The University of Texas at Dallas
Richardson, TX

The University of Texas at Dallas is ranked No. 1 in the United States among universities founded less than 50 years ago, according to the Young University Rankings report from Times Higher Education. This cutting-edge university is home to Naveen Jindal School of Management, which houses an MBA program ranked No. 12 among U.S. public university programs and No. 29 overall, according to Best Business Schools 2016, Bloomberg Businessweek. That same program is ranked No. 16 (tied) among public university programs and No. 38 (tied) overall, by U.S. News & World Report (2018).

While the university was established in the middle of a cotton field in 1969 with only engineering graduate students, it now has expanded to eight schools with a total enrollment of more than 26,700 in fall 2017. UT Dallas’ infrastructure continues to expand. The 68,000-square-foot Student Services Building addition, opened last year, includes an auditorium, food and retail spots, offices and study space. The just-completed Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center, near the Jindal School, is site of several Project Management Symposium events this year. Two apartment-style residential complexes are scheduled for completion later this year and construction continues on a new 200,000-square-foot Engineering Building.

The recently launched Blackstone LaunchPad program at UT Dallas gives campus community members a new resource and facility to help them pursue their entrepreneurial dreams. Its 5,000 square-foot space is funded with a Blackstone Charitable Foundation donation of $1 million, matched dollar for dollar by UT Dallas. The other two campuses in the state to receive funding from Blackstone are UT Austin and Texas A & M. These three sites will allow 130,000 student entrepreneurs in the state to explore entrepreneurship. Over the next three years, the expansion is expected to generate almost 4,000 new ventures and 9,000 new jobs in the Lone Star State.
The Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center won’t have its grand opening until September 2017, but the 30,000 square-foot building will welcome the 11th Annual UT Dallas Project Management Symposium as one of its first official gatherings. In 2016, groundbreaking was held for the alumni center, named for Nancy Gundy Davidson BS’80 and Charles “Chuck” Davidson MS’80, who made a gift of $15 million to support its construction. Both are Naveen Jindal School of Management alumni.

Rick Archer, the architect with Overland Partners in San Antonio who designed the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center, first consulted an astrophysicist to understand the characteristics of comets (the university mascot is a Comet). One of the center’s features — a scrim, which is a screen of perforated aluminum mesh covering three sides of the building — will catch sunlight and create the illusion of comets moving through the cosmos.

About 33,000 square-feet of outdoor space envelopes the new alumni center. An expansive patio surrounds the building. Inside, on the first floor of the center, is a ballroom and a spacious reception area that connects to outdoor spaces. Other space at the new center includes executive meeting rooms and staff offices.