

# Making Headlines

News stories featuring the Neeley School of Business at TCU

## THE MEMORIAL BUZZ

April 2010

### Buzz Kids

#### A magical entrepreneurial spirit

by Carter Blackburn, age 18

My interest in magic began in middle school. On the first day of 6th grade, I witnessed my science teacher make a red handkerchief vanish. Since then, I have been determined to perfect the art of magic and live out my dream of sharing my passion for magic everywhere I go.

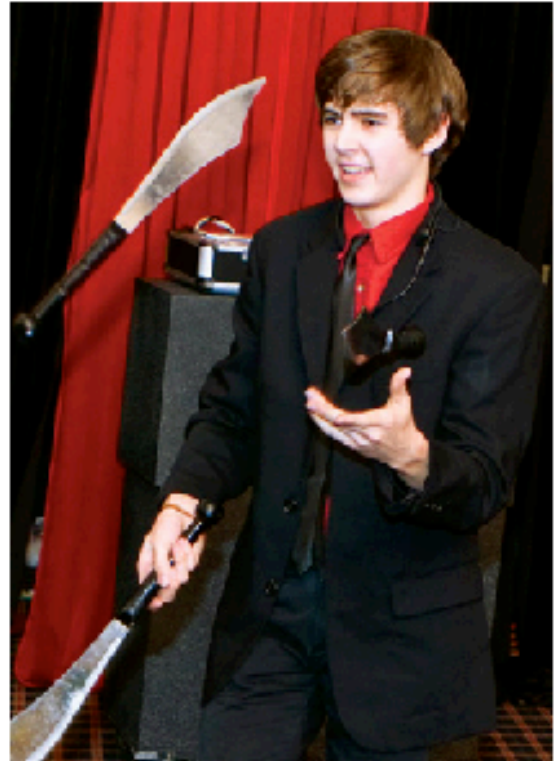
After training with an accomplished illusionist for two years, I launched my own business, CB Magic, in 2004 at the age of 12. Currently, I am the youngest professional magician in Houston. I've performed more than 300 shows ranging from birthday parties to auditorium-size audiences. I have also created a merchandise line sold after my shows that includes t-shirts, posters and customized magic kits.

Sometimes I get a little carried away at my shows. One time while I was performing at a show at a local bookstore, I juggled fire clubs, but quickly realized that fire juggling wasn't such a great idea in a building full of paper.

Because of my entrepreneurial drive, I received a \$1,000 scholarship as the grand-prize winner of **Texas Christian University's 2010 Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award**. After meeting with a panel of judges for interviews, I was chosen from a field of 24 top finalists in Texas.

To give back to the community, I participated in a benefit show which raised more than \$3,000 for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. I'm also working on a performance for Mothers Against Drunk Driving to help raise money for the family of a victim of a recent accident involving alcohol.

Magic is about more than simply impressing my friends. I can take audiences on a journey they will never forget. Magic will play a huge role in my future success as I keep my business running while studying business and marketing in college next fall. Someday, I hope to take my show on tour and to eventually have my own theater.



With no sleight of hand, Memorial High School senior Carter Blackburn has built a successful magic entertainment and merchandising business while juggling school, friends and family time.