



# Flock O'Clock

News from the University of North Texas

Group 3.5

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## Flock O'Clock

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of North Texas

# About UNT

## UNT

Creativity, Innovation,  
and Preparation.



Image courtesy of UNT URCM

UNT fosters creativity.

UNT offers many opportunities for students to be creative in and out of the classroom. Students are encouraged to pursue their artistic passions through exhibitions, theatre productions, and musical productions. Between on-campus events, maker spaces, labs, and organizations, students have no problems finding places to unleash creative energy.

UNT encourages innovation.

As a Tier One research university, UNT is a home for innovation. Faculty bring exciting new ideas to the school through their pioneering research and leading-edge classroom experiences. UNT also prides itself through using 100% renewable energy. The university is committed to expanding boundaries and looking to the future.

UNT prepares students for the outside world.

Through hands-on projects, UNT provides students with the critical skills needed to succeed in the workforce. UNT also responds to industry needs through the inclusion of new degrees such as urban planning. Lastly, activists such as Olympian Aly Raisman come to speak about relevant issues and share their experiences with the student body. Students leave UNT prepared to take on the world and impact their communities.

# A Pioneer in Music

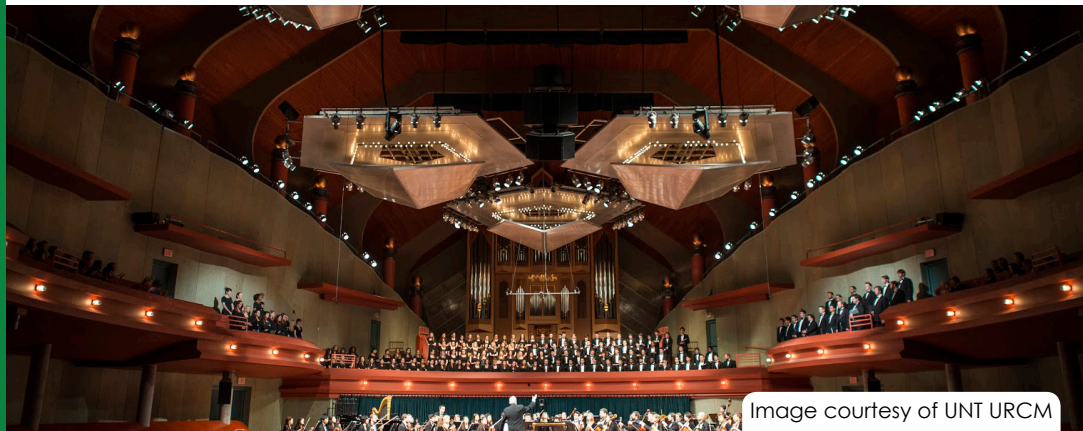


Image courtesy of UNT URCM

## Creative

Professor challenges  
the way audience  
experience music with  
*An Unaware Cosmos*

Joseph Klein, chair of the Division of Composition Studies at the University of North Texas College of Music, composed *An Unaware Cosmos* to challenge the way we experience music and celebrate music as an expression of the natural world.

"When we are out in nature, like at the beach, we look at the activity around us and listen to all the sounds as one thing," Klein said. "You could go to the beach the next day and there may be the same things happening, but it would sound completely different."

Audiences attending a traditional musical performance watch and listen as an event is performed in front of them on stage. Compositions unfold with familiar patterns of melody, harmony and tonal qualities that all work together in predictable ways.

In contrast, *An Unaware Cosmos* deconstructed the orchestra into 19 individual modules for various combinations of instruments positioned throughout the performance hall. Music from these distinct modules was fragmented, dislocated, suspended, disrupted, and penetrated, often in unpredictable ways.

"This approach to form suggests that all possible events theoretically exist, while our ability to experience them is restricted to the present moment; thus any given realization of *An Unaware Cosmos* is simply one of a potentially limitless number of ways the work may unfold," Klein said.

Klein's composition of *An Unaware Cosmos* was a six-year endeavor supported in part by a fellowship from the UNT Institute for the Advancement of the Arts. The orchestra performed the first performance of the composition featuring all 19 modules in October 2018.

# An Opportunity for Art



Photo courtesy of UNT College of Visual Arts & Design

The College of Visual Arts & Design Department of Studio Art graduate students organized an open studio event to share their work and artistic practice. This was an opportunity for members of the community to have an experience of new and diverse art from graduate-level students working in all media. A selection of pieces was available for purchase.

The College of Visual Arts and Design provides students with the critical practice of the fine artists housed in a world-class Tier One research institution near the rich culture and art capitals of Dallas and Fort Worth.

## Creative

Department of Studio Art  
Graduate Students Exhibit  
their Work in an Open  
Studio Event



# subUrbia



## Creative

A Funny, Sometimes  
Shocking Play About  
a Group of Aimless  
20-Somethings Trying to  
find their Place in the  
World

The play subUrbia, by Eric Bogosian, directed by Eugene Martin, chair of the Department of Media Arts, took place in front of a 7-Eleven store in a town called Burnfield – the suburban New Jersey hometown of a group of 20-somethings who spend most of their time in the parking lot. Most of the characters seemed trapped there, all except for Pony, who became a rock star. Pony's return stripped away illusions and excuses to reveal the meaningless dead-end existences of everyone.

subUrbia took the audience on an emotional rollercoaster ride of horror, fascination, and even sorrow as the cast struggled to find a place and meaning in a society that doesn't seem to want them.

"subUrbia, like any good work of art, is a kind of mirror into the human condition that reflects universal truths that audiences share," Martin said. "By examining the anger of youth and the need to be rebellious, we are able to more clearly see the kinds of barriers young people face as they grapple with the complexities of becoming a young independent adult."

Senior Theatre major Logan Mars played Tim, an alcoholic with a short fuse who was discharged from the air force after cutting off the tip of his finger while working in the kitchen. Tim's anger and internalized frustration manifested in racism, homophobia and sexism.

"When I look at Tim's character, I see a person who is hurting and wants someone to reach out to him, but he's too proud to ask for help," said Mars. "Many of these people are just hanging out, not really doing anything to better themselves. It just seems like they are stuck thinking about what could have been and dreaming about a goal they will never do anything to try to achieve."



Photo courtesy of T.J. Webb from UNT URCM

The cast and crew delivered a production full of unexpected twists and tragedy, humor, anger, and angst.

**“subUrbia, like any good work of art, is a kind of mirror into the human condition that reflects universal truths that audiences share.”**

**- Eugene Martin**

“I am simply astounded by the student's level of professionalism and commitment to the art of theater,” Martin said. “We have put together an incredibly talented and energetic cast that is sure to entertain.”

## Innovative

Greener than Green

# UNT's Wind Turbines



The university will continue using 100 percent renewable energy for electricity for two more years, thanks to a \$120,000 grant from the university's We Mean Green Fund. The fund, which is contributed to by North Texas students through an environmental services student fee, is used for student-led environmental sustainability projects across campus such as energy and water conservation, waste reduction, recycling, sustainable campus dining, and other student projects.

"At this time, UNT gets all of its electricity from renewable sources such as wind and solar," said Adam Briggie, assistant professor in environmental philosophy and principle investigator on the project. "Of course, we don't generate the power ourselves. We purchase renewable energy credits through Denton Municipal Electric."

The 107 million renewable energy credits(RECs) purchased by UNT originate from wind farms in West Texas, Briggie said.

"REC purchases allow homes and businesses to choose to use renewable sources, rather than nonrenewable sources like coal," said Caitlin Griffith, a student worker involved in renewable energy. "This is important to me and shows that UNT cares about the environment and the community around us."

UNT is part of the EPA's Green Power Partnership, a leaderboard of institutions committed to renewable energy use. UNT ranks No. 1 of universities in Texas, No. 9 of universities nationally, and No. 74 of all public or private institutions. The EPA estimates that UNT's renewable energy program prevents almost 80,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere annually.

The GreenSense project started as a one-year trial period and continues with student, faculty, and administrative support. Other sustainability projects on campus include the Community Garden where students, faculty, and staff can organically grow food, and the Bee Campus USA program, which provides habitats specifically for plant pollinators.



# A Culinary Journey



Photo courtesy of Nathan Guo

## Innovative

New class teaches its students about the world's variety of foods in a unique way

The Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management's "Global Kitchen: A Culinary Journey" course took students through the cuisines of different cultures.

Each week, trained chef Jodi Duryea focused on food from different regions, such as the Mediterranean, France, Mexico or West Africa. The class began with a lesson about how geography, migration, war, native crops, and other factors have impacted a particular culture's food choices and cooking techniques. Then, the students put what they learned into practice by actually cooking and tasting sample meals from that part of the world.

"Who wouldn't want to eat in class? I make food at home, but I wouldn't have wanted to go explore all these different cuisines without this class," said senior Bradley Lien. "Week two, we made tamales from South America and then literally, the weekend after that, I went home and made tamales because I found out how fun it is to make."

Chef Duryea, a senior lecturer in the College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism, said the course was an idea born out of her love of food, culture, and travel.

"I love seeing how things have moved around the world and how different cultures have influenced each other," said Duryea. "For the students, we have such a great and diverse population, and I think the best way to overcome some of the barriers is to eat together."

Student Grace Mallory said she was anticipating this course for three years.

"I've been waiting for this to be an option all throughout college," said Mallory. "I'm a senior, and this gets to be one of the fun classes that I'm really interested in. I love to cook. But sometimes it's just hard to find new recipes, so to have a whole entire class where it's just exploring very exotic and diverse recipes is awesome."

The class was not for beginner cooks. It built on basic cooking techniques taught in Duryea's food preparation course. Duryea added that while UNT doesn't

have a culinary program, the goal of classes in the hospitality management program is to give the background to go into any part of the industry. Students get real-world experience into how to run a business as an owner, manager or executive.

Student Lien, whose family owns a restaurant, agrees.

"I feel like it's a good background to have if you're going into the hospitality industry at all because then you know the management side, as well as working on the line and understanding those technical skills."

**"For the students, we have such a great and diverse population, and I think the best way to overcome some of the barriers is to eat together."**

**- Jodi Duryea**

# Cybersecurity Grants



Photo courtesy of North Texas Daily

## Innovative

Professor brings home more than \$1 million in cybersecurity research grants

College of Engineering Assistant Professor Hassan Takabi received more than \$1 million in grants from the National Science Foundation.

The first grant was for \$515,974 and will be spent developing a computer defense against malicious insiders who leverage basic computer access into unauthorized computer entry.

"If a person from inside a system tries to access data they shouldn't, we are going to put false paths and fake information in their way," said Takabi, a faculty member in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. "Most computer systems have some form of access control; a program that allows different users to have different levels of access. Oftentimes, low-level users will try to bypass the access control system to view, and sometimes steal, higher-level information. That is where we come in."

Takabi is designing his system to supplement access control systems. The system won't just lead malicious users to fake files; it will also allow them to be traced to their point of origin. Insider threats can then be identified and their access restricted.

The second grant was for \$499,581 and will be used to develop a set of instructional modules and hands-on lab exercises that will merge the study of data science and analytics with cybersecurity. The second grant was in collaboration with Eduardo Blanco, also a faculty member in the UNT Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

"Traditionally, students studying data analytics don't cross over into cybersecurity and vice versa. Yet, with companies compiling massive amounts of data, think Facebook and Google, there is a need for cybersecurity experts who are also skilled in data analytics. Someone with this integrated knowledge will be better able to understand the dynamics of data science and how it can help protect organizations' resources in today's data-driven world."

# Insurance for Grades



Photo courtesy of UNT System

## Preparing

Class project allows students to develop insurance for their grades

A special course offered in the College of Business gave students the opportunity to underwrite and “sell” grade insurance in their classroom.

Dr. Yu-Luen Ma and Nat Pope, professors in the risk management and insurance program, developed the award-winning “Grade Insurance” project to increase student interest in the classroom while also giving students an opportunity to actually apply insurance concepts in a meaningful way.

“As an educator, it’s often difficult to establish relevance between abstract course content and the actual lives of the students,” said Ma, who taught the course as part of her Principles of Risk and Insurance Management class. The project emerged as an instructional tool to help make otherwise abstract insurance concepts more understandable.

Here’s how the project worked:

- Students earned points for each assignment over the course of a semester.
- Points represented a way for students to preserve accumulated “wealth.”
- Student teams operated as insurers and used actual student data to “underwrite” other students and create grade-insurance protection policies.
- Policies that had prior approval of the instructor (those that were properly structured and underwritten) were allowed to sell their insurance policies to classmates near the end of the semester at a “grade insurance fair.”

“In the end, a successful insurance contract indemnifies a student who may have experienced unexpected adverse circumstance leading up to the exam, such as the sudden on-set of an illness, something over which the student does not have control,” said Ma. “A properly constructed policy will not artificially elevate a student’s score above its pre-final exam level or allow an insured student to escape from his or her usual exam preparation routine.”

To Ma, the real value of the project was in the team's creation of the contract—rather than the insurance protection the policies might have provided.

Ma added that, “on its best day, a correctly structured policy will merely hold a student's grade steady in light of an unexpectedly poor performance on the final exam. However, for the insurers, the internalization of otherwise abstract concepts that occurs when building an appropriately structured contract is invaluable in understanding the course material.”



# A New Degree in Town



Photo courtesy of University of Washington

## Preparing

New urban planning degree meets the needs of a growing workforce

With a projected 13 percent increase in demand for urban and regional planners over the next ten years, the College of Health and Public Service's new Bachelor of Arts in Urban Policy and Planning addresses the need for skilled workers.

"This will be the first degree of its kind in the DFW region," said Jennifer Evans-Cowley, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs and a professor in the Department of Public Administration. "The North Texas region is booming and professional city planners are needed to work in the region's cities and for planning consulting firms to keep pace with the growth."

The degree, which is offered in the Department of Public Administration, concentrates on the study of urban development, the history of cities, and the impact of urban space on communities. The degree includes a combination of face-to-face and online courses that accommodate students' busy schedules and allows for a seamless transfer for incoming students. Students also receive practical planning experience through a required urban planning studio.

"Students graduating with this degree will be career-ready for a pursuit of professional opportunities in the public and private sectors," said Laura Keyes, UNT public administration lecturer and undergraduate program coordinator. "A major strength of the program is its close affiliation with city governments and planning consulting firms within the Dallas-Fort Worth region."

# A Survivor's Story



Photo courtesy of Jordan Collard from North Texas Daily

## Preparing

Olympic athlete Aly Raisman shares her own experience in lectures about survivor advocacy

On Monday, November 19, Olympic gold medalist gymnast Aly Raisman visited UNT as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series. In a question and answer session with Dean of Students Maureen McGuinness, Raisman discussed various topics including health and wellness, self-care, body positivity, and the importance of advocating for sexual abuse victims.

A recurring theme of the lecture was survivor advocacy, as Raisman herself is a survivor of sexual abuse. She uses her platform to advocate for other individuals that may be dealing with the anguish of sharing their story.

"I don't enjoy sitting up here and talking about it, but I think that it's very hard for me to sit back and see how many people are in pain and how many people feel like they're not being heard," Raisman said. "If I can help one person decide to share their story, or I can help one friend of a survivor realize that maybe what they said to them last week wasn't supportive and that they can actually help them, then hopefully I can do that."

While Raisman is appreciative of her position as an Olympic athlete and the platform it has given her, she said more focus should be placed on survivors who are not necessarily in the public eye but still want to share their stories.

"I also think there's a lot of people that do speak up and they're not being heard because they're not an Olympic athlete," Raisman said. "I would like to see, no matter who you are, that your story is being heard just as equally. It doesn't matter, and it shouldn't matter how well known you are. Everyone has a story. Everyone's story is equally important."

Raisman cited Princess Diana as the celebrity she would choose to have dinner with if able to and cited her work and impact on the world as particularly inspiring.



"Just all the incredible work she did, I feel like she went above and beyond," Raisman said. "I'm very inspired by people that do something bigger than themselves and really make a big impact on the world, and I know that she did."

**"No matter who you are, your story is being heard just as equally. It shouldn't matter how well known you are. Everyone has a story."**

**- Aly Raisman**

In the question and answer segment with Dean of Students Maureen McGuinness, she covered her favorite Olympics memories and addressed her experience as a survivor of sexual assault.

Communication design junior Gabriela Pesqueira said she thought the lecture was great.

"I think she really emphasized how important it is to take care of yourself, especially for survivors of abuse and assault," Pesqueira said. "I think that's something that's not stressed enough."

For survivors of abuse that may be apprehensive about sharing their stories or are struggling to get the help or answers they need, Raisman encouraged them to continue fighting.

"Don't stop until you get the answers that you want," Raisman said. "I can tell you from experience, it's not always easy. I reported my abuse in 2015, and I still don't have all the answers, so I can completely relate."

Raisman said she wants people to know that whether they are a survivor or otherwise, everyone has the power to help others.

"Just remember that we're all going through something, and never underestimate the power that you have to be a good person and to help other people," Raisman said.

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