

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

UT DALLAS

M A G A Z I N E

WINTER 2020



SPECIAL EDITION: AT THE SPEED OF BRIGHT





The Next 50 Years: Shaped by Students

ON SUNDAY, AUG. 18, 2019, UT Dallas officially kicked off its 50th anniversary with University Convocation, an annual event that captures the excitement and energy of new students beginning their academic journeys. The gathering also signified the start of a new stage in UT Dallas' own dynamic evolution, a trajectory into the future that President Richard C. Benson said will continue to be driven and shaped by the heartbeat of the University — its students.

**Vice President,
Communications**

John Walls

Editorial Director

Heidi Harris Cannella

Executive Editor

Amanda Siegfried

Contributing Editors

Paul Bottoni

Marc Johnson

Creative Director

LeeDon Moore MFA'14

Contributing Writers

Jill Blevins

Stephen Fontenot

Melissa Graham

Kim Horner MA'05

Phil Roth

Robin Russell

Daniel Steele

Bruce Unrue

Designers and Illustrators

Julianne Fowler

Pete Pagliaccio

Photographers

Randy Anderson

Ricardo Castrillón BA'17

Rachael Drury BA'19

Nitashia Johnson

Sarah Wall BA'19



CONTACT US

UT Dallas Magazine

800 W. Campbell Road, AD14

Richardson, Texas 75080-3021

972-883-2155

utdallasmagazine@utdallas.edu

Subscribers

For address changes, contact:
data@utdallas.edu

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50 UTD YEARS



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Convocation *Kicks Off* 50th Anniversary Celebration

AS A CROWD of nearly 2,000 filed into the Activity Center for Convocation in August, many of the sights and sounds that filled the gymnasium suggested an academic year beginning like many before it.

New UT Dallas students gathered to learn about Comet traditions and programs, listen to the “UT Dallas Alma Mater” and falteringly attempt their first few Whooshes. Yet the signs that something more was being commemorated were not hard to find.

With a backdrop of screens, T-shirts and swirling spotlights adorned with a logo marking the University’s 50 years, UT Dallas officially kicked off its anniversary celebration at Convocation—the first of several events, including a symphony orchestra concert scheduled for May 2, that will highlight the milestone throughout the academic year.

During Convocation, new students were greeted with a video timeline of the University’s history. With each incoming cohort, UT Dallas’ population and profile have reached new heights.

“Our University is still young,” said President

Richard C. Benson, who holds the Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership. “It has a strong foundation in the STEM disciplines, business, and, increasingly, the arts. But like institutions around the world, technology has brought changes over the years: new approaches to design, new methods to solve problems and new influences in music and art.”

Benson drew a parallel between the factors that led many students to choose UT Dallas for their education and the qualities that he saw when electing in 2016 to take the top job at what he described as “one of the most exciting institutions in the nation.”

“Just like you, I made a choice to come to UT Dallas—not as a student, obviously, but my reasons are probably very similar to yours,” he said. “The excellent faculty, the diverse student body, the innovative programs, the strong research emphasis, the beautiful campus and the ability to help shape this young University.”

Dr. Inga Musselman, provost and vice president



SAVE THE DATE
for the **UTD 50TH FINALE**

May 2, 2020
8 p.m., Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center

Join us for festivities and fireworks at a special outdoor concert featuring the Richardson Symphony Orchestra.

utdallas.edu/50finale

.....
for academic affairs, guided the ceremony, noting the wide range of points of origin for the University's new arrivals.

"Your choice to attend UT Dallas demonstrates that you are comfortable with innovation and change," she said. "Only two important questions remain: How will you be changed by becoming a Comet? And how will you choose to change this community?"

Musselman outlined UT Dallas' meteoric growth by comparing current University statistics to those from only a decade-and-a-half ago.

"Fifteen years ago, we had slightly over 10,000 students and a little over 250 tenured and tenure-track faculty. UT Dallas was small by many standards," she said. "Fast-forward to today; we have approximately 29,000 students, about 560 tenured and tenure-track faculty, and a significantly increased physical facility."

Political science master's student Jude Celiscar, whose entrepreneurial efforts to help his home nation of Haiti have drawn the attention of *Forbes* magazine, emphasized that new Comets should learn quickly to "call on each other when you need to."

"This is the first principle of community: We are here to support each other and to celebrate the successes of each other," he said in his address to transfer students. "I also want you to know that you should be the change you want to see in this community. If you see something that could have been done better, come to the table, start or join a student organization to advocate for that change."

Just before students poured out of the Activity Center and headed to the Welcome Back Bash that opened the annual Weeks of Welcome, biomedical engineering PhD student

Kara Peak provided what she called "the rundown on Grad Life 101," stressing the importance of work-life balance in her remarks to new graduate students.

"While we are all eager to graduate and get out in the 'real world,'" she said, "there will not be another experience like this." —*Stephen Fontenot*

"Your choice to attend UT Dallas demonstrates that you are comfortable with innovation and change."

Dr. Inga Musselman

Fall commencement filled with golden memories

The University celebrated the achievements of its newest class of graduates in December. More than 2,700 degrees were awarded during seven fall commencement ceremonies, including 1,545 bachelor's degrees, 1,105 master's degrees and 79 doctoral degrees.

To honor the University's 50th anniversary, the 50th emblem has been included in the graduates' regalia, including on the tassel and the stole of gratitude. The tradition is for the graduate to wear the stole during the ceremony and then gift it to someone who has helped them during their time at school. Spring graduates also will sport the commemorative items. ■



Connections to Apollo Missions Helped University Take Giant Leap Forward



The summer of 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of two milestones that are inextricably linked: **the first landing of men on the moon** and **the genesis of UT Dallas**.



RESEARCHERS AT UT DALLAS' precursor institution—the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies—contributed significantly to the U.S. space program, from training Apollo astronauts on what to look for in lunar geology [see page 49] to designing space-based instruments to alert the early astronauts to radiation hazards.

It is work that has continued throughout UT Dallas' history, including ongoing space-based studies of the Earth's ionosphere [see page 39] and a recent project to digitize and analyze **archived audiotapes** from all of Apollo 11 and most of the Apollo 1, Apollo 13 and Gemini 8 missions [see page 47].



The Moon and UTD

IN THE EARLY 1960s, the founders of Texas Instruments Inc. established a research institution in North Texas called the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, later renamed the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies (SCAS). On Sept. 1, 1969, SCAS became UT Dallas.

But were it not for the U.S. space program, the University might never have been born.

Research related to space sciences comprised a large part of SCAS' work in the early days. Dr. Francis "Frank" Johnson, an expert on the Earth's upper atmosphere, was recruited in 1962 to lead the center's research program in space and atmospheric physics. He had been asked by NASA to design experiments that could detect the existence of a lunar atmosphere in preparation for the first manned lunar landing in 1969.

Johnson devised a 3-pound, cold cathode ionization **gauge** that tested for atmospheric pressure on the moon. His invention flew on Apollo flights 12, 14 and

15 as part of the **scientific instrument package** that the astronauts deployed on the lunar surface.

Johnson served as the first acting president of UT Dallas until 1971. In a 2009 interview, shortly before his death that year, he said that without SCAS' focus on the space sciences and the reliable NASA funds that followed, UT Dallas might never have come about. The fledgling center's space sciences efforts were largely supported by stable grants, but other research areas at SCAS, such as geosciences and molecular biology, depended on more vulnerable funding.

"[The center] was proving more costly than private philanthropy could support," he said. "That's one of the things that led to the realization that the only way to preserve the institution was to bring in state support."

That meant joining the UT System as The University of Texas at Dallas. —Amanda Siegfried



Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies, and Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, distinguished scholar in residence and professor of physics, pose for a photograph at the Ackerman Center Leadership Dinner.

Inaugural Ackerman Award Honors Wildenthal

FORMER PROVOST AND executive vice president **Dr. Hobson Wildenthal** received the inaugural Edward M. Ackerman Leadership Award Nov. 17 during the Ackerman Center Leadership Dinner.

“Without Dr. Wildenthal, the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, as we know it today, simply wouldn’t exist,” said Eddie Ackerman, son of founding donor Edward M. Ackerman and advisory board member. “I can think of no one more deserving to be the first recipient of this award. And I know that my father would certainly approve.”

Working with community supporters and **Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth**, a Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust survivor and the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas, Wildenthal led efforts to grow the Holocaust Studies Program, which was created in 1986. Edward Ackerman and his wife, Wilhelmina, made the lead gift in 2006 that named the Ackerman Center.

In accepting the award, Wildenthal, who now serves as a distinguished scholar in residence and professor of physics, downplayed his early efforts on behalf of the program, but he acknowledged the personal gratification he has received from working with the center.

“Doing this particular job turned into one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” he

said. “The education I received from Zsuzsanna and the great intellectuals who visited UT Dallas for the Burton C. Einspruch Lecture Series has been of immense personal value to me. I feel that I should have been paying tuition all these years, rather than being honored.”

For more than three decades, the Ackerman Center has developed an international reputation for the diversity of its academic and outreach programs that enable the center to initiate and promote broadly based study units of the Holocaust, bringing invaluable educational, intellectual and ethical insights to UT Dallas students as well as to the larger North Texas community.

In his dinner remarks, James B. Milliken, chancellor of the UT System, emphasized the importance of the Ackerman Center to the UT System and to the world.

“The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies is one of the crown jewels in the UT System. It’s one of only two places in the U.S. where you can take graduate-level courses in Holocaust studies and is a source of great pride for me and everyone associated with the UT System,” he said. “But it is my hope, paradoxically perhaps, that over time it will become if not less special, a little less unusual, because the world needs more Holocaust education.” —*Phil Roth*

Supporters Chart Future for Ackerman Center

THE INAUGURAL ACKERMAN Center Leadership Dinner inspired corporate partners, alumni and friends to contribute nearly \$1.1 million for future initiatives at the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies.

The evening’s fundraising success was spurred by Neuberger Berman, a private equity firm whose gift to underwrite the dinner allowed all donations to support Ackerman Center faculty and programming. John H. Massey, who hosted the dinner along with his wife, Libba, is a senior consultant and chairman of the investment committee at the firm.

The Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation amplified individual gifts with a \$250,000 matching challenge.

“I am very pleased that the Ackerman Center’s impact has been recognized by our community, our University and The University of Texas System,” said Dr. Nils Roemer, director of the Ackerman Center, interim dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and the Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor in Holocaust Studies. “Thanks to the support of each [donor], we are able to develop world-class education and programming.”

As a result of hundreds of contributions received for the event, the Hillel A. Feinberg Chair in Holocaust Studies was elevated to a Distinguished Chair. Currently held by Dr. David Patterson, professor of literature and history, the endowment supports the scholarly, educational and community outreach activities of internationally recognized scholars of Holocaust studies. —*Daniel Steele*

Connections to Past, Present Converge for Founders Day

The UT Dallas community came together on **Oct. 29** to reflect on the University’s past and present in a campuswide celebration. Founders Day is an annual tradition that honors the vision and legacy of UTD’s founders – **Eugene McDermott, Cecil Green and Erik Jonsson**.



THE EVENT MARKS the day in 1964 when the Founders Building, the first building constructed on the present-day campus, was dedicated. All three founders attended the dedication of the building.

“Today, UT Dallas is a rising teaching and research powerhouse with eight schools and more than 140 academic degrees, including top-ranked programs in business, engineering, science, audiology, and arts and technology,” said Dr. Kyle Edgington, vice president for development and alumni relations. “We celebrate Founders Day because none of this would be possible without the collaboration and contributions of the University’s three visionaries.”

UT Dallas’ story began in the early 1940s when McDermott, Jonsson and Green founded Geophysical Services Inc., which eventually became Texas Instruments Inc. Wanting to hire locally and retain the best and brightest to benefit their firm, the trio discovered they had a problem: Talented young minds were leaving the area to pursue higher education elsewhere.

To address this issue, the three men created the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest (GRCSW) in 1961. At the time, the campus was little more than a cluster of small nondescript buildings bordered by acres of cotton fields and undeveloped land. The institution joined the UT System as UT Dallas in 1969.

Adding another layer to this year’s Founders Day celebration is the 50th anniversary of UT Dallas’ founding. To mark the occasion, the University displayed an early artifact of its history: a recently unearthed time capsule that was **originally placed in the foundation of the Founders Building in 1963**. The lead capsule contained a small disk of a cesium isotope and a copy of the GRCSW charter on microfilm. *–Kim Horner*

Erik Jonsson (right) and Lloyd Berkner, president of the GRCSW, seal the time capsule into the foundation of the future Founders Building.



The Search for the 1963 Time Capsule

The time capsule (left), installed during construction of the Founders Building in 1963, was on display at the Founders Day celebration. Inside was a small disk of a cesium isotope and a copy of the research center's charter on microfilm. Texas Instruments donated the first item for UT Dallas' next time capsule: a 300-millimeter wafer (right).



IN 1963 UT Dallas co-founder Erik Jonsson helped seal a time capsule into the foundation of the future Founders Building. The lead cylinder contained a small cesium clock and a microfilm of the charter for the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest (GRCSW)—the precursor institution of UT Dallas.

As construction and expansion changed the campus landscape in the years afterward, the exact location of the time capsule was forgotten.

That was until September, when the vessel was pulled from the foundation of the Founders Building after more than 50 years.

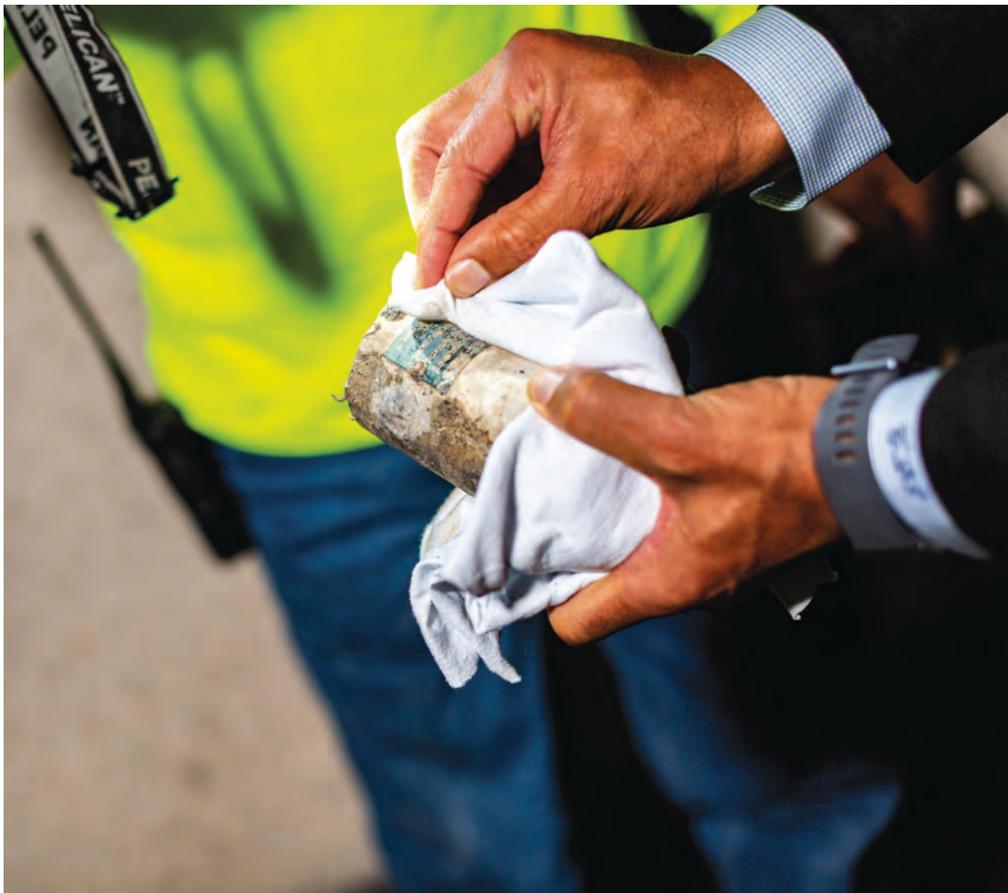
Its discovery can largely—if not wholly—be credited to Dr. James Carter, associate professor emeritus, who arrived on campus in the early 1960s. Although he officially retired in 2008, he was a regular fixture on campus for the next 11 years. Carter always claimed he knew where the time capsule was located—he just needed to prove it.

Prove it he did. Before his unexpected death in September and with the help of personnel in facilities management, Carter tracked down the location of the small piece of UT Dallas history.

President Richard C. Benson, the Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership, presented the time capsule and its contents to the University community during the annual Founders Day celebration on Oct. 29.

“The time capsule had become a personal quest for the late Dr. James Carter,” he said. “We didn’t know for sure if the time capsule had survived. But because of Dr. Carter’s dedication to the search, we were able to recover it.”

At the Founders Day event, Texas Instruments—whose founders also established the GRCSW and UT Dallas—provided a 300-millimeter wafer to be the first item for a new time capsule. Additional items will be collected throughout the school year. —Paul Bottoni



The time capsule is gently cleaned after being pulled from the foundation of the Founders Building.



■ Andrew Blodgett, a business administration senior, and April Boyd, a political science senior, were selected as Homecoming King and Queen for the 26th annual event.

■ Speech-language pathology and audiology sophomore Kelsey Vong, a member of the UT Dallas Power Dancers, adds to the Homecoming Parade festivities.

■ A new chalk art contest encouraged students to draw what they think UT Dallas would look like 50 years from now.

Coming Home

to a 50th Anniversary Celebration

UT Dallas students showed off plenty of Comet spirit and celebrated the University's 50th anniversary during **2019 Homecoming** activities Nov. 13-16.





■ Homecoming 2019 featured a parade along Rutford Avenue, a Comet-themed fashion show, nighttime 5K run, talent show, film screening, cardboard boat regatta and lots of music, games, food and giveaways.



Texas Instruments Gift Creates Early Career Faculty Award

ON THE OCCASION of UT Dallas' 50th anniversary, Texas Instruments made a \$5 million gift to create an endowment that will support early career faculty members in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering within the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science.

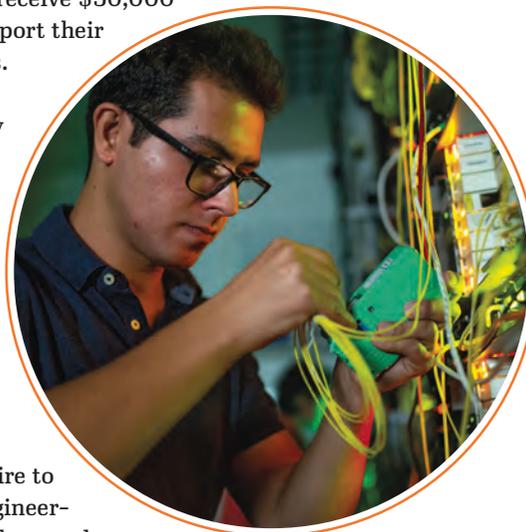
The gift, announced Oct. 29 at the University's Founders Day celebration, is the largest single commitment to UT Dallas made by TI, the University's longest supporter.

The Texas Instruments Early Career Award in Electrical and Computer Engineering is designed to help UT Dallas attract and retain promising scholars who have the potential to become leaders in new and emerging research fields.

Faculty members eligible for the award will be in the early stages of their academic careers and must demonstrate an ability to compete for extramural

funding. Award recipients will receive \$50,000 a year for up to six years to support their independent research activities.

"Texas Instruments and UT Dallas have a shared history through our founders, so it is fitting that we honor them and their vision for electrical engineering talent in North Texas with this gift from TI," said Rich Templeton, chairman, president and CEO of Texas Instruments. "It's our hope that the new endowment, as well as all we do to collaborate with UTD, reflects TI's desire to see the University maintain engineering as central to its mission and to produce students who are equipped with both technical and entrepreneurial skills and to be a source of great local talent."



"[The gift] reflects TI's desire to see the University ... be a source of great local talent."

Rich Templeton

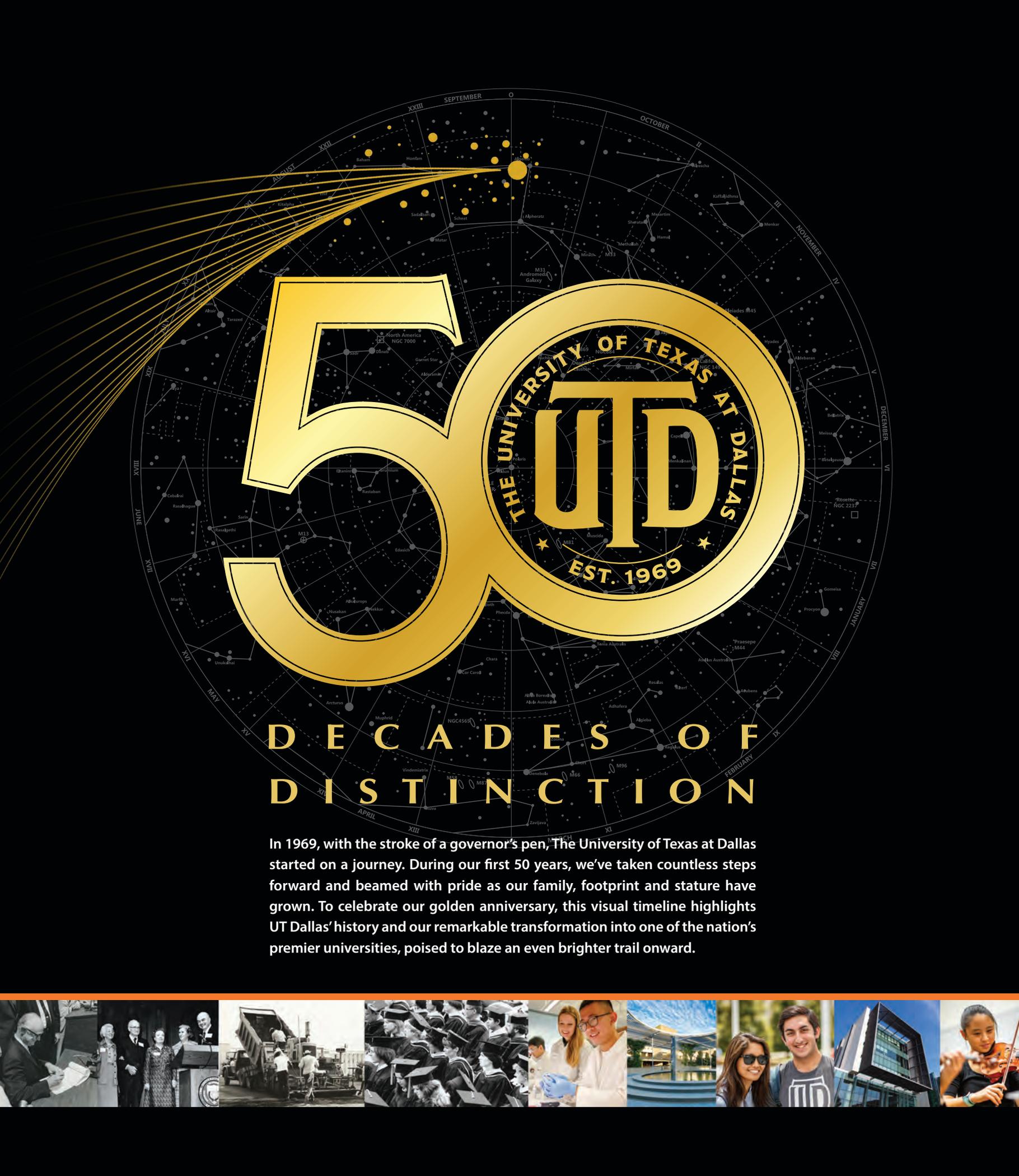
UT Dallas has rapidly become one of the nation's leading research institutions. In 2016 the University was recognized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as an R1 institution—a classification reserved for doctoral institutions with "very high research activity." In 2018 UT Dallas qualified for funding from the National Research University Fund, an exclusive source of research support available to Texas' emerging research universities upon the attainment of critical benchmark criteria.

As the University's research profile grows, new resources are necessary to compete for top talent. By providing startup funding, the Texas Instruments Early Career Award will provide a competitive advantage for recruitment and will help make UT Dallas an attractive destination for sought-after faculty.

"In order to sustain UT Dallas' incredible growth and success, it is critically important that we expand our faculty with the best available talent," said Dr. Richard C. Benson, president of UT Dallas and the Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership. "I am grateful to Texas Instruments for helping us achieve this goal and look forward to the impact these new faculty members will make in their fields, for our students and for the economic well-being of our region." *-Daniel Steele*



Rich Templeton (left), chairman, president and CEO of Texas Instruments, joins UT Dallas President Richard Benson in celebrating the partnership between the company and the University.



50

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
UTD
EST. 1969

DECADES OF DISTINCTION

In 1969, with the stroke of a governor's pen, The University of Texas at Dallas started on a journey. During our first 50 years, we've taken countless steps forward and beamed with pride as our family, footprint and stature have grown. To celebrate our golden anniversary, this visual timeline highlights UT Dallas' history and our remarkable transformation into one of the nation's premier universities, poised to blaze an even brighter trail onward.



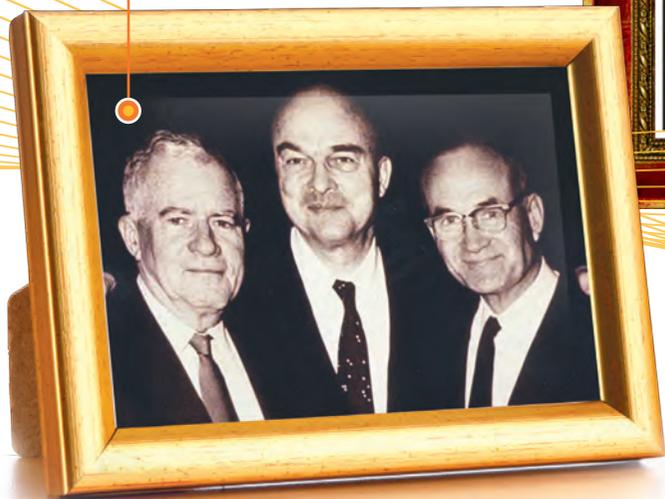


The Early Years



1961

UT Dallas owes its existence to three visionaries: **Eugene McDermott, J. Erik Jonsson and Cecil H. Green**. They observe promising young Texans leaving the state to pursue education while the trio's company, Texas Instruments Inc., struggles to import out-of-state talent to work at their Dallas-based headquarters. Hoping to create better higher education opportunities in North Texas, they establish the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. This becomes the foundation for what will become The University of Texas at Dallas.



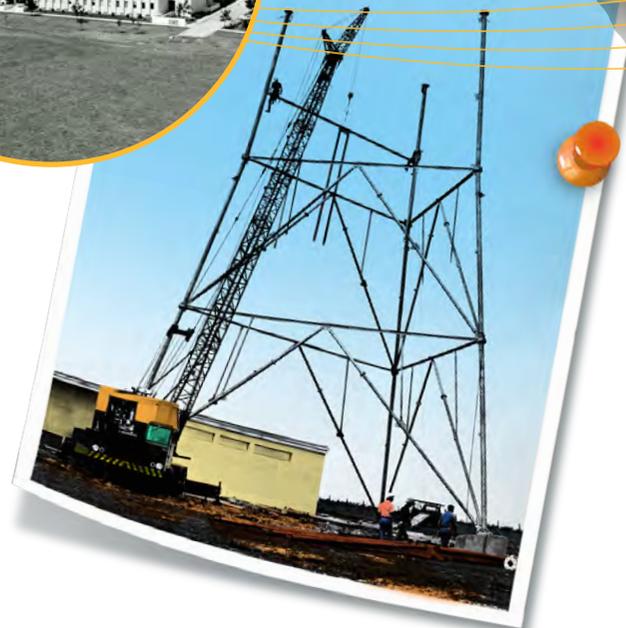
1961

Lloyd V. Berkner becomes the first president of the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. Elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1948, the engineer and physicist joined the Texas Instruments board in 1957 and would go on to earn NASA's highest civilian honor, the Public Service Medal. He was known as the Father of the International Geophysical Year, a program of research from mid-1957 through 1958 that among other things verified the existence of an oceanic mountain chain, which eventually led to the understanding of plate tectonics.



1964

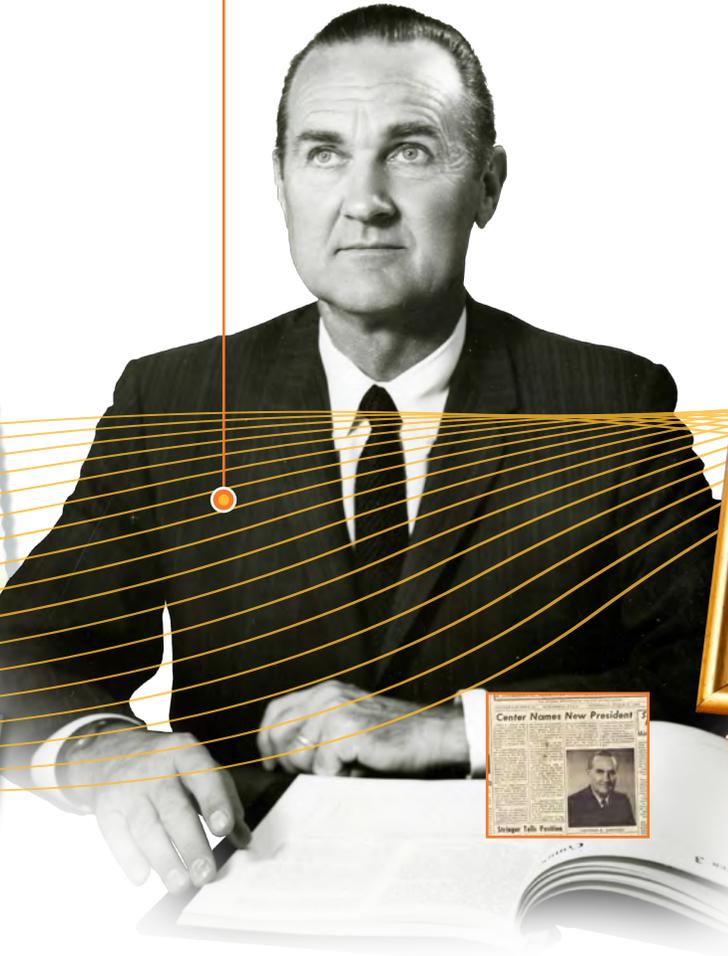
The first facility on the present-day campus opens on Oct. 29 and is named the **Founders Building**. Co-founders Erik Jonsson, Eugene McDermott and Cecil Green attend, and, in honor of this historic moment, Comets celebrate Founders Day every Oct. 29. The building will host faculty and visiting scholars from around the globe who conduct research in mathematics, physics, geosciences, atmospheric and space sciences, and biology — especially genetics and microbiology. These programs would form the core of the **School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics**.





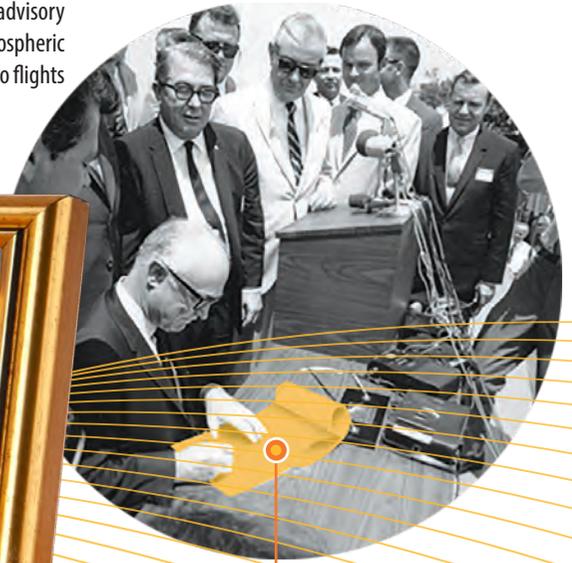
1965

Gifford Johnson becomes the second president of the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. He had been president of Ling-Temco-Vought from 1961 to 1964 and had previously been president of Chance Vought Aircraft Corp. He serves as president of the GRCSW until 1969, working closely with UT System Chancellor Harry Ransom and Erik Jonsson to establish UT Dallas.



1969

Dr. Francis (Frank) Johnson becomes acting president of the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies and later of UT Dallas. Johnson comes to the center with an impressive space career: He served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, designed instruments to study the atmosphere using German-made rockets captured after WWII, served on NASA and National Science Foundation advisory boards, and invented a lunar atmospheric pressure gauge, which flew on Apollo flights 12, 14 and 15.



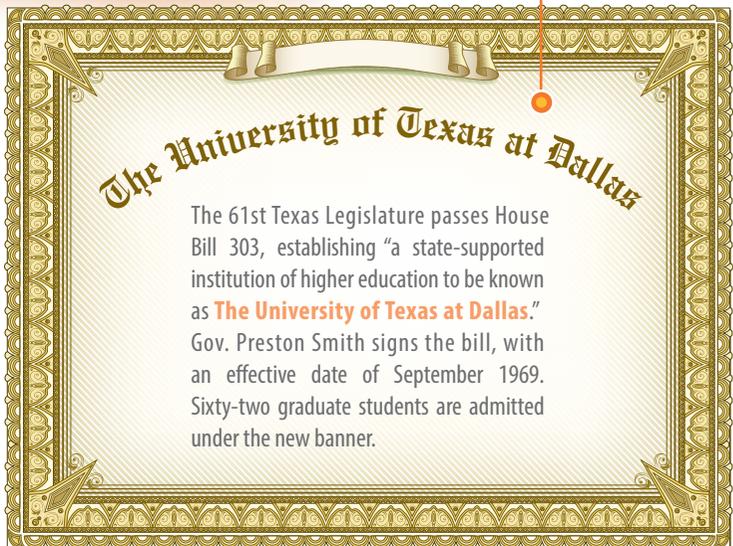
1969

1967

In an effort to better express its teaching and basic research functions, the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest changes its name to the **Southwest Center for Advanced Studies**.

The University of Texas at Dallas

The 61st Texas Legislature passes House Bill 303, establishing "a state-supported institution of higher education to be known as **The University of Texas at Dallas**." Gov. Preston Smith signs the bill, with an effective date of September 1969. Sixty-two graduate students are admitted under the new banner.





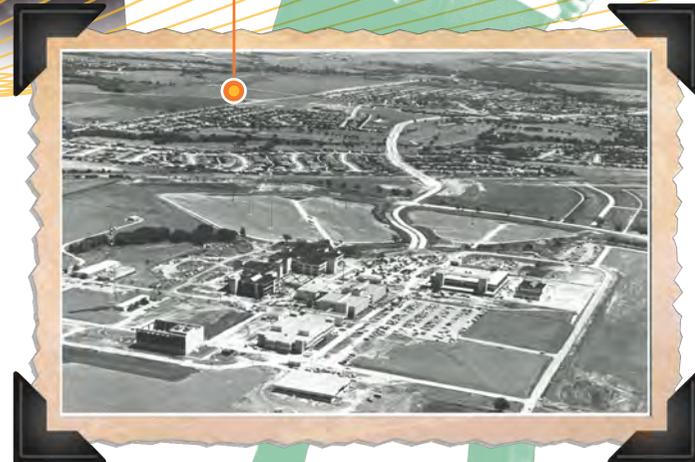
The Seventies

1973



Named for the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest's first president, **Lloyd V. Berkner Hall** opens its doors.

UT Dallas holds its **inaugural graduation** ceremony. The first graduates include Wang-Kong Lam in physics, Susan Seabury Mahlum in biology and Ronald Allan Hawkins in physics.

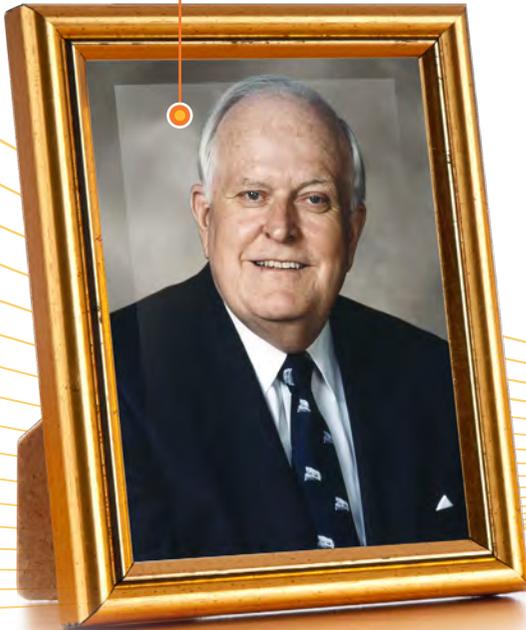


The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges **grants accreditation to UT Dallas**, conferring approval on the quality and integrity of the University's programs.



1971

Dr. Bryce Jordan becomes the first president of UT Dallas. Jordan previously served as acting president of UT Austin. He would hold the UT Dallas presidency for the next decade and go on to serve as vice chancellor for academic affairs for the UT System and president of Penn State.



1972

Dr. Polykarp Kusch becomes the first Nobel laureate on the UTD faculty. In 1955 he was jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for his "precision determination of the magnetic moment of the electron," a discovery that led to innovations in the field of quantum electrodynamics. A UT System Regental Professor, he served on the University's physics faculty until he retired in 1982 as professor emeritus. The Polykarp Kusch Lecture Series began in 1985 when the University endowed the annual program in his honor.



1975

The **Callier Center for Communication Disorders**, located in Dallas, becomes part of the School of Human Development, now the **School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences**. Founded in 1963, the center is a national leader in providing in-depth, advanced evaluations and innovative treatments for children and adults with a wide variety of speech, language and hearing disorders.

UT Dallas establishes the schools of **Arts and Humanities**, General Studies, Human Development, **Management, Natural Sciences and Mathematics**, and Social Sciences.



1976

A flurry of construction leads to the opening of five new buildings on campus in 1975-76: the **Eugene McDermott Library**, **Cecil H. Green Hall**, **Erik Jonsson Academic Center**, **Karl Hobbeltzelle Hall** and the **University Theatre**.

UT Dallas admits **juniors and seniors for the first time** for the 1975-76 academic year. The first class numbers 3,333, and the first bachelor's degrees are awarded at spring commencement.



1978

The **Alexander Clark Center** and the Visual Arts Building open. The **Art Barn**, as it is known, provides gallery space for art students. Both buildings will be torn down in the 2010s to accommodate more development.





The Eighties



1982

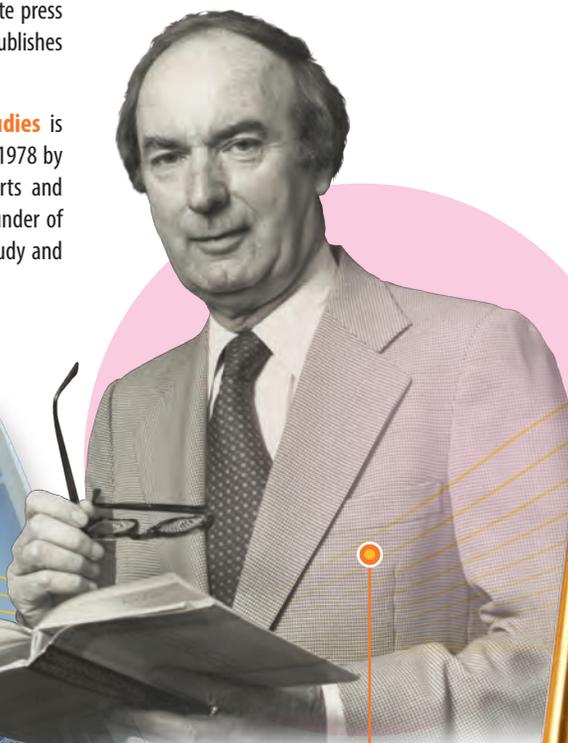
Dr. Robert H. Rutford becomes the University's second president, a position he holds until 1994. A glacial geologist and expert in geomorphology and Antarctica, Rutford led a party into the Antarctic Ellsworth Mountains in the 1960s. Several features are named for him: Mount Rutford, the highest peak, and Rutford Ice Stream, which he discovered, that drains part of the West Antarctic ice sheet into the sea. He also served as director of polar programs for the National Science Foundation, which awarded him its Distinguished Service Award. In 2007 he would be appointed president emeritus of UT Dallas.

1980

The Mercury becomes the official student newspaper of UT Dallas. The publication is a perennial award winner in collegiate press competitions. The all-student staff publishes biweekly and also posts on the web.

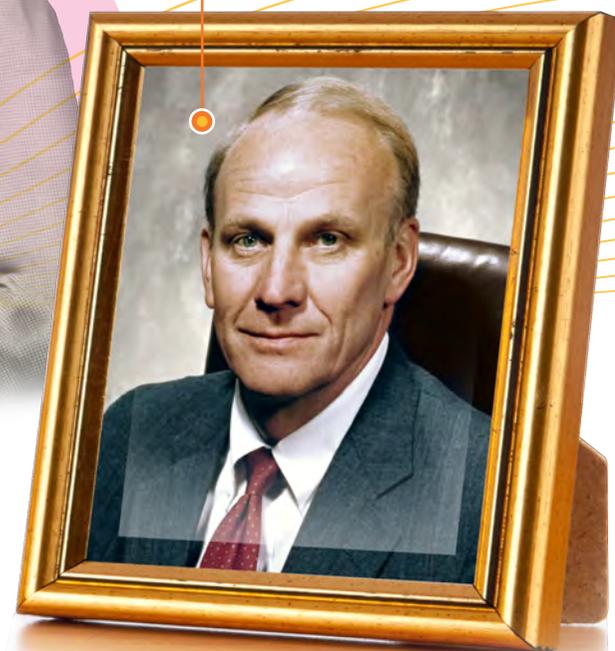


The Center for Translation Studies is officially named. It was created in 1978 by Dr. Rainer Schulte, professor of arts and humanities and considered the founder of translation studies, to foster the study and practice of literary translation.



1981

Dr. Alexander L. Clark serves as acting president from September 1981 to May 1982. He joined UT Dallas as vice president for academic affairs in 1974, a post he held for 17 years. During that time, he was responsible for the recruitment of more than 130 faculty members. He helped create the academic organization of the University and greatly expanded its graduate research and instructional efforts. Prior to UTD, he was acting executive secretary of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences and acting dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at UT Austin.



Construction is complete on the **Student Union**, which opens its doors and garners an architectural award. Cecil H. Green dedicates the new building.



1986

With a boost from 100 area companies raising more than \$20 million, the creation of the **Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science** receives approval from the state, and the school admits its first engineering students. It is the second-largest school at the University and is named for the late Erik Jonsson, a former mayor of Dallas and co-founder of Texas Instruments and UT Dallas.



1988

Dr. Brian J.L. Berry, future dean of the **School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences** and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, receives the Royal Geographical Society's highest honor, the Victoria Medal. In 2005 he would receive the Vautrin Lud Prize, considered the "Nobel Prize for Geography." His urban and regional research in the 1960s sparked geography's social-scientific revolution and made him the most-cited geographer for more than 25 years.



1986

Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, a Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust survivor, translation expert and professor of 19th- and 20th-century European literature and history, establishes the Holocaust Studies Program, which is later renamed the **Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies**. UT Dallas is just one of two schools in the U.S. that offers graduate level courses in Holocaust studies.



1989

The Texas Legislature passes House Bill 42, authorizing UT Dallas to **enroll freshmen and sophomores**, with emphasis on those wishing to pursue degrees in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering. Enrollment is limited to 2,000 freshmen, and lower division enrollment cannot exceed 5,000. The legislation marks the expansion of UTD — on the occasion of its 20th anniversary — into a full-scale university and the distinction of being the only public university in Dallas County with freshmen through PhD candidates.



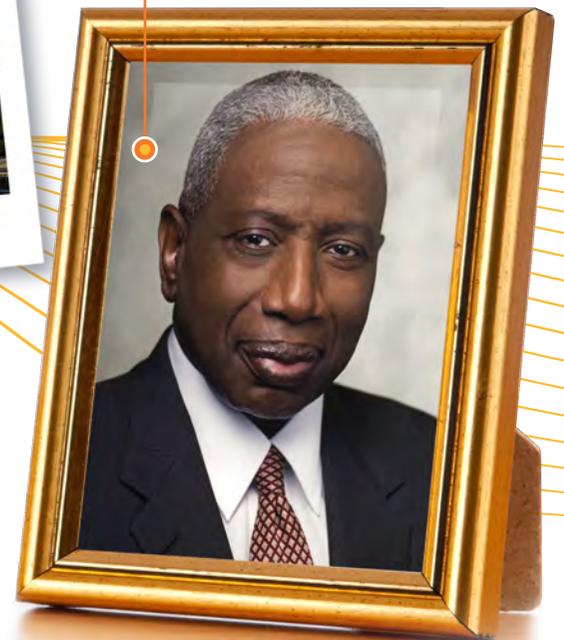


The Nineties



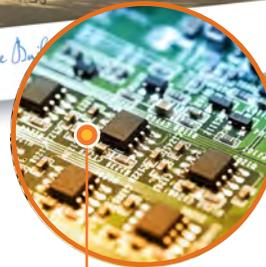
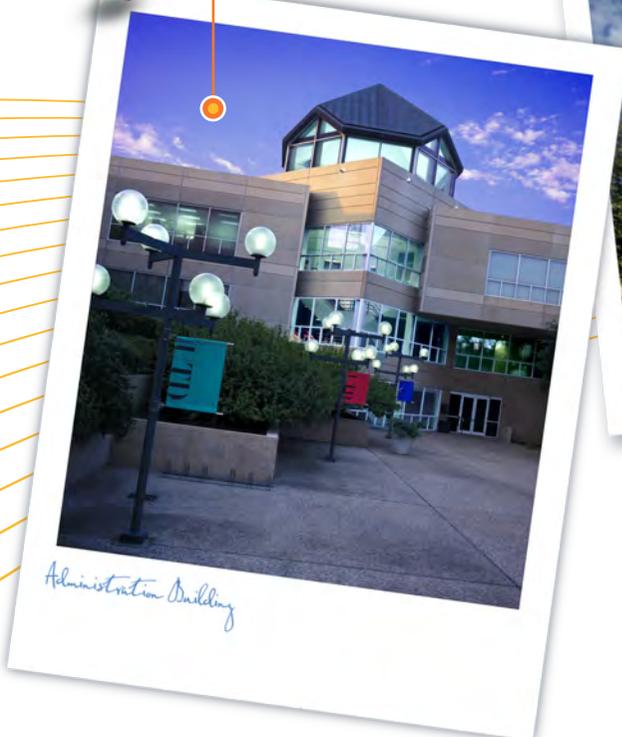
1994

Dr. Franklyn Jenifer takes the helm as UT Dallas' third president. He had formerly served as president of Howard University and as chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education. During his tenure, UTD's enrollment increases more than 60 percent, and the campus undergoes a dramatic physical transformation as major new facilities are constructed, including the School of Management, the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science and the Callier Center for Communication Disorders in Dallas. Jenifer is named president emeritus in 2005.



1990

The **Administration Building** opens. It was originally called the Multipurpose Facility and housed engineering programs and other departments. It now houses administrative offices and classrooms.



1992

The **Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) Building** and the **Cecil and Ida Green Center for the Study of Science and Society** are dedicated. ECS North is the first building along UT Dallas' engineering corridor.



UT Dallas' **first Greek chapter** — Kappa Sigma — joins the University, which today is home to 15 national Greek-letter fraternities and sororities representing organizations from the Interfraternity Council (men's fraternities), Multicultural Greek Council (culturally based fraternities and sororities), National Pan-Hellenic Council (historically African American fraternities and sororities) and the College Panhellenic Council (women's sororities).

1996



The Galerstein Women's Center, named for UT Dallas' first female dean, Dr. Carolyn Lipshy Galerstein, opens. Its mission is to advance the status and success of women and support the exploration of gender issues on campus, in the community and in society. Galerstein served as dean of the School of General Studies (now the **School of Interdisciplinary Studies**). The center is renamed the **Galerstein Gender Center** in 2017.



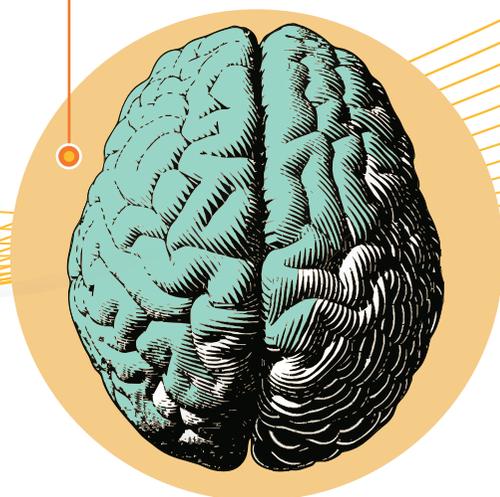
1996

The **Chess Team** debuts at UT Dallas, making it one of the first universities in the country to create a competitive, scholarship chess program. Since 2001, the team has secured four national collegiate championships and gone to the "Final Four" chess tournament, officially known as the President's Cup, 16 times.

1999



UT Dallas alumnus Dr. Sandra Bond Chapman leads the newly established **Center for BrainHealth** in Dallas. The research institute is composed of independent labs that are responsible for more than 60 research projects investigating brain health, injury and disease. In 2017, an adjacent Brain Performance Institute opens to bring together the latest research and training techniques designed to improve cognitive skills and health for a range of clients, including professional athletes, executives, military veterans and teens.



1998

Temoc — "Comet" spelled backward — a blue-skinned, red-headed "comet in a human form" is adopted as the University's first mascot. He was conceived by alumnus Aaron Aryanpur.



UTD Athletics joins the **NCAA Division III** American Southwest Conference. In just over 20 years, the intercollegiate athletics program now supports 14 varsity sports: men's and women's basketball, cross country, golf, soccer and tennis; baseball and softball; volleyball; and esports.

The **Activity Center** opens its doors. Surrounded by soccer fields, basketball courts, softball fields, tennis courts, a multipurpose field and a disc golf course, the facility includes a natatorium and fitness center. The building also houses club sports and intramural sports.



The 2000s



2000

Margaret McDermott donates \$32 million — at the time, the largest gift in UT Dallas history — to establish the **Eugene McDermott Scholars Program**, a highly competitive program that provides scholars with leadership, cultural and travel opportunities to enrich their academic experience. Because of her generosity, all McDermott Scholars attend UTD on a full scholarship with a stipend.



2002

The **Engineering and Computer Science South Building**, a three-story, 152,000-square-foot add-on to the University's existing engineering facility, contains the Texas Instruments Auditorium, as well as classrooms, offices and equipment.



2001

The **NanoTech Institute** begins with the recruitment of Dr. Ray Baughman, the Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair in Chemistry. With the later appointments of **Dr. Alan MacDiarmid, a 2000 Nobel laureate in chemistry** “for the discovery and development of conductive polymers,” and others, the institute expands. Nanotechnology is the study of the control of matter on an atomic and molecular scale — generally 100 nanometers or smaller — and involves developing materials or devices within that size range. In 2007, the research center is renamed the Alan G. MacDiarmid NanoTech Institute in his memory.



2003



The new 204,000-square-foot **School of Management** building features 29 classrooms, two computer labs, a 350-seat auditorium, break-out spaces for student groups, desktop Internet access in every classroom, wireless network access throughout, and audiovisual and online learning support in every classroom.

The School of Human Development changes its name to the **School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences**. The school is home to the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, the Center for BrainHealth, the Center for Vital Longevity and the Center for Children and Families.

2005



Dr. David E. Daniel becomes the fourth president of UT Dallas after serving as dean of engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and election to the National Academy of Engineering. After his arrival, the University triples its research expenditures, initiates or completes \$600 million in construction, adds 40 new degree programs and raises more than \$210 million in private funds. After a decade, Daniel becomes deputy chancellor of the UT System and eventually is named president emeritus of UT Dallas.

2006

The School of Social Sciences is renamed the **School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences**, a decision that “emphasizes commitment to strong analytic foundations, interdisciplinary scholarship and research, and a broad and deep interface with public policy.”



2004



A third Nobel laureate joins UT Dallas. Physics pioneer **Dr. Russell A. Hulse** received the **Nobel Prize in physics** in 1993 “for the discovery of a new type of pulsar, a discovery that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation.” He begins his affiliation with UT Dallas as a visiting professor of physics and science and math education and will later be named Regental Professor and associate vice president for strategic initiatives in 2007. He is the founding director of the Science and Engineering Education Center at UT Dallas.

2007

The **Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory (NSERL)** is dedicated. The four-story, 192,000-square-foot research facility is home to faculty and scientists from electrical engineering, materials science and engineering, chemistry, biology, and behavioral and brain sciences. Laboratories within NSERL provide space for scientists and engineers ranging from synthetic chemists who require significant fume hood space to electrical engineers who need open labs for large equipment.



2008

The School of General Studies is renamed the **School of Interdisciplinary Studies** and offers programs in health care, American studies and exercise studies. The school also includes gender studies, the teacher certification program, the Academic Bridge Program and others.



The 2010s

2010

The first phase of the seven-year-long **Campus Landscape Enhancement** project, funded with \$50 million from Margaret McDermott, is dedicated. Some 5,000 trees and shrubs are planted, and over the next few years, five reflecting pools lined with magnolia trees, a wisteria-covered trellis, circular fountain and mister are added. Begun in fall 2008, the project is led by landscape architect Peter Walker. The UT System would later name the Margaret McDermott Mall and Trellis Plaza in her honor.



The **Science Learning Center** opens for primarily undergraduate math and science courses. The \$29 million facility includes a lecture hall, instructional labs and offices for faculty and tutors.



2011

UT Dallas alumnus Naveen Jindal presents the University with its single-largest alumni gift, part of a joint \$30 million gift presented with fellow alumni **Charles Davidson and Nancy Gundy Davidson** to the School of Management. The school is renamed the **Naveen Jindal School of Management**, and the Charles and Nancy Davidson Honors Program is established. The following year, a 108,000-square-foot addition opens for the Jindal School.



2010

UT Dallas' first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum facility, the **Student Services Building**, opens. The four-story, 74,000-square-foot building is only the 11th academic structure in Texas to be certified by Green Building Certification Inc. and the first Platinum facility in the UT System. A new addition will be added in 2017.



Dr. Denise C. Park is founding director of the **Center for Vital Longevity**, an enterprise dedicated to research on the aging brain, memory, cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease. Six research laboratories headed by distinguished scientists are dedicated to a wide variety of studies aimed at understanding the aging mind, including the Dallas Lifespan Brain Study.



2013

The **Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building** is dedicated in honor of the Dallas philanthropist. The 155,000-square-foot, \$60 million building houses programs in visual arts, emerging media technology and multimedia communications, as well as provides a 1,200-seat auditorium. Edith O'Donnell makes a \$17 million contribution in 2014 to create the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History.



2014

UT Dallas opens a studio for **UTDesign**, a program that brings together engineering and design students with corporate sponsors seeking solutions to their research problems. The studio includes a computer lab, machine shop and more than \$550,000 in state-of-the-art equipment donated by local companies.

Realize the Vision: The Campaign for Tier One & Beyond, the University's first comprehensive campaign, surpasses its goal, raising \$273 million for faculty research and programs that will be vital to UT Dallas' quest to become a Tier One university.

2015



Dr. Aziz Sancar, who earned his PhD in molecular and cell biology from UT Dallas in 1977, becomes the first alum to win a Nobel Prize. The **Nobel laureate in chemistry** won "for mechanistic studies of DNA repair."

The Board of Regents approves the merger of two successful arts and technology programs into a single school – the **School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication**.



2015



Dr. Hobson Wildenthal is appointed interim president. Wildenthal joined UTD in 1992 as vice president for academic affairs. A champion of academic excellence, he was instrumental in adopting a core curriculum that addressed key components of undergraduate education when the University was just beginning to admit freshmen and sophomores in the early 1990s. He became executive vice president and provost in 1999, positions he would hold for the next two decades.



The 2010s

2016

Dr. Richard C. Benson is appointed the fifth president of UT Dallas. An engineer with a focus on the mechanics of highly flexible structures, Benson was head of mechanical and nuclear engineering at Pennsylvania State University and then dean of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering. With a self-described "appreciation for all things artistic and beautiful," he shares his vision to not only maintain the University's excellence in science, math and technology but also to boost the arts and humanities.



The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education recognizes UT Dallas as an **R1 institution** – a classification reserved for doctoral institutions with "very high research activity." UTD is among the top 131 universities in the country with this rating.

2017

The **Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center** is named for alumni Nancy Gundy Davidson and Charles "Chuck" Davidson in recognition of their \$15 million gift for the 30,246-square-foot facility designed to deepen bonds between students and the University's more than 110,000 alumni.



Margaret McDermott creates an endowment of \$10 million for undergraduate research and, at her request, the Honors College, which was established in 2015, is renamed the **Hobson Wildenthal Honors College**.

CALLIER CENTER

2016

UT Dallas completes an expansion of the **Callier Center for Communication Disorders** on its Richardson campus. The \$22 million facility provides additional space for the acclaimed program. About 4,000 patients in an estimated 40,000 clinical visits are seen annually at Callier's Dallas and Richardson locations.



The 220,000-square-foot **Bioengineering and Sciences Building** opens. It houses collaborative labs for bioengineering and neurosciences, as well as research space for programs in biology and chemistry. It is UTD's largest academic building.

2018

UT Dallas achieves 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." UTD is the third university and the youngest in the state to qualify for NRUF.



2018

Where the Alexander Clark Center once stood, the new **Engineering and Computer Science West Building** opens. The four-story, 200,000-square-foot facility features state-of-the-art labs, classrooms and office space. The \$110 million student-centric structure primarily houses the Department of Mechanical Engineering and includes a 300-seat auditorium.



2018

The Trammell and Margaret Crow family donate the entire collection of the Trammell and Margaret Crow Museum of Asian Art, together with \$23 million of support funding, to create the **Trammell and Margaret Crow Museum of Asian Art of The University of Texas at Dallas**. The University will continue to operate the Crow Museum in the downtown Dallas Arts District, while using the gift funding for design and construction of a second museum on the UTD campus. The Crow collection includes 1,000 objects of Asian art, from the ancient to the contemporary.



A monumental gift of over 400 works of Swiss art, considered the single-largest donation ever made to the University as well as the largest gift of art to any school in the UT System, is made by Richard Barrett. The **Barrett Collection** of paintings, sculpture, drawings and prints is the only definitive collection of Swiss art outside of Switzerland.

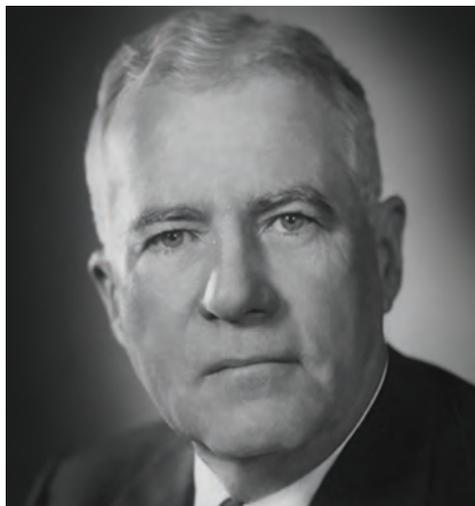
Fifty Points of Bright

With some 115,000 alumni, nearly 30,000 students, 4,000 faculty and staff, and thousands of staunch supporters, The University of Texas at Dallas family comprises a dazzling constellation of 150,000 shining stars — and counting.

To celebrate our first 50 years, we chose 50 Points of Bright to highlight the University's past, present and potential: our milestones, discoveries and distinctive leaders; our impact and influence on North Texas and the world; and the creativity and enterprising spirit that have been — and will continue to be — UT Dallas' guiding light.



Impact



Eugene McDermott Scholars Program

In the midst of its 19th year, the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program surely exceeds anything Margaret McDermott could have imagined when she made a historic gift of \$32 million to launch the program and to honor her late husband, one of the founders of UT Dallas. There are currently 65 active McDermott Scholars and 270 alumni. These scholars receive **one of the most selective and generous undergraduate merit awards in the nation**, including a full scholarship and stipend package, leadership training, cultural enrichment and study abroad opportunities designed to equip them with the skills, experience, and confidence to succeed as leaders. From across the U.S. and around the world, the current class of students has a collective average two-part SAT score of 1560; almost all are National Merit Scholars.

UTeach Dallas

UTeach Dallas prepares undergraduate students majoring in such fields as physics, math, chemistry, computer science, engineering and biology to be **secondary STEM teachers**. Established at UT Dallas in 2007 with support from the National Math and Science Initiative, the program allows students to earn secondary teaching certification while simultaneously completing bachelor's degrees in STEM fields. The program has been supported by grants from Tellabs Foundation, the Greater Texas Foundation, the O'Donnell Foundation, the Texas Instruments Foundation and the Hamon Charitable Foundation. Since the first cohort graduated in 2011, the program has generated 233 alumni. UTeach Dallas graduates in the classroom reach about 24,000 children each year, and more than 90% of alumni remain teachers five years after graduation.



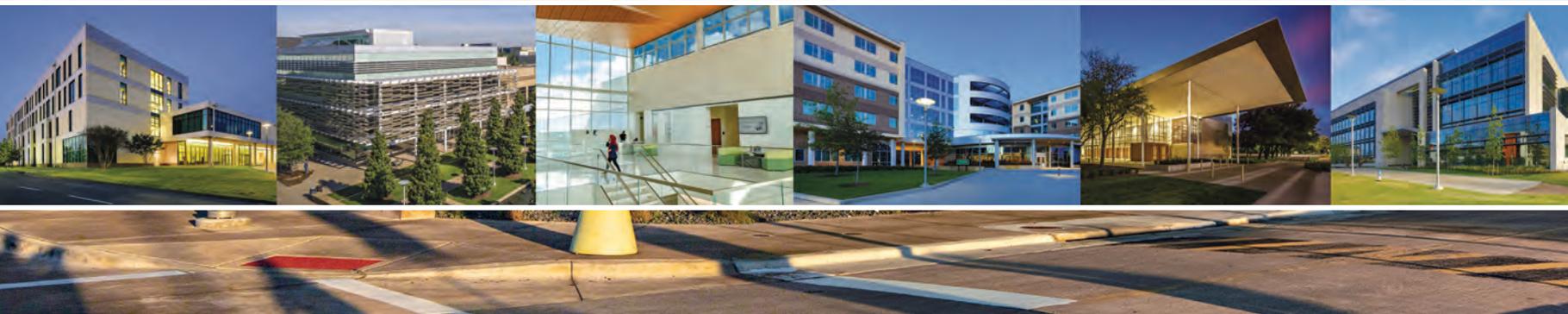
Dr. Carolyn Lipshy Galerstein

As UT Dallas' first female dean, Dr. Carolyn Lipshy Galerstein was **a champion for more women to enter or return to college**. With that in mind, Galerstein — who oversaw the School of General Studies (now the School of Interdisciplinary Studies) — created a program called “Maturity College,” which provided more evening classes and a welcoming environment. The Galerstein Gender Center is named in her honor, and the Carolyn Galerstein Endowed Scholarship supports undergraduate students in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

50th

Points of Bright

Impact



Academic Bridge Program

Created in 2000 and supported by funds from the Texas Legislature, UT Dallas and private donors, the Academic Bridge Program **helps high-potential students from Dallas-area urban high schools succeed in college** with programming that begins in the summer after high school graduation. Through peer mentorship, financial support and rigorous academic coaching, Academic Bridge students are able to transition from high school to college. The program has a proven track record of success, with a 70% graduation rate and more than 45% of students majoring in engineering, science or business management.



LEED Buildings

When the new Engineering and Computer Science West building was awarded LEED Gold status by the U.S. Green Building Council, it became the seventh building at UT Dallas with LEED certification. The Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center and the Bioengineering and Sciences Building have each achieved Gold recognition. The Student Services Building earned the highest certification of Platinum in 2010. Silver certifications were awarded to the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building, the Naveen Jindal School of Management Addition and the complex composed of Residence Hall West, Dining Hall West and Rec Center West. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, **recognizes environmentally conscious construction** with a commitment to sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, indoor environmental quality and cutting-edge design.

Geospatial Information Sciences

Do a Google search on “geospatial information sciences” and the top entries point to UT Dallas’ nationally recognized academic programs in the field, housed in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. With faculty who are among some of today’s highest-regarded thinkers and researchers in the field, the program offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in GIS and graduate certificates in geospatial intelligence, geographic information systems and remote sensing. Acknowledging the program’s ability to prepare future workers for fields such as homeland and global security, and disaster management, the Department of Defense’s National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and U.S. Geological Survey in 2015 named it a **Center for Academic Excellence in Geospatial Sciences**, the only one in Texas and one of 17 nationwide.



..... Uniquely UTD



Chess Team

Part of UT Dallas’ claim to fame doesn’t come from a field or court, but a board. In 1996 UTD was one of the first universities in the country to create a competitive, scholarship chess program. In the years since, the chess team has secured four national collegiate championships and has made the “Final Four” chess tournament 17 times. “The UT Dallas chess team is a model for intercollegiate competition,” said Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, Distinguished Scholar in Residence. “Its team members are serious students, admitted to the University under the same rigorous academic standards as the rest of the student body. Upon graduation, they obtain gainful employment in high-tech fields, including engineering, business, economics, and arts and technology.”



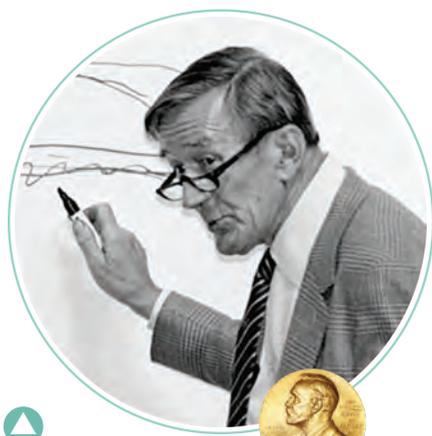
Sustainability:
Bee and Tree Campus USA

UT Dallas has achieved two designations that show its commitment to sustainability. For its efforts to raise awareness and develop a pollinator-friendly habitat and a least-toxic pest-management plan, UT Dallas was awarded a Bee Campus USA designation. Students install and maintain beehives and harvest honey at the micro-apiary on campus. Faculty members Dr. Scott Rippel and Dr. Christina Thompson teach Honey Bee Biology and take an observation hive to campus and community events. UT Dallas also has received the Tree Campus USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation for establishing a strong tree maintenance and management program, and holding tree-related service projects and educational outreach on campus. Today, there are more than **6,700 trees on campus**, representing more than 65 species.



Distinction

The Nobel Laureates



Dr. Polykarp Kusch
1955 Nobel Prize in physics
Regental Professor of physics,
1972 – 1982

“Science is the greatest creative impulse of our time. It dominates the intellectual scene and forms our lives, not only in the material things which it has given us, but also in that it guides our spirit. Science shows us truth and beauty and fills each day with a fresh wonder of the exquisite order which governs our world.”



Dr. Alan MacDiarmid
2000 Nobel Prize in chemistry
James Von Ehr Distinguished Chair in
Science and Technology, 2002 – 2007

“I find UTD to be an institution with a deserved emerging national reputation and a school which can become a truly great university.”



Aziz Sancar, PhD'77
2015 Nobel Prize in chemistry

“I started on DNA repair at UT Dallas, and I have continued for over 40 years on that path. The University has had a significant impact on my research.”



Dr. Russell Hulse
1993 Nobel Prize in physics
Regental Professor and associate
vice president for strategic initiatives
Founding director of the Science and
Engineering Education Center,
2004 – present

“UT Dallas has shown a strong commitment to contributing to its local communities through ... science outreach programs, which is what attracted me here to help make such programs a reality.”

Uniquely UTD

Spirit Rocks

It's a rare university that encourages graffiti — as long as it's on the Spirit Rocks. Originally located by Cecil H. Green Hall and now embedded outside the Student Services Building, the trio of boulders is available to be painted by students, sponsored student groups or registered student organizations. Dean Emeritus Michael Coleman, seeking to increase student engagement in campus life, trucked the rocks to UTD. Three rocks from a limestone quarry near Jarrell, Texas, weighed a grand total of 12 tons, with the main rock weighing 6 tons and the two smaller rocks weighing a combined 6 tons.

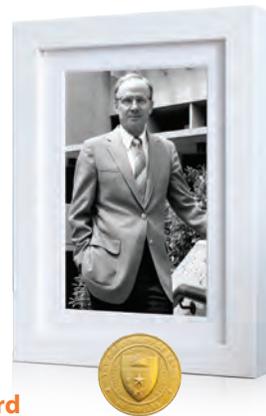


The Presidents



▶ **Dr. Bryce Jordan**
1971 – 1981

“I went up to Dallas to meet with a so-called selection committee of the faculty that was chaired by a cosmologist named Ivor Robinson. I met with him, and we talked for a while, and I was puzzled enough that I said to Ivor Robinson, ‘Why in the world would you scientists want this musicologist to be president of your university?’ And I will never forget Ivor’s response. He said, ‘Dr. Jordan, you don’t know a thing about what we do, and we like it that way.’ And that’s how I became president of UT Dallas.”



▶ **Dr. Robert Rutford**
1982 – 1994

“Well, I knew a little bit about the University before I got here because Marty Halpern, who had been in the geosciences department, was an Antarctica guy also, and so we had talked about this a little bit. And it was known for the history with TI and as a very unique place that started as a PhD university and basically worked its way down instead of starting as an undergraduate university and building its way up.”



▶ **Dr. Franklyn Jenifer**
1994 – 2005

“Presidents come to serve. We are not here that long. We should love our work, and we should do it hard, but there comes a point in time where we should move on and do other things and enjoy life. But there is something almost spiritual about the corpus of the University — that it survives human beings and goes on, and it has a spirit of its own.”



▶ **Dr. David Daniel**
2005 – 2015

“I just want to leave it better than I found it, and these two gentlemen [Rutford and Jenifer] left it a lot better than they found it. And it’s just a question of how much differential — delta we would say in mathematical terms — can we add to the University on my watch. And I hope it can be said that it’s a better place when I leave than it was when I came.”



..... *Uniquely UTD*

The Mace ▶

What’s tall, slender and made of 600-year-old wood from the Treaty Oak in Austin? The UT Dallas ceremonial mace — another creation of Dean Emeritus Michael Coleman. Held at the head of processions during events like convocation and graduation, the mace includes a University seal surrounding a wafer embedded with Texas Instruments microchips, which represent the company’s role in the founding of the University. A steel band in the headpiece and the metal foot of the staff are fashioned from a scientific instrument designed in the William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences at UT Dallas and flown aboard the space shuttle Endeavour in September 1995.



◀ **Dr. Richard Benson**
2016 – present

“One of the things I like about UT Dallas is that it’s not like a great many other universities. It’s still a very young university. It’s interesting to look at pictures of the original campus — with the Founders Building and then just sort of the prairie extending out in all directions — and then to look and see how the campus filled in, which is sort of a metaphor for what happened to the University as the people arrived. The faculty, the staff and the students, and everybody. The founders are still with us, and I don’t just mean in spirit. I mean we are still busy giving definition to this wonderful University. The things that we are doing today will have a major impact on the very character of the University, and we’re very privileged that we get to be part of that.”



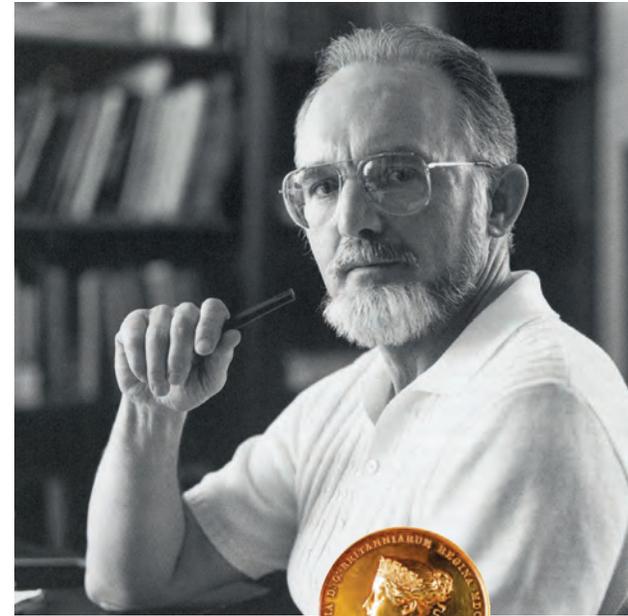
◀ Dr. James Reilly

Distinguished alumnus James Reilly BS'77, MS'87, PhD'95 has worked in the most extreme environments — Antarctica, the deep sea and outer space. Reilly, who earned three degrees in geosciences from UT Dallas, worked as an oil and gas exploration geologist — spending the equivalent of 22 days in deep-submergence vehicles conducting research in the oceans — before he was selected for NASA's astronaut program in 1994. As a mission specialist, he spent 853 hours in space, including five spacewalks during which he **helped assemble the International Space Station**. In 2018 he was appointed director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Uniquely UTD

◀ Love Jack

Affectionately known as the Love Jack by generations of UT Dallas students, the 10-foot-by-10-foot red, steel sculpture located in the courtyard of the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building was created by Texas artist Jim Love. The piece first arrived on campus as part of a contemporary art exhibit before Margaret McDermott gave the sculpture to the University in 1976.



Dr. Brian Berry 2005 Vautrin Lud Prize Lloyd Viel Berkner Regental Professor, 1986 – present

Dr. Brian Berry is one of the most influential figures in the disciplines of geography, urban studies and regional planning. His early work helped spark the scientific revolution that occurred in geography and urban research in the early 1960s, making him the world's most frequently cited geographer for more than 25 years. In 1975 he was the youngest social scientist ever elected to the National Academy of Sciences. In 1988 he earned the Royal Geographical Society's highest honor, the Victoria Medal, and in 2005 he received the Vautrin Lud Prize, considered the **"Nobel Prize for Geography."** Berry served as dean of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences from 2005 to 2010. His research has focused on investigations of long-term economic and political cycles, or Kondratieff waves, in market societies, work for which he received a Kondratieff Medal from the Russian Academy of Sciences in 2017.



Spheres



Texas Biomedical Device Center

Investments totaling \$13 million from Texas Instruments, a private donor and the UT System established the Texas Biomedical Device Center in 2012. Center scientists and engineers from multiple disciplines develop novel technologies to prevent injuries, detect impairments and restore quality of life lost to neurological injuries and disease. **Their pioneering targeted plasticity therapy**, which helps “rewire” neural pathways around injured parts of the brain, allows people to recover motor, sensory and cognitive functions. Center researchers work with industry partners and clinicians at UT Southwestern Medical Center to translate their devices and techniques into clinical care.

Center for Translation Studies

The Center for Translation Studies within the School of Arts and Humanities is one of the oldest academic centers for literary translation in the U.S. Since 1980, the center has received international recognition for its pioneering role in promoting the study and practice of literary translation.

Dr. Rainer Schulte, the Katherine R. Cecil Professor in Foreign Languages, founded the center and is himself considered the founder of translation studies as an academic discipline. At the time the center was created, translations of literary texts were primarily done in Europe, and Schulte wanted to change that. Schulte also launched *Translation Review*, an academic journal that provides a forum to dialogue about the importance of translation, to discuss the challenges in transplanting a text from a foreign culture into English, and to increase the visibility and status of the translator.



Alan G. MacDiarmid NanoTech Institute

In the early 2000s, UT Dallas wanted in on the burgeoning field of nanotechnology — the study and control of materials on the atomic and molecular scales. The administration approached Dr. Alan G. MacDiarmid for help — after all, he had just won the 2000 Nobel Prize in chemistry. MacDiarmid suggested Dr. Ray Baughman, a 30-year industry veteran, prolific inventor and expert in the field. The NanoTech Institute opened its doors in 2001 with Baughman as its director. In 2002 MacDiarmid himself joined the UT Dallas faculty, and the center was named in his honor in 2007. Researchers in the institute have made **pioneering discoveries involving carbon nanotubes**, resulting in advances that are being translated into commercial applications.

..... Uniquely UTD



Anime Orchestra

You're more likely to hear the theme song from Super Mario Bros. or Netflix's "Stranger Things" at a performance of UTD's Anime Orchestra Ensemble than the symphonies of Beethoven or Tchaikovsky. The group comprises students of different majors who enjoy playing music from the shows, movies and video games they love. Members practice throughout each semester before capping off the term with a concert.



Center for BrainHealth

Researchers at the Center for BrainHealth form a multidisciplinary team of cognitive neuroscientists, clinicians, imaging specialists, biostatisticians and neuroengineers who work toward the common goal of translating research findings into relevant applications as quickly as possible. Founded in 1999, researchers in the center’s labs use structural and neuroimaging techniques to understand brain health, injury and disease. Projects include youth brain injury assessment, caregiver training, law enforcement mindfulness training and adolescent reasoning training. In 2013 the center launched the **Brain Performance Institute** to transform discoveries into actionable findings available to the public, with the aim of empowering people of all ages to unlock their brain potential.

Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

The Holocaust Studies Program — encompassing scholarly research, undergraduate courses and one of the few graduate certificates in Holocaust Studies in the U.S. — is a hallmark of UT Dallas. The program was founded in 1986 by **Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth**, a Hungarian-Jewish Holocaust survivor, author of books about her experiences, and the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies. Edward M. Ackerman and his wife, Wilhelmina, made the lead gift in 2006 that named the Ackerman Center. Distinguishing elements of the program in the School of Arts and Humanities include the Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection and the annual Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series, which is open to the public and brings eminent scholars and prominent figures to campus.

Morris Hite Center for Product Development and Marketing Research

UT Dallas established the Morris Hite Center for Product Development and Marketing Research in 1984 to support graduate students and faculty in **creating marketing strategies for new and existing products**. The center was endowed and named in honor of an early champion of UTD, Hite, who was once president of Dallas-based ad agency TracyLocke. As president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, he helped promote construction of the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and envisioned the Dallas Arts District. He also supported higher education in the Dallas area, in particular lobbying for the challenging effort to add the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies — UTD’s precursor institution — to the UT System in the late 1960s.





William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences

Atmospheric and space sciences have always played a key role in UT Dallas' research enterprise. The earliest efforts through the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest included launching balloons and rockets, and **designing space-based instruments** to study the Earth's upper atmosphere. Over the years, space scientists and engineers at the William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences have designed and built equipment to explore Venus, Mars, the moon and Halley's comet. Studies of the ionosphere — a region of charged particles in the Earth's upper atmosphere — and magnetosphere have provided valuable insight into "space weather," our planet's dynamic interaction with the sun.



Texas Analog Center of Excellence

As the demand for internet-connected devices grows, so does the need for researchers who can solve the challenges of converting real-world information into digital signals. UT Dallas' Texas Analog Center of Excellence (TxACE) has supported **more than 200 projects** involving 42 academic institutions since it was founded in 2008. With its focus on energy efficiency, health care, and public safety and security, the center's accomplishments include advances in heat-based imaging technologies and breath analysis to detect certain diseases. The center is a collaboration between the Semiconductor Research Corp., the state of Texas, Texas Instruments, the UT System and UT Dallas.

Institute for Urban Policy Research

Research plays a critical role in solving pressing problems facing distressed communities. UT Dallas' Institute for Urban Policy Research provides research and evaluation, education and outreach, guidance and consulting to **community-focused organizations** working on a range of issues. Researchers in the institute have tracked domestic violence incidents and outcomes for the Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force, compiled data on the well-being of local youth through a partnership with Children's Health and worked with a variety of other Dallas-area organizations. Founded in 2005 as the J. McDonald Williams Institute, the organization moved to UT Dallas in 2008, thanks to a generous donation from Trammell Crow Chairman Emeritus Don Williams. It remains housed in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

Uniquely UTD



Ring Ceremony

On the eve of the UT Dallas ring ceremony each spring and fall, class rings are surrounded by lunar regolith simulacra — fake moon dirt — developed by Dr. James Carter, who was a geosciences professor. The rings spend the night in the office of the president, enclosed with instruments flown in space and built by UT Dallas physicists. The rings are housed in a box that Carter built using wood from the original Founders Building. The final part of the tradition occurs when recipients dip their ringed hands in the waters of the Margaret McDermott Mall reflecting pools, symbolizing full immersion in Comet pride.





Callier Center for Communication Disorders



Lena Callier lost her hearing and became isolated from the world. In response, she created a trust that gave rise to the Callier Hearing and Speech Center in 1963. Initially housed in the basement of Parkland Hospital, the center moved to its current Dallas location in 1969. The center, which included a deaf-education program, took on a new name — the Callier Center for Communication Disorders — and in 1975 became a component of UT Dallas, which began enrolling students in audiology and speech-language pathology. Today, the academic program is consistently ranked among the **top five in the nation**, and the center remains a leader on the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of communication disorders in adults and children. Callier dispensed the first digital hearing aid and was the first place a child in North Texas heard via a cochlear implant. In 2016 the center expanded to a new facility on the UT Dallas Richardson campus. The 100,000th patient was celebrated in November 2019.

Center for Vital Longevity

Founded in 2010, the Center for Vital Longevity comprises distinguished scientists focused on **understanding how and why cognitive abilities change with age**, and how these events relate to changes in the brain's structure and function. They aim to identify, as early in life as possible, brain markers that predict who is most likely to maintain cognitive health as they grow older and who is most at risk of falling victim to Alzheimer's disease or other causes of age-related cognitive impairment. With this knowledge, they are developing behavioral and cognitive interventions that can prevent, slow or even reverse age-related cognitive decline.



Center for Children and Families

Through research, clinical practice and outreach, researchers affiliated with the Center for Children and Families (CCF) promote optimal family and child development. Founded in 2008, CCF's programs focus around **parenting healthy children**, strengthening interpersonal relationships, and enhancing thinking and learning. Center-affiliated researchers from the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences and the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences examine a wide range of important issues related to biological, psychological, social and cultural foundations of child development, as well as their implications for families.

Enterprise

Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Founded in the early 2000s by the Naveen Jindal of School of Management and the Office of Research, the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE) operates across the University's eight schools to enable the next generation's new ventures. The institute promotes and facilitates student, faculty and alumni entrepreneurship through the **Blackstone LaunchPad** co-working space as well as through the **Venture Development Center**, which opened in 2011 as an incubator designed to transform early stage startups into companies with marketable products and services. The IIE hosts the **Big Idea Competition** — a student-startup pitch contest — and facilitates the award-winning UT Dallas Seed Fund, which invests in student technology startups.

Uniquely UTD

Rock Garden

Located between the Founders and Founders North buildings, the Rock Garden was presented in January 1993 as a gift from incoming geosciences department head Dr. Kent Nielsen to outgoing program head Dr. James Carter.

A few fun facts about the garden:

- The weights of the rocks range from about 100 pounds to 1 ton.
- The oldest rock on display is a metamorphic rock from Wyoming that is 3.5 billion years old, about three-fourths the age of the Earth.
- There are five sedimentary rocks, six metamorphic rocks and seven igneous rocks.
- Twelve of the specimens come from Texas.
- On very hot days, asphalt oozes from the pores and forms blisters on the side of a large sample of petroleum-reservoir limestone.

Entrepreneurship by the Numbers (as of 2019)

27 companies in the Venture Development Center

352 ideas submitted in startup competitions

UT Dallas entrepreneurship programs rank in the Top 25 in the world, according to 2020 rankings by The Princeton Review:

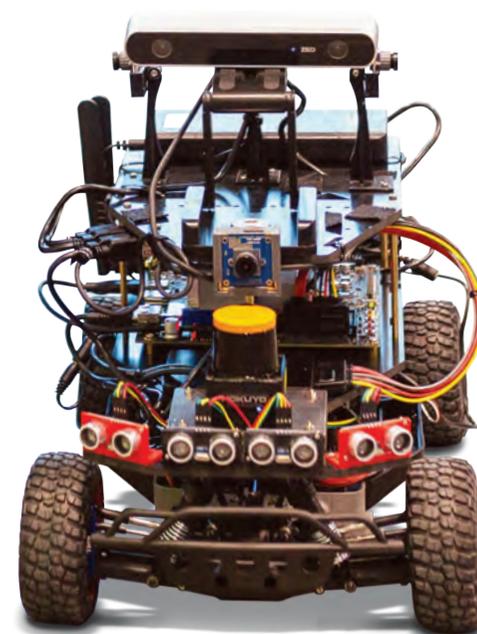
#13 best undergraduate programs for entrepreneurs

#15 best graduate programs for entrepreneurs

Technology Commercialization

178 currently active patents

167 patents pending active licenses/options



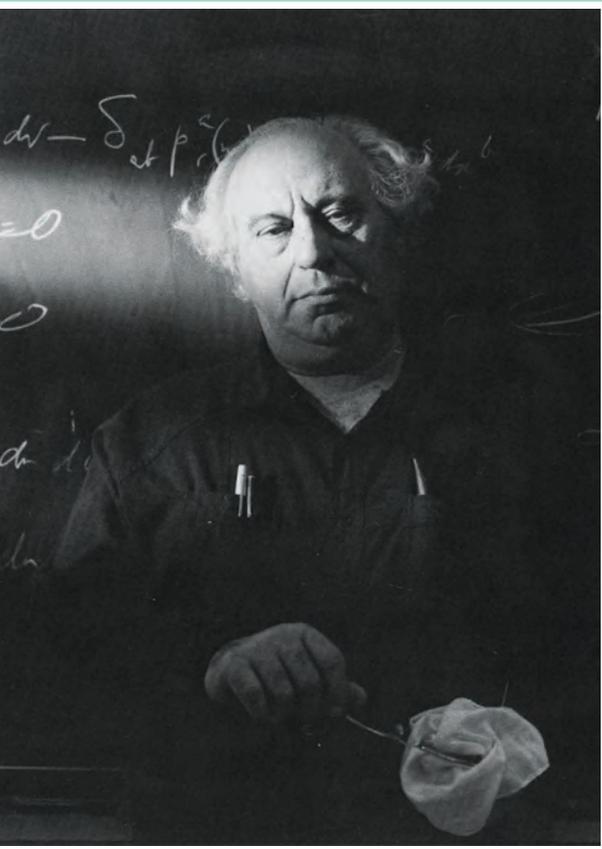
UTDesign

UTDesign gives seniors in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science the opportunity to work on corporate-sponsored capstone projects. Coached by a corporate mentor and a faculty advisor, each team determines the customer's needs, conducts research, designs and tests a solution, and prepares a demonstration for the UT Design Expo. The UTDesign Studio offers working space for teams and includes a fabrication shop, 3D printers and computer-aided design stations, among other features.

Nearly 4,000 students have completed over 700 projects for 274 companies — winning eight first-place awards in national capstone competitions since 2014. As enrollment in the Jonsson School continues to grow, UTDesign expects to launch 225 more capstone projects in the coming year, with at least 175 of them sponsored by companies.



Milestones



Carnegie “Tier One”

In 2016 the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education recognized UT Dallas as an RI institution – a classification reserved for **doctoral institutions with “very high research activity.”** The elite classification is often referred to as “tier one” status. UTD is among the top 131 universities in the country with this rating.



Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics

In 1963 **Professor Ivor Robinson**, an expert on relativity theory, was founding head of the mathematics and mathematical physics division at the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. Around his pool that summer, he and colleagues from UT Austin decided they should organize a scientific conference in Dallas, so they invented a new scientific discipline and called it relativistic astrophysics. The December 1963 conference drew more than 300 international experts. The symposium was such a success that it has since been held every two years around the world, yet still retains the name Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics. Robinson, who died in 2016, spent his career at UT Dallas, retiring as a professor emeritus, and was an honorary member of the organizing committee when the physics department hosted the Texas Symposium’s 50th anniversary conference in Dallas in 2013.



National Research University Fund

In 2009 UT Dallas hosted then-Texas Gov. Rick Perry and representatives of six other emerging research universities from across the state as Tier One legislation, known as House Bill 51, was signed into law. The legislation offered to **match private funding and provide support** from the National Research University Fund (NRUF) to reward the state’s “emerging research universities” for their research productivity. In 2018 UT Dallas achieved the critical benchmark criteria required to qualify for funding from NRUF — including \$45 million in annual expenditures on restricted research and a \$400 million endowment — becoming the third university and the youngest in the state to qualify.





History of Aviation Archives

The History of Aviation Archives is the largest section of the Special Collections Division of the Eugene McDermott Library. It houses historical documents and materials from the Vought Aircraft Company and Braniff International, as well as the archives of **Gen. James H. Doolittle**, a World War II aviation pioneer who led a top-secret raid on Japan and who played a major role in the development of commercial and military aviation. The holdings also include declassified documents that reveal the story of the CIA's once secretly owned airline Air America and its precursor, Civil Air Transport, and their covert activities during the Cold War.

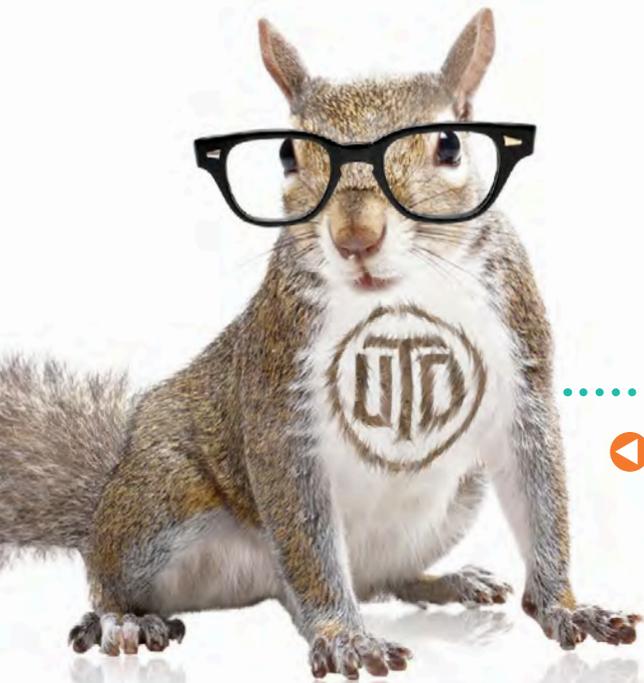


Crow Museum and Barrett Collection



A major step forward in the role of the arts in the life of UT Dallas occurred at the juncture of 2018 and 2019, as two of the region's most significant art collections were given to UT Dallas. The Barrett Collection, consisting of over 400 works of Swiss art, is the single-largest donation ever made to the University, as well as **the largest gift of art to any school in the UT System**. The collection, started in the 1990s by Richard Barrett, comprises a collection of paintings, sculpture, drawings and prints and is the only definitive collection of Swiss art

outside of Switzerland. In early 2019, the Trammell and Margaret Crow family donated the entire collection of the Trammell and Margaret Crow Museum of Asian Art, along with **\$23 million** to construct a second museum on campus, to UT Dallas. The Crow Museum's permanent collection demonstrates the diversity of Asian art, with more than 1,000 works from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam, spanning the ancient to the contemporary.



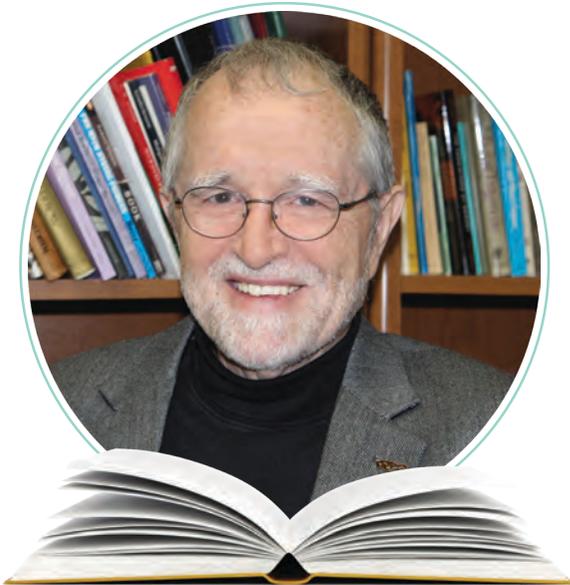
Uniquely UTD

UTD's Squirrels

With more than 6,700 trees on campus, naturally UTD has a lot of squirrels. These critters are smarter than their brethren — they build sophisticated nut-burying devices to ensure their winter stores are kept at a satisfactory depth. OK, maybe that's a bit of an embellishment, but they're plenty clever.



Creativity



▲
Dr. Frederick Turner

Dr. Frederick Turner is an internationally known poet, as well as a cultural critic, playwright, philosopher of science, aesthetician, essayist and translator. A prolific scholar and exceptional teacher, Turner has received numerous literary, artistic and academic honors and is a fellow of the Texas Institute of Letters. Turner's *Genesis: An Epic Poem*, published in 1988, was the first major work of poetry that addressed the idea of terraforming Mars. The noted polymath and practitioner of Shotokan karate has philosophical interests ranging from time and evolution to self-organizing complex systems in game theory and economics. He joined the faculty in 1985 and is the Founders Professor in the School of Arts and Humanities.

Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History

The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History was established at UT Dallas in 2014 with a generous endowment from arts patron O'Donnell. The institute is a center for innovative research and education in the history of art that ranges across geography, chronology and medium. The **first art history research institute founded in the digital age**, the O'Donnell Institute explores the intersection between the visual arts and the sciences and technology. The institute is housed in offices at UT Dallas and in a research center at the Dallas Museum of Art. Research fellows have pursued projects ranging from Byzantine icons to the landscapes of Gustave Courbet, while the institute has launched major international research partnerships with Nanjing University in China and the Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte in Naples, Italy.



▲
Dr. Richard Brettell

Dr. Richard Brettell founded the **Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Museums** at UT Dallas in 1998. His expertise encompasses Impressionism and French painting from 1830 to 1930. His museum experience includes serving as the Eugene McDermott Director at the Dallas Museum of Art and Searle Curator of European Painting at the Art Institute of Chicago. He is the founding director of the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History at UT Dallas and has served as an international museum consultant with projects in Europe, Asia and the U.S., including The Millennium Gift of Sara Lee Corporation, the largest corporate gift to the arts in American history. He also holds the Margaret M. McDermott Distinguished Chair of Art and Aesthetic Studies and the Edith O'Donnell Distinguished University Chair, and was most recently named to the board of the Hermitage Museum Foundation.

Dr. Frank Bass

Dr. Frank Bass, a pioneer in the field of marketing science, joined UT Dallas in 1982 as a marketing professor and later became dean of the School of Management. He earned international recognition after creating the **Bass Model, a mathematical model used to predict the sales and life cycles of various consumer products**, including color TVs in the 1960s and wireless telephones and disposable diapers in the 1980s. In 2003 he won the prestigious Charles Coolidge Parlin Marketing Research Award, the oldest and most distinguished award in the field of marketing research. In his honor, the Naveen Jindal School of Management hosts the annual Frank M. Bass — UT Dallas Frontiers of Research in Marketing Science Conference.



Musica Nova

Formed in 1975 under the direction of internationally recognized composer-conductor **Dr. Robert Xavier Rodríguez**, professor of art and performance and Chair in Art and Aesthetic Studies, the Musica Nova ensemble performs music written for large and small ensembles, plus mixed-media and theater works of all periods. Instrumentalists, singers, composers, actors, dancers and video artists from UT Dallas' Advanced Orchestra/Chamber Music Ensemble class join faculty and other professional musicians. Musica Nova guest artists have included members of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Dallas Opera Orchestra and singers from the New York City Opera and Metropolitan Opera.



ATEC Labs

The vibrant lab and studio culture in the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication (ATEC) fosters collaboration across disciplines and **cultivates creativity** by blending artists, humanists, scientists, engineers, programmers, designers and innovators. Some of the spaces include: Emerging Gizmology Lab, Games Research Lab, ArtSciLab, Narrative Systems Research Lab and the Studio for Mediating Play. In the Animation Research Lab, ATEC animators collaborated with Latin American historians in the School of Arts and Humanities to produce "Animating El Oro: Animation for the Digital Humanities," a project that described the involvement of the U.S. in the reconstruction effort of a small province in Ecuador after being invaded by Peruvian troops during World War II.



Discoveries

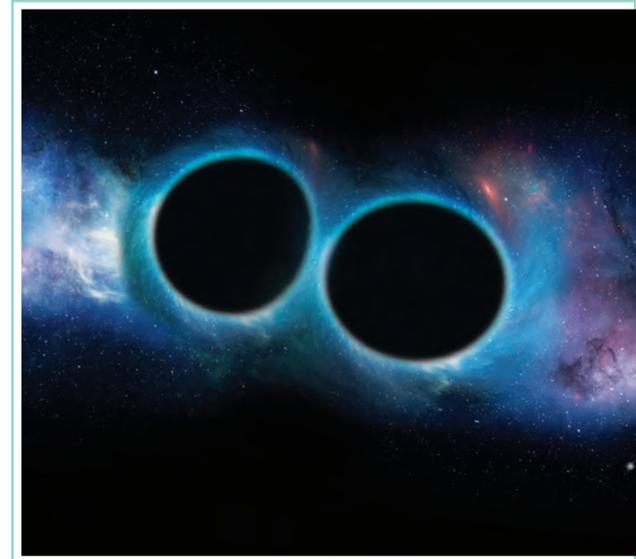
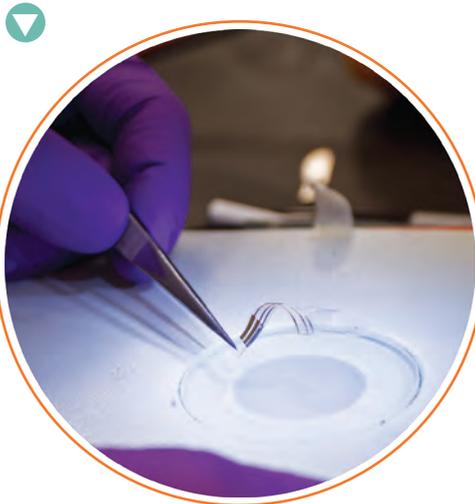


▲ **Carbon Nanotubes**

UTD scientists, led by **Dr. Ray Baughman**, the Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair in Chemistry, pioneered and patented a process that transforms tiny tubes of carbon — 10,000 times thinner than the width of a human hair — into useful, large-scale structures such as sheets and twisted yarns that are super-strong and extremely light. In 2005 *Discover* magazine ranked the work as the eighth-most important scientific discovery of the year. Carbon nanotube materials have unique properties that make them potentially suitable for use in areas such as artificial muscles, wearable electronics, electronic displays, solar panels, sound projectors, batteries and harvesters of waste energy.

Shape Memory Polymers

Dr. Walter Voit, associate professor of materials science and engineering and of mechanical engineering, is developing shape memory polymers that are rigid before being placed in the body and become soft when implanted, changing shape in response to changes in temperature. Combined with electronics, such biocompatible materials show promise for multiple applications, including neural interface devices, cochlear implants, prosthetics, and spinal-cord stimulation devices for pain management and motor recovery after injury.



▲ **Black Hole Collisions**

Dr. Michael Kesden's area of expertise was thrown into the international spotlight in February 2016 when scientists with the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) collaboration announced that they had, for the first time, directly detected gravitational waves, which are ripples in the fabric of space and time generated by massively energetic events. The Earth-based experiment detected gravitational waves originating from two distant colliding black holes. Although not a part of the LIGO team, Kesden, associate professor of physics, in February 2015 had published solutions to equations that described such binary black hole systems and the gravitational waves they produced. The LIGO founders won the Nobel Prize in physics in 2017.

Chronic Pain Relief

Researchers at the Center for Advanced Pain Studies are making great strides in **understanding the roots of pain**. For example, they have discovered a potential explanation for why migraine is more common in women, and, with colleagues at UT Southwestern Medical Center, found evidence of the source of chronic pain, revealing new targets for non-opioid treatment. The pain research group has also found that the common diabetes medication metformin can greatly reduce neuropathic pain, which is caused by damage to nerve cells. Their discovery that a protein called eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E (eIF4E) plays a key role in neuropathic pain could lead to new treatments.



Targeted Plasticity Therapy

A technique developed by **Dr. Michael Kilgard**, the Margaret Fonde Jonsson Professor of neuroscience, has proved to aid the recovery of stroke victims who suffer weakness and paralysis. Targeted plasticity therapy pairs vagus nerve stimulation — the application of a precisely timed, mild electrical impulse through the nerve — with traditional motor-skill rehabilitation, a process that encourages the brain to reorganize. UT Dallas researchers have investigated targeted plasticity therapy for tinnitus, post-traumatic stress disorder and more, including accelerating cognitive skills training for such purposes as learning foreign languages.



The Apollo Recordings

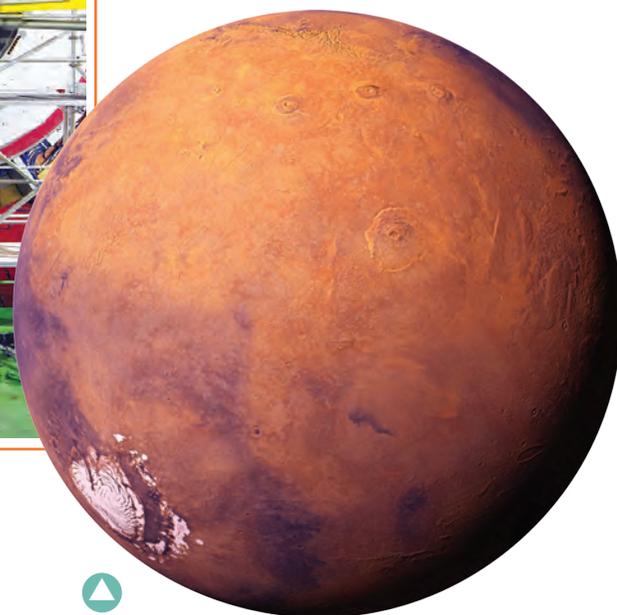
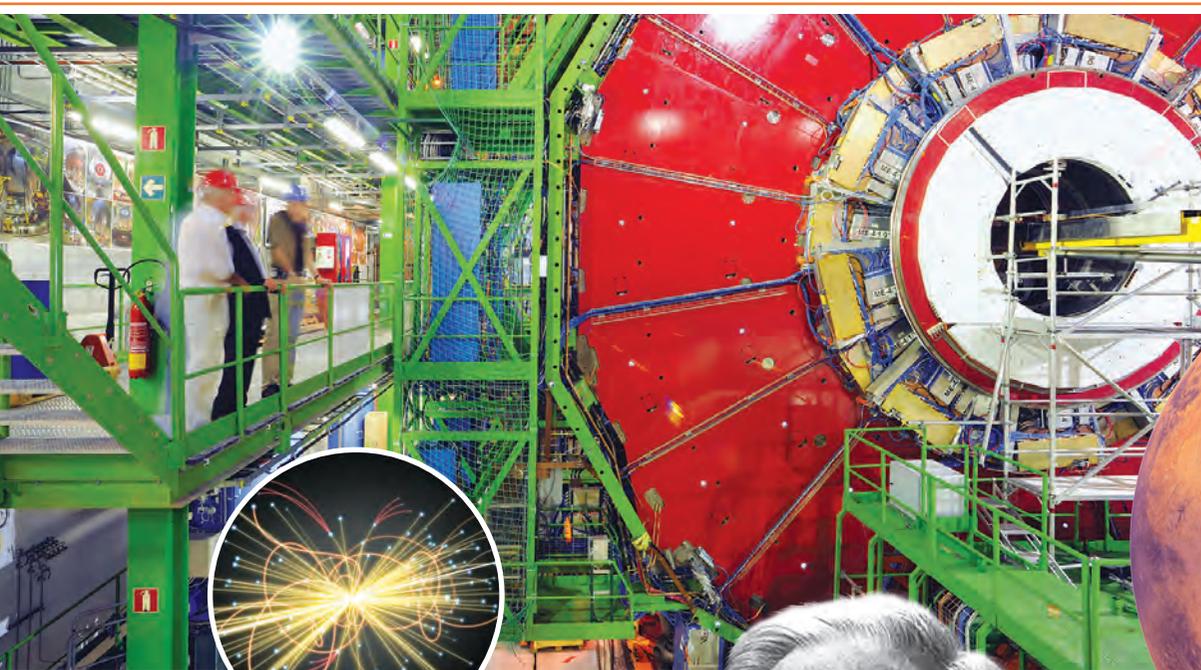
NASA recorded thousands of hours of audio communications between astronauts and ground control during the moon missions, including Neil Armstrong's famous quotes from Apollo 11 in July 1969. Yet few people have heard more than the highlights. Much of this audio remained in storage on outdated 30-track analog tapes for decades until researchers at UT Dallas launched a project to recover, digitize and analyze the audio and make it accessible to the public. The project began in 2012 and was completed in 2017 under the direction of **Dr. John Hansen**, professor of electrical engineering and Distinguished Chair in Telecommunications.

Uniquely UTD



First Club Team (Karate)

The karate club, which was founded in 1982, is one of the oldest student recreational clubs on campus. The club has produced national and international champions over three decades. When Dr. Frederick Turner, Founders Professor in the School of Arts and Humanities, arrived at UT Dallas in 1985, he joined the karate club and has since earned a second-degree black belt. "It's spiritual, but not tied to any one religion. It's sort of a reminder that we are not just physical objects and intellect," he said.



Higgs Boson

UT Dallas scientists and students played a role in groundbreaking experiments that led to the discovery in 2012 of a **new elementary particle of matter**, the long-sought-after Higgs boson. Researchers from the Department of Physics helped build detectors and analyze data from two experiments underway at the Large Hadron Collider, the world's most powerful particle accelerator, located at the CERN research facility in Geneva, Switzerland. The detection of the elusive Higgs boson involved thousands of international scientists and helped earn the theorists who first proposed the particle's existence a Nobel Prize in physics in 2013.



UV Light Impedes Bacteria

Dr. John Jagger was a mainstay in the biology department from the late 1960s into the 1990s. During his time at UTD, Jagger and a graduate student, **T.V. Ramabhadran**, discovered the mechanism that causes ultraviolet light to delay bacterial growth. They published their findings in an influential 1976 paper in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.



Water on Mars

Dr. John Hoffman, a professor emeritus of physics who joined the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest in 1966 and spent his career at UT Dallas, designed and built scientific instruments for satellites, planetary missions and other space probes. His instruments accompanied Apollo astronauts to the moon and the Pioneer mission to Venus, and played a key role in discovering water on Mars during the Phoenix mission in 2008. Hoffman designed a mass spectrometer for the Martian lander that analyzed gases from soil samples on the red planet and determined that there was frozen water in the soil. Hoffman's instrument also shed light on Mars' atmosphere and climate history.



MRI Tracer Molecules

Dr. A. Dean Sherry joined the UT Dallas chemistry faculty in 1972 and is a pioneer in developing novel imaging agents used in MRI. His groundbreaking work in the 1980s created a demand among researchers worldwide for his agents, so in 1995 he founded the company Macrocylics. In 2011 Orano Med acquired Macrocylics, and in 2016 the company relocated to a new facility near the UT Dallas campus. Sherry was founding director of the Advanced Imaging Research Center, which is on the UT Southwestern Medical Center campus and provides a central location for UT Dallas, UT Southwestern and UT Arlington researchers to conduct studies of the human brain. As the Cecil H. and Ida Green Distinguished Chair in Systems Biology, Sherry continues to develop the next generation of imaging agents that can trace metabolism in real time.

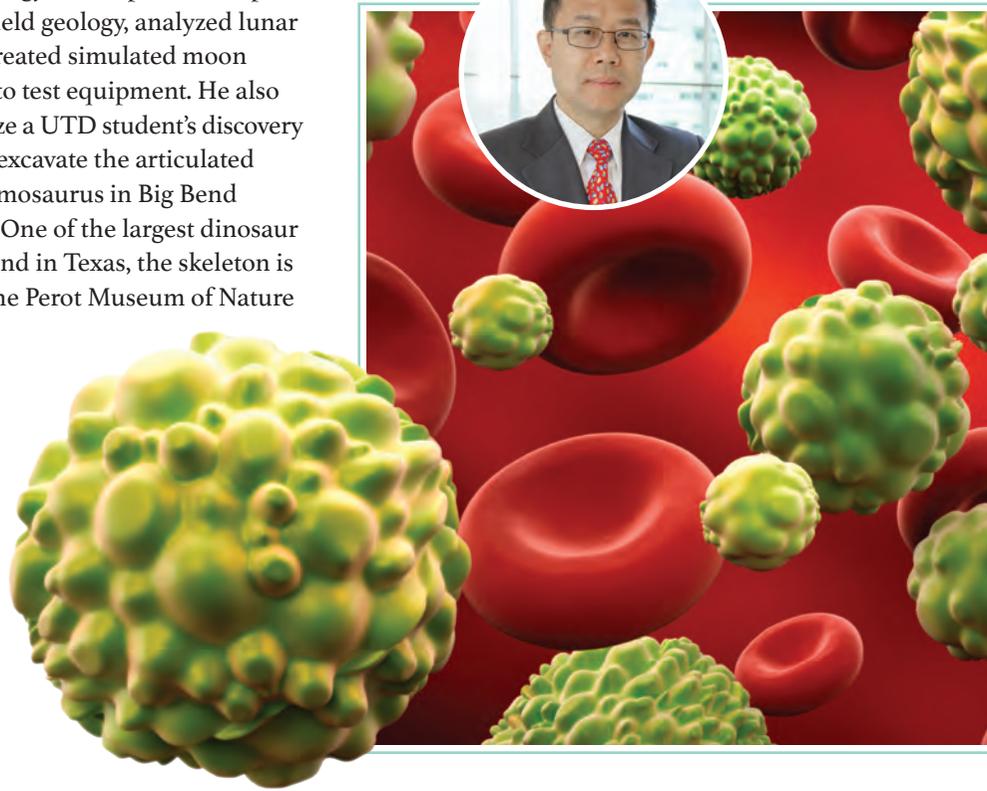


From Moon Dirt to Dinosaurs

Dr. James Carter joined the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest as a postdoctoral researcher in 1964. Throughout his career as a UT Dallas geoscientist, Carter studied everything from the Earth's upper crust to environmental geochemistry to paleontology. He helped train Apollo astronauts in field geology, analyzed lunar samples and created simulated moon dirt for NASA to test equipment. He also helped publicize a UTD student's discovery of and helped excavate the articulated neck of an Alamosaurus in Big Bend National Park. One of the largest dinosaur fossils ever found in Texas, the skeleton is on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

Image-Guided Medicine

Dr. Baowei Fei is a leader in developing image-guided intervention technology that allows for earlier detection of potentially cancerous cells. Fei also is developing a smart surgical microscope that uses hyperspectral imaging and artificial intelligence to detect cancer cells in real-time during surgery for more complete removal of a tumor. He holds the Cecil H. and Ida Green Chair in Systems Biology Science at UT Dallas and is also a professor of radiology at UT Southwestern Medical Center.





A WINNING PROPOSITION



From club teams to NCAA championships, UT Dallas student-athletes build a legacy

By Bruce Unrue



WHEN THE UNIVERSITY of Texas at Dallas' first group of underclassmen arrived on campus in the late 1970s, administrators gradually realized that the younger students needed more to complete their "full college experience" than just well-equipped academic facilities and a world-renowned faculty.

They needed something to do. So, as the University started building a student life program to keep students engaged as well as educated, Mary Walters joined the staff in 1981 as a recreational sports specialist, eventually becoming director of athletics in 1983.

"I was essentially an intramurals person," she said. "But until we added freshmen and sophomores in the early 1990s, most of the

students who were here were still more concerned with getting into grad school than being part of a team.

"I found some leftover vestiges of an athletics program from the early years — a few old uniforms, a bunch of paperwork — but nothing that had ever taken hold. Prior to that time, any athletic teams we

did have were kind of haphazardly organized — more like club teams."

Fast forward almost four decades and the UT Dallas athletics program has not only become a well-oiled machine under the auspices of the NCAA and American Southwest Conference, but the Comets also have become a nationally recognized powerhouse in many of the 14 sports that make up the varsity athletics program.

The legacy currently includes 32 conference championships and more than 30 teams representing UTD in NCAA national championship tournaments since 2002.

"We've grown from a regional program few people even in Dallas knew about to a national program that competes with some of the premier teams in the NCAA Division III," said Bill Pettit, UT Dallas' current director of athletics. "And we've been able to achieve this success without compromising UTD's core values of academics. Our student-athletes have proved you can have both athletic and academic success."

The program growth all happened quickly — and not without obstacles along the way.

"When I first arrived, we didn't really have any facilities — a few tennis courts, a couple of ball fields



Mary Walters, UT Dallas' first director of athletics



KEEPING SPIRITS HIGH

WITH HAIR OF fiery hue and skin of blue, Temoc is the personification of Comet spirit. (Temoc is “comet” spelled backward.) Developed in 1998 by Aaron Aryanpur BA’00, the University’s mascot was originally named Blaze. Temoc is part of the Comet spirit programs that also include the cheerleaders and the power dancers. The teams perform at varsity athletic and community events. In addition, the power dancers have appeared on ESPN’s “College GameDay,” “Good Morning Texas” and the Dallas Cowboys halftime show.

and some basic soccer fields across campus that were used primarily by local youth programs,” Walters recalled. “I had to go rent middle school basketball courts a couple of nights a week just for intramurals.”

But in 1993, the student body voted to build an Activity Center that would include a full gymnasium, workout facility, racquetball courts and a swimming pool to house both recreational sports activities and an athletics program. Still, it would be five more years until the project was completed.

In the meantime, the undergraduate student body continued to grow, and the demand for varsity athletics increased — even if the UTD faculty wasn’t completely on board.

“There was resistance from some faculty members at that time who thought we might become a ‘football school.’ But that was never our intention,” Walters said.

“Nevertheless, we weren’t really ready to move forward at that point,” Walters explained. “We only had a couple of teams and part-time or volunteer coaches, and we didn’t have enough sports to qualify for NCAA membership. So, we joined the NAIA [National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics]

just to get a schedule of games for our soccer team and the chance to advance if a team qualified.

“The NAIA was a mixed bag,” she said. “Some schools had scholarships; others did not. And admissions standards were all over the map. It wasn’t unusual for us to have a game against a team made up of 30-year-olds. In addition, games were getting canceled all the time when an opposing school would decide not to make the trip. But we had no other option.”

By 1998, though, the Activity Center was nearing completion, and the student body was pushing for more sports and more organized activities. Walters proposed looking into NCAA Division III membership.

“The focus of UTD then — and now — has always been academics. I thought we fit philosophically with the NCAA Division III, which is all about putting academics first,” she said.

Coincidentally, there was a new Division III conference starting up — the American Southwest Conference — and the offices were just across Campbell Road from UT Dallas. Walters next contacted ASC Commissioner Fred Jacoby.

“He was amazing,” Walters said. “Fred was like



ON THE HORIZON

WHAT'S NEXT FOR UT Dallas athletics? Look for indoor and outdoor men's and women's track and field beginning in fall 2020.

The new programs were announced in October and bring UTD's total number of intercollegiate sports participating in NCAA Division III to 17; counting in esports brings the total to 18 sponsored varsity sports.



Bill Petitt, UT Dallas director of athletics

"We are excited to be adding men's and women's track and field to our program," said Bill Petitt, athletic director. "We will start with distance events and transition into a full complement of track disciplines over the next three years. Additionally, by adding track and field, we will give our cross-country program the resources to compete at an elite level."



someone's grandfather. He was so delighted to talk with me, and he ended up walking us through the process step-by-step of joining the NCAA.

"I had reservations about Division III because we are a state school, and most of the schools in that division are small, private schools. But he assured me that we absolutely fit, and he helped smooth the path with other members of the ASC to get us an invitation to join. He was a great arbiter."

At that time, the minimum number of sports required for NCAA membership was four for men and four for women. UTD added basketball and cross-country to its soccer and tennis programs, and hired full-time coaches for basketball and soccer. By 2002, when the University had completed its probationary period, baseball, softball and golf were also added.

The first year (2002) the Comets were eligible as full-fledged NCAA members, UTD battled for both men's and women's ASC soccer titles, with the women winning the conference championship.

And the Comets have not looked back.

After a slow start, both men's and women's basketball teams won four ASC titles over the past

15 years. Volleyball was added in 2003, qualified for the ASC championship tournament every season and won six conference titles. Soccer has continued to be a dominant force with the men and women combining for seven ASC titles. Men's and women's tennis have two championships apiece, and the men's and women's cross-country teams are among the conference's best, each winning championships in the past four seasons. Baseball and softball each have an ASC title, too.

And, the athletics program's newest member — esports (competitive video gaming) — won a national tournament in its first season.

"This is kind of what I envisioned," said Walters, who served as athletics director until 2003. "It's pleased me that — even as UTD has grown — the student body has gotten so involved and more and more behind it. When we started out, the teams were playing mostly in front of parents. Today, you see the stands packed with loud, boisterous UTD students eager to cheer on their teams.

"The student-athletes have made UTD athletics such a success, and they are great ambassadors for the University." ■

A Half-Century of Giving Transforms UT Dallas

OVER THE PAST 50 or so years, The University of Texas at Dallas campus has evolved physically from a lone building in the middle of the Blackland Prairie just north of Dallas to a deliberate patchwork of research facilities, residence halls and academic buildings bustling with bright students, innovative programs and cutting-edge ideas. Three businessmen conceived the initial vision, but the ambitious transformation of UT Dallas into a top-tier research institution was made possible by forward-thinkers and generous supporters who made the University the rich mosaic that it is today.

The Sixties

◆ In 1961, Texas Instruments Inc. (TI) founders **Eugene McDermott, J. Erik Jonsson** and **Cecil Green** established the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest — renamed in 1967 as the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies — the foundation for what would become The University of Texas at Dallas.

◆ Gov. Preston Smith signed House Bill 303 in 1969, establishing UT Dallas as a component of the UT System. The **Southwest Center for Advanced Studies** donated 325 acres to the state of Texas.

The Seventies

◆ UT Dallas received 275 acres of land from the **Hoblitzelle Foundation** and the **Texas Research Foundation**, which was initially established to

revitalize soils of the Blackland Prairie and whose president was Karl Hoblitzelle.



*Ida Green, Cecil Green,
Margaret Jonsson, Erik Jonsson,
Margaret McDermott
and Eugene McDermott.*



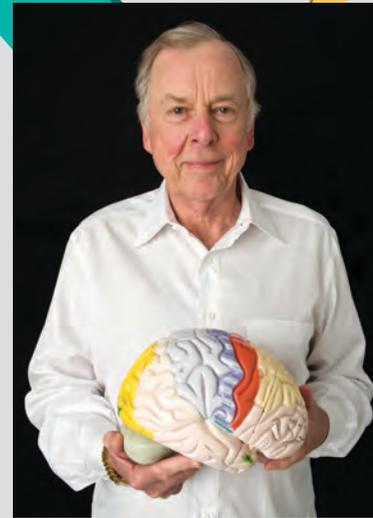
Edith and Peter O'Donnell



Trammell and Margaret Crow



Dianne Cash



T. Boone Pickens

The Eighties

- ▶ In 1985, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board stipulated conditions to be met before approving an engineering school at UT Dallas, including raising \$24 million from private sources. Led by **Kent Black**, then-president of Rockwell International Corp., key business leaders worked with UT Dallas President Robert Rutford to generate funds from the community.

- ▶ At a special ceremony in 1989, Gov. Bill Clements signed into law a bill establishing UT Dallas as a four-year school, and philanthropist **Peter O'Donnell** announced a \$1 million gift to support student scholarships.

The Nineties

- ▶ In 1990, TI Chairman **Jerry Junkins** led *The Campaign to Make History*, an effort to raise \$3 million to ensure the success of UTD's transition to a four-year university. Nearly 50 individuals, corporations and foundations contributed to the cause.

- ▶ The **Excellence in Education Foundation** — founded by Jonsson, Green and McDermott — contributed 76 acres of land and nearly \$6 million in endowed funds in 1992.
- ▶ Dallas real estate developer **Trammell Crow** donated more than 100 live oak trees to the University in 1994 to help landscape the acreage on either side of University Parkway.

The Two Thousands

- ▶ **Margaret McDermott** donated \$32 million in 2000 to establish the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program.
- ▶ In 2004, an economic development project known as Project Emmitt and led by **Texas Instruments** began pumping more than \$300 million into the University to strengthen science and engineering programs.

- ▶ The Center for BrainHealth opened a state-of-the-art facility in Dallas in 2007 and expanded clinical and research programs, buoyed by significant gifts from supporters such as **Dianne Cash** and **T. Boone Pickens**.
- ▶ In 2009, just two months after Texas law made the University eligible for **Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP)** matching funds, 16 donors made gifts totaling nearly \$17 million, including seven that were \$1 million or more — the largest number of seven-figure donations ever received in a single day at UTD.



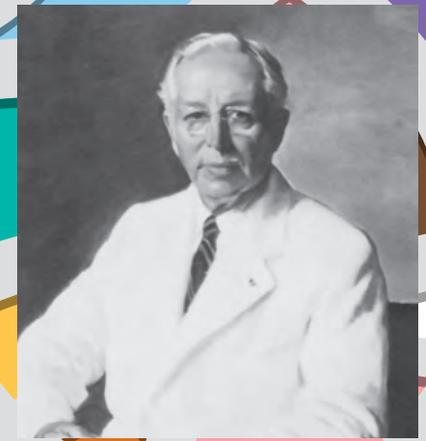
Margaret and Eugene McDermott



Naveen Jindal, Dr. Hasan Pirkul, Charles Davidson and Nancy Gundy Davidson



Donna and Herb Weitzman



Karl Hoblitzelle

The Two Thousand and Tens

- ◆ In 2010, the first phase of the seven-year-long Campus Landscape Enhancement project, funded with \$50 million from **Margaret McDermott**, was dedicated. Some 5,000 trees and shrubs were planted, among other improvements. The University later named the Margaret McDermott Mall and Trellis Plaza in her honor.
- ◆ Alumnus **Naveen Jindal** donated the single-largest alumni gift to date, part of a joint \$30 million gift presented with fellow alumni **Nancy Gundy Davidson** and **Charles Davidson** for the School of Management, which was renamed the Naveen Jindal School of Management. The Charles and Nancy Davidson Management Honors Program was also established in 2011.
- ◆ Dedicated **supporters of the Callier Center for Communication Disorders** contributed \$5 million in 2013 to launch a \$22 million expansion on the Richardson campus.
- ◆ **Realize the Vision: The Campaign for Tier One and Beyond** concluded in 2014 by raising \$273.3 million to support academic and research programs, scholarships, faculty chairs and campus enhancements. The five-year effort established 237 endowed funds and moved UTD closer to becoming a national research university. TRIP and the University of Texas System Research Incentive Program matching funds accounted for \$67 million.
- ◆ In 2014, a \$14 million gift from **Margaret McDermott**, combined with \$10 million in TRIP funding, created the Eugene McDermott Graduate Fellows Program, an innovative program designed to prepare outstanding doctoral students for careers in leading research enterprises.
- ◆ **Edith O'Donnell**, longtime visionary and patroness of the arts and education, made a \$17 million contribution in 2014 to create the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History.
- ◆ In 2016, in support of newly appointed UT Dallas President Richard C. Benson, **Margaret McDermott** made a culminating gift of \$25 million toward the construction costs of two new engineering and science buildings, as well as for a planned arts complex.
- ◆ In 2017, UT Dallas celebrated the opening of the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center, a 30,246-square-foot facility designed to deepen the connections between students and graduates, as envisioned by **Nancy Gundy Davidson** and **Charles Davidson**, whose \$15 million gift made the building a reality.
- ◆ At her request, **Margaret McDermott's** \$10 million contribution to support undergraduate research resulted in a new name for the Honors College — the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College in 2017.
- ◆ In 2018, North Texas real estate icon **Herb Weitzman** and his wife, **Donna**, established the Herbert D. Weitzman Institute for Real Estate with their \$3 million gift to the Naveen Jindal School of Management.
- ◆ A \$5.5 million planned gift from **Maurine Johnson**, the original first lady of UT Dallas, established the Francis S. and Maurine G. Johnson Distinguished University Chair, as well as seven additional chairs in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in 2018.
- ◆ In 2018, UT Dallas announced the acquisition of the Barrett Collection, an unparalleled assemblage of more than 400 works of Swiss art. Gifted by **Richard and Luba Barrett**, it is the single largest donation ever made to UTD as well as the largest gift of art to any institution in the UT System.
- ◆ The entire collection of the Trammell and Margaret Crow Museum of Asian Art, together with \$23 million of support funding, was donated to UT Dallas by the **Crow family** in 2018 to create the Trammell and Margaret Crow Museum of Asian Art of The University of Texas at Dallas. ■

University Mourns Loss of UT Dallas' Second President, Dr. Robert H. Rutford



DR. ROBERT H. RUTFORD, former president of The University of Texas at Dallas, died Dec. 1, 2019. He served as president from 1982 to 1994 and was named president emeritus by the UT System Board of Regents in 2007.

During his tenure as UT Dallas' second president, Rutford guided the University through several transformative changes, including adding freshman and sophomore students in 1990 and developing the first on-campus student housing. Rutford also provided direction and support for the founding of the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Rutford's research interests were in the fields of glacial geology and geomorphology, primarily in Antarctica. Beginning in the late 1950s, Rutford embarked on more than two dozen treks to Antarctica. Mount Rutford, located in the Ellsworth Mountains

in Antarctica, is named for him, as is the 130-mile-long Rutford Ice Stream.

He was a member of the Polar Research Board of the National Research Council, and in 1975 he became the director of the Division of Polar Programs for the National Science Foundation. While at the NSF, he received the Distinguished Science Medal, the highest award given by the NSF. In 1986 he was appointed as the U.S. delegate to the international Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

Rutford, a Minnesota native, was born in 1933. He earned a bachelor's degree in geography in 1954 from the University of Minnesota, where he lettered in football and track. After graduating, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After two years of service, he returned to the University of Minnesota to earn his doctoral degree in geology. He held faculty positions at the University of South Dakota and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he was vice chancellor for research and graduate studies and interim chancellor before accepting the position as president of UT Dallas.



In 2007 the U.S. Geological Survey named the highest peak in the Craddock Massif of the Ellsworth Range Mount Rutford.

A Remembrance from David Williamson BS'98, MS'02, MS'03

Vice President of Geoscience, Monadnock Resources

I HAVE LOTS of favorite memories of my time at UT Dallas and, as importantly, of my time as an involved alumnus in the years postgraduation. I remember fondly passing a certain photograph that hung on the foyer wall in the Founders Building, where my department — geosciences — used to reside. The photo, in black and white, was of a young, confident, steel-jawed explorer.

His name was Robert Rutford.

After conducting pioneering research in Antarctica, he would later go on to helm the presidency of our University. He helped transform UT Dallas into the beloved institution we all enjoy and take pride in today. Yet, it was that photo that I passed so often that inspired me so much as a geosciences student working my way through college toward a degree. I wanted to become like him.

During my time as both an undergraduate and later as a graduate student pursuing dual master's degrees in geosciences and geographic information sciences, I needed that



periodic inspiration boost — the journey was at times hard. Years later, UTD would confer upon me the 2013 Green and Orange Award for Alumni Service. By my side, the man who accompanied me onto the stage, was none other than President Rutford. Receiving that award is a cherished memory of mine.

So, I suppose things have now come full circle. I was inspired by an earth scientist who carved out a name for himself and then desired to give back to future generations in big ways. I, too, am always trying to leave my mark on my science, and I certainly take great pride and satisfaction in giving back to UTD and the newer generations of geosciences students whenever and however I can. ■

To read more remembrances from UTD alumni, please visit utdallas.edu/magazine.

115,000+

Alumni worldwide

25

Alumni chapters worldwide

\$502 million

Endowment

4

Grandmasters on the Chess Team



67%

Seniors graduate with no student debt



An LGBTQ-Friendly Campus, UT Dallas was awarded in 2019 five out of five stars by Campus Pride Index — making UTD the highest-rated campus in Texas and the Southwest.

#1

Best Value Public University in Texas (Forbes, 2019)

6000



International students from more than 100 countries

142

Degree programs

8

Electric-vehicle charging stations

6701

Trees



6,617,104

Square feet of building space on main campus

445

Acres in the main campus footprint



THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Dallas, TX
Permit 3641

Outstanding in His Field...

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS sits in the middle of the Blackland Prairie, a wide strip of dark, rich soil that runs from the Red River to San Antonio. Before European settlement and the introduction of large-scale farming and ranching, the Blackland Prairie was characterized by a high degree of plant diversity. In 1972 Dr. Cyrus L. Lundell, an internationally known botanist, joined the UT Dallas faculty and oversaw efforts to transfer a few acres of relict Blackland Prairie from a construction site north of the University to the southwest side of campus in order to preserve it for study by faculty and students. Lundell is shown here among native bluestem and switchgrass, some nearly 6 feet tall, that were among the more than 200 grass and plant varieties.

