

UT DALLAS

MAGAZINE



fresh approaches

Hope for Chronic Pain Relief Grows at UTD





From left: Jared Ray and Merek Byckovski, members of the men's soccer team, glide down a paint slip-and-slide during Splatter Dance. The paint party took place during Springapalooza, an annual weeklong celebration held after spring break.

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24 (From left) Drs. Ted Price BS'97, Greg Dussor and Zach Campbell are researching new solutions to treat pain.

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After pursuing careers in different fields, two Comet brothers decided to chase their dreams as screenwriters in Tinseltown.

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A Whoosh Heard 'round the World

Geospatial information science senior Sam Weiger showed off his Comet pride during a trip to Greenland in August 2017. Weiger's trip was part of an independent study project for the GIS department in which he created a partnership between UTD and Visit Greenland, the country's tourism agency.

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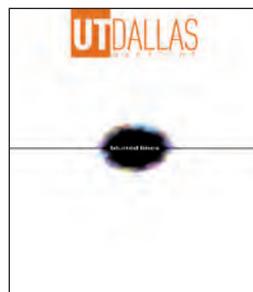
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Since We Last Spoke ...

IN RESPONSE TO THE FALL ISSUE:



COMMENTS

Readers commented via social media on several articles.

"Proud to be a UT Dallas alum. It's always a pleasure to meet some professors who had taught us and are still there."

Shehdad Mehreen BS'05

"I look forward to each issue of this publication. It keeps alums and friends up-to-date. Keep up the great work!"

Karah Altman MPA'10

IN RESPONSE TO "BLURRED LINES" COVER STORY [FALL 2017]:

"From its foundation, UTD was about 'blurred lines' so it is staying true to the original vision."

Regina Kyle

"My colleague, Joey Belgard, shared with me the article 'Blurred Lines' by Amanda Siegfried. I love the article."

Chris Kosterman

IN RESPONSE TO THE "HINDSIGHT" [FALL 2017] ABOUT THE FIRST UTD UNDERGRADUATE REGISTRATION:

"[Dean Carolyn Galerstein's] question to me, a 43-year-old mother of three teenage children, was 'Betty, what do you want to do with your life?' I had no answer because no one ever asked me that before. (I was a product of the '50s.) Three days later I returned and said, 'I want to write.' Dean Galerstein set up a general studies path for me and set me on the way to graduating

cum laude in May 1979." (Editor's Note: Carolyn Lipshy Galerstein was the first female dean at UTD.)

Betty Morris BGS'79

"That looks exactly like my registration a couple of years later!"

Sandra Wood BA'84

"I was in the second class of freshmen in the fall of 1991! What a great turning point in my time."

Mark Alphonso BS'96

IN RESPONSE TO "NO PAIN, NO GAIN" [FALL 2017]:

"Jami Clinton [strength and conditioning coach] changed my life. Her dedication and commitment prove her tremendous effort to changing the lives of each student-athlete. I'm proud to be a Comet, and I'm forever grateful for my time spent with Jami."

Melanie Marlin BS'16

Join the Conversation!

Send your comments to utdallasmagazine@utdallas.edu or *UT Dallas Magazine*, 800 W. Campbell Road, AD14, Richardson, TX 75080-3021. All submissions may be edited for clarity or length. Please include contact information such as phone number, email address and/or mailing address.



From left: Dr. John H.L. Hansen, Chengzhu Yu PhD'17, Dr. Abhijeet Sangwan and Lakshmish Kaushik pose with a model of an astronaut at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Listening in on the Men on the Moon

PRACTICALLY EVERY WORD uttered by an astronaut during the historic moon missions was recorded by NASA. UTD researchers now are ensuring that the recordings, stored for decades on outdated analog tapes, are available to the public.

Communications between astronauts, mission control specialists and backroom support staff had been taped during the missions. Among the most well-known transmissions are Neil Armstrong's quotes from Apollo 11 in July 1969.

In 2012, researchers in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science received a National Science Foundation grant to develop speech-processing techniques to reconstruct and transform the massive archive of audio into Explore Apollo, a website that provides public access to the materials. The project, in collaboration with the University of Maryland, included audio from all Apollo 11 and most of the Apollo 13, Apollo 1 and Gemini 8 missions.

Researchers with the Jonsson School's Center for Robust Speech Systems (CRSS) discovered that the first thing needed was to digitize the audio. Transferring audio to a digital format proved to be an engineering feat itself. The only way to play the reels was on a 1960s piece of equipment called a SoundScriber at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

SoundScriber could read only one track at a time. The user had to mechanically rotate a handle to move the tape read head from one track to another.

CRSS founder and director Dr. John H.L. Hansen estimates that it would take at least 170 years to digitize the Apollo 11 mission audio using SoundScriber.

"We designed our own 30-track read head and built a parallel solution to capture all 30 tracks at one time," said Hansen, the Distinguished Chair in Telecommunications. "This is the only solution."

The new read head cut the digitization process from years to months. Once the audio was transferred from reels to digital files, researchers created software that could detect speech activity. They also tracked speaker characteristics to

help researchers analyze how people react in tense situations. In addition, the tapes included audio from various channels that needed to be placed in chronological order.

One of the most challenging parts, according to the researchers, was figuring out how things worked at NASA during the missions so they could understand how to reconstruct the massive amount of audio.

"This is not something you can learn in a class," Chengzhu Yu PhD'17 said. Yu began his doctoral program at the start of the project and graduated last

spring. Now, he works in Seattle as a research scientist focusing on speech recognition technology.

The team has demonstrated Explore Apollo, the interactive website, at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. For Hansen, the project highlights the work of the many people involved in the lunar missions beyond the astronauts.

"The astronauts clearly deserve our praise and admiration," he said. "However, the heroes behind the heroes represent the countless engineers, scientists and specialists who brought their STEM-based experience together collectively to ensure the success of the Apollo program." —Kim Horner

"The heroes behind the heroes represent the countless engineers, scientists and specialists who brought their STEM-based experience together collectively to ensure the success of the Apollo program."

FROM THE LAB

Solving a Martian Mountain Mystery

A UTD FLUID dynamics expert helped propose a solution to a Martian mystery of how the planet Mars' distinctive crater mountains formed.



Dr. William Anderson

Dr. William Anderson, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, co-wrote a paper with

Dr. Mackenzie Day, then a doctoral student at UT Austin, that was published in *Physical Review E*.

The paper explains the common Martian phenomenon of a mountain positioned downwind from the center of an ancient meteorite impact zone.

Gale Crater was formed by meteorite impact early in the history of Mars, and it was subsequently filled with sediments transported by flowing water. This filling preceded massive climate change on the planet and introduced the arid, dusty conditions that have been prevalent for the past 3.5 billion years. This chronology indicates wind must have played a role in sculpting the mountain.

"On Mars, wind has been the only driver of landscape change for over 3 billion years," said Anderson, a Fellow, Eugene McDermott Professor. "This makes Mars an ideal planetary laboratory for wind-driven movement of sediment and dust. We're studying how Mars' swirling atmosphere sculpted its surface."

Wind vortices blowing across the crater slowly formed a radial moat in the sediment, eventually leaving only the off-center Mount Sharp, a 3-mile-high peak similar in height to the rim of the crater. The mountain was skewed to one side of the crater because the wind excavated one side faster than the other, research suggests.

Day and Anderson have shown via computer simulation that, given more than a billion years, Martian winds were capable of digging up tens of thousands of cubic kilometers of sediment from the crater — largely thanks to turbulence, the swirling motion within the wind stream.

The location — and mid-latitude Martian craters in general — became of interest as NASA's Curiosity rover landed in 2012 in the Gale Crater, where it has gathered data since then.

The theory Anderson and Day tested via computer simulations involves counter-rotating vortices (think of horizontal dust devils) spiraling around the crater to dig up sediment that had filled the crater in a warmer era, when water flowed on Mars.

Simulations have demonstrated that wind erosion could explain these geographical features, offering insight into Mars' distant past, as well as context for the samples collected by Curiosity. This understanding of the long-term power of wind can be applied to Earth as well, although there are more variables on our home planet than Mars, Anderson said. —**Stephen Fontenot**

A photo taken by NASA's Curiosity rover looking toward the higher regions of Mount Sharp. (Photo courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS)



ON CAMPUS



Musselman Named Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs

DR. INGA MUSSELMAN, professor of chemistry, was named provost and vice president for academic affairs. She had been the interim provost since 2015.

President Richard C. Benson said the choice for the University's chief academic officer was made after a national search and an extensive interview process involving top candidates.

"Dr. Musselman emerged from an extraordinarily strong pool of candidates. She has a stellar record as an educator, researcher and administrator, along with a deep understanding of UT Dallas," Benson said.

As provost and vice president for academic affairs, Musselman oversees curricula, instruction and research activities. The office also oversees faculty hiring, the process of faculty review, promotion and tenure, and budget priorities and allocations for the individual schools. Musselman also is the primary contact with The University of Texas System for academic affairs.

"As the University evolves to become a more mature research university, so will the role of provost," Musselman said.

An analytical chemist, Musselman joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 1992, just two years after the first freshman class was admitted. She was appointed associate provost for faculty affairs in 2008 and senior vice provost in 2014.

Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, executive vice president, was Musselman's immediate predecessor as provost. —**Amanda Siegfried**

ON CAMPUS

Even the Art Is All About the Brain at New Institute



The new Brain Performance Institute building (pictured above) includes “Introspection,” a 5,300-pound illuminated glass installation depicting the electric impulses that pass between nerve cells (pictured below). The piece includes 175 LED-illuminated glass spires and 1,050 hand-blown glass spheres.

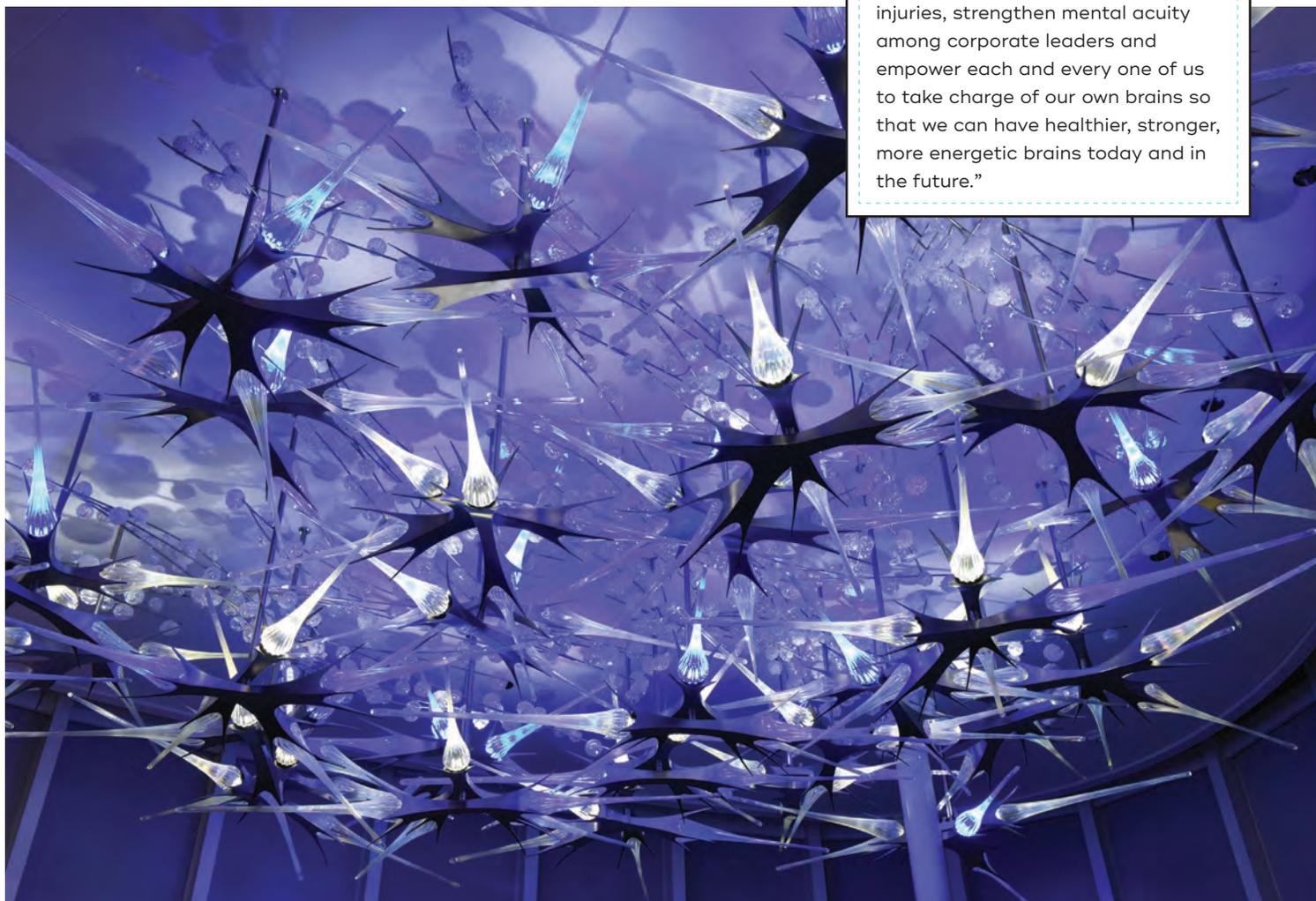
DAVID GAPPA’S “INTROSPECTION” (shown below) has been described as a visible interpretation of the communication between nerves. Commissioned for the new Brain Performance Institute, the glass neuron installation is an artistic statement in the interior of the 62,000-square-foot building that was officially opened in October.

Former first lady Laura Bush and UT Dallas President Richard Benson helped dedicate the facility, which is adjacent to the Center for BrainHealth. The architecture and interior design of the building were inspired by the anatomy of the brain. “Introspection” was installed in the ellipse-shaped multipurpose room that represents the frontal lobe of the brain, especially appropriate since that lobe is responsible for social, dynamic and active functions.



The Brain Performance Institute offers science-based programs for increasing brain performance and health in people of all ages who are affected by various conditions.

“This isn’t just about preventing dementia, although it’s important to so many. It’s about improving brain performance and health in everyone right now,” said Leanne Young PhD’16, executive director of the institute. “The institute will help young people focus in school, retrain the minds of those affected by military experiences or sports injuries, strengthen mental acuity among corporate leaders and empower each and every one of us to take charge of our own brains so that we can have healthier, stronger, more energetic brains today and in the future.”



FROM THE LAB



More Food for Thought on Kids' Eating Habits, Emotions

VERY YOUNG CHILDREN naturally regulate their food intake. But as they grow older, dietary patterns change. Researchers are taking a closer look at how this shift takes place.

Dr. Shayla C. Holub, head of the psychological sciences PhD program, examined the preconceptions about children's emotional eating habits.

The study showed that, when presented with snacking options, sad children ate more chocolates than the happy children, who in turn ate more chocolates than the neutral group. Conversely, the neutral group ate the most goldfish crackers, followed by the happy children and the sad children.

For the study, clips from Disney's *The Lion King* were used to create happy, sad and neutral cohorts of children. "The kids watching the saddest video ate the most chocolate. There was a significant drop in consumption among the ones watching the happy video, but they still consumed more chocolate than the neutral video group," she said. "This suggests that children eat in response to both happy and sad emotions, but more for sadness."

It is typically during the preschool period that children begin to think not about what their body is telling them, but instead about what their social environment is telling them. It's during this time that lessons such as eating all the food on the plate or prohibiting certain types of food are frequently introduced.

The latest study, which built on earlier work by Holub and Dr. Cin Cin Tan, showed that parents teach emotional eating behavior both by example and through their feeding practices.

"If we can learn how to nurture healthy habits early on, that makes us less likely to have to eliminate negative behaviors later," Holub said. "The idea is to communicate with our children about how to choose healthy options."

The study was published online in the journal *Appetite*. Holub was a co-author with Tan MS'11, PhD'12, a researcher at the University of Michigan's Center for Human Growth and Development. Tan completed her doctoral dissertation on the topic with Holub at UTD. —Stephen Fontenot

WHAT'S NEW AT UTD #1



Campus Growth Update

Progress continued on the new 200,000-square-foot **Engineering Building** (architect's rendering above).

Also known as Engineering West, the building will primarily house the Department of Mechanical Engineering. It is scheduled to be completed in fall 2018.

Engineering West will contain classrooms, research and teaching labs, faculty offices, student workspaces, and a 300-seat auditorium that will be named in honor of Dr. Alexander Clark, a former vice president of academic affairs and one-time acting president of the University. It also will include a third-floor student lounge with a balcony and a landscaped courtyard with seating to provide additional study and collaboration space.

Construction also began on the new 186,000-square-foot **Science Building** (architect's rendering below). The multistory building will house the Department of Physics, the William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences, and several classrooms, offices, and teaching and research labs. It will have a 300-seat lecture hall and a 150-seat lecture hall, along with an open courtyard with green space and seating areas.

Also underway is the second phase of **Northside**, which will include 900 apartment beds and 6,600 square feet of retail space. —Chase York



ARTS AND CULTURE



WHAT'S NEW AT UTD #2

Institute of Art History Adds Master's Program

Fall marked the first semester for students admitted to the master's program in the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History.

The new degree, offered through the School of Arts and Humanities, is a major milestone in a plan first laid out when Edith O'Donnell provided the initial gift that led to the institute's creation in 2014.

"We are looking for strong undergraduate applicants with a

background in art history who want to take the next steps in either their professional or academic career," said Dr. Sarah K. Kozlowski, assistant director of the institute.

Dr. Paul Galvez, research fellow and curriculum coordinator, stressed the value of the "object-based program." Students will work closely with collections throughout Dallas and Fort Worth.

A student's first year in the 16-month intensive program covers foundational skills and knowledge taught by faculty and will include critical curatorial skills. Students will also participate in seminars covering topics such as architecture and photography. **—Chase Carter**



Art Lovers, Exhibitions Drawn to New Spaces

A NEW 6,000-SQUARE-FOOT visual arts gallery complex opened in the fall with an inaugural exhibition celebrating the works of alumni artists.

“Critical Mass” featured 45 artists who received visual arts degrees and went on to have successful careers in the arts.

Dr. Dennis Kratz, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and the Ignacy and Celina Rockover Professor of Humanities, said the exhibition highlighted diverse works of UTD artists who are recognized in the regional, national and international scenes.

“It is my hope that the retrospective exhibition and the new gallery call attention not only to the success of the visual arts during the past 20 years, but also — and more importantly — to the benefits that a vibrant and varied cultural environment bring to the University,” Kratz said ahead of the opening reception.

The SP/N Gallery is located at 3020 Stewart Drive in Richardson, on the northwest corner of campus in the Synergy Park North 2 Building. The complex consists of two conjoined exhibition spaces dedicated to both student and professional creative research, including two project rooms, a reception area, an office and a preparation space. The gallery also will house the Comer Collection of Photography.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday; 1-6 p.m., Thursday and Friday; and 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday. —**Brittany Magelssen**

From top: Colorful works, including Steph Hargrove’s bottle cap feature titled “4168 (species lost per month to deforestation),” are part of the first show in the new space.

Greg Metz (right), senior lecturer in the School of Arts and Humanities, and Brian Scott, technical facilities manager for arts and performance, arrange artwork for the inaugural exhibition in the SP/N Gallery.

Artists discuss their process and their work with attendees during the opening reception for the “Critical Mass” exhibition.

ON CAMPUS

The Art and Craft of Translation

By Dr. Rainer Schulte

THE LACK OF communication between languages and cultures is particularly striking in our contemporary world. Thus, I want to focus my attention on the function of translation as a major tool to promote communication. We rarely think about how translation affects all of us in large and small ways on a daily basis. All acts of communication are acts of translation, as are all acts of reading. When we read a novel, a short story, or a poem, we must translate the text into our own understanding for the work to come to life. Given that many of us are monolingual, or bilingual at best, the only way we have access to the literatures and cultures of other countries is via translation into our native language. Through the work of the translator, literary translation is essential to the exchange of ideas, artistic expressions, and general communication between world cultures. Life without the translation is unthinkable.

When I came to UTD as one of the three charter professors in the School of Arts and Humanities in 1975, I saw my mission as making translation studies and translation workshops



the foundation for the understanding of foreign literatures and cultures. To achieve this, I founded the Center for Translation Studies in 1980, one of the first centers established after the opening of UTD and which is now widely recognized for its promotion of literary and humanistic translation. The center highlights the visibility of the translator; promotes the art and craft of literary translation; underlines the global, multicultural perspective of humanistic studies; and responds to the school’s interdisciplinary mission.

The Center for Translation Studies regularly invites writers and translators to campus for lectures and readings that are free and open to the public. Frequently, the invited writers and translators meet with students informally and more formally in workshops or classroom settings. Given the opportunity, I suggest that every undergraduate and graduate student would

benefit from taking at least one translation workshop.

To promote the practice and theory of translation and current research in the field, I have been editing *Translation Review* since 1978. The journal, which is distributed by Routledge, highlights the achievements of translators through interviews, introduces translations of contemporary international writers, reviews of recently published translations, and current scholarship in translation studies. In 2013, *Translation Review* received the prestigious Phoenix Award for Editorial Achievement from the American Council of Editors of Learned Journals.

As the center approaches its 40th anniversary, we continue to work toward expanding our national and international presence and outreach, while continuing to invest in the creative minds of our excellent UTD students.

Dr. Schulte is the Katherine R. Cecil Professor in Foreign Languages and Director of the Center for Translation Studies.

WHAT'S NEW AT UTD #3

School of ATEC Launches New Curricula

The School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication (ATEC) recently rolled out new curricula for all of its degree programs.

The degrees will be known as the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts and PhD in arts, technology, and emerging communication. The changes allow students to select a pathway of study.

"The changes to the ATEC curriculum blend history and theory with creative practice and critical analysis," said Dr. Anne Balsamo, dean of the school.

At the undergraduate level, students earn a bachelor's degree in ATEC with a focus in one of the following pathways: animation, design and production, critical media studies, games, or mediated communication.

At the graduate level, students earn a Master of Arts with a focus in game studies, network cultures or interactive design. Students earning a Master of Fine Arts in ATEC select a focus of game development, animation or creative practice.

The PhD program emphasizes the fusion of creative with critical thinking, theory and practice. —Brittany Magelssen

OTHER DEGREE PROGRAMS ADDED IN FALL 2017

Bachelor of Arts in philosophy
School of Arts and Humanities

Master of Science in social data analytics and research
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Bachelor of Science in human resource management
Naveen Jindal School of Management

ARTS AND CULTURE

Director Helps Give a Voice to Dallas' Homeless

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING, Dr. Jonathan Palant can be found at the Stewpot, a downtown Dallas social services and meal organization, greeting dozens of homeless people as they prepare to sing in the Dallas Street Choir that Palant founded more than three years ago.

"A piece of music called 'Street Requiem' was sent to me in 2014, and it was a piece to remember those who had died living homeless," Palant told *The Mercury* student newspaper. "I wanted to do it with my community group, but it felt disingenuous to not include the street community."

With support from Dallas businesses, concert presenters and individual donors, the Dallas Street Choir regularly performs throughout the city and recently toured the northeastern United States, with a stop at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

One of the singers, Carmelo Cabrera, lives in various shelters in downtown Dallas. He said the group is like a family and helps build members' self-esteem.

"It's an outlet, not only to get away from the cold, but also to sing and let people know that we are somebody," Cabrera said. "Our motto is, 'homeless, not voiceless.' And it does that for each individual."

The Stewpot rehearsal room is packed each week, with between 80 and 100 attendees, a majority of whom attend two to three times a month.



Palant said every ensemble he conducts has a different attitude about it, because each person comes to the experience with a different journey in life.

"One of the wonderful things about singing is the inclusive nature of that act. Everybody is needed and everybody is equal," Palant said. "When you're on the street, your obligations are to find shelter and to find food. There often isn't anything else on your calendar. What we offer is a standing appointment. When Wednesday mornings come, members are ready to sing. We take it very seriously."

At UTD, Palant conducts the University Choir, along with several other groups. He also teaches a music appreciation class and leads the University's Chamber Singers. —Phil Roth

ARTS AND CULTURE



2018 Distinguished Lecture

Writer, researcher and entrepreneur Margot Lee Shetterly (left) and Michelle Ferebee, NASA agency program manager from Langley Research Center, met before Shetterly's presentation on "Unsung Heroes of Race, Gender, Science and Innovation." The author of *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*, Shetterly also met with UTD students prior to the lecture.

FROM THE LAB

Study: Support for NFL Players' National Anthem Protests Divided Along Racial Lines

SUPPORT FOR NFL players' protests during the national anthem divided college students sharply along racial lines.

In a survey by UT Dallas researchers, the vast majority — 90 percent — of black respondents supported kneeling during the national anthem. Only 38 percent of non-black respondents did.

In addition, 100 percent of black respondents believed that the NFL should not punish players who protest during the national anthem. Only 25 percent of non-black respondents believed that as well.

The survey is the first empirical study to analyze attitudes toward the recent NFL players' protests, which are aimed at drawing attention to racial inequality and police brutality against African Americans.

"The results were striking," said Dr. Alex Piquero, Ashbel Smith Professor of Criminology and associate dean for graduate programs in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. "Our findings point to a realistic yet potentially disturbing racial schism that exists in America today regarding anthem protests."

The researchers surveyed a sample of 299 undergraduate students for the study, recently published online in the academic journal *Deviant Behavior*.

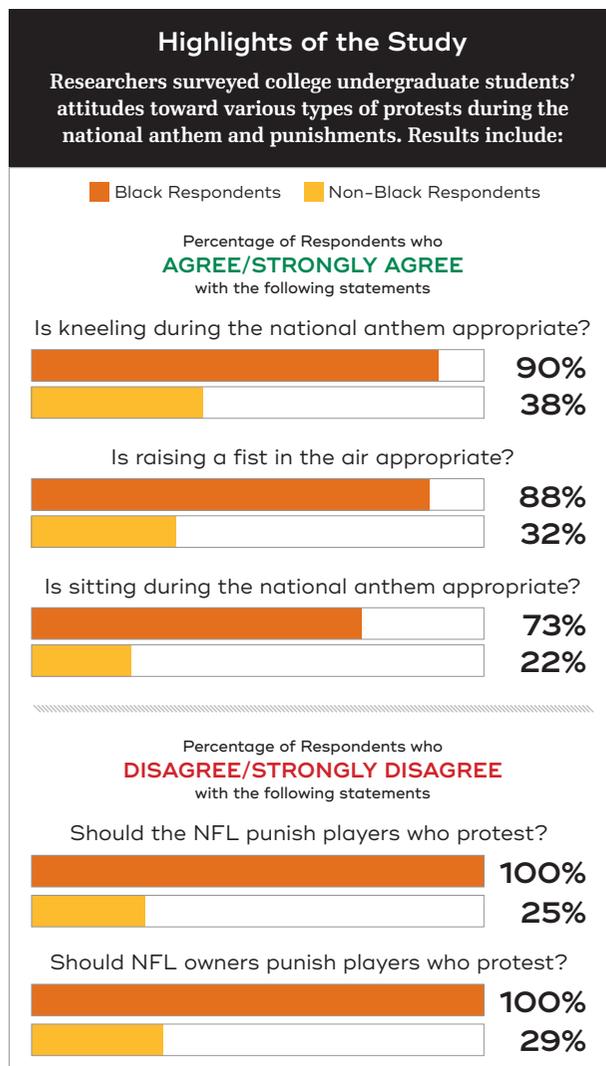
Respondents were asked whether it was appropriate to kneel, stand up and raise a fist, or sit down during the anthem. It also asked whether the NFL or team owners should punish players who protest during the anthem. Answers ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

The study noted that while the anthem protests have led to discussions between the players and league owners about social justice issues, more time will be needed to determine

the impact of the protests.

"While the on-the-field protests are getting people talking, the extent to which they lead to some sort of positive social change remains to be seen," said Dr. Nicole Leeper Piquero, Robert E. Holmes Jr. Professor of Criminology. —**Kim Horner**

"... the extent to which [on-field protests] lead to some sort of positive social change remains to be seen."



WHAT'S NEW AT UTD #4

Future Comets Program Prepares Students for College Success

A new program is preparing students from underserved communities to become Comets before they even enter high school.

About 30 seventh-graders from the Dallas Independent School District and surrounding districts are Future Comets. The Office of Diversity and Community Engagement started the program in the fall.

"Our goal is to help students from underserved backgrounds become successful UT Dallas students," said Dr. George Fair, vice president of diversity and community

engagement and dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Future Comets spend time on campus each month for activities, including math enrichment, leadership development, introduction to STEM careers, and assistance with college entrance exams and financial aid applications at the appropriate time.

Each year, a new group of seventh-graders referred by their schools will join the program. —**Kim Horner**

SPORTS

Destination: UT Dallas

SENIOR CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNER Lindsey Rayborn describes her hometown of Pocatello as a small farming community located in the “not really pretty part of Idaho.”

“Very rural. Very flat,” she said. “Very yellow. Not a lot going on.” More than a decade ago, the motion picture *Napoleon Dynamite* was filmed 30 miles from Pocatello. Rayborn said it perfectly portrayed life in that part of Idaho. “That’s exactly what my hometown was like.”

Rayborn was looking to put some distance between herself and her hometown — population 54,746 — when considering colleges. Just maybe not the 1,357 miles it takes to get to the UT Dallas campus from her front porch.

“At first, I thought there was no way I was going to move all the way to Texas. But then I realized UTD offered me the best scholarship options, and I figured it would be an adventure,” she said.

Like a smattering of other UTD student-athletes who have made the long-distance decision, Rayborn is happy with her choice. In the last four years, she has led the Comets to two American Southwest Conference team championships, won two individual conference titles and qualified last fall

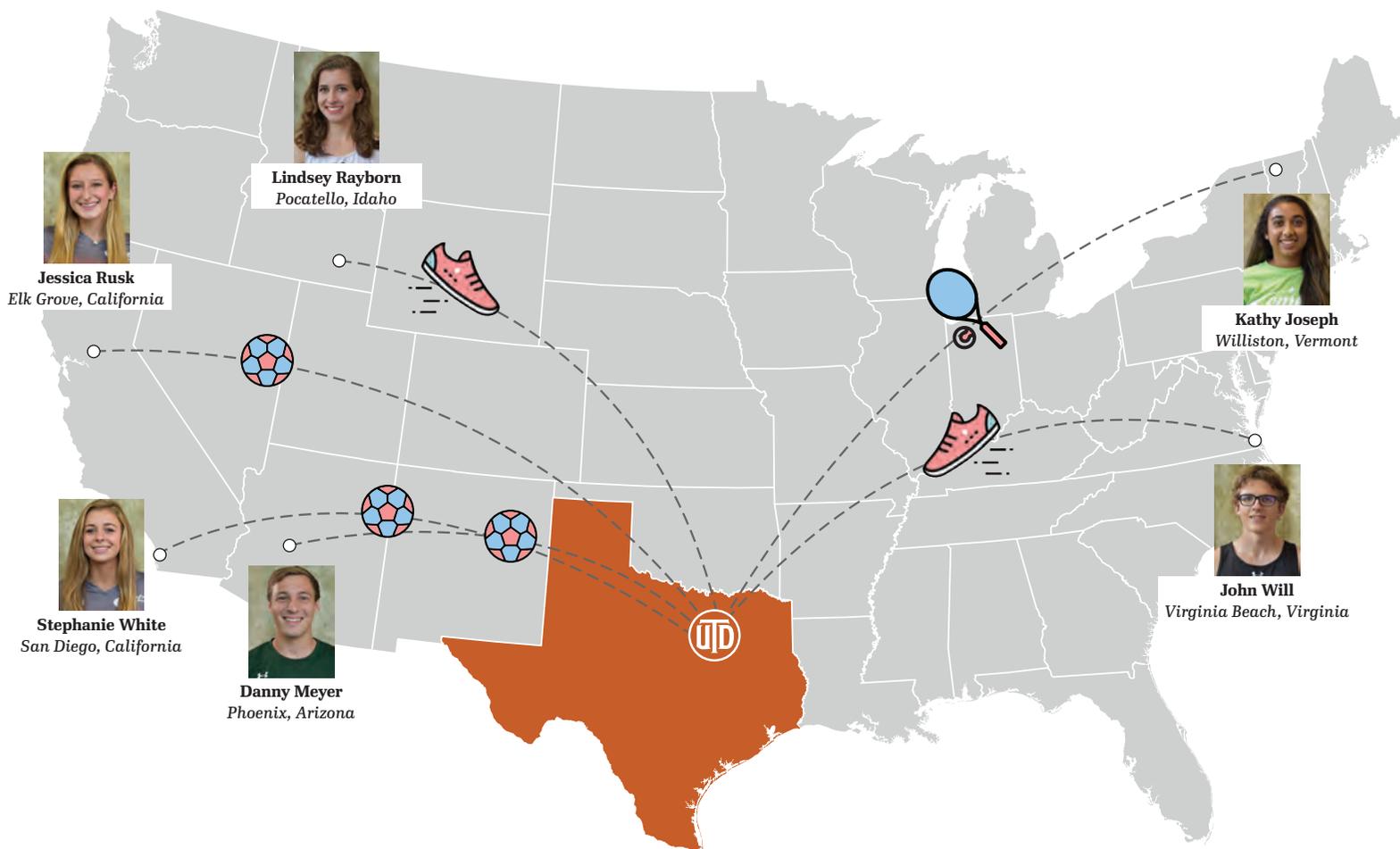
for the NCAA Division III National Championship Meet, a personal goal.

And, after a scholastic career filled with various academic honors, she graduates this spring with a degree in geophysics.

Scholarship opportunities, academic reputation and cost factors seem to be the biggest attraction for the more than 40 out-of-state student-athletes on UTD athletic rosters. Coach Kanute Drugan’s women’s soccer team leads the way with 16 players on its 2017 roster who have crossed state lines.

“In Texas, we’re competing with a lot of top-quality academic institutions for students, as well as several schools that have had a lot of success athletically, especially at the Division III level,” explained Drugan, now in his fourth year of fine-tuning the recruiting process. “By looking out of state, we can find the same quality student and the same quality athlete who’s never heard of, or considered, some of those other schools. It gives us an opportunity to be a unique choice.”

A shining example is sophomore Stephanie White, a neuroscience major from San Diego, who was selected for the



ON CAMPUS

University's prestigious McDermott Scholars program. "I honestly had never heard of UTD before," she said. "But I was hoping I could find a place where I could pursue my academic goals and still get a chance to keep playing my sport. I love soccer and hoped to be able to incorporate the sport into my college experience."

Financial reasons led teammate Jessica Rusk, another California resident, to UT Dallas. "Colleges in California are very expensive, the cost of living is high and it's hard to get scholarship money," she explained. "But Coach Drugan saw me play at a showcase in Nevada and told me he thought, with my test

"By looking out of state, we can find the same quality student and the same quality athlete who's never heard of ... other [Texas] schools."



scores, I could probably qualify for a scholarship at UTD. I applied, got an amazing scholarship, and I've been able to turn my dreams of playing college athletics into reality."

Very often, the University's science and engineering programs play a role in attracting out-of-state student-athletes.

Senior Danny Meyer, a three-time ASC All-Conference member of the men's soccer team, found his way to UTD from Phoenix. "My high school coach helped me find a list of schools across the country with a strong neuroscience program. I checked out the soccer program [at UTD], saw they were winning championships, and I knew this was where I needed to be."

Senior John Will, one of the Comets' top male cross-country runners, traveled all the way from Virginia Beach, Virginia, because of the University's highly rated biomedical engineering program. "It's a growing field, but not every school offers it," said Will, a McDermott Scholar. "And I was able to continue running, which is something I really enjoy."

Tennis player Kathy Joseph, a sophomore from Williston, Vermont, was looking for "a strong engineering school with opportunities for research" when she chose UTD. "And it was important to me that I be in an area that offered a lot of post-graduation job opportunities. UTD fit the bill." **-Bruce Unrue**

Research Success through Mentorship

RESEARCHERS LEARN BY working with other researchers, which is why establishing a strong mentoring relationship is so important to a student's success. UT Dallas has many faculty members who are mentoring the next generation of researchers. Take, for example, Dr. Danieli Rodrigues and doctoral student Danyal Siddiqui BS'15, MS'16.

Siddiqui entered UTD in 2011, enrolling in the new biomedical engineering program. It was while taking a biomaterials class led by Rodrigues that Siddiqui first considered conducting research.

"Dr. Rodrigues has been a guide for me since the day I met her," Siddiqui said. "I saw how she interacted with the graduate students and how the graduate students took that to the undergraduate students."

Rodrigues, an assistant professor in bioengineering, assigned Siddiqui his own project and taught him to research the literature. Empowered by Rodrigues, the undergraduate developed a corrosion testing setup for his project. As a senior, Siddiqui received an Undergraduate Research Award for examining the use of titanium in orthopedics.

Now, as a doctoral student, Siddiqui is focused on testing the material properties of zirconia dental implants. Siddiqui says that zirconia has several advantages over the current benchmark metal, titanium, including less plaque accumulation, smaller chances for infection



Doctoral student Danyal Siddiqui BS'15, MS'16 has succeeded at UTD through hard work and faculty mentorship.

and a more natural look. A zirconia implant is safe, but little is known about how it wears compared to titanium. That's where Siddiqui's research comes in. He will test zirconia implants in several simulations of the normal wear and tear of a tooth.

Rodrigues' mentorship continues in the doctoral program. She encouraged Siddiqui to apply for the prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which he was awarded.

"The elements I mostly concentrated on when training Danyal were writing papers and proposals, and speaking effectively," said Rodrigues. "I believe these are some of the best contributions I can make for the professional development of my students."

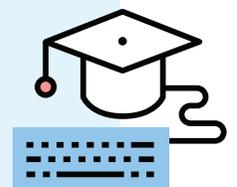
Under Rodrigues' direction, Siddiqui also secured an internship at the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D.C. During the internship, he tested how normal wear on cardiovascular stents can lead to increased corrosion.

"I am invested in connecting my students with clinical collaborators and industry partners to generate professional growth and opportunities for their future careers," said Rodrigues.

Siddiqui is a Eugene McDermott Graduate Fellow, the winner of the University's Three Minute Thesis competition and a recipient of the Jonsson Family Bioengineering Fellowship. He is also author or co-author of 10 research papers with Rodrigues and their collaborators. **-Ben Porter**



To help support more students like Danyal, please consider giving opportunities for graduate students at giving.utdallas.edu/ogs.



ON CAMPUS

Six Honored at 2017 Awards Gala

SIX DISTINGUISHED HONOREES shared the spotlight at the 2017 UT Dallas Awards Gala.

Russell Cleveland, founder, president and CEO of RENN Capital Group Inc., received the Gifford K. Johnson Community Leadership Award, a recognition named for the one-time president of the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, the precursor of UT Dallas. Cleveland is an ardent supporter whose contributions have helped shape the UTD guitar studies program.

Dr. Peter Balyta MBA'03, of Texas Instruments, earned the Green and Orange Award for Alumni Service. "For whatever mark I may have left on the University through volunteerism, UT Dallas has forever left a mark on me," said Balyta, a member of the UT Dallas Development Board.

Distinguished Alumni Award recipient **Mike Brodie BS'76**, broker/owner at Keller Williams Realty, came to

him achieve a life goal. In the fall, he was selected as the chair of the President's Council.

Deborah Hankinson MS'77, a partner at Hankinson LLP and Distinguished Alumni Award honoree, began her career with the Plano Independent School District, educating students with severe and profound disabilities in a field that, at the time, was relatively new. Hankinson, a former Texas Supreme Court justice, is nationally recognized for her commitment to equal access to justice.

Similarly committed to pursuing his passions, **Tahir Hussain BS'94**, CEO and managing partner at Collide Village LLC, relocated to Dallas in 1991. He dreamed of launching a business in the vibrant city, and by 2000, he founded his first venture. "I strongly believe that the program that UT Dallas has offered here to me actually created a foundation for what I am today," said Hussain, a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

Honoree **Dr. Solomon C. Luo MS'78** also built a foundation during his time as a student. A first-generation immigrant, he left Taiwan to study at the University, where he found the support of longtime professor Dr. John Jagger. Luo, partner, president and CEO at Progressive Vision Institute, credits Jagger's unfailing encouragement with his decision to attend medical school.

Sponsors of the 2017 gala were Axxess, Central Market, Ericsson, State Farm, Texas Instruments and Toyota. (Watch for news of the 2018 Awards Gala — the first to be held in the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center — in the fall 2018 issue.) —Jill Blevins

2017 Awards Gala Honorees

Gifford K. Johnson Community Leadership Award
Russell Cleveland — RENN Capital Group Inc.

Green and Orange Award for Alumni Service
Dr. Peter Balyta MBA'03 — Texas Instruments

Distinguished Alumni Awards
Mike Brodie BS'76 — Keller Williams Realty
Deborah Hankinson MS'77 — Hankinson LLP
Tahir Hussain BS'94 — Collide Village LLC
Dr. Solomon C. Luo MS'78 — Progressive Vision Institute

UT Dallas intending to study computer science, but "quickly learned that Fortran and COBOL were not my languages." He switched his focus to business and finance and now credits his UT Dallas experiences with helping

UT Dallas President Richard Benson (third from left) posed with gala honorees (from left) Mike Brodie BS'76, Tahir Hussain BS'94, Deborah Hankinson MS'77, Russell Cleveland, Dr. Solomon C. Luo MS'78 and Dr. Peter Balyta MBA'03.



FROM THE LAB



Patients Endanger Their Own Privacy by Self-Disclosing Medical Information

By Dr. Carie S. Tucker King

I RECENTLY STUDIED how breast cancer patients interact in an online community. Relationships among the patients are created within the group, through sharing details about families, jobs, medical histories, feelings about breast cancer, opinions about their health care providers and other information about their lives. I did not anticipate that my research would illuminate how this level of communication can create risks for the members of the group.

Patients expect privacy. Health care providers and facilities are required to follow federal law protecting health information of their patients.

But many online communities are public. The posts on the sites can be viewed by anyone who has internet access, and visitors do not need passwords to access the posts. As a result, when a patient shares medical information during a conversation in a public community, she has no way of knowing who is accessing that information.

Organizations can and do gather information shared online (called “data mining”) and use or sell the information that they access. For example, Google openly states in its privacy policy that it gathers information from Google users. Many online communities also state in their community guidelines that the information shared in their forums is available and unprotected. Even the U.S. government mines data, such as to document the occurrence of medical conditions, which can help researchers predict disease patterns and anticipate cures.

The solution to this issue is to empower patients and warn them to beware of the information that they share. Patients in online spaces should have usernames and email addresses that do not include identifying information, such as last names or birthdates. They should not disclose their locations, and they should minimize diagnostic information that they share in public communities. Patients should also consider whether a community is public or private before they decide to post anything. Communities that require passwords for access to content may be “safer” for those who seek to commune with some semblance of privacy.

Medically focused communities can benefit patients by connecting them with others who share their diagnoses, allowing them to share challenges and concerns. However, patients should be careful to share wisely and be aware of potential breaches of privacy.

Dr. King is a clinical professor of communication and associate director of rhetoric. She recently wrote *The Rhetoric of Breast Cancer: Patient-to-Patient Discourse in an Online Community*.



TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE ONLINE:

- 1** Do not use personal or identifying information in your username, e.g., last names and birth dates.
- 2** Do not disclose your location in public forums.
- 3** Do not reveal too much detail about health conditions.
- 4** When possible, engage in online communities that are password protected.

ON CAMPUS

Embracing Entrepreneurship

UT Dallas is part of a growing trend to encourage entrepreneurial efforts by students, faculty and staff. The U.S. Commerce Department noted in a report that “hundreds of colleges and universities ... are creating entrepreneurship programs with the short-term objective of creating educational value for their students and the long-term goal of driving economic growth.”

At UTD, the Blackstone LaunchPad is part of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. LaunchPad has a campuswide reach through its range of programs and events, some of which are highlighted here.

UNIBEES App Attracts Deal Seekers

GRADUATE STUDENTS Abinav Kalidindi and Chandra Achanta remember the day, shortly after they arrived on campus, when they saw students carrying multiple slices of pizza.

“We knew there must be free food at an event that we hadn’t heard about,” said Achanta, a business analytics master’s student in the Naveen Jindal School of Management. “We did some research on how to get that into people’s hands.”

They made it happen by developing a phone app called UNIBEES to help other students find freebies and giveaways on campus. What Kalidindi calls “the power of free” has attracted 12,000 app users on four campuses — UT Dallas, UT Arlington, UT Austin and Texas A&M.

Students looking for deals use UNIBEES to find free food, movies, campus events and discounts at restaurants. The app even provides walking directions to each event. It’s a one-stop shop for Generation Z users, who are not as likely to check official University media or use traditional social media like Facebook, said Kalidindi, a finance master’s student.

The Jindal School’s Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship provided seed money and helped Achanta and Kalidindi tap into a network of conferences, mentoring and competitions. UNIBEES also received \$5,000 by placing second out of 109 other startups at the 2016 UT Dallas Big Idea Competition.

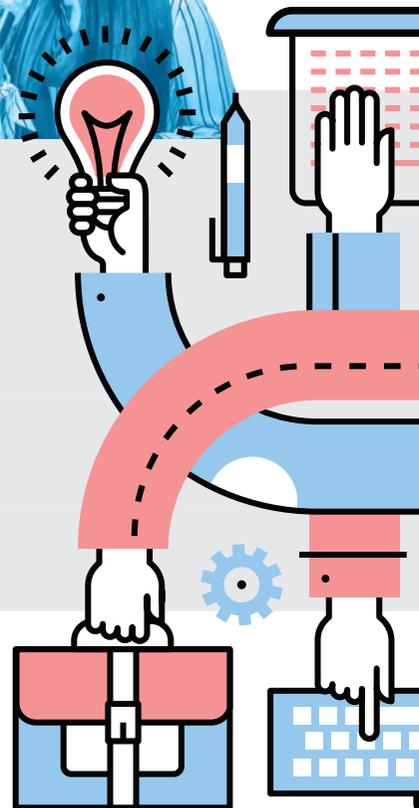
Blackstone LaunchPad provided coaching and venture creation support.

When they graduate in May, Achanta and Kalidindi said they will work full time to expand the app into a national brand for colleges and universities. —Robin Russell



Chandra Achanta and Abinav Kalidindi created UNIBEES, an app that helps other students find freebies and giveaways on campus. The free app is also available to students at UT Arlington, UT Austin and Texas A&M.

Veena Somareddy, co-founder of NeuroRehab VR, delivers the winning presentation at the 2017 Big Idea Competition.



New Startup Launch Track for Computer Science Students

Another example of the growing entrepreneurship on campus is the Jindal School’s partnership with the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science to develop the Computer Science Software Startup Launch Track.

In the track, computer science students interested in launching a software-based startup company can complete entrepreneurship courses that will count toward their degree.

For more information about the track, visit the schools’ websites: engineering.utdallas.edu or jindal.utdallas.edu. —Jimmie Markham

From left: Jason Tran, Konan Mirza and Yosias Kassaye make their presentation for Alta Air, which placed third at the 2017 Big Idea event and won \$2,500 for the best undergraduate idea.

Making Their Pitch on the Big Stage at Big Idea Competition

A TEAM LED by a doctoral student from the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication (ATEC) took the top prize at the finals of the 2017 Big Idea Competition. The prize money will help the startup — NeuroRehab VR — hire developers, put together a sales and marketing team, deploy the applications to five clinics across the U.S. and ensure the applications conform to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act regulations.

NeuroRehab VR develops virtual reality games to help patients recover from strokes, neurodegenerative diseases or traumatic brain injuries. In addition to winning the competition's \$15,000 first-place prize, NeuroRehab VR received the \$2,500 Diversity and Inclusion Award.

Veena Somareddy, an ATEC PhD student who co-founded NeuroRehab VR, said: "We're trying to bring something that wasn't already there. We've gotten validation from our patients and therapists. Now getting it from Guy Kawasaki and everybody else means a lot."

Kawasaki, a brand evangelist and best-selling author, shared his tips on "The Art of Innovation" in the keynote address and served as a judge. Other judges were Jeff Williams BS'87, a partner at Interlock; Julie Nickols, an attorney and partner at Haynes and Boone LLP; Courtney Caldwell MBA'06, co-founder of ShearShare; and Robert Metcalfe, Ethernet co-founder and a professor at UT Austin's Cockrell School of Engineering.

The competition, formerly the Business Idea Competition, featured startup ideas ranging from wearable robotics that help patients with knee injuries become more mobile to drones that municipal governments can use to detect air pollution.

Second place was awarded to Elaine Wang and Trusit Shah, who created Cthrough, a mobile app that enhances the user's experience at attractions like zoos and museums. Wang is working on a master's in

management science and Shah is pursuing a doctorate in computer science.

Alta Air, whose members were Konan Mirza and Jason Tran, both finance and economics double majors in the Jindal School, and electrical engineering student Yosias Kassaye, took third place. They also won for the best undergraduate idea. Their concept involved a modular drone design with interchangeable sensors.

Skyven Technologies earned the Biggest Social Impact Award, and UT Dallas' Brain Performance Institute received the \$2,500 award for the biggest and most innovative idea.

Steve Guengerich, who heads the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said that of the 144 students who entered the competition, 53 percent of them were from schools other than the Jindal School. That is an increase of more than 50 percent over last year.

"At the end of the day, it's all about the students and the learning experience," he said. "I am just thrilled that we have the support from people like Dean Hasan Pirkul and Dr. Joseph Picken, who both helped cook up this whole scheme to say that events such as this one are as important as what we're doing in the Jindal School on the academic side."

Bryan Chambers, program director at Blackstone LaunchPad, was impressed with the quality of the pitches but is already looking to the future.

"Our faculty, our staff — we've got really big visions for where we think this event needs to go," he said. "We plan to do it bigger and better next year."

Sponsors and community partners included Interlock Partners, Tolleson Wealth Management, Capital Factory, the Dallas Entrepreneur Center, the Dallas chapter of TiE and MassChallenge Texas. —**Jimmie Markham**

Entrepreneurship Program Climbs Three Spots in Rankings

The Princeton Review and Entrepreneur magazine placed the Jindal School's MS in Innovation and Entrepreneurship program at No. 19 in its list of the Top 25 Best Grad Programs for Entrepreneurs in 2018, up three spots from last year's ranking.

Madison Pedigo, director of the innovation and entrepreneurship academic programs at the Jindal School, was pleased with the improvement in the ranking.

"Each year, we improve our program in multiple dimensions," he said. "This includes adding new courses, increasing enrollment and improving our support programs, such as Blackstone LaunchPad and the Big Idea Competition."

More than 300 schools that offer entrepreneurship majors, minors, concentrations or degree programs participated in the 60-question rankings survey.



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THE BROTHERS BOYD

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in Tinseltown



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From Working 9-to-5 to Hollywood Scribes (2018)

Brothers Flip Scripts on Careers to Pursue Screenwriting Jobs

THINGS WERE STEADY and lookin' rosy for VJ Boyd BA'02 in the years after he graduated from UT Dallas. He had a bachelor's degree in business administration, he was part of the sales force at IBM and he was about halfway toward earning a master's degree. So, he decided to do the only sensible thing someone in his shoes would do — he packed up and shipped out to Los Angeles to pursue a career in screenwriting.

Cue the record scratch.

Fast-forward a decade. VJ's brother Justin — a fellow UTD grad (BA'06) and writer — has joined him in California and they're both writing for TV shows.

By Paul Bottoni





VJ (left) and Justin Boyd.

on to great things,” Daniel proudly claims. It was Daniel who planted the seed in VJ’s — and later Justin’s — mind about pursuing a career as a TV writer. The process isn’t complicated: move to LA; somehow, some way join a TV show as a writing staff assistant — “that is, a coffee getter and note taker,” Daniel clarifies — and write. Then write some more. Followed by more writing.

“From there, you work your way up,” Daniel says. “VJ followed my advice to a ‘T.’ It didn’t hurt that he is incredibly hardworking, proactive and generally a nice guy, of course.”

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T ★★★ Chasing the Dream(s) (2008)

When VJ relocated to Los Angeles in May 2008, he was like any newcomer to La La Land, believing he’d have to pay his dues. The City of Angels brims with aspiring writers and actors vying for a big break. Thanks to a pinch of luck, VJ avoided the whole “starving artist” phase. “I was fortunate to get an assistant job within a month working on a show called *The Beast* with Patrick Swayze, which was the last thing he did before he passed away,” VJ says. “I had no idea at the time how lucky I was. I’ve had friends who moved out here, and even with help it takes a year and a half sometimes to land a position. At that point, you have to get a day job while keeping your ear to the ground for assistant jobs. Sometimes it’s about who you know. Even then, that may not be enough.”

After working as an assistant on a few shows, he landed a gig as an assistant on the FX show *Justified*, a Western-type saga with a modern spin that ran six seasons from 2010 to 2015. His break had arrived. Hired as a writer for the show’s second season, he stayed on until the show wrapped up. His episodes are memorable for fans of The Ticket radio station (AM1310/FM96.7) in Dallas. VJ sprinkled Ticket references throughout the dialogue he wrote and named characters after the sports station’s hosts.

As an admirer of classic crime noir and science fiction films, VJ dreams of one day writing in one of those genres. It just so happens that’s exactly what Justin does on SyFy’s *Channel Zero*, a sci-fi/horror anthology series. “I’m jealous sometimes that he gets to make up all this crazy stuff,” VJ jests. “He can pitch giant flies in his episodes.”

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U ★★★ Local Boys (2002)

The brothers, who grew up a stone’s throw from UTD in Richardson, have always had a passion for film and television. VJ was 16 when he wrote his first screenplay — *PERNOMIUM*, a short film about the heist of an unbreakable substance. “I read every book in the library on filmmaking. *PERNOMIUM* wasn’t good, but at least I finished it,” he says. “I did make many short films as a teenager and in college, but none of them were technically sound. The writing was decent, but I had little skill or help in the camera and lighting departments.”

Justin maintains his older brother was the first to dream of working in the business. But sometimes dreams take a back seat to reality. Ends have to meet, after all. Hence the time spent working for IBM.

But the desire to write lingered. So, VJ opted to return to UTD to work on a master’s degree in literature. That’s when he took a fiction writing workshop and a scriptwriting course with then-School of Arts and Humanities lecturer Tony Daniel, a Hugo Award finalist for his short story “Life on the Moon.” VJ was part of a group of promising writers whom Daniel mentored at UTD. “All have gone

Justin Boyd could be found at the pool tables in the Student Union.





VJ Boyd on the set of S.W.A.T., which he co-executive produces.

When he was an undergraduate at UTD, Justin almost racked up more hours playing pool in the Student Union than in class. (No worries — he still graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics.) He stays in touch with friends he made during those hours at the pool tables. Justin says they all took the game pretty seriously — playing in university club tournaments in Texas and nearby areas. Justin even competed in the Texas Open Championships. “I got my ass kicked,” he laughs, “but I played.”

His passion for pool that began on the first floor of the Student Union would later pay dividends. “The script that got me hired by *Channel Zero* was about the pool scene in Texas.”

For a few years, Justin took nighttime graduate classes at UTD while working full time, though later he had to pause his academic pursuits because of the burdensome workload. During that time, however, he took a screenwriting class with Daniel and creative writing courses with A&H professor Clay Reynolds. “I knew I could do it [screenwriting] and I enjoyed doing it, but I wasn't sure I was good enough to do it professionally,” Justin recalls. “I was also committed to being an academic.”

Justin eventually moved to Chicago, ending his hiatus from studies to earn a master's degree from DePaul in 2012. During a stint teaching philosophy at DePaul while working on a doctorate, Justin got the itch to try his hand at TV writing like his brother. So, in May 2016, he moved out West.

“I realized that while academic philosophy is something I care about, it's not something I'd want to do professionally,” Justin says. “It's a lot more fun to tell stories than to write academic prose. If you have to pick one or the other to do for long periods of time each day, it's not a competition.”

It was a bit of a change. Justin went from teaching about 80 students per academic quarter to working as a show assistant tasked with buying coffee for writers. Luckily, that was short-lived. He got a job as a writer's production assistant — “the lowest rung in the writers' room” — on the FX show *Snowfall* the month he arrived. That job lasted until the end of the year when his script about the Texas pool scene landed into the hands of Nick Antosca, showrunner for *Channel Zero*.

“I always tell Justin, ‘Man, don't tell anyone you got lucky enough to write on a show as soon as you came out here,’” VJ says. “He's only been out here a year or so, but thus far it's been great. We haven't lived in the same city in a decade.”

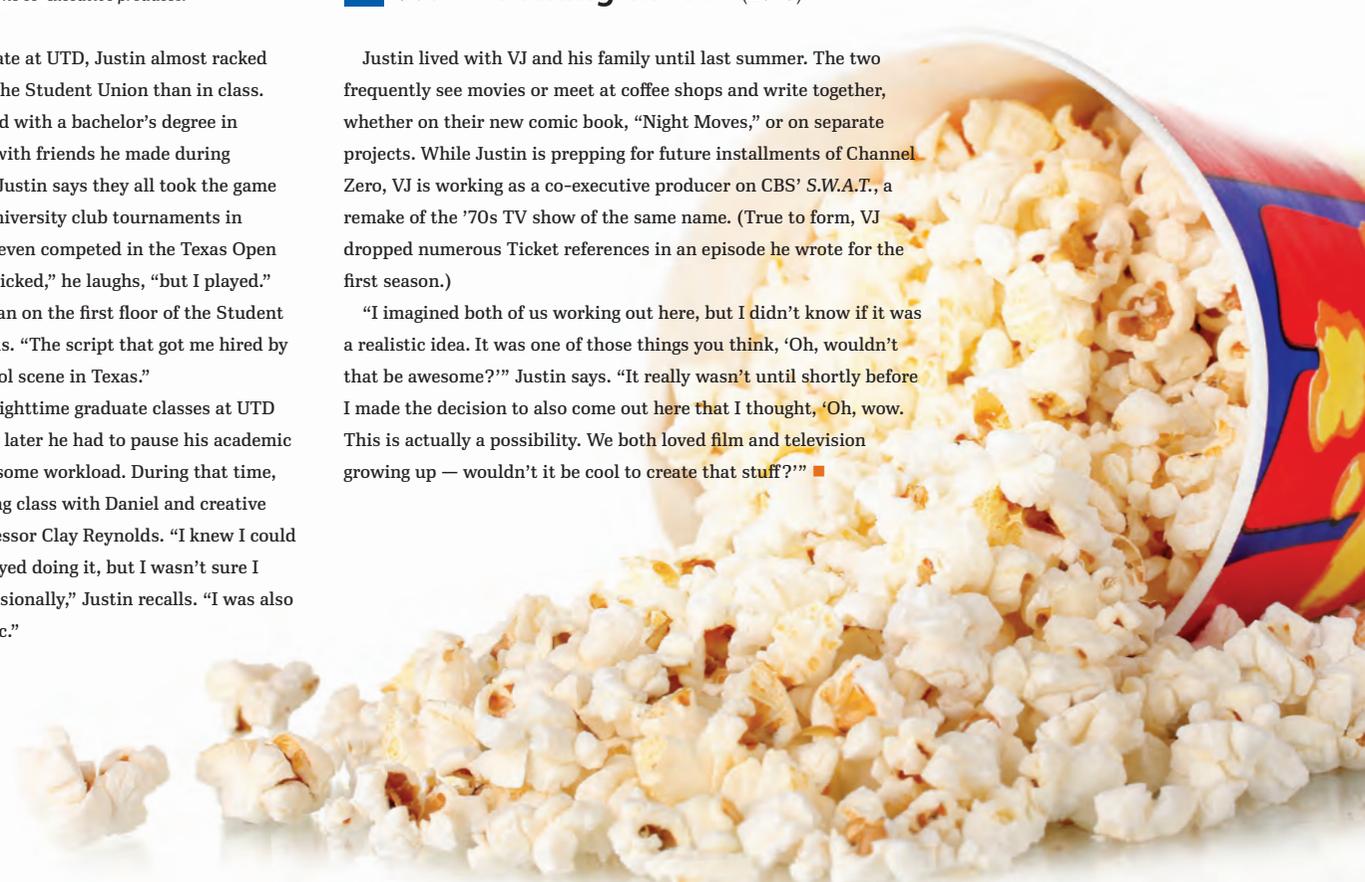
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D ★★★ Making ‘Moves’ (2018)

Justin lived with VJ and his family until last summer. The two frequently see movies or meet at coffee shops and write together, whether on their new comic book, “Night Moves,” or on separate projects. While Justin is prepping for future installments of *Channel Zero*, VJ is working as a co-executive producer on CBS' *S.W.A.T.*, a remake of the '70s TV show of the same name. (True to form, VJ dropped numerous Ticket references in an episode he wrote for the first season.)

“I imagined both of us working out here, but I didn't know if it was a realistic idea. It was one of those things you think, ‘Oh, wouldn't that be awesome?’” Justin says. “It really wasn't until shortly before I made the decision to also come out here that I thought, ‘Oh, wow. This is actually a possibility. We both loved film and television growing up — wouldn't it be cool to create that stuff?’” ■

VJ's LA office is strewn with awards, posters and scripts.



X'S AND O'S

NOT EXCLUSIVE TO THOSE WITH Y CHROMOSOME

ALUMNA TACKLES SPORTS STEREOTYPES

By Paul Bottoni

IF HORSE RACING IS the sport of kings, then football is the sport of Texans. While the state's love for the game can be endearing, let's be real — the Texas football scene has been a “guy thing.” There is no shortage of women working to support teams. But on the field dealing with the X's and O's? That's typically been left to the men.

Until now. Desireé Allen BS'99 is crashing one of the most exclusive clubs in the state.

Name a mainstream sport and odds are that Allen (formerly Desireé Squire) has likely played it, coached it or would be game for trying it. Before starring on the UTD soccer field, she excelled at basketball and track and field in high school. She's also coached those sports, along with volleyball, at various times.

But it's her work on a different playing field that's landed her in the headlines. Allen is a high school football coach, now in her third season with North Dallas High School.

Allen didn't grow up around the sometimes cult-like Texas football scene. She was an Air Force brat who bounced from base to base with her military parents. While she loved sports — and that might be an understatement — football never appealed to her. “I'm not going to lie — it was boring to me,” she says. “I just couldn't get into it because I didn't know or understand the rules.” The interest began when a friend suggested she try football. Not long afterward, during a training session for video coordinators, Allen met Tonnell Wilson, who was then the defensive coordinator for the Dallas Diamonds women's team. He invited

her to try out. Allen thought, “Why not?” That was all it took; she loved it. Add another sport to the list of those she plays.

Allen is now in her sixth season as a player, the past three of which she has spent with the Dallas Elite as a wide receiver, defensive back and kicker. “If I could, I'd just play receiver,” she says before pausing. “No, that's a lie. I want to play all three.”

After making it to the championship game three years in a row, the Dallas Elite won the 2017 Women's Football Alliance title with a win over the Boston Renegades. Allen has also attended the Women's World Football Games during the NFL's Pro Bowl festivities. The event gathers women players from around the world to practice, learn from coaches and compete. “I got so much out of the practices,” she says. “I could take that back to my players and show them how to do certain things.”

Allen's path to coaching began at UT Dallas. She was an assistant coach with the women's basketball team after graduating with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Following a stint at Winfree Academy Charter School, Allen joined Dallas ISD and eventually landed at Lincoln High School. Reginald Bell, the school's girls' athletic director and track and field coach, became her mentor. Allen helped coach the track and field squad. And the soccer team. And the volleyball team. And she was video coordinator for the football team and boys' basketball team.

Then about three years ago, Charles Moss called. Moss, who was head football coach of North Dallas High School, needed a defensive back coach. Allen agreed to come aboard.



Desireé Allen BS'99 works with North Dallas High School players during practice drills.





Allen has spent three seasons with the team, the past two under Moss' replacement, Fred Johnson. While working with the defensive backs in 2017, Allen was also the co-special teams coordinator. "We managed to not have a single point scored on our special teams units," she proudly says. "I've wanted to coach a boys' sport. Guys are always coaching girls' sports. I could do it just as well and if I wanted to be an athletic coordinator, I needed to know more football."

Women are securing high school coaching jobs around the country, but Allen is one of only a handful in Texas. Nationwide, the glass ceiling remains intact in the college ranks, but women have started breaking through in the NFL. In 2015, Jen Welter — a teammate of Allen's from her first season playing football — spent the preseason as a position coach for the Arizona Cardinals. Kathryn Smith joined the staff of the Buffalo Bills in 2016, and in 2017, Katie Sowers became a full-time assistant when she joined the San Francisco 49ers.

"I LOVE THE KIDS HERE. THEY'RE SO DIFFERENT AND IT MAKES THE SCHOOL WHAT IT IS."

It's easy to assume that a woman in a male-dominated sport would have plenty of obstacles and challenges, but for Allen that hasn't been the case. "I've worked in DISD for 11 years, so people in the district know me," Allen says. "There are a couple of jerks out there. But they usually were being a jerk to everyone, not just to me."

Coaching high school students comes with hurdles particular to each campus. For North Dallas, a high homeless rate means some students may live in a hotel or a shelter. The school is nestled in the West Village area of Dallas, surrounded by high rises. Low-income housing is on the opposite side of Central Expressway. "I love the kids here. They're so different and it makes the school what it is," Allen, who was named a 2018 Trailblazer Award recipient by the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, holds aspirations to move up the ladder, but she isn't dead-set on any position. "I just want to be involved in sports," she says, "whether as an athletic coordinator or a director. As long as I'm connected to athletics in some capacity, I'll be happy." ■

fresh approaches

Hope for Chronic Pain Relief Grows at UTD

By Stephen Fontenot



IN AN ERA of increased opioid-related addiction and deaths, the way we treat all pain patients is under the microscope.

From 2013 to 2016, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) spent more than \$1.9 billion to fund pain research. At stake, the well-being of more than 25 million U.S. adults who in 2012 reported suffering from daily chronic pain — a subset of which is affected by the ongoing opioid crisis.

According to January 2018 data from the NIH, more than 90 Americans each day die after overdosing on opioids — prescription pain relievers, heroin and synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Between 21 and 29 percent of chronic-pain patients who are prescribed opioids misuse them, and 8 to 12 percent develop an opioid-use disorder.

Three University of Texas at Dallas scientists — Drs. Ted Price BS'97, Greg Dussor and Zach Campbell — are attacking this ever-present problem from varied angles, each with his own focus, background and motivation for understanding it, reducing it and pre-empting it.

Their work contributes to the broader landscape of efforts at improving the human condition for generations to come.

From left: Drs. Ted Price BS'97, Greg Dussor and Zach Campbell devote their research to relieving pain.



The pain that lingers

DR. TED PRICE knows pain in every sense of the word.

As a researcher, he has studied the signaling pathways in pain-sensing neurons for 15 years.

As an athlete, he has endured the aftereffects of a spinal injury, giving him insight no research paper could offer.

And as an advocate, he's spoken with federal officials and worked with programs to address the opioid addiction epidemic plaguing our nation.

Price's current quest is to find a permanent replacement for opioids — to find something that truly treats chronic neuropathic pain.

“Opioid use for chronic pain shouldn't exist. The drugs don't work,” says Price, a Fellow, Eugene McDermott Professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. “But there's no alternative, and I think physicians feel morally obligated to offer something.”

Price's work on pain pathways began in 2003 at McGill University in Montreal. Four years later, he published a paper that made a large leap forward in the field.

“Lots of people started working on it then,” Price says. “I was on to something, and people were expanding the field.”

Price describes clinical pain as a situation where nerve cells, or neurons, become extraordinarily sensitive. He's focused on the molecular signals that turn up the amplification. In 2011, Price published work identifying the AMP-activated protein kinase (AMP-K) enzyme as a negative regulator of that amplifier — it turns the knob back down.

“In the years since we've published, about 100 papers have been written confirming that AMP-K activators reduce pain,” he says.

Price advocates for repurposing existing medications and it just so happens that an omnipresent drug fits the bill for his project.

“We found that metformin, a drug used for Type 2 diabetes, has really strong effects as an AMP kinase activator,” Price says. “It is the most widely prescribed drug in the world. It's very safe and very inexpensive.”

With momentum building toward a prospective clinical trial for metformin, Price describes himself as “extremely hopeful.”

“If we find something that suggests we could use metformin for pain associated with chemotherapy, that's amazing,” he says. “That situation is becoming increasingly common. We could prevent a tremendous amount of suffering, then perhaps do more trials in other populations to increase the scope of these drugs.”

At the same time, Price has a backup plan. Through an NIH grant, CerSci Therapeutics —

a company Price helped to form to find nonopioid pain solutions — is working on more potent AMP-K activators for treatment of post-surgical pain.

“There’s a stigma against people who have chronic pain. Many are accused of being drug addicts or drug seekers, which is completely unfair.”

“We want to replace opioid use. That’s when most people become addicted, through a prescription for acute pain related to surgery,” Price says. “Pharmaceutical company Merck studied long-term dosing of AMP-K activators and proved these compounds are safe. I think there’s a great chance these compounds can be approved for a variety of diseases.”

Regardless of the strength of the evidence, Price knows that supplanting opioids in the market will be a tough task.

“The oldest pain medicines humans have are aspirin, marijuana and opioids,” Price says. “Can we eliminate reliance on them in the short term? Probably not. It may be that there’s simply nothing better than opioids for acute pain — for the first 24 hours after surgery or a horrific injury. But we can do better after that.”

From his experience with advocacy on the issue, Price knows it’s a slow battle.

“It’s going to take a coordinated effort, and a lot of political will. But we’re now equipped with data on two major fronts that moves the needle,” he says. “We know now that using opioids for acute pain increases the incidence of chronic pain. Secondly, opioid use for chronic pain really doesn’t do anything, and probably makes people even worse.”

Price can speak on that topic from experience. In 2006, a degenerative disk he’d dealt with since he was 17 pushed into his spinal cord, causing intense, debilitating pain “so severe that I could see it — a bright red glow.”

“I thought that I knew what really severe pain was like. I didn’t,” he says. “I’m just flat-out lucky that it went away. I had surgery that had a 50/50 chance at working, and it did. I can’t imagine having a productive life with that. I can’t imagine my wife having a productive life with me being in that state.”

With that understanding came a sense of empathy.

“There’s a stigma against people who have chronic pain,” Price says. “Many are accused of being drug addicts or drug seekers, which is completely unfair.”

Though he was already studying neuropathy when his injury happened, Price says his plight did change his sense of urgency for the problem — and his interest in taking his quest beyond the laboratory. He’s been involved in federal programs on the opioid crisis, including as a co-chair on the Federal Pain Research Strategy’s work group on the transition from acute to chronic pain.

If he’s to leave his mark in this pursuit, Price knows his advocacy is as likely as his research to make the difference.

“It’s totally ridiculous to think that I’m going to be the one to solve this problem,” he says. “It’s going to be hundreds, if not thousands, of people working together. But somebody has to champion that. And I, along with a couple other people around the country, have put in a lot of effort to do that. And what happened to me had a big impact.”



Dr. Ted Price co-chaired a work group for the Federal Pain Research Strategy.

The pain beyond our reach

DR. GREG DUSSOR is chipping away at a task many researchers have declined to take on.

His pursuit is to improve our understanding of migraine — a condition defined by recurring, severe headaches and associated visual issues and nausea, believed to affect one in every seven people worldwide.

That's a billion brains to care for, and the path to an effective treatment is long and poorly lit. Dussor was drawn to it for those reasons.



Neuroscientist Greg Dussor spearheads work on effective treatment of recurring migraine headaches.

“I had a colleague at the University of Arizona who was doing work on migraine,” says Dussor, a Fellow, Eugene McDermott Professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. “From conversations with him about the state of the field, what we know and don’t know, and how big a problem it was, it just became hard to ignore.”

“... with migraine — there’s a ton that we don’t know, and that tends to scare people away from doing work in this field.”

Dussor has spearheaded work on a protein called brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a potential cause of hypersensitivity to pain in migraine sufferers.

Difficulty in treating migraine sufferers stems from several issues, including an inability to pinpoint concrete symptoms and the disease’s gender imbalance.

“When you can’t find the problem with a brain scan or blood test, when there’s no biomarker, it’s natural for the medical community to say, ‘I can’t see anything wrong with you,’” Dussor says. “Combine that with the fact that migraine is three times more common in

women than in men — the medical community has failed to take it seriously. It wasn’t legitimized as a medical condition until the last few decades.”

The primary problem, though, is that the cause of a migraine simply hasn’t been determined.

“We don’t even know where a migraine comes from,” Dussor says. “With something like Parkinson’s disease, we know where the pathology is. We don’t know how it gets that way, and we don’t know how to fix it once it gets that way, but we know where the problem is. Not so with migraine — there’s a ton that we don’t know, and that tends to scare people away from doing work in this field.”

While most pain can be classified as either nociceptive — caused by damage to body tissue — or neuropathic — related to nerve damage — Dussor says migraine defies either description.





“It’s a completely dysfunctional pain state,” he says. “There’s nothing obvious driving it, and you can’t point to a single event or series of events — that we understand — and say ‘that’s where your migraine started.’”

Though migraine has several components beyond the pain, Dussor is focused on the element that matches his expertise — tackling the pain disorder.

“The first thing I ask is, ‘Where could the pain possibly be coming from?’” he says. “The brain is not sensitive to pain, but the meninges, the tissues that encase the brain and spinal cord, are heavily innervated with pain-sensing neurons. It makes sense that it would start there. But there’s no tumor, no stroke, no rupture — no evident cause.”

Simultaneously, other researchers attack the problem from a background of broader neurology, pursuing the symptoms that occur before the pain ever starts. Some people see an aura that indicates a headache is coming; others become disoriented or can’t stop yawning. Dussor hopes that the research efforts meet in the middle somewhere.

“You need a lot of people working on this from different angles,” he says. “This is too complicated for anyone to say, ‘It’s only this.’ It’s bigger than that. So as we try to model the headache component, we acknowledge our limitations. But if we ultimately come up with mechanisms that treat the headache phase and don’t treat the other phases of migraine, that is still a massive contribution. Patients will tell you it’s the pain that keeps them out of work.”

Another characteristic of migraine that cannot be ignored is its gender bias. Dussor explained that the pain-related differences between males and females could prove crucial, and he’s applying for new funding to explore this avenue of research.

“Our grant submission is based on the hormone prolactin and its role in migraine in females,” he says. “We hope to gain insight into why migraine is more common in women, and also develop ideas for therapeutics that may be female-specific.”

In a field that often seems far from a cure, it might seem easy to become discouraged. Dussor draws inspiration from the raw numbers of sufferers pulling for him and researchers like him.

“Anytime I give a talk, there’s always at least two or three people who will come up afterwards and just say, ‘thank you for the work you do,’” he says. “That’s the reward you get. This is an insanely common problem, but they know we’re trying to help.”

So Dussor beats on along an uphill path, knowing the goal at its end is worth the labor.

“In many respects, we’re in a very primitive phase of our understanding of migraine, and that needs to change,” he says. “It’s not going to change if people throw their hands up in the air and say this is a complicated thing, and we don’t want to do it. Somebody has to get on it.”

VNS Signals a Direct Approach

DR. ROBERT RENNAKER and his colleagues at the Texas Biomedical Device Center (TxBDC) target a different mechanism in their quest to reduce chronic pain.

The TxBDC team has designed a wireless implant that stimulates the vagus nerve — the longest, most complex cranial nerve — to help rewire the brain.

“Targeted plasticity therapy (TPT) involves stimulating the vagus nerve to release chemicals capable of reorganizing the brain in very specific ways,” says Rennaker, director of the center and Texas Instruments Distinguished Chair in Bioengineering. “By pairing sensory input or motor output movements with activation of the vagus nerve, we target pathways in the brain.”

The TPT approach would target pain generated by the central nervous system, not peripheral areas. A good example is phantom limb pain reported by amputees.

“If you lose your upper arm, you have a 58 percent chance of developing phantom limb pain,” says Rennaker, who also is head of the bioengineering department. “We think the cause, in most cases, is a lack of input from the missing limb. The part of the brain that processed that information is now passive. The regions of the body near that limb move into that part of the brain and cause it to expand and become hyperexcitable.”

TPT could reduce hyperexcitability by pairing vagus nerve stimulation (VNS) with sensory inputs from other body parts. Functional MRIs show the hyperexcited parts of the brain and help scientists identify the inputs for the surrounding brain areas, allowing them to drive nearby input areas into the hyperexcited region.



Dr. Robert Rennaker

“If the shoulder and face have moved into the part of the brain once associated with a missing hand, touch and heat stimulation of these other regions helps us move in and shrink that region down,” Rennaker says.

Trials are planned in spinal cord and multiple sclerosis patients, who suffer motor deficits and pain issues.

“Our first task is to get them where they can use their hands and legs,” he says. “As a follow-on study, we’d look at chronic pain.”

With the TxBDC technology, the full therapy cost for a patient could be limited to around \$3,000 — a tenfold decrease from similar current technologies. Rennaker hopes this yields a radical change in clinical care and research.

“Companies sell the traditional implant for about \$23,000, and that doesn’t account for the surgical cost,” he says. “Our solution is minimally invasive and cost-effective. I think this is really going to change how we approach neurological injuries and disease in the future.”

Pinpointing pain's origin

DR. ZACHARY CAMPBELL is still one of the new guys pursuing research at the Bioengineering and Sciences Building (BSB), but he's quickly making his mark.

At his Laboratory of RNA Control, Campbell's team has devised a way to block creation of the proteins that set pain in motion.

"We're trying to block pathological protein synthesis where it happens," says Campbell, an assistant professor of biological sciences in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. "When you have an injury, certain molecules need to be made rapidly. Learning how that unfolds, we might be able to design pain medication that is by its nature nonaddictive — it won't interact with the central nervous system because it acts where the injury is."

Campbell's approach intends to address both immediate and chronic pain — and in the process, give us a glance at how neurons "remember" pain.

"If I smash my hand with a hammer, for days after, even gentle touch is incredibly painful," he says. "A month after, even a minor injury to that area feels like I just whacked myself with a hammer again — the neurons haven't forgotten that original insult. These compounds block both the acute phase of pain and the longer-term memory."

Campbell describes individual peripheral neurons — those outside the spinal cord and brain — as akin to partygoers in a crowded room.

"They can all hear one another and communicate in a coherent way. Then someone starts screaming incessantly and won't quiet down," says Campbell, describing

hyperexcitability. "That ability to calm back down is what we think of as being the memory of a peripheral neuron. That's the process I'm trying to affect."

After an injury, instructions from the genome — the full genetic data present in each cell — are translated to create pain-signaling proteins. Those instructions are encoded in molecules called messenger RNA, or mRNA. Campbell's team constructed a new class of decoy RNAs that interrupt the pain-protein synthesis process that mRNA facilitates, reducing signs of inflammation and impairing pain behaviors.

When injected at the site of an injury in experiments on mice, the decoy showed the ability to reduce behavioral response to pain.

"When the goal is overcoming nature, you've got to use whatever tools are available."

"We're manipulating one step of protein synthesis," Campbell explained. "Our results indicate that local treatment with the decoy can prevent pain and inflammation brought about by a tissue injury."

One huge hurdle in creating such an RNA-based compound was overcoming the rapid metabolism of these molecules.

"Molecules that degrade quickly in cells are not great drug candidates. The stability of our compounds is an order of magnitude greater than unmodified RNA," Campbell says.

Campbell said that the project has vastly exceeded his wildest expectations for its first 18 months.

"It was kind of a risky, novel idea," he says. "We now think we can get at RNA binding proteins, which make up 5 percent of the genome, with minor medications."

The path of Campbell's pain research has led him to pursue answers to some fundamental neurological questions.

Chronic Pain May Work Differently in Males and Females

DR. TED PRICE BS'97 and his colleagues in the Pain Neurobiology Research Group have produced a study supporting a hypothesis that chronic pain works very differently in males and females, perhaps heralding the creation of gender-specific painkillers.

A specific manipulation of receptors in the brain for the neurotransmitter dopamine impairs chronic pain



“As I’ve gotten deeper into it, I’ve completely changed my perspective to asking, ‘If you have an injury, what changes?’ This gets at the molecular basis of memory itself,” he says. “In terms of the great questions in biology, if you can get close to touching ‘What is memory?’ what could be more remarkable than that? It’s one step removed from ‘What is consciousness?’ and I cannot imagine a more interesting problem than that.”

Campbell arrived at UT Dallas from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 2015.

“There are several factors that were really important for me in coming here,” he says. “First, Ted and Greg have helped to create an amazing, fertile area for doing pain research.”

Secondly, Campbell emphasized that his work — and many similar projects originating at BSB — wouldn’t be possible without collaboration. And that is just what the designers of the building, which opened in 2016, had in mind when they included glass-walled labs and open spaces for formal and informal discussions among the bioengineers, neuroscientists, biologists and chemists who call it home.

“The real strength of UTD from my point of view has been its agility, which comes from groups of scientists willing to take a chance and work together,” he says. “The support that exists as a result of this building can’t be overlooked. It’s what physically joined all of our labs together.”

Beyond the support of his colleagues, Campbell highlighted the role that the school’s funding of the core facilities plays. Core facilities are centralized research resources where various departments share the same technologies, services and spaces, encouraging interaction between diverse faculty members — a melting pot of innovation. Campbell credits Dr. Joe Pancrazio, a professor of bioengineering in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, with helping to bring core facilities to UT Dallas.



Assistant Professor Zachary Campbell was drawn to UTD because of the research collaborations and outstanding facilities.

“UTD has hit critical mass. There’s been a ton of support from the administration,” Campbell says. “Core facilities were an incredible institutional leap, and in the context of pain research, it has allowed us to apply these cutting-edge genomics methodologies to study notoriously poorly understood problems. That’s been transformative for what I do.”

With that institutional support, Campbell envisions his pursuit eventually broadening to neurological targets beyond pain.

“I think if we understand what’s happening in the simplified neuronal system that relates to pain, we could get broadly useful insights for treating other types of neurophysiological diseases,” he says.

That effort has required repurposing some medications, creating other new pharmaceuticals, and designing new methodologies to validate experiments — all in a battle against the oldest foe.

“When the goal is overcoming nature, you’ve got to use whatever tools are at your disposal,” Campbell says. ■

generation in male mice but not in females. The results were published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

“For the same magnitude of pain in a male and a female, the mechanisms that drive pain seem to be remarkably separate,” Price says. “What we’re learning is that different types of cells drive the development of pain.”

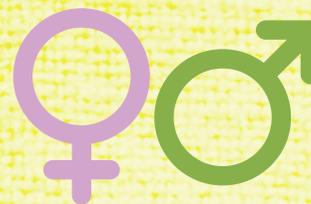
The experiment focused on a newly discovered pain mechanism related to D5 dopamine receptors. Mice that were engineered to lack these receptors showed significantly reduced pain responses — but only the males.

“If we see the same results in human tissues,” Price says, “it will support the idea that you could make a D5 antagonist drug to treat pain in men.”

Such results may soon yield a new model for pain relief medication.

“It leads me to believe that it’s fairly likely we’ll want to make male- and female-specific drugs for chronic pain,” Price says. “If not that, we may need to develop diagnostics to look at an individual’s cell types, so we can tailor the therapeutic based on the underlying mechanism. Either way, when you take what everybody has

done in the field, these differences are something that we have to pay very close attention to, and I feel like they are going to lead to the breakthrough we all really want.”



STAKING A CLAIM IN THE INTERNATIONAL ART SCENE



Ekaterina Kouznetsova BS'16

By Grace Gaddy

EKATERINA KOUZNETSOVA BS'16 is making her mark on the Dallas and international art scene as the founder of ArtMail, a subscription art service she conceptualized and launched just months after graduating.

The Russian-born Dallas resident serves as both creative force and personal curator at the company that mails subscribers museum-quality prints of new works from emerging international artists.

Kouznetsova parlayed the skills she learned in the University's marketing, global business and art history programs with immersion in the local arts that began her first year in college.

"When I was just a freshman, I started getting very, very involved in the Dallas arts scene, and it became apparent that that was the industry I wanted to work in," she says.

As a freshman, Kouznetsova landed a position at a local art gallery, followed by a fashion editor gig for Dallas-based magazine *THRWD*. From there, she was asked to manage marketing for Dallas designers Susie Straubmueller and Lucy Dang, and was soon brought on as the international art editor for *Nakid Magazine*, where she reviewed the work of eight to 10 new artists each week for two years.

All this exposure to the arts industry started to add up, she says, noting that "patterns began to emerge."

Kouznetsova observed how talented artists from around the world were facing similar challenges, namely a lack of both exposure and sustainable income.

"So often, [the art industry] comes off as a very sterile, unwelcoming place," she says. "And I thought, there's got to be a better way to fix all these issues."

In her final semester at UT Dallas,

Kouznetsova was taking 21 hours while also working as *Nakid's* international arts editor — the same semester she decided to start building her new business.

"I'm one of those

people that unless I'm overwhelmingly busy, I feel like I'm wasting time," she says with a laugh.

In 2016, Kouznetsova spent the summer abroad exploring the international market, primarily in London, as part of her global business studies. Following her August graduation, she drew from her expanded knowledge of art curation and launched ArtMail to the public later that year with a roster of 20 artists.

Kouznetsova used Instagram and a website to market the new business, which earned her a hat tip in the visual arts section of *The Dallas Morning News*.

The goal, she says, was simply to craft an open atmosphere for artists intimidated by traditional galleries, while also making emerging art and decor accessible to the general public.

"I try to ensure a steady stream of income for the artists so that they can keep on creating work," she adds. "Each artist receives a very, very generous commission that is higher than any other printing company by far, on both prints and originals."

Kouznetsova explains that most galleries and curators will keep as much as half of a work's selling price, but she takes "much less."

The subscriber receives a certified giclée print guaranteed to last 150 years, along with an artist interview and certificate of authenticity.

"I work to promote the stories behind the art and to create multi-cultural connections between artists and clients," Kouznetsova says. "This creates an extra level of connection and education between the collector and artist; it's not just going to a store and buying a random print."

So how does it all work? Kouznetsova says art lovers can sign up online, where they are prompted to pick their favorite paintings from a menu of options. The process, which takes about three minutes on the subscriber's end, provides Kouznetsova with enough information to curate a customized selection of artists and prints.

Prints are matted in specially designed environmentally sustainable frames "made of recycled biomatter with a clear light acrylic on the front with UV coating," she says. The bonus: They're incredibly light.

The company also offers original works for purchase, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

As for the future for ArtMail, "We're building a neural net," she says, "an AI as an experiment in art curation."

"We've actually already built it out in print data, with tens of thousands of referral points. For now, it's been surprisingly accurate, predicting pieces that I personally curate."

Kouznetsova hopes to eventually release the technology, but for now, all works are selected by the entrepreneur herself.

Her stake in the international art scene is expanding. Kouznetsova reports that she recently began a collaboration with curator Deve Sanford and the Ritz-Carlton in Abu Dhabi.

"ArtMail is creating connections between an artist in Thailand and a software engineer in Dallas," she says. "I'm very glad that I live in a world where I'm able to do that and facilitate those connections." ■





Brodie Steps up to Lead Development Board

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS Mike Brodie BS'76 is the new chair of the UT Dallas Development Board. Brodie will lead the group's efforts to promote the University in the community.

Brodie's appointment was approved at the annual fall board meeting. He replaces Phil Ritter, who served as board chair since 2010.

"As a graduate and neighbor of UT Dallas, the University has influenced my life for a number of years," Brodie said. "Now, it is time for me to give back to the University that did so much for me."

An industry leader for more than 40 years, Brodie and his partners opened the Plano office of Keller Williams Realty in 1997. Since its inception, he has served as broker/owner, expanding his duties to include operating principal in 2013. He also holds the operating principal role in the Maryland/D.C. region.

Brodie is active in the local community, volunteering his time and expertise with organizations such as the Lone Star Chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Greater Dallas United Way, Emily's Place and the Plano Chamber of Commerce.

1970s



Rev. Thomas Taylor MS'75 left a career in analytical instrumentation to attend Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He now serves as a minister in Texas. He is married to Christiann Dykstra and has a grown son, Austin. Taylor earned a degree in biology.



Diane McNulty MS'78, PhD'84 received the Sandi Haddock Community Impact Award from the American Heart Association in Dallas. She is the associate dean of external affairs and corporate development for the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

1980s



Timothy Canning BGS'81 is a commissioner for the Humboldt Superior Court in California. He had served as interim commissioner since March 2017. After being admitted to practice law in California in 1990, Canning worked with a small litigation and probate firm in San Francisco before opening his own practice in 2001.



Dr. Luis A. Montes BA'81, a pediatrician in Manatee County, Florida, is a member of the board of directors for Coastal Behavioral Healthcare. He holds a degree in biology.



Dr. Allan Bailey BS'82 is acting director of the Food and Drug Administration's division of food contact notifications. Bailey joined the FDA in 1992. He earned a degree in chemistry.



Rhonda L. Price BS'83, who has more than 30 years of global and national-level human resource experience, is the senior vice president of human resources for EnLink, which provides services in natural gas, crude oil and other commodities. She graduated with a degree in public administration.



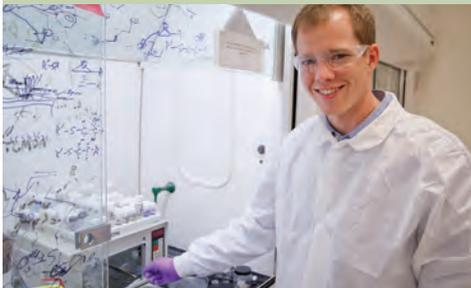
Sam Moser BGS'84 is senior vice president of national sales for FOX News Channel in New York City. He has worked in the company's sales force since 2005. He previously held executive sales positions at the Game Show Network and Viacom.

Baseball Standout Making Name for Himself as Engineer, Entrepreneur

A FORMER STUDENT-ATHLETE-turned-engineer is now working to improve the lives of other athletes.

Jonathan Reeder BS'12, PhD'16 is a post-doctoral researcher at Northwestern University where he develops soft, flexible sweat collection systems for athletic performance monitoring. He visited the Chicago Cubs baseball team to test out some of his devices during spring training in 2017.

“I didn’t think baseball at UT Dallas would later lead to working with professional athletes, and certainly not as an engineer to measure the sweat of these athletes to inform them about their performance and health,” Reeder said. “My journey really has come full circle.”



As an undergraduate, Reeder could be found in one of two places: the research lab or the baseball field.

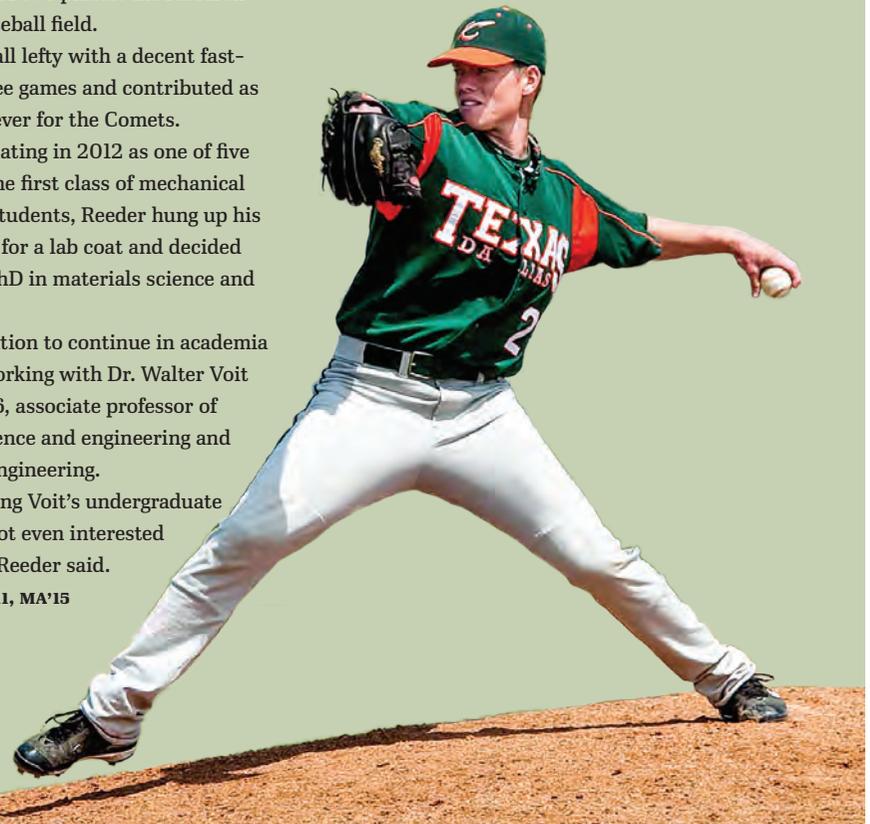
Reeder, a tall lefty with a decent fastball, won three games and contributed as a middle reliever for the Comets.

After graduating in 2012 as one of five students in the first class of mechanical engineering students, Reeder hung up his baseball mitt for a lab coat and decided to pursue a PhD in materials science and engineering.

The inspiration to continue in academia came from working with Dr. Walter Voit BS'05, MS'06, associate professor of materials science and engineering and mechanical engineering.

“Before taking Voit’s undergraduate class, I was not even interested in research,” Reeder said.

—Chaz Lilly BA'11, MA'15



Troy Baumann MS'87 is co-founder and managing member of North Shore Healthcare in Glendale, Wisconsin. He earned a degree in management and administrative sciences.



Lisa Danzer BS'88, MS'92 earned a 2017 *Dallas Business Journal's* Women in Technology Award for her work with the DFW Alliance of Technology and Women, a nonprofit striving to increase the number of women in technology fields and in executive positions. She earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a master’s degree in management and administrative sciences.

1990s



Gerry D. Baker BS'90, EMBA'06 is senior vice president for revenue cycle management for Dallas-based Parkland Health & Hospital System. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and an executive master’s degree in business administration.



Steven Bullitt BA'92 is the vice president of threat intelligence and incident response for NTT Security in Omaha, Nebraska. Prior to that, he served in the Secret Service — including overseeing cyber and criminal investigations in North Texas and the presidential protection detail — and worked for the Dallas Police Department. Bullitt played football for Texas A&M in the 1980s before being drafted into the NFL by the Cleveland Browns in 1987. He graduated with a degree in interdisciplinary studies.

Sagduyu Among First Douglass Fellows



Cory Sagduyu (left) joined her brother, Evin, and parents, Kelley and Kemal Sagduyu, at Memories on the Mall after the May 2015 commencement ceremony for the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

CORY SAGDUYU BS'15 was selected for the inaugural class of the Douglass Fellowship.

Created by the Human Trafficking Institute, the nine-month program is named for Frederick Douglass and is inspired by his political and social ideals. Fellows are selected based on their leadership potential, commitment to human rights and academic ability, among other traits.

As part of the fellowship, Sagduyu was paired with a mentor who works on anti-trafficking initiatives. Her mentor is Laura Rundlet, acting deputy director of the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Sagduyu — who graduated with a degree in political science — was a McDermott Scholar. During her time at UT Dallas, she was a member of the women's cross country team and interned at the White House Office of the National Economic Council through the Archer Fellowship Program.

She is currently attending the University of Virginia School of Law.



Shelley Compton MBA'93 is manager of the telecommunications and technology division for engineering firm M S Benbow & Associates in Metairie, Louisiana. She previously worked for Textron Marine & Land Systems as the company's vice president of lifecycle support.



Joyce Ann Konigsburg BSCS'93 successfully defended her dissertation and graduated in May 2016 with a doctorate in systematic theology from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She and her husband, Brian, live in Maryland, where she is a visiting assistant professor of religious studies at Notre Dame of Maryland University. She graduated from UTD with a degree in computer science.

2000s



Melissa Melton BA'00, Teacher Certification'03 is executive director of special programs for Rockwall Independent School District. She previously worked in special education for various school districts in Texas. Melton earned a degree in literary studies.



Vik Thapar BS'00 was promoted to partner at Cypress Growth Capital, an investment firm based in Dallas. Thapar joined the company in 2012. He previously was a venture capitalist for an investment fund sponsored by the state of Texas. Thapar also spent time in the information technology field. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.



Dr. Jordan Asher MS'01 is chief clinical officer of St. Louis-based Ascension Care Management. When not in the office, Asher enjoys spending time playing golf and reading Civil War books. He also was once a member of a hot-air balloon race team. Asher earned a master's degree in healthcare management.



Brian Livingston MBA'01, MS'02 is chief financial officer of Firebird Restaurant Group LLC. The Dallas-based company oversees restaurants such as El Fenix and Snuffer's.

Livingston, a city councilman for Frisco, Texas, was part of the Firebird team that helped acquire El Fenix in 2008. He returns to the company after a three-year stint as the chief executive officer of Celebrity Café & Bakery.



Dr. Claudia (Hardin) Mason MS'01 was honored by the Palm Beach County Medical Society in West Palm Beach, Florida, with a 2017 Physician Hero award. Mason has been

practicing medicine for over 35 years. She also serves on the board of directors for the Susan G. Komen Foundation of South Florida. She holds a degree in medical management.



Todd Outten EMBA'01 is vice president of sales for home furnishing manufacturer Twin-Star International in Delray, Florida. He has more than 25 years of sales leadership experience.



Dr. Ryan Ahrens BA'02 is principal and co-founder of Argent Pictures, a film financing, production and development company based in Malibu, California. Among the company's

projects are Nate Parker's *The Birth of a Nation*, Mel Gibson's *Hacksaw Ridge* and most recently Tom Cruise's *American Made*. Argent has also added star athletes Drew Brees, Tony Parker, Derrick Brooks and Michael Finley as partners. Ahrens graduated with a degree in economics.



Phil Lozano BS'02 is the parks and recreation director for the city of Highland Village, Texas.

He previously served as assistant director for the city of DeSoto, and has worked for the cities of Allen and Dallas and for the Richardson Independent School District. Lozano holds a degree in public affairs.



Dr. Vu Tran BS'02 runs the comprehensive eye care, dry eye clinic and post-op care at Lasercare Eye Center in Irving, Texas. He graduated with a degree in biology.



Helping Autistic Children in Lebanon

NOURA ALAMEDDINE BS'15, MS'17 holds two homes, half a world apart, close to her heart.

Born in Beaumont, Texas, raised in Midlothian, and a resident of the Metroplex for the majority of her life, she is unquestionably Texan.

But she also is proud of her Lebanese roots, and she is determined to help children in Lebanon, using the training and expertise she has amassed on the subject that became her passion: autism spectrum disorder.

Alameddine's quest to help countless families better understand their children's diagnoses began while observing her own relatives.

"When I was in high school, my cousin in the Middle East was diagnosed with autism," said Alameddine, who earned a master's degree in human development and early childhood disorders. "He was 2 years old when they started seeing indications but didn't get diagnosed officially until he was 4 or 5. It was a messy, drawn-out process. I kept thinking to myself, 'Why can't they figure it out? It shouldn't be that hard, right?'"

Upon graduating in December, she crossed the Atlantic to begin working in a hospital. For Alameddine, the ideal long-term outcome is to create her own venue for autism-specific care.

"I want to open up my own center one day," she said. "My goal ultimately is to educate parents and provide services for children at that clinic." —**Stephen Fontenot**



Paolo Cando BS'05 and Czarina Cando BA'05, MBA'13 welcomed their first child, Alexis, in 2017, and are expecting their second in July 2018. #FutureComet! Paolo earned degrees in computer science and software engineering, while Czarina graduated with a degree in arts and technology and an MBA. She is a member of the web services team in the University's Office of Communications.

Shelby Vincent MA'05, PhD'15, a research associate in the Center for Translation Studies and managing editor of *Translation Review*, published her translation of Carmen Boulosa's *Heavens on Earth [Cielos de la Tierra]* with Deep Vellum Publishing. The novel is narrated by three protagonists living in distinct centuries in which Boulosa imagines a world where language is banned, memories are obliterated and history is erased.



R. Carter Pate MS'03, a distinguished alumnus, is interim chief executive officer of social services company Providence Service Corp. in Dallas. He previously served as CEO of MV Transportation Inc. and also spent nearly two decades in leadership positions at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Pate earned a degree in accounting and information management. During the 2017 Comets Giving Day, Carter and Angela Pate committed to a challenge gift that established the first endowed accounting scholarship in the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

Mitzi Chamakala Chollampel MBA'04 was named a "2017 Airport Business Top 40 Under 40" by *Airport Business* and was recognized with a 2017 *Dallas Business Journal's* Women in Business Award, specifically for her work in the tourism industry. The DBJ annual awards celebrate influential women throughout North Texas who make a difference in business and in their communities.



Finny Mathew BS'04 is president of INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center in Enid, Oklahoma. He joined INTEGRIS in 2006 as an administrative resident before leaving to ultimately become chief executive officer of Crossroads Community Hospital in Mount Vernon, Illinois. Mathew holds a degree in business administration.



Chau Uong BADD'04, BA'04, D.O., is a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Physician Partners of America in Hurst, Texas. He is a member of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the American Osteopathic Association, Association of Academic Physiatrists and Spine Intervention Society. Uong graduated with degrees in biology and sociology.



Michael Bruno BS'05, Teacher Certification'05 is assistant principal at Brent Elementary School in the Little Elm Independent School District. He began his teaching career in Little Elm, Texas, as a math and science specialist. He received a Teacher of the Year award for 2016-17. He graduated with a degree in interdisciplinary studies from UTD and later earned a master's degree in education from Concordia University.



Floun'say R. Caver PhD'05 is chief operating officer/deputy general manager of operations for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. He is responsible for 2,100 employees providing all bus, rail and paratransit services. Caver completed a doctorate in public affairs. His supervising professor was the late Dr. Larry D. Terry.



Neil Farquharson MBA'05 is the marketing director at Dallas-based Reporting USA Inc., where he promotes a number of brands. Since graduating from UTD, he's held several senior marketing roles, first promoting highly technical solutions using traditional marketing, then migrating to web-based digital marketing and more recently being highly focused on marketing analytics. He recently became an adjunct professor in the Naveen Jindal School of Management.



Courtney Caldwell MBA'06 and her husband, Dr. Tye, co-founders of the ShearShare app, won \$100,000 in the Dallas Diversity & Inclusion Investment Challenge and pitched at the 2018 Google for Entrepreneurs Demo Day in Silicon Valley. The mobile-based B2B startup is the first to allow stylists to rent space to work by the day in cities all over the world.



Mark Cox BS'06, MBA'09 is a managing director in the Chicago office of Riveron Consulting, a national business and financial advisory firm. He joined the company in 2013. Prior to joining Riveron, he was in the assurance practice at Ernst & Young. Cox, who played four years for the UTD baseball team, earned a degree in accounting information management and an MBA.



Todd Gabel MS'07, PhD'11 is a clinical assistant professor in the College of Business at UT Arlington. His research interests include microeconomics, welfare policy, labor economics and industrial organization. Gabel holds both a master's degree and a doctorate in economics.

AI Innovator Showcases Humanoid Robot

"IF WE ARE SMARTER and focused on win-win type of results, AI could help proficiently distribute the world's existing resources like food and energy."

That's what Sophia, a humanoid robot created by **David Hanson PhD'07**, said during a 2017 United Nations meeting on artificial intelligence. Sophia, designed to look like Audrey Hepburn, even had an interview with United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed.

The robot has made appearances on NBC's *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, *Good Morning Britain* and the South by Southwest conference in Austin.

Hanson, a distinguished alumnus, is founder and chief scientist at Hanson Robotics. He earned a doctorate in aesthetic studies.





■ Congratulations to **Joe Sustaita BS'07, MS'08** and **Debbie Sustaita BS'01** on the adoption of son Kaiden in October. The couple, who met on campus through their involvement in FOCUS (Fellowship of Christian University Students), were introduced to Kaiden as a newborn and became foster parents to him. Still active on campus with FOCUS, the Sustaitas look forward to showing Kaiden their brick on Legacy Lane.



Todd Zavodnick EMBA'06 is chief commercial officer and president of aesthetics and therapeutics at Revance Therapeutics Inc., a biotechnology company in Newark, California.



Carlos Harleaux BS'07, MA'15 published his seventh book, *No Cream in the Middle*. Harleaux earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in emerging media and communications.



Elizabeth Leak MA'07 is tax director of Preston Hollow Capital, an independent specialty finance company based in Dallas. She was formerly a senior manager with Weaver Financial. Leak graduated with a degree from the Naveen Jindal School of Management.



William F. Rayburn MBA'07, a distinguished professor and associate dean at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, is chairman of the board of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. The council sets and enforces standards in physician continuing education for more than 2,000 health institutions and organizations in the United States.



Mike Knox BS'08 is senior vice president of sales for Virginia-based Nehemiah Security, a cybersecurity software and services company. Knox previously worked for DLT Solutions, Oracle and LexisNexis. Prior to joining the business sector, he pitched three years in the New York Yankees minor league system before an injury forced him to leave the game.



Matt Kratz MA'08 has worked in the University's print shop since 2000. In his spare time, he works as a freelance writer and has also volunteered at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders and Make-A-Wish. Kratz graduated with a degree in humanities.



Dr. Alexander Raw BS'08 is a faculty member at Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine in the obstetrics and gynecology department. A McDermott Scholar, he graduated from UTD with a degree in chemistry.



Duncan Havlin MBA'09 is national sales manager for OnSSI, a maker of video surveillance management software in Pearl River, New York. He previously served as the company's western regional manager for five years.



Rick Holland BS'09 is chief information security officer and head of information technology for Digital Shadows, a digital risk management and threat intelligence firm in San Francisco. He has more than 14 years of experience in information security. Holland earned a degree in business administration.



Todd Jordan MPA'09, PhD'13 is president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Wyandotte County in Kansas, which operates or financially supports 51 nonprofit programs and partners with 38 agencies. At UTD, he focused on research in organizational change, public policy and city planning. He also served as a coach for the debate program and was a member of Pi Alpha Alpha Public Affairs Honor Society.



Sid Keswani MBA'09 is chief executive officer of Fiesta Mart LLC, which has 65 stores in Austin, Houston and the Dallas-Fort Worth areas. Keswani previously worked at a real estate development firm in Austin and as an executive with Target Corp. and Stripes LLC.



Library Lands 'Airplane as Art' Collection with Gift from Alumnus

JERRY COMER MS'77 donated a series of 302 aviation-themed photographs by renowned photographer Bob Seidemann to the Eugene McDermott Library's special collections department.

The "Airplane as Art" series has been described as one of the most ambitious photography portfolio projects of the 20th century. It contains portraits of pilots, aerobatic teams, astronauts, cosmonauts and others.

"Many of the photos in the collection are of aircraft or parts of aircraft that are abstract and beautifully shot or framed really artistically," said Thomas Allen PhD'09, University archivist. "They're all black and white, so there's a lot of shadow and detail."

Although it was Seidemann's lifelong passion that inspired his aviation project, he earned a reputation as one of the most respected rock 'n' roll photographers of his generation. He photographed Janis Joplin and the Grateful Dead.

Comer's previous gifts to the University include more than 350 photographs that capture scenes of American life from the mid-to-late 20th century, as well as more

than 300 books and periodicals relating to modern and contemporary art and photography.

—**Jill McDermott**

Marilyn and Jerry Comer MS'77



2010s

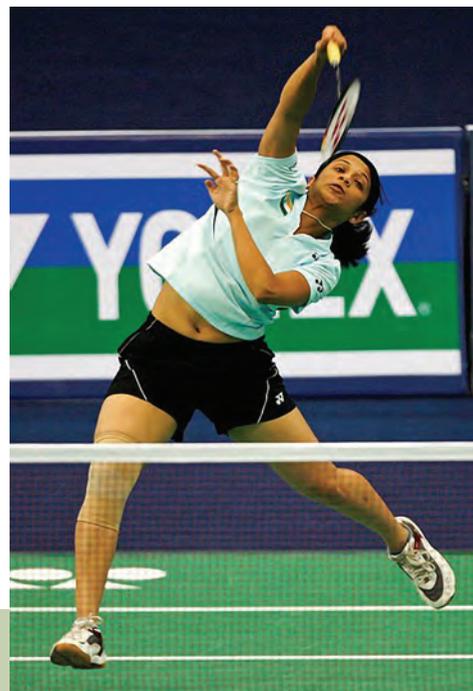


Jenna (Mitchell) Turnage MPA'10 is director of corporate partnerships with the Charleston, South Carolina Metro Chamber of Commerce. She graduated with a degree in public affairs.

Daniel Kao BS'11 has established a nonprofit venture based in Taipei, Taiwan, to help people travel for less and to encourage the use of some of those savings to go toward his favorite charitable causes. His travel guide can be found at www.danstravelguide.com. While at UTD, Kao was a member of Toastmasters, Students in Free Enterprise and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.



Melanie Loehrlein BS'13 landed her first job as a general dentist in 2017 at the Ryan Dental Group in Allen, Texas. Loehrlein, who earned a degree in biology, is pictured during graduation from dental school with her husband, **Chris Loehrlein BS'15**. She met Chris during her senior year at UT Dallas.



Former Badminton Pro Focuses on Serving Others in Home Country

After retiring from playing professional badminton in India, **Aditi Mutatkar MPA'17** had to figure out her next career move.

The 30-year-old wanted to combine her love of sports with her desire to solve a problem in her country. She found a way to do that while working on a master's in public affairs.

Mutatkar, who had relocated to Dallas after getting married, took courses in the program's nonprofit track. She focused her research projects on ways to help expand the limited physical education and organized sports available in India's public schools.

For one of her courses, she designed a strategic plan for Art of Play, a New Delhi-based nonprofit that provides physical education curriculum and training to India's public schools.

Mutatkar started playing badminton at age 9. In an international career spanning over 15 years, she won five national championships across all age groups, retiring in 2014 due to injuries.

Mutatkar hopes her work will help other children learn about perseverance, teamwork and competition through sports. —**Kim Horner**



Gottfried Laubichler BS'13, MBA'15, MS'15 is a senior investment banking analyst for Capital Alliance Corp. in Dallas. He earned three degrees from the Naveen Jindal School of Management.



Dr. Christopher Dunnahoo MS'15, a practicing physician for Leading Edge Medical Associates in Longview, Texas, was elected to the American Health Council's Board of Physicians and was bestowed the council's Best in Medicine, Leader in Medicine Award. He also is the medical director of Champion EMS, which is also based in Longview. Dunnahoo graduated with a degree in healthcare management.



Ben Ely MA'15 is a marketing and communications manager for Phi Kappa Psi in Indianapolis. He previously worked as a sports information director for Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Ely graduated from UTD with a degree in emerging media and communications.



Esteban Bustillos BA'16, a former editor of *The Mercury* student newspaper, is working at 89.7 WGBH, Boston's NPR station. His first on-air story highlighted football games taking over Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox. Bustillos graduated with a degree in international political economy.



Thea Junt MS'16, MBA'16, former UTD associate director of energy conservation and sustainability, has joined Children's Health System of Texas as its sustainability manager. While at the University, Junt oversaw such programs as the campus butterfly waystations, green buildings and Eco-Reps, a student internship opportunity through the Office of Sustainability. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi honor society.



Julia Craig BS'17, a former member of the Comet volleyball team, was one of 160 students selected to join the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Rocky Vista University in Parker, Colorado. She graduated from UTD with a degree in biology.



Cassandra Porter MS'17 is a therapeutic horse-riding instructor and child development specialist at Paws for Reflection Ranch, an animal therapy business in Waxahachie, Texas. She graduated with a degree in human development and early childhood disorders.



Richard Riner PhD'17, pictured with his supervising professor Dr. Nadine Connell, joined the faculty of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. He is an assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice. Riner received a doctorate in criminology from UTD.



UTD NIGHTS AT THE BALLPARK

Join University alumni and friends for two memorable nights of baseball

FRISCO ROUGHRIDERS VS. NORTHWEST ARKANSAS NATURALS
August 18 | 7:05 p.m.
Dr Pepper Ballpark
First 1,000 kids will receive a free back-to-school backpack
alumni.utdallas.edu/roughriders

TEXAS RANGERS VS. LOS ANGELES ANGELS
September 3 | 7:05 p.m.
Globe Life Park
First 1,000 Comets fans to purchase discounted tickets will receive a limited edition UTD-themed Rangers hat
texasrangers.com/utdallas

For more information, visit alumni.utdallas.edu or call 972.883.2586

Christian Olivera BS'15 and **Annyoli Diaz BS'16** were married on Oct. 14, 2017. The two met while working toward business degrees in the Naveen Jindal School of Management. Christian is working as a financial coordinator at Toyota's North America Headquarters and Annyoli is a financial representative for New York Life Insurance. Happy Whooshes to this stellar couple!



Ravi Gattamaraju BS'15 and **J. Michelle Abuda BS'14, MS'15** had been dating for seven years when they tied the knot on June 24, 2017, in a ceremony in Denton, Texas. Best Whooshes to the happy couple! (Photo by Annie Shannon)



Are you and your sweetheart both Comets?

Whether you met on campus or connected post-graduation, visit alumni.utdallas.edu/cometcouples and let us capture your cosmic love story.



*Remembering
Mrs. Margaret McDermott*

1912-2018

MARGARET MILAM MCDERMOTT, whose philanthropic gifts made historic impacts on the educational and arts institutions of her native city of Dallas, has died at the age of 106. As the pre-eminent private benefactor of The University of Texas at Dallas, she made a sequence of major gifts to the University, starting in 1995 and continuing through this past autumn, that have profoundly transformed the human and physical dimensions of UT Dallas.

Remembering Mrs. Margaret McDermott 1912-2018

Margaret Milam was born on February 18, 1912. She grew up in Munger Place, now a historic district of Dallas, and graduated from Highland Park High School in 1929. After her college years, she spent five years as the society editor of *The Dallas Morning News*, describing the experience in her 2012 memoir *Reflections* as “equal to a PhD in living and learning.” In 1943, she joined the American Red Cross, serving in India at the air base from which American pilots flew supplies “over the hump” into China. She remained with the Red Cross after the end of World War II, spending three years in Germany and one in Japan, where the devastations left by the war made profound impressions on her.

She married Eugene McDermott and the couple made their home in Highland Park. McDermott, who was a pioneer in applying seismography to oil exploration, founded, together with partners Erik Jonsson and Cecil Green, the company that became Texas Instruments. Subsequently, these three partners also created a privately funded research institution, the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, which in 1969 they gave to the state of Texas to become The University of Texas at Dallas. Eugene McDermott, who died in 1973, was a major supporter of education and research, and in addition to his role in the creation of UT Dallas was a major supporter of MIT, which he and his partners posited as the model for their fledgling university.

During their marriage, the McDermotts created a significant collection of French Impressionist art, a joint enterprise that Margaret McDermott has described eloquently in her memoir. Over the 45 years since Eugene McDermott’s death,

Margaret carried on and expanded, through the McDermott Foundation, now headed by daughter Mary McDermott Cook, and through personal gifts, the philanthropic leadership roles that she and Eugene had initiated. Some of the primary local beneficiaries of McDermott support have been the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Symphony, the Dallas Opera, The Hockaday and St. Mark’s schools, and the UT Southwestern Medical Center. On a broader scale, the McDermott philanthropy has encompassed arts and educational organizations across the U.S. and internationally.

Margaret McDermott’s first transformative gift to UT Dallas, in 2000, established the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program with an endowment of \$32 million, along with endowed chairs for the president and provost, named in honor of Eugene McDermott and the McDermott’s longtime close friend, Cecil Green. In developing the details of her gift, she drew upon the advice of her longtime friends and colleagues Ross Perot, Peter O’Donnell, and Louis Beecherl.

Five years later, in 2005, highly gratified by the early success of the McDermott Scholars Program, Mrs. McDermott asked Provost Hobson Wildenthal what she could do next to further advance the University. He told her that a truly transformative impact could be made by contributing funds to improve the existing landscape of UT Dallas. (Years earlier, a national publication had characterized the campus appearance as resembling an abandoned warehouse.) She understood Wildenthal’s message, and solicited the advice of her friends Ray Nasher and Roger and Carolyn Horchow. This led to the selection

of famed architect Peter Walker to design and implement a total transformation of the University’s 500-acre campus. With her final gift of last autumn, the McDermott contributions to the widely acclaimed new UT Dallas campus have totaled more than \$50 million.

In 2009, after passage by the Texas Legislature of the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP), which provided matching funds for private donations to the University designated for research, she made the first major gift to UT Dallas that qualified for TRIP matching, with the resulting combined benefit to UT Dallas amounting to more than \$14 million. The latest fruits of that gift were celebrated this April 27 with the investiture of 10 early- and mid-career UT Dallas faculty leaders as Fellow, Eugene McDermott Professor.

As her support of UT Dallas grew over the years, and the University’s achievements and stature grew in concert, Margaret McDermott recalled with satisfaction that her husband had prophesied that history would conclude that UT Dallas had been his most significant philanthropy. She derived tremendous personal gratification from the successes of her McDermott Scholars, and she and they enjoyed their many meetings together, both while the Scholars were students, and even more so as they became alumni passionately devoted to their alma mater and to the iconic human being who had helped transform their lives. Similarly, the universal enthusiasm of students, faculty, and members of the larger community for the landscape creations of Peter Walker also provided her with continuing intense satisfaction.



Margaret and Eugene McDermott



Margaret McDermott with McDermott Scholars, Alumni Awards Gala, April 2016



The founders and their wives. From left: Ida Green, Cecil Green, Margaret Jonsson, Erik Jonsson, Margaret McDermott and Eugene McDermott.



Margaret and Eugene McDermott look at a model of the Phase II buildings of the UT Dallas campus including the Eugene McDermott Library with Bryce Jordan (right), first president of UT Dallas.

In the last several years of her life, feeling ever-greater enthusiasm for what she and her husband had created and nurtured over the years at UT Dallas, she created the Eugene McDermott Graduate Fellows Program, in analogy with the McDermott Scholars Program. Her gift of \$14 million, matched with \$10 million of TRIP funds, will support in perpetuity a leadership cadre of doctoral students at UT Dallas. She also created endowments for the directors of the two McDermott programs and an endowment to honor her longtime friend professor Rick Brettell by way of the Brettell Award in the Arts, to be awarded every other year, similar to the McDermott Prize at MIT. Her last endowment gift, of \$10 million, designated to support undergraduate research, was made with the condition that the UT Dallas Honors College be named in recognition of longtime UT Dallas Provost Hobson Wildenthal.

Finally, in support of newly appointed UT Dallas President Richard Benson, Mrs. McDermott made a culminating gift of \$25 million to UT Dallas to support the construction costs of the new engineering and science buildings now under construction and of the planned Wallace Athenaeum. In all, since 1990, the McDermott gifts to UT Dallas add up to more than \$154 million.

President Benson recognized Mrs. McDermott's unmatched role in shaping UT Dallas into the institution it is today.

"I believe that our founders would be proud of how the University that they envisioned has evolved, and for years, Margaret McDermott has

been a driving force in fulfilling that vision," said Benson, who holds the Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership. "She was the brilliant and benevolent philanthropist who challenged us to continuously reach new heights of success."

Executive Vice President Hobson Wildenthal collaborated with Mrs. McDermott in implementing her visions for UT Dallas over these last 26 years. Wildenthal, in reflecting about that long relationship, remarks "I first remember meeting Mrs. McDermott at the dedication of the Cecil and Ida Green Center in the summer of 1992, soon after my arrival in Dallas. I had the good fortune that she knew my name by virtue of her friendships with my brother Kern and with my first cousin, Carolyn Kellam Curtis, of Austin. As was universally the case with her, she was supremely gracious and friendly, but it appeared that she no longer was deeply involved in the affairs of the University that her husband had created."

"Over the 1990s we focused at UT Dallas on recruiting ever stronger freshman classes, and I took care to keep her informed of our growing success. After several years, I submitted proposals for funding of freshman scholarships to the McDermott Foundation, and received positive responses, with gifts that were at the time very important. Then, in the spring of 2000, she called and said that she wanted to do something of major significance for UT Dallas and wanted my advice on what it should be. I met her at her ranch on a very brisk, sunny and windy, Saturday

morning and we went for one of the hikes across her pastures that she so treasured. I told her that my vision was a McDermott Scholars Program at UT Dallas modeled on the Morehead Scholars Program at the University of North Carolina, and that I had a package of material for her describing that program. She replied, 'I don't need it, I know all about the Morehead Program.' The success of the new McDermott Scholars Program was the foundation that inspired all of her further transformative support of the University."

Wildenthal continues, "Margaret McDermott was a singularly impressive human being in every dimension: indefatigably energetic and persistent, focused on and dedicated to lofty goals, and immensely elegant and gracious in her dealings with the total spectrum of her multitude of acquaintances. She clearly took as her mission the continuation of Eugene McDermott's own dedication to benefiting humanity through research and education, and expanded that vision to include the benefits of great art and music. Everyone who interacted with her could not escape being inspired by her dedication to these goals and by the style and effectiveness with which she pursued them. The only simple word for her is 'noble;' she was a natural aristocrat, a Dallas and Texas patriot who was simultaneously an engaged and sophisticated citizen of the world."

If you would like to share your memories of Mrs. McDermott, please email us at utdallasmagazine@utdallas.edu.

REMEMBRANCES OF *University Alumni*

MARCIA BEENE BA'96, November 30, 2017, Dallas, Texas. She earned a bachelor's degree in literature from the School of Arts and Humanities.



RODNEY BLAIR BA'06, October 16, 2017, Denison, Texas. A talented musician, Blair played guitar and keyboards in several North Texas-based jazz and rock bands.



LORENZO BOLDWARE EMBA'10, November 4, 2017, Garland, Texas. Boldware graduated with an executive master's degree in business administration.



GREGORY COMBS BA'03, MA'08, PHD'09, January 18, 2018, Austin, Texas. A former UTD professor, Combs later worked as a senior principal applications engineer at Oracle Corp.

AMANDA INGRAM CRISP BA'79, October 2, 2017, Paris, Texas. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in art and later worked as a dental technician.



JOHN FELDER VI BS'86, September 18, 2017, Garland, Texas. Felder served in the U.S. Air Force and later became a private pilot. He graduated with a degree in marketing.



EUGENIA FURBER BA'77, October 30, 2017, Fort Worth, Texas. She earned a degree in psychology and later managed her husband's medical practice.



MICHAEL HAWKINS MS'86, September 13, 2017, Dallas, Texas. Hawkins worked as a certified public accountant for Texas Utilities for 30 years until retiring in 2016.



J.B. JENKINS BS'79, September 20, 2017, Waxahachie, Texas. Jenkins worked for Collins Radio in Richardson for many years. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics.



SONIA KELLEY BA'07, October 16, 2017, Denison, Texas. Kelley graduated with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies.



JEAN L. KENNEDY MS'00, November 17, 2017, Fort Worth, Texas. Kennedy earned a master's degree in communication disorders and went on to work as a speech language pathologist.



CATHY LONG MS'87, November 1, 2017, Kerrville, Texas. Long worked as a speech pathologist for the Veterans Affairs hospital in Kerrville.



CADMUS "CADDY" MCCALL II MS'95, December 30, 2017, Carrollton, Texas. McCall served as president of Farmer & Merchants National Bank before later becoming a computer programmer and software developer.



EDWARD MCCAMEY BA'78, November 16, 2017, Wills Point, Texas. He graduated with a degree in anthropology.

MERCEDES PATTERSON BA'80, October 1, 2017, Benbrook, Texas. Patterson was a former director of the Dallas County Nursing Home ombudsman program and also worked as a research associate with the Dallas Geriatric Research Institute.



BRADLEY PHILLIPS BS'14, September 7, 2017, Charlotte, North Carolina. Noted for his good-natured and easy-going personality, Phillips worked in sales for Lennox.



CAROLINE ROBERTS MA'08, September 17, 2017, Richardson, Texas. Roberts graduated with a master's degree in studies in literature from the School of Arts and Humanities.



LAURIE SANDEFER PHD'07, January 23, 2018, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. With a doctorate in aesthetic studies in hand, she moved to Mexico, where she opened a community performance and event venue.



JASPREET SIDHU BS'01, January 28, 2018, Dallas, Texas. Sidhu had a passion for medicine and helping people. He worked at Medical City Dallas and Arlington on high-risk obstetrics.



KATHLEEN JOHNSON SOARD BS'96, November 7, 2017, Plano, Texas. Soard had a longtime career as an accountant with Hewlett Packard.



GARY SUDER MS'94, October 25, 2017, McKinney, Texas. Suder worked for Texas Instruments in the defense group before later working in the space and airborne systems division of Raytheon.



ANDREA TRUE BA'91, November 15, 2017, Dallas, Texas. True had a long career in marketing and later in the hotel industry.



JEREMY WESTERMAN BS'17, January 2, 2018, Mesquite, Texas. Westerman pursued a passion for physical fitness as a fitness trainer.



Keep Us Informed

If you learn of the death of a UT Dallas alumnus, faculty, staff or friend, please send information to alumni@utdallas.edu or to

UT Dallas Magazine
800 W. Campbell Road, AD14
Richardson, TX 75080-3021

REMEMBRANCES OF

University Faculty, Staff and Friends

RUTH COLLINS SHARP
ALTSHULER, 1924-2017



Ruth Altshuler, long-time supporter of the University's Callier Center for

Communication Disorders, died in December at the age of 93.

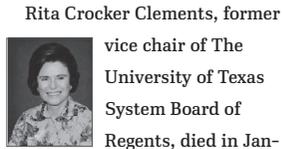
Altshuler was known as a tireless volunteer and civic leader in Dallas. Over the decades, she raised millions of dollars for area charities.

Altshuler achieved many firsts in her lifetime, among which were becoming the first female chairperson of the SMU Board of Trustees and being the first woman to serve on a grand jury in Dallas (the one that indicted Jack Ruby for killing Lee Harvey Oswald).

In 1987, she married Dr. Kenneth Altshuler, former chairman of the department of psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center. They enjoyed a long marriage filled with happiness and humor, celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary just two days before she died.

The Callier Center for Communication Disorders annually presents the Ruth and Ken Altshuler Callier Care Award to an individual or group who has contributed significantly to the betterment of the community and to advancing the care of patients with communication disorders.

RITA CLEMENTS, 1931-2018



Rita Crocker Clements, former vice chair of The University of Texas System Board of Regents, died in January at the age of 86. She served on the Board of Regents from 1996-2007.

Widow of Texas Gov. Bill Clements, she is remembered by family and friends for her dignity, elegance and exquisite style, which combined with her tremendous intellect allowed her to assume leadership roles in political, community and philanthropic causes.

Clements attended high school at the Hockaday School in Dallas and attended The University of Texas at Austin.

Her multitude of volunteer activities extended to the Salvation Army, the United Way of Dallas, Southwestern Medical Foundation and trusteeships at St. Michael and All Angels School and the Hockaday School. One of her proudest contributions was serving as a director of the O'Donnell Foundation from its inception in 1957 until assuming her director emeritus role in 2016.

Her many projects as Texas' first lady included promoting volunteerism, tourism, public education, and job training programs for women on welfare, the latter inspired by her earlier volunteer work with the Salvation Army.

ADAM MARIAN DZIEWOŃSKI, 1936-2016



Adam Marian Dzięwoński died in 2016 at the age of 79. He was born in Lwów,

Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine). After earning degrees in seismology, he moved to the United States in 1965 to work as a research associate in the geosciences division of the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest in Dallas — UT Dallas' precursor institution. He became an assistant professor in 1969 before joining the faculty of Harvard University in 1972.

Dzięwoński was born in the year in which the Earth's inner core was discovered. He went on to be involved in major discoveries about this deepest layer of Earth, highlighted by providing the first direct evidence that the inner core is solid, settling the debate over its nature.

He was instrumental in the founding of the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology, a U.S. research consortium with more than 100 university members, and of the Federation of Digital Seismic Networks, an international organization that supports seismological research.

CAMERON OWEN
ZIMMERMAN-RANDLE, 1983-2017



Cameron Zimmerman-Randle, an extended hours

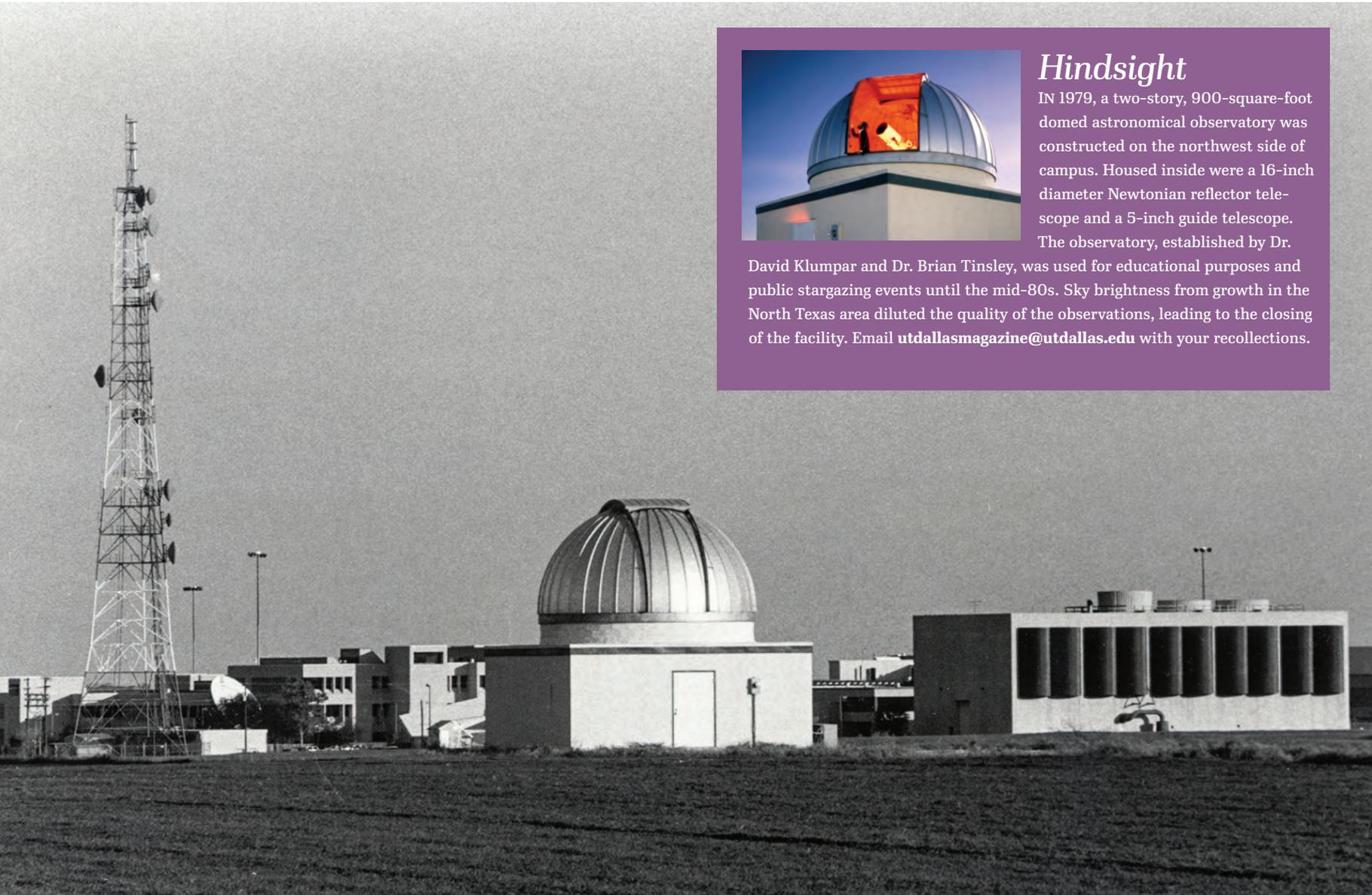
supervisor at the Eugene McDermott Library, died in November at the age of 33. An avid cyclist, he was hit by a car while riding his bike.

Zimmerman-Randle began working at the McDermott Library as a library assistant in fall 2015 and was later promoted to supervisor.

Dr. Ellen Safley, dean of the McDermott Library, said, "Cameron was a valued member of our team. We will remember his professionalism and his kind and generous personality and his great smile."

Born in Waco, Texas, Zimmerman-Randle grew up in North Texas. He spent several years in Tampa, Florida, where his father, Ervin Randle, played in the NFL. Zimmerman-Randle joined the Army in 2003, serving in South Korea and Egypt. He was honorably discharged in 2007.

In 2015, Zimmerman-Randle earned a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in journalism from Texas A&M Corpus Christi. He is survived by his wife, Lindsey.



Hindsight

IN 1979, a two-story, 900-square-foot domed astronomical observatory was constructed on the northwest side of campus. Housed inside were a 16-inch diameter Newtonian reflector telescope and a 5-inch guide telescope. The observatory, established by Dr.

David Klumpar and Dr. Brian Tinsley, was used for educational purposes and public stargazing events until the mid-80s. Sky brightness from growth in the North Texas area diluted the quality of the observations, leading to the closing of the facility. Email utdallasmagazine@utdallas.edu with your recollections.