

SPRING 2025

SMU MAGAZINE



An *enduring* legacy

President R. Gerald Turner's
30 years of progress



SMU history in the land of enchantment

Tucked away in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains surrounded by the Carson National Forest is SMU-in-Taos, a satellite campus acquired by SMU in 1964. Noted archaeologist and pioneer of SMU's anthropology department Fred Wendorf oversaw the excavation and reconstruction of the Civil-War era cantonment, spurred on at the interest of former Texas Gov. William P. Clements, Jr., then chair of the SMU Board of Governors.

Classes were first held on the campus in 1973, and under Dr. Turner's leadership, the campus and its offerings have only grown. The Fred Wendorf Information Commons and the

campus' library opened in 2004 – the same year the SMU-in-Taos Cultural Institute began for alumni seeking a weekend of continuing education among the mountains.

Casita Clements, a 3,350-square-foot residential student facility, was dedicated in 2009; the Hutchison Chapel at Fort Burgwin was dedicated in 2014; and the Carolyn and David Miller Campus Center was dedicated in 2015, including a great hall that welcomes up to 100 guests, seminar rooms, classrooms, plazas and deep porches.



Former University Park mayor Roy Coffee has served on the executive board of SMU-in-Taos since 2003 and has served as chair since 2010, overseeing the most recent renovations to the dining hall in 2024. "I know of no other universities that have this type of satellite campus," Coffee remarks. "We can give the students – and alumni – an experience that's really special."



Come nourish your intellect and connect with others at SMU-in-Taos Cultural Institute, July 17–20, 2025.

The weekend will include educational courses, engaging activities, field trips, receptions, SMU's Ima Leete Hutchison Concert featuring Meadows School of the Arts students and free time to discover Taos at your own pace. Register now at smu.edu/taosci.

The future has never looked brighter

CELEBRATING THE DRIVE THAT TURNS OPTIMISM INTO OPPORTUNITY

In 1995, my wife, Gail, and I came to this University, drawn by the spirit of optimism and opportunity that define Dallas and SMU. From our first days on campus, we felt the energy of a city and an institution poised for greatness – a place where students, faculty, staff, and alumni share an abiding commitment to excellence, innovation, and service.

Thirty years later, that same ambition and sense of possibility continue to drive SMU, as evidenced by February’s announcement that we attained Research One status. The ranking, granted by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, places our University among the nation’s top private and public research institutions. The achievement follows years of strategic investments in key areas, such as supercomputing, and is fueled by the passion and persistence of our research faculty and scholars. Their world-changing ideas put SMU at the forefront of discovery.

SMU’s advancing position on the national stage has been further propelled by our impressive debut in the Atlantic Coast Conference. In our first term in the ACC this past fall, our student-athletes and coaches earned an impressive 69.6%-win rate across

all sports, with a combined record of 30 wins, 12 losses, and four ties. Three of our teams – volleyball, men’s soccer, and football – were ranked in the top 10.

These milestones have strengthened SMU’s reputation, creating new opportunities to share our story as we have done over the years in *SMU Magazine*. The proof of our growing appeal with a new generation of Mustangs is in the numbers. Several years ago, we set a goal to receive 20,000 applications for the fall 2025 term, and we have exceeded it. We now have nearly 25,000 applications and are up 56% over last year.

I cannot think of a better time to welcome SMU’s 11th president, Jay Hartzell, and his wife, Kara, to campus. This spring, we are experiencing a vibrancy that can be attributed to people like you – people who believe in SMU’s mission and who are at the heart of everything we do to increase our positive impact. In my new role as president emeritus, Gail and I look forward to continuing to support SMU’s bright future as the University embarks on the next exciting chapter under President Hartzell. 🐎

R. GERALD TURNER
President



When you love what you do, time flies. The past 30 years at SMU have been a joy for Gail and me. We are grateful for the memories and the wonderful people we have met along the way.”

INSIDE

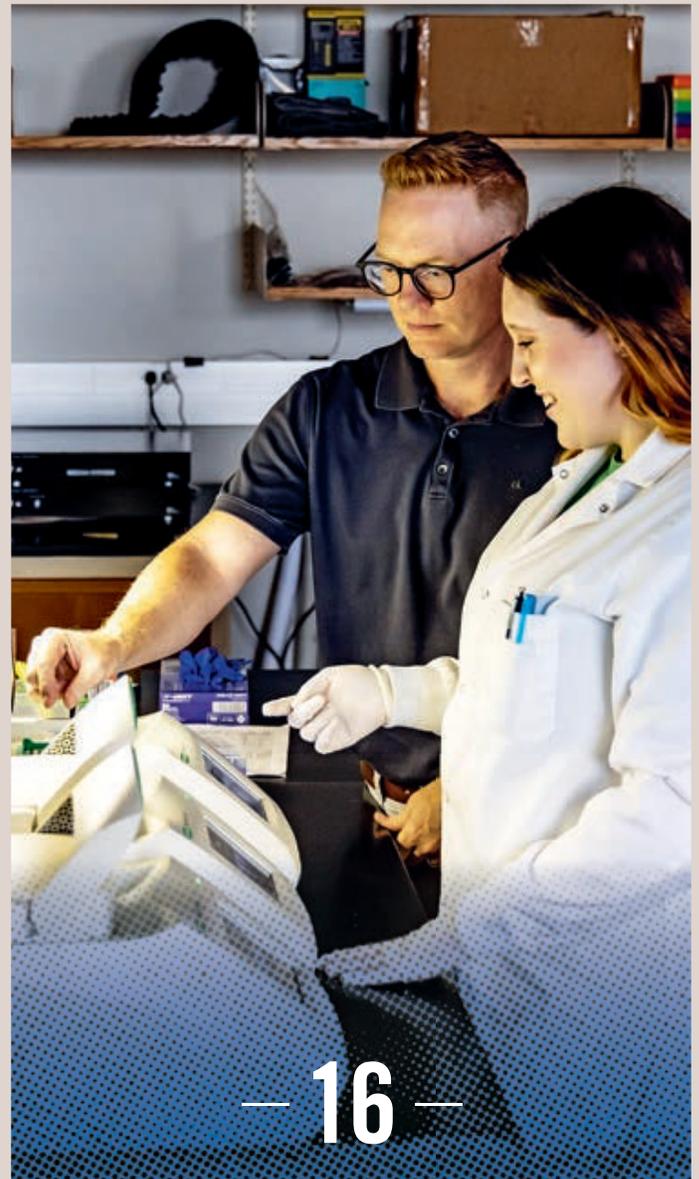
We're covering 30 years of transformational leadership as President R. Gerald Turner prepares to transition to a new role as president emeritus as of May 31, 2025.



— 8 —

Empower

Under Dr. Turner's leadership, outstanding students have accomplished academic, personal and professional success on the Hilltop and beyond.



— 16 —

Enrich

Over the past three decades, Dr. Turner has prioritized an institutional investment in teaching and research to make a bold impact.



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Enhance

With 30 years of improvements and expansions to campus facilities, Dr. Turner's vision has touched every corner of the University.

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PERSPECTIVE

Ray L. Hunt '65 reflects on Dr. Turner's 30-year tenure as president of SMU.

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A VISION REALIZED

Over the past 30 years, President R. Gerald Turner has set a tone for the University that includes foresight and ingenuity.

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SMU x ACC

From the announcement of joining the ACC to the conclusion of our first season in the conference, it's been a wild ride of excitement.

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SECOND CENTURY

From 2011 to 2015, SMU celebrated the centennial of its founding through its opening.

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FIRST LADY OF SMU

Mrs. Turner takes a look back on her time with the University.

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EVERLASTING IMPACT

David B. Miller '72, '73 shares his thoughts on his long partnership with Dr. Turner.

Ray Hunt '65 was invited by SMU Magazine to reflect on R. Gerald Turner's remarkable 30-year tenure as president of SMU. A longtime member of the SMU Board of Trustees, Mr. Hunt played a pivotal role in the restructuring of SMU's governance in the late 1980s, as well as the search that brought Dr. Turner to the University. He has worked closely with Dr. Turner ever since. With this unique perspective, Mr. Hunt offers thoughtful observations on the legacy and leadership of one of the country's most influential university presidents.



Gerald Turner's legacy after serving for 30 years as president of SMU

GERALD TURNER'S LEGACY, WHEN HE STEPS DOWN AS PRESIDENT OF SMU ON MAY 31, 2025, WILL BE UNMATCHED BY ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL IN SMU'S MODERN (I.E., POST-WORLD WAR II) HISTORY. Simply put, when Gerald retires after 30 years of extraordinary service and leadership, he will be one of the longest-tenured university presidents in the United States of America – and I have also felt for some time that he is the best university president in the United States (and recent events in academia across the country have confirmed that fact).

I have always felt that the most unique characteristic of the office of the president of a university is that, from a management point of view, it

is structured in a manner that runs totally counter to one of the most basic doctrines of management theory, namely, that authority and responsibility need to be equal to one another. Simply stated, in any business enterprise, the CEO has ultimate “hire and fire” authority throughout the entire enterprise.

In contrast, while the president of a university has responsibility for the entire organization, his “hire and fire” authority (the normal measure of being the “CEO” of a company) extends only to his small, immediate staff. Stated differently, the president of a university cannot hire and fire the professors, or hire and fire alumni, or hire and fire athletic boosters, or

hire and fire people in the community who wish to identify with the university. Yet strong leadership from the university is required in order to relate to and engage with each of these groups – and that leadership can only come from the president of the university, and that, in turn, can only be achieved by the president of the university earning each group's respect, trust and admiration.

To support my belief that Gerald Turner is the best university president in the country, one needs only to look at his accomplishments over the last 30 years. These achievements can be lumped into two categories, namely: (1) those which are quantifiable and (2) those which are subjective.



President R. Gerald Turner and Ray Hunt '65 at the George W. Bush Presidential Center groundbreaking in 2010.

Those accomplishments that fall into the quantifiable category would be the following:

- A 335% growth in endowment (from \$483 million when Gerald arrived at SMU to \$2.1 billion today).
- The construction or major renovation of 62 campus buildings that provide the facilities and “space” necessary for the teaching of the humanities, technical research, development and “university life.”
- The improved academic capabilities of SMU’s student body (which has risen from an incoming freshman class SAT of 1144 when Gerald arrived to today’s SAT of 1404, and an increase in GPA from 3.19 to 3.67).

- A dramatic increase in first-year applications for admission to SMU (i.e. – applications for admission for the 2025–2026 academic year are over 50% higher than just one year ago).
- SMU’s achievement this year of an R1 status relating to research.
- His initiation and leadership of three major fundraising campaigns raising over \$3 billion in order to attract the brightest students, enrich teaching and research, and enhance campus facilities and programs.
- The successful pursuit and establishment of the George W. Bush Presidential Center, which – independent of SMU – has raised over \$500 million for capital and endowment purposes.

Additional accomplishments which fall into the subjective category would include the following:

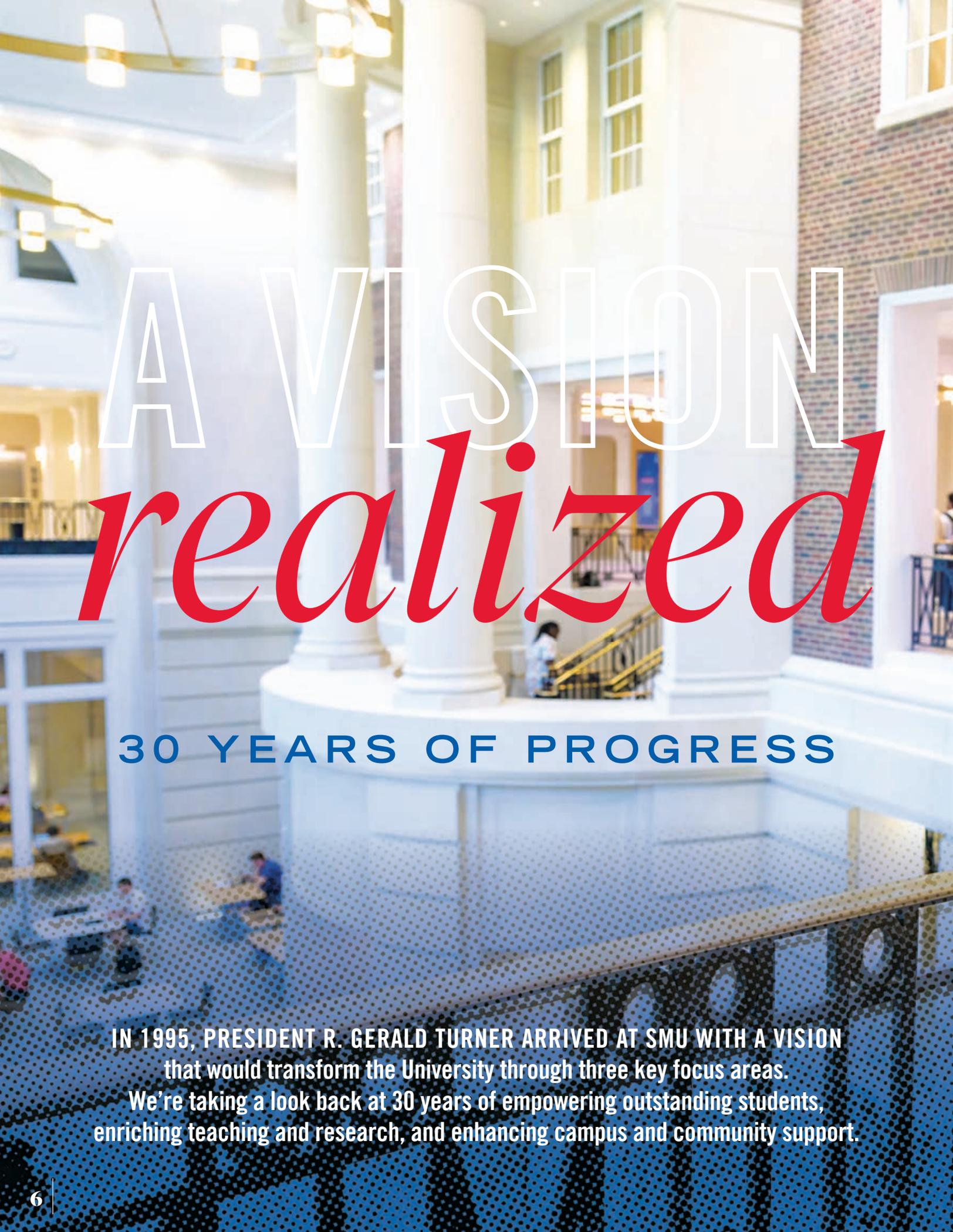
- In Athletics, going from a school that, because of the “Death Penalty” in 1987, was presumed by many to be permanently relegated to the lowest levels of NCAA competition, to membership today in the Atlantic Coast Conference. (Further, SMU was the regular season champion in ACC football in its first year of competition.)
- The increase in on-campus living facilities (and, thus, the “university experience”) which would accommodate only 1,500 students when Gerald arrived to more than 3,000 students today (primarily because of the creation of the Residential Commons).

- The absence of disorderly campus demonstrations, protests and civil unrest – especially in the last several years – relating to various major societal issues that have recently wreaked havoc at many other prestigious universities across the country.
- Maintenance of an academic atmosphere at SMU that embraces the liberal arts, the sciences and professional schools in business, law and theology (a combination of academic disciplines found on very few other campuses in the country).
- The reestablishment of a close relationship between the City of Dallas and the University, which was quite strong in the mid-1900s, but which had diminished dramatically by the time Gerald arrived on campus in 1995.

Gerald Turner has created an exceptionally strong foundation for SMU as it embraces the future, and his enduring legacy will continue to shape the lives of students and families for generations to come.

It has been an honor and a privilege to support and, with many others, partner with Gerald Turner on his remarkable journey of bringing true excellence to SMU. 🐉

SMU Board of Trustees,
Former Chair



A VISION *realized*

30 YEARS OF PROGRESS

IN 1995, PRESIDENT R. GERALD TURNER ARRIVED AT SMU WITH A VISION that would transform the University through three key focus areas. We're taking a look back at 30 years of empowering outstanding students, enriching teaching and research, and enhancing campus and community support.



President Turner visits the newly renovated Cox School of Business on the first day of class in 2024.



Empower

DR. TURNER'S PASSION FOR RELATIONSHIPS HAS STEWARDED 30 YEARS OF BOLD, CURIOUS AND CREATIVE STUDENTS ACHIEVING SUCCESS ON THE HILLTOP.

1995



1995

SEPTEMBER
Presidential inauguration

SEPTEMBER
Dr. Turner oversees his first SMU Tate Lecture, welcoming actor Gregory Peck



1996

JULY
SMU joins the Western Athletic Conference

EMPOWERING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

by the numbers

**since 1995*



In January 2025, undergraduate
APPLICATIONS REACH 24,000

 **81%**

Increase in students
from historically
underrepresented groups

37%

**INCREASE IN
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS**

Number of undergraduates
from outside Texas has
INCREASED 70%



**1,267 NEW
ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIPS
ADDED**



30 Number of times reading the Christmas story
at Student Foundation's Celebration of Lights



136,000
SMU ALUMNI
WORLDWIDE



24% INCREASE
IN GRADUATE STUDENTS

1997

APRIL Launch of *A Time to Lead*
with \$300 million goal plus Dedman
family \$30 million gift



FALL SMU opens the
SMU-in-Plano campus
in Legacy Business Park,
housing graduate degree
programs in business,
counseling and more

Right at home

Following years of planning between President R. Gerald Turner and campus leadership, SMU adopted a new style of campus living in 2014 – the Residential Commons. With representation from the student body, 11 Commons were established to integrate students’ academic, residential and social experiences. Five new residential buildings were constructed, and eight existing ones were renovated, allowing the campus to house about 3,000 students. SMU also implemented a requirement that students live on campus for two years, rather than one, to foster community.

Each of the Commons has its own core values, signature events and community programming. Students benefit from the presence of FiRs, or Faculty in Residence, who live among them in the Commons and host weekly programs to foster connection. Every undergraduate student belongs to a Residential Commons and remains affiliated during their time at SMU and beyond.



1998

APRIL The Meadows Foundation gives \$20 million toward the new Meadows Museum



FALL Gerald J. Ford '66, '69 gives \$20 million toward Gerald J. Ford Stadium



"Living in the Commons has been a transformative experience. I've discovered more than a space to live, but rather a community which forges lifelong friendships and where I feel a genuine sense of belonging. It's been a remarkable journey of finding myself within my community. The Residential Commons at SMU has truly become my home away from home."

Hansana Vivekanandan '27

1999

APRIL Laura Bush Promenade and Fondren Library Center open



SPRING Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher receives the Medal of Freedom from the Tower Center

INVEST IN THE BEST

Expansion of scholarship opportunities has been a key focus during Dr. Turner’s presidency. Over the course of 30 years and three successful fundraising campaigns, SMU has added 1,267 new scholars and \$3.4 billion in scholarships have been funneled into financial support for students. Students gather at the Clements Foundation Scholars Den, a centralized hub for honors students to collaborate – established and renovated under Turner.

Scholarship and honors programs support Dallas-Fort Worth natives and individuals from around the country, first-generation and multi-generation students alike, and acknowledge merit-based as well as need-based conditions.

Three cohort-focused programs – **Hilltop Scholars**, **Rotunda Scholars** and **Mustang Scholars** (all pictured, right) – have launched since 1995, and the preexisting **President’s Scholars**, **Hunt Scholars** and the **University Honors** programs have expanded significantly during that time. Merit-based and school-specific scholarships have also grown under Dr. Turner’s leadership.



“Being a Mustang Scholar has been life-changing. It allowed me to embrace every opportunity that SMU offers without the financial stress that many students face. This scholarship didn’t just give me access to an elite education – it made my dreams a reality.”

Jacob Garza '25
Mustang Scholar



2000

SEPTEMBER Gerald J. Ford Stadium opens; Boulevard tradition begins



2001

FEBRUARY The new Meadows Museum opens, moving from its original location within the Meadows School of the Arts building

Caring for the whole Mustang

Over the past 30 years, the landscape of student support services has transformed during Dr. Turner's tenure.

Services that assist with academic and career outcomes, such as those in the **Hegi Career Center**, physical and mental health facilities including the **Dr. Bob Smith Health Center**, and more expansive access to spiritual practice through **Hughes-Trigg Student Center** prayer and ablution rooms and Spiritual Life Mentors allow Mustangs to live and grow as academics and individuals.

Existing programs including study abroad and internship opportunities and facilities such as **Altschuler Learning Enhancement Center** and the **Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports** have all expanded under Dr. Turner's directive.



“

Through SMU's ample resources, I was able to develop habits that helped me succeed academically, personally and professionally.”

Emma Rose Hernandez '25



FEBRUARY Dedman School of Law is named with a \$20 million commitment from the Dedman family



SPRING Former President George H.W. Bush receives the Tower Center's Medal of Freedom



SEPTEMBER In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, SMU students, faculty and staff record journal entries of their reactions through the Office of the Chaplin

A TIME TO LEAD

The Campaign for SMU



President Turner and the Dedmans celebrate the Dedman School of Law naming.

2002

SPRING Dedman Life Sciences Building opens for classes

MAY *A Time to Lead* campaign celebration closes, reaching \$532 million



AUGUST Actress Kathy Bates '69 gives Commencement address



1997

2002



A Time to Lead

BY THE NUMBERS

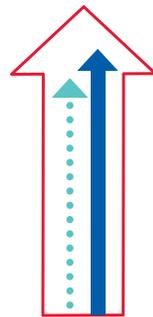
\$542 MILLION

raised, surpassing the original goal of \$300 million; the University's first major gifts campaign since opening



41,000

donors worldwide made contributions

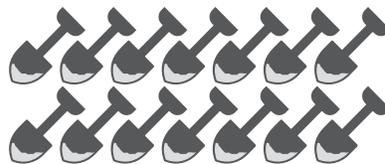


68%

increase in endowment, from \$483 million in 1995 to \$810 million in 2003

14

major new and renovated facilities



A perfect pairing

Brad Cheves, senior vice president for Development and External Affairs, is the longest serving current officer of the University reporting to Dr. Turner. For over two decades, Cheves and his wife, Angela, have worked alongside Dr. and Mrs. Turner to support three capital campaigns, transform SMU facilities, enrich the campus experience, and expand academic and community programs. We asked him for his personal reflections on behalf of the staff of the University.

One of the strongest impressions I have of Dr. Turner is his personal engagement with students, and indeed with all the individuals with whom he comes into contact. His first priority is to make every encounter as positive as possible, with the goal of fostering lifelong involvement with the University. He understands the profoundly positive impact SMU has on the lives of thousands of students, faculty, staff and alumni and is masterful in inviting them to remain engaged. Next is his unwavering set of values – the highest level of honesty, integrity and devotion to SMU, the wider community, and foremost, his family. Every decision he has made for the past 30 years has an ethical foundation. Finally, those who know him best are in awe of the way he had led the University during historic times of success and achievement, and perhaps more importantly, during times of challenges and crises. The COVID-19 pandemic was just one example where SMU thrived and met the challenge, while other institutions did not.

I speak for literally thousands of devoted staff of the University when I express congratulations to Gerald and Gail and express our gratitude for his generous and effective leadership. We all look forward to working beside them in the years ahead in their impactful new roles.

AUGUST Engineering complex opens, including Jerry Junkins Electrical Engineering Building

FALL President R. Gerald Turner receives the "M" Award

2003

FEBRUARY SMU seismologists analyze the infrasound signals from the Space Shuttle Columbia reentry crash over Texas

NOVEMBER Launch of SMU Guildhall, a premier graduate-level video game development program



NOVEMBER Laura Lee Blanton Student Services Building opens



Enrich

OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES, DR. TURNER HAS PRIORITIZED AN INVESTMENT IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH TO PROPEL SMU FORWARD.

2004

SPRING Westcott Field is renovated



SUMMER SMU-in-Taos Cultural Institute begins



ENRICHING TEACHING AND RESEARCH

by the numbers

SINCE 1995

\$59,749,000

in research grants

(up from \$7,595,000 in 1995)

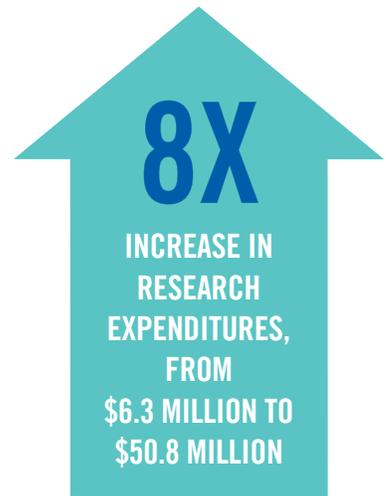


**5 NEW
FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAMS**



168

major academic
initiatives



255 TATE LECTURES



Increase in endowed faculty positions

FROM 46 TO 148

160 ART EXHIBITIONS

at the Meadows Museum



2005

JULY SMU joins Conference USA

AUGUST 210 evacuated students from Tulane, Xavier, Loyola, Dillard, New Orleans and Southern universities take refuge at SMU in the wake of Hurricane Katrina



SEPTEMBER James M. Collins Executive Education Center in the Cox School of Business opens

Top-tier research, big impact

As of February 2025, following many years of strategic focus, SMU has officially joined the ranks of Carnegie Research One universities, reinforcing its status as a powerhouse of innovation in North Texas. Thanks to Dr. Turner’s vision and the work of our academic leadership, SMU’s status as Dallas’ premier R1 institution will attract even more world-class faculty and students, foster groundbreaking research, and forge dynamic industry partnerships that will propel the region forward.

With more than two-thirds of graduates launching their careers in North Texas, SMU’s R1 status will further elevate Dallas as a global innovation hub. The achievement marks a bold new era for SMU, where research, education and industry converge to shape the future.

Over the last 30 years, individual and corporate donors have more than tripled the number of endowed faculty positions, invested in research programs and collaborations that have helped produce an eightfold increase in expenditures, and expanded fellowships for outstanding graduate students who conduct research.

In 2025, SMU Professor Leanne Ketterlin Geller was awarded a \$14 million grant to nationally scale a math intervention designed to help students improve their fraction skills – the highest single total dollar amount in SMU’s history.



2006

MAY Businessman H. Ross Perot, Jr. gives Commencement address

SPRING U.S. Sen. John McCain receives the Tower Center’s Medal of Freedom



SEPTEMBER J. Lindsay Embrey Building at the Lyle School of Engineering opens



“DALLAS IS ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING REGIONS IN THE COUNTRY. WITH R1 STATUS, SMU RESEARCH IS POISED TO BE THE CREATIVE ENGINE DRIVING THAT EXPLOSIVE GROWTH.”

Suku Nair

*Vice Provost for Research and
Chief Innovation Officer*

2007

NOVEMBER Harold C. and Annette Caldwell Simmons '57 give \$20 million to name Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, endow Leon Simmons deanship





“

Dr. Turner’s bold vision and enduring leadership were instrumental in SMU achieving Carnegie R1 status. Through landmark facilities, generous endowments, and the creation of the Simmons and Moody schools – cornerstones in our rise – we attract premier scholars and reinforce our commitment to research, education and community impact.”

Elizabeth G. Lobo

SMU Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies

When SMU announced the Moody Foundation’s \$100 million commitment of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies in 2019, it had a clear mission: “to advance graduate education and research, to advocate on behalf of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, and to enhance the University’s stature through the promotion of a culture of excellence.” Since it began formal operations during the 2020–2021 academic year, Moody has brought its vision to life by solidifying educational support to doctoral and master’s students across SMU. Moody’s resolve to expand fellowship opportunities has paved the way for the groundbreaking scholarship and research performed by students and faculty, which continues to have global impact. In 2023, Dr. Turner joined SMU in dedicating



Frances Anne Moody Hall, the new home for the Moody School, which serves as a central hub for graduate students and administrators and provides game-changing facilities for the program to accomplish their goals. “SMU has shaped world changers for more than a century,” said Frances Moody-Dahlberg ’92. “We understand that an investment in graduate studies at SMU is an investment in a better world and brighter future for all.”

2008

FEBRUARY Crum Basketball Center opens

JULY Dedication of Casita Clements at SMU-in-Taos

SEPTEMBER Eastern portion of Yale Boulevard is renamed SMU Boulevard by the city of Dallas



SEPTEMBER Kickoff of SMU *Unbridled* campaign with \$750 million goal

FALL \$35 million gift from Nancy Ann Hunter Hunt ’65 and Ray L. Hunt ’65; \$33 million gift from The Meadows Foundation and \$20 million gift from Annette Caldwell Simmons ’57 and Harold C. Simmons are announced as part of the SMU *Unbridled* campaign

Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development

In 2005, SMU reaffirmed its long history of pedagogical education initiatives through the creation of the School of Education and Human Development. A landmark \$20 million gift from Annette Caldwell Simmons '57 and Harold C. Simmons in 2007 allowed for new academic positions and, most notably, funded a new building to house the school – which was then renamed the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

This gift brought the school into a new era of academic advancement, which has since added the departments of Counseling, Applied Physiology and Wellness, Education Policy and Leadership, and Human-Centered Interdisciplinary Studies, in addition to its preexisting Department of Teaching and Learning. At the opening ceremony of the new Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall in 2010, Dr. Turner announced that “the research and instruction that take place here



will change lives as new findings translate into classroom innovations, advances in human development and lifetime skills.” The areas of study at Simmons deeply impact the education and wellness of humanity, and by establishing the Simmons School, SMU reaffirmed its commitment to the work being done by its students and faculty.



OCTOBER Bobby B. Lyle '67 names the Lyle School of Engineering



DECEMBER Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall groundbreaking

DECEMBER Noel family endows the Judge James Noel Deanship of Law at Dedman School of Law

SMU x ACC

In 2024, following a long history with four conferences after the dissolution of the Southwest Conference, SMU joined the Atlantic Coast Conference, culminating a return to a Power Five. The Mustang community celebrated first with an official announcement at Armstrong Fieldhouse on September 1, 2023, and then again on July 1, 2024, at Happiest Hour – complete with all the ACC mascots – as SMU officially joined the ACC. The football season set the tone for this new energy, setting a new student attendance record with 4,728 students in attendance at a single game and a new season attendance record at 228,563 fans.



2010

APRIL Caruth Hall at the Lyle School of Engineering opens



SEPTEMBER Simmons School of Education and Human Development and the Annette Caldwell Simmons Hall open





“WE’RE FINALLY BACK WHERE WE BELONG.”

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



NOVEMBER George W. Bush
Presidential Center groundbreaking



A new era

SMU's student-athletes were up to the challenge in the 2024–2025 season, marking decades of upswing in SMU Athletics. The football team advanced to the ACC championship game and earned an invitation to the College Football Playoff, ending the season ranked No. 12 in the AP college football rankings. SMU volleyball closed out their season ranked No. 10 and advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament. Men's basketball advanced to the ACC quarterfinals, and both the men's and women's swimming and diving advanced to the ACC championships. The equestrian team rose to the highest ranks in the NCEA. SMU students and alumni answered the call by filling the stands at home and away, traveling as far as Charlotte, North Carolina, and Happy Valley, Pennsylvania, to support their Mustangs.



“ It’s a historic milestone for SMU football. ”

Taylor Haley '13

Traveled to Happy Valley, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Charlie Haley '12 to cheer on the Mustangs against Penn State



2011

APRIL Announcement of \$20 million gift from the Moody Foundation and \$10 million gift from Carolyn and David B. Miller '72, '73, both for Moody Coliseum renovation



APRIL SMU Centennial celebrations begin



MAY His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama visits SMU for a Hart Global Leaders lecture and receives an honorary doctorate

2012

APRIL Community impact report "Dallas' University" is published, showing that SMU and its alumni provide a \$7 billion impact on North Texas annually

MAY Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gives Commencement address

SMU's second century

SMU loves a good celebration, and that certainly remained true when it came time to ring in the University's centennial – from the founding of the school in 1911 to its opening in 1915. Mustangs from all generations took part in Second Century events between 2011 and 2015.

To kick off the multiyear festivities, alumni and students alike gathered in front of Dallas Hall to watch fireworks and sign a giant birthday card on SMU Founders' Day Weekend, April

15, 2011. The years in between took a special focus: 2013 was dubbed the "Year of the Library," commemorating the 100th anniversary of SMU's first library (and the 2013 opening of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum); 2014 was the "Year of the Faculty;" and 2015 culminated with the "Year of the Student."

The years' events concluded with a special Centennial Homecoming and Reunion Weekend in September 2015, complete with a centennial

countdown concert, a commemorative worship service, an all-campus ceremony and a picnic. The Homecoming parade included an "SMU Parade of Giants," 10 towering puppets representing key figures in SMU's history; more than 30 former Homecoming kings and queens; and, of course, celebratory fireworks. The SMU community benefited from Dr. Turner's leadership throughout the entire period of celebration.



2013

FEBRUARY Annette Caldwell Simmons '57 and Harold C. Simmons give \$25 million for Harold Clark Simmons Hall and three endowed academic positions

APRIL Dedication of George W. Bush Presidential Center





The R. Gerald Turner Centennial Quadrangle, with the Gail O. and R. Gerald Turner Centennial Pavilion, was dedicated in 2011 at the start of SMU's centennial celebrations campaign.

“

The University's founders would indeed be proud of SMU's rise in the national rankings, as well as the growth in quality of students, faculty and curricula.”

Carl Sewell '66

Co-Chair of the Second Century Celebration Organizing Committee



JULY SMU joins the American Athletic Conference
DECEMBER Renovated Moody Coliseum opens



SMU UNBRIDLED

The Second Century Campaign



2014

JANUARY First offering of January term classes at SMU-in-Taos

MAY Dedication of Residential Commons complex

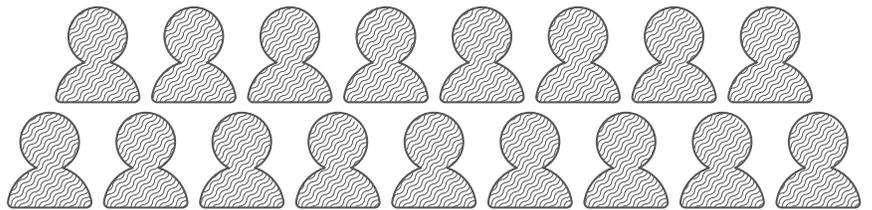


2008 2015

SMU Unbridled BY THE NUMBERS

\$1.15 billion

raised, surpassing the original goal of \$750 million



over

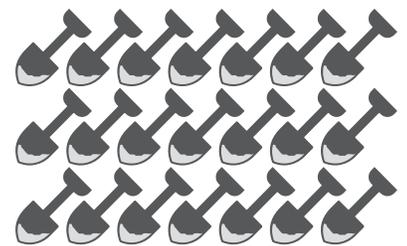
65,000

donors worldwide
made contributions



689

new endowed scholarships



24

major new and
renovated facilities



Celebrating reaching the \$1 billion milestone and the conclusion of the *Second Century* campaign

2015

FEBRUARY Styslinger/Altec Tennis Complex opens

MARCH The Meadows Foundation pledges \$45 million to SMU

SEPTEMBER Carolyn and David Miller Campus Center is dedicated at SMU-in-Taos



SEPTEMBER
Centennial
celebrations
conclude



Enhance

BY MODERNIZING AND ENHANCING CAMPUS FACILITIES OVER 30 YEARS, DR. TURNER'S VISION HAS IMPACTED EVERY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSITY.



2016 FEBRUARY Harold Clark Simmons Hall opens



APRIL SMU *Unbridled* campaign concludes, reaching \$1.15 billion, a record for Texas private universities

ENHANCING CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

by the numbers

SINCE 1995

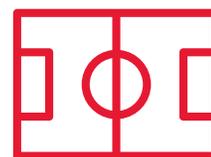


51 new and renovated

**ACADEMIC
FACILITIES**

11 new and renovated

**SPORTS
FACILITIES**



71 ACRES

added to Dallas campus
(44% increase)



613

PIECES ADDED TO THE UNIVERSITY'S
ART COLLECTION



Nearly

3,000

students housed



AUGUST Dr. Bob
Smith Health
Center opens

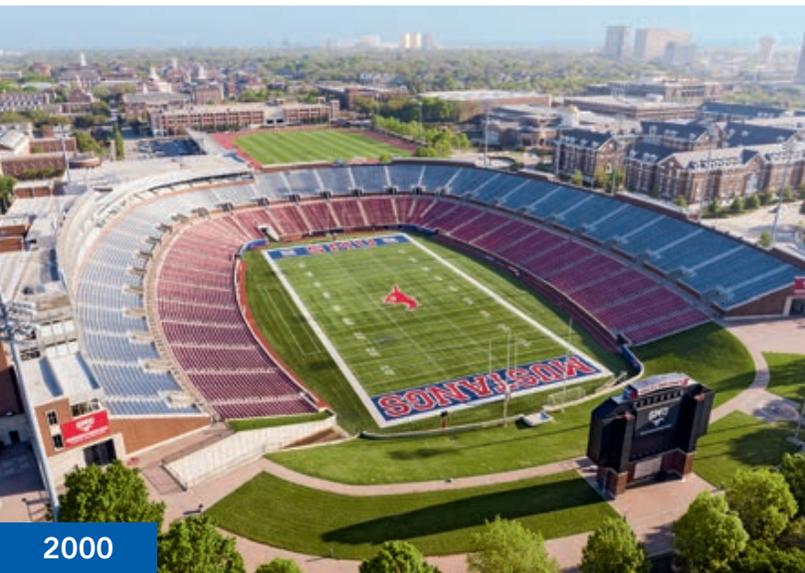


2017

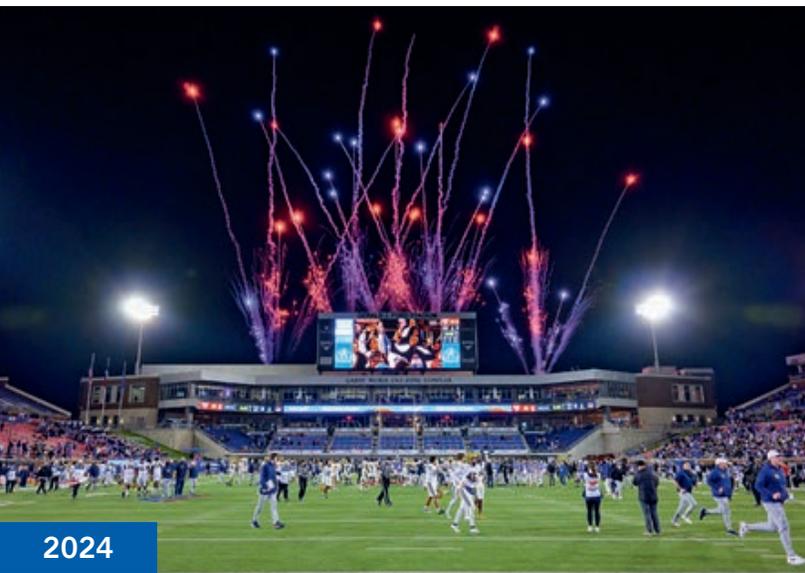
NOVEMBER Robson & Lindley
Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion
Natatorium opens



1995



2000



2024

WELCOME HOME, MUSTANGS



SMU football has known several homes throughout more than a century of its history: Armstrong Field, Ownby Stadium, the Cotton Bowl, Texas Stadium and finally Gerald J. Ford Stadium.

Ownby Stadium, built in 1926, would eventually become the site of Gerald J. Ford Stadium; the 32,000-seat stadium opened on the south end of campus September 2, 2000.

When SMU football returned to campus in 1989, Ownby hosted the program through 1996. That year, SMU joined the Western Athletic Conference and returned to the Cotton Bowl for the second time in its history. When football returned to campus for good in 2000, it came with a new tradition – “Boulevarding.”

SMU President R. Gerald Turner says the idea for the Boulevard came from the University of Mississippi, where he



2019

SEPTEMBER Dedication of Armstrong Fieldhouse



“Bringing football back to campus coupled with our tradition of the Boulevard allows our alumni to reconnect with each other and showcase decades of Mustangs together.”

Philip Wise '78, '81
Chair, SMU Alumni Board



Over the last 30 years, more than football has returned to campus, reigniting Mustang pride across a range of athletic programs.

Sports like tennis, soccer, swimming, basketball and volleyball have flourished with upgraded facilities and growing fan support. This homecoming of athletics to the Hilltop reflects SMU's broader commitment to excellence – on the field, in the pool and beyond.



served as chancellor before joining SMU. Ole Miss fans prepare for football games at “The Grove,” a 10-acre space in the middle of campus.

Over the past 25 years, Mustang fans have faithfully celebrated the football season along a stretch of campus dotted with tents.

And in 2024, as SMU prepared to join the Atlantic Coast Conference, the opening of the Garry Weber End Zone Complex connected the east and west gate entries of Ford Stadium, ushering in the next chapter of SMU football.



DOAK WALKER PLAZA

Doak Walker Plaza is named after SMU's former Heisman Trophy winner and NFL Hall of Famer; it opened with Ford Stadium in 2000.

OCTOBER Carolyn and David B. Miller '72, '73 give \$50 million toward Cox School of Business, the largest alumni gift in SMU history



NOVEMBER The Moody Foundation gives \$100 million to create Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and Frances Anne Moody Hall, the largest gift in SMU history; Moody deanship ended



A home for learning

A

Nearly every student who steps on the campus today takes a class, works in a lab, studies in a library or works on a group project in a building constructed or renovated under Dr. Turner’s leadership.

Science and engineering students work in labs in the Dedman Life Sciences Building, or the Lyle School of Engineering’s Jerry R. Junkins Engineering Building, Caruth Hall or the Embrey Engineering Building.

Innovation is the standard in the Gerald J. Ford Hall for Research and Innovation, the heart of SMU’s data science center and headquarters for graduate students creating video games in Guildhall.

New classrooms, auditoriums, group project rooms and study spaces in the recently opened David B. Miller Business Quadrangle are home to Cox Business students. Studio arts students paint, draw, sculpt and exhibit their work in new spaces in Meadows School of the Arts.

In Perkins School of Theology, students practice sermons

in a teaching lab or gather for meals and events in Prothro Hall. Bridwell Library and Perkins Chapel shine from careful renovations.

Graduate and undergraduate education, sport management, and master and doctoral liberal arts students take classes and conduct research in the Annette Caldwell Simmons and Harold Clark Simmons halls, home to the Simmons School of Education and Human Development, created in 2005.

Frances Anne Moody Hall is headquarters for graduate study and home to the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies for SMU’s growing number of graduate students.

In Fondren Library, the first renovation completed under Dr. Turner’s leadership, Fondren Library Center is the library’s connecting space, leading to learning technology, study spaces and a coffee shop. Groundbreaking will take place in May 2025 for one more building project under Dr. Turner’s leadership, the Rees-Jones Library of the American West, which will open in 2027.



2020 FEBRUARY Cox School of Business celebrates centennial



AUGUST Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies opens



B



C



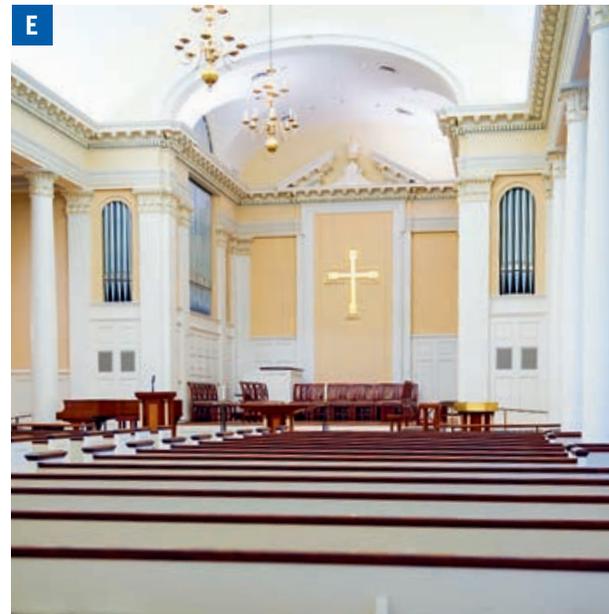
D

“It’s no surprise that SMU Libraries achieved distinction as Texas’ largest private research library system during President Turner’s tenure, expanding to seven facilities – and soon to be eight – that embody the innovation, collaboration and partnership he has championed to propel academic success across the University.”

Holly Jeffcoat *Dean, SMU Libraries*



H



E



G



F

OPPOSITE PAGE: A Fondren Library Center **THIS PAGE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT):** B Caruth Hall C The DIG (Deason Innovation Gym) D Dedman Life Sciences Building E Perkins Chapel F Visualization Lab in Gerald J. Ford Hall G The David B. Miller Business Quadrangle’s Ida Family Reading Room in the Duda Family Business Library H David B. Miller Business Quadrangle



AUGUST SMU holds in-person Commencement outdoors due to COVID-19 pandemic

SEPTEMBER Campus resumes in-person instruction



DECEMBER Dedication of Gerald J. Ford Hall for Research and Innovation, an interdisciplinary hub housing SMU Guildhall and other programs



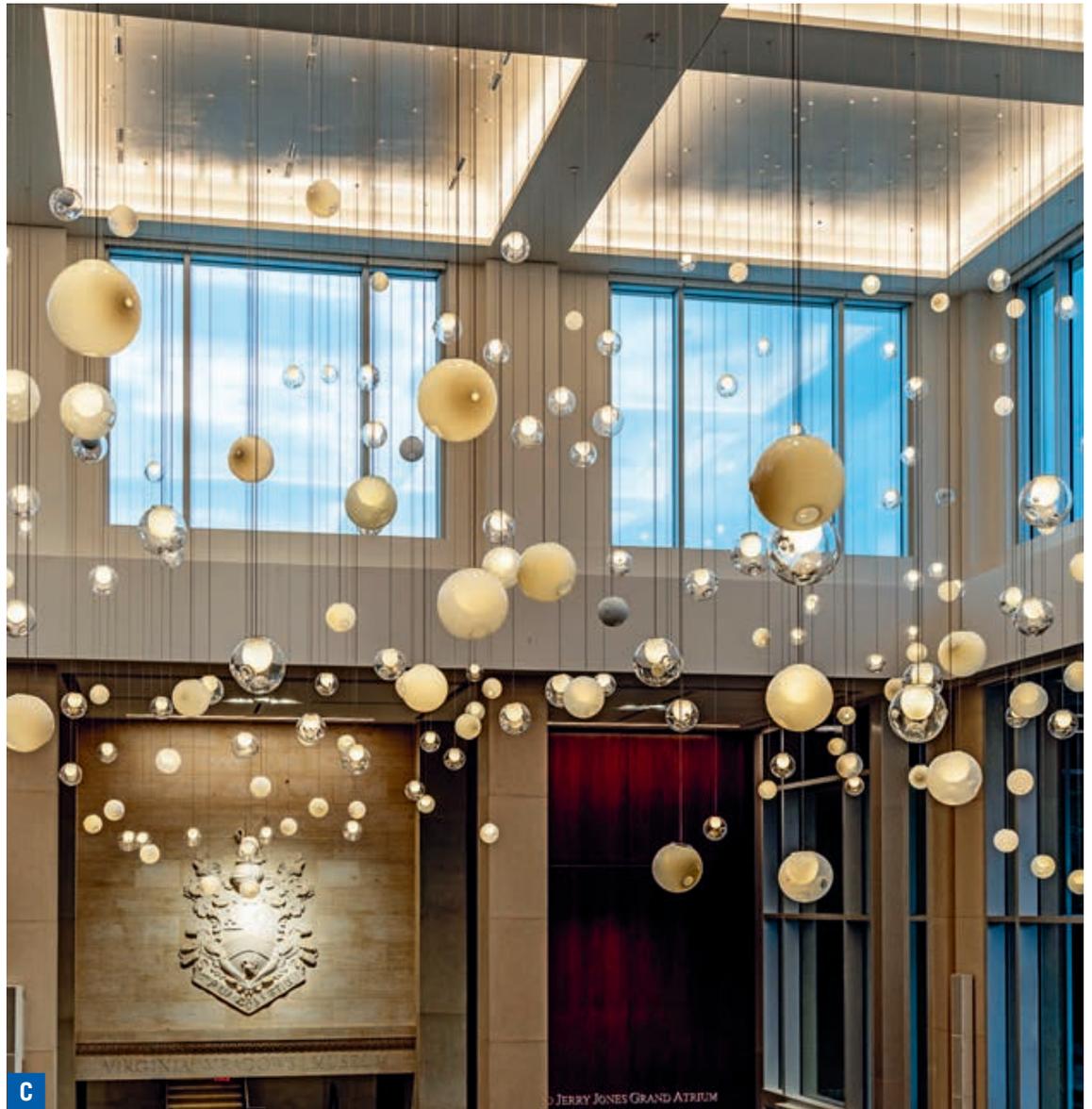
A



B

THIS PAGE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT):
A Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall B J. Lindsay Embrey Engineering Building C Gene and Jerry Jones Grand Atrium Chandelier Installation in Meadows School of the Arts

OPPOSITE PAGE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT):
D Laura Lee Blanton Student Services Building and Ann Lacy Crain Fountain E Fondren Foundation Centennial Reading Room in Fondren Library F Rendering of the forthcoming Rees-Jones Library of the American West



C



OCTOBER 43rd President of the United States George W. Bush gives a Tate Lecture Series address

2021 SEPTEMBER SMU Ignited kicks off with a goal of \$1.5 billion





D



E



F



2022

JANUARY Garry Weber '58 gives \$50 million toward Garry Weber End Zone Complex at Gerald J. Ford Stadium

APRIL William S. Spears' gift toward William S. Spears Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership, largest non-alumni gift in SMU history

APRIL Dedication of Washburne Soccer and Track Stadium



SEPTEMBER Renovated Meadows School visual arts facilities open, including Gene and Jerry Jones Grand Atrium and Plaza

OCTOBER Elisabeth Martin Armstrong '82 and William D. Armstrong '82 endow the dean position for the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences



Expanding the Hilltop

New landmarks on campus have drawn Spanish royalty, former U.S. presidents, and thousands of schoolchildren and North Texas visitors to the SMU campus.

Under Dr. Turner's leadership, the 43rd president of the United States, George W. Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush '68 selected SMU from six

contenders as home to the George W. Bush Library and Museum. Fireworks, fanfare and a historic visit from five former U.S. presidents marked the 2013 opening of the library, now maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration. The independent George W. Bush Institute is operated by the George W. Bush Foundation.

Meadows Museum moved in 2001 to its current home on Bishop Boulevard, where it houses one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of

Spanish art outside of Spain. Special exhibits, an outdoor sculpture garden and Santiago Calatrava's *Wave* sculpture draw researchers, students and visitors from all over the world.

Visitors to the Bush Library and Museum and the Meadows Museum are drawn to the beauty of campus, transformed during Dr. Turner's tenure to a lushly landscaped pedestrian campus. Each of the 62 buildings constructed and renovated over the last 30 years reflects the Collegiate Georgian architectural



2023

FEBRUARY Mary and Richard Templeton give \$20 million toward engineering education, including endowment of the Mary and Richard Templeton Dean of the Lyle School of Engineering

AUGUST O'Donnell Foundation gives \$30 million toward data science institute and engineering education



2024

MAY David B. Miller Business Quadrangle dedication



LEFT: Santiago Calatrava's *Wave* sculpture outside of the Meadows Museum; **RIGHT:** Juan Carlos I, former King of Spain, attends the opening of the museum.



Meadows Museum

- 613 pieces added to the University art collection
- 245 pieces added to the Meadows Museum's Spanish collection
- 160 art exhibitions
- 2 sculptures, *Wave* and *Sho*, added during Dr. Turner's tenure; a third sculpture, *Two Open Rectangles Horizontal* was also acquired during his leadership

style that began with SMU's first president. An expansion on the eastern end of campus added space for administrative needs as well as the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium.

Seven hundred miles from the Dallas campus, the SMU-in-Taos campus has transformed to include the Miller Campus Center, a gathering space complete with wraparound porch, a chapel, new student housing and new hiking trails. Classes are now offered during May term, summer

terms and January term, along with the popular summer Taos Cultural Institute for alumni and guests.



JULY SMU joins the Atlantic Coast Conference, an NCAA Power Five conference



SEPTEMBER Garry Weber End Zone Complex opens

SMU IGNITED

Boldly Shaping Tomorrow



2025

FEBRUARY SMU earns Research One status from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the highest designation for research and development



FEBRUARY Dedman School of Law centennial celebration

2021 — 2025

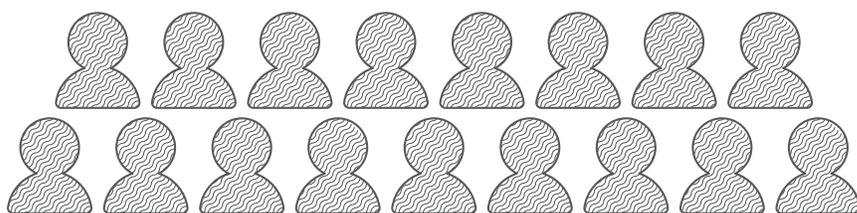
Campus and community came together to celebrate the launch of the *SMU Ignited* campaign in 2021.

SMU Ignited

BY THE NUMBERS*

\$1.4 billion AND COUNTING

The University's third comprehensive campaign



over **61,000** donors worldwide made contributions



32
new endowed faculty positions



23
major new and renovated facilities

* at time of press



MAY Rees-Jones Library of the American West groundbreaking

MAY *SMU Ignited* campaign celebration

2025

Decades of partnership

A university president's success is determined not only by his own resolve and vision, but also by the support and wisdom of his advisers. One of the most significant sources of guidance for the president is the SMU Board of Trustees, which governs policy and fiduciary responsibilities for the University. Since 1995, Dr. Turner has worked alongside nine chairs of the Board of Trustees, who have counseled on and championed his mission for SMU. Their influence will live in tandem with Dr. Turner's legacy of progress.

Robert H. Dedman '53 **1992-1996**

Dedman had the distinction of being chair at the time of Dr. Turner's selection as SMU's 10th president. Dedman and his family were donors of the signature gift that launched SMU's first campaign, *A Time to Lead*.

William R. Howell **1996-2000**

Howell was chair during the early years of the *Time to Lead* campaign, which had a history-making goal of \$300 million, far exceeded by its conclusion in 2002.

Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler '48 **2000-2002**

The first woman to serve as chair and the longest serving member of the board, Altshuler was a champion of academic initiatives, establishing the Altshuler Teaching Award and funding the construction of the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center.

Gerald J. Ford '66, '69 **2002-2006**

In addition to his well-known support for bringing football back to campus, as chair, Ford was an early proponent

of faculty research, establishing during his chairmanship the Ford Research Fellows program.

Carl Sewell '66 **2006-2010**

Sewell was chair at the time of the launch of *The Second Century Campaign*, and at the time, SMU was selected as home to the George W. Bush Presidential Center. During his time as chair and beyond, Sewell was a vocal proponent for student support and rising student quality.

Caren H. Prothro **2010-2014**

Prothro's chairmanship was marked by her deep commitment to faculty and to increasing the numbers of endowed academic positions. Through her advocacy, SMU has added dozens of new endowed positions in recent years.

Michael M. Boone '63, '67 **2014-2018**

As chair, Boone was a champion for building a strong relationship with the Dallas community. As part of SMU's centennial commemoration, he oversaw

the University's first economic impact report, demonstrating in tangible terms SMU's financial and cultural contributions to the Dallas community.

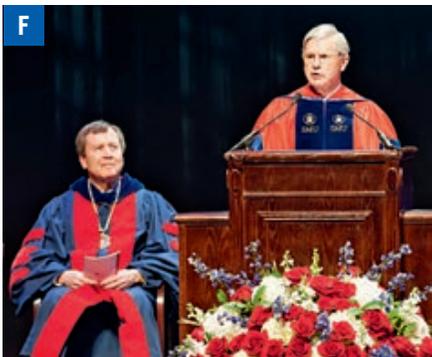
Robert H. Dedman, Jr. '80, '84 **2018-2022**

Dedman had the distinction of being chair at two historic moments: the launch of the *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* campaign and the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his leadership, and in partnership with Dr. Turner, SMU became known as a pioneer in dealing successfully with the pandemic's impact on campus, academic and student life.

David B. Miller '72, '73 **2022-PRESENT**

Under Miller's chairmanship, SMU joined the ACC and became an R1 university, ranking among the nation's top research institutions. Together, Miller and Dr. Turner brought the *SMU Ignited* campaign to a successful close reaching its \$1.5 billion goal.

OPPOSITE PAGE: A (left to right) President R. Gerald Turner, Nancy Dedman '50, Robert H. Dedman '53 and William R. Howell; **B** Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler '48; **C** Gerald J. Ford '66, '69; **D** Carl Sewell '66 (far left); **E** Caren H. Prothro; **F** Michael M. Boone '63, '67; **G** Robert H. Dedman, Jr. '80, '84; **H** David B. Miller '72, '73



First lady of SMU: Gail O. Turner

When Dr. and Mrs. Turner first arrived at SMU in 1995, the native Texans were already familiar with Dallas' benefits as well as the school's best qualities. "For me, it was the academics," she says. The couple had watched, from afar, the impact of the NCAA's "Death Penalty" and surprisingly, that was a motivating factor for taking up the president and first lady roles. "We knew SMU had worked hard to restore itself and restructure, and that was one of the reasons we were interested in the school," she says.

Over the past 30 years, Dr. and Mrs. Turner have set the tone for the University during its unprecedented



ascent, from opening the George W. Bush Presidential Center in 2013 to joining the Atlantic Coast Conference in 2024, to name a few highlights.

"Gerald and I felt like that was probably one of the top things to happen to SMU," she says of securing the location of the Bush Center.

And as for the ACC, Mrs. Turner knows this is just the beginning. "All of our teams, I think, surprised the world with how good they already are," she says. "The ACC

knew that we were high quality, but I'm pretty sure that it's surprised a lot of people that we were as high quality as they thought, and that is ongoing and is yet to be fully developed."

An avid supporter of Athletics, Mrs. Turner has been known to attend football, basketball, soccer, volleyball and tennis games with her husband over the years. "TK [Pitts] and Ella [Brow] are in our Christmas card this year," Mrs. Turner laughs, noting two women's basketball teammates. "They're in this little picture of the four of us watching the eclipse."

Her love of academics also runs deep. A former K-12 educator, Mrs. Turner is a strong supporter of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development. And as a budding artist herself, she enjoys taking continuing education classes in painting at the Meadows School of the Arts. "The energy in that school – there's always stuff going on," she says. "You hear music and singing and practicing from [the practice rooms] down below, and when you ride the elevator, you can hear things on each floor – painting is kind of quiet,



"Our students have high aspirations, and they are so readied by their experience at SMU."

Gail O. Turner

but the performing arts is a different story." Not only is she a student, but Mrs. Turner serves on the Meadows Executive Board, as well.

And each year, the Turners have hosted their Christmas party at the Meadows Museum, complete with musical accompaniment by SMU's Belle Tones and Southern Gentlemen. "It's just beautiful," she remarks. But her love of the museum runs year-round as she serves on the Meadows Museum Advisory Council. "I love the exhibits we get at the museum," she adds.

And yet, Mrs. Turner's impact on Dallas goes far beyond the Hilltop. In 1998, Mrs. Turner co-founded New Friends New Life. Other pioneers in the organization were Nancy Ann Hunter Hunt '65 and, shortly after, Pat Schenkel. The nonprofit – which restores and empowers trafficked and sexually exploited teen girls, women and their children – was inspired by a young woman attending the Turners' church who had previously worked as a dancer and was seeking ways to

start afresh. "Nancy Ann Hunt and Pat Schenkel gave other individuals in town – and me – confidence and trust," Mrs. Turner recalls. "They knew we would not be involved if it wasn't something worthwhile." Today, Dr. and Mrs. Turner's younger daughter, Jessica Turner Waugh '99, serves on the board of directors, and Mrs. Turner is hopeful for the continuing upward trajectory of the organization – just as she is for SMU.

"If you're ever with our students, that's why we're here," Mrs. Turner says on behalf of SMU's extended faculty and staff. "I feel like the personality of SMU right now is so good. You get a happy feeling from most of our students. I always ask parents, 'How is your student doing?' and they always tell me that their student is happy and loves the experience." Following her keynote talk at the SMU Moms and Dads Club annual Mother's Tea on March 8, Mrs. Turner noted how many young women approached her afterward with interest in the nonprofit field, as Mrs.

Turner also serves on the board of the Genesis Women's Shelter and Support and previously served on the board of Austin Street Center. "Our students have high aspirations, and they are so readied by their experience at SMU," she says. "But mainly, they're just so brilliant."

As for her next steps with Dr. Turner?

"I look forward to getting back to painting," she says. "I would love to conquer mahjong – I am a raw beginner. And I see Gerald taking note every time someone mentions a trip they really enjoyed."

It marks the beginning of a well-deserved new chapter for a couple who has given so much of themselves to the Mustang family.



Everlasting impact

David B. Miller '72, '73 was invited by SMU Magazine to reflect on Dr. Turner's 30-year tenure as president of SMU. Miller currently serves as the Board of Trustees chair and has served on the Board since 2008. Over that time he has worked closely with Dr. Turner as SMU advanced in significant ways. He offers his perspective on Dr. Turner's 30 years of service.

As I've said on numerous occasions during my time as board chair, we've had the good fortune of having the finest University president in the country for three decades. Continuity in leadership has allowed SMU to rise in reputation and impact in many critical areas.

Substantial improvement in the quality of our student body at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, growing excellence in our faculty in teaching and research, and greatly enhanced campus facilities are all part of President Turner's legacy. Our recent designation as an R1 research



“SMU's brand and national reputation have soared under President Turner's direction.”

David B. Miller '72, '73

institution and our move back to power conference status athletically as a member of the ACC are two milestones that clearly demonstrate how far we've advanced. SMU's brand and national reputation have soared under President Turner's direction.

The Board of Trustees is firmly committed to continuing the University's steep academic ascent, and our foundational strength and momentum have positioned us to attract yet another exceptional leader, President-elect Jay Hartzell.

As we prepare for President Turner's transition, it is most important that we acknowledge with a deep sense of gratitude his extraordinary leadership and stewardship over

the past 30 years and also recognize Gail Turner for her grace and charm and enduring devotion as the first lady of SMU.

I know you will all join me in thanking them both for the everlasting impact and imprint they have made on this great institution that we all so dearly love!

DAVID B. MILLER '72, '73
Chair, SMU Board of Trustees



“

Our foundational strength and momentum have positioned us to attract yet another exceptional leader, President-elect Jay Hartzell.”

David B. Miller '72, '73





Thank you, DR. TURNER

Do you have your own well wishes you'd like to share with President Turner?

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOURS ONLINE.



JOIN US October 30–November 2, 2025

GO BIG AND COME HOME

SMU HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND

For a full list of Homecoming and Reunion Weekend events, visit smu.edu/homecoming.

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Leveraging the student-athlete experience

When you support the Boulevard Collective, you're empowering 159 SMU student-athletes across programs like football, men's basketball, women's basketball and women's volleyball to earn compensation through endorsements, sponsorships, autograph signings and more.

As our official name, image and likeness (NIL) partner, the Boulevard Collective creates opportunities for these Mustangs to develop excellence and leadership skills, access real-world experience and raise the University's visibility to drive applications and attract top talent.

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