

ON THE MOVE

The Official Newsletter of UNT Dallas President Bob Mong

October, 2018

From the President's Desk



When I speak to groups in our community, I explain how UNT Dallas is trying to close the educational disparity gap that exists in North Texas. I share how we are the fastest-growing, most diverse and most affordable university in Dallas-Fort Worth, and how our values, nurturing environment and curriculum that focuses on experiential learning all help equip our students for success.

But we can't bridge the gap in our community alone. Partnerships are critical if we want to really change the face of education in Dallas, and UNT Dallas led efforts to collaborate with other education agencies, corporations, philanthropists, community leaders and foundations to expand our reach and impact.

One of those partnerships, the [Dallas County Promise](#), was the topic of reflection just more than a week ago in Chicago where I spoke at the Coalition of Metro and Urban University's 2018 convention. Joining me were our great Promise partners, Usamah Rodgers of the Dallas ISD, Chemene Crawford of Dallas County Community College District, and Eric Ban, managing director of Dallas County Promise.

The purpose of our presentation was to reflect and report on the first year of the Dallas County Promise, which offers seniors in Dallas County the opportunity to sign a pledge to attend a community college tuition-free and, after earning an associate degree, to transfer to UNT Dallas to pursue a bachelor's degree, also tuition-free.

The program is off to a promising start! We are now working on Cohort 2. The Promise is capturing the hearts and minds of 16,000 students in 43 DFW high schools.

The inaugural year exposed more than 9,000 seniors from 31 schools to free community college educations. A program that started in Tennessee, and experienced tremendous success, is now growing significant roots in Dallas County.

After delivering the good news in Chicago, the Promise program is bound to expand, making a college education accessible and affordable no matter a student's background.

In the span of a week, our Arthur Lumzy pulls off a successful job fair and then "Major Madness"

Arthur Lumzy Jr., Director of Career Services, doesn't get much time to rest. He's constantly organizing events to help our students to succeed. In just the last week, he and his energetic staff pulled off two significant events. The first was a [job fair](#) that brought more than 20 companies to campus. The second was called "Major Madness!" The event gives students the opportunity to engage with employers, faculty members, academic advisors and student organizations to learn more about majors that interest them. "Generally, we try to target our freshmen students, particularly those students in the UGST-1100 class, which is our learning foundations course," Lumzy, Jr. said. "This is an event for them to explore what majors are out there and career paths and what that might look like.

More: [Get an inside look at "Major Madness!"](#)



TrueBlue was a huge success as the weather turned sunny and prospective students and parents came out aplenty

Our annual TrueBlue event went off without a hitch on Oct. 20. After a full week of dreary rain and unusually chilly temperatures, we were greeted on this Saturday morning with a classic fall day of blue skies, sunshine and crisp air. We hosted a substantial number of prospective students and parents, and promoted our mission of empowering students, transforming lives and strengthening communities. Just weeks earlier, we celebrated another semester of record enrollment. With our continued commitment to low tuition, low student debt and high-quality education, the UNT Dallas brand is gaining traction in our primary target areas of southern Dallas and the inner-ring suburbs.

More: [Check out the hustle-and-bustle of activity that was going on inside DAL 1 during TrueBlue](#)



During Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrated Anacleto Contreras, a shining example of the diversity we seek and the benefits it brings

Anacleto Contreras, program manager of UNT Dallas Upward Bound is a beloved member of our UNT Dallas staff. He came aboard nearly one year ago. A graduate of Texas A&M, Contreras quickly began to make impact with students. His story is the quintessential immigrant story of hard work, perseverance, assimilation and success. Now he uses his experiences and expertise to guide future UNT Dallas Trailblazers. "We tell our own people that it's a great benefit to become a U.S. citizen, and the whole struggle that my parents did for me to get there, it was just incredible for me to say, 'I am a citizen.' My parents struggled for me to be successful, and now I have to continue to make them proud and make my people proud as well." Anacleto's popularity was evident by the outpouring of support and praise on our social media posts. On Facebook, the video had 1,800 views and reached 4,300 in just two weeks, huge numbers by any measurement. Thank you, Anacleto!

More: [Watch our Hispanic Heritage Month profile on Anacleto Contreras](#)



Dean John Gasko initiates unique "Dallas Teachers Speak" to showcase the grace and strength of Dallas ISD teachers like never before

In conjunction with [29 Pieces](#), a Dallas nonprofit that uses art to teach nonviolence and other social values, and [Ashoka](#), an international organization that promotes social entrepreneurship, School of Education dean and Emerging Teacher Institute founder Dr. John Gasko is asking up to 300 teachers from the Dallas ISD to be featured in elegant photographs that will portray teachers, he said, as their communities aren't used to seeing them -- more like a glamorous cover for *Vogue* than *PTA Today*. The portraits will be produced as posters and put on exhibit in spaces throughout Dallas next spring. "There's a dimension of teaching that's elegant and beautiful that sometimes gets lost in these larger grand narratives around pay and around performance," Dr. Gasko said. "Dallas Teachers Speak is a campaign that is going to transform, we hope, how the community sees teachers. I want them to see them as beautiful, as elegant, as powerful, as change-agents in their classrooms and their communities."

More: [Read more about this intriguing project that glorifies and celebrates our teachers](#)



Who are we? We. Are. Trailblazers.

Last year, we came to the decision to retire our "Jaguars" nickname for something we believe to be more representative of the spirit and mission of our university. So we officially became the UNT Dallas Trailblazers. However, in doing so, we didn't ditch our mascot, which was, and remains, a Jaguar. We did, however, evolve our spirit mark, giving it more of a distinguished look that you have no doubt seen over the course of the year on T-shirts at the campus bookstore, collateral we've produced and on posters and announcements around campus. The change in nickname, along with the new-look mascot, has caused a bit of confusion to the outside world -- and even some here on campus -- about exactly who we are. So our own Benjamin Bullock in marketing and communications produced a clever video to help everybody out.

More: [Give Ben's video a look here. And remember: We. Are. Trailblazers](#)



Chris Gardner, bestselling author of "Pursuit of HappyNess," packed the house for a very special engagement

We were extremely pleased to welcome bestselling author Chris Gardner, the self-proclaimed "CEO of HappyNess" to our campus on Oct. 4 to give one of his inspirational talks to our students, staff, faculty and even the general public. His wonderful book "Pursuit of HappyNess" was made into a feature film starring Will Smith about a dozen years ago. Clearly, our campus had not forgotten his emotional story of being homeless in San Francisco, while also trying to raise his young son. Founders Hall Room 138 was packed and the overflow room we set up in 101 didn't have an empty seat to watch Mr. Gardner via Facebook Live. His appearance generated one of the largest crowds we've ever had for a speaker on campus, and we welcome Mr. Gardner back any time he likes.

More: [Get a behind-the-scenes look at Chris Gardner's appearance at UNT Dallas](#)



#UNTD News & Campus Updates

Congratulations, Sen. West: The Methodist Health System Foundation presented the Robert S. Folsom Leadership Award to state Sen. Royce West, at its annual fundraising dinner last week at the Hilton Anatole. West, the visionary behind the creation of UNT Dallas, was honored for his nearly 26 years of service as a state senator and his legislative achievements, particularly with respect to education, services for at-risk youth and public safety. "Throughout his decades of public service, he has worked to improve the lives of those less fortunate, and that's why he is the perfect choice to receive the prestigious Folsom Award," Methodist Health System Foundation president Jim Johnston said in the Dallas Morning News. "He has been a longtime supporter of Methodist Health and our mission to provide compassionate, quality care to all patients."

More Congratulations in Order: Fort Worth is now home to the nation's newest medical school. Earlier this month, the TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine was awarded preliminary accreditation, opening the for student recruitment. The first class of 60 medical students is expected in July 2019. While this is exciting news for the entire UNT System, it also provides yet another pathway our students to achieve their ultimate dreams without leaving the DFW area.

Big Website Launches: There's two big announcements regarding changes to the website that will benefit everyone. The first is the launch of a new [UNTD News site](#), where you'll find all the official news that happens on campus. The new site greatly improves on the design of past articles and archives and allows anyone to initiate a news story with Marketing & Communications. The news site is also the home of the Urban Advantage podcast, and it will soon include "The University Expert's List", where external media can find scholarly expertise on campus. [The UNTD Calendar](#) is a most welcome edition. It improves upon our campus communications in many ways, such as being a centralized location where faculty, staff and students can upload events or important dates (there is an approval system in place to prevent misuse). More information will be passed along soon about all of the great, new features the calendar page offers faculty, staff and students.

Spring scholarships: We recently launched a new spring scholarship campaign for transfer students. You might have seen ads appear on Facebook. Transfer students have the opportunity to earn \$4,000 in scholarship money over two years. Please spread the word.

CJ Day: Our third annual Criminal Justice Career Expo was a huge success Friday. This event keeps getting bigger with some 12 school districts and 1,500 students on campus. About 60 criminal justice agencies operated informational booths inside Founders Hall, and helicopters from

DPS, Dallas Police Department and CareFlite landed on the soccer field. All manner of law enforcement and first-responder vehicles were on display in parking lot 1.

Urban Advantage Podcast: If you haven't had the opportunity to listen to this emerging podcast featuring our own Benjamin Bullock in Marketing & Communications and local businessman Greg Campbell, do yourself a favor and listen on your way to work or on your way home. The podcast is up to four episodes. Past episodes have included President Mong and student body president Unique Stewart. The most recent episode features Tim and Terrence Maiden, brothers and former TCU football players, who have made a commitment to pass forward their success in the business world to ambitious, young students. The brothers hold a summer entrepreneurial program on our campus called, [Elevate](#). The next upcoming podcast will feature Bryan Carter, Senior Pastor at Concord Church.

[School of Business Professor Honored](#): In another shining example of the caliber of faculty assembled at UNT Dallas, [School of Business](#) professor [Dr. Cathy Scott](#) won the 2018 [Bea Sanders/AICPA Teaching Innovation Award](#) for innovative teaching practices. Presented by the The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA), Dr. Scott shared the honor with colleague [Markus Ahrens](#), professor of accounting at St. Louis Community College. The team's submission, "[The Teaching and Learning Toolbox](#)" is a website they developed in 2015 for sharing technological resources, including hardware, software and apps, as well as pedagogical strategies, among accounting educators. The toolbox is a free resource.

[ETI guides Sunset on History Tour](#): The School of Education's Emerging Teacher Institute organized a unique field trip for students at [Sunset High School Collegiate Academy](#) last Friday. They hopped on buses headed to one of three education destinations -
- Casa Guanajuato, Trinity River Mission and Travis Academy for the Talented and Gifted. All located in Oak Cliff, in areas formerly known as Mexican barrios such as La Bajada and Little Mexico, dozens of Sunset students learned about the early development of bilingual education in the Dallas ISD from a cross-generational group of Latino leaders who have lived the history and can bear witness to their own story and the story of others.

Important mission: Marijke Gray, our assistant director of Veterans Success, spearheaded the "Mission 22" even in Founders Hall. This important event raises awareness of suicide among our veterans, as well as our young population of students. Faculty, students and staff were asked to do 22 pushups or pull-ups to honor the 22 veterans, on average, who take their own lives each day.

New items at the coffee shop: If you're on the run and need a quick bite, Frank Ricupati and UNTD Hospitality have you covered. The coffee shop in the DAL 1 lobby is now selling croissant sandwiches and paninis. They'll heat it up for you and you'll be on your way. Stop by to check out

other new items on the expanding menu.

Building & Construction Update: As you have no doubt noticed, the three flag poles that once stood between DAL 1 and Founders Hall, have been removed. Count that as serious progress of Phase II. The flagpoles will be re-installed at the median between the university sign and the guard shack. The current sidewalk has been removed to make way for a new welcoming drop-off area. During this construction phase, traffic flow will be affected. The north-south parkway in front of the buildings continues to be reduced to one lane in both directions in front of parking lots 1 and 2. Please drive courteously.

"Suite" Night out with Mavs: A group of 40 UNT Dallas students and several faculty and staff were the guests of the Dallas Mavericks earlier this month for a preseason game against the Charlotte Hornets. Our group was treated to a suite that included all-you-can-eat food and drinks and a meet-and-greet with Mavs CEO Cynthia Marshall, [our convocation speaker](#) in late August. Before the game, the group joined the High-Five line, [slapping fives with Mavs players](#) as they exited the locker room for the court. As our relationship with the Mavs grows, including President Mong's selection to the team's advisory council, we hope to organize more nights out.

College of Law: In downtown Dallas, we're ramping up our social presence with a new [Facebook page](#) that will keep everyone up-to-date on everything happening at the College of Law. Please take a moment to check it out, like it and give it a follow.

ICYMI: On Oct. 4, CBS 11's Robbie Owens was on campus to report on another semester of record enrollment. She interviewed President Mong and student body president Unique Stewart, and aired [this excellent look at our university](#) and the mission we seek to uphold every single day of making college education affordable for all.

Upcoming: On Nov. 10, we'll celebrate the Veteran's Gala and it's never too early to begin thinking about Fall Commencement on Dec. 14. You might have already seen Save The Date emails in your inbox.

The University of North Texas at Dallas is our city's emerging urban university. UNT Dallas empowers students, transforms lives and strengthens communities. Perched on a hilltop, overlooking the Downtown Dallas skyline, UNT Dallas is the only public, accredited 4-year

university in the City of Dallas. UNT Dallas includes the UNT Dallas College of Law in Downtown Dallas and is part of the UNT System.



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