selected for induction into the Texas Business Hall of Fame. He co-founded the law firm Haynes and Boone in 1970 with mentor Richard Haynes. The firm has grown to include over 700 lawyers across 19 offices in four countries. He has served as the president of the Highland Park school board, chaired the Board of Trustees at SMU and been a leader in the Preston Road Church of Christ in Dallas.

Joe Pouncy (M.L.A. '82) and his brother. Gene Pouncy (M.L.A. '76), were inducted into the Dallas Independent School District Athletic Hall of Fame. The Pouncys were national record-setting sprinters and Scholastic All-Americans at Dallas Lincoln High School and Southwest Conference record-setting sprint champions and All-Americans at SMU. Both were quarterfinalists at the 1972 Olympic trials. This is the third hall of fame induction for the brothers. In 2022, they were inducted into the Texas Track & Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame and in 1998 the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame sponsored by the African American Museum in Dallas. Gene Pouncy passed away in 2020.

Russell "Rusty" Hardin has been named to the prestigious 2024 Chambers Global Guide, a legal listing that ranks "the top global lawyers and law firms in more than 200 jurisdictions across the world." In his third year to be recognized by Chambers Global, Hardin received a Band 1 ranking — the highest possible — in USA Litigation: Trial Lawyers, which lists the top trial lawyers in the country. Hardin has also been recognized by Chambers USA for six consecutive years. Most recently, he received Band 1 rankings in four

categories. He was named a top trial lawyer in the nation and a top trial lawyer in Texas, recognized for his work as a Texas litigator handling white-collar crime and government investigations, and honored for his commercial litigation work in the Houston area. Rusty Hardin & Associates was also named to the Chambers USA Regional Spotlight Texas, a distinguished list of the leading small- to medium-sized law firms in the state. John Samuel Tieman (M.A. '79) was elected to the City Council of University City, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. A widely published essayist, poet and translator, Tieman recently retired after more than 40 years of teaching.

Larry Robbins is affiliated with Capstone Commercial, a boutique real estate firm. He has been a broker since 1993. He was involved in a family textile business until he sold it in 2006.

78 Judge Forrest Phifer brought together about 40 judiciary members, prosecutors, probation officers, nonprofit officials and school representatives from across Cherokee County in Texas to discuss how to implement the new Youth Diversion and Early Intervention Act. The legislation aims to curb the school-to-prison pipeline by keeping at-risk youth out of court proceedings through alternative intervention programs. Officials also explored adapting parts of the act to the adult justice system.

F. Scott Dueser '81, chairman, president and CEO of First Financial Bank; William R. "Chip"

Jenkins III '95, '00, CEO of First State

Bank; and **Susannah T. Marshall** '02, bank commissioner of the Arkansas State Bank Department, joined the Board of Trustees of the SW Graduate School of Banking at SMU Cox.

82 Steven Kerr was elected co-CEO and CFO of The Kerr Foundation Inc. by the foundation's directors. Based in Oklahoma City, KFI provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the southwestern U.S. Bob King (MBA '83) will be the Libertarian Party candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 21st congressional district of Texas in November 2024. The 21st district spans 10 Texas Hill Country counties, including Bexar, Travis, Comal and Hays. King and his wife, Julie are semi-retired and living in New Braunfels. Their sons Will and Peter are married and live in Denver and Nashville, respectively.

84 Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews a Long Island-based voice and speech coach, is president and founder of the Tribute and Honor Foundation, a nonprofit with a mission to honor and support veterans and their families. For more on the foundation, visit TributeAndHonorFoundation.org.

Charla Aldous has been named to the 2023 edition of America's 45 Most Influential Trial Lawyers, as chosen by *The Trial Lawyer* magazine and the *National Law Journal*. Aldous, who is at Aldous\ Walker LLP, has been designated as a Living Legend by the Dallas Bar Association and has received repeat honors from The Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers and Lawdragon.

Like mother, like daughter

May Commencement was a family affair for Catherine Haynes Bauer '00, '23 and her mother, Carla Conley Haynes-Clowe '74. Carla served on the 50-year reunion planning committee, while Catherine walked the stage to receive her master's degree in dispute resolution.



"You can just imagine the excitement that generated when the realization hit me," says Carla of the moment she learned they'd be participating in the same ceremony. The pair are the latest in a long line of family members who chose to become Mustangs, starting with Carla's aunt and uncle, who met as undergraduates. "It's very meaningful," says Catherine. "SMU has meant a lot to our family."

87 Melissa Rieman was sworn in as a member of the University Park City Council. She was also University Park's Citizen of the Year in 2022. Rieman owns Renaissance Precast, a cast stone manufacturing company, that she took over after her husband passed away in 2022. Her youngest child is a sophomore at SMU, so she is active in the Mothers' and Dads' Club.

Kirk Otis is now president of the North Texas chapter of Keiretsu Forum, the most active angel investment network globally, and managing director of HawkEye Capital Partners Inc., an M&A-focused investment bank.

89 Gregory S. Neal married Kade M. Rogers on October 1, 2022. Frank Thurmond wrote the short film, *The Forms of Things Unknown*, which debuted in May at the Made in Arkansas Film Festival.

92 Ladd Sanger is among the first lawyers in Texas to receive the new aviation law certification by Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Mindy Tucker was named interim CEO of Tri Delta. Tucker joined the Theta Kappa chapter of Tri Delta while at SMU and has been with the Tri Delta organization since 2017. In 2004, she was awarded SMU's inaugural Emerging Leader Award that recognizes a recent alumnus distinguished in their field.

93 Dave Nelson was sworn in as the deputy secretary of state for the state of Texas in March 2024. His career in public service spans over 25 years and includes leadership roles at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and in the Texas Senate, where he served as director of the Senate Finance Committee and chief of staff.

Pavid Ferrara currently teaches at Oxford Music Academy in Ohio. He has recorded two classical albums, performed with numerous symphony orchestras and toured with legendary musicians.

Christopher Renquist North — a composer, songwriter, conductor and multi-instrumentalist based in Brooklyn — made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut with the Association of Classical Musicians and Artists Orchestra on November 18, 2023. He led the ensemble in a program that

featured Mozart's Clarinet Concerto and the world premiere of his fantasia (on the) Verge Of, dedicated to Lorna Breen. In fall 2023, he collaborated with filmmaker Sam Pollard to provide the score for Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes, which premiered on PBS's American Masters. Their preceding collaboration was the Grammy-nominated best music film and civil rights/blues documentary Two Trains Runnin'.

95 Craig Hays became a partner at KPMG LLP in October 2023. He leads the firm's Azure Cloud Services and focuses on delivering systems integration projects with applications, data and cloud infrastructure across global financial services and insurance companies.

96 Tony Clark is now CEO of Worthington Bank's newest location in Denton and will serve

on the bank's board of directors. Before joining Worthington Bank, Clark served as the executive vice president at Independent Bank of Texas, where he oversaw 14 Texas locations and assets exceeding \$1 billion. Clark joined Independent Bank of Texas after it acquired North Star Bank of Texas, a bank of which Clark was a founding member. Lena Sullesta Jessen celebrated her 50th birthday in Chicago with a concert by Jackopierce. Joining the celebration were SMU alumni Ashley Gordon Zahn '96, Adrian Sullesta '98, Meg Marlowe Berg '96, Jennifer Hidden Suitonu '97, Dana Fiore Murray '95 and Sonja Kelly Talbot '96. Deanna Walker was named CEO of accounting services firm Venturity Financial Partners. A 20-year veteran of the firm, Walker also served as chief revenue officer and is recognized for being instrumental in the company's growth and reputation as an industry

leader. In addition to leading Venturity, Walker will continue serving on the board and executive committee of St. Philip & St. Augustine Catholic Academy.

97 Dabney Pettus has joined Clark Hill as a member of the firm's litigation practice and admiralty and maritime industry group. Pettus is based in Corpus Christi and will help increase the firm's presence in the country's third-largest port.

98 Sarah Berry, a technical editor for the science, systems and sustainment division of the Institute for Defense Analyses Systems and Analyses Center, is a recipient of the 2023 W.Y. Smith Award. Berry and others on her team played a pivotal role in producing IDA's self-assessment inputs for the Department of Defense comprehensive review of SAC.

New inductees to SMU Athletics Hall of Fame

Congratulations to this year's inductees: Avery Acker '15; Nic Moore '16; John J. Ross, II '87; Dave Wollman and the late Eddie Sinnott '76. The honorees will be recognized at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony on Friday, September 20, in Armstrong Fieldhouse.



AVERY ACKER '15 Volleyball 2012–2015



NIC MOORE '16 Men's Basketball 2013–2016



JOHN J. ROSS, II '87 Men's Tennis 1983–1986



EDDIE SINNOTT '76 Men's Swimming Head Coach 1989–2019



DAVE WOLLMAN Track and Field Head Coach 1988–2015

IDA is a nonprofit corporation that operates three federally funded research and development centers in the public interest.

Beth Hinga was named vice president for academic affairs at Newberry College in South Carolina. She also published her second book this year, Earth's Natural Hazards and Disasters, with Wiley and the American Geophysical Union. Adam Rabinowitz, with Andrew S. "Andy" Cohen, founded Cohen Rabinowitz PLLC, which serves commercial real estate owners, investors and developers. Rabinowitz, based in San Antonio, was a shareholder at Hornberger Fuller Garza & Cohen. He is a five-time recipient of the Rising Star designation through Texas Super Lawyers and has been named to Best Lawyers in America each year since 2019. He served on the Board of Trustees for the San Antonio Academy 2017-23.

Clark Joseph had his
Carnegie Hall conducting
debut in June 2023 and has been
invited to be a guest conductor for
MidAmerica Productions in Florence,
Italy, in June 2025. His choir, the St.
John Church Choir, has been invited to
sing at the American Choral Directors
Association National Conference in
March 2025.

Alana Ackels (J.D. '09)
has been recognized in the
2024 Chambers USA guide. Ackels, a
partner at Bell Nunnally, specializes in
labor and employment law. Spencer
Diebel (J.D. '10) has joined the law
firm Bell Nunnally in Dallas as a
partner in its real estate practice.
Diebel has been named to The Best

Lawyers in America "Ones to Watch" List (2022–24). He previously was with Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC in Dallas.

has been named to

D Magazine's 2024 Best Lawyers
Under 40 in Dallas list for the fourth time. Attorneys under 40 who have practiced law for at least five years — primarily in the DFW area — are eligible for the list. Turman works with clients ranging from startups to Fortune 50 companies. He has been named to the Texas Rising Stars in the category of business litigation by Thomson Reuters' Super Lawyers six times.

Allison Fisher has been named to Super Lawyers' 2024 list of Texas Rising Stars for her work in civil litigation defense. She handles cases involving insurance, health care, business and environmental law at Hicks Thomas. Allison Reyes received San Antonio Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award. This award recognizes 40 young leaders who are succeeding in the business world and who are contributing to their community.

Maura Sheffler (M.A., MBA '13) has been named to *People Newspapers*' 20 Under 40 list for 2024. She is the Donna Wilhelm Family president and executive director for The Arts Community Alliance (TACA) in Dallas. She is an active member of SMU's alumni community and frequently guest lectures on arts management.

New members elected to SMU Board of Trustees

Ten men and women have been elected as members of the SMU Board of Trustees for four-year terms beginning in fall 2024. Two new ex officio members will join the board for the 2024–25 academic year: student representative Jude Lugo '25 and faculty representative David Sedman.

Cynthia Fierro Harvey '99 has served as bishop of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church since November 2022.

Christopher W. Kleinert '88 is CEO of Hunt Investment Holdings LLC and CEO of Hunt Realty Investments.

Steven J. Lindley '74 is the managing member and president of Johnson and Lindley LLC, the managing partner of PinHigh Capital Partners LLC and trustee of the Willard and Ruth Johnson Charitable Foundation.

Kyle D. Miller '01 is founder and CEO of Silver Hill Energy Holdings LLC and Silver Hill Energy Partners LP, oil and gas investment and operating partnerships.

James T. Mobley '80 is president of Pony Rose Holdings LLC.

Bryan S. Sheffield '01 is managing partner of Austin-based Formentera Partners, an energy-focused private equity firm founded in 2020.

Brian S. Tyler is CEO of McKesson Corporation, chair of the American Cancer Society's North Texas CEOs Against Cancer and a member of the President's Advisory Board for UT Southwestern Medical Center.

William H. Vanderstraaten '82 is president and co-founder of Chief Partners LP, a real estate investment company.

John E. Waldron, III is president and COO of the Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

Abigail Sassenhagen Williams '94 is founder and executive director of United to Learn, a collaborative nonprofit partnering with public elementary schools, private institutions and community members aimed at accelerating student literacy achievement.

Precious Ponies



MARGO KATHRYN ALVEN, born December 4, 2023, is the daughter of Kathryn "Katy" Robbins Alven '06 and Billy Alven; sister of Gwen and Claire; and great-granddaughter of Bill Zimmerman '54 and Patsy Zimmerman.



ELIZABETH KATHERINE BALES, born May 13, 2023, is the daughter of Emma Roquemore Bales '19 and Patrick Bales.



ELLA GRACE BARCIA, born November 27, 2022, is the daughter of Cara Hanshew Barcia '21 and Tristan Jonathan Barcia, III.



DERRIUS BELL, JR., born February 10, 2024, is the son of Derrius Bell '11 and Joycelyn Smith '12.



NATALIA CHAPARRO, born October 19, 2023, is the daughter of Xochitl Ramirez and Daniel Chaparro '16.



PALOMA SUE COBOS, born November 30, 2023, is the daughter of Jessica Cobos and Nathan Cobos '19.



COLE HARVEY COLLINS, born March 5, 2024, is the son of Taylor Williams Collins '17 and Kevin Collins.



BISHOP MONTGOMERY COWDEN, born August 15, 2022, is the son of Annie Cowden '12, '15 and Merrit Cowden.



THERESA ANNE DIAMOND, born December 8, 2022, is the daughter of Austin Diamond '16 and Mary Diamond '16 and the niece of Madeline Bumpass '18 and Monica Bumpass '21.



WILLIAM ERASMO DURAN HALM, born October 2, 2023, is the son of Hugo Duran and Yajaira Halm '12.



JOHN PEYTON GREEN, born December 6, 2016, and HENRY ROBERT GREEN, born April 21, 2021, are the sons of John Paul Green '12 and Elizabeth Arroyo Green '12.



WILLIAM BAUER JONES, born December 11, 2023, is the son of Alexandria Bauer Jones '15 and Christopher Jones.



ALANA ISRA KHAN, is the daughter of Imran Khan '11 and Asifa Khan.



HENRY ALLEN LEEPER, III, born January 16, 2024, is the son of Kate Fuller '11 and Rick Leeper '11.



cade NEAL LIGHT, born January 1, 2024, is the son of Anne Marie Light '14 and Corbin Light.



cooper MATOS, born June 27, 2023, is the son of Nathalie Matos and Tyler Matos '15.

Precious Ponies



KYLIE ALDYTH MORSE, born July 5, 2024, is the daughter of Courtney Morse '12, '13 and Ryan Morse. She is also the granddaughter of Jim Webb '11 and the niece of Jimmy Webb '10.



DANIEL MICHAEL PARKER, born
December 3, 2023, is the son of James
Parker '11 and Elizabeth Parker.



LUKA JUDE POULIN, born January 15, 2024, is the son of Amanda Kovach Poulin '11 and Stephen Poulin '12.





EZRA GLENN PRIZZNICK, born September 30, 2023, is the greatgreat-grandson of Marcia and Rodger Smith '69 and the greatgrandson of Darin Smith '91.



ELEANOR RUTH "LENNY" PURSE, born September 24, 2023, is the daughter of Megan Murphy Purse '16 and Cameron Purse '16 and the niece of Anne Marie Murphy Wood '18.



HUGO STEHLING, born May 30, 2009; LONDON STEHLING, born January 6, 2011; SLOAN STEHLING, born May 24, 2014; and SEBASTIAN STEHLING, born April 20, 2016, are the children of Diana Jackson Stehling '03 and Charles "Kip" Stehling.



THOMAS TORCELLINI, III, born March 24, 2024, is the son of Thomas Torcellini, II '13, '18 and Chloe Torcellini and the nephew of Taylor Torcellini Truebenbach '11.



ANDREW THOMAS TRUEBENBACH, born October 17, 2023, is the son of Taylor Torcellini Truebenbach '11 and Clayton Truebenbach and the nephew of Thomas Torcellini, II '13, '18.



ALICE VOIGTS, born August 29, 2023, is the daughter of Natalie Crane Voigts '18 and Daniel Voigts.





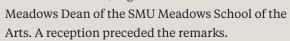
Picture your pony here

Send us your Precious Pony! Submit a color photo to smumag@smu.edu by November 1, 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.

World changers coast to coast

his spring and summer, SMU graduates in New York City and Los Angeles gathered for World Changers Spotlight events to connect with fellow Mustangs.

On Thursday, May 16, New Yorkers took part in a premiere networking evening on "The Business of Fashion" at The University Club with Dee Ocleppo Hilfiger '89, creative director of Dee Ocleppo and Judith Leiber, and Samuel S. Holland, Algur H.



Meanwhile on the West Coast, those in the L.A. area enjoyed a powerhouse panel on "SMU in Entertainment," featuring a discussion with industry executives and alumni at the GRAMMY Museum on Saturday, June 8.

The L.A. panelists included Jon Feltheimer (parent of Jack Feltheimer '24), CEO of Lionsgate;

> Rick Jaffa '78, writer-producer of the Planet of the Apes franchise;

Howard Owens '90,

founder/CEO of Propagate Content; Laura Marie Salinas '92. associate director of corporate partnerships, Women in Film; and emcees Ed Wilson, president/CEO of Whisper

Advisors and Rhonda Nicole

Tankerson '98, singer-songwriter and SMU Los Angeles chapter leader.

Watch for more upcoming events at **smu.edu/alumni**. 🤝



Costa and Jackie Christ are the owners of fine art and photography businesses. The art business has been published internationally by notable brands and publications including Porsche, Type7 and Veranda. In Dallas in 2023, Costa Christ's work was featured in Crystal Charity Ball, the Kips Bay Decorator Show House, Cattle Baron's Ball in collaboration with NorthPark Center and Dallas Children's Advocacy Center's Art for Advocacy. Annie Cowden (M.Ed. '15) graduated with a Ph.D. in educational leadership (higher education) from Texas Christian University in May 2024. She served as the president of Graduate Student Senate during her time in graduate school. Cowden also serves as the director of the BNSF Neeley Leadership Program at TCU. Kimberly Scott has founded Skinny Leg Tribe, a collection of luxury leather boots for petite women and those with slender calves.

Vanessa Sims applied for and received Historic Texas Cemetery Designation for the African American cemetery in Graham. Jewel Tomasula is the new policy adviser for The Endangered Species Coalition. She previously worked in the office of U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, where she completed a John A. Knauss Sea Grant Fellowship. She also handled a legislative portfolio in natural resources and wildlife, climate and clean energy, and other environmental issues and worked closely with the House Sustainable **Energy and Environment Coalition** and Endangered Species Act Caucus.

Nate Gonzales was one of five senior policy advisors elevated in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's government relations department. Based in Washington, D.C., Gonzales provides clients insight into Democratic priorities and intelligence on where and when policy is likely to move. She served as a legislative aide in the House office of then-Rep. Kyrsten Sinema and moved with her to the Senate, where she served as a policy adviser handling the space, science, agriculture, energy, environment and natural resources portfolio. Gonzales was the office liaison to the Senate Commerce Committee and managed the senator's role as ranking member of the Commerce Subcommittee on Aviation and Space.

Andrew Ashton (M.S. '21) is now a patent attorney at Patterson + Sheridan in Dallas. He was voted "Ones to Watch" in the 2024 edition of Best Lawyers in America and nominated for the 2025 edition.

In Memoriam

The following alumni deaths were reported to SMU from 12/30/23 to 6/30/24.

- '41 Dr. DAVE TOBOLOWSKY 1/29/2024
- '43 STEWART L. MORRIS, SR. 3/11/2024
- '44 LEATHA BRUTON GORDON
 12/30/2023 MARTHA MACLAY
 OCHS 4/5/2024
- '46 JANICE BEATTIE EDINGER
 12/19/2023 CATHARINE FULLER
 WALKER 3/19/2024
- '47 HENRY H. BRYANT 2/3/2024
 HERMON C. COOK, JR. 4/16/2024
 PATRICIA MCWHORTER
 GREENHAW 2/1/2024 RUTH N.
 TATE '49 1/26/2024
- '48 MARJORIE HARRISON BIVINS
 4/12/2024 MARY LOU BRYANT
 GOODWIN 1/10/2024 JACK
 DRENNAN MARONEY, JR.
 5/18/2024 MARJORIE HAESLY
 STEAKLEY 11/21/2021
- '49 JOHN C. BARNES 1/8/2024

 DOROTHY E. BRINKER 4/10/2024

 WALTER W. DITZLER 5/9/2024

 CECELIA A. HOLLINGSWORTH

 4/24/2024 MARION REESE

 LUECKE 2/6/2024 WILLIAM

 J. SLOAN, JR. 4/5/2024

 BARBARA D. THOMAS 1/1/2021

 ANN MONTGOMERY THORN

 11/29/2023 JOHN R. WILLIS

 5/10/2024

- '50 BOYD V. BAKER '61 6/6/2024

 PATRICIA S. CRENSHAW

 1/31/2024 Dr. FRANCIS M.

 GILBERT 5/27/2024 WILLIAM

 P. GOWLER 2/20/2024 DAVID L.

 HERMAN 12/27/2023 ROBERT A.

 MONTGOMERY 5/27/2024 JOAN

 MECKLENBURG PINKERTON

 4/11/2024
- '51 DOROTHY E. COOK 4/20/2024
 NANCY L. COOPER 5/20/2024
 GEORGE A. FAUCETT 3/22/2024
 The Rev. WILLIAM J. FLEENER
 5/18/2024 JAMES W. MACKEY,
 JR. 3/9/2024 DOROTHY PEOPLES
 MARTIN '75 2/9/2024 WILLIAM S.
 MARTIN '75 3/14/2024 WILLIAM
 H. PRICE 3/2/2024 SARAH SMITH
 SIMONS 1/11/2024 DORIS J.
 STRATTON 5/29/2024 ANNE KNOX
 WOOLLEY 2/7/2024
- **'52 JOAN POWLEDGE ANTHONY** 6/7/2024 ANNE WALKER CRAGG 2/21/2024 JOYCE SPENCER **CONNELL** 4/29/2024 The Rev. **ROBERT O. COOPER 5/18/2024 ROBERT COLEMAN COX '58** 3/5/2024 Dr. BILLY W. DESHAZO 6/22/2024 SANDRA DECKER FROST 3/16/2024 MARY NELL **GRAY HALL 2/23/2024 WILLIAM** C. KOONS '58 3/18/2024 HENRY L. LAND, JR. '72 3/5/2024 KAY GUINN LIFE 3/8/2024 The Rev. ROBERT E. PARROTT 4/14/2024 CHARLES **D. STAHL 4/22/2024 CAROLEEN TURNER THORNTON 4/16/2024 ERNEST A. WRIGHT, JR. 3/5/2024**
- '53 ROBERT S. ALEXANDER '54 1/15/2024 JERRY M. BARSHOP 6/14/2024 The Rev. GUSTON H. BROWNING 4/24/2024 PATRICIA BROWN CURRIN '78 2/10/2024 BETTE MANSKE DICKINSON 1/3/2024 CLYDE H. FOWLER 2/2/2024 THOMAS J. HARDCASTLE 1/12/2024 IDA **BENNETT HOWES 3/22/2024 WILLIAM S. HUNTER 4/20/2023 B. VAN JAMES** 6/18/2024 MARGARET ALLISON LAPRADE '72 3/8/2024 BETTY BLACKSTON MCCAULEY-ACOLA 4/2/2024 **SARA L. PIPKIN** 4/29/2024 **NORMA CARTER RAMEY** 2/10/2024 RICKS J. WILSON 1/23/24
- '54 Judge JOSEPH E. ASHMORE, JR. '63 4/5/2024 ZU D. **BROADWATER 1/14/2024 ANN** L. BROWN 5/29/2024 EDWIN B. CONNER. JR. 3/2/2024 JACK E. CROZIER '69 4/12/24 ROY E. CURRAN, SR. 4/3/2024 Dr. ROBERT H. DENNARD '56 4/23/2024 The Rev. **RAYMOND** C. LOTT, JR. 5/28/2024 Col. **JERRY E. MARSHALL 3/17/2024 EDWARD W. RYAN** 3/17/2022 **SIDNEY STAHL** '56 3/14/2024 **WILLIAM E. STROTHER** 2/22/2024 JOSEPH R. TUCKER 6/3/2024 CLAUDE R. WILSON, JR. '56 2/17/2024 The Rev. JOHN M. WINN, JR. 12/27/2023

- '55 RICHARD W. HEMINGWAY
 2/7/2024 Chaplain HARRY E.
 HOUSEMAN 8/5/2023 ETHEL
 BARTLETT RIDGE 3/30/2024
 WESLEY A. SCARBROUGH
 6/6/2021 BILLY J. SMITH '58
 1/3/2024 MADELON ELLIOTT
 SWEAT 2/23/2024 VIRGINIA R.
 TAYLOR 1/26/2024 BARBARA
 COOK WENDLAND '86
 12/25/2023 The Rev. A. CECIL
 WILLIAMS 4/22/2024
- '56 Dr. Donald D. Clayton

 1/3/2024 George M. Cunyus

 3/4/2024 Rex H. Dunlap

 6/11/2024 James T. Groves, III

 5/17/2024 Henry M. Holloway

 5/3/2024 The Rev. Marvin I.

 Lare 12/28/2023 Douglas

 McIntyre 2/15/2024 Walter

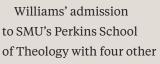
 A. Rutherford 4/30/2024 ann

 Rich Smith 2/19/2024 Donald

 R. Williams 4/28/2024
- '57 CHARLES M. BRADLEY 3/1/2024
 The Hon. THOMAS L. JAMES
 3/1/2024 MARY McGREGOR
 MACKENZIE 4/3/2024 Dr.
 EDWIN N. MOORE 4/17/2024
 LUCILE SUMMERS PIPES
 4/20/2024 FLORENCE AYRES
 RUBSAMEN 2/4/2024 CLARENCE
 G. THOMPSON 4/12/2024 The
 Rev. CONRAD W. WINBORN,
 JR. 2/18/2024 MARY BRANSON
 YARBROUGH 12/23/2023

Civil rights leader and pioneering graduate of Perkins School of Theology

he Rev. Cecil Williams '55, a long-recognized civil and human rights leader who was one of the five Black students who integrated SMU in 1952, died April 22 at age 94.



Black students represented the first voluntary desegregation of an educational institution in the South. The five graduated from SMU in 1955.

"Rev. Williams' life, vision and leadership will continue to inspire all of us at SMU," says SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

Williams was pastor at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco since 1963. There, with his late wife, he created a haven for those suffering from poverty and homelessness.

At SMU, Williams received the Perkins School of Theology Distinguished Alumni Award in 1996 and was recognized with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1997. He received the SMU Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009, at which time the Williams Preaching Lab in Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall was named in his honor.

The five men who integrated SMU, known as the "Perkins Five" – Williams; James Hawkins; The Rev. John Elliott, Sr.; Negail Riley and The Rev. Dr. James Lyles – were honored together in 2015 on the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

Perkins theology students continue to perfect their preaching skills in the Williams Preaching Lab.

- '58 RONALD G. COLE 1/30/2024 DAN
 M. DOWDEY 3/5/2024 BARBARA
 RAVKIND FRIEDMAN 2/1/2024
 BOB J. GOLDEN 3/8/2024 ANNE
 DILL HAREN 1/8/2024 JANICE
 CROW LIVINGSTONE 1/31/2024
 JO RUTH MANESS 4/25/2024
 CHARLES B. MASTERSON '71
 1/18/2024 PETER M. STEPHAN
 8/21/2023
- '59 JAMES S. BARNETT 5/7/2024 The Rev. CECIL C. BLISS 11/29/2019 FREDDY E. DENKE 2/11/2024 Dr. Charley D. Hardwick 2/18/2024 James L. Hendren 5/1/2024 Jimmy D. Low '73 5/28/2024 Eulis C. Robison 4/7/2024 The Rev. Marcus Freelin West, Jr. 6/8/2024
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Legendary SMU men's swimming coach

ormer SMU Men's Swimming Head Coach Eddie Sinnott '76 died on February 20. Sinnott led his alma mater from 1989–2019. After swimming at SMU from 1972–76 and earning All-America honors in 1973

and 1974, the 16-time conference
Coach of the Year led the
Mustangs to 16 league
crowns, and under
Sinnott, SMU recorded
11 NCAA top-15
finishes, 80 individual
All-America honors and
59 relay honors and 288

conference championships.

During his career, Sinnott coached 11 student-athletes who competed in seven Olympic Games. In 2019, Sinnott was selected for the 2019 National Collegiate Scholastic Trophy.

Sinnott was team leader and men's head coach of the U.S. squad at the World University Games in 1993 and head coach and assistant coach for the U.S. Olympic Festival Team in 1987 and 1993. He was head coach of the U.S. National Team's 1987 European Tour and the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team assistant manager. He served on the Olympic International Organizing Committee from 1984–92 and was head coach for Haiti at the 1996 Olympic Games. He served as assistant coach for Colombia, Denmark and South Africa at the World Short Course Championships.

Sinnott raised funds for the new Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium. He taught in the SMU swim lesson program and was a leader in the Dallas swimming community.

Sinnott is survived by his wife, Sioux, and their two daughters, K.C. and Silver Ann.

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Dr. STEVEN V. DANIELS, retired director of undergraduate studies, director of graduate studies, and chair in the Department of English in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 4/24/2024

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Photography

Vladimir Cherry, Jennifer Crenshaw, Kevin Gaddis, Jr., Ben Hsueh, Hillsman S. Jackson, Justin Kaplan, Kim Leeson, Jeffrey McWhorter, Jeremy Pope-Levison, Guy Rogers III, John Sanderson, Loreen Sarkis, George Walker

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From Individual to Empire: A Guide to Building an Authentic and Powerful Brand (River Grove Books, 2020). Available on amazon.com.



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Just a Client (2023). Available on amazon.com.

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Baseball Photography of the Deadball Era (Chapman Deadball Collection, 2023) won the 2024 Larry Ritter Book Award from the Society for American Baseball Research and was a finalist for the 2023 CASEY Award from Spitball magazine.

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THINKING THINGS OVER, The Reflections of Two 80-Year-Olds (First Edition Design Publishing, 2024). Available on amazon.com.

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Two Societies: The Rioting of 1967 and the Writing of the Kerner Report (Rowman & Littlefield, 2024).

Available on barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com.

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Mama's Year With Cancer (Albert Whitman & Company, 2023). Available on amazon.com.



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The Seven Year Glitch (The Wild Rose Press, 2024). nowwhat-mularkey.com

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Two O'Clock on a Tuesday at Trevi Fountain (Blue Star Press, 2024). Available on amazon.com and interabangbooks.com.

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Girls Like Her (HarperCollins, 2024). Available anywhere books are sold.

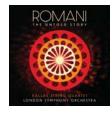
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The Fated Figurine Trilogy: *The Inventor and His Muse* (2023); *The Inventor and His Scourge* (2023); *The Inventor and His Protege* (2023). Available on amazon.com.

Ion Zanca '06, '08

Romani: The Untold Story, featuring

the Dallas String Quartet and the London Symphony Orchestra. Available on Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon



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The Guidonian Guitar (Guitar Lyceum Publications, 2024). Available at bryanburnsguitarist.com.

Pamela C. Corley (Political Science)
When Dissents Matter: Judicial
Dialogue through U.S. Supreme Court
Opinions (University of Virginia Press,
2023). Available on amazon.com.

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The Precious Summary: A History of
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2023). Available on amazon.com.

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Property Law: Cases, Materials, and Questions, Third Edition with Edward Chase and W. Robinson (Carolina Academic Press, 2023). Available on amazon.com.

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Sex Depression Animals: Poems
- recipient of the Journal Wheeler
Poetry Prize (Mad Creek Books, 2023).
Available on amazon.com.

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\(\Sigma \) Book I: Thumos Rising, written under the name Demitrios Lopez (Atmosphere Press, 2024). Available on amazon.com.

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The Future of Christian Realism: International Conflict, Political Decay, and the Crisis of Democracy with Joshua Mauldin et al. (Lexington Books, 2023). Available on amazon.com.

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Dynamic Systems and Control Engineering (Cambridge University Press, 2023). Available on amazon.com.

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Seven Secrets of the Spirit-Filled Life (Chosen Books, 2023), In Search of the Spirit: Selected Works, Volume One: The Spirit and Biblical Literature (Cascade Books, an imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2023). Available on amazon.com.

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Tell Somebody (Resource Publications, an imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2023), The Looking Glass: Far and Near (Resource Publications, an imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2023).

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