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

UTA's Formula SAE Racing Team puts students on fast track to success
Students made their way through the E.H. Hereford University Center mall as fog enveloped the campus one morning during final exam week.
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 related 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 Senda Vida campaign, which trained students and faculty mentors with Mission Arlington to tackle Type 2 diabetes.

Keelee Barnes, 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 computer apps to help newly diagnosed diabetics and improved business processes so Mission Arlington could reach more patients.

“It was a phenomenal experience,” Barnes says. “I learned what I didn’t know and then worked on gaining those skills.”

Armed with a certificate in nonprofit management, Barns 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

Message from the Editor

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

I’m done with finals!!!! I can...
Awards at youtube.com/
The Bash dance party, Maverick spirit. A pre-game community members en-cook-off, step show, street downpour didn’t dampen UTArlington.

UT Arlington celebrated Homecoming 2015 scheduling. Marketing seniors Tung Baptiste in College Park Center. While rain forced thousands of alumni, more than 23,000 were on campus. Highlighting included the Distinguished Alumni Awards, the Baptist in College Park Center. UT Arlington accounting graduates are currently beating Oklahoma, they’ve been running at 34 points. #GoMavs #UTA

Honored to have had an entertaining & educational time with James Carville & Mary Matalin at UTA. # Maverick-speakers.

UT Arlington to lead $1.6 million research project focused on digital learning.

Finally got a UTA sticker on my new car (6 months old). Finally got a #UTA sticker on my new car (6 months old).

Clockwise from top left: Mud kisses at UTA Homecoming! Great counselor update held by UT Arlington today! #UTA. #Luckydone #utsports. #UTA Smart Hospital. That was awesome! # goMavs #utarlington

Get the opportunity to visit UTA Smart Hospital. That was awesome! #probel_mech. #UTA Smart Hospital. That was awesome! #probel_mech.

There are as few as 10 scholar-ships a year for student-athletes like Fabian. That’s what UT Arlington is trying to change.

Camps of intent to play softball at UTA is trying to change. It’s not graduation without this! #utacommencement #careergoals. #UTA_commencement

Graduation ceremonies are being held at UTA. I’m happy for them. Hopefully one day it shall be my day. #utalumni #UTA

At a Movin’ Mavs game. They’re playing Oklahoma and are currently beating them by 13 points. #GoMavs #UTA – @StephanieNHen

UT Arlington accounting degree ranked one of most affordable. – @jmkuban99

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Wonderful counselor update held by UT Arlington today! Kudos! Very informative, yet relevant & to the point. Great job! – @p4ynettes.

Going to the game tonight. #utalumni #UTA. #UTA is changing. #utalumni #UTA. #UTA is changing.

If you don’t get accepted into The University of Texas at Arlington, I’m gonna cry. - @jaridtec4

We wish you the very best of luck as you study and “hope-fully” ace your final exams! – @jmkuban99

Congratulations to Kayo! Moore for signing her national letter of intent to play softball at University of Texas Arlington! – @AlexEverett110

UT Arlington to lead $1.6 million research project focused on digital learning. The team is getting psyched for David Mezzapelle’s talk at University of Texas – Arlington Friday afternoon.

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Clockwise from top left:

- @jelbi_baby Mud kisses anyone? #taptopt #nozeball oh & morn.
- @maina The power of an iPhone’s Camera!
- @bipax285 UTA Homecoming! #gopavvs #utallington
- @amazingcranel You can barely see it but there is a double rainbow in the sky.

A film by @utarlington film

A film by @utarlington film – @ThatkiddJoe.

Finally got an #UTA sticker on my new car (6 months old). Finally got a #UTA sticker on my new car (6 months old).
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," says Zavadskaya. "That international diversity brings a richness and depth to the campus experience for all of our students," he says.

When did you realize you wanted to be a filmmaker?

"At 13 years old I remember getting my hands on a camera. I would spend night after night making mini-stop motion films in my bedroom. I would make small clay figures with googly eyes, tinker with lamps, and imagine a narrative. I was mesmerized by the idea of conducting the frame in any fashion that I could dream. I could see endless possibilities."

How has attending UTA helped you grow as an artist?

"My professors have proved to be invaluable mentors in ways that I'm not sure I can articulate. Personal relationships with fellow filmmakers are crucial for developing this agonizing craft. You need to be surrounded by people who will be honest about your work and who will push you past your limits."

What are some of your favorite films?

"My favorite films include The 400 Blows by François Truffaut, and Blue Velvet by David Lynch. One of my favorite cinema-going experiences is when I saw The Tree of Life by Terrence Malick. I was dumbstruck, awestruck, and moved beyond words. It was almost a spiritual experience, witnessing the power of the cinema manifest itself in that film."

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."

"UTA's program turned out to be my perfect match."
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 My Bond Dick, animals have provided creative inspiration throughout the generations. English Professor Tim Morris asks students in his first-year Honors College class, to read a variety of works, from J.R. R. Tolkien’s hobbits to his pet German shepherd in My Dog Tulip to biologist Victoria Brathwaite’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 is the animal and start from there.” For freshman Baylee Fujish, right, her pet cat is the perfect muse. Other students have selected spiders, bats, ladybugs, crocodiles, 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 animals.”

“For example, how horses have been depicted in art.”

Acclaimed researcher leads integrated college

Nan Ellin envisions great things springing from the integration of the School of Architecture and the School of Urban and Public Affairs. “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 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 Canal-scapes, an ongoing initiative to create urban links throughout the Phoenix area where canals meet major streets.

She has written numerous articles and books, including Good Urbanism: Six Steps to Creating Prosperous Places, Integral Urbanism, and Post-modern 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 Kharoubi says.

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.

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After taking a nosedive with the loss of 5.8 million factory jobs between 2000 and 2009, American manufactur-
Grants

HAITING HUANG
A team of engineering professors has received a $400,000 Air Force Office of Scientific Research grant to detect early-stage damage in aircraft parts. Led by mechanical and aerospace engineering Professor Haiting 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 certification in high school mathematics, physical science, or chemistry.

LIPING TANG
Bioengineering Professor Liping Tang has received a $350,000 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 crisis 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-flooding, 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 practices and to amplify the breadth of research being conducted. The Digital Learning Research Network will benefit universities transitioning to digital learning as well as learners from groups traditionally under-represented in higher education.

“This research project will address the barriers to digital learning and articulate the conditions needed for all learners 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 UT Arlington students took at least one class online, and 3,243 had fully online schedules.

The DLRN initiative is part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Postsecondary Baccalaureate Strategic, which seeks to increase the number of young adults who complete postsecondary education.

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.

Professor Haiying Huang has received a $450,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to build an artificial lymphatic system. Lymph nodes help catch cancer cells.

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Future
High-Density Megacity, 2055

Experienced leader to helm research efforts

Trunk Show

Staying Safe
Film to showcase lessons from disaster

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 substantial 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 down and pass them to the next participant to expand on, or listing them in a computer network, circumvents extroverts hogging the discussion.

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. Interiors featuring 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. Interiors featuring greenery, terraces, and open spaces.

The University has named Duane Dima, renowned materials scientist and executive at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., vice president for research. He begins April 1.

During his 25 years at Sandia, Dr. Dimos has served in a wide variety of leadership and management positions, including as acting vice president of the science and technology division. 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 Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, and the American Ceramic Society.

At Sandia, Dimos has been actively involved in nanotechnology, 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 Texas at Austin, and Texas A&M University.

“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.”

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**Outreach**

**CONNECTED**

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 Moor’s Mavs wheelchair basketball team support adaptive 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,” Moor’s Mavs coach Doug Carrigan 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 12 nominees to be interviewed by the Terry Foundation in April.

**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.”

**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 2009 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 48,000 pounds of waste each year.
Art doesn’t have to be Art. Constructed with food experiences, accidents even, over a long period of time,” of senses other than sight. emphasize the importance ground spices, his works constructed with food experiences, accidents even, over a long period of time, of senses other than sight. emphasize the importance of senses other than sight. For the last 20 years, Lapthisophon has named vice president for development and alumni relations, leading the University’s efforts to expand fundraising and engage more than 30,000 alumni.

The native Texas brings more than two decades of success in a different arena, 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.

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

Lapthisophon 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 globalized and interconnected world,” Lapthisophon says. “The University has established a solid philanthropic base, and achieving even greater community engagement is essential to supporting the strategic mission of this world-class institution.”

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 Friendship, the book will detail how Matt 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.”
Former standouts join Athletics Hall of Honor

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 1984 NFL Draft, and he won Super Bowls with the 49ers in 1985, 1987, and 1989.

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.

CROSS COUNTRY
The women’s cross country team won the Sun Belt Conference championship for the first time since 2001. Junior Katelyn Hayward led the way with a fifth-place finish, earning first-team All-SBC honors. Junior Gabriela Alfonso placed sixth and was named to the second team.

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CRAIG LAUTENSLAGER
Junior 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 22nd, helping the Mavericks to a sixth-place showing.

Two-time World Series champion and 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 Euston Cavely, volleyball player Valeria Whitfield-Crawford, football player Mike Stamps, and the 1995-2000 men’s track and field teams.

A three-time Major League Baseball All-Star, Pence was a standout for the Mavericks in 2002 and 2004. The Houston Astros selected him in the second round of the 2004 draft. He has a career .284 batting average with 165 home runs and 609 RBIs.

Cavely was a six-time cross country 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 Conference championships in 1997 and 2000.

Winning Ways
Volleyball program’s future looks bright

The 2014 volleyball season was one to remember as the Mavericks recorded their best winning percentage since 2004 and most wins since 2006.

The team went 25-9 (.735) overall and finished fourth in the Sun Belt Conference at 14-6 before losing in the conference tournament semifinals. The season featured the seventh longest home win streak at 10 matches and an eight-match overall streak, tied for the longest since 2002.

Coach Diane Seymour believes the impact of seniors Ashley Bennett, Taylor Gross, Taylor Story, and Amanda Welsh will carry into next season.

“It started with these four seniors and the three freshmen from a year ago, and it kind of set us up for where we’re going,” Seymour says. “It’s a shame this season ended abruptly like it did, but there’s no doubt the future is bright for our program.”

Bennett finished her career with 367 blocks to rank seventh in school history, and Welsh moved into sixth place in career assists with 3,517 and became the 15th player to serve 1,000 aces.

Defense carried the Mavericks, who led the nation in digs per set for four weeks entering the Sun Belt Conference Tournament and finished the season with the NCAA’s second best mark at 18.16. UT Arlington also ranked 24th in blocks and 27th in opponents’ hitting percentage.

Two all-conference performers will return next season. Sophomore middle blocker Briana Sharratt registered 275 kills and a team-high 160 blocks to earn first-team honors. Freshman outside hitter Qiana Canete was a second-team selection, leading the Mavericks with 376 kills and finishing second with 460 digs.

Also returning is junior libero Caitlyn Cooney, who recorded 871 digs, the second most in a season, and ranks 15th in career digs with 1,384.
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
Bob 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 advising its racing team. He’s at a traffic cop.

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. That mentality of a bigger goal than you is the bait, the actual challenge of building a race car against track, not team or she blurts out the same lines, in the same way, as a traffic cop.

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 way.”

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.
**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.

1982
UTA enters Formula SAE competition for the first time and wins its class.

1985-86
UTA repeats with back-to-back Formula SAE national titles.

1989-90
UTA again wins back-to-back national championships.

1991
The team uses a design emphasizing space efficiency and simplicity, earning the Best Design Award and second place overall despite a transmission failure.

1994
The team exhibits an student Richard Pelitier, and the car wins numerous awards for design. Due to engine overheating in the last lap, it drops from first place to eighth at nationals but ends up being displayed at several museums, including the Motorports Hall of Fame of America in Novi, Mich.

1995-96
UTA wins back-to-back national titles.

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.

1999
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.

2015
UTA wins a Design Award and second place for the electric-powered car.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

“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.”

Zooming Along

“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.’”

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-rounded 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.

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, typically it 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 drive shafts 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’ve 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.”

Alumni Michael Nihal and seniors on a circuit board in the team’s electronics lab.

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Alumni Michael Nihal and seniors on a circuit board in the team’s electronics lab.
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.

**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
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 Choisies, and Avolonte. Others hinted at Greek affiliation, like Kappa Pieres (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 — the social clubs — were the one thing that was still there. And so they affiliated with national organizations, and that’s how the Greek system got started.”

Delta Tau Delta, had about 80 members. Orsen Paxton says, “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.”

**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.

“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 college experience 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 Brier 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 buildings and enhancing these living options.”
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.

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**
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 form connections with visiting scholars and grow until I came into science.”

Students also discover that scientific exploration is a team sport and that they can overcome roadblocks when enough minds are engaged. Biological sophomore Yasaswi Nagarajan has continued the work she started in Dr. Schug’s lab. She calls research “the second level of learning, which is what colleges 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 Herpel 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. Several dead ends, repeats, and failures precede breakthroughs.”

“Science is an arduous process. Several dead ends, repeats, and failures precede breakthroughs.”

—Emmanuel Fordjour

Purgason believes that’s exactly the kind of learning the ASSURE program will provide. The students need to know that the skills and knowledge they gain can apply to multiple problems and situations.

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 fresh man across all majors.

“Our goal is for each and every student to experience firsthand the wonders of discovery 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 fungi species of zooplankton in Texas lakes. 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 year 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. ✪
Growing 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 and support services.
“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.”

Alumna Rebecca Esposito sifts through papers on her desk at Mansfield High School, reviewing student records. She is one of nine Round 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 ’16, 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.”

Round 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 can ask me anything. I understand what they’re going through.”

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 or run into financial problems. Their applications are missing details. They get busy with work and drop out of high school. By joining Round for Success, we want to build a culture of college-going, so that students even in elementary school see this as an expectation.”

More schools and districts could join Round for Success, says Dr. Amaaro-Jimenez, who oversees the program as UT Arlington’s recruiting director. Western Hills High School in Fort Worth recently signed on in a pilot program, and University leaders have fielded interest from other districts.

“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.”

Giselly Cobas-Rincon thought her dream of earning a college degree had ended. Two months shy of graduation, she lost her job and realized she couldn’t afford tuition. “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.”

Some kids, even smart ones, are lost,” she says. “They bridge between high school and life beyond. “We work with every single student who walks through the door. We focus 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.

Assistant Professor Carla Amaro-Jimenez, who directs the Pathways to College Access and Career Readiness program, says the GO Centers serve as a 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 resume and career counseling, among other services. The centers received more than 27,000 visits during the 2013–14 school year.

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All That Jazz
Alumna and saxophonist Caroline Davis homes 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 Alleman and bassist Matt Ferguson, perform with Davis. Recording and a schedule of upcoming gigs are at carolinedavis.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.”

The willingness to be a servant-leader, a concept I learned at UTA, is also vital. “I learned cemented my decision to pursue a career in higher education.”

Caroline Davis ‘04 is making a name for herself on the national jazz scene.
**Call of Duty**

**Military Science Hall of Honor to add three**

Distiguished 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. Herring 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 1979 and in the reserves until 1976. 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 representative for IBM. Reyes commanded the Sam Houston Rifles and was the highest-ranked UT Arlington cadet at the 1977 Tet Offensive in spring 1968. 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 Military Science Department and Cadet Corps Alumni Council. He is 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.

**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 Hispaña 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 frequently collaborated on restaurant projects. She developed an electronic check processing system that became the financial industry standard. He now works as the western United States embedded software representative for IBM. Reyes commanded the Sam Houston Rifles and was the highest-ranked UT Arlington cadet at the 1977 Tet Offensive in spring 1968. 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.

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

**Alumni**

Cresson, Texas
Spotlight

Estate gift honors popular professor

The late Dave Groner was so beloved by his students that they coronated him—literally—at his retirement in 1991.

That he relished wearing the makeshift crown like a king came as no surprise to those who knew Groner during his 27 years as a communication assistant professor.

"Students and everyone enjoyed Dave because he was fun and unpredictable and a joy to be around," says Joan Cosner ’72, who worked in the Communication Department from 1980-2000 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 businesses that made plastic containers 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 Edward Prizio, who served in numerous administrative roles during his 15 years at UTA. "He was truly one of those people who lived what he did."

To honor his legacy, Groner’s wife, Mary, established the David E. Groner Endowed Scholarship with a bequest from their estate. The scholarship assists students pursuing degrees in speech communication. Mary died last year.

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

Thanks, Mom

Scholarship recognizes matriarch Madam Ajara’s devotion to education

Clement Osimesth'a 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 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 Axion, Osimestha 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 1985, and serves on the board of directors of the African American Repertory Theatre. 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 a strong woman, and people looked up to her."

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Class Notes

1970
Terrance Carlson Jr. (BA, His-
torics) was one of six attorneys
referred to as ‘“The Lincoln Law-
Clerks” who were recognized in
the 2008 edition of The Best
Lawyers in America. It was the
first time the company, which heads the company’s massive tort litigation practice group, had chosen based on its product liability/litiga-
tion defense work.
James P. Smith (BBA, Business Ad-
ministration) retired after 38
years at BBA’s Chicago office following
his 25 years with the U.S. Navy and 26 years
with Sears, Roebuck & Co.

1971
Tim Schults (’71, Political Sci-
ence) is a partner at BIVN’s
Chicago office.

1974
Bill Lana (BS, BJ, MS), Mechanical Engineering) is vice president of software
and technologies for Weatherford Artificial Lift Systems, pro-
louved for his research on the way
that span, the evaluation,
and intervention cycles of oil
and gas companies. He has been with Weatherford for 3 years and works in the Houston area.

1980
Ernest Birster (BBA, Business Administra-
tion) was elected the
district chairman of the Demo-
Cratic Party, a position he
has held since 1968. He is
also retired from BIAK/RW.

1981
Wayne Burgdorf (BBA, Ac-
counting) is an affiliate
partner at Coldwell Banker Commercial
Alliance DFW and has incor-
porated BIAK/RW’s Turner
Brazil Group into CBCAll-
diance. (BS, Electrical Engineering) is
an associate professor of
Electrical Engineering at the
University of Dayton. (BS, Aerospace Engi-
neering) is a chief executive officer
of Indigo Holdings, a software
and technology solutions
company based in Corpus Christi.
Previously he was president of
Network and Space Systems for the Boeing Co.

1982
Tim Emcheryck (BS, Elec-
trical Engineering) is senior
vice president and general
manager of the Americas region for
Allegion, a security solutions
based in Aliso
Beach, Calif. John Wright (BS, Electrical Engi-
neering) is a director of
public works for the city of
Greenville. He spent 2 years
with the Texas Department of Transportation.

1983
Fred H. Gonzalez (BBA, Man-
agement) was elected vice
president of the board of
trustees for the Mansfield
Independent School District.
He is director of administra-
tion for Pasemor & Jones, a
structural engineer.

1984
Martin Lisbon (BA, Radio-TV-
Writing) wrote The Ultimate
Smart Weather Safety Guide,
a book he founded Tempest Tours, a
company that has produced several
publications about storm.

1988
Michael J. Murray (BBA, Ac-
counting) is executive vice
president and chief operating
officer for D.H. Horton in Fort
Worth. He was instrumental
in developing three acquisition
and vice president of
development for the home
building company.

1989
Richard J. Bailey (’70 MA, His-
torics) was appointed
archaeologist of the Year by
the National Society of
Ancient Architects and
Architectural Historians.
(PhD, Biomedical Engineer-
ing) earns his PhD in bio-
medical engineering at Harvard
University. (BS, Mechanical Engineering)
received the Drexel
Flax Medal. (BS, Mechanical Engineering) received the
Lori Lee (BSN, ’08 MSN, ’12 PhD, Nur-
sing) is chief nursing of-
centering, completion, production,
and retirement and Social
Security planning.

1990
Lisa Franko (BS, Civil Engi-
neering) was executive vice
president of the American
Red Cross Southern Texas
Chapters, which include Bea-
burn, Corpus Christi, and McAllen.
Previously he was executive director of the
Texas NonProfit Development Center in Beaumont.
(BS, Civil Engineering) is
an associate principal in the
designing network
of structural
solutions based in Austin.

1991
Paula Wagner-Aguilar
(BBA, Accounting) was named
one of the best CFOs in the
USA, according to the top
100 CFOs in America of the
year. (BS, Civil Engineering)
was executive vice
president of
the.

1992
Adrienne Jacobs (BS, Ac-
counting) is an accounting
specialist for a private
firm in Dallas. (PhB, Biol-
ogy) is an attorney with the
Healthcare and Life Sciences
Group in Weatherford.

1993
Karlie Ries (’80 BS, ’82 MArch,
Architecture) is the
director of academic affairs
at the University in Austin at
Udall Campus.

1994
Lori Lee (’70 MA, His-
torics) was named in
the top 100 women in
the field of public
administration.

1995
Lisa Franko (BS, Civil Engi-
neering) was promoted
to vice president of the design
department for the
Los Angeles Dodgers.

1996
David Wangerin (BS, Civil
Engineering) was recognized
by the American Academy of
Awards for his contributions
to the field of civil
engineering.

1997
Teresa White (BBA, Informa-
tion Systems) is president of
Alacra’s U.S. operations, based in Co-
lonia, Ga. She has worked for
Alacra since 1998 and has been
recently been recognized for
leadership, including the Women in Insurance Leader Award from Insur-
ance Network News.

Terry HILLMAN
(Exercise and Sport Studies) will start the
high jump competition at the
Houston Astros bench coach.
Previously he managed the
Kenya City Olympics and was
bench coach for the Los
Angeles Dodgers.

ALFRED VIDAURRI JR.
(Vidaurri (’79 BS, ’82 MArch, Archi-
decture) was named the
2014 National Hispanic
Architecture Hall of Fame.
Previously he was principal
at Freese and Nichols in Fort
Worth. He was also named
at Irving’s Clifton Early Child-
hood School in the Irving
ISD’s Regional Planning
Committee.

Richard C. Leggett (BBA, Ac-
counting) is a partner at
Oaktree Financial
Services in Fort Worth.

Robert Abel (MEd, Edu-
cation) is director of the
International Leadership
Academy.

RUMANDA YOUNG
Young (’94 MCB, City and Regional Planning), ’08 (MS, Urban Ad-
ministration) received the U.S. Army
Maneuver Center of Excellence
Award for her work with the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
She is currently a Planning
Manager for the South Port
Section of the Fort Worth
District’s Regional Planning
and Environmental Center.
In Memoriam

1980s

Angie Miller Jr. (62 AA, Liberal Arts), 90, June 15 in Dallas. Mr. Miller served as director of the UTA Arlington alumni board and was a member of the Alumni Scholarship Committee.

1990s

Ronald Barry Carrigan (’83 BA, Political Science), 70, Aug. 10 in Gran Rapids, Mich. Mr. Carrigan worked for 28 years in management for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. He founded a second career as the financial director of Peter White Library in Marquette, Mich. Joseph A. Stefan Jr. (’76 BA, Business Administration), 77, May 25 in Charlotte, N.C. Mr. Stefan was a sales manager in AAA Cooper Transportation in Charlotte before retiring in 2015.

1970s

Everett Wayne Autrey (’75 BS, Criminal Justice), 82, Aug. 2 in Denton. Mr. Autrey started his 41-year career in law enforcement with the Texas Highway Patrol and was a chief on Weatherford for two years, police chief in Weatherford for 13 years, and police chief at Weatherford College for 13 years. Gary Howard Burgess (’74 BS, Mathematics), 60, July 5 in Dallas. Mr. Burgess served on the faculty of the Emily University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga., before returning to Texas in 1998 to practice at Medical City Dallas. Mr. Burgess helped lead the remotely accessible pediatrics and neonatal medicine Joan Louisa Holderness (’74 BS, Medical Technology; ’72 MBA, Business Administration), 71, Aug. 23 in Fort Worth. She specialized in pediatrics and neonatal medicine Jean Louisa Holderness (’74 BS, Medical Technology; ’72 MBA, Business Administration), 71, Aug. 23 in Fort Worth. Mr. Holderness was a lab technician at Arlington Memorial Hospital for almost 40 years. He was later a lab director at Lake Pointe Emergency Services and imaging center in Wylie. Hollis Howard Dean (’68 BBA, Business Administration), 90, July 12 in Irving. Mr. Dean 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 (’78 BA, English), 64, May 5 in Houston. Ms. Fitch was director of clinical sales and marketing for Emser Architectural in Dallas. James L. Lavender (’77 BS, Criminal Justice), 60, Aug. 10 in Fort Worth. Mr. Lavender was a bond decision officer for Sandhill Savings and worked in mortgage servicing. He also played guitar in several bands in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Carol Anne Crier (’79 BS, Criminal Justice), 61, July 2 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 orator and competitive in rodeo events.

1980s

Daniel Felix Pickering (’81 MA, Business Administration), 70, June 1 in Denton. Mr. Pickering was chief operating officer of Club Marketing Services in Duncanville. He also served on the board of the Duncan County Legal Education Foundation. Shirley Ann Godbold (’82 BS, 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 Cliff. Melva Jean Hump (’83 BBA, Art), 89, June 5 in Denton. Ms. Hump received her bachelor’s degree in art education. She was a homemaker and a member of the Georgetown Baptist Church in Petrolia. Diana Kathleen Cude Klikus (’83 BS, Sociology), 54, June 9 in Chesterfield, Ind. Ms. Klikus was a guidance counselor at Morgan Township middle and high schools in Van Buren, Ind. She also served as a drug counselor at Porter-Starke Services, where she conducted drug therapy sessions. Terrance H. Borcherd (’84 BS, Linguistics), 57, Aug. 15 in Springield, Ore. Dr. Borcherd was a Lutheran missionary and Bible translator to the Ipil people in Papua New Guinea. He worked with speakers of the Ipil language to translate the New Testament and parts of the OT Testament into their language. Debra-Ruth DeRidley (’84 BS, Mathematics), 52, July 20 in Cheyenne, Wyo. Ms. DeRidley was a staff accountant with the health care company Amerigroup in Cheyenne. Previously she was a bookkeeper for Peace Union in Salisbury, Md. William S. Shelton (’85 BBA, Systems Management), 65, May 3 in Johnson City. Mr. Shelton was chief operating officer and president of the Arbella Services, Inc., the Arbella Insurance Group, in Quincy, Mass., where he retired to his ranch in Johnson City in 2003. James Edward Doyle (’89 BS, Mechanical Engineering), 48, June 28 in Arlington. Mr. Doyle worked at Lockheed Martin for 14 years. He was aaws analyst on projects including the JSF Joint Strike Fighter. His Skybolt biplane earned him the Bronze Champion Lindy Trophy at the Experimental Aircraft Association Air Venture Fly-in in 2015.

1990s

Ann Crier (’92 BA, English), 62, July 9 in Dallas. Dr. Culbertson worked as an administrative clerk in the Faculty/Staff Recruitment Office at the University of Texas at Arlington during 1998-2013. William Miller (’95 BS, Health and Physical Education; ‘95 MA, Linguistics), 71, Aug. 10 in Fort Worth. Dr. Miller served as the chief of the UT Arlington chapter of the American Library Association while a student here. Sandra Swaim Dennehy (’95 BA, Sociology), 54, June 9 in Arlington. Ms. Dennehy read in Fort Worth at the end of the 1990s. She attended UTA on her husband’s retirement in 1992.

UT Arlington boasts some of the nation’s brightest and hardest-working students. But many struggle to make ends meet. More than 75 percent of our students report being employed during the school year, with almost 20 percent working more than full time. Yet these high-achieving students consistently receive national recognition for academic excellence and find time to volunteer more than 400,000 hours in the community each year. Your annual gifts help our dedicated and talented students succeed academically, earn their degrees, and become accomplished professionals in their chosen fields. By contributing each year, you create a consistent stream of support that changes the lives of deserving Mavericks who will shape the future of our world.
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.