

# hillviews

**THE HEART OF THE  
TEXAS INNOVATION CORRIDOR**

**BRUCE AND GLORIA INGRAM HALL  
NEW HOME FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**



BRUCE AND GLORIA  
INGRAM HALL



hillviews

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No. 3, 2018



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COVER STORY

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Located at the heart of the Innovation Corridor, Texas State is preparing students across all disciplines who are poised to spur economic activity.

**ABOUT:** *Hillviews* is produced three times a year by the University Advancement division. We'd love to hear from you. Send us your comments about the articles in this issue, or send story suggestions. Email [Hillviews@txstate.edu](mailto:Hillviews@txstate.edu); fax to (512) 245-3817; or mail to *Hillviews*, Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 73666-4613. Find the latest and past issues of *Hillviews* online at [hillviews.txstate.edu](http://hillviews.txstate.edu)

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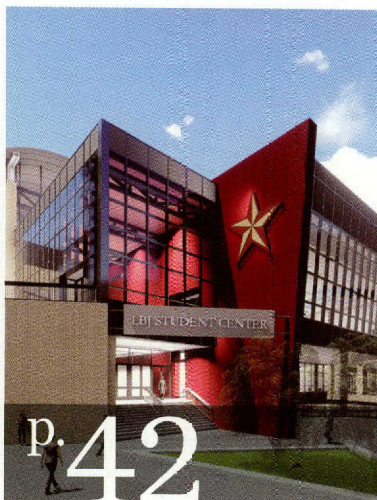




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# (from the president's desk)

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Dear Friends,

Each year, Texas State University chooses a Common Experience academic theme uniting students, faculty, and staff in a shared focus across all disciplines. Fittingly, this year's theme is "Innovation."

Texas State is creating an ecosystem that fuels innovation. By the end of 2018, we will have opened three new buildings — the largest amount of space added in a single year in university history — representing a total investment of almost \$250 million. With these buildings — Willow Hall, Bruce and Gloria Ingram Hall, and the University Events Center — come cutting-edge environments that not only shape how our students learn but also sharpen Texas State's trajectory toward national research university designation. We celebrated important milestones this year that move us closer to that aspiration, with our university endowment topping \$200 million, more than halfway to our goal of \$400 million, and with all indications suggesting we will have a record year for restricted research expenditures as well.

This issue of *Hillviews* provides a closer look at how innovation at Texas State impacts our community and world. We are a driving force in the Texas Innovation Corridor, a region of rapid economic, job, and technology growth from Austin to San Antonio. Bruce and Gloria Ingram Hall, the new engineering and science building, is not only a shining star of our university but will be a landmark in the Texas Innovation Corridor. With a renewable energy research lab and active learning classrooms, Ingram Hall is the largest and most ambitious academic building project in Texas State history.

Through innovation, we have the power to improve the way we live. The article on our Translational Health Research Initiative demonstrates how bringing interdisciplinary researchers together can provide real-world solutions to problems in healthcare. In that same spirit, doctoral students in our Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization program are not only developing new technologies but also learning how to bring their inventions to market. Our Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center continues to set the national standard in research and life-saving training about active shooter incidents.

Innovation is a defining characteristic of Texas State and is rooted in strategic partnerships, quality programs, creativity, and hard work. Our stories of innovation are too numerous to be contained within the 60 pages of this issue, but we are proud to give you this glimpse into how we are expanding the boundaries of learning and discovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise M. Trauth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise M. Trauth





# Gongs and metallophones

Gamelan, the music of Java and Bali, has a dedicated following at Texas State

*By David Giessner*

Like an elaborate chorus of wind chimes, gamelan music is hypnotic and enchanting. Indeed, its exotic allure came calling for young Gordon Jones one night while he was drifting off to sleep in his native Great Britain.

“I first came across gamelan when I was about 20 years old,” says Jones, who is now a senior lecturer and musical director of Gamelan Lipi Awan at Texas State University. “I used to listen to this famous radio DJ named John Peel who would play unique and interesting music on his show every Saturday night. One night, he played gamelan and I sat up in bed and said, ‘Oh, wow!’”





“THE BALINESE DON’T REALLY CONSIDER IT TO BE ART. IT’S SIMPLY A FUNCTION, LIKE BREATHING OR EATING. EVERY VILLAGE, OR SUBSET OF A VILLAGE, WOULD HAVE A SET OF INSTRUMENTS, AND PEOPLE WOULD JUST GET TOGETHER IN THE EVENINGS AND PLAY.”

— GORDON JONES

Indigenous to the islands of Bali and Java in Indonesia, gamelan (pronounced gah-meh-lahn) is a highly percussive music that relies heavily on gongs and metal-keyed instruments called metallophones. The metallophones are played with mallets and can be accompanied by an array of other instruments including hand-played drums, xylophones, bamboo flutes, and bowed or plucked strings. Jones uses the analogy of a tree to explain. “The big gongs are the trunk; the metallophones of various sizes and depth are the branches; and the fast, ornamental, interlocking patterns that add excitement are the flowers,” he says. “It’s technically very difficult (to play), but at the same time, a lot of people who aren’t musicians can take up gamelan. Elements of it are purely physical and very fast, but there are also instruments like the gongs that are necessary to provide the basic structure. The interlocking patterns and how a piece is structured all work together like a big machine that needs to be well-oiled.”

About 24 people make up the full ensemble, which includes students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Dr. Heather

Galloway, dean of the Honors College, has been a member since 2013. Claire Cremeens (M.M. ’15), an academic advisor for the College of Liberal Arts, and Andrew McNair (B.M. ’17), are also members. Participants meet every Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. during the fall and spring semesters.

Gamelan’s core instruments provide the foundation for each ensemble, but geographical regions and cultures can often add subtle variations and distinctions. The music also is inherently social.

“The Balinese don’t really consider it to be art,” Jones says. “It’s simply a function, like breathing or eating. Every village, or subset of a village, would have a set of instruments, and people would just get together in the evenings and play. It’s very communal in the same way that the British might go to the pub and play darts or Texans go to high school football games on Friday night. It’s as much a social community as it is a music ensemble.”

In April, Jones and the Texas State Balinese Gamelan ensemble teamed with the Texas State University Symphony Orchestra at Evans Auditorium to perform one of his





original compositions, “Bersama (Coming Together).” The 18-minute piece merged with the pageantry of choreographed dance-drama to create an ornate display of musical theatre. While the free-flowing nature of the music seems to rely on momentum, it is in fact very controlled and methodical.

“It is not improvised at all,” Jones says. “Every piece is set in stone. It’s very rare to have elements of improvisation.”

Before moving to Texas in 2001, Jones taught college-level music for many years in the United Kingdom. Over the course of his career, he has composed many large-scale, music-theatre works as well as choral and instrumental ensemble pieces. In addition to teaching in Texas State University’s School of Music and Department of Theatre and Dance, Jones has taught summer workshops for the Austin Chamber Music Center and Austin Lyric Opera.

In all, Jones has taught gamelan to more than 25,000 people, including students with special needs, professional musicians, university professors, and kindergartners. The highlights, he said, have been as numerous and varied as his students — and sometimes even humorous.

“Many years ago, I was doing a gamelan workshop with a group of 6-year-old elementary school students,” Jones recalls. “At the end of such a workshop, I would invariably ask the students, ‘When you go home this evening, what will you say you did in school today?’ My hope is to elicit such responses as, ‘We played some music from Bali’ or ‘We played some percussion instruments from Asia.’ On this occasion, a boy raised his hand and said, ‘We had a party!’ That sounded good to me.” 🌟







# THINKING OUT LOUD

Philosophy  
Dialogue Series  
promotes informed  
discussions  
on campus, in  
community



By Salwa Choucair Lanford

The college experience is more than attending classes, living away from home, and studying into the wee hours of the morning. One of the greatest experiences of college life is discovering oneself in this big, crazy world.

College can be the time when young adults learn to question their childhood belief systems; wonder how and where they fit into the universe; and hopefully discover how they will use their newfound knowledge to become productive citizens.

The Department of Philosophy at Texas State University has played a big role in cultivating students' ability to engage, question, and evaluate diverse views. Offering more than 75 interactive events each semester, the Philosophy Dialogue Series covers topics of general interest and controversial and timely issues.

"The Dialogue Series is uniquely dedicated to the critical and creative exploration of ideas," says Dr. Craig Hanks, chair and professor of the Department of Philosophy. "I want students to learn the power of their own agency and voice on campus, because campuses like this only exist for the students, to help them learn. They have a considerable amount of power in a setting like this, and I think it is a good place for them to practice engaging that which they can then take with them when they graduate as citizens and members of other communities."

To understand the purpose of hosting dialogues, it is necessary to understand the significance of the word "dialogue" in philosophy and its origins dating back to ancient Greece. Plato wrote many of his famous philosophical works in dialogue form. "From its beginning, Western philosophy has been a dialogic activity where humans engage with each other to try to learn from one another, whether it is learning to ask questions, how to solve a problem, or how to know what a problem really is," Hanks explains. "The idea that our thinking is improved by that type of interaction is central to the history of philosophy."

"Part of what we are trying to do with the series is to make it a part of the everyday life of this campus in a way that doesn't necessarily happen elsewhere," he says.

The Department of Philosophy, spearheaded by professor and former department chair Dr. Vincent Luizzi, started the Dialogue Series 23 years ago. The aim was to connect with other departments,

**"THE IDEA IS THAT DIVERSITY COMES IN THROUGH THE WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS OFFERED AND NOTHING IS TOO CONTROVERSIAL TO DISCUSS. WE WANT TO PAVE THE WAY FOR PEOPLE TO RESPECT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION."**

— DR. VINCENT LUIZZI

share philosophy more broadly within the university, and attract more students to the study of philosophy. Luizzi, now the dialogue director, works to ensure that the series has the resources to continue for years to come. In 2017, a gift of \$50,000 was given as seed money to establish an endowment. Further contributions to the endowment will help fund prominent speakers, their travel, and the overall purpose of the series.

Today, the series hosts daily dialogues — often several per day — featuring a variety of topics led by students, faculty members from across the university, and guest speakers as well as a weekly community outreach dialogue at the San Marcos Public Library. In addition, students may enroll in Dialogue: Theory and Practice, an undergraduate and graduate course that has been incorporated into the department's curriculum. The series has become the backbone of the department and uses its platform to help fulfill Texas State's mission.

"We intentionally choose the topics with a primary driving force to contribute to the university's mission of creating diversity and promoting inclusion among people," Luizzi says. "The idea is that diversity comes in through the wide range of topics offered and nothing is too controversial to discuss. We want to pave the way for people to respect diversity and inclusion." For Dr. Gene Bourgeois, provost and vice president for academic affairs, the dialogues reflect a signature purpose of Texas State and academia in general. "They catalyze a deeper consideration for and understanding of issues essential for improving our communities and the lives of our students," he says.

Students such as Harrison Hutcheson, 20, a junior business management major from San Antonio, find the dialogue model to be eye-opening. "The whole idea of college is to enhance your learning experience and viewpoint," Hutcheson says, "and I definitely found that in my philosophy class."

Recent dialogue topics include

immigration, patriotism, democracy, violence, and justice, says Dr. Jo Ann Carson, senior lecturer and coordinator of the series. Carson has worked alongside Luizzi since the early days of the Dialogue Series. She gathers suggestions for weekly themes from students and faculty and schedules specific speakers and topics. She also designed and teaches the dialogue class, which became part of the series in 2004.

"Topics are chosen in a collaborative effort with an operating assumption that philosophy is relevant to everything," Carson says. "One of our goals is to try to connect the topics we choose to philosophical issues, themes, and backgrounds." Since she works closely with students, Carson has a firsthand view of how dialogue affects them, and she explains that the two big takeaways she has heard are the words "transformative" and "respect."

"Philosophy is not about providing answers, but it's really about asking the right questions, and asking people or inviting them to give their beliefs opens a space where everyone hears these beliefs, and everyone changes a little bit. You don't come out exactly the same person as when you went in, and that's a good thing."

"At the same time, there is an ethical dimension to the Dialogue Series. Students learn that you can listen and show respect for those with whom you disagree rather than demonizing their view, and something we are lacking right now both socially and culturally."

As a contemporary form of a tradition dating back to Plato and Socrates, the Dialogue Series at Texas State will continue to provide opportunities for engagement and learning on campus and in the community for many years to come. ✪

Online

[txstate.edu/philosophy/dialogue-series](http://txstate.edu/philosophy/dialogue-series)









# A WEEK IN THE LIFE

*For basketball player Bailey Holle, being a student-athlete means managing her time, rehabbing an injury, cheering on her team and her twin sister, Brooke*

*By Mark Wenzel*



It's 11 a.m. on a drizzly, dreary Thursday in February. Inside Strahan Arena at the University Events Center, at least 2,000 elementary and middle school students are expressing their joy — with unrelenting, high-pitched shrieking — at missing class for a field trip to watch the Texas State women's basketball team play.

Standing off to one side, watching the Bobcats go through stretching, is Bailey Holle. Normally, the sophomore guard would be stretching, too, but the right ankle she sprained a week ago is too tender to play on, so she's watching and listening. "When you play, you tune everything out," Bailey says. "Today it was like, 'Wow, there are so many little kids here — and they're SO loud.' "

That's the thing with playing an NCAA Division I sport — you get so focused on the routine, on what's normal, that sometimes you only recognize what's plain to most everyone else around you when you get to, or have to, step away and watch. For those outside that world, most only see the games. They hear the shrieking fans, see the made baskets, and feel the thrill of a win or the agony of a loss. They don't get to see what makes up a typical week for these athletes. So, let's look at one through the eyes of Bailey Holle.

**Photos from left:**

Bailey Holle goes grocery shopping with dietitian Chelsea Burkart.

Bailey (in white shirt) studies at home with her roommates Konner Wood (center) and twin sister Brooke Holle.

A management major, Bailey has classes Monday through Thursday. Here, she attends an accounting class.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



It's just after midnight when the team motor coach pulls into the Strahan Arena parking lot after a seven-hour ride home from Monroe, Louisiana, where the Bobcats kept their hopes alive for a regular season Sun Belt Conference title with an 81-45 victory over the Warhawks. Bailey spent the trip trying to study, trying to sleep, but mostly with an ice pack on her elevated right ankle, which she reinjured after trying to come back too quickly from rolling it earlier in the week.

Today is normally a rest day, and Bailey will have some of that. "It's our only day to sleep in," she says. The remainder is filled with self-paced activity — grocery shopping, laundry, a leisurely dinner, and catching up on her favorite TV shows. She'll also head to the training room to get treatment.

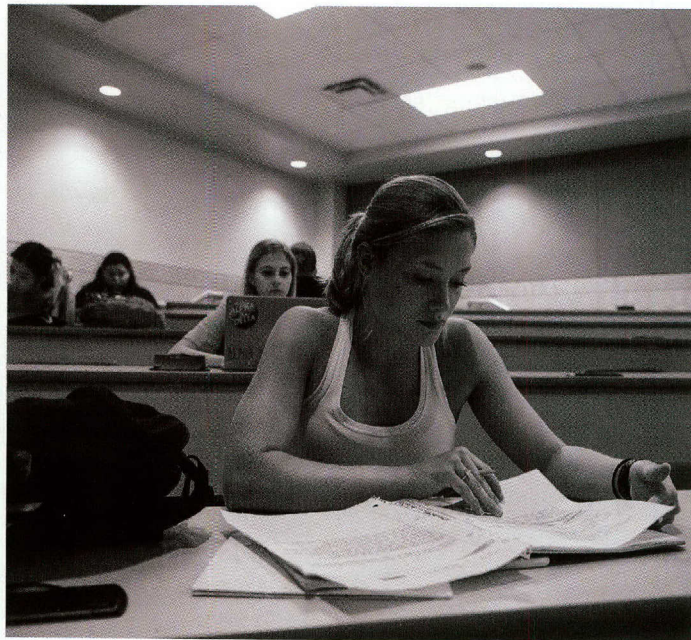
Bailey's mom, Michelle, graduated from Texas State in 1996. She played college basketball at Angelo State until her career was ended by an ankle injury. Her father, Eric, was a defensive end at The University of Texas in the early 1980s and played four years in the NFL with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Bailey rooms with two volleyball players and her twin sister, Brooke, who also plays guard for the Bobcats. They've got different temperaments.

"Bailey is more of a peacekeeper, wants everybody to be happy," Michelle Holle says. The twins have played together since third grade, in youth leagues and at Austin Westlake High School. They always coordinate their sleeve length or hairstyle to be different for every game — primarily to keep the referees from calling one twin's foul on the other.

"It would have been bizarre, going to different schools," Bailey says. As for the obligatory twin question — they did switch identities once, in fifth





grade, for a school day. They thought it was hilarious. Nobody else noticed. They never did it again.

Bobcat Coach Zenarae Antoine didn't treasure one twin over the other during recruiting because they had comparable talent, eliminating one of the hardest things about recruiting twins. Antoine, who is the mother of twin boys, felt the same. "Twins always play better together," she says. "They've been together since the womb. People assume as twins you compare them. As a parent you learn not to do that. They're each different, and I coach them differently."

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19



The weekly grind begins with a 7:15 a.m. team breakfast, a chance for the players to meet away from the court and for Antoine to check in. "I think it's tough for them to find free moments," the coach says. "If you're waking up early to go to training, going to class, you have to find time to eat because nutrition is important, then you have another workout, then have to eat, have to find time to study."

Antoine, who played for Colorado State from 1994 to 1998, says that the game hasn't changed much — the Bobcats run the same offense she did as a player — but the environment has. Funding, nutrition, sports medicine, training, and other factors are radically different. Because research has shown that female athletes are more susceptible to torn anterior cruciate ligaments, for example, the basketball program spends 30 minutes several times a week on exercises designed specifically to prevent such injuries. "I think the biggest change is we didn't have cellphones and the easy access to communicate," Antoine says. Aside from a sweet shot and nasty crossover dribble skills, coaches look for emotional maturity. "You have to motivate them, but you don't want to constantly have to motivate them," she says. "The other thing you're trying to do is to recruit young people who are mature and organized, because of the demands they have."

That's where time management comes in. Bailey usually has a chance to go back to sleep before an 11 a.m. business management class, but not today. There's a meeting with her academic advisor to discuss summer and fall registration, followed by a management class and more ankle rehab.

Monday practice emphasizes player development and self-scouting. The players watch video to learn from mistakes, stretch, have a two-hour practice, usually the hardest of the week, and then lift weights. In the evening, Bailey is off to the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, which is made up of athletes from all the varsity sports. They discuss ideas for community service and ways to make the lives of student-athletes better. Homework follows, and then lights out at 11:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20



With a relatively normal Thursday-Saturday game schedule, and with both games at home, this day is more routine. Bailey has one class on Monday and Wednesday; and three on Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. She grabs lunch off campus and heads to practice.

The practice runs long, ending at 6:15 p.m., which gives her and Brooke precious little time to shower, change, and make the playoff game of their younger sister, Shay, a sophomore forward for the Westlake Chaparrals. The game is at Hays High School and the Chaparrals get eliminated. Shay is drawing interest from Texas State and the twins are trying not to pressure her into following their footsteps. They console their sister, hug their parents, and it's back to their apartment for homework before nodding off just before midnight.

If Shay does go with Texas State, it would make her the fourth Holle sister to do so — Lauren (B.S. '13) was first. The Holle sisters also have uncles who played Bobcat baseball, Alan Lowden (B.S. '02) and Matthew Schnabel (B.A. '99); and a Bobcat aunt, Susan Schnabel (B.E.S.S. '99).



### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21



After the breakfast team meeting, Bailey heads back home for a quick nap before her 11 a.m. class. One of the obstacles student-athletes face is the class time missed because of travel. Each player is responsible for meeting with the instructor at the start of the semester to discuss what days will be missed and to arrange makeup assignments and tests.

Today, Bailey has a makeup political science test from the previous week, which she shoehorns between the end of her class and the 1:30 p.m. practice. That means no lunch. It's a good thing the locker room is stocked with fresh fruit, the makings for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and protein drinks. Following practice and the individual sessions with coaches where they work on skills development, she heads straight to get dinner before another meeting with her academic advisor about schedules. Bailey is majoring in management in the McCoy College of Business Administration.

At home, she relaxes and does homework. With a game tomorrow, the team has a 10 p.m. curfew check. Soon after, Bailey is sleeping.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22



It's game day. Both sisters get their usual pregame texts from Mom and Dad. Michelle types, "Good luck. Kick butt. I love you." Eric Holle tells them to "Fly around. Have fun." Sometimes, he says, "Bailey takes that fly around part too literally."

With the young students' enthusiastic support, the Bobcats beat Georgia State 62-40. The experience is an eye-opener for Bailey, and it's not just the decibels that shock her senses. She's not used to watching a game in which she's supposed to be playing. She tries to help coach, point out things the players may not see themselves, but there's also the awkward feeling of not being part of it.

Bailey suspects her twin isn't impressed with her limp. Last season, Brooke gutted out the conference tournament with torn ankle ligaments. "She hasn't really said anything, but I think she's like, 'Eh, mine was worse. You're fine,'" Bailey says.

The noon tipoff is good and bad. Bailey must miss three classes — just as if it were a road game — so there's makeup work, but she'll have a rare afternoon to chill, do homework, and hang out with her friends.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23



Being an athlete has its perks, and one of them is a break when it comes to class scheduling. Bailey has no classes on Friday. Today's practice is an 11 a.m. "walk-through," which is less about physical preparation and more about going over plays that should be effective, opponents' tendencies, and awareness of where to be on the court.

When the practice is finished, it's time for lunch and then more homework. Tonight, the Texas State baseball team opens a three-game series against McNeese State. Jonathan Ortega, the Bobcats' starting second baseman, is Bailey's boyfriend. It's a chance to hang out with friends, relax, and watch other people play under pressure.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24



It's game day again, and Bailey isn't in uniform. Her ankle isn't ready, and with a 20-point win over foe Georgia Southern a month ago, there's no need to rush. This time the Bobcats struggle to pull away, and win 60-51.

Tomorrow starts a new week, and Bailey and her teammates have some time to recharge Sunday before tackling the most important week of the season. The only game is Saturday against UT- Arlington, with the second seed in the conference tournament at stake.

### EPILOGUE



With Bailey cleared to play, the Bobcats win 75-58 and cruise to the conference tournament finals. There they find heartbreak. Little Rock takes a 21-point lead early in the second half, but the Bobcats come back to take a 53-52 lead with under three minutes left. A game-winning shot rolls off the rim in the final seconds and Little Rock escapes.

The Sun Belt gets only one automatic bid in the NCAA Tournament, and Texas State hasn't built the résumé to earn an at-large bid. A trip to the Women's National Invitational Tournament ends with a first-round loss to Rice.

The season over, the team bids farewell to the senior class. There are big holes to fill and little time to rest. Offseason conditioning and limited basketball skills work fill the rest of the spring semester, and early morning strength and conditioning workouts, classes, and pick-up games fill the summer, before the program starts again in September.

For Bailey, it's a new challenge. Antoine tells her she expects her to help take up the leadership void left by the departing seniors, and she'll also try to replace point guard Taeler Deer, the Sun Belt Player of the Year, on the court.

"Bailey's really intuitive," Antoine says. "She really is able to look at a situation and have a deeper understanding. She doesn't need you to go behind her and verify, or as kids say, cosign. She does it once and gets it right."

The work for 2018-2019 starts now — although really, it never ends. ✪





Following practice (top), players often work with individual coaches. Bailey (left) takes time to work on ankle exercises for the injury she suffered in the 2017–2018 season. Bailey (third from right) cheers on her teammates from the bench during a home game.



# Texas State now a major player in health research

Solving problems starts with working together to address needs facing the nation

By Julie Cooper



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
TRANSLATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH



**Dr. Melinda Villagran**  
director of THRI  
professor of  
communication studies

“  
At the end of the day, we are all funded researchers. Some of us are funded by the state of Texas. We all have a commitment to find resources to do the work that we need.”

## Collaborators

faculty  
students  
healthcare providers  
corporate partners  
community members  
outpatients  
research partners  
hospital administrators  
nonprofit associations  
donor organizations

## Academic Programs

nursing  
nutrition  
psychology  
physical therapy  
communication studies  
mass communication  
sociology  
biology  
chemistry/biochemistry  
education  
engineering  
geography  
health information  
health administration  
MSEC  
communication disorders  
social work  
clinical laboratory science

Nearly **225** Texas State faculty actively engaged in health research





Texas State students meet with a participant about the upcoming Special Olympics in Austin. The emphasis of THRI is meeting the needs of the community.

If this were a game of “Jeopardy,” the answer, in the form of a question, would be: What is the Translational Health Research Initiative?

The clue: This is how Texas State University promotes health research collaboration among faculty, students, corporate partners, and healthcare providers in the community.

The Translational Health Research Initiative (THRI) includes academic programs across the university such as nutrition, psychology, physical therapy, communication studies, mass communication, sociology, biology, chemistry/biochemistry, education, geography, health information, communication disorders, social work, and clinical laboratory science — all working together to answer the needs of the community and promote health in Texas.

For Dr. Walter Horton, associate vice president for research and federal relations, the idea is connecting the basic science with a problem. “In this case, it was to promote intentional research that fits into this idea of research with relevance — or applied research. The focus is on health: translating basic knowledge into an impact on health.

“The message is: Texas State is as much a player in health research as any university in Texas. We just have a different way of doing it,” he says. Horton knows health research, having previously led a team at Northeast Ohio Medical University. He also conducted translational research for the National Institute on Aging while at the National Institutes of Health.



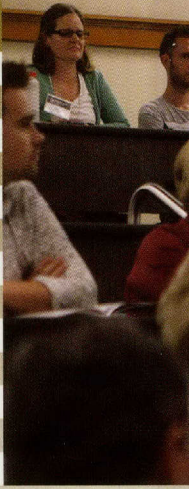
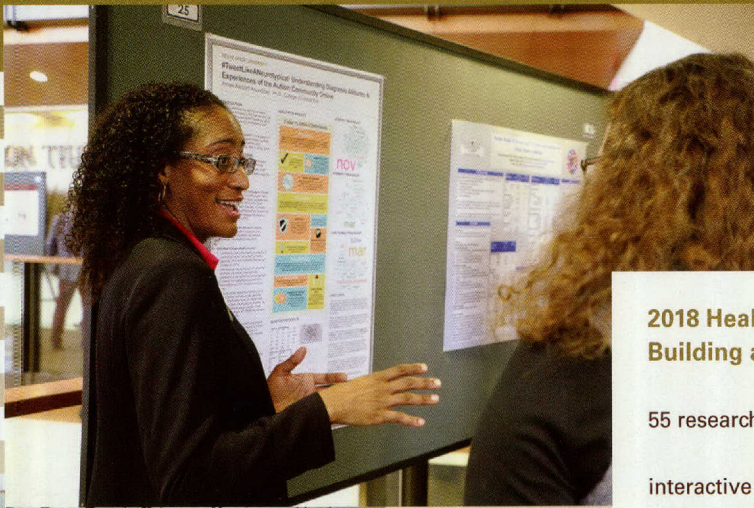
“  
The message is: Texas State is as much a player in health research as any university in Texas.”

**Dr. Walter Horton**  
associate vice president for  
research and federal relations

It was President Denise M. Trauth and Dr. Gene Bourgeois, provost and vice president for academic affairs, who initially identified the health research pattern among the faculty as they were reviewing tenure and promotion packages over several years. “They started noting the remarkable number of faculty whose research really had an outcome on health,” Horton says. “I think at one point they counted over 140 faculty who had demonstrated research focused on health and that number has continued to grow.”

“We have now identified nearly 225 Texas State faculty who are actively engaged in health research,” says Bourgeois. “Their innovative efforts as part of the THRI will truly revolutionize healthcare and its delivery for Texans. Their work will ensure healthier lives for Texans.”





## 2018 Health Scholar Showcase: Building a Healthy Community

55 research projects

interactive panel discussion  
with representatives from  
Research!America, the St. David's  
Foundation, and Special Olympics



### Three building blocks of THRI:

- 1 Support members of the Texas State community in the pursuit of solutions to solve social, behavioral, clinical, and population health challenges;**
- 2 Bring faculty, researchers, practitioners, and students from diverse disciplines together to share ideas, form partnerships, and turn health research into action; and**
- 3 Publicly disseminate research information, funding opportunities, and success stories.**

The university's idea is to invest in a campus-wide research infrastructure to support innovation and partnerships that directly connect discoveries in the lab to real-world health issues in clinics and communities. Leading the initiative is Dr. Melinda Villagran, director of THRI. She is also a professor of communication studies in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Villagran was invited by the provost to write a proposal for how Texas State could support the growing number of multidisciplinary health researchers across campus. When Horton joined Texas State in 2016, THRI became fully operational and now spans all 10 of the university's colleges.

Villagran previously worked on Capitol Hill and has earned several million dollars in external funding for her health communication research. A former chair of Communication Studies, she is currently the principal investigator on Networx, a program funded by St. David's Foundation to improve maternal health in Hays County by connecting underserved women with local health services.

In some ways, Villagran is like a matchmaker. She works to connect faculty researchers across campus to increase interdisciplinary and funded health research activities. "As a matchmaker, I don't cause anyone to get married – I just introduce them. The thing that is so cool about this is that the provost and the president recognized that it would be worthwhile for us to invest in our university, to make sure that people have support that they need, but also that they have pipelines that are established to get the results of their research to the people that can benefit from it," Villagran says. What really matters, she adds, is taking the ideas from campus directly to clinics and communities to improve health. "To me that's the story. There are not many places that see that vision."





### 2018 Health and GIS Conference

University researchers, health industry professionals, nonprofit service providers, and government health policymakers at the conference addressed complicated issues such as mapping disease spread and exposure, big data and health, and health access and disparity.

“  
**Their [the faculty’s] innovative efforts as part of the THRI will truly revolutionize healthcare and its delivery for Texans.”**

**Dr. Gene Bourgeois**  
provost and vice president  
for academic affairs

Horton explains Villagran’s role this way: “If the grant is between engineering and computer science, well then that’s where the grant goes. But what she does is to align that funding with funding that comes in through maybe communication studies or health professions,” he says. “It is her job to promote and communicate all of that activity under the Translational Health Research Initiative.”

“At the end of the day, we are all funded researchers. Some of us are funded by the state of Texas. We all have a commitment to find resources to do the work that we need. There’s not going to be enough to go around if we all go to the same source,” Villagran says. “We need to broaden the number of sources and then make sure that the people we work with see value in what we do. But also, make sure our work is translated to improve health and healthcare.”

In spring 2017, faculty presented health research at the first Health Scholar Showcase. The theme was “Accelerating the Translation of Research to Improve Health in Our Community and the World.” Subjects included health disparities, vulnerable populations, mental wellness, interventions, autism, dementia/aging, patient/provider communications, and mobile technologies. This year’s event, with the theme “Building a Healthy Community,” showcased 55 research projects and included an interactive panel discussion with representatives from Research!America, the St. David’s Foundation, and Special Olympics.

“It was clear from the Health Scholar Showcases that Texas State researchers could have a major impact on the health of Texans, especially community health,” Horton says.

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs offers internal funding opportunities for researchers. The multidisciplinary internal research grant program (MIRG) is an internally funded grant competition that supports multidisciplinary research projects that are federal-ready or near federal-ready with the goal of enabling a greater success rate for research teams that seek federal awards.

“For the last two years we’ve done health MIRG. We required that all the grants submitted for that funding be focused on a health outcome. That’s brought together the idea that it is multidisciplinary, with collaborative teams and from different colleges,” Horton says.

The university has also brought researchers together with targeted grant opportunities. “When Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas issued a call for grants, we used the health scholar identity to bring a team together to submit,” says Horton. Other sources of funding, he says, include the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Recently, the Texas State University Health and GIS Conference was held at the Texas State Round Rock Campus with about 130 researchers from a dozen universities from across the U.S. and Canada. Medical providers and representatives from various government agencies attended the conference organized by the Department of Geography and the Institute for Government Innovation. The idea that the geography of where you live matters to your health was the impetus for the conference, which was developed by Dr. Alberto Giordano, professor and former chair of the Department of Geography, and Dr. Lawrence Estaville, professor and director of the Texas Atlas Project. Conference participants listened to panels of experts who explained how healthcare and geographic information systems (GIS) go hand in hand.

“Some may think that GIS just means maps and data but it’s really about location analysis,” says Dr. Rebecca Davio, director of the Institute for Government Innovation. “Location is pivotally important in determining your health. If you’re a child who lives in a neighborhood that doesn’t have sidewalks, doesn’t have parks, and it doesn’t have access to a grocery store where you can buy fresh fruit and vegetables, chances are your health is going to suffer, and it may suffer your entire life if you stay in that environment.” 📍





## Winter Olympics an experience of a lifetime for Bobcats

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Michael Burns, Ph.D., is a senior lecturer with the Department of Communication Studies and the Honors College. He has worked with the "Today Show" on five Olympic Games. This year, he was accompanied by two Texas State students who got on-the-job training at the world's biggest sporting event.*

*By Michael Burns*

The 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games was my fifth with NBC's "Today Show" (Torino 2006, Beijing 2008, London 2012, and Rio 2016). This time was very special because it was the first time I was able to take my students with me to work.

The "Today Show" agreed to save two spots for Texas State students, and after almost a year of recruiting and interviewing, we chose marketing major and Terry Scholar John Lee and Eun Jeong Lee, a graduate student in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

While at the Olympics we worked with the production management team to assist with all broadcast needs. Watching my students learn and experience the world's largest sporting event while working for a No. 1 television program is the highlight of my educational career.

Our six weeks in South Korea were unforgettable, but the best part is knowing how much these students learned from this experience. Having one foot still in the industry while teaching allows me to better prepare my students for communication careers.

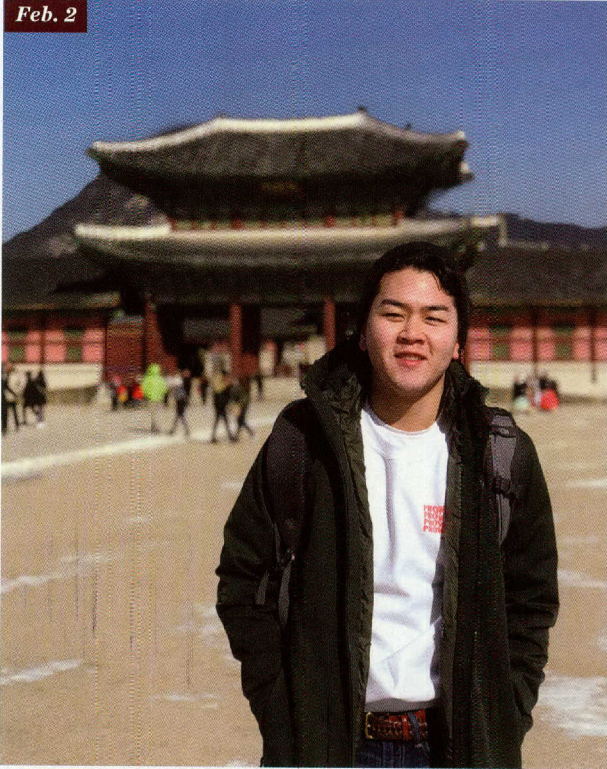


*Photos and captions by John Lee*

**Jan. 31-Arrival**  
*One of the first things I did when I arrived in Korea was explore the Olympic venues where the athletes compete. One of my responsibilities as a runner was to transport athletes to the "Today Show" set, so I needed to know the ins and outs of these venues. (Pictured at left is the venue for curling, ice skating, and short track speedskating. Above, Michael Burns, Savannah Guthrie, Eun Lee, Hoda Kotb, and John Lee.)*



Feb. 2



**Feb. 2- Day Trip to Seoul**  
I had exactly one day off so I visited Seoul with some other runners. I hadn't been to Korea since I was a little boy, so it was a special experience. Seeing Namsan Tower and visiting Gyeongbokgung Palace reminded me of my family's Korean roots and the deep cultural history of South Korea. It also reminded me of how unifying the Olympic games are and how a sporting event can bring people together. (Pictured is Gyeongbokgung Palace.)

**Feb. 7- First Pin Trading Experience**

I traded my first pins on this day and discovered a whole side of Olympic culture I knew nothing about. Pins are like a form of currency. At the Olympic park, it wasn't uncommon to see pin traders walking around with pins from past games.

Feb. 7



Feb. 9



**Feb. 9- Dr. Burns' Birthday**  
The runners got together and gave Dr. Burns a birthday gift to help him celebrate. I was lucky to have two Bobcats with me during my Olympic experience. Dr. Burns taught me what it means to be a leader through his actions and the way he led the team of runners.

**Feb. 10- Shopping**

Another one of a runner's responsibilities is to go shopping to buy things that are going to be a part of live segments. In this particular case, we were shopping for abalone and other types of seafood. One of the big things I learned during this seemingly insignificant shopping trip was how specific and precise you have to be when working in television. We were looking for specific species of seafood and had to ensure that what we bought was accurate.

Feb. 10





# Winter Olympics *continued from page 19*



## A once-in-a-lifetime experience

Working for the “Today Show” during the Winter Olympics truly was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I learned so much about television, production, and the sheer amount of grit, effort, and strength it takes to make a live show happen. Most importantly, I learned a lot about myself and the things I am capable of doing.

I was born in the United States, but my family emigrated from South Korea. I am an American citizen but was brought up in a Korean household. I had been to South Korea several times as a child growing up, but this recent trip was my first to South Korea in more than five years.

It’s still surreal for me to say that I wasn’t just at the Olympics but helped broadcast it to millions of Americans. I took away with me a new perspective on what it means to truly enjoy your work and be a part of a home away from home.

– John Lee

*Marketing major | McCoy College of Business Administration*





Feb. 26



**Feb. 13- Modeling Traditional Korean Clothing**

*I had the opportunity to be on the "Today Show" modeling traditional Korean clothing called a hanbok. It was definitely an interesting experience being in front of the camera, after being behind it the whole time. I was only on air for a brief moment but just saying I was on TV is something many people can't say. (Pictured is fellow runner Chi-Hee getting her makeup done and the two of us posing with NBC correspondent Keir Simmons.)*

**Feb. 21- Meeting Athletes**

*I was able to be a part of the interview with figure skater Adam Rippon and freestyle skier Gus Kenworthy. Meeting them and other world-class athletes is not what you expect. I realized that they're pretty normal human beings. (Pictured are Adam Rippon and Gus Kenworthy, and the Shibutani siblings.)*



**Feb. 26- Final Show**

*All good things must come to an end. Our last show was an emotional roller coaster. Compared to our first show, by the last show everyone knows what they're doing, what their role is, and what needs to be done. Here I am with Al Roker. Also, everyone has become a family, and it's truly something I hadn't experienced up until that point.*

**Feb. 28- Ending**

*After the show and the games have ended, the runners' last duty is to help tear down everything and pack it up for the next Olympic Games. As quickly as everything went up and started, it's taken down and ended. (Pictured are some of the "Today Show" runners.)*

Feb. 28





# TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY: THE HEART OF THE TEXAS INNOVATION CORRIDOR



Texas State University

Round Rock

The University of Texas at Austin

Austin

San Marcos

Texas State University

UT Health San Antonio

The University of Texas at San Antonio

San Antonio





Anchored to the north by Austin's Silicon Hills and to the south by San Antonio's biotech industry, the burgeoning Texas Innovation Corridor has boasted unprecedented population growth, job creation, new business startups, and economic expansion for the better part of a decade.

**C**omprised of the Austin and San Antonio Statistical Metropolitan Areas and roughly paralleling Interstate 35, the Texas Innovation Corridor encompasses 13 vibrant Central Texas counties with Texas State University occupying an enviable position at its very center. For years, locals have known the Texas Innovation Corridor was poised to become the next big thing. Now, the rest of the nation has taken notice.

In July, the U.S. Army selected Austin as the site for its prestigious new Futures Command center. The Futures Command will consolidate the Army's innovation efforts to project what future roles and threats the army may face, and modernization efforts through the development of new technologies. In the spring of 2018, *Industry Week* profiled San Marcos, and the Texas Innovation Corridor in successive articles, highlighting the area's advanced, job-generating companies such as CFAN, Mensor, and RSI, along with the role Texas State plays in preparing well-rounded, tech-savvy graduates ready to fill critical roles in the industry. *Forbes* magazine dubbed San Marcos "America's Next Great Metropolis" and *Thrillist* referenced the locale as one of "America's Best Small Cities to Move to Before They Get Too Popular."

Such glowing accolades don't occur in a vacuum. Hays County, home to Texas State and San Marcos, ranked as the fastest-growing county in the United States for 2017 with a population of more than 150,000. To the south and west, neighboring Comal and Kendall counties rank as the second- and fifth-fastest-growing nationally with populations of more than 10,000, posting growth of 5.1 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively.

This activity has paralleled Texas State's recent growth in research and development activities. The university attained Emerging Research University status in 2012, and that same year opened the Science, Technology, and Advanced Research (STAR) Park, a catalyst for research and commercialization activity three miles from campus with easy access to



Interstate 35. Since 2014, companies located in STAR Park have created more than 80 jobs and raised more than \$32 million through equity and strategic alliance investments.

Two of those STAR Park success stories are Micropower Global — developing solid-state semiconductors that convert heat directly into electricity — and Paratus Diagnostics — developing in vitro diagnostics devices for use in medical settings or as bioterrorism defense.

That degree of success has led to a demand for more capacity at STAR Park.

While still in the early stages, future plans anticipate a new multi-tenant building going up on the site, which will enable a significant expansion of Texas State's capacity for commercialization and business incubation initiatives.

"If you're at the heart of the Texas Innovation Corridor, this is what you're trying to grow," says Dr. Gene Bourgeois, provost and vice president of academic affairs. "The companies we have at STAR Park have, to date, been primarily focused on nanomaterials.

Now that we have a computer science Ph.D. program, it's fair game to consider some computer technology seed companies moving into STAR Park."

## In-house innovation lab

Innovation is not just confined to STAR Park. The Materials Application Research Center (MARC) was established in late 2017 and operates under the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. It serves as an in-house innovation lab for the university with robust entrepreneurship components and has attracted more than \$5 million per year in funding from the Texas Legislature. The MARC boasts an Advanced Prototyping Center, which provides prototype development services and applied research activities.

Texas State continues to invest heavily in science, engineering, and technology as it proceeds on its path to becoming a national research university. Currently ranked 30th in the United States in enrollment, the university has committed to growing its research footprint in all areas — in the spring of 2018 the *Chronicle of Higher Education* listed Texas State among the top 50 public institutions with the highest research and development spending on the humanities — but innovative research into physical science fields continues to be among the university's top priorities.

Since 2007, when the university established the Ingram School of Engineering, named for generous benefactors Bruce and Gloria Ingram, engineering has been on an aggressive growth path. Texas State's engineering programs have grown from an initial offering of three degrees in 2007 to five by fall 2019, dependent upon the new civil engineering program receiving final approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

To accommodate the expansion in these programs and in other science programs such as computer science, math, and





biology, the university launched the construction of Bruce and Gloria Ingram Hall, the largest, most ambitious academic building project in Texas State history. It is also one of the most expensive to date. With more than 166,000 gross square feet of space over five floors, Ingram Hall will offer students and faculty the most advanced classroom and laboratory space available. The Collaborative Learning Center is open to all students in the College of Science and Engineering, offering free walk-in tutoring in basic and advanced biochemistry, biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, engineering technology, mathematics, and physics courses. Once the engineering programs have moved to Ingram Hall, the current labs and offices in the Roy F. Mitte Technology and Physics Building will be renovated for the planned civil engineering program.

Ingram Hall dominates a full square block at the corner of Comanche and Woods streets and is a visual demonstration of the university's commitment to science, engineering, and technology. Ingram Hall brings an array of new facilities to Texas State, including new active learning classrooms and an extension of the System Modeling and Renewable Technology (SMART) Lab where students are directly involved with renewable energy research. The Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization (MSEC) program, an interdisciplinary, graduate-level program that works closely with the McCoy College of Business Administration to help students hone the skills to develop their work from a commercial perspective, will also benefit from new space in the building.

## Accessible Maker Space

Perhaps the most striking presence in Ingram Hall will be the campus-accessible Maker Space. Highly visible with broad windows allowing passers-by to observe activity within, the Maker Space includes large and small 3D printers, laser cutters and engravers, metal and plastic mills, a large water jet table, and equipment to enable the recycling of 3D printer waste. There are also fully equipped areas for welding, sheet metal work, printed circuit boards, and woodworking.

New degrees at the undergraduate and graduate level are designed to capitalize on these resources coming online with the opening of Ingram Hall and to provide the needed intellectual framework to help guide Texas State's evolution in the 21st century. The computer science Ph.D. program — established in fall 2017 — is the first in Texas to combine the application of computer science practice and theory with entrepreneurial and commercialization skills. The innovative program is bolstered by faculty research areas that develop skills and knowledge needed in technology industries.

Texas State's engineering technology programs have also enjoyed robust growth in recent years. These programs have been in existence since 1999 and offer bachelor's degrees in applied technology and research expertise needed to support the demands of today's workforce. Examples of these programs include the Concrete Industry Management program, one of only four such degrees in the nation, which provides graduates with a certification highly valued by industry leaders.

From a historical perspective, Texas State remains a relative newcomer to the world of cutting-edge research and development. The amount of progress the university has made in just the past few years, however, is remarkable. This creative, cross-disciplinary approach to challenges of research and commercialization efforts has proven viable and productive, ensuring Texas State an ever-expanding role in the Texas Innovation Corridor for decades to come. ✪





# INSIDE INGRAM HALL

Science and engineering faculty behind Maker Spaces, cutting-edge design, and active learning classrooms

By Dan R. Goddard

As technology transforms industries, educational research is changing the way students are taught. Bruce and Gloria Ingram Hall, a new \$120 million, five-story building, represents a significant investment in the future of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and research. This engineering and science building boasts state-of-the-art equipment combined with cutting-edge design for “active learning” classrooms.

Instead of quietly lining up in desks facing a teacher and a blackboard, students are encouraged to interact, discuss problems, and engage in hands-on experiments. Ingram Hall, now the largest academic building at Texas State, features new spaces for the programs in biology, computer science, mathematics, and engineering as well as the Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization (MSEC) doctoral program. There are active learning classrooms for physics and biology, a campus-accessible Maker Space, and an extension of the System Modeling and Renewable Technology (SMART) Lab involving students directly in renewable energy research.

Dr. Christine Hailey, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, says each of the active learning rooms incorporates the latest educational research. For example, based on the Student-Centered Active Learning Environment with Upside-down



Texas Twister sculpture by Alice Aycock stands in front of Ingram Hall.



Pedagogies (SCALE-UF) world-recognized instructional model from North Carolina State University, the physics classroom is furnished with eight, 7-foot diameter tables each seating nine students who can be easily divided into teams of three.

## Faculty designed

“Several faculty helped design the active learning classrooms on the third and fourth floors of Ingram Hall. Each of these rooms was designed to support active learning, where students work together to come to understand a physics, biology or engineering concept through hands-on experiences,” Hailey says. “In essence, if students are asked to figure out a physics principle or biology principle, they will understand it deeply and transfer their understanding to other problems.”

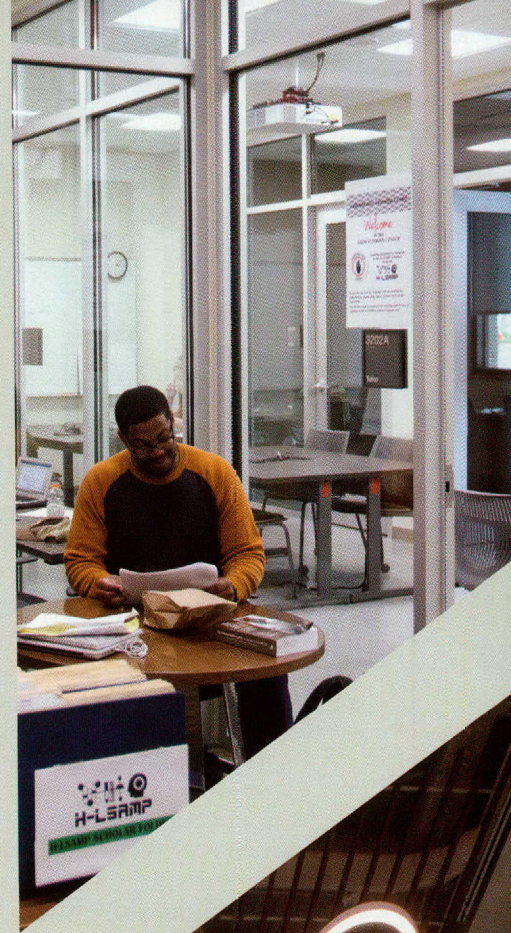
Dr. Hunter Close, associate professor and PhysTEC site leader in physics, says a traditional classroom expects students to be passive receivers of information. “In this environment, it’s hard for students to turn to each other to talk, hard to conduct experiments, and hard to find a common, large horizontal surface to write down ideas for others to see,” Close says. “The real work of physics is to engage with experiments and models, and to argue and ideate with peers.”

The big, round tables are intended to promote interactions among students and their intellectual work, whether on paper, on a computer or around a physical apparatus. Students can look in many directions to find screens displaying information. Portable whiteboards can be placed horizontally on the students’ workspaces. Large whiteboards all around the room are mounted vertically on rollers.

“These features make it much more natural for students to share their work with each other and in a way that makes their work visible to instructors from a greater distance,” Close says. “The most important technology in the room is not new, and few people might recognize it as ‘technology.’ Furniture and architecture are very important for shaping human activity, and mostly we aren’t aware of how our behavior is influenced by these things. Having furniture and a room layout that says, ‘talk to your neighbor and share your ideas’ has a strong effect on us.”

## Active learning

Dr. Kristy Daniel, associate professor of biology, says the prevalence of passive, teacher-focused learning has become such a national issue that a “call to action” is encouraging transformation of undergraduate education toward student-centered learning. One reason teachers give for not utilizing active learning is inadequate learning spaces. “In the new Ingram Hall, we designed classroom spaces in a manner that highlights an active-learning environment,” Daniel says. The biology department oversaw the design of two new classrooms, one with 25 seats and one with 100 seats. The small classroom has been designed as a smart, active learning environment with six, four-person tables, each outfitted with a monitor display, power access, wired and wireless laptop input, a document camera, and a built-in microphone. The large classroom, a mix between the traditional classroom model and a SCALE-UP active





learning environment, is outfitted with six-person D-shaped tables so students can easily work in a group or face a presenter.

“The new classrooms offer a transformative environment where instructors are positioned to act as facilitators of student-centered learning,” Daniel says. “Rather than facing a defined front of the classroom, students sit in groups around tables while the instructor can move around the classroom and assist students as they work through course content together.”

The configuration of furniture and technology in the new biology classrooms highlights students as the center of the learning environment and promotes collaborative interactions. “Shifting time from lecture dissemination to students involved in collaborative group activities leads to significantly higher learning gains,” Daniel says. “Students will be able to project and share their contributions to their peers via the digital displays both at their group table and to the whole class as appropriate. Student work can be saved and shared among group members so that learning and progress can continue beyond the classroom.”

Dr. Stan McClellan, professor of electrical engineering, says active learning is learning by doing. “The Maker Space is implicitly learning by doing,” McClellan says. The Maker Space is designed to enable complex, multidisciplinary projects by providing students with easy access to state-of-the-art equipment and tools. From old-school woodworking and welding to the latest in 3D digital printers and laser cutters, Ingram Hall’s 6,000-square-foot Maker Space brings together tools and equipment from the electrical engineering, industrial engineering, manufacturing engineering, and civil engineering programs once scattered around various campus workshops into a central, accessible location while adding new technology, safety features, and research facilities.

## Ideas to finished product

Dr. Austin Talley, senior lecturer in manufacturing engineering, says the Maker Space is designed so students can fabricate almost anything they can imagine. “If we want to build a community of makers and doers, then we need to devote space to where they can work and invent,” Talley says. “Sometimes, the biggest roadblock to taking an idea to fruition is figuring out how to fabricate it. In the Maker Space, students will be able to take an idea from pencil and paper to a finished product. Our goal is to demystify the process and make it more accessible to all sorts of students. My goal is to have as many students using the Maker Space as possible and not just engineering students, because you never know who might come up with a good idea.”

Dr. Semih Aslan, associate professor in electrical engineering, says the SMART Lab devoted to renewable energy research doesn’t look at all like a traditional classroom. With an indoor work area connected to an outdoor patio, the SMART Lab will make it easier for students to do experiments outside — collecting data using solar panels, wind turbines, and sensors — and then do analysis indoors on computers. “Many times, renewable energy research includes indoor and outdoor equipment and components,” Aslan says. “The indoor and outdoor spaces of this lab make it possible to conduct many types of research projects. In addition, it is possible for different research groups to work together. Active learning requires students to have equipment, tools, knowledge, and space to convert theory into reality, and the SMART Lab makes this possible.” 🌟





# WHERE RESEARCH MEETS COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

## MSEC program provides scientists, engineers with business skills

By Jayme Blaschke

Few initiatives at Texas State showcase the university's commitment to innovation like the Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization (MSEC) program.

The exclusive program (applicants must hold at least a master's degree for consideration) takes an interdisciplinary approach to equipping students with entrepreneurial expertise to develop their work to its fullest potential.

"We are providing materials scientists and engineers with the technical skills they need to succeed with their research as well as the business skills needed to commercialize their technology," says Dr. Jennifer Irvin, director of the MSEC program. "For example, we work closely with the McCoy College of Business Administration. We have students getting M.B.A.s at the same time they're earning Ph.D.s. That's huge."

MSEC's success has everything to do with developing an entrepreneurial savvy in students that is relevant across disciplines. A key component of this is the MSEC Boot Camp Competition, where students hone their professional presentations with an eye toward pitching to corporate investors. The exercise isn't merely academic — real money is at stake.


In May, Kosmik Energy, which includes engineering student Ricardo Ramirez and MSEC students Mahmuda Monne and Bhagyashree Mishra, was awarded \$8,000 through the Boot Camp Competition to further develop its optical fiber lighting system, which incorporates light tubes as well as tracking sensors for sophisticated indoor applications. Another team, Zipcrack, which includes MSEC students Mithil Mazumder, Niloofar Heshmati, and Yuanfang Ying, received \$4,000 for its durable asphalt sealant product for use in cold climates. Additionally, Zipcrack's sealant has attracted the attention of the Texas Department of Transportation. "Road repair may not be exciting," Irvin says, "but it is part of a multi-billion-dollar industry."

Outside of the formal curriculum, MSEC sponsors weekly seminars on innovation during the fall and spring that are open to the entire Texas State community. For the past several years, MSEC has partnered with the Center for Diversity and Gender Studies, the McCoy College of Business Administration, and the Service-Learning Excellence Program to observe the international Women's Entrepreneurship Week with special keynote speakers, business development seminars, and an array of discussions and resources on startup advice.

That's an impressive track record, especially considering the fact that MSEC was only established in 2012. "It has grown into a robust program. I'm very happy with how it has evolved," Irvin says. "We've graduated 26 students in the five years since inception of the program and have 35 students now."

Recent MSEC graduates and the companies they are working for include: Amber Douglas ('14), Marvin-Integrity Windows and Doors; Travis Cantu ('15), Futurrex Inc.; Jeffrey Simpson ('16), Lam Research Corporation; Susmita Ghose ('17), Intel; and Raju Ahmed ('18), Micron Technology, Inc.

"We are growing and building our reputation. We've become known internationally," Irvin says. "I know our students are sometimes annoyed when they go into interviews. They want to talk about the great research they've been doing, but the employers always say, 'Tell us about this commercialization program. ...'" 🌟



At MSEC Boot Camp, students hone their professional presentations with an eye to pitching to corporate investors.





# MEETING THE DEMAND IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

H-LSAMP program aims to graduate minority students with STEM degrees

*By Anastasia Cisneros-Lunsford*

“It has been a real eye-opener to be able to see people like me in positions in the technology industry.”

—  
Laura Godinez  
senior computer science major





## The Houston-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholars Program (H-LSAMP) at Texas State University collects talent and nurtures drive at full throttle to fuel in-demand and skilled job candidates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Eunice Solis says H-LSAMP provided her with many opportunities to network with different companies and explore various career paths. “The program prepared me professionally in ways that I could never have learned in the classroom,” she says.

For three years, she shared the same passion for excellence with other H-LSAMP students who were not satisfied with being an average candidate in the job market. “I am proud to have been in a program that fostered this drive and collected this talent all in one place so that we could grow together,” says Solis, who graduated in 2017 with a bachelor of science in technology degree with a specialization in mechanical systems. The Corsicana native now lives in New Mexico where she is a research scientist with the foundry and solidification science team at Sigma Labs, a manufacturing science division at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

H-LSAMP, supported by the National Science Foundation, has become a model alliance. The program was established in 1999 by Dr. Stan Israel, then dean of the College of Science, in partnership with other institutions in the Houston area to increase the quality and quantity of underrepresented students graduating with degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

### Strong role models

Susan Romanella, H-LSAMP program director at Texas State, says each alliance across the country runs their program differently, based on the needs of each university, but share many common elements. “This program enriches the academic life of our students,” Romanella says. “We get students involved in undergraduate research, internships, and co-ops. They tutor in the Collaborative Learning Center. The students are mentored throughout the years in the program and they receive significant financial stipends. We send them to professional and scientific conferences to

present their research and for their own professional and personal development.”

Romanella says there also is another purpose for student involvement in the program. “They are a community of strong role models for minorities and underrepresented students in STEM, and this is so important in supporting and encouraging other students.”

H-LSAMP scholars are highly motivated individuals, say Dr. David Drew and Dr. Martin Bonsangue, the two professors who evaluate the Texas State program for the National Science Foundation.

“Texas State has been ahead of other colleges and universities by institutionalizing the program by providing physical space and university funds to make it an ongoing resource for future students,” says Drew, professor of education at Claremont Graduate University. “There are talented students everywhere but opportunity is not distributed everywhere. This program can have a catalytic effect on a student. There are many students who are underrepresented in STEM — women, students of color, students from poverty. H-LSAMP allows them to flourish and provides the resources and strategies for them to flourish.”

### Graduating with honors

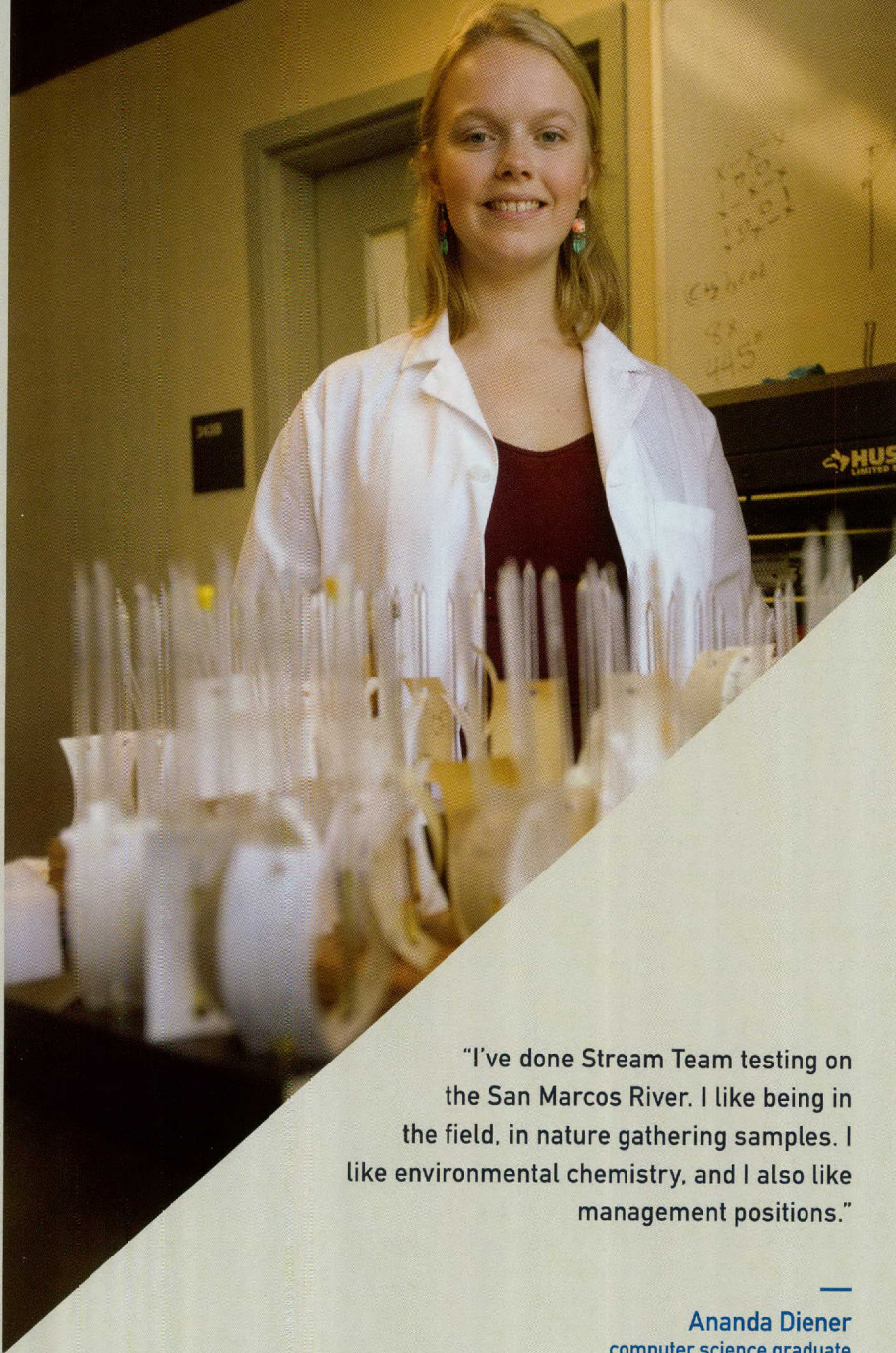
Investing in the program also means investing in the outcomes, says Bonsangue, professor of mathematics at California State University, Fullerton. “H-LSAMP is about Texas State students like Andrew Alvarez and Laura Godinez,” he says. “It’s about the individuals. These students are not just first-generation students, they are graduating with honors; they’re graduating summa and magna. It’s phenomenal the sorts of activities they’ve been involved with. Research experience as undergraduates and internships — these are the norm.”

Alvarez, a senior industrial engineering major, and Godinez, a senior computer science major, had the opportunity to travel to the East Coast for conferences. Romanella



**Andrew Alvarez**  
senior industrial engineering major





**"I've done Stream Team testing on the San Marcos River. I like being in the field, in nature gathering samples. I like environmental chemistry, and I also like management positions."**

**Ananda Diener**  
computer science graduate

says when Alvarez returned from the Dow-MIT Access Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a conference about the benefits of a graduate education in chemistry, chemical engineering, and materials science, he came back "walking 10 feet off the ground."

Alvarez admits that he felt intimidated when he first joined H-LSAMP. "Students were doing far more than I was," he says. "My immediate interest in graduate school was not sparked until I attended MIT. I was really amazed at what could be more than just a bachelor's degree, so my goal now is to pursue a Ph.D."

For Laura Godinez, H-LSAMP is a blessing. She attended SheHacks Boston, the Grace Hopper Conference for Women in Computing. Godinez was also part of a fellowship program called Code2040, a career accelerator program that works with African-American and Latinx computer science students. "It has been a real eye-opener to be able to see people like me in positions in the technology industry," says Godinez, who was a software developer intern this past summer at PagerDuty, a San Francisco-based company. "H-LSAMP has helped me develop a better sense of what I want to do once I graduate college."

For senior Carlos Corona, a chemistry

major, H-LSAMP also has provided a path to the future. "I have a clear vision of what I want and that helps me map out how to get it and ways to develop myself and develop others," he says.

Corona says seeking success means extending his experience beyond H-LSAMP, taking leadership roles at Texas State including student executive of operations in the Partnership for Research and Education in Materials program; STEM Student Advisory Board member; Chemistry/Biochemistry Advisory Council member; and past vice president for the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

Corona seeks guidance from his mentor, Dr. Michael Burns, senior lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies. He believes communication is the bridge between science and technology. "You can have a great idea or a great product but if you can't communicate it effectively to investors or the public, it becomes an idea wasted," Corona says.

Burns says H-LSAMP scholars such as Corona are gaining an invaluable experience when they are matched with a mentor. "These students are gaining confidence and insight that many students will never receive because they do not seek out mentors to help them through college," he says. "All of the students who participate have stories about how they got involved in different projects, research, and activities because of their mentor."

Associate Professor Dr. Clara Novoa gave H-LSAMP senior Javier Ortiz basic training in 3D printing. "Then, I let him refine this knowledge by using the 3D printers to help students develop their capstone projects," she explains. Ortiz produced working parts for nearly seven different needs including a case for an olfactory system and the shell of a solar-powered buoy to measure water quality, both for NASA, and parts for robots. This fall, the industrial engineering major will be getting cooperative education work experience at Infineon Technologies in Munich, Germany.

Field testing is H-LSAMP scholar Ananda Diener's niche. She graduated in May with a bachelor of science in chemistry. Diener also minored in biology and received several prestigious awards including the Texas State University System Regents' Scholar award. "I've done Stream Team testing on the San Marcos River," Diener says. "I like being in the



field, in nature gathering samples. I like environmental chemistry, and I also like management positions.”

The potential for jobs is phenomenal, Romanella says, adding that H-LSAMP scholars are working at top global companies such as Boeing, NASA, IBM, General Motors, John Deere, Samsung, and Intel. Elisa DeFord, career advisor for the College of Science and Engineering, helps students find opportunities to develop their marketable skills and connects them with employers. She applauds Romanella’s intensity to push her students to succeed. “She is a great advocate for Career Services and regularly encourages the scholars to attend Career Services events — and they listen to her,” DeFord says.

Romanella encourages H-LSAMP scholars to constantly set goals for themselves. Alvarez wanted to do research out of state. This summer, he was one of 60 students selected for the Research Intensive Summer Experience program at Rutgers University. Research topics ranged from graphene composites and the application of computational materials concepts to advanced catalysts for use in the pharmaceutical and petroleum industries. For his final year at Texas State, Alvarez is hoping to land a six-month co-op work position.

“That is my goal, to go to Munich, to work there for six months and say I have this experience,” he says. “No one is telling me to do this. I want it. It’s a new challenge on the horizon.” Alvarez credits H-LSAMP for developing him into who he is today. “I don’t believe I had this initiative two years ago. The drive I have now has definitely been molded by members and the director of H-LSAMP,” he says. “They have taught me not to just shoot for the next job; you want to shoot for the best position at that job.

“You want to shoot for the CEO position. You want to get to the mountaintop. When you get to the mountaintop, you want to make a ladder to go even further. That’s what H-LSAMP teaches me, to continue to strive for something greater.” 🌟

“I have a clear vision of what I want and that helps me map out how to get it and ways to develop myself and develop others.”

**Carlos Corona**  
senior chemistry major







“This is an important milestone for Texas State, in that it adds a fundamental engineering discipline to the university’s offerings.”

— Dr. John Schemmel

## THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

WILL BE THE FIRST IN TEXAS WITH A HOLISTIC EMPHASIS ON TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED INFRASTRUCTURE

NEARLY  
**24 PERCENT**

INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR CIVIL ENGINEERS FOR 2014-2024

MORE THAN  
**6,000 POSITIONS**

AND AN ANNUAL SHORTFALL OF

**750 CIVIL ENGINEERS**

GIVEN THE CURRENT PRODUCTION OF EXISTING ENGINEERING PROGRAMS IN TEXAS.

SOURCE:  
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

# CIVIL ENGINEERING DEGREE TO FILL VITAL NEED IN TEXAS WORKFORCE

## New program is important milestone for university

By Jayme Blaschke

A new civil engineering program, which is awaiting final approval for its first cohort of students in fall 2019, will become the most ambitious expansion of engineering at Texas State University since the establishment of the Ingram School of Engineering in 2007.

The bachelor of science in civil engineering will be the first in Texas with a holistic emphasis on technology-enhanced infrastructure. That cutting-edge emphasis underscores Texas State’s commitment to innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration — the new civil engineering curriculum will draw upon existing programs in computer science, electrical engineering, biology, mathematics, and geography.

“This is an important milestone for Texas State, in that it adds a fundamental engineering discipline to the university’s offerings,” says Dr. John Schemmel, the Bruce and Gloria Ingram Endowed Chair in Engineering at Texas State. “We will help close the gap between open civil engineering positions in industry and the number of civil engineering graduates in the state.”

The Texas Workforce Commission predicts an increase in demand for civil engineers of nearly 24 percent for 2014-2024. That translates into more than 6,000 positions, with an annual shortfall of 750 civil engineers given the current production of existing engineering programs in Texas. Population growth in Texas brings with it a need for civil engineers to design and maintain an expanding modern infrastructure.

Texas State’s civil engineering degree program, expected to mirror the enrollment of the existing electrical engineering program at approximately 500 students, will be an important factor in fulfilling that demand and contributing to the economic need of the state. Graduates will emerge with not only a strong foundation in traditional civil engineering topics but also a unique education in the emerging field of smart infrastructure technologies that enhance the public safety, economic value, and longevity of municipal and private infrastructure.

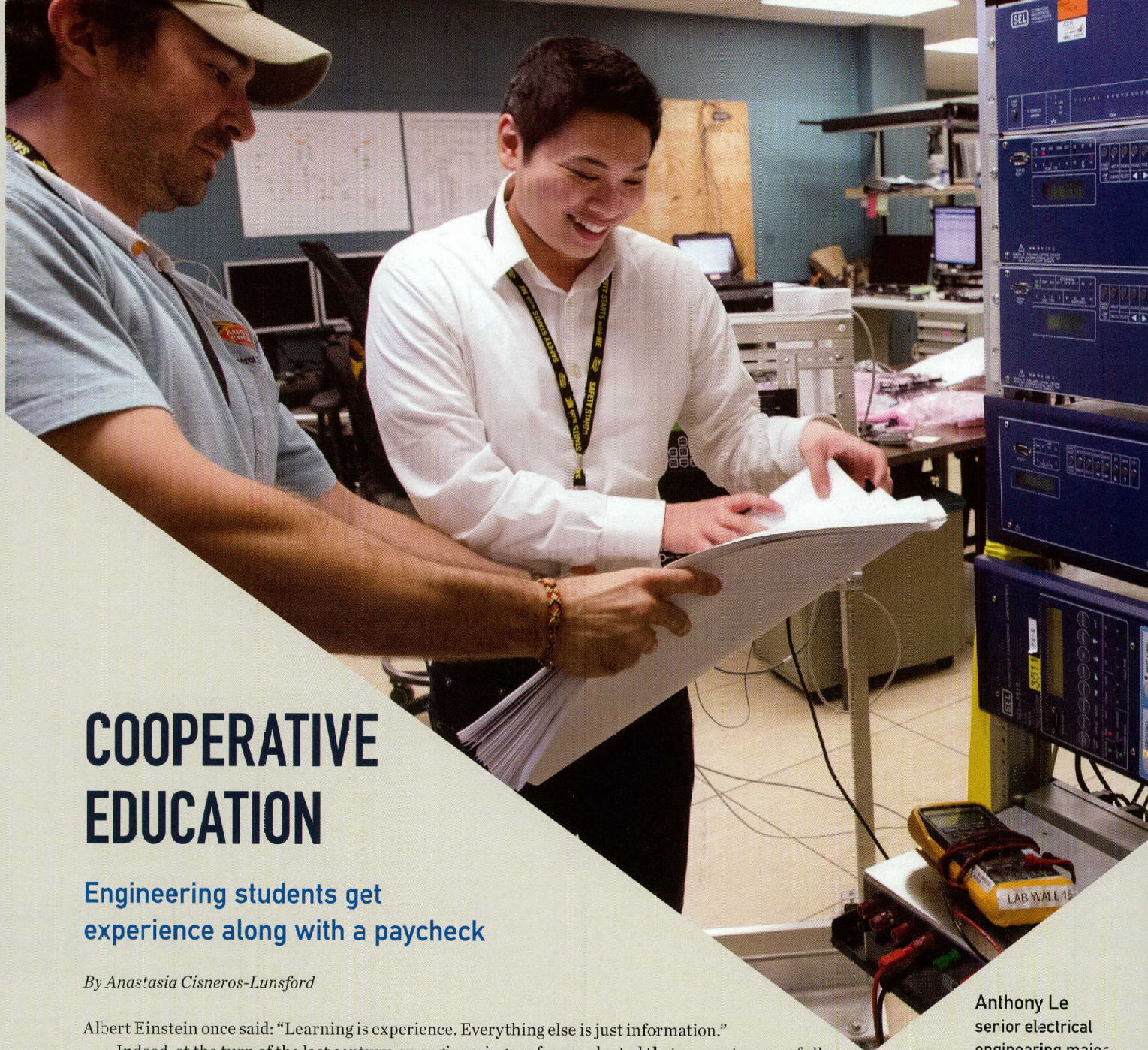
“Technology is making it possible to monitor the performance of buildings, roadways, treatment plants, and bridges with the goals of safe use, retained value, and predictive maintenance,” Schemmel says. “We must educate the next generation of civil engineers to address these needs.”

The civil engineering program will take up residence in the Roy F. Mitte Building, following the relocation of the engineering programs currently occupying that space to the new Ingram Hall. The dynamic new program is expected to attract new research funding and result in an uptick in research publications, Schemmel says.

“All civil engineering faculty are expected to have active and continuing research programs,” Schemmel says. “We should also draw statewide — if not nationwide — attention with our focus on technology-enhanced infrastructure.

“It’s an exciting time to be at Texas State.” 🌟





# COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

Engineering students get  
experience along with a paycheck

By *Anastasia Cisneros-Lunsford*

Albert Einstein once said: “Learning is experience. Everything else is just information.”

Indeed, at the turn of the last century, an engineering professor adapted that concept successfully. Cooperative education began in 1906 at the University of Cincinnati where Hermar Schneider, dean of engineering, believed that to become an engineer a student had to practice being an engineer. Texas State University is now following suit with a cooperative education program for engineering students that incorporates on-the-job work experience into the academic curriculum.

According to the Cooperative Education and Internship Association, about 1,000 colleges and universities in 43 countries currently conduct cooperative education programs in partnership with 76,000 employers and 310,000 students.

Dr. Michelle Londa, associate professor of practice in the Ingram School of Engineering, was appointed the cooperative education coordinator in September 2017. “I have been focusing on getting the processes in place for the co-op program. Now it is time for me to switch focus and get out onto the street, visit companies, and get programs formalized with employers,” she says.

## Diverse pool of students

Co-op is a cost-effective method for employers to meet their hiring needs. Texas State offers a diverse pool of students who bring innovative perspectives and a pipeline for future full-time hires and industry leaders. Traditional co-op programs involve alternating semesters of school and industrial experience. New back-to-back models, with industrial experience in summer/fall or fall/spring, allow students to “co-op” for a longer period of time. This gives them an opportunity to work on longer-term projects and make significant contributions to the workplace.

**Anthony Le**  
senior electrical  
engineering major





**“Co-op is a win-win-win between the student, the company, and the university, whereas internships are typically limited to a student/company relationship.”**

**— Dr. Michelle Londa**

Texas State students are earning money and gaining valuable experience at companies such as Austin Energy, Tokyo Electron America, AMD Semiconductor, NASA, Samsung, Caterpillar, Intel, NXP, Continental Automotive, and Lockheed Martin.

“I’ve had numerous companies tell me, ‘Michelle, your students are phenomenal. They have great attitudes. They are hungry to learn,’” Londa says. “There is no typical student in the co-op program. We are so highly diverse.”

Texas State is providing skilled employees who bring a fresh perspective to the workplace. Senior electrical engineering major Anthony Le was involved in the inner workings of the electrical grids that provide power to more than 1 million residents in Greater Austin. In the control engineering division of Austin Energy, Le quickly became familiar with SCADA, supervisory control and data acquisition, and ADMS, advanced distribution management system, the two different systems that monitor power transmissions and distribution.

Le’s other projects included updating the voltage var optimization display. He also worked closely with power engineers to update satellite images of Austin Energy’s areas of operations. “The power engineers can relate those data with other overlays such as transmission lines, distribution lines, and transformers,” he says.

Le’s mentor, Hilda Martinez, power system engineer at Austin Energy, says Le offers a fresh look. “Sometimes we get caught up in the everyday, day-to-day stuff and we take things for granted,” she says. “He asks questions and brings up new ideas. He has a fresh perspective. He’s open-minded, willing to learn anything.”

## Working with a team

For graduating senior and industrial engineering major Kathryn Turman, one of the biggest benefits is growing as a professional. Involved in logistics management at Tokyo Electron America in Austin where she runs reports and performs data analytics, Turman says she enjoys working with mentors who want to see her succeed. “This opportunity required me to conduct myself professionally day in and day out,” she says. “I had to continually follow up with my mentors via email, phone calls, and face-to-face contact, present in multiple review meetings, and perform constant revisions and additions to obtain a product that agreed with my mentors’ standards.”

Electrical engineering major Zachary Schneiderman says exposure to industry before graduation is essential to experience. “You have to learn how to effectively work with a team,” he says. “Not a single day goes by at AMD where I don’t collaborate with a colleague from another team and even from another country.”

Stefanie Hotchkiss joined Safran Electrical and Power in Florida this past summer. Working in manufacturing engineering has helped her put the lessons she’s learned in the classroom to good use in real-world applications. She found that solving problems alongside other skilled engineers was a valuable experience. “A lot of the problems that are brought to their attention are not something that they just inherently know the answer to but instead they use limited prior knowledge and a lot of resourcefulness.”

Cooperative education typically involves more training, higher salaries, and higher levels of responsibility than internships. “Co-op is a win-win-win between the student, the company, and the university, whereas internships are typically limited to a student/company relationship,” Londa says.

Companies also have an opportunity to sponsor capstone senior engineering projects, which are a degree requirement. Students would engage in industry-focused, mutually beneficial, and innovative research projects, Londa says. Co-op positions with capstone senior engineering design partners such as Intel, Caterpillar, NXP, Younicos,



**Zachary Schneiderman**  
senior electrical engineering major



and Ingram Readymix are in development as well as positions with local technological leaders such as Dell, Samsung, Apple, and Toyota.

The capstone senior project ties in well with the co-op program, says Cody Guidry, business development manager at Younicos, a German-American technology company that develops and sells energy storage systems and control software. "In the past, we have utilized the student's knowledge of the company from their co-op or internship at Younicos to lead the capstone projects since they have working knowledge of our people, processes, challenges, and resources," Guidry says. "The two programs complement each other very well and give a jump-start to the capstone projects by leveraging the investment the company and student have made in each other in the co-op program."

As industry partners with Texas State, Guidry says the company looks forward to continuing to build the next generation of engineers together. 🌟

## GSMP: ATTRACTING JOBS, INVESTORS TO INNOVATION CORRIDOR

By Adriana Cruz

For nearly a decade, the Greater San Marcos Partnership (GSMP) has worked to attract quality job growth in the fastest-growing region in the country, what has been dubbed "America's next great metropolis."

The GSMP's role as the economic development organization for Hays and Caldwell counties is to promote the region to a variety of outside entities including site selection consultants and corporate decision-makers and to assist existing local businesses in their growth. Hays County is ranked as the fastest-growing county in the nation with a population over 150,000.

The GSMP extensively promotes the region's growth, citing the central location between Austin, the nation's 11th largest city, and San Antonio, its seventh largest city. The region also provides access to a diverse transportation infrastructure and major interstate highways. San Marcos has a regional airport and is situated between two international airports. This strategic location provides businesses excellent access to major population and industry centers with a labor pool of more than 1.5 million.

Due to the affordability and the high quality of life, more and more Texas State graduates are choosing to stay and live in the region, providing a highly educated workforce pipeline. In fall 2017, Texas State was ranked fourth in undergraduate headcount enrollment among Texas public universities. Since its 2012 designation as an Emerging Research University, Texas State has also dramatically increased its volume of researchers and graduate programs. This is also reflected in patent data. There were 40.55 utility patents per 10,000 people in Hays County in 2015, compared to 7.09 for Travis County and 4.45 for the nation.

Top-notch research and patent density as well as faculty and student startups and advanced manufacturing firms are a few reasons the region has grown into its Texas Innovation Corridor name. The high-quality talent pool and available workforce coming out of Texas State are attracting new companies in target industries to the region. For example, the region's robust advanced manufacturing and engineering sector includes companies such as CFAN, Mensor, Thermon, Epic Piping, and Urban Mining.

The GSMP is working hard to diversify and strengthen the regional economy, providing economic opportunity for all through the implementation of a sustainable and data-driven economic development strategy. Texas State is a member of the GSMP, and Dr. Denise Trauth chairs the board of directors. The Vision 2020 plan will continue to direct future growth and position the region for a wider diversity of quality jobs with higher wages in the heart of the Texas Innovation Corridor. 🌟

*Adriana Cruz is the president of the Greater San Marcos Partnership.*



Adriana Cruz (left) stands with San Marcos Mayor John Thomaidis and Texas State University President Denise Trauth.

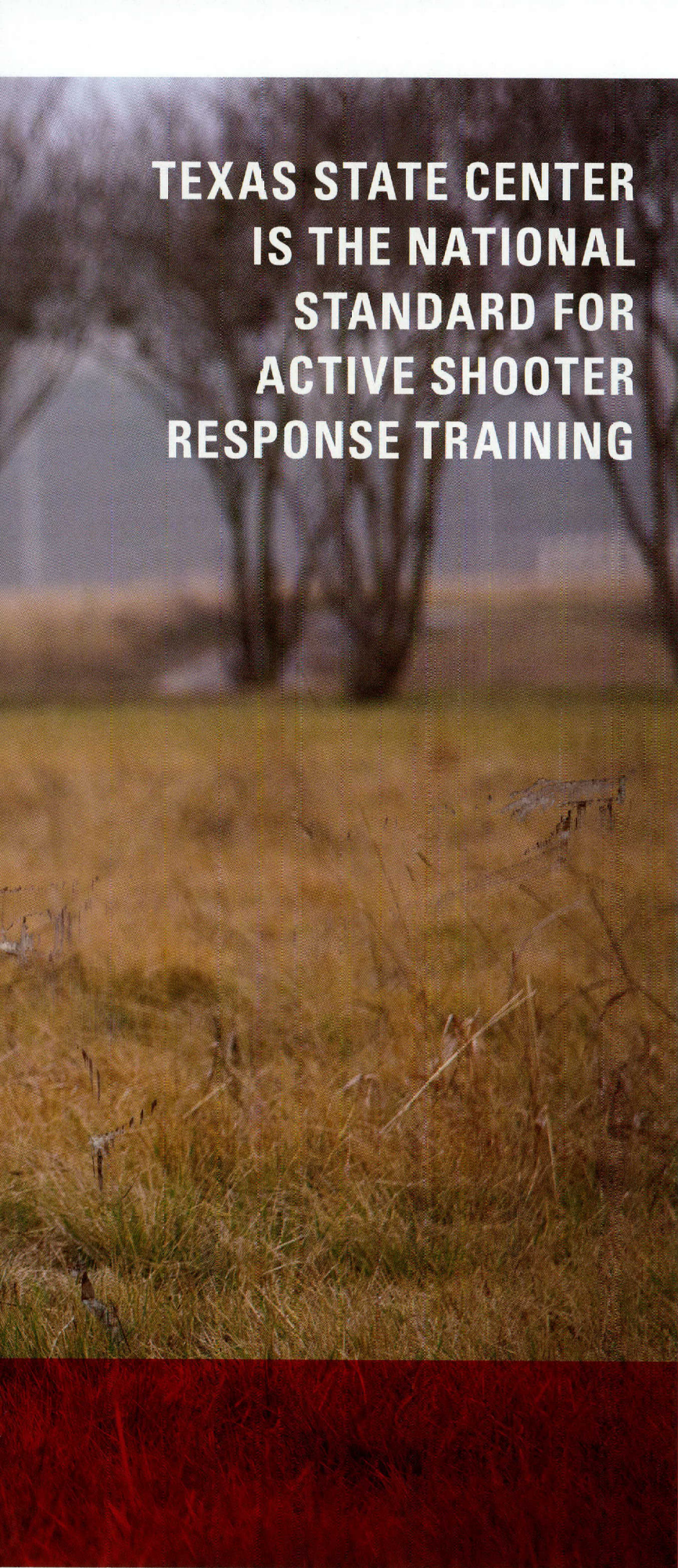
TEXAS | INNOVATION  
CORRIDOR





# ALERT: BORN FROM TRAGEDY





# TEXAS STATE CENTER IS THE NATIONAL STANDARD FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE TRAINING

*By Robyn Ross*

“People reported hearing gunshots inside the building,” instructor Trey Turner tells the police officers in the school hallway. “That’s all the information we know.”

The four officers nod at him and at one another. They come from Austin, San Antonio, Bastrop, and Athens, Greece, and they met just a few minutes ago at the training facility of the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center at Texas State University. Plastic prop pistols in hand, they fall into one of the formations they’ve been taught and move quickly but deliberately down the hallway, checking each classroom for a possible shooter.

Suddenly, the sound of gunfire rings out at the end of the hall, and the officers break into a run. They reach the doorway, raise their weapons and yell, “Bang-bang-bang!” For a split-second there’s quiet. Then instructor Jeff Ferry, who fired the blanks in the training classroom, steps into the hallway. “That was good,” he says. “I’m ready for the next group.”

Turner, a member of the San Antonio SWAT Team, and Ferry, a sergeant with the Luling Police Department, are teaching 27 law enforcement officers how to respond to active attack incidents in the simulated school building at ALERRT’s training facility in Maxwell, outside of San Marcos. The center teaches police, fire, and EMS best practices for responding to an active shooter or another active attack incident. Since 2013, ALERRT has been the FBI’s national standard in active shooter response training.

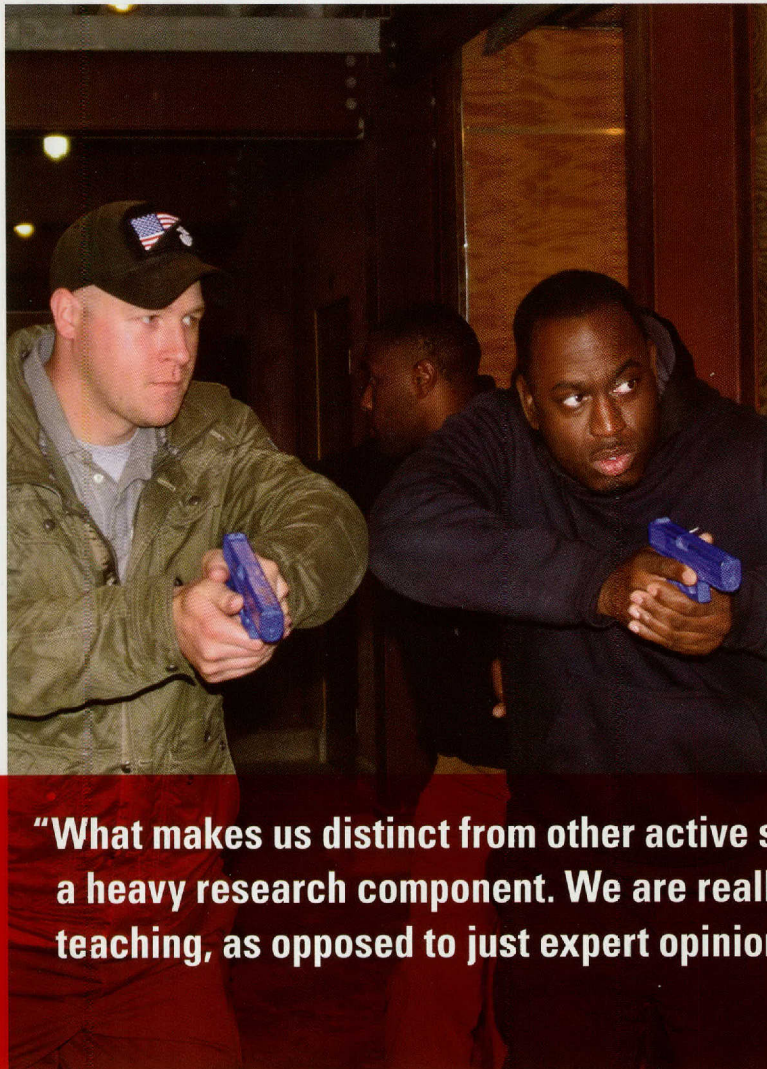
## **BIRTH OF ALERRT**

ALERRT was developed in response to the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School. The first responding officers followed what was then the protocol: They contained the scene and called the SWAT team. In the 47 minutes the police waited for the team to enter the building, the two teenage gunmen continued to kill. Afterward, the law enforcement community realized it needed to change how it responded to such attacks. The first officers on the scene needed to be trained to enter the building and disable the shooter, regardless of whether they were SWAT members.

In 2002, Texas State, the San Marcos Police Department, and the Hays County Sheriff’s Office partnered to form ALERRT and begin teaching those skills to law enforcement officers. To date, ALERRT has trained more than 130,000 first responders at its facility in Maxwell and in communities across the country. Federal grant funding allows officers to receive the training at no cost to their departments or themselves.

Students come from all over the world, sometimes paying their own way — like Hellenic Police Sgt. Giannis Chalaris, of Athens, Greece, who took a class last spring. “In our country, we don’t have this kind of





training,” Chalaris says. “I will try to give my colleagues the feedback from the U.S. training because we have a serious problem in Europe with active shooters. Eventually, it’s going to happen in my country too, and that’s why I’m trying to prepare.”

ALERRT’s courses are developed with rigorous analysis of past shooting events and proven tactical response. “What makes us distinct from other active shooter programs is that we have a heavy research component,” says Dr. J. Pete Blair, ALERRT executive director. “We are really using data to drive what we’re teaching, as opposed to just expert opinion.”

## GRANT IN 2017

Blair and his colleagues collect information from police reports, news reports, and after-action reviews about every active shooter event: the number of people injured or killed, the type of weapon used, and how the event is resolved. Their research informs both the public — ALERRT gets calls from CNN, NPR, and other national news outlets after major shootings — and officers who train in ALERRT’s classes.

For example, analysis of the 2012 shooting at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, revealed that the chaos was compounded by a lack of coordination between police and fire department medics, which slowed the delivery of lifesaving medical care and the evacuation of victims. That discovery led to the development of ALERRT’s Active Attack Integrated Response course, which trains police, fire, and EMS to communicate effectively and expedite the post-shooting medical response.

In October 2017, the Department of Justice awarded ALERRT a \$5.4 million Community Oriented Policing Services program grant to expand the number of integrated response classes offered across the country. Graduates of ALERRT regularly report that the training has saved lives. In 2015, officers responding to a hostage situation in a West Virginia high school disarmed the gunman and rescued the hostages without any shots fired.

A woman who took ALERRT’s active shooter response class for civilians later attended the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas, where a shooter killed 58 people and injured hundreds more in October 2017. She said the training — including the basic instructions to trust her instincts and to locate all the exits when she arrived at the venue — saved her life.

**“What makes us distinct from other active shooter programs is that we have a heavy research component. We are really using data to drive what we’re teaching, as opposed to just expert opinion.”**

**— Dr. J. Pete Blair,  
ALERRT executive director**





## SANTA FE SHOOTING

On May 18, 2018, a 17-year-old student walked into Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, wearing a trench coat and carrying two weapons: a .38 pistol and a shotgun. The gunman walked into one of the art classrooms and began shooting.

Classrooms in the immediate area began closing and locking doors. Students helped teachers barricade. Noah Dupuy, 15, was one of the students. His father, Troy Dupuy, is a Houston SWAT officer and ALERRT adjunct instructor. Noah knew what to do because his dad had taught him. Father and son together had watched the ALERRT video "Avoid Deny Defend" and discussed what options might exist in different settings.

A pair of Santa Fe ISD officers arrived and attempted to engage the gunman. They had both taken ALERRT active shooter training; in fact, they'd taken the ALERRT Level 2 (medical) class in the high school just a year before. For the next several minutes, officers arrived on scene and moved to where the gunman was barricaded and had been firing at officers in the hallway. One of them was ALERRT adjunct instructor Cliff Woitena, who was dropping his children off at school not far away when the call at Santa Fe High School went out. Everyone in the area knew the ALERRT instructors well, and that instant recognition helped break the ice quickly between multiple agencies on the scene. Woitena arrived just as the shooter was talking about giving up. A deputy giving verbal commands had the shooter lie down in front of the doorway. Woitena told

the deputy to have the suspect crawl away from the door and come closer to their position. It was almost like the threshold evaluation drill that had been practiced or taught hundreds, if not thousands, of times before by some of the officers on scene. The suspect was placed in handcuffs and taken from the scene.

"No matter how realistic we try to make our training, nothing fully prepares you for walking through a room full of the carnage that lay at these students' feet that morning. So many kids," says John Curnutt, ALERRT assistant director. "With security established in their immediate area, and communication with outside units flowing like a river, medical interventions and evacuation plans started working furiously. A critically injured student was picked up and rushed outside to an ambulance that had just pulled up."

ALERRT training also helps officers respond on incidents that are smaller in scale but where seconds count.

In December 2017, two Buda Police Department officers were the first responders to a motorcycle accident that left the cyclist with a severed femoral artery and minutes to live. Using training from an ALERRT class, they applied tourniquets, stopped the bleeding, and saved the man's life.

"ALERRT has affected not just law enforcement but police, fire, EMS, and the community," says Buda Police Chief Bo Kidd, who also teaches ALERRT courses. "It's made a huge impact on a very big problem and has made us all better prepared to address it." 🙌

On the web:  
[avoiddenydefend.org](http://avoiddenydefend.org)





E X P A N S I O N

U N D E R W A Y

A T

L B J S T U D E N T C E N T E R

LBJ STUDENT CENTER



▼  
**RENOVATIONS  
AIM TO MEET THE  
NEEDS OF GROWING  
POPULATION**

BY JAYME BLASCHKE

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T CENTER



▶ In the ancient world, all roads led to Rome. At Texas State University, much the same could be said of the LBJ Student Center.

The center of student life at Texas State, the LBJSC has long reigned as one of the busiest destinations on campus. Every day, thousands of Bobcats pass through its doors. Drawn by the pool tables in George's on the first floor, the student organizations on the fourth, or the bookstore and food courts in between, the student center has something for everyone.

### **But such popularity comes at a price.**

When the student center first opened in 1998, the university's enrollment topped out at 21,000 students. In the 20 years since then, the student population has nearly doubled in size, outstripping the LBJSC's ability to fulfill its commitment to all students.

The expansion, which began this past May, is expected to be completed in May 2020. Plastic sheeting covers gaping holes in the exterior façade, and caution tape and warning signs block once-busy walkways. The staccato thwack of hammers echo across the Student Center Mall, abruptly drowned out by the insistent clatter of pneumatic tools — inescapable evidence that the \$31 million project is in full swing.

"Probably the most significant shortage is for meeting and event space for student organizations and departments. We have one ballroom, and it's busy all the time," says John Rahmann, director of the LBJSC. "Consider the fact that we have over 450 student organizations. That number has gone up considerably since the student center opened. We're addressing that need first and foremost with new meeting space."

The expansion will remake the student center, adding more than 22,000 square feet to the building. Once reconfigurations and additional upgraded finishes are taken into account, more than 50,000 square feet of usable space will be available. This comes on the heels of a \$20 million renovation to the LBJSC launched in 2016, which saw the replacement and upgrading of the fire alarms and sprinklers, some electrical systems, and the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system, paving the way for the current expansion.

"The overarching goal during construction is to keep all services up

and running and maintain accessibility," says Rahmann, who oversaw a similar \$30 million expansion of Boise State's student union building in 2009. "That's very important. Everything here is going to remain open throughout the entire process. The south entrance to the building is going to be inaccessible during most of the construction, so people will have to come around to the north end to get in.

"There is some juggling involved, but it's not as complicated as you might think," he says. "Our construction management firm's job is to maintain accessibility and a high level of safety around construction areas so that everyone can get into the building and remain safe. That is our priority."

Once the dust settles, the Texas State community is in for a treat: The expansion will include a new main entry lobby and an additional ballroom, plus conference rooms, meeting spaces, shared spaces for informal student gatherings, and new study spaces. A new Multicultural Center will open in a high-traffic area on the second floor to address the needs of the university's increasingly diverse student population.

One of the most prominent additions will be a new home for the Texas State Alumni Association. Currently housed in the J.C. Kellam Administration Building across campus, the new space — which will partially share resources with an upgraded Welcome Center — offers the Alumni Association greater visibility than it's ever enjoyed before. As an added bonus, the newly renamed Alumni and Future Student Welcome Center will be one of the first of the expansion projects completed, with a projected opening in early 2019.

"Visibility is the thing we're most excited about. There are thousands of individuals who walk through that building every day," says Kim Gannon, director of the Alumni Association. "For us to be one of the first things that they see, it really presents the Texas State of today in a way that showcases the wonderful things that are happening here.

"This is how we recruit students, so that first impression, that wonderful first impression, is very important," Gannon says. "It's a place we hope our almost-190,000 alumni would use as their front door to their alma mater when they come back to visit. Walking into a space with that kind of presence, that kind of wow factor — that's really what we're looking for. We want to be seen as, and operate as, an organization that supports a national research university."

Nothing like the Alumni and Future Student Welcome Center has ever graced the university before. With approximately 5,300 square feet of space available, it will be a major upgrade from the office space that the Alumni Association has called home over the past decade. The space will also feature a state-of-the-art multipurpose room. During the day, it will showcase multimedia presentations telling the story of Texas State to newcomers and tour groups. In the evenings, it will be available for dinners, receptions, and other events.

So much change is coming, it's easy to lose track of all the moving parts. Yet despite the scent of sawdust lingering in the air, the LBJSC remains open. Ever-popular resources such as the Career Center and Dean of Students Office continue to respond





*The expansion of the LBJSC will remake the student center, adding more than 22,000 square feet to the building.*

to student needs without interruption. Even Starbucks' lattes and Frappuccinos, the lifeblood of so many students, faculty, and staff, continue to flow as quickly as the baristas can make them.

"Everything is going to be open and running," Rahmann says. "There might be a little noise and a little inconvenience, but we're still here."



The expansion will remake the student center, adding more than 22,000 square feet to the building. Once reconfigurations and additional upgraded finishes are taken into account, more than 50,000 square feet of usable space will be available.



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**NO PLACE  
LIKE HOME**

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## ALUMNI AND FUTURE STUDENT WELCOME CENTER

The Texas State Alumni Association is making a space on campus just for you! Located on the third floor of the LBJ Student Center, this space creates a perfect spot on campus to welcome all members of our Bobcat alumni family and demonstrates the value and importance of you and our Texas State graduates.

Donate today to proudly display your **Bobcat Pride** and help create our official alumni home.

Naming options are available  
[alumni.txstate.edu/alumnicenter](http://alumni.txstate.edu/alumnicenter)





# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS 2018

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Texas State honored five new Distinguished Alumni during Homecoming Week. With these newest honorees, the Alumni Association and the university have now presented the most prestigious award to 208 graduates since the first was given to then-U.S. Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1959.

The Young Alumni Rising Star Award was created in 2015 and presented the following year to recognize young alumni under age 40 for their exceptional achievements and outstanding accomplishment in their profession, affiliations, and service. The three recipients of this award have demonstrated a level of excellence that positively represents the university and serves to inspire current students and other recent graduates to excel in their work and recognize the important impact of their experience as a student at Texas State.





## MARK ADAMS CLASS OF 1985

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Businessman Mark Adams has been recognized by the governor of Texas and the Texas House of Representatives as Outstanding Texas Entrepreneur and by Ernst & Young as Entrepreneur of the Year.

He began his career with corporations such as Xerox, Johnson & Johnson and Bostik, Inc.

In 2003, he launched a medical liability insurance underwriting company called Advocate, MD. This company became one of the largest med-mal underwriters in Texas before it was sold in 2009. Since then, Adams has become a serial entrepreneur and has founded numerous companies in a variety

of industries including healthcare, finance, electric vehicles, software, medical biologics, restaurants, real estate, nutritional products, and farming. Adams' entrepreneurial career is based on a simple premise, "when things shift, opportunities are created."

Recognizing macro- and micro-level shifts in regulation, legislation, consumer preference, and technology has been the catalyst behind the ideas for many of the companies Adams has created. He maintains various roles as CEO and chairman and also serves as a director on numerous boards including two public company boards, is a past director of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central Texas, and the director for the McCoy College Advisory Board.

## KAREN CARROLL CLASS OF 1988

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The vice president and general auditor for 3M Company, Karen Carroll has been with the corporation for 29 years. She heads the assurance audit function as well as the company's enterprise risk management initiative.

Her 3M experience includes finance positions in healthcare, safety and graphics, electronics and energy, consumer, industrial business, and corporate audit. She also spent four years as plant controller in the Brownwood plant. Carroll's work experiences have taken her across Asia, North America, Latin America, Europe, and Central East Europe.

Carroll also participates in finance recruiting, Women's Leadership Network, and the Catalyst Leadership Development program. In spring 2018, she presented during the Entrepreneurial Studies Speaker series at the McCoy College of Business Administration.

She mentors employees new to the company as well as those looking to develop future leadership roles. 3M is a great supporter of the United Way, Twin Cities, in which Carroll volunteers with the finance organization.





## DR. LIGHT TOWNSEND CUMMINS CLASS OF 1968

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Dr. Light Townsend Cummins was the official state historian of Texas from 2009 to 2012 and a professor of history at Austin College in Sherman for more than 34 years. He was a Fulbright Scholar, former president of the Southwestern Historical Association of the Southwestern Social Science Association, and a member of the Texas Institute of Letters and the Philosophy Society of Texas.

Cummins has written or edited numerous books and articles on the history of Texas, Louisiana, and the Southwestern United States. In 1994, he was awarded the Premio de España y America by King Juan Carlos I of Spain for his scholarly research on the history

of Spain and the United States. He won the Liz Carpenter Award for the best book about a Texas woman in 2010 and 2015.

In 2006, Cummins was named a Minnie Stevens Piper Professor. He has received the Alumni Achievement Award from Texas State and was honored by the university's College of Liberal Arts with its Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. His most recent book, *To the Vast and Beautiful Land: Anglo-American Migration into Spanish Louisiana and Texas, 1760s-1820s*, will be published in 2019 by the Texas A&M University Press.

## DOUGLAS R. MILLER CLASS OF 1976

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The former state representative for District 73, Douglas R. Miller represented voters in Comal, Gillespie, and Kendall counties from 2008 to 2016. He previously served as the mayor of New Braunfels and chairman of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Miller has been in the insurance business since 1978 and president of Miller & Miller Insurance Agency for more than 30 years. He is also a licensed real estate broker and risk manager, and is on the board of directors of First Commercial Bank.

Miller holds the rank of major in the Texas State Guard. In 2012, he was awarded the Texas Outstanding Service Medal by

Texas State Guard leadership and was named State Representative of the Year by the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas.

He has been president of numerous civic organizations including the Wurstfest Association, the Comal County Fair Association, Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, and Comal County United Way.



# TRACY PORTER

## CLASS OF 1979



A proven senior operating executive with over 35 years of experience in manufacturing as well as venture capital enterprises, Tracy Porter has been instrumental in implementing new technologies and manufacturing processes at Commercial Metals Company, where he is executive vice president and chief operating officer.

His responsibilities include all U.S. operations as well as the company's operations in Europe. He oversees all commercial functions, manufacturing operations, supply chain, government affairs, and trade relations. He is a member of the Association for Iron & Steel Technology.

As a young man, he spent summers maintaining the yard at a steel mill in Seguin, and while attending Texas State he advanced to the melt shop, rolling mill, and fabrication department. Before moving into operations, his early career experience included accounting, finance, IT, and business analytics.

Porter is currently serving an unprecedented second term as chairman of the Steel Manufacturers Association based in Washington, D.C. He has served on numerous civic, business, and governmental boards. In 2017, Porter was the recipient of the James F. Collins Steel Industry Advocacy Award.

### YOUNG ALUMNI RISING STAR AWARD



**MAJOR BRENDA D. BUSTILLOS**  
CLASS OF 2003

Currently chief, education and research branch, in the Department of Nutritional Medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Brenda Bustillos holds a doctor of public health degree and is also assistant professor for the U.S. Military-Baylor Graduate Program in Nutrition, San Antonio.

She previously held positions as chief, nutrition care division, at Reynolds Army Community Hospital, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and chief, nutrition care division, at Gen. Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. She is currently a peer reviewer for the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* and the *Texas Public Health Journal*.



**LESLI GINN**  
CLASS OF 2000

Lesli Ginn was appointed chief administrative law judge for the State Office of Administrative Hearings in 2016 by Gov. Greg Abbott. She previously served in the Texas attorney general's office where she represented state agencies in state and federal district court, in state and federal courts of appeals, and before the Texas Supreme Court. Ginn oversees a staff of 123 employees, including 63 administrative law judges.

She is a member of the State Bar of Texas and is chair of its Administrative and Public Law Section. Additionally, she is a youth basketball coach at the YMCA of Austin and a past board member of Caporal



**POLO SANDOVAL**  
CLASS OF 2007

Polo Sandoval is a New York-based television journalist who covers a wide range of breaking news stories across the country for CNN and its sister networks CNNI, HLN, and CNN Español.

His passion for storytelling developed as bureau chief along the Texas-Mexico border. Assignments included immigration, homeland security, drug cartels, and the resulting violence on both sides of the border. Sandoval's work has been recognized by the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters and the Lone Star Emmy chapter. He is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and enjoys mentoring young journalists.





## On stage at Texas State

### THEATRE

#### References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot

By Jose Rivera, directed by Alex Rodriguez  
Jan. 31 – Feb. 3  
PSH Studio Theatre

#### The Tempest

By William Shakespeare, directed by Bruce Turk  
Feb. 12 – 17  
Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

#### What We Scream Underwater When No One Can Hear Us

By Caitlin Turnage, directed by Allison Price  
Feb. 21 – 24  
PSH Studio Theatre

#### The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde, directed by Jerry Ruiz  
April 9 – 14  
Mainstage Theatre

#### The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, book by Peter Parnell, based on the Victor Hugo novel, directed by Kaitlin Hopkins  
April 23 – 28  
Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

### DANCE

#### Merge Dance Company Presents Memento a Memento

Feb. 28 – March 2  
Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre

#### Orchesis Dance Company Performance

March 28 – 30  
Evans Auditorium

#### Choreographer's Showcase

April 25 – 27  
Jowers Studio Theatre

#### Transient Dance Collective

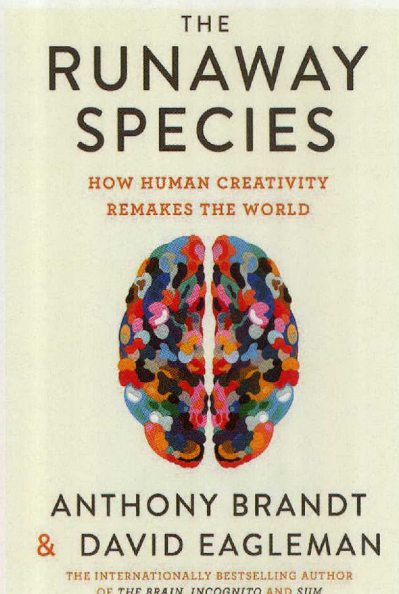
May 2  
Jowers Studio Theatre

# The Common Experience: Innovation

The Common Experience theme for the 2018-2019 academic year is “Innovation.” Students explore innovation in a yearlong conversation about the ideas and possibilities that will shape tomorrow. The aim is to develop an understanding of how innovation determines advancements in teaching and learning; creative arts; research and scholarship; career and professional opportunities; and the endeavors that drive our future.

This year’s LBJ Distinguished Lecture speaker, **José Hernández**, is a retired NASA astronaut and engineer. In 2009, he was the mission specialist on board the space shuttle Discovery. The José M. Hernández Reaching for the Stars Foundation aims to inspire youth to “find passion in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) Education.”

As part of the Common Experience, all incoming first-year students receive a critically acclaimed book related to the year’s theme. Students discuss the book in their University Seminar class. The 2018-2019 Common Reading book is ***The Runaway Species: How Human Creativity Remakes the World*** by composer Anthony Brandt and neuroscientist David Eagleman. Beginning with stories about Apollo 13 and Picasso, the book weaves together the arts and sciences – investigating our ability to innovate to meet challenges.



*José Hernández delivered this year’s LBJ Distinguished Lecture as part of Innovation Week. The 2018-2019 Common Reading book is The Runaway Species: How Human Creativity Remakes the World, by composer Anthony Brandt and neuroscientist David Eagleman.*

## Hillviews survey

We would like to hear from you

We want to hear from you about *Hillviews*. Go to <https://bit.ly/2xQwJyJ> to fill out the reader survey and share your feedback.

The survey will only take a few minutes. Everyone who completes it by Dec. 31, 2018, will be eligible for a prize drawing of two tickets to the April production of ***Hunchback of Notre Dame*** at the Performing Arts Center.

If you will take the time to answer some questions, we promise to read the answers and share our findings in an upcoming issue of *Hillviews*.

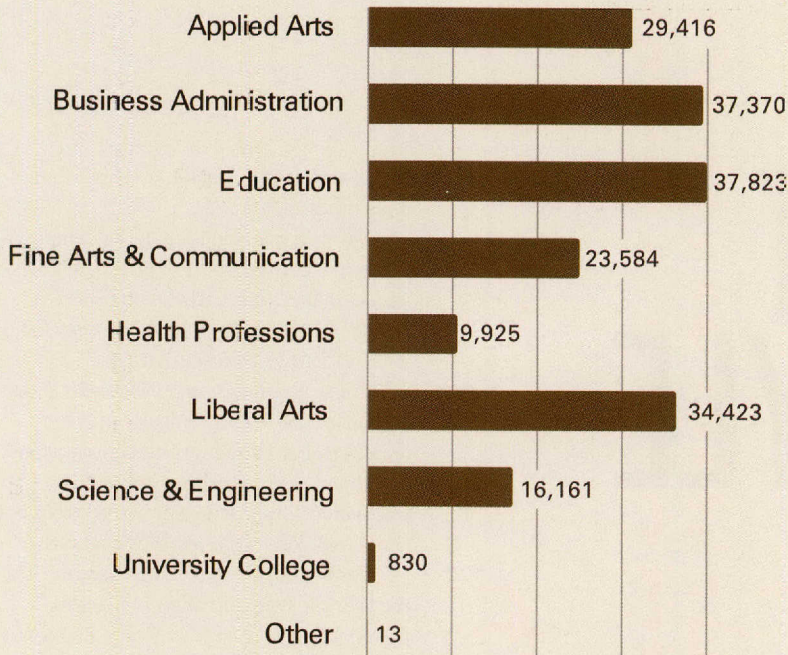
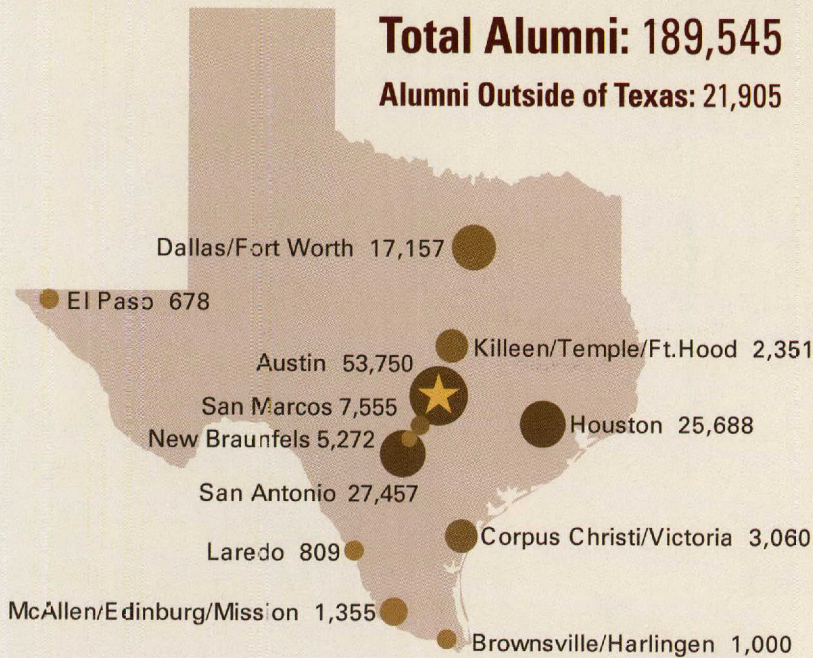




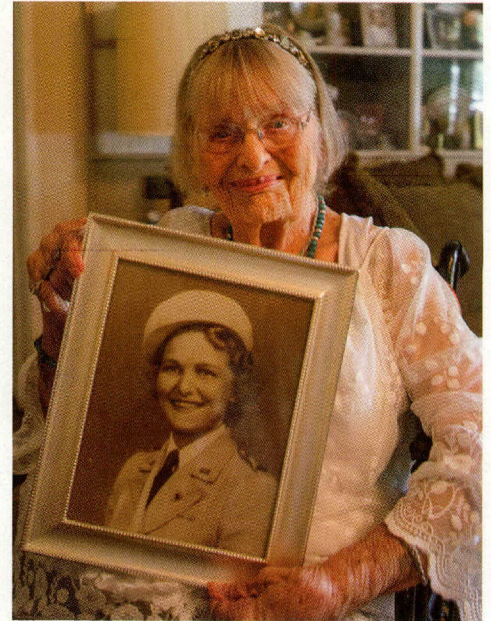
# Alumni Profile

**Total Alumni: 189,545**

**Alumni Outside of Texas: 21,905**



The data was provided by the Office of Advancement Services on 9/5/2018.



## 100 years young

### Bobcat served as nurse in World War II

When Earlyne Reidland Sheets arrived in San Marcos as a bright-eyed freshman in 1937, she had no idea that war would divert her to another career and create a 48-year gap in her degree plan.

In 1985, the former nurse earned a Texas State degree. On June 4, 2018, she celebrated her 100th birthday.

Just a year into her college life, Sheets decided to enter nursing school in Austin to prepare for a troubled future as the Nazis continued their meteoric rise in Europe. After the U.S. entered the war, Sheets was stationed in Great Britain where she lived with five other nurses in a Nissen hut and worked in the 130th Station Hospital. There, the young nurse met 1st Lt. George Sheets. They began a courtship and would marry on June 5, 1944, the day before the D-Day invasion. The next day, as she heard the rumble of the war machine, her new husband was headed to Utah Beach.

Sheets had always thought about going back to get her degree, and when Texas State began offering satellite courses at Brooke Army Medical Center, she signed up and completed a degree in health administration in August 1985.

At a June birthday dinner, her son, Mike told the story of the physical education course his mother failed while in college. He said, "So, she failed physical education, and here she is 100 years old." Everyone laughed.

— Jacque Crouse





# A BOBCAT WITH STYLE

Leslie Fossler says there is a big difference between designer and decorator

*By Tracy Hotson Lehmann*

Interior designer Leslie Fossler often feels misunderstood.

Most people don't grasp the complexity of her profession, says Fossler (B.S. '76), who launched her Austin firm, Leslie Fossler Interiors, in 1982. "Now they think it's HGTV or Pinterest or Houzz."

Those platforms raise awareness about aesthetics, she acknowledges, but there's more. Licensed designers must understand building codes, materials safety, and accessibility standards. They stick to budgets and schedules — and, yes, they decorate.

Fossler enrolled at Texas State in 1972, the year the concentration in interior design was first offered in Home Economics, now the School of Family and Consumer Sciences. She's been explaining the distinction between designer and decorator to peers, friends, and family ever since.

"Decorating is part of what I do. It's the fun part," she says. "Design of the true space, which is the crux of what I've built my business on, is working collaboratively



with architects, developers, structural engineers, and mechanical consultants. I'm part of that team." Fossler's design credits include offices, restaurants, hotels, and high-rise apartments — and, yes, she has redone living rooms along the way.

Retired Texas State professor Jene Laman says he told Fossler and other students it's good to be versed in both commercial and residential design. The curriculum, however, emphasized commercial design so students could be grounded in the complexities of large buildings. "If you learn commercial design, that information carries over to residential design," he says.

Fossler's first job was with an Austin company that sold office furniture to state agencies. It wasn't glamorous, but it turned out to be a career springboard when the firm tapped her to head its new interior design department. Her first big project there was transforming the 100-year-old Walter Tips Building on Congress Avenue into the Franklin Savings and Loan building. She relished delving into the building's history to incorporate past and present in the design.

"That's when I knew my work would always be fundamentally grounded in history," Fossler says. "Learning that history and understanding it and how to bring it into the 21st century is the ultimate for me."

She forged professional connections with restoration architects and key players in Austin's downtown rebirth. "I had everything you could have asked for," she says. "I didn't even know to ask for it, it just happened."

The young designer launched her business amid Austin's booming economy. Then, the boom went bust, and Fossler reluctantly accepted jobs making over clients' homes. Turns out, the work she never wanted to do did more than sustain her business until the economy rebounded. The lessons she learned from those residential jobs shaped her approach to design. "It was the hardest thing I ever did," she says. "I had to take someone else's idea and make it come to life. I was not great at it, but it did teach me some valuable things about listening."

Computers have replaced hand drawing, and clients are more design savvy. More than ever, designers need strong listening and face-to-face communication skills, Fossler tells interns and young designers. "You have to build trust," she says. "(Clients) have to

trust that you're going to design it right, that it's going to hold up and perform, that it's going to come in under budget, and it's going to wow people."

Earning potential is strong for well-grounded designers, Fossler says. "Making \$100,000 a year is possible for creative people. To be worthy of that, you have to be on your feet about what you're telling people. You have to be aware of accessibility requirements and building and safety codes."

Fossler stays active in organizations such as the International Interior Design Association and the Council for Interior Design Accreditation to help bolster professional standards. She's part of CIDA's accreditation team, visiting universities to ensure that interior design programs meet industry standards. Texas State's program has been accredited since 1988, with the next review due in 2021.

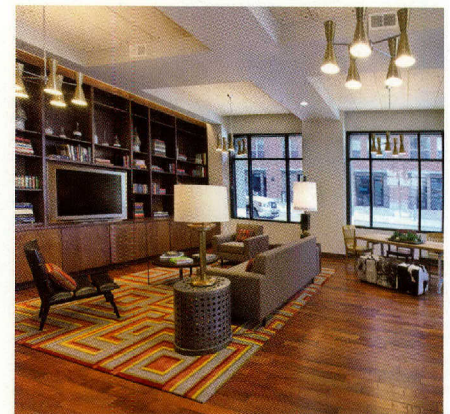
Today, Fossler's firm employs four full-time staffers along with contract designers and is listed among the *Austin Business Journal's* top design firms. In 2005, Fossler bought and renovated a 1950s garage in downtown Austin to serve as her office. The building lies about a mile southwest of the State Capitol in what was "kind of the armpit end of town" when she bought it. Austin, like the design profession, has evolved.

"Now I own a piece of Austin in a really good part of town. Who knew (this would happen) when I enrolled in the home economics department?" she says, laughing.

Leslie Fossler Interiors has designed hotels, restaurants, and luxury apartments.

**Among these projects:**

- Bowie Apartments, Austin
- Jewel Apartments, Denver
- Can Plant apartments at the Pearl Brewery, San Antonio
- Sheraton Hotel, Georgetown
- Hotel Cortessa, San Antonio
- Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio
- Ranch 616, Austin
- Biga on the Banks, San Antonio
- The County Line Bar-B-Q restaurant chain



Top: Can Plant apartments at the Pearl Brewery, San Antonio

Bottom: Barriba Cantina, San Antonio





# THE FAMILY BUSINESS

When Troy Finch joined in 1989, they had one funeral home – now there are five

By Edmond Ortiz

*“You have to be willing to be on call 24/7. We work days, nights, weekends, and holidays.”*

**Troy Finch**  
Class of 1988

“Treat families like you would want them to treat you” is the motto for the Finch family, which has been in the funeral business since the 1950s. Finch Funeral Chapel LLC operates five funeral homes in towns southeast of San Antonio.

Attending Texas State University, too, is a family thing for the Finches. Owner Troy Finch earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1988. His mother, Charlotte (B.S. ’64), and his grandmother both graduated from the university. His daughter, Taylor, is a sophomore business major.

Finch learned the family business – started by his grandfather Barney Finch in 1961 – as he grew, helping wherever he could. His training began with basic things like opening doors and greeting visitors “ever since I was big enough to put on a suit.” The family lived above the funeral home in Nixon before they built a larger home in town.

Families are the backbone of funeral establishments. Of the 1,499 funeral homes operating in Texas, less than 1 percent are owned by large corporations. The rest are family-owned or small family-owned corporations with a few funeral homes under their umbrella.

After graduating from Texas State, Finch earned an associate degree from Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service in Houston. That’s where he

learned the skills to become a licensed mortician and funeral director. There are only two publicly funded colleges in Texas that have mortuary science degrees – San Antonio College and Amarillo College.

“In mortuary school, you learn about anatomy, study diseases, the circulatory system,” he explains. “There’s also the business aspect – you have to learn accounting, learn to wait on families, and direct funerals. You have to learn about all the different religions and the way they do things in respect of their religions. There’s many facets to it.”

To be an effective funeral director, you must have a desire to help families through their grief immediately following a loved one’s death, Finch says. Comfortable furniture and color schemes at each location help to comfort grieving visitors. The La Vernia location even boasts an aviary of tiny finches.

“You have to be willing to be on call 24/7. We work days, nights, weekends, and holidays. There’s lots of behind-the-scenes stuff. You have to deal with embalming procedures, and picking up people from accidents,” Finch says.

He will admit that the business of facilitating interment services and burials – a \$20 billion-a-year industry – “is not for everyone.” Finch would use his business education to expand the family business and to give back to an industry that has

given his family so much. In 1989 when he joined the business with his father, Don, there was one Finch Funeral Home in Nixon. Today, there are five funeral chapels operating in Gonzales, Wilson, DeWitt, and Karnes counties.

Finch met his wife, Janet, at the Commonwealth Institute, where she was studying to be a licensed funeral director. They make their home in La Vernia, where they raised their two children.

A member of the Texas Funeral Directors Association (TFDA), Finch was honored in 2013 as the group’s Funeral Director of the Year. He has also presided over the TFDA’s 52-county South Central Texas region.

In the early 1990s, Finch knew that owning and running a business is tough, and that many ventures will fail in the first years of operation. “I convinced my father, once I came to work for him, to build a funeral home in La Vernia,” he says. “I built it from scratch. There had never been a funeral home there before. I had to get involved in the community and convince them to use us instead of other funeral homes.”

Finch will tell you that the business is a rewarding one, and says that his daughter is considering joining when she completes her education. “You have a really good feeling when you help a family from the very beginning to the very end,” he says.





# CHRISTIE RYAN

Attorney's work on behalf of veterans, their spouses earns award

By Brian Hudgins

Christie Ryan's first indication that a legal career might be in order didn't come from a classroom or a courtroom.

"My dad always said I argued too much and I should be a lawyer," she says.

Today, Ryan (B.A. '05) is an attorney with Dunnam & Dunnam in Waco where she practices appellate, civil trial, commercial, consumer, and family law. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Baylor Law School and has volunteered for the Baylor Law Veterans Clinic since it opened in 2012. Last year, Ryan was honored as the clinic's Advocate of the Year, an award given to those who go above and beyond in pro bono legal services to veterans and their spouses.

"I volunteer at the Baylor Law School Veterans Clinic pretty frequently," Ryan says. "They send me mostly divorce cases. Some clients have PTSD. Many times, it's a complicated case."

Those complex issues are just one part of the legal lure for Ryan, who is married to Baylor Law professor Rory Ryan and is the mother of three children. Aside from her courtroom experiences, Ryan sees decisions handed down frequently in a much different arena. Being a mom to three boys, with two involved in sports leagues, means that many weekend afternoons are spent at ballfields. The atmosphere and decision-making processes are more casual than court proceedings.

"I am a lawyer but also a parent. A parent might have a great case legally, but emotionally — people who have been married for 10 or 15 years still have to raise their kids. Once you cross that line, it's hard to be civil."

Many cases revolving around family law issues are settled out of court before a decisive court hearing is reached. "For family law cases, there is about a 70 percent

chance the case will be settled before a final hearing," Ryan says. "I like those family cases, because I like talking to people and working out those issues."

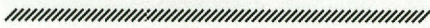
One case that stands out for Ryan involved custody of a child with autism where the dad's visitation was restricted. "Assisting a dad in a custody case and seeing that emotion is powerful," she says.

Ryan says her learning process at Texas State helped her become a better problem solver. She majored in history with a minor in philosophy. "You are always looking at solving problems (as an attorney)," she says. "How is somebody else going to try to destroy your case? How can I win or lose this case? Philosophy and those logic classes were really helpful."

In addition to those lessons, both listening and asking questions in a courtroom setting has value — even if the material does not directly involve one of her cases. "Any time I see other lawyers put on a case, I can learn a lot by being there," she says. "Hearing jurors and finding out what was or wasn't credible helps you."

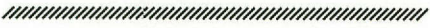
Ryan, who is from Fort Worth and was home-schooled until age 16, had her first big post-law school lesson happen on familiar ground. "My first huge deal as an attorney came during an appellate argument," Ryan says. "My bosses let me write the appellate brief (where) you have to present your argument to a panel of judges. It was held in Waco and my former professors were there. I lost and it was terrifying."

Since then, Ryan has carried a mental reminder of the value of both positive and negative outcomes. "If you lose, it keeps you humble and you learn how to better advise clients going forward," she says. "The more you win or lose, it helps me to advise a future client."



*"You are always looking at solving problems (as an attorney). ... Philosophy and those logic classes were really helpful."*

Christie Ryan  
Class of 2005







# HE'S THE BOSS

## Perez went from outlet store part-timer to corporate head in Mexico

By *Jacque Crouse*

After graduating from Texas State, Jon David “J.D.” Perez thought he would end up working with someone like Michael Dell — being “a cool computer guy” in Austin. He never dreamed that a part-time job at an outlet mall would lead him to climb a different corporate ladder.

Perez (B.B.A. '05), now a 36-year-old husband and father of two, lives in Mexico City where he is the corporate head of retail and visual merchandising for German fashion house Hugo Boss. He is also a member of the Texas State University Development Foundation Leadership Council and served on the advisory board for the McCoy College Institute for Global Business.

Born in Austin and raised in San Marcos by a single mother, Perez says he did not plan to attend his hometown university, but a campus tour made all the difference. “Everyone was so happy, nice, and smiling. I felt it was a very diverse campus, and I told my mom I would go to Texas State, but I was not going to live at home!” At least, not after

that first semester.

As a Bobcat, he was studying computer information systems and enjoying being a member of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity Inc. Before his freshman year began, Perez got a job with Hugo Boss at San Marcos Premium Outlets. In his first year working at the outlet, Perez’s assistant manager told him their store would close in three months.

“Only one store in Texas was going to stay open, not ours. I told them they were wrong; we would be the store to remain open. They did not understand the clientele at our store,” he says. Not surprisingly, when his sales numbers proved Perez to be right, the San Marcos store remained open.

In his junior year, an economics professor introduced Perez to a program where he could double major in computer information systems and business management, with an emphasis in Latin American markets. Following his graduation, Perez took a job in the computer field in Austin. His store manager encouraged him to work that job during the week and stay with the store on weekends.

“I did that for nine months and realized that the computer thing was not for me,” he says. The following year Perez was named store manager. By this time, Perez had married his wife, Lucy, and they had started a family.

When the corporate district manager

asked Perez what he wanted from his career, he had a ready answer: “I said, no offense, but I want your job. I didn’t want to be a store manager all my life.” When an area manager position opened up, Perez took it and found himself traveling around the Midwest.

“In New York, they didn’t understand why we did all the business we do at Easter, and I had to explain how our clients from Mexico shopped,” he says. “One year, I told them not to order too much in early fall as September 16 (Independence Day in Mexico) fell on Saturday, and I knew sales would be down.”

The Hugo Boss hierarchy began to recognize his understanding of Latin American markets. When the director of retail position opened in Mexico City, Perez jumped on it. He has since traveled the world, learning the corporate business and visual merchandising. He regularly travels to New York and Germany and has grown his area’s portfolio 300% in five years.

“I am really blessed. I like to tell people I am not your boss, I am your coach,” Perez says. “I really care about my teams, and I don’t have a problem rolling up my sleeves, getting on a ladder, and helping at a store. I am here to change people’s lives.”

His best advice?

“Be passionate, be patient, but most important be humble. Employers like people who are all three of those things.”



# (class)notes



1 Noelia Longoria

## Steve Doherty '72

Columbus, Ohio, has released *Gold Dominion*, his third novel set during World War II and published by Amazon.com.

## Mazie Mathews Jamison '73

Dallas, has been appointed to the Texas Board of Nursing by Gov. Greg Abbott. She retired as chief policy officer of Children's Medical Center in North Dallas.

## Valerie Richardson '79

Dallas, was named to the board of directors of New York-based Kimco Realty. She is currently the vice president of real estate for the Container Store Inc.

## 1 Noelia Longoria '80

Houston, was named interim chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District. She was previously the assistant superintendent of the Office of School Choice for Houston ISD.

## Lester King '82

Livingston, has been inducted into the Prairie View Interscholastic League Hall of Honor/Hall of Fame. He is the athletic director and head coach for Goodrich ISD.

## Timothy Swinney '82

Garden Ridge, retired as a colonel from the U.S. Air Force after serving 33 years as a pilot, commander, and staff officer. He also retired as a sales manager with USAA.



2 Robert Starnes

## 2 Robert Starnes '86

San Marcos, is the author of *Dictators and Diplomats: A Special Agent's Memoir and Musings* (2018, Nobility Press). He is retired from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

## Michael W. Bukosky '87

Richardson, has joined Methodist Medical Group as senior vice president/chief operating officer. He was previously the chief administrative officer of USMD Holdings Inc. and president of USMD Physician Practice Management.

## Martha Castex-Tatum '92 & '97

Houston, was recently elected to the Houston City Council. She is a residential Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services.

## Kim Callison '94

Lubbock, was named principal of Hardwick Elementary School.

## 3 David Collinsworth '94

Waco, was named general manager and CEO for the board of the Brazos River Authority. Collinsworth has been with the river authority for more than 20 years and is currently regional manager for the organization.



3 David Collinsworth

## Chris Dillon '96

Bastrop, was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Bastrop School Board. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from St. Mary's University and is a criminal defense attorney.

## Darrell Harborth '97

Seguin, was named head coach for Navarro High School's softball team. He is also head coach for the Lady Panthers basketball team.

## Dr. Jeffrey Hankins '98

Ruston, Louisiana, has been chosen for the Louisiana Tech University Garnie W. McGinty Chair in History. A specialist in British and early modern European history, he joined the university in 2004.

## 4 Cade Smith '99

Brock, has been named superintendent for Brock ISD. Smith was previously executive director of campus leadership and operations for Georgetown ISD.

## 5 Rodney Clark '00

Wichita, Kansas, was named police chief at Wichita State University. He was previously an assistant professor of military science at the Rochester Institute of Technology.



4 Cade Smith

## 6 Bridget B. Vick '05

Houston, has been named a partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth law firm. She focuses on commercial litigation, with an emphasis on ERISA, employee benefits, and managed care. She received her Juris Doctor from South Texas College of Law – Houston.

## Micah Sudduth '07

Los Angeles, debuted their web series "Home" at New York's Tribeca Film Festival. "Home" was one of five series in a new online works category at the festival.

## 7 Angela Burnett '13

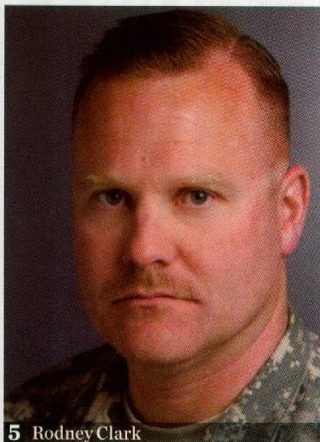
Kansas City, Missouri, has joined the law firm of Lathrop Gage. She previously worked with Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLP in Houston. She received her Juris Doctor degree in 2016 from South Texas College of Law – Houston.

## 8 Gianna Yanelli '14

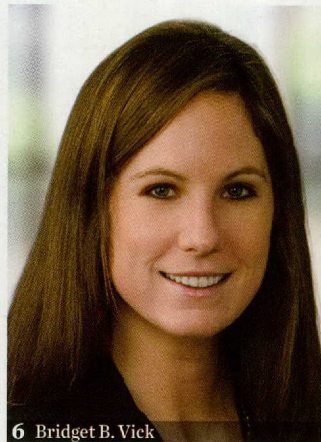
New York City, made her Broadway debut in *Mean Girls* when the play opened at the August Wilson Theatre. She is part of the ensemble and the understudy for the role of Janis Sarkisian.

Send your Class Notes  
contributions to:  
hillviews@txstate.edu





5 Rodney Clark



6 Bridget B. Vick



7 Angela Burnett



8 Gianna Yanelli

**Kathryn Whitbeck '15**

Virginia Beach, Virginia, graduated from the Naval School of Music and earned the Navy's distinguished Meritorious Mast Award. She is stationed at the U.S. Naval Base: Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan.

**Dustin Evans '16**

Waco, is a partner in Southern Roots Brewery in Waco's central city.

**9 Kayla Frazier Prine '16**

Allen, has joined FTK Construction Services as public relations manager.

**Morgan Mitchell '17**

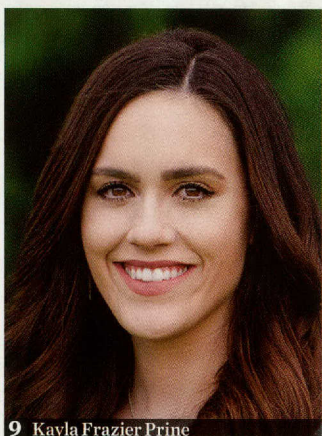
Madawaska, Maine, has joined the reporting staff of the *St. John Times/Fiddlehead Focus*. She was previously a special projects editor for the *Odessa American* newspaper.

**Camden Scarborough '17**

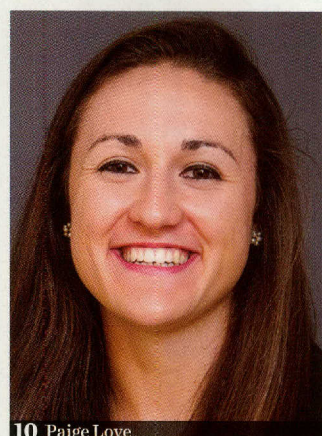
Chicago, has won a position as an associate member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. He is a graduate performance student at Northwestern University.

**10 Paige Love '18**

San Marcos, was named assistant coach for Texas State women's basketball. She was previously a graduate assistant for the team while studying for her master's degree in exercise and sports science.



9 Kayla Frazier Prine



10 Paige Love

**Anna Uzele '18**

New York City, made her Broadway debut this spring in the cast of the Tony-nominated musical *Once on This Island*.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Kenneth K. Blewett**, owner of San Marcos Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and a member of the university's Pillar Society, died March 22, 2018. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Raspberry Blewett; and children, Kevin Blewett and Michelle Targun.

**Shirley R. Harris (B.S. '67)**, who was among the first African-American students to graduate from Texas State, died March 31, 2018, in San Antonio. Born April 7, 1944, in Smithville, Harris earned her degree in education and taught in San Antonio schools for more than 40 years.

**Linda Sue Hunter (M.A. '82)**, a teacher in the Gonzales ISD and an English professor at Texas State and Victoria College, died April 8, 2018. Survivors include her husband, Stephen Hunter; and children, Janna Christian and John Mark Zavakil.

**John W. "John Bill" Moffitt (B.S. '64, M.S. '65)**, of San Marcos, died April 10, 2018. Born Sept. 3, 1938, in San Antonio, he worked for more than 40 years at Central Texas College in Killeen. Survivors include his wife, Dixie Moffitt; and children, Kevin Moffitt, Kenneth Moffitt, and Kasie Ellis.

**Robert Mesa (B.S. '43)** died April 11, 2018, in New Braunfels. For 46 years he served as a teacher at Gary Job Corps Center. Survivors include his wife, Anna Mesa; and children, Greg Mesa, Yvette Mesa, and Laura Pfeil.

**William L. "Bill" Cunningham (B.A. '73)**, a former Texas State University System regent and former manager of the LBJ Museum in San Marcos, died April 19, 2018. As a university student, he served on the San Marcos City Council. He worked in public relations after graduation, helped to found the LBJ Museum, and served on the board of directors for the Cheatham Street Music Foundation. Survivors include his wife, Nevin; and son, Andrew.



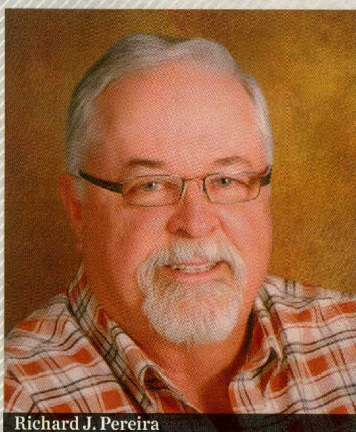
**Chris M. Sweeney (B.B.A. '80)**, who worked in sales and management for many years before establishing Sweeney Farm in Alpine, died April 19, 2018. Survivors include his wife, Dodie; and son, Jimmy Greer.

**Ann Evetts Fisher (B.S. '74)**, of Lake Brownwood, died April 21, 2018. A teacher for 30 years, she is survived by her husband, Leslie Fisher; and children Silas, Paige, and Dusty.

**Tyler Chase Ellis (B.A. '15)**, of San Marcos, died April 22, 2018. Survivors include his parents, John and Sabra Ellis; and brothers, Josh and Elijah.

**Flora Jane Whisenant (B.S. '46, M.A. '50)**, of San Marcos, died April 23, 2018. She was a teacher and educational diagnostician. Survivors include her children, Linda, Norman Jr., Dewey, and Tim.

**Lois Drymalla Braden (B.S. '67)**, of Columbus, died April 27, 2018. She taught for many years in Sealy ISD before retiring in 2006.



Richard J. Pereira

**Richard J. Pereira (B.S. '69)**, of Salado, died May 1, 2018. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps after graduation and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1969 as a combat engineer officer. He served two tours in Vietnam and achieved the rank of captain. In 1972, he began his career in education coaching track and football, before joining Killeen ISD where he taught history and served as a counselor. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Pereira of Salado; children, Robert J. Pereira, Randall J. Pereira, and Patricia Elaine Trueblood.

**David C. Garza (B.A.A.S. '86)**, who was a social worker with the Texas Department of Human Services until his retirement in 2004, died May 10, 2018. Survivors include his children, Jennifer Montanez and Jeffrey Garza.

**Cheryl Ruth Conn Henzen (B.S. '68, M.A. '74)**, of Seguin, died May 11, 2018. She was a teacher, spending most of her career in La Vernia. Survivors include her husband, James Henzen; and daughter, Karen Cunningham.

**Stephanie Vinson (B.A. '07)**, a graphic designer who became a perfumer with a seasonal shop at the Sherwood Forest Faire, died May 12, 2018, in Fort Worth.

**Erika Mauricio Ramirez (B.S. '07)**, of San Antonio, died May 14, 2018. Survivors include her husband, Adrian Ramirez; and daughter, Liana Ramirez.

**Dr. Jay Dunnaho (B.S. '58)**, whose work in music education served students throughout Texas, died May 12, 2018, in Kerrville. He was involved in Symphony of the Hills and Hill Country Youth Orchestras. He was past president of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association, Texas Music Educators Conference, Pasadena Philharmonic Society, and the Texas Music Adjudicators Association. In 1992, Texas State recognized him for "Outstanding Contributions to and Distinguished Career in Music Education."

**Larry Frank Burruss (B.A. '64)**, who was chief appraiser for the Hays County Central Appraisal District until his retirement in 2011, died May 20, 2018. He was instrumental in starting the Chilympiad in San Marcos and was past president of the Chili Appreciation Society International. Survivors include his wife, Janie Burruss; and daughters, Kathy Wallace and Shelly Nemeec.

**Danny Dietiker (B.S. '71)**, who taught and coached in Texas for 28 years, died May 24, 2018, in Clifton. Survivors include his wife, Diane (B.S. '71); and sons, Garth, Grant, and Trent.

**Jack Miles (B.S. '54, M.Ed. '56)** died June 4, 2018, in Gonzales. Born on Aug. 13, 1927, in Kingsbury, he graduated from the university following military service with the U.S. Air Force. During his

30-year career, he was a teacher and principal. Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Erma; and sons, the Rev. Marvin Miles and Larry Miles.

**The Rev. Ricardo Flippin (B.A.A.S. '77)** died June 5, 2018, in Charleston, West Virginia. Throughout most of his life he served as a Baptist pastor. Survivors include his wife, Jeannie; and children, Emily and Michael.

**Lt. Col. (ret.) Arthur L. Amey (M.A. '80)**, of San Marcos, died June 6, 2018. He served 25 years in the U.S. Army. Survivors include a son, Ryan Amey.

**Cynthia Odile Pittaro Kopsch (M.A. '03)** died June 10, 2018, at her home in Chester, Maryland. Born July 31, 1954, in New Jersey, she taught in the U.S. and overseas for the U.S. Department of Defense. Survivors include her husband, William Louis Kopsch; and children, Christopher William Kopsch Sr. and Gillian Odile Busick.

**Lura Lyle Sovall (B.A. '86)**, of The Colony, died June 20, 2018. Survivors include her husband, Rodney Stovall; daughter, Sara Stark; and sons, Lyle Stovall and Jackson Stovall.

**Ron Silvia (B.A. '77)**, who once served as mayor of College Station, died June 27, 2018. Survivors include his wife, Anna Jean; and children, Randy Silvia and Sharon Gillespie.

**Weldon W. Whisenant (B.S. '49)**, who coached football, track, and golf at various Texas schools, died August 12, 2018, in San Antonio. He was the principal of Eisenhower Middle School in San Antonio for 17 years. Survivors include his wife, Thomas Lou "Corky" Whisenant; son, Jeff Kelly; and daughter, Terry K. Bradford.

**Dr. David C. Nelson**, professor emeritus of Journalism and Mass Communication, died August 12, 2018, in New Braunfels. Nelson joined Texas State in 1988 and served as associate dean of University College for 25 years. Survivors include his wife, Lucretia "Lubee" Nelson; son, Matt Nelson; and sister, Laurie Graves.



# The (last) view

*When the Bobcats took to the field for the Oct. 27 Homecoming Game against New Mexico State, the players and the fans weren't the only ones wearing SWT throwback styles. Boko wore his SWT cape that dates to the late 1970s. Boko once sported a shiny cape and crown and carried a scepter. Here, he wears the cape provided by a former Boko.*

*Photo by Chandler Prude*





# TEXAS STATE

## 2018-19 BOBCAT BASKETBALL

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EVENTS

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. ORAL ROBERTS, 11.24.18

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## from the collections



*The archives of San Antonio-born singer-songwriter Terri Hendrix are now part of the Texas Music Collection at The Wittliff.*

## AT THE WITTLIFF COLLECTIONS

### TERRI HENDRIX: PAINTED OVERALLS

NOW THROUGH APRIL 2019

Singer-songwriter, author, entrepreneur, educator, and arts advocate Terri Hendrix has been a cherished and inspirational figure on the Texas music scene since emerging in the early 1990s with a bubbly outlook, folk songs like the fun “Two Dollar Shoes” and the gorgeous “Cathy’s Corner,” and her trademark overalls.

The Wittliff offers a peek at the Terri Hendrix Papers, which span her award-winning career as a performing and recording artist. Her archives include numerous demo and master tapes produced by Lloyd Maines, handwritten lyrics, awards, photographs, and flyers, as well as hand-drawn greeting cards, artwork, and emotional letters from young students she’s inspired.

Hendrix’s evolution as an artist — from New Folk winner at the Kerrville Folk Festival to co-writing the Grammy-winning song “Lil’ Jack Slade” for the Dixie Chicks to establishing the nonprofit Own Your Own Universe, a community arts center in San Marcos — continues with her ambitious “Project 5” series.

To learn more, visit [www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu](http://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu) or call (512) 245-7431.