



IMPACT

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS ADVANCEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT | 2018-2019

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BREAKING THE RECORD

Mean Green Family,

There really is only one way to describe the year we had at the University of North Texas: record-breaking. Time and again, our donors and friends stepped up to the plate to remove obstacles and create unparalleled opportunities for our students and faculty.

Just take a look at how you helped us knock it out of the park again in the 2018-19 fiscal year:

- Overall commitments grew to nearly \$61 million.
- UNT received a \$30 million transformational gift — the largest gift in university history — from alumnus G. Brint Ryan ('88, '88 M.S.) and his wife, Amanda, to name and support the G. Brint Ryan College of Business.
- New gifts to endowments rose 38.4 percent to \$21.8 million, increasing the value of the UNT endowment to a record high of more than \$200 million.
- Legacy giving is at a three-year high, with more than \$8.5 million in new commitments.
- Foundation partnerships that support students, programming and faculty research are up 10 percent to more than \$6.2 million.

The numbers are exciting, but there's so much more to UNT's story. As we reach milestones in fundraising, our students and faculty are able to aim higher, fly further and become the leaders our future needs. We hope you'll take some time to look through University Advancement's third annual report and discover the amazing achievements happening all over campus.

I say it often, but it's true every day — there has never been a better time to be part of the Mean Green Family! Thank you for staying connected and helping dreams take flight at UNT.

Go Mean Green!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DW' or similar initials.

David Wolf ('04 Ph.D.)

Vice President for University Advancement

SERVING TO EMPOWER

Like many, Jodi Jarrett vividly remembers the events of September 11, 2001. In the years following the attacks, Jarrett began to regard the U.S. Marine Corps as an elite and important force — a discovery that led to a life of service and adventure.

“Well that and the uniform, of course,” Jarrett says. “Have you seen a Marine in dress blues?”

After joining the Marine Corps at age 19 and serving four years on active duty, the losses Jarrett experienced due to military-related suicide were nothing short of devastating. The impact of one loss, in particular, changed the trajectory of her life. She was preparing to take the L-SAT and apply to law school when something inside her changed.

“I decided enough was enough. I needed the tools to fight the thing that kept taking my friends away.”

Jarrett made the choice to dedicate her life to a different kind of service. As a graduate student in UNT's Counseling program, Jarrett has a new title and a more relaxed dress code, but she's as determined as ever to forge a course that will build a better world. She's on a mission to support positive mental health outcomes for service members and their families, and provide a voice for marginalized communities.

Choosing to study at UNT — one of the top-ranking universities for her degree specialty — was a no-brainer for Jarrett. But despite that confidence, Jarrett still struggles with imposter syndrome.

“It was not until recently that I began to experience people who look like me in these spaces,” she says about her work in academia. “Thankfully, I have received an overwhelming amount of support since coming to UNT.”

This support includes critical financial assistance that knocked down the barriers to higher education. As a doctoral student, Jarrett has been awarded the Dr. Michael and Ruthie Altekruze Scholarship, the Byron Medler Scholarship, the College of Education Dean's Scholarship and the L. Sophia Fairchild Academic Scholarship.

Prior to receiving notification of her scholarship awards, Jarrett had considered abandoning her plans to pursue a Ph.D. — it just did not seem possible.

“Without philanthropic initiatives, I certainly would not be here,” she says. “The scholarships I received have lessened my financial burden and helped me make strides to achieve my dreams.”

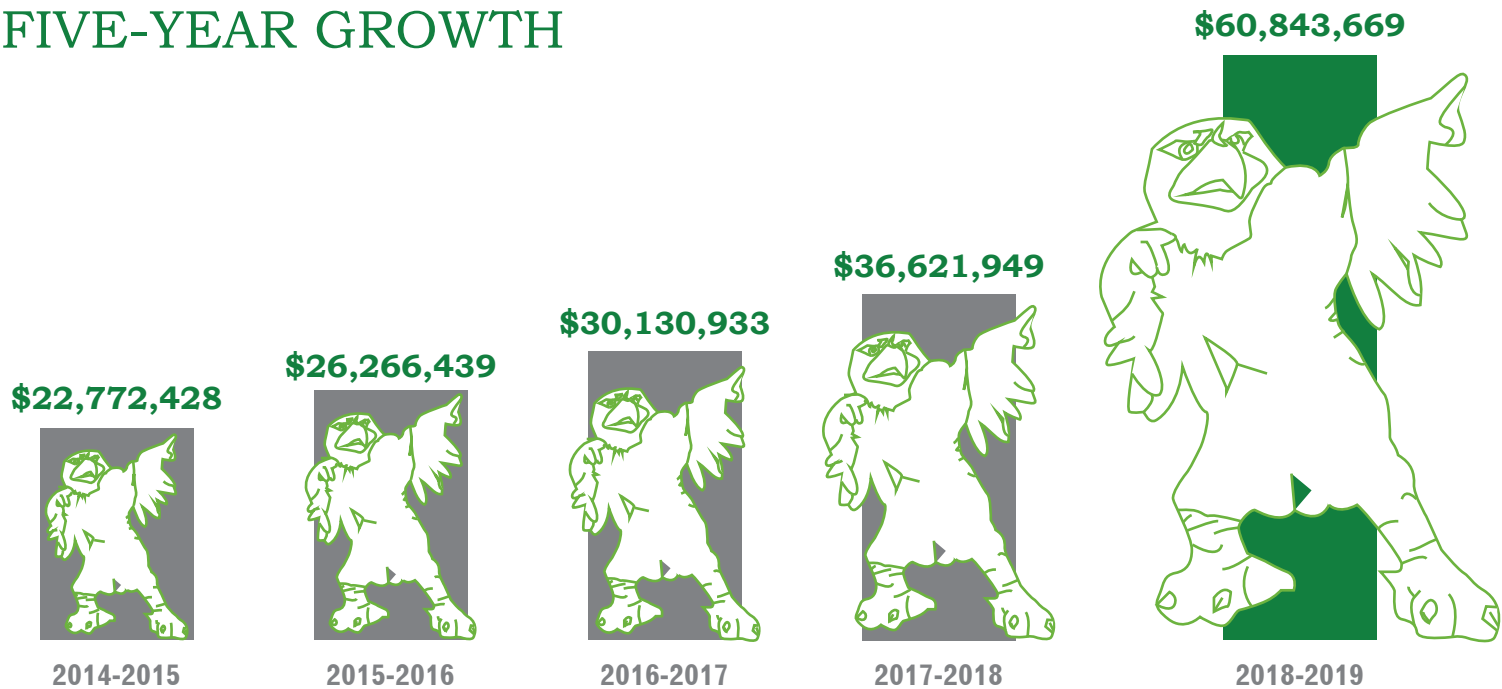
Jarrett, who plans to graduate with her Ph.D. in December 2023, is already combating the stronghold of trauma on college campuses. While preparing for her own future, Jarrett is hard at work destigmatizing mental illness and equipping UNT students with relevant tools for success. Jodi Jarrett recognizes the transformative power of UNT's deeply supportive community and hopes to have the opportunity to give back to the university by way of mentorship and financial contributions in the future.

“The gifts I have received have already begun to multiply in impact. Because of the generosity of the UNT community, I feel empowered and driven to empower others.”



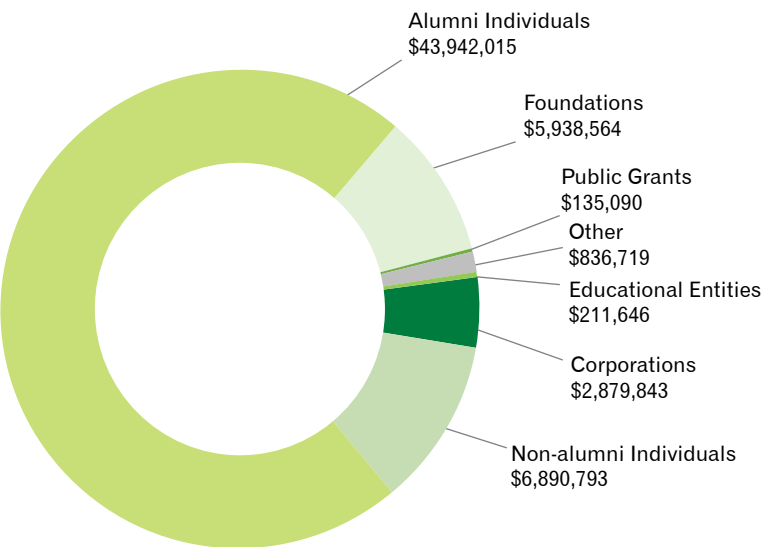
BY THE NUMBERS | 2018-2019

FIVE-YEAR GROWTH



WHO DONATES?

COMMITMENTS BY CONSTITUENCY





\$43.9 MILLION

GIFTS FROM ALUMNI



169

NEW MAJOR GIFTS



32%

WHERE DO GIFTS GO?

DONOR IMPACT BY PURPOSE



Athletics

\$3,582,225



Public Service and Extension

\$382,505



Academic Divisions

\$28,304,547



Property, Buildings and Equipment

\$979,995



Library

\$620,061



Student Scholarships

\$9,984,524



Research

\$1,984,379

Multi-Designation

(Gifts include both Student Scholarships & Research)

\$14,996,433

38,087

**STUDENTS
ENROLLED**



2018-2019 GRADUATES

246,377

**DEGREE-HOLDING
GRADUATES**

11,436

DONORS

17,808

GIFTS

\$60,834,669

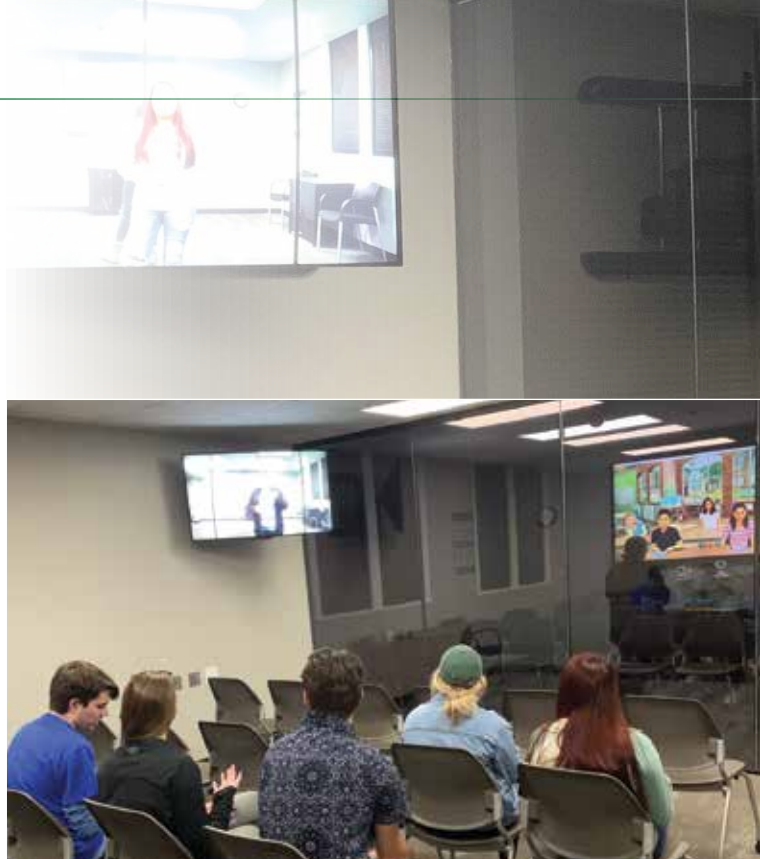
COMMITMENTS



66.1%

TRAINING TO TEACH

With more than 600 students currently enrolled and nearly 300 alumni already serving the region, UNT's Teach North Texas (TNT) has a profound impact on learning outcomes in DFW. Now, thanks in part to donations from the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Fund and the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, TNT's students are training in a state-of-the-art Augmented Reality (AR) classroom that will create the highest quality STEM teaching force in the region.



"To achieve this grand goal, we must utilize innovative technologies that help our future educators practice the skills and embrace the qualities of highly effective teachers," says Dr. Ruthanne Thompson, TNT co-director. "The AR classroom provides these opportunities like no other educational experience."

Many are surprised by what they find inside the new AR classroom — it is not a video game and there are no controllers. It's an immersive learning experience where simulated students on a screen respond directly to what is happening around them, resulting in a safe space for future educators to work on classroom management techniques without the pressures of real-world consequences.

All UNT students specializing in fourth through eighth grade and secondary education will utilize the AR classroom, receive intensive mentoring and have the opportunity to assess and reflect on their performances before re-entering the simulation and testing new strategies. In the AR classroom, missteps become stepping stones to deeper learning.

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION RELATIONS

\$9.1
MILLION

FY19 Corporate &
Foundation Giving

Foundation Partnerships
supporting students,
programming & faculty research

↑ **10%** TO MORE
THAN
\$6.2M



200+
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
SHARED WITH
FACULTY & STAFF



UNT's simulated classroom was created in collaboration with Mursion, a leading company in the field. More than 65 other universities and programs utilize Mursion as part of their educator preparation, but the program created with TNT is the nation's first AR high school classroom focused on STEM coursework.

"Mursion is tried and true, yet willing to expand beyond their current capacity. We approached the company with the idea of creating high school avatars, a virtual science lab and specific STEM scenarios, which did not exist prior to our collaboration, and they enthusiastically agreed," Thompson says.

TNT leaders worked closely with Mursion's engineering team to develop the specialized simulation. The product will eventually be available for use by other universities and school districts, nationally and internationally, ensuring that the technology will enhance the learning of hundreds of students within the lifetime of each of TNT's graduates and, ultimately, benefit STEM education nationwide.

"I cannot thank The Caruth Fund and The Richardson Foundation enough, for they are doing nothing short of changing lives. It is said that 'teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions' — by investing in future teachers, they are investing in the future for us all," says Thompson.

\$12.1
MILLION

**Future Matching
Eligible from the
Texas Research
Incentive Program**



PROPOSALS
INCREASED

42%

DOLLARS ASKED
DOUBLED TO

\$20M

GROWING THE FUTURE

From the first moments of his campus tour, Julian Johnson knew that he would attend UNT — the university was beautiful, the people were kind and the abundance of student resources was impressive. But as a first-generation college student, he had no idea what to expect or how to succeed. Faculty in the College of Education helped Johnson discover his passion for human development and family science, and an endowed scholarship helped him achieve his dreams.

“My scholarship allowed me to work through a semester with no financial stress,” Johnson says. “Without it, I wouldn’t have been able to afford both textbooks and food, especially while saving money for an upcoming major surgery.”

A scholarship like Johnson’s comes from UNT’s endowment, which is comprised of individual donor-established funds that are invested and administered by the UNT Foundation, University Advancement’s strategic partner in managing and growing private assets. An endowment fund has a specific, unique and lasting impact on the university’s commitment to educational excellence.

“We’re lucky to have an amazing community of donors, as well as a strong partnership between Advancement’s fundraising staff and the UNT Foundation’s endowment management team,” says David Wolf, vice president for University Advancement. “We know that a healthy endowment is crucial for UNT’s future, and we’re committed to continue growing it in the years to come.”

With a value of more than \$200 million, UNT’s endowment hit a major milestone in fiscal year 2018-19. **For a student like Johnson, this means more than a perpetual source of funding for the university — it’s the difference between struggling through school and confidently reaching graduation day.**

Through endowment funds, donors create permanent legacies that benefit generations of UNT students, the creative leaders of tomorrow.

“At UNT, I’ve developed skills I will take with me for the rest of my life,” Johnson says. “I’m so thankful for the donors who gave me the ability to achieve my goal of being the first person in my family to graduate from college.”





ENDOWMENTS

1,343
DONORS

↑ **28.8%**

1,444 TOTAL
NUMBER OF
ENDOWMENT FUNDS

NEW DONORS TO ENDOWMENTS

♂ ♀ **234** ♀ ♂

NEW GIFTS

↑ **38.4%**

STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED
ENDOWMENT AWARDS

2,385

CURRENT VALUE SURPASSED

\$200
MILLION



SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

On February 4, 2019, the UNT community gathered to celebrate the largest gift in university history — \$30 million from alumnus Brint Ryan and his family — and the naming of the G. Brint Ryan College of Business. This transformational gift will ensure the college remains one of the nation's top providers of business higher education.



“I want current and future students to have an even better experience than I had. I want to see them go out and change the world and, in the process, make UNT proud.”

—Brint Ryan
Chairman and CEO of Ryan





We're inspired by the Ryan family's philanthropic spirit and are deeply grateful for alumni like Brint — **difference makers who stay engaged** with the university and guide our students toward innovation and success.

David F. Wolf ('04 Ph.D.)
Vice President for University Advancement

“The naming of a college is a very important symbol of support and commitment that signifies our value to the world. **Brint Ryan's name leading the College of Business will inspire students to reach higher** — to see what he has done, and believe that their own opportunities are achievable.”

Marilyn K. Wiley
Dean, G. Brint Ryan College of Business



“In today's complex world, **we need students who have grit and determination**, students who can weather challenges and difficulties. It is so wonderful when our alumni and friends support our students so they can go out and make a difference in the world.”

Neal J. Smatresk
UNT President



LOYAL EAGLES

Loyal Eagles are devoted members of the UNT community who have made a gift of any amount for two or more consecutive years. Year after year, Loyal Eagles repeat their vote of confidence in the university and its mission. Loyal Eagles give consistently because they know that every little bit, every single year, makes a difference in the lives of our students.

"I was a first-generation college student at UNT, and **I knew the importance of scholarships.** I started giving back to my alma mater to carry on the legacy of my parents, who gave what they could when they had very little to spare. They instilled in me, over and over, to pass it on. I'm a Loyal Eagle because I want to see the **Mean Green Spirit live forever** in the generations to come!"

-Larry Brinkley
'69,'73 M.P.A.



3,534
LOYAL EAGLES
38.4% INCREASE

38 MOST
CONSECUTIVE
YEARS OF GIVING



"With your donations, students see education as a world of possibility, not an expense. Thank you for selflessly supporting my future — I want to seize the opportunity to pay it forward."

-Tatum Specht
Senior, Hospitality Management

420 PEOPLE
GIVING FOR
10+ YEARS
↑ 60.3%

WE CARE WE COUNT

UNT faculty and staff are committed to investing time and talent in the university, and during the annual We Care We Count Campaign, members of the campus community push that investment one step further.

Consider Janice M. Holden, a recently retired faculty member and longtime donor who, upon being awarded one of the university's highest faculty honors, was immediately inspired to pay it forward.

"The night after I received the UNT Foundation Eminent Faculty Award, I couldn't sleep," Holden says. **"I knew I wanted to give back at least some of the award money to UNT."**

In the middle of the We Care We Count Campaign, Dr. Holden gave half of her \$15,000 prize money back to meet the needs of Counseling program doctoral students, budding scholars who often scramble to find employment during the summer.

"The students would be employed, and I would have help tying up some incomplete research and service projects. It was a win for everyone."

Our faculty and staff giving campaign is a testament to the university's caring nature — it's a powerful example of how UNT employees go above and beyond to support the university and help build a better world.



DONORS
11.7% ↑

GIFTS
20.2% ↑

DIAMOND EAGLES

Thanks to the second annual Diamond Eagles Society project, **Students of Need: Suit Up, Fuel Up, Cap Up**, it's easier than ever for UNT to combat food insecurity and support students who need help obtaining professional clothing and graduation regalia.

The project, pitched to the Diamond Eagles by the Division of Student Affairs, created a centralized location for three existing programs: the food pantry, Suit Up and Mean Green Gowns for Grads. Along with modernizing operations and expanding services, the investment has allowed students to have their needs met with more privacy.

"We believe that no student should have to go hungry and every student deserves the chance to walk across the stage at graduation and land a great job," says Elizabeth With, vice president for student affairs. "We are so grateful to the Diamond Eagles Society for investing in our students in this powerful way. The mission of Student Affairs is to help our students succeed, and with this funding, we have been able to continue doing that in larger and more impactful ways."

Founded in 2017, the Diamond Eagles Society utilizes a venture philanthropy model to effect positive change at UNT. Every year, members make individual contributions of \$1,000 or more, then pool their gifts to fund a high-impact project determined by a member majority vote at an exciting annual event.



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



Aditya Ayyagari arrived in the U.S. as an international student in pursuit of happiness and an education — and though he never lost hope while studying at UNT, he struggled when his research funding fell through in his final year of doctoral studies.

It was at this critical juncture that Ayyagari received the Syed Ian Maswood Memorial Scholarship in Engineering, which is privately funded by the family of a former UNT Materials Science and Engineering student and is awarded to one outstanding graduate student each year. For Ayyagari, **the scholarship meant the difference between halting his research and graduating on time.**

“Receiving this scholarship was humbling, and at the same time, served as motivation to perform better,” Ayyagari says.

Now a doctoral graduate, Ayyagari has established a new College of Engineering scholarship to show his appreciation and encourage more alumni to do the same.

“I want to help make it possible for other students to persevere and finish their education. My hope is that this will inspire and motivate others to do their bit to support fellow eagles.”

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Providing quality education requires great leadership, and the College of Education is committed to preparing the best and brightest through the Superintendent Certification Program, which offers the research-based training that top school leaders need to serve students, districts and communities.

“By facilitating their education this way, we are helping to encourage and develop the future leaders of our nation’s school districts. Their efforts will directly impact countless lives far into the future, and we are proud to support them.”

-HilltopSecurities

Recognizing that skilled school superintendents shape educational opportunities across the country, HilltopSecurities offers a Superintendent Certification Scholarship to qualified candidates at UNT. The award allows students to have approximately half of their tuition reimbursed upon successful completion of their coursework.

“The help and support of my professors and mentors, along with the scholarship made possible by HilltopSecurities, provided the necessary support to complete the program. I have been in education for 20+ years, and I was hired as a superintendent within six months of completing my coursework.”

-Anthony R. Figueroa
*HilltopSecurities Superintendent
Certification Scholarship Recipient*



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

The largest public music program in the nation, UNT's College of Music, is now getting deeper support from Yamaha, the largest musical instrument manufacturer in the world.

Yamaha served as the presenting sponsor for the College of Music's 2019 Gala and also collaborated to make the event a wildly successful fundraising effort for music scholarships. This marks the first time that Yamaha has worked with UNT as more than a source of fine instruments.

"This year's Gala bolstered our student scholarships and program resources tremendously, and Yamaha was a big part of that success," says John W. Richmond, dean of the College of Music. "The new scope of our relationship with Yamaha comes as a major boost in fueling the education of the more than 1,600

gifted musicians who pass through these halls every year."

On top of partnering in the fundraising effort, Yamaha enlisted the support of the company's local dealer, Metroplex Piano of Plano, Texas, to provide all pianos for the celebration. Additionally, Yamaha supplied all sound reinforcement gear used in every aspect of the Gala.

"As Yamaha intensifies its focus on institutional relationships, this enhanced collaborative effort with the university's College of Music comes as a major step forward for us and our mission in support of music education," says Tom Sumner, president of Yamaha Corporation of America. "It is quite gratifying to be taking this larger role in supporting the university, and we look forward to exploring other avenues of working together in the future."

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION



"My parents generously set up the Kathleen White Endowed Scholarship in Learning Technologies to help other people like me who are looking to transition from teaching into a different, but similar, career. While working on my master's degree in applied technology, training and development, **I made connections with other professionals working on the same degree that led to a job offer before I graduated.** That job gave me experience that led to my current organization, where I've been able to learn and grow my professional experience over the last 18 years. I had a great experience and learned a lot in my time at UNT, and I hope this endowment will help other former teachers like myself broaden their professional opportunities."

- Katie White ('00),
Director, Digital Programs
American Heart Association

COLLEGE OF HEALTH & PUBLIC SERVICE

“My experience at UNT has been nothing short of amazing — I am passionate about helping the most vulnerable populations in our country, and I knew social work was the major and field for me as soon as I took my first course.

I’m so grateful to have received the Rosalyn Reades Honors Scholarship at the start of my junior year. I already work almost full time, and this award made it so much easier for me to focus on my academic career rather than my financial situation. I cannot thank UNT donors enough. Your gift may be the reason a student is able to partake in higher education, and the return on that investment is priceless.”

**- Lydia Pluscht
Social Work and
Criminal Justice Major**



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dr. Richard Rogers is nationally recognized for his contributions to forensic psychology and psychiatry. Around UNT, though, he's also known for his generosity. A Regents Professor with a 28-year career in UNT's Department of Psychology, Rogers makes it a priority to give with intention.

“A financial advisor once mentioned the great pleasure of giving now, when you are actively involved and can provide general guidance about the goals of your gifts,” says Rogers. “He was completely right.”

For Rogers, that means giving in support of scholars at UNT. He has established both the Rogers Academic Career Award in Clinical Psychology and the Rogers Excellence Award in Clinical Psychology, and has given over \$120,000 in scholarships for graduate students. The awards help UNT remain competitive with other leading universities by providing funds for students to author articles, begin programmatic research and acquire highly competitive predoctoral internships.

While Rogers' gifts have different, specific purposes, all are rooted in one of his greatest joys — helping launch successful academic careers.

“I am hoping that this new generation becomes part of a continuing UNT legacy.”

COLLEGE OF MERCHANDISING, HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

When financial circumstances take a turn for the worse, many students feel they are left with only one option — leaving school and abandoning their dreams of a college education.

This year, the College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism made strides to address financial challenges in innovative ways, because having tuition funds at just the right time can make all the difference. CMHT is not making those strides alone, however. The college has the support of G6 Hospitality, the company behind Motel 6 and Studio 6.

Thanks to the new G6 Hospitality Opportunity Endowment Fund, which will serve as a source of non-merit based financial support, more UNT students will persevere to become leaders in careers that focus on the customer experience.

“G6 Hospitality is honored to start this opportunity fund with UNT,” says Rob Palleschi, CEO of G6 Hospitality. **“We hope it will assist those who have a true passion for the hospitality industry who might otherwise be unable to pursue that passion.”**



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Groundbreaking research is being conducted in The Dr. Linda Truitt Creagh Statistics Lab, named in honor of the UNT alumna's recent \$150,000 gift to the Department of Mathematics.

Dr. Creagh has been connected to the university for most of her life — her father, Dr. Price Truitt, was a science professor, and Creagh attended the North Texas State College's demonstration school as a kindergartener.

“This was always, literally, my home, my playground, my place to be,” Creagh says.

She continued her education at UNT, earning a B.A. in chemistry with a minor in mathematics and an M.A. in organic chemistry before becoming UNT's first-ever recipient of a doctoral degree in chemistry.

Creagh enjoyed a successful career as a research chemist, advancing liquid crystal display (LCD) technology at Texas Instruments and developing printer and ink-jet technology for Xerox, Spectra and Fuji Film.

Now, Dr. Creagh's generosity is carrying on her legacy of resiliency and innovation.

“I had enough education to compete with people who had Ph.D.s from Yale, so I know I got the formal training that I needed here,” she says. “When I walk around UNT, I can see changes. I can go to something like a STEM meeting and it's full of young women — and that's exciting.”

COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN



Tour CVAD's newly renovated building and you will find spaces named for donors who helped create one of the most technologically-advanced art facilities in the world — including the D. Jack and Gail C. Davis Conference Room and the Milnes Advising Center, named in honor of two former CVAD deans.

"I'm grateful to be in partnership with former deans who continue to invest in the college's exciting future," says Greg Watts, CVAD dean. "Along with providing important scholarships, their gifts are supporting spaces that are critical to our college and places of immense impact for our students."

Jack Davis, an Emeritus Professor with a 40-year tenure at UNT, oversaw the art school's transition to a college

and served as its Founding Dean from 1993-2004, and renowned ceramics artist Robert Milnes continued transforming the college into one of the nation's most comprehensive visual arts programs until his retirement in 2014. Both former deans have given generously to support student scholarships and help fund a world-class space for the college's unique resources and award-winning programs.

"I enjoyed and was inspired by my time at UNT — great students, great colleagues," says Milnes. "Karen and I are focused on opportunities for people to do something wonderful that will change their lives."

As the college continues to thrive, Davis and Milnes continue to build on their legacies.

"Having invested 40 years of my career in the University of North Texas, I am grateful for all of the opportunities that UNT afforded me," says Davis. "My wife, Gail, and I are pleased that we can support CVAD with annual gifts and with planned gifts through our estate."

Creativity takes many shades at UNT, and former CVAD deans Jack Davis and Robert Milnes have long been dedicated to forging opportunities that help innovative students thrive.

FRANK W. & SUE MAYBORN SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Each year, the Scripps Howard Foundation recognizes the best in American journalism, including UNT's Dr. Sheri Broyles, who received the foundation's 2017 Teacher of the Year Award.

Dr. Broyles was honored to receive the award and chose to "pay it forward" by donating the \$10,000 award to a scholarship fund that supports her passion for recruiting and retaining excellent advertising students for the Mayborn School of Journalism.

TEXAS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE



Some of the most exceptionally gifted high school students in the nation live on UNT's campus, and a recent pledge from the Newman Foundation will help these young scholars prepare to tackle complex, real-world problems in a variety of STEM fields. The \$100,000 gift, the largest ever received by UNT's Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS), established a permanent endowment fund to support vital research-enhancing activities.

"We're profoundly grateful to Ken and Ann Newman for encouraging all incoming TAMS students to engage with science, technology, engineering and mathematics research on an even higher level," says Glênisson de Oliveira, dean of TAMS and the Honors College at UNT.

Incoming students who are selected as Newman Summer Research Scholars will have costs covered for the TAMS Early Summer Research Program, where students spend 10 weeks working with a faculty mentor and learning the best research methods and techniques for their individual fields of study.

"The Newman Foundation has been committed to providing scholarships to qualified young people for more than 20 years," says Ken Newman. "I am honored to have been on the TAMS Advisory Board for several years and realize how very special these students are. We are pleased to be able to help."

"Dr. B, as she is affectionately called by students, is an invaluable member of the Mayborn family. She not only gives her time and talents to her students, but also gives to them through her scholarship contributions. Her amazing gifts help the students both in and out of the classroom."

**- Andrea Miller,
Dean of the Mayborn School of Journalism**





ATHLETICS

Drive through Denton on I-35 these days and you will be hard-pressed to miss the 24-foot-tall, glowing letters that spell Mean Green on the side of the new Lovelace and McNatt Families Practice Facility. What's inside is even more impressive — the tools to help UNT Athletics build champions and prepare leaders for a lifetime of success.

The multi-sport facility is one of the first steps in a long strategy to maximize student-athlete health and safety, allow UNT to stay competitive with other universities and increase awareness of the Mean Green brand.

“We’re doing everything we can to make sure we set our student-athletes up for successful futures, on and off the field,” says Seth Littrell, head football coach.

Named for the donors who made it possible, the Lovelace and McNatt Families Practice Facility is the third-largest indoor practice venue in Texas. The facility has always been part of the Light the Tower Master Plan, but it took someone like longtime fan and supporter Don Lovelace to jumpstart the project.

“He was the man, I think, who really should be credited with getting this thing going,” says Jim McNatt ('66), who notes that he and his brother, Al McNatt, Sr. ('68), got involved when they heard from Wren Baker, vice president and director of Athletics, how much more money was needed to get shovels in the ground.

Made possible by the generosity of the two families, the climate-controlled, multi-sport practice space opened in October 2019. It includes a full-length football field and track running lanes, and serves as a place for student-athletes to practice during inclement weather. It also has the capacity to host recruits, camps and special events.

“When I arrived here in 2016, I sat with every coach and staff member and talked about what our strengths were and what our weaknesses were,” says Baker. “When we really started to look at what was the needed, the indoor practice facility rose to the top.”

Baker notes that UNT Athletics has always been well positioned in the DFW area, a place where there are a lot of recruits, but that there is a high level of competition for that talent. In the new space, coaches can meet with recruits in a dedicated lounge. Recruiting the top talent will mean more seasons like 2018-19, when every UNT Athletics team achieved a winning record for the first time in university history.

“We’ve got a lot of momentum going at the university right now, says Lovelace. “This is just another step in the journey that we’re all on and excited about.”

UNT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY

On a brisk day last February, “Glory to the Green and White” and the North Texas fight song filled the open-air rotunda of the Texas State Capitol. More than 170 UNT students, alumni and friends sang along with the pep band’s lunchtime concert before getting back to the important work that had led them to Austin — advocating for continued support of UNT and higher education in Texas.

“It’s wonderful to see this initiative become a priority for UNT, and it’s something we absolutely must do. We’re the fifth-largest university in the state, but we aren’t funded like that,” says John Matthews (’83, ’87 M.B.A.), member of the UNT Alumni Association Board of Directors.

During UNT’s inaugural Day at the Capitol, students and alumni teamed up to tell all 181 legislators how UNT has transformed their lives and ask for support of the university’s legislative appropriations requests.

Those requests included a push to keep Texas manufacturing competitive, and a few months after UNT’s visit, the 86th Texas legislature gave \$10 million to boost UNT’s Center for Agile and Adaptive Additive Manufacturing, a comprehensive facility that will foster the university’s interdisciplinary research in the area of advanced manufacturing.

Along with yielding successful results, bringing Mean Green spirit to the Capitol was re-energizing for many UNT alumni.

“Engaging alumni in the life of their alma mater is at the core of everything we do, and the Mean Green family showed up in a big way to support the university,” says Rob McInturf, executive director of the UNT Alumni Association. “We’re proud to have made a difference, and our team is already making plans to mobilize again during the 2021 legislative session.”



UNT ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

15,301

7.1% INCREASE

LIFE MEMBERS

2,376

1.8% INCREASE



UNT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP



Every gift tells at least two stories — why a donor chose to give and the lives impacted by their generosity. For Charlie ('82) and Lisa ('82) Smith, giving back to their alma mater is a way to make sure deserving students get the financial help they need in order to join the UNT alumni family.

The Smiths have always made it a priority to stay connected to the university, and this year they took that dedication one step further by creating the Charlie and Lisa Smith Scholarship through the UNT Alumni Association's Scholarship Program.

"We wanted to establish a scholarship at UNT because of our love for our university. By giving back, we hope to help future students achieve their goals and become part of the Mean Green Family," the couple says.

As one of the newest funds in the UNT Alumni Association's portfolio, the new scholarship highlights the alumni body's commitment to supporting excellence at UNT. The gift means much more than a check in the mail for UNT student Carol Ventura, recipient of the Charlie and Lisa Smith Scholarship.

"I'm so grateful for the donors who contributed to my education and gave me an opportunity to reach my career goals. With their help, I will be the first person in my family to attend college and an example to my younger sibling," says Ventura. "I'm excited to learn from UNT alumni and see how I can give back once I graduate."

ALUMNI EVENTS

From networking events and happy hours for working professionals to days of service and family-friendly outings, the UNT Alumni Association is hosting more events than ever to engage students and alumni and build Mean Green pride!





DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

A long-standing university tradition, the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards recognize the best in our alumni body. Throughout their careers, recipients have contributed significantly to their companies, communities and the university while upholding the highest standards and values.

2018 AWARDEES

“What’s effective at Southwest Airlines is that we all worked together to treat people the way you would like to be treated. We had a group of people that worked together, that didn’t have egos, that solved problems. I think that’s what you get out of North Texas.”

-Laura Wright ('82, '82 M.S.)
Distinguished Alumni Award

“I love doing what I do because I love watching people interact and be happy. If everybody is happy, then at the end of the day, I feel like I’ve done a great job.”

-John Williams ('05)
Distinguished Young Alumni Award

“UNT taught me that it ain’t over till it’s over, and that’s the story at Gallery Furniture. We came here with \$5,000 and a dream, and we’re still in business 38 years later, and we’re still the underdog. I like that role. An underdog is a very dangerous animal.”

-Jim McIngvale
Distinguished Alumni Award

“Don’t leave with ‘I wish I had done this or that.’ Leave it all on the field. You get one time to do it right, so go out there and do it right.”

-Gregory Matthews ('95)
Outstanding Alumni Service Award

“Everywhere we go, we meet UNT graduates and people who are very knowledgeable about UNT. It has a wonderful reputation. Culturally and socially, no one could be prouder of UNT than we are.”

-Joseph O. and Betty A. Roy
Outstanding Alumni Service Award

“I’ve been to almost all football games and as many basketball games, both men and women, that I can get to. I do that because I want to support the student-athletes. They put their hearts out on the line, playing their darndest for us.”

-Lou Ann Bradley
Ulys Knight Spirit Award





UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

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