

UNT

Mean
Green
page 34

the

North Texan

A UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

VOL. 59, NO. 3 | Fall 2009



A FAMILY
TRADITION
ALUMNI SPAN
GENERATIONS
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John Bramblitt [page 32]

MEET MELISA DENIS ('86, '86 M.S.), *DALLAS BUSINESS JOURNAL* CHANGEMAKER



Melisa Denis is focused on creating positive changes. As a partner in KPMG specializing in expatriate management, she is building financial consistency in a changing global work force. As a businesswoman in a major international firm, she helped organize a highly successful KPMG women's network that has elevated women in leadership positions throughout the organization. Now, she is leading the charge to increase the placement of women on corporate boards across America.

Denis credits UNT's College of Business for giving her a "never say no" attitude. Today, as a member of the College of Business Advisory Board, she is using that tenacity to ensure UNT's business students become forces of change for a better economic future.

This is Melisa Denis, changemaker. This is UNT.

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UNT



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A Family Tradition

WITH A RICH LINEAGE, UNT'S FAMILY GROWS GREEN PRIDE AS NEW GENERATIONS OF ALUMNI WRITE THEIR OWN CHAPTERS IN OUR STORY. *By Randena Hulstrand*

Cover: Bettye Lassiter Martin (49) with her grandson, former student Kris Martin, and the letter jacket and sweater that belonged to her late husband, Cecil "Zeke" Martin ('51, '51 M.Ed.). Photograph by Angilee Wilkerson.

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By Ernestine Bousquet



Photo courtesy of Ron English

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By Megan Beck

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Pride in the Mean Green grows with top honors and a future that includes a new stadium.

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Angilee Wilkerson

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ONLINE FEATURES



TIPS FOR NEW STUDENTS
Share advice and help create a survival guide for

new UNT students by telling them about lessons from your first-year experiences, such as how to live with roommates and get the most out of life on campus.



WRITING ADVICE FROM ANNE RICE
Read what UNT pop culture icons like Anne Rice

have to say about what kind of skills it takes to be a success.

MORE ONLINE FEATURES

- EMERALD EAGLE SCHOLARS IN COSTA RICA
- DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ARTIST
- FASHION DO'S AND DON'TS
- PROFESSIONAL MATCHMAKER

Mike Woodruff

Visit *The North Texan* online to:

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- Tell us what you think about our stories
- Learn more about your fellow alumni
- Write memorials about friends we'll miss
- Enjoy an array of additional stories, photos, videos and recordings

Don't forget to follow us at twitter.com/northtexas.



Hear the Wood Family Legacy

WATCH AN EXCLUSIVE VIDEO TO LEARN HOW MUSIC AND UNT INSPIRED A COUPLE'S LOVE AFFAIR AND SHAPED THEIR FAMILY. READ ABOUT THE CONTINUING DEDICATION TO UNT AMONG OTHER LEGACY FAMILIES AND TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S UNT MEMORIES AND CONNECTIONS.



When you see this arrow, join our *North Texan* community online at northtexas.unt.edu.

FROM OUR **President**

Offering endless opportunities

UNT OPENS DOORS FOR STUDENTS

UNT NOW HAS A CLEARLY DEFINED state program that will help support our transformation from an emerging research university into a top-tier institution with even more high-quality students and faculty. The state's program matches from 50 percent to 100 percent of what we secure in gifts that support research activities. We hope it will be a powerful incentive for people to continue investing in UNT.

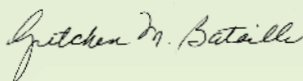
As we build our research profile, this program will help us expand our impact by making every dollar go farther. We are bolstering our programs and creating more opportunities for students and faculty, which enhances the UNT experience and increases the value of every UNT degree. This year, we also will award more scholarships and financial aid to help students fulfill their dreams.

We soon will add to our campus three facilities designed to foster success and achieve green building standards by being LEED-certified. In June, the Life Sciences Complex will open with our first LEED-certified building. And we'll break ground on our second, the Business Leadership Building, this winter. Perhaps the most visible will be our future stadium, which could become the nation's first collegiate LEED Gold-certified football stadium. We expect it to open in time for the 2011 season. I look forward to your continued support as we build a new home for our UNT community to cheer on the Mean Green (learn more on page 34).

Our campus is rich with opportunities that challenge our students and community to learn. I hope you join us as we look at America's energy future by reading Jeff Goodell's *Big Coal* for our One Book, One Community program. The author will speak on campus Oct. 6 (learn more on page 18).

I also look forward to having you join us for Homecoming Oct. 17. When you visit, you'll see for yourself our continued commitment to excellence.

With green pride,



Gretchen M. Bataille
President
president@unt.edu



Courtesy of University of Texas at Dallas

President Gretchen M. Bataille (left) watches as Gov. Rick Perry signs into law a program to help emerging research universities like UNT.

The North Texan

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Let us know what you think about news and topics covered in *The North Texan*. Letters may be edited for length and publication style.



Read more letters and share your comments at northtexan.unt.edu.

reminder that a lot has changed on the university campus in 30 years.

Ernie Murray ('77)
Lufkin

Happy and honored

Seventy-three years after receiving my bachelor's degree and 61 years after receiving my master's degree from UNT, I am still so very happy and honored to have had the opportunity to attend this college. I was from a poor West Texas farm family and was able to attend after high school graduation due to the generosity of my mother's "city" brothers.

It is wonderful and exciting to have received *The North Texan* over the many years and to follow the extensive progress made by this school — from North Texas State Teachers College to the University of North Texas, with student enrollment growing by the thousands. Educational programs have grown extensively and this university seems to be on the level of or far above many others.

Again, I feel so happy and honored to be an ex-student from this outstanding university.

Gladys Lewallen Longoria ('36, '48 M.S.)
Austin

Summer kudos

Just received the summer *North Texan*. I would like to compliment you on the layout, short concise stories of interest and the use of colors. This is the best — y'all did a good job with this one.

Tom Hughes ('67)
Arlington

Just read the summer issue. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for this first-rate publication and the interesting articles about the university and alumni. Thank you for a job well done!

Jim McDonald ('60)
DeSoto

Photo ID

You published a photo on page 40 of the summer issue under "Down the Corridor," a brief article about where students congregate. I was amazed that I had seen this photo before. The male

student in the photo is Terry Don Crawford ('60). We were both Lambda Chi Alpha members and pledged at the same time.

I have not seen Terry since around 1985 when he and another old fraternity brother dropped by my home, then in Grand Prairie. This picture brings back fond memories of great times at North Texas. I obtained a great education there and met many neat people like Terry and others.

Jim Burgess ('67)
Nokomis, Fla.

Souvenirs



I loved the favorite souvenirs coverage so much that I'm sending you a photo of one of mine from the early '60s. This shiny bookcover

shows the Ad Building, the logo for the Trading Post — where I later worked for "Swede" Swenson ('33, '40 M.S.) — and a hair cream ad all in one. Don't ask me why I kept this, but I am glad I did.

Faye Lynn Dodge King ('62)
Sunnyvale



Here's my contribution of North Texas kitsch.

Back in the 1970s, smoking was still considered a right — so much so that the university provided personalized ash trays for the dorms and student union.

They were made of foil-covered card stock and provided a cheap, disposable container for the countless butts we smoked in an effort to look and act cool.

These little ash trays are a

Rings full circle

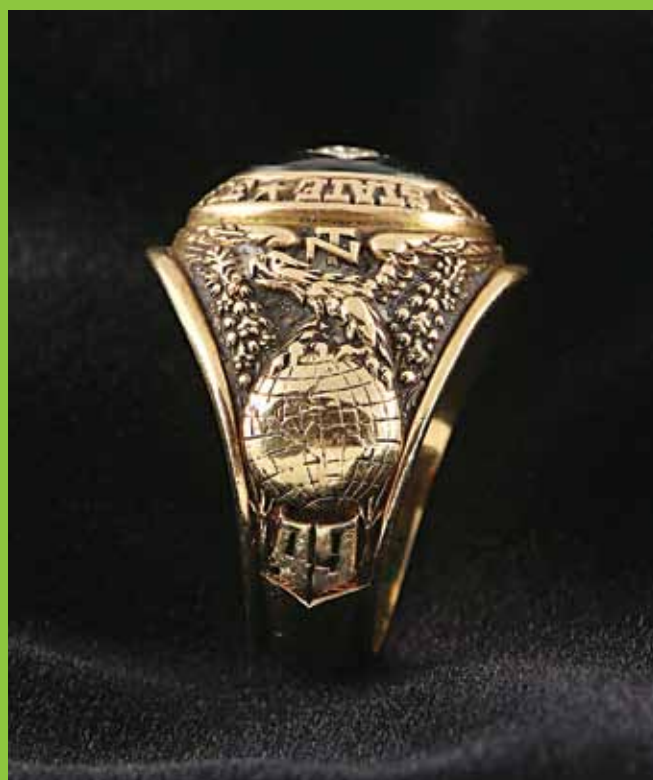
I read of Bob Ray Sanders' loss of his college ring and how UNT awarded him one ("Last Word," summer 2009). I, as a senior senator in 1949, was assigned the task of designing a new official ring. I worked with ring companies to complete the design and put the order out for bids. This design of the Eagle with its claws on the college seal and globe endured for years.

Events happen over which we sometimes have little control. In 1972, I was offered the North Texas territory with the L.G. Balfour ring company (which had won the contract as North Texas' ring supplier in 1949).

One of my proudest accomplishments was that I became the salesman for rings, graduation announcements and diplomas at North Texas. By hard work, I became the No. 9 salesman in the world in 1978.

I give a lot of credit to the training I received at North Texas. My grandson, Perry West, is seeking his master's degree at UNT.

Robert A. Lynch ('49)
Plano



Johnny Dawson

Determination

This remembrance is submitted for encouragement as to the value of patience and determination.

While I do not know the present status of my night school classmates of 1965 to 1970, I wanted to extend my encouragement to present students on the value of patience and perseverance in the pursuit of an advanced degree.

Recognizing the value and need for an advanced degree, three of us, all FAA employees, entered the night school program for a goal of an M.B.A. This was 1965, gasoline was around 79 cents per gallon and it was not

far from FAA headquarters on Blue Mound Road in Fort Worth to North Texas in Denton. After one night a week for five years, we achieved our goal and celebrated.

I became a real estate appraiser and am still involved in real estate. Our endurance has paid many dividends since 1970. You young students just hang in there, accomplish your goals and you will be glad you did.

Jim Ragsdale ('70 M.B.A.)
Mabank

FBI trio

A bit of trivia: After teaching high school biology in the Dallas ISD for five years (1963 to 1968), I

accepted an appointment for training as a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of training, I was transferred to Seattle, Wash., for about a year.

I was then transferred to Los Angeles. On the squad I was assigned to was another graduate of North Texas, and lo and behold, he informed me of yet another agent who was a North Texas graduate.

Small world. I did not know of any other agents in the office that could boast of this.

Declan Hoffmann
('63, '67 M.Ed.)
San Antonio

Contact Us!

If you would like to comment

on a story, share your North Texas memories or photos, submit news or obituaries, or otherwise get in touch with us, we would love to hear from you.

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Today

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Michael Clements

COMMUNITY LEARNING

In the true spirit of promoting lifelong learning, UNT debuts two new programs — Grandparents University and Emeritus College.



Don't miss out! Learn more at call.unt.edu/EmeritusCollege.html or call 940-565-3487.

UNT PRESENTED ITS FIRST GRANDPARENTS University this summer. The two-day camp (above) brought grandparents and their grandchildren, ages 7-12, together in classes ranging from art to emergency administration. Participants earned a Grandparents University degree. Stay tuned for next summer's offerings.

This fall, UNT will kick off its Emeritus College. Led by James Miller, a World War II veteran who spent nearly 30 years as a UNT administrator, the program features not-for-credit courses, lectures, field trips and travel learning opportunities designed for community members 50 and older.



RESEARCH EARNS UNT RECOGNITION

UNT's research profile is rising, thanks to more dollars, new facilities and high-profile faculty awards.

UNT's efforts to join the nation's top research universities are paying off.

In 2008-09, UNT's external research awards grew by 15.2 percent, and in 2009-10, the university expects an increase of 20 percent. UNT also has committed to making its own \$25 million investment in collaborative research clusters. Now, with a new state program that rewards emerging research universities like UNT for progress, the transformation can continue with more momentum.

The program is designed to match from 50 percent to 100 percent of the gifts the university receives that support research. Together, the new funds will increase the number of graduate fellowships, endowed chairs and professorships, and high-quality facilities and equipment, all of which are critical to improving the impact UNT can make through discovery.

"Our momentum will continue to accelerate now that we can leverage the support of our donors," UNT President Gretchen M. Bataille says.

High-powered computing

This year, UNT is opening a new \$2.2 million high-powered computing facility that will provide a tenfold increase in the university's computational power. It will be among the premier facilities of its kind in the country and the most powerful

academic computing facility in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

"This is a huge step forward for the university," says Vish Prasad, vice president for research and economic development. "This facility will position UNT to compete for the biggest and most competitive grants."

The centralized high-performance facility will provide scientists and researchers with the tools they need to perform invaluable research in fields ranging from energy and the environment to aeronautics and web archiving.

Faculty excellence

Several UNT researchers already have been singled out with notable awards this year for their work.

Rada Mihalcea, associate professor of computer science and engineering, was one of only 100 researchers nationwide and the only one in the region to earn the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and



Rada Mihalcea

Engineers, the highest honor for a beginning scientist or engineer. She will be honored at the White House this fall.

Mihalcea's research focuses on the semantic interpretation of text to create word meaning representations that can be adapted to specific language-processing applications.

Mihalcea also is one of five UNT faculty members to win a CAREER award, given by the National Science Foundation to promising up-and-coming researchers.



*Srinivasan
Srivilliputhur*

Srinivasan Srivilliputhur, assistant professor of materials science and engineering, is UNT's newest CAREER award recipient. His research focuses on the development of strong, ultra-light materials for automotive and other advanced applications. Such engineered materials could someday replace heavier ones like steel and result in significant cuts in fuel consumption.

UNT's other CAREER award recipients include Mohammad Omary, professor of chemistry; Pam Padilla, associate professor of biology; and Angela Wilson, professor of chemistry.



Discover more about UNT research
at www.unt.edu/president.

Pass it on: Great things are happening at UNT. Learn about them here and share our successes with your family and friends.

- **HAPPINESS IS A WARM PUPPY.** UNT's Center for Animal Assisted Therapy, one of the nation's first, was founded by Cynthia Chandler, professor of counseling and higher education. She frequently shares her knowledge at conferences and other events to spread the word about the benefits of friendly cuddles, barks and purrs. Learn more at www.coe.unt.edu/aat.
- **ON YOUR MARK.** Mean Green sprinter Keyth Talley won the national junior championship in the 200-meter dash at the U.S. Track and Field Competition this summer. He then competed at the 2009 Pan American Junior Athletics Championship in Trinidad, where he was on the winning 4x100 relay team and placed second in the 200-meter dash. Find more Mean Green news on pages 34-35.
- **TROMBONES RULE.** For the third consecutive year, College of Music students won the International Trombone Quartet Competition held this year in Denmark. In the winning quartet were (below, from left) Matt Jefferson, Carl Lundgren, Alex Dubrov and Nick Laufer. Kyle Mullins, Mark Scott ('08) and Jeremy Stones ('07) also won awards. Find more arts news beginning on page 19.



BRILLIANTLY GREEN



Sustainability speakers

John Hofmeister, founder and CEO of Citizens for Affordable Energy and retired president of Shell Oil, discussed the state of the U.S.

energy industry and its future this summer on campus. He also explored UNT's energy-related research during his visit. UNT is breaking new ground in energy by developing more efficient, organic lighting and exploring the use of crops as a renewable source.

UNT regularly hosts speakers like Hofmeister to foster dialogue about sustainability issues. Jeff

Goodell, author of *Big Coal*, will speak on campus Oct. 6 as part of the One Book, One Community program (see page 18).

Pharmacy program

UNT got the green light during Texas' 81st Legislative Session to work in conjunction with UNT Dallas to study the creation of a pharmacy program. The

program would help address the shortage of pharmacists in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In addition, the UNT System gained approval to create the UNT at Dallas College of Law. It will be the first public law school created in Texas since 1967 and will address the needs of the nation's largest metropolitan center without a public venue for legal education.



More than 8,000 new students are enrolling at UNT this fall.



Michael Clements

Ira Glass, host and producer of NPR's This American Life, spoke about the principles of good storytelling at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference.

Mayborn conference

After blowing out candles to celebrate the sold-out Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference's fifth birthday, a crowd of 500 writers and writers-to-be heard the voice of *This American Life* host Ira Glass ringing out from the dark. The NPR storyteller treated the audience to a de-facto radio show while musing on how to tell stories worth hearing.

Glass was part of a lineup of standout storytellers, including travel writer Paul Theroux and *The New Yorker's* Latin American correspondent Alma Guillermoprieto.

Organizers announced that the Mayborn conference is partnering with Bloomberg

News to offer an annual lecture series starting next year. The first speaker in the series will be Amanda Bennett, Bloomberg's executive editor of enterprise.

Hosted by the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, the conference is one of the country's pre-eminent writing conferences. Learn more at www.unt.edu/mayborn.

Veterans outreach

More than 600 UNT students received GI benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs last year, and the number is growing. To help these students find resources and adjust to university life, UNT's Student

Veterans Association and the UNT Veterans Center organized this spring and celebrated the center's official opening in August.

The center and association are collaborating to direct veterans to resources in such areas as applying for financial aid and navigating the Post 9/11 GI Bill, says Bobby Lothringer, associate registrar and veterans affairs certifying official.

Events this fall include a Veteran's Day celebration Nov. 11 and recognition of UNT's service members during the Mean Green's home football game against Army Nov. 21.

MONTICINO NAMED GRADUATE DEAN

Graduate students are critical to UNT's success as an emerging research university. To ensure it continues to attract even more of the nation's brightest advanced students, the university named Michael Monticino dean of the Robert B. Toulouse School of Graduate Studies. Monticino, who served as interim dean since January, joined the faculty in 1990 as a math professor and most recently was an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.



GREEN PRIDE

Help fund scholarships with UNT license plates

Display your school spirit and help students in need as you drive the nation's highways with your very own UNT license plate. The plates help raise money for scholarships while promoting UNT. They cost \$30 in addition to the regular registration fee, with \$22, which is tax deductible, going directly to scholarships for students.

The North Texan is giving away a \$30 registration fee for a



UNT plate. To enter into our random drawing, write us at northtexan@unt.edu by Oct. 31 (see mailing address on page 5).



UNT plates can be ordered and renewed by mail or online. Download an application at www.unt.edu/plates or call 940-565-2834.



Simulated classrooms

Many new teachers leave the classroom for other professions within the first five years on the job. Tandra Tyler-Wood, associate professor of educational psychology, leads a group of UNT researchers who want to change that. The group is studying and developing teaching methods for first-time teachers. With funding from the National Science Foundation, faculty from the College of Education and College of

Information are evaluating simSchool, an online classroom simulator that allows budding teachers to run sample lessons and observe how each simulated pupil responds to different teaching methods. Already, students using simSchool have shown increased confidence and improved teaching skills.

Defense scholarship

Jeff Helstad, a materials science and engineering undergraduate student and a soldier in the National Guard, earned a \$25,000 Department of Defense scholarship that will support his research to develop new materials that add longevity to the current

fleet of fighter aircraft.

Helstad is one of 11 materials science students in the nation to earn the prestigious Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation scholarship.

He will spend his senior year working with UNT's Institute for Science and Engineering Simulation team, which works with the U.S. Air Force to extend the life of its aging aircraft.

After graduation, he will work for the Air Force Research Laboratories in Dayton, Ohio. His award is provided by the Naval Postgraduate School and the American Society for Engineering Education.

Exploring the dream

UNT's Honors College and the Fort Worth chapter of I Have a Dream Foundation hosted the eighth annual National Dreamer Conference this summer.

Attending the conference were about 100 high school and middle school students who participate in after-school and summer activities and receive academic tutoring, mentoring and college preparatory work through the foundation.

The foundation empowers children living in low-income areas to pursue higher education and succeed in college.

JOB SKILLS TRAINING

In response to the global economic slowdown and record unemployment rates, UNT recently partnered with the National Business Services Alliance to create job skills training programs, known as the UNT Career Success Programs. The programs were designed to allow individuals to attain skill certifications in high-demand career fields in 12 weeks or less. UNT also partners with area Workforce Solutions Boards to make the programs free for qualified applicants. To learn more, visit www.unt.nbsalliance.com or call 940-565-3487.

GLOBAL CONNECTION

Scholars in Costa Rica

Sophomore Aimee Saldivar had never traveled beyond Mexico and the United States before immersing herself in the Costa Rican culture during the annual Emerald Eagle Scholars Study Abroad program this summer.

During the two-week trip, Saldivar and 14 other scholars explored the Costa Rican rain forest, toured coffee and banana plantations, learned about organic farming and visited an active volcano.

"I'm very excited there are programs like Emerald Eagle Scholars that fund trips such as these for students," says Saldivar, who is majoring in radio/television/film, anthropology and Spanish.

"For me, this was a whole new experience."

The trip is part of a senior-level biology course

focusing on environmentally sustainable development. The scholars explored global warming and the Kyoto agreement while taking part in community service projects.

This is the second year scholars have participated in the study abroad program.

Last year, 15 scholars traveled to Thailand to learn about sustainable development, environmental ethics and emergency and disaster management.

Read the students' firsthand accounts from Costa Rica at northtexan.unt.edu.



Mona Hicks

Emerald Eagles Scholar Lauren Doxley planted a tree in a service-learning project at Finca La Bella, a 122-acre cooperative farm in San Luis de Monteverde, Puntarenas, in Costa Rica.



Jonathan Reynolds

Honorary degree

Leon Breeden (left), Professor Emeritus of music who directed the jazz studies program and the One O’Clock Lab Band from 1959 to 1981, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from UNT at the 2009 summer commencement ceremonies.

Under Breeden’s guidance, the jazz studies program — the first of its kind in the country — rose to interna-

tional prominence. Before he stepped down, the lab bands had received almost 50 national awards for group and individual performances.

A respected clarinetist, saxophonist, arranger and composer, Breeden has earned numerous accolades, including being inducted into the National Association of Jazz Educators Hall of Fame in 1985.

Ask an Expert

How do you reduce stress once the vacation’s over?

Coming back to the hustle and bustle of a busy life can seem daunting after a relaxing summer vacation. But long days and a demanding schedule don’t have to be stressful, says Karen Cogan, assistant professor of psychology.

“A lot of people don’t want to come back from their vacation because of the hecticness of their lives, but if you can have a little time to transition, that can be helpful,” says Cogan, a sports psychologist who traveled to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing to counsel the U.S. taekwondo team and attended previous Olympics with the moguls ski team.

Cogan draws on her professional experience and research to offer valuable tips on minimizing stress while easing back into a hectic routine:

Transition

- Take an extra day after the vacation to organize things at home.
- Have realistic expectations about the productivity level of the first few days back.
- Set a specific timeframe for completing tasks that have accumulated while you were gone before diving into the usual schedule.

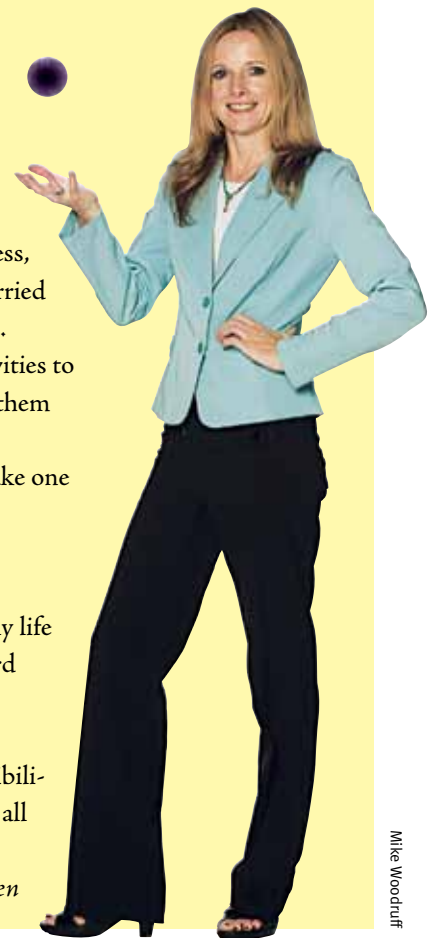
Soothing exercises

- Step away from work, close your eyes and take a few deep breaths. While this is not a cure-all remedy for eliminating stress, it will help ease tension carried in the muscles, Cogan says.
- Tailor stress-relieving activities to your lifestyle and practice them regularly.
- Go easy on yourself and take one task at a time.

Balance

- Take time to manage family life and work life, and safeguard scheduled personal time.
- Negotiate time for family members to share responsibilities so no one person does all the work.

— Elizabeth Knighten



Mike Woodruff

YEAR OF SERVICE

More than 800 students and 100 faculty, staff and alumni have logged 4,600 hours of service helping countless communities as part of UNT's MLK Year of Service through the end of July. Giving back has long been a UNT tradition, but during 2009-10, the university is spotlighting its community members' good works. The goal is to transform Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and teachings into actual community service that helps solve social problems.

Presidential honors

For the second year in a row, Marcelo Ostria, a senior international studies and political science major, was honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award from the White House. Ostria was nominated by the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. The award recognizes exemplary citizenship through volunteering and inspiring others to volunteer.

A student in UNT's Honors College, Ostria is president of UNT UNICEF and was a finalist for a Harry S. Truman Scholarship. He also was selected to the 2009 All-USA College Academic Third Team by *USA Today*, the first UNT undergraduate selected by the newspaper to a college academic team.

Digitizing newspapers

UNT's work to digitize historic Texas newspapers is expanding. Newspaper pages from 1860 to 1922 soon will be part of an Internet-based, searchable database in the Library of Congress, thanks to an additional two-year grant of \$399,790 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the UNT Libraries.

UNT is the only Texas partner to receive NEH funding for the National Digital Newspaper Program, "Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers." ●



The UNT-decorated truck of fan and parent Troy Crosson is a tailgating attraction. The UNT Alumni Association will use it at pregame parties this fall.

UNT Alumni Association

In the spirit of Mean Green pride and fall football, the UNT Alumni Association is taking its tailgating festivities, Alumni GameDay Grille, to a new level.

Teaming with Athletics and the Crosson family, Alumni GameDay Grille will use the family's decked-out Mean Green 18-wheeler — complete with a pop-up awning and big screen TV. Troy Crosson, whose daughter is a UNT sophomore, donated the use of his UNT-decorated Peterbilt tractor trailer truck last year.

Tailgating festivities at home games, including food and promotional give-aways, will begin three hours prior to kickoff near Fouts Field, adjacent to Mean Green Village, and wrap up 30 minutes before game time.

"We're excited about partnering with the Crosson family and Athletics to build on last year's Alumni GameDay Grille concept by bringing it into the heart of the activity between Mean Green Village and tailgating," says Derrick P. Morgan, UNT Alumni Association executive director. "The truck will make an outstanding addition to our pregame parties, and the grille will be a terrific spot for alumni, students and friends to connect with one another."

Visit the association's calendar at www.untalumni.com for complete details and to RSVP.



To join the association or learn more, visit www.untalumni.com, e-mail alumni@unt.edu or call 940-565-2834.

UNT alumni use creativity to tap into America's consciousness

Redefining Culture

by ERNESTINE BOUSQUET

BEFORE SHE BECAME A GOTHIC LITERARY ICON, ANNE RICE was a college student in Denton, soaking up a world of new experiences.

While Rice (then known as Anne O'Brien) and her future husband, Stan, briefly attended North Texas in the early 1960s, they listened to the lab band and hung out with fellow students who were writers, artists and musicians.

"It was a wonderful atmosphere of creativity," she says. "We really felt like you could do wonderful things, and that was shared by other people."

As a place that breeds creativity, UNT has influenced a number of individuals who have not just gone on to fame, but whose work has left a distinct imprint on popular culture. Rice ushered in a new genre of gothic literature, turning vampires into heroes, and recently has been making a mark in Christian literature. Fellow alum Mickey Jones played drums for Bob Dylan before becoming a recognizable character actor. And Ron English ('84) creates art that turns pop culture on its head.

The university also has been home to other inventive individuals, like *School House Rock* composer Bob Dorough ('49) and "Over the Hedge" illustrator T Lewis ('76). UNT continues to foster creativity and offers students the chance to study its impact through classes such as "Mythic Rhetoric of the American Superhero" and "Pop Music in American Culture."

The university offers the ideal environment to allow students to stretch their minds while tapping into America's cultural consciousness, says Shaun Treat, assistant professor of communication studies who teaches the superhero class.

"UNT provides a learning atmosphere that promotes outside-the-box thinking," he says.

Although popular culture is defined by mass appeal, it shouldn't be discounted, says Lynn Bartholome, longtime member and former president of the Popular Culture Association. After all, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens were pop culture icons of their day, she says.

"Popular culture is a barometer of what's important to us — what we fear, what we love, what we worry about," Bartholome says.

Anne Rice



Anne Rice

For Rice, a girl schooled in the Catholic church, college was a revelation.

"I opened myself up to literature and modern art, things that I was not allowed to explore as a child with a religious upbringing," Rice says.

She started her college career at Texas Woman's University but later studied English at North Texas, joining Stan, who became a well-known poet. The couple married at the home of one of Stan's English professors, Jesse Ritter, before moving to California.

But Denton left such an impression on Rice that it appeared in her novel *The Witching Hour*. It was in California that she wrote her first book, *Interview With the Vampire*, after losing her young daughter to leukemia.

"People responded to its originality, language use and poetic prose," says Rice, adding that the 1976 book wasn't successful until the paperback was released. "Readers also responded to the emotions of characters, despite the fact that they were vampires."

The book catapulted again into the public eye in the 1990s when it was made into a movie starring Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise.

Rice, who has published nearly 30 books, paved the way for vampire-themed fare like the *Twilight* series. After a long detour from faith, she returned to the church in 1998 and decided to write only about Christianity in 2002, the same year Stan died of cancer.

But Rice has not renounced her earlier works, saying the books and characters have a strong moral compass. Vampires are the perfect metaphor for outsiders, she says.

Nor has she conformed to the devotional mold of Christian literature. She continues to write in a modern vein with an exacting eye for historical details. She now is writing a Christian thriller, which, like all her books, is geared for the mainstream.

"I wanted to write really good novels that anyone could pick up," Rice says.

Mickey Jones

Even by his own admission, Mickey Jones is not a household name. But chances are he's shown up in your household.

He's the surly biker in the *Breath Savers* commercial, the one with the fresh breath that the elderly lady has been enjoying since 96th street. He is the mechanic who bilks Chevy Chase of all his money in *National Lampoon's Vacation*. And he is the guy banging away on the drums on Bob Dylan's *Live 1966* album.

Jones, who started at North Texas in 1959, lived in West Hall and joined Delta Sigma Pi, all the while playing drums in the Trini Lopez band. Bidden by his parents, Jones studied business so he would "have something to fall back on if the music thing didn't happen."

But music did pan out. By 1961, Jones was touring Europe with Lopez. He spent three years with Johnny Rivers of "Secret Agent Man" fame before ending up as drummer for Dylan, playing on the seminal tour in which Dylan clashed with fans over his changing style.

"They hated our guts because Bob was a purist when it came to the folk genre, and for him to pick up an electric guitar and start playing rock and roll — we got booed," Jones says.

Later, Jones played with Kenny Rogers and the First Edition at a time when the band turned down Woodstock.

After 17 gold and platinum albums and nearly 40 trips around the world, Jones became an actor. He has since become instantly recognizable, with biker roles in films such as *Sling Blade* and a standing role as Pete Bilker on the television show *Home Improvement*. People often ask him to recite his famous line from *Vacation*: "All of it, boy."

"It's pretty cool because you know someone has seen your work and thought it was good enough to talk to you about or remember," Jones says.

Mickey Jones



Renée Vernon

Ron English

English crashed his way into popular culture, co-opting billboards and subverting the corporate message to get people to think about what they are consuming.

He got attention during the 2008 presidential campaign when he created his “Abraham Obama” portrait for posters and murals that melded the faces of the presidential icon and the presidential hopeful. The Obama campaign commissioned the piece, though English decided on the image.

He studied photography at UNT with Brent Phelps and Skeet McAuley, faculty who served as his mentors and as role models of working artists. They coaxed the shy artist out of his shell.

For English, college was a springboard from his working class background into the world of art. He approached photography with an artist’s eye, taking photos from unusual perspectives and experimenting with trickery in his landscapes.

“My art wouldn’t be what it was if I hadn’t been a photography student first,” English says.

It was the political activists he later lived with in Austin who made him rethink his billboard art.

“They thought it was interesting that you give away art to the public,” he says. “They said you should use it as a message.”

English is still influenced as much by people around him as he is by his own personal philosophy.

And although he now calls himself a pop artist, he was first turned off by pop art’s superficiality. But in his hands, billboards of Bart Simpson and paintings of Marilyn Monroe are social commentary.

“Pop art can either be art that is popular or art that comments on the popular culture. And at its best, it’s both,” English says. “The role of the artist is not to answer questions, but to ask the questions and to get people to think about things.” ●



Courtesy of Ron English



Find out from these pop culture icons what it takes to be a success at northtexan.unt.edu.

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY.



UNT is exploring America's energy future this year through One Book, One Community, a reading and discussion program for freshman students and the community. Designed to foster enlightened dialogue and challenge students to think critically, the program focuses on literature and books with a clear point of view.

This year's selection, Jeff Goodell's *Big Coal*, provides an opportunity to explore issues meaningful to this generation of students — energy use and its effect on the environment.

Join our forum with the author at 8 p.m. Oct. 6 in UNT's Gateway Center.

Enter to win a copy of Goodell's book by sending an e-mail with "Big Coal" in the subject line to northtexas@unt.edu by Oct. 1.

www.unt.edu/onebook

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Paul Hayashi

CLASSROOM TO CATWALK

In *Project Runway's* new season, Shirin Askari ('08) pits her skills against 15 other design hopefuls.

Read the full interview and find Shirin's fashion do's and don'ts at northtexas.unt.edu.



FRESH FROM EARNING HER FASHION DESIGN degree at UNT, Shirin Askari ('08) is putting her skills and creativity to the test on Lifetime's *Project Runway*. The contestants on the reality competition complete design challenges on tight deadlines for a chance to launch their fashion careers.

Askari says lessons from UNT — in draping, designing and sewing quickly, and handling critiques — came in handy. The Texas Fashion Collection inspired her. Even all-nighters as a student helped. But she encountered one thing she wasn't used to.

"When you're sewing, there is a camera two inches from your hands."

Books

War memorials



Texas is home to many large-scale Civil War monuments — most dedicated to the Confederacy,

but three with a Unionist interpretation of the war. Today, the monuments can be thought of as public art with changing messages, says Kelly McMichael ('01 Ph.D.) in her new book *Sacred Memories: The Civil War Monument Movement in Texas* (Texas State Historical Association).

“Monuments often tell us as much about those who have erected them as those whom they

are about,” she says. “They reflect the values and political agendas projected by the people who were in power, and their message can change over time.”

McMichael, associate director of UNT’s Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment and Redesign, began researching Civil War memorials as a doctoral student in the Department of History.

Jazz and pragmatism

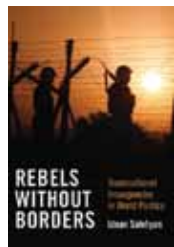


In *The Shadow and the Act: Black Intellectual Practice, Jazz Improvisation and Philosophical*

Pragmatism (University of Chicago Press), Walton M. Muyumba,

associate professor of English, presents authors Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin and Amiri Baraka as a jazz trio. Muyumba demonstrates how the works of the three writers form a series of calls and responses as they use their insights into jazz improvisation to analyze race and politics. He connects their writings to the philosophical tradition of pragmatism, especially through their call for individual freedoms, improvisational political discourse and democratic societies.

Transnational rebels



After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Idean Salehyan, assistant professor of

political science, began researching transnational militant groups. Studying civil wars since 1945, he discovered that a majority of rebel organizations have conducted operations from sanctuaries in neighboring countries.

His new book, *Rebels Without Borders: Transnational Insurgencies in World Politics* (Cornell University Press), examines civil wars and insurgencies throughout the world. In addition to multi-country analyses, he presents extensive case studies on the Nicaraguan civil war of the 1980s and the Rwandan conflict of the 1990s-2000s and looks at other cross-border insurgents, such as Taliban fighters in Pakistan.

The book sheds light on the difficulties of negotiating peace with transnational rebel organiza-

Overcoming it all

As a junior in her Lewisville high school, popular Andrea Buchanan ('90) wanted to become a fashion model. As a senior, she wanted to become invisible.

The effects of an undiagnosed thyroid disease left the 17-year-old with a goiter, protruding eyes, a 30-pound weight gain and some painful high school memories.

Today, a now healthy Buchanan is a noted documentary producer, writer and director whose resume includes VH-1’s award-winning *Behind the Music* series. She shares her story of overcoming adversity and col-

lected the stories of other successful women in her first book, *Note to Self: 30 Women on Hardship, Humiliation, Heartbreak and Overcoming It All* (Simon Spotlight Entertainment).

“My focus is on women and helping them feel empowered,” she says. “I think people relate to these stories.”

Among the contributors are singer Sheryl Crow and actresses Mariska Hargitay, Camryn Manheim and Kathy Najimy. Thirteen-year-old Maisie McInerney, daughter of writer Jay McInerney, writes of an illness she overcame. And Dallas’ Sue Sandford tells how taking in a family of Katrina survivors changed her life.

After graduating from UNT, Buchanan packed her car and drove to California where an older sister lived. Soon, her career took off.

In addition to her work with VH-1, she has written and co-directed a short film with actress Jennifer Aniston, followed Crow on tour, flown over volcanoes and tracked grizzly bears.

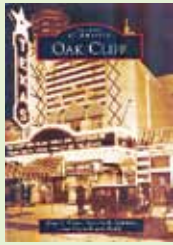
Also high on her list of memorable experiences was the day this spring she returned to her high school to share her message of empowerment.

“The students really listened to what I had to say and were even asking for my autograph,” she says.

“It was a full-circle moment.”



Thomas Krauss



Notable alumni

UNT alumni who've made names for themselves are featured in two recent books by alumni. Gayla Brooks Kokel ('69) co-wrote *Oak Cliff* (Arcadia Publishing), which tells the history of the Dallas community through more than 200 vintage and recent photographs. Included are some famous

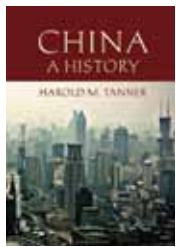
former North Texas students who were graduates of Oak Cliff's Adamson High School: singers Michael Martin Murphey and Ray Wylie Hubbard and Grammy-winning opera tenor Hank Price ('69). UNT at Dallas also gets a mention.

In *The Ticket Full Disclosure: The Completely True Story of the Marconi-winning Little Ticket, a.k.a., The Station That Got Your Mom to Say "Stay Hard"* (BenBella Books), Scott Boyter ('93) covers the history and the personalities of the Dallas-Fort Worth sports radio station, which is celebrating 15 years on the air. George Dunham ('88) and Craig Miller ('88), who met as freshmen in West Hall, lead the morning show.



tions and outlines strategies for dealing with the groups.

History of China



The political, social and cultural development of Chinese civilization is explored in

Harold M. Tanner's latest book, *China: A History* (Hackett Publishing).

Focusing on the ethnic diversity of early empires, the country's interaction with other civilizations and its transformation into a modern nation-state, Tanner chronicles the development of the world's most populous nation.

The associate professor of history has traveled extensively in China and lived in Beijing while studying at the Beijing Languages

Institute and Beijing University. He teaches courses on Chinese history and U.S.-China diplomatic relations.

Dance and Theatre

Costume sale

Wow your friends at Halloween with costumes and accessories from the Department of Dance and Theatre. Proceeds from the public sale Oct. 23 and 24 in the Radio, TV, Film and Performing Arts Building benefit the department.

Shoppers will find a variety of clothing from different time periods, hats, jewelry, belts, bags and shoes. Items range in price from about 5 cents to \$100.

For more information, visit www.danceandtheatre.unt.edu, e-mail data@unt.edu or call 940-565-2428 or 940-565-2211.

Upcoming Events



The **Annual Faculty and Staff Exhibition** showcases works in all media by the artists working in the College of Visual Arts and Design (including *Flight II*, left, mezzotint by Lari Gibbons, associate professor of studio art).

The exhibit runs Oct. 6-24 in the

UNT Art Gallery. For details, visit www.gallery.unt.edu, e-mail gallery@unt.edu or call 940-565-4005.

The Department of Dance and Theatre presents an unusual love story and tribute to Vincent Van Gogh in **Vincent in Brixton** Nov. 6-8 and 11-14 in the Studio Theatre in the Radio, Television, Film and Performing Arts Building. Box office hours are 1 to 5 p.m. weekly. For more information and the full fall schedule, visit www.danceandtheatre.unt.edu or call 940-565-2428.

Roger Staubach is the keynote speaker at the **2009 Annual Leadership Luncheon** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Dallas Hilton Anatole. Proceeds from the luncheon, the Murphy Center for Entrepreneurship's primary fundraiser, are used for scholarships, awards and center programs. For information, e-mail murphycenter@unt.edu, visit www.murphycenter.unt.edu or call 940-565-2848.

This fall, **Murchison Performing Arts Center** concert-goers can enjoy music from Korea, New Zealand, Spain and Romania sung by the A Cappella Choir, performances of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* by UNT Opera and the work of soloist Christoph Hammer with the Baroque Orchestra and Collegium Singers. For the full music schedule and ticket information, visit www.music.unt.edu/calendar.

See the inside back cover for more upcoming events, and visit calendar.unt.edu.

Michael Garcia ('07)



World Saxophone Congress

The One O'Clock Lab Band performed at one of the world's largest gatherings of professional, amateur and student saxophonists — the 15th World Saxophone Congress — in July at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. Soloists James Carter and Brad Leali ('99), assistant professor of music (left), joined the band

for its featured jazz performance. The congress, which takes place about every three years, allows saxophonists to attend, present and share music, ideas and techniques. The event marks the band's first international performance under new director Steve Wiest ('88 M.M.).

Music

Crested Butte



UNT College of Music faculty members, along with students and alumni, were among the artists contributing their talents to the annual Crested Butte Music Festival this summer in Crested Butte, Colo.

Linda Di Fiore, Regents Professor of music, oversaw UNT's production of "Bernstein on Broadway," a revue of musical hits from composer Leonard Bernstein performed and directed by UNT students. John Murphy ('84, '86 M.M.), professor and chair of jazz studies, directed the UNT Jazz Septet formed exclusively for this year's festival (pictured above in front of Mount Crested Butte). And Terri Sundberg, associate professor

and chair of instrumental studies, played the flute in the Crested Butte Festival Orchestra's symphonic and opera concerts.

Argentine musicologists

Bernardo Illari, associate professor of music, and Malena Kuss, Professor Emeritus of music, have been named two of the most important musicologists of the last decade (1999-2008) by the Konex Foundation, which recognizes the work of Argentines in culture and the arts. Illari and Kuss are two of six Argentine musicologists receiving the award in the classical music category at a Sept. 10 ceremony in Buenos Aires.

Illari is a specialist in Latin American music from the colonial and early national periods. Before joining UNT in 2001, he held academic appointments in Argentina and Spain. Kuss, a leading expert in operas by Latin Americans and a specialist in 20th-century music, began teaching at UNT in 1976 and retired in 1999. She is known internationally for her research on the Argentine composer Alberto Ginastera.

Guggenheim Fellowship



Chuck Owen ('76), Distinguished University Professor of

Jazz Studies at the University of South Florida and founding and artistic director of the USF Center for Jazz Composition, is the recipient of a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship for 2009. The award will support his work to compose a Double Concerto for Saxophone, Guitar and Orchestra. He plans to record the work as part of a CD that will include other compositions and arrangements for orchestra.

In August, Owen and the Jazz Surge, the resident jazz orchestra at the Center for Jazz Composition, released *The Comet's Tail: Playing the Compositions of Michael Brecker* (MAMA Records). The CD pays homage to the compositions of the celebrated saxophonist, who died in 2007, and features some of his longtime collaborators as guest artists.

Mariachi camp

Students in the sixth through 12th grades got a sneak peek at college life while honing their skills at UNT's mariachi camp this summer. The camp, hosted by the College of Music, brings together intermediate- and advanced-level students from throughout North Texas school districts to practice singing or playing the trumpet, violin, guitar, vihuela or guitarrón. A long-term goal is to increase the students' interest in attending college.

The camp gave participants

the opportunity to interact with accomplished UNT student and alumni mariachi groups. Teaching the classes were bilingual instructors who are music education majors or members of the Mariachi Águilas, a UNT student group, or the Mariachi Quetzal, a professional music group consisting of UNT students and alumni.

Donna Emmanuel, associate professor of music, and Steve Prouty ('90 M.S.), who holds a doctor of psychology degree, developed leadership workshops for the UNT student instructors.

Television and Film

Philip's Shadow



Duane Michaels, PNF Archives

A 1960s counterculture figure who lived with Andy Warhol is the subject of *Philip's Shadow*, a documentary-in-progress by Philip R. Fagan ('02).

Fagan, who studied film, literature and theatre at UNT, was awarded a 2008 Texas Filmmakers Production Fund grant to work on the documentary, which explores the life of his late uncle, Philip Norman Fagan (above left, with Warhol). He says his uncle, in addition to collaborating with Warhol and other notable artists, was an international motorcycle speed champion and a world-class adventurer.

Fagan also is writing a book on the subject and is teaching film studies at Austin Community College. He has completed two other feature-length films as well as several shorts and performance pieces. At UNT, he received a screenwriting award for his feature-length script *Little Moses' World Famous Travelling Funfare & Playhouse*.

Visual Arts

Photography in Oaxaca

Two UNT photography students studied with award-winning photographer Mary Ellen Mark during a 10-day workshop for 12 photographers this summer in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Liss LaFleur, who incorporates sound and still-life animation into her photography, layered a series of sequence shots with natural sound

and voices of people in Oaxaca. Cara Michelle Smith focused on black-and-white street photography and portraiture.

Mark's work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Life* and *Vanity Fair*.

Combat artist



Before coming to UNT to teach in 1969, Don Schol, now a professor of studio art, headed a team of Army combat artists

traveling through Vietnam to document the war through their art. Black-and-white woodblock prints from his Vietnam Suite, later inspired by his wartime experiences, were on exhibit this summer at Photographs Do Not Bend in Dallas (including the *Either/Or* woodcut print on rice paper, left).

The gallery is co-owned by Burt Finger, one of Schol's first students at North Texas and a fellow Vietnam veteran. Visit northtexas.unt.edu/culture for a *Dallas Morning News* video in which Schol talks about his experiences and his art.

Silent art auction

When communication design professor Jack Sprague retired from UNT this spring, he turned his party into an opportunity to

help students by raising money for scholarships in the College of Visual Arts and Design. A silent auction of his photography and artwork benefited the Jack Sprague Communication Design Scholarship Fund.

Sprague has been a member of the communication design faculty at UNT since 1990 and served as the program coordinator for 14 years. His awards have included the Dallas Society of Visual Communications' 2008 Golden Orchard Award, a national lifetime achievement award for design education.

He owns and serves as educational director of The Smart Center in Santa Fe, N.M.

To learn more about the fund, contact Eva James Toia at (940) 565-4026 or eva.toia@unt.edu. ●



awards are presented annually by American Women in Radio and Television.

The documentary from the Dallas-Fort Worth public television station, which uses interviews and archival footage to tell interesting stories from Texas communities, has another UNT connection. The segment "Mighty Mites" features the underdog high school football team of the Masonic Home and School in Fort Worth, which tied Corsicana in the 1932 state championship game under coach Rusty Russell. Three Masonic Home boys who went on to North Texas appear in the segment: Doug Lord ('50), who played football under Russell in the early 1940s; Bruce Riddle ('61), who lived at the Masonic Home in the 1940s; and C.B. Sealey ('48), who played on the 1940 team.

Nowhere But Texas 2

The KERA-TV documentary series *Nowhere But Texas 2*, co-produced by radio/television/film alumna Therese Powell ('91 M.A.), received top honors from the national Gracie Awards this summer. The segment "High Hopes," about Women Air Force Service Pilots training in Sweetwater, won in the "portrait/biography" and "outstanding special" categories and garnered an award for its director. The



Bruce Riddle (at right in photo on left) and Doug Lord (above center, with helmet) are two North Texas alumni featured in the "Mighty Mites" segment of KERA's *Nowhere But Texas 2*.



A Matthews family reunion in Marquis Hall in the 1960s. Right: J.C. Matthews' ('25) North Texas mortar board.

A Family Tradition

Alumni span generations, pass along university legacy and pride

by RANDENA HULSTRAND

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AMES "JIM" LANEY ('79, '82 M.Ed.), PROFESSOR OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION AT UNT, CARRIES MORE THAN HIS GRANDFATHER'S NAME AND STATELY STATURE. THE FAMILY PHOTOS AND TEACHING CERTIFICATES OF FORMER NORTH TEXAS PRESIDENT JAMES CARL MATTHEWS HANGING IN LANEY'S OFFICE SHOW THAT LOVE FOR EDUCATION AND UNT LONG HAS BEEN A FAMILY AFFAIR.

AND OTHER FAMILIES' PRIDE RUNS JUST AS DEEP. MORE THAN 25 FAMILY MEMBERS OF LEAH WOODRUFF HATFIELD ('77) ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY THROUGH FOUR GENERATIONS. THE SCRAPBOOKS CHRONICLING HER PARENTS' COURTSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY HAVE HELPED HER UNDERSTAND WHY.

FAMILY PATRIARCH AND BUSINESSMAN CECIL "ZEKE" MARTIN ('51, '51 M.Ed.) ALWAYS CREDITED THE UNIVERSITY FOR HIS SUCCESS, EVEN NAMING HIS BUSINESS VENTURES MEAN GREEN GROCERY AND MARTIN EAGLE OIL Co. HIS SONS AND SEVERAL GRANDCHILDREN RUN THE FAMILY BUSINESS AND CARRY ON THE FAMILY TRADITION OF GREEN PRIDE.

THE ELDEST OF FOUR CHILDREN OF NIGERIAN IMMIGRANTS, CYNTHIA UDUEBOR ('00) PAVED THE WAY FOR HER YOUNGER BROTHERS TO JOIN UNT. THE UNIVERSITY NOT ONLY HELPED HER ACHIEVE A CHILDHOOD DREAM OF BECOMING AN ATTORNEY, BUT ALSO PROPELLED HER THREE BROTHERS FORWARD AND HELPED THEIR FAMILY THROUGH LOSS.

UNT's journey from a teachers training college to a major research university has been a 119-year evolution that belongs to thousands. Intertwined with the history of its alumni, the university's legacy encompasses their personal milestones. College years are filled with self discovery as students build friendships, fall in love and pursue dreams. And as alumni continue their lives and grow families, the

university often remains home — part of a heritage steeped with tradition and powerful legacies that reach across generations and span accomplishment and heartbreak.

"As I've grown older, I've realized how important my family history is and how North Texas has played such a big part," Leah says. "For many of us and our family members, North Texas is a way of life."

Links in the chain

In 1920, J.C. Matthews ('25) left his family's peanut farm in Thalia, yearning to pursue a teaching degree. With the welcome handshake from then-university president W.H. Bruce at the train depot, Matthews' life at North Texas had begun.

After graduation, he married classmate Rena Mae Waggoner ('25) and spent nearly 60 years — as a student, teacher,



Jonathan Reynolds

The Matthews family on the steps of the Hurley Administration Building, (from left) Joan Matthews Flowers, Betty Sharp Matthews ('50), Jim Laney ('79, '82 M.Ed.), Sam Laney ('51 M.B.A.), Jordan Laney, Mark Laney ('80), Janet Matthews Wyrick ('56), Will Matthews ('99 M.Ed.) and Amy Foraker Matthews ('07 M.Ed.). Below: J.C. Matthews ('25) (left) as a student in the 1920s.

administrator, father and grandfather — creating educational opportunities at North Texas. During Matthews' senior year, the 1925 *Yucca* senior class page dedication fortuitously read: "... We are a distinct link in the chain, and we shall never break faith with our Alma Mater. We look with admiration on the classes which have preceded us, and anticipate achievements of glory for those which shall follow us."

The university embraced Matthews, shaping his career and family. He was director of the Demonstration School, North Texas' first dean of education and later vice president. In 1952, Matthews was named the university's eighth president and served 16 years.

His legacy includes implementing the first doctoral education program in 1951, overseeing racial desegregation in the 1950s and sustaining a passion for education in three more generations —

three children, 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, as well as numerous other extended family members. His sons, Lester ('48) and Kenneth ('65), and daughter, Maydell ('52), called North Texas home.

"The campus was my playground," says Kenneth, who explored the children's section of Voertman's Bookstore and rode his bike to listen to practicing music students. "I didn't know what I had until I left."

As students at the Demonstration School and the college, Matthews' children were products of their father's commitment to education and started their own families at North Texas. Lester and Maydell each met their spouses — Betty Sharp ('50) and Sam Laney ('51 M.B.A.), descendants of other North Texas families — on campus. A 1953 June wedding reception for Maydell and Sam in Marquis Hall began a long





*“We are a distinct link in the chain,
and we shall never break faith with our
Alma Mater.” — 1925 Yucca senior class dedication*

tradition of family reunions and holiday celebrations on campus, mostly in the old President’s House.

Jim Laney, Sam and Maydell’s son, says he and Mark, his twin brother, roamed their grandparents’ home and the campus during visits — going to ball games with “Papa,” who always wore a three-piece suit and smelled of peppermints, and playing in “Mamo’s” gardens.

“We cut our teeth at the President’s House,” he says.

Mark Laney (’80), a pediatric neurologist serving as president and CEO of Heartland Health in St. Joseph, Mo., modeled his career after that of his Uncle Kenneth, a pediatrician in College Station who serves on the board of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

“I used to follow him around, reading his science books when he was in college,” Mark says, adding that the university and President Matthews were integral to

their lives growing up. “My grandfather was a very wise and thoughtful man, telling wonderful stories that illustrated learning points.”

Yet, teaching wasn’t just the domain of President Matthews. After following her father and earning her education degree, Maydell taught first grade in Denton for more than 35 years.

“My mother could have taught any student to read,” Jim says. “I knew from a young age that I, too, wanted to be a teacher and that I wanted to teach at the college level.”

In addition to educators Maydell and Jim, Lester’s daughter, Janet Wyrick (’56), is a principal in Killeen. And Kenneth’s son and daughter-in-law live and teach in Denton. Will Matthews (’99 M.Ed.) and Amy Foraker Matthews (’07 M.Ed.) studied for their graduate degrees in Matthews Hall, named for Will’s grandfather.

From top: Woodruff family memorabilia; President J.C. Matthews (’25) with son, Kenneth (’65) at Fouts Field in 1951; Leah Woodruff Hatfield’s North Texas graduation in 1977.

Right: The Woodruff family (from left) W.B. Woodruff Jr., Mary Louise Woodruff (’52 M.A.), Leah Woodruff Hatfield (’77), Rebekah Jameson (’02), Bryan Hatfield (’07) and Nannette Woodruff Williams.



Mike Woodruff



Angilee Wilkerson

Natalie Hammack Woodruff ('51) with pieces of university memorabilia and three generations of Woodruff family class rings.

Roots run deep

While the Matthews family may be one of a few North Texas families who literally grew up on campus, they are not alone in having deep university roots. After Natalie Hammack Woodruff ('51) passed away two years ago, Leah retrieved boxes of her mother's mementos and scrapbooks packed with faded green pennants, Homecoming programs, letters and photos.

"I knew I had to find my mother's wedding gown and my parents' class rings," Leah says, holding the gold North Texas rings together tight in her hand.

For Leah, North Texas memories are intertwined with her family history, and spending time on campus keeps her close to them. A UNT Alumni Association board member, she volunteers at commencements because she loves listening to graduates' stories and sharing her own.

"With the pride our family has for

North Texas, it's just something I'm supposed to do," she says.

Natalie, a member of the Green Jackets, Meritum and Mary Arden Club and a class officer for two years, wrote weekly letters to her parents on school stationery. She detailed her college life, including her first date with Jack "Ace" Woodruff ('51), a member of the Geezles. A later letter home would announce their engagement.

Leah's great aunt, Grace Woodruff Cartwright ('29), was the first female member of the university's board of regents and a UNT Distinguished Alumna. Cartwright, who died in 2003, was initiated into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame for Horticulture in 1985.

"Grace was the matriarch of the family and a strong role model," Leah says. "She was a forward-looking woman."

Cartwright was one of 10 children — four who attended North Texas in the 1920s. As chair of buildings and grounds

at North Texas, she placed hundreds of trees around Fouts Field, transplanted from her ranch in Parker County, and brought stones to create a rock garden between Willis Library and the Music Building. The adjacent Grace Cartwright Library Plaza serves as a gathering place for student picnics, fairs, concerts and an occasional wedding engagement.

Collecting memorabilia for her Mean Green room in her Dallas home, Leah keeps school spirit alive for her family. She's attended nearly every football game since 1987, raising her son, Bryan Ross Hatfield ('07), on Mean Green football since he was 4.

Bryan, a Talons member like his dad Scott Hatfield ('77), lived in Kerr Hall, just as his mother did.

"It's amazing that so many of my family members found their home at UNT," Bryan says. "It gives me a great sense of pride that I'm walking in their footsteps."



Angilee Wilkerson



Angilee Wilkerson

Love of an eagle

Like Grace Cartwright, Cecil “Zeke” Martin left behind a love for all things green that still flows through his family.

One of seven brothers growing up in Denton, five who attended North Texas, Martin played basketball, tennis and football, receiving all-conference honors as a quarterback three seasons in a row and playing in the 1948 Salad Bowl. In 1989, he was inducted into the UNT Athletic Hall of Fame.

Before his passing in 2006, he was an active member of the UNT Lettermen’s Association and founded the Zeke Martin Letterman Golf Classic, a UNT scholarship fundraising effort.

But his dedication to UNT surpassed sports.

“Everything was North Texas. He loved UNT,” says his son, Gary Martin, who attended North Texas in the 1970s along with his brother, Steve. “He would say if North Texas hadn’t given him a scholarship, he wouldn’t have amounted to anything.”

After marrying college sweetheart Bettye Lassiter Martin (’49) in 1950, Zeke played professionally for the Canadian Football League’s Hamilton Tigers before returning home to coach at Denton High School. He eventually served as Denton mayor in the late 1960s and helped get Interstate 35 expanded west to Fort Worth.

Married for 57 years, Bettye and Zeke built their home on Bonnie Brae Street, yards from today’s newest athletic facilities.

“Zeke was so proud of how the sports facilities have grown,” says Bettye, who still plays weekly bridge games in her home with friends she met at North Texas more than 50 years ago. “North Texas was so good to us.”

Zeke opened his first gas station on the corner of Highland Street and Avenue C. At the same location, he ran Mean Green Grocery and Zeke’s Drive-in, a hamburger shack catering to students in the 1960s. Martin Eagle Oil Co. still is soaring 50 years later under the direction of his sons and grandchildren.

Following in Zeke’s footsteps, both Gary and Steve grew up cheering at Mean Green games and played intramural athletics during college. Kris Martin, Gary’s son and Zeke’s oldest grandson, works in commercial sales at Eagle Oil and met his recent bride, Mandy Rainbolt Martin (’08), at UNT.

“It’s an honor to follow what my grandfather, dad and uncle have done,” he says.

Zeke’s office is still intact, filled with his treasures: photos of his family, trophies and newspaper clippings detailing sports highlights, community volunteer awards and more than 35 eagle statues.

“North Texas made him,” Steve says.

Leading by example

After immigrating to New York from Nigeria, Cynthia Uduebor’s family moved frequently but eventually found their way to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Cynthia attended six elementary schools and three high schools but graduated early at 16 and transferred to UNT from a community college a year later.

A resident assistant and one of the first UNT Eagle Ambassadors, she helped plan the first Diversity Day on campus.

“UNT is where I discovered myself. I blossomed here,” says Cynthia, who continued on to Duke Law School to



Left: Cecil “Zeke” Martin’s (’51, ’51 M.Ed.) North Texas Athletic Hall of Fame ring amid memorabilia and his five grandsons, all wearing his North Texas jersey No. 43.

Below: The Martin family at the 2009 Zeke Martin Letterman Golf Classic in June, (from left) Steve Martin II, Blake Martin, Mike Martin, David Martin, Steve Martin, Debbie Martin, Mandy Rainbolt Martin (’08), Judy Martin, Gary Martin and Kris Martin.

become a labor and employment law attorney. “UNT is so diverse, not just ethnically, but religiously and culturally. There are so many ways you can be involved. You can really do things here.”

Like their older sister, Otis (’06) and Valentine (’08) seized opportunities at UNT to become resident assistants and

student leaders. Otis was crowned Homecoming King in 2005.

Suffering from sickle cell disease since childhood, Otis beat the odds of surviving past 5 years old. Through his activities at UNT, he gave speeches to create awareness about the disease and planned to create a national campaign for

education and research after his 2006 graduation. But a year after receiving his diploma, he died from the illness.

Today, all of the Uduebors are the caretakers of the Otis Uduebor Sickle Cell Foundation, their brother’s dream organization, with Cynthia serving as president.



Michael Clements



Jonathan Reynolds

The Uduebor family in the Hurley Administration Building, (from left) Valentine Uduebor ('08), Cynthia Uduebor ('00) and Lovett Uduebor with a photo of their brother, Otis ('06).

“Otis was making a difference for sickle cell, and now he’s passed the torch on to me,” says Cynthia, who scaled back her law practice and volunteer work — except her role on the UNT Alumni Association board — to run the foundation. “The commitment to the association is important. I have the opportunity to help shape alumni, the future and our legacy of UNT.”

And the Uduebor tradition at UNT lives on. Lovett, the youngest sibling, created the first student organization for sickle cell as a freshman last year.

The spirit lives on

Keeping family ties alive at UNT is important to all of the families as they preserve the tradition of what the university means to them. An education scholarship named for Rena Mae and J.C. Matthews set a Matthews family precedent. Lester and Betty became members of the President’s Council giving society, and Sam established a scholarship in his wife’s name after she died in 2005.

“I knew how Maydell felt about this scholarship,” he says. “We couldn’t have pleased her more.”

The Matthews twins continue to develop opportunities for learning for UNT students. Mark helped build clinical rotations for third- and fourth-year UNT Health Science Center medical students at Cook Children’s Medical Center. And Jim now serves as assistant chair for initial certification in the Department of Teacher Education and Administration.

Pride continues to run deep in the Woodruff family. As a Mean Green season ticket holder, Leah

shares her parents' school spirit and is carrying on her Aunt Grace's commitment to providing top-rate facilities for UNT by serving on the alumni association's ad hoc stadium committee.

"Grace was involved when Fouts Field was built in 1952, and now I'm helping too," says Leah, adding that her aunt also endowed several academic scholarships.

From one generation to the next, UNT families are growing tradition-rich lineages with each new family member adding to the North Texas legacy. Their ties are the strength of UNT's history and the promise of the brightest future.

"UNT has so much to offer," Valentine Uduebor says. "When I have kids, UNT is definitely someplace I'll want them to attend."

As Leah mingles with new alumni at commencement, she encourages them to venture out into the world and create remarkable lives. She also urges them always to remember their alma mater.

"Somewhere down the road in your life, this place will whisper to you," she says. "And you need to listen." ●



Above: J.C. Matthews' memorabilia.

Below: Otis Uduebor's crowning as UNT Homecoming King in 2005.



Online Exclusive

Clarence and Mary Ellen Standley Wood ('52) (left) passed on musical talent and a passion for UNT to their children — Christie Wood ('78), Candis Wood Hanson ('80) and the late Standley Wood.

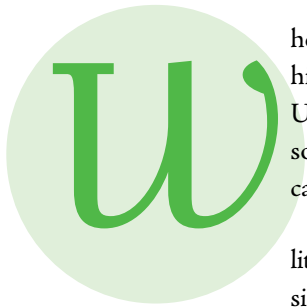
Watch a video and read the Wood family story online at northtexan.unt.edu to learn how music and UNT have inspired their careers and shaped their lives.

John Bramblitt

by MEGAN BECK

“I see with my hands and am able to take in a lot more information,” he says. “I think I have an advantage because I’m completely there, touching the model, asking questions and getting an emotional response.”

During the past eight years, Bramblitt has



When John Bramblitt ('07) completely lost his vision during his freshman year at UNT in 2001, he turned to painting, sometimes spending 16 hours a day at a canvas in addition to attending classes.

“I started to understand the world a little better and think through the depression and frustration,” says Bramblitt, who has battled epilepsy since he was a toddler and believes seizures destroyed his vision. “It forced me to step outside myself and start living in the moment.”

The idea of drawing seemed ridiculous at first, he says, but expressing himself on a canvas was easier at the time than dealing with the three-dimensional world.

“When I paint, I can’t think of anything else — not the next brushstroke, bills I have to pay or a seizure from that morning,” he says.

Using white paint, Bramblitt first draws an outline, then feels his way across the raised edges to paint each color. Most of his works are created with oil paint because each color varies in consistency — he says white is thicker and creamier than black.

“Every emotion I had and thing I touched started to have color because it reminded me of a color I painted with,” he says.

Among his subjects are musicians and animals. He says he drew a lot of dogs before getting his guide dog, Echo. He also arranged a meeting with skateboarder Tony Hawk just to study his face for a painting.

created more than 100 paintings, which have sold in 20 countries. The 2008 CAP awards, a Dutch program honoring the achievements of individuals with disabilities, commissioned him to paint Dutch model Reni de Boer, and the prime minister honored his work.

Bramblitt and his wife, Jacqi Serie ('02), production director for the *North Texas Daily* campus newspaper, celebrated the birth of their first child, Jack, in March 2008. The family travels around the country, hosting and teaching workshops for blind and sighted children, adults and artists.

Bramblitt, whose once daily seizures have drastically reduced in number and severity, credits his perseverance to graduate to the staff in UNT’s Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program. The program guides undergraduate students into graduate study.

“They are brilliant. If not for the constant encouragement of Diana Elrod and Judy Morris when I was losing my sight, I would have dropped out of school,” he says.

Instead, Bramblitt is planning to return to UNT for graduate school. And he had his first flying lesson this summer as part of a long-term plan to use colored smoke to create abstract art in the air.

“I’m obsessed with painting,” he says. “In expressing myself, connecting with people, it’s become the way I see the world.” ●

One of the last things John Bramblitt saw before losing his eyesight was the detail of Saturn’s rings in a UNT astronomy lab. Then, he found a new way to explore the world. He began to paint.



Angilee Wilkerson

**John
Bramblitt ('07)**
Denton



What I studied at UNT:

English, creative writing, non-profit studies

Definition of success:

Being able to do what you want to do

Superhero I'd want to be:

Batman, because he has the utility belt. He's just a regular guy who thinks up solutions to all the problems.

Advice to new students:

Have an open mind

What I do besides paint:

I'm learning to play the bass guitar (my studio has 11 speakers and two subwoofers), and I'm in the process of writing a book.

Best reaction to my paintings:

People have cried in front of them.

Visit northtexan.unt.edu

to read more of Bramblitt's answers and learn how he spends his days.



Q
|
and
A



Rick Yeatts

UNT's Mean Green softball team

Mean Green champions

UNT student-athletes are national champions — for the second consecutive year — of the annual Gender Equity Scorecard released by Penn State York.

UNT's second national top-place finish on the Gender Equity Scorecard marks the third straight year the university topped the Sun Belt Conference. UNT also was the only school in the conference to receive an A+.

The scorecard, which measures the commitment of 115 NCAA Division I colleges to gender equity, grades colleges based on participation, scholarships, operating expenses, recruitment budgets and coaches' salaries.

"This award is a credit to the commitment we have made to the development of women's athletic programs," says Rick Villarreal, athletics director.

Since 2002, UNT has added 10 new facilities, including courts, fields and an academic center, to help student-athletes excel.

No bad seats in the house

UNT's new football stadium will transform the Mean Green game-day experience — and underscore UNT's status as a high-quality, comprehensive university.

Crowds of more than 30,000 will enjoy seats close to the action in the new bowl-shaped stadium, which is expected to open for the fall 2011 football season.

Groups might view the game from new areas such as the end zone berm and Touchdown Terrace, an exclusive hospitality area in the south end zone. Fans also can lease a private suite or one of the 760 seats on the club level, all featuring prime sightlines and amenities like flat panel televisions, food service and VIP parking.

And green may turn to gold if — as expected — the new stadium becomes the nation's first collegiate LEED Gold-certified football stadium.



Academic excellence

UNT's student-athletes have made great strides academically, according to the NCAA's latest Academic Progress Rate, or APR, which tracks academic performance over a four-year period. Seven UNT sports had perfect single-year 1,000 scores in 2007-08.

Mean Green soccer ranked among the nation's top 10 percent again with a multiyear score of 994. Thirteen of 16 sports had a 2007-08 single-year score equal to or better than the previous year. The football team earned a 968 score last fall but posted a multiyear rate of 911, below the 925 acceptable minimum, which means it will have four fewer scholarships than the NCAA limit.

Hall of Fame inductees

Four new members will be inducted into the UNT Athletic Hall of Fame this Homecoming: Billy Dinkle, running back and kicker who helped lead the Mean Green to its first-ever bowl victory in the 1946 Optimist Bowl; Jimmy Gales, head coach who led the 1987-88 men's basketball team to the NCAA Tournament; Corina Marginas ('04, '06 M.B.A.), who in 2003 was named the volleyball program's first All-American; and Ja'Quay Wilburn ('04), the only football player ever to lead the team in rushing four straight seasons.

The 1959 football team also will be honored for its Missouri Valley Conference title and trip to the Sun Bowl 50 years ago.

(For more information and more Homecoming events, see the inside back cover.)

Upcoming games

Catch all the Mean Green football action this season. Home games include Middle Tennessee for Family Weekend Sept. 26, Florida Atlantic for Homecoming Oct. 17 and Army Nov. 21. Eight of the 12 Mean Green games will be televised this year, including an ESPN broadcast. Visit meangreensports.com for a full listing of athletic schedules.

Wear your green

Sport your Mean Green pride with the latest in UNT T-shirts and game day gear. Visit meangreengear.com to learn more. ●



Nest

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Sandy Huffaker

LOVE IN THE FAST LANE

Matching busy singles for low-pressure lunch dates is the mission of Irene LaCota ('91 M.B.A.), president and chief marketing officer of It's Just Lunch.



Read the full interview and find dating tips at northtexasn.unt.edu.

FOR MANY PROFESSIONAL SINGLES, JUGGLING career responsibilities with the prospects of finding love is always a challenge. Enter **Irene LaCota**.

LaCota, who relies on the business platform she developed while studying at UNT, has built It's Just Lunch into the largest full service dating service in the world, matching single professionals in more than 200 cities.

She says one of the challenges of the business is remembering that men and women are motivated by very different marketing messages.

"We also have to keep up with dramatic shifts in advertising and societal trends," she says. "And we deal with matters of the heart."

CONNECTING WITH Friends

Keep up with the latest developments in the UNT family and tell your peers what you've been up to since leaving the nest. Send your news to *The North Texan* (see contact information on page 5). Members of the UNT Alumni Association are designated with a ★.

Read more, share comments and connect with friends at northtexan.unt.edu.

Job promotion? Won an award? New eaglet? Have a photo to share with the UNT family? Send your images to northtexan@unt.edu.



Michael Clements

1950



★ **Charles A. Micek** and ★ **Sarah M. Abel Micek** ('51), Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. :: have lived on the Southern California coast for more than 52 years. They majored in math at North Texas and still occasionally

get back to visit campus. They say their favorite professors were **Eugene Harold Hanson**, math; **Elizabeth Lomax**, English; **James B. McBryde**, biology; and **R.C. Wyatt**, German. Before they retired 19 years ago, Sarah taught math in Texas, Pennsylvania and California and Charles worked in aerospace engineering in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Utah and California. They have visited all 50 states and 26 countries and say they hope to visit more. They have nine grandchildren.

1952



John A. Lovelace, Dallas :: received a lifetime

achievement award from the Dallas chapter of the Religion Communicators Council. He retired in 1997 as editor of *The United Methodist Reporter*. He was editor-in-chief of the 1952 yearbook, the *Yucca*, and is married to **Mary Ellen Reynolds** ('52).

1960

★ **Jim McDonald**, DeSoto :: is active as a State Farm agent in Duncanville. He says **C.L. Littlefield**, who was chair of the management department, introduced him to the vice president of State Farm Insurance and gave him a strong recommendation to become an agent in 1965, and **Horace Brock** taught him a great deal about accounting. Jim established a merit scholarship fund in the College of Business in honor of the two professors and a merit scholarship at the UNT Dallas Campus. He helped secure an appropriation to establish the campus.

1964

Art Bumgardner, Charleston, S.C. :: retired from the University of Wisconsin at Superior in

2003 after 37 years of teaching voice, opera/music theatre, theory and music appreciation. From 1978 to 2003, he served as music department chair. He is now an adjunct faculty member in voice at the College of Charleston and remains active as a bass soloist. In March, he sang the bass arias and the role of Pilate in Bach's *St. John Passion*. He and his wife, Rena, have three daughters and five grandchildren.

1968

Marlene Hoeverer Clayton ('70 M.S.), Austin :: was selected as the 2008-09 Westlake High School Teacher of the Year. She retired this year after teaching at Westlake since 1981. She taught Advanced Placement calculus and previously served as the math department chair. Earlier in her career, she taught at W.T. White High School in Dallas and Richfield High School in Waco.

★ **Roger Durham**, Dallas :: was elected a regional vice chair of American Mensa Ltd., a social and community service organization for those who score in the top 2 percent on a standardized intelligence test. He will represent Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and parts of Arkansas on the organization's board of directors.

1970



Ellis Ivey II (Ed.D.), Mineral Wells :: was married in

November and is enjoying bowling with his wife, Alice, and practicing golf. He retired three times in the course of his 40-year education career, which included faculty and administrative positions at Weatherford College, West Virginia Wesleyan College, the College of the Southwest in New Mexico and Andrew College in Georgia. He was married to Jean Ivey for 49 years before her death.

1972



Cynthia Dorsey Edwards, Stone Mountain, Ga. ::

was promoted to vice president of institutional advancement for DeKalb Technical College in Clarkston, Ga., this summer. She also will serve as executive director of the DeKalb Technical College Foundation. She chaired the foundation's internal fundraising campaign in 2008-09 and was director of the college's Office of Career and Job Search Services for 13 years.

1974

Nancy Oelklaus (M.A.), Austin :: published a new book, *Alphabet Meditations for Teachers: Everyday Wisdom for Educators*

(Loving Healing Press). Her book *Journey From Head to Heart: Living and Working Authentically* was selected by Austin-based *Reader Views* as Book of the Year and won first place in the spirituality category for 2008.

1975

Henry O. Adkins (M.P.A.), Plano :: and his wife, Sue, co-wrote the book *Common Sense Parents: Raising Great Kids in the 21st Century* (Cheudi Publishing). Henry is an inspirational speaker who conducts workshops and lectures around the country.

Lynne Dees ('80 M.F.A.), Bedford :: earned her Ph.D. from Texas Woman's University in health studies with a concentration in higher education. She is an associate professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and is the continuing education specialist for Irving Fire Department paramedics and EMTs.

Deborah Kuster ('04 Ph.D.), Conway, Ark. :: received tenure and was promoted to associate professor of art at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

1976



Mellanie Shepherd Clay ('81 M.Ed.), Fort Worth ::

spent two weeks in India, training teachers and co-teaching classes for the U.S. Department of State.



Janice L. Ausbrooks Taylor, Spring ::

received her doctorate in educational leadership from Sam Houston State University in May. She was one

of 40 doctoral students chosen by the University Council for Educational Administration as a 2008 David L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Scholar and was recognized with Excellence in Writing awards from SHSU. She is an execu-

Upcoming Alumni Gatherings

UNT alumni are gathering to learn more about each other, celebrate their green pride and network for their next career moves — and you can join them. Here's a sampling of what's coming up.



UNT Alumni Association: Join the alumni association Sept. 12 for its first Alumni GameDay Grille pregame party of the season at UNT's Alumni Center. (See page 13 for more information about pregame parties.) To get in on the action, visit www.untalumni.com or contact the association at alumni@unt.edu or 940-565-2834.

UNT Career Fairs: Career fairs offered by the UNT Career Center are free to alumni job-seekers. Scheduled are the College of Business Career Fair, 3 to 7 p.m. Sept. 16 on the UNT Coliseum upper concourse; the College of Engineering Career Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 24 at Discovery Park; and the Liberal Arts and Sciences and Government/Nonprofit Career Fair, 1 to 5 p.m. Sept. 30 in the University Union, Silver Eagle Suite. If you are interested in representing your employer at a career fair, e-mail janet.denny@unt.edu.

UNT Major Mixers: The UNT Career Center is in need of alumni mentors for its Major Mixer series, which assists students in exploring academic majors offered at UNT. Mentors answer questions and share advice based on personal experience in the industry. Mixers, which run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with mentors on duty from 2 to 5 p.m., are scheduled for the health and helping professions, Sept. 21; business, Oct. 5; visual and performing arts, Nov. 3; and education, Nov. 16. E-mail alison.delicati@unt.edu for information.

Alumni Appreciation Day 2009: UNT's colleges, schools and departments will recognize alumni Sept. 25 for excelling in their career fields. For more information, contact Rob McKinney at robert.mckinney@unt.edu or 940-565-3162 or Karen Selby at karen.selby@unt.edu or 940-565-3480.

Family Weekend: Don't forget to join us Sept. 25-27 for a fun-filled weekend of activities. Learn how to get involved at www.unt.edu/familyweekend or contact the UNT Parent Programs Office at parents@unt.edu or 940-565-4373.

Homecoming 2009: Wild Pride Check out the poster on the inside back cover for information about many of our Homecoming festivities. Be sure to visit www.unt.edu/homecoming for a full listing of events.

Does your alumni group have an upcoming event? Send your information to northtexan@unt.edu or call 940-565-2108.

tive director in human resource services in the Klein ISD.

1978

Robert Darden (M.J.), Waco :: associate professor of journalism at Baylor University, published his 25th book last fall. *Jesus Laughed: The Redemptive Power of Humor* (Abingdon Press) examines the role of humor in a life of faith.

Jesús Moroles, Rockport :: taught a granite sculpting workshop this summer and has another scheduled Oct. 15-18 for the Charles B. Goddard Center for the Visual and Performing Arts in Ardmore, Okla. The award-winning sculptor's most visible public sculpture is *Lapstrake 1987*, a 64-ton work across from the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. His largest-scale single work is the Houston Police Officers Memorial. His works are collected in the book *Moroles, Granite Sculpture* (Herring Press).

1979

Stan Thomas, Dallas :: joined the Dallas office of Fannie Mae as a senior financial analyst. He also was elected to the board of directors of WordSpace, a nonprofit North Texas literary organization dedicated to supporting indigenous literature.

1980

Sharon Yoder Dent, Bellaire :: is a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and the Rebecca Meyer Brown and Joseph

Mellinger Brown Chair in Basic Science Research at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She is featured in the center's book *Legends and Legacies: Personal Journeys of Women Physicians and Scientists at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center*. She says it was through a work-study job as an undergraduate in the UNT biochemistry lab of **Myron Jacobson** that she discovered science was her calling.

Cynthia Roepke-Breeding (M.Ed.), Corpus Christi :: published the third book in her Arthurian series this summer. *Prelude to Camelot* (Highland Press) opens with Arthur, Gwenhwyfar and Lancelot as children and follows them through adolescence and into young adulthood.

1982

Lynn Haley Handley ('84 M.J.), Grapevine :: is the new director of business development for McKinley Marketing Partners. She previously was an independent consultant, served as vice president of communications at the University of Texas at Arlington and worked in senior-level positions at TXU, Verizon Communications, DDB Worldwide and Keller-Crescent.

Jack Owen Ortiz, Dowling, Mich. :: who did graduate work at North Texas in 1982, published *Skip* (Xlibris Corp.), a novel about a cowboy's quest to own a calf-roping stallion. Jack breeds Quarter Horses and has been a



Doing more

Reaching out a helping hand is second nature to **Constance Lacy** ('98), who is a prime example of what a person can achieve with motivation and hard work. Lacy became the first UNT student to receive a Harry S. Truman Scholarship, earned her doctorate and is now the division director for education and human services at UNT Dallas.

But she first attended UNT only briefly.

"I was 18 after my first semester in 1981," she says. "I left, got married, had a family and then — life happens."

Lacy worked at the Dallas Can! Academy, an alternative school for "at risk" students, for eight years and coordinated a program for single mothers returning to school as role models for their children. One of her supervisors pointed out her aptitude for social work.

"When I realized UNT had a social work program and I had been a student there, I chose to return and just didn't stop," she says.

First earning an associate's degree from Eastfield College, she returned to UNT in 1996 and became a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. The program encourages first-generation college students to pursue doctoral studies.

Lacy says James Duban, director of the UNT Office for Nationally Competitive Scholarships, told her about the Truman scholarship.

"We worked together for a year to get me prepared to submit my application," she says.

Lacy went on to earn her master's and doctorate at the University of Texas at Arlington. Her tenacity in pursuing her education rubbed off on her eldest daughter, Keilah Jacques ('06), a fellow social work alumna and McNair Scholar who earned her master's and has been studying at Oxford on a Rotary Scholarship.

"It is probably the biggest compliment to see your children take what you've done and use it as a platform to do more," Lacy says.

— Elizabeth Knighten

substitute teacher in the Battle Creek Public Schools in Battle Creek, Mich., since 1978. He was a professional farrier in Barry and Calhoun counties from 1986 to 2004.

1984

Kim Charlson (M.S.), Watertown, Mass. :: director of Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library, traveled to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., in June to accept a national award on behalf of her staff and volunteers.



The library was named the 2008 Network Library of the Year by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Janet Nash Meyers, Aubrey :: is chair of the Texas On-site

Wastewater Treatment Research Council. The group awards funds for water research in Texas. Visit www.towtrc.state.tx.us to learn about the group's grants.

1985

Michael Friske, Red Oak :: works with the mainframe storage engineering group at Fidelity Investments. He has worked for Fidelity for 16 years and also is a director for SHARE, an IT user group made up of more than 2,000 member companies.

He and his wife, **Diane Korzekwa Friske** ('84), have three grown children.

Rebecca Hovan (M.M.), Elkhart, Ind. :: is a flutist on the faculty at Indiana University South Bend and Goshen College. Her first CD, *A Silver Christmas* (Hovan Enterprises), is a collection of Christmas favorites in styles including jazz, classical and New Age.

Down the Corridor

Student hangouts

Whether the hangout was the Union or somewhere a little further afield, UNT's students have found places to call their own through the years. Here's a sampling of favorite spots we've heard about from readers:

The Union was outstanding. You met all kinds of different people there and were able to network before networking was even heard of. I also liked Kerr Hall. It was co-ed, with girls on one side and guys on the other, so you learned to socialize and conduct yourself as a gentleman. Down in the lounge, you played dominos and cards — but then you took care of your studies.

Aaron Bonds ('72)
Corpus Christi

Students in the early to mid-1970s will remember the Final Exam, in an old house at the corner of Hickory and Avenue C. The tables consisted of telephone cable spools located in the house's rooms. Great place for beer and foosball.

Susan Neuwirth Johnson ('77)
Bartonville

The State Club was the best place to hang out with friends. Someone was always there. You could just walk up or drive by and peek through the huge glass windows to see which of your friends were in there hanging out. The delicious chicken tenders, fries and honey mustard were staple food items. The bathrooms were the worst in town, but the food and friends were memory makers!

AnnDee Ambrosia Beckerman ('92)
St. Petersburg, Fla.



The Final Exam, 1973 Yucca



Join the conversation and share your memories online at northtexan.unt.edu.



Holiday ornament sales to fund scholarships

Make UNT part of your holidays and help today's students earn their degrees. The UNT Alumni Association's new holiday ornament features the Hurley Administration Building and McConnell Clock Tower. Finished in 24-carat gold, the ornament includes a custom gift box. Proceeds benefit the association's scholarship fund.

"The ornament is a unique way for our alumni to remember all those special moments they had on campus while helping raise money for a good cause," says Derrick P. Morgan, executive director of the association.

The cost is \$19.95 plus \$2.50 shipping and tax for Texas residents. Supplies are limited.

To order, e-mail alumni@unt.edu or call 940-565-2834.



1986

Angel Benschneider, Addison :: and her twin sister, Tanya Little, formed Hart Advisors Group LLC, a full-service business and real estate advisory company specializing in commercial property, asset management and business advisory services. The company works with clients who want to outsource management of retail, multi-family, office and industrial properties.

1987

Paul Dishman (M.B.A., '92 Ph.D.), Provo, Utah :: associate professor of marketing at Utah Valley University, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and research at the University of Donja Gorica in Montenegro during the 2010

academic year. He will lecture on market intelligence and provide market intelligence applications to businesses to help increase the country's global competitiveness.

Sudhir R. Gogu (Ph.D.), San Antonio :: earned a D.O. from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa, and later earned an M.B.A. from Texas Tech. He is a practicing family physician in San Antonio.

1988



Irv Freeman (Ph.D.), Pittsburgh, Pa. :: whose

UNT dissertation concerned accreditation, was appointed to a three-year term as a public member of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Educa-

tion, the accrediting authority for professional optometry degrees, optometry technician degrees and optometric residency programs. He has previously served on three other accrediting agencies recognized by the Secretary of Education.

Diana Madden Olson, Arlington, Va. :: was named vice president of communications at the Infectious Diseases Society of America, a professional society representing physicians and scientists specializing in infectious diseases. This is her 10th year at IDSA.

Robert Kirkland Robinson (Ph.D.), Oxford, Miss. :: was named chair of the Department of Management at the University of Mississippi. He is the Michael S. Starnes Professor of Management and has taught at Ole Miss since 1990.

1989

Allan Escher, Land O Lakes, Fla. :: anesthesiologist and pain management physician with the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla., was elected chair of Florida's Board of Osteopathic Medicine this year. He was appointed to the board by Gov. Charlie Crist last fall.

Monier Ibrahim (Ph.D.), Summertown, Tenn. :: and his wife, Carolyn, say biology faculty mentors like **Gerard O'Donovan** and **Rollie Schafer** "set a great example of scholarship, compassion and leadership" that helped them while at UNT. The Ibrahims have two sons, Dean, 21, and Neil, 18.

Piano man

Tucked away in a fourth-floor corner of Willis Library, Professor Emeritus of music and former student **Bob Rogers** happily transcribes sheet music. His UNT story begins 70 years ago.



Gary Payne, courtesy of the Denton Record-Chronicle

"I was a student here from 1939 to 1942, and then I was drafted," he says.

After serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during the war, Rogers completed his bachelor's degree in piano at the Juilliard School. He continued to New York University and to Columbia, where he finished his master's.

"Two months after I got my master's degree, I was working here in Denton at North Texas," he says.

Rogers taught piano pedagogy from 1948 to 1984. As assistant to the music dean, he chaired the committee to remodel the Music Building on Chestnut Street and Avenue C.

In addition, Rogers was a charter member, province governor and chapter advisor for the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha. He supports three music scholarships, including a national service award for Phi Mu Alpha members that carries his name.

Currently, Rogers busies himself playing piano at fundraisers around Denton and at UNT events. He also volunteers at the Music Library with his wife, Daisy, working with the sheet music collections from radio stations WBAP and WFAA.

"What I'm doing now is what I'm really thrilled with," he says of transcribing the music into the library system for use by UNT students and faculty.

Rogers says one of the greatest rewards of teaching was "being a teacher of many, many outstanding students who are now working everywhere."

— Elizabeth Knighten

1990



Amy Thornborrow, Cleburne :: finished her

15th year of teaching at Godley Middle School this spring. She is the social studies department leader and teaches eighth-grade American history, seventh-grade Texas history and honors American and Texas history.

1991



Wendy Keller Ball, Corinth ::

took a new position as a senior account executive at Politon Inc., specializing in telecom systems and maintenance. She also launched a summer lunch program, "The Brown Bag," as part of Mission Denton, a 501(3)c that ministers to Denton's apartment and mobile home communities. She and her husband, Jim, have a son, Brett.

Gilbert Cipriano, Fort Worth :: and his wife, Mireya, welcomed a daughter, Gabriela Danay Cipriano, in May. Gilbert is a police officer with the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Department of Public Safety.



Scott deMasi, Humble ::

was promoted to vice president of TSG Maher Marketing in Houston. He and his son, Alex, started the Wreaths Across America Houston project, which raises funds and recruits volunteers to place live wreaths on the grave sites at Houston National Cemetery. This year's wreath-laying ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 12. Visit www.waahouston.com to learn more.

1993



Carol Fairlie (M.F.A.), Alpine :: professor of art at Sul Ross State

University, was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award for 2009.

Angie Cheatham Gray ('96 M.Ed.), Carrollton :: and her husband, Terry, welcomed their son, Mason Michael, in January. His big sister, Madelyn, is 3.

Keith Javors ('96 M.M.), Philadelphia, Pa. :: completed a March tour of Russia and Poland and April concerts in New York City with renowned Russian tenor saxophonist Oleg Kireyev. The European version of the group, with Javors on piano, finished the

tour with a recording for Polish label BCD Records. A concert at New York's Iridium featured a CD premiere of a second project, recorded at Bennett Studios.

Stephanie Jenson-Jensik, Dallas :: earned her master's in library science from Texas Woman's University May 15 and on the same day was inducted into Beta Phi Mu, the library and information studies honor society.

Brenda Romeo, Midlothian :: is a real estate broker who started a real estate company in 2000 and another one this year. She adopted a little girl, Breanna, who is 3.

1994

David Fitzgerald, Mesquite :: and his wife, Theresa, celebrated the birth of their son, Ryan, in June.

D'Arla Glenn Tyler, Ponder :: and her husband, Brandon, welcomed their second child, daughter Larkin Rose. She joins big sister Ainsley Grace.

1995

W. Ted Mahavier (Ph.D.), Beaumont :: co-wrote *The Moore Method: A Pathway to Learner-Centered Instruction* (Mathematical Association of America), published this summer. An associate professor of mathematics at Lamar University, he says many of his UNT graduate professors — including **Paul Lewis** ('65, '66 M.A.), **Dan Mauldin** and advisor **John Neuberger** — also were proponents of the inquiry-

based method of teaching. The book covers grading methods, development of materials and typical days in the classroom, and includes sample tests, notes and diaries for individual courses.

1996

Jennifer Moseley, Fort Worth :: joined accounting firm AuldridgeGriffin PC in June. She has 13 years of experience in real estate and private equity accounting, including management positions at Crescent Real Estate and Crestline Capital Group and a four-year stint at KPMG LLP.

Lisa L. Rollins, La Vergne, Tenn. :: received a Bronze Award for a public relations campaign in the 2009 Communications Contest sponsored by the Tennessee College Public Relations Association. She is director of special media projects for the news and public affairs office at Middle Tennessee State University. In February, she launched Rollins Media, specializing in media relations, consulting, tour press and artist development in the country music and entertainment industry.

1997

Stephanie Gogos Heitkamp ('01 M.B.A.), Southlake :: and Eric Heitkamp announce the May birth of their son, Christian Robert Heitkamp. Eric is a managing partner at Packaging Plus, and Stephanie is a recruiting consultant for Allstate Insurance. They live in Southlake with their new son and their dog, Snowball.

Luke Holder, Amarillo :: and the band DONK! released their first CD this spring, self-titled on the Pirate Services label. The folk rock band, a collection of Amarillo artists with Luke as lead vocalist, has been playing together since 2006. Luke also writes songs and has released four solo albums since 1999.



★ **Scott Sherman**, Pearland ::

was elected to the Pearland City Council in June. He was sworn in for a three-year term.

Ben Williams ('03 M.A.), Falls Church, Va. :: began his new career this summer as a foreign service officer with the Department of State.

1998

Matthew McGarity, McKinney :: and his wife, Jennifer Daviet McGarity, became first-time parents in January when their son, Zachary Nicholas McGarity, was born. Matthew is a business analyst at Perot Systems Corp. in Plano, and Jennifer is a senior art director at Signal in Addison.

2000

Steve Wilson, Universal City :: released his debut CD

as lead vocalist with The Black Doves. *Moments of Clarity* features performances by drummer Bobby Hattenburg of The Exies and bassist Sammy Hudson of Everclear. The Doves have performed at SXSW, with the Van's Warped Tour and as the featured band of the inaugural San Antonio Rock and Roll Marathon.

2001

Jennifer Lilly Belniak, Austin :: wed Duane Belniak of Chicago in May. Jennifer is working as an inventory forecaster for a book publisher in Austin, and Duane is a computer consultant. The two met over their love for the Chicago Cubs.

Tracy Luscombe (M.S.), Lewisville :: genealogy librarian for the McKinney Public Library System, received her Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies: Librarianship from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies.

2002

Andrea Shaheen, El Paso :: was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship in ethnomusicology to study in Syria. She is a doctoral student at the University of Arizona. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional



Don't forget to read more, share comments and connect with friends at northtexan.unt.edu.

..... IN THE // News

→ “The Tattooed Ladies of TLA” calendar made headlines in media across the country, including ABC News, this summer. The



Mary Ann Emerson

fundraiser for the Texas Library Association’s disaster relief fund includes **Melody Specht Kelly** ('70, '73 M.S., '76 M.A.), associate dean of the UNT Libraries who retired in August; **Shawne Miksa**, associate professor of library and information sciences; UNT librarian **Pat Reese** ('00 M.S.); alumnae **Cecilia Hurt Barham** ('94, '98 M.A., '00 M.S.), **Gretchen McCord Hoffmann** ('92 M.S.), **Cheryl Hollingsworth** ('06 M.S.), **Haley Holmes** ('07 Ph.D.), **Jayne Kitterman** ('95 M.S.) and **Jennifer Myers** ('09 M.S.); and students **Gisela Hernandez** and **Lindsey Taylor**. Visit www.txla.org for details.

→ A business owned by **John Woolley** ('00) and **Brett Allen** ('00) was featured on Dallas-Fort Worth TV stations July 4 for its connection with the Fort Worth soldier made famous by his pink boxers. The soldier who appeared in a *New York Times* photo wearing “I Love New York” boxers while fending off an attack in Afghanistan also was wearing a Woolley’s Frozen Custard T-shirt. He returned the shirt to his favorite ice cream store while on leave. Visit northtexas.unt.edu for links to the TV news clips.

→ **Austin Wright** ('07) won Gary Cogill’s 3-Minute Movie Contest in May with his film *Jack’d* and was featured on WFAA-TV’s *Good Morning Texas* as the winner. Wright also won the contest in 2006, when he was a student at UNT. Cogill is the film critic for the Dallas-Fort Worth station. The winning film and other finalists are online at www.wfaa.com/garycogill/three.



Visit northtexas.unt.edu to read more news stories about UNT alumni.

achievement and demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

2003

Colleen Murphy, New York, N.Y. :: graduated in May 2008 with a master’s degree in human relations and business. She works at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn.

2004

★ **Jesus Trejo**, Waco :: earned his M.D. from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine and is doing his residency in family medicine with the McLennan County Medical Education and Research Foundation in Waco. He and ★ **Kristin Dayle Luke Trejo** ('05) have two boys, Caleb, 3, and Abram, 1.

2007

Megan Bannon (M.S.), Chicago, Ill. :: was given an Emerging Leader award by the Chicago Association of Direct Marketing in May. She began working for Rapp as a summer intern and now heads Cultura, Rapp’s cultural anthropology and research group.

Mary Ann Jordan (Ed.D.), Waco :: is serving as coordinator of the master degree/principal certification preparation program in the Department of Educational Administration at Baylor University.

Casey Kean, Burkina Faso, West Africa :: is a Peace Corps volunteer working on a community literacy project for a town of 24,000 people in Burkina Faso that has no library and no access to books. One part of the project will be to build a library for the community, and the other is to collect books for the library and schools.

Trapper K. Pace (M.Ed.), Dallas :: was named a Kentucky Colonel, the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, while serving as a facilitator for Phi Kappa Tau’s National Leadership Academy at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. The honor is given in recognition of noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service to a community, a state or the nation. Trapper is a Kappa Sigma and the assistant director of fraternity and sorority life at the University of Texas at Dallas.

2008

Jessica Hulsebosch, Denton :: is returning to UNT’s volleyball program as an assistant coach this fall. A four-year starter with the Mean Green, she finished her career in 2007 ranked 18th in NCAA history for career digs with 2,212. She is pursuing a graduate degree at UNT. ●

F R I E N D S W E ' L L M I S S

UNT's alumni, faculty, staff and students are the university's greatest legacy. When members of the Eagle family pass, they are remembered and their spirit lives on. Send information about deaths to *The North Texan* (see contact information on page 5).



Read more, write memorials and connect with friends at northtexan.unt.edu.

1930s

Milton L. Martin ('33), Palo Alto, Calif. :: He entered North Texas on a scholarship at age 15, studying art under Cora Stafford, and later studied in New York and Paris. He worked in the Walt Disney animation department on the film *Fantasia* and was an advertising art director and a fifth-grade teacher. He tutored students in English until his death at age 94.

Velma Rogers Gerding ('36), Amarillo :: At North Texas, she was the editor of the literary magazine *Avesta*. She taught music in the Wichita Falls schools for four years and in the Denton schools for 23 years. She was married to the late J.L. Gerding ('46, '47 M.A.), professor of foreign languages at North Texas for 30 years. She is survived by her sister, Virginia 'Ginger' Rogers Swanson, who attended North Texas from 1940 to 1942.

Maudyne Yeager Howard ('36), Canyon Lake :: She received a music degree from North Texas and taught music in Hebronville before marrying and moving to Alice. Versatile on the organ and piano, she played for the Alice United Methodist Church and led the junior choir there.

Tom Harpool ('39), Denton :: He was retired from Harpool Seed Inc. and was a civic leader credited with laying the groundwork for the development of Denton. He served on the Denton utilities board for 30 years and helped organize the Upper Trinity Regional Water Supply District. Tom Harpool Middle School is named in his honor.

1940s

Virginia McKee Curl ('43), Fort Worth :: She was an award-winning artist in oil, watercolor,

needlepoint and flower arranging and was a national flower show judge. She was active in women's clubs and garden clubs.

Jean Dillard Worsham ('48), Austin :: For more than 30 years, she taught Spanish in Abilene and Austin and taught English as a second language at the Texas Intensive English Program. After retirement, she was involved in Great Books groups and Lifetime Learning classes.

1950s

Camille Scott Durham ('51), Fort Worth :: She was a junior high school teacher for the Birdville ISD, retiring in 1993, and was a substitute teacher at Aledo High School for many years. At North Texas, she was the president of the Delta Chi Delta sorority. She was married to the late Garland R. Durham ('52).

University Community

Mabel Marie Carpino Ferguson, Denton, registered nurse at the health center from 1968 to 1990, died April 27. She and her husband traveled around the world during his Air Force career and moved to Denton in 1965. She worked at Flow Hospital, as well as the university health center.

Fannie Belle Peak Gaupp

Denton, Professor Emeritus of sociology who worked at North Texas from 1965 to 1986, died Dec. 12. She was the director of the sociology department's social welfare sequence when it received national approval from the Council on Social Work and Education. She earned degrees from Baylor University and the University of Wisconsin and was a member of the League of Women Voters and a volunteer at the Denton State School.



John S. Gossett, Denton, undergraduate advisor and

associate professor of communication studies since 1981, died June 7. He served as chair of the Department of Communication Studies from 1989 to 2006. The UNT Debate Team won 20 intercollegiate tournaments under his leadership, and he

participated in the governance of the National Debate Tournament. He was a former president of the Texas Speech Communication Association, which named him University Educator of the Year in 2003. He also received UNT's Fessor Graham Award, the Honors Faculty Excellence Award and the Joe G. Stewart Distinguished Service Award. He earned his doctorate from the University of Southern California. Memorials may be made

Prilla Hinton Kuhnell Isdale ('53), Dallas :: She taught first and second grades in the Richardson ISD and was the recipient of the Perot Award for Excellence in Teaching. At North Texas, she was a member of Phi Gamma Kappa and was a *Yucca* Beauty.

Charles L. Shepard Jr. ('56), Princeton :: A four-year football letterman at North Texas, he went on to success as a fullback and punter with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. He was named MVP of the 1959 Grey Cup championship game and was a member of the Winnipeg Football Club Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the UNT Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

Gaylon Gassiot ('59, '62 M.S.), Spring :: He earned his degrees in education from North Texas and taught school in Texas for more than 40 years.

John David Monroe, Argyle :: He attended North Texas from 1955 to 1959 and was a long-time real estate agent, investor and rancher. He donated land north of Gainesville to help create UNT's Monroe Robotic Observatory, which can be remotely operated from the Denton campus.

1960s

Rose Marie Culver Bennett ('61), Emporia, Kan. :: She was an elementary school teacher in Kansas City for three years before she married. She was a member of the Emporia Recreation Commission for 10 years and an avid golfer, twice winning the Kansas Women's Golf Association nine-hole state tournament.

Murphy B. Daniels ('64), Dallas :: He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from North Texas with minors in chemistry and math. He was a

member of the Trailblazers, an alumni organization including the university's earliest African American students.

William Byron Taylor ('66 M.S.), Abilene :: He served as a minister of Churches of Christ in Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arizona and Texas, including 37 years at Maryneal. He also was a teacher and counselor in public schools in Snyder and Abilene.

1970s

Mary Ann Turner Fitch ('76 M.S.), Midlothian :: She taught for many years in the Dallas ISD and at Mountain View College.

William Michael Childress ('78 M.S.), Denver, Colo. :: He was a modeler and aquatic ecologist with KS2 Ecological Field Services LLC and was a nature photographer and writer. Other North Texas alumni in his family included his father,

William Patrick Childress ('62); mother, Marilyn Jones Childress, who attended from 1945 to 1948; and grandfather, William Olin Childress, who was a freshman in 1909.

1980s

Sarah Ann Crouch ('81), Dallas :: She earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from North Texas and was a registered pharmacist at Parkland Hospital System in Dallas for the past 16 years.

Carolyn Burgess ('85 Ph.D.), Whispering Pines, N.C. :: She earned her doctorate in counseling psychology and was a private-practice psychologist for many years. She also had been a nurse anesthetist at Duke for 22 years.

Barbara Jane Woods-Snyder ('85 Ph.D.), San Antonio :: She was a practicing psychologist in San Antonio since 1987 and an early innovator in the use of bio-

to the John S. Gossett Memorial Debate Scholarship in the Department of Communication Studies. To donate, call 940-565-2342 or e-mail stan.walker@unt.edu.

Brian Keith Leavell ('96 Ph.D.), Denton, lecturer in teacher education and administration at UNT from 2002 to 2006, died May 23. He held music degrees from Wichita State University and the University of Miami and earned his

doctorate from UNT in music education with a minor in jazz studies. He was an Excellence in Teaching Fellow in the Krum ISD and later directed music at The Selwyn School while serving as an adjunct and then a full-time lecturer at UNT. In 2007, he became an assistant professor at Texas Woman's University. Survivors include his wife, Alexandra Leavell, UNT associate professor of teacher education and administration.

Claudia Barger Mosley, Denton, an instructor in the English department from 1962 to 1981, died July 4. Born in Alpine, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Sul Ross University before joining the North Texas faculty.



W.E. 'Bill' Perkins, Sarasota, Fla., professor of

business education and marketing from 1970 to 1996, died March 14, 2008. He held bachelor's and master's degrees from Ball State and a doctorate from UCLA. In addition to teaching occupational, vocational and business education, he served as the university's coordinator of alternative class scheduling, coordinating weekend, off-campus and closed-circuit television courses. He spoke frequently about business

feedback for pain reduction and stress management. She was an assistant clinical professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and a part-time faculty member at St. Mary's University. She wrote her dissertation on the physiological benefits of laughter.

David Earl George ('86), Springdale, Ark. :: He earned a degree in business computer information systems from North Texas and was an information technician for University Airlines in Bentonville, Ark.

Elizabeth Angela 'Beth' Beiler ('88, '94 M.S.), Dallas :: She earned her UNT degrees in rehabilitation studies and counseling and worked for JTPA and Oak Lawn Counseling Center in Dallas.

1990s

Stephen Craig Wilshire ('90), Plano :: He worked at

various positions at Chili's while earning his UNT degree in strategic management, then spent his career in the food service industry. He held management positions at Chili's, Snuffers and Cici's and was a professional waiter at Kirby's Steakhouse.

Patrick Joseph Fielder ('95 Ph.D.), Denton :: He was a systems engineer with IBM before earning his doctorate in college and university teaching. He taught computer science classes at North Central Texas College for 14 years and volunteered as a reading tutor with the Denton Public Library. After retiring, he took a position with H&R Block.

Matthew D. Gard ('96), Sioux City, Iowa :: He earned his UNT degree in engineering technology and worked as a computer system analyst for Tyson Foods in Dakota City, Neb. He loved music and was especially fond of classical guitar music.

Gerald Elliot Wood ('99), Hot Springs Village, Ark. :: He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon at North Texas and left after his junior year to attend Baylor College of Dentistry, from which he graduated in 1962. He retired from his dental practice in 1998, and received his bachelor's in biology from UNT the next year.

2000s

Zane Stephen Bennett ('02 M.S.), Oakhurst :: He was a counselor with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission/ Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services for 25 years, assisting individuals with physical and mental challenges.

Kevin Taylor Miller ('03, '06 M.S.), Fort Worth :: He earned his bachelor's degree in applied arts and sciences and a master's in computer education and cognitive systems at UNT. He worked in the insurance business for many years as a claims

supervisor, auditor and senior examiner.

Kyle Michael Kilgore ('04), Denton :: He earned his bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry and was pursuing a doctoral degree in molecular biology at UNT.

Aaron Wuensch ('08), Denton :: He was a master's student in economics and an avid athlete.

Alex Casildo ('09), Mount Vernon :: He graduated in May with a degree in real estate and a minor in Spanish. He was a member of Lambda Theta Phi fraternity.

Mireya Soto, Dallas :: She was a senior majoring in Spanish and was the incoming president of Lambda Theta Nu sorority. ●

communications and wrote several business textbooks, as well as the book *Moving to the Positive Side*.



Robert C. Sherman
(1946 M.S.),
Denton,
Professor

Emeritus of biology who worked at North Texas from 1946 to 1978, died May 28. Sherman, considered a pioneer in conservation education,

began work on a master's degree in field biology in 1940 under J.K.G. Silvey, who became his mentor and colleague. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Sherman joined North Texas as assistant professor of education and was principal of the demonstration school. He left in 1948 to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri and returned to North Texas in 1950 to join the biology and chemistry faculty. He served as chair

of the Division of Science, associate dean of the graduate school and director of research and academic grants. His first wife was the late Elizabeth Lura Pinkerton Sherman (1946 M.A.).

Memorials

Send memorials to honor UNT alumni and friends, made payable to the UNT Foundation, to the University of North Texas, Division of Advancement, 1155

Union Circle #311250, Denton, Texas 76203-5017. Indicate on your check the name of the memorial fund or the area you wish to support. You can make secure gifts online at www.development.unt.edu/givenow. For information about an existing fund or to learn how to honor a friend or loved one, e-mail giving@unt.edu or call 940-565-2900. ●

RETURNING HOME TO UNT

by GERALD “JERRY” RINGE ('05)

AS I DROVE ONTO CAMPUS as a freshman almost a decade ago, I could not have imagined how UNT would set the course for my life. Moving from my home in St. Louis to Bruce Hall, I was eager to study clarinet performance at the world-class College of Music, and I was confident I would be an asset to the ensembles. Then I went to my first rehearsal and realized everyone was an incredible musician — teachers and students alike.

I was thrilled to be in this musical utopia that included only amazing, dedicated, professional musicians. But it was with fear and anticipation that I walked into my first music theory course, excited to learn and hoping I had what it took to excel. Little did I know, I would be on the other side of the desk helping to teach that same class eight years later as a doctoral student.

I was a bit of a wild card when I first arrived at UNT. My sound was not that of a classical clarinetist. I listened to people like Benny Goodman and Eddie Daniels. However, my UNT clarinet professor, Daryl Coad, turned me on to Robert Marcellus. I worked most of my first year and a half molding my sound, and I am forever in debt to my teacher for this gift.

Our music program is challenging. With so many outstanding musicians around, talent isn't enough. You have to



Angilee Wilkerson

have the fortitude and determination to stay in the program. I saw many amazing musicians change their majors because of the intense pressure. But as musicians, we also learned so much from each other — while sitting around the lunch table, talking before class and during late nights at Bruce Hall.

It all prepared me for the final hurdle to receiving my degree — my senior recital, which was a huge undertaking and the first solo performance of my career. To prepare, I practiced for countless hours for a year with the aim of getting right Debussy's *Premier Rhapsodie* and Messager's *Solo de Concours*.

Again, the hard work paid off and Mr. Coad gave me another gift. The day of my senior recital, he called to tell me one of his colleagues from Kent State University was looking for a graduate assistant and wanted a UNT clarinet student. Mr. Coad's connection — and UNT's reputation — allowed me to receive

full financial assistance for my master's degree.

So, when I was determining where I would pursue my doctorate, UNT was high on my list. I auditioned around the country, but the opportunity to study with Dr. James Gillespie, editor of the International Clarinet Association journal, clinched my decision to return to the school that meant so much to me.

When I first came to UNT as a freshman, I could not have told you what I expected of my career path. I now have a clear vision and direction. I was given invaluable opportunities that have forever shaped my course. ●

Gerald “Jerry” Ringe ('05) is a Priddy Fellow at UNT and a doctoral student in performance. Ringe, who is married to Kristin Hancock Ringe ('04), also worked as a UNT Eagle Ambassador, giving campus tours, recruiting at area high schools and helping out at special events.

EXPERIENCE CULTURE AT ITS FINEST.

UNT's rich legacy as a cultural center grows each year. The campus today offers the community a vibrant array of events, including more than 1,000 concerts from jazz to chamber orchestra, as well as art exhibitions, thought-provoking lectures and theatre productions from dramas to musicals and dance performances.

Come back to campus and discover the power of UNT's creativity all over again. Mark your calendar now for some of our select events:

Fine Arts Series: Mariangela Vacatello, Van Cliburn Finalist

David Itkin, conductor

8 p.m. Sept. 30

Winspear Performance Hall — Murchison Performing Arts Center



The Misanthrope by Molière

Molière's comic masterpiece as presented by UNT's Department of Dance and Theatre

8 p.m. Oct. 1-3

2:30 p.m. Oct. 4

8 p.m. Oct. 8-10

2:30 p.m. Oct. 11

University Theatre — Radio, TV, Film and Performing Arts Building

KNTU celebrates 40 with One O'Clock Lab Band

Reception and concert mark 40 years of UNT's radio station

6 p.m. Nov. 6
Gateway Center



Faces and Mazes

National traveling exhibition stops at UNT, features large-scale fiber works by Lia Cook. It was organized by the Department of Textiles, Clothing and Design at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Opening reception, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Nov. 10

Nov. 10-Dec. 12

UNT Art Gallery — Art Building

Find more events:

www.unt.edu/calendar

UNT

HOMECOMING 2009

FRIDAY, OCT. 16

11:30 a.m.

Golden Eagles Reunion — Class of '59

University Union, Silver Eagle Suite. RSVP: karen.selby@unt.edu or 940-565-3480.

7 p.m.

Spirit March

The march begins at Fraternity Row and proceeds to the bonfire site adjacent to the Athletic Center.

8 p.m.

Bonfire and Yell Contest

The lighting of the bonfire and the student yell contest. DJ Shaun Chapa ('08) will be at the Yell Like Hell Stage.

College of Music

Join the College of Music at the Murchison Performing Arts Center as the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Dallas Symphony Chorus perform Beethoven's Ninth Symphony led by Jaap van Zweden. Supported in part by the UNT Fine Arts Series. Visit www.thempac.com.

UNT Jazz Alumni Hang

An alumni lab band will play classic charts from the jazz library, changing personnel every couple of charts. Guest artist Denis DiBlasio will sit in as well. All UNT jazz program alumni are invited to bring their horns and drop by the Syndicate in the University Union. Cash bar and munchies.

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

8:30 a.m.

Athletic Hall of Fame Breakfast

This year's inductees are Billy Dinkle, football; Jimmy Gales, men's basketball; Corina Marginas ('04, '06 M.B.A.), volleyball; and Ja'Quay Wilburn ('04), football. Gateway Center Ballroom. For information: 940-565-3339.

10:30 a.m.

Zeta Sigma Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma — 20th Anniversary Celebration

Kappa house, 923 W. Prairie St. RSVP: untkkg@gmail.com.

11 a.m.

Green Jacket Reunion

Former members are invited to an all-decades reunion and light brunch. Bring your memorabilia and pictures to share. UNT Alumni Center in the Gateway Center. RSVP: cathy.tedrick@unt.edu or 940-369-7821.

UNT Baptist Student Ministry Alumni Reception

Reception begins at 11 a.m. followed by a luncheon and short program. RSVP: untbsm@gmail.com. Visit www.untbsm.com.

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Floyd Graham Society

Dancing to the Aces of Collegeland big band, under the direction of Jack Rumbley ('51, '52 M.M.Ed.). Musical program "Celebrating Maynard ... and More!" featuring Maynard Ferguson alumni Denis DiBlasio and Steve Wiest ('88 M.M.). University Union, Silver Eagle Suite. Reservations, including lunch, are \$30 prepaid by 5 p.m. Oct. 14. RSVP: 940-387-9068, fax 940-891-0690, e-mail gpr1@earthlink.net or mail to Floyd Graham Society, 815 Ector St., Denton, Texas 76201.

1 p.m.

Parade

Beginning at Welch and Hickory, travels around the Denton town square and up Oak. From Oak to Welch, right on Hickory (going the wrong way on Hickory through campus) and left on North Texas Boulevard to Highland.

TAMS Alumni Reception

Featuring the Class of 2004's fifth anniversary, the Class of 1999's 10th anniversary and the Class of 1994's 15th anniversary. Alumni photos taken and cake served at 3 p.m. RSVP: diana.reaves@unt.edu or 940-565-2437.

2 p.m.

Peer Counselor Reunion

Join Marcilla Collinsworth ('69, '73 M.Ed.), former UNT director of admissions and Freshman Orientation, for a reunion with peer counselors from 1973 through 2001. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations required. UNT Alumni Center in the Gateway Center. RSVP: lisa.wallace@unt.edu or 940-369-8302.

3 to 5:30 p.m.

Mean Green Village

Tailgating starts early and ends late at the practice fields next to Fouts Field.

Brave Combo

Denton's own Grammy Award-winning band performs on the Bud Stage at the Mean Green Village.

Geezle Roundup

The Geezles will be at the Lettermen's tent. For information: jamsue@sbcglobal.net or 972-238-8980.

College of Business All-Class Alumni Reunion

All College of Business alumni are invited to gather for food, drinks and fun. RSVP: www.cob.unt.edu/rsvp. The Professional Leadership Program also will host a reunion in the tent. For information: julie.willems-espinoza@unt.edu or 940-565-3043.

College of Education Alumni Reunion and Teacher of the Year Recognition

Special honors will go to alumni who were named 2009 Teachers of the Year by area school districts. RSVP: michelle.lee@unt.edu or 940-369-7805.

Mayborn at Mean Green Village

Celebrate the new Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism. This is a journalism jubilee for the transition from the Department of Journalism in the College of Arts and Sciences to the Mayborn School of Journalism.

Epsilon Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. — 40th Anniversary Celebration

RSVP: em40year@yahoo.com or emga0809@live.com.

6 p.m.

Mean Green vs. Florida Atlantic

Tickets start at \$10. For information: ticketoffice@unt.edu, 800-868-2366 or visit meangreensports.com.

www.unt.edu/homecoming

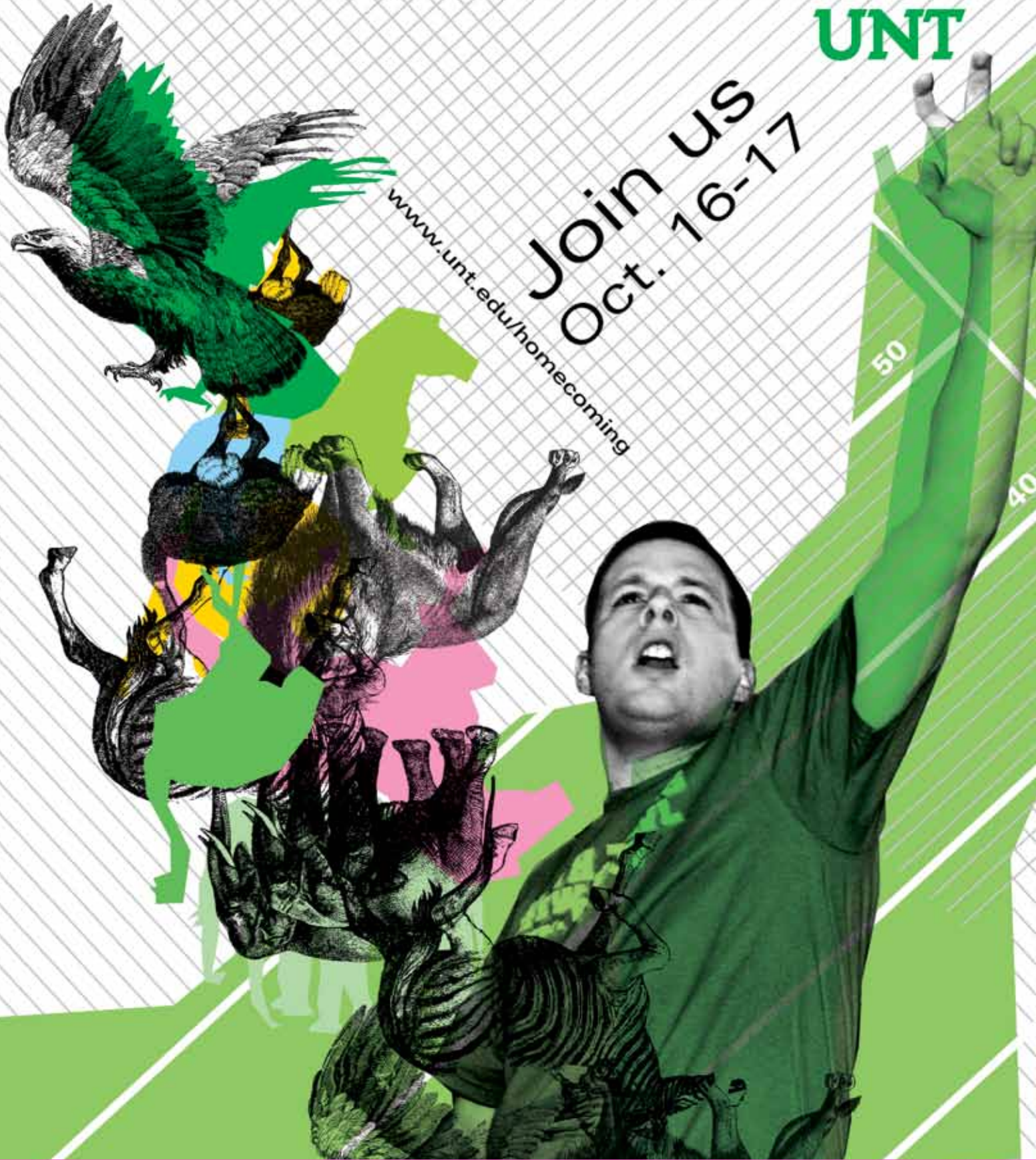
HOMECOMING
2009

WILD WITH PRIDE

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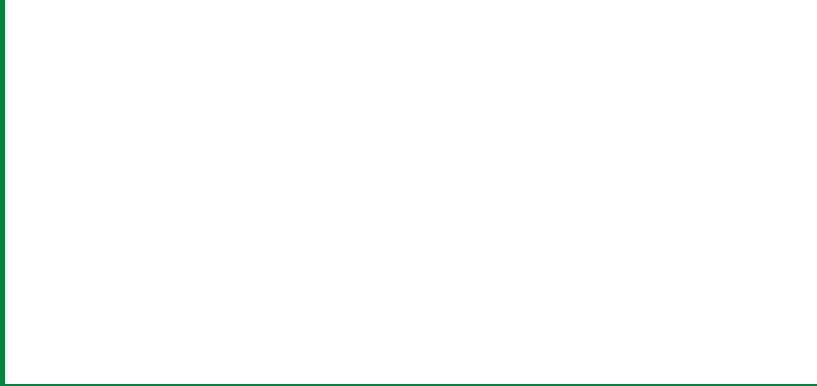
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Join us
Oct. 16-17



The North Texan

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Division of University Relations, Communications and Marketing
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PARTING SHOT

The third annual Texas Governor's School brought more than 100 academically gifted high school students to campus in June to study science and technology. The free school is funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and ExxonMobil.



Jonathan Reynolds

