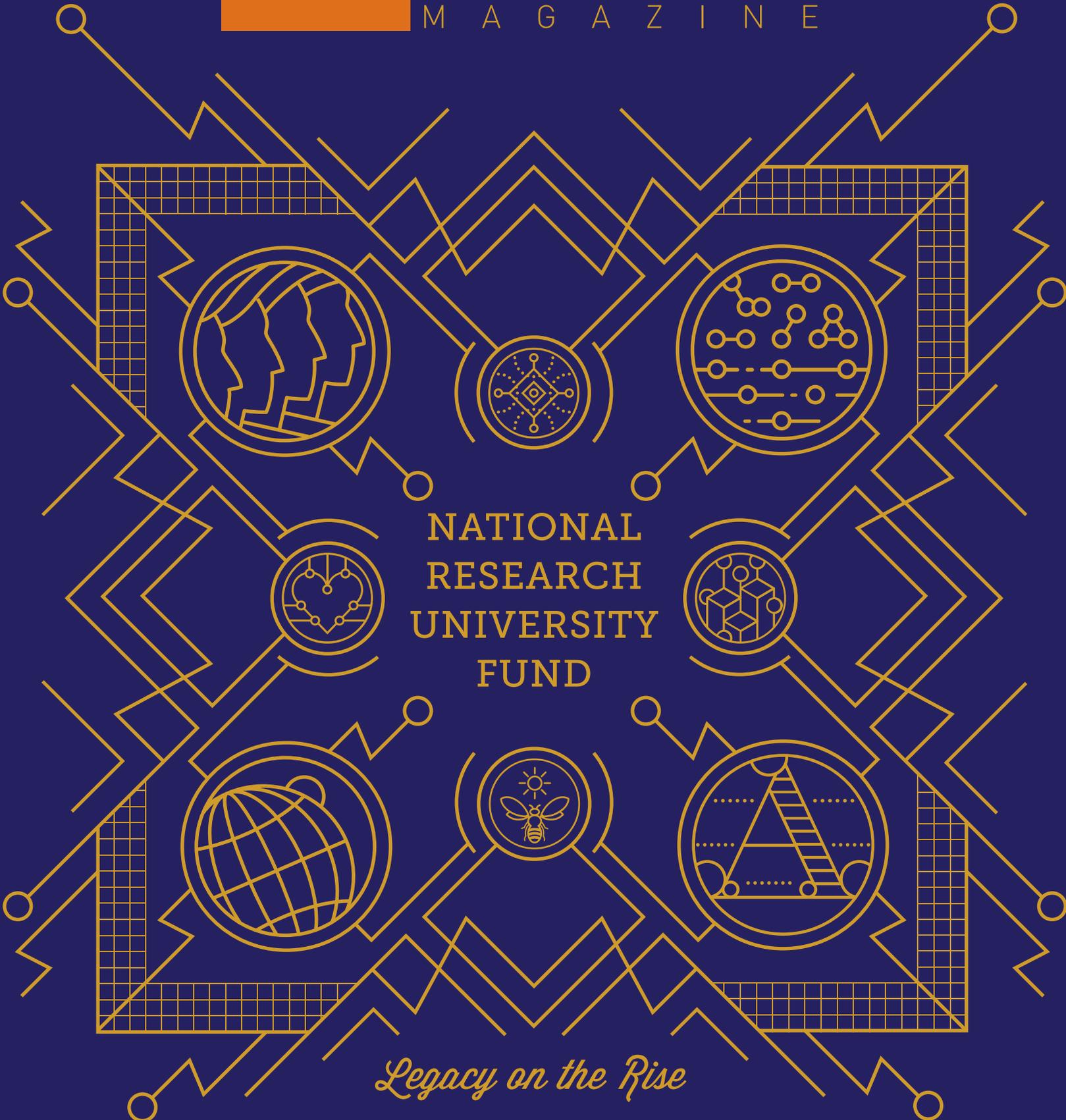


UT DALLAS

MAGAZINE



NATIONAL
RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY
FUND

Legacy on the Rise





"Here comes the sun." Faculty, staff and students welcomed the arrival of summer on June 21 with a sunrise yoga session hosted by University Recreation at the newly named Margaret McDermott Trellis Plaza.

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A Whoosh Heard 'Round the World

UT DALLAS PRESIDENT Richard C. Benson threw out the first pitch at the Texas Rangers game at Globe Life Park in Arlington on Sept. 3.

Staff, faculty, students and alumni were on hand to cheer as part of UTD Night at the Ballpark, during which a special UTD-themed Rangers cap was handed out to fans.

#MyUTD

WHAT'S AN AVERAGE day like in the life of a Comet? Well, that depends. With eight schools, 14 sports teams, over 300 student organizations and nearly 28,000 students, there's about a million different possibilities.

From Student Government to Ultimate Frisbee, engineering to arts and technology, or home-cooked meals to takeout — each of our student stars has a different story on any given day.

Follow along on our Twitter and Instagram social media channels with #MyUTD as students take you through one day as a Comet, highlighting everything from academics, sports, and the challenges of laundry to, of course, food.



ON CAMPUS



Between 1960 and 1962, the up-and-coming Beatles honed their skills by playing shows around Hamburg, Germany.

Before They Were Fab

DR. ZSUZSANNA OZSVÁTH has an endless supply of stories to tell. Some are heartbreaking, and others are full of mirth. This is one of the latter.

The tale begins in 1962 when Ozsváth and her late husband, Dr. Istvan Ozsváth, stepped out for supper with some friends in Hamburg, Germany.

When they arrived at the establishment, the group noticed that many of the tables and chairs were stacked to the side. The room, uncrowded when they arrived, swelled with more and more people as the evening went on.

“Suddenly four guys came up on stage,” Ozsváth recalled. “They didn’t look very clever.”

To Ozsváth, a classically trained pianist, the band’s rock ‘n’ roll style was like oil is to water. The dinner party soon left in search of a quieter place.

“We were having such a wonderful discussion,” she said, “but we couldn’t talk, and we couldn’t hear one another because of the unbearable music that was playing.”

Fast forward a few years.

“We had just bought a television. I was in the other room and suddenly Pista [her husband] calls me in to see a band playing on a program,” Ozsváth said. “It was the band we saw at the restaurant.”

A guest soon arrived for coffee and conversation, and Ozsváth asked about the band playing. The friend paused and said, “Well, they’re the Beatles.” —Paul Bottoni



Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies, is founder and director of the Holocaust Studies Program.



As a **Jewish child** growing up in Hungary, she and her family survived the Holocaust only to face hardships under the country’s communist post-war government.



In 1963 Ozsváth’s late husband, **Dr. Istvan Ozsváth**, joined the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest—the precursor institution to UT Dallas. Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth became a member of the faculty in 1983. In the years since, as a professor of literature and history, she has taught, undertaken various translation projects and worked on Holocaust studies, among other scholastic ventures.



In 2010 she published a **memoir**, *When the Danube Ran Red*, which describes the experiences of her childhood.

RESEARCH



Geoscientists Suggest ‘Snowball Earth’ Resulted From Plate Tectonics

ABOUT 700 MILLION years ago, the Earth experienced unusual episodes of global cooling that geologists refer to as “Snowball Earth.”

Several theories have been proposed to explain what triggered this dramatic cool down, which occurred during a geological era called the Neoproterozoic. In an article published in the April 2018 issue of the journal *Terra Nova*, geologists at UT Dallas and UT Austin suggest that those major climate changes can be linked to one thing: the advent of plate tectonics.

Plate tectonics is a theory formulated in the late 1960s that states the Earth’s crust and upper mantle—a layer called the lithosphere—is broken into moving pieces, or plates. These plates move very slowly—about as fast as fingernails and hair grow—causing earthquakes, mountain ranges and volcanoes.

“Earth is the only body in our solar system known to currently have plate tectonics, where the lithosphere is fragmented like puzzle pieces that move independently,” said Dr. Robert Stern, professor of geosciences and co-author of the study, along with Nathaniel Miller PhD’95 at UT Austin. “It is much more

common for planets to have an outer solid shell that is not fragmented, which is known as ‘single lid tectonics.’” Stern said.

Geoscientists disagree about when the Earth changed from single lid to plate tectonics. Stern highlights geological and theoretical evidence that plate tectonics began between 800 million and 600 million years ago, and he has published several articles arguing for this timing.

In their study, Stern and Miller provide new insights by suggesting that the onset of plate tectonics likely initiated the changes on Earth’s surface that led to Snowball Earth. They argue that plate tectonics is the event that can explain 22 theories that other scientists have advanced as triggers of the Neoproterozoic Snowball Earth.

“The fact that strong climate and oceanographic effects are observed in the Neoproterozoic time is a powerful supporting argument that this is indeed the time of the transition from single lid to plate tectonics,” Stern said. “It’s an argument that, to our knowledge, hasn’t yet been considered.”

—Amanda Siegfried



COOLEST OLD THINGS IN THE LIBRARY

#1



Take a Look at the Smallest Book in the Library

We won’t blame you if you overlook *The English Bijou Almanac for 1836*.

The 19th-century miniature book, which is smaller than a quarter, features six engraved portraits of famous figures—including Lord Byron and the Renaissance artist Raphael—as well as poems by 19th-century English writer Letitia Elizabeth Landon, a calendar and lists of the members of the British royal family and the crowned heads of Europe.

The English Bijou Almanac is on display in the special collections department of the Eugene McDermott Library.



Crushin' It: Fans Rock School Spirit

UT DALLAS ATHLETIC teams have filled a trophy case with league awards over the past few years, and these winning outcomes for the Comets are attracting more fans to home games. In the past two seasons, record crowds – primarily consisting of boisterous students – have filled the UTD Activity Center gym to give the Comets a true home-court advantage.

While nothing gets a crowd excited like winning, it also helps to have the Crush Crew on hand. Formed as the official student spirit organization, Crush Crew is a driving force behind the revitalized school spirit on the campus in recent years.

“Students are the ones who bring the passion and energy to any college campus,” said Valerie Hoops, former athletics marketing coordinator who now works in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

“In order to create an exciting game-day atmosphere, we wanted to get more students to the games, and Crush Crew has given us the means to do that,” she said. “Crush Crew has done a great

job of forming a community of friends who boost school spirit and support their fellow Comets.”

Ali Nourani-Dargiri, Crush Crew president, has a vision for uniting students from across campus to cheer on the Comets. “The idea of being part of a crowd of rowdy, dedicated fans is what university life is all about,” the political science senior said.

Joining with other fans is simple. Using a **free smart phone app** called UTD Crush Crew, fans can register their attendance at every Comets home game and earn points redeemable for rewards like UTD apparel, gift cards and other merchandise. Fans can also use the app to share photos and social media posts from athletic events, as well as get information about future events and activities. Last year more than 800 students downloaded the UTD Crush Crew app.

To become an “official” member of Crush Crew, students pay a \$10 fee. Members get a Crush Crew T-shirt to wear to games, special seating at all home games and an invitation to other Crush

Crew-only events. Last year, Hoops estimates each member received over \$200 worth of food and gifts.

“Crush Crew has provided a spark for building a much more involved student body at UTD events,” said Tasia Wilson BA’18, who was one of the original members of the group in 2016. “Our goal has always been to bring together students from different backgrounds into one unified force.”

The organization hosts Crush Crew rallies that include food, music and other activities – all in the name of recruiting new members. Last year, there were over 60 official members.

“Although our initial numbers were small, we believe we’ve created a solid foundation,” Nourani-Dargiri said. “Any new tradition comes from modest beginnings. We plan to spend a lot of time on outreach this year, appealing to different groups to become a part of Crush Crew.”

–Bruce Unrue



RESEARCH

Study Suggests Ties Between Socioeconomic Status and Adult Brain

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN that a developing child's brain structure and function can be adversely affected when the child is raised in an environment lacking adequate education, nutrition and access to health care.

While the impact of such an environment on children is relatively well understood, a study from the Center for Vital Longevity (CVL) examines an effect that is not so clear—the relationship of socioeconomic status (SES) to brain function and anatomy in adults.

The study, led by CVL researchers and published in the May 29, 2018, issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, found that the adult brain may actually be sensitive to social and economic factors.

“We know that socioeconomic status influences the structure of the brain in childhood and older age, but there's been a gap in the research. We wanted to see if there were relationships between SES and the brain across a wider range of adulthood,” said **Dr. Gagan Wig**, assistant professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences and corresponding author of the study.

The SES of each of the study's 304 participants was approximated using standard methods that combine education and a measure of occupational prestige. The SES measure also was correlated with individual income and reports of subjective SES standing.

To measure brain function, the researchers used functional MRI to collect a type of brain scan that shows how an individual's functional brain networks are organized. In addition, the researchers used anatomical brain scans to measure the thickness of cortical gray matter in each individual's brain.

In middle-aged adults, ages 35 to 64 years, a higher socioeconomic status was associated with more efficiently organized brain networks and thicker cortical gray matter. Those who ranked lower in SES tended to have less well-organized functional brain networks and a thinner cortex. A thinner cortex can contribute to cognitive impairment later in life, such as memory loss and dementia.

“We know less about the impact of brain network organization on later life outcomes, but these results suggest that it is worth further study,” Wig said.

The relationship between SES and the brain measures was diminished in the elderly. The scientists suggest that this may be due to the fact that older age can be associated with greater brain changes that obscure any SES relationships.

“These data provide a snapshot in time for each participant,” said the study's lead author **Dr. Micaela Chan** MS'12, PhD'16, a postdoctoral researcher in Wig's lab. “Following individuals through their life-spans would provide more information about brain changes and their relationship to life events and status.”

Participants were recruited from the Dallas-Fort Worth community through the Dallas Lifespan Brain Study, a brain-aging study started and led by Dr. Denise Park, CVL director of research, UT Regents' Research Scholar, Distinguished University Chair in Behavioral and Brain Sciences and a contributing author of the study.

The work was supported by the National Institute on Aging and the James S. McDonnell Foundation. —Alex Lyda



COOLEST OLD THINGS #2 IN THE LIBRARY



All About Stamps

Philately (fi-lat-l-ee). *noun*. The collection or study of stamps and other postal matter as a hobby or an investment.

The library has an entire collection dedicated to the craft—the **Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library**.

Since its founding in 1976, the collection provides researchers and collectors with thousands of books, journals and catalogs to peruse.

Some areas of note in the collection include Confederate postal history, the detection of forgeries, postal histories of U.S. states and air mail philately. The library is also home to the records of the Texas Philatelic Association and the San Antonio Philatelic Association.



COOLEST OLD THINGS IN THE LIBRARY #3



The Oldest Book in the Library

The oldest book in the Eugene McDermott Library is *Herbarium Latinum*. The 1499 volume by Arnaudus de Villanova is part of the Belsterling Collection.

The collection was started by Louise Babcock Belsterling, who taught gardening for many years and published her *Planting Manual for Dallas Gardens* in 1941.

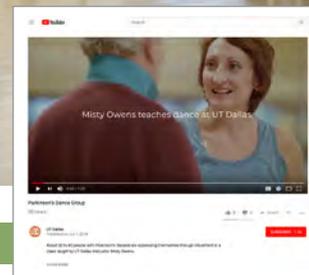
Belsterling was an active member of the Dallas Garden Club of the Dallas Woman's Club and was considered an authority on Dallas gardening. Her extensive private library included rare books covering horticulture and botany.

Each year, the Louise B. Belsterling Foundation of the Dallas Garden Club donates funds to add to the growing number of books in the collection, which today holds more than 400 items.

ARTS AND CULTURE



To view a video of the class in action, please visit utd.edu/t/4486



Dance Helps Parkinson's Patients Transcend Disease

DANCING IS CONSIDERABLY more than it seems. The movements and motions are obvious, but UT Dallas' Misty Owens, a senior lecturer in dance, said it's about the physical and mental process of thought, emotions and inspiration that create the expression of dance.

In addition to teaching her classes at UTD, Owens utilizes that philosophy as she leads dance classes for individuals who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease — a neurodegenerative disorder that affects movement.

She tries to surprise and challenge the class with choreography meant to stimulate the mind and body, while nurturing and encouraging them through the shared experience of dance.

"In dance class, participants are liberated from their disease," Owens said. "They are able to explore all of the possibilities of movement and expression — because expression is so valuable for just bringing you back to who you are, taking away the mask of the disease."

Owens is one of three founding teachers of Dance for PD, launched as a nonprofit collaboration between the Mark Morris Dance Group and the Brooklyn Parkinson Group in New York. The program has since expanded to 250 communities in 24 countries.

A Dallas group of 35 to 40 people meets twice a week in a spacious dance studio at Texas Health

Presbyterian Dallas. The Dance for PD class includes modern, ballet, jazz, tap and world dance. The majority of the time is devoted to movements that are done while seated, then standing with support, then walking and dancing without support.

One of the class participants, Bobbi Myers, said she began taking ballet lessons when she was 7 years old and continued dancing, eventually joining the Sacramento Ballet Company in California. She said that while she experiences some frustration that her movements have been curtailed, the class feeds her soul.

"It's more than just a dance class; it's a community support system. We care about each other, and we try to support each other as we travel through this journey with Parkinson's and other movement disorders," Myers said.

While each participant's experience is different, many say the disease's progression has been slowed or, in some cases, they have experienced smoother movements since they joined the dance class.

"I encourage each person, embracing each step that they take, as they enhance their talents through dance vocabulary and movement combinations resulting in greater self-confidence," Owens said. "This self-confidence permeates the entire person, affecting all of their activities, creating more ambition, drive and self-assurance." —Phil Roth

RESEARCH

Crystals Could Help Computer Chips Keep Their Cool

UT DALLAS RESEARCHERS and a team of colleagues have created a potential solution to overheating electronics—heat-conducting crystals.

Whisking heat away from the circuitry in a computer's innards to the outside environment is critical. Overheated computer chips can make programs run slow or freeze, shut the device down altogether or cause permanent damage.

The problem is that heat management for increasingly smaller and faster electronics is reaching a bottleneck. With current technology, there's a limit to the amount of heat that can be dissipated from the inside out.

UTD researchers and their collaborators at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Houston have created a potential solution, described in a study published in the Aug. 10, 2018, issue of *Science*.

The team produced crystals of a semiconducting material called boron arsenide that have an extremely high thermal conductivity, a property that describes a material's ability to transport heat.

"Heat management is very important for industries that rely on computer chips and transistors," said Dr. Bing Lv, assistant professor of physics and a corresponding author of the study. "For high-powered, small electronics, we cannot use metal to dissipate heat because metal can cause a short circuit. We cannot apply cooling fans because those take up space. What we need is an inexpensive semiconductor that also disperses a lot of heat."

Most of today's computer chips are made of the element silicon, a crystalline semiconducting material that does an adequate job of dissipating heat. But silicon, in combination with other cooling technology incorporated into devices, can handle only so much.

In 2013 researchers at Boston College and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory published research that predicted boron arsenide could potentially perform exceptionally well as a heat spreader. In 2015 Lv and his colleagues at the University of Houston successfully produced such boron arsenide crystals, but the material had a fairly low thermal conductivity.

Since then, Lv's work at UT Dallas has focused on optimizing the crystal-growing process to boost the material's performance.

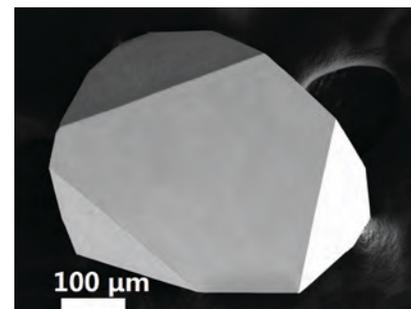
Lv worked with postdoctoral research associate Dr. Sheng Li, co-lead author of the study, and physics doctoral student Xiaoyuan Liu, also a study author, to create the high thermal conductivity crystals using a technique called chemical vapor transport.

Dr. David Cahill, co-corresponding author, and Dr. Pinshane Huang's research groups at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studied defects in the boron arsenide crystals by state-of-the-art electron microscopy and measured the thermal conductivity of the very small crystals produced at UT Dallas.

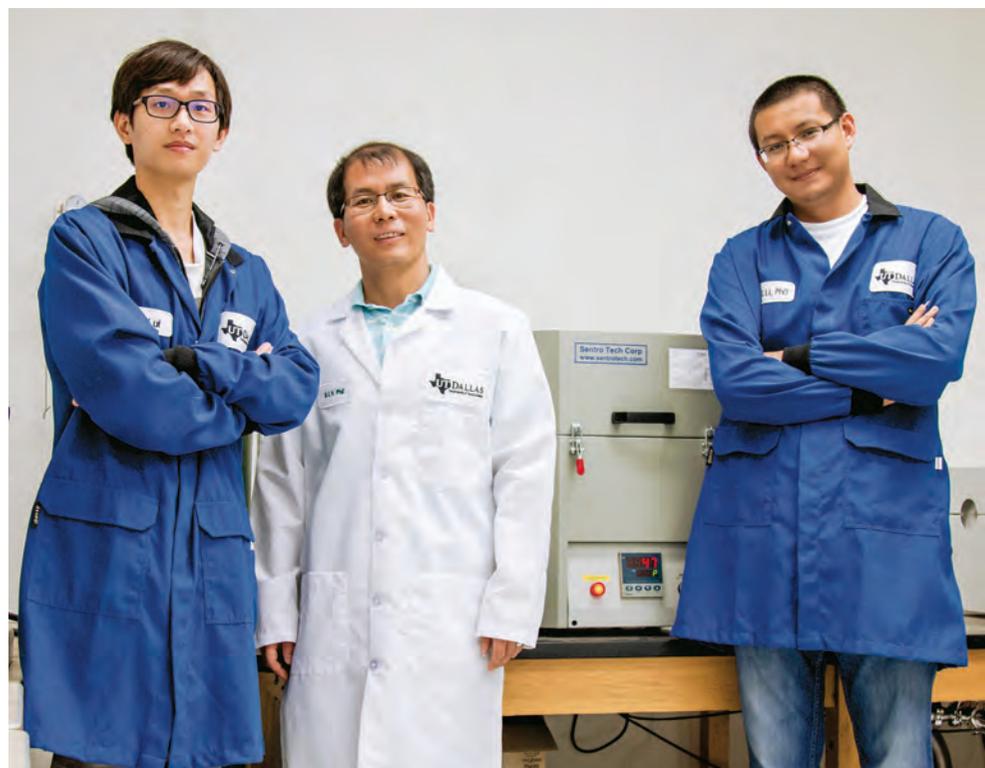
"I think boron arsenide has great potential for the future of electronics," Lv said. "Its semiconducting properties are very comparable to silicon, which is why it would be ideal to incorporate boron arsenide into semiconducting devices."

Lv said that while the element arsenic by itself can be toxic to humans, once it is incorporated into a compound like boron arsenide, the material becomes very stable and nontoxic.

The research was supported by the Office of Naval Research and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. —Amanda Siegfried



Above: A crystal of boron arsenide
Below, left to right: Study authors Xiaoyuan Liu, Dr. Bing Lv and Dr. Sheng Li



ON CAMPUS



Distinguished Alumni, Supporters Honored at Awards Gala

As if the night weren't special enough for Nobel laureate Aziz Sancar PhD'77, he received a surprise after collecting the University's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award — a visit with former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Drew Pearson.

2018 Awards Gala Honorees

Lifetime Achievement Award

Aziz Sancar PhD'77

Gifford K. Johnson Community Leadership Award

State Rep. Helen Giddings

Green and Orange Award for Alumni Service

Jerry L. Comer MS'77

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Gabriel Dawe MFA'11

Chuck Butler BS'91

Satyajit P. Doctor MS'91

PEARSON GAVE SANCAR, a longtime Cowboys fan, a commemorative UT Dallas football signed by himself and Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach. It was a memorable moment to cap a memorable night.

Sancar was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2018 Awards Gala, during which alumni and friends gathered to celebrate the distinguished accomplishments and dedicated service of six award recipients. This was the first year for the event to be held at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center.

Sancar, who is the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, earned a PhD in molecular and cell biology from UTD and won the 2015 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

After graduating at the top of his medical school class in his native Turkey and serving as a physician there, Sancar came to the U.S. to learn more about the underlying mechanisms of disease, including the field of DNA repair. He said the research he pursued with the late Dr. Claud Stanley Rupert, who conducted seminal research in the field of light-activated DNA repair and was one of the founding faculty members of UTD, provided the foundation for his life's work.

“UTD is really the cause and the source of my success in science,” said Sancar, who presented the 2018 Anson L. Clark Memorial Lecture on campus the day before the Awards Gala. “My mentor, Dr. Rupert, is the man who made me a scientist. UTD is home for me.”

State Rep. Helen Giddings received the Gifford K. Johnson Community Leadership Award, which is named for the first and only president of the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, the predecessor to UT Dallas.

“I have worked alongside my UTD family for the advancement of the University and creating a better state for students, and I think we’ve made great strides,” Giddings said. “When we improve education, we improve lives.”

Over the course of 13 terms in office, Giddings placed a high priority on education. Her advocacy was crucial to the development and state funding of the University’s Academic Bridge Program.

“Each of us has a responsibility and an obligation to pay some rent for the space that we occupy on Earth,” she said. “None of us can do everything, but all of us can do something.”

A dedicated supporter of UT Dallas, **Jerry L. Comer MS’77** received the Green and Orange Award for Alumni Service. Comer, a retired project manager and engineer, said he was honored and surprised by the award. He has donated a number of photographs from his personal collection to the University and sponsors an annual guest photographer program to enrich academic experiences for graduate students.

“Just recently, the school has seen fit to dedicate a special space on the north end of campus for the Comer Photography Collection, and we’re looking forward to great things coming out of that,” he said.

Distinguished Alumni Award recipient **Gabriel Dawe MFA’11** recognized his professors, many of whom were in attendance, for their support and influence during his years as a student and throughout his career as a visual artist.

While a student, Dawe began to create pieces that are part of his Plexus series. Some of his pieces can be viewed in the Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History and in the Bioengineering and Sciences Building.

“My time at UTD was particularly special because of my stay at CentralTrak,” said Dawe, who was a part of the UT Dallas Artists Residency program. “It was really fundamental in my development, and it really holds a dear place in my heart.”



UT Dallas President Richard C. Benson (right) gathers with gala honorees (from left) Satyajit P. Doctor MS’91, Jerry L. Comer MS’77, Aziz Sancar PhD’77, State Rep. Helen Giddings, Chuck Butler BS’91 and Gabriel Dawe MFA’11.

“A good university actually helps somebody achieve far more than what they could on their own. That is exactly what UTD has done for me. Now, UTD is giving me opportunities to pay it forward.”

Satyajit P. Doctor MS’91

Chuck Butler BS’91, a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, reflected on his path after graduation.

“I don’t think I’m any different than any of the people I graduated with,” he said. “We were all looking for an opportunity like the one the school gave to me. When you take opportunity and preparedness and put them together, greatness will happen.”

Butler, founder and managing partner of Palomino Capital, credits his successful career with allowing him the time and resources to support causes near to his heart, such as cancer research, his temple and his children’s schools.

“My career isn’t what I do – these activities and nonprofits and mission-based organizations are who I am,” he said. “Without this University, I would never have been able to take this path.”

The University has continued to play a prominent role in the life of Distinguished Alumni Award recipient **Satyajit P. Doctor MS’91**. He is co-founder and president of Award Solutions, a company he launched with a UT Dallas classmate. He now employs 20 UTD alumni.

Passionate about encouraging young people to develop interests in science and business, Doctor serves on the executive council for the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science.

“A good university actually helps somebody achieve far more than what they could on their own. That is exactly what UTD has done for me,” he said. “Now, UTD is giving me opportunities to pay it forward.”

Sponsors of the 2018 Awards Gala were Award Solutions, Axxess, the city of Richardson, Highland Capital Management and Palomino Capital.

–**Jill Blevins**

COOLEST OLD THINGS IN THE LIBRARY
#4



Aviation Collection Lands at New Location

The History of Aviation Archives, one of the library's largest special collections, now has its own dedicated space.

The new location in Synergy Park North includes a 24-seat research room, a conference room and special spaces for artifacts, including items from the CAT (Civil Air Transport)/Air America Archives and James H. Doolittle Collection.

Among the archive's highlights are Gen. Doolittle's Medal of Honor, custom dinnerware for the German airship Hindenburg and a range of Braniff Airways memorabilia. But wait – there's more. The archives is also home to thousands of photos and documents.

The aviation collections were previously housed on the third floor of the Eugene McDermott Library.



RESEARCH

PTSD Researchers Win Nearly \$7.4M DOD Grant

A UT DALLAS neuroscience research team led by Dr. John Hart Jr. received a nearly \$7.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense for a multisite study on a novel treatment protocol for post-traumatic stress disorder.

The researchers are seeking up to 330 military veterans with combat-related PTSD for the study, which will include both repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) and cognitive processing therapy (CPT). The funding comes after publication of the team's *Journal of Affective Disorders* study, which indicated that CPT for PTSD is more effective when paired with rTMS.

"Dr. Hart's efforts in addressing PTSD with state-of-the-art neurotechnology is an excellent example of the innovative, high-impact research conducted at UT Dallas, consistent with our Tier One status," said Dr. Joseph Pancrazio, vice president for research and professor of bioengineering.

Hart, the Distinguished Chair in Neuroscience in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, will work with co-investigator Dr. Michael Motes on the trial, which will be conducted at three sites. Two of those are in the Dallas-Fort Worth area—one at UT Dallas and the other at a Metrocare Mental Health Services facility—and one in Tampa, Florida. UT Southwestern Medical Center psychiatry professors Dr. John Burruss and Dr. Carol North will oversee the Metrocare cohort.

"We proposed a multicenter project because we want to show that this method would work for a variety of veteran populations at different therapeutic sites," Hart said. "We have a Veterans Affairs hospital group; we have an uninsured, underserved group; and we have a community-dwelling group."

Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation is a technique in which a magnetic coil modulates targeted brain areas.

Cognitive processing therapy is a version of cognitive behavioral therapy developed specifically for PTSD.

"As in our prior study, we'll be doing imaging to look at markers of change and to learn more about how PTSD works, the mechanisms behind it, and how it gets better," Hart said.

Participants will be evaluated on PTSD symptoms and brain-imaging assessments at six and 12 months post-treatment. Within each population group, there will be participants receiving rTMS followed by CPT, while others will receive only CPT. The new, third component will be a subset receiving only rTMS.

Motes, a senior research scientist at UT Dallas and longtime collaborator with Hart, added that they have reason to be optimistic about sole usage of rTMS.

"The data from our previous trial indicated that, early within treatment, the people getting rTMS combined with CPT started getting better compared to those who received only CPT, and several preliminary studies have shown the potential benefits of rTMS alone," Motes said.

As with any PTSD therapy, or neuropsychiatric therapy in general, the goal is to give patients improvement in their quality of life.

"The goal should be to get to a point where PTSD does not disrupt your work, home and social life," Hart said. —Stephen Fontenot



ON CAMPUS

UT Dallas Rises in Rankings of Best Public Universities

UT DALLAS CONTINUED its annual climb as a selective public university in the 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings.

UTD rose to 61st in the nation among public universities, up from 73rd last year, and remains the second-best value out of all public schools in Texas. In terms of selectivity for public universities, UT Dallas ranks second in Texas and 27th in the nation, according to the publication.

“Our ascent in these and other prestigious rankings reflects the rapid evolution of our University as a research institution and a fiscally sound choice for bright young minds,” UT Dallas President Richard C. Benson said. “As we continue to grow and more wonderful faculty and students arrive, I believe we will keep rising.”

Among the rankings for national universities — defined by the publication as schools that offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master’s and doctoral programs, and are committed to producing groundbreaking research — UT Dallas is No. 129 overall and third for public universities in Texas.

For the Class of 2017, UTD ranked 58th out of 272 national universities in terms of smallest debt load at graduation. The University remains in the top 25 nationwide in terms of ethnic diversity.

In program-specific rankings, the Naveen Jindal School of Management tied for 62nd in the nationwide list of undergraduate business programs, placing third in Texas. The undergraduate engineering program of the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, which tied for 80th in the nation, also ranked third in the state.

“Our ascent in these and other prestigious rankings reflects the rapid evolution of our University as a research institution and a fiscally sound choice for bright young minds. As we continue to grow and more wonderful faculty and students arrive, I believe we will keep rising.”

**UT DALLAS PRESIDENT
RICHARD C. BENSON**



RESEARCH

New CPRIT Funding Advances Brain, Lung Cancer Research

MORE THAN \$4.5 million in new funding from state and federal agencies will support cancer-related research over the next five years at UT Dallas.

Two projects related to brain cancer, each totaling \$200,000 over two years, have received High-Impact/High-Risk Research Awards from the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). A third CPRIT grant of nearly \$3.6 million over five years will be used to establish a new core imaging facility for preclinical research. That award will be combined with \$400,000 in matching funds from the University.

The Department of Defense (DOD) also recently awarded the University more than \$527,000 for lung cancer research.

“UT Dallas research runs the gamut, from engineering and science to business and social issues,” said Dr. Joseph Pancrazio, vice president for research and professor of bioengineering. “But fundamental cancer research is one of the most important things we do, with the potential to impact so many lives. Ongoing support from CPRIT, the Department of Defense and other agencies ensures we can continue to make significant strides in improving human health.”

Projects Focus on Brain Cancer

Glioblastoma is a common and highly aggressive form of adult brain cancer. With treatment, the median survival is about 14.6 months after diagnosis.

Dr. Lloyd Lumata, assistant professor of physics, will use his \$200,000 CPRIT grant to develop a new noninvasive imaging technique that could detect glioblastoma earlier and more accurately. The technique uses hyperpolarization technology



to boost by more than 10,000-fold the sensitivity of MRI signals from key biological molecules associated with glioblastoma. In addition to mapping cancer in the brain, the technology could reduce the need for patient exposure to X-rays from CT scans and radioactive imaging tracers, or for removal of brain tissue for diagnosis.

Advancing from a previous CPRIT grant he received in 2016, Dr. Zhenpeng Qin, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, will use his new CPRIT funding for a project aimed at improving the delivery of drugs to brain tumors. A major challenge to treating brain cancer is getting drugs across the blood-brain barrier, which restricts and actively prevents the passage of substances from the bloodstream to the brain. Qin uses nanoparticles that can be triggered with infrared light to perform molecular surgery on key proteins guarding the blood-brain barrier, thus allowing the delivery of anti-cancer drugs that were previously blocked by the barrier.

New Core Facility for Preclinical Studies

Dr. Kenneth Hoyt, associate professor of bioengineering, is director of a new small-animal imaging core facility, established by a \$3.6 million CPRIT grant. The facility will include several powerful imaging instruments that will be used by cancer researchers to visualize and target tumors in small-animal models of the disease. Such studies allow researchers to test the efficacy of new diagnostic strategies and therapies prior to their use in humans.

New Approach to Lung Cancer Treatment

In 2017 Dr. Jung-whan “Jay” Kim, assistant professor of biological sciences, published a study that showed one subtype of non-small cell lung cancer—squamous cell carcinoma—is more dependent on sugar to survive than other types of lung cancer. With his \$527,000 DOD grant, Kim will investigate whether this cancer’s addiction to sugar can be exploited as a potential new treatment strategy. He will test whether a very-low sugar diet as well as a widely used Type 2 diabetes drug can restrict sugar uptake and utilization to stop the growth of lung squamous cell carcinoma.

—Amanda Siegfried

IN THE NEWS

Recycling’s ‘Dirty Little Secret’



NORTH TEXAS NPR affiliate KERA-FM called on Dr. Bruce Novak, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, to talk about the impact plastics have on the environment. Novak, a polymer chemist, has been studying plastic materials for more than 30 years. He said that while the versatile properties of plastics make them ubiquitous, their durability also makes recycling a challenge.

“Here’s the dirty little secret about recycling plastics: Of all the recyclable plastics that are collected, only 14 percent are actually put into a recycle stream,” Novak told “All Things Considered” host Justin Martin. “The rest are either burned, end up in our environment or in landfills. That is staggering, and I think heartbreaking to conscientious consumers out there that take the time to clean and dispose of the recycles in a very important way.”

LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW AT KERANEWS.ORG

COOLEST OLD THINGS IN THE LIBRARY #5

How to Contribute to the 50th Anniversary

Along with its other treasures, the Special Collections and Archives Division houses the University Archives, which consists of thousands of photos, documents and items from throughout UTD's history.

The University will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019. (Can you believe it?)

We're calling on all Comets to help us commemorate the milestone by sharing your memories, photos and memorabilia.

Email libspco@utdallas.edu to contribute.



ON CAMPUS

Vice Presidents for Research, Communications Appointed

UT Dallas President Richard C. Benson named two vice presidents to his cabinet



QUICK CV

The University of Texas at Dallas
 ↑
 George Mason University
 ↑
 National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
 ↑
 Georgetown University
 ↑
 U.S. Naval Research Laboratory

DR. JOSEPH PANCRAZIO, associate provost and professor of bioengineering at UT Dallas, was named vice president for research.

“Dr. Pancrazio has a deep understanding of the issues and opportunities that are critical to maintain and expand a dynamic university research program,” President Benson said. “His expertise is especially pertinent when it comes to conducting and overseeing interdisciplinary collaboration, which is one of the hallmarks of the UT Dallas research enterprise.”

The Office of Research oversees research funding, grants and contracts; campus research facilities and information systems; technology commercialization and licensing; compliance and safety; and the Institutional Review Board, which approves research involving human subjects.

Before joining the faculty of the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science at UT Dallas in 2015, Pancrazio was a professor and founding chair of the Department of Bioengineering at George Mason University. He also was program director for the neural engineering and neural prosthesis program at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. As an assistant professor in Georgetown University’s Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, he worked at the Center for Bio/Molecular Science and Engineering at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C.

Pancrazio earned his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his master’s and doctorate in biomedical engineering from the University of Virginia.



QUICK CV

The University of Texas at Dallas
 ↑
 UT Southwestern Medical Center
 ↑
 TXU Corp.
 ↑
 Texas Tech University System
 ↑
 Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

JOHN WALLS was appointed vice president for communications, a position that oversees all of the University’s media, marketing and web services functions. He had served for two years in the role on an interim basis.

“John Walls has demonstrated excellent work and professional judgment and an ability to work collaboratively across the University to help elevate the UT Dallas brand,” Benson said. “His breadth of experience in both the public and private sectors has helped him fulfill critical responsibilities in media relations, crisis management and marketing.”

Walls joined UT Dallas in 2010 to oversee media relations for the University. Under his leadership since 2016, the communications staff implemented a redesign of UT Dallas’ News Center, expanded visual storytelling and added new social media channels to enhance communications with external audiences.

Walls previously worked with Fortune 500 companies, including TXU Corp. and health care corporations, and with academic and research institutions, including UT Southwestern Medical Center and the Texas Tech University System. He and his teams routinely earned numerous awards for marketing, advertising, public relations, and government and community affairs programs. He began his career at the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, where he worked as a public affairs reporter.

Walls has a bachelor’s degree in economics from UT Austin and a master’s degree in mass communications from Texas Tech.



Magnolia-lined reflecting pools run the length of the Margaret McDermott Mall from the Naveen Jindal School of Management to the Eugene McDermott Library. In 2005 Margaret McDermott made a truly transformative impact by contributing funds to improve the UT Dallas landscape. This led to the selection of famed architect Peter Walker to design and implement a total transformation of the University's 500-acre campus.



In 2000 Margaret McDermott endowed the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program with a \$32 million gift in honor of her late husband. At the McDermott Ranch in 2016, she and President Richard C. Benson gathered with more than 50 alumni of the program.

The McDermott Legacy

MARGARET MCDERMOTT WAS passionate about The University of Texas at Dallas. The impact of her philanthropy has forever transformed the young institution that was co-founded by her husband, Eugene McDermott. Distinctive landscaping and outdoor spaces, art installations, and an increasingly accomplished, competitive student body are hallmarks of the McDermott legacy.

The pre-eminent private benefactor of the University, Margaret McDermott donated \$32 million in 2000 to establish the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program. The program attracts bright students from around the world with both its academic curriculum and its focus on experiential learning. From the beginning, McDermott made it a priority to engage the scholars by hosting them at an annual cookout and weekly lunches at her ranch in Allen. Service, study abroad and arts-engagement components remain central to the program, which now numbers more than 300 current and former scholars.

The significant investment in people also extended to the creation of the Eugene McDermott Graduate Fellows Program in 2014 as an analog to the undergraduate program. Her generosity also made possible several faculty chairs, professorships and fellows and the naming of the University's Hobson Wildenthal Honors College, which honors Wildenthal, executive vice president and the Cecil H. Green Distinguished Chair of Academic Leadership.

Margaret McDermott poses with her husband, UT Dallas co-founder Eugene McDermott, a Brooklyn-born geophysicist who was chairman of Texas Instruments Inc. He died in 1973; she passed away in May 2018.



The McDermott Legacy

Tangible examples of the McDermott legacy can be seen during a walk around campus. Once defined by Brutalist concrete façades and the gray ambience of corporate buildings, UT Dallas was transformed with a Campus Landscape Enhancement project, with funds from McDermott totaling more than \$50 million.

Architect Peter Walker shaped the overhaul that began in 2008. More than 5,000 trees and shrubs were planted. Hallmarks of the project are the five reflecting pools and the wisteria-covered steel trellis that is located outside of the Eugene McDermott Library. Aptly, the UT System Board of Regents recently approved the naming of this focal point for campus activity as the Margaret McDermott Mall and Margaret McDermott Trellis Plaza.

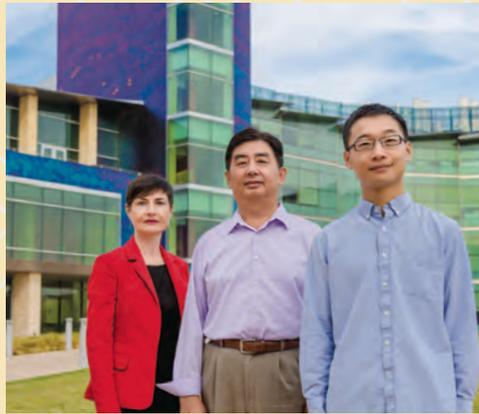
One of McDermott's great interests – the visual arts – found a home on campus. She funded permanent installations, including the Love Jack that is now displayed outside of the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building. In 2017 she endowed the Richard Brettell Award in the Arts, which annually recognizes an artist with a lifetime-achievement award.

The McDermott legacy has changed UT Dallas and will continue to do so.

“It is impossible to know what we would have become as a University without the unwavering support of the Eugene McDermott family,” Wildenthal said. “The effects of their legacy will reverberate for decades to come.” ■



The McDermott Legacy



Peng Xie (right), a member of the first cohort of the Eugene McDermott Graduate Fellows Program, poses with Reena Schellenberg (left), director of the program, and his mentor, Dr. Michael Q. Zhang, director of the Center for Systems Biology and the Cecil H. and Ida Green Distinguished Chair of Systems Biology Science.



Dr. Rashaunda Henderson receives the honor of Fellow, Eugene McDermott Professor, during the Investiture Ceremony held April 27, 2018. Henderson is an associate professor of electrical engineering.



Landscape architect Peter Walker (right) poses with Dr. Richard Brettell, the Margaret M. McDermott Distinguished Chair of Art and Aesthetic Studies, in April 2017. Walker received the first Richard Brettell Award in the Arts for designing and implementing the transformation of the University's 500-acre campus, a project that was dedicated in 2010.



The 10-foot-by-10-foot red, steel "Love Jack," created by American modernist sculptor Jim Love, came to UT Dallas in 1976 and was later gifted to the University. It has resided in several locations but now rests in an open courtyard of the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building.

The Margaret McDermott Trellis Plaza serves as an anchor and central element of campus and features a circular fountain and mister. A key element of the Campus Landscape Enhancement Project, the trellis is 165 feet wide, 146 feet long and 25 feet tall.

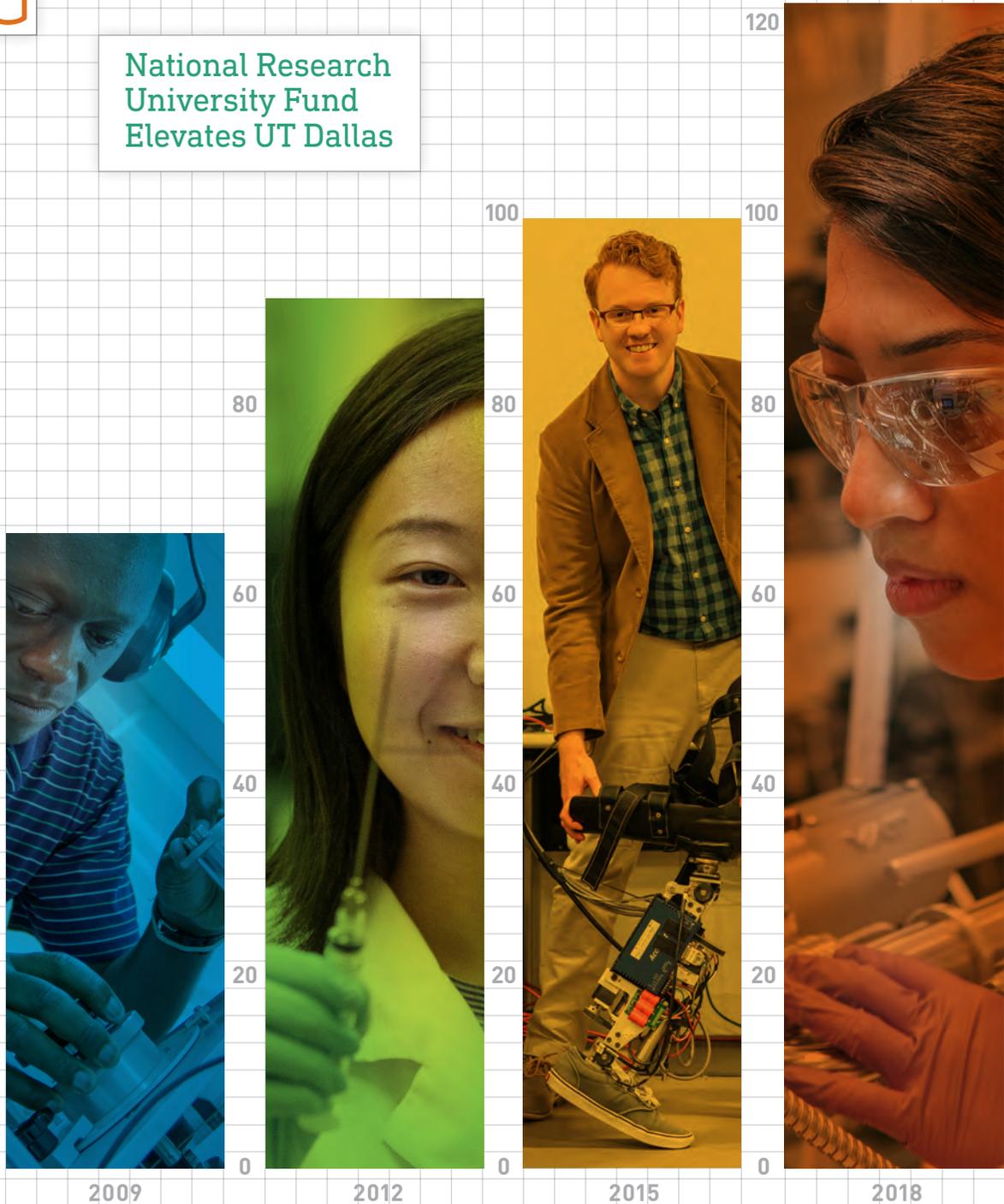


RISING

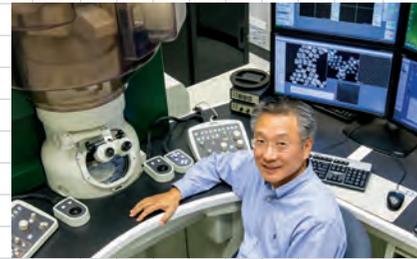
RESEARCH

REPUTATION

National Research University Fund Elevates UT Dallas



UTD's total research spending in millions of dollars



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS has achieved the critical benchmark criteria required to qualify for funding from the National Research University Fund (NRUF), an exclusive source of research support available to the state's "emerging research universities."

UT Dallas qualified for this funding, which this fiscal year totaled \$7.5 million, by achieving these Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's benchmarks for two consecutive years:

- \$45 million in annual expenditures on restricted research
- \$400 million endowment
- High-achieving freshman class
- High-quality faculty
- Membership in the Association of Research Libraries, Phi Beta Kappa or equivalent national organization

"In its short history, The University of Texas at Dallas has set itself apart and earned their reputation as a national leader in research," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in a July 2018 announcement. "UT Dallas has generated innovative and groundbreaking discoveries that contribute to our economy and advance Texas as a premier state for higher education. I congratulate UT Dallas for qualifying for the National Research University Fund, and I look forward to all their great work to come."

This recognition of excellence represents a significant research milestone for the University. House Bill 51,

authored by then-Rep. Dan Branch, was signed by then-Gov. Rick Perry in June 2009 at a ceremony on the UT Dallas campus. The bill outlined the creation of NRUF. Confirmed by popular vote in November of that year, the program is designed to boost the research output of eligible Texas public universities and enable them to achieve national prominence as major research institutions.

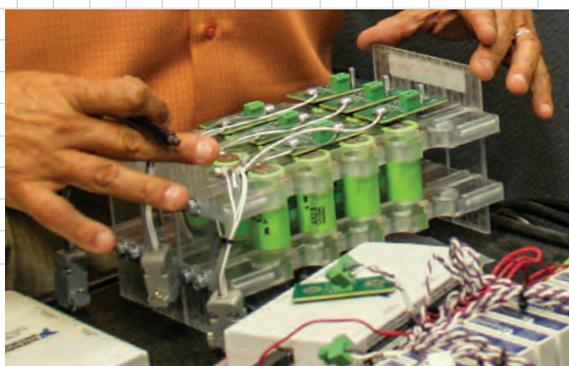
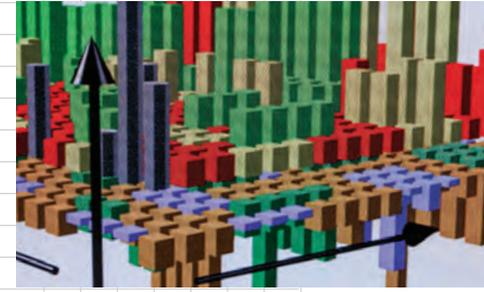
"This achievement affirms the University's excellence and the quality of higher education in Texas," Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said. "These additional funds will help UT Dallas find new solutions to real-world problems and bolster the state's economy. This is a win-win for Texas and UT Dallas, and I could not be more pleased with this news."

Distributions from NRUF will be used to fund non-recurring expenses of projects designed to further increase the University's research productivity.

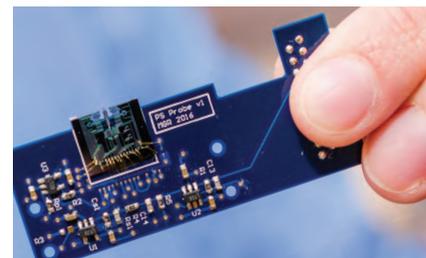
"This is a very significant achievement for UT Dallas, and it's a credit to the groundbreaking work that students and faculty are doing there," Texas House Speaker Joe Straus said. "The continued emergence of UT Dallas is critically important to the economic vitality of the North Texas region and the success of our entire state."

UT Dallas earned classification as a Carnegie R1 doctoral institution of highest research activity, a designation based

"In its short history, The University of Texas at Dallas has set itself apart and earned their reputation as a national leader in research."
Texas Gov. Greg Abbott



Distributions from NRUF will be used to fund non-recurring expenses of projects designed to further increase the University's research productivity.



“This is a significant achievement in the history of our University. We are the youngest institution in the state to have emerged as a national research university.”

**UT Dallas President
Richard C. Benson**

largely on the aggregate quantity of an institution’s research. The University announced this achievement in 2016.

In the 2008 and 2009 financial years, when NRUF was created, the University averaged over \$36.5 million in restricted research expenditures. In fiscal years 2016 and 2017, that average grew to over \$51 million, representing a 40 percent increase in just eight years.

“The University of Texas at Dallas has shown tremendous initiative and drive in becoming a rising national higher education institution,” said Sara Martinez Tucker, chairman of The University of Texas System Board of Regents. “The Board of Regents congratulates UT Dallas on achieving this important milestone, and we will continue to enthusiastically support its ascendancy as a research powerhouse in service to the people of Texas and beyond.”

UT Dallas is the third emerging research university to meet the NRUF eligibility requirements, after Texas Tech University and the University of Houston. Access to NRUF

funds has been a significant target for UT Dallas since the tenure of Dr. David E. Daniel, predecessor of University President Richard C. Benson.

“This is a significant achievement in the history of our University,” Benson said. “We are the youngest institution in the state to have emerged as a national research university, and that’s a testament to our commitment and drive to advance our research enterprise.”

UT Dallas now enrolls more than 27,600 students — 18,380 undergraduate and 9,250 graduate — and offers a broad array of bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs. The University’s faculty includes a Nobel laureate, six members of the National Academies and more than 575 tenured and tenure-track professors. Dr. Aziz Sancar, who earned his PhD in molecular and cell biology from UT Dallas in 1977, won the 2015 Nobel Prize in chemistry. ■





Skyrocketing

Strategy

University's strategic plan puts institution on trajectory for distinction

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS has a story to tell. It's a story still being written, sparked by the vision of its founders and continuing half a century later.

As the University approaches the 50th anniversary of its founding, a new strategic plan is adding to the story of this dynamic, young university by charting a path for the institution's future. President Richard C. Benson recently released the plan, which specifies critical issues that must be addressed successfully during the next five years for UT Dallas to continue its trajectory to be one of the world's great universities.

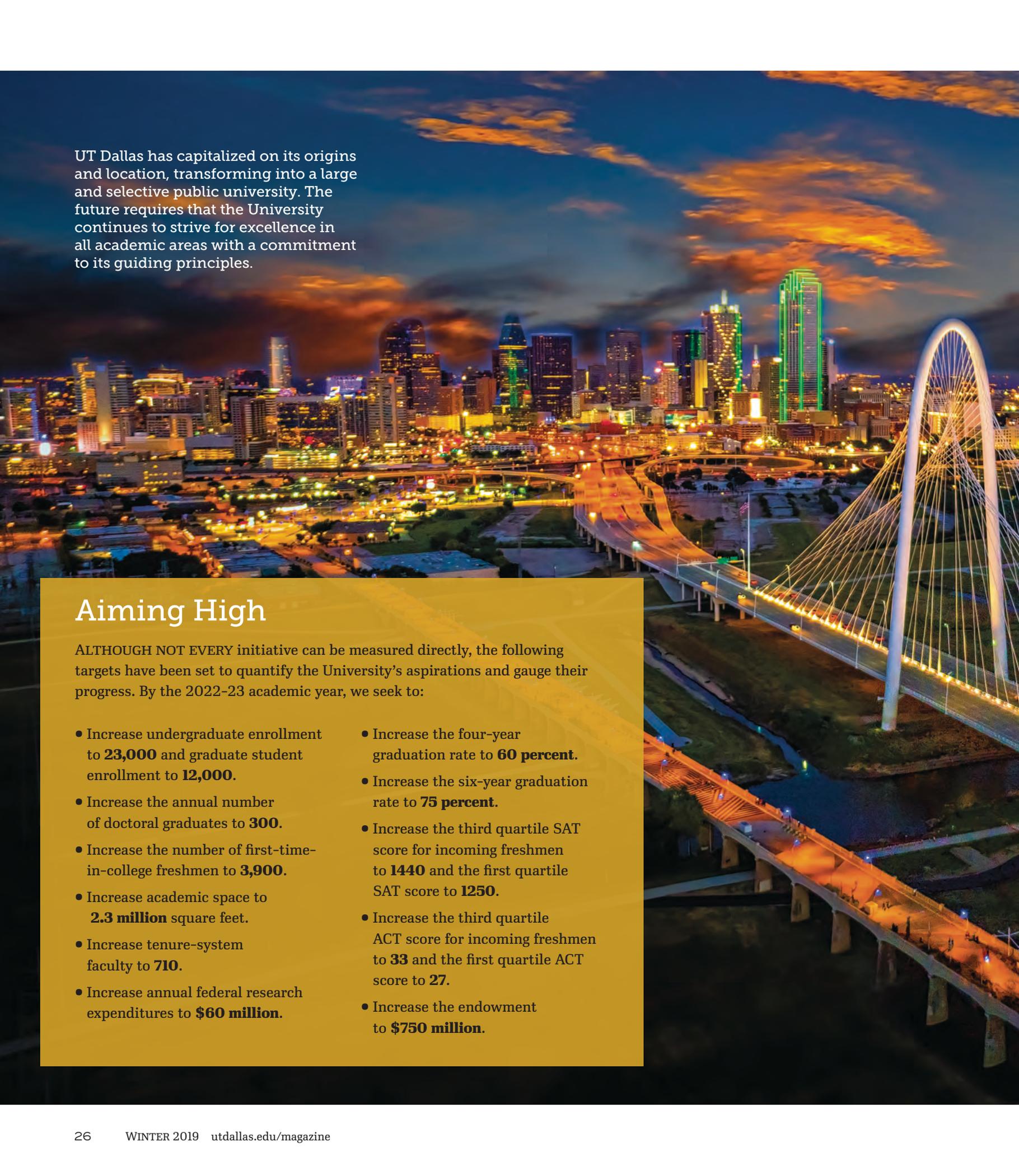
More than 50 faculty, staff and students collaborated to identify key actions and produce the final blueprint.

"When we began this process in 2017, I invited close scrutiny of the factors that will most affect our continued growth and progress," Benson said. "UT Dallas has come far in a relatively short period of time, and if we want to continue that momentum and trajectory, we need to set ambitious yet realistic goals."

The new plan incorporates nine strategic themes, including becoming an economic engine for the region, a goal that dates to the origins of UT Dallas as the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies.

"I think if our founders could come back, they would be thrilled — absolutely thrilled — at what has happened at UTD and what we have meant to the prosperity of this community," said Benson, who holds the Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership, named for one of those founders.

"Our mission as a university includes graduating well-rounded citizens who are prepared for life and productive careers in an ever-changing world, as well as making the discoveries that will drive those very changes," Benson said.

A nighttime photograph of the Dallas skyline, featuring several illuminated skyscrapers and the Margaret Hunt Browning Bridge in the foreground. The bridge is a cable-stayed bridge with a prominent white arch and is lit up. The city lights are reflected in the water below. The sky is dark with some clouds illuminated by the city lights.

UT Dallas has capitalized on its origins and location, transforming into a large and selective public university. The future requires that the University continues to strive for excellence in all academic areas with a commitment to its guiding principles.

Aiming High

ALTHOUGH NOT EVERY initiative can be measured directly, the following targets have been set to quantify the University's aspirations and gauge their progress. By the 2022-23 academic year, we seek to:

- Increase undergraduate enrollment to **23,000** and graduate student enrollment to **12,000**.
- Increase the annual number of doctoral graduates to **300**.
- Increase the number of first-time-in-college freshmen to **3,900**.
- Increase academic space to **2.3 million** square feet.
- Increase tenure-system faculty to **710**.
- Increase annual federal research expenditures to **\$60 million**.
- Increase the four-year graduation rate to **60 percent**.
- Increase the six-year graduation rate to **75 percent**.
- Increase the third quartile SAT score for incoming freshmen to **1440** and the first quartile SAT score to **1250**.
- Increase the third quartile ACT score for incoming freshmen to **33** and the first quartile ACT score to **27**.
- Increase the endowment to **\$750 million**.



Strategic Themes



Enrich the student experience by creating an environment in which all students can succeed.



Enrich the arts to foster an appreciation for human intellect and creativity.



Become an economic engine for the region by becoming a key partner with industry, government, cultural organizations and schools throughout North Texas.



Create a culture of philanthropy by expanding the number and size of gifts that support teaching and research.



Attract talent, including the highest-quality students, faculty, staff and administrators.



Engage globally by integrating curriculum with the modern world and encouraging international partnerships and research networks.



Advance research that creates new knowledge to enhance the human experience.



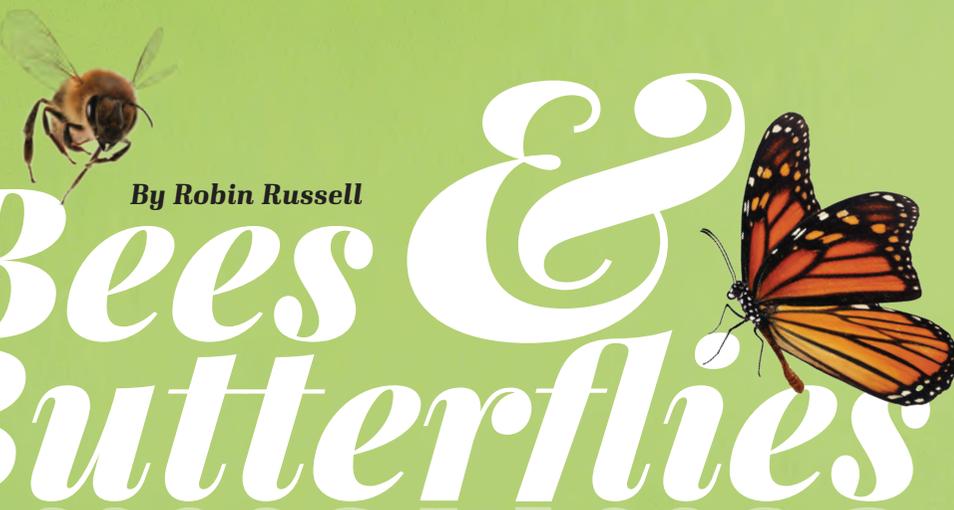
Develop financial and administrative systems that sustain excellence by ensuring that business and organizational systems support and enhance the teaching and research missions.



Ensure a sustainable, rewarding campus environment by taking care of our people, our campus and our environment.

"This new strategic plan is not only a guide for our efforts moving forward, but it also reflects our distinctive style and values as an institution."

- President Richard C. Benson



Bees & Butterflies

By Robin Russell

“Go to the bee, thou poet: consider her ways and be wise.”

- George Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*, 1903.

MOST PEOPLE WOULD be somewhat wary around a beehive buzzing with thousands of stinging insects. Scott Rippel MS’96, PhD’99 practically goes into Zen mode.

For Rippel, a senior lecturer in biological sciences at The University of Texas at Dallas, working with honey bees is more than a way to educate the campus community about the importance of pollinators – it’s an experience.

“When I open up a hive and I have 10,000 to 50,000 bees around me buzzing, my focus goes right to them. Everything else melts away. All my stresses disappear,” Rippel said.

As relaxing as Rippel finds it, keeping bees is not just a hobby. The beehives he established on the UT Dallas campus give students firsthand experience with pollinators that are essential to the food supply.

Consider that nearly one-third of the food humans consume – including most fruits and many vegetables – is dependent upon pollination. When pollinators, such as bees and monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*), transfer pollen from one flower to another, they fertilize the plant so it can grow and produce fruits and seeds, which are important components of a healthy diet.

But key pollinator species have suffered a drastic decline due to invasive pests, increased pesticide use, habitat loss and changes in climate. Bees in general have suffered a 40 percent population drop each year since 2011, and the monarch butterfly has declined 90 percent in the last two decades. What’s more critical is that these indicator species may be predictors of how the environment is affecting other species as well, said Rippel.

The ongoing risks for pollinators has prompted the UT Dallas campus community to highlight their role and help protect their delicate ecosystem.

The University is intentional about growing native prairie grasses and plants, using least-toxic pesticides and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitats in the campus landscaping, which includes 15 beehives and four monarch waystations.

The nation’s multibillion dollar agricultural industries are highly invested in seeing that the bees do well, and, in particular, supporting the vital contribution of the European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). Beekeepers breed and manage these honey bees carefully, ship them around the country to pollinate dozens of crops – including almonds, apples, cherries and plums – and work overtime to replace any losses.

As a result, the U.S. population of European honey bees hit a 22-year high in 2016 before dipping slightly in 2017, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

But other species of bees have not fared as well, including native species that offer beneficial competition to help honey bees pollinate more efficiently. In 2017 the rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), a prized pollinator once familiar to much of North America, was the first wild bee in the continental U.S. to be listed as an endangered species.



The Bee Man on Campus

At UT Dallas, Rippel easily has a reputation for being the bee man on campus. The decorated U.S. Army veteran earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in molecular and cell biology from the Department of Biological Sciences in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and has been teaching at UT Dallas since 1999.

When he launched his Honey Bee Biology class in 2012, word of his expertise spread across campus. The perennially popular survey course teaches biology undergraduates the insect's biology, behavior, social organization and role in the environment and agriculture.

To give his students and other interested volunteers firsthand experience with bees, Rippel helped establish 15 beehives on two apiaries at UT Dallas.

He estimates he's been stung more than 75 times, but it doesn't seem to faze him. Students hardly see him flinch.

"Now I get stung, and it's like a mosquito bite," Rippel said.

It wasn't always that way. Rippel recalls being fascinated as a child, but wary, around the beehives on his grandfather's acreage in Pennsylvania.

Whenever his grandfather donned his beekeeper's suit, Rippel knew to stay out of the apple orchards where the hives were located.

That caution came into play again a few years ago when Rippel discovered a swarm of bees in his own yard. To protect his then-3-year-old daughter, he reached for an aerosol can of bee killer, only to realize he was out of the pesticide. By the time he got to a hardware store, it was too late.

"The next day, the bees were gone. I was just fascinated by that," Rippel said.

He decided to study the life cycle and workings of honey bees, reading books such as Thomas D. Seeley's *Honeybee Democracy*. His interests were piqued further when a student at UT Dallas showed him a feral beehive he had found on campus.

"I was just enthralled with it. I couldn't believe I was just feet from it. By the time I got home that night, I had decided to keep bees," Rippel said.



Senior lecturers Dr. Christina Thompson and Dr. Scott Rippel give the mini-Whoosh sign during a successful beehive installation at one of the apiaries on campus.

Honey Do's and Don'ts

The humble honey bee has long fascinated nature lovers. Among the 20,000 mostly solitary species of bees, the fuzzy-looking honey bee is unique in that it lives in an incredibly complex society.

Peek under the lid of a beehive, and you'll see thousands of bees working together for the good of the colony. They look for ways to help out: building, cleaning and guarding the hive, gathering food, feeding the population, and keeping larvae and young bees warm – all without supervision.

But more than efficient workers, bees and other pollinators, like monarch butterflies, perform a vital task. Honey bees contribute more than \$14 billion annually to the U.S. agricultural industry by pollinating more than 100 commercial crops, according to the USDA. They've even been given agricultural status. Simply put, bees keep plants and crops alive.

But pollinators in general have declined in number due to disease, habitat loss, pesticides and climate change.

Bees in particular are plagued by a parasitic insect called the Varroa destructor mite. When the tick-like insect infects a beehive, the entire colony will die within two to three years. The solution is tricky.

"We're looking at killing a bug on a bug, and that's difficult. In the end, we're having to use chemicals," Rippel said.

Bees are also suffering because urban encroachment and mono-cropping that is profitable for farmers have diminished the habitats that provide bees with the nutrition they need. Without diverse flora, native pollinators lack breeding grounds and food sources to support their crucial role in maintaining flowering and food-producing plants.

"Bees have a short window of time to collect their carbohydrate source, which is nectar, and their protein source, which is pollen. They store enough pollen to produce enough bees, and they hoard nectar in the form of honey to warm their colonies in the wintertime," Rippel said.

At UT Dallas, students maintain the campus hives and harvest honey at the micro-apiary that was added on at the south end of campus, thanks to a gift to the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College from Nature Nate's, a honey company in McKinney, Texas.

Biology senior Kelsey Lyle grew up in a family of nature lovers and was always intrigued by bees. Although she had no way to keep bees herself while living on campus, she decided to learn more about them by joining the Collin County Hobby Beekeepers Association and the Texas Beekeepers Association.

One day she asked Rippel if she could help with the hives on campus, which students have christened with such whimsical names as the "Zomm-bee" and the "Air-Bee-n-Bee." Lyle now manages one of the hives and has become expert at marking the queens to track generations. She also teaches basic beekeeping to other students.

"The whole system within the hive is so intricate and nuanced. There are things you can discover that are just fascinating," Lyle said. "If there is more than one queen laid, the first one stings and kills the others. It's a real-life 'Game of Thrones.'"

As an intern with the University's Eco-Rep program – student leaders who implement sustainability programs on campus – Lyle has tracked the metrics that helped UT Dallas gain the Bee Campus USA designation. The University accomplished that by raising awareness and developing a pollinator-friendly habitat and a least-toxic pest-management plan.

"We've formalized what we had already been doing," said Lyle, who hopes to eventually work in ecology or environmental science.

"I think we depend on pollinators a lot. I can get tunnel vision, being in college. But it's important to know what's going on around us, to know that what I'm doing affects what will happen later on," she said. "This is not just learning for learning's sake. This will impact life."

Besides tending bees and planting milkweed to attract monarch butterflies, students participate in sustainability experiences through Alternative Spring Break service projects, by working a plot in the on-campus Community Garden or by signing up for tree-planting events.

Mackenzie Hunter, director of the Office of Student Volunteerism, helps oversee some of those projects. She also taught a course about food security and sustainability last spring. The class explored how localizing food production can help people who lack reliable access to nutritious food. As part of the course, students installed a beehive, harvested honey and collected produce from the Community Garden, which is managed by the Office of Student Volunteerism, to donate to food pantries.





“We want people to be aware of what bees are, why we need them and how they affect our lives.” - Dr. Christina Thompson

“Food is such an important part of who we are and how we connect to other people. I think it’s our responsibility to reconnect with food and where it comes from. Pollination is a big part of that,” Hunter said.

Students have become increasingly interested in bees, said senior lecturer Dr. Christina Thompson, who oversees an honors college reading class on honey bees and society. The class studies the behavior of bees, including swarming and hive reproduction, as well as the potential threats to the insect’s survival. Though the class is targeted to freshman students, seniors often fill up the class first each semester.

“They all want to go see the bees. They’re curious about them. There is a bit of anxiety – it’s kind of an adrenaline rush. But bees aren’t aggressive; however, they are defensive about their homes,” Thompson said.

Thompson and Rippel also take their passion for bees to students outside of their classrooms and into the broader community. They give talks on sustainability to Eugene McDermott Scholars and Community Garden volunteers; they bring a frame of live bees to show students during Earth Week; and twice a year they take an observation hive to the Rory Meyers

Children’s Adventure Garden at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

“We want people to be aware of what bees are, why we need them and how they affect our lives. There’s a delicate system out there that we don’t fully understand, and as long as we don’t understand it, we should leave it as intact as possible,” Thompson said. “We need to understand how we effect change by the choices we make.”

They also share the modest honey crop produced by the campus bees, which is usually enough for students in their classes to experience. The diverse flora on campus lets bees gather nectar from plants like Indian blanket, Queen Anne’s lace, canola, horsemint, aster and goldenrod. Each plant contributes to the flavor of honey.

The campus bees also benefit surrounding neighborhoods by pollinating suburban homeowners’ gardens.

“The University can gain by showcasing these things,” Rippel said. “What we do here doesn’t impact on the agricultural issue; what we’re trying to do is education and outreach about what we’re doing to our environment.”

The Butterfly Whisperer

If Rippel is the bee man on campus, Craig Lewis, the greenhouse and landscape coordinator for the Office of Facilities Management, is the butterfly whisperer.

Lewis has admired the iconic black-and-orange monarch butterflies since he first witnessed their annual migration. One day, he saw a band of them about 500 yards wide and nearly 1 mile long approaching campus on their route to Mexico.

“We were absolutely on the path. We had a lot of open field around campus at the time, and it was not closely maintained. We were rife with milkweed, and there were countless numbers of migrating butterflies. It was just joyful to see,” Lewis said.

He took a special interest in monarchs after noting their decline over the years. Once the most well-known insect on the planet, the monarch butterfly is becoming scarce because of habitat loss and the use of pesticides that are not target-specific. Since 1990 about 970 million have vanished, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The insect is currently under review for endangered species status.

Whatever befalls the monarch might affect other insects as well, Lewis said.

“Monarchs are the canary in the coal mine for the entomology world. They’re the tipping point for a whole list of insects that are on the verge of extinction,” Lewis said.

Concern for monarchs prompted a nationwide movement to plant milkweed, the only plant on which monarchs lay their eggs and nourish their young caterpillars. Once a plentiful native plant, milkweed is in steep decline because it is of little use to farmers. Experts believe monarchs could become extinct if the supply of milkweed is not restored.

Monarchs are unique in that they are the only insects that every autumn travel more than 3,000 miles from Canada to Mexico, where they spend the winter. Generations of these butterflies somehow return to the same few acres in Mexico. Entomologists are still studying how they know when to leave and where to travel. Their northbound return trip in April is when the campus monarch waystations are most populated.

Knowing that UT Dallas lies directly on the monarch migratory path, Lewis approached Thea Junt MS’16, MBA’16, former associate director for energy conservation and sustainability, in 2014 about creating a plan to plant milkweed on campus to attract monarchs and ultimately help rebuild the butterfly population.

“I said, ‘We’re sitting in the middle of the Blackland Prairie. Why don’t we rehabilitate it and see what happens?’” Lewis recalled. “When we quit mowing, the milkweed came back, along with native buffalograss.”

Lewis has since planted the six different varieties of milkweed native to the area, some for nectar that appeals to butterflies, some for them to lay eggs on. He collected and purchased seeds and then grew them in the campus greenhouse after refrigerating them for a month to help them germinate.

Students also help by planting the milkweed on campus during Butterfly Flutterby events, sponsored by the Office of Student Volunteerism. Thanks to the University’s efforts to nurture these species-specific plants, UT Dallas has been named an official waystation for migrating monarchs by Monarch Watch, a conservation program focused on the butterfly.

Four certified monarch waystations on campus serve as landing places for the butterflies during their annual migration: the disc golf course, the east side of the Eugene McDermott Library, outside a parking structure on the northwest side of campus and near the Community Garden.

The University made operational changes, too. Staff planted more native perennials near the waystations and in patches across campus to further attract butterflies instead of planting annual color plants. The native pollen and nectar-bearing wildflowers planted include Black-eyed Susan, American basket-flower, Gayfeather, Maximilian Sunflower, Mexican Hat, Greenthread and Texas Bluebonnet.

These pollinator-friendly patches are seen in “no-mow” zones across campus, alongside parking structures, outside office buildings and just yards from the campus Community Garden, which includes an herb garden with a host plant for swallowtail butterflies.

Planting milkweed and wildflowers is a win-win for pollinators and the campus, Junt said.

“It’s all about the choices we make. It’s a buffet for pollinators. You have to keep flowers going all year-round. That’s the ‘come hither,’” Junt said. “Native plants and wildflowers also save water, and they’re beautiful. It’s smart Texas landscaping.”

Keeping monarch butterflies happy improves the landscape for all pollinators, added Gary Cocke, the current associate director for energy conservation and sustainability.

“It’s the right thing to do. Our indicator species are suffering, and we are right on their migratory path. They have adapted to certain plants, so adding this biodiversity is critical,” Cocke said.

Best of all, students who participate in sustainability projects will take their knowledge with them as they graduate.

“Our students are going to become homeowners themselves one day. They know that the way we landscape matters. A landscape that’s just grass doesn’t do it for pollinators,” Cocke said. ■

Attracting Monarch Butterflies

Home gardeners who wish to cultivate a monarch-friendly environment can plant many varieties of milkweed and other plants.

Blunt-Leaf Milkweed (*Asclepias amplexicaulis*)
Engelmann’s Milkweed (*A. engelmanniana*)
Side-Cluster Milkweed (*A. oenotheroides*)
White-Flower Milkweed (*A. variegata*)
Green Milkweed (*A. viridis*)

Antelope-Horns (*A. asperula*)
Swamp Milkweed (*A. incarnata*)
Slim-Leaf Milkweed (*A. stenophylla*)
Whorled Milkweed (*A. verticillata*)
Sandvine (*Cynanchum laeve*)

Tropical Milkweed (*A. curassavica*)
Slim Milkweed (*A. linearis*)
Butterfly-Weed (*A. tuberosa*)
Wand Milkweed (*A. viridiflora*)
Green Milkweedvine (*Matelea reticulata*)



Cultivating Sustainability Leaders

One of the ways UT Dallas students help raise awareness about the role of pollinators is by serving as interns for the Eco-Rep program in the Office of Sustainability.

Eco-Reps advance sustainability issues through education, outreach and project leadership. Their goal is to help students become eco-friendlier and learn about sustainability issues. Each Eco-Rep takes charge of a specific project, such as reporting and collecting data for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

Other leadership projects include completing a greenhouse gas inventory, developing and implementing materials for green practices in teaching labs, recognizing graduates who have volunteered with sustainability projects, developing the Bee Campus USA application and co-chairing the Bee Campus USA committee to support a pollinator-friendly habitat.

Eco-Reps also plan Earth Week activities, collect data for Recyclemania, build beehives for campus use, plant milkweed plants for monarch waystations, build worm composting bins for use in apartments and residence hall rooms, and make shadow boxes to illustrate what items can be recycled.

Delaney Conroy, a senior in the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, became an Eco-Rep after volunteering in the Community Garden on campus and at the Texas Worm Ranch in Garland.

“I was hooked and couldn’t get enough,” Conroy said. “I learned that I grew up far more green than most. Being able to share my knowledge is one of my favorite aspects of being an Eco-Rep.”

Conroy recently helped build and maintain the new Blanco Botello Garden, dedicated in 2016 to honor a former Office of Facilities Management staff worker. Conroy planted vegetables and herbs, and sets out the harvested produce for facilities staff to enjoy.

A rain catchment at the garden was established through the Student Government Green Initiative. The barrel allows the garden to be watered from harvested rainwater.

“A little work goes a long way, and it’s worth it to make our campus a little bit eco-greener,” Conroy said.



Simplified migration view map of reported monarch sightings through October 17, 2018.

A close-up photograph of a hand pouring golden tea from a glass pitcher into a traditional glass teapot on a saucer. The background is blurred, showing a crowd of people. The text "READING PEACE IN THE TEA LEAVES" is overlaid on the image.

READING PEACE IN THE TEA LEAVES

ALUMNUS HOPES HIS BUSINESS
GIVES VETERANS
AND POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES
A BETTER FUTURE

BRANDON FRIEDMAN MPA'06 believes in peace and progress through tea.

“Growing up, I didn’t know much about tea beyond southern-style iced tea,” said Friedman. “Or it was synonymous with British teatime, with doilies and biscuits and all that.”

It wasn’t until his deployment as an infantry officer in Afghanistan and Iraq that tea became a part of everyday life, filling the role at gatherings that alcohol might back home.

“If you’re going to sit down for anything with three or more people, you put on tea. And in Iraq, they fill half the thing with sugar,” Friedman said.

Long stretches of his deployment were spent in towns and villages across Asia and the Middle East. There was plenty of time for talk and tea.

“In between missions, planning strategy—it didn’t matter. There was always hot tea.”

Somewhere along the way, he fell in love with it.

Friedman, a Louisiana State University Shreveport graduate, left the Army in 2004, keen on pivoting into politics. He invested some time in personal reflection, backpacking across Europe. When he returned, he sought to further his education.

“I started applying for master’s programs, not realizing it wasn’t the fastest option,” Friedman said. “On top of that, I thought political science was the same as actual politics. I was interested in public service and making the world a better place, but I didn’t really know what route to take.”

He chose The University of Texas at Dallas since it was the perfect marriage of price, proximity and opportunity. He sought mentorship from faculty members such as Dr. Douglas Kiel, professor of public affairs, and Ted Benavides, senior lecturer in public affairs, both in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

“I didn’t have that academic underpinning, and that’s what the program gave to me. It enabled me to know what ‘right’ looked like,” he said.



OPPORTUNITY BLOOMS

After Friedman graduated from UT Dallas, he began working with VoteVets.org, an organization that campaigns for veterans’ rights and resources. The job required frequent commuting to Washington, D.C., and New York City.

U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, then director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs, invited him in 2009 to join the Obama administration, where he served first at the Department of Veterans Affairs and later as the deputy assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“I wanted to go work in politics in D.C. My family and I were there for eight years, and I got up to a pretty senior level. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but it was also a beat-down. Beltway politics are no joke,” Friedman said.

“We didn’t have any family within a thousand miles, so we couldn’t see raising our 5-year-old son there,” he added. “I loved the experience, but I don’t regret moving back.”

Before returning to Dallas, he started a public relations firm with an old friend as his partner. But after a while, he wanted to do something with more of a purpose.

“Another friend told me you need to be selling a product,” Friedman said. “We both drink hot tea, but I had this idea to do something different.”

He thought that selling tea could be a way to introduce Americans to the war-torn countries



he had come to appreciate. He now had a mission, a product, and a will to make it happen. All he lacked was the capital.

STEEPED IN PURPOSE

In early 2017, Friedman heard about a conference panel on post-conflict economic development that featured Nick Kesler, founder and president of VetImpact, an organization that empowers veteran entrepreneurs so they can operate internationally in post-conflict and emerging markets.

Kesler loved Friedman's idea and agreed to help craft a plan, suggesting a Kickstarter campaign for initial funding. In September 2017, they sought \$30,000 to cover startup costs.

The venture raised more than \$36,000, giving life to Rakkasan Tea Co. (rakkasantea.com), a name taken from the nickname of the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, which in turn was derived from the Japanese word for parachute. Friedman needed no parachute this time, diving headlong into production.

"I just sort of closed my eyes and jumped in. It's been scary," he said.

Global Chamber Dallas named the Deep Ellum-based Rakkasan its "Startup Impact Importer of the Year" in November 2017, only two months after their Kickstarter campaign ended.

Friedman began taking courses to become a certified tea specialist, mastering a list of skills and practices. To offer teas from remote places, Friedman also needed connections — experts who knew the areas and languages. Such experts allow Rakkasan to make sure they pay a fair price to those growing and harvesting the tea.

Rakkasan initially offered teas from Nepal, Rwanda, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Friedman said customers love teas that sound exotic, like Himalayan Black Dragon and White Sunrise.

"We want to move the image of tea away from the idea of British teatime and instead highlight regions known for teas that nobody ever hears about," Friedman said.

He's a big believer in peace through commerce and hopes that as Americans become more comfortable and familiar with tea and the places that provide it, cultural walls will begin to crumble. Every container of Rakkasan tea contains information on its country of origin.

"My association with Vietnam was much like other Americans': Agent Orange, 'Full Metal Jacket,' and so on," Friedman said. "But now that I'm doing business there, I realize we are so sheltered. I grew up during the Gulf War, and when I went to Iraq, it was nothing like what I was told. Americans tend to see foreign nations through a military lens."

PUTTING THE TEA IN TEACHING

Friedman is all too familiar with the difficulties facing veterans once they return from active service. That's why he also wants to hire veterans at Rakkasan.

"The purpose here is twofold: We help communities recover from war both at home and abroad. Veterans come home, and many of them lose their sense of purpose," Friedman said. "It's so hard to go from possibly fighting for your life every day to working in an office."

"Veterans have experienced the world and know what it's like to be thrust into a culture and language you don't share. That's a strength not shared by many others in the workforce."

Since operations began, Rakkasan has sold tea to customers in all 50 states and four other countries.

In late June, Rakkasan announced that it had secured tea from Laos, a region on Friedman's list from the beginning — another nation whose products cannot be easily found in the states. Then in September, they began selling South American tea grown in Colombia.

"This is some special tea, and it's an opportunity for U.S. tea drinkers to try something they've probably never had," he said. "It's also a great way to help rural farmers in recovering countries reach the U.S. market."

"When everyone is making money, they don't have time to make war. Helping foreign countries improve their economies helps keep Americans safe."

—Reporting by Chase Carter





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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



Educator Helps Students' Dreams Take Flight

HOMER WEBB BS'01 finally pursued his childhood dream of becoming a pilot after an insightful question from an unlikely source: a sixth-grader.

"I had a student who knew I loved planes. He'd see me reading airplane books and magazines during the planning period," said Webb, who at the time had just embarked on his teaching career. "One day he asked a profound question: 'How are you going to tell us to believe things are possible and to chase our dreams when you didn't chase yours?'"

The query struck a nerve. So Webb rolled up his sleeves and earned his pilot's license. It's a never-give-up-on-your-dreams story that he uses 15 years later to inspire at-risk students.

Not everyone is cut out to be an educator, let alone at an alternative school. Webb is an exception. He wants to be there. He requested it, actually.

After earning a degree from UT Dallas in public affairs, Webb taught at a Dallas elementary school in Oak Cliff, the same neighborhood where he grew up.

He joined DeSoto Independent School District in 2005 as an assistant principal. But a few years later, Webb had become restless, and he asked his bosses about joining the district's alternative school. "My experience had only been with elementary students at the time. The administrators were looking at me like, 'Are you crazy? You won't survive.'"

But he was adamant. Webb has since spent nine years with the DeSoto Alternative Education Program, where he works with middle and high school students who are having problems with discipline or grades. Part of his mission is to keep his students from giving up on their ambitions — a goal that mirrors his own personal journey.

Webb considered joining the U.S. Air Force after high school before deciding to pursue a career in law enforcement. Perhaps he'd end up flying police helicopters, he thought.

While working on his degree at UTD, Webb got a job at the Dallas County Sheriff's Department. It was more eye-opening than he had anticipated.

"I had some experiences seeing juvenile offenders coming into adult jail. They were getting charged and convicted as adults," he recalled. "I decided that rather than being on the tail end of the process — law enforcement — I wanted to help stem the tide of these juveniles coming into adult situations."

So he flipped the script and became an educator, beginning as a teacher and working his way up to the principal post at DeSoto's alternative school.

Webb uses his story to get through to students, who sometimes think a 40-year-old, well-kempt principal can't relate to their life situations. "Then I tell them I'm from Oak Cliff," he said. "Based on my environment, I should have ended up with a different outcome, but I was blessed to go through the Gifted and Talented program in Dallas [ISD], and that exposed me to opportunities that weren't always available in my community. I tell them the world is bigger than what they see daily."

Case in point — the sixth-grader who gave him the impetus to learn to fly.

"It was ironic," he said. "That student ended up transferring to DeSoto when I was an administrator at the high school. He enrolled in an aviation program we started and learned how to fly, too."

While he isn't in the air as often as he would like, Webb has made plans to remedy that. He's now a member of the Commemorative Air Force's Redbird Squadron at Dallas Executive Airport. "Flying their P-51 Mustang is on my bucket list," he said.

—Paul Bottoni



ALUMNI NOTES

1970s



Ryland Young PhD'75, Regents Professor and Sadie Hatfield Professor of Agriculture in biochemistry and biophysics at Texas A&M University, was named a University Distinguished Professor. He also is the founding director of the Center for Phage Technology at Texas A&M. Young, who was supported by a National Science Foundation postgraduate fellowship while at UTD, earned a doctorate in molecular biology.



Russell Crews BS'78 is president and CEO of CC Young, a nonprofit senior living community near White Rock Lake in Dallas. He has more than 30 years of experience in both public and private corporations. Crews holds a degree in business administration.

1980s



Larry Chamberlin MA'82 is a Houston-based lawyer specializing in family law at his firm, Chamberlin Law & Mediation. After completing a master's degree in international management studies at UTD, Chamberlain attended Tulane Law School, graduating in 1988.



Dr. Richard McCullough BS'82, a distinguished alumnus, is the vice provost for research and a professor of materials science and engineering at Harvard University. Prior to joining the Harvard faculty, McCullough was at Carnegie Mellon University, where he had served in several positions, including vice president for research, dean of the Mellon College of Science and head of the chemistry department. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. McCullough, who earned a degree in chemistry at UTD, is the founder of two companies, Liquid X Printed Metals and Plextronics.



Jill Guthrie BA'84 is the head of the Guthrie School, a private, coed school for students from pre-school to sixth grade in Allen, Texas. She holds a degree in English literature.



Dr. Scott Mackenzie BA'84 is a professor, director of theatre and chair of the theatre and dance department at Alma College in Michigan. His acting credits include film, television and theatre. Mackenzie, who studied theatre at UTD, had previously been on faculty at Westminster College in Pennsylvania. While on active duty with the U.S. Army Reserve, he directed the first play produced by civilian and military personnel serving in the International Zone of Baghdad.



Ran Holman BGS'86 is the 2018 chairman of The Real Estate Council and is managing principal and DFW market leader for Cushman & Wakefield.



Gary Jensen BS'89 ended a nearly 45-year career in the baking industry when he retired as president of Roman Meal Co. in Tacoma, Washington. He previously held positions at Pepperidge Farm and Campbell Taggart. He is a founding member of the Whole Grains Council and is a member of the American Bakers Association. Jensen holds a degree in business administration.



Merrill Matthews PhD'89 is a resident scholar with the Institute for Policy Innovation, a public policy think tank based in Irving, Texas. He is a health policy expert and contributor at *Forbes* and also serves on the Texas Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He holds a doctorate in humanities.



Pamela Smith MBA'89 is the KPMG Endowed Professor of Accountancy and a Presidential Teaching Professor at Northern Illinois University, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in financial accounting and financial statement analysis.



Walter L. Sutton Jr. PhD'89 teaches business law in the Naveen Jindal School of Management. His career includes legal positions with oil and gas companies and Walmart, a presidential appointment to the Federal Highway Administration in Washington, D.C., and chief of staff to former UT Dallas President Franklyn Jenifer. He and his wife, Beverly, made the first individual endowment to the new Jindal Young Scholars Program, a scholarship program for first-generation Dallas Independent School District students. He earned a doctorate in management science.



Pitching In at the Winter Olympics

THE 2018 WINTER OLYMPICS not only marked the pinnacle of sporting ambition for many participants, but it also represented the culmination of a lifelong dream for one Comet.

Caroline Lee BS'13, who graduated with a degree in psychology and a minor in gender studies, spent two months volunteering at the Olympic and Paralympic games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. She worked in the accreditation department, where she helped make ID badges for employees.

"I had the honor of helping people from six continents and all walks of life — former athletes, heads of government, bus drivers, university researchers, waitresses, journalists," Lee said. "Talking to so many different types of people and learning about their lives was a great experience."

Potential Olympic volunteers face stiff competition and overwhelming odds to win the coveted assignments. After an unsuccessful attempt at volunteering with the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Lee knew that she would be one

of tens of thousands of people applying for the 2018 Winter Olympics. After a second, nine-month application process, Lee was rewarded with a ticket to Pyeongchang.

"For the longest time, I couldn't believe it," Lee said. "Not even when I was in South Korea declaring chicken jerky to airport customs or on the bus to volunteer training. It wasn't until I put on my silver and red volunteer uniform that this dream finally became real."

Since graduating, Lee has worked as a teacher and is currently focused on her global volunteer work, teaching English and creating videos. She encourages others to learn from her experience at the games and realize any goal is within reach.

"We often dress our dreams up to be untouchable, but they are much more approachable and tangible than we think they are."

-Daniel Steele



1990s



Gregory Rose BS'90, MPA'92 is UTD's 2018 Public Affairs Alumna of the Year. He is the city manager of University City, Missouri. While an undergraduate at UT Dallas, he was a member of the Black Student Alliance. He earned two degrees from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.



Charles Woods BS'90 is controller of FNBC Community Banks in Ash Flat, Arkansas. He supervises the company's accounting team, among other duties. He previously worked at Texas Instruments Inc. and Pfizer Inc. He graduated with a degree in business administration.

Joyendu "Joy" Bhadury PhD'91 is the dean of Radford University's College of Business and Economics. He formerly served as dean at the School of Business and Management at State University of New York-The College at Brockport. Bhadury holds a doctorate in management science.



Carolyn "Janie" Stubblefield BS'91 was appointed to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors by Gov. Greg Abbott. Stubblefield is the owner of Dallas-based Mobile Counseling, which provides private mental health counseling to clients and professional supervision to licensed professional counselor interns. She earned a degree in public administration.



Almaz Woldeab BS'93 received a 2018 Minority Business Leader Award from the *Dallas Business Journal*. A certified public accountant, she is chief accounting officer and managing director at Civitas Capital Group in Dallas. Woldeab earned a bachelor's degree in accounting.



Randy Sahn MS'94 is chief financial officer of Denton-based AccessBank. He previously served 13 years as CFO for another Denton bank, Northstar. He holds a master's degree in accounting.



Distinguished alumnus James Reilly BS'77, MS'87, PhD'95 is high above Earth during one of his three space missions.



Former Astronaut Confirmed as USGS Director

THE U.S. SENATE CONFIRMED former astronaut James F. Reilly BS'77, MS'87, PhD'95 as the next director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

As head of the USGS, he oversees the collecting, monitoring and analyzing of natural resource conditions, issues and problems.

Reilly, who earned three degrees in geosciences from UTD, worked as an oil and gas exploration geologist — spending the equivalent of 22 days in deep-submergence vehicles conducting research and overseeing projects in the oceans — before he was selected for NASA's astronaut program in 1994.

As a mission specialist, Reilly spent a total of 853 hours in space, including five spacewalks lasting more than 31 hours during which he helped assemble the International Space Station. His first space mission was in 1998, with additional trips in 2001 and 2007.

“Jim Reilly has worked in the three most hostile places — Antarctica, the deep sea and outer space,” said Dr. Richard Mitterer, professor emeritus of geosciences, who has known Reilly since he was an undergraduate and supervised his doctoral research project. “He is an excellent scientist, a team player who interacts well with others, a proven leader and an outstanding person.”





Derek Smith MS'94, DCHM'96 is associate professor of chemistry at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas. He also serves as director of the local barbershop chorus "The Heartland Harmonizers." He holds degrees in chemistry.



Sam Gilliland MBA'95, a 2005 UTD distinguished alumnus, is the CEO of Cherwell Software in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He previously served as chairman and CEO of Sabre Corp. and Travelocity.com.



Camilla Harris BA'98, MBA'00, MS'01 is vice president, controller and principal accounting officer of fuel distribution and marketing company Sunoco, headquartered in Dallas. Harris earned degrees in interdisciplinary studies, business administration and accounting.

Jim Lindsay MA'98 directed "Kindertransport" as part of the Austin-based Trinity Street Players' 10th anniversary season and in cooperation with the Austin Jewish Repertory Theatre. Lindsay holds a degree in humanities with a focus on Holocaust studies.



Vance Reynolds EMBA'98 is the CEO of Carolinas Hospital System-Florence, a 396-bed, acute-care facility with more than 1,500 employees and nearly 250 physicians that serves the region of northeastern South Carolina.



Mahesh Shetty EMBA'99 is the president of New York-based SG Blocks, an innovator in providing cargo shipping containers to meet the growing demand for safe and green construction. He also is the company's chief financial officer. Shetty serves on the board and is the treasurer for Mothers Against Drunk Driving and is immediate past chairman of the US-India Chamber of Commerce DFW, among other civic activities.

2000s

Dr. Reena Kuba BS'00 was appointed to the Texas Dental Review Committee by Gov. Greg Abbott. Kuba is a pediatric dentist in private practice in Irving, Texas, and has been named one of *D Magazine's* Best Dentists in Dallas. She is also a clinical assistant professor at Texas A&M College of Dentistry. She graduated with a degree in biology.



Dr. Sulman Ahmed BS'01 received a 2018 Minority Business Leader Award from the *Dallas Business Journal*. He is founder and chief executive officer of Dallas-based DECA Dental. He earned a degree in business administration.



Dr. Shahrooz Seifkar BA'01 was appointed to the Texas Dental Review Committee by Gov. Greg Abbott. Seifkar is a dentist anesthesiologist in Dallas and president of Dental Anesthesia Specialists. He holds a degree in biology from UTD, where he also played on the soccer team.



Jian "James" Ma MSCS'02 is an associate professor of information systems in the College of Business at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He holds a degree in computer science.



Neil Geismar PhD'03 is a Center for Executive Development Professor in the Mays Business School at Texas A&M University. His research includes production scheduling, supply chain management and currency supply chains in different countries. He holds a doctorate in operations management.



Dr. Jed Magen MS'03 is an associate professor and chair of Michigan State University's psychiatry department. He is past president of the American Osteopathic College of Neurologists and Psychiatrists, and of the Michigan Psychiatric Society. Magen earned a degree in medical management.



Tressie McKeon BA'03 is a partner in the Dallas office of Fox Rothschild LLP Attorneys at Law. McKeon handles a range of general and commercial litigation and insurance defense matters. She holds a degree in economics.



Physics Grad Student/Rugby Player Among Five NSF Honorees With Ties to UT Dallas

MELANIE BOWLER BS'16 is accustomed to being part of a team where everyone pushes in the same direction to cross the line.

Her drive is both metaphorical and literal. The electronic materials researcher from the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, who was chosen for a prestigious federal fellowship, was also a three-year member of the UT Dallas women's rugby team.

Bowler is one of five students who are attending or have graduated from UT Dallas chosen this year for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The program provides three years of financial support for a student's graduate studies.

The physics master's student works in the laboratory of Dr. Jason Slinker, associate professor of physics. Bowler's research concerns light-emitting electrochemical cells (LECs), which may serve as an alternative to light-emitting diodes (LEDs). She's refining the efficiency and stability of LECs with ionic transition-metal complexes.

"These are highly efficient, low-cost, lightweight devices that have applications in passive signage or even as flexible, wearable lighting," Bowler said.

While completing her undergraduate degree, Bowler took up rugby, which she was first attracted to while in high school in New York, but never got to play until becoming a Comet.

"Rugby demands an additional level of trust in your teammates and a different level of physicality," she said. "I really enjoy the challenge, the competition, and I've made some of the most amazing friends. These girls have literally taken hits for me."

Karthik Hullahalli BS'17, Mai Thuan Huynh BS'16, Stephanie Matijevic BS'16 and Jesse Grant BS'18 also received 2018 National Science Foundation graduate research fellowships.

—Stephen Fontenot



Raychael Stine BA'03 is an assistant professor of painting and drawing at the University of New Mexico. Her art has been exhibited in galleries in Chicago, New York and throughout Texas. She holds a degree in art and performance.

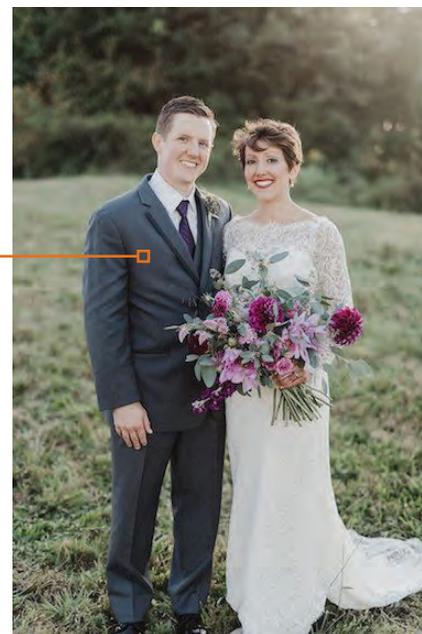
Trey Taylor MBA'03 is co-founder of Good Eats Food Co. in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Good Eats sells packaged foods under the brands Serious Bean Co and Ruthie's Twisted Harvest. Taylor now leads the marketing and innovation efforts of Good Eats Food, which was recently acquired by Lakeside Foods.



Barbara Kasekende MBA'05 is the corporate social investment manager at Stanbic Bank Uganda. She has more than 10 years of senior management experience in customer relations, marketing and public relations.



Aidan Skoyles BS'05, MSEE'06 is a patent attorney in Washington, D.C. The former McDermott Scholar earned two degrees in electrical engineering. He uses his engineering background to work with companies in cases involving technical innovations.



Dr. W. Rayne Barrett BA'07 married Cheryl Williams in 2017 during a sunset ceremony in Travelers Rest, South Carolina. Barrett holds a degree in historical studies. He later attended medical school and is now an emergency medicine physician at Greenville Health System in South Carolina.



Susan Ballabina PhD'07 is the deputy vice chancellor for agriculture and life sciences at Texas A&M University. She oversees shared services divisions of Texas A&M AgriLife that include outreach and strategic initiatives, business and strategic management, communications and information technology. She earned a doctorate in public affairs.



Frank Martinez MBA'07, MS'14 is a supervisor in the project management office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, where he began working in 2011. Martinez holds degrees in business administration and accounting.

Judd Stone BA'07 is chief counsel to Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas. He previously worked for Morgan Lewis, where he practiced before the U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts of appeals. He also was a law clerk for the late Justice Antonin Scalia. Stone graduated with a degree in political science.



Larry Terry II PhD'07 is the executive director of the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. He was previously an assistant professor at the University of North Texas at Dallas, where he was also the founding director of the Urban SERCH Institute. He earned a doctorate in public affairs.



Austin Tindle BA'07 is a voice actor who has appeared in dozens of anime productions, including "Tokyo Ghoul." He holds a degree in art and performance.



Somasish Ghosh Dastidar MS'08, PhD'11 is a senior research associate at Duke University, where he is a member of the Center for Neurodegeneration and Neurotherapeutics. He graduated from UTD with degrees in cell and molecular biology. He and his wife, **Ranita Ghosh Dastidar MS'09, PhD'12**, who is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, San Diego, received their doctoral hoods in the same ceremony.



Kanvin Ravin MPA'08 was the Plano Police Department's 2017 Officer of the Year. The 20-year veteran officer holds a degree in public affairs.



Rachel Markowitz BA'08, a senior program officer for America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, works on a federally funded international exchange program for high school students from the Middle East and North Africa. The former McDermott Scholar was a member of the UTD Ultimate Frisbee team and a student ambassador. She was also the first UTD undergraduate to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. She earned a degree in political science.



Oscar Yactayo BS'08 is founder of ClicknShip USA, an online platform to connect the shipper and the trucking company. He has worked on the new venture through the University's Blackstone LaunchPad with 15 students from the Naveen Jindal School of Management and Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science. Yactayo graduated with a degree in business administration.

Jackson Choate BS'09, MS'10 is the resident inspector at the South Texas Project nuclear power plant in Bay City, Texas. Choate joined the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2015. He was an officer in the U.S. Navy and served as an instructor at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, South Carolina. He graduated with degrees in physics.

2010s



Hassan Ghasemzadeh PhD'10, assistant professor in Washington State University's School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) award to improve wearable-based health monitoring technology. He holds a degree in computer engineering.

Michael Austin PhD'11 is an associate professor of media, journalism and film, and coordinator of the interdisciplinary studies program in communications in the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University. His research focuses on music and sound in emerging and interactive media. While at UTD, Austin was president of the Arts and Humanities Graduate Student Association. He holds a doctorate in aesthetic studies.



Charles Lilly BA'11, MA'15 is an assistant professor of mass communication at East Texas Baptist University. Lilly, who is a doctoral candidate in the ArtSciLab in the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, previously worked at UTD as the marketing communications manager in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science. He holds degrees in literature and humanities.



John M. Ray PhD'12 is division director of law enforcement and security training at the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service. He has more than two decades' experience in law enforcement, most recently as assistant chief of police in Victoria, Texas. He is a U.S. Air Force veteran. Ray earned a doctorate in public affairs.



Dr. John McDonald MS'13 is the 2018 Credentialing Resource Center Medical Staff Leader of the Year. He earned a degree in healthcare management.



Kyler Kelly BS'14, who graduated from Pepperdine School of Law in May 2018, is now an associate attorney with Blaies & Hightower in Fort Worth, Texas. While at UTD, Kelly was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and a peer advisor in the residence halls. She spent six months doing mission work in New Zealand, Thailand and Cambodia following her UTD graduation with a degree in international political economy.



Giselle Lin MBA'15 is founder and CEO of Cupidstone, a Dallas-based fashion jewelry e-commerce store and wholesaler.



Cubie Mesecher BS'16, a former McDermott Scholar, is a systems development engineer at Amazon Web Services. While at UTD, he founded the yoyo club. He holds a degree in computer science.



Nancy Fairbank BA'17 is in the United Kingdom, where she just completed a master's degree in international development at the University of Birmingham and is now pursuing a master's in global governance and diplomacy at the University of Oxford. Her studies are part of a Marshall Scholarship, which is funded by the British government and allows American students to attend graduate school in the UK. She was the first UTD student in more than 10 years to receive the award. While at UTD, Fairbank majored in political science. She was a McDermott Scholar and in 2017 was one of six graduate students across the U.S. to receive a Phi Kappa Phi Marcus L. Urann Fellowship.

Emily Luth BS'17 is coordinator of community relations and the Mavs Foundation for the Dallas Mavericks. She was a Terry Scholar at UTD, as well as a student ambassador and a member of the soccer team. Luth earned a degree in biomedical engineering.

Temoc the Center of New Graduation Tradition

EVEN TEMOC graduates.

Molly Millsap, who earned a bachelor's degree from the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, was the first participant in the Temoc Reveal, a new UTD commencement tradition that lets the campus community learn the identity of the mascot when he or she graduates.

Millsap was Temoc for two years. Per the unwritten rules of being a mascot, her identity remained a secret while serving as Temoc. She was revealed during a ceremony when she received her diploma holder from a current Temoc.

A mascot for 11 years, including for schools in her hometown of Sulphur Springs, Texas, Millsap also has worked at Disney World. She is an instructor with the National Cheerleaders Association.



REMEMBRANCES OF

University Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Friends



ROBERT BASS
BS'08, March 1,
2018, Hallsville,
Texas. Bass earned
a degree in economics and was a
professional poker player.



BRIAN BLACK
BS'85, March 23,
2018, Houston,
Texas. Black gradu-
ated with a degree in computer
science and worked for Texas
Instruments, NASA and HP.



**DIANE LEA
BROWN**, Teach-
er Certification'96,
BA'99, May 5, 2018,
Burnet, Texas. She earned a
degree in psychology and taught
for 18 years at Haggard Middle
School in Plano, Texas.



JULIA BUTTS
MAT'85, June 6,
2018, Dallas. Butts
earned a degree
in math and science education.
She taught eighth-grade math
for 25 years.



**DR. VINCENT
CIRILLO**, 1925-
2018. Dr. Vincent
Cirillo, a longtime
senior lecturer at UT Dallas, died
in August at the age of 92. Cirillo
came to UT Dallas in 1992
after retiring from Stony Brook
University in New York. For 24
years, Cirillo taught lab and lec-
ture classes in the UT Dallas
Department of Biological Scienc-
es. He also developed a science
curriculum project for local ele-
mentary schools. Cirillo last
taught in fall 2016 and, accord-
ing to colleagues, he was pleased
to have exceeded his ambition to

teach at the age of 90. He and his
wife, Lilli, played an active role
in the Civil Rights movement
in the 1960s and participat-
ed in national and local efforts
to end segregation and discrim-
ination. Cirillo and his wife also
were supporters of the Ackerman
Center for Holocaust Studies at
UT Dallas.



**MICHAEL D'AU-
GUSTINE** BS'15
Feb. 10, 2018,
Dallas. D'Augustine
graduated with a degree in com-
puter science and worked as a
junior software developer.

CAROL GLADYS DEFFLEY,
1939-2018. Carol Deffley, a
former assistant librarian in the
Eugene McDermott Library, died
on April 10 in Delaware.



GREGORY DENNEY
BS'89, April 21,
2018, Dona Ana
County, New
Mexico. He earned a degree in
business administration.



**DR. WALTER M.
DUNCAN**, 1952-
2018. Dr. Walter
Duncan, research
professor in the Erik Jonsson
School of Engineering and Com-
puter Science, died on March 24
after battling brain cancer. Upon
earning a doctorate in chemis-
try from North Carolina State
University at Raleigh in 1980, he
moved to Dallas and began work-
ing at Texas Instruments, first
in the Materials Science Labo-
ratory of TI's Central Research
Laboratories and later in the Dig-
ital Light Processing business.
He was a senior member of the

technical staff when he retired
in 2009. While working at TI,
Duncan also served as a profes-
sor at UTD, where he advised
doctoral candidates.



DONNA FOSTER
MS'77, Feb. 15,
2018, Dallas. Foster
was an elementary
school teacher for 17 years.



ANN HURTTE
BS'90, May 31,
2018, Junction,
Texas. She earned a
degree in public administration.



PAUL JENNINGS
BS'81, March 10,
2018, Dallas. Jen-
nings served in the
U.S. Air Force and later worked
as a software developer.



**ARIOBARZAN KIAR-
ASH** BS'88, Feb. 10,
2018, Tucson, Arizo-
na. Kiarash earned a
degree in biology and worked as
an orthopedic surgeon and clini-
cal assistant professor.



**STANLEY KOWAL-
SKY** MA'88, May
10, 2018, Rich-
ardson. Kowalsky
graduated with a master's degree
in political economy.



ERNESTINE MASK
MAT'84, May 5,
2018, Dallas. Mask
taught high school
science for more than 45 years.

TERRESA D. MOSS BS'86, Dec.
12, 2017, Galt, California. Moss
graduated *magna cum laude*
with a degree in special educa-
tion. She was a devoted teacher
of the visually impaired and in
special education for 29 years.



JUDITH NESKY
BA'00, June 1, 2018,
Richardson. She
graduated with a
degree in literary studies.



**MARGARET GRIF-
FITH OLSSON**,
1933-2018. Mar-
garet (Peggy)
Griffith Olsson worked in the
Eugene McDermott Library
from 1980 until her retire-
ment in 1997. During her tenure,
Olsson provided reference ser-
vice, library instruction and
online searching services to
the University community. In
1989 she was awarded the Ethel
Ward-McLemore Award for
Library Excellence for developing
the library's instruction program.



SHIRLEY PECK
BS'84, May 21,
2018, Arling-
ton, Texas. Peck
earned a degree in business
administration and founded
an accounting firm.



FARIDA SALEH
MS'77, PHD'76,
May 14, 2018,
Denton, Texas.
Saleh earned degrees in chem-
istry. She worked for the city
of Dallas, Texas AGM Universi-
ty and the University of North
Texas.



ARLIN SMITH
BA'93, March 11,
2018, Las Colinas,
Texas. Smith gradu-
ated with a degree in sociology.



IVAN SOTELO
BS'11, April 18,
2018, Dallas. Sotelo
earned a degree in
speech-language pathology and
audiology.



**VIRGINIA TRAU-
BERT** BS'86, Aug.
14, 2018, Bozeman,
Montana. Traubert
earned a degree in art.



LIN WANG MS'18,
Sept. 21, 2018,
Dallas. Wang earned
a degree in account-
ing from the Naveen Jindal
School of Management.

Keep Us Informed

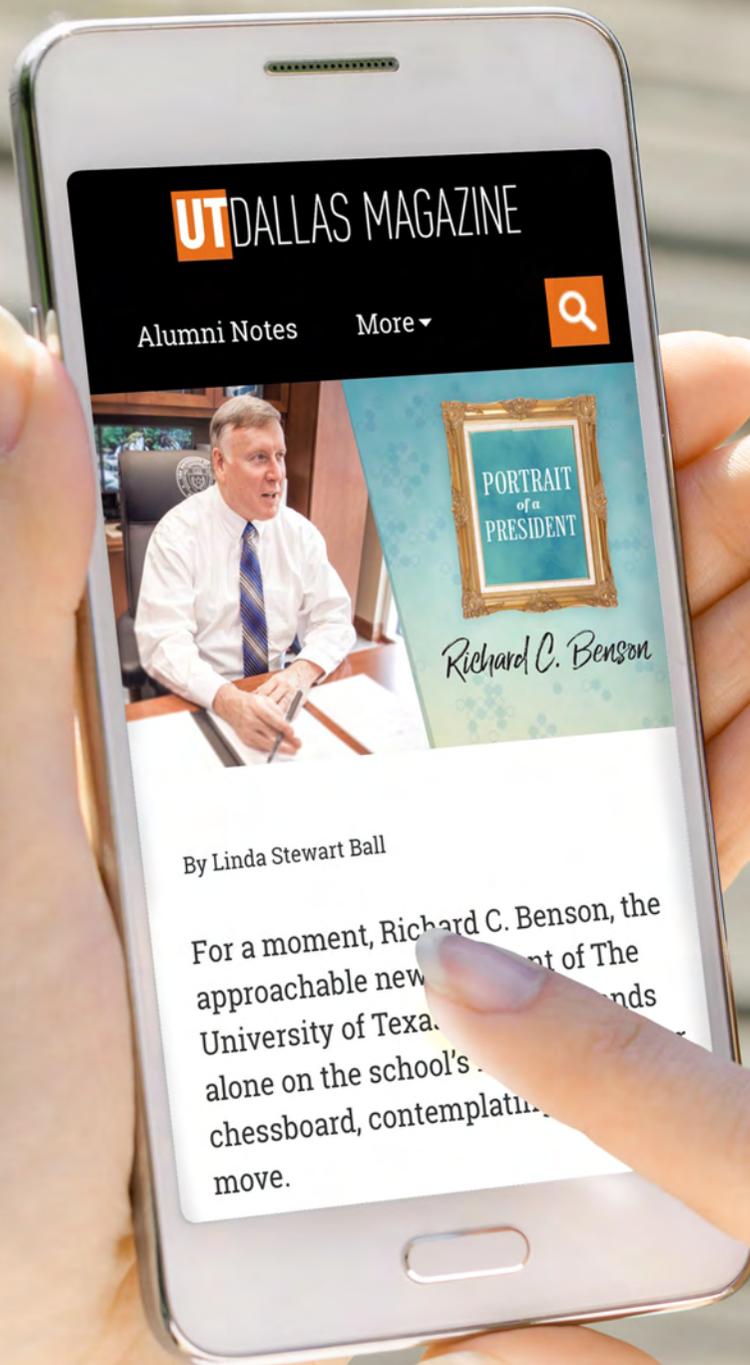
If you learn of the death of a UT Dallas alumnus,
faculty, staff or friend, please send information
to alumni@utdallas.edu or to

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Hindsight

ON A SUNDAY morning in the early 1960s, Margaret McDermott joined her husband, UT Dallas co-founder Eugene McDermott, on a drive to the country. When they arrived at an empty swath of cotton fields that was destined to become UTD's campus, Eugene asked Margaret what she thought. "I told him it needed trees," she recalled at the 2010 dedication marking the completion of the first phase of the Campus Landscape Enhancement project. Thanks to Mrs. McDermott's vision and support, the campus has become a welcoming, beautifully landscaped area shaded by more than 6,800 trees. Read more about her legacy on page 16.

