

FALL 2017

— *Super School For Girls*

— *Life In The Residential Commons*

— *Meadows' New Look*

SMU MAGAZINE



Ignite

SMU shapes groundbreaking
community theater collaboration

PAGE 12

SMU HOMECOMING

Come back for an unforgettable time on the Hilltop.
We can't wait to welcome you home!

SAVE THE DATE

November 2-4, 2017

Thursday, NOVEMBER 2

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Recognizing extraordinary achievement,
outstanding character and good citizenship



Friday, NOVEMBER 3

**Mustang Band
100th Anniversary**

Pigskin Revue

Class Reunions

Undergraduate classes

'72, '77, '82, '87, '92,
'97, '02, '07 and '12

**Dedman School
of Law Reunion**



Saturday, NOVEMBER 4

Homecoming Parade

The Boulevard

SMU vs. UCF



For a full schedule of Homecoming and Reunion
events, please visit smu.edu/homecoming.

World Changers
Shaped Here



SMU



Features



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SMU Alumnae Shape An All-girls 'Super School'

Nancy Bernardino '01, '04, '05 (above) serves as the principal of Solar Preparatory School for Girls, a new single-gender public school in Dallas that garnered attention from *The New York Times* and other national media for its economic diversity and innovative curriculum. Find out how Bernardino and her leadership team of SMU alumnae create a learning environment that cultivates confidence and academic achievement.

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03

JONESES' GIFT TO TRANSFORM ARTS BUILDING

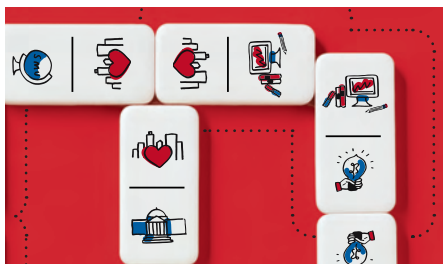
GENE AND JERRY JONES HAVE COMMITTED \$5 MILLION TO TRANSFORM THE EAST ENTRANCE TO OWEN ARTS CENTER, PROVIDING A NEW GATEWAY AND VENUE FOR STUDENT PERFORMANCES AND COMMUNITY GATHERINGS AT MEADOWS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS.



Uncommon Life

What is it like to live in one of SMU's Residential Commons? Chemistry Professor David Son and his family have found it is anything but ordinary.

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Domino Effect

Annual gifts made toward current use help to power every part of the University. Take a look at how gifts create a chain reaction of achievement at SMU.

page 24

ON THE COVER



SMU's Meadows School of the Arts collaborated with the Dallas Theater Center to reach out to underserved populations in Dallas who aren't regularly exposed to the world of art. Together, they staged a musical production

of *The Tempest* with members of the community as actors. See how SMU faculty, students and alumni supported this groundbreaking effort in the story on page 12. Photo by Kim Leeson.

A Great Time To Be On The Hilltop



President R. Gerald Turner

We invite you to be a critical part of all the great things that will happen on the Hilltop in the months ahead.

As the University makes final preparations for the arrival of new students and the start of fall classes August 21, I am more excited than ever about the opportunities ahead – for the Class of 2021 and for the University as a whole.

Our new students join peers from every U.S. state and more than 90 countries around the world. On the Hilltop, new first-year students will immediately find a home away from home in their Residential Commons. On page 18, you can see what that experience will be like as they interact with peers who represent a cross-section of the student body and with Faculty in Residence who take an interest in their well-being, academically and socially.

The new students will be joined by new faculty members and administrators, including the ones profiled on pages 6 and 7: new deans for the Cox School of Business and Simmons School of Education and Human Development, the University's first-ever associate provost for continuing education, and new leaders for student affairs and information technology.

These outstanding leaders and their peers across SMU will enhance the abilities of our students and faculty to work together across disciplines to create new fields of knowledge and address tough problems. For examples of ways in which they change the world, read about the groundbreaking community partnerships forged by Meadows School of the Arts (see page 12) and the entrepreneurial

alumnae who created an innovative all-girls school in Dallas (see page 26).

The unique opportunities SMU offers students, faculty and alumni are only possible because of the ever-increasing generosity of donors. That is why we started the exciting three-year initiative called *Pony Power: Strengthening the Stampede* to inspire more people to give every year to support current initiatives (see pages 4 and 24). Your annual gift to the SMU Fund – which you can direct to broad areas such as the University's greatest needs, scholarships or faculty, or to the highest priorities of a school, the libraries, Athletics or Student Affairs – enables you to be a critical part of all the great things that will happen on the Hilltop in the months ahead.

I hope you can see for yourself the incredible things happening at the University – by coming to campus for Homecoming November 2-4 or Family Weekend September 22-24; by attending an event across the U.S. for alumni, family and friends; by seeing a game or performance on campus; or by reading the stories SMU shares online throughout the year.

It is going to be a fantastic year, and we want you to be a part of it.

R. GERALD TURNER
President

VOL. 68, NO. 1 FALL 2017

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Printer **ColorDynamics**

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

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



MEADOWS MAKEOVER

**JONESES' GIFT TO TRANSFORM ENTRANCE,
LAUNCH RENOVATION OF OWEN ARTS CENTER**



"We are proud to invest in nurturing young artists and connecting them with the broader community, both of which the Meadows School successfully achieves."— Gene Jones

Reflecting their passion for connecting the arts to the community through public spaces, Gene and Jerry Jones have committed \$5 million to transform the east entrance to SMU's Owen Arts Center along Bishop Boulevard, providing a new gateway and venue for student performances and community gatherings.

The Joneses' commitment will be matched by a \$5 million grant from The Meadows Foundation, Inc., generating a total of \$10 million to create the Gene and Jerry Jones Grand Atrium and Plaza. The gift launches a \$30 million, first-phase initiative to modernize all four floors on the north side of the largest academic structure on campus, which houses Meadows School of the Arts.

The Meadows Foundation provided a \$10 million matching grant for the Owen Arts Center renovation project as part of its historic 2015 commitment of \$45 million to SMU, creating an incentive to attract donors for the project.

Gene Jones is a civic and philanthropic leader, a supporter of the arts and the driving force behind the creation of the

Dallas Cowboys Art Collection at AT&T Stadium and The Star. She serves on the Meadows School executive board and the John Goodwin Tower Center board of directors, and is a former member of the SMU Board of Trustees. Jerry Jones is owner, president and general manager of the Dallas Cowboys.

"Anyone who has experienced the wonderful artworks that fill AT&T Stadium and The Star has seen that the Joneses have a personal commitment to sharing the arts," said President R. Gerald Turner. "They are extending their generous support to the Meadows School of the Arts to provide a beautiful gathering space for those attending community events and performances of our outstanding students."

The Gene and Jerry Jones Plaza will

feature beautiful landscaping and walkways, and will be ideal for outdoor performances, classes and events.

The enclosure and integration of the east-side outdoor courtyard and expansion of the Bob Hope Theatre Lobby will create the 4,300-square-foot Gene and Jerry Jones Grand Atrium with lofty ceilings and expansive glass. Other features of the renovation project will create and improve academic spaces for the visual arts, art history and creative computation programs.

"Renovation of the Owen Arts Center will transform the environment in which our students and faculty study and create visual art," said Meadows Dean Samuel S. Holland. "Our aim is to create spaces that will inspire and foster creativity, attract current and future generations of artists, and solidify the Meadows School's place among the city's top five arts and cultural institutions."

For more information, visit smu.edu/mag17jones or contact the Meadows School of the Arts Office of Development at meadowsgiving@smu.edu or 214-768-4421.



SMU Launches *Pony Power* Initiative

Building on unprecedented accomplishments over the past decade, SMU has launched a three-year giving “stampede” focused on yearly investments that strengthen current efforts in every area of the University.

The drive, named *Pony Power: Strengthening the Stampede*, sets a goal to raise an average of \$50 million a year in current-use gifts from June 1, 2017, to May 31, 2020, for total of \$150 million.

SMU President R. Gerald Turner provided a preview of the stampede to the University’s key supporters during Founders’ Day weekend in April.

“The national universities with which SMU now competes have endowments two to three times the size of ours,” Turner said. “Annual fund gifts that bring immediate assistance to enhance what is happening at SMU today enable the University to ‘fight above its weight class’ as its endowment continues to grow.”

A committee of volunteer leaders representing academic schools and con-

stituencies is leading *Pony Power*. The stampede is chaired by SMU trustees Caren H. Prothro and Carl Sewell ’66, with honorary chairs Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler ’48, Michael M. Boone ’63, ’67, Robert H. Dedman, Jr. ’80, ’84, Gerald J. Ford ’66, ’69, Ray L. Hunt ’65 and David B. Miller ’72, ’73.

Other representatives on the committee include Douglas Smellage ’77, chair of the SMU Alumni Board; Connie ’77 and Chris O’Neill, co-chairs of the SMU Parent Leadership Council; Paul Grindstaff ’15, president of the SMU Mustang Club; Fredrick Olness and Jennifer Jones, co-chairs of SMU Faculty and Staff Giving; SMU Student Giving representative Madison M. Zellers ’18.

Additional committee members include representatives from each school’s executive board: Kirk L. Rimer ’89, Cox School of Business; Jon J. Altschuler ’94, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences; James L. Baldwin ’86, Dedman School of Law; Michael G. Sullivan ’85, ’91, Lyle School of Engineering; Marvin

B. Singleton ’89, Meadows School of the Arts; Dodee F. Crockett ’03, Perkins School of Theology; and Richard H. Collins ’69, Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

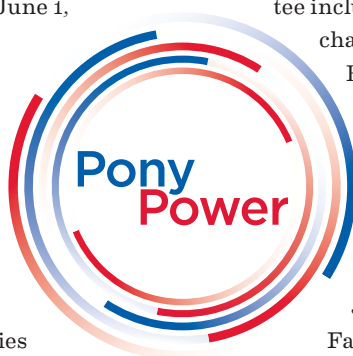
“*Pony Power* represents a fantastic opportunity for donors and non-donors alike to enhance new initiatives created in recent years – and empower the University to take advantage of new opportunities as they emerge,” Prothro said. “Increasing our investment in these areas will ensure that SMU expands its ambitions and impact.”

Sewell said, “Peggy’s and my support for scholarships to SMU is one of the most rewarding things we have ever done. Current-use gifts fuel student scholarships and fellowships, faculty research and every area of the student experience. If thousands of donors join together to give \$50 million each year, SMU can outperform traditional academic powers when it comes to attracting outstanding students, charting new fields of knowledge and solving complex problems.”

To encourage others to experience for themselves the benefits of consistent, increased giving for current use, one strategy SMU will employ is the expanded SMU Fund, which provides flexible support for key priorities and emerging opportunities. SMU Fund donors will be able to designate their gifts to broad areas such as SMU’s greatest needs, scholarships and faculty; to the highest priorities of a school or the libraries; or to campus experiences through Athletics or Student Affairs.

Brad Cheves, vice president for Development and External Affairs, said, “Expanding the SMU culture of annual giving and encouraging donors to commit to extend their annual gifts over a three-year period helps every school and unit plan its efforts to address the University’s strategic priorities.”

To learn more about *Pony Power* and see a video about the impact of current-use gifts, visit smu.edu/ponypower.



Designed For Teachers

The Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development dedicated in March the Olamaie Curtiss Graney Design Lab in Harold Simmons Hall. Olamaie G. Fojtasek and Randall S. Fojtasek ’85, ’90 (center) made a \$1 million pledge to SMU, with \$500,000 directed to the Design Lab and \$500,000 for M.B.A. scholarships in Cox School of Business. Also at the ceremony were (from left) SMU Provost Steve Currall, President R. Gerald Turner and Simmons Interim Dean Paige Ware. Graney, Mrs. Fojtasek’s mother, was a public



school teacher in Tennessee and Mississippi. In the lab, education students use technology to develop unit and lesson plans and technology applications to support student learning.

Symposium Opens New Center



Attending the inaugural symposium of SMU's new Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center in April were (from left) SMU Trustee Jeanne Tower Cox '78, SMU Trustee and president and chairman of the board of GRUMA Corporation Juan Gonzalez and SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

SMU Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center celebrated its opening with its first symposium April 7.

The symposium featured a keynote address from Geronimo Gutierrez, Mexico's ambassador to the United States. The symposium also included five panels, each featuring a Texas expert and a Mexico expert discussing one of the Center's five focus areas of the cross-border relationship: trade and investment, Mexico's energy reform, immigration, border issues, and human capital and education.

"The center will help shape important regional and national conversations on topics such as education, trade and energy – topics that impact our communities every day," said Luisa del Rosal, founding executive director of the center. "Our unique mission will influence policy questions and carry out the goal of mentoring our next generation of leaders."

The Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center is part of the Dedman College of Humanities and Science, in partnership with the Cox School of Business. It is a sister center to John G. Tower Center for Political Studies.

GRUMA-Mission Foods made the center possible with a \$4 million gift.

To learn more: smu.edu/mag17/TexasMexico.

Brettell Elected To American Academy Of Arts And Sciences

Noted SMU anthropologist Caroline Brettell joins actress Carol Burnett, musician John Legend, playwright Lynn Nottage, immunologist James Allison and other renowned leaders in various fields as a newly elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

She joins 228 new fellows and foreign honorary members – representing the sciences, the humanities and the arts, business, public affairs and the nonprofit sector – as a member of one of the world's most prestigious honorary societies.

"It is overwhelming to be in the company of Winston Churchill, Georgia O'Keeffe, Jonas Salk and the 'mother' of my own discipline, Margaret Mead," said Brettell, Ruth Collins Altschuler Professor in the Department of Anthropology and director of the Interdisciplinary Institute in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

Brettell's research centers on ethnicity, migration and the immigrant experience, particularly in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and on how immigrants practice civic engagement as they meld into existing economic, social and political structures. An immigrant herself, Brettell was born in Canada and became a U.S. citizen in 1993.

She is the author or editor of nearly 20 books. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Wenner Gren Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation, among many others.

An SMU faculty member since 1988, Brettell has held the Dedman Family Distinguished Professorship and served as chair in the Department of Anthropology and as director of Women's Studies in Dedman College. She joins David Meltzer, Henderson-Morrison Professor of Prehistory in Dedman College (2013),

Scurlock University Professor of Human Values Charles Curran (2010) and the late David J. Weber, founding director of the University's Clements Center for Southwest Studies (2007), as the fourth SMU faculty member to be elected to the Academy.

For more information: smu.edu/mag17brettell.



"It is overwhelming to be in the company of Winston Churchill, Georgia O'Keeffe, Jonas Salk and the 'mother' of my own discipline, Margaret Mead."
– Caroline Brettell



University Appoints New Academic Leaders



Matthew B. Myers

Matthew B. Myers, a global marketing and strategy expert with special expertise in cross-border business relationships and Latin American economies, joined SMU August 1 as dean of Cox School of Business and the Tolleson Chair in Business Leadership. Albert W. Niemi Jr., who had served as dean of the school since 1997, will transition to full-time teaching as the William J. O'Neil Chair in Global Markets and Freedom.

Myers previously served as dean and Mitchell P. Rales Chair of Business Leadership of the Farmer School of Business at Miami University of Ohio, where he managed an \$80 million budget and launched the first independent fund-raising campaign for a college at Miami University. The \$200 million effort includes a \$40 million lead gift, the largest philanthropic gift in Miami history. The Farmer School of Business is a top-10 producer of Fortune 500 CEOs.

"The Cox School's dedication to quality programs and research excellence, in addition to its supportive and engaged network of alumni and business partners, make the school an exhilarating place to be for anyone passionate about business education," Myers said.

For more information: smu.edu/mag17myers.



Stephanie L. Knight

Stephanie L. Knight, a nationally recognized education leader, researcher and professor, joined SMU August 1 as dean of Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. She is the former associate dean and professor of education in the College of Education at Pennsylvania State University.

Knight began her education career as a classroom teacher of Spanish and French in Texas, Saudi Arabia and Pennsylvania. She received her doctorate in curriculum and instruction at the University of Houston before beginning a 20-year tenure at Texas A&M University, where she was professor of educational psychology and teaching, learning and culture. In addition, she held the Houston Endowment, Inc. Chair in Urban Education at Texas A&M and was named a University Faculty Fellow. Knight joined Pennsylvania State University in 2009 as professor of educational psychology.

"Simmons has established an impressive foundation in its first decade and I look forward to working with the very talented and productive faculty, staff and students in the school to further their ongoing mission of excellence in research, teaching and community outreach," Knight said.

For more information: smu.edu/mag17knight.



Larenda Mielke

Larenda Mielke, an international leader in professional, online and executive education, has been named SMU's first associate provost for continuing education. She began her new position August 1. President R. Gerald Turner and Provost Steven C. Currall created the position to support one of SMU's major objectives – to engage the community in lifelong learning through professional training and continuing education.

As former senior director of Executive Education at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business, Mielke helped lead an internationally recognized program ranked No. 2 in the United States by the *Financial Times*. From 2004-14, Mielke held various roles at Washington University in St. Louis, serving ultimately as associate dean and managing director of an Executive M.B.A. program run jointly by the Olin Business School and Fudan University's School of Management in Shanghai, China.

"Together we will build upon the on-going vision of student-centered, external-facing educational offerings to enrich lives, foster innovation and enhance productivity," Mielke said.

For more information: smu.edu/mag17mielke.



New Leaders In Student Affairs, Technology Join SMU

Kenechukwu (K.C.) Mmeje,

former assistant vice president and dean of students at Loyola University Chicago, has joined SMU as vice president for student affairs. Mmeje replaced the late Pamela D. Anthony, who died Jan. 17, 2017, after a battle with cancer.



K.C. Mmeje

Mmeje (pronounced MAY-jay) oversees SMU's Office of the Dean of Student Life; Residence Life; women's, LGBT, multicultural, volunteer and leadership programs; student activities; student conduct; the Hegi Family Career Development Center; campus ministries; health and wellness programs, including the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center; the Hughes-Trigg Student Center and the Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports.

As assistant vice president and dean of students at Loyola University Chicago

since 2014, Mmeje was responsible for several functional areas that support Loyola's academic mission and promote a vibrant campus life. He has almost 15 years of student affairs experience in judicial affairs, crisis management, retention and academic support services, and student advocacy and support.

"Throughout the search process, I was struck by the passion and enthusiasm with which everyone I met described their love and tremendous pride for SMU," Mmeje said.

For more information: smu.edu/mag17mmeje.

Michael H. Hites, an executive with 17 years of experience leading large-scale computing operations for university-based research and innovation, joined SMU as chief information officer July 17. He replaces Joe Gargiulo, SMU's first CIO, who retired this summer.

Hites, who reports directly to President R. Gerald Turner, leads the Office of Information Technology, including the Academic Technology, Infrastructure, Applications Support, Project Management, Customer Service, and Information Security teams. In addition, Hites over-

sees the University's high-performance computing initiatives, including the ManeFrame II supercomputer.

"Being the CIO at SMU gives me the



Michael Hites

opportunity to work side-by-side with students, faculty and staff to foster research, improve interdisciplinary education, and partner with the city of

Dallas," he said.

Hites previously

served as senior associate vice president for administrative IT services and CIO with the University of Illinois System. He also served as an adjunct associate professor of computer science at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

For more information: smu.edu/mag17hites.

Guildhall Is No. 1 In Video Game Design

SMU Guildhall has risen to the top spot among the world's best graduate game-design programs in *The Princeton Review's* eighth annual report, published in March.

At No. 1, SMU Guildhall ranks above the No. 2 Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy at University of Central Florida. Other schools in the top 25 include Rochester Institute of Technology, USC, NYU and MIT. In addition, SMU Guildhall ranks higher than two other top-25 graduate programs in Texas: the University of Texas-Dallas (No. 14) and Texas A&M (No. 17).

"Becoming the No. 1 graduate game-design school is a tribute to faculty with deep experience, bright and motivated students, a robust network of successful alumni, stellar industry support, cutting-edge curriculum and a commitment to continual improvement," said SMU Guildhall Director Gary Brubaker.



Image created by Zachary Stambaugh '14

To read more: smu.edu/mag17guildhall.



Chemists Uncover Subtle Event That Drives Plants' Seasonal Clocks

Findings of a new study solve a key mystery about the chemistry of how plants tell time so they can flower and metabolize nutrients. The process – a subtle chemical event – takes place in the cells of all plants every second of the day. The new understanding means farmers may someday grow crops under conditions or in climates where they currently can't grow, said SMU chemist Brian D. Zoltowski, who led the study.

"We now understand the chemistry allowing plants to maintain a natural 24-hour rhythm in sync with their environment. This allows us to tune the chemistry, like turning a dimmer switch up or down, to alter the organism's ability to keep time," Zoltowski said. "So we can either make the plant's clock run faster, or make it run slower. By altering these subtle chemical events we might be able to rationally redesign a plant's photochemistry to allow it to adapt to a new climate."

Specifically, the researchers figured out the chemical nuts and bolts of how a chemical bond in the protein Zeitlupe forms and breaks in reaction to sunlight, and the rate at which it does so, to understand how proteins in a plant's cells signal the plant when to bloom, metabolize, store energy and perform other functions.

Zoltowski's team, with collaborators at the University of Washington and Ohio State University, has made plant strains with specific changes that alter the way they respond to blue light. "With these plants we demonstrate that indeed we can tune how the organisms respond to their environment in an intelligible manner," he said.

They made the discovery by mapping the crystal structure of a plant protein whose function is to measure the intensity of sunlight. The protein is able to translate light intensity to a bond formation event that allows the plant to track the time of day and tell the plant when to bloom or metabolize nutrients.



"We now understand the chemistry allowing plants to maintain a natural 24-hour rhythm in sync with their environment."
– Brian Zoltowski

A plant uses visual cues to constantly read every aspect of its environment and retune its physiological functions to adapt accordingly. Some of these cues are monitored by plant proteins that absorb and transmit light signals – called photoreceptors. "Plants have a very complex array of photoreceptors absorbing all different wavelengths of light to recognize every aspect of their environment and adapt accordingly," said Zoltowski, assistant professor of chemistry. "All their cells and tissue types are working in concert with each other."

The finding was reported in the online journal *eLIFE* online. Lead author is Ashutosh Pudasaini '16, an SMU doctoral graduate in chemistry who is now a postdoctoral fellow at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

The research is funded through a grant from the National Institutes of Health awarded to Zoltowski's lab. In addition, the lab operates with \$250,000 from the American Chemical Society's Herman Frasch Foundation for Chemical Research Grants in Agricultural Chemistry.

– Margaret Allen

SMU Joins Data Center Consortium

SMU has joined a consortium of institutions led by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and the University of Texas at Dallas, which will partner with the U.S. Census Bureau to establish the Dallas-Fort Worth Federal Statistical Research Data Center.

The D/FW center is the result of an extensive grant application process involving contributions from each consortium member and a review by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Census Bureau. One of several planned Federal Statistical Research Data Center locations across the nation, the center will be housed at the Dallas Fed and will provide researchers with secure access to restricted micro-level data.

The center aims to advance scientific knowledge, improve data quality and inform policy in fields spanning the social, behavioral and economic sciences and the health professions, and extending to urban planning and engineering. Cutting-edge research opportunities provided by the center will raise the profile of participating institutions and assist in attracting and retaining top research talent to the region.

In addition to the Dallas Fed, UT Dallas and SMU, the consortium includes UT Arlington, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Texas Tech University, University of North Texas, Texas Christian University and the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation.

The DFW center is expected to open in early 2018. Wenhua Di, senior research economist at the Dallas Fed, will serve as executive director of the center.

Two Faculty Named Guggenheim Fellows

Two SMU professors were among the 173 scholars named Guggenheim Fellows in April. Mark Chancey, professor of religious studies, and Adam Herring, professor of art history, were honored for their prior achievement and exceptional promise. The fellowship provides financial support that enables fellows to devote six to 12 months to their research. Only four Texas scholars were named 2017 Guggenheim Fellows.



Mark Chancey

Herring is the Emily Rich Summers endowed professor and chair of SMU's Department of Art History. A specialist in the art of pre-Columbian Americas, he has taught at SMU since 1997. With his Fellowship, Herring plans to examine Inca art and archeology of Machu Picchu in the context of ecology and what he calls the Incas' "annual war on nature."

"Inca leadership presided over cycles of routinized calamity," Herring says. "Each year hillsides washed away; pastureland was overgrazed to collapse, and starving provincial communities rose in revolt. Machu Picchu stands as a monument to the Incas' environmental overshoot."

Chancey, who joined SMU in 2000, will use his Fellowship to continue work on his next monograph, *The Good Book as Textbook: Teaching about the Bible in American Public Schools*. He will explore issues raised by K-12 Bible courses while tracing their evolution from the early 20th century to the present.

"As a biblical scholar and especially as a parent, I want our state's public schools to take the study of the Bible's influence as seriously as they do the study of science or history," Chancey told *The Dallas Morning News*. "Academically, many of these classes lack rigor and substance. Their approach puts their school districts



Adam Herring

in legal jeopardy and their taxpayers in financial jeopardy."

Herring believes that SMU students will be the ultimate beneficiaries of these Guggenheim fellowships. "We know that great scholars make great teachers."

They join eight other members of the SMU faculty formerly named Guggenheim Fellows.

For more information: smu.edu/mag17guggenheim.

Interaction Of Diverse Groups Produces Positive Outcomes



Klaus Desmet

Internet news magazine Quartz covered the research of SMU Economics Professor Klaus Desmet and two colleagues. The article reported that their new study found, after examining data

from nearly every country in the world, that when diverse groups interact, it leads

to better outcomes in terms of health, education and public infrastructure.

Desmet, who has his Ph.D. from Stanford University, is the Ruth and Kenneth Altshuler Centennial Interdisciplinary Professor at SMU. His research interests include international trade, regional and urban economics, macroeconomics and political economy.

Desmet's work is likely to be of profound significance for actual policy makers, according to Santanu Roy, University Distinguished Professor and chair of the SMU Department of Economics.

"Klaus Desmet is engaged in truly path-breaking research in understanding the spatial, cultural and genetic dimensions of the global economy and the deep, long-run determinants of economic change," Roy said. "Over the past few years, his work has been published in the very top journals in economics such as the *American Economic Review* and the *Journal of Political Economy*, a major boost to the reputation and visibility of the SMU Economics Department."

Football Players Receive Preseason Accolades

SMU wide receiver Courtland Sutton has been named a preseason second-team All-American by Athlon Sports. He and six other Mustang football players also were honored as 2017 Athlon Sports All-American Athletic Conference preseason selections. Among those honored, Evan Brown, Courtland Sutton, Braeden West and Justin Lawler earned first-team accolades.

Sutton leads a trio of Mustangs on the offensive first team after a standout sophomore season at wide receiver. He was a first-team all-conference selection in 2016 and was named to both the Biletnikoff Award and Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award preseason watch lists. Sutton finished among the nation's top-20 in receiving yards per game, receiving yards and receptions per game.

First-team offensive selection Brown, who started at center all 12 games for the Mustangs in 2016, was named to the Rimington Trophy Watch List for the second straight season. Overall, Brown



Defensive end Justin Lawler (99) makes a play against Houston on Oct. 22 in a game that SMU won 35-31.

has started 34 games in three seasons on the Hilltop.

West played in 12 games for the Mustangs in 2016, starting eight, and finished with 1,128 all-purpose yards.

Quarterback Ben Hicks rounded out the offensive selections as a fourth-team honoree. A Campus Insiders Freshman

All-America Honorable Mention selection, Hicks amassed 2,930 passing yards and 19 passing touchdowns. Hicks started 11 of 12 games, posting three 300-yard passing performances.

Defensive end Lawler led three selections and earned first-team accolades. A 2016 first-team All-AAC selection, he started all 12 games and anchored a Mustang defense that ranked fifth in the AAC in tackles for loss (15) and tied for sixth in sacks (6.0).

Defensive back Jordan Wyatt, a second-team selection, started all 12 games last season and led the conference in forced fumbles with four. Kyran Mitchell, who was selected to the outlet's defensive fourth team, started all 12 games in 2016 at linebacker and led the team in tackles with 67.

SMU opens the 2017 season on Sept. 2 against Stephen F. Austin at Ford Stadium (see full schedule at smumustangs.com). Call the Athletics Department Ticket Office at 214-SMU-GAME (768-4263) for ticket information.

Two Outstanding Seasons

The Mustang men's basketball team won the American Athletic Conference (AAC) tournament March 11 after riding a 16-game win streak to capture the AAC regular season title. Head coach Tim Jankovich was named the AAC Coach of the Year and a Naismith Coach of the Year semifinalist, and forward Semi Ojeleye '17 was named AAC Player of the Year, to the 2016-17 CoSIDA Academic All-America second team and Associated Press All-America Honorable Mention.

SMU finished the season 30-5 overall and ranked No. 11 in the final AP Poll.

The Mustang women finished the season tied for fifth in the AAC with a record of 19-15 under first-year head coach Travis Mays. They advanced to the AAC Championship quarterfinals and reached the round of 16 in the Women's National Invitation Tournament. Alicia Froling returns for her senior season after earning All-American Athletic Conference second-team accolades with a program-record 17 double-doubles, averaging 14.3 points and a league-best 10.0 rebounds per game.



For information on the teams' upcoming seasons, visit smumustangs.com.



MUSTANG SPORTS ROUNDUP

- **Jonathan Gomez** was named Most Outstanding Swimmer and Bryce Klein was selected as the top diver at the 2017 American Athletic Conference Championships in February in Houston.

Diving coach **Jim Stillson** also was named Men's Diving Coach of the Meet. The SMU



Jonathan Gomez

men's swimming and diving team finished second behind East Carolina. Gomez also competed in his first NCAA Division I Swimming and Diving Championships for the Mustangs, earning a 17th-place finish and first alternate status in the 200-yard butterfly.

- **Junior Matea Samardzic** earned co-Most Outstanding Swimmer honors and helped lead the SMU women's swimming and diving team to a second-place finish behind Houston at the 2017 AAC

Championships. Senior

Marne Erasmus and sophomore diver **Brooke Pospichal** also took home gold, as did the 400-yard freestyle relay. Erasmus

(100-yard butterfly) and Samardzic (200-

yard backstroke and 400-yard individual medley) also competed at the 2017 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in March in Indianapolis.

- **SMU head coach Carol Gwin** was named the United Equestrian Conference (UEC) Co-Coach of the Year, and freshman **Vivian Yowan** was named the UEC Equitation on the Flat Rider of the Year and Equitation Over Fences Freshman of the Year. The Mustangs finished the regular season tied for first, before earning runner-up honors at the UEC Championship. In the opening round of

the National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) National Championship, No. 8 SMU was edged 8-7 by No. 9 TCU.

- **The SMU women's golf team** placed second at the 2017 AAC Championship at the Hammock Beach Resort in Palm Coast, Florida. SMU finished with a season-best 1-under 863, while sophomore **Brigitte Dunne**

posted a career-high, second-place finish at 6-under 210. Freshman **Faith Summers** picked up her first collegiate top-five performance, finishing in a two-way tie for fourth. **Lindsey McCurdy** finished tied for eighth.



Brigitte Dunne

- **The No. 38 SMU men's tennis team** made it to the NCAA Tournament but lost to No. 18 Mississippi State. Head coach **Carl Neufeld** earned his 400th victory at SMU when the Mustangs defeated No. 19 Arkansas 4-3 in Fayetteville. Neufeld holds the most wins among active head coaches at SMU with 411 and holds 591 total victories.

- **Shanoah Souza earned gold** in the 3,000-meter steeplechase to secure her first career individual title at the AAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships. SMU captured another three gold medals in 1,500-



Chelsea Francis

and sixth. Their performances helped the Mustangs place fifth overall with 96 points.

meters, **Holly Archer;** 100-meter dash, **Chelsea Francis;** and 200-meter dash, **Latessa Johnson.** In the 5,000-meters, the Mustangs placed third, fourth, fifth

SMU NAMES NEW DIVING COACH



Darian Schmidt

Former NCAA All-American and Big Ten Diver of the Year **Darian Schmidt** is the new head coach of the SMU men and women's diving program. He replaces long-time diving

coach Jim Stillson, who has retired after 33 seasons on the Hilltop.

Schmidt comes to SMU after a season at American Athletic Conference member East Carolina, where he coached the ECU men to the AAC title.

"I am very excited to have Darian join the Mustangs," head women's swimming coach Steve Collins said. "Jim Stillson has left the program in a great place. The Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center will be completed in the fall, so everything is set for Darian to have great success and continue the legacy of conference and NCAA championships in diving for the Mustangs."

Schmidt, who earned his bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Indiana in 2015, was a four-time All-American and four-time Big Ten Champion. During the 2014-15 season, he served as a student assistant coach at Indiana. A member of the U.S. National Diving Team from 2013-16, Schmidt was selected for the Olympic Performance Squad from 2014-16, was a member of the 2015 World Championship team and was a five-time member of the Grand Prix team.

Stillson was named NCAA Coach of the Year three times and conference Coach of the Year on 16 occasions. He coached four individuals to eight NCAA Championships and 20 student-athletes to 71 All-America honors. He also mentored three NCAA Divers of the Year and 10 U.S. National Champions. Overall, SMU saw 21 of Stillson's divers win 89 conference championships.

For more information: smumustangs.com



Community Revels

Recent SMU graduate **CHRISTINA SITTSER** served as a teaching assistant for the community workshops that led to the production of *The Tempest*, a collaboration between SMU and Dallas Theater Center.



Brave New World

SMU Helps Shape Pioneering Community Production

BY SUSAN WHITE '05 • PHOTOGRAPHY BY KIM LEESON

How many people does it take to stage a performance of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*? When you're using it as a way to forge new relationships across Dallas neighborhoods and community organizations, you'd have as many as 200 people, of whom only a handful were professional actors. And SMU's Meadows School of the Arts played a major role in bringing the event to fruition.

In late February, only one week before this musical version of *The Tempest* was scheduled to open, an evening rehearsal resembled controlled chaos. Director Kevin Moriarty, also Dallas Theater Center's artistic director, raised his voice to be heard above the din coming from the rehearsal room on the ninth floor of the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre at the AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas. Children of all ages (the youngest at 4), who were playing island spirits, squirmed in the staging area while their parents,

seated in chairs that lined the sides of the room, chatted with one another.

Other ensemble members were still arriving from work after slogging through Dallas commuter traffic. SMU theatre alumnus Ace Anderson '13, a member of Dallas Theater Center's Brierley Resident Acting Company and one of only five professional actors in the cast, rushed in and polished off a fast-food dinner he had picked up on his way in.

Moriarty told the company to start with a banquet in Scene Six. Sitting next to him was Maria Calderon Zavala '20, a first-year SMU theatre major from Mexico City, who translated into Spanish his directions for many of the adults and children in the ensembles. When words failed him, Moriarty moved to the center of the room and pantomimed his desires for the scene, reminding everyone that time was precious and repetition was necessary to get the movement right.

Not in the room were members of

seven local arts groups whose performances would be inserted into the action, including flamenco dancers, an elementary school choir, a high school drumline, a brass band, Aztec dancers, a church choir and Dark Circles Contemporary Dance Company, founded by SMU alumnus Joshua Peugh '06.

An observer couldn't help but wonder: With only one week left, could this become a polished performance?

'Such stuff as dreams are made on'

Seeds for the project were planted in 2015, when SMU presented the Meadows Prize to Lear deBessonet, director of Public Works – an initiative of The Public Theater that engages the citizens of New York City as theater creators as well as spectators, blurring the line between professional artists and community members. In 2013, Public Works staged in New York's Central Park a contemporary adaptation of *The Tempest* by Todd Almond, who transformed it with music and lyrics.

The Tempest is a 400-year-old play about magic, vengeance, forgiveness and redemption. On a remote island the sorcerer Prospero, the deposed Duke of Milan, plots to restore his daughter Miranda to her rightful place. Through illusion, he conjures up a storm to shipwreck on the island his usurping brother, Antonio, and the complicit King Alonso of Naples. His manipulations reveal Antonio's treachery, the King's redemption and the marriage of Miranda to Alonso's son, Ferdinand.

For her Meadows Prize project, deBessonet spearheaded a new co-production of *The Tempest* between the Meadows School, which made a \$200,000 commitment, and the Dallas Theater Center. Moriarty and Clyde Valentin – director of Meadows' Ignite/Arts Dallas, an engagement initiative between SMU and the local arts community – had witnessed the New York performance. Moriarty said they wondered "if such a New York-specific idea could take root and flourish in Dallas." Meadows School and SMU's Ignite/Arts Dallas collaborated with

Dallas Theater Center to make Dallas the first city outside New York to develop its own version of Public Works.

Since 2015, SMU and Dallas Theater Center have built partnerships with five local organizations that support low-income and underserved populations in Dallas: Jubilee Park and Community Center, Vickery Meadow Learning Center, Literacy Instruction for Texas (LIFT), Bachman Lake Together and City of Dallas Park and Recreation. Local actors, including SMU theatre alumna Lydia Mackay '08, and SMU theatre artist-in-residence Will Power led workshops and classes for the last half of 2016 to transform the five organizations' community members into stage-ready performers.

"I knew this would be a challenging proposition for our respective institutions because it would require us to collaborate more closely than maybe we have in the past," Valentin said. "I knew it would be a challenging proposition for the actual participants because we were going to work with people who had no real relationship or history with the Dallas Theater Center or the Arts District in general. And it would be a challenge to get our theater students involved in engaging and meaningful ways beyond performing on stage."

Both Public Works Dallas and Valentin were committed to paying the SMU students who served as teaching artist assistants at the community centers and as production assistants and volunteer coordinators at the Dallas Theater Center. Valentin set aside Ignite/Arts Dallas funds for such a purpose and actively pursued additional gifts from SMU donors through the Mustangs Give Back one-day giving challenge.

'Be not afeard'

Eleven SMU undergraduates worked on *The Tempest*. Some served as teaching assistants in the workshops that led up to the auditions for the performance. Others assisted on set, costume, hair and makeup design, and with the run crew and dance ensemble. Still others were volunteer and community coordinators. James Michael Williams '18, who is

"Working with Public Works Dallas is one of the best experiences I've had in college."

— SAM WEBER '18



Chaos And Calamity

SMU alumnus **ACE ANDERSON** played the clown role of Trinculo.



(TOP LEFT) Performing during the wedding scene are members of the Dark Circles Contemporary Dance Company, founded by SMU alumnus Joshua Peugh. **(TOP RIGHT)** Dallas Theater Center resident company actor Liz Mikel performs the role of Ariel, a spirit who serves the magician Prospero. **(CENTER LEFT)** Community groups making cameo appearances in the production included the Northlake Elementary Wildcat Choir and **(BOTTOM RIGHT)** the Inner City All-Stars Brass Band. **(BOTTOM LEFT)** SMU theatre artist-in-residence Will Power (left) instructs community members at the LIFT Center in the art of acting. He was assisted by SMU student Kassy Amoi (second from right), who also served as captain of the sand spirits in *The Tempest*.

(BELOW) SMU theatre alumna Lydia Mackay taught classes at the Vickery Meadow Learning Center. **(RIGHT)** The Mitotiliztli Yaoyollohtli Aztec Dancers made a cameo appearance during *The Tempest*. **(OPPOSITE PAGE, RIGHT)** Distinguished Broadway actor André De Shields played the role of Prospero. **(LEFT)** The monster Caliban (Alex Organ) plots with clowns Trinculo (Ace Anderson, right) and Stephano (Rodney Garza, left) against Prospero.



earning an MA/MBA in Meadows' arts management program, served as assistant to Dayron Miles, director of Public Works Dallas.

Sophomore theatre major Kassy Amoi '19 worked with Will Power as a teaching assistant in storytelling and movement workshops at Literacy Instruction for Texas, and during the performances led the sand spirits ensemble.

"Will and Kassy gently involved every single student to bring out hidden talents that even our students didn't know they had," said SMU alumna Lisa Hembry '75, LIFT president and CEO. About 98 percent of LIFT's students are adults who have learning differences such as dyslexia and ADHD and have never learned to read, or adults who never graduated from high school and are studying to obtain their high school equivalency certificates. As a result, Hembry says, "LIFT's students are always wary when it comes to working with new people because generally they have suffered embarrassment, ridicule and bullying their entire lives."

Amoi, who had previously worked on reading programs with children, discovered that working with adults who have literacy issues was very different. "Many were severely shy. I had to learn how to explain things a bit better, and in a more positive and reinforced way," he

said. "I found that while many of them weren't experienced in school, a lot were experienced in life, with inspired, powerful stories." Amoi took pride in the fact that one of his students, Felisha Blanton, was cast in the supporting role of Sebastia. "She's a natural comedienne, and took on the role fully and openly. She went from being unsure in the room to being completely comfortable with what she had to say while on stage. It was nice to see her blossom."

Volunteer coordinator Kaylyn Buckley '17, who graduated in May with a degree in theatre studies with concentrations in stage management and directing, thought working with *The Tempest* in a managerial capacity would provide real-world applications to her studies. She began work in November and visited each of the centers during auditions, collaborated with all department heads to evaluate their volunteer needs, communicated with Public Works Dallas as she developed the architecture of the volunteer program and recruited volunteers from the SMU community.

"I'd never participated in anything like this – I'm not sure that anyone outside of Public Works has," Buckley said. "It's truly a beast unlike anything else. It's not just managing 200 cast members, 50-plus crew members and 100-plus volunteers, but also being acutely sensitive to how

you're saying things, the experience you're creating and navigating a language barrier. You want to cultivate a positive experience for cast members who have never been involved in the arts, many of whom have learning disabilities, are not native English speakers and who are living in poverty. I'd have to be very direct, forward and efficient with 28 Junior League members simultaneously looking to volunteer, then immediately modify my tone and delivery as soon as a cast member approached."

Theatre/theatre studies major Christina Sittser '17, who also graduated in May, gained performing experience in her native St. Louis before coming to SMU, attracted by numerous scholarships. For *The Tempest*, she served as a teaching assistant for acting classes at Bachman Lake Together and at Jubilee Park and Community Center, and during the performances was captain of the water spirits. "I really loved the work. I saw kids so shy at first that they would keep their faces down. It was beautiful to watch them grow as actors and open up more. I didn't understand that at the end of the show I would leave pieces of my heart behind with these people. It made me think more about the role of community in theater. Listen to what people in the community want and need and then incorporate that into theater."



'Our revels now are ended'

When the opening performance on March 3 began, the Wyly had been transformed into a remote island, all the performances flowed seamlessly and the production worked like magic. Audiences were astounded by a type of community performance never seen before in Dallas. *Theater Jones* critic David Novinski described it as "the 'you had to be there' theatrical event of the year."

Valentín said the success of the show was not just in what audiences saw but also what they couldn't see: the interactions, bonding and trust-building at the community centers. "It shows what's possible when you take this large-scale participatory theater approach, treating it as you would any other show in the Dallas Theater Center season that requires the same level of quality, rigor and diligence. We did it! We proved that we can create exceptional, high-quality art with nonprofessionals alongside professionals in a nurturing, safe environment for all those participants, so the space and work truly will begin to feel like it's theirs. And, it was my hope that our students were transformed by this project as well. What we were able to create for those five weeks was truly exceptional."

"We proved that we can create exceptional, high-quality art with nonprofessionals alongside professionals in a nurturing, safe environment."

— IGNITE/ARTS DALLAS DIRECTOR CLYDE VALENTÍN

SMU and Dallas Theater Center will use the same model and continue the relationship with the community centers for the next Public Works Dallas production, Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, to be staged in September 2018. At that time, Sam Weber '18 – a Dedman College Scholar majoring in biological sciences, health and society, and chemistry – will be busy applying for medical school but hopes to return as a dance assistant fellow.

"Working with Public Works Dallas is one of the best experiences I've had in college," Weber said. "I'd grown up doing theater and I've taught dance and choreography to non-dancers before, so that wasn't a big shock. But meeting all the extraordinary people and hearing their stories was so special. It was really

motivating to work with people who had never done performance art before, but got it; they understood movement and narrative. It really reaffirms how art is truly innate in all people."

Before the final production of *The Tempest*, director Kevin Moriarty stepped on stage to address the audience. He noted the monumental effort from numerous entities to bring the project to fruition and thanked SMU for its collaboration and support. He said, "Shakespeare belongs to all of us, not only a select few. Our city is at its best when all of us have the opportunity to create, and we are at our strongest and most joyful when we come together."

To view a photo gallery of *The Tempest*, visit smu.edu/mag17tempest.



Son-day Night Snacks



David Son

@SonChemistry · May 7

Boaz has spoken! Top 3 Son-day Night Snacks are: 1) sopapilla cheesecake, 2) "slutty" (ahem) brownies, 3) fruit dip. It was a great year!



UNCOMMON LIFE

PHOTOS BY Guy Rogers III and Hillsman S. Jackson

Life as one of SMU's 11 Faculty in Residence (FiR) is never dull. Just ask David Son, professor of chemistry in Dedman College, and wife Heidi – or take a look at photos and memories from a year at Boaz Commons. In 2014, David Son was named Boaz FiR and the 61-year-old residence hall was retrofitted with an apartment that houses the couple and their children, Geoffrey, 14, and Kaylee, 11. The Sons believe so strongly in the Residential Commons model for living and learning at SMU that they sold their home in Plano to move to campus. And they say they've never looked back.

Besides serving as guides to University life, the Sons have been called upon to: pull a splinter from a toe; help light the charcoal in a grill on the Boaz patio; iron a shirt for a tennis player; lend tools; and take a student with a split forehead to the emergency clinic. Basically, they serve as parental figures.

The Sons say Boaz community activities often revolve around food – from "Son-day" night snacks to weekly "family" dinners with students to Korean BBQ night and cookouts on the new Boaz patio. With 184 residents, Boaz may be the smallest Residential Commons, but the Sons say it's one of the tightest. To prove the point, Boaz students won the Commons Cup for 2017 by attending SMU athletic events, participating in community service and competing in the Residential Commons Olympics.



David Son @SonChemistry · Sept 1

How I spent my Wed: Day: finished grant proposal Night: fantasy football draft with @SMU_BoazRC @MoMacRC residents

Fantasy Football



QUICK BOX SCORE FULL BOX SCORE FANTASYCAST			
Team BoazHoez (Boaz)		Team Mucci-Ferris (MUCC)	
(1-0) francis ramas		(0-1) Madison Mucci-Ferris	
Boaz	Yet to Play: 4	MUCC	Yet to Play: 7
	In Play: 6		In Play: 3
	Miss Left: 374		Miss Left: 491
	Proj Total: 133		Proj Total: 100
	Line: 9.9		Line: +9.9
	Top Scorer: M. Wallace 18		Top Scorer: Ravens D/ST 12

Crowning Moment for Boaz RA



Home Sweet Home

THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY

A lot of Boaz Commons activities revolve around eating – from Korean BBQ Night to Son-Day Night Snacks, served every Sunday night, of course.



Official Boaz Hall Pin



THE LIFE OF A FIR FAMILY

David and Heidi Son and their children, Geoffrey and Kaylee, have settled in comfortably as the Faculty in Residence (FiR) family in Boaz Commons, one of 11 undergraduate living facilities in SMU's Residential Commons.



David Son @SonChemistry · Nov 6
I feel like a proud parent.
@SMU_BoazRC RA Alec Bucshon is 2016 Homecoming King! @SMU #SMUHomecoming



David Son @SonChemistry · May 2
Someone has been digging big holes in our potted plants. @SMUsquirrels?

IN THE THICK OF CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

The Sons participate in many events outside of Boaz – from The Boulevard to Homecoming to intracommons competition. And they aren't immune to visits from SMU's famous squirrels.

Family Time



THE COMFORTS OF HOME

To help make students feel at home, the Sons host a family meal every Wednesday night in their Boaz apartment, in which a few residents are guests each week. David Son says that saying grace before each meal is part of the tradition.




Let The Games Begin!

ROOTING FOR BOAZ

The Sons make appearances at campus competitions like Trivia Night and the Residential Commons Olympics to root on their students.



 **David Son** @SonChemistry · Mar 27
Proud of @SMU_BoazRC for winning the intramurals b-ball championship! Had to take one of our guys to get stitches when he took a charge!





Boaz Spirit

 **David Son**

@SonChemistry · Dec 8

See what's going on in the @SMU Residential Commons during the holiday season. It's a busy time of year!

READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Residents decorate the Boaz Commons lobby for the holidays, always mindful to call their other homes and families.



Working Those Grill Skills







Everyone knows that SMU students study hard, but they also play hard, within a safe campus environment, of course. Leisure time can mean just kicking back in a couple of hammocks strung between two oaks on the Quad,

trying out one's hula hoop skills or testing dexterity in a giant game of Jenga. For undergraduates living on campus, the Residential Commons Olympics give them an opportunity to show their spirit and camaraderie. But

the ultimate campus play date occurs every April, when students celebrate the Mustangs' beloved mascot's birthday at Perunapalooza on the Quad with bounce houses and swings and food.

UNBRIDLED FUN + GAMES

ON THE HILLTOP

GLOBAL APPROACH

SMU Abroad and other programs funded by annual giving open up a world of learning opportunities for students like Sabrina Janski '16, '17. She completed an internship in Seville, Spain, before earning a master's degree in accounting and landing a job with PwC.

See video at smu.edu/ponypower.

REAL-WORLD RESEARCH

Annual support for scholarships and undergraduate research creates unlimited possibilities. Patricia Nance '17 discovered a mentor in Professor Patty Wisian-Neilson and a passion for research with life-changing potential. After graduation, it was on to a Ph.D. program in chemistry at Caltech.

See smu.edu/mag17nance.



SHAPING CHAMPIONS

SMU Athletics excellence depends on training, discipline and annual donor support. Gifts to the SMU Fund and the Mustang Club provide scholarships, coaching, travel and support services for student-athletes so they remain nationally competitive in their athletic and academic endeavors **(see page 10).**



DOMINO

CREATING A CHALLENGE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Annual gifts for current use power every part of the University. An gift and another for hands-on learning projects, and suddenly donors might not otherwise afford them. Gifts to research labs link to investment combined impact can reveal new solutions to pressing problems. Ta

more information about *Pony Power* – the

NOVEL SOLUTIONS

The SMU Fund propels academic centers and community engagement efforts that make possible hands-on projects such as Evie, an experimental mobile greenhouse developed by students at the Hunt Institute for Engineering to help low-income communities access fresh produce [see smu.edu/mag17evie](http://see.smu.edu/mag17evie).



POWERFUL PARTNERS

University-led collaborations sustained by the SMU Fund uplift, inspire and improve communities.

From Ignite/Arts Dallas' free Shakespeare performances ([see page 12](#)) to The Budd Center's research and resources for improving West Dallas' neediest schools, SMU's efforts transform lives every day.



LIVING AND LEARNING

A vibrant campus life fueled by annual gifts drives students' growth and achievement. Their lasting friendships and lifelong memories start with the Residential Commons experience ([see page 18](#)), while leading-edge facilities and services dedicated to health and academic fitness keep them on track for success.

THE EFFECT

MAIN REACTION EVENT

Investment in study-abroad programs combines with a scholarship that has given a world-class educational opportunity to students who have investments in academic centers and community partnerships, and the SMU Fund makes a look at how chains of gifts strengthen SMU, and see page 4 for the SMU stampede for current-use gifts.

G U I D I N G L I G H T S

HOW SMU ALUMNAE BUILT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CULTURE TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF GIRLS

By Patricia Ward | Photography by Kim Leeson

MEET THE MUSTANGS

leading Solar Prep:
(from left) Olivia Santos
'05, '16, instructional
coach; Principal Nancy
Bernardino '01, '04, '05;
and Jennifer Turner '16,
assistant principal.





bouncy tune booms in the background as little girls with hair adorned in bright bows, barrettes and beads swarm the

elementary school gym. It's time for Sisterhood Circle at Solar Preparatory School for Girls. For the next 15 minutes, a lively mash-up of movement, song, patriotism and affirmation kicks off the morning.

Students direct the all-school assembly, and on this April day, a kindergarten class runs the show. Each Wednesday is College Day, and the pint-size emcee polls her classmates about their aspirations: "I want to go to SMU and become a lawyer ... doctor ... archaeologist ... teacher ... coach."

Beaming from the sidelines is Nancy Bernardino '01, '04, '05. She's the

"Everything we do here is designed to prepare our students for life."

- Nancy Bernardino '01, '04, '05

principal leading the new single-gender campus, a unique startup developed through the Dallas Independent School District's Choice School program, a pitch contest of sorts for educators to sell the district on their plans for new public schools.

"Everything we do here is designed to prepare our students for life," Bernardino says. "They're learning to write code and problem-solve. They're learning to express themselves and support one another. We're seeing our students blossom and become confident young girls."

From the girl power celebration that jumpstarts each day to the fusion of STEAM (science, technology,

engineering, the arts and math) curriculum with social and emotional learning (SEL), this model school equips girls with the academic abilities and daring they need to unlock their full potential.

SHAPING A MODEL SCHOOL

Conversations about the "super school" started in 2014 when Bernardino, assistant principal Jennifer Turner '16, teacher Cynthia Flores '00, '17 and instructional coach Ashley Toole '16 worked together at John Quincy Adams Elementary School in Pleasant Grove, a modest neighborhood in southeast Dallas. Like any entrepreneurs seeking venture capital, the team had to formulate a viable idea, identify data to support their concept and devise a feasible plan that could withstand DISD's rigorous vetting process.

"When we started looking at the greatest need at the elementary level, we found compelling research about girls

losing their voice in the classroom by the time they reach fifth grade," Bernardino explains. "I started thinking about my own experiences as a very shy student and how things changed for me."

Bernardino was born in Mexico but has lived in Dallas since she was a year old. She grew up in East Dallas, not far from Solar Prep's location on Henderson Avenue.

"Neither of my parents had a formal education," she explains. "My mother wanted us to have career options that she never had."

Even though they didn't speak English, her parents regularly attended school functions – demonstrating to Bernardino the importance of parental engagement. Solar Prep sponsors both a parent-teacher association and a club for fathers and other important men in students' lives.

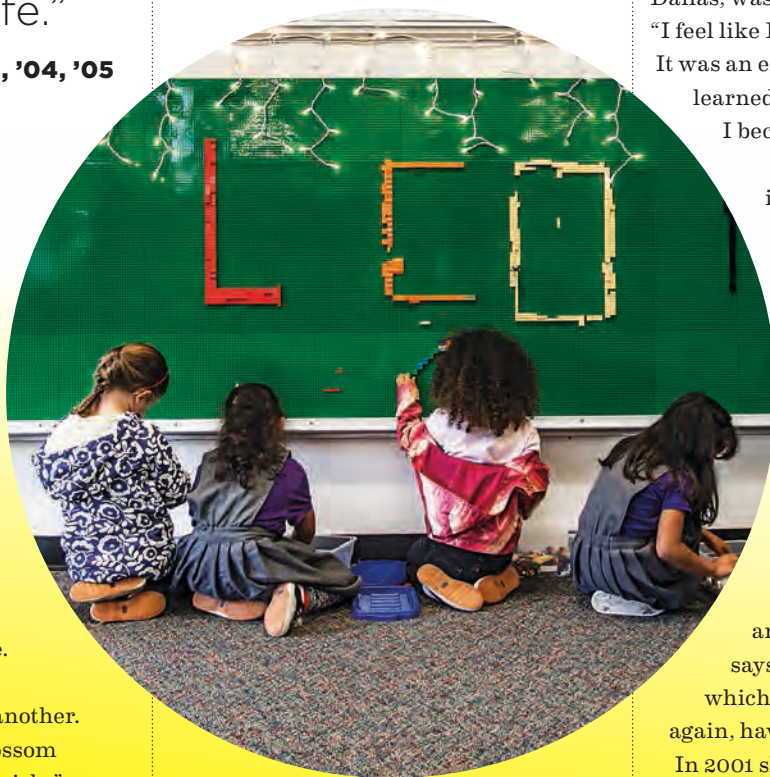
Poised and self-assured with a quick wit and sunny smile, Bernardino admits she wasn't always comfortable wearing a leadership mantle. Winning a scholarship to the The Hockaday School, the prestigious all-girls private school in Dallas, was "life-changing," she says. "I feel like I found my voice at Hockaday. It was an empowering environment. We learned to speak up for ourselves, and I became my own advocate."

She used that voice as a "super involved" SMU student. She was active on the Program Council and with Mustang Corral, and she served as layout editor for *The Daily Campus* while studying public affairs and corporate communications at Meadows School of the Arts.

"It was a great program for me. I still rely on the research skills I developed and tools I learned to use," she says. "Even graphic design skills, which I didn't think I would use again, have come in really handy."

In 2001 she became the first person in her family to earn a bachelor's degree, a milestone that thrilled her parents.

While working in SMU Student Activities, she completed a graduate



MAKERSPACE A Lego wall sparks the imagination and encourages collaborative discovery in a space dedicated to hands-on creativity and interdisciplinary learning.

certificate in dispute resolution and a master of liberal arts degree, both offered by SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

She went on to earn a master of education degree from Texas A&M-Commerce before joining DISD in 2005, where she served as a teacher, academic coordinator and assistant principal before becoming an award-winning school principal.

Currently a candidate for the Ed.D. in educational leadership at Simmons, Bernardino says, "We learn practices in class that we can then apply immediately to improve our schools." For example, a discussion about character-building and core values sparked the idea for the backbone of Solar Prep's social-emotional learning component: the "Solar Six." Students explore and discuss curiosity, self-awareness, empathy, humility, leadership and grit.

Simmons School programs also profoundly impacted Solar Prep's assistant principal Turner and instructional coach Olivia Santos '05, '16. Both received master's degrees in educational leadership with a specialization in urban school leadership.

"It was career changing," says Turner. "It opened my eyes to the pivotal role school leaders can play in creating a learning environment that supports student achievement across the board."

"Before I completed my master's, I thought education was mainly about curriculum," Santos says. "Now I see the importance of implementing systems and practices that create a culture where all students feel welcomed and valued and that support students of all backgrounds, helping those who need it the most get up to speed. Addressing our students' needs as an entire school has tremendous impact."

NOW IT'S TIME TO SHINE

Bernardino embraces the Simmons mission to find evidence-based solutions and to "roll out our successes to benefit other schools."

"Addressing our students' needs as an entire school has tremendous impact."

- Olivia Santos '05, '16

Solar Prep made its debut in August 2016 with 199 students in kindergarten through second grade from neighborhoods across Dallas. The school will add one grade level per year until students can complete eighth grade at

Solar Prep. They will have the option of continuing their public education in an all-girls setting at DISD's nationally ranked Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership Academy.

The new school exemplifies the district's first attempt at a socioeconomically balanced campus, a decision informed by mounting evidence that achievement gaps can shrink when low-income children learn side-by-side with their affluent peers. By design, 50 percent of students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch and the other half do not.

The student body is also racially diverse, comprising 51 percent Hispanic, 22 percent black, 22 percent white, 2 percent Asian and 3 percent other races.

Perhaps its most unusual pioneering step is a partnership with Girl Scouts of the USA. Solar Prep is the only public school in the nation to enroll all students in the organization. Once a week, as part of the regular school day, teachers become scout leaders as students focus on activities to earn badges in such areas as financial literacy, computers, inventing and making friends. The program ties to an extended day schedule adopted so that all students can benefit from enrichment activities.

Bernardino already sees signs that Solar Prep is living up to its ambition as an incubator for postmillennial trailblazers. When an academically gifted student who is not athletically inclined joined the track team, Bernardino cheered.

"We want students to push themselves because they know that even if something doesn't work out, all of us - teachers and students - will help them push through it and figure it out."

By the way, that little girl exceeded expectations.

"She didn't do well in the 100-meter race, but she placed second in the 200 meters," Bernardino recounts. "Afterward, she said, 'See, I knew I just needed more time, and I would get there.'"



GIRL CODE Students use Tinkercad to create basic 3D digital designs. Coding is part of the curriculum that builds tech literacy and nurtures STEAM interest.

Raw talent and heart push students to the top of the foodie chain

Credit SMU undergraduates Brandon Cohanin and Francois Reihani with importing Dallas' latest food craze.

Spurred by entrepreneurial cravings and an eye for trends, the California transplants opened Pōk the Raw Bar in January, the city's first restaurant focused on poke (pronounced poh-kay), a raw fish salad with Hawaiian roots.

Located in the prime Uptown neighborhood, the sleek dining destination is more than just a business to Cohanin and Reihani. It also will be a platform for their "Imagine X Inspire" social impact project, which they launched through SMU's Engaged Learning program. Their idea for a job-training program for teens on the cusp of aging out of the foster care system won a \$5,000 award at an international business plan competition in April.

"It's not just about how many people we serve," Cohanin says. "It's also about how many people we help."

See behind-the-scenes photos of an evening at Pōk: smu.edu/mag17pok.

GOOD TIPS

Brandon Cohanin (left), SMU Professor Simon Mak (center) and Francois Reihani. Cohanin says Mak's entrepreneurship class in the Cox School of Business "opened up our minds and helped us focus on our goals and strategy."



SUPER BOWL

Diners order from a menu of signature bowls, such as **SALMON ASIAN PEAR** (shown), or select their own fresh ingredients.



Photo courtesy of Pōk the Raw Bar



ON THE MENU

Pōk features a six-seat raw bar commanded by local sushi legend **JIMMY PARK** and an array of matcha (powdered green tea) drinks.



HOUSE SPECIALTY

The staff wears **IMAGINE X INSPIRE** slogan T-shirts, reflecting the students' mission to "imagine a better world and inspire change."

PONY PRIDE HAS ITS PERKS

As a graduate of SMU, you're a core member of a worldwide circle of power and impact. No matter how you've chosen to change the world – as a CEO or public servant, entrepreneur or entertainer – you can count on your Mustang benefits to add more to the incredible value of being an SMU grad.



BUILD YOUR CAREER

make inside connections and meet people you would benefit from knowing through the SMU Alumni Network of 123,000-plus alumni worldwide and other resources



LEARN FOR LIFE

with special pricing on professional education courses and library resources



STAY ENGAGED

with SMU and what you care about by joining fellow Mustangs at events and volunteer opportunities in your city and on SMU's campuses



ENJOY SPECIAL OFFERS

unique travel opportunities, your permanent smu.edu email address, valuable discounts and more



FEEL GOOD

about outstanding stories from the Hilltop, delivered to your mailbox and inbox

Benefits that add to your success. smu.edu/perks

World Changers Shaped Here



SMU

2017 Distinguished Alumni And Emerging Leader



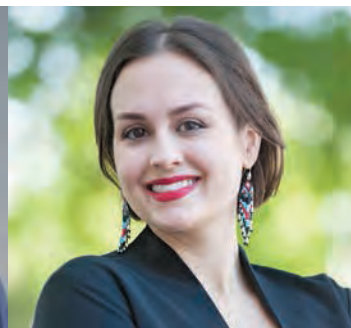
Randy L. Allen '73



Richard H. Collins '69



Albon O. Head, Jr. '68, '71



Lacey A. Horn '04, '05

SMU will launch Homecoming Weekend 2017 by honoring four outstanding leaders in education, business and civic life at the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony and dinner on Thursday, November 2, on the historic Main Quad.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Randy L. Allen '73 has been the head football coach at Highland Park High School since 1999. Allen attended SMU on a football scholarship and lettered in football and baseball while earning a bachelor's degree in social studies. He served as the head coach of high school programs in Ballinger, Brownwood and Abilene Cooper before leading the Highland Park Scots to state championships in 2005 and 2016. He has the fourth-most wins of any high school football coach in Texas history and is the author of two books: *Coaching by the Book* and *Coaching Character*. He was named 2006 National High School Coaches Association Football Coach of the Year, is the 2014 recipient of the Grant Teaff Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the 2015 recipient of the AFCA Power of Influence Award. In 2017 he received the NFL Don Shula National High School Coach of the Year Award.

Richard "Dick" H. Collins '69, a chairman of two commercial banks, real estate developer, wildcatter and media investor, graduated from SMU with a bachelor's degree in business administration. In 1998 he co-founded Istation and has served as its chairman and CEO since 2007.

Istation is a global leader in education technology. In 1992, he founded the Children's Education Fund, which provides money to Dallas children to attend the school their parents choose. Collins created the Today Foundation, which includes initiatives such as the Texas Leadership Forum to teach Dallas-area high school students about government, civic engagement and the free-market economy, and the Collins Academy, which teaches science, technology and history to students in Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. From 1981-1989, he served on the Texas Historical Commission, working toward the preservation of Jefferson, Texas, and the building of an ecological park for teaching students about the environment. He serves on the Simmons School of Education and Human Development executive board and the Tower Center board.

Albon O. Head '68, '71, a partner at Jackson Walker LLP in Fort Worth, is a four-year Mustang football letter winner. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and a juris doctor from SMU. As an undergraduate, Head helped the Mustangs to the 1966 Southwest Conference Championship and was co-captain of the 1968 Bluebonnet Bowl win over OU. He served as a graduate assistant coach in 1969 and 1970. He is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, was principal draftsman in the purchase of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club in 1974 and was named 2017 Railroad Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers in America*. Head was lead litigator and represented

the Receiver in the recent sale of the iconic W.T. Waggoner Ranch, and *Texas Lawyer* hailed one of his 2011 verdicts in its Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame. Head received the Dedman School of Law's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003 and serves on its executive board. He is a past chair of the SMU Alumni Board and a board member of the SMU Athletic Forum and SMU-in-Taos.

EMERGING LEADER

Lacey A. Horn '04, '05, treasurer of the Cherokee Nation, is noted for her ability to find optimal solutions for ideal outcomes and making a difference in the governance of organizations and lives of people. Horn earned her bachelor's degree in business administration and master of science degree in accounting from SMU. She began her career with Hunt Oil and KPMG Chicago as an auditor and has served as Cherokee Nation Treasurer since 2011. In that role she oversees all financial functions of the tribal government, including the tribal administration's \$1 billion annual budget and the Cherokee Nation's tribal health care system, which is the largest of its kind. In 2015 Horn was appointed to the U.S. Department of Treasury's Tribal Advisory Committee.

The Native American Finance Officers Association selected Horn as "Executive of the Year" in 2014, and she appeared in *Oklahoma Magazine's* 40 Under 40 list in 2012.

Purchase tickets
for SMU's
Distinguished Alumni
Awards at
smu.edu/daa.



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 2017 issue is October 30, 2017.



48

Al Jensen attended a reunion of The Juilliard School alumni in May. A member of the performing arts conservatory's Class of 1946, he teaches oboe in Enid, OK, where he owns Jensen's Music Store.

50

Jeanne Grubbs was honored as a trailblazing woman in business by the Edgemere community, where she resides, during Women's History Month in March. She was Nissan's first female new car dealer in the Dallas area and one of the first female automobile dealers in the United States. At SMU she found the love of her life and business partner, George Grubbs '50, who passed away in 2012. Today their family continues to operate Grubbs Nissan in Bedford, TX, and Grubbs Infiniti in Grapevine, TX.

55

Patricia Stanley was honored as a Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest in San Antonio during Women's History Month in March.

57

Forrest Smith (LL.M. '63), senior partner with Friedman & Feiger, received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Private Practice from the SMU Dedman School of Law at its 30th annual Distinguished Alumni Award celebration on April 6.

59

Don A. Nelson has published *The NASA Papers*, his second book on NASA's human space programs, which is available on Amazon. The retired NASA engineer serves as coordinator of Concerned American Aerospace Engineers, which advocates for improved crew safety as well as rapid response to asteroid/comet impact on Earth.

60

Max Leo Taylor (M.B.A. '62) lives in Richardson, TX, and is retired from Texas Instruments. He is enjoying a second career as concierge at Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre, where he was named the Team Member of the Year for 2016. He is active in Spring Valley United Methodist Church and sings in the choir. He says he thoroughly enjoys sharing fun times with his grandchildren: Andrew, 12; Ashley, 10; and Adam, 8. **Charles Webb**, dean emeritus of Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, played a rare Bechstein grand

piano during a Lenten service in Sanibel Island, FL. He has won three Sagamore of the Wabash awards, the highest honor conferred by the state of Indiana for meritorious service, and has served on the juries of numerous prestigious international music competitions.

68

Robert Haydon released his second novel, *Kensington*, a memoir about friendship, love and life in a small town. It also discusses the 1950s music scene in Dallas, when he was performing on guitar with Steve Miller, Boz Scaggs and The Marksmen Combo Band. The book is available from Amazon and other online outlets. For more information, visit haydonrf.com.

69

Myra Crownover, retired state representative from Denton County, TX, received a 2017 TWU Founders' Award for her "exceptional service" to Texas Woman's University and the community. **David Gravelle** (M.B.A. '71) of Gravelle Marketing / Branding has teamed up with the Texas Historical Commission and **Jake Sweeney '15** and **Mitchell Massey '17** of 900lbs of Creative experiential design studio on a five-minute, 360-degree virtual reality film about the 1836 Goliad Massacre. View the film at thc.texas.gov/goliad-massacre.

72

Reunion Chairs: **MARY LEE FILGO MILLER AND CHRIS RENTZEL**

Save the date: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017**

Klaus Dannenberg, a retired engineering executive, is co-author of *Honoring Aging Parents: How to Grow up When Mom and Dad Grow Old*. He draws from his own experiences of helping care for family members in writing this practical guide, which is available from Amazon. **Gayle Maurin** (M.B.A. '76) has begun a major project with Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) in New York City. In addition, she is in her second year as the founding president of The Fifty Vanderbilt Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the Yale Club of New York City.

73

Donald E. Godwin, chairman and CEO of Godwin Bowman & Martinez PC, a Texas trial and appellate law firm, has been recognized for the fourth consecutive year in the 2017 edition of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* among the top commercial litigators in the United States. **Shayla Simpson** was a guest speaker at the George Washington University Textile Museum in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with its recent exhibit, "Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair." Simpson served as the "voice and face" of Ebony Fashion Fair, known as the world's largest traveling fashion show, from 1975 to 1991. Simpson is a member of the Fashion Legacy Association for Industry Recognition (FLAIR), which honored her in Los Angeles in July. **Stephen Tobolowsky** explores his midlife return to the Jewish faith in *My Adventures with God*. He discussed his new book at the Dallas Museum of Art on April 18 as part of the Arts & Letters Live series.

74

John Goodwin has been elected to a second term as director of Wespeth Benefits and Investments, the United Methodist

Church's general agency that manages pension, benefit and institutional assets and serves 100,000 United Methodist clergy worldwide. He is president of Goodwin Securities in Albuquerque, NM, which he founded in 1990. **Patrick Yack** has been named executive director of Florida Public Broadcasting Service, a Tallahassee-based association of 26 public radio and television stations.

75

Gerald Alley, a member of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, was recognized as an outstanding Arkansas business leader during Black History Month. In 1979 he founded Con-Real, one of the region's leading construction and real estate firms, whose clients include Hilton, Homewood Suites, Home Depot, Walmart, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Kroger. Among his other business ventures are The Alley Group, a project management services firm in San Francisco, CA, and Bravado, a

real estate and hospitality firm in Arlington, TX. His Gerald and Candace Alley Foundation supports disadvantaged youth through the creation of educational opportunities. Alley serves on the SMU Board of Trustees. **Mike Lynn** of commercial boutique Texas litigation firm Lynn Pinker Cox & Hurst has been named to "Best Lawyers in America" for six consecutive years. He also has been recognized as a "Litigation Star" for five consecutive years; a "Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America" 2015-2017; and among the "Top 500 Lawyers in the U.S." by Lawdragon in 2015. He also has been consistently ranked by Chambers and Partners.

77

Reunion Chairs: **MARY BROOKE OLIPHINT CASAD AND ROBERT CREWS**

Save the date: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017**

Melissa Reiff, CEO of The Container Store, was named among the world's Top 10 Servant-Leader CEOs by Inc.com.

SMU REUNION WEEKEND

Save the Date
NOVEMBER 2-4, 2017

Undergraduate classes of
**1972, 1977, 1982, 1987,
1992, 1997, 2002,
2007 and 2012**

smu.edu/reunions

World Changers
Shaped Here



SMU



80

Mark Moussa, founder and owner of Arteriors, a 30-year-old brand of eclectic lighting, accessories and furniture, was honored for Outstanding Product Design by ARTS Awards, an international program celebrating achievements in home furnishings and interior design.

82

Reunion Chairs: **BECKY FREY AND BRIAN MURPHY**
Save the date: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017**

Peter T. Dameris was honored by the SMU Cox School of Business with a Distinguished Alumni Award at its annual

awards luncheon on May 19. As CEO of On Assignment, Inc., CEO, he is responsible for overseeing company growth as a leading provider of staffing services in the technology, creative, healthcare technology and life sciences sectors.

83

Beverly Smirnis has co-written *Anna from Atlanta*. The book is based on the true story of Anna, an African-American caregiver who shakes up a small town in Iowa when she arrives to care for and champion a severely handicapped boy named Fitz.

85

Marc DeVinney (M.S. '88) serves as chief technology officer for Austin-based UnaliWear. The company is beta testing a watch for seniors with "On Star" technology providing fall detection, medication reminders and wander management. The company plans to offer the watch to consumers by the end of this year.

87

Reunion Chairs: **TED GANGI AND AMY ABOUD WARE**
Save the date: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017**

Robert Scott Hart was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award for

Changing The World As English Teachers

Three young alumni are bound for Europe and South America after receiving Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Awards. The prestigious program sends award recipients around the globe to teach English while serving as cultural ambassadors for the United States.

KRISTEN BIEDERMANN '16

At the end of the summer, Biedermann will start a 10-month teaching assignment at the University of Cauca in Popayan, Colombia. She received a master of education degree from SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

In some ways, it's the continuation of a path she discovered at SMU.

"I had an opportunity to travel to Guatemala to help one of my professors with research and professional development for Guatemalan teachers on behalf of SMU," says Biedermann. "I learned that when

people acquire more than one language, it gives them an ability to connect across cultures, which is important to me, so I've become passionate about helping people cross barriers through learning a second language."

ADAM GARNICK '17

Garnick graduated in May with a master of education degree and will teach next year in Budapest, Hungary.

The Philadelphia native is an eighth-grade history teacher at Dallas' E.H. Cary Middle School and a member of the Teach for America program. In Hungary, he will teach English with a focus

on academic writing at Budapest Metropolitan University. "My teaching, along with my courses at

SMU, have provided a great foundation for what's next," Garnick says. "I feel prepared to teach at a university. I'm going to take the strategies I've learned in teaching English language learners to Budapest."

JENNIE LEE '16

Lee plans to take a creative approach to helping students develop new language skills during her 10-month assignment in Germany. Building on interests she discovered as an undergraduate, she'll teach English through extracurricular activities like after-school yoga classes and voice lessons. Lee studied opera at SMU and earned a bachelor's degrees in vocal performance at Meadows School of the Arts

and world languages at Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

She says "working with the entire World Languages and Literatures Department really made me want to go abroad" and credits Gordon Birrell, associate professor of German, with strongly encouraging her to learn German while an SMU student and helping with her Fulbright application.



Corporate Service from the SMU Dedman School of Law at its 30th annual Distinguished Alumni Award celebration on April 6. He serves as executive vice president, general counsel and secretary with the Mark Cuban Companies, a collection of over 100 companies that include the Dallas Mavericks. The Rev. Dr. **Kevin Tully** has released his latest book, *Trash Talking to God*, a book of Lenten devotionals available from Amazon.

88

Melanie Bolin is co-founder of Mer-Sea, sea- and beach-inspired products sold at Anthropologie and other retailers. She lives in Kansas City with husband **Patrick Bolin** – they met on their first day of classes at SMU – and their two children.

89

J.D. Hill, a former member of the SMU sailing team, completed a 2,000-mile ocean voyage on his yacht *Second Star* as part of a ground tour to compete in two international sailing regattas. Hill's all-amateur crew, including his wife **Susan Hill '90** and **Spencer Price Matthews '10**, won first place in the 30th annual Quantum Key West Race Week, January 15–20. The following week, the Hills, along with fellow Mustangs **Thomas Morris '92** and **Jennifer Evans Morris '94, '99**, raced from Key West to Varadero, Cuba, winning the Conch Republic Cup regatta. **Anne Lambright** received the Modern Language Association of America's Katherine Singer Kovacs prize for *Andean Truths: Transitional Justice, Ethnicity, and Cultural Production in Post-Shining Path Peru*. The award honors an outstanding book published in English or Spanish in the field of Latin American and Spanish literatures and cultures. Lambright serves as dean of Academic Affairs and Charles A. Dana Research Professor of Language and Culture Studies at Trinity College. **Lee Mulcahy** was a featured artist in Carbondale Council for the Arts' Valley Visual in January and February 2017. In addition, Mulcahy exhibited at Aspen's Red Brick for the Arts in May 2017.

Like Grandfather, Like Grandson

Arya McCarthy

'17 has been a frequent presence on SMU's campus, practically since the day he could walk.

As a child, he would stroll across verdant lawns, his tiny hand held firmly in his grandfather's gentle one,

as his grandpa, **John McCarthy**, checked his mail.

John McCarthy was a biology professor in SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, where he taught Mustangs and researched endocrine physiology from the 1950s up to his retirement in 1999.

Neither knew then just how grand a role SMU would play in Arya's life.

Fast forward to the summer of 2016. Arya was a President's Scholar at SMU, three years into his pursuit of bachelor's degrees in mathematics and computer science as well as a master's degree in computer science. With the presidential race well underway, people were describing the American electorate as being more partisan than ever, and Arya had a question: Was it?

He teamed up with **Scott Norris '01**, associate professor of mathematics, and Matthew Wilson, associate professor of political science, to "put together a mathematical representation of what's really going on in the American electorate."

"We wanted to see, first of all, whether this was a real phenomenon we should be concerned about," Arya says. "Second, if it was happening, we wanted to know how to characterize it. Were we just moving away from the center, or were we flattening our positions uniformly along party lines?"

The project was funded by a Robert Mayer Undergraduate Research Fellowship offered by the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute. The student and professors worked with 40 years of data and presented their results in April.

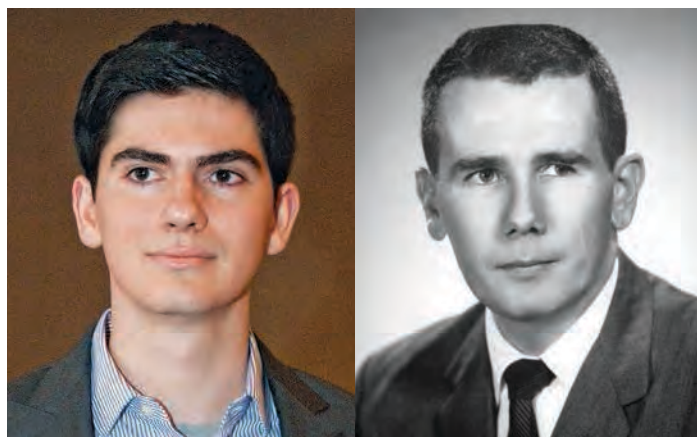
The answer to both of Arya's original questions is yes – the American electorate is more partisan, and party affiliation correlates more strongly with issue positions than in the past.

Over the summer they prepared their research for submission to a political journal for publication.

This fall Arya will begin a Ph.D. program at the Johns Hopkins Center for Language and Speech Processing where his challenge will be to tackle the artificial intelligence behind translation applications like Google Translate.

Professor McCarthy passed away last January, and Arya credits his grandfather for always stressing the importance of a good education.

"He was the one who said I should consider applying to SMU," Arya says. "This place was intensely personal to him and to me. It was a connection between the two of us. I hope he would be pleased with the things that I've done here."



Arya McCarthy '17

John McCarthy

Read more of Arya McCarthy's story at smu.edu/mag17mccarthy.



And The Tony Award Goes To...

Two SMU alumni won 2017 Tony Awards at the ceremony held June 11 in New York's Radio City Music Hall, and two other alumni are featured in winning and nominated musicals.

In addition, Dallas Theater Center won the Tony for Best Regional Theatre. SMU's Meadows School of the Arts has a long-standing partnership with DTC, which includes alumni and faculty in its resident acting company.

Michael Aronov '98 won his first Tony Award as Best Actor in a Featured Role for *Oslo*. The play, about the secret negotiations in the early 1990s leading to the Oslo Peace Accords between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, was also named Best Play. Aronov won for his performance as Israeli cabinet member Uri Savir, director-general of the foreign ministry.

Oslo is Aronov's second Broadway show, following his appearance in 2012's *Golden Boy*. For this year's Tony, Aronov was competing against veteran performers including Danny DeVito, Nathan Lane and Richard Thomas.

"Talent, practice and persistence pay off," said Associate Professor of Theatre Michael Connolly, who taught Aronov while he was a student. "No actor I know has worked with greater focus and zeal than Michael, and no actor I know deserves this recognition more."

Andy Blankenbuehler, who attended SMU in 1989 before launching a professional career, was named Best Choreographer for the musical *Bandstand*, the story of a group of WWII veterans who form a band to compete in a national radio contest in New York City seeking America's next swing band sensation. The Broadway veteran has been nominated five times for the Tony in choreography, winning in 2016 for *Hamilton* and in 2008 for *In the Heights*.



Andy Blankenbuehler

The Dallas Theater Center won the Regional Theatre Tony Award, which honors a nonprofit professional regional theatre company in the United States that has displayed a continuous level of artistic achievement contributing to the growth of theatre nationally. Every year, an M.F.A. graduate from SMU is accepted as a member of the center's Brierley Resident Acting Company. **Tiana Kaye Johnson '16** is the young alumna holding the current two-year appointment, through spring 2018.

Read about SMU's groundbreaking collaboration with Dallas Theater Center to present the inaugural *Public Works Dallas* production of *The Tempest* on pages 12-17 of this issue.



Photo by Walter McBride/Broadwayworld.com

Michael Aronov '98

Beijing's 798 Arts District in March 2017 and Art Basel Miami in December 2016.

Kirk L. Rimer was honored by the SMU Cox School of Business with a Distinguished Alumni Award at its annual awards luncheon on May 19. He is a principal and co-head of Crow Holdings Capital-Investment Partners.

90

Rep. **Rafael Anchia** was named a finalist for *D Magazine's* Latino Business Awards 2017. He is serving his seventh term in the Texas Legislature, representing a western corridor of Dallas County that includes parts of Dallas, Farmers Branch and Irving. **Tom Hennings** and **Heidi Lane** are founders of The Juice Bar, which opened its fourth Dallas storefront in the spring.

91

Nic Wishart will compete in the World Marathon Challenge – seven marathons in seven days on seven continents – in January. He resides in Pawtucket, RI, and will be the first person from his state to compete in the grueling event. He invites Mustangs to "follow his path" at nickwmc.com.

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Reunion Chairs: **TINA GRAY AND CATHERINE DAVIS HOSKING**
Save the date: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017**

Christopher Lake, an attorney with more than 20 years of experience in family law, has written *A Christian Divorce*, which encourages couples to seek divine counsel as aggressively as they seek legal counsel. The book is available on his website, achristiandivorce.org, and from Amazon.

94

Ashley Chaffin Glover is executive vice president and chief revenue officer of RealPage, Inc., a Richardson, TX-based real estate software and services company. She is responsible for sales, marketing, customer support and services,

international operations and information systems. In the community, she serves on the board of the Dallas Urban Debate Association. She and husband Kris live in Dallas with daughters Rivers and Autumn and son John Foster. **Troy Shull** teamed up with his brother to create five family games: *Emkata*, an acrostic word challenge; *Secan*, a numbers puzzle; *Takaro*, anagram-focused play; *Sum2Zero*, a card game; and *Atticus Scroll: Journey*

of the Pharaoh, an Egyptian history board game. Their games are available at Barnes & Noble Booksellers and from Amazon.

F. Chase Simmons is chair-elect of Polsinelli, an Am Law 100 firm serving corporations, institutions and entrepreneurs nationally. Simmons has been with Polsinelli since 1997 and currently serves as chair of the firm's national real estate practice group and real estate equity group. **Yuan-Qing Yu**, violinist with the Civitas

Ensemble and Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and **Pavel Šporcl '93**, violinist with the Gypsy Way Ensemble, have brought their musical groups together to combat stereotypes about gypsy culture. Classical-style Civitas received a MacArthur Foundation grant to present a concert with Romani-style Gypsy Way at Chicago's Merit School of Music in May. An album and documentary about the collaboration are planned.

PRECIOUS PONIES



Haydon William Doyel, born January 14, 2016, is the son of Holly Fuller Doyel '99 and Stephen Doyel. He was named after his late grandfather, Haydon T. Fuller '63.



Kate Kingslee Fullam, born October 30, 2016, is the daughter of Katherine Ryan Fullam '01 and Shawn Fullam '96. Her extended Mustang family includes grandfather Reid Ryan '72, aunts Jennifer Ryan Carter '07 and Stephanie Ryan '04, great-aunts Rita Ryan Klein '75 and Jacqueline Ryan Wynne '68, great-uncle Jackson Sears Ryan '81 and her late great-grandparents Lorraine Reid Ryan Garcia '46 and Jackson Sears Ryan, Sr. '45.

Submit your Precious Ponies to smumag@smu.edu. Please send image files at the largest size with the names and class years of alumni parents (and grandparents) and your child's name and birthdate. Photographs will be published as space allows.



Madeline Claire Gaebe, born November 11, 2016, is the daughter of Missy Kuntz Gaebe '06 and Brian Gaebe '05.



Knox Lang Jones, born December 23, 2016, is the son of Jacqueline Nguyen Jones '11 and Chad Jones. He is the nephew of David Ninh '01.



Katherine Joy Peel, born June 9, 2016, is the daughter of Paige Redwine Peel '07 and James Peel.



Andrew Alan Lucas, born January 9, 2017, is the son of Kristen Connors Lucas '13, '16 and Scott Lucas '16. He was welcomed by sister Amelia Grace, 3.



Henry Alexander Osman, born November 20, 2016, is the son of Daniel Osman '00 and Karmell Osman. He was welcomed home by sister Emily, 4, and brothers Max, 8, and Abraham, 6.



Judah Morgan Kahle and Abigail Claire Kahle, born September 30, 2015, are the children of Timothy Kahle '05 and Amy Kahle.

The **Power** of President's Associates

Through their generosity, President's Associates demonstrate a deep commitment to the University and help ensure that SMU will continue to provide an outstanding educational experience. Every year their gifts support the University's continuing rise in quality.

President's Associates recognizes donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to an area of the SMU Fund or another fund for current use.

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World Changers Shaped Here



SMU

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Brian Baumgartner joined the cast of Amazon's *Hand of God* as Dr. Orlani, a successful and eccentric brain specialist in San Francisco. **Ann Marie Willer** has been appointed director of preservation services at the Northeast Document Conservation Center, an independent conservation laboratory located in Andover, MA. She previously served as preservation librarian for the MIT Libraries and the University of North Texas Libraries. Willer says she got her start on this career path as an undergraduate music major at SMU, where she was a student employee in the Bywaters Special Collections of the Hamon Arts Library.

97

Reunion Chair: ROB JOHNSON
Save the date: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017
Shanterra McBride was the keynote speaker and emcee at #BestSelf2017, a program of the Dallas Women's

Foundation's Leadership Initiative, which brought hundreds of girls, ages 11 to 15, to the SMU campus on April 29 for sessions focusing on leadership, emotional well-being, good decision-making and other issues related to shaping strong, confident young women. McBride is the founder of Marvelous University, which specializes in leadership development for girls and young women, as well as life-coaching and success-planning for youth.

John Thorne interviewed many of the stars of the original *Twin Peaks* for his *Wrapped in Plastic* fan magazine devoted to the offbeat TV show. He published 75 issues over 13 years, some of them written while he was earning a master's degree in TV/radio/film at SMU. His work is collected in *The Essential Wrapped in Plastic: Pathways to Twin Peaks*, a compendium published last year. He's writing about Showtime's new episodes of *Twin Peaks* for a new magazine, *The Blue Rose: A Twin Peaks Journal*, and his blog, abovethestore.blogspot.com. **Angela Wennihan Zambrano** received the

Emerging Leader Award from the SMU Dedman School of Law at its 30th annual Distinguished Alumni Award celebration on April 6. She is a partner with Sidley Austin LLP and co-leader of the firm-wide complex commercial litigation practice.

98

The Hon. **Tonya Parker**, 116th Judicial District Court Judge and the Presiding Judge for the Dallas County Civil District Courts, received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Judicial Service from the SMU Dedman School of Law at its 30th annual Distinguished Alumni Award celebration on April 6. **Sharon K. Snowton**, a bilingual-ESL teacher in the Cedar Hill, TX, school district, recently received two prestigious teaching awards: the national LifeChanger of the Year award (honor roll level) from National Life Group and the 2017 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award presented by Humanities Texas.

99

Michael Barriskill is co-founder of Barriskill Dance Theatre School in Durham, NC. In addition to serving as visiting teacher and choreographer at the 10-year-old dance conservatory, he is a massage therapist. **Tony Casagrande**, PE, has been promoted to president of Campos Engineering, Inc. He started working for the firm as a student and joined the team full time after graduating from SMU.

Liz Cedillo-Pereira was appointed director of the new Office of Welcoming Communities and Immigrant Affairs in Dallas. The Dallas native has more than 15 years of policy and engagement experience at the federal, state and local level. The attorney most recently served as the Obama Administration's senior advisor at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. **Jennifer McSpadden Curtin**, who served as a campus tour guide at SMU in 1997, says, "I'm still giving tours 20 years later – now in Healdsburg, California!" Her "Let's Go Wine Walk" is a three-hour walking tour in Sonoma County, CA. Her

website – LetsGoWineWalk.com – was created with the help of fellow Mustang **Jennifer Lauren Smith Eshelman '99**.

00

Baxter Box was honored by the SMU Cox School of Business with an Outstanding Young Alumni Award at its annual awards luncheon on May 19. He is CEO and co-founder of rewardStyle, the largest global monetization platform for top-tier style influencers and retail brands. **Elyse Dickerson** is CEO and co-founder of Eosera, maker of EarwaxMD, an earwax impaction solution that is sold on Amazon.

01

James Van Arsdale is professor of graphic design and chair of the Graphic Design Department at Santa Barbara City. **Sarah Evans**, founder and CEO of the nonprofit Well Aware, was named to Toyota's Mothers of Invention Class of 2017, which celebrates pioneers who are driving change in the world through innovation

and entrepreneurship. Austin-based Well Aware funds and implements clean water solutions for impoverished communities in East Africa. In the last seven years, the nonprofit has served more than 150,000 people and is on track to double that impact in 2017. **Nina Magon**, award-winning interior designer and TV personality, serves as principal and creative director of Contour Interior Design in Houston and Miami, FL, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. **Lionel Maunz** exhibited new works in "Discovery of Honey / Work of the Family" at the Gatehouse Gallery and grounds of the Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park at Laguna Gloria in Austin, TX. The artist works primarily in iron, steel and concrete sculpture.

02

*Save the date: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017***
15-YEAR REUNION PARTY

Jonathan R. Childers (J.D. '05) of boutique Texas litigation firm Lynn Pinker Cox & Hurst has been named one of the "Top 20 Lawyers on the Rise" by *Texas Lawyer*. He also was named among the 2017 "Top 100

Up-and-Coming Texas Rising Stars" and has been recognized as a "Rising Star" by *Texas Monthly* and *Law and Politics* magazines for eight consecutive years.

Frenchaire Gardner, an insurance broker and entrepreneur living in St. Louis, MO, organized the Ujamaa Group Economics March in June in support of economic and educational development in Africa.

Michael Gehring published *The Oxbridge Evangelist: Motivations, Practices, and Legacy of C.S. Lewis* (Cascade Press, 2017), which is available from Amazon. **Dyan House** has joined Baker McKenzie's North America Intellectual Property Practice in Dallas as counsel, bringing more than a decade of experience advising clients on trademark, copyright and franchise matters. House is council member on the Dallas Bar Association's Intellectual Property Section and former chair of the American Bar Association's Trademark Transactions Committee. She has co-chaired the committee for the Southwest Region of the INTA Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition since 2014, and she was recognized for her trademark work in the 2017 *World Trademark Review's*

Reaching A Seismic Academic Goal

Monique Scales '15, '17 was in SMU's Fondren Library on the afternoon of January 7, 2015, when a magnitude 3.6 earthquake rumbled across Dallas and Irving. She decided then and there that she didn't know as much about earthquakes as she thought she did.

"There were so many things that were weird about it," Scales recalls. "Nothing was shaking – I heard it."

A little more than two years later, Scales received a master's degree in geophysics from SMU in May and is headed to the University of Utah to pursue a Ph.D.

As an undergraduate majoring in geophysics and applied mathematics, she worked with SMU alumna **Heather DeShon '99**, associate professor of geophysics and a leader on SMU's seismology

research team in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

While a graduate student, she collaborated with faculty at SMU, the University of Texas and the U.S. Geological Survey in developing her master's thesis and spent two summers at the Air Force Research Laboratory New Mexico.

Using seismic and acoustic tools to discern the difference between an earthquake, a conventional explosion and a nuclear weapon is a key focus in SMU's Huffington Department of Earth Sciences – and a specialty that interests Scales.

"I definitely want to continue research," Scales says. "I would love to work for the federal government in nuclear monitoring."

Read more about Scales at smu.edu/mag17scales.



Alumna Monique Scales' earthquake research began when she was an undergraduate.

WTR 1000. **Wesley McVey**, PE, has been promoted to chief operating officer of Campos Engineering, Inc. McVey joined the firm immediately after graduating from SMU. **Sarah Shahi** will star in the new NBC thriller, *Reverie*, during the 2017-2018 season.

03

The Hon. Lady Justice **Catherine Bamugemereire**, Justice of the Court of Appeal and Constitutional Court of Uganda, was honored with the Distinguished Global Alumni Award by the SMU Dedman School of Law at its 30th annual Distinguished Alumni Award celebration on April 6. **Domenico Codispoti**, concert pianist, performed at the International Festival of Music and Dance in Granada, Spain, one of the most prestigious music festivals in Europe. **Dodee Crockett** has been elected to the board of directors of Public Radio International, a global nonprofit media company focused on the intersection of journalism and engagement to effect positive change. Crockett is a Managing Director-Wealth Management at Merrill Lynch.

04

Nika Arastoupour is a successful real estate agent with Highland Park-based Rogers Healy and Associates, but her personal passion is Heart of Autism – heartofautism.org – a nonprofit she founded after her son Mazy was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in 2012. The organization has raised more than \$100,000 to help children and adults in North Texas and will present its annual fundraiser on September 30 at the Sheraton McKinney Hotel. **Stacy Fisher** and husband **Chris Fisher '03** founded Polka Dot Party + Play – polkadotpartyandplay.com – an upscale educational play space for preschoolers in the Village at Fairview in Allen, TX. They host open play during the week and birthday parties on the weekend. **Hubert Zajicek**, a physician and research scientist, serves as CEO and co-founder of Health

Wildcatters, a Dallas accelerator for health-care start-ups. Since launching in 2013, the accelerator has invested in more than 40 start-ups.

05

Adam B. Hill has been named a partner at Thompson & Knight LLP. His practice focuses on commercial real estate and banking. **Liz Youngblood** was honored by the SMU Cox School of Business with a Distinguished Alumni Award at its annual awards luncheon on May 19. She serves as CEO of the University of Mississippi Medical Center – Adult Hospitals.

06

Alana K. Ackels (J.D. '09) has been elevated to partner by Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP. She practices in the firm's labor, employment and benefits and litigation areas. Licensed in Texas and California, Ackels has extensive experience litigating disputes in state and federal courts and arbitration. **Virginia (Ginger) DuBose Heckman** has been named to the board of trustees of The Heritage Foundation, headquartered in Washington, DC. Heckman is a manager at Noble Properties Inc., a commercial real estate development, investment and management company based in Atlanta, GA. She is a trustee of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Inc. and the Lloyd and Vivian Noble Foundation, where she also serves as president.

07

Reunion Chairs: TRAVIS RICE AND LAURIE-LEIGH WHITE
Save the date: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017
Shazi Mir (M.B.A. '08) has been named one of *Consulting Magazine's* "Rising Stars: 35 under 35." She is a manager in the Dallas office of North Highland, a global management consulting firm. The award recognizes 35 individuals under age 35 who are redefining the consulting profession and blazing trails, according to the magazine. Mir was recognized

specifically for "Excellence in Financial Consulting" for exhibiting delivery excellence through the work she does for clients and internal firm initiatives.

Brittany Teal was recognized in the "Outstanding Up-and-Comer" category of the *D CEO Magazine* Corporate Counsel Awards in October. She is a partner in the law firm Washington & Teal, PLLC. **Brent A. Turman** has joined the Dallas-based law firm Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP as an associate. **Brittany Merrill Underwood**, founder of the nonprofit Akola Project, received the top prize of \$75,000 at the United Way GroundFloor's OneUp the Pitch contest. Akola offers jewelry-making jobs that provide a living wage to women living in poverty in Uganda and Dallas. Underwood also was recently named among the world's Top 10 Servant-Leader CEOs by Inc.com.

08

Amber Venz Box was honored by the SMU Cox School of Business with an Outstanding Young Alumni Award at its annual awards luncheon on May 19. She is the president and co-founder of rewardStyle, the largest global monetization platform for top-tier style influencers and retail brands. **Luisa Del Rosal Isais**, executive director of the SMU John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies and the Mission Foods Texas Mexico Center at SMU Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, was named a finalist for *D Magazine's* Latino Business Awards 2017.

09

Vik Thapar was honored by the SMU Cox School of Business with an Outstanding Young Alumni Award at its annual awards luncheon on May 19. A principal with Cypress Growth Capital, he has more than 18 years of experience spanning venture capital, private equity and information technology consulting.

Thane Economou (writer/director), **James Lentzsch** (actor/producer), **William Kamp** (director of photography/producer), **Katrina Sainz** (production designer), **Ryan Hawkins** (producer) and **Lauren Harper '12** (co-producer) are among the creative Mustangs behind *The Wedding Party*, a romantic comedy filmed in one 119-minute take. The movie is available on iTunes.

Tracy Glesby has started Glesby Fine Properties in Houston, a high-end residential real estate brokerage. **Maia VanDyke** recently graduated from UT Southwestern Medical School, where she received two prestigious honors: the 2017 John D. McConnell Award for Excellence in Urology and the 2017 Rolland C. Reynolds Pathology Award. She will serve her urology residency at UT Southwestern.

Mickey Dollens competed on the USA bobsledding team before being elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in November. He describes public service as one of his life's "most rewarding experiences" and credits "SMU and the exceptional faculty for preparing me for a life of success after college." **Micah Figueroa** reprises the role of Cabaco in *Moby Dick*, presented by Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago through September 3. He played the role in the world premiere in 2015 as well as the national tour. **Kyle Lukianuk** serves as president of Good Returns Network, a Dallas-based social impact venture. **Grant Reynolds** made his directing debut with the Lakeland Community Theatre's production of *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* in Lakeland, FL.

Reunion Chairs: **MIKE ALBERTS AND JORDAN KRAGEN**
Save the date: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017**

José Ramon Campos is co-owner of CommonWealth Coffee House & Bakery in San Antonio, which plans several new locations in the city. **Lizzy Chestnut** is

Black Alumni Honor 2017 History Makers And Scholarship Winners

Black Alumni of SMU honored 2017 Black History Makers **Mercury R. Hall '98, '03**, **Contessa Hoskins '09** and **Moses L. Williams, Jr. '78, '81** at the Black Excellence Ball on February 25.

Hall made University history as the first African American to receive a master's degree in applied economics from SMU. As an undergraduate, he played on the Mustang football team while earning a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Today the financial expert and sports entrepreneur serves as an assistant vice president on the trade settlement team at Markit, a global financial information, analytics and services company. He is also the founder and CEO of Mercury

Universe, an online community and recruiting tool that enables young athletes to promote themselves.

In the community, Hall is involved with numerous charitable organizations including Meals on Wheels and Special Olympics.

Hoskins, a senior business engineering and operations consultant for Raytheon, has made her mark across the business spectrum in a wide range of industries,



Black Alumni of SMU honored 2017 Black History Makers Mercury R. Hall '98, '03, Moses L. Williams, Jr. '78, '81 and Contessa Hoskins '09 at the Black Excellence Ball on February 25.

including petrochemicals, commercial manufacturing, telecommunications, defense and aerospace, distributed control systems and automation and integration.

Hoskins has earned multiple awards for mentoring excellence, service, corporate performance and leadership and been profiled in numerous publications, including *US Black Engineer* and Beta Gamma Sigma honor society magazines.

She earned an MBA from the Cox School of Business and serves on the school's alumni board.

Williams, the first African American to obtain a Ph.D. in anthropology from SMU, founded an innovative education program in 1990 while director of admissions for Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia.

The program, which was later hosted by SMU for several years, trained minority students for success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, beginning in seventh grade and continuing through college. One hundred percent of program participants attended college, 99 percent graduated and 92 percent completed the pipeline project before it ended in 2016.

The alumni chapter also honored the Black Alumni Scholarship recipients: **Autumn Langston '17**, a music therapy major and arts entrepreneurship minor in Meadows School of the Arts, and **Lezly Murphy '19**, majoring in electrical engineering with a pre-med focus in the Lyle School of Engineering.



Mustangs Score With The NBA

Newly minted graduates **Semi Ojeleye '17** and **Sterling Brown '17** were selected in the NBA draft on June 22, writing a new chapter in Mustang basketball history.

Ojeleye was selected 37th overall by the Boston Celtics, and Brown was picked 46th overall by the Philadelphia 76ers before being traded to the Milwaukee Bucks. It was the first time multiple Mustangs were tapped in the first two rounds, and the fourth time the Mustangs have had multiple picks in the draft.

Another Mustang standout, **Ben Moore '17**, has agreed to a partially guaranteed contract with the Indiana Pacers as an undrafted free agent.

Ojeleye capped his SMU basketball career as the first player in American Athletic Conference history to garner Player of the Year and Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors. He graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Ojeleye averaged 19.0 points (3rd AAC) and 6.9 rebounds (11th AAC) while shooting 48.7 percent (8th AAC) overall and 42.4 percent from 3-point range (3rd AAC).

In a *Boston Herald* profile, writer Mark Murphy describes Ojeleye "as precisely the kind of swing forward the NBA now demands – a player agile enough to guard multiple positions, strong enough to rebound and defend power forwards and accomplished enough offensively to space the floor."

Brown was named an NABC Division I College All-Star, All-American Athletic Conference Second Team and AAC All-Tournament in his final season with the Mustangs. He earned a bachelor's degree in sport management with a minor in sociology from SMU.

On Behind the Buck Pass, the Bucks' news and fan site, Brown is praised as "a standout shooter who is long enough to defend well in the NBA. For the Bucks, he should provide another shooter off the bench, which is something the team definitely needs."

In his final year on the Hilltop, he averaged 11.4 points (24th AAC), 7.8 rebounds (5th AAC), 2.4 assists and 1.1 blocks (12th AAC), while shooting 56.0 percent from the field (2nd AAC).

Brown and Moore are the all-time leaders in wins for the Mustangs.

Moore was a four-year player at SMU, with 1,214 career points. He became the 39th player in the program's history to reach 1,000 points, which came on a dunk

in the match against Temple on January 4. Moore, Ojeleye and another SMU alumnus, **Markus Kennedy '16**, were among the exciting young players showcased in the NBA Summer League in July.

Kennedy was signed by the Detroit Pistons following a season with the Rio Grande Valley Vipers (Houston Rockets G-League team). While at SMU from 2013–16, he was twice named the American Athletic Conference Sixth Man of the Year. He scored 1,003 points during his SMU career.

No. 3 Sterling Brown '17
No. 00 Ben Moore '17
No. 33 Semi Ojeleye '17



See Semi Ojeleye shine on and off the court at smu.edu/mag17semi.

the founder and designer behind City Boots – cityboots.com – an online purveyor of handmade western-style boots. **Erin Culver**, a quality assurance engineer for BWX Technologies Nuclear Operations Group, was honored with the Women in Manufacturing STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering and Production) Ahead Award on April 20 by the Manufacturing Institute. The STEP Ahead Awards honor women who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in their careers and represent all levels of the manufacturing industry. **Ryan Haggerty** has been named to the board of trustees of The Heritage Foundation, headquartered in Washington, D.C. He is the managing member of Clear Fork Royalty, an oil and gas royalty fund. He is active in Fort Worth civic affairs as a member of the Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate and Young Leaders Council and serves on the board of the 12.48 Foundation, which supports at-risk youth. **Ali Hollins** and **Meg Jones '14** are the entrepreneurs behind To & From – toandfromgifts.com – a new custom gift

box service for every occasion. **Catherine Elizabeth Gibson Luba** and **Colin Alexander Luba** were married on September 24, 2016, in Jackson, Mississippi. Colin is currently an assistant vice president and relationship manager with the Mortgage Warehouse Division at PlainsCapital Bank. Catherine is showroom manager of The Mix. The couple resides in Dallas. Mother of the bride is **Maribeth Hooker Gibson '87**. The couple's wedding party included **Will Blair '12**, **Alexa Dow '13**, **John Dyar '12**, **Ayana Fletcher-Tyson '12**, **Mary Paxton Gibson '16**, **Rich Green '12**, **Emma Killingsworth '12**, **Conor Law '12**, **Suzanne Ritzdorf '14**, **Faiz Sayed '13**, **Nicole Veale '12**, **'13**, **Stephen Wright '12**, **'13**; and current student **Dalton Gibson '20**. **David Aboitiz '12**, **Alex Christian '12**, **Andrew Laviage '12**, **John Malanowski '12**, **Graham Powell '12**, **Alex Quihlot '13**, **Charlie Quihlot '12** and **Daniel Veale '09** were among the guests. **Stephen Poulin** launched an apparel company, Tea Party Rebels – teapartyrebels.com – that sells American-made T-shirts printed by a

former Navy SEAL with a pledge to donate a portion of every sale to groups that support veterans, active duty military and first-responders. **Elizabeth Zamora** has joined IBM as a program coordinator. She graduated from SMU with a major in Spanish language arts and a minor in religious studies.

13

Aaron "Spike" Davis, a four-year football letterman at SMU (2009-2012), is gaining notoriety as a rugby player. He was the 2016 Professional Rugby Organization try leader and represented the United States in the 2016 Americas Rugby Championship. **Renee D. Foshee** was elected president of the San Antonio chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA) for the 2017-2018 term. **Mark Marynick** and partners are rebooting the Casci Plaster Company, which was founded in Dallas in 1930 and has created ornamental plasterwork for some of the most prestigious homes and

Finding A Perfect Fit At Nike

"I met Michael Jordan during the first week of my internship," says **Mark Lau '06**. "Right then I knew that Nike was the place I wanted to work. Eleven years later, I haven't looked back."

Lau, who graduated with degrees in marketing from the Cox School of Business and in advertising design from Meadows School of the Arts, works at Nike's World Headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon. As global director of the company's EKIN Experience – named in 1981 for the Nike reps who "had to know the product backwards and forwards," according to Nike – Lau leads the team responsible for curating Nike's stories and delivering inspiration and innovation to athletes around the world through a grassroots approach.

"My internship played a huge part in getting a full-time job at Nike," he says.

Lau also credits his SMU Abroad experiences studying in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Suzhou, China. "I believe that some of the best learning experiences take place

outside the classroom. The study abroad programs provided the opportunity to interact with students from around the world and experience global cultures."

Adapting to different kinds of people and cultures was good training for what Lau does at Nike. "There is no such thing as a typical day at Nike, and that's why I love it. We are a consumer-driven company, and the consumer moves fast. We learn, adapt and evolve quickly to keep up with today's fast-paced environment," he says.

"We call Nike's World Headquarters a campus because it is designed like a university and fosters an environment of learning and sharing. Our maxim, 'Be a sponge,' inspires us to constantly soak up and share information."

Lau serves as the co-president of SMU's Portland alumni chapter and helps organize events for fellow Mustangs who live in the area.

Read more about Mark Lau at smu.edu/mag17lau.



Mark Lau '06 sports some favorite kicks outside the Nike store in Portland, Oregon.



Hispanic Alumni Present Award, Scholarships

Jorge Baldor '93, an advocate for education and social causes locally, nationally and internationally, was honored with the 2017 Distinguished Hispanic Alumni Award presented by SMU Hispanic Alumni at the chapter's annual awards celebration on April 27.

Baldor graduated from SMU with a bachelor's degree in history. He is

co-founder of ResidentCheck, a national tenant background screening service.

An award-winning leader in business and civic affairs, Baldor was named Outstanding Latino Advocate in 2016 by *D CEO* magazine. He also has been recognized for his support of the Innocence Project and was named an "Amigo de Centroamerica" by Fundación

Esquipulas, a nonprofit organization led by Vinicio Cerezo, the former president of Guatemala.

In 2015 Baldor co-founded the Latino Center for Leadership Development (Latino CLD), which strives to develop the next generation of leaders driven by thoughts, values and experiences that will improve the Latino community. Earlier this year, Latino CLD and SMU's

John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies awarded nine research grants to support meaningful research geared to promoting a stronger understanding of the Latino community and creating a dialogue about key societal issues.

He serves on the executive board of SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences and as a commissioner-at-large on the City of Dallas' Cultural Affairs Commission. He also serves on the boards of the Cisneros Center for New Americans, the World Affairs Council and the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to the award to Baldor, SMU Hispanic Alumni presented undergraduate scholarships to **Carlos "Alex" Negrete '18** of Carrollton, Texas, a business administration major in the Cox School of Business, and Cox finance major **Victor Sanchez '19** of San Antonio, Texas.



Elizabeth Zamora '12 (left), chair of SMU Hispanic Alumni, with 2017 Distinguished Hispanic Alumni Award recipient Jorge Baldor '93 and Cynthia Villanueva '00, past chair.

See photos from the SMU Hispanic Alumni Awards luncheon at smu.edu/mag17haa.

Success Started With A 'No'

Dylan DeMuth '17 started classes at the University of Texas School of Medicine in San Antonio in July. He credits a "no" from an SMU professor for changing his life and putting him on track for a career in medicine.

When DeMuth wanted to enroll in Eric Bing's global health class, the professor told the premed student that he was not yet qualified and offered this challenge: "Improve your grades and call me in a month."

A sophomore chemistry and economics major with a 3.0 grade point average at the time, DeMuth sought tutoring before his midterm exams, instead of waiting until he was struggling with challenging science and math courses. He met with Bing, professor of global health and director of SMU's global health program in the Annette Caldwell

Simmons School of Education and Human Development, a month later to report improvement on his midterm tests – the beginning of a mentorship that inspired DeMuth to re-choreograph his life.

DeMuth, determined to fulfill his passion for study and work in global health, followed Bing's advice to develop a mission and find his strengths. He began each day with what Bing calls "10-10-10," a daily practice of 10 minutes of reading, 10 minutes of meditating and 10 minutes of journaling.

When the opportunity to enroll in Bing's global health class rolled around again, DeMuth was the first person admitted to the class.

With Bing's encouragement, DeMuth has conducted his own global health



Medical student Dylan DeMuth '17 (left) and his SMU mentor, Professor Eric Bing.

research. "Dylan is a natural, he understands people in a way he doesn't yet realize," Bing says. "Mentoring him is lighting a torch that someone once lit in me."

Read more about DeMuth and Bing at smu.edu/mag17demuth.

buildings in Texas. **Miranda Parham** stars in the comedy *Gentleman's Fury*, a feature film that premiered in May on Vimeo. The busy actress is on the performance track at The Groundlings School in Los Angeles, the famous improvisation and sketch comedy theatre. She has appeared in numerous independent films, television shows and theatre productions. **Brandon Warman** is the co-owner of Handground coffee grinders in Dallas and a 3-D printer artist who crafts miniature Dallas and Fort Worth skylines to scale, which he sells at 3dprintedskylines.com. **Mark Wiebe**, professor of theology and church history at Lubbock Christian University in Lubbock, TX, has written *On Evil, Providence, and Freedom: A New Reading of Molina* (Northern Illinois University Press). The thoughtful study, which will appeal to theologians and philosophers as well as readers interested in Christian theology, is available from Amazon.

14

Amanda Presmyk is co-producer of *Puppet Master: The Littlest Reich*, a horror movie from Cinestate, a new Dallas-based multimedia company making films, publishing books and producing audio-narratives.

15

Kristin Donnally Doller married Jonathan Doller in Beaver Creek, CO, on February 28, 2017. **Janna Añonuevo Langholz** launched the *Filipino American Artist Directory* – filamartistdirectory.com – the first guide to Filipino-American artists. Langholz conceived the project while pursuing a master's degree in photography from SMU. Her work has been exhibited recently in Hilo, HI, San Francisco, CA, and Portland, OR. **Ric Lorilla** is a sales manager focusing on the U.S. oil and gas market with the EMAG Group, an international manufacturing solutions company. He lives in Houston with wife Ashley and son Luke.

In Memoriam

The following deaths were reported to SMU between 12/7/16 and 6/1/17:

- '18 (Kidd-Key College)
Minnie Patterson Rippy 11/27/87
Minnie Wilson West '23, 12/27/85
- '27 Dr. **Walter L. Towner** '28, '30, 11/4/91
- '38 **Chaim Richman**, Ph.D. 3/23/17
- '39 **Alice Boggess Griesenbeck** 12/23/16
Louise Alsworth Munroe '44, 3/8/17
- '40 **Katherine Calkins Speairs** '44, 1/3/17
- '41 The Rev. **Gene W. Elmore, Sr.** 7/25/02
Lucretia Leflore Quinn 10/18/16
Velma Reynolds Rutledge 2/16/17
Marcella Wilson Tatum 12/5/16
- '42 **Ruth Shidel Mills** 5/9/04
- '43 **Clinton J. Wofford, Jr.** '52, 4/15/17
Mary Mize Wiseley 3/5/17
- '44 **Bennie Houser Furlong** 12/14/16
Laura Murph Greenwaldt 3/20/17
Wanda Calvert Harris 1/1/17
- '45 **Billie Rhea Corley** 4/13/17
Ernest A. Ellestad 3/28/17
- '46 **Patricia Moss Browning** 1/21/17
Nancy Penick Burnett 1/1/17 **Clarlyn Hamilton Bychok** 12/7/16 **Priscilla Hemenway Christensen** 11/5/16 **Carl R. Henke** 4/28/17 **Laura Dupree Holland** 1/13/17 **Jane Rogers Hudson** 11/28/16
- '47 **Isaac B. Cupp** '50, 2/13/17 **Elizabeth Gieb Griffin** 8/20/84 **Mary Stine Hoeffner** 1/19/17 **Eugenia Pierce Krause** 12/4/16 **Ellis B. Reed, Jr.** 2/27/17
- '48 Dr. **Robert M. Allman, Jr.** 1/1/17
Charles H. Enloe 12/1/16 **James M. Fry** 1/24/17 **William M. Hambrick** 12/11/16
Jack B. Holden 12/21/16 **William B. Martin** 3/25/17 **Joseph R. Patterson** '51, '54, 1/6/17 **Annah Goostree Peterson** 3/7/17 **Mary Melton Pridgeon** 2/12/15
Anna J. Strickland 2/14/17
Mary Sullivan Stuart 1/16/17
- '49 **Marvin S. Boyce** 2/26/16 **James C. Foster, Jr.** 4/9/17 **James A. Gobel, Jr.** 1/21/17 **Roy B. Haile, Sr.** 7/1/15
Edward W. Hughston 5/28/17 **Albert A. Ingels** 3/27/17 **Joe B. Kinnear** 4/21/17
William M. McDonald, Sr. 3/8/17
- Mary Dodd Morse** 3/16/17 **David A. Naurath** 12/8/16 Rev. **John M. Patison, Sr.** '52, 2/21/17 **Charles J. Pillsbury** 4/15/17 **George J. Thomas** 2/25/17
Donald G. Thompson 3/21/17 **Dale A. Williams** '51, 2/11/17
- '50 **Bruce L. Collins, Jr.** 5/3/17 **George S. Finley** '52, 12/31/16 Hon. **Robert S. Folsom** '49, 1/24/17 **John F. Huffhines** 11/18/16 **Robert H. Hughes** 1/13/17
Margaret Crabtree Ingram 2/13/17
James M. Kelly 12/31/16 **Betty Hawk McCulley** 12/30/16 **Emily Desobry Rodgers McGuire** 5/5/17 **Nancy Howell McRae** 12/3/16 **Ernest W. Myers** 1/6/17
Robert W. Ogden, Jr. 4/23/17 **Roy R. Parks** 2/5/17 **William M. Phillips, Sr.** 12/3/16 Rev. **Frank M. Richardson, Jr.** '52, 1/27/17 **Robert M. Ruff** 4/8/17
Dr. **Watt T. Salmon** 1/22/17 **Donald F. Stewart** 3/25/15 **Margaret Warren Tadlock** 3/20/17 **John W. Wiesner, Jr.** 1/26/17
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- '52 **William R. Allen, Sr.** 2/8/17 **Sherry Royster Brown** 12/7/16 **Thomas A. Crow** '65, 4/16/17 **Donald R. DuPuy** 12/16/15 **George E. Echerd** '59, 12/11/16
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Hansel K. Herbert 3/3/17 **Elizabeth Purnell McDevitt** 3/5/17 **Carroll C. Mills, Jr.** 4/20/17 **James L. Mousner, Sr.** 12/28/16 **James W. Norris** 1/16/17
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Robert W. Pack, Jr. 1/24/17
Vionne Shoemaker Patterson 1/23/17
Gay Steelman Shiels 12/17/16
Samuell T. Worthington, Jr. '64, 12/7/16



In Memoriam

- '54 **Walter E. Arnold** 1/17/17 **Edward L. Berry, Jr.** 12/28/16 **Samuel E. Dunnam, IV** 4/10/17 **Betty Cooper Ellis** 2/18/17 **Ray C. Flack** 4/1/17 **Dewey Godfrey, Jr.** 2/10/17 **David F. Green, Jr.** 4/28/17 **Elizabeth Nelson Hassler** 12/11/16 Dr. **LoRita Stevens Keig** 4/22/17 **Margaret Day Marshall** 2/27/17 **Archibald L. McAlester** 12/27/16 **Sarah Looney Smithwick** 1/5/17 **Mary Hudspeth Struble** '55, '74, 1/20/17
- '55 **Virginia Hurt Benke** 3/5/17 **Leon M. Cole**, Ph.D. 1/7/17 **Melvin D. Cook** 1/19/17 **Barbara Bowling Drill** 3/14/17 Dr. **Rodman F. Garrity** 2/16/09 **John T. Hairston, Jr.** 2/22/17 Rev. **Robert B. McCoy** 1/17/17 **Charles L. McDearmont** 2/23/17 Rev. **Arthur R. McGrew** 4/10/17 **Byron H. Schaff, Jr.** 2/14/17 **Lloyd O. Snoddy** 2/18/17 **Charles M. Stark** 3/23/17
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- '62 **Alice Wallace Bibby** 12/26/16 **Roderick E. Flagler** 12/24/16 **Susan Fulwiler Foster** 1/31/17 **Jack D. Frizzell** 11/10/16 **Fred W. Hannes** 2/11/17 **Mario E. Heredia** 1/15/17
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- '67 **Thomas Dula** 4/2/17 **Michael G. Harvey** '69, 7/30/16 **Timothy M. Heraty, Jr.** 12/2/16 **Charles W. Naeser** 11/18/16 **Carl J. Quillin** 1/12/17 **Richard R. Prigmore, Jr.** 2/1/17 **H. M. Tatum, Jr.** 1/7/17
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- '70 Judge **William E. Burdock** 5/18/17 **Leonard R. Grant** 5/1/17 **William J. Groll** 1/22/17 **Stuart J. Lane** 12/28/16 **Joseph H. Lazara** 12/1/16 Dr. **James E. Sellars** 2/26/17 Prof. Emeritus **Janice Abels Wieland** 2/11/17
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- '72 **Powers A. Boothe** 5/14/17 **Rebecca L. Foley** 5/22/17 **Susan Smith Gin** 2/22/17 **Gordon K. Johnson** 1/3/17 **Bobby R. McGill** 3/30/17 **Blakemore W. Overall** 3/12/88 **Marilyn Schmidt Peper** 3/28/17 **Lynda C. Willis-Tompkins** 4/17/17
- '73 **Jerry V. Allen** 1/31/17 **Bruce V. Bell** 1/2/17 Dr. **John W. Boddie** 4/23/17 **Thomas R. Britt** '76, 2/9/17 **Mickey Bradley Greer** 3/26/17 **Allen R. Hale** 3/16/17 **Andrew J. Osborne, Sr.** 5/8/17 **Catherine Hyde Witt** 5/11/17
- '74 **Anna Foster Blount** 5/7/17 **Richard T. Cassidy** 2/8/17 **James C. Farris** 3/17/17 **Billy R. Kinder** 1/18/17 **Cherri L. Oakley** 1/20/17 **Henry F. Tripp** 10/23/16 Rev. **Francis Zakshesky** 3/18/17



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- '76 **Mitchell S. Block** '80, 1/19/17 **Diann Dillon** 3/31/17 **Vincent E. Gomez** 4/17/17 **Elizabeth Pope Smith** 1/15/17 **Edward L. Wess** 4/26/15 **Virginia Allen Wing** 3/19/17
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- '78 **Lisa Owens Miller** 1/5/17 **James R. Wetherbee** 3/26/17 **Charles D. Winters** 1/7/17
- '79 **Antonio A. Longoria** 12/3/16 **William J. Prime** 3/29/17 **Timothy J. Solomon** 4/22/17
- '81 **William L. Krueger** 1/13/17 **Lisa Bower Martinez** 4/6/17 **Rene F. Moreno** '01, 3/28/17
- '84 **Terry L. Simmons** 4/3/17 **David J. Tseng** 4/9/17 **Kristin Jensen Weis** 4/14/17
- '87 **Max Y. Harris, Jr.** 2/28/17
- '88 **Robert D. Lochridge, III** 12/11/16 **Sondra Holman Taylor** 5/4/17
- '89 **Christina Tureaud Egoscue** 9/13/15 **Marc C. Paradis** 11/26/16
- '91 **Dennye Grant Mills** 12/31/16 **Michelle Leek Sutton** '95, 11/28/16
- '93 **Erinn Mersch Dickson** 2/27/17 **Katherine Hall Huish** 2/21/15
- '94 **Norman W. Cramer** 1/26/17 **Marty E. Kidd** 2/15/17 **Tommy A. Valenta** 2/12/17
- '95 **Earl C. Wells** 11/18/16
- '96 **Mondai Maddox Synstegard** 12/6/16
- '97 **Francisca Granado Acosta** 3/9/17 **Jason H. Hall** 11/29/16
- '98 **Khouanchith Xeuneoura Chambers** 2/15/17
- '01 **Samuel K. Newman** 1/12/17 **Rev. Michael E. Varrassi** 2/2/17
- '02 **William F. Scott, II** 4/20/17
- '04 **James B. Rodenkirch** 3/28/17 **Rev. Suzanne Cox Reedstrom** 1/5/17

- '05 **Tejaswini N. Mirani** 4/9/13
- '06 **Jessica L. Coe** 4/1/17 **James A. Hancock** 1/14/17
- '07 **Richard B. Dunn** 12/29/16
- '08 **Hunter P. Stuart** 2/8/17
- '12 **Robert K. Sievers** 4/15/17
- '13 **Debra Yaniko Rogers** 5/9/17
- '14 **John A. McConnell** 12/28/16
- '16 **Sheena M. Fields** 1/3/17
- '17 **Maxfield M. Fuller** 2/27/17

SMU Community

- Charlotte Brewster**, retired staff member, student records and academic services office and the ethnic studies department, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 1/7/17
- Dieter Cremer**, professor of chemistry, Dedman College, 4/13/17
- Jack Grayson**, former dean of the Cox School of Business, 5/4/17
- Bishop **John Wesley Hardt**, former SMU trustee, 6/18/17
- Karen Peterson Kriete**, professor *emeritus* of dance, Meadows School of the Arts, 5/5/17
- Andrew Jackson Osborne**, retired staff member, SMU Business and Finance, 5/8/17
- Laurence (Larry) Ted Scholder**, professor *emeritus* of art, 5/31/17
- Liener Temerlin**, former SMU trustee and founder of the SMU Temerlin Advertising Institute, 1/12/17
- Donald G. Thompson**, retired staff member, 3/29/17

Remembering Dennis Simon

Dennis Simon, associate professor of political science, died February 12 in Dallas after a long illness. An SMU faculty member since 1986, he was a recognized expert on the American presidency, national elections, women and the political glass ceiling,



Dennis Simon

and the politics of change in the United States.

The Texas House of Representatives "gaveled out" its regular session on February 14 in Simon's memory on a motion by State Rep. **Morgan Meyer '96**, who graduated from SMU with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Known for his mentorship and dedication to his students, Simon was quick to say that his proudest and most impactful work came in guiding both undergraduate and graduate students on SMU's annual Civil Rights Pilgrimage to historical sites across the south.

He also was known for his popular "Presidential Elections" course, which he taught every four years.

Simon was a founding member of SMU's John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies, where he served on the faculty advisory board.

During his 31 years as an SMU faculty member, Simon received almost every teaching award offered by the University, including the "M" Award, Willis Tate Award, President's Associate Award and the Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor Award.

A memorial service celebrating his life was held April 3 in Perkins Chapel.

The family requests that memorial gifts be made to the Civil Rights Pilgrimage at smu.edu/pilgrimage.

The Way Of The Servant Leader

Craig C. Hill joined SMU's Perkins School of Theology as dean and professor of New Testament in July 2016 from Duke University Divinity School. Although his latest book, *Servant of All: Status, Ambition, and the Way of Jesus* (Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2016), is aimed at church leaders, its lessons can be readily employed by people leading institutions, corporations and even nations – and, he told *SMU Magazine* with a hint of irony, by him as well.

Q. What is a servant leader?

The term “servant leader” can seem like an oxymoron because we tend to view leaders as persons who dominate and command. By contrast, servants are typically located far down on the ladder of social status and influence. Parents don't dream of raising their children to be servants. Nevertheless, choosing to engage in a lifetime of service requires a strong sense of personal identity. Ironically, egocentrism is a position of great weakness. If we constantly look to others for affirmation – in effect, to tell us who we are – we place ourselves in a chronically servile position. True service doesn't come from a place of weakness but rather a place of strength.

Q. Why did you use the foot-washing story found in John 13 to reflect Jesus' thoughts about status and serving?

Throughout the Gospels, the disciples were the egocentric ones, always worrying about their relative position, competing with each other for status. In this story, Jesus is the only one in the room who truly knows who he is, who isn't constrained by the opinions of others and, therefore, the only one free to serve. Jesus voluntarily assumed what was then considered the lowest task – that of washing the feet of others – to set an example of true leadership and true standing. Elsewhere when the disciples bickered over rank, Jesus said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all” (Mark 9:35).

“Choosing to engage in a lifetime of service requires a strong sense of personal identity. If we constantly look to others for affirmation, we place ourselves in a chronically servile position. True service doesn't come from a place of weakness but rather a place of strength.”



Craig C. Hill

He didn't say they must empty themselves of meaning or value, or that it is wrong to want to have a life of significance. Instead, he turned on its head the conventional understanding of where significance was to be found: through service, not supremacy. Those who lose themselves in something greater than themselves are the very ones who find themselves.

Q. How does this correlate to positions of authority and power in today's world?

Researcher and author Jim Collins observed that companies that have transitioned from “good to great” shared a common factor: their leaders didn't have “larger than life” personalities, as one would expect, but were instead remarkably humble. Their CEOs weren't focused on drawing attention to themselves but were laser-focused on the mission of the

institution. They were unselfconsciously “self-forgetful,” putting their passion for the mission of the company ahead of themselves.

Q. How do you apply this philosophy to your leadership of Perkins Theology?

I often reflect on the story of the “widow's mite,” about a woman who gave a gift to the temple that everyone but Jesus regarded as insignificant. Jesus saw a person invisible to others and recognized the quality and depth of her sacrifice. It reminds me that the more prominent a position you're in, the more people will likely recognize you, but also the more tempted you might be to overlook those less noticed whom God would honor ahead of you. Universities are typically hierarchical places, where staff can feel unseen and disregarded. I don't want Perkins to be guilty of that. Everyone here is a partner in the mission of the school; everyone has a contribution to make.

Q. How did you handle the irony of being named dean of Perkins Theology only months before your book on status and ambition was published?

That put me in an awkward and rather humorous position. It was somewhat safer tackling this topic as a professor. Moreover, the book made a few explicit references to theological school deans. Rather than expunge these, I retained them as an inside joke at my own expense. On a more serious note, it made me all more conscious of the fact that the book contains essential lessons that I myself need to remember and to heed.

*Learn more about Hill and watch an interview about *Servant of All* at smu.edu/mag17hill.*

Fall Is (Almost) In The Air

Take a look at this bird's-eye view of The Great Crumpkin, hosted by Crum Residential Commons last Halloween, and pretend there's a chill in the air. The annual student-led event is just one of the spirited occasions that transforms the Hilltop into "celebration central" each autumn. Make plans now to attend **Family Weekend, September 22-24**, and **SMU Homecoming, November 2-4**, and get in a fall frame of mind with The Great Crumpkin video at smu.edu/mag17crumpkin.

Photo by Guy Rogers III





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Get Here For Game Day

Returning wide receiver Courtland Sutton is one of seven Mustangs who have received preseason honors in advance of the 2017 football season, the third under head coach Chad Morris. The schedule includes seven home games in Ford Stadium. SMU will open the season with its annual Whiteout on Sept. 2 by hosting Stephen F. Austin and will remain at home in week two, hosting North Texas on Sept. 9. The annual Battle for the Iron Skillet against TCU will be played in Fort Worth on Sept. 16.
Photo by Guy Rogers III



For the full schedule, visit smumustangs.com.

For ticket information, call the Athletics Department Ticket Office at 214-SMU-GAME (768-4263).