

# ON THE MOVE

The Official Newsletter of UNT Dallas President Bob Mong

September, 2018

## From the President's Desk



On Friday, October 5, I gave my annual "State of the University" town hall speech at Founders Hall. I shared our latest news, initiatives and plans for our growing urban university. We had a packed house of faculty, staff and students, and I thank you for attending.

This week we announced that UNT Dallas has set an enrollment record for the third consecutive fall, with 3,756 students enrolled. We are purposeful in our strategic efforts to close the educational disparity gap that exists in North Texas and we are committed to being a pathway to socioeconomic mobility for our students.

If you were unable to attend the town hall, the event was broadcast on Facebook Live and can be accessed by going to the [UNT Dallas Facebook page](#).

Thank you for the role you play in our success.

## #UNTD News & Campus Updates

**North Texas Giving Day:** For a fifth consecutive year, UNT Dallas participated in North Texas Giving Day on Sept.

20. It's a day designated to empower people to give back to their communities by supporting local schools, nonprofits and other causes they care about. We want to thank all of you showed your support. We finished the day with 67 donations totaling \$13,166. One-hundred percent of all donations go toward student scholarships. By supporting the UNT Dallas Foundation, you support our mission to make higher education attainable for all. Next year we look forward to doing even better.

**New Academic Leaders:** Before the start of the Fall semester, we were fortunate enough to bring in additional academic leaders to our UNT Dallas family. If you haven't already, please be sure to welcome them all to campus: **Dr. James Agbodzakey**, Director of the Urban SERCH Institute, Associate Professor of Public Leadership; **Dr. Lauren Coursey**, Visiting Lecturer in Psychology; **Dr. Elizabeth Giddens**, Director of University Accreditation and Policy; **Dr. Joshua Goodson**, Visiting Lecturer in Mathematics; **Dr. John Hubbard**, Adjunct Professor School of Business; **Dr. Curtis McDowell**, Visiting Lecturer of Political Science; **Dr. Michael Noyes**, Lecturer of Criminal Justice; **Mr. Gabriel Otteson**, Visiting Lecturer in Digital Production; **Dr. Dawn Remmers**, Assistant Provost; **Dr. Cathy Scott**, Associate Professor of Business Accounting; **Dr. Patricia Sosa-Sanchez**, Assistant Professor; **Mr. Richard Strong**, Lecturer of Radio Production and Management; **Dr. Robert Tinajero**, Assistant Professor of English; **Dr. Pamela Thompson**, Assistant Professor of Business Accounting; **Mr. Jerrod Tynes**, Lecturer of Urban Agriculture.

**Big Names on Campus:** We've been fortunate to have some high-profile guests visit on campus recently. On Sept. 11, University of North Texas alum Azim Rashad, the Senior Vice President of Promotion for RocNation, spoke to our students, faculty and staff about his experiences in the music industry. On Oct. 4 author, entrepreneur and veteran Chris Gardner spoke about the three most important decisions he made in his life. Gardner's bestselling novel, "The Pursuit of Happyness," inspired the film that starred Will Smith. This was one of our most well-attended events ever with Room 138 packed and nearly every spot in the spillover room in 101 also occupied. Just hours after Gardner's appearance, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings made his first trip to campus to be a guest on UNT System Chancellor Lesa Roe's podcast, Bridging Gaps.

**CBS 11 on Campus:** CBS 11 reporter Robbie Owens was on campus on Thursday, Oct. 4 to report on UNT Dallas' record enrollment and future plans. Her report included an interview with President Bob Mong and student body government president Unique Stewart. If you missed it, [catch her report here](#).

**Caruth Police Institute Anniversary Celebration:** CPI celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner celebration on Thursday, September 27. The evening included a talk from UNT Dallas President Bob Mong a lively panel of North Texas police chiefs discussing the challenges and opportunities of 21st Century policing. The evening also served as a sendoff for Dr. Melinda Schlager, who departed UNT Dallas to become the provost for Montana State University – Billings. Dr. Jennifer Davis-Lamm has been named the Interim Executive Director.

**A Spot on the Dallas Mavericks:** No, it's not power forward, but UNT Dallas President Bob Mong did take a spot on the newly formed Dallas Mavericks Advisory Board. Created by CEO Cynthia Marshall, who served

as the **[keynote speaker at UNT Dallas' New Student Convocation](#)** last month, the council is a diverse collection of Dallas-based leaders from the business and philanthropic community, season ticket holders and corporate partners who have been brought together to provide input on Mavericks initiatives and to the franchise's management team. The council is co-chaired by retired Dallas Chief of Police David O. Brown and Senior Director of Community Relations for the Dallas Mavericks, Katie Edwards. We look forward to continuing to grow our deepening relationship with the Mavs.

**Building & Construction Update:** As you have no doubt seen, Phase II of our significant construction project involving the courtyard between DAL 1 and Founders Hall is in full swing. Soon, workers will take on the removal of the three flag poles for future re-installation 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. Currently, the north-south parkway in front of the buildings are reduced one lane in both directions. Please drive courteously.

**Business Student Earns Distinguished Internship:** University of North Texas at Dallas student Felicity Nesbitt was selected for a prestigious internship with Exeter Finance, a specialty auto finance company based in Irving. Nesbitt, a **[Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resources and Organizational Behavior](#)** major within the **[School of Business](#)**, illustrates the importance that UNT Dallas and the School of Business place on student internships and the value of experiential learning.

**Website Rollout:** The transformation of the UNT Dallas website continues to make progress. The **[School of Business](#)** is the latest section to go live, joining the **[School of Education](#)**. You'll notice a much cleaner, streamlined and easy-to-navigate pages that mark a major improvement for students and prospective students, as well as for faculty and staff. Content continues to be rewritten to be more informative, concise and SEO-friendly so that UNT Dallas more often appears at the top of the list for search-engines. A much improved Annual calendar and UNTD news section are nearing completion. We also have a new **[Dallas County Promise page with a plug from Dallas Mavericks guard Wesley Matthews](#)**.

**Still Need a Parking Permit?:** Parking enforcement is in full force with UNTD PD keeping a close watch on vehicles parked in reserved parking and handicap spots without proper permits. These vehicles are receiving citations. If you are still in need of parking permit, they can be purchased online at **<https://unt.t2hosted.com/account/portal>** or in the Office of Police, Parking and Transportation located in Founders Hall 131, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Thursday.

**Did You Register to Vote?:** Student Affairs and Marketing and Communications joined forces to deliver a voter registration drive on Sept. 24-26 at Founders Hall. Students, faculty and staff were treated to ice cream from Gypsy Scoops and snow cones from Aloha Shaved Ice. Jolt, the organization that ran the registration, reported 85 students registered to vote over a six-hour period, twice as many per hour as they typically register. Along with two other registration drives held on campus during that week, more than 200 new voters were registered.

**"Historic Day": UNT Dallas launched a Mobile Market partnership with Toyota and DART to combat food deserts in southern Dallas**

In some places in southern Dallas, it's still difficult to come by a grocery store with fresh fruits and vegetables. While there has been progress, food insecurity in the area is well above the national average. It's an issue that students from UNT Dallas, in collaboration with Toyota and DART, aim to tackle. Beginning this school year, students from UNT Dallas will lead a mobility initiative to convert a low-emission bus -- provided by DART -- into a mobile food market. Supported by a \$268,000 grant from Toyota, the bus will sell fresh fruits and vegetables sourced from local community gardens to residents throughout southern Dallas. Along with funding the retrofit of the bus and scholarships for students, Toyota is also sharing its knowledge and expertise with students to help guide the effort. [CBS 11 provided excellent coverage of the event](#), while it was also picked up numerous media outlets.

**More: [UNT Dallas students will convert bus into mobile farmers market to distribute fresh produce](#)**



## Dallas Mavericks CEO Cynthia "Cynt" Marshall delivered energy and inspiration at the New Student Convocation

A new school year got kicked off in style at Monday evening's New Student Convocation as [Dallas Mavericks](#) CEO and all-around firebrand [Cynthia "Cynt" Marshall](#) delivered a charismatic and monumental keynote address to a group of UNT Dallas Trailblazers just beginning their college journeys. Marshall proved to be the perfect guest speaker, as much for her meteoric rise to become one of the most respected businesswomen in the country -- which included retiring in 2017 from AT&T as the telecommunication giant's highest-ranking African-American woman -- as for her determined rise out of poverty, often against all odds. Speaking in the Founders Hall Library to a roomful of students, faculty and staff that included UNT Dallas President Bob Mong, Vice President for Advancement Dr. Monica Williams, Dean of Students Dr. Jamaica Chapple, Vice President for Student Access and Success Stephanie Holley and Student Government Association President Unique Stewart, Marshall quickly grabbed the room's attention with her stories of childhood struggle.

More: [Marshall to UNT Dallas freshmen: "Never compromise your integrity."](#)





## Moving in to Wisdom Hall -- and moving on up at UNT Dallas

We welcomed our second group of residents to their new home -- Wisdom Hall -- on Aug. 25 during Move-In Day. It was really a spectacular day with some 50 faculty and staff volunteers and a host of students on hand to help our newest group of Trailblazers move in and feel at home. A special thanks goes to our own Dee Goines, Director of Residence Life, Housing and Conference Services, for running a seamless operation, as well as to all those who volunteered. It makes a big difference when new students see smiling faces when they first step on campus. For the second consecutive year Wisdom Hall is full and we look forward to a great year as we continue to evolve into a truly residential campus.

More: [Moving on up: The Video.](#)



## School of Education holds hugely successful "Encounter" event that drew past, present and future UNT Dallas students

Spearheaded by Elizabeth Cheek, the Executive Director of our Emerging Teacher Institute, the Encounter event highlighted and honored students, faculty, staff and alumni who have had an impact on the education advancements across the Dallas community. Our School of Education is truly on the leading edge of recruiting students and training our next generation of great teachers. We are addressing the lack of bilingual teachers in the Dallas Independent School District and finding creative ways to partner with community colleges to truly make pursuing a bachelor's degree -- and the calling to become a teacher -- affordable. School of Education Dean John Gasko said educational attainment is a matter of life and death.

More: [A big crowd showed up on a late Friday afternoon for good food, great speakers and insight](#)



## "Urban Advantage" podcast unveils the voice of UNT Dallas

The official podcast of the University of North Texas at Dallas is co-hosted by our own Benjamin Bullock, senior marketing and communications specialist, and Greg Campbell, CEO of Rainmaker, Inc., a strategic advisory and investment firm. Bullock and Campbell will cover plenty of ground on the podcast from campus news to issues affecting the southern sector of Dallas, plus they'll have interviews with local special guests. They've completed the first two episodes with a third dropping likely in the first week of October. This is an entertaining listen. Be sure to follow the Urban Advantage Podcast

(@UrbanAdvPodcast) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). You can also subscribe to the podcast on [Soundcloud](#) and [YouTube](#).

**More:** [Catch the trailer here](#).



*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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