

LIFE AS A SCHWARZMAN SCHOLAR

Matt Salm, 2014 McDermott Scholar, kicks off his China experience with a whoosh

Greetings from Beijing! I moved here about two months ago to participate in the Schwarzman Scholars program, a year-long fully-funded master's program in Global Affairs at Tsinghua University, arguably the best school in China.

Inspired by the Rhodes Scholarship, this brand new program (I'm a member of the 3rd class) was created to bring future leaders from around the globe together to live and study in China's capital. They strive to foster cross-cultural understanding and develop a deep sense of the political, economic, and social forces driving China's actions in the 21st century as it aspires to ever-more prominence and influence on the global stage.



Matt enjoying a sunrise on the Great Wall of China

Similar to how I feel about the McDermott Program, my favorite part of the Schwarzman program is the cohort of fellow Scholars. This group is unlike any I've previously been a part of. The diversity blows me away. We have 135 people between the ages of 21 and 28 from 38 countries and regions (all official statements use the phrase "countries and regions" because China doesn't consider Taiwan a country).

People did their bachelor's degrees all over the world. Some have 6 years of work experience; others have none. Some already have 1 or 2 master's

degrees, or even a PhD or MD; others are fresh out of college. The interests and ideologies of group members vary immensely: Marxists regularly discuss economics with former Goldman Sachs employees; current and former military officers from the US, South Korea, Singapore, Israel, and China chat about tensions across the Taiwan strait or on the Korean peninsula.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BROOMBALL

Show your class pride at this year's annual Broomball event on Saturday, November 3rd at 4 PM at the Richardson StarCenter. RSVPs through the Facebook event!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Join the Alumni Relations Committee of the McDermott Scholars Program for an informal ice cream social at Braum's near UTD. Thursday, November 15th at 8 PM.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

AT THE DALLAS ARBORETUM

Experience the Dallas Arboretum's Winter Wonderland on the evening of Thursday, November 29th at 6:30 PM. We will tour the gardens and see the beautifully lit 12 Days of Christmas gazebos. Alumni are invited to meet at Megan and Jonathan Coker's house afterward for hot cocoa, cider, and snacks!

ANNUAL ALUMNI POTLUCK & WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

December 2018 will see the return of our annual potluck and gift exchange. Location and exact date to be determined.

ALUMNI/SCHOLARS POTLUCK

Hosted by Megan and Jonathan Coker in January 2019. Invitations with further details to follow.



A small snapshot of the cohort, from left to right: Angela from Taiwan, Ramsey from the states, Alice from Australia, Lionel from Singapore, Lily from the states, me (from the states), Lindo from South Africa, Fei from China, and Alex from the states. They're all lovely human beings that I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know over the last two months.

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Alumni Association President Megan Coker reflects on the past year

Dear McDermott Alumni,

With a heavy but hopeful heart, I realize this will be my first letter from the President's Desk since the passing of Margaret McDermott at 106 years of age. When I last wrote to you, she was still with us, inviting us to events, introducing us to the philanthropic community in Dallas, and generally continuing to inspire us with her sharp wit and boundless generosity and curiosity.

In May, those alumni who live in the area or were able to travel to Dallas attended a beautiful memorial service in her honor, during which the Dallas Symphony Orchestra performed aptly soaring compositions to complement a celebration of her life.

The Association received over \$1100 in memorial donations from alumni in lieu of flowers. The Board is considering proposals from its Grants Committee about how best to donate those funds to UT Dallas in honor of Margaret McDermott's memory. We will keep you informed once that decision has been made and welcome any of your suggestions. Thanks to all those who donated.

Since May, we have been busy reforming the structure of the Board of your Alumni Association, electing new Board Members, forming committees, ensuring the continued vitality of the Worsfold Grants Program, and contributing to a worthy new student-led, EMT organization at the University of Texas at Dallas, among other activities.

First, we have changed the structure of our Board by reducing the number of board members and increasing the size and involvement of its committees. As we have grown into an organization that is managing a sizable endowment and making decisions with more momentous legal and financial implications, we have increasingly recognized the need for a smaller and nimbler board. We want to



Alumni came from all over the country to the Meyerson to celebrate Mrs. McDermott's life.

make sure that every Board member has clearly-defined responsibilities and has the time to be fully informed on the crucial decisions on which each Board member is asked to vote.

While we are in a transition year with a larger Board as some members serve out their elected terms, this change will ultimately mean that we have a 13- or 14-person Board, comprised of the officers who serve as President, President-Elect, Vice President of Development, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Chairpersons, and members of the Finance and Investment Committee. This smaller board will be complemented by its Committee Members, who have begun to serve the Association in increasing numbers as our activities and tasks have grown. I am confident that this new structure will help us to efficiently and diligently address the growing responsibilities of our Association.

Our second-biggest news since May involves the Association's grant of just over \$14,000 to the University Emergency Medical Response ("UEMR") organization, a student-formed, state-

licensed first responder organization that provides EMT services on the UT Dallas campus using trained student, faculty, and staff volunteers. UEMR was the brainchild of UT Dallas students and McDermott Scholars, including Umer Nadir, a 2015 McDermott Scholar, who writes about the organization on page 10 of this issue.

UEMR stepped in to fill a void at UT Dallas, which previously lacked an on-campus medical emergency response team. Students, staff, and visitors formerly relied on the Richardson Fire Department (RFD) for any medical emergencies, which sometimes led to long wait times due to RFD's heavy work load. UEMR works closely with the UT Dallas and its police department to provide 24-hour operations on campus.

Since the fall semester began, in addition to answering approximately five to ten calls for assistance per day, UEMR has also provided dozens of hours of education and training to over 200 UT Dallas students.

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As reported in this Newsletter, the Worsfold Grants Program (pg. 11) continues to provide crucial support to enable meaningful student-initiated service and arts activities on the UT Dallas campus and beyond. Just this spring, students were sent to a migrant shelter in Ixtepec, Mexico as part of a Brothers Across/Over Borders Program, and medical equipment was purchased to assist the UTD Global Medical and Dental Brigades in bringing healthcare resources to rural communities in Central America through a free medical clinic, which they hosted in Panama this summer.

Finally, with sadness I report that our McDermott family suffered another tragic loss this year: in late August Marv Wurzer passed away. Among many other things, Marv was father to Maggie, Molly, and Jake, husband to Lynn, and former legal counsel to our Board. We will miss Marv's kind spirit and wise counsel, and we extend our sincere condolences to his family in this difficult time.

As you can see, while it has been a difficult year in several ways, there are also many reasons to be joyful and hopeful as we champion the legacy of Margaret McDermott. Mary McDermott Cook embodies another of these reasons, and we continue to treasure

our close relationship with her. I know all of you have many fond memories with Mary, beginning with war stories from the Chama River in Santa Fe and continuing throughout your time at UT Dallas and beyond.

On Saturday, October 20, Mary graciously carried on the tradition of hosting the newest class of McDermott Scholars at the McDermott Ranch for a cookout. Several alumni were also invited to attend, and we enjoyed our traditional stroll around the ranch with Mary and a fireside chat with the 2018s.

For the remainder of the year, we will focus on analyzing potential projects and recipients for our next major donations to the UT Dallas and Dallas communities, raising funds for those donations and for our events and

activities, selecting the alumni members of the Finalists Weekend Selection Committee, approving the Association's 2019 Budget, and setting each committee's goals and the schedule of events for the upcoming year.

We are also working to make our website more informative, interactive, and up-to-date, with an events calendar, frequents posts about our activities, and more. Please check out the new look and content at www.mcdermott.org. We look forward to catching up with you at an event soon, whether here in Dallas or in your region.

Whoosh!

Megan Coker ('06), President
Eugene McDermott Scholars Program
Alumni Association



Scholars and Alumni gather at the McDermott Ranch, an annual tradition

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THE 2018 McDERMOTT SCHOLARS

Learn more about the newest class of McDermott Scholars



The 2018 class of Scholars is made up of 9 women and 7 men, with 7 students from Texas and 9 from 8 other states. Collectively, this class has an average two-part SAT score of 1560, and 11 of the 16 received recognition from the National Merit Scholarship program.

Julia LaFond

Hometown: Spring Branch, TX
High School: Smithson Valley High School
Major: Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology

Solvay Linde

Hometown: Dallas, TX
High School: School for the Talented & Gifted
Major: Computer Science

Snipta Mallick

Hometown: Plano, TX
High School: Texas Academy of Math & Science
Major: Cognitive Science

Patricia Mathu

Hometown: Whitefish Bay, WI
High School: Whitefish Bay High School
Major: Undeclared

Evan Meade

Hometown: San Antonio, TX
High School: Keystone School
Major: Physics

Navnit Mohan

Hometown: Plano, TX
High School: Plano Senior High School
Major: Neuroscience

Jake Munch

Hometown: El Cajon, CA
High School: Valhalla High School
Major: Biochemistry

Zach Neiger

Hometown: Merrick, NY
High School: Sanford H. Calhoun HS
Major: Software Engineering

Patrick Nnoromele

Hometown: Richmond, KY
High School: Model Laboratory School
Major: Molecular Biology

Michelle Patten

Hometown: Sammamish, WA
High School: The Bear Creek School
Major: Mathematics

Annika Russell

Hometown: La Cañada, CA
High School: La Cañada High School
Major: Neuroscience

Kannan Sharma

Hometown: Dallas, TX
High School: St. Mark's School of Texas
Major: Cognitive Science

Anja Sheppard

Hometown: Chapel Hill, NC
High School: North Carolina School of Science & Mathematics
Major: Computer Science

Anna Straughan

Hometown: Arvada, CO
High School: Ralston Valley High School
Major: Molecular Biology

Ben Wise

Hometown: Decatur, GA
High School: Marist School
Major: Visual and Performing Art

Safiyah Zaidi

Hometown: Austin, TX
High School: McNeil High School
Major: Healthcare Studies

Read about the class of 2018's Santa Fe experience on the blog:
mcdermottscholars.wordpress.com

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Getting to know one of our amazing UT Dallas faculty members

Name: Pamela Gossin

Hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska

Family members: Spouse, two sons, one daughter; a rescue dog and cat, Scout and JiJi, and a semi-feral barn cat, Mr. Peaches (don't ask)

Rank order of siblings: 1st of 5; 2 sisters and 2 brothers

Undergraduate and Graduate programs: Latin and English majors with a Math minor and teaching certification as an undergraduate; Masters in American and British Literature, focused on Great Plains Literature and Culture, at the University of Nebraska; double PhD in History of Science and English at the University of Wisconsin.

Dissertation: Poetic Resolutions of Scientific Revolutions: Literature and the Astronomical Imaginations of Donne, Swift and Hardy.

Teaching/Research Concentration: History of Science, Women in Science, Medical and Scientific Humanities, Literature and Science, Interdisciplinary Arts and Humanities, nature writing, Great Plains Literature and History, Japanese animation and manga.

Current Research: A comparative investigation of late 19th to early 20th century authors' understanding of rapid scientific, technological and environmental change in relation to regional landscapes, global worldviews and the construction of complex "poetic cosmologies" and value systems in popular science writing, fiction, and poetry. Check out neihardt.unl.edu/!

Coolest part of your job: Having daily opportunities to learn how other people's minds work and how they make sense of life in the universe.

If you could teach any other elective, what would it be: I'd love to team-teach an interdisciplinary astronomy course with my friend, the space weather physicist, Dr. Marc Hairston, in which we explore human understanding of the universe via science, literature, art and culture.



Prof G, spouse and 2 of 3 kids at Old Course, St. Andrew, Scotland

Dream end-of-career job (besides UTD, obviously): Educational advocacy for International Dark Skies preservation (IDA), and finishing restoration of our family farmstead in Nebraska, complete with an observatory "silo" next to my grandparents' 100+ year old barn to use for educational outreach, field trips, and FFA kids' "Prairie Farm Star Parties".

Future non-career ambitions: Finish building the "neo-Victorian" house we started from scratch 18 years ago, get it as far off the grid as possible, and expand the garden and monarch feeding station meadow.

Outside talents: Amateur astronomy, exploring the National Parks "by night" (proud owner of a 9-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope)

Favorite part(s) about Norman, OK: Living 25 miles outside any brightly lit city or town, I get to see more stars...

One surprising thing UTD doesn't know about you: We hosted 7 members of an emo-punk band, Death Cow, on their summer tour.

The most exciting thing you've done: Exciting as in awe-inspiring: "falling" into the Milky Way up in the Sangre de Cristo mountains, New Mexico; exciting-scary: surviving a wildfire that swept across our acreage within 20 feet of the house...

What you would do with \$1 million: Start a foundation to fund scholarships and daycare expenses for teen parents and single moms working toward STEM careers and teaching.

What you would do with stopped time: Restore the planet so life could be sustainable and peaceful for future humans, sandhill cranes, and monarch butterflies, etc.

If you could have any superpower: If this new power could be in addition to my current two (1. Making people's eyes glaze over when I tell them what I do for a living and 2. Generating endless imaginative energy through the cold fusion of mashing different disciplines together) then, I'd choose having the ability to create and sustain a tesseract portal so that our grown kids could instantly reconnect with us from wherever they are in the universe and we could have those deep late-night talks about all the big cosmic questions together that we always thought there'd be infinite time to have <3... Plus, I could use it to shorten my commute between home and campus (because self-driving cars are not going to be I-35 ready in my lifetime, unless Elon Musk gets some sleep soon!)

What you want to tell the Alumni Association: Come back and visit campus, see all the exciting changes, take in a cool free public lecture or arts event, and surprise your old professors during office hours (life partners and babies welcome!). Email works too.

LIFE AS A SCHWARZMAN SCHOLAR



Schwarzman-Archers with TX pride. Shantanu Banerjee (Spring 2015 Archer from UT Austin) and I frequently chat about DC life, Dr. Swerdlow, Economics (he worked at the Federal Board of Governors for two years, so our “conversations” are really me listening to knowledge pour out of his mouth), and Texas pride (he thinks I need more of it; I still refuse to identify as a Texan).

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People seem to be willing to engage with humility on a number of contentious topics – political, economic, religious, you name it – that Americans typically don’t open-mindedly engage in discussions about.

The goal isn’t to convince the person you’re talking to that you’re right and they’re wrong. Rather, the focus is on trying to understand how the other person views the world and why they view it that way; trying to share with them how you view an issue and why. I’m constantly exchanging ideas and connecting the dots in new ways. It’s like a non-stop intellectual orgasm.

Another similarity to the McDermott Program stands out. Steve Schwarzman visits a couple of times each year, we had an informal Q&A session with him after he gave a short talk on why he founded the

program. It was really special to pick his brain and interact with the person who gave us the incredible gift of spending a year together at Tsinghua.

Most people I’ve spoken to in my cohort hadn’t experienced this before; they’ve never gotten to know the benefactor of a scholarship that they’ve received. It reminded me how lucky we all are to have spent time face-to-face with Mrs. McDermott.

Outside of Schwarzman College, one of the best surprises for me has been Tsinghua’s obsession with sports. “No Sports, No Tsinghua!” is a motto plastered on signs all over campus. I regularly play soccer with students from all around the world. We often share next-to-zero language skills, but we still manage to communicate, succeed, and have a ton of fun on the soccer pitch together.

I also participated in a Tsinghua Graduate School Track Meet, where I took home first place in the 1500m

run, and our Schwarzman College team won the first Tsinghua Graduate Union Tug-of-War competition of the year!

Weekends are packed full of travel and adventures. In just the first month we’ve done some rock climbing, explored the 798 art district in Beijing and had private tours of a couple exhibits, and hiked and camped along the Great Wall.

I recently jumped on a 30-hour train ride to far-northern China where some friends and I explored the grasslands of Inner Mongolia for a week. A small group of us even have plans to trek to the Everest Base Camp in February. And, of course, I’m staying connected with our wonderful McDermott family; I’ll be seeing four different McDermott Scholars in four different East-Asian cities during the next few months.

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Morning yoga at the College. I still can’t touch my toes, but I’m working on it.



We've hiked at two different sections of the Great Wall in our first month here. The pictures definitely do not capture how steep the uphill climbs are... I was out of breath several times. Also, I made sure to bring a half-dozen UTD shirts to China #WhooshAroundTheWorld

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Back to life at the College: our regular line-up of extremely prominent guest speakers (i.e. Tony Blair) is awesome. Two weeks ago I enjoyed a small group lunch with Niall Ferguson, and it was one the highlights of my time here so far.



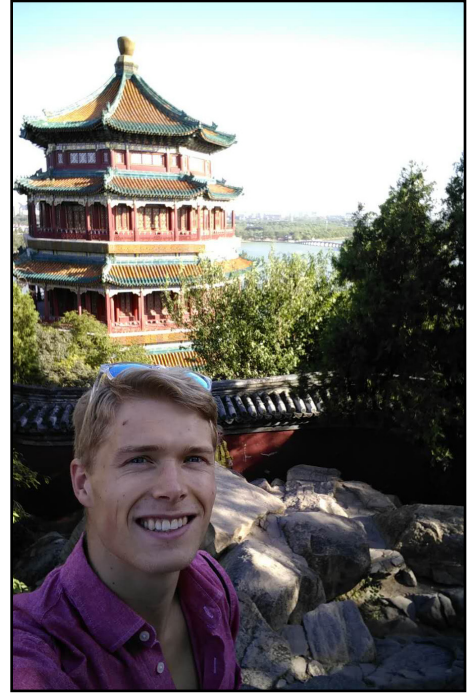
No Sports, No Tsinghua! Tug-of-war counts as a sport here (which is surprisingly exhausting; several of the rounds lasted longer than 30 seconds, and I was gasping for breath when they ended). Schwarzman College took home the championship in the first graduate school tug-of-war competition of the year.

Our informal conversation touched on Brexit, the need to regulate social media, AI, and the timelessness of Shakespeare.

When I found out that our very own Sophie Rutenbar (pg. 9) will be a guest lecturer here in November, I was thrilled because I'll finally be able to chat with her (hopefully), and I was reminded of the rising prominence of UT Dallas and its alumni.

I bumped into Amy Stursberg, the head of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation, in our dining hall a few weeks ago, and when she saw my UTD t-shirt she excitedly started raving about our Blackstone Launchpad. We had a ten-minute conversation about entrepreneurship in Dallas and how UTD is well positioned to prepare its students to succeed in that space.

I was glowing after the conversation because I think it's so cool that a person I ran into on the other side of the planet immediately recognized my t-shirt and knew how fantastic UT Dallas and its people are.



I've been to the Summer Palace in Beijing a couple of times. The juxtaposition of greenery, old architecture, and Beijing's skyline is gorgeous.

Oh, and if anyone's wondering: maintaining a vegan diet in Beijing hasn't been too much of a struggle. Definitely manageable.

Warm Whooshes,

Matt Salm ('14)

The Schwarzman Scholars program is an international scholarship designed to help enable students in honing their leadership skills and developing their professional networks while pursuing a one-year Masters of Global Affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing. Students choose a concentration in one of the following: public policy, economics and business, or international studies. Matt Salm is the first Schwarzman Scholar from UT Dallas.

How ART CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY

Grace Topete joined the 2018 Scholars in Santa Fe to lead a workshop on art



The Icebergs by Fredrick Edwin Church

I remember the first time I saw Fredrick Edwin Church's *The Icebergs* at the DMA. I remember the vividness of that frozen expanse, the deafening silence of the world it imagines, and the intense, engulfing peace in the face of tragedy the painting presents. Church created an experience that still calls to me every time I step foot in the Museum.

Mrs. McDermott, an avid collector, loved her 'pictures'. New classes of Scholars will never have the delight of knowing her in person, so it is incumbent on us, the alumni, to make sure that they know why art was so important to her (and to all of us).

It was with this mission in mind that I led a workshop for the 2018s in Santa Fe using *How Art Can Make You Happy*, a phenomenal guide by Bridget Watson Payne (Many thanks to our Alumni Association for sponsoring the workshop by purchasing a copy of the book for each 2018 Scholar).

This short little book is a beginner's guide to the art world, including how

to recognize major names and styles, how to find your way around an art museum, how to figure out what you like, and even how to dress to look like you belong at a gallery opening.

It can be an intimidating experience to be thrust into sudden membership in the art world (as we all were as freshmen Scholars), but it doesn't take much to set someone on the path to art-induced joy.

During my time with the '18s, we talked about how art speaks to us about ourselves, about others, and about the world. We explored some of the themes they might encounter in art in Santa Fe, from the sacredness of nature to colonialism in the Southwest.

'Good art' creates intellectual and emotional reactions in its viewers, and the Scholars examined the way that notable works made them feel – the chaotic anxiety of Jackson Pollock's No. 5, the dream-like peace of Monet's *Woman with a Parasol Facing Left*, the drama and viscosity of Caravaggio's *David with the Head of Goliath*. The '18s

and I talked about how the kind of happiness art offers isn't just a positive mood – it's a richness of the inner life that can only come from submerging yourself in other peoples' perspectives. In fact, enjoyment of art and appreciation of art might actually be two completely different things.

Good art may dig up uncomfortable feelings of sadness, or anxiety, or anger, but it forces us into conversations with ideas that we might never have the chance to encounter in

our everyday experience.

At the same time, it's okay to have preferences – everyone has an artist they adore and artists they hate (sorry, Rothko) and it's more important to figure out what makes you happy than to pretend to like all the "right ones".

Perhaps the most important things we learned together were how to look at art. The average gallery-goer looks at a single work for less than 7 seconds before moving on to the next one.

Seven seconds! Not enough time to look at a work for sure. As with relationships or a good book, we need to give ourselves time to let great works of art seep into the corners of our souls, ask questions that words can't quite grasp, and let us live for a few moments in somebody else's mind.

We need to give ourselves time to decide whether it moves us, whether we enjoy it, and whether art can make us happy.

-- Grace Topete ('14)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Highlighting the success and uniqueness of our alumni

Name: Sophie Rutenbar

Nicknames: Soph, if you're my mother

Spouse/kids/pets (and if so, names):
Two cats, a brother and sister named Moxy and Foxy (no, I didn't choose the names, which are actually a pretty poor reflection of their personalities)

Class: 2002

Major: Government and politics, with a concentration in global politics

Hometown: Richardson, Texas

Home teams: I'll cheer for the Rangers and Mavs any day!

Current location: New York City

Graduate school and degree (if applicable): M.A. in Conflict, Security and Development at Kings College London; M.Sc. in Human Rights at London School of Economics

Occupation: I help create policy for the fourteen UN peacekeeping operations deployed around the world. What this means is that I get to shape and influence peacekeeping policy debates and peacekeeping reform; think about the changing nature of armed conflict and emerging challenges for peacekeeping; and help come up with new approaches to peacekeeping.

Cooler part about your job: Researching and engaging in blue sky thinking about new aspects of armed conflict.

Dream end-of-career job: Hard to say... perhaps Assistant Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations or Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, or perhaps just a research consultant studying really interesting things.



Future non-career ambitions: Complete the open water swimming Triple Crown (I swam the English Channel several years ago), thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (hoping to do a portion of it next summer).

Outside talents: Swimming, rock climbing, running slowly, reading lots, and beating most people at board games (except Walter Voit).

The most dangerous/exciting thing you've done: For the former, watching tracer rounds fly overhead in Juba in March 2014. For the latter, watching the Parker Solar Probe take flight atop a Delta IV Heavy rocket at Cape Canaveral (my super smart sister worked on the guidance, navigation and control system for stage 3 of the launch).

One surprising thing Alumni wouldn't know about you: I took a mini-John Steinbeck pilgrimage to Salinas and Monterey Bay, CA, a couple years ago.

Favorite part about UTD: The people. Running the loop around campus. Also, the pool is a hidden and underutilized gem (I'm afraid to put this out there!).

Favorite McDermott memory: Climbing the hilltop above St. John's College in Santa Fe one night during our orientation, then listening to Bobby Janecka telling ghost stories while Cheng Lee threw rocks and made scary noises in the bushes.

What you want to tell the McDermott Scholars: Savor this chance to branch out and do something completely different (hopefully many things) with absolutely no relevance for your future career. Who knows, maybe you'll change your mind about that career - I know I did as a McDermott.

Want to be our next spotlight, or know of an awesome alum we should feature? Send mcdermottalumni@gmail.com an email today!

UNIVERSITY EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE

The Alumni Association's contribution to UEMR is making a difference on campus



Members of UEMR's 28-member team rocking the mini-whoosh

University Emergency Medical Response (UEMR) is an Agency focused on providing campus-centered emergency medical care to the UT Dallas community. Generous grants help our agency ensure that we maintain a high standard of care to our fellow Comets. The Eugene McDermott Scholars Program Alumni Association, through their generous support, has allowed us to continue working on our mission for a safer UT Dallas.

During our first year, UEMR EMTs provided emergency medical services at various events on campus including athletic games, 5Ks, commencement, marathons, and more. Additionally, UEMR held countless Stop the Bleed trainings, CPR classes, and demonstrations for the UT Dallas community to educate students, faculty, and staff on emergency preparedness. Our providers, along with hundreds of UT Dallas students, have joined us on our mission to help build a safer UT Dallas community, and this would not be possible without the generous support of the Alumni Association.

UEMR began 911 operations in the Spring 2018 Semester. Due to a limited budget and a shortage of personnel, UEMR was only able to be in service five days a week from 2:30pm-10pm

(UT Dallas' peak traffic hours). During the Spring semester, we responded to over 40 medical emergencies and reduced the average EMS response time to 3 minutes. Since beginning our 911 operations, our providers have been given access to an incredible learning experience, further advancing their knowledge in the skills they will use in their future endeavors as medical professionals.

UEMR began 24/7 operations in the 2018 Fall semester. Since the beginning of the semester, our emergency callouts have increased by 133%. The Eugene McDermott Scholars Program Alumni Association's grant has allowed the

agency to expand in response to the increase in demand for our services, and the Alumni Association's grant to UEMR directly contributes to student, faculty, staff, and visitor safety. Without the financial assistance from the Alumni Association, our agency expansion and 24/7 coverage would be a distant, unreachable goal. Some examples of the direct purchases from the Grant include the purchase of a second response vehicle (Medic 2), Active 911 dispatch memberships for providers, Naloxone and Epinephrine medication treatment expansion, and uniform upgrades.

UT Dallas welcomes nearly 30,000 people to its campus every day, and any of these individuals should have access to the best emergency health care possible while on the University's campus. With the financial support of the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program Alumni Association grant, UEMR is able to provide a reliable and quicker medical resource to all 30,000 welcomed guests. The hard work and service from our providers on every shift makes UEMR one of the most service-oriented organizations on the UT Dallas campus, and we are proud that the Alumni Association chose to support us in our mission for a safer UT Dallas.

-- Umer Nadir ('15)



Left to right: Landon Wright, Scott Bell, Brooke Wilson, and Jagan Kandadai with the two golf carts used by UEMR to respond to medical needs on campus

2018 WORSFOLD GRANTS UPDATE

Each year, Worsfold Grants support student-led service projects on campus and in the community

Hermanos Sobre Fronteras (Brothers Across/Over Borders)

This group sent two students to a migrant shelter in Ixtepec, Oaxaca, Mexico. They intended to elevate the personal voices of migrants in Mexico as well as illustrating the importance of human rights advocacy.

UTD Global Medical & Dental Brigades

This organization seeks to address the lack of healthcare resources in rural communities in Central America by providing a free medical clinic to residents of these under-resourced communities. Funds were used to purchase medical equipment used during their visit to Panama this summer.

MEET DERRICK CHEN, '03

Derrick Chen was recently honored as the 2018 Buhrmester Rising Star in the school of BBS

Dr. Derrick Chen, with the support of the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program, received the degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2004, Bachelor of Arts in Biology in 2006, and Master of Science in Applied Cognition and Neuroscience in 2006 from the University of Texas at Dallas. Afterward, he attended the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and was conferred his Doctor of Medicine degree in 2011.

He completed his pathology residency at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, OH in 2015 and his clinical microbiology fellowship at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN in 2016. He is currently board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and in Medical Microbiology. Since 2016, he has been the medical director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at UW Health, in Madison, WI.

As the medical director, he shapes the future direction of the laboratory and is responsible for overall operations and administration, including quality assurance, safety, and policy/procedure development and review. His laboratory serves numerous hospitals and clinics in the region and performs 250,000+ tests annually.

Dr. Chen has received multiple honors and awards for exemplary service to his profession, academic achievements, education of trainees, and research. He has authored several manuscripts and book chapters covering a variety of pathology and microbiology topics and frequently presents his research at national and international conferences.

At UT Dallas, Dr. Chen became a pool aficionado and was a regular fixture at the Student Union. He currently enjoys songwriting and music production, playing piano, learning foreign languages, and spending time with his wife and dog.



While at UTD:

- He worked in Dr. Assmann's and Dr. O'Toole's labs, volunteered at the Dallas American Red Cross, tutored at Preston Hollow Elementary, and participated in the Chemistry Student Association, the Neuroscience Student Association, and the pre-health club Alpha Epsilon Delta.
- Researcher topics - Face recognition phenomena, speech perception phenomena
- Studied abroad at Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico
- Coursework: Psychology, Biology, Applied Cognition and Neuroscience

WELCOMING THE NEW ALUMNI

The class of 2014 joins the Alumni Association's ranks



Hans Ajieren

PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University

Stephen Badger

Master's in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University

James Ballard

Master's in Computer Science at Johns Hopkins

Preston Butler

Boston University School of Medicine

Matara Hitchcock

Master's in Theater and MBA at Colorado University-Boulder

Anishka Kappalayil

UT Southwestern Medical School

Elyse Mack

Master's in Art History at Williams College

Reilly Martinez

Working at Qorvo, Master's in Electrical Engineering at UT Dallas

Dhruv Narayanan

Working at Polycraft (current), Oliver Wyman (2019)

Derrick Ngo

Working at Qualia

Alexandra Peterkort

Working at American Airlines

Christy Purnadi

Working at Capital One

Rajadhar Reddy

Baylor Medical School

Matt Salm

Master's in Global Affairs at Tsinghua University (Schwarzman Scholar)

Pooshan Shah

Master's in Business Analytics at University of Texas at Austin

Sanaa Tejani

UT Southwestern Medical School

Rebecca Tjahja

Working at Hamilton Place Strategies

Alexander Tomkovich

Master's in Computer Science at University of Texas at Austin

Grace Topete

Master's in Education at Southern Methodist University, Working at Polycraft

Samuel Vallejo

JD at Harvard Law School

Sahana Venkatesh

UNC School of Medicine

Aaron Weittenhiller

Working at Qorvo

John Will

PhD in Materials Science and Engineering at Virginia Tech

Ximone Willis

Working at Raytheon

Benjamin Wroblewski

UT Austin Dell Medical School

The 2014 McDermott Scholars have studied abroad in 28 different countries.

Notable accolades:

- Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship
- Phi Kappa Phi National Fellowship
- Harry S. Truman Scholarship
- Udall Foundation Scholarship
- Schwarzman Scholar
- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholar
- 13 Phi Kappa Phi members

They have contributed over 80,000 hours to community service, campus leadership, personal development, and professional growth.