



**SOUTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY**

ALUMNI



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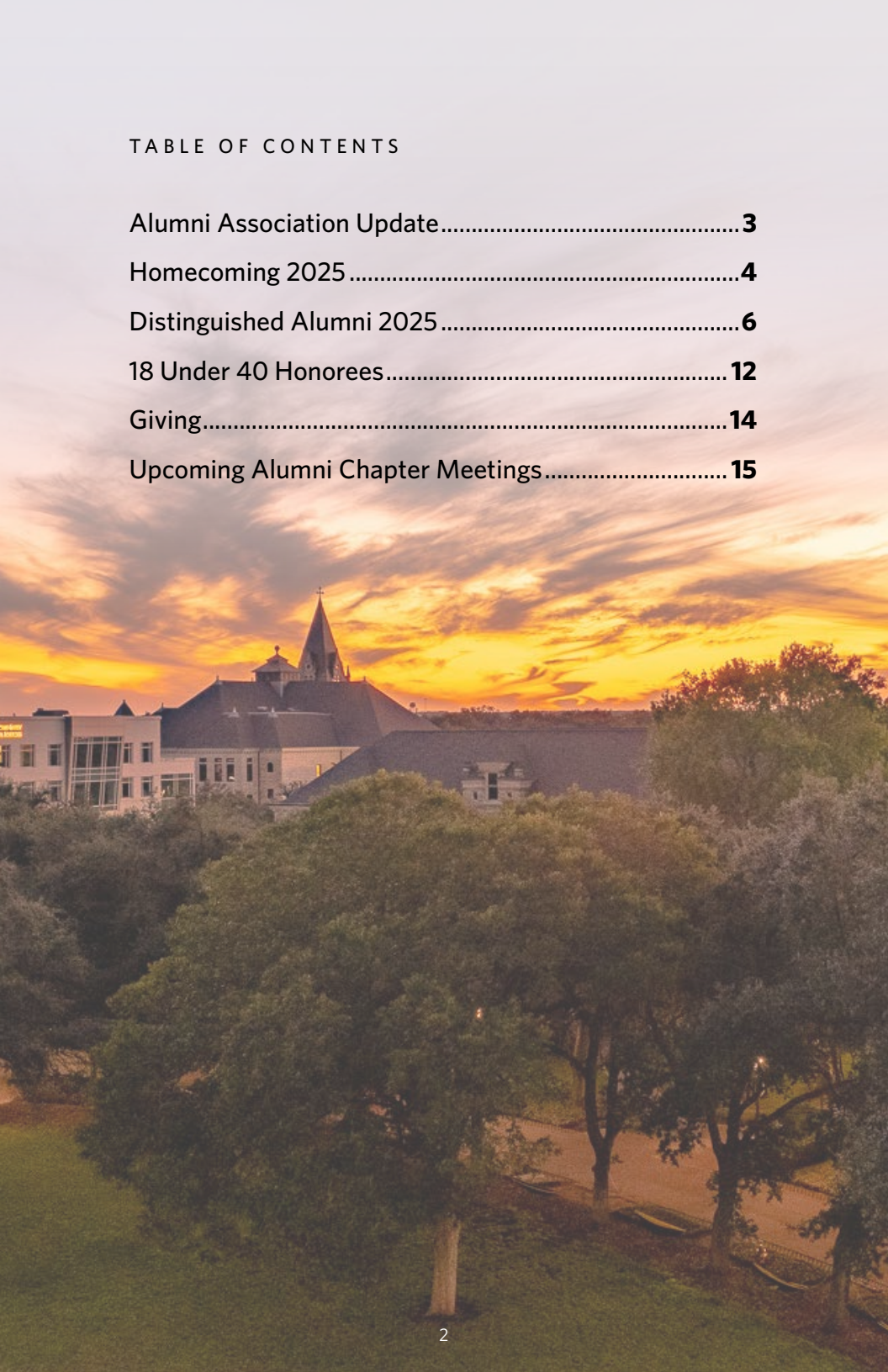
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Dear Alumni,

At our spring Alumni Council meeting, we toured the almost-complete Mood-Bridwell Hall renovation. The familiar stone walls and interior windows brought back all the best memories of being a student, while the open floor plan, fresh finishes, and new lighting wowed us all. An Alumni Council member recounted his memories as one of the last residents in Mood Hall in the late 1960s, and the mischief that ensued in the building's final year as a residence hall. I hope you will come back to Homecoming to be part of the dedication of Mood-Bridwell Hall and to share your tales from the past.

Speaking of Homecoming, Roll Home to Georgetown this fall, and even if you didn't participate in the "ancient" tradition of rolling, we can all embrace the spirit of making memories with our dearest SU friends. Register now and invite your friends to join you!

Just one year ago, the Alumni Association updated its constitution and bylaws and expanded its governing board, the Alumni Council. Since that time, we've had a lot to celebrate. The Southwestern University Alumni Association has hosted 19 Local Chapter events with 500 attendees, reactivated the Alumni in Ministry Affinity Group, established the Black Alumni Network Affinity Group, and continued and strengthened connections with 11 existing Affinity Groups. Homecoming attendance and reunion giving went up in 2024, and the Southwestern Giving Day 2025 was a huge success, setting a new record of 1,541 donors, thanks to the work of 92 amazing volunteer advocates!

Join us this summer as we celebrate our shared Southwestern experiences and welcome the Class of 2025 at Pirate for Life events in Austin, Dallas, Georgetown, Houston and San Antonio!

Warmest wishes,



Liz Guillory Medina '97
President, Southwestern University
Alumni Association



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE 2024-2026 ALUMNI COUNCIL





REGISTER NOW FOR HOMECOMING!

View the full schedule and register online
at southwestern.edu/homecoming





HIGHLIGHTED events include:

- Golden Anniversary & Class Reunions
- Mood-Bridwell Hall Dedication
- Thrive Campaign Celebration
- Decade Parties
- Biergarten with live music, DJ, art, and more!
- 25th Annual Jameson 5K
- Tailgating and Pirate Football
- Homecoming Picnic
- Legends & Libations Tour
- Homecoming Worship Service
- Student Organization and Affinity Group Events
- Vintage Car Show

Distinguished Alumni

ALUMNI 2025



SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Congratulations to our 2025 Distinguished Alumni. The Southwestern University Alumni Association's Nominations and Awards Committee (composed of 10 alumni volunteers) recommends a slate of alumni award candidates to the Alumni Council for approval. Nominations are collected from alumni, faculty, and staff in the fall each year. Our Distinguished Alumni exemplify the core values of the University through excellence in their fields and service to their communities.



Scan the QR code to watch videos featuring each of our Distinguished Alumni



Steven P. Lufburrow

Houston, TX • Class of 1981

Medal of Honor

Steven Lufburrow recently retired as President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Houston following a four-decade career with the nonprofit organization. After graduating from Southwestern University with a sociology degree, Lufburrow joined Goodwill Houston as the Director of Community Relations in 1981. He quickly rose through the ranks of the organization, becoming Vice President in 1984 before being named President and CEO in 1986. Under his leadership, Goodwill Houston saw unprecedented growth, operating more than 50 stores and 100 donation centers, with over 2,200 employees. He was named the University's 1992 recipient of the Certificate of Merit Award. Lufburrow and his wife Joan both attended Southwestern. They have served as co-presidents of the Houston chapter of the Southwestern Alumni Association.



Christopher Bailey

United States Air Force • Class of 2007

Distinguished Professional

After graduating from Southwestern University in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in political science, Christopher Bailey went on to earn his J.D. degree with a specialty in international and public interest law from Chicago-Kent College of Law, as well as his legal master's degree in space, telecommunications, and cyber law from the University of Nebraska College of Law. A focus on the humanitarian impacts of armed conflict and an expert understanding of the legal structures underpinning our global system led him to a career in the United States Air Force as an attorney. Over seven different assignments across four continents, Bailey has become a highly-regarded international law practitioner. His work has not only strengthened the broader legal community but has made significant contributions to United States national security. He currently holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and serves as Staff Judge Advocate at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.



Janet Lopez-Vilsack

Denver, CO • Class of 1998

Distinguished Professional

A 1998 graduate of Southwestern University with a bachelor's degree in psychology, Janet Lopez-Vilsack went on to earn her master's degree in educational policy, foundations, and practice from the University of Colorado at Boulder before completing her Ph.D. in education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Currently serving as the Senior Director of Policy, Partnerships, and Learning at The Denver Foundation, Lopez-Vilsack is a seasoned philanthropic leader with experience managing complex grantmaking portfolios and driving policy agenda focused on improving public good through wide-ranging and systematic change. In addition to her professional role dedicated to making the metro Denver community stronger, she has remained a steady supporter of philanthropic efforts targeted at championing students of color in higher education.



Shed Boren

Coral Gables, FL • Class of 1987

Distinguished Humanitarian

After earning his bachelor's degree in history from Southwestern University in 1987, Shed Boren went on to achieve a master of social work in counseling from the University of Houston as well as a master of business administration in healthcare administration, and a Ph.D. in medical sociology and epidemiology from the University of Miami. Currently serving as a faculty member in Florida International University's Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Boren is a career social worker and healthcare executive recognized for his strong advocacy in public policy, human rights, and social services. He has dedicated his career to supporting vulnerable populations, particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS, chronic diseases, mental health challenges, and poverty. He has previously held leadership roles as Chief Executive Officer of Camillus Health and HCA Healthcare Sister Emmanuel Hospital.



Craig McKinney

Plano, TX • Class of 1991

Distinguished Southwestern Service

Craig McKinney recently completed his 30th year in public education, having worked in his hometown of Plano, TX, as a high school teacher, instructional specialist, and most recently, Director of Professional Learning for Plano ISD. He is also an active member of Christ United Methodist Church in Plano where he has served in a variety of leadership positions. McKinney is a passionate advocate for the inclusion and affirmation of all persons, including those in the LGBTQ+ community. In addition to his Southwestern degrees in English and sociology, he holds a master's in education from the University of North Texas. A previous recipient of the Southwestern University Young Alumnus Achievement Award, McKinney has served Southwestern in a variety of positions, including membership on the University Board of Trustees and most recently as President of the Southwestern University Alumni Association.



Lauren Muskara

Chicago, IL • Class of 2020

Distinguished Young Alumna

After graduating from Southwestern University with dual degrees in biology and studio art, Lauren Muskara earned her master of science in biomedical visualization from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Currently serving as an Instructional Designer at the American College of Surgeons, Muskara cultivates academic excellence by developing impactful, accessible learning experiences that empower healthcare professionals with tools for intellectual growth. She is a champion for representation in healthcare education and works to create equitable learning experiences that respect each person's worth and dignity. Through an Anaplastology Research Grant from the Walter Spohn Trust, Muskara is currently working on a project addressing the lack of resources for fitting breast prostheses for underserved populations, including gender-diverse patients.



Ilka Vega

El Paso, TX • Class of 2017

Distinguished Young Alumna

Following her time at Southwestern University, in which she earned double bachelor's degrees in business and sustainability, culture, and social justice, Ilka Vega's educational journey took her to Switzerland, where she completed her master's degree in innovation, human development, and sustainability at the University of Geneva. In her current role as Economic and Environmental Justice Executive at United Women in Faith in New York City, Vega directs and oversees programming activities for climate justice and energy transition. She has dedicated her time and efforts to human rights and advocacy issues ranging from migration to climate and racial justice. Vega has also worked as an educator, writing social justice curriculum for faith-based audiences and working to make sustainability policies and educational resources more mainstream across different international organizations.







The 18 Under 40 honor was named in celebration of Southwestern University's founding year, 1840. Southwestern recognizes these 18 alumni under the age of 40 who exemplify the core values of the University and have made an outstanding contribution to their alma mater, state, or country through their good deeds and service.



Tyler R. Bault '18



Brandon B. Boland '07



Alexandra Klein Bor '14



Ryan C. Collins '21



Andrew L. Dornon '11



Chase E. Eastland '16



Mauro A. Garcia, Jr. '18



Jenny Smith Gebhardt '15



Markell D. Henderson '19



Stephen L. Higdon '09



Kate Paisley Huckins '07



Olivia C. Huffstetter '16



Elizabeth A. Marzec '12



Joseph F. McCormack '16



Laura Rativa Masur '20



Allison L. Stubbs '14



Jasmine R. Thomas '12



Ariana Weeks '17

**Learn more about our honorees and
scan the code to read their bios!**





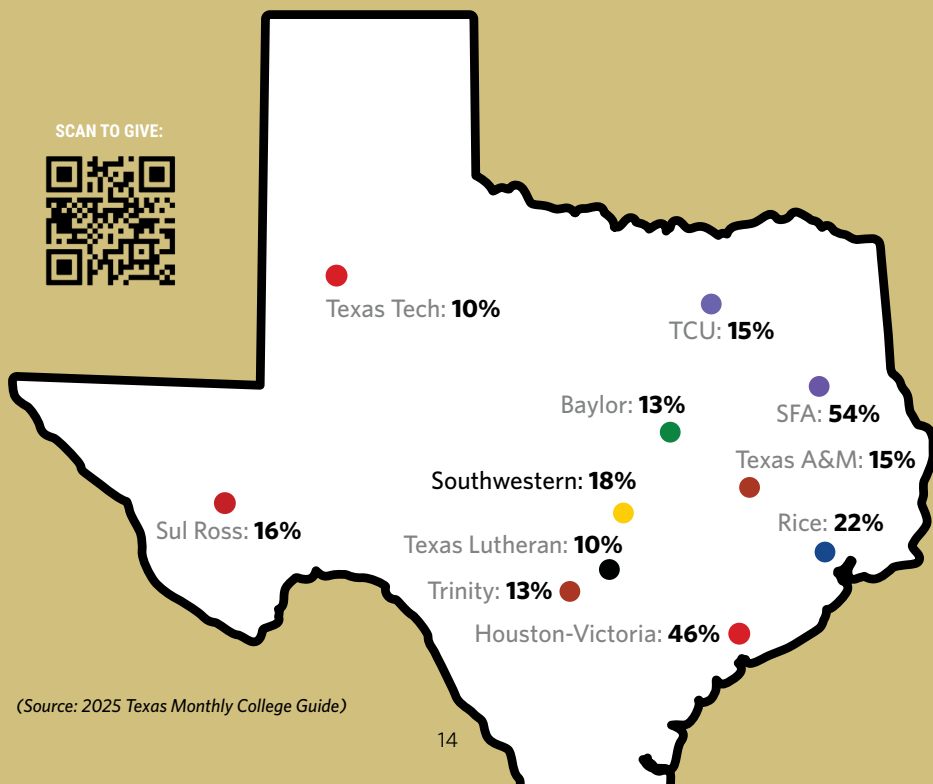
GIVING

We all know Southwestern was the first institution in Texas, but how do we measure up 185 years later? Let's show the world of grant-making foundations that SU alumni believe in their alma mater! The collective support with your annual gift adds up to a strong alumni

participation, a metric that is used when reviewing grant applications. Check out how we rank in the state of Texas!

Make your gift to ensure that Southwestern is the best in Texas!

SCAN TO GIVE:



(Source: 2025 Texas Monthly College Guide)

**Celebrate your status as a Pirate for Life and help us welcome
the Class of 2025 into our Local Chapters across Texas.**

GREATER GEORGETOWN CHAPTER:

July 24 • 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Camp Briteside
8701 Ranch Rd. 2338
Georgetown, TX 78633

GREATER AUSTIN CHAPTER:

July 26 • 12:00–2:00 p.m.
Central Machine Works Brewery
4824 E Cesar Chavez Street
Austin, TX 78702

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER:

July 27 • 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Chicken and Pickle
5215 UTSA Boulevard
San Antonio, TX 78249

DALLAS CHAPTER:

July 30 • 5:00–7:00 p.m.
Bowl & Barrel
8084 Park Ln Ste 145
Dallas, TX 75231

HOUSTON CHAPTER:

August 9 • 4:00–6:00 p.m.
Pitch 25
2120 Walker
Houston, TX 77003

Learn More:





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