Seismic Breakthroughs

Understanding the movement of Earth’s crust and designing stronger buildings are essential to minimizing earthquake devastation. UT Arlington researchers are playing major roles in both endeavors.
LIGHTING THE WAY

The glowing Gateway Tower at Cooper Street and UTA Boulevard welcomes motorists and pedestrians to campus. The structure stands more than 35 feet tall and incorporates materials and architectural themes featured in the emerging 20-acre College Park District and in the new Engineering Research Building adjacent to it.
Message from the President

A Little Help from Our Friends

by James D. Spaniolo

There has been a remarkable year for philanthropy at UT Arlington.

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, as well as numerous corporations and foundations, we continue to set records in private support for the University. For the second year in a row, we have generated more than $15 million annually in private gifts and pledges. As a matter of fact, total giving for the past two years matches all of the previous five years combined.

That’s a tremendous achievement for a public institution with a relatively young development program. It’s also a trend we’d like to continue.

Our alumni increasingly are becoming more central to our fundraising efforts. Like never before, they are stepping forward and playing a pivotal role in providing the private funds necessary to help fuel UT Arlington’s progress.

I’d like to share two examples of outstanding leadership gifts that alumni made in just the past few months. I think these gifts merit special attention, not just because of the dollar amounts but also because of the motivation and the passion of the individuals who made them.

Alan Petch ‘86 and Bonnie Smith Petch ‘86 recently committed $1 million in support of College Park Center. These dedicated alumni credit the University for playing a significant role in shaping their lives and for spearheading the revitalization that’s currently transforming downtown Arlington.

The University will recognize their gift by naming College Park Center’s basketball court Petchie Court in their honor. Alan and Bonnie have always maintained close ties to the University, and currently serve on our Development Board, the advisory group that helps generate and steward leadership gifts to the University.

Mike and Janet Greene have created an endowed chair in the Department of Engineering, totaling $1 million. Mike graduated in 1969 with a degree in mechanical engineering and recently retired after 46 years with Energy Future Holdings. The Greenses wanted to give back to the University and, at the same time, have their gift serve as an example for others. They established a $500,000 endowment that is being doubled through a $500,000 challenge gift from UT Arlington. These endowment gifts with royalties from the University’s natural gas resources.

UT Arlington recognizes the Greenses’ gift by naming the Engineering Research Building’s new quadrangle the Janet and Mike Greene Research Quadrangle. Mike currently serves on the executive committee of our Development Board as well as on the College of Engineering Advisory Board.

We are thankful for the confidence that caring, giving people like the Petchies and the Greenses place in our institution. We applaud all of our alumni who are taking a fresh look at their alma mater and finding more and more reasons to be proud—and meaningful ways to express that pride.

It is no secret that UT Arlington has lofty aspirations and an ambitious agenda. We set our sights high and then raise them even higher with each passing day. That’s how good universities become great. That’s how great universities become top-tier institutions of higher learning. The support of our alumni and friends is more important than ever.

And while the changes at UT Arlington have been sweeping, our core values remain the same. Our University’s purpose—simply stated, but profoundly complex—is to continually develop real solutions and prepare real people for extraordinary success in the real world. We need look no further than our alumni—all 145,000 of you—to find tremendous satisfaction in our endeavors. Your success is our success.

As president of UT Arlington since 2004, James D. Spaniolo has overseen extraordinary growth in enrollment, research activity, and philanthropic giving. We are thankful for the confidence that caring, giving people like the Petchies and the Greenses place in our institution. We applaud all of our alumni who are taking a fresh look at their alma mater and finding more and more reasons to be proud—and meaningful ways to express that pride. It is no secret that UT Arlington has lofty aspirations and an ambitious agenda. We set our sights high and then raise them even higher with each passing day. That’s how good universities become great. That’s how great universities become top-tier institutions of higher learning. The support of our alumni and friends is more important than ever.

With the opening of College Park Center (visit www.utacollegepark.com) in February, we hope to see more of you back on campus—and more often. If you haven’t visited recently, I invite you to return soon and see just how dramatically the University has changed.

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Email

BEAUTY AND BRAINS
I wanted to let the staff know that I appreciate stories such as “Wired for Recovery” (summer 2011) on ground-breaking research that can have a significant impact in medicine and science. I work in the field of neuropsychology and often come across a variety of conditions such as dementia, traumatic brain injury, and learning disorders. It’s great to see a story in my alma mater about research into understanding the etiology via brain imaging and testing as well as investigating rehabilitative options for these conditions. In addition, the magazine’s layout is aesthetically pleasing and easy to read. There is an excellent mix of stories and personal anecdotes. I enjoyed the photo of the twin graduate students in their colorful, floral dresses from the spring 2011 issue and am glad to see there are still students performing folklorico on campus.

ANNA E. PINEDA OLVERA ’05
Temple, Texas

A HOME RUN
I just received the summer 2011 edition of the magazine, and the staff hit it out of the ballpark on this one! Gorgonius, energized photos and a great variety of article. I appreciate the way in which you highlight students, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends. It really showcasing the way all of our “pieces” fit together and work toward our common goal. One of my alma maters has a superb publica-
tion, but think U/Al/lington Magazine just surpassed it. Congratulations on such a wonderful snapshot of the groundbreaking work we’re doing here at UT Arlington.

KIMBERLY VAN HORD
Arlington, Texas

IMPRESSIVE WORK
It was great to read about the impressive research group in “Wired for Recovery” (summer 2011). The work stresses the important requirement of interdisciplinary research into cognitive brain functions. I wonder if MRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) could somehow play a role in the project. The link would be interesting, if available. Dr. Harri Liu is definitely an intelligent and industrious researcher with a strong background in medicine.

ZHONG-Y. LII
Ventura, CA

RIDING BACK IN TIME
I worked at Six Flags Over Texas in the summers of 1969, 1970, and 1971 as a ride operator, and also graduated from UTA in 1970 after a long stretch of night school. Great article in the summer 2011 issue that brought back some good memories. I still have many friends in the area who are Six Flags employees. I visited the UT Arlington Library exhibit with a friend who also worked at Six Flags. We especially enjoyed the pictures from the early years of the park in the 1960s.

BRIAN J. MURPHY ’80
Arlington, Texas

PROGRESS REPORT
Thank you so much for the great UTA/Longhorn Magazine for summer 2011. I loved the articles and the layout. I hope that one of these days I can actually return and see the “new” UTA. It was a much smaller campus when I attended back in the late ’80s.

MARY JANE CHISHOLM ’89
San Antonio, Texas

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

Flickr

NEVER A DULL MOMENT IN MAVERICK COUNTRY
Each fall launch a new academic year, bringing renewed excitement for a fresh generation of Mavericks. UT Arlington hosts a series of events to put students on a path to success. Watch the “2011 Welcome Week” video at youtube.com/utarlingtonmoretwice

YouTube

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER
A long-abandoned house in West Dallas would seem an unlikeliness for an art exhibit. Not for Dr. Visiting Assistant Professor Stephen Latham- phon. In Living Amongst Oth-
ers, Lathempsiphon’s students created an installation that raises the question of what art is. One piece includes a sheet- less bed, a hobbled metal crib, and piles of clothes and trash. Another features photos of objects found throughout the house. Stapled underneath the photos in plastic bags are the actual objects, which include Q-tips and a syringe. View a selection of images from the exhibit at flickr.com/ groups/utamagazine.

Let’s Socialize
Check us out online and on your favorite social-media sites. We welcome your comments, posts, tweets, and photographs for possible inclusion in the next issue of UTA/Longhorn Magazine.

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instagram.com/utarlington

Facebook

JENNIFER FOX
On the music scene, Jennifer Fox is known as “the girl with the blue fiddle.” The popular senior plays the tune in her family’s band, Fox Country, which also includes her parents, Gary and Terry, and her brother, Justin. A fiddler since age 5, Fox looks to Waltrip Magazine for placement in the of life. Jazz file, Nurnberg.

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San Antonio, Texas

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Tweets

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@SulianaParis she might not have his degree yet, but this UTA art student already owns his own Deep Blue gallery.

@AmyTaylorSo glad I contributed BT to Arlington fall enrollment!

@SLUTexas The City of Dallas’ 2011 Official Nativity Scene at Texas Arlington has hit another record high.

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@SARA The Gallery at UT Arlington celebrates its 10th anniversary with retrospective show, Times.

@ChristinaCHIKIS At the Longzatter Auditorium for Tennessee’s “Tipping Point” lecture.

@SARA Students in our MBA are creating business plans for some U.S. Navy patents to move new technology into the market.

@PUDLAP A head of Thai UTA for study abroad fun! Who wants info on #volunteering abroad?

@JenniferJYJ Just realized that today is my 1-year anniversary working at UTA – so Mant!

@ChristTuny Hispanic Heritage Month starts today! Celebrate with community events in your area like these sponsored by UTA’s Foundation.

LET’S SOCIALIZE
Check us out online and on your favorite social-media sites. We welcome your comments, posts, tweets, and photographs for possible inclusion in the next issue of UTA/Longhorn Magazine.

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Raising Our Game

Move to Western Athletic Conference coincides with College Park Center opening

It’s a whole new ballgame for UT Arlington athletics. When the Maverick basketball and volleyball teams take the court in fall 2012, they’ll be playing in a new conference and a new arena.

UT Arlington has accepted an invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference, a move expected to elevate the University’s competitive sports programs and increase its national profile. UT Arlington becomes the 10th member of the WAC for the 2012-13 academic year, joining San Jose State University, New Mexico State University, and Utah State University, among other institutions.

WAC conference play will coincide with the 2012-13 full basketball season at College Park Center, a 7,000-seat, split-bowl arena designed by Cowboys Stadium architect HKS. The events center is part of the 20-acre, mixed-use College Park District scheduled to open in late summer 2012.

“This is clear recognition of the growing prominence of UT Arlington and is consistent with our strategic initiative to become a major research university,” President James D. Spaniolo says. “Tier One institutions have Tier One athletics programs and student-athletes who compete at the highest levels, both on and off the field.”

WAC Commissioner Karl Benson says UT Arlington brings geographic balance and increased media exposure to the conference, plus top-level academics. The conference also includes UT San Antonio, Texas State University, the University of Denver, the University of Idaho, Seattle University, and Louisiana Tech University for 2012-13. Benson would like to add two more schools and create two, six-team divisions.

“The addition of UT Arlington places the WAC in another top-20 market with the recent additions of Seattle and Denver,” he says. “Access to the Dallas-Fort Worth region will help the WAC secure more lucrative television rights fees in the future, a benefit for all of our member institutions.”

All of UT Arlington’s 14 Division I intercollegiate sports will compete in the new conference. Pete Cicala, the University’s athletics director, says the move from the Southland Conference to the WAC ushers in a new era of Maverick athletics.

“This gives UT Arlington instant recognition across the country,” he says, noting that the WAC is one of 11 elite conferences in NCAA Division I athletics. “It moves us from regional athletics competition to a truly national stage.”
CINDY TROWBRIDGE Kinesiology Associate Professor Cindy Trowbridge received the National Athletic Trainers’ Association’s Athletic Trainer Service Award. Dr. Trowbridge, who coordinates UT Arlington’s Athletic Training Program, studies the biomechanics of injury prevention.

JOHN BUCKWALTER John Buckwalter, associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Education and Health Professions, was named an American Council on Education fellow for the 2011-12 academic year. One of 50 educators selected in the national competition, Dr. Buckwalter is serving his fellowship at Texas Christian University.

CAMPUS CAMPUS

TAKES REINS IN JANUARY

Proven Leader

Ron Elsenbaumer begins provost duties after spurring advances as research vice president

Dr. Elsenbaumer has played a significant role in the University’s drive to become a major, national research institution," his enthusiasm for education and innovation will help propel the University’s drive to become a major, national research institution," says Ron Elsenbaumer, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "As a scientist, he has made major advances in the field of earthquake engineering. As an administrator, he is a proven progressive and innovative leader," Bill Carroll stepped down this fall as dean and plans to enter private practice. As an administrator, he is a proven progressive and innovative leader. "He fully understands the totality of the University," President James D. Spaniolo says. "We could not ask for a more dedicated, more skillful leader to help guide UT Arlington as it becomes a major national research institution."

As provost, Elsenbaumer is the University’s chief academic officer, overseeing all colleges, schools, research, and academic programs. He succeeds Donald Bobbitt, who became president of the University of Arkansas System in October.

An educator for more than 30 years, Elsenbaumer’s research interests include electrically conductive polymers, mechanistic organic and polymer chemistry, and environmentally friendly lubricant additives. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 publications, holds 42 U.S. patents, and has secured millions of dollars in external research funding.

He earned his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Stanford University. He worked in the private sector for AlliedSignal, a major industrial company, before joining UT Arlington in 1991 as chair and director of the Materials Science and Engineering Department.

Elsenbaumer previously served as interim provost, chair of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, and director of the Nanotechnology Research and Teaching Facility. A full professor since 1991, he holds a dual appointment in the College of Science and the College of Engineering.

ENTERING GREEN PARKING

To accommodate a growing student population, UT Arlington recently opened a new parking garage with 1,100 spaces. The structure is within College Park, a mixed-use facility set to open by summer 2012 that includes a residence hall, apartments, and retail space. The garage features safety components like video cameras and emergency call boxes, as well as green technology such as a free, public charging station for electric vehicles and upper-deck solar panels. The panels eventually will form the largest carpet-style photovoltaic energy system in Texas, expected to generate enough energy to offset 30 percent of the energy use at College Park.

NEW ENGINEERING DEAN

Jean-Pierre Bardet looks forward to working with UT Arlington faculty, staff, students, and alumni to achieve great things. The chair of the Suny, Albany Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Southern California takes over as dean of the College of Engineering in January. Dr. Bardet studied engineering at Ecole Centrale in Lyon, France, and earned his master’s and doctoral degrees from the California Institute of Technology. A member of the USC faculty since 1983, he chaired the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department for five years, seeing its enrollment double over that span. During his tenure at USC, he was instrumental in attracting major philanthropic support. "We welcome Dr. Bardet to UT Arlington and know that his professional accomplishments and his enthusiasm for education and innovation will help propel the University’s drive to become a major, national research institution," President James D. Spaniolo says. Bardet’s diverse professional interests include civil infrastructure systems, earthquake research, geomechanics, and synthetic track surfaces for horse racing. Most recently, he founded USC’s multidisciplinary Center on Megatrends, which helps prepare and sustain the world’s largest cities. "Dr. Bardet brings the College of Engineering and the University national and international recognition," says Ron Elsenbaumer, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "As a scientist, he has made major advances in the field of earthquake engineering. As an administrator, he is a proven progressive and innovative leader."

"As provost, Elsenbaumer is the University’s chief academic officer, overseeing all colleges, schools, research, and academic programs. He succeeds Donald Bobbitt, who became president of the University of Arkansas System in October."

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Grants

The National Science Foundation has awarded two grants to computer science engineering Assistant Professor Vasileios Athitsos to develop a computer recognition system that eventually will yield a visual, online American Sign Language dictionary. Dr. Athitsos has secured more than $1.15 million for research on gesture recognition since joining UT Arlington in 2007.

Sensors Help Soldiers Detect Combat Threats

A UT Arlington engineer hopes to soon give soldiers X-ray vision. Sort of. Qiliang Liang, professor of electrical engineering, has won two Department of Defense grants to develop a radar sensor network that will help soldiers detect potential threats on the battlefield that are obscured by walls or foliage. Current technology doesn’t link radar sensors in a network or allow for shared information in real time. In contrast, Dr. Liang’s system will provide troops with a web of information about large swaths of land, such as urban areas or shorelines. For example, the network could tell soldiers about an enemy building, rather than just the area within line of sight. “In an urban setting, mammalian structures or foliage false hidden threats because the soldier has a limited sensing capability,” Liang says. “We want to help those soldiers identify what it is they’re seeing through the network in the field. It’s very important they know where and when the threat is.” The sensor network research could be adapted for domestic use as well. Liang envisions the system being used as a scanning device in airports or at large-scale public events—think Super Bowl—to identify potential threats or find concealed weapons. Jonathan Bredow, chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering, says Liang’s funding and publication records demonstrate that he is among the top international researchers in the emerging area of radar sensor networks. “His breakthrough work will enable totally new ways of answering and responding to security threats in complex environments, which are often of high impact and the most vulnerable,” Bredow says. “This will be a major boost to UT Arlington’s top-tier research mission.”

Battling Bacteria

Microbiologist Julian Hurdle explores treatment of bacterial infections during their hospital stays. Trillions of the patients don’t survive. Julian Hurdle, an assistant professor of biology, hopes to decrease those numbers. The microbiologist was awarded $1.9 million from the National Institutes of Health National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine to develop a treatment for one of the most widespread hospital infections.

Dr. Hurdle plans to study the effect of reutericyclin compounds on the bacterium Clostridium difficile. C. difficile is the leading cause of diarrhea in elderly hospital and nursing home patients and also affects cancer patients and others with compromised immune systems. The bacterium is responsible for more than 500,000 cases each year and 15,000-20,000 deaths. “C. difficile infections have become more widespread and difficult to treat over the past 10 years, with high rates of relapse,” says Hurdle, who joined the College of Science in 2010. “With only a few drugs available to treat it, there is a great clinical need and a market opportunity in developing treatments.”

His co-investigator on the project is Richard Lee, professor of electrical engineering, and two of Dr. Hurdle’s projects document and revitalize the indigenous languages for the next generation. In May 2012 she and Mary Linn at the University of Oklahoma started the Oklahoma Breath of Life Workshop for communities whose languages have no fluent first-language speakers. Fitzgerald and her students also assist the Chickasaw nation, which has only 60 fluent speakers. Documentation supports the National Endowment for the Arts Language Revitalization Program, and her funding includes a grant from the National Science Foundation. Fitzgerald collaborates with language teachers and program directors as well as with tribal elders and assures them that her projects are “for many Native American communities, language is a gift from the creator,” she says. “It is sacred.”
Class of the Classroom

English Professor

Stacy Akins is one of nine UT Arlington faculty members to receive the 2011 UT System Regents Teaching Award. The honor recognizes professors at UT System who demonstrate excellence in teaching, performance and innovation at the undergraduate level. Other UT Arlington recipients are Monica Ramirez Basco, playwriting; Seong Jin Koh, materials science and engineering; Purnendu “Sandy” Dasgupta, chemistry; and John David Moritz, business administration.

A soldier returning from the battlefield is unknowingly carrying a contaminant. But sensors embedded on a small electronic chip detect the harmful matter, alerting personnel to treat the soldier, potentially saving his life and avoiding harm to fellow troops. Such a sensor could play out. Materials science and engineering Associate Professor Soong Jin Kim leads a team at work on tiny sensors that could detect the smallest DNA molecules of harmful biological species. If some foreign agent has been put on a soldier, this sensor could detect it,” he says. “It could even be used in the battlefield to see what’s in that environment. It also could be used to test food supplies in the field.” Most existing DNA detection techniques are time-consuming, expensive, and not sensitive enough to indicate extremely low concentrations of DNA molecules. Funded by a National Science Foundation grant, Dr. Kim’s system is more efficient. “This sensor couples a simple electrical signal, and the sensors reside on a small silicon chip, allowing cost-effective fabrication and ease of use,” he says. “This technology could lead to many beneficial applications. Like detecting gene mutations that would signal the early stages of cancer, detecting gene mutations that would signal the early stages of cancer, potentially saving a patient’s life, or even detecting gene mutations that would signal the early stages of cancer, potentially saving a patient’s life.”
Food for Thought

Ice cream entrepreneurs Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield highlight Maverick Speakers Series

The fourth season of UT Arlington’s marquee lectures, the Maverick Speakers Series, continues in November with the men behind one of the most talked about and least conventional success stories in American business. Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, founders of Ben & Jerry’s Homemade, will speak Nov. 17 about how they built a storefront venture into a $300 million ice cream company and evaporated the power of social responsibility and creative management.

Dallas Cowboys legend and NFL Hall-of-Famer Emmitt Smith (see p. 7) kicked off the 2011-12 series in October by discussing “A Champion’s Vision.” Smith, the NFL’s all-time leading rusher, is the majority partner and co-chairman of ESmith Legacy, a Dallas-based commercial real estate company.


Since joining CNN in 2003, O’Brien has reported breaking news from around the globe and produced critically acclaimed documentaries on some of the world’s most compelling topics, including education, diversity, the Royal Wedding, economics, and natural disasters.

A deep sea explorer, Ballard has made startling discoveries in recent years, including finding the wreckage of the Titanic in 1985. He has led or participated in more deep sea disasters. A deep sea explorer, Ballard has made startling discoveries in recent years, including finding the wreckage of the Titanic in 1985. He has led or participated in more oceanic exploration missions than any other scientist.

As a former Florida Gov., Bush will speak Nov. 17 about how they built a storefront venture into a $300 million ice cream company and evaporated the power of social responsibility and creative management.

With the right kindling, one idea can set the world on fire. This concept motivates photographer Dominic Bracco II. The former Shorthorn photographer has documented the horrors of America’s drug war through images of violence and the aftermath, as well as grieving families and tender scenes of day-to-day urban life. “I feel I have an obligation to produce work that will hopefully educate and evolve change,” he says. “There is a reality that every time I begin working, I am in danger. Sometimes I find myself thinking it’s not worth it, but then I am reminded constantly that it’s true. The power of art is at the heart of a free exhibit, Life and Death in the Northern Pass, which runs through Jan. 14, 2012, in the Central Library’s sixth-floor parlor. He also lectured as part of the College of Visual and Performing Arts’ Festival of Ideas, an annual series of events that focuses on cultural and intellectual issues. “I have been working on a back a bit from traditional distribution models for photography,” he says. “An exhibition at a college campus is an event like the Festival of Ideas allows for the kind of encounter that will stir discussion in ways that a few pictures in a newspaper could not.”
Follow the LEED

Engineering Research Building earns gold certification for sustainable designs

It’s not just the scholars inside the new Engineering Research Building who are working to make the world better. The building itself is helping out. The 234,000-square-foot facility, which opened in early 2011, earned LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for its incorporation of sustainable building practices.

“The building’s environmentally sensitive design and energy-saving features are fitting complements to the cutting-edge science and engineering research taking place inside,” UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo says.

The U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building certification is the foremost program for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings. Launched in March 2000, LEED provides building owners and operators with a framework for identifying and implementing sustainable practices.

In granting the certification, the Green Building Council cited the facility’s numerous energy-saving features, such as occupancy sensors, reduced exterior lighting power, shading devices, multiple green and light-reflecting roofs, and windows designed to make efficient use of available light. It also pointed to the building’s water efficiency, with low-dow water fixtures in the sinks and restrooms as well as rain and condensate water capture for landscaping and irrigation. Moreover, about 29 percent of the building materials came from recycled products.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

UT Arlington students annually volunteer more than 400,000 hours in the community, benefiting a range of agencies and organizations. Student service has played a key role in the University’s selection to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for four consecutive years.

SERVICE LEARNING

According to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, more than 6,200 UT Arlington students took 1.3 million service learning courses last year. The courses combine conventional academic instruction with participation in community service projects.

CARLOS SAAVEDRA

A college sophomore vying for a cross-country bike rides averaging 100 miles per day, and he’s not even a cyclist. Life lessons and camaraderie ensue. This summer blockbusted starred Carlos Saavedra, a UT Arlington student who sat on America’s roadways instead of in a courtroom. Now a junior criminal justice major, Saavedra became the fourth in Kappa Phi member from UT Arlington to complete the journey of Hope ride benefiting people with disabilities.

“The building’s environmentally sensitive design and energy-saving features are fitting complements to the cutting-edge science and engineering research taking place inside,” UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo says.

The U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building certification is the foremost program for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings. Launched in March 2000, LEED provides building owners and operators with a framework for identifying and implementing sustainable practices.

In granting the certification, the Green Building Council cited the facility’s numerous energy-saving features, such as occupancy sensors, reduced exterior lighting power, shading devices, multiple green and light-reflecting roofs, and windows designed to make efficient use of available light. It also pointed to the building’s water efficiency, with low-dow water fixtures in the sinks and restrooms as well as rain and condensate water capture for landscaping and irrigation. Moreover, about 29 percent of the building materials came from recycled products.

This summer blockbuster starred Carlos Saavedra, a UT Arlington student who sat on America’s roadways instead of in a courtroom. Now a junior criminal justice major, Saavedra became the fourth in Kappa Phi member from UT Arlington to complete the journey of Hope ride benefiting people with disabilities. The 20-year- old from Chicago rode more than 51,000 miles for PUSH America’s nationwide charity/charitable organization/foundation. A year ago, Mo Adeola told his fraternity brothers that his 2010 ride was the best summer he ever had. “I had a hard time believing,” says Saavedra, who ran more than he cycled to get in shape. “My training was the first two weeks” on the road. The route from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., came through Arlington on July 15. The 28 students played the movie “Mars wheelchair basketball team, one of many “friend- ship visits” that Saavedra says reminded the riders of their college life. “I think this summer really was the best summer of my life.”
DEFENSE IS THE KEY FOR YOUTHFUL WOMEN’S TEAM

Taking stock of her team entering its farewell season in the Southland Conference, Samantha Morrow sees just that. A team. “We don’t have any superstars,” says Morrow, who’s in her fifth season as women’s basketball coach. “If they want to play, they are going to have to love the game.”

Sophomore Desherra Nwanguma also has made strides. The point guards weren’t alone in benefiting from the faster tempo. Cross half-joked that LaMarcus Reed “is having three point guards who are all playing part of the load.”

Everybody has to pull her weight, Morrow says. “If they come out and play some defense.” A challenging nonconference schedule includes games at Arkansas, Oklahoma State, and Texas Tech. Visit utamavs.com for the schedule. “We realize that we have to play more as a team this year,” she says. “We need to be more cohesive and not depend on one or two people.”

The point guards weren’t alone in benefiting from the faster tempo. Cross half-joked that LaMarcus Reed III had more fast-break opportunities in five games than he did the entire 2010-11 season. Reed, a senior, finished as the team’s leading scorer with 17.2 points per game while also averaging 3.6 rebounds. On defense, the Mavericks used a suffocating man-to-man to hold three of their five opponents to 60 or fewer points.

LAMARcUS REED III

Not many NCAA basketball players enter their final season with a college diploma in hand. But LaMarcus Reed III will do just that when he takes the court this fall after completing his bachelor’s degree in finance in 3½ years. That Reed, a forward and the Mavericks’ leading scorer last season, finished early was a surprise to his grandfather. “From an early age, my grandpa stressed education and discipline and respect. Those values helped raise the whole family. He kind of scared those kids into me since I was 5 years old,” Reed has said. Reed has made a name for himself as a hard worker who gets things done if necessary but prefers to lead by example. Part of that includes excelling in the classroom. He’s now working on a second bachelor’s degree, in economics. On the court, Reed clearly had his sour taste from how the 2010-11 season ended. The Mavericks needed a win over UT San Antonio on the final day of the regular season to advance to the Southland Conference Tournament but hope to return to the NCAA tournament. Cross expects to carry that style into the regular season.

Ironically, the upgraded point guard play came as the Mavericks emphasized an up-tempo style to increase fast breaks and apply pressure to the Canadian teams’ defenses. Cross expects to carry that style into the regular season.

Impressive, eh?

The Mavericks set to begin final season in SLC after dominating five-games swing through Canada.

The men’s basketball team breezed through its summer exhibition tour of Canada, winning all five games by an average of nearly 50 points and each game by at least 44. Now the Mavericks turn their attention to winning a league championship in their final season before they leave the Southland Conference for the Western Athletic Conference.

The performance of first-year players Kevin Butler and Jorge Redmon was particularly encouraging for sixth-year coach Scott Cross. Butler, a transfer from Texas, averaged 15.7 points and 7.7 rebounds on the Canada swing while playing fewer than 20 minutes per game. Redmon, a junior college transfer, scored 13 points per game while shooting 61 percent from the field, including 63 percent on three-pointers.

Perhaps more important, Cross saw significant improvement in the play of point guards Redmon, Shaquille White-Miller, and Cameron Callert. “It seems like our assist-to-turnover ratio was from last year have been rectified,” Cross says. “A big part of that is having three point guards who are all playing significant minutes, and playing two of them at a time really helps in that area.”

Ironically, the upgraded point guard play came as the Mavericks emphasized an up-tempo style to increase fast breaks and apply pressure to the Canadian teams’ defenses. Cross expects to carry that style into the regular season.
Earthquakes can’t be stopped or predicted, but they can be understood. Research by UT Arlington scientists and engineers shows promise in mitigating the types of disasters that recently devastated Japan and Haiti. BY DAVID HOUSE

Building to Survive Earth’s Killer Crust

On a pleasant March afternoon earlier this year, Paul Hayashi and his dog were taking one of their twice-daily strolls along red brick footpaths in a picturesque neighborhood park in Katori, Chiba Prefecture, Japan. Dr. Hayashi, an economics professor emeritus who retired in 2002 after 35 years at UT Arlington, returned to his native Japan in 2004 with his wife. That little park is a haven of serenity undisturbed by Tokyo’s massive Narita International Airport nearby and the crush of a population exceeding 30 million in Greater Tokyo on the island of Honshu. But at 2:46 p.m. March 11, 2011, as Hayashi and his dog ambled toward a rose garden, the land suddenly pitched and rolled in violent undulations that lasted about 10 seconds. They had to sit down on the heaving ground.

“I could not stand still,” he says. Hayashi instantly recognized an earthquake. He grew up with quakes and aftershocks. Japan annually endures 1,500 quakes of varying intensity, the seismic consequence of Earth’s colossal, unpredictable tectonic mess.

Like an eggshell broken into jagged pieces, Earth’s crust comprises 15 major slabs of rock 50-250 miles thick. These tectonic plates float in all directions at up to 20 centimeters a year, colliding with and side-swiping and overlapping each other. In time, their stressed boundaries can rupture, releasing pent-up energy.

On March 11 off Honshu’s northeast coast, extraordinary stress had built up in a fault where the vast Pacific plate slides beneath the North American plate and Japan itself, according to a United States Geological Survey (USGS) analysis. In an instant, the fault fractured, thrusting up into the sea 130 feet along an area 190 miles long and creating a monster—the fifth-largest earthquake in recorded history.

“I could not believe I was experiencing an earthquake of that magnitude,” Hayashi says. “It was frightening. When I returned home, my wife and I talked about how bad the earthquake was. Our dogs were so frightened that they refused to go to their room.”

The Hayashis soon learned that the epicenter of a magnitude 9.0 quake was just 231 miles northeast of Tokyo, where observers described high-rise buildings swaying like trees in the wind.

Worse, a massive quake-spawned tsunami breached seawalls at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant 150 miles north of Tokyo. Inundated, the plant lost power, which led to a meltdown in three of its six reactors. The tsunami washed away tens of thousands of structures and virtually everything in its path—factories, shipping operations, transportation systems—along hundreds of miles of coastline and for miles inland.

The twin disaster left 25,000 people dead or missing and an official estimate of at least $250 billion in damage. A catastrophic blow to life and commerce, including the auto and high-tech industries, it left Japan’s economy reeling.
**MINIMIZING THE DESTRUCTION**

**They’re no stopping or predicting such events. But a detailed understanding of plate tectonics and related volcanism, earth and environmental sciences Professor Glen Mattioli, uses satellite and terrestrial geodetic techniques to study earthquake- and volcano-induced ground deformation.**

Shih-Ho “Simon” Chao, assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, concentrates on developing designs and construction materials to better withstand violent shaking. A native of seismically active Taiwan, Dr. Chao was inspired to pursue his Ph.D. after experiencing a 7.7 quake in Taiwan in 1999 that irreparably damaged 10,000 buildings, killed 3,000 people, and left another 100,000 homeless.

He sometimes partners with soil expert Anand Puppala in projects to help buildings withstand violent shaking.

This year’s Great East Japan Earthquake drew intense interest from the UT Arlington faculty members. Chao notes that limited damage in Tokyo reflected how Japan’s earthquake-awareness campaigns and newly advanced building codes and engineering, California, riddled with geological faults, needs more materials and innovative engineering like Japan’s to prepare for the “big one” that’s expected at any time, he says.

Chao is principal investigator for an engineering project that, with a $1 million, three-year NSF grant, is looking for designs in steel trusses that high-performance steel fibers replace most conventional concrete beams until they collapse.

The work examines a building’s survivability when earthquake really hit home. I knew immediately that Haiti faced the imminent threat of a strong earthquake that rocks Haiti in January 2010.

Just a year earlier, she, Mattioli, and a group of Purdue engineers, architects, and others in related industries with whom she was working, had helped project an 8.0 quake where the March 11 magnitude 9.0 quake occurred.

Mattioli is a key player in shaping COCONet’s circum-Caribbean operation. He believes its prospects are excellent, noting Japanese scientists’ success with a circum-Pacific network of global positioning stations for the international geo-scientific community. Data is transmitted to an archive at Boulder, Colo.–based UNAVCO, a university consortium funded by the NSF and NASA.

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WHAT’S AT FAULT?

Pamela Jansma and Glen Mattioli found strong evidence that a previously unmapped fault caused the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

**“New technologies, design methods, and materials could minimize the losses in life and property.”**

Professor Pamela Jansma, dean of the College of Science, specializes in neo-tectonics, examining the movement of Earth’s crust to find ways of predicting tectonic activity. Her husband, earth and environmental sciences Professor Glen Mattioli, uses satellite and terrestrial geodetic techniques to study earthquake- and volcano-induced ground deformation.

Jansma found strong evidence that an unmapped Léogâne fault. Their resulting paper was published in the journal Nature Geoscience.

Last year alone, the USGS recorded 21,541 quakes that the ground is still there, and the red brick footpaths. For Hayashi and all who are vulnerable to quakes, it’s the falling objects.”


driven global positioning system, which transformed the field of neo-tectonics, continues to riddle the world with geological faults, needs more materials and innovative engineering like Japan’s, Chao says, “is the increased risk that hazards present as the world’s population grows and that increased understanding and monitoring of hazards is essential to mitigate those increased risks.”

A huge step forward involves refining the satellite

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OK, so some of these things are in plain sight (it’s the stories behind them that will amaze you). Others are far off the beaten path—even invisible to the naked eye—but just as interesting. They all have one thing in common: They’re unique to UT Arlington. In no particular order, here’s our unofficial, totally subjective, somewhat useful list of 25 unsung campus gems.

**Big Bang Theory**

If another university tries to invade the campus, fear not. We have major firepower: UT Arlington owns three Korean War-era 75mm pack howitzer cannons. The artillery tradition began when UT Arlington was known as North Texas Agricultural College and ROTC participation was mandatory. NTAC had one cannon, the euphonious Little Bertha, which was fired mostly at football games, but it disappeared during the Arlington State College years and wasn’t replaced. In 1983 the Corps of Cadets brought back the bang, acquiring six cannons: Little Bertha IV, Molly Pitcher, Gabriel, Damien, Munden’s Muzzle, and Roaring Rebel III. Collectively known as the Carlisle Cannons, they fired shots at 24 University events annually and helped set the clocks on campus after daylight savings time. In 2001 the University disbanded the cannons due to budget concerns, donating five of the six to other institutions. Bertha stayed. By 2009 the Military Science Department had reacquired two of the weapons. Today an ROTC student organization maintains the three cannons, which are fired on special occasions.

**Writing on the Wall**

Frank Lloyd Wright is hiding on campus. Michelangelo and Le Corbusier, too. To find them, head to the Architecture Building, where the names of these and other famous architects are inlaid on green tiles lining the breezeway. The eye-catching decorative element was conceived by the building’s designers—Pratt, Box, Henderson, and Partners—as a way to pay homage to the masters. The Dallas architectural firm also created the highly stylized font in which the names are written. Graffiti never looked so good.
Students wanting to ace a test often wear a rose on their lapel. The bust of E.H. Hereford’s statue heads up the Student Activities Center, which was renovated in 2004. The bust is a copy of the original statue, which is still in place in the Student Union. The statue was purchased by the Student Union Board in 1959 and installed in 1960. That same year, the statue was designated a historical landmark by the City of Arlington. The statue has been repaired several times over the years, most recently in 2004, when the Student Union Board cleaned, painted, and reinstalled the statue. The statue is a popular spot for students to take photos and is a symbol of the university’s history and heritage.
HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR
Three colors, to be exact. On the Library and University Center mall, you’ll find large, white, fiberglass horses adorned with handprints, signatures, Greek letters, and messages of Maverick pride. Following the MavsMeet AfterParty, an event welcoming students to campus each fall, new Mavericks decorate the horses in shades of orange and blue. The tradition started in 2009. “The goal is to continue adding these to the stampede around campus,” says Seth Rissi, director of Greek Life and University Events. Web extra: Watch a video at uta.edu/utamagazine.

IT’S NOT EASY BEING GREEN
Check out the2015-16 UT Arlington Library’s Green Roof!

Beyond the Call of Duty
How many universities have a Medal of Honor on display? Alumnus Noel Kearby was a decorated World War II fighter pilot before he was killed in action. His numerous awards included the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military recognition for valor in combat. Col. Kearby’s family donated the medal to the University, and it hangs in College Hall.

Our Very Own X-Files
In July 1947 something mysterious crashed outside Roswell, N.M. We may never know what really happened, but photographs from the Star-Zone collection, part of the UT Arlington Library’s Special Collections, may offer clues. The images, which were taken at the Fort Worth Army Air Field by J. Bond Johnson, are among the most frequently requested items in Special Collections.

POTTY HUMOR
Shakespeare aficionados can have their round through the Central Library. Our newest acquisition is the oldest published item in the library and is the only known National Geographic Society map with the oceans blue. In 1492 Columbus sailed the oceans blue. In 1492 Columbus sailed.

Dream of a Different Color
In 1965, the facility provoked double takes and raised eyebrows. The design garnered attention in its first decade, but photographs from the Star-Zone collection, part of the UT Arlington Library’s Special Collections, may offer clues. The images, which were taken at the Fort Worth Army Air Field by J. Bond Johnson, are among the most frequently requested items in Special Collections.

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Genetic Precision
It’s called the Roche GS FLX 454 sequencer. If the name alone doesn’t impress you, look at what it can do. Tucked away in a sixth floor office of the Life Science Building, this state-of-the-art instrument is so precise that one person could sequence the entire human genome anew in 13 days. Biologists and other researchers use it to help illuminate genome changes that make people susceptible to diseases. UT Arlington is the only university in North Texas with a Roche 454.

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COMING TO AMERICA

After fleeing war-torn Nicaragua in 1979, a young Alex del Carmen and his family arrived in Seattle, only to return home when his father was denied political asylum. They eventually made it to America, where del Carmen, deeply impacted by the brutality he witnessed as a child, has become a noted criminologist.

In the case of UT Arlington’s Alejandro del Carmen, it was the brutality of war. Beth Mancini endured the death of both parents at a young age. Larry Watson worked in adoption for years, becoming closely involved in a case before teaching and publishing papers on the subject. These experiences shaped their lives and drive their quest for a better world.

ALEJANDRO DEL CARMEN A FIGHTING CHANCE

Dr. del Carmen was 10 when war ignited in him a passion for understanding evil in order to fight it. He was born in a small Nicaraguan town worlds away from UT Arlington’s Criminology and Criminal Justice Department, which he has chaired since 2002. Jinotepe sits inland about 40 kilometers outside the capital city of Managua. The Catholic church in the plaza was a part of daily life. “My alarm clock was the bells of the church at 7 a.m.,” he says. His father was an architect, and the family was involved in the coffee industry in a country the Somoza regime had ruled since 1936.

Life was comfortable until the civil war began in 1977. As a boy, del Carmen remembers sitting in the living area, his mother cutting his hair, and hearing tanks roll into the neighborhood. “It soon began to dawn on me that my life was going to change dramatically.”

First there were regular trips to hide underneath the bathroom sink when the airplanes came. Then there were the smells, the flames, the screams of the dying. After the Sandinista rebels commandeered the church, the bells would ring all night, supplemented by loudspeakers broadcasting propaganda, including the message that the rebels intended to “kill the bourgeoisie,” and that meant people like the del Carmens.

Beneath the ever-present fear were other, more portentous thoughts. “For me there was a fascination with why people would elevate themselves to that level of hatred for each other. I didn’t really understand how I was going to manifest that in my life. I’d gone from leading a sheltered life to discovering there was much evil in the world.”

A few days before the communist regime took the country, del Carmen’s father gave up on his optimism (most Nicaraguans had assumed the United States, which had supported the Somoza regime for 40 years, would intervene) and decided to get out. For part of the journey to the Managua airport, he tied a handkerchief to the car’s antenna, explaining, “That way they won’t shoot at us. They’ll know we’re civilians.”

In Managua, visas in hand, the del Carmens were delayed by barricades set up by both the Sandinistas and the government soldiers. Crossing the Sandinista side, the smell of dead bodies filled the air. “They were everywhere; there were bodies in the middle of the streets. I remember being surprised at how swollen a body gets outside after a few days.”

The family finally made it and boarded a packed, decrepit aircraft bound for Guatemala. At age 11, Alejandro was leaving the only country he’d ever known, with only one piece of luggage. The family eventually reached Seattle, where the father had a job with an architecture firm and applied for political asylum.

Anyone who labels college professors a dry, academic lot should delve a little further into what makes them tick. Often the research studies and scholarly pursuits of these great minds are driven by something more elemental than the need to learn, by passions born of key events—sometimes tragic, sometimes heartening.

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"You go back to a memory and realize you go back to a nightmare. Communism affects every moment, every second of your life.”

The relief was short-lived. The U.S. government rejected the del Carmens’ application, and they returned to a very different Nicaragua in 1980. The communist regime was in control.

“You go back to a memory and realize you go back to a nightmare. Communism affects every moment, every second of your life.”

Groups roaming the neighborhood would spy on families, questioning their comings and goings. When the father put up a Christmas tree, he was ordered to take it down because it was a symbol of capitalism. Alejandro told his father to defy the order, and the tree stayed up.

Finally, the family’s luck changed. Alejandro found in his grandmother’s effects an envelope with his father’s name on it that bore the U.S. embassy seal. The grandmother, who had lived in the United States, had registered her son, Alejandro’s dad, as an American born in Nicaragua, so they were free to live in America. The family settled in Huntsville, Ala.

Alejandro’s father wanted him to become an architect, but that first criminology class changed everything. “My eyes really opened,” del Carmen says. “I got to learn about why people do what they do.” This is where he could help, where he could “give something back to the world for the betterment of humanity.”

LARRY WATSON  HEARING A SILENT CALL

This day in China when he met Amy, a tiny, deaf orphan destined for a life on the streets, unwanted and unloved, changed Watson’s life. “That little girl just took me over,” says the social work assistant professor and Distinguished Alumna.

Watson, who holds master’s and doctoral degrees from UT Arlington, had every reason to be jaded or at least matter-of-fact about kids in Amy’s situation. He had spent years at Methodist Mission Home in San Antonio, an adoption agency and vocational rehabilitation center, serving as president of the organization from 1994 to 2000 after going to work there in 1986.

By the time he met Amy in the late 1990s, he’d seen thousands of children who needed homes.

“A deaf child in a Chinese orphanage has almost no chance of adoption, and agencies tend to be filled with little girls because of China’s one-child policy (parents want to keep boys). At 15 or 16, Amy would likely be put on the streets to fend for herself.”

Watson continued his trip, but not before Amy signed her name to him, and then someone took a photo of the two of them signing it together. He showed the picture to the woman in charge of vocational rehab at Methodist Mission Home. As he tells it, she took one look and said, “I’m going to adopt that baby!”

Theresa Johnson laughs and remembers it a little differently. “Larry’s words were, ‘You know a lot of deaf people, surely you can find a family for her.’”

Johnson put out feelers but “would go home and just feel terrible” about Amy. Johnson’s birth daughter was 25, and Johnson was 45. “It was crazy” but adopting Amy “was the right thing to do, and it all fell into place.”

That was 1999. Amy now lives with her mother and stepfather, and is a straight-A student at the Texas School for the Deaf doing college-level math at age 17.

Watson, inspired by his career at the mission and moved by his relationship with Amy, shifted to public policy to cut a wider swath in the adoption field. He earned his Ph.D. in public administration in 2007 and applies his expertise by teaching and working to change adoption policy. He has published a paper favoring open adoption as a result of his years watching adoptees struggle to learn who they are.

He stays in touch with Amy, and Johnson says he has been inspired by the example of what she needs. After all, he saw it so that the little girl destined for the streets has a home in Texas today.

“Some of our research indicated that we needed to simplify what we taught in CPR classes and focus on the skills of CPR,” she says. “What we didn’t spend enough time doing was teaching how to push and blow.”

Mancini, a fellow of the National League for Nursing’s prestigious Academy of Nursing Education, began her career as a staff nurse in 1976 in Rhode Island. A decade later, she had a master’s degree in nursing administration and was director of emergency services at Parkland Health and Hospital System in Dallas. Before she earned her Ph.D. in public and urban affairs at UT Arlington, she was vice president and then senior vice president of nursing administration at Parkland. She chose public and urban affairs for her doctorate because she wanted to reach as many people as possible through advocacy and public policy while still teaching.

“If I can help save even one more life by increasing the number of people with the confidence and skills to step up in an emergency and say, ‘I know CPR, I’ll do this,’ then it’s worth it.”

BETH MANCINI HEART OF THE MATTER

Dr. Mancini leads the globe-trotting life of an international expert. She checks off some of the places she went last year: Japan, Australia, Hong Kong, London, Canada, Chicago, Miami.

Her mission is serious. The College of Nursing associate dean helps establish worldwide guidelines and set public policy for teaching and practicing CPR.

She wants to see the lifesaving technique become common knowledge. She also teaches classes, helps stage CPR-related events, and does research.

Her relentless devotion derives from two childhood tragedies. When she was 16, her father died of sudden cardiac arrest. A year later, her mother died after complications of cardiac surgery. Though decades have passed, Mancini still tears up when she talks about what drives her. Inside, she says, she is still that teenager who lost her parents.

“If I had known then what I know today, perhaps my parents would still be alive.”

One message she wants to spread is that some CPR, even with less than perfect technique, is better than no CPR. For example, if someone suffers cardiac arrest in a public place, “If you can get a bystander to do CPR, the survival rate more than doubles.”

Mancini has helped develop accessible kits for learning the lifesaving practice; the American Heart Association distributes them. The implications of her work spread into routine CPR instruction worldwide.

Remember taking a class years ago when you had to sit through a lecture on how to have a healthy heart? “Some of our research indicated that we needed to put on the streets to fend for herself.”

“Some of our research indicated that we needed to..."
At some point today you probably engaged in a social community that stretches far beyond your immediate family and friends. There’s also a good chance you did so via a smartphone, if not your personal computer or laptop. You may have scanned the news, your favorite magazine, or a best-seller on your e-reader. Perhaps you bought something using PayPal or played a game that you downloaded from the Apple store, right after you sent a tweet to your followers.

This isn’t random speculation. Facebook tops Google for weekly Internet traffic in the United States. If it were a country, Facebook would be the world’s third largest. A new member joins LinkedIn every second. In the Twitter universe, 460,000 accounts are created every day, and 1 billion tweets are sent every week. iPod application downloads hit a billion in the first nine months of their availability, and Kindle books outsold paper versions during the 2010 holidays. As of July, more than 94 million users had PayPal accounts.

When you update your Facebook status from your iPhone, buy a Kindle book on amazon.com, or use PayPal for online purchases, a UT Arlington graduate likely played a role. BY AMBER SCOTT
In 1999 the young entrepreneurs sold NVision and started Blockdot. The company has created more than a thousand interactive experiences for a range of corporate heavyweights, including American Airlines, ATRK, General Motors, Microsoft, Monster, and Verizon. In 2008 Ferguson was the creative lead behind the word game Chicktionary, an iPhone app that has been the No. 1 word game, No. 1 family game, and No. 4 app in the Apple iTunes store. "I’m fortunate to be in a tremendous industry and receive recognition for working hard while having fun," he says. Recognition, indeed. After completing a project for the last Star Wars movie, Ferguson had a Jedi named Dando Urguson. It’s all in a day’s work, and Ferguson says his passion is still going strong.

"Are you kidding? I get to make games for a living!" But the iTunes application store isn’t all fun and games. There are apps to help you exercise, manage your calories, organize your clothes, keep track of your schedule, and maybe save your life.

Justin Graham ’10, a software engineer, became interested in app development when he bought an iPhone. "The weather apps were limited at the time," he says, and the combination of iPhone technologies made the iPhone a great platform for tornado tracking. After discussing his ideas with family and friends, Graham invented TornadoSpy, which issues an iPhone alert whenever a tornado is spotted in the area. Graduated with a B.S. in aerospace engineering, Graham invented a unique, proprietary tracking algorithm, making the application extremely powerful.

"Not only do I get to work with the latest technology, I am changing the world we live in. I’m sure we’ll see some amazing things in the future."

"Every day there’s a story about a new technology, new company, or new entrepreneur who is changing the world we live in."
Excellence Personified

UT Arlington bestows highest alumni honor for accomplishments, dedication

Six alumni and a former professor were recognized for their professional achievements and service to the University at the annual Distinguished Alumni Gala in October. Jane Avila ’90, Lon Burnam ’79, Harry Dombroski ’79, Al Ellis ’65, and Keith Weiss ’73 received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Mustaqeem Ahmed ’91 received the Distinguished International Alumni Award, and Karin McCallum received the Honorary Distinguished Alumni Award.

Avila earned a Master of Science in Social Work in 1992, and has served as state representative for District 90 since 1996. His legislative work often focuses on environmental, educational, and social justice issues. Ahmed, who received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991, has served as the CEO of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. He is the founder of the nonprofit organization The Art Station, a nonprofit organization in Fort Worth, Texas, which is committed to providing art education to underserved communities. Ellis, who received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991, holds a bachelor’s degree in history. He is “of counsel” with Sidley Austin, a large international law firm in Washington, D.C. He serves as the industry lead for the Aerospace Manufacturing Alliance (AMA) and is responsible for developing the AMA’s strategies and for overseeing its budget. He is managing director of DHL Global Forwarding Bangladesh. At UT Arlington he has funded the Robert M. Boren Professorship in Communication. She is a member of the Academy of International Business and the Academy of Management. She is a recipient of numerous awards for her research on the impact of media on the news.”

The 2011 Distinguished Alumni Gala honored six former students and a longtime professor.

Roland Fryer ’98 tackles counterintuitive subjects with a straight-ahead rationalism you’d expect from a nationally acclaimed economist. Much of his vast body of research, which has been featured on 60 Minutes and in Time magazine, The New York Times, and numerous other media outlets, focuses on the black-white economic and social divide. In September the MacArthur Foundation named Dr. Fryer one of 22 MacArthur Fellows for 2011. Ohm called “genius grants,” the awards recognize creativity, originality, and potential to make contributions to society and include $500,000 in support over five years. Fellowships come without stipulations or reporting requirements. Fryer is the Robert M. Boren Professor of Economics at Harvard University. He is also founder and director of Harvard’s Education Innovation Laboratory and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Through theoretical investigations and quantitative analysis, he has explored the cognitive underpinnings of racial discrimination, labor market inequalities, and the educational trajectory of minority children. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991.

The 2011 Distinguished Alumni Gala honored six former students and a longtime professor.

SINGING A NEW TUNE The UT Arlington alma mater, Forever Arlington, has a new melody that better suits the concert hall as well as the basketball arena. Sung publicly for the first time at the 2011 MavMeet Convocation by noted composer George Chavez, an associate professor in the Department of Music. Dr. Chavez was charged with penning a tune that was less formal and less vocally complex than the original, composed in 1967 by Lucien Calliet. The lyrics, written by two students during the 1939-40 academic year, remain the same.

ALUMNI SELECTED FOR NATIONAL ‘GENIUS GRANT’

You’ve heard that “once a Maverick, always a Maverick.” But after you earn your diploma and leave UT Arlington, how do you maintain that Maverick spirit and University pride?

It can be difficult to stay engaged when you move away. One solution: a revamped Alumni Association website.

Launched in August, the site functions similarly to popular social networking venues but offers more security and more customization and is exclusive to alumni and Alumni Association members. Users can post photos albums and slideshows, YouTube videos, and even blog posts on their profile pages and share them with friends on the site.

Another helpful feature is the Career Center, where users can find mentors, share resumes with other alumni and potential employers, post job openings at their companies, or locate career opportunities. The site works seamlessly with social networking platforms, allowing users to link Facebook, MySpace, or LinkedIn member pages to their profile pages. Other improvements include RSS feeds, a tool to find old classmates, an easy way to update your contact information and control email messages you receive from the Alumni Association, better navigation, and increased page-loading speed.

“We’re excited about the site’s improved functionality and the opportunity to have an online community,” says Zack Kulesz, the Alumni Association’s assistant director of communications. “But after you earn your diploma and leave UT Arlington, how do you maintain that Maverick spirit and University pride?”

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 heeft een verbetering in functionele kwaliteit, het is sneller, meer interactieve website, onze alumni zullen niet alleen een betere website krijgen, maar ook navigatie en controle/overdracht e-mailberichten die u ontvangt. Andere verbeteringen include RSS feeds, een toepassing om oude klasgenoten te vinden, een eenvoudige manier om uw contactgegevens te actualiseren en controle/overdracht e-mailberichten die u ontvangt van de Alumni Association, betere navigatie, en vergrootte pagina-opladen snelheid.

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They say you have to love the blues to sing the blues. Not so for Jim Ashworth. Life is good for the 1973 business graduate. As vice president of Marshall Career Service, he places senior-level accounting and financial professionals with major corporations in North Texas. He’s a long-term member of the Pinnacle Society, a national organization reserved for the top 75 performers in his field.

The backyard of his home near Aledo has a swimming pool, putting green, zip line, and playground for the grandparents. But it’s what goes on inside the house that opens eyes—and ears. Ashworth and musical partner Bryan Freeze are Dr. Wu’s award-winning blues band named for a favorite Steely Dan song, “Like Steely Dan” (really Donald Fagen and Walter Becker). Dr. Wu’s house is a studio where top musicians to polish its sound. Ashworth and Freeze wrote all but one of the 24 songs on Dr. Wu’s two Grammy-nominated albums, which can be sampled at texasblues.org.

“Bryan and I decided we wanted to win a Grammy and blues would be the category we’d shoot for,” Ashworth says. “I’m not shocked that we were nominated. I’m mad that we didn’t win.”

The songs were recorded at Dr. Wu Studios, an upstairs lair at Ashworth’s home that boasts one of the wildest guitar collections around. One of the 41 vintage instruments hanging on the wall belonged to a Beatle. “To avoid tempting visitors, he won’t say which Beatle,” Ashworth says. “and I am so excited about getting a Beatles gift from him back, and the struggle was on!” After several intense takes, Bell took some deep bruises home with her. “It was an incredible experience, and I was proud of myself for being able to stand my ground with such a respected and established actor.” From the time she was a child, Bell knew she wanted to act. That early interest flourished at UT Arlington, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in communication and minored in theater arts. Her love of acting burned unabated today. “I’m not shocked that we were nominated; I’m mad at Texasblues.org. "It’s fun to see them take your advice and become successful,” he says.

Blues Ain’t So Bad

Alumnus Jim Ashworth nominated for Grammys

A PASSION FOR PERFORMING

Grace Bell got knocked around by CSI: Miami star David Caruso once, and she’s pretty proud of it. It was all in a day’s work for the 2005 graduate, who shared a scene with Caruso on the hit CBS show. “I played a paramedic trying to save my partner’s life,” she says. “Suddenly, and totally off-script, David tried to push me out of the way and renominate his partner on his own. I pushed him back, and the struggle was on!” After several intense takes, Bell took some deep bruises home with her. “It was an incredible experience, and I was proud of myself for being able to stand my ground with such a respected and established actor.” From the time she was a child, Bell knew she wanted to act. That early interest flourished at UT Arlington, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in communication and minored in theater arts. Her love of acting burned unabated today. “I’m not shocked that we were nominated; I’m mad at Texasblues.org. "It’s fun to see them take your advice and become successful,” he says.

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A new distinguished professorship will honor Fort Worth physicist and businessman Richard Claytor while strengthening the University’s cutting-edge optics-related research. A $500,000 endowment established through a gift from Nelson Claytor, Richard’s son, will fund the professorship. Richard founded Fresnel Technologies, a leading manufacturer of molded plastic lenses and related optical components based in Fort Worth. He now serves as vice president. “Our hope is that this commitment leads to more and more visible support for optics in this region,” says Nelson Claytor, Fresnel Technologies president. “Where there are strong networks of companies in a technology such as optics, there are also strong universities.”

The professorship honors Richard Claytor for his role in shaping the academy and regularly recruiting students for internships and entry-level positions. The company’s support of the academy and regular mentoring of its students for internships and entry-level positions has been a longtime supporter of the academy and regularly recruits students for internships and entry-level positions. The company’s support of the academy and regular mentoring of its students for internships and entry-level positions has been a longtime supporter of the academy and regularly recruits students for internships and entry-level positions.

BNSf RAILWAY
Investing in tomorrow’s leaders can yield immediate return on investment. BNSf Railway realized through its support of UT Arlington’s Goolsby Leadership Academy, a rigorous two-year program for about 60 junior and senior business majors. Academy scholars enhance their business education by taking specialized courses and participating in activities that enhance leadership skills. BNSf Railway has been a longtime supporter of the academy and regularly recruits students for internships and entry-level positions.

Leadership Academy is an outstanding and much-cherished character. We can say that the Goolsby Leadership Academy alumni working at BNSf who consistently demonstrate refined leadership skills and admirable character. We can say that that the Goolsby Leadership Academy alumni working at BNSf who consistently demonstrate refined leadership skills and admirable character.

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“BNSf is proud to support.” In 2007 BNSf Railway established a $900,000 endowment. “Supplementing an institution dedicated to preparing future business leaders in North Texas is a natural for BNSf Railway,” says BNSf President John Ambler, at right with BNSf employee and academy alumni, Christopher Ballenger, “Dr. and Frank Leardar, Jr. “We have a number of Goolsby Leadership Academy alumni working at BNSf who consistently demonstrate refined leadership skills and admirable character. We can say that that the Goolsby Leadership Academy alumni working at BNSf who consistently demonstrate refined leadership skills and admirable character.

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ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IS NO OPTICAL ILLUSION
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Combatting Abuse
The memory of alumna and Arlington police officer Jillian Smith, who was killed in the line of duty last year, will live on through a new UT Arlington professorship. The School of Social Work Advisory Council has created the $250,000 Jillian Michele Smith Professorship in Family Violence Research. Council members committed $125,000 to establish the endowment, believing it to be the first of its kind from a University advisory group. The sum doubled through the Maverick Match program, which pairs natural gas royalties with new endowment commitments to encourage philanthropic gifts.

Social Work Professor Beverly Black, above, who joined the University in 2008, has been named the professorship’s first recipient. Dr. Black directs UT Arlington’s Social Work Ph.D. program and focuses her research on sexual assault, adolescent dating violence, prevention programming, and domestic violence.

Robert Gladney, advisory council chair, says he and fellow members were moved to create the professorship by Smith’s bravery. She was responding to a domestic violence call when she was fatally shot in December 2010. Smith, who graduated cum laude in August 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in criminology and criminal justice, was heralded as a hero because she placed herself between the gunman and a child, saving the girl’s life.

“We know that naming the professorship for her who served both to honor her actions and inspire future scholars to develop research-based practical solutions for the terrible problem of family violence,” says Gladney, division vice president for Kindred Healthcare.

School of Social Work Dean Scott Ryan says family violence can destroy generations without respect for class or creed.

“It is a scourge on the American family,” says Dr. Ryan, the Jenkins Garrett Professor of Social Work. “This kind of private support is critical to elevating the research of faculty who have distinguished themselves in the field of family violence prevention and to establishing best practices for resolving conflict before it is too late.”
Class Notes

1965

John Kilpatrick (BS, Biology) received the Desert Ram Award for outstanding contributions to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Depart- ment’s big horn restoration program.

1971

T.R. “Dean” Daniel (BS, Biology) has been named president of the Council on Military Education in Texas for 1971. Dr. Daniel (BS, Biology) graduated in 1965 from the Department of Education at the University of Arvansas and has been involved in various military education programs since then. He is a retired professor and the Twenty-First Century Endowed Chair in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Arvansas.

1976

Bob Wittkower (BS, Chemi- stry) is the head of chemical and physical sciences at the University of Oklahoma. As an industry leader, he has made significant contributions to the advancement of technology and diversity.

Ron L. Williams (BSA, Business Administration) received the College of Business Alumni Award for Extraordinary Service at the executive director of the University Center for Business Education in this Houston. He has been the Group Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Educational Administrators. He is principal at Edbrook International in. He is president of the National Association of Colleges and Schools and has served on the NAFED board since 1977.

1981

Richard Holden (BS, Political Science) is the chairman of the Houston Area Political Party. He previously served as acting city manager and has worked in city management in Harris County, where he served in 1977 as chief scout executive for Boy Scouts of America. He chairs the advisory council for the College of Business.

1982

Patti Soch (BSA, Accounting) oversees all accounting, contracting, facilities, and HR functions as assistant vice president of finance and operations at Gazzard, a gathering us company based in Austin.

1984

Mary Henry (BS, Physi- cal Therapy) has been a superintendent of schools for the Fort Worth Independent School District since 1984. She is president of the American Academy of Critical-Care Nursing. She also serves as a consultant for several health care agencies. She is a certified treaty professional and teaches in the Department of Health Care Executives.

1986

Barbara Holtens (BSN) is manager of the Texas School Health Program in Southeast Texas. She received her BSN from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She is a registered nurse in the State of Texas and is certified in health education and nursing supervision.

1987

Richard Weiss (BS, Mathematics) is a chief information officer at TIAA for North America. He is a senior vice president of the company’s Chief Information Officer (CIO) team.

1988

Brent Wame (BS, Biology) is the head of research at Takeda Pharmaceuticals in North Austin. He is an executive director of the Research Triangle Park Foundation.

1990

Sandra Austin (BS, Communication) is the executive director of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. She is also a member of the Texas Academy of Science.

1991

Sime Bertelt (BS, Communication) is executive director of the Historical Society of Rock County, in Reading, Pa. He is a past president of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. He is a member of the Texas Academy of Science.

1992

Danielle Diccut (BS, Biology) is a marine biologist at Los Altas Medical Center in San Antonio. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and has been involved in various marine biology research projects. She is a member of the Texas Academy of Science.

1993

Bill Gibson (BS, Finance) is an independent consultant and author of the book “The Art of Investing.” He is a member of the Texas Academy of Science.

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J. Lee Whittington (BS, Biology) is an executive director of the Texas Academy of Science. He has been involved in various scientific research projects and has been a member of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. He is a member of the Texas Academy of Science.
2003 Jennifer Anderson (Principal) is an assistant principal at Pate Elementary School in Arlington. Ryan Gutt (BS, BA, MS, Educational Administration) is a principal at the Dallas Museum of Nature in Dallas.

2001 Kya Eastlick (MEd) is principal at Brown Elementary School in Mansfield. Joe Guzmán (BA, Broadcast Communication) is morning anchor for KDFW-TV in Dallas/Fort Worth. Eric Schubert (BS, ’10 MA, Electrical Engineering; ’10 PhD, Materials Science and Engineering) is principal engineer, working in the thin film business, for Advanced Microsystems Technology Development in the Greater New York City area. T.J. Rucker (Education Certificate) is principal at the Compass Center in the Jacksboro (Texas) Independent School District. Matt Stiles (J.D., Journalism) is a former reporter in New York Magazine as one of “21 New Media Innovators.” He has helped create several data-driven news applications for the nonprofit Texas Tribune. Since May, he has been a data reporter and producer for Investigative Reporters and Editors as a data journalism fellow, which sends a team of reporters to delve into public policy issues.

2002 Patty Ayala (MA) is a caseworker at Timberview High School in Mansfield. LaTisha Drinks (BS, Elementary Education) is a former principal at Becker Elementary School in Fort Worth. Killian McGee (BS) is chief nursing officer for Raza Medical Center in Fort Worth.

2003 Hashem Assadullahi (BM) is director of jazz studies at Monitor High School in Mansfield. Rasool Sabir (BM) is director of jazz studies at the University of Colorado.

2004 Vernon Brown (BM) is principal of Hillsboro High School in Gainesville. Maria de los Angeles Carrillo (BA, Broadcast Communication) is doing research at the University of Colorado. Nadine May (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a postdoctoral research scientist for Matheson Tri-Gas based in Springdale, Ark.

2005 Valerie Bruce (MEd) is an assistant principal at North Side High School in Fort Worth. Rachel Courter (BS, Communication) is a principal in Arlington.

2006 Jennifer Parker (MEd) is principal of North Side High School in Fort Worth. Robert Rivera (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a principal in Sugar Land, Tex. Liz Mallon (BS, Telecommunications, ’10 MA, Psychology, PhD, Industrial/Organizational Psychology) is an assistant principal at Trigild, a San Diego firm specializing in decorative glass, sculpture, in Nanjing, China.

2008 Alex Alphonse (M, Materials Science and Engineering) is a principal at Pate Elementary School in Arlington. Michael Ramsey (M, Materials Science and Engineering) is an assistant principal and technology specialist for NanoTech Innovations. Jessica Carrillo (M, Computer Science and Engineering) is a postdoctoral fellow at the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

2010 Drew Lowen (BM) is an assistant principal at Panther Creek Elementary School in Fort Worth. Matt Cardenas (MA, English) is a principal at North Side High School in Fort Worth. Kendra Bowen (MEd, Educational Administration) is an assistant principal at Texas A&M University. Kendra Bowen (MEd) is principal at North Rose in Mansfield. Arlene Julius (MEd, Educational Administration) is an assistant principal at H.E.B. Elementary School in Fort Worth.

2011 Kendall Brown (M, Criminal Justice and Criminology; MS, Education) is an assistant professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. Annette Alvarado (MEd, Educational Administration) is an assistant principal at Kennedy Elementary School in Arlington. Shang Tse (M, Information Technology) is a principal assistant at Kimball Elementary School in Dallas. Raghunath Ganapathi (M, Information Technology) is director of Digital Marketing at Bass Hall in Fort Worth.

2012 Jared Barnes (MEd) is an assistant principal at Boyd Elementary School in Fort Worth. T.J. Rucker (Education Certificate) is principal at the Compass Center in the Jacksboro (Texas) Independent School District. Matt Stiles (J.D., Journalism) is a former reporter in New York Magazine as one of “21 New Media Innovators.”

2013 Jennifer Anderson (Principal) is an assistant principal at Pate Elementary School in Arlington. Ryan Gutt (BS, BA, MS, Educational Administration) is a principal at the Dallas Museum of Nature in Dallas.
In Memoriam

1940s

H.B. Wofford Jr. (’47, Engineering), 85, June 23 in Irving. Mr. Wofford served as a registered professional engineer for 40 years, retiring in 1980. Mr. Wofford graduated from SMU and worked for Freese, East & Associates, later in life working on projects in Europe.

1950s

R. Lee Seath (’54, General Studies), 82, April 11 in Cleburne. Mr. Seath was a distinguished scholar and administrator, serving as interim dean three times before retiring in 2008. He was appointed by the Board of Regents to be dean of the College of Liberal Arts in 1961. He served on the alumni board for UT Arlington in 1961. He served on the alumni board for UT Arlington in 1961.

1960s

James Edwin McDowell (’61, BBA, Business Administration), 79, April 18 in Fort Worth. Mr. McDowell was a member of the first graduating class from the new Arlington State College (now UT Arlington) business program.

1970s


1980s

James W. Callcott (‘61, AS, BBA, Business Administration), 80, May 29 in Aledo. Mr. Callcott was founding director of the school of business administration and was chair of the board for UT Arlington in 1961. He served on the alumni board for UT Arlington in 1961.

1990s

Lisa Gilbert Cash (’91, BA, Communication Speech/Linguistics), 38, April 25 in Dallas. Ms. Cash taught for 10 years at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She was a lifetime member of Tri Delta sorority.

2000s


2010s

DONALD DWIGHT SEATH

Donald Dwight Seath, 82, May 10 in Fort Worth. Mr. Seath was a lifelong aerospace engineer, working for various companies before retiring in 2008. He was named dean, serving until 1976. He left UT Arlington to become dean of architecture at the U.S. Army Reserve.

Make a Lasting Impact

To explore estate planning options or to notify us of a gift you have established, contact Debra Purviance, director of gift planning, at 817-272-1080 or purviance@uta.edu, or uta.edu/estategiving.

Your thoughtful and creative gift planning can transform lives and make the world a better place.

Gifts through wills, trusts, life insurance policies, and retirement plans represent your vision and commitment to advance UT Arlington to new levels of excellence. Although long-range in nature, these contributions are significant in their present and future forms. Each gift makes a difference by providing educational opportunities for students, enhancing research and teaching initiatives for faculty, and creating facilities that attract the best and brightest minds. By making an estate gift, you can build a brighter future for UT Arlington and leave an indelible mark on the world.
Before joining The University of Texas System in 1965, UT Arlington was part of the Texas A&M System. In the early 1960s, a rift developed between University supporters and the A&M System board of directors over the Arlington school’s future. In 1964 the board presented a reorganization plan that proposed changing the name of Arlington State College, as UT Arlington was called then, to Texas A&M University at Arlington. Other recommendations included establishing graduate degree programs in 11 fields but granting those degrees in the name of the College Station campus. The plan outraged University supporters and spawned student protests on campus. A turning point came in 1965 when Texas Gov. John Connally announced plans to revamp the state’s higher education structure. Under his proposal, Arlington State College would become part of the UT System. Later that year, the switch became reality as both houses of the Legislature passed a bill introduced by Sen. Don Kennard of Fort Worth. Two years after joining the UT System, the college changed its name to The University of Texas at Arlington. Photograph courtesy of The University of Texas at Arlington Photographic Collection, Special Collections, UT Arlington Library.