





Members of the UT Dallas softball team hold up the mini Whoosh after the University's 48th Convocation in August, when the largest freshman class in UTD history was welcomed.

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16 Students are drawn to the casual gathering areas such as this one in Texas Instruments Plaza that are hallmarks of the Campus Enhancement Project.

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Letters and Comments

IN RESPONSE TO THE SPRING ISSUE:



The article "Across Space and Time" outlined the broad and rich history of the research that has been conducted, and is being conducted, by the William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences. Having personally participated in many of the projects mentioned, I found the pictures, particularly the older historical ones, to be of special interest. The work of the center as a part of UTD and its predecessor institution has been a well-kept secret for many years. It's good to see some of that work publicized.
Larry Harmon
UT Dallas

The spring 2016 issue is by far the best edition I've seen yet. It is vibrant, well conceived, beautifully designed and well written. I am quite impressed and want to commend those of you who helped make this a reality.
Richard Huckaba, M. Ed.
UT Dallas

COMMENTS

The topic of campus improvements generated conversations on social media over the last few months. Here are some of those posts:

I didn't recognize [the area outside Founders Building]! It was all concrete when I graduated three years ago.
Bianca Nicole BA'13

Can't believe how much the campus has changed since I was there. So cool.
Cameron McBride

Especially since the '70s!
Diane Oates BA'77

Kids today have it soooooo nice. Back in my day at UTD we had one parking lot and had to walk two miles to get to campus. ... In all honesty, I'm so happy and excited for all the wonderful improvements to a school I loved going to.
Amie Parsons BA'02

Old school's really looking good now.
Konstantin Parkhomenko BA'07

Same here! It's wonderful to see how the campus is getting increasingly beautiful every year.
Christie Askins BS'08

It's 100% better than when I attended 10 years ago.
Luz Lopez

But still no monorail?
Charles Vandergrift, senior

We need somewhere better for graduation ceremonies now, instead of the Activity Center. But great job so far!
Joselyn Garcia, junior

This campus just gets better and better.
Joanne Owens

Go UTD go!
Jonathan Seawright BS'14

We desperately need a new engineering building.
Joseph Sawczyn, senior

Very impressed by how pretty this campus has become.
Allison Baker Bailey

Campus has really become quite lovely!
Judy Sadler Nelson

CORRECTION

In the feature "Across Space and Time" (spring 2016), Professor Emeritus Ivor Robinson was erroneously identified as Dr. In the same feature, Dr. Mustapha Ishak-Boushaki's title should be professor of physics.

COMING IN THE SPRING
2017 ISSUE: A look at
Dr. Richard C. Benson, fifth
president of UT Dallas.



ON CAMPUS

Neuroscience Major Shows Brainpower with Perfect MCAT Score

SIDDHARTHA SRIVASTAVA FELT pretty good this spring after he took a standardized exam for prospective medical students.

Though the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is a behemoth of an exam — it takes about 7½ hours to complete — Srivastava said he worked hard to prepare for it by studying review textbooks and taking sample tests.

Still, he was astonished by the test results. Srivastava earned a perfect score of 528, a rare feat shared by fewer than 0.5 percent of those who take the test.

“I was completely stunned,” said Srivastava, a neuroscience senior in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. “I liked the questions and was able to think them through, so I thought I’d get a decent score, but never a perfect score. No way! It took a while to sink in. It blew my mind.”

The MCAT measures problem-solving, critical thinking and written analysis skills, as well as knowledge of scientific concepts and principles. The mean score is around 500; 99 percent score 521 or under.

Srivastava’s parents, who immigrated to the U.S. from India when he was 2, had always valued education and worked to instill good study habits early. By the time Srivastava reached the third grade, his parents realized he’d gotten the hang of it.

“They knew I knew how to study, and they let me be on my own,” Srivastava said.

He went on to become a National Merit Scholar and a member of the UT Dallas Collegium V Honors Program.

Srivastava credited his work as a peer tutor and peer-led team leader for organic chemistry in the UT Dallas Student Success Center with further honing his critical thinking skills.

“Without a doubt, working in the Student Success Center helped. Each student has a different way to ask the question, so I was catering my answer to five different ways of looking at the problem. That was helpful, because the MCAT will make you think about problems in a different way,” Srivastava said.

“I like to think about topics as a rounded thing, how each ties into what I already know,” he said. “If you learn something in physics, it better make sense in biology.”

Srivastava also has been an undergraduate researcher, working on a computational approach to chronic pain in the lab of Dr. Theodore Price, associate professor of neuroscience.

Srivastava has known since elementary school that he wanted to be a doctor. He hopes to be a neurosurgeon or orthopedic surgeon one day, and, thanks to his perfect MCAT score, he has applied to top medical schools in Texas and across the country.

“I hope it opens doors,” he said. “I have a lot of friends back in Austin who are a few years younger than me, and they look

Srivastava earned a perfect score of 528, a rare feat shared by fewer than 0.5 percent of those who take the test.



Siddhartha Srivastava

up to me. They’re my support system, and that helps drive me forward, too.”

Srivastava and his family visit extended family in India every two or three years, and he would eventually like to open a medical clinic in the village where they live.

“I want to bring Western medicine to what is basically a homeopathic medical practice there,” he said. —Robin Russell

ON CAMPUS

Three Ways UTD Develops the Scholars of Tomorrow

From chemistry and physics to coding and academic competitions, UT Dallas hosts a variety of camps and outreach programs that aim to inspire and encourage young learners.



From left: Caden Bedford-Crandell, Cedron Webb and Josiah Hartman discuss their answer in the final round of the 2016 African American Male Academic Bowl. The team from Scoggins Middle School in Frisco finished first in the quiz show-style competition, earning laptops as prizes.

1

Computer coding clinics and contests hosted by the UTD Center for Computer Science Education & Outreach appeal to students of all ages, even as early as first grade. Dr. Jey Veerasamy, director of the center, believes the younger the better to begin practicing coding. “They’re not afraid to try,” he said during a television interview. “They’re not afraid to fail.”

2

Video game challenges have led to \$5,000 scholarships at UT Dallas. A team of faculty, students and alumni launched “Polycraft World,” a comprehensive modification to the popular video game “Minecraft.” The mod’s creators later added the scholarship contests, which included tasks such as creating a Texas cattle ranch in the game.

3

Elementary and middle school students tested their knowledge of topics such as civil rights and science during the seventh annual African American Male Academic Bowl in January. David Robinson Jr., the bowl’s founder and assistant director in the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement, said, “We want to make sure these boys have some form of resource that is showing them ... that it’s OK to learn and it’s not OK to drop out.”

FROM THE LAB



Dr. Janet Johnson

Why We React on Social Media

IT CAN BE difficult to resist the lure of expressing opinions or reactions via Twitter or Facebook, especially about high-interest news. Dr. Janet Johnson, clinical assistant professor in the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, understands the draw. She researches how people communicate and disseminate information through emerging media.

“On Twitter, on Facebook, we can voice our opinions,” she told *The Dallas Morning News* in June. “We have a screen that protects us. The further away the distance, we feel we can talk about anything and say whatever thoughts come to mind.

“People aren’t listening and creating dialogue. They’re reacting and attacking and posting the first thought that comes to mind, with no consequences.”

Johnson said that social media isn’t the same as expressing thoughts in a face-to-face conversation, where comments often are contained within personal interactions, reinforced by visual cues that deter arguments.

“[People] see a conversation and they have to weigh in, ... it’s a huge voice that gets louder and louder, and the message becomes uncontrollable.”

Posting on Twitter and Facebook is like “speaking into a microphone. [People] see a conversation and they have to weigh in, and before you know it, it’s a huge voice that gets louder and louder, and the message becomes uncontrollable,” Johnson said.

Johnson’s research areas focus on online political campaign rhetoric (presidential campaigns), social media rhetoric and journalism. She is currently under contract with Lexington Books to write about social media’s influence in past and current presidential campaigns.

FROM THE LAB

A Texas Solution for Chronic Pain

By Dr. Theodore Price BS'98, Associate Professor of Neuroscience

An expert in pain research explains how Texas scientists are working to develop new treatment therapies.

THE TRAGIC, HIGH-PROFILE death of the musician Prince has shed much-needed light on a growing epidemic of chronic pain and prescription drug misuse in the United States.

Chronic pain affects as many as 100 million Americans, people who are hurting and desperately looking for a solution. In an effort to fight the pain, many have turned to opioids, which are drugs that help relieve the discomfort.

Opioids are among the most widely prescribed drugs for pain, and include codeine, hydrocodone and Dilaudid. Currently, there is an estimated one opioid prescription per American.

Unfortunately, these medicines also have led to a rise in overdoses, now a leading cause of death among Americans.

From 1999 to 2010, deaths due to prescription opioid drugs quadrupled, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the agency estimates that 46 people die each day from an overdose of prescription painkillers.

These facts present a devastating problem for our healthcare system and for our society. They also present an opportunity for

Texas to take the lead in developing a solution.

Texas has long been a leader in pain research.

The late Dr. William Willis was a pioneer in the neuroscience of pain at the UT Medical Branch in Galveston. Beginning in the 1970s, his leadership created a strong pain research base that has grown across our state's scientific and educational institutions.

There now are pain research hubs in all of Texas' major cities, linked by our commitment to strengthen and unify the expanding pain research efforts across the state.

My lab at UT Dallas has been studying the molecular mechanisms that cause chronic pain. For example, we recently found a new mechanism, called *neuroigin-2*, that appears to contribute to a reduction in pain. Our goal is to develop therapeutics that target and potentially reverse the changes



in the nervous system that cause pain. My colleague Dr. Gregory Dussor, also at UT Dallas, is a leading researcher in the area of migraine headaches.

Dr. Edgar T. Walters at UT Health Science Center in Houston is making breakthroughs on how spinal cord injury leads to chronic neuropathic pain.

Dr. Kenneth Hargreaves at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio is discovering how burn injury leads to persistent pain.

And there are a number of other researchers in the state who are making great strides toward solving the pain problem.

New medications would have a huge impact on chronic pain treatment. Patients and healthcare workers are hungry for new solutions—options that simply do not exist right now.

To fight the opioid epidemic, we must create innovative new medicines that change the story about chronic pain. The time is right for statewide initiatives toward developing new therapies for the treatment of chronic pain.



Dr. Theodore Price



ARTS AND CULTURE



40-Year Love Story

IT'S BEEN 40 years since Jack arrived on campus, and during his stay he's become a campus icon. Affectionately known as the Love Jack by generations of UT Dallas students, the 10-foot-by-10-foot red, steel sculpture was created by Texas artist Jim Love and was gifted to UT Dallas in 1976. Students in Dr. Paul Fishwick's Creative Automata Lab recently studied the artwork. Here are a few of the highlights:

The Artist

Love's first sculptures consisted of items found anywhere, from beaches to junkyards. He later became a master welder and focused on crafting artwork from steel. His pieces have been featured in several museums in the United States and throughout his adopted hometown of Houston. (By the way, Jack has a 5-foot-by-5-foot sibling — also named Jack — that is displayed at Rice University.)

Where Art Thou, Jack?

For years, the Love Jack stood between the University Theatre and the Erik Jonsson Academic Center. The sculpture now has a new home in an open courtyard of the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building, as well as a fresh coat of red paint.

Here to Stay

Jack arrived at the University as part of a contemporary art exhibit in 1976 and was eventually gifted to UT Dallas.

Creating Jack

Melissa Dagley, a computer science graduate student who was in Fishwick's lab, posits that the sculpture is composed of "one long center pole, with four shorter poles attached perpendicularly every 90 degrees." Steel caps inscribed with the word "Love" were also placed at the end of each pole.

FROM THE LAB

Electronic Nose Could Be the Next Everyday Device

WITHIN YOUR BREATH is vital information about practically every part of a human body. Breaths contain gases that can be analyzed, like doing a blood test without taking blood samples. Current technology such as Breathalyzers, though, can confuse acetone for ethanol in the breath. That difference is especially important, for example, to patients with Type 1 diabetes who have high concentrations of acetone in their breaths.

Electronic noses using compound semiconductors have proved to be more effective than Breathalyzers. The problem has been that such devices were bulky and too expensive for commercial use.

“What we are talking about here is developing a device that imitates another one of our sensing modalities and making it affordable and widely available.”

UT Dallas researchers are looking at technology that will yield an affordable electronic nose. It turns out that integrated circuit technology used to manufacture smartphones, tablets and other electronics

could hold the key. The researchers “demonstrated that you can build an affordable electronic nose that can sense many different kinds of smells. It detects chemical compounds using rotational spectroscopy,” said Dr. Navneet Sharma, the lead author of a paper reporting on the research.

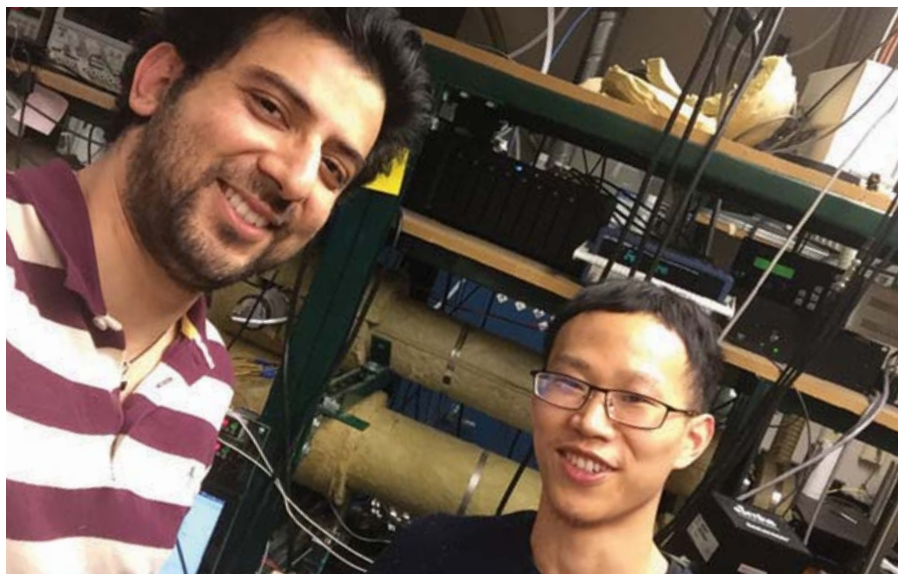
The rotational spectrometer generates and transmits electromagnetic waves over a wide range of frequencies, and analyzes how the waves are attenuated to determine what chemicals are present as well as their concentrations in a sample. The system can detect low levels of chemicals present in human breath.

“If you think about the industry around sensors that emulate our senses, it’s huge,” said Dr. Kenneth O, one of the principal investigators and the Texas Instruments Distinguished University Chair in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science. “Imaging applications, hearing devices, touch sensors: what we are talking about here is developing a device that imitates another one of our sensing modalities and making it affordable and widely available. The possible use of the electronic nose is almost limitless. Think about how we use smell in our daily lives.”

The research is ongoing in the Texas Analog Center of Excellence (TxACE) in the Jonsson School. TxACE is supported in large part by the Semiconductor Research Corp. and Texas Instruments Inc. Additional support was provided by Samsung Global Research Outreach.

—Brittany Magelssen

Dr. Navneet Sharma (left) and Qian Zhong of UT Dallas are part of a research team working to create an affordable electronic nose that can improve breath analysis.



ON CAMPUS

Observations on the Brexit Vote

GREAT BRITAIN VOTED in June to leave the European Union, a move that reverberated around the globe. Dubbed “Brexit,” the referendum has been widely covered and contested. UT Dallas professors and a student who witnessed the events firsthand offered their observations in various interviews.



Harold Clarke, Ashbel Smith Professor in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, told KERA radio in Dallas prior to the vote that “there will be economic consequences from Britain leaving the EU, which could set [in motion] the breakup of the organization. ... [Texas’] economic links with the U.K. are substantial. International instability in Europe is not a good thing, as we’ve learned painfully over the past several decades, and so Texans have reason to be concerned about this.”

Rebecca Tjahja, a finance junior in the Naveen Jindal School of Management, was studying at the London School of Economics and Political Science when the vote was held. She told *The Mercury* student newspaper that Brits in favor of staying in the EU didn’t seem concerned leading up to the vote, in contrast to what she saw afterward. “The next day I went around London and people were just in shock.”

Euel Elliott, associate dean of undergraduate studies in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, wrote in *Fortune Magazine* about the ramifications for global politics: “While the term ‘historic’ is vastly overused these days, it is hard to think of a word that better describes what has just happened in the U.K. It was truly a shot heard ’round the world ... and the mess will only continue as European and American politics are sure to get a healthy shakeup, too.”

ARTS AND CULTURE



Prestigious Fellowship Spurs Alumna's Writing Projects

LATOYA WATKINS PHD'15 recently joined the ranks of writers like Alice Walker, Thornton Wilder and James Baldwin as a fellow in The MacDowell Colony.

Watkins, who received her doctoral degree in aesthetic studies, took note of the selective program while attending a writers conference in 2014.

"I thought it was a pretty long shot for me when I looked at some of the people who had been here," Watkins said.

She was referring to the more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners who have participated in the artists' colony set on a farm in Peterborough, New Hampshire. The program has awarded fellowships to more than 7,000 artists and writers, among them Leonard Bernstein, Jonathan Franzen and Alice Sebold.

Founded in 1907 by Marian MacDowell, pianist and wife of American composer Edward MacDowell, the program's materials state the "sole criterion for acceptance to The MacDowell Colony is artistic excellence."

Watkins spent a little more than two weeks at the colony, where she found a wellspring of productivity. She submitted the first draft of her first novel, as well as the first half of her second book.

"This experience is quite different for me," she said at the time. "I have found it to be a positive experience, and I kind of get sad when I think about re-entering into the world and how I'm going to take some of these lessons with me."

Watkins said that while residents have communal spaces to eat breakfast and dinner, most of her days were spent working in her studio deep in the woods.

"It took me some days to get used to it," she said. "Writing is all there is to do; there's no internet or phone connection on most of the property. For most of the day, you are

completely disconnected from the world. There's even a pretty big space around you and the other colonists."

The mother of three teenagers found the isolation liberating. "I was able to produce writing that wasn't influenced by my roles here," she said. "I could go off of life experiences that weren't always connected to me as a mother, teacher, wife or daughter."

Watkins said her favored subject matter remains the experience of strong women. In 2014, she received the Pushcart Prize for her short story "The Mother," which explored the black matriarchal experience in West Texas.

"I'm intrigued by women who are the bearers of history and those who shape history through their memories and their words," she said. "Women as mothers and what they teach their children and how they choose to mother has always been something I'm drawn to."

She credits her experience in the creative writing program at UT Dallas, and specifically her mentorship under program director Dr. Clay Reynolds, as instrumental in building her confidence as an author.

Watkins has published a dozen short stories, releasing her latest, "The Peeling," in December 2015. That collection was written in a UT Dallas writing workshop.

"The stories she tells are her stories, and she knows how to tell them in a way that is both true to them, true to her characters and true to herself," Reynolds said. "In doing so, she reaches all of us and makes us think and, most important, feel. I have no doubt that her name will very soon grace the pages of the national media and she will find herself standing firmly in the ranks of the country's great writers."

-Miguel Perez



This printed version features LaToya's Pushcart Prize nominated story, *Albino*. It is hand-sewn and printed in color on premium paper.

ON CAMPUS

Jews in China Focus of Series

THE SHANGHAI JEWISH Refugees Museum, the former site of the Ohel Mose Synagogue, stands as a reminder that Shanghai welcomed thousands of Jewish refugees during World War II, a period of closed-door policies from most nations. The museum is also central to a collaborative series from the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies and the Confucius Institute held in the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building in September.

Photos and personal stories from the museum chronicled the story of European Jews who fled to China to escape Nazi persecution. The exhibit in the O'Donnell Building examined the migration and the cultural exchange that took place.

The historic Ohel Mose Synagogue was in one of the city's poorest and most crowded areas — a square-mile dot in the Hongkou district — that became the restricted zone for the city's Jewish refugees during the Japanese occupation.

Two documentary films, *A Gift of Life* and *Shanghai Ghetto*, were screened as part of the series and were followed by commentary from Dr. Ming Dong Gu, Confucius Institute director, and Dr. Nils Roemer, Ackerman Center director.

The series also offered a presentation by Dr. Pan Guan, director of the Shanghai Center for International Studies and dean of the Center of Jewish Studies Shanghai, and a Chinese folk music concert featuring the Confucius Institute Folk Music Band and Beijing Normal University's art troupe.

-Miguel Perez



The exhibit featured photos, personal stories and artifacts on loan from the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum.

ON CAMPUS

Dr. Anne Balsamo Appointed Inaugural Dean of the School of ATEC



DR. ANNE BALSAMO has been named the inaugural dean of the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication.

She moves to UT Dallas from the New School in New York City, where she served as dean of the School of Media Studies. Her current work focuses on what she terms “public interactives” and investigates the history and proliferation of interactive experiences in public spaces.

“ATEC is a bold experiment in thinking differently about the future of STEM education that asserts the importance of the arts and humanities not only in the creation of new technologies but also in the production of new knowledge that will be required of citizens of the 21st century,” Balsamo said. “So informed, we seek wisdom from our cross-disciplinary conversations about how best to navigate dynamic and uncertain futures. This, to me, is the promise of ATEC. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead and help shape it so that we may realize this promise.”

-Miguel Perez

ON CAMPUS

LaunchPad Lifts Entrepreneurial Efforts

A \$3 MILLION grant from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation is helping UT Dallas support entrepreneurial efforts. The three-year grant advances innovation across the state by expanding the foundation’s campus-based entrepreneurship program, Blackstone LaunchPad, to UT Dallas, UT Austin and Texas A&M.

The University’s Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship serves as a campuswide innovation incubator, offering conferences, networking and competitions. Blackstone LaunchPad will bolster those efforts, creating a central hub for entrepreneurially minded individuals and enabling existing campus programs to expand organically.

Each campus-based program provides aspiring innovators with the skills and network necessary to succeed. The UT Dallas facility will connect with the 17 Blackstone LaunchPads situated across the U.S. and Ireland,



Steve Schwarzman, chairman, CEO and co-founder of Blackstone, speaks at the launch event at UT Dallas.

accessible to more than 500,000 students globally.

“Nobody becomes a successful entrepreneur by themselves,” said Steve Schwarzman, chairman, CEO and co-founder of Blackstone. “There’s somebody who helps you along the way ... who does something for you that helps you get over a barrier.”

Regardless of major, students will be able to use Blackstone LaunchPad

resources at any stage of their venture. The onsite facility will provide space for coaching and mentorship, and allow individuals to explore entrepreneurship as a career path.

Based on results from other sites, the foundation predicts the Texas Blackstone LaunchPad programs could generate some 3,900 new ventures and 9,000 new jobs across the state over the next three years.

-Miguel Perez

FROM THE LAB

Brain Research

The following are recent findings by researchers from the Center for Vital Longevity and the Center for BrainHealth.



Being Busy Can Be Good

Having a hectic schedule could be positive for the brain, suggests new research that shows busy people perform best on cognitive tests.

Dr. Sara Festini, a postdoctoral researcher at the University’s Center for Vital Longevity, and CVL founder Dr. Denise Park published the study in *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience* in May. More than 300 people between the ages of 50 and 89 were tested on cognitive functions including memory, reasoning and mental quickness and also surveyed about the fullness of their schedules.

The researchers approached the study curious about how “busyness” relates to health, expecting to find that cognition decreased among those stressed by a full schedule of tasks and activities. Instead, the results seem to indicate that the busier a person reports to be, the higher he or she scores cognitively.

Festini and Park are not ready to say that a busy lifestyle is always healthy, especially when considering how stress can affect the heart and metabolism. “Maybe those people are experiencing some negative effects from a lifetime of busyness. We haven’t looked at that,” Park told National Public Radio in May. She added that the study is one of only a few to have examined the effects of busyness on health.

Marijuana Usage Changes the Brain

Show a long-term daily user of marijuana drug paraphernalia and the reward centers of the brain respond in a very different way than when a piece of fruit or a more neutral cue such as a pencil is presented.



For researchers, that phenomenon is an important distinction that was demonstrated for the first time through research conducted by a team from UT Dallas.

Led by Dr. Francesca Filbey, director of cognitive neuroscience of addictive behaviors at the Center for BrainHealth, the study showed that decades-long usage changes the brain’s reward pathway, resulting in cravings for cannabis.

“We found that marijuana disrupts the brain’s natural reward circuitry, making marijuana highly salient to heavy users,” Filbey said. “In essence, these brain alterations could be a marker of transition from recreational use to problematic use.” The study was published in the journal *Human Brain Mapping*.

FROM THE LAB



Above: Associate conservator Fran Baas carries out textile conservation treatment.

Chemistry Research Strengthens Art Conservation

“CLEAN AS A whistle” is not always the condition to strive for when tending to ancient artwork, according to Dr. David McPhail.

As the Distinguished Chair of Conservation Science in the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History, he applies his background in chemistry to

determine how artwork will degrade. He told KERA radio in Dallas that “sometimes dirt is quite good because it goes into the pores and the cracks on the surface and sort of blocks them up. If you clean it, you open up those pores and cracks again.”

As every parent of an active child

knows, the once-pristine surface just gets dirty again. “One of the techniques I’m very interested in is laser-cleaning, where we take a low-power laser and fire at the object. It couples with the dirt. The dirt is ablated, but it leaves all the material behind,” he said.

McPhail has been working with museums in North Texas, such as the Dallas Museum of Art, on how to best preserve art. One of his projects with conservators from the DMA is to characterize the dyes used in Andean textiles to understand how the fabrics were made and how to best conserve

them. He is also analyzing materials used by the Mexican printmaker José Posada with the Amon Carter Museum and, again with the DMA, technical studies of the working methods of Texas-based contemporary artist John Wilcox.

McPhail, who is an expert in the field of ion beam mass spectrometry, is also a professor of chemistry in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.



Dr. David McPhail



An Andean sleeved tunic from the 15th or 16th century.

ON CAMPUS

Franklyn Jenifer Honored with Street Naming



Dr. Franklyn Jenifer, who served as UT Dallas president from 1994 to 2005, attended a sign dedication ceremony on campus this summer with his wife, Alfreda.

THE UNIVERSITY RENAMED one of its campus streets to honor the legacy of its third president, Dr. Franklyn G. Jenifer, who served from 1994 to 2005.

Franklyn Jenifer Drive is the new name for the section of Drive A that runs eastward from Waterview Parkway to Rutford Avenue.

In June, Jenifer attended ceremonies that included the unveiling of the new street sign and a campus tour highlighting major changes since Jenifer last visited in 2009.

“When I came here I thought that this was the kind of place that was uniquely positioned to be one of the very best,” Jenifer said. “Let me tell you, my friends, you have done a wonderful job. The University looks so spectacular I would get lost if I came back again. It has gone on to achieve many of those great things that we had in mind for it.”

When Jenifer assumed the presidency, the University had an enrollment of nearly 8,500. By the time Jenifer was named president emeritus in 2005, enrollment had grown 61 percent, and three major buildings had been added — the original School of Management, the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science South, the Callier Center for Communication Disorders in Richardson, and the Activity Center.

“The University looks so spectacularIt has gone on to achieve many of those great things that we had in mind for it.”

Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, then president *ad interim*, praised Jenifer’s “deep love and respect for the institution of a university” and unwavering focus on academic excellence.

Two other campus streets were renamed in recognition of Dr. Francis “Frank” Johnson and Dr. Bryce Jordan. Johnson was acting president from 1969 to 1971 and Jordan was the first president, serving from 1971 to 1981.

—Robin Russell

FROM THE LAB

Researchers Link Childhood Hunger, Violence Later in Life

CHILDREN WHO OFTEN go hungry have a greater risk of developing impulse control problems and engaging in violence, according to a study by researchers in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

The study found that people who experienced frequent hunger as kids were more than twice as likely to exhibit impulsivity and injure others intentionally as adolescents and adults.

Thirty-seven percent of the study’s participants who had frequent hunger as children reported that they had been involved in interpersonal violence. Of those who experienced little to no childhood hunger, 15 percent said they were involved in interpersonal violence. The findings were strongest among whites, Hispanics and males.

“What we think is happening is that hunger has an indirect effect,” Dr. Alex Piquero, co-author of the study, told KERA radio in Dallas. “So what happens early in life: Food affects brain development, it affects cognition, it affects impulse control, and those things that affect control in life then affect crime later on down the road.”

Previous research has shown that childhood hunger



contributes to a variety of other negative outcomes, including poor academic performance. The study is among the first to find a correlation between childhood hunger, low self-control and interpersonal violence.

“The solution is getting kids adequately nourished and fed, and I think that those are the kinds of things that everybody, I would think, would go: ‘Yeah, you know that’s a good thing’ because all of us have the ideal of having a good, productive society filled with members who are going to contribute and be pro-social,” Piquero said in the interview. “I think that all of us have an active stake in making sure that our population, our neighbors, our kids, our families have at least adequate nourishment in their bodies.”

— Kim Horner

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SPORTS

Redefining a ‘Winning Season’

WINS AND LOSSES took on a new meaning for UT Dallas student-athletes over the past year, when members of the volleyball and baseball programs encountered two young leukemia patients.

During the 2015 volleyball summer camp, head coach Marci Sanders and her squad met then 5-year-old Kaitlyn Renee Johnson, who adopted the team through the Friends of Jaclyn, a nonprofit organization designed to improve the quality of life for children and families living with pediatric brain tumors and other childhood cancers.

Kaitlyn, who had been diagnosed with leukemia as a 1-year-old, was introduced to the team before joining the squad on the bench throughout the fall season. She witnessed one of the best seasons in program history as the Comets claimed their first conference title in six years and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III National Tournament for the second time in three seasons.

“Having Kaitlyn around us helped keep the game in

perspective,” Sanders said. “We strive to be ‘Kaitlyn Strong’ and remember in the grand scheme of things that wins and losses are not as important as living happy and healthy.”

The squad recognized Kaitlyn in September when the Comets hosted their first-ever “Gold Out,” an effort to spread awareness of childhood cancer. The Comets and rival UT Tyler showered the young survivor with flowers and entertained the crowd with a thrilling five-set UT Dallas victory to close out the evening.

“It was fun watching the relationship between our players and Kaitlyn grow over the season,” Sanders added. “It never felt like work for me or the team. Any time we could have her around the team was special.”

In November, the Comet baseball program and head coach Shane Shewmake “drafted” then 9-year-old Hamilton Grant through Team IMPACT, a nonprofit chartered to improve the quality of life for children facing life-threatening and chronic illnesses.



Hamilton Grant, who was diagnosed with leukemia when he was 3 years old, threw out the first pitch at a UTD baseball game in the spring.



Players cheer on Kaitlyn Renee Johnson, a young cancer patient the team adopted in the fall of 2015.

Hamilton’s relationship with the Comet baseball squad came after the Grant family moved to the area from North Carolina in 2015. Hamilton had been drafted by another baseball program earlier, but was in search of a new sports family after his parents’ relocation to Frisco.

“We were contacted by Team IMPACT that there was a young man who wanted to continue working being part of a baseball team. We were excited to welcome Hamilton into our program,” Shewmake said.

After a signing-day ceremony on campus, Hamilton became “one of the guys” as members of the Comet squad relished spending time with him.

A leukemia survivor, Hamilton was diagnosed at the age of 3 and is currently in remission. His motor and growth

“It was fun watching the relationship between our players and Kaitlyn grow over the season. It never felt like work for me or the team. Any time we could have her around the team was special.”

skills suffered drastically from chemotherapy. He was struggling with the fact that he could not play sports as other kids his age could, so the Comets were happy to step in and give him the outlet he craved.

“The percentage of high school athletes who go on to play in college is very low,” Shewmake said. “A lot of players come into college and take for granted the abilities they have on the playing field. Spending time with Hamilton allowed our players to realize that just because you strike out doesn’t mean it’s the end of the world.”

In March, Hamilton threw out the first pitch for the

Comets’ doubleheader with conference rival Hardin-Simmons. It was a perfect strike to senior catcher Bobby Garner, who was instrumental in the acclimation of Hamilton to his new team.

The Comets took Hamilton on a wild ride in his first season, as they finished the season strong and advanced to the semifinals of the conference tournament. While UT Dallas’ commitment with Team IMPACT will last through Hamilton’s 18th birthday, Shewmake’s squad will continue to provide opportunities for Hamilton to be a part of the program “as long as he wants.”

—Dave Wester

Fly Fishing in Bolivia

Alumni Profile: Federico Marancenbaum BA'04

By Paul Bottoni

FAR FROM THE hustle and bustle of city living is a remote river fishery surrounded by the hills and canopies of a lush Amazonian rainforest teeming with tropical birds and critters. At night, the Milky Way illuminates the sky. Here in this retreat set in the jungles of Bolivia, Federico Marancenbaum BA'04 leads treks with clients seeking to test their fly-fishing finesse.

It's a haven he has vowed to protect.

Marancenbaum, 35, and his childhood friend and fishing buddy Patrick Taendler had long hoped to find a fishery where they could take fellow anglers. The friends grew up in Bolivia and have fished rivers throughout the landlocked South American country. The duo spent countless hours chasing their dream. Marancenbaum, in Texas, and Taendler, still in Bolivia, combed maps together over Skype looking for potential destinations. When they found a spot they thought could be ideal for their plan, Taendler ventured into the wild to scout the location. "That experience touched him forever," Marancenbaum recalls. "He knew that we had found our jewel."

So about four years ago, the partners poured their life savings — and then some — into starting Angling Frontiers to lead trips into the Bolivian wilderness.

The area's rivers are home to the sought-after Golden Dorado, a predator fish known for its yellow complexion that can grow up to 39 inches and weigh as much as 45 pounds. The fish lure outdoor enthusiasts from around the world — including such countries as Russia, New Zealand and France — who seek a challenge.

"It's an exotic fish that usually lives in somewhat fast-moving waters," Marancenbaum explains. "They're known for their aggressiveness. They put on a great

acrobatic show, but they're hard to catch. It's a fish that you can hook but not necessarily land because they'll try to shake and jump to cut you off."

The groups — four to six anglers per trip — fly in on chartered Cessna 206 single-engine planes to a jungle airstrip on the grounds of an old Christian mission a few boat rides away from the local town. From there the group hoofs it through the jungle and takes boats with outboard motors through fast-moving water to the various fishing spots using native-crafted ochoo wood canoes. They set up a new camp whenever they change fishing locales. It's a catch-and-release operation, which helps sustain the fish population.

The standard expedition lasts about a week, during which the group may stay in anywhere from three to six different camps depending on water levels and where the fish are biting. Trips are made during the dry season between June and October. Marancenbaum and Taendler pride themselves on providing an adventurous and authentic experience. While some outfitters take guests back to a lodge at the end of the day to kick up their heels, Marancenbaum's groups stay in the elements.

"If you want to get to know someone, go spend two or three days in the outdoors with them," he jokes. "We don't have set structures built; there's not a luxury accommodation with a masseuse waiting at the end of the day. I'm more about being able to look at the stars and hearing the jaguars or monkeys in the jungle."

The fishery is in the lands of several indigenous Tsimane communities (pronounced Chi-màn-e). These isolated families still live off the land, relying on fishing, hunting and farming for sustenance.

"If you want to get to know someone, go spend two or three days in the outdoors with them."



Federico Marancenbaum BA'04 holds a pacu, a species of fish found in South America.

“They give this whole operation meaning,” Marancenbaum says. “One of our biggest drives is making an impact in these communities.”

Along with seeds, plows, boots, machetes and other tools and food, the Tsimane communities receive money from Angling Frontiers that is generated through a fee that clients pay. The business also lends a hand in various projects in the communities and hires Tsimane guides and helpers during the expeditions.

The partnership between the Tsimane and Angling Frontiers is built on trust that has been built steadily over the years. Initially the communities were instinctively wary of outsiders coming in to operate in their lands, which are abundant in natural resources.

“Whether it’s someone trying to do illegal logging or harvesting something or fishing commercially, years have taught them

that people who come in and try to do business are going to try to take advantage of them,” Marancenbaum says. “That’s definitely not our philosophy.”

Marancenbaum believes that partnerships like the one between the Tsimane and Angling Frontiers is the future of tourism — or at least should be. By having clients engage with the local communities while being mindful of the area’s ecosystem, he hopes to provide an experience that promotes the importance of protecting the area’s culture and environment.

This style of tourism puts a high value on conservation, Marancenbaum says. “Twenty or 30 years down the road, you won’t remember the exquisite wine you drank or delicious meal you ate.

“You’re going to remember the raw experience in the middle of the jungle.” ■

BIO:

Federico Marancenbaum was raised in Bolivia and came to Texas after high school to continue his education.

Following a stint at Richland College, he transferred to UT Dallas to study political science.

“I liked UTD because it is a great school and of course the location was great. At the time it was nothing like it is now,” he says with a laugh. “It’s grown exponentially, but it certainly had a reputation.”

Marancenbaum went on to teach for 10 years in Garland, Texas, before switching gears and becoming a consultant for a local heating and air company. He balances his full-time consulting job and his work for Angling Frontiers, where he handles marketing and client interaction when not on expeditions.

Marancenbaum’s youth was spent on his family’s Bolivian cattle ranches, where his love of the outdoors flourished. Though he wasn’t an avid fly fisherman early on, he later gave it a go and developed a passion.



Federico shows off a Golden Dorado.

FINDING OUR PLACE



A Seven-Year Transformation Project is Complete



About 1,200 students showed up for a March concert by music duo Alex & Sierra (pictured at top left), held on the newly renovated north mall near Founders Building.



By Gaile Robinson

In the hours before indie music duo Alex & Sierra performed in a new nook of campus known for its bubbling illuminated fountains and grassy lounge areas, physics senior Shawhin Talebi saw to the technical details during an afternoon sound check.

He expected a good turnout for the winners of the X Factor, Season 3 television competition, but he was a bit surprised when people started arriving well before the concert's 7 p.m. start. In fact, the crowd that March evening swelled to 1,200 students, who sang and swayed on the newly renovated plaza between Founders Building and the Erik Jonsson Academic Center.

It was a scene many years in the making.

For Grace Bielawski Richards BA'11, that part of campus used to house a cordoned-off, nonfunctional water feature that had become an eyesore. When she arrived on campus as a freshman McDermott Scholar, the atmosphere was a concrete "ghost town," she recalls. But during her time at UT Dallas, she saw the first phase of a campus transformation begin to dramatically change the landscape before her graduation five years ago.

Richards has watched from afar as the two-phase Campus Enhancement Project reached completion, representing a \$45 million investment since 2008 by longtime supporter Margaret McDermott and other private donors. And just as the transformation project renewed the grounds and the outdoor campus experience, a cadre of new buildings has forever altered the field of sight for anyone walking through UT Dallas.

"Campus seems more inviting with the integration of the buildings and the landscaping," Richards says by phone from Washington, D.C., where she works as a lawyer in the Offices of the U.S. Attorneys. "The tone is set as you walk through campus. It makes you want to linger outside a little bit."

This fall, the class of 2020 are the first freshmen to attend the University now that the landscape project is considered complete.

The seven-year overhaul brought an iconic trellis with misters and climbing wisteria, inviting walkways and visiting spots, and signature reflecting pools lined with magnolia trees. But more than its individual features, most agree that the project has given the campus a heart.



The area between Founders Building and the University Theatre, now known as Texas Instruments Plaza, includes stone-edged grassy tiers around a bubbling ground-level fountain. Pictured below is the earlier concrete-laden version of the area, including a nonworking fountain.



All About the Students

Physical appearance offers more to a campus than just a beautiful exterior; aesthetics also have a direct effect on the quality of an education, a subject researched by C. Carney Strange and James H. Banning, experts on campus environments.

In their 2015 book *Designing for Learning: Creating Campus Environments for Student Success*, the authors' elements of successful design include dorms, classrooms and such, but they also acknowledge the virtues of more ephemeral zones.



Sidewalks outlined by magnolias and lawns dotted with mature oak trees lead to Trellis Plaza, a popular place to meet and hang out.

“Much of college is about what happens outside the classroom,” says Richards, who was student government president during her senior year. “So to have a space to reflect that reality is important. A lot of what happens is socializing and learning who you are and what you might be doing with your life.”

As an undergraduate, Richards was among the student leaders who advised officials on features for landscaping and buildings. “I felt like UTD students were a part of making things happen there,” says Richards, who went on to law school at the University of Virginia. “By contrast, UVA is very tradition bound, still looking back to the days of Thomas Jefferson. At UTD, we are still establishing traditions and still building. It was exciting to be a part of something so new and responsive.”

Nondescript Origins

The United States is known for its world-class campuses, from the University of Virginia, which was designed by Jefferson, to the Yale University campus that is a national treasure, writes James Howard Kunstler, author of *The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*.

Universities established long before UT Dallas frequently have a tree-bordered lawn anchored at one end by an administration building. Popular into the early 20th century, the design is reflected in the Lawn at UVA, the malls (south, east and west) at UT Austin and the Quad at Stanford.

Kunstler says, “Virtually every school has a great old quad-

rangle or other good public place at its heart. But as they get away from the center of campus, things begin to dribble away.”

“Dribble” accurately describes the state of UT Dallas before the campus transformation got underway. The early buildings lacked architectural snap and offered little hint of what the interiors might house. Ponderous relics of the '60s and '70s, the first structures mimicked the short-lived Brutalist style of architecture that was known for fortress-like exposed concrete construction. The campus had



This archival photo lends credence to the “concrete canyon” description of the mall prior to renovation.



Fortress-like buildings dominated early campus architecture.

the air of a charmless industrial park.

UT Dallas hardly stands alone in its nondescript origins. Many universities that grew exponentially after World War II suffer the same plight, with buildings that have no relationship to the landscape or to each other. Instead, they are islands surrounded by seas of asphalt.

Back in the early days, before UT Dallas was established in 1969, the campus was known as the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. There was one building and one parking lot. “You could park right next to the front door,” remembers Dr. John Hoffman, who first worked at the research center and then as a physics professor at UT Dallas.

Those front-door parking spots no longer exist. Over the years, each new building has forced another parking lot farther into the surrounding acreage that Hoffman remembers as cotton fields.

Even after the research facility became a research university expressly for upperclassmen, it did not look like a traditional campus. Physically it was more corporate than collegiate. With few classes offered during the day, most students arrived after the sun went down.

“The place was a wasteland until 6 at night,” says Mary Walters, who recently retired as director of the Student Union. “During the day, you could walk across campus and not see a single soul.”

Then, in 1991, freshman and sophomore classes were added, bringing students to the University both day and night. The campus was enlivened.

But the aesthetic problems multiplied. Insistence on close parking coupled with the University’s continuous construction resulted in a campus of concrete. Acres of parking lots surrounded clusters of buildings.

Something had to be done. So, the Campus Enhancement Project, which focused on landscape and design, was created. The effort drew upon one of the University’s strategic initiatives to enhance the physical appearance of the campus.

The aesthetic need was apparent. But how to fund the project was not as obvious, especially when the cost of such refinements was more than that of a new building.

Championing the project was someone intimately familiar with the University—Margaret McDermott, the wife of the late Eugene McDermott, co-founder of UT Dallas and Texas Instruments. She fully understood the need and generously



In contrast to the University’s earlier years with few daytime classes, the growing student enrollment has brought increased activity to the mall throughout the day.

contributed to the project.

Shortly after McDermott and donors stepped forward, Peter Walker of PWP Landscape Architecture was brought in to help shape the project. He is known in Texas for designing the grounds of the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas with Italian architect Renzo Piano and for projects at UT Austin.

Walker’s credits are global. He has worked with architects on commissions for the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, Novartis headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, and the Library Walk at the University of California, San Diego.

When the enhancement project for UT Dallas was first broached, “we were asked to do a little plaza up by the student center to enrich the school,” Walker says in a phone interview from his office in Berkeley, California. He realized immediately that what was needed was more than a plaza. It called for an entire game plan.

The game plan went beyond landscaping, proposing placement of new buildings on a grid and suggesting design elements.

“There was no focus,” he says. “There was a jumble of buildings built when it was popular to use tan concrete and black glass. The buildings had been put up so fast that there wasn’t any landscape.

“UT Dallas is an increasingly important part of the UT System, yet it was practically nondescript,” Walker says. “Anyone visiting for the first time would have no memory of it.”

That’s hardly an ideal identity for a young university with national aspirations like UT Dallas.



The construction of undergraduate residence halls, and dining and recreation facilities transformed the northwest end of campus.

The Game Plan

So, with a mandate from the University and its benefactors to fix the ugly and bring on the beauty, Walker suggested a two-part landscaping assault that came with a \$45 million price tag.

“A formal expression first, with a continuous vocabulary formed by the trees, walls and benches” is what Walker proposed for the initial phase that would renovate the mall from the center of campus to the south end and the Campbell Road



This aerial view shows the northwest corridor where residence halls would eventually be built.

entrance. The first phase, completed in 2010, was built to welcome visitors with an impressive campus entry.

A more relaxed focus was taken in the second phase, converting the north end of the mall to a parklike environment. That project began in 2013 and wrapped up in 2016.

“It doesn’t have to be casual like a backyard, but there does have to be something that enables people to move around comfortably,” Walker says of the section that extends to the Administration Building on the north side of campus.

Authors Strange and Banning refer to such areas as “restorative places,” which are usually in a setting with a designed water feature, gardens and park areas. What the Campus Enhancement Project has produced is a bounty of each, stately and whimsical, wild and restrained, and — most importantly — memorable.

Fewer and fewer vestiges remain of the concrete canyon. “One of the real positives of the project’s site plan is a greater understanding of the value of the land. To create a pedestrian campus, we need to make it as compact as we can, rather than spread out,” says Rick Dempsey, associate vice president of facilities management. “We needed to densify the core of the campus.”

Engineering student Emiola Banwo, who has been a student since 2010, has noticed an enormous change in the number of students he sees on campus. He attributes the increased activity to the new landscaping efforts. “It’s beautiful; it’s paradise,” he says.

The plan addressed a number of concerns: thoughtful placement of buildings, more casual congregation areas, improved



Stone-stacked benches along the mall provide students with places to reflect, study and create.

walking paths and environmentally friendly plantings. Additionally, choices in landscaping and permanent structures create aesthetically attractive boundaries with the surrounding neighborhoods.

Instead of hiding the campus from the neighborhood with a screen hedge, UT Dallas hides its parking lots. Edges of campus are framed with trees and plantings, offering enticing glimpses to passersby.

There are other, more subtle features. When Walker first toured the campus, he was told that the University doesn't have a football team but was home to a national class chess team. So, whoosh, the inspiration for Chess Plaza was born. The area between the Student Services building and the Naveen Jindal School of Management is now bedecked with four human-size chessboards.

"Our goal," says Dr. Calvin Jamison, vice president of administration, "has been to transform campus into a vibrant environment that reflects the quality of our academics and caliber of our community. This requires the right mix of buildings, residences, landscaping and infrastructure to create a next-generation urban university."

Such attention to detail helps recruit students. Arden Wells BS'16 from New Orleans, toured the University of Virginia and Southern Methodist University, both of which have traditional brick, ivy-covered buildings in the classic style. "My initial

perspective of UTD was that it did look like a college campus, but not like the old ones. It looked futuristic, which is cool."

She's speaking Tom Lund's language. Lund, an architect with the UT System Office of Facilities and Planning, says, "We are developing a new campus architectural vocabulary that centers around transparency in the buildings. For instance, we are incorporating a lot of daylight and glass curtain walls.

"We started with an overall landscape design that has now given us the guidelines, the grid, the structure, to carry into the future," Lund adds. "That was brilliant."

Lund notes that building construction has placed similar priority on energizing student collaboration.

"For example, we are putting in wider corridors with lots of power outlets, so that there is room to gather," he says. And, he adds, several of the buildings have amphithe-

ater-like spaces, repeating indoors what has been so popular on the mall.

The physical change on campus, both indoors and out, has enhanced the experience — aesthetically and psychologically — for new students, former students, faculty and staff. It is part of the transformative package envisioned by many and brought to life by Peter Walker.

"A university experience changes everyone's life," he says. "That is what it is supposed to do." ■

*"A university
experience changes
everyone's life.
That is what it is
supposed to do."*

A Picture of Success

Nineteen buildings were constructed at UT Dallas in its first 40 years (1964-2004). Since 2005, 27 new buildings have been added. Vice President of Administration Calvin Jamison said, “We are creating a legacy of excellent facilities and infrastructure. With more buildings, services and a transit-oriented development adjacent to campus, UTD is becoming a destination of choice.”

The University’s physical metamorphosis coincides with its emergence among the nation’s research institutions. Learning and living spaces have doubled. Buildings and walkways are accented by the installation of thousands of trees, native plants and shrubs. Plazas, plinths, fountains and terraces punctuate the outdoor environments. New structures are sited to make the most of the campus improvements, with careful attention to building interiors that connect students with each other and the outdoors. Here are some of the new features.



Visitor Center and University Bookstore

The 32,000-square-foot structure (2011) creates an iconic entrance to campus, distinguished by a 35-foot-tall, open-air glass and steel rotunda with a giant fan.



Activity Center

In the years since opening in 1998, the center has undergone several expansions. It now features a fitness center; racquetball, squash and basketball courts; an indoor swimming pool; and offices for varsity athletics and recreational sports.



Science Learning Center

The exterior of the Science Learning Center (2010) is bedecked with tile that references the atomic emission spectra of gases and human DNA when separated in a process called gel electrophoresis.



Student Services Building

The LEED Platinum Certified building and addition (2010, 2016) provide a one-stop location that houses the registrar, bursar, financial aid, Career Center, and health and counseling centers among others. The addition includes a 530-seat multipurpose auditorium.



Naveen Jindal School of Management

With the opening in 2014 of the four-story addition to Naveen Jindal School of Management (2003), the largest school at UT Dallas now has more classroom space, high-tech trading and sales labs, meeting space and a courtyard for outdoor gatherings.



Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building

A showcase for the visual arts and the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, the building (2013) was designed by STUDIOS Architecture, the same firm that designed Google Headquarters in Mountain View, California. A lecture hall and a host of innovative classrooms, studios and labs, along with public gathering spaces, are hallmarks of the structure.



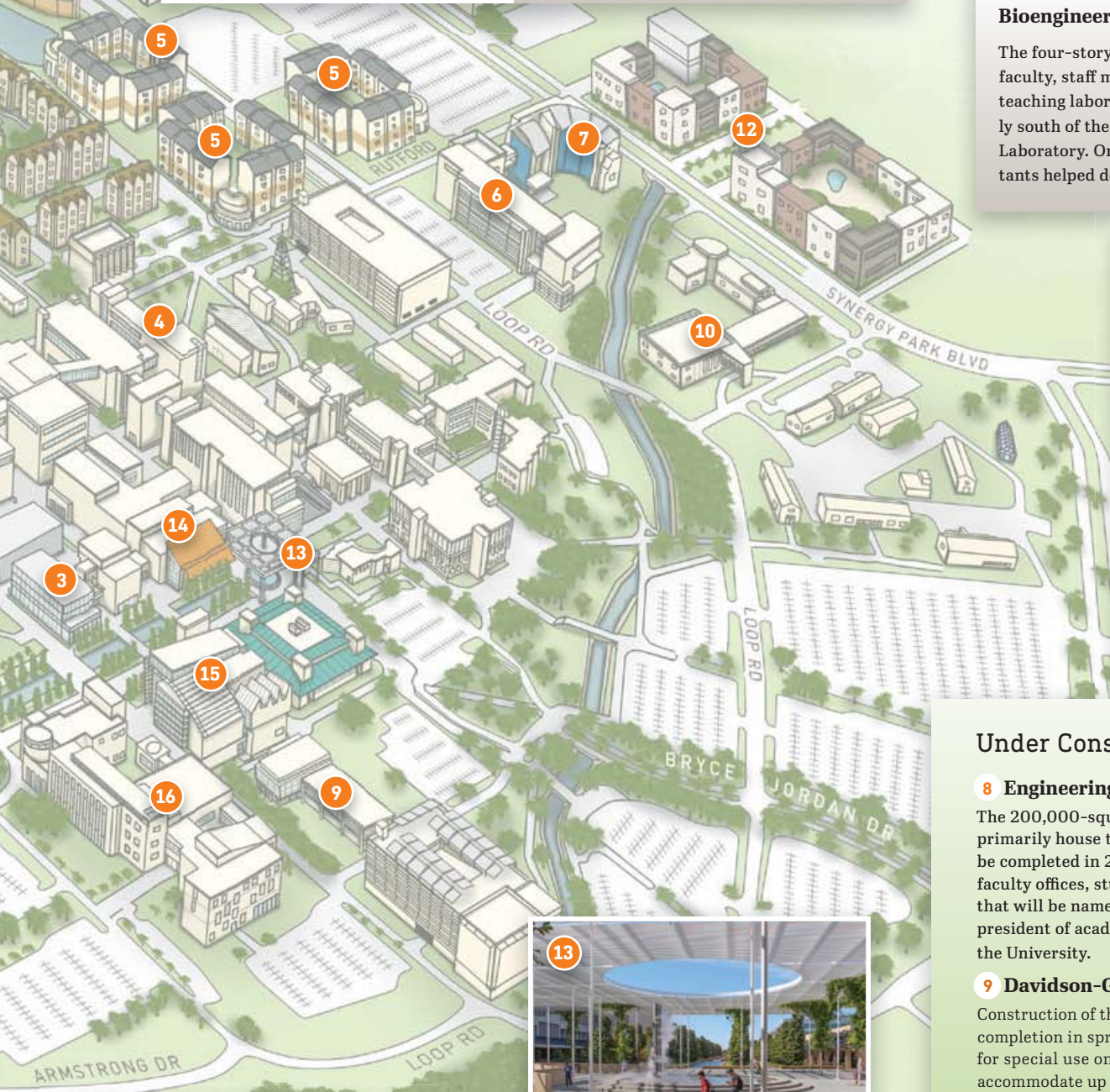
Residence Halls

Since 2009, five multistory residence halls have been built, providing living space for 2,200 undergraduate students. The housing complex includes a dining hall and a recreation center. Each hall features classroom space to accommodate living learning communities.



Bioengineering and Sciences Building

The four-story building (2015), with research space for faculty, staff members and graduate students, along with teaching laboratories for undergraduates, sits immediately south of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Laboratory. One of the nation's leading laboratory consultants helped design spaces in both buildings.



Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Laboratory

Designed to promote research, the building that opened in 2005 incorporates large open lab space with specialty labs and linear equipment rooms. Portions of its exterior are clad in colorful, overlapping shingles.

Under Construction

8 Engineering Building

The 200,000-square-foot Engineering Building, which will primarily house the Mechanical Engineering Department, is to be completed in 2018. It will contain research and teaching labs, faculty offices, student workspaces and a 300-seat auditorium that will be named in honor of Dr. Alexander Clark, a former vice president of academic affairs and one-time acting president of the University.

9 Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center

Construction of the 30,000-square-foot center is slated for completion in spring 2017. The first facility solely designated for special use on campus, it will feature a ballroom that can accommodate up to 800 people, meeting rooms, office space for staff, and an outdoor area with an expansive patio.

New Additions

The 10 Callier Center for Communication Disorders on-campus facility expansion and 11 Parking Structure 4 opened in the fall. The Brain Performance Institute building in Dallas is scheduled to be finished in 2017.

Housing

This fall, co-developers Balfour Beatty Campus Solutions LLC and Wynne/Jackson Inc. opened 12 Northside, a mixed-use residential and retail development on Synergy. On the southwest side of campus near the soccer fields, Student Housing Phases VI and VII are underway. The two apartment-style complexes are expected to provide a total of 800 new beds on campus for fall 2017.

Visit the utdallas.edu/pardonourprogress website for additional updates on these and other projects on campus.



Trellis Plaza

Located between the Student Union and the Eugene McDermott Library, the plaza takes its name from a massive steel trellis—one that's 165 feet wide, 146 feet long and 25 feet tall. Trellis Plaza separates the north and south ends of the mall. It includes a circular pool featuring a sculptural fog column. A wood-clad plinth and terrace provide a central gathering place to host activities.



Student Union

Dining options and a range of student activities can be found in the centrally located facility (1981) that is connected to the Student Services Building by a covered walkway.



Treasures on the Third Floor

“The Yellow Elliot” is part of the early 19th-century publication Pompona Herefordensis, which contains colored engravings of old cider and perry fruits found in Herefordshire, England.

Drawn from Nature



Right: *Flora Londinensis*, an exceptional first edition from 1777, features more than 400 hand colored engraved plates. No more than 300 were produced. One of the few surviving complete copies, the volume also marked the library's 1 millionth acquisition.

The oldest book in the McDermott Library, a 1499 volume titled *Herbarium Latinum* by Amaldus de Villanova, is part of the Belsterling Collection.



THE LOUISE B. BELSTERLING Botanical Collection is one of eight managed through the Eugene McDermott Library's Special Collections and Archives Division.

From centuries-old hand-colored images to a modern video-disc demonstrating how to graft plants, the Belsterling Collection documents the history of botany and horticulture.

In 1907, Louise Babcock married Edward Belsterling, a successful Dallas attorney who shared her fondness for the outdoors. At a time when ladies gardened in long skirts, wide-brimmed hats and kid gloves, she combined her genteel hobby with an intellectual interest in botanical and horticultural history. Her acquisitions of early and rare volumes form the nucleus

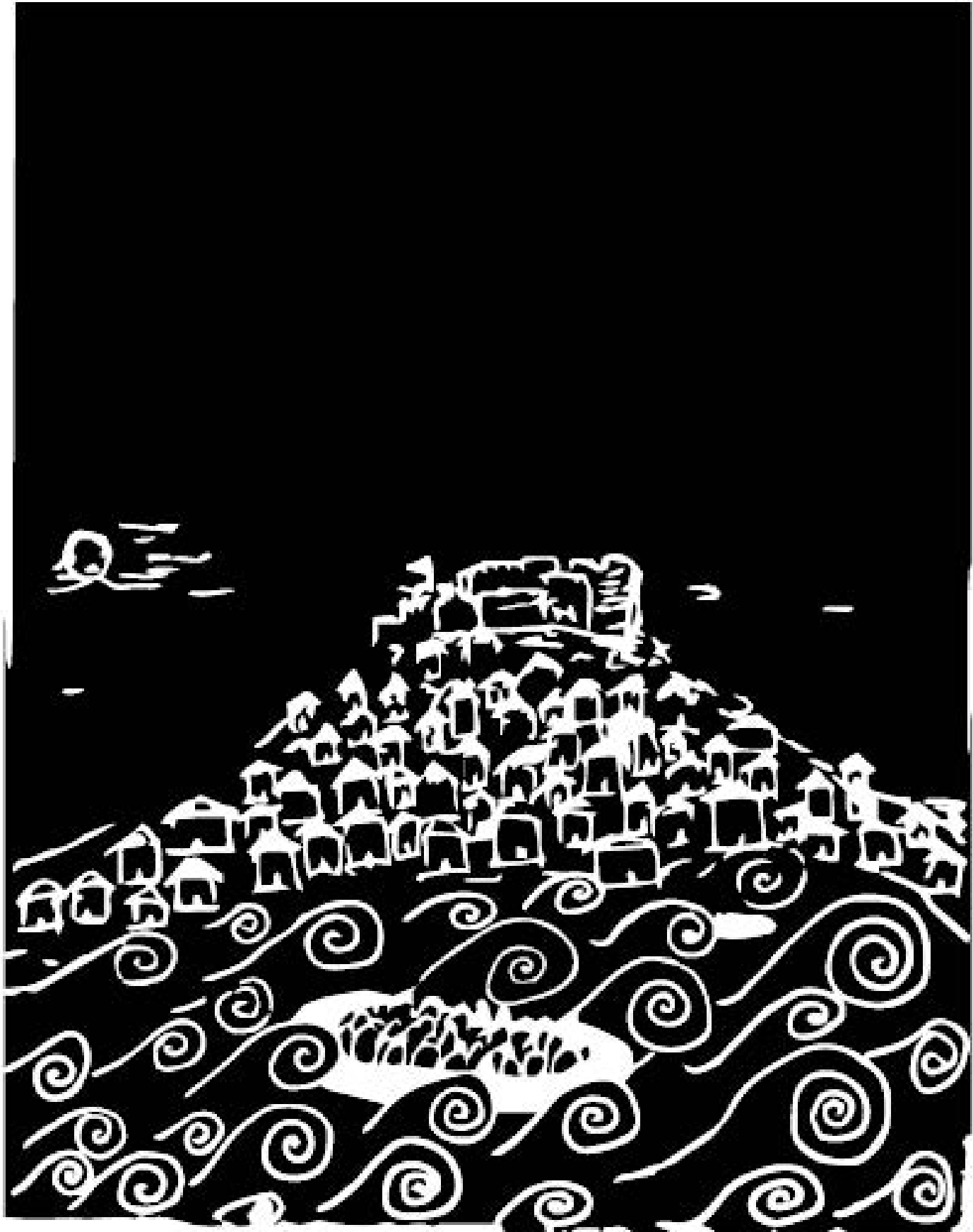
of the Louise B. Belsterling Botanical Collection.

A former French teacher and active member of the Dallas Garden Club, she compiled the *Planting Manual for Dallas Gardens*, drawing from years of practical experience with Dallas landscapes. It was first published in 1941.

After her death in 1970 at the age of 93, the Louise B. Belsterling Foundation of the Dallas Garden Club was formed and continues to add to the collection, which today holds more than 400 items.

Though not in circulation, the collection is available for researchers to review. Contact libspco@utdallas.edu for more information. ■





Artwork by Aphrodite Vati Mariola



The Heart of an Island



By
Aphrodite Vati Mariola BS'97



ON APRIL 27, 2015, my life and dreams changed forever. Members of my family and I were preparing the Aphrodite Hotel — in the village of Molyvos on the Greek island of Lesbos — to open for the new season. Our first guests were expected at any moment. Suddenly a little plastic dinghy with a family of 12 adults and four children washed up onto the beach directly in front of the hotel. They were freezing, soaking wet and scared. One of the men was paralyzed from the waist down.

My family and I were shocked, caught off guard by the unexpected arrivals. We quickly brought them towels, blankets, food and water. Since the weather was very chilly, we opened two rooms in the hotel to give them shelter.

When things calmed down, I had a moment to survey the scene before us. The smallest child, not even a year old, was playing with his siblings in our front yard. They were all wearing clothing I brought from home, a realization that brought knots to my stomach. These could have been my own children running around and this could have been my own family in such dire circumstances.

We eventually drove the family into the village so that they could continue on their way, searching for safety in Europe. Little did we realize that this was only the beginning of a tsunami of human suffering we would witness for months to come.

Slowly and steadily, one boat turned to two boats, then three, four, until we reached eight boats arriving each day, packed with 40 to 50 refugees.

For my family and others on the island, daily routines changed dramatically. We had to get organized. The arrival of a boat meant that we stopped whatever we were doing and ran down to the beach to offer first aid, food, drink, clothes and, finally, transportation up to the village. We then would return to clean the beach of debris — boats, life jackets, rubbish and wet clothes — to prepare for the next boat to arrive. Our hotel guests who witnessed this rose to the occasion and stood by our sides to help. They would cry with us, laugh with us, and look into the eyes of the thousands of desperate people who were arriving.

If you had asked me upon graduating from UTD where I imagined I would be in 20 years' time, I would probably have responded, "CEO of a major multinational corporation" or "owner of a chain of hotels worldwide." My wildest dreams would never have placed me on the frontlines of one of the greatest immigration crises that our world has known since World War II.

There are no images, no words, that can express the highs and the lows felt each time a boat comes. In that moment, there is an awakening to the realization that these human beings willingly risked their lives and the lives of their children by dealing with human traffickers, paying thousands of dollars to cross the Aegean Sea in deathtrap dinghies, all because there truly was nothing more to lose. This was, in fact, their last hope.

I will never forget the day one family left behind a pair of keys on one of the hotel sunbeds. My father picked them up and yelled, "Wait, you have forgotten your keys." The head of the family turned and replied in a heavy tone, "Keep them. We have no need for them now. They belong to a home that no longer exists."

Very few boats have arrived since early 2016, due to the EU (European Union)-Turkey Joint Action Plan to address the emergency situation along the Eastern Mediterranean-Western Balkans route. But tourism on the island of Lesbos still has been greatly affected.

I often wonder what will become of all of us. We live in divided communities. The refugee crisis has brought out the best and the worst in humanity. It is a crisis not only for the refugees themselves but also for the local communities.

“Keep them. We have no need for them now. They belong to a home that no longer exists.”

At the Aphrodite Hotel, we faced a nearly 85 percent decrease in bookings. Almost all our personnel had to be let go and we are now dealing with the challenge of making sure we do not lose our business entirely. The EU and the Greek government can protect businesses under these extreme conditions, by freezing our taxes and loans, just like they would if there had been an earthquake or hurricane. Otherwise, ours and many others' businesses are in danger of ceasing to exist if this crisis continues.

Unfortunately, the press is not portraying the reality of what



In October 2015, more than 6,200 refugees surged onto the island of Lesbos in one 24-hour period.

life is like right now on the island as it returns to its normal pace. At the same time, we are now ready to face any future challenges brought by the refugee crisis.

I have come a very long way since UTD. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, I continued on my personal "fast track" with an MBA from Thunderbird School of Global Management, an American graduate school, that included two semesters spent at the Archamps campus in France.

I came to realize that success meant nothing if it wasn't hand-in-hand with a quality of life and personal happiness. By 2004, I was finally ready to enter the family hotel business, to start a new life in the picturesque village of Molyvos, Lesbos, and to lay down roots by marrying my childhood sweetheart, Panagiotis Mariolas, and creating a family together.

The Aphrodite Hotel, however, is open only six months a year, so I had to decide how I would employ myself for the remainder of the year. My mother, Melpomenie Vati, created a school in the village in 1986, where she taught English as a second language to local children. She had been whispering in my ear for years to come back and teach by her side because she believed that teaching was my true calling. I wouldn't admit it then, but I will now — she was right. Thus, I received my teaching license, went on to renovate my mother's school, and brought the first interactive whiteboards to the island, revolutionizing our classroom teaching methods and making life a lot more fun and interesting for both ourselves and our students.

As a mother and a teacher myself, I can't help but wonder

how the migration crisis is affecting our children as well as the refugee children uprooted from their homes, their schools and their families and forced to exist in a state of limbo. The children of today, many who have witnessed war, terrorism and death, are watching us. We hold in our hands the power to create, through our actions and our voices, a future generation of racists or a future generation of humanitarians. Only through kindness, empathy and acceptance may we have any hope of countering the foundations of terrorism. By closing our borders, by closing our hearts to each other and looking the other way, we are only fueling fear, hatred, racism and terror in the hearts of not only the refugees but ourselves as well.

In the years since leaving UTD, and especially over the last year, I have come to understand how interconnected we truly are. Even though a problem may seem so distant from us, it is in fact much closer than we realize. We are united by a common need for freedom, peace, education, work, respect and a home. I believe that it doesn't matter where someone is from. Neither does it matter what beliefs are held nor what professions they practice, what language they speak or what they look like. It is not "us" against "them" or "me" against "you."

I don't know where my path will continue from here. But I do know that I am who I am today greatly because of UTD — because of the amazing people I met there and the professors who helped us obtain and create knowledge as well as guided us to be in service of others and to strive for excellence. For that I will always be thankful. ■



Left and above: The Greek island of Lesvos has been struggling to deal with what is being called the greatest migration surge since World War II. From January 2015 to January 2016, close to 500,000 refugees arrived at Lesvos, accounting for more than half of the migration influx to Europe through Greece. Clothing and life vests left behind by the refugees were piled on the beach.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

APHRODITE VATI MARIOLA BS'97 (standing second from left) was one of the first student ambassadors at UT Dallas. Aphrodite recalls fondly her days at the University. "When I think back to my days there as an undergraduate student, I can't help but smile. I am grateful to possess memories of late-night studying in the Waterview Apartments, of searching for dinosaur fossils with Dr. Homer Montgomery in Big Bend, of helping create the Student Ambassador Program, of reading *The Odyssey* with Dr. Dennis Kratz, of acting out scenes from Shakespeare with Dr. Frederick Turner, and of Dr. Hobson Wildenthal welcoming me to campus as a freshman."

After earning a degree in statistics, Aphrodite attended graduate school at Thunderbird School of Global Management. She completed a six-month internship in the marketing department of Delphi Automotive Systems in Wuppertal, Germany, before getting her MBA and going to work for multinational corporations in Athens, Greece. She eventually returned to Lesvos and today works with family in running the Aphrodite Hotel and the Melpomenie & Aphrodite Vati Language School.

Awards Gala Celebrates Distinguished Alumni, Loyal Supporters of the University



GALA HONOREES

GIFFORD K. JOHNSON COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Edward M. Ackerman
Founder, Ackerman Associates LP

...

Bill Booziotis
*Founder and president,
 Booziotis & Co. Architects*

GREEN AND ORANGE AWARD FOR ALUMNI SERVICE

The Honorable Angie Chen Button MS'80
District 112 representative, Texas State House of Representatives

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Ashok Kumar "A.K." Mago EMBA'99
*Chairman and CEO,
 Mago & Associates Inc.*

...

John Olajide BS'04
Founder and CEO, Axxess

...

Angela G. Shoup BS'89, MS'92, PhD'94
Associate professor and director of the communicative and vestibular disorders division, UT Southwestern Medical Center

The largest crowd to ever attend the UT Dallas Awards Gala honored a distinguished slate of winners during the 14th annual event in April. The celebratory evening was emceed by WFAA-TV news anchor John McCaa PhD'15.

DURING THE CEREMONY, Edward M. Ackerman, general partner and portfolio manager of Dallas' first hedge fund, received one of two Gifford K. Johnson Community Leadership Awards. Ackerman's support and vision for elevating study and research into one of the most horrendous events of the 20th century led to the creation of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies.

In presenting the award, then interim president Hobson Wildenthal said, "During the last 1,000 years of history, there is nothing more important for civilization to remember, now and forever, than the Holocaust. Ed Ackerman has fundamentally changed the future by empowering us to remember the past."

Bill Booziotis was named a Gifford K. Johnson Community

Leadership Award recipient for his tireless advocacy for the growth and success of the University. Booziotis, who died in May, was founder and president of Booziotis & Co. Architects, and the architect who designed the renovation of the McDermott Library and McDermott Suite. He was known for his keen interest in brain research at the Center for Vital Longevity and participation on the center's advisory council.

Booziotis spoke to the audience about the University's history and his good fortune to have known all three of its founders. "This university and its early development was largely the result of volunteer efforts," he said, noting that those efforts have been instrumental in the evolution of UT Dallas.

The Honorable Angie

Chen Button MS'80, who is serving her fourth term as the Texas House District 112 representative and recently retired from Texas Instruments, was presented the Green and Orange Award for Alumni Service. In addition to championing UT Dallas in Austin, Button hires students and graduates, interacts with students on campus and at the Capitol, and broadly shares her love for her alma mater.

"UTD is a wonderful, universal, globally well-known university — and also a romantic place," Button said. She met her husband, Darcy, while both were graduate students. Darcy graduated with a master's degree in 1980.

When Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Angela G. Shoup BS'89, MS'92, PhD'94 attended UTD, she remembers a campus with a smaller



From left: Edward M. Ackerman, UT Dallas President ad interim Hobson Wildenthal, Angela G. Shoup, Ashok Kumar "A.K." Mago, the Honorable Angie Chen Button, John Olajide and Bill Booziotis.

footprint and student body. She credits the University's founders with setting the stage so that the intellectual atmosphere could flourish and allow the region to compete in industries dependent on highly trained, creative minds.

"I selected UT Dallas specifically due to the reputation of the Callier Center and hearing sciences," said Shoup, an associate professor in otolaryngology and director of the communicative and vestibular disorders division at UT Southwestern Medical Center. "I did not realize at that time how much this choice would open up my world and dissolve its margins."

Ashok Kumar "A.K." Mago EMBA'99, chairman and CEO of Mago & Associates Inc., arrived in the DFW Metroplex in 1974 and took his first class at UT Dallas the next year. His commitment to serving the Dallas community—as well as the area's Indian population—is evident in his long list of affiliations. Through it all, he is fueled by a deep passion for education.

"I have received a few recognitions in my life, but this one is special—special for the reason that it's coming from an educational institution," said Mago, a Distinguished Alumni Award honoree.

John Olajide BSTE'04, founder and CEO of Axxess Technology Solutions and Distinguished Alumni Award

recipient, explained how his parents, who had minimal formal educations, encouraged their five children to pursue studies and earn college degrees. His father — as well as others from Olajide's home village in Nigeria — made his first trip to the U.S. to share the occasion of Olajide's award.

"It takes a village to raise a child, and I am simply a product of a distinguished circle of friends, family, loved ones, colleagues and my immediate and extended communities," Olajide said. "Good thing that Dallas is so far from Nigeria. Otherwise, our entire village would be here tonight."

Olajide recently created an Opportunity Fund to benefit the National Society of Black Engineers at UT Dallas.

"What (the honorees) have done and are doing will impact UT Dallas far into the future," Wildenthal said.

SPONSORS OF THIS YEAR'S GALA

Axxess
The City of Richardson
The Eugene McDermott Foundation
Interstate Batteries
MedeAnalytics
Merit Energy Co.
State Farm
Texas Instruments
UT Southwestern Medical Center

Family Creates Scholarship in Memory of UT Dallas-Bound Son

IN AUGUST 2015, entering freshman Scott Wuensch was enjoying one last summer road trip before starting classes at UT Dallas. Scott, his older brother, Grant, and four of their buddies converged on Whidbey Island, Washington. The experienced Eagle Scout and his friends planned a short hike down the lush and rocky Pass Island.

Scott was excited to get going since the trip included things he enjoyed most: celebrating friends and family, enjoying the outdoors, and talking about his faith and his future at UT Dallas. Scott wore his favorite UT Dallas shirt in the last group photo taken before they ventured off.

The hike to the beach was uneventful, but on the way back up, Scott stepped out onto a thick branch of a Madrona tree to enjoy the beautiful view and to get a better look at the beach. Seconds later, the branch broke, and Scott fell to the rocks 50 feet below. His brother and a friend got to Scott as soon as they could to administer CPR and attempt other life-saving actions, but he was already gone.

Though Scott did not get the chance to attend the University, he had already joined the UT Dallas community. His relationship with the University began as a sophomore in high school, when his talents flourished during a robotic arts summer camp led by Dr. Nicholas Gans, clinical associate professor of electrical engineering.

Scott went on to volunteer at camps for younger kids at UT Dallas and the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

"Scott really was outstanding," Gans said. "He was way too advanced for this camp, and rather than be bored or goof off, he spent a lot of time helping the other students along."

When the time came, Gans encouraged Scott to apply to the University. He was

accepted and received an Academic Excellence Scholarship. Gans was looking forward to having Scott work with the research team in his Sensing, Robotics, Vision, Control and Estima-



tion Lab. He had watched Scott master advanced robotics as a high schooler and said he expected no limit to his accomplishments in college.

Scott also had a special connection with the University through his video editing work for ilumi Solutions, an LED lighting company founded by Corey Egan MBA'10 and Swapnil Bora MBA'11.

Scott's brief history with the University and his dream to be a Comet have led his parents, Michael and Sandra Wuensch, to create a scholarship in their son's memory to benefit students in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science.

They invite others to contribute to the fund in support of future students who attend the school that was part of their son's plan. The memorial scholarship is planned to be awarded beginning in fall 2017.

—Sara Mancuso

Contribute to the fund by going to giving.utdallas.edu/Scott_Wuensch

ALUMNI NOTES

1970s



Deborah Hankinson MS'77 earned a spot on *D Magazine's* 2016 list of the "Best Women Lawyers in Dallas" — the 11th time for the appellate lawyer to be recognized in the annual list. Additionally, the former Supreme Court of Texas justice has been invited to be a Fellow of the College of Commercial Arbitrators, and was one of 48 attorneys nationwide named to *The National Law Journal's* inaugural "ADR Champions" list, which recognizes those who excel in dispute resolution. Deborah earned a master's degree in special education.



George Watson MS'77 co-authored *Why American Prisons Fail: How to Fix Them Without Spending More Money (Maybe Less)*, published by Carolina Academic Press. George earned a master's degree in human development and early childhood disorders.

Barbara McConnell BGS'78 was named by the mayor of Farmers Branch, Texas, as the city's "poet laureate." When Barbara turned 83 in 2014, she decided to write a poem every day for a year. These poems were recently published in a book, *Light Verse With Coffee*, available on Amazon. Barbara earned a degree in general studies, with a concentration in business.



Lori Sackler MS'78 is a financial advisor, senior vice president and senior investment management consultant at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. She recently published her second book, *The M Word Journal: How to Have the Money Talk*. Lori has more than 25 years of experience counseling corporate executives and professionals on financial security, lifestyle and legacy issues. Lori earned a degree in business, marketing and finance.

1980s



William Vaughn MA'80 retired from Microsoft after 14 years, wrapping up a 40-year career in the data processing industry. Now, the Redmond, Washington, resident is making his mark as an independent fantasy author. He recently published the third novel in his new adult (18+) series "The Timkers" and has published three books in a young-adult series "The Seldith Chronicles." Previously, William worked as a manager of the SQL Server team at Microsoft University. He earned a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies, with a concentration in information systems.

Joe A. Davis BS'82 has been appointed to the board of directors for energy company Matador Resources. Previously, Joe was the executive vice president of EnLink Midstream LLC. He has also served on the executive committee of international law firm Hunton & Williams LLP, where he specialized in energy and utilities law. Joe earned a bachelor's degree in business and public administration.



Christine Roberts BGS'82, an intellectual property law attorney based in Orange County, California, was named among Los Angeles "Women Leaders in the Law" for the fourth year in a row by *The American Lawyer* and Martindale Hubbell. Christine earned a degree in interdisciplinary studies, with a focus in pre-med/pre-law disciplines.

Cliburn Semifinalist



AS A STUDENT, **Gorden Cheng BS'03** said he would "sneak" into the Jonsen Performance Hall when classes weren't in session to play the auditorium's Steinway grand piano.

"That's when I started practicing all the time," he said, noting how much he loved the instrument.

Fast forward 14 years, and Gorden advanced to the top 12 among 120 competitors in the Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition, held June 19-25 in Fort Worth. The quadrennial competition offers

talented nonprofessional pianists a chance to compete.

"From my perspective, this kind of student is what UTD is all about," Robert Xavier Rodríguez, UT Dallas professor of music, said, "and I am proud of him."

The former computer science major is vice president of IT and security at chemical molecules database firm eMolecules in La Jolla, California. He continues to pursue his passion for music through nonprofessional competitions across the country.



UT Dallas cyclist Flora Yan BS'16 (center) dons the stars-and-stripes jersey at the 2016 USA Cycling Collegiate Road National Championships.

Cyclist Overcomes Setback to Clinch National Championship

DESPITE NEEDING A last-minute, emergency bike repair, **Flora Yan BS'16** captured the women's individual time trial for Division II in the 2016 USA Cycling Collegiate Road National Championships, held in western North Carolina.

She competed in the mid-May event with about 400 other collegiate riders from 100 schools in 40 states. Yan took the gold medal for her event, but it didn't come easily.

Yan, who has served as an officer in the UT Dallas Cycling and Triathlon Club, had to overcome an unexpected obstacle to nab the win. A part of her bike that shifts gears was damaged in transit to the event and she had to use a substitute bike provided by race organizers for part of the competition and then scramble to get parts for her bike to finish the competition.



Yan went on to win the individual time trial at 29:56.49 on the final day, more than 30 seconds faster than the second-place finisher and three minutes faster than her 2015 time.

Yan, who earned a bachelor's degree in biology, began attending UT Southwestern Medical School this fall. "I came to UT Dallas for the biology program, but I didn't know how much I'd be involved in the cycling club. It's really been incredible seeing the club develop and seeing people grow as riders and individuals," she said.

Longtime Curator to Preserve University's History as Archivist

DR. THOMAS ALLEN PhD'09, previously a curator at the Eugene McDermott Library, was named the new UT Dallas archivist.

For more than a decade, Allen has processed pieces of prominent military history in the Special Collections Department. Now, he will collect and catalog materials crucial to the University's history, relying on his love of the subject and experience to help preserve the University's past for future generations.

As university archivist, Allen is responsible for about 50 collections, or roughly 20,000 documents. All of the materials have been donated by individuals and University departments and offices. Moving forward, he said he'd like to focus on digitization as the numbers of donated materials increase.

"We're slowly just getting the archive out there and making ourselves known. The main goal is to get all of the material processed and arranged so people can use it," he said.

A native of Southern California, Allen moved with his family to Texas when he was young. After internships in California at the National Archives and the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, he returned to Texas and interned in the Special Collections Department. When a curator position opened, Allen applied.

"I've had a chance to see the amazing progress the University has made just in the number of students and new buildings," he said. "I think being an alum gives me a connection to the material and allows me to help build it and show other alumni why they should be interested in the history."

To learn more about the material collected for the archives and how to donate, visit University Archives at utdallas.edu or email Allen at thomas.allen1@utdallas.edu





Patricia Evridge Hill MA'84, PhD'90, a professor of history at San Jose State University, received the 2016 Meritorious Service Award from the SJSU College of Social Sciences. The award is given to a faculty member who has provided leadership in advancing the interests of faculty. For the past eight years, Patricia has served as the college's history department chair. She earned master's and doctoral degrees in humanities, the latter concentrated in the history of ideas.



Andy Trabilisy MBA'89, MA'89 has joined Catalyst Repository Systems, an international e-discovery technology and litigation document review company, as its new director of partner development. In his new role, Andy leads development and strategy implementation within Catalyst's global partner program. Andy has more than 25 years of experience in enterprise software and litigation technology consulting, sales and services. He earned an MBA in finance and an MA in international management studies.

1990s



Katie Nees MBA'90 has joined HNTB Corp. as growth officer and senior vice president, bringing more than 35 years of leadership experience to the firm. Prior to joining HNTB, Katie served as the director of the Strategic Projects Division of the Texas Department of Transportation, where she managed 20 active projects totaling over \$28 billion, including LBJ Freeway, DFW Connector, North Tarrant Expressway and I-35 managed lanes.

Rodney Lee MS'93 was appointed chief financial officer and executive vice president for Atlanta-based restaurant chain The Krystal Co. Previously, he was the CFO for the Italian fast-casual chain Fazoli's and the CFO of a large Pizza Hut franchise group. Rodney has 25 years of experience in the quick-service industry. He earned a master's degree in finance.



Dr. Kyle Litz BS'93 has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry — the largest organization in Europe for advancing the chemical sciences. Kyle was one of 152 admitted Fellows elected for outstanding contributions to chemistry. As chief technology officer of Auterra Inc., Kyle leads a team of researchers who work to develop catalysts and related processes for the environmental remediation and upgrading of heavy sour crude oils and bitumen. Kyle earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry.



Lew Richey MBA'94 is the president and CEO of L. Richey & Associates, offering real estate and project management services. For 28 years, he has managed real estate investments for domestic and foreign clients across North Texas.



Phil McDivitt MBA'96 has been promoted to president and COO of Ascend Performance Materials, bringing nearly three decades of industry experience to the role. Prior to joining Ascend, Phil served in various management positions at Celanese Corp., a global technology and specialty materials company. Phil earned a degree in business administration.

Scott Eberwein BS'97 published *Cash Your Investment*, a book intended to inform college students about the tools they need to land their dream jobs after college.



Jill Melancon BA'98 has joined elite sports flooring company Ponder Co. Inc., as sales and project manager. She earned a degree in psychology.

2000s



Hill Johnson BS'01 has joined HSSK professional services firm as director of business valuation for the Dallas office. Hill has more than a decade of industry experience and has valued over 300 businesses to date. In the new role, he will focus on serving business valuation and litigation consulting clients. Hill graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and management.



VJ Boyd BS'02 is a writer and producer known for the TV series *Justified*. This summer, he served on a panel at the 2016 Comic-Con International in San Diego: "Inside the Writers' Room: The Pilot: Part One." VJ earned a degree in business administration.

Nicole Buergers BA'02 launched Houston-based business Bee2Bee Honey Collective after raising more than \$13,500 in an initial crowdfunding campaign. The business offers beekeeping services and local honey to Houstonians. Nicole earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies.



Manohar Kesireddy MSCS'02 was awarded the "CEO with HR Orientation Award" at the 24th World HDR Congress in Mumbai, India. The award recognizes a non-human-resources (HR) organization leader who has supported and empowered effective HR strategies and initiatives. Manohar is the CEO of mRoads IT company in Plano, where he leads daily operations, product development and strategy. Previously, he led development teams at Verizon Telecom and holds several patents in technology. Manohar earned a master's degree in computer science. He founded mRoads with former classmates **Rahul Kukreti BS'01, MSCS'02** and **Prakash Nallagatla MS'98**.



Bishop Cider Co. New Location

LESS THAN A year after opening his Dallas cidery, **Joel Malone BS'08, MS'11, MBA'11** saw an opportunity for expansion.

The 28-year-old Dallas native and his wife, Laura, rented a small storefront in the city's Bishop Arts District in 2014, where they opened Bishop Cider Co.

The idea was an immediate hit, as 1,600 people showed up to the cidery's grand opening that was held in a 704-square-foot space.

In the weeks that followed, crowds continued to pour in to try the locally crafted brew made from pressed apples. After searching for more space, the owners found a 10,704-square-foot facility in the Design District on Irving Boulevard and opened the new facility in October 2015 as the production site for all of Bishop's ciders.

The original flagship location is now called the "Tasting Room" and the larger space is used to brew and bottle the ciders and hold special events, Joel said.

On Saturdays, he opens up the warehouse and offers free tours to the public starting at 12:30 p.m., followed by a live band in the main room.

High interest is what all young entrepreneurs like to see, Joel said, crediting his education for preparing him to succeed.

"A (UT Dallas) degree equips you to learn how to position a business, how to compete, how to create a business plan and how to roll with the punches as that business plan falls through and changes," he said. "It teaches you how to analyze and how to think through things."

-Grace Gaddy

Above: Joel Malone BS'08, MS'11, MBA'11, founder of Bishop Cider Co.

Right: The Dallas business brews more than 2,000 gallons of cider per week.



Alumni Center Begins to Take Form

The Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center, named for Nancy Gundy Davidson BS'80 and Charles "Chuck" Davidson MS'80, is under construction north of the Naveen Jindal School of Management, between the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building and Parking Structure 1. The special use facility has been dubbed a "gateway to the future" because it will foster connections between current and future alumni. Designed as a building within a park, the center will accommodate rentals for meetings, conferences and other events.

Amount of space (in square feet): nearly 30,000 (building), 33,000 (outdoors)

Indoor features: Inspiration Hall, 450-seat ballroom, conference center, lounge, meeting rooms, office space

Outdoor features: expansive patio, shaded grove, open lawn, ornamental trees, private garden


Naming Opportunities: Naming opportunities for the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center are available to donors who want to show their support. Visit alumni.utdallas.edu/davidson-gundy-alumni-center for details.





Left: Construction on the center as of September. Visit alumni.utdallas.edu/davidson-gundy-alumni-center for a livestream of the progress.

Below: The Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center will be a place where UT Dallas' more than 90,000 alumni can connect with one another and the campus.






73% of the license plate fee goes toward scholarships at UT Dallas.





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*Regular registration fees apply. Personalized plates available for an additional \$40.



Coby Pewitt MBA'02, PhD'14 has been promoted to assistant chief of police for the Richardson Police Department. Previously, he served as a captain over special operations, a lieutenant in both the patrol and investigative operations divisions, a sergeant in the crime prevention unit, and a detective for forgery and fraud. Coby earned a doctorate in public affairs.



Ronald Mehler PhD'03, professor of electrical and computer engineering at California State University, Northridge, recently published *Digital Integrated Circuit Design Using Verilog and SystemVerilog*. Prior to joining the CSU faculty, Ronald worked in private industry for 20 years, primarily designing digital integrated circuits for companies around the world. He earned a doctorate in electrical engineering.



Brian Enzler BS'04 leads the new commercial banking office of BMO Harris Bank in Dallas, which opened in May. Brian has more than 12 years of experience in commercial banking in Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.



Shawn Adams MBA'06 has joined Kansas City-based Stinson Leonard Street LLP as its new chief operating officer, where he will be responsible for managing the operations for a law firm with nearly 1,000 attorneys and staff in 14 offices across the U.S. Shawn had been the chief strategy officer for Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP in Dallas and has 20 years of experience in operations and integration of acquisitions.



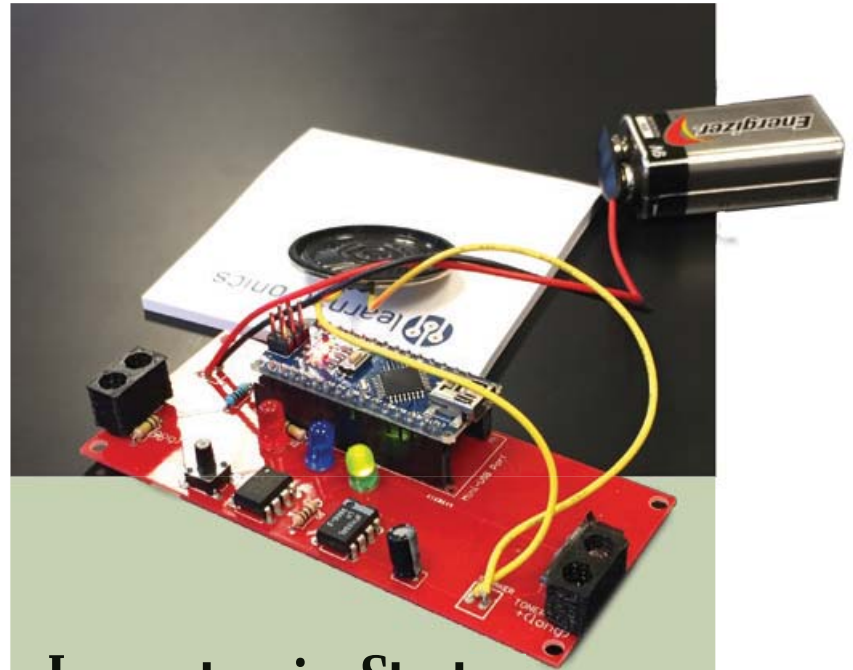
Stephen Miano MS'06 has been appointed chief financial officer and treasurer at Sonesta International Hotels Corp., a company of more than 65 hotels across three continents. Stephen has more than 25 years of domestic and international experience in the hospitality industry and has held senior finance leadership roles at Rosewood, Four Seasons and Commune Hotels + Resorts. In the new role, he will be responsible for directing corporate and hotel operations, including financial planning and analysis, strategic planning and risk management. Stephen earned a degree in accounting and information systems.



Jennifer (Worth) Redden MAT'06, currently associate principal at Heritage High School in Frisco, Texas, will become the principal for Memorial High School when it opens. With more than 10 years of experience with the district, Redden previously served as a math teacher, department chair and instructional coach.



Christina Shams BA'09 has founded the Dallas-based entertainment company NGOEntertainment (Next Generation of Entertainment) after working in the Los Angeles entertainment industry for the past five years. In August, her company produced the comedy show "The United Shades of Ahmedica Tour - Dallas" at the House of Blues. Christina earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, with a focus in pre-med and business.



Learntronics Startup

THIS SUMMER, ALUMNI founders of the startup company Learntronics came to campus to lead a summer workshop for area math and science teachers.

"We sell electronics kits geared toward K-12 teachers to make it easier to integrate hands-on circuit activities into their classrooms," said **Katie Walker BS'07**. "We've already implemented our kits (in area schools) with excellent reviews, and a summer science camp at UTD."

In May, the company was named one of five finalists for the Innovate McKinney startup competition and eventually claimed the third-place prize at the finale in June.

Miles Selvidge BS'05, BS'05, MS'08, MBA'08 said the idea for the company took off last year, after he learned of an area high school teacher who was looking for a kit that would show students how electronics work. A few months later, Miles — along with fiancée Katie and fellow alumni **Breandan O'Shaughnessy MS'09** and **Zheyun "Rachel" Zhang O'Shaughnessy MBA'12** — started Learntronics as a resource for teachers.

Together, the Learntronics founders hold seven degrees from UT Dallas across three schools and remain connected to their alma mater. Katie teaches part time in the UT Dallas chemistry department, and Miles teaches GMAT and GRE prep courses.





Students Earn Graduate Research Fellowships

FOUR YEARS AGO, **Arden Wells BS'16 (left)** and **Melanie Maurer BS'16 (pictured far left)** began their UT Dallas journeys as roommates and Eugene McDermott Scholars.

Now the spring graduates have each earned 2016 Graduate Research Fellowships from the National Science Foundation.

Maurer majored in biomedical engineering and Wells studied geosciences. The two were among 2,000 students nationwide to receive the highly competitive award, which provides three years of financial support to attend graduate school and conduct research at a U.S. institution of their choice.

Maurer will spend

a year researching in Germany, focusing on directing stem cell differentiation to beating heart cells and working to mature and characterize the cells. In 2017, she will enter the PhD bioengineering program at Cornell University, where she will pursue similar research.

Wells will pursue a PhD at Stanford University in its Department of Earth System Science, where she plans to conduct research in hydrology and global water resources.

In addition to the awards for the new graduates, Maria Castaneda, a current graduate student in chemistry and biochemistry at UTD, and four other UTD alumni — **Anita Chandrahas BS'15, Kwok Wai Im BS'14, Ryan Marcotte BS'15 and Natasha Woods BS'11** — who are currently pursuing graduate studies at other universities also were awarded NSF fellowships.

—Amanda Siegfried



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2010s

Noemi J. Ayuste BS'10 was crowned Ms. Philippine Independence 2016 during the annual Philippine Republic Day gala dinner in Dallas. Noemi earned a degree in business administration.



James Fisher MPA'10 was appointed the new city manager for Forney, Texas, after holding the same municipal leadership position in Murphy, Texas, for eight years. James earned a master's degree in public affairs and has more than 27 years' experience in municipal government.

Heather (Compton) Wootton BS'10 (below) tied the knot with Mark Wootton on June 3 in Nevada, Texas, after taking her bridal portraits on campus in March. The business administration alumna now works as a business development and marketing coordinator at Garver, a civil engineering firm in Frisco, Texas.



Rachel (Wheeler) Holcomb MPA'10 became the city clerk for Neosho, Missouri. She earned a master's degree in public affairs.



Gabriel Dawe MFA'11 was commissioned to create "Plexus no. 34" — a unique production of his signature rainbow art installations — for the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth.

The piece features 60 miles of colored thread and is on display until July 25, 2018. Gabriel was a student resident of CentralTrak: The UT Dallas Artists Residency and graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree. *Visit the UT Dallas Alumni Facebook page to view a behind-the-scenes video of Gabriel as he installs the piece.*



Grace (Bielawski) Richards BA'11 is an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C., where she prosecutes domestic violence cases. Grace previously clerked for the Washington D.C. Court of Appeals. At UT Dallas, Grace served as student government president in 2010. A McDermott Scholar, she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and went on to attend the University of Virginia Law School, graduating in 2014.



Dalya (Munves) Ferguson BA'12 graduated from McGovern Medical School at UT Health Science Center at Houston in May, and is now in the school's General Surgery Residency Program. She married McCullough Ferguson on January 2 in Prescott, Arizona. Dalya earned a bachelor's degree in literature.



Joseph Pytcher BS'12 is the owner of Pytcher Homes, a real estate development company he started soon after graduating. Joseph earned a degree in finance.



Daniela Huerta BA'13, BA'13 is attending the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. At UT Dallas, Daniela held several leadership positions, including president of Sigma Lambda Alpha Sorority Inc. She earned two undergraduate degrees, one in political science and one in historical studies.



Ali Samana BA'13 was awarded the 2016 Immigrant Entrepreneur Award by legal counsel Scheef & Stone — an honor recognizing immigrant achievements and contributions to the North Texas area. Born in Pakistan, Ali immigrated to Texas in 1997 and graduated from Frisco High School before joining the U.S. Navy. After earning a bachelor's degree in political science and government, he went on to co-found solar energy company 1 Solar Solution LLC in Frisco, Texas.



Shrinath “Shri” Kadamangudi BS’14 was one of eight students who won a scholarship to conduct graduate neuroscience research at the Queensland Brain Institute in Australia. In this position, he has researched how noninvasive ultrasound technologies can treat Alzheimer’s disease. He currently is focused on engineering a low-cost, portable MRI scanner to increase MRI availability in remote or medically underserved areas. At UT Dallas, Shrinath was a summer researcher through the Duane and Linda Buhrmester Research Award. He earned a bachelor’s degree in neuroscience.

Tawanna Williams MS’14 has been promoted to senior corporal for the Dallas Police Department. Tawanna earned a master’s degree in justice administration and leadership.



Andrew Hawkes MS’15 is now the chief of the Jacksonville Police Department in Jacksonville, Texas. Previously, he was a lieutenant with the Collin County Sheriff’s Office and has more than 25 years of law enforcement experience. Andrew earned a master’s degree in justice administration and leadership.



Faye Sanderia MA’16 was nominated for a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award — which recognizes the best books in African American literature — for her debut novel, *Mourner’s Bench*. Faye earned a degree in humanities and is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Texas.

Rosalyn Huff BS’15 (below) was crowned Miss McKinney in the spring and went on to compete in the Miss Texas Pageant in June in Richardson. Rosalyn earned a bachelor’s degree in international political economy.



IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBRANCES OF

University Alumni



BARBARA C. BEMBRY BA'89,
May 31, 2016, Austin, Texas. Bembry

earned a bachelor's degree in American studies, graduating summa cum laude. She served three terms as justice of the peace in Travis County.

ROBERT W. BERRY BS'94,
March 13, 2016, Fort Worth.

Berry earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He worked for Halliburton Energy Services for more than 30 years.



ANNA R. CLEMENTS BA'81,
May 25, 2016, Arlington, Texas.

Clements earned a bachelor's degree in history. She taught for many years in the Garland Independent School District, including North Garland High School.



PAMELA G. CLINE BS'81, Feb. 17,
2016, Dallas. Cline

earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. She later attended Southwestern Theological Seminary.



WILLIAM C. CRABTREE BS'82,
June 9, 2016, Meridian, Texas.

Crabtree earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. He worked for Rockwell International for more than 10 years.



TERESA L. GRAHAM BS'84,
Feb. 23, 2016, Austin, Texas. Graham

earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. She had a career as a home health agency executive.



RICHARD E. HARKE MS'90,
PhD'00, June 1, 2016, Sacramento, California. Harke

earned both a master's degree and a doctorate in physics. He had a career as a programmer in the telecommunication industry.



BRADLEY E. HARTGRAVES MBA'93, May
31, 2016, Denver.

Hartgraves worked in the finance and insurance industry for more than 30 years.



CLIFTON A. HILL BA'04, June
13, 2016, Dallas. Hill

earned a bachelor's degree in historical studies. He worked for Merck Pharmaceuticals for more than 30 years. He later co-founded Oak Hill Academy in Dallas.



BETTY B. HUNT BA'79, April 21,
2016, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Hunt

earned a bachelor's degree in history after raising her four sons.



JOSEPH H. LINDSAY MA'97,
March 15, 2016, Dallas. Lindsay

earned a master's degree in international management studies. His career in international business was curtailed because of ALS.



JOHN C. LONG BS'81, March
13, 2016, Dallas. Long

earned a bachelor's degree in business before earning a law degree. His career included stints with the district attorney offices in Dallas and Kaufman counties.



MATTHEW R. MELTON MS'11,
April 29, 2016, LaMarque, Texas.

Melton earned a master's degree in accounting. He was employed in the oil and gas industry.



LAKSHMI S. NARASIMHAN PHD'88, April
29, 2016, Lawrenceville, Georgia. Narasimhan

earned a doctorate in management science. A former academician, he was actively involved in community relations through the Indian Professional Network.



JAMES A. PEARSON BA'98, June 11,
2016, Castle Rock, Colorado. Pearson

earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. He worked in corporate communications.



FRANKLIN D. QUARLES BS'79,
March 14, 2016, Dallas. Quarles

earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. He worked for Hewlett Packard following a 24-year career in the U.S. Air Force.



JOHNNIE W. "BILL" RAY BS'78, March
22, 2016, Bridgeport, Texas. Ray

earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. He spent his career in commercial real estate.



SUSAN I. SUTTON BA'88, May 26,
2016, Plano, Texas. Sutton

earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. After raising two children, she had a career with State Farm Insurance.



MALAK KUZBARY THAWLEY BA'12,
May 8, 2016, Dublin, Ireland.

Thawley earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. She had been teaching in Ireland for almost three years.



PHENA D. WHITFIELD BGS'80, April 7,
2016, Rockwall,

Texas. Whitfield earned a bachelor's degree in general studies after raising three children. She was active in a number of civic organizations.



JEWEL S. WILLIAMS MBA'98, March
7, 2016, Rockwall,

Texas. Williams earned a master's degree in business. She worked for 24 years for *The Dallas Morning News*.

REMEMBRANCES OF *University Faculty, Staff and Friends*



IVOR ROBINSON,
1924–2016
Professor emeritus
Ivor Robinson, an

eminent mathematical physicist noted for his contributions to the development of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity, died in May at the age of 92.

A native of Liverpool, England, Robinson was a founding member of the faculty recruited in 1963 to the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, the private research organization that in 1969 became UT Dallas.

As professor and founding head of the research center's Division of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Robinson recruited distinguished experts in the fields of mathematics, relativity theory and cosmology to join him at the fledgling research institute. These faculty members subsequently formed the cores of the mathematical sciences and physics departments in the University's School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Robinson was one of four organizers of the Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics in 1963, the first international scientific conference to highlight new research in the combined fields of relativity and astrophysics, focusing on the then-newly discovered astronomical objects called quasars. He named the new scientific discipline "relativistic astrophysics" in part to attract conference attendees from around the globe to Dallas. The conference was so successful that it has since been held at sites around the world, retaining the name Texas Symposium regardless of location.



MISTY HAWLEY,
1977–2016
Misty Hawley, the
communications

manager for the Eugene McDermott Library, died in May at the age of 39.

Hawley MA'13 had coordinated the library's communications needs since December 2013. During her tenure, the library expanded its hours and underwent extensive renovations in study and lounge areas.

Dr. Ellen Safley, dean of McDermott Library, said Hawley excelled in planning events that benefited faculty, staff and students.

"The library was superior because of Misty's work. We are thankful to have known and worked with her," Safley said.

Hawley, a native of Glade-water, Texas, earned bachelor's degrees in broadcast journalism and political science at the University of North Texas. She worked 12 years as a TV producer before coming to UT Dallas in December 2010.

Hawley also served as assistant director of student media from 2010-2013, working with students at Radio UTD and UTD TV.



BILL BOOZIOTIS,
1935–2016
Bill Booziotis,
longtime supporter

of UT Dallas, died in May at the age of 80.

Booziotis supported several University initiatives and was recognized in April with the Gifford K. Johnson Community Leadership Award for his service and dedication to the University.

"Bill Booziotis was a tremendous friend of and advocate for UT Dallas," said Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, executive vice president and provost. "His generosity helped advance our

neuroscience research areas and his outreach garnered more attention for those efforts—and for the University—from members of the community. I am so glad that we were able to recognize his many contributions with the Gifford Johnson award."

Inspired by brain research at the Center for Vital Longevity, Booziotis and his late wife, Jean, established the Jean and Bill Booziotis Opportunity Fund to aid the efforts of a group of distinguished cognitive neuroscientists. They also created the Jean and Bill Booziotis Distinguished Lecture Series, which launched in 2014.

Booziotis served on the CVL Advisory Council and the Director's Research Circle at CVL. He also was a member of the UT Dallas Development Board, the University Campaign Council and the University's Legacy Society.



ROBERT LOCKERD,
1938–2016
Robert M. "Mike"

Lockerd Sr., a longtime supporter of UT Dallas and the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, died in March at the age of 78.

Lockerd was instrumental in establishing UT Dallas as a four-year degree institution. He also served as past president and emeritus trustee of the Foundation for the Callier Center Board and was a member of the UT Dallas Development Board.

Lockerd worked at Texas Instruments for 32 years, where his team developed projects such as the first Mariner Mars flyby vehicle and the world's first digital GPS receiver.

An alumnus of Rice University and Yale University,

Lockerd was a registered professional engineer and a life senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. His intellectual accomplishments included multiple patents and publications. His most-prized awards were the Secretary of the Army's Outstanding Civilian Service Medal and the Texas Alliance for Higher Education's Cecil and Ida Green Education Award.



JOHN PHILLIP ALLEN,
1941–2016
Phillip Allen, who
taught in the

Teacher Development Center for 15 years, died in February at the age of 74.

Allen was remembered as a supportive teacher who made time to get to know his students. Dr. George Fair, vice president for diversity and community engagement and dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, said students benefited from Allen's decades of experience.

"He really was the kind of person who could bring reality to talk about his experience and talk about the kinds of experiences he has had as a teacher and as a principal and as an administrator in a school district," Fair said.

Allen graduated with a bachelor's degree from Northwestern State College of Louisiana in 1963 before earning his master's from Louisiana Tech University in 1967. After working in Louisiana public schools, Allen moved to Dallas in 1973 to work for the Dallas Independent School District where he taught math and served as a principal, program specialist and director of Disciplinary Alternative Programs.

A UT Dallas scholarship has been established in memory of Allen, with the aim of helping aspiring teachers. The Phillip Allen Teacher Development Scholarship will assist students in financial need during their unpaid student teaching semester.

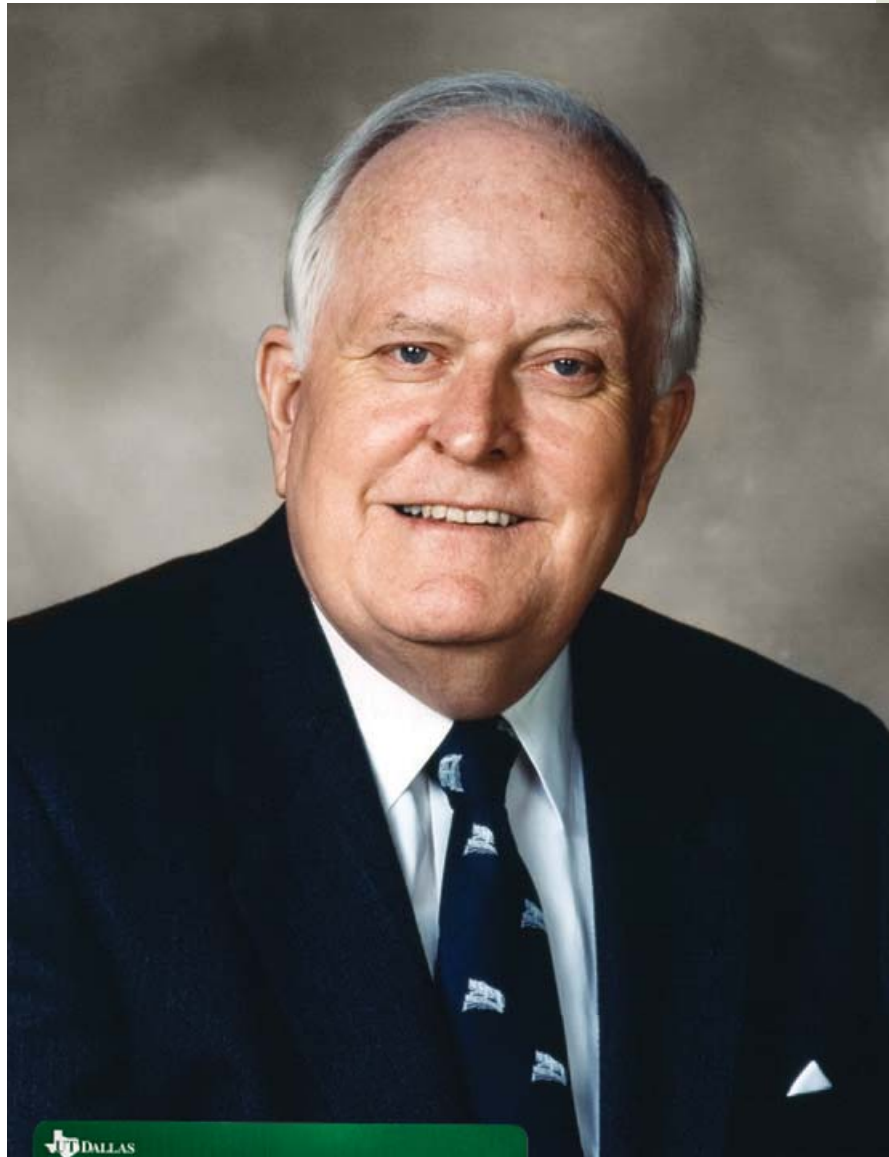
Keep Us Informed

If you learn of the death of a UTD alumnus, faculty, staff or friend, please email any information to

alumni@utdallas.edu

or send to

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800 W. Campbell Road
Richardson, Texas 75080-3021



Dr. Bryce Jordan, 1924-2016

Dr. H. Bryce Jordan, the first UT Dallas president, died in April at the age of 91.

Jordan served as president from 1971 to 1981. He took the helm of the University just two years after the campus became part of The University of Texas System. The rapidly growing institution expanded its faculty from 50 to 215 and increased student enrollment from 40 to more than 7,000 during his tenure.

A visionary academic and campus planner known for strategic thinking, Jordan crafted the University's first strategic plan. He envisioned a strong showing in the arts, humanities and social sciences to complement the University's stellar reputation for science and mathematics.

Dr. Robert Rutford, who succeeded Jordan as president from 1982 to 1994, said his predecessor was instrumental in building a world-class faculty from scratch, together with his vice president of academic affairs, the late Dr. Alexander Clark, who also served as acting president of the University for a short time after Jordan's departure.

"Bryce left a legacy of a university that was set to grow," Rutford said. "He was

always very proud of the work he had done at UT Dallas. The biggest contribution he and Alex made was hiring world-class faculty. Without them, UT Dallas would not be like it is today."

Jordan was born Sept. 22, 1924, in Clovis, New Mexico, and was raised in Abilene, Texas. A World War II veteran, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music from The University of Texas before receiving a PhD in historical

"The biggest contribution he and [Dr. Alexander Clark] made was hiring world-class faculty. Without them, UT Dallas would not be like it is today."

DR. ROBERT RUTFORD

musicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1956.

He left UT Dallas in 1981 to serve as executive vice chancellor and chief operating officer for academic affairs of the UT System. In 1983, he was appointed president of Penn State, an office he held for seven years.

Left: UT Dallas recently renamed three streets after former University presidents, including Bryce Jordan. While serving as the first UTD president, Jordan created the "bug logo," pictured on the sign in the background.

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Whoosh!



HANS AJIEREN, a McDermott Scholar, became the 13th UT Dallas student since 2005 to receive a scholarship from the **Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program**. Three other UTD students received honorable mentions: **Muhammad Akram, Sheridan Cavalier and Karthik Hullahalli**.

THE ERIK JONSSON School of Engineering and Computer Science climbed three spots in *U.S. News & World Report's* latest ranking of graduate schools, tying with the University of Houston and two other colleges at 73rd place. Statewide, it trailed only The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University and Rice University.



AN AEROSPACE DESIGN team of UT Dallas students, dubbed **Temoc Space Industries**, was among a group of college peers selected by NASA to develop prototypes for aerospace engineering challenges. The team developed an anchoring system for an asteroid and tested the project at NASA's Johnson Space Center in May.

UT DALLAS WAS included in *The Princeton Review's* latest assessment of "**Top Schools for Game Design**," with the **arts and technology** graduate program ranked ninth and its undergraduate program at 11th. *The Princeton Review* started ranking video game design programs in 2010 after recognizing a surge in the number of options available, and UT Dallas has since ranked in the top 25 every year.

THE NAVEEN JINDAL School of Management, which opened the same year undergraduate juniors and seniors were first admitted to UT Dallas, celebrated its **40th anniversary** during the spring. The school now has about 8,000 students enrolled and about 270 faculty members.

SUPPORTERS OF THE Callier Center for Communication

Disorders raised more than \$200,000 for patients in need during the fifth annual **Callier Cares Luncheon** in April. **Stuart Bumpas**, a distinguished trustee of the Foundation for the Callier Center and Communication Disorders, was honored with the **2016 Ruth and Ken Altshuler Callier Care Award**.

FOR THE FOURTH year in a row, *The Princeton Review* recognized UT Dallas as one of the **top 200 universities** for its strong academics, affordable cost and strong career prospects for graduates. The University was described as a "young, agile and rapidly growing university."

DR. LINGMING ZHANG, assistant professor of computer science in the Jonsson School, was one of eight researchers worldwide to receive a **Google**

Faculty Research Award. Zhang's research focuses on app security analysis.

A **TEAM OF five Jindal School MBA students** took first place and won \$10,000 in the second **Penn State Smeal College of Business MBA Sustainability Case Competition**. The competition focused on helping IBM's Corporate Environmental Affairs staff manage growing global responsibilities.

DR. ALVARO CÁRDENAS, assistant professor of computer science in the Jonsson School, received a **National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award** for his research on cyber-physical systems. The award provides him with more than \$500,000 in funding over five years.

JINDAL SCHOOL finance doctoral candidate **BOBBY SHED** was awarded a \$120,000 research grant from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**. He will work as a health policy research scholar to improve public health outcomes.

DOCTORAL CANDIDATE RYAN FRELING, who is studying marketing in the Jindal School, received the **2016 William R. Davidson Honorable Mention Award** for best articles published in 2014 in Volume 90 of the *Journal of Retailing*.

GE LV, an electrical engineering PhD student, received the student best paper award at the **IEEE Conference on Decision and Control** in Osaka, Japan.

DR. HONGBING LU, the Louis A. Beecherl Jr. Chair in Mechanical Engineering, was named a **Fellow in the American Society of Mechanical Engineering**.

CHESS TEAM PLAYER AND GRANDMASTER GIL POPILSKI was crowned co-champion at the 117th annual **U.S. Open Chess Championship**.

POLITICAL SCIENCE SENIOR AND MCDERMOTT SCHOLAR NANCY FAIRBANK published *Throwaway Youth: Stories of Springfield's Homeless Teens*, which tells the stories of homeless teens she interviewed in her hometown of Springfield, Missouri.

DR. COLLEEN LE PRELL, professor of audiology in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, was named president-elect of the **National Hearing Conservation Association**.

DR. PETER PARK, an associate professor of history and philosophy in the School of Arts and Humanities, received the **2016 Frantz Fanon Outstanding Book Award** for his book, *Africa, Asia, and the History of Philosophy: Racism in the Formation of the Philosophical Canon*. ■



Hindsight

HE'S THE PERSONIFICATION of Comet spirit. Hair of fiery hue and skin of blue, Temoc turned 18 years old in the spring. (Temoc is "comet" spelled backward.) Developed in 1998 by Aaron Aryanpur BA'00, the University's mascot was originally named Blaze. Share your favorite memories of Temoc. Email utdallasmagazine@utdallas.edu with your photos and stories.