Brilliant Impact
Alumnus and senior lecturer Carlos Donjuan colors everyday journeys
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Beyond the Stars Research at UTA runs the gamut from the smallest cell to distant planets. Here, we explore the research that’s being done beyond the stars.

Extra! Extra! Get an inside look at The Shorthorn, a training ground for generations of journalism excellence.

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Carlos Donjuan, senior lecturer and alumnus of the Department of Art and Art History, shares his work and his vision for more vibrant, connected communities.

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Mav Roundup

Postcard

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Crash Course

Chat

Gallery

Collected

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Class Notes

In Memoriam

Local Color
Editor’s Letter

If you’ve followed the course of your alma mater over the last few years, you’ve seen the rising trajectory. You’ve probably heard some key phrases—and read them right here in this magazine: Carnegie Classification R-1 “highest research activity.” Fifth in the nation for diversity. Global enrollment of over 57,000 (and counting)! Best for veterans. Best for...
Springtime on the UTA campus has an energy unlike any other. While everything blooms lush and green and the squirrels begin their rampant foraging, students are out in droves: cooking and selling hamburgers for fundraisers, competing in intramurals, studying under shady trees, or, like these guys, hanging out in stacked hammocks between classes.
COME ONE, COME ALL
MASSIVE LEARNING

UTA’s MOOC courses enhance online education

UTA recently expanded its catalog of Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOCs, with two new courses. One trains educators on the practical applications of emerging technologies like social media in K-12 teaching and learning. The other helps online instructors of college courses replicate classroom connectedness.

More than 3,100 students from 139 countries have participated in the first MOOCs in date, titled What Now? Emerging Technologies and Their Practical Application in K-12 Teaching and Learning, which continues to be available for self-guided learners. Participants learned about the practical applications of new technologies such as smartphones and tablets, social media, big data and learning analytics, telecommunications, wearable technology, and a variety of additional educational tools for their daily work as K-12 educators.

The second course, Humanizing Online Instruction: Building a Community of Inquiry, was a four-week MOOC made available in November on the Canvas Open Network to all members of the Canvas community. The course helped online instructors of college and university courses replicate within an online environment the sense of connectedness and community that engages and retains classroom-based students. Cornell University and Princess Nourah University in Saudi Arabia are also participating in the course.

“MOOCs really set UTA apart as a world-class university that draws from the global learning community while teaching to that same community at the same time,” says Peter Smith, UTA’s vice provost for digital teaching and learning. Participants learned about the two courses developed by UTA’s Learning Innovation and Networked Knowledge (LINK) Research Lab.

GAME ON

Innovative study allows kids to make a game of practicing self-control

Asking kids to harness their seemingly endless supply of energy can be an exercise in futility. Children have limited attention spans and perhaps even less self-control.

“Attention and self-regulation are critical for academic success and general health and well-being,” says Catherine Spann, a research scientist in social and affective computing in the LINK Research Lab and principal investigator of the study. “If we understand the different states related to attention and self-regulation, we could develop targeted interventions for children and adults.”

In that end, Dr. Spann and her team are studying the ideal physical and mental states for practicing attention and self-control by combining computer-game testing with ongoing simultaneous analysis of heart rate and skin activity. Spann is conducting the study in collaboration with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

“We need to better understand the core of learning,” says George Siemens, executive director of the LINK Lab. “Dr. Spann’s work gives us important insight into how the mindsets and self-regulation of students impact their ability to learn.”

For two weeks in June, UTA will host the 2017 ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp. Middle school students interested in STEM fields have the opportunity to explore STEM topics while spending a week in college life at the same time.

CULTURAL FOCUS

The Native American Student Association held its 22nd annual Powwow in March, an event celebrating American Indian culture and heritage. Proceeds benefit the Native American Student Association scholarship fund.

DRUG UPGRADES

New research into thiopurine drugs could improve chemotherapy for cancer patients

UTA biochemists have created new hope for the large number of patients dependent on thiopurine drugs by discovering how these drugs work.

This knowledge could lead to an improvement of those drugs, which are commonly used to treat autoimmune disorders and cancers, but are also associated with side effects like cardiovascular disease and hypertension.

The researchers showed that thiopurine drugs connect with Rac3 proteins within the immune system’s T cells via a disulfide bond. This bond deactivates the proteins and suppresses the cell’s immune response. The study also demonstrated that thiopurine’s disulfide bonds can affect vascular functions.

“Up to now, no one has known exactly how the thiopurine immunosuppressive process works,” says Jongyun Hoo, associate professor of chemistry and leader of the study published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry. “We are hoping that this discovery also creates an opportunity to improve thiopurine drugs and to design new chemotherapeutic agents for autoimmune disorders.”

Mavericks as they travel the world

Seoul, South Korea

WHO: Melanie Mohler, visual communications major/Korean minor

WHY: “Because I wanted to get to know more about a beautiful and interesting place. I feel that it’s morally responsible to contribute to our global society by learning a different language. It also has potential to increase opportunities further down the road, helping me build more connections in my career or friendships.”

LESSONS SHE TOOK BACK HOME: “Studying abroad helped me grow as a person, and I feel more confident about myself. It’s so enlightening to feel your naivete because it pushes you to survive. You will also appreciate your own country and culture, along with others, even more.”

Following Mavericks as they travel the world
Well Read

Fascinating books by Maverick authors to fill your library

Blacks and Whites in Christian America: How Racial Discrimination Shapes Religious Convictions
BY JASON SHELTON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Winner of the C. Calvin Smith Book Award from the Southern Conference on African American Studies. Jason Shelton and Michael Emerson explore why racial differences in belief and practice exist among white and black members of American Protestantism.

Fertility Holidays: IVF Tourism and the Reproduction of Whiteness
BY LINDA MILLER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Fertility Holidays examines the experiences of white, working class North Americans who travel to Central Europe for donor egg in vitro fertilization.

The Shores of Tripoli: Lieutenant Putnam and the Barbary Pirates
BY JAMES L. HEALEY
The first novel in a series, features young midshipman Bliven Putnam as he begins his naval service aboard the U.S. Enterprise.

The Complete Guide to Bird Photography: Field Techniques for Birders and Nature Photographers
BY JEFFREY RICH
Jeffrey Rich details the tools you will need to capture a world of evocative images. He also shares insights on bird behavior that will help capture images of even the most elusive subjects.

Labor of Love: Gestational Surrogacy and the Work of Making Babies
BY HEATHER JACOBSON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
In Labor of Love, Heather Jacobson offers a critical analysis of attitudes that emerge when the act of bringing a child into the world becomes an occupation.

Growth Guidance

Introducing UTA’s new vice president for enrollment management

“When you’re in the middle of surging growth, you need someone to help manage the rise. That’s Troy Johnson, UTA’s new vice president for enrollment management, “UTA is such a dynamic university, and the leadership team, deans, faculty, and students are such a great mix of talent and dedication,” he says. “Who wouldn’t want to be part of that?”

Dr. Johnson joined UTA in November after three years as associate vice president for enrollment management at Illinois State University. While there, he led the university to three years of record-breaking enrollment. Before that, he held posts at the University of North Texas, West Texas A&M University, and Texas Tech University.

Johnson is the only three-time winner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Star Award for documented impact on student access and success in college, and he has a long track record of service in higher education, including roles in the U.S. Department of Education, the Texas Education Association, and more.

“Our students are graduating, getting jobs, enrolling in their dream graduate schools. That’s the promise that UTA offers,” he says. “These essential attributes are going to get even better over time, and we’ll see our students climb to even greater heights.”

LOW DEBT, HIGH SUCCESS

UTA’s graduates are entering the workforce with the lowest student debt in Texas.

A college graduate is perhaps close to achieving the American dream as a person can be. Diploma in hand, the graduate looks out to a future where all things are possible. But for the majority of college graduates, debt threatens to undermine that bright future. It’s a major reason why The University of Texas at Arlington has worked diligently to ensure that its students graduate with low debt, ready to achieve and succeed in the workforce.

In U.S. News & World Report’s 2017 “Best Colleges” list, UTA ranked No. 2 in the nation for graduating students with low debt. The average debt of UTA students upon graduation outshines that of students at Yale, Harvard, North Carolina State University, and the University of California, Berkeley, fellows Carnegie R “Highest research activity” universities. Only Princeton, a private university, ranked higher than UTA.

The rankings were based on the class of 2015 at 125 national universities. Data included information from financial institutions and from federal, state, and local government reports. At UTA, low cost and excellence go hand in hand. Students learn from world-class faculty and benefit from unprecedented access to research opportunities, internships, and leadership development. Meanwhile, the Office of Financial Aid assists with loans, grants, scholarships, and work-study. The Student Money Management Center teaches students how to manage their money with a focus on saving and budgeting.

After four years, UTA students are ready to graduate miles ahead of the crowd. Instead of worrying about paying off massive amounts of debt, they can focus on their careers, travel the world, and maybe even catch up on lost sleep they incurred as undergraduates—dreams well within reach.

Transfer Honor Roll recognizes community college graduates

UTA was one of only 63 institutions named to Phi Theta Kappa’s 2017 Transfer Honor Roll. The honor recognizes excellence and success in the development of college transfer pathways.
Mussel Man

Researchers head into study of the proliferation of zebra mussels in Texas lakes

Robert McMahon, UTA professor emeritus in biology and expert in freshwater and marine invertebrates, is expanding his research into the local spread of zebra mussels.

Zebra mussels are small bivalve mollusks about the size of a human fingernail, though some can grow to nearly 2 inches. Their invasion of North American water bodies has resulted in billions of dollars being spent in ecological services, human recreation, and industrial raw water facilities.

“A female zebra mussel can produce up to 1 million externally fertilized eggs in a single spawning season that develop into planktonic larvae,” says Dr. McMahon. “The larvae are dispersed in water currents and rapidly develop in very high densities after invasion.”

McMahon and his team will use monthly samples from three infested Texas lakes—Trinity, Ray Roberts, and Belton—to estimate spring and fall cohort growth rates and life spans of zebra mussels, among many other factors. His team is also taking a closer look at water bodies, “McMahon says. “We expect mussel populations have been followed by sharp declines. We’re focusing on understanding the causes of the zebra mussel population collapses that have occurred in Texas lakes and other warm, southwestern water bodies,” McMahon says. “We expect mussel population to decline over time.”

STRIPED INVADERS

Why are you pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering? Growing up I was very curious and was fascinated by the way things worked. I thought it was really cool how something as small as a calculator could compute numbers faster than the human brain,” says Scott W. Palmer, professor and chair of UTA’s Department of History.

“My curiosity led me to choose engineering. I wanted to learn how things worked and create an improved version,” says Dr. Hasier. “Dr. Hasier is an outstanding demonstration of what it means to be a Maverick—dedicated, talented, and committed to doing the best job possible,” says Scott W. Palmer, professor and chair of UTA’s Department of History.

“Our goal is to bring the entire college community to the fingertip of our students,” says Scott W. Palmer, professor and chair of UTA’s Department of History.

With nearly 20 years of library and geospatial information program management experience, Hasier has managed an estimated 1 million maps at both the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and at the Pentagon. Map Library. Now, she leads a team managed an estimated 1 million maps at both the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and at the Pentagon. Map Library. Now, she leads a team managed an estimated 1 million maps at both the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and at the Pentagon. Map Library. Now, she leads a team managed an estimated 1 million maps at both the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and at the Pentagon. Map Library. Now, she leads a team managed an estimated 1 million maps.

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A creative hub for students, faculty, staff, and recent alumni, UTA’s FabLab—the first MIT-affiliated FabLab in a Texas university—takes up 8,000 square feet of the Central Library’s first floor. The FabLab provides users access to technologies, equipment, training, and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration in support of invention and entrepreneurship. Lab use is free; users only pay for materials.

**A Seat at the Lab**
The FabLab provides several large tables and workspaces for users. The wood tables were machined and produced on-site using FabLab tools.

**Not Pictured**
Other features include a textile station and a woodshop and kiln area that will open soon.

**Power on**
The electronics bay allows lab users to access tools and programs to help them develop their electrical engineering skills.

**Color Full**
Rolls of vinyl in many different colors are available to anyone working on vinyl cutting projects.

**Cutting Edge**
The Boss laser cutter and Epilog Helix Laser Cutter cut and engrave a variety of raw materials.

**Print and Cut**
The back room of the FabLab includes vinyl cutters and a screen printing area.

**On Display**
A case of samples created at the lab offers visitors the chance to see the creative possibilities.

**Scene**

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**FabLab**
Main Campus: Central Library

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A NEW NAME IN THE CAREER GAME

Introducing the Lockheed Martin Career Development Center

Students and alumni, take note: The Career Development Center has a new name—the Lockheed Martin Career Development Center.

“We joined forces with UTA because it has the resources and the ability to shape young minds into career-ready individuals,” says Rick Edwards, executive vice president of Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. “In addition to providing support and mentorship for future graduates, the center’s services are available to alumni.”

The Career Development Center opened in the fall of 2016 and consolidated many of the initiatives already in place on campus that help Mavericks transition from life as a student to life in the workforce. Located in the E.H. Hereford University Center, the facility also allows UTA to put in place new programs that rival many of the best career development programs in the country. Services include an alumni mentorship program, in which area professionals volunteer to make a difference in the early stages of a student’s career path.

“We have more than 1,300 UTA alumni working at Lockheed Martin in North Texas,” says Orlando Carvalho, executive vice president of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. “The Lockheed Martin Career Development Center helps bridge the transition from academic preparation to professional success.”

The center was officially named in honor of Lockheed Martin’s generous $1.5 million gift during a special ceremony on March 20. To learn how you can get involved and support the Lockheed Martin Career Development Center, visit uta.edu/careers.

EXTRA CREDIT

JAY Z: Rap icon, husband to Beyoncé, and... a major figure in ethnic literature? In Assistant Professor Kenton Rambsy’s The Life and Times of S. Carter (Ethnic Literature), students are approaching the work of Jay Z (aka Shawn Carter) through that lens.

“One of the major shifts over the last two decades in Black Studies has been the rise of what we might call hip-hop studies,” Dr. Rambsy says.

His course is unique in the way it employs data-driven discovery to explore literature. His students use text-mining software to quantify linguistic and thematic trends between Jay Z’s albums and classic literary texts by African-American writers. Then, they compile data sets on Jay Z in order to produce thematic data visualizations, literary timelines, and a list of key terms, pinpointing intellectual and cultural components of rap and hip-hop music.

“IT’s exciting to place Jay Z in a broader literary context,” says Rebecca Newsom, a junior English major. “Also, this course is giving me hands-on experience accessing, creating, and viewing Jay Z’s poetry, and literary history as general data.”

Rambsy is eager to bring the hip-hop-as-literature discussion into the world of data.

“I could go on and on describing the discoveries we’re making about Jay Z in this course,” he says. “Mainly, what I want people to understand is the idea of considering data in hip-hop studies.”

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As an engineer at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, what do you do?

The mission of the laboratory is to conduct plasma physics research for the U.S. Department of Energy in order to make nuclear fusion a possible source of energy in the future. My job as an engineer is to oversee ongoing projects on our machine, NSTX-U.

Why do you have a passion for your work?

Choosing physics stemmed from my passion for the arts. When people think of physics, complex mathematics, logic, and linearity come to mind. This quick judgment categorizes physics as being heavily restricted by lengthy equations and eternally evolving theories. However, I realized that physics is just a nonconventional form of art. Behind the technical facade, it is a subject that allows us to freely explore the beauty of the universe. And that is why I fell in love with it.

Where did that passion begin?

I have always wanted to be a scientist. However, like most incoming freshmen, I did not enter UTA knowing what my major would be. All I knew about physics was from high school, that it was remarkably difficult and everyone hated it. So during my first few weeks as a freshman, I started talking to the advisers and professors in biology, chemistry, and physics. One of the physics professors immediately recruited me for his research group. I liked this welcoming atmosphere, and from then on I knew. These are my people! However, one of the most defining moments of why I chose physics was when one of my professors said, “Choose physics. Everything except physics is stamp-collecting.”

How did UTA help prepare you for your career?

Mostly through the large amount of research opportunities available in the Physics and the Engineering Departments. The smaller class sizes in upper-division physics classes helped because it made it easier to approach the professors during office hours and ask for one-on-one help with difficult physics or math concepts.

What’s next for you?

I am thinking about advancing my career by going back to school and obtaining my PhD so I can focus on more research- and education-oriented positions. If UTA would like to hire me as a physics researcher or lecturer someday, I’d love to be back!

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Reflections on UTA’s second annual Day at the Rodeo

Alumni and friends of the University dusted off their boots and saddled up for the second annual UTA Day at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo on Jan. 22. More than 170 attendees enjoyed a catered traditional barbecue lunch at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History while spinning tall tales and listening to President Vistasp Karbhari provide brief remarks about UTA’s recent progress.

“It’s important to connect alumni and friends through marquee community events like the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo,” says Michael Kingan, vice president for development and alumni relations. “These are great opportunities to convey a sense of UTA today, our growth, our excellence, and our impact. UTA’s alumni help us spread the word about UTA, so keeping them aware of our progress is critical to our success.”

The group moseyed on over to the Will Rogers Coliseum to catch all the live rodeo action after lunch and enjoyed an afternoon of traditional Western entertainment.

“The Rodeo Day at the Rodeo has become a special event,” says Love Kelly (17 MSW). “It’s a great time to meet new Mavericks and hear how my alma mater continues to make a difference in our community.”

Riding Off Into the Sunset

In 1947, a mysterious object crashed to Earth in Roswell, New Mexico. While it was later identified as a weather balloon, that object has captured the interest of ufologists in the decades since. One particular point of interest: the Ramey memo, pictured here, which is housed exclusively in UTA Libraries’ Special Collections. Through an anonymous donor, Kevin Randle, a UFO researcher with a keen interest in the Roswell incident, is offering $10,000 to anyone who can definitively decipher the obscured words in Gen. Roger Ramey’s hand. Learn more at library.uta.edu/roswell.

B I G  P L A N S  Graduate students in the Institute of Urban Studies are formulating a strategic plan for Vickery Meadow, a burgeoning, densely populated neighborhood in Dallas. The plan rebrands the area as a center for innovation and counters the existing negative community perceptions of the neighborhood. The City of Dallas hopes the plan will foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth and area redevelopment.

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Communication students at UTA get unique opportunity for hands-on newscast experience

UTA News en Español students are getting their 15 minutes of fame on Spanish-language television station Univision 23 in Dallas. The station, located in the fifth-largest media market in the United States, allows students from UTA to report, anchor, produce, and direct on-air television newscasts.

As part of the flagship program Proyecto U, students receive college credit for producing television news segments under faculty supervision and professional mentorships. According to Julian Rodriguez, UTA News en Español faculty adviser, the program was developed to teach students to serve the growing Hispanic media market.

“Through Proyecto U, students experience the urgency and impact of the professional broadcast journalism environment hands-on and well before they graduate,” Rodriguez says. “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity unlike any other in the nation.” Sophomore Maritza Esquivel is a student producer with Proyecto U. She counts working directly with professional broadcasters as a major benefit of the program.

“My role is to protect and educate the citizens of Dallas County,” Perkins says. “My time at UTA taught me how to communicate effectively with large populations and gave me a solid foundation to complete my Master of Public Health and my doctorate in osteopathic medicine. Each step in my education gave me a comprehensive approach to fighting infectious disease.”

“Preparing teachers to enter the classroom equipped to make a difference in students’ lives is imperative,” Dr. Hungerford-Kresser says. “Our goal is for students to become committed and compassionate educators who contribute to and change the face of education, one student at a time.”
The athlete is proving herself to be one for the history books. Rebekah VanDijk has established herself as one of the greatest Lady Mavericks in the history of women's basketball at UTA, accumulating the records on a weekly basis across both UTA and the Sun Belt Conference.

VanDijk became the 18th player in UTA history to score more than 1,000 points. She is a two-time selection to the Sun Belt Conference’s All-Conference first team, and was third in the conference for scoring and the 2016-17 SBC Preseason Player of the Year. At the close of the season, she was named the conference’s Player of the Year, and will continue to lead us. “What she has done in three years that she has accomplished,” says Krista Gerlich, head coach for women’s basketball. “I am so proud of her and everything that she has accomplished.”

Rebekah VanDijk

SPOTLIGHT

Baseball in Texas is big business. That’s no different for UTA, which will wind down its fourth season in the rugged Sun Belt Conference this spring.

The Mavericks have built a strong program, with a club that has appeared in six NCAA tournaments, won six conference regular-season titles, and has five players earn All-America honors. In his 10th season at the helm, head coach Darin Thomas boasts a veteran roster that includes standout seniors Kadon Simmons and Brady Cox. Simmons, UTA’s Friday-night starter, led the Sun Belt in wins in his first season at UTA in 2016. Behind the plate, UTA is boosted by Cox, who was tabbed as a semifinalist for the Johnny Bench Award, given annually to the nation’s best catcher.

One of UTA’s great challenges each season is the competitive schedule. In 2012, UTA faced 11 games against top-20 foes in the preseason, including three games against the nation’s unanimous preseason No. 1, TCU. In previous seasons, the Mavs have earned 31 victories over top-20 opponents, including No. 7 Oklahoma State and No. 5 TCU in 2016.

BATTER UP

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Record-breaking seasons, historic achievements, and more for UTA’s basketball teams

NEW ERA for UTA basketball is well underway as the Maverick men concluded their most successful season yet, the Maverick women made program history, the men’s wheelchair team won another national championship, while the women’s wheelchair team got very close.

Under the direction of Coach Scott Cross, the Maverick men’s team won a program-record 27 games, claimed its first-ever Sun Belt Conference championship, and advanced to the quarterfinals in the prestigious National Invitation Tournament. The season featured a number of firsts, including a win over the University of Texas at Austin.

Junior forward Kevin Hervey returned from injury to catch the eye of professional scouts and earned the distinction of being named the program’s first-ever Sun Belt Player of the Year. He was the second men’s player in team history to earn All-America recognition. Cross was named the conference’s Coach of the Year and junior guard Eric Neal finished fifth in the nation in average assists. Lady Maverick basketball had a 22-9 season—tied for the third-most wins in program history—and its first appearance in the USA Today coaches poll. The team headed into the Sun Belt Conference Championship tournament as the No. 2 seed. The University of South Alabama gave the Lady Mavs its first SBC tournament win, but Troy University ended the Lady Mavs’ season in the semifinals. The Movin’ Mavs men’s team won its eighth national championship in March, the first in 11 years and the first under Coach Doug Garner. The Lady Movin’ Mavs concluded a stellar regular season, taking second in the nation after a loss to the University of Alabama.
Black and white and read all over campus. Read all about The Shorthorn, UTA’s student newspaper.

BY HILLARY GREEN  ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL WIRGLESWORTH
In a quiet newsroom, a computer monitor blinks to life, a precursor of the activity to come. Some 50 writers, editors, photographers, and designers descend to the E.H. Hereford University Center basement. Soon the room is bustling as staff members produce content for The Shorthorn website—which already has more than 1.2 million views this academic year—and for the 10,000 newspapers distributed weekly around the campus and to local businesses.

The Shorthorn is a compilation of news and events happening around the UTA campus, but in the hands of the reader, it becomes something else: not only a compendium of information, but also access to the bigger picture of life at UTA and a strengthened connection to the Maverick community.

Now in its 98th year of publication, the newspaper embraces the dichotomy of the journalism industry at large, where tradition and evolution must stay in lockstep. The Shorthorn’s dedication to staying true to journalistic fundamentals while pushing boundaries is evident in the prodigious skills students develop while working there. The journalists, designers, multimedia staff, and communications experts of tomorrow are honing their crafts on the UTA campus today.

NATIONAL AWARDS
These exceptional skills have garnered national attention for the students, who were recognized last October with a second Pacemaker award. Given by the Associated Collegiate Press, the Pacemaker is the pre-eminent recognition given to collegiate student media. News organizations are judged on a variety of factors, including consistent excellence in editorial judgment, reporting, editing, design, and photography.

“We have all those things and more, and we always strive to be the best. That’s why we won again,” says organizational communications senior Anna Gutierrez, who served as Shorthorn editor-in-chief from May to December 2016.

While the recognition is always appreciated, Gutierrez and her fellow “Shorties”—a nickname for staff members—keep their focus on producing a quality product.

“I was excited we won, but we have to keep working at it,” she says. “We have to keep doing the best journalism we can.” In addition to the Pacemaker, The Shorthorn was honored with more than 75 state, regional, and national awards for its online and print work during the last academic year.

Consistency in reporting, photography, design, and editing are key to the paper’s success, both in awards and in circulation. Laurie Fox, Shorthorn editorial adviser and Shorthorn alumna, says tradition also plays a role.

“We don’t have to keep reinventing the wheel because we do it right the first time,” Fox says.


Building on this tradition, alumni give back to the University by sharing their professional expertise with Shorthorn students. Director of Publications Beth Francesco, also a Shorthorn alumna, says the paper brings in over 50 speakers with professional journalism and communications backgrounds each year.

“No matter what industry the speakers are from, Francesco says they all have the same message for students: Know how to do everything.

“WE ENHANCED OUR PRINT AND GAVE IT MORE OF AN IDENTITY.”

At The Shorthorn, know how to do everything includes all things digital. According to a 2016 study by the Pew Research Center, 38 percent of Americans often obtain their news online. News received via a mobile device reaches up to 72 percent of users. After taking a survey of Shorthorn readers, the paper found that their audience was similar: They wanted the news, and they wanted it delivered directly to them.

The Shorthorn made the change to a digital-first strategy in 2012. The paper was one of the first five student papers in the nation to make the switch from daily to weekly print publications.

To ensure the important news of the day was still being delivered to the UTA community, the paper created a daily e-newsletter. The digital publication has built its audience to over 55,000 daily subscribers.
While many schools have completely abandoned printing papers altogether, The Shorthorn holds on to the tradition of the paper while embracing new technology:

“We didn’t ditch our print,” Francesco Fox says. “We enhanced our print and gave it more of an identity than it had before.”

What the Shorties report on hasn’t changed; just how it’s being presented to the readers. Campus events like Ozoneball will always be an opportunity for ebullient and inspiring photography. Those photos no longer depend on column inches available, but on online multimedia galleries. Student reporters still hustle for breaking news, now alerting the paper’s Twitter account instead of the next day’s paper.

Fox says no matter the platform, it all starts with solid content.

“It all has to be good,” she says. “The delivery model has to be strong. We have to link it to strong content, and it has to drive traffic.”

Students working in Creative Services gain experience working with clients, developing storyboards, and responding to customers’ needs.

“It provides students who want to learn multimedia skills an opportunity to do that,” Fox says.

The experience and skills gained in their industry: “With the next wave of journalism I think it’s all about community and source development,” Gutierrez says. Working with UTA and the City of Arlington, Shorties build trust by cultivating relationships with the officials on their beat, as well as the community around them.

As The Shorthorn grows, the strength of the student reporters grows as well. By creating a culture dependent on the ability to be adaptable and nimble, students enter the workforce with a passion for journalism and experience in pushing for something new.

Adviser Fox sums up the ethos of The Shorthorn aptly, saying, “We go toward the news and we hope for the best.”
The brave men and women who work to preserve our freedom deserve to pursue their dreams. UTA is dedicated to ensuring that veterans have every opportunity for success.

BY TERESE WOODARD SCHNYDER
It was 1987. Young was 17 years old. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps right out of high school, completing 11 years of active duty and almost an additional 13 years in the Marine Corps Reserve. He was deployed to southwest Asia and Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s and was re-activated soon after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

“I got a call from my sergeant major, and he said, ‘They’re looking for someone to deploy, and I think you’d be perfect for the job.’” Young says. “When for Marine Corps calls, you don’t say no. So about a week later I had orders.”

Young had to take military leave from his full-time job at the U.S. Postal Service to deploy as a reservist. He spent 27 years working for the postal service in total and about 20 years in the military. All the while that conversation with his mother weighed on him.

“When I served, I tried to go to school,” Young says. “I even did courses here and there, but when you’re committed to your country, you may be here tomorrow. So education was always in the back of my mind.”

Young relocated several times throughout his service, and his final move brought him to North Texas, where a conversation at church resurrected a desire to fulfill his mother’s wishes.

“A couple of church members were UTA alumni. They were talking about how great UTA was, and I realized I didn’t live that far from campus,” he says. “I started looking on the website and saw they were very veteran friendly so I decided to go ahead and apply.”

Young retired early from the U.S. Postal Service and took his first UTA class during the 2014 spring semester, joining more than 3,000 other military veterans and families on campus. He says the transition to college, even as an older veteran, was smooth.

“It felt almost like going through boot camp again, wondering where I was supposed to check in and where I would go for help, but UTA walked me through the process and made everything easy to navigate,” he says. “It was sold.”

UTA’s commitment to serving those who have served is gaining recognition. Military Times named UTA to its “Best for Vets: Colleges 2017” list for four years in a row. On the 2017 list, UTA is No. 20 in the nation and the No. 4 one-year university in Texas for veterans and their families. The rankings are based on a school’s culture, academic outcomes and quality, student support, academic policies, cost, and financial aid.

“That No. 1 ranking in the state of Texas is just outstanding,” says retired U.S. Army Gen. Benjamin H. Griffin, who also serves as a special adviser to UTA President Vistasp Karbhari. “It just speaks to the commitment that this University the leadership, and the faculty have to supporting veterans. It’s an outstanding achievement of which all of us associated with UTA should be very proud.”

In 2016, the offerings expanded when UTA was chosen by the Small Business Administration to be the site of a Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC). The VBOC connects veterans and their families members with resources to help them become successful entrepreneurs.

“There are 19 VBOC sites across the United States, so for UTA to have one of those 19 centers is an amazing opportunity for UTA and for veterans,” says Patrick Alcorn, director of the UTA VBOC. “Anyone who has worn the uniform has a specific level of quality, specific character traits, a skill set that makes them ideal entrepreneurs.”

Alcorn, a West Point graduate who served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, says to simply say thanks to a veteran is not enough. He says the United States needs to ensure veterans can find, get, and keep good jobs after their time in the service ends.

“I transitioned out of the Army in 1991 and started my first business in 2004. That’s 13 years that it took me to grasp the system,” he says. “Veterans should not have to wait 13 years if they’ve got a dream in their heart.”

UTA’s varied and successful programs for veterans are a major point of pride for Rep. Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington, who represents the University in the Texas legislature.

“I served for 27 years [UTA] supports veterans in every way possible, and appreciate the fact that they do that,” Tinderholt says. “It’s really important if someone finds a job in Texas, school for that matter, that UTA be at the top of their list. Young has no doubt he made the right choice. “I’m proud to know this school stands behind veterans,” he says. “A lot of schools could say they do, but to prove it and to be ranked as No. 1 in Texas—that says a lot.”

Young expects to graduate in 2018 with a degree in business management, fulfilling the promise he made to his mother 30 years ago. He wishes she were here to see it.

“She passed away before I could finish,” he says. “But I’m really not doing it only for her sake. This is for me, too.”

GEORGE YOUNG can still remember the mix of emotions in his mother’s eyes when he raised his right hand and took the oath of enlistment for the U.S. Marines. “She was proud. But she also seemed disappointed. She almost cried,” he says. “I told her it was going to be OK because I was still going to go to school. Education was very important to her and my father.”

“Best for Vets: Colleges 2017” list for the fourth year in a row. They’re looking for someone to deploy, and I think you’d serve as a U.S. Marine for about 10 years.”

Dedicated Support

UTA offers many programs and services specifically tailored to support veterans.

Knowing the traditional four-year industrial orientation that UTA offers to incoming freshmen would likely not unravel veteran students’ questions, UTA designed a special Veterans Orientation tailored to their needs.

UTA’s University College, School of Social Work, and College of Business offer dedicated advisers, counselors, and special programs.

The Office for Students with Disabilities works with veterans who need special classroom accommodations or support.

UTA was one of the first universities in the nation to receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create a Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing (VBSN) Program, giving students credit hours for their military medical service.

The SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society recognizes veterans with superior academic performances.

MovVevo is a student veterans corporation dedicated to building camaraderie between veterans and offering community service opportunities.
Beyond the STARS

Researchers at UTA are expanding the frontiers of knowledge—toward infinity and beyond.

BY JEREMY AGOR
ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN STAUFFER
When physicists proved the existence of the Higgs boson, colloquially known as the “God particle,” in 2012, researchers from The University of Texas at Arlington’s Center of Excellence in High Energy Physics were part of the team. In January 2016, the University hosted 150 leading international physicists to collaborate on the particle physics experiment known as the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment, which attempts to explain the origins of the universe.

While these researchers explore the origins of life, several other UTA faculty members are deeply involved with interdisciplinary, collaborative projects that are expanding our knowledge of the universe. Their work could allow humans to travel to and inhabit distant planets and increase our understanding of how weather conditions in space affect life here on Earth.

NASA COLLABORATION

One key pathway to discovery is through UTA’s membership in NASA’s Systems Engineering Research Consortium, which is funded by the Marshall Space Flight Center and Langley Research Center. The consortium brings together systems engineering researchers from universities across the country, including the George Washington University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Alabama in Huntsville, and University of Colorado.

Paul Componation, chair of UTA’s Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering (IMSE) Department, was instrumental in earning a place in the consortium, which is looking at both the complexity of advanced aerospace systems and the organizational structures that design and build these systems. UTA’s research team is focusing on how to reduce costs while maintaining the safety and performance of NASA’s space launch systems. This includes verification and validation procedures to make sure they meet requirements and finding better ways to use technology to help distributed design teams—those who work together but are located across the country. In terms of project expense, design teams are one of the most costly parts to manage.

“Today’s design environment has hundreds, if not thousands, of engineers working together,” Dr. Componation says. “They’re separated by distance, time, education, language, and even culture. Pulling these teams together is a major design challenge.”

Susan Ferreira, an associate professor in the IMSE Department, is working with the consortium to find ways to improve system modeling to demonstrate how launch systems will perform before they’re built and to identify possible emergent properties, which are unknown characteristics that can appear as the systems are used. Identifying these properties before a system is applied in real life is crucial to improving safety and protecting life and equipment.

The applications for research done for the NASA consortium are transferable to other areas, which is an added incentive for being part of the group.

“A lot of the work we’re doing for NASA can be applied to other areas where we do a lot of research, such as medical systems and energy systems,” says Componation. “It’s cutting-edge research, and it’s an advantage to be able to work it into other domains.”

BREATHE DEEPLY

In another project for NASA, UTA is working with three other institutions to develop improved methods for oxygen recovery and reuse aboard human spacecraft, which will be crucial to taking the next steps toward manned journeys to Mars and other planets.

Brian Dennis, associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering in the College of Engineering; Krishnan Rajeshwar, distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry in the College of Science; and Norma Tacconi, a since-retired research associate professor in the College of Science, designed and built
reduce as much oxygen as possible, because the amount of carbon dioxide from normal breathing are used as reactants to produce oxygen and hydrocarbon gases, such as meth-an. The oxygen will be used for breathing, while the gases can be vented into space. It is important to pro-duce as much oxygen as possible, because the amount that can be produced lessens the need to transport oxygen, freeing up space for other necessities. An oxygen-recovery system currently in use on the Interna-tional Space Station yields only about 50 percent oxygen, while UTA’s prototype could yield 75 percent or more. The team’s initial prototype worked as expected and has been delivered to NASA in Houston for further testing. Three other teams—two from NASA’s Glenn Research Center and one from a private company—are competing to move on to the second phase of the project, which will require building a much larger system that can support four crew members by converting a kilograms per day of carbon dioxide to breathable oxygen.

"If we’re successful, the system we develop could be used on the International Space Station soon, and one day it could support travel all the way to Mars," Dr. Dennis says. "Our system is different from anything currently in use by NASA. We talk to NASA engineers so often that I think our approach has influenced their thinking as far as what is possible for a life-support sys-tem. Even if our design doesn’t ultimately move forward, I think that we have made an impact.”

WEATHER WATCHERS

As Dennis and his team work to make an impact on space exploration, two researchers in UTA’s Department of Physics are exploring ways to curb the impact of space weather such as solar flares and solar winds on technology and human activities. Yue Deng, associate professor, and Ramon Lopez, profes-sor, are working to learn about those effects and mitigate their disruptions.

Dr. Deng is the head of a $73 million national initiative to develop a next-gen-eration space weather simulator that can very precisely predict energy distributions during events like solar flares. The project, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense through the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative Program, involves a UTA-led team of physicists from the University of California, Los Angeles; Johns Hopkins University; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Texas at Dallas.

The research will compare measure-ments of electric and magnetic fields from the low-flying spacecraft and ground-based remote sensing tools during quiet and storm periods to simulations produced by Deng’s Global Iono-sphere-Thermosphere Model, which uses advanced computing to model energy redistributions in the upper atmosphere. Findings produced by the research group are important because they will lead to greater accuracy in predicting the effects of space weather on GPS and communication systems, power grids, and human safety. Currently, estimates of the energy entering the atmosphere during periods of extreme solar activity can vary by as much as 100 percent. This can lead to an error of up to 30 percent in models used to forecast trajectories and track satellites orbiting in a specific region, which affects the stability and accuracy of GPS and communication systems.

If Deng and her team are successful, predictions of the effects of a solar flare could be accurate to within one degree longitude and one degree latitude—about 100 kilometers in each direction.

“Our findings will help ensure the sta-bility of communications systems and our power grid,” says Deng. “This will en-sure the safety of astronauts and private citizens on commercial airlines who could avoid being exposed to high levels of radiation during space storms.”

Dr. Lopez’s work focuses on heliophysics—or the science of the sun-Earth connection through the space environment—including space physics, astrophysics, and climate studies, and the role of solar wind fluctua-tions in geospace coupling. His research is sponsored by NASA’s Heliophysics Supporting Research program.

Lopez is studying the processes that transfer solar wind energy and momentum to Earth’s magnetosphere and ionosphere. The magnetosphere is the region of space surrounding Earth where the dominant magnetic field is Earth’s, rather than that of interplanetary space. The ionosphere is part of Earth’s upper atmosphere where atoms and molecules are ionized, creating a layer of electrons that reflects and modifies radio waves used for communication and navigation.

Solar wind energy as it flows past Earth, and the transfer creates disturbances that can affect orbiting satellites. Lopez runs computational studies on different kinds of solar wind fluctuations to see what happens. One of his findings was that the larger the fluctua-tion of the magnetic field, the more energy trans-ferred—but the transfer was less efficient.

“Impactful research being performed by our faculty today will result in expanded boundaries for manned space exploration.”

Dr. Deng, chef, Robert L. Stewart

Dr. Stewart became an astronaut seven years after graduating from UTA. He was the first active-duty U.S. Army soldier to make a space flight and wears the Astronaut Badge.

Kalpana Chawla

Kalpana Chawla 94 MS, Aeronautics Engineering

The first Indian-born woman to fly into space. Chawla died in the 2003 Space Shuttle Columbia disas-ter. It was her second mission. We talk to NASA engineers so often that I think our approach has influenced their thinking as far as what is possible for a life-support system. Even if our design doesn’t ultimately move forward, I think that we have made an impact.”
Carlos Donjuan transforms communities and minds through his creative expression of individual journeys.

BY AMBER SCOTT
PHOTOS BY JONATHAN ZIZZO
That’s always the goal for Carlos Donjuan, an alumnum and now a senior lecturer at The University of Texas at Arlington, who developed an interest in graffiti art in middle school.

“As a kid I was already really into drawing cartoons, video game characters, and imagery from lowrider culture,” he says. “In middle school, I became enamored with graffiti art and the idea of abstracting letters and using vibrant colors. I dedicated my teen years to learning everything I could about it.”

Back then, Donjuan, his two younger brothers, and two of their best friends started a graffiti crew they called Sour Grapes. The crew was envisioned as a solid group of artists that would go out into the community, paint graffiti, and look out for one another. They’d ask permission to paint walls for local businesses, particularly those that had already been tagged by local gangs.

“I like to think my work has a positive impact on the community because mural work shows an appreciation for the neighborhood,” Donjuan says. “Communities usually feel appreciated when someone takes the time to add a little color to their surroundings.”

Sour Grapes is still going strong today—17 years later—and though the core mission is the same, things have changed a bit. Today, the crew still paints murals, but they are also creative directors, graphic designers, illustrators, educators, community advocates, and more. They focus on community work, but they also enjoy working with corporate clients.

Donjuan’s art, too, has evolved over the years—though strong shapes and vivid colors remain a consistent element. He credits UTA for helping him discover a true passion for art.

“It was great to be at a university where the faculty really cared about my ideas and worked to help me develop my art,” he says. “My professors helped me realize that there was a purpose to what I was doing and how it was important to my community and me.”

He now focuses his time in the studio. His “Illegal Aliens” series has been exhibited at major museums and galleries all over the world. The paintings feature masked individuals, often surrounded by surreal characters or unusual landscapes.

“As a child, I remembered hearing the term ‘illegal alien,’ and I always wondered what these aliens looked like,” he says. “I soon figured out that ‘illegal alien’ was a term used to label people like me. I was heartbroken.”

Several years ago, as he started to explore some of his childhood experiences through his art, that memory came to the surface. Inspiration struck.

“I created masks and costumes for my figures that were inspired by cultures from all over the world,” he says. “The masks represent the many personalities that we must take on to blend in to a place where we feel like we don’t belong. My goal is to empower people who feel like outsiders and show the beauty of their uniqueness.”
Masked Identities
For this photo series, On My Own, Donjuan created 3-D masks out of paper, paint, and fabric materials.

Local Impact
Through Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings’ Rising Star Council, Sour Grapes worked with students at four Dallas high schools on how to create social change through art. After discussions about the history and community impact of mural and graffiti art, students created mural concepts for their schools, and Sour Grapes helped bring those concepts to life. “It was exciting to see all of the ideas and energy that these students brought to their community,” Donjuan says.
Hidden Faces
Top two: Untitled (left) and Big Red, both oil and wood panel. Bottom: Untitled, water and acrylics on Arches paper. Opposite: Benz, mixed media.

Find Carlos Donjuan’s art in the wild. Spot his graffiti in Oak Cliff, where he has created three of his largest murals thanks to a grant through the Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. A new body of work will debut at a show in November 2017 at Kirk Hopper Fine Art in Dallas.
“My work now is an exploration of my Mexican-American history and how it’s become a hybrid mindset and lifestyle. I’m working on trying to understand my history and culture and how it’s made me the person that I am today.

Graffiti art taught me how to work large scale and introduced me to the elements of art without being aware of that as a teen. When I first started making paintings, I found that I had an easy time understanding the use of color, form, line, shape, space, texture, and value. Graffiti also instilled in me a sense of street smarts and energy—these things have become interwoven with my academic background. This is something that I think has set me apart from many of my peers.

Cartoon imagery constantly appears in my work in many ways or forms. I’m inspired by the playfulness that I find in cartoon imagery now more than ever. This is because of my 6-year-old son Ari and how he has changed my life. Seeing his interests are just as important to me, and it’s hard not to include them in my work. I like to know what he thinks about my work, so I keep it colorful and playful. We talk about cartoons, toys, and video games daily, and that to me is one of my greatest inspirations.”

Inside Look: Behind the Artist
Donjuan shares some of the inspirations that shape his art today

Wild and Bright
This page: Doll Face, watercolor on Arches paper.
Opposite, top: Untitled, watercolor on Arches paper.
Bottom: Cricket Jr., mixed media on Arches paper.

Doll Face, watercolor on Arches paper.
Untitled, watercolor on Arches paper.
Cricket Jr., mixed media on Arches paper.
**1969**

Gary Trietsch (BS, ’74 MS, Civil Engineering), a College of Engineering Advisory Board member, accepted top honors for the Harris County Toll Road Authority in the technology category at the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association’s 84th annual meeting and exhibition in Denver. Trietsch, who also is a UTA Engineering Distinguished Alumnus, received the award for the authority’s rapid alert system technology.

**1972**

Joan Holt (MS, Biology) was named the Harvey Weil Professional Conservationist of the Year by the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi. She is a professor emerita at UT Austin’s Marine Science Institute.

**1974**

Elaine Hart (BBA, Accounting) has been named Austin’s interim city manager. She has been chief financial officer for five years. Hart served for more than 10 years as senior vice president of finance and corporate services for Austin Energy.

**1978**

Kelcy Warren (BS, Civil Engineering) was featured in a Bloomberg article focusing on his capacity to make good business moves even during the oil bust. He is CEO of Energy Transfer Partners.

**1980**

Tina Mims (BBA, Marketing) was appointed to the Small Business Assistance Advisory Task Force by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. Mims is executive director of the Texas Woman’s University Hub for Women in Business.

**1981**

Roger Krone (MS, Aerospace Engineering) has been named to the Boeing board of directors. He is CEO of Leidos.

**1982**

Michael Guyton (BS, Electrical Engineering) was appointed to the Small Business Assistance Advisory Task Force by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. He is a senior vice president at Oncor.

John Pinkerton (MPA, Public Accounting) was named chairman of the board by Lonestar Resources US. He previously served as director of the company.

**1983**

G. Don Taylor (BS, ’75 MS, Industrial Engineering) is the first vice provost for learning and student success at Virginia Tech. A member of the Virginia Tech faculty since 1974, he will assume the post in August after serving as interim dean of the College of Engineering.

**1985**

Susan Bonesteel Harriman (BBA, Business Administration) is the executive director of a new nonprofit, Forward Arkansas, with a mission to improve public education.

**1986**

Phil Blue (BA, Physical Education) has been named to the Greenville High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Blue played quarterback on the UTA football team.

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**CLASS NOTES**

*All the latest professional updates from our talented alumni all over the world.*

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“UTA was critical in providing me with the skills I need to excel in this industry, and I am grateful for the many doors that were opened upon graduation.”

—TROY SEEILING (‘10 BA, Broadcast Management)

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**DIG SITE**

Construction on the Science and Engineering Innovation and Research (SEIR) building is well underway. The teaching and research space will advance health science discoveries and enable dramatic growth in engineering and science programs. The University is on track to unveil the new building in summer 2018.

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“Your news is our news and we don’t write. We miss you! Email us at utamagazine@uta.edu and let us know what’s keeping you so busy.”

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FILL US IN

You never call. You don’t write. We miss you! Email us at utamagazine@uta.edu and let us know what’s keeping you so busy.
These opportunities are a direct result of the incredible learning experiences I had at UTA. My professors and clinical coaches inspired me and gave me the tools I needed to take the next step in my career. I am forever grateful for the degrees I have from UTA. Go Mavs!

MEGAN CARTER
('07 BSN; '16 MSN, NURSING)

2000
Jerry Francis
(BA, Exercise Science) is vice president, multi-employer plans at Premise Health. Previously he was as director of sales for Concentra.

Suneel Jain
(BA, Finance) is the director of quality and operational control at Pidilite Charitable. He plans to return to UTA for his MBA.

2001
Kyle Berger
(BS, Information Systems) is chief technology officer for the Gingevere-Culpepper Independent School District.

Lauren Childa
(BA, Art History) is co-founder of Fort Worth Arts, a new downtown Fort Worth gallery.

Yasir Mabud
(BA, Electrical Engineering) is the general manager of Summit Control.

2002
Marina Mejia
(BBA, International Business) was profiled by Hispanic Executive. She is chief financial officer for Utlera, a drill bit manufacturer.

Christian Romich
(MBA, Business) has joined AXXIS Accident and Health as vice president and business development manager for its Mid-Atlantic region.

2003
Greg Beane
(MBA, Business) is a partner at Nearer Brumley, a family law firm in Dallas. He was elected to be a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation in March.

Stacy Schiever
(BA, Communication) is a managing partner at Verner Brumley, a law firm.

2004
Matthew Caldwell
(AAS in Administrative Assistant (Administrative Assistant)) was appointed CEO of Community Mercy Health System in Springfield, Ohio.

Michael "Ike" Ikner
(BFA, Art, Criminal Justice) has been promoted to assistant vice president for Seattle Municipal Court of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

2005
Jake LaCombe
(BS, Electrical Engineering) was named partner at McMillan Wills Mandala. He received his law degree from Texas Wesleyan.

Charles Nobles
(BA, Political Science) has been named the head women’s soccer coach at McMurry University.

2006
Hal Brock
(BA, Communication) is vice president of business development at Southern Plains Medical Center.

Justin Rickey
(BA, Anthropology; ’13 BA, Economics) is a guest speaker at the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting in Washington, D.C.

2007
Jesse Morgan Barnett
(BFA, ‘11 MFA, Art), co-founder of Dallas Biennial Awami League, was profiled on a new website featuring the work of Austrian artist Hermann Nitsch and Mexican artist Teresa Margolles.

Megan Carter
(BSN, ’16 MSN, Nursing) is the director of critical care and respiratory therapy at Baptist Health Louisville. She is also the coordinator of the River City Chapter of the Kentucky Nurses Association.

2009
Angela Lawrence
(MBA, Public/Nonprofit Management) has been named the town manager in Chase City, Virginia.

2010
Michael Ahart
(Interdisciplinary Studies, ’96 MPA, Accounting) was honored as the 2010 Fleet Executive of the Year at the Automatic Fleet & Leasing Association’s annual conference in September.

2012
Mindy Gowdy
(BA, Journalism) has joined Knight LPA as a partner in the trial practice group.

Kevin G. Sneed
(PhD, Humanities), a professor of history and philosophy at the College of Southern at Wake Forest, N.C., has published Twenteight Nietzsche: His Essential Ideas Revealed and Explained.

2014
Willie Vargas
(BBA International Business) has been promoted to director for sales in Latin America and the Caribbean for FlightSafety International.

2015
Jake LaCombe
(BS, Electrical Engineering) was named partner at McMillan Wills Mandala. He received his law degree from Texas Wesleyan.

Charles Nobles
(BA, Political Science) has been named the head women’s soccer coach at McMurry University.

2016
Eric Terrazas
(BA, Kinesthesiology and Exercise Science) is account executive at Lantana Communications.

2017
Willy Vargas
(BBA International Business) has been promoted to director for sales in Latin America and the Caribbean for FlightSafety International.

2018
Dominic Broughton
(BA, Journalism and Spanish Literature) was the guest speaker at the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting in Washington, D.C.

2019
Jesse Morgan Barnett
(BFA, ‘11 MFA, Art), co-founder of Dallas Biennial Awami League, was profiled on a new website featuring the work of Austrian artist Hermann Nitsch and Mexican artist Teresa Margolles.

Megan Carter
(BSN, ’16 MSN, Nursing) is the director of critical care and respiratory therapy at Baptist Health Louisville. She is also the coordinator of the River City Chapter of the Kentucky Nurses Association.

2020
Martha McDonald
(PhD, Business Administration) has been chosen as dean of the College of Business at Nicholls State University.

2021
Mike Mahoney
(BA, Physical Education) is a police chief of Willow Park, Texas.
2009
Aaron Gouge (BA, Kinesiology), a former Movin'Mavs wheelchair basketball player, was a member of the UTA wheelchair basketball team that earned a gold medal at the Rio de Ja-

paralympics.

Stephanie Hays (BFA, Finance) was pro-

filed by Southlake Style magazine, highlight-

ing her passion for finan-

cial planning.

Michael Tracy (BFA, Art), faculty coordi-

nator for the East Carolina University Glas-

Station in Farmville, N.C., discussed his art

and innovation.

2010
Courtney Bukhart (BS, Computer Science; 15 MBA, Business) is the global IT business

relationship manager at Ericsson.

Vishal Sanghali (MS, Electrical Engineer-

ing) is an engineering work-

ing for San Diego-based Pregenetic Semiconducto.

Troy Seeling (BA, Broadcast Manage-

ment) is a website sales and support specialist at Virtuoso.

2011
Brandon Hurtado (BA, Public Relations)

started a digital media company, ANKR Agency.

Brian Itotia (BBA, Marketing) is the founder of Blacktip Swim School. The school recently

expanded to two locations, one in Carrollton and the other in Garland.

Allegro Jacoby (BA, English) is a contracts

agent for Lockhead Martin. She received her JD in business law, intel-

lectual property, and tax at Creighton University.

Michael Mazzurk (MPA, Art), co-founder of Dallas Biennial art gallery, opened a new show at the Box Company featuring the Dallas Biennial art gallery.

Brendon Wheeler (BS, Civil Engineering) was named vice president of the City Chi-

per Young Engineer of the Year Award at the Texas Society of Professional Engineers’ Week Banquet.

Joanna Alvarado (BA, Psychology) is a ther-

apist at Solutions of North Texas.

Tony Ramirez (MBA, Business) was named vice president of economic development for the Borderplex Alli-

ance, a regional economic development organization based in El Paso.

Rebecca Sinclair (EMBA, Business) has been hired as the chief people officer for American Tire Distributors Inc.

Elizabeth Bigler (BS, Architecture) was awarded the Construction Industry Association’s 2015 Magnolia Award.

Shelly Conlon (BA, Journalism) is an education reporter at the Waco Tribune-Herald.

Nikhil Grover (BBA, Finance) is product manager/owner for digital experience at AT&T.

Todd Mario (MSN, Nursing Admin-

istration) graduated from the 2016 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, using rugby as a vehicle for serv-

ing the LGBTQ community, the Dallas Voice reported.

Ines McNiel (BS, Biology) is a digital

marketing manager and strategist at TLS Marketing.

Brandi Reinhardt (BA, Psychology) is a ther-

apist at Solutions of North Texas.

2012
Amaroja Dalvi (MS, Industrial Engi-

neering) was contracted through IIT Inc. as an industrial engineer for General Motors in 2016.

Chani Farhavon (MA, Communication) was promoted to director of marketing communications and client relations at AGS Partners.

Porter Fuqua (MBA, Architecture) has relaunched historic Dallas-based Casi Ornamen-

tal Master. He is an associ-

ate architect with J. Wilson Fuqua & Associates.

Kristyte Gandhi (BSN, Nursing) was pro-

moted to nursing director of clinical informatics and operations at JPS Health Network.

Cynthia Heitch (BBA, Marketing) is a senior campaign manager and internal program coor-

dinator at Des Media.

Kush Shah (MS, Materials Science) is a global materials compliance engineer at Karma Automotive.

Michelle Turek (MEd, Leadership and Policy Study) has been selected as the new prin-

cipal of Herod Elementary School in the Houston Independent School District.

2013
Randy Giancres (BS, Accounting) became a tax associate at Taylor.

Wendle Medford (MPA, Public Administra-

tion) has been appointed executive assistant city manager of the city of Forney, Texas.

Tristin Neal (BA, Political Science) is a legal assistant at Padfield & Stout LLP.

2016
Ryan Guster Amacher 71, Nov 25, Lake Shore, Minnesota

President of The University of Texas at Ar-

lington from 1992-95, Dr. Amacher stayed on to teach as professor of economics and public affairs until his retirement in 2012. Previously he worked for several universities, including the University of Oklahoma, Clemson University and Clemson University. In addition to his academic career, Amacher held a variety of positions in Washington, D.C., working for the Pentagon and as a consultant at the Federal Trade Commission, among others. He co-authored or edited nine books on economics and served on the board of directors at Business Week.

Tony Baker 82, Oct 17, McKinney. He taught history and eco-

nomics from 1979-98.

Randi Bohannon 72, Jan 5, Euless. Dr. Bohan-

non was a research engi-

eer at UTA’s AMR (now UTAR) and TMAC from 1996-2008.

Thomas “Tom” Coigedell 82, Oct 27, Arlington. He served as an assistant pro-

fessor in the Chemistry Department from 1966-99.

Richard L. Cole 70, Jan 8, Arlington. He served as dean of the School of Urban and Pub-


Vincent Dansis (BA, English) Sept. 19, Hurst. He was an adjunct lecturer in the English Department from 2007-12.

Timothy Edward Denny (MS, Management) Oct. 23, Mansfield. Denny taught first-year seminars and conducted workshops for student veterans while an adviser for University Studies from 2010-12.

Joe Gilbreath 89, Feb 5, Windsor. The U.S. Navy veteran taught mathematics from 1960-89 and served as an assistant director in student affairs.

Samuel Barkdale Hamlett 96, Aug 9, Austin. An associ-

cate professor from 1956-92, Dr. Hamlett served as the first chairman of the Department of Gov-

ernment, now Political Science, for 10 years. He retired from full-time teaching in 1984, but con-

tinued to teach and advise students for another 10 years. In 1987 he was designated as a profes-

sor emeritus of political science.

Marie Louise Kauth 86, Jan 7, Arlington. A member of the Friends of the UTA Library, she created the Marie Kauth Endowment Fund to enhance the library’s collections of journals and monographs.

Queta Jo “Bell” Lacy 77, Dallas. An adjunct instructor from 2001-2005, she taught the first children’s literature classes in the Department of English.

Darlene Langos 86, Sept 5, Arlington. She was an accountant in the E.H. Hixson Herndon Faculty Center from 1981-2003.

Dolly Lynn Malmstrom 56, Jan 24, Fort Worth. She was a senior auditor and compliance specialist in internal audits in the business office from 2001-03.

Gary C. McMahan 56, Aug 30, Dallas. Dr. Mc-

mahan was an associate professor of management in the College of Business from 1996-2015. He served as the management doc-

toral program coordinator and as the chair or a mem-

ber of numerous disserta-

tion committees.

Robert Roy Minter 78, Dec 4, River Oaks. A U.S. Army veteran, Minter worked as the senior con-

struction inspector for the Army from 1989-2014.

Luke Joseph Sparvero 77, Dec 18, Arlington. He was a senior lecturer of finance and real estate in the College of Business from 1986-2008.

Frederick Viña 84, Oct 22, Arlington. An associate professor of Spanish from 1965-2002, Dr. Viña was named a pro-

fessor emeritus of modern languages and the 2000-

01 Outstanding Academic Advisor at the under-

graduate faculty adviser.

Selma Porter Wilson 91, Aug 29, Fort Worth. A cashier, she worked in ad-

missions and the business office from 1966-82.
The Explainer

Daylight saving time is something you encounter twice a year, but may not know much about. It is an effort to alter human activities to preindustrial patterns of living in which the sun exerted far more control over our daily behavior.

The modern concept of daylight saving time owes its origins to George Hudson, a New Zealand entomologist. In 1895, he proposed the idea of setting clocks forward in the spring so that he could maximize the amount of sunlight hours available to collect bugs. Ten years later, the idea would be picked up independently by a British citizen named William Willett, who proposed the idea of daylight saving time in Britain so he could engage in the activity that he most enjoyed: playing golf. Willett’s daylight saving time plan never passed Parliament. The idea might have ended there had it not been for World War I.

During the war, the German government enacted daylight saving time in an attempt to conserve coal and electricity for the war effort. Germany’s ally, Austria-Hungary, adopted daylight saving in April 1916, forming the first nationwide practice of daylight saving time. Britain followed a month later; the United States adopted the practice in 1918. After the war was over, however, all of these countries reverted back to their normal system of keeping time.

One of the most common misconceptions about daylight saving time is that American farmers advocated for it. In fact, the practice tended not to be popular with them. They argued against it during World War I and actively lobbied to see it repealed when the war ended in 1918. Longer summer months made it more difficult for farmers to undertake their work. Hired hands typically went home at 5 o’clock in any event, thus wasting daylight hours. Moreover, the cows had to be milked at set times that were regulated by their biological clocks rather than artificial time.

With the onset of World War II, daylight saving time was reintroduced in Europe and the United States. Three months after the end of the war, it was discontinued in America on a national level. Instead, state, regional, and local governments were allowed to regulate the start and end dates for their local daylight saving time. During the 1950s and 1960s this would lead to what one national magazine called “the chaos of time.” By 1965, in the state of Iowa alone there were 23 different start and end times for daylight saving. That same year, start and end dates in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul were off by two weeks.

As the result of all this confusion, the U.S. Congress passed the Uniform Time Act in 1966, establishing daylight saving time regulations as we know them today. The act established uniform start and end times for daylight saving across the United States while allowing individual states to opt out of the system altogether. Indiana opted out until 2006. Today Arizona is the only state not to participate.

So what’s the point of daylight saving time? Some studies have shown that instituting daylight saving time reduces energy costs in summer months; with people spending more time outdoors, they use less electricity at home. Other studies have shown that falling back in the colder months leads to an increase in energy consumption. Either way, it’s probably a wash. The most important thing to remember is that whether you choose to use your extra time collecting bugs, playing golf, or waging war, don’t forget to set your clocks accordingly.
Look Ahead

Your alma mater just can’t get enough of you. Take a look at the upcoming events below and see where UTA and your life can intersect.

**JUNE 16–17**
Santa Fe International Folk Art Market at Arlington
folkartalliance.org/arlington

**SEPTEMBER 7**
Maverick Speakers Series presents: Lou Diamond Phillips

**SEPTEMBER 13**
UTA Day at the Rangers

**OCTOBER 2**
UTA Night at the Levitt

**OCTOBER 3**
Maverick Speakers Series presents: Anousheh Ansari

**NOVEMBER 2**
Maverick Speakers Series presents: Roland Fryer

Don’t Miss
Homecoming and the Distinguished Alumni Awards this fall!

Dates subject to change. Visit uta.edu/events for the latest info.