

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

UTArlington

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON MAGAZINE | SPRING 2012



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.

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GAMING GETS SERIOUS 18
Video games are making the transition from leisure activity to the educational arena, where UT Arlington research-ers use them to train nurses and battle substance abuse.



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The much-anticipated **College Park Center** enthralled Maverick fans at its debut and promises to forever change the face of the University.

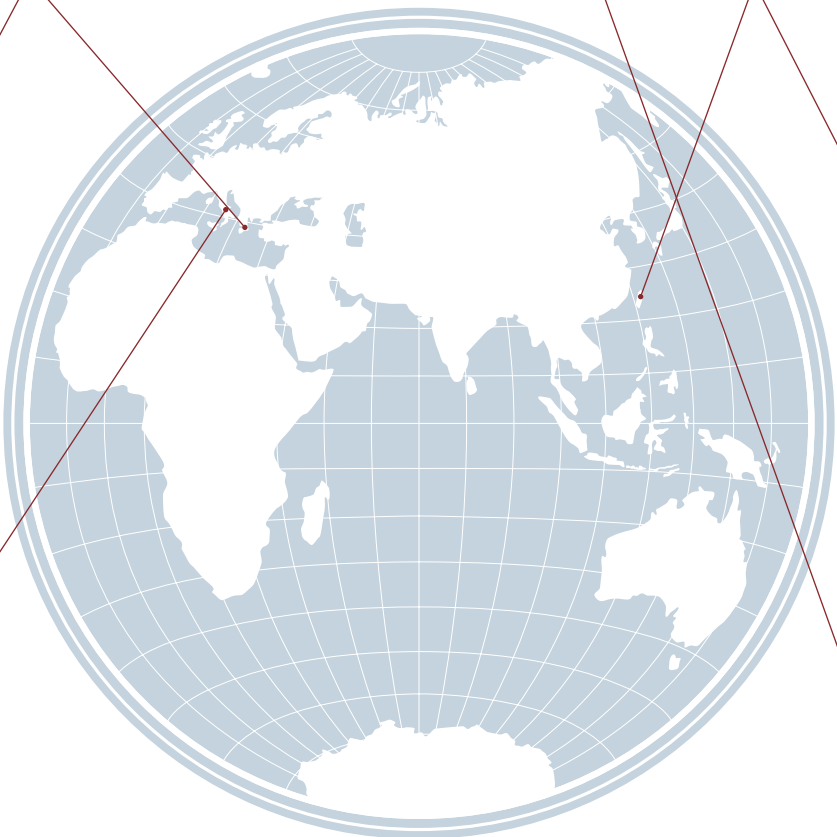
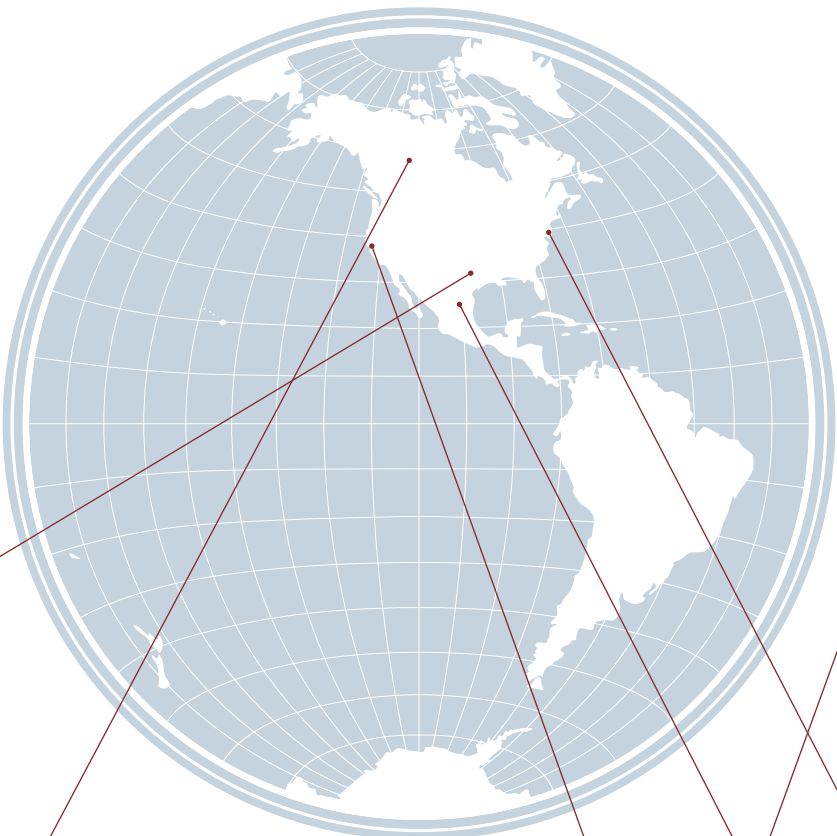
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Message from the Vice President for Student Affairs

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 the University continues its unprecedented progress, providing an enriching experience for our growing student population takes on greater importance.

Monumental advancements in campus life have made UT Arlington a popular destination for students seeking the traditional college experience. A recent orientation survey showed UT Arlington as the first or second choice of 85 percent of our full-time freshmen. A vibrant campus scene translates into more of our nearly 33,500 students wanting to live here. This coming fall, we will have 5,000-plus campus residents and more than 10,000 students living in private housing within five miles.

A strong connection to the campus community carries over to academics, where surveys indicate that retention and four-year graduation rates are higher for our freshmen and transfer students who participate in Student Affairs initiatives. At UT Arlington, substantial learning happens beyond the walls of our state-of-the-art classrooms and cutting-edge research laboratories. We understand the importance of offering co-curricular activities that foster a rich educational environment for our students.

Complementing UT Arlington’s strategies to become a major national research university, we have significantly increased opportunities for students to embrace the Maverick community. Established traditions have been enhanced and fresh ones started. This surge has created a campus that buzzes with activity, enabling more students to acquire the leadership skills to thrive at UT Arlington and succeed in the global marketplace.

We are setting attendance records at many of our signature campus events and reaching new heights in numerous programs. Consider the Fall Concert Series, which has welcomed big-name entertainers such as Rihanna,

Maroon 5, and Ludacris, and The Big Event, through which more than 900 volunteers completed 3,600 hours of community service in one day. The Parent and Family Association has grown steadily from its founding in 2006 to a membership of more than 700 families. The Leadership Center, Multicultural Affairs, New Maverick Orientation, Office for Students with Disabilities, and the Relationship Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention program have increased in size and scope, offering vital resources for a fulfilling student experience.

During this unparalleled period of growth, UT Arlington also has maintained its commitment to excellence. The Texas Intercollegiate Press Association named *The Shorthorn* Best Daily Newspaper and theshorthorn.com Best News Website. Our Greek community raised more than \$100,000 in donations from chapter philanthropies last year. The seven-time national champion Movin’ Mavs continue their rich history of wheelchair basketball eminence.

Last year the Off Campus Mavericks lounge and commuter center opened for students who live off campus and those who use the Maverick Activities Center. The MAC, incidentally, debuted in 2007 and now provides health and wellness activities for 4,500 students, faculty, and staff each day.

Spurred by the expansion in student programming and services, a contagious passion to bleed blue and orange is permeating campus. Several groups fuel the excitement, including the Maverick Wranglers, a spirit section that debuted at the grand opening of College Park Center in February. Joining the Wranglers are mascot Blaze and the cheer squad, which won the 2010 National Collegiate Cheerleading Association competition.

Our students are our future, and we are determined to provide a robust environment that nurtures and challenges them to be next-generation leaders. By creating opportunities for meaningful involvement, we can have a greater impact on the student educational experience. We will forever dream big and reach for the stars in our quest to make UT Arlington one of the best universities in the nation.

As vice president for student affairs since 2005, Dr. Frank Lamas has helped UT Arlington become a first-choice university for students seeking a traditional college atmosphere.



UT Arlington

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ON THE COVER
On opening night, College Park Center had the glow of success as more than 6,200 Maverick fans descended on the game-changing special events venue.



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ONE NIGHT WITHOUT A HOME

It was cold, near freezing, last November when more than 50 students huddled together to spend the night on the library mall. They slept in cardboard boxes and ate chili and saltine crackers. It wasn't much, but it was more than many homeless Americans have on a given evening. That was just the message Alysia Castillo, director of health and homelessness for UTA Volunteers, hoped to send. "Students give up their shelter for a night so they can get a better understanding of homelessness," she says of the University's annual One Night Without a Home event. "Education and awareness are the keys to lasting reform." This year UTA Volunteers partnered with the National Coalition for the Homeless and the Arlington Life Shelter during National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. A vigil walk and five speakers from the shelter, four of whom had been homeless themselves, brought the message into focus. "We try very hard to create programs that not only educate but expose our volunteers to the complexity of it all," Castillo says. "The more people who can be reached, the better chance we have at changing lives."



Email

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

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 Gen. Earl Rudder had addressed the student body earlier, and this gathering was called to object to the move of ASC into the TAMU system. For my part, I had no problem with TAMU. It was and is a fine university. My problem was with the vision of ASC's future as commanded by Gen. 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 animal facilities. Thus, the protest.

WES CRENSHAW '65
Forney, 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 of the UT Arlington Library and Texas legislator Lon Burnam. You mentioned that former Mayor and County Judge

Tom J. Vandergriff was an announcer for the school's football games from the 1950s until 1985. Actually, his announcing of football began even earlier. Several years ago I asked David Naugle '42, whose wonderful voice was known then and later on radio and TV, who his co-announcer was for North Texas Agricultural College (now UT Arlington) football in 1941. "Why, that was Tommy Vandergriff," he replied. When I remarked that I didn't know that Vandergriff ever attended UTA or any of its forebears, Naugle laughed and said Vandergriff was then a student at Arlington High School.

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 opportunist 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. On Jan. 6 he 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 celebrates 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

YOUR THOUGHTS?

Send letters to the editor to utamagazine@uta.edu, or comment on magazine content at uta.edu/utamagazine.

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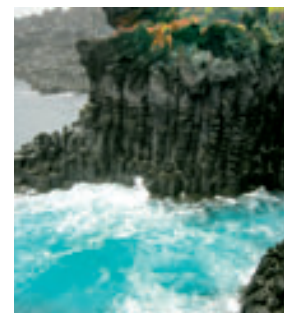
SOLEDAD O'BRIEN DISCUSSES DIVERSITY IN AMERICA

CNN anchor and special correspondent Soledad O'Brien, an Edward R. Murrow Award winner, addressed a Texas Hall crowd in February as part of the 2011-12 Maverick Speakers Series. Watch a video excerpt from her speech at youtube.com/utarlington.

Flickr

BRINGING THE WORLD INTO FOCUS

Each November the Study Abroad Office sponsors a photography contest for UT Arlington students who have studied overseas. The images are displayed in the University Center Art Gallery as part of International Education Week. Junior film/video major Lizette Barrera's photo of a woman hanging laundry in Cinque Terra on the Italian Riviera won the grand prize in the 2011 competition. Other winning images featured a camel in Petra, Jordan; preschoolers in Souzhou, China; columnar joints on Jeju Island, South Korea; and Huerto de Calixto y Melibea in Salamanca, Spain. View more images from the exhibit at flickr.com/groups/utamagazine.



Tweets

@Drake Seeing a doctor about this stomach flu...UTA gave me life! Sorry to all my family at Club Zouk that I won't be seeing tonight. Be back soon.

@fireharejenny Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders at the College Park Center opening. UTA went all out! :)

@Breiana_Brownie Dancing in the packed College Park Center tonight was one of the best feelings in the world.

@City Of Arlington UT Arlington and downtown Arlington make a mighty team!

@Heiwotye Gonna be a part of the first graduating class that will graduate in the new College Park Center! #makinUTAhistory :)

@CVaughnFW UT Arlington honors Marine KIA in Afghanistan with degree he badly wanted.

@tasteLIKECANDI I can't even begin to express my pride! I AM A UTA MAVERICK!!!!

@sarmakin My first admit! Yeah UT Arlington! I love you!

@Trender_Levi If Drake wasn't sold out at UTA, I would have been there.

@catsant UT Arlington is the right college for me.

@traciemorales Despite declining state dollars, UT Arlington won't raise tuition rates for struggling students. I heart @utarlington.

@newyscruggs UT Arlington's new arena is sweet. #utamavs

@_PrettyBeasty Just got to the #UTArlington graduation! Very proud to see my brother @BeazyDallas walk the stage!

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Post your best photos so we can see what you're up to.

Campus Buzz

UT ARLINGTON AND THE WORLD



The Price is Right

University bucks national trend by holding the line on tuition and fees

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. “Not having to pay more for tuition eases their financial burden and keeps them on track to achieving their ultimate goal of earning a degree.”

UT Arlington charges an average of \$9,292 in tuition and fees for 12 or more semester credit hours in the fall and spring semesters. This compares favorably with comprehensive research institutions in Texas and nationally. The University’s room and board averaged \$7,554 for the 2011-12 academic year, though rates vary by residence hall or apartment property.

“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.

“We are committed to keeping UT Arlington as affordable as possible while continuing to build a first-rate university.”

UT Arlington students enrolling for the 2012-13 academic year will experience no increase in tuition, fees, or room and board from the previous year.

CAMPUS

William Nutt, Anthropology Graduate Student **Talk**

You made national headlines for an archaeological discovery. Tell us about it.

Last summer we were in field school in Italy. While there, I unearthed a fragment of a ceramic vessel that is more than 2,600 years old and is thought to be the earliest representation of childbirth in Western art.

Did you know you had made a remarkable discovery?

No. We were clearing off a very dark black layer, a big deposit with coal, mud brick, animal bones, and broken pottery. I could tell there was an incision on a piece of pottery, which was about as wide as a thumb. The trench supervisor thought it was significant enough. It went to the lab to be cleaned and looked at by a pottery specialist. This engraved piece is unique because we don’t have anything from the classical or Etruscan art with this kind of image.

You are legally blind. Explain what that means.

I have cone and rod degeneration. I pick up visual signals and light but not enough, and light is painful. I use a cane to walk, and I am fortunate to have a wonderful wife who helps me out.

Is your vision a hindrance in your work?

While I do rely on visual signals, the overall impact on me as a scholar is negligible. While in Italy, we found ways that I could fully participate and not worry about compromising the dig. When excavating with other people, you are helping each other, verifying for each other, and making judgments for each other. Most of my work was done through touch and feel, whether through the texture of the soil or other things. We were taught to feel as well as look at items.

As a kid, did you dig up the backyard looking for dinosaur bones?

I was a paleontologist when I was very young, then I got interested in human history, which is more compelling to me than dinosaurs. But you can’t debate the coolness of *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

How did you become interested in archaeology?

For a while I wasn’t sure what I wanted, so I bounced between majors in English and history. I was one course away from an English degree when I took a course with Dr. Karl Petruso. My wife, Hannah, was an English major and in the class, too. It felt like a calling, so we both changed majors.

What makes archaeology exciting?

Archaeology is hands-on. You’re getting fragments and putting them together like a puzzle. It’s very exciting to be the first person in several thousands of years to hold something.

What’s next on your academic agenda?

My thesis is in conjunction with a National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship. I’m experimenting with the idea of getting an MBA and took an accounting course to get my feet wet. I’ll do that before seeking a Ph.D.

How will you put your degrees to work?

I’m torn between going to work at a museum, administration, research, and getting a doctorate.



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.



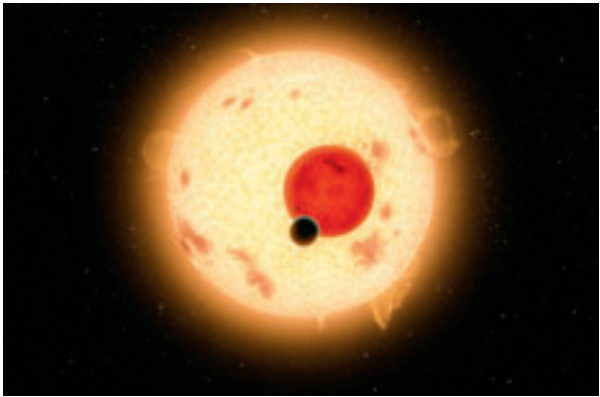
ZEYNEP CELIK-BUTLER
Electrical engineering Professor Zeynep Celik-Butler, director of UT Arlington's Nanotechnology Research and Teaching Facility, has been named a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. She was honored for her contributions to the understanding of noise and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

RYAN GILDERSLEEVE
The National Association for College Admission Counseling has awarded its John B. Muir Editor Award to Ryan Gildersleeve for his research into the college access and immigration issue. Dr. Gildersleeve is the director of the UT Arlington Center for K-16 Education Policy and Research and an associate professor in the College of Education and Health Professions.

LIPING TANG
Bioengineering Professor Liping Tang has been named a fellow of the American Institute of Biological and Medical Engineering. He was recognized for his contributions in advancing the understanding of biocompatibility and transforming the development of medical devices for patients.

PARK ACHIEVES LOFTY SUSTAINABILITY RATING

When students toss 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 150 pilot projects have been working toward initial certification. "This is a very rigorous process," landscape architecture Associate Professor David Hopman says. He and faculty research associate Sonal Parmar 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. "This designation shows that UT Arlington is on the cutting edge of sustainable practices, not just in our buildings but all across campus," says Meghna Tare, the University's sustainability director. "The Green is a place to enjoy nature and learn how to preserve the natural environment."



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, gaseous planet, named Kepler-16b, orbiting two stars 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-16b. 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 Duntz, and doctoral student Billy Quarles.



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. Poster says. Dr. Poster 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.

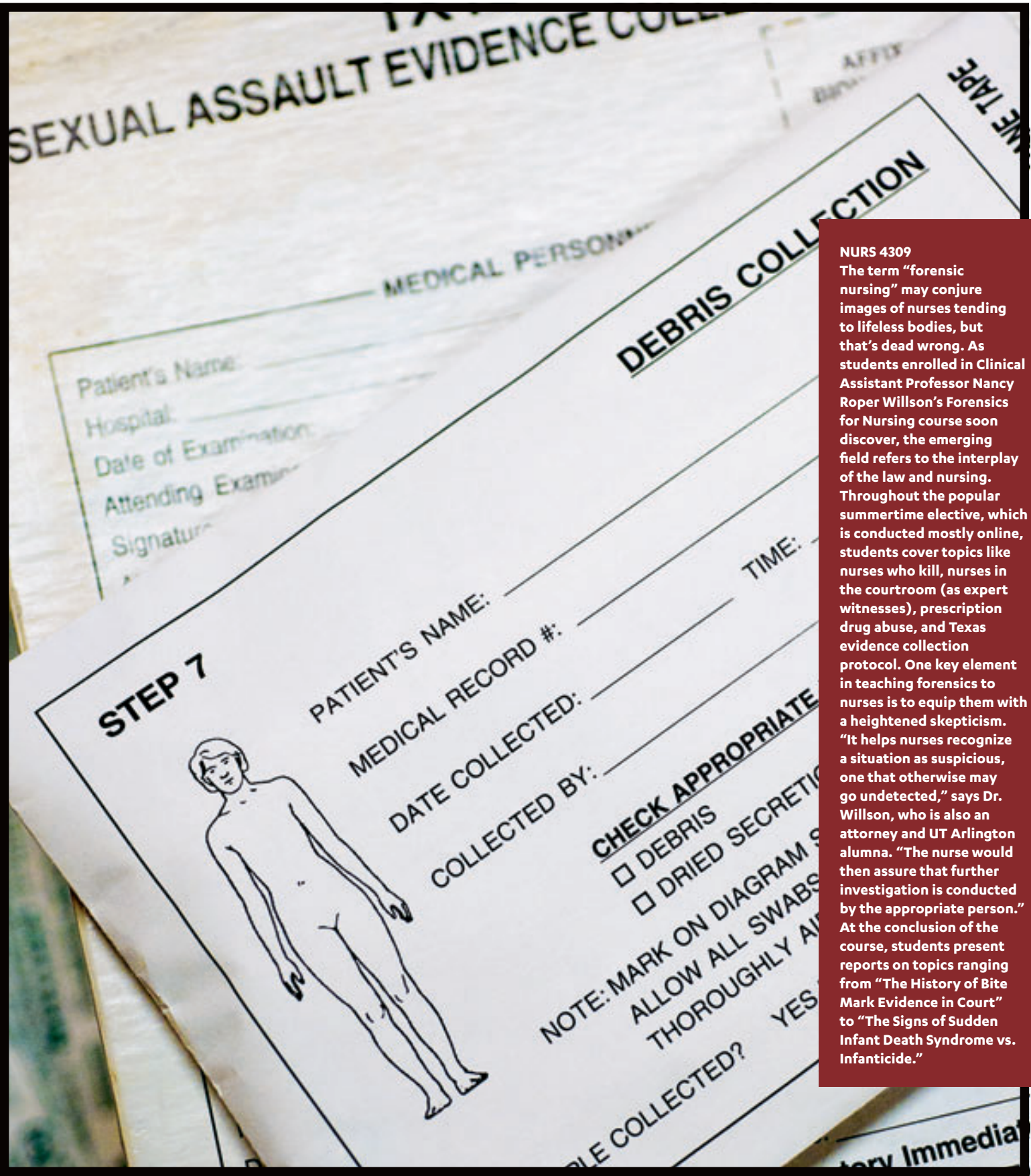
UT Arlington will match the \$500,000 commitment to create the \$1 million Moritz Chair of Geriatric Nursing Research, the second major gift from the Moritz family in the past year. Last fall the family pledged \$750,000 toward College Park Center.

The Moritzes have long supported the College of Nursing, contributing to scholarships, academics, and the Smart Hospital.

"What they are doing is remarkable," says John David Moritz, president of Moritz Dealerships. "Health care is so important to our society, and there is such demand for these students and the services they will provide to all of us."

Since fall 2008, enrollment in the College of Nursing has more than tripled from 1,912 to 5,949 in fall 2011. A record 1,244 students earned Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees in the 2010-11 academic year, more than four times as many as in 2007-08.

Forensics for Nursing Crash Course

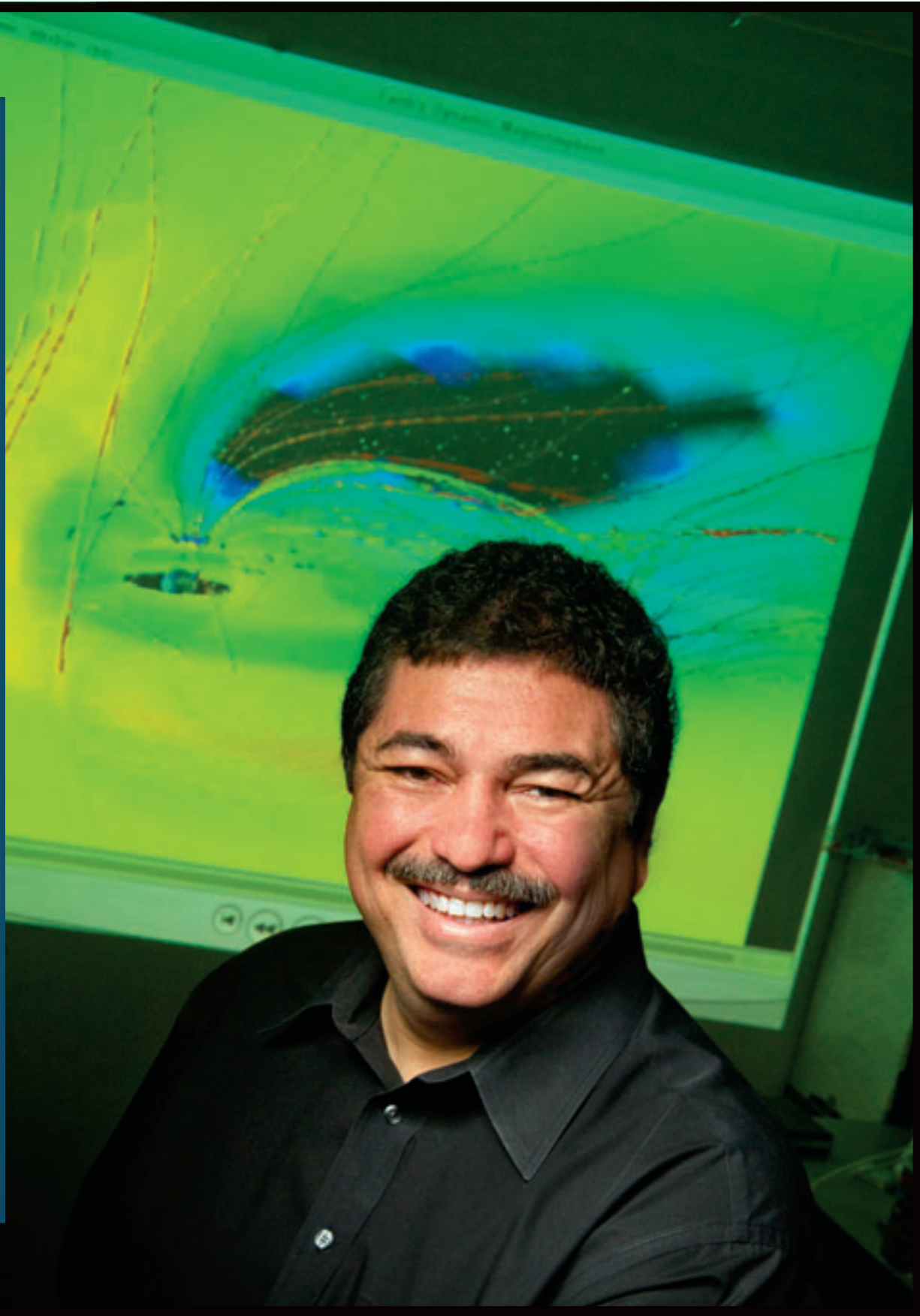


NURS 4309
The term "forensic nursing" may conjure images of nurses tending to lifeless bodies, but that's dead wrong. As students enrolled in Clinical Assistant Professor Nancy Roper Willson's Forensics for Nursing course soon discover, the emerging field refers to the interplay of the law and nursing. Throughout the popular summertime elective, which is conducted mostly online, students cover topics like nurses who kill, nurses in the courtroom (as expert witnesses), prescription drug abuse, and Texas evidence collection protocol. One key element in teaching forensics to nurses is to equip them with a heightened skepticism. "It helps nurses recognize a situation as suspicious, one that otherwise may go undetected," says Dr. Willson, who is also an attorney and UT Arlington alumna. "The nurse 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 "The Signs of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome vs. Infanticide."

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 Modeling. He helped create the technology used to predict a hurricane's path, and his long-term projects include developing computer simulations of space weather. To Lopez, science education is just as important as research. He has helped develop science programs for more than 100 school districts, is a co-director of UTeach Arlington, and is a co-principal investigator for Arlington Undergraduate Research-based Achievement for STEM, or AURAS. 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 of the science education standards. "This is what scientifically literate people should know." Lopez has reaped 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. Bouchet Award, a national honor that recognizes a minority physicist who has made significant contributions to physics research.

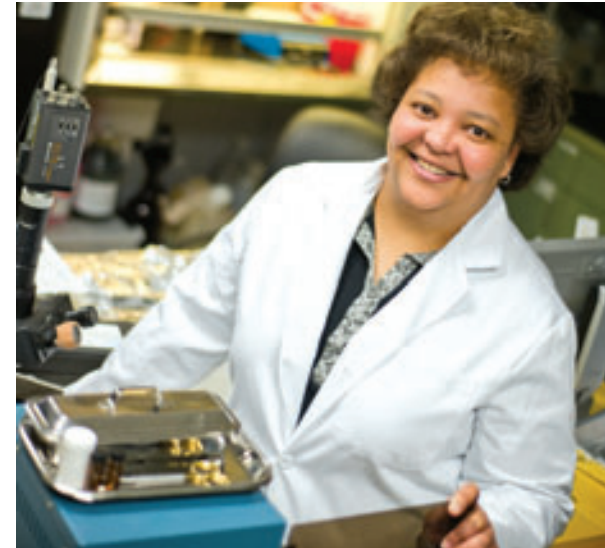


PROFESSOR'S WORK KEEPS FACEBOOK POSTS FLOWING

Facebook, Verizon, and a host of other major companies hope a UT Arlington engineer can help them discover a green remedy to a growing problem. Mechanical and aerospace engineering Professor Dereje Agonafer is part of a National Science Foundation consortium seeking to make massive data centers more energy efficient. In the United States, running these facilities takes about 3 percent of the total national energy expenditure, enough to power a couple of large cities for a year. 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 Richardson-based CommScope, with whom Dr. Agonafer 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 the first year of Agonafer's research, which focuses on cooling data centers and making air flow more economical. The pledge is renewable for up to five years. Agonafer 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 nanofab 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 these individual strengths, we will collectively find the answers to some of the industry's most challenging practical problems."



FRUIT FLY FOCUS To most people, flies are pests. To Esther Betrán, they're fascinating creatures (and only sometimes pests). The biology associate professor is examining the genomic structure of *Drosophila*, or fruit flies, for clues about the way male reproductive functions evolve. She has proposed a scientific model in which gene duplications rapidly change the function and characteristics of the flies' testes tissue while leaving the genes that contribute to the characteristics of other tissues unchanged. If proved correct, her model could shift how scientists believe "sexually antagonistic conflicts"—when a gene's expression is good for one sex but not for another—are resolved in the genome. The National Institutes of Health awarded Dr. Betrán a grant worth nearly \$670,000 for her research.



Bone Breakthrough

Study yields unexpected results about the interaction between bone cells and blood vessels

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.

Grants

LUIS ROSADO AND CARLA AMARO-JIMENEZ

The Department of Education and the Office of English Language Acquisition have awarded two professors in the College of Education and Health Professions nearly \$1.9 million to improve the preparation of teachers who serve English learners. The grant funds a five-year study by Luis Rosado, director of the University's Center for Bilingual Education, and Carla Amaro-Jiménez, an assistant professor of bilingual/ESL education.



KYTAI NGUYEN

Bioengineering Associate Professor Kytai Nguyen has received an American Heart Association grant to study how physical and biological factors influence the proliferation of vascular smooth muscle cells, a condition that can lead to heart disease. Dr. Nguyen says knowing how smooth muscle cells respond to change in their environment could lead to a better understanding of how vascular disease develops.

ANDRE PIRES DA SILVA

Biology Assistant Professor Andre Pires da Silva has been awarded a three-year National Science Foundation grant for research that could improve the prevention of dangerous roundworm infections in animals and agriculture. Along with Associate Professor Diane C. Shakes at the College of William & Mary, Dr. Pires da Silva will explore the evolution of reproductive modes in the roundworm *Rhabditis*.

Press

EILEEN MOSS

Forbes and *Wired* magazines reported on a biomask 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 *Wall Street Journal* column featured finance Assistant Professor John Adams and his 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* and *Yahoo Finance News* republished the column.



PURNENDU DASGUPTA

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

ELISABETH CAWTHON

History Associate Professor Elisabeth Cawthon was interviewed by *USA Today* for a story on the 60-year reign of Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II. Dr. Cawthon called the queen adaptable and noted that she has presided over important historical developments.

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 Pérez-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 called entrainment, and it’s nothing new. It means that something does best when it synchs with the dominant forces in its environment. But until Dr. Pérez-Nordtvedt came along, few thought of it as a business strategy. She and UT Arlington colleagues Susanna Khavul and Jeff McGee 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 change, but they also bring a time component,” Pérez-Nordtvedt says. “Until this, anything 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’s still selling hot dogs—but 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—synching against the dominant cycle—isn’t exactly entrainment. But the team is finding that this can also be a common and effective business strategy for some smaller firms.



A FITTING TRIBUTE

UT Arlington awarded nearly 4,000 degrees at its December commencement. But one—coincidentally, the very last one awarded—was particularly special. It went to Jeremy Smith, a Marine staff sergeant who was killed in combat in Afghanistan last April. Smith, 26, carried a 3.2 GPA 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 from School of Urban and Public Affairs Dean Barbara Becker were his wife, Rachel, right, and sister, Shayda Smith Heath.



Speed Racers

Formula SAE team celebrates 30th anniversary

For three decades, a group of UT Arlington students has been building race cars. Also unmatched portfolios, unparalleled résumés, and worthwhile careers.

These Mavericks belong to the Formula Society of Automotive Engineers, which asks students from more than 120 universities to conceive, design, build, and race Formula-style cars in international competitions. UT Arlington, which is celebrating 30 years in FSAE, has won a record eight first-place titles in the United States, as well as others in England, Australia, and Japan.

The University has been so dominant that the Sports Car Club of America’s award for best student driver is named the Dr. Bob Woods Cup in honor of the UT Arlington mechanical engineering professor who founded the local team.

“The students become involved in a very interesting project and in the meantime develop engineering education, professionalism, and preparation for industry,” Woods says. “But working on a race car is so exciting that it tricks them into all that professional development.”

The excitement is timeless. The cars are not.

The first one, from 1982, resembles a go-kart. The latest is a sleek and silent hybrid—one of the few racing hybrids in the world—that accelerates at 1G, some five times faster than your normal driving. How these cars come together has changed, too. In the early days, they began on a sketch pad, with the next step being flat computer graphics. Today, every nut and bolt is planned in a 3-D drawing.

A.E. Petsche Corp., among others, partners with the program by sponsoring cars and advising students, who join FSAE voluntarily and participate outside class.

“I actually learn things working on the race car before I learn them in class,” says Lena Gerry, the FSAE team captain. “That’s because you have to take your own initiative. You have to do your own research. It’s not just taking a piece of metal and putting it together. You develop pride in what you do.”

Telehealth Physiotronic Chips, 2032 Future



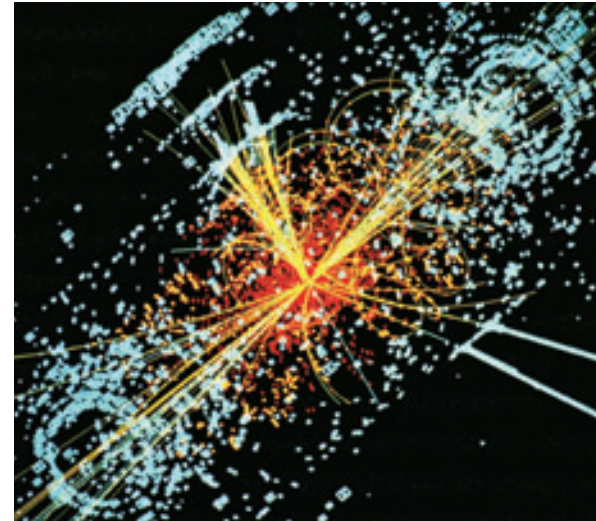
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHENDOURKE

Telehealth often refers to something simple like email communication between doctors and patients. But in J.-C. Chiao’s laboratory, the term invokes a science fiction movie. Dr. Chiao, the Jenkins Garrett Professor of Electrical Engineering, and psychology Associate Professor Yuan Bo Peng are designing computer chips that can be placed inside the body, on the body, or in medical instruments to monitor and improve patient care. Using grants from Intel Corp., the professors are combining wireless communication, batteryless energy delivery, miniature sensors and stimulators, and physiological treatment methods into one system so patients and doctors can manage chronic diseases in real time. In a nutshell, an electronic device inside the body interacts with body func-

tions and communicates with portable electronics that are networked to caregivers. Current chips measure 1 millimeter by 1 millimeter, but versions five times smaller are on the horizon. “These devices will be small enough that you can inject them into the body with a needle,” says Chiao, who also holds the Janet and Mike Greene Endowed Professorship in Engineering. “We can treat a lot of conditions inside the body without using chemicals.” The researchers believe their system could restore stomach motility in diabetics or control chronic pain brought on by migraines. It also could be used to battle bladder problems, depression, and epilepsy, as well as restore vision. “I think in 15 or 20 years we could have fully functioning systems to improve human welfare,” Chiao says.

Gallery Award-Winning Short Film 8

JULIE GOULD '10
 Author Joan Didion said grief is a place none of us know until we reach it. Alumna Julie Gould reached it the day her husband, Clay, died from colon cancer in 2001 at age 29. As a filmmaker, she captured a glimpse of it in her experimental documentary 8, her husband's number when he played and coached baseball at UT Arlington. The movie follows Julie and her then-10-year-old daughter, Logan, on the anniversary of Clay's death. While she made the film to complete graduation requirements for a degree in video production, she found the process cathartic. "I did not necessarily want to make this film, but I felt that sharing some personal moments from a tragic situation was something I needed to do to move forward." The film, which places Julie and Logan, now 11, in partially scripted fictional and nonfictional settings, won the Texas Shorts Jury Award at the 2011 SXSW film festival in Austin. Co-directed by Daniel Laabs, the melodic short has resonated with audiences at film festivals across the nation. "8 lets you peek into a grieving mother and daughter's world and gives you time to interpret what you are seeing," Gould says. "I knew some people would not relate, but I also knew some would. And to those some, it may open needed conversation."



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 10 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.

NEW BIOENGINEERING DEGREE TO FILL VOID

A new generation of bioengineers will soon be filling UT Arlington classrooms. Starting this fall, the University will offer a Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical engineering. "It's important for engineering to respond to the needs of the medical profession and people," says Jean-Pierre Bardet, who began as College of Engineering dean in January. "Biomedical engineering is all about getting people healthier and improving their quality of life." UT Arlington has had a graduate bioengineering program for nearly 38 years, making it one of the longest running of its kind in the country. Over the years, the College of Engineering has received inquiries about an undergraduate equivalent. "Recruiters also were consistently asked about the program when they went out to talk to high school students at college nights and other events," says Khosrow Behbehani, chair of the Bioengineering Department. UT Arlington committees, The University of Texas System, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board all approved the undergraduate curriculum in 2011. Dr. Behbehani says they had three goals: ensure that the coursework prepared students for a career in bioengineering and met national accreditation standards; ensure that graduate school and medical school requirements were met, since many of the students will seek one of those advanced degrees; and provide specialization in the two crucial bioengineering subsets of medical imaging and biomaterials/tissue engineering. "We have well-established research and faculty in both of those specializations," Behbehani says. "Overall, we wanted to make sure these undergraduate students could have both breadth and depth in their knowledge of bioengineering."



SENSING SLEEP SOLUTIONS Sleep apnea—the chronic interruption of breathing during sleep—affects 15 percent of adults nationwide, but detecting the disease can be costly and time-consuming. That may soon change. Bioengineering Department Chair Khosrow Behbehani and his research team have designed an innovative ultrasonic sensor that, when attached to a patient's neck during the night, detects whether his or her airway is open. The sensors are less cumbersome and less expensive than current detection systems, which usually require patients to spend one or more nights in a sleep laboratory. "For some the cost is such a barrier that they opt to continue to suffer rather than be diagnosed," Dr. Behbehani says. "Making detection more affordable will allow more people to be diagnosed." UT Arlington has applied for a provisional patent for the concept and technology and is partnering with Sleep Consultants Inc. in Fort Worth to conduct studies.

Numbers 7,647

UT Arlington conferred 7,647 degrees in 2010-11, the most for one academic year in the University's history and a 24 percent increase over the previous year's record high. Students earned 5,103 bachelor's degrees, 2,417 master's degrees, and 127 doctoral degrees.

490,292

The University recycled 490,292 pounds of paper in 2011. Other recycling totals for the year: 79,960 pounds of metals, 6,824 pounds of plastic/aluminum, 5,280 pounds of tires, 1,060 pounds of lead acid batteries, and 880 gallons of oil.

5,916

UT Arlington's official Facebook page had 5,916 "likes" as of March 1. Become a fan and get updates in your newsfeed about campus happenings and achievements of faculty, staff, and students. While you're at it, follow @utarlington on Twitter.

205

The March 2 concert in College Park Center featuring Grammy-nominated artist Drake sold out in 205 minutes. It was the first concert in the \$78 million, 218,000-square-foot special events venue, which opened Feb. 1.

1,750,000

Since 2003 UT Arlington has added more than 1.75 million square feet of building space and plans to add approximately 250,000 more square feet by year's end. The total square footage of campus building space is 5.2 million.

Sports Baseball



HUNTER PENCE
Hunter Pence says this off-season was no different than any other. He was in the batting cage honing his swing and hosting kids at his annual skills camp. But there was one difference, to be sure: Pence, the Philadelphia Phillies' dynamic right fielder and UT Arlington's most notable baseball alumnus, was coming off his first career postseason appearance. Philadelphia lost to the eventual World Series-champion St. Louis Cardinals. "I learned a lot," Pence says of his playoff adventure. "What happened last year fuels your desire. There are 30 teams out to win the World Series, and there's only going to be one that does it. We're capable, and that's our goal." The Phillies begin that quest in their season opener April 5 against the Pittsburgh Pirates. For Pence, a two-time All-Star who signed a \$10.4 million contract for 2012, it will be his sixth major league season and his first full season with the Phillies. The Houston Astros—the team that selected him out of UT Arlington in the second round of the 2004 draft—traded him in July for four players. When the season begins, he'll be one of six former Mavericks in the big leagues. "It's always good to see your old college teammates and guys from your school having success," Pence says. "It's something to be proud of."

Champs

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Three senior volleyball players made the 2011 Southland Conference All-Academic team. Business major Alicia Shaffer and kinesiology major Tara Frantz were named to the first team, while speech major Amanda Aguilera earned second-team honors.



ALICIA SHAFFER

Senior libero Alicia Shaffer became the UT Arlington volleyball team's career digs leader last season. She broke Ashley Smith's record of 1,921 in a November match against Nicholls State and finished her career with 2,033 digs. Shaffer was named first-team All-Southland Conference and Libero of the Year.

TARA FRANTZ

Senior outside hitter Tara Frantz was named a first-team All-Southland Conference volleyball performer in 2011. She led the Mavericks with 3.48 kills per set while maintaining a .221 attack percentage. Frantz finished her UT Arlington career with 1,008 kills, becoming the 16th player in school history to surpass the 1,000-kill mark.

RYAN ROBERTS

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 19 home runs, 18 steals, 65 RBIs, and 86 runs scored. Roberts also hit .350 with two homers and six RBIs in the National League Division Series. He signed a \$2 million contract for 2012.



Stage Flight

Athletic teams bid farewell to quirky Texas Hall

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 3,000 could sit in the theater seats opposite.

After almost 50 years, Texas Hall hosted its final athletic event Jan. 28, 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 closeness of the fans to the court, particularly on the bleacher side," says longtime Athletics Director Pete Carlon, 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 a star player, UT Arlington was a powerhouse, climbing to No. 7 in a national poll and reaching the Final Four in 1989. Texas Hall hosted four NCAA tournament matches in the era, the only NCAA postseason games on campus in any sport.

"I always thought Texas Hall was a great volleyball facility," Seymour says. "The crowd was always right on top of you and very loud."

It gave the Mavericks a home-court advantage for other reasons, too. For starters, the fear of falling. "I think it was intimidating for other teams seeing that drop-off," says Heather (Hoy) Martin, who set several school volleyball records in the mid-1990s. "There were

quite a few balls that the other team didn't run down because of the stage."

Texas Hall had its moments in basketball, too. Several eventual NBA stars took the court—Karl Malone, Joe Dumars, Andrew Toney. In November 1981, coming off the University's first postseason appearance, a bid in the National Invitational Tournament, Texas Hall was packed (balcony and all) for the home opener against TCU.

Too often, though, it wasn't packed. At least not with athletes. In December, when teams play their big nonconference matchups, Texas Hall simply wasn't available. Not with *The Nutcracker*, 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 now, facilities have usually hurt 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/utamagazine.

NEW ATHLETICS DIRECTOR SEES PROMISING FUTURE



Jim Baker's first day on the job was one of the most exciting in UT Arlington sports 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 1991 and has overseen 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. He served in various positions at the University of Florida from 1982 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."



ILLUSTRATION BY STUART BRIERS

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

Gaming gets Serious

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

BABY STEPS

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

should be given, what antibiotics she needs, and when she might be discharged.

This is Nursing AP, a computer-based simulation LeFlore created for graduate students. The work was funded by a \$750,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. Like iNursingRN—which was backed by a \$250,000 grant from the UT System's Transforming Undergraduate Education program—the game offers nursing students an alternative, hands-on way to learn.

Such programs could strengthen nursing schools, which face faculty shortages but are under increasing pressure to produce more graduates. State studies predict that the demand for registered nurses will far outpace the supply over the next decade.

“I’m not trying to reinvent the textbook or replace traditional lectures. We need much more research in these areas,” LeFlore says. “We are trying to provide

Society for Simulation in Healthcare. 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.

Yet 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-like simulation to improve communication between doctors and nurses. The U.S. Agency for Healthcare



one more way to teach material and reach students who feel comfortable with screen-based technology.”

Results have been encouraging. In a 2010 study, LeFlore split a class of seniors into two groups. One group listened to a traditional three-hour lecture on pediatric and neonatal respiratory diseases. The other group played iNursingRN.

Ten days later the students were tested on the material at UT Arlington’s Smart Hospital, a 13,000-square-foot facility with full-body interactive patient simulators. On a multiple-choice test, students who played the game scored a full letter grade higher than students who heard the lecture. And the game players performed clinical care using manikin-based simulators more accurately and quickly, sometimes minutes faster.

“In the hospital environment, we know every minute is crucial,” LeFlore says. “The students who played the game were better prepared and more comfortable performing critical functions.”

Outside the University, LeFlore’s project earned the top spot in a competition sponsored by the

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 information in a way that ensures you get your message across? That’s our question.”

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 Fillia 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 brain 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 8 to undergo therapy from home. Using a screen, the children could be asked to pop a balloon, 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.”

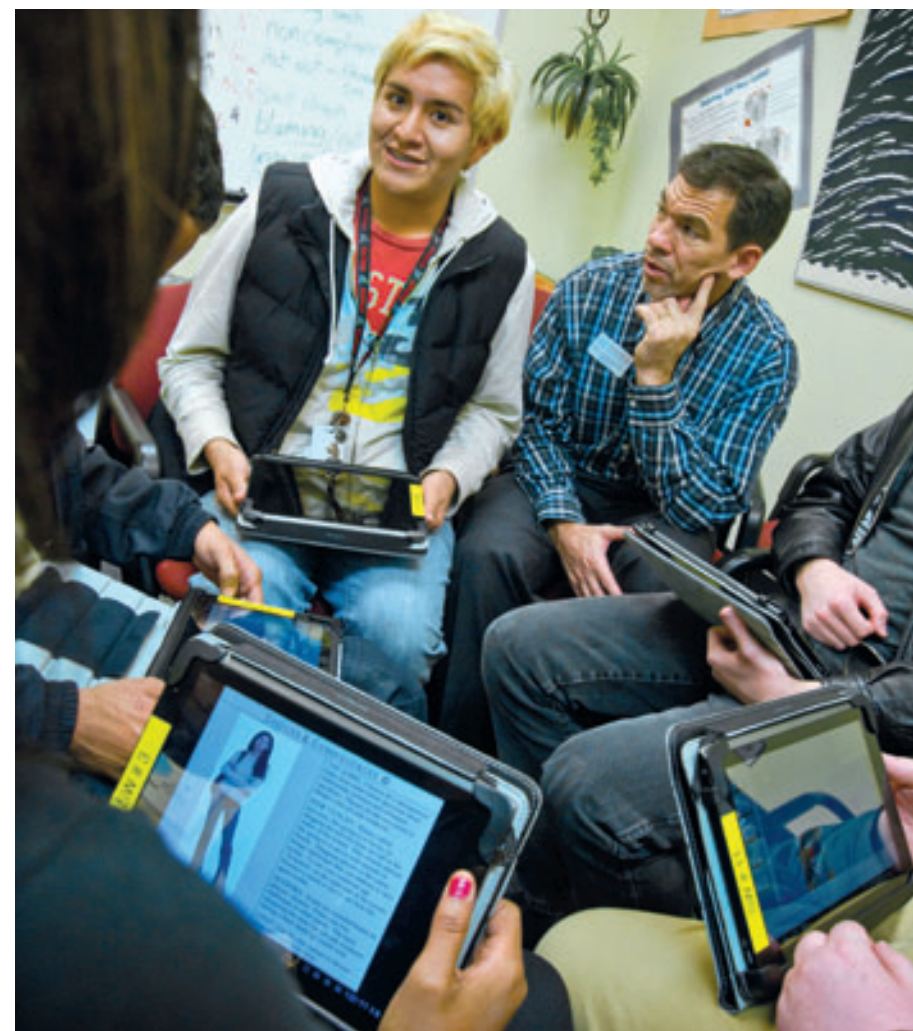
The work does not end there. Makedon and fellow researchers also plan to create game-based systems for adults with Alzheimer’s disease and severe depression, and for stroke survivors.

TARGETING TEENS

Perhaps no group plays video games more than teenagers. A team of UT Arlington professors set out to capitalize on the comfort many teens have with technology.

In a partnership with Venture School, an alternative high school in Arlington, School of Social Work professors Javier Boyas, Beverly Black, and Richard Schoech 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.”

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.” ☺

SMART CHOICES

Gary Grossman, a social worker in the Arlington school district, watches Valentino Yazzie and other Venture School students play a video game developed by School of Social Work professors. Called “Choices and Consequences,” it helps teenagers make wise decisions about substance abuse and dating.

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

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

FIRED 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.

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 promise 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 Hoad '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."

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 will 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.



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 folklore dancers.




A SOARING START

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.



SIGNS OF SPIRIT

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.



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

Cancer Crusaders

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Bioengineering Assistant Professor George Alexandrakis is exploring how cancer cells damaged by radiation therapy work to repair themselves.

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 Baohong 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

“But if we can get those migrating cells to one spot, we will have a better chance to treat the cancer there and also to prevent it from spreading.”

tumor are developing or not after treatment, which tells the physician how effective the treatment is.”

Yuan’s research centers on designing and testing the imaging device, a process that should progress from examining artificial tissue in the laboratory to animal studies.

“The eventual goal, of course, is to end up with imaging success with people.”

A PROTEIN GLOW

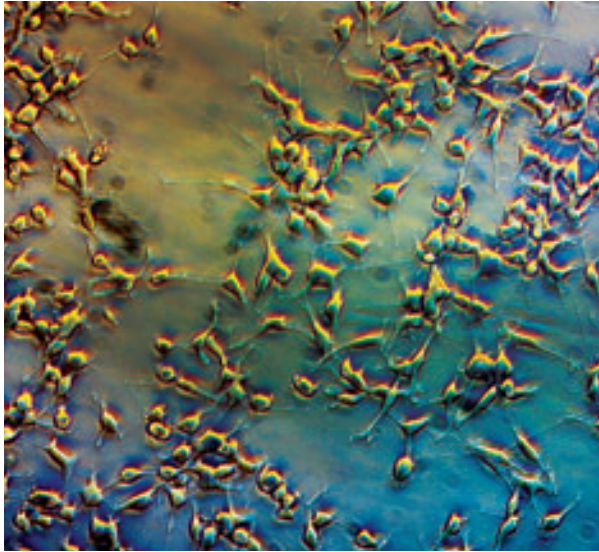
Alexandrakis’ research world is both sub-cellular and fluorescent. He painstakingly observes protein exchange inside a highly magnified cancer cell, a slow process involving thousands of proteins. He tracks a single protein at a time with a unique perspective: The cells within which the protein exists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

Evolving technology enables Alexandrakis to make a specific protein uniquely fluorescent within a cell.

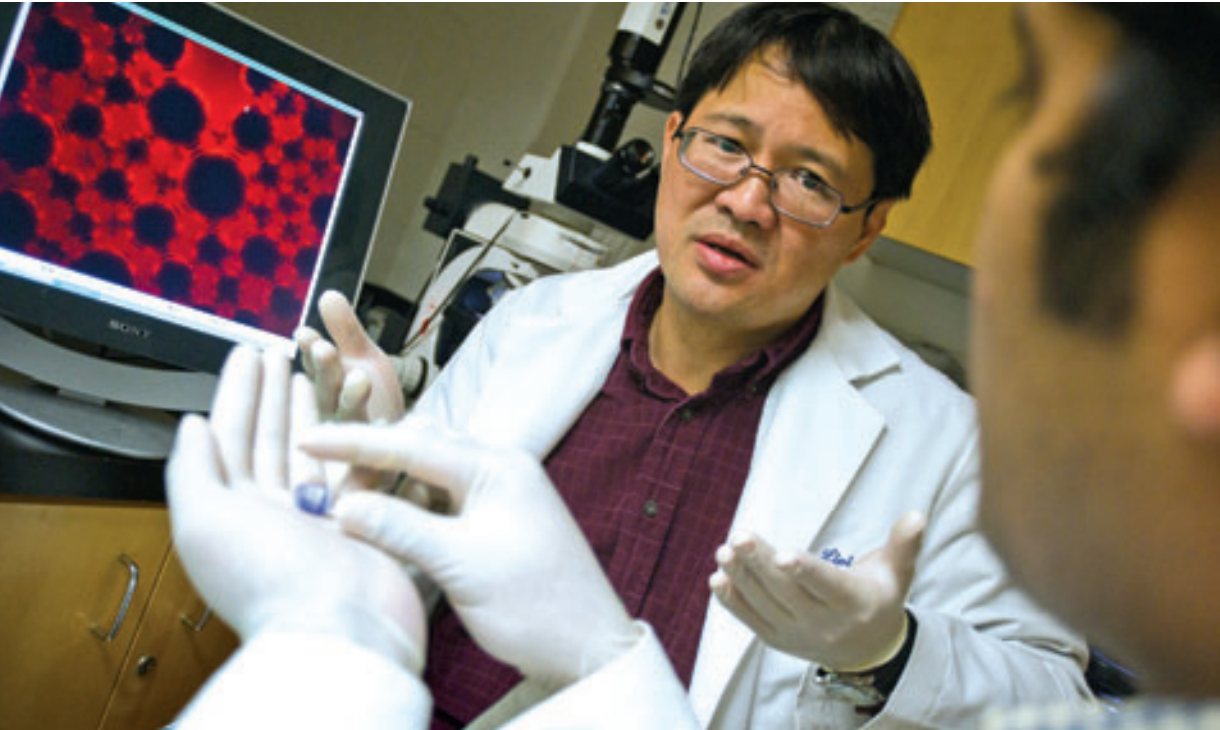
“The cumulative interaction of multiple protein partners results in the DNA being repaired or in some cases mis-repaired. We try to break this down and understand all the steps in between as to how these proteins interact.”



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.”



ATTRACT AND CONQUER

Wayward cancer cells often cause tumors elsewhere in the body. Bioengineering

Professor Liping Tang is creating a bone marrow-mimicking trap to attract these cells and confine them to a single location.

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’re 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.

“Once that happens, the cancer can be hard to treat because it can be everywhere,” Tang says. “But some parts of the body have more attraction for migrating cells than others. Often we can’t stop the migration. But if we can get those migrating cells to one spot, we will have a better chance to treat the cancer there and also to prevent it from spreading.”

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.

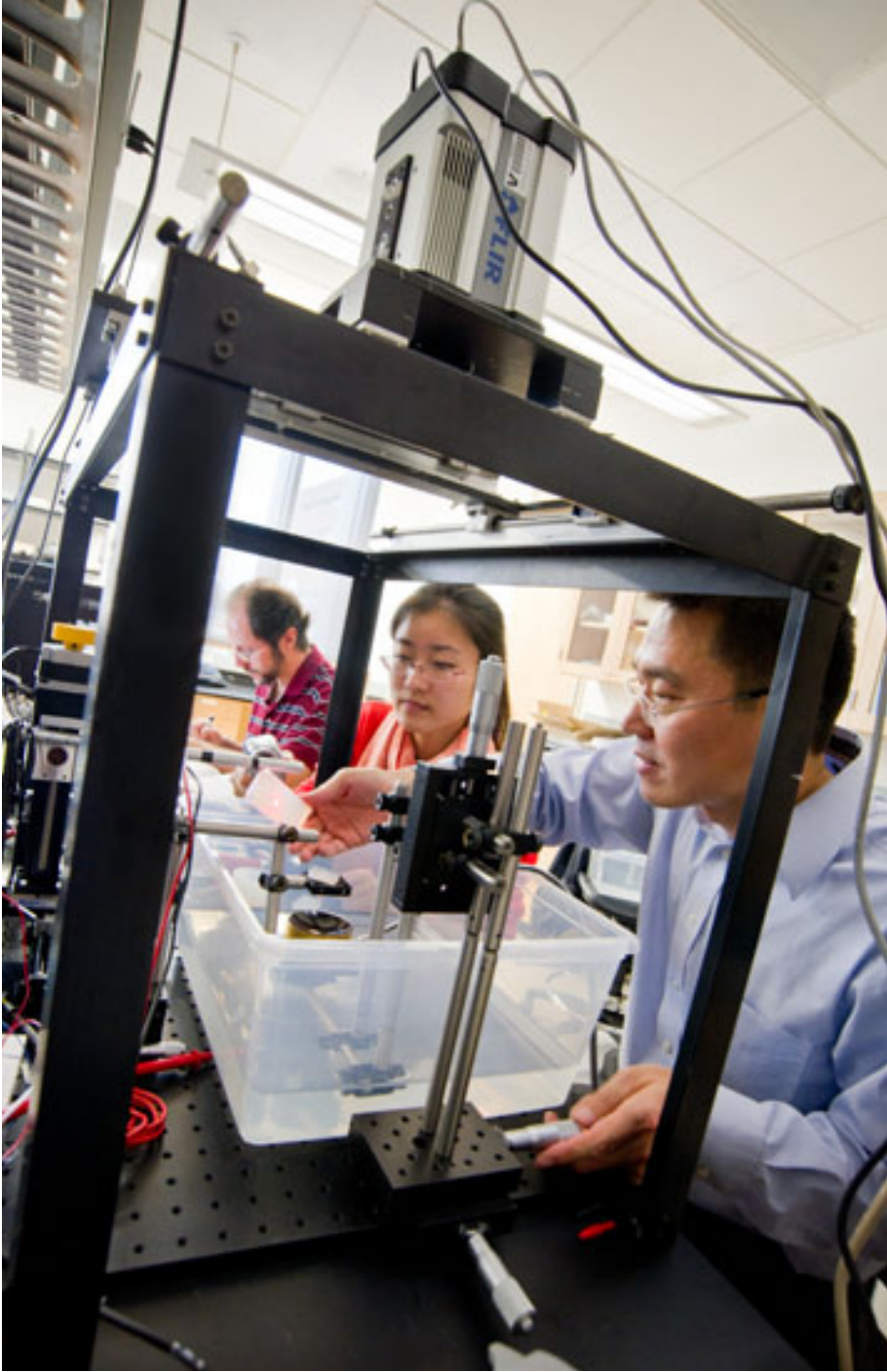
FOREFRONT OF DISCOVERY

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.” ☺

IMAGE IS EVERYTHING

Bioengineering 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

Love Shack, Baby



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

ILLUSTRATION BY MARCI ROTH



COUPLE CONNECTIONS

Crystal and Sam Okasha, above, met at Brazos House in 1997 and got engaged there in 2005. Corrie and Jake Wells, right, say their Brazos friends are still their closest friends today.

“It just has a special something, a kind of spell about it.”

might have stayed anonymous in a larger hall. With 96 students, Brazos is the smallest residence hall on campus, and it became the second coed hall in Texas in 1975.

The bonds beginning around this table might be the start of lifelong friendships grown the old-fashioned way—in an old-school building on a modern campus. The proof it’s possible: Numerous couples who met at Brazos have married and still stay in touch with fellow Brazonians (they tell you the correct spelling is Brazoonians, dragging out the o’s to mimic their cheer during intramural competitions).

Even back in the military barracks days when UT Arlington was North Texas Agricultural College, romance swirled about the building.

One former cadet, Amp Miller, would lean out his window to see “the prettiest girl on campus,” Ruth Boutwell, walk by. He declared he would marry her, and he did, in 1946. Last August the couple celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Decades later, in 1997, Crystal Okasha ’01, ’05 moved to Brazos and became a resident assistant at the same time as her husband-to-be, Sam (they had to hide the fact that they were dating). Later she was hall director. So strong was Sam’s connection to Brazos that he traveled from Canada in 2005 and proposed to Crystal in her room.

“There’s no other place like it,” says Crystal, now the immigrant services manager for YMCA Calgary in Alberta. “It’s like a big family. Everybody gets to

know everybody. Sometimes that’s good, sometimes it’s bad. But we were really close-knit.”

Sam ’01, ’03, now corporate manager of information services for Sanjel Corp., agrees. “Your business was everybody’s business. One year we had a T-shirt, and on the back it said, ‘What did you do last night? I slept with 95 people.’”

The family atmosphere was so prevalent that residents left their doors unlocked and didn’t want to go home for the holidays, preferring 24-hour movie marathons instead.

“We’d go to Boston Market, get a couple of turkeys, move all the furniture, bring blankets and pillows and throw them on the floor, and watch movie after movie after movie,” Sam recalls. “It was a lot of fun.”

Bryan Sullins ’03, ’05 and his wife, Kerri Montagnino ’03, worked under the Okashas as office assistants and also were resident assistants. Bryan and Kerri live in Sherwood, Ark., where she is a representative for a doctor’s office specializing in gastroenterology and he is a technician for LM Wind Power.

Kerri remembers the teams that Brazos fielded in the annual Oozeball mud volleyball tournament. If you didn’t show up for an event, fellow Brazonians worried.

“People actually cared about you,” husband Bryan says. “If you weren’t there, they wondered where you were, just like a family would.”

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Corrie and Jake Wells met at Brazos in 1999. One afternoon, while she was doing laundry in the lobby, he asked her out to dinner and a movie. Only one problem: Jake wanted to leave in an hour. Panicked, Corrie grabbed her clothes and ran to her room to get ready without realizing she’d left a pair of underwear in the dryer. When they returned from their date, the underwear was hanging from the ceiling.

“That was probably my most embarrassing moment,” Corrie says. “But it also got the most laughs a year later when the truth was revealed during a game of Truth or Dare.”

The couple now live in McKinney with their three children and a fourth on the way. Corrie ’04 is an oncology nurse; Jake ’01 is a systems administrator.

“Our Brazos friends are our closest friends to



this day,” Corrie says. “Jake’s old roommate lives in McKinney, too, and works one cubicle over from him.” Another couple who met at Brazos and married, Emily and Dean Peterson of Grand Prairie, are the godparents of the Wellses’ oldest daughter.

Corrie says the Brazos experience immersed her in campus life, which had lasting benefits. “Everybody helps everybody else out. My nursing school friends, the ones who stayed on campus, all studied together. Even now, we compare notes of how our hospitals do things differently and come up with new ideas.”

The Wellses remember an elaborate funeral for a resident’s pet frog and a crazy game of football in the snow. Later, Jake was best man at the Petersons’ wedding.

No one is quite sure when Brazos got its Love Shack moniker. Wendy Holdsworth ’92, ’95, a former hall director, believes the name originated in the late 1980s when she lived there. Dean Peterson ’03, a patrol sergeant with the UT Arlington Police Department, says the residents of his years were the “pioneers of the Love Shack era.”

He and Emily met in the lobby where a group of residents were hanging out. Dean and a few other guys were playing guitars, which caught Emily’s attention.

“Dean would say that’s when I became smitten with him, but he would have had to play a lot better for me to be smitten,” Emily says with a laugh. They soon began dating, and they wed four years later.

Dean remembers Brazonians rallying over causes, like a picnic table for smokers, and someone smuggling a full keg of beer all the way to the fourth floor.

“My experience is a little more tame than Dean’s,” says Emily, a corporate security investigator at an area bank. “We would stay up late. We would have a lot of 3 a.m. walks to the 7-Eleven down the street.”

Britney Johnson ’06 also has fond memories of late nights.

“My freshman year you could go downstairs at any time of the night and there would be people to talk to,” she says. “People I met in Brazos are the same people I keep in contact with to this day.”

That includes her husband, Marcus ’07, who had perhaps the only groom’s cake ever made in the shape of his dorm. They lived in Brazos from 2002 to 2006 and now reside in Fort Worth. Britney is a reporter for the *Denton Record Chronicle*, and Marcus is pursuing a career in graphic design.

He treasured the diversity among residents and the long conversations in the common area.

“The rooms were so small, you would be forced to go downstairs and mingle. We’d go down there and have world debates. There would be a student from another country, student entrepreneurs, another really poor student. We had these intense political debates. Or sometimes it would be something stupid like what was the best movie or who was the best musician. It would go on for hours.”

Rathi Rajasingam ’05 says her mother spotted Rathi’s future husband, Sebastian, in that same common area in 2000. “My mom actually turned around and said, ‘That looks like a nice Indian guy, why don’t you go talk to him?’ He said, ‘I’m not Indian, I’m Sri Lankan.’”

Sebastian ’05, an engineer for United Airlines in the Houston area, says the family atmosphere prevailed “probably because it was a very small place. Everybody got really involved in the dorm.”

More UT Arlington students than ever will get to share the experience of living on campus in the coming years. Two residence halls and several apartment complexes have been built since 2000, and a new residence hall and apartment community will open in fall 2012 in the College Park District.

But the Brazonians are pretty sure their experience is unique.

“It just has a special something, a kind of spell about it,” Crystal Okasha says. “It’s definitely not the building itself; it’s not the most glamorous place. But if I had my pick and I could stay anyplace on campus, I’d stay at Brazos.” ☺

“People actually cared about you. If you weren’t there, they wondered where you were, just like a family would.”

RESIDENT ROMANCE

Emily and Dean Peterson, above left, met in the Brazos House lobby and married four years later. The wedding of Britney and Marcus Johnson, below, likely featured the only groom’s cake ever made in the shape of Brazos.



AlumniNews

T H E W O R L D A N D U T A R L I N G T O N



ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES YANG

Success in Hand

Alumni Association gift boosts University endowment by more than \$2 million

Elizabeth Lepe believes there is no higher calling than to serve others in need. When she completes her master's degree this year, the social work graduate student plans to help those with mental health problems.

Lepe's career goals received a boost when she was one of three recipients of the Simmons-Blackwell Endowed Scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year. Established by longtime Alumni Association supporters Thomas Simmons '72 and Linda Blackwell Simmons '77, the scholarship benefits first-generation college students.

A native of Mexico and the first in her family to attend college, Lepe was so appreciative that she gave the Simmonses a gift at the annual dinner honoring Alumni Association scholarship recipients.

"I just wanted them to know how much their support means to me," she says. "Because they cared enough to give back, I will be able to fulfill my dreams of assisting people with mental illnesses."

The Simmonses were moved to create their scholarship by friends and fellow UT Arlington supporters. But it's the ongoing connection with students that keeps the couple knitted to their alma mater.

"I told Elizabeth, 'You are so deserving,' and she said, 'I'm just a reflection of you,'" Thomas Simmons says. "That was very rewarding."

The independent, nonprofit UT Arlington Alumni Association supports 31 scholarships, including the

Simmons-Blackwell award. Last fall the association announced a major gift that will increase the University's endowment by more than \$2 million. The gift means that \$1 million previously held by the association for scholarship support will double through the University's Maverick Match program, which leverages natural gas royalties to encourage new endowments and greater philanthropic support.

"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 Lora J. Malone, the association's executive director. "It signals that our Alumni Association members are aligned with the strategic mission of the University."

The association dates to 1920 and has long focused on connecting alumni with their alma mater while supporting students and enhancing their educational experience. The association encourages membership at a variety of levels, from annual members to lifetime members who have made major commitments to endowed funds that support scholarships.

Linda Blackwell Simmons says alumni support can provide the margin of excellence for UT Arlington and its students. "All great universities have involved alumni and strong alumni associations," she says.

It's because of these involved alumni that students like Elizabeth Lepe can make the world a better place.

"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."



SELECT SEVEN Since 1965 UT Arlington has recognized its most outstanding alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Honored at the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Gala in October were, from left, Mustaque Ahmed '81, Lon Burnam '79, Karin McCallum, Harry Dombroski '79, Al Ellis '65, Jane Avila '90, and Keith Weiss '73. Ahmed received the Distinguished International Alumni Award, and Dr. McCallum, a professor emerita, received the Honorary Distinguished Alumni Award. The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor bestowed by the University and Alumni Association, and the Distinguished Alumni Gala generates significant scholarship funds for students.

JOIN AN ALUMNI GROUP TO STAY CONNECTED



It's an exciting time to be a Maverick, and you don't have to live near Arlington to stay plugged in to your alma mater. As enrollment surges and more students graduate, it's easy to find UT Arlington alumni throughout Texas and beyond. Chances are there's an alumni group near you, organized by former students who share a common interest. Perhaps they live in the same city, work in the same industry, or have the same heritage. UT Arlington has three types of alumni groups—chapter, professional, and special interest. Alumni chapters are based in Houston, Fort Worth, and Dallas, with more on the way. Professional groups have been established for architecture, business, and nursing and help graduates reconnect with friends and colleagues within their professions and academic disciplines. Special interest groups include African-American, Cadet Corps, Hispanic, Native American, and athletics. A group can form any time. Alumni Association staff members provide program advice, tailored websites, and marketing. While groups like the Greater Dallas Alumni Chapter, above, commonly gather for happy hours and cheer on the Mavericks at watch parties, many also raise funds for scholarships and mentor current and future students. Opportunities for involvement are endless, including volunteering. Alumni groups could not succeed without the volunteers who serve as a lifeline to UT Arlington and whose leadership and passion ignite Maverick spirit. The Alumni Association is committed to helping graduates stay close to their alma mater. For information, visit utaalumni.org/alumnigroups.

Day Trippers

Alum's travel show wins TV's highest honor

Life is a highway, and Joe Gumm '01 rode it straight to an Emmy with his wife and four young daughters in tow.

As creator and executive producer of *Traveling With the Tribe*, Gumm took his family on excursions throughout Texas, highlighting vacation spots and day trips for other families. Their adventures happened in places like Twin Elm Guest Ranch in Bandera, where they rode longhorns, and Sea World San Antonio, where they swam with beluga whales.

"I knew it wasn't going to be easy, but I was prepared for that," he says. "I basically had to do everything."

Determined to see his show become a reality, Gumm took on what would normally require an entire team. He found the locations, produced a demo reel, sold the idea, got sponsors and a production crew, learned how to edit, handled expenses and wardrobe, and wrote scripts—with the added pressure of fitting everything into his wife and kids' schedules.

"We had to put it all together so that it made sense and was still enjoyable to watch," he says. "That's exactly what we did, and we ended up winning an Emmy for it." The show airs on Time Warner Cable, and you can watch episodes online at travelingwiththetribe.com.

"Before I even put pen to paper or pressed record on the camera, I knew I wanted to create a family-friendly show that I could watch with my children," Gumm says. "Seeing the final episode of the first season—and being awarded an Emmy—proved that other people had that same desire."

Gumm, who has loved broadcasting since he was young, is working his dream job as a morning anchor for Fox 25 in Oklahoma City.

"I would love to do *Traveling With the Tribe* again, but for now it's taking a back seat," he says. "I love my job and the people I work with. As for the future, only God knows."

Joe Gumm '01 received an Emmy Award for *Traveling With the Tribe*.



Snapshot



HOMECOMING 2012

The Alumni Association hosted 25- and 50-year class reunions during Homecoming. Among those attending were, from left, Lupita Perez-Guillermety '62, '87, Jim Harp '62, and Priscilla Cooper Feuerbacher '62.



Attending a Mr. and Ms. UTA Homecoming reunion were, from left, Mr. UTA Zack Minter; Ms. UTA LaQuishia Gill; Debbie Carroll-Boyce, Ms. UTA from 1972-73; and Kirk Walden, Mr. UTA from 1971-72.



2011 ALUMNI GALA

The Alumni Association hosted the 46th Annual Distinguished Alumni Gala in October. Among those attending were Victor Vandergriff, left, and 2005 Distinguished Alumnus Maxwell Scarlett '66, who emceed the event.



Also enjoying the gala were Jessica Hutchings '91 and Alumni Association executive board member Bobby Clark '89.

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 in Arlington. UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo will throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Tickets: utatickets.com

NETWORKING EVENTS

Mingle with fellow Mavericks at happy hours in Dallas and Fort Worth. Join the Greater Dallas Chapter from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. **Wednesday, April 11**, at Capitol 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 more details: utaalumni.org

OOZEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Student Alumni Association and Campus Recreation host the annual mud volleyball tournament 11 a.m.-6 p.m. **Friday, April 27**, on Summit Street between Greek Row and 4th Street. utaalumni.org



GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Award-winning actor James Franco will speak at the year-end bash celebrating the Class of 2012 at 7:30 p.m. **Friday, May 11**, at the Levitt Pavilion in downtown Arlington. The free event is open to the public and includes a fireworks show. uta.edu/commencement

DISTINGUISHED CADETS JOIN HALL OF HONOR



Mark C. Stevens, top, Lt. Col. Barbara Anne Vogl, and the late Lt. Col. William P. Roe are the 2012 inductees into the Military Science Hall of Honor. Stevens earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering in 1972 as a distinguished military graduate. Commissioned into the Air Force, he flew missions from Thailand into Vietnam and later served as an air combat instructor pilot in Nevada. After back problems forced him out of the Air Force, Stevens joined the Boeing Corp. and served as lead systems engineer on several projects, including the F-22 pilot training system. He continues to work for the company on functional product specifications development. Vogl received a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1962. She was the first commissioned female second lieutenant of the Woman'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 77th U.S. Army Reserve Command, and one of her primary duties was to reinstitute the Memorial Day parade down Fifth Avenue in New York City. The parade continues each Memorial Day. Roe received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1963 as a distinguished military graduate. He was the installation engineer at four military installations in Vietnam and from 1973 to 1976 was commander of an engineer detachment for utilities at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He also served as an assistant professor of military science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1990 to 2005 he was program manager for Hawk Engineering Services in the Raytheon Corp. He died in March 2011.



WORTHY RECOGNITION

Undrey Wash '86 and Froswa Booker-Drew '92 received the Outstanding African-American Alumni Award at the annual African-American Alumni Banquet in February. Wash has worked for Allstate Insurance Co. for 25 years and has been an umpire in the National Football League since 2000. He was part of the officiating crew for Super Bowl XLIV. Booker-Drew has more than 20 years experience in leadership development, training, nonprofit management, education, and social services. Established in 1995 by the African-American Alumni Chapter, the award honors African-American graduates who have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments and careers have brought credit to UT Arlington.



Grand Gratitude

Donors feted at College Park Center dedication

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 to honor 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 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 kindled 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 Carrizo Oil & Gas Inc., the University's partner in developing natural gas resources; \$1 million from alumni Alan and Bonnie Smith Petsche to name the basketball/volleyball court Petsche Court; and \$750,000 from the Moritz family for Moritz 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."

Los Angeles, California Alumni



JESSICA CARRILLO '09
Last year found Jessica Carrillo '09 living the daydreams of a legion of teenage girls. Not only did she meet *Twilight* star Robert Pattinson, she spoke with him at length about his latest film. It's all part of the job for Carrillo, 27, who hosts the Los Angeles-based Telemundo entertainment show *Acceso Total*. "I'm a big fan of his, so I was really nervous," she says. "It impressed me that he is a true gentleman. He even blushed when I told him how handsome he was." Carrillo also has interviewed Sofia Vergara, Pink, Jim Carrey, and numerous other celebrities. It's a far cry from the ambitious alumna's beginnings as a weather reporter in Las Vegas. In just a few years, her hard work and determination led her to Los Angeles, the entertainment capital of America. Carrillo sees a national entertainment news show in her future, and given her strong desire to succeed, it's likely only a matter of time. "I'm the kind of person who never gets stopped by anything, and I'm always willing to learn new things. This is only the beginning of the bright future I see for myself, and I'm going to work hard to get it."

Class Notes

1967
Darrell Paulk ('67 BA, Sociology; '72 MS, Social Work) is president and CEO of the Santa Clarita Child and Family Center in Santa Clarita, Calif. Previously, he was the president and chief executive officer of the LeRoy Haynes Center for Children and Family Services in La Verne, Calif.



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1971
Kristy Libotte Keener (BFA, Art) won a 2011 MarCom Award for a set of postcards featuring nature photography and for a transportation book cover for the North Central Texas Council of Governments. She is the graphic design coordinator at NCTCOG. **George Kitamura** ('71 BS, Aerospace Engineering; '97 MBA, Business Administration) is a certified business development specialist with the Center for Government Contracting for the Small Business Development Center.

and 14 as a middle and high school teacher and counselor.

1974
Charles Jenkins (BS, Mechanical Engineering) announced his retirement as chief operating officer in October after 40 years at Oncor. He held a variety of engineering, management, and officer positions with the company. After working for other former TXU companies, he returned to Oncor in 2003 to head Transmission Grid Management. In November 2009 he took the COO position. Jenkins, who worked primarily in Dallas and Arlington, will remain as senior vice president until April 1. **Bill Lane** ('74 BS, '76 MS, Mechanical Engineering) is vice president of emerging technologies for Weatherford Artificial Lift Systems, based in Houston. He has 33 years of oil and gas industry experience.

1975
Stephen C. Wagner (BFA, Art) had two pieces of his mixed media work added to the Riverside (Calif.) Art Museum. Wagner, who began his career in San Antonio, now lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

1976
Neil Ferguson (BA, Psychology) was elected to the Lewisville City Council in December. He is chair of the Greater Lewisville Arts Alliance, vice chair of the Lewisville Lake Symphony, and chair of the 88 Keys Steinway Program. Previously, he was a commissioner on the Planning and Zoning Board and the Traffic Board and a member of the Brownfields Committee and Capital Improvements Advisory Committee.

1977
Jack Reinhard (MA, Economics) wrote *Freedom and Happiness, A Philosophy for All*. The book provides a

step-by-step guide for free, independent, and responsible citizens to achieve their maximum capability.

1978
David Hunn ('78 BS, '80 MS, Mechanical Engineering; '92 PhD, Materials Science and Engineering) won the Louis and Edith Zernow Award at the 26th International Symposium of Ballistics. He and Sang Lee presented a paper, "Development of a Novel Ceramic Armor System: Analysis and Test," which included technical aspects of their research on lightweight armor for vehicles. Dr. Hunn is chief scientist for Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Grand Prairie. **Maria de los Santos Onofre-Madrid** (MA, Spanish) is an assistant professor of Spanish in the Department of English and Modern Languages at Angelo State University.

1982
Debbie Goulding (BA, English) is an assistant principal at Morton Elementary School in Arlington. **Keith Magee** (BA, Journalism) is managing editor of the *Wharton Journal Spectator* in Wharton, Texas. He is a former sports editor for *The Shorthorn*. **Barry S. Read** (BS, Architecture) is program manager at Multatech, an architectural and engineering services firm based in Fort Worth.

1983
Troy DePuma (BBA, Accounting) is chief financial officer for Unitech Composites and Structures, as well as Integrated Composites, a part of AGC Aerospace and Defense, a global supplier of technologies, systems, and services that support key commercial and military programs. The company is based in Oklahoma City. **Marty Durbin** ('83 BBA, Accounting; '86 MBA, Finance) was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Denver-based Financial Planning Association. He is working on several private business ventures and recently chaired FPA's Corporate Relations Advisory Council. He retired from First Command Financial Planning in 2010 after a 27-year career in which he held a variety of leadership roles, including chief financial officer, chief of staff, board member, and president/chief operating officer. **Steve Yetts** (BS, Civil Engineering) is a senior vice president at Crescent Resources, LLC, a real estate development company based in Charlotte, N.C. He is responsible for all development and operational activities in the Texas region.

1980
Victor M. Perez (MBA, Business Administration) is chief financial officer for Glori Energy, an innovator in enhanced oil recovery based in Houston. He was chief financial officer for seven years at Allis-Chalmers Energy in Houston. **Jamie Slack** (MArch) wrote *Now Here's a Thought*, where she shares her outlook on life and

1984
Nada Shabout ('84 BS, Architecture; '88 BFA, Art; '91 MA, Humanities; '99 PhD, Humanities) received a digitization grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as she worked with colleagues at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a member of the project team that compiled the Modern Art Iraq Archive (<http://artiraq.org/maia>). **Curtis Winstead** (BS, Mathematics) is a colonel in the Air Force and commander of the International Security Assistance Force Camp in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was among those at the Pentagon when it was attacked Sept. 11, 2001; he was not injured.

1985
Zennie Abraham (BGS, General Studies) is chairman and CEO of Sports Business Simulations and founding executive producer of the national show *The Blog Report* with Zennie62 on the CoLoursTV Network. He is based in Oakland, Calif. **Otto Fritz** (BA, Spanish) is operations manager for Wind Energy Services Co. in Gainesville, Texas, a provider of composite repair and maintenance to wind farm operators. His responsibilities include training, safety, and logistical management of technician teams nationwide. He most recently worked at PSA/Hearn/ThyssenKrupp as operations manager. He is fluent in Spanish, German, English, and American Sign Language.

1986
Roger White (BA, Journalism) writes a weekly humor column, OldSpouse, that appears in several community newspapers in and around Austin.

1987
Pam Hadley (BGS, General Studies) is a pediatric nurse in the emergency room/variable staffing at Children's Medical

Center in Dallas. She is also a pediatric clinical instructor in the UT Arlington College of Nursing.

1989
Jim Doyle (BS, Mechanical Engineering) won a Lindy Award at the Experimental Aircraft Association convention in Oshkosh, Wis. An airframe stress engineer for Lockheed Martin, he received the honor for building a biplane. **Michael Hoskins** (MSSW) is a special assistant in the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C. He directs the Military and Family Life Consultant program and the counseling component of Military OneSource, programs that provide worldwide support to active duty and reserve military personnel and their families.

1990
Joe Madden (MA, Professional Accounting) is vice president of business services for Angelina College in Lufkin, Texas. Previously, he was associate vice president/controller at Collin County Community College in Plano. **Curtis Mooney** (PhD, Social Work) has served as CEO of DePelchin Children's Center in Houston for 14 years. The center provides mental health, prevention and early intervention, and foster care and adoption services. **Dan Powers** (MS, Social Work) has been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the governing board of the Office of Violent Sex Offender Management. Powers is senior vice president of clinical services at the Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County. **Mark Sliter-Hays** ('90 BSW, '96 MSSW) is executive director of Catholic Charities West Virginia.

1993
Paul Cathey (BFA, Theatre Arts) is production director at the AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas. **Bonny Flemister** (MSN) is a certified adult gerontological nurse practitioner and wound ostomy continence nurse. She presents skin care and wound management seminars for health professionals. Now living in Tyler, Texas, she

received her nursing degree at age 55. **Robbie Porter** (BA, Mathematics) is South Jetty High School principal at the Oregon Youth Authority facility in Warrenton, Ore. She taught high school and middle school in Texas for 18 years before moving to Oregon in 2007.

1994
Peggy Pritchard Kulesz ('94 MA, '00 PhD, English) received the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award from the UT System. She is a senior lecturer and director of the first-year English program at UT Arlington.

1996
Kathryn Allen (MPA) 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 community relations for a private non-profit preventive health care organization in North Texas. **Andres Trevino** (MSSW) is a social work supervisor at Su Clinica Familiar in Harlingen, Texas. Previously, he was lead clinician for the Baptist Child and Family Service program.

1997
Irma Kusuma (BA, Journalism) is events director for the Greater Dallas Asian-American Chamber of Commerce. **Ivan Spencer** (PhD, Humanities) is associate professor of history and philosophy at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and the author of *The Christology of Liberation Theology*.

1998
Kris Kriofske (BA, Journalism) is marketing director for Woodbine, a brand revitalization agency in Winston-Salem, N.C. He oversees external marketing, new business development, and public relations for clients.

Notable



WALTER DANSBY
Dansby ('74 BA, Physical Education) was named superintendent of the Fort Worth Independent School District in February. Dansby, who began working at the FWISD as a teacher-coach in 1974, is the first African-American to hold the district's top post.

LEONARD DAVIS
Davis ('70 BA, Mathematics) became chief judge of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas, in January. He has served as a U.S. district judge in Tyler since 2002.



SHANNON BRUNSKILL
Brunskill ('07 BFA, '11 MFA, Art) had her work included in the Imperial Stables of Prague Castle glass art exhibit in the Czech Republic in October. She was the only American in the international competition.

JIM GREER
Greer ('84 BS, Electrical Engineering) was named chief operating officer at Oncor in October. He joined the Dallas-based company in 1984. He serves on the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and was a 2010 recipient of the Leadership in Power award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Previously, he worked for BSMG Worldwide (now Weber Shandwick) in Dallas and London. **Robin Michael Smith** (BA, Journalism) wrote *With Deepest Regrets*, a book describing his childhood and military service, including his being sent on a mission to assassinate Saddam Hussein.

1999

Tiffany Flores ('99 BA, Anthropology) is an account manager for Fort Worth and Central Texas at American Reading Co., a textbook firm.

2000

Lana Adams (BA, Journalism) is event coordinator at Willow Brook Country Club in Tyler, Texas. She plans birthday parties, weddings, and any type of catering event at the club. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha at UT Arlington. **Casey Donahew** (BBA, Finance) is leader of the Casey Donahew Band, which had its latest single, *Double-Wide Dream*, climb to No. 5 on the Best in Texas country music chart. The band's album (same name) hit the Top 10 on the Billboard Top Independent Albums and Billboard Country Albums charts. **Adam Guerrero** ('00 MBA, Business Administration; '04 MA, Economics) has been named to the faculty in the DeVos Graduate School of Management on the Michigan Campus of Northwood University in Midland, Mich. Previously, he was chair of the Department of Economics at the Northwood University Texas Campus in Cedar Hill. His areas of specialization are business and economic policy, and finance.

2001

Fr. Jon Christopher Jenkins (BFA, Art) is rector of Christ the King Episcopal Church in Fort Worth. He earned his Master of Divinity degree at Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Nashotah, Wis. He is pursuing a Doctor of

Ministry at Nashotah House. **Shannon Johnston Jones** (BFA, Theatre Arts) is a theater and speech teacher at Cross Timbers Middle School in Grapevine. **Shawn Madden** (PhD, Humanities) is associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, and director of library services at South-eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He wrote *Kings: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text*. **Jill Saunders** (BFA, Theatre Arts) served as a double for Keira Knightley in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies and has appeared in several lead and supporting roles on film. She also has performed for television and theater. She lives in North Hollywood, Calif. **Janelle Shepard** (BSN) was appointed to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board by Gov. Rick Perry. Her term expires Aug. 31, 2017. She is a registered nurse, board-certified case manager, and director of medical management at Texas Health Resources Fort Worth Hospital. She is a past member and past board secretary of the Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct.

2002

Chris Lee Moore (BA, Journalism) writes for the *Dallas Basketball Examiner* and is host of Rowdy Sports, providing video and audio commentary. His website also provides video reviews of TV shows and video games. **Heather L. Reynolds** (MSSW) received papal honors from the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth in December. She was recognized for bringing Catholic Charities of Fort Worth into closer concert with the diocese by preserving the Catholic identity of both the board and staff while helping those in need in the diocese's geographical area regardless of religious affiliation. She also was recognized for spearheading a \$16 million capital campaign to relocate

and construct a new Catholic Charities center. **Gary Witulski** ('02 BS, '03 MS, Electrical Engineering) is a principal software engineer at EF Johnson Technologies in Irving.

2003

Matthew Groff (BFA, Theatre Arts) is an office manager for Shetler Studios and Theaters, a theatrical rehearsal space in New York. **Nabeel Jaitapker** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a communication and social media marketing specialist in the Communication Department at William Peace University in Raleigh, N.C. He is responsible for promoting the university and its goals through the production of printed and multimedia materials. A former news editor for *The Shorthorn*, he also worked for the *Houston Chronicle*. **Danyelle Keenan** (MS, Human Resource Management) was recognized by HR Southwest as Educator of the Year for 2011. She is associate director of human resources at MedStar Emergency Medical Services in Fort Worth. She also is an adjunct instructor of management at UT Arlington and Texas Wesleyan. **Danny Mekonnen** (BM) continues to play the saxophone and perform with his band, Debo. The band played at the Kennedy Center Atrium in Washington, D.C., in 2011 and performs regularly in the Boston area.

2004

Justin Hilliard (BFA, Art) has won numerous awards for his film *The Other Side of Paradise*, which is available for rent or purchase at iTunes.com. The film stars Frank Mosely ('07 BA, English). **Andrew Beal Pumphrey III** (MEd) is CEO at MacKenzie Trail Resources, LLC, Renewable Energy Division. He also owns Panther City, LLC, an oil and gas investment firm in Dallas. He is a former teacher and coach in the Highland Park Independent School



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District. **Hollace Ava Weiner** (MA, History) was named a Great Woman of Texas by the *Fort Worth Business Press*. A freelance historian, she has written numerous books and was one of 17 North Texas women honored in November at the Fort Worth Club.

2005

Ralph Holcomb (MS, Health Care Administration) is chief information officer at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview, Texas. Previously, he was director of information services at the Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital in Dallas. **Nikki Milavec** (BA, Art History) and Karen Hakimi founded the Milavec Hakimi Gallery, a contemporary art space in New York City. The gallery promotes emerging contemporary art while highlighting artists the owners consider "exceptional in a sea of complacency." It is located on the ground floor of the newly constructed 51 Cooper Square, in the heart of Manhattan. **Jean Weaver** (BA, Public Relations) assisted

Ron Howell in writing *The Transition of a Country Boy: A Memoir* about growing up in West Texas during the Depression and later becoming part of the booming oil industry.

2006

Jennifer Knack ('06 MS, Psychology; '09 PhD, General Experimental Psychology) is an assistant professor of psychology at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. Her research interests include the influence of social relationships and social pain on physical health, biological functioning, and self-regulatory reserve. She served as a graduate research assistant, laboratory manager, and tutor at UT Arlington. **Ashley Purgason** ('06 BS, '07 MS, Biology) was honored in October as a Distinguished Scholar at the Diamond Ball, a Mansfield Independent School District Education Foundation fundraiser. Recognized for her work as a NASA researcher, she is a doctoral candidate at the UT Medical Branch at Galveston. **Scott Siekielski**

('06 MBA, Accounting; '07 MS, Real Estate) is chief operating officer for NexBank, a Dallas-based boutique bank specializing in private banking and complex commercial transactions. Previously, he was a senior vice president at Southwest Securities, FSB, in Dallas. **Jovan Wells (MEd)** is principal at the Dallas Independent School District's Science and Engineering Magnet Public School, which *Newsweek* magazine ranks the No. 1 public high school in America. She also is a UT Arlington doctoral student.

2007

Praveen Gulaka (MS, Biomedical Engineering) is a senior engineer in the health and medical equipment/MRI division for Samsung Electronics in Suwon, South Korea. **Laura McCoy** (BA, Criminal Justice and Criminology) was sworn in as an attorney in Clarksville, Texas, in November after passing the bar exam in July. **Susy Villegas de Chaverri** (PhD, Social Work) is an assistant professor in the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma.

2008

Chad Johnson (BS, Interdisciplinary Studies) owns Johnson Fabrication and is a partner with Johnson Crane Rental, both located in Ennis, Texas. **Amanda Swofford** (BA, Interdisciplinary Studies) teaches and coaches at Chapa Middle School in the Hays Consolidated Independent School District in Kyle, Texas. She earned All-Southland Conference honors as a softball shortstop at UT Arlington.

2009

Hope Ekwue (BA, Broadcast Communication) is communications director at Strategic Government Resources in Keller and the public information officer for Keller's Public Works Department. **Stella**

Lee (MSSW) is a caseworker in the Criminal Justice Department at the Dallas County Public Defender's Office. She also is a professor in the Sociology Department at Dallas Christian College. **Presley McFadden** (MA, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) is an English instructor at Hanoi University in Vietnam. Previously, he taught English for Academic Purposes at TMC Academy in Singapore. **Elizabeth McWithey** (BA, Theatre Arts) teaches theater at Union Grove Middle School in the Killeen Independent School District. **Holland Sanders** (BA, Public Relations) is marketing manager for the Fort Worth Opera. **Brian C. Simmons** (BA, Philosophy) writes a religion blog for examiner.com. **Josh E. Smith** (MS, Real Estate) is vice president at Balfour Beatty Campus Solutions in Newton Square, Pa. The company helps colleges and universities execute capital plans so that on-campus real estate contributes to long-term institutional viability. Smith is responsible for expanding the reach of the company nationwide. Previously, he was vice president of development for Collegiate Companies, a turnkey real estate services company specializing in student housing. **Lacy Smith** (BS, Exercise and Sport Studies/Exercise Science) is a legal clerk at the Brylen Cave law firm in Dallas. **Cecil Touchon** (BFA, Art) exhibited *New Works and Old Favorites* at the Emily Amy Gallery in Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 28-Dec. 3. Touchon has exhibited in galleries and museums in Dallas and Fort Worth, as well as in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Houston, St. Louis, Atlanta, and Santa Fe, N.M. He received his art degree from UT Arlington at age 53.

2010

Rachel Haynes (BFA, Art) was one of several artists

featured in *Cutting Edge*, a glass art exhibit in Oklahoma City last fall. **William Nutt** (BA, Anthropology) helped excavate an Etruscan ceramic vessel depicting a woman giving birth as part of the Mugello Valley Archaeological Project, which oversees the Poggio Colla excavation site near Florence, Italy. Nutt, who is legally blind, is a graduate student at UT Arlington. See story on page 7. **David Baron Sims** (BBA, Management) is a nursing home administrator for Mesa Springs Retirement Center in Abilene, Texas. He was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity at UT Arlington. **Eric Sinha** (BFA, Art) worked with Plano Independent School District students during the summer at iD Tech Camp, teaching them how to design video games and edit film projects.

2011

Susan Wilhelm Chandler (BA, Journalism) writes press releases and produces the employee newsletter in the Communication Division of the Fort Worth Police Department. **Jared Chism** (BA, Public Relations) works in social media for AT&T and was a featured speaker during Communication Day at UT Arlington last fall. **Zack Fischer** (BS, Interdisciplinary Studies) became a professional golfer in August and won the 22nd San Antonio Open in November with a 9-under-par 135 in the 36-hole tournament. He won by three strokes and collected the \$3,300 first prize. A member of UT Arlington's Southland Conference championship team last spring, he also won the Arkansas State Open earlier in 2011. **Ahsan "Ali" Kahn** (BA, Public Relations) was hired for an internship with Fleishman-Hillard, an international communication agency with 80 offices worldwide. He is training in Washington, D.C., and will work on the firm's Best Buy account in prepara-

tion for a store opening in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. **Marlyn Martinez** (MEd) is vice principal at Kirkpatrick Middle School in Fort Worth. **Kelly McLean** (MEd) is an assistant principal at Polytechnic High School in Fort Worth. **Erika McMin** (BA, Public Relations) is an account executive at Concussion, a Fort Worth-based advertising agency. She received the Department of Communication's 2011 Outstanding Public Relations Student Award. **Erikka Neroes** (BA, Public Relations and Communication Studies) is working toward her master's degree in public administration at UT Arlington. **Richard Overton** (MEd) is an assistant principal at Blevins Middle School in Fort Collins, Colo. **Catherine Peña** (MEd) is an assistant principal at Dobie Primary School in Richardson. **Mecca Rayne** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a weekend anchor for KKTU Channel 11 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Previously, she anchored the morning show at KSNT Channel 27 in Topeka, Kan. **Nivia Smith** (MEd) is principal at Bayview Elementary School in the West Contra Costa Unified School District in San Pablo, Calif. **Jana Spillers** (MSN) is a neonatal nurse practitioner at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas and a clinical instructor in the UT Arlington College of Nursing. **Allyson Spurgeon** (MEd) is an assistant principal at Palmer Middle School in Palmer, Texas. **Diana Tran** (BFA, Art) was selected a fellow for Code for America, a public service group that uses the power of the Web to help governments work better. She is pursuing an MFA in graphic design at the Savannah (Ga.) College of Art and Design. **Colcia Williams** (MEd) is an assistant principal at Morningside Middle School in Fort Worth. **Hillary Williams** (BA, Communication Studies) is working toward a Master of Arts in Communication degree at UT Arlington.

Briefly



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CHARLES R. KNERR

A faculty member since 1976, Charles R. Knerr died Jan. 2 in Arlington. He was 64. Dr. Knerr was an associate professor of political science and served as assistant chair of the Political Science Department from 1993 to 1996 and acting chair from 1994 to 1996. A co-founder of the American Undergraduate Moot Court Association, he was faculty adviser for the UT Arlington Moot Court Students Association since 1996. He was named the University’s Outstanding Academic Adviser in 1995. The Charles R. Knerr Endowment, established in 2006, provides a scholarship each year and honors Knerr for his teaching and dedication to students.



JOE D. SPRADLIN

A professor emeritus of electrical engineering, Joe D. Spradlin died Sept. 11 in Arlington. He was 94. Mr. Spradlin began teaching at Arlington State College (now UT Arlington) in 1962. He led a team of engineers in developing the first color television camera for RCA. He was a graduate of UT Austin and a member of the Arlington Men’s Garden Club, UTA Retirees Club, Arlington Retired Teachers, and Lamar Baptist Church. A World War II veteran in the European and Pacific theaters, he was awarded five combat stars and a Bronze Star Medal.

In Memoriam

1930s

Thurman Jasper (‘35 AA, Mathematics), 97, July 14 in Arlington. Mr. Jasper taught math at UT Arlington for 35 years. He chaired the Faculty Student Committee from 1946 to 1964 and the Alumni Relations Committee from 1973 to 1975. He retired from teaching in 1981 but stayed active in charitable and professional organizations.

1940s

Phyllis Ryan (‘45 AA, Business Administration), 84, July 19 in Grapevine. Ms. Ryan worked at Ryan Associates with her husband, Joe. At North Texas Agricultural College (now UT Arlington), she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

1950s

Richard Joe Hyde (‘53 AA, Business Administration), 79, Sept. 28 in Fort Worth. Mr. Hyde founded a military parts company, was a longtime director of the Bank of Commerce, and served on the Fort Worth Parks and Recreation Board.

1960s

Jarome Harold Foreman (‘62 BS, Mechanical Engineering), 74, Sept. 12 in Arlington. Mr. Foreman worked for Texas Electric Service Co. from 1969 to 1992 in the Fort Worth, Mansfield, and Arlington offices. Prior to joining TESCO, he worked for Western Union in Dallas. **Robert M. Oliver** (‘63 BS, Mechanical Engineering), 70, July 3 in Arlington. Mr. Oliver worked for Vought Aircraft Industries for more than 40 years. He served as president and treasurer of the Optimist Club of Arlington and was a founding member of the Arlington Youth Endowment Fund in 1992. Active in the Maverick Club, he was named an honorary member of the UT Arlington Athletics Hall of Honor. **David Edward Burnett** (‘65 BBA, Business Administration), 73, Sept. 10 in Austin. Mr. Burnett worked for

Farmers Insurance Group as an insurance adjuster before opening his own business, Service Adjustment Co., where he continued to work as an adjuster. **Kenneth Rodney Pounds** (‘68 BA, Political Science), 67, Oct. 24 in Fort Worth. Mr. Pounds maintained a law practice in Fort Worth, specializing in real estate, personal injury, and criminal law. He was a founding member of the Northeast Tarrant County Bar Association. **Louis Wayne Scheppler** (‘69 BS, Electrical Engineering), 64, July 6 in Bedford. Mr. Scheppler was manager of equipment engineering at Bell Helicopter for 37 years.

1970s

Johnny David Fisher (‘70 BS, Industrial Engineering), 69, Oct. 1 in Arlington. Mr. Fisher worked for Justin Boot Co., Pangburn Candy, and Siemens Corp. **Celia McCain** (‘72 BA, History; ‘83 MA, Interdisciplinary Studies), 86, July 9 in Dallas. Ms. McCain retired from the Arlington Independent School District after 30 years of service and continued as a substitute teacher for many years. **Juan Araiza** (‘73 BBA, Accounting), 67, July 20 in Fort Worth. Mr. Araiza was a Fort Worth city planner for 25 years before working as a grant writer for the Fort Worth Housing Authority. **Richard Wayne Nelms** (‘73 BS, Biology), 61, Oct. 21 in Arlington. Mr. Nelms taught high school science and math for more than 30 years. He also taught driver’s education and was a scoutmaster. **Dorothy Jouett** (‘75 BSN), 89, Sept. 17 in Denton. Ms. Jouett was a public health nurse for the Fort Worth Health Department. She was a licensed vocational nurse before coming to UT Arlington and earning her nursing degree at age 53.

Allan Turnipseed (‘77 BFA, Art), 62, Jan. 6, 2011, in Riberas del Pilar, Mexico. Mr. Turnipseed was a graphic designer and owner of Turnipseed

Graphics in Dallas prior to moving to Mexico in 2004.

1980s

Robert Allen Martin (‘80 MBA, Business Administration), 64, Sept. 12 in Fort Worth. Mr. Martin was a forensic economist, practicing nationally since 1980. He taught real estate and finance at UT Arlington. **Cleo Elizabeth Rolfe** (‘80 BA, Psychology), 71, Oct. 7 in Arlington. Ms. Rolfe was a licensed professional counselor. **George Austin Truitt** (‘80 BS; ‘83 MS, Electrical Engineering), 55, July 14 in Allen. Mr. Truitt was a professional engineer. He worked for Texas Instruments and Raytheon and received patents on numerous electrical devices.

Austin F. Anderson (‘81 BBA, Marketing), 60, Oct. 25 in Arlington. Mr. Anderson was an operator technician for 14 years with Steris International, a surgical care corporation. **Amy Suzanne Breeze** (‘82 BBA, Marketing), 50, Sept. 20 in Seattle. Ms. Breeze was a sales and marketing representative in San Francisco and Sacramento, Calif. **Glenda Himes Cox** (‘85 BBA, Management), 48, Sept. 23 in Hurst. Ms. Cox was a residential appraiser for 19 years. **Eilleen Thomas** (‘88 MA, Interdisciplinary Studies), 67, Aug. 24 in Fort Worth. Ms. Thomas worked for the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District for 32 years as a teacher at Central Junior High and Trinity High School. From 1970 to 1990 she guided students on historical tours of Europe. **Pamela Spore McQuitty** (‘89 BA, Journalism), 44, Sept. 14 in Arlington. Ms. McQuitty worked for Michael & Partners Advertising and Public Relations and Temerlin McClain Advertising. In 1995 she joined Bank of America as senior vice president for corporate social responsibility.

1990s

Magda Ortiz (‘92 MSN), 48, July 29 in San Antonio. Ms.

Ortiz was a senior research compliance manager in the Texas Diabetes Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Previously, she worked concurrently as a clinical nurse specialist at the Health Science Center’s Division of Diabetes and as director of clinical research for TDI. **Carol Huffman Damon** (‘93 BSN), 50, Oct. 20 in Fort Worth. Ms. Damon was a career nurse who met her ultimate challenge overseeing her own treatment for the last 10 months of her life.

2000s

Trini Do (‘04 BS, Information Systems), 29, July 23 in Grand Prairie. Ms. Do was a research assistant who handled financial records at TMAC. **Megan Brianna Atkinson** (‘07 BBA, Marketing), 26, Aug. 30 in Dallas. Ms. Atkinson owned and operated Sweet Lucy’s Bakery in Arlington. She also had a real estate license. **David Bynum** (‘07 BBA, Business Administration), 53, July 5 in Houston. Mr. Bynum was a project manager at Mazanec Construction in Waco. He also worked for the city of Waco as survey party chief, civil design technician, landfill manager, and program administrator. **Michelle Ta** (‘08 BS, Accounting), 28, July 23 in Grand Prairie. Ms. Ta managed financial records at TMAC.

Faculty and Staff

Charles Howard Connally, 95, Oct. 25 in Fort Worth. Mr. Connally was a professor and assistant dean in the Department of Civil Engineering for 27 years. He retired as dean of student administration in 1978. He was a life member of the Texas Industrial Arts Association and the American Society of Engineering Education. **Paul W. Phillips**, 75, Oct. 10 in Arlington. The Rev. Phillips was director of the Church of Christ Student Center at UT Arlington for 24 years. He retired as minister at North Davis Church of Christ in 1998.

Advancing Excellence

We are pleased to have this opportunity to thank alumni, parents, and friends of The University of Texas at Arlington for your generous

support of our students, faculty, and the important work accomplished daily

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College Park Center, the special events showpiece that opened in February, received a big boost last year when the families of two distinguished business leaders committed \$1.75 million to support the facility. Alan Petsche '80, center, and his wife, Bonnie Smith Petsche '86, committed \$1 million to College Park Center, and UT Arlington has named the basketball/volleyball court Petsche Court in their honor. John David Moritz and the Moritz family, namesakes of Moritz Dealerships, committed \$750,000 to establish Moritz Plaza, which serves as the center's main entrance. All three are members of the Carlisle Society, which recognizes donors whose cumulative giving to the University exceeds \$50,000.

Carlisle Society

The Carlisle Society recognizes benefactors whose cumulative giving exceeds \$50,000. It is named for Col. James M. Carlisle who, in 1902, founded Carlisle Military Academy, one of the early predecessors of UT Arlington.

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Rankin Legacy Society

The Edward E. Rankin Legacy Society honors those who have made provisions for the University through their estate plans. The society is named for the Arlington business and civic leader who was the driving force behind the establishment of Arlington College in 1895. Charter members are listed in italics.



LEAVING A LEGACY

Lynne Prater, with UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo, is a charter member of the Edward E. Rankin Legacy Society. An Arlington community leader, Prater actively promotes the difference that scholarships can make in students' ability to complete their degrees. The Rankin Legacy Society was established in 2010 and recognizes estate gifts to the University.

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1895 Society

The 1895 Society recognizes those who invest \$1,000 or more annually in any of the University's colleges, schools, initiatives, scholarships,

endowments, or programs. Recognition levels within the 1895 Society are the President's Associates, Dean's Associates, and Director's Associates.

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BUILDING MOMENTUM

Dan Dipert and his wife, Linda Dipert '01, have committed \$400,000 toward construction of UT Arlington's first free-standing visitors center. The 7,000-square-foot facility will open this summer at South Center and East Second streets in the College Park District, the University's new residential and retail development that includes College Park Center. The visitors center will be named the Dan Dipert University Welcome Center in honor of Dan, chief executive officer of Arlington-based Dan Dipert Travel & Transportation Ltd., and Linda, marketing director for Dan Dipert Travel. Linda serves as vice chair of the 1895 Society, which recognizes donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to UT Arlington.

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Faiga Qudah, right, with her daughter Nehad '09, was one of nearly 40 donors who established endowments at UT Arlington last year. Dr. Qudah is CEO of Gordian Health Management Group, which created the SKJ Gordian Endowment to support the College of Nursing. The gift honors the memory of Qudah's mother, Sauda Kandong Jamaldin, a public health nurse and midwife on the island of Basilan in the southern Philippines. Known as SKJ, Jamaldin delivered most of the babies born in the 1950s and 1960s to mothers on Basilan and surrounding islands. Nehad is a third-generation nurse.

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Past Linda Ronstadt at Texas Hall, 1977



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.