

SPRING 2022

SMU MAGAZINE

## What's inside

GARRY WEBER END ZONE COMPLEX | 4

GRADUATE EDUCATION FOR A BETTER WORLD | 6

STOKING FIRES OF CHANGE | 22

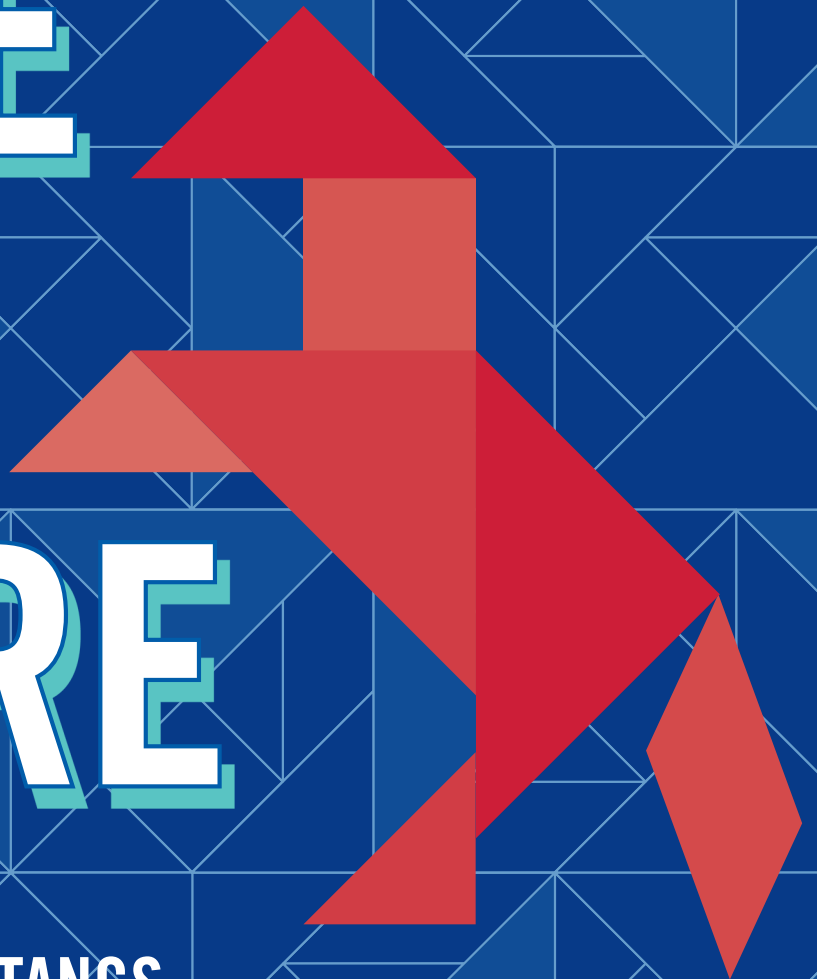
# SUPERCHARGING

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Powering a transformational high-performance computing ecosystem  
for SMU and North Texas | [page 12](#)

**MARCH 22 IS SMU GIVING DAY**  
**WHAT CAN WE DO IN ONE DAY?**

# SHAPE THE FUTURE



**CHOOSE YOUR CAUSE.**  
**UNITE WITH FELLOW MUSTANGS.**

**SMU**  
**GIVING**  
**DAY**

**LEARN MORE AT**  
**[SMU.EDU/ONEDAY](http://SMU.EDU/ONEDAY)**



# Reaching a milestone

**I'M THRILLED TO SHARE THE NEWS THAT *SMU IGNITED: BOLDLY SHAPING TOMORROW* HAS GARNERED OVER \$800 MILLION IN DONATIONS, more than halfway toward our \$1.5 billion goal. The multiyear campaign continues to galvanize our community to fuel the University's impact in our city, in our state and in our world.**

Thanks to the groundbreaking generosity of our Mustang community, SMU is primed to reach its goals of assisting more underrepresented students, enriching research and teaching and enhancing our campus and community for future generations.

In that spirit, we are excited about a new landmark gift that will change the course of Mustang football. The Garry Weber Foundation contributed \$50 million – the largest gift ever made to SMU Athletics – to construct the Garry Weber End Zone Complex in Gerald J. Ford Stadium. This modern facility will create additional seating and critical new spaces for student-athletes, propelling our football program to the highest levels of competition while building on our reputation for excellence in all that we do.

Additional initiatives increase channels for engagement, outreach and learning. They include the Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool addition to the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center, which we'll break ground for this spring; the Custard Institute for Spanish Art and Culture to expand the Meadows Museum's current research and educational programs; and new gifts supporting

tomorrow's business leaders through the Cox School of Business expansion and renovation project.

In December, SMU broke ground on Frances Anne Moody Hall, the new home for the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. The Moody School expands our research ecosystem by uniting doctoral and master's students from four schools and providing competitive fellowships. It is a major progression on the road to taking our place among the top research institutions in the country.

SMU's recent \$11.5 million investment and collaboration with NVIDIA to strengthen the University's artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure is also making inroads toward that goal. The partnership dramatically expands SMU's supercomputing system and significantly strengthens our region as an AI superhub. Recent SMU studies of landslides in the Western U.S. and Dallas infrastructure deserts are just two examples of how SMU's supercomputing power is already contributing to life-changing research.

Shifting ideas into action is the driving force behind our annual SMU Giving Day. On March 22, every member of the Mustang community will have the opportunity to celebrate their special connection to the

Hilltop by supporting the causes they care about most. There are more than 175 organizations, projects, funds and causes to choose from at [smu.edu/oneday](https://smu.edu/oneday). Our annual 24-hour giving challenge

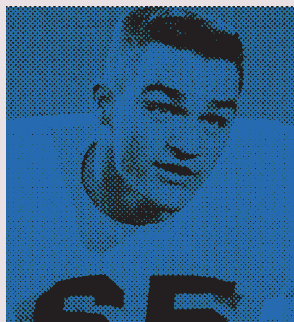
is another reminder of the huge impact we have when we come together to shape a brighter future.

These are just a few of the reasons why this is such an extraordinary time to be at SMU. We couldn't have gotten here without you, and we're grateful to have a community that shares our sense of purpose. All of us want the great things that start on the Hilltop to make a positive difference far beyond campus. Thanks to you, we are finding new ways to take the good we do out into the world every day. 🐾



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Gerald Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" and "T".

**R. GERALD TURNER**  
President



4

**GAME ON!**

The Garry Weber Foundation contributed \$50 million – the largest gift in the history of SMU Athletics – to create the Garry Weber End Zone Complex at Gerald J. Ford Stadium.



6

**CELEBRATING A NEW HOME**

Frances Anne Moody Hall, the future home of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, will bring together master's and Ph.D. students for study, research and collaboration.



12

**SUPER POWER**

A collaboration with accelerated computing leader NVIDIA supercharges SMU's artificial intelligence and machine learning speeds to 25 times faster than current levels.



22

**FIRES OF CHANGE**

Photojournalist Stuart Palley '11 experiences wildfires in the moment while SMU researcher Chris Roos looks at them through the long lens of archaeology.

**DISTINGUISHED GUEST**

Former U.S. President George W. Bush talked about his newest bestseller, *Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants*, as the Tate Lecture Series speaker October 12.

31

**Welcoming community 4**

A new era of engagement  
Welcome back, Rhett Lashlee!  
Making a big splash

**Research with impact 12**

Detecting the unseen  
Highly cited researcher  
Fighting cervical cancer

**Enterprising spirit 18**

Finding math everywhere  
Pets are family, too

**SMU, Dallas and beyond 22**

Fostering educational excellence  
Blazing a new path in Houston  
Creating an inviting oasis  
A gift from the heart

**Class notes 34****In Memoriam 44****The download 48****REFRESHED AND RE-IMAGINED**

Signs of Mustang spirit are everywhere in the newly renovated Hughes-Trigg Student Center, the traditional hub of student life on the Hilltop.



# Strengthening our future

**THE ROOTS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PHILANTHROPY WERE PLANTED FIRMLY IN MY FAMILY 80 YEARS AGO. I've seen firsthand how our work affects Texans, and that inspires me to want to do more.**

**M**y great-grandparents, W. L. Moody, Jr. and Libbie Shearn Moody, established the Moody Foundation in 1942 to help present and future Texans. I don't know if they could have possibly imagined the enormous benefits their generosity would accomplish. I do know that our family remains committed to their vision to build a brighter tomorrow by addressing today's challenges.

My brother, Ross Moody, and my niece, Elizabeth Moody, and I honor their legacy by continuing to support sustainable programs that educate, heal, nurture and motivate.

Like you, we have spent the last two years navigating the pandemic landscape. We responded with supplies for our frontline heroes and first responders, with help for people without housing and those facing food insecurity, and with other relief funding. Through it all, we have been impressed by the devotion of our grant partners in meeting the most pressing needs of the communities they serve while honoring diversity and promoting unity.

Now more than ever, providing essential resources at the right place and time is crucial. A prime example is our 2019 commitment to the *SMU Ignited* campaign that created SMU's Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. This intellectual

center brings the brightest minds from different fields together to generate innovative ideas; to foster data-driven, leading-edge research; and to harness technology to address the smallest of local needs and the largest of global issues.

In December, I was back

***“SMU is ‘boldly shaping tomorrow’ by igniting student scholarships, meaningful research and teaching, and community collaboration. This new path forward will have a profound impact immediately on the Hilltop that radiates outward to our communities.”***

– Frances Anne Moody-Dahlberg '92

on campus to celebrate another milestone in this project when SMU broke ground on Frances Anne Moody Hall. Campus investments are critical to student success, and I feel honored to have my name associated with the new home of the Moody School. I'm excited by what the school's students and faculty are already creating and discovering – and sharing with the world.

As an alumna, I can speak from

experience about the important role SMU plays in personal and professional growth. The work being done here improves countless lives.

Ultimately, both the Moody

Foundation and the

University invest in people and empower them to make a difference. SMU is “boldly shaping tomorrow” by igniting student scholarships, meaningful research and teaching, and

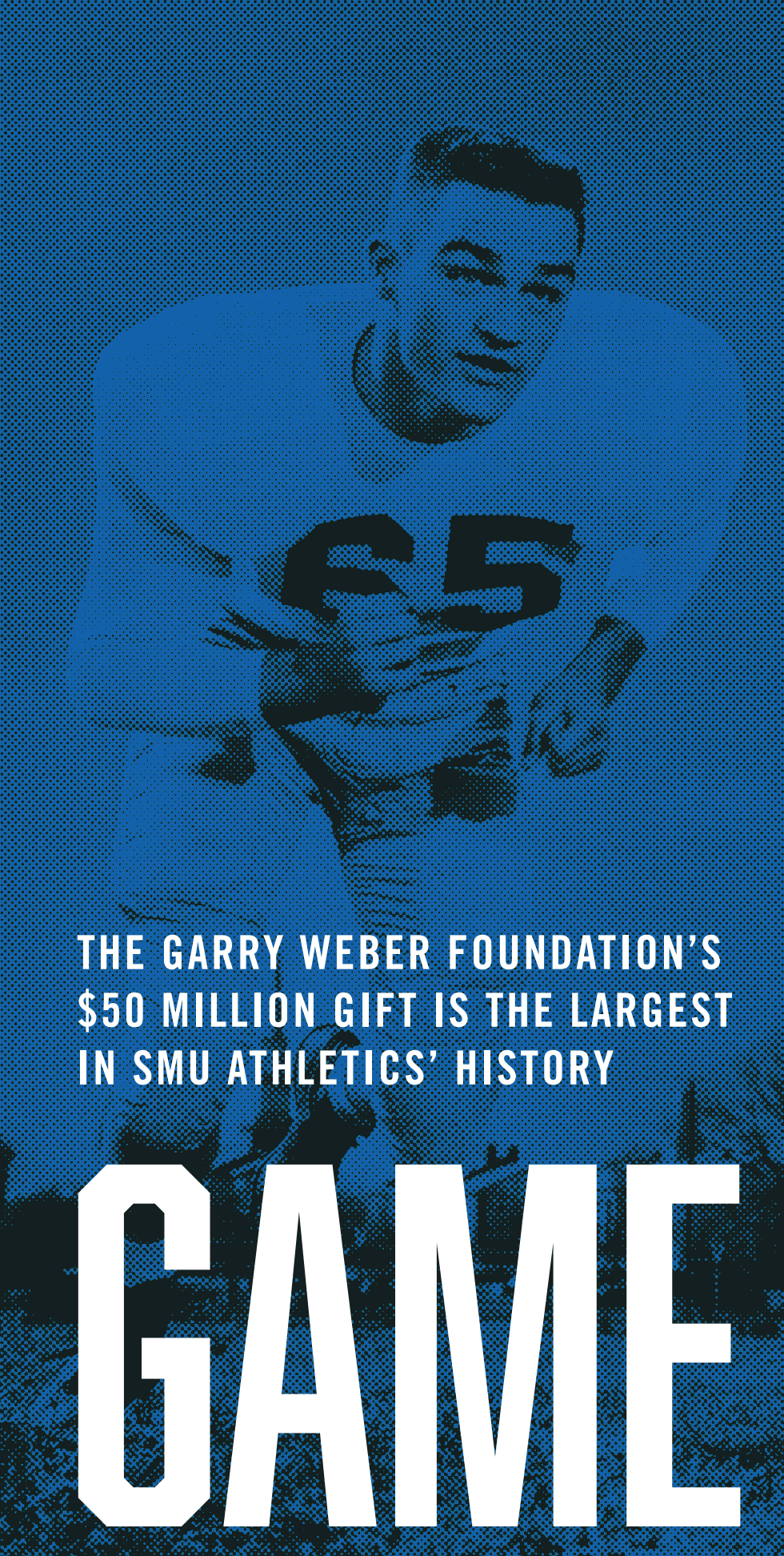
community collaboration. This new path forward will have a profound impact immediately on the Hilltop that radiates outward to our communities.

We can become partners in this extraordinary endeavor to make the world a better place today and for generations to come when we contribute financially, donate our time and share our talents.

By joining together, our potential to create good is as limitless and as powerful as our Texas spirit. 🐾



**FRANCES ANNE MOODY-DAHLBERG '92**  
Chairman and Executive Director of the Moody Foundation and SMU Trustee



THE GARRY WEBER FOUNDATION'S  
\$50 MILLION GIFT IS THE LARGEST  
IN SMU ATHLETICS' HISTORY

GAME

Underscoring SMU's commitment to the highest levels of athletic excellence, the Garry Weber Foundation, established by former SMU football letterman Garry A. Weber '58, is committing \$50 million to support a \$100 million drive for a new 192,500-square-foot Garry Weber End Zone Complex at Gerald J. Ford Stadium.

The Garry Weber Foundation's gift continues an exciting new era for Mustang football and SMU as part of the University's recently announced \$1.5 billion campaign, *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*. With the drive, SMU Athletics will reach a new milestone, having invested \$250 million to develop and enhance championship-caliber athletic facilities across campus.

"We are incredibly honored by the Garry Weber Foundation's gift and excited about the impact this gift will have on all of SMU Athletics," says SMU President R. Gerald Turner. "From its founding, SMU has always been focused on excellence in everything we do. Having great athletics increases the visibility of the University."

The new Garry Weber End Zone Complex will anchor Ford Stadium's south bowl that will connect the stadium's existing east and west gate entries. The three levels of the new complex will increase the functionality, efficiency and overall experience of Mustang

ON!





**LEFT** Celebrating the landmark gift are (from left) SMU Director of Athletics Rick Hart, former football letterman Garry A. Weber '58, and head football coach Rhett Lashlee. The Garry Weber Foundation's gift will support a \$100 million expansion of Gerald J. Ford Stadium. **BELOW** The 192,500-square-foot Garry Weber End Zone Complex will anchor Ford Stadium's south bowl.

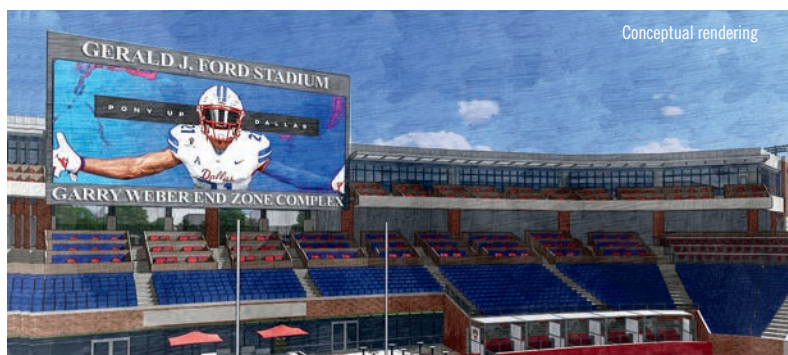
football. Team-focused spaces will include new locker rooms, a weight room, position-specific meeting rooms, a full-team auditorium and a kitchen and training table to support all of SMU's 484 student-athletes. The new facility will also house football coaches, support staff and video and recruiting services.

"Both SMU and Dallas have played a substantial role in my life, and I feel honored to pay it forward to the next generation of Mustang student-athletes and fans," Weber says. "Being a member of a team means striving for success for yourself and those around you, and I'm proud to continue to be a part of Mustang football and its future success and growth. I hope that this gift will inspire SMU's student-athletes and Mustang fans to dream bigger than they thought possible and to strive for a new level of excellence."

The newly constructed concourse will offer premium experiences for fans, expand guest facilities, improve pedestrian accessibility and add an inviting breezeway that joins the stadium's entryways to the internal field.

The Garry Weber Foundation's gift builds on a longtime legacy of excellence in SMU Athletics. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2020, Ford Stadium has come to represent athletic distinction and Mustang pride at SMU, creating a new tradition of tailgating dubbed "the Boulevard." The stadium was made possible by and named for SMU Trustee Gerald J. Ford '66, '69, who was joined by dedicated Mustang alumni, donors and community members.

Weber has been an integral part of SMU's growth and success for many years. He is a proud graduate of the Edwin L. Cox School of Business at SMU. A former member of the Mustang football team, Weber served on the SMU Board of Trustees from 1984 to 1996 and has been a member of the Edwin L. Cox School of Business Executive Board for over 30 years. In 1998, Weber received the University's highest honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award. In



2016, he was honored with the Silver Anniversary Mustang Award, the most prestigious award granted by the SMU Lettermen's Association. An active presence at SMU and throughout Dallas, Weber has contributed generously to SMU and various educational and philanthropic causes including Scottish Rite for Children, UT Southwestern, United Way and the Boy Scouts of America, among others.

Having served Dallas as both a Dallas County judge and City Council member, Weber is the founder of Weber Financial Inc., as well as an active individual investor in venture capital and late-stage hedge funds. 🐎

**Read more:** [smu.edu/smumag22weber](https://smu.edu/smumag22weber)



# GRADUATE EDUCATION

## FOR A BETTER WORLD

SMU BROKE GROUND ON THE NEW FRANCES ANNE MOODY HALL, NAMED FOR FRANCES ANNE MOODY-DAHLBERG '92, SMU TRUSTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MOODY FOUNDATION. MOODY HALL WILL HOUSE SMU'S EIGHTH DEGREE-GRANTING SCHOOL, THE MOODY SCHOOL OF GRADUATE AND ADVANCED STUDIES.

**B**acked by a \$100 million gift from the Moody Foundation – the largest gift in SMU's history – the Moody School began operations in fall 2020. This gift is already transforming graduate education at SMU.

The expansion of research at SMU – a strategic priority that fuels the University's steady ascent toward achieving Carnegie R1 status – gained momentum with the Moody gift. This bold investment supports SMU's research mission by attracting the outstanding graduate students bolstering the University's doctoral and research ecosystem. New positions that will help SMU graduate students win nationally recognized external fellowships, thrive in their programs and launch successful careers have been filled with extraordinary faculty and staff. The

combination of SMU's strengths in supercomputing and data science, the University's growing externally funded research and the outstanding graduate education provided through the Moody School drives impact on the Hilltop and beyond.



"The Moody School and Frances Anne Moody Hall usher in an exciting new chapter of SMU's history and launch the University to the next level of research and international renown," says SMU President R. Gerald Turner. "The generosity of the Moody Foundation will empower innovation and discovery in countless ways."

The Moody School brings doctoral and master's degrees in four schools under one institutional umbrella and supports over 75 Ph.D. students across these schools with competitive



fellowships. Embodying SMU's commitment to shape world changers, the Moody School empowers Mustangs to meet grand challenges with innovation.

Expanding graduate programs supports SMU's goal to enrich teaching and research – one of the priorities of *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, the University's multiyear \$1.5 billion campaign for impact.

Constructed in SMU's signature Collegiate Georgian architectural style, Frances Anne Moody Hall is the first building located on the master-planned 10-acre property bounded by University Boulevard, Dublin Street, McFarlin Boulevard and Airline Road.

"The Moody Foundation is proud to partner with SMU as it enters a new era of bold research," says Executive Director of the Moody Foundation and SMU Trustee Frances Moody-Dahlberg. "SMU has shaped world changers for more than a century. The Moody Foundation understands that an investment in graduate studies at SMU is an investment in a better future for all."

The 43,000-square-foot, three-story building features an open core structure from the ground level up

to the cupola, which allows natural lighting into the heart of the facility. The interior design is a crisp and professional palette of materials supporting collaborative – as well as quiet – research and study spaces. Moody Hall includes a 170-person auditorium and state-of-the-art classrooms.

Faculty and graduate students will enjoy a new reading room to facilitate study and a seminar room for meaningful instruction. Moody Fellows and SMU Scholars offices will be located in the new facility, as will conference rooms. Moody Hall will also house the Graduate and Research office suites, the Assistant Provost of Research office, and the Dean's Suite. A Social Hub will provide space for collaboration, and a Grab N Go Coffee eatery will provide fuel for Mustangs engaged in important research.

"I am thankful for the Moody Foundation's long-standing commitment to propelling SMU toward its goals, whether they be in advancing science, becoming a leader in the arts and art education or invigorating graduate studies," says Brad E. Cheves, SMU's vice president for Development and External Affairs. 🐎

“  
...An investment  
in graduate  
studies at SMU  
is an investment  
in a better  
future for all.”

Executive Director of the Moody  
Foundation and SMU Trustee  
Frances Moody-Dahlberg

**OPPOSITE PAGE** Frances “Francie” A. Moody-Dahlberg '92 and her husband, Kevin Dahlberg, at the groundbreaking. **BELOW (LEFT)** Opening a new chapter with the turn of a shovel: (from left) James E. Quick, dean of the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and associate provost for Research; Elizabeth G. Lobo, SMU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; R. Gerald Turner, SMU president; Moody-Dahlberg, executive director and chairman of the Moody Foundation and SMU trustee; Robert H. Dedman, Jr. '80, '84, chair of the SMU Board of Trustees; and Brad E. Cheves, SMU vice president for Development and External Affairs. **(RIGHT)** The landmark gift from the Moody Foundation includes support for Moody Graduate Fellowships.



# A new era of engagement

**A gift of \$3 million from Linda P. Custard '60, '99 and William A. Custard '57 is the largest personal contribution in the history of the Meadows Museum. With matching funds of \$3 million from The Meadows Foundation, it will establish the Custard Institute for Spanish Art and Culture at the Meadows Museum.**

**D**edicated to the study of the material culture and heritage of Spain, the new institute builds on the museum's excellence in the field of Spanish studies established over more than 50 years. The Custard Institute represents a major stride towards the Meadows' core mission to be "the leading center in the United States for exhibition, research and education in the arts and culture of Spain."

The commitment illustrates the critical role museums play in research and teaching.

"Through their gift, the Custards and The Meadows Foundation foster profound partnerships and inspire meaningful scholarship that reaches far beyond SMU's

campus," says SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

The institute will significantly increase the museum's research activities through interdisciplinary collaborations with peer institutions and by facilitating new ways of teaching and learning alongside SMU's other archives and libraries.

"The Meadows Foundation is excited and honored to partner with Linda and William Custard in support of the Meadows Museum," says Meadows Foundation President and CEO Peter M. Miller. "We are tremendously proud to have been a part of the museum's history, and we look forward to being a part of the future of both the museum and the new Custard Institute."

Through programming such as lectures, seminars and symposia, the Custard Institute will facilitate and inspire academic collaboration by welcoming new voices to SMU's scholarly community.

"Furthering the scholarship and artistic appreciation of Spanish heritage is crucial to the Meadows Museum's mission, and we are gratified to be a part of that future," says Linda P. Custard '60, '99. "Mark Roglán has long been a leading force behind the museum's development and growing reputation, and we are proud to honor his vision of a dedicated institute for Spanish art and culture."

The Custards' gift will name the director of the new institute in honor of the late Mark A. Roglán, who celebrated his 20th anniversary at the Meadows Museum last year. Roglán died of cancer October 5, 2021 (see sidebar).

P. Gregory Warden, president of Franklin University Switzerland, has been named the inaugural Mark A. Roglán Director of the Custard Institute for Spanish Art and Culture. Before joining Franklin University, he was University Distinguished Professor, Meadows Foundation Distinguished Teaching Professor and Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor at Meadows School of the Arts. 🐘





## Celebrated scholar leaves profound global legacy

SMU mourns the loss of Mark A. Roglán, renowned director of the University's Meadows Museum. His death at the age of 50 came on the heels of the 20th anniversary of his leading the institution, the foremost center in the United States for exhibition, research and education in the arts and culture of Spain.



"Through his unflagging devotion, energy and intellect, Mark built a prestigious museum and collection that brings great honor to the vision of its founder, Algur Meadows," says SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

Under Roglán's guidance the museum tripled attendance, developed a major program of international exhibitions and made major acquisitions nearly doubling the permanent collection of Spanish art.

A native of Madrid, Roglán joined the Meadows Museum as interim curator and adjunct assistant professor of art history in August 2001; he quickly rose to the role of curator of collections in January 2002 and senior curator in June 2004. Following an international search, he was appointed director in 2006.

"Mark thrived within the special environment of a university museum. His vision to combine academic excellence with an esteemed art collection has inspired partnerships unique within the art world," says SMU Trustee Emerita Linda Custard, chair of the Meadows Museum Advisory Council.



## Hughes-Trigg: Refreshed and re-imagined

Alumni returning to campus for Homecoming had a chance to attend the Hughes-Trigg Student Center rededication ceremony showcasing renovations that transformed the heart of the student community. Light-filled and inviting, the revitalized gathering space draws students together to socialize, study and participate in campus opportunities that nurture a strong sense of community.





# WELCOME BACK, RHETT LASHLEE!

**In a 48-hour whirlwind at the end of the November, Rhett Lashlee coached his final game with the University of Miami Hurricanes, jetted off to Dallas and was welcomed on the Hilltop as SMU's new head football coach.**

If Lashlee's name sounds familiar, that's no surprise. He previously served as offensive coordinator for the Mustangs. Lashlee helped lead the Mustangs to a 10-3 finish in 2019, guiding an offense that ranked No. 7 in FBS in scoring (41.8 points per game), No. 13 in passing offense (309 yards per game), No. 9 in total offense (489.8 yards per game) and No. 12 in first downs gained (322). SMU's 10 wins were the school's most since

the 1984 season, and its 35 rushing touchdowns set a school record.

"Rhett's ability to connect with recruits, his passion and love for his players and his alignment with our vision and values are among the many reasons he has been selected to lead SMU football," says SMU Athletics Director Rick Hart.

Lashlee, a one-time finalist (2013) and two-time semifinalist (2019, 2020) for the Broyles Award, presented to

the nation's top assistant coach, comes back to the Hilltop after two seasons as the Miami Hurricanes' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Lashlee also has the distinction of being the only coach ever nominated for the Broyles Award four different times at four different schools (Arkansas State, Auburn, SMU and University of Miami).

"My family and I look forward to engaging the community and continuing to strengthen the program's ties to the city," Lashlee says. "On the field, we want to build on the foundation of success we've established and compete for – and win – championships."

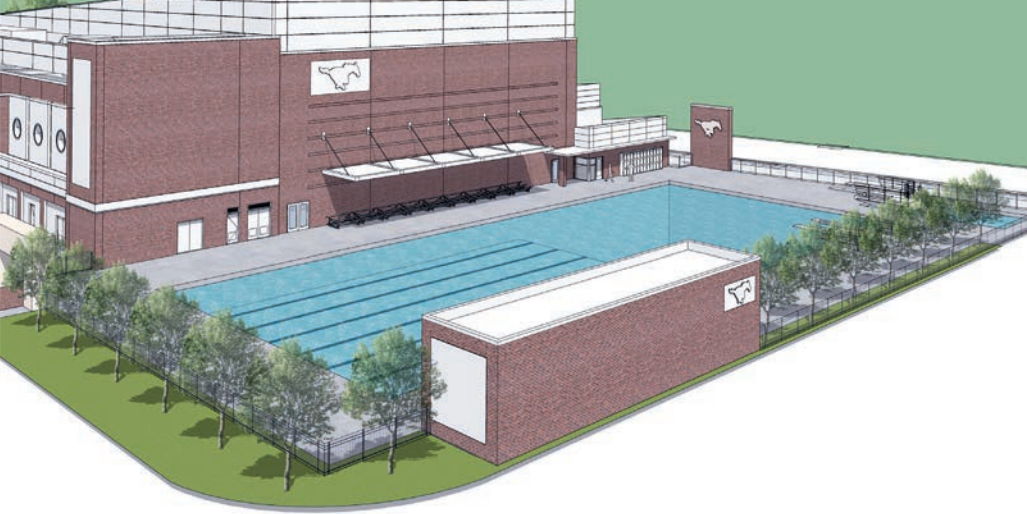
Prior to his first stint at SMU, he served as an offensive coordinator for seven seasons, spending 2017 at UConn, 2013-16 at Auburn, 2012 at Arkansas State and 2011 at Samford.

Lashlee graduated from Arkansas in 2006 with a degree in marketing and business administration. He received his master's degree in higher education from Auburn in 2009. 🐉



There were smiles all around as SMU celebrated the appointment of new Head Football Coach Rhett Lashlee at a press conference featuring (from left) SMU President R. Gerald Turner, Lashlee, SMU Director of Athletics Rick Hart and Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, who welcomed Lashlee "home."





## Make a big splash for swimming and diving

**S**MU will break ground in the Spring on the Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool, the newest addition to the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center made possible by lead gifts from the Robson, Hickman and Lindley families. Once completed, the project will establish the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center as the only U.S. university facility with both indoor and outdoor Olympic pools.

These gifts to the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center – \$4.5 million from Bruce A. Robson '74 and Emily K. Robson, \$2.5 million from the Hickman Family and \$1.7 million from Steven J. Lindley '74 and Shelli Mims Lindley – will further fuel the University's vision as it looks to the future of SMU Athletics. Part of the University's \$1.5 billion campaign, *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, the Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool will support SMU's mission to strengthen the University's

competitiveness in athletics by investing in facilities, innovative programs, student-athlete success and community outreach efforts.

"The Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool promises to showcase SMU's historically strong Mustang swimming and diving teams," says SMU President R. Gerald Turner. "We are grateful to the Robson, Hickman and Lindley families for their investment in the future of SMU Athletics."

The Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool will include an eight-lane, 50-meter-by-25-yard outdoor pool, 1- and 3-meter diving boards and a 20-by-40-foot instructional pool for lessons and rehab/therapy. Other amenities feature a locker room facility – accessible from both the indoor and outdoor pools – including an indoor dryland training area, which will specifically benefit the SMU diving program. Exterior showers and a decorative overhang will complete the project. 

**The Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool establishes the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center as the only U.S. university facility with both indoor and outdoor Olympic pools.**

## Expanding support for military trainees

### Army and Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corp (ROTC)

students at SMU with full-tuition ROTC scholarships are now eligible for a new University scholarship that will cover the full cost of their campus housing and dining. When combined, these scholarships will cover all costs for tuition, fees, housing and dining.

"ROTC tuition scholarships are based on academic achievement, leadership potential and community involvement. These are the traits of the students we recruit to SMU," says Wes Waggoner, SMU associate vice president for Enrollment Management. "We hope that the addition of a housing and dining scholarship will encourage more ROTC students to become Mustangs, and SMU is honored to support their goals."

The new housing and dining scholarships at SMU will be available to both current and new ROTC students who live on campus with a standard dining plan.

The University also participates in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. As a Yellow Ribbon university, SMU helps veterans with tuition and fees not covered by the veterans' education benefits. Veterans who attend SMU are also supported by SMU's MilVets chapter.

**Read more:** [smu.edu/smumag22rotc](http://smu.edu/smumag22rotc)







# SUPERSIZING SUPERCOMPUTING

NVIDIA DGX SUPERPOD  
WILL FUEL A  
TRANSFORMATIONAL  
HIGH-PERFORMANCE  
COMPUTING ECOSYSTEM  
FOR SMU AND BEYOND

by Kim Cobb '20



A collaboration with accelerated computing leader NVIDIA will dramatically boost SMU's high-performance computing system – increasing its current supercomputer memory tenfold and setting the stage for artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning 25 times faster than current levels.

SMU is investing \$11.5 million in hardware, software and training to strengthen AI infrastructure with an NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD, bringing world-leading AI supercomputing capabilities to Dallas. The collaboration will give SMU faculty, students and research partners the ability to integrate sophisticated AI technology across a wide array of research disciplines, ranging from computational biology to human performance, from national defense to digital humanities.

“This partnership will put us in the fast lane for artificial intelligence,” says SMU President R. Gerald Turner. “Research universities like ours have an obligation to actively engage in the development and application of AI for societal good, and this partnership gives us the tools to do it.”

The expansion of high-performance computing supports SMU's goal to enrich teaching and research – one of the priorities of *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, the University's multiyear \$1.5 billion campaign for impact.

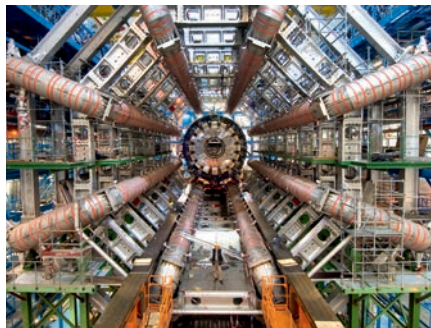
Increasing SMU's computing capability also will provide real benefits for North Texas as the region continues its growth as a technology hub.

“NVIDIA's collaboration with world-class institutions such as SMU

is equipping the next generation of scientists with the extreme performance to supercharge AI and supercomputing exploration,” says Cheryl Martin, director of higher education and research at NVIDIA.

Machine learning uses statistics to find patterns in large data sets. AI is a broader concept, equipping computer systems to perform functions normally requiring human intelligence. Scientists outlined the concept of artificial intelligence during the second half of the 20th century, but it took years for technology to develop that could deliver the power and speed to bring AI to reality.

The collaboration between SMU and NVIDIA is a big step in a journey that began a decade ago with the University's pursuit and acquisition of its first high-speed computing cluster.



**OPPOSITE PAGE** SMU is leading North Texas into the AI era with the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD. **ABOVE** SMU invested in its initial high-speed computer cluster to analyze data from CERN, site of the Large Hadron Collider.

SMU acquired that initial system to enable University researchers to analyze data from CERN, which led to SMU's role in identifying the probability of the Higgs boson — the so-called “God particle.”

The Office of Information Technology and the SMU Center for Research Computing work together to provide the computational and digital data infrastructure necessary to support the research endeavors of SMU's faculty, research staff and students. Students with a faculty sponsor are allowed individual access to the supercomputing system.

This leap in computing power supports the University's commitment to reach within a decade the top R1 research status as designated by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

“This partnership is a significant boost to our plans for high-performance computing prowess in the academic realm and the expansion of data science across the SMU curriculum,” says Elizabeth G. Loba, SMU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “This will be of great value to our faculty and students who are already using accelerated computing in areas such as drug discovery, computational chemistry, virtualization, astrophysics and engineering.” 🦄

# Detecting the unseen

**SMU geophysicists have used satellite imagery to identify more than 600 slow-moving landslides occurring near the U.S. West Coast.**

Fewer than 5% of these landslides in California, Oregon and Washington state had previously been identified.

Geophysics professor Zhong Lu and his team at SMU were awarded nearly \$1 million over the past four years from the NASA Interdisciplinary Research in Earth Science Program and the NASA Earth Surface and Interior Focus Area to study landslides on the West Coast.

Most of the large landslides they found were in the mountain ranges of western Washington, southwestern Oregon and northwestern California. In some cases, the identified landslides were within 0.5 to 5 kilometers of multiple towns and roads.

“These landslides are currently moving slowly. But they’re already in a state of force imbalance. So some other external forces, like earthquakes or rainfall, could shift them into

a disaster,” says Yuankun Xu, a postdoctoral researcher who works in Lu’s SMU Radar Laboratory and lead author of a study published in the journal *Landslides*.

“We don’t want to give the impression that these landslides are in trouble tomorrow,” says co-author Lu, Shuler-Foscue Chair in SMU’s Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences. “No, these landslides have a life expectancy ranging from years to a thousand years.”

Still, the researchers urged policymakers in the affected Western states to monitor the movement of the now-identified landslides so they can prevent a catastrophe from happening.

Xu says SMU’s high-performance computer was essential to analyzing at high speed the mammoth amount of data inherent in using the InSAR technique.



Lu says the supercomputer “is the unsung hero. Without it, we wouldn’t have been able to do this research.”

The research team provided an online tool to visualize the identified landslides and released a downloadable version of the data files via the U.S. Geological Survey data repository.

According to the researchers, the creation of this inventory has immediate value in land use planning and hazard management as well as the potential to determine how the landscape on the West Coast will evolve in the coming decades in response to seismic activity, changes in rainfall patterns and wildfires. 🐉

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## Researcher with impact beyond SMU

SMU’s Jianhui Wang was named to the 2021 list of Highly Cited Researchers from Clarivate, a global analytics company.

It’s the fourth time Wang, a professor with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in SMU’s Lyle School of Engineering, has earned the recognition.

The annual list identifies researchers who demonstrated significant influence in their chosen field or fields through the publication of multiple highly cited papers during the last decade. Their names

are drawn from the publications that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and publication year in Clarivate’s Web of Science citation index.

Wang is the principal investigator on a multitude of energy-related research projects involving the smart grid, microgrids, power system operation and control, renewable integration, grid resilience and cyber security.

He has authored or co-authored more than 300 journal and conference publications, which have been cited more than 32,000 times by his peers. 🐉





## Improving pilot training

### Researchers at SMU's AT&T Center for Virtualization are

testing the effectiveness of an innovative approach they developed to improve flight training and better understand which stress factors pilots may experience in the cockpit.

Through a partnership with CAE USA, a technology company that specializes in flight simulation and other digital immersion technologies and platforms, SMU researchers are comparing the physical observations recorded by the flight training staff and the students' self-evaluations to the results of their biometric analysis. This includes measuring pupil size, heart rate and other physical reactions to determine the pilot's levels of interest, stress or fatigue.

The findings are expected to yield the first real-time analysis of student situational awareness and will be used to improve flight training.

"Our theory is that biometrics during the simulation will result in much more objective and accurate measurements than asking users some questions after the simulation to gauge their experience," says Suku Nair, director of the AT&T Center for Virtualization at SMU.

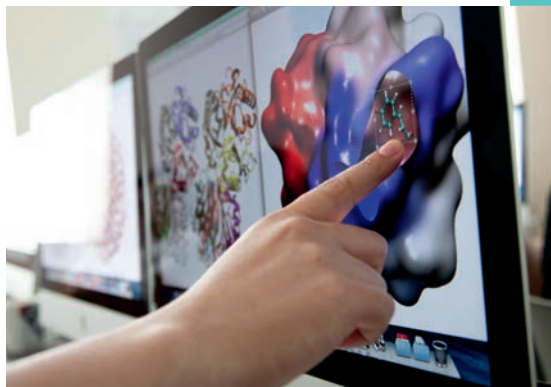


# Shedding new light on molecular interactions

With the help of high-performance computing, researchers in SMU's Computational and Theoretical Chemistry Group (CATCO) are using vibrational spectroscopy to better understand how molecules interact and bond. These insights have the potential for wide-ranging impact – from fine-tuning and designing new materials to understanding and modifying the biological activity in enzymes – as well as broader health care applications.

CATCO is led by Elfi Kraka, the Dedman Family Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

Several current students and recent



graduates of SMU's computational and theoretical chemistry Ph.D. program are engaged in the project. The doctoral program was launched in 2017 and successfully graduated its first cohort in May 2021.

The research, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), combines new vibrational spectroscopy data to be produced at

SMU with existing data. Over the past several years, CATCO researchers have developed special computer software to help decode how the atoms in a molecule connect and interact. The

## What is vibrational spectroscopy?

Vibrational spectroscopy deploys infrared light to identify and measure characteristics of molecules. It is used frequently as an analytical tool in chemical synthesis, materials quality control, forensic science and the broader health care environment.

analysis helps quantify the strength of chemical bonds and weak chemical interactions.

Kraka says the successful application of CATCO's local vibrational mode analysis to real-world problems would not be possible without access to

SMU's high-performance computing infrastructure.

"Our graduate students and postdocs are learning how supercomputers can be a powerful resource in solving complex chemical problems," Kraka says. "This experience will be a critical skill set for them as they prepare to enter the STEM workforce." 🐉

# Pioneering seismologist tapped for state committee

SMU seismologist Brian Stump has been appointed chair of the TexNet Technical Advisory Committee by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. The committee provides oversight and advice on the operation of TexNet, the Texas-wide seismic monitoring program.

Research by Stump and other scientists in SMU's Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences and the University of Texas at Austin pioneered the connections between high-volume injection wells used to dispose of oil and gas wastewater and the spate of North Texas earthquakes. Those earthquakes started in 2008, and by 2017, more than 1,600 earthquakes of magnitude 1 or greater were recorded.

Stump is the Albritton Chair of Geological Sciences in the Huffington Department of Earth Sciences in SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences. He was named an American Association

for the Advancement of Science Fellow in 2014 for distinguished contributions to his field, particularly in the area of seismic monitoring in support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. He is also a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and a member of the Seismological Society of America and the American Geophysical Union. 🐎



## Some traits are easier to change than others

Could a company train an employee to become more conscientious, even if the worker isn't invested in improving that trait? A new study suggests "yes."

But improving someone's emotional stability without that person's commitment is not likely to happen,

says SMU psychology professor Nathan Hudson.

A growing body of studies suggests that personality traits can be changed through intervention.

The goal of Hudson's recent research published in the *Journal of Research in Personality* was to test two theories: That successful personality intervention may require that participants choose which traits they change, and that they be actively invested in changing the target traits.

He found that conscientiousness – the ability to be responsible, hard-working and organized – could be improved, even if participants were not motivated to change. Completing a series of tasks over a regulated period was found to change habits, therefore

improving conscientiousness.

But emotional stability was a different matter. Study participants only got better at handling difficult situations if they *chose* to work on their emotional stability. Otherwise, tasks they were given over four weeks proved to be ineffective.

"This provides promising evidence that schools, companies or other organizations could ask people to make relatively minor changes that could help improve their lives by making them more organized and responsible over time," Hudson says. "In contrast, it appears that emotional stability might require a bit more investment from the people who partake in an intervention." 🐎





# NEW STRATEGY FOR FIGHTING CERVICAL CANCER

by Monifa Thomas-Nguyen

**A study by SMU researchers reveals a way to make chemotherapy drugs more lethal to HPV-infected cervical cancer cells without collateral damage to normal cells.**

**T**he key is a protein called TIGAR – an acronym for TP53-Induced Glycolysis and Apoptosis Regulator. Decreasing the amount of TIGAR in cervical cancer cells was found to make them more responsive to commonly used chemotherapy drugs at a very low dose.

Yet, normal cells were not similarly affected, according to the study published in the *Journal of Antivirals & Antiretrovirals*.

As a result, developing a drug to target the TIGAR protein could be an

effective way to lower chemotherapy doses for cervical cancer patients, thus reducing damage to healthy cells while still killing cancer cells. Chemotherapy drugs can have severe side effects, including liver and kidney toxicities, because they may harm normal cells along with cancer cells.

“Our study has demonstrated that inhibiting TIGAR functions in HPV-infected cervical cancer cells not only sensitizes these cells to anti-cancer chemotherapeutic agents, but does so at extremely low, or sub-inhibitory,

doses of these drugs,” says Robert Harrod, an associate professor in SMU’s Department of Biological Sciences in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences and the senior author of the study.

Regulating TIGAR functions may also prove beneficial for other types of cancer. TIGAR is known to be highly expressed in many types of cancer that tend to have poor clinical outcomes, including leukemia, colon cancer and lung cancer. The protein’s role in HPV-induced cervical cancers was not fully understood, however, until this recent study.

Harrod’s research laboratory was awarded a three-year grant from the National Cancer Institute to identify molecular targets like TIGAR that play pivotal roles in the development and/or progression of human cancers. Determining the mechanics of how cancer cells evade therapies enables scientists to find chemical keys that can block that target’s function and prevent the negative biological effects that cause disease – the fundamental basis of new anti-cancer treatments.

The researchers are working to develop a therapeutic inhibitor of TIGAR that could eventually be translated for clinical use. There is currently no treatment available to target TIGAR’s antioxidant functions in human cancers. 🐘



# BLOCK *by* BLOCK

*by* Nancy Lowell George '79, '18

**NEW RESEARCH BY SMU FACULTY AND STUDENTS REVEALS WHERE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ARE GREATEST AND LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOODS.**

**W**hat are infrastructure deserts?  
Why do they matter?

Those two questions get to the heart of a multiyear research project led by SMU's Barbara Minsker, a nationally recognized expert in environmental and infrastructure systems analysis.

To find answers, Zheng Li, a Ph.D. student in civil and environmental engineering, and other team members created a computer framework with the ability to assess, at census-block level, 12 types of neighborhood infrastructure. Neighborhoods were evaluated and compared by infrastructure deficiency, household income and race/ethnicity.

"This framework enables us to collect data from a huge variety of sources, then analyze the patterns that emerge to discover new

information for use by scientists, policymakers and residents to improve their neighborhoods," Li says.

More than 20 undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff and community members contributed to the research.

The multidisciplinary team included co-authors Janille Smith-Colin, assistant professor, and Jessie Zarazaga, clinical associate professor and Hunt Institute Fellow, both from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department in the Lyle School of Engineering; and Xinlei Wang, statistical science professor in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

SMU's supercomputer came into play mining huge public datasets,

including 5 terabytes of images from the city of Dallas.

Undergraduate and graduate researchers used drones, smart phone applications and artificial intelligence, as well as their own feet-on-the-ground observations, to gather information supplementing the public data. They also held brainstorming sessions to learn what local community organizations thought were the greatest infrastructure needs.

Nearly 800 Dallas city neighborhoods were rated on streets, sidewalks, pavement, crosswalks, noise walls, street tree canopy, bike and pedestrian trails and community gathering places as well as access to public transportation, hospital or medical services, banks and financial services and food. Each neighborhood



was given a grade of excellent, good, moderate, deficient or highly deficient.

The data led researchers to identify 62 Dallas neighborhoods as infrastructure deserts: low-income areas highly deficient in infrastructure that creates a safe, functional and economically viable area in which to live. Infrastructure deserts are significantly more likely to be in predominantly Black or Hispanic neighborhoods.

Infrastructure deficiencies matter because they can increase vulnerability to major shocks, like a pandemic or severe weather.

“We saw poor access to medical care and public transit as major problems affecting access to health

care during COVID. Lack of internet access interrupted the education of thousands of school children,” Minsker says.

There were also subtler effects, she says. “The lack of community gathering spaces reduces community

support, which affects resilience and health. Lack of access to parks and trails can decrease mental and physical health, particularly when COVID prevents many other activities.”

Minsker’s work is supported by a

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**“Often infrastructure funding is used for major investments, like freeways or airports. This study shows the importance of funding for smaller scale infrastructure at the neighborhood level.”**

Barbara Minsker



five-year \$584,000 National Science Foundation grant which funds the development of open-source data management software called Clowder.

The project was an opportunity for students to plunge into the basics of data science, Minsker says. “It’s equipping our civil and environmental engineering students with data literacy and experience in working with algorithms that they’ll take into the workplace,” she says.

The long-term plan is to use the research framework they’ve created to study other cities, such as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. 🐾

**Read more:** [smu.edu/smumag22deserts](https://smu.edu/smumag22deserts)

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Professor Barbara Minsker, Ph.D. student Zheng Li and a team of SMU researchers combined feet-on-the-ground investigations with analysis of huge public datasets to locate infrastructure deserts by neighborhood.



# Finding math everywhere

SMU'S CANDACE WALKINGTON HELPS MATH COME ALIVE BY CONNECTING IT TO EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES.

To SMU math curriculum researcher Candace Walkington, the best way for students to understand math is to make it part of their lives.

She'll use her recent \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to help young learners connect the math principles they learn in the classroom to their surroundings on guided STEM walks at nine locations across Dallas.

"We want to help them look at the world through the lens of math," says Walkington, associate professor of teaching and learning in SMU's Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

During the five-year grant, Walkington will partner with talkSTEM, a Dallas nonprofit, to better understand how teachers can support math education outside of school, and the role such experiences play in enhancing math education.

Researchers will spend the first year of the grant developing the Mathfinder app targeting grades 4–8. The augmented-reality-enhanced app turns a tablet into an interpretive math tool. For example, students on

a STEM walk can focus their tablets' cameras on a plant to see mathematical

expressions of its angles and shapes appear in their camera feed. The app also will include short videos and directions for STEM walks, Walkington says.

"Mathfinder will give feedback to students on the walks they create and provide data to community partners on how much time students spend at each stop," says Elizabeth Stringer, director of academics for SMU's Guildhall video game design program and a co-investigator on the grant.

Walkington is currently principal investigator or co-principal investigator on half a dozen active research projects whose funding totals over \$11 million. Financial supporters of her work include the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation.

SMU graduate students help Walkington plan the studies, collect and analyze the data, and write up the results for publication. And since SMU supports students getting involved in research as early as their first semester, she has a team of undergraduate research assistants, too. She also teaches undergraduate classes for future mathematics educators.

At the heart of her work is the idea that students should be in the driver's seat of their own learning. 🐾



Math researcher Candace Walkington (standing) watches as future teachers turn raisins and toothpicks into polyhedrons.





## Pets really are part of the family

**Our pets show up in holiday photos, factor into such life-changing decisions as where to live and send us into a tailspin when they're sick. Meet the new breed of American family, where fur babies are truly family members.**

**S**MU sociologist Andrea Laurent-Simpson examines this changing family structure in her new book, *Just Like Family: How Companion Animals Joined the Household* (New York University Press, 2021). Laurent-Simpson asserts that the multispecies family is here to stay, and its impact on American society is huge.

Her book explores how “dogs and cats within the American family have a profound impact on things like fertility considerations, the parent-child relationship, family finances,

involvement of extended family members and the household structure itself.”

Writing in the journal *Social Forces*, David D. Blouin, an assistant professor of sociology at Indiana University South Bend, describes *Just Like Family* as a “joy to read.” He contends, “it should find a significant lay and academic audience and would contribute considerably to a range of college courses including sociology of the family, social psychology and human animal studies.”

Sociologist and author Andrea Laurent-Simpson dedicated her new book, *Just Like Family: How Companion Animals Joined the Household*, to her own multispecies family: her husband, her sons and her three dogs. The book is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other retailers.

Laurent-Simpson makes the case for more research on “the multispecies family as a newly diversified, nontraditional family structure.” Her groundbreaking work on the subject has won awards and been published in such peer-reviewed journals as *Symbolic Interaction*, *Sociological Forum* and *Sociological Inquiry*.


While some sociologists argue that human-animal social interaction does not exist because animals do not share language with us, the behavior of pet owners says otherwise.

“American pet owners are transforming the cultural definition of family,” Laurent-Simpson says. “Dogs and cats are treated like children, siblings, grandchildren. In fact, the American Veterinary Medical Association found that 85 percent of dog owners and 76 percent of cat owners think of their pets as family.” 🐾

***“The multispecies family without children is emerging as a new and acceptable form of diversified family structure.”***

– Sociologist Andrea Laurent-Simpson





PHOTOJOURNALIST STUART  
PALLEY '11 EXPERIENCES  
WILDFIRES IN THE MOMENT.  
SMU RESEARCHER CHRIS ROOS  
LOOKS AT THEM THROUGH THE  
LONG LENS OF ARCHAEOLOGY.  
ULTIMATELY, THEIR  
PERSPECTIVES ARE THE SAME.

# Fires of changing

## Wildland infernos

**not only destroy homes  
but also livelihoods, dreams  
and ecosystems, says SMU alum  
Stuart Palley '11**, a professional  
photographer whose stunning images  
of California wildfires accompany  
this story. On the ground, he has  
witnessed these “incredible forces  
of nature” building in strength and  
fury. “Wildfires are getting worse,” he  
says. “They move faster and are more  
intense and destructive, and the time  
of year during which they occur is  
more widespread.”

Palley has wildland fire qualifications



and keeps his cameras and an array of safety equipment – including fire boots, flame-resistant clothing, a helmet and a fire shelter – always ready to go. He has shot more than 100 fires throughout his native state. A good telephoto lens, a tripod and a safe distance are essential, he says.

Chris Roos, an SMU anthropology professor, has studied wildfires in the Southwest for more than a decade. He compares the trend of bigger, scarier and harder to control wildfires to medication-resistant superbugs.

“Antibiotics can be used effectively to treat everyday infections,

but they’re almost useless in fighting superbugs,” he says.

“Likewise, we can generally control smaller

wildfires, but

megafires are like

superbugs; we’re limited as to how much we can contain them.”

### ‘Earth on fire’

Like hurricanes along the Gulf Coast or tornadoes in the Plains, wildfires were a seasonal fact of life while Palley was growing up in Newport Beach, California. As a University student, he never envisioned a career kindled by fire. The opportunity to explore varied interests drew him to SMU as a double major in history and finance, with minors in human rights and photography.

Palley went on to earn a master’s degree in photojournalism from the University of Missouri. He began

covering wildfires as a newspaper intern in 2012. The following year, he started shooting long exposures of fires after dark for a personal art project and subsequent book, *Terra Flamma*, roughly translated from Latin as “earth on fire.”

Palley has photographed for the *Los Angeles Times*, *National Geographic* magazine, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and many other publications.

His second book, *Into the Inferno: A Photographer’s Journey through California’s Wildfires and Fallout*, is scheduled for release in April by Blackstone Publishing. It draws on his experiences on the front lines of California’s wildfires and addresses “how climate change is permanently altering the world.”

### Centuries of fire wisdom

Today’s “flammable landscapes have long human histories” that have much to teach us, Roos says. A case in point is his study of the science and traditions behind sustainable fire management by the Native American community of the Pueblo of Jemez – the Hemish people – in New Mexico. Their ancestors endured in fire-prone ponderosa pine forests for centuries by respecting the power of fire and using it as a tool.

Roos continues to explore the past for a path to reducing wildfire risk in the present. Fueled by an award of nearly \$400,000 from the National Science Foundation, Roos will serve as principal investigator on an analysis of tree-ring fire records and heat-sensitive archaeological artifacts to determine if fires are burning hotter today than in the past.



**TOP** The Meadow Fire burns near Half Dome in Yosemite National Park September 8, 2014. Photo by Stuart Palley '11. **ABOVE** SMU researchers in the field. Photo courtesy of Chris Roos. **LEFT PAGE** Palley's photo captures the horror and the beauty of wildfire.

Roos is married to Kacy Hollenback, assistant professor of anthropology at SMU and one of the co-principal investigators for the study.

The results of the analysis will allow “policymakers to better weigh the opportunity costs of intensive forest thinning and prescribed burning versus environmental mitigation and home protection.”

Following the trail to wildfire coexistence blazed by Roos’ research won’t be quick and easy. Our future coexistence with wildfire will involve a lot of smoke, fire and lifestyle changes, he says.

“It’s no longer a question of whether or not we want to live with fire,” Roos says. “It’s what kind of fire do we want to live with?” 🔥





**“It becomes difficult to see as smoke gets denser and denser. The intense barbecue-like smell becomes overwhelming.**

**You hear planes overhead dropping fire retardant, the snap and crash of tree limbs falling to the ground, the roar of trees going up in flames.”**

Stuart Palley '11





This photo is among his work in the series *Terra Flamma*, a personal art project and book, published in 2018.



# FOSTERING ENTERPRISING SPIRIT

**A gift from Kim and William (Bill) Shaddock '74 will establish Shaddock Hall as part of the building renovation project of the Cox School of Business. The \$6 million contribution will foster educational excellence through dedicated spaces for learning, research and collaboration.**

"SMU was a bright and illustrious beacon in my life," says Bill Shaddock. "It gave me the entrepreneurial education I needed, as well as the confidence to drive myself towards a very successful career."

Kim and William C. Shaddock Hall, seated at the heart of SMU's campus, will strengthen the school's ability to attract

estate at SMU in 1974 and went on to earn a J.D. from Baylor Law School before joining the law firm of Turner, Hitchins, Webb, McInerney, Hartnett & Strother in 1977. Bill Shaddock left the practice of law in 1983 to join his brother Peter in the real estate development business. Since that time, Shaddock Development Co. has become one of the most prolific real

estate businesses in North Texas. Bill Shaddock is still a partner in Shaddock Development Co. with his brother Peter and sons, William and Andrew.

In addition to being a partner at Shaddock Development Co., Bill Shaddock is owner and CEO of Capital Title of Texas (the largest independent title company in the United States) and Shaddock National Title Holdings (a collection of leading title companies across the United States). He is also owner of and serves as chairman of the board for First National Title Insurance Co. (the ninth largest title underwriter in the United States) and Willow Bend Mortgage Company.

Kim McDonald Shaddock graduated from Baylor University in 1976 and has a master's degree from the University

of Texas at Dallas. Utilizing her university education in social work and sociology, she proudly served the children of Dallas as a special education teacher in the Dallas Independent School District for many years.

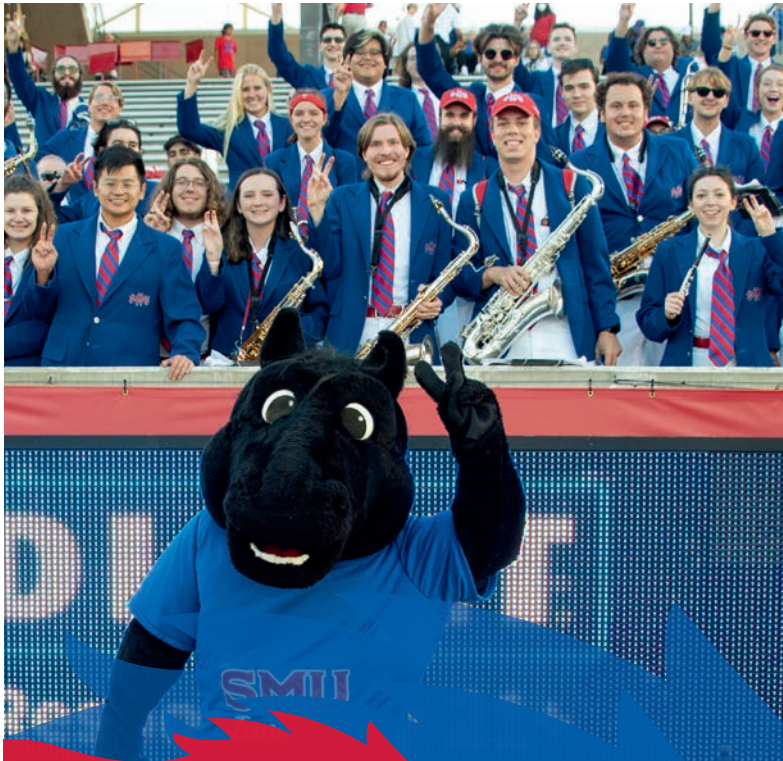
The Shaddocks' relationship with SMU is strengthened by their sons, William and Andrew, and daughter, Caroline. All three of the Shaddocks' children and their two daughters-in-law have attended and graduated from SMU. 🐎



external partners and outstanding new faculty and students. Featuring dynamic spaces with a dedicated business library reading room and expansive classrooms, it will usher in an exciting new era of business education at the Cox School and SMU.

Bill Shaddock '74, owner and CEO of the Bill Shaddock Family of Companies, is a leading figure in the North Texas business community. Bill Shaddock earned his MBA in real





## Blazing a new path in Houston

Our Houston area alumni celebrated the *SMU Ignited* campaign launch at a spirited tailgate prior to the SMU vs. University of Houston football game October 30. The sunny day was made even brighter by *SMU Ignited* hats, pony ears and Mustang camaraderie. SMU's ties to Houston have always been strong, thanks to more than 8,000 resident alumni and nearly 600 current students from the area. The \$1.5 billion *SMU Ignited* fundraising campaign focuses on the opportunities created through scholarships, meaningful research and teaching and community. To learn how you can get involved, visit [smu.edu/ignited](https://smu.edu/ignited). 🐎





# \$5 MILLION GIFT SUPPORTS COX SCHOOL OF BUSINESS EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

**The gift from Katy A. and Kyle D. Miller '01 will create the Katy and Kyle Miller Courtyard, an oasis along Bishop Boulevard that will be a place for students, faculty, staff, visitors and corporate partners to gather for lunch, study sessions, discussions and formal events. Enhanced landscaping and seating areas will highlight the surrounding historic facades and provide shaded sanctuary. The space features four building entries and a stunning view into the new Commons to the east.**

"We felt it was a privilege to give back to a place that has given us so much," says Kyle Miller, founder, president and CEO of Silver Hill Energy Partners LP. "The Cox School gave me the skills I needed to succeed in my career, and Katy and I are excited to pay that gift forward and empower future entrepreneurs and business leaders. We can't wait to see what future Fortune 500 companies get their start over coffee in the courtyard."

The Katy and Kyle Miller Courtyard is part of the Cox renovation and expansion project that will equip Cox School to meet the

needs of an ever-changing business landscape. The new Cox facilities will foster educational excellence and collaboration. Through the renovation and expansion project, Cox will further its goals and scope, sparking new developments and taking on new challenges to place it prominently and competitively on the world stage to shape the leadership pipeline.

Kyle D. Miller currently serves as president and chief executive officer of Silver Hill Energy Holdings LLC and Silver Hill Partners LP, oil and gas investment and operating partnerships based in Dallas. He

founded the Silver Hill franchise in 2011 and throughout the last decade led Silver Hill I and II through the successful acquisition, development and disposition of multiple large-scale oil and gas assets.

Katy A. Miller was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University where she currently serves on the Board of Advisors for the College of Arts and Science. Katy Miller is an active community volunteer in Dallas and serves on the Children's Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors and Executive Committee and the Senior Source Board of Directors and is an active volunteer with Goodwill Industries of Dallas. Katy Miller formerly worked at Bank of Texas. 🐎



***"The Cox School gave me the skills I needed to succeed in my career, and Katy and I are excited to pay that gift forward and empower future entrepreneurs and business leaders."***

– Kyle D. Miller '01



## Law professor 'changing the face of Dallas'

Professor Pamela Metzger, SMU Dedman School of Law's inaugural director of the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center, was honored by *D* magazine as one of "78 Women Changing the Face of Dallas" in its September issue.

She has also been appointed to the editorial board of the *International Journal of Rural Criminology*.

Metzger came to SMU in 2017 from

Tulane University School of  
Law in New Orleans,

where she had

taught since

2001. She

oversees the

Deason Center's

independent research

and its development of

educational opportunities focused on issues ranging from wrongful convictions to over-incarceration.

She captured the national spotlight in 2005 for her round-the-clock work to help 8,000 indigent defendants left incarcerated without legal representation after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. She was interviewed on *60 Minutes* in a segment titled "Overburdened NOLA Public Defenders Say Innocents Went to Prison Because They Lacked Resources and Time to Defend Them Properly."

She told *D* magazine that the person who has influenced her the most in criminal justice was her mother. "My mother was somebody who had no problem telling it like it is. If it's the right thing, then why don't you do it? That's the end of the discussion."



## Harnessing the power of sports to improve kids' health

### PARTNERSHIP WITH CHILDREN'S HEALTH INCLUDES PROGRAMMING DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO YOUTH SPORTS

SMU and the hospital system, through its Children's Health Andrews Institute for Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in Plano, are launching a collaboration dedicated to leveraging the transformational power of sports to improve the health, activity levels and well-being of kids.

The Youth Sports Impact Partnership, a unique university-hospital relationship, will use an evidence-based approach to improve access to youth sports, prevent injury and share age-appropriate training and development practices.


According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, less than 24% of children are physically active every day, leading to serious health problems like childhood obesity.

Despite broad interest, unaddressed issues limit the positive impact of youth sports in America. For example, access can be by family income. According to the 2020 census, only 23.4% of children aged 6 to 11 living below the poverty line participate in sports. In addition, only 10% of

volunteer youth coaches receive any kind of relevant training, leading to youth injury and burnout, according to the National Alliance for Youth Sports.

In response, this collaboration will generate research in sports medicine and athletic development, which will be the basis of leadership training for coaches and continuing education for parents. Long-range plans for this collaboration include the creation of an index to measure access to play in North Texas communities, development of a training and injury-prevention program and performance research on elite athletes to study best practices in training and coaching.

Researchers also plan to create social-impact programming designed to break down the barriers to sports and active play often more prevalent in underserved communities.

The partnership will feature the expertise of SMU biomechanist Peter Weyand, who directs the Locomotor Performance Lab in SMU's Simmons School of Education and Human Development. 

# ART AND MUSIC INSPIRE A GIFT FROM THE HEART

**SMU Distinguished Professor Emerita of Art History Alessandra Comini gained acclaim early in her career with her on-the-ground investigation into an art world mystery. Now, through a \$2 million planned gift to SMU's Meadows School of the Arts, she's setting the stage for a new generation of the bold, curious and creative to make their own discoveries.**

Comini's gift will be split between two endowments:

- The newly created Alessandra Comini Endowed Professorship in the Division of Music to teach and study 19th-century composers, a period she identifies as critical to our understanding of music.
- The existing Alessandra Comini Endowed Fellowship Fund, which was launched in her honor with early support from former student Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo '83 and Charlotte Whaley '70, '76, former editor of SMU's *The Southwest Review*.

"SMU has been my home for so long," says Comini, who retired in 2005. "It's an honor to give back to this University and support scholarship and research where my lifelong passions intersect. Art and music are so harmoniously intertwined. Art can't be art without music by its side."

The fellowship that bears her name awards \$25,000 annually to an outstanding Meadows doctoral or postdoctoral art history student pursuing landmark research abroad that embraces multiple perspectives and cultural influences.

"Art historians must have the opportunity to travel abroad and see

firsthand where artists lived, worked and created," she says.

The award-winning scholar and author speaks from experience.

After graduating from Barnard College in 1956, she studied and taught at the University of California at Berkeley, Yale University and Columbia University before coming to SMU in 1974.

As a young professor, Comini traveled to Vienna in 1963 to study a series of self-portraits by Egon Schiele, an expressionist painter and protégé of Gustav Klimt.

Schiele's controversial work and lifestyle eventually landed him in jail.

When she learned that no scholar had ever located the place where he was imprisoned, she had to find it. Her sleuthing led her to the basement of a village courthouse where she identified and photographed "cell No. 2," the interior door of which Schiele had faithfully sketched, showing a former prisoner's carved initials, M H.

Comini later published her research and photographs in *Schiele in Prison*, which garnered international accolades.



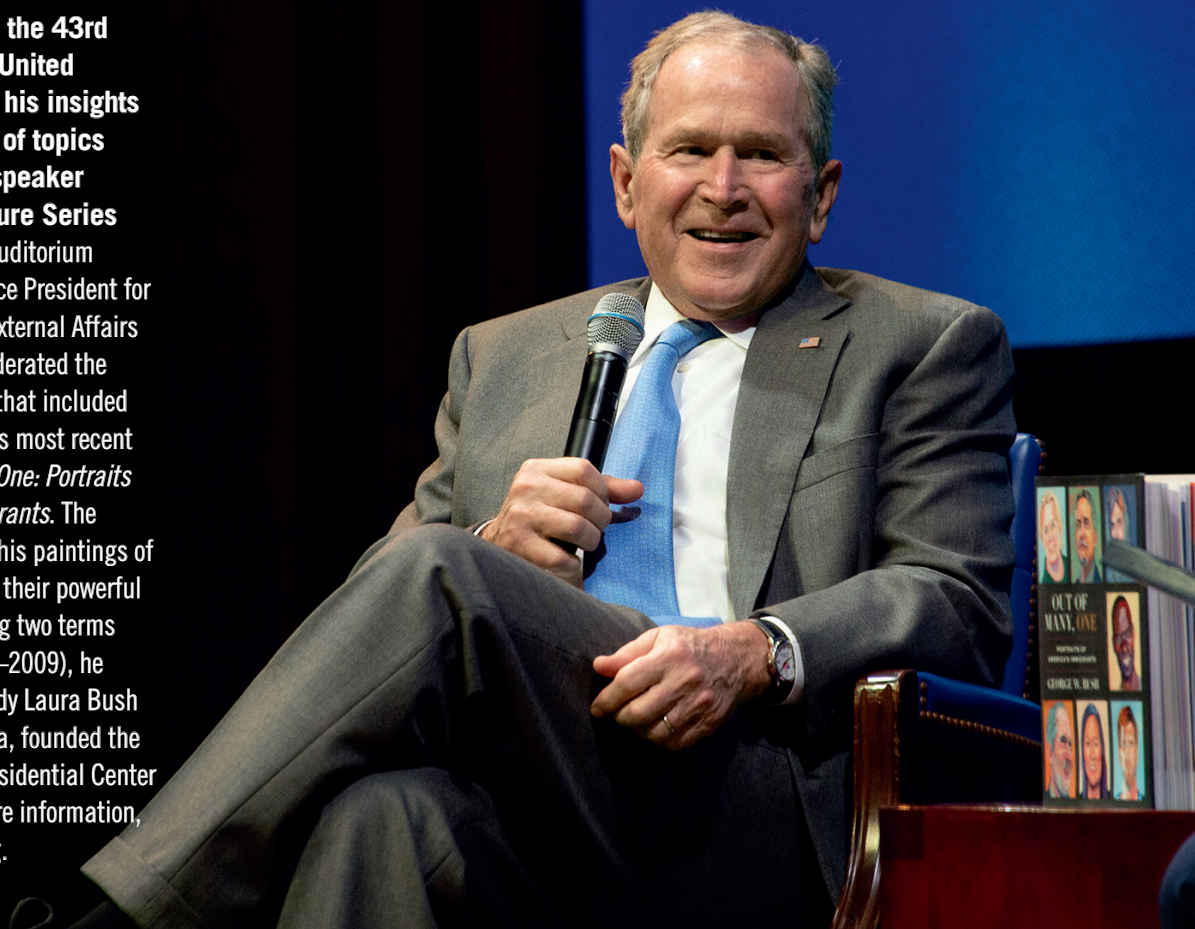
"It was the most exciting moment of my life," she says.

Now 87, Comini has published eight scholarly books, as well as numerous articles, reviews and chapters in exhibition catalogs and opera booklets. She was awarded the Grand Cross of Honor by the Republic of Austria for her work on art and music.

After retiring, she turned to fiction. She now writes the Megan Crespi mystery series, in which her alter ego investigates crimes in the art world. Comini will soon publish her 10th book in the series. 🐾



**George W. Bush, the 43rd president of the United States, provided his insights on a wide range of topics as the featured speaker for the Tate Lecture Series event at McFarlin Auditorium October 12.** SMU Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad E. Cheves moderated the lively conversation that included discussion of Bush's most recent book, *Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants*. The bestseller features his paintings of 43 immigrants and their powerful stories. After serving two terms as president (2001–2009), he and former First Lady Laura Bush '68, an SMU alumna, founded the George W. Bush Presidential Center on campus. For more information, visit [bushcenter.org](http://bushcenter.org).



## Historic research award

**LEANNE KETTERLIN GELLER**, Texas Instruments Endowed Chair in Education in the Simmons School of Education's Department of Education Policy and Leadership, recently earned the largest single-year award ever received by an SMU faculty member.

The five-year research award of nearly \$8 million from the U.S. Department of Education will be used to enhance instructional practices to meet the high needs of students experiencing math difficulties in grades 4–8. Ketterlin Geller and her fellow researchers will examine the effectiveness of Fraction Face-Off, an intervention that has demonstrated positive impact on mathematics achievement. They will address the need to accelerate learning for these students and find cost-effective ways to scale up the practice so students' understanding of fractions and general mathematics can prepare them for algebra. 🐾



***“SMU is your tribe: your friends, your connections, your community, with whom you share a past and, most importantly, you’ll share a big future. So stay in touch with your SMU tribe through continuing education, Mustang sports, lecture series and alumni gatherings around the world. ... SMU is always here for you, as it has been for me.”***



SMU Trustee Kelly Hoglund Compton '79, businesswoman, philanthropist and executive director of The Hoglund Foundation shared these words as the featured speaker at SMU's Commencement in Moody Coliseum December 18 when more than 500 candidates from undergraduate, graduate and professional programs were honored. Compton graduated cum laude from SMU with a BBA. Her service on the SMU Board of Trustees began in 2005, and she currently serves as secretary. In addition, she is a co-chair of the Campaign Leadership Council for the \$1.5 billion *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* campaign and vice chair of the Dedman College Executive Board, among her many other roles.

## SMU senior awarded prestigious Marshall Scholarship

From the beaches of Australia to the bayous of Louisiana, SMU senior environmental science major Isabelle Galko '22 finds her inspiration in the places where water meets land. Galko is among 41 U.S. university students named a Marshall Scholar for 2022.

The only student from a Texas university to receive the prestigious honor, Galko will use the two-year scholarship to further her studies on climate and policymaking at both Oxford and Durham Universities in England.

The Marshall Scholarship program for distinguished young Americans



with leadership potential supports their graduate studies in the United Kingdom. SMU nominated her for the award, and Galko is the University's third Marshall Scholar. The first at SMU was Rebekah Hurt in 2005, the second was Rahfin Faruk in 2016.

Galko, an Austin native, spent part of her childhood in Australia. She later studied in New Zealand through SMU's President's Scholars program.

"My personal experiences spark my drive to make a difference, but approaching environmental issues from the public policy perspective

gives me hope of affecting change," she says. "I plan to use my time in the U.K. to link science with effective policy and gain a British perspective for future policymaking."

As a Tower Scholar at SMU, internships, seminars and opportunities to work with real-world clients helped shape her focus. She sees a broader role for her future, perhaps in the State Department or working for an environmental nonprofit.

"My perspective has changed," Galko says. "Environmental issues are more complex than individual decisions alone." 🐎



# Perfect pairs: Mustangs and Homecoming



## SMU HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 3, 2021

**1** Mustangs were out in force as the full Boulevard experience returned. **2** Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are, from left, **Claire Babineax-Fontenot** '92, **Barbara M. Golden Lynn** '76, **Liz Martin Armstrong** '82 and **Bill Armstrong** '82. Not pictured is Emerging Leader Award recipient **Bryson DeChambeau** '16. **3, 4, 5** Featured in the parade were dancers from the Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico, Peruna and his handlers and the Simmons School of Education and Human Development float. **6** SMU Alumni Board Chair **Kristin W. Henderson** '82 shows how to "Pony Up!" during the parade. **7** Mustang football came through for fans with a 41–17 win over South Florida.

See more photos at [smu.edu/alumni/homecoming](https://smu.edu/alumni/homecoming).

# What's new with you?

New job? New baby? Share news about your career, family and adventures with the SMU community in the Alumni section of *SMU Magazine*. Submit your news online at [smu.edu/submitanote](http://smu.edu/submitanote) or email [smumag@smu.edu](mailto:smumag@smu.edu). Deadline for the fall 2022 issue is **May 23, 2022**.

**61** **ASHLEY DURRANCE** won a 2021 Academy of American Poets University & College Poetry Prize for her poem *Affair*.

**62** **JERRY LEE LEWIS** continues to serve as CEO of The Lewis Group, a health care recruitment and staffing company he established in Waco in 1977.

**70** **BETTY SUE HAGERMAN WELCH** retired from Highland Park ISD where she was a tennis coach and worked with students and athletes competing in Special Olympics. Former players honored her during halftime of a Highland Park Scots football game in November.

**71** **GARY O'NEAL** was honored for 50 years of service as director of music/organist at St. Mark Presbyterian Church in East Dallas. Ann O'Neal, his wife of 48 years and an accomplished musician who has volunteered alongside him, was also recognized. **WILLIAM THOMAS WITHERSPOON** received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who, a publisher

of biographical profiles. Witherspoon, a civil engineer, has served as president of his family-owned and -operated S&W Foundation Contractors, president of Sandco Petroleum Corporation in Dallas and vice president of Wynn Oil Company in Dallas.

**72** **PHILLIP L. WILSON** was appointed chair of the State Energy Plan Advisory Committee by Gov. Greg Abbott. Wilson is general manager for the Lower Colorado River Authority. He has served as the acting executive commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, executive director for the Texas Department of Transportation and senior vice president of public affairs, and as a corporate officer for Luminant.

**73** **BOB PHILLIPS** recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of his television series, *Texas Country Reporter*, and was profiled in *Garden & Gun* magazine. Phillips told the magazine he came up with the idea for the show, originally named *4 Country Reporter*, while attending SMU and working part time at Dallas Channel 4 in 1972. Phillips left the station in 1986, changed the name

of the show, and started producing it from his own production company.

**75** **MARILYN O'HEARNE** is the International Coaching Federation 2021 Circle of Distinction winner. Circle of Distinction members are chosen for their impact on and contributions to the ICF, the coaching profession, and social change; thought leadership; as well as their mission, vision and core values. O'Hearne, an advocate for a diverse, inclusive coaching profession as well as integrating coaching and cultural competencies, has also been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Thomas Leonard Award for innovation. **WALDEN "WALLY" C. RHINES** was honored by Global Semiconductor Alliance with the Dr. Morris Chang Exemplary Leadership Award, which recognizes exceptional contributions through vision and global leadership that have transformed and elevated the semiconductor industry. Rhines is president and CEO of Cornami Inc., a fabless software/semiconductor company focused on intelligent computing for fully homomorphic encryption and machine learning. He was

previously CEO and chairman of the board of Mentor Graphics and executive vice president of Semiconductor Group responsible for TI's worldwide semiconductor business. He has served on the boards of Cirrus Logic, Qorvo, TriQuint Semiconductor, Global Logic, PTK Corp. and as chairman of the Electronic Design Automation Consortium. He is a Lifetime Fellow of the IEEE.

**76** **NANCY GADDY** performed her show *Sexy at Sixty* at Red Light Cafe in Atlanta. The actress and singer has appeared in numerous films, episodic television shows, the national touring company of the *Rocky Horror Show* and regional theater and touring productions. U.S. Rep. **EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON** of Dallas — chairwoman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology — published an op-ed piece in *The Hill* headlined "US must not only lead in artificial intelligence, but also in its ethical application." Johnson announced in November 2021 she had decided not to seek reelection after serving nearly three decades in Congress.



**78 ROD MACILVAINE** and **CINDY FUNKHOUSER MACILVAINE** celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary last year and welcomed their 15th grandchild. Earlier this year, their family of 25 held a reunion in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. Rod continues to serve as the senior pastor of Grace Community Church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He is engaged in executive leadership coaching with Lead Self Lead Others, specializing in coaching people through transitions using the Clifton StrengthsFinder and Birkman assessments. **THOMAS SLATER** '81 is the 2021 recipient of the R. Alan Culpepper Lifetime Achievement Award, given annually by the Alumni Association of McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University. Slater taught New Testament studies at McAfee for 16 years before retiring in 2019 as professor emeritus.

**80 DONNA BRINKLEY KESHTKAR** was elected to the board of directors of Troon Country Club in Scottsdale, Arizona. **PAUL E. ROWSEY** has been appointed to the board of directors of Forum Energy Technologies Inc. as well as to its compensation committee. Rowsey was previously executive chairman of the board of JLB Partners, non-executive chairman of Valaris PLC, and CEO of Compatriot Capital. He was a founder and the managing partner of E2M Partners LLC and continues to serve as chairman of E2M.

**81 DEBORAH BALLARD** had her fourth solo exhibition, *Can You Hear Me*, at Valley House Gallery in North Dallas. Multiple new sculptures

remain in the sculpture garden, or you can see the sculptures at ValleyHouse.com. **PETER STANFORD** (J.D. '84) has returned to Dallas after more than 25 years in the San Francisco Bay Area and has joined the global company Chubb Insurance as a regional director.

**82 DAWN SAWYER** served as art director for the short film *Falafel*, which won best short film at the 2021 Venice Film Festival and the Madrid Film Festival. The film also opened the Topaz Festival (Dallas Women in Film). **KURT-ALEXANDER ZELLER** has been elected president of Mu Phi Epsilon, an international professional music fraternity. Founded in 1903 as a professional fraternity for women in music, Mu Phi Epsilon was the first of the music fraternities to become co-ed and began admitting men in 1977. Zeller was initiated into SMU's Mu Chi chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon in 1982. He is the first man to become president of Mu Phi Epsilon.

**84 ERIC DICKERSON**, a Pro Football Hall of Fame and College Football Hall of Fame running back, has partnered with SMU and Zelus to launch the Dickerson "Legendary" collection of 50 NFTs. A signature piece of the project is a life-size painting of Dickerson by sports artist Vernon Wells, which will be housed permanently in SMU's Ford Stadium and serve as the inspiration for the NFTs. A unique feature of the collection includes VIP opportunities each year for five years with Dickerson, such as watching an SMU game on the field.

**85 WARD KAMPF**, president of Northwood Retail, says his company is well positioned to take advantage of shopping trends that have evolved because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Northwood Retail's portfolio includes open-air centers across the United States that have more outdoor space and curbside options that are likely to remain customer trends beyond the pandemic. **MICHELE WONG KRAUSE** was elected chair of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board of Directors. Wong Krause, a former Dallas associate municipal judge, is in private law practice in Dallas and previously served on the board of governors of the American Bar Association, the board of directors of the State Bar of Texas, and the board of directors of the Dallas Bar Association.

**87 DEREK BLAKE** has joined the board of directors of Operation Homefront, a nonprofit serving military families. Blake leads partnership development efforts for Blucora, where he is head of partnerships for TaxAct, Blucora's tax-preparation software service.

**88 KEVIN COX** was appointed CEO of Ferrovial Airports' new vertiports business. Vertiports provide infrastructure for landing, recharging and taking off with passengers of all-electric, vertical take-off and landing jet aircrafts. Cox has served in executive leadership positions at DFW International Airport, American Airlines, Signature Aviation and FBO Network.

**89 CATHERINE BOWE** joins Dykema as senior counsel after practicing with Exall Legal Advisors in Dallas for four years. Prior to that, she spent 17 years with Hudson Advisors, most recently as deputy general counsel and managing director. **SHARI HUME**, co-founder of Cure JM Foundation, was featured as a rare leader by Global Genes, a nonprofit dedicated to eliminating the burdens and challenges of rare diseases. The focus of Cure JM Foundation is juvenile myositis, a group of rare and life-threatening autoimmune diseases, in which the body's immune system attacks its own cells and tissues. **LEE MULCAHY**, an artist based in Colorado, exhibited in summer 2021 his work on evictions in America at the University of Texas Arlington's University Center. In October, his work on Africa Water Wells — a clean water well ministry in Kenya started by his late father, Edward Lee "Bud" Mulcahy — was featured at Gallery West as part of celebrations of the ministry's plans next year for its 10th water well at a Tenwick Hospital clinic. More exhibits were planned at Art Basel Miami in December 2021 and Bogota in January 2022.

**90 VICKY GUNNING** has joined the board of 4Word, a faith-based organization focused on mentoring executive-level women. She serves as the managing partner of the Dallas office of Locke Lord. **VINCENT THOMISEE** retired from the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He was initially hired under the Outstanding Scholar Program at the

# Celebrating the Mustang mystique

In just 30 seconds, a parade of famous faces captures the essence of the Hilltop: Our bold, curious and creative alumni – and the distinguished visitors drawn to campus – truly set SMU apart.

The commercial airing during all Mustang sports televised by ESPN is the brainchild of alum Hal Curtis '84 (right photo). Curtis has been a creative director for more than 25 years with Wieden+Kennedy, a global agency headquartered in Portland, Oregon. He's a legend in the field with three Emmy wins for best commercial, and seven Emmy nominations to his credit. In *Advertising Age's* 20th anniversary edition of *Creativity Magazine*, Curtis was named one of the 50 most influential creative leaders of the past 20 years.

His wide-ranging portfolio for Nike, ESPN and other high-profile brands includes an acclaimed commercial featuring Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons fighting over a Coke. In 2010, *Adweek* named *It's Mine* the Super Bowl spot of the decade.

The SMU collaboration took flight during a conversation with SMU Vice President for Development and External Affairs Brad E. Cheves.

"Brad and I were talking about all the amazing individuals who have come through SMU over the years. It's an impressive list," Curtis says. "We both thought it would be something interesting to – in a broadcast spot – remind folks of."

After getting the green light, Curtis and his production team faced the challenge of tracking down archival video and images. They worked with Laura Graham '16, director of photography and video in SMU Marketing and Communications, to locate assets and secure licensing approvals. Curtis supplied his expertise to the project at no charge.



Titled *Heritage*, the commercial encapsulates the breadth and achievements of our Mustang family and the reputation for excellence that draws the best and brightest to the Hilltop.

It was a labor of love for Mustangs with star power like Academy Award winner Kathy Bates '69, whose distinctive voice provides the narration, and fan favorite Brian Baumgartner '95, who submitted his own video when the cost of licensing footage of him as Kevin in *The Office* TV series was prohibitive.

Other notable alumni featured include NFL star and sports commentator "Dandy" Don Meredith '60, real estate titan Trammell Crow '39 and Bumble founder Whitney Wolfe Herd '11.

Also shown are Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on campus in 1966 and former U.S. Presidents Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and the late George H.W. Bush on campus in 2013 to celebrate the opening of the George W. Bush Presidential Center with former President Bush.

The ad ends with an intriguing question for the future Mustangs viewing it: What will you do?

The commercial premiered during the TCU game September 25, where SMU retained the Iron Skillet with a 42–34 win.

"Maybe the spot helped us beat the Horned Frogs, who knows," Curtis says. "What I do know is it reminds us that we're all a part of something pretty special around here. That's inspiring, and worth celebrating."

And in case you missed it, the ad will air again next season. 🐎



Department of Justice's U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. He worked as an immigration examiner/adjudications officer in Dallas, an immigration inspector at Boston Logan Airport and Boston Seaport, a deportation officer in Oakdale, Louisiana, an immigration inspector/CPB officer at Toronto Pearson Airport and at the Houston Seaport. He also served stints at Hobby Airport and Galveston Seaport Cruise Ship Terminal until retirement.

**CHARLES S. VALVANO** has been named chairman of the board of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority in Toms River, New Jersey.

**92 JOHN FRIEND** was appointed chief medical officer of Kazia Therapeutics Limited, an oncology-focused drug development company. Prior to joining Kazia, Friend was chief medical officer at Collectar Biosciences and senior vice president of medical and scientific affairs at Helsinn Therapeutics. **MARK YEE** joined Butler, Shine, Stern & Partners as head of account management. He was previously a group account director with Phenomenon and is based in Los Angeles with the Sausalito agency.

**93 JORGE BALDOR**, an entrepreneur and co-founder of the Latino Center for Leadership Development, reflected on empowering future leaders, the role of education on career trajectory, and the changing workforce with Dallas Innovates, a collaboration of Dallas Next and the Dallas Regional Chamber.

**ALLISON MCMANUS-GRAHAM** was a co-researcher on a paper –

“Human-Computer Interaction Glow Up: Examining Operational Trust and Intention Towards Mars Autonomous Systems” – with NASA, JPL and PAR-D labs in California. She is embarking on a second career in augmented and virtual reality.

**PATRICIA ZACHARIE** has joined Westwood Professional Services Inc. as general counsel. Zacharie's legal career has spanned both the public and private sectors, including serving as a corporate board member and corporate secretary for a corporate-sponsored nonprofit.

**94 JON ALTSCHULER and LIZ CEDILLO-PEREIRA** '99 have been named to the board of Dallas' Thanks-Giving Foundation, a nonprofit that promotes interfaith dialogue and community. Altschuler is the founder of Jon Altschuler and Co., a commercial real estate firm. Cedillo-Pereira is chief of equity and inclusion for the city of Dallas. **MELISSA GARZA** has returned to SMU to pursue a Master of Divinity. In her third year, she is one of 10 Perkins Scholars in her cohort. She was featured in the November issue of the *Perkins Perspective* online.

**95 NITA PATEL** was elected president of the IEEE Computer Society for 2023. Patel is senior director at the Engineering Lead Design Centre-Farmington at Otis. She previously worked for L3Harris. During that time, she was recognized as 2014 L3 Engineer of the Year and 2011 New Hampshire Engineer of the Year. **KEITH WILLIAMS** has been promoted to co-chief investment officer of Crestline Investors Inc., a

credit-focused institutional alternative asset manager. Williams, who became a partner of Crestline in 2016, will continue as a managing partner of the firm.

**97 RYAN BERUBE**, who won swimming relay gold at the 1996 Olympics, was inducted into the Texas Swimming & Diving Hall of Fame. Berube was a 26-time NCAA All-American and 1996 NCAA Swimmer of the Year at SMU.

**98 SHARON K. SNOWTON** presented at the Texas Association for Bilingual Education conference in fall 2021. She is also an ambassador for the LSSSCA, an association for Texas school counselors, and has been chosen as a distinguished alumna by Dallas College. **HOPE WOLF** has joined Echelon Analytics as an associate director in the firm's new Washington, D.C., office. She has worked in the Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and numerous Am Law 100 firms.

**99 AIMEE BURNETT**, vice president of F-16 production programs for Lockheed Martin Aero-nautics, was reappointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee for a term expiring Sept. 1, 2025. She is a member of Women in Aerospace, a sustainer of the Junior League of Fort Worth, and a volunteer for Make-A-Wish North Texas. **ROOPA MISRA** has been named senior vice president of customer operations for Orion Labs, where she will oversee its customer success, supply chain operations, support, and

professional and technical services. Before joining Orion, Misra spent seven years at Geoforce and also worked at Triple Point Technology, Excelergy, Allegro Development Corp. and Texas Instruments. **AMAN SINGH's** family business has added its Kaurina's Kulfi bars to local Costco and Whole Foods stores. Singh is vice president and COO of the company his parents started in 2000. The bars are produced at a 30,000-square-foot factory in Farmers Branch.

**00 NEIL FOOTE** was among eight new members inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame at its virtual awards ceremony in December. He is a principal lecturer in the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas. Foote has worked at the *Miami Herald*, *The Washington Post*, *The Dallas Morning News*, the Tom Joyner Morning Show and the American Society of Newspaper Editors. He is president of Foote Communications LLC, a Dallas media consulting firm. Foote is also chairman of the National Kidney Foundation Serving North Texas and president of the National Black Public Relations Society. **JOE KENASTON** became a member of the Putnam County Rotary Club in West Virginia. He is senior pastor for Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church and has served as a district superintendent and dean of the cabinet for the West Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference. **DAVID MOSSBERG** was appointed to the board of directors of Destiny Media Technologies Inc., the makers of Play MPE®,

a cloud-based music distribution, collaboration and content discovery platform. He is the CEO of Three Part Advisors LLC, a strategic investor relations advisory firm.

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**01** Rev. **JUSTIN WESTMORELAND** was called in 2017 to plant the first church of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma, Trinity Presbyterian Church of Norman, which officially organized in fall 2021.

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**02** **ALIA GONZALES**, orchestras director at Brighton High in Cottonwood Heights, Utah, led the school's Chamber Ensemble to a state win at the Foundation for Music Education's Mark of Excellence. Brighton's ensemble was one of 22 programs recognized from 236 entries across 38 states.

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**03** **DARRELL CLINE** is the new general manager and CEO of Garland Power & Light. He joined GP&L in 2012 and has served as its director of finance and accounting and chief financial officer/assistant general manager. **KIPP COLLINS** will serve as a leader in Paladin Partners' industrial division. He will be responsible for business development and client services. Collins has spent the last 16 years at Binswanger in Dallas, focusing on industrial site selection, project leasing and dispositions consulting for some of the largest Fortune 500 companies and institutional investors across the United States. **HOLLY ENGELMANN** has joined Duane Morris LLP as partner in the firm's Intellectual Property Practice Group in

its Dallas office. Prior to joining Duane Morris, Engelmann was a principal at McKool Smith. Englemann is also an adjunct professor at the University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law, teaching practice foundations courses to first- and second-year law students. She is a member of the Dallas Women Lawyers Association, Attorneys Serving the Community and the Dallas Bar Association. **GENARO PEREZ** is the new vice president of marketing and strategy for Peter Piper Pizza. Before joining the chain, Perez led brand marketing, corporate communications and innovation strategies for P.F. Chang's and worked for Brinker International.

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**04** **CECE COX**, CEO of the Resource Center in Dallas, received the 2020 Jubilee History Maker Award from the Dallas Historical Society for her leadership and advocacy in the LGBTQ community. She has also been honored with a 2021 U.N. Day Global Leadership Award from the Dallas Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA. The awards honor individuals and organizations who advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals agenda by promoting peace and well-being around the world. *D* magazine also honored her in fall 2021 as one of the 78 Women Changing the Face of Dallas. In 2016, SMU honored her with the Dedman School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award. **CONROY CUPIDO** (M.M. '06) served as musical director for the Delicious Divas — a Concert of Operatic Gems, featuring sopranos Khayakhazi Madlala and

Yolisa Ngwexana accompanied by pianist Jana Mathee. The concert was presented by Aardklop Aubade in collaboration with Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool, and North-West University (NWU) School of Music. **HAMID ERFANIAN** was appointed CEO of Enzo Biochem Inc., a biosciences and diagnostics company. Erfanian was most recently chief commercial officer of EUROIMMUN and was previously CEO of its U.S. subsidiary. **ADAM G. SAXTON** is engaged to Daniel J. Murphy III. Saxton is owner and co-CEO of The Saxton Group. Murphy, a 2008 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, is a director at BMO Financial Group. The couple, who live in Dallas, are planning a spring 2022 wedding in Chicago. **MANDI TOMASI**, with business partner Jordan Philbeck, launched the OTGlfe (off the grid), an athleisure clothing line, which will be carried by a national retailer in spring 2022.

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**07** **ANNA ALVARADO** is the new executive vice president, chief legal officer and corporate secretary of Dallas-based Texas Capital Bancshares, parent company of Texas Capital Bank. Most recently, Alvarado served as general counsel at FirstCash Inc., and as an attorney at Texas-based firms Tanner & Associates PC and Hill Gilstrap PC. **MARK BIEGLER** has joined Whitley Penn as a senior manager in the firm's audit group. He has more than a dozen years of audit and assurance experience with global public and private companies, including extensive experience advising clients on generally accepted accounting

principles, regulatory reporting and SEC issues. **CHRISTOPHER HAUG** '13 has been appointed to the California Judicial Council's Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee. The advisory committee makes recommendations to the Judicial Council for improving the administration of justice in decedent estates, conservatorships, guardianships and other probate matters, and on mental health and developmental disability issues. **BEJOY PANKAJAKSHAN** is taking on the newly created role of chief technology and strategy officer at network software provider Mavenir. This position expands his previous role as executive vice president, and he is tasked with delivering a single software-based network that runs on any cloud. Before joining Mavenir eight years ago, Pankajakshan was the director of engineering at T-Mobile. **ROXY STRIKE** is the new director of communications for the Iowa Hospital Association. She will oversee newsletter content and direct advocacy communications during Iowa's legislative session. Before joining IHA, she worked for a political consulting firm where she managed the creation of an FEC-compliant e-commerce platform for progressive organizations and Democratic campaigns. Her previous work experience includes staffer for progressive campaigns, public relations associate and managing editor for the *Des Moines Register* weeklies division. **JESSICA THRASHER** was named a 2021 Women of Distinction — Education by Energy and Water Development Corp. Thrasher is education and outreach manager for Colorado State University's Colorado



# Inspiring conversations and connections

Arizona Cardinals offensive tackle Kelvin Beachum, Jr. '10, '12 and his wife, Jessica, are lending 10 paintings from their art collection to SMU's Hamon Arts Library for an exhibit that continues through May 22.

Each piece represents a unique visual narrative of the Black experience.

"We are sharing these pieces from our collection to bring recognition to the artists," Beachum says. "We believe that their brilliant work and shared insights will start a conversation and bring people together in a new way. We are excited to be stewards of their work as well as catalysts for promoting their perspectives and ideas."

The Beachums began acquiring art by both well-known and emerging artists in 2013.

The exhibit, *Narrative as Reality: A World Reimagined/ Selections from the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection*, includes an oil on canvas by Dominic Chambers, recently included on *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 list as one of the most exciting emerging artists of his generation. Artist Ryan Cosbert's *Mayhem No. 2* is part of a series she started after George Floyd's 2020 death. Multidisciplinary artist Robert Hodge used reclaimed paper from the sidewalk and movie posters in his Houston neighborhood for his work, *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*.

"A glimpse into the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection reveals an artistic world of hope, Black joy, reality and aspiration," says exhibit curator Valerie Gillespie.

A four-year starter for Mustang football and SMU's 2018 Emerging Leader Award recipient, Beachum has stayed connected to his alma mater through volunteer leadership and support. He serves on the National Campaign Steering Committee for *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, the \$1.5 billion campaign for impact. He's also a member of the executive boards for the Simmons School of Education and Human Development and the Lyle School of Engineering. Beachum honored the late




Dennis Simon, his political science professor and mentor, by endowing SMU's annual Civil Rights Pilgrimage in Simon's name.

Over his 10-year professional football career, Beachum has been nominated twice for the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year Award. He is a nationally recognized advocate for equity in education and business, ending hunger, providing access to clean water and encouraging underrepresented youth to

pursue STEAM disciplines. Beachum also serves on the African Acquisitions Committee for the Tate Foundation.

Jessica Beachum graduated from Baylor in 2011 with a degree in sociology. She earned her B.S. in nursing in 2017 from Duquesne University and her M.S. in health care delivery in 2021 from Arizona State University.

Selections from the Beachums' collection may be viewed in the Mildred Hawn Gallery in Hamon Arts Library located in the Owen Arts Center, 6101 Bishop Boulevard. 

– Nancy Lowell  
George '79, '18

ABOVE Dominic Chambers' *The Night is Our Friend*.

RIGHT Kelvin Beachum, Jr. '10, '12 and his wife, Jessica.



Read more: [smu.edu/smumag22beachum](https://smu.edu/smumag22beachum)

# Mustangs in the wild: Meet SMU Young Alumni Board Chair Stephen Reiff '10

Native Oregonian and philanthropic-hearted Stephen Reiff '10 lives in Dallas with his wife, Lexi. He took the helm of the SMU Young Alumni Board in July 2020. Here Reiff shares some of his thoughts about leading his fellow Mustangs through challenging times and his hopes for the future.

## WHAT DO YOU DO FOR WORK?

I lead strategy and corporate communications for MoneyGram – a global company based in Dallas that is working to increasingly become more similar to Venmo, but our focus is on cross-border money transfers.

## AS THE YOUNG ALUMNI BOARD CHAIR, WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF SMU ALUMNI?

I hope to continue to spur strong engagement among the younger generation of recent grads so that we don't feel like we have to wait until we're older and have 'made it' in life to give back and get involved.

I also hope to look at opportunities to re-imagine the role of board members to be more active resources and thought partners for the University and current students.

## WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR CURRENT SMU STUDENTS?

Study abroad! I almost didn't go abroad to Australia because I was so worried about missing out on campus life for a semester. However, my semester abroad was truly a transformative experience. The friendships formed during that time ended up becoming some of my deepest friendships from SMU, and many of us continue to stay in touch.

## WHEN YOU GET NOSTALGIC ABOUT YOUR COLLEGE YEARS, WHAT DO MISS THE MOST?

Playing Ultimate Frisbee on the quad in front of Dallas Hall every Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. is one of my favorite quintessential college memories that makes me nostalgic for the Hilltop. To me, that memory represents so many fun aspects of college: the beauty of our campus, the community and the freedom in our schedules.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE CHARITIES OR VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS?

My best friend and a fellow SMU alum, David Luttrell '09, and I started a charitable organization called Ambassadors Club that's focused on spurring faith-based financial stewardship among young professionals. Over the last nearly 10 years, this small group, along with matching partners, has generously and sacrificially helped steward more than \$1 million to nonprofits in Dallas and around the world.

In a similar fashion to the SMU Young Alumni Board, we don't want to wait until we're older to give back as there's so much joy in giving today.

## ABOUT THE YOUNG ALUMNI BOARD

The all-volunteer Young Alumni Board includes up to 36 members and is charged with representing all SMU undergraduate and graduate alumni who have graduated in the past 10 years to the SMU Board of Trustees and fostering a thriving community.

Reiff's two-year term as chair ends May 31, ushering in successor J.B. Stockslager '16.

If you want to connect with Reiff or are interested in learning more about the Young Alumni Board, you can reach out to him at [stephen.reiff@smu.edu](mailto:stephen.reiff@smu.edu) or visit [smu.edu/yab](http://smu.edu/yab). 





Stormwater Center. She is also director of community engagement at Headwaters Realty. She leads five volunteer projects each year, manages a grant program, cultivates community and corporate collaborations, launched the Northern Colorado Corporate Social Responsibility Group in 2017 and presents at panels on corporate social responsibility.

**ELIZABETH WENTE**, a partner at SpencerFane in Springfield, Missouri, was also recently chosen for *Missouri Lawyers Media's* (MLM) Up and Coming Award, which recognizes "attorneys achieving at the highest levels." Wente was awarded the Law Firm Leaders category for her leadership and mentorship.

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**08 ANDREW COOKINGHAM** has joined Bracewell LLP as a partner in the Dallas office. Cookingham represents hospitals, physician groups, air ambulance companies and other health care providers in regulatory matters and insurance disputes. He also represents providers in investigations involving government program payments and out-of-network providers. Cookingham is ranked as a leading lawyer in Texas Healthcare in *Chambers USA 2021*.

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**09 JAMIE CORLEY** was recently featured in *Design STL*. Corley, who switched from a career in politics in Washington, D.C., to being a full-time artist, relocated from California to her hometown of St. Louis during the pandemic. Her recent work includes a digital illustration collection called "Gathering."

**CLAIRE HARRISON** has been named market president of Austin at Texas

Capital Bancshares, the parent company of Texas Capital Bank. Harrison will be the strategic advisor responsible for the development of new client opportunities and the bank's growth within the market. She most recently served as senior vice president of corporate banking for Texas Capital Bank in Dallas. **RICH TREE** is now COO of CAI, which offers engineering, technical and consulting services encompassing all aspects of operation: equipment, automation, process and human performance. Tree joined CAI in 2014 with 35 years of operational leadership experience, including a 22-year career in the U.S. Navy.

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**10 SHANTHI RAJARAM**, president of DFW Alliance of Technology and Women, shared her takeaways from the group's 19th annual Executive Forum with Dallas Innovates, a collaboration of Dallas Next and the Dallas Regional Chamber. Rajaram is president and CEO of Amazech Solutions, a Frisco-based IT consulting firm she launched in 2007. **GLORIA SALINAS** has joined Frisco Economic Development Corp. as vice president. She was most recently Dallas Regional Chamber's vice president of economic development. She also worked in the Dallas economic development office, as director of downtown Odessa in West Texas, and as a community editor and reporter at *The Dallas Morning News*.

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**11 SABARI RAJA** is the founder and CEO of Nepri, a company that connects educators and learners with professionals and provides a

skills-based volunteering platform for organizations to extend education outreach while building their brand among the future workforce. Raja worked for 15 years with the education technology division of Texas Instruments to lead product and content strategy, publisher relations, business development, partnership and alliance ecosystem for new education technology products.

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**12 MARGARITA KARASOULAS** has been named curator of art by the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut. Her initial focus will be the inaugural exhibition for the museum's reopening in late 2022 after its expansion. Karasoulas had been the assistant curator of American art at the Brooklyn Museum since 2017.

**MATT MOORE** and the group he cofounded — SQR, a writing-focused group that hosts game nights, writing workshops, and poetry nights in Shenzhen, China — were recently featured on *thatsmags.com*. Moore works in the video game industry, crafting character backstories and game development. **ANH-THUY NGUYEN**, a multimedia/transdisciplinary artist, had her work featured in the exhibit *VISIBLE: Asian and AAPI Artists in America* at Ro2 Art in Dallas. The show aims to shine a light on Asian and AAPI contributions to culture while working to combat anti-Asian bias. Nguyen's work utilizes video, photography and performance to investigate conflicting emotions in haunting manifestations of gain and loss. Based in Tucson, Arizona, she leads the photography program at

Pima Community College. **MARISA O'SULLIVAN** has joined Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal LLP as a partner in the firm's Dallas office. O'Sullivan has served as coverage counsel to commercial clients in a variety of industries. She has published several articles and led seminars for both in-house counsel and bar organizations on a range of insurance and litigation topics. She was named the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers' Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year in 2019, recognized as a Thomson Reuters' Texas Super Lawyers Rising Star, and listed by *D* magazine as one of the Best Lawyers in the field of insurance law and the Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas. O'Sullivan is a Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation and Dallas Bar Association Foundation Fellow and serves on the boards of the Dallas Bar Association and Dallas Women Lawyers Association. She is slated to serve as president of the Dallas Women Lawyers Association in 2022.

**CHARLOTTE PASIADIS** was recognized in the 2021 edition of *Chambers USA Guide: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* as an "Associate to Watch" for Corporate/M&A in Ohio and was recognized in The Legal 500 Guide as a recommended attorney for corporate governance. **NED SHUGRUE** and **LAURA (BUCK) SHUGRUE '13** were married on Sept. 11, 2021, in northern Minnesota. Fellow Mustangs who attended the wedding included Justin Shugrue '17, Andy Buck '16, Andrew Conwell '11, '17, Billy Machina '11, '12, Julia Hosch '21, Graham Schillaci '13, '18 and Hannah Schillaci '14.

# Precious Ponies



**LILAH ISABELLE ANDERSON**, born July 1, 2021, is the daughter of Amanda and Scott Anderson and the granddaughter of Richard Howe '73.



**JOSHUA THOMAS "JJ" BERMAN, JR.**, born August 11, 2021, is the son of Thomas Berman '12 and Emily Berman '14.



**CHRISTIAN COLBY CARTWRIGHT**, born August 24, 2021, is the son of Jennifer Haber Cartwright '15 and Colby Cartwright and the grandson of Maribeth Cartwright '81 and Steve Cartwright '74.



**PARKER THOMAS FERTIG**, born March 11, 2020, is the son of Courtney Cousins Fertig '11 and Daniel William Fertig '11 and the grandson of Kristin Braim Cousins '77 and John David Cousins '77.



**KEEGAN ANDREW GRENIER**, born October 27, 2021, and **KASON JOSEPH GRENIER**, born November 16, 2019, are the sons of Kevin Grenier '13 and Jessica Bartol Grenier '14.



**MILLER JAMES JELLIFFE**, March 17, 2021, is the son of Katherine Hall Jelliffe '08 and Christopher Miller Jelliffe '12 and the grandson of David M. Hall '81 and Dawn Renzetti Hall '81.



**LILY TESS KLINE**, born June 28, 2021, is the daughter of Ariel Monticure-Kline '15 and Matt Kline.



**MACK MARTIN**, born July 29, 2021, is the son of Vanessa Martin '10 and Jonathan Martin. He is also the grandson of E. Denyce Inmon '76 and Randall Inmon; nephew of Van R. Smith '72; and cousin of Summer Marshall '99, '01 and Stan Smith '78.



**PAULA AIMEE "POLLY" MCDONNELL**, born February 21, 2021, is the daughter of Amanda Frederick McDonnell '10, '14 and Colin McDonnell. She is also the granddaughter of Aimee Frederick Galvin '78 and niece of Christopher Frederick '03.



**WILLIAM MURPHY, III**, born May 7, 2021, is the son of John William Murphy '17 and Sheila Coll Murphy.



**ALEXANDER LOY NORRIS-YEE**, born May 8, 2021, is the son of Mark Yee '92 and Andrew Norris.



**PENDLETON LEMON "PENNY" PIEPER**, born October 30, 2021, is the daughter of Morgan Pieper '11, '12 and Andrew Pieper '09. She joins big brother Charlie Pieper, born January 1, 2019.



**ETTA MARY FORD POWELL**, born March 17, 2021, is the daughter of Benjamin Powell '09 and Vivian Powell and niece of Kathryn Gard '08.



**DARSH BHUMISH RAWAL**, born November 14, 2021, is the son of Bhumish Rawal '09 and Heta Rawal and the nephew of Abhijeet Bapat '12, Javed Sheik '09 and Abhijit Tilak '09.



**HANNAH ANN WAGNER**, born March 25, 2021, is the daughter of Alden Wagner, III '09 and Heather Archer Wagner. She is also the granddaughter of Nancie Nieman Wagner '75 and Alden Wagner, Jr. '75 and the great-granddaughter of Jeannine Frazier Nieman '49 and Helena Underwood Wagner '47.

## Picture your pony here

We would love to share a photo of your future Mustang. Submit your Precious Ponies to [smumag@smu.edu](mailto:smumag@smu.edu) by May 23, 2022. Please send an image file that's 1MB with the child's name and birthdate, along with the names and class years of alumni parents (and grandparents and/or other close relatives).



**13** **BRITTANY LEVINGSTON**, one of the newest Leading Edge Fellows with the American Council of Learned Societies, has partnered with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council to develop a series of statewide programs on the works of playwright August Wilson. **ROBBIE MOSELEY** is now vice president at Raymond James Financial Inc. and head of its financial advisor recruiting platform Advisor Choice Consulting. He had been with Edward Jones, where he was director of financial advisor recruiting and integration and led talent acquisition for its Eastern division. **JUSTIN SHUART** is now senior director at Marcus & Millichap Capital Corp. He will arrange debt and equity financing for commercial real estate owners and developers through banks, life insurance companies, pension funds, conduit lenders, debt funds, private equity funds, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, HUD, and other private capital sources. Previously, he was the director of the real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield.

**15** **KRISTEN CICHOCKI** '16 and **PETER WELDON, JR.** '15 were married April 24, 2021. **LAUREN JONES**, a writer and editor who specializes in architecture and home interiors, is a contributor to *MyDomaine*, a digital home site that shares highly curated content for décor enthusiasts and industry professionals. Jones is also a content strategist at Semihandmade. Previously, she was the senior editor at *Austin Woman Magazine* and a contributor to the *Austin Chronicle*. She has been a freelance writer for over five years, with her content

appearing in *Domino*, *Dwell*, *Apartment Therapy*, *Architectural Digest*, *Martha Stewart*, *House Beautiful* and *Bustle*. **BRIGITTE MENA** released her latest album, *Element*, in summer 2020. The songs, powered by guitar and drum-driven instrumentals, cover love, life, loss and "figuring out how to navigate in this world as an individual and not relying on someone else for growth." **ELIZABETH WATTLEY** has launched "The Forest: 75215," a \$75.215 million revitalization initiative of the historic Forest Theater and surrounding area in Dallas. The venue has hosted legends Tina Turner, B.B. King, Gladys Knight and Prince among others, before it closed. Wattlely is president and CEO of Forest Forward, the nonprofit that, with public and private support, will revitalize the theater to bring a creative laboratory, concert hall, black box theater, industrial kitchen, restaurant, cultural and arts education opportunities to the community, and mixed-income housing nearby.

**16** **HUNTER RICE** developed the app Sendit, a Snapchat add-on that uses gamified, augmented reality experiences to promote user interaction. The platform boasts over 5 million monthly users. **JACOB SMALL** played in a trombone ensemble performing music from classic movies at the Mountain Light Music Festival in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

**17** **MAXIME BLANDIN** and **DILLON BAXTER** '20 have launched PlantSwitch, a company that makes sustainable single-use straws and utensils using a fibrous byproduct of

tequila production. PlantSwitch straws are used in dozens of DFW restaurants and bars. The company has plans to expand its inventory to include other single-use items. **WADE H. SCOFIELD II** has joined the Memphis office of the law firm of Leitner, Williams, Dooley & Napolitan as an associate. His practice primarily focuses on general insurance defense litigation. Scofield is licensed to practice in Tennessee and Texas. He is a former prosecutor for the Harris County District Attorney's office in Houston.

**18** **JENNIFER DELANEY** was featured in the August issue of *Texas Monthly* for her archery skills, which she displays on her TikTok account @freedomandfeathers and which won a trick-shot challenge sponsored by Planters peanuts. Delaney is a mergers and acquisitions consultant at the accounting firm PwC.

**20** **LUC GOWDA** has joined Praesidian Capital, a New York-based private equity firm, as an analyst. Gowda previously worked for Kroll Bond Rating Agency where he was involved in financial analysis. **SOO MI HAN** co-curated the art exhibition *Factory Settings* at the Power Station in Dallas. Han is part of the art collective Swim Club with Gregory Ruppe and was recently featured in *The Dallas Morning News*. **DYLAN MURPHY** is now a booking researcher with NBC News in Washington, D.C. **GRANT YOUNGKIN** worked on his father's successful campaign for Virginia governor.

**21** **R.C. BRAMHALL** was awarded a four-week writer's residency at Soaring Gardens Artists Retreat in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, and a residency at 360 Xochi Quetzal in Lake Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico, where he worked on his first novel in fall 2021. **USAMA KHALID** is a mixed media artist who explores art through a fusion of Pakistani and Texas barbecue he calls "Punjabtex." Khalid debuted his Lahori brisket at a free meal pop-up at Sweet Pass Sculpture Park in Dallas. Khalid was inspired by langar, the South Asian tradition of providing food to the needy regardless of ethnicity or religious background. He was recently featured in *The Dallas Morning News*. **JENNIFER KILPATRICK** received the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section's Kirsten Christophe Memorial Award for Excellence in Trial and Insurance Law during the TIPS Fall Meeting. The award is given to members with the exemplary attributes of balancing career, profession and family in life and practice. Kilpatrick, an attorney for more than 20 years, was called to join the ministry. She is now a senior pastor of Northgate United Methodist Church in Irving. **VANESSA LAREZ**, a participant in the Dallas County Promise initiative, is the new development and communications coordinator at Bachman Together, a kindergarten readiness program in Dallas. She was featured on the education news site The 74.

# In Memoriam

The following alumni deaths were reported to SMU from 6/2/2021 to 11/29/2021.

'36 SARA GOLDBLATT GOLDGAR '59  
1/19/18

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'43 FRANCES HARRIS ELMORE 6/1/21  
JANET CRAMER JONES 7/21/21

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'44 IDA LAPRELLE BAUSEWINE  
6/30/21 MARJORIE ANN WHITE  
GILES 8/23/21 ABRAHAM I.  
ZIMMERMAN 9/26/19

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'45 BILLIE BENSON FERGUSON  
11/11/21 EMILY BOLES MILLS  
7/10/21 JEANNE JOHNSTON  
PHILLIPS '52 9/25/21

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'46 NANCY ROYALL RYAN 9/9/21  
MARY ALMEDA SCHATZ 10/10/15

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'47 MARY WARD HERRIN 8/26/21  
MARGARET JONES MARSHALL  
8/11/21 ERNESTINE M. NAYLOR  
8/26/21 CORA WOOTTERS  
WARREN 8/2/21

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'48 Dr. HAROLD J. BRESNAN, SR.  
8/6/16 BARBARA CLARK GLEBOFF  
10/26/21 PHILIP B. JONES  
9/12/21 BRADFORD N. LAPSLEY  
8/3/21 CECIL G. MAGEE '49  
1/15/16 ROSS E. MCKINNEY  
9/18/21 SHIRLEY KESSLER  
ROLLINS 6/18/21 Dr. GEORGE P.  
SPERANZA 8/22/21 HILDEGARDE  
MILLS TENISON 6/21/21  
BETTY CULLUM TURNER 2/26/15  
JAMES A. WITTKOWER 2/26/17

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'49 Col. HARVEY B. BAKER 8/25/15  
RALPH W. CAIN 3/2/16  
WILLIAM E. COLE 10/20/21  
Maj. VESSIE E. HARDY, JR.  
8/19/21 CHARLES R. JOHNSON  
12/26/20 BEVERLY BOHMFALK  
LANG 10/20/21 Dr. ROBERT A.  
LANG 6/21/21 WILLIAM H. MAHER  
10/13/21 JACK C. STOLLER  
9/20/21 Dr. WILLIAM R. THOMAS  
7/24/15

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'50 MARY MARSTON KEENAN 9/9/21  
EDWARD MALOUF, JR. 6/21/21  
RETA LETHERMAN PARRISH  
7/7/21 BEVERLY CONOVER  
PHILLIPS 1/30/14 ELIZABETH  
CADDY POUSSE 10/8/21  
WALTER A. SCOTT 7/9/19  
ROBERT B. WOODIN '58 2/22/21

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'51 JAYNE HODGE BLACK 10/8/21  
HOWARD W. DUNHAM, JR. 2/16/17  
CARL H. GOTTFELD 4/20/14  
CONNIE E. HALE, JR. 6/10/21  
MARGARET SAMUELS KRUEGER  
7/6/21 Dr. RAYMOND H. MARR '52  
9/19/21 Lt. CLAUDE S. NICHOLS  
9/14/21 BEVERLY STEINER OLSON  
10/28/21 JOHN C. RICE 9/30/18  
MARY JEAN SEE ROACH 11/9/21

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'52 PAUL S. ADAMS, JR. 6/3/21  
BARBARA RAND ANIOL 11/8/21  
EARL G. COLTON, JR. 8/20/21  
BETTY MOSS DEAN 8/16/21

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MARY CHATFIELD ECHERD  
10/11/21 ROBERT S. EKBLAD  
6/8/21 The Rev. VERLON E. FELLER  
7/28/21 NOLAN M. FISHER  
1/17/19 Dr. BENNIE F. JORDAN  
7/16/21 FRANCES WOFFORD  
SMITH 10/13/21 VIRGINIA MILLER  
THORNTON '72 6/25/21  
CLIFFORD D. WATSON, JR. 7/8/21  
LEE E. WILKINSON 6/4/21

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'53 MERILYN ROSEN COX 8/29/21  
ROSANNE DICKSON 10/12/21  
ELIZABETH CATTO FRANCIS  
8/26/21 THOMAS C. GERON, JR.  
10/20/21 WANDA BROWN HILL  
6/7/21 HOLLAND M. IRWIN  
9/15/21 HOBART F. MCWILLIAMS  
8/22/21 RUTH SOWELL MILLIS  
6/14/21 JUDITH KINNEY SMITH  
7/23/20 RICHARD T. WILKINSON,  
III '71 7/21/21 MARLYS CARLSON  
WING '70 11/20/20 NANCY  
BAIRD WOOD 11/8/21 The Rev.  
JOHN F. YEAMAN 10/2/21

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'54 VIRGINIA ALEXANDER BROUGHTON  
7/23/21 The Rev. ALLIE M.  
DAVENPORT, JR. 9/9/21 JILL  
WILSON MAY 6/24/21 The Rev.  
JOHN K. MCKEE 7/25/21  
THOMAS H. MEREDITH 8/9/21  
PATSY PRINCE NELSON 7/13/21  
LEE PARR PHIPPS 6/26/21  
JAMES L. SHULER 7/11/21  
LOWELL N. SMITH, JR. 8/29/21  
PATRICIA VERNON TURK 7/17/21

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'55 PAUL O. CARDWELL, JR. 3/31/20  
JAMES EDWARD R. CHILTON, III  
9/28/21 JAY N. COLLIER, III  
11/27/21 ROSEMARY BUCK  
DONNELLY 8/18/21 BARBARA  
WATSON HILLERY 8/2/21 The Rev.  
BOB L. LAWTON 9/26/21 MARTHA  
HALSELL SCHENKEN 8/17/21  
The Rev. JAMES N. SCRIMSHIRE  
'58 6/23/21 W. E. WILLIAMS, JR.  
6/29/21 BESSIE COATS WILSON  
2/8/17

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'56 HUGH L. BERRYMAN 8/8/21  
The Rev. MARY PATRICK  
BRUNDIGE '86 8/3/21 The Rev.  
Dr. JOSEPH W. KING 11/28/18  
MARILYN MARR KLEPAK 7/2/21  
JOAN M. MCSHAN 10/15/21  
WOODSON M. NASH, JR. 6/15/21  
Dr. LARRY S. ROBERTS 10/21/21  
Dr. ROBERT L. WINDHAM, JR.  
11/22/21

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'57 WILLIAM J. ADAMS '59 11/9/21  
ROSE BROOKS BEASLEY 9/2/21  
ERIC T. BENSON 9/23/21 MARTHA  
PARKER DEVER 11/7/21 The Rev.  
NORMAN W. GRIGSBY 12/20/20  
Dr. DONALD E. HANNA 9/15/21  
AVALOU CALAVAN HIX 8/3/21  
CHARLES S. LEYENDECKER  
7/5/21 SHIRLEY WITTMAN  
MATTHEWS 10/1/21 DORIS  
ODRISCOLL PAGEL 10/27/21  
DAVID G. ROMO 12/15/19  
CAROLYN SMITH SCRIMSHIRE



6/17/21 **BARBARA HUDEL SEWALL**  
7/12/21 **REGINALD L. SMITH, JR.**  
10/13/21 **MARY ANN DICKENSON**  
**SORENSEN** 10/12/21 **ROBERTA**  
**RAITHEL WHITFIELD** '63 11/1/21

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'58 Dr. **ROBERT L. ALLDAY** 10/14/21  
**CHARLES R. BINGHAM, JR.** '63  
5/29/21 **ROBERT D. CROWELL,**  
**III** 6/25/21 **ANNETTE ROBINSON**  
**LACKMAN** 11/19/21 **MARTHA**  
**WILT LAMAR** 6/28/21 **STEPHEN H.**  
**OGIER** 7/14/21 The Rev. Dr.  
**BOBBY W. PARROTT** '77 10/10/21

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'59 The Rev. **JOHN O. ALSTON**  
8/27/21 **RUDOLPH BENAVIDES,**  
**SR.** 10/24/21 **JAMES E. CLARK**  
9/12/21 **NANCY ACKLEY**  
**CRAWFORD** 8/29/21 The Rev.  
**DWIGHT H. DUNNAM** 6/9/21 Dr.  
**CLIFFORD C. EDGE, JR.** 8/12/20  
**WILLIAM C. FERRILL, III** 9/7/21  
Dr. **WILLIAM R. GARNER** 7/20/21  
**WILLIAM C. GOWAN, JR.** 9/8/21  
**CHARLES R. HASTINGS, JR.**  
6/11/21 **BOBBY R. HUFFMAN**  
8/19/21 **ISSA I. KAMAR** 11/21/21  
Dr. **THOMAS W. KOENIG** 8/19/21  
**BILLY T. LOWREY** '64 9/2/21 Dr.  
**EDWARD G. MATTHEWS** 10/23/21  
**ROY D. STURKIE** 11/22/21

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'60 **DAVID B. BERGLUND** 6/3/21  
**MARIANNE TAGGART BOCK**  
11/17/21 **ANDREW R. BRAMLEY**  
'66 9/5/21 **WALLACE F.**  
**BURBRIDGE, JR.** 7/2/21 **ROBERT**  
**T. BYBEE** 6/15/21 **JOHN G. CARVER**  
10/28/21 **BILLIE I. DICKERSON**  
7/6/21 **JAMES B. FAIN** 7/1/21  
**STANLEY E. FOX** 4/23/20 The  
Hon. **ORLAND H. HARRIS** 7/7/21  
**JANE KENT HEDGES** 9/9/21

**NANCY MARGRAVES HOOVER**  
9/17/21 **GORDEN Y. MCGOWAN** '70  
1/20/21 **CAROL CONLEY NAGEL**  
3/22/21 **TERRY D. POE** 10/26/21  
The Rev. **A. GORDON ROE, JR.**  
11/12/21 The Rev. **NORMAN D.**  
**STEPHENSON** 9/6/20 **BENJAMIN T.**  
**WAGES** 7/19/21

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'61 **DENNIS E. BEACH** 10/12/21  
**CHARLES W. BROOKS** 10/22/21  
Dr. **JAMES B. BURNS** 8/27/21  
**MILLER P. HENLEY** 10/23/21  
**JOANN STRATTON HORAK** 6/25/21  
**JOSEPH J. LODOVIC, III** 7/1/21  
**E. G. MCMILLAN, III** '62 7/6/21  
**CARLA BENNETT PETERMAN**  
7/9/21 **DAVID E. PICKETT** '67  
9/15/21 **ELLEN WARRINER**  
**WASILEWSKI** 10/23/21 **RONALD E.**  
**ZUERCHER** '69 8/17/21

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'62 **GEORGE K. ABEL, JR.** 7/17/19 Dr.  
**M. G. BALL** '67 8/26/21 Dr. **JERRY**  
**W. BANE** 10/17/21 **HARICE G.**  
**CHILDERS** 9/30/21 **TIMOTHY O.**  
**COWDIN** 11/6/21 **DUANE L. HICKS**  
10/14/21 **GABOR KOVATS** 9/4/21  
**ROBERT H. PICKENS** 6/11/21  
**ROBERT L. WARREN, III** 8/31/21

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'63 Judge **ROBERT M. BLACKMON** '65  
11/19/21 **NORA CAPPS COOPER**  
9/5/21 **JOHN I. ESTES** 8/16/21  
**JAMES E. EVANS** 8/29/21 **JOHN R.**  
**HART** 4/25/21 **LINDA L. LESLIE**  
'67 10/21/21 **SHARON WESTER**  
**MAGRO** '72 7/29/21 **ROY D. SMITH**  
5/10/21 **JEAN FOLZENLOGEN**  
**STANLEY** 5/25/21 **GEORGE**  
**M. STRICKLER, JR.** 9/9/21  
**JAMES G. TURNER, JR.** 10/21/21  
**NELSON WRAY, JR.** 9/14/21

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'64 **WALTER D. BASHAM** 7/29/21  
**JIMMY R. BLACK** 10/25/21  
**DUYANE E. CANADA** 9/13/21  
**EMMETT O. DUBBERLY** 11/20/21  
**ROBERT N. GRAHAM** 10/25/20  
Dr. **PATRICIA GREENWOOD**  
**HARRISON** 8/10/21 **MEDFORD**  
**D. SANNER** 9/9/21 **THOMAS W.**  
**SHERWIN** 7/13/21 **GEORGE STEIN**  
8/5/21 The Rev. **KENNETH E.**  
**TRUELOVE** 10/27/21 **STEPHEN G.**  
**WILLIAMS** 8/26/21

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'65 The Rev. **CARLETON S. DYER**  
8/26/21 **GARY R. FRITZSCHE** '67  
8/8/21 **DALE C. HAGER, JR.** 7/3/21  
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'15 **NORMAN D. BURCH** 9/23/21

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'16 **WILLIAM A. HUGHES** 7/24/21

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'19 Lt. **JACOB A. MASON** 8/25/21

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## SMU Community

The Rev. Dr. **WILLIAM J. ABRAHAM**, retired professor emeritus of Wesley Studies at Perkins School of Theology, was the recipient of the 2018 SMU Faculty Career Achievement Award; was an ordained elder of and served on the General Commission on Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the United Methodist Church; and authored numerous books. 10/7/21

**MILDRED CUSTER**, retired executive assistant, Residence Life and Student Housing, 9/27/21

**CAMILLA K. DREW**, retired coordinator for academic support, Cox School of Business, 9/13/21

**JANICE KRANZ**, retired assistant financial officer, Office of Budgets and Finance, 9/10/21

**CHARLES LITEL**, student, Cox School of Business, 12/7/21

**ALICIA V. RODRIGUEZ**, retired, Office of Budgets and Finance, 9/27/21

**BEN J. WALLACE**, retired professor emeritus of anthropology, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 10/29/21

# Remembering a renowned humanitarian

SMU mourns the loss of civic leader and philanthropist Peter O'Donnell, Jr., who passed away October 10, 2021, at the age of 97.

A Dallas native, O'Donnell dedicated his life to bettering his community and his state through service in the military, nonprofit and political sectors. He and wife Edith Jones O'Donnell, who passed away in 2020, founded the O'Donnell Foundation in 1957, which seeks to improve STEM education by building model programs to enhance and develop teaching and learning in Texas. The foundation also supports Advanced Placement programs in math, science, English and art, as well as higher education art programming.

At SMU, he served on the Board of Trustees (1973–1981), the Board of Governors (1974–1981) and the Lyle School of Engineering Executive Board (1990–1991). In 2008, Peter and Edith O'Donnell were granted the degrees of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, for their remarkable philanthropy. The O'Donnell Foundation, helmed by the couple, was awarded the Mustang Award in 2014.

In 2005, O'Donnell was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and served on the Presidents' Circle of the National Academy of Sciences. A founding member of the Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas, O'Donnell also founded Laying the Foundation and the Advanced Placement Incentive Program.

His memory will live on in the students whose education he helped improve and the organizations he supported. 🐎



# The download

Catch up on the latest news about our community's creative endeavors.

## Check out these authors

### Jamie Lowry Denty '58

*Angel in Tennis Shoes: Devotionals for Christmas*  
(New Harbor Press, 2021)

Available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com)

### Frenchaire Gardner '02

*Mommy & Daddy, Do You Still Love Me Anymore?*

Available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

### Michael Gehring '02

*Losing Church: The Decline, the Pandemic,  
and Social and Political Storms* (Resource  
Publications, 2022)

Available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

### Clark Hiddleston '82

*The Court Watchers* (Austin  
Macauley Publishers, 2021)

Available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and  
[barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com)



### Patsy Pittman Light '53

*Artisans of Trabajo Rústico:  
The Legacy of Dionicio Rodríguez* (Texas A&M  
University Press, 2021)

[tamupress.com](https://www.tamupress.com)

### Craig Lucie '04

*Hold You* (InTandem Digital Press, 2021)

[craiglucie.com](https://www.craiglucie.com)

### Jule Selbo '73

*10 Days* (A Dee Rommell Mystery)

[juleselbo.com](https://www.juleselbo.com)

### Dale Thomas Vaughn '06

*Birthright: Recall*

[dalethomasvaughn.com](https://www.dalethomasvaughn.com)

### Ashley Winstead '16

*In My Dreams I Hold A Knife* (Sourcebooks  
Landmark, 2021)

[ashleywinstead.com](https://www.ashleywinstead.com)

## Award-winning movie

Lorena Padilla's *Martinez* won the top prize at the Guadalajara Construye film festival in Mexico in October. Padilla hails from Guadalajara, has lived all over the world and now teaches in Meadows School of the Arts. In an interview with *Variety*, she says her debut feature-length film was "an exploration of my relationship with my dad." Her movie has been described as "a fictional story about second chances and discovering the joy in the small things of life."

## Octavio Medellín: Spirit and Form

The first-ever retrospective for Mexican American artist and teacher Octavio Medellín (1907–1999) will continue at the Dallas Museum of Art through January 15, 2023. In approximately 80 works, the exhibit explores his "sculptural practice, his public art commissions and his legacy as a beloved and respected teacher."

Medellín taught at SMU for some years while developing his own vision and techniques in an array of media. He eventually opened his own art school in 1966.

SMU Libraries is the repository of his massive archival, art and slide collection. Beginning in 1989, Medellín and his family began to donate the materials now housed in

Bywaters Special Collections, located in the Jake and Nancy Hamon Arts Library.

View selections from SMU's Octavio Medellín collection at [smu.edu/libraries/digitalcollections/med](https://www.smu.edu/libraries/digitalcollections/med).



Octavio Medellín carving the sculpture *Genoveva*, ca. 1945. Photo courtesy of Bywaters Special Collections at SMU.

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<sup>1</sup> Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688.





## Joining forces to fight hunger

More than 300 of our world changers from organizations across campus came together January 14 to help the hungry. The first-ever SMU Serves event assisted Feed My Starving Children, a nonprofit organization that provides nutritious meals in parts of the world where malnutrition is a serious health issue. Students gathered in the Indoor Performance Center packed more than 140,000 meals during the day of service. The nonperishable meals will be distributed by the nonprofit to its partner schools, orphanages, clinics and feeding programs around the globe.





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***The SMU Ignited campaign “is an important investment in the future of North Texas. ... If SMU succeeds here the university will be stronger for it and our city and region will reap benefits from it for generations to come.”***

*The Dallas Morning News editorial, November 1, 2021*



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As part of the celebration of the launch for *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* – the University’s campaign for impact – Mustangs on campus for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend September 30–October 3 had the opportunity to see a special light and sound show projected onto Dallas Hall. Watch video of the *SMU Ignited* light show online at [smu.edu/smumag22lights](http://smu.edu/smumag22lights).