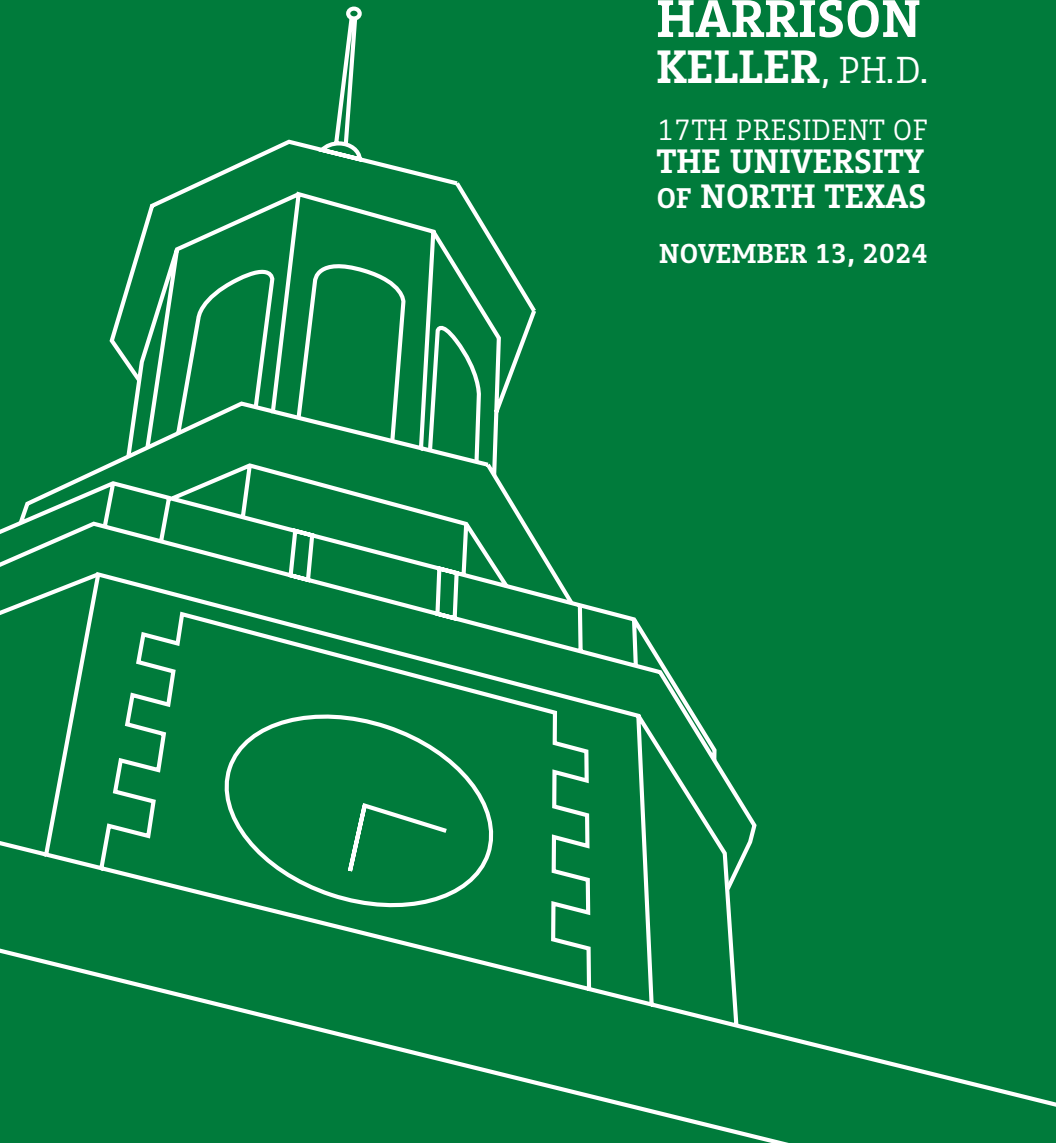




INVESTITURE OF  
**HARRISON  
KELLER**, PH.D.

17TH PRESIDENT OF  
**THE UNIVERSITY  
OF NORTH TEXAS**

NOVEMBER 13, 2024





The University of North Texas System Board  
of Regents and Chancellor Michael R. Williams, M.D., M.B.A.,  
are proud to celebrate the ceremonial investiture of  
Harrison Keller, Ph.D., as the 17th president of the  
University of North Texas.

3:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, November 13, 2024

University of North Texas  
Murchison Performing Arts Center  
Margot and Bill Winspear Performance Hall

*The investiture is the ceremony in which the university president is formally "invested" in the official position and typically takes place during the first year of a new leader's term. The use of the word originated in the 14th century, and it comes from the Latin verb "investire," which means to clothe in, cover, or surround.*

## Letter from Chancellor Michael R. Williams, M.D., M.B.A.



Today, November 13, 2024, is a historic day as the University of North Texas community ceremonially bestows the powers of the presidency upon Dr. Harrison Keller.

This ceremony marks the beginning of a promising new era in UNT's 134-year history. A transformational and accomplished leader, President Keller will define an innovative path for how UNT will serve the North Texas region and the great state of Texas now and in the coming years.

With a focus on broadening student success and access while increasing funding for meaningful research, President Keller will expand UNT's reach and impact.

Our future is bright, and by working together with endless curiosity and passion, we will together make a tremendous difference for the students, their families, and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael R. Williams, M.D., M.B.A.  
UNT System Chancellor



## Letter from President Harrison Keller, Ph.D.



Thank you for joining us today. I am honored to be invested as the 17th president of the University of North Texas.

As president, I am committed to the success of every UNT student, from our earliest engagement with them, throughout their time here, and into their careers. UNT has a unique opportunity — and a special responsibility — to provide leadership in the education of students who are well-prepared as the leaders, entrepreneurs, scholars, educators, and creative artists we need to thrive and compete into the future.

UNT is also a great public research university, one of only about 100 American public universities organized to advance new knowledge and innovations at scale. Together, we are committed to pursue research, discoveries, and creative contributions for the benefit of our region, state, nation, and world.

I am honored to serve as president of this great university. I look forward to what we will achieve together and the impact the University of North Texas will have for Texas and beyond.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harrison Keller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Harrison Keller, Ph.D.  
UNT President



## Order of Events

### PRELUDE MUSIC

Choral No. 1 in E major, FWV 38 (1890) by César Franck (1822-1890)  
Allegro deciso from *Évocation*, Op. 37 (1941) by Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)  
March in D major, Op. 56, No. 3 (1889) by Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)  
Selections performed by Michael Soto ('21 M.M.), doctoral student  
in musical arts — organ performance

### PROCESSIONAL

*Corridor Fanfare* (2024) by Rob Halpner ('22, b. 1999)  
*Specially composed piece for President Keller's investiture*  
Conducted by Andrew Trachsel ('05 M.M., '07 D.M.A.),  
professor of wind studies

UNT Air Force ROTC Honor Guard, led by Cadet 4th Class Brynn Small  
Gonfalons representing each of UNT's Colleges and School  
Faculty Representatives  
Student Government Association and Graduate Student Council Delegates  
Faculty and Staff Senate Delegates  
Academic Leadership  
President's Cabinet  
UNT System Chancellor  
UNT System Regents  
UNT President

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

*The Star-Spangled Banner* (1814) by Francis Scott Key (1779-1843)  
Performed by Rebecca Mugnolo, graduate student in voice, and  
Chiao-Ju Hung, doctoral student in musical arts — collaborative piano

### WELCOME

Albert Bimper, executive dean of the College of Liberal Arts and  
Social Sciences and member of the President's Cabinet

### PRESENTATION OF REGALIA

Student Government Association President Alfred Dozier IV  
Graduate Student Council President Bala Sankar Kilaru  
Staff Senate Chair-Elect Alex Ames  
Faculty Senate Chair Coby Condrey

### PRESENTATION OF THE CHAIN OF OFFICE AND UNT SYSTEM CHARGE

Chancellor Michael R. Williams, M.D., M.B.A.

### PRESENTATION OF THE MACE

UNT System Board of Regents Chair Laura Wright ('82, '82 M.S.)

### FEATURED PERFORMANCE

*Fanfare for an Uncommon Man* (2023) by Richard DeRosa (b. 1955),  
professor of jazz composition and arranging  
Performed by the One O'Clock Lab Band directed by  
Alan Baylock ('94 M.M.), associate professor of jazz studies

### INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT KELLER

Dean Bimper

### INAUGURAL STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

President Harrison Keller, Ph.D.

### CLOSING REMARKS

Dean Bimper

### ALMA MATER

*Glory to the Green and White* (1922)  
by Julia Smith (graduated 1924, 1905-1989) and  
Charles Langford (attended 1920-23, 1902-1931)  
Performed by Rebecca Mugnolo, graduate student in voice, and  
Chiao-Ju Hung, doctoral student in musical arts — collaborative piano

### RECESSIONAL

*Quarter Master* (2012) by Michael League (attended '02-'06, b. 1984)  
and arranged by Brian Lawrence (b. 1994), doctoral student  
in musical arts — jazz studies  
Performed by the One O'Clock Lab Band directed by  
Alan Baylock ('94 M.M.), associate professor of jazz studies

*Reception to follow in the Horace and Euline Brock Grand Lobby*

## Harrison Keller, Ph.D.

*17th president of the University of North Texas, the flagship of the UNT System and the fourth-largest university in Texas*



**Harrison Keller became the 17th president of the University of North Texas in August 2024, bringing with him a deep commitment to advancing student success and elevating UNT's rich tradition of academic and research excellence.**

Known as an innovator and leader with more than 25 years of experience, President Keller brought a wealth of expertise in state educational budget and policy, university administration, fundraising, and building coalitions among higher education institutions, school districts, and policymakers to expand opportunities through education.

Prior to his arrival at UNT, Dr. Keller served as Commissioner of Higher Education and chief executive officer for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, providing statewide leadership and coordination of higher education budget and policy for the world's eighth largest economy. Under his visionary leadership, the Coordinating Board advanced policy and programs to improve college readiness and student success — especially for low-income and first-generation college students.

At the Coordinating Board, Dr. Keller worked with higher education leaders, employers, and policymakers to lead the development of the state's current strategic plan for higher education, *Building a Talent Strong Texas*. With adoption of this plan in 2022, Texas became the first state to condition its goals for educational attainment on the value of those credentials in the state economy.

Other achievements during Dr. Keller's tenure as commissioner included working with state policymakers to improve state support for financial aid, transfer, and workforce education. In partnership with policymakers and higher education leaders, Dr. Keller led the design and implementation of a new outcomes-based community college finance system to advance state higher education goals and address workforce needs. By the end of Dr. Keller's service as commissioner, the state of Texas led the nation in increased support for higher education and university research.

Prior to serving as commissioner, Dr. Keller held multiple leadership roles at the University of Texas at Austin, serving as Deputy to the President for Strategy and Policy, Vice Provost for Higher Education Policy and Research, and Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. At UT Austin, he developed multiple large-scale initiatives to support students' transitions from high school to college, including OnRamps, which provides college-level courses to tens of thousands of students across the state each year.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Keller was a legislative aide in the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives, director of research for the Texas House, and senior education advisor for the Speaker of the Texas House. He has taught at UT Austin, Georgetown University, and St. Edward's University.

A sixth-generation Texan, Dr. Keller earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master's and Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University. From 2005 to 2015, he served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He and his wife, Gena Nivens Keller, have three children.



## Corridor Fanfare

Commissioned world premiere for President Keller's investiture



**Rob Halpner ('22) was commissioned to create the musical piece, *Corridor Fanfare*, specially for President Keller's investiture.**

Halpner is a composer, arranger, and sound designer who has had the pleasure of composing and arranging concert and pageantry music at the collegiate, high school, and independent levels.

Rob earned his bachelor's degree in music composition from the University of North Texas, where he studied composition in the studio of Sungji Hong and classical piano in the studio of Gustavo Romero. During his time at UNT, Rob was a member of several performing ensembles and bands, the Green Brigade Marching Band for which he continues to write and arrange music, the UNT Concert Band, the Eight O'Clock Lab Band, and the Eight O'Clock Steel Band. Now living in Indianapolis, Indiana, Rob is pursuing his master's degree in music education at Butler University.

During President Keller's investiture ceremony, the instrumentation featured brass, percussion, and the Ardoin-Voertman Concert Organ.

The performance was conducted by Andrew Trachsel ('05 M.M., '07 D.M.A.), professor of wind studies.

### Trumpets

**Brian Walker**, associate professor of trumpet

**Robert Parton**, professor and chair of jazz studies

**McKenna Hill**, doctoral student in musical arts — trumpet performance

**David Hall**, doctoral student in musical arts — trumpet performance

### Horns

**Stacie Mickens**, professor of horn

**Katie McBain**, senior lecturer in horn

**Jasmine Perry-Grice**, graduate student in horn performance

**Becca Geitzenauer**, graduate student in horn performance

### Trombones

**Natalie Mannix**, professor of trombone

**Timothy M. Owner** ('23 D.M.A.), adjunct instructor of trombone

**Ben Hahn**, doctoral student in musical arts — trombone performance

**Matt Fowler**, doctoral student in musical arts — trombone performance

### Tuba

**Blake Lile**, doctoral student in musical arts — tuba performance

### Percussion

**Michael Crawford**, lecturer in music education

**Desmond Bigler**, undergraduate in music education

**Brayden Haslam**, undergraduate in music performance

**Sebastian Havner**, undergraduate in music

### Organ

**Michael Soto** ('21 M.M.), doctoral student in musical arts — organ performance with a concentration in harpsichord

## The One O’Clock Lab Band

The One O’Clock Lab Band is the premier performing ensemble of the UNT College of Music Jazz Studies program. With seven Grammy Award nominations (one or more per decade since the 1970s) from a library of more than 80 critically acclaimed recordings to date, the One O’Clock is noted for its exceptional individual musicianship and tight ensemble performance. Concerts feature the wealth of compositions and arrangements from the UNT Jazz Library, which contains critical big band repertoire and thousands of musical works written by current and former UNT students and faculty members. In addition, every performance now showcases music composed or arranged by both prominent and up-and-coming women musicians.

The band, which has toured internationally and been featured at numerous major jazz festivals, also has been the featured headliner at music conferences, concerts hosted by fine arts series, and numerous colleges and high schools across the nation and abroad.

The One O’Clock Lab Band continues to inspire new generations of musicians through unforgettable performances, stellar studio recordings, and a strong social media presence. The band honors the past while forging the future.

### Saxophones

**Natalie Wagner**, master’s student in jazz studies  
**Cristian Mojica**, undergraduate in jazz studies  
**Jonathan Arcangel**, undergraduate in jazz studies  
**Brian Lawrence**, doctoral student in musical arts — jazz studies  
**Aidan Sears**, undergraduate in jazz studies

### Trumpets

**Richie Thaller**, undergraduate in jazz studies  
**Tyler Jones**, undergraduate in jazz studies  
**Johnny Orellana**, undergraduate in jazz studies  
**Alex Billingsley**, undergraduate in jazz studies  
**Nathan Fisher**, master’s student in jazz studies

### Trombones

**Nick Mailes** ('23), master’s student in jazz studies  
**Colin Manocchio**, undergraduate in jazz studies  
**Alex Parker**, undergraduate in jazz studies  
**Jeremy Kvale**, undergraduate in engineering and physics  
**Joseph Fremed**, undergraduate in music performance

### Rhythm Section

**Hannah Goodwin** (voice), master’s student in jazz studies  
**Ysaura Merino** (violin), undergraduate in jazz studies  
**Wes Case** (guitar), master’s student in jazz studies  
**Isaiah Nygard** (piano), undergraduate in jazz studies and mechanical and energy engineering  
**Kai Wagner** (bass), master’s student in jazz studies  
**Parker Sibley** (drum set), master’s student in jazz studies





## About UNT

Established in 1890, the University of North Texas is a place where students transform their lives through education and opportunity. Today, more than 46,000 students from across the state, nation, and world are fulfilling their dreams of an excellent educational experience. They choose from 240 academic programs — many nationally and internationally recognized — to pursue their goals of becoming teachers, artists, engineers, and everything in between. At UNT, students and their success are the utmost priority.

Ranked a Tier One research university by the Carnegie Classification and designated a Hispanic- and Minority-Serving Institution, UNT has a long legacy of excellence in education, music, the arts, business, and social sciences with growing strengths in science and engineering. Students and faculty earn top awards for their academic, research, and civic achievements. *The Princeton Review* continually names UNT as a Best in the Southwest school and *Forbes* has listed UNT as one of America's Top Colleges for 17 consecutive years.

UNT, the flagship of the UNT System, is one of the nation's largest public research universities and Dallas-Fort Worth's most dynamic university. UNT graduates and faculty fuel the intellectual and economic vitality of one of the most innovative, fastest-growing regions in the United States.

Last year, students earned nearly 13,000 degrees and left UNT with the knowledge and skills to succeed in work and in life. They have joined our network of 480,000 alumni to become the leaders, doers, and thinkers who sustain the workforce and drive progress and innovation. UNT's ultimate mission is to help its students, region, state, and nation excel.





## University Symbols

### UNT Seal

At the top of the UNT seal is the lamp of learning, burning with an eternal flame representing academic achievement and excellence. The laurel wreath represents honor, and the beveled Lone Star in the center symbolizes the great state of Texas.



### UNT Regalia

Regalia traditions are beloved and timeless, and they span decades. Donning regalia reflects the dedication each person has shown to their field and the love they have for their alma mater. The custom of recognizing the accomplishments of scholars through distinctive dress, color, and ceremony began in the Middle Ages and has been adopted by various academic institutions throughout the world. American academic regalia developed from the English traditions originated at the University of Cambridge and Oxford and has been in continuous use since Colonial times.



The regalia worn by the deans and faculty members reflects distinguishing customs from the universities from which they earned their degrees. Regalia worn by members of the President's Cabinet, the president, UNT System regents and the chancellor represent UNT. Specifically, the UNT president's regalia features official UNT green chrospun fabric with white piping and four black chevrons on the sleeves paired with the satin-lined green and white hood and the traditional black velvet six-pointed tam.

### UNT Chain of Office

The Chain of Office is a symbol of the office that is worn by the president on academic and ceremonial occasions, representing the authority and trust the school's governing body has placed in each leader. The medallion is a replica of the official UNT seal. The silver links are each engraved with the name and dates of office of current and former UNT presidents.



### UNT Mace

Originally, the mace was a weapon to be used in battle dating back to the Middle Ages, thus accounting for the very large head that originally graced the top of the piece. When soldiers went to war for the monarch, they were armed with swords, while the bishops who accompanied them carried maces with the royal coat of arms engraved at the bottom of the shaft. Gradually, however, the mace became a symbol of the monarch's authority instead of being used as an actual weapon.

On the academic side, the mace as a "scepter-staff" represents the worthiness of the rector, or president, and the university itself. Inasmuch as the mace was a weapon, it helped to stress the authority of the rector and the university.

The University of North Texas Mace was designed by Professor Emeritus Harlan Butt, who taught from 1976 to 2017 in the College of Visual Arts and Design. It was made by four of his graduate students.

The head of the mace contains a silver-plated bronze medallion replica of the official seal of the university. Atop the mace is a silver eagle, UNT's mascot. The rounded foot of the mace, composed of green-enameled silver and copper, is inset with the star representing the state of Texas.



## About the UNT System

The University of North Texas System is the only university system based exclusively in the robust North Texas region. The UNT System includes three institutions — the University of North Texas, the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, and the University of North Texas at Dallas — serving students at five campuses spanning the entire North Texas region. The UNT System is led by Chancellor Michael R. Williams, M.D., M.B.A., and governed by a Board of Regents.

Across its campuses, the UNT System offers a wide range of degree programs and academic initiatives in fields such as business, engineering, teaching, medicine, and law. The UNT System inspires courageous discovery that empowers its students, campuses, and communities to pursue a brighter vision for the future while embracing its role in creating opportunities through education and developing the workforce of tomorrow.

## UNT System Board of Regents

The UNT System Board of Regents, the governing body for the University of North Texas System, comprises nine distinguished and dedicated Texans appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Texas Senate. The Governor also appoints a non-voting Student Regent.

Throughout its history, the Board of Regents has been composed of ardent advocates for excellence in quality of education, research, service, and leadership, supporting institutional and regional growth and success.

**Laura Wright** ('82, '82 M.S.)  
Chair

**Carlos Munguia** ('79)  
Vice Chair

**Cathy Bryce** ('91 Ed.D.)

**Melisa Denis**

**Daniel Feehan**

**Ashok (A.K.) Mago**

**Lindy Rydman** ('72)

**John Scott Jr.**

**Terri West** ('82)

**Ethan Gillis**  
Student Regent, UNT senior majoring in advertising and brand strategy

## President's Cabinet

Led by President Harrison Keller, Ph.D., the President's Cabinet is a deliberative body of leadership representatives from across the university community. The Cabinet is charged with working collaboratively with President Keller to identify and outline strategies for university projects and initiatives to support student success and advance the university.

### **Marjorie Smith Barrett**

Deputy to the President

### **Albert Bimper**

Executive Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

### **Brandon Buzbee**

Vice President for University Advancement

### **Coby Condrey**

Chair, Faculty Senate

### **Alfred Dozier IV**

President, Student Government Association

### **Adam Fein**

Vice President for Digital Strategy and Innovation and Chief Digital Officer

### **James Garrison**

Chief Information Officer

### **Clayton Gibson**

Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer

### **Shannon Goodman**

Vice President for Enrollment

### **Bala Sankar Kilaru**

President, Graduate Student Council

### **Brittany Landau**

Chair, Staff Senate

### **Katy McDaniel**

Deputy Vice Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer

### **Michael McPherson**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

### **Jared Mosley**

Vice President and Director of Athletics

### **Pamela Padilla**

Vice President for Research and Innovation

### **Kelley Reese**

Interim Vice President for University Brand Strategy and Communications

### **Clay Simmons**

Vice President and Chief Integrity Officer

### **Marilyn Wiley**

Dean, G. Brint Ryan College of Business

### **Elizabeth With**

Senior Vice President for Student Affairs



## Academic Leadership

With 240 high-quality degree programs in the university's colleges and schools, UNT fosters an environment of excellence by combining innovative programs and a strong pool of faculty and staff mentors dedicated to challenging and helping our students thrive.

### **Albert Bimper**

Executive Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

### **Diane Bruxvoort**

Vice Provost, University Libraries

### **Nicole Dash**

Dean, College of Health and Public Service

### **Glênisson de Oliveira**

Dean, Honors College and  
Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science

### **Jana Hawley**

Dean, College of Merchandising, Hospitality, and Tourism

### **Karen Hutzell**

Dean, College of Visual Arts and Design

### **Kinshuk**

Dean, College of Information

### **Paul Krueger**

Dean, College of Engineering

### **James Mueller**

Interim Dean, Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism

### **Audhesh Paswan**

Vice Provost of UNT at Frisco and  
Dean, College of Applied and Collaborative Studies

### **Victor Prybutok**

Vice Provost for Graduate Education and  
Dean, Toulouse Graduate School

### **John Quintanilla**

Dean, College of Science

### **John Richmond**

Dean, College of Music

### **Amy Shenberger**

Interim Vice Provost, International Affairs

### **Ruthanne Thompson**

Interim Dean, College of Education

### **Marilyn Wiley**

Dean, G. Brint Ryan College of Business

## Alma Mater

### Glory to the Green and White

Singing glory to the green,  
Singing glory to the white,  
For we know our university  
Is striving for the right.  
Down the corridor of years  
We'll forget the joys and tears,  
But North Texas, North Texas, we love!



Thank you for joining us for the Investiture of President Harrison Keller, Ph.D. This celebration is a significant milestone in the University of North Texas' 134-year history and ceremonially marks the beginning of Dr. Keller's presidency.

### About the Composers

Our alma mater, *Glory to the Green and White*, was written by two students and adopted in 1922. The words were written by Charles Langford (1902-1931), who attended from 1920 to 1923 and was a baseball and football star who became a yell leader after he was sidelined by an injury. The music was composed by Julia Smith (1905-1989), who earned her degree from the college in 1924 and played saxophone in the band. Known for her musical abilities, she gained national fame as a composer and concert pianist.

