WATER CONCERNS SURFACE AS AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING OUR DELICATE ECOSYSTEM. RESEARCHERS AT UT ARLINGTON ARE EXPLORING WAYS TO SOLVE THEM.
More than 75 years ago, North Texas Agricultural College (now UT Arlington) Dean E.E. Davis had a grand idea: Create an art department before The University of Texas at Austin had one. He sought an experienced artist and educator who would give the program instant credibility. In 1937 Davis hired Howard Joyner, who had studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in France, the University of California, and Harvard College. World War II decimated art class enrollments, but Joyner had a plan that would boost the war effort and increase participation. He received classified material from the War Department and began teaching camouflage painting to the Marines and Navy men of the V-12 Unit at the college. The move is widely credited with saving the art program. Before he retired, Joyner saw one of his longtime dreams become reality when UT Arlington instituted a bachelor of fine arts degree. He died in 1996. Today the Art and Art History Department boasts more than 800 student majors and received National Association of Schools of Art and Design accreditation in 2008. Photo courtesy of Special Collections, UT Arlington Library.
NIGHTTIME BUSTLE

Digg’s Taco Shop and other restaurants in the College Park District have become popular destinations for diners and live music fans since the residential and retail development opened on campus last fall.
Email

COLLEGE TOWN
I thoroughly enjoyed David Hopkins’ article “Deep in the Heart of Arlington” in the spring 2013 issue. David eloquently captured the excitement and anticipation about the downtown revitalization. Downtown Arlington may have once been left behind, but we are now transforming it into a unique and diverse destination that embraces the momentum of our thriving hometown university. We are excited about what our future holds and are transfixed to be associated with UT Arlington.

Lest we forget, Arlington is, and will always be, a college town. Go Mavericks!

TONY RUTIGLIANO
President and CEO
Downtown Arlington Management Corp.

DESTINATION DOWNTOWN
Bravo “Deep in the Heart of Arlington” was a terrific article highlighting the efforts to bring energy and a sense of identity back to downtown Arlington. Since the release of Arlington Magazine last spring, there has been palpable excitement circulating through the office of Vistasp Karbhari, president, about the project’s success and the future of the downtown core. Our firm, located in downtown Arlington, worked with Ryan Diamond, our principal on Abram Street. Our engineering, surveying, planning, and landscape architecture departments each had a vested interest in the vision and development of the project, which has developed beyond our expectations. As many of our employees are residents of Arlington, the release of Arlington Magazine has also given everyone an interest in the development and revitalization of our community, specifically downtown. College towns have always held a certain appeal with their funky restaurants and local music scene, outdoor patios, gathering places, and bicycle culture, encompassing a sense of loyalty and love for their community. The mixture of Levitt Pavilion and its live music and activities, the fabulous assortment of restaurants, and the expansion of UT Arlington’s student housing and the College Park District has created an emerging passion and pride within our community. With the potential incorporation of urban housing developments, increased walkability, and enhanced pedestrian and bicycle opportunity, downtown Arlington will continue to reassemble and re-emerge as a bustling social hub within the city, an alarming destination for residents, students, and visitors, and a place we proudly call home.

SARAH ELDIN
Arlington, Texas

STUDENT NEWS

Message from the Editor

First semesters can shape your future. Handle the rigorous coursework and you’ll find yourself on the road to graduation and career success. Venture beyond the classroom and you make friendships that last a lifetime.

UT Arlington’s Class of 2017 arrived this fall full of energy, excitement, and ambition. It’s a notable class—the first under Vistasp Karbhari, who became UT Arlington’s 10th president in June. As you’ll read in our conversation with President Karbhari, he shares the students’ enthusiasm and is committed to providing them a top-tier education that instills creativity and innovation.

Themes of newness and distinction pervade this issue. A study by the New America Foundation named UT Arlington one of six “Next Generation Universities.” “The Chronicle of Higher Education” ranked UT Arlington seventh on its list of fastest-growing public research universities. And U.S. News & World Report ranked us as the nation’s fifth most ethnically diverse campus.

Laura Suarez Henderson is among a handful of students worldwide to win two Amelia Earhart Fellowships, awarded annually to women pursuing doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering. Henderson also received a highly competitive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to locate space debris and determine how to maneuver around it.

Our cover story features the research of four professors who are exploring ways to preserve the world’s water supply and protect it from toxins and other dangers. Even the old becomes new as we take a fresh look at the JFK assassination through essays written by students here 50 years ago.

Beginnings offer hope, and the dawn of an academic year with a new president is an ideal time to elevate our aspirations. To paraphrase Dr. Karbhari, we have the opportunity to dream big dreams and work together to make them come true.

- Mark Permenter
Party on The Green at Col-

food, and fun at the After-

year. The annual event was

beginning of the academic

assembly that marks the

Convocation, a formal

students, faculty, and staff

in to their residence halls.

helped new students settle

the University community

campus. At Move-In Day,

and educational programs

packed with entertaining

Maverick Stampede, a week

the fall 2013 semester with

UT Arlington launched

MOVE-IN DAY

youtube.com/UTArlington.

to prepare them for aca-

two-day minicamp designed

New Mavericks

to see the next video!

can't wait until that college

at Arlington. I'm proud to say

from The University of Texas

ton. It's been a while since

Doing work at Mission Arling-

surprised to see the next video!

Clockwise from left:

didn't have any shoes on.
walked across UTA, I realized

Arlington is beautiful!

Clockwise from left:

seriously can't wait for tomor-

hit up Dog's Taco Shop, #UTA Bookstore, & the

wants

orating against over-reliance on

UT Arlington researcher cau-

ton magazine. #funtimes

great article in the @utarling-

We are having so much fun in

listening to @fryandtheguy

radio show on UTA Radio! It's

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Research examines impact of natural gas drilling on well water in Barnett Shale

A study of 100 private water wells in and near the Barnett Shale shows elevated levels of potential contaminants in wells closest to natural gas extraction sites.

Led by chemistry Associate Professor Kevin Schug, a UT Arlington research team gathered samples within a 13-county area in North Texas over four months in summer and fall 2011. Scientists drew 91 samples from what they term “active extraction areas,” or areas that had one or more gas wells within five kilometers. Another nine samples came from sites the study calls “non-active/reference areas.”

The journal Environmental Science & Technology published the results in July. The peer-reviewed paper, led by chemistry Associate Professor Kevin Schug, the Shimadzu Distinguished Professor of Analytical Chemistry. “This study was an opportunity for us to use our knowledge of chemistry and statistical analysis to put people’s concerns to rest and find out whether they would be backed by scientific data.”

“This study alone cannot conclusively identify the exact causes of elevated levels of contaminants in areas near natural gas drilling,” says Brian Fontenot, a UT Arlington graduate with a doctorate in quantitative biology and lead author on the paper. “But it does provide a powerful argument for continued research.”

The team conducted much of the water sample testing in UT Arlington’s Shimadzu Center for Advanced Analytical Chemistry. “Natural gas drilling is one of the most talked-about issues in North Texas and throughout the country,” says Dr. Schug, the Shimadzu Distinguished Professor of Analytical Chemistry. “This study was an opportunity for us to use our knowledge of chemistry and statistical analysis to put people’s concerns to rest and find out whether they would be backed by scientific data.”

Laura Suarez Henderson, Aerospace Engineering Ph.D. Candidate

Tell us about your work to develop technology to locate and avoid space debris.

Space debris is a growing problem and rapidly becoming a critical one. What I’ve done is simulate an object orbiting Earth and take measurements as it moves and spins. These measurements allow us to determine the size and shape of the object as well as identify its path. With this, we can tell if it’s an active object or if it’s debris and whether it poses a threat to other objects. The hope is that these findings will improve the technology used to track objects.

How did you get interested in aerospace engineering?

Ever since I can remember, I’ve wanted to be an astronaut—and still do. That passion was instilled in me by my dad. He grew up watching the Mercury and Apollo missions and fell in love with space exploration. I, too, love everything about space. I love math and physics, so aerospace engineering was a great combination.

How do you think space exploration has impacted society?

It has made us more aware of how incredibly special, unique, and fragile humanity and our planet are. I think generations that have grown up with space are less enchanted by it, unfortunately. But I believe people can fall in love with space once again. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to continue to learn and grow in space exploration.

Is it difficult being a woman in the male-dominated engineering field?

Being a woman definitely makes you stand out. One thing I hope I can accomplish during my career is to inspire young women to find interests in the areas of science, math, and engineering.

What’s next for you?

After graduation I hope to join the efforts to further human space exploration by working for NASA or SpaceX and continuing my work on space object identification. Down the road I hope to apply for an astronaut position, and eventually I would like to go back to my native Colombia and develop the space industry.

What is the single coolest thing about space?

There are so many cool things! But I think the coolest is that we know so little about it. It’s the best toy you can give a scientist: a never-ending place for discovery.

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New engineering dean a renowned researcher

Khosrow Behbehani is committed to moving UT Arlington’s College of Engineering to the top tier of engineering schools.

“We will be a center of innovation for solving the world’s most pressing problems and the best school for the best students who want to pursue careers in engineering,” says the newly appointed dean.

An accomplished researcher and administrator, Dr. Behbehani joined the UT Arlington faculty in 1985 and had chaired the Bioengineering Department since 2002. He holds nine patents, with a 10th pending, and is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

His work has attracted support from the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, and the National Institutes of Health. In recent years he has garnered recognition for developing a portable ultrasonic sleep apnea detection system. Behbehani earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Louisiana State University, his master’s degree in civil engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and his doctorate in engineering science from the University of Toledo.

He spent five years with the Puritan Bennett Corp., then a California-based manufacturer of critical care respiratory devices, before returning to the world of academic research at UT Arlington.

Talk of the Town

Anderson Cooper highlights sixth season of popular Maverick Speakers Series

If you’re looking for entertainment that’s enjoyable and enriching, the 2013-14 Maverick Speakers Series is delivering both. The lineup includes a popular CNN anchor, a legendary entrepreneur, a world-renowned neurosurgeon, and lauded journalists.

Award-winning CNN reporter Anderson Cooper takes the College Park Center stage Nov. 1. A respected network news figure for more than a decade, he hosts Anderson Cooper 360.

Spring 2014 lectures will feature Dr. Sanjay Gupta, a practicing neurosurgeon and CNN’s chief medical correspondent, and Nina Totenberg, a Pulitzer Prize-winning legal affairs correspondent for NPR. Gupta comes to College Park Center on March 18. Totenberg will speak in Texas Hall on April 8.

The fall slate began in September with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas. A native of the Philippines, he delivered a heartfelt account of his life as an undocumented immigrant. In October, Fox News personality Anderson Cooper detailed the sports network’s beginnings and its rise to prominence.

Now in its sixth season, the Maverick Speakers Series has attracted more than 40,000 people to hear some of today’s brightest minds address current events and timely issues. Past speakers include Seth Meyers, Cokie Roberts, Ken Burns, Soledad O’Brien, and Cal Ripken Jr.

TOP 10 RECOGNITION

The Chronicle of Higher Education has ranked UT Arlington seventh on its 2013 list of fastest-growing public research universities, noting a 58 percent enrollment increase from fall 2001 to fall 2011. “Such national rankings highlight the fact that more students than ever choose to pursue their academic dreams at UT Arlington,” President Vistasp Karbhari says. “They are enhancing our reputation on a global scale and propelling our University to new heights in research and scholarship.”

Students in Ben Dolezal’s Packaging and 3-D CAD (computer-aided design) class are on the cutting edge of design technology. The course, which uses the university’s new Corrugated Prototype Design and CAD Production Lab, teaches how to solve real-world packaging issues.

Each semester, students work individually and in teams to design and construct items such as a retail floor display stand, a food and beverage dispenser, and a retail shelf display. “I chose these assignments because the dimensional product and packaging solutions explore the relationship between conceptual thinking, structural design, brand development, and consumer behavior,” explains Dolezal, an assistant professor of visual communication. In addition to instruction from local packaging professionals, the class features guest lectures, panel discussions, and facility tours. By offering a partnership between industry and education, the course allows students to engage in meaningful discussions and prepare for full-time employment upon graduation.

Awards

MATH DEPARTMENT

The American Mathematical Society has named UT Arlington the winner of its 2013 AMS Award for an Exemplary Program or Achievement in a Mathematics Department.

PAMELA JANINA AND VICTORIA FARRAR-MYERS

College of Science Dean Pamela Janina and political science professor Victoria Farrar-Myers have been named American Council on Education fellows for the 2013-14 academic year. Dr. Farrar-Myers also was named the 2013-14 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. She will be in residence there in the spring.

BEVERLY BLACK


MAXINE ADEGBOLA AND PHYLLIS ADAMS

Two College of Nursing professors have received the Association of Black Nursing Faculty’s Lifetime Achievement Award in Education and Research. Assistant Professor Maxine Adegbola and distinguished Professor Phyllis Adams won in the research and management categories.
Transmitting data faster and safer online

Every savvy Internet user understands that security is a top priority when sending information online.

Electrical engineering Professor Michael Vasilyev is doing his part to help make the Web safer by increasing the amount of information that can be securely transmitted and the distance it can travel. His research is part of an $8 million project funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and led by Northwestern University to study advanced quantum communication.

“There are all kinds of personal information—both among private citizens and public governments—that require the utmost security,” Dr. Vasilyev says. “Quantum communication offers the most rigorous solution for security because it employs the fundamental laws of quantum mechanics to enforce the exclusive link between the sender and receiver, with no chance of other people eavesdropping.”

Classical communication methods transmit information by ‘bits’ that take values of either 1 or 0. In contrast, quantum communication uses quantum bits, or ‘qubits’, which can be 1, 0, or 1 and 0 simultaneously.

Current fast and secure quantum communications can only be sent short distances before the signal breaks down, because qubits can’t go through optical amplifiers—commonly used in classical communications—without losing their quantum-mechanical security advantages. So Vasilyev’s lab is encoding the information in spatial features or pulses of the photons that will be sent through multimode fiber-optic lines, thus dramatically increasing the amount of received data without jeopardizing security.

Project participants include the University of California, Davis; University of Calgary; Montana State University; Raytheon BBN Technologies; and NetCrypt LLC.

Storm Stopper

Physicist’s 3-D model aims to protect planet from harmful solar winds

Bursts of energy in Earth’s upper atmosphere can disrupt satellites, power distribution systems, and other vital infrastructure. A UT Arlington physicist is working to minimize the damage from nasty space weather.

Armed with a three-year NASA grant, physics Assistant Professor Yue Deng is developing a 3-D model to explore how electrodynamic energy from solar winds enters and traverses the thermosphere.

Understanding the interaction between Earth’s magnetic field and its upper atmosphere may be particularly important this year and next because the sun is predicted to reach a time of heightened activity.

“Right now, estimation of the amount of energy entering Earth’s thermosphere is not very precise and can be underestimated by 100 percent. We know even less about how that energy is distributed,” Dr. Deng says. “This information is critical because if you put the same amount of energy at 400 kilometers, the impact can be 100 times larger than if you put it at 100 kilometers.”

Solar wind—plasma from the sun—travels through space at about 400 kilometers per second carrying a magnetic field. Usually, Earth’s magnetic field protects it from this plasma radiation. But solar flares and other activity on the sun’s surface can increase the energy traveling toward Earth, with some of the radiation passing through the magnetosphere at the planet’s magnetic poles.

Energy entering the thermosphere after a solar storm can wreak havoc on scientists’ ability to track satellites orbiting 300-500 kilometers above the ground. A solar storm in March 1999 caused trackers to temporarily lose about 1,000 satellites.
Future Nanoparticle Drug Delivery, 2035

Software offers hope for arthritics patients

UT Arlington researchers are working to provide relief for the nation’s 12.5 million rheumatoid arthritis sufferers. Led by computer science and engineering Professor Professor Fillia Makolou, an interdisciplinary team is creating individualized rehabilitation software systems to support physical therapy for those with the chronic inflammatory disorder.

The National Science Foundation-funded project will use remote monitoring to collect and analyze physiological and cognitive data, while sufferers are engaged in a game-like activity that is part of their rehabilitation. The system will examine arm and body motion, range of motion, gestures, facial expressions, and even brain activity to help researchers develop games that adapt to the individual.

“We want to assist physical therapists, not replace them, in determining who is ready and over time where patients are in their physical therapy,” says Dr. Makolou, a Jenkins Garrett Distinguished Professor. “We know that physical therapy leads to better lives for persons with rheumatoid arthritis, but we can’t always pinpoint where they are in their regimen. Our system ‘learns’ with time how to do that and personalizes the game software to ensure safety during physical therapy.”

The software also can be used to train rehab professionals and provide direct feedback to the patient. As a patient’s physical ability changes over the course of the ailment, the system adapts and informs the therapist. It also gives valuable information on the impact of medications prescribed.

Select Company

Choice as ‘Next Generation University’ recognizes growth and excellence

When it comes to defining a new era in higher education, UT Arlington is among the nation’s elite. The University is one of six institutions nationwide to be named a “Next Generation University” in a study published by the New America Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on public policy issues. The foundation created the list to recognize universities that are “models for national reform” and are committed to world-class research while increasing enrollment and graduation rates as state funding diminishes.

The selection follows a period of significant enrollment growth and rising academic and research achievements. Spring 2013 enrollment reached a record 33,790 and has increased 35 percent in the past five years. The University conferred more than 9,400 degrees in the 2012-13 academic year and awarded more than 4,500 in May alone.

Based on analyses of federal education data, site visits, and interviews with UT Arlington leaders, the report lauds the University’s use of online courses to attract students, specifically citing the College of Nursing.

“Thanks to the online operations, UT Arlington now operates the nation’s largest public university nursing school, with thousands of registered nurses who have taken courses during the institution’s bachelor’s degree program,” states the report, which was funded by a grant from the Lumina Foundation. Its authors include higher education strategists and an editor-at-large for The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Other “Next Generation Universities” are Arizona State University, the University of Buffalo, the University of Central Florida, Georgia State University, and the University of California, Riverside.
Numbers

5th

U.S. News & World Report ranks UT Arlington fifth nationally for providing a racially and ethnically diverse campus. The University moved up from seventh in last year’s diversity rankings.

4,508

UT Arlington conferred a record 4,508 degrees last spring, a 14 percent increase compared to spring 2012. The breakdown: 3,135 bachelor’s, 1,143 master’s, 55 doctoral.

22,500,000

The University’s Institute for Research Technologies will house 22.5 million in state-of-the-art instrumentation from Shimadzu Scientific Instruments by fall 2014. The highly advanced technology empowers research in diverse fields, from environmental testing and analysis of disease to the development of more effective pharmaceuticals and more efficient oil and gas exploration.

61,1649

Last year UT Arlington converted 61,1649 pounds of food debris to compost and donated 1,520 pounds of food from its Community Garden to Mission Arlington. Located in the northeast corner of the campus, the garden was established in 2010 as a collaboration with the city.

2,600

UT Arlington has lost 2,600 military veterans among its 33,300 students this fall. To help them succeed, the University opened the Veterans Assistance Center in May to provide tutoring, mentoring, financial aid, and other services.

![Image](https://example.com/image1.jpg)

Parents wield influence over teen smoking

The biggest deterrent to teen smoking and drinking may be a candid conversation between parents and their kids. A study by marketing Associate Professor Zhizhu Yang concludes that early, substantive dialogue between parents and their grade-school children about the ill effects of tobacco and alcohol use can be more powerful in shaping teen behavior than advertising, marketing, or peer pressure.

“First, our conclusion is that parental style can be changed, and that’s good news for the parents and the teens,” Dr. Yang says. “Second, our study shows that parental influence is not only profound in its magnitude but persistent and long-lasting over the course of a child’s entire life.”

Yang’s research was published in a recent edition of the Journal of Business Research. Similar findings were part of a 2010 study published in the Journal of Public Policy & Marketing of the American Marketing Association.

Safe Flight

Aerospace engineer designing tools to prevent aircraft irregularities

Understanding how aircraft parts can break down is vital to keeping passengers and crews safe. That’s why aerospace engineering Associate Professor Andrew Makeev is studying ways to improve how composite aircraft structures are designed and manufactured.

“When a single yoke for a helicopter can cost upwards of $100,000, it’s important to be able to predict its performance— in other words, to do most of the testing on a computer before taking it out into the field,” Dr. Makeev says.

Composite materials like Siberglass, Kevlar, and carbon fiber are often used in aircraft because they enable stronger and more durable construction at lower weight than metallic materials. Despite this, manufacturers have been overly conservative when designing composite parts because they lack knowledge of their internal structural behavior.

“We have to understand how the composite will behave under stress,” Makeev explains. “Composites have manufacturing irregularities in them that aren’t visible to the naked eye. We need to find those irregularities and understand their effects.”

His research integrates multiple methods like computed tomography and 3-D prognostic modeling to evaluate the materials and structures. Makeev believes that the industry needs more tools to design better composite parts so the effects of the manufacturing process, including the irregularities, are captured and integrated into the structural designs early in the design phase.

“This is important because the design and production phases for composite parts are expensive. If problems aren’t found until full-scale testing, the original design can only be patched, even if a complete redesign is preferable.”

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department Chair Erian Amanios sees Makeev’s study as an important bridge between innovation in university laboratories and the aircraft and rotorcraft industry.

EXTENDING ART’S REACH

A 20-foot sculpture inspired by Leonardo da Vinci welcomes visitors to the Engineering Research Building. Dedicated in May in the Janet Darryl Lauster designed the piece to encourage students and others in their quest for knowledge. It spans 26 feet and features a central aluminum mast with radiating pipes and a 20-foot sail that creates an energetic pattern.

UT Arlington’s growth.

MAVERICK MENTORS

Senior Gabriel Escobedo, left, and his colleague going to college was an unattainable dream. But a visit to the first GO Center at Arlington’s Seguin High School changed his outlook.

“It was the only place where I thought someone could really help me do what I wanted to do,” says the anthrozoology major, a first-generation college student who plans to graduate next year. Staffed by UT Arlington mentors like Escobedo, GO Centers aim to eliminate area high schools that help students navigate the college admission and application process. The University has 16 GO Centers across five school districts, and more are planned thanks to a recent $100,000 grant from AT&T. “All of these students have been told at some point that they aren’t college material,” says Carla Amaro-Jimenez, curriculum and instructive assistant professor and director of the area centers. “We teach college access and readiness, and we’ve had really powerful results.”
Nine faculty members were among 63 educators recognized in August by the UT System Board of Regents for classroom excellence. The Regents Outstanding Teaching Award honors faculty who demonstrate extraordinary classroom performance and innovation at the undergraduate level.

Receiving the 2013 award were: Josephine Caldwell-Byas, sociology and anthropology adjunct assistant professor; Rebecca Dennis, associate professor and Political Science Department chair; Sundar Khurram, management associate professor; Frank Lewis, electrical engineering professor; and the Moncrief-O’Donnell Endowed Chair, UT Arlington Research Institute; Beth Mancini, professor and College of Nursing associate dean for undergraduate studies; Dan Popa, electrical engineering associate professor; Peggy Sommignton, curriculum and instruction assistant professor; Susan Vaniers, chemistry and biochemistry lecturer; and Yvette Washington, civil engineering senior lecturer.

President Vistasp Karbhari says the recognition underscores the faculty’s commitment to excellence. “A great university has great teachers, and we are proud to have some of the very best,” he says. “Our faculty members serve one of the nation’s most diverse student bodies. They are committed to ensuring student success not just for those who enter UT Arlington at the top of their high school class, but for all who are committed to a better tomorrow for themselves and their families.”

Future Fuel

Researchers creating method to convert carbon dioxide to liquid methanol

Discovering new sources of clean energy and reducing the harmful effects of fossil fuel consumption are two of the world’s most important challenges. What if both could be done at the same time? Scientists at UT Arlington think they’ve found a way. They’re working on a method to convert carbon dioxide—the greenhouse gas associated with climate change—into liquid methanol using copper oxide nanoparticles and sunlight.

“As long as we’re using fossil fuels, we’ll have the question of what to do with the carbon dioxide,” says Krishnan Rajeshwar, a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry and co-founder of the Center for Renewable Energy, Science, and Technology (CREST). “An attractive option would be to convert greenhouse gases to liquid fuel. That’s the value-added option.”

Dr. Rajeshwar and his team begin the conversion process by coating the walls of copper oxide (CuO) nanorods with crystallites made from another form of copper oxide, Cu2O. In the lab, they submerge those rods in a water-based solution rich in carbon dioxide, and that produces methanol.

The process is safer, simpler, and less expensive than previous methods to convert CO2 into a useful product. These require a co-catalyst and must be conducted at high operating pressures and temperatures. Many also use toxic elements, such as cadmium, or rare elements like tellurium.

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Norma Tacconi, a recently retired UT Arlington research professor, has written a paper on the findings for the journal Chemical Communications with fellow CREST researchers Rajeshwar, Ghazaleh Ghadimkhani, Wilawan Chaummanee, and Cunha Janaky.

BRYCE BENNETT Overpasses, by their nature, invite travelers to go over, not through. Beneath them are unappreciated, a little forlorn, and passed through quickly. But Bryce Bennett’s IS views these spaces as calm and peaceful, as devoid of human presence as the mountains and vast wilderness of his native Montana. In his photographic series Beneath, he seeks to capture that feeling by presenting images that are warm, elegant, and inviting. “I wanted to capitalize on the intimate light that exists in the space here and use that light to show the beauty of each setting,” he says. “I wanted the viewer to find that beauty within a specific environment they never considered to begin with.” For his work as an undergraduate, which included this series and others, Bennett in May received the IS Outstanding Student Award in Arts and Humanities. “I wanted the viewer to find that beauty within a specific environment they never considered to begin with.” For his work as an undergraduate, which included this series and others, Bennett in May received the IS Outstanding Student Award in Arts and Humanities.

Professors lauded for teaching innovation

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ZACK FISCHER

Former baseball standout Michael Choice made his major league debut in September with the Oakland Athletics. The 30th overall selection in the 2010 draft, Choice holds UT Arlington’s career home run record and ranks second in career batting average and RBIs.

Mavericks win second straight conference title

The baseball team made history in 2013 by winning a conference championship for the second consecutive year. The Mavericks tied for the regular-season Western Athletic Conference title after posting an 18-9 league mark.

Last year the team won the Southland Conference Tournament championship. "I felt like we overachieved this year," head coach Darrell Brown says. "We were picked sixth or seventh in the preseason poll and then ended up winning it.”

Junior designated hitter Matt Shortall helped the team go 21-27 overall, including victories over Oklahoma, Illinois, and Texas Tech. He batted .362 with 54 RBIs and led the Mavericks with eight home runs.

Shortall was named a Louisville Slugger third-team All-American, a College Sports News fourth-team All-American, and a semifinalist for the Golden Spikes Award. He was the WAC Field Player of the Year and a first-team All-WAC selection.

Junior pitcher Brad Vachon and junior catcher Greg McCall made the All-WAC second team. McCall hit .384 with five home runs. Vachon developed into the staff ace, going 7-9 with a 3.38 earned-run average.

Most of the roster is eligible to return in 2014 while the Mavericks begin play in the Sun Belt Conference. Four Sun Belt teams qualified for the NCAA Regionals in 2013.

“IT’s a very good league,” Thomas says. “We understand it doesn’t matter whether it’s the WAC, Southland, or Sun Belt. You know you need to get better every year. We’re not there yet, but we’re getting close.”

Proven Winner

Gerlich brings long history of success

The former Texas Tech standout went 168-53 in seven seasons as head coach at W TAMU. Her teams won four consecutive South Division Lone Star Conference titles from 2007-10 and three consecutive Lone Star Conference championships from 2008-10. She recorded 100, 125, and 150 wins faster than any coach in school history.

As a player from 1989-93, she helped the Lady Raiders win the NCAA national championship her senior season. She was named to the All-Time Southwest Conference team and is one of three Texas Tech women’s players to have her jersey retired.

“I don’t think we could have picked a better candidate,” Athletics Director Jim Baker says. “Krista has been a winner every place she’s been and at every level. We’re confident in her ability to take our program to the next level.”

ELIZABETH THOMS

Tennis player Elizabeth Thoms was named First Team All-Western Athletic Conference Singles at the No. 4 position. She won eight of 10 matches in that spot as a freshman.

ZACK FISCHER

Former golfer Zack Fischer qualified for the U.S. Open in June at Marconi Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa. The 23-year-old Texarkana, Texas native is only the second Maverick to make the prestigious tournament. He played for UT Arlington from 2007-11.

Maverick Baseball Head Coach

ROMAIN MARTIN

Senior Romain Martin finished his collegiate career as a six-time All-American by placing sixth in the decathlon at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in June. The La-Mars, France native amassed a school-record and personal-best level 8,013 points.

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Field of Dreams

Come 2015, Maverick softball and baseball players will have clubhouses, training facilities, and press boxes worthy of the nation’s best collegiate programs. A planned $5.5 million expansion and renovation will add field houses to Allan Saxe Field, home of the softball team and to Coy Gould Ballpark, home of the baseball team. The work will include field improvements and upgrades to the sound systems and bleachers. “This is a pivotal year for UT Arlington athletics as we move to the Sun Belt Conference and compete with a new cohort of like-minded universities,” Athletics Director Jim Baker says. “World-class facilities allow our student-athletes to be their best, both on and off the fields.”

Academic Honors

UT Arlington had 51 student-athletes named to this year’s Western Athletic Conference All-Academic honor roll. To be eligible, a student-athlete must have completed at least one academic year, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and have participated in at least 50 percent of his or her team’s contests.

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Unread for almost a half-century, a rediscovered essay collection reveals the despair and anger felt by UT Arlington students four days after John F. Kennedy’s assassination. By Kenneth Perkins

Duane Keilstrup was doing something he hadn’t done in years—digging through the mounds of files swallowing up his home office—when he found them, peeking from a manila folder, as crisp as the day he put them there nearly 50 years before. Sixty-five essays, single-spaced and double-spaced, most signed, and all handwritten in sprawling cursive by freshmen and sophomores four days after President John F. Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963, in downtown Dallas.
The nation is profoundly shocked by perhaps the most evil crime in American history. As a citizen of Dallas, I feel utter shame, sadness, and disbelief that such a tragedy could take place in my city."
The Brazos River rises fast against the eastern border of Stonewall County, then winds 840 miles across Texas, through small towns and old ranches, before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport. Once a crossing for settlers, the Brazos now pumps millions of tourism dollars into local economies while providing the region with much of its water for drinking and farming.

In recent years, however, massive blooms of golden algae have threatened the storied river, killing millions of fish and devastating the economy in towns that rely on it for survival. A team of Texas scientists is creating a plan to battle the deadly golden algae. The research is central to the state’s tourism industry and the health of the Brazos and other waterways.

“The economic impact has been tremendous,” biology Professor James Grover says. “Recreational amenities are a very big business to these river communities, and they need healthy, abundant fish populations.”

Research like Dr. Grover’s thrives at UT Arlington, where professors study ways to make water safer for people and wildlife. Scientists and engineers are developing methods to analyze water quality, monitor biological toxins, and protect oceans against climate change. Their work has far-reaching importance. In Texas, the Brazos and other rivers have been ravaged by a persistent drought. Worldwide, water use is growing at more than twice the population rate.

As increased demand burdens the world’s water supply, maintaining its safety is even more critical.
In coming years, we know less water will be available to us. This makes it imperative that we protect the quality of the water we do have.

NOT SO GOLDEN
Golden algae first appeared in the United States in 1985, in Texas’ Pecos River, when hundreds of fish washed up on the shores of the Rio Grande basin. Named for the golden color it can take on, the one-celled algae can emit toxins that suffocate fish.

Within years, the algae spread throughout the state to the Colorado, Canadian, Wichita, Red, and Brazos river systems, killing an estimated 20 million fish and crippling Texas’ multibillion-dollar natural tourism industry.

“People across the state really started paying attention,” Grover says. “Before we could stop the fish kills, we had to determine the ecological factors contributing to the algae blooms.”

Working with colleagues at Texas A&M University and Baylor University, Grover used laboratory and field experiments plus mathematical modeling to determine that the golden algae thrived in cool seasons and in river systems, killing an estimated 20 million fish and suffocating fish.

“The team then developed three possible solutions: increasing the flow of the river through pumps, manipulating the water’s pH by adding sulfurous acid, or changing the chemistry by adding ammonia,” Grover says. “All proved successful in small-scale experiments, and Grover hopes to conduct a larger pilot study soon. Although it would be costly, adding solar-powered pumps to increase the flow would be ideal.

“In coming years, we know less water will be available to us. A great deal of work on water resources will need to be done,” he says. “This makes it imperative that we protect the quality of the water we do have.

IDENTIFYING TOXINS WIRELESSLY
Like Grover, environmental engineer Hyouk Choi focuses on harmful algae. Every summer, a thick layer of toxic blooms develops on Lake Erie and other bodies of water, killing thousands of fish and swamping beaches with a foul smell. These blooms can emit powerful biological toxins called microcystins, which are poisonous to fish, plants, and people.

Dr. Choi is developing a way to quickly identify the blooms and toxins in fresh and salt water. He has received more than $550,000 from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation to create chip-sized wireless sensors that will spot the toxins and signal scientists.

“This will be an enormous step forward that will improve the protection of the devices, wildlife, and people,” the civil engineering assistant professor says. “Our old way of monitoring no longer makes sense.”

The researchers must collect samples from the lake and return to the lab to analyze them. Under Choi’s team, wireless sensors in lakes known for harmful algae blooms, like Lake Erie and Lake Michigan, will monitor the health of the water. Songying Feng, a UT Arlington electrical engineering associate professor, is building the sensors, in cooperation with Sang-Yeon Chu of the University of Virginia and Jun-Min Park of Virginia Tech.

To test the devices, Choi will release microcysts into a small, controlled body of water, such as a fish tank. Eventually, aided by the Environmental Protection Agency, the research team will place sensors where there’s a high concentration of toxins. Water samples will then be collected and the results compared to those of Choi’s network.

“In the future, water providers like cities and treatment facilities will be able to use this information to make safer drinking water,” Choi says. “This is a timely and cost-effective early-warning system. We will know immediately if there is a problem so it can be addressed.

PROTECTING OCEANS
Laura Mydlarz inspects a small piece of sea fan, which resembles a delicate web. A marine biologist, she studies how climate change, specifically temperature stress, affects coral reefs.

Taken from the Caribbean near Puerto Rico, the coral sample will be pulverized into a powder with a mortar and pestle before protein and RNA are extracted. Dr. Mydlarz and fellow scientists then will conduct tests to determine the immunity of the coral and its gene expression under stress.

“Rising temperatures do negatively affect a coral’s immune system,” Mydlarz says. “When the water gets warmer, even by just one degree, the coral’s ability to fight disease is suppressed. We see many coral dying due to disease outbreaks.”

In collaboration with professors at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Mydlarz also is examining the coral that successfully resist disease. The National Science Foundation is funding her work.

“We want to know what they are doing right, versus the more sensitive reefs,” she says. “We might be able to use that knowledge to help the dying reefs.”

Loss of coral reefs would be catastrophic for the vast marine life that depends on them, she explains. Additionally, scientists believe the reefs have potential to produce natural products for human use, such as drugs and antibacterial compounds.

“But if reef loss continues at its current rate,” Mydlarz warns, “we may not get the chance to find them.”

TESTING THE WATERS
More immediate threats to the environment concern Pseudanabaena “Sandy” Dasgupta—namely, the hundreds of contaminants that enter the water supply through naturally occurring chemicals and minerals, fertilizers and pesticides, manufacturing processes, and even sewer overflows.

The Jenkins Garrett Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry recently developed a more efficient way of measuring ions in solutions, which has led to a device that improves water quality testing.

He is working with Bingdong Yang, a member of his research group, and Kannan Strinivasan, technical director for Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. The UT System Board of Regents and California-based Dionex Corp., Thermo Fisher’s parent company, share the patent.

“We see this as a game-changer,” says Thermo Fisher Vice President Chris Pohl, a chromatography chemist.

“Charge detection, when combined with suppressed conductivity detection, can be used as a confirmatory tool or as a complementary detector to provide additional analytical information.”

This isn’t Dasgupta’s only water-related research. Using many of the same methods, he has developed an analyzer for arsenic in drinking water that is less expensive, more effective, and more environmentally friendly than methods involving lead and mercury.

Arsenic poisoning, or arsenicosis, affects millions of people worldwide in places as varied as the United States and China. Arsenic, which has no odor or taste, enters water supplies from natural deposits in the earth and from agricultural and industrial practices. No place is more affected than Bangladesh, where more than 70 million are at risk of drinking contaminated water, according to the World Health Organization.

Dasgupta was moved to help after touring Bangladesh villages. He saw firsthand the devastation of chronic arsenic exposure, which can cause heart disease and cancers of the liver, kidney, bladder, and skin.

“In time,” he says, “I hope this green analyzer will be able to help the poorest countries prevent a scourge of diseases.”

AQUATIC ADVOCATES
Top left: Researchers in Hyouk Choi’s lab are developing a method to quickly identify harmful algae in fresh and salt water. Bottom left: Dr. Choi’s team is building a wireless sensor to spot toxins and signal scientists. Top right: James Grover is battling golden algae in Texas rivers. Bottom right: Laura Mydlarz is studying how climate change affects coral reefs.
Vistasp Karbhari hit the ground running in June as UT Arlington’s eighth president. The focused and energetic leader is determined to guide the University to new levels of excellence. By Mark Permenter

Lofty goals don’t daunt Vistasp Karbhari; they motivate him. One conversation with UT Arlington’s new president and you’re inspired by his resolve to help the University scale peaks that once seemed unattainable. In his eyes, great isn’t good enough. He wants UT Arlington to rise, rapidly, into the upper echelon of research institutions. He wants the University to become internationally recognized as a leader in scholarship, educational access, and community engagement.

In short, he wants UT Arlington to become Tier One—not only by the state-defined metrics, but by achieving pre-eminence as an academic institution. He believes that by focusing strategically and collaboratively, the University can reach this goal sooner rather than later.

“Let’s dream together, work together, chart new directions, and attain levels of excellence that others did not even dare to dream of,” President Karbhari told a gathering of alumni shortly after taking office.

“UT Arlington is destined to be the model 21st-century urban university. Let’s make it happen together.”

UTArlington Magazine caught up with the University’s eighth president for a conversation about how he plans to lead the way.

What have you learned in your first few months on the job? I’ve learned a lot. What’s very apparent is that we have a tremendous reputation that’s well deserved. There is a great appreciation for where we are and the distance we’ve come in the last three to five years. A great deal of enthusiasm and excitement exist for taking the next steps to go from being a great university to being a pre-eminent university.

What attracted you to UT Arlington? A few things stood out. I believe education is at a crossroads. There are research powerhouses that churn out tremendous research. There are very good educational institutions that perhaps do not do as much research as they could. Then there are universities in-between that are trying to figure out whether they’re going to be one or the other. Very few in these groups have figured out how to balance excellence in teaching and research, and UT Arlington is one of those.

There is a balance between scholarship, educational access and excellence, and strength in research. UT Arlington is an institution that’s positioned in a thriving region. For a university to be viable in the 21st century, especially in an urban setting like ours, it needs three things. First,
You need $100 million in research expenditures, 200 Ph.D. graduates, and the list goes on. Those are necessary conditions but not sufficient ones. All of these things taken together are what attracted Tier One. But we haven’t checked off all the boxes, and there’s a lot we still need to do.

How do we reach Tier One in other areas? Strategic planning is number one. We must choose from all of the wonderful opportunities in front of us. That will be one of the biggest challenges that we as a university face. We have so many opportunities to excel, but we can’t do all of them at the same time. We will juggle key ones in a strategic manner. We have to figure out ways to attract and retain more of the best faculty. Many of our faculty are world-renowned, but we need to build up critical mass in specific areas. We need to focus more on interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research and education.

if strategic planning is number one, is private philanthropy a close second? As we look at the model 21st-century university, it is the one that can balance the need to be a scholarly institution with the need to be an economic, social, and cultural driver for the community and region. He believes UT Arlington is positioned to do just that.

In Tulane, strategic planning and philanthropy are so closely connected. philanthropy helps fund the plan. It is becoming more and more expensive for students to access education. There is tremendous competition for the best faculty. We need to give the best education to our students, we want the best faculty. We need the latest technology and first-rate facilities to give greater access, to bring more knowledge, and to improve research and teaching. All of this costs money. Private philanthropy becomes immensely important for us to meet these demands and reach these aims because such a small percentage of our funding now comes from state and federal sources. It is absolutely essential if we are to continue to do all of the great things we are doing, as well as to fund all the ways we aspire to—just not be Tier One, but to truly fulfill our mission.

You’ve said UT Arlington is poised to be the model 21st-century urban university. What does that model look like? It’s a university that is intrinsically linked to the well-being of the community. It’s not just a university that excels at scholarship, but a university that provides access to students at all levels. We are the hub and a great partner. We’re the intellectual heart of the community. As we look at the model 21st-century university, it is the one that can balance the need to be a scholarly institution with the need to be an economic, social, and cultural driver for the community and region. UT Arlington is positioned to do just that. We’re already doing so much of it. If we did a little bit more, well be setting the standard for everybody.

Why is a strong community connection so important? Community engagement must be a priority. You can define a public university’s mission in a variety of ways. It’s education beyond the classroom, being able to take the expertise and knowledge one might have and doing good with it, spreading that knowledge to where it might be of most benefit. Community engagement is an important component of our mission. We need to continue to be an intrinsic part of this community.

What role does athletics play in the fabric of UT Arlington? It plays a big role. Athletics is one of the few things that brings a university together, that creates pride and school spirit. Most people aren’t going to sit in a math class and say, “Wow, this is why I came to UT Arlington.” But a large group of students could be out at games, cheering on our athletics and feeling proud, not just of the team but that we’re all Mavericks.

Lisa Karbhari enjoys attending academic, athletic, and social events as well as spending time with her Great Dane, Gabriella. Athletics brings people together and builds spirit so that after students graduate, they maintain lifelong ties to the university.

How would you describe your leadership style? It’s very collaborative but with very high goals and expectations. I truly believe that most of us are at the University because we want to make a difference. We want to do something that would not have been possible elsewhere. I’d like to enable that to happen, to move everyone forward as a team so we can achieve what others thought was unattainable.

What are your hobbies? I love to go on walks with my dog. I love to try new food. I love to read, I love music, and I love to travel. I also love to meet people, and I’m enjoying meeting our wonderful alumni and support- ers in the community.

What’s the source of your strong belief in the importance of education? My parents made sure we understood that education was very important. Not just for the sake of getting a job but for the sake of understanding where we were, who we were, and the world around us. To do something that matters, that excites you.

Did your parents go to college? Yes, they did. I’m very fortunate in that sense. I grew up in a family that had books all around. I read books on art and literature. The southern American coast, and a pod of dolphins as she emerged from a lava tube in Hawaii. As a volunteer for the Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, she has shared the excitement of watching various species and helping them pursue their own dreams. If they love what they do, it’s not just work. I’ve seen the power of the arts in all things UT Arlington, including attending as many athletics events as possible. It’s not the opportunity to nurture students that most excites her. She looks forward to sharing her experiences and helping them pursue their own dreams.

“A great deal of enthusiasm and excitement exist for taking the next steps to go from being a great university to being a pre-eminent university.”
We must make sure that we have the desire, motivation, and qualifications access to the tremendous knowledge that exists here.

Why did you come to the United States for your Ph.D.? When I started looking at the United States, I had finished my master’s degree in structural engineering at the University of Poona. I was working in one of the largest engineering consulting firms in India and was looking for a new challenge. Two areas stood out. One was failure analysis, looking at the reliability of structures and trying to understand why they failed. The other was a new type of material—composites. They were developed to fix some of the problems with other materials as well as make them lighter and stronger. At the time, the University of Delaware hosted the National Science Foundation Center of Composites. It was the only one in the United States.

What do you consider to be UT Arlington’s primary strengths? We have a tremendous strength in faculty and staff who are dedicated to the institution. It’s not just a job for them. They’re here because they love it. They love to give back to the students. The other is our ability to be Mavericks, to dream and do things that others might not have done before.

What are our biggest challenges? We must pick the right opportunities and have the patience to work through them a few at a time rather than all at once. We need to energize our alumni base and our friends in the community, starting with the mayor and other leaders, to provide the private philanthropy that is necessary to help us reach that next level. We must make sure that we’re able to give any student who has the desire, motivation, and qualifications access to the tremendous knowledge that exists here.

Why is it important to balance research and teaching? One feeds the other. If we only do research, we will not have the students to teach. If we only teach, we will not have the faculty to do research. The ability to engage in research, creative activity, and scholarship at their high levels is what leads us to keep faculty at the forefront of their disciplines. But it also shows our students how they can find new knowledge and accomplish something that many thought in our field was not possible. When faculty discover something new, that experience can change students’ lives, and it directly impacts our students thinking. It instils in them creativity and innovation. So if we have our faculty here, we’re not just able to provide the best education for our students.

What’s your pitch to a prospective UT Arlington student? We have a tremendous university with a depth found at few others. We have faculty and staff who truly care about you. You are not a number; you are a face and a name. We are dedicated to your success. Our faculty bring a wealth of research expertise.

For students who come here, especially at the undergraduate level, an important consideration is what they will do after they get a degree. Obtaining knowledge for the sake of knowledge is not enough. Harsh reality says we need jobs. Because of the number of majors we offer, our geographic location, and our reputation, getting jobs is far easier here than at many other locations. Students have a wonderful experience here. Then they graduate with knowledge and experience, perhaps through internships or summer jobs. The career prospects with a degree from UT Arlington are tremendous.

Along the same lines, what do you say to a faculty member considering a move to UT Arlington? For young faculty members in the early stages of their careers, this is a tremendous place to build a career—a great place to make a name for themselves, hit their stride, and try to determine what makes this university tick, why it is so special. I will use all of this information so that our dreams and hopes are combined in that vision. It can’t be just my vision. If it’s just my vision, it’s not a vision for the University.

In your opinion, what does it take to be a successful university president? Success can be defined in many ways. I think presidents would be considered successful if, when they leave, the university is significantly better than when they arrived. Did they facilitate the growth of the excellence that exists in the faculty, staff, and students? Did they facilitate new opportunities for students and the ability of more students to access a greater amount of knowledge? Did they enable the community to feel a greater kinship with the university? Did they help alumni feel a true sense of pride? I think if presidents can do all that, then they have been successful.

There are many ways they can assist us beyond just having pride. One is obviously providing resources and philanthropy that will make it possible to reach our goals faster—and hire and retain the best faculty, to provide access for more students, to have the best facilities that enable us to educate and conduct research. Alumni can also provide a network for our students. They have a tremendous influence on who comes to The University of Texas at Arlington and how those students succeed in life. They are able to mentor students, give them career advice, facilitate internships, and provide a network that helps them get jobs when they graduate. If all of our nearly 170,000 alumni did that, we’d be doing wonderfully well. I want them to be part of where we’re going.

An any final thoughts? I’m excited and very, very enthusiastic about where UT Arlington is headed.
The Route to Prosperity

In the 1800s Texas desired a southern route to California, what officials would call the 32nd parallel railroad. Politics, financial troubles, and the Civil War delayed plans. After the war several companies combined to create the Texas and Pacific Railway, a federally chartered operation with land compensation from the state. The T&P wanted to run a train from Dallas to Fort Worth with sights on San Diego.

The train needed a midpoint for reloading and refueling. Johnson Station was the obvious choice. A settlement three miles south of present-day downtown Arlington with a cotton plantation, a blacksmith shop, and a post office, it already was on the stagecoach route.

Next time a train makes you late, think beyond the inconvenience. In addition to transporting indispensable freight, these rolling behemoths carry a certain allure. And remember, UT Arlington wouldn’t exist without them. By David Hopkins

When the Union Pacific trudges through, the entire city pauses. Time moves slowly at the crossing. Graffiti-tagged freight cars present a modern art museum on wheels. Autos edge closer, hoping to hurry the train along. The trains—their noises, their smells, their sheer mass—are a constant in central Arlington, as if its boundaries are more clearly defined by a strange auditory scope than by any streets. Railroads are a conspicuous, often annoying fact of Arlington life. And the city is possibly more affected by them than either Fort Worth or Dallas.

The Tracks of Progress

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Nevertheless, the T&P built its depot north of Johnson Station. Evelyn Barker and Lea Worcester, UT Arlington librarians and Arlington historians, wrote about the tracks moving north for the Images of America series. “The land was easier to grade,” Barker says. “The train bypassed Johnson Station, but then a lot of people moved up.”

“They moved their buildings north in some cases,” Worcester adds.

Much of Johnson Station relocated, and Arlington was born. Meanwhile, another company was laying track westward. Southern Pacific moved faster, taking potential track away from the T&P. Texas lawmakers announced that if the section between Dallas and Fort Worth wasn’t completed by the end of the 1976 legislative session, they would deny land grants to the T&P.

Panicked Fort Worth citizens showed up with shovels, axes, and sledgehammers to do what they could. City representatives at the Capitol tried to stall adjournment. At 3 a.m., July 19, 1876, without a day to spare, the train passed through Arlington, slowly, tentatively, on wobbly tracks built by farmers. Five years later, the Southern Pacific and T&P lines met in Sierra Blanca in far West Texas, forming the third transcontinental rail. The depot in downtown Arlington’s new train depot, at Center and Main streets, made the town a market mecca for surrounding farms, and downtown grew around it. Shops, banks, and churches emerged outward, as did the school that would become UT Arlington.

As railroads improved, Arlington was no longer a necessary fuel stop, and the mid-century automotive boom killed passenger trains between Fort Worth and Dallas. The city dismantled the depot in the early 1950s. In 1976 T&P merged with Missouri Pacific and was then acquired by Union Pacific, which manages the line today. The train still stops at Arlington’s General Motors Assembly Plant.

A NECESSARY NUISANCE

Never mind that trains grind Cooper Street traffic to a halt. They are a vital cog in the nation’s supply chain. Logistics cost less in the United States than elsewhere in the world. As one of the most efficient and environmentally friendly modes of surface transportation, railways keep costs down. Steel on steel is more efficient than rubber on concrete.

“Even the coffee you drink in the morning was shipped on railroad cars,” says Thomas Bell, UT Arlington’s director of Rail Industry Relations. “If you’re shipping goods from China to western Europe, it is actually easier and cheaper to ship to Los Angeles and use the United States as a land bridge.”

“If you’re shipping from China to Europe, it’s much quicker, more efficient.”

Dr. Prater says, “That’s what the U.S. is, a land bridge. They take these containers off the ships and load them directly on the railroads. Then they’re hauled all the way to Europe. That’s much quicker, more efficient.”

The U.S. freight train business is booming. The Association of American Railroads reports that carloads of freight are up 3.3 percent in December compared to last year. This growth is part of a 10-year trend. Lately, more businesses are shipping goods by rail due to high oil prices and increased imports from Asia. The coal industry has benefited from the railroad, too, hauling materials to places like North Dakota that lack pipelines.

Fort Worth-based BNSF Railway Co. plans to invest $1 billion this year on locomotives, freight cars, and other equipment. That’s part of a $4.1 billion capital program—a $460 million increase from the previous year. General Electric hired 300 people at a new plant north of Fort Worth to build more locomotives, while Union Pacific is spending $30 million to replace worn-out track between Fort Worth and Dallas.

Kevin Ghassemi ’06 worked for BNSF as a train master, which is like an air traffic controller for the rails. He saw the industry up close.

“I was the one responsible for making sure we had a spot for arriving trains because you only have so much track out in these yards,” he says. “We’re growing pretty much every year.”

A national account manager for BNSF, Ghassemi was introduced to the company through UT Arlington’s Goolsby Leadership Academy, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Established with an anonymous $2 million gift in honor of John ‘64 and Judy Goosby, the academy is a cohort-based program that prepares juniors and seniors to become business executives.

A longtime academy supporter, BNSF has established a $500,000 endowed scholarship and a $900,000 endowment to create an early development program that includes freshmen and sophomores. Charles Shewmake ’87, vice president and general counsel for BNSF and a member of the College of Business Advisory Council, values his company’s involvement with the Goosby Leadership Academy.

“We spend billions of dollars each year to invest in our physical infrastructure, the top leaders at this company also invest their time in our potential future leaders. Our chief marketing officer and chief financial officer have spent time with UTA students to help them understand our industry and jump-start their careers,” Shewmake says. “The railroad needs a magnificent shock wave of weight and speed, a wave that could feel the locomotive’s power in his stomach, a wonderful magnificence. A mile away, the lumbering giant would announce its presence with a low growl. The boy would place a hand on the rail, feel the railroad’s power, and come through and make me late for class while I sat there waiting in my car. Little did I know that there would be no Arlington—and no UT Arlington—without them. Think about the role they play in the national and international economy. Our infrastructure is taking 350 to 400 eighteen-wheelers off the road.”

Trains still frustrate the University community and the Arlington motorist. But the next time you’re stopped at a crossing, remember that there would be no Arlington—and no UT Arlington—without them. Think about the role they play in the national and international economy.

CONSIDER THE MYSTIQUE

Railroads conjure thoughts of Wild West mythology and the innocence of Stand by Me—a bygone era when a boy would walk along the tracks because it was the most direct way to get across town. On the borrowed path, he would constantly look behind, afraid that a train might sneak up on him. But that would never happen. A mile away, the lumbering giant would announce its presence with a low growl. The boy would place a penny on the tracks, but it never flattened like it should. He’d stop, pick it up again, and put it back. He could feel the locomotive’s power in his stomach, a magnificent shock wave of weight and speed, and a warning for all the children nearby.

The train forever reminds us of the larger worlds beyond our town, of commerce and steel, extending from coast to coast and points in-between—connected by parallel and perpendicular lines, a grand matrix of business and culture and a certain charm. "He told me that railroads ship two-thirds of the nation’s cars. They ship a lot of freight. It’s a lot bigger than you could imagine. Working there for almost seven years now, I know he’s right.”

Ghassemi reflects on his initial misconception.

“I always thought the railroad just kind of got in the way, especially at UT when the Union Pacific would come through and make me late for class while I sat there waiting in my car. Little did I know that that train is taking 350 to 400 eighteen-wheelers off the road.”

Trains still frustrate the University community and the Arlington motorist. But the next time you’re stopped at a crossing, remember that there would be no Arlington—and no UT Arlington—without them. Think about the role they play in the national and international economy.
Exponential increase in graduates helps fill growing demand for nurses

UT Arlington is doing its part to meet the demand. Enrollment in the College of Nursing has quadrupled in recent years. With nearly 8,000 students last spring, the college is one of the five largest public nursing programs in the nation.

Jennifer Gray, the College of Nursing’s interim dean and a UT Arlington alumna, says the University is committed not just to enrolling more students but preparing nurses to be leaders. Last year the college conferred its highest honor bestowed on alumna by the University and the Alumni Association. The 2013 honorees are Herbert Beckwith ’94, Arun Bhikshesvaran ’95, Barbara White Bynum ’94, Keith Crandell ’92, JoAnn Lee ’76, Jeffrey Leuschel ’77, and Betsy Price ’72.

Beckwith is chief financial officer and senior vice president of international operations for Justin Brands. A certified public accountant, he earned a master’s degree in accounting from UT Arlington while working full time for Justin and raising a family. During his 25-year career with the Fort Worth-based bootmaker, he has been instrumental in opening markets in Canada, Europe, South America, and Japan. Bhikshesvaran is chief marketing officer for L.M. Ericsson Group. He began working for the telecommunications company soon after graduating from UT Arlington with a master’s degree in electrical engineering. He became chief marketing officer in 2011 and is responsible for global marketing strategy. He serves on the Electrical Engineering Industrial Advisory Board in the UT Arlington College of Engineering.

Crandell is a co-founder and managing director of ARCH Venture Partners, a 27-year-old seed and early-stage venture capital partnership. ARCH manages $1.3 billion in capital and focuses on core technology spinouts from universities and other U.S. research organizations. He earned a master’s degree in chemistry from UT Arlington and is a member of the University’s Development Board.

Lee, who earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from UT Arlington, is assistant general counsel, global litigation and arbitration portfolio to protect the interests of the company’s shareholders. Prior to joining ExxonMobil, she was a trial attorney for Union Pacific Railroad and chief prosecutor in the Harris County District Attorney’s Office. Leuschel is a partner in the Dallas office of McCall, Parkhurst & Horton L.L.P., representing clients in municipal finance transactions in Texas and Oklahoma. He has helped numerous Texas communities structure economic development public-private partnerships, including Alliance Airport, Texas Motor Speedway, and the redevelopment of Dallas Love Field. A member of the UT Arlington Development Board, he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University. Price, who graduated from UT Arlington with a bachelor’s degree in biology, is mayor of the city of Fort Worth. She took office in 2011 and was re-elected to a second two-year term in 2013. In addition to promoting jobs, strengthening education, fighting crime, and improving mobility, she has focused on making Fort Worth a healthy, engaged, and fiscally responsible city. Prior to becoming mayor, she served 11 years as Tarrant County’s Tax assessor.

Recognizing Excellence

UT Arlington honored seven alumni for their professional achievements, community engagement, and loyalty to their alma mater at the 44th Annual Distinguished Alumni Gala in October.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor bestowed on alumna by the University and the Alumni Association. The 2013 honorees are Herbert Beckwith ’94, Arun Bhikshesvaran ’95, Barbara White Bynum ’94, Keith Crandell ’92, JoAnn Lee ’76, Jeffrey Leuschel ’77, and Betsy Price ’72.

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‘AS IT IS IN HEAVEN’

The Theatre Arts Department presents this play about a neocon to a religious community who claims to receive special gifts from above. Directed by Anne Healy. Nov. 15-16 and 21-24, Studio Theatre. More information: uta.edu/theatre

England Memorial Hospital in Dallas, she joins almost 15,000 UT Arlington nursing graduates who provide comprehensive health care for residents of North Texas and beyond.

As a nursing informatics specialist, Jones ’99 develops medical technology systems and teaches nurses how to use them. She is also a part-time critical care nurse at UT Southwestern Medical Center’s St. Paul Hospital in Dallas, where she focuses on adult and elderly patients.

“Caring for patients is what I love most,” says Jones, president of UT Arlington’s Nursing Alumni Council. “I can make one patient smile or get one family member to open up and let me know their fears, that’s what being a nurse is all about.”

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies estimates that half of the state’s 73,000 registered nurses will retire in the next decade. Nationally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the registered nurse category will top the job growth list through 2020. The number of employed nurses nationwide is expected to jump from 2.74 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020, a 26 percent increase.

When Alitha Jones arrives for work each day at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, she joins almost 15,000 UT Arlington nursing graduates who provide comprehensive health care for residents of North Texas and beyond.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Snapshot

Nairobi, Kenya

I’m looking at how diseases ‘92, ‘96, ‘00, who directs Jeff Raikes, works with the Centers for Disease Control’s Global Disease Detection and Emergency Response in Kenya and the international Emerging Infections Program.

Dr. Montgomery, right, with Gates Foundation CEO Jeff Raikes, works with the local population to identify, combat, and reduce dengue fever, typhoid, and other potentially fatal diseases. He also trains Sanyan staff on public health issues. “Working with the local staff and helping them understand the bigger picture and mature in their field is a huge added benefit to what UT Arlington.”

While Yemen is mostly desert, the mountain regions are more temperate. Still, the people who live there were in survival mode. “It was like I was traveling back in time,” he says. “Life was difficult when I was there, but things are even more difficult today.”

This eye-opening experience was formative for Twele as he conducted research and immersed himself in the cultures and languages of the Middle East. A sociolinguistics course on language use in multilingual societies informed his research.

“Many people in the world have to deal with various languages on a daily basis,” he says. “The language situation in the Middle East, in particular, is fascinating and extremely complex.”

After 11 years of living in the Middle East, Twele amassed abundant research and a deeper understanding of the cultures. The experiences informed his profound appreciation for Yemen and its people and fueled his memoir, Rubbing Shoulders in Yemen, available on Amazon.

“I believe I had to experience the Gulf War. They have to deal with various languages on a daily basis,” he says. “The language situation in the Middle East is fascinating and extremely complex.”

Common Ground

Alumnus Peter Twele aids understanding between Middle Eastern, western cultures

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The serpentine dirt road was carved into the side of a remote Yemeni mountain, connecting village to village. Peter Twele ‘88 traveled it the way the locals did, making his way through the rubble, steadily navigating treacherous curves.

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Wise Investment

Robert Gatchel knows firsthand how private philanthropic support can fuel discovery. A foremost authority on the effects of chronic pain on the mind and body, Dr. Gatchel holds the Nancy P. and John G. Penson Endowed Professorship in Clinical Health Psychology. This professorship is a great honor, and it helps me conduct research in the important clinical health psychology field,” he says. “It’s also a great legacy because it recognizes the interest of Nancy and John Penson in this area.”

The Pensons’ daughter, Ann Penson Vreeland, established the professorship in 2007 to honor her parents and to support UT Arlington’s Psychology Department. Dr. Vreeland was a student of Gatchel’s when he taught at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

They were among the donors and faculty members recognized in April at the inaugural Endowed Chair and Professor Installation in College Park Center. UT Arlington has 41 chairs and professorships that are fully established or in process, with three more pledged through bequests. Their market value approaches $27 million.

Metropoles populations in need will benefit from the Simmons Family Foundation’s recent $1 million grant to the UT Arlington School of Social Work. The gift extends the school’s Innovative Community Academic Partnership (ICAP) program to Dallas County. The program initiative, supports, and funds ideas among educators to help social service agencies develop better practices.

“The foundation is proud to support this expansion of the UT Arlington School of Social Work into the Dallas County community,” says Serena Conolly, J0, foundation vice president. “The ICAP program is an appealing investment because it benefits all stakeholders—providers, clients, funders, faculty, and students.”

ICAP was founded in 2010 through a gift from the Amos G. Carter Foundation to support work with Tarrant County social service agencies. Initial funding benefited Catholic Charities of Fort Worth’s Common Threads program, which teaches clothing skills to Bhutanese refugees so they can become more financially stable. ICAP also assisted the Youth Offender Diversion Alternative, which helps a juvenile court reduce repeat offenders through alternative methods of dealing with misdemeanor family violence.

“If we are building synergy and momentum through the success we’ve experienced with ICAP,” says Scott Ryan, School of Social Work dean, “it’s also a great legacy because it focuses on creating an endowment.

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Simmons Foundation gives $1 million grant

SUPREME COURTS

Maverick athletics are now honing their volleyball and basketball skills on the Carrizo Oil & Gas College Park Center Practice Facility. The university named the area—which features two regulation basketball courts—for the Houston-based energy company to recognize the firm’s $5 million commitment to College Park Center.

The 7,000-seat events venue opened in February 2012 and anchors UT Arlington’s College Park District, a 20-acre residential and retail development. Carrizo, which recently developed the university’s natural gas resources, also donated $1 million to establish a graduate research fellowship and $1.12 million for construction of the YWCA Arlington Child Development Center on campus.

“Support from the Simmons Family Foundation will enable us to expand the reach of this research-based program throughout North Texas and beyond.”

UT Arlington is a 2007 recipient of the Simmons Family Foundation’s $5 million gift to launch the work on the future home of the College Park Center.

“You have purchased from dealers, but the pieces I have picked up at the end of the road in some remote region are especially meaningful,” says Dr. Campbell, chair of the Biology Department. “We have purchased from dealers, but the pieces I have picked up at the end of the road in some remote region are especially meaningful.” The couple have donated a large portion of their African art to the College of Liberal Arts. The works are on display in the Fine Arts Building. Eventually, they plan to give off of their African art collection to UT Arlington. “This art has brought years of enjoyment to us,” Campbell says. “We are very happy to pass it on for a great many others to enjoy, especially in the home.”

Watch a video at uta.edu/utamagazine.

ALUMNI NEWS

1955 SOCIETY GALA

Amy and Kelly Warren ’78 at the annual 1955 Society celebration last spring in College Park Center. Kelly is a 2007 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

JONATHAN CAMPBELL

AND TANYA DOWDEY

When noted herpetologist Jonathan Campbell’s work takes him to remote Guatemalan jungles or the heart of Africa, he typically brings something back. Often the treasures are animal specimens that find their way into UT Arlington’s Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center. But sometimes they’re gorgeous works of art. Over the years, he and his wife, Tanya Dowdey ’88, have amassed quite a collection. “We have several pieces from New Guinea and south America, but the focus has remained on Guatemala and Africa,” says Dr. Campbell, chair of the Biology Department. “We have purchased from dealers, but the pieces I have picked up at the end of the road in some remote region are especially meaningful.”

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ALUMNI NEWS

African Art GivingSpotlight

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ALUMNI NEWS

African Art Giving
Class Notes

1971

Vicky Libotte Keener (BA, Art) won a Gold Hermes Creative award for graphic design for a nature postcard/poster in May. She is a graphic designer at Eagle Design Group, North Central Texas Council of Governments.

1973

Molly Bogen (BA, Political Science) appeared in the movie Catalonia. She has published four novels and has other works in progress. Molly Meddad (BA, Architecture; MArch, ’81 Architecture), who is known for his work on bridges, joined the North Texas Trolley Association in Arlington, Texas, in February. Her term continues through August 2014. He has been an architect at the University of Texas at Arlington since 1984.

1976

Randi Lund (BA, Architecture) is director of business development at the firm of professional engineers in Arlington.

1978

Ed Crowe (BA, Political Science) is vice president of Inland Mills in Dallas. He has been dean of social and behavioral sciences at Austin Community College.

1979

Bryan Leonard (BS, Biology) marked his 20th year as administrator of the Kidsline and Fire Prevention System.

1981

Richard Tabbitt (BS, Political Science) received a Distinguished Achievement Award for his work in corporate social responsibility. He is a director of the firm of professional engineers in Arlington.

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Masters Golf Raffle
Will be held during Aggie Spring Sports Kick-Off Event. The Alumni Association is hosting a raffle for $100 per ticket. Tickets will be sold at the door. Winners will be announced in September. For more information, please call 817-682-6881.

Dazzling Degrees
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Briefly

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