

# ON THE MOVE

The Official Newsletter of UNT Dallas President Bob Mong

December 4, 2018

## From the President's Desk



This holiday season the University of North Texas at Dallas is celebrating a record year. In Calendar Year 2018, we announced record enrollment for the third consecutive fall semester, while also graduating our largest class in history in May. We've had a record year for fundraising and we are ranked No. 1 in the nation among public universities for lowest debt per student upon graduation.

UNT Dallas is the fastest-growing, most diverse and most affordable university in Dallas-Fort Worth. Our momentum is very real as we come together to build DFW's emerging urban university. As a campus community, our growing university continues to enrich the lives of our students, strengthen our surrounding communities and improve society.

I am grateful for the commitment all of you have made to UNT Dallas. Collectively, we envisioned opportunities that others didn't consider and created a better university, a better – and bigger – work environment, and a better Dallas. I wish you all a very happy holiday season as we prepare to carry our momentum forward into 2019.

Blaze Your Trail!

## We're No. 1: Latest rankings for lowest student debt reveal no institution anywhere is doing it better than UNT Dallas

The statistic we are most proud of is the one that just bumped UNT Dallas from No. 2 in the nation to No. 1. UNT Dallas now ranks No. 1 nationally for lowest student debt among public universities upon graduation, according to [LendEDU's](#) annual student loan debt rankings. The rankings, which were posted earlier this fall, have been revised due to a reporting error by another institution, and UNT Dallas moved from No. 2 to No. 1. Using data licensed from [Peterson's College Data](#), LendEDU posts its 2018 Student Loan Debt by School by State Report online at: <https://lendedu.com/blog/average-student-loan-debt-statistics#PCR>.

**MORE: [Our graduates leave with \\$20,000 less debt on average than other students](#)**



### **UNT Dallas College of Law students pull off dominant performance at prestigious statewide writing competition**

The University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law continues to make a name for itself as an emerging force in the state on the strength of its students. Kamran Anwar set a new standard last week by winning the 2018 The Paper Chase Legal Writing Competition, which crowns the best practical writer in all of the Texas law schools. All three UNT Dallas College of Law students that entered the competition finished in the top six. Anwar, an alumnus of UNT Dallas, beat out Darrick Monson of the University of Texas, and Aaron Diaz of St. Mary's University School of Law. Created by Baylor Law School and judged by the Texas Young Lawyer Association (TYLA), first place came with \$7,000 in cash prizes. Only UT Law School and South Texas College of Law placed at least two competitors in the top 10.

**[WATCH: UNT Dallas College of Law student Kamran Anwar talks about his impressive victory](#)**



**And the envelope please: Amid stiff competition, three selected as 2017-18 Faculty Awards winners**

UNT Dallas is loaded with first-class faculty members, so selecting winners for the annual Faculty Awards is no easy task. The Faculty Awards Committee, comprised of six past winners from the last two years, selected winners in the categories of Teaching, Research and Service. The new winners span three semesters from Spring 2017 - Spring 2018 (future awards will be based on the academic year). And now, without further ado, the winners are:

- **Teaching:** Dr. Eric Coleman, Lecturer of Criminal Justice (and Political Science)
- **Research:** Dr. Anthony Chaney, Lecturer in English and History
- **Service:** Dr. Julie Siddique, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

**MORE:** [Hear why our winners love teaching at UNT Dallas](#)



**Dean John Gasko is in Sweden as of one of just two U.S. educators invited to the Wellbeing Project's initial global gathering**

Dr. John Gasko, Dean of UNT Dallas' School of Education, is on a mission to reinvent teacher and school-leader preparation programs to reflect the challenges faced in urban public schools. This December, Gasko will be one of just two educators representing American universities at the Higher Education Social Innovation Program on the island of Ekskäret in Stockholm, Sweden, from Dec. 3-7. This initial gathering of global educational leaders seeks to reimagine how the world trains and supports people on the front lines of the helping professions. Gasko incorporates strategies to strengthen internal resiliency and well-being into his UNT Dallas curriculum, and he was invited to present his unique approach, called *Thirdspace*, during this international meeting of the minds.

**[WATCH: Dean Gasko discusses the significance of UNT Dallas being represented at exclusive summit](#)**



### **Tanisha Bell Naemd to the Leadership ISD Dallas County Civic Voices Class of 2019**

Tanisha Bell, UNT Dallas' program coordinator for Bilingual Educators for Communities and Schools (BECAS), was recently named to the [Leadership ISD Dallas County Civic Voices Class of 2019](#). Leadership ISD's mission advances educational excellence and equity by informing and connecting leaders to shape policy, lead strategically and champion change. The Fellowship is a highly selective, 10-month program that provides civic leaders the information and insight to effectively influence systemic transformation. "Civic Voices Fellows come from diverse walks of life," Bell said. "What we have in common is our core belief that all students deserve a high-quality education. Visiting school campuses and actively engaging in conversations with principals, teachers, students and school board officials reminds us that we have shared responsibility to champion change."

**MORE: [Tanisha Bell reflects on this very special honor](#)**



**Third Annual Criminal Justice Day brings 1,000+ high school students and 70+ government agencies to campus**

A founding program at UNT Dallas, the Criminal Justice department pulled off its third annual Career Expo November 2, on a stunning fall day that included 1,100 students representing eight area school districts. The CJ Day event is one of the largest of its kind in North Texas, attracting 75 local, state, federal and private criminal justice agencies that set up informational tables inside Founders Hall. Outside, was where the real show took place, with the various branches of law enforcement displaying their heavy-duty vehicles. Texas Department of Public Safety, the Dallas Police Department and CareFlite all flew in helicopters that landed on the soccer field. The Mesquite Police Department brought its mobile command center and numerous other departments and agencies showed off bomb squads, K-9 units and various law enforcement and emergency vehicles.

**WATCH: [Check out all the action from another inspiring Criminal Justice Day](#)**



**The Stewart Speaker Series brings international flavor to campus with special guest United Nations Ambassador Narjess Saidane**

In yet another indication that UNT Dallas is emerging not only as a player locally, but is also reaching well beyond our city's limits, was Thursday's appearance by [Ambassador Narjess Saidane](#), the Permanent Observer for the [International Organization of La Francophonie](#) to the United Nations as the keynote speaker at our Stewart Speaker Series. Ambassador Saidane traveled from New York and spoke in front of capacity audiences at UNT Dallas College of Law during a breakfast session, and on the main campus during a luncheon in Founders Hall, that culminated with an insightful panel discussion moderated by President Bob Mong and included Ambassador Saidane, along with [Amy Lewis Hofland](#), the Executive Director of the Crow Collection of Asian Art, and [Dr. Jacqui Stephens](#), Vice President of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.

**[MORE: Ambassador Narjess Saidane spoke about asserting human dignity with mindfulness and gratitude](#)**



**Sweet potato pie or pecan pie? Dressing or stuffing? If you missed our faculty, staff and students providing Thanksgiving wisdom, it's too funny to miss twice**

Our own social media guru Benjamin Bullock, whose official title is Senior Marketing & Communications Coordinator, has done it again with another series of hilarious videos featuring faculty, staff and students. This time Benjamin asks questions about the most important aspect of Thanksgiving: THE FOOD! Do you call it dressing or stuffing? Prefer greens or green beans? Homemade cornbread or rolls? There was plenty of disagreement to go around, but one thing everyone will agree on is that these videos go straight to your funny bone.

**WATCH: [Watch all the Thanksgiving videos on our YouTube channel](#)**



# SWEET POTATO PIE OR PECAN PIE?



## #UNTD News & Campus Updates

**Fall Graduation is Upon Us:** A hearty congratulations to those who are closing in on Graduation Day. We will celebrate with a commencement ceremony at 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14 at nearby Inspiring Body of Church Christ. Please join us in congratulating our seniors and wishing them well as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

**Congratulations to Our Arts Winners:** The UNTD Arts Celebration 2018 was a tremendous hit, with 51 entries submitted from 42 undergraduate and graduate students. While the competition was tough and the judging intense, winners were announced during the Celebration on Nov. 29. For a full list of the winners in each category, click [here](#).

**Arbor Day-A Growing Tradition:** President Bob Mong and a group of UNT Dallas students planted a [Monterrey Oak](#) tree November 14 near the basketball court in celebration of the state's [Arbor Day](#). For the full story and more information on our designation as a Tree Campus USA member, click [here](#).

**Reminder: New Website Calendar and News Pages Now Live:** The recent launch of these two new pages makes it easy for faculty, staff and student groups to post announcements on the calendar and to notify the Marketing & Communications department about possible news stories. The [UNTD News site](#) is where you'll find official campus news. The

new site greatly improves on the design of past articles and archives. Submit a story by clicking on "Submit News" and fill out the form to initiate a news story. [The UNTD Calendar](#) is a most welcome edition. It improves upon our campus communications by providing a centralized location where faculty, staff and students can upload events or important dates (there is an approval system in place to prevent misuse). Simply click on "Submit Event" to get your announcement placed on the calendar.

**Student Center Goes Live!:** It won't be long now before the finishing touches are being put on our newest building, one that is going to revolutionize campus and become the home base for all of our students. About a month ago, we got an inside look during a special Facebook Live tour of how construction is coming along, and boy, is it coming along. If you missed this live tour, be sure to [check it out now](#), and see why everyone is so excited about the soon-to-be-completed Student Center.

**Senior Wins Short Film Competition:** Congratulations are in order for Applied Arts & Sciences senior Miguel Jamaica for winning the grand prize for Creative Excellence in the Texas Central Student Short Film Competition. His film showcased the coming Texas Bullet Train that will deliver passengers from Dallas to Houston in a brisk 90 minutes. Check out his winning entry [here](#).

**Police Escorts Available:** Please remind students that if they are on campus after dark, our UNT Dallas Police Department will provide rides to cars parked in our parking lots or in the DART parking lot. For a ride, students, faculty and staff can call 972-780-3000.

*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.*



# UNT | DALLAS™

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