LEARNING BY PLAYING  Professors are capitalizing on the popularity of video games by transforming their make-believe worlds into educational opportunities. p. 18

WARRIORS AGAINST CANCER  Breakthroughs in tissue engineering and optical imaging have propelled bioengineers to the forefront of the battle against America’s No. 2 killer. p. 26

HOUSE OF LOVE  Romance swirls throughout UT Arlington’s oldest residence hall, where numerous married couples began their courtships as students. p. 30

Color It Amazing

Never before has an event captivated the UT Arlington community like the opening of College Park Center. They came, they saw, they marveled at the striking venue hailed as one of the best of its kind in the nation.
LOUD AND PROUD

The Maverick Wranglers, a new student spirit group, raised the decibel level during the basketball games on opening night at College Park Center. Watch a video at uta.edu/utamagazine.
Message from the Vice President for Student Affairs

Infusing a Spirit to Dream Big

by Frank Lamas

A new day has dawned at UT Arlington, one full of energy and promise. The opening of the transformational College Park Center, record-breaking enrollment, the upcoming move to the Western Athletic Conference—all are dreams becoming reality. As we enter the twenty-first century, our university and the University of Texas System will continue its unprecedented progress, providing opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff each day. UT Arlington is developing a telehealth initiative, one of our state-of-the-art classrooms and cutting-edge research laboratories. Several groups are already making use of this new space. Several groups are developing a telehealth initiative, one of our state-of-the-art classrooms and cutting-edge research laboratories. Several groups are already making use of this new space. Several groups are developing a telehealth initiative, one of our state-of-the-art classrooms and cutting-edge research laboratories. Several groups are already making use of this new space. Several groups are developing a telehealth initiative, one of our state-of-the-art classrooms and cutting-edge research laboratories. Several groups are already making use of this new space.
The back cover of the fall 2011 magazine had a picture of a student protest circa 1963 about Arlington State College possibly joining the Texas A&M University System. I first noticed my friend Eddie Saylor (now deceased) on the front row. I then noticed myself in the middle of the pack. I believe that Dr. Earl Rudder had addressed the student body earlier, and this gathering was called to object to the move of ASC into the TAMU system. I recall, in my unsubstantiated recollection, I had no problem with TAMU. It was and is a fine institution. My problem was with the vision of ASC’s future as commanded by Dr. Rudder. I’m sure he was a fine commander and a fine leader of TAMU, but the ASC student body did not want a commander. We had been told we were going to get some nice and needed new buildings on our campus, but these plans were scaled back for improvements to TAMU’s existing facilities. Thus, the protest.

WES CRENSHAW ’65
Fonny, Texas

VOICE OF YOUTH
Your fall 2011 issue was most informative on accomplishments past, on activities of today, and on potential deeds of tomorrow. It is good to note the recognition given distinguished friends Gerald Saxon and Marcia Hock of tomorrow. It is good to note the recognition given distinguished friends Gerald Saxon and Marcia Hock.

MARSHALL E. SURRATT ’43
Dallas, Texas

CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY
I was humbled by the “Behind the Brilliance” article in the fall 2011 issue about my experiences as a young man in Nicaragua. At the time, Nicaragua faced the Sandinista regime headed by Daniel Ortega, a communist by conviction and an opponent by nature. Ortega had full control of the country and its people, and the rights of Nicaraguans were compromised and restricted. It was then that I began to appreciate the level of security and openness the United States offers. Despite a few years of democratic rule, Nicaragua has gone back to its old ways of communism with Ortega. Oh yes. I assumed the presidency for the third time, clearly violating the country’s constitution. I caught myself watching the Republican primaries on TV while listening to a Nicaraguan radio station that transmitted Ortega’s acceptance speech. What a contrast that one nation embraces democracy while another one is enslaved to a dictatorship. I hope the article helps others realize that democracy must be relished at all costs!

ALEJANDRO DEL CARMEN
Arlington, Texas

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Jennifer Fox will experience déjà vu when she gets her bill for the fall 2012 semester. For the first time in more than a decade, UT Arlington will not increase tuition, fees, or student room and board.

The decision was good news for Fox and the more than 33,000 students pursuing degrees at the University. As Student Congress president, she hears the stories of fellow Mavericks who struggle to make ends meet.

"Many UT Arlington students work full or part time to put themselves through school. A lot of our students also have families to support," says Fox, an educational leadership and policy studies graduate student. "Students are impressed that the administration is doing what it can to keep UT Arlington as affordable as possible while continuing to build a first-rate university."

"We are committed to keeping UT Arlington as affordable as possible while continuing to build a first-rate university," President James D. Spaniolo says. "We are committed to keeping UT Arlington as affordable as possible while continuing to build a first-rate university." University bucks national trend by holding the line on tuition and fees

As state funding for UT Arlington has declined—and as state and federal support for financial aid programs shrinks—students and their families have been forced to shoulder more of the financial responsibility for attending college through increased tuition," President James D. Spaniolo says. "We are committed to keeping UT Arlington as affordable as possible while continuing to build a first-rate university."

State-assisted universities have been directed to return a portion of appropriated funds in recent years in response to declining state revenues. Such economic uncertainty makes it difficult to predict whether the University will request a tuition increase for 2013-14 or in subsequent academic years.

"Students are impressed that the administration is concerned about the affordability of their education," Fox says. "But they want to ensure that the quality of their education is maintained, and they don’t want reductions in student services."

No such reductions are forthcoming, says President Spaniolo, who adds that UT Arlington will continue to pursue excellence and invest in the strategic priorities of a major national research university.

UT Arlington students enrolling for the 2013-14 academic year will experience no increase in tuition, fees, or room and board from the previous year.
Awards

ANDREW WHITE
Physics Professor Andrew White has been named a fellow of the American Physical Society. Dr. White, co-director of UT Arlington’s Center for High Energy Physics, has participated in groundbreaking research at the Fermi National Accelerator Lab and worked on the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider.

ZEYNEP CELIK-BUTLER
Electrical engineering Professor Zeynep Celik-Butler, director of UT Arlington’s Nanotechnology Research and Teaching Facility, has been named a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. She was honored for her contributions to the understanding of noise and fluctuation phenomena in solid-state devices.

RYAN GILDERSLEEVE
The National Association for College Admission Counseling has awarded its John B. White has been named a fellow of the American Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He was honored for his contributions to the understanding of noise and fluctuation phenomena in solid-state devices.

SUSTAINABILITY RATING PARK ACHIEVES LOFTY SUSTAINABILITY RATING
When students take a football or frisbee on The Green at College Park, they’re standing on exclusive ground. The Green is one of three projects worldwide to receive certification from the Sustainable Sites Initiative, or SITES. A partnership of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at UT Austin, and the U.S. Botanic Garden, SITES provides a ratings system for landscaping similar to the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design designation. With the help of design and sustainability experts, SITES partners in 2009 established guidelines and performance benchmarks. More than 120 pilot projects have been working toward initial certification. “This is a very rigorous process,” landscape architect Associate Professor David Hopman says. He and faculty researcher associate Sonal Parikh led UT Arlington’s effort to achieve certification. “You not only have to say what you’re going to do, you then have to measure what you’re doing and show that you’ve accomplished it.” The Green at College Park opened in March 2011 and includes 2.6 acres south of College Park Center. It contains several recycled features, such as a walkway made from recycled beer bottles, and helps reduce and filter storm water runoff from College Park Center before it flows toward flood-prone Johnson Creek.

PARKE CAMPUS CAMPUS
A group of UT Arlington forestry and teaching faculty, has been named a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He was honored for his contributions in advancing the understanding of biocompatibility and transforming the development of medical devices for patients.

Healthy Gift

Moritz family helps College of Nursing establish $1 million research chair for geriatric nursing
The largest nursing program in Texas has received its first endowed faculty chair.
A gift from the Moritz family, namesakes of Moritz Dealerships, will establish a $1 million endowed chair of geriatric nursing in the UT Arlington College of Nursing. The contribution was given in honor of the college’s achievements and will enable the University to advance research in the growing field of elder care.
This gift will help us attract the kind of prominent scholar who can move our research agenda forward and inspire our students to see themselves as scientists and scholars for the future,” nursing Dean Elizabeth C. Postle says.
Dr. Postle notes that many doctoral and graduate nursing students are gravitating to geriatrics research. Faculty and students are particularly interested in advances that can boost the effectiveness of caregivers, improve the quality of life for the aging population, and increase opportunities for independent living among the elderly.
UT Arlington will match the $500,000 commitment to create the $1 million Moritz Chair of Geriatric Nursing Research, the second major gift from the Moritz family toward College Park Center.
The Moritzes have long supported the College of Nursing, contributing to scholarships, academics, and the Smart Hospital.
“With what they are doing is remarkable,” says John David Moritz, president of Moritz Dealerships, who will establish a $1 million endowed chair of geriatric nursing in the UT Arlington College of Nursing.

S P R I N G 2 0 1 2 | 3

Forensics for Nursing Crash Course

NURS 4202
The term “forensic nursing” may conjure images of nurses tending to lifeless bodies, but the truth is quite different. These students enrolled in Clinical Assistant Professor Nancy Reilly Wilson’s Forensics for Nursing course soon discover that the forensic field refers to the interplay of the law and nursing. Throughout the popular summertime elective, which is conducted entirely online, students cover topics like autopsies and crime scenes.

“Forensic nurses recognize that a certification is a tool that can resolve moral disputes and help nurses recognize that a certification is a tool that can resolve moral disputes,” says Dr. Reilly Wilson, who is also an attorney and UT Arlington alumnus. “The course would then assure that further investigation is conducted by the appropriate person.”
At the conclusion of the course, students present reports on topics ranging from “The History of Bite Mark Evidence in Court” to “Role of the Doctor in Infant Death Syndromes vs. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.”

STARRY, STARRY NIGHT
A group of UT Arlington astrophysicists hopes its work will help NASA determine whether life exists in a nearby star system. Last year the agency revealed that its Kepler mission had located a cold, potentially habitable planet orbiting a star within our galaxy. After studying the data, the UT Arlington team concluded that an Earth-type planet could exist in the star system’s “habitable zone” as an exomoon orbiting Kepler-16. The researchers also believe that an extended habitable zone may exist outside the planet’s orbit. “This is an assessment of the possibilities,” says physics Professor Zdzislaw Musielak.
“We’re telling them where a planet has to be in the system to be habitable. We’re hoping they will look there.” The team includes Dr. Musielak, Associate Professor Manfred Cuntz, and doctoral student Billy Quarles.

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Called the Industry/University Cooperative Research Center in Energy-Efficient Electronic Systems, the consortium comprises UT Arlington, Binghamton, and Villanova universities and 10 companies, including Facebook, Microsoft, General Electric, and Raytheon-based Conmed, with whom Dr. Agnauer has worked on a variety of data center-related activities. Binghamton serves as the main research center for the group, with each campus having separate projects. Facebook has pledged $50,000 toward this and his part of Agnauer’s research, which focuses on cooling data centers and making air flow more economical. The pledge is renewable for up to five years. Agnauer says one reason the NSF asked UT Arlington to join the consortium is because the University has all the components to conduct this type of research: an electronic cooling lab, a nanofabrication facility, the Automation & Robotics Research Institute, a manufacturing assistance center, and an aerodynamics research center. “Each of the center’s academic partners has expertise in a particular area,” says Bahgat Sammakia, interim vice president for research at Binghamton University and the center’s director. “By tapping into those individual strengths, we will collectively find the answers to some of the industry’s most challenging practical problems.”

Bone Breakthrough

Our understanding of bones just took a leap forward, thanks to a study by kinesiology Assistant Professor Rhonda Prisby. Dr. Prisby and a team of French and Canadian scientists analyzed the effects of parathyroid hormone (PTH) on bone blood vessels. PTH, which is often used to treat osteoporosis, binds to bone cells to stimulate bone mass growth. The researchers examined the interaction between the hormone and vascular endothelial growth factor, a protein that creates new blood vessels. “When we administered PTH intermittently for 15 and 30 days, we saw increases in bone mass, just as we expected,” Prisby says. “But bone blood vessel numbers were decreased with PTH. That was the opposite of what we expected.”

In fact, the PTH caused small blood vessels in the bones to redistribute closer to the surface, thus allowing them to more efficiently deliver nutrients and oxygen, and eliminate waste. This redistribution of the small blood vessels contributed to the increased bone mass, the team concluded.

The study has drawn notice. A paper outlines the research in a recent issue of the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, the official publication of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research. That same issue also features a commentary by Dwight A. Towler, the Ira M. Lang Professor of Medicine for Barnes-Jewish Hospital at Washington University Medical Center.

“This unparalleled, quantitatively robust analysis of bone vascular anatomy and its regulation by PTH has provided truly novel insights,” Dr. Towler writes, adding that such research is important because a better understanding of bone-vascular interactions could impact strategies on building new bone in everything from cancer cases to old age.

[Image of Faculty Department of Physics]

RAMON LOPEZ
Physics Professor Ramon Lopez knows that solar wind, radiation, and changing electromagnetic fields can put a glitch in modern technology much like rain can ruin a picnic. Dr. Lopez is a co-principal investigator of the Center for Integrated Space Weather Modelling. He helped create the technology used to predict a hurricane’s path, and his long-term projects include developing computer simulations of space weather. In science, science education is just as important as research. He has helped develop science programs for more than 150 school districts. As program director of UTech Arlington, and as a co-principal investigator for Arlington Undergraduate Research-based Achievement for STEM, or AUARs, he’s also part of a team developing the Next Generation Science standards that will be adopted in the United States. “This is not just for people going into college,” he says, “this is what the science education standards are. This is what scientifically literate people should know.” Lopez has raised numerous awards during his career. The most recent include being elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and receiving the Edward A. Bouchard award, a national honor that recognizes a scientist-physicist who has made significant contributions to physics research.

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EILEN MOSS
Arches and mixed magazines reported on a biomark being developed by electrical engineer Eileen Moss at UT Arlington’s Automation & Robotics Research Institute. The polymer mask is embedded with electrical, mechanical, and biological components that can speed healing from disfiguring facial burns often suffered by soldiers.

JOHN ADAMS
A Star-Telegram column featured a finance analyst Professor John Adams’ study that found some mutual funds and exchange-traded funds earn dramatically less than others on their stock-lending operations even when the funds themselves are similar. Smart Money when the funds themselves earn dramatically less than others on their stock-lending operations even when the funds themselves are similar. Smart Money

NEW TAKE ON OLD THEORY MAY BOOST BOTTOM LINE

Many business owners consider speed the key to success: how quickly they can enter the marketplace, promote their product, and adapt to customers’ needs. Management Associate Professor Liliana Perez-Nordtvedt has a different theory. “It’s not how fast you do something that matters, but when you do it. ‘Most strategies ask, “Do we want to differentiate our product, our price, or how customers view us?” she says. “This is kind of a different approach. The idea is to create entrainment, and it’s nothing new. It means that something does best when it synchronizes with the dominant forces in its environment. But until Dr. Perez-Nordtvedt came along, few thought of it as a business strategy. She and UT Arlington colleagues Susanna Kherali and Jeff McKeen are among the first researchers attempting to measure entrainment in business strategy. The $1.3 billion Cowboys Stadium is aiding their efforts. The researchers are looking at how the stadium, which opened in 2009, has impacted local businesses. ‘They bring about a lot of changes, but they also bring in something that happened around Arlington typically occurred around the summer. So they bring an expansion of what businesses around here can do.’ The research focuses on how businesses entrain themselves to Cowboys Stadium, taking advantage of the huge crowds. Consider an outdoor hot dog vendor nearby. His business model likely won’t change because of the stadium—he still sells hot dogs—but then when he chooses to sell them might. And he might choose to close during a Cowboys game when patrons are inside and traffic to his stand would be low. Closing when Cowboys Stadium is open—synchronizing against the dominant cycle—may not exactly entrainment. But the team is finding that this can also be a common and effective strategy for some smaller firms.

A FITTING TRIBUTE

UT Arlington awarded nearly 4,000 degrees at its December commencement. But one—incidentally, the very last one—was particularly special. It went to Jeremy Smith, a Marine staff sergeant who was killed in combat in Afghanistan last April. Smith, 26, earned a B.S.E.A. and was just a few hours short of completing his bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies. About a dozen members of Smith’s family attended the commencement ceremony. Accepting the diploma on his behalf was particularly special. It went to Jeremy Smith, a Marine staff sergeant who was killed in combat in Afghanistan last April. Smith, 26, earned a B.S.E.A. and was just a few hours short of completing his bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies. Accepting the diploma on his behalf was particularly special. It went to Jeremy Smith, a Marine staff sergeant who was killed in combat in Afghanistan last April. Smith, 26, earned a B.S.E.A. and was just a few hours short of completing his bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies.

ESCHENIUS DASCUPTA
Purnendu “Sandy” Das Gupta, the Jenkins Garrett Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was quoted in an MSN Health news story about the importance of increasing iodine intake. Dr. Das Gupta, who has conducted studies on iodine levels in table salt, recommended universal salt iodization.

ELISABETH CAWTHON
formerly Director of the Jenkins Garrett College of Business, was interviewed by USA Today for a story on the upcoming commencement ceremony of British Queen Elizabeth II. Dr. Cawthon called the queen a common and effective business strategy for some smaller firms.

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A Hint of Higgs

Physicists’ experiment at Large Hadron Collider finds the first traces of elusive particle

UT Arlington’s high energy physics group is helping illuminate one of the biggest mysteries of the universe.

The scientists are part of a larger U.S. team working on the ATLAS particle physics experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world’s biggest and most powerful particle accelerator. Recently, the ATLAS team and another group of researchers found the first “tantalizing hints” of the Higgs boson particle, the only particle predicted by the Standard Model of Physics that has not been seen in experiments. Physicists believe that interaction with the Higgs boson gives particles in the universe their mass.

“After 15 years of contributions to ATLAS by our group here at UT Arlington, it is exciting to be at the threshold of an astonishing scientific breakthrough,” says physics Professor Kaushik De, director of the University’s Center of Excellence in High Energy Physics. Additional data from the LHC, which the researchers expect to gather this year, will show whether these hints are the Higgs or just an accidental fluctuation in data.

To enhance their search for the elusive particle, the UT Arlington team is designing a time-of-flight detector that could significantly boost the collider’s measurement capabilities. Led by Professor Andrew Brandt, the group is constructing what would be the fastest detector ever deployed at a particle accelerator, with 30 picosecond, or trillionths of a second, time resolution. The time-of-flight component would give scientists a way to locate the vertex, or collision point, for protons, which could help determine the characteristics of the Higgs boson particle.

“Measuring the events where both protons stay intact, yet you still get a massive system produced by a collision in the central ATLAS detector, would be a new capability for ATLAS and potentially a very exciting part of the discovery physics program,” Dr. Brandt says.
HUNTER PENCE
Hunter Pence says this off-season was no different than any other. He was in the batting cage honing his swing and hitting kids at his annual skills camp. But there was one difference to be sure: Pence, the Philadelphia Phillies’ five-time Gold Glove award and UT Arlington’s most notable baseball alumnus, was in one of his first career postseason appearances. His Mavericks made the first postseason appearance in program history.

“[This season] felt a lot like the end of the world Series—champion St. Louis Cardinals,” says Pence of his playoff adventure. “What happened last year fuels your desire. There are 30 teams out to win the World Series, and then there’s only going to be one that does it. It’s palpable, and that’s our goal.”

The Phillies begin that quest in this same region of the country. Pence said 3,000 could sit in the theater seats opposite.

“The commitment is there from the president on down that we will compete on a national stage,” says Scott Cross, a guard on Texas’ 1981 NCAA championship team to Texas State. The glistening $78 million, 7,000-seat College Park Center opened Feb. 1, and Texas Hall returned to its original and best use as an entertainment venue, where the plays aren’t drawn up on whiteboards.

“If it’s possible to shrink the history of Texas Hall into a single story, it’s this one: When former basketball coach Bob ‘Snake’ LeGrand brought recruits to campus, he made sure they never saw the University’s home court. LeGrand, whose coaching persona was as colorful as his nickname, skipped UT Arlington’s anomalous theater-turned-sports-arena because it was an eyesore. Recruits don’t want to see a basketball court laid atop a theater stage, complete with curtains on each end and a four-foot drop-off along one sideline. Bleachers on the west side held a few hundred fans. About 5,000 could sit in the theater seats opposite.

“After almost 50 years, Texas Hall hosted its final athletic event Jan. 29, a loss by the women’s basketball team to Texas State. The glistening $78 million, 7,000-seat College Park Center opened Feb. 1, and Texas Hall returned to its original and best use as an entertainment venue, where the plays aren’t drawn up on whiteboards.

“Still, dimming the lights was bittersweet for some who called it home. ‘I’ll miss the uniqueness of Texas Hall and the close- ness of the fans to the court, particularly on the bleacher side,’ says longtime Athletics Director Pete Carlin, who left that position in February to focus on UT Arlington’s transition to the Western Athletic Conference. ‘Texas Hall, for a time, was a prime volleyball venue. In the 1980s when current head coach Diane Seymour was at Texas State, her team played in the Pavilion, claiming No. 7 in a national poll and reaching the Final Four in 1980. Texas Hall hosted four NCAA tournament matches in the era, the only NCAA postseason games on campus in any sport.’

“My biggest takeaway was the time our program spent with athletes. In December, when teams play their big conference matchups, Texas Hall simply wasn’t available. With the Videomatic, commencements, and other events tying up the stage/court.

“Men’s basketball coach Scott Cross, a guard on UT Arlington teams in the mid-1990s, says the venue made recruiting extremely tough. ‘There is a reason why UTA never went to the NCAA tournament in the 49 years before we went in 2008. Texas Hall is not a suitable facility for a program that’s trying to build a consistent winner. Facilities are at the top of the list for recruits when choosing a school. Until then, facilities usually have us in recruiting.’

Or, as Seymour puts it: “Walking through it on a recruiting visit while it was set up for the ballet was never a good selling point. I love Texas Hall, but I can’t wait to play in College Park Center.”

Web extra: Watch a video at uta.edu/tmac/agency.

NEW ATHLETICS DIRECTOR SEES PROMISING FUTURE

Jim Baker’s first day on the job was one of the most exciting in UT Arlington athletics history. His appointment as director of intercollegiate athletics Feb. 1 coincided with the grand opening of the $78 million College Park Center, the new home for Mavericks basketball and volleyball.

“Baker believes the state-of-the-art facility and the University’s impending move to the Western Athletic Conference position UT Arlington for success across its 14 NCAA Division I athletics programs. ‘The commitment is there from the president on down that we will compete on a national stage,’ he says. ‘We are in a great recruiting place and a great city with a remarkable partnership with the University.’

“Baker, who has 30 years experience in athletics administration, philanthropic partnerships, and events management, most recently was associate athletic director for events and operations at UT Austin. He joined the Longhorns in 1993 after overseeing the school’s baseball and golf programs, managed multimillion-dollar construction projects, and supervised football game-day activities. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio, and began his career working at Ohio State University. From 1981 until joining the UT Austin staff ‘We are fortunate to have such an exceptional leader join us at this critical point in the evolution of our athletics program,’ President James D. Spaniolo says. ‘We will look to Jim to advance UT Arlington to even higher levels of regional and national competition.’

‘Our vision is to grow the Owlmen and Owlettes on and off the court. We want to give the students the best experience possible at UT Arlington, and we will continue to be a major factor in bringing a national championship to the University.’

‘That is my goal as the new athletics director. If we achieve it, it will be a true success story for UT Arlington Athletics.’

TARA FRANTZ
Senior outside hitter Tara Frantz was named a first-team All-Southland Conference volleyball performer in 2011. She led the Mavericks with 44 kills per set while maintaining a .221 attack percentage. Frantz finished her UT Arlington career with 1,008 kills, becoming the 18th player in school history to surpass the 1,000-kill mark.

RYAN BOWERS
The Arizona Diamondbacks plan to open the 2012 Major League Baseball season with Ryan Roberts as their starting third baseman. The former Mavericks infielder had a breakout 2011 campaign, batting .249 with 99 home runs, 16 steals, 65 RBIs, and 46 runs scored. Roberts also hit .352 with two home runs and six RBIs in the National League Division Series. He signed a $2 million contract for 2012.
Video games transport players into make-believe worlds where they vanquish mortal enemies and win the world’s biggest sporting competitions. But for UT Arlington researchers, they represent a novel way to train nurses, improve communication among caregivers, battle teenage substance abuse, and treat children with cerebral palsy. BY SARAH BAHARI

Emily is 8 months old and has cystic fibrosis, a chronic genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. Admitted to the hospital for a persistent cough, she hasn’t been gaining weight, cries frequently, and breathes rapidly.

What should the nurse do?

The scenario is part of iNursingRN, a virtual game that teaches undergraduate nursing students how to identify, diagnose, and treat pediatric respiratory conditions. Students can see the child lying in a crib, use a stethoscope to listen to her breathing, and check the heart rate.

“People get better with practice. That is true with golf, changing diapers, or nursing,” says Associate Professor Judy LeFlore, who created iNursingRN. “Games provide a safe venue for practice, with no repercussions to making a mistake. Virtual patients will not die.”

Video games have long captivated the masses with fantasy worlds of intergalactic war, organized crime, and sports glory. But a new crop of games such as iNursingRN aims to achieve far more than entertainment. Using the same eye-catching graphics, the games train students and professionals in fields ranging from medicine and defense to public policy and emergency management.

Known as “serious gaming,” the idea has caught on at UT Arlington, where researchers are developing high-level games to better prepare nurses, prevent violence in dating among teenagers, and assess children with cerebral palsy.

“Teachers have used games for a long, long time as an educational tool,” says Ben Sawyer, co-founder of the national Serious Games Initiative, which promotes the creation of games for learning. “What we are seeing now is more sophisticated forms of games that have arisen from the popularity of video games.

“We’re in the beginning stages, but the potential is tremendous.”

PLAYING NURSE

From her office on the sixth floor of Pickard Hall, Dr. LeFlore, a 20-year nursing veteran, enters the neonatal intensive care unit.

The first patient is Peyton, a 26-week premature baby just brought in from labor and delivery. LeFlore inspects Peyton’s fontanel (the soft spot on a newborn’s head), her nose, mouth, vital signs, and X-rays. She listens to lung and heart sounds.

When she’s ready, LeFlore can write and submit orders for Peyton, including how much fluid she
Outside the University, LeFlore’s project earned $800,000 from the National Science Foundation to develop the CPLAY system, which would allow children ages 5 to 12 to receive therapy from home. Using a screen, the children could be asked to pop balloons, match colors, or drag a finger through a maze. A data glove could allow an occupational therapist to determine the movement of the hand and fingers as the child plays.

“This would have tremendous benefits to children and their parents,” Dr. Makedon says. “Parents are usually desperate for help. They can’t take their children to an occupational therapist every day, and they can’t spend 24 hours a day working with them. A game system would offer families one more avenue for help.”

Angie Boisselle, a consultant on the project and an occupational therapist at Cook Children’s Health Care System, reasons that handheld devices and screen-based games appeal to children, and this would allow therapists to easily track a child’s progress.

“These games would benefit both families and the therapists,” Boisselle says. “As therapists, we think of ourselves as facilitators. We are focused on helping parents perform the exercises with their children. Teaching them how to use a game would give them the tools they need.”

The work does not end there. Makedon and fellow researchers also plan to create game-based systems for adults with Alzheimer’s disease and severe depression, and for stroke survivors.

TARGETING TEENS

Perhaps the most enjoyable video games are those for teenagers. A team of UT Arlington professors set out to capitalize on the comfort many teens have with technology.

In partnership with Waymaker, an alternative high school in Arlington, School of Social Work professor Dr. Beverly Black, and Richard Schoere produced a game to prepare teenagers to navigate tricky social situations involving substance abuse and dating violence.

The goal of the game, called “Choices and Consequences,” is to have a fun, safe weekend. Beginning after school Friday and ending Sunday, players must decide what to do in a series of situations ranging from whether to drink alcohol with friends to how to meet someone in person after meeting online.

UT Arlington computer science and engineering researchers helped build the pilot game, and students at Venture School are providing feedback. When completed, the game will target 13-year-olds.

“We are just starting to tap into the potential of gaming,” Dr. Boyas says. “Through ‘Choices and Consequences,’ we hope to determine if we can use gaming, to prevent and lessen rates of substance use and dating violence among young people.”

Venture School social worker Gary Grossman says the game frequently leads to spirited class discussions about drinking, violence, and other issues teens face. “Teenagers have an immediate comfort level and familiarity with technology, which opens them up to learning. Games provide us with a rich forum,” he says.

The Amon G. Carter Foundation and the Innovative Community and Academic Partnership provided funding for the project, which Boyas hopes to expand to other schools.

“Technology is very much a part of our everyday lives,” he says. “If we can use that to tailor our educational lessons, we have the opportunity to reach people who might not respond to a traditional lecture.”

“Games provide a safe venue for practice, with no repercussions to making a mistake. Virtual patients will not die.”

Dr. Boyas

BAY STEPS

Through the nursing air computer-based simulation she created, Associate Professor Judy LeFlore helps students determine the best care for preemies.

In January 2011 she presented the research, which won first place in Emerging and Innovative Technologies and Methods.

VIDEO HEALTH CARE

Communication lapses can lead to serious, even deadly medical mistakes. The Joint Commission, a national organization that accredits and certifies health care organizations, has identified communication among caregivers as a key national patient safety goal.

But relatively little attention is paid to teaching and maintaining communication skills, says Beth Mancini, associate dean of the College of Nursing.

So Dr. Mancini, working with the Baylor Health Care System and UT Dallas, is creating a video game that helps students improve communication skills with doctors and nurses.

The U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality is funding the work with just under $1 million.

“We know that when communication between nurses and doctors is optimized, there are better outcomes for patients,” says Mancini, who spent nearly 30 years as a practicing nurse. “How can you deliver care without clear communication?”

Initially, the game will focus on surgeons and nurses caring for post-operative patients. Currently in the design stage, researchers are hosting focus groups to discuss possible scenarios. A nurse could call a doctor at 2 a.m. to discuss a patient’s medication, for example.

Over the next year, the team will refine the game and begin recruiting 120 nurses and 25 physicians at Baylor to do pilot testing.

“Not everyone will find serious gaming the best way to learn. But for some, this could be an incredibly powerful and engaging tool for changing behavior,” Mancini says. “They can learn communications strategies at home when convenient for them, which gives us a lot of flexibility. We can bring the learning to them.”

Games can benefit patients, too. Led by Filiba Makedon, chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, a team of engineering researchers is developing a video game to improve the physical and mental assessments of children with cerebral palsy.

Typically caused by birth injury or abnormal development before birth, the disorder can affect movement, muscle control and coordination, posture, and balance. An estimated 800,000 people in the United States have cerebral palsy, according to United Cerebral Palsy, which provides support services to those affected.

UT Arlington researchers have received more than $800,000 from the National Science Foundation to develop the CPLAY system, which would allow children ages 5 to 12 to receive therapy from home. Using a screen, the children could be asked to pop balloons, match colors, or drag a finger through a maze. A data glove could allow an occupational therapist to determine the movement of the hand and fingers as the child plays.

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The work does not end there. Makedon and fellow researchers also plan to create game-based systems for adults with Alzheimer’s disease and severe depression, and for stroke survivors.
Rarely does the opportunity arise to forever change the face of a university. But College Park Center is just such a history maker. Not only does the dazzling facility fulfill the long-held dreams of a generation of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends, it represents a symbol of UT Arlington’s rising arc of excellence. BY MARK PERMENTER

SPARKING A TRANSFORMATION

The grand opening of College Park Center was a night like no other in UT Arlington’s 117-year history, the electricity of the moment rivaled only by the passion of what lay ahead.

With eyes focused on the center-hung, four-sided video display, more than 6,200 blue- and orange-clad fans watched President James D. Spaniolo shoot a free throw on the stage of Texas Hall, the unconventional home of Mavericks basketball and volleyball for the past 47 years. In the video, the ball bursts through the wall, rockets across campus like a meteor, and crashes through the roof of College Park Center.

Synchronized pyrotechnics gave the impression that the ball landed on the new court, “cutting” a giant blue ribbon to signal the center’s opening. Mix in a performance by the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders and victories by the men’s and women’s basketball teams, and you had a near-perfect evening.

“It was an unforgettable experience,” says Emily Head ’99, a past Alumni Association president. “After years of hearing UTA dismissed as a so-called commuter school, I couldn’t get past the feeling that we had arrived! I’ve always been proud to call UTA my university, and now the rest of the world could see why.”

FIRING UP

Pyrotechnics shooting from a giant blue ribbon signaled the opening of College Park Center and the beginning of a new era for UT Arlington.
Cameron Catlett and the Mavericks, left, defeated UT San Antonio, 67-66, on opening night in front of the largest home basketball crowd in UT Arlington history. Before the game, President James D. Spaniolo, below, welcomed fans to the new arena.

The venue itself drew widespread acclaim. Media reports called the $78 million, 218,000-square-foot arena “eye-popping,” “luxurious,” “game-changing,” and “exquisite.” It seats 7,000 for sporting events, 6,750 for concerts, and 6,300 for commencement exercises.

The center features more than 100 LG television monitors and a 2,800-square-foot hospitality suite that can be divided into three sections. It also includes two full-size practice courts, a sports medicine center, an academic center for student-athletes, and a small theater for game video review and other uses.

“College Park Center’s amenities rival those of any college basketball arena of its size in the nation,” says Jim Baker, who became athletics director Feb. 1, the day the facility opened (see story on p. 17). “It is truly an elite venue.”

Designed by HKS Inc., architects of Cowboys Stadium, to meet LEED Gold standards for sustainability, the center mixes brick and stone with large windows to maximize natural light. Other environmentally friendly aspects include a low-use water system, a highly reflective roof that reduces the solar load on the building, and native landscaping.

A New York Times article heralded College Park Center as “not just as a new era for the University’s sports programs, but for the University as well.”

This new era includes all-time highs in enrollment, research activity, and philanthropic support, as well as increases in student retention and quality. It is marked by a record number of students living on or near campus and a burgeoning sense of Maverick pride that’s spreading to the community.

College Park Center is the crown jewel of the University’s College Park District, a 20-acre, mixed-use development that promises to accelerate the resurgence of downtown Arlington. Scheduled to be completed this summer, the $80 million project includes street-level retail, a residence hall and apartments for 600 students, an 1,850-vehicle parking structure, and the Dan Dipert University Welcome Center.

Within its first five weeks of operation, College Park Center hosted a sold-out concert by Grammy-nominated superstar Drake, ESPN Friday Night Fights, and nine UT Arlington basketball games, including a Homecoming victory by the men’s team over Texas State. It was also the focal point of the Homecoming street festival and parade. The University will hold commencement ceremonies there this spring, as well as several area high schools.

For Hoad and many other alumni, that opening night video of a basketball blazing across the sky was much more than a special effect.

“College Park Center symbolizes the University’s meteoric growth over the past eight years,” she says. “Every alum should come back and see the University’s transformation for themselves.”

With the debut of College Park Center, the decades-long dream of a first-class facility for athletics, commencements, concerts, and other high-profile events has finally come true. And dreams of new milestones have already begun.

Web extra: Watch a video at uta.edu/utamagazine.

A marquee, left, stands east of College Park Center and beckons visitors with its 10-foot-tall UT Arlington logo and large digital video display. The center provided a striking backdrop for the Homecoming parade, below, which featured 74 entries.

CENTER OF ACTIVITY

Colorful glass art adorns the College Park Center hospitality suite, left, which hosted receptions on opening night and during Homecoming. Spacious concourses with large windows, below left, encircle the seating bowl. An expanded Homecoming parade, below, included Mexican folkloric dancers.
UNDER THE MICROSCOPE
Bioengineering Assistant Professor George Alexandrakis is exploring how cancer cells damaged by radiation therapy work to repair themselves.

Breakthroughs in tissue engineering and optical imaging have brought UT Arlington bioengineers millions of dollars in funding to fight the disease that took more than 570,000 American lives last year. BY O.K. CARTER

The numbers are alarming. The National Cancer Institute estimates that almost half the country’s male population will have some form of cancer, as will about one in three women. Though survival rates continue to improve, almost 35 percent of Americans diagnosed with cancer will die within five years. Three UT Arlington bioengineering researchers aim to improve those statistics. Assistant Professors Bao-hong Yuan and George Alexandrakis and Professor Liping Tang have signed on as warriors against cancer, striving to develop more effective techniques to diagnose and combat the disease.

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) shares the trio’s enthusiasm for the potentially life-saving impact of their work, awarding them nearly $2 million in grants in 2011.

Dr. Yuan received $1.095 million to create a high-resolution imaging system that will detect small cancers in deep tissue. Dr. Alexandrakis, who secured a nearly $790,000 CPRIT award and a related $342,000 National Institutes of Health grant, focuses on how cancerous cells damaged by radiation therapy work to repair themselves. CPRIT awarded Dr. Tang, a tissue engineering expert, $200,000 to create a ‘chemical trap’ that will mimic bone marrow and attract migrating cancer cells.

Texas voters approved CPRIT via constitutional amendment in 2007, authorizing $3 billion in bonds to fund cutting-edge cancer research and prevention programs and services. Fewer than 10 percent of the research applications typically are funded each year, with most of that going to medical schools.

“Receiving these CPRIT awards is a remarkable milestone for UT Arlington,” says Provost Ronald Elsenbaumer, who notes that bioengineering Assistant Professor Jian Yang earned a $200,000 CPRIT grant in 2010 for thyroid cancer research. “The funding puts our biomedical research on par with the best.”

SHARPENING THE FOCUS
Resolution is important to Yuan, particularly when it comes to one of his specialties: the ability to see small tumors deep within tissue.

“The problem with current imaging of tumors is that what you get is not super clear but more like an out-of-focus photo,” he says. “If you think about regular micro-imaging methods, like ultrasound, there are fundamental limitations. For imaging of deeper tissues, you have to sacrifice resolution. This means if you want to see deep, deep tissue, you cannot see too small. There’s a trade-off between the imaging depth and the resolution.”

Perhaps not for long. Yuan’s research focuses on using ultrasound-mediated techniques, combined with microparticles or nanoparticles that tumors attract, to image small but deep tumors. Exposed to ultrasound waves, the particles become temporarily fluorescent and can be detected by a non-invasive probe system that he and other researchers are helping design.

The work is an application of biophotonics, an emerging area of scientific research that uses light and other forms of radiant energy to explore the inner workings of living organisms, enabling researchers to see, measure, analyze, and manipulate tissues in novel ways.

“You can see clearer, deeper, and smaller,” Yuan says. “It is extremely useful to spot small tumors before they grow. If a tumor grows beyond 1 or 2 millimeters, it has to generate new blood vessels to provide nutrients and oxygen. The imaging technique can tell you if that’s happening.”

And that information is useful in deciding treatment—surgery, radiation, even spot-chemotherapy. “It’s going to be a big help in both diagnosis and developing therapy. The imaging is also precise enough to tell whether blood vessels supporting the
Wayward cancer cells often attract and conquer. We will have a better chance to treat the cancer there and also prevent it from spreading.

**A PROTEIN GLOW**

Alexandrakis’ research world is both sub-cellular and fluorescent. He painstakingly observes a protein exchange inside a highly magnified cancer cell, a slow process involving thousands of proteins. He tracks a single protein at a time with a unique perspective: The cells within which the protein exists have all been exposed to radiation cancer treatment.

“We’re looking for ways to help cells repair themselves after radiation treatment,” says Alexandrakis, an imaging specialist with a doctorate in medical physics. He works with physicians and researchers at other institutions, including UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center.

“I’m the imaging guy who supports everybody else,” he says. “They ship me the cancer cells, I expose them to radiation treatment, and I tell them what’s actually happening in the cells, including how the healing process is going or not going.”

Evoking technology enables Alexandrakis to make a specific protein uniquely fluorescent within a cell. “The cumulative interaction of multiple protein partners results in the DNA being repaired or in some cases mis-repaired. We try to break this down and understand all the steps in between as to how these proteins interact.”

In the long run, this should enable cancer treatment specialists to see how different variations of radiation and chemotherapy are working at a very early stage and to make adjustments.

Alexandrakis believes the research will progress from the cellular level to animal experimentation in about five years and from there to more refined and efficient treatment for human cancer patients. A prediction: “With the knowledge of what’s happening within cells during radiation treatment protein interactions, all these different collaborations and these different research paths will eventually converge to more efficient and personalized treatment planning and to improved tumor destruction.”

**FOREFRONT OF DISCOVERY**

That the research of Tang, Alexandrakis, and Yuan overlaps is no coincidence. Bioengineering Department Chair Khosrow Behbehani says that as early as 2002 the department decided to carve a niche in optical imaging and tissue engineering. “Something that turned out beyond our expectation was that the medical optical imaging group has close collaboration with the tissue engineering group because they have complementary skills,” he says.

He’s thrilled at the University’s success in attracting bioengineering-related grants. “We’re competing successfully with much larger institutions around the country. In particular, our decision to establish a UT Arlington imaging lab on the UT Southwestern campus has paid dividends. The idea was to make our researchers easily accessible to medical doctors and life science researchers. It is particularly valuable to invite somebody to our lab and show what we can do.”

Behbehani says the Holy Grail of cancer research is to understand what causes the disease at the cellular level. “That’s going to be the direction, and understanding the essence is what is going to lead to more efficient ways to prevent or treat cancer. At UT Arlington we’re going to be on the front line of research leading to those accomplishments.”

**IT’S A TRAP**

From his state-of-the-art laboratory in the year-old Engineering Research Building, Tang examines a collection of special laboratory mice. They live still alive months after being given a form of cancer that typically leads to death in about a month. Each has been injected with a bioengineered, bone marrow-mimicking ‘trap’ that attracts wayward cancer cells that would otherwise establish tumors elsewhere. Indeed, the mice without the traps have already died, most in fewer than five weeks.

“The test animals survive 25 percent longer with the implant trap alone,” Tang notes. “That’s without any other treatment whatsoever. Humans, of course, do receive treatment, which means that the trap has potential to both extend life or to help cure the disease entirely.”

Cancer often kills by spreading, with cells migrating from an original tumor to other places in the body. Bone marrow particularly attracts these potentially deadly agents. Tang’s research focuses on bioengineering a bone marrow replicant enhanced with one or more protein attractors that draw in cancer cells—for reasons not yet fully understood—like bees pulled to pollen.

“It’s a two-step process. First the stem cell marrow mimicking is injected into the body. That’s the trap. Once researchers identify the factors that attract cancer cells to bone marrow (proteins that migrating cancer cells can sense), they can enhance the attraction. Cancer that develops in the trap can be treated conventionally with radiation, chemotherapy, or surgery, and it’s far easier to treat a single site than multiple ones. “So far this is looking like a pretty good strategy,” Tang says.

**IMAGES EVERYTHING**

Biongineering Assistant Professor Baohong Yuan and his team have received a grant for more than $1 million to create a high-resolution imaging system that will detect small cancers in deep tissue.
Historical Brazos House is a little old place where UT Arlington students get together to study, relax, debate, hang out—and often begin courtships that lead to marriage. BY JUDY WILEY

Like all old buildings, Brazos House has tales. There’s the one about ROTC cadets in the 1930s or ’40s smuggling a cow on laxatives to the top floor when the place was a barracks called Davis Hall. Another, about 50 years later, purports that someone sneaked in a keg. No doubt UT Arlington’s oldest residence hall has witnessed untold pranks.

But it’s a rare building that works such a spell on its inhabitants that they want to come back year after year, stay in touch decades after graduation, and—remarkably often—marry someone they met there. It’s also a safe bet that few structures built in 1936 are nicknamed the “Love Shack.”

The reasons for the fanatical affection former residents still shower on Brazos House are not glaringly obvious to an outsider, although the building does have character. Through the years students have carved their names and dates into the stone entrances, a kind of graffiti history that dates to the ’30s.

The four-story building is laid out in ramps rather than floors, so you climb stairs to reach groups of rooms. In the downstairs common area/lobby, six students gather around a table with their laptops. Laura De La Paz of Dallas says she chose Brazos for its low cost and location in the center of campus, then she acknowledges the Love Shack nickname, giggling. Glances go around the table, and she finally admits she might be interested in someone there.

But today’s students and those who came before them talk about another feeling that holds them close. Over and over, they mention the family atmosphere, the camaraderie.

BRAZOS BONDS

Sometimes a shy student finds a social life here without intending to. Freshman Emily Fitzgerald says fellow Brazonians pressured her to get out of her room and socialize. Now she is and she’s enjoying it. She
The proof it’s possible: Numerous couples who met at Brazos have married and still stay in touch with Brazos that he traveled from Canada in 2005 and proclaimed he would marry her, in 1997 and got engaged to hide the fact that they were dating). Later she was worried. "People actually cared about you," husband Bryan says. "If you weren’t there, they wondered where you were, just like a family would." COUPLE CONNECTIONS Crystal and Sam Okasha, above, met at Brazos House in 1997 and got engaged in 2005. Corrie and Jake Wells, right, say their Brazos friends are still their closest friends today. "People actually cared about you," husband Bryan says. "If you weren’t there, they wondered where you were, just like a family would."
The Simmonses were moved to create their scholarship endowment of more than $2 million in recognition of the relationship between the UT Arlington Alumni Association and its students. “This gift reflects the deep commitment our alumni have to ensuring that UT Arlington ranks among the best in the world in supporting our students,” says Linda Blackwell Simmons, the association’s executive director.

“Because they cared enough to give, we were able to fulfill our dreams of raising people with mental illnesses,” she says.

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**GRADUATION CELEBRATION**

Stevenson joined the Boeing Corp. and served as lead systems engineer on several projects, including the F-35 pilot training system. He continues to work for the company on functional product specifications development. Vogl received a bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 1982. She was the first commissioned female second lieutenant of the Women’s Army Corps to graduate from what was then Arlington State College. She commanded the WAC Company at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In 1979 she was assigned as the public affairs officer for the 726th U.S. Army Reserve Command, and one of her primary duties was to reinstate the Memorial Day parade down Fifth Avenue in New York City. The parade continues each Memorial Day. Roe received her bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 1972 as a distinguished military graduate. He was the installation engineer at four military graduate. He was the installation engineer at four military

**WORTHY RECOGNITION**

Utah Night at the Ballpark

**NETWORKING EVENTS**

Mingle with fellow alumni at happy hours in Dallas and Fort Worth. Join the Greater Fort Worth Chapter from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at Capital Pub, 2401 N. Henderson Ave. in Dallas. Join the Fort Worth Chapter from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Patrizio, 2932 Crockett St. in Fort Worth. RSVP and 19 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Patrizio, 2932 Crockett St. in Fort Worth. Join the Greater Fort Worth Chapter from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at Capital Pub, 2401 N. Henderson Ave. in Dallas. Join the Fort Worth Chapter from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Patrizio, 2932 Crockett St. in Fort Worth. RSVP and

**DISTINGUISHED CADETS JOIN HALL OF HONOR**

Grand Gratitude

When fueled by passion, innovation, and generosity, dreams can become reality. Look no further than College Park Center for proof.

The $78 million special events showpiece provided a striking backdrop for a dedication celebration in March honoring UT Arlington’s closest friends and supporters for helping make the long-anticipated venture a dream come true.

“College Park Center represents the hopes and dreams of so many,” President James D. Spaniolo said during the remarks to the 400 attending. “It has quickly become a metaphor for all that the University has become and all that we aspire to be—first class, first tier, first place.”

The gala transformed the venue’s floor into an elegant setting lined with hues of blue and orange. Large video screens showed two multimedia presentations, one chronicling the center from its groundbreaking to its Feb. 1 grand opening and the other thanking donors for their support. The event also featured performances by the UT Arlington Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra, A Cappella Choir, and University Choir.

Among the major College Park Center commitments recognized were $5 million from Carrozio Oil & Gas Inc., the University’s partner in developing natural gas resources; $3 million from alumni Alan and Bonnie Smith Peteshe to name the basketball/volleyball court Peteches Court; and $750,000 from the Morriz family for Morriz Plaza, which serves as the center’s main entrance. The evening featured a dinner and reception celebrating the generous contributions of 1895 Society members, whose annual support of $1,000 or more continues to propel UT Arlington toward its goal of becoming a major national research institution.

“Old notions and perceptions of UT Arlington are quickly fading, and a new chapter has begun,” President Spaniolo said. “Without the unwavering support of our philanthropic partners, none of this would be possible.”

**OZEEBALL TOURNAMENT**

The Student Alumni Association and Campus Recreation host the annual mud volleyball tournament 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, April 27, at Summit Street between Greek Row and 4th Street. utaalamun.org

**EVENTS**

**UTA NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK**

Watch the two-time defending American League champion Texas Rangers take on the Seattle Mariners at 7:05 p.m. Monday, April 9, at Rangers Ballpark, Arlington. UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo will throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Tickets: utatickets.com

**GRAND GRATITUDE**

Donors feted at College Park Center dedication

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ALUMNI NEWS

Class Notes

1971 Kristy Libotte Keener (BFA, Art) won a 2011 MacArt Award for a poster and featuring nature photography for a concert program cover for the North Central Texas Council of Governments. She is a graphic design consultant for the Arlington (TX), Art Museum.

1972 Debbie Carroll-Boyce (BA, Communication) was named the 2011 Mr. Senior America in Atlantic City, N.J., in October. She sang and danced to Stylistic Stuff That There from the Betty Boop movie for moviegoers. As a resident of Frisco, Texas, Carroll-Boyce is using her platform to promote healthy living for seniors with increasing awareness for mental and physical well-being and to raise funds for research into Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. She is a finalist for Ebell-Habits Real Estate and was an educator for 31 years, including 17 as an elementary school principal and 14 as a middle and high school teacher and counselor.

1973 Charles Jenkins (BS, Mechanical Engineering) was elected class president of the Texas A&M University-Commerce Alumni Association. He attended the University of Texas at Austin and returned to Texas to work primarily in Dallas as a mechanical engineer for 31 years, including 17 as an executive officer and chief engineer of the Lloyds Haynes Center for Children and Family Services in the Greater Dallas Community.

1974 David Bohrull (BS, Electrical Engineering) is president of Electrical Technologies, a producer of automatic test equipment used in the defense industry. Currently he is responsible for printed circuit board design and semiconductors. The company is based in the Valenzuela, Calif.

1976 John Hartz (BA, Philosophy) worked as a research assistant at the Center for Government Contracting for the Small Business Development Center.

1977 Robert Aiello (BA, Geology) was named executive director of the San Diego Museum of Geology.

1978 Scott Webber (BBA, Accounting) was named chief financial officer for DI Electronics Corporation and chairman of the board. He received his BBA and MArch from the University of Texas at Dallas and his MBA from the University of Southern California.

1979 Barbara Dietz (BA, Art) was named director of the Center for Children and Family Services in Santa Clarita, Calif. She was named executive officer and chief counselor at the Santee School District in California.

1980 Jerry Kusuma (BA, Ethnic Studies) received a digitization grant from the National Endowment for the Arts as he worked with colleagues at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He is a member of the project team that compiled the Modern Art Iraq Archive (http://artiraq.org/).

1981 Jim McMillan (MBA) is a licensed professional photographer in San Antonio, Calif.

1982 Debbie Goulding (BA, English) is an assistant principal at Morton Elementary School in Arlington, Texas. She was a member of the project team that compiled the Modern Art Iraq Archive (http://artiraq.org/).

1983 John Wright (BA, Biochemistry) is a colonel in the Air Force and commander of the U.S. International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan. His research (on biology and medical genetics) is program manager at NIH and a fellow of the U.S. Army Research Foundation and engineering firm based in Fort Worth.

1984 Patsy dePuma (BBA, Accounting) and chief financial officer for United Technologies and subsidiaries, as well as a member of the board of directors of the company.

1985 Zennie Abrams (SBC, General Studies) is chairman and CEO of Sport's Business Strategies and founding executive director of the national show The Blog Roundup With Zennie in New York. She is married to Oakland, Calif.

1986 Norma McMahan Taylor (BBA, Accounting) is a pediatric nurse in Fort Worth. She has served as CEO of DFW Healthcare Children’s Foundation for 23 years and is president of Dallas Children’s Medical Foundation.

1987 Jim Doyle (BA, Mechanical Engineering) is president of Development for the UT Arlington College of Engineering. He earned his BSA, MBA, and MS from the University of Texas at Arlington with a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin.

1988 Mauricio Solal (BA, Biochemistry) is a licensed professional musician in the United States. He is married to an attorney and has three children.

1989 Pat Mize (BA, Accounting) is working as an event manager for WDCI in Dallas. He is married to a fellow alumnus and has three children.

1990 Dave Rose (BA, Accounting) is marketing manager for the UT Arlington College of Business.

1991 Victor Perez (BA, Business Administration) was named executive officer and chief financial officer for the San Bernardo River Authority after several years in the public sector.

1992 Rick Rice (BA, Mechanical Engineering) is a senior vice president for Engineering and Transportation at the UT Arlington College of Engineering.

1993 David Buhrkuhl (BA, Journalism) is managing editor of the Arlingtonian, The Arlingtonian's website, and editor for The Shortround. He has worked primarily in Dallas as an editor and writer for various publications.

1994 John Miller (BA, Accounting) is a producer of automatic test equipment used in the defense industry. Currently he is responsible for printed circuit board design and semiconductors. The company is based in the Valenzuela, Calif.

1995 Margaret Rain (BA, Ethnic Studies) is a pediatric nurse in Fort Worth. She has served as CEO of DFW Healthcare Children’s Foundation for 23 years and is president of Dallas Children’s Medical Foundation.

1996 Kenneth Allen (MBA) is vice president of development for the Methodist Health System Foundation in Dallas. She has more than 20 years of development experience in Dallas and most recently served as senior vice president for development and cultivation relations for a private non-profit health care organization. Also, she is an event planner for Crescendo Services, Inc. Mrs. Allen received her MBA from The University of Texas at Austin.

1997 Shannah Brunskill (BA, Journalism) is a political communications major at the University of Texas at Austin and is currently serving as the communications director for the state of Texas. She is married to a fellow alumnus and has three children.

1998 Karen Filipek (BS, Art) is chief executive officer of the UT Arlington College of Engineering. She earned her nursing degree from UT Arlington in 1979.

1999 Jim Doyle (BA, Mechanical Engineering) is a licensed professional musician in the United States. He is married to an attorney and has three children.

2000 Norma McMahan Taylor (BBA, Accounting) is a pediatric nurse in Fort Worth. She has served as CEO of DFW Healthcare Children’s Foundation for 23 years and is president of Dallas Children’s Medical Foundation.

2001 Lisa Gathright (BA, General Studies) is a pediatric nurse in the emergency room/variable staffing at Children’s Medical Center in Dallas. She is also a pediatric critical care transport nurse at Children’s Medical Center.

2002 Evan Mathison (BBA) is a chief financial officer for United Technologies and subsidiaries, as well as a member of the board of directors of the company.

2003 Amy Delaney (BBA, Accounting) is working as an event manager for WDCI in Dallas. She is married to a fellow alumnus and has three children.

2004 Tiffany Ryan (BA, Exercise and Sport Science) is a national director of the American College of Sports Medicine. She worked primarily in Dallas as a physical therapist and has been named the new position in December 2011. She has been involved in clinical and occupational therapy throughout her career.

2005 Matt Durbin (BBA, Accounting) has served as CEO of Wind Energy Services Co. in Gainesville, Texas, a producer of automatic test equipment used in the defense industry. Currently he is responsible for printed circuit board design and semiconductors. The company is based in the Valenzuela, Calif.

2006 Mary Graham (BBA, Accounting) is a producer of automatic test equipment used in the defense industry. Currently she is responsible for printed circuit board design and semiconductors. The company is based in the Valenzuela, Calif.

2007 Jim McMillen (MBA, Accounting) is a chief financial officer for United Technologies and subsidiaries, as well as a member of the board of directors of the company.

2008 Keith Magee (BA, Journalism) is managing editor of the Arlingtonian, The Arlingtonian’s website, and editor for The Shortround. He has worked primarily in Dallas as an editor and writer for various publications.

2009 Troy Dpena (BBA, Accounting) and chief financial officer for United Technologies and subsidiaries, as well as a member of the board of directors of the company.

2010 Steve Minchew (BA, Mechanical Engineering) worked primarily in Dallas as a mechanical engineer for 31 years, including 17 as an executive officer and chief counselor at the Santee School District in California.

2011 Lee-Ann McMillen (MBA) is chief financial officer for United Technologies and subsidiaries, as well as a member of the board of directors of the company.

2012 Laura Fleming (BA, Accounting) is chief financial officer for United Technologies and subsidiaries, as well as a member of the board of directors of the company.

2013 Paul Cathey (BBA, Accounting) is working as an event manager for WDCI in Dallas. She is married to a fellow alumnus and has three children.

2014 Jim Dodge (BA, Mechanical Engineering) has worked primarily in Dallas as a mechanical engineer for 31 years, including 17 as an executive officer and chief counselor at the Santee School District in California. He is a member of the project team that compiled the Modern Art Iraq Archive (http://artiraq.org/).

2015 Joe Madden (BBA, Accounting) is a producer of automatic test equipment used in the defense industry. Currently he is responsible for printed circuit board design and semiconductors. The company is based in the Valenzuela, Calif.

2016 Jim McMillan (MBA, Accounting) is a chief financial officer for United Technologies and subsidiaries, as well as a member of the board of directors of the company.

2017 John Miller (BA, Accounting) is a producer of automatic test equipment used in the defense industry. Currently he is responsible for printed circuit board design and semiconductors. The company is based in the Valenzuela, Calif.

2018 Jennifer Liban (BA, Journalism) is a political communications major at the University of Texas at Austin and is currently serving as the communications director for the state of Texas. She is married to a fellow alumnus and has three children.
Previously, he worked for BSG Entertainment in Dallas and Weber Shandwick in Dallas and served as an account manager for Fort Worth and Central Texas American Real Estate and a textile firm.

2000
Lana Adams (BA, Journalism) is a producer at the National Football League’s Dallas Cowboys. Previously, she worked for the Country Brook Club in Texas. She plans big birthday parties, weddings, and any other type of catering event at the club. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha at UT Arlington.

Conduct.

Robin Michael (BA, Interdisciplinary Studies) teaches and coaches at Chapita El Monte High School in the Hays Consolidated Independent School District in Kyle, Texas. Previously, he was aCo-ordinator of College Readiness at the Northwood University Texas Campus in Cedar Hill. His work is focused on training business and economic members of society.

2001
Frank Jan Censtigkin (BA, Art) is one of saying that he is the master of his 30th birthday in Fort Worth. He earned his Master of Divinity degree at Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Nashotah, Wisc. He is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Nashotah House, where Johnathan Johnstone (BA, Theatre Arts) is the director. He is also a professor of theatre at the College of DuPage in Illinois.

2002
Tiffany Flores (BA, Interdisciplinary Studies) is a specialist in the Community Engagement and Development office at UT Arlington. She is also the assistant principal at Poly-technical High School in Fort Worth. She has a master’s degree in public administration and is an assistant principal at Bishop Burbidge Catholic School in Dallas. She is currently working toward a master’s degree in Communication at UT Arlington.

2003
Put a Ring on It!

Your UT Arlington pride for everyone to see. Get your Official Maverick Ring today. Add a raise to your pride in a unique way. Put it in gold, white gold, or silver. And purchase your rings online. At the university, alone. He anchored the show with Rick Perry.

2004
Jared Chism (BA, Broadcast Communications) is a carrier salesman at Crawford-Netcom in Newton Square, Pa. He is also an account executive at Concussion, a Dallas-based boutique bank that helps colleges and universities reach their goals through the power of the Web to help support their athletic programs.

Jared Chism

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Johnathan Johnstone (BA, Theatre Arts) is a professor of Old Testament at the Dallas Seminary, teaching ancient Near Eastern languages (Old Testament) and is an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Dallas. He is also a professor in the Sociology Department at Dal-

Johnathan Johnstone

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Jenni McDaniel (BA, Music) is a choreographer for Ballet Argentino. She was previously a part of the Dallas Christian College. Prettenhofer is a specialist in the Caribbean Law.

2007
Danyelle Keenan (BA, Public Relations) is a regional sales specialist at Trail Resources, LLC, Renew -

Danyelle Keenan

2008
Bryan Brown (BA, Business Administration) has been an account manager for Fort Worth and Longview, Texas. Previously, he was an account manager for the No. 1 public high school in Texas. Touchon has exhibited her work in New York, Los Angeles, and in Singapore.

2009
Laura McCoy (BA, Criminal Justice and Criminology) was named in an attorney in Clarksville, Texas. She is also a part of the firm’s personal injury group. She has a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Texas at Dallas. She is also the assistant principal at Poly-technical High School in Fort Worth.

Laura McCoy

2010
Stella Presley (BA, German Studies) became a professional golfer in August and won the 22nd San Antonio Open in November with a 9-under-par score.

Stella Presley

2011
Josh E. Smith (BA, Broadcast Communications) is a video producer for the Dallas Mavericks. He is also the assistant principal at Poly-technical High School in Fort Worth.

Josh E. Smith

2012
Erika McMinn (BA, Public Relations) is a branch manager for UT Medical Branch at Galveston. She is also the director of human resources at South- west as Educator of the Caribbean.

Erika McMinn

2013
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Erika McMinn

2013

In Memoriam

1930s

Theresa Neape (‘35 AA, Mathematics), 97, July 14 in Arlington. Mr. Neape taught math at UT Arlington for 35 years. He chaired the Faculty Senate and founded the library in 1946 and the Alumni Relation-Ship Committee in 1945. He retired from 1976 to 1989 but stayed active in charitable and professional organizations.

1940s

Phyllis Ryan (‘44 AA, Business Administration), 84, July 13 in Grapevine. Mr. Ryan worked after attending military schools in Houston and Abilene. John, an UT Arlington alumnus, was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

1950s

Joe Hyde (‘51 AA, Business Administration), 79, Sept. 28 in Fort Worth. Mr. Hyde founded a military parts company, was a longtime director of Finance, Commerce and Industry, and served on the Fort Worth Park and Recreation Board.

1960s

Jaron Harold Foreman (‘62 BS, Mechanical Engineering), 74, Sept. 12 in Arlington. Mr. Foreman worked for Texas Electric Service Co. from 1969 to 1992 in Fort Worth, Texas, primarily as a technical services manager.

1970s


1980s

Juan Arzani (‘80 BS, Accounting), 67, July 3 in Fort Worth. Mr. Arzani was a Fort Worth city planner for 26 years before working as a grant writer for the Fort Worth Mansfield Housing Authority. Richard Wayne Nells (‘85 BS, Biolog- ics), 65, Oct. 1 in Arlington. Ms. Nells taught high school science and math for more than 30 years. He also held a driver’s education and was a scoutmaster. Dorothy Jousot (‘80 AA, Child Development) was a senior service coordinator for the Arlington Independent School District.

1990s

Robert Allen Martin (‘90 MBA, Business Administration), 44, Sept. 12 in Fort Worth. Mr. Martin founded Martin and Associates, a real estate and personal injury law firm. He taught law in Fort Worth, specializing in real estate, personal injury, and criminal law. He was a founding member of the and the Northwest Dallas Bar Association. Louis Wayne Schoppel (‘90 BS, Electrical Engineering), 64, July 6 in Bedford. Mr. Schoppel managed the baggage manager at BDL helicopter for 31 years.

2000s

Trini De Dios (‘04 BS, Finance), 39, Nov. 15 in Dallas. Ms. De Dios was an account executive who assisted several financial firms. She worked for Deutsche Bank in Dallas.

2010s

Tracy Glass (‘10 BA, Business), 30, April 20 in Arlington. Ms. Glass was a graphic designer and owner of Turnspaced Graphics in Dallas prior to launching a new design agency in 2020.

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PARTNERS IN PROGRESS
College of Business invites you to an special evening event that opened in February, received a boost last year when families of two distinguished business leaders committed $1.75 million to complete their degrees. The Rankin Legacy Society was created to honor those who have made provisions for the University through wills, trusts, or other instruments. The society and four additional members are named in Italy.

LEAVING A LEGACY
Leaving a gift in your will is one of the most powerful ways you can demonstrate your support for UT Arlington. Gift provisions are commonplace in wills, trusts, or other instruments. The society and four additional members are named in Italy.

CAROLINE SPRINGFIELD
GIFTS "In memory of my parents, who invested $1,000 or more annually in any of the University's colleges," said PROCESS: This is named to the President's Legacy Society, an organization of alumni and friends who support the University through gifts.

An artist, businesswoman, and archeologist, Springfield is a professor of geology and paleontology at UT Arlington. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has received numerous awards and honors, including the National Medal of Science in 2001.

Springfield has been an active supporter of UT Arlington's College of Sciences, where she served as a trustee from 1995 to 2000. She is also a member of the College of Arts and Sciences advisory board and the President's Academic Council. Springfield is also a member of the University of Texas System Board of Regents and the University of Texas at Arlington Foundation.

In addition to her work at UT Arlington, Springfield is also an active member of the Dallas Arts District, where she has served as a board member for the Dallas Museum of Art and the Dallas Contemporary.

Springfield is married to her husband, Gordon, who is also a scholar and educator. They have three children: Michael, became a professor at the University of Texas at Arlington, and Sarah, who is a lawyer.

Springfield is passionate about both science and the arts, and she is dedicated to fostering a culture of innovation and creativity at UT Arlington. Her legacy gifts will help support the college's mission of excellence in teaching, research, and service, and she hopes to inspire others to give back to their community through their own philanthropic efforts.

Springfield is a true UT Arlington alumnus, and her legacy gifts will continue to support the university's mission of excellence in teaching, research, and service. She is a true champion of the university, and her legacy gifts will be a lasting legacy for the students, faculty, and staff of UT Arlington.
New Endowments

- Donna established the following endowments during the 2010-11 fiscal year.

- Dr. Elan Armatas and Dr. Mah curry McRae Endowed Scholarships in Art in Architecture

- Bell Helicopter - Bell Helicopter Endowed Scholarship for Engineering

- Estate of Ann H. Berham - Berham Endowed Scholarship in Architecture

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Few would argue that Barry Manilow and Kiss have little in common. Likewise, you rarely mention Desmond Tutu and Carrot Top in the same sentence. But all four, as well as hundreds of other high-profile singers, bands, speakers, and comedians, have played Texas Hall since the building opened in 1965. The lineup includes singer Linda Ronstadt, whose 1977 performance before a packed house featured Top 10 hits You’re No Good, When Will I Be Loved?, Heat Wave, and Blue Bayou. “It was a great concert, very upbeat, and guitarist Waddy Wachtel was just amazing to watch,” recalls Craig Howell, who took this photograph after making his way to the front. With the Maverick basketball and volleyball teams’ recent move to College Park Center, Texas Hall returns to its roots as a performance venue. Jazz legend Louis Armstrong christened the place Oct. 18, 1965, when it was called the Arlington State College multipurpose auditorium. Renamed Texas Hall in 1968, it boasted the largest proscenium stage (the area between the curtain and the orchestra) west of the Mississippi River. Although it no longer holds that distinction, Texas Hall was big enough to host Neil Diamond, Willie Nelson, Jerry Seinfeld, Aerosmith, REO Speedwagon, Spike Lee, Rihanna, Maroon 5—the list goes on.