MILITARY INTELLIGENCE The number of military veterans pursuing college degrees is soaring, and UT Arlington provides an environment where they can flourish. p. 20

RETHINKING HOW WE LIVE A study by Richard Florida and his Creative Class Group suggests that knowledge, creativity, and innovation will dominate the local future economy. p. 24

DESIGNING THE METROPOLIS The words and vision of the late architecture critic and UT Arlington benefactor David Dillon helped North Texas define its aesthetic identity. p. 28

Conquering the Bully

UT Arlington researchers take off the gloves in the battle against bullying.
A LASTING LEGACY

A few weeks after speaking at the first commencement ceremonies in College Park Center in May, James D. Spaniolo announced his retirement as president of UT Arlington. Since he became chief executive in 2004, the University’s enrollment has increased 32 percent, total research expenditures have more than doubled, and private philanthropic support has reached an all-time high. President Spaniolo launched efforts to make UT Arlington a nationally recognized research university and boosted student success with the opening of University College. Other milestones of his administration include the development of the College Park District, anchored by College Park Center, and construction of the Engineering Research Building. “Our next president will join a university on track to become a major research institution,” he says. Spaniolo plans to stay on as president until his successor is selected.

A few weeks after speaking at the first commencement ceremonies in College Park Center in May, James D. Spaniolo announced his retirement as president of UT Arlington. Since he became chief executive in 2004, the University’s enrollment has increased 32 percent, total research expenditures have more than doubled, and private philanthropic support has reached an all-time high. President Spaniolo launched efforts to make UT Arlington a nationally recognized research university and boosted student success with the opening of University College. Other milestones of his administration include the development of the College Park District, anchored by College Park Center, and construction of the Engineering Research Building. “Our next president will join a university on track to become a major research institution,” he says. Spaniolo plans to stay on as president until his successor is selected.
I recently announced my decision to retire from The University of Texas at Arlington. After serving as president for eight-and-a-half years, it seems like the appropriate time to pass the baton and let others continue the stewardship of our remarkable institution. I am so proud of where the University is today. UT Arlington’s record-setting achievements demonstrate what we have accomplished together. No matter the measure, our institution has made great progress during the past decade.

We enrolled thousands of new students—on campus and online. We invited thousands of students to live on campus and experience a traditional residential environment. We opened new recreational spaces for students and developed robust, 24/7 activities and events to keep them engaged.

We reinvigorated our athletics program and moved it to the next stage, literally, opening up new vistas for competition and achievement. We created new traditions and honored long-established ones. We helped elicit the enormous pride our alumni have always felt for their alma mater.

We built amazing buildings that grace our campus at every turn. We added research laboratories and classrooms. We increased our external research funding by tens of millions of dollars and continue to build a thriving research enterprise that addresses some of society’s most serious issues.

We built a college town from the ground up and helped reinvigorate downtown Arlington. We reached out to the city, our neighbors, and the community—and they embraced us.

We increased our national visibility. We engaged in sweeping deployments to the Middle East, young military veterans are turning to UT Arlington to help them fulfill their career goals.

We expanded our overseas research. UT Arlington professors are engaged in sweeping deployments to the Middle East. Young military veterans are turning to UT Arlington to help them fulfill their career goals.

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Facebook

LOOKING BACK
I appreciate being able to re-
ceive UTArlington Magazine.
My time at what is now UTA oc-
curred between 1956 and
1961. I graduated with the first
degree-granting class in 1961. I noticed a photo of
the current class ring in the
spring 2012 issue. During the
1956-60 academic year, I was primarily responsible
for helping design the first
ring associated with gradu-
ing from Arlington
State College. For the 1960-61
school year, we established a
student council where faculty
members did not have a vote
but did advise. Being able
to create a functioning student
council would not have been
possible without Dr. Jack
Woolf becoming president
after the sudden death of
E.H. Herford. Woolf placed
no bureaucratic barriers
between himself and the new
student leadership group.
I still have many vivid memo-
ries of my time at Arlington
State College, helping to
establish the first all-student
government and the special
effort President Woolf pro-
vided to ensure ASC would
be as independent as one
could be in the Texas A&M
System of that era.

JAMES “SARGE” CHAPPELL ’61
Dallas, Texas

NEVAL BASE
I enjoyed reading the article
“Love Shack, Baby” in the
spring 2012 issue. It reminded
me of a very long time ago
when Brazos House was called
Daisy Hall. I went to North
Texas Agricultural College
(now UTA Arlington) in 1942
and later joined the U.S. Navy.
After three semesters wearing
the A&M military uniform,
I was called into the Navy.
They sent me to FTAC (where
I already was), and we lived
in Davis Hall. So far for two or three
years, the “Love Shack” was
used by the U.S. Navy. There are many
stories there.

W.L. ROBERTS ’64
Dallas, Texas

CATCHING UP
Being away from Texas,
UTArlington Magazine helps
me stay connected with the
University, alumni, and the
metropolis. I enjoy reading
the magazine, as it has a
variety of informative articles
through the Campus Buzz
section, especially those
related to my field of social
work. The spring 2012 edi-
tion is another informative,
well-polished issue. I loved
hearing about the opening of
College Park Center. Keep up
the great work. Go Mavs!

MARK SLITER-HAYS ’80, ’96
Wheeling, W.Va.

MEDIA COVERAGE
Thanks for making me look
way more important than I am
in the article “Day Trippers”
(spring 2012). My mother
saw the article before I did from a
copy that a family friend and fellow UTA alum showed her.
That was fine with me because
I wanted her to show my
five siblings how successful
I had become. I’m kidding,
of course. I only have four
siblings. All joking aside, what
you did was shine a spotlight
on the College of Liberal Arts
and those who represent UTA
in the media once they gradu-
ate. I am flattened and proud
to represent the school.

JOE GUIM ’73
Oklahoma City, Okla.

YOUR THOUGHTS?
Send letters to the editor to
utamagazine@uta.edu, or
comment on magazine con-
tent at uta.edu/stamagazine.
Ahead of the Game

Joining Sun Belt Conference expected to boost University’s national exposure

Come fall 2013, Maverick athletes will display their talents as members of the Sun Belt Conference.

UT Arlington has accepted an invitation to join the Sun Belt, a move expected to elevate the University’s athletics programs and increase its national profile. Conference play will begin in the 2013-14 academic year.

President James D. Spaniolo says the move will advance the University’s goals of becoming a top-tier athletic program, under the network and any collegiate athletic conference.

“Our move to the Sun Belt will allow us to continue to showcase our athletics program on a national level and create further awareness for the University,” Athletics Director Jim Baker says.

Sun Belt Commissioner Karl Benson says the recent addition of UT Arlington is tremendous for the Sun Belt Conference, as the league will now move forward with 12 member institutions with two six-team divisions,” Benson says. “UTA will help continue the rise of the Sun Belt Conference as a national contender in intercollegiate athletics.

UT Arlington, which competes in 14 NCAA Division I sports, will play in the Western Athletic Conference for the 2012-13 academic year. The University recently finished its final season in the Southland Conference, where it was a charter member since 1963.

Campus Buzz
UT Arlington and the World

Our move to the Sun Belt will allow us to continue to showcase our athletics program on a national level and create further awareness for the University.”

Erica Castillo, Goldwater Scholar

Talk

As UT Arlington’s first Goldwater Scholar, how do you plan to use the scholarship?

“I’d like to continue doing research in biomechanics. In engineering we deal with stress and strain with metals, but our bodies feel stresses and strains, too. When I was introduced to this area, I liked it because it combined engineering and nature. Little by little, we’re trying to understand ourselves. We are a complex machine.

What are some of your research projects?

My summer research project at Cornell (in 2011) was with the biomechanics group. We calculated the forces of cells on other cells. But biomaterials are soft and squishy, not hard like metal. The traditional ways of measuring properties are not very applicable to these materials. I was in charge of fabricating some of the materials. There are tools out there to measure this, but they are not accessible to all the labs around the country. We tried to do what the average biologist could do.

Aren’t you also researching sensors?

Last spring in Dr. Huang’s advanced sensor lab, I worked on a sensor for structural monitoring. We are trying to make a sensor to detect defects from a distance. We want to make it wireless with a photocell that can send a signal on measurement. It’s still in the developmental stages.

What’s the secret to succeeding as a first-generation college student?

I’ve been very lucky. Some parents push their kids to get a job after high school or after a bachelor’s degree. My parents are able to see the value in education. Through their support, I am motivated more. They’ve never said “you can’t do that.” I also have a brother at UNT, another at North Lake College in Irving, and one in high school.

What do you want to do with all this?

I’ve always wanted to be a teacher and an astronaut. Those are two of my greatest passions. I know one day I’ll be a professor. I see graduate school and research as my future. How I get there, I don’t know. I like the journey. I also like looking into space and looking at airplanes and reading, “How can we fly?” I’m very curious person. This is our world, and I think we should explore it.

Double majoring in aerospace engineering and physics and minor in mechanical engineering seems like a heavy load. I thought I wanted to do engineering, then I took physics and really liked it. The first month I struggled, but with Dr. (Benny) Spurlock’s help and his motivation, I became confident that I could do it. I completed the minor and wanted to keep going. In today’s world, I think if you broaden your area and combine different perspectives, it can help solve complex problems.

What’s the secret to becoming a professor?

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C A M P U S

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Crash Course Entrepreneurship

MANA 3224
Crash Course: close minds flourish in Susanna Khavul’s popular entrepreneurship classes. “Many students want to own businesses, but others aren’t so sure,” says the assistant professor of strategic management, entrepreneurship, and innovation in the College of Business. “My classes are personal; they are about a unique entrepreneur in each person,” Dr. Khavul, who notes that the cost of starting a business is dropping, stresses a customer-focused approach. Students work on feasibility studies for new ventures. But this is not dead research or a flight of the imagination. Students work on potential customers, understand their needs, and figure out how to serve them. Ideas are as diverse as the students themselves. A recent student with a social entrepreneurship bent plans to help families untangle the bewildering process of choosing a school. “This had significant traction with potential customers,” says Khavul, who won the UT Arlington President’s Award for Teaching Excellence this year. But not every idea is practical. Students grill each other as the discovery process unfolds. “Students love it because the aim is to build a robust, more vibrant business that can stand up to scrutiny beyond the campus.”

College Park will be a diner’s paradise

College Park Center may be complete, but related grand openings are yet to come. On Oct. 3, UT Arlington will formally dedicate College Park, a mixed-use development immediately north of the campus. The 580 million project, which opens in August, features five restaurants, a residence hall, student apartments, a satellite campus police station, a 1,810-vehicle parking garage, and the Dan Dipert University Welcome Center. Of the five eateries, the most notable could well be MAVS Sports Grill in 4,500 square feet of prime space on the north side of Moritz Plaza, across from the College Park Center entrance. It will offer traditional grill items, sliders, chicken tenders, and sandwiches.

Other College Park restaurants include GRIP Mediterranean Grill, where diners “grip” custom sandwiches wrapped in a 10-inch pita and choose from a selection of salads and sides; Pie Fire Pizza Co., specializing in personal-size pizzas assembled and baked in front of the customer; Cold- berry Frozen Yogurt with its 90 flavors of frozen yogurts and 20 varieties of smoothies; and Pho Xpress, which features healthy Vietnamese options.

Jack Burgher, an SRS Real Estate associate who’s working on the College Park project, says prospective tenants are attracted to the sense of place that it creates. “College students want a unique space to live, hang out, and grab a meal,” Burgher says. “This kind of development is what helps make a university a place where people want to be.”

College Park Center, the University’s 7,000-seat special events venue, opened in February and is expected to draw up to 400,000 patrons during its first year of operation.

First of Many

More than 4,400 graduate in inaugural ceremonies at College Park Center

Making history never crossed Na Li’s mind when she arrived at UT Arlington in 2007 to pursue a doctoral degree in computer science engineering. But the China native now holds a singular designation: She is the first Maverick to graduate in College Park Center. “I was honored and excited about being the first to walk across the stage,” she says. “It was also very rewarding to get through the tunnel and successfully complete the Ph.D. program after five years of hard work.”

Spring 2012 graduation exercises were groundbreaking not only for being the first in College Park Center, the University’s 7,000-seat events showcase that opened in February to rave reviews. The ceremonies also featured a record number of graduates. UT Arlington conferred more than 4,400 degrees, an increase of about 700 from May 2011. The total included 3,000 undergraduates, 1,309 master’s candidates, and 97 doctoral scholars.

“Half of this spring’s graduates are the first in their family to earn a college degree,” UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo says. “Imagine the doors they’ve opened with their resiliency and determination. Imagine the lives they’ve learned about themselves and what they can achieve. And imagine where they’re going.”

Dr. Li plans to work in academia, her dissertation focuses on privacy and security issues in online and mobile social networks. Inspired by her mother, a high school teacher, Li has dreamed of becoming a college professor since she was a child. She taught a freshman-level programming course last fall and mentored undergraduate students in a National Science Foundation-funded research program.

“Those experiences let me see clearly what I am passionate about,” she says. “I am convinced that I should try to realize my dream.”

Class Act

Award-winning actor and education advocate James Franco delivered the 2012 Dal Nogare Commencement Speech to the Class of 2012.

“Education gives you the opportunity of choice. Whatever choices you make, make them with confidence,” he said. “Don’t be afraid to change your life’s course. Don’t be afraid to reinvent yourself.”

The Hollywood Reporter selected Franco’s speech for its “7 Great Hollywood Commencement Speeches to the Class of 2012” list. Watch a commencement video recap at youtube.com/utarlington.
CAMPUS

Grants

ALAN BOWLING

The National Science Foundation has awarded a grant to UT Arlington researchers to study a new model for how motor proteins behave in the body. Mechanical and aerospace engineering Assistant Professor Alan Bowling is the lead investigator. Physico Assistant Professor Samantha Mohrity and Chemistry Assistant Professor Subhrangsu Mandal are co-principal investigators.

Professor Bill Corley and Associate Professor Jay Rosenberger—both faculty members in the University’s Center on Stochastic Modeling, Optimization, and Statistics—have patented a method to solve linear programming problems.

Linear programming is a mathematical modeling technique used to help make quantitative decisions in business, engineering, and other fields. Solving these problems enables a more efficient allocation of resources. In the telecommunications industry, for example, linear programming can route cars in transit to their destinations in the quickest manner. “Linear programming is the most widely used computational model in the business and scientific worlds,” Dr. Corley says. “It will now become much more important. That’s the bottom line. We drastically improved more than 60 years of research for computing with this ubiquitous decision model.”

The patent uses a process called Constraint Optimal Selection Techniques to reduce the number of calculations needed to make an optimal decision, thus making it thousands of times faster to solve problems that have huge numbers of solution variables and restrictions. “Such enormous problems previously could take weeks of computer time or exceed memory limitations. It will also give answers to currently unsolvable nonlinear decision problems by approximating them with enormous linear programming problems,” Dr. Rosenberger adds.

Molecular Detectives

Artificial nanopores aid disease discovery

Tiny technology is having a big impact on cancer detection. Electrical engineering Assistant Professor Samir Iqbal and his interdisciplinary research team are building nanopores made of silicon to detect “bad molecules” that can indicate cancer and other diseases.

“We know many variants of certain chemicals and their abnormal amounts of others. These chemicals tell us if someone is subject to certain diseases,” Dr. Iqbal explains. “Now we will be able to detect these variants at extremely small amounts and in a portable system format. We’ll be able to detect even a few hundred copies of bad molecular to identify risks of diseases like cancer. That is very, very early detection.”

To detect the bad molecules, Iqbal’s team runs blood-derived samples through the nanopores, which are about 1,000 times smaller than a human pore or hair, and measures the reaction between them and the ions of blood. Then they compare the data with other non-reactive nanopores to determine abnormal levels of particular chemicals.

Through the research, scientists hope to determine similar differences at the molecular level, before the bad variants of new molecules cause devastating effects. “This would help identify what cancers and other diseases look like at the molecular level,” the researchers also believe the nanopore technology could gauge air or water quality.

“It’s thrilling that we can have a small, broadly applicable platform that will be usable in a variety of areas,” says Purunnda “Sandy” Dasgupta, the Jenkins Graduate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Richard Timmons, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, is also working on the project, which has received funding from the National Science Foundation.

The power of learning

Education reform should be the great civil rights challenge of our time, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said during his Maverick Lecture. The power of learning “Imagine living in a country where we actually think that some kids can learn and some kids can’t,” said the founder and CEO of the American Foundation for Children of Incarcerated Parents. “That may become a lot simpler, thanks to two UT Arlington industrial engineers.”

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Research quells breast milk contaminant fears

For years doctors have extolled the benefits of breastfeeding infants while remaining concerned about the potential for mothers to unwittingly pass on environmental contaminants in their milk. New, UT Arlington researchers have discovered that the risk might not be as great as feared.

Perchlorate, a substance in drinking water that contaminates milk, can aid worldwide disease control, but until now the risk to infants had been unknown.

A team of physics researchers at UT Arlington has developed a way to track cancer without damaging healthy surrounding cells. Professor Ali R. Kaymen and Assistant Professor Samad Shamsi and colleagues found a way to destroy cancer cells through laser therapy. "Because these nanoparticles are magnetic, we can use an external magnetic field to focus them on the cancer cells. Then we use a low-power laser to heat them and destroy the cells beneath," Dr. Kaymen explains. "The nanoparticles are affected by the laser, the method—which is nontoxic—leaves the healthy tissue unharmed." The carbon nanoparticles produced for the study varied from five to 10 nanometers wide.

As energy demand rises, the electrical grid in the United States is steadily pushed to its limits. More efficient technology like smart grids can help ease that burden, but no one knows how much demand these grids can carry.

"Our goal is to find out. Electrical engineering Professor Qilian Liang plans to find out. Dr. Liang received a National Science Foundation grant to explore the upper bound of a smart grid's threshold. A smart grid is a digitally enabled electrical grid that collects information about usage and demand and then acts on it to improve the efficiency, reliability, and sustainability of electricity services. 'The capacity limit on a smart grid is enormous,' Liang says. 'We want to use the internet, cellular phone systems, sensor networks, everything available to inch closer to that upper boundary so we can find out what the limit is in terms of information transmission.'"

One study conducted over the past 25 years has shown that upgrading to smart grid capabilities could save $44 billion-$117 billion over the next 25 years. "People need to know what the limit is so they can determine how large a grid they should build and maintain in their cities. We also need to know energy expectations due to population increases in the future to better plan for those people," he says. "We will develop a planning tool for future grid needs as part of this grant." Engineering Dean Jean Pierre Bardet believes that Liang's research will prove crucial as the need for electricity grows. "Meeting those needs is not just a U.S. challenge," he says. "It is a worldwide challenge."
Two professors named Fulbright Scholars

Anthropology Assistant Professor Rita Khoury’s research centers on colonial and contemporary India and the Indian Diaspora in the United States. History Associate Professor Almah Jallil focuses on reviewing African business history and the history of Sierra Leone.

The two academicians now share a bond: They were named Fulbright Scholars for 2012–13. Sponsored by the State Department, Fulbright awards enable professors to conduct research and are given on the basis of academic or professional achievement. Dr. Khoury will use her grant to conduct an ethnographic study in India of women in engineering. She will follow a cohort of new engineers as they train and launch their careers. “The Fulbright-supported research will take forward my interest in narrativizing about science, technology, and society,” she says. “It will also shape my teaching, student mentoring, service, and community outreach in important ways.”

Dr. Jallil, director of UT Arlington’s Africa Program, will continue his research while working on a book, Muslim Fula Business Elite and Politics in Twentieth-Century Sierra Leone. He will spend part of the next academic year teaching at Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone.

“My research will contribute to closing the gap that exists in the historical literature on the interconnections among African minority business groups, governments, and political parties in post-independence Africa,” he says. “I look forward to promoting cross-cultural understanding between the U.S. and Sierra Leone.”

GLOBAL REACH UT Arlington is joining forces with Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications to help talent Chinese students earn graduate degrees. Beginning in fall 2013, the two universities will offer a joint master’s degree in computer science and engineering with a focus on software engineering. Administrators anticipate that the program will bring 15-20 Chinese students a year to UT Arlington. “This is a wonderful opportunity for us to build partnerships not only with these students but with Beijing University and China in general,” says Filla Makedon, chair of the Computer Science and Engineering Department. “Software engineering is a global field that impacts everything and drives innovation.”

Street Smarts

Students remake unused Arlington city block into functional streetscape

Purpose and vision melded perfectly on an April Saturday in “Downtown Front and Center,” a project conceptualized and executed by students from the School of Urban and Public Affairs and the School of Architecture. Led by SUPA Assistant Professor Andrew Whittemore, the project studio students transformed a portion of Front Street between Center and Mesquite as well as the adjacent city-owned vacant lot into a pulsing thoroughfare for the University and Arlington communities.

“The students used paint to turn streets into sidewalks, brought in plantings, and arranged games and seating,” he says. “It enhanced the University, Arlington, and Social Club.”

The project used the ‘empty’ space to showcase the students’ talents in urban design and planning.

EVIL TREE FROM TOP LEFT

“Evil Tree” – color reduction woodcut, 2010

“Polaroid” – color reduction woodcut, 2011

“Evil Tree” – color reduction woodcut, 2009

“October are a Disappointment…” – color reduction woodcut, 2010

“Vergogna” – color reduction woodcut, 2009

“vergogna” – color reduction woodcut, 2011

CAMPUS CAMPUS

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University earns lofty sustainability ranking

Alternative Spring Break Community

Service

GREEK VOLUNTEERS: UT Arlington fraternity and sorority members annually donate more than $60,000 and volunteer more than 10,000 hours of service to the community. One such project is Beta Theta Pi’s Heroes for Hope, where community members dress up as superheroes and visit with terminally ill children. Glad in Baton, Superman, and Spider-Man costumes, the students spent part of spring break 2012 cheering up kids at Methodist Children’s Hospital in San Antonio.

GREEK VOLUNTEERS: Beta Theta Pi, along with Alpha Phi Omega and Zeta Phi Beta, built the “WORN” Project. After covering the criteria for PTSD, WORN no longer met the criteria for Environmental Eight— Barcelona, being the “Environmental Eight”-which was eliminated before the final four.

You can add gold to College Park Center’s sterling credentials. The U.S. Green Building Council has awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold certification to UT Arlington’s 2,000-seat special events showpiece.

LEED certification is an independent, third-party verification that a structure is designed and built using strategies that achieve high performance in environmental health, sustainability, water and energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. HKS designed the 878 million center, incorporating recycled construction materials and many energy-saving features. The company’s application for LEED certification received a perfect score, earning all 42 points for which it applied.

Energy Efficient

College Park Center achieves LEED Gold certification for embracing environment

UT Arlington advanced all the way to the final eight in the March Madness tournament—but sustainability, not basketball. Held for the first time, the national contest sought the university with the best undergraduate program in environmental studies and sustainability. Schools submitted pictures, videos, and essays by students and faculty that detailed their efforts. Environmental science professionals reviewed the materials alongside other factors like freshman retention rate, student-to-faculty ratio, and the diversity of sustainability courses offered.

UT Arlington head coach Eddie Raja and several of his basketball team members, including guard and forward Jay Jones, participated in the competition. In the end, UT Arlington took top honors, earning the “Sustainability 15”—trumped to the “Environmental Eight”—but was eliminated before the final four.

“The quantity and quality of schools participating exceeded our expectations, making it a very difficult decision for the judges in narrowing the field of finalists,” said Lawrence Gold, chair of the college’s Department of Management.

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DEGREES OF GREEN

Students seeking expert training in the business of sustainability now have a new option. UT Arlington has added a Master of Science in Real Estate – Sustainability to its ever-increasing portfolio of related programs. Classes begin in May at the Universities Center at Dallas and will start this fall at the UT Arlington Fort Worth Center. Designed for working professionals, the degree can be completed in as few as 12 months. Classes cover high-density development, sustainable investing, real estate analysis, adaptive reuse and redevelopment, and real estate funding and appraisal. The graduate degree is the second focused on sustainability that the University has added since 2010, joining the Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies – Sustainability.
Earning Respect

Baseball team advances to NCAA tournament

Many considered the 2012 UT Arlington baseball team a major underdog. In preseason polls, Southland Conference sports information directors and coaches picked the Mavericks to finish eighth. So coach Darin Thomas and his players went out and posted one of the best seasons in school history.

UT Arlington won the Southland Conference Tournament and advanced to its fifth NCAA regional berth and first since 2006. The Mavericks went 36-25, won seven of 11 SLCL series, and dominated the conference tournament, going 6-0 and outscoring their opponents by 29 runs.

“We battled through a lot of things and have a lot of good young players,” Thomas says. “We had an unbelievable year for the schedule we played.”

That schedule included regular-season wins over Baylor, Texas A&M, TCU, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Mavericks finished the year with eight victories against teams ranked in the top 25 but stalled out in the NCAA Tournament, losing to Dallas Baptist and Baylor.

“Romain Martin finished second in the decathlon at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in June. It was the highest placement for a UT Arlington Maverick.

Romain Martin finished second in the decathlon at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in June. It was the highest placement for a UT Arlington Maverick. The Lithuania native was 5-0 in SLC play at No. 1 singles.

Martin captured second in NCAA decathlon

One of the top all-around athletes in the nation is a UT Arlington Maverick.

Romain Martin finished second in the decathlon at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in June. It was the highest placement for a UT Arlington Maverick.

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SOLDIERING ON

Ashley Seguin used the Post-9/11 GI Bill to earn her nursing degree. She’s now an Army nurse in Fort Bragg, N.C.

After life-changing deployments to the Middle East, veterans are returning home eager to fulfill their career dreams. UT Arlington provides an educational foundation to aid the transition for this growing student population. By Judy Wiley

DUTY, HONOR, College

Ellen Terry almost picked the middle seat that night. She was with a driver and an interpreter in a five-ton U.S. Army vehicle in Baghdad, transporting Iraqi soldiers to the base following a joint mission. A flash pierced the darkness and a loud boom rang out. Shrapnel from a roadside bomb hit the interpreter in the head and killed him where he sat—in the middle seat. The explosion blasted glass shards into Terry’s face and drove shrapnel into her shoulder, but she survived. At the last minute, she had taken the seat by the door.

“During an explosion, there is nothing you can humanly do to protect yourself. I almost sat in that seat. I was already sitting in that seat and decided to move,” the 2008 alumna says. “I had to make peace with the fact that I couldn’t control what happened to that guy.”
SERVING TO LEARN
Terry, who received a Purple Heart, joined the military in 2001 with education in mind. She deployed to Kuwait for four months in 2005. After the explosion, she received 10 days off and served the rest of her deployment by helping to train and care for veterans returning from the war.

By the time young military veterans like Terry are sitting in air-conditioned university classrooms, many have lived through situations their classmates will never experience. They’ve dodged bullets on the front lines, seen their colleagues killed, and watched friends die. And they’re ready to move on.

The number of ex-soldiers pursuing college degrees is on the rise, fueled by programs catering to their needs and generous government benefits. At UT Arlington in the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Hazelwood Act are assisting more than 1,200 veterans and their eligible dependents. The number has more than doubled since the bill passed in 2008. More veterans are likely on campus, but they’re not tracked if they don’t use the benefits.

Nationally, more than 800,000 veterans are expected to use GI benefits this year. The new GI Bill provides full tuition, a monthly housing stipend, up to $1,000 a year for books, and the ability to transfer the benefits to family members. The Hazelwood Act, passed by the Texas Legislature, provides up to 150 hours of exemptions for veterans.

As a result, UT Arlington offers a benefits office, advisory council, and student organization to provide a welcoming environment where veterans can flourish academically and transition to the workplace.

“Many of those who have served in the armed forces have risked their lives defending our country,” says Michael Moore, senior vice provost and dean of undergraduate studies. “We’re grateful for their service and honored that they’ve chosen UT Arlington. We want to give these veterans every opportunity to succeed as they begin the next phase of their lives.”

EASING THE TRANSITION
Former Shorthorn editor Sam Morton ’12 deployed to Iraq a few months after graduating from high school. He was among about 600,000 military veterans from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq who gained an appreciation for what they had when they returned home.

Sam Morton puts it this way: “I was actually ready for it. I did well in all my classes.” He has his sights on becoming a military historian.

From the time he graduated from Kerrville High School, Isham wanted to attend UT Arlington but didn’t really have the grades or the maturity to come up here,” he says. So he joined the Air Force. In four years of active duty, he did three tours in Iraq, mostly working security at airfields in Baghdad.

Though she hasn’t been to war, Ashley Seguin says her experiences as a reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram gave her a safe environment to deploy. She covered the war in Iraq, and her reporting earned her a coveted job at the New York Times.

“Thou haven’t been to war, Ashley Seguin says the Post-9/11 GI Bill allowed her to attend UT Arlington without having to work. She enlisted in the Army at 18 but changed to the National Guard after she married and became pregnant. She came to the University in 2007 and joined ROTC.

“After being here and being part of the ROTC program, I believe it’s one of the best in the country,” says Seguin, who graduated in December 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in history. “I was actually ready for it. I did well in all my classes.” He has his sights on becoming a military historian.

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SUMMER 2012 | 23
A study by Richard Florida’s Creative Class Group suggests that knowledge, creativity, and innovation will dominate the local future economy. Collaboration is the key to maximizing the region’s competitive advantages, and UT Arlington is poised to lead the way.

Understanding what’s called “North Texas” with its 16 counties and 6.7 million people doesn’t come easily. Its population is larger than 35 states and its dollar churn is so vast that if it were a nation, North Texas would rank among the planet’s 40 largest economies.

The area’s capitalism-oriented leadership evolves from a political hot soup of counties and cities and a complex mix of corporate and nonprofit entities, many of which see themselves more as competitors than collaborators.

In that context, planet is the right word because the Metroplex’s competitors are global—as much Singapore as New York City, Brazil, Argentina, and the Philippines seek dollars, jobs, and talent in the evolving knowledge-based economy alongside Boston, Chicago, and Silicon Valley. Mega-regions strive to outdo each other in economic development and quality-of-life attractions.

The Dallas–Fort Worth region is one of about 40 such mega-metro areas worldwide that dominates both human creativity and planetary economics. Though these regions hold only 18 percent of the world’s population,
they generate two-thirds of its economic activity and produce 90 percent of its technological innovations. The modern age has morphed into a global village where regions compete as slices of the economic pie. North Texas has done remarkably well in this competition. UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo, predict a far more collaborative approach will be needed as world competition heats up.

“While North Texas was able to avoid the worst of the economic downturns that sent many of America’s metropolitan centers reeling, the region nevertheless stands at a critical inflection point,” Spaniolo said at a recent panel discussions hosted by UT Arlington and The Dallas Morning News. “Along with its many strengths and competitive advantages, North Texas still has a number of economic challenges. We will be more competitive and our economic future stronger by working together. Dallas is not competing against Fort Worth or Arlington, or Houston or Atlanta, for that matter. North Texas is competing against other increasingly large and powerful regions around the world.”

KNOWLEDGE IS ECONOMIC POWER

How can the “stronger together” idea be developed? Enter the Creative Class Group and its founder, Richard Florida, one of the world’s leading authorities on economic prosperity. For the past year the Creative Class Group has partnered with UT Arlington to examine the region’s assets and challenges. The joint effort engaged representatives from the School of Architecture, the College of Education and Health Professions, and the School of Urban and Public Affairs, with input from major chambers of commerce, local elected officials, Vision North Texas, and other members of the Creative Class Group will study North Texas for another year. Then it will be up to the region to develop an action plan.

“Though the cities in the region have a reputation for competing, in fact North Texas has talent and human capital that are complementary.”

The focus on consumption has been that people buy cars and houses, he says. “But it’s clear that, in part because career mobility is so necessary, knowledge-based economy residents tend to spend their money in different ways. Because of that, we have to reinvent the way we think of cities as places of consumption. People will spend money for experiences—food, music, sports, travel, and art. People will be spending their money differently than they did in the past, and the region needs to adjust to this reality.”

A SHIFT IN CONSUMPTION

Steven Pedigo, the Creative Class Group’s research director, says residents of knowledge-based economies spend more money for experiences like travel, music, sports, and art. They  entertain their clients more, and the region is reeling, the region nevertheless stands at a critical inflection point.” Spaniolo said at a recent panel discussions hosted by UT Arlington and The Dallas Morning News. “Along with its many strengths and competitive advantages, North Texas still has a number of economic challenges. We will be more competitive and our economic future stronger by working together. Dallas is not competing against Fort Worth or Arlington, or Houston or Atlanta, for that matter. North Texas is competing against other increasingly large and powerful regions around the world.”

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diverse, relatively young (median age 28), and robustly entrepreneurial. Challenges include a pronounced auto dependency, with its accompanying sprawl, and a lack of public transit. Florida, a UT Arlington distinguished research scholar and author of the urban development classics The Rise of the Creative Class and The Great Reset, believes the future economy will increasingly be dominated by knowledge, creativity, and innovation. “Think of it as the 4Ts,” he says. “The cities or regions that prosper will be those with the best performances in recruiting talent, technology, tolerance, talent, and territorial assets because they will attract creative workers.”

Beyond the 4Ts, creative workers generally favor five attributes in the locations where they live: basic services, opportunity, values, leadership, and aesthetics. In short, a sense of place matters. But Florida cautions that catchphrases won’t get the job done. Decisions must be based on data. Part of the UT Arlington collective effort since fall 2010 has involved analyzing and benchmarking the region’s competitive advantages and disadvantages. “We’re compiling a wide array of leading indicators and data-driven analysis that can help to inform a broad conversation about the path toward a sustainable future,” Florida says. “The data show plenty of strengths—and some significant weaknesses.

The data show plenty of strengths—and some significant weaknesses.

On the positive side, the region has weathered the housing market downturn better than most areas, and five-year employment growth is strong. Residents are

SUMMER 2012  27
Shaping a Metropolis

More than 30 years ago, architecture critic David Dillon asked a simple question: Why is Dallas architecture so bad? “Before Reunion Tower and the Hyatt Regency Hotel,” he wrote, “Dallas’ skyline consisted of a flying red horse and a glowing phallic column atop the Republic National Bank, which put it in roughly the same category as Omaha and Indianapolis. When Dallasites talked about their sublime skyline, it was more from wishful thinking than direct observation.”

The city’s skyline has changed dramatically since those provocative words appeared in a 1980 edition of D Magazine, thanks in part to Dr. Dillon’s persistent, pointed reviews. During a long tenure at The Dallas Morning News, he wrote more than 1,000 articles, his words helping shape a metropolitan area and educate a populace.

When Dillon died in 2010, the Metroplex lost its only dedicated architecture critic. Now UT Arlington is helping fill the void with the David Dillon Center for Texas Architecture. An initiative of the School of Architecture, the center supports faculty and students as they investigate the region’s changing architecture and promotes discourse about urbanism in North Texas and beyond.

“Our goal is to serve as a catalyst for notable research and a depository for documents while also providing a forum for public speakers to address important issues of the day,” says Assistant Professor Kate Holliday, the center’s director and an architectural historian.

The center debuted in April with the well-received David Dillon Symposium at the Dallas Museum of Art and the Nasher Sculpture Center. The event explored the changing role of modern architectural criticism. Vanity Fair architecture critic Paul Goldberger gave keynote remarks, and panels included Christopher

UT Arlington’s new David Dillon Center for Texas Architecture provides a forum for discussion about the past, present, and future of architecture in North Texas. In doing so, it strengthens the legacy of its namesake, a respected critic whose words and vision helped the region define its aesthetic identity. BY JESSICA BRIDGES
Hawthorne from the Los Angeles Times, Alexandra Lange from Design Observer, and Thomas Fisher, dean of the University of Minnesota’s College of Design and former editor of Progressive Architecture.

The symposium drew a cross-section of the community, promoting a discussion about the role of writing in understanding design, as well as the role of the media as architecture coverage shifts from newspapers to the Internet. “With the loss of local architecture writing in newspapers like David used to provide, it becomes harder to get news about neighborhoods and urban development,” Dr. Holliday says. “Coverage now tends to focus only on the next big building.”

Dillon joined The Dallas Morning News in 1981 after catching attention with his freelance writing. A graduate of Boston College with master’s and doctoral degrees from Harvard, he wrote several books and hundreds of freelance stories in addition to his newspaper articles. Colleagues credited him with helping shape civic debate on issues across the area, from underdevelopment in South Dallas to sprawl in the northern suburbs.

“David’s body of work over nearly three decades influenced urban design and architecture in Dallas and throughout Texas to an extraordinary degree,” says Robert Decherd, CEO of A.H. Belo Corp., parent company of The Dallas Morning News. “His expertise was recognized nationally.”

Last year Dillon’s wife, Sally, donated his papers to Special Collections in the UT Arlington Library.

“The archive includes a huge range of material,” Holliday says. “It’s a treasure trove filled with reporter’s notebooks, research materials, published materials like his books and articles, edited manuscripts, interview recordings, correspondence with editors and readers, and more. The information it provides will be invaluable to students, scholars, and the community at large.”

Holliday is working with students to put online selections from that archive, including a listing of all of Dillon’s reviews for the News. In addition, the website uta.edu/architecture/research/dillon will contain material gathered for the center’s projects, such as the Oral History of Texas Architecture and DFW Hypercity, which uses GIS and Google Earth to present historic maps and model reconstructions of the Metropoles.

Dillon’s News articles include a range of reviews, seven of them excerpted here. They provide a scope of his vision and tone. From a concise summation of Cowboys Stadium to an extended, poetic riff on the region’s highways, he covered the Metroplex in a way few could hope to match.

Though the region may not be able to replace his voice, the David Dillon Center for Texas Architecture celebrates his legacy. By preserving his writings and encouraging the next generation of scholars to produce their own, the center is helping the public think critically about the design—and future—of North Texas. ✪

Center of Discourse

Architectural historian Kate Holliday directs the David Dillon Center for Texas Architecture, which promotes discussion about urbanism in North Texas and beyond.
Sundance West, Fort Worth, 1991, David M. Schwarz
“If America’s downtowns weren’t in such sorry shape, Sundance West might not be getting so much attention. But they are, and it is, for the simple reason that it reaffirms vanishing urban values: lively streets, apartments over shops, multiple uses in a single building. Sundance West does these things in a slightly tony and precious way, but at least it pulls together the right pieces in one spot.” – June 14, 1992

Fair Park, Dallas, 1936, George Dahl
“Fair Park deserves a better shake than either its supporters or its critics are giving it. It is not chic and trendy but populist and irremediably local. Within its 277 acres are vestiges of everything Dallas has been: railroad, retail and marketing center, agricultural hub, football capital of the Southwest. It is also the one thing big enough and compelling enough to change the future of South Dallas.” – Aug. 2, 1992

Cowboys Stadium, Arlington, 2009, HKS Sports & Entertainment Group
“Football may be the main attraction at the new Cowboys Stadium, but the structure itself, with its retractable roof, monumental arches and massive video screens, should provide plenty of visual entertainment during those long, dull pauses for network commercials and instant replays.” – June 3, 2009

Kirby Building, Dallas, 1913, Barnett, Haynes & Barnett
“The building still has an interior shopping arcade running from Main to Pacific, one of those urban delights that downtown Dallas has forsaken in its frenzy over skybridges and tunnels. And it has a memorable lobby, not large, but, like the façade, surprisingly impressive. The combination of brass, cut-glass mirrors, ornamental plaster and decorative vaulting creates a sumptuous feel that anticipates the grand skyscraper lobbies of the 1920s and ‘30s.” – Dec. 26, 1987
As bullying incidents become more widespread and vicious, UT Arlington professors are engaged in sweeping research and scholarly studies to curb the troubling trend. By SARAH BAHARI

ILLUSTRATION BY NOMA BAR

Fighting Back

Jon Carmichael was 13 with bright blue eyes and sandy-blond hair. He loved football, his horse named Handsome, and a stray dog he called Daisy. Small for his age, Jon was bullied relentlessly by classmates. Media reports detailed how fellow students called him names and flushed his head in toilets. One day at school, his parents say, he was stripped nude, tied up, and dumped in a trash can. Not long after that, in March 2010, the young teen hanged himself in a barn near his family’s home on the outskirts of Cleburne. Long an unfortunate staple of school yards, bullying has reached an epidemic, fueled in part by the Internet and social media. Bullies who once ruled the lunchroom now use Twitter and texting to torment classmates while cloaking themselves in anonymity.

Asher Brown, a 13-year-old Houston boy, shot and killed himself after his parents say he was bullied at school for being gay. Tyler Clementi, an 18-year-old freshman at Rutgers University, jumped to his death from the George Washington Bridge after a sexual encounter with a man was secretly recorded and streamed online. Phoebe Prince, a 15-year-old in Massachusetts, hanged herself in a stairwell after months of being bullied. While suicide cases are extreme, experts agree that the problem has become acute. “Bullying has been around for a long time,” says Alejandro del Carmen, chair of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department, “but we are seeing higher levels of sophistication and aggression.”

From psychology and education to criminal justice and social work, UT Arlington professors are working to evaluate health problems of bullying victims, help schools craft better policies, determine why some kids bully, and advance our understanding of bullies in the workplace.
“It is important to figure out the motives of the bullies to address and prevent the problem.”

SICK OF THE ABUSE
Estimates of the extent of bullying range widely. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, about 25 percent of students ages 12 to 18 said they were bullied in 2009, the last year for which NCES figures are available. Parents are asking schools and communities to address bullying, and UT Arlington has responded. In March the University partnered with the White House to host a conference on bullying prevention and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. The event, one in a series coordinated by the Obama administration, featured impassioned remarks from Attorney General Eric Holder and Valerie Jarrett, senior adviser to President Obama.

Every day in the United States, 160,000 children miss school out of fear of attack or intimidation, the National Education Association reports. Psychology Associate Professor Lauri Jensen-Campbell is exploring whether these students also miss school because their physical health has declined.

“We know chronic stress can lead to real and serious health problems,” she says. “We wondered if bullying affected their immune system, leaving them more susceptible to colds and flu, and even affected their long-term health.”

Dr. Jensen-Campbell and a team of researchers interviewed about 300 students, mostly sixth- to eighth-graders at public and private schools in Arlington, and determined that roughly one-third were victims of bullying (defined as repeated aggressive behavior). Using saliva samples, the researchers monitored the students’ cortisol levels, the stress hormone. Victims of bullying, the researchers found, had higher cortisol levels than their nonvictimized peers.

“If the stress response is too intense,” Professor Jensen-Campbell says, “it could have long-term effects on our health and our ability to fight off infections.”

HELP AND HOPE
Psychology Associate Professor Lauri Jensen-Campbell is exploring whether bullying leads to a decline in physical health, causing students to miss school. Education faculty members, Jon Leffingwell and Mary Lynn Crow, both clinical psychologists, advise bullied children to stop blaming themselves.

“Bullies create a hostile work environment and are very damaging to workplace morale,” she says. “They choose to bring this violence into the workplace and hurt other people. The targets experience real and long-lasting effects. The problem can no longer be ignored.”

Dr. Hunter and fellow UT Arlington professors are making sure it won’t be.

“Bullies are good at their jobs.”

SUMMER 2012 37

“Zero Tolerance”

A lot of people will hear about bullying and say this is just kids being kids. This research tells us that this is not true,” she says. “Bullying is a very serious problem with very serious health effects.”

ZERO TOLERANCE
As a clinical psychologist, Jon Leffingwell has seen the emotional toll bullying can take. Children become depressed, withdrawn, angry, helpless, and, in extreme cases, suicidal.

Dr. Leffingwell, an associate professor of education, instructs teachers how to prevent bullying in the classroom. Formerly a consultant for school districts on the subject, he notes that research shows bullying intensifies when the economy struggles, which may have helped catapult the issue into the national spotlight.

“There’s more anger, more frustration,” he says. “More kids might have trouble at home due to myriad problems, and they take that out on other kids. The weak tend to pick on the weaker.”

Bullying spans all socioeconomic classes and races, adds education Professor Mary Lynn Crow, a clinical psychologist who counsels bullied children and their parents. She believes bullying and a lack of social skills both result from a lack of support and understanding, which accompanies poorer health outcomes. This blunted awakening response could make children less able to handle threats to their immune system, resulting in more health problems. Children who are bullied show the same cortisol awakening response as someone suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, Jensen-Campbell says.

This year she plans to revisit the students, most now in high school, to determine whether cortisol levels remained abnormal for those who were bullied in junior high. She also is launching a project studying the hippocampus—the part of the brain that plays a crucial role in memory—of college students who were bullied.

“A lot of people will hear about bullying and say this is just kids being kids. This research tells us that this is not true,” she says. “Bullying is a very serious problem with very serious health effects.”

INSIDE THE BULLY’S MIND

A team of criminal justice professors wants to tap into the mindset of the bully. Working with community groups, the professors plan to identify bullies of both sexes who attend schools in North Texas. The professors will survey the bullies to determine what fuels their behavior. The department conducted a similar study on why teenagers join gangs.

“We’re interested in the individual and the effects of their targets and harassment,” says Dr. Crow. “Bullies create a hostile work environment and are very damaging to workplace morale.”

Unlike school-aged bullies who often victimize classmates for being unusual or different, workplace bullies pick on the intelligent and well-liked, those who are good at their jobs.

“They want to bring people down,” Hunter says. “They are driven by jealousy.”

The data that Hunter and her colleagues collect will help employers, just beginning to recognize the problem, to develop policies to deal with bullies.

A lot of the research focuses on the victims of bullying, but we know little about what drives the bully,” Dr. del Carmen says. “It is important to figure out the motives of the bullies to address and prevent the problem.”

Schools and communities could use the data to design anti-bullying programs, provide counseling, and identify students who are at risk of becoming bullies.

As teenagers across the country are being prosecuted for bullying, the issue has captured the attention of the criminal justice world.

“We criminologists are being challenged to step up and find new ways to prevent these acts of bullying, which endanger our communities,” del Carmen says.

Adolescents aren’t the only targets.

A growing number of researchers are studying the phenomenon of adulthood bullying, which can include tactics such as verbal abuse and threatening conduct. About 35 percent of employees in the United States report being bullied at work, according to the Workplace Bullying Institute.

Social work Professor Ski Hunter is leading a project to determine how rampant workplace bullying is in higher education. She and colleagues are surveying social work departments at universities across the country. Dr. Hunter became interested in the topic after encountering a workplace bully.

“Bullies create a hostile work environment and are very damaging to workplace morale,” she says. “They choose to bring this violence into the workplace and hurt other people. The targets experience real and long-lasting effects. The problem can no longer be ignored.”

Dr. Hunter and fellow UT Arlington professors are making sure it won’t be.
Building Loyalty

Student Alumni Association lays the groundwork for dedicated graduates

As president of the Student Alumni Association in 2001-02, Ricardo Lopez gained a lifelong appreciation for the difference alumni make on campus.

“I saw firsthand the positive impact alumni can have on students,” he says. “Being a member of the SAA was one of the best experiences of my life.”

Now a competitive strategy analyst at Raytheon, Lopez ’02, ’07 makes giving back to UT Arlington a priority. Not only is he a regular donor, he also serves on the Alumni Association national board of directors, is a guest lecturer for the Leadership Center, and speaks at campus events throughout the year.

In other words, he’s fulfilling the SAA’s goal of nurturing successful graduates with a strong loyalty to their alma mater.

Many of today’s students show the same promise.

Not every student can balance classes and extracurricular activities well, but Karen Blair is managing just fine. The SAA president believed that becoming a Maverick Marauder was a positive opportunity for her.

“The group’s mission is to assist students in their journey to graduation through close work with the Alumni Association. Along the way, members develop leadership skills, network with alumni, make friends, and become regulars at campus events. The Maverick Marauders function as the SAA’s governing body, and membership is selective,” Blair said.

“We are looking for students who have a strong desire to play an instrumental role in helping UT Arlington achieve its goals while supporting the Alumni Association,” says SAA adviser Melissa Wells, the association’s assistant director for constituent groups and scholarships.

“They are the backbone for getting our mission accomplished,” Blair said.

Although it can be challenging, Blair believes that becoming a Maverick Marauder would help her make a difference on campus.

“I plan on joining the Alumni Association as soon as I graduate,” she says. “I have seen the benefits of being a member and what good the Alumni Association does for UT Arlington. I want to make sure I’m helping the University grow.”

Rocketing to success

Dakotah Wright is a numbers person. A proposal manager for Hamilton Sundstrand, a company that designs and manufactures aerospace systems for commercial, regional, corporate, and military aircraft, Wright ’03 had an affinity for math and science at an early age.

“I was always good in those subjects,” she says. “I got interested in engineering in high school after taking classes at a local college.”

Wright bucked the numbers trend for her profession. She was among 1,659 U.S. women—and one of only 123 African-American women—to earn a mechanical engineering degree in 2000. As of 2006, an estimated 1.4 million men worked in science and engineering fields compared to 197,000 women, including only 15,000 African-American women.

She joined Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, eventually becoming a senior systems engineer responsible for maintaining rocket engine systems. Her work focused on the RL10, the world’s highest-performing, most reliable upper-stage rocket engine.

“I worked with a machine that is used to power vehicles into space. Testing rocket engines is one of the coolest jobs to have!”

She traces her career success to her undergraduate studies at UT Arlington.

“Everything I accomplished at UTA I can relate to currently working in the field.”

Though a recent career move has her focusing more on the business end of things, Wright hopes to stay in engineering.

“I wanted to get more into the inner workings of an organization, and this position gives me global insight into how we do business,” she says. “But I want to stay in engineering, in some way. On the business side, I rely a lot on my engineering background quite frequently.”

Beacon of Hope

Robert Lynch steers post-Katrina recovery

There were those who questioned whether New Orleans would ever recover from Hurricane Katrina. Alumnus Robert Lynch wasn’t one of them.

When the massive storm struck the city in 2005, Dr. Lynch was director of the South Central Veterans Affairs Health Care Network, overseeing hospitals in Louisiana and seven other states. Due to the catastrophic flooding caused by infrastructure failure in New Orleans, he had to evacuate more than 600 patients and employees from the city’s VA Hospital.

“Nobody was prepared for a disaster of that magnitude,” he says. “Nobody was prepared for the levees to fail or for the entire city to be evacuated. It took a lot of heroic efforts by a whole lot of people to get everyone out safely. The devastation was tremendous. It was a very chaotic time, but people rose to the challenge.”

Lynch graduated from UT Arlington in 1978 with a bachelor’s degree in biology, then enrolled in medical school at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. In August 2007 he became CEO of Tulane Medical Center in downtown New Orleans. Under his leadership, the facility has played an important role in the city’s rebuilding.

“The city needed hope following what happened, and that’s one thing we’ve tried to provide,” he says.

With so many other New Orleans hospitals crippled or shuttered, UT Arlington has become the area’s main medical training facility. Those taught there are sent into the community to alleviate the significant shortage of medical professionals caused by Katrina.

“At Tulane we’re trying to help heal the city, and we think we’re leading the way,” Lynch says. “The people who are here now are people who want to be here, and they’re making a difference. I think the future for New Orleans is bright.”

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**Passion, practicality drive nursing graduate**

Alumna Kaci Hickox takes a reasoned approach to almost everything. She’s enthusiastic about nursing, but her career choices follow a logical order. “I always felt a strong desire to work overseas with vulnerable populations, and nursing seemed to be a perfect avenue,” she says. “On top of that, I know there was—and still is—a nursing shortage and that I would have job security.”

It just made sense to pursue a two-year postgraduate fellowship in applied epidemiology with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Las Vegas.

Think of the CDC’s Epidemiologic Intelligence Service as the CIA of public health. EIS teams respond to crises such as the West Nile virus and the pandemic H1N1 influenza outbreak. Hickox ’02 will work with the country’s top epidemiologists to analyze and improve health and disease surveillance.

Her first overseas project came in 2004 with the International Medical Corps after the tsunami in Indonesia. “While the work there was difficult and challenging, both professionally and emotionally, it also made me feel alive in a new way,” she says.

After Doctors Without Borders turned her down, she enrolled at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and received a Tropical Nursing Diploma. She also graduated from Johns Hopkins University’s two-year postgraduate program for a Master in Public Health and Master of Science in Nursing.

Her perseverance paid off. She landed that position she wanted with Doctors Without Borders in Myanmar in Southeast Asia, where she spent two years managing three primary healthcare clinics. In 2010 she was working on a measles outbreak in northern Nigeria when the Doctors Without Borders team conducted a medical investigation. Children were dying in one village, and the team discovered the cause to be acute lead poisoning from poor gold mining practices. “After that experience and others like it, I realize that we need to find better ways to improve health surveillance and outbreak response in settings with poor resources,” Hickox says. “My training in the EIS with the CDC will allow me to learn the gold standard of this kind of work.”

**Hoops Pioneer**

Alumnus Kaleb Canales is NBA’s first head coach of Mexican-American descent

Kaleb Canales didn’t set out to make history. But the 2001 UT Arlington graduate broke a racial barrier when he was named interim head coach of the Portland Trail Blazers in March.

Canales became the first person of Mexican-American descent to lead an NBA franchise. At 33 he’s also the youngest coach in the league.

“I am very blessed and fortunate to get this great opportunity,” he says. “It’s very humbling.”

Humble is a fitting word to describe Canales’ beginnings with the Blazers. He started as an unpaid video intern before becoming the team’s video coordinator in 2005. Portland promoted him to assistant coach in 2009.

“I wouldn’t change a thing,” Canales says of his unconventional route to one of the elite jobs in pro sports. “It was very important to start in the video room and build my NBA foundation.”

He also was an assistant high school coach in his hometown of Laredo. His road to the top is not unprecedented. Neither Detroit coach Lawrence Frank nor Miami’s Erik Spoelstra played big-time college ball, and both began their NBA careers in the film room.

Canales has an admiring relationship with UT Arlington basketball coach Scott Cross. “I couldn’t be happier for Coach K taking over the Trail Blazers,” says Cross, who worked with Canales. “This just proves that if you dream it and believe it, you can and will achieve those dreams.”

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Spotlight

The burgeoning geoscience industry requires experts trained locally. A recent in-kind gift from IHS is ensuring that UT Arlington gradua-
ts will have the skills to succeed in this highly competitive field.

IHS, a global information and analytics provider, granted a software license worth an estimated $4.4 million over years to the College of Science. The gift will give stu-
dents and professors access to the latest in petroleum industry technology.

The company granted the license to the Department of Earth and Environmental Sci-
cences. This software is crucially

wildly used in the petroleum and natural gas industry for seismic interpretation related to exploration and production. The agreement provides soft-
ware for 25 computers.

“The goal of the IHS Edu-
cational Gifts program is to put leading-edge generator

software in the hands of students and faculty for educational and research pur-
poses,” says Bill Stephenson, IHS vice president of sales, Americas. “It also gives them software experience with the tools that are used in the global energy marketplace.”

College of Science Dean Pamela Jansma believes the Earth and Environmental Sci-
cences Department will benefit greatly from the gift.

“UT Arlington geoscience students, especially those in our petroleum-focused Mas-
er of Science program, are the real winners here,” she says. “This is a great tool, and IHS’s generosity will ensure they’ll be experienced in using this critical software when they graduate.”

“The American Geological Institute estimates that employment in geoscience-
related occupations will grow 23 percent from 2008 to 2018.

Team Chemistry

Shimadzu’s $3 million in-kind gift creates center to advance research on disease

Cancer killed 572,000 Americans in 2011. Research to combat the deadly illness and other ailments took a leap forward this spring when Shimadzu Scien-
tific Instruments donated $3 million in equipment to establish the Shimadzu Center for Advanced Analytical

Chemistry at UT Arlington.

The center contains 86 million worth of state-of-the-
art chromatography, mass spectrometry, and spectroscopy equipment. The instruments will be used to research the prevention and treatment of dis-
cases such as cancer and malaria, as well as to develop nanofabrication materials for industry.

“Shimadzu’s gift creates a resource accessible to North Texas researchers whether they are university-
based or in private enterprise,” College of Science Dean Pamela Jansma says. “It’s a great example of the benefit of having a growing research institution nearby.”

The Shimadzu Center’s central location in the Chemistry and Physics Building allows College of Sci-
cence and College of Engineering researchers to access the enhanced capabilities for trace qualitative and quantitative analysis. Chemistry Associate Professor Kevin Schug has been named the Shimadzu Distinc-
tious Professor of Analytical Chemistry and will oversee the laboratory.

Research initiatives aided by the Shimadzu instrumentation include Dr. Schug’s use of mass spectrom-
ometry equipment to analyze cuticular lipids that can reveal age in a species of mosquito known for spread-
ing malaria. Bioengineering Associate Professor Juan Yang will apply the instruments to create polymers that improve cancer detection, and chemistry Associate Professor Subhrangsa Mandal will use the center to better analyze cancer-causing chemicals.

“UT Arlington has a dynamic science program that is focused on the future,” says Shuzo Maruyama, president of Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, a world leader in the analytical instruments industry. “It will be a pleasure to work with Dr. Schug and the entire UT Arlington team.”

Boosting discovery

The battle against cancer and other diseases received a boost recently with a gift from Mike ‘89 and Janet Greaves. The couple established an endowed professorship with a $125,000 commit-
ment that will double through the University’s Maverick Match, which leverages UT Arlington’s endowment to match gifts.

“The generosity of Mike and Janet is focused on the future,” says Shuzo Maruyama, president of Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, a world leader in the analytical instruments industry. “It will be a pleasure to work with Dr. Schug and the entire UT Arlington team.”
Join the Alumni Association

Class Notes

1949
Henry W. Deppen ('49 AS, Science and Engineering) is a retired vice president and general manager of the National Taiwan Television Corporation and Pensions Association. He is also the chairman of the board of directors of National Television in Taiwan, a member of the College of Engineering’s board of advisors.

Gary W. Combs ('81 BA, Business Administration) is re-elected chair of the Fort Worth Transportation Authority board of directors. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and has served in the Department of Transportation for 33 years.

1977
Mike Ferris ('77 BA, Political Science) is a partner in the law firm of Fenwick & West in San Francisco. He is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of California, Berkeley.

1982
Debra Gouding ('82 BA) is an assistant principal at Fort Worth Independent School District. She has served as a principal in the Fort Worth Independent School District for 20 years.

1983
Ramona Curtis ('83 BA) is the executive director of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce. She is a veteran of the U.S. Army and has served in the Army National Guard for 20 years.

1988
Andrew Novoselik ('88 BA, Management) is the CEO of the American Cancer Society. He is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington.

1993
Deniel Schwickert ('93 BS, Electrical Engineering) has been named a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington.

1998
Edwin Gray ('98 BS, Microbiology) has been named a fellow of the College of Science and Engineering. He is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington.

2004
Lindsey Boullt ('04 BA, General Studies) is a partner in the law firm of Fenwick & West in San Francisco. She is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of California, Berkeley.

2009
Michael H. Harris ('09 BS, Psychology) is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Texas at Arlington.

2012
Nancy Wasilowski ('12 BS, Business Administration) is a partner in the law firm of Fenwick & West in San Francisco. She is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of California, Berkeley.

2013
Anveshak Technology and Engineering (ANTECH) is the parent company of Aconite and Centaur 2, a mobility robot for the Department of Defense. The company is based in Austin, Texas.

2014
Matthew B. Anschutz ('14 BS, Engineering) is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington.

2015
Sara L. Brown ('15 BA, Business Administration) is the chief financial officer for the City of Dallas. She is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington.

2016
Kim Lemaux ('16 BA, History) is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington.

2017
Jared Wilson ('17 BA, Business Administration) is a partner in the law firm of Fenwick & West in San Francisco. He is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of California, Berkeley.

2018
Nancy Wasilowski ('18 BS, Business Administration) is a partner in the law firm of Fenwick & West in San Francisco. She is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of California, Berkeley.

2019
Lee Koch ('19 BS, Business Administration) is a partner in the law firm of Fenwick & West in San Francisco. He is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of California, Berkeley.

2020
Abhijit Kaisare ('20 BS, Mechanical Engineering) is a partner in the law firm of Fenwick & West in San Francisco. He is a member of the College of Business faculty at the University of California, Berkeley.
January 9

San Antonio

BRIEFLY

DISPLAY IT

Your display of UT Arlington pride doesn’t have to be limited to those in uniform. We’re happy to help! Just email utaalumni@uta.edu. To order, visit utaalumni.org and click on “Our Shop.”

SHOW YOUR COLORS

Looking for ways to express your pride? Put your name, your school, and your class year on a UT Arlington blue one-piece dining-ware set. Order online at utaalumni.org and click to shop. It’s your Alumni Profile page. It also features the Alumni Association offers a variety of products, including apparel, accessories, and other merchandise. The website includes links to the Alumni Association store, UT Arlington Bookstore, and other merchants. For more information about online shopping, please visit utaalumni.org.

Join a Chapter

For information on joining an Alumni Association chapter, contact the Alumni Association at 817-272-3104. Alternatively, visit the Alumni Association website at utaalumni.uta.edu. To see a list of chapters, visit utaalumni.org/regions/chapters.
In Memoriam

1940s
Fay Julian Nation Van Dam (41 BA, General Studies), 90, Dec. 18, 2017, in Arlington. Mr. Van Dam was an administrative assistant in the UT Arlington College of Engineering for more than 50 years. The Fay Julian Nation Van Dam Staff Award was established in her honor in 1991 to recognize a member of the college’s support staff.

Edwina Williams (37 AA, General Studies), 84, March 1 in Arlington. Mr. Williams opened Edwina Williams Man’s Shop in downtown Arlington in 1944 and managed it until it closed in 2000. A musician, he also helped organize Amarillo Chorale Sings in Fort Worth. In 1998 the Arlington Historical Society honored him as one of the driving forces of the 1950s.

1950s
William Casey Long Jr. (TAA, Mechanical Engineering), 76, Dec. 5, 2011, in Fort Worth. Long was president of Long Machine Tool Co. in Fort Worth.

1960s
William A. Skelton (54 BBA, Business Administration), 75, MIS, R&D, Computer Science), 89, Nov. 11, 2011, in Bedford. A professional engineer, Mr. Skelton was an engineering supervisor at LTV/Boeing and taught at UT Arlington from 1958 to 1976. Betty Jeanne Pattit (56 BA, “71 MA, English), 88, March 11 in Arlington, Ms. Pattit taught at Arlington and Bowie high schools in Arlington.

1970s
Joe Donald McMillon (70 BBA, Accounting), 72, April 17 in Arlington. Mr. McMillon retired in 1942 after 42 years as an accountant with the Texas State Historical Association. The Joe Donald McMillon Lectures on History of Cartography. A founding member of the Texas Map Society, Mr. McMillon was a longtime member of the Texas State Historical Association and the Friends of the UT Arlington Library.

Virginia Garrett
Noted philanthropist, map collector, and UT Arlington supporter Virginia Garrett died April 2 in Fort Worth. She was 91. Over several decades, Ms. Garrett amassed a collection that included 375 atlases and 910 maps, dating from the 1900s until 1910 and reported to be one of the largest collections of its type in private hands.

Not only were she and her husband, the late Jenkins Garrett Jr., benefactors. Together, they supported Virginia Garrett, a longtime member of the Fiedler Museum. He was an assistant surveyor for many years in the 1950s.

Eddie Lynn Chatham (72 BS, Civil Engineering), 64, Jan. 11 in Collegeville. Mr. Chatham was a professional engineer and a professional surveyor. He founded Chatham and Associates, an engineering and consulting firm in Arlington. Mr. Chatham was a member of the College of Engineers since 1971. Curtis L. Oppermann Jr. (72 BS, Civil Engineering), 65, March 25 in Amarillo. Mr. Oppermann was a professional engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation for 31 years, during the Fort Worth and Dallas districts. He received the American Council of Engineering Companies Award for Excellence while working as project manager on the George Bush Turnpike for KBR (formerly Kellogg Brown & Root).

William A. Skelton (54 BBA, Business Administration), 75, MIS, R&D, Computer Science), 89, Nov. 11, 2011, in Bedford. A professional engineer, Mr. Skelton was an engineering supervisor at LTV/Boeing and taught at UT Arlington from 1958 to 1976. Betty Jeanne Pattit (56 BA, “71 MA, English), 88, March 11 in Arlington, Ms. Pattit taught at Arlington and Bowie high schools in Arlington.

1980s
Stephen Bennett Nolan (38 BS, Criminal Justice), 54, April 27 in Arlington. Mr. Nolan was a lifetime member of UT Arlington and a former City Council member. Mr. Nolan had a long career in law enforcement, including as a courtroom bailiff.

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Eddie Lynn Chatham (72 BS, Civil Engineering), 64, Jan. 11 in Collegeville. Mr. Chatham was a professional engineer and a professional surveyor. He founded Chatham and Associates, an engineering and consulting firm in Arlington. Mr. Chatham was a member of the College of Engineers since 1971. Curtis L. Oppermann Jr. (72 BS, Civil Engineering), 65, March 25 in Amarillo. Mr. Oppermann was a professional engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation for 31 years, during the Fort Worth and Dallas districts. He received the American Council of Engineering Companies Award for Excellence while working as project manager on the George Bush Turnpike for KBR (formerly Kellogg Brown & Root). Bobby Andrew Herrell (68 BS, Mechanical Engineering), 76, Dec. 11, 2011, in Abilene. Mr. Herrell was a member of the college’s faculty and staff at UT Arlington.

2000s
Keith Richards (81 BS, Mechanical Engineering), 59, April 1, 2009, in Hurst, Canton, and Palestine. He specialized in helping struggling churches. Jerry C. Swann (73 BS, Industrial Engineering), 76, Dec. 11, 2011, in Arlington. Mr. Swann worked for the Department of Defense and the Internal Revenue Service, where he earned a presidential citation from President Jimmy Carter for his work in productivity enhancement.

Myra Gail Middleton (76 BS, English), 86, April 8 in Mansfield, Ms. Middleton taught English in the Mansfield Independent School Distict for 30 years.

Ronald Steven Springer (68 BS, Criminal Justice), 64, Nov. 20, 2011, in Weatherford. Mr. Springer held numerous positions with the Arlington Police Department before retiring as a patrol sergeant in 2004 after 38 years of service. He became a Tarrant County deputy sherrif in 2007 and served as a courtroom bailiff.

Pat Williams Gordon (78 MNS), 60, Feb. 27 in Fort Worth. Dr. Gordon taught nursing at the Christian University and UT Arlington, retiring in the mid-1990s.

2010s
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1940s
Fay Julian Nation Van Dam (41 BA, General Studies), 90, Dec. 18, 2017, in Arlington. Mr. Van Dam was an administrative assistant in the UT Arlington College of Engineering for more than 50 years. The Fay Julian Nation Van Dam Staff Award was established in her honor in 1991 to recognize a member of the college’s support staff.

Edwina Williams (37 AA, General Studies), 84, March 1 in Arlington. Mr. Williams opened Edwina Williams Man’s Shop in downtown Arlington in 1944 and managed it until it closed in 2000. A musician, he also helped organize Amarillo Chorale Sings in Fort Worth. In 1998 the Arlington Historical Society honored him as one of the driving forces of the 1950s.

1950s
William Casey Long Jr. (TAA, Mechanical Engineering), 76, Dec. 5, 2011, in Fort Worth. Long was president of Long Machine Tool Co. in Fort Worth.

1960s
William A. Skelton (54 BBA, Business Administration), 75, MIS, R&D, Computer Science), 89, Nov. 11, 2011, in Bedford. A professional engineer, Mr. Skelton was an engineering supervisor at LTV/Boeing and taught at UT Arlington from 1958 to 1976. Betty Jeanne Pattit (56 BA, “71 MA, English), 88, March 11 in Arlington, Ms. Pattit taught at Arlington and Bowie high schools in Arlington.

1970s
Joe Donald McMillon (70 BBA, Accounting), 72, April 17 in Arlington. Mr. McMillon retired in 1942 after 42 years as an accountant with the Texas State Historical Association. The Joe Donald McMillon Lectures on History of Cartography. A founding member of the Texas Map Society, Mr. McMillon was a longtime member of the Texas State Historical Association and the Friends of the UT Arlington Library.

Virginia Garrett
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Count UT Arlington alumni Doug Russell and Lanny Bassham among the select group of athletes who’ve experienced the thrill of winning an Olympic gold medal. At the 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City, Russell upset legendary swimmer Mark Spitz in the 100-meter butterfly. His 55.9 set an Olympic record and fell just 0.3 seconds shy of Spitz’s world record. Russell, who set five NCAA marks and won nine national championships at UT Arlington, earned more gold in 1968 as part of the 400-meter individual medley relay. He held or shared three world records and was named an All-American 18 times. Bassham, a 1969 UT Arlington graduate, shot his way to a gold medal in the small-bore rifle competition at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal. A scoring controversy delayed the results for five hours, but officials eventually ruled Bassham the winner on a tiebreaker. During the medal ceremony, he invited runner-up Margaret Murdock, also of the United States, to join him on the gold medal platform. The gesture remains one of the most magnanimous in Olympic history. Bassham also earned a silver medal in the 1972 Olympics in Munich. He was a favorite in 1980 but was denied the chance to compete when the United States boycotted the Moscow Games.