

**GOING GREEK** Since officially coming to UTA in 1967, social fraternities and sororities have played an important role in the lives of thousands of students. p. 26

**ASSURING SUCCESS** More undergraduates are getting hands-on research opportunities as they work with faculty mentors, and the results are paying off. p. 30

**PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE** Innovative programs help UTA reach out to underrepresented college students, encouraging them to pursue their higher education dreams. p. 34

# UTArlington

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON MAGAZINE | SPRING 2015

## Engineering Speed

UTA's Formula SAE Racing Team puts students on fast track to success





**IN A FOG**

Students made their way through the E.H. Hereford University Center mall as fog enveloped the campus one morning during final exams week.

# Contents Spring 2015

## Features



### SPEED RACER 20

A look inside UTA's world-ranked Formula SAE Racing Team, which plans to race an all-electric vehicle in April. It will be the first UTA Formula car to compete in both the United States and **Germany**.

### GOING GREEK 26

Social fraternities and sororities continue to play an important role in the lives of many Mavericks.

### ASSURING SUCCESS 30

The University expands hands-on research opportunities for undergraduates.

### PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE 34

Through a range of support programs, UT Arlington helps high school students navigate the road to higher education.

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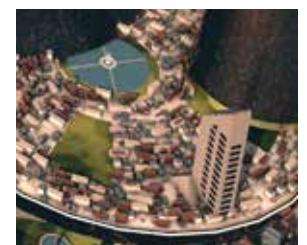
### CRASH COURSE 8

In his Honors English class, Tim Morris asks students to explore the various relationships humans have with animals, including their own pets.



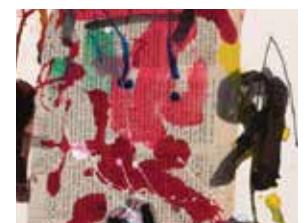
## FACULTY 11

Lt. Col. Lora Rimmer served in **Iraq** before coming to campus to head the ROTC Maverick Battalion, where she was named the U.S. Army Cadet Command's Military Science Professor of the Year.



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### CLEMENT OSIMETHA 42

Finance graduate Clement Osimetha honors his mother from **Nigeria** with a scholarship named for her.

# Message from the Editor

A few decades ago when people talked about "student engagement" on campus, they were probably referring to a marriage proposal. But these days the term measures how well students get involved in classes and campus activities.

The 2014 National Survey of Student Engagement found that students felt most connected in classrooms where professors relied more on discussion and cooperative projects than on traditional lecturing. That's something mechanical engineering Professor Bob Woods learned a long time ago.

In our cover story, Dr. Woods details how students gain hands-on experience and much more through the University's Formula SAE Racing Team. The result puts them on the fast track to successful careers.

Service learning is another component that can ignite student involvement. Prime example: La Sweet Vida campaign,

which teamed students and faculty mentors with Mission Arlington to tackle Type 2 diabetes.

Keelie Barrow, a graduate student in urban affairs, served as project manager for the program, funded by a \$25,000 Ford College Community Challenge Grant. The effort produced bilingual educational films and computer apps to help newly diagnosed diabetics and improved business processes so Mission Arlington could reach more patients.

"It was a phenomenal experience," Barrow says. "I learned what I didn't know and then worked on gaining those skills."

Armed with a certificate in nonprofit management, Barrow is excited about a career in community service. She's proof that campus engagement doesn't just benefit the student and the University. It also makes a difference in the community and the world.

—Kathryn Hopper

Web retailers push delivery boundaries for the "want it now" generation, quotes UT Arlington professor.

—@fwbusinesspress

I'm done with finals!!!! I can finally be lazy... On purpose!! #college #finalsweek #utarlington

—@reci\_symone

Happy to rep cbsdfw!  
Received 2 messages about @UTArlington putting me on their home page today.

—@ElizabethCBS11

The graduate studio I did with Dean Don Gatzke, for the West Dallas Youth Farm, featured on UT Arlington homepage.

—@kevinws

Honored to have @UTArlington as a #TAMEST15 sponsor supporting #cancerresearch and #cancertreatment in Texas.

—@TAMEST

Musicians show advantages in long-term memory, UT Arlington research says.

—@AhaClassical

Hung out with my people today and the @utarlington girls basketball squad: Ally, Chaun, Morgan and Artavia.

—@ls5694236

The University of Texas at Arlington has published a new study that may revolutionize how animals are categorized.

—@ReptileReport

@TheEllenShow Could you maybe swing by UT Arlington? —@kayleekalina

Inspiring story at Elkins! Fabian signed with UTA today for wheelchair basketball. He has inspired me in so many ways.

— @\_its43

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

# UTArlington

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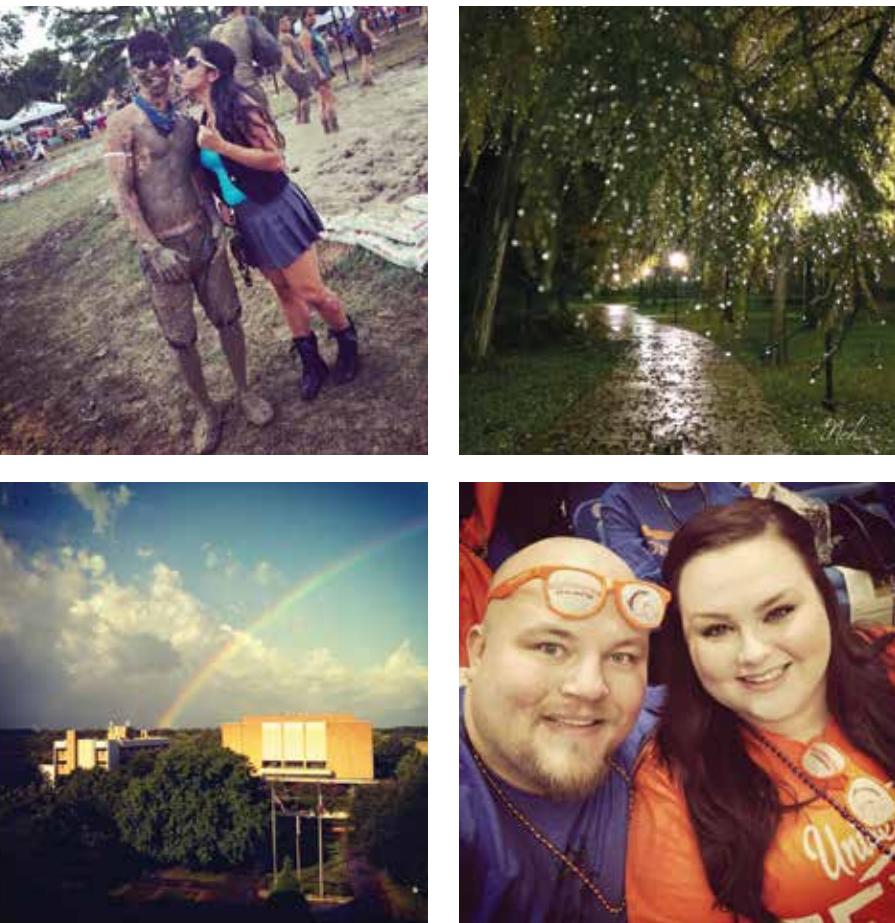


**HOMECOMING**  
UT Arlington celebrated Homecoming in November as thousands of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community members enjoyed fun and festivities. Highlights included the Distinguished Alumni Awards, The Bash dance party, Homecoming 5K run, chili cook-off, step show, street festival, and alumni gatherings. While rain forced some events inside, the downpour didn't dampen Maverick spirit. A pre-game pep rally got fans pumped up as they helped power the men's basketball team to an 87-69 victory over Houston Baptist in College Park Center. Marketing seniors Tung Nguyen and Cynthia Heisch were crowned Homecoming king and queen at half-time. Make plans to attend Homecoming 2015 scheduled for Nov. 9-14. Watch a video of Homecoming and the Distinguished Alumni Awards at [youtube.com/UTArlington](http://youtube.com/UTArlington).

# Tweets

- Honored to have had an entertaining & educational time with James Carville & Mary Matalin at #UTA. #maverick-speakers – [@RobM\\_Shorthorn](#)
- Got accepted to UT Arlington. – [@yoboyben](#)
- UT Arlington to lead \$1.6 million research project focused on digital learning. – [@Ed4Online](#)
- Finally got a #UTA sticker on my new car (6 months old). #utarlington – [@iamfelipa](#)
- If I don't get accepted into The University of Texas at Arlington, I'm gonna cry. – [@ThatkiddJoe](#)
- A film by @utarlington film
- professor Ya'Ke Smith that deals with violence in schools is raising funds! – [@IrvingISD](#)
- Had a great time with my friend Jean at UTA lecture series! Saw Mary Matalin and James Carville, so savvy and clever. I love him!! – [@chettayoda](#)
- Congrats to Kayci Moore for signing her national letter of intent to play softball at University of Texas Arlington! – [@AlexEverett10](#)
- The Starbucks on campus always plays the best music. I start dancing in line. It gets my day going. #UTA – [@ladylexis14](#)
- Got a picture with the amazing @MayorBetsyPrice after hearing her speak at #utar-
- lington Communication Day! – [@emilynnel](#)
- We wish you the very best of luck as you study and \*hopefully\* ace your final exams! – [@UTARIresearch](#)
- And Mavericks take the win!! Yea homecoming!! #uta – [@danimals\\_x](#)
- Wonderful counselor update held by UT Arlington today! Kudos! Very informative, yet relevant & to the point. Great job! – [@yovalle](#)
- Heading over to College Park Center soon to catch #UTA and #Buffalo in the Mavericks season opener. – [@CrizzyGrant](#)
- At a Movin' Mavs game. They're playing Oklahoma and are currently beating them by 34 points. #GoMavs #UTA – [@StephanieNNoell](#)
- We wish you the very best of luck as you study and \*hopefully\* ace your final exams! – [@UTARIresearch](#)
- There are as few as 10 scholarships a year for student-athletes like Fabian. That's what UTA is trying to change. – [@KENSSHSS](#)
- UT Arlington accounting degree ranked one of most affordable. – [@jmkuhn99](#)
- Got the opportunity to visit #UTA Smart Hospital. That was awesome! – [@rozbel\\_msoh](#)
- Kimicalz Last Show going on RIGHT NOW. YASSS. Come jam with me at [radio.uta.edu](http://radio.uta.edu) or download iHeart radio app search uta radio & take a listen. – [@Kimicalz\\_Reactz](#)
- Graduation ceremonies are being held at UTA. I'm happy for them. Hopefully one day it shall be ya boy. – [@TeamRod](#)
- "You want to teach more than you want to be a teacher." #utacommencement #careergoals – [@KarenHighsthoe](#)
- Looking forward to congratulating our awesome @utalington graduates crossing the stage over the next 3 days. I'm very proud of each of them. – [@VistasKarbhari](#)
- It's not graduation without the UTA Jazz Orchestra. – [@kayeaskins](#)

# Instagram



# Trending

## COMMENCEMENT

4.5 years of hard work in the books! Thanks UTA! #officiallydone #utagrad – [@LuluDiaz88](#)



Kimicalz Last Show going on RIGHT NOW. YASSS. Come jam with me at [radio.uta.edu](http://radio.uta.edu) or download iHeart radio app search uta radio & take a listen. – [@Kimicalz\\_Reactz](#)

Graduation ceremonies are being held at UTA. I'm happy for them. Hopefully one day it shall be ya boy. – [@TeamRod](#)

"You want to teach more than you want to be a teacher." #utacommencement #careergoals – [@KarenHighsthoe](#)

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It's not graduation without the UTA Jazz Orchestra. – [@kayeaskins](#)

## LET'S SOCIALIZE

Check us out online and on your favorite social media sites. We welcome your comments, posts, tweets, and career updates.

[uta.edu/utamagazine](http://uta.edu/utamagazine) Enjoy an interactive experience and view Web-only content.

[facebook.com/utamagazine](http://facebook.com/utamagazine) "Like" us and get updates in your newsfeed.

[twitter.com/utarlington](http://twitter.com/utarlington) Follow our tweets for the latest Maverick news.

[linkedin.com/in/utamagazine](http://linkedin.com/in/utamagazine) Link in and tell us about your career achievements.

# CampusBuzz

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



Ulyana Zavadskaya is one of four international Fulbright Scholars on campus this year. Also pictured, from top, Jiyea Kim of Korea, Kaija-Luisa Kurik of Ukraine, and Jeyar Alsofi of Iraq.

## International Destination

University attracts talented Fulbright Scholars from diverse regions of the world

Ulyana Zavadskaya always wanted to study abroad. So in 2012 after graduating from Belarus State Economic University in Minsk with an international marketing degree, she started applying to American universities.

"I wanted to pursue my studies in the United States," she says. "I always felt that it was the best place to study marketing."

She targeted UT Arlington and gained admission to the Master of Science in Marketing Research program, but she needed financial help. That came when she received a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, enabling her to enroll last fall.

The Fulbright is the flagship international exchange program administered by the U.S. government to increase mutual understanding between America and residents of other countries.

"UTA's program turned out to be my perfect match in terms of curriculum, internships, and the assistance that is provided to students to establish a wide network

of professional contacts," she says.

Zavadskaya is one of four Fulbright scholars—the most ever in one academic year—enrolled at UT Arlington for 2014-15. The others are Jiyea Kim of Korea, a linguistics Ph.D. student; Kaija-Luisa Kurik of Ukraine, a doctoral candidate in the School of Urban and Public Affairs; and Jeyar Alsofi of Iraq, a materials science and engineering master's student.

They are among the 800 faculty and professionals worldwide who receive Fulbright grants for advanced research and university lecturing in the United States each year.

Jay Horn, executive director of the Office of International Education, says the Fulbright program brings students to the University who are strong academically and who come from a wide range of countries.

"That international diversity brings a richness and depth to the campus experience for all of our students," he says.

**"UTA's program turned out to be my perfect match."**

**How did your film *50 Years* come about?**

I received an email from one of my professors, Bart Weiss, about the U.S. Department of Education seeking 50 students to participate in a re-creation of the Freedom Rides in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. One of the positions they wanted to fill was student documentarian, someone to make a film that encapsulated the experience of the celebratory day of events. I was challenged with describing the film I would make, if chosen.

**What was most challenging about making the film?**

I was a one-man crew. I had to conduct all operations—sound, camera, and interviews. This presents many challenges for a filmmaker. At a technical level, you have to ensure that all of your equipment is functioning fluidly while at the same time tuning in to your surroundings and making sure you are where you need to be at any given moment.

**What surprised you when you were interviewing the Freedom Riders?**

I was most surprised at the convergence of my generation and the Freedom Riders' generation. Who would have thought 50 years ago that a Mexican-American filmmaker would be sitting next to a man like Charles Person, the youngest Freedom Rider, exchanging personal stories, political stances, and aspirations for this country.

**If you could make any movie, what would it be about?**

I would explore people's plight toward the elusive American dream. I would question what that dream even means. How it's been constructed into an almost mythological tale we tell ourselves and our children.



# Crash Course Animals



**ENGL 1301**  
It's human nature to feel a connection to other living things, particularly animals. From prehistoric cave drawings in France to novels such as *Moby Dick*, animals have provided creative inspiration through the generations. English Professor Tim Morris asks students in Animals, his first-year Honors College class, to read a variety of works, from J.R. Ackerley's loving tribute to his pet German shepherd in *My Dog Tulip* to biologist Victoria Braithwaite's exploration of fish behavior, *Do Fish Feel Pain?* "This is a good topic because the students don't need a lot of experience or preparation," Dr. Morris says. "It's an interdisciplinary course and they're reading writings from different fields, but all they have to write about in their first paper is an animal and start from there." For freshman Baylee Fojtik, right, her pet cat is the perfect muse. Other students have selected squirrels, bats, ladybugs, cockroaches, even dinosaurs. "The idea is to notice things that perhaps have not been noticed in the published literature and also to cite some of the sources about the use of that animal," Morris says. "For example, how horses have been depicted in art."

## Acclaimed researcher leads integrated college



corridor into an urban amenity and trail system.

Prior to joining the University of Utah, Ellin held a series of leadership positions at Arizona State University. She directed programs in planning and urban and metropolitan studies, as well as a doctoral program in architecture and environmental design. She shaped the vision for Canalscape, an ongoing initiative to create urban hubs throughout the Phoenix area where canals meet major streets.

"When you bring architecture, urban planning, and public affairs together, the synergies are tremendous," says Dr. Ellin, who began in January as founding dean of a new college formed through the merger of the two schools.

Most recently, she served as professor and chair of the University of Utah's Department of City and Metropolitan Planning, where she worked with residents, community organizations, and city officials on The 9 Line project, an effort to convert a neglected railroad

Nan Ellin envisions great things springing from the integration of the School of Architecture and the School of Urban and Public Affairs.

She has written numerous articles and books, including *Good Urbanism: Six Steps to Creating Prosperous Places*, *Integral Urbanism*, and *Postmodern Urbanism*.

"Dr. Ellin's depth and breadth of experience bridges the disciplines of architecture, planning, and urban and public affairs, and will help position UT Arlington as a center for excellence in all aspects of sustainable urban development," UTA President Vistasp Karbharai says.



**BEST FOR VETS** UT Arlington is among the top colleges for military veterans. According to the Best for Vets: Colleges 2015 rankings by *Military Times*, the University ranked No. 36 of four-year schools that offer bachelor's or graduate degrees or both. The survey focused on veterans' academic success, including graduation, retention, persistence, and completion rates. UT Arlington has nearly 3,000 student veterans or their dependents among its more than 40,000 students. Because students are asked to identify themselves as veterans, actual veteran enrollment may be larger.



## Made in America

Grant aims to boost U.S. manufacturing

After taking a nosedive with the loss of 5.8 million factory jobs between 2000 and 2009, American manufacturing is on the upswing.

To continue the momentum, UT Arlington will use grant from the Walmart Foundation to build a robotic small motors assembly and testing system that would cut manufacturing costs and allow more goods to be produced in the United States.

The Walmart U.S. Manufacturing Innovation Grant was part of an announcement of \$4 million in awards to seven research and development institutions. Made possible through a collaboration among Walmart, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Walmart Foundation, the grants fund creation of new processes, ideas, and jobs that will boost America's growing manufacturing footprint.

Aditya Das, senior research scientist at the UT Arlington Research Institute, will lead UTA's efforts. The institute has conducted pioneering research in automated product miniaturization and system integration for more than a decade.

"We can leverage all the tools and knowledge we've built up during that time and put them to use on this project," Dr. Das says. "Walmart is committed to bringing manufacturing to America. We do our part to develop U.S. manufacturing by building a machine that helps produce these small motors."

The motors are found in toys, small appliances, electric shavers, hair dryers, electronic devices, and a bevy of other consumer goods.

Cindi Marsiglio, Walmart vice president of U.S. sourcing and manufacturing, says this year's grant recipients represent the ingenuity and inventive thinking that ultimately could unlock the full potential of manufacturing in the United States.

## Awards

### DANIEL ARMSTRONG AND RICHARD TIMMONS

Two professors known for their innovation in chemistry have been named fellows of the National Academy of Inventors. Daniel Armstrong is the UT Arlington Robert A. Welch Chair in Chemistry, and Richard Timmons is a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry. They join eight other UTA faculty and administrators previously named fellows of the NAI, which recognizes life-enhancing inventions.



### SURESH SHARMA

Physics Professor Suresh Sharma received the 2014 Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Section of the American Physical Society. The award honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Texas physics community.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

UT Arlington has been named to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The award is the federal government's top recognition for community service in higher education. Between July 2012 and 2013, UT Arlington faculty, staff, and students contributed more than 680,000 hours of service.

### PURNENDU DASGUPTA

Chemistry Professor Purnendu "Sandy" Dasgupta has been named a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Dr. Dasgupta is recognized worldwide for his pioneering work in ion chromatography, the process of separating and detecting atoms and molecules bearing a net electrical charge.

# Grants

## HAIYING HUANG

A team of engineering professors has received a \$450,000 Air Force Office of Scientific Research grant to detect early-stage damages in aircraft parts. Led by mechanical and aerospace engineering Professor Haiying Huang, the researchers are examining material surfaces at the micro- and nanoscale levels.



## ANN CAVALLO

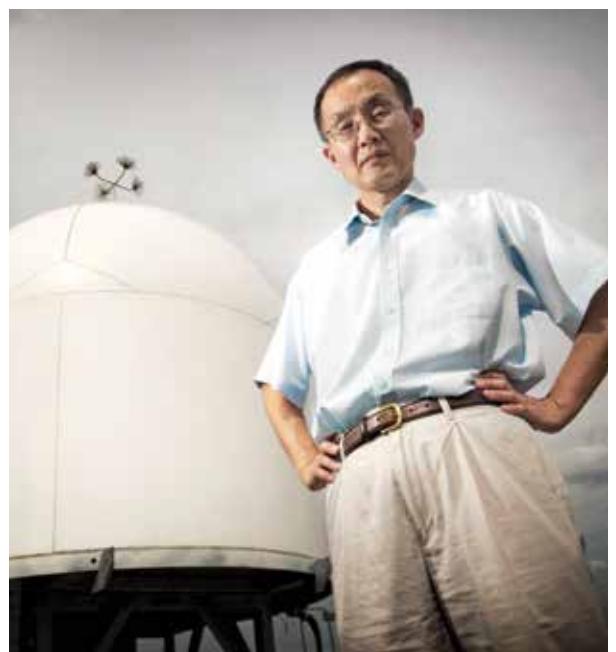
The National Science Foundation has awarded an \$800,000 Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program grant to curriculum and instruction Professor Ann Cavallo. The award provides one- to two-year scholarships to selected undergraduates pursuing teacher certification in high school mathematics, physical science, or chemistry.

## LIPING TANG

Bioengineering Professor Liping Tang has received a \$533,000 U.S. Army grant to help eradicate prostate cancer. Dr. Tang and his team are using biodegradable polymers to build artificial lymph nodes that attract prostate cancer cells.

## SOCIAL WORK

The School of Social Work has received a \$1.4 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to help increase the number of mental health and substance abuse case workers in the United States. The funding supports student internships and training at MHMR of Tarrant County and Metrocare Dallas. Enrollment in the school was up 8.7 percent in fall 2014.



# Water Works

Research quenches thirst of urban areas

Transforming water-related challenges into opportunities is key to making cities more livable.

Civil engineering Associate Professor D.J. Seo has received a four-year, \$1.2 million National Science Foundation grant to improve the sustainability of large urban areas from extreme weather, urbanization, and climate change.

Dr. Seo and his research team will integrate data from advanced weather radar, innovative wireless sensors, and crowdsourcing of data via cellphone applications to create high-resolution modeling of urban water systems.

The resulting water prediction system will use cloud computing to produce a suite of products for flash-flood forecasting, inundation mapping, water quality forecasting, storm water management, urbanization impact assessment, and climate change impact assessment and adaptation.

The grant builds on Seo's work to establish the Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA) radar system in North Texas. UT Arlington installed the first radar station in the region atop Carlisle Hall in 2012.

CASA provides weather data every minute compared to every five to six minutes with previous systems. It can focus on smaller areas, giving users more detailed information to better track storms and precipitation.

College of Engineering Dean Khosrow Behbehani believes the research will help create more sustainable urban environments.

"It will advance our understanding of urban sustainability and the associated challenges through the environmental, social, and economic needs of a large city," Dr. Behbehani says.

# UTA leading national online learning effort

Online learning continues to expand access to higher education, and UT Arlington is at the forefront of the movement.

The University's Learning Innovation and Networked Knowledge (LINK) Lab will lead a \$1.6 million national initiative to connect researchers examining the impact of digital learning on higher education.

The new Digital Learning Research Network (dLRN) is funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

LINK Lab Executive Director George Siemens will coordinate work between UT Arlington and nine institutions, including Carnegie Mellon University, Stanford University, the University of Michigan, and the Smithsonian Institution.

The grant aims to close the gap between digital learning research and its impact on practice and to amplify the breadth of research being conducted. The Digital Learning Research Network will ben-

efit universities transitioning

to digital learning as well as

learners from groups tradi-

tionally under-represented

in higher education.

"This research project will

address the barriers to digi-

tal learning and articulate the

conditions needed for all learn-

ers to succeed, better their lives,

and participate in the global

economy," Dr. Siemens says.

UT Arlington has been a

leader in online education for

years. Working with Dallas-

based Academic Partnerships,

the University provides online

bachelor's and master's degrees

in education, nursing, and

public administration. In fall

2014, 17,185 UTA students

took at least one class online,

and 13,245 had fully online

schedules.

The dLRN initiative is part

of the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation's Postsecondary

Success Strategy, which

seeks to increase the num-

ber of young adults who com-

plete postsecondary educa-

tion.



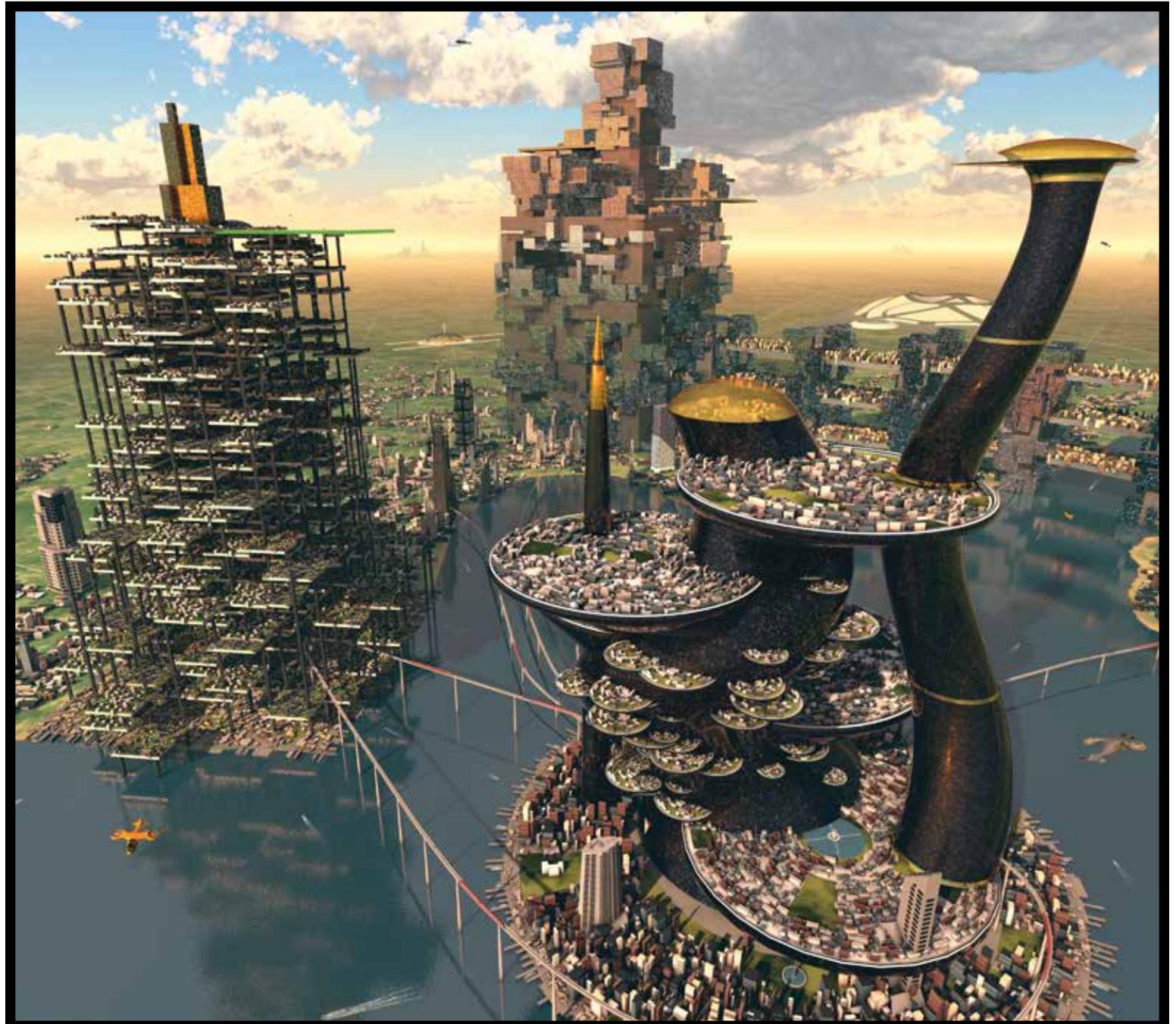
**PLUTONIUM POWER** Physics doctoral student Sarah Hernandez won first place for best poster presentation at the American Nuclear Society's Plutonium Futures-The Science 2014 conference. She presented research on the stabilization of delta phase plutonium by the element gallium. Hernandez enrolled in the physics Ph.D. program in 2010 with help from the UT Arlington Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Bridge to the Doctorate fellowship. The program provides up to \$30,000 in annual stipends and intensive mentoring for two years.



# Department of Military Science Faculty

**LT. COL. LORA RIMMER** As an undergraduate history major at the University of Kansas, Lora Rimmer found a home in the Army ROTC. "I really enjoyed the camaraderie. I enjoyed the challenge of the work we were doing, and I felt like I was pretty good at it." Commissioned as an officer in 1990, Lt. Col. Rimmer's 28-year military career includes serving as the Network Operations Officer for the First Cavalry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006-08. In 2011 she assumed command of UT Arlington's ROTC unit, the Maverick Battalion. Under her leadership, the program has grown to 147 cadets with roughly half majoring in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. Last year the U.S. Army Cadet Command named Rimmer the Professor of Military Science of the Year, chosen from among 275 professors at colleges and universities nationwide that offer Army ROTC. "The biggest reason it's exciting is because it brings attention to the program, cadets, and staff who work with me," she says. "I couldn't be successful without the quality of students and faculty we have here at UTA."

# Future High-Density Megacity, 2055



High-rise structures with levels of greenery, terraces, and open spaces. Balconies big enough to grow vegetables. Speedy mass transit, including aerial trams that zoom workers straight to high-tech offices with bubble tops for skyline views. Architecture Professor Michael Buckley believes future urbanites will enjoy all of this and more. They'll also gather at electronic forums—public areas with massive, high-resolution media boards that display international news and weather with interactive opinion polls and digital art. "A vibrant city core

must also offer broad living choices for those seeking an urbane lifestyle," says Buckley, director of UT Arlington's Center for Metropolitan Density. "It's clear that young knowledge workers want lifestyle experiences, walkable precincts, and variety in street-related retail." The center promotes greater density to foster economically productive, fiscally efficient, environmentally sustainable, and culturally supportive environments. A recent partnership with HKS Inc. embeds graduate students from Buckley's Advance Design Studio into the

architecture firm's downtown Dallas headquarters. "We get fresh insight and connection to research at the Center for Metropolitan Density," HKS President and CEO Dan Noble says. "We believe bringing the design studio into a professional office environment is a first step in engaging students in real-world challenges." Those challenges include creating higher density concepts for Dallas, Fort Worth, and San Antonio that feature increased residential choices and new office workspaces complemented by cultural and retail uses.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN DURKE

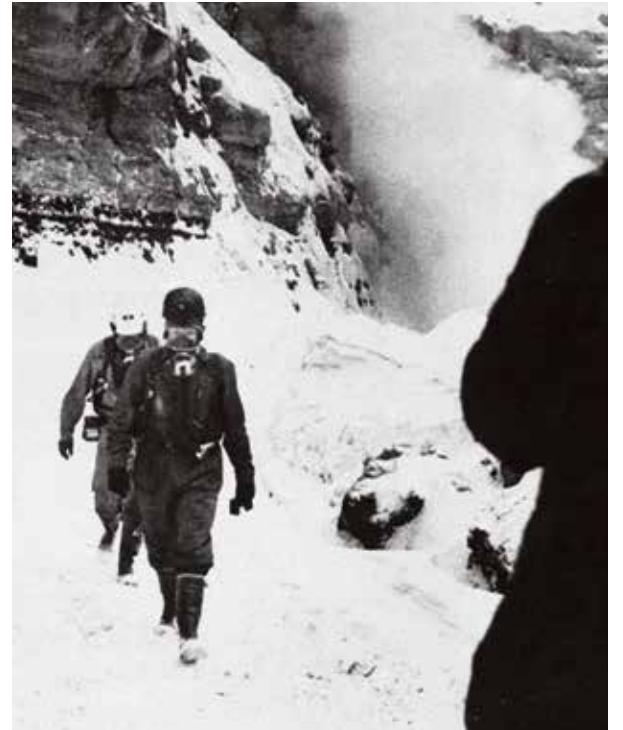
## Experienced leader to helm research efforts



Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Ceramic Society. At Sandia, Dimos has been actively involved in nanotechnologies, leading programs in materials aging and reliability and developing new energy programs in materials and in a wide range of national security research and development efforts. He played key roles in partnerships with the University of Arizona, the University of New Mexico, and The University of Texas System.

"We are thrilled to welcome Duane Dimos to UT Arlington," President Vistasp Karbhari says. "His international reputation as a scientist, his lifelong commitment to research and innovation, and his success in cultivating partnerships among government, industry, and educational institutions will inject our research endeavors with added momentum."

An expert in materials science and engineering, Dimos has published more than 140 technical papers, edited four proceedings volumes, and holds 11 patents. He is a fellow of the Materials Research



## Staying Safe

Film to showcase lessons from disaster

In December 1984, 27 miners died when fire engulfed the Wilberg Mine in Emery County, Utah. According to the U.S. Mine Rescue Association, it took a year to recover all the bodies.

UT Arlington has received a \$1.3 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to produce an oral history documentary based on the tragedy. The grant also will fund accompanying multimedia components and leadership skills training among first-line supervisors over the next three years.

The project is a partnership among NIOSH, Safety Solutions International, the UT Arlington Division for Enterprise Development, and the Department of Art and Art History.

"We're honored to know that in telling the story of the Wilberg Mine disaster through film, we'll be creating a lasting resource that will save lives by raising awareness of hazards that still exist today," says Lisa London, assistant vice president for the Division for Enterprise Development and principal investigator on the grant.

Film Lecturer Mark Clive will lead production of the documentary following a site visit to Utah this spring. While there, he and his team will interview workers and first responders who experienced and investigated the disaster.

"That fire had a huge impact on the community and others around it," Clive says. "Our documentary will be compelling and explain what was long considered one of the worst coal mining disasters in U.S. history."



**TRUNK SHOW** When Sarah Mahon saw that a massive oak tree near Texas Hall had been toppled in a powerful October storm, she created a learning opportunity. The biology doctoral student left a note for campus landscapers, asking if she could use part of the trunk to give students in plant science labs a hands-on lesson. "Some students think plants are boring," she says, "but it was a chance to show how they evolve and affect our lives." Mahon, who works in biology Professor Laura Gough's lab, says the tree was about a century old.

## Press

**JAMES CAMPBELL QUICK**  
The *Wall Street Journal* noted the research of business Professor James Campbell Quick in a story about companies offering mini-sabbaticals to employees. Dr. Quick found that sabbatical leaves of six months or more reduced individuals' stress levels, particularly for those who fully unplugged from work.

**PAUL PAULUS**  
Success.com quoted psychology Professor Paul Paulus in an article about how to encourage introverts in meetings. Dr. Paulus says having group members write their ideas and pass them along to the next participant to expand on, or listing them in a computer network, circumvents extroverts hogging the discussion.



**JUDY LEFLORE**  
National Public Radio's "Sound Medicine" interviewed Judy LeFlore, associate dean for simulation and technology in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, in a program examining how remote-controlled baby manikins are used to train students to handle life-threatening emergencies.

**MARK LAMSTER**  
*The Atlantic* magazine profiled Mark Lamster, UTA architecture professor in practice who also serves as architecture critic for *The Dallas Morning News*. When the University and newspaper jointly hired Lamster, his first assignment was reviewing the George W. Bush Presidential Center, which he described as: "Everywhere competent, it nowhere rises to a level of inspiration."

# Outreach

## CONNECT ED

UT Arlington is one of more than a dozen universities selected for a White House initiative aimed at empowering teachers and students nationwide to use technology in the classroom. The ConnectED program partners with the online learning platform edX to offer free professional development courses and accompanying certification to teachers, along with courses to prepare students for advanced placement exams.



## ADAPTIVE SPORTS

A U.S. Veterans Affairs Department grant will enable UTA to increase opportunities for disabled veterans and armed forces members to participate in adaptive sports. The funding will help the Movin' Mavs wheelchair basketball team support camps, clinics, and program participation costs for veterans with physical disabilities. "Being able to provide this opportunity to our veterans is a great way for us to give back to those who have served our country," Movin' Mavs coach Doug Garner says.

## TERRY FOUNDATION

UT Arlington has been selected to participate in the Terry Foundation Scholarship program, the largest private source of scholarships in Texas. The program covers the full cost of attending college for 16 students beginning in fall 2015. UTA's first class of Terry Scholars will come from 32 nominees to be interviewed by the Terry Foundation in April.



## Playing Smart

Professor researches ways to protect children from concussions

Kinesiology Associate Professor Cindy Trowbridge is one of six certified athletic trainers from U.S. universities selected to coordinate a new program from the MomsTEAM Institute, a leading youth sports health and safety think tank and watchdog group.

Dr. Trowbridge, the clinical education coordinator in UT Arlington's Athletic Training Education Program, is working with the Grand Prairie Youth Football Association to implement a pilot of MomsTEAM's innovative SmartTeam program. SmartTeam features a combination of parent, coach, and player education efforts and equipment upgrades to minimize sports injuries and concussions.

"We want our youngest and most vulnerable to be safest, but often the youngest are being coached by the people with the least experience," Trowbridge says. "This notion of creating a national program where a youth team sports program could work toward being designated as a SmartTeam is a great way to address that knowledge gap."

SmartTeam is based on MomsTEAM's work with a high school football program in rural Oklahoma and is chronicled in the recent PBS documentary *The Smartest Team: Making High School Football Safer*.

Pilot programs began last fall with a national rollout set for this year. SmartTeam status will be awarded to youth sports organizations, nominated by parents, that have demonstrated a commitment to minimizing the risk of physical, psychological, and sexual injury to young athletes.

Adds Brooke de Lench, executive director of MomsTEAM: "The purpose of the SmartTeam pilot program is to demonstrate to parents, coaches, administrators, and health care professionals that there are steps we can take now to make youth sports safer."

## Nurse's journeys to Africa reap rewards



Nursing Professor Jennifer Gray knows the challenges nurses face in Uganda. They often make nightly rounds by flashlight due to electrical outages. Basic items such as plastic gloves are a precious commodity.

"The nurses, particularly in rural areas, receive supplies quarterly so they may run out before they get the next shipment," says the College of Nursing and Health Innovation associate dean. "There may be one nurse for 30 to 40 patients. It's a different world when you think about health care."

Dr. Gray made her eighth trip to Uganda last year, working

with the Nurses and Midwives Union. While the nation is across the continent from the West African region battling the Ebola virus, Uganda encountered the disease years before.

The current outbreak once again highlighted the problems of medical workers in developing countries, where hospitals lack basic supplies, electricity can be spotty, and nurses frequently must reuse items.

But Gray says the medical professionals she works with there are dedicated to improving treatment and furthering knowledge. She organizes workshops on research methods and helps budding scholars publish research papers.

She's looking forward to returning this summer.

"There's such a strong desire to learn and an eagerness to get more information. The nursing faculty's commitment to their patients and their students is really inspiring."



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** The UT Arlington Office of Sustainability has received the Environmental Protection Agency's Food Recovery Challenge Award for Leadership. Participants are asked to reduce food waste by 5 percent over five years through prevention, donation, or composting. Composting is the UTA program's main focus. Since 2005 volunteers and staff have steadily increased the amount of food waste collected and composted from campus dining services and off-campus coffee shops and hospitals, as well as yard waste from University grounds crews. UT Arlington composts about 68,000 pounds of waste each year.



## La Sweet Vida Community

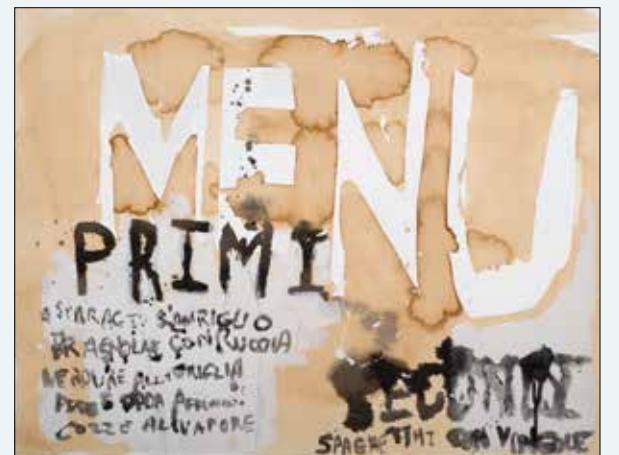
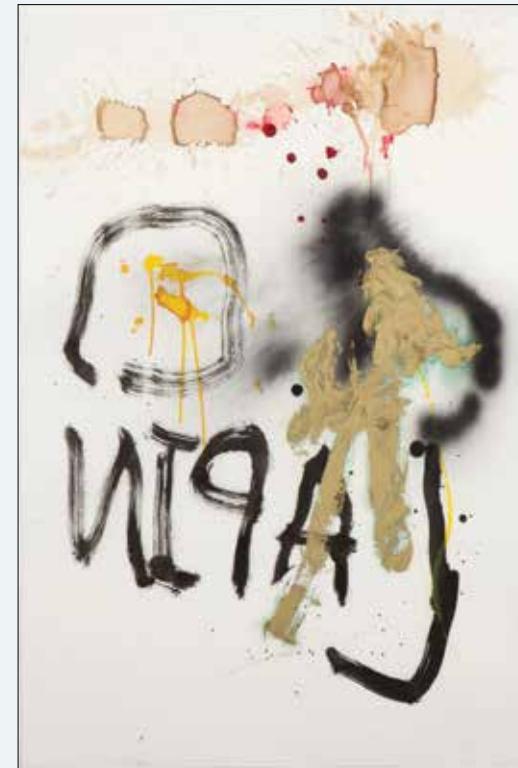
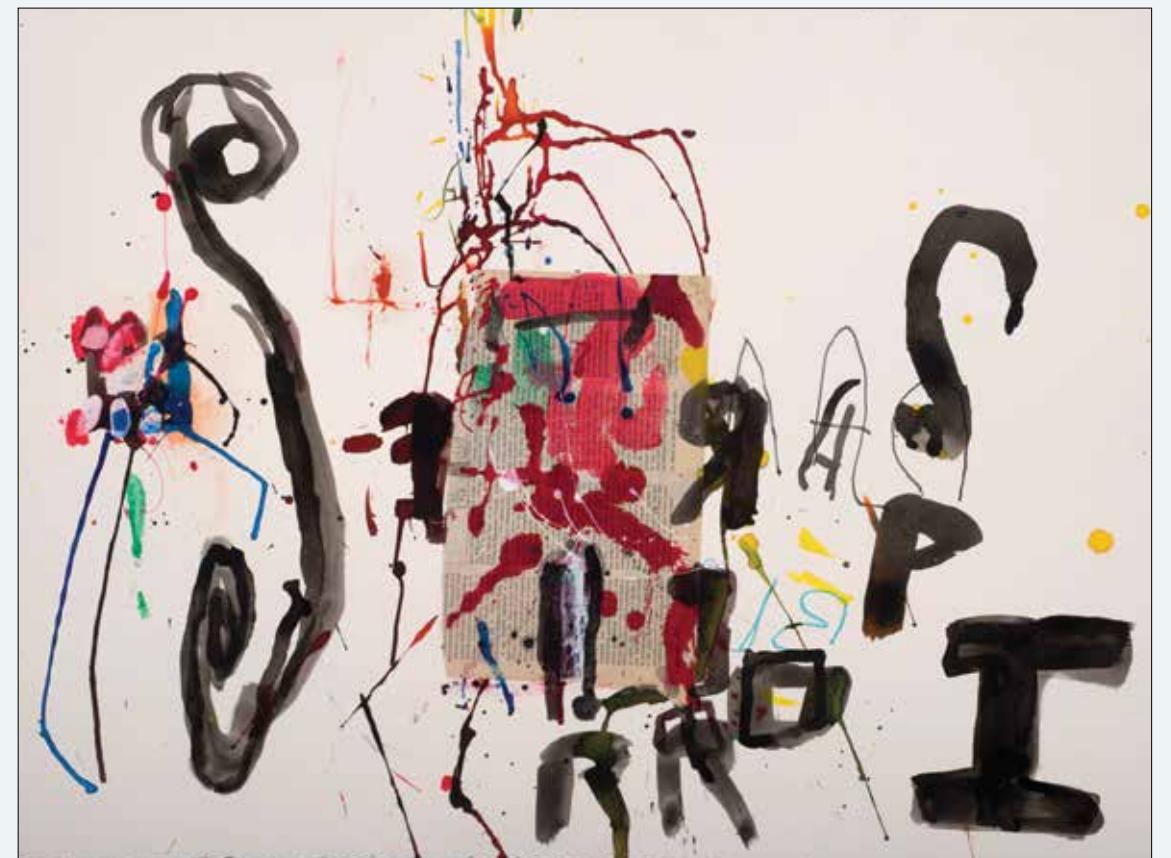
### SWEET SUCCESS

Diabetes is one of the most common diseases faced by low-income patients at Mission Arlington's medical clinic. "We've found that most of the diabetic patients don't know how to take care of themselves," says Tillie Burgin, Mission Arlington's executive director. "They don't know what to eat, what not to eat." But that's changing thanks to a partnership between the Arlington agency and UT Arlington. Produced by students, the La Sweet Vida campaign uses brochures, videos, an app, and a website—[lasweetvida.com](http://lasweetvida.com)—to explain how to recognize symptoms of diabetes and make the life changes to manage it. Funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Ford Motor Company Fund, the project involved 34 students from eight disciplines mentored by nine professors through the University's Center for Community Service Learning. For Keelie Barrow, left, a graduate student in urban affairs who served as project manager, the opportunity reinforced her desire to work in community service. "It was a phenomenal experience," Barrow says. "I learned what I didn't know and then worked on gaining those skills."

# Gallery Feeding Creativity

**STEPHEN LAPTHISOPHON**  
Art doesn't have to be slowly and carefully crafted. For Stephen Lapthisophon, it can spring from ordinary experiences, accidents even, like spilling coffee. "The idea is to make someone think about the things that happen in everyday life," says the senior lecturer in the Art and Art History Department. Born in Houston, Lapthisophon earned his BFA from UT Austin in 1977 and his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He began teaching at UT Arlington in 2007 and is a featured artist at Dallas' Conduit Gallery. In 2013 he presented a major solo exhibition, "coffee, seasonal fruit, root vegetables and 'Selected Poems,'" at the Dallas Museum of Art. Constructed with food materials such as coffee and ground spices, his works emphasize the importance of senses other than sight. For the last 20 years, Lapthisophon has suffered from vision impairment. He says his condition has impacted his art but not his artistic vision. "When you go back and look at what I've done over a long period of time," he says, "it pretty much looks the same."

*Clockwise from top:*  
"Spoerri Ink" (2009) collage, ink, gesso, and pigmented bacon fat on paper; "Flash Light (GC)" (2007) ink, latex, tape, and collage on cardboard; "Menu" (2009) ink, latex, and coffee on paper; and "JB" (2010) ink, pencil, coffee, spray paint, and gold-pigmented bacon fat on paper



## Vice president to reach out to alumni, donors



"Michael brings tremendous experience to the University based on the leadership roles he has played at prominent institutions of higher education," President Vistasp Karbhari says. "His most recent role provides an international perspective that will help our philanthropic initiatives soar."

Michael Kingan has been named vice president for development and alumni relations, leading the University's efforts to expand fundraising and engage its more than 190,000 alumni.

The native Texan brings more than two decades of success in advancement, serving in leadership positions at the University of New Mexico Foundation, University of Iowa, University of Washington School of Law, and University of Michigan Law School. Most recently he served as chief advancement officer for the Singapore American School.

Kingan earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Austin College and his Master of Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at UT Austin.

"UT Arlington plays a critical role in preparing students to achieve their academic dreams in an increasingly global and interconnected world," Kingan says. "The University has established a solid philanthropic base, and achieving even greater community involvement is essential to supporting the strategic mission of this world-class institution."



## Loving Legacy

Klaus Driessen recalls how his mother saved a friend from the Nazis

Just because Klaus Driessen retired in December doesn't mean he's slowing down. There's an upcoming trip to Asia, a book to finish, and maybe another mountain to climb. He made it to base camp at Mount Everest last year.

At 66, the longtime German lecturer in the Modern Languages Department still exudes the energy and humor that made him a favorite with students.

"Sure, learning German is difficult," he says, "but there's no reason it shouldn't be fun."

Driessen received the 2014 President's Award for Excellence in Distance Education Teaching for his web-based courses, which have reached students as far away as military bases in Afghanistan.

His next project is completing a book about his mother's decision to hide her Jewish friend from the Nazis in World War II. With the working title *True Friends*, the book will detail how Mati Driessen rescued Lilli Wolff in Vienna. Wolff stayed in hiding for more than four years.

After the war, Driessen and his mother left the small Bavarian town of Altenmarkt an der Alz outside Munich and came to the United States. Wolff, already in Dallas, sponsored Driessen and his mother's immigration in 1956.

"I was raised by two very loving women, as both a Christian and a Jew," Driessen says. "We need to be kind and accept people. See people for who they are. Look past color and religion and realize that prejudice and war never solve anything."



**STOPPING TRAFFIC** Three computer science and engineering students won a \$10,000 prize in the NTx Apps Challenge for a smart traffic light network that adjusts schedules to ease traffic flow. Seniors Zedd Shmais, James Staud, and Nhat Tran created a real-time monitoring system, dubbed GridLock, that uses computerized data mining to time traffic lights. In addition to the money, the students will receive mentoring from Jorge Varela, assistant director of TECH Fort Worth, and Gemalto, a sponsoring company. "We're planning to further pursue this idea and bring the app to the streets," Shmais says.

## Numbers

# 9,714

UT Arlington conferred 9,714 degrees, including certificates, last academic year. Among the 2013-14 graduates were 225 students who earned doctorates.

# 100

About 100 UT Arlington professors possess patents on various devices, processes, or technologies. In October the University showcased faculty research at an innovation symposium and chapter launch of the National Academy of Inventors.

# 41,779

Propelled by an influx of engineering, education, and nursing students, fall 2014 enrollment reached a record 34,870. Total enrollment of all students in UT Arlington programs on campus and online was 41,779.

# 3<sup>rd</sup>

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine ranks the College of Nursing and Health Innovation third nationally and first in Texas for producing minority nurses with bachelor's degrees. UT Arlington came in at No. 21 on the publication's list of minority graduates with a master's degree in nursing.

# 1,000

The UTA volleyball program earned victory No. 1,000 in September with a win over Houston Baptist University.

# Champs

## CROSS COUNTRY

The women's cross country team won the Sun Belt Conference championship in November. It was the Mavericks' fifth league title and first since 2001. Junior Katelyn Hayward led the way with a fifth-place finish, earning first-team All-SBC honors. Junior Gabriela Alfonzo placed sixth and was named to the second team.



**BRUCE COLLIE**

Former offensive lineman Bruce Collie made the 2015 ballot for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame. He played for the Mavericks from 1981-84, earning first-team All-America honors as a senior. San Francisco selected Collie in the fifth round of the 1985 NFL Draft, and he won Super Bowls with the 49ers in 1989 and 1990.

## TAYLOR STORY

Six volleyball players were recognized for outstanding classroom performance. Taylor Story was selected to the Commissioner's List while Briana Sharratt, Caitlyn Cooney, Taylor Gross, Karli Nanny, and Cassidy Wheeler were named to the Sun Belt Conference Academic Honor Roll.

## CRAIG LAUTENSLAGER AND ERIC OJEDA

Juniors Craig Lautenslager and Eric Ojeda earned All-NCAA South Central Region cross country honors in November. It was the second consecutive year that Lautenslager, who finished 14th, was an all-region selection. Ojeda was 23rd, helping the Mavericks to a sixth-place showing.

## Former standouts join Athletics Hall of Honor

Two-time World Series champion outfielder Hunter Pence of the San Francisco Giants is among the inductees in the 2015 UT Arlington Athletics Hall of Honor class.

Joining Pence are sprinter Elston Cawley, volleyball player Valeria Whitfield Crawford, football player Mike Stamps, and the 1996-2000 men's track and field teams.

A three-time Major League Baseball All-Star, Pence was a standout for the Mavericks in 2003 and 2004. The Houston Astros selected him in the second round of the 2004 draft. He has a career .284 batting average with 185 home runs and 689 RBIs.

Cawley was a six-time track and field All-American who represented Jamaica at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Named UTA's Athlete of the Year in 1997, he helped the Mavericks win Southland titles in 1997, 1999, and 2000.



**BUILDING TRADITION** Now in their second season, the Lady Movin' Mavs participated in their first National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Association Tournament last year. This season's roster includes U.S. paralympian Rose Hollermann and three players invited to the U.S. national team tryouts in January: Josie Aslakson, above, Morgan Wood, and Abby Dunkin. Jason Nelms, himself a former paralympian and Movin' Mavs standout, serves as volunteer coach. The Lady Movin' Mavs will shoot for their first national championship in March at the University of Missouri.



**NINA VILLANUEVA**  
Infielder Nina Villanueva's journey to UT Arlington has taken her from an initial stint at Cal State Monterey Bay in Seaside, Calif., to a leadership role for the Maverick softball team. She transferred after her freshman season and quickly became a dominant force. She was named to the 2013 All-Western Athletic Conference first team and made the WAC All-Tournament team. As a junior, she earned first-team all-conference honors for a second consecutive year, this time in the Sun Belt Conference. The San Diego native led UT Arlington in batting average (.348), hits (56), RBIs (39), and home runs (8). She enters her final season as one of three seniors coach Kristie Fox will tap for leadership and production. The team begins 2015 in recently renovated Allan Saxe Field. "I'm stoked to have a new facility for our senior season," Villanueva says. By staying positive and working hard, she hopes to put up even bigger numbers than last year. More importantly, she believes the Mavericks have a shot at winning the Sun Belt Conference title.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ASSOCIATED PRESS (COLLIE), JEREMY SCHACK (LADY MOVIN' MAVS)

# SPEED RACER

*Decades of hard work and dedication have propelled  
UT Arlington to the top ranks of collegiate racing teams*

BY KEN PERKINS PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN ZIZZO





Previous page, Wyatt Langston prepares to climb behind the wheel of a UTA race car. This page, Langston takes a spin on the track.

**B**ob Woods is telling the story of how the UTA racing team became the legend it is—tops in the state, tops in the region, ranked first in the nation and fifth in the world. It's 1978, Dr. Woods recalls, and he's a young mechanical engineering professor and reluctant adviser to a car-constructing racing team. He's at a Mini Baja competition in Phoenix where it's hot and sticky, and he's watching dune buggies bounce over small, undulating hills, some of them zipping past his head at what feels like warp speed.

Suddenly a UTA team member runs toward him, shouting about breaking a chain with no master link to fix it and how he has to bow out. As the student screams at the top of his lungs, Woods fears he's about to leap in front of one of the moving cars and end his misery.

Then something miraculous occurs.

A competitor walks up and says, "Here, take ours."

And that's the man's last one.

"Something snapped in me," Woods says. "I was looking at this all wrong. It's car against track, not team against team. That mentality of a bigger goal than you and me was inspiring. From there, I became obsessed with the whole thing. I was hooked."

Obsessed. Hooked. Ask any member of UTA's Formula SAE Racing Team, former or current, and he or she blurts out the same lines, in the same way, as if part of a script. Sure, the program is about racing cool cars really fast. And while a large chunk of that is the bait, the actual challenge of building a race car

from scratch delves deeper into the psyche of a student engineer as a battle against uncertainty.

Why else would students already saddled with heavy course loads spend so much time at Woolf Hall designing, testing, prototyping, building, and eventually racing these cars—for no pay? If you're not working at least 40 hours a week, you're slouching. You're certainly not obsessed; not really hooked.

"It infects everyone who is a part of this department," says Amit Kudtarkar, who averaged slightly more than 80 hours a week last year as team captain. He's the business manager now. "I can't tell you why there's such a passion for it. Once it infects you, it completely consumes your life."

#### PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

The mojo of UTA's Formula SAE Racing Team isn't necessarily its wild success, although trying to outperform last year's team is a driving force. It's a tradition that deepens with every new contingent charged with building a new car for a new race.

Wide-eyed candidates number about 60 each year, only to be whittled to an insanely dedicated two dozen or so. Each season begins with Woods' Yoda-like advice: Approach the complex task of designing and building the car with simplicity.

"Every year we try to come up with three innovations and leave everything else alone," he says.

Improvements have included combined clutch and shifters, electronic fuel injection, and last year's move to four on-board computers that make the car respond more quickly.

"The idea is to continue doing what you do well and push the envelope on everything else."

Like an all-electric vehicle the team plans to unveil April 25. It will be the first UTA Formula car to compete in both the United States and Germany.

Formula SAE competition lasts an intense three days and begins with a defense of the car's engineering design and presentation of a detailed business plan, including a manufacturing outline, cost report, and marketing strategy.

On day two, cars hit the road, competing in a 70-yard drag race, the figure-eight skid pad, and autocross. The final day is a 12-mile endurance test where you can't make adjustments or even refuel. Usually half the cars drop out due to overheating, engines spewing oil, or broken suspensions or other parts.

As adviser, Woods can point his Formula fanatics in certain directions but otherwise must be hands-off; rules stipulate a student-only endeavor. He downplays his role in the dynasty, giving credit to everyone but himself as though for nearly 40 years he has been merely a traffic cop.

A car guy and fairly accomplished drag racer from a small Oklahoma town, Woods discovered mechanical engineering and eventually earned a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. In 1977, after his third year at UTA, a student group approached him about advising its racing team.

It was fine with him as long as he didn't have to do meetings or babysit anyone or even attend competitions. "I really didn't help them a whole lot," he confesses. "But the racing part of it did seem fun and exciting."

After his aha moment at the Mini Baja race in Phoenix, Woods rolled up his sleeves and went to work. In 1983 UTA captured its first win in Formula SAE and went on to dominate the competition. The team has won more titles than any other school, and that includes universities from Canada, Germany, South Korea, and Austria.

#### A WELL-OILED PROCESS

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department Chairman Erian Armanios loves to talk victories but is more impressed by team members' 100 percent post-graduation hire rate.

"You can sit in a lecture all day long, but the real learning is when you do something yourself in some

Below, Myles Sloan, Wyatt Langston, Dr. Bob Woods, David Campbell, Dustin Mullis, and Shahzad Balsara look over plans. Students weld on the frame of a new car.





Above, Michael Hibbard solders on a circuit board in the team's electronics lab. Below, David Campbell, left, and Ravi Soni inspect a carbon wheel in the composite fabrication lab.



# Zooming Along

UT Arlington's Formula SAE program has a storied history. Here's a look at some of the highlights.

**1978**

UTA launches its racing program with the construction of a Mini Baja off-road vehicle.



**1996**

UTA demonstrates its championship car for racing legend Mario Andretti at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History's premier of the IMAX film Super Speedway.

**1998**

UTA wins the Formula SAE student competition in England.

**2000**

UTA wins the international Formula SAE competition in Australia.



**2004**

The Maverick racing team wins the international Formula SAE competition in Japan.

**2011**

UTA enters the Formula Hybrid competition and wins the GM Award for Best Engineered Car.

**2011**

The program celebrates its 30th anniversary by displaying 20 of its cars. UTA is among the few teams that preserve cars rather than scrapping them to build new ones.

**2012**

Arlington businessman Arnold Petsche donates \$1 million to establish the Arnold E. Petsche Center for Automotive Engineering. The center supports participation in the Formula SAE program.

**2015**

The team designs an electric-powered car.

practical, theoretical way," Dr. Armanios says. "Dr. Woods is able to attract these students to something that is, frankly, quite time-consuming and challenging. It's not easy, but they make it look easy."

Success is a matter of approach. Many schools see Formula SAE competition as senior design projects. At UTA it's a lifestyle. Anyone willing to put in the time can join, including non-engineering majors.

"If you limit the experience to seniors, they cannot learn enough in one year to do very much," Woods says. "There's so much to learn about race car design and tuning that it takes several years to be able to understand the systems well enough to contribute in a significant way."

That's why UTA offers a well-oiled mentorship that passes crucial information about fabrication, design, driving, and administration from one team to the next, helping newbies grow into the work.

And instead of limiting progress to fall and spring semesters, UTA never stops. Summers at Woolf Hall are just as busy as any other time.

## TRICKS OF THE TRADE

The first day electrical engineering junior Naima Rivas asked about the group, she found herself working on a hybrid car just days before a competition.

"It's close to midnight, the car is jacked up on stands, and I'm upside down soldering this board onto the car. All I'm thinking is, 'This is nuts.' Safe to say, after that I was hooked."

Now Rivas heads the team responsible for wiring the vehicles and doubles as project manager for the electric car. The racing team is run like a corporation, with a president, a team captain, a chief engineer, etc.

"They learn to work as a team and on a schedule, work on a budget, make compromises, deal with personalities," Woods says. "It's great to know theory from textbooks, but in reality they have to work on a team when they get in the industry and rely on one another. That's what we teach them."

Woods says that once engineering students graduate, it typically takes a year for companies to shape them into engineers. But a student involved with Formula SAE "graduates as an engineer."

Alumnus Erick Kohler, who analyzes gearbox cases, gears, bearings, and driveshafts for Bell Helicopter, says he had an advantage over other graduates when he left the team in 2007.

"Dr. Woods was right that it takes about a year for engineering students to gain the amount of experience and engineering sophistication we had on day one."

Distinguished Alumnus David Hunn also hit the ground running after receiving a Ph.D. in 1992. He was on two Mini Baja and Formula SAE teams. Now chief

engineer and technical director for the Ground Vehicle product line at Lockheed Martin, he says the experience teaches engineering, sure, "but more importantly, it taught us leadership, built our self-confidence, and tempered us with humility, which I'm convinced are the foundations of a successful professional career."

Ask Woods about his gushing alumni and he smiles, saying how his "trick" works every time.

"I get them all interested in race cars and then teach them a whole bunch of engineering and professionalism," he says. "If I said, 'Let's design a chair,' how many would stick around and stay all night? But they would learn the same things." ♦





Mikayla Bruer, left, and Jennifer Green pose for a selfie in front of the Alpha Chi Omega house on Greek Row.

Membership in a Greek organization is for life. Can it also inspire lifelong Mavericks? Generations of fraternity and sorority members say yes.

# going greek

BY AMBER SCOTT

PATRICK KELLY ADMITS he was a wallflower when he came to UT Arlington. The “socially awkward, uninvolved” freshman had no idea how to connect with the vibrant campus life unfolding around him. Joining a fraternity was out of the question, because those guys were directionless party animals. At least that’s what Kelly believed—until he met the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE). He says he found campus leaders, outstanding

scholars, talented athletes, and gentlemen. And he wanted to join them.

Now a senior political science/pre-law major, Kelly is an active PIKE member, 2014-15 vice president of Student Congress, and an Archer Fellow. He has helped organize large-scale philanthropy events and served on the PIKE executive board as sergeant-at-arms.

“To say that PIKE has made me a better leader would be an understatement,” he says. “My fraternity helped me cultivate the confidence and experience necessary to lead by giving me a variety of opportunities to step outside my comfort zone.”

Kelly calls the organization the single biggest influence on his undergraduate career. “Leadership development aside, PIKE has made my college life. I truly



**"Joining Tri Delta connected me with a group of women with similar interests, offered so many activities, and helped me become part of the student community."**

—Jackye Clark



**"Phi Gamma Delta helped form my character and developed me as a leader."**

—Orsen Paxton

believe I've had the best possible college experience, and PIKE is the main reason why."

#### SHIFTING IDENTITIES

Compared to many other universities, Greek life at UT Arlington is fairly young. Prior to 1967, it didn't exist at all. Technically, neither did The University of Texas at Arlington.

Back then the school was Arlington State College and had operated for decades under the Texas A&M umbrella. In 1964, amid growing tension between Arlington State College and the A&M board, the institution petitioned and won the right to transfer to The University of Texas System.

This ushered in numerous changes, and one of the biggest was the opportunity to boost student life. The A&M System didn't officially recognize Greek-letter organizations, believing they interfered with what a student's overall identity should be: Aggie.

But the foundation for what would become UT Arlington's nationally affiliated Greek organizations already had been established, many of the groups with a history dating to the 1920s. About half claimed French names, like Sans Souci, Les Choisis, and Avolonte. Others hinted at Greek affiliation, like Karuso Pteros (Greek for "with wings of gold") and Chi Chi Chi.

With the move to the UT System, the campus opened for Greek colonization. The University's social clubs could affiliate with national organizations, and national organizations could charter chapters. In 1967, the same year Arlington State College became The University of Texas at Arlington, Greek groups emerged on campus. By 1970 the community had grown to seven sororities, eight fraternities, and 14 honorary fraternities.

"It was kind of a strange time because in the late '60s and early '70s, student unrest was at its highest all over the nation," says Kent Gardner, former vice president for student affairs. "But somehow the fraternities and sororities were growing like crazy."

Kappa Sigma was the first Greek group to charter on campus in spring 1967. Kappa Alpha Fi, the University's first African-American social club, affiliated with Alpha Phi Alpha to become the first national African-American fraternity in late 1969. Around the same time, Alpha Phi Mu was established as UTA's first national African-American sorority.

Most traces of the old social clubs disappeared as they affiliated with national Greek organizations. Sans Souci became a chapter of Alpha Chi Omega in 1969. Les Choisis became Delta Delta Delta. Both sororities are still on campus today.

Jackye Brown Clark was an education major in spring 1970 when she pledged Delta Delta Delta. After its first formal recruitment in 1969, the chapter was about 40 strong. Alpha Chi Omega had around 60 members.

"When I arrived at UTA, I didn't see many ways to get involved and develop a social life," Clark says. "Joining Tri Delta connected me with a group of women with similar interests, offered so many activities, and helped me become a part of the student community."

By 1970 there were more than 300 men in fraternities and 200 women in sororities. The largest fraternity, Delta Tau Delta, had about 80 members. Orsen Paxton



Gabriel Foster, left, and LaKeia Coleman enjoy a break in the College Park District.



Alexandria Avila talks to students about Greek life at Activity Fair Day.



Diana Ayala joins other Greeks working in the community garden on campus.

III, one of the 50-plus members of Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) at the time, remembers thinking that FIJIs set the standard for what real men should be.

"These were men you could look up to and be proud to say you were associated with," says Paxton '71, a longtime Arlington attorney. "And as I got into it, Phi Gamma Delta helped form my character and developed me as a leader."

#### EVOLVING PERSPECTIVES

Despite the initial surge, UT Arlington's fraternity and sorority life declined in the mid-1990s. Kappa Sigma left campus, as did other established chapters. Other institutions experienced similar drops. At UTA the dynamics of the student population played a major role in the downturn.

"UTA students are busy, so it's a big decision to commit time and resources to being part of a Greek organization," says Seth Ressl, director of student activities and organizations. "Our student body is also incredibly diverse. For students who come from other cultures or are first-time college students, they may not have a ready frame of reference for what fraternity and sorority life has to offer."

Multicultural Greek groups, first established on campus in the early 2000s, provide a partial solution. They are values-driven, service-based, and united by cultural interests. UTA students can choose from 10 such organizations.

"Greek life has made me a part of something bigger than myself," says Brianna Santana, president of Latina-based Sigma Lambda Gamma. "My sorority has given me a voice, allowed me to show my strengths, and given my collegiate life a sense of purpose."

UT Arlington fraternity and sorority groups had no hub on campus until the early '90s when administrators developed an area for houses. Today, nine fraternities and sororities call Greek Row home. Alpha Chi Omega member Mikayla Bruer says living in her chapter house offers many advantages.

"It's nice to be surrounded by my sisters when I come home," she says. "That kind of support can make all the difference when you've had a difficult day."

Ressl believes Greek Row is a crucial piece of the puzzle for fraternity and sorority life.

"It's an area that has a lot of meaning and connection for the students who have lived there," he says. "It's important for us to continue to support that and to take a look at adding and enhancing these living options."

#### STRENGTHENING BONDS

In addition to shaping leaders, a thriving Greek system positively impacts the community. Last year UT Arlington fraternity and sorority members raised \$100,000 for charity and served 15,000 hours at local and national nonprofit organizations. They also held more than 200 leadership positions in student organizations.

"The personal connections you make as a Greek draw you closer to the campus," says Kent Justin Brown, National Pan-Hellenic Council president and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha. "As a leader I've created programs and events that will hopefully leave a lasting impression on campus—and that's enough reason alone to come back and check on my legacy."

The University's Greek community is on the upswing. Membership in the 32 organizations is rising as chapters, including Kappa Sigma, have returned to campus.

"The decision was an easy one," says Leo Brown, Kappa Sigma's national director of chapter services. "UTA has seen tremendous growth recently, and when the opportunity arose, we were very excited to return."

Alumni engagement has increased as well, and reunions are a popular draw. At last year's FIJI event, more than 100 alumni traveled from across the country to the new chapter house on Greek Row. Such engagement shows how Greek life done right enhances the student experience and creates lifelong loyalty.

"At medium- to larger-sized institutions, membership gives students a sense of family that makes these otherwise vast organizations feel smaller, safer, and more like home," says Timothy Quinnan, vice president for student affairs.

As a member of Phi Kappa Tau and a student affairs administrator, Dr. Quinnan has experienced the benefits of Greek life both personally and professionally.

"Apart from the bonding aspects, Greek-letter organizations excel at providing continual opportunities for leadership training and community service, not to mention higher standards of achievement. These are exactly the kind of co-curricular experiences we want all students engaged in during college."

Patrick Kelly would agree. ☈

# Assuring Success

New program immerses  
undergraduates in  
real-world research and  
experiential learning



Chemistry sophomore Yu-Sheng "Sam" Sung is among the many UTA undergraduates getting more hands-on research opportunities.

BY NANCY B. STRINI

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN CLEMONS

SOCIETY DEPENDS more than ever on technology and scientific discovery, but a lack of college graduates in those fields threatens to slow progress. According to a 2012 report from the U.S. President's Office of Science and Technology, America is short more than a million workers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) industries.

UT Arlington is changing the way students prepare for such careers by incorporating real-world research and experiential learning into classwork through a new initiative called Achieving Success through Undergraduate Research and Engagement (ASSURE).

"Data has shown that participating as an undergraduate in research ignites students' passion for science. It increases their learning outcomes. They have better GPAs, and they graduate sooner," says ASSURE director Ashley Purgason, assistant dean for undergraduate research and student advancement.



*"Science is an arduous process. Several dead ends, repeats, and failures precede breakthroughs."*

—Emmanuel Fordjour

in the College of Science. "It positively impacts every end point that's been studied."

The College of Science launched ASSURE in fall 2014 with 24 freshman science majors, but the University's long-term objective is to provide hands-on preparation to every freshman across all majors.

"Our goal is for each and every student to experience firsthand the wonders of discovery that come when creative talent is encouraged," Vice President for Research Carolyn Cason says. "Research is the driver for economic development and the foundation of innovation and entrepreneurship. It creates jobs, companies, and industry growth. It brings increased adaptability to the community where those companies are developed."

#### FRESH TAKE

In the past, undergraduate work in research labs was limited to the most ambitious upperclassmen because it was extracurricular and time-consuming, but many students were eager to get started earlier.

"If we're going to give them high-impact experiences, we have to do all we can to get it into the curriculum itself," Dr. Purgason says.

ASSURE replaces the traditional freshman science labs with a Research Methods course. It's an intensive offering in the scientific method that begins with selecting a topic, moves to a study of existing scientific

literature, then provides early experiences in analyzing and interpreting data. Students in groups of three or four choose a subject, write scientific experiments, conduct research, and submit full reports.

Then the excitement really begins. Students move into the research stream for the next two semesters, working alongside faculty. The topic for the pilot program is drug discovery, an interdisciplinary study in chemistry and biology that looks for antibiotic properties in natural substances. It's an extension of research by Kevin Schug, the Shimadzu Distinguished Professor of Analytical Chemistry, and biology Associate Professor Laura Mydlarz.

The pilot group chose to test ginger, pepper, the Indian cooking spice asafoetida, and some fungal species to see if any of the elemental chemicals contain undiscovered antibiotic possibilities. Their research won a top undergraduate award at UTA's Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students.

The inaugural ASSURE cohort learned fundamentals in the fall Research Methods class and this spring selects its natural products to test. Purgason says they'll likely be limited to samples of marine invertebrate organisms since they tie directly to the coursework and to environmental policy, a topic of interest to the students.

"The great thing is that when you choose

the right topic, something exploratory, we can teach it to the students in this three-semester sequence, and it's manageable for them," she says. "The other thing is that it's conceivable we might get one or two really interesting data points that these principal investigators will be able to take and run with."

#### PRACTICAL LEARNING

Research requires specific skills and knowledge, which means inexperienced students need significant guidance. ASSURE assigns a full-time postdoctoral researcher to oversee every aspect of the student work.

"Because the students are brand new to this, it might take them four times to learn the steps and the processes, so they need someone there giving them that attention," Purgason says. "While we want them to have that original thought, we do need to guide them."

It's intellectually stimulating to seek answers to real-world problems, and the chance to participate in peer-reviewed research and writing can be life changing, says chemistry sophomore Yu-Sheng "Sam" Sung, a pilot program member.

"One major benefit of this research experience is that it helped me develop critical thinking skills," he says. "And it allowed me to form connections with visiting scholars and graduate and doctorate students in the lab." It also helped bring his future into focus:

Sung now plans to be an analytical chemist for an industrial company.

Sophomore biology major Dhvani Derasri wants to become a pharmacy professor. The pilot program has taught her that researchers must be flexible and persistent.

"Through research, I learned that plans do not work out 100 percent," she says. "It's important to adjust along the way. For example, you may think that something is going to produce a certain result, but something happens and it completely changes the dynamic of things. As a researcher, it's important to adjust accordingly and keep trying."

Students also discover that scientific exploration is a team sport and that they can overcome roadblocks when enough minds are engaged. Biology sophomore Yashaswini Nagarajan has continued the work she started in Dr. Schug's lab. She calls research "the second level of learning, which is what college is about."

"I learned what it means to be a team player," she says. "Research is definitely not something that gets done merely through individual effort. It's collaborative. I learned that this is true about many things in life."

#### RESEARCH ROLE MODELS

ASSURE students can look to two of their College of Science peers for inspiration. Emmanuel Fordjour and Jessica Stevens, both double majors in biology and microbiology, received some of the nation's top undergraduate research honors.

As a sophomore, Fordjour asked biology Assistant Professor Julian Hurdle if he could help research ways to fight *Clostridium difficile*, a dangerous bacterium that causes 14,000 deaths in the United States each year. The work helped Fordjour earn a 2014 United Negro College Fund Merck Science Research Fellowship Award and recognition in the Council on Undergraduate Research's 2014 Posters on the Hill competition.

"Dr. Hurdle taught me—and I quote him—that 'science is an arduous process.' That several dead ends, repeats, and failures precede breakthroughs. And that 'the thrill of uncovering the unknown or elucidating the not-so-apparent and leveraging this knowledge to improve our quality of life makes scientific research worthwhile.'

Scheduled to graduate this spring, Fordjour plans to earn a combined M.D./Ph.D. and become a physician, educator, and researcher.

"Some day I hope to provide upcoming students and scientists the same opportunity Dr. Hurdle provided me to define and further my academic career through research," he says.

Stevens received a highly competitive Goldwater Scholarship to examine an invasive species of zooplankton in Texas lakes. She changed her major from architecture

in 2012 and has since worked in six faculty labs, including one in Tennessee. She graduated in December and intends to enter an environmental health graduate program at the University of Washington.

"That's how it is in life when you have a job," she says. "You're often asked to do things you have never done before or that no one has done before, and you won't quite know how to tackle it. But you can use the skill set you learned to get it done."

It's a lesson administrators are applying to the ASSURE program itself. As they gather data about its effectiveness, they will continue to modify, as all good researchers do.

"You go into your first year with a plan but every week you evaluate, see what's working, what's not, and make adjustments," Purgason says. "We're learning every week, and next year will be better than this year."

And in future years, so will the outlook for technological advancements. ☀



*"With research, you don't know the answers, and I love that."*

—Jessica Stevens



# PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE

Through a range of support programs, UT Arlington helps high school students navigate the road to higher education and brighter futures

BY SARAH  
BAHARI

ILLUSTRATION  
BY YUTA ONODA

**G**ROWING UP, college never occurred to Laura Varela. Her parents barely finished middle school, and like most of her friends, she assumed she'd graduate from high school and find a job to pay bills.

But a school counselor saw potential in the teenager and suggested she consider college—even helped guide her through the sometimes laborious admissions process. Now a UT Arlington student, Varela helps teenagers forge a path to college as a mentor at Lamar High School in Arlington.

"College was not remotely on my mind, but the counselor told me, 'You're a smart girl. You can do this,'" recalls Varela, who completed a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and is pursuing a second degree in management. "For a lot of kids, college is not part of the equation. They just want to finish high school and get a job. We're trying to change that mindset."

Through its Bound for Success, GO Centers, University Crossroads, and other programs, UT Arlington provides avenues for promising high school students to complete their studies and pursue a degree. Many of these students come from low-income families, historically underrepresented among university populations.

According to the Pew Research Center, college enrollment among low-income students increased over the past several decades, but the 2007-09 recession eroded recent gains. In 2012, 50.9 percent of low-income high school graduates enrolled in a two- or four-year college. Enrollment among middle- and high-income students grew to 64.7 and 80.7 percent, respectively.

Established in 2013, Bound for Success aims to close this gap. A partnership with the Arlington, Grand Prairie, and Mansfield school districts, the program provides deferred, unconditional admission to high-achieving high school graduates, as well as advising



*"They face financial problems, pregnancies, family issues. There are so many routes to college, and I'm here to help them find the right one."*

support to help students prepare for college. The collaboration seeks to strengthen local communities and the workforce while increasing opportunity.

"A college education provides students with a spirit of discovery, inquiry, and creativity, as well as a sense of community—all of which enable them to survive and thrive in a rapidly changing world," UT Arlington President Vistasp Karbhari says. "Bound for Success is a warm welcome from UT Arlington to each and every student who aspires to a level of achievement and success that only a college degree can provide."

#### BUILDING A COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE

Alumna Rebecca Esposito sifts through papers on her desk at Mansfield High School, reviewing student re-



cords. She is one of nine Bound for Success counselors who meet with students to discuss their options, organize financial aid workshops for families, and arrange campus tours.

Some of the students already plan to attend college; others are unsure. Esposito '10, the first in her family to attend college, can relate.

"I knew so little before I went to college that I had to ask really basic questions, and knowing where to turn was daunting. My parents tried to help, but this was new to them, too. As a counselor, students know they can ask me anything. I understand what they're going through."

Bound for Success, which launched in Arlington schools and expanded to Grand Prairie and Mansfield in 2014, is tailored for each district. In Arlington and Mansfield, the program serves high school students ranked in the top 25 percent of their class and offers them early admission to UT Arlington, provided they earn a high school diploma.

In Grand Prairie, Bound for Success serves every junior from three high schools, with requirements based

on class ranking and SAT or ACT scores. Students in the top 25 percent of their junior class receive deferred, unconditional admission. Those outside the top quarter may earn admission by meeting minimum SAT or ACT scores and other criteria, such as earning credit through the Tarrant County College or Dallas County Community College districts.

Jeffrey Miller, executive director of College Readiness for Grand Prairie schools, says the district's leaders identified a worrisome gap. Each year more than 60 percent of Grand Prairie students say they plan to attend college. Yet only 40-45 percent enroll, which Miller attributes to the "classic summer melt."

"Without mentorship or guidance, some capable kids fall through the cracks. They forget a housing deposit

face financial problems, pregnancies, family issues. There are so many routes to college, and I'm here to help them find the right one."

Begin six years ago by the UT Arlington College of Education's Pathways to College Access and Career Readiness, GO Centers are housed at 16 high schools in Arlington, Fort Worth, Everman, Mansfield, and Grand Prairie. About 50 student mentors offer tutoring, assistance with college and financial aid applications, and résumé and career counseling, among other services. The centers received more than 27,000 visits during the 2013-14 school year.

Assistant Professor Carla Amaro-Jimenez, who directs the Pathways to College Access and Career Readiness program, says the GO Centers serve as a

Then she met Michele Bobadilla, UTA's senior associate vice president for outreach services and community engagement and assistant provost for Hispanic student success. Bobadilla also co-founded University Crossroads, which works to expand access to higher education for first- and second-generation college students.

She helped Cobas-Rincon enroll at UT Arlington and secure scholarships and financial aid. The political science major plans to graduate in May and hopes to work in public policy or immigration.

Cobas-Rincon is one of more than 33,000 students helped by University Crossroads, a UT Arlington outreach based in Dallas. The organization offers free SAT math preparation courses, writing and financial literacy workshops, and college fairs and community



bridge between high school and life beyond. "We work with every single student who walks through the door, from the college bound to the kids who plan to go straight to work. We're there to help them figure out life after graduation."

Like Varela, many of the mentors are bilingual and first-generation college students, and they're encouraged to share their personal stories.

"Mentors draw a lot on who they are. Many were told they were not college material," Dr. Amaro-Jimenez says. "They talk about their struggles, what they have gained, and what it took them to get there. By drawing on their own college paths, they show the students that anything is possible if they set their hearts and minds to it."

#### A DREAM DEFERRED

Giselly Cobas-Rincon thought her dream of earning a college degree had ended. Two months shy of graduation in 2007, she was forced to leave her family and flee Cuba for political reasons. Settling in Dallas, she assumed a degree was out of reach.



expos, as well as office and meeting space.

Bobadilla says the test preparation courses have proved particularly successful. Students who attend at least three classes typically increase their SAT math score by 70 or more points. She notes that the state's rapidly changing demographics, including the growing Hispanic population, make University Crossroads and other such initiatives critical to student success and economic prosperity.

"We have to work together to make sure our children are prepared for the global workforce," Bobadilla says. "Students face big challenges, and getting that first diploma in your family is extraordinary. It not only changes the student's life, but also the whole trajectory of that family's future."

Cobas-Rincon credits UT Arlington and University Crossroads for her rising arc.

"Sometimes you feel like you're walking in place, surrounded by walls. You don't know where to go," she says. "It just takes someone stepping in and helping you find your way. The more people we can reach and educate, the better off we'll be tomorrow." ☀

On left, at a GO Center in Mansfield, Rebecca Esposito counsels Abigale Standifer, a high school junior interested in UT Arlington's nursing program. In middle, University Crossroads' SAT math workshop helps students sharpen skills. On right, Alicia Hooper, a graduate student in social work, and Abby Dansoa, a nursing junior, mentor students at a GO Center.

# Alumni News

THE WORLD AND UTA  
ARLINGTON

ILLUSTRATION BY CHI BRIMINGHAM

## Hail to the Chiefs

Alumni hold top posts at colleges and universities nationwide

What does it take to be a successful university president? Earning a UT Arlington degree appears to be a good first step. Beyond that, it depends on whom you ask.

At least 10 alumni currently lead institutions of higher education, including large public universities, small private colleges, and seminaries.

For Montana State University President Waded Cruzado, being a good listener has proved invaluable. When she became MSU's 12th president in 2010, she embarked on a yearlong, statewide listening tour.

"The willingness to be a servant-leader, a concept I learned at UTA, is also vital," says Dr. Cruzado, who received a master's degree in Spanish in 1984 and a Ph.D. in humanities in 1990.

Thinking strategically is key for Scott Scarborough, who became president of the University of Akron in July. A strong doctoral program in strategic management attracted him to UT Arlington's College of Business.

"Strategy is about how to position an organization in a competitive environment to achieve its mission and sustain high levels of performance over time," Dr. Scarborough '03 says. "As president of a university, that's what one tries to do every day."

**"The willingness to be a servant-leader, a concept I learned at UTA, is also vital."**

Sam Houston State University President Dana G. Hoyt relies on business acumen to navigate the shifting landscape of higher education. She believes understanding the financial aspects of a university is crucial.

"Presidents must be able to talk about the return on investment for their university," says Dr. Hoyt, who earned a Ph.D. in business administration in 1993. "I know that's a business term, but it's critical because higher education really is an investment."

The investment has paid off for Hoyt, Scarborough, Cruzado, and the other alumni who hold top university posts. They are Daniel Akin '89, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Emir Caner '99, Truett McConnell College; Barry Creamer '00, Criswell College; David Dockery '88, Trinity International University; Marcia Hawkins '87, '00, Union College; Michael Reeser '06, Texas State Technical College System; and Jesse Rogers '63, Midwestern State University.

For Cruzado, UTA stoked her passion for learning and teaching. "Not only did my time there provide me with excellent academic preparation, the life lessons I learned cemented my decision to pursue a career in higher education."

## All That Jazz

Alumna and saxophonist Caroline Davis hones her craft in New York City

Caroline Davis '04 double-majored in jazz and psychology at UT Arlington, but her improvisational skills really blossomed after she graduated and moved to Chicago.

The alto saxophonist pursued a Ph.D. in music cognition at Northwestern University. It was theory by day and practice by night as she learned from talented artists like guitarist Bobby Broom and the late tenor saxophonist Von Freeman. She calls it her "own private version of music school."

In 2008 she played the Chicago Jazz Festival for the first time as leader. Soon afterward she released her first album, *Live Work and Play*.

After interviewing musicians about their mentors and memories of the jazz scene that flourished in Chicago from 1980-2000, she wrote *Doors Closing*. The album is an audio documentary of a time and place she feels called to celebrate. Two musicians who played alongside Freeman during that time, guitarist Mike Allemana and bassist Matt Ferguson, perform with drummer Jeremy Cunningham and Davis on the album.

She has since moved to New York City and is performing monthly with her band, Maitri, and working daily on her craft. She practices often with veteran trumpeter John McNeil, who has performed with the likes of Billy Hart, Rufus Reid, and Horace Silver. Links to Davis' recordings and a schedule of upcoming gigs are at carolinadavis.org.

In between practices and performances, she keeps it all together by teaching.

"That's the hardest part, finding financial support for my most deeply creative desires," she says. "But I won't give up. I've got to keep following my path."



Caroline Davis '04 is making a name for herself on the national jazz scene.



## Rising Up

Chris Goad helps provide adapted sports gear to physically challenged athletes

You can see the difference, sometimes in an hour or two, says Chris Goad '93, executive director of RISE Adaptive Sports.

The Irving nonprofit offers physically challenged members the equipment they need to sail, swim, water-ski, kayak, hand-cycle, and wheelchair motocross, as well as play rugby and power soccer. Quadriplegic since damaging his spinal cord at age 17, Goad understands the value of sports for those living with paralysis.

"The psychological benefits outweigh the physical," he says. "Sports are a conduit, a reason for people to challenge themselves and interact with others."

At UTA he lettered in wheelchair track, qualified at the national level in table tennis, and played quad rugby. His mentor was the late Jim Hayes, the legendary Movin' Mavs basketball coach who fought for and won wheelchair accessibility on campus.

"If not for Jim and his drive to push those modifications into place, I probably wouldn't have attended," Goad says. "I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today."

After being laid off as head of logistics at a Fortune 150 company, Goad began volunteering for RISE. The atmosphere reminded him of the challenge, camaraderie, and exhilaration he'd missed since graduating. After joining the organization in 2012, he has focused on marketing and finding corporate sponsors.

"Adaptive sports equipment is expensive. It's a huge investment for a family already beset with medical costs," he says. "That's why founder Paul Gray has made RISE 100 percent free for all members and their families."

Goad attends as many RISE programs as possible. "It keeps me going. I've seen how lives can change."

## Events

### 'INTO THE WOODS'

The Maverick Theatre Company presents this award-winning musical where fantasy worlds collide. Directed by Andrew Gaupp. Feb. 25-March 1, Mainstage Theatre. More information: [uta.edu/theatre](http://uta.edu/theatre)



### HENRY CISNEROS

The former U.S. Housing and Urban Development secretary speaks on "Smart Growth: Developing the Economy, Infrastructure, and a Sustainable Future" as part of the Maverick Speakers Series. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, Texas Hall. More information: [uta.edu/maverickspeakers](http://uta.edu/maverickspeakers)

### EXECUTIVE DINNER

Alumna Jacqualyn Fouse is the keynote speaker at the annual event co-hosted by the College of Business and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, Bluebonnet Ballroom, E.H. Hereford University Center. More information: [collegeofbusiness@uta.edu](mailto:collegeofbusiness@uta.edu)



### BOB COSTAS

The award-winning sports-caster discusses "Sports in America: Is it Still Only a Game?" as part of the Maverick Speakers Series. 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 13, College Park Center. More information: [uta.edu/maverickspeakers](http://uta.edu/maverickspeakers)

# Alumni

Cresson, Texas



**NORMAN WARD '82, '92**  
By age 13, Norman Ward knew he wanted to be an architect. The Fort Worth native eventually found his way to UT Arlington's architecture program, earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees. In 2013 the Fort Worth chapter of the American Institute of Architects presented Ward its highest distinction, the Charles R. Adams Award for Design Excellence. The honor recognizes Ward's body of work, which includes the interiors of Artspace 111 and the Community Arts Center in downtown Fort Worth. "My whole idea of work is about the joy of making," he says. "I see architecture that way. It's not just the design work; it's that we're all interacting together." He creates from his Modernist hilltop home in rural Cresson, inspired by seasonal changes and "daylighting," or how sunlight moves through a space. His firm includes fellow alumnus Ernest Curry '93, who crafts models and helps with the design process. Ward also inspires future generations to pursue college degrees. "I talk to students about how everything is possible through education," he says. "I feel that's an extension of what was really given to me at UTA."



## By Design

Laura Quintero earns national honor

A passion for helping high school students navigate the road to college has placed alumna Laura Quintero in elite company.

The National Hispana Leadership Institute named Quintero one of two recipients of its 2014 Rising Star Award for encouraging young Latinos and Latinas to pursue a college degree. The honor recognizes Latina leaders under 30.

"I've always wanted to contribute to the community in a meaningful way, to share with young students the skills that I developed during my undergraduate years at UT Arlington," she says. "This award challenges me to keep working in the community and serves as validation that I'm headed in the right direction."

A first-generation college graduate, Quintero earned a bachelor's degree in interior design from the School of Architecture in 2012. While at UT Arlington, she was a volunteer administrator and instructor for the Playhouse Fun Project, an after-school program that taught art and design to elementary school students in Dallas. The project motivated the children to finish high school and attend college.

"Laura doesn't even know how special she is," says architecture Assistant Professor Norma Isa Figueroa, a 2014 NHLI Executive Leadership Program fellow. "She mentors high school students in inner-city neighborhoods, encourages education, and works to create job opportunities for Latino students in the world of architecture and engineering—all while pursuing her own professional goals."

Quintero is a Dallas-based interior designer who frequently collaborates on restaurant projects. She describes the work as a combination of math, chemistry, and art, and she's eager to share her knowledge with the students she mentors.

"I want them to grasp how higher education can be easily attained with hard work and dedication. I want them to be confident and proud that their hard work paid off and that an exciting chapter is about to begin."

## Call of Duty

Military Science Hall of Honor to add three

Distinguished veterans Fred Campos, top, Orlando Reyes, and Kevin Smith will be inducted into the UTA Military Science Hall of Honor during ceremonies March 21 in the E.H. Hereford University Center.

Campos was a member of the Sam Houston Rifles at Arlington State College (now UT Arlington). After the Tet Offensive in spring 1968, he joined the Marines and was attached to the Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, Force Reconnaissance. He served on active duty through 1970 and in the reserves until 1974.

After returning to civilian life, Campos began an information technology career at Electronic Data Systems. In 1996 he co-founded Remit Plus Software, which developed an electronic check processing system that became the financial industry standard. He now works as the western United States embedded software sales representative for IBM.

Reyes commanded the Sam Houston Rifles and was the highest-ranked UT Arlington cadet at the 1977 ROTC summer camp. After earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 1979, he was commissioned in the Army artillery and served seven years throughout the United States and Germany.

Following active duty, he founded Reyes Insurance Agency and serves as the Arlington company's president. He is a member of the Fort Worth Airpower Council, which raises money to support military personnel and their families. He is a life member and former finance vice president of UTA's Cadet Corps Alumni Council.

Smith is recruiting and enrollments adviser in the UT Arlington Military Science Department, where he has worked since 2001. His efforts have helped the Maverick Battalion maintain a consistently high ranking among the nation's ROTC programs.

A retired lieutenant colonel, Smith was an Army aviator who served several tours overseas, including combat duty in Iraq. He received the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and numerous other awards. He is being recognized with a Support Membership in the Hall of Honor.

The Military Science Department and Cadet Corps Alumni Council jointly bestow the Hall of Honor award.

## Snapshots



**COMM DAY**  
Fort Worth Mayor and Distinguished Alumna Betsy Price '72 received a UTA Comm Day T-shirt after speaking at the October event that celebrates communication careers.



**HOMECOMING GAME**  
Brandon Krausse '06, '09 and daughter Abigail were among thousands of blue-and-orange-clad fans who watched the Mavericks win the Homecoming basketball game in November at College Park Center.



**ENGINEERING REUNION**  
President Vistas Karbhari and Marvin Applewhite '64 at a 50-year reunion for College of Engineering graduates during Homecoming in November.



**HOMECOMING RECEPTION**  
Ric Carroll '05, Christopher Dinh '12, and Scott Royal '94 attended an alumni Homecoming reception in November.

# Spotlight



**CARVILLE-MATALIN EVENT**

Mary Matalin, Dorothy Estes, James Carville, and Audrey Wick at a reception in October before Carville and Matalin's Maverick Speakers Series lecture.



**ENGINEERING LUNCHEON**

College of Engineering Dean Khosrow Behbehani, Bonnie Dowdy, and President Vistasp Karbhari at an endowment luncheon in October recognizing engineering donors.



**GOURLEY SCHOLARSHIP**

UT Arlington hosted representatives of the Fort Worth-based Mary Gourley Foundation and scholarship recipients at a luncheon in November.



**SPANIOLI SCHOLARSHIP**

Former UTA President Jim Spanioli, center, with recipients of the James D. Spanioli First Generation Scholarship at a reception in November.



## Thanks, Mom

Scholarship recognizes matriarch Madam Ajara's devotion to education

Clement Osimetha's journey from humble beginnings in Nigeria to respected corporate attorney represents the textbook American success story. And he owes it all to his mother.

"If not for her influence, there would be no career success," the 1992 UT Arlington finance graduate says. "That goes for my brothers and sisters as well."

To honor their mother on her 75th birthday, Osimetha and his six siblings established the Chief Felicia Ajara Atseguba Dikko Endowed Scholarship in the College of Business. The scholarship supports students who have received all or part of their pre-college education in Nigeria.

Chief Dikko, or Madam Ajara, as Osimetha's mother is affectionately known, had no formal schooling. Yet she owned and operated several small businesses as a single mother in Nigeria.

"She was quite an enterprising person," Osimetha says of his mom, who now lives in Arlington. "She was a strong woman, and people looked up to her."

As an attorney with Axiom, Osimetha serves as general counsel to DPT Laboratories, Ltd., a contract manufacturing pharmaceutical organization. He oversees all major legal matters related to the company's business activities.

He is a member of the executive board of SMU's Dedman School of Law, where he graduated in 1995, and serves on the board of directors of the African American Repertory Theater. He served consecutive three-year terms on the State of Texas Board of Disciplinary Appeals, appointed by the Texas Supreme Court.

Chief Dikko's passion for education still resonates with her children, all of whom attended college.

"To have the foresight that we should all go to school is remarkable," Osimetha says. "She was very smart and forward thinking to know that education was the best way out of our circumstances at the time."

## Estate gift honors popular professor

The late David Groner was so beloved by his students that they coronated him—literally—at his retirement in 1991. ers and clips, which he sold at flea markets and retail outlets.

But teaching was his passion.

"Dave thoroughly enjoyed UTA and the relationships he developed with students," says longtime friend and colleague Elwood Preiss, who served in numerous administrative roles during his 35 years at UTA. "He was truly one of those people who loved what he did."

Students and everyone enjoyed Dave because he was fun and unpredictable and a joy to be around," says Jean Coulter '72, who worked in the Communication Department from 1980-2010 and was a student of Groner's. "He always had a twinkle in his eye and seemed to be looking for a way to bring a smile to your face."

Groner died in 1996 in Littleton, Colo., where he had lived since retiring. Prior to joining the UT Arlington faculty, he taught at Penn State University and Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. He owned a business that made plastic contain-

"She was very mindful of Dave's commitment to UTA," says Preiss, who is executor of the estate. "She thought the endowment would be a fitting tribute to his many years of dedicated service."



**LASTING LEGACY** Like many newlyweds, Emma and Vittorio Argento struggled to make ends meet. But the couple eventually built successful careers—she in banking and he as a professor in UTA's Civil Engineering Department from 1978-98. When Emma died in 2012 after more than 50 years of marriage, Vic established the Emma and Dr. Vittorio "Vic" Argento Endowed Scholarship. A planned estate gift will further fund the endowment, which benefits civil engineering students. "I wanted to provide a memory of Emma that would live on," Argento says. "I also wanted to help the students I enjoyed so much continue their educations."



## Athletics Giving

**DIANE AND TOM CRAVENS** As a kid, Arlington native Tom Cravens preferred football and track to baseball. But he's stepping up to the plate now to benefit Maverick athletics. Cravens and his wife, Diane, have made a naming gift to support construction of the baseball training room, part of a \$5.5 million upgrade of UTA's baseball/softball complex. In addition to training rooms for both teams, the project features state-of-the-art clubhouses, locker rooms, and lounges as well as new dugouts and picnic areas. "A major part of college life is the athletics you have on campus," says Cravens, an Honorary Distinguished Alumnus and retired banker. "We have College Park Center for basketball and volleyball, which is one of the finest arenas of its size in the country. Now it's time for the baseball and softball teams to have a facility they can be proud of." The expansion and renovation project is expected to boost recruiting and raise the teams' national profiles. "It's important for UTA to have a first-class baseball and softball facility to be competitive," Cravens says. "Diane and I are honored to help make it happen."

# Class Notes

**1970**

**George Carlton Jr.** (BA, History) was one of six attorneys from the Texas trial appellate law firm Godwin Lewis PC who were recognized in the 2015 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. It was the third selection for Carlton, who heads the company's mass tort litigation practice group. He was chosen based on his product liability litigation defense work. **James P. Smith** (BBA, Business Administration) retired after 38 years as a pilot, 12 years with the U.S. Navy and 26 years with Continental Airlines.

**1973**

**Tim Schultz** ('73 BA, Political Science; '74 MA, Public Affairs) is senior vice president at BBVA Compass Bank in Houston.

**1974**

**Bill Lane** ('74 BS, '76 MS, Mechanical Engineering) is vice president of emerging technologies for Weatherford Artificial Lift Systems, providers of products and services that span the drilling, evaluation, completion, production, and intervention cycles of oil and natural gas wells. He has been with Weatherford for 19 years and works in the Houston area.

**1975**

**Ernest Brister** (BBA, Business Administration) was re-elected Hill County Democratic Party chair, a position he has held since 2009. Lt. Col. Brister was a military police officer, serving 28 years in the U.S. Army Reserve before retiring in 1988. He is also retired from BNSF Railway.

**1977**

**Jack Reinhard** (MA, Economics) wrote *Freedom's Nation*, which shows how reorganizing the Federal Reserve and granting freedom to individuals and the nation's markets could return America to prosperity. His work experience

spans more than 30 years of executive and management positions in utility, engineering, and construction industries in corporate and government organizations.

**1979**

**Tim Brennan** (BFA, Art) wrote the children's book *About Teddy: A Story about Tourette's Syndrome* to help raise awareness. **Patrick**

**Brooke** (BBA, Accounting) is chief financial officer at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minn. Previously he was senior director of financial operations at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill. **Albert Chen** (MS, Structural Engineering) is an associate principal in the Los Angeles office of Thornton Tomasetti, a structural engineering consulting firm headquartered in New York City.

**1980**

**Leroy Caldwell** (BS, Civil Engineering) is a senior engineer with CMC Construction Services in Dallas. Previously he spent nearly 29 years with Dayton Superior.

**Larry Watson** ('80 MS, Social Work; '07 PhD, Public and Urban Administration) co-wrote *Developing Nonprofit and Human Service Leaders: Essential Knowledge and Skills*. He is an assistant professor in the UT Arlington School of Social Work.

**1981**

**Wayne Burgdorf** (BBA, Accounting) is vice president of Coldwell Banker Commercial Alliance DFW and has incorporated his firm, Burgdorf Realty Group, into CBC Alliance operations.

**Jim Green** (BS, Electrical Engineering) is executive vice president and chief operating officer for EF Johnson Technologies, based in Irving. Previously he was vice president at Flextronics, president and CEO of Digital Lightwave Corp., and president and CEO of Trillium Industries. **Roger Krone** (BBA, Accounting) is president of Living Color

is chief executive officer of Leidos Holdings, a science and technology solutions company based in Reston, Va. Previously he was president of Network and Space Systems for the Boeing Co.

**1982**

**Tim Eckersley** (BS, Electrical Engineering) is senior vice president and president of the Americas region for Allegion, a security solutions provider based in Carmel, Ind. He previously worked for Ingersoll Rand's security technologies and Nokia.

**Prasad Rampalli** (MS, Industrial Engineering) is president and chief executive officer of QLogic, a provider of data center networking and storage networking infrastructure solutions based in Aliso Viejo, Calif. **John Wright** (BS, Civil Engineering) is director of public works for the city of Greenville. He spent 23 years with the Texas Department of Transportation.

**1980**

**Raul H. Gonzalez** (BBA, Management) was elected vice president of the board of trustees for the Mansfield Independent School District. He is director of administration for Passman & Jones, a Dallas law firm.

**1986**

**Martin Lisius** (BA, Radio-TV) wrote *The Ultimate Severe Weather Safety Guide*. He founded Tempest Tours, a storm-chasing company, and has produced several documentaries about storms.

**1988**

**Michael J. Murray** (BBA, Accounting) is executive vice president and chief operating officer for D.R. Horton in Fort Worth. He was instrumental in three acquisitions as senior vice president of business development for the home-building company. **Rodney Robinson** (BBA, Accounting) is president of Living Color

Aquariums, a manufacturer of custom aquariums and themed environments in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Previously he was the company's chief financial officer. **Mark Strauss** (PhD, Biomedical Engineering) owns Impact Injury Analysis, which performs forensic accident reconstruction and injury analysis. He also is an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**1989**

**Craig Cobb** (BFA, Drama) is an editor for ABC Television. He has worked on *Manhattan Love Story*, *Sex and the City*, *30 Rock*, and *The Newsroom*. **Craig Zemmin** (BBA, Management) is the Dallas-Fort Worth area regional manager for Austin-based American Campus Communities, a developer of student housing.

**1990**

**Chester Jourdan Jr.** (MA, Urban Affairs) is executive director of the American Red Cross Southeast Texas Chapters, which include Beaumont and Orange County. Previously he was executive director of the Southeast Texas Nonprofit Development Center in Beaumont. **Basil Schaban-Maurer** ('90 BS, '93 MArch, Architecture; '08 MCRP, City and Regional Planning) wrote *Rise of the Citizen Practitioner* based on his citizen engagement research. He is an adjunct professor of urban design at Concordia University in Austin and a principal for ARK Tectonics, a Fort Worth architecture and planning firm.

**1991**

**Heather Jerden Anderson** (BA, Political Science) was re-elected national vice president of administration for Delta Zeta sorority in July. Having served in the position since 2012, she will continue to serve during the 2014-16 biennium.

**1993**

**Lori Lee** ('93 BA, '97 MA, Anthropology) was named the Virginia Professional Archaeologist of the Year by the Archaeological Society of Virginia. The honor recognizes her research at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, where she helped discover, document, and analyze the lives of slaves who lived on the plantation. After two years as the Ainsworth Visiting Professor of American Culture at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Va., she is now an anthropology assistant professor at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Fla. **Raj Malik** (BS, Computer Science Engineering) was honored as Entrepreneur of the Year by the U.S.-India Chamber of Commerce-Dallas/Fort Worth. He is president and CEO of Bioworld Merchandising, an Irving-based design firm with offices worldwide.

**1994**

**Paula Waggoner-Aguilar** (BBA, Accounting) was among 10 executives receiving the Best CFO Award from the *San Antonio Business Journal* in October. She is owner and president of The Energy CFO in San Antonio. Her firm provides CFO services to energy entrepreneurs, family enterprises, and private-equity start-ups across South Texas (San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Laredo) and Houston. She is also co-founder and president of the Women's Energy Network of South Texas.

**1995**

**Karla Ramberger** (BSN, Nursing) is chief nursing officer for the Methodist Health System in Dallas. **Mike Yakubovsky** (BS, Economics) was one of six teachers worldwide to receive the 2014 National Instruments Excellence in Engineering Education Award. Since 2006 he has taught at Coppell High School, where he leads the STEM program.

**1996**

**Lisa Franks Gray** (BS, Microbiology) was certified in pharmaceutical and medical device microbiology by the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists at the American College of Microbiology in Washington, D.C. **William Hernandez** (BS, Mechanical Engineering) received the Lex Frieden Employment Award, Entrepreneurship Category, from the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities for starting a company, hiring people with disabilities, and working to help meet the needs of the community. His Per4max company designs and produces sport wheelchairs. He is a former member of the UT Arlington Movin' Mavs wheelchair basketball team. **Gary Manns** (MEDT, Education in Teaching) is director of education at the International Leadership of Texas charter school in Garland. **Jennifer Riddle** (BA, Spanish) is a digital strategist for the Balcom Agency, a Fort Worth-based company whose services include branding, marketing communications, Web design, social media, public relations, and media planning.

**2000**

**Barry Creamer** (PhD, Humanities) became president of Criswell College in Dallas on Aug. 1. He had served as Criswell vice president of academic affairs since 2011 and as a professor of humanities since 2004. He also was a lecturer in the UT Arlington Department of Philosophy and Humanities from 2008-10. **Aaron Endris** (BBA, Finance), a commercial insurance broker, manages the bond department for the Swantner & Gordon branch office of Higginbotham in Corpus Christi.

**1997**

**Adriana Fjeseth** (BS, Economics) is an accounting specialist for 7-Eleven Inc. in Dallas. **Thu Pham** (BS, Biology) is an attorney with The Health Law Firm in Altamonte Springs, Fla. Her practice focuses on health care litigation, licensing and disciplinary issues, contracts, appeals, administrative hearings, regulatory matters, and Medicaid defense.

**2002**

**Robert Abel** (MED, Education in Curriculum and Instruction) is director of secondary teaching and learning for the Irving Independent School District. **Jabari Johnson** (BA, Communication Technology) is founder of the Heads Up! Foundation, which provides academic and cultural development and participation in basketball camps for youth in Dallas County. He

is city manager and director of economic development for the town of Pantego. Previously he was director of economic development for the Texas cities of Sugar Land and Rosenberg. **Santosh Krishnan** (BS, Information Systems) is president and CEO of SKMedia in Dallas. His company created RideConnect, a social transportation collaboration application that enables people to ask for and give rides. His group surveyed UT Arlington students in the fall. **Stephanie Vetere** (MEDT, Education in Teaching) is an assistant principal at Coble Middle School in Mansfield.

is a former all-Southland Conference guard for the men's basketball team. **Venkata-giri Krishnamurthy** ('02 MS, Electrical Engineering; '11 PhD, Biomedical Engineering) is a postdoctoral fellow at Emory University in Atlanta. **Josh Strittmatter** (BBA, Finance) is president and CEO of Strittmatter Wealth Management Group in Weatherford. He also teaches a UT Arlington continuing education course on retirement and Social Security planning.

Previously he was principal at Gunn Junior High in Arlington. **Andy Hagman** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Lamar High School in Arlington.

# Notable

**TERESA WHITE**

White ('88 BBA, Information Systems) is president of Aflac U.S. operations, based in Columbus, Ga. She has worked for Aflac since 1998 and has received numerous awards for leadership, including the 2014 Women in Insurance Leadership Award from *Insurance Networking News*.

**TREY HILLMAN**

Hillman ('91 BA, Exercise and Sport Studies) will start the 2015 baseball season as the Houston Astros bench coach. Previously he managed the Kansas City Royals and was bench coach for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

**ALFRED VIDAUERR JR.**

Vidaurre ('79 BS, '82 MArch, Architecture) received the 2014 President's Medal for Distinguished Service, the highest honor bestowed by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. The only Texas recipient, he is vice president and principal at Freese and Nichols in Fort Worth.

**RUMANDA YOUNG**

Young ('04 MCRP, City and Regional Planning; '08 PhD, Urban Planning and Public Policy) received the Lt. Gen. John W. Morris Civilian of the Year Award from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She is chief of the Master Planning Section of the Fort Worth District's Regional Planning and Environmental Center.

# Briefly



## MAVERICK MERCHANDISE

Everybody looks better in blue and orange. Gear up for springtime weather by visiting UTA's one-stop online shopping mall. A wide selection of T-shirts, polos, caps, bags, accessories, and other merchandise awaits. The online shop includes links to the UT Arlington Bookstore, athletics store, Planetarium gift shop, and more. Check it out at [uta.edu/shoponline](http://uta.edu/shoponline).

## GET CONNECTED

Stay apprised of all things Maverick by joining the University's social media sites. UT Arlington's official Facebook page had more than 31,000 "likes" as of early January. Become a fan and get updates in your newsfeed about campus happenings and achievements. Follow @utarlington on Twitter for the latest news, network with fellow alumni through LinkedIn, and share photos from UTA's Pinterest boards.



## LICENSE PLATE DISCOUNT

The eye-catching UT Arlington Texas license plate is now more affordable. MyPlates.com, the state's official vendor, reduced its prices on the specialty tags effective Dec. 1, 2014. There's also a new pricing option that spans three years. A percentage of sales benefits student scholarships. Find out more details and take advantage of the discount today by visiting [myplates.com/go/uta](http://myplates.com/go/uta).

captured the silver medal at the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation World Championships in Incheon, South Korea, in July. He is a former member of the UT Arlington Movin' Mavs wheelchair team.

## 2006

**Syreeta Clarke** (BS, Biology; BS, Microbiology) was certified in pharmaceutical and medical device microbiology by the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists at the American College of Microbiology in Washington, D.C. **Stacey Edwards** (BBA, Management) is office manager for Caliber Collision in San Antonio. **Aly Meherali** (BS, Biology; BS, Chemistry) was selected Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2014-15 in the Irving Independent School District. He teaches chemistry at Singley Academy. **Jonathan Smith** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at T.W. Browne Middle School in Dallas. **Candace Sweat** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a reporter for WRAL-TV in Raleigh, N.C. **Tanji Towels** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at J.O. Davis Elementary School in Irving. **Nicole Willingham** (MBA, Accounting) is a financial analyst with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as a featured blogger on GovLoop, a website for government leaders.

## 2007

**Shannon Brunskill** ('07 BFA, '11 MFA, Art) served as a teaching assistant for South American artist Silvia Levinson during summer 2014. She owns Brunskill Studios in Dallas. **Bryan Fenstermaker** (MPA, Public and Urban Administration; MCRP, City and Regional Planning) was appointed to the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council. He is director of programs for the Enterprise Center Com-

munity Development Corp. in the Greater Philadelphia area. **Ryan Hardy** (MS, Finance) is vice president for design and construction at HAP Investment Developers in New York, where he oversees the firm's residential projects. Previously he was a project manager for the U.S. General Services Administration, Las Vegas Travel Bureau. **Brianna Hinojosa-Flores** (Cohort MBA, Business Administration) is senior manager and patent attorney for BlackBerry in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. **Ryan Oliver** ('07 BS, '08 MS, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering) is a visiting student in the mechanosynthesis group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a doctoral pre-candidate in mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan. He helped develop Robofurnace, an automated system for making carbon nanotube forests and studying their growth. **Chakossa Powell** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Maus Middle School in Frisco. **Katherine Watkins** (BS, Microbiology) was certified in pharmaceutical and medical device microbiology by the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists at the American College of Microbiology in Washington, D.C.

## 2008

**Daniel Armbruster** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a weekend co-anchor at KHBS/KHOG-TV in Fayetteville/Fort Smith, Ark. **David L. Campbell** (EMBA, Business Administration) is president and chief operating officer for the Alaskan Air Group of Horizon Air. Previously he was vice president of maintenance and engineering at JetBlue Airways. **Liz Covert** (BFA, Art) is an art conservationist for private collections and museums. She designs and makes metal jewelry and home decor and is a volunteer

blacksmith at Knapp Heritage Park in Arlington. **Matthew Grevan** (BFA, Theatre Arts) was stage manager and earned his Actors Equity Association union membership with Soho Cinders at Uptown Players in Dallas in summer 2014. **Hallema Jackson** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Britain Elementary School in Irving. **Nolan Runnels III** (BS, Aerospace Engineering) is a rendezvous and proximity operations engineer for Jacobs Technology, a Houston-based professional services company with offices worldwide. **Michael Wyrrick** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Durham Intermediate School in the Carroll Independent School District in Southlake.

## 2009

**Aaron Gouge** (BA, Kinesiology) and **Mike Payne** (BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice) were members of the USA men's national team that captured the silver medal at the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation World Championships in Incheon, South Korea in July. They are former members of the UT Arlington Movin' Mavs wheelchair team. **Ryan McCoy** ('09 MEd, '14 PhD, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Reed Middle School in Duncanville. **Joaquin Noyola** ('09 BS, '13 MS, Physics) and **Suman Satyal** ('09 BS, '11 MS, Physics), Ph.D. students, teamed with UT Arlington physics Professor Zdzislaw Musielak to publish a paper in *The Astrophysical Journal* showing how they believe tracking radio waves can determine where exomoons are located in the universe. **Adam Stein** (MA, TESOL) provided instruction for the Chinese MBA English program in August for UT Arlington College of Business students. He also volunteered during summer 2014 in the West Bank of Palestine for

Defence for Children International and Al Rowwad. He is an instructor in UT Arlington's English Language Institute. **Jason Villarreal** (BFA, Theatre Arts) performed in Dallas Woody's annual Turnabout Show in June, raising money and awareness for the Resource Center of Dallas. He also taught at the Dallas Children's Theatre during summer 2014. He is training director for FreeRange Concepts in Dallas.

## 2010

**Charlotte Ford** (PhD, Public and Urban Administration) is principal at Summit High School in Mansfield. Previously she was principal at Mansfield's Coble Middle School. **Debra Logan** (PhD, Nursing) is chair and director of the nursing program at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, Kan. Previously she was director of nursing programs for Brown Mackie College in Bedford and campus nursing dean and assistant professor at West Coast University in Dallas. **Kristina Ibitayo** (PhD, Nursing) is an assistant professor at LeTourneau University's School of Nursing. She helped write the proposal approved by the Board of Nursing for the start of LeTourneau's undergraduate nursing program. Previously she was a clinical assistant professor in UT Arlington's College of Nursing. **LaMarcus Reed** (BBA, Finance) is playing for Aris Thessaloniki in the Greek Professional Basketball League. He played last season for Etha in Cyprus, averaging 14.2 points and seven rebounds per game. He was a first-team All-Southland Conference selection in 2011 at UT Arlington. **Robyn Rinearson** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Spencer Elementary School in Mansfield. **Jason Steele** (BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice) is the external relations specialist for the Texas Department of Family

and Protective Services in Austin. **Ruby Yi-Ping Wang** (MA, Linguistics; MA, TESOL) joined the UT Arlington Department of Modern Languages in fall 2014 as a lecturer in Chinese.

## 2011

**Brett Crowson** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at Amos Elementary School in Arlington. He had been a special education social emotional and academic success (SEAS) teacher at Larson Elementary in Arlington since 2002. **Mayde "Mimi" Gomez** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a correspondent and multimedia journalist at KSAT-TV in San Antonio. **Rhonda Robertson** (MA, Criminology and Criminal Justice) was named a board member of the Tarrant County College Foundation. She is an assistant chief in the Fort Worth Police Department. **Francesca Washington** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a reporter at KLTV in Tyler.

## 2012

**Laura Choate** (BA, Theatre Arts) is performing in the Dallas Children's Theater national touring production of *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*. The U.S. tour began in September 2014 and continues through June 2015. **Brittany King** (BFA, Theatre Arts) was a costume intern for Soho Cinders at Uptown Players in Dallas during summer 2014. **Kara Edgerton** (BS, Exercise Science) is in the doctor of physical therapy program at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. **Danielle Hansen** ('12 BS, Athletic Training; '14 MS, Exercise Physiology) is an athletic training fellow at the Steadman Clinic in Vail, Colo. She was a graduate assistant athletic trainer with the Movin' Mavs wheelchair basketball team at UT Arlington. **Matthew Lingust** (BA,

Broadcast Communication) is a photographer at KOCO-TV in Oklahoma City. Previously he was digital content specialist at KXII-TV in Sherman. **Ann Martini** (Cohort MBA, Business Administration) is a project manager in the U.S. General Services Administration Greater Southwest Region office in Fort Worth. **Chris Mead** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is video creative services manager for the Texas Stars Hockey Club in Cedar Park. **Steven McKinney** ('12 BA, Interdisciplinary Studies; '13 BSN, Nursing) is stroke coordinator at Methodist Dallas Medical Center, where he is responsible for helping his facility achieve comprehensive stroke certification.

**MaryAnn Means-Dufrene** (MS, Human Resource Management; MPA, Public Administration) is executive director for Susan G. Komen for the Cure Greater Fort Worth. Previously she was deputy chief of staff in the Fort Worth Mayor and Council Office. **Erin Montgomery** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at Carter Junior High School in Arlington. Previously she taught Spanish in Mansfield and Grand Prairie. **Nina Price** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is vice principal at Trinity Basin Preparatory Elementary School in Dallas. **Kiranmayi Raparthi** ('12 MCRP, City and Regional Planning; '14 PhD, Urban Planning and Public Policy) is a postdoctoral research associate in an international collaborative research project on "Evaluating Communication for Development" with UNESCO at the University of Hyderabad, India. **Roger Sancho** (BS, Athletic Training) is head athletic trainer for the Santa Cruz Warriors, a development league basketball team affiliated with the Golden State Warriors.

## 2013

**Cecilia Acuna** (BS, Exercise Science) is in the doctor of physical therapy program at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

**Olivia Shadan Aigbogun** (BA, Theatre Arts) is a graduate student in UT Arlington's School of Social Work. Her master's thesis will examine theater as therapy. **Lizette Barrera** (BFA, Art) screened her short film, *Rubies*, during the annual Lunafest film festival in October at the Maverick Activities Center.

**Tyler Benson** (MS, Exercise Physiology) is a student in the doctor of osteopathic medicine program at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth. **Winston Daniels** (BFA, Theatre Arts) played the part of the donkey in *Shrek: the Musical* at Kids Who Care Musical Theatre in Fort Worth during summer 2014. He also was invited to perform with Amphibian Stage Productions, a theatrical company staging readings and productions in Fort Worth and New York City. He is a member of a stilt-dancing troupe, specialized performers who dance and tell stories while on stilts. **Wendy Donnell** (PhD, Nursing) wrote "A Correlational Study of a Reading Comprehension Program and Attrition Rates of ESL Nursing Students in Texas." She is an assistant professor of nursing at Texas A&M International University. **Joshua Jensen** (PhD, Linguistics) wrote *Jarai Clauses and Noun Phrases: Syntactic Structures in an Austronesian Language*, the first published treatment of the syntax of Jarai, an Austronesian language of Southeast Asia. Dr. Jensen is a missionary candidate for Cambodia at EMU International in Spartanburg, S.C. **John McCall** (BS, Civil Engineering) is a petroleum engineer for the Department of Interior-Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement in Anchorage,

Alaska. **Chris Moulkers** (BS, Mechanical Engineering) drove the UTA Formula SAE car to victory at the Texas Autocross Weekend races in July on the UT Arlington campus. The car featured Active Aero technology implemented in 2013 to reduce drag and increase downforce, enhancing handling and efficiency.

**Jason Ngu** (BS, Exercise Science) is in the doctor of physical therapy program at Texas Woman's University. **Silviya Nikolova** (PhD, Social Work) received the inaugural Disability Manuscript Award at the Council on Social Work Education national meeting in Tampa, Fla., in October for "Geo-social and health disparities among persons with disabilities living in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and Dallas, Texas." **Sean Noell** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a member of the production team at KVT-CBS 11 in Fort Worth. **Keith Owens** (MA, Criminology and Criminal Justice) received the 2014 Texas Children's Hero Award from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for his leadership in the rescue of 22 children from child sex trafficking in 2013. He is a senior special agent for Department of Homeland Security Investigations in Dallas. **Rory Peacock** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is director of instructional technology for the Northwest Independent School District. Previously he was an instructional technology specialist and a fifth-grade math and science teacher in the district.

**Alycen Phan** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at Madison High School in Madison, Calif. **Linying "Jolynn" Zhou** (PhD, Accounting) is an assistant professor of accounting at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. She was a teaching associate and teaching assistant in the UTA College of Business. She has teaching experience in auditing, accounting principles, accounting analysis, and professionalism in accounting.

## 2014

**Roger Blackmon** (BS, Computer Engineering) is a software developer for SSG, a Dallas-based professional software services company.

**Joshua Egua** (BA, Theatre Arts) teaches theater in the Grand Prairie Independent School District. **Brandon Esianor** (BS, Exercise Science) is working toward a graduate degree at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. **Dugger Faulkner** (BS, Accounting) is a business development account manager for Dallas-based Software Professionals, Inc. **Brandon Harris** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at Borger Middle School in Borger. **Terri Jones** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is assistant principal at Angleton Christian School in Angleton. **Becky Navarre** (PhD, Educational Leadership) is assistant superintendent of educational technology in the Fort Worth Independent School District. **Rosalinda Olivares** (BA, Theatre Arts) works with the Texas Creative Arts Academy, based in Coppell.

**Himanshu Patel** (BA, Advertising Communication) is brand manager for The Richards Group, a Dallas advertising agency. **Gerald Redd** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is assistant administrative director and high school supervisor for Universal College in Aley, Lebanon. **Jennifer Wiese** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Madison High School in Madison, Calif. **Linying "Jolynn" Zhou** (PhD, Accounting) is an assistant professor of accounting at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. She was a teaching associate and teaching assistant in the UTA College of Business. She has teaching experience in auditing, accounting principles, accounting analysis, and professionalism in accounting.

## In Memoriam

### 1940s

**Amp W. Miller Jr.** ('42 AA, Liberal Arts), 90, June 15 in Dallas. Mr. Miller served as director of the UT Arlington alumni board and was a member of the Alumni Scholarship Committee.

### 1960s

**Ronald Barry Carrigan** ('67 BA, Political Science), 70, Aug. 30 in Grand Rapids, Mich. Mr. Carrigan worked for 28 years in management for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. He found a second career as the financial director of Peter White Library in Marquette, Mich. **Joseph A. Stefan Jr.** ('69 BBA, Business Administration), 77, May 30 in Charlotte, N.C. Mr. Stefan was sales manager at AAA Cooper Transportation in Charlotte before retiring in 2013.

### 1970s

**Everett Wayne Autrey** ('73 BS, Criminal Justice), 87, Aug. 2 in Denton. Mr. Autrey started his 41-year career in law enforcement with the Texas Highway Patrol and was police chief in Weatherford for two years, police chief in Denton for 13 years, and police chief at Texas Woman's University for 13 years. **Gary Howard Burgess** ('74 BS, Mathematics), 62, July 9 in Dallas. Dr. Burgess served on the faculty of the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga., before returning to Texas in 1998 to practice at Medical City Dallas, St. Paul Hospital, and Dallas Methodist Hospital. He specialized in pediatrics and neonatal medicine. **Jean Louise Holderread** ('74 BS, Medical Technology; '92 MBA, Business Administration), 71, Aug. 23 in Fort Worth. Ms. Holderread was a lab technician at Arlington Memorial Hospital for almost 30 years and was lab director at Lake Pointe Emergency Services and Imaging Center in Wylie. **Hollis Howard Dean** ('76 BBA, Business Administration), 90, July 22 in Irving. Mr. Dean



**BETTY NEDDERMAN**

Former UT Arlington first lady Betty Nedderman died Jan. 12 in Arlington. She was 89. A graduate of Texas Woman's University, Mrs. Nedderman married longtime UTA President Wendell Nedderman in 1947. She was a member of the First Christian Church of Arlington since 1959 and sang in the church choir for 25 years. She was named a UT Arlington Honorary Distinguished Alumna and remained active in campus organizations promoting education, fine arts, and athletics long after her husband's retirement in 1992.



**M. ROBERT MCFARLAND**

Influential legislator Robert McFarland died July 23 in Arlington. He was 73. Sen. McFarland earned a BBA degree from UT Arlington in 1963. He served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1977-83 and the Texas Senate from 1983-91. One of the University's staunchest legislative allies, he helped persuade the Select Committee on Higher Education to include UTA on its list of "emerging national universities" with research emphases in 1987. Following his political career, he was an attorney in Arlington for more than 20 years and a state lobbyist for the city. He was named a UTA Distinguished Alumnus in 1984.

worked in the aerospace industry and was an administrator at Vought Aircraft. After retiring from Vought, he volunteered for many years at Baptist Benevolent Ministries of Irving. **Diane Mauldin Fitch** ('77 BA, English), 64, May 23 in Houston. Ms. Fitch was director of crude oil sales and marketing for Enserch Exploration in Hallettsville. **James G. Lavender** ('77 BS, Criminal Justice), 60, Aug. 16 in Fort Worth. Mr. Lavender was a loan delivery manager for Sunbelt Savings and worked in mortgage servicing. He also played guitar in several bands in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. **Carolyn Ann Crier** ('79 BS, Criminal Justice), 61, July 24 in Dallas. Ms. Crier combined a criminal justice career with periodic work in the Dallas restaurant industry and as a licensed real estate agent. She was a natural equestrian and rode in competitive events.

### 1980s

**Daniel Felix Pickering** ('81 MBA, Business Administration), 70, June 1 in Duncanville. Mr. Pickering was chief operating officer of Club Marketing Services in Duncanville. He also served on the board of the Duncanville Education Foundation. **Shirley Ann Godbold** ('82 BBA, Accounting), 81, Aug. 15 in Fort Worth. Ms. Godbold worked as an accountant for several years and taught English as a second language at Northwood University in Cedar Hill. **Melva Jean Hunn** ('83 BFA, Art), 89, June 5 in Denison. Ms. Hunn received her bachelor's degree at age 58. She was a homemaker and a member of the Georgetown Baptist Church in Pottsboro. **Diane Kathleen Gude Klikus** ('83 BA, Sociology), 54, June 9 in Chesterton, Ind. Ms. Klikus was a guidance counselor at Morgan Township middle and high schools in Valparaiso, Ind. She also served as a drug counselor at Porter-Starke

Services, where she conducted group therapy sessions. **Terrance H. Borchard** ('84 MA, Linguistics), 71, Aug. 10 in Springfield, Ore. Dr. Borchard was a Lutheran missionary and Bible translator to the Ipi people in Papua New Guinea. He worked with speakers of the Ipi language to translate the New Testament and parts of the Old Testament into their language. **Deborah Douglas Reilly** ('84 BS, Mathematics), 52, July 20 in Chesapeake, Va. Ms. Reilly was a staff accountant with the health care company Amerigroup in Chesapeake. Previously she was a bookkeeper for Pearle Vision in Salisbury, Md. **William S. Shelton** ('85 BBA, Systems Analysis), 65, May 31 in Johnson City. Mr. Shelton was chief operating officer and president of the Arbella Service Co., part of the Arbella Insurance Group, in Quincy, Mass., when he retired to his ranch in Johnson City in 2007.

**James Edward Doyle** ('89 BS, Mechanical Engineering), 48, June 28 in Arlington. Mr. Doyle worked at Lockheed Martin for 14 years as a stress analyst on projects including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. His Skybolt biplane earned him the Bronze Champion Lindy Trophy at the Experimental Aircraft Association Air Venture Fly-in in 2010.

**Sandra Swaim Dennehy** ('91 BS, Architecture), 60, Oct. 13 in Fort Worth. Ms. Dennehy and her husband, Paul, established Dennehy Architects in Fort Worth. The firm specializes in environmental, civic, ecclesiastical, educational, and residential projects. She was president of the Berry Street Initiative for 17 years and helped revive the long-neglected southside Fort Worth corridor. **Elaine Weide** ('93 BA, English), 44, Aug. 22 in Fort Worth. Ms. Weide worked for the Fort Worth Public Library and was

a volunteer for hospice, Meals on Wheels, and the library.

**Dennis Lee Pool** ('95 BBA, Accounting), 56, July 17 in Fort Worth. In 1980 Mr. Pool began a long career in technical publications with General Dynamics, now Lockheed Martin. He helped launch a digital cataloging system that provided F-16 technical publication customers with digital books and interactive viewing.

**Deannelle Ann Sheppard** ('97 MS, Social Work), 53, Aug. 27 in Bartlesville, Okla. Ms. Sheppard was a licensed clinical social worker at Youth and Family Services of Washington County and the Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville.

**Richard Donnell Culbertson** ('99 PhD, Humanities), 68, June 2 in Fort Worth. Dr. Culbertson worked as an attorney in the Texas Attorney General's Office before teaching history at Tarrant County College.

### 2000s

**Timothy Paul Sepulvado** ('05 BA, History), 51, Aug. 12 in Fort Worth. Mr. Sepulvado taught American and Texas history at private schools in Fort Worth.

### Faculty/Staff

**Noel Everard**, 90, Sept. 13 in Arlington. Dr. Everard was a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering from its inception until his retirement in 1989. **Bernice Franks**, 81, Aug. 5 in Arlington. Ms. Franks retired in 1996 as senior administrative clerk in the Office of University Housing. She received the Outstanding Employee Award in 1989.

**Homer Kerr**, 92, in Arlington. A professor emeritus, Dr. Kerr taught American history at UT Arlington from 1957-89.

**Evelyn James "Eve" Mills**, 85, July 2 in Arlington. Ms. Mills retired after 25 years as an administrative assistant with the Office of News and Information. See more *In Memoriam* at [uta.edu/uta-magazine/in-memoriam](http://uta.edu/uta-magazine/in-memoriam).



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## Past Greek life at UT Arlington, 1970



Photos from the 1970 *Reveille* yearbook reflected the growing Greek community at UT Arlington. The caption for this one: "Ken Wells takes a shaving cream pie full in the mouth courtesy of the Delta Tau Delta-sponsored pie toss at the Kappa Sigma Karnival." Greek life arrived on campus in 1967, made possible when the University petitioned to join The University of Texas System, leaving the Texas A&M umbrella. The A&M System did not recognize Greek letter organizations then because officials believed that social fraternities and sororities would interfere with

students' identifying as Aggies. Social societies—with exotic names like Sans Souci, Les Choisies, Avolonte, Karuso Pteros, and Chi Chi Chi—had flourished on the Arlington campus dating to the 1920s. With the move to the UT System, those groups joined national organizations, bringing new fraternity and sorority chapters. Kappa Sigma was the first Greek group to charter in spring 1967. By 1970 the community had grown to seven sororities, eight fraternities, and 14 honorary fraternities. For more about UTA Greek life past and present, see the story on p. 26.