DSA Today

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter September 2017



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Message from Dr. With

Now that the fall semester is in full swing, I know each of you is hard at work making sure that our more than 38,000 students have what they need to be successful here at UNT. With a hurricane and an increased student population, we have not had the easiest of beginnings to a semester. However, our division has proven to be able to meet the challenges. I want to applaud the efforts that I have witnessed by so many of you that have helped our students get started on the right foot.

As I discussed at our annual <u>Division of Student Affairs Kick-off Breakfast</u>, which was another fantastic event by the <u>Staff Development Committee</u>, we accomplished many great things in 2016-2017 that could not have been accomplished without your dedication and support. Thank you all for the great work you do each and every day!

For those who were unable to attend the breakfast, and as a reminder for everyone else, I am sharing below the areas of focus for Student Affairs for the 2017-2018 academic year. Please discuss within your departments how you can help us support these efforts.

1. Programs and Services

- Expand services and programs for online/distance learners
- Finalize renovations at UNT on the Square, add retail and integrate programmatic changes
- Continue to grow services and programs at New College at Frisco and at other satellite locations
- Expand and grow the eSports program
- Evaluate policies and procedures for student organization open parties
- Focus on programs to engage students
- Focus on programs that remove barriers to student success

2. Facilities/Infrastructure/Assessment

- Finalize programming and begin construction of new residence hall and new dining hall
- Focus on Assessment/Assess DSA Learning Outcomes
- Reconfigure rec fields (potential partnership) and add field at DP
- Gain approval for increases to the Rec Fee and Room and Board
- Implement the One-Stop-Shop conference management system

3. Focus on Communication and Staff

- Conduct listening tour with all DSA departments and UNT deans utilize feedback to improve communication
- Tell the Student Affairs story better
- Expand and improve communications both internally and externally to the division, including launching a new alumni newsletter
- Respond to Gallup Survey outcomes
- Merit
- Focus on diversity and inclusion training for all staff

4. Fundraising

Update fundraising goals and increase donations to support programs

5. Enrollment/Retention

- Expand orientation offerings for new undergraduate students
- Identify additional ways to assist in recruitment, yield and retention
- Better engage students and remove barriers

6. Prepare Students for Career Success

- Centralize internship information for better support and reporting
- Continue to expand Career Connect offerings within the division
- Continue to implement strategies within the THECB 60x30 plan

7. Spirit and Traditions

- Expand the reach of spirit programs with enrollment activities, and provide them with support
- Support Athletics and student athletes

Once again, our areas of focus are ambitious, but with your help, I know we can accomplish many amazing things this academic year. In his <u>2017 State of the University</u>, the president stated that he wants UNT to be a next-generation research university and that we need to build a nimble student-centered culture. With a focus on caring, creativity and collaboration, he believes we can get there, and I do too.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth With, Ed.D.

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Successes and Achievements

Revamped Move-In Weekend Earns Praise as Housing Plans Expand to Address Growing Demand

Housing and Residence Life's Mean Green Move-In Weekend, held August 19 – 20, 2017, proved to be a great experience for new students and their families thanks to a new format and collaboration among several departments. The event's success also compliments UNT's efforts to meet the increasing demand of students who want to live on campus.

Traditionally a oneday event for new students to move into the campus residence halls, this year, Move-In was expanded to two days, with students assigned one of five specific check-in times. The expanded timeframe allowed traffic on campus to flow more



smoothly and increased the efficiency of the check-in process.

Aiding in that process were more than 600 student, staff, faculty and administrative volunteers who assisted with check in, bin check out and moving items for students and their families.

In addition, <u>Dining Services</u> and the <u>University Union</u> provided meal options; the <u>UNT Police Department</u> assisted with traffic; and <u>Eagle Post</u>, <u>ID Services</u> and <u>Transportation Services</u> opened their offices to assist students with obtaining their mailboxes, ID cards and parking permits so they would have everything they needed for the start of <u>First Flight Week</u>.

By Monday morning, 82 percent of all residential students had moved into their residence halls. The remaining upper-class residential students were free to move in at their leisure.

Feedback from students, families and volunteers was overwhelmingly positive, ensuring the new format will be implemented next year as well.

Increasing Demand to Live on Campus

The demand to live on campus for the fall 2017 semester has been so great that the 15 residence halls are at near capacity, with 6,160 students housed within them. Freshmen are required to live on campus, but upper-classmen are increasingly wanting to remain on campus as well.

"Freshmen who return for their sophomore year and beyond, as well as transfer students, want to continue living on campus," said James Fairchild, associate director for housing. "Students enjoy the experience of living in the residence halls in large part due to our staff and programs, and that's something we are proud of."

UNT is meeting the increased demand to live on campus by constructing a new 500-bed residence hall that is scheduled to open fall 2019, and plans could be further expanded over the next few years.

"I think this desire to live on campus is part of our institution's success," said Fairchild. "It is great for the overall business of the university and its long-term growth."

Residence Hall Renovations

UNT also has begun renovations on several of its residence halls to ensure students continue to enjoy living in them.

Recent renovations to Maple Hall included reconfiguring the entrance to the building to be more open and spacious; raising the ceiling height to create more space; refinishing the reception desk; replacing furniture, recreation and AV



equipment; and adding a modern palette for new paint, carpet and lighting fixtures in the common areas and all corridors for the hall.

The work at Maple Hall completed this summer was phase one of two that is planned for the building. A refresh of the resident rooms throughout the hall is being planned for summer 2018. Similar activities are intended for Clark, Crumley and McConnell Halls in future years.

All of this work is part of planning initiated to renovate the historical residence

halls in Housing. The intent has been to refresh and update the halls to keep them appealing to current students.

"The early feedback has been very positive," said Fairchild. "Students and parents recognized that a tremendous amount of work went into the renovation between May 2017 and opening of the hall for the fall 2017 semester. Updating the aesthetics, while also keeping the working systems of the hall in good working order, goes a long way toward communicating to residents that we are taking care of their needs and providing a quality environment to live within."

Student Affairs Responds to Needs of Hurricane Harvey Victims

<u>UNT</u> jumped in to help victims of Hurricane Harvey with several relief efforts, including enrolling displaced students from the devastated areas and assisting with their immediate needs.

The <u>Dean of Student's Office</u> assisted 24 active duty members, 31 other students and 8 transfer students. Staff also were able to give hot meals and gift cards to 10 students.

The students also needed assistance with paying for text books, travel expenses, supplies and personal items, which they received from the UNT Student Emergency Fund, created through donations and UNT support. Thanks to the fund, \$2,884.05 was given to students in need.

Knowing the students would need a place to live, <u>Housing and Residence Life</u> made room in the residence halls for 10 students.

The <u>Center for Leadership and Service</u> (CLS) collected multiple cargo vans full of donations to take to the Dallas-area shelters in the first week after the storms. These items were distributed to families in the shelters and used by organizations traveling into impacted areas to help with recovery. There were multiple drives across departments in the division, including ones held in the <u>University Union</u>, the <u>Rec Center</u> and in various residence halls.

In addition, the CLS and <u>UNT Staff Senate</u> hosted a **Carter BloodCare Blood Drive** on Sept. 2 at UNT's first football game of the season. With only 48 hours of promotion, a steady stream of volunteers donated more than 80 units of

blood.

The CLS also hosted a Hurricane
Harvey Relief Student Roundtable
on Sept. 19 in which the UNT
community discussed ways students
can provide aid to victims of
Hurricane Harvey. The CLS is
reaching out to community partners
and non-profits in the areas affected
to determine when they will be able
to start hosting volunteer groups.



Mean Green Fling Connects Students and Community

The <u>Student Activities Center</u> held the 19th annual <u>Mean Green Fling</u> to kick off the start of the school year on August 24 at the <u>University Union</u> and <u>Library Mall</u>. About 7,500 students attended the event, which took place immediately following New Student Convocation.

Mean Green Fling is an opportunity for student organizations, campus departments and local vendors to showcase what they have to offer to new and returning students. Participants included 210 student organizations, 42 departments and 77 sponsors.



This year, for the first time in Mean Green Fling history, the event had to deal with the threat of a thunderstorm. <u>Student Activities</u>, the <u>University Union</u>, <u>Dining Services</u> and <u>Facilities</u> staff all worked incredibly well, adapting to the weather and major changes that had to take place.

"We managed to set-up and execute our largest event of the year in under two hours, all while smiling and staying positive," said Cheltzie Miller-Bailey, coordinator for campus-wide events for the Student Activities Center. "It's a testament to the care that we have for our students—we wanted them to experience this and worked really hard to make it happen!"

Students who attended Mean Green Fling got a jumpstart on getting involved at UNT and within the Denton community. They were able to make a variety of connections, and for first-year students, it allowed them to see how much UNT values



involvement and community.

Among the students surveyed, 84% of respondents "liked" or "loved" the event, and 70% "agreed/strongly agreed" that they did join or planned to join a student organization or group they met at the event.

One student noted that the best part of Mean Green Fling was "just being at an event where there were tons of other students and seeing the cool things that UNT has to offer."

Another student commented that "Mean Green Fling is overall just a good place to find your allies, network and hangout."

Student Activities plans to continue expanding the event for even more success.

"I hope to continue diversifying the groups that attend Mean Green Fling so that students have endless opportunities to get involved and feel like UNT and Denton are their home," said Miller-Bailey.

Emerald Eagle Scholars Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary

For 10 years, the highly selective <u>Emerald Eagle Scholars</u> program has provided guaranteed tuition and fees, as well as support, to academically talented and highly motivated students with high financial need. Each year, the Emerald Eagle Scholars program accepts a cohort of 500 students, and more than 4,000 students have gone through the program since its creation.

The program is founded on three principles: financial support, academic success and campus connection. In order to be an Emerald Eagle Scholar, students must enroll as freshmen the same year they graduate from high school; have a family adjusted



gross income of \$40,000 or less; be a Texas resident; and be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant through UNT. They must also maintain a UNT cumulative GPA of a 2.5 or higher in order to remain in the program.

Many Emerald Eagle Scholars would not be able to attend college without the assistance of the program.

"Students tell us they would not be at UNT without our program," says Coordinator Sara Watkins. "It gives them peace of mind not having to worry about tuition."

That peace of mind also lets the students focus on their academic work.

"Being a part of the program helps make sure that financial issues won't distract me from my education," said Claudia Campos, physics major and president of the Emerald Eagle Scholars Organization. "I moved more than 500 miles to go to school here at UNT, and the Emerald Eagle Scholars program helped make my dream of coming here a reality. They also set up several measures to make sure that I stay on track in my path to success."

Because many Emerald Eagle Scholars are the first in their families to attend college, the program provides the academic and personal support they need to be successful, including opportunities to connect with their fellow students.

"Our students are more nervous about making friends than anything else, so we want to help them connect with each other and be a connecter for other services that can be helpful to them," said Watkins.

The students are first greeted at orientation and then information sessions are held during First Flight Week, which explains what is required of them. The new six-week NEST (New Emerald Scholars in Transition) program also helps ease the transition into college with information about goal setting and personal wellness.

Students have the ability to participate in exclusive programs to develop their skills and build their resumes, including PIN for Service, PIN for Leadership and the Global Exploration study abroad trip.



"Not only did the Emerald Eagle

Scholars program help fund my education, but it also allowed me to study abroad in Costa Rica," said alumnus Jonathan Rodriguez ('12). "None of my collegiate experiences would have been possible without the program."

Performing community service also is a component of the program, and Emerald Eagle Scholars first-year students completed 5,470 community service hours for 2016-2017.

In addition, the Emerald Eagle Scholars Organization provides opportunities for the students to connect with and learn from each other.

"The program pushes us to succeed, while the organization gives us the support we need," said Campos. "It helps us meet and become friends with each other, something that sometimes isn't so easy with the frenzy of college classes. Sometimes a peer can be a great source of help and information, so it is important for us to keep in touch, and I think the organization helps us do that."

Sustainability Efforts Flourish Thanks to Student Initiative

<u>UNT</u> has launched several green programming initiatives in large part thanks to the <u>Student Sustainability office</u>'s **We Mean Green Fund**. Every student pays a \$5 Environmental Service fee during the fall and spring semesters to the fund, which is dedicated to reducing UNT's impact on the environment.

Any student, staff or faculty member is welcome to submit proposals to be paid for through the fund, which are evaluated by a committee composed of 10 students and 3 staff or faculty members. The committee's funding recommendations are then submitted to the vice president for student affairs for approval.

"The We Mean Green Fund is a great student-led initiative and a powerful tool to have impactful change," said Gary Cocke, advisor for the We Mean Green Fund. "I encourage everyone to submit their ideas for consideration in order to continue making UNT more environmentally friendly."

Several projects have been created thanks to the fund, including: the UNT Community Garden; the Pollinative Prairie, a prairie restoration project; I Bike UNT, bike safety and theft prevention campaigns; and tailgate recycling.

The latest projects include <u>UNT Goes GreenSense</u> and the Solar Trailer, which can provide 25 kWh of power. It will be used at campus-wide events to provide green energy and eliminate a point source of air pollution in the middle of these crowded areas.

For more information on UNT's green programming efforts or to submit a proposal, click here or call (940) 369-8302.



DSA Collects Generous Donations for UNT Food Pantry

As part of the **2017 DSA Kick-Off Breakfast** held on September 22, the <u>Staff Development Committee</u> challenged departments to bring in donations for the <u>UNT Food Pantry</u> to help students in need.

DSA staff rose to the challenge, donating 1,300 items total through the competition and on the morning of the breakfast.

The department winners were:

- Small Department Greek Life Center (150 items donated)
- Medium Department Rec Sports (106 items donated)
- Large Department Student Health and Wellness Center (732 items donated)

But the real winners are the students who will be helped by this generosity.



GO Team DSA!

Rec Sports: Fall is in Full Swing

The Rec Center saw 8,193 distinct members come through its doors 20,242 times during the first week of classes. Fitness programs like Zumba Party had 90 participants;



Moonlight Yoga had 68; **Intramural Flag Football** began with more than 75 teams registering; and the **Outdoor Pursuits Day Canoe** trip filled within 30 minutes of registration beginning.

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Student and Staff Services

Faculty, Staff and Students Live the Green Dot

The <u>Dean of Students Office</u> is launching <u>Green Dot</u>, a national program built on the premise that everyone can measurably and systematically reduce violence within any given community, this fall. This program focuses fundamentally on the productive power of bystanders, on those of us who witness power-based violence between others. In instances of harmful or violent words, actions or behaviors, bystanders have a choice to ignore and accept the abuse (a "red dot") or intervene and address the violence (a "green dot").

Green Dot's goal is to help the UNT community implement a strategy of violence prevention that reduces power-based personal violence, which includes sexual violence, relationship violence, stalking and bullying. Through training, UNT will build a community equipped to intervene in these red dot incidents to create a campus map full of green dots, full of proactive moments

that declare the university will not accept power-based personal violence.

"By bringing Green Dot to UNT, we are implementing a strategy of violence prevention that reduces instances of power-based personal violence," said Renée LeClaire McNamara, assistant director for student advocacy, crisis intervention and violence prevention. "Going through a Green Dot training will teach attendees how to be active bystanders, to react and prevent situations that could lead to violence and proactively build a culture that does not tolerate violence."

The first group of faculty and staff received the initial training in August, and the program is



now open to all faculty, staff and students who wish to go through it.

Participants will learn the basics of bystander intervention and how they can utilize those skills to reduce power-based personal violence in our community.

"When I went through the training to be a facilitator, I was very impressed with the way Green Dot takes the seemingly insurmountable task of changing a campus culture and breaks it down into research-driven steps that are actually achievable for a community, and I think that it's exactly the type of thing our campus can embrace," said Elijah Cumpton, coordinator for the Office of Spiritual Life. "I know that time is precious for all of us, but trust me, Green Dot is worth your time. We can actually make our campus significantly safer for everyone, and all it takes is learning a little bit about how the program works to see why and get excited about the possibilities for UNT."

"The program became very important to me after I discovered one of my students had been struggling with relationship violence and I didn't see the signs," said Ashly Henson, administrative coordinator for Recreational Sports. "I don't ever want that to happen again. I learned that you have got to have your eyes open at all times. We don't live in such an innocent world anymore, and it is up to each of us to discover how we can help each other. My way was to become involved in the Green Dot program and make sure our students know what resources are available and how important it is to step up and step in."

Alternative Service Breaks Help Communities and Seek Trip Advisors

The <u>Center for Leadership and Service</u>'s <u>Alternative Service Breaks</u> program raises awareness of social issues and injustices through education and intensive service learning experiences for UNT students over the Winter and Spring Breaks. Students, as well as staff and faculty trip advisors, volunteer their time and are immersed in week-long service opportunities that not only contribute to a deeper understanding of social issues, service and community, but are often the sparks which motivate people to get involved in community service.

Read more about the ASB program and its impact here.

Trip advisors help make the ASB trips possible and are still needed for upcoming trips. They travel with students, help manage trip funds, support student trip leadership and help manage any emergency situations that may arise for the group. Training is provided in advance of the program, and CLS staff are also available 24/7 during travel.

For past trip advisors, the experience was one in which they will never forgot.

"I was excited to volunteer with ASB as an advisor to get to know more students on campus," said Liz Nigro, assistant director for UPC. "ASB is an awesome experience to share with students who really care about the world and want to make a difference. I still enjoy seeing the students who I met on the trip around campus and catching up."

"There were three factors that both individually and collectively made the experience rewarding," said Angela de los Santos, coordinator for student development and special events. "The first factor was the service we contributed to our site (Camp Fire Heart). Our site's service request was genuinely fulfilling and the impact we made on the camp, campers and staff was palpable. Second, was the student's dedication and commitment to get as much out of the experience as possible. Their insight, personal growth and respect for one another was truly eye-opening. Being able to facilitate their

experience with ASB was incredibly gratifying. Third, were the daily reflections. Mutual respect felt among everyone fostered open conversation during reflection which broke barriers and led to countless breakthroughs. These three factors put together made my experience with ASB unlike anything I had ever participated in before."

Upcoming ASB Winter Trips that will take place January 6 – 13, 2018, include:

- · Disaster Relief: St. Bernard's Project, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Domestic and Family Violence: Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, Alpine, Texas (NEEDS A TRIP ADVISOR)
- Youth and Homelessness: Our House, Little Rock, Arkansas (NEEDS A TRIP ADVISOR)
- Immigration: LUPE, San Juan, Texas (NEEDS A TRIP ADVISOR)
- Gender and Sexuality: Partner Information Coming Soon, Nashville, Tennessee (In partnership with the UNT Pride Alliance, open to all students)

Upcoming ASB Spring Trips that will take place March 10-17, 2018, include:

- Children's Healthcare: LeBonheur Children's Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee (NEEDS A TRIP ADVISOR)
- Environment and Sustainability: Land Between the Lakes, Golden Pond, Kentucky (NEEDS A TRIP ADVISOR)
- Youth and Education: Camp Fire Heart, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (NEEDS A TRIP ADVISOR)
- Urban Poverty and Community Development: Mission St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri (NEEDS A TRIP ADVISOR)
- Youth and Foster Care: Pepper's Ranch, Guthrie, Oklahoma
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Park Center and Mending Hearts, Nashville, Tennessee (NEEDS A TRIP ADVISOR)
- Human Trafficking: Partner Information Coming Soon
- Refugee Resettlement: Something New, Clarkston, Georgia (In partnership with the UNT Multicultural Center, open to all students)
- Animal Welfare: Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, Eureka Springs, Arkansas (In partnership with the UNT Office of Greek Life, open to members of social Greek organizations only)
- Global Poverty and Hunger: Heifer Ranch, Perryville, Arkansas (NEEDS A TRIP ADVISOR)

 Hunger Relief: Rise Against Hunger, Kansas City, Missouri (In partnership with the UNT Office of Orientation and Transition Programs, open to all students)

For more information about being an ASB trip advisor, email stephanie.knight@unt.edu or call (940) 565-3021.

Call for Non-Trad Week Programs

The time has come to plan for the fall 2017 **Non-Trad Week**, which will be held October 16 - 20.

Join Off-Campus Student Services for Non-Trad Week 2017, a fun-filled week dedicated to non-trad students. Events and activities will connect non-trad and graduate students with information, resources and other non-trad students within the UNT community.

This is a prime opportunity to reach a significant number of students and provide them with valuable information. Your department or organization can submit an intent to extend hours, plan a program or both.

By combining with your departments and organizations, we can give our students the best information and resources.

The deadline to submit is October 1.

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News and Announcements

Fitness Special Program: Yoga Rocks

Registration is open now for <u>Yoga Rocks</u>, a unique experience combining yoga and rock climbing. Participants will enhance their yoga practice and climbing techniques while developing strength, balance, endurance and flexibility. Space is limited to 8. All fitness levels welcome; no climbing experience necessary. All

registered participants will receive a complimentary belay certification.

You can register for any special program in the <u>Rec Sports office</u> or at the Member Services Desk. You must have a valid summer Rec Sports



membership to participate in all special programs.

YOGA ROCKS

Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Runs: October 3 - 26Time: 8:30 - 10 p.m.

Registration deadline: Friday, September 29

Cost: \$45

SECC Golf Tournament

Life Is On Schneider

October 9, 2017 | Oakmont Country Club | Corinth, Texas

\$90 per player

4-person Florida Scramble

Entry fee includes green fees, cart, prizes, goody bag, sack lunch and Coca-Cola beverages. *Entries due October 6, 2017*.

1pm Shotgun Start

Registration: 11:30am-12:45pm

Putting & Pitching Contests: 11:30am-12:45pm

Trophies will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place team finishes. Prizes for contest winners and door prizes will be given out at the awards ceremony.





Get on the Links for a great cause!

For more information, visit recsports.unt.edu/secc-golf

Get Ready for Homecoming Week

Homecoming Week 2017 will be held **November 6 – 11**.

This year's theme is **Deep in the Heart of UNT**—celebrating the traditions, love and unique qualities that make us all love UNT and Texas deep into our core.

Departments will be able to participate in several ways:

- Department Decorating
 Competition—winners with the most spirit and creativity will win a prize
- Homecoming Parade on November
 11, which goes throughout the UNT campus and Denton Square



 Departments who have additional events taking place during Homecoming Week that they would like publicized on the Homecoming Week website can submit requests here.

More information will be coming, but keep checking the Homecoming Week <u>website</u> for the latest updates.

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Upcoming Events

October

"Sense and Reason" Exhibition

Featuring Matthew Bourbon
October 6 – November 11
UNT on the Square

The Don A. Buchholz Lecture

Diversity and Divergence: Getting
Beyond Enrollment to Bolster
Educational Equity
Featuring Eboni M. Zamani-Gallaher
October 12 at 2 p.m.
Gateway Center Ballroom
RSVP by October 6

Haunted History Tour

October 13 at 7:45 p.m. 111 W. Hickory St. Denton, TX 76201 Purchase tickets here

Yoga on the Square @ Greater Denton Arts Council

October 30 at 6 p.m. 400 E. Oak St., Denton, TX 76201 (bring your own mat)

November

Homecoming Week

November 6 – 11 Click here for the latest updates.

Happy Hour @ Oak Street Drafthouse

November 16 at 5:30 p.m. 308 E. Oak St., Denton, TX 76201

Healing Art Showcase

November 16, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Counseling and Testing Services Chestnut 311

December

Denton Holiday Lighting Festival

December 1 at 5:30 p.m. Corner of Locust and Hickory, Denton Square

Workshop Wednesdays

October 4, 1 - 2 p.m. Student Health and Wellness Workshop @ Union 339

November 1, 1 - 2 p.m.
Center for Leadership and
Service Workshop
@ Union 339

December 6, 1 - 2 p.m. Housing Workshop @ Union 339

Training Thursdays

October 12, 10 - 11 a.m.
"EEO/Title IX"
Inya Baiye
@ Union 332

November 16, 10 - 11 a.m.
"Dealing with Difficult
People"
Jerri Robertson
@ Union 339

We would love to hear from you!

We are always looking for new stories and feedback. If you have anything to share, please send it to Ray Willhoft or call 940-565-2464.

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University of North Texas \cdot 1155 Union Circle \cdot Denton, Tx 76201 \cdot USA

