

Wesleyan

SEEING 2020

HOW TXWES MADE ITS VISION A REALITY

page 14

PICKING UP STEAM

Technology meets art

page 20

CHARLES DUKE '53

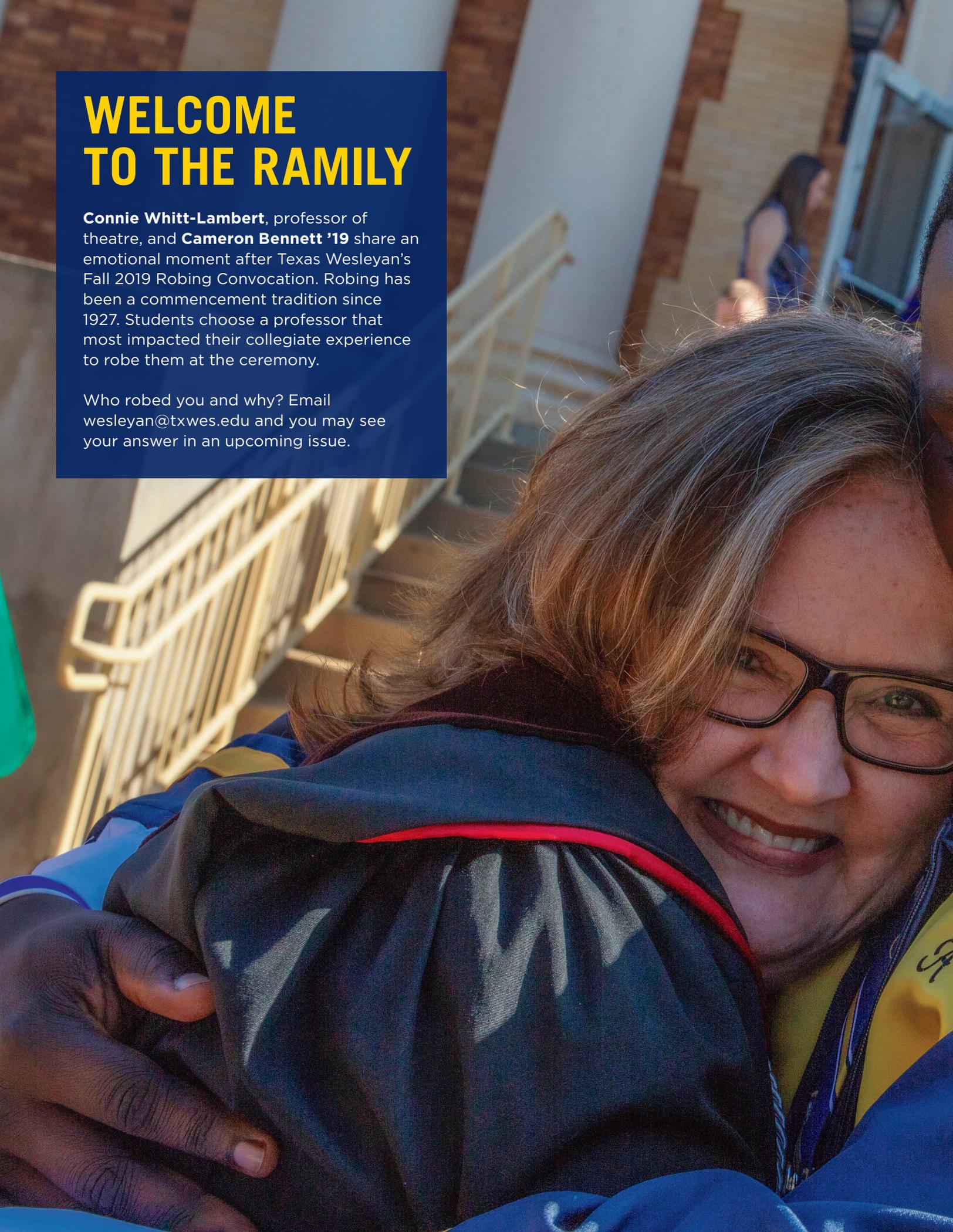
and the rhythm of joy

page 22

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Connie Whitt-Lambert, professor of theatre, and **Cameron Bennett '19** share an emotional moment after Texas Wesleyan's Fall 2019 Robing Convocation. Robing has been a commencement tradition since 1927. Students choose a professor that most impacted their collegiate experience to robe them at the ceremony.

Who robed you and why? Email wesleyan@txwes.edu and you may see your answer in an upcoming issue.







OUR VISION IS CLEAR

Smaller. Smarter. Stronger.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Progress is not inevitable. It takes all of us.



Those words took on new meaning as this issue was headed to press. The worldwide COVID-19 virus upended our spring semester, changing our entire vision of the future.

In times like these, vision is more important than ever. Our community stepped up to the challenge quickly

because we all share the same core vision: Our students and our values come first.

It isn't the same on campus. Our students bring campus to life. Reading these updates reminded me that education is the greatest socioeconomic elevator ever devised by man. It changes – and saves – lives.

Read more Texas Wesleyan COVID-19 updates at txwes.edu/coronavirus

Our university committed itself to our 2020 Vision over the last decade, and the results are clear: Our students are ready to face the unexpected challenges of tomorrow because they know how to think critically – and think for themselves.

Each new decade brings new challenges and this one will be no different. But the seeds of our 2020 Vision are growing and thriving across the world.

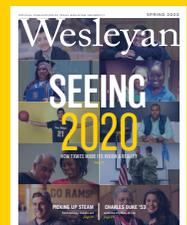
Frederick G. Slabach
President
Texas Wesleyan University



ON THE COVER

A new generation of alumni are focused on the future.

Photos by Chuck Greeson





SPRING 2020

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ART PICKS UP STEAM

TXWES is connecting students to the vibrant DFW art scene.

txwes.edu/art-gallery

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AND THEN EVERYTHING CHANGED

COVID-19 shuts down Texas Wesleyan's campus

The spring semester was upended by the arrival of COVID-19, also called the coronavirus, in Texas.

Classes were moved off campus and to online instruction Wednesday, March 11. Athletics events were suspended. Events were canceled. Campus went dark. Then came stay-at-home orders.

But behind the scenes, an already-connected web of staff, faculty members and administrators sprang into action.

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning created a guide for faculty called "Keep Teaching." Instruction ranged from detailed technical guides to tips for communicating with students remotely. Library Services, already online, issued guides and offered live chats.

"I'd like to welcome students to week one of our totally online learning," President Frederick G. Slabach told students Monday, March 23, from a video shot at his home.

Students shared photos of their workspaces on Facebook and logged into Blackboard for their course assignments.

"The safety and security of our entire community is our first and most urgent priority," Slabach said. "We continue to monitor COVID-19 developments intently as we determine the right path for Texas Wesleyan moving forward."

[Read more updates about COVID-19 at txwes.edu/coronavirus](https://txwes.edu/coronavirus)



SUPPORT THE RAMS RELIEF FUND

Each semester, hundreds of Texas Wesleyan students pay their tuition monthly through jobs they have in the community. With COVID-19, many of our students have unexpected expenses and loss of income. They are worried about bills, like tuition, more than ever.

Rams Relief Fund lets alumni and friends help students who are currently suffering financial hardships or will suffer financial hardships because of COVID-19.

If you would like to help, make your gift at advancement.txwes.edu/rams-relief

BUSINESS HALL OF FAME HONORS EDWARD P. BASS

Event held for the first time at Fort Worth's new Dickies Arena



Edward P. Bass, chairman of Fine Line Group, was honored as the 2019 Fort Worth Business Executive of the Year Wednesday, Nov. 20, at Dickies Arena.

“Ed Bass is a visionary business leader who has made and continues to make outstanding contributions to the cultural and economic development of Fort Worth,” President Frederick G. Slabach said. “His business sense, coupled with his commitment to the city’s overall

prosperity, makes him most deserving of this prestigious award. It is indeed our honor to recognize Ed for his many contributions to our community and to celebrate his accomplishments at this year’s 50th anniversary of the Business Hall of Fame.”

The event supports the Thomas H. Law Scholarship program, which benefits business students at Texas Wesleyan University. [👉](#)

Read about this year’s Thomas H. Law Scholarship winner, Stuart Tennyson, on page 7.



CONCIERTO BANDA SINFÓNICA DEL ESTADO DE ZACATECAS

TXWES hosts free concert for Symphonic Band of Zacatecas

Banda Sinfónica de Zacatecas (Symphonic Band of the State of Zacatecas) performed Friday, Jan. 17, in Martin Hall at Texas Wesleyan.

The 85-member band performs every year at the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo. This is their fourth consecutive year to perform on the Texas Wesleyan campus. The performance was free and open to the public as part of the university’s Campus Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Plan.

The symphony was founded in 1957 by Octaviano Sigala and is currently directed by Salvador García Ortega, winner of the State Musical Merit Award, “Candelario Huízar,” in 2007. [👉](#)



PATHWAY PROGRAM BUILDS VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP

Tarrant County College signs dual admission transfer agreement with Texas Wesleyan

An agreement signed in December allows Tarrant County College graduates automatic transfer to Texas Wesleyan to complete their bachelor’s degree.

Under the new TCC to TXWES Pathway Program, students can use one application to apply to both TCC and TXWES. Students who graduate from TCC enter TXWES as juniors.

“We’re excited to enter a partnership that makes getting a four-year degree easier and more cost-effective than ever for TCC students,” President Frederick G. Slabach said at a signing ceremony for the agreement in December of last year.

TCC students also get support services, financial assistance and extra benefits – like special workshops, campus tours and tickets to all TXWES events.

“Affordability, accessibility and completion are at the core of this agreement, and both institutions are committed to these goals,” TCC Chancellor Eugene Giovannini said.

TCC is a major education force in North Texas – it serves more than 100,000 students and is one of the 20 largest education institutions in the U.S. It does extensive workforce development and has six campuses across Tarrant County.

These students thrive in Texas Wesleyan’s small pond.

“TCC students who continue their academic journeys at Texas Wesleyan experience great success,” Slabach said. [👉](#)

PARENT ACADEMIES BRING HOME A BIG PRIZE

Wesleyan education professor honored for innovative program



Patsy Robles-Goodwin, professor of education, received the Quest for Quality award by the Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education during its conference Oct. 27.

The award highlights exemplary K-12 school partnerships in conjunction with the

National Professional Development Grant.

Dr. Robles-Goodwin's Parent Academies encourage positive education outcomes with individualized programs that help parents better understand the educational system, philosophy and expectations at their child's school.

"These academies empower [our parents] to become more engaged in their children's education that will hopefully impact their educational outcomes and achievements," Robles-Goodwin said.

The program worked with parents and students in the Burleson, Everman, Fort Worth, Mansfield, White Settlement and Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISDs. 🇺🇸



THEATRE WESLEYAN GETS POST-ELECTRIC

Students reenact a *Simpsons* stunner

Will Bart Simpson's name echo through the ages?

Theatre Wesleyan asked the question when they performed *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3 last semester.

The play, which was written by Anne Washburn and directed by Bryan Stevenson '01, is set in a post-apocalyptic society where the few remaining survivors hold onto the past by trying to reconstruct

the "Cape Feare" episode of *The Simpsons* (a parody of a film remake based on a novel). First, seven years pass, then 75 – slowly, one generations pop culture becomes another generations mythology.

The cast and crew – which included four first-year students – spent months preparing for the performance, including a rehearsal under a full moon on Friday, Oct. 13. 🇺🇸

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT CHASES FRAUD

Stuart Tennyson takes fraud personally with accounting degree

For Stuart Tennyson, 2019 Thomas H. Law Scholarship recipient, accounting is a mission.

“I like catching the bad guys – the people who are doing things that aren’t right and who are defrauding shareholders and creditors,” Tennyson, a senior forensic accounting major, said. “That’s fun to me.”

Tom Tolleson, professor of accounting, sparked the passion.

“There is so much going on in the world today. We have tons of fraud and it interests me,” Tennyson said. “Dr. Tolleson really pushed me in that direction and showed

me the great things you can do in the industry, including the fun you can have in accounting.”

The Thomas H. Law Scholarship is funded by the proceeds of the annual Business Hall of Fame. This year was the 50th anniversary of the event, which is presented by Texas Wesleyan, the *Fort Worth Business Press* and the Fort Worth Chamber. Edward P. Bass, chairman of the Fine Line Group, was this year’s Executive of the Year.

“It’s an honor just to be recognized by my professors,” Tennyson said. “I’m really grateful. It’s going to go a long way toward my last semester and finishing school without any student debt.”

Tennyson is considering getting his MBA from Texas Wesleyan after graduating.

“‘Smaller. Smarter.’ really happens on this campus,” Tennyson said. “Every professor I’ve had from general education to my major has known my name and they have tried to learn my story. I don’t think I could have made a better choice.”



TXWES STEALS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT FOR TOP-TIER EDUCATION

Wesleyan named to the *U.S. News* 2020 Best Colleges list



Texas Wesleyan moved from the top tier of regional universities to the national university category in *U.S. News & World Report’s* Best Colleges 2020 rankings.

Texas Wesleyan has been in the top tier of regional universities for nine consecutive years. Texas Wesleyan also made the publication’s new social mobility category, which measures success enrolling and graduating disadvantaged students with Pell Grants. Texas Wesleyan also ranked on the list of best business programs.

“Once again, *U.S. News* has recognized what I see on campus every day – talented students being trained for successful careers by our faculty experts,” President Frederick G. Slabach said. “Our students, faculty and staff do invaluable work every day, and I’m pleased to see the well-deserved attention their efforts continue to bring to the university.”



“If a person does make an inflammatory statement or does things that suggest they may be capable of doing violence in our community, then we have record of that.”

Cary Adkinson, associate professor of criminal justice, told KDFW/Fox 4 reporter Dionne Anglin in a story discussing the decision to expand Arlington Police hate and bias crime reporting policy to include “hate incidents.”

“When I came there were no computers.”



Jane Moore, professor of mathematics, told *The Rambler* reporter Ashton Willis in a story about her retirement after 54 years of teaching at Texas Wesleyan. She came to Texas Wesleyan in 1965.

“I hope the work evokes a sense of belonging while offering warmth, love, grace and thanksgiving.”



Blake Henson, professor of music, told NBC 5 DFW reporter Kimberly Richard in an interview discussing his piece “A Child’s Song of Christmas,” performed at two Dallas churches during the holiday season.

“Education changes the trajectory not only of a graduate’s life, but of the lives that may follow that graduate for generations to come. I am proud of the role Texas Wesleyan plays in attracting and graduating so many first-generation college students.”

Frederick G. Slabach, president, on a story that placed Texas Wesleyan on the *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges 2020 rankings.



► **WEB EXTRAS** For more university news visit txwes.edu/universitynews



RAMS PLAY SCARY GOOD ON HALLOWEEN

Costume contest captures a win

Facing a top 25 team at home can be tough. For one Texas Wesleyan opponent, it was a nightmare.

The TXWES men's basketball team routed the University of the Southwest (New Mexico) in scary fashion, at Monster Mash, their annual home opener, on Halloween.

The Rams started the game at a slow, 11-2 deficit but quickly turned things around and pulled out the 73-62 victory against the Mustangs.

The men's team weren't the only ones who walked away with a prize. The first 100 students to enter the game were automatically eligible to enter the costume contest and the winner was awarded a free t-shirt. 🎉



texaswesleyan

Congratulations Graduates. You did it! #txwes #smallersmarter #txwesalumni



@TxWesFootball and @ACUFirestorm did great work today! 90 bikes assembled and delivered to the Boys and Girls Club + 800 boxes of food weighing + 25,000 lbs. packed at Tarrant Area Food Bank + 100 transition kits assembled at Union Gospel Mission #BeRelevant



'CHRONICLE' EXHIBIT COMES TO CAMPUS

Dallas artist displays his work at Templeton Art Gallery

Dubbed "Dallas' Hardest Working Multi-Hyphenate" by *D Magazine*, Jeremy Biggers displayed his 'Chronicle' exhibit at the Bernice Coulter Templeton Art Studio & Gallery Nov. 11 through Dec. 20.

Biggers' work is shaped by his experiences. Experiences that are told through fine art, design, photography and film. Biggers has worked with major national corporations including Nike, Adidas and McDonald's as well as local organizations such as the Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks.

The visual language developed within his work deals with identity as it pertains to "code-switching" or the feeling of being multiple people simultaneously. 🎨



@Eunice and James L. West Library Showing our #RamPride at the DFW Archives Bazaar. We are talking about our archival collections and letting you know we can help with your research! #txwes

Read more about the Templeton on page 20.

FOLLOW US @TEXASWESLEYAN



ALL IN A DAY

University College Day allows students to discover the pleasure of finding things out.

The entire Texas Wesleyan community comes together every spring for one day of faculty, staff and student research. It's a day like no other.

This year, that's especially true. In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, UCD moved from an in-person, all-campus format to an online format.

The channel has changed, but the big questions have not. How do we work together? How do we reduce disease?

In anticipation of UCD 2020, we spoke to four students participating in April's event and asked them for their research tips.



Finding a Community's Voice

Two sociology students are researching how local communities interact.

Lindsey Bishop
Senior, sociology
Arlington

Dream job?

I am leaning toward nonprofit work. Ideally, I would like to use rescue animals to help heal people.



Stacie Hill
Senior, sociology
Lake Worth

Dream job?

I plan to take a semester off to study for the LSAT. My heart is always in a place of wanting to help people.

THE RESEARCH

We are learning what it takes to build community through relationships. What steps are necessary to create the wanted changes in a neighborhood by its residents? How do they interact with each other, local governments and other systems?

THE CATALYST

During our Local Community class with Alison Simons, assistant professor of sociology, we learned that community is not a community if it does not involve its residents. Most city decisions are made based on the opinions of city leaders and their interpretation of what residents want or need. Often, city officials have no communication or involvement with local residents.

GO LOCAL

We are all part of a community. Once individuals realize that role, change can occur. Our particular area focuses on how to have a voice. We are working in a low income

community. Many people work multiple jobs or are unemployed. It is important for the residents to understand their voice.

TAKE ACTION

We were introduced to Polytechnic Heights residents in our Local Community class. Once we heard the passion of some of the residents who wanted to create change and become more involved, Lindsey and I realized this is what we wanted to research. We wanted to know what they have done so far, what their challenges were, how we could help and how to get other students and residents involved.

We worked with Texas Wesleyan, Simons and Polytechnic Heights Homeowner's Association to organize a community expo to increase relationships and positive interactions among residents. We want to bring awareness of local resources to those who may need them. The next community expo is expected later in the year.

Lindsey and I are very passionate about helping people. It sounds a little corny, but

we want to make the world a better place. We also want to make sure the residents see Texas Wesleyan as a partner in their community.

FIND YOUR PASSION

If you are simply researching a topic because it is easy or just to get the credit, honors or a title, then you are limiting yourself as well as the potential to make a difference in a broken society.

TIE IT TOGETHER

I suggest to every student to take at least one sociology class. My professors are incredible and they really try to make sure I grasp the material. The content of our subjects is amazingly interesting – seeing how everything is tied together and spotting inequalities, injustices and inequities has really helped guide what types of career fields I want to explore.



Bugging out

A biochemistry major is taking on mosquito-based malaria transmission.



Anahita Keer
Junior, biochemistry
Mumbai

Dream job?
Drug design researcher

THE RESEARCH

I am studying autophagy. Plasmodium falciparum is a protozoan that causes malaria. It is the most aggressive of its kind and has caused over 405,000 deaths globally in 2018.

Currently, artemisinin-based combination therapy is used to treat malaria caused by P. falciparum. These parasites keep evolving and develop resistance to drugs.

My project focuses on trying to find a new treatment by using autophagy. Autophagy is a type of cell death wherein the cell breaks down and destroys old, damaged or abnormal proteins and other substances in its cytoplasm. We have identified ATG4 as a potential drug target because when it is inhibited, it will cause P. falciparum to “eat” itself by activating the autophagy mechanism. When the parasite goes through autophagy, it will not harm its human host because the two organisms do not have the same proteins.

THE CATALYST

Though malaria is not a major threat in the United States, it is in India, where I am from. It is scary how parasites we cannot see can cause so much harm. Their growing resistance to drugs is even scarier. I chose this project because of the impact it can have

on so many lives if it is successful. It has also trained me in so many new techniques that I would not have learned had it not been for research under Dr. Khalid Shaikh, visiting assistant professor of biochemistry.

THE STAKES

Our favorite recipes are a result of testing how much sugar or spice we love in our food. Cars are a result of years of modification, optimization and customization. Research increases knowledge. Every aspect of everyday life is an outcome of research.

TAKE ACTION

Start! I began my project at the end of my sophomore year. I did not know much about experimentation, databases or asking the right questions, but it has helped me grow so much as person and also as a scientist. The most unexpected facet of research is failure. There are many times when experiments do not work as expected, but continuing is important.

STAY CURIOUS

Complexity is something I require to function at my best. When I feel like I am not being mentally stimulated, I get bored.

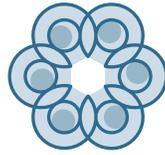
Keeping in mind that I may be able to impact patient lives through science is extremely motivating as well.

FORGET FEAR – DIVE IN

Do not be afraid to take on a project in your discipline. There are many resources available – even if you are an international student. Ask your academic advisor for help with finding internships. If you are at a crossroads between careers, research may aid you in deciding what you want to do. It is an exceptionally lucrative opportunity that teaches you problem-solving, organization, time management and technical communication skills.

WHAT IS STEAM?

We’ve heard about STEM careers – science, technology, engineering and math – but this year’s UCD focuses on creating STEAM – the intersection between technology and liberal arts.



Finding harmony in faith

A senior religion major is examining if “leading in love” is more than feel-good happy talk.



Haley Arnspiger-Dierke
*Senior, religion with an
emphasis in Christian studies*
Red Oak

Dream job?
Ordained minister

THE RESEARCH

The title of my paper is *Relationality, Vulnerability, and Subjectification: A Call to Redefine Power and Listen to Seek Racial Harmony*.

THE CATALYST

This project came from my curiosity of the paradox of Christian love and Christian hate. I continued to ask questions and they continued to feed my curiosity. Faith and theology are important to me alongside the need for a more inclusive doctrine in the midst of a hurting world.

THE STAKES

This research is important because it highlights the scientific findings that support the idea that leading in love is not all unrealistic optimism. It presents other researchers who have done work in the category of vulnerability, binding psychologies within groups, and the transformational power of weakness. It is important to embrace these things in order to find a harmony among political parties, faith denominations, and people in general.

GO DEEPER

Find something you are passionate about and feel it enough that you cannot keep it to yourself. Find interesting people who give depth to what you want to learn about.

ASK QUESTIONS

Faith, like people, is multifaceted. It is not a system of ‘good’ and ‘bad.’ There is deeper knowledge within the world of Church and God, Buddha, and Allah that is bursting behind your stereotypes of religion.

UCD 2020: BREAKING BARRIERS

University College Day is a one-day, high-impact learning experience that brings together the entire Texas Wesleyan community in support of student research.

This year’s event is chaired by Ngozi Akinro, assistant professor of mass communication, and the theme is “Breaking Barriers,” with a special focus on student research, community engagement and “STEAM.”

Students choose topics related to their research, class projects and other activities. The event also features a keynote presentation and the annual Ram Jam. Previous keynote presenters have included Arun Gandhi, activist and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, and Emmy winner Tamlyn Wright '92.

► **WEB EXTRAS** Read more about University College Day at txwes.edu/ucd



Trent Sandles '14
Raleigh, North Carolina



Victoria Gallegos '18
Fort Worth, Texas



Heath Scott '11
Fort Worth, Texas/
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

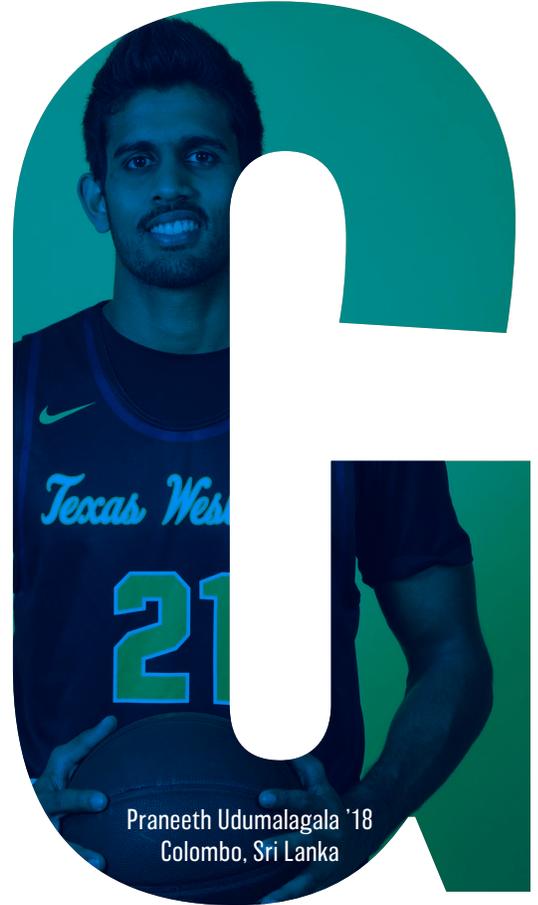
2020



Abbey Reece '16
Decatur, Texas



Ryan Ellison '13
Dallas, Texas



Praneeth Udumalagala '18
Colombo, Sri Lanka

THIS IS THE STORY OF A UNIVERSITY THAT BROUGHT ITS VISION TO LIFE.

2020 is here. At Texas Wesleyan, it always felt like 2020 was coming soon – sometimes too soon. Halls buzzed with faculty and staff planning, changing, tweaking and refining plans and running to and from committee meetings.

Students studied and dreamed of the day they would have a career – something that made them want to wake up to be somewhere at 8 a.m. They commuted in and out of campus at all hours of the day and night. A quick bite at the Sub or WEE. They tweaked a business plan at Dora's.

Texas Wesleyan broke new ground in the 2010s – on campus, on the field and in the classroom. But it's the graduates of that era that are already breaking ground as the new decade dawns. Here's a retrospective of those years, told by the students.



HEATH SCOTT '11 - FORT WORTH, TEXAS/FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS



"On the civilian side, I work for the Department of Defense as a Special Investigator. I handle cases that involve National Security matters. On the Army side, I am a Military Intelligence Officer (Captain) in the Reserve."

ABBEY REECE '16 - DECATUR, TEXAS



"I work as the Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Justin. I started in Justin as an intern. After graduating with my master's degree from the University of North Texas, I was offered a full-time position in the city manager's office."

MIA DANIELS '13 - FORT WORTH, TEXAS



"I am a Client Associate & Operations Manager with Lear Investment Management. I am responsible for client and partner service roles, as well as all operations. In addition, I manage the various technology systems and gathering and processing data."

WILL VELIZ '16 - EL PASO, TEXAS



"I am a licensed realtor, real estate and managing partner of Veliz Real Estate Company and owner of Velamex Enterprises, a real estate investment and holding company. I am a Trustee for the El Paso Police and Fire Pension Fund, a \$1.5 billion pension fund for our Active and Retired Police and Firemen and their families.

I also just finished my first political campaign, running for my local City Council seat, narrowly losing out by 180 votes."

RYAN ELLISON '13 - DALLAS, TEXAS



"I am the Marketing Director for a multimillion dollar insurance MGA and the co-chair for the DFW Urban League of Young Professional's STEAM Conference. I also help local entrepreneurs with digital marketing freelance services."

TYLER GUSE '17 - FORT WORTH, TEXAS/NEW YORK, NEW YORK



"I worked on two films: *1985* as a costumer and *The Old Man & the Gun* as costume production assistant. I went on tour with *Charlie Brown Christmas Live On Stage* as wardrobe supervisor, worked with Disney Cruise Lines as a costume technician – and I just finished another tour with *How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* as assistant wardrobe supervisor. I'm currently working in New York as costume designer for a production of *Oliver*."

PRANEETH UDUMALAGALA '18 - COLOMBO, SRI LANKA



"I'm Operations Manager at Shisasa Holdings International. We do tempered glass supply and installation work. I also play basketball for the Sri Lankan national team."

VICTORIA CALLEGOS '18 - FORT WORTH, TEXAS



"I'm working for Siemens Logistics as a financial analyst. I work for the Supply Chain Management and I am also working on completing my Lean Six Sigma certification."

MORGAN SHEA KIRKPATRICK '15 - ORLANDO, FLORIDA



"I graduated in June from medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and now I'm working toward completing a five-year General Surgery residency in Orlando."

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

Texas Wesleyan rolled through the '10s with a great game plan and endless opportunity

2010

AN ERA ENDS ...

The new decade begins with the retirement of President Harold Jeffcoat. Lamar Smith '50 HON '65 serves as interim president and focuses on strengthening ties with the United Methodist Church.

2011

A NEW ONE BEGINS ...

President Frederick G. Slabach, former dean of the Texas Wesleyan School of Law, joins Texas Wesleyan as its president. The university embarks on a community strategic planning project – marked by listening sessions and group meetings.

FAVORITE TXWES CLASS?

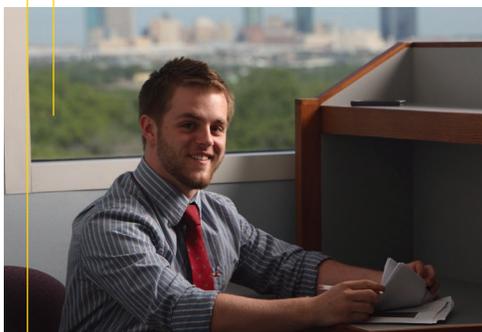
Don't sleep through any of these.

"Mac McLain's Investments class. I remember studying Coca-Cola and really learning how to analyze their balance sheet."

– Mia Daniels '13

“My Evolution & Ecology and Conservation classes with Dr. Benz are the two classes that impacted me the most as a person. They made me cognizant of my carbon footprint and encouraged me to find ways to reduce it.”

– Morgan Shea Kirkpatrick '15



"Managerial Finance was one of my more challenging classes, which is why I'll forever be proud of my A."

– Victoria Gallegos '18

"Any history class taught by Dr. Alexander. I hope she's doing well!"

– Heath Scott '11



PREDICTIONS, PLEASE?

What does 2030 hold for TXWES?

"The Rams football team will have won a National Championship!"

– Mia Daniels '13

"I would love to see Wesleyan continue to expand and highlight the academic masterminds and athletic prowess that makes the university amazing. To see academics and athletics continue to grow and compete with the 'larger' universities would be amazing!"

– Will Veliz '16

"Basketball wins another championship."

– Praneeth Udumalagala '18

“Texas Wesleyan will always be smarter – but not necessarily smaller! When I left Wesleyan, they had just done the ground-breaking ceremony for the clock tower – and now it's expanded so much. I see Wesleyan being the rejuvenation the surrounding communities need to help businesses and families thrive.”

– Ryan Ellison '13

“I imagine that they will have a top tier football team with a stadium on campus ... new residence halls will be built and most importantly Wesleyan will take over as the go-to university in Fort Worth. It is a bold prediction but, hey, anything is possible! #RAMSUP”

– Trent Sandles '14

2012

"SMALLER. SMARTER." GOES LIVE

President Slabach reveals the university's inaugural "Smaller. Smarter." advertising campaign to a packed house in Martin Hall. The campaign will go on to win more than 160 marketing awards and define the university to a new generation of Dallas-Fort Worth students.

2013

THE LAW SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

Texas A&M University and Texas Wesleyan University announce a partnership that creates the Texas A&M University School of Law. Not without controversy, it generates new growth for both schools and downtown Fort Worth.

2014

TCC AND TXWES LINK UP

New articulation agreements signed by both schools make it easier for Tarrant County College graduates – some of Texas Wesleyan's highest-performing students – to get their bachelor's degree from Texas Wesleyan.

COVER



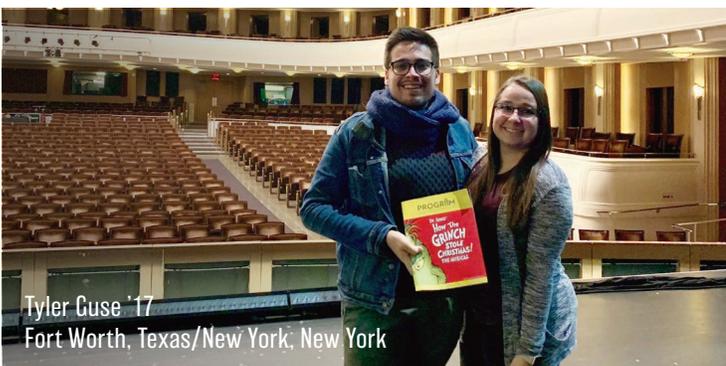
Morgan Shea Kirkpatrick '15
Orlando, Florida



Will Veliz '16
El Paso, Texas



Mia Daniels '13
Fort Worth, Texas



Tyler Cuse '17
Fort Worth, Texas/New York, New York

BEST MEMORIES

The stuff when you weren't studying.

"Bringing the Ram statue to campus, the Morton Fitness Center groundbreaking ... the list is long!"

– Heath Scott '11

"Loved the vibe of campus – especially during the ad campaigns! I made lifelong friends whom I will always see as family. Learning so much personally and professionally. I can name several of my favorite professors and some with whom I still keep in touch with (we pick up from the last every time)."

– Mia Daniels '13

"My best memories were on the cheerleading squad with Carolyn Ikens. I enjoyed cheering at the basketball games, representing T-Dub at cheer camps with some of the top schools in the country, and being the first face most students saw at the President's Picnic. If I could I'd hop in a stunt with the squad today!"

– Ryan Ellison '13

"A two-way tie between 2013 Midnight Madness and 2013 Ram Camp. Both were amazing events and I was privileged to work with a phenomenal group of students that set the bar for those events."

– Trent Sandles '14

"My roommate, Tyler Mendez, completely flooding our dorm room after popping a fire sprinkler the night before my organic chemistry exam. We were the R.A.s that were supposed to be preventing these types of things, and our residents rushed to our rescue. They had to re-do the ceiling in the room below us because it started to cave in."

– Morgan Shea Kirkpatrick '15

(We're sending you a bill.)

"Tie between meeting my husband and serving as the Student Body President."

– Abbey Reece '16

"Winning the National Basketball Championship – hands down."

– Praneeth Udumalagala '18

2015

125 ARRIVES

The university celebrates its 125th anniversary in style with a year of events culminating in a downtown gala and the announcement of the \$20 million Martin Center campaign – a project that comes to fruition at the end of the decade.

THE RENAISSANCE BEGINS

The Rosedale Renaissance kicks off a revitalized corridor through Polytechnic Heights. Texas Wesleyan pairs with a coalition of government organizations to invest more than \$38 million in public improvements.

2016

THE RAMS ARE BACK

The Baker Building hummed with reporters and TV news cameramen taking it all in – football was back at Texas Wesleyan for the first time in 75 years. With Dallas-Fort Worth looking on President Slabach tells viewers "Texas Wesleyan is on the move."

“One of my best memories is the day that Prudential came to campus to interview potential interns. I just completed a resume ready to submit for internships – thanks to the fact that I had recently attended the Fed and You event. I met the AVP at Prudential – I applied for the internship, interviewed and won the internship.”

– Victoria Gallegos '18

“Getting my Guardian of the Golden Shears pin along with my twin sister, Teresa, at her robing ceremony.”

– Tyler Guse '17

“I loved game days for any sport. I also loved University College Day: Being able to present research I had spent much of the previous semester working on to a packed room of people that were ready to grill you on your work!”

– Will Veliz '16

A NEW PLAN

2020 is here. What comes next for TXWES?

Texas Wesleyan began a new series of listening sessions late last year. The goal? To define a new decade at Texas Wesleyan.

“2020 Vision has been a great road map for us since we implemented it in 2011,” President Slabach said. “Now we’re ready to build on its success with our next strategic plan, which will point the way forward to an even brighter future for Texas Wesleyan.”

It also formed a steering committee made up of university staff, its five academic deans, SGA President Alyssa Hutchinson, Interim Provost Hector Quintanilla and President Slabach.

The questions of the next decade are bigger and bolder – Chief of Staff Patti Gearhart Turner described them as more aspirational. Listening sessions are split into four groups: faculty, alumni, students and staff. These groups are charged with thinking about the future: What have we learned? Where are we going?

WHERE TO?

These careers have legs.

“I have a new daughter, Abigail! She keeps me on my toes! I want to be the best father I can, continue to serve my country, and sooner than later, start exploring ways to serve my community locally.”

– Heath Scott '11

“We’ll see – I’ll never forget Dr. Lockhart telling me to always be ready and keep an open mind.”

– Mia Daniels '13

“... continued growth within the Cisco organization. Working for the #1 company

in the world to work for is a great privilege and I continue on growing within the company to a point of leadership. Most immediately I want to work to become a Senior Sales Specialist and then move into managing my own team within five years.”

– Trent Sandles '14

“Justin’s population is expected to double in the next decade ... so a lot of what I do includes project management related to public infrastructure improvements, public communication and economic development.”

– Abbey Reece '16

“I am going to expand both Real Estate companies throughout Texas, continue to give back to my local community, and gear

up for a political campaign for my local City Council seat in November of 2020!”

– Will Veliz '16

“I’m currently interested in sticking with general surgery rather than specializing and would like to go into private practice after I graduate from residency. Only being six months in at this point though, there’s still plenty of time for me to find something else I like and change my mind.”

– Morgan Shea Kirkpatrick '15

“To continue traveling the world with other touring productions as a Wardrobe Supervisor or Stage Manager. I might even get back into performing.”

– Tyler Guse '17

2017

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The Rams men’s basketball team brought home the top trophy from Kansas City in a dominant 86-76 win over Life University.

2018

ONLINE TAKES OFF

Texas Wesleyan launches its fully online MBA. The program takes off and educates a new generation of Dallas-Fort Worth business minds.

2019

A BIGGER STAGE

Texas Wesleyan hops from the Regional Colleges & Universities list in *U.S News & World Report* to the National list, kicking off a new decade.

The Right Light

Rueben Gonzales brings a **bold new perspective** to the Templeton Art Gallery.



Rueben Gonzales is buying a house. It's in North Arlington – not far from the Texas Wesleyan and the Bernice Coulter Templeton Art Studio & Gallery, where the artist-photographer-educator serves as visiting assistant professor of art and coordinator, respectively. He's just finishing up the final closing paperwork when the phone rings for our interview.

I first met Rueben when we worked on staff at Texas Wesleyan in the mid-2010s. He's always had a good eye, which is something that you tend to pick up when you work at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the SMU Meadows School of the Arts, and The Goss-Michael Foundation.

But it comes in handy when you're house shopping, too. The house was built in 1976, but it's in pristine condition. It just needs some new interiors.

"I just love the unassuming outside look of a house and being able to redo the inside," Gonzales said.

Gonzales is mellow, soft-spoken and very funny. That easy manner hides one of the sharpest minds in Dallas-Fort Worth art.

Art has always been his first pursuit. He grew up in Crowley and quickly found his way into the local art scene at the University of Texas at Arlington – where he got his

bachelor's degree in photography. From there, he's worked at the biggest names in Dallas Fort-Worth art.

"I find him a joy to work with," Nancy Edge, special collections archivist and assistant professor of library science, said. "He's a beacon of sunshine and happiness. But it's the fact that he's very ambitious that I really appreciate."

That ambition is bearing fruit at the Templeton, which launched as part of the Rosedale Renaissance in 2015. Since Gonzales took over last year, it's been a portal for TXWES students into the Dallas-Fort Worth art world.

Fort Worth has long been home to world-renowned collections at the Kimbell Art Museum and The Modern, but small galleries – like the Templeton and Fort Works Art – are springing up in town after a long drought. Gonzales sees the Templeton as part of that new wave.

"It's very in vogue as far as young artists and what they expect out of a gallery," Gonzales said.

Gonzales would know. He could fill the Templeton with his own ethereal photography, which shows in vogue galleries like the Besharat in Atlanta.

But hip, talented artists are just one part of the equation for Gonzales, who picked

up a master's degree in fine arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design while holding down a day job in the marketing department at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. The other is engaging students.

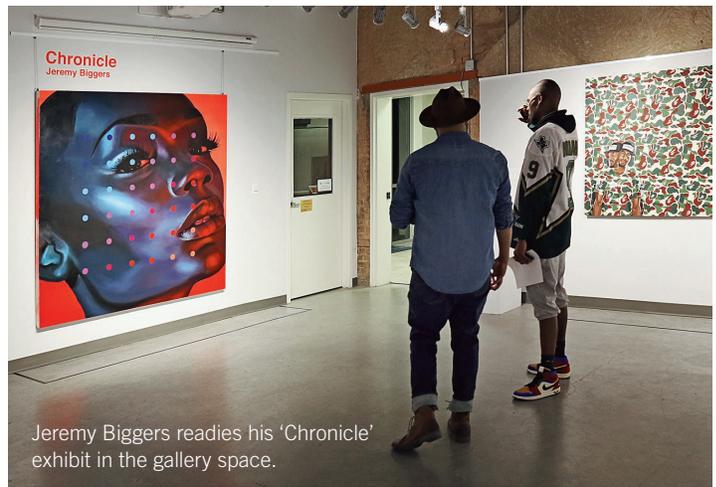
He came back to Texas Wesleyan as a professor (Gonzales was a staff member when he left Texas Wesleyan in 2016) last year to a campus transformed. Rosedale is buzzing with restaurants like Black Coffee and Ben's Triple B, and the new Martin Center has reoriented student life closer toward Rosedale and the heart of campus and is attracting new students.

Rosedale is becoming a hub for critical thinking, with art right at the center. The Templeton is located on Vaughn Street behind the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. In past lives, the building has been civic offices, a firehouse, bakery and a black box performance space for Theatre Wesleyan.

The multipurpose vibe fits the modern gallery aesthetic – a place where history students, business professors, local artists, community members and the Museum District crowd all mix-and-mingle.

"It's a space that can be utilized throughout the university – all the time, every day," Gonzales said.

“He’s a beacon of sunshine and happiness. But it’s the fact that **he’s very ambitious** that I really appreciate.”



Jeremy Biggers reads his 'Chronicle' exhibit in the gallery space.

The Templeton is the front door for art at Texas Wesleyan, but it’s just one part of Rueben’s role.

Texas Wesleyan does not have an art major; most of Rueben’s students’ career dreams include corner offices, classrooms and end zones instead of studios.

But the lines between art, science and business are blurring for the new generation empowered by technology like no generation before them in creative history. Gonzales is teaching a class in digital policy this semester and collaborates with the school’s new TXWES Makers Lab.

Gonzales teaches three art classes each semester, and he’s working closely with Nancy Edge. She is a special collections archivist, assistant professor of library science and, in her own words, “kind of a technology geek” who helps with the equipment in the lab.

The cognitive effects of art are extensively documented – German researchers studying MRI scans found creating art increases brain connectivity. It also helps develop the soft skills that hiring managers at major companies crave.

“Even just formatting a paper,” Edge said, “There’s a huge world of difference. You realize you’re using skills you learned in art.”

But the results go far beyond paint and paintbrush.

“Normally, I have about 10 to 12 students in the class, so that’s pretty easy to do with such a small number,” Gonzales said. Some of those students are natural talents – others have never picked up a pen or pencil before.

“I’m excited that he wants to bring visual art to the forefront of the curriculum,” Edge said. “The Fine Arts program was one of the foundations of the university when it first began.”



Professors like Kelly Fearing and students like George Grammer '47 HON '17 put Texas Wesleyan on the visual arts map in the '40s as members of the Fort Worth Circle, arguably the biggest artistic movement ever birthed in Cowtown.

Grammer, who died last year, was the first artist shown at the gallery. The gallery’s namesake, Bernice Coulter Templeton, was also an artist and educator.

The Fort Worth Circle was a lively group. They were known as intense proponents of modern art – their work was sometimes called “Intimate Modernism” – that debated, discussed and collaborated.

Likewise, Gonzales fills his own circle with local and regional artists addressing topics in the here-and-now. The gallery turned heads with its first show in 2019 featuring Dallas artist Jeremy Biggers. Biggers’ work is bold red, whites and blues – and often features cultural icons ranging from Nina Simone to Selena.

It’s bold work meant to be noticed and start conversations.

Since becoming a father, his work has taken a direct approach. Biggers is hitting his stride and getting noticed. He’s producing lots of work.

“I’m really ridiculous when it comes to exhibits,” Biggers said. “I want to have all-new work. I don’t want to show anything that’s been shown before.”

Biggers said Gonzales encouraged him to step back and reassess the work he had already done, which made up the bulk of the first show curated by Gonzales at the Templeton – a look at Biggers’ work called ‘Chronicle.’ He’s been looking at his work differently ever since.

“Ever since, I’ve been like, ‘OK, I guess I can show older stuff,’” Biggers said.

Gonzales is putting good work in the right light. ♥

Comment at wesleyan@txwes.edu

Darren White MBA '16 is the managing editor of Wesleyan magazine.

GRACE NOTES

Charles Duke '53, lives life in perfect harmony.



You can tell he’s a musician the moment he speaks.

Charles Duke ’53 is upbeat and lands each syllable with precision. His tempo is brisk. The words that come to mind are symphonic – a lot of allegro, a touch of scherzo, all vivace.

My limited understanding and flagrant misuse of those terms is why I’m a writer and Charles Duke is, first and foremost, a musician – it’s no exaggeration to say music is his life.

He’s always loved the organ, his primary instrument. He still directs from it, which may be a little more common today, but in the ’50s and ’60s, it was a rare skill. He played for the radio and television choir of the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as River Oaks United Methodist and University Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

These days (the last 50 years), he’s at First Christian Church. He says he’s grateful for the opportunity to play music in the church – it’s an answer to prayers.

“My mother had nine piano lessons in her life, but she had a natural ear for music,” Duke said. “She prayed before I was born that I would be a musician.”

Her prayers were answered. By junior high school, Duke was teaching piano. He started performing at Riverside Baptist Church at age 11, and three years later, he was selected as the pianist.

The music never rested. He went to Texas Wesleyan on a scholarship naming him chapel organist at a time when the chapel was rarely silent. He was also a member of the Texas Wesleyan College Chorus, the Boy’s Sextet, its glee club and orchestra. Oh, and he was also in Phi Mu Alpha. The rest of his undergraduate extracurricular gigs are lost to the ages.

Texas Wesleyan was a hub for fine arts in the late ’40s and early ’50s. The Polytechnic Heights neighborhood was bustling with families. The artists of the Fort Worth Circle were dropping by campus. Issues of *The Rambler* from the era list choral clinics and recitals in a never-ending stream. And they always list Duke as the organist.

His professors took note, particularly Don Bellah, dean of the Fine Arts program. Duke, a recent grad unsure of his path and considering a master’s degree (he later received one from TCU), took a call from Bellah at home. The dean personally connected him with a job at a local school starting a band and a choral program.

Duke started at Castleberry High School in 1953, but to say he started the program is an understatement. He took his choirs to Israel and Mexico, and he stayed close to

Education is at the heart of music, and music is at the heart of education. He taught many of the area’s leading music educators, including Debra Lynn Weir, longtime executive director of the Texas Girls’ Choir (Weir died in 2015).

“I told my students, ‘don’t ever tell anybody what you’re not going to do,’” Duke said.

Lynn Wiseman ’71 was one of his Castleberry students and remains a close friend. Wiseman remembers that Duke did more than teach singers – he taught them etiquette and discipline.

“He created a scenario where kids took pride in what they were doing,” Wiseman said. “And when that happens, people love it.”

He expects a lot. Miss a practice – expect a phone call. Duke looks at the whole performer. He believes in his students and

“Texas Wesleyan is *my* school ...”

Texas Wesleyan throughout those years – his choirs performed on campus regularly throughout the next decades.

To say the Castleberry choral program was good is also an understatement. The students were working musicians. The choir toured 34 times and produced 35 annual musicals – along with dozens of other performances, rehearsals and side gigs. Many of those students followed in Duke’s footsteps, too – he estimates 67 students from his Castleberry career attended Texas Wesleyan.

“Texas Wesleyan is *my* school,” Duke said, the emphasis on “my.” He loves it, and has always stayed engaged with his alma mater. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus award in 1997, and he has a student scholarship named in his honor.

The Charles E. Duke Endowed Music Scholarship helps music students attend Texas Wesleyan.

has confidence they will succeed.

“He not only attracted the kids that wanted to sing, but also the football players that wanted to sing,” Wiseman said. “He had them all.”

Duke retired from his 40-year teaching career in 1993, but the pace never slowed. He’s been at First Christian Church for 50 years. Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price honored him. But the true crescendo of a career in service to music was still to come.

The 53-person group from First Christian Chancel Choir performed at Carnegie Hall last May with Distinguished Concert Singers International, a mass choir. The group performed by invitation of North Carolina-based composer Pepper Choplin, a friend whom Duke admires.

How could Duke retire from music? It goes with him everywhere.

“It’s a vehicle for living,” Duke said. 🎵

— D.W.

Q&A with BEN HUNT

Ben Hunt '07 inducted into the TXWES Athletic Hall of Fame

Wesleyan celebrated Rams basketball legend, Ben Hunt '07, with his induction into the Texas Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame. The program was held at the Martin Center at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1.

Hunt led Wesleyan to the 2006 NAIA National Championship, where he hit a miraculous last-second shot that put the Rams over the top for their first ever basketball national championship.

After his senior season, Hunt played briefly on the Mavs summer league team and the Perth Wildcats, a team in the National Basketball League of Australia.

In 2015, the Dallas Mavericks named Hunt youth basketball director. He oversees all camps, clinics and community initiatives relating to youth basketball.

What does it mean to you to be a part of the Texas Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame?

It really is a wonderful honor. My career gave me a chance to reflect and look back. How am I being inducted into the Texas Wesleyan Hall of Fame? Three words came to mind for me: Belief, reward and impact. And I mentioned that in my speech at the dinner on Nov. 1.

Belief is to have those who believe in you and believing in yourself. My coaches, my career, and my family were so supportive throughout to get where I am today. I get a chance now to reward them for believing in me and giving me opportunities by the way that I play, work hard and how I conduct myself on and off the court.



Then, there's the lasting impact. Obviously, it's Texas Wesleyan and our team that won the national championship in 2006. It was the highlight of my career and that opened many doors.

You're focused on creating a lasting impact. How does your role with the Mavericks fulfill that?

I'm very fortunate to be in a position where I get to be involved and talk about, coach and teach the game of basketball on a daily basis with the Dallas Mavericks. To get that opportunity to share my story, which now includes being a Texas Wesleyan Hall of Famer, is very impactful for me. I enjoy the opportunity to give back to the community and give thanks to the game – the sport that has given me so much.

I've been coaching and teaching since I was 15 – when I decided that basketball was going to be the direction that I was going to go. I was involved in camps, clinics and coaching young kids in my hometown of Bendigo in Victoria, Australia. I'm continuing to do now what I was doing 25 years ago.

How are your programs as youth basketball director influencing the Dallas-Fort Worth community?

The landscape of youth basketball is changing before our eyes on a daily basis. We're currently putting together a plan for the next three to five years for youth basketball with the Mavericks. We want to be innovative and to grow the program.

What we do and what I focus on in our camps and clinics is grassroots. Within our programming with the Mavs Basketball Academy, we're focused on all levels – from our Mini Mavs at 4 years old, all the way to our high schoolers.

We run a youth combine as well as a high school tournament in Frisco. Now we get to work with high school coaches and their teams. It's our responsibility to make sure that we teach and coach all the kids in the game of basketball, not so much a certain position; and being a role model and a mentor that everybody looks up to globally. We're very fortunate for that. 🙏



“Belief is to have those who believe in you and believing in yourself. My coaches, my career, and my family were so supportive throughout to get where I am today.”



WESLEYAN PITCHERS STEP INTO THE COACHING SCENE

Former baseball players are making their way as coaches in the minors



Two former Texas Wesleyan pitchers, Avery Sullivan '16 and Thomas Boucher have made their way into minor league baseball as coaches.

Sullivan is an assistant pitching coach for the Arizona League Texas Rangers. Boucher is a developmental coach with the Milwaukee Brewers gold team (Milwaukee sported a gold and blue squad in the summer 2019 AZL).

Boucher hopes to continue into baseball operations.

"With the amount of technology that is in the game and all the moving pieces, I'm open to the front office route," Boucher said. "For the short term I'll be coaching."

Sullivan is focused on moving up in the organization, but is finding his fit in his current role.

"What I missed most was being around the team and going out there to compete," Sullivan said. "I got involved with coaching select baseball shortly after my playing career ended. It reinvigorated me to give back to the game that gave me so much."

RAMS REEL IN THREE ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

TXWES athletes named to NAIA Honorable Mention team:

Chastiny Brown
Volleyball
Senior, Exercise Science

Brandon Rolfe
Football
Sophomore, Mass Comm.

Tameir Grosvenor
Soccer
Junior, Biology

TXWES TENNIS COACH HONORED WITH HALL OF FAME

Angel Martinez inducted into Texas Tennis Hall of Fame



Angel Martinez, head men's and women's tennis coach, was inducted into the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame at the 2019 annual TTCA Convention, Dec. 6-8. Martinez was one of two people honored by the Texas Tennis Coaches Association for the 2019 Hall of Fame class. He was hired as head coach for both men's and women's coaching roles in 2015.

"You look back at it and you say – it's been 30 years," Martinez said. "You think of so many moments, there's just not enough time to cover it all."

He's 31-15 at Texas Wesleyan, coached 344 all-district players, is a USPTA Professional Elite Teaching Pro, was the 2001 Nike National Texas Coach and was the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Coach of the Year in 2002-03, among other accolades.

Get the latest news from Texas Wesleyan athletics no matter where you are. Sign up for the e-newsletter by emailing Sports Information Director Ryan Keating at rkeating@txwes.edu.



SIX HONORED AT ANNUAL ALUMNI MEDAL DINNER

TXWES recognizes the top alumni of 2019

The Office of Alumni Relations hosted the 2019 Alumni Medal Dinner at 6 p.m., Oct. 18, at the Martin Center. This annual event honors the achievements and contributions of Texas Wesleyan alumni and friends.

2019 ALUMNI MEDAL DINNER HONOREES:



JENNIFER OLIVER HENDERSON '96
Alumna of the Year



BRAD OLDHAM '89
Distinguished Alumnus



DOUG COMPTON
Honorary Alumnus



JORDAN BOONE '16
Young Alumnus Achievement Award



GENO BORCHARDT '86
Wesleyan Service Award



MARY ANNE CLARK
Wesleyan Flame Award

ALUMNI HAVE A HEYDAY AT HOMECOMING

Rams score record 61 points in homecoming win



A defensive scoring frenzy in front of a record crowd propelled the Rams to a 61-24 victory over Texas College at the 2019 homecoming football game at Farrington Field Saturday, Oct. 19.

The Ram fan base is growing, too. Attendance at this game was 1,658, topping 1,143 at last year's homecoming win against the Lyon Scots.

The defense added their own offense – including touchdowns on an interception, a fumble recovery, a safety and a blocked punt return. Senior defensive lineman Ryan Leichus scored two of those touchdowns.

“It felt great,” Avery Childs, Rams junior quarterback, said. “Everybody did their job today.”

The Rams also took the No. 1 spot for sacks in NAIA.

The game was the crown jewel in a weekend of events: Alumni Medal Dinner, Wesleyan 5K (and 1-mile Willie Walk), Brick Dedication, and a pregame party at Magnolia Motor Lounge in Fort Worth's trendy West Seventh district.

Those events saw big changes: The 300-seat Paul and Judy Andrews Hall in the Martin Center hosted the Alumni Medal Dinner for the first time. The fourth annual Wesleyan 5K, a chip-timed race sponsored by Moritz Dealerships, drew runners from the Dallas-Fort Worth community as well as alumni. The run also featured a kids zone, vendor fair and free beer. Each year, event proceeds support TXWES student scholarships. 🐺



CLASS NOTES

GOT NEWS? SHARE IT!

VISIT TXWES.EDU/ALUMNI | EMAIL ALUMNI@TXWES.EDU | CALL 817-531-6548

1970s

Carol Ann Fowler Jones '73 became the assistant music director at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Mitchell, South Dakota.

1980s

Richard Burt '80 was named to Trinity Bank's board of directors.

Darcy L. Knapp-Fricks '80 was honored as a Prominent Business Leader for three consecutive years, 2018, 2019 and with esteemed early admission for 2020, by Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide for her contributions in the fields of agriculture, real estate, investments and self-storage.

1990s



◀ **Letatia Teykl '92** was named the executive director of Levitt Pavilion Arlington.

Michael Sawey '94 and **April Sawey '94 M.Ed. '98** co-authored a textbook titled *Issues in Biology*. The book, written to appeal to non-biology majors, is being marketed to universities throughout the U.S. and Canada.



Chris Andrews '97 was named CIO for Pei Wei Asian Kitchen.

Debbie Eoff M.Ed. '98 was honored as a "Woman of Distinction" by the Girl Scouts of Central Texas in September. The organization honors local women leaders, "whose dynamic leadership, professional accomplishments, and community contributions inspire us all to make the world a better place."

Abbey Griffin '98 received her real estate license and joined her husband, **Wes Griffin '98**, as a top-tier team for Keller Williams Realty.

2000s



◀ **Amanda Rutland '00** was named the director of visitor experience at the historic Ford House in Grosse Point Shores, Michigan.

▶ **Daphne Brookins '01** was elected and sworn in as a member of the Fort Worth ISD Board of Education, representing District 4. She was reappointed by Gov. Abbott to the OneStar National Service Commission, which oversees Texas' participation in Corporation for National and Community Service programs.



▶ **Sandy Martinez '01** is the new chair elect for the Hispanic Women's Network – Fort Worth chapter, the largest chapter in Texas. She will serve as chair for the 2021-2022 term.

▼ **Katerina Taylor '01** is the new executive director of WorkSource Atlanta, the city's workforce agency that provides job seekers with resources to attain sustainable employment.



Katrina Vice O'Con MSNA '02, DNAP '12 was elected to the office of president for the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists. She is married to **C. David O'Con '99** and together they own and manage a successful CRNA-only anesthesia practice in Central Louisiana.



Hank Sinatra '04 wrote and published his first novel, *The Bone-Handled Stiletto*.

June Johnson '06 was promoted to circulation librarian with faculty tenure track at Texas Wesleyan. She graduated with her Master's in Library Science from Texas Women's University in 2012.

2010s



◀ **Martin Garcia '09 JD '12** serves as the president of Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association.

Keren McCulloch '10 is the co-founder and musical director of On the Wings of Song, a multifaceted music ministry that provides underserved populations with support and encouragement through music.

Maria Brown-Spence '15 received a large grant from Impact Austin for the nonprofit organization she started, Hearts2Heal.

Jace Gaston '15 was named the cheer coach at SAGU in Waxahachie.

Jacob Rivera-Sanchez '15 served as guest director for MPM Studio Theatre's production of *Baby, The Musical*, on Nov. 15.

BECOME A SOCIAL RAM

Want to support your alma mater, but don't have much time? Sign up to be a Social Ram and share university news and events on social media with just the click of a button. The more you share the better your chances are to win cool TXWES prizes. txwes.edu/socialrams



↗ **Emilio Castellon '16** and Esperanza Sandoval were married in June 2019.

Mary Grim '18 started teaching music at Uplift Ascend Preparatory school.

Kim Owen '19 started teaching at Barbara Bush Middle School in Irving.



◀ **Pamela Parra '19** welcomed her baby boy Nicolas in December.

Alfredo Tamayo '19 started teaching theatre at Danny Jones Middle School in Mansfield.

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Update your information with our office and stay in the know about alumni news and events.

817-531-6548 | alumni@txwes.edu



WESLEYAN MAGAZINE IS GOING GREEN

The *Wesleyan* magazine is now accessible to readers online. This is part of an effort to be as eco-friendly as possible. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the *Wesleyan* magazine each semester, please contact the alumni office at alumni@txwes.edu or 817-531-6548.

Thank you for supporting our blue + gold = green initiatives.

NEW HEIGHTS

Zahraa Saheb '18 goes to Washington – with a notable Texas Wesleyan alumnus

Zahraa Saheb '18 works as a legislative assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives for U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey '95 on education, housing appropriations, elections and voting rights, small business, human rights, gun violence prevention and other issues.

Saheb served as SGA president during her time at Texas Wesleyan as well as interned at The Fund for Global Human Rights.

We asked Saheb about work in D.C., what's next and her favorite Texas Wesleyan memory.

SMALLER IS SMARTER

I received two bachelor's degrees in English and political science – Constitutional Law taught by Michelle Payne was my favorite class. As a refugee, I've only begun to build a brighter future. I would love to work in the U.S. Senate on foreign policy, national security and human rights. These are just chapters in a life I hope is a story of honorable and compassionate advocacy.

GRAD SCHOOL, ANYONE?

I plan to further my education and pursue career development. Law school is the next step for me. I believe it will equip me with the tools to dismantle inhumane systems that affect people on local, national and global scales. I want to be an agent of the law advancing social equity and justice.

BEST CAMPUS MEMORY?

The 2015 Nepal earthquake affected millions of families in Nepal – and at Texas Wesleyan. The university came together beautifully to support our Nepali students ... I remember being at a vigil at night and watching hundreds of students from all kinds of backgrounds stand beside our Nepali classmates. I saw the true beauty and strength of diversity, and in that moment, I was grateful to be at Texas Wesleyan.

ALL IN THE RAMILY

I hope Texas Wesleyan continues their work regenerating the Rosedale neighborhood, making college affordable to students, and partnering with more local high schools and community colleges to bridge the college attendance gap. Also, maybe bring Willie back to campus! 🍷



REMEMBRANCES

Judy Perez '04 MBA '07

9/10/2019

Fort Worth



Judy L. Perez '04 MBA '07, 47, passed away after a courageous battle with pancreatic and liver cancer at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Judy graduated from Green B. Trimble Tech High School in 1990. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Business Administration as well as her MBA from Texas Wesleyan University. She married her college sweetheart, Julio Perez M.Ed. '07, whom she met when she attended the University of Texas in Austin. They had been together for 29 years and been happily married for 23.

Judy worked as an education consultant for after school programing in area school districts. She was a loyal member of the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, the Fabulous Fort

Worth Chapter, serving as past chair and most recently state representative. Among her most prized achievements were raising money for the group's scholarship program, having a scholarship in honor of her late friend, Griselda Martinez, partnering with Everman ISD and the SHAC grant and being named an Estrella de Texas for HWNT. Due to her positivity and indomitable spirit, Judy was asked to become a Voice of Hope for the American Cancer Society where she spoke at various Relays for Life events across the metroplex area. She did this between volunteering for various organizations chief among them Hispano Exito. She and her husband have always been strong advocates for Texas Wesleyan. Judy supported the university through her service as an employee and as an active alumna in various capacities. She was an eager volunteer for alumni programs and events and was always full of joy and life.

Peter Pulido '98

11/14/2019

Fort Worth



Peter Anthony Pulido '98 was born in Fort Worth on Oct. 31, 1973, to Rudolph "Rudy" Sr. '63 and Angie Medina Pulido. Peter graduated from Arlington Heights High School and was also a proud graduate of Texas Wesleyan University with a BBA in Marketing, of which he was a natural. He was working with his mother in a new venture to secure financial services to match deserving families with homes. He had an entrepreneurial spirit and was a whiz at marketing. He loved connecting people and was often the center of being the "deal maker." He put his skills to work for organizations such as the Fort Worth Brahmas and was involved in various home mortgage ventures. Always active, he was a member and has served numerous charitable organizations. Peter was gregarious in nature and had a kind and giving soul. He flowed with the love of friends and generosity. Peter would volunteer to help a friend before they even had a chance to ask.

His generosity inspired all those he touched, and he believed

"once a friend, always a friend." He loved sports and attending civic and social events. Peter was a powerful varsity soccer player, an avid golfer, and an enthusiastic snow skier. Most importantly, he was faithfully dedicated to his family and friends. Peter and his brother, Rudy '94, were an inseparable, indomitable team that charmed all. He worked with Rudy Sr. and Rudy Jr. in their family business and was a loving son to Angie Pulido. Peter, along with many members of his family, attended Texas Wesleyan and they are a legacy family that has served the university well.



ALUMNI

James Calhoun '49

7/20/2019

Dallas

Ed Moody '50

12/23/2019

Fort Worth

Jay Andrews '51

9/11/2019

Fort Worth

Murray Brown '53

7/29/2019

Saginaw

Ann Spears Montgomery '57 MA '85

8/28/2019

Fort Worth

Patricia Schulze Davis '62

7/1/2019

Fort Worth

Donald Langston M.Ed. '62

11/10/2019

Arlington

Michelle Bishop Head '67

10/9/2019

Dallas

M. 'Janice' Maddux '68

9/17/2019

Fort Worth

Steve Schoolar '68

11/10/2019

Fort Worth

Jimmy 'Jim' Brady '69

9/27/2019

Bedford

Marjorie Weaver '69

10/28/2019

Fort Worth

Thomas 'Pat' O'Connor '72

12/1/2019

Fort Worth

James Rasco '73

12/25/2019

Burleson

Roger Clark '75

10/1/2019

Stamford

Jim Loudermilk '77

9/2/2019

Crowley

Martha Hollis '78

11/6/2019
North Richland Hills

Donna Claunch King '78

10/5/2019
Fort Worth

Ronnie Benton '79

8/29/2019
Midland

Lee Leavitt Couch MA '82

10/26/2019
Arlington

Craig Spencer '82

9/21/2019
Fort Worth

Hershel Maxey '83

10/4/2019
Haltom City

Ronnie Whaley '83

11/25/2019
Azle

Robert Doyle '88

8/31/2019
Waxahachie

Barbara Crowder Howard '92

12/17/2019
Fort Worth

FRIENDS

Doyle Beavers

9/18/2019
Fort Worth

Delores Brown

11/4/2019
Keller

Donald Burnett

7/28/2019
Pantego

Gregory Gerendas

10/1/2019
Fort Worth

Colin Hart

9/25/2019

Terry Vermillion

8/31/19

Obituaries in this issue reflect submissions from July to December 2019.



**TO HONOR
A RAM
IN WESLEYAN
MAGAZINE**

please email
alumni@txwes.edu.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WELCOME TO COWTOWN



If you were a Texas Wesleyan student in 1966, you were only a few strides from music history.

Or, maybe you were there.

Country Music Concert was Willie Nelson's first live album. The LP was taken from a gig at Panther Hall. Its cover is midcentury jazz cool – block letters across a black backdrop and a photo of a clean-shaven, short-haired musician in a suit at center stage. The words on the banner behind him read:

COWTOWN JAMBOREE PANTHER HALL FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Panther Hall hosted all sorts of acts, but the *Cowtown Jamboree* – a parallel to the more famed *Big D Jamboree* – was its calling card. The show ran on KTVT and was just another part of one of the most fertile country music scenes in the nation.



1: Willie Nelson (front with guitar, at mic) performing onstage at Panther Hall in Fort Worth, Texas.

Photo by: Wayne Beckham provided by Don Beckham, Panther Hall Collection, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

2: Panther Hall circa late 1970s or early 1980s when the building was used for college storage.

Have a story about Panther Hall or Texas Wesleyan? Share it with us at wesleyan@txwes.edu.

Not to be outdone, Jerry Lee Lewis would also record several live cuts at Panther Hall that have turned up on some of his live albums, and Charley Pride's *In Person* was also recorded there.

Panther Hall was the site of an early Ramones show – with co-headliners The Runaways. A review in the *Star-Telegram* was less than enthusiastic; “Few brave elements for punk rock show.”

Other rock acts included The Byrds, and there is scant documentation that suggests the Grateful Dead played a very early gig there with fellow San Francisco freaks Quicksilver Messenger Service and a band that might have included members of the nascent ZZ Top, though no tapes exist.

The club fell on hard times in the '70s as the once-bustling east Fort Worth neighborhoods emptied out and drugs took hold. The club closed and sold to Texas Wesleyan University. It was demolished to combat blight in the '90s.

Today you know it as Martin Field, home of Texas Wesleyan soccer. 🐾

— D.W.



COVID-19 CHANGED EVERYTHING.

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HANDS-ON LEARNING MAKES SYNTHS



Nathan Tobey, freshman theatre major, learns how to create synthesized music with electronic wiring components in the new Makers Lab, located on the first floor of the Eunice and James L. West Library.