





Message from the Vice President

Happy holidays from University Advancement!

So much has changed this year, from the needs of our students and how we operate on campus to the way we communicate with you, our most supportive alumni and friends. But one thing has stayed the same — the amazing team spirit of our UNT community.

When our students needed you the most, you pitched in and demonstrated how much UNT cares. In these pages, you'll read stories that show how every single donation of every size makes a difference, especially in times like these.

Together, we have proven ourselves to be resilient and compassionate — a winning combination in my book! There will be more unique challenges in our future, but we know we can count on you to help our students find success and achieve their dreams.

Go Mean Green!

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

UNT Cares

Kaitlyn Martinez never imagined she would finish her junior year at UNT sharing a three-bedroom house with her mother, grandparents and two younger siblings. But after being exposed to COVID-19 in March of 2020, the family faced a strict two-week quarantine together.

Then, like many, they worked to find a new normal. Amidst the chaos of a crowded home, Martinez struggled to manage anxiety about the future — especially when her job in a UNT computer lab transitioned to remote work with fewer hours.

“As a college student, I live paycheck to paycheck,” Martinez says. “My employers at UNT worked hard to offer some security, but I was scared.”

Martinez was not alone in that fear. But as students were thrown into uncharted waters, the UNT community came together to help them persevere.

Through gifts to the UNT Cares campaign — a university fundraising initiative created in response to the public health crisis — donors ensured more students had the resources they needed to offset unexpected financial strain.

“The collective impact of gifts to the UNT Cares fund has been amazing,” says David Wolf, vice president for university advancement. “Because of the generosity of our Mean Green family, we’ve been able to award emergency scholarships to students in need from each of UNT’s 14 colleges and schools.”

Both new and established UNT donors came together to give students the resources and support they needed to keep moving forward. And thanks to UNT’s Division of Student Affairs, students received funds quickly to help meet needs that might have prevented them from staying enrolled.



Kaitlyn Martinez ('21)

“Every donation to the UNT Cares fund, no matter the size, helped our students persevere in the face of unexpected obstacles and challenges,” says Elizabeth With, vice president for student affairs.

For Martinez, receiving emergency funds meant being able to pay tuition and bills while successfully completing her 18-credit-hour semester. With her short-term needs taken care of, the Honors College student was able to keep moving toward her long-term goal of becoming a newscast director or producer.

“I was really worried about what was going to happen, but this scholarship gave me the financial peace I needed to succeed and help my family take care of each other during this emotional rollercoaster,” she says. “I’m so grateful.”

We Care We Count

While UNT's annual faculty and staff giving campaign was refocused this year due to COVID-19, our campus community still went above and beyond to support students in need and programs that matter.

"I chose to give because UNT IS FAMILY, and it's so important that family loves, cares for and supports one another at all times. There's no road map for what we are currently facing, but **I believe choosing to make a positive impact will always be the right path to take.**"



Jolie Mitchell
(’02), UNT
Women’s
Basketball
Head Coach



Diamond Eagles

The Texas Fashion Collection offers UNT students something rare — an invitation to touch textiles,

examine embroidery and study historic and high-design garments.

Now, with the support of the Diamond Eagles Society — donors who work together to fund high-impact projects at UNT — more of the collection is being digitized to help preserve its most delicate items.

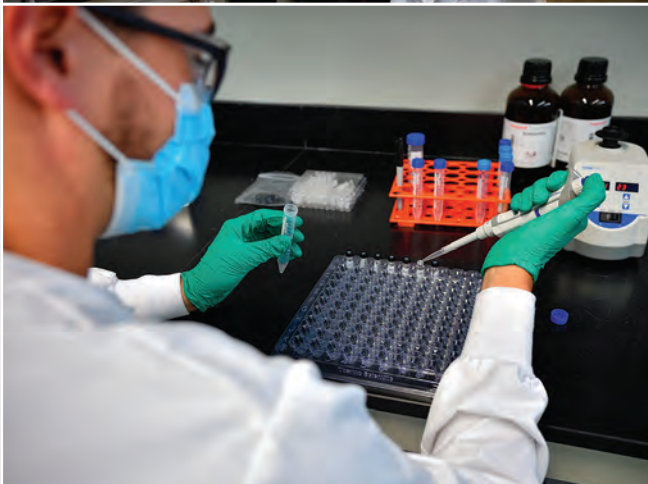
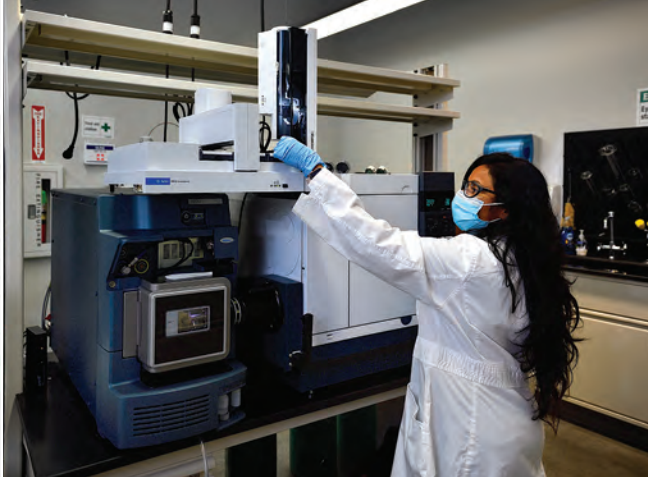
"The Texas Fashion Collection has become a hallmark for the university," says Leah Hatfield ('77), Diamond Eagles member. "I'm so proud that the collective membership of the Diamond Eagles chose this project after learning just how labor intensive and expensive the digitization process is."



Digitizing the collection provides extended professional development opportunities to students and ensures the collection's longevity while increasing its accessibility and influence.

“Funding from the Diamond Eagles is critical for this project,” says Annette Becker ('15 M.A.), director of the Texas Fashion Collection. “It not only provides the staffing and professional materials we need, but also ensures that UNT students gain experience with this process to prepare them for future career opportunities.”

UNT^{AT} FRISCO INSPIRE PARK



Corporate and Foundation Relations

A state-of-the-art innovation center has been established at UNT's Inspire Park by LaCore Labs, a developer of custom-formula health products. This first of its kind collaboration includes a \$1 million gift, a new laboratory, sponsored research, a license to UNT technology and student internships.

"We are excited to collaborate with UNT and successfully marry innovation and commercialization," says Terry LaCore, for LaCore Labs.

The gift is eligible for \$750,000 in matching funds from the Texas Research Incentive Program. An additional \$500,000 sponsored grant will support the research of Guido Verbeck, chemistry professor and director of the Laboratory of Imaging Mass Spectrometry at UNT.

"I am thankful for the incredible opportunity to create a one-of-a-kind quality assurance lab around the area of nutraceuticals," says Verbeck. "This illustrates the commitment that LaCore has to making and assuring the best of products and opens the door for UNT student engagement and employment."

UNT faculty and students were actively involved in the development of the lab, and internships at the facility will offer students unparalleled, real-world experience.

"This is exactly the type of relationship we want to cultivate," says Michael Rondelli, associate vice president for research commercial agreements. **"This is not just sponsored research, a gift or a commercial license, but all of them integrated into one public-private collaboration that will benefit the company, students, researchers and the entire university."**

G. Brint Ryan College of Business

When he was a UNT student, Jim McNatt ('66) discovered that many of his peers struggled with unexpected educational barriers that could be overcome with a little financial assistance. That realization stayed with him, and in 2019, Jim and his wife, Linda, gave \$250,000 to establish the McNatt Fund for Students in Financial Crisis.

Through the fund, students in the G. Brint Ryan College of Business are awarded up to \$3,000 to take care of urgent needs that would otherwise prevent them from continuing their education at UNT.

What the McNatts could not foresee was the magnitude of impact their generosity would have during the COVID-19 pandemic. When their initial gift was depleted in an effort to keep students on track, the couple committed an additional \$250,000. Between September 1, 2019,



Jim ('66) & Linda McNatt

and August 31, 2020, the fund awarded 414 students a total of \$425,000.

“Thanks to the McNatt emergency fund, many of our students were able to stay enrolled and keep progressing toward their degrees,” says Marilyn Wiley, dean of the G. Brint Ryan College of Business. *“Jim and Linda are truly transforming lives at our university.”*

College of Education

“I believe strongly in the power of education. During these uncertain times, one truth remains constant in my life — that education is the one thing no one can ever take away from you. I want to empower students to invest in themselves and in their education in order to become more informed citizens of the world.

Your support is invaluable to me and inspires me to give back to the next generation. Thank you for believing in me and helping me realize my dreams!”



Daphne Moriel de Cedeño
(’20 Ph.D.)



College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism

Backed by a new Facebook research grant, faculty members from the College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism are helping minority-owned small restaurants make more informed and cost-efficient decisions when it comes to social media advertising.

The year-long interdisciplinary study, led by Xi Yu Leung, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management, and Jiyoung Kim, associate professor of merchandising and digital retailing, **was one of only five projects selected from nearly 200 proposals around the world.**

“Many small restaurant owners had a limited advertising budget before the pandemic,” says Kim. “Now, choosing wisely in how and where they spend their marketing dollars is even more important.”



College of Music

Students in the College of Music faced unique challenges when UNT closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The college could provide lessons remotely, but many students — especially piano majors — only had access to the instruments they use on campus.

That problem was solved thanks to a partnership with the Yamaha Corporation of America, which allowed the college to quickly purchase 20 digital pianos at

a greatly reduced price for students to check out and use in their residences at no cost. Yamaha delivered the keyboards to the UNT campus in only 7 days, enabling students to stay on track during a difficult semester.

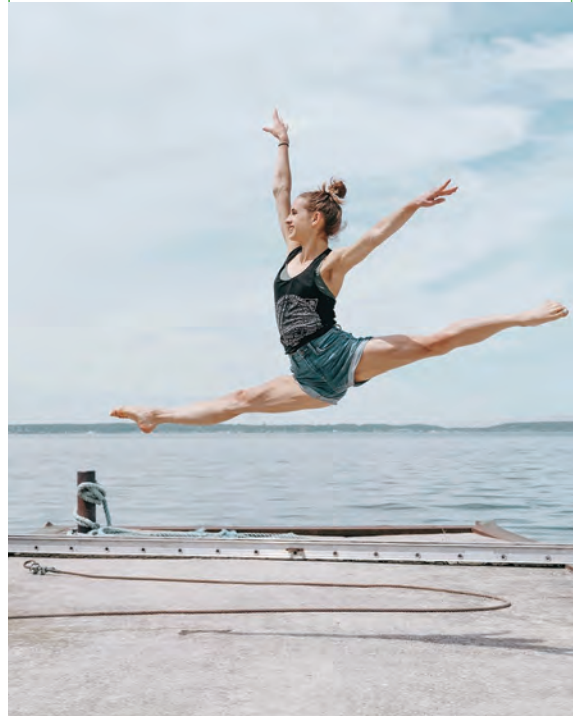
“This was a remarkable and heartwarming collaboration,” says Dr. John W. Richmond, dean of the UNT College of Music. “It was a game-changer and a fabulous example of the caring, creative and resilient spirit that pervades this institution and our institutional partners.”

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

“Thank you for allowing me to pursue my passion for dance and performing without having a huge financial burden on my shoulders. I am so grateful each day I walk into class to be able to get the education I need to succeed in my career.”



Christina Tobias ('21)



College of Science

This year, with the unanimous approval of all voting members, the College of Science Advancement Board donated \$7,500 toward necessary tech updates to the UNT Astronomy Planetarium and contributed

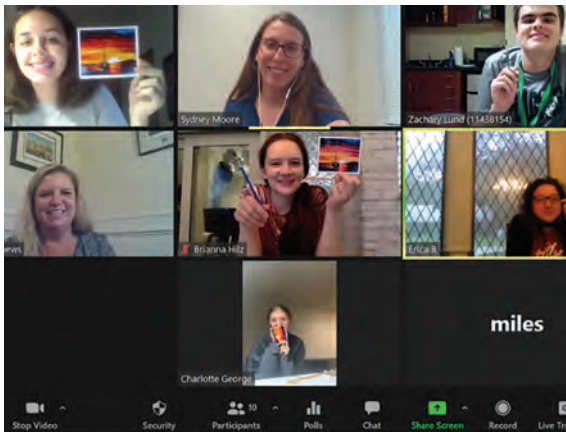


\$10,000 to the UNT Cares fund, which was created to help students with emergency needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Formed in early 2018 after the College of Science became an independent college at UNT, the board — a team of accomplished alumni and friends — helps provide a supportive and collaborative environment and gives back to the future of research, education, technology and natural preservation.

College of Health and Public Service

For Carson Brock, a student with autism spectrum disorder, post-secondary education remains an important part of his life's path. He connected with the University of North Texas because of UNT ENGAGE and UNT EPIC, rapidly expanding, innovative programs designed for neurodivergent students.



At a Fall 2020 virtual art night, UNT EPIC participants had fun painting and socializing.

“These dynamic programs deserve recognition for cutting edge approaches to promoting neurodiversity inclusion on a college campus,” says Carson’s mother, Jean Ann Brock.

But the Brock family is doing more than participate in these initiatives — they have also given generously to both UNT ENGAGE and UNT EPIC, enabling the programs to help more students who feel they need additional academic, vocational or social support.

“These substantial gifts from Ms. Brock will allow us to serve a highly underrepresented population and help them develop personal connections and break down barriers they may otherwise face,” says Nicole Dash, dean of the College of Health and Public Service.

For Jean Ann, the gifts are about honoring the contributions that people with neurodiversities make to society and facilitating increased access to life-changing opportunities.

“Ultimately, I hope others follow in Carson’s footsteps — diligently working to be the best he can be,” says Jean Ann.

College of Engineering

When there was a shortage of vital equipment at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, students and faculty in UNT's College of Engineering used **innovative 3D printing technology** to make a difference for critically ill patients and the university.

In response to the high need for ventilators in hospitals, a team manufactured splitters that enable medical providers to use a single ventilator to treat two patients. And on campus, engineers worked with artists from UNT's College of Visual Arts and Design to create transparent face shields for safe use in laboratories.

“We are a Tier One research university because we have the expertise, equipment and capability to tackle world-size problems,” says Mark McLellan, vice president for research and innovation.

College of Visual Arts and Design

As an artist, Paula Brewer ('63, '68 M.A.) knows how important art supplies and experiences are — and just how expensive they can be. Wanting to help artists at UNT succeed, Paula and her husband, Terry Brewer ('65, '70 Ph.D.), made a gift to send one student to a summer session at the Penland School of Craft and to enable each continuing M.F.A. student to purchase \$200 worth of essential materials.



That money can mean the difference between an art student moving forward or stalling in their education, especially as many struggle with the difficult realities of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This donation was really helpful for me because my husband was furloughed,” says Amy Henson, ceramics student. “It was nice to have some money to actually get the tools I needed to work during the summer.”

With the funds, students purchased everything from ceramics and painting supplies to dark room chemicals, airbrushes and needlepoint applicators.

“I was amazed by the diversity of art supplies that were purchased,” says Paula. “I wish each student all the very best as they complete their education.”



Amy Henson ('22 M.F.A.)





Thomas Sanders ('20)

Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science

Recent alumnus Thomas Sanders ('20) began his UNT journey early, completing his high school education through the TAMS program before choosing to study in the College of Engineering.

“As a TAMS student, I was offered a scholarship to stay at UNT,” Sanders says. “And I’ve really enjoyed my time here — the faculty are friendly, and I felt they were investing in me as a person.”

Sanders continued to prepare for a bright future as part of the unique and selective Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program, where participants receive a salary in exchange for maintaining a high GPA, obtaining a relevant college degree and committing five years to the U.S. Navy.

With resilience, determination and donor support, Sanders graduated debt-free and

is on track for a successful career as a submarine officer.

College of Information

Over his 50-year career, UNT Professor John Robert “Haj” Ross has made significant contributions to the field of linguistics and become known for changing the lives of his students. Now, to honor his great legacy, the College of Information has created the Haj Ross Squibbler Scholarship, which supports UNT students who excel and revel in the art and science of the “squib” — one of many linguistic terms coined by Ross.

“Haj has created an amazing legacy of insights and inspiration, humor and humanity, brilliance and compassion,” says donor Patricia A. Shaw. “This scholarship will extend those gifts to future generations of students.”

Mayborn School of Journalism

As a student, Graham Douglas ('05), a graduate of UNT's advertising program, had to split his focus between academics and finding a way to pay for it all. His education simply would not have been possible without scholarships and financial aid. Motivated by a deep, personal understanding of the impact that even a modest scholarship can have on a student's life, he created the Graham Douglas Ad Scholarship with a \$5,000 gift.

"For me, \$1,000 would have meant dozens of nights spent studying instead of slinging drinks at Andy's, weekends spent decompressing instead of selling tools at Lowe's and holidays spent with family and home cooking instead of catching up on a portfolio at Taco Cabana," says Douglas. "I hope this scholarship helps students find a better balance and maybe, just maybe, have a little extra fun in the process."



Graham Douglas ('05)



Libraries

In partnership with four other institutions, UNT Libraries received a \$1.2 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create a new international data trust that is the first of its kind in scholarly publishing.

The collaboration will improve the measurement and analysis of Open Access (OA) books, which are free to read online and enable researchers to utilize the most up-to-date and relevant information for their work.

“Increasing access to research is of vital importance to UNT,” said Diane Bruxvoort, dean of the UNT Libraries. “The university has long been a leader in promoting Open Access.”



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNT

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNT, which is now part of the Division of University Advancement, is committed to improving quality of life for members — even in the midst of a pandemic that places many of the program’s members in the high-risk category.

The institute continues to offer lectures and learning opportunities in virtual classrooms and provide free educational and cultural resources via email and through the OLLI at UNT Podcast, including new Alumni Spotlight episodes made in collaboration with the UNT Alumni Association.



“Our guests have expertise in a vast array of different fields,” says podcast host Susan Supak.

“What could be more fun than listening to conversations with intelligent, inspirational people?”

Susan, a member of OLLI at UNT, also notes that recent MRI research suggests listening to podcasts can stimulate activity across the brain, making the initiative a perfect fit for the lifelong learning institute’s mission.

“The podcast has grown organically from the enthusiasm of our host and the interest of our members and friends across campus,” says Jordan Williams, senior communications specialist for OLLI at UNT. “Lifelong learners and educators have a natural attraction to this kind of programming.”

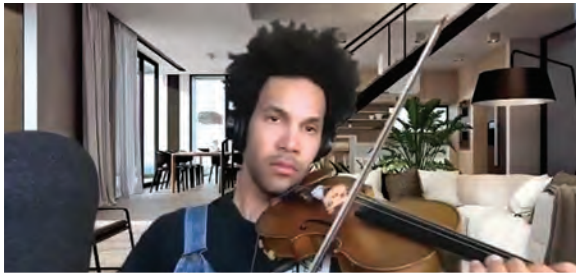
Athletics

“Mean Green Scholarship Fund donors have continued their selfless support of our tremendous student-athletes in one of the most vital times of need for our university.

Scholarships for student-athletes are always a fundamental component of our success, and this year even more so as we have dealt with added financial burdens related to COVID-19 testing and protocols further stretching our resources. Many donors and season ticket holders who opted out of attending games decided to donate the amount of money they would have spent on tickets to the MGSF to assist in paying the scholarship bill for our student-athletes.

Now more than ever, gifts to the MGSF are providing transformational opportunities for our student-athletes, and we cannot say thank you enough.” -Wren Baker, Vice President and Director of Athletics





UNT Alumni Relations UNT Alumni Live!

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the university to cancel in-person events, the UNT Alumni Association created free virtual events, inviting attendees to go behind-the-scenes at interesting places and hear from UNT faculty and alumni experts.

“What I appreciate when I watch UNT Alumni Live! is that it is a deliriously ingenious exhibition of UNT talent,” says Wayne Snell Jr. (’12) “We have amazing alumni, and what better way to showcase their talent than through this series.”

Mean Green Mentors

The new Mean Green Mentors program is helping students succeed and building a strong UNT alumni legacy. Through this partnership with the UNT Career

Center, alumni serve as mentors and career coaches via an online professional networking platform designed to foster relationships that make a difference.

Alumni Scholarship Program

When Ivy Knight sat down at last fall's UNT Alumni Scholarship Recipient Dinner, she was not expecting an alumnus to teach her how to set up a LinkedIn profile — but that's just the sort of thing that happens in the UNT Alumni Scholarship Program.

The program's primary purpose is to award scholarship money, but it also provides extended resources that help students develop valuable skills.

“We're working hard to grow this program and are not satisfied with traditional, transactional scholarships,” says Emily Klement ('92, '94 M.Ed., '12 Ed.D.), immediate past chair of the UNT Alumni Association Board of Directors. “We want to



UNT Alumni Association Scholarship Recipients



make our recipients feel like they have won the jackpot as we set them up for success.”

Recipients of the steadily expanding program's eight — soon to be eleven — scholarships attend networking events and make connections with alumni who share their interests.

“I've been given so many chances to grow and learn,” Knight says. “And now I have a whole network of UNT alumni who are willing to mentor me and will be eager to help me find career opportunities once I graduate.”

2019 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.



2019 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award Recipients



Distinguished Alumni Award

George Foster ('72)

Steve Holmes ('80)

Al McNatt ('68)

Distinguished Young Alumni Award

Sarah ('03) and Keith ('03, '03 M.S.) Walters

Outstanding Alumni Service Award

Linda Creagh ('62, '63 M.S., '67 Ph.D.)

Bob Garza ('74)

Cathy Hartman ('67, '91 M.S.)

Ulys Knight Spirit Award

John ('91) and Shelley Alexander

Generations of Excellence Award

The Springer Family, including Drew Springer Sr. ('66), Drew Springer Jr. ('88) and Grant Springer ('19)

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