A Homecoming to Remember

It was a perfect November weekend. Cool temperatures, sunny skies, light breezes. But something else was in the air, too: anticipation, energy, and excitement for the return of fall Homecoming at The University of Texas at Arlington.

Centering Homecoming on men’s and women’s basketball games has been a tradition at UT Arlington for years. But this fall, that tradition was enhanced by the Maverick’s spectacular new home court, the College Park Center, and pre- and post-game festivities that began on November 15 and ran through November 19.

On Friday, the Party on Pecan featured live music, food, and fan prep areas where the community gathered to paint their faces and hair blue and orange. Deejays and “man on the street” student emcees energized the crowd.

Next came the Homecoming Parade, which drew close to 3,000 students, staff, faculty, alumni, fans, and neighbors. The parade kicked off with a big surprise to everyone, including UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo, Arlington Mayor Cluck, and President Spaniolo joined a group of UT Arlington students on stage for a digital ribbon cutting and virtual tour of the district. (See “Your new dining and entertainment destination awaits” on page 3 for more about the public amenities in College Park District.)

After the dedication, the Maverick Speakers Series presented Seth Meyers, Saturday Night Live head writer and Weekend Update anchor. Local NBC5 sports anchor Newy Scruggs helped the University welcome Meyers to a sold-out College Park Center crowd.

“The 2012 Fall Homecoming was a spectacular array of new and enhanced activities and events,” says Frank Lamus, vice president for student affairs. “It was great to see our community come together and enjoy our beautiful campus, and it was a wonderful opportunity to show our love for UT Arlington and our Maverick spirit and pride.”

LET’S GO MAVS

Spring sports swing into action

UT Arlington began its first and last season in the Western Athletic Conference this year (the University will join the Sun Belt in 2014). Men’s and women’s basketball is well underway, while the seasons for both the baseball and softball teams open this month with sky-high expectations from the players, coaches, and fans.

The baseball team returns a number of starters from last year’s Southland Conference champions, including decorated shortstop Ryan Walker and starting pitcher John Beck. Maverick and OU fans alike lingered for the After Party, danced to live music, and played carnival-style games under a starry sky.

The rest of Homecoming weekend featured an Arlington State College reunion, student leader and Max Elite alumni receptions, and an all-Greek reunion, as well new events like a 5K walk/run and a Homecoming golf tournament. There was also a step show, chili cook-off, concerts, and The Bash dance party.

On Monday, Homecoming festivities continued as the University formally dedicated the College Park District. Dennis Wiles, senior pastor of First Baptist Church-Arlington, Mayor Chuck, and President Spaniolo joined a group of UT Arlington students on stage for a digital ribbon cutting and virtual tour of the district. (See “Your new dining and entertainment destination awaits” on page 3 for more about the public amenities in College Park District.)

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The study also found that UT Arlington generates $1.1 billion in total annual economic benefits to the state and more than $1.400 permanent jobs, which includes $802.7 million in output and $561 person-years of employment in the North Central Texas region related to recent and ongoing University construction projects. Ray Perrymen, president of the The Perrymen Group, says the UT Arlington study reinforces his earlier findings about the potential economic impact additional Tier One institutions can have on Texas.

“When you look at the hard data, something like UT Arlington are major centers of employment and spawn economic benefits,” he states. “They generate business activity and opportunities for their immediate region, and they are one of the state’s most important sources of talent and technology—critical components of a healthy economy.”

Among the factors fueling UT Arlington’s economic impact are the enrollment growth over the past five years to more than 33,200 students, as well as record numbers of degrees conferred in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. record levels of research activity, and record levels of recent construction activity, with the completion of the Engineering Research Complex as well as the 20-acre College Park District.

“The data makes a compelling case for ongoing investment in public institutions like The University of Texas at Arlington,” says Perryman.

Read the report at uta.edu/economicimpact

**New program provides free academic support**

November’s VA on Campus event featured the first-ever presentation by a new program that provides free academic support at UT Arlington. Veterans Upward Bound was launched last fall to serve veterans who are low-income or the first in their families to attend college. The grant allows for 135 participants and provides free counseling, mentoring, pre-college academic instruction, tutoring, and other support. UT Arlington is one of 51 universities nationwide to receive such a grant.

Veterans Upward Bound provides instruction in mathematics, laboratory science, foreign language, composition, and literature. The program may also provide short-term remedial or refresher courses for veterans who are high school graduates but have delayed pursuing post-secondary education. In addition to academic support, participants also receive advice on scholarships, grants, and federal assistance for which they qualify.

“We are committed to helping our veterans, many of whom are fresh out of combat and need extra support and confidence to achieve their educational goals,” says Lisa Thompson, director of UT Arlington’s TRIO Pre-College Programs. For more information on Veterans Upward Bound, visit www.uta.edu/veteransub.

**Community Snapshot**

**SNL Star Shines**

Saturday Night Live head writer Seth Meyers not only brought his comedy act to College Park Center, but he also invited students on stage during the Q&A portion of his November Maverick Speakers Series performance.

**Honoring Veterans**

Retired U.S. Army Gen. Tommy Franks (’71 BBA) spoke at a Veterans Day event held on campus in honor of students, faculty, and staff members who have or are currently serving in the military.

**Astronaut Inspires Students**

Astronaut, retired U.S. Navy captain, and best-selling author Mark Kelly discussed “Endeavoring to Build a Better America” at Texas Hall as part of the Maverick Speaker Series.

**Survey shows University helps local and state economy**

UT Arlington has made a big impression on the state of Texas—and we do mean big. According to a recent assessment of the University’s operations, research, and workforce enhancement, UT Arlington has a $13.6 billion total annual impact on the state and fuels 13,200 jobs a year.

Conducted by The Perryman Group, a prominent consulting firm, the economic study analyzed data ranging from enrollment and ongoing University operations, to business activity and the enhanced workforce productivity of graduates, among other factors. UT Arlington’s impact reflects about 4 percent of the North Central Texas economy. Economic activity associated with the University also leads to incremental tax receipts of about $180 million a year to local governments and $639 million to the state.

President James D. Spaniolo says the Perryman report underscores the significant advantage diverse and active research institutions give their regions and the state overall.

“This report clearly demonstrates the tremendous benefit UT Arlington brings to North Central Texas and the Texas economy overall,” Spaniolo says. “Our students, alumni, and faculty provide a highly educated workforce to our region and are constantly advancing innovation and new technologies. Their work helps make North Texas one of the nation’s best places to live.”

Arnold Petsche’s gift to the University will fund a prestigious new center for automotive engineering.

**UTA Racing accelerates to new frontiers**

Twenty-six years ago, mechanical engineering Professor Bob Woods met with the founder of A.E. Petsche Company to ask, for the high-tech wiz who his students needed to build a race car. Little did he know that Arnold Petsche, who collects cars and has an engineering degree himself, would become an enduring friend and passionate supporter of generations of UT Arlington students.

Now Petsche has made a $1 million commitment to the UT Arlington College of Engineering to establish the Arnold E. Petsche Center for Automotive Engineering. His gift will enable students through the University’s Maverick Match program to create a $2 million endowment for the Center. The program leverages natural gas royalties to attract new philanthropic commitments. A cornerstone of the Arnold E. Petsche Center for Automotive Engineering will be student participation in Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) competitions, for which both engineering and non-engineering majors conceive, design, and build a race car to pit against teams from around the world.

UT Arlington has been competing for 31 years in formula racing with a record eight first-place finishes in the United States, England, Australia, and Japan. This July, UTA Racing will compete for bragging rights in a national competition held on the UT Arlington campus. This annual contest features 12 college teams from across the United States and has become one of the larger competitions for FSAE.

In addition to providing support to the FSAE program, the Center for Automotive Engineering will promote other automotive engineering initiatives, especially in cost-effective manufacturing of composites and other advanced materials. Beginning this year, the Center hopes to become the first and only university-based program in the country to offer a Certificate in Automotive Engineering and a Certificate in Engineering Entrepreneurship.

Petsche said the real-world knowledge that students gain through the UT Arlington FSAE program translated well at A.E. Petsche Co., a company he started in his garage and built into a multi-million dollar business before he sold it in 2009. Many University engineering graduates have not only gone on to work at A.E. Petsche Co., but also other industry leaders including Peterbilt Motors Company, Bell Helicopter, and Williams-Pyro. Learn more about UTA Racing at fsae.uta.edu.

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**VANDERBILT ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH INNOVATION AND INGENUITY**

**Read the report at uta.edu/economicimpact**

**SUPPORTING VETERANS**

Call the states in the nation, Texas has the second-highest population of veterans. Now, thanks to a recent grant from the U.S. Department of Education, UT Arlington has a new way to help them transition back to the workforce.

Veterans Upward Bound was launched last fall to serve vets who are low-income or the first in their families to attend college. The grant allows for 135 participants and provides free counseling, mentoring, pre-college academic instruction, tutoring, and other support. UT Arlington is one of 51 universities nationwide to receive such a grant.

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MONEY MATTERS
Students balance books and budgets

Studies show that the value of a college education increases exponentially over a graduate’s lifetime. But as tuition rates across the country continue to rise, parents and students must consider carefully how they’ll pay for it without incurring unmanageable debt. At UT Arlington, we’re working hard to provide our students the tools they need to manage all their education costs.

The new UT Arlington Student Money Management Center provides a wealth of resources, including an informative website, one-on-one advising sessions, seminars, and presentations. “The Center provides training in personal financial literacy, giving students the knowledge and skills to help them succeed while in school and beyond,” says Shakela Hunter, who serves as the University’s director of student financial literacy.

“Our goal is to ensure that students learn how to manage budgets and debt, save, prevent identity theft, and even plan for retirement.”

About two-thirds of UT Arlington students receive grants, scholarships, and other financial aid to pay for college costs, including tuition and books. Their average debt loan upon graduation is about $38,000, well below the national average.

“I know UT Arlington students get a quality education; my hope is that they graduate with as little debt as possible,” Hunter says. “I want them to be educated about finances before they ever have to think about their credit score.”

Learn more about the Student Money Management Center at uta.edu/mm.

THE BIG EVENT
Lend a hand in the community

Busyness hands will be helping hands on April 27 when The Big Event gets underway. The popular event is the largest one-day, student-run community service project in the United States.

The Big Event has a theme of “Educate, Serve, and Inspire.” Organizers hope to make this year’s event better than ever. UT Arlington students—along with those from more than 70 other universities across the country—will devote volunteer time, energy, effort, and enthusiasm to make a difference throughout their community.

Here in College Town UTA, volunteers can contribute their time to projects such as Mission Arlington, the River Legacy Science Center, the Arlington Public Library, the Arlington Life Shelter, and the Fort Worth Zoo.

Arlington residents are invited to join University students, faculty, and staff in this effort. From now through mid-March, volunteers can choose from approximately 50 local projects listed on The Big Event website at uta.edu/thenbeigevent.

SMOOTH SOUNDS
Aaron Neville added to Maverick Speakers Series

Four-time Grammy-winning singer Aaron Neville and celebrated jazz pianist Ellis Marsalis will perform a special concert to wrap up this season of the Maverick Speakers Series.

On April 2 at 7:30 p.m., the duo will take the College Park Center stage and perform a 30-40 minute set, followed by a 20-minute Q&A session with the audience. Tickets will be available starting March 1 at 10 a.m. For more information, visit uta.edu/maverickspeakers.
MAVERICK SPEAKERS SERIES
See Who’s at the Mic Tonight

Here at UT Arlington, mavericks are defined as people dedicated to making a difference. The University is proud to host the Maverick Speakers Series, an in-depth look at the people, ideas, actions, and solutions that leave a mark on the world. Visit uta.edu/maverickspeakers for more info.

MARCH
MARCH 20: DISCUSSION ON THE PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES & GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL CENTER
Central Library Parlor
MARCH 25: FACULTY AND FRIENDS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT
Jones Recital Hall
MARCH 27: MAVERICK SPEAKERS SERIES: JEFF CORWIN
College Park Center
MARCH 29: WORLD CLASS GLASS ART Sale
Studio Art Center

APRIL
APRIL 2: MAVERICK SPEAKERS SERIES: AARON NEVILLE WITH SPECIAL GUEST ELLIS MARSALIS
College Park Center
APRIL 3, 5-7: BASEBALL: OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN & CSU BAKERSFIELD VS UTA
Clay Gould Ballpark
APRIL 4-7: GOOD NIGHT DESDEMONA, GOOD MORNING JULIET
Manatee Theatre
APRIL 6: UT ARLINGTON FAMILY PICNIC
Doug Russell Park
APRIL 6: ENGINEERING SATURDAY

APRIL 7: TROMBONE CHOIR CONCERT
Jones Recital Hall
APRIL 8: UT ARLINGTON NIGHT AT THE RANGERS
Rangers Ballpark in Arlington
APRIL 12: OPENING RECEPTION: MASTER OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION
Gallery at UTA
APRIL 12-14, 16: BASEBALL: SAN JOSE ST. AND TCU VS UTA
Clay Gould Ballpark
APRIL 22: SPRING PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE CONCERT
Jones Recital Hall

APRIL 24: BASEBALL: UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK VS UTA
Clay Gould Ballpark
APRIL 25-28: MANPLAYS ONE-ACT THEATRE FESTIVAL
UTA Studio Theatre
APRIL 27: THE BIG EVENT COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY
Various locations
APRIL 30: BASEBALL: BAYLOR VS UTA
Clay Gould Ballpark

MAY
MAY 3-5: OPENING RECEPTION: BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION
Gallery at UTA
MAY 3-5: BASEBALL: DALLAS BAPTIST VS UTA
Clay Gould Ballpark
MAY 10: GRADUATION CELEBRATION
Lexus Pavilion, downtown Arlington
MAY 10-12: BASEBALL: TEXAS STATE VS UTA
Clay Gould Ballpark
MAY 11-12: UT ARLINGTON COMMENCEMENT
College Park Center
MAY 22-26: BASEBALL: WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT
Quack Track Park, Grand Prairie

ON GOING
USA SUMMER CAMPS
www.uta.edu/summerscamps
THE PLANETARIUM
www.uta.edu/planetarium
COLLEGE PARK CENTER
www.utamavs.com
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
www.uta.edu/libraryfriends
CONTINUING EDUCATION
www.uta.edu/ced

All events are subject to change. Please visit www.uta.edu/events for the complete listing of events, times, and ticket information.

Jeff Corwin
TV host, animal expert
March 27, 2013
7:30 p.m., College Park Center

Aaron Neville
with special guest Ellis Marsalis
Music Icon
April 2, 2013
7:30 pm., College Park Center

Maverick Speakers Series
Special Performance

AROUND TOWN

JOIN THE FUN AT UT Arlington! The campus hosts a wide range of activities, including exhibitions, plays, concerts, lectures, and more.

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