

2024-25 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



SMU



- SMU, a private university in Dallas, is a center for global research and teaching that serves approximately 7,000 undergraduates and 5,000 graduate students through eight degree-granting schools.
- SMU ranks in the top 20% of universities by U.S. News and World Report, with top 50 graduate programs in business (34), law (44) and education (48).
- SMU attracts high-achieving students from all 50 states and over 85 countries, with incoming first-year students averaging a 32 ACT score and a 3.7 GPA. Seven out of 10 first-year students receive scholarships or grants, and 75% graduate without debt.
- Within six months of graduation, 91% of graduate students and 86% of undergraduates are employed, enrolled in further education, pursuing military service, or volunteering. The median starting salary for undergraduates is \$70,000 and \$85,000 for graduates.
- Ninety-two percent of SMU student-athletes earn degrees, and 80% graduate with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. SMU's Life after Ball program supports their career readiness through networking, mentoring, and internships.
- Sophisticated high-performance computing and targeted goals are the hallmarks of SMU research which fosters interdisciplinary collaboration on earth hazards and national security; education and technology; data science and urban studies.
- SMU faculty members are elected to prestigious groups such as the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Education, and Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Scholars. They are also fellows of organizations like the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, National Humanities Center and Harvard Society of Fellows – Junior Fellows.
- SMU graduate students receive prestigious awards like the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Boren Fellowship, and the Federal Highway Administration Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship. They also earn competitive dissertation and career advancement awards, including the Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship, PEO Scholar Award, ACLS Emerging Voices and Leading Edge Fellowships.
- SMU undergraduates are regularly selected for competitive national awards, including 31 Goldwater Scholars, four Marshall Scholars, 15 Truman Scholars and two Schwarzman Scholars. In the last five years, 28 students were awarded Fulbright scholarships.



THIS IS SMU®



- Entrepreneurship opportunities abound at SMU – through academic majors and minors ranging from business and engineering to the arts – as well as academic centers offering mentoring, funding, competitions and support to students across various disciplines.
- SMU is home to the George W. Bush Presidential Center, Library, Museum, Foundation and Institute, attracting over 1.9 million visitors since opening in 2013.
- SMU is Dallas' university, located in a city that hosts 24 Fortune 500 companies.
- Dallas was named the No. 1 best sports business city by the Sports Business Journal in 2024, boasting of six professional sports clubs, collegiate athletics, annual premiere events and world class athletics' facilities.
- SMU Athletics has invested over \$250 million in facilities since 2013. The Garry Weber End Zone Complex at Ford Stadium, opening in fall 2024, features premium fan spaces and dynamic student-athlete facilities.
- SMU is the only NCAA FBS program in Dallas, with a record of 10 national championships, over 200 team conference championships, 100 individual national championships, 150 NCAA top-10 finishes, nearly 2,000 All-American honors and more than 150 Olympic appearances.
- SMU won a school-record eight championships in 2023-24 and is riding a surge of momentum heading into 2024-25, with all 17 programs reaching the postseason and 16 programs winning conference championships since 2013.
- SMU football has more wins than any Division I team in the state of Texas since 2019 and appeared in the AP Top 25 in four of the last five years. In the fall of 2023, the Mustangs won their first conference championship since 1984.
- In 2023-24, SMU finished as the No. 1 American Athletic Conference program and ranked 54th nationally in the final LEARFIELD Directors' Cup Division I Standings, ahead of six programs from the Big 12, five schools from the ACC, four teams from the Big Ten and three programs from the SEC.
- In the week after the ACC offered membership to SMU, the University raised \$100 million to support its move to the conference, and a total of \$159 million over the 2023-24 fiscal year. In preparation for its inaugural year in the ACC, SMU set a new season ticket sales record for Ford Stadium and is on pace to more than double year over year.

SMU ADMINISTRATION



R. GERALD TURNER

PRESIDENT

As president of SMU since 1995, R. Gerald Turner is leading an era of unprecedented progress. Under his leadership, the University continues to advance as an institution of national excellence and international renown. SMU's progress has included increases in average admission test scores, a near tripling of student applications, an increase in enrollment of underrepresented communities up to 33% and a quadrupling of the endowment.

Building on a history of excellence, SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow, which launched publicly in September 2021, is the third comprehensive fundraising campaign initiated under President Turner's leadership. The multiyear campaign's \$1.5 billion goal is the largest fundraising target ever set by a private school in North Texas. The campaign for impact aims to build on SMU's strengths to empower outstanding students, enrich teaching and research, and enhance campus and community.



During the SMU Ignited campaign, donors have already given more than \$1 billion, including record-setting gifts to create the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, fuel the future of the Cox School of Business, build on the University's legacy of athletics excellence and much more.

Fueled by these investments, the University continues to advance as a leading center of teaching and research that accelerates knowledge, addresses significant issues, prepares students to be world changers and broadens community engagement. SMU ranks in the top 20% of the best national universities by U.S. News & World Report.

From its home in the global city of Dallas, SMU's vibrant campus offers enrichment opportunities such as the Tate Lecture Series and the Meadows Museum to students and the wider community. President Turner led efforts with the Board of Trustees to attract the George W. Bush Presidential Center, which opened at SMU in 2013. SMU and the Bush Presidential Center partner through fellowships, public lectures, the new George W. Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative and additional collaborations that bring together students, faculty and global experts to tackle pressing challenges.

Beyond the campus, President Turner has served on the boards of the Dallas Citizens Council, the American Council on Education and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he co-chaired the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for nearly 10 years. In Texas, he serves on the boards of the Methodist Health System Foundation, the Salvation Army of North Texas and the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

Before joining SMU, President Turner was the chancellor of the University of Mississippi. He previously served in administrative positions at the University of Oklahoma and Pepperdine University. A native of New Boston, Texas, he earned an A.A. degree from Lubbock Christian University, a B.S. in psychology from Abilene Christian University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Gail, have two married daughters and five grandchildren.



PAUL ROGERS

FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE

Paul Rogers is the Marilyn Jeanne Johnson Distinguished Faculty Fellow, Professor of Law and the former dean of the SMU Dedman School of Law. He is also the University's faculty athletic representative and helps represent the University with the American Athletic Conference and the NCAA. Rogers currently serves as a member of the National Football Foundation's Awards Committee and was formerly on the NCAA's Football Oversight and Football Competition Committees. He is a former president of the Southwest Conference and also previously served on the NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet, the Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet, and the Executive Committee of the Division I-A Faculty Athletics Representative Association.

In 1988 Rogers was the principal drafter of the Manual of Governance for SMU Athletics and became the first chair of the SMU Athletic Council, which provides oversight of SMU athletics and recommends academic and administrative policies governing student-athletes. He continues as a member of the council.

Prior to joining the SMU law faculty in 1980, he served on the law faculty at Loyola University of Chicago. He previously practiced law in Pennsylvania. Rogers has two degrees (B.A., J.D.) from The University of Texas at Austin and an LL.M. from Columbia University. Rogers served as dean of the School of Law from 1988-97. Earlier he served as associate dean for academic affairs from 1982-86. He has co-authored a leading casebook on antitrust law, now in its fifth edition, and has written articles on antitrust, regulated industries, contracts, commercial law, sports law and legal history. An avid baseball historian, he has published six books and many articles dealing with the history of baseball.

He serves on the board of the Bobby Bragan Youth Foundation in Ft. Worth and is former president of the board of directors of Dispute Mediation Services and a former trustee of the Dallas Bar Foundation. Rogers is a fellow of the Dallas Bar, Texas Bar and the American Bar Foundations. A member of the American Law Institute, he also served as chair of the Ethics Oversight Committee for Dallas 2012 and is president of the Ernie Banks-Bobby Bragan Chapter (Dallas-Fort Worth) of the Society of American Baseball Research. In 2006 Rogers was named an Honorary Letterman by the SMU Lettermen's Association. He received the Tom Tunks Distinguished University Service Award in 2016 and the University's "M" Award in 2017.

Rogers is married to Julie Forrester Rogers of the SMU law faculty and together they have five children and five grandchildren.





RICK HART

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
 **AD_RICKHART**

Rick Hart was named SMU's Director of Athletics on July 16, 2012.

During Hart's time on the Hilltop, SMU has repeatedly shown its commitment to competing at the top level of college athletics and to providing a best-in-class student-athlete experience.

During the last three years alone, SMU has invested over \$125 million in football construction projects, pushing the total invested in SMU Athletics facilities to a quarter of a billion dollars since 2013.

SMU has also reinforced its long-standing commitment to student-athlete development, well-being and experience by expanding its health, safety and well-being initiatives and staffing, its personal and professional development programs and degree completion opportunities.

SMU has added training staff and mental health professionals to address the physical, emotional and mental demands associated with being a student-athlete, and, in fall 2022, SMU expanded its successful Life After Ball (LAB) Program to all sports. LAB is designed to help student-athletes make a smooth transition to the workforce after their playing days at SMU are over. LAB also utilizes the powerful network that SMU has in the DFW area in addition to former SMU student-athletes and prominent alumni. This is in addition to the full cost-of-attendance scholarships SMU provides for its student-athletes. All told, SMU invested over \$175,000 in each of its almost 500 student-athletes last year.

These offerings have proven fruitful, as SMU student-athletes excel in the classroom, with 69% earning cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or higher, over one-third boasting GPAs of 3.5 or better and 91% earning degrees. During Hart's time at SMU, over 1,500 degrees have been conferred on Mustang student-athletes.

SMU has also experienced broad success athletically over his tenure, winning 39 team conference titles across 15 sports, with all Mustang sports advancing to the post-season at least once since 2017. In 2022-23 alone, SMU won six championships – the National Equestrian Championship and five AAC Championships. SMU student-athletes won 26 individual or event conference championships and totaled more than 100 all-conference honors across the 17 programs.

In the community, SMU's partnership with the City of Dallas has been strengthened through community service and the Dallas, 214, "Born and Raised" and Triple-D marketing and branding initiatives.

Due to the generosity of alumni and friends, annual giving has reached record levels in support of operations, projects and facilities. In the past 11 years, SMU Athletics has been the beneficiary of an astounding 54 seven-figure gifts and 407 gifts of \$100k or more, and in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, SMU Athletics combined to raise \$116 million thanks to the two largest giving years on record. Because of the high level of support, SMU has renovated and expanded Moody Coliseum and opened numerous new facilities including the SMU Indoor Performance Center and Armstrong Fieldhouse, the Miller Event Center, the Styslinger/Altec SMU Tennis Complex, the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium, the Payne Stewart SMU Golf Training Center at Trinity Forest Golf Club and Washburne Soccer & Track Stadium. Construction has begun on the Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool to complete the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium Complex as well as the \$100M Garry Weber End Zone Complex.

Hart also developed and installed the Strategic Plan for SMU Athletics titled, "The SMU Advantage." The SMU Advantage consists of a departmental vision, mission, values and goals and operates on a principle of S.P.I.R.I.T. (Service, Passion, Integrity, Respect, Innovation and Teamwork), with a focus on the student-athlete and aligning the Athletics Department with the educational mission of the University.

On the conference side, Hart led SMU into the American Athletic Conference in 2013-14 as a founding member of the league. Working alongside President Turner and Commissioner Mike Aresco, Hart and his colleagues raised the profile of the reconstituted group and established the American as a one of the nation's best athletic conferences.

On September 1, 2023, President Turner, Board Chair David B. Miller and Hart announced that SMU had accepted a bid to join the Atlantic Coast Conference, one of the top three collegiate athletic conferences in America. The invitation was the result of the relentless work of the trio as well as SMU's Athletics Task Force, and the collective investments of the Circle of Champions, Vision 2025, the Mustang Club and other loyal and generous alumni and donors. A short seven days after the announcement, SMU had already secured \$100 million from approximately 30 benefactors in support of the Mustangs' transition to the ACC.

Hart served as NACDA President for the 2022-23 membership year and has previously served on the NACDA Executive Committee, the NCAA Division I Championship/Sports Management Cabinet, the FCS Athletics Directors Association Executive Committee and as a faculty member for the D1-A Athletics Directors' Institute. Hart is an active speaker, and has made presentations at the Career in Sports Seminar, the NACDA Leadership Institute, the Texas High School Athletic Directors' Association and the Dallas Women's Club, to name a few.

Hart came to SMU after six years as Director of Athletics at Tennessee at Chattanooga. Hart served seven years at Oklahoma in various athletics administrative capacities, ending as the Senior Associate Athletics Director in 2006. Hart has also worked in athletics at North Carolina and East Carolina and has served with the U.S. Olympic Committee.

A graduate of UNC, Hart earned a bachelor's degree in physical education, health and sport science. Hart and his wife, Allison, also a graduate of North Carolina, are proud parents of Trevor, an SMU grad and Assistant Director of Marketing and Fan Engagement at Northwestern, and Caroline (Carly), an SMU junior.

A third-generation athletics administrator, Hart's father, Dave, served as Director of Athletics at Tennessee, Florida State and East Carolina, and his late grandfather, Dave Sr., served in a variety of roles within collegiate athletics including stints as a Coach, Athletics Director and Conference Commissioner. f Training Center at Trinity Forest Golf Club and Washburne Soccer & Track Stadium. Construction has begun on the Holt Hickman Outdoor Pool to complete the Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium Complex as well as the \$100M Garry Weber End Zone Complex.

Hart also developed and installed the Strategic Plan for SMU Athletics titled, "The SMU Advantage." The SMU Advantage consists of a departmental vision, mission, values and goals and operates on a principle of S.P.I.R.I.T. (Service, Passion, Integrity, Respect, Innovation and Teamwork), with a focus on the student-athlete and aligning the Athletics Department with the educational mission of the University.

Hart served as NACDA President for the 2022-23 membership year and has previously served on the NACDA Executive Committee, the NCAA Division I Championship/Sports Management Cabinet, the FCS Athletics Directors Association Executive Committee and as a faculty member for the D1-A Athletics Directors' Institute. Hart is an active speaker, and has made presentations at the Career in Sports Seminar, the NACDA Leadership Institute, the Texas High School Athletic Directors' Association and the Dallas Women's Club, to name a few.

Hart came to SMU after six years as Director of Athletics at Tennessee at Chattanooga. Hart served seven years at Oklahoma in various athletics administrative capacities, ending as the Senior Associate Athletics Director in 2006. Hart has also worked in athletics at North Carolina and East Carolina and has served with the U.S. Olympic Committee.

A graduate of UNC, Hart earned a bachelor's degree in physical education, health and sport science. Hart and his wife, Allison, also a graduate of North Carolina, are proud parents of Trevor, an SMU grad and Assistant Director of Marketing and Fan Engagement at Northwestern, and Caroline (Carly), an SMU junior.

A third-generation athletics administrator, Hart's father, Dave, served as Director of Athletics at Tennessee, Florida State and East Carolina, and his late grandfather, Dave Sr., served in a variety of roles within collegiate athletics including stints as a Coach, Athletics Director and Conference Commissioner.



KURT POTTKOTTER

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
 **KURTPOTTKOTTER**

Kurt Pottkotter has served as SMU's Deputy Director of Athletics since January 2017. In this role, Pottkotter oversees the day-to-day operations of the athletic department in support of 484 student-athletes across 17 sports. He is the primary Sport Administrator for football and is also responsible for the department's capital project planning and development.

For four years prior to his promotion to Deputy AD, Pottkotter led the department's fundraising efforts as Senior Associate AD for Development. His tenure overseeing all private philanthropy in support of Mustang Athletics, including capital projects, major gifts and annual funds, resulted in the three most successful fundraising years in SMU Athletics' history. During his time on the Hilltop, SMU has renovated and expanded Moody Coliseum and opened numerous new facilities including the SMU Indoor Performance Center and Armstrong Fieldhouse, Styslinger/Altec SMU Tennis Complex, Robson & Lindley Aquatics Center and Barr-McMillion Natatorium and the Payne Stewart SMU Golf Training Center at Trinity Forest Golf Club.

Before joining SMU Athletics, Pottkotter successfully led SMU's National Major Giving program, increasing major gift commitments from 10 leadership cities across the country. In addition to his major gift experience at SMU and with The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business, Pottkotter previously served SMU as Assistant Director of Development for the Cox School of Business and Assistant Director of Annual Giving. He was a basketball student-athlete at the University at Buffalo and Ohio Dominican College, receiving a degree in Political Science. Pottkotter earned his Master's degree in Sports Administration from Ohio University in 2000 and began his career in athletic development at Boston College.

Pottkotter and his wife, Amy, have three children, Joshua (20), a student at SMU, Audrey (17) and Katherine (13).



SMU ADMINISTRATION

SMU SENIOR STAFF



RICK HART

Director of Athletics



KURT POTTKOTTER

Deputy Director of Athletics



LAUREN ADEE

Senior Associate A.D./Executive Affairs



KRIS HARRIS

Associate A.D./Event Management & Facilities Operations



DAWN ROGERS

Deputy Director of Athletics/Internal Affairs



ALEX GORDON

Assistant A.D./Revenue Generation



HERMAN HUDSON

Assistant A.D./Public Relations



RYAN MCCABE

Associate A.D./Compliance



LISA RAWLINS

Associate A.D./Student-Athlete Success



KEVIN FARLOW

General Manager/Learfield AMPLIFY



JANET AKINOLA

Assistant A.D./Compliance



KIRSTEN BROWN

Assistant A.D./Development



HOLLY WEBER

Assistant A.D./Creative Services



BRAD SUTTON

Deputy Director of Athletics/Chief Comm. & Branding Officer



ROB EVANS

Special Assistant to the A.D.



DARIUS MAIZE

Chief of Staff



GRANT CHEN

Head Coach/Assistant A.D./Coach Representative



CHRISTIAN POTIER

Assistant A.D./Business & Finance



SHAWN GRISWOLD

Assistant A.D./Human Performance



TEIANA JONES

Assistant A.D./Senior Director, ADSA



MIKE MORTON

Associate A.D./Student Health & Well-Being



BRENDA SCOTT

Director of Inclusive Excellence



NATHAN VAJI

Assistant A.D./Event Operations



JOSH WHITTENBURG

Associate A.D./Development



SPENCER JONES

Assistant A.D./MustangVision



MIKAELA SULLIVAN

Associate A.D./Marketing & Fan Experience



MOODY COLISEUM



THE HOME OF SMU BASKETBALL

In December of 2013, a renovation of Moody Coliseum was completed to the arena that has been the home of SMU basketball since December of 1956. On Jan. 4, 2014, SMU men's and women's basketball debuted the state-of-the-art facility to a nationally-televised audience as the men hosted Connecticut and the women hosted South Florida.

The renovation and expansion of Moody Coliseum provided many new and improved features, including the Richard & Nancy Rogers Lobby at the main west entrance, expanded concourses with raised ceilings, club seats, loge boxes, private suites, group suites, new event space, offices, team locker rooms and meeting space.

"Moody Magic" has become a popular term regarding SMU's play at the Coliseum. From 1956 through 2013, SMU men's basketball was 510-261 (.661) in Moody Coliseum as the Mustangs captured nine conference titles.

From 1976 through 2013, women's basketball was 332-197 (.628) with five combined conference regular season and tournament titles.

HISTORY

When Moody Coliseum opened in 1956, it was one of the largest structures of its kind. It has been home to exciting athletic events, academic ceremonies, concerts and performances - an SMU asset shared with the Dallas community.

SMU men's basketball moved into Moody in time for the 1956-57 season, filling the arena with fans after the team's first and only NCAA Final Four appearance at the 1956 tournament.

In the decade that followed Moody's opening, SMU, led by legendary coach E.O. "Doc" Hayes, won six Southwest Conference championships and made six NCAA Tournament appearances. In the 1984-85 season, SMU again rose to national prominence, staying in the Associated Press Top Ten for most of the season and earning a spot in the NCAA tournament.

Women's basketball came to Moody Coliseum in 1976. The Lady Mustangs won the Western Athletic Conference title there in 1999 and the Conference USA title in 2008. Women's basketball clinched the C-USA championship again on March 3, 2012, in the final event in Moody Coliseum before renovation began. Women's volleyball began in Moody in 1996. In 2010, Mustang volleyball set a school record with 25 wins, including an 11-2 mark at home in Moody Coliseum. Legend has it that "Moody Magic" contributes to consistent wins at home for Mustang teams.

Each May and December the coliseum is transformed to host SMU Commencement as well as graduation ceremonies for thousands of area high school students. SMU Commencement speakers have included former First Lady and SMU graduate Laura Bush, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, journalists Jim Lehrer and Bill Moyers and Oscar-winning actress and SMU graduate Kathy Bates. Four U.S. presidents have spoken at Moody Coliseum: Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush. Poet T.S. Eliot also spoke to audiences there. Other events such as installation of United Methodist Church bishops and Highland Park United Methodist Church Easter services have taken place at Moody.

Moody Coliseum also has been the venue for entertainers such as the Kingston Trio, the Rolling Stones, John Denver, Three Dog Night, the Grateful Dead, Queen, U2 and Pearl Jam.

Dallas' first professional basketball team, the Chaparrals, played most of its home games at Moody from 1967-73 before the team moved to San Antonio and was renamed the Spurs. From 1971 to 1979, Moody hosted one of the biggest tennis championships of the year, the World Championship Tennis Finals, a season-ending eight-player tournament to decide the champion of the men's professional tennis circuit. All-time greats such as Arthur Ashe, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Rod Laver dueled before packed houses at Moody and national television audiences. The tournament was moved to Reunion Arena in 1980, but Moody continued to host exhibitions between stars such as Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras into the 1990s. The Virginia Slims of Dallas Tennis Championships and the Rolex Intercollegiate Indoor Tennis Tournament also were held at Moody Coliseum.

Younger athletes also have polished their skills there. Cheerleading, basketball and volleyball camps, Boy Scout conferences and fundraising dance marathons have taken place at Moody Coliseum through the years.

CRUM BASKETBALL CENTER



The SMU Crum Basketball Center is a dedicated, state-of-the-art space where the SMU men's and women's basketball programs practice and train. The SMU Crum Basketball Center includes separate full-size practice courts for each program, locker rooms and lounges, training and rehabilitation areas, coaches' offices, meeting areas and film editing rooms. The facility opened on Feb. 21, 2008.

SMU

ABOUT THE CENTER

- \$13-million, 43,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art practice facility
- Home for men's and women's intercollegiate basketball programs
- Separate full-size practice court for each program with multiple goals
- Players' locker rooms and lounges, a fully-equipped training and rehabilitation room with in-ground hydrotherapy pools, a state-of-the-art strength and conditioning room, an on-site laundry facility, coaches' offices and conference facilities for both programs, coaches' locker rooms and film editing rooms
- Direct connection to Moody Coliseum event level via tunnel

ADVANTAGES OF THE NEW CENTER

- State-of-the-art space for basketball programs to practice and train
- Maximum availability for student-athletes and coaches
- No schedule conflicts with summer camps
- Practice scheduling flexibility greatly reduces class scheduling conflicts
- New Moody Coliseum playing surface
- Strengthens competitive recruiting against conference and regional peers with basketball practice facilities
- Locker room renovated in 2018

