Donors Help UT Dallas Score

The start of the spring season for baseball, softball and soccer teams at UT Dallas brought new scoreboards, thanks to the generosity of donors to the University's Athletic Department.

Three corporate gifts and eight individual gifts helped make possible three scoreboards valued at more than $103,000, according to Chris Gage, athletic director.

The Comets compete at the NCAA Division III level in seven women's and six men's sports. Gage credits the athletic program's success with creating a stronger campus identity.

“We have only been competing at the Division III level since 1998, but our teams are routinely winning conference championships and qualifying for national tournaments,” Gage said. “It has been wonderful to see our students and the local community rally behind our teams as they become more successful, and we hope our donors are proud to know they are backing winning teams.”

AT&T Invests in Student Programs at UT Dallas

A contribution from AT&T has substantially strengthened UT Dallas’ Academic Bridge Program, which helps Dallas urban high school students prepare for the transition to college.

AT&T officials announced the $220,000 contribution at the Partners Dinner in February sponsored by the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, the home of the bridge program.

Academic Bridge is a 10-year-old program created to serve young people from urban areas across Texas—with an emphasis on Dallas-area high school students—enabling high-potential graduates to bridge the gap between their K-12 education and college with an accelerated summer session of undergraduate courses and social acclimation.

Support continues during participants’ years at UT Dallas with tutoring, cultural opportunities and professional internships. Many of the program’s students go on to serve as mentors to incoming students.

The AT&T gift will enable the Academic Bridge Program to increase the number of students who can be assisted by the program, and to expand its reach to younger high school students.

“The future success of this region is directly tied to the education of our children,” said Holly Reed, AT&T regional vice president for external affairs. “If students do not finish high school, all of our community is negatively impacted. And if those who want to go to college can’t realize their potential, our future is even more threatened.”

The gift, which supports AT&T’s top philanthropic priority, increases the number of students the Academic Bridge Program can serve annually by 20, bringing the program to capacity.

In the program’s first decade, 112 students have earned a UT Dallas degree. The Academic Bridge Program boasts a graduation rate around 70 percent, which is higher than state and national averages.

“THe future of Dallas and Texas is directly tied to the education of our children,” said Brian Beck-Smith, AT&T regional vice president for external affairs.

Three Companies Fund New Scoreboards

The Crowne Plaza - Dallas Park Central
Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers
Staybridge Suites

NCAA guidelines don’t allow athletic scholarships at the Division III level, so donations to UT Dallas athletics go primarily toward enhancing facilities, supporting the coaching and training staffs and covering travel expenses. To learn more about supporting UT Dallas athletics, contact Bill Petitt, associate athletic director for external relations, at bpetitt@utdallas.edu or 972-883-6166.

To learn more about UT Dallas athletics, visit cometsports.utdallas.edu

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O’Donnell Foundation Supports Math and Science Education through UTeach Dallas

UTeach Dallas has received a grant of $500,000 from the O’Donnell Foundation to help increase the number of middle and high school teachers certified to teach math or science. The gift will help support the UTeach Dallas endowment and provide flexibility to support scholarships, internships and other aspects of the program.

“UTeach is increasingly becoming the model for addressing the problems affecting math and science teaching in our nation’s schools,” said Dr. Myron Salamon, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. “With the support from the O’Donnell Foundation, we will be able to build further on the success our program has already experienced.”

UTeach began at The University of Texas at Austin in 1997 and has expanded to 15 universities across the country. Launched at UT Dallas in 2008, the program grew rapidly to include 170 students. Sixty percent of UTeach Dallas students are seeking certification to teach science, and 40 percent are seeking certification in math. The long-term goal of UTeach is to produce teachers who encourage young people to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering and math, commonly referred to as the STEM fields.

The strength of the UTeach model lies in its approach to educating future teachers in these fields, according to Dr. Mary Urquhart, co-director of UTeach Dallas.

“With the statewide teacher shortage, teachers are being assigned to teach classes they are not certified in and may never have even had college courses in,” she said. “The crisis in STEM fields is particularly dire, not just in Texas but nationwide.

UTeach Dallas recruits STEM majors and exposes them to teaching as early as their first semester in college.”

Dr. George Fox, Brian Beck-Smith, Janet Carden

“UTeach Dallas recruits STEM majors and exposes them to teaching as early as their first semester in college.”

-Dr. Mary Urquhart

continued on page 2

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
increase with each cohort and to watch the support and resources for each student grow,” said Nettie McNulty (BA ’14), a member of the program’s initial 2020 cohort. “I hope current and future students benefit from the gift, not only through enhanced services but by knowing that a successful and hard-working company such as AT&T believes they can succeed.”

The Academic Bridge Program also received nearly $200,000 in additional funding from the state during the fall 2020 legislative session.

“We combined with the AT&T contribution, we will now be able to ‘bridge’ a total of 50 students next summer,” said Dr. George Fain, dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. “This means our program grew by 100 percent in just one year thanks to public and private support.

The state appropriation—which resulted through the particular help of State Representative Helen Giddings—and the support of AT&T show our students how building partnerships can lead to dramatic results,” he added.

# Donors Fight Crime by Eating Lunch

Rockfish Seafood Grill in Richardson has teamed up with UT Dallas to encourage and support peace officers who want to return to school and earn a bachelor’s degree.

Rockfish donates 10 percent of sales on the first Monday of every month to fund scholarships for peace officers who are working toward criminology degrees in the University’s School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. UT Dallas employees and students also save 10 percent on meals on Rock the Blue Mondays at Rockfish.

So far the effort has generated $1,800 for the scholarship fund.

“An excellent way for us to be a good neighbor to UT Dallas and to raise money for this important scholarship,” said Jeff Pierce, chief director at Rockfish.

The Texas Legislature recently passed a bill that provides state funds for criminology-related coursework. Scholarship funds and fees will be waived for all criminology courses taken at state institutions by peace officers. Of the 120 hours required for a standard bachelor’s degree in criminology, 36 would qualify for the tuition waiver.

The peace officer student, however, must pay the additional tuition and fees required to earn a degree. UT Dallas’ Blue Fund was established to help officers cover the additional costs. The school is encouraging individuals and businesses to support the scholarship fund, contributing to the efforts of Texas peace officers wishing to extend their educations.

Any designated Texas peace officer pursuing a criminology-related degree qualifies for the state tuition assistance. UT Dallas wants to target officers who have established a record of achievement by completing the first two years of undergraduate study. Proceeds from the Blue Fund go primarily to officers in the junior and senior years of undergraduate study.

“Peace officer” is an official designation decreed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education. To become licensed as a peace officer in Texas, individuals must successfully complete the basic licensing course, pass the state licensing examination and be appointed to a position with a law enforcement agency. A typical peace officer is a young police officer just beginning his or her career.

“This is a way for all of us to show our appreciation for students working in law enforcement,” said James Marquet, a professor of criminology who will this fall succeed Brian Berry as dean of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. “We strongly believe the best form of community protection is an educated law enforcement force. A meal at Rockfish in support of these students’ education is a way to demonstrate we are grateful for all they do for us.”

Pierce said the most successful Mondays have brought in 75 to 100 extra customers, many of whom said they showed up to support the scholarship fund.

“Rockfish is truly excited to have a partnership with UT Dallas supporting our local police officers,” he said. “This scholarship fund is a chance to acknowledge their service and reward their efforts with the opportunity to continue their educations.”

“I hope everyone comes out to enjoy the good food and support the cause,” Marquet said. 

# We Can Do It With Your Help

A message from President David E. Daniel

As I wrote to you in the first edition of the Donor Report last fall, UT Dallas was very pleased to enjoy $17 million in fundraising during the final quarter of 2020—a record number of gifts of more than $1 million, which nearly doubled through the O’Donnell Foundation grant. The grants have pushed the UTeach endowment past $900,000.

“We are within sight of the goal, and we hope others will join these donors so we can meet the challenge and further expand UTeach!” Salamon added.

UT Dallas was very pleased to enjoy $1 million to our endowment, “Dean Salamon said.

NMSI is based in Dallas and directed by attorney and civic leader Tom Luce. It is a broad public-private partnership formed to reverse the decay of national math and science education and prepare students for the rigors of college science classes. Early investors in NMSI included the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and ExxonMobil. President Obama announced in January that NMSI would receive support to expand from 15 universities to 20 nationwide, including UT Arlington and UT Tyler.

For more information about UTeach Dallas, please visit utdallas.education/teach. To make a gift in support of the NMSI endowment challenge, please contact Michele Myres, director of development and alumni relations in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, at michele.myres@utdallas.edu or 972-883-6877.

The seven goals are generally described in the law, though details of the criteria that will be used are, as I write, being specified by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The measures address student quality, faculty quality, research productivity of PhD graduates, evidence of commitment to high quality graduate education, recognition of research quality and sustained levels of endowment funding and annual research expenditures.

Universities are not required to meet all seven of the criteria but—at UT Dallas—it is our intention to do so. We believe we already meet many of the criteria, and we are preparing an updated strategic plan describing actions that will lead to meeting all seven in less than 10 years.

For example, the research expenditure expectation is $4.5 million annually. UT Dallas had $3.7 million in restricted research expenditures last year. Given the rapid growth in research resulting from recent faculty hires (being made possible in part through the professorships and chairs funded by the $35 million grant), UT Dallas expects to reach and sustain the $4.5 million threshold within the next two years.

In the past five years, we’ve added 25 degree programs, 87 new faculty in only the past year, and another 1,000 students to our very talented and highly-qualified pool of future alumni.

Perhaps the highest threshold we’ll have to cross will involve endowment—we need to reach $400 million. Having said that, it’s important to note that with this year’s already record-breaking support, our endowment grew by $25 million. We are more than halfway to that goal.

In short: We can do it! With the hard work of the students, faculty and staff, we are moving toward our destiny without pause.
Gifts Establish New Accounting Professorship

A pioneering member of the UT Dallas School of Management faculty has created a new distinguished professorship that reinforces the strength of the school's accounting program.

A gift from Dr. Adolf J.H. Enthoven, who has taught at the School of Management for more than three decades, sparked the creation of the new professorship. Enthoven's donation combined with matching funds from the School of Management created a $250,000 endowment.

The school is in the process of a search to fill the Adolf Enthoven Distinguished Professorship in Accounting and Information Management.

A professor of accounting and information management, and director of the University’s Center for International Accounting Development, Enthoven said the gift in appreciation for the way the school has cultivated its accounting program.

"I have been at The University of Texas at Dallas for 54 years," he said. "When I first came here, there was no accounting program. Nobody knew who UT Dallas was, and they have done a remarkable job of developing a fine school. I thought that it was time I gave something back to them."

In expressing appreciation for the gift, School of Management Dean Hasan Pirkul said the new professorship appropriately ensures that as one of the founding professors of the school, Enthoven will not be forgotten.

"It is fitting that Dr. Enthoven's name will be associated with our school forever because of his many contributions and accomplishments," Pirkul said.

A leading expert on international accounting and the author of many books and papers on the subject, Enthoven also has established oil and gas financial management programs for developing countries. Through the Accounting Development Center, which is based in the School of Management, and with the assistance of experts in various fields, he offers an intensive, advanced international program.

"It is fitting that Dr. Enthoven’s name will be associated with our school forever because of his many contributions and accomplishments," Pirkul said.

The professorship will further establish the University’s role as a global teacher, he added.

"It gives the school even more recognition," he said. "It is just one more way that UT Dallas sets itself apart."

Enthoven already has generously to the School of Management in terms of his outstanding professional service, exceptional commitment and dedicated leadership over many decades, Pirkul said. "That he also unselfishly gives us a monetary gift of this stature for an endowment sends a wonderful message about his belief in our efforts, and it sets an example for others to follow."

The McDermott Library at UT Dallas has one of the world’s most extensive collections donated by individuals and a total of 300,000 in-state matching funds through TRIB. The University is also included in their estate plans.

"The Moller scholarship provides veterans like me with another tool to enable educational success," said Joshua Brainwell, a senior in business administration who served as an aviation electrical in the U.S. Navy. "It was an honor to serve in the armed forces and it was an honor to be awarded this scholarship. I thank the Mollers for their generosity, and I think all those who are proud to serve this great country for their sacrifices on behalf of us all."

From left to right, starting with back row: Dick Albert, Angel Rice, John Eadon, Mike Jones, Bob Keppler, Randy Jenkins, Neil Tholke, Cal C. Gibson, Paul Oelkrug, George Arens (standing)

This past year, several faculty members were selected for international recognition.

"Some of our volunteers have been helping us for 30 years," he said. "Their passion for aviation history is remarkable, and we’re fortunate to have them give so much of their time to the collection."

That collection is as diverse as aviation itself. It includes rare World War I and II photos and air combat reports along with corporate histories of early aerospace manufacturers. Last year the Central Intelligence Agency selected UT Dallas to receive copies of more than 10,000 recently declassified documents about the agency’s Civil Air Transport and Air America operations. The University marked this special donation with a one-day conference that drew more than 500 attendees, including former Air America pilots and the downed airmen they rescued during the Vietnam War.

For more information about the History of Aviation Collection, click on the Special Collections link under the Unique Collections heading at utdallas.edu/library. (22)

Gifts and Volunteers Sustain Extensive Aviation Collection

"I continue to amaze at how people and organizations find us and offer to donate their entire collections to UT Dallas," he said. "The historic value of these items is immaterial."

The History of Aviation Collection’s expansive array of treasures includes more than 370 collections donated by individuals and a total of about 3.5 million items.

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University professors often work long hours—dividing their time among teaching, research and student support—while also expending time and energy on a variety of campus committees and academic organizations.

And for all of this effort, they usually don’t earn corporate-level salaries.

But despite the rigors of an academic career, professors are frequently among their institution’s most enthusiastic donors. Cases in point: Dr. Adolf J.H. Enthoven of the School of Management and Dr. Aage Moller of the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. The two longtime faculty members and recently established professorships and contributed toward student scholarships.

These gifts are irreplaceable to UT Dallas’ future, said Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, executive vice president and provost of UT Dallas. "The University’s strategic plan calls for more than 600 faculty by 2020. We currently have about 430, and we don’t expect it’s been 35 years since their first coffee date, and Moller and Wildenthal said they are still committed to each other. They are also committed to supporting the University.

The Moller’s story started simply enough, over a cup of coffee. It’s been 35 years since their first coffee date, and Moller and Wildenthal said they are still committed to each other. They are also committed to supporting the University.

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Donors Transform UT Dallas through Campus Enhancement Project

With the turn of a ceremonial shovel on Nov. 20, 2008, the University marked the official groundbreaking for a $30 million campus enhancement project. As the shape of things to come begins to emerge, the entire UT Dallas family waits with ever-increasing excitement and anticipation: the completion of this massive project. This profound transformation of our campus was made possible—and could only have been made possible—by the generosity of philanthropic support. In this case, one very large gift from an anonymous supporter was crucial to the cause.

The University has set a goal of raising $3 million to support this project. An anonymous donor has already given $1 million designated for the care of the trees, and near campus is accepting gifts that will help ensure funds to maintain the improvements. Ensuring the upkeep of these enhancements will depend on continued private support. At completion draws near, the University is accepting gifts that will help ensure funds to maintain the transformation. Donors have the opportunity to name trees, benches, water features and other outdoor elements. They may allow their gifts to be used for expendable purposes, or they may designate a gift into a permanently endowed fund. Both options will provide for maintenance of the new areas and help to improve the appearance of other parts of campus as UT Dallas continues to grow.

The first of the project’s five reflecting pools has been named by Thomas Rhodes and his wife, Lily, of Dallas. He is a former member of the UT system Board of Regents, serving from 1981 to 1987, and a life member of the UT Dallas Development Board. Jim and Pat Mitchell, who live just a few blocks from UT Dallas and are regulars at campus events. The Mitchell’s recent gift, naming a magnolia tree, makes their names an ongoing presence on campus. Since they moved here in 1983, Jim and Pat have actively supported UT Dallas in many ways, including Jim’s service as a longtime member of the UT Dallas Development Board.

Gifts to Support Magnolia Trees

Jim and Pat Mitchell live just a few blocks from UT Dallas and are regulars at campus events. TheMitchells recent gift, naming a magnolia tree, makes their names an ongoing presence on campus. Since they moved here in 1983, Jim and Pat have actively supported UT Dallas in many ways, including Jim’s service as a longtime member of the UT Dallas Development Board.

The first company to step forward with a naming gift is Accor North America Inc. of Carrollton. Accor is the parent company of the Novotel, InterContinental, Ibis, Mercure and Comfort Inn chains. The company’s CEO, Olivier Poivre d’Arvor, has been an active partner with the School of Management and recently joined the UT Dallas Development Board. More than 100 magnolias mature, they will provide welcome shade from the Texas sun. Gifts require a formal agreement between the donor and UT Dallas, and those gifts may be made through pledge payments over the course of five years.

“Donors will be prominently recognized for their support, creating a lasting legacy for future UT Dallas students. Gifts require a formal agreement between the donor and UT Dallas, and those gifts may be made through pledge payments over the course of five years.”

“Those gifts create a unique and visible opportunity for our alumni and friends,” said Lyndel Conley, vice president for development and alumni relations. “Parents can surprise their new graduate with a tangible reminder of his or her time on campus. Local companies can show their support and alumni can demonstrate their pride in UT Dallas in a way they never could before.”

UT Dallas didn’t have to look far for some of the first naming gifts in support of the Campus Enhancement Project. Three vice presidents—Curt Hely, Darlene Radavosky and Susan Rogers—each made a commitment to name one of the 22 bur oak trees lining the new traffic circle.

Hely is vice president for enrollment management, oversetting admissions, financial aid, the registrar and other core academic functions. Radavosky is vice president for student affairs, oversetting all aspects of student life, including housing, student organizations and athletics. Rogers is vice president for communications. The serves as University spokesperson, and oversees all University marketing, media relations and web services.

First Reflecting Pool Named

The first of the project’s five reflecting pools has been named by Thomas Rhodes and his wife, Lily, of Dallas. He is a former member of the UT system Board of Regents, serving from 1981 to 1987, and a life member of the UT Dallas Development Board.

The reflecting pools are the central element of the project, stretching from the School of Management past the Student Union and ending at McDermott Library. The total length of the reflecting pools exceeds 650 feet. One of the crosswalks separating the pools includes a specially designed grass plaza. In times of drought, the pool can be drained to reveal a surface resembling a dry Texas creek bed.

Gifts require a formal agreement between the donor and UT Dallas, and those gifts may be made through pledge payments over the course of five years.
Class of 2008 Gift Supports Tradition of Excellence in Chess

Chess has always been a big part of the campus experience at The University of Texas at Dallas. To ensure future students can always find a place to play a quick game, the Class of 2008 donated two outdoor chess tables as a class gift. This is the first class gift made to the University.

“ar opportunity to give back to the University that had already given us so much and will continue to bless us in the future was an easy choice for me.”
Brad Davis (MS '08)

Student Ambassadors initiated the class gift program, which they dubbed “Chess Challenge 2008.” The Class of 2008 asked its members for a minimum of $8 each to commemorate its graduation year. UT Dallas Class of 2009 Planting

Class of 2008 Gift Supports Tradition of Excellence in Chess

The class challenge engaged 214 Class of 2008 members, who made gifts totaling $7,612.

“The opportunity to give back to the University that had already given us so much and will continue to bless us in the future was an easy choice for me,” said Brad Davis (MS ’08), a member of the Chess Challenge team.

The inlaid chess boards are made with green and white tropical hardwood from Bolivia. Both tables bear plaques recognizing the Class of 2008.

The class program, begun in 1996 and known around the world for its excellence, has become a point of pride for UT Dallas. “The team made history this year by journeying to Cuba and becoming the first American collegiate team to play there since the fall of Castro. Students take pride in the team’s championships tournaments and global exposure matches in places such as China and Eastern Europe. In 2007 and 2008 the team placed first to win the President’s Cup, also known as the Final Four of collegiate chess.

“ar gift illustrates how chess has become a symbol of our UT Dallas culture, representing intellectual challenge and competition at the highest levels,” said Chess Program Director Jim Stallings.

The second match was played by President Daniel and Aegon Masters, a two-year-old chess set and one of 21 Dallas alumni, Dr. Direk Khun (BS ’05). President Daniel did not win the match and immediately suggested to Segev that he consider attending UT Dallas after high school.

Anonymous Gift Helps Class of ’09

An anonymous gift of $16,000 was earmarked to help the class of 2008 accomplish its class challenge for two reasons, according to Dr. Aaron Conley, vice president for development and alumni relations.

“Designating it toward the campus enhancement endowment ensures that benefits everyone at UT Dallas,” he said. “Just as importantly, we hope it encourages our newest graduates to start supporting their alma mater.”

The gift goes a long way to helping the class meet its goal of raising $5,000, which is the giving level for new graduates. “Conley added, “and we hope this serves as an incentive for the class to come together and raise the remaining funds.”

Dr. Moon Kim: My Laboratory

In 2008 UT Dallas opened the Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory, or what we call NSERL. Students call it the “mermaid building” because its metal skin resembles translucent fish scales, shifting color as light changes throughout the day. Faculty members describe it as a top research facility unmatched by any other. I conduct research there in many areas of nanotechnology. Research in this field is exciting—and expensive. A single piece of equipment can cost millions. My laboratory benefitted greatly from the donation of a transmission electron microscope by JEOL Ltd., a leading Japanese technology company that makes process instrumentation for nanoscale research. The equipment enables me to collaborate with colleagues at other universities, including Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Pittsburgh and institutions in Korea and Japan. I also partner with local companies and routinely welcome high school students to our lab for demonstrations that help raise interest in science and technology. Thanks to this gift, my graduate students conduct research in one of the best scientific environments they will ever have the opportunity to work in.

Dr. Nataliya Gurich: My Conference Presentation

Dr. Nataliya Gurich began her career as a researcher at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. She earned her Ph.D. in 2000 and moved to the University of Texas at Dallas in 2005. Dr. Gurich is currently an associate professor of biology. She studies the mechanisms that control cell proliferation and differentiation in normal and cancer cells. Her lab recently published a paper in the journal Cell, one of the most prestigious journals in the field. This paper was funded in part by a grant from the National Cancer Institute.

Marcelo Somers: My Scholarship

Receiving the Sabre Scholarship as a junior of the SOM Scholarship Breakfast makes me want to give back after I graduate since Sabre’s chairman and CEO, Sam Gilliland (EMBA ’94), is also an alumnus of the school. I’m thankful to Sam Gilliland for reaching out to college students and interns and making sabre an outstanding place to begin our careers.

UT Dallas has been outstanding at reaching out to students and making scholarships available. That allows us to focus on our job, which is being a student, first and foremost. It also allows us to get involved in groups like the Management Honors Program and College 9, because of the additional time gained from not having to work outside of school.

During the last eight months of my undergraduate experience, I was an intern at Sabre Holdings, where I later received a full-time job. I was hired by UT Dallas alumni, Sarah Kennedy Ellis (MBa ’07). Since January I’ve been working as a media product manager. Our team is responsible for the media advertising placements in the tools that travel agents use.

At Sabre, I’m also a co-chair on the Young Professionals Council. As a part of this group I had the chance to create a video called “Sabre Holdings: The Internship Experience” ( Vimeo.com/369899), which was used in MBA recruitment sessions across the country.

I have earned three degrees from The University of Texas at Dallas: a bachelor’s degree in biology; a master’s and PhD in molecular and cellular biology. After finishing my doctoral last year, I started a postdoctoral appointment at UT Dallas, working as a research associate with Dr. Juan González in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. To become established in this field, it is very important to give research presentations at academic conferences. A recent travel fellowship I received from the dean of graduate studies allowed me to present my work at the XV International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbial Interactions in Quebec City. I was honored when I learned the endowment which provided my $3,000 award was created by a personal gift from UT Dallas President David Daniel. Thanks to his generosity, I am on my way to solidifying my scientific career.

Dr. Natalya Gurich

Donor Report

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First Person: Private Support Enabling Excellence at UT Dallas
"The Brain: An Owner’s Guide," a series of February lectures sponsored by The Container Store has sponsored the series for three years in a row, providing $110,000 in gifts-in-kind for billboards and participant giveaways.

The talks featured leading researchers reporting on significant advances in the field of brain science, ranging from the expanded use of stem cells to treat brain damage caused by disease and trauma, to the use of visual prosthetics being developed using DBS technologies, showed "no difference, brain-wise, across cultures or between men and women, old and young, gay or straight" when it comes to how the brain behaviors when a person is swept up in romantic love. Fisher, who developed the personality test for Match.com’s popular algorithm, is a frequent speaker at the event and encouraged support of stem cell studies as well as awareness of the importance of every single employee and customer at each of The Container Store locations across the country.

Dr. Helen Fisher’s lecture focused on “The Brain in Love.” Her decades of research examining the brain and emotion, including in-depth visual pseudo-photos using DBS technology, showed "no difference, brain-wise, across cultures or between men and women, old and young, gay or straight" when it comes to how the brain behaves when a person is swept up in romantic love. Fisher, who developed the personality test for Match.com’s popular algorithm, is a frequent speaker at the event and encouraged support of stem cell studies as well as awareness of the importance of every single employee and customer at each of The Container Store locations across the country.

The series, which sold out once again this year, took place on consecutive Tuesdays at the Frances and Mildred Goad Building near the campus of UT Southwestern in Dallas. More than 300 people attended each lecture.

"Thought can change brain structure," Dodge said. An overflow reception area accommodated nearly 100 more guests who viewed the lecture on a large-screen monitor.

In the second talk, Chapman discussed ways people can minimize the gap between the body’s increasing lifespan and its ability to maintain a fully functioning brain. Noting that leading-edge research has revealed the brain is the most modifiable organ in the human body, Chapman discussed ways individuals can “improve mental function by exercising their brains, much like they do their bodies, to optimize their mental core.”

Dr. Sandra Chapman, founder and chief director of the Center, said the talks highlighted the importance of single patient and community difference.

Dr. Norman Dodge, a Canadian psychiatrist and author of the bestselling book “The Brain: an owner’s Guide,” a series of February lectures sponsored by The Container Store has sponsored the series for three years in a row, providing $110,000 in gifts-in-kind for billboards and participant giveaways.

"The Brain: An Owner’s Guide’s” lecture series has grown in popularity and attendance each year as the Center for BrainHealth strives to satisfy the public’s appetite for knowledge about the human mind.

"You can hardly pick up a newspaper or turn on the news without hearing about something brain-related,” said Sarah Monning, the BrainHealth community relations director who helped organize the event. "People are hungry for information about the brain. This series gives leading scientists the opportunity to share their latest research discoveries with a welcoming Dallas audience.”

Leigh and Rasa Johnson, a Dallas couple who discussed the transformation of their baby daughter after stem cell therapy, provided a touching postscript to Sanberg’s remarks, and they encouraged support of stem cell studies as well as vital research under way at the Center for BrainHealth.

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"There’s nothing I wouldn’t do for UT Dallas. This place means the world to me.” – Joyce Johnson (BA ’93)

Joyce Johnson's gift also was a way to honor her late husband, Bruce Johnson, a fellow alum who received a master’s degree in international management studies in 1984. He was working toward his PhD in the School of Management when he died in 1989. UT Dallas brought us together, and this is just a way of saying thanks to a place that gave us both so much,” she said.

Planned gifts such as bequests, trusts, annuities and gifts of life insurance are a vital part of a university’s overall giving. Seale noted. "Older universities may have hundreds of planned gifts that they know will be coming someday,” she said. “These anticipated resources help institutions tremendously in their long-term planning.”

UT Dallas currently has fewer than 10 planned gifts. Many times, these gifts do exist but the University has not been notified by donors.

"Since Joyce worked with us to document her gift, she can be assured that her wishes will be carried out,” Seale said.

Those wishes include the creation of the Bruce and Joyce Johnson Endowed Scholarships. Two funds will be established: one will support students in the School of Management, and the other will support students in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (formerly General Studies).
Change is all around at UT Dallas, with $300 million in current and recently-completed construction projects. If you’d like to see these changes, and learn about projects still to come, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 972.883.6504.

utdallas.edu/40years