A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI,
FRIENDS, STUDENTS,
FACULTY AND STAFF
OF DEDMAN COLLEGE

spring 2008

SMU

Dedman College

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Collaboration is about bringing together diverse expertise and generating a collective mind to think about and solve critical issues of our day. This newsletter is focused on the myriad ways in which Dedman College faculty and students engage in collaboration.

Caroline Brettell

When faculty members come together to team-teach classes, collaborations occur. Collaborations occur when faculty members work closely with students in laboratories or on papers for publication. They occur when research teams in Dedman College partner with research teams in other SMU schools. And they occur when faculty members and students work with scholars at other academic institutions and with government and corporate entities throughout North Texas and around the world.

These activities represent the cutting edge of research and teaching, and they demonstrate the many ways our faculty and students are teaming up to advance knowledge.

Caroline B. Brettell
Interim dean of Dedman College

Psychologists and The Guildhall at SMU join forces against dating violence

It starts in a small, nondescript office where two automobile seats are bolted to a raised platform: An actor sits in the driver's seat, and a woman sits in the passenger seat to his right. When she puts on video goggles and a headset, she suddenly finds herself in a parked car during a howling rainstorm. Rivulets of water stream down the windshield, flashes of lightning illuminate the interior of the car, and thunder beats a steady cadence.

She doesn't see the actor beside her – she sees a three-dimensional video game character at the wheel of the car. She is drawn into small talk, but the driver turns increasingly aggressive, eventually demanding sexual intimacy. It is nothing short of frightening and, oddly enough, very real.

This powerful journey through the world of virtual reality is a collaboration between Dedman College's Psychology Department and The Guildhall at SMU, the University's graduate-level video game design program. It is the first step in what developers hope will be a program to help women practice strategies for averting sexual assault in a controlled situation that is safe, yet feels realistic.

Role-playing is a well-established method for teaching people to deal with complex social situations, says Ernest Jouriles, professor and chair of psychology. But he hit a wall in his research when he tried the method to teach relationship violence avoidance techniques to a high school health class in the late 1990s.

"The role-playing produced giggles," Jouriles says. "And from my perspective, it didn't capture the imagination of the students."

Jouriles and Renee McDonald, associate professor of psychology, joined the SMU faculty in August 2003, when a handful of psychologists around the country were beginning to experiment with virtual programs to treat anxiety disorders, such as allowing people who were afraid of flying to "practice" without boarding an airplane. They wondered whether SMU's newly opened Guildhall could help teach and test sexual assault avoidance techniques by immersing a woman into not just a virtual location, but also a "conversation" with a potential attacker.

Psychology graduate students Gabriella Gomez and Matthew Leahy demonstrate the virtual reality program that immerses women in a scenario with a potential attacker.

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Clements Center symposium brings together Southwest scholars

Indian reservations in the United States are rich with the largest proportion of the nation's coal reserves on their land. But 64 percent of Navajo Indians live in poverty on their reservations, many without electricity or indoor plumbing.

Coal and uranium mining brings jobs to the reservations, but its byproducts poison the groundwater, land and air.

A recent Clements Center for Southwest Studies symposium, "Indians and Energy: Exploitation and Opportunity in the American Southwest," examined the volatility of energy development on American Indian lands. Academic experts from SMU and around the country presented historical context and new research about the topic to an audience of SMU, area university and community college professors and students, as well as high school teachers, students and the public.

"The issues the Navajo face are issues that everybody in the West faces," says Ed Darrell, a history teacher at Moisés Molina High School in Dallas who attended the symposium. "Can we treat each other as neighbors, looking out for our mutual well being? Or is the economic pie limited, and I must starve in order that you might prosper?"

The Clements Center's symposium series began in 1999. This year, Santa Fe's School for Advanced Research on the Human Experience was a co-sponsor. "We have learned that sharing sponsorship pays all kinds of dividends," says Sherry Smith, professor of history and associate director of the Clements Center. "Our partners not only bring new audiences to these events, but also strengthen the reputation of the Clements Center." Previous topics include tourism in the West, U.S.-Mexico borderlands history and art in Colonial Mexico.

"These events provide North Texas audiences with a chance to hear some of the newest research on the Southwest and culminate in a book that ends up on library shelves, and in some cases, in students' backpacks," Smith says. "If we engage with others on these topics, inevitably our conclusions are broadened."

Learn more at smu.edu/swcenter.

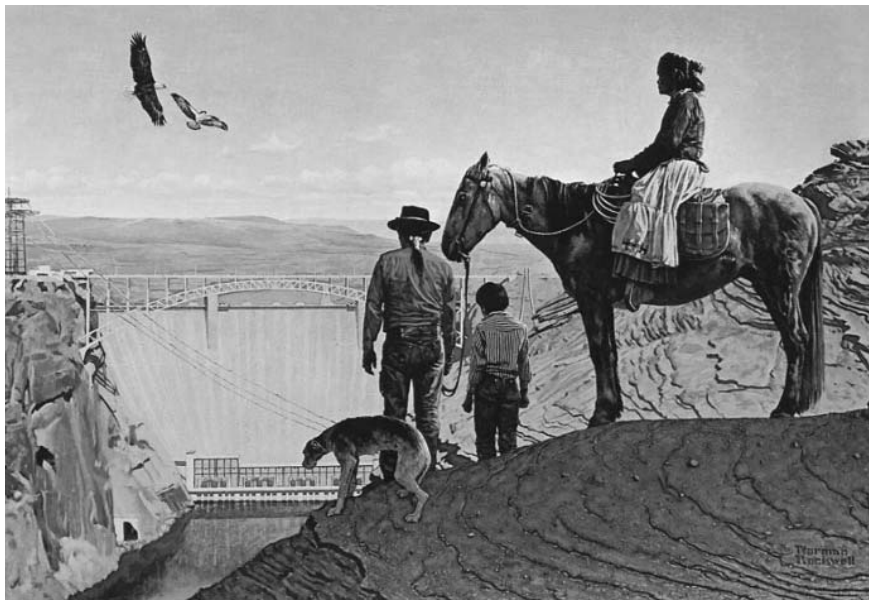


Image courtesy of the Bureau of Reclamation

The oil on canvas by Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) depicts Glen Canyon Dam, Colorado River Storage Project, in northern Arizona.

Dating Violence *continued from page 1*

"We created an enclosed environment," says Jeff Perryman, Guildhall lecturer, who worked on the program with Tony Cuevas, Guildhall deputy director. "We wanted our participant to feel powerless. The rain was added to isolate her. The car is particularly creepy – we worked hard at that."

The simulation requires participants to wear a head-mounted video display with tracking technology that senses head movements and an audio headset, which transmits the voice of the avatar "driver" and other sounds from the virtual environment. The avatar's lips move in sync with the voice of the actor, who controls the character's facial expressions and movements through a video keyboard. The virtual driver can be made to nod, shrug – even pound the steering wheel in anger when he is rebuffed.

Jouriles, McDonald and their team studied the responses of 62 undergraduate women who were randomly assigned to traditional or virtual reality role-play and outfitted with heart monitors. All were asked to complete questionnaires afterward on their moods and experience.

The women who donned the headgear and went through the virtual scenario rated the experience's realism higher than those in the traditional role-play group. Behavioral observations also suggested that women experiencing the virtual car scene appeared more angry and afraid.

Jouriles calls those results "very promising." The next step, he says, is to develop a virtual scenario that can test techniques to avert sexual assault. He hopes to see some variation on the virtual program developed for use in high schools and colleges.

"This is a potential breakthrough opportunity for gaming technology – to help solve an important social problem," Jouriles says.

Graduate student Gabriella Gomez

Sociologists explore women's route along the 'science freeway'

The path to a science career has been described as a rigid pipeline that students must enter during high school or even younger, says Anne Lincoln, assistant professor of sociology.

Some researchers have said it's a pipeline in need of a plumber since it leaks more women than men, she adds.

Lincoln, however, perceives the path as a science freeway with multiple on and off ramps, which many women and some men choose to enter in college.

"Through years of research, social scientists have learned that career decisions are overwhelmingly shaped by self-perceptions and social forces."

– ANNE LINCOLN

"Almost half of women who graduate as science majors start as non-science majors, so there's something interesting going on early in college or late in high school that prompts them to shift course," says Lincoln, who joined the Sociology Department in 2006 after a postdoctoral fellowship at Rice University.

In January, Lincoln received a three-year, nearly $300,000 National Science Foundation grant in collaboration with Elaine Howard Ecklund, assistant professor of sociology at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, to examine what factors influence academic scientists' career decisions.

"We're focusing on academic scientists because they shape the next generation in the classroom," Lincoln says. "Through their choices, we have the opportunity to understand what might encourage more qualified young women and men to become scientists in our rapidly globalizing world."

Lincoln met Ecklund at Rice, where both studied issues of gender and science. Lincoln says they were inspired to join forces after former Harvard University President Lawrence Summers made comments in 2005 about women scientists' "intrinsic aptitude," launching a national controversy.

"Through years of research, social scientists have learned that career decisions are overwhelmingly shaped by self-perceptions and social forces – and not a few points on the math portion of the average SAT," Lincoln says. "For example, research shows that women typically underestimate their capabilities while men overestimate. My collaborator and I are interested in what role those types of preconceptions play."

Lincoln and Ecklund are focusing their study on the nation's top 20 physics and biology departments, where they will survey graduate students and faculty about their experiences and decisions as high school students and undergraduates. The grant funds a large Internet survey and travel for follow-up interviews.

"The project brings together our different strengths," Lincoln says. "My colleague has unique abilities in qualitative analysis and distilling interviews, while I'm doing much of the number-crunching."

The grant also has allowed Lincoln to hire three undergraduates majoring in Sociology and Markets & Culture, who are compiling massive listings of academic scientists across the country.

From left: Anne Lincoln, assistant professor of sociology, with undergraduate researchers Laura Weese and Ann-Hunter Van Kirk, outside a Dedman Life Sciences biology lab.

"We're just beginning, and we can tell you biology has a much higher representation of women than physics," Lincoln says. "Why so? Is it the culture or preconceptions? Did they take the pipeline or the freeway? We're eager to learn some answers."

DEDMAN COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW DEAN

SMU's new dean of Dedman College is an academic administrator with experience in strategic affairs as well as an accomplished scholar-teacher in English and ethnic studies.

Cordelia Chávez Candelaria comes to SMU from Arizona State University in Tempe, where she was Regents Professor in the Department of English and the Department of Transborder Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies, a department she once chaired. She also served as associate dean of the Office of Strategic Initiatives in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at ASU. Her appointment is effective July 1.

"We are so pleased that Dr. Cordelia Candelaria will be joining our faculty as dean of Dedman College and University Distinguished Professor of English. She brings an extraordinary wealth of academic and administrative experience to our campus," says Paul W. Ludden, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"I look forward to working with my new colleagues to advance Dedman College programs to flourishing levels of achievement, innovation and visibility," Candelaria says.

Candelaria earned a B.A. degree with honors in English and French from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado; a Master's degree in English from the University of Notre Dame; and a Ph.D. degree in American literature and linguistics from Notre Dame.

She is the author of scholarly books including *Chicano Poetry, A Critical Introduction* and serves as executive editor of the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Latino Popular Culture*. Among numerous awards, in 2005 she received the Outstanding Latina Cultural Award in Literary Arts and Publications from the American Association for Higher Education Hispanic Caucus.

Scholars and students team up from Antarctica to Weimar

Seeking keys to the universe in Switzerland

Summer 2008 is the start of something big – and SMU will be there. The final pieces are being moved into place for possible August testing of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which will re-create conditions at the beginning of the universe.

James Quick, associate vice president and dean of research (left), and Ryszard Stroynowski, physics chair, discuss the ATLAS model at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

At about 42 meters long and weighing 7,000 tons, it fills a 12-story space beneath the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

The LHC will be the site of several experiments in high-energy physics with high-profile collaborators such as Harvard and Duke and national laboratories including Argonne, Brookhaven, Lawrence Berkeley and Fermi-Lab. But none is more imposing than the ATLAS Experiment. At about 42 meters long and weighing 7,000 tons, it fills a 12-story space beneath the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

As U.S. Coordinator for the ATLAS Experiment's Liquid Argon Calorimeter, SMU Physics Chair Ryszard Stroynowski, along with Professors Robert Kehoe and Jingbo Ye, are helping seal the final details on the largest particle detector in the LHC array.

Deeply involved in the Liquid Argon Calorimeter's design, Stroynowski now is supervising SMU physics graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the creation of computer software interfaces that will control the device, which measures energy deposited by the flying debris of smashed atoms. They also are working on data processing for ATLAS' 220,000 channels of electronic signals – an information stream larger than the Internet traffic of a small country.

In addition, the researchers are preparing for analysis of the vast quantities of physics data the detector will produce. "Out of 40 million events per second, we need 10 events per year," Stroynowski says. "We need to do extensive simulations of known physics to see the tiny deviations we're looking for. It's a very large computing challenge."

It's also become an impetus for new research initiatives at SMU. Associate Vice President and Dean of Research James Quick hopes to help confront ATLAS' vast computing requirements with a large-capability computing center located on SMU's campus. Quick visited CERN in April to discuss the details with Stroynowski and other key personnel. The proposed center would provide a first-priority data processing infrastructure for SMU physicists and a powerful new resource for researchers in other schools and departments.

Learn more at smu.edu/physics.

Crossing cultures in German

During SMU-in-Germany, students visit Bach's birthplace, study German cultural history and experience university life in the former East German town of Weimar.

The education abroad program "immerses students in a continuous exchange of ideas," says Foreign Languages and Literatures Chair Marie-Luise Gättens, associate professor of German and program director with Elise Pflum, German lecturer.

Gättens, a German native, helped launch SMU-in-Germany in 2000, partnering with Weimar's university and SMU's Meadows School of the Arts. During the summer term, Paul Phillips, professor of music and Meadows Symphony Orchestra music director, teaches a conducting course.

"Several students have gone on to apply for graduate fellowships such as the Fulbright," Gättens says, "and we've had non-music majors become concertgoers back at SMU."

Students visited medieval Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany, during the summer education abroad program.

FOLLOWING 'GRAVITY'S RAINBOW'

Steven Weisenburger, the Jacob and Frances Mossiker Chair in Humanities, is heading to Belgium to study an American novelist's work.

As a 2009 fellow of the Royal Flemish Academy for Science and the Arts, Weisenburger will spend six months in Brussels collaborating on a book about Thomas Pynchon, author of novels including *V.* (1963), *Gravity's Rainbow* (1973) and *Mason and Dixon* (1997). His partner on the project, Luc Herman, is a

Fossil hunting in Antarctica

Earth Sciences Professor Louis Jacobs traveled to Antarctica last fall seeking signs of mammal life 120 million years ago, when the continent was part of a land mass that included South America and Africa.

"We're looking for fossils that will inform us about the early stages of mammal evolution, environmental conditions and migration routes on these continents," he says. "Only a handful of much younger mammal fossils has been discovered in Antarctica."

Jacobs was part of a team that included Clare Flemming and Ross MacPhee of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, Jerry Hooker of the Natural History Museum in London and SMU graduate students Chris Strganac and Yosuke Nishida.

They encountered rough seas, blinding snowstorms, mischievous elephant seals and plant fossils. They also collected large bags of rock samples and shipped them back to SMU's Earth Sciences laboratories, where the graduate students will screen and analyze them.

SMU Earth Sciences Professor Louis Jacobs (left) and Jerry Hooker, paleontologist at the Natural History Museum in London, sought clues about mammal evolution in Antarctica.

"We will slowly look through the matrix, grain by grain with the aid of microscopes, for rodent-sized mammal bones and teeth," Strganac wrote in his blog at **smu.edu/adventures**. "The discovery of ancient mammals in Antarctica may be made at SMU."

Bridging ancient gaps in Israel

Mark Chancey conducts his research with one foot on the ground and another in ancient literature. He studies the remains of Roman theatres, temples, bathhouses and roads in Israel to learn important clues about Jewish culture during the Roman Period (63 B.C.E. – 363 C.E.).

"Architectural remains in northern Israel and Galilee show how the Jewish culture adopted Roman ways and how they resisted them," says Chancey, chair and associate professor of religious studies. "My research helps bridge the gap between religious scholars and archaeologists by integrating literary sources and ancient architecture."

Chancey will return to Israel this summer to continue work on his book, *The Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: The Hellenistic and Roman Periods*, which he is writing in collaboration with Eric M. Meyers, the Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor of Judaic Studies at Duke University. Chancey's research is supported by a Sam Taylor Fellowship from the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

BIOLOGY SERIES: AN 'EXCHANGE OF IDEAS'

As part of the Department of Biological Sciences' new Biology Seminar Series, Dedman students and faculty have had the opportunity to hear researchers from across the country speak about their work.

The series, which debuted in fall 2007, is funded with a gift from Dr. Mary Moore Free Hosford ('53, '81, '87) and Dr. Gordon Hosford ('53) in honor of Gordon's father, Hemphill Hosford ('19), who served as SMU's academic vice president and provost from 1951-63.

Series speakers have included researchers from Brown University, Ohio State University and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, who have spoken on topics such as cellular transformation, tumor suppressor proteins and Hox genes.

Speakers slated for fall 2008 will discuss topics including secretase and Alzheimer's disease, and drug addiction.

"The exchange of ideas with a seminar series creates opportunities for collaborations," says William Orr, professor of biology and department chair. "For the students, these interactions could be important to their future if they decide on postdoctoral positions after finishing graduate work here."

Mary Moore Free Hosford says, "We were happy to fund this program in honor of Hemphill Hosford because he was an outstanding educator and loved SMU."

Learn more at smu.edu/biology.

TO BELGIUM AND BEYOND

professor of American literature and literary theory at the University of Antwerp.

"We believe Pynchon is one of the 20th century's leading innovators in narrative technique," Weisenburger says. "Like Henry James and James Joyce, he found new ways to manipulate time and represent human consciousness on the page."

Their book will examine the New York native's life and work, Weisenburger says, with an emphasis on his National Book Award winner *Gravity's Rainbow*, which is set in Europe during World War II.

Herman has followed the novel's trail through Germany and England, and has done extensive research on the author's biography. Weisenburger, meanwhile, has written previously about Pynchon and brings an interdisciplinary approach to the project.

In addition to making use of the Royal Academy Library's broad holdings in American history and literature, Weisenburger says he's looking forward to lecturing at Belgian universities as part of his fellowship, which begins in January 2009.

"Europeans do American studies work from a much more theoretical basis, drawing from philosophy, social theory and a uniquely global perspective. I expect we'll have a lot to talk about."

Learning chemistry and collaboration in the laboratory

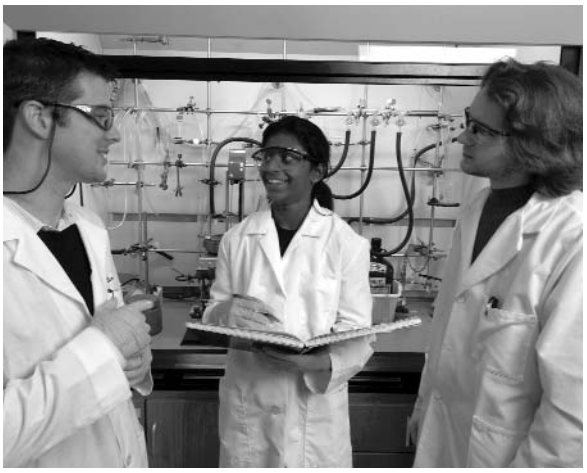
When Brent Sumerlin was a high school student, he spent two summers working in a North Carolina State University laboratory. "For me, it made a big difference. I think the potential payoff for a student's career can be significant," says the Harold Jeskey Trustee Assistant Professor in Chemistry.

In his laboratory at SMU's Fondren Science Building, Sumerlin includes high school and undergraduate students in his research, hoping to instill in them the fundamentals of polymer chemistry – along with an appreciation for collaboration.

"Scientists constantly interact, whether it's brainstorming or working on projects," says Sumerlin, who earned his Ph.D. in polymer science and engineering from the University of Southern Mississippi.

This summer, his research group will include Mitu Bhattatiry, a freshman at Coppell High School. "I was looking for volunteer opportunities for the summer, and that's when I came across Sumerlin's faculty Web page," she says. "I think participating in this chemistry research will give me good experience working in a laboratory."

Sumerlin and Bhattatiry will collaborate on a diabetes project, seeking ways to reduce the number of insulin injections an individual needs from several each day to a few each week.



From left: Brent Sumerlin, the Harold Jeskey Trustee Assistant Professor in Chemistry, collaborates with students including Mitu Bhattatiry, a freshman at Coppell High School, and graduate student Andrew Vogt.

"There is no cure for diabetes, but you can find better ways to treat it," he says. "We are trying to develop new materials that allow the automatic release of insulin when a high sugar concentration is detected."

Meanwhile four graduate students are working in Sumerlin's lab on a variety of other projects, many of which are related to other areas of drug delivery.

The research can last for years, says Sumerlin, who last fall was awarded a Sam Taylor Fellowship from the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry that supports students' participation in his laboratory work. Students contribute what they can to projects during the summer and school year, he says, and then other students carry on the work, with a goal of publishing the findings in academic journals.

"There is a big push for more scientists in the U.S., but most students in high school don't have the opportunity to decide whether science is for them. I wanted to give my students that opportunity."

"Scientists constantly interact, whether it's brainstorming or working on projects."

– BRENT SUMERLIN

Learn more about the Sumerlin Research Group at faculty.smu.edu/bsumerlin.

Supporting Dedman College

Recent gifts of more than $16 million will fund student scholarships, new faculty positions and research in Dedman College.

A $10 million gift from the Honorable Roy M. Huffington ('38) endows the Department of Earth Sciences, now renamed the Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences. Above: Huffington (sixth from left) with Earth Sciences faculty members.

Above center: The late Laurence Perrine, beloved English professor, was honored by a bequest from the estate of his wife, Catherine Perrine. The $3 million bequest will support a creative writing faculty position, two President's Scholarships and scholarships for English majors.

Above right: A $3.6 million gift from SMU trustee Caren Prothro and the Perkins-Prothro Foundation will establish the C. Vin Prothro Biological Sciences Initiative, including a new biological sciences faculty chair, an endowed research fund and a scholarship fund. In photo, from left: Paul Ludden, provost and vice president for academic affairs; William Orr, professor and biological sciences chair; trustee Caren Prothro; and SMU President R. Gerald Turner.

Economists and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas: A beneficial exchange

One of economics first lessons is the "benefits of exchange": the concept that when two parties come together to collaborate, they both gain.

The Economics Department's long relationship with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas perfectly illustrates the principle, say Professor Tom Fomby and Nathan Balke, Dedman Family Distinguished Professor.

"SMU benefits from the Fed's immense resources and its economists' expertise, and the Fed benefits from SMU's faculty and student researchers."

– NATHAN BALKE

"It's a classic two-way street," says Balke, who, with Fomby, also holds the title of research associate at the bank. "SMU benefits from the Fed's immense resources and its economists' expertise, and the Fed benefits from SMU's faculty and student researchers."

As one of 12 regional Reserve Banks in the Federal Reserve System, the Dallas Fed serves Texas, northern Louisiana and southern New Mexico, and plays an important role in monetary policy, banking operations and financial stability. SMU's ties with the bank date to 1982, when Fomby met with the Dallas Fed's associate director of research and suggested that the bank might find useful his work in the growing field of econometrics, which applies statistics to economic issues and problems.

"They were using econometrics in a policy-oriented way but were short on new techniques, while I had been doing theoretical econometric work without much practical application," Fomby says. "I saw the opportunity for beneficial exchanges of information and expertise."

Fomby spent that summer at the downtown Dallas Fed evaluating methodologies to construct the Texas Industrial Production Index, resulting in an article in the *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics* and his appointment as Fed research associate.

Since then, SMU economists have partnered with Fed researchers on numerous policy-oriented projects that have resulted in dozens of articles in academic journals. They have co-sponsored conferences on campus and in the community. Almost every year SMU has one or more of its students serving as interns in the Fed Research Department, while Fed economists have for many years served as adjunct faculty at SMU.

Currently, Fomby and bank researchers are evaluating the Fed's Business Outlook Survey, which is e-mailed monthly to 150 representatives of the Texas manufacturing sector.

Meanwhile, Balke and Fed energy economists are examining the significance of oil price increases on U.S. economic growth. They've built a mathematical model of the world economy that distinguishes between supply- and demand-driven changes in oil prices, which affect the U.S. economy differently. Today's high prices, they've found, are a result of rising demand around the world.

"These two guys are indispensable," says Harvey Rosenblum, executive vice president and director of research at the Fed, who also is serving as a visiting professor of finance at the Cox School of Business. "They give us access to bright minds with fresh approaches, and we send economists with real-world experiences to teach at SMU. It's a win-win."

From left: Nathan Balke, Dedman Family Distinguished Professor; Harvey Rosenblum, executive vice president and director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; and Economics Professor Tom Fomby on the bank's patio in downtown Dallas.

HONORING GRADUATE ROBERT WARE HALEY

Robert Haley

Robert Ware Haley ('67), whose research has helped improve hospital care and define the symptoms of Gulf War syndrome, was honored as Dedman College's 2008 Distinguished Graduate in May. Haley is director and founder of the Division of Epidemiology in the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas' Department of Internal Medicine, as well as its U.S. Armed Forces Veterans Distinguished Chair for Medical Research Honoring America's Gulf War Veterans.

"The formative influences in my career have been my family, SMU faculty who nurtured me and a liberal arts education," Haley said at the awards celebration, which was attended by some of his 21 family members who are SMU alumni or current students. Haley earned B.A. degrees in philosophy and social sciences from SMU and his M.D. degree from UT Southwestern.

Dedman Executive Board member Robert Mayer, who nominated Haley for the honor, says, "Dr. Haley has had an outstanding medical and research career with a clear record of leadership. He also has maintained strong ties to SMU."

Haley currently is investigating the nature and causes of Gulf War syndrome in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. SMU Statistical Science faculty members Richard Gunst, William Schucany and Wayne Woodward are collaborating in developing novel methods of analyzing the brain imaging data of veterans.

A fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and of the American College of Physicians, Haley has served as a commissioned officer of the U.S. Public Health Service at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He also was senior editor of the *American Journal of Epidemiology,* president of the Dallas County Medical Society and, among his numerous honors, is listed in *The Best Doctors in America.*

‘Adopt a Program’ and make a difference

Last fall, Dedman College launched “Adopt a Program,” an opportunity for donors to choose among specific initiatives that directly impact students and faculty.

Five programs will be featured every year that promote areas such as academics, community service and study abroad. This year’s programs included:

- **Honors Program faculty mentoring**
- **Education Abroad scholarships for foreign language majors**
- **Mathematics Colloquium Series**
- **Center for Inter-Community Experience (ICE)**
- **Dedman College Dean’s Fund**

“When donors select a Dedman College program to support, they will see how every gift counts,” says Courtney Corwin, Dedman College director of development.

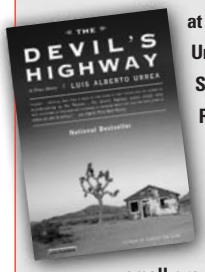
For example, a gift of $500 supports a year of tutoring and mentoring for a child by an SMU student at the ICE Center in East Dallas. A gift of $2,500 helps faculty mentors provide off-campus cultural and intellectual opportunities to Honors students. A gift of $5,000 funds a semester of the Math Colloquium Series, which brings prominent math and engineering scholars to campus.

“People often like to see a tangible way their gifts make a difference,” Corwin says. “By giving toward these programs, they can see how they are supporting the wonderful things going on in Dedman College.”

To learn more, contact Courtney Corwin at 214-768-2691 or ccorwin@smu.edu.

COMMON READING 2008

In May 2001, 26 Mexican men seeking work in America risked an illegal border crossing in Arizona’s Sonoran Desert. Only 12 survived. Their stories are at the center of Luis Alberto Urrea’s *The Devil’s Highway*, SMU’s fifth annual Common Reading Experience.



Incoming first-year students receive the book during summer registration and discuss it in small groups with faculty, staff and students as the fall semester begins.

***The Devil’s Highway* deals with political questions such as immigration and border policy even as it forces readers to think about those issues in deeply human ways, says Benjamin Johnson, associate professor of history, who proposed the book. “It blends masterful writing, moral sensitivity and empirical research – and thus demonstrates some of the capabilities higher education can help instill.”**

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Dedman College newsletter is published for alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff of Dedman College.

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