

SPRING 2019

# SMU

MAGAZINE



SEA MONSTERS  
UNEARTHED





## Homecoming Memories: A Timeless Tradition At SMU

Homecoming 2018 reminded the SMU community why Mustang traditions never grow old. Activities November 1-3 included the Parade of floats, bands and antique cars on Saturday, family fun and a concert on the Boulevard by country music artist and alumnus Jack Ingram '93, and the crowning of Homecoming King Raj Suppiah, Beta Theta Pi, and Queen Michelle Campbell, Chi Omega, at halftime during the football game between SMU and Houston. The Mustangs created another memory to cherish - beating Houston 45-31.







## Features



## Conquering Dallas' Infrastructure Deserts

SMU student Azucena Milan '20 grew up in Vickery Meadow, one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Dallas only a few minutes from campus. And yet, when it comes to the condition of sidewalks, streets and other urban infrastructures, the two areas are light-years apart. Milan is participating in a four-year study with the Lyle School of Engineering that is documenting such inequitable conditions in underserved Dallas neighborhoods using big data and other technology to address complex urban problems.



## Bonding With Big Data

Professor Elfi Kraka uses SMU's supercomputer ManeFrame II to crunch enormous amounts of data to investigate reactions at the quantum chemical level, results that can help engineers design the next generation of catalysts.



## Legal Easier

A brighter future lies ahead for youth mentor/small business owner Robbie Hamilton after SMU Dedman School of Law students built an app to help survivors of human trafficking working to clear criminal records.

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## A MAJOR BOOST FOR ENGINEERING SCHOOL INITIATIVES

A \$5 MILLION GIFT FROM LONGTIME SMU SUPPORTERS RICH AND MARY TEMPLETON WILL SUPPORT THE MOST PRESSING RESEARCH NEEDS IN THE LYLE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING.

## ON THE COVER



Renowned SMU paleontologist Louis Jacobs, his fellow researchers and intrepid SMU students explain what happens when you put an ocean where there wasn't one before. Their discoveries helped contribute to the

major Smithsonian Institution exhibition *Sea Monsters Unearthed: Life in Angola's Ancient Seas*, which will be on display for the next two years. See story on page 12. Photo by Hillsman S. Jackson.



# "What's Next For SMU?"

**It's a question I hear often** – and one that the SMU leadership team has thought deeply about. In evaluating opportunities ahead, we are guided by our strategic plan, *Launching SMU's Second Century, 2016-2025*, and its elaboration in the *Continuing the Ascent* report on academic priorities.

We know there is much to celebrate and much to do.

One important part of this process is gathering the relevant data. Recently, we conducted extensive internal and external market research to identify stakeholder perceptions. The data revealed four key components that define and differentiate the SMU experience in an increasingly competitive higher education marketplace. To reinforce these strengths and our strategic positioning, we will share stories in the following areas:

- Enterprising spirit
- Research with impact
- SMU and Dallas
- Our welcoming community

The fall 2018 issue of *SMU Magazine* illuminated the University's enterprising spirit, and this issue focuses on our research with impact.

As a data-driven university, SMU is doubling down on our commitment to advancing bold research opportunities. The stories in these pages illustrate this priority, revealing the challenges

and triumphs of brilliant SMU world changers. Their high-consequence research is transforming critical questions into economic opportunities, actionable solutions and a better world.

At SMU, research with impact also means focusing on the process as much as the product – involving undergraduate and graduate students in direct collaboration with marquee faculty, Dallas businesses and nonprofit organizations. Even in their first year, students become hands-on contributors to significant findings as part of our expanding research ecosystem.

Beyond SMU and Dallas, our research projects are capturing national and international attention. During my recent trip to Washington, D.C., I met with *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Inside Higher Ed* – two of the nation's most respected higher education publications – to discuss SMU's current success stories. One of our topics was SMU's groundbreaking exhibition in partnership with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, *Sea Monsters Unearthed*. This kind of collaboration with the Smithsonian is rare for any university.

Read more about Louis Jacobs, professor *emeritus* of earth sciences, and his remarkable team on page 12. We hope you will visit the exhibit on view at the Smithsonian through 2020 and share this story of Mustang pride.



President R. Gerald Turner

From ancient fossils in the African ocean to infrastructure inequities in Dallas' Vickery Meadow neighborhood, I invite you to savor this sampling of SMU's research with impact. Above all, we are dedicated to the success of our students – providing the tools, resources and vision to shape innovators, leaders and engaged citizens for today and generations to come.

I hope you will continue your support of SMU and our journey of transformation and endless discovery. Pony Up!

R. GERALD TURNER  
President

## VOL. 69, NO. 2 SPRING 2019

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



# ENGINEERING BOOST

## \$5 MILLION GIFT SUPPORTS LYLE SCHOOL INITIATIVES

**Longtime SMU supporters Rich and Mary Templeton** have committed \$5 million for research at the Lyle School of Engineering. Their gift provides a major boost to the University's externally sponsored research, which is critical to its global academic prestige.

The gift, which includes \$4 million for an endowment and \$1 million for operations, creates the Templeton Endowed Research Excellence Fund. The fund is flexible, allowing for support of the most pressing and important research needs in the Lyle School. It covers a range of project essentials, including postdoctoral researchers, doctoral and graduate student stipends, equipment and supplies.

Working with SMU's Office of Research and Graduate Studies, the Lyle School will select projects that benefit the University's research portfolio, along with faculty who have strong track records for significant external research funding and success in recruiting elite graduate students.

"This investment in research is critical to strengthening SMU's academic quality and attracting top graduate students who will seek solutions to some of the world's most stubborn problems," said President R. Gerald Turner. "Rich and Mary have a long history of supporting successful initiatives to advance technological innovation. They understand what is required to be a premier research university, and their generous gift will play an important role in moving our University closer to the global reputation we desire."

"Research is essential to SMU's ability to make an impact through technology. We're delighted to help make that happen," said Mr. Templeton, chairman, president and CEO of Texas Instruments and SMU Trustee.

"Our family has deep connections to SMU," added Mrs. Templeton, renowned community philanthropist and volunteer,



Family members of Mary and Rich Templeton who attended their \$5 million gift announcement in September included (from left seated) Katie Jones (son Jim's '14 fiancée), Mary Templeton, grandson Campbell Boggs and daughter Stephanie Boggs and (standing from left) Rich Templeton and son-in-law Matt Boggs.

**"This investment in research is critical to strengthening SMU's academic quality and attracting top graduate students who will seek solutions to some of the world's most stubborn problems. Rich and Mary have a long history of supporting successful initiatives to advance technological innovation."**

**– President R. Gerald Turner**

who has served on numerous boards of organizations that support education, arts and culture. "The University's goals and strategies to bolster research are aligned with our vision for higher education and technology."

Lyle Engineering Dean Marc P. Christensen said the gift means the difference between "advancing research or watching a good idea die on the vine. It allows us to recruit the most talented students and faculty, and enables them to lead the way in emerging areas of research."

The Templetons' gift is their latest to SMU. In May 2014 the couple delivered the

Lyle School Commencement address, at the same ceremony during which their son Jim Templeton '14 received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. That same year in September, their \$2 million gift to the Lyle School established the Mary and Richard Templeton Centennial Chair in Electrical Engineering. In May 2016, the University received another Templeton gift in the form of an inspirational SMU Commencement address they delivered to the entire graduating Class of 2016.

For more information: [smu.edu/mag19templetons](http://smu.edu/mag19templetons)





# SMU Joins With Toyota, Dallas ISD To Support STEM-Focused School

**Dallas Independent School District, Toyota USA Foundation and SMU** are collaborating on the creation of an innovative STEM-focused school in West Dallas. The aim is to inspire and prepare students for the next generation of STEM (science, technology, engineering and

will be operated and staffed by the Dallas ISD. The Office of Transformation and Innovation will co-facilitate the design of the school in collaboration with school leadership.

The collaboration also will bring together nonprofits, including groups already working with Dallas ISD through the SMU Simmons School program, The School Zone, as well as Toyota Motor North America and Toyota Financial Services' partners to address community issues such as literacy, nutrition, transportation and after-school care – each vital to creating successful outcomes for the community.

“Collectively, our goal is to create a brighter future for students, help families become more resilient and create a community and school model that can be replicated,” said Mike Goss, president of Toyota USA Foundation. “We want to help increase access to opportunity, connecting students to the millions of STEM jobs that exist today,

and the many more that will be created as industry advances.”

This partnership developed as a result of numerous requests from the community for STEM offerings within the Pinkston High School feeder pattern.

“This partnership advances our efforts currently underway in West Dallas, with a holistic approach that lifts the community and provides opportunity for students,” said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. “Evidence-based education is the foundation for everything we do in the Simmons School, and we look forward to the opportunity to provide resources and research that underscore the success of the school.”

*For more information: [smu.edu/mag19stem](http://smu.edu/mag19stem)*



Students from Dallas ISD elementary schools participated in robot demonstrations at the announcement of the creation of a STEM-focused school in West Dallas.

mathematics) jobs through curricula that are project-based and business-aligned.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our students and families of West Dallas as this unique public-private partnership comes together,” said Dallas ISD Superintendent Michael Hinojosa. “STEM jobs are the wave of the future, and Toyota and SMU’s contribution is a major investment in shaping the next generation.”

Toyota USA Foundation is granting \$2 million to SMU’s Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, which will develop curricula, advise on modern educational practices, provide professional development for teachers, coordinate nonprofits operating in the area and monitor and evaluate the program. The future school



The Meadows Symphony Orchestra performs under the direction of Paul Phillips.

## Meadows School Celebrates 50

**Meadows School of the Arts** will celebrate the 50th anniversary of being named after its benefactor, Dallas oilman Algur H. Meadows, with various events throughout 2019. In 1969, in recognition of the generosity of Meadows and his family and The Meadows Foundation, the school was named the Algur H. Meadows School of the Arts. The celebration begins April 4, 2019, with the annual concert Meadows at the Winspear at the Winspear Opera House in the Dallas Arts District. The performance will showcase the Meadows Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Paul Phillips, and the Meadows Dance Ensemble featuring three world premieres by internationally acclaimed choreographers. Proceeds from the event provide scholarships for the Meadows Scholars Program. For tickets, call the AT&T Performing Arts Center box office at 214-880-0202. For more information about the Meadows School of the Arts 50th anniversary, visit [smu.edu/meadows](http://smu.edu/meadows).



# Parents' Gift Supports University's Highest Priorities

**SMU parents Daniel M. Doyle, Jr. and Nicole Kudelko Doyle '94** have continued their long-standing commitment to expanding educational opportunities and supporting academic excellence with a \$1 million gift to the University.

The Doyles are the parents of Danny Doyle, III, a business major at SMU and a member of the Class of 2021. Their daughter, Madeline, began her first year at SMU in the fall.

After more than a dozen years of active participation in the education of their three children, the couple has learned "that it takes donors stepping up to help a school achieve peak performance," said Mr. Doyle, president and CEO of Tampa, Florida-based DEX Imaging. "We realized that schools can't survive just on tuition."

After approaching SMU leadership to learn about the University's needs, the Doyles decided an open-ended gift made sense. "We are grateful for the Doyles' continued generous support of SMU, even beyond sending two of their three



Daniel and Nicole Kudelko Doyle

children here for their education," said President R. Gerald Turner.

The couple's SMU giving began in 2015 with the Dan and Nicole Doyle Endowed Scholarship Fund. Their support also includes the SMU Fund for Greatest Needs,

the Mustang Athletic Fund and the SMU Student Foundation Fund.

Mrs. Doyle said she appreciated the family feeling that SMU provided when she was a student. Just like daughter Madeline, she also attended the University with her older brother. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and graduated in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in English. She recalls the sense of community and the delight she felt when professors invited students to dinner.

"I'm thrilled that my children will have the opportunity to enjoy many of the same great experiences," she said.

The Doyles' gift to SMU will have an impact across campus, said Brad E. Cheves, SMU vice president for development and external affairs. "Discretionary gifts let us quickly act on emerging opportunities that directly benefit our students and faculty."

*For more information: [smu.edu/mag19doyles](http://smu.edu/mag19doyles)*



## Construction To Begin On Research Building

**SMU will break ground for its newest building, the Gerald J. Ford Hall for Research and Innovation,** on Feb. 22. The

building, which was funded by a \$15 million lead gift from SMU Trustee Gerald Ford '66, '69 and his wife, Kelli, in 2013, will be located on Airline Road adjacent to the complex of buildings in the Simmons School of Education and Human Development. The mission of the new building is to spark interdisciplinary collaboration and inquiry to discover solutions to global issues using the latest technology such as high-performance computing, data visualization and modeling. The three-story, 50,000-square-foot facility will feature highly interactive shared studio spaces and will serve as the headquarters for SMU's Guildhall, the AT&T Center for Virtualization and the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute. In addition, a Data Science Lab will serve as the nexus for simulation-based research on campus as the home of SMU's Center for High-Performance Computing.

*For more information: [smu.edu/mag19ford](http://smu.edu/mag19ford)*





# Merger Combines Research, Data To Strengthen Arts Communities

**SMU has become an arts data research powerhouse** with the merger of its National Center for Arts Research (NCAR) with DataArts of Philadelphia. The combined entity, SMU DataArts, integrates the capabilities of both organizations: NCAR provides evidence-based insights on the nonprofit arts and cultural industry; DataArts has served as a resource for in-depth data about U.S. nonprofit arts, culture and humanities organizations.

The merger will continue the core operations of both organizations, which have been collaborating since 2012, and build on their existing successful programs. SMU DataArts aims to make data useful and accessible to all in the arts and culture field, illuminating strengths, challenges and opportunities for individual arts organizations and for the sector as a whole, to help ensure long-term stability.

NCAR integrates national data on arts organizations and their communities to provide evidence-based insights and tools to arts leaders as well as research on the impact and viability of the nonprofit cultural industry. NCAR's research is available free of charge to arts leaders, funders, policymakers, researchers and the public.

DataArts, a nonprofit organization, created and manages the widely used Cultural Data Profile, an annually updated national data set covering the financial and programmatic activity of 12,000 U.S. cultural nonprofits. Data and insights drawn from the Cultural Data Profile are used by grantmakers to steward their investments; by research institutions such as SMU to identify trends and develop findings about the sector; and by cultural institutions to improve their financial and programmatic operations.

Bloomberg Philanthropies has provided major support for SMU DataArts' first three years of operations. In addition to the gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies,



***SMU DataArts aims to make data useful and accessible to all in the arts and culture field, illuminating strengths, challenges and opportunities for individual arts organizations and for the sector as a whole, to help ensure long-term stability.***

the one-time costs associated with creating the combined entity are funded in part by leading contributions from SMU DataArts board members and Dallas philanthropists Donna Wilhelm, Melissa and Trevor Fetter, and Diane and Hal Brierley, all of whom have been

major supporters of NCAR since its inception. Additional gifts for transition expenses have been made by the Better Together Fund and The Greater Philadelphia Nonprofit Repositioning Fund.

*For more information: [smu.edu/mag19dataarts](http://smu.edu/mag19dataarts)*

## SMU RISES IN NATIONAL RANKING

**SMU is ranked No. 59** among the nation's universities in the 2019 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges*. The ranking represents an increase from the 2018 ranking of 61.

The latest ranking again places SMU in the first tier of the guide's 312 "best national universities." Among Texas universities, only Rice University and the University of Texas at Austin rank higher. SMU tied with the University of Washington, Pennsylvania State University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

SMU saw key improvements in the peer assessment score, which is the rating of academic reputation by college admission deans, provosts and presidents, and in the high school counselor assessment score. In addition, SMU ranked No. 31 for best national universities for veterans, tied with the University of Washington.

*For more information: [smu.edu/mag19ranking](http://smu.edu/mag19ranking)*





# Physicist Honored For Dark Matter Research

## SMU physicist and dark matter expert

**Jodi Cooley** has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Election as an AAAS Fellow is an honor bestowed by their peers upon the group's members or scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.

Cooley, who joined SMU in 2009, is associate professor of experimental particle physics in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. One of 416 Fellows to be honored during the February 2019 AAAS annual meeting in Washington, D.C., she is being recognized for her contributions to the search for dark matter scattering with nuclei, particularly using cryogenic technologies. The nature of dark matter is unknown, but is believed to make up

about 85 percent of the universe.

"I feel incredibly privileged to have even been nominated for such an honor; to be further elected as a Fellow of the AAAS is humbling beyond words," Cooley said.

"Professor Cooley is a distinguished scientist with a record of outstanding federal research support [more than \$1.6 million in funding since 2012] and innovative experimental design," said Dedman College Dean Thomas DiPiero. "She also reaches out to the public to explain the intricacies of particle physics in ways that are understandable and engaging."

Cooley and her colleagues operated sophisticated detectors in the Soudan Underground Laboratory in Minnesota. The Department of Energy and National Science Foundation will provide fund-

ing to expand that research. The experiment will be moved to an even deeper location, SNOLAB in Canada, to improve the search for dark matter.

Cooley is a principal investigator on the SuperCDMS dark matter experiment and was principal investigator for the AARM collaboration, whose aim was to develop integrative tools for underground science. She has won numerous awards for her research.

For more information: [smu.edu/mag19cooley](http://smu.edu/mag19cooley)



# New Leadership For Development And External Affairs

## SMU's Development and External

**Affairs** has made two major leadership appointments that will have significant roles in interacting with SMU alumni and donors during the *Pony Power* initiative. *Pony Power* launched in 2017 as a three-year fundraising effort to support faculty, students and the University's most pressing needs.

Paula S. Voyles was named assistant vice president for school and project development in September. She joined SMU from Oklahoma State University, where most recently she served as senior associate vice president for constituency programs. With more than 20 years of experience in higher education and the nonprofit sector, she brings expertise in the areas of recruiting and leading successful fundraising organizations and teams.

At OSU, she played a key role in its \$1 billion campaign, completed in December 2015. As part of her responsibilities,



Paula S. Voyles



Astria L. Smith

Voyles expanded a team of new development officers and designed metrics to support their effectiveness. She also oversaw the creation of an in-house professional development program used by the OSU Foundation.

Voyles also has held positions at Baylor University, the University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University, Methodist Children's Home, San Marcos Baptist Academy and Dallas Baptist University. She earned a bachelor's degree in

journalism and marketing from Baylor and a master's degree in higher education administration from Dallas Baptist University.

Astria L. Smith was named senior executive director for annual giving and alumni relations at SMU in July. She provides strategic leadership and direction for efforts that engage, solicit and steward SMU alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends. She began her development career at Methodist Children's Home in Waco before joining SMU in 2007.

In addition, Smith serves as a Board of Trustees member for the Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr. Community Outreach Center and as an Advisory Board member for the Center for Preaching Excellence at SMU's Perkins School of Theology. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Baylor University and master's degrees from Amberton University and SMU, where she received her graduate degree in theological studies in 2015.





# High-Performance Supercomputing Advances Chemistry Breakthroughs

**Why does warm water freeze** faster than cold water?

In tackling this paradox – known as the Mpemba effect – researchers in SMU's Computational and Theoretical Chemistry Group deployed software they developed to describe chemical interactions in molecules at the atomistic level. They identified weak bonds (easy to break) and strong bonds (difficult to break) in water molecule clusters.

"Running extensive simulations on water clusters on SMU's supercomputer ManeFrame II, we could show for the first time that there are 36 different types of hydrogen bonds of varying strengths in liquid water," said Elfi Kraka, professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences and director of CATCO, as the research group is known.

CATCO's mission is the development of modern quantum chemical computer programs that shorten and facilitate discovery processes, avoid experiments that are costly or dangerous and reveal information that cannot be uncovered using traditional laboratory methods.

Another CATCO flagship is its Unified Reaction Valley Approach software, which enables the quantum chemical description of a chemical reaction with an accuracy and a detail never achieved before by tapping the computing power of ManeFrame II, an extremely powerful supercomputer with a capacity of 630 teraflops.

"The speed and capacity of ManeFrame II allowed us to investigate the first chemical reaction in an enzyme at the quantum chemical level," Kraka said. This reaction plays an important role in the production of aromatic amino acids, crucial to plants, fungi and bacteria.

"Our results clearly show for the first time that the acceleration of the reaction in the enzyme is based on space confinement," she said. "We are now able to investigate at the atomistic level how an enzyme works. Knowing these details,



Chemistry Professor Elfi Kraka uses her research on quantum chemical methods to solve chemical problems to inform her classroom lectures. Kraka is a prolific user of SMU's supercomputer ManeFrame II, which can crunch data more rapidly than regular computers.

***Excellent job opportunities await our graduates. What makes our students successful is that they get hands-on experience from day one. – Elfi Kraka***

we can help engineers design the next generation of catalysts incorporating nature's generous tricks into robust materials, which can be used on an industrial scale, saving energy and being environmentally friendly. This will have a huge impact on our society."

So far, CATCO has performed investigations on more than 650 diverse chemical systems. The comprehensive data for all reactions investigated are compiled in a library available to students and the research community. The idea is to connect researchers and their data worldwide, possibly contributing to machine learning and artificial intelligence in chemistry applications.

Kraka earned a Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry from the University of Köln, Germany, and is an expert in the development of quantum chemical methods

and their application to solve chemical problems. She also has expertise in computer-assisted drug design. Kraka received a 2018 Dedman College Dean's Research Grant and was named a 2018 Ford Research Fellow at SMU, acknowledging CATCO's research achievement.

At the heart of CATCO's mission is educating and inspiring new generations of researchers and leaders in their field. SMU is the first university offering a direct bachelor's degree to Ph.D.

"Excellent job opportunities also await our graduates," Kraka said. "The demand for highly trained theoretical and computational chemists is steadily increasing. What makes our students successful is that they get hands-on experience from day one."

For more information: [smu.edu/mag19chemistry](http://smu.edu/mag19chemistry)



# The Key To Algebra Success? Make It Personal

**“Train A leaves the station at 10 a.m.** An hour later train B leaves the same station on a parallel track ...”

The dreaded algebra train question still stumps test-takers, ranging from eighth-graders to those preparing for graduate school exams.

There are better ways to teach algebra, says SMU math researcher Candace Walkington, who has received a three-year \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop and test strategies to engage students in algebra problem-solving. The grant targets the use of algebra problems to interest students in STEM (science, technology,

engineering and math) careers.

“Algebra is the relationship between quantities,” says Walkington, associate professor of teaching and learning, who specializes in math education at SMU’s Simmons School of Education and Human Development. “Students use algebra all the time – when they calculate sports statistics, when they compare their social media accounts. They just don’t realize it.”

Her research explores the value of giving students algebra problems that relate to their career interests, which enable them to create their own scenarios



and use problem-solving to develop an interest in STEM careers. The grant will fund further development of an existing online tool, ASSISTments, which enables students to solve or create algebra problems based on their own interests. This grant builds on Walkington’s prior research showing that students learn algebra better when it is connected to their everyday interests.

Walkington is partnering with collaborators from University of North Carolina, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, University of Nevada and North Central Texas College.

The stakes are high, Walkington says. The number of students pursuing STEM degrees is growing by just 1 percent each year, according to the National Association of Manufacturers. That will leave 2.5 million STEM and STEM-related jobs unfilled in 2018, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Successfully navigating algebra is key to preparation for STEM jobs, Walkington adds.

In addition, finding ways to support diverse students in algebra is important for encouraging more women and underrepresented minorities to pursue careers in STEM fields, she says.

“The college algebra failure rate is high,” she says. “Many students take the course over and over, and eventually give up, blocking them from pursuing STEM careers like nursing, computer programming or medical technology. Connecting algebra to careers helps students understand why they need to learn algebra.”



## Big Data, Safer Drugs: Crunching The Numbers For Healthcare

**Vishal Ahuja, SMU Cox information technology and operations management professor,** uses big data to develop analytic tools that can help healthcare professionals and policymakers validate healthcare findings.

Ahuja’s research focuses on chronic diseases, particularly diabetes. His researchers studied a controversial FDA black box warning on the diabetes drug rosiglitazone (Avandia). Such warnings mark drugs that have been determined to carry a significant risk of serious adverse effects.

In some cases, warnings may be misapplied or missed altogether, hindering treatment or endangering patients.

“Deficiencies exist in collecting, reviewing and analyzing the evidence used to issue (these warnings), highlighting a gap in evidence-based medicine,” Ahuja said. He suggests agencies “use data in a sophisticated manner to catch adverse events, but validate what you find about the drug using data or continuously monitor it to affirm the decision.”

The team evaluated the rosiglitazone warning using a dataset from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, yielding nearly 10 million observations. They concluded that in this case the warning was not warranted. Their approach extends to other consumer products.

“The bigger question is, how do agencies decide if and when to issue product recalls or warnings?” he said. “Our approach may help enhance consumer safety.”

For more information: [smu.edu/mag19healthcare](http://smu.edu/mag19healthcare)

To read more: [smu.edu/mag19algebra](http://smu.edu/mag19algebra)





## MUSTANG SPORTS ROUNDUP



### POSTSEASON ACCOLADES

**Four women's soccer members** were named to All-American Athletic Conference teams. Junior Allie Thornton earned her third All-Conference honor after leading the Mustangs with nine goals. Freshman midfielder Courtney Sebazzo was named Rookie of the Year and selected to the All-AAC second team. Redshirt sophomore Katina Tsapos was selected second team All-AAC for her contributions to the Mustangs' midfield. Freshman Celiana Torres was unanimously selected to the All-Rookie team, leading the Mustangs with 20 points on the season. The Mustangs ended the season with a 10-6-2 record.



### VOLLEYBALL HONORS

**Brittany Adams** earned All-American Athletic Conference accolades for the second straight year, receiving second-team honors after her senior season. She finished the season ninth in the AAC with 2.97 kills per set, and was second on the team with 337 digs. Adams recorded a team-high 12 double-doubles as an outside hitter, including six against conference opponents.

### GRIDIRON RECOGNITION

#### **Mustang wide receiver James Proche**

was named a First-Team American Athletic Conference selection. He played in all 12 games, leading Mustang receivers with 93 receptions for 1,199 yards and 12 touchdowns. The junior ranks in the top 10 nationally in receptions per game (5th), receiving touchdowns (7th) and receiving yards (9th), totals that led the AAC. Linebacker Richard Moore earned Honorable Mention accolades. He led SMU with 92 tackles (56 solo) and had a team-leading five sacks for 28 yards. His 13.5 tackles for loss for 44 yards were second. Moore's 7.7 tackles per game are eighth in The American.



## Equestrians Undefeated In Fall

**After successfully stringing together** an undefeated fall slate (6-0), SMU Equestrian earned the second spot on the Farnam Team Rankings, released in late November. The Mustangs began the year at No. 6 in the preseason rankings, but consistently rose or stayed the same in the standings from week to week, never relinquishing their position.

With six wins (five over ranked opponents), 15 Most Outstanding Players, 16 conference honors and three undefeated individual riders, SMU looks to continue its conquests in the spring.

The Mustangs' spring season opened Feb. 2 at Texas A&M and includes meets against Oklahoma State, UC Davis, Auburn and TCU. The team travels to Martin, Tennessee, March 22-23 for the UEC Championships and to Waco April 16-20 for the NCEA National Championship.







### CROSS COUNTRY KUDOS

**Svenja Ojstersek and Hannah Miller** competed at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in November at the University of Wisconsin, finishing 184th and 190th, respectively. The race ended a strong season for Mustang cross country that included two team race titles, seven athletes finishing first or second and three all-conference and all-region performers. Miller and Ojstersek earned spots in the NCAA Championship thanks to their top performances at the South Central Regional meet on Nov. 9.

SMU placed fourth at the American Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships at Audubon Park in New Orleans with three Mustangs registering All-Conference performances. At the finish, Ojstersek placed second with a time of 22:06.38. Miller placed fourth (22:33.01), her third top-five finish in as many tries at the conference championship. Anneke Grogan recorded her fourth top-10 of 2018 coming in 8th (22:58.03).

For more information: [smumustangs.com](http://smumustangs.com)



### HITTING HIS STRIDE

**Junior guard Jimmy Whitt, Jr.** is one of the 14 Mustangs who has helped propel the men's basketball team to an 11-5 start (as of January 17). Whitt was named to the American Athletic Conference weekly honor roll for the third time this season in early January. He is averaging 12.8 points, 6.9 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 1.9 steals per game. He had a double-double at Tulane and led the Mustangs to a win over ECU.

### BATTING 1,000

**Senior Alicia Froling**, who returned in the fall after sitting out with a devastating injury last season, made her 1,000th rebound of her collegiate career on December 19 in the game against California State University-Bakersfield. She became the first woman in SMU history to earn both 1,000 points and rebounds. The Queensland, Australia, native joined fellow Mustangs and NBA alumni Jon Koncak and Ira Terrell as the only three Mustangs ever to achieve this honor.



### REPEAT WINNERS

**SMU men's soccer** won its second consecutive American Athletic Conference Tournament title in November, topping the seventh-ranked UCF Golden Knights in a penalty kick shootout. The Mustangs advanced to the first round of the NCAA Tournament against No. 24 Oregon State, which beat the Mustangs 2-1. The loss marked the end of the distinguished Mustang careers of three seniors: Emil Cuello, Caleb Smith and Christian Boorum. Over the past four seasons, SMU has won 48 matches, captured five American Conference trophies and played in three NCAA Tournaments with two runs to the sweet 16. A pair of Mustangs – Cuello and Talen Maples – was named All-East Region by the United Soccer Coaches following the 2018 season. Cuello and Maples also were selected first-team All-Conference.





DIGGING DEEPER INTO

# EARTH'S MYSTERIES







# SMU Paleontologist's Fossil Discoveries In Angola Show How The Planet Responds To Major Evolutionary Change

by Susan White '05  
Illustrations by Karen Carr



**SMU** vertebrate paleontologist Louis Jacobs has been in the fossil-hunting business for so long – over 45 years – that he's literally become part of the fossil record. Some of his mammal discoveries have been named after him, including the rodent *Apatosciuravus jacobsi* and the rat *Hadromys loujacobsi*.

But the most recent patronym, *Corythoraptor jacobsi* (Jacobs' crested raptor), is the first dinosaur to acquire his name. Discovered in 2013 in Ganzhou, China, the fossil was named in his honor by three SMU alumni – the late Junchang Lu '04, Yuong-Nam Lee '95 and Yoshitsugu Kobayashi '04 – for whom Jacobs served as a mentor.

"I am so very proud of my three former students, now colleagues, who have taken their places on the global stage," says Jacobs, SMU professor *emeritus* of earth sciences, who retired from teaching in May. "I am very honored by their naming *Corythoraptor jacobsi* after me, and they have also honored SMU, showing that world changers really are shaped here."

Although the recent naming gives Jacobs immense satisfaction about his influence on multitudes of SMU students, he grows positively ecstatic when he thinks about the capstone to his 35-year teaching career at SMU: an international exhibition of never-before-seen fossils from Angola that was made possible largely due to





SMU paleontologist Louis Jacobs, along with SMU students, helped prepare the giant mosasaur for display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

the work of Jacobs and his SMU colleagues and undergraduates.

For 13 years, Jacobs and SMU have participated in *Projecto PaleoAngola*, an international collaboration of Angolan, American, Portuguese and Dutch researchers excavating and studying Cretaceous marine reptile fossils from the West African country. Results of this epic research project are on display in the exhibit *Sea Monsters Unearthed: Life in Angola's Ancient Seas*, which opened November 9 at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

*Sea Monsters Unearthed* tells the story of how Angola's rich fossil history evolved in its coastal waters of the South Atlantic Ocean. Over 134 million years ago, the basin as we know it today didn't exist, and Africa and South America were one continuous landmass. As the two continents began to drift apart, a new marine environment emerged in the vast space – the South Atlantic – that was created between them.

#### Access To New Discoveries

The exhibit will mark the first time the Angolan fossils of colossal Cretaceous

marine reptiles will be on public display, including giant turtles and mosasaurs, giant marine lizards that went extinct with the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. Scientists did not have access to the fossils for decades because of Angola's war of independence that began in 1961 and ended with a civil war in 2002, nearly 40 years after continental drift and plate tectonics had become accepted scientific theory.

Beginning in 2005, Jacobs, SMU research associate and paleontologist Michael Polcyn and their colleagues approached officials at Agostinho Neto University, Angola's national university, to start a project to excavate the fossils that proliferated along Angola's coastline, and *Projecto PaleoAngola* was born. Angola was a significant excavation site because of the accessibility of the rocks and fossils in that country.

"It turns out that Angola is the best place on the surface of Earth to see the rocks that reflect and show the opening of the South Atlantic and the split between South America and Africa," Jacobs says.

But the new discoveries in Angola were more than just about finding unique marine

fossils from an ocean where one hadn't existed before; they were about understanding how Earth evolves and adapts through millions of years. Like what happens when oceans are cooled or heated, or when carbon dioxide increases in the atmosphere, or how long it takes a severely disrupted, large ecosystem to recover. "It teaches us that extinction is forever and that however the Earth might recover, it is never the same," he adds.

"When you study fossils, you are looking backward, but you also see forward. Changes in environment, changes in the arrangements of continents, changes in the paths of ocean currents – those are all things that you can see in the past, but they also show how they can affect us in the future," Jacobs says. "When you look at the situation of life on Earth millions of years ago, you're actually looking at ingenious experiments that Earth has run. And unless we know about the natural experiments that Earth has performed, we wouldn't have a way of knowing what people can do to Earth."

The timing of the opening of the South Atlantic and the dispersal of mosasaurs are tightly linked, Polcyn says. Early in the development of the South Atlantic, these

**"IT TEACHES US THAT  
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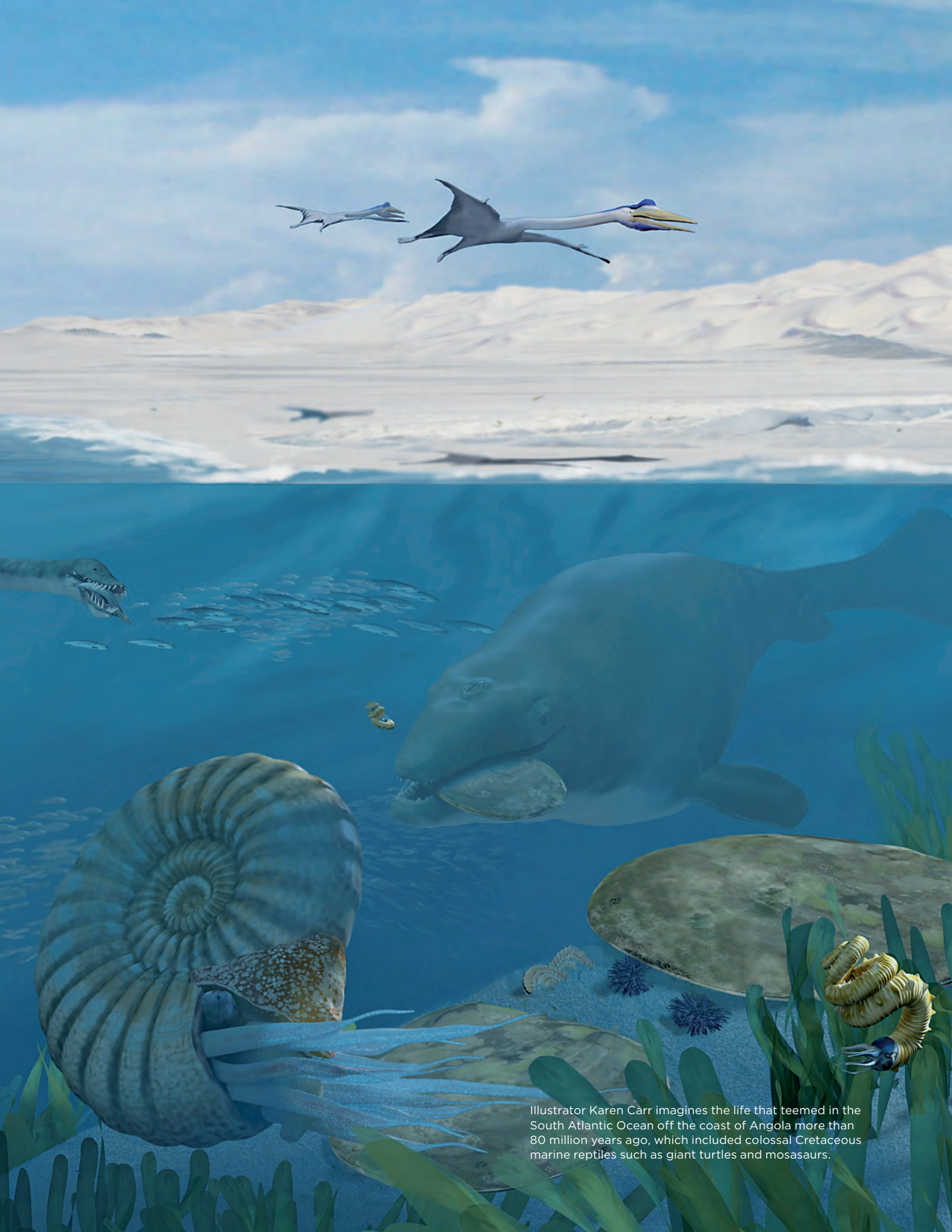
LOUIS JACOBS

animals migrated to it from the northern areas of North America and Europe.

The 72-million-year-old *Angolasaurus bocagei* that was prepared at SMU is one of the earliest representatives of that southern migration of mosasaurs. It's still the oldest sub-Saharan mosasaur known, he adds.

Beginning in 2010, the ancient remains were shipped to SMU's Shuler Museum





Illustrator Karen Carr imagines the life that teemed in the South Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Angola more than 80 million years ago, which included colossal Cretaceous marine reptiles such as giant turtles and mosasaurs.



of Paleontology lab. Over the years, more than 100 undergraduate students painstakingly cleaned and preserved the fossils, and four SMU doctoral students earned their Ph.D. degrees based on *Projecto PaleoAngola* research.

“The work of all these students is a big reason this project has a place at the Smithsonian,” says Jacobs.

One of the students, Myria Perez '18, who earned her degree in geological sciences and anthropology in May, worked on the fossils all four years at SMU, and also participated in a 10-week internship at the Museum of Natural History in summer 2017. Because of her experience, she recently joined the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas.

“I’ve had the incredible opportunity to be involved in a research project that will be seen by millions of people from around the globe,” Perez says. During her work in the lab, she unjacketed, cleaned and used 3-D technology to reveal the skull of the giant mosasaur.

“As a core member on the exhibit planning team, I worked with the highly skilled and dedicated members from the Smithsonian, Karen Carr Studio and pale-

ontologists at SMU. This has truly been a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” Perez adds.

“Myria was a participant in research about our Earth and the life in its oceans going back over 70 million years,” Jacobs says. To participate in a project that will be part of a major exhibition at one of the world’s major science museums is uncommon for most undergraduates, he adds.

“What this means for SMU is that we’re doing our jobs as educators by providing students with unique opportunities for engaging in scientific research that has global results.”

Jill Johnson, Smithsonian Museum exhibit developer, says the partnership with SMU is unique for the national institution.

“Typically we have the lead in terms of the specimens, a lot of the content that goes into an exhibit, the curator or scientists who are involved. But SMU has colleagues in the museum, where we have a very large vertebrate paleontology staff, so they’ve known about Dr. Jacobs and the work that he does; he’s used our collections, SMU has used our collections, and so there was that connection,” Johnson says. “And they had this amazing fossil find that they were able to

prepare all the specimens for this exhibit at SMU at the Shuler Museum. The Smithsonian provided the writer, designer, project management and built everything in-house. They were bringing us all the specimens and then we were figuring out how to tell the story. And the prep work was being done by all these wonderful students.”

Johnson adds that Jacobs’ enthusiasm for the project was infectious. “He gets everybody around him so excited about the work he’s done, because he’s so excited about sharing it and about having his students work on this project and have this experience. And also to be able to highlight the relationship he’s had with the people in Angola. That’s so important to him.”

### The World Is His Fossil-Hunting Grounds

Jacobs, a world-renowned vertebrate paleontologist, has unearthed a wide range of fossils from Malawi to Mongolia, Alaska to Antarctica, and even from SMU’s own backyard of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

But it was the search for early mammals – not dinosaurs – that attracted Jacobs to a career in paleontology while he was a doctoral student at the University of Arizona.

**(BELOW)** Since 2010, more than 100 SMU undergraduates helped prepare the fossil remains of the giant mosasaur from Angola, including Myria Perez '18, who earned her degree in geological sciences and anthropology last May. During her work in the Schuler Museum lab, she unjacketed, cleaned and used 3-D technology to reveal the skull of the mosasaur.







(ABOVE) SMU research associate and paleontologist Michael Polcyn helped extract fossils in Angola that were displayed at the National Museum of Natural History.

Dinosaurs, he reasoned, were for kids, “and much too popular for an egghead scientist like me.” Instead, he searched for rodent teeth in Pakistan while completing his Ph.D.

He continued his search for mammal fossils in Kenya, where he was hired by world-renowned anthropologist Richard Leakey to serve as head of paleontology for the National Museums of Kenya. He wanted to find mammal fossils that predated 66 million years ago, when dinosaurs became extinct and the Age of Mammals began. But his search was akin to looking for a needle in a haystack – mammal teeth literally can fit on the head of a pin. In 1983, when Jacobs joined the SMU faculty, he turned his sights toward Malawi and switched his focus to dinosaur fossils, which are plentiful in that southeastern African country.

Jacobs, a proponent of demystifying science and reinforcing the excitement of scientific study, recorded his field experiences in Malawi in *Quest for the African Dinosaurs: Ancient Roots of the Modern World* (1993). The book recounts his excavation of fossils from the Dinosaur Beds near Lake Malawi. Jacobs used the action of the digs to introduce the world of paleontology and to paint a portrait of Africa today and as it existed 100 million years ago.

But Jacobs’ fossil digs are more than

just scientific discovery and about using the geologic and fossil records to enhance understanding of Earth today. In both Malawi and Angola, Jacobs has used the expeditions as a way to help these countries, plagued by war, poverty and disease, to gain a foothold in the international paleontology and museum scene.

While in Malawi, Jacobs hired numerous Malawians to help with the digs there to return something of economic value to the country. “The project should contribute to Malawi, not parasitize it,” he said at the time of the book’s release. Even further, Jacobs trained Malawians to conduct their own research, including Elizabeth Gomani Chindebvu ’93, ’99, who earned her doctorate in geological sciences from SMU. As a graduate student, Gomani Chindebvu studied fossils of crocodiles and dinosaurs

“If we display these fossils in a Smithsonian exhibit, and 14 million people see them, then we will have something known and appreciated the world over, specifically prepared for the Angolans to build on when the fossils are returned,” Jacobs says. He adds it is hoped that the fossils and the research will be used in the educational system of Angola for decades to come. “They belong to the people of Angola,” Jacobs says. “They’ll be a source of pride for the country.”

Although he is stepping away from the classroom, Jacobs will continue his role as president of SMU’s Institute for the Study of Earth and Man in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences and his search for fossils. He knows there are plenty of new discoveries to make on Angolan fossils and that SMU students can continue to test their skills and challenge their minds in the labs. And he

“RESEARCH, LEARNING AND  
EDUCATION GO ON FOREVER.”

LOUIS JACOBS

from the northern portion of her country, focusing on a detailed analysis of the iconic dinosaur *Malawisaurus*, a model of which can be seen in the foyer of the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, along with a photo of Gomani Chindebvu in the field collecting the original specimen. Today, she serves as director of culture in Malawi’s Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture.

#### Advocating For Angola

After two years on display at the Smithsonian, the fossils will be returned to Angola.

knows from this exhibit experience that SMU can provide a world of research experience to both undergraduates and graduate students from Texas to Angola.

“Research, learning and education go on forever; as soon as one question is tied up to satisfaction at the time, you have to move on to another. We were at the right place at the right time for Angola, because we were looking for a new, different, impactful place to go.

“It takes a decade to get a project like this going,” Jacobs says. “I’m just glad I have this one to go out on.”



# CONQUERING THE





# THE DIVIDE



**ENGINEERING STUDENT AZUCENA MILAN '20 TAKES  
HER RESEARCH KNOW-HOW TO HER NEIGHBORHOOD  
TO STUDY INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES**

**BY CHRIS KELLEY**





**AI AND SHOE LEATHER** Drones, smartphone applications, high-definition cameras mounted on cars, highly sophisticated algorithms and artificial intelligence are among the digital age tools deployed by the researchers. They've also clocked thousands of steps as they comb through the densely populated cityscape.



**MU SENIOR AZUCENA MILAN '20 GREW UP IN VICKERY MEADOW, ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS IN DALLAS.**

While it takes mere minutes to travel from her home to the Hilltop, her two communities can seem miles apart.

"In my neighborhood, it is evident that the area is an infrastructure desert," she explains. "Cracked sidewalks and giant potholes seemed to be the norm to me until I realized those problems only exist in certain areas, places classified as 'underserved.'"

Milan is among the SMU researchers studying Dallas' infrastructure deserts – and she's achieving her dreams along the way.

In collaboration with the City of Dallas and other community partners, researchers from SMU Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering are documenting and analyzing infrastructure conditions in Vickery Meadow and many other neighborhoods in Dallas. It's part of a five-year study of urban infrastructure inequities.

Despite its challenges, Vickery Meadow is a close-knit community described as "the mini United Nations of Dallas." Located northeast of SMU, the neighborhood is bounded by Northwest Highway, Royal Lane, North Central Expressway and Abrams Road. Milan moved to the

area when she was 9 years old and looks back fondly on growing up there.

She graduated from the neighborhood high school, Emmett J. Conrad High, where the nearly 1,200 students speak more than 50 languages. About 98 percent of Conrad students are minority group members, and 83 percent are considered economically disadvantaged.

"I had a great experience at Conrad," she says. "A lot of my friends were refugees. I got to learn a lot about their culture and their struggles. We basically knew everyone from our graduating class and their stories."

Milan plunged into student life and took advantages of many opportunities to learn and grow. She often participated in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to help her fellow students learn their new language more quickly. As a member of the student council, she helped establish Heritage Day, a celebration that invites students to dress in clothing representing their culture and heritage.

It wasn't uncommon to meet people who speak two, three or even four languages, she says. A friend of hers is

known for speaking five languages. "That was really impressive," she says. "I was like, I'm struggling with two languages. I can't imagine what it is to know five."

Academic subjects in which Milan has always excelled are math and science, but when she started thinking about college and her future, she wasn't sure what to do with those natural talents. "I started doing research, and engineering seemed to be a good fit," she says. "Environmental





engineering stood out to me. The more I learned about it, how it addresses water treatment, waste water, air quality, waste management and so many issues that impact our daily lives now and in the future, I decided to go that route.”

Determined to get a degree and make a difference in her community, Milan graduated high school with 30 college credits through the school district’s dual-credit program and applied to six Texas colleges that offered an environmental engineering degree.

“I was accepted to all of them, but SMU was the best fit,” she says. “With financial aid and scholarships, I’m able to pursue degrees in environmental engineering and mathematics at one of the nation’s top schools.”

Little did she know at the time that her beloved neighborhood would become a living laboratory for her as a researcher involved in a pathblazing project.

### MAPPING THE INFRASTRUCTURE DESERT

Barbara Minsker, the Bobby B. Lyle Chair of Leadership and Global Entrepreneurship in the Lyle School and a fellow of the Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity, specializes in coupling machine learning and social computing with “big data” and other information technology to address complex urban problems. In August 2018, Minsker was

awarded a \$584,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to help pioneer an open-source software system called Clowder. The data management system is customizable and allows a large group of users to collect information via multiple platforms, share it and visualize it in useful formats, such as interactive maps.

Not long into her college career, Milan received an email about an assistantship program that is part of Minsker’s study. Participants would spend the summer gathering data to better understand the infrastructure situation across Dallas. The engineering student jumped at the invitation and began working on one of the nation’s first studies of its kind. Her background and knowledge of the area was a key factor in Vickery Meadow becoming the pilot neighborhood for the study, and she took a leading role in gathering the data.

The infrastructure study builds on partnerships between the University and Vickery Meadow that span more than 30 years and includes research as well as educational and arts initiatives.

“We want to answer the questions: How widespread are infrastructure deserts in urban areas, and what impacts are they having on resilience?” says Minsker. She serves as principal investigator on the project and works with co-investigator Ken Berry, a clinical

**FOR MILAN,  
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IT IS A REALLY  
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research professor in curriculum design for STEM and project based learning in the Lyle School’s Caruth Institute for Engineering Education.

Minsker explains that resilience refers to the ability of infrastructure systems to hold up in the wake of natural and human-caused disturbances and stressors.

There are 45 areas being studied throughout Dallas, with the city’s five sanitation districts providing the geographic boundaries.

Among the digital age tools deployed by the researchers are drones equipped with light sensors and infrared sensors to provide a bird’s-eye analysis of the neighborhood. The sensors measure the







“MAYBE **ONE DAY** WE CAN  
MAKE THIS HAPPEN WHERE  
**ALL** THE NEIGHBORHOODS IN  
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**EQUITABLY.** ”

AZUCENA MILAN '20







presence of lighting for streets and other public spaces, levels of shade, vegetation and the presence of people and animals – all of which have an impact on infrastructure health.

The team also monitors existing data from Clowder. Using direct observation, students correct data, collect new data and record information about sidewalks, roads, crosswalks, curb cuts, cellular strength and noise. Students also take photos of infrastructure elements and post observational comments. All the data is stored in Clowder and shared with others in the community as well as with government, non-governmental and research organizations.

“The idea is to crack open our questions with Dallas as our case study, then look elsewhere to see what we can discover,” Minsker says.

A deep exploration of an urban infrastructure takes a village to launch and complete, and Minsker is creating one with SMU undergraduates, Lyle graduate students and an army of high school students participating in camps hosted each summer by the Caruth Institute. The camps have served more than 2,000 students in grades 6–12, a majority of whom live in under-resourced communities in North Texas.

A key player in Minsker’s study is Zheng Li, a Lyle doctoral student from China. Li is working on advanced algorithms that, when perfected, will effectively serve as artificial intelligence to process and return results from thousands of data inputs — including images captured by Google Map’s car-mounted cameras — and curated by Clowder.

“This is a learning journey for me,” Zheng says. “I get to learn more advanced skills in artificial intelligence and machine learning as well as the needs of a city like Dallas. And, after seeing the results our study will generate, I am confident that our work will help the urban planners and decision makers make better choices about investments.”

## CREATING A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

Further analysis will be required to get a detailed picture of what’s going on in



**“ WE’LL BEGIN IN DALLAS, OUR HOME, AND DEVELOP AND PERFECT SOME GENERAL TOOLS THAT WE CAN THEN TAKE TO OTHER CITIES TO SEE HOW WIDESPREAD THE PHENOMENA OF INFRASTRUCTURE EQUITY OR INEQUITY IS. ”**

PROFESSOR BARBARA MINSKER

Vickery Meadow, but Milan is confident that what she’s seen so far is a good indicator that her neighborhood is an infrastructure desert. “I was able to just go to the neighborhood, take pictures, observe and go out with the team. I can tell you from my observations, it’s pretty obvious.”

One of the bridges in Vickery Meadow is especially notorious, Milan says. Running along Fair Oaks Avenue and spanning an old railroad track, the car-friendly crossing is the only one that students can take when walking to Conrad High. The sidewalk thins out along the bridge, allowing for only one pedestrian to safely cross at a time. During her senior year, one of Milan’s classmates was hit by a car. Only after the girl’s father demanded action by officials were crossing guards stationed near the bridge.

Despite stories like these and the clear disparity between Vickery Meadow and other neighborhoods in terms of infrastructure health, Milan had not given the matter much thought in her high school days. “I had experienced it, but I’d never

thought, ‘Oh, maybe it’s a problem that can be fixed, that needs to be addressed.’”

But when she visited SMU’s campus for the first time, all of that changed. “We were like, ‘This is so pretty.’ Ten minutes from where we live. It was just a shock. I can press a button and I’ll get a light that will make cars stop so I can get to the parking lot. It was just a really different experience from what I had seen, and that’s when I realized it was more of a city-wide issue.”

By 2020, the United States will need major infrastructure improvements that will require an estimated investment of \$3.6 trillion, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Milan is optimistic about the future, but tempers her expectations. “Maybe one day we can make this happen where all the neighborhoods in the country are treated equitably,” she says.

*Chris Kelley is a veteran journalist and founder of The Kelley Group, a Dallas-based strategic communications company, and a senior fellow at the Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity at the Lyle School of Engineering.*



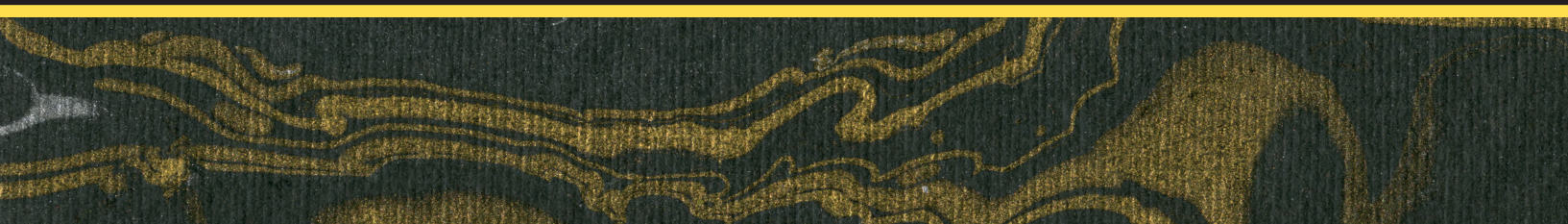


# DALÍ IN THE DARK

More than 650 students participated in Dalí in the Dark after-hours events in September in conjunction with the *Dalí: Poetics of the Small, 1929-1936* exhibit, on display throughout the fall at the Meadows Museum. Activities included posing for selfies with props in front of a Magic Mirror Photo Booth, tarot readings, art making, a virtual exploration game and surrealist board games.

The Meadows Museum organized the first in-depth exploration of Salvador Dalí's small-scale paintings – some measuring just over a foot and others as small as 3 by 2 inches. A major part of the artist's output during the early part of his Surrealist period (1929-1936), these small works reflect Dalí's precise style of painting.

A second exhibit, *Dalí's Aliyah: A Moment in Jewish History*, featured a rare, complete set of lithographs created by the artist to celebrate 1968 as the 20th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.











## DEDMAN LAW STUDENTS AND FACULTY CREATE A NEW APP TO HELP TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN

BY CHERRI GANN '15

### **R**OBIE HAMILTON KEEPS THE SENIOR RESIDENTS LOOKING THEIR BEST IN the independent retirement

living home, in Richardson, Texas, where she has run a full-service hair salon for the past 15 years. Amid cuts, colors and perms, she and her clients indulge a shared fondness for big band music, family lore, jokes and stories about Hamilton's two cats – Americus and Novalee.

"There's lots of laughter in here, and I love it," she says.

The petite 56-year-old radiates such joy that one would never guess she once lived in a darker world. Her ordeal began with sexual exploitation at the age of 17. A spiral into addiction and homelessness continued for years. At age 41, she began to turn her life around and found New Friends New Life. The Dallas nonprofit offers a comprehensive program for formerly trafficked women and children that includes counseling, support groups, education and job training.

Hamilton, now 16 years sober, first

visited SMU's Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women in 2015, intent on clearing the record she had acquired during 25 years of working in Dallas strip clubs, battling drug addiction and experiencing repeated arrests. The Hunter Legal Center was established in 2014 with a gift from alumni Ray L. and Nancy Ann Hunter Hunt and named in honor of Mrs. Hunt's father, a distinguished judicial leader and public servant who served as a judge in Western Missouri for 38 years.

The clinic's services include helping trafficking survivors determine whether their criminal record convictions can be

cleared either by order of nondisclosure—which seals certain convictions – or expungement – which clears a conviction from the record. It's a lengthy process that begins with survivors obtaining their entire criminal records and sitting down with an attorney or advocate who evaluates each conviction in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 411.0728, the state law that addresses the criminal records of human trafficking survivors.

A 2016 study by the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault at the University of Texas at Austin found that about 79,000 minors and youth are victims of sex trafficking in Texas. According to Human Trafficking Search, Texas ranks second, between California and Florida, among the top three states with the most activity. A 2014 report funded by the National Institute of Justice reveals Dallas is a \$99 million market for the sex trade.

It's common for women coerced or exploited into the sex trade to accumulate arrests and convictions related to drugs,

**HAMILTON'S LIFE  
REPRESENTS A REMARKABLE  
TURNAROUND, AND YET HER  
CRIMINAL RECORD LIMITS  
HER CHOICES.**





prostitution and theft. When they can escape, criminal records acquired during a life of duress get in the way of rebuilding their lives. As public records, criminal records appear on housing, employment and other background checks. Survivors escape trafficking only to be judged anew with each attempt to rejoin society. Clearing a criminal record leads to reclaimed freedom.

When Hamilton first approached the Hunter Legal Center, Natalie Nanasi, a Dedman Law associate professor and director of the center, and her student attorneys used a handmade handbook for navigating the extremely specific elements present in the law. It was an overwhelming flowchart spread over 30 pages and filled with hundreds of color-coded bubbles representing convictions and lines tracing the circuitous routes of queries about sentences such as deferred adjudication, discharge and dismissal, or confinement due to conviction.

Nanasi and her student attorneys manually completed the tedious routine of checking every step for each conviction

on a criminal record, which could take months. In the meantime, survivors remained in limbo as they tried to restart

their lives by finding jobs and safe places to live.

Everyone involved agreed that the process needed to be improved and accelerated.



**THIS IS A RARE AREA OF  
THE LAW WHERE ALL THE  
ANSWERS ARE YES OR NO,  
WITH NO NUANCE. THE  
PROCESS IS PERFECTLY  
SUITED FOR TECHNOLOGY.**

- NATALIE NANASI



## RESEARCH AND REASONING

In fall 2017, the Technology, Innovation and Law – Designing Legal Apps course was offered for the first time as part of the Dedman Law curriculum. Keith Robinson, associate professor and co-director of SMU's Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation, taught the course, which added a new twist to “think like a lawyer” instruction.

First, students gained hands-on experience in the use of Neota Logic, an artificial intelligence software platform. Then Robinson formed three teams and partnered each with a Texas-based legal-aid provider. In addition to SMU's Hunter Legal Center, students worked with the Force for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (F.I.R.E.), a Dallas-based coalition of nonprofits and lawyers that provide legal assistance and other resources to





**ANALOG TO APP** SMU law professors Keith Robinson and Natalie Nanasi spearheaded an interdisciplinary legal project that is changing lives. Student attorneys worked together to transform a 30-page, color-coded spreadsheet into the Texas Fresh Start app. The app streamlines a process that could take weeks or even months to complete manually. Saving time means trafficking survivors don't have to wait too long to leave their pasts behind.



IT'S HUMBLING TO  
HAVE STUDENTS WORKING  
ON YOUR BEHALF.  
THIS HAS BEEN A BIG  
DEAL TO ME THAT WILL  
CHANGE MY LIFE.

- ROBBIE HAMILTON



immigrants; and Texas Appleseed, an Austin-based public interest justice center.

In addition to interacting with professional lawyers and trying out service delivery skills, the students also created authentic technology products to solve real problems for real clients.

The Tsai Center, established by an anonymous gift from a Dedman Law alumnus in 2014, responds to the ever-changing legal landscape with programs that include design, research, software building and app creation in its curricula. "Students need to understand that emerging technologies are going to affect their legal practice," Robinson says.

He chose legal-aid agencies to serve as clients for the app development projects for two reasons: to expose students to current social justice issues and to lend a helping hand to the cash-strapped organizations that need technology to further their missions.

Also, Robinson liked the idea of providing students with a real-world application for their work. Students flexed their research and reasoning muscles and applied what they already had learned in law school, he says.

Nanasi wasted no time in pitching the complicated intake process for trafficking survivors as a great subject for an app.

"This is a rare area of the law where all the answers are yes or no, with no nuance," she says. "The process is perfectly suited for technology."

## RECLAIMING FREEDOM

Emily Pratt '18, a former clinic chief in the Hunter Legal Center, was among the student attorneys who helped Robinson's students understand the significance of their project.

"We needed them to understand what a big deal human trafficking is and to know something about the community of survivors that their app would help," says Pratt, who is now an assistant district attorney for Collin County, Texas.

For Hamilton, drug possessions were the source of her arrests and felony convictions. But she had put that life behind her long before her first visit to the legal clinic. Hamilton continues to be a dedicated and active sobriety advocate, serving as a sponsor and speaker for Alcoholics Anonymous and other addiction awareness groups. She joined the





## AS USERS PROGRESS THROUGH THE APP, THEY LEARN WHETHER A CHARGE OR CONVICTION IS ELIGIBLE TO BE SEALED OR CLEARED.

New Friends New Life program in 2004 after completing a 15-month prison sentence for a drug conviction and remains involved with the organization.

Hamilton's life represents a remarkable turnaround, and yet her criminal record limits her choices, including her desire to move to a new apartment.

"I tried eight places that all turned me down because of those felony drug charges," she says.

For the same reason, Hamilton, who experienced homelessness for more than three years, has been turned away from meaningful volunteer opportunities to assist others who have been through similar experiences.

**NEW BEGINNINGS** Trafficking survivor Robbie Hamilton turned her life around. Now she is cleaning up her criminal record with the help of SMU's Hunter Legal Center.

## DIGITAL AGE SOLUTION

Chris Cochran '18 and Richard Sparr '18 were Robinson's students when they worked on the app with the legal clinic. Cochran, a private equity associate at the law firm Roberts & Willie PLLC, says he was struck by the repercussions that follow trafficking survivors for the rest of their lives if they can't clean their records. Sparr, an associate counsel in the financial services group at the law firm Holland & Knight, appreciated the collaborative nature of the project with students coming together to solve a problem. He also developed an appreciation for the role innovation plays in the law.

"The course showed us the future of legal services," Sparr said. "You have to leverage technology to provide affordability."

They started by studying the code pertaining to trafficking survivors and learning how it fit among nearly a dozen related statutes. Hunter Law Center students assisted with mapping legal questions and answers, testing scenarios and reconciling the clinic's vision with compatible technology. Professors Nanasi and Robinson provided guidance, but the students owned the project – a perfect fit with the philosophy behind their clinic

work, Nanasi says.

"I was encouraged that the students understood what they did not know but knew where to find the information," Robinson says.

## HITTING RESTART

The final product, the web-based Texas Fresh Start Application, is a step-by-step tool that can be used by advocates, or perhaps clients themselves, to quickly run through questions about the criminal record, beginning with the oldest offense and repeating the process for each subsequent offense. As users progress through the app, they learn whether a charge or conviction is eligible to be sealed or cleared. Nanasi now uses it as part of the clinic intake process for trafficking survivors.

"There's nothing worse than having to tell a new client we can't help after she has spent time gathering her criminal history," she says. "With the app, I can evaluate quickly and let someone know."

Hamilton continues moving forward. She joined the staff of New Friends New Life in 2017 as a youth mentor and survivor advocate in its Youth Resource Center. In that role, she helps young survivors on the path to changing their lives. She encourages their journey of healing by guiding lessons about self-care, anger management, forgiveness and shame.

"I've been open about my experience," Hamilton says. "Any person that I'm talking to may be the one who needs to hear that people can come out of this."

She appreciates the persistence of Nanasi and the Hunter Legal Center student attorneys. For nearly three years they have helped her shed another part of her old life. Five convictions have been either sealed or expunged from her record, including three of her four felonies – and the Texas Fresh Start app helped complete the last bit toward this goal.

Now they are waiting to learn if Texas Gov. Greg Abbott will grant a pardon request for the remaining conviction. Because of the timeframe when it occurred, it is not eligible to be cleared or sealed.

"It's humbling to have students working on your behalf," Hamilton says. "This has been a big deal to me that will change my life."





## 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](http://smu.edu/submitanote) or email [smumag@smu.edu](mailto:smumag@smu.edu).  
Deadline for the fall 2019 issue is  
**June 10, 2019.**



### 43

**Stewart Morris**, a founder of Houston Baptist University and the past president and past co-chief executive officer of Stewart Information Services Corporation, was honored by Stewart Title for 80 years of service to the company. The celebration was held in Houston and attended by more than 150 business and community leaders from around the United States. Morris received the SMU Dedman Law Distinguished Alumni Award in 2000.

### 54

**Pierce Allman**, with his wife, Allie Beth, were honored with the 2018 Flora Award from the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park, which recognizes service to the Dallas community. The Allmans have supported several Dallas organizations, including the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, DFW World Affairs, the Dallas Museum of Art, the George W. Bush Presidential Center, the Dallas Symphony and the MD Anderson Cancer Center. Allman co-founded the S.M. Wright Foundation and serves on its board. He has received numerous civic honors and has served on dozens of civic boards. A member of the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences Executive Board since 1994, Allman provided a lead gift in 2010 to launch the Dean's Research Council. During SMU Unbridled: The Second

Century Campaign, he served on the Dedman College Campaign Steering Committee. In 2018 Allman received an SMU Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Foster Poole** and his wife, **Nancy Poole '55**, recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of their store, The Sample House candle and gift shop, which has seven locations throughout the Dallas area. *The Dallas Morning News* recently profiled the couple, touting the family business. Their daughter, **Ellen Poole Aiken '94**, works for the company as the director of marketing.

### 63

**T. William Porter** was recently awarded the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who. Porter is a founding partner of Porter Hedges LLP in Houston and has served as chairman *emeritus* since 2010.

**Mike Warnock** has completed a nine-year motocaching project. He mapped motorcycle routes in each county in 11 western states plus the 11 westernmost counties in Texas – that's 458 contiguous counties and 1,217,623 square miles.

### 65

**Bonnie Crane Hellums** was awarded the 2018 Brazelton Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award for her work over 20 years as a judge on the family law bench in

Harris County. She was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to serve on the Texas Department of Family Protective Services Advisory Board.

### 66

**Edward A. Peterson**, a shareholder in the Dallas office of Winstead P.C., was selected for *The Best Lawyers in America 2019*, real estate law. **Mary Hughston Smith** was awarded the Billy Sills Distinguished Service Award by the Texas Council for the Social Studies at its conference in October 2018. She has received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to study the effect of colonialism on the non-Western world and a Korean Cultural Society Fellowship to study in South Korea. Among her past accolades are the Texas Social Studies Supervisor of the Year Award for 2003–04 and the Educational Leadership Award in 2006 in recognition of her significant contributions to education in the greater Houston metropolitan area.

### 67

**Denny Holman**, men's basketball standout 1964–67, was inducted to the Southwest Conference Hall of Fame in September. At SMU he helped the Mustangs win three straight Southwest Conference titles and NCAA tournaments and was named to the SMU Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2018.



Holman, who holds a B.B.A. degree in management, is a Cox Distinguished Alumnus and also received the Silver Anniversary Mustang Award.

## 68

Former First Lady **Laura Bush** was honored as the 2018 Texan of the Year by *The Dallas Morning News* for her education advocacy and “uncommon leadership” as the founder or co-founder of nonprofits and initiatives that improve the lives of women, children and families around the globe. She also was a 2018 inductee into the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame. The honor recognizes the recipients as trailblazers and inspirations for new generations of Texans. She is the chair of the Woman’s Initiative at the George W. Bush Institute and an SMU Trustee. She received SMU’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 1999.

## 69

**Stanley R. Moore** (J.D. ’73), a shareholder in the Dallas office of Winstead P.C., was selected for *The Best Lawyers in America 2019*, patent law and trademark law. **Susan Vick**, who retired last year after 37 years as professor of drama/theatre and director of theatre programs at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, received the 2018 Leonidas A. Nickole Award from the New England Theatre Conference. The award recognizes outstanding teaching in the field of drama. Her other career honors include the Catawba College Blue Masque Hall of Fame in 2010 and the WPI Board of Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1997.

## 70

**John Alexander**, a New York-based painter, was among the honored artists last fall by the New Orleans Museum of Art at its annual Love in the Garden event. His work was featured in NOMA’s 2017 exhibition *Pride of Place: The Making of*

*Contemporary Art in New Orleans*, and is included in permanent museum collections throughout the United States including Houston, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C. *Demons*, his 1989 painting, is part of the University Art Collection at SMU’s Meadows Museum. In 2017, Alexander received the New York Academy of Art Award. **Eleanor (Ellie) Smith Morrison** was named the 11th national commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America. She is the first woman to serve in the role. She is an assistant Scoutmaster from Waco recognized for developing proven methods for creating and growing scouting units. **George Tobolowsky**, a Dallas sculptor, exhibited his latest series, *A Long Road Back*, at the University of Mississippi Museum, around the UM campus and at more than a half dozen locations in Oxford, Mississippi. **Lon Williams**, shareholder in Polsinelli’s Dallas office, was named 2018 Lawyer of the Year in employment law-management for Dallas/Fort Worth by *Best Lawyers*. He also was selected for inclusion in the 2019 *Best Lawyers in America* for his work in

employment law-management and labor law-management.

## 71

**Jim Marshall**’s *Sonatina* in the English style for young clarinetists received its repertoire recital premiere by Alison Eales in London on January 27. Her Gregynog ensemble has commissioned Marshall to write *English Autumn* for clarinet and string trio. He is also composing commissioned works for contrabass performer/composer David Heyes of the Wells Cathedral School in Somerset, England, and publishing with Recital Music.

## 72

**John Reilly** earned a master of applied engineering degree from SMU and recently retired after a long career in software, primarily in the telecommunications/digital services industry. He is now an active volunteer with Texas CARES,



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David B. Miller '72, '73 (holding sign) was honored by SMU on December 5 with the naming of the Moody Coliseum court in his honor.

## A familiar name returns to the Moody Coliseum court

"I've had an almost five-decade association with this university, and I tell people all the time, it's been a 50-year love affair," David B. Miller '72, '73 said before the SMU men's basketball game against TCU on December 5.

At halftime of that game, SMU officially named the Moody Coliseum court after Miller, a basketball alumnus and vice-chair of the SMU Board of Trustees. The move cemented Miller's legacy as an important pillar of the Mustang basketball family.

Growing up, it was always Miller's dream to attend and play basketball at SMU, which was a dominant force in the Southwest Conference in the 1960s.

"The day Bob Prewitt and Doc Hayes came into my high school gym in 1968 and offered me a scholarship, other than the birth of my children and my grandchildren and my marriage, was the biggest day of my life," Miller said.

What Miller remembers about the recruiting pitch is that it didn't focus on SMU's on-court success.

"Around the room, they had photos of former players, and what they talked about was the great education that those gentlemen had gotten and what they had gone on to do," Miller said.

Miller earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from the Cox School of Business. He is a co-founder and partner of EnCap Investments L.P., a private equity firm based in Houston and Dallas.

As a center, Miller was successful on the court as well. He started for three years and helped SMU to a share of the 1971-72 Southwest Conference Championship.

"I felt like my basketball scholarship and the education I received as an undergraduate was a gift," Miller said. Grateful for the opportunity, Miller knew that he wanted to give back when he got the chance.

Since 2011, he and his wife, Carolyn, have given \$20 million toward the expansion and renovation of Moody Coliseum as well as the construction of the Miller Event Center. That generosity has been key to elevating SMU basketball.

Read more at [smu.edu/mag19miller](http://smu.edu/mag19miller).

a nonprofit feline rescue and adoption organization. Over the holidays, the group sponsored adoption opportunities at pet stores across the Dallas area. Learn more at [texascare.org](http://texascare.org). **Phillip Virden** was honored in 2018 by the Colorado House of Representatives and the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance for his exceptional leadership, positive contributions and unwavering dedication to education. He also was honored by the National Weather Service for recording and reporting weather for Lake City, Colorado, over the past 30 years.

### 73

**Bishop Janice Riggle Huie** has joined the board of the Joe Barnhart Foundation in Houston. She also serves in the Texas Methodist Foundation's leadership ministry. Previously, she was Bishop of the Texas Annual Conference in 2004-16, and the Arkansas Annual Conference in 1996-2004. **Rick Scott** serves as the junior U.S. Senator from Florida after winning election in November. The Republican politician served as the state's 45th governor from 2011 to 2019. The Rev. **Clayton Smith** has joined the board of trustees for Central Methodist University, in Fayette, Missouri.

### 74

**Jane Bockus** received a 2018 Outstanding Lawyers Award by the *San Antonio Business Journal*. Bockus, who is a partner at the law firm Dykema, was among 12 attorneys honored for professional accomplishment, organizational leadership and positive impact on their industry and community. She has an undergraduate degree from SMU. **Mark Varhaug**, vice president and senior geologist at Dallas-based petroleum industry consulting firm DeGolyer and MacNaughton, has been appointed to the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) by Gov. Greg Abbott. Varhaug's expertise includes geological mapping, reservoir evaluation and reserves estimation, among others. The TBPG oversees licensure of professional geoscientists. **Billie I. Williamson** has joined the board of directors at Kraton



Corporation, a polymer producer based in Houston. The retired partner of Ernst & Young LLP also serves on the corporate boards of Pentair; CSRA, Inc.; Energy Future Holdings; ITT Exelis, Inc. and Annie's Inc., as well as the philanthropic boards of Dallas Symphony Foundation and the Dallas Holocaust Museum. She received the SMU Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015 and the Cox Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016.

75

**David Bacon** has been promoted to week-night news anchor at KRBC-TV, the NBC affiliate in Abilene, Texas. Previously he was the sports director at KTAB-TV in Abilene. **David Bates** exhibited his "Selected Works from Texas Collections" last summer at the Tyler Museum of Art, in Tyler, Texas. The show included a mix of oil paintings, lithographs, woodcuts, screen prints and bronze sculpture.

**Mary C. Gilly** has been inducted into the 2018 Ph.D. Project Hall of Fame, a program founded in 1994 to recruit minority business professionals into business doctoral programs. Gilly is senior associate dean and professor of marketing at the Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine. Retired U.S. Rep. **Lamar Smith** was named 2019 Texan of the Year by the Texas Legislative Conference, which is a nonpartisan organization of business and political leaders. Smith retired in 2018 after 32 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

76

**Katherine Browne**, professor of anthropology at Colorado State University, in Fort Collins has won the prestigious Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology, given by the American Anthropological Association. Because of her lauded research in disaster recovery following Hurricane Katrina, FEMA recruited her to lead a workshop and produce a report related to the agency's strategic plan to build a culture of

preparedness. **Hubert Crouch** has published *The Weight*, his third legal thriller. Crouch practiced trial law in Texas for more than 40 years, and also taught courses in free speech and the First Amendment, public speaking and legal advocacy at SMU. He received the Rotunda Outstanding Professor Award in 2012. **Paul Layne** – a.k.a. "SMU super fan" – has cheered for the Mustangs at more than 500 consecutive football games, a streak that began during his freshman year. He was recently featured on the FOX 4 *Good Day* morning show and WFAA-TV. **Liz Maxfield** has been inducted into the Wireless History Foundation's 2018 Hall of Fame. Maxfield began her 30-year career in communications with the Federal Communications Commission in 1979 in Washington, D.C. The Honorable **Jeanne L. Phillips** was honored last fall with the 2018–19 Sustainer of the Year Award from the Junior League of Dallas. The award recognizes long-standing community involvement in Dallas and unparalleled impact as a member of the Junior League of Dallas. Phillips sits

on SMU's Board of Trustees, as well as the Dedman College and Simmons School Executive Boards, and the Board of Directors for the Tower Center for Political Studies. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU in 2005.

77

**Jeff Herrington**, writing under the pen name Jeffrey Eaton, published *Murder Becomes Mayfair* on September 30. The mystery thriller is the third installment in his series featuring architect and detective Dalton Lee. Visit [murderbecomes.com](http://murderbecomes.com) for more information. **Roland Love**, president of the North American Title Company Texas Region, has been named Title Person of the Year by the Texas Land Title Association. **Barbara Walther**, judge of the 51st district of Texas, retired in October after 26 years on the bench. **Sue Yowell** has been named executive director of the Estes Park Learning Place, a nonprofit educational organization in Estes Park, Colorado.



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78

**Lynne Fitzhugh** has received the 2018 Professional of the Year Award from the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities. Fitzhugh, a lecturer at Colorado College in Colorado Springs is the founder and director of the school's Reading Institute and Literacy Specialist Program. **Braiden Rex-Johnson** has launched two websites: *SeattleWaterfrontWebcam.com*, which streams live video images of Seattle's Elliott Bay, the Alaskan Way Viaduct and the Seattle Great Wheel; and *BraidenBlossoms.com*, featuring his floral photography and flower-related blog.

79

**Thomas Guild** has published an autobiography, *Abandonment, Adoption and the Search for Identity*. **George Jones** has received the 2018 Lifetime Administrator Achievement Award from the Texas Bandmasters Association to honor his work with Texas band students. As a graduate student he served as the graduate

assistant conductor of SMU Meadows Wind Ensemble and as arranger for the Dallas Cowboys Band.

80

**David Huntley**, SMU Trustee and senior executive vice president and chief compliance officer at AT&T Inc., received a Top Minds 2018 Award from *Compliance Week* magazine, which recognizes leadership excellence in the fields of governance, risk, compliance and ethics. Last year he was profiled in *Compliance & Ethics Professional* magazine in a Q&A interview about leadership integrity. In 2016 Huntley received a Legacy Award from SMU's Association of Black Students, and a Black Alumni History Maker Award in 2013. At SMU, he was student body president in 1978-79, served in the student senate in 1977-80 and received the "M" Award in 1979.

81

**Christopher Bolen** (M.B.A., J.D. '85), an

intellectual property attorney, has been named to Womble Bond Dickinson's global board, which directs and oversees all of the firm's transatlantic activities. **Martin Cominsky**, president and CEO of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, was named one of the Most Admired CEOs of a nonprofit organization by the *Houston Business Journal*. He oversees Meals on Wheels/Animeals, Refugee Services, Interfaith Relations and Community Partnerships and Volunteer Houston. **Edward Easterling**, founder and chairman of Crestmont Land Trust, a nonprofit focused on conservation and habitat restoration in Corvallis, Oregon, has led the completion of Amy's Trail, the final part of a major expansion of walking paths in the state's Coast Range foothills.

82

**Patton Chapman** has been elected president of Salesmanship Club of Dallas. **Tracy Irwin Davidson** has been named sponsor of the *USS Kansas City*, the U.S. Navy's newest littoral combat ship, and headlined its christening ceremony in Mobile, Alabama, in September. Ship sponsors are chosen by the Secretary of the Navy and remain connected with the ship and crew throughout the vessel's active service life. Davidson is an active Navy spouse. Her husband, Admiral Philip S. Davidson, is the 25th Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, America's oldest and largest military combatant command. **Diane (Diny) Nolan Landen** was honored last summer with the 2018 Suzanne Scott "Giving from the Heart" Award, presented by the United Way of the Midlands Women's Tocqueville Initiative to recognize women in the Omaha-Council Bluffs, Nebraska, area who demonstrate thoughtful and philanthropic qualities. She serves on the Dedman College Executive Board at SMU.

83

**Hector Guzman** has received the inaugural Distinguished Mexicans Award from the Council General of Mexico in Dallas. The honor recognizes Guzman's

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orchestral music direction career, which has contributed to promoting the Mexican image abroad. Guzman has been the conductor of the Plano Symphony Orchestra in Plano, Texas, since 1983. He also conducts the Irving Symphony Orchestra and San Angelo Symphony Orchestra, as well as the International Mariachi Festival in Guadalajara. **Lawson Hembree** has been named first vice president for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, where he has worked since 2009. Hembree is based in Fort Smith, Arkansas. **John Quinn** has joined the Nashville-based firm of Neal and Harwell as counsel. Previously he was a partner at Maier and Herod in Nashville, focusing on civil litigation.

## 84

**Randy Laser** is the principal management consultant at Windward Airline Consulting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. **Michael D. Pegues**, a Dallas-based Polsinelli shareholder and vice chair of the firm's national intellectual property and technology litigation practice, has received the 2018 Trailblazer of the Year Award from the Texas Minority Counsel Program (TMCP). The award recognizes an outside counsel who has promoted diversity within the legal profession through the hiring, retention and mentoring of minority, women and LGBT attorneys; by partnering with minority-, women- and LGBT-owned law firms; and by participating in Bar and/or community activities designed to promote diversity within the legal profession. Pegues is an adjunct professor in the Dedman School of Law, serves on the Lyle School of Engineering Executive Board and was honored in 2015 as a Black Alumni of SMU History Maker.

## 85

**Mark Hendrix** was honored by CommScope during the company's 2018 Innovators in Action Summit. He was recognized for his creative work and ideas that bring innovation to the wired and wireless industries the company serves. **Thomas Linebarger** has joined Santander Bank's

commercial banking equipment finance and leasing group as its senior vice president covering the Midwest market. **Michael Richardson** has joined Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas as a certified music therapist. He uses evidence-based practices in the field of music therapy and focuses on current research that highlights cognitive disorders associated with stroke and Parkinson's.

## 86

**Alyce Alston** has been named chief executive at the Dallas Entrepreneur Center, a nonprofit co-working space where new entrepreneurs have access to collaborators, mentors, education and funding. Rev. **Wynston Dixon** has joined Christ United Methodist Church in Middletown, Ohio, as its lead pastor. He has served at several churches in Ohio, including in Toledo, Columbus and Milford. **Oliver Nathan Green, Jr.** served as guest clinician for the West Georgia Choral Arts Festival in his hometown of LaGrange, Georgia. Green is an associate professor of music at Georgia State University and has produced numerous world music shows.

## 87

**Bill Edie** has been appointed an administrative law judge by the state of Colorado, hearing Workers' Compensation cases for the Department of Personnel and Administration. He lives in Woodland Park, Colorado, with his wife, a busy community volunteer, and daughter, an honor student at Woodland Park High School. His son attends Montana State University on an Army ROTC scholarship. **Dwight Erdbruegger** has joined Cass Commercial Bank, in St. Louis, as its president. Erdbruegger, who holds an M.B.A. from SMU, was chairman of CBIEF, a subsidiary of Commerce Bank. **Deborah Gibbins** has been promoted to chief operating officer at Mary Kay Inc. A certified public accountant, Gibbins joined the company in 2013 as its chief financial officer. Previously she worked at PepsiCo for 17 years. Gibbins was a Cox School Distinguished Alumni in 2014 and serves

on the boards of the Cox School and the SMU Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center. Since 1974, **Clark K. Hunt** has attended every World Cup tournament but one, a tradition that began with his late father, **Lamar Hunt '56**. His soccer affinity and his family's history with the sport was profiled recently in *The New York Times*. Hunt serves on the SMU Board of Trustees and is the owner and chief executive of the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs and the chairman and CEO of FC Dallas. **Wes Hunt** has joined Alliance Data's card services business as its vice president, data scientist. **Danette Anthony Reed** has been elected International First Vice President for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She recently retired from Frito-Lay, Inc., where she served as its director of operations. **Mark Roberson** has joined Ballantine Strong, Inc., in Omaha, Nebraska, as its executive vice president and chief financial officer, bringing more than 20 years of financial management experience.

## 88

**Andrea B. Smith** has been elected to the PGA Board of Directors as an independent director. Smith is the chief administrative officer at Bank of America, responsible for the company's three-year strategic plan and leader of its global principal investments team. She also serves on the board of the American Bankers Association.

## 89

Rev. **J. Wayne Clark** has been named president and CEO of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, effective January 2019. **Ed Gray** and **Jennifer McNabb '13** have collaborated on the Human Rights Dallas Maps project for the SMU Embrey Human Rights Program to digitally document Dallas locations where human rights injustices occurred. Their work is part of the larger effort to have Dallas officially designated as a human rights city. Learn more at [humanrightsdallasmaps.com](http://humanrightsdallasmaps.com). **Tiffany Kenney** celebrates a 20-year work anniversary at WPBF-TV channel 25, the ABC affiliate in her native Palm Beach,



Florida. Kenney, an award-winning anchor of the noon and 5 p.m. broadcasts, has won seven Suncoast Regional Emmy Awards for investigative and in-depth reporting. **Lee Mulcahy**'s paintings were featured in pop-up exhibitions at La Fonda in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in August 2018 and at the Aspen Saturday Market in Colorado in October 2018. In 2019, his paintings will be exhibited in Beijing's 798 at Horizon, Nairobi's National Museum and at his outlaw gallery/studio in Aspen's Burlingame Ranch. **Doug Renfro** is president of family-owned and operated Renfro Foods, which recently was named one of three finalists for the 2018 DREAM BIG Small Business of the Year Award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. **Robert Sammons** has joined the Brooks Insurance agency as vice president and broker with a focus on Florida and the Southeast region. **Will Wallace**, a Los Angeles-based film producer and director, recently received the first key to the city of Corsicana, Texas, ever awarded. The presentation was made by fellow Mustang **Don Denbow '68**, the city's mayor, in recognition of Wallace's role in bringing production of the movie *Warning Shot* to Corsicana, which has prompted interest in the city by other film producers. Wallace has another Mustang connection: **Andrea Flowers '15** serves as his assistant.

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## 90

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**Betsy Goldsberry Ball** has taught international business at Tarleton State University for 15 years and recently founded Euro Travel Coach ([www.eurotravelcoach.com](http://www.eurotravelcoach.com)) with her husband and daughter. They offer travel coaching services, custom itinerary planning and small-group guided tours in Europe. **Doug Gilfillan** has been named a partner on the nationally recognized government enforcement and investigations team in the litigation department in Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton's Atlanta office. **Mike Mead** has joined CNO Financial Group, Inc. as its senior vice president and chief information officer. Mead will lead the informational technology function at the Carmel,

Indiana-based company and take charge of strategy execution for information systems and infrastructure. **Jay Hunter Morris**, an operatic tenor, performed in the Cincinnati Opera's summer production of *The Flying Dutchman*, by Richard Wagner, singing the part of Erik. **David Paschall** has been named city attorney for the City of Mesquite in Texas. His Mesquite city service includes the Planning and Zoning Commission, chair of the Falcon's Lair Tax Increment Finance Reinvestment Zone, City Council member and chair of the Civil Service Commission and Personnel Trial Board. **Teresa Schwab** was named to the CRN 2018 Women of the Channel List. Schwab is an executive advisor and business consultant, and this award recognizes her outstanding leadership, vision and role in driving channel growth and innovation. **Jeffrey Storey**, president and CEO of telecommunications firm CenturyLink, has been recognized by *Data Economy Magazine* among its list of America's 50, which showcases extraordinary industry leadership.

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## 91

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**Marci Rossell McCarthy** is a nationally known economist who served as chief economist for CNBC. Prior to her broadcast career, she was a corporate economist and investment spokesperson for Oppenheimer Funds. In 2002, she received the Cox Outstanding Young Alumni Award. **Laura Galt Snavely** made her Broadway debut as co-producer of *The Prom*, a musical comedy that has earned rave reviews since opening in November 2018. After graduating from SMU, she moved to New York but quickly relocated to Los Angeles. Her work in the entertainment industry has included a recurring role in *Saved By The Bell*, *The New Class*. **Lisa Cole Zimmerman** and family chose Dallas Hall as the setting of their family Christmas card. All three of her children are Mustangs: **Michael Zimmerman '16**, **Matthew Zimmerman '19** and **Mackenzie Zimmerman '22**.

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## 92

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**Claire Babineaux-Fontenot** has been named CEO of Feeding America, a Chicago-based hunger relief organization. **Christine Handy** has published the novel *Walk Beside Me*, a fictional story highlighting the importance of friendship and care heavily based on Handy's own experience during her treatment and recovery from aggressive breast cancer. The book, now available on Amazon, is in development as a movie and set to begin production in early 2019. Currently titled *Willow*, the actress Sheena Colette is now slated to portray the protagonist. **Jennifer Ellers Klepper**'s debut novel, *Unbroken Threads*, was published in August. It explores the intersection of the lives of a former corporate attorney and a Syrian woman seeking asylum whom she volunteers to represent. Klepper is an attorney and lives with her husband and two children near Annapolis, Maryland. **Lisa Sienne Voltmer** has joined the law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP, in Dallas, as counsel specializing in labor and employment law.

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## 93

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**Jeff Dreher** has been named to the Midwest Real Estate News Commercial Real Estate Hall of Fame. He is a senior advisor with the Louisville office of Cushman & Wakefield/Commercial Kentucky. **Mark Falkin**, a writer and literary agent, is the author of *The Late Bloomer*. The novel centers on Kevin March, a high school band trombonist and budding writer, who chronicles his harrowing journey after an unspeakable apocalypse ends the world as he knows it. His book is available at bookstores and from Amazon. Find more information at [markfalkin.com](http://markfalkin.com). **Trevina Height** is the director of catering and conference services at Delta Hotels-Marriot Dallas Allen and Watters Creek Convention Center, a new full service venue in Allen, Texas. **Chris Kenniff** has been appointed the new dean of programs at Hoff-Barthelson Music School, in Scarsdale, New York. He leads the ongoing development and delivery of the school's music



education programs. **Richard Nichols** is the new dean of fine arts at Butler Community College, in El Dorado, Kansas. **Khang Tran** has returned to internal medicine private practice after six years as the chief medical officer for Medical City Plano and Medical City Frisco. He joined Dallas Diagnostic Association-Plano and will also serve as a regional medical director for HealthTexas Provider Network. **Pavel Šporcle** and **Yuan-Qing Yu '94** combine their talents in the new album *Alla Zingarese*. The album features a collaboration of the virtuoso violinists' respective ensembles – Civitas (Yu) and His Gipsy Way (Šporcle) that fuses Western classical and Romani folk music.

## 94

**Tasha Franklin Johnson** was recently appointed to the board of directors of the National Afterschool Association. She is currently the senior director of the Character Development Learning Institute where she supports the development of social-emotional learning and character development with youth development practitioners in local YMCAs. **Michael Kasmiersky** has been promoted to vice president of property management at Lincoln Property Co., in Houston. Kasmiersky holds an M.B.A. from SMU and has a 22-year career in property management. **Joe Milazzo** has published *Of All Places In This Place Of All Places*, his second volume of poetry and third book. More information is available at joe-milazzo.com. In addition, he has joined the staff of the *Southwest Review* as associate editor. **Daxton (Chip) Stewart** was promoted to full professor in the journalism department at Texas Christian University in April, and he received the 2018 Award for Distinguished Achievement as a Creative Teacher and Scholar from the Bob Schieffer College of Communication. Last year, he served as editor of the second edition of *Social Media and the Law* and co-author of the 10th edition of *The Law of Public Communication*. **Ihab Tarazi** has joined the cloud-hosting company Packet as its chief technology officer. He will lead the company's technical and product strategy.

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World Changers Shaped Here



SMU



## Shear genius: Tech entrepreneurs launch a salon industry makeover

**Courtney Caldwell '00 and her husband, Tye,** are shaking up the century-old salon industry with ShearShare, a mobile B2B platform shaped for the gig economy.

"Contracts for salon space that lock stylists into multi-year terms have been standard in the field," Courtney explains, "but that's not how the majority of stylists wants to work today."

The app matches salon and barbershop owners with hair, skin and nail technicians seeking professional space to rent by the day. ShearShare enables owners with excess capacity to capture income that would otherwise be lost while allowing stylists to cater to their clients in convenient locations.

Life partners as well as business partners, the husband-and-wife team brings energy, passion and expertise to their pioneering enterprise. Courtney graduated *cum laude* with a B.B.A. in marketing from SMU's Cox School of Business. Success as an international marketing executive for such companies as Oracle and Qualtrics followed. Tye – known professionally as Dr. Tye – is among the few to earn a coveted Doctorate in Professional Barbering. He has more than two decades of experience in salon and barbershop operations and is the best-selling author of *Mentored by Failure: A 5-Point Guide to Long-term Success in the Beauty & Style Industry*.

ShearShare was born out of sheer necessity, according to the couple. In 2012, after expanding his award-winning Salon74 by Tye in Plano, the industry veteran ended up with several new suites to fill. It wasn't long, though, before an unexpected phone call and a leap of faith changed everything.

When a stylist approached Tye about renting a suite for two days a week, he looked around at the unused space "collecting dust instead of dollars" and decided to give the arrangement a try. It was a great experience for him, the stylist and her clients. Soon, he was brokering

*"My favorite professors really believed in me, but they also challenged me. I worked hard to do my absolute best in their classes. They pushed me to push myself even more."*  
– Courtney Caldwell '00



Courtney Caldwell '00 and her husband, Tye, are the co-founders of the prize-winning ShearShare mobile platform.

similar on-demand deals between other salons and stylists.

After a few years of what Courtney describes as "manual matching," they started searching for a website or app they could recommend to facilitate the requests. Instead, they discovered an untapped opportunity tailor-made for them.

The same determination and can-do spirit Courtney exhibits today propelled her as an SMU student. She sang in a gospel choir, competed in the long jump with the SMU track and field team, served as a resident assistant in Virginia-Snyder Commons and worked several other campus jobs.

She also served as the student representative on the SMU Board of Trustees and

held numerous leadership positions with such campus organizations as the Association of Black Students, the Honor Council and the Leadership Consultant Council.

Helping her excel in the classroom were engaging professors who motivated her to shine.

"My favorite professors really believed in me, but they also challenged me," she recalls. "I worked hard to do my absolute best in their classes. They pushed me to push myself even more."

Through the years, Courtney has maintained close ties to her alma mater. She so enjoyed her experience as a Hunt Leadership Scholar that she



now volunteers to interview final-round applicants. She also serves on the SMU Alumni Board and the 21st Century Council.

She's also a member of several advisory boards at the University of Texas at Dallas, where she earned an M.B.A.

A proud Mustang by marriage, Tye serves on the SMU Big Data Advisory Board.

The forward-thinking couple even included the University in their wills. Establishing a planned gift at this stage in their lives helps ensure a bright future for SMU, Courtney says.

Although they never intended to become tech entrepreneurs, they bootstrapped the beta launch of ShearShare in September 2016 with personal savings and credit cards and became Tech Co.'s 2016 Startup of the Year.

"Tye and I like to think that we're fast learners, but it took us three years to realize we had a startup idea," Courtney jokes. Out of the gate, they had already amassed tech sector gold – client data that informed what their app needed to look like in order to succeed.

In 2018, they gained funding after a live grilling by a venture capital panel on *The Pitch* podcast and, shortly afterward, became the first Google Demo Day winner from Texas.

The company's #BeautyWithoutBorders hashtag encapsulates the Caldwell's' global aspirations. While ShearShare's primary markets are Dallas, Los Angeles and New York City, its international reach extends to 400 cities in 11 countries.

After exceeding their seed funding goal, the couple is now focused on expanding the ShearShare team and developing a pilot program to offer a portfolio of B2B resources such as tax preparation and insurance for independent stylists.

While it hasn't been easy to cut through in the startup ecosystem, their passion for the ShearShare community keeps them going, Courtney says.

"We live by what we call our silver rule: We leave people, places and things better off than when we found them."

## 95

**Jason A. Metcalf** has joined J&S Audio-visual in Irving, Texas, as its chief operating officer. His responsibilities include accelerating growth opportunities, driving organizational scale and improving business efficiency.

## 96

**Nate Duermeyer** was promoted to operations captain for the Hurst Police Department in Hurst, Texas. He oversees patrol, traffic, criminal investigations and community services divisions in the department. **Paul Egbert** has been promoted to vice president of the small wares and countertop equipment division at restaurant equipment supplier Vollrath Co. LLC, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. **Brian Fox** is among the Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting, according to *Accounting Today* magazine. Fox is the founder and president of Capital Confirmation, Inc., which created Confirmation.

com, an electronic audit confirmation service. **Darrin Friedman** has joined Century 21 Magellan Realty, in Boise, Idaho, as its president. He was president of Cultivate Media Company, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **Thomas Gray** has been promoted to full professor of chemistry at Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio, where he has taught since 2004.

**Anthony Odiorne** has been appointed as a new associate judge in the Magistrate's Office of Williamson County in Texas.

**Jennifer Rabb** has been named director and fellow of the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy. Previously she was a tax policy advisor in the Office of the Lt. Governor of Texas, focusing on tax reduction and economic growth and as the committee clerk for the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means. **Michael Trusnovec** has announced his retirement from a 20-year career with the Paul Taylor Dance Company. Although his final dance performance will occur next summer with the Orchestra of St. Luke's Bach Festival in

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ALUMNI

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New York, Trusnovac will remain with the company as its director of worldwide licensing. He received the 2018 *Dance Magazine Award*, the 2006 Bessie Award and the 2016 Positano Premia La Danza Dancer of the Year Award.

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## 97

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**Dennis Song** has joined Richmond, Virginia-based Heritage Wealth Advisors as an investment advisor. Previously he has held investor relations positions at Altria, BlackRock and Diamondback Capital.

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## 98

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**Tyler Freres** and his brother, **Kyle Freres '99**, have revitalized their family lumber business, Freres Lumber, in Oregon, by inventing the mass plywood panel. The new mass timber product is being used for a variety of construction projects in Oregon. **Pablo G. Mercado** has joined the board of directors of Comfort Systems USA, Inc., bringing his experience in finance, accounting and best practices in corporate governance and operations. He is the senior vice president and chief financial officer of Forum Energy Technologies, Inc. in Houston. **Adam Russo** has published *Unwritten Rules: Real Strategies to Parent Your Child into a Successful Adult*. Russo, a licensed clinical social worker, is the founder, chairman and CEO of Edgewood Clinical Services, which provides outpatient mental health care to patients in Naperville and Plainfield, Illinois. **Jason B. Supplee** (M.M., M.M.Ed. '03) has been named an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the southern district of Texas, which includes Houston, Galveston, Brownsville, McAllen, Laredo, Victoria and Corpus Christi.

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## 99

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**Alexander Bokor** has been appointed as judge in the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida by former Gov. **Rick Scott**. Bokor was a Miami-Dade County Judge. **Aimee Burnett** has been appointed to the Aerospace

and Aviation Advisory Committee by Gov. Greg Abbott. **Daniel Hart**, musical performer and composer, scored the soundtrack for the fall 2018 movie *The Old Man & the Gun*, starring actors Robert Redford and Sissy Spacek. In a recent *Dallas Morning News* story that featured the musician's artistic approach to the movie project, Hart shared a special memory from his SMU days, when jazz legend Wynton Marsalis served a week-long residency at the Meadows School. While a student, Hart belonged to a band called the Doubting Scholars. During a gig at a coffee shop near campus, Marsalis and his septet surprised the band by joining them for a half-hour jam session. Hart, who plays guitar and violin, has toured and recorded with such bands as St. Vincent, The Polyphonic Spree, Broken Social Scene and Other Lives, among others. His feature film score debut for *Ain't Them Bodies Saints* garnered him critical praise, including being named among the 25 Faces of Independent Film in 2013 by *Filmmaker Magazine*. His other feature film and television scores include Disney's *Pete's Dragon*, *Eating Animals* documentary, *SMILF* on Showtime and *The Exorcist* on Fox TV. **Sherri Daye Scott**, an Atlanta-based writer and producer, is developing *Season of the Witches*. She wrote the script for the independent thriller, which will be shot in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Savannah, Georgia, in June 2019. Find more information at [seasonofthewitches.com](http://seasonofthewitches.com).

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## 00

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**Jim F. Andrews, Jr.** has joined the law firm PPGMR in Little Rock as counsel for its office in El Dorado, Arkansas. **Bianca Andujo** has joined Berkadia's Seniors Housing and Healthcare Group as a senior director on its mortgage finance team. **Drew Eckman** has launched PostitPlayit, a peer-to-peer sports competition platform that replaces traditional fantasy sports. Find more information at [postitplayit.com](http://postitplayit.com). **Jimmy Gibson**, P.E., a nationally experienced environmental services senior manager, has been tapped to lead the environmental practice for Freese and

Nichols, Inc. Master Sergeant **Greta Houk Richard** has played the French horn as a member of the President's Own United States Marine Band since 2000. The band's mission is to perform for the President of the United States and Commandant of the Marine Corps. In addition to the 200-300 performance dates at state dinners, bill signings and White House holiday receptions, the band goes on tour each October visiting a region of the United States. During its 100th concert tour this fall, the band performed at locations in the Midwest.

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## 01

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**Nishant Batra** has joined pure-play company Veoneer, Inc. as its executive vice president and chief technology officer. **Jean M. Birch** joined the CorePoint Lodging Inc. board of directors last summer. Birch is an independent public company director and veteran executive administrator. She is the board chair for Papa Murphy's Holdings and also serves as a director for Forrester Research. She received the Cox Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007. **Noelle Garsek**, a shareholder in the Fort Worth office of Winstead PC, was selected for *The Best Lawyers in America 2019*, real estate law. **Gina Ginsburg** is the co-founder of The Dough Dough, which serves safe-to-eat raw cookie dough and cookie dough-based desserts. Visit [thedoughdough.com](http://thedoughdough.com) for more information. **Kyle Noonan** and **Josh Sepkowitz** have opened their second combination bar/dog park MUTTS Canine Cantina, this one in Fort Worth. MUTTS is one of four brands under the Free Range Concepts restaurant management company umbrella co-founded in 2011 by Noonan and Sepkowitz. Their other establishments include Bowl and Barrel, The General Public and The Rustic.

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## 02

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**Cleve Bellar** joined AppRiver as chief marketing officer, bringing more than 20 years of transformative marketing success and a proven track record of driving



compelling digital brand experiences and disrupting industries for next-gen growth.

**Christopher L. Dodson**, partner at Bracewell, LLP, has received the *Texas Lawyer* Professional Excellence Award in the On the Rise category, which recognizes lawyers under the age of 40 who have wielded influence in their practice areas in Texas and beyond. **Mary-Cathryn Kolb** has received the Small Business Person of the Year award in the Emerging Entrepreneur category by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. Kolb is the founder and CEO of brrr®, which develops cooling performance fabrics that enhance comfort in apparel, uniforms and textiles. Kolb spent 15 years in the apparel industry working with top brands, including Spanx, Seven Jeans, TOMS Shoes and Von Dutch. **John W. Via, III**, P.E., C.P.E.M., was named to the Circle of Distinction of the College of Engineering at Drexel University. He also serves as a trustee for the University of Virginia's School of Engineering.

## 03

**Cameron W. George** has been appointed interim chief financial officer of Sanchez Energy, where he has worked since 2016 as senior vice president of capital markets.

**Agnes Muthoni**, director of talent development at Andela in Kenya, Africa, was profiled recently in *Aptantech* magazine about her dedication to mentoring the country's young IT professionals. **Darius J. Pierce**, also known as Shangela LaQuifa Wadley on the television program *RuPaul's Drag Race*, delivered a breakout performance as a cabaret performer in a drag bar in the 2018 remake of the film *A Star Is Born*. Pierce, the founder of Say What Entertainment, a Los Angeles-based LGBT talent management company, just wrapped up a world tour that took him to more than 180 cities and every continent, except Antarctica, where he hopes to perform this year. **Ana Rodriguez**, director of the Latino Leadership Initiative at SMU's Cox School of Business, was selected as a 2019 Minority Business Leader Awards honoree by the *Dallas Business*

*Journal*. The award recognizes men and women from across North Texas who have demonstrated outstanding business and community leadership.

## 04

**Tracey Scoggin Bailey**, a shareholder in the Dallas office of Winstead PC, was selected for *The Best Lawyers in America 2019*, real estate law. **Alex Cheronos** has joined telecommunications company STO Mobile, Ltd. in Jersey City, N.J., as its head of product development. **Jeanne Katz**, a shareholder in the Dallas office of Winstead PC, was selected for *The Best Lawyers in America 2019*, real estate law. **Adam Ziegler**, vice president and owner of Illinois-based Ziegler's Ace Hardware stores, recently opened a new store in Bartlett, Illinois, the company's ninth location.

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## 05

**Meghan Bartos** has brought her luxury interior and décor design brand, Kanju, to the Dallas Design District. **Hillary Fischer** is the co-founder of gaan + co, which specializes in on-the-go body care products including full-body deodorizing wipes and mosquito repellent. More information is available at [gaan-co.com](http://gaan-co.com). **James Loomstein**, managing partner and co-owner of Rogue Marketing, a Dallas-based digital marketing and strategy agency, teaches a course on digital strategy for entrepreneurship as an adjunct faculty member in SMU's Cox School of Business. His firm worked with the school's Caruth Institute for Entrepreneurship on a two-year digital marketing campaign for the Starting A Business certificate program that exceeded expectations.

## PRECIOUS PONIES



**Ethan James Castro**, born on March 27, 2018, is the son of Daniella Nabuco '08 and Andrew Castro.



**Dean Von Dollens**, born on May 7, 2018, is the son of Mickey Dollens '11 and Taylor Dollens.



**Ashton Andrew Fox**, born on December 26, 2017, is the son of Ashley Fox '16 and Andrew Fox.



**Elizabeth Grace Peel**, born in April 2018, is the daughter of Paige Redwine Peel '07 and James Peel. Elizabeth was welcomed by her older sister, Katherine, and grandparents Bill Peel '72 and Kathy Peel '72.



**Camille Emory Sefton**, born on November 28, 2017, is the daughter of Kimberly Sefton '05 and Ty Sefton.



**Eva Ruth Villarosa**, born on July 21, 2018, is the daughter of Lisa Coe Villarosa '04 and Marshal Villarosa. She is the granddaughter of Janice Becker Coe '74 and Alan Coe '73.



**Sydney Kyles**, born on November 21, 2011, and **Jetson Kyles**, born on August 18, 2017, are the children of Devin Kyles '11 and Edmund Brumant, III.



**Jazlyn Lee**, born on November 8, 2014, and **Joella Lee**, born on December 3, 2012, are the daughters of Crystal Hoang Lee '06.

**Gabrielle Massey** has joined the Office of the Attorney General of Texas major crimes division. Previously she was the special victims unit chief prosecutor at the McClennan County District Attorney's Office in Waco, Texas. **Courtney Underwood**, who founded two programs to assist rape victims – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center (DARCC) – in North Texas in 2010, has opened the first 24/7 SANE clinic in North Texas. Located inside The Turning Point Rape Crisis Center in Plano, Texas, the free clinic offers shorter wait times to be examined by a specially trained nurse, as well as access to a certified victim advocate. In 2016 she received the Exemplary Alumnus Award from SMU's Dedman College Department of Psychology.

## 06

**Syceda Amin** has been recognized among the Top 50 Women Lawyers by the Texas Diversity Council. Amin is a special counsel in the Dallas office of Littler, a firm specializing in employment and labor law. **Juan Araujo** earned promotion and tenure to associate professor and assistant department head, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, Texas A&M University-Commerce. He has written widely about the teaching of writing and its instruction in culturally diverse classrooms for peer reviewed journals, reports and book chapters. He has presented research in France, Austria, Poland, Cuba and throughout the U.S. Prior to joining the university, he was a bilingual elementary school teacher in the Dallas school district. **Grant Clayton** received a Ph.D. in finance from Northwestern University in summer 2018 and is now an assistant professor of finance at the University of Kentucky. **Brad Conlin** was among the creative arts nominees for the 70th Emmy Awards. Conlin was nominated in the category of Outstanding Picture Editing for Variety Programming, for his work on *The Late Late Show Carpool Karaoke Primetime Special 2018*.

Submit your Precious Ponies to [smumag@smu.edu](mailto: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.



**Jordan Hale** has been promoted to deputy chief of staff for Gov. Greg Abbott. **Stephen F. O'Bryan** has been named senior vice president and chief global business development officer of L3 Technologies, where he facilitates new business and serves as liaison with the U.S. Department of Defense, military branches, the U.S. Congress and other government agencies. His career in aerospace and defense spans 30 years. **Ava Franks Roberts** has been named executive director of the Arkansas Environmental Federation. **Matthew Slataper** has joined Ramtech Building Systems as its vice president. **Derek Taylor** has joined Husch Blackwell, in Milwaukee, Wis., as a partner in the law firm's financial services and capital markets group.

## 07

**John Adolph** has joined the Dallas-based Winstead Real Estate Development and Investments Practice Group as a shareholder. **Caroline Wells Chandler's** contemporary artwork was part of the exhibit *Extra* at the Columbian College of the Arts & Sciences Gallery 102 in Washington, D.C. This exhibition featured the artist's bright-colored and crochet figures exploring "queerness and the art historical canon." Chandler's works have been exhibited internationally. Based in Queens, New York, he teaches painting and drawing at the Pratt Institute, Montclair State University and Norwalk Community College. **Kelly P. Chen**, partner at Munck, Willson, Mandala, has received the *Texas Lawyer* Professional Excellence Award in the On the Rise category, which recognizes lawyers under the age of 40 who have wielded influence in their practice areas in Texas and beyond. **Rachel Day** received a promotion to senior tax manager at Curtis Blakely & Co., a certified public accounting firm she joined in 2008. **Samantha Cooper O'Kane** joins Dallas-based Generational LLC as associate general counsel. **Michelle Rich** has been named the Ellen and Harry S. Parker III Assistant Curator of the Arts of the Americas at the Dallas Museum of Art.

## 08

**Mathew Busby** joined the Dallas-based planning, engineering and program management firm Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. **Benton Lewis**, Dallas-based partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, has been named a winner of the *Texas Lawyer* Professional Excellence Awards in the On the Rise category, which recognizes lawyers under the age of 40 who have wielded influence in their practice areas in Texas and beyond. **Ella Mae McDonald**, the presiding elder of the Greater Dallas District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was a featured speaker last summer at Grace United Methodist Church, in Abilene, Texas. **Thomas Morstead**, punter for the NFL's New Orleans Saints, was lauded last winter by Minnesotans. In response to his good sportsmanship during a division playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings in January 2018, Vikings fans donated more than \$200,000 to Morstead's What You Give Will Grow Foundation that supports pediatric cancer. The foundation's name stems from a quote by Frank Gansz, Sr., who was Morstead's coach at SMU, "What you give will grow and what you keep you lose." As for the \$200,000, Morstead donated it, plus another \$25,000 from Saints' Coach Sean Payton, to the Minnesota Children's Hospital. **Lisa Worley** has published *The Only Father I Ever Knew: How a Fatherless Child Finally Found True Love*.

## 09

**David Fulz** has received a promotion to senior vice president of Dallas Special Projects at TDIndustries, where he has worked since 2008. **Tessa Hoskin** has published *Alpha Females Unleashed: From the Boardroom to the Bedroom*, under the pen name C.C. Lyons. The book is a candid examination of qualities in women she admires and considers mentors. A mentor herself, Hoskin offers career development guidance to individuals in the nonprofit and small business/startup arenas. She is a member of the Cox Alumni Board and

received the Black Alumni History Maker Award in 2017. **Taylor Thornley Keeney** is the director of strategic communications and advocacy at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, in Richmond, Virginia. **Jennifer Jones Paton** has been promoted to president and CEO of the Colorado BioScience Association in Denver. **Andrés Ruzo**, founder and director of the Boiling River Project, was profiled by *National Geographic* in a photo essay. Currently he is completing work on his Ph.D. in earth sciences. Learn more at boilingriver.org. **Peter Sefzik** has received a promotion to Comerica Bank's executive vice president – business banking, overseeing that function nationwide. He had served as Comerica's Texas market president since 2015. **Amir Tabei** joined the Dallas Museum of Art as its director of information technology.

## 10

**Kelvin Beachum, Jr.** (M.L.S. '12) was among the young entrepreneurs named to the 2019 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list. In the NFL, he plays left tackle for the New York Jets, but off the field, he has stakes in more than 20 companies focusing on manufacturing, agriculture and robotics. He's also involved in philanthropic causes that support STEM education for underserved youth and fight hunger on a local, national and global scale. Beachum received the 2018 Emerging Leader Award from SMU and has been nominated for the NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year Award. Serial entrepreneurs **Nezare Chafni** and **Shaun Moore** met as students in SMU's Cox School of Business. In 2013, they started Chui, a smart doorbell featuring facial recognition capabilities. However, they soon discovered weaknesses in existing technology and pivoted to developing better facial recognition software. They spun a new company, Trueface, out of Chui in 2017 and have raised more than \$2 million in funding. Find more information at trueface.ai. **Ryan Groves** has joined the Muncie, Indiana-based law firm McKinney and Malapit as a partner, and is its first patent attorney. Recently he was included in *The Star Press* and

M Magazine 20-Under-40 list, which recognizes professional accomplishments and community contributions. **Hope Hicks** joined 21st Century Fox as its executive vice president and chief communications officer, based in Los Angeles.

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**Stirling Barrett**, founder of the luxury eyewear brand Krewe, was among the young entrepreneurs named to the 2019 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list. Learn more at [krewe.com](http://krewe.com). **Keith Eppich** has joined the Tyler Junior College, in Tyler, Texas, faculty as a history professor. **Sana Merchant**, who advises the NFL's 32 clubs' executive teams on their social media strategy, was among the young entrepreneurs named to the 2019 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list. **Stewart Palley** has published *Terra Flamma: Wildfires at Night* (Schiffer Publishing, Ltd.), a collection of powerful images of California wildfires over five fire seasons as captured by the Southern California-based photographer. Learn more at [terraflamma.org](http://terraflamma.org). **Katharine Gentsch Quinn**, based in New York since 2011, was accepted into the 2018-19 Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation Observership class. Rev. **John Saint** is the senior pastor at Cross Tracks Church, a United Methodist Community, in Liberty Hill, Texas. **Ryan Scripps** is the new owner of two North Texas-area Texadelphia: The Original Texas Cheesesteak stores, on Greenville Avenue in Dallas, and at MacArthur Boulevard in Irving. **Lauren Smart** was among 35 outstanding SMU professors to receive a 2017-18 HOPE Award from SMU's Department of Residence Life and Student Housing (RLSH). Smart is a professor of practice in Meadows School of the Arts.

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12

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**Rahm Carrington** displayed pieces of his Texas-inspired photography as part of the *Uniform 300* exhibit in San Antonio last fall, during the city's tricentennial celebration. A self-taught photographer, Carrington's career started in live

music videography with the Austin-based concert film production company TourGigs. His photography portfolio merges Texas, musical, street and life-style imagery.

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**Cole Beasley**, wide receiver for the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, released a full-length rap album called *The Autobiography*. A recent feature in *D Magazine* chronicles the inspiration and creation of the work, which can be found at iTunes and Spotify. **Hillary Fisher** has joined the Huie law firm in Birmingham, Alabama, as an associate counsel. **Dale O. Fresch** has joined Harper Bates & Champion LLP as an associate with the law firm's litigation group. **Johnathan Jordan** has joined the law firm of Kane Russell Coleman Logan in Dallas as a litigation associate. **Kelly Kraft** received a surprise opportunity to play in the PGA Championship tournament in St. Louis last August, after another player withdrew due to injury. Kraft finished his play at one over par the first day, and five over par after the second round. **Trenton B. Owens**, vice president and financial advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, was named to the *Forbes*/SHOOK America's Top Next-Generation Wealth Advisors list in July 2017 and July 2018. The list includes 1,000 young, talented advisors who represent the future of the wealth management industry. **Brandon Warman** has co-founded Cooklist, an app that helps users decide what to prepare for dinner using ingredients on hand. The new app received \$250,000 in seed funding from venture capital firm Techstars. Learn more at [cooklist.co](http://cooklist.co).

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**Suresh Gunasekaran** is associate vice president of University of Iowa Health Care and CEO of UI Hospitals and Clinics, in Iowa City, Iowa. **Abby Roth Jennings** has accepted a position as assistant professor of chemistry at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. **Taylor Weaver** splits his time

between practicing law as a corporate associate at Winston & Strawn LLP, in Chicago, and running the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Energy Garden, a nonprofit he founded in 2017 to assist minority college students with STEM backgrounds with resources to launch their careers.

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**Santiago Cañon-Valencia** has received the János Starker Foundation Award, a prize given to cellists ages 30 or younger to support "an already significant" music career. **Jewel Lipps** received a National Science Foundation 2018 Graduate Research Fellowship award, which supports the graduate research training of high-potential, early-career scientists and engineers. **Sarah Meyer** (M.Ed '16) and **Frank Fallon, Jr.** were married on June 30, 2018, in Atlanta, Georgia with friends from the Class of 2015 in attendance. **Astria L. Smith** has been promoted to senior executive director for Annual Giving and Alumni Relations at SMU. She provides strategic leadership for engagement, solicitation and stewardship of the SMU community. Smith serves on the board for the Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr. Community Outreach Center and on the advisory board for SMU's Perkins School Center for Preaching Excellence.

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**Edward Allegra**, CEO and co-founder of BioLum Sciences, was recognized in May by *PM360* magazine with a 2018 ELITE Award for entrepreneurship. The publication named the company one of the 14 most innovative startups in 2017. Allegra created BioLum in 2015 with fellow alumni **Michael Quimbar '17**, chief technology officer, and **Jack Reynolds '15**, COO and CFO. **Brendan Healy** has joined Canadian Stage performing arts company, in Toronto, as artistic director. **Prescott Line** joined the Farmington Hills Police Department, in Michigan, after graduating from the Oakland Police Academy last summer. **R. Kent Love** has joined Bell Nunnally as an associate and member of



its litigation and bankruptcy and financial restructuring practice areas.

**Charlie Weber** won his first Emmy Award for Outstanding Creative Achievement in Interactive Media within a Scripted Program for HBO's *Westworld*, Season 2, campaign. He has worked at HBO for two years on the digital media team and was awarded a Gold Cannes Lion for his work on *SXSWestworld*, a *Westworld* experience at SXSW. He is currently working on marketing campaigns for *Game of Thrones*, the final season; *Euphoria*, a new series starring singer Zendaya for which Drake serves as executive producer; and *High Maintenance*, Season 3.

## 17

**Olga Amelkina-Vera** served as an artist-in-residence last fall at the Harrison School for the Arts in Lakeland, Florida. She maintains a busy touring schedule as a soloist and conductor, and is on the full-time faculty at Collin College in Plano, Texas. **Jeremiah Jensen** has joined *D CEO* magazine as its commercial real estate editor. **Austen Massey** was sworn in last summer in Dumas, Texas, as the second assistant district attorney and first assistant county attorney serving Moore County. **Caroline Olson**, a systems engineer and member of the Cisco Enterprise Networking Group based in San Francisco, California, was named Associate Systems Engineer of the Quarter (North American operations) by Cisco Systems last year. **Gianni Windahl** has joined the CBS News affiliate, KOSA-TV, in the Midland area as a television news reporter. **Jaclyn Wahlberg** has joined Winstead PC in Austin as an associate in the law firm's real estate development and investments group.

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**Daniel Atkinson** has joined McGinnis Lochridge as an associate in the firm's employment, labor and employee benefits group in Dallas. **J.T. Shiverick** has been named the Polo Training Foundation's 2017-18 Male Collegiate Player of the Year.

# In Memoriam

*The following deaths were reported to SMU between 6/2/18 and 11/27/18:*

- '36 **Mary Forrest Johnston** 11/11/15  
**Eleanor Powell Knight** 5/26/18
- '37 **Lucile Johnson Fuqua** 5/13/18
- '38 **Ann Pritchett Conner** 4/22/17 **Cordelia Lowrance Jordan** 12/31/17 **Leona Atlas Lefkowitz** 12/21/14
- '40 **Dr. Oneta McAlpin Hinson** 1/13/18  
**Sidney Allen Holmgrewen** 9/23/18  
**Joann Weigel Little** 10/26/18 **Margaret Bender Smith** 6/29/18 **Emily Hereford Surles** 9/4/18
- '41 **John J. Crim, Jr.** 6/3/13 **Rosalie Brown Gaines** 8/27/15 **Anne Clymer Goddard** 4/15/13 **Joe T. Ridgway, Jr.** 11/24/15  
**Marguerite Sturdivant Santry** 2/26/14
- '42 **Margaret Moore Jordan** 7/17/18
- '43 **Rev. Clarence W. Canafax** 11/7/13
- '44 **Nora Harlan Bilton** 7/9/18
- '45 **Dorothy Taylor Beckham** 12/9/14 **Anna Parker Corley** 9/20/18
- '46 **Paul T. Glanville, Jr.** 6/4/18 **Rev. Dr. William M. Harris** '49 5/23/18 **Grace Williams Russell** 6/1/18
- '47 **Richard A. Mayes, Jr.** 3/21/18 **Sara Murphey Sealey** 5/16/18 **Marjorie Carter Zappone** 6/1/18
- '48 **Charles R. Baker** '55 7/6/16 **David L. Boren** 9/22/18 **Rosemary Elliott Church** 5/28/18 **Claude W. Ferebee, Jr.** 6/18/18  
**Rev. Dr. Gilbert L. Ferrell** 6/20/18 **Dr. Arthur B. Ingalls** '49 9/20/18 **Polly Robbins Jones** 6/5/18 **Natalie Baker Lewis** '72 6/12/18 **Rev. Dr. Oscar A. McBrayer** 7/1/18 **Tasos J. Pappadas** 10/27/18 **Jones L. Ridgeway** 8/23/18  
**Mary J. Stripling** 6/5/18
- '49 **Charles A. Baxter** 6/23/18 **William J. Bradley** 12/31/16 **Howard J. Cox, Sr.** 6/18/18 **Felix B. Craddock** 12/1/13 **Sue Cooper Davis** 9/19/18 **Robert G. Kisler** 10/15/18 **Orloff L. Lake, Jr.** 7/20/18  
**Pauline Donnell Neff** 7/27/18 **David D. Redman, Jr.** 8/25/18 **Joseph A. Rice, Jr.** 6/1/18 **Elaine Goldberg Robinson** 10/14/18 **James L. Stone** 10/16/18

- Kenneth S. Voigt** 3/21/17 **Earl H. Yeager, Jr.** 8/15/18
- '50 **Yancy A. Andres, Jr.** 10/28/18 **Martha Jo Smith Archer** 6/17/18 **Mary Glanville Autrey** 5/16/15 **Albert L. Breeland** 7/9/18 **Josef Ehrenberger** '61 8/5/18 **Jim A. Eitelman, Jr.** '77 9/1/18  
**Fred D. Gealy, Jr.** 8/3/15 **John Gulick** 3/13/13 **Irvin L. Levy** 9/7/18 **Yvonne Forester Page** 7/18/18 **Mary Carpenter Reppeto** 6/7/18 **Eugene R. Simmons** 7/1/13 **William B. Skiles** 11/12/18 **Frank J. Spiva, Jr.** 6/9/18 **Robert G. Vial** 9/30/18 **Erroll Wendland** '51 6/3/18
- '51 **Lonnie D. Cardwell** 11/3/18 **Glenn B. Christopher** 3/3/17 **Ann Mendenhall Gibbons** 6/23/18 **James L. Gilbow** 7/12/18 **Irvin C. Hatridge, Jr.** 5/30/18  
**David O. Martin** '67 9/17/18 **Thomas W. Masterson, III** 7/12/18 **Thomas C. McBride** 8/3/18 **John W. McKee** 8/23/18 **Carol Havighurst Purdy** 6/27/18 **Ramona Curry Roberts** 10/17/18  
**Dr. Janet Curtis Teddlie** '59 11/19/18 **Elizabeth Huffhines Van Amburgh** 11/3/18 **Winifred Rankin Wadzita** 11/1/18
- '52 **Jo Ann Williams Chandler** 7/18/18 **Marilee Calhoun Deer** 6/27/18 **Farris A. Hogue, Jr.** 10/16/18 **Ralph B. Kimball** 8/30/18 **Darwin L. Lucas** 7/23/18 **Dr. Douglass M. Modisett** 7/4/18 **James O. O'Connor** 9/29/18 **Ann Malcom Olesky** 6/29/18 **Charles E. Prichard, Jr.** '54 8/6/18 **William F. Thomas** 8/21/18 **Dr. Ira E. Williams, Jr.** 6/25/18
- '53 **Weldon A. Amerine** 8/17/18 **Dr. John H. Brand** '91 6/28/18 **Marion L. Brockette, Sr.** 10/19/18 **Oneita Palmer Field** 4/23/15 **James E. Headlee** 10/19/18 **Rev. Kenneth W. Hoehns** 7/31/18 **Roy W. Howell, Jr.** 10/8/18 **Mary Pool Hurley** 8/11/18 **Joan Whitten Lynch** 11/22/18  
**Rev. Floyd M. Nolin, Jr.** 10/24/18 **Stanley Subhan** 8/10/18 **Wayne L. Taylor** 7/25/18 **Arch W. Van Meter** '72 9/21/18 **Douglas D. Webb** 11/22/18



# In Memoriam

- '54 **Mary Richie Abdo** '69 7/2/18 **Betty Hearn Batts** 11/1/18 Rev. **Allen E. Baumgartner** 6/27/18 **Kleber L. Breeden, Jr.** 11/15/18 **William G. Chesnut, Jr.** 6/13/18 Hon. **Ben F. Ellis** 10/23/18 **Sammy Orman Frazier** 10/23/18 **Thomas S. Gale** 2/1/17 **Romey L. Hall** 7/4/18 **Henry N. Kaspar** 8/20/18 **James S. Robertson, Jr.** '57 7/21/18 **Frances Anastopulos Sonntag** 8/1/18 **Lorena E. Hawkins Thompson** 10/14/18
- '55 **Dorothy Looney Armiger** 1/3/18 Dr. **Emma Allen Ferguson** 5/23/18 **Jimmie Humphreys Gilbert** 3/16/18 **William H. Hudspeth** 10/16/18 **William R. Huser** 9/26/18 **Ivan Irwin, Jr.** 8/24/18 '57 **Byron D. Jarvis** 7/13/18 **Lucien Leinfelder** '60 4/19/18 **William F. O'Bryant** 10/21/18
- '56 **Rosemary Brock Bailey** 1/2/18 **Jacqueline Smith Coulter** 10/8/18 Rev. Dr. **Jack D. Heacock** 7/9/18 **John B. Hollingsworth** 10/31/18 Dr. **William F. Lucas** 8/11/18 **Jimmie E. Parham** 10/12/18 **Sandra Rike Roe** 7/17/18 Rev. **William O. Smith** 9/3/18 **Ton K. Suh** 9/12/18 Rev. **Clay A. Yeager** 6/4/18
- '57 **Gwen Meier Branton** 7/4/18 **John M. Cunningham** 1/23/18 Dr. **Norma Wilson Holmgren** 6/8/18 Rev. **George V. Isbell** 2/25/18 Judge **Alvin G. Khoury** '59 11/19/18 **Juanita Holbrook Rizzo** 10/23/18 **Kathryn Hartman Scott** 6/27/18
- '58 **Edwin R. Berry** 2/9/14 **Larry C. Brooks** 7/31/18 **William L. Childers** '61 7/1/18 Rev. **Buford W. Finley** 9/11/18 **Doritheia Webb Gibson** 9/19/18 **Mary Dorchester Harris** 5/25/18 Dr. **George M. Hess** 7/19/18 **John F. Keller, Jr.** 7/20/18 **James W. Leftwich** 7/23/18 **Elissa Berwald Sommerfield** '59 11/16/18
- '59 Rev. **Joe D. Adams** 7/23/18 **Willard R. Baker** '61 7/2/18 **David M. Beckwitt** 10/21/18 Rev. Dr. **Henry W. Blakeman, Jr.** 10/2/18 **Norman E. Depew** 9/20/18 **Aubrey A. Duncan, Jr.** 10/11/17 **Gary R. Goodman, Sr.** 10/13/16 **Jack M. Jonon** 7/25/18 **Lloyd D. Kerns** 9/13/18 **John W. Lodewick** '65 7/11/18 **Harriett Booziotis Lontos** 11/1/18 Rev. **Robert I. Phelps** '65 8/24/18 **Dudley D. Taylor** 5/28/18
- '60 **James R. Bozman** 7/30/18 **Sanoa Falmlen Hensley** 7/3/18 **Roy A. Kull, Jr.** 10/28/18 **Lyda Fortson Littlefield** 5/27/18 **Royal W. Moore** 8/13/18 **Janice Newsom Tapp** 5/25/18 **Clyde G. Taylor** 5/30/18
- '61 **Morris R. Baxter** 8/15/18 **Oliver P. Clay** 10/2/18 **Frances Voss Clem** 12/19/15 Dr. **Rolando V. Del Carmen** 11/1/18 **Hugh R. Gedling** 10/29/14 **Wilton Gravley** 10/12/18 **Howard S. Hoover, Jr.** 11/5/18 **Charles A. Joplin, Jr.** 8/10/18 **Blanch Butler Lane** 8/8/18 **William R. Ralston** 9/19/18 **Lee H. Smith** 9/19/18 **James R. Taylor** 8/18/18
- '62 **Peter N. Berkowitz** 10/8/18 **Larry E. Howell** 7/7/18 Rev. **Wayne C. Jarvis** 9/19/18 **Eldon V. McDowell** 11/7/18 **Tomlin W. Moore** 7/29/18 **William B. Pasley** '65, '74 6/25/18 Rev. **Harold G. Sassman** 8/16/18 **Richard J. Schmigle** 8/17/18 **Donald R. Shelby** 11/12/18 **Jack B. Sommerfield** 5/8/17 **William G. Stanfield** '68 11/2/18 Dr. **Judith W. Thomas** 6/5/18
- '63 Rev. **Maurice E. Adkins** 7/17/18 **Julia Board Butts** 6/6/18 **James F. Carney** 8/30/18 Dr. **Shirle A. Debenham** 7/5/18 **David L. Fair** '65 10/11/18 **Edward H. Geisel, Jr.** 11/11/18 **Bernadine Dye Guyton** 6/5/18 **John H. Henderson** 7/15/18 **Barbara H. Johnson** 11/16/18 **Juliann Weida McGinnis** 9/27/18 **Patricia Muske** 8/1/18 **Betsy Blackmon Smith** 10/19/18 Rev. **Jarrell L. Tharp** 5/24/18
- '64 **Charles D. Barrett** 5/30/18 Rev. **Ralph E. Cooper** 10/31/18 **Carolyn Cordill Fulton** 10/9/18 **Donald R. McCann, Jr.** 10/6/18 **Wellington B. Russell** 7/11/18 **Allen A. Shaffer** 9/22/18
- '65 **Charles F. Baker** 12/28/17 **John F. Ball** 11/12/18 **Molly Porter Burke** 11/7/18 **Kineson Jung** 6/16/18 **Roy L. King** 9/28/18 **Joel Kolbensvik** '67, '69 10/1/18 **Fredrick W. Schwendimann, III** '73 10/18/18
- '66 **Charles C. Alsop, IV** 7/10/18 **David T. Bettler** '67 12/6/17 **Joseph L. Burns, Jr.** 10/20/18 **John L. Coble, Jr.** 7/3/18 **Weaver G. Lafferty** 7/8/18 Dr. **Roger M. MacNeill** 10/1/17 **Wayne L. McCully** 10/28/18 **Warren K. Rudolph** 7/22/14 **Sandra Hildyard Squibb** 6/11/18 **Thomas B. Tansil** 9/5/18 **John H. Tidwell** 5/21/18 **Dianne Smith West** 8/14/18 **David L. Yordy** 11/18/18
- '67 **John T. Benton** 7/26/18 **Thomas H. Boone** 7/8/18 **Daniel W. Buxton** 9/16/18 **Lewis C. Crosswell** 9/5/18 **Kathleen M. Fitzpatrick** '73 3/11/18 **Richard N. Key** '71 11/9/18 **Andrew Konradi** 7/5/18 **Joe S. Macey** 7/31/18 **Ted K. Vollmer** 6/9/18
- '68 Dr. **Terrence B. Doan** 4/5/18 **Susan Rogan Fox, Esq.** 4/29/16 **Diane Rankin Kidd** 7/10/18 **Susan Lyons Pons** 7/16/18 **Paul A. Pulliam** '71 9/21/18 **Sandra E. Robinson** 12/1/17 Dr. **Chester T. Roskey** 7/11/18 **Daniel R. Sheehy, Jr.** 6/29/18 **Joseph R. Thompson** 10/25/18
- '69 **Elizabeth Logerot Aday** 8/7/18 **Charles P. Gillespie, Jr.** '94 10/30/17 Dr. **William E. Hogan, II** 5/15/18 **David W. Zimny** 7/8/18
- '70 **Milton H. Agte** 5/11/18 **John M. Alexander** '77 5/13/18 **Marolyn G. Banner** 9/21/18 **Joe D. Brooks** '91 5/24/18 **John T. Campbell** 11/6/18 **Elizabeth Huckaby Cantrill** 8/21/18 Dr. **Emily Snodgrass Davidson** 6/7/18 **Sandra Koenig Dingler** 9/17/18 **William A. Frazee, Jr.** 7/7/18 **William A. Gay** 7/10/18 Dr. **Brian J. Mitchell** 5/29/18 **Beverly Beard Skelton** '71 8/9/18 **William M. Sullivant** 7/13/18 **Anthony J. Vespa, Jr.** '85 9/3/18 **Betty Gantt Withers** 11/4/18
- '71 Judge **Billie J. Bell** 11/9/18 **Gary E. Conrad** 11/17/18 Hon. **John C. Kolstad** '74 8/13/18 **Edward R. Nunnally, Jr.**





- 10/12/18 Dr. **Alice Bridges Roska** '90  
11/9/18 Rev. **James J. Welch** 11/22/18  
**Michael L. Williams** '74 9/17/18 Dr.  
**John C. Young** 7/13/18
- '72 Dr. **Joseph D. Cointment, III** 8/5/18  
Rev. **Thomas C. Elliott, Jr.** 5/16/18 Dr.  
**Marianna Paone Gabbi** 9/11/18 Dr.  
**Robert P. Lightner** 8/3/18 **James M.  
McPherson** 6/12/18 **John H. Pickett,  
Jr.** 8/11/18 **Gwendolyn Willis Sargent**  
8/21/18 **Adair Bryant Simon** 11/8/18
- '73 **Robert Carvell, Jr.** 6/19/18 **Billy W.  
Flanagan** '76 10/8/18 **Mary Luker  
Hartley** 11/16/18 Dr. **Kim G. Smith**  
6/25/18
- '74 **Richard H. Belz** 10/13/18 **Donald M.  
Brown** 9/23/18 **Lea F. Courington**  
6/30/18 **Don E. Drake** 7/28/18 **John L.  
Turner, Sr.** 8/15/18
- '75 **Leslie Blandford Akins** 8/1/18 **Ronald  
E. Corley** 4/2/14 **June Hubbard Jones**  
10/24/18 **Robert K. Pace** 11/1/18 **Verna  
Hicks Patton** 5/29/18 **Clarence W.  
Warren, Sr.** 7/21/18
- '76 Dr. **James D. Caddell** 11/3/18 **Kenneth  
D. Holtzclaw** 7/8/18 **Francille Wright  
Hooten** 10/9/18 **Joy Kroeker New**  
3/21/14 **Joe M. Owen** 9/2/18
- '77 Dr. **Paul M. Davis, III** 8/25/18 Dr.  
**Rhudolph D. Martinez, Jr.** 7/31/18
- '78 **John A. Baer** 6/28/18 Rev. **Terry  
D. Brown** 12/8/17 **Edna Johnstone  
Clemens** '11 5/30/18 **Hugh R. Craft**  
6/15/18 Rev. **Barbara Erickson Harper**  
3/30/18 **Robert S. Knowlton** 7/27/18 **Kip  
M. Kugler** 9/18/18 **Margaret N. Stratton**  
10/27/18 **Christopher W. Venters** 6/7/18
- '79 Dr. **Terry L. Gallion** 7/29/18 **Lee H.  
Lemson** 10/28/18 **Alice J. Pursley-Davis**  
6/2/18
- '80 **Elizabeth Nicholas Clark** 10/26/18
- '81 Rev. **Kinard D. Hensarling, Jr.** 1/26/18  
**Betsy Davis Rice** 10/8/18
- '82 **James V. Cornehls** 10/15/18 **Robert H.  
Crawford** 9/1/17 **Michael A. Dexter**  
11/8/18 **Eric Farabaugh** 6/7/18 **James**

- R. Kelley** 7/12/18 **Marcia F. Pennell**  
11/17/18
- '83 **Paul D. Allen** 6/25/18 **Charles K.  
LaDue** 10/29/18 **Judy J. Tarter** 9/28/18
- '84 **Anthony C. Wells** 6/6/18
- '85 Dr. **George H. Black, Jr.** 8/31/18 Dr.  
**Ernest G. Bylander** '88 8/16/18 **Barbara  
Lemmer Jessup** 9/11/18 **Rebecca  
Freeman Price** 6/19/18 **Danny G.  
Stratton** 8/8/18 Rev. **Joe L. Vowell**  
11/4/18
- '86 **James H. Hall** 3/17/14 **Lisa L. Hayman**  
9/27/18 **Henry D. Lewis** 9/13/18 Rev.  
**Charles H. Stewart** 10/11/18 **Catrina  
Turner Whitmire** 11/1/18
- '87 **William A. Carter** 6/8/18 Fr. **Craig V.  
Heenan** 8/6/18
- '88 **John P. Loza** 6/19/18 **John D. Marziotti**  
11/10/18
- '89 **Elizabeth Botello Marchetti** 9/19/18  
**Keith M. Markham** 8/23/18
- '92 **John P. Holmes** 11/13/16 Rev. **Susan  
Ross Kemp** 10/28/18
- '93 **Lynda J. Norwood** 6/11/18 **Charles  
O. Pennington, Jr.** 9/16/18 **Scott A.  
Soignier** 10/21/18 **Glenn B. Young**  
7/13/18
- '94 **Mark W. Allan** 8/13/18 **Connie M.  
Young** 6/8/18
- '95 **William T. Dickey, Jr.** 8/6/18 **Kanishka  
Raja** 7/20/18
- '97 **Raymond S. Hertz** 8/25/18 **Dwight H.  
Miles, Jr.** 10/6/18
- '00 Lt. Col. **James R. Beam**, USA, Ret.  
9/27/18 **Matthew O. Belew** 11/12/18
- '01 **Karen M. Wieting** 7/16/18
- '02 **Jefferson W. Baird, Jr.** 8/20/18
- '03 **Kemball L. Winegeart** 5/1/18
- '04 Dr. **Junchang Lu** 10/9/18
- '06 **Jennifer N. von Sternberg** 10/1/18
- '09 **Katherine Jones Henderson** 6/28/18  
**Gordon P. McGill** 10/15/18 **Benjamin L.  
Meyer** '11 10/22/18
- '11 **Gregory M. Doughty** 4/3/18 **Darrell E.  
Roberts, II** 9/25/18
- '15 **Rachael E. Hubers** 6/15/18 Dr.  
**Sudharshan J. Samaratunga** 11/6/17
- '18 **Madison D. Duffey** 9/23/18

## SMU Community

- Shirley A. Corbitt**, associate professor  
*emerita* of physical education, 1962-  
1997, 9/15/18.
- Maurice G. A. Elton**, professor *emeritus* of  
French, 1964-2001, 10/02/18.
- Rich Haberman**, professor *emeritus* of  
mathematics, 1978-2015, 12/31/18.
- Yan "Judy" He**, graduate student, Perkins  
School of Theology, 10/05/18.
- Luis Martín**, professor *emeritus* of history,  
1968-1993, 12/11/18.
- William B. Oden**, former SMU Trustee,  
1996-2004, and Perkins School of  
Theology faculty member, 2004-2008,  
12/22/18.
- Jimmy Knox Parr** '62, SMU track and field  
and cross country head coach, 1967-  
1979, 12/22/17.
- Benjamin A. Petty**, associate professor  
*emeritus* of philosophy, 1953-2011,  
10/10/18.
- Larry Smith**, former director of research  
administration, 1988-2008, 12/08/18.
- Marion G. Sobol**, professor *emeritus* of  
information technology and operations  
management, Cox School of Business,  
1974-2011, 8/12/18.
- Michael M. Woolsey**, SMU junior, 7/18/18.

# Taking SMU To The Next Level Through Research

**James E. Quick**, associate vice president for research and dean of graduate studies at SMU, is a key player in SMU's drive toward research prominence. A renowned volcano expert, Quick knows firsthand the impact on the world and the value to a university that meaningful research provides. He shared some of his insights with *SMU Magazine*.

## **Q: When did research become an integral part of American universities?**

The five decades following World War II saw the most dramatic increase in history in government investment in research, with annual U.S. federal funding for research increasing from \$460 million to \$38.8 billion per year. The impact on American higher education was transformational, driving an extraordinary increase in research activity at universities in the United States.

## **Q: How important is research to SMU's academic standing?**

Research has a significant impact on SMU's overall stature, constituting an important factor in many national and international rankings. No longer can a university aspire to achieve high national recognition solely on the strength of outstanding undergraduate programs. To significantly improve its academic standing, SMU must invest to establish itself as a national university recognized for its research activity.

## **Q: What impact does research have on faculty and student recruitment?**

Today's research universities are complex intellectual ecosystems housing students, faculty and staff who create, preserve and transfer knowledge in multiple disciplines and across academic levels. Productive faculty seek environments that facilitate the pursuit of their scholarship, and the best students have come to expect both an educational experience informed by current research and an opportunity to personally engage in discovery. It should be no surprise that the overwhelming majority of top-50



James E. Quick

*U.S. News & World Report*-ranked national universities, which attract the nation's best students, are characterized by very high research activity.

## **Q: How does SMU compete with larger public universities in the research arena?**

SMU is positioned to become a liberal arts university of choice for students and faculty focused on the digital/computational aspects of their discipline. Currently powered by ManeFrame II and backed up by a commitment to high-performance computing, SMU stands out as a university that will deliver state-of-the-art computation resources through the 21st century.

Thirteen degree and certificate programs involving Data Science constitute a major strength compared to many universities, and constitute a foundation for further enhancement of SMU's activities in Data Science. Our degree program in Creative Computing involves students and faculty in the arts, and a unique research capability now exists with SMU DataArts (see article on page 6). The AT&T Center for Virtualization will be addressing the challenges and opportunities attending the development of devices and machines that have no real, physical existence apart from their simulation by software on the cloud, and the Darwin Deason Institute for Cyber

Security is positioned to address emerging threats to security and privacy in the digital era.

## **Q: Where does Guildhall fit in SMU's research landscape?**

Guildhall's move to the main campus in 2020 as part of the future Gerald J. Ford Hall for Research and Innovation will create new opportunities for interdisciplinary research collaboration. This highly ranked graduate game design program brings great potential as a research collaborator, with students and faculty already engaged in interdisciplinary research utilizing virtual reality, crowdsourcing and hybrid machine/human learning. Virtual reality and augmented reality will play an increasingly important role in the 21st-century classroom, and the tools that Guildhall brings to the main campus position SMU to take a leadership role in this educational revolution.

Other research areas will benefit as well, as Guildhall has demonstrated the utility of online gaming to generate crowdsourced solutions to research problems, and hybrid/human machine learning represents an opportunity to merge human intuition with computing power to extract new insights from enormous data sets.

## **Q: What do you expect SMU to gain from the new Ford Hall for Research and Innovation when it's completed?**

We've not had anything like this before, and we think it will be a game changer. It will be a "future-proofed" facility that will be a nexus for interdisciplinary research involving Guildhall, virtualization, big data, computer modeling/simulation and other yet-to-be-identified digital research directions. The new building, located near the heart of campus, will facilitate access to ManeFrame II, enhance communication of ideas and research results with a visualization center and bring researchers together to collaborate in new and unexpected ways. It will be exciting.



# Spring Into Action At SMU

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Join the SMU community during Founders' Day Weekend April 11-14. Enjoy the blooming beauty of the campus while participating in the various activities ranging from Golden Mustangs Day on Thursday to the annual Peruna Palooza and Sing Song on Friday. On Saturday, the Meadows Museum holds an open house that families can enjoy and the Athletics Department hosts its annual spring football game in Ford Stadium.

For more information: [www.smu.edu/Events/FoundersDay](http://www.smu.edu/Events/FoundersDay).

*Photo by Jennifer Ann Crenshaw*





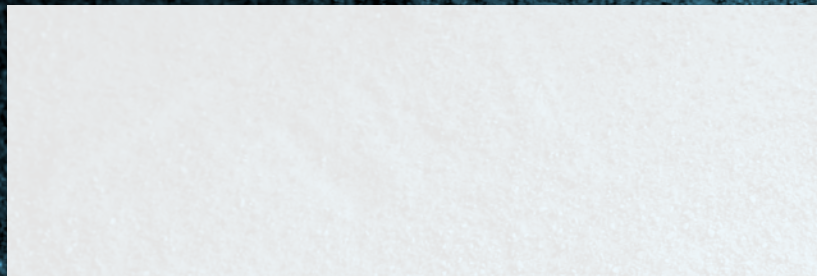
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