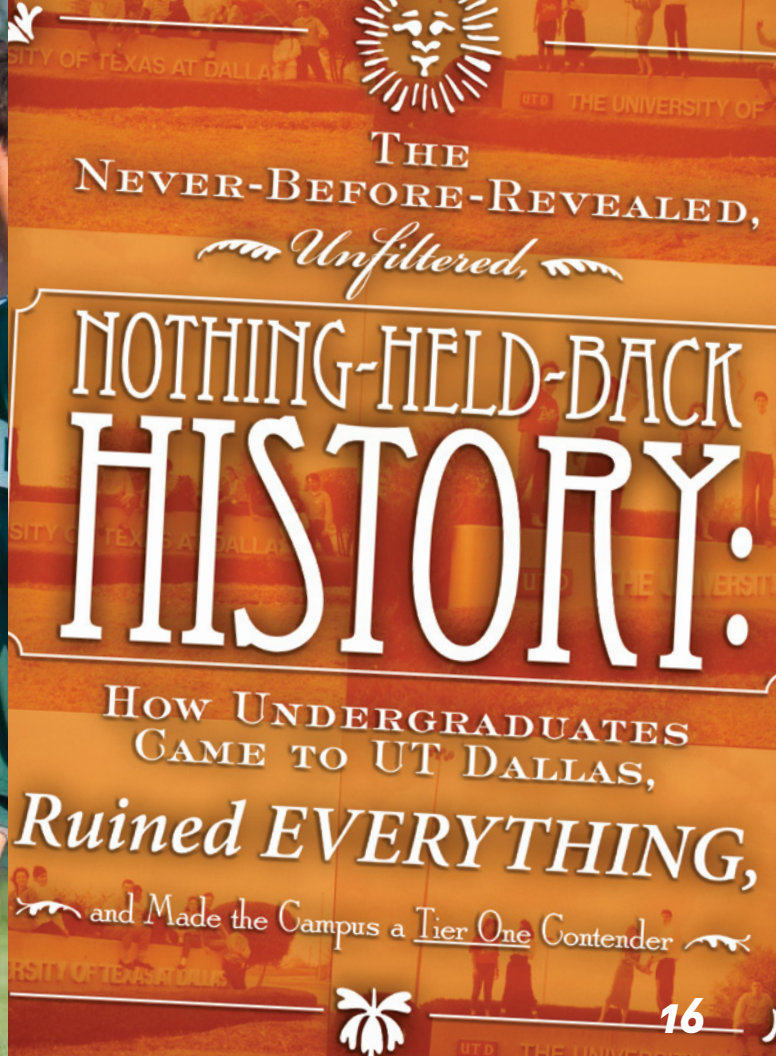


UT DALLAS

M A G A Z I N E



A Campus Transformed



UT DALLAS

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Volume 1, Issue 2
Spring 2011

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The six-member class of 2010 brings the total number of honorees to 17 in UT Dallas' Athletics Hall of Honors.

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Women's soccer and volleyball boast a successful season with players named to All-ASC and All-ASC East Division women's volleyball teams and first-team All Conference women's soccer.

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A CAMPUS TRANSFORMED 24

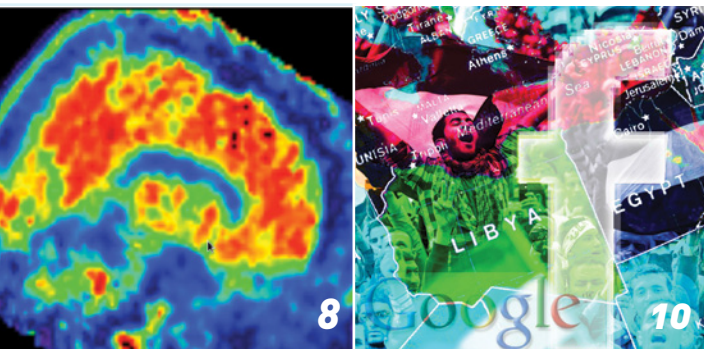
Pre-eminent landscape architect Peter Walker and Partners guided the transformation of the University's front door and the heart of campus. The September dedication is captured in a pictorial essay.

ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE: ALESHA SEROCZYNSKI 35

Reflections on the life and work of the late Dr. Duane Buhrmester by Dr. Alesha Seroczynski BA'92.

BMOC'S AND CAMPUS SWEETHEARTS? STUDENT LEADERS TRANSCEND TYPE 38

It's not your grandfather's—or grandmother's—college campus anymore. Today's Big Man on Campus is just as likely to be a woman. UT Dallas student leaders do share some characteristics: They tend to be persistent risk-takers who are generous with their time.



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ON THE COVER

Magnolias—the floral centerpiece of the newly completed campus enhancement project—will bloom for the first time this year on the center mall. The trees surround bubbling ponds, a human-scaled chess board, a wisteria-bearing trellis and a gently cooling fog mister.



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

THE DEBUT ISSUE

Please tell all the people who were responsible for the new *UT Dallas Magazine* that it is absolutely first-class, just lovely and informative. What [President] David Daniel has done has really pushed UT Dallas forward. Hooray for all of you!

Betty Johnson

Mrs. Johnson is the wife of the late Gifford Johnson, President of the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, which became UT Dallas in 1969.

The "Tier One" edition of the *UT Dallas Magazine* has just arrived. What an outstanding first edition magazine, so colorful, readable, informative in text and photos, all around a compelling way to tell a grand story. Keep it up. Those who are giving an assist to institutions of higher education in the region now have a wonderful new tool to use to advance the cause. Congratulations!

James C. Oberwetter
President, Dallas Regional Chamber

I really like the first magazine. Very cool! As a graduate from UTD now in my fourth year coaching, I have seen the growth and this publication shows how far the University has come since I first stepped onto campus in 2003.

Great job!
Travis Carruthers BA'07
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
The University of Texas at Dallas

For years I have been reading both Wabash College's (my husband's alma mater) and the University of Notre Dame's magazines, and I am so pleased to see UT Dallas produce a comparable and engaging piece. I have one question for you: I noticed that there was no mention of the untimely and extremely unfortunate passing of Duane Buhrmester and his wife this summer.

Dr. Alesha D. Seroczynski BA'92

The magazine had just gone to print when word of Dr. and Mrs. Buhrmester's passing

came to the University. Read more about the Buhrmesters in the Alumni Perspective (p. 35) and In Memoriam (p.53) sections of this issue.

—The Editors

REMEMBERING THE LATE ALEX CLARK

Alexander Clark was a remarkable man who changed my life for the better. He and Bryce Jordan, UT Dallas' first president, hired my soon-to-be husband Peter Vollmers as an assistant professor in the new music department in what was then the newest of new universities. Alex, a lover of jazz and Peter, an incredibly talented jazz musician, became fast friends. Peter and I married in 1980 and Alex soon became my friend too.

When Peter died in 1986, Alex was by my side—always there to help. He introduced me to Adolph Enthoven—a major figure in the business school—and Dr. Enthoven in turn started me teaching as an adjunct at UT Dallas. By that time I had earned my MS from UTD, passed the CPA exam and was working for an accounting firm, rather unhappily since I had two very young girls.

Alex told me that the best thing I could do would be to earn a PhD in accounting—a degree I didn't know existed. With that degree, I could go anywhere I wanted, earn a good living and have plenty of time with my kids, he said. ... I did earn that PhD. Alex was correct. I am very happy at the University of Maine, and my daughters and I have had very good lives.

Dr. Gloria Vollmers MS'85
Professor of Accounting
University of Maine

Correction

Paula Felps wrote "Helping Provide the Electronic RX for Health Records" on page 8 of the fall edition of UT Dallas Magazine. The authorship was misattributed. The editors regret the error.

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Write to Us!

UT Dallas Magazine welcomes letters that focus on issues of concern and interest to the University and its alumni and the University community. Send letters to: UT Dallas Magazine, AD28, 800 West Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080-3021. Brevity is the soul of wit: short letters are most likely to be published, and all submissions may be edited for length or clarity. Opinions expressed will be those of the named contributor (who should include contact information such as phone number, email address and/or mailing address.) Let us hear from you!



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Sophia Dembling BA'04

Sophia Dembling is a writer and editor who graduated *summa cum laude* from UT Dallas in psychology. She currently puts her degree to work as a blogger for PsychologyToday.com and PsychCentral.com. Sophia is author of *The Yankee Chick's Survival Guide to Texas*, and was co-author with Audette Rackley of the Center for BrainHealth of *I Can Still Laugh: Stories of Inspiration and Hope from Individuals Living with Alzheimer's*. She also writes frequently about travel and fitness, and has published hundreds of articles and essays in magazines and newspapers.



Alesha Seroczynski BA'92

After completing her undergraduate degree, *summa cum laude*, Alesha Seroczynski obtained a Master in Counseling Psychology and a PhD in developmental psychology from the University of Notre Dame. She joined the faculty of Bethel College in Indiana in 1999, where she served for 10 years as an assistant professor, and most recently, dean of arts and sciences. She returned to Notre Dame in 2009 as a research fellow in the Institute for Educational Initiatives and Center for Ethical Education. Her current project, Reading for Life, is a diversion program for first-time offending juveniles funded by the Arête Foundation at the University of Chicago (scienceofvirtues.org). Learn more about Reading for Life at ireadforlife.org.



Darby O'Brien

Graphic Designer Darby O'Brien, who created the Campus Transformation layout and collaborated with Creative Director LeeDon Moore on the cover of this issue, joined the UT Dallas Office of Communications in October 2010. She brings a background in fine art and specializes in illustration. O'Brien has received three CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) awards for her illustrations since joining UT Dallas.

On Campus

WHOOSH!

UTD students, faculty and staff reached out to the people of **Haiti**, contributing \$2,771 to the **American Red Cross** for food, temporary shelter and medical services after a series of catastrophic earthquakes.

UT System Regents recognized Dr. **Sheila Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres**, dean of undergraduate education and economics professor, and Dr. **Theresa Towner**, literary studies professor, with **Outstanding Teaching Awards** for extraordinary classroom performance and innovation at the undergraduate level of instruction.

The **NCAA** tapped Dr. **Kurt Beron**, professor of economics and faculty athletics representative, to mentor faculty athletic representatives at universities throughout the conference.

The prestigious **Green Fellowship Program** doubled in size this year from nine to 17 undergraduate students, who received stipends to conduct unique research projects ranging from psychiatry to clinical nutrition.

INITIATIVE HELPS YOUTHS IMAGINE A FUTURE IN COLLEGE

Most participants in UT Dallas' new College Readiness Initiative (CRI) hope to be the first members of their families to attend college. The program works to give students who have that dream the support they need to complete a degree.

CRI students spent each morning of the recent two-week session in SAT prep, but learning how to master college entrance exams wasn't the only thing on the daily schedule.

"The three numbers that we consider very important in going to college are class rank, GPA and SAT score," said Cornelia McCowan BS'98, CRI program supervisor. "But to be successful, there are other things students need as well."

Afternoons were for experiential learning. Jarrell Brown, a 15-year-old from South Oak Cliff High, had an eye-opening experience at the CRI Reality Store, a simulation illustrating how daily life differs for those without a college education. Participants were given checkbooks and assigned jobs that didn't require college degrees. From their limited wages, they had to pay bills and cover emergency expenses like being hospitalized.

"I had two baby boys to take care of and was quickly in debt," said Brown. "I learned that without a degree, life is hard."

The CRI is after long-term results. Participants will meet during the school year for conversations about self-awareness and community service, as well as grades. Next summer the rising juniors will explore financial aid options.

"The students are discovering a new American dream," said Dr. George Fair, dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and director of the Academic Bridge Program. "By preparing for college and completing an undergraduate education, they can look forward to futures limited only by their imaginations and determination."

A \$100,000 contribution from AT&T made the CRI possible. —**Karah Hosek**



College Readiness Initiative participants

Dr. Ellen Derey Safley,
director—UT Dallas
Eugene McDermott
Library



DIGITAL RESOURCE EXPERT TAKES HELM AT LIBRARY

Dr. Ellen Derey Safley MS'89, PhD'96, an authority on emerging library technologies and digitizing print collections, has been named the new director of the UT Dallas Eugene McDermott Library. She succeeds Dr. Larry Sall, who retired as dean of the library in January 2010.

"Dr. Safley's knowledge of the people and operations of our library, based on her 25 years of service in progressively more important administrative roles, makes her the ideal appointment to assume responsibilities at this critical time in the University's life," Executive Vice President and Provost Hobson Wildenthal said.

Under Safley's leadership during the last several years, the Eugene McDermott Library developed capabilities that dramatically changed the magnitude and nature of library resources. Since 2009, electronic journals have increased from 28,388 to 46,826, and

Sally Stewart, literary studies major, won a \$500 Undergraduate **Research Scholar Award** supporting her honors thesis on vampires in literature and changes in their cultural significance over time.

Comets excelled at this year's **Destination ImagiNation (DI)** Global Finals, taking 1st place in the Do or DI and Breaking DI News categories, and 3rd overall in the DI Extreme contest.

The National Academy of Engineering and the **National Research Council** appointed President **David E. Daniel** to a committee investigating Deepwater Horizon.

Dr. **Alice O'Toole**, professor in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, leads a team conducting **U.S. Department of Defense** funded research to evaluate facial-recognition programs helping governments seek new ways to lower terrorism risks.

NAVIGATING CHAOS: FIRST-HAND 9/11 ACCOUNTS BY AVIATION PROS DRAW NATIONWIDE ATTENTION

electronic books jumped from 593,106 to 970,190. Safley recently oversaw digitization of 2,290 University theses and dissertations.

"I believe in a hybrid library," Safley said. "We cannot be effective without a combination of print and digital resources. Keeping a balance is imperative for an efficient major research library."

Safley's research interests include organizational development, the creation of digital and mobile libraries, assessment of library services and collections and the delivery of quality customer service.

Safley joined UT Dallas in 1983 as the government documents reference librarian and subsequently served as head of reference and information services, assistant director for reference services and collection management, associate library director for public services, collections and systems and then senior associate director. She has held numerous national committee positions with the American Library Association and the Texas Library Association.

In 2007, Safley was a member of the UCLA Senior Fellows leadership program. She received a master's degree in 1989 and a doctorate in 1996, both in political economy from the UT Dallas School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. Safley obtained a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1979. She also has a Master of Arts in Anthropology from Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from the University of Colorado at Boulder. **-Tom Koch**

On the ninth anniversary of 9/11, hundreds gathered at UT Dallas to hear the rarely told stories of aviation professionals whose decisions helped keep circumstances surrounding the terrorist attacks from taking even more lives.

The event, "Navigating Chaos: Aviation's Response on 9/11," was one of two live telecasts carried by C-SPAN on Sept. 11, 2010. It was organized by The University of Texas at Dallas McDermott Library's Special Collections department.

Lynn Spencer, former pilot and author of *Touching History: The Untold Story of the Drama That Unfolded in the Skies Over America on 9/11*, guided the panelists through their experiences.

The speakers offered seldom-heard descriptions of 9/11. Ben Sliney, former national operations manager for the Federal Aviation Administration, explained why he ordered the first emergency national ground stop, landing all aircraft for the first time in U.S. history. Commercial pilot Gerald Earwood described narrowly avoiding a mid-air collision with United Flight 175, the aircraft that hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

Other panelists were air traffic controllers Colin Scoggins of Boston and Dan Creedon of the Washington, D.C., National Guard. Combat pilots Joe McGrady and Dan Caine, and commercial pilot Chuck Savall, comprised the pilots' panel.

"Special Collections provides an opportunity for libraries to collect information and research materials that expands knowledge outside of the general realm of the University," said Dr. Sheila



Ben Sliney, former national operations manager with the Federal Aviation Administration, recounted the events that led him to order a national ground stop during his first day on the job.

Amin Gutiérrez de Piñeres, then-interim dean of McDermott Library. "The History of Aviation Collection was an excellent host for this in-depth discussion."

Watch the symposium panels on the C-SPAN website at c-spanvideo.org/program/295417-1.



-TK

Commercial pilot Gerald Earwood told fellow panelists and the audience that the events of 9/11 did not cause him to give up flying. "It never crossed my mind," he said.



MANAGEMENT LESSONS PAY OFF ON THE BASKETBALL COURT

Every fall, UT Dallas men's basketball coach Terry Butterfield begins searching for the players who can take the Comets to another conference championship, relying on help from a School of Management faculty member.



Terry Butterfield

John Barden, a senior lecturer, business coach coordinator and director of undergraduate accounting programs, as well as a certified public accountant and a basketball aficionado, offered to direct the players in a leadership workshop similar to those he leads at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Since 2002 he



John Barden

has trained more than 5,000 auditors to work in teams.

"This workshop is beneficial to the players ... because it allows them to get away from their studies and the intensity of their two-and-a-half-hour practices," Butterfield said.

Barden's annual workshop takes place at his home. The relaxed atmosphere camouflages the more serious business of putting the potential leaders through

their paces.

Barden leads a series of exercises, putting the players in pressure situations to learn how they would react. This year's activities included an egg drop, a ball toss, a pie-eating contest and a construction project. Butterfield offered guidance, all the while observing.

"I get them to start thinking differently, from an academic side, creatively and critically," Barden said. "It all looks like fun and games, but every event is scored, so it can get pretty competitive."

Brandon Greene BS'10, a senior wing who is pursuing a master's degree in economics said, "Our team worked together, talked things out among ourselves and got different ideas from different people. Things seemed to come together a lot better than they would have if we were just working alone."

Freshman wing Dmitriy Chernikov, an accounting major on the same team as Greene and Greg Chiasson, wasn't intimidated by his lack of workshop experience. "We didn't have just one leader," he said. "We all put our own pieces into each puzzle to solve them. That's how we won."



Greg Chiasson gently handles a construction project used in the leadership workshop.

How does this training translate to the basketball court?

"Say you've got 10 seconds left in the game, you've got the ball and your team is down by a point," Barden said. "You have to get someone to take the shot. If he's a leader, he'll maintain focus while under pressure and make a quick decision either to make the shot or kick it out to one of his teammates. Coach Butterfield, meanwhile, will know which five players to have on the court in this type of situation."

—Jimmie Markham
BS'10



WHOOSH!

Cathy Xie, a junior double majoring in literary studies and neuroscience, was one of two Texans selected as student ambassadors to **World Expo 2010** in Shanghai.

Arts and technology graduate student and chess Grandmaster **Alejandro Ramirez** BA'09 won the **111th U.S. Open Chess Championship**. International Master **Julio Catalina Sadorra**, a sophomore psychology major, placed 2nd in a four-way tie.

Comets took 1st and 2nd places in the **2010 National Mediation Tournament**, held at Drake University, making UT Dallas the only school to place twice in the competition finals—and for the second year running.

Dr. **John H.L. Hansen** was recently inducted into the **International Speech Communications Association**, which recognized him for his contributions to the field of speech and speaker processing.

Two-person Comet teams took 1st, 2nd and 4th places at the **South Central Moot Court Championships**; political science majors also won individual speaker awards: **Grace Bielawski**, 4th place, **Stevin George**, 6th, **Philip Harris**, 7th.

QUEST TO ESTABLISH MAGNETIC NORM WINS NSF COMPETITION

An investigation of the ionosphere and its interactions with the Earth's magnetic field netted a UT Dallas graduate student a prize at a competition sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for researchers who study the upper atmosphere.

Angeline Burrell won the Best Poster prize for ionosphere thermosphere research at the 25th annual NSF meeting on Coupling Energetic and Dynamics in Atmospheric Regions (CEDAR), held recently in Boulder, Colo. During the competition, students displayed posters of their research and defended their work with inquiries from professors, post-doctoral researchers and research scientists from government and industry institutions.

Through her research efforts, Burrell hopes to determine how plasma moves along the magnetic field lines in the ionosphere. This upper layer of the atmosphere interacts strongly with radio waves and can interfere with satellite signals. Rather than studying storms or periods of high activity, however, Burrell is focusing on quiet time behavior. This is important for predictions because accurate specifications of the ambient conditions are necessary when modeling deviations from normal conditions.

Burrell is a physics PhD candidate under the direction of Dr. Rod Heelis, the Cecil H. and Ida Green Chair in Systems Biology Science and director of the William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences. This is the second year in a row that a UT Dallas student has won this competition. **—Katherine Morales**



Angeline Burrell



Geology students make notations on rock formations using an iPad in the field. Back in the class, students and the professor can view the notes in 3-D.

SOFTWARE ROCKS: GEOLOGIC TEACHING PROGRAM AN IPAD FIRST

Among a wave of universities and colleges to introduce iPads as learning tools in the classroom, UT Dallas is the first in the country to use them in conjunction with 3-D models of geologic formations using software invented here.

"Our team has created a library of these three-dimensional models using photographs of geologic features from around the world," said Dr. Carlos Aiken, professor of geosciences in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. "By uploading our images onto the iPads, students can make notations in the field and e-mail them for immediate integration onto the 3-D model."

The researchers used ground-based laser imaging, still photography and satellite positioning to precisely capture the shapes and surfaces of geologic formations, resulting in 3-D, photorealistic



models accurate up to a millimeter.

Photos of various rock formations from around the world can be loaded onto iPads, and students can interpret what they're seeing using their fingers to draw on the screen. The photos are e-mailed back to the lab or the classroom and rendered in three dimensions, complete with the students' annotations. The original photos have already been rendered on the terrain models.

"It allows the student to note what they're seeing and then e-mail it and review it with a professor or colleague instantly," Aiken said. "The professor can oversee students' progress and e-mail it back to the student while they're still in the field."

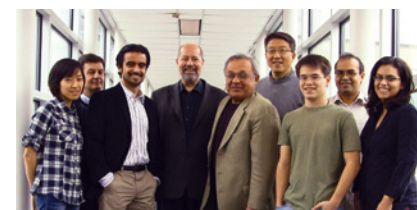
—KM

RESEARCHERS SPIN SUCCESS WITH NANOTUBES

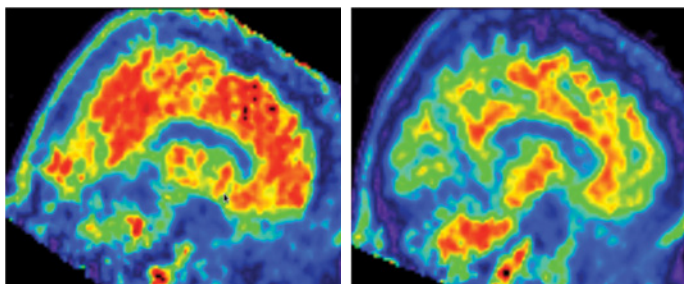
UT Dallas nanotechnologists, led by Dr. Ray Baughman, invented a groundbreaking technology for producing weavable, knittable, sewable and knottable yarns containing large amounts of otherwise unspinnable powders.

These powders are trapped in the corridors of highly conducting scrolled yarns for high-tech applications. Fabrics woven from such yarns could be used to harvest and store electrical energy in vehicle panels and clothing.

"The nanotube webs holding guest powders can be lighter than air but still stronger, on a per-weight basis, than steel," said Baughman, Robert A. Welch Professor of Chemistry and director of the Alan G. MacDiarmid NanoTech Institute of UT Dallas. He and his team published the findings in the journal *Science*. The technique, called biscrolling, enables strong carbon nanotube webs to trap powders within yarns that are versatile enough to be both superconducting and machine-washable. The web's thinness means that hundreds of scroll layers can be included in a bi-scrolled yarn no thicker than a human hair. **—KM**



Ray Baughman and researchers



Rodrigue is investigating how vascular risk factors, such as high blood pressure, play a role in brain aging. The red and yellow areas in the images show amyloid plaque buildup—a marker for Alzheimer’s disease risk—in the brains of two 67-year-old men. The one on the left is hypertensive; the one on the right is not.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS EARN PRESTIGIOUS NIH GRANTS

Two postdoctoral fellows in UT Dallas’ Center for Vital Longevity recently earned prestigious, highly competitive career-development grants totaling nearly \$2 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Dr. Karen Rodrigue and Dr. Kristen Kennedy were selected separately to receive the K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Awards. The five-year, two-phase grants total just under \$1 million for each recipient. They come from the National Institute on Aging, which awards seven or eight K99 grants per year.



Dr. Karen Rodrigue

“These awards are given to the most elite new PhDs to support the next generation of scientists in the United States,” said Dr. Denise Park, director of the center and Distinguished University Chair and Regents’ Research Scholar. “They provide significant resources to further the careers of the best and see that they are provided with everything they need for the first five years of their career. To have

one young scientist at the Center for Vital Longevity with such an award is a significant honor. To have two is extraordinary.”

The central aim of Rodrigue’s work supported by the grant is to examine a vascular hypothesis of aging that involves the role of risk factors, such as hypertension, and specific cerebrovascular mechanisms, such as decreased blood flow through an organ or hypoperfusion, in shaping the course of brain and cognitive aging.

“Dr. Rodrigue will play an important role in understanding how cardiovascular health and Alzheimer’s disease are intertwined,” Park said.

Kennedy received a K99 grant to support her research into the role of white matter in the reorganization of age-related brain function. Before arriving at UT Dallas, Kennedy worked on structural imaging projects at Michigan’s Wayne State University, where she earned her PhD in psychology.



Dr. Kristen Kennedy

“I think my research, going forward, will be enhanced by the fact that I have a background in both structural and functional neuroimaging,” Kennedy said. “By bringing together what we’ve learned through both methods of research, we’ll hopefully be able to answer some important questions, in a sophisticated way, about how our brain changes as we get older, both adaptively and detrimentally, and how we might use this knowledge to stave off cognitive decline.”

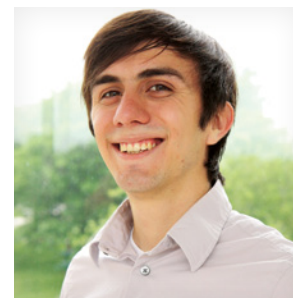
The NIH career-development programs are designed to ensure that a wide range of highly trained scientists are available in adequate numbers and in appropriate areas to address vital clinical, biomedical and behavioral research needs. The K99/R00 program was created to ease the transition from postdoctoral positions into junior faculty roles and to provide early independent research support to the most promising young investigators.

—Emily Martinez

ON THE TIP OF THE TONGUE: MODEL SHOWS TONGUE’S WORK DURING SPEECH

Research that models the motions of the human tongue may one day help people correct speech disorders or even learn new languages. Luis Torres BS’10 used sensors on the tongue to construct three dimensional models of the inner workings of the mouth during speech. The strength of his research and the quality of his recent poster presentation earned him a top place finish in the Office of Research’s third annual Undergraduate Research Poster Competition.

“This research project has been the most influential part of my undergraduate experience,” Torres said. “If I hadn’t done the research, I wouldn’t be able to get into graduate school and pursue a PhD. The peer-to-peer time with a professor is something you can only get in a laboratory doing research. It’s about tackling a problem together.”



Luis Torres BS’10

Torres, who majored in computer science, was among 54 undergraduates selected in November 2009 to receive Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards, sponsored by the UT Dallas Office of Research. Students received \$500 each and their faculty mentors \$300 each to cover their expenses. The students spent the next two semesters engaged in research, which they presented in poster sessions. Nine finalists emerged from rounds of competitions that showcased each student’s research. —KM

WHOOSH!

Dr. **Jung-mo Ahn**, assistant professor chemistry, received a **Thieme Chemistry Journal Award**, a recognition of promise given to young, early-career professors from *Synlett*, *Synthesis*, and *Synfacts*.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

awarded associate provost Dr. **Emily Tobey**, the Nelle C. Johnston Chair in Communication Disorders, **Honors of the Association** for her pioneering research with cochlear implant users.

Elizabeth Hanacik, a sophomore neuroscience major and a **McDermott Scholar**, spent the summer in Dublin researching Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also called Lou Gehrig's disease, through Ireland's **Royal College of Surgeons** Summer Program in Undergraduate Research on Neuroscience.

NERVE STIMULATION HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN BATTLING TINNITUS, NATURE STUDY REPORTS

UT Dallas researchers working with a University-affiliated biotech firm may have developed a means of retraining the brain to ignore the nerve signals that simulate ringing in the ear or tinnitus.

Targeted nerve stimulation may yield a long-term reversal of tinnitus, a debilitating hearing impairment affecting at least 10 percent of senior citizens and up to 40 percent of military veterans.

In a recent edition of the journal *Nature*, UT Dallas researchers Dr. Michael Kilgard and Dr. Navzer Engineer MS'02, PhD'04 and the University-affiliated biotechnology firm MicroTransponder report that stimulation of the vagus nerve paired with sounds eliminated tinnitus in rats. A clinical trial in humans is next.

Described as ringing in the ears, tinnitus' reported effect ranges from mild irritation to disabling pain. The U.S. Veterans Administration spends about \$1 billion a year on disability payments for tinnitus, said Kilgard, associate professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at UT Dallas and co-author of the *Nature* article.

"Brain changes in response to nerve damage or cochlear trauma cause irregular neural activity believed to be responsible for many types of chronic pain and tinnitus," he said. "But when we paired tones with brief pulses of vagus nerve stimulation (VNS), we eliminated the physiological and behavioral symptoms of tinnitus in noise-exposed rats." Monitored for several weeks, the improvements persisted.

The first human participation in the research in Europe began in early 2011, Engineer said. MicroTransponder was co-founded by Will Rosellini, a PhD student in neuroscience at UT Dallas and the company's CEO. **—EM**



BBS researchers are developing a new understanding of tinnitus.

FUNDING SURGE FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE RESEARCH

Computer science researchers at UT Dallas won more than \$9 million in research grants last fall for work including network planning, data privacy, sensors and health care.

"Our recent focus on collaborative multidisciplinary research has been one important factor, and the encouragement and support of our dean of engineering and computer science, Dr. Mark Spong, for our faculty members' grant proposals has been another," said Dr. Gopal Gupta, head of computer science.

The projects include:

- A \$2.5 million effort—in collaboration with researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign—to create a real-time, 3-D interactive environment enabling health care professionals to provide physical rehabilitation therapy to patients hundreds of miles away.



Dr. Gopal Gupta

- A \$1.8 million program to bolster the number of graduate students studying information security, increasingly vital for national defense.
- A \$260,000 project to develop a means to preserve individual privacy when experts employ the increasingly common practice of cross-matching vast datasets to support intelligence, forensic and disease-control activities.

The funding surge supports one of the University's strategic initiatives—strengthening research productivity, the engine that drives innovation—but could also contribute to Gupta's objective to increase entrepreneurial activities flowing from his department's computer science research.

"These projects will produce cutting-edge research results, some of which may well lead to companies being founded a few years down the road by the students and faculty involved," he said. In support of this potential development, the department is adding a software entrepreneurship component to computer science and software engineering classes.

There's only one downside that Gupta sees to the recent spike in funding awards.

"Our bar for next year keeps rising," he told computer science faculty and staff. "We all will have to work hard to exceed it."

—David Moore

WHOOSH!

Dr. **Dennis Smith**, professor and Robert A. Welch Chair in Chemistry, elected by the **American Chemical Society** to the 2010 class of ACS Fellows, becomes the first UT Dallas faculty member so honored.

Drama Professor **Fred Curchack** received the 2009-2010 Dallas-Fort Worth **Theater Critics Forum Award** and a special citation for "being a true renaissance theater artist."

PhD student **Carolina Dabbah** MFA'07 spent the fall semester at the **Smithsonian's** Office of Exhibits Central, developing a business plan by using new media and various marketing elements and logistics to broaden the Exhibits' market.

In recognition of its fast-growing **geospatial science** program, UTD was granted the Mu Gamma chapter of the **international geography honor society Gamma Theta Upsilon**, among the discipline's best-known honorary societies.

Dr. **Michael Zhang**, professor and Cecil H. and Ida Green Distinguished Chair of Systems Biology Science, received a \$643,000 **National Institutes of Health** grant for a project entitled "Modeling of Mammalian Promoters."

Arts and Culture

SOCIAL (MEDIA) REVOLT

Social media didn't lead to the recent uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, but this new system of communication played a role in the process of the revolt.

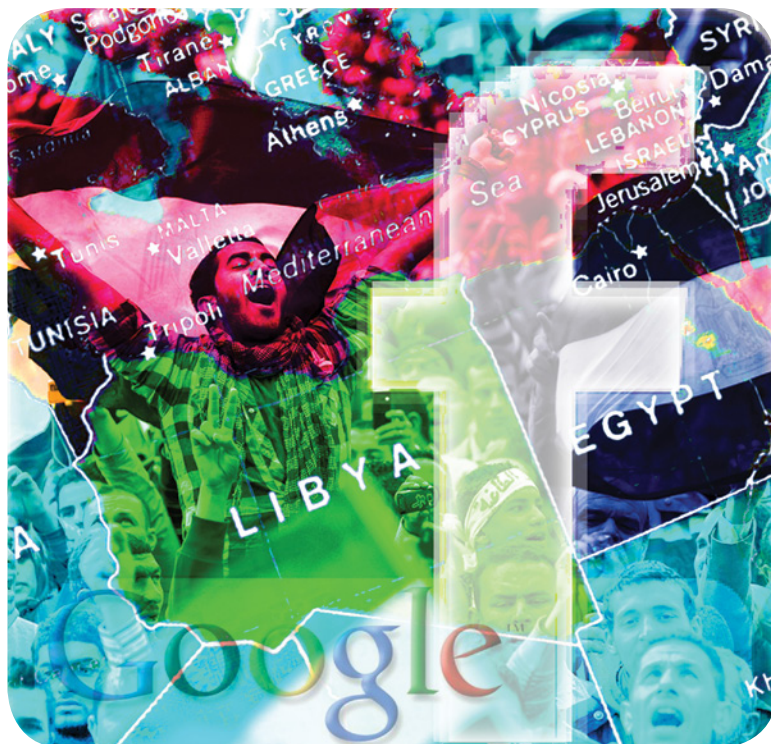
Dr. David Parry, assistant professor of emerging media and communication, says an Internet-equipped public is substantially different from a non-Internet-enabled one, and that while the Internet offers increased possibilities, we ought to be careful not to overestimate its effects.

"What happened in Egypt and Tunisia would have looked much different, played out differently if the 'how' of the revolution had been different, if social media had not been one of the tools used as a means of communication," Parry said.

Parry homed in specifically on the Egyptian government's decision to shut down citizens' access to the Internet. The government also cut mobile phone service, forcing protesters to rely on more traditional means of communication.

"While other countries have 'pulled the plug' on the Internet, namely Burma in 2007 and Nepal in 2005, this was the first time that a country with such a large Internet penetration entirely shut off access," Parry said. But while the Egyptian government could shut down the hardware of the Internet, it could not undo the difference more open communication had made in citizens' perceptions.

"In the same way a public is fundamentally changed by the existence of print technology, a public is fundamentally altered by access to the digital network," Parry said. "This is what makes the situation in Egypt different from Burma and Nepal. In the latter cases the government was shutting down access to information from the outside and controlling the flow of news, but Egypt was



shutting down the way that a substantial portion of their populace was communicating among themselves."

Parry also cites China as an example of an authoritarian government that can shut off access to the Internet at any time. Internet censorship in China is conducted under a wide variety of laws and administrative regulations, and it is considered more extensive and more advanced than in any other country in the world, he said. The regime not only blocks website content but also monitors the Internet access of individuals.

However, Parry argues that the situation in China differs from that in Egypt because the Chinese people use Chinese-

based Internet services and remain largely unaffected when Western sites such as Facebook or even Google are shut down by government. The Egyptians were much more reliant on Western services, and therefore felt the effects and demanded change.

Parry takes issue with the belief that social media produces a revolution in and of itself, but also acknowledges that the tools we use alter our means of communication. Social media is able to give a voice to those who previously had none—dissidents, anarchists and even the average everyman—and in the case of Egypt that voice appears to have been heard and answered.

Parry warns that "a digitally networked public can just as easily be used for social ill as for social justice; nothing guarantees that civic engagement yields civic progress. But it does guarantee that a public with the Internet has a substantially different relation to its government than a public without the Internet." **-Sarah Stockton**



Dr. David Parry

Swan Dive

Adrienne McClean Examines Ballet on Film

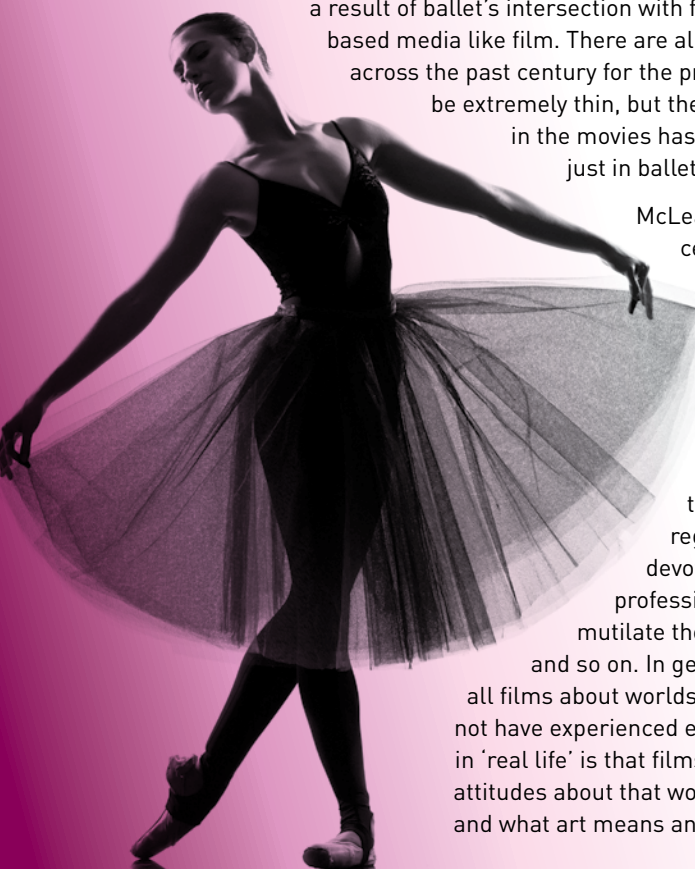
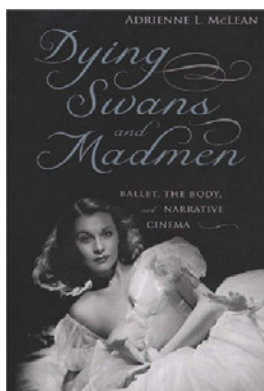
From *White Nights* to *Billy Elliot*, ballet has found its way, time and again, onto the silver screen and into the hearts of many otherwise unlikely audiences. With the highly acclaimed film *Black Swan*, ballet is once again en pointe in Hollywood and beyond. But the movie isn't all tutus and curtain calls—it reveals a darker shade of pink.

In her 2008 book *Dying Swans and Madmen: Ballet, the Body, and Narrative Cinema*, Dr. Adrienne L. McLean, professor of film and aesthetic studies at UT Dallas, explored the symbiosis of ballet and film. Drawing on examples that range from musicals to tragic melodramas, or “mellers,” she suggested that commercial films have produced an image of ballet and its artists that is associated with joy, fulfillment, fame and power, and with sexual and mental perversity, melancholy and death.

McLean, who specializes in classical Hollywood film history and has an MFA in dance, said the drama of the dance goes back a long way. “*Variety* used the term ‘ballet meller’ in the 1950s to refer to a film that was yet another in a long line of sometimes over-the-top and clichéd representations of ballet in the movies as something associated with death, illness, insanity, doom and so on,” she said. “*The Red Shoes* (1948) is probably the preeminent ballet meller, complete with narcissistic and domineering impresario, and a ballerina who wants to dance more than life itself and who dies because she is asked to choose between career and marriage.”

Real-life melodrama exists off-screen, as well: the weight loss of *Black Swan* stars Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis in preparation for the film was widely publicized and criticized. As McLean pointed out in her book, which was named a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title, “The extreme thinness that we now expect of women dancers is, in ways that are amorphous and difficult to measure, likely a result of ballet’s intersection with forms of visual time-based media like film. There are all sorts of other reasons across the past century for the pressure for women to be extremely thin, but the way that bodies look in the movies has been a factor, and not just in ballet.”

McLean said, “There are certainly some driven and obsessive young women in the dance world, as there are in most high-profile or performance-based professions, and always have been. But there are also plenty of regular folks who are devoted to ballet as their profession but who do not mutilate themselves, go insane and so on. In general, the issue with all films about worlds that audiences may not have experienced extensively on their own in ‘real life’ is that films can construct our attitudes about that world, the people in it and what art means and is.” -SS



UT DALLAS PROFESSOR UNEARTHS THE HILL

Rick Brettell writes book on James Magee’s desert installation

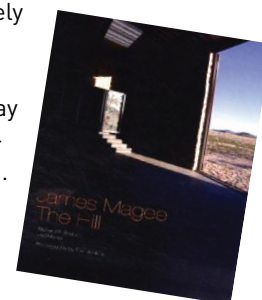
Artist James Magee spent the past three decades in the relative obscurity of the West Texas desert, working on a monumental 52,000-square-foot installation, The Hill—until his story was brought to light by Arts and Humanities Professor Rick Brettell in a book published this past year.

Dr. Brettell, Margaret McDermott Distinguished Chair of Art and Aesthetics at The University of Texas at Dallas, first visited the installation in the late 1980s. In 2010 he wrote *James Magee: The Hill* with Jed Morse, curator of Dallas’ Nasher Sculpture Center.

“Everybody who has been divides their lives into two parts: before and after they’ve seen The Hill,” said Brettell. “Every time I go, the emotional impact of it is greater. It is really about separation and redemption. It’s about a whole series of issues that have to do more with life than with art.”

The Hill is a complex of four stone pavilions joined by ramps and walkways, revealing Magee to be an architect, engineer and builder. He has said he expects it will take another 15 to 20 years to complete. Reminiscent of Mayan and Egyptian ruins, The Hill is nonetheless distinctively American. The site has only occasionally allowed visitors, but will be open by reservation on May 14 and Oct. 15. For more information, e-mail info@mageehill.com.

Says Morse, “I would imagine that The Hill will become one of the great landmarks of art in the United States.” -SS



Like the UT Dallas campus itself, the University athletics program has been developing rapidly and is celebrating its maturity by honoring those who helped build it.

The UT Dallas Department of Intercollegiate Athletics named its fourth group of inductees to the UT Dallas Athletics Hall of Honors on Nov. 17. The six-member Class of 2010 brought the total number of honorees to 17—all from a program that didn't exist until the mid-1990s.

The physical presence of the Hall of Honors, which arose as a concept in 2007 during the 10th anniversary of the athletics program, is housed outside the athletics offices in the UT Dallas Activities Center. Framed awards for members are exhibited in lighted hallway cases.

To be considered for induction, a candidate must have made significant contributions to or achievements in the program and receive majority support from a nominations committee consisting of UT Dallas faculty members, administrators and coaches. Student-athlete nominees must be at least five years past their UT Dallas undergraduate graduation.

As of 2010, the Hall of Honors includes 11 former student-athletes, four administrators, a former conference commissioner and one outside supporter.

Notable among them are the late Fred Jacoby, former commissioner of the bygone Southwest Conference, who helped guide the formation of the University's athletic program and its membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Mary Walters, the original director of athletics and a 30-year UT Dallas staff member who initiated development of the athletics program in the mid-1990s.

The former student-athletes in the group won individual distinction on some of the most successful Comet teams of the last 12 years. This contingent is heavily dominated by members of the UT Dallas men's and women's soccer teams, which were among the University's original programs in 1998, and have been the most continuously successful throughout the history of the athletics program. Four members of the 2002 UT Dallas women's soccer team—which advanced to the "Sweet 16" of the NCAA national championship tournament—are included among the Hall of Honors members.

Some of the new and more recently successful sports in the University's athletic program—such as volleyball and basketball—are expected to contribute members from among their standout student-athletes to the Hall of Honors in the next few years. The most recent class included the first representatives from baseball and softball programs begun in 2002. **-Bruce Unrue**

FRED JACOBY

Original commissioner of the American Southwest Conference, UT Dallas' home conference, who ushered UT Dallas through the process of starting an athletics program and joining the NCAA.

MARY WALTERS

Original director of athletics at UT Dallas, who pushed for the formation of the athletics program and guided it through its early development.

TRENT ABBOTT BS'03

Men's soccer player, 1998-2002, became first UT Dallas student-athlete to win first-team All-America honors.

DR. DARRELENE RACHAYONG and DR. MICHAEL COLEMAN

UT Dallas administrators who shepherded UT Dallas Athletics into existence, serving as advocates and supporters.

CHRIS "BODIE" ORTEGA BS'00

Men's soccer player, 1996-99, during the transformation from a club to an intercollegiate sport.

CARA SMEDLEY-MUREZ BS'02

Award-winning women's soccer player, 1998-2001, when the team established itself as a power in the ASC.

KRISTIN ANDREWS-NGUYEN BS'03

A record-setting women's soccer scorer, 1999-2002, and team leader in 2002, when UT Dallas' women advanced to the "Sweet 16" of the NCAA national championship tournament.

KATY TURNER MOEN BS'03, MS'05

Award-winning defender on the highly successful UT Dallas women's soccer teams from 1999-2002.

CLASS OF 2007

CLASS OF 2008

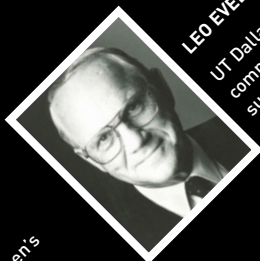
CLASS OF 2009

ATHLETICS

HALL OF HONORS



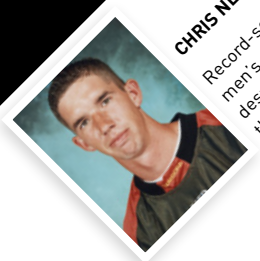
J.D. POMPOSELLI BS'03, MBA'05
Award-winning men's soccer player, 2000-03. UT Dallas's first student-athlete to win first-team Academic All-America honors in 2003.



LEO EVELETH
UT Dallas administrator and Richardson community leader who became a major supporter and advocate for the Comets athletic program.



KATIE JOHNSON CHALLENGER BA'05
Award-winning, record-setting goalkeeper for UT Dallas women's soccer, 2001-2004.



CHRIS NELSON BS'04
Record-setting goalkeeper for the men's soccer team, 1999-2002, despite sharing time in the net throughout his career.



SERENA GRIFFIN SANTANA BA'03
Prolific scorer for the UT Dallas women's soccer team, 1999-2002, and named Player when UT Dallas won the 2002 ASC Championship.



LARRY GARDNER
Veteran athletic trainer who worked more than 40 years with world-class athletes before he came out of retirement in 2001 to develop the University's athletic training program.



SHAUNNA LAWRENCE LYNCH BA'04
First inductee from the UT Dallas softball program after a record-setting career in 2003-04 that twice included All-Region honors.



GORDON WALTERS BS'05
Pitcher on the original UT Dallas baseball team and a consistently dominant force, 2002-2005.

CLASS OF 2010

SOCCER

The UT Dallas women's soccer team made a ninth straight trip to the American Southwest Conference (ASC) Tournament and secured the 11th 10-win season in the program's 14 years of existence, going 12-6-2. UT Dallas placed seven players on the All-ASC teams, including four Comets on the first team and Offensive and Defensive Freshman of the Year. Junior Leah Bowyer, first-team member, led the Comets in goals (14), assists (11) and points (39) while contributing five game-winning goals.

The UT Dallas men's soccer team bounced back from a mid-season plunge to not only make it to the ASC Tournament, but finished one win shy from making the league's title game. After missing out from the postseason in 2009, snapping a stretch of seven straight appearances, this year's Comets won their final three games to make a return trip to the playoffs, but fell in the ASC semifinals. The Comets ended the season with a 12-5-2 record and landed seven players on the All-ASC teams.

First team all-conference women's soccer player Leah Bowyer led the Comets back to the American Southwest Conference Championship Tournament again in 2010.



Members of the UT Dallas men's soccer team rush to congratulate junior Gentry Contreras (6) for scoring a goal.



FALL SPORTS RECAP

Senior Niki Calverley (6) became UT Dallas' first All-American in volleyball after leading the conference in assists for another season.



by David Wester

VOLLEYBALL

It was another strong season for the UT Dallas volleyball team, but a stumble in the ASC semifinals kept the Comets away from a third straight invitation to the NCAA Division III National Tournament. The Comets won the ASC's East Division for the fifth consecutive season and ended the campaign with a 24-6 record, setting a new program mark for regular-season wins (23). Senior setter Niki Calverley was named first team All-American, becoming the first UT Dallas volleyball player to earn the honor. UT Dallas placed three players on the All-ASC team and five players named All-ASC East Division.

Members of the UT Dallas men's and women's cross country teams gather after one of their fall meets.



CROSS COUNTRY

The UT Dallas men's and women's cross country squads closed out the 2010 season with solid finishes at the ASC Championships, but it was sophomore Daniel Ludwig who made a splash individually. Ludwig sparked the UT Dallas men to an eighth place team finish as he placed third in the 8-kilometer race, the best-ever finish by a Comet at the ASC meet. Ludwig became only the second UT Dallas male runner to advance to the NCAA Division III Regional Championships, placing 30th in that meet, also the highest-ever finish by a Comet. The UT Dallas women finished 12th as a team.



THE
NEVER-BEFORE-REVEALED,

Unfiltered,

NOTHING-HELD-BACK HISTORY:

HOW FRESHMEN
CAME TO UT DALLAS,

Ruined EVERYTHING,

and Made the Campus a Tier One Contender



When Dr. Dennis M. Kratz was named undergraduate dean of UT Dallas in 1994, he thought he should try seeing the campus through the eyes of a freshman, to better understand how the school might serve its newly recruited and youngest students. To that end, he invited an associate dean to take a stroll with him, while imagining being half of an 18-year-old couple looking for a place to be alone for a few social moments. They walked around the campus, then a handful of tilt-wall concrete buildings, all built in the same brutalist style. Standing on a concrete mall surrounded by these monoliths, they were struck not only by how minimal the campus was, but by how uninviting it was—how lacking in distinguishing features and landmarks.

"The campus was just a collection of buildings," he said. "There was no there there."

And that was just one lesson in UT Dallas' undergraduate education.

...

At the time of this disheartening stroll, the school had just enrolled the fourth freshman class in its history, and faculty and administration were realizing they had a lot to learn about being a four-year university.

Founded in 1969 as a research institute serving graduate students, UT Dallas was permitted by the Texas Legislature to admit junior and senior-level undergraduates in 1975. At that time, there were several upper-level universities around the state, recalled Dr. Scherry Johnson, formerly vice president of university affairs and now with the School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

"The idea was that there would be a college within 10 miles of every young person in the state of Texas," she said. But the plan was flawed because most students wanted to get away from home and settle into a school that they could call their own. "Young people whose families had resources went to four-year schools," she said.

In the 1970s and early '80s, UT Dallas was a commuter school. Its average student

was 32 years old. Many were older women returning to school after being aggressively recruited for the School of General Studies under the direction of Dr. Carolyn Lipshy Galerstein, the University's first female dean. These students had jobs, lives, families. Campus was deserted in daytime, then came to life at 5 p.m., when students would arrive, attend class, and go home.

The move toward a four-year university started in the mid-1980s, when local philanthropist Peter O'Donnell and a task force of civic and business leaders identified a need within Dallas's burgeoning high-tech industry for more scientists and engineers. The phrase "MIT of the Southwest" came up repeatedly among the visionaries who founded the school.

"We were facing up to the expectations of the founders and those political supporters that had championed the founding of the University in the first place," said Johnson. "They were adamant that if we wanted to continue to have their support, this is what we would do—grow that program and make it work. They didn't use the phrase 'Tier One.' But it was those standards they were holding us to."

"We were facing up to the expectations of those that had championed the founding of the University. They didn't use the phrase 'Tier One.' But it was those standards they were holding us to."

—Scherry Johnson

"This was something that had been kicked around for years and years and years, and it came shortly after we had expended a lot of time and effort on creating the engineering school," recalled president emeritus Dr. Robert H. Rutford. "I was tired and a lot of people were tired. But [the idea of undergraduate expansion] came out in the press



and people began to talk about it. The Dallas leadership at that time basically said 'We're going for it.' And they did." Bills supporting the concept were introduced at the Legislature. "And then," Rutford recalled, "Things began to get interesting."

Indeed. Not everyone was enthralled by the idea.

Hispanic leaders complained that if the expansion were funded, South Texas schools would be short-changed. The Texas Public Junior College Association didn't think the area needed another four-year university. *The Dallas Morning News* supported the idea, but other area newspapers were staunchly opposed. *The Denton Record-Chronicle* took particular umbrage, complaining in a series of editorials that "Other universities would bear cost of UT-D

expansion" and "UT-D legislation would undercut programs at UNT" and insisting that "Research dollars would go farther at UNT than UT-D." *The Fort Worth Star-Telegram* headlines simply insisted that legislators "Kill UTD Bill."



In 1989, Drs. Robert Rutford, Scherry Johnson and Hobson Wildenthal attend an event honoring the University's founders—Cecil Green, Erik Jonsson and Eugene McDermott.

"My perspective was that [UT Dallas] seemed like a rather distant enterprise," said Dr. Alfred Hurley, then chancellor and president of the University of North Texas. "Set up for, and did quite a job with science."

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board voiced annoyance that the bill passed the Texas Senate without the Board's approval. The Texas Senate representative from Bryan (next door to Texas A&M University) complained that the Legislature

was being pushed around by Dallas "fat cats," and wanted the bill thoroughly vetted, which then-Higher Education Commissioner Ken Ashworth vowed to do. "There is too much at stake here in terms of the cost and the impact on other institutions not to do a thorough study before we make a decision," he told *The Dallas Morning News*.

Even UT Dallas faculty members were disquieted. Many came to the research-focused University with the thought that they would work with graduate students. "The faculty was accustomed to teaching adults in the evening and doing research and writing during the day," remembered Johnson.

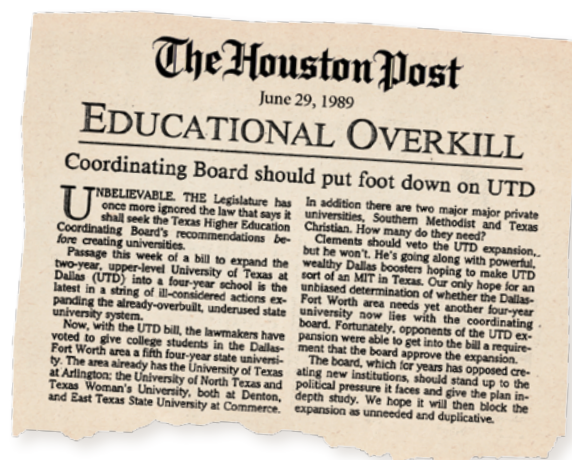
Nonetheless, a bill establishing UT Dallas' right to admit freshmen worked its way through the Legislature, though not without "a lot of compromising and a lot of special considerations given to making sure no other university's toes were trod upon," recalled former UT System Regent Jess Hay, speaking at a recent gathering to celebrate the publication of a memoir by former Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby. Hobby, with a wry smile added, "Something for everybody, with not everything for anybody."

Thus, Gov. Bill Clements signed into law House Bill 42 in July 1989, freeing UT Dallas to recruit freshmen. But not too many. And not unless they were

smart. Really, really smart.

The school was limited to 5,200 underclassmen. "However, no one at UTD believes the University will reach those caps," reported the *Richardson News*. The school was instructed to develop policies that would emphasize enrollment of students interested in science, math or engineering degrees. And, the bill stipulated: *At a minimum ... the admission criteria for entering freshmen ... be no less stringent than the criteria for admission to the University of Texas at Austin ...*

"Those were the political notions that were supposed to throttle us, keep us in place," said Dr. Michael Coleman, recently retired dean of undergraduate education. Admission requirements included four years of



TRANSFERS: UT DALLAS' ORIGINAL UNDERGRADUATES



UT Dallas began as a research institute and expanded to admit upper division students during the 1970s. Transfers were the University's very first undergraduates, so it's easy to see why there's a long understanding of and respect for them and their goals.

Transfer students make up approximately half of today's 10,648-member undergraduate student body, and in fall 2010, the University admitted its largest transfer cohort ever—1,582 students.

UT Dallas transfer students typically are goal-driven and arrive well-informed, said Curt Eley, vice provost for enrollment management. "They have investigated us, and they are often here for the opportunity to do

laboratory research as undergraduates and to work side-by-side with top faculty," he said.

While transfer students enjoy the same access as traditional freshmen to academic advising, mentoring and other support services of the University, they also are eligible for programs offered by the Transfer Student Services Office.

"They can connect with others who share in their experience, whether that's commuting to and from campus, holding a fulltime job or handling family obligations," said Yolande Evans, assistant director for student transition programs. In her experience, transfer students have specific needs four-years don't, but do not want to be treated differently.

"The Transfer Student Services Office includes components like transfer orientations—which are held more frequently and at times selected to accommodate students' complicated schedules,"

Evans said. "We also offer mentoring and leadership programs and other cultural and social events. We offer a 'transfer year experience' similar in purpose to a program called 'freshman year experience.' It isn't required, but it can help the transition to campus life."

A benefit available only to transfer students is the Tau Sigma National Honor Society. A chapter was added on campus in fall 2009. Tau Sigma membership is granted to those who have transferred into the University and earned at least a 3.5 grade-point average during their first semester at UT Dallas.

Meredith Donwerth-Jon is an undergraduate speech-language pathology major in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. A transfer from UT Austin, she serves as secretary for the UT Dallas chapter of Tau Sigma, is co-treasurer for the National Students Speech Language and Hearing Association and is part of the Student Welcome and Transition



advanced high school math, three years of laboratory science, and SAT scores of at least 1200—this at a time when Texas high school graduation requirements called for no more than two years of general math and two of science and the maximum possible score on the SAT was 1600.

And, UT Dallas would receive no state funds for support of the initial effort. The whole thing had to be accomplished with private gifts.

As it turned out, having the support of philanthropists and the business community paid off, literally. Fifteen months after launching the “Campaign to Make History,”

UT Dallas reached its goal of \$3 million, including a \$300,000 grant from the Excellence in Education Foundation as well as contributions from the Meadows Foundation and the Eugene McDermott Foundation.

Still, the breadth of what was left to accomplish might have daunted any college administrators. They had to create a curriculum, enhance library holdings to meet the needs of freshmen, write and produce appropriate catalog and organizational communication materials and construct and equip undergraduate labs.

And, of course, the school needed students—but how do you recruit with no track record? “We had to come up with themes and ideas,” said Johnson. “We used ‘Come make history’—the idea being that we were *tabula rasa*, and here was your opportunity, you bright kids, to come create a whole undergraduate environment.”

Just producing a brochure presented novel challenges. “We had to have a brochure that looked like it was a really fun, hip place to come,” said Judi Hensley Hamby, recently retired director of special events for the office of the president. “My daughter was a senior in high school and I knew her counselor, so we called him and said, ‘Can we borrow some students just to take their picture?’ Of course, it’s something that would never happen now. We had no legal

releases, we had no permission to take them off campus. I put them in my private car and brought them over and we stuck them, probably at some peril, on top of the sign, four feet off the ground, and said ‘Smile and wave.’”

“I got negative letters from some of the faculty,” Johnson recalled. “They said ‘You’re doing false advertising. We don’t have these students.’” She shrugged. “We had a nice diverse group of kids out there waving. We had to have something.”

Dr. Dennis Kratz (center) visits with some of the earliest undergraduate students, circa 1994.



team. In that role she helps with transfer orientation logistics and provides tours. She also advises transfers to learn the campus, get to know their professors and to get involved.

“I know firsthand: Coming to a new campus can be overwhelming,” Donwerth-Jon said. “Helping a person find their way is rewarding to me, and the fact that there’s a transition program available makes it very easy to navigate your experience here.”

UT Dallas offers scholarships to transfer students through the Academic Excellence Transfer Scholarship program. The University also offers a Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Scholarship for first time, degree-seeking undergraduate transfer students who are current members of PTK. Open to community college students, PTK is an academic honorary fraternity that recognizes high academic achievement.

Recognizing the continuing importance of supporting transfers, particularly those who begin their college

experience in community colleges, UT Dallas created the Comet Connection program in 2006.

One of only a few such programs in the nation, Comet Connection is especially tailored to the student who plans ahead and is committed to completing a degree at UT Dallas. As a Comet Connection member, transfers lock in their tuition rate for five years from the time of their Comet Connection registration at their community college campus.

Comet Connection members can defer admission up to 12 months, and have early access to UT Dallas academic advisors, and access to health professions and pre-law advising.

In close proximity to UT Dallas, Collin College was one of the first to sign a Comet Connection agreement with UT Dallas. Stephanie Hanson, coordinator of transfer programs at Collin, said the program benefits all involved.

“Across the board, from the students to the schools, to the faculty, to the recruiters and the admissions officers, Comet Connection is a partnership with a shared mission to make sure students keep moving to the next level,” Hanson said.

Greg Morris, assistant provost for new student enrollment at the University, attributes the success and long-term vision of the program to UT Dallas President David E. Daniel.

“Through Dr. Daniel’s support of the Comet Connection, we were successful in signing agreements with all 50 community colleges and the two private junior colleges in the state,” Morris said. “Bottom line, our transfer students have a lot in common with the students who start as traditional freshmen. They’re on a mission to accomplish something, and they know the value of hard work and perseverance. It’s why they fit in so well at UT Dallas.”

—Jenni Hufferberger

The Houston Post

June 8, 1989

HOLD THE LINE

Texas really doesn't need more college expansions

GOV. BILL CLEMENTS has rightfully vetoed the bill to upgrade his hometown University of Texas at Dallas from two-year to four-year status. But he did so for the wrong reasons.

He felt the bill was too cluttered because the Legislature stuck in provisions to expand the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and the Pan American University study center at Brownsville. It also required the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to approve all three expansions.

Clements should have killed the bill, all right, but simply because there's been no coordinating board recommendation that any of the expansions are needed.

We urge that he next veto the bill to create a four-year Central Texas university at Killeen, for that reason. Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen, used his power as House Calendars Committee chairman over other lawmakers' bills to log-roll that measure through the Legislature. Then he even got the Senate to reverse itself and remove its amendment to require coordinating board approval.

It's unfortunate that Clements has already signed into law a bill elevating the upper-level Corpus Christi State University into a four-year school. It should have been vetoed, too, for lack of coordinating board endorsement.

The governor is expected to ask the Legislature to pass a "clean" UT-Dallas bill during the June 20 special session so he can sign it. But we urge him not to do that.

A moratorium on state university expansions has served us well for more than a decade. We already have more schools than we can adequately finance, and studies repeatedly show their facilities are not used efficiently. There is capacity for tens of thousands more students.

Gov. Clements would make an outstanding contribution to higher education if he urged the Legislature to hold the line on schools and direct the coordinating board to make a comprehensive study of whether we need new ones or possibly should even close some.

No more universities should be expanded or new ones created, whether in his hometown or elsewhere, without coordinating board approval. A good existing law says the Legislature shall obtain the board's recommendation on whether any new higher education institution is needed, and a recommendation that one is needed shall be approved by two-thirds of the board members. But that law has been ignored in the case of all these proposed expansions, causing one disgruntled coordinating board member to resign in protest.

Of all people, the governor should not support action undermining that law.

teach freshmen in different ways."

Should have, but didn't.

"I was on the committee that created the first freshman curriculum, and I must say with some pride, we did a really bad job," said Kratz. "First, because the legislation limited us to good students, that became conflated to, 'We'll put a curriculum together just for really, really smart students, or our imagination of what really smart students are like.' Second, given UTD's inherited vision of itself as science-oriented, we put far more science and math in there than anybody else had. The third problem was we were so taken with ourselves as a unique institution that we decided to create a unique freshman curriculum that immediately ran into huge issues of transferability—and of teachability, because some of the freshmen core courses were designed around the interests of faculty, rather than the vision of what freshmen need."

Ultimately, 288 students applied for the first freshman class, 138 were accepted and 111 enrolled—and they were just the kind of high-quality students UT Dallas wanted and was mandated to pursue. The class included four valedictorians, three salutatorians and a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

In September 1990, they arrived.

"The second day, I was walking across campus," recalls Judi Hensley Hamby. "At that time, there was just one water feature, between the theater and the Founders Building. Sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't. But that second day of classes it was overflowing with bubbles. I thought, 'Oh my goodness, we have a real University.'"

That first semester was a trial, as much for the students as the faculty and staff. Those bright young students found themselves failing, and not because they weren't smart enough.

"We had astrophysicists teach first-year calculus and it just didn't turn out as well as it could have," said Coleman dryly.

"The first week, one of the history professors assigns 250 pages for them to read," recalled Rutford. "They haven't read that much in the past year."

In February 1991, the *UTD Mercury* reported that in a survey of 84 freshmen, 19 had decided not to return, 11 left before the spring semester and one said he was staying "by financial default."

That fall, the school enrolled 92 freshmen. "The attrition rate was equally horrible the second year," said Hobson Wildenthal, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. Wildenthal, who came to UT Dallas in 1992, found a campus suffering "all kinds of anxiety and turmoil over whether we might lose our historical funding status."

"Several of our really good faculty came to me that first year and said, 'I don't know what you want me to do,'" Wildenthal continued. "The faculty had been hired with the spicy sales pitch 'Teach what you want to teach as much as you want to teach, but

"The higher your standards, the more obligated you are to provide the means to reach them."

—Dennis Kratz



High school seniors "borrowed" from J.J. Pearce in Richardson acted the part of freshmen in the first recruitment literature.



you're hired to do research.' There was a huge lack of enthusiasm, and a feeling that the University was sharply changing its course." At 1992 "visioning" retreats designed to map a plan for the future, some faculty insisted that the problem was that admissions criteria were not stringent enough.

Wildenthal also became concerned that the school's key supporters—Margaret McDermott, Cecil Green, J. Erik Jonsson, the latter two having founded UT Dallas along with the late Eugene McDermott—were losing interest in the University. "They were not happy with the University's progress. Though they still loved the concept, when I got here, they were not very supportive."

But, he said, "I knew what we had to do." And so he focused on turnaround.

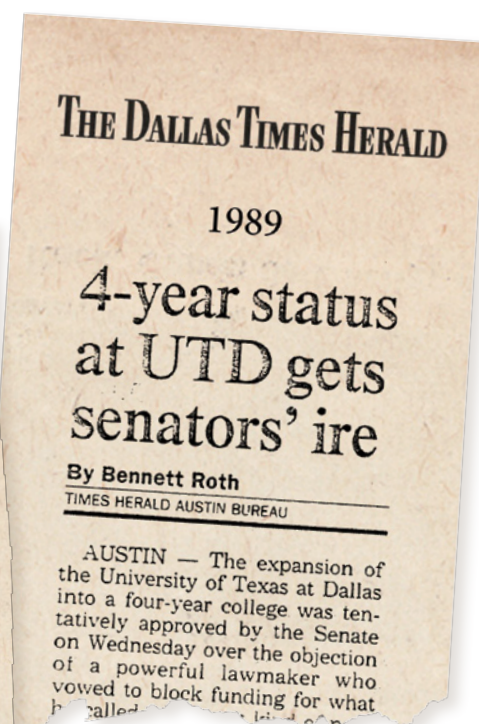
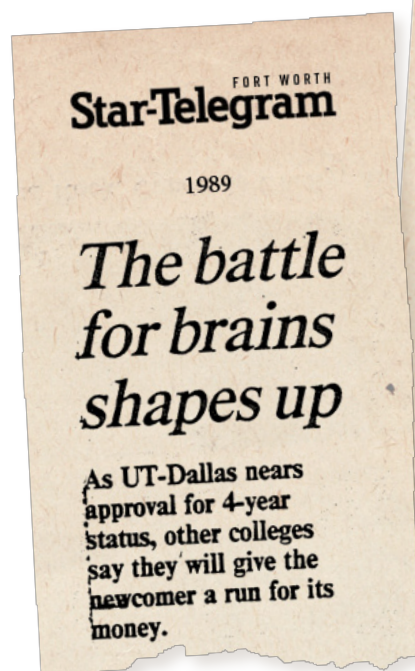
"The first month I was here, there was an article in the news about the University of Oklahoma program to aggressively pursue high-quality students. And I said, if Oklahoma's doing it, we've got to, too," Wildenthal said.

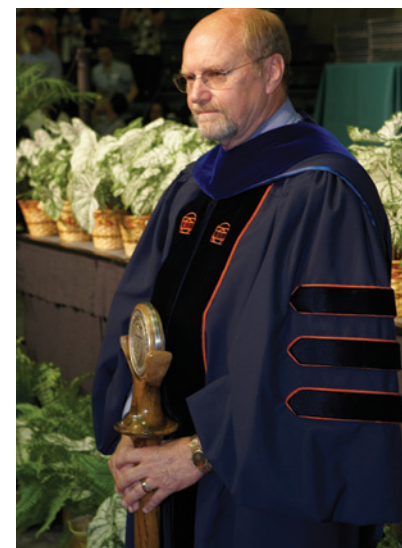
"That primed the pump. I went to one of our small cabinet meetings and said, 'We're never going to have a viable freshman class of quality without a merit scholarship program.' He was somewhat skeptical, but President Rutford said, 'OK, let's give it a try.'"

Ignoring accusations from outside and within that the school was "buying" students, Wildenthal offered National Merit Scholarship finalists a package that included tuition, housing, fees, books and supplies, plus \$1,000 per semester. National Merit Commended students were offered all that minus the \$1,000 stipend. UT Dallas had planned on a freshman class of about 200 that year. But in the fall of 1993, 452 freshmen, 250 of them on scholarship, enrolled.

(Continued on page 55)

In the 1970s and early '80s, the average UT Dallas student was 32 years old. Campus was deserted in daytime, coming to life after 5 p.m. when most students would arrive. Today, the campus mall fills with students of all ages throughout the day and into the evening.





THE BEGINNINGS OF STUDENT LIFE



When Darrelene Rachavong, vice president for student affairs, got her first look at the Student Union Building in the 1980s, it contained a couple of coin-operated pool tables, a huge military-style kitchen that was locked, the student newspaper and government offices, and that was it. At that time, the average age of students was 32, and they cared about “good parking, grabbing a sandwich before classes, and their academics,” said Dr. Rachavong (right page, bottom left). “There wasn’t a whole lot we could offer them that they would participate in.”

But with the admission of freshmen and sophomores, student life became a pressing issue. “Study after study shows that students who are engaged in their university are more likely to graduate,” said Rachavong.

“Education is not just about scholarship, but also leadership and citizenship,” said Dr. Michael Coleman, recently retired undergraduate dean. “We have always brought strong scholars to campus, but we also have given them opportunities to grow—to become better leaders, better citizens and better members of our societies. This is just as important as their academic work. They need a political and a social education. They come for the academic opportunities, the scholarships, the research programs. The classroom and the labs challenge them. But opportunity to have out-of-class growth experiences is a large part of what keeps students at UT Dallas to the end, and makes them the outstanding leaders and achievers they become.”

Rachavong describes student life as a combination of tangibles and intangibles, from residence halls to campus traditions. So with inventiveness and an open ear to what students themselves wanted, Coleman, Rachavong and her staff developed what is becoming a distinct UT Dallas culture.

HOUSING: The first campus housing, the Waterview Apartments, was built and managed by a private company. The only connection to UT Dallas was that students lived there, and that the land was owned by the University. But when freshmen arrived, parents made it clear that they expected someone to keep an eye on those 18-year-olds living away from home for the first time. So Rachavong and her staff gave themselves a crash course on student residential life.

The first thing they started was the Peer Advisor Program, which continues today, and has grown. Peer Advisors are fellow students who have been trained to lead and guide others, and who know when to alert professional staff to issues.

Rachavong’s student life staff also realized that one and two-bedroom apartments were not ideal for building community. “A student could park the car, go in, and never come back out again except for class,” Rachavong said. Quads, which allowed four students to share an apartment, were added, and were an improvement.

But the newest residence halls (above left, bottom) are designed for maximum community-building, from the lobby lounge and smaller lounges on each floor to shared kitchen and laundry room, to a media room and classrooms. And, said Rachavong, “We have a really strong programming component. We offer everything from the intramural programs to crawfish boils, to Splatter Beat” (an event involving tempera paint, music and clothes that the wearer is prepared to sacrifice to the event). The first residence hall filled and has a waiting list; construction was immediately started on a second.

STUDENT UNION: The once-bleak Student Union has been expanded many times and today is bustling, but that too took time and initiative.

First, food was brought back in. Then free billiard tables were added. Then Rachavong brainstormed ways to get students into the building in the first

place, which is when the Info Depot (as it was known then—today it’s called the Comet Center) started selling stamps and discount tickets to local theatres and events, and offering notary services.

Many campus improvements—from the fitness center to The Pub (which recently, and for the first time, began serving beer)—grew out of the ideas of students, who generally have supported the development by voting through a fee to make it happen. (The fees must be then approved in the Texas Legislature.)

ACTIVITIES: SUAAB—the Student Union and Activities Advisory Board—is responsible for selecting entertainment programming, from karaoke to stand-up comedy, and student influence gives it a distinctive UT Dallas style. “Music has never been huge on this campus,” said Rachavong. “Comedians do pretty well. Magicians do well.”

GREEKS: The Greeks on campus today can thank a Kappa Sigma named Bill Austin, who, after transferring, approached Rachavong about bringing his fraternity to campus. This, Rachavong knew, would not be easy. But Rachavong worked with Austin on a presentation for the faculty and brought to meetings everything she could find on the brighter side of Greeks. In 1992 the Kappa Sigmas came to UT Dallas; today, there are 15 fraternities and sororities on campus, some with service orientations, some devoted mainly to social life. Someday, Rachavong predicts, the campus will have Greek residences as well.

“I’d like to see more Greek life on campus,” said President David E. Daniel. “I trust our students and I want to give them opportunity to develop their full potential.”

SPORTS: When Rachavong came to UT Dallas in 1983, the intramural sports program was in place, if small; today, thousands of students participate in intramural sports every year.



Rachavong also helped develop a club sports program, and the University eventually joined the NCAA Division III, which is probably (but you never know) as far as the school will go in athletics.

"We're all about scholar-athletes," said Rachavong. "We don't recruit in the way D-I would recruit. We don't offer scholarships. Our kids come here for the academics and also want to continue the athletic careers that they had in high school." (See page 14 for a recap of athletics this year.)

UT Dallas' cheerleading squad is also the result of student initiative. Coleman, the former dean of undergraduate education, went with Rachavong at a group of students' invitation to a soccer game one cold day. "There were 30 or 40 people there," he recalled. "We didn't really know why we had been invited, but about five minutes into the game, here come these girls in white sweatshirts, and they had written on them with Magic Marker: CHEERLEADERS. And that was the beginning of the cheerleading program."

SPIRIT ROCK: Students competing in Destination ImagiNation at the University of Tennessee discovered "The Rock" on that campus, and decided they wanted one: a boulder that would serve as a canvas for painted-on student messages. "Their first proposal was described as a Freedom-of-Speech Rock," recalled Rachavong. This, she and Dr. Daniel admit, worried them slightly.

"I had visions of offensive symbols, angry people demanding removal, having to bring in a forklift and have the rock hauled off," said Daniel. He consulted experts, including then-UT System Chancellor Mark Yudof, who, helpfully, also was a free-speech lawyer. Everyone thought the rock was a fine idea. Rachavong suggested the name "Spirit Rock."

While Daniel and Provost Hobson Wildenthal continued to mull the idea over, Rachavong and Coleman started searching for the right rock. "Neither had said 'You absolutely can't do this,'" Rachavong offered. Coleman, somehow, found himself at a rock quarry and saw what looked like the perfect thing. On the day of delivery,

"We were watching this big crane bringing that rock right into the middle of the campus. We loved it," said Rachavong. Then, to their surprise, the crane delivered two more rocks. "This rock was so big, and you were so nice, we thought y'all deserve to have three," the delivery man said.

So instead of a Spirit Rock, the school got a Spirit Rock garden now at home in the grass just outside Cecil H. Green Hall. "You can't say our administration doesn't deliver value—three for one," Daniel observed. (See one of the rocks above, center left, bearing a proposal, and one with current Greek leadership, right page, uppermost photo on left side.)

ALMA MATER: When students told Rachavong they wanted an alma mater, she had no idea where to begin. "I called a few schools saying, 'Could you tell me how...?', and they laughed at me. They said, 'Our alma mater is a hundred years old. We have no clue how it was written.'"

Rachavong turned to Peter H. Bond, associate vice president for business affairs and procurement. "We put out a request for proposal—we requested bids on the lyrics to our alma mater," she recalled. That contest resulted in lyrics by Bill Dunn and Neely Reynolds, which were selected as the winning words by student judges. The music was written by music professor and world-renowned composer Robert X. Rodriguez, who first gained international recognition in 1971 when awarded the Prix de Composition Musicale Prince Pierre de Monaco by Prince Rainier and Princess Grace at the Palais Princier in Monte Carlo. Others who have commissioned Rodriguez include conductors Eduardo Mata, Neville Marriner and Antal Dorati, a community of patronage few universities seeking help with an alma mater can claim, though Rodriguez' work for the University was given out of love, not for money. What could be more fitting for a song whose title translates, from the Latin, to "fostering mother"?

THE MACE: Coleman wanted to build up the pomp and circumstance around graduation ceremonies. When he heard that local gardening expert Neal Sperry

was selling pencils made from Austin's famous treaty oak, he decided wood from that historic tree, which was witness to all six flags that have flown over Texas, would bring extra oomph to the tradition. He approached the Austin Parks Department for pieces of wood from the oak, which he brought to the Collin County Wood Turners Association. They fabricated The Mace. Other materials incorporated in the ceremonial staff include metal salvaged from an experiment aboard the NASA Space Shuttle and integrated circuits made by Texas Instruments. The Mace is borne by the University Marshall, the individual who leads the faculty processional into graduation ceremonies. (See the Mace and Coleman, serving as University Marshall, left page, rightmost image.)

TEMOC: The UT Dallas mascot is entirely student-generated. "We had a contest. A student designed the look which was voted the winner," said Rachavong. "Student government named him." A movement to change the name—which is, as readers may deduce, Comet spelled backward—arose in 2007, but so many alums and students argued against it that the effort came to no fruition. Wikipedia pranksters briefly ascribed to Temoc a history as "a rapper sometimes confused with the late Tupac Shakur" and as "the homeless love child of the comet Hale-Bopp," adding that, "Temoc survived the streets by chipping bits of ice off himself and selling them in the form of sno-cones." Both entries have vanished into the Internet ether. But Temoc is still with us. (Above, center photo.)

THE WHOOSH: The Whoosh, UT Dallas' answer to "Hook 'em," "Gig 'em" and the like, is widely believed to be Coleman's invention, though he credits it to students. The salute is named the Whoosh because it's "the sound a comet would make if there was sound in space," he explains. (Any self-respecting UT Dallas science major knows there ISN'T sound in space.) Today, photos of students and alums whooshing around the world, underwater and in space, or at least, in spacecraft, adorn walls in the Green Center and elsewhere on campus. (Above, rightmost image.)

JH and SD

“Respected as we are in the arenas of research and teaching—and feared in chess circles around the world—our community has long felt the need for something more in terms of the University’s physical presence. Our campus enhancement signals a ‘new arrival’ for UT Dallas—indeed a new era.”



A Campus Transformed



With those words from President David E. Daniel last fall, UT Dallas celebrated the start of a new chapter in its history by dedicating a two-year redesign project that has transformed central campus. The \$30 million enhancement, which included an estimated 150,000 hours of construction labor, was made possible by private philanthropic support.

The project was led by landscape architects Peter Walker and Partners (PWP), a world-renowned design

firm chosen for its understanding of Dallas and for its record of visionary work in venues ranging from university campuses to corporate headquarters to private gardens. In addition to the new physical expression of excellence, the project addresses one of the specific goals set by the University's strategic plan under "Initiative 6: Making a Great City Greater: Enhance the physical appearance of campus."

The Plaza & Trellis

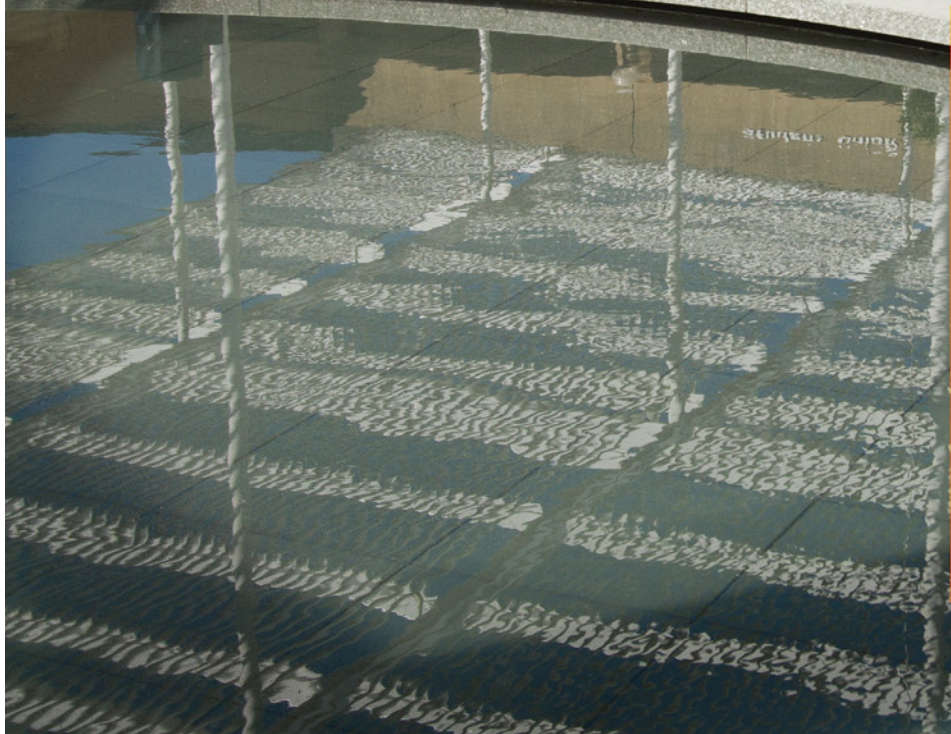
The space is distinguished by a nearly acre-sized trellis plaza between McDermott Library and the Student Union, including a circular pool with a columnar fog system designed to run at 3.7 gallons per minute. On calm days, fog can crawl as high as 200 feet from the column. A sensor turns the fog off on windy days, and at night the column is illuminated.





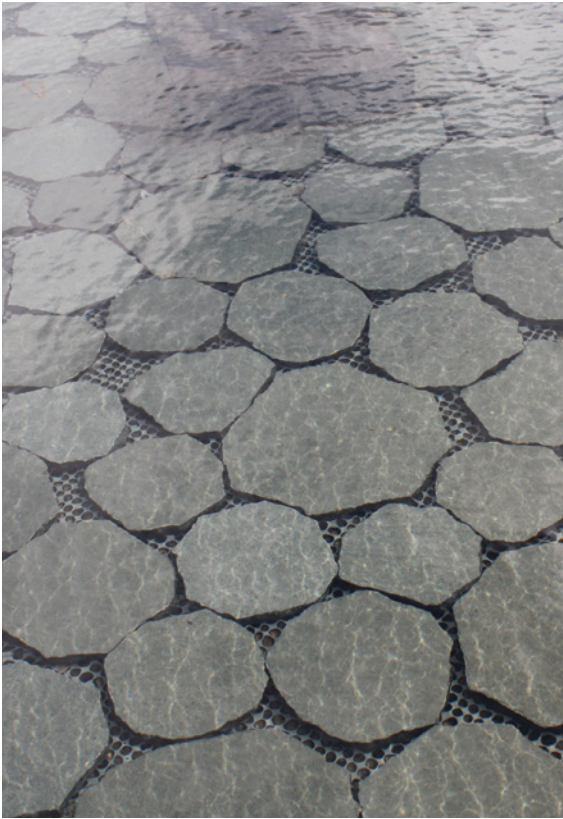
Entrance Forest

University Parkway was reforested with more than 5,000 trees and native plants and shrubs including Afghan pines, bur oaks, Caddo maples, cedar elms, chinkapin oaks, magnolias, pond cypress and Shumard oaks. About 88,000 square feet of St. Augustine sod was installed. Approximately 78 native live oaks distinguish the new crescent shaped entrance on Campbell Road, most transplanted from a previously linear alignment along Campbell. A monument sign of native Texas limestone is 80 feet long, 2 feet wide and 6 feet tall. This view of the enhancement was shot from The School of Management, and features the Dallas skyline.



Dedication

The nearly one-acre trellis—165 feet wide, 146 feet long and 25 feet high—is made from painted steel columns and beams that support shade-providing fiberglass and plastic tubes. Wisteria, supported by stainless steel cables welded to the top and bottom of the columns, will create a natural cover. The plaza's square plinth, serving as a stage here, and the redesigned student union seating area are crafted of sustainably grown, harvested, transported, dried and milled ipê wood from Central America.



The Mall

A view of the new Student Services Building, adjacent to the Student Union, and across one of the mall's five linear pools: Approximately 150,000 gallons of re-circulated water bubble in the pools. Approximately 14,000 square feet of Chinese granite was hand-placed in the linear pools. The mall features two human-scale chess boards.



Campus Unveiling

"Transformation of any kind takes a bold vision, great ideas, generous support and a strong understanding of goals. These same principals guided our founders, whose tireless determination set the course toward the University we know today," said President Daniel at the dedication with Grace Bielawski, president of student government. The University is particularly grateful to founder Eugene McDermott and his family for their nearly 50-year commitment to UT Dallas. In 2000, Mrs. Margaret McDermott (center right) initiated the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program in honor of her late husband. Bielawski is a McDermott Scholar.



“It is impossible to know what we would have become as a University without the unwavering support of the Eugene McDermott family,” says Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, provost and executive vice president of UT Dallas. “The effects of this project will reverberate for years to come.”

Q & A with Peter Walker, Landscape Architect



Acclaimed landscape architectural firm Peter Walker and Partners (PWP) designed the long-anticipated campus enhancement project. Founded in 1983, PWP has carried out a variety of projects, including the urban design and planning of landscapes ranging in size from parks and university campuses to corporate headquarters, plazas and private gardens.

The firm is known for challenging traditional concepts of design, and its frequent collaboration with other renowned architects. Examples include the Nasher Foundation Sculpture Center in Dallas, designed with Renzo Piano Building Workshop, and the IBM Solana Campus (Westlake/Southlake, Texas) with Mitchell/Giurgola Architects and Ricardo Legorreta Arquitectos. The firm has won numerous design commissions, including the World Trade Center Memorial in New York with Michael Arad and the United States Embassy in Beijing with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

UT Dallas Magazine asked Peter Walker about his views on the campus transformation and his work.

• • •

Why do your projects keep returning you to Dallas?

I enjoy working in Texas because I have been fortunate to have clients who are committed to making local projects with international quality. In Texas, I have found my clients' visions and their company to be both generous and inspirational. Even when working on projects of international importance, we have found time to enjoy informal dinners at their homes.

How does landscape/environment build community?

Campus environments are an important place to teach about the built environment. For many students, a campus is the first experience of a place designed and built with an eye towards community, order and design. I believe it is important for campus environments to be forward-looking, world class and beautiful, as they house the future leaders of our cities, planning departments, corporations, etc.

How did UT Dallas' history and reputation as a science and technology institution influence design concepts for the University?

For many of our clients who work in areas of discovery or creative research, we aim to create environments that allow for informal interaction and places for walking or quiet reflection. We recently completed a remarkable landscape for the Novartis Pharmaceutical company in Basel, Switzerland, that has attracted scientists from all over the world, in part because of the campus beauty. This [process] is quite elaborate and quite wonderful. This campus needed a strong new identity, an emblem of its importance and stature. The growth and shape of any fine university changes, and this will be a place to enjoy through year after year of activities and learning.



This isn't your first project for an academic institution. Was UT Dallas different from others?

It is extremely rare to have such a committed patron as Mrs. Eugene McDermott. This allowed an opportunity to realize a project that sets a high bar for the future landscape at UT Dallas.

What feelings or thoughts do you hope to evoke in those who visit your works?

We will have succeeded if people remember this landscape after they leave.

As a landscape architect, where do you draw inspiration?

I am influenced by minimalist art and good design in all forms.

In terms of landscape design, what creates an enduring environment?

Maintenance.

Why do things of nature—trees, plants, waterways—draw people and communities in?

I think people are curious by nature. Organic things and things of nature can either be ignored and uninteresting or of profound significance. In the built environment, I think design makes the difference in making environments that are remembered and significant.

Where do you see the UT Dallas landscape five or 10 years (or more) from now?

UT Dallas is poised for significant growth as a university, as is the greater Dallas metropolitan region. I believe that this project will be a strong example of the importance of landscape and design and I hope it inspires both its own maintenance and other projects.

For more detail, including downloadable photos and factual materials, visit utdallas.edu/enhance. For information about naming opportunities, visit utdallas.edu/development/enhancement.



The new 33,000-square-foot Visitor Center and Bookstore, under construction south of the Activity Center, is slated for completion in summer 2011. Amenities include a bookstore with a coffee shop, a Comet merchandise retail center, a visitors' center, the Technology Store, the Copy Center and a multipurpose room.

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An Alumna's Perspective on
Dr. Duane Buhrmester
1952-2010

by Alesha Seroczynski

Almost every day I receive a “News Center” e-mail from UT Dallas highlighting hot happenings and current events. Sometimes I don’t have time to read it at all, some days I just scan it, and then there are the days when I have to read it because I see my old department: Health and Human Development, in what is today the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences.

An e-letter in June noted the hire of a prominent scholar in cognitive psychology, which brought to mind my undergraduate mentor, Duane Buhrmester. I thought how proud he must be of snagging this academic for the school. Duane was as interested in bringing great people to UTD as he was promoting his own research agenda.

I had not talked to Duane in at least five years. So much had happened to me and in my career since we last spoke, it seemed a good time to touch base. I looked him up on the UTD website and crafted a lengthy “hello” email.

Duane’s reply a week or two later was as engaging as his classes had been. He described administrative and faculty changes and stabilities in the department, ongoing publications from a research project we worked on almost 20 years ago, his now-grown boys and their outstanding accomplishments and his upcoming annual trip to Colorado. He was excited about getting away with his family. He wrote just a week before he left Dallas, and I planned to wait until he returned to reply. Two weeks later I received another UTD e-mail with the header: Memorial Friday for Duane and Linda Buhrmester.

Momentarily, inexplicably, I thought that Duane must have donated a boatload to the University, and that they were throwing him a party. Why didn’t he tell me about this?! The word “memorial” did not even register. Then I opened the attachment. Many of us experienced that same moment of shock and surprise after learning of Duane and Linda’s extremely untimely and tragic deaths. I cannot even think of it now without tears coming to my eyes. Writing this small tribute is an effort to honor his memory and express—however posthumously—my deep and sincere appreciation for the investment he made in me so many years ago. His influence on my personal and professional development is lasting.

“Burr-Mester. Burr-Mester. Burr-Mester.”

If you had a class with Duane, you received his opening lesson on his surname. He no doubt spent much time early in his career developing this mnemonic device: “Now, my name is easy to pronounce if you just think of the following two images: a burr, like under your horse’s saddle; and an academic semester, like this semester. So, if you put the two together, you get Burr-Mester. Not Burr-Meister! You just substitute the Burr for the Se, and you get Burr-Mester. Burr-Mester. Burr-Mester.” I can only imagine that early on he had all the students say it with him.

One of the single best pedagogical techniques I learned from Duane was the use of primary sources in the undergraduate classroom. Many undergraduate classes rarely, if ever, venture from the assigned text.

Every class I took with Duane, regardless of level or content, had an accompanying packet of original articles and book chapters. Whenever we read about some great thinker or theory, there was a corresponding research article or theoretical paper by the same person. In this way, Duane prepared us very well for graduate school. I now see that Duane’s undergraduate classes were often akin to graduate ones. For those of us who went on to academic careers, the transition was smooth and relatively painless. Thank you, Duane, for pushing us and expecting so much from our young minds.

Below: Linda and Duane Buhrmester in front of the Smithsonian Institution Shelter, also known as the Mount Whitney Summit Shelter. The shelter was built in 1909 on the summit plateau of Mount Whitney.



Every semester, Duane would host a colloquium on career development for undergraduate psych majors. He had this great, huge chart he would lay out on the board—something I have never seen elsewhere nor been able to replicate myself. Drawing on years in the profession, Duane would outline a plethora of career options, then show students which degree would get them to their objective. Listening to him present the whole of our profession in one single snapshot, it felt like the entire world of psychology was just over this grand horizon of graduate school. He made us believe that any path was possible; and he charted our course with his grand map.

In my senior year, I left a promising career in advertising to work in Duane's lab part-time in order to ensure that coveted letter of recommendation, the one that would land me in the perfect Tier One graduate program that would subsequently land me in the perfect post-graduate entry-level position. But in what? Everything seemed fascinating. I did an undergraduate honors thesis on aggression and Duane urged me to apply to specific programs where prominent scholars were studying aggressive behaviors. But what if I did not want to study that topic for the rest of my life? Suddenly, the vast horizon of psychology was too broad, too daunting.

“... Merely the Means to an End”

One day, as Duane and I discussed potential graduate programs (yet again!), he said, “Graduate school is not the end, you know. It is merely the means to an end.” But what, I wondered, is the end if not a doctoral degree? It has taken almost 20 years to fully appreciate these prudent words and see how right he was.

Can anyone truly know at 24 what one is destined to be or do? I envied Duane and his certainty about what he wanted to study and where he wanted to be. I am grateful that he invested in students like me who did not have that same self-assurance or singular focus. Sometimes we just walk through the next best door, and life turns out ok anyway. Thank you, Duane, for believing in us even when we did not always believe in ourselves.



Duane's professional “end” was UTD, its promise and growth, its spectacular student body and his ability to study adolescent development within its context. Duane's personal “end” was his family; he wrote of Michael and Ryan last June: “They are both great kids and we had lots of fun when they were growing up.” Duane loved life, and said of his last mountain-climbing expedition that “it promises to be our most interesting outing yet.” Surely not in the way anyone expected.

Duane's entire life was most definitely “interesting.” He was a true scholar of the academy—fascinated by rare and unusual findings, intrigued by the next great administrative adventure, invested in developing young minds. I have no doubt that his presence at UTD is sorely missed; I miss him from a thousand miles away.

Have a story to share about life post graduation? Alumni Perspective is a regular feature. Articles of 1,000 words maximum will be considered for publication; stories are edited for style, length, clarity, grammar and relevance. Address submissions to alumni@utdallas.edu.

Above: Duane Buhrmester with star pupil, Helen Small. Small graduated from UT Dallas with a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2007. In 2010, she received her master's degree in psychological sciences at the age of 90.

BMOCS AND CAMPUS SWEETHEARTS? STUDENT LEADERS TRANSCEND TYPE

By Jenni Hufferberger

Who is the quintessential UT Dallas student leader?

There's not one, according to campus experts.

"I think it's an evolving picture," said Dr. Sheila Amin Gutierrez de Piñeres, recently appointed dean for undergraduate education. "There is really no stereotypical UTD student anymore. There may be in the minds of people who were here in the early '90s, but the student body has changed so much in the 15 years I have been here, that I couldn't tell you that there's a type anymore."

What those who distinguish themselves as campus leaders do have in common is a willingness to take the uncharted path, to build from the ground up and be unfettered by expectations of the way it's always been done, she said.

Dr. Darrelene Rachavong, who has worked side-by-side with UT Dallas students for more than 27 years and has served as vice president for Student Affairs since 2005, characterizes Comets as persistent risk-takers who are generous with their time.

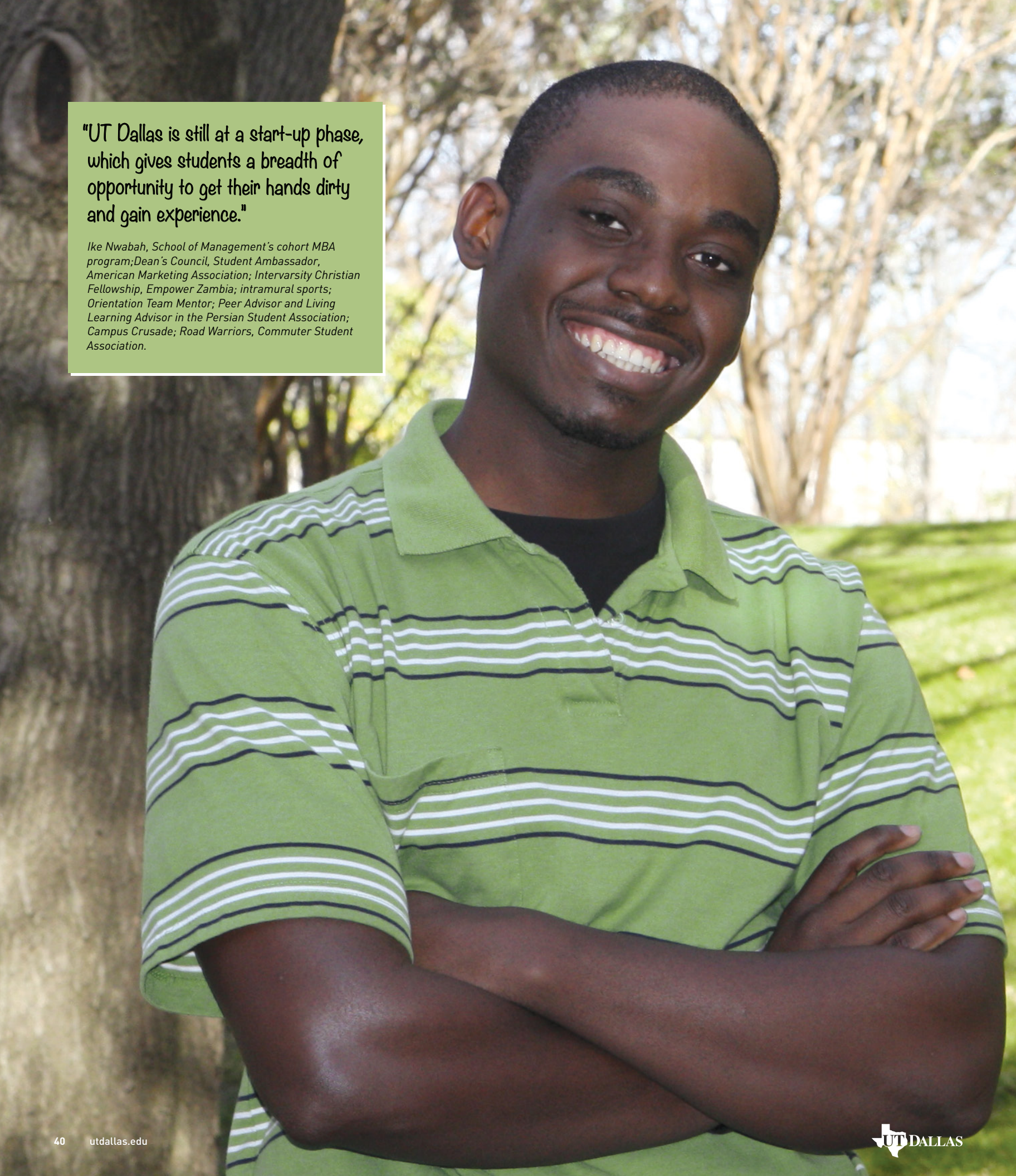
"Our students think big-picture about what would be best for the greater good," said Rachavong. "They want us to be top notch, and they're willing to put their own needs aside to make that happen."

We asked Piñeres and Rachavong, and Dr. Gene Fitch Jr., dean of students, to identify a few current students who exemplify what they described. And then we asked those students to tell us what they thought leadership meant.



"Comets seem to value fresh ideas, tradition building and allowing every student, even the very young ones, to be involved in the University's operations. I was able to be student government vice president as a sophomore."

Student Government President Grace Bielawski, political science major, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences; Eugene McDermott Scholar; regional Moot Court champion; holder of Bill Archer Fellowship, a Washington, D.C., internship and academic program.



"UT Dallas is still at a start-up phase, which gives students a breadth of opportunity to get their hands dirty and gain experience."

Ike Nwabah, School of Management's cohort MBA program; Dean's Council, Student Ambassador, American Marketing Association; Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Empower Zambia; intramural sports; Orientation Team Mentor; Peer Advisor and Living Learning Advisor in the Persian Student Association; Campus Crusade; Road Warriors, Commuter Student Association.



"Someone who is always there to help others, whether it's working on skills or answering questions ... I try to be someone who's always there to lend a hand."

Chris Barnes, business administration /finance major, School of Management; third-year men's basketball team member. Helped win an American Southwest Conference championship his freshman season and advance team to the NCAA National Championship Tournament the last two years; two-time ASC Academic All-Conference student-athlete, recipient of the UT Dallas Distinguished Scholar-Athlete Award.



"As a young institution, UT Dallas is not enmeshed in culture or bureaucracy that can stifle innovation and student leadership. In a diverse school such as UT Dallas, leaders are those who transcend established social or cultural norms and encourage mutual respect between students."

Maria Islam-Meredith, graduate student, healthcare management, School of Management; Healthcare Management Club; president Bangladeshi Student Organization; Student Government; Amnesty International; student member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



"My passion is helping students transition to UT Dallas so they enjoy this campus as much as I have. Everyone is a leader in their own way—people are always watching others and taking their cues from what they see you do. It's those who go above and beyond in what they enjoy doing who become great leaders."

Ravi Knutson, sociology major, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences; Orientation Team Mentor; First Year Leader for the Engineering Living Learning Community Rhet 1101 class; member, Residential Housing Association. He is training to become captain of the UT Dallas Fencing Club.



"Our campus is largely known for its excellent science, engineering and business programs, so I've charged myself with working doubly hard to bring attention to the Arts and Humanities program and to showcase our students and faculty."

Michelle "Mickey" Calderone, master's degree candidate, School of Arts and Humanities; writer of fiction and screenplays; editor-in-chief of "Reunion: The Dallas Review."



"The University is remarkable: it allows the idealists and the dreamers among us to create legacies. As much as UT Dallas molds and shapes us, we have the ability to simultaneously mold and shape the institution. We define one another."

Stevin George, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences; founding member of the student improv and occasional flash mob group Onomatopoeia UTD; member of John Marshall Prelaw Society; volunteers with the Union Gospel Men's Mission Shelter.



"The variety of people at UT Dallas and the vast mix of cultures and international student populations inspire me. I'm always enthusiastic to serve different people and learn about them."

Dipti Chandwani, graduate student, information technology and management, School of Management; peer advocate, International Student Services Office; leader, Indian Student Association; member, Graduate Business Society and Students in Free Enterprise.



"I spent a semester in Washington working on higher education issues at the federal level and discovered that UT Dallas is beginning to create a name for itself there. It really reinvigorated me about our direction."

Mac Hird, Eugene McDermott Scholar, physics major, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; involved with alternative student newspaper A Modest Proposal; Student Ambassador, Student Government, First Year Leader; Bill Archer Fellow.



"I'm inspired by the opportunity to have a say in the future of UT Dallas. We're so lucky that our administration listens. Knowing that we're creating a future for thousands of students really motivates me to work hard and enjoy what I do."

Dina Shahrokhi, political science major, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences; vice president of Student Government; Student Ambassador; founded SPEAK (Students for Political Education, Action and Knowledge) and Student Envoys; Pre-Law Society; Bill Archer Fellow.



"We seem to have a disproportionate number of 'surprise' leaders who never thought they would be in such positions. The great thing about UT Dallas is how empowering the administration is, and how many opportunities there are for regular students to make a big difference."

Nick Hinojosa, graduate student, School of Management; active in Student Union & Activities Advisory Board (SUAAB), Student Government, Chi Phi Fraternity, the Boys and Girls Club of America, Late Night Programs, Orientation Team Mentors, Interfraternity Council and the Comet S.T.A.R.S. program that mentors first-year students.



"It's hard to walk across campus and not run into a leader. The campus provides ways for students to have formal leadership opportunities, but there are just as many students at UT Dallas that don't carry this distinction, but are true leaders for their community, colleagues, friends and family."

Alyssa Montana, biology major, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; Golden Key International Honour Society; Peer-Led Team Learning Leader in general chemistry for the Gateways to Engagement, Mastery and Success (GEMS) Center; part of Dr. Christa McIntyre's neuroscience research Lab.



"The thing that most inspires me is the satisfaction I get when I know I've made a positive impact in someone's life. I try to give others a chance to do something they may not have considered doing before, and in turn, make them better athletes, students and friends."

John R. Veloria III, biology major, School of Natural Science and Mathematics; president, UT Dallas Running Club; travel officer, UT Dallas Men's Volleyball Club; public relations officer, UT Dallas Club Sports Council; Club Sports Officer of the Year, 2009-2010.



"Leadership is about transferring skills, ideas and services to a larger group of people while equipping others to do the same. Good leaders do this to benefit their communities and impact change for the better."

Dominique McCleave, speech pathology and audiology major, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences; president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc; president of the UT Dallas National Pan-Hellenic Council; AmeriCorps.

"A strong leader doesn't necessarily have to come off as one who's strict and stern. Leadership also can be achieved through the ability to take into consideration the suggestions from those who are above you, like supervisors or faculty sponsors, and those whom you are leading."

Diana Iribadzhakova, president of the Terry Scholars; senior speech language pathology major, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, fast-tracking on a master's degree in communication disorders while finishing her bachelor's degree. The Terry Scholars Program covers a substantial portion of tuition, education and living expenses for students showing service and leadership potential. Learning Advisor in the Persian Student Association; Campus Crusade; Road Warriors, Commuter Student Association.





"I live for excitement, rushing adrenaline and upsets. I've seen an increase in not only the number of club sports members, but the daily attendance at practices. Practices are optional, but so many athletes take time out of their schedules to practice, wanting to learn and get better.

The hardcore commitment of these athletes has pushed me to work harder, thinking of new ways to bring everyone together as a family and recruit more athletes for the future."

Julianna Chung, arts and technology major, School of Arts and Humanities; president of the UT Dallas swimming club; chair of Club Sports Council.



"We're blessed to be at a University that's full of youth and moxie and shows no sign of slowing down. Whatever crazy idea you have isn't treated with dismissal or ridicule, but with enthusiasm! Every student has the opportunity to be entrepreneur of his or her own unique passions. They've ranged from the informed and service-oriented senators of Student Government to the bold silliness of Onomatopoeia's ninjas and zombies, to a quirky mixture of both among the fearless educators of the Chemistry Student Association with their blowtorches and liquid nitrogen."

Martin Huynh, biochemistry major, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; president of the Chemistry Student Association; member of Alpha Epsilon Delta; founding member of Onomatopoeia UTD; teaching assistant for biochemistry; undergraduate researcher in the polymer chemistry lab of Dr. Mihaela Stefan.



"It's an incredible experience to work hard and be part of a great team. We weren't the most talented in the conference or the nation, but we were committed. There was an understanding from everyone that to win we had to work hard and play as a team."

Jordan Eppink, BS'09, masters candidate, electrical engineering, Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science; four-year starter for the UT Dallas men's basketball team. 2009 team won the ASC Conference championship and advanced to the Elite 8 of the Division III national tournament, losing in overtime. The following season they again reached the Sweet 16 of the national tournament.



"Leadership occurs at all scales. A leader can be anyone who takes charge of their personal growth, be it intellectually, physically, spiritually or any other way that enhances their ability to give back to the community. The common thread among all levels of leadership: the intention to make things better. I'm pleased to say that UT Dallas is a place where I see this happening every day."

Kathleen Smith, undergraduate, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; president of the UT Dallas GeoClub; Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists; member/volunteer of the Geological Society of America.



"UT Dallas has been a second home. It's family. Leadership is visible whenever a student takes up an initiative to start a new organization or maintain traditions for the existing ones. I also see leadership in every student who decides to help his/her friends through study groups and tutoring.

Through these small initiatives, that student may make a big difference to others."

Dypti Lulla, graduate student, School of Management; Student Government, residential student affairs committee chair; Golden Key International Honour Society, graduate committee chair and president.



"As captain, I help other team members during difficult times. If they lose, I need to motivate them, help them to get back to their best shape as soon as possible. As a teaching assistant, I work with students to help them overcome problems they have and make a good grade in the course. Both positions bear a great amount of responsibility, but helping others motivates me"

Marko Zivanic, BS'09/MS'10 and PhD candidate, computer science department of the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science; research areas include algorithms, computational geometry and bioinformatics; captain of the UT Dallas chess team; teaching assistant.



"I believe in community. If one part of it is suffering, we will all feel it in one way or another. I'm committed to helping other survivors of brain injury. I receive inspiration from my relationships with other people dealing with the arduous, lonely aftermath of such a diagnosis."

Sean Godfrey, Master of Science in communications disorders, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences; president, UT Dallas' National Student Speech Language Hearing Association for graduate students; launched an informational website about traumatic brain injury, brainmemos.org; working to establish a research and rehabilitation center that will advocate on behalf of traumatic brain injury survivors.



"My roles involve constant one-on-one interaction and communication with aspiring college students. I often share my experiences as a minority student with them and listen as they voice their concerns about college and campus life. My job is to motivate and inspire them to seek and complete a successful college career of their own."

Iman Thompson, interdisciplinary studies major, School of Interdisciplinary Studies; Hurricane Katrina survivor; Academic Bridge participant.

Homecoming Week 2010



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FROM THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

CHECKING IN AND GIVING BACK

As UT Dallas works toward national research university status, outreach is underway to connect with alumni, friends and neighbors. Two years ago, the University embarked on the "Hello Tour," an around-the-world event series to unite and reinvigorate the UT Dallas community. Hundreds of alumni have celebrated and reconnected with UT Dallas from Albuquerque to Austin, Houston to Indianapolis, Pittsburgh to San Diego and in Taipei, Taiwan.

Alumni in the University's own backyard take part in President's Gatherings. At these events, President David E. Daniel shares an overview on all the remarkable things happening at UT Dallas, as well as insight on plans for the future. We're grateful to alumni and friends who have served as some of our most helpful hosts.

Through our "Good Neighbors" program, we've reached out to thousands of nearby residents living in retirement communities. This initiative brings faculty to nearby senior communities for special lectures and invites seniors to campus for dynamic events. Dozens of faculty have given presentations on a wide range of topics, including: CSI in Real Life, Birding in Alaska and the Making of Moon Dust. The program has expanded to provide computer classes, and plans are underway to offer our partners more student performances in music and the performing arts.

You are invited to come back to campus to witness the physical changes underway with the campus enhancement project complete, the opening of the new Student Services Building and the upcoming construction of a new Arts and Technology building. The Office of Development and Alumni Relations is available to arrange visits, schedule guest lecturers and facilitate corporate connections to faculty. For more information, please call 972-883-6504.

PRESIDENT'S GATHERING HOSTS

Jan Collmer, Jeff Fegan and Jack Hamilton

Ron Gafford - Austin Industries

Jess Hay

Sally Dillenback and Sydney Hicks - International Women's Forum

Tom Meurer - Hunt Consolidated, Inc.

Ron and Susan Nash

FACULTY PRESENTERS FOR GOOD NEIGHBORS

Dr. Ron Briggs - Geospatial Science: From PhD to Google Earth

Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsvath - Foreseeing Destruction: Images of the Holocaust in the Poetry of Radnoti

Dr. Richard Scotch - Medicare and Healthcare Reform

Dr. Emily Tobey - *Frankenstein: How Physics, Literature and Theatre Led to a Scientific Success*

Dr. Lakshman Tamil - Quality of Life Technology

Dr. Mary Urquhart - To the Moon and Beyond

Good NEIGHBORS
UT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Frankenstein: How physics, literature and theatre led to a scientific success

Speaker: Dr. Emily A. Tobey
Professor and Nelle C. Johnston Chair in Communication Disorders
UT Dallas School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Thursday, August 24, 2010

Biography:
Dr. Emily A. Tobey received her undergraduate and master's degree in speech-language pathology from New Mexico State University and Louisiana State University Medical Center. Her doctorate in speech science was obtained at the City University of New York in 1981.

Her current interests lie in the role of auditory feedback on the development and maintenance of speech and language. One primary approach she uses to investigate this area is to document the speech and language behaviors of individuals with profound hearing losses who receive a cochlear implant. Dr. Tobey is currently conducting longitudinal studies contrasting speech perception, psychosocial and language development and quality of life measures in profoundly hearing impaired children who use cochlear implants.

Dr. Tobey has served as a Distinguished Lecturer-in-Residence, Department of Communication Sciences at Texas Woman's University and as a visiting research scholar at the University of Melbourne. She was named the Distinguished Academy Scientist by the Louisiana Academy of the Sciences and Fellow of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association and Acoustical Society of America. In 2001, she was named the University of Texas at Dallas Polykarp Kusch Lecturer: the highest honor an individual faculty member can receive from the University.

UT DALLAS CELEBRATES RECORD GIVING

In 2010, supporters rallied for UT Dallas, resulting in more than \$40 million in gifts and pledges.

The Texas Legislature's Texas Research Incentive Program, or TRIP, kick-started UT Dallas' 2010 fundraising push by providing \$50 million in matching funds to emerging research institutions across the state. UT Dallas raised \$16.9 million in private gifts, which qualified for a \$15.2 million match.

"These gifts of endowed professorships and chairs give us the power to attract and retain outstanding faculty who not only generate groundbreaking discoveries but also draw the brightest students," said Dr. Aaron Conley, vice president of development and alumni relations at UT Dallas. "Fellowships help sustain these gifted students so that they can focus on education and discovery, driving UT Dallas toward its goal of becoming recognized as a national research university."

One example of this kind of giving in action is a \$100,000 gift from the Philip R. Jonsson Foundation. That gift was combined with TRIP funds for a graduate fellowship in bioengineering. Another example comes from within the faculty ranks: a gift from Drs. Aage and Margareta Moller. Aage is a professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. Margareta is a retired physician. Their \$100,000 gift received a TRIP match and created a distinguished professorship in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences.

Last year also marked an all-time high for the creation of new endowed funds, with 38 established. "Endowments help reduce financial uncertainty," said Conley. "The endowment grows when the economy is good and it helps reduce any negative impact when the economy is bad."

Along with resources for faculty and students, endowed funds helped equip research laboratories and provided maintenance support for the campus environment. Dozens of donors gave a collective \$1.2 million to the Campus Enhancement Fund to help sustain the newly completed Campus Enhancement Project's 5,000 trees, reflecting pools, campus entryway and mall and expansive chess plaza.

"This backing from our faculty, staff, alumni and friends is critical to moving us toward our goal of becoming a Tier One university. With these reinforcements, UT Dallas will be able to continue our commitment to driving innovation and economic benefits to North Texas," Conley said.



GIFTS TO UT DALLAS IN 2010:

\$2 million: For research in the UT Dallas Center for BrainHealth ranging from how schoolchildren can improve their learning and reasoning skills, to management of quality-of-life issues

\$1 million: From Nancy B. Hamon for curatorial research in the visual arts

\$220,000: From AT&T for UT Dallas' Academic Bridge Program, which helps Dallas urban high school students prepare for the transition to college

\$100,000: For a professorship in guitar studies in the School of Arts and Humanities

\$5,000: From the class of 2009 to adopt one of the bur oak trees on the new campus entry circle

Bequest: From Joyce Johnson BGS'83, who included the University as a beneficiary in her will

ALUMNI: WE NEED YOU!

When *U.S. News and World Report* published its "Best National Universities" ranking last year, UT Dallas ranked for the first time in the first tier at No. 143 nationally, tying Arizona State, Rutgers and the University of Illinois at Chicago, among others. To determine these rankings, *U.S. News and World Report* uses a formula measuring several factors, including an institution's alumni giving rate. The alumni giving rate makes up 5 percent of the ranking system's equation and is considered an indirect measure of student satisfaction.

UT Dallas can benefit greatly from your support, not only financially, but also in terms of its rankings. Your gift of any size makes a difference in how UT Dallas is perceived on the national stage. Play a role in our success with the knowledge that as UT Dallas succeeds, you add to the value of your degree. To start making a difference now, visit utdallas.edu/development

HOMECOMING 2010

- 1 Don Asher, an author who specializes in professional development and higher education, shared tips with students from his book *Who Gets Promoted, Who Doesn't, and Why: 10 Things You'd Better Do If You Want to Get Ahead*. At the event, Asher signed a copy of his book for Helen Small BS'07, MS'10, who earned her master's degree last year at the age of 90.
- 2 While alumni and students tailgated, they also cheered the Comet basketball teams to victory.
- 3 Throughout the day, alumni and guests stopped by the Carter BloodCare mobile donation center to support the Comets blood drive.
- 4 More than 350 students and alumni gathered for food and fun at the tailgate party.

- 5 Alumni and friends gathered with President Daniel for the gift dedication of the Class of 2009 tree, located off University Parkway at the formal entrance of the University.
- 6 President Daniel and deans welcomed approximately 100 alumni for breakfast in the Dining Hall. From L to R: Felicity Lenes BS'09, Dr. Walter Voit BS'05, MSCS'06, Aaron Conley, vice president for development and alumni relations, Stefanie Conley, Daniel, Benedict Voit BA'08 and Jessie Harpham BS'09.

Looking for ways to get back in touch? Reconnect with UT Dallas alumni via LinkedIn and Facebook.

Job hunting? We can help! For more information on our LinkedIn job board and the new career center, visit alumni.utdallas.edu and utdallas.edu/career



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Alumni Profile:

Drs. Stacey Boland BS'00 and Justin Boland, BS'00

by Sara Mancuso

Before she was a rocket scientist and he was an entrepreneur backed by millions in venture capital, Stacey and Justin Boland were duking it out in UT Dallas physics classes and slowly falling in love.

Though they were both Comets in 1997, they came from surprisingly different backgrounds.

Justin was a junior who attended high school in Allen and descended on UT Dallas like a whirling dervish. He helped create the University's debate program and became a Student Ambassador.

Stacey, a freshman from New Orleans, a National Merit Scholar, the only woman physics major in her class at UT Dallas, knew just a few people in Dallas before moving to Texas.

They ended up at the same college party one night. As Stacey munched pizza in the corner, her roommate flirted away. A few minutes later, that flirty roommate introduced Stacey to Justin as "my lame physics roommate," while Justin's pal introduced him to Stacey as "my lame physics friend."

The next few minutes, Stacey said, were not magical.

They fought about physics and grades and finally, when the pump was primed, Justin asked her to dinner. "Over burnt garlic bread and pasta, we argued. But our brains were working," Stacey remembered.

They loved being together, whether they were studying or hanging with friends in the then-fledgling Collegium V honors program. When the couple teamed up to accomplish something, their intensity could be described as, "...well, intense," said Dr. Edward Harpham, who had just taken over as director of the honors program. "My first exposure to honors students was taking Justin and Stacey to lunch where they spent the whole time telling me what was wrong with the program. I realized then that I had two live wires!" The two successfully lobbied for a proper Collegium V hangout spot—a one-room lounge in the multipurpose building—and java Fridays, for which Stacey and Justin supplied batches of homemade chocolate chip cookies.

Later, the two hit the road for spring break in California. They visited CalTech and became interested in the school; both were accepted to the summer research program. That following summer, Justin proposed and Stacey figured out what to do with her life in more ways than one. "Through the summer research program, I saw the power in having exposure to both physics and engineering," she said.

They graduated from UT Dallas in May of 2000, followed up with a September wedding—paid for in part with Stacey's summer income from working at Kmart—then confidently set off for grad school. Justin explained: "If you understand physics, you can do anything. My UT Dallas professors made sure I understood the first principles, and those form the basis for all higher levels of physics. I knew them like the back of my hand when I left the University—and that knowledge is invaluable. It's the language of the universe."

Several years later, the pair graduated from Caltech with PhDs, Justin's in electrical engineering and Stacey's in mechanical engineering. Justin was quickly picked up by a venture capital firm that saw potential in the bright new grad with an eye for technology. As executives in residence, Justin and his colleague, Romulus Pereira, looked for cutting-edge research on zoom optics for cell phones at places like UT Dallas, the University of Southern California and Louisiana Tech University.



Looxcie is a lightweight, wearable camcorder that allows the user to record and share video instantly and is ideally suited for social media.

They developed a concept and filed patents for a zoom lens in six months. A 2008 pitch meeting with Apple followed, and it was brutal. "They laughed me out of the room," remembered Justin. "They told me that they weren't at all interested."

Sad but not defeated, the two entrepreneurs opted for Plan B, a more

sophisticated version of their original concept. In September, with \$7 million in venture capital backing the idea, they launched Looxcie: a Bluetooth headset that fits on your ear, acts as a camcorder and uploads video to e-mail or websites like YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. "It's kind of silly, and someone should have invented it already but it hasn't been done before, maybe because it's extremely difficult to get right," Justin said.

Justin's approach to business is straightforward: "To know what to do in the business world, you have to trust your gut and stick to your guns." That philosophy seems to be paying off—*TIME* magazine named the Looxcie, the major product of the 55-



person Sunnyvale-based company Justin co-founded, one of the 50 Best Inventions of 2010. With the company's growth and good news, Justin is currently taking a breather to spend time at home with a recent addition, the couple's infant son, Jack.

Meanwhile, Stacey's head is in the clouds. As a senior systems engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, she gets "paid to dream about the future and try to make it happen." Lately, she's been working on a spacecraft that will monitor the increasing level of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere and help determine where on the planet it's being absorbed. "Knowing where on land or in the ocean carbon dioxide is being absorbed helps predict future climate conditions and identify vulnerable areas that we might need to protect so they can keep absorbing carbon dioxide in the future," Stacey said.

At industry conferences across the country, Stacey runs into her former physics professors like Dr. Rod Heelis, the Cecil and Ida Green Honors Professor of Physics and director of the William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences at UT Dallas, and Dr. John Hoffman, who is also a member of the Hanson Center. "I'm still a fan of theirs today. They got me interested in physics and gave me a great launching pad," she explained. The Bolands also still keep up with Marjorie "Miss Margie" Renfrow, a recently retired senior academic support coordinator, who Stacey describes as the heart and soul of the physics department. "Physics at UT Dallas is like a family," she said.

The Bolands still find ways to support UT Dallas, despite the demands associated with having a little one. They take time to give advice to current students and donate to the annual fund, and Justin recently returned to campus to see what's changed, including the new Collegium V digs. "Even though we didn't have much to give right after we graduated, we've always given back to UT Dallas," Stacey said.

ALUMNI NOTES

1970s

Debbie LaFerney BA'78 co-owns and operates Focus Physical Therapy, Inc. in Frisco, Texas.

1980s

Alan Govenar PhD'84 received a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation to assist with research for his exhibit, "The Folk Art of Community Photography." Alan, a folklorist, photographer and filmmaker, has written more than 20 books.

Tracie Fraley BS'86, principal at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, was named Dallas Independent School District 2010 Principal of the Year.

George Hademenos MS'87, PhD'90 won a 2010 national PBS Teachers Innovation Award. He was also a finalist for the Association of Texas Professional Educators Secondary Educator and the Clark Academy Prize. George was named as a finalist for the HEB Excellence in Education Rising Star secondary teacher of the year, as well as winner of the Metroplex Technology Business Council Tech Titans of the Future math/science teacher award. In 2007, he was also one of Richardson's 10 STAR teachers. He teaches science at Richardson High School in Richardson, Texas.



Wayne Sadin MS'89 has been appointed senior vice president and chief information officer of MXenergy Inc., a provider of natural gas and electricity in North America. Wayne has written extensively

and spoken globally about mobility, e-business, IT governance and project management, customer relationship management and cloud computing. He was recognized by *Computerworld* magazine as a Premier 100 IT Leader.

Walter Sutton PhD'89, associate general counsel at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in Bentonville, Ark., has been elected to the board of directors of the American Bar Foundation. A member of the American Bar

Association since 1972 and the National Bar Association since 1975, Walter also serves on the Board of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver and the ABA Diversity Center Board. Prior to joining Wal-Mart in 2005, he practiced law for more than 30 years in Dallas. He served in the Clinton administration, as deputy administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

1990s

Justin Capers BA'90, BS'01 recently joined Susquehanna Health Medical Group in Williamsport, Pa., where he is a physician assistant in orthopedics and spine surgery.

David Norris BS'90 is CEO of BlueCava, a company that tracks devices individuals use to connect to the Internet. He was honored with the University's Distinguished Alumni Award in March 2011.

Mary Storms MS'91 recently celebrated the sixth anniversary of STORMS Associates, an executive recruiting firm that helps growing tech companies find top-tech sales producers.

Beverly Vance BA'93 was named principal at J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas, in 2010 after serving as interim principal in 2009.

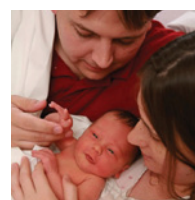
Mary Karam MAT'94, owner and art director of the Mary Karam Gallery in Dennison, Texas, was chosen by the Friends of Hagerman as the June 2010 Photographer of the Month. Mary has a special interest in the ducks and geese that visit the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, where she volunteers.

Rich Allen MBA'95 is an executive and business coach with ActionCOACH. He was recognized as Coach of the Year in North Texas in 2007 and 2008 and BrandCOACH for the Americas in 2009. Rich also serves on the board of directors for the chamber of commerce in Prosper, Texas, and is a member of the executive education advisory board at UT Dallas.

Brooke Keene BS'97, MS'98 was named vice president of operations for Ryan, a tax services firm, in 2010. A CPA and a member of the Institute for Professionals in Taxation, Brooke joined Ryan in 1998.

Remona McLain BS'98 has worked at UT Dallas for the past seven years. She is an administrative assistant in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. Remona says UT Dallas is "a great place both to get a quality education as well as to work."

2000s



Drs. Justin Boland BS'00 and Stacey Walker Boland BS'00 introduce son Jack Walker, born June 1, 2010.

Svyatoslav "Steve" Bashmakov BS'01, MS'04 has been named the chief financial officer of Roundpoint Financial Group.

Aaron Kopecky BS'01 is a sergeant with the U.S. Army, currently stationed in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. He served in Iraq from 2008 to 2009 and his unit is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. He recently passed the Staff Sergeant Promotion Board.

Maryam Baig-Lush BA'03, MFA'06, Josh Glover BA'08 and David Lozano BA'09, along with Drama Professor Fred Curchack received the 2009-2010 Dallas-Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum Award.

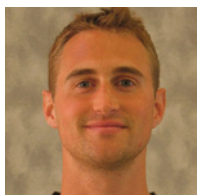
Russell Bohannon BS'03, MBA'04, MS'05 began a new job as an e-commerce marketing specialist at Heritage Auction Galleries in 2010.

Maranatha Lingerfelt BA'03 and husband John, along with daughter Madison, welcomed daughter Johannah Grace on April 22, 2010.

Carren Ballenger BS'04 was selected as the first Mary Lou Fiala Fellow in 2010. The one-year fellowship was established in 2010 to recognize retail real estate professionals under age 30. Carren is a member of Deals in Heels, a women's group that supports growth in the real estate industry, as well as a board member of Young Texans Against Cancer.

Nancy Kucinski PhD'04 was named dean of graduate studies at Hardin-Simmons University in 2010. Nancy is the Hemphill Chair of Business and a professor of

management, as well as director of the Acton MBA degrees and other master's-level business administration programs at the Kelley College of Business at Hardin-Simmons.



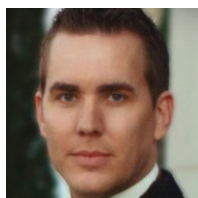
Jason Hirsch BS'05

was appointed to the Open Men's Soccer Team representing the U.S. at the Second Maccabi Australia International Games in Sydney.

Jason is in his fifth season as the assistant coach for the UT Dallas men's soccer team. He was captain for the '05 UT Dallas men's team in the American Southwest Conference and led the team to its first-ever conference championship in his senior year.

Cody Gilleland BSEE'06 is one of three co-authors of a paper that was featured in a recent issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Cody is a doctoral student in electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Alexia Isaak MBA'07 recently wrote *Views from the 13th Floor: Conversations with My Mentor*, a business publication based on four years of being mentored by Rhonda Shasteen, the retired chief marketing officer at Mary Kay Inc.



Andrew Nall MA'07 was appointed chief compliance officer of Radiant Financial, Inc. in Addison, Texas.

Kimberly Cotton BS'09 recently purchased *Painting With a Twist*, a franchise that introduces art to non-artists in McKinney, Texas.

Marissa Tavallaee BS'09 was recently accepted into SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development to pursue a master's degree in education with specializations in science and math.

Samia Hossain BS'10 received a nine-month award from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program to study language and literature at the American University of Cairo's Arabic Language Institute. Samia also won a Critical Language Enhancement Award to continue her Arabic studies for three months following her Fulbright-supported studies.

Sangeeth Sridharan MS'10 announced the birth of son Shravan Sridhara on May 25, 2010.

Lissette Villarruel BS'10, a School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences graduate, was selected for a prestigious Luna Fellowship, which enables her to work as a full-time legislative assistant during the Texas Legislature's current term. The Senate Hispanic Research Council chooses fellows based on academic performance, commitment to public service and evidence of leadership potential.

Keep your fellow Comets updated on what's new with you by sending items, including photos, to alumni@utdallas.edu or to Alumni Notes, UT Dallas Magazine MP 14, 800 West Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080-30221. We welcome pictures of new babies, wedding photos and whooshes of all kinds!



Linda Leeger Stokes BA'83

won a Spotlight Award in the Color Portfolio Contest 2010 organized by *Color*, a fine photography magazine. Her prize-winning work is featured in the September 2010 issue.



IN MEMORIAM

John Q. Atchley MS'76, Feb. 21, 2010, Dallas.

Sandra Marie Weiss BS'77, Dec. 6, 2009, Las Cruces, N.M. Weiss completed her college degree as a single mother with three children. She then earned her CPA license and spent her entire career at RSR Corporation in Dallas, where she retired as executive vice president and chief operating officer. Following her retirement, Weiss served on the boards of Nexus Recovery Center, the National Kidney Foundation of North Texas and AVANCE Dallas. She was a member of the UT Dallas Development Board. After moving to Las Cruces in 2006, Weiss served on the boards of La Casa, Inc. and United Way.

Gary Lee Meinershagen BS'78, July 9, 2010.

After working for Frito Lay for many years, Meinershagen was one of the early pioneers in the video industry, launching his own company, Video Works, in 1981. He was known for the meticulous care he took of the landscape that adorned his home.

Joseph William Semmer MS'78, April 15, 2010, Richardson. Semmer was a beloved husband, father and grandpapa. He worked for Hallmark Electronics for 25 years, serving as president for 15. A longtime member of Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, he was always proud of his Scottish heritage.

Genee Carter Demers Eubank BS'79, Jan. 31, 2009. Eubank, a graduate of Sherman High and Grayson County College, was very proud when at age 40 she became "one of the world's oldest college freshmen." She finished school after spending her early adult years raising her four children and being involved in their activities. After many years of working as an auditor for the IRS and U.S. Department of Defense, she moved to Chandler, Texas, where she opened a CPA practice. She traveled extensively with her children and grandchildren.

Pamela Kelley Pizel BA'79, July 2, 2009. Pizel moved to Dallas in 1973 and worked in commercial real estate beginning in 1981. She founded Pizel & Associates C.R.E., specializing in representing medical clients. She served as a member and officer of many organizations, including CEO Network, D.R.S. of North Texas, Business Exchange, Executive Women of Dallas, Kansas State and UT Dallas alumni groups, NTCA Realtors and National Association of REALTORS, from which she earned CCIM, CIPS and CEA designations. She served the Prestonwood Rotary Club as a district officer and as president, and through Rotary

supported Angel Tree, International Youth Exchange, Amelia Earhart Center and Challenge Air for Kids.

Sandra Jean DeFord BS'80 MS'84, Feb. 15, 2010, Plano. DeFord discovered a love of teaching as an instructor in the preschool program of the First Baptist Church Plano, leading her to pursue both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in special education. She taught early childhood special education in the Plano Independent School District for 12 years at Dooley Elementary, becoming Dooley's Teacher of the Year for 1985-1986. She also taught at Mitchell and Hightower Elementary Schools. She was a member of First Baptist's Lamplighter Sunday School class.

Wesley Francis Wright, III BA'81, March 22, 2010. Wright traveled extensively in Eastern Europe, and finally settled in the Philippines. He became an avid scuba diver, exploring Australia, the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean, photographing the flora and fauna he encountered in the coral.

Janet Ross Mack BS'82, May 19, 2010. Following graduation from UT Dallas, Mack worked at the University as a systems analyst.

Susan Flynn Reitingner, BS'82, Aug. 12, 2009, Fairview, Texas. Reitingner was part owner and secretary-treasurer of Safeco Land Title of Plano.

Martha Lynn Sherman BS'83, Nov. 8, 2009. Sherman worked as an investment trader for many years at Bank of America in Dallas and Charlotte, N.C.

Gerald Johnson "Jerry" Cowan BA'84, Sept. 15, 2010, Garland. Cowan was a chief warrant officer during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. His service began in 1954, and included time in the Air Force and Army. He was commissioned in Vietnam. Following his military career, he worked at various electronics firms, including E-Systems in Garland, and went on to form COWCO Enterprises. He was an active member of the Disabled American Veterans, serving in various offices for his chapter, the district and state. He had the honor of becoming Department of Texas Commander and serving on the National Executive Committee. He was also active in the Greater Dallas Veterans Council, and was president for two years. Cowan was deacon at the First Baptist Church of Garland and a member of the Polar Star No. 154 Masonic Lodge.

Carla Otts Abbott BS'86, July 13, 2009, Wilmington, N.C. Abbot was a past advisor of the Order of the Rainbow for Girls for North Carolina. She was a senior program analyst

with the IRS for 22 years. She was an active member of Wrightsville United Methodist Church, the Hanover Seaside Club, North Carolina Sorosis, Goldenrod Chapter OES and a volunteer with the Thalian Association.

Cynthia "Cindy" Jean Krug BS'86, Jan. 9, 2009, Ada Township, Mich.

Maria "Jonell" Dobbs BA'90, MA'93, Nov. 4, 2009, Rowlett. Dobbs joined the U.S. Army in January 1974, serving nine years in the military police at bases in Seoul, Korea, and Berlin, Germany. After an honorable discharge, she moved to Garland in 1983 and worked at E-Systems Avnet Inc.

Sol Greenberg BA'90, Jan. 18, 2009, Dallas. Greenberg enlisted in the WWII 389th Bomb Group Army Air Corps and flew 27 missions over Germany as a B-24 navigator. He retired from the Air Force reserves as lieutenant colonel. After honorable discharge from active duty, Greenberg joined the New York Police Department and retired after 20 years. He received a lifetime achievement award for donating 39 gallons of blood over the course of his life.

William Michael Grant BS'92, Oct. 2, 2009, Garland.

Kenneth Scadden BS'93, MS'95, July 26, 2009, Dallas.

Sutton Helvey-Chandler BA'98, May 22, 2009.

Helvey-Chandler worked for Club Corp. for over eight years as their human resource systems manager. She enjoyed reading books by Mark Twain, fox hunting, riding horses and motorcycle racing. She was also involved in club racing sanctioned by WERA and was ranked 5th place in the Formula One category.

Kenneth John Kivler BS'00, July 23, 2009. At age 18, Kivler joined the U.S. Navy. After basic training, he completed nuclear training before joining the crew of the USS Nimitz. Two years later, he began working at DFW Airport and then Nortel. He was an avid sailor and loved to travel. While in the Navy, he was a member of the Ancient Order of the Shellbacks, and continued to sail for the rest of his life. He was a member of the American Legion, the HOSTS program and Young Active Professionals.

Maeryl Grace Gastillo Torio, BS'03, Sept. 1, 2009, Dallas. Torio was born in San Antonio and graduated from St. Mary's Hall in 2000.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembrances of University Faculty, Staff and Friends

Dan Petty 1939-2011



A well-known North Texas civic leader, Dan Petty served as a member of the University's Development Board, the Advisory Council for the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, and the Institute for Public Affairs Advisory Committee.

He was president of the North Texas Commission, a nonprofit that markets the area, for 17 years and was a leading member of the committee that brought the recent Super Bowl to the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex.

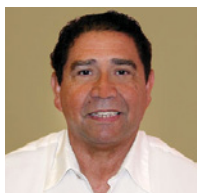
Petty retired last spring from the commission and became an instructor in UT Dallas' Public Affairs program. He taught a course on the complexities of hosting the Super Bowl and the need for good intergovernmental relations among public service agencies.

Petty also served as executive assistant to Texas Gov. Preston Smith, director of public affairs for the University of Texas, president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau. He was on the boards of the State Fair of Texas and Dallas Area Rapid Transit.

"Dan Petty was a great asset to our school and a major supporter of many other North Texas organizations," said Dr. Jim Marquart, dean of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

"We will miss his wise guidance and enthusiastic support."

Esteban Egea 1938-2010

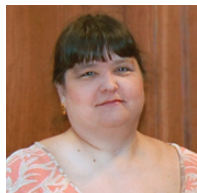


UT Dallas Professor Emeritus Esteban Egea devoted 29 years of his teaching career in language and literature to the University, after working at Ohio State and Emory universities. Egea was the faculty co-sponsor for the UT Dallas Chess Club when it was started in fall 1995. He served on the Executive Committee of the UT Dallas Retiree Association after retiring in 2006.

Egea was born in Barranquilla, Colombia, and received a BA from the Universidad Pedagógica del Caribe, an MA from Ohio State and a PhD in romance languages and literature from Harvard.

"Esteban was dedicated, above all, to the students," said Dr. Dennis Kratz, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. "His passion for linguistics, Spanish and language in general was legendary."

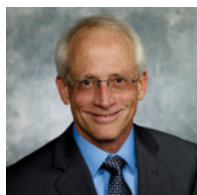
Lisa Alexander 1948-2011



UT Dallas Police Communications Supervisor Lisa Alexander was instrumental in setting up the Police Department's new dispatch center in 2008, the year after she joined the University. Her 24-year career in police communications included previous positions as a 911 dispatcher for the Wylie and Rowlett police departments. She attended Richland College and was a graduate of Plano Senior High School. Alexander earned a 2009 CARE Award, presented to UT Dallas staff members whose achievements significantly advance the goals of the University.

"Lisa was more than a co-worker to us," said Lt. Tim Dorsey, her supervisor. "She was very dedicated to this profession."

Dr. Duane Buhrmester 1952-2010



Dr. Duane Buhrmester, associate dean of the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences and a professor of psychological sciences at UT Dallas, and his wife, Linda, were killed in a hiking accident in late July of last year in southern Colorado.

Buhrmester was honored in fall 2009 for 20 years of service. An active researcher and teacher, he also served on vital University committees and worked closely with undergraduate and graduate students, acting as an enthusiastic mentor to many. (See an alumnae's appreciation of Buhrmester in the Alumni Perspective on page 35 of this issue.)

Born in 1952 in Ritzville, Wash., Buhrmester married Linda Fischer in 1977. He and his family shared a passion for the outdoors and athletic pursuits. Buhrmester trained as a developmental psychologist at the University of Denver, where he received his PhD in 1983.

"Duane Buhrmester was one of the true leaders of the University," said Dr. Bert Moore, dean of the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. "His careful thinking and commitment to building and improving the University were critical ingredients of our success. But, perhaps even more important, was his commitment to student success. He spent countless hours mentoring and helping students, many of whom went on to successful, productive careers. Outside of the University, he loved camping, hiking and climbing with his family, and was an extraordinary athlete."

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"It was too much, too quick," Wildenthal said. "That first semester, a significant number of the students were failing. And if the scholarship students didn't maintain a 3.0 average, they would lose their scholarships." By the end of the first semester, 100 scholarship students had failed one class. To save the sinking class, administrators decided that that semester's grades would not be factored into determining who would keep their scholarships.

"Back in '94 and '95 when we had classes with 60 or 70 percent failure rates, the professors were kind of proud of it. They felt it meant 'I have standards,'" recalled Kratz. "But the

In 1997, Kratz became dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and Coleman was appointed dean of undergraduate education. From there, with Wildenthal providing clout,

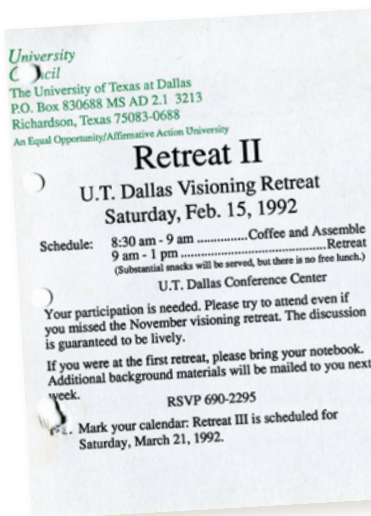
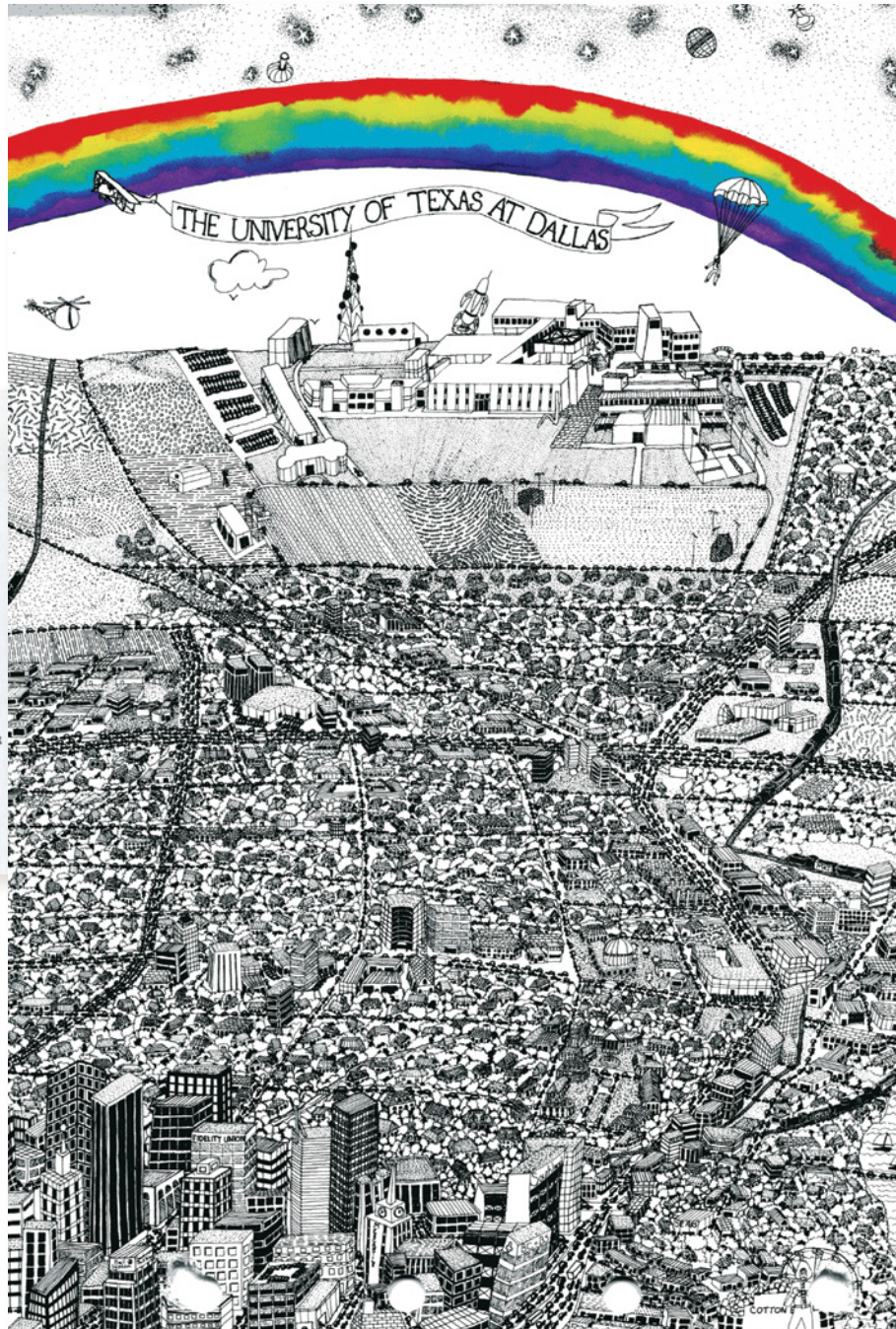
Coleman energy and imagination, and Dr. Darrelene Rachavong, vice president of student affairs, focused on bringing life and community to the then-physically bleak and disconnected campus (see page 22), the school's development quickened.

Kratz consistently heard from students and parents that an honors program was important, and so launched Collegium V in 1995. The program found its feet under associate provost Dr. Edward J. Harpham. "At first, I'm not even sure Mike (Coleman) believed in Honors because we had a small freshmen class," said Harpham. "You were thinking 'Everybody is an Honors student.' But he quickly became a believer. We started with 60 students in three or four classes; we're now about 400 students. Our SAT score average [for Honors students] is around 1,420. These are Ivy League eligible kids."

Meanwhile, Wildenthal's efforts to rekindle the founders' enthusiasm for UT Dallas resulted in a \$32 million gift in 2000 establishing the Eugene McDermott Scholars

Program, further enlarging the school's ability to support highly accomplished undergraduates.

Coleman and Wildenthal set about convincing skeptical faculty of the benefits of the influx of young students.



In 1992, faculty, students, deans, staff, administrators and development board members received invitations to "visioning" retreats that helped map the University's evolution.

"And over the Christmas holiday, one devoted vice president and I personally typed and mailed letters saying 'Don't give up, please come back,'" said Wildenthal. This "fresh start" made the front page of *The Dallas Morning News*, angered students who had managed to keep their grades up and even got the attention of radio commentator Rush Limbaugh, who railed against this "degeneration of academic standards," Wildenthal recalled.

And again, the faculty balked.

higher your standards, the more obligated you are to provide the means to reach them."

Despite all that, things started improving. "I attribute the turnaround to the arrival of Dr. Wildenthal, who saw the transformative possibilities of this University," said Kratz.

"We began to sell the faculty on the notion that the best of our undergraduates were probably comparable in many ways to the graduate students, and that turned out to be true," said Coleman. "We built incentives to attract faculty to those young students, to provide them opportunities to be a part of their laboratories."

This access to research labs is one of the school's selling points for undergrads. "For the undergraduate to be able to be involved in research is a great opportunity," said Dr. Bruce E. Gnade, vice president for research. "It's not something they necessarily get to do at a bigger university."

As for the benefit to faculty, he said, "That's why we're here, to teach kids. If you don't get excited about having kids in the lab working, there's probably something a little bit wrong. We have extremely good undergraduate students. If they get in the lab and get excited, maybe they will stay here and go to graduate school." Even if they don't stay on, Gnade said, having done research sets UT Dallas undergraduates apart when they apply to other graduate schools.

In 2008 Gnade's office began an undergraduate research project competition, out of which emerged 25 approved research projects the first year. The projects are presented at the end of the year, with faculty and representatives from companies selecting the best presentations. "It's about getting students exposed to some of our industrial partners, and the industrial guys getting to see how smart our students are," said Gnade.

Today's faculty understands the value of UT Dallas' undergraduate students and has no fear that the school's pursuit of Tier One status will be anything but beneficial for everyone.

"I think we now understand that one of our strongest suits may be the quality of our undergraduate program," said Wildenthal. "To the degree that there is anxiety as we raise the bar, as our standards for our students and our faculty continue to go up, the real question is, how have we made the progress we've made? Because we've been doing it with an inadequate funding base. The Tier One effort is not only about prestige—it's

about finding alternative sources of funding to maintain and continue the excellence we have managed to achieve under less-than-favorable conditions."

"You can't have a great research university without having a great undergraduate population. It doesn't work," said Gnade, who also points out that all of the top research institutes also have highly ranked undergraduate schools.

"We're here to teach kids. If you don't get excited about having kids in the lab working, there's probably something a little bit wrong."

—Bruce Gnade

And, said President David E. Daniel, "When I'm asked by undergraduates, 'So what will Tier One mean to us?' my answer is very simple: It will be a much stronger university with a much broader curriculum, more courses from which to choose, more degree programs from which to select, more choices and more options that will, simply, make it a better experience."

Twenty years after the first freshman class entered UT Dallas, the campus is energetic, bustling all day not only with the older and transfer students envisioned in the school's original mission, but also with young students—hanging out, studying, working and doing all the things kids expect to do in college.

And they're benefitting from a UT Dallas administration and faculty that learned how to enable smart kids to succeed. Today, UT Dallas graduates compare well with those first classes coming in—the average SAT score of incoming freshmen is 1245. Many graduate in less than four years "without breaking a sweat" Wildenthal said, and go on to highly competitive graduate schools.

"Until 2004 or 2005, when we recruited freshmen, we pranced out our average class SAT scores and said, 'Look at the kind of kids who come here. You come to UT Dallas, you'll

be with other smart kids,'" said Coleman. "That message has never gone away, but in the last five years, it has largely been replaced by the message, 'Look where kids go from here.' We're sending them off to the most competitive medical, law and academic graduate programs in the nation."

Today, undergraduates are about 10,000 out of the 17,000 total student body. The proportion of freshmen who return as sophomores is more than 82 percent. And the would-be

UT Dallas undergrad needs a 1200 on the math and verbal portions of the SAT, or to be in the top 15 percent of his or her high school class to be assured of admission—as high a standard as was set out at the beginning of the University's history as an undergraduate teaching institution. That hasn't deterred growth—applications for fall 2011 are up 25 percent over the prior year.

"Our undergraduate student body has turned into the strongest asset this University has, especially our incoming freshman classes. Over the years, as they matriculated through their undergraduate degree programs, the quality of their achievement has pushed the University forward," said Dr. Daniel.

He also credits "the opposition."

"Back in the late '80s, they set a bar very high for us, with the expectation that we couldn't meet it," he says. "And that struggle to cope with the challenge of bringing on very smart young students built strength. The constraints—requiring very highly qualified students and limiting the areas in which the University could work to sciences and mathematics mostly—were certainly created by those who wanted to limit UTD's ability to succeed. But, instead, that limitation fostered a strength of resolve that the University was forced to develop. The University had no choice. It was the hardest and probably best thing that ever happened to this institution."



In 1963, a magnetic research laboratory sat on the grounds of present day campus.



Hindsight: Margaret McDermott

In September, UT Dallas dedicated a two-year redesign that has transformed central campus. The project was made possible by private philanthropic support, and the University is particularly grateful for the Eugene McDermott family's nearly 50-year commitment to UT Dallas.

McDermott, along with the late Cecil Green and Erik Jonsson, founded Texas Instruments and the research institution that became UT Dallas in 1969. In 2000, Mrs. Margaret McDermott initiated the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program in honor of her late husband. That program provides select UT Dallas students with a rigorous and personalized education as well as intensive extracurricular activities such as research opportunities and foreign travel.

Along with University of Texas System officials, students, faculty and staff, and Dallas-area community leaders, members of the McDermott family attended the dedication. At the event, Mrs. McDermott shared reflections on seeing campus for the first time.

"This project is certainly dear to my heart, and it makes me think of 40 years ago on a Sunday morning when my husband, Erik Jonsson and Margaret Jonsson, and I came to see the land just purchased for a proposed university.

"We drove a one-lane highway past a few farmhouses, cotton fields and corn fields, and landed in the middle of a field.

"Now, my husband was always enthusiastic. He said, 'Margaret isn't it beautiful? Isn't it wonderful? What do you think?'

"'Well,' I said, 'not many trees.'

"We've planted some trees, and let me say, all of you here today have had a part in that planting. I cannot thank you enough. Now with those trees that we've planted, we've also planted a great university, a fine university that's going to be much greater in the future. It's going to bring young people, wonderful young people. It's going to bring research. It's going to bring learning. There are going to be other wonderful occasions, like right now, that you all have been so much help in planning. Thank you!"

A Whoosh Heard 'round the World



(Left to right) Michael Seeligson BS'06, Chris Wahlen BS'07, MSCS'09, Aidan Skoyles BSEE '05, MSEE'06, friend Brad White and Walter Voit BS'05 MSCS'06 do the Comet Whoosh atop their transportation in front of Egypt's Great Pyramids. Before these UT Dallas alumni went on their trip to see the Wonders of the World, they were editors and contributors to *A Modest Proposal* (AMP). The student opinion publication is printed eight times per year.

Have photos that show off your personal Comet connection? Send them to alumni@utdallas.edu to be considered for future issues.