

Graduation 2014

Arlington school district



Arlington High School
Valedictorian Rachael Newsum, left, and salutatorian Rebekah Tate



Bowie High School
Valedictorian Susana Martinez, left, and salutatorian Colin Ly



Lamar High School
Valedictorian Lucy Lin, left, and salutatorian Ethan Starkweather



Martin High School
Valedictorian Shariq Haseen, left, and salutatorian Jake Leland



Sam Houston High School
Valedictorian Minh-Tam Thai, left, and salutatorian Jacqueline Bonilla



Seguin High School
Valedictorian Denise Nguyen, left, and salutatorian Orion Koepke

Birdville school district



Birdville High School
Valedictorian Matthew Glenn Rosenberger, left, and salutatorian Hannah Marie Larson



Haltom High School
Valedictorian Marissa Clark, left, and salutatorian Gonzalo Munoz



Richland High School
Valedictorian Brandon Minh Le, left, and salutatorian Evan Gregory Biggers

Carroll school district



Carroll Senior High School
Valedictorian Kenneth John Martin, left, and salutatorian Ashesh Madhukar Trivedi

Castleberry school district



Castleberry High School
Valedictorian James E. Hix, left, and salutatorian Sheree L. Clendening

Crowley school district



Crowley High School
Valedictorian Benjamin Taylor, left, and salutatorian Cheyenne Elliott



North Crowley High School
Valedictorian Kelcee Everette, left, and salutatorian Scott Johnson

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw school district



Boswell High School
Valedictorian Alejandro Martinez, left, and salutatorian Ashley Quidmod



Saginaw High School
Valedictorian Yesenia Barrios, left, and salutatorian James Gatewood

Everman school district

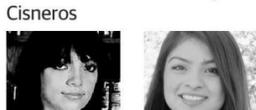


Everman High School
Valedictorian Alyssa Jene' Wilder, left, and salutatorian Eriberto Estrada

Fort Worth school district



Arlington Heights High School
Valedictorian Giselle Miller, left, and salutatorian Graysen Cisneros



Carter-Riverside High School
Valedictorian Ruby Aguayo, left, and salutatorian Lizbeth G. Corral



Diamond Hill-Jarvis High School
Valedictorian Monica Hinojosa, left, and salutatorian Gillermo Gomez



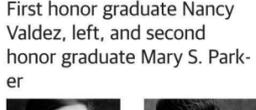
Dunbar High School
Valedictorian Adhali Frayre Escalante, left, and salutatorian Jaesha Mariah Owens



Eastern Hills High School
Valedictorian Glenda L. Maradiaga, left, and salutatorian Azure L. Bradger



New Lives School
First honor graduate Nancy Valdez, left, and second honor graduate Mary S. Parker



North Side High School
Valedictorian Maria G. Ortiz, left, and salutatorian Jorge E. Arredondo Meza



Paschal High School
Valedictorian Peter Dat Vo, left, and salutatorian John Heo



Polytechnic High School
Valedictorian Brian Hernandez, left, and salutatorian Biak D. Cer



Southwest High School
Valedictorian Adrian K. Klemm, left, and salutatorian Jeffrey B. Weller



South Hills High School
Valedictorian Alison P. Kubala, left, and salutatorian Savannah L. Rogers



Success High School
First honor graduate Maria A. Delgado, left, and second honor graduate Carol Bawi Hien Lyan



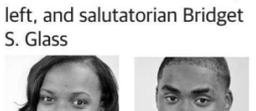
Texas Academy of Biomedical Sciences
Valedictorian Zachary Alan Cranford, left, and salutatorian Da'jah Jenell Sieling



Trimble Tech High School
Valedictorian Teagan I. Albin, left, and salutatorian Elizabeth T. Torres



Western Hills High School
Valedictorian Amina I. Gibic, left, and salutatorian Bridget S. Glass

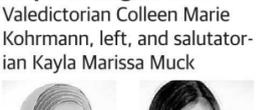


Wyatt High School
Valedictorian Anastasia D. Turner, left, and salutatorian Ricky G. Musgrove

Grapevine-Colleyville school district



Grapevine High School
Valedictorian Colleen Marie Kohrmann, left, and salutatorian Kayla Marissa Muck



Colleyville Heritage High School
Valedictorian Sajil Patel, left, and salutatorian Jiani Hou

H-E-B school district



Eules Trinity High School
Valedictorian Mavis Lauren Carag Francia, left, and salutatorian Andre Chuong



Hurst L.D. Bell High School
Valedictorian Kevin Wang, left, and salutatorian Amy Tuyet Mai Dang

Keller school district



Central High School
Valedictorian Spencer Andrew Robinson, left, and salutatorian Joyce Chung Lee



Fossil Ridge High School
Valedictorian Stephanie Anh Nhung Tran, left, and salutatorian Alexis Diano Sikorski



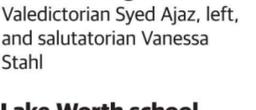
Keller High School
Valedictorian Angela Kim Dang, left, and salutatorian Joanne Jeongwon Shin



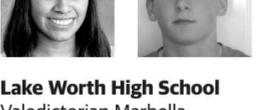
Timber Creek High School
Valedictorian Jenny Lee Phillips, left, and salutatorian Ufuoma Jite Oviemhada



Kennedale High School
Valedictorian Syed Ajaz, left, and salutatorian Vanessa Stahl



Lake Worth High School
Valedictorian Marbella Maldonado, left, and salutatorian Harrison Emshoff



Mansfield High School
Valedictorian Kelyn M'Kinley Wardlaw, left, and salutatorian Alexandria Lynn Cramer



Summit High School
Valedictorian Madeline Kay Hanes, left, and salutatorian Heather Lien Loh



Timberview High School
Valedictorian Justice Njoku, left, and salutatorian Megan Meyer



Legacy High School
Valedictorian Philip Mack Glover, left, and salutatorian Thaddeus Edward Brown IV



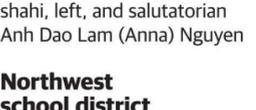
Lake Ridge High School
Valedictorian Ashton Nicole Megli, left, and salutatorian Jonathan Wing-Him Li



Frontier High School
Valedictorian Taura Khorramshahi, left, and salutatorian Anh Dao Lam (Anna) Nguyen



Northwest High School
Valedictorian Parker Davis Kneis, left, and salutatorian Macie Lynne Grippin



James M. Steele Accelerated High School
Valedictorian Rachel Kristine Schnitzer, left, and salutatorian Ahnaf Muttaqui Alam



Westlake Academy
Valedictorian Victoria Garabedian, left, and salutatorian Morgan Braun

Private schools



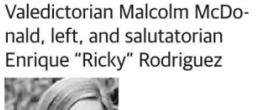
All Saints' Episcopal School, Fort Worth
Valedictorian Benjamin Scott Taylor, left, and salutatorian Cynthia Lynn Kelly



Covenant Christian Academy, Colleyville
Valedictorian Mason Christopher Rumuly, left, and salutatorian Mary G. Girgis



Fort Worth Country Day School
Valedictorian Malcolm McDonald, left, and salutatorian Enrique "Ricky" Rodriguez



Grace Preparatory Academy, Arlington
Valedictorian Miranda Ruth Ziesman, left, and salutatorian Olivia Marie Ostrowski (not pictured)



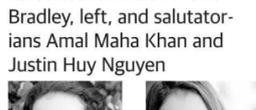
Nolan Catholic High School, Fort Worth
Valedictorian Andrea Nguyen, left, and salutatorian Gabrielle Nguyen



Pantego Christian Academy, Pantego
Valedictorian Amber V. Carrillo, left, and salutatorian Andrea B. Caple



The Oakridge School, Arlington
Valedictorian Jillian Marie Bradley, left, and salutatorians Amal Maha Khan and Justin Huy Nguyen



Southwest Christian School, Fort Worth
Valedictorian Christine Robb, left, and salutatorian Kaitlyn Callaghan



Trinity Valley School, Fort Worth
Valedictorians Daniel Gelvez, Parth Vijay Kalaria and Garrison Edward Roe

Tarrant & Texas

BRIT

Continued from 1B

ties.

But Sohmer, who is retiring from his post as BRIT's president and director July 31, had a sense that there was plenty of potential.

"I didn't know anything about Fort Worth," Sohmer said. "I didn't know who the Besses were, but I got a sense that something was going on. I didn't have a clue what it would become."

Twenty years later, BRIT has grown exponentially. With an annual budget of \$3.2 million, a staff of 30 and a 70,000-square-foot LEED platinum-rated building adjacent to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, BRIT now has a much larger profile, not only in Fort Worth, but also around the world.

Harry Bartel, chairman of BRIT's board, praised Sohmer's role in spearheading BRIT's growth and getting financial support for the privately funded nonprofit organization.

"His invaluable accomplishments have put the institute on solid financial ground for many years to come," Bartel said in a statement. "To recognize Sy's contributions to BRIT, the Board will name him director emeritus and will present him with the 2015 International Award of Excellence in Conservation."

Under Sohmer, BRIT has the 11th-largest herbarium in the United States, including more than 1.1 million specimens and over 150,000 titles in its library. Its endowment has grown from zero to nearly \$60 million.

Conservation and sustainability

BRIT was first incorporated in 1987 to house plant specimens owned by Southern Methodist University after the school decided it didn't want to maintain its herbarium. In 1989, the collection was moved to the renovated warehouse in downtown

Fort Worth.

Over the years, BRIT has also launched a respected scientific journal and has supported research in botanically diverse locales such as Madagascar, Peru and New Guinea.

Even with that growth, it was crucial to get a new building for BRIT.

"This is where we needed to be, adjacent to the Botanical Garden," Sohmer said.

The building includes many conservation features including captured storm-water runoff, in-house irrigation, retaining ponds, wetlands, soil filtering, hardy native species and a "living roof" of plants.

'I'm not through yet'

Sohmer said his wife, Sarah, urged him to retire after the new building opened in 2011 but he stuck around to raise more money for BRIT's endowment. He now feels it is time to step aside and let others run the place.

"We've got a great team in place to the point that I've become superfluous," Sohmer said.

Sohmer, who declined to give his age, remains active in a number of organizations, including the Society for Economic Botany, a fellow of the Linnaean Society of London, a research associate at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and an adjunct professor at TCU.

But he doesn't plan on sticking around Fort Worth after his retirement. Sohmer hopes to resume his research on systemic botany, which studies how plant organisms relate to one another.

After Sohmer's retirement, Patricia Harrison, BRIT's vice president and director of education, will serve as interim director during the search for Sohmer's replacement.

"I'm not through yet," Sohmer said.

The report includes material from the Star-Telegram archives.

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