

SOUTHWESTERN

FALL 2019
TRANSFORMATIONS

THE JACK AND CAMILLE GAREY
SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Est. 1840

N JONES SCIENCE CENTER

**President Burger's
Paideia Moment**
page 18

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something as pure as the
moment to become even
better."
In honor of
Florence W. Tomberberger

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THE MAGAZINE FOR SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

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On the Cover

President Edward B. Burger has changed the landscape of Southwestern University in many ways (see "President Burger's Paideia Moment")—including through his personal philanthropy. Here, he leans against one of his recent gifts to SU: the four-dial public clock, given in honor of his parents, that graces the new Jones Plaza.

New Beginnings

Members of the Southwestern community came together during a joyful ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of SU's state-of-the-art Fondren-Jones Science Center and the Floyd and Annetta Jones Plaza.







Always Looking Forward

When I first stepped onto campus as the new president of Southwestern University, one of my initial observations was how everyone—from staff and faculty to students and alumni—was committed to the University’s overarching mission to engage minds and transform lives.

SINCE THAT FIRST DAY, Southwestern has undergone an intellectual, cultural, and physical renaissance. We crafted an innovative Paideia curriculum that invites students to think, create, and connect in ways they never experienced before in their educations. We launched Mosaic, an initiative that encourages students to intentionally construct their cocurricular experiences in mindful and meaningful ways, and the Residential Experience, a program that empowers students to extend their learning experiences into the residence halls. We expanded and reimagined the Fondren–Jones Science Center—the home of the new Garey School of Natural Sciences—to foster an integrated, cross-disciplinary community and reflect Southwestern’s commitment to inquiry-based discovery and active learning. These and many other transformations within the University inspired the theme of this issue of *Southwestern*.

As one of the finest undergraduate institutions in the nation, Southwestern University offers a meaningful and transformative educational experience. It’s meaningful in that we encourage our students to grow and flourish and to become better

versions of themselves, and it’s transformative in that we teach students how to think, not what to think—allowing them to change as they make up their own minds and create themselves. Beyond teaching facts and dates, our faculty model practices of analysis, creativity, and thought that transcend any subject. They teach the algorithms and methodologies, but they also encourage students to engage in high-impact educational experiences beyond the classroom, such as study abroad, internships, and collaborative research. They teach the what and the where, but they also teach students how to be creative, agile thinkers in the ever-unfolding 21st-century world.

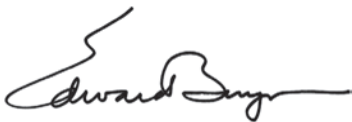
Ultimately, we promote lifelong learning and a passion for intellectual and personal growth. And it’s not just our students who are constantly learning and growing; we are all works in progress—individually as well as institutionally. We are never our “best,” and we are never “done,” but we can always be better, and there are always greater heights to realize. It is in this forward-thinking spirit that I determined this is the right time for Southwestern to change through its leadership.

This is not only my last fall as the president of Southwestern University, but it is also my last semester teaching one of my favorite courses, Effective Thinking through Creative Puzzle-Solving. The goal of the course aligns with the mission of the University: to offer a meaningful, life-changing, and challenging intellectual experience that will enhance students' ability to contemplate, understand, think, create, and connect and to do so joyfully beyond the course itself. Each semester, I look to my students to improve my courses. I try to model and live that which I want to inspire and teach: becoming better. I have received some brilliantly creative ideas from my students, and I think they made my classes, me, and, ideally, themselves better still.

Just as in life, change is the only constant in a high-impact education. As the world around us continues to move at a dizzying, constantly accelerating pace, we cannot rest on our laurels and trust that what works for our students today will continue to meet their needs tomorrow. We must remain vigilant about transforming the educational experience we offer our students so we can lead them on a genuine intellectual journey. We must embrace change so our students can grow into better versions of themselves and live richer, fuller lives. By stepping away from the presidency of Southwestern, I am allowing new energy and ideas to take us to the next chapter of our University's story.

I remain profoundly grateful to all the students, alumni, colleagues, parents, and friends of the University who have been so supportive and opportunity focused as we have worked together to make our beloved institution an even better place to foster meaningful human flourishing. I will always love Southwestern, and it will remain my academic home for the rest of my life, but the quintessential element of life is change. We should focus on making meaning and making a difference—no matter where that noble calling carries us.

With optimism for our shared future,



Edward Burger
President and Professor

EDITOR'S LETTER

With Apologies to Ovid and Kafka

Dear reader,

If you think about it, higher education and transformation go hand in hand. College is a nurturing space where undergraduates shape their identities, becoming independent adults as they explore new interests and opportunities. In the sciences, we learn about oxidation, changes of state, evolution, and climate change; in the humanities and social sciences, we examine historic and artistic revolutions, and we discuss the development and decline of languages, philosophies, behaviors, beliefs, and economic or political systems. And in the face of evolving demand in an increasingly competitive market, universities and individual disciplines are adapting while preserving academia's mission of supporting effective teaching, innovative research, and lifelong learning.

At Southwestern, positive change is afoot, but the University continues its long-cherished mission of changing students' lives for the better, which is why transformation is the theme of this issue.

In our features, Debbie Ritenour explores how the landscape of our historic campus has undergone significant changes, including a new science center that reflects the evolving culture of scientific research and teaching. Clara McMichael '17 writes about three young alumni who converted internships into post-graduate jobs, and Barbra Rodriguez shares how SU English professors are helping students dispel a pervasive cultural myth of the humanities major. We also recount the many ways that Southwestern has progressed under the leadership of President Burger, who, after 38 years in higher education, is embarking on a life-changing career transition of his own.

Elsewhere in the issue, you'll find SU parents' thoughts on Georgetown's exponential growth in recent years. Meanwhile, our alumni profiles showcase an executive vice president and corporate attorney who broke the glass ceiling in the energy industry, an artist who depicts her personal transformation on canvas, and a yoga instructor who learned how to change her mind by changing her body.

A few neuroscientific and psychological studies in recent years have suggested that reading fiction can rewire part of the brain and improve our empathetic responses to others. We hope that these nonfiction stories, too, will transform you by capturing your imagination, opening your heart, and broadening your perspective.

Meilee D. Bridges, Ph.D.
Writer and Editor
Southwestern University



Leaving Your Legacy

Dear members of the Southwestern University Alumni Association,

The word *legacy* has multiple meanings in a collegiate setting. At Southwestern, we discuss legacies as people—family members who also attended the University—and as moments—when individuals contribute to the betterment of future generations of Pirates. Alumni have the potential to stand on both sides of the legacy spectrum. We ask you to consider what legacy you wish to leave at Southwestern.

Sharing the *Southwestern Experience*

This fall, Southwestern welcomed its largest entering class, and 31 of those students were legacies—related to siblings, parents, and grandparents who are Southwestern alumni. In August, the Alumni Association mailed 119 Legacy Link birthday gifts to the children and grandchildren of former students. As alumni, you know the benefits of the *Southwestern Experience*, and we hope that you'll share how special it is with members of your family. If you have not done so already, sign up your school-age relatives for the Legacy Link program, and we will mail them a gift at ages 5, 10, and 16.

Paying it forward

In the 2018–2019 academic year, more than 1,330 alumni and friends dedicated their time and talents as volunteers for Southwestern. From mentoring current students to writing letters to the families of admitted students, members of our community have donated tens of thousands of hours to strengthen the University. On page 56, learn more about the variety of volunteer roles, and consider how you can add to your legacy as a Southwestern volunteer.

Nearly 28% of alumni last year contributed financially to Southwestern. Their legacy continues through support of student scholarships, faculty research, athletic teams, student organizations, high-impact experiences, and so much more. Make your gift count, and send in the enclosed annual giving envelope.

Bringing in a new tradition

Over 15 years ago, Southwestern's homecoming was revitalized and expanded to create an enriching community-wide program for Pirates of all ages. Since that time, 10,570 individual alumni and friends have attended a homecoming weekend, with a total of 23,329 attending collectively. It has become an experience for all ages and builds overarching spirit for our community.



New legacy students and their families connect during orientation on August 17, 2019.

Starting in February 2020, Southwestern University will institute a new weekend program that focuses on building pride in our community. Our Charter Day celebration will honor Southwestern's founding as the first institution of higher learning in Texas with programming for all ages. See page 59 for details on how to register.

Southwestern's history dates back to the Republic of Texas. Imagine the impact Southwestern alumni will have had on the world 180 years from now, in 2200. Join us, and add to that growing legacy in 2020.

Megan Frisque

Megan Frisque
Associate Vice President for Alumni and Parent Relations

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Listening for Understanding

Amanda McMillian '95 negotiates change throughout a distinctive career.

by Meilee Bridges

WHEN SHE MUSES on her original career plans, Amanda McMillian '95 can't help but laugh. "It's funny because early in our lives, we get these ideas about things, and we come to those with, quite obviously, far less experience than when we're, say, 46," she says.

McMillian arrived at Southwestern planning a career in politics but "quickly cooled" on that idea. She majored in political science, minoring in philosophy and communication studies, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Not two weeks after graduating from SU, she began an accelerated joint-degree program at Duke University, where she earned her master's in political science and a juris doctorate in a scant three years.

The Southwestern alum then spent over six years specializing in corporate and securities law at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP, an international firm. Corporate law, she explains, is a wide-ranging practice, but a significant portion of her work entailed buying and selling companies or company assets. Securities law, meanwhile, involves helping client companies comply with the laws and regulations designed to protect investors.

McMillian admits that she did not initially think she'd be interested in these fields, but she discovered that she loved the inherent challenge of negotiating transactions. "In litigation, theoretically, you've got two sides arguing to a neutral third party who then makes a decision about the dispute," she explains. "But in a transaction, you have to convince a biased other side that you're right.... It's a lot of fun."

In 2004, McMillian began her 15-year tenure with Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, an oil and natural-gas company based in The Woodlands, Texas. In part because of her ability to communicate



CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

POLITICS

ASIDE

ON OCTOBER 4, 2019, as part of Southwestern's 110th Homecoming, the University welcomed longtime friends Donna Brazile and Mary Matalin as the guest speakers at the 2019 Roy and Margaret Shilling Lecture. Brazile is a former chair of the Democratic National Committee and fellow at the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School; Matalin formerly served as assistant to President George W. Bush and counselor to Vice President Dick Cheney.

As friends who do not agree on the issues but value one another for the integrity of their views, Brazile and Matalin serve as exemplars of the civil discourse that Southwestern advocates among its community members. The University's Shilling Lecture series showcases internationally prominent speakers on topics relating to ethics, public service,

Brazile and Matalin were drawn together by shared interests outside politics and a mutual respect born of their passion for policy.

and public policy, and this year's speakers epitomized the spirit of respectful engagement that is at the heart of the event. Hosting the Shilling Lecture during Southwestern's annual homecoming weekend allowed alumni and current parents to more closely engage in the lifelong-learning opportunity alongside current students and other members of the SU community.

The Shilling Lecture was originally established in 1999 by The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston, to honor Southwestern's 13th president, Roy B. Shilling Jr., and his wife, Margaret. This now-biennial event provides an important forum in which the greater Southwestern University community has the opportunity to engage with ideas from multiple perspectives, hear insightful discussions, and interact on campus with experts and influential figures.

LEFT: Mary Matalin (left) and Donna Brazile (right) reminisce about their experiences on the campaign trail. RIGHT: Laura Rativa '20, a communication studies and political science double major, joins the Shilling guest speakers on stage for the Q&A.



Photos by Carlos Barron, Jr. '10



Breaking Admission Records

FOR THE THIRD YEAR in a row, a record-breaking number of students applied for admission to Southwestern. The school ultimately received 4,984 applications—4,766 first-year applications for the class of 2023 and 218 transfer applications—just two years after the number of applications surpassed 4,000 for the first time in the University’s history.

The news came as no surprise to Vice President for Strategic Recruitment and Enrollment Tom Delahunt. “The opportunities our unique curriculum provides, as

well as the introduction of Mosaic for cocurricular programming, have been attractive to prospective students and their families,” he says. The upward trend of record-setting application numbers demonstrates the University’s tremendous growth in reputation over the past two decades. According to Southwestern’s Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, 1,495 students applied for admission for the 1999–2000 school year. A 233% increase in applications in just 20 years is only one sign that the University has evolved from being a best-kept secret to a nationally ranked institution of higher education.

However, beyond rankings, the real draw for applicants is how Southwestern alumni are excelling after graduation. “We should be ranked based on how we lifted students up during their years at SU,” says Delahunt. “And our graduates are enjoying very successful lives after they leave here.”

Art History Mystery

MARCH–APRIL 1945. The final major battles of World War II are being waged in both Europe and Asia. U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt is preparing for the founding conference of the United Nations at the Little White House, his personal retreat in Warm Springs, Georgia. Cinema superstar Humphrey Bogart, 45, and Hollywood newcomer Lauren Bacall, 20, are filming *The Big Sleep* while kindling their off-screen romance. And a mural commissioned by the U.S. government, painted a mere four years earlier, goes missing from a Kennebunkport, Maine, post office.

Who had it removed? Where did the painting—artist Elizabeth Tracy Montminy’s *Bathers*—go?

Nearly 65 years later, Professor of Studio Art Victoria Star Varner and a team of student artists are on the case. Follow Varner, Sophia Anthony ’19, Katie Hellmer ’19, and Danbi Heo ’19 as they travel across the U.S. to locate the missing Montminy mural. Their search for clues takes them to a museum in Missouri, to the National Archives in the U.S. capital, and to the site of the disappearance itself. Their investigation will uncover a historical



Sophia Anthony ’19 (left) and Danbi Heo ’19 (right) at the Boone County History and Culture Center.

controversy characterized by misogyny and collective body shaming—a scandal that would end with no less than an act of Congress signed by the president of the United States of America.

What would our intrepid researcher–detectives find? Would they recover the missing mural? Find out more by visiting www.southwestern.edu and searching for “Art History Mystery.”



Vesko Lekovic '22, a business major and economics minor from Houston, TX, is a member of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference All-Tournament Team.

A View to a Win

SOUTHWESTERN HOSTED the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Southwest Regional Championships for Division III Men's Tennis for the first time September 26–29, 2019. The ITA Regional Championships feature some of the top men's and women's players in the nation. And thanks to the generosity of the Henderson family, longtime supporters of SU's tennis program, fans of the University's student-athletes were able to watch real-time coverage of the tournament via Southwestern's new PlaySight video platform.

Billy Porter, head coach of the men's and women's tennis teams at Southwestern, says he and his athletes "are beyond grateful for the Hendersons' generous contribution, giving us cutting-edge technology that nobody else in Texas at the Division III level has." He adds that PlaySight has already had a positive impact on recruiting new players, who are attracted by SU's newly elevated facilities. "The fact that nobody else in our conference has this resource makes Southwestern tennis something exclusive," Porter comments. "The addition of PlaySight has boosted the Marvin D. Henderson Tennis Center from one of the nicest facilities in Texas to the premier venue in the state."

The state-of-the-art video equipment appeals to new recruits and current student-athletes alike because the cameras enable family and friends who can't attend in person to livestream the matches. Now, parents in Canada and former doubles partners in Florida no longer have to wait on tenterhooks for scores to be announced by text or on Twitter. "We are truly grateful for this most recent investment in Southwestern's tennis program by the Henderson family," says Kent Huntsman, associate vice president for development. "The video system gives families and friends of our student-athletes the opportunity to see them compete when traveling to campus is simply not an option."

Huntsman adds that having recorded video of practices and competitions also affords Porter the opportunity to enhance his coaching, allowing him and his players to review and evaluate their performance. Porter agrees: "It gives us the opportunity to teach our players by them seeing what they are doing well and what they need to work on.... PlaySight has been an absolute blessing for our programs."

(ET CETERA)



Happy homecoming @SouthwesternU! Thanks for all the hard work that went into putting on this amazing event! My little #FuturePirate even got a black and gold lei from the one and only President @ebb663 - it was good to see you!

@paigedugginslaw



Welcome back! @SouthwesternU @SarofimSU

@SarofimCeramics



"Sorry, Goose, but it's time to buzz the tower."

#SUPirates
#ArmyStrong
#ThisWeWillDefend
#FortHood
#BeSouthwestern
#GiveNoQuarter

@supiratesfb



First themed practice of the year is Tacky Tuesday.

#besouthwestern

@supiratestennis



Arrrrrrrrgggghhhh you ready for some football????

#gopirates
#captainruter
#besouthwestern
@southwesternu

@bradcknapp



Help Southwestern recruit the next generation of Pirates!

Know a student who would benefit from a Southwestern education? Refer them at southwestern.edu/refer-a-student.

Want to share your experiences with the parents of accepted students?

Email Scott Sandoval '89 at sandovas@southwestern.edu about Operation Pen & Paper.

Is the *Southwestern Experience* a family affair?

Learn more about our Legacy Link program at southwestern.edu/alumni/legacy-link.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Stretching the Mind

*Kandace Lytle '07
combines yoga with writing
to connect and heal.*

IN 2006, I WAS A STRESSED-OUT double major in English and philosophy who thought she could do it all. During my time at Southwestern, I attempted to juggle 18-hour semesters, a dance minor, cheerleading, Alpha Delta Pi, stand-up comedy, creative writing, a job in the Debby Ellis Writing Center, presenting academic papers, and lots of friends. But as a first-generation college student, I was full of self-doubt and often worried that I was at a school where I did not belong.

It was my first yoga class that made me realize I had to find balance and inner peace in order for the events, deadlines, and hustle and bustle of the real world to feel less overwhelming.

As a dancer, I assumed that taking yoga to meet my fitness and activity requirement would increase my flexibility. I believed it would be another way to stretch my body. Little did I know that it would also teach me to stretch and calm my mind. In my later years at SU, yoga helped me melt away doubt and stress. It helped me accept myself.

After finishing graduate school and entering the world of public education, I often found myself thinking that my students could similarly benefit from both the physical and mental practice of yoga. I started incorporating mindfulness and creative writing exercises into the beginning of my classroom routines to assist the students in transitioning from one subject to another and to help them recognize that it was OK to slow down and recenter during the day.

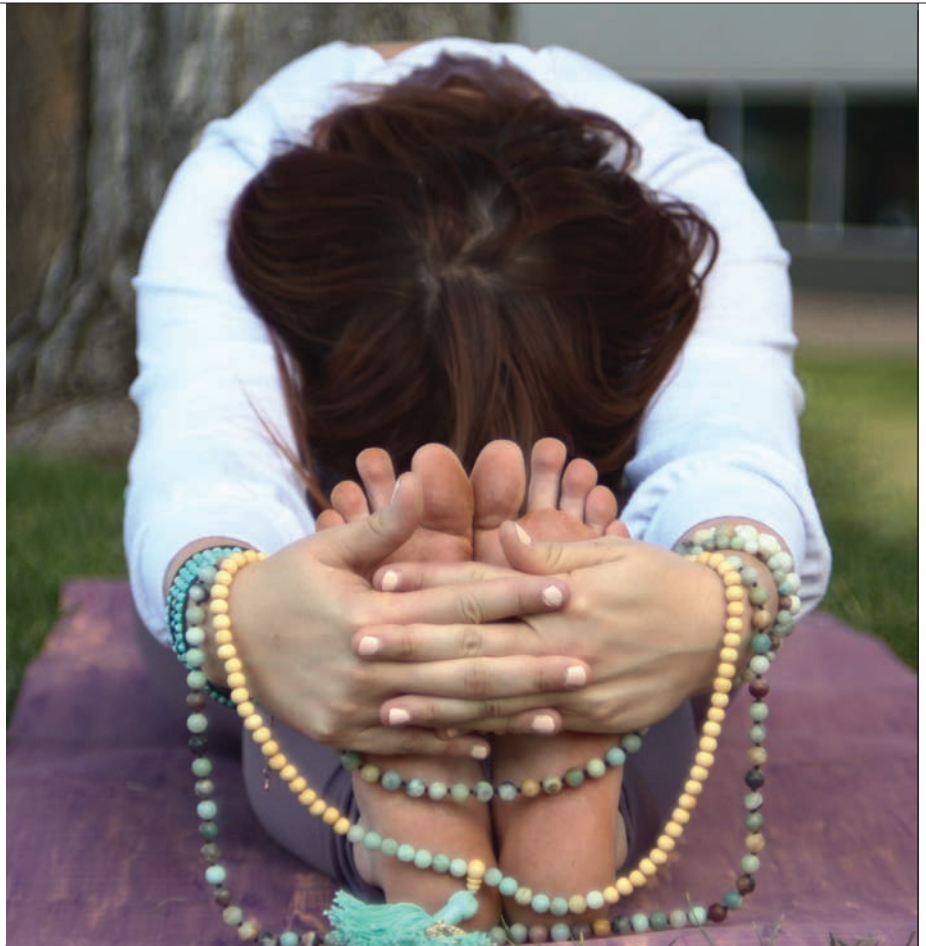
In early 2019, I found myself back in that same overwhelmed headspace—juggling too many things and recognizing that I had never given myself the time to truly delve into my yoga practice. For years, I had had a strong desire to take the next step in my journey as a yogini and earn my yoga certification,

but I kept putting it off. One of my best friends and I decided to take a yoga and crystals workshop at a local studio called Yogaleena, in Montrose, a trendy neighborhood of Houston. When I later saw that the same studio was offering their 200-hour yoga teacher training program, I knew what I had to do.

On the evening of our first Yogaleena teacher training retreat, we were assigned a writing exercise. The prompt asked us to consider what we truly wanted. I wrote, “It has taken me 33 years, but I feel like I am finally trying to do what is best for myself and focusing on the life I want. I think I have lived in fear of failure or disappointing others for so long that I am ready to challenge myself to follow my heart instead of playing it safe.”

That challenge was moving to Denver. It was somewhat terrifying, but I felt like Colorado would surround me with beauty and truly motivate me to live the life I’d wanted as a creative and possibly an entrepreneur. So at the end of the school year, I decided to take a chance and send in an application for a college and career counselor position at STEM School Highlands Ranch, on the outskirts of Denver. Although I was excited and nervous, I accepted the position less than a month after the community fell victim to the unthinkable: a school shooting.

I realized that this might be the perfect opportunity to give back—to help students and staff process their trauma through writing and yoga. Southwestern University taught me to be an active member of the community and to uncover and use my strengths to help others. As a student of the humanities, I find that our stories are what make us human—the stories that we tell others but also the stories we tell ourselves. They’re the stories of our bodies; they’re the stories that hide within our minds. We have to share those stories to heal, and we have to communicate to understand. In order to heal, we need to open up and be authentic without feeling judged. And when others open themselves to us, we must listen in order to understand, not



Southwestern University taught me to be an active member of the community and to uncover and use my strengths to help others.

just to respond. Yoga teaches us how to listen to ourselves and to others. At a time in the world when human beings are forgetting about their humanity, it is imperative that we create, share, move, and listen.

When I came to this realization, I began to work on my passion project. I now offer free yoga to the faculty at Highlands Ranch to support my fellow staff members. I also offer yoga and writing workshops through BiblioYoga, my own studio. In both the school and the studio, I try to create a soulful space where mind and body connect to fuel creativity. My goal is a space where people can be authentic and can connect with themselves and with others. If you are in the Denver area, please stop by the studio. I would love for you to join us on our journey.

Visit Lytle online at biblioyoga.com or on Instagram @biblioyoga. 🧘

Ever wonder what Southwestern professors think about or do in their spare time? In interviews with SU faculty couple Andy Ross and Katy Ross, we learn that their talents and passions extend well beyond the classroom.

Andy Ross

*Director of Business Internships
and Assistant Professor of Business*

Before transitioning into higher education, Ross served in a variety of marketing roles at Travelocity, Sabre, and American Airlines. His students appreciate the impacts Ross has had on them through his teaching and in connecting them with life-changing internships.

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 14 years. I came to Southwestern in 2006 after a career in the travel industry.

What inspired you to become an educator?

I have always had a passion for learning and a deep respect for those teachers and professors who transformed the way I saw the world. In 2006, I met the Southwestern business faculty—Mary Grace Neville, Don Parks, and A. J. Senchack. It was their passion for teaching business within the liberal arts that most inspired me to pursue this career.

How has teaching transformed you?

The students are the reason I teach. Every day, I get a chance to contribute to their development and help them pursue their passions. It is these bright, courageous, and inspiring people that make this the most rewarding job that I've ever had.

What is something your students would be surprised to know about you?

Along with studying business and economics as an undergraduate, I also studied political science. In 1989, I studied abroad in the Soviet Union, visiting Moscow, Tbilisi, and St. Petersburg (then still Leningrad). It was a time of tremendous political change and was a very challenging and high-impact experience.

When not working, you can find me...

somewhere else. My family loves to travel. If we have a week off, we always say we are going to have a “staycation,” but it seems we are not very good at that. My daughter is very proud of the fact that she had two stamps in her passport before her first birthday.

If you could have a drink at the Cove with anyone in the world, living or dead, who would the person be, and why?

That's a challenging question. I could go a million different ways with that, but I will say I'd like to share a pint of ice cream with Ben Cohen. He is one of the founders of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. We study that company closely in our Foundations of Business course. Through that discussion, I have come to admire his passion for balancing a company's financial success with its impact on its community and other stakeholders.

Describe your dream vacation.

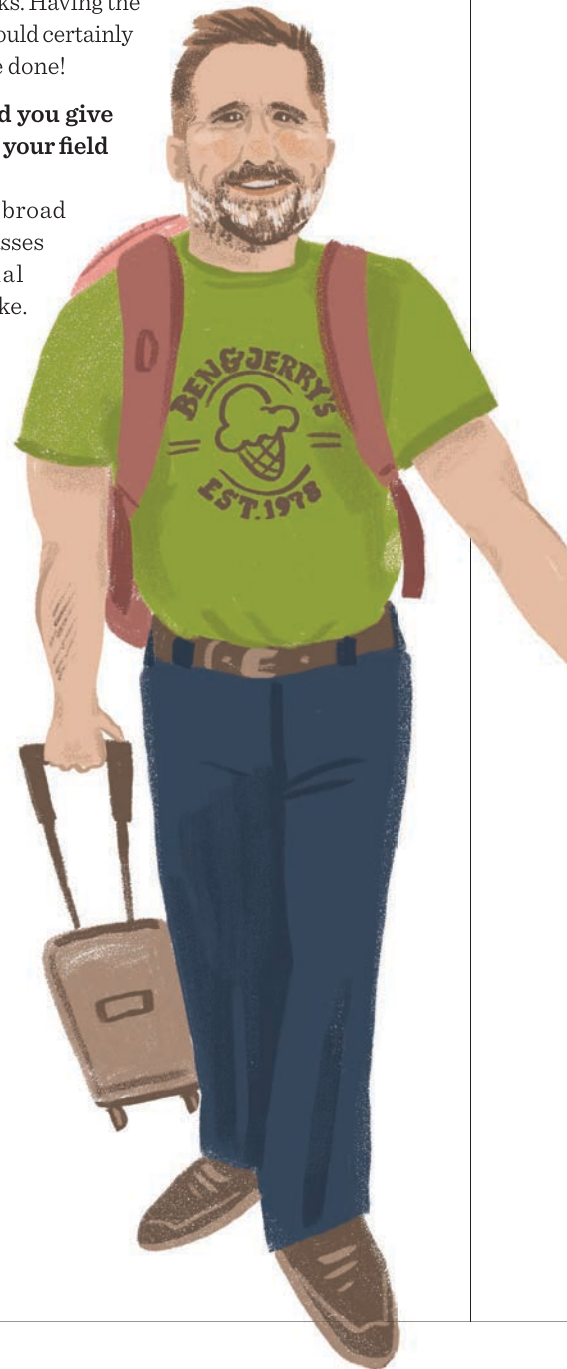
My dream vacation is going somewhere new. Some of the most fascinating places I have visited did not show up on my bucket list before visiting them. While teaching the SU London Semester in the fall of 2018, we had the opportunity to visit Helsinki, Finland. I was captivated by the people and the culture. I'm excited to find the next place where I can experience that feeling of discovery.

If you could choose one superpower, what would it be?

I was envious of Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter books. Having the ability to stop time would certainly allow me to get more done!

What advice would you give students going into your field today?

Business is such a broad concept. It encompasses all the commercial activity we undertake. Because it's so broad, it is often intimidating for students to try to imagine their place in that world. My advice is always to start with your passions and find the business application from there. I am thrilled by the number of double majors we have at Southwestern who have combined the study of business with another field that inspires them.



Katy Ross

Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Endowed Professor of Spanish

After an early introduction to Spanish, Ross dedicated herself to the study of Spanish literature, language, and culture. She now fosters transformation in her students by focusing on the five Cs of language learning: communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

How long have you been teaching?

In 1995, I started teaching as part of my M.A. program at the University of Kansas. I started at SU in 2005, after teaching at The University of Texas, Texas Christian University, and the University of North Texas.



What inspired you to become an educator?

My first experience teaching a class was at the University of Kansas. While I was completely unprepared for what teaching a class meant, I loved it. It's fun to watch students move from knowing no Spanish to becoming proficient in speaking it, and I enjoy sharing my love for the Spanish language, Spain, and Spanish culture with my students.

How has teaching transformed you?

I hope that teaching has made me more open-minded. As a university faculty member, you come across all kinds of people, including colleagues and students, and these experiences that are outside my normal social interactions help me grow as a person and as a community member.

What is something your students would be surprised to know about you?

The students who know me well probably wouldn't be surprised, but I own about 80 or 90 pairs of shoes. My goal is to never wear the same pair of shoes twice to the same class.

When not working, you can find me...

with my family. We love spending time together, traveling, bingeing a series on Netflix, or playing board games.

If you could have a drink at the Cove with anyone in the world, living or dead, what would the beverage be, who would the person be, and why?

I would love to talk to the Spanish movie director Icíar Bollaín. She started out as an actor and moved into directing, and she has directed some excellent movies, such as *Te Doy Mis Ojos* and *También la Lluvia*. I would invite her to a drink (can we imagine you can get a good Spanish wine at the Cove?) and ask her about the process of making movies in Spain. If you haven't seen one of her films, you should. (You can find *También la Lluvia* on Netflix.)

Describe your dream vacation.

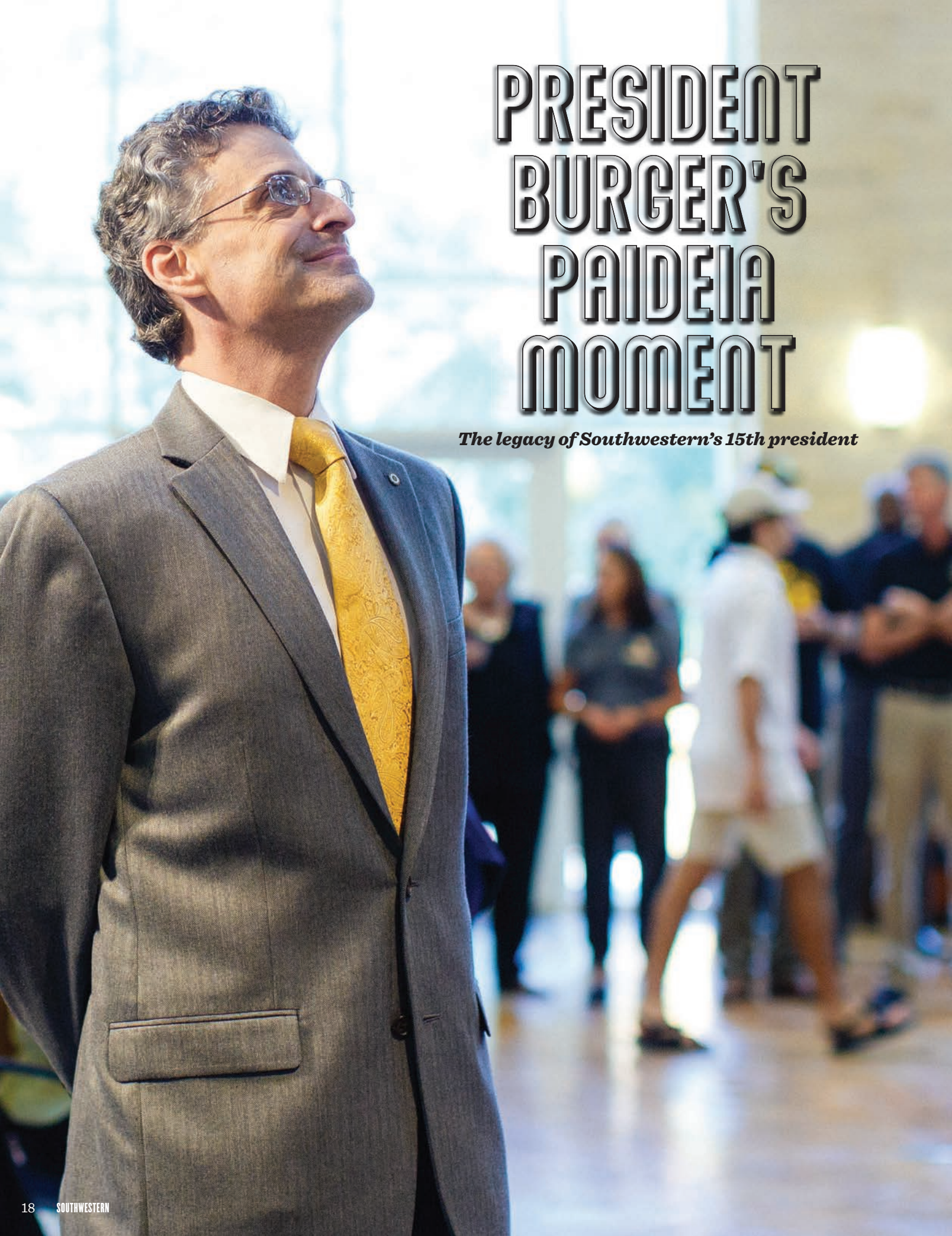
My dream vacation would be a week at a beach in a Spanish-speaking country, with delicious food and drinks, my family, and lots of down time to relax and read.

If you could choose one superpower, what would it be?

Teleportation. While I love to travel, I hate the process of traveling—driving, flying, traffic, security. I would love to be able to blink and arrive at my destination.

What advice would you give students going into your field today?

Make connections. The relationships you have with faculty and other students in undergrad and grad school make a huge difference as you start in this field. Ask for help when you need it.



PRESIDENT BURGER'S PAIDEIA MOMENT

The legacy of Southwestern's 15th president

SINCE HIS FIRST DAY as its 15th president in 2013, Edward B. Burger has transformed Southwestern University. Now, as he prepares to step aside in January 2020 to take the helm as president and chief executive officer at St. David's Foundation in Austin, one of the nation's largest healthcare foundations, the Southwestern community is reflecting on the president's impact on the University. From his engagement with the students, alumni, faculty, and staff to his hands-on and bold leadership of the University during a time of record-breaking growth, there is no part of the University that is not stronger because of him.

"We are deeply grateful to Dr. Burger—our colleague, teacher, and friend who has given us so

much of himself to make Southwestern stand out as a place that values and delivers distinctive, high-impact learning through intellectual and personal growth that lasts a lifetime," says Stephen G. Tipps, chair of the University's Board of Trustees. "He personifies *Think. Create. Connect.—to make meaning and make a difference.*"

Visionary change

Part of the difference Burger has made to Southwestern can be seen in the dramatic physical changes to the campus, including the Fondren–Jones Science Center (see "The Gift of a Lifetime" in this issue). But it's also manifested in, as Garey Chair and Professor of Mathematics Alison Marr points out, "the hammocks, the Adirondack chairs, the revitalized Bishops Lounge, the new plaza and porch in front of Fondren–Jones,... not to mention all the beautiful gathering spaces inside the new science building, including the awesome new outdoor classroom. There are more places for students, faculty, and staff to gather and build community."

Burger also helped articulate and champion Paideia, Southwestern's interdisciplinary approach to education, which encourages students to intentionally make connections as they think about and think through their chosen fields of study. Aiden Steidle '20, a math major and chief editor of *The Megaphone*, has

found SU's rigorous but flexible curriculum liberating because it has allowed him to explore a wide range of interests. "Personally, I've been able to pursue mathematics, finance, journalism, and ceramics and have been encouraged at every step along

the way," he says gratefully. "Dr. Burger's mantra of *Think. Create. Connect.* reflects in our Paideia program, which I believe will carry Southwestern into the future, helping to craft well-rounded liberal arts students."

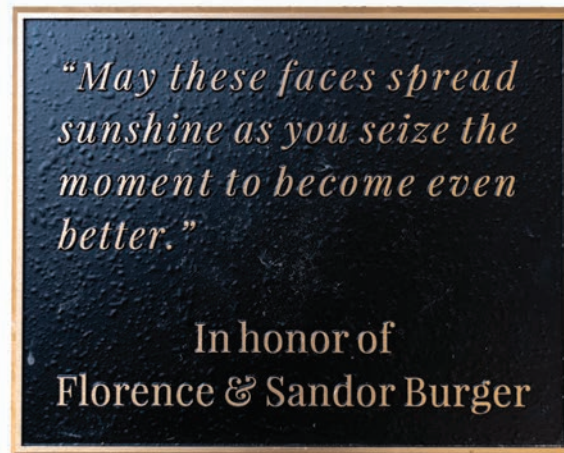
To complement Paideia, SU launched Mosaic last year and the Residential Experience in fall 2019, programs dedicated to enhancing students' personal and intellectual growth through their cocurricular activities. For Burger, these initiatives have represented the exciting outcomes of Southwestern's continuous "process of

regrowth and rebirth": "The reimagination of Paideia and the phenomenal start of Mosaic just thrill me because they make the *Southwestern Experience* a lifelong experience that transforms individuals and advances the life of the mind in meaningful and challenging ways that promote intellectual and personal growth," says Burger. "I was extraordinarily proud of the institution for that. Those are the high points of the half dozen years." These initiatives have also contributed to the University's growing reputation, which has elicited record-setting enrollments during the president's term, with the five largest classes in the University's history.

Burger has made no secret that one of the greatest challenges he confronted when assuming the role of president was grappling with the institution's finances while implementing long-deferred

but much-needed maintenance projects and updates to the University's technological infrastructure. More broadly, that puzzle has included "acknowledg[ing] the economics of higher education"

and "balanc[ing] two very strong opposing forces: making this type of educational experience attainable and practical for bright, engaged students whose families or who, themselves, do not have the means to afford it...[and] trying to keep the cost of a Southwestern education as low as possible while facing the high costs and inflationary pressures of running a large, complex institution."



Commemorating one of Burger's many gifts to Southwestern, the plaque adorning the new public clock in the Jones Plaza captures the president's educational and personal philosophies.

"In many ways, Ed has transformed Southwestern in his own image," says Tipps. "He has made us all focus on learning to think as the essence of education. And he has taught us all about the benefits of creative failure."

Nevertheless, Burger is proud of how the University has inspired foundations, alumni, parents, and friends to support Southwestern through more than \$100 million in gifts and pledges. During his presidency, SU also achieved a balanced budget for six consecutive years, as well as a healthy increase in the endowment, growing nearly 25% from \$253 million to \$297 million. As Vice President for University Relations Paul Secord attests, "The University is financially strong—not just stable but vibrant and planning optimistically for an even brighter future."

But according to many members of SU's advisory boards, senior staff, and faculty, perhaps Burger's greatest contribution has been a comprehensive strategic vision and direction for the University. "I think his major gift to Southwestern has been to create an exciting vision of the promise of Southwestern's future and to invite all of us to see how we might be a part of making it happen," says Board of Trustees member Henry Joyner. Elizabeth Yeager P'17, a fellow trustee whose family has been connected with SU for five generations, adds that *Think. Create. Connect.* "encapsulates that vision succinctly. SU students have always been change makers, but Dr. Burger helped focus the mission and raise awareness of the true value of a liberal arts education." Yeager adds that Burger instilled that vision in students, faculty, alumni, friends, and board members. "Not many leaders are able to do that," she says.

John Shearn Chair and Associate Professor of Business Debika Sihi remembers the president speaking at an event for visiting students. According to Sihi, Burger told the audience about a former student who had once remarked loudly, "You're wrong!" in response to a math problem the class was trying to solve. Burger explained that if the student had only thought about the puzzle in a different way, they would have seen that the proposed solution was, indeed, possible. "Dr. Burger encouraged the visiting students to use the university experience to not only share their existing knowledge but also develop new ways of thinking and appreciate others' ideas and viewpoints," Sihi recounts. "With this simple story, Dr. Burger eloquently captured the mission of a Southwestern education.... He truly helped to reinforce and reinvigorate the lifelong learning that happens at Southwestern."

A professor and a president

When Burger was selected as president of Southwestern University, the choice was, as reported by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, an "unconventional" one. After all, in 2013–2014, only 1% of new university presidents were selected from faculty ranks; most had previously served as leaders of other institutions or else as provosts, vice presidents, or deans.

Burger, meanwhile, interviewed for the position while serving as the Francis Christopher Oakley Third Century Professor of Mathematics at Williams College, having joined the Williams faculty in 1990. He was also a nationally recognized innovator in education, having coauthored *The 5 Elements of Effective Thinking* (Princeton University Press, 2012) with Michael Starbird, starred in thousands of online mathematics videos, and won numerous awards for teaching.

"We on the [hiring] committee thought that bringing in an academic of Ed's stature would be a great thing for the school, and it has been," Tipps recalls. Joyner agrees. "Dr. Burger's experience as an in-classroom educator and his innovative teaching career have brought great perspective to his role as president," he says. "At the same time, it was a new experience for him to become the chief executive of a large organization with a diversity of activities. His ability to master the new necessary skills has been impressive. He is a gifted leader and learner."

For SU faculty, Burger's longtime experience as a professor meant that he would possess both credibility and empathy as

an administrator. "I knew him to be a fantastic and charismatic educator.... I was excited to have a president who was one of us, a professor and a mathematician, who had a strong vision for Southwestern,"

"Working with Ed was like spending time with a human light bulb," shares Sylvia J. Sydow Kerrigan '86, a member of the Southwestern Board of Trustees. "He illuminated, energized, cheered, and suddenly made the impossible seem possible."

reflects Fumiko Futamura, a fellow professor of mathematics, as well as Lord Chair in Mathematics and Computer Science. "He understood our job and our many roles as researchers, educators, mentors, and advisors. He understood that we needed time and compensation for the work that we do—and the importance of making sure the faculty had the resources to do their jobs well."

Futamura echoes Marr and Alisa Gaunder, professor of political science and dean of the faculty, in expressing further appreciation for Burger's support of the faculty through fundraising. "As an academic, Dr. Burger was able to raise money for things that directly impact the work faculty do at Southwestern," Marr comments. Those efforts have supported new midcycle sabbaticals; multiple new endowed chairs and professorships; the new laboratories, offices, and classrooms of the Fondren–Jones Science Center; and the creation of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship and the Center for Integrative Learning.

Burger's commitment to supporting faculty simultaneously resulted in expanded opportunities and new facilities for SU students. "Having an academic president was significant. President Burger has been laser focused on the academic program, and it is stronger from his leadership," Gaunder reflects. In addition to assuring that Southwestern students benefitted from a rigorous curriculum, David Gaines, professor of English



...): $\sqrt{2}$ is irrational.

... why...): some not... so $\sqrt{2} = \frac{r}{s}$ (*)

... best terms... r and s share no common factors!

... Now... where does $\frac{r^2}{s^2} = 2$ lead??

$$(\sqrt{2})^2 = (\frac{r}{s})^2 \Rightarrow 2 = \frac{r^2}{s^2}$$

r^2 is EVEN $\Rightarrow r$ must be even

Back to $\frac{r^2}{s^2} = 2 \Rightarrow 2s^2 = r^2$

Thus, s^2 is even $\Rightarrow s$ must be even

r and s share a common factor

So $\sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}$ (not rational)

When is the ... / ...



and director of national fellowships and scholarships, says that Burger “was keenly aware of who our students are, what they wanted and needed, and what happened in our classrooms.” From raising more than \$100 million for students demonstrating financial need to creating the tradition of President’s Table dinners and simply being present at academic, social, athletic, and theater events, Burger “brought new impetus for the student-centered approach to teaching and learning,” Gaines adds. Futumura agrees: “He used his position to uplift students, publicly recognize their achievements, and make them feel proud.”

Steinle can testify to the importance of Burger’s role as both a professor and a president. He says that Burger “has been a major force in [his] formative education,” even prior to his matriculation at Southwestern. Long before he met the president in person, Steinle learned algebra, geometry, and other math subjects through several video series Burger had created for Thinkwell, a company that produces online courses for supplemental instruction and homeschooling. During his college search process, Steinle was inspired to apply to Southwestern after attending one of Burger’s talks at an SU alumni event in San Antonio.

Steinle fondly remembers how Burger made an effort to get to know him and his peers when Steinle was a first-year student. He enrolled in the president’s Effective Thinking through Creative Puzzle-Solving course, which he says is “unique; I haven’t experienced anything quite like it since. In and out of the classroom, Dr. Burger emphasized that the answer to a question was not nearly as interesting as the steps it took to get there.” Steinle says that he learned mindfulness techniques that he still practices four years later, and he attributes his reignited interest in puzzles and problem-solving to the class. “[It] put me back into the mindset I had growing up: a curiosity about the world and a desire to find patterns,” he remarks.

Steinle went on to intern for Burger the following two fall semesters, serving as a teaching assistant (TA) and grader. Through his experiences as both student and TA, Steinle remarks, “I noticed his passion for education and his drive to make a difference in the lives of his students.... From day one, he has been a

part of the *Southwestern Experience* for many students. When I talk to friends at other universities, they’ve always been surprised at how involved our president is with campus life. I wouldn’t have it any other way. While I’m sad to see him go, I’m grateful for all the positive growth and change he started.”

Connecting with alumni

Engaging Southwestern alumni as collaborators in shaping the University’s future has also been a hallmark of Burger’s presidency. Cile Spelce Elley ’91, now chief marketing officer at iCore-Connect and a principal at Electro-Fish Media, LLC, admits that she “was not an actively involved alumna,” but Burger’s leadership, which she says “rejects complacency and inspires imagination,” was “like a bat signal calling alumni to step up and be part of SU’s future.” Impressed by Burger’s progress during his first year

on the job, Spelce Elley accepted an invitation to join her alma mater’s Board of Visitors. “It was obvious Ed understood the imperative of interdisciplinary learning, creative problem-solving, and respectful dialogue,” she shares. “He just brings an energy into every room, every conversation. And that energy is 100% Southwestern! He is the rare kind of leader who is brilliant, engaging, authentic, and part Energizer Bunny.... He inspires me to

" President Burger is a dynamic leader with a charismatic personality," says Vice President for Student Life Jaime Woody. " He believes in the SU product and was able to articulate any and all pieces of the Southwestern Experience. He immersed himself in many, many areas of the campus, so his knowledge base was deep and vast; he could speak to any aspect of the University with facts and breadth of knowledge. He inherited many challenges and worked diligently to right the ship and point us in a direction that yielded terrific growth, awareness, and national visibility. "

look at Southwestern and ask ‘why?’ and ‘how?’ as we think about tomorrow.”

Credited widely as a relationship builder, Burger exhibits curiosity and a genuine interest in the lives of alumni at University events both on and off campus. Spelce Elley observes that he is always excited to partake in deep, fascinating conversations about education, life, or the arts with graduates and other friends of Southwestern. “Ed is the reason I chose to get involved at SU as an alumna. The future of SU is the reason I will stay involved. There is no place like this University—anywhere.”

As many will attest, Burger’s commitment to alumni also extends to their families. Susan Slagle Rogers ’83 recalls meeting Burger when her family returned to Texas for spring break in 2016. Her son was a high-school sophomore at the time and asked if they could visit Southwestern during their trip. They scheduled a tour, and afterward, they were invited to meet Burger

in the president's office. "My husband and I were already quite impressed with all of the improvements made to the campus since I'd been a student in the '80s and by the caliber of the students we met," Rogers recalls. "Dr. Burger's passion and enthusiasm for Southwestern were contagious!" He asked Rogers and her husband to consider speaking at the President's Thinking Symposium the following fall before "kicking them out" (Burger's words) so that he could talk to their son. "I will be forever grateful for the conversation that Dr. Burger had with him," Rogers says. "Whereas my son had been apprehensive about going to college before, after that conversation, he was excited by the potential of what lie ahead."

Rogers, a producer at DreamWorks Animation, and her husband, Doug Rogers, an imagineer (or senior creative design lead) with Walt Disney Parks, did, in fact, return to SU in fall 2017 as the first speakers in the series that semester. The following spring, the Rogerses hosted a President's Dinner in their home—the first time, to Rogers's knowledge, that an SU president had attended an event in the Los Angeles area. "Once again, President Burger was quite passionate and eloquent in presenting his vision of the future of Southwestern to the alumni, parents, and school counselors who were present," she recounts. "I know of at least one alumnus who has reengaged with the school as a result of that dinner."

Since then, Rogers has mentored three SU students who expressed interest in the entertainment industry, and she and her husband hosted a reception for accepted students at their home in spring 2019, with all of them ultimately deciding to attend Southwestern this fall.

"On a personal note, I'm very grateful to President Burger for reminding me how much I enjoy learning and taking on challenges—and for encouraging me to try new things," Rogers adds. "He reminds you that you are smarter than you give yourself credit for and that, really, it's all a big adventure and the sky is the limit."

Of legacies and looking forward

Colleagues at SU have expressed their appreciation for the president's high energy, his dynamic personality, and the engaged way he interacted with students, board members, faculty, and staff. Community members have admired his unwavering commitment to and passion for mentoring students but also his genuine desire to listen to and learn from feedback. Many share that they have learned from him and experienced tremendous professional growth because of his support, mentorship, and collaboration.

After 38 years of being committed to the life of the mind and higher education, Burger admits that transitioning into the role of teacher and mentor in a different context will certainly require some adjustment. So those who know him will not be surprised to hear that what he'll miss most about Southwestern is, he says, "without a doubt, the students. And I consider every single student on this campus my student. They can always reach out to me, and I will always be there for them." He says he'll also miss his "amazing colleagues here—the faculty and staff who just give so much of themselves to the institution. And the alumni who have showered their alma mater with so much love, kindness, support, and generosity of spirit." It's obvious that, above all, the people are what matter most to Burger.

Southwestern's Strides under President Burger's Leadership

- A comprehensive strategic vision and direction for the University
- An interconnected Paideia curriculum
- The new Jack and Camille Garey School of Natural Sciences
- The \$40 million expansion of the Fondren-Jones Science Center
- The development and launch of Mosaic and the Residential Experience
- Record-setting enrollments, with the five largest classes in the University's history
- More than 10 new named chairs and professorships
- Over \$100 million in gifts and pledges
- A balanced budget for six consecutive years and strong financial vitality going forward
- Growth in the endowment from \$253 million to \$297 million

When asked what he believes will be his legacy, Burger gives the response he offered nearly seven years ago to a trustee who asked the same question: "I don't care if anyone says a word about me or my legacy. But here's what I want them to say about Southwestern: it has become an institution that is known and is respected for offering a truly transformational intellectual and personal experience that uplifts individuals and makes them better versions of themselves. That's all that matters."

Indeed, as Southwestern looks to the future, the University will continue to implement its mission of providing "an effective and meaningful intellectual experience," says Secord. Gaunder agrees, assuring that *Think. Create. Connect.* —to make meaning and make a difference will still define how Southwestern delivers a high-impact education as the institution moves forward. Burger is excited to see how the University "continues to lead through its focus on inspiring individuals to become better versions of themselves, both personally and intellectually, and to make humanity better."

As he departs for St. David's Foundation, community members can rest assured that Burger will remain an ardent advocate of the

University. He will, he says, "be just down the road": the nonprofit is headquartered in Austin, approximately 30 miles south of SU via I-35. There, he'll be experiencing another "Paideia moment" as he connects what he learned and taught at Southwestern to a foundation that supports the education of those preparing

for careers in the medical arts through scholarships while also helping the community through wellness programs and health initiatives. "They're trying to make people better, and I've devoted my whole life to that," he says. "Southwestern and St. David's are committed to parallel goals, which is very

exciting." He invites everyone to stay in touch by writing him at his Southwestern email address, which he is happily keeping.

And in the meantime, he leaves these words of presidential advice: "Always look forward. Always be open to change and evolution, even when it might initially appear to be unsettling. And always continue to grow."

For updates about the search for Southwestern University's 16th president, visit www.southwestern.edu/presidential-search. 📧

**Trustee Lynn Parr Mock '83 shares,
"President Burger's vision and passion for
higher education combined with his
dynamic and thoughtful leadership have
resulted in transformative achievement
and set Southwestern on a course toward
an even more exciting and optimistic
future. While I am sad President Burger is
leaving, I know he will continue to be an
advocate for Southwestern wherever he is."**



A History of Leadership

IN JANUARY 2020, Dale Knobel, president emeritus and professor of history emeritus of Denison University, will take the reins as interim president of Southwestern University. But Knobel is no stranger to SU. From 1996 to 1998, he served Southwestern as provost and dean of the faculty as well as professor of history. Since retiring to Georgetown with his wife, Tina, in 2013, he has variously served on and chaired Southwestern's Board of Visitors and, more recently, was elected a member of the Board of Trustees.



Dale Knobel will assume the role of interim president of Southwestern University in January 2020.

"I've had a long-term interest in Southwestern, because I believe in its mission," he says. "I believe that residential liberal arts colleges offer the best opportunities for learning and personal growth in American higher education. I believe that Southwestern is singularly student focused in a way that places it among a select group of colleges nationwide. I believe that our nation and our world require the kind of deliberative critical thinkers that a Southwestern liberal arts education encourages."

Knobel earned his B.A. in history from Yale University and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University. His graduate research focused on the shifting relationships between racial and ethnic groups before and after the U.S. Civil War. In his dissertation, which he later published as his first book, *Paddy and the Republic: Ethnicity and Nationality in Antebellum America* (Wesleyan University Press, 1988), Knobel examined how stereotypes of Irish immigrants changed over the course of the 19th century. In his second book, *"America for the Americans": The Nativist Movement in the United*

States (Twayne Publishers, 1996), he analyzed hostility toward ethnic, racial, and religious groups from the 18th to the 20th century.

A member of the history faculty at Texas A&M University for 19 years, Knobel was appointed director and then executive director of A&M's honors program (1984–1994). He served as associate provost for undergraduate programs (1995–1996) before joining Southwestern's administration. He went on to serve 15 years as the president of Denison University, a private liberal arts institution in Granville, Ohio. In 2012, the Council for Advancement and Support of Higher Education recognized Knobel as a leader in higher education by presenting him with the Chief Executive Leadership Award. Today, he is a senior fellow in higher education and former interim president of the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, the chair of the board of directors at the Sherman Fairchild Foundation, a trustee of the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, and a director of the Texas Methodist Foundation. He is also a member of several professional organizations for historians.

"Dr. Knobel's experience in and knowledge of higher education generally and Southwestern University in particular [are] unparalleled," says Stephen Tipps, chair of the University's Board of Trustees. "We are fortunate to have him as part of our community and thankful for his willingness to serve in this important leadership role during this time of transition." President Edward Burger adds, "I have enormous regard and respect for Dr. Knobel. To have him return to a leadership role at Southwestern is a great gift to the University and a great gift to me personally."

Knobel says his goals for his interim presidency are simple: "to sustain the momentum of the Southwestern community, which has been generated not only by Dr. Burger and his staff but by faculty, [University] staff, and students. Making sure that we continue to implement the goals of the strategic plan is essential to landing the best possible successor to Dr. Burger, to reassuring alumni and other supporters that the University remains on course, and to encouraging prospective students across the country to consider Southwestern as their college home."

He observes that Southwestern has evolved while still holding true to its core values in the decades since he served as provost and dean. "The student body is more diverse in backgrounds and experiences, enrollment has grown by about 20%, outstanding new facilities dot the campus, and the University is more fully—and appropriately—residential," he remarks. "But the close connection between students and faculty endures; committed teacher-scholars stimulate student learning by remaining atop their crafts; [and] robust opportunities for students to learn and grow outside the classroom through community service, student life, and athletics abound. These are historical hallmarks of Southwestern, and they live on today." 🏛️

Sometimes,
it's hard
to imagine
what your
impact looks
like,...



...and
sometimes,
it's easy.

I would not have been able to attend Southwestern University without the support of generous donors. Not only was I able to receive scholarships and financial aid, but I was able to take advantage of the high-impact experiences Southwestern had to offer, elevating my own Southwestern Experience to a more meaningful level. I am so incredibly grateful for the support.

—Marissa Morin '19

Gifts of all sizes from our alumni, parents, and friends make a huge difference in the lives of our students as they prepare to become the next thought leaders, game changers, and disruptors.

To make your impact, please use the attached envelope, or go to southwestern.edu/makeagift.

— THE SOUTHWESTERN FUND —



THE HIGHTLAND CAMILLE CASEY
SCHOOL OF NURSING SCIENCES

FUNDER JONES SCIENCE CENTER

THE GIFT

***Southwestern celebrates the new Garey School of Natural Sciences
and the completion of the Fondren–Jones Science Center.***

OF A LIFETIME

BY DEBBIE RITENOUR

MORE THAN HALF OF THE STUDENTS entering Southwestern each fall plan on majoring or minoring in the natural sciences. The popularity of these degree programs is no surprise considering the University's tradition of excellence in science education. The cutting-edge curriculum incorporates inquiry-based learning into classes at all levels, empowering students to learn through their own agency and investigation and enabling the committed, engaged faculty to make the academic experience truly meaningful for students.

Now, thanks to the largest single private gift in Southwestern's history and other generous donations, students and faculty in the natural sciences have access to a world-class facility, state-of-the-art tools, and learning and research opportunities that will enable them to succeed both within and outside the University.

The new Jack and Camille Garey School of Natural Sciences opened last fall inside the recently renovated and expanded Fondren–Jones Science Center. Together, the new school and modernized building are amplifying the University's commitment to the natural sciences and transforming the student experience.

An unprecedented gift

In 2018, Southwestern Life Trustee Jack Garey gave \$15 million to the University in support of faculty development, academic programming, need-based scholarships, and high-impact experiences. Garey, who made the gift in honor of his late wife, Camille, is a committed environmentalist, making the natural sciences the perfect fit for the majority of his gift.

"This unprecedented and transformative gift, which has been fully allocated to the University's endowment, will build upon our reputation as a world-class institution that is transforming higher

education and as a national leader in high-impact learning and intellectual growth," President Edward Burger said when the gift was announced.

While administrators had long known Garey was a staunch supporter of the University—he had served on Southwestern's Board of Trustees for 12 years before being appointed as a life trustee in 2017—the timing of the gift was unexpected.

"We knew we'd been a part of his estate planning, but the fact that he accelerated his gift was a surprise," says Vice President for Finance and Administration Craig Erwin. "His generosity reflected his belief in what we're doing here at Southwestern and created some buzz and excitement about the University in general."

"It was important to me to make this gift now because we are at a crucial time in education in this country, a crossroads of sorts," Garey said in May 2018. "I believe that Southwestern University... is going to play a major role in the evolution of higher education—not just in Texas but in the nation as well. I wanted to invest in that transformation."

In addition to establishing the Jack and Camille Garey School of Natural Sciences, the endowment funded by the gift will underwrite high-impact experiences for 32 Garey Scholars in their sophomore and junior years, support eight annual midcycle competitive sabbatical semesters for tenured faculty across the University, provide additional need-based assistance through the Financial Aid Office, and create five endowed chairs in the natural sciences.

"The impact of \$15 million cannot be overstated," says Vice President for University Relations Paul Secord. "It is not only a powerful endorsement of our vision and direction as a University, but the earnings from that endowment will generate \$750,000 a year in perpetuity that will go to the direct benefit of our students both today and for countless generations to come."

A new school

The new Garey School of Natural Sciences joined the Brown College of Arts and Sciences and the Sarofim School of Fine Arts as one of three named schools within the University. It officially united five academic departments: Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Kinesiology, Mathematics and Computer Science, and Physics.

"The synergy of having all of the natural science faculty under one roof allows for more natural and frequent interactions between our faculty and students," Secord says.

These interactions help students think beyond their coursework and make intentional connections within the natural sciences and between the natural sciences and other subjects. This is a key component of Paideia, Southwestern's interdisciplinary approach to education, which empowers students to think in broader, more original ways. But this ability to make connections also prepares students for careers in the natural sciences. The science of the 21st century is both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary, with professionals in different disciplines collaborating to develop solutions to the world's biggest problems.

"Paideia is all about making connections, and modern science is all about making connections," says Professor of Biology and Lillian Nelson Pratt Chair Ben Pierce. "It's critical that our students are able to make those connections and work in a multidisciplinary environment."

The new school also fosters interdisciplinary connections between the natural sciences and the humanities, fine arts, and social sciences. These connections can help students discover new passions outside the natural sciences. For example, many students complete the premedical pathway in addition to majoring in nonscience fields such as art history, communication studies, or philosophy. Some will major in chemistry or kinesiology but minor in English or theater. Others will major in two or more fields, such as Assistant Professor of Computer Science Jacob Schrum '06, who majored in computer science, mathematics, and German.

"At Southwestern, students are encouraged to make important, meaningful connections between seemingly unrelated topics," Schrum says. "These connections can make you think about things in a new way and appreciate them a bit more."

A world-class facility

The Garey School is housed in the Fondren–Jones Science Center, which, thanks to a number of generous friends of the University, underwent a multimillion-dollar expansion and renovation over the past several years. The original building was constructed in

1952, and an addition was built in 1998. The most recent expansion consisted of two phases: phase 1, which broke ground in April 2014 and was completed in September 2016, added 25,000 square feet of space for teaching laboratories, student–faculty research space, and collaborative learning studios, while phase 2, which began in December 2017 and was completed as classes began in fall 2019, added seven new classrooms, five teaching laboratories, one conference room, two computer laboratories, seven research laboratories, and 42 new offices.

"The Fondren–Jones Science Center as a whole feels like an integrated building now," Erwin says. "Before, it felt like three very distinct buildings with disjointed hallways and unexpected elevation changes. Now, it's a seamless, well-thought-out space."

Planning for the recent expansion began 10 years ago. "One of the first things we did was hold a workshop with faculty, administrators, students, and the architects to talk about what science will look like in the future. We wanted to ensure the facility reflected the science of the 21st century," says Pierce, who helped coordinate faculty input for the project. "We were already revising the curriculum and committing to inquiry-based learning, but we didn't have the facilities to support that."

Faculty from the natural sciences were involved throughout the decade-long project. "We were included from the very beginning and every step of the way," Pierce says. "We were even included during the construction process, so we could provide our input as things came up and decisions had to be made quickly."

The project team also created a number of task forces to focus on specific aspects of the facility, such as the laboratories, classrooms, and student interaction spaces. These task forces included faculty, staff, and students from across the University. "We wanted to ensure we created spaces that would work for the whole campus community," Pierce says.

Professor of Chemistry Emily Niemeyer chaired the classroom task force. "We held discussions on what the classrooms should look like," she says. "I felt strongly that we shouldn't have desks, and we talked about how that would work."

Instead of rows of desks facing forward like in a traditional classroom, the new classrooms have circular tables and modular furniture that can be easily rearranged. They also feature integrated audiovisual equipment and touch screens that allow for increased participation and easy sharing of data. "We don't have to do work-arounds anymore. The classrooms are designed to facilitate active learning," Niemeyer says.

FONDREN–JONES PHASE 2

7 NEW CLASSROOMS

5 TEACHING LABS

1 CONFERENCE ROOM

2 COMPUTER LABS

7 RESEARCH LABS

42 NEW OFFICES



Southwestern students can now study, collaborate, and socialize in the bright and airy Cullen Foundation Atrium in the Fondren–Jones Science Center.

The overall effect is a classroom that embraces group learning and inquiry. Even the chairs are thoughtfully designed, with space for students' backpacks.

"The minute you walk in the classroom, you know something is different. You can feel that something is going to happen here," Niemeyer says. "We now have a physical space that supports the kind of pedagogy we've been practicing."

Indeed, the Fondren–Jones Science Center represents the University's commitment in stone to Paideia. It was intentionally designed to foster increased collaboration among faculty and students and to provide more opportunities for inquiry-based, multidisciplinary learning and meaningful educational experiences.

"I often refer to this project as the house that pedagogy built," President Burger said at the Final Beam Ceremony on August 30, 2018, "because that really, in fact, is the case."

A commitment to research

By supporting high-impact experiences for Garey Scholars, the Garey gift provides these students with valuable opportunities they may otherwise not have had. These experiences, which include study abroad, internships, community-engaged learning, and faculty-mentored research, allow students to apply their learning in real-world situations and develop skills that will prepare them for success in today's workforce.

Collaborative research is particularly important for students in the natural sciences. "The literature shows that research helps students identify as scientists and become more engaged and successful in their area," Niemeyer says. "It also shows that students who participate in research are more likely to persist in the sciences."

The Fondren–Jones Science Center gives students access to state-of-the-art research tools and facilities, including a cell-culture laboratory, an imaging center, instrumentation rooms, and a nuclear

magnetic resonance spectroscope. The shared research laboratories allow for more interaction between faculty and students and provide a better research experience for students.

"There's space to conduct experiments in the center of the lab and planning and interactive space around the outside of the room," Niemeyer says. "This is completely different from the rows of benches in a traditional-looking lab. Students can wheel around to one another and work in groups. It all works perfectly. It's really amazing."

Many of the laboratories and classrooms feature a lot of windows, allowing passersby to peek inside and see what students are doing. This reinforces the collaborative nature of the building.

"I'm forced to use the computer lab most of the time," says Schrum, who is currently teaching Computer Science II and Programming Languages, "but now I'm surrounded by windows. I joke that the beautiful view could detract from people's ability to pay attention."

It's not just students who benefit from Southwestern's commitment to research. The midcycle sabbaticals supported by the Garey gift will provide more time for faculty members to advance their research and scholarship and further their long-term professional growth.

"Typically, faculty can apply for a sabbatical every seven years and use this time to pursue activities beyond the classroom such as research and writing," says Erwin. "These midcycle sabbaticals further support the teacher–scholar model that Southwestern is so invested in."

In addition to pursuing their own individual research, faculty often spend their sabbaticals helping students get their research published. Publishing a research article, especially when listed as the first author, is a big achievement for students that can help them stand out from their peers.



"I was on sabbatical last spring, and I focused on finishing projects students were 95% done with," Niemeyer says. "Students have to write a scientific manuscript as part of their capstone, and there are a lot of details involved in getting that published. Without sabbaticals, we wouldn't have time to help."

The Garey gift also supports faculty by establishing five endowed chairs. "Endowed chairs are the highest recognition an excellent teacher-scholar receives, and the creation of five new Garey Chairs will enable Southwestern to honor and celebrate its exceptional professors with them," Secord says.

The Fondren-Jones Science Center houses Southwestern's Summer Collaborative Opportunities and Experiences (SCOPE) program, in which students spend eight weeks conducting full-time research alongside faculty mentors. The program aims to foster a culture of research, support ongoing faculty development, and promote student investigative learning, persistence, and success.

"I regularly do summer research with SCOPE students," Schrum says. "Working in the new space will make the research experience more enjoyable next summer. We can collaborate better and build more of a research community."

A stronger community

Building a sense of community and creating more opportunities for interaction was an important goal when designing the expansion and renovation of the Fondren-Jones Science Center. The Kinesiology Department, for example, has been part of the natural sciences for 10 years, but it was located across campus, in the Corbin J. Robertson Center. Professor of Kinesiology Scott McLean says moving to the Fondren-Jones Science Center has been a remarkable and refreshing change.

"Having us on the other side of campus was always a challenge. Now I see other members of the natural sciences faculty every day, and we stop and talk," McLean says. "I've never had that before, and I'm starting my 19th year here."

These regular interactions can lead to increased collaborations among faculty. "As a biomechanist, I benefit from being near faculty in the physics and math departments," McLean says. "I can draw from their expertise in my own work."

Professor of Mathematics and Lord Chair in Mathematics and Computer Science Fumiko Futamura notes that bringing the natural sciences together can also help faculty improve their teaching. Because students from all five departments will be in the same space, faculty members can learn how students in other disciplines are using the material they teach.

"Science majors are required to take Introduction to Statistics and Calculus I," Futamura says. "It will be helpful to hear how they

"SO MUCH ABOUT SUCCEEDING IN ANY MAJOR IS HAVING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT, AND THIS SPACE ALLOWS US TO CREATE THAT."

—PROFESSOR FUMIKO FUTAMURA

are using what they're learning. That will help us teach the classes better and better serve students."

The Fondren–Jones Science Center is also facilitating greater interaction between students and faculty. The Chapman–Whitmore Common Room, for example, which features a lounge, lots of whiteboards, and a large study space, sits in the middle of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, surrounded by the professors' offices. "Students can pop right in and ask questions," Futamura says. "So much about succeeding in any major is having a sense of community and support, and this space allows us to create that."

The building was designed to be inviting not just for students and faculty in the natural sciences but for students in all disciplines. With a two-story atrium, taller ceilings, wider corridors,



an abundance of natural light, and two outdoor teaching spaces, it is destined to become a gathering place for the entire campus community.

"Everyone is going to want to use this building. Students will quickly see the value, regardless of whether they're an English major or a physics major," Pierce says. "It's much better than I ever envisioned. It exceeded my expectations."

To better integrate the building with the rest of the campus, the University built the Floyd and Annetta Jones Plaza between the Fondren–Jones Science Center and Mood–Bridwell Hall. The plaza offers outdoor classroom opportunities, as well as places to sit, think, and recharge. It also features a main gate that welcomes visitors to the campus.

"This is a facility that really invites all students to learn about science," McLean says. 🏛️

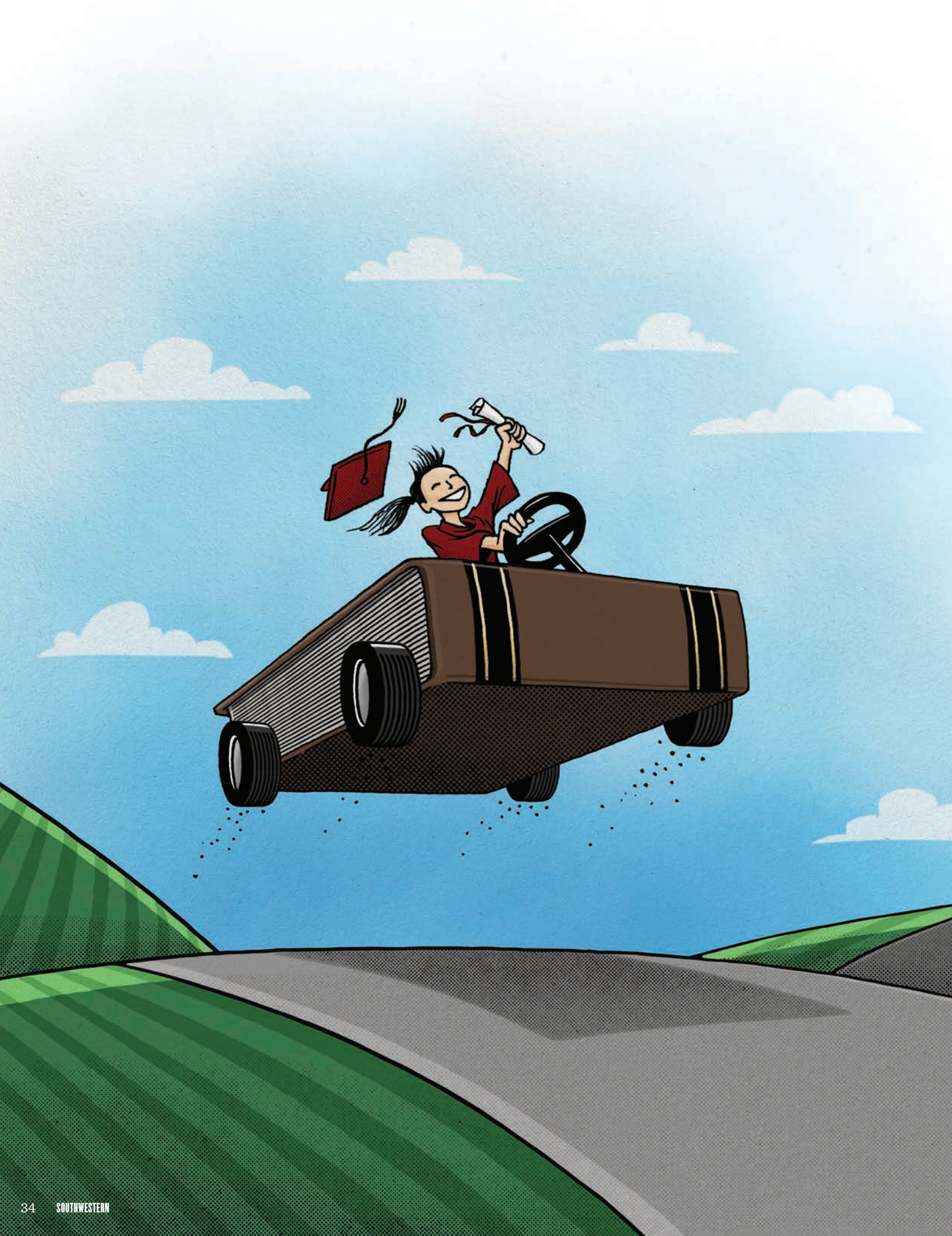


A PASSION FOR NATURE

THE \$15 MILLION GIFT TO Southwestern is not the first time philanthropist and retired businessman Jack Garey has supported the Central Texas region. Georgetown has experienced explosive growth in recent decades—it's the

seventh fastest-growing city in the country, according to the U.S. Census Bureau—and Garey and his late wife, Camille, recognized that the community needed more parks and open areas for residents to enjoy.

In 2004, the Gareys announced that they would bequeath their 525-acre ranch on the South Fork of the San Gabriel River and \$5 million to the city of Georgetown for the development of a city park. They later accelerated the gift, and Garey Park opened in 2018. It is about 1.5 times the size of Austin's Zilker Park and includes a playground, a splash pad, a dog park, an equestrian arena, fishing ponds, the Garey House event space, pavilions, picnic shelters, and more than seven miles of hiking and equestrian trails. In accordance with Garey's vision, the park features native plants and wildlife and preserves the natural beauty and character of the region. 🏛️



IF ENGLISH MAJORS relied on novels to gauge their career opportunities, they'd be drafting a eulogy between classes. Consider Patrick Anderson Jr.'s *Quarter Life Crisis*, in which a female protagonist replies with leveled eyes to a colleague's question about making more money, "Linus, I was an English major." And in *Celine*, Peter Heller describes a difficult character as "probably a frustrated English major who graduated from college qualified to drive a cab."

Luckily for graduates of Southwestern, the faculty understands that this age-old myth is just that. Studies have shown that the skills students develop in English and other humanities majors set them up well for lucrative careers in any area that requires communication and critical thinking, including sales, training, and management.

by the Association of American Colleges & Universities showed that, by their mid-50s, humanities and social science graduates make slightly *more* than those in vocational fields like nursing and accounting (by about 3%, earning an average annual salary of \$66,185).

Given the way career paths often twist and turn these days, having broad job skills also has benefits, notes Morgan Patterson '17, an assistant buyer of merchandise for the online site Zulily. "My English and history degrees set me up well to be able to problem-solve, essentially," she shares. "I was expected on a regular basis to research, to think about a problem, to come up with a solution to that problem, and then to write eloquently about it and to communicate that to other people—all of which are tremendously valuable skills, no matter what."

SHIFTING NARRATIVES

Southwestern's English faculty help majors tout career skills.

BY BARBRA RODRIGUEZ
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBERT LIN

Seeing major value

Mia Zozobrado '17 found this out her first year at the University. The Houston-area native recalls being nervous about job prospects in spring 2013, when she arrived on campus, and feeling insecure about her smarts after the first week of classes. A trip to SU's Center for Career & Professional Development (CCPD) helped put her mind at ease on both counts as staff shared surveys about the career paths English majors had pursued—everything from being a registered behavioral technician or serving as a legislative assistant for a state representative to being a technical-support specialist.

"There was such a diversity of where students landed following their time at Southwestern," says Zozobrado, who is now a content writer for a marketing agency that serves the building industry. "It helped put into context how I could shape the English degree trajectory a little bit differently [from the story you typically hear]."

Surveys have also shown that the pay gap between many college majors shrinks over time. For instance, a 2014 analysis

Faculty such as Professor Helene Meyers, who chairs the English Department, and staff at the CCPD also work hard to provide humanities students with the mindset and expertise to not get pigeonholed into entry-level jobs.

During Zozobrado's first-year visit to the CCPD, for instance, she noted that Alexandra Anderson, the Center's senior associate director, pushed back against the narrative that an English degree doomed graduates to underemployment. As Anderson says, "[Employability] has less to do with exactly what you majored in and more to do with the whole package you've put together: the intellectual development and growth that you've gained, as exhibited by your academic performance to some degree, as well as out-of-class experiences that can include internships, which build skills."

The positive approach to careers that SU faculty and staff take doesn't mean they convey a Pollyanna outlook about career success. One study, for instance, suggests that nearly half of all college graduates take a first job that doesn't require their degree. A particular challenge for humanities students,

Anderson notes, may be that class conversations about careers are spotty, based on her undergrad experience in the 1990s as a Spanish major at a different university. She adds that at the CCPD, “We talk a lot about early engagement with career and professional development with [humanities and other majors].”

A career-readiness focus could appear counterintuitive because of the historical mission of humanities departments: to cultivate scholars who can view the world through an analytical lens and who are skilled at thinking abstractly. Meyers agrees with the emphasis of such training in general. “I believe that people who care about democracy understand the necessity and value of the humanities and a life of letters and imagination,” says Meyers, who holds the McManis University Chair. But she adds that “college is an extraordinary investment, and people are often going into debt [to attend] and need to think about what comes after. So, as educators, we also have a responsibility to be attentive to those issues.”

Writing their own storylines

To help students learn how to use their critical-thinking skills to chart their own career development, Meyers developed the Novel English Majors course. In it, students from various disciplines start to consider their careers in the larger scheme of their lives as they read novels that focus on literary types as well as vocational texts that assist in parsing out their passions and career options.

Rachel Kadish’s *Tolstoy Lied*, one of the novels discussed, covers the challenges of attending graduate school and landing an academic position. Zozobrado says reading the book brought her relief because most of her close classmates wanted academic careers. “I [initially] thought I was making a terrible decision by not having applied,” she admits, “but reading that book showed there are some real stressors to face in grad school that I didn’t think I was cut out for.”

Two other novels showcase characters who consider alternative careers, such as a professor who shadows an industrialist on the job and vice versa. Patterson notes that through discussing books like this, the class broadened her thinking. “I was so concerned about making the right choice for myself—or not making the wrong one,” says the honors student from Katy, Texas, who spent eight months in Europe at different positions before landing the Zulily job in September 2018. “A class like

that helps you to see that, no matter what you ended up doing, it would lead to somewhere great one way or another.”

Meyers helps students polish the presentation of their professional abilities by pointing out in class specific skills used while doing assignments. Zozobrado remarks, “That really helped me hook the skills that I have, such as writing papers and accessing information, into the keywords that employers look for in résumés.”

The extensive list of skills Meyers recaps includes flexibility, attention to detail, an ability to collaborate and to do research, reflectiveness, a deep appreciation of diversity, tolerance of ambiguity, and an ability to draw connections.

Early on in the Novel English Majors course, students also interview or shadow a career professional. For Marissa Morin ’19, the assignment confirmed that one of her minors, marketing, was a promising job option. In addition, “[The assignment] forced us to investigate and contact professionals and started my initial networking process,” says Morin, who landed a position in July as the content marketing manager for a Manor company that sells refurbished steel containers.

Two career-development books are also required readings; one has exercises the students use to plot out what matters to them, personally and professionally. The course requires “a real reflection on who they are and what they want, to help them to articulate the role of the major in their [future] plans,” Meyers says. In effect, she adds, the students are viewing themselves like a character in a novel: “They are the character, and they need to think about what motivates them and how they want to plot their post-SU life.”

The course has been so popular that Katie Rouse ’18 and others who’ve taken it mention having friends in other majors who have envied them for the opportunity. “It’s kind of the crown jewel at helping translate your skills by developing a holistic view of them, career-wise,” says Rouse, who contracts with an Austin-based company on artificial-intelligence software geared toward broadcast and publishing-house content.

Meyers, meanwhile, has written a column on the course for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. And, this December, she will discuss elements of Novel English Majors at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, the principal professional organization for literature and language scholars.

Where are SU's English majors now?

- Craig McKinney '91, coordinator of professional learning, Plano Independent School District
- Andrew Moore '96, learning consultant, National Geographic Learning
- Ammie Harrison '00, humanities and theatre research librarian, Texas Christian University
- Lauren Coker-Durso '05, assistant professor of English, Delta State University
- Danielle Brown Stapleton '05, social-media marketing strategist and program manager, National Instruments
- Christina Jones '06, instructional designer, El Centro College
- David Carroll '07, career-preparation teacher, Austin Independent School District
- Jason Chapman '08, director of student activities, Whitworth University
- Sarah Gould-Stotts '10, president and meeting planner, Simple Meeting Solutions
- Taylor Jones '13, engineering specialist, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Kate Daniels '14, director of development and membership, World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth
- Paige Duggins-Clay '14, commercial litigator, Husch Blackwell, LLP
- Elizabeth Spieckerman '15, project manager, Public Consulting Group

Pillars of support

The aha moments humanities majors have had in Meyers's course build on a foundation of other experiences on campus. For instance, Zozobrado says she regularly draws on the discussions Associate Professor Michael Saenger provided in a class called Speaking across Languages to make decisions about best word choices when editing copy that she writes for a website geared toward new homeowners.

Many humanities students also pursue internships. For Patterson, an internship at a London publishing house during a study-abroad semester was followed by a six-month stint as a writing consultant for SU's Debby Ellis Writing Center. She then served as the social-media coordinator for a boxing-club franchise in Round Rock. "The internships helped me narrow down my preferences while opening me up to considering other opportunities," said Patterson, who now analyzes data about children's apparel to help Zulily decide on their pricing and website presentation.

But Patterson and others note that the confidence faculty gave them may be the most enduring legacy of attending

Southwestern. For instance, Zozobrado recalls a course called Victorian Mystery Novels, in which Professor of English Eileen Cleere taught her a valuable lesson by keeping her accountable for contributing to a class discussion—despite not having completed the expected readings.

Zozobrado says that when she took her current position this May marketing content to new homebuyers (even though she's never owned a home herself), "It was really tough coming into this industry without any background, but I do know how to do the research, how to make connections and draw on the resources around me, and how to tap into that [confidence] because of the experience in Cleere's class."

She started her cover letter for the position by stating how great a candidate she was, despite appearing otherwise. Without her campus experiences, Zozobrado says, "I would not have been brave enough to prove that I can actually do this [job]. The confidence boost and the reality checks Southwestern instructors gave me—that's second to none." 🍷

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

The Abstract Art of Evolving

Painting allows Norma Clark '97 to express her "personal journey of transformation."

by Meilee Bridges

ON FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019, Southwestern students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered in the Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Foyer at Celebrating 50 Years of Black Excellence, an event hosted by the Office of Diversity Education. Commemorating the culture and accomplishments of SU's former and current Black students, the festivities included a recognition ceremony for SU's first Black graduate, Ernest Clark '69; a high-energy reception; and a collaborative quilt-making activity.

Among the Black students who have helped shape the landscape of Southwestern University



and whose notable achievements were recognized at the event was the quiet, unassuming Norma Clark '97 (no relation to Ernest). A local artist, Clark attended SU from fall 1970 through spring 1972 and then returned to the University as a nontraditional student in 1992 to complete her degree. She specializes in abstract art, and attendees were invited to view her expressive, intuitive, and spontaneous paintings during a solo exhibition at the Sarofim School of Fine Arts.

Clark, a first-generation college student, did not particularly relish the idea of going to college when she was first accepted to SU. But her parents wanted her to go, and because her father was a cook at the University—he would end up working here for 45 years—she was able to attend for free. Of her first stint at Southwestern, Clark recalls, “There were a few Black students there, which was fun, and I really enjoyed the art and art history classes, which I did well in. My two art professors”—the late Gus Farmer, professor of art, and the late Robert (Bob) L. Lancaster, who was then chair of the Department of Art—“were really supportive.”

Clark sheepishly admits that she was not so enamored of her other classes. So after getting married after her sophomore year, she left the University in good standing to focus on family and work. Twenty years later, she returned to finish what she started and did so successfully—a lesson she has passed on to her three children. “I wanted that degree. I didn’t want to live a life of *what if?* or *if only*. I went back to school because I knew what a difference that would make for me,” she reflects.

Driven and focused and with the mentorship and encouragement of Professor of Art Victoria Star Varner, Clark blossomed during the second stage of her higher education. In a project assigned by Varner, Clark discovered abstract art. She and her classmates were required to transform a single work by an “old master” (i.e., one of the renowned European painters who worked between the Renaissance and 1800) into 10 different abstract pieces. She found it fun and exciting—so much so that when she was asked to return to traditional representational work, she knew she couldn’t go back. “The thing I really enjoy about abstract art is that you don’t know what the finished product is going to be,” she comments. “It’s like what Forrest Gump says about life being like a box of chocolates: ‘You never know what you’re gonna get.’”



While attending the Celebrating 50 Years of Black Excellence reception, Varner remembered how Clark excelled in studio art and that she earned the Lancaster Award in Studio Art, recognizing her as “an outstanding senior who met the highest standards in art and art history.” Clark graduated from Southwestern in 1997 and went on to earn her master of fine arts from Vermont College of Norwich University in 2000. She has exhibited her work in Georgetown, Austin, Dallas, and Atlanta, and in 2004, she was among a group of alumni who were asked to display their work at Southwestern. The Celebrating 50 Years of Black Excellence event was her first solo exhibition at Southwestern.

Featuring evocative imagery, such as arterial tendrils enveloping almost illusory circles in *Circles Five I and II* and the interleaving of geometric and organic shapes in *Emotion*, the highly personal

works on display captured what Clark calls “ambiguities of space, color, form, and chaos—but a coherent kind of chaos.” She explains her philosophy of art this way: “Creating art for me is to look beyond what can visually be seen, to communicate a powerful image on canvas that reveals more than what is immediately apparent. However, my art is not meant to relay a personal philosophy or any political, social, or cultural commentary on the world.” Instead, her use of overlapping lines, glazes that create a transparency effect, and layered colors and textures is intended to reflect the artist’s rich range of emotions and the complexities of her life. “My paintings allow me to express a personal journey of transformation,” Clark says. “Each time I paint, I grow and learn something new, and the work itself just tends to transform as I’m evolving.” 🍷

INTERNS IN TURN



Southwestern students convert internships into postgraduate jobs.

BY CLARA MCMICHAEL '17

IT'S THE FALL OF 2014, and Spike the Bulldog is the mascot for the Round Rock Express, the Austin area's minor-league baseball team. Spike routinely appears at games and community events in his striped overalls and hat, like an old-timey train conductor. He has hanging jowls, cartoony eyes, and a mouth that gapes open in a pleasantly lopsided smile.

And behind that toothy grin is a Southwestern student.

Yes, that was Lauren Boone '14 on the less glamorous interior of the Spike costume during her final semester at Southwestern, and you're probably wondering how she ended up in that situation. Well, a lot of the credit goes to Southwestern University's Center for Career & Professional Development (CCPD).

The CCPD plays an important part in Southwestern's focus on high-impact experiences—meaning those in which students develop professional skills that will prepare them for their postgraduate lives—such as study-abroad programs, faculty-mentored research, and internships. The CCPD has a reputation for leveraging its resources to connect students with the most competitive internships. The office, directed by Daniel Orozco, consistently ranks high in the Princeton Review's Best

Colleges for Career Services list. It currently holds first place in Texas and is ranked sixth nationwide.



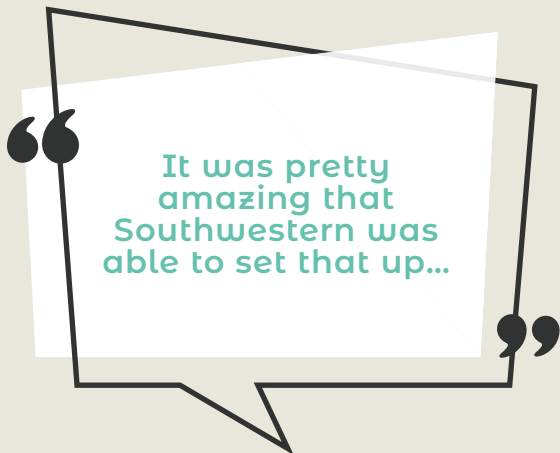
An express trip to success

Before working for the Round Rock Express, Boone entered Southwestern as a golfer and chemistry major. The golfing stuck; the chemistry didn't. She switched over to business her sophomore year. As soon as she changed majors, she knew she wanted to work in sports marketing.

Boone set her sights on a corporate-development internship with the Houston Texans. She hustled to get it, doing an eye-opening practice interview and résumé session with the CCPD, then called the Office of Career Services. She pestered a family connection with the Texans to give her an introduction. At one point, she drove between Houston and Austin three times in one week just to meet face to face for lunch with them.

She got the gig. During the internship, she worked at the training camp. She woke up every day at 3:00 a.m. to set up, assisted during the camp, and then left at 7:00 p.m. She loved it.

When the school year began again, she went back to the CCPD, where she found out about a different internship, this one with the Round Rock Express. Boone didn't have a connection with the team but was hired nonetheless. "It was pretty amazing that Southwestern was able to set that up," says Boone. "Not many people can say that, especially in sports, because it's really about who you know."



Boone did everything related to marketing at the Round Rock Express, including the aforementioned role of being the mascot. Meanwhile, she maintained a full class schedule, played golf, and participated in her sorority, Delta Delta Delta. She double majored in business and Spanish and graduated a semester early, in the winter of 2014.

After Boone graduated, she contacted the Texans' human-resources manager, who suggested she apply for a yearlong ticketing internship. After her year finished, the Texans had an opening for a position in the department running marketing for college football and international soccer. Her internship experiences made them take her seriously, and the Texans entrusted her—at the age of 23—with the enormous job of coordinating the entire marketing department.

The job was time consuming. She often worked more than 80 hours a week and didn't get weekends off, but Boone says she enjoyed the work and her colleagues.

Her experience came full circle when she needed to hire her own interns for the Texans. She picked three from Southwestern. "My boss went to UT, and everyone in the office went to A&M," Boone said. "We had to get some Southwestern in there."

After three years with the Texans, where she learned every facet of marketing, Boone wanted to specialize in a single area. She is now back in Austin, working part-time as a marketing and research project coordinator for an executive recruiting agency and going to school at the University of Texas to get her certification in the UX/UI (User Experience/User Interface) Boot Camp, which is focused on web and app design.



Trading up

Boone's contemporary, Nick Sivon '15, was a first-year student at Southwestern during the era of reckoning that followed the 2008 recession. "We were at the peak of hindsight being 20/20," he says. "It was so obvious what went wrong

in 2008."

Focused initially on playing lacrosse, Sivon became more interested in the recession, inspired by professors at Southwestern who had compelling insights into how to avoid such a catastrophe in the future. His coursework, in turn, piqued his curiosity in finance. At Southwestern, he participated in the Financial Analyst Program, which allows SU economics and business majors to collectively manage \$600,000 of the University's financial portfolio. Sivon shares that every week, a member would prepare a pitch recommending the University invest in certain stocks or industries. The presentation was followed by a grilling from the group as they debated whether the stock was a smart investment.

Sivon took economics courses from professors like Patrick Van Horn, a financial historian with a reputation of being intensely challenging. Sivon says his corporate finance class was "the first class that business majors would fail out of."

During the spring of 2014, Sivon was Van Horn's research assistant, which set the stage for his economics capstone on depositor behavior during the Panics of 1854 and 1857.

It was a busy spring. Sivon also interned at Avalon Advisors, a Houston-based investment management firm. He took his résumé to the CCPD and did mock interviews. He then got his foot in the door with the help of Board



of Trustees member Steve Raben '63. Raben is a "super alumnus," in Sivon's words, of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, of which Sivon was president. The internship allowed Sivon to break into the competitive financial field. When he graduated, he took a job in Dallas at the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation.



Blair Orr '19 also interned at the Round Rock Express in summer 2019. He says, "One thing that I learned while working with the Express is how vital it is to be well-rounded and proficient at different things."

"Think of it as the plumbing of the financial system," Sivon explains, describing how his company facilitates operations during the three-day time period in between submitting a trade for a stock and the trade actually occurring.

But Sivon wanted to try living outside of Texas. After three years in Dallas, he applied to the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS). The company was interested not just in his previous work experience but also in his research with Van Horn and his capstone project. In the post-2008 financial landscape, regulations require banks to have mechanisms in place should the market crash again. UBS hired Sivon in their New York branch as part of the team working to design and implement hypothetical scenarios designed to imitate severe stress on the market.

"Basically, we try to reenact 2008 [in simulation]," Sivon says.

Sivon moved to New York, where the 42-story UBS skyscraper on Park Avenue towers above Midtown.

"It's very much taken me outside of my comfort zone," Sivon says, adding that he's had to develop a thicker skin but that he's also gotten much better at jaywalking.



E.M.P.I.R.E. of trust

A few years later, a sharply dressed running back for the Southwestern football team aspired to get a job in Chicago. Markell Henderson '19 was drawn to Southwestern by the quality of academics, the average class size of 18 students, and the opportunity to play football. He recognized that he wouldn't have to sacrifice his education to play the sport he loved.

Henderson was wildly active in academic and campus life. He majored in economics and business, and he jokes that he almost counts football as a third major for the amount of time it took up.

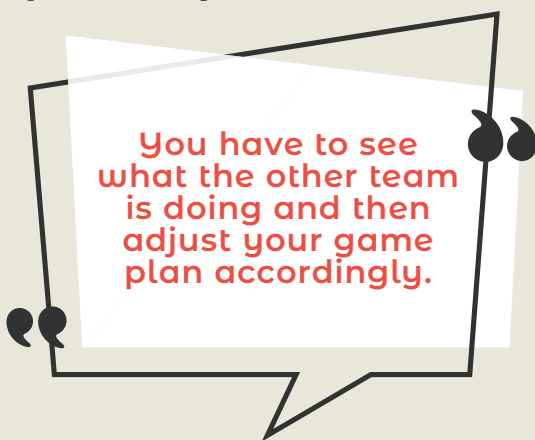
He cofounded Established Men Promoting Intelligence, Respect, and Efficacy (E.M.P.I.R.E.), an organization which combats racism, builds community, and forms positive male role models on campus.

"Many minority men had negative experiences of students or faculty who limited [the minority students'] abilities to athletics and looked at that as the only reasons they were at Southwestern, recalls Henderson. "We wanted to change that narrative."



Alumni like Boone, Sivan, and Henderson collectively say they wouldn't be where they are today without the opportunities provided by Southwestern, the Center for Career & Professional Development, and their crucial internships. If you'd like to help connect students to experiential-learning opportunities (e.g., internships, research, and shadowing), please contact the CCPD at pirate2pro@southwestern.edu or 512.863.1346. The CCPD team is happy to visit with you about how to connect Southwestern students to your organization.

Henderson was also in the Kemper Scholars Program, which allows students to acquire professional skills during summer internships, as well as offering scholarships and mentoring.



“All of that kept me busy,” says Henderson, in his unassuming way.

As a Kemper Scholar, Henderson interned in Chicago with the local Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) affiliate, WTTW, after his sophomore year. There, he experienced the fast-paced city life and Chicago’s breezy, temperate summers so unlike the swampy heat of Texas. After that summer, he knew he wanted to get back to the Windy City.

During his time at PBS, Henderson had noticed that many trustees and donors worked at Northern Trust, an international wealth and investment management corporation. He researched the company, realized it aligned with his interests, and interned there the next summer.

“One of the reasons that I really like working with the stock market is that it’s very much like sports,” Henderson comments. “Especially football, because there’s constantly new information being thrown at you. You have to see what the other team is doing and then adjust your game plan accordingly.”

Before graduating, Henderson applied for a job at Northern Trust. He used resources from Southwestern’s CCPD to help him prepare for the grueling interview process—mock interviews, résumé assistance, professional headshots, and books borrowed from the office’s collection. He was ultimately able to cross the stage at graduation in May with a job already in hand: because of his internship, the company hired Henderson as part of an 18-month-long rotational program. He’s back in Chicago, where he’s enjoying the public transportation, the coffee shops, and reading on the beach during the fleeting warm weekends.

“I just bought my first coat two weeks ago,” Henderson says. “But I think they call what I just bought a jacket. I don’t think they consider this a coat.” 🐾



Class Notes

Share your accomplishments, milestones, or fond memories of SU with friends and classmates! To submit your class note for a future issue of *Southwestern*, visit southwestern.edu/alumni, click “How Do I,” and choose “Submit My Class Note.” By submitting a class note, you are granting permission to Southwestern University to share this news in *Southwestern*, on the University’s website (including the Southwestern University Alumni Association page), and in social-media outlets for the University and the Association.

FALL
ISSUE:
Jan. 1–June 30

SPRING
ISSUE:
July 1–Dec. 31

1959 **Sally McMillan Brashear**, Bellaire, TX, retired after 40 years of teaching English and journalism and serving as a magnet coordinator in the Houston Independent School District. She enjoys working part-time as a private tutor and gets a kick out of singing in her church choir. She and her husband, Harry, have been married for 58 years. Both of their daughters, Judy Brashear and **Elizabeth Brashear Floreani '88**, are educators.

1960 **John Wehrley “Jay” Chapman**, Ann Arbor, MI, concluded a 50-year career as a physics professor (now emeritus) at the University of Michigan. During the last 20 years, he worked in Geneva, Switzerland, in high-energy physics for the University of Michigan. He received the U.S. ATLAS Lifetime Achievement Award at the summer workshop of the U.S. ATLAS collaboration at the University of Massachusetts–Amherst.

1961 **Presley Joe Mock**, Walburg, TX, retired after 50 years of medical practice.

1962 **Sam Birkner**, Granbury, TX, shared that being a Pike was such a positive experience in his life. He became much more confident because his fraternity brothers were so

encouraging. He would like to reconnect with his brothers, especially from 1958–1962. He says, “God bless Pi Kappa Alpha!”

Milton Jordan, Georgetown, TX, coedited and published a new book titled *Conflict and Cooperation: Reflections on the New Deal in Texas* with Stephen F. Austin University Press.

1968 **Jake B. Schrum**, P'00, P'05, Decatur, GA, retired from his presidency at Emory and Henry College, where he served in the leadership role for six years. Schrum was the 21st president of the college.

1969 **James Wagner**, Hypoluxo, FL, has retired and is living the life in Florida as a numismatist.

1970 **Rosemary Meek Whittle**, Gatesville, TX, retired in 2015 after 21 years as a public-school choral director, 17 of those at Gatesville High School. She now works as a piano accompanist, teaches private piano lessons, and serves as an adjudicator for University Interscholastic League choral contests in Texas. Whittle says her music education degree from SU has been so valuable and opened up a lifelong career in music.

1973 **Martha Isbell Garmon**, Paris, TX, published her first book, *I Am Not Alone: Conversations with Care Partners of People with Dementia*, in November 2018. Garmon retired from ministry December 1, 2018, and is now director emeritus of parish music with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

Sue Stauffer Harshman, Dallas, TX, retired in 2016 after 25 years at Bank of America–U.S. Trust, with the majority of her time spent in nonfinancial assets and investment management. She now spends her time enjoying life while volunteering for several organizations, including SU.

1975 **Michael Giblin**, Lubbock, TX, retired May 1, 2019, after 25 years as an examiner, a supervisor, a senior specialist, and a regional claims manager specializing in compliance and workers’ compensation insurance.

1976 **Ronnie Sherwood**, Cleburne, TX, retired after 38 years of practicing general dentistry and now teaches a new dental-assisting program at Cleburne High School. Sherwood also served as lay director on the Walk to Emmaus #443 at Latham Springs Baptist Camp on September 5–8, 2019.

1977 **Teresa Coble Sherwood**, Mansfield, TX, retired in April 2019, having served for 24 years as the director of mission at First United Methodist Church in Mansfield, TX.

1978 **Debora Jones Acevedo**, Georgetown, TX, retired from Round Rock Independent School District on May 30, 2019, after 37 years of service as a middle-school language-arts teacher and an instructional-technology specialist.

1979 **Lizette Tandy**, Georgetown, TX, retired in November 2018 after 35 years of federal service with the Department of the Treasury. She is now working on her genealogy and traveling.

1981 **Terry Gawlik**, Middleton, WI, has been named athletic director at the University of Idaho.

1984 **Michael English**, Leander, TX, retired from the City of Austin Water Utility, where he worked as a treatment operations and maintenance technician for 12.5 years.

1985 **Randy Bowden**, Haubstadt, IN, participated in a reunion of mid-1980s Pi Kappa Alpha brothers, little sisters, and spouses that took place in the Dallas–Arlington area on May 3–4, 2019. The weekend included a Frisco Roughriders game, a Texas Rangers game, some bad golf, and a party at the



home of **Roger Brandt '85**. The other alumni in attendance were **Robert Thomas '79**; **Tommy Brumett '83**; **Carl Shaulis '83, P'22**; **Bert Herring '84**; **Tom Herzig '84**; **Mark Lewis '84**; **Kenneth Pool '84**; **Wanda Scheler Young Thomas '84**; **Steve Heyduck '85**; **Jay Nowlin '85**; **Sarah Berthold Pool '85**; **Brock Curry '86**; **Joe Irizarry '86, P'15, P'23**; **Laurie Rothhammer Lewis '86**; **Chris Speier '86**; **Morgan Cawthon '87**; **Beth Yandell Driskill '87**; **Tracy Mayer Irizarry '87, P'15, P'23**; **Dan Johnson '87**; **Greg Kirkpatrick '87**; **Mike West '87, P'12**; **Brian Wieters '87**; **Greg Dyar '88**; **Johnny Maberry '88**; **Peter Soria '88**; and **Barry Bain '89**.

1987 **Amy Louise Smith**, Houston, TX, received from the Texas Association against Sexual Assault the Vivian R. Miles Lifetime Achievement Award on May 21, 2019. The award is given to someone who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to ending sexual violence and to providing support to survivors. Smith has worked for over 30 years in the victim-services field in Harris County, TX.

1988 **Elizabeth Brashear Floreani**, see **Sally McMillan Brashear '59**.

1989 **Frank Leffingwell**, Round Rock, TX, has joined Sneed, Vine, & Perry, PC, as a shareholder. His practice focuses on business transactions and tax and estate planning primarily for closely held business owners and

high-net-worth investors. Leffingwell will earn a master of law in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, in 2019. Prior to joining Sneed, Vine, & Perry, PC, he was president at Frank Leffingwell & Associates, PC.

1990 **Brett S. McClung**, Fort Worth, TX, was selected as the new president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health of Northeast Florida, in Jacksonville.

1991 **Lisa A. Dreishmire**, Chicago, IL, joined Seyfarth Shaw as counsel in its Chicago office.

Judy Albright Griscom P'22, New Braunfels, TX, was named Teacher of the Year for 2019 at New Braunfels Middle School. This is the second time Griscom has been named Teacher of the Year—the first was in 2015 at Walnut Springs Elementary. She currently teaches seventh-grade math, serves as the Parent–Teacher Association faculty representative, is a teacher trainer for project-based learning, and was recently voted secretary for the local chapter of the Association of Texas Professional Educators.

1992 **John Styrsky**, Lynchburg, VA, survived five years of record growth in the major as chair of the department of biology at the University of Lynchburg. He was promoted from associate professor to professor in May.

1994 **Eric Mason**, Colorado Springs, CO, received his doctorate in December from the University of Colorado.

Shawn Pipkin-West, Chatsworth, CA, was elected to the national board of directors of the Directors Guild of America on June 22, 2019. Other board members include Ava DuVernay, Steven Spielberg, and Christopher Nolan.

1997 **Eric Batch**, Carson, CA, was recognized by the University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy as one of 90 pioneers (across nine decades) who embody the school's mission of improving the quality of life for people and their communities.

2002 **Sergey Gordeev**, New York, NY, won an Emmy as part of the FOX Sports team for Outstanding Transmedia Sports Coverage for coverage of the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. His FOX Sports and NatGeo team received a prestigious Sportel Award in Monaco for a piece on children with cerebral palsy in St. Petersburg whose lives were changed by playing football.



BIRTH : **Brooke Moran Samaniego** and **Isaiah Samaniego**, Pflugerville, TX, welcomed **Skyler Hope** on July 11, 2018. Skyler joins siblings **Shane** and **Sally Grace**.

2005 **Travis Weedn**, Oklahoma City, OK, was promoted to deputy general counsel at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and was elected to serve on the Oklahoma County Bar Association on its board of directors. On October 1, 2019, Weedn became the president of the Kiwanis Club of Oklahoma City.

2006 **Matthew Barnes**, Lubbock, TX, collaborated with **Shellsea Miller '20** and **Lauren Muskara '20** on a talk titled "A Snail out of Water: Apple Snail Detection along Oyster Creek (Missouri City/Sugarland, TX)," which was presented by Muskara at the Texas Academy of Science meeting at Howard Payne University in March.

Jacob Schrum, see **Will Price '19**.

Gus Sterneman, Austin, TX, conducted the "Sleeping Beauty Waltz" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky for the Austin Civic Orchestra on May 18, 2019, in its annual Paint to Music Spring Concert, which features artwork created by Austin Independent School District students in response to hearing and studying an iconic piece of classical music.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48



2019 SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING





Southwestern's inaugural homecoming celebration took place on April 21, 1909, and is touted as the first of its kind in the nation. The event was a citywide affair, with *The Megaphone* reporting that thousands of alumni returned to their alma mater to reconnect with "beloved professors" and "chums of the bygone days of youth." In October 2019, SU hosted the 110th anniversary of that historic reunion. This year's festivities featured the biennial Shilling Lecture, a dedication ceremony for the Fondren–Jones Science Center and Jones Plaza, a silent disco, and an interactive screening of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. SU also introduced a new tradition: the Parade of Classes, in which current students and alumni celebrating milestone reunion years promenaded across the campus.



2007 MARRIAGES: Amy Somerford to Garret Armes, Fort Worth, TX, on July 28, 2018.

Velissa Ryan Chapa to Bradley Louis Mathis, Richmond, TX, on April 20, 2019.

The couple has been together since they met at Southwestern in October 2004.

BIRTH: Aaron Contreras and Kimberly Palmer-Contreras, Manor, TX, welcomed the birth of a baby girl on June 30, 2018. Their new daughter joins their son, now 3-1/2 years old. The couple met on the cross-country team at Southwestern their freshman year and just celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary on March 21, 2019. Both enjoy running and participating annually in the Southwestern Homecoming Jameson 5K. On weekends, they often visit Georgetown to take their children on a run in San Gabriel Park, have a picnic, and play on the playground. They have some of their happiest and most joyful memories in Georgetown, especially the birth of their two children, born at Central Texas Birth Center. Palmer-Contreras shared, "Georgetown truly feels like our home away from home, and my husband and I often talk about our future retirement here."

Mary Catherine Mareno, Austin, TX, participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Borneo in summer 2019. Mareno studied Borneo's primate denizens, including the orangutan, and developed new ways to engage communities worldwide in primate conservation.

Megan Healy Schmid, Houston, TX, has been named one of the *Houston Business Journal's* 40 under 40 honorees for 2019. This year, the *HBJ* received more than 500 nominations for the 40 under 40 class. Schmid was recently promoted to partner at Thompson & Knight, LLP.

Jaclyn Suffel, Memphis, TN, took on the new role of manager of strategic communications and outreach for Shelby County Schools in January 2018.

2008 Kim Le, Ferndale, MI, completed her ophthalmology residency at UT Southwestern Medical Center in June 2016. She then completed a pediatric ophthalmology fellowship at Children's National Hospital, in Washington, DC. Le currently works as a pediatric ophthalmologist at the Henry Ford Health System, in Detroit.

2009 BIRTH: Alana Bergfield Wilson and Jacob Wilson, Spring, TX, welcomed Liam Henry on April 17, 2019. Their three-year-old daughter, Analeigh, was excited to be a big sister and helps with diapers and bottles.

Jennifer Sinski, Austin, TX, was highlighted as one of the ATX Women to Watch in *Austin Woman* magazine. She is the senior vice president at Giant Noise and specializes in new business outreach, strategy development, and brand launches.

Laura Thornton, New Orleans, LA, completed her postdoctoral research fellowship with Boys Town National Research Hospital, in Omaha, NE. She now leads the Statewide Developmental Screening Initiative for Louisiana with the Bureau of Family Health and the Office of Public Health, in New Orleans.

2010 MARRIAGE: Stephanie Pankoney to Josef Yehia, Dripping Springs, TX, on January 5, 2019.



Jean Haire, Houston, TX, transitioned from working on commercial proposals in energy and chemicals to becoming the grants administration manager for the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council in Houston in April 2019.

Anna Harpst, Round Rock, TX, bought her first home.

2011 MARRIAGES: Dylan Hickey to Sean McWhorter, Boerne, TX, on June 16, 2018.

Roswill Mejía to **Nicholas Atiee** '13, Austin, TX, on April 28, 2018. Roswill joined the litigation practice of Germer Beaman & Brown, PLLC.

BIRTH: Katie Barker Freeman and Brantley Freeman, Midlothian, TX, welcomed Brooks Roy on April 9, 2019. The three reside with their goldendoodle, Snickers.

Maggie Bishop, Indianapolis, IN, was accepted as a Mitch Daniels Leadership Foundation 2019–2020 fellow, along with 19 other outstanding Hoosiers. The fellows represent 13 U.S. colleges and universities and a wide variety of professions.

Perri Pyle, Washington, DC, graduated in May from the University of Maryland with dual degrees: a master of arts in history and a master of library science, with a specialization in archival science.

2012 MARRIAGE: Kristyna Uhles to Kyle Bell, Round Rock, TX, on March 16, 2019.

Russell Kelly, Minneapolis, MN, received his M.B.A. from the University of Texas in 2018 and relocated to Minnesota in March to work on a major project for 3M's Electrical Markets Division.

2013 MARRIAGES: Cate Jones to Sam McClendon, Kyle, TX, on December 7, 2018. The couple met while working at the City of Austin: Jones works for Austin Water, and McClendon works for Austin Energy. They both focus on conservation within their respective departments. **Kara Shapiro** to **Aaron Factor,** Frisco, TX, on October 6, 2018.

Nicholas Atiee, see **Roswill Mejía** '11.

Emi Anderson Behan, Grovetown, GA, was awarded the American Association of University Women 2019–2020 Career Development Grant. Behan is pursuing a master of science in analytics at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Michael Broz, Brooklyn, NY, has been accepted into Memorial University of Newfoundland's philosophy doctoral program.

Riley Bunnell, New Orleans, LA, graduated from Thomas Jefferson University, in Philadelphia, with a master's in pediatric nursing. Bunnell now works in New Orleans as a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Ben Cardiff, San Marcos, TX, joined Texas State University as a residence director in January 2019. Cardiff is glad to be back in Texas.

2014 **Lea Cantú-Altom**, Spokane, WA, married on July 10, 2016, bought a house on April 25, 2017, and started a new job as a care coordinator for Pathways of Washington on February 5, 2018.

2015 **Jordan King**, Austin, TX, published an article with Associate Professor of Computer Science Barbara Anthony and **Christine Harbour** '16 in the February 2019 issue of *Journal of Combinatorial Mathematics and Combinatorial Computing*. The paper, "Greedy Is Good: An Empirical Evaluation of Three Algorithms for Online Bottleneck Matching," is a culmination of work that began in 2014–2015 with support from the Collaborative Research Experience for Undergraduates program of the Computing Research Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research.

Charles Morris, Georgetown, TX, and Professor of Art Mary Visser had their 3-D sculptural work selected by the European Symposium on Additive Manufacturing (3-D Printing) to be presented at the organization's Paris conference in June at the CentraleSupélec.

2016 **Marianne Brown-Trigg**, Crowley, TX, is being commissioned as a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church.

Kaitlyn Foster, San Antonio, TX, was accepted into a residency program for physical therapy at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston to specialize in orthopedic physical therapy.

Christine Harbour, see **Jordan King** '15.

Andrea Lee, Georgetown, TX, published *Adventures with Alzheimer's*, a glimpse into the life of a daughter caring for her mother, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. The book is intended to support caregivers and to educate those who want to know more about the progressive disease.



Alexandra Petrucci, Coralville, IA, a University of Iowa neuroscience graduate student, has received a predoctoral research fellowship award from the American Epilepsy Society. Petrucci, who works in the Iowa Neuroscience Institute lab of Gordon Buchanan, M.D., Ph.D., was one of four students nationally to receive this award. She will use the funding to support her epilepsy research investigating postictal generalized electroencephalography suppression network and receptor mechanisms.

Philip Ricker Jr., Waco, TX, graduated *magna cum laude* with his J.D. from Baylor University School of Law.

Margaret Sweeney, Allston, MA, is in her third semester in the film and television studies master of arts program at Boston University. Sweeney will be presenting her research paper "Shifting Regulations for Closed Captioning Television" at the Northeast Popular Culture Association's national conference in November.

Jonathan Vaughn, Galveston, TX, is enrolled in the doctor of physical therapy program at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

2017 **Kaitlyn Campbell**, Vermillion, SD, was awarded \$10,000 through three grants to study the effects of various contaminants in amphibians. This is the largest sum of money that she has been awarded since starting her Ph.D. at the University of South Dakota in the fall of 2017.

Lizette Cantu, see **Sarah Butterworth** '18.

Kyle Fraser, see **Sarah Butterworth** '18.

Emma Kathryn Groves, Brenham, TX, coauthored a paper with Associate Professor of Mathematics Therese Shelton and Associate Professor of Education Sherry Adrian titled "A Model of the Transmission of Cholera in a Population with Contaminated Water," which was published in the *CODEE Journal*. The article was downloaded across 15 countries in its first 25 days of online availability.

Natalie Lane, Somerville, MA, graduated in May 2019 from Lesley University with a master of arts in clinical mental health counseling with a specialization in art therapy. She will be working for Aspire Health Alliance, in Boston, MA, to begin the Massachusetts licensed mental-health counselor and registered art-therapist license processes.

Bear Reeves, Stanford, CA, worked for the top corporate transactional law firm in the U.S.—Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen, & Katz—in New York City in the summer of 2018. In summer 2019, he worked at one of the top international law firms in the world, Cleary Gottlieb, in Washington, DC. While at Cleary, he worked in the areas of antitrust, complex commercial litigation, and international arbitration practice.

Lorena Roque, Washington, DC, graduated in May 2019 with a master's in public policy from the George Washington University. Her concentration was in economic and fiscal policy. She now works at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a think tank in Washington, DC.

2018 **Sarah Butterworth**, Burbank, CA, together with Professor of Psychology Traci Giuliano, **Justin White** '18, **Lizette Cantu** '17, and **Kyle Fraser** '17, published the article "Sender Gender Influences Emoji Interpretation in Text Messages" in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Emet Ezell, Boston, MA, is a lead organizer with Never Again Action, a loosely connected group of Jewish activists protesting for immigrant rights.

Bonnie Henderson, Jarrell, TX, will begin a master's in data science this fall at Michigan Technological University.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

effectively, connect with people, and see things from other perspectives—a lesson hammered home during her “hugely transformative” experience with SU’s London Semester—McMillian quickly rose through the ranks, eventually serving on the company’s executive management team as the chief legal officer. For McMillian, leadership includes being able to demonstrate empathy, to show that “you’re listening for understanding and engaging in a constructive manner.” She says that skill of empathetic listening is key to productive dialogue in both personal situations and professional environments.

That mantra helped the SU alumna achieve her position as Anadarko’s top legal executive at the intersection of two male-dominated fields: the energy industry and the law. In 2015, an Ernst & Young study revealed that women represented only 5% of board executives and only 13% of senior management positions (e.g., chief executive officers, chief financial officers, and other C-suite roles) across the power and utilities sector. Similarly, in 2006, women accounted for only 15% of equity partnerships, the top leadership positions in law firms, across the U.S.; by 2018, that percentage had increased by a mere 5%. So McMillian is something of a rare bird.

However, positive change is being ushered in by business leaders who recognize that “diversity of experience, background, and thought is valuable” and improves decision-making. Achieving a diverse and inclusive workplace where everyone

For McMillian, leadership includes being able to demonstrate empathy, to show that “you’re listening for understanding and engaging in a constructive manner.”

has a greater sense of belonging, she says, also requires courageous individuals to engage in conversations with those whose actions may reflect their unconscious biases and to bring those biases to light. For her, “creat[ing] a space where people felt comfortable

bringing their ideas and perspectives” was particularly important. “Doing that creates a better environment for decision-making in any setting,” she remarks. “If we could do that—and I do think we’re making progress—that’s going to make us a better society at the end of the day.”

Amid these larger cultural shifts, McMillian is now considering how her own life is again transforming. Earlier this year, she helped negotiate the \$38 billion acquisition of Anadarko by Occidental Petroleum, which leaves the Southwestern alum reflecting on what’s next. Part of that agenda will be serving as the chair of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, which is assisting in identifying Southwestern’s 16th president (see “President Burger’s Paideia Moment” in this issue).

Otherwise, she’s “taking a break” over the next several months so she can spend some extra time with her family, dust off some old hobbies, and continue her nonprofit work. She currently serves on the boards of the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center and the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, and since 2016, she has been a member of the Southwestern Board of Trustees. Her interim retirement, she says, will allow her to “think deeply and expansively about what I want to do with the rest of my life,” including how she can best serve the broader community. She compares this time of reflection to her college days, when Southwestern provided an environment “to really explore not just who I was as a person but who I wanted to be.” McMillian says that such exploration continues, even 25 years after graduation: “Having the opportunity to do that in a meaningful way at this point in my life is a gift, and I want to make sure I take advantage of it.” 🍷

Martin Guillermo Lopez, Brownsville, TX, earned an internationally competitive fellowship from the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX). CBYX was created by the U.S. Congress and German Bundestag as a public diplomacy program to promote understanding between the people of the U.S. and Germany. Associate Professor of German Erika Berroth served as advisor and mentor throughout the application and interview process.

Shannon Walsh, Grapevine TX, presented “Unraveling the Mystery: Genetic Identification of Nonnative Asian *Mysterysnails*, *Cipangopaludina chinensis* and *C. japonica*,” coauthored with **Hannah Winkler** ’19, Nicole Kelly ’21, Shannon Odell ’21, and collaborator Russell Minton of Gannon University, at the Texas Academy of Science meeting at Howard Payne University in March.

Justin White, Round Rock, TX, together with Assistant Professor of Psychology Carin Perilloux, published a review of Gil Rosenthal’s book *Mate Choice: The Evolution of Sexual Decision Making from Microbes to Humans* in the journal *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*.

2019 **Erin Hobbs**, San Antonio, TX, and Assistant Professor of Kinesiology Ed Merritt presented their coauthored work “Making a Case for Using Simple, Nontechnical Language and Analogies when Using Technology to Teach Physiologic Concepts” at the PanAm Physiological Society meeting, in Havana, Cuba, on May 29, 2019.

Will Price, Austin, TX, presented his coauthored research paper with Assistant Professor of Computer Science **Jacob Schrum** ’06, “Neuroevolution of Multimodal Ms. Pac-Man Controllers under Partially Observable Conditions,” at the Congress on Evolutionary Computation, in Wellington, New Zealand. The paper was based on his SCOPE 2018 research, which resulted in a first-place entry in the Ms. Pac-Man vs. Ghost Team Competition.

Hannah Winkler, see **Shannon Walsh** ’18.



NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

Rex Preis '81



A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, Preis is the vice president of accounting for Fifth Generation Inc., which is the operating and manufacturing company for Tito's Handmade Vodka. Prior to joining Fifth Generation, Preis practiced accounting with Garza Preis & Co. in San Antonio.

Preis earned a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting from Southwestern. While at Southwestern, Preis was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order. Along with his wife, also a Southwestern graduate, he served as cochair of the Greater Austin chapter of the Southwestern University Alumni Association from 2011 to 2015.

Prior to his election as a trustee, Preis was a member of Southwestern's Board of Visitors.

Camille Martin '19



MARTIN IS A RECENT SOUTHWESTERN GRADUATE, having earned her bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*, in honors political science in 2019. While at Southwestern, Martin was elected to both the Phi Beta Kappa national honor society and Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for political science students. She was also a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. Active in student government for three years, she served as student body vice president during her senior year.

As a Southwestern student, Martin devoted considerable attention to the importance of civil political discourse. She conducted faculty-mentored research, analyzing the physiological effects of political incivility, and, as an inaugural intern for the Southwestern Project for Free Speech and

Civil Discourse, she helped plan programming to engage the Southwestern community in voting efforts and political discussion. In her honors thesis, Martin empirically analyzed new trends in feminist political theory.

Attracted to the fast-paced work of mission-driven organizations, Martin is currently a partnerships associate at Voto Latino, headquartered in our nation's capital.

IN MEMORIAM

We remember the lives of all members of the Southwestern University community who have recently passed.

Doris Forsvall Johnapelus '42

Wayne W. Coffin '44

Rowena Nixon Dillard '44

Doris Biggs Wright '44

Alyce Moerner Phillips '45, P'74, P'76, P'83

Doris Brown Morriss '50

Jerry Cullen Torrence '50

Robert A. Pennybacker '51

Eva Long Smith '51

Lila Whitefield Atkins '53

Mary Eddins Earles '53, P'90, P'90

Boyce A. Vardiman '53, P'79, P'83

Hazen Lewis Folse '54

Martha Fox Nelson '54

Albert E. Sanders '54, P'84

Calvin O. Beckendorf '56

Dan H. Carper '56

Nancy Tipton Langford '56

Edwin T. Silliman '56

Tommie O. Keepers III '58

Charles J. Gauntt '59

Mary Lewis Bost '61

Janette Pearson Ramsay '61, P'82, P'87

Gerald W. Sylvester '61

Thomas T. S. Kaung '62

Karen Smith Wilson '63

Elizabeth DeLaune Jordan '66

John A. Thomason '66

John R. Saringer '68

Judith A. Streett '68

Judy Franze Winn '69, P'95

Laura Youens Wexler '69

Richard K. Ellis '71

Gale Newman Emerson '74

Steven S. Hopkins '75

Karen R. Froehlich '77

Brian E. Davis '84

Donald Ledbetter '84

Sheila LeDoux English '85

Paul H. Roach '03

Evan D. Faram '10

Riley J. Webb '13

Pat Hilgeman P'84

Wanda H. Lancaster P'78

William C. Powers



Georgetown: Opportunity Just beyond Campus

by Grace Josey Pyka '05

IN THE YEAR 2000 (around the time most of our current students were born), the U.S. census counted 30,907 residents in Georgetown. According to the most recent estimate, over 70,000 people now call Georgetown home. With this incredible growth, opportunities for our students to form meaningful connections with the town around them have expanded, thanks to stronger relationships among local businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Georgetown launched its first fixed-route bus service just two years ago, with two stops on the Southwestern campus. The College-Town Committee, chaired by Jim Wilson '69, brings together representatives from Southwestern and from local businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, the Georgetown Independent School District, and the Downtown Georgetown Association

to continue to expand and strengthen campus-town relationships, and students are reaping the benefits.

Working to connect

Georgetown's thriving business, healthcare, and nonprofit communities host a number of Southwestern interns, giving them opportunities for work experience and networking.

Over the summer, Morgan Gilpin '20 interned at Texas Physical Therapy Specialists and shadowed at St. David's Healthcare in Georgetown.

Judd and Lulu Gilpin P'20 reflect, "Morgan focused on assessing the differences and similarities between the clinics' rehabilitation programs, clientele, and administrative tasks. If not for the close-knit structure of the Georgetown community and the staff's willingness

Parents, mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

Jan.

13

Spring semester begins

Feb.

7-8

Charter Day celebration

Feb.

22

Spring Family Day

Mar.

16-20

Spring break

May

4-8

Final exams

May

9

Commencement

to facilitate her learning outside the classroom, our daughter wouldn't have been able to explore her field of interest in such great depths. Through her experiences, she was also able to enhance the social skills specifically needed for interacting with patients."

Big BIG BiG

Local events are also creating opportunity for connecting students with locals. Philip Moffatt '20 has served as the president of The BIG Event for the past two years. Every spring, hundreds of Southwestern students engage in a national day of service by giving back to the city of Georgetown through a flurry of volunteer activities.

Alison and Todd Moffatt P'20 share, "Philip got to work with nonprofit organizations through The BIG Event and was amazed at the generous and hospitable climate created in Georgetown for those in need. He worked with one organization solely dedicated to the specific need of giving car rides to those who can't drive." The Southwestern senior also solicited a great deal of free food from restaurants that were eager to help, which enabled him to motivate students to get up early on Saturday to go out into the community.

For one BIG Event participant, a day of service led to something more. Hayley Schultz '20 served at Brookwood in Georgetown (BiG), a local nonprofit that provides meaningful work opportunities for adults with disabilities. In the words of Courtney and Ron Schultz P'20, "What was initially a one-day experience soon became part-time employment for Hayley. She fell in love with the meaningful work and the amazing people in the BiG community." Hayley adds, "Through The BIG Event and working at BiG, I've had a chance to look beyond myself at a critical time in my life, and because of that, my life has changed for the better."

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Southwestern students give back to the Georgetown community at The BIG Event.





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If you have a deep, abiding love for Southwestern and you are 70-1/2 or older, you can now instruct your IRA administrator to rollover a gift from your IRA directly to Southwestern University today and support our students or any campus program of interest to you. Your withdrawal will not be counted as taxable income to you and can help satisfy your required minimum distribution.

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Give now *and* beyond your years. Contact the Office of Planned Giving at 512.863.1485 or email April Hampton Perez '89 at pereza@southwestern.edu to learn more and get started today.



Hundreds of SU students partake in a complimentary lunch hosted each week by Crestview Baptist Church in Georgetown.

Food for thought

Once a ghost town in the evenings, the Georgetown Square is now a destination for students and their parents. The historic downtown features preserved architecture, with the old Williamson County Courthouse surrounded by locally owned retail shops and restaurants. Ron Goldman P'21 and his son Nathan Goldman '21 enjoy connecting on Ron's visits to Georgetown over a slice of pizza at 600 Degrees. Ron shares, "Visiting the city of Georgetown has become an unexpected pleasure as a result of Nathan attending Southwestern."

Stepping outside the square, when students are missing the comforts of home, a local church has provided a place to slow down, engage in conversation, and eat a hot meal, complete with homemade desserts. There were very few students who had ventured west on Williams Drive to Crestview Baptist Church prior

to the inception of Church Lunch a few years ago. As Marty and Randi Rosenkrantz P'22 observe, "The best of Georgetown is exemplified with the church lunch, provided to 500+ students at Crestview. Katie told us she goes once a week with friends and that lunch is good—and free to all SU students! As parents, we so appreciate the thoughtfulness of the church's congregants, and we know Katie does, too!"

These experiences represent only a small fraction of the ways Georgetown is adding meaning to the lives of Southwestern students. Sarah Brackmann, senior director of integrative and community-engaged learning, adds, "Opportunities to engage with the community reinforce Southwestern's core purpose of preparing students to be active and impactful contributors to the well-being of humanity. Volunteering, interning, and engaging with Georgetown allows students to connect what they are learning in their courses to real-world contexts and, in the process, to become social-change leaders." 🍷

Southwestern Volunteers

More than 1,300 individual alumni and friends strengthened Southwestern by volunteering in the 2018–2019 academic year in roles important to them and meaningful to the University. Consider sharing your time and talents by starting your own journey as an SU volunteer. Learn more about opportunities to lend a hand at southwestern.edu/alumni/how-do-i-volunteer.



Tim Boone '77 and Charles Millikan '68 are internship hosts.

Boone and Millikan collaborated at their place of work, Houston Methodist Hospital, to provide Southwestern students access to the Houston Methodist Summer Undergraduate Research Internship Program. Internships provide real-world opportunities for students to integrate, apply, and synthesize their learning through a variety of experiences and disciplines. During the summer of 2019, four Southwestern students completed an internship at the Houston Methodist Research Institute, working with researchers, postdocs, and graduate students in state-of-the-art labs.

Ed Ellis '64 and Suzanne Morrow Ellis '64 serve as class committee members.

The Ellises engage their peers through regular communications, including announcing campus events, soliciting class notes, and inviting annual donations to Southwestern. By encouraging their classmates to contribute annually to Southwestern, the Ellises affect Southwestern's rankings in national publications such as *The Princeton Review*. "SU made a difference in our lives, and we want to help SU to make a difference in the lives of others through our service and gifts."



Beth Lovaas '94 is a mentor in the Alumni Network Mentoring Program.

Lovaas provides career advice and guidance to Southwestern sophomores and juniors on the University's digital networking platform, PirateConnect (pirateconnect.southwestern.edu). "PirateConnect has been a great opportunity for me to stay connected to SU. I have been so fortunate to engage with such inspirational and intelligent students."

Craig McKinney '91 serves as class giving chair on the Alumni Council.

McKinney is leading a working group to support connections between the Alumni Association and first-generation Southwestern students. "The focus on first-generation students seems like important work, because research shows that these students are statistically less likely to enroll and persist in college. Our alumni are generous with their time and resources and are eager to reach out to help these students thrive at Southwestern. By connecting alumni—some of whom also identify as first-generation—we hope to expand networks of support to guide these students to success."



Cassandra McZeal '93 is a member of the Board of Visitors.

McZeal serves on an appointive board, which assists the president and other administrative officials in an advisory capacity. "I volunteer because I want to give back to a school that gave me so much. I was able to attend a private college because of the Brown Scholarship. I was able to major in math and go on to earn a Ph.D. because of the support and encouragement of the math department, which has led to an amazing career. I knew Southwestern was a college that changed lives long before that book was published."

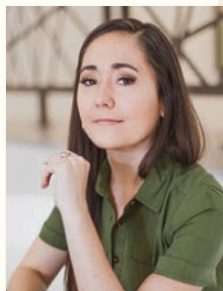


Chad Pevateaux '97 serves as a social-media ambassador.

Pevateaux promotes the latest news and information about Southwestern on his various social-media channels. When alumni and friends post stories on their own social pages, the outreach for Southwestern broadens. "I support Southwestern on social media because I want future students to have as amazing an educational experience as I did at SU."

Stephen Resslering '81 serves as a recruitment volunteer.

Resslering recruits students from his hometown of Houston. Last year, he worked with Houston Christian High School to fly an SU flag and shared information about Southwestern during morning announcements for an entire week. "I enjoy speaking to prospective students about the amazing opportunities and experiences available to students at SU. The small liberal-arts environment is unique and not perfect for everyone, but for those who choose SU, it is a life-changing place. By promoting SU, I hopefully can open a new world for those selected to think, create, and connect—both as a student and beyond."



Jessica Vittorio '11 serves as copresident of the Pirates Who Tech alumni connection group.

As an attorney in the tech industry, Vittorio found interest in building a network for individuals working in the technology and startup community. "Being the coleader of an alumni connection group has been a great experience. Unlike other volunteer opportunities that reach a broad alumni base, this has provided me an opportunity to work with a group of alumni that are curated to my professional interests."

Jeanne Clifford Weiss '83 serves as president of the Pacific Northwest chapter of the Southwestern University Alumni Association.

Along with her fellow chapter officers, Weiss plans and hosts alumni events for alumni in a two-state area. "I like that, as the Pacific Northwest Chapter president, I get to meet fellow SU alumni and help them connect with one another in Oregon and Washington. It's great to have our alumni gather to share stories and celebrate Southwestern and Texas."



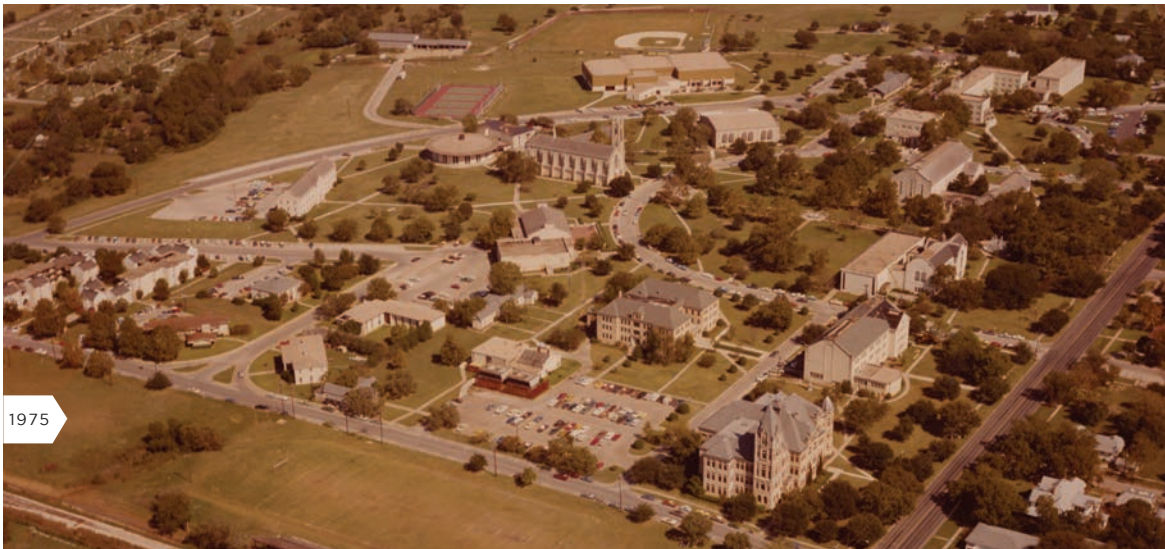
Dan Williams P'20 and Sydrah Williams P'20 are members of the Parent Leadership Council.

The Williamses are the parents of current student Ian Williams '20. As four-year members of the council, they have contacted dozens of incoming families each summer to welcome them to Southwestern and have cohosted three send-off parties for Houston-area families, bringing together over 300 new members of the community.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A Dynamic Landscape

The recent construction, expansion, and renovation of the Jones Plaza, Fondren–Jones Science Center, and Smith Library are just the latest in a long list of dramatic transformations the Southwestern University campus has undergone since the cornerstones of its most iconic edifice, the Hugh Roy and Lillie Cullen Building, were laid on September 8, 1898. As these photographs demonstrate, during just the past 40 years, the campus has undergone significant structural changes. In *To Survive and Excel: The Story of Southwestern University, 1840–2000*, Professor Emeritus of History William B. Jones shares that the University built or refurbished the equivalent of 50% of the total square footage of the campus between 1985 and 2000 alone, including the construction of the Corbin J. Robertson Center, the F. W. Olin Building, the Julie Puett Howry Center, and the Charline McCombs Residential Center. As Southwestern administrators hammer out the latest Master Plan today, SU community members can expect to continue seeing exciting new physical changes on campus in the years to come.





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CHARTER DAY

February 7-8, 2020

Celebrate the 180th anniversary of Southwestern's founding through engaging experiences that will enhance your intellectual, personal, and professional success. Return to campus for a new tradition that honors our history and inspires us to imagine our future.

Events

- Distinguished Alumni Awards presentation
- Donor and volunteer recognition reception
- Annual meeting of the Southwestern University Alumni Association
- Career Communities networking luncheon
- The Science and Art of Texas Hold 'Em
- Experience Southwestern: Pirate for a Day (lifelong-learning programming for all ages)

**Register for Southwestern's Charter Day celebration
at southwestern.edu/charterday.**



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Blast from the Past

In February 2020, Southwestern University will celebrate the 180th anniversary of its founding. In our spring 2020 issue, we'll reflect on the many accomplishments of SU community members as the University continues to look forward to the future.