



DONOR  
IMPACT REPORT

2025

BUILDING A  
BETTER TOMORROW





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*Dear friends of Southwestern,*

Southwestern University has a national reputation for academic excellence, which is more valuable than ever before. The skills our students gain—critical thinking, problem solving, communication, teamwork, and leadership, among others—allow them to adapt to new challenges and forge success in any workplace and any career. A Southwestern degree opens doors to opportunities, and thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, those doors will remain open for generations to come.

When we launched *Thrive: The Campaign for Southwestern* in 2017, it was the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the University's long history. Today, it is the most successful, having exceeded our goal and raising a record-breaking \$161 million that will be used to elevate student success, enhance academic excellence, and transform the campus.

This report highlights the many ways your support is making an impact. New scholarships will allow students to focus on their education rather than their finances. Funding for high-impact experiences such as study abroad and undergraduate research will allow students to participate in life-changing trips and activities. Gifts toward capital improvement projects such as the renovation of Mood-Bridwell Hall and the construction of a multi-purpose sports complex will allow students to live, learn, and connect on a modern, vibrant campus.

I am forever grateful for your trust and overwhelming generosity. With your support, Southwestern will continue to empower students who dream boldly, learn deeply, and thrive in ways that will change the world.

Warmly,

*Laura Skandera Trombley*

President Laura Skandera Trombley



# 2024–2025 Philanthropic Overview

*Thank you to the alumni, parents, and friends who contribute to the continued success of the University and our talented students.*

## Southwestern Annual Fund

Donors once again contributed generously to the Southwestern Annual Fund during the 2024–2025 fiscal year. Gifts totaled more than \$1.5 million.

Gifts to the Southwestern Annual Fund support the areas of greatest need in the most responsive way possible. These unrestricted gifts allow the University to address changing priorities and new initiatives as they arise. These funds may be used to support students’ curricular and co-curricular experiences, faculty research and creative works, and other institutional objectives.

## President’s Council

Donors who give \$1,500 or more in the current fiscal year are recognized as members of the President’s Council. The giving threshold to qualify for membership increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 last year. Each President’s Council member is vital to the University’s success and enriches the *Southwestern Experience* for students.

*KEY PRIORITIES THAT PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL MEMBERS SUPPORTED THIS FISCAL YEAR INCLUDE:*

- **Southwestern Annual Fund:** Over \$1.4 million went toward the University’s greatest needs and to support new initiatives to enhance the student experience.
- **Capital Improvement Projects:** More than \$1.3 million was given in support of capital improvement projects, including the renovation of Mood-Bridwell Hall, the construction of the multi-purpose sports complex, and the creation of the Welcome Center.
- **Current Restricted Funds:** Approximately \$2.6 million supported high-impact experiences, advising and retention initiatives, Pirate athletics, academic departments, the Emergency Fund for students, the fine arts, Greek life initiatives, and student scholarships.
- **Endowment:** Over \$3.2 million was donated to the endowment to support student scholarships, undergraduate research, and high-impact experiences.

YEAR	TOTAL DOLLARS RECEIVED	TOTAL NEW GIFTS & PLEDGES
2024–2025	<b>\$9.06 million</b>	<b>\$18.65 million</b>
2023–2024	<b>\$13.83 million</b>	<b>\$21.08 million</b>
2022–2023	<b>\$18.75 million</b>	<b>\$18.19 million</b>
2021–2022	<b>\$9.14 million</b>	<b>\$15.76 million</b>
2020–2021	<b>\$12.11 million</b>	<b>\$12.76 million</b>
2019–2020	<b>\$8.54 million</b>	<b>\$15.92 million</b>

*View the 2024–2025 Honor Roll of Donors:*





# Thrive: The Campaign for Southwestern University surpasses \$150 Million Fundraising Goal

After eight years of historic support, Southwestern is celebrating the successful completion of *Thrive: The Campaign for Southwestern*. The most ambitious fundraising campaign in the University's history saw the Southwestern community come together to donate over \$161 million, surpassing the campaign's goal of \$150 million.

The *Thrive* campaign has transformed Southwestern in the classroom through major investments in student success and academic excellence and on campus through the renovation of historic buildings and the construction of several new facilities. The campaign also saw record-setting donations to the University's annual and general support funds, ensuring the impact of *Thrive* will continue to be felt for years to come.

## Campaign Impact

### *Student Success*

- **\$32.3** million for scholarships
- **\$6.2** million for high-impact experiences (internships, study abroad, student/faculty research, experiential learning)
- **\$2** million for the Center for Career & Professional Development
- **\$2.6** million for advising and retention initiatives
- **\$11.6** million for other Student Life programs and initiatives

### *Academic Excellence*

- **\$4.2** million for faculty excellence (faculty positions, scholarship, and research)
- **\$3.6** million for other academic infrastructure

### *Transforming Campus*

- **\$10.7** million for academic facilities
- **\$4.6** million for the Welcome Center and other Student Life facilities
- **\$8.5** million for athletic facilities

### *Annual and Ongoing Support*

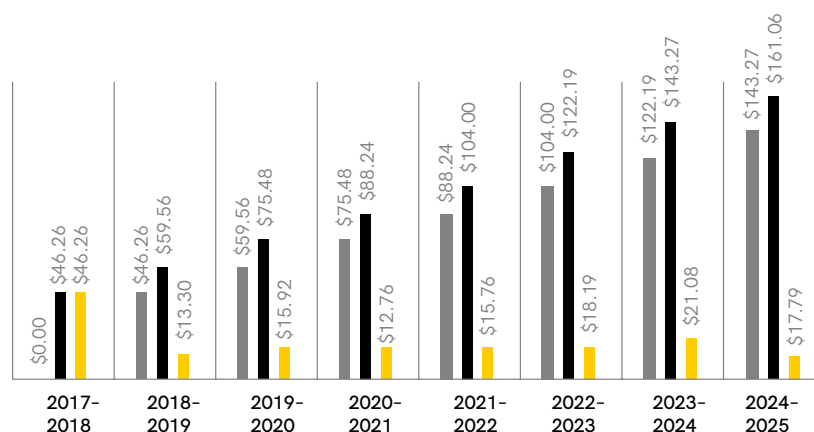
- **\$18.5** million for the Southwestern Annual Fund
- **\$7.9** million for current restricted gifts

### *Additions to the Planned Gift Pipeline*

- **\$54.2** million in newly documented planned gifts

## THRIVE Annual Increase

■ Beginning Amount ■ Ending Amount ■ Campaign Increase



# Capital Improvement Projects

*Southwestern's capital improvement projects would not be possible without the generous support of alumni and friends.*

## Trustee Gives Back in Gratitude

To say attending Southwestern was a life-changing experience for Ajay Thomas '94, P'27 is no exaggeration. The connections Thomas made—across disciplines, with others, and within himself—set him on the path to discovery. Today, as senior managing director and national head of public finance for FHN Financial, Thomas is grateful for the education and opportunities the University gave him.

“Southwestern forced me to step out of my comfort zone and seek out interests that would ignite my passions,” Thomas says. “I was able to explore all different subjects, and it made for a very deep and rewarding experience. It gave me the tools to really be a lifelong learner.”

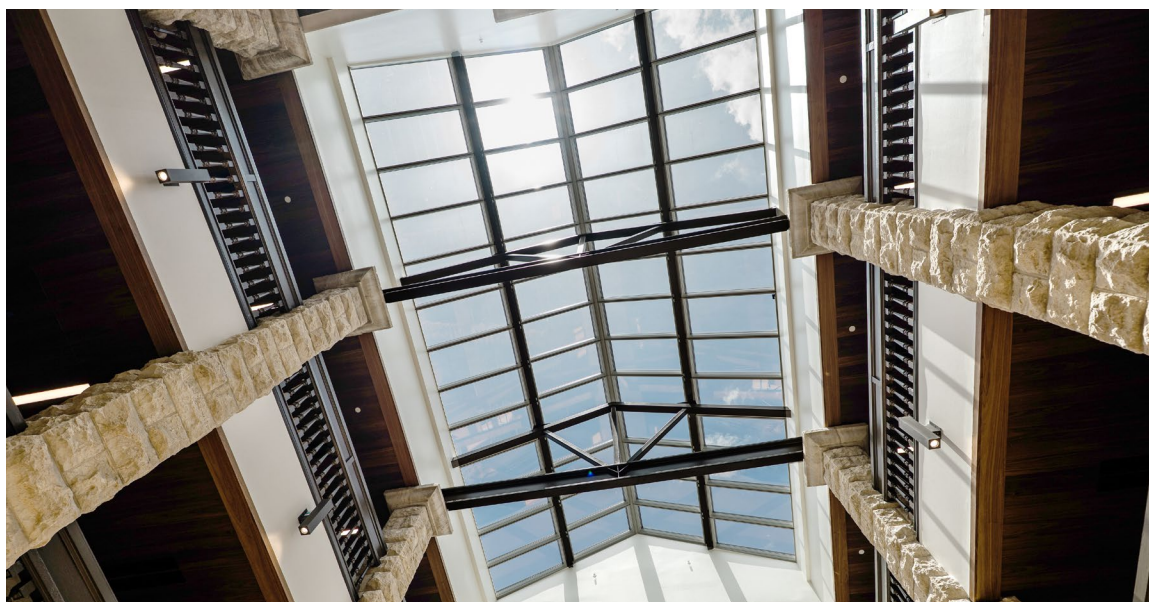


*Photo: Ajay Thomas '94, P'27*

Thomas put those tools to good use, later earning his law degree from The University of Texas at Austin School of Law and a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Throughout his journey, Thomas has prioritized giving back to his alma mater. He served on the Board of Visitors for eight years and is a current member of the Board of Trustees. Philanthropy also has been a priority; he has endowed a scholarship at Southwestern, and when he first learned about the renovation of Mood-Bridwell Hall, he quickly supported the project by taking the opportunity to name a faculty office in the historic building.

“As an alumnus, I feel like if you're in the position to be able to donate your time, ideas, or resources to Southwestern, you absolutely should do so,” he says. “In the end, you'll definitely get back more than you ever give because you're making a difference in future lives.”



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## Mood-Bridwell Renovation Complete

The Mood-Bridwell Hall renovation was completed in summer 2025. Originally built in 1908 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Mood-Bridwell now offers students a state-of-the-art, 21st century learning experience. The building features electronic classrooms, a new skylight, gathering spaces, a coffeehouse, and a reopened upper terrace for outdoor learning and events. Several generous donors made gifts to name rooms and spaces within the building.



*Photo: Dorothy Perry White Welcome Center*

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## Welcome Center, New Residence Halls Closer to Completion

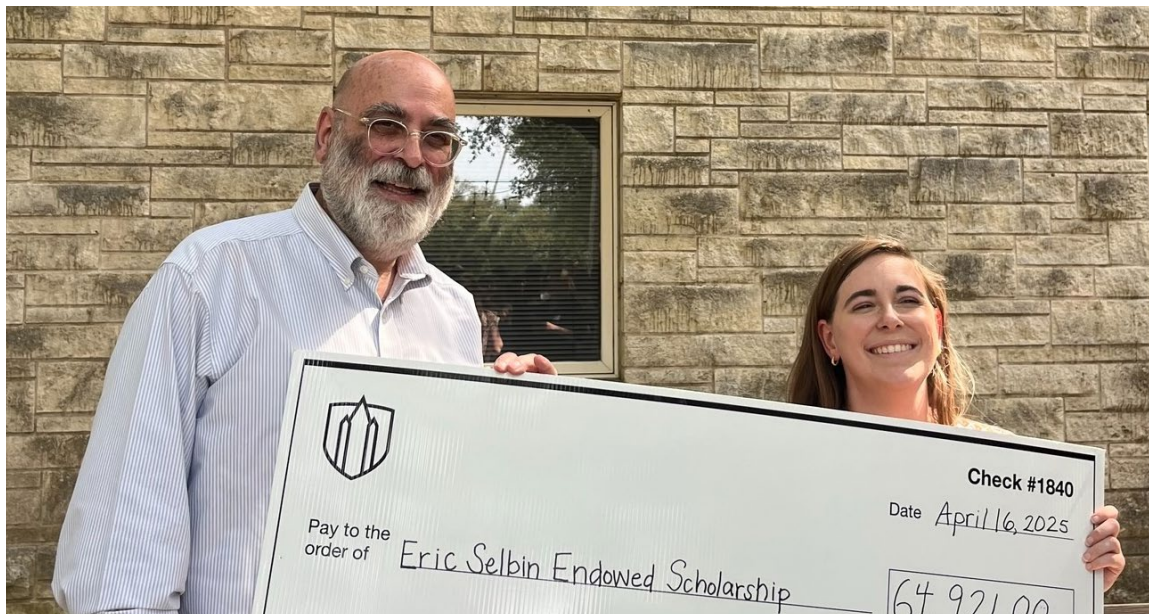
Construction continues on the Welcome Center and two new residence halls for first- and second-year students. The Welcome Center will house the Admission and Financial Aid offices, an art gallery, and a film theater, creating a vibrant hub for incoming students and visitors. The mixed-use residence halls, will feature study rooms, indoor and outdoor lounge areas, a workout room, and a pilates studio. To learn more about naming opportunities for each project, please contact Marie Muhvic at [mmuhvic@southwestern.edu](mailto:mmuhvic@southwestern.edu).



# Endowed Gifts

*Endowments allow Southwestern to preserve its signature strengths, fund current priorities, and achieve future goals.*

## Alumni Come Together to Support Eric Selbin Endowed Scholarship



*Photo: Eric Selbin and daughter Zoe Cordes Selbin '15*

When Professor of Political Science Eric Selbin arrived at his retirement party in April, he was thrilled to see so many current and former staff, faculty, and students in attendance. He was even more thrilled when he learned about the surprise they had in store for him: a new endowed scholarship in his name.

“It was overwhelming in the best possible sense,” says Selbin, who spent 33 years at Southwestern. “It’s such an incredible honor.”

The scholarship was the brainchild of Selbin’s daughter Zoe Cordes Selbin ’15. “Growing up, I saw how much my dad cared about his students and wanted to see them succeed,” she says. “This was a way to honor him while allowing him to continue to support students even after he has left Southwestern.”

More than 100 alumni, parents, students, and friends made gifts toward the scholarship, which provides need-based support for students interested in building a better, more just world.

“Supporting the scholarship was a great opportunity to give back to Southwestern in a meaningful way,” says Sara Lucero Moore ’95, who donated with her husband, Dennis Moore ’95. “Dr. Selbin is a genuine, lovely human who encourages everyone to be their best selves, including himself. He was instrumental in my Southwestern journey.”

Selbin is grateful to his family, including his wife, Helen Cordes, and daughters Zoe and Jesse Cordes Selbin, for their encouragement and understanding throughout his career.

“Southwestern has been incredibly good to me,” he says. “My students have mentored me, taught me, and been patient with me. I gained so much more from them than they gained from me.”

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## Family Endows Scholarship in Honor of Beloved Sister

Kim Tipton '76 taught in some of the highest-poverty school districts in Texas for more than 30 years. While she enjoyed sharing her love of reading in the classroom, her generosity went far beyond teaching; she frequently purchased clothing, shoes, and supplies for students in need. When her brother Jim Tipton decided to establish a scholarship at Southwestern in his sister's honor after her death in December 2023, he knew exactly who it should support.

"The scholarship is designated for first-generation students," Jim says. "Education is the key to unlocking opportunities and breaking the cycle of poverty, and so many times our children need that extra help. Kim was a big believer in that."

Karen K. Subieta, who lived in the same residence hall with Kim and developed a lifelong friendship with her, invited Jim to the President's Appreciation Dinner and Homecoming Worship Service last fall. Family and friends also gathered to honor Kim during a special lunch that weekend. Jim had already donated to an existing scholarship Subieta had established in honor of Kim and her other Southwestern friends, but the weekend inspired him to endow a separate scholarship in Kim's name alone.

"It was very moving," he says. "I could see why the school meant so much to Kim."

Karen believes the scholarship is the perfect way to recognize Kim and her commitment to her students.

"It will enable students like the ones she taught to follow in her footsteps," Subieta says. "She would be so honored."



*Photo: Kim Tipton '76*

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## New Endowments

Southwestern is grateful for the following endowments established in 2024–2025:

- *Kati Educational Scholarship Fund*
- *The George Foster Mood Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *The Judy Buchan Mood Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *The Dr. Virginia Carwell Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *Kim Tipton '76 Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *Dr. Eric Selbin Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *Irwin Colgin Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *Joe W. Taylor '74 Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *Dr. Bob M. Brown HIE Endowed Fund*





# Parent Giving

*Gifts from parents support the exceptional opportunities that make Southwestern one of the best liberal arts colleges in the nation.*

## Families Stay Involved through the Parent Leadership Council

The Parent Leadership Council (PLC) is an engaged community of parents and guardians who are passionate about supporting Southwestern. Open to all families of current students, the PLC offers a meaningful way to get involved and make a lasting impact on the *Southwestern Experience* through mentorship, volunteerism, and philanthropy.



“Joining the Parent Leadership Council gave us a way to give back and stay connected to the institution as our son attended college,” say Jaime and Karen Hrdlicka Cangas ’92, P’26. “The PLC helped us build relationships with the other parents and gave us access to faculty and staff, which tuned us into campus life.”

PLC members connect with University leadership, including the president, and play an active role in campus life through biannual meetings during the fall and spring semesters, as well as regional events throughout the year.

## Parent Leadership Council Members



PLC MEMBERSHIP:  
**45 Households**



PLC GIVING IN FY25:  
**\$251,000**



ALL PARENT GIVING  
IN FY25:  
**\$425,000**

*Thank you to our 2024–2025 Parent Leadership Council Members for their commitment and support.*





*Photo: Mark and Patty Kuras P'23, P'25 pose with their daughters, Christina Kuras '25, left, and Jessica Kuras '23, right.*

### **Parents Serve Up Support for Southwestern Students**

When their daughters were recruited to play volleyball at Southwestern, Mark and Patty Kuras P'23, P'25 were happy to donate to the team to help them train, travel, and compete. After joining the Parent Leadership Council (PLC), they were able to take their support to a whole other level.

“Being part of the PLC allows you to make a difference not just for your own student, but for all the students at Southwestern,” Mark says. “The PLC is involved in just about every phase of campus life. You understand the vision and can give your input. It feels like you’re involved with the direction of the school.”

In addition to supporting the Parent Fund (part of the Southwestern Annual Fund) and other priorities, PLC members serve the University in a variety of ways, from writing notes to prospective Southwestern families to connecting students with internship opportunities. They also attend two meetings a year on campus.

“During the meetings, they take you to tour the sites and see the new construction,” says Patty. “You actually get to see the improvements that are happening because of the contributions of the PLC.”

Mark and Patty were especially grateful for the relationships they built with staff, administrators, and fellow parents, many of whom attended their youngest daughter’s graduation party in May.

“I remember thinking that it kind of felt like we were graduating, too,” Mark says. “The PLC became a second family. It was very rewarding. We’re really going to miss it.”



# Foundation Giving

*Local, regional, and national foundations help Southwestern meet its mission through generous grants and support.*

## Texas Methodist Foundation Invests in the Power of Education



*Photo: Located in the heart of Southwestern's campus, the Lois Perkins Chapel building symbolizes the rich historical and ongoing tie between Southwestern and the United Methodist Church.*

The Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF) partners with Methodist-affiliated churches and nonprofits across Texas and New Mexico to grow through investments, loans, grants, learning and innovation, gift planning, and endowment services. Southwestern is just one of the many organizations TMF has generously supported since its founding in 1938.

“Texas Methodist Foundation’s support of Southwestern goes back many years,” says Wendolyn Abel, TMF’s vice president of grants ministry. “Our shared relationships and values create incredible opportunities for donors to align their deep faith and love for the educational experience at Southwestern.”

That support has been wide and varied. TMF administers endowments that support the University annually and grants scholarship support to help students pursue their educational goals. For many years, TMF has partnered with the University to implement the Bishop Ernest T. Dixon Jr. Scholarship program, which helps high-achieving students attend Southwestern. TMF also serves as trustee on at least one significant charitable remainder trust where Southwestern is the sole beneficiary.

Historically, Southwestern has had a special affiliation with the Methodist church. Its founders were Methodist missionaries, and the University is accredited by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church. Education has been at the heart of the Methodist movement since its beginnings, and Southwestern continues this commitment through the liberal arts tradition.

“We deeply value our relationship with Southwestern and its commitment to intellectual inquiry and interdisciplinary learning, which is essential in our rapidly changing world,” Abel says. “TMF is a proud supporter of the students, staff, and alumni of Southwestern.”

# Greek Life Giving

*Loyal donors ensure fraternity and sorority members benefit from chapter scholarships, leadership development, and modernized chapter spaces.*

Greek life at Southwestern is more than tradition; it's a dynamic, student-led community rooted in leadership, service, and lifelong bonds. Greek-affiliated students now make up 35% of the student body—the University's highest percentage in decades.

"Our data tell us that students involved in the Greek life system at Southwestern have impressive GPAs and the highest graduation rates," says President Laura Trombley. "Greek alumni go on to become pillars of their home communities and remain involved with Southwestern long after graduation."

## A Legacy of Excellence

- **10** national chapters—7 with over 130 years of continuous presence on campus
- **77%** growth in membership since Fall 2023
- **9,000+** living Greek alumni
- **60+** Greek-affiliated members serve on the Board of Trustees and Board of Visitors
- **97%** first-to-second-year persistence—16% higher than the student body average
- **79%** six-year graduation rate—15% higher than the student body average
- **37%** of Greek members graduated with honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, or summa cum laude)
- **31%** of Phi Beta Kappa inductees were Greek-affiliated

## Impact at a Glance

- **\$90,000+** in Greek-only scholarships awarded each year
- **\$40,000+** raised for charitable causes in 2024–2025
- **40+** campus-wide social, educational, and philanthropic events hosted annually

## Endowed Scholarships Support Greek Life

Southwestern is grateful for the generosity of donors who have created endowed scholarships to support members of Greek organizations:

- *Alpha Xi Delta Stephanie Quimby Memorial Scholarship*
- *Nell Barnes Benold '48 Zeta Tau Alpha Scholarship*
- *Dorothy Stevens Bruner Zeta Tau Alpha Scholarship*
- *Allison Dickson Delta Delta Delta Scholarship*
- *Harpst Endowed Scholarship*
- *Kappa Sigma Iota Chapter Scholarship*
- *Pi Kappa Alpha Alpha Omicron Centennial Scholarship*
- *Thomas White Memorial Kappa Alpha Order Scholarship*
- *Gabe Wiley Lawson and Phi Delta Theta "The Road Goes on Forever" Scholarship*
- *Zeta Chapter–Alpha Delta Pi Scholarship*
- *Joe W. Taylor '74 Endowed Scholarship Fund*



*"Without this funding, I wouldn't have had the option of attending Southwestern. I appreciate not only the money but, more importantly, the investment in my future, so thank you for giving me the chance to excel and be the best possible student and person I can be."*

—**Hilton Hassell '25**, recipient of the Kappa Sigma Iota Chapter Scholarship



*"The sisterhood I have found in Alpha Xi Delta has forever altered my Southwestern experience and life. This funding has allowed me to stay a member of our chapter without financial stress, opening up my next year to a whole world of joys and experiences that would not have been possible without your generosity."*

—**Margaret Steele '27**, recipient of the Alpha Xi Delta Stephanie Quimby Memorial Scholarship



# Planned Giving

*Planned gifts can provide tax and financial benefits to donors while supporting Southwestern's long-term success.*

## Alumni Couple's Love for Lifelong Learning Inspires Estate Gift

When Maria Betancourt-Smith '77 and L. Wayne Smith '76 say Southwestern instilled a love for lifelong learning in them, they aren't kidding.

Betancourt-Smith went on to earn both her master's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) and her doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Texas A&M University after graduation. She worked as a teacher and administrator for more than 40 years and currently serves as an adjunct professor at SFA. Smith spent decades working as an accountant and running an industrial supply business with his brother before earning his master's of business administration degree from SFA in 2022.

"I got my MBA about 10 days before my 68th birthday," Smith says. "The absolute most important thing that Southwestern did for me was instill a desire to continue learning, and that carries on to this day."

That desire to learn extends beyond academic interests. Smith is a licensed private pilot and certified firefighter, and Betancourt-Smith is a certified scuba diver and competitive photographer.

The couple has been supporting the University for decades. In 2018, they decided to make a lasting impact through an endowed scholarship. Most recently, they included Southwestern in their estate plan in order to ensure future students have access to the same experience they did.

"Wayne and I have been the recipients of opportunities that we want others to have as well," Betancourt-Smith says. "We want the education Southwestern offers to be perpetuated and experienced by others so they can flourish."



*Photo: Maria Betancourt-Smith '77 and L. Wayne Smith '76*

## Join the 1840 Society

Members of the 1840 Society are leaving a legacy at Southwestern by including the University in their estate plans. These deferred or planned gifts can take various forms, including bequests, beneficiary designations of retirement accounts, donor-advised funds or insurance policies, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and more.

*Thank you to the 1840 Society members who are preparing for Southwestern's future today.*



## **Bequest Gift Helps Ensure a Bright Future for Southwestern**

Even after their passing, George and Barbara Brightwell continue to make a profound impact at Southwestern. The University recently received a bequest gift from the Brightwells' estate totaling just over \$1 million.

The Brightwells began their careers at Southwestern in 1977. Barbara served as the dean of student development and as an assistant professor of psychology until 1984, while George was the University registrar and an assistant professor of economics and business until his retirement in 1997.

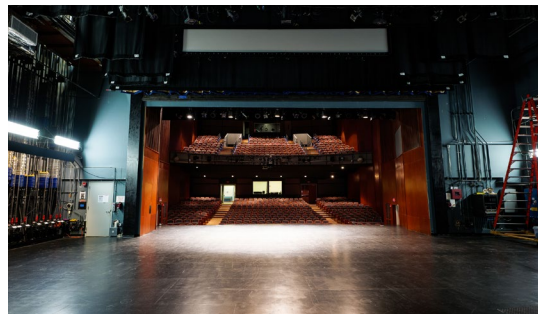
The couple were pillars in the Georgetown community. Following her time at Southwestern, Barbara served as director of community relations at Georgetown Hospital, now St. David's Georgetown Hospital, and helped establish the Georgetown Community Clinic, now Lone Star Circle of Care. George served on the board for a number of local nonprofits, including the Getsemani Community Center, Georgetown Boys and Girls Club, LifeSteps Council on Alcohol and Drugs, and Ride On Center for Kids (ROCK).

In 2017, the couple established the Barbara and George Brightwell Endowed Scholarship Fund at Southwestern. Shortly after their passing in 2023, the Central Texas Community Foundation posthumously honored the Brightwells with the Elizabeth Brenenstuhl Unsung Hero Award, which celebrates those who display exceptional dedication to supporting local nonprofits with their gifts and talents.

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## **Alma Thomas Theater Stage Receives Name Thanks to Estate Gift**

The stage inside Southwestern University's Alma Thomas Theater has a name for the very first time. The estate of Roger Edward Davidson '49 has made a generous bequest gift of \$1 million to Southwestern to dedicate the Davidson Stage at the Alma Thomas Theater.



Davidson was a staunch supporter of the performing arts and the proud father of Donald Davidson '81, Christopher Davidson, Amanda Davidson, and Eric Davidson.

"Dad was always supportive of music and the arts wherever he lived, from Colorado to Texas," Davidson's son Chris says. "It was important to him to leave something to inspire young people to follow in pursuing and supporting music and the arts. He always looked back fondly on his time at SU and how it shaped his adult life."

Davidson served in the U.S. Navy before attending Southwestern, where he played in the band and orchestra and graduated with a music degree. He was a part-time musician throughout the 1950s and 1960s. After moving to Grand Junction, Colorado, following his retirement, Davidson became active with the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra. He joined the organization's board of directors in 2002 and served as its vice president until his passing in 2011.



# Athletics Giving

*Donor support allows Pirate Athletics to provide exceptional experiences for Southwestern's 500+ student-athletes.*

## New Indoor Simulators Take Golf Program to the Next Level

Several generous donors recently came together to support Southwestern's men's and women's golf program through the addition of two indoor golf simulators. Coach Greg Sigler, a four-time SCAC Men's Coach of the Year and two-time SCAC Women's Coach of the Year, was the driving force behind the project.

"Greg has been very enthusiastic about making improvements for the benefit of the golf team ever since he got to Southwestern 10 years ago," says A.J. Brune.

The simulators were installed in the Corbin J. Robertson Center this summer. In addition to practicing their swing, student-athletes can download and analyze their performances, compete against teams around the country, organize virtual tournaments, and play hundreds of different courses.

"We're excited for the next generation of Southwestern athletes who will be able to hone their game on the simulator in preparation for achieving their best performances on the course," says Kevin Peesker, whose son, Matthew Peesker '25, was a four-year member of the men's golf team.

Hal Chappelle's grandson, Sam McClure '27, is a current member of the team. Chappelle notes that the simulators will also help with recruitment.

"Southwestern is already a great place for an athlete to attend," Chappelle says. "Having this capability will only make the program better."



*The Pirate Golf Simulator was made possible by gifts from the following donors:*

- Cece and A.J. Brune
- Harlan and Ginger Chappelle G'27
- David and Sherry McClure P'27
- Samuel McClure '27
- Kevin and Karen Peesker P'25
- Matthew Peesker '25
- Russell E. Stith P'19
- Sutherland Stith '19



## New Scoreboard Elevates the Player and Fan Experience

Southwestern's investment in Pirate Athletics continued last fall with the installation of a new scoreboard in the Corbin J. Robertson Center, home to the basketball and volleyball teams. The new scoreboard, which replaced a 31-year-old model, was made possible by gifts from Aramark and Hewlett Automotive Group.

"I have felt a connection to Southwestern ever since my family moved to Georgetown in 1971," says Don Ross Hewlett, owner of the Hewlett Automotive Group. "I essentially grew up on the campus. We played on the fields, went to the games, and ran around the fountains. As long-time supporters of Southwestern and the greater Georgetown community, we're proud to help the University build on its legacy and support future generations of student-athletes."

## Alumni Couple, Trustee Pledge Gifts for New Sports Complex

Southwestern's new multi-purpose sports complex continues to move closer to reality thanks to generous gifts from donors. The University is in the final stretch of its fundraising campaign, with \$8.5 million now committed for the \$9.2 million facility.

In April, Kevin '81 and Elizabeth '84 Dice pledged a \$1 million gift toward the construction of the facility. In recognition of their generosity, the field at the new complex will be named after the alumni couple. "We are honored to support Southwestern and invest in such a space that will bring students, athletes, and the entire University together," Kevin and Elizabeth Dice say. "Our hope is that this field becomes a place where a sense of community is fostered, traditions are built, friendships are formed, and school spirit thrives for generations to come."

Two months later, Trustee Brent Austin pledged a \$500,000 challenge match in honor of his wife, Joanne Powers Austin '74. "This project is a defining moment for Southwestern," Austin says. "Joanne's legacy as a proud alumna and lifelong supporter of this University inspires me every day. I hope this challenge encourages others to join us in creating something truly transformative for generations of students."

Located on the site of the current football practice field east of campus, the new multi-purpose sports complex will be funded 100% by philanthropy. The full scope of the project includes a grandstand, a stadium press box, a synthetic turf playing surface, a locker room, and a concourse area. Construction is expected to begin this fall.





# High-Impact Experiences

*Gifts that support high-impact experiences allow students to engage in internships, faculty-student research, and study abroad.*

## Couple Supports Life-Enriching Study Abroad Experiences



*Photo: Bree Dang '27*

Bree Dang '27 did more than strengthen her Spanish skills when she studied abroad in Granada, Spain. She took cooking and flamenco classes. She went on bike tours and visited the Alhambra. She traveled to Madrid and Seville, took day excursions to the beach, and hiked in the Sierra Nevada.

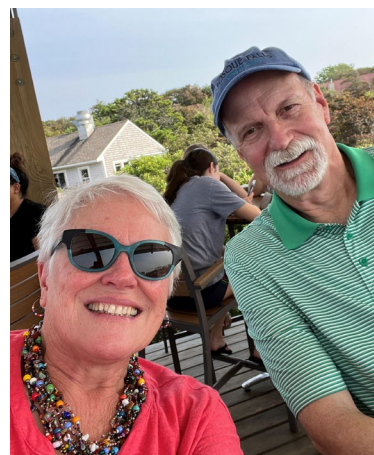
“My experience has been beyond words,” Dang says.

That type of unforgettable adventure is exactly why Charlie Olson '78 and Kris Kaiser Olson established the Kris Kaiser Olson Endowed Scholarship for Study Abroad at Southwestern. The scholarship helps cover non-tuition expenses so students can immerse themselves in the culture of their host country.

“There’s so much more to studying abroad than sitting in a classroom in another country,” Kris says. “All those informal experiences, from eating new food to exploring museums, are equally as valuable.”

For Charlie, the scholarship is also an opportunity to give back to the university that gave him so much.

“Southwestern gave me confidence that I could understand and work in a complicated world,” he says. “Implicit in the teaching was the message that we should go into the world and leave it better than we found it. Through this scholarship, we’re hoping to support students who otherwise may not be able to experience the full benefits of international travel.”



*Photo: Charlie Olson '78 & Kris Kaiser Olson*

## Robust Support System Helps Student Secure Capitol Hill Internship

When Fernando Cruz-Rivera '27 set his sights on gaining experience in the legislative arena, he took full advantage of the resources available at Southwestern. He reached out to Hispanic Academic Success Coordinator Amalia Merino and worked with the Center for Career and Professional Development to prepare his resume, conduct practice interviews, and write essay responses.

His hard work paid off: Cruz-Rivera secured an internship in the office of state Sen. Sarah Eckhardt and later in the office of U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett.



*Photo: Lloyd Doggett and Fernando Cruz-Rivera '27*

“Learning to ask for help and ask for support effectively, not only from teachers and counselors, but also from friends and peers, was the most valuable experience,” he says. “Without that, I don’t think I would have been able to reach the heights that I have.”



*Photo: SU Switzerland participants*

### **Snead Institute Funds Sustainability Research in Switzerland**

This summer, Professor of Environmental Studies Joshua Long led 15 Southwestern students on an unforgettable study abroad experience through Switzerland. Held in the Italian-speaking city of Lugano, this four-week, four-credit program allows students to study sustainability and development in one of the most environmentally friendly nations in the world.

“By providing students with experiential, place-based learning, the program transforms how they engage with sustainability not only in their scholarship, but also in their everyday lives,” Long says.

The course also develops students’ research capacity. Assignments emphasize observation, analysis, and critical thinking.

“On this trip, I have gotten the opportunity to explore Swiss water conservation strategies and how they may converge and differ from those in the United States and Texas,” says Sarah Ventimiglia ’25. “This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has allowed me to take my interest to new heights, equipping me with a global perspective to bring to a career in water conservation or environmental sociology after graduation.”

Several students received support for their research projects through the Snead Institute.

“Our father and grandfather, Ned Snead, founded the Snead Institute because he was passionate about international understanding and cooperation. He was also a great fan of Southwestern University,” says Snead family representatives of the institute. “We are proud to continue his tradition by sponsoring the Southwestern Environmental Studies Program. It is our belief that a sustainable future demands the involvement of the best and the brightest youth of all countries working together to solve global challenges.”





# Alumni Council Giving

*The 34 members of the Alumni Council govern and guide the activities of the Southwestern University Alumni Association.*

## Jameson 5K Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Ambitious Goal



*Photo: 2023 Annual Jameson 5k*

Growing up, Kenda Jameson Evans '92, who now serves on Southwestern's Alumni Council, and her brother, Jaysn Jameson '90, did everything together. They had the same interests, the same hobbies, and the same values. When it came time to decide on a college, it's no surprise they chose the same university.

Kenda and Jaysn thrived at Southwestern, where they both majored in chemistry and immersed themselves in everything the University has to offer. When Jaysn died in a scuba accident in 1991, Kenda was devastated—and determined to honor his memory. Together with family and friends, she established the Jaysn Flynn Jameson Memorial Scholarship Fund, which supports students majoring in the natural sciences with demonstrated financial need.

"Jaysn had a magnetism about him that drew people in. He was an amazing human being," Kenda says. "And he loved Southwestern. We wanted to continue his legacy."

Kenda organized the first Jameson 5K Fun Run/Walk in 2001 to help endow the scholarship, which has been awarded to 62 students so far. The race has since raised more than \$260,000. This fall, in honor of the event's 25th anniversary, Kenda has set a goal to raise an additional \$40,000 to get the total amount up to \$300,000.

"This will be the last Jameson 5K," she says. "It has been a labor of love. I want this one to be bigger and better than ever."

The race will take place Oct. 25 on the Southwestern campus. Kenda hopes more than 250 people will register.

"There will definitely be a hole in my heart when it's over," she says. "Hopefully Jaysn is proud."



## Alumni Council Helps Retiree Keep Up with University Happenings

Now retired after a long career with J.P. Morgan Wealth Management, Joe Bourne '81 is happily done with meetings. But there's one meeting he never wants to miss: the three-times-a-year gathering of Southwestern's Alumni Council.

"Every time I go, I learn 10 new things, and I'm bowled over by those same 10 things," says Bourne, who also serves on the Board of Visitors. "The beauty of serving on councils and boards is you find out so much more about what's going on inside the school. Students will give talks about what they're doing, and it's so impressive."

Bourne is grateful for the experiences he had, the friends he made, and the confidence he developed as an undergraduate. In addition to donating his time, he makes annual gifts to the University and plans to endow four chairs and a merit-based scholarship through his estate.

"I want to see Southwestern thrive," he says. "It has been around for 185 years, and it better be around for another 185 years. My service has shown me what it takes to run a small, liberal arts institution, and it's a lot. I want other students to have the same opportunity that I was so blessed to have."



*Photo: Your favorite retiree, Joe Bourne '81*

## 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

Each year, the Southwestern University Alumni Association honors members of the Southwestern community who exemplify the University's core values and the Association's mission. Congratulations to this year's winners:



***Steven P. Lufburrow '81***  
Medal of Honor



***Craig J. McKinney '91***  
Distinguished Southwestern Service



***Shedrick J. Boren '87***  
Distinguished Humanitarian



***Christopher Bailey '07***  
Distinguished Professional



***Janet Lopez-Vilsack '98***  
Distinguished Professional



***Ilka S. Vega '17***  
Distinguished Young Alumna



***Lauren E. Muskara '20***  
Distinguished Young Alumna

# Student Highlights

*Southwestern students are recognized for their leadership prowess in addition to their academic and extracurricular accomplishments.*

## Student Analysts Turn Classroom Learning into Real-World Success

Southwestern's Financial Analyst Program (FAP) enables students to gain invaluable hands-on experience in portfolio management and financial analysis. Through this program, students not only strengthen their understanding of investment principles, but also develop critical teamwork and problem-solving skills that prepare them for success in the financial industry.



*Photo: Student analysts and faculty advisor, Associate Professor of Economics and Business Hazel Nguyen (far left)*

FAP team members manage the University's Student Investment Fund under the guidance and advice of the faculty in the Department of Economics and Business. In 2024, the fund had an outstanding year, delivering a 24.63% annual return, its second-highest return since inception. This performance outpaced the S&P 500's 24.01% return and significantly exceeded the portfolio's 15.76% benchmark, demonstrating the strength of the team's investment strategy and risk management approach.

Team members also participated in the Student Managed Investment Fund Consortium (SMIFC) conference in Chicago, Illinois, for the fourth consecutive year. This event offered a unique opportunity for students to network with peers, exchange strategies, and gain fresh perspectives from industry experts.

## Where Are They Now?

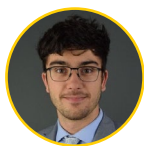
Past participants in Southwestern's Financial Analyst Program have gone on to successful careers in finance and related industries.



**Markell Henderson '19**  
Trader, Global Fixed Income,  
Northern Trust Asset Management



**John Gramza '17**  
Stf. Project Manager, Planning  
Operations, Lockheed Martin



**Aiden N. Steinle '20**  
Senior Licensing Specialist,  
Charles Schwab



**Sydney Rochelle Gramza '17**  
Manager, Operations Strategic  
Alignment, American Airlines



**Eric Kegley '11**  
Partner, Transactions and  
Financial Advisory Services,  
Baker Tilly



**Jebb Vandervalk '19**  
Director, Operations,  
Apex Capital Partners

# Faculty Highlights

*Southwestern's renowned faculty are passionate about mentoring and nurturing the next generation of scholars and leaders.*



Professor of Biology **Romi Burks** published an article with Cassidy Reynolds '24, Esmeralda Rosas '24, Cynthia Bashara '23, Lillian Dolapchiev '23, Matthew A. Barnes '06 (Texas Tech University), and Christopher L. Jerde (University of California, Santa Barbara) titled "Snail Slime in Real Time: Challenges in Predicting the Relationship between Environmental DNA and Apple Snail Biomass" in *Management of Biological Invasions* in July 2024.



Professor of Sociology **Maria Lowe**, ThuyMi Phung '23, and Katherine Holcomb '23 presented their paper titled "The Interaction of Race and Racial Grievance: Predictors of American Attitudes about Critical Race Theory" at the Eastern Sociological Society 2025 Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, in March 2025.



Professor of Education **Michael Kamen** and Sydney Jackson '27 presented two research sessions: "STEM and Successful Play-Based Programs" at the 2025 International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education XVII Consultation in Valladolid, Yucatán, México, in March 2025, and "Play-Based Programs: Themes for Success" at the Association for the Study of Play 51st Annual Conference in South Padre Island, Texas, in February 2025.








Professor of Computer Science **Barbara Anthony** presented a paper co-authored with Mark Mueller '24 titled "Course Scheduling Made Easier: A User-Friendly Web-Based Timetabling Tool Using PyGLPK" at the 21st International Conference on Cooperative Design, Visualization, and Engineering in Valencia, Spain, in September 2024.



Professor of Kinesiology **Scott McLean**, Kevan Kennedy '24, and Emma Williams '24 presented a poster titled "Comparison of Overground, Motorized Treadmill and Non-Motorized Treadmill Gait" at the 2024 American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, in May 2024.



# Admissions Profile & Student Body Profile

By The Numbers	Fast Facts
<p><b>Student Body</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total enrollment: 1,441</li> <li>• Female: 55%</li> <li>• Male: 45%</li> <li>• Underrepresented: 39%</li> <li>• First-generation: 20%</li> <li>• Student-athlete: 34%</li> <li>• Out-of-state: 13% (from 33 states)</li> <li>• Out-of-country: 1% (from 17 countries)</li> </ul>	<p><b>11:1</b> Student-faculty ratio</p> <p><b>16</b> Average class size</p> <p><b>23</b> Fulbright Scholars</p> <p><b>89%</b> of students graduate in four years</p> <p><b>CTCL</b> One of the 44 Colleges that Change Lives</p> <p><b>97%</b> of students from the class of 2024 were employed or in graduate school within 10 months of graduation</p>
<p><b>Class of 2028 Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 10% of their class: 26%</li> <li>• Top 25% of their class: 63%</li> <li>• Middle 50% SAT: 1140–1320</li> <li>• Middle 50% ACT: 24–30</li> </ul>	<p><b>Graduate &amp; Professional School Pathways</b></p>
<p><b>Top 5 Majors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business</li> <li>• Psychology</li> <li>• Biology</li> <li>• Kinesiology</li> <li>• Communication Studies</li> </ul>	<p> <b>Rice University</b> <i>Master of Accounting (MAcc)</i> An early admission pathway with no application fee. Open to all majors, this program includes access to Big Four internships with Deloitte, EY, KPMG, and PwC.</p>
<p><b>Current Certificates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and 3D Printing</li> <li>• Legal Studies</li> <li>• Spanish for Healthcare Professions</li> </ul> <p><i>Graduate partnerships and certificate programs are continuing to expand.</i></p>	<p> <b>Texas A&amp;M University – Mays Business School</b> <i>Master's Programs in Business</i> Options include degrees in analytics, finance, marketing, human resource management, real estate, and an MBA. An MS in business is also available specifically for non-business majors.</p> <p> <b>Texas Tech University</b> <i>Master of Mechanical Engineering</i> An accelerated path combining an undergraduate degree from Southwestern with a graduate degree from Texas Tech.</p> <p> <b>Washington University in St. Louis</b> <i>Engineering Dual-Degree Program</i> Students earn a BA in applied physics from Southwestern and a BS in engineering from Washington University.</p> <p> <b>Baylor University</b> <i>4+1 FastBacc® Nursing Program</i> A streamlined five-year path to a nursing degree, starting at Southwestern and completing at Baylor.</p>

# Points of Pride

*Southwestern continues to receive accolades and recognition from a number of highly respected publications.*

**1st**

**University in Texas**

**#1**

**Private University with the Largest Land Ownership** *(700 acres)*

**#1**

**in Texas and #19 in the Nation for Career Services** *(The Princeton Review)*

**#1**

**in Texas for Economic Diversity** *(The New York Times)*

**#1**

**Location in the Country to Launch a Career** *(Bankrate)*

**#1**

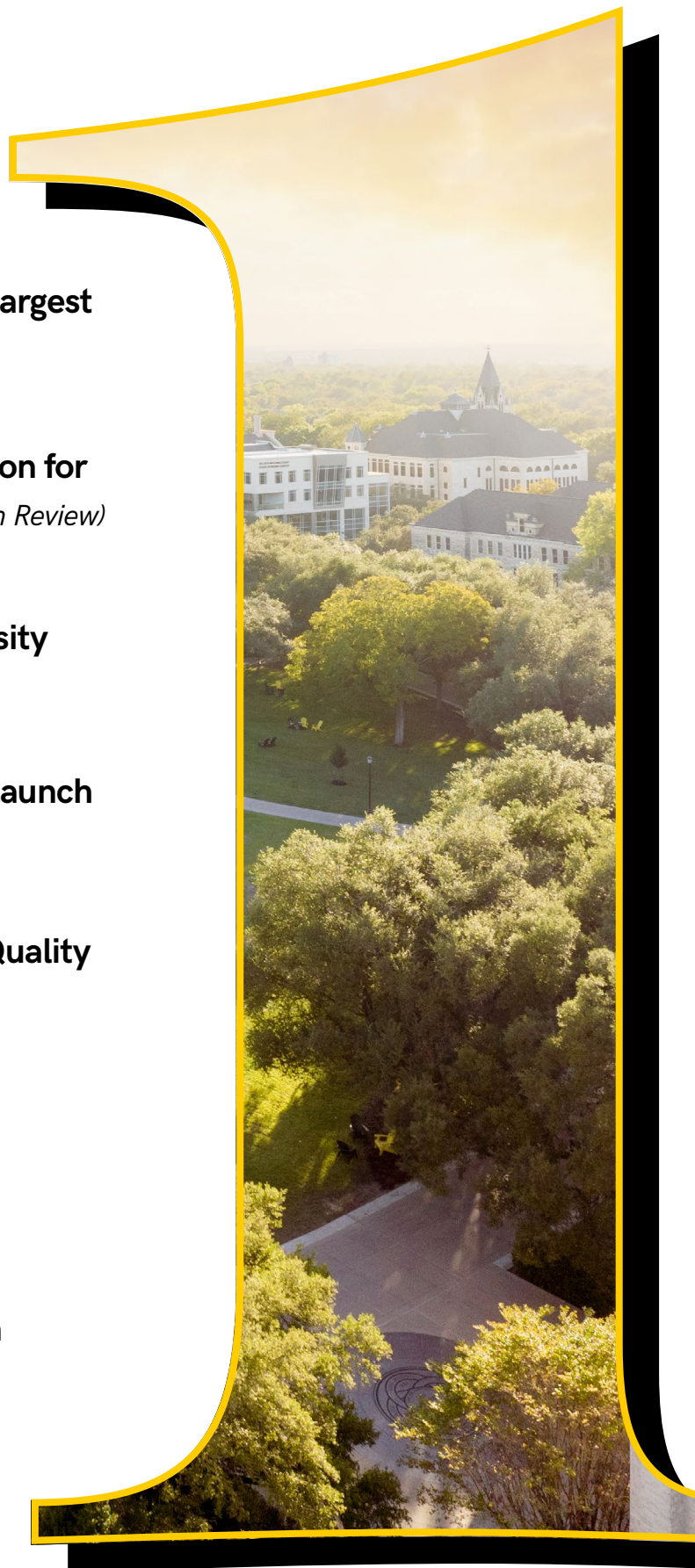
**Location in the Country in Quality of Life** *(Bankrate)*

**#1**

**University in Texas for Green Colleges**  
*(The Princeton Review)*

**#1**

**Hispanic-Serving Institution on the Top 100 Liberal Arts Institutions list**  
*(U.S. News & World Report)*



# 2024–2025 Leadership

## *Board of Trustees*

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H. Brent Austin	Edward Jones	Laura A. Merrill '84	Veronica Stidvent
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Katie Dorsey '24	Frank P. Krasovec	Claire Peel '72	Jay Uribe '95
Cynthia F. Harvey	Kevin Lilly P'24	Rex L. Preis '81	Lorri J. White '92
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Jean T. Janssen '84	Cassandra M. McZeal '92	H. Blake Stanford '81	Miguel J. Zorrilla '92

## *Board of Visitors*

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Benjamin M. Boorman '02	Sue Stauffer Harshman '73	Dennis Moore '95	Paula Smith
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William C. Claiborn '08	Carolyn G. Holloway	G. Benjamin Oliver	Perry C. Steger
Brad Coffey '96	Carl P. Illig	Nicholas H. Parker '09	Nancy Strong P'18
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Suzanne Morrow Ellis '64, P'89	Jack A. Lyons '75	Javier E. Riofrio '97, P'28	James W. Wilson '69
Kenda Jameson Evans '92	Pierce P. MacGuire '14	Bill Rives '74	Tyler Wolf
Brittany A. Fondren '11	Ana Mallen '95	Stuart D. Roberts '86, P'13	Drew York '02
Thomas A. Forbes '71	A. Erin Manning '93	Ralph Robinett	
Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli '92	Kay Webb Mayfield '78	Robert Robinson III P'27	

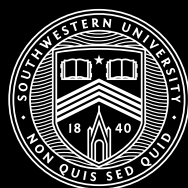
## *Alumni Council*

LaToya Alexander '08	Kenda Jameson Evans '92	Marissa Madrid-Ortega '18	Kent Sholars '04
Lydia Andrade '85	Anne Fenley '13	Ray Martinez '87	Lucero Sondakh-Dorantes '15
Katy Merrill Andre '99	Lee Silva Ferguson '95	Elizabeth Guillory Medina '97	Rachel Thompson '23
Joe Bourne '81	John Foster '75	Gaylon Morris '87	Andy Welch '72
Jillian Clack '25	Matthew Harper '10	Christopher Nieto '97	Ben Woods '06
Kathleen Cogan '05	Ken Holley '71	Christopher Ray '06	Donna Carter Worley '80
Lori Cook '11	Lana Johnson Horne '69	Sammie Robinson '73	Kate Fimbel York '02
Caden Cox '23	Lisa Jacob '93	Ron Sandberg '69	
Keith Curlee '90	Nate Lipp '27	Paul Santa Cruz '06	

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**Tom Delahunt**, Vice President for Strategic Recruitment and Enrollment  
**Marie Muhvic**, Vice President for University Relations  
**Dinah Ritchie**, Vice President for Integrated Communications and Chief Marketing Officer  
**Richard W. Schweigert**, Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration  
**Shelley Story**, Vice President for Student Life  
**Patricia Witt**, Chief of Staff





# SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY



GEORGETOWN, TEXAS