DAWNING OF A NEW DAY

College Park Center Officially Opens

On Feb. 1, 2012, one of the most anticipated days in UT Arlington history finally arrived, as the University officially opened College Park Center, its new $78 million, 7,000-seat events showpiece.

The day was marked with a huge celebration, kicking off with the first game played on the new court, a women’s basketball match against UT San Antonio. After the victory (the Mavs won 51-40), a spectacular ribbon-cutting ceremony took place, featuring fireworks, a court-sized ribbon, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, and more. The men’s basketball squad then closed the evening with a thrilling win against UTSA, who will be moving to the Western Athletic Conference next season.

“UT Arlington alumni and supporters have dreamed of a special events center that would be a true home for basketball and volleyball for decades, and we are seeing that dream realized,” President Spaniolo said at the opening day event.

“For 47 years, UT Arlington’s basketball and volleyball teams played on the stage at Texas Hall, which hindered recruiting, surprised visiting teams, and underwhelmed spectators. There were no training rooms back stage, and basketballs and volleyballs occasionally ventured into the orchestra pit.

The University’s new, 285,000-square-foot facility features a split-bowl arena that places more seats close to the action and intensifies the fan experience. Athletes now enjoy two full-sized practice courts, a spacious weight room, attractive team and visitors locker rooms, an academic center for student-athletes, and a state-of-the-art sports medicine center highlighted by a hydrotherapy room with underwater video cameras that trainers can use to help athletes recover from injury.

A week after the opening day festivities, the University hosted a number of Homecoming events at the Center, including the Homecoming Bash—a nightclub-style party for students inside the arena—and the Festival on the Plaza, a street festival featuring live music, food, midway-type games, and barkers who energized the crowd. But the highlight was the new-and-improved Homecoming Parade. Previously limited to golf carts, the parade this year also included five full-sized floats carrying the men’s basketball team, Homecoming Court, and alumni. The Homecoming celebration ended with a men’s basketball game against Texas State (the Mavs won, 73-53) and the crowning of Homecoming king and queen.

“Homecoming this year was a real success, bringing together our University community, alumni, and friends on a host of wonderful activities and events,” says Frank Lamas, vice president for student affairs. “It was so great to see present and past Mavericks reconnecting on campus, enjoying our spirit-filled traditions, and visiting our new College Park Center.”

The Center will host a number of activities open to the entire community this spring and summer. Check out the website, www.utacollegepark.com, for details, ticket info, and more.

Baker's expertise is wide-ranging, from overseeing UT Austin's baseball and golf programs to managing multi-million athletics construction programs and football game-day activities. He began his career working with Ohio State University and served in various positions with the University of Florida from 1982 until he joined UT Austin in 1991. Baker believes that the combination of UT Arlington’s facilities for student-athletes and its pending move to the WAC positions the University for great achievement in all its athletics programs.

“We are fortunate to have such an exceptional leader join us at this critical point in the evolution of our program,” says President James D. Spaniolo. “Jim has unparalleled experience and a proven track record with one of the most respected and successful athletics programs in the nation. We will look to him to advance the UT Arlington program to even higher levels of regional and national competition.”

Baker, formerly the associate athletic director for events and operations at UT Austin, joined UT Arlington in February as the new director of intercollegiate athletics. Baker oversees 14 Division I intercollegiate sports programs and will usher in a new era of competition as the University moves this summer from the Southland Conference to the Western Athletic Conference.

“We are in a great recruiting place and a great city that we will compete on a national stage,” Baker says.

“UT Arlington alumni and supporters have dreamed of a new era of competition as the University moves this summer from the Southland Conference to the Western Athletic Conference. Baker believes that the combination of UT Arlington’s facilities for student-athletes and its pending move to the WAC positions the University for great achievement in all its athletics programs.

“The commitment is there from the president on down that we will compete on a national stage,” Baker says. “We are in a great recruiting place and a great city that has a remarkable partnership with the University.”

Less than one month ago, one of The University of Texas at Arlington’s newest athletic recruits walked onto the court for the first time. But Jim Baker wasn’t there to play.

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The UniversiTy of Texas aT arlingTon

2012–2013 academic year

Making eDuCation afforDaBle

reshape downtown arlingTon

urban design center helping to

Blueprint for Change

UT Arlington's Urban Design Center, a collaboration between the City of Arlington and the University, creates conceptual plans for a variety of urban and public infrastructure projects at no charge. overseen by UT Arlington's School of Architecture and School of Urban and Public Affairs, the center is managed by the city's planning department and staffed by six UT Arlington master's degree students. while most of the center's clients are public institutions or nonprofit organizations, some private and residential clients have also benefited from its free services.

"our Urban Design center students help clients get important projects off the ground, under the leadership of Don Gatzke, dean of the School of Architecture, and Barbara Becker, dean of the School of Urban and Public Affairs," says lindsay Mitchell, city of Arlington planning project manager and the manager of the center. "this early-stage work saves clients thousands of dollars that can instead be used for project implementation." in fact, since the center opened in City Hall in 2009, more than 75 projects have been completed, worth an estimated value of more than $700,000.

Clients work with the center's designers and planners to generate ideas and create conceptual drawings that can be taken to an architect or engineer for honing and execution. the benefit to the client is that they can leverage their project budget, the benefit to the community is that more privately funded improvement and beautification projects come to fruition.

In and around college town UTA, projects born in the Urban Design Center abound. along Front, Division, and Center Streets, for example, new businesses are drawing more and more customers and, consequently, creating additional demand on the area's limited parking. urban Design Center students conducted three scenario researches for the area and developed an on-street parking plan that repurposed underutilized city property. the plan was quickly executed and the parking challenges addressed.

just west of the new twisted Root and Flying fish restaurants, students worked with property owners to envision parking, landscaping, facade upgrades, and accessibility improvements, many of which have been implemented. the latest project of the Urban Design Center, funded by a grant from the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation, will provide the Center itself a much-needed remodel of its City Hall location to improve its visibility, functionality, and client services experience. the construction will wrap up this spring; visitors are welcome to stop by to see it.

To see a video about the Urban Design Center's work, visit www.arlingtontx.gov/planning/UrbanDesignCenter.html.

Making eDuCation afforDaBle

UT Arlington tuition to remain constant for 2012–2013 academic year

St udents enrolling in classes this fall will experience déjà vu when they look at their bills. for the first time in more than a decade, the University will not increase the price of tuition, fees, room and board rates, dining plans, or parking. UT Arlington is the first—and so far only—institution in the state to announce such plans.

"As state funding for UT Arlington has declined—and as state and federal support for financial aid programs shrinks—students and their families have been forced to shoulder more of the financial responsibility for attending college through increased tuition," President James D. Spaniolo says. "we are committed to keeping UT Arlington affordable as possible while continuing to build a first-rate university."

UT Arlington currently charges an average of $9,292 in tuition and fees for students enrolled in 12 or more semester credit hours. this figure compares favorably with other comprehensive research institutions in Texas and across the nation. the University's room and board averaged $7,554 for the 2011-2012 academic year, though rates varied by residence hall or apartment property.

State-assisted universities have been directed to return a portion of appropriated funds in recent years in response to declining state revenues. such economic uncertainty makes it impossible to predict whether the University will need to request a tuition increase for the 2013-2014 academic year, but as per the guidelines established by the Board of Regents for the biennial tuition cycle, any potential increase would be capped at 2.6 percent for undergraduate students and 3.6 percent for graduate students. the Board of Regents is expected to review the plan this spring.

Jennifer fox, president of the UT Arlington Student Congress, serves as chairwoman of the Tuition Review Committee. she says the tuition proposal "shows that UT Arlington cares about its students and their families."

"Many universities are discussing raising tuition," fox continues. "UT Arlington is really leading the way in helping keep college affordable."

President Spaniolo says UT Arlington will continue to invest resources in strategic priorities that will propel it toward becoming a major national research University.

"Containing tuition costs for the next year will not result in any reduction to programs and services that support our students or our growing academic enterprise," he says. "we will continue to pursue excellence in every way that matters."

Building blocks

YWCA childcare center set to move to a new location

Construction has begun in earnest on a new, 10,000- square-foot YWCA childcare center on the northwest corner of campus. the YWCA previously was located in a 20-year-old building on the opposite side of the University. the new location at 403 s. Davis Drive will be more accessible to visitors and potential clients but still maintain a residential neighborhood feel.

"the YWCA is pleased with its ongoing relationship with UT Arlington and is thrilled about continuing to provide community child care services in this new facility," says Carol Kloc Kr, executive director of the YWCA Fort Worth & Tarrant County, which operates child development centers in Arlington and Fort Worth.

About half the families served by the YWCA facility are UT Arlington students, faculty, or staff; the rest are area residents. in their new home, children and staff will enjoy not only the benefits of a functional new learning space, but also proximity to their own plots in the Community Garden at UT Arlington.

the center is being designed with sustainability standards in mind, including high-efficiency heating, air conditioning, water, and electrical systems. Landscaping will also be informed by sustainability principles with an eye to creating ample shade, attractive exterior elevations, and efficient water management.

the new building is expected to be complete by August 2012. for more information about the various services provided by the nonprofit YWCA Fort Worth & Tarrant County, visit www.ywca.org.

Making eDuCation afforDaBle

Reading with Mavericks

AI SD elementary school children visited UT Arlington early in December for a Reading with Mavericks literacy event. more than 100 UT Arlington students read books with the children and helped them participate in fun, educational activities. (Photo by ilse mundo)

Community snapshot

EcoFest

UT Arlington students pitch in at Ecofest, an annual event hosted by the City of Arlington that focuses on environmental awareness and stewardship.
Helping high school students make the college connection

I
atino are the largest minority group in the nation, yet only 18 percent are enrolled in higher education, according to a 2010 report by The Education Trust. UT Arlington is working to close that gap.

Thanks to funding from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the University will continue to operate GO Centers in area high schools. The centers are physical spaces located in the schools where students can get information on college admission, financial aid, and other pertinent topics. Around 55 UT Arlington students—known as the G-Force—help staff GO Centers and serve as peer mentors, offering their perspectives on college to the high schoolers.

“We are thrilled about the continuation of these funds, which will help us in our efforts to make sure that more students—especially those traditionally underrepresented—are going to college,” says Luis Rosado, director of UT Arlington’s Center for Bilingual Education.

The University plans to operate eight GO Centers in three local school districts: Arlington, Grand Prairie, and Mansfield.

“It’s like being a big brother to high school students,” says Ciro Candelario, a UT Arlington junior who will serve on the G-Force for his third straight year. “We not only help students interested in college, but we also help those who are on the borderline of dropping out of high school.”

Gabriel Escobedo is serving on the G-Force for his second straight year. The anthropology major called it a “bliss” to be able to work with a program that supports people as they most need it.

“The best part is helping that one kid who at the beginning of the year wasn’t sure he would graduate, and ends up graduating with scholarships to a college of his choice,” Escobedo says.

NEWS & NOTES

Summer camps offer fun, educational activities

Do you have a child in your life who always asks you “why” things work the way they do? A teenager who just can’t put down his guitar? Or a kid with an interest in visual and performing arts and the sciences? Whether you’re looking for a place to escape the heat, or a pre-college experience, UT Arlington’s Center for Community Engagement offers a wide variety of educational activities to help your kid make the college connection.

LENDING A HAND

The Big Event is coming to Arlington

On April 21, UT Arlington students, faculty, and staff—along with volunteers at more than 70 universities around the country—will come together for The Big Event, the largest one-day, student-run community service event in the United States. Here in Arlington, the projects will take place at River Legacy Park, AISD schools, the Boys & Girls Club, and other agencies that provide services to children, senior citizens, and low-income families, or promote quality of life.

Arlington residents are invited to join in. From now through mid-March, volunteers can choose from approximately 60 projects listed on The Big Event website at www.uta.edu/bigevent.

PLAY BALL

Baseball, softball start 2012 seasons

UT Arlington’s baseball and softball teams are looking to exit on a high note as they begin their final seasons in the Southland Conference before joining the Western Athletic Conference this fall.

The baseball squad is returning several key members from last year, including outfi elder Preston Back and infielder Ryan Walker. Upcoming home games for the Mavericks include Texas State from March 9–11, TCU on March 27, and Central Arkansas from March 30–April 1.

Softball returns a dominant pitching staff that includes Callie Collins, the 2011 Southland Conference Pitcher of the Year, and Teri Lyles, the 2010 Southland Conference Freshman of the Year. This month’s home games include Nicholls State on March 9–10, North Dakota State on March 14, Texas A&M Corpus Christi on March 23–24, and Texas State on March 27.

Follow all the Maverick Athletics action at utamavs.com.

BEAT THE HEAT

Volunteers erect shade arbor at the community garden

The Community Garden at UT Arlington provides its gardeners not only a place in the sun, but also a place in the shade.

Thanks to volunteers from Arlington’s Sunrise Rotary Club, the garden now features a large cedar arbor where gardeners can rest or conduct outdoor classes. The arbor, built late last fall, is a final piece of the garden’s development.

A joint venture of the city and the University of Texas at Arlington, the 78-plot garden, located at Summit Avenue and UTA Boulevard, gives residents a place to grow their own produce and also provides crops for local charities. Arlington and University officials say the garden helps the city preserve open space and encourages healthy eating and sustainable food production. Gardeners have harvested such fruits and vegetables as carrots, tomatoes, eggplant, zucchini, peppers, okra, squash, lettuce, cantaloupe, and watermelon.

“It’s important to help put your mark on the community wherever you can,” says Rotary member Curt Osiek. “A few years from now, we’ll be able to show our kids and grandkids what we built.”

For more information about the Community Garden at UT Arlington, visit www.uta.edu/sustainability.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

The Green at College Park available for any occasion

In these hectic times, peace is a precious commodity. Luckily, it’s no longer hard to find, thanks to UT Arlington’s newest green space, the Green at College Park. The 2.5-acre park, located just south of College Park Center, is the perfect place for an impromptu gathering or a more organized event.

The Green features a large lawn, a curved stone wall that offers seating, paver materials made from recycled bottles, native grasses, adaptive plants, and a dry creek bed that helps manage rainwater and storm water runoff. It also serves as a focal point along the Center Street Pedestrian Trail.

The park is open during daylight hours and can also be reserved for private events by calling the Campus Recreation Department at 817-272-3277.

HOT SEAT

College Park Center seats available

There’s still time to grab the hottest ticket in town: Courtside and club seats at the new College Park Center. Seats for all Maverick basketball games and volleyball matches are on sale. In addition to the great view, the seats provide exclusive access to one of two member-only clubs before and during games. Call 817-272-7168 to reserve yours today.

KIDDING AROUND

Summer camps offer fun, educational activities

Do you have a child in your life who always asks you “why” things work the way they do? A teenager who just can’t put down his guitar? Or a kid with an interest in visual and performing arts and the sciences? Whether you’re looking for a place to escape the heat, or a pre-college experience, UT Arlington’s Center for Community Engagement offers a wide variety of educational activities to help your kid make the college connection.
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. Please plan to join us for these upcoming lectures:

**Soledad O’Brien**
CNN anchor and special correspondent
Feb. 24, 2012
7:30 p.m., Texas Hall

**Robert Ballard**
Oceanic explorer
March 6, 2012
7:30 p.m., Texas Hall

**Jeb Bush**
Former governor of Florida
March 23, 2012
8 p.m., College Park Center

For more information, visit www.uta.edu/maverickspeakers

STAY INFORMED

Subscribe to the Around Town e-newsletter

There’s so much going on in College Town UTA! Be the first to know about upcoming educational, athletic, entertainment, and cultural events in the College Park Center and all around campus by subscribing to Around Town, a free weekly electronic newsletter. Email us at maverickcommunications@uta.edu and type “Around Town e-calendar” in the subject line to sign up.

MARCH

**MARCH THROUGH MARCH 31:** KANA HARADA AND RUBEN NIETO ART EXHIBITION
THE GALLERY AT UTA

**MARCH 1-4:** THE SEDUCTION AND DECEPTION OF MOZART
MAINSTAGE THEATRE

**MARCH 5:** DOWNTOWN ARLINGTON MUSIC MONDAYS’ FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY, 300 S. CENTER ST.

**MARCH 6:** MAVERICK SPEAKERS SERIES PRESENTS ROBERT BALLARD
TEXAS HALL

**MARCH 9:** “MUSLIMS, CHRISTIANS, AND JEWS IN THE MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN”
47TH ANNUAL WALTER PRESCOTT WEBB LECTURE SERIES

**MARCH 12-16:** UT ARLINGTON SPRING BREAK

**MARCH 23:** MAVERICK SPEAKERS SERIES PRESENTS FORMER FLORIDA GOVERNOR JEB BUSH
COLLEGE PARK CENTER

**MARCH 24:** UTA WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT
IRONS RECITAL HALL

**MARCH 30:** WORLD CLASS GLASS ART SALE & SHOW
STUDIO ARTS CENTER

**MARCH 31:** PREVIEW DAY FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

APRIL

**APRIL 2-6:** INTERNATIONAL WEEK

**APRIL 4:** UTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT
IRONS RECITAL HALL

**APRIL 9:** DOWNTOWN ARLINGTON MUSIC MONDAYS’ FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY, 300 S. CENTER ST.

**APRIL 9-23:** MASTER OF FINE ARTS THESIS EXHIBITION
THE GALLERY AT UTA

APRIL 12-15: PAPAARAZZA MAINSTAGE THEATRE

APRIL 14: ENGINEERING SATURDAY

APRIL 19-22: THEATREFEST 2012

**APRIL 20:** SPRING JAZZ CONCERT
TEXAS HALL

**APRIL 21:** THE BIG EVENT COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

**APRIL 26:** UTA WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT
IRONS RECITAL HALL

**APRIL 26-27:** THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
FINE ARTS BUILDING, ROOM 143

**APRIL 28:** UTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT
IRONS RECITAL HALL

**APRIL 30-MAY 12:** BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION
THE GALLERY AT UTA

**MAY 5:** “SALUTE TO COMMUNITY BANDS”
ARLINGTON COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT
IRONS RECITAL HALL

**MAY 11:** GRADUATION CELEBRATION LEVITT PAVILION

**MAY 11-13:** COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

**SUMMER**

**SUMMER CAMPS**
www.uta.edu/campus-ops/conferences/summer-camps

**FREE CONCERTS AT THE LEVITT PAVILION**
www.levittpavilionarlington.org/