

**HISTORY PAPERS** Unread for almost 50 years, an essay collection reveals the anguish felt by UT Arlington students a few days after the assassination of President Kennedy. p. 20

**NEW LEADER, NEW ERA** Vistas Karbhari, who became UT Arlington's eighth president in June, discusses how he believes the University can achieve new levels of excellence. p. 28

**FULL STEAM AHEAD** Trains often frustrate Arlington drivers, but they're an integral part of the nation's supply chain and a major influence abroad. p. 34

# UT Arlington

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON MAGAZINE | FALL 2013

**WATER**  
CONCERNS SURFACE  
AS AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT  
ISSUES FACING OUR DELICATE ECOSYSTEM.  
RESEARCHERS AT UT ARLINGTON ARE EXPLORING WAYS TO SOLVE THEM.



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## **Past** Howard Joyner's outdoor painting class, circa 1940



More than 75 years ago, North Texas Agricultural College (now UT Arlington) Dean E.E. Davis had a grand idea: Create an art department before The University of Texas at Austin had one. He sought an experienced artist and educator who would give the program instant credibility. In 1937 Davis hired Howard Joyner, who had studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in France, the University of California, and Harvard College. World War II decimated art class enrollments, but Joyner had a plan that would boost the war effort and increase participation. He received classified material

from the War Department and began teaching camouflage painting to the Marines and Navy men of the V-12 Unit at the college. The move is widely credited with saving the art program. Before he retired, Joyner saw one of his longtime dreams become reality when UT Arlington instituted a bachelor of fine arts degree. He died in 1996. Today the Art and Art History Department boasts more than 800 student majors and received National Association of Schools of Art and Design accreditation in 2008. *Photo courtesy of Special Collections, UT Arlington Library.*

**NIGHTTIME BUSTLE**

Digg's Taco Shop and other restaurants in the College Park District have become popular destinations for diners and live music fans since the residential and retail development opened on campus last fall.



Features

**WORDS OF ANGUISH 20**  
A rediscovered essay collection reveals the anxiety, despair, and anger felt by UT Arlington students four days after John F. Kennedy’s assassination in **Dallas**.



**WATER WORLDS 24**  
From the **Caribbean** to **Bangladesh** and points in-between, researchers are working to protect the world’s water systems.

**SHARING A BOLD VISION 28**  
Vistasp Karbhari reflects on his first months as UT Arlington’s eighth president and discusses the University’s strengths, challenges, and how he believes the institution can scale new heights.

**THE TRACKS OF PROGRESS 34**  
Don’t think of trains as a nuisance. These alluring, rolling behemoths are a vital cog in the world’s supply chain. And UT Arlington and the city of Arlington wouldn’t exist without them.

Columns

**TALK 7**  
**Colombia** native and award-winning student Laura Suarez Henderson discusses space debris and how to avoid it.

**CRASH COURSE 8**  
Students in Ben Dolezal’s packaging class use the latest 3-D technology.



**FACULTY 11**  
Former track All-American Krystal Beamon focuses her research on the social significance of sport in America and its connection to race and race relations.

**FUTURE 12**  
Bioengineering Associate Professor Kytai Nguyen is developing a drug-delivery system to regrow lungs.



**GALLERY 16**  
Bryce Bennett’s award-winning photographic series examines overpasses from the areas beneath them.

**SPORTS 18**  
**France** native Romain Martin finished his career as a six-time All-American by placing sixth in the decathlon.

Alumni News

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI 39**  
Meet the seven graduates selected as the University’s 2013 Distinguished Alumni.



**JOEL MONTGOMERY 40**  
Alumnus Joel Montgomery battles dengue fever, typhoid, and other potentially fatal diseases in **Kenya**.

**PETER TWELE 41**  
After spending 11 years in the Middle East, alumnus Peter Twele developed an appreciation for **Yemen** and its people.

Email

**COLLEGE TOWN**  
I thoroughly enjoyed David Hopkins’ article “Deep in the Heart of Arlington” in the spring 2013 issue. David eloquently captured the excitement and energy surrounding downtown’s revitalization. Downtown Arlington may have once been left behind, but we are now transforming it into a unique and diverse destination that embraces the momentum of our thriving hometown university. We are excited about what our future holds and are thankful to be associated with UT Arlington. Let’s not forget, Arlington is, and will always be, a college town. Go Mavericks!

TONY RUTIGLIANO  
President and CEO,  
Downtown Arlington  
Management Corp.

**DESTINATION DOWNTOWN**  
Bravo! “Deep in the Heart of Arlington” was a terrific article highlighting the efforts to bring energy and a sense of identity back to

downtown Arlington. Since the release of *UT Arlington Magazine* last spring, there has been palatable excitement circulating through the office of Mycoskie McInnis Associates about the project’s success and the future of the downtown district. Our firm, located in downtown



Arlington, worked with Ryan Dodson on his Block 300 project on Abram Street. Our engineering, surveying, planning, and landscape architecture departments each had a vested interest in the vision and development of the project, which has developed beyond our expectations. As

many of our employees are residents of Arlington and proud graduates of UT Arlington, we also have a vested interest in the development and revitalization of our community, specifically downtown. College towns have always held a certain appeal with their funky restaurants,

housing and the College Park District has created an energizing passion and pride within our community. With the potential incorporation of urban housing developments, increased walkability, and enhanced pedestrian and bicycle opportunities, downtown Arlington will continue to resonate and re-emerge as a bustling social hub within the city, an alluring destination for residents, students, and visitors, and a place we proudly call home.

SARAH KUEHN  
Arlington, Texas

**COOL SCENE**  
I received the spring 2013 edition of *UT Arlington Magazine* today. Your article “Deep in the Heart of Arlington” is great, as are the photos. Our company, Dodson Development, developed the Block 300 project on Abram Street where tenants include Twisted Root Burger Co., Hooligans Pub, and Flying Fish. We were excited to see the project featured in your story about downtown Arlington’s rising “cool factor” and growing connection with UTA. Indeed, downtown is bustling, largely due to the support of students and faculty from your university. Thank you.

RYAN DODSON  
Arlington, Texas

**PAGE-TURNER**  
Yet again you have produced another great issue of *UT Arlington Magazine*! The layout and articles are all timely and relevant. With each issue, you are showing the world what a quality institution UTA is. It’s a great read!

DERRICK KINNEY  
Arlington, Texas

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

Message from the Editor

First semesters can shape your future. Handle the rigorous coursework and you’re on the road to graduation and career success. Venture beyond the classroom and you make friendships that last a lifetime. UT Arlington’s Class of 2017 arrived this fall full of energy, excitement, and ambition. It’s a notable class—the first under Vistasp Karbhari, who became UT Arlington’s eighth president in June. As you’ll read in our conversation with President Karbhari, he shares the students’ enthusiasm and is committed to providing them a top-tier education that instills creativity and innovation. Themes of newness and distinction pervade this issue. A study by the New America Foundation named UT Arlington one of six “Next Generation Universities.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ranked UT Arlington seventh on its list of fastest-growing public research universities. And *U.S. News & World Report* ranked us as the nation’s fifth most ethnically diverse campus.

Laura Suarez Henderson is among a handful of students worldwide to win two Amelia Earhart Fellowships, awarded annually to women pursuing doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering. Henderson also received a highly competitive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to locate space debris and determine how to maneuver around it. Our cover story features the research of four professors who are exploring ways to preserve the world’s water supply and protect it from toxins and other dangers. Even the old becomes new as we take a fresh look at the JFK assassination through essays written by students here 50 years ago. Beginnings offer hope, and the dawn of an academic year with a new president is an ideal time to elevate our aspirations. To paraphrase Dr. Karbhari, we have the opportunity to dream big dreams and work together to make them come true.

– Mark Permenter

UT Arlington

Vol. XXXV • No. 3 • Fall 2013

**EDITOR**  
Mark Permenter

**ASSISTANT EDITORS**  
Jessica Bridges  
Amber Scott

**EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS**  
Herb Booth  
John Dycus  
Art Garcia  
Bridget Lewis  
Teresa Newton  
Jim Patterson  
Traci Peterson  
Kristin Sullivan

**ART DIRECTION**  
Brody Price  
Joel Quintans

**UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Robert Crosby  
Beth McHenry

**ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**  
P. David Johnson

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS**  
Jerry Lewis

**PRESIDENT**  
Vistasp Karbhari

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**ON THE COVER**  
UT Arlington researchers are combating threats to one of the world’s most precious resources. Photograph by F. Stuart Westmorland/Getty Images



# YouTube

## MOVE-IN DAY

UT Arlington launched the fall 2013 semester with Maverick Stampede, a week packed with entertaining and educational programs that welcome students to campus. At Move-In Day, the University community helped new students settle in to their residence halls. The next day, nearly 3,000 students, faculty, and staff attended the MavsMeet Convocation, a formal assembly that marks the beginning of the academic year. The annual event was followed by music, games, food, and fun at the After-Party on The Green at College Park. New Mavericks also attended Success U, a two-day minicamp designed to prepare them for academic success. Watch a 2013 Welcome Week video at [youtube.com/UTArlington](http://youtube.com/UTArlington).



# Tweets

Seriously can't wait for tomorrow. Hitting up Digg's Taco Shop, #UTA Bookstore, & the women's game! No better way to spend my weekend!!  
— @wilsontabitha1

Kudos to @utarlington for putting access to each dorm floor on each parking lot level! Best college move-in ever!  
— @DougRenfro

I'm at my old alma mater, UT Arlington, moving my daughter into her dorm. It's the same dorm I lived in.  
— @mr Glenn

I think I want to go to University of Texas at Arlington.  
— @BelleReine\_

Doing work at Mission Arlington. It's been a while since I've been out here! Makes me miss UT Arlington athletics!  
— @wilsontabitha1

UT Arlington psychologists say 'group narcissism' linked to negative attitudes toward immigrants.  
— @esciencenews

Playing for @CoachScott-Cross is better. Sorry, Tech fans....UTA always wins these recruiting battles.  
— @p1ktown

Can't wait until that college life at UT Arlington!  
— @JessicaMonze

Parents are dropping their children off at @utarlington for another fun day at SMART Camp! #engineering We love the summer!  
— @GirlsIncTarrant

Excited for OOMFs to visit campus today! #UTA #Newtradition #ontheRISE Be prepared to be WOWED! #MavUp — @CoachGerlich

Those fine fellows at Kappa Sigma UT Arlington continue to help CATS out...thanks for helping us keep up with the yard work at the Randol Mill

property! You guys are AWE-SOME!  
— @CATSArlington

I was leaving for class, and as I walked across UTA, I realized I didn't have any shoes on. #sothatswheremylifeistoday  
— @oh\_hey\_wands

Our marketing team hired a UTA student to help with video promotions. Can't wait to see the next video!  
— @Arlington\_Parks

Congrats to Amy and your new journey at UTA from UNT. Thanks for giving me a chance with my first job.  
— @danieltdt

Listening to @fryandtheguy radio show on UTA Radio! It's good! Go give them a listen!  
— @AmericanBloggyYo

Bro, granny, sis, papa. We're so proud of you baby girl @ University of Texas at Arlington. — @iAMme\_beYOU

I was the first young graduate from The University of Texas at Arlington. I'm proud to say I started a trend. :)  
— @andibaritchi

Excited to be graduating with Kal Penn as our speaker, more than 4,500 graduates.  
— @reporterbianca

The University of Texas at Arlington is beautiful!  
— @Falastiniaa

UT Arlington researcher cautions against over-reliance on computerized #concussion testing. — @CountryKidsDoc

Over \$1M was awarded to a fantastic @UTARlington program to help returning veterans begin careers as nurses.  
— @WendyDavisTexas

We are having so much fun in @dutarlington! Check out this great article in the @utarlington magazine. #funtimes  
— @TonyRutigliano

# Instagram



Clockwise from left:  
@jubinrajbandari She went up to touch the stars and down to the glorious history of UTA as the University's star achiever. #utarlington #kalpana #glory

@tina\_rachel High 5 winners from this week and last week. #tourguide #bestofthebest #campuslife #utarlington

@brittanyclick1 My future home and university. #Utarlington #campustour #decided



# Trending

## MAVERICK SPEAKERS SERIES

I am honored and privileged to speak at @utarlington tonight to kick off Maverick Speakers Series. #immigration #citizenship @DefineAmerican — @joseiswriting

Anderson Cooper and Sanjay Gupta to dispense free knowledge at UT Arlington.  
— @clairestamant

Crying as someone sings happy birthday to @joseiswriting's mom, who he hasn't seen in 20 years. #maverickspeakers #allthetears  
— @irmafernandez

Maverick Speakers Series going full tilt on people in the media industry. Also that comments section.  
— @dustindangli

Just got my tickets for UTA's #MaverickSpeakers to see #AndersonCooper.  
— @CRBorchert

ESPN founder, CNN anchor, Pulitzer winner headline speaker series at UTA.  
— @CivicBob

Anderson Cooper and Sanjay Gupta are coming to UTA for Maverick Speakers Series! That's what's up!  
— @ohmargosh

## LET'S SOCIALIZE

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

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Link in and tell us about your career achievements.

# Campus Buzz

UT ARLINGTON AND THE WORLD

## Digging for Answers

Research examines impact of natural gas drilling on well water in Barnett Shale

A study of 100 private water wells in and near the Barnett Shale shows elevated levels of potential contaminants in wells closest to natural gas extraction sites.

Led by chemistry Associate Professor Kevin Schug, a UT Arlington research team gathered samples within a 13-county area in North Texas over four months in summer and fall 2011. Scientists drew 91 samples from what they term “active extraction areas,” or areas that had one or more gas wells within five kilometers. Another nine samples came from sites the study calls “non-active/reference areas.”

The journal *Environmental Science & Technology* published the results in July. The peer-reviewed paper focuses on heavy metals such as arsenic, barium, selenium, and strontium, many of which occur naturally at low levels in groundwater. Disturbances from natural gas extraction could cause higher levels.

“This study alone cannot conclusively identify the exact causes of elevated levels of contaminants in areas near natural gas drilling,” says Brian Fontenot, a UT Arlington graduate with a doctorate in quantitative biology and lead author on the paper. “But it does provide a powerful argument for continued research.”

The team conducted much of the water sample testing in UT Arlington’s Shimadzu Center for Advanced Analytical Chemistry.

“Natural gas drilling is one of the most talked-about issues in North Texas and throughout the country,” says Dr. Schug, the Shimadzu Distinguished Professor of Analytical Chemistry. “This study was an opportunity for us to use our knowledge of chemistry and statistical analysis to put people’s concerns to the test and find out whether they would be backed by scientific data.”

**“This study alone cannot conclusively identify the exact causes of elevated levels of contaminants in areas near natural gas drilling.”**



Chemistry Associate Professor Kevin Schug leads a research team that found elevated levels of contaminants near natural gas sites.



Laura Suarez Henderson, Aerospace Engineering Ph.D. Candidate **Talk**



**You have received some prestigious honors for your research—two Amelia Earhart Fellowships and one from the National Science Foundation.**

The Amelia Earhart Fellowship was an incredible privilege. The fellowship is very special for me because of Amelia’s legacy. She was so brave, an incredible role model, and a true pioneer. And being awarded the National Science Foundation fellowship still doesn’t feel real to me. It has been an amazing honor and given me a greater opportunity to focus on research and classes.

**Tell us about your work to develop technology to locate and avoid space debris.**

Space debris is a growing problem and quickly becoming a critical one. What I’ve done is simulate an object orbiting Earth and take measurements as it moves and spins. These measurements allow us to determine the size and shape of the object as well as identify its path. With this, we can tell if it’s an active object or if it’s debris and whether it poses a threat to other objects. The hope is that these findings will improve the technology used to track objects.

**How did you get interested in aerospace engineering?**

Ever since I can remember, I’ve wanted to be an astronaut—and still do. That passion was instilled in me by my dad. He grew up watching the Mercury and Apollo missions and fell in love with space exploration. I, too, love everything about space. I also love math and physics, so aerospace engineering was a great combination.

**How do you think space exploration has impacted society?**

It has made us more aware of how incredibly special, unique, and fragile humanity and our planet are. I think generations that have grown up with space are less enchanted by it, unfortunately. But I believe people can fall in love with space once again. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to continue to learn and grow in space exploration.

**Is it difficult being a woman in the male-dominated engineering field?**

Being a woman definitely makes you stand out. One thing I hope I can accomplish during my career is to inspire young women to find interests in the areas of science, math, and engineering.

**What’s next for you?**

After graduation I hope to join the efforts to further human space exploration by working for NASA or SpaceX and continuing my work on space object identification. Down the road I hope to apply for an astronaut position, and eventually I would like to go back to my native Colombia and develop the space industry.

**What is the single coolest thing about space?**

There are so many cool things! But I think the coolest is that we know so little about it. It’s the best toy you can give any scientist: a never-ending place for discovery.

## Crash Course Packaging and 3-D CAD



### ART 4392

Students in Ben Dolezal's Packaging and 3-D CAD (computer-aided design) class are on the cutting edge of design technology. The course, which uses the University's new Corrugated Prototype Design and CAD Production Lab, teaches how to solve real-world packaging issues. Each semester, students work individually and in teams to design and construct items such as a retail floor display stand, a food and beverage shipper, and a retail shelf display. "I chose these assignments because the dimensional product and packaging solutions explore the relationship between conceptual thinking, structural design, brand development, and consumer behavior," explains Dolezal, an assistant professor of visual communication. In addition to instruction from local packaging professionals, the class features guest lectures, panel discussions, and facility tours. "By offering a partnership between industry and education, the course allows students to engage in meaningful discussions and prepare for full-time employment upon graduation."

## New engineering dean a renowned researcher



Khosrow Behbehani is committed to moving UT Arlington's College of Engineering to the top tiers of engineering schools.

"We will be a center of innovation for solving the world's most pressing problems and the first choice for the best students who want to pursue careers in engineering," says the newly appointed dean.

An accomplished researcher and administrator, Dr. Behbehani joined the UT Arlington faculty in 1985 and had chaired the Bioengineering Department since 2002. He holds nine patents, with a 10th pending, and is a fellow of the

National Academy of Inventors, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

His work has attracted support from the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, and the National Institutes of Health. In recent years he has garnered recognition for developing a portable ultrasonic sleep apnea detection system.

Behbehani earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Louisiana State University, his master's degree in systems engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and his doctorate in engineering science from the University of Toledo.

He spent five years with the Puritan Bennett Corp., then a California-based manufacturer of critical care respiratory devices, before returning to the world of academic research at UT Arlington.



**TOP 10 RECOGNITION** *The Chronicle of Higher Education* has ranked UT Arlington seventh on its 2013 list of fastest-growing public research universities, noting a 58 percent enrollment increase from fall 2001 to fall 2011. "Such national rankings highlight the fact that more students than ever choose to pursue their academic dreams at UT Arlington," President Vistasp Karbhari says. "They are enhancing our reputation on a global scale and propelling our University to new heights in research and scholarship."



## Talk of the Town

Anderson Cooper highlights sixth season of popular Maverick Speakers Series

If you're looking for entertainment that's enjoyable and enriching, the 2013-14 Maverick Speakers Series is delivering both. The lineup includes a popular CNN anchor, a legendary entrepreneur, a world-famous neurosurgeon, and lauded journalists.

Award-winning CNN reporter Anderson Cooper takes the College Park Center stage Nov. 11. A respected network news figure for more than a decade, he hosts *Anderson Cooper 360*.

Spring 2014 lectures will feature Dr. Sanjay Gupta, a practicing neurosurgeon and CNN's chief medical correspondent, and Nina Totenberg, a Pulitzer Prize-winning legal affairs correspondent for NPR. Gupta comes to College Park Center on March 18. Totenberg will speak in Texas Hall on April 8.

The fall slate began in September with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas. A native of the Philippines, he delivered a heartfelt account of his life as an undocumented immigrant. In October cable TV pioneer and ESPN founder Bill Rasmussen detailed the sports network's beginnings and its rise to prominence.

Now in its sixth season, the Maverick Speakers Series has attracted more than 40,000 people to hear some of today's brightest minds address current events and timely issues. Past speakers include Seth Meyers, Cokie Roberts, Ken Burns, Soledad O'Brien, and Cal Ripken Jr.

Lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. and feature audience question-and-answer sessions. When applicable, the events include book or autograph signings.

The lectures are free, but tickets are required. Preferred packages are available for purchase and include reserved seating at the front of the venue and reserved parking. For information or to reserve tickets, visit [uta.edu/maverickspeakers](http://uta.edu/maverickspeakers).

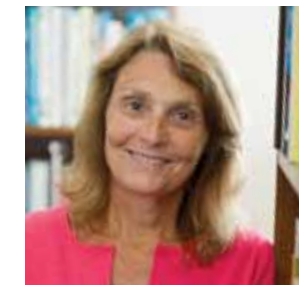
## Awards

### MATH DEPARTMENT

The American Mathematical Society has named UT Arlington the winner of its 2013 AMS Award for an Exemplary Program or Achievement in a Mathematics Department.

### PAMELA JANSMA AND VICTORIA FARRAR-MYERS

College of Science Dean Pamela Jansma and political science Professor Victoria Farrar-Myers have been named American Council on Education fellows for the 2013-14 academic year. Dr. Farrar-Myers also was named the 2013-14 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. She will be in residence there in the spring.



### BEVERLY BLACK

The Council on Social Work Education presented Beverly Black with its 2013 Distinguished Recent Contributions in Social Work Education Award. Dr. Black holds the Jillian Michelle Smith Professorship in Family Violence Research in the School of Social Work.

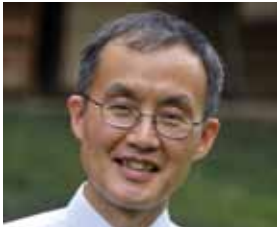
### MAXINE ADEGBOLA AND PHYLLIS ADAMS

Two College of Nursing professors have received the Association of Black Nursing Faculty Lifetime Achievement in Education and Research Award. Assistant Professor Maxine Adegbola's research areas include sickle cell disease, chronic pain, genomics, and health disparities. Clinical Associate Professor Phyllis Adams' research focuses on sickle cell, HIV, and stress management.

## Grants

### COLLEGE OF NURSING

The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded the College of Nursing a four-year grant totaling more than \$1 million to help veterans translate their military service into nursing careers. The agreement is one of only nine in the nation.



#### D.J. SEO

With a grant from the city of Fort Worth, the National Science Foundation, and the National Weather Service, civil engineering Associate Professor D.J. Seo is developing a prototype system that would enable Fort Worth officials to more effectively dispatch emergency personnel to save lives and property during flash flooding.

#### QILIAN LIANG

The Office of Naval Research has awarded electrical engineering Professor Qilian Liang a five-year, nearly \$800,000 grant to simplify data collection through an algorithmic system he designed and is streamlining. The research could make radar systems more efficient and improve sensor and surveillance systems employed by the Navy and the Marine Corps.

#### ANDREW KRUZIC

A UT Arlington environmental engineer has received a grant from the Tarrant Regional Water District to ensure water quality and flow in the 150-mile Integrated Pipeline Project. Civil engineering Associate Professor Andrew Kruzic will investigate the best methods and locations to add monochloramine to the water to eliminate biological growths in the new pump stations and pipelines.



## Storm Stopper

Physicist's 3-D model aims to protect planet from harmful solar winds

Bursts of energy in Earth's upper atmosphere can disrupt satellites, power distribution systems, and other vital infrastructure. A UT Arlington physicist is working to minimize the damage from nasty space weather.

Armed with a three-year NASA grant, physics Assistant Professor Yue Deng is developing a 3-D model to explore how electrodynamic energy from solar winds enters and traverses the thermosphere.

Understanding the interaction between Earth's magnetic field and its upper atmosphere may be particularly important this year and next because the sun is predicted to reach a time of heightened activity.

"Right now, estimation of the amount of energy entering Earth's thermosphere is not very precise and can be underestimated by 100 percent. We know even less about how that energy is distributed," Dr. Deng says. "This information is critical because if you put the same amount of energy at 400 kilometers, the impact can be 100 times larger than if you put it at 100 kilometers."

Solar wind—plasma from the sun—travels through space at about 400 kilometers per second carrying a magnetic field. Usually, Earth's magnetic field protects it from this plasma radiation. But solar flares and other activity on the sun's surface can increase the energy traveling toward Earth, with some of the radiation passing through the magnetosphere at the planet's magnetic poles.

Energy entering the thermosphere after a solar storm can wreak havoc on scientists' ability to track satellites orbiting 100-500 kilometers above the ground. A solar storm in March 1989 caused trackers to temporarily lose about 1,000 satellites.

## Transmitting data faster and safer online

Every savvy Internet user understands that security is a top priority when sending information online.

Electrical engineering Professor Michael Vasilyev is doing his part to help make the Web safer by increasing by tenfold both the amount of information that can be securely transmitted and the distance it can travel. His research is part of an \$8 million project funded by the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency and led by Northwestern University to study advanced quantum communication.

"There are all kinds of personal information—both among private citizens and public governments—that require the utmost security," Dr. Vasilyev says. "Quantum communication offers the most rigorous solution for security because it employs the fundamental laws of quantum mechanics to enforce the exclusive link between the sender and receiver, with no chance of other people eavesdropping."

Classical communication methods transmit information by "bits" that take values of either 1 or 0. In contrast, quantum communication uses quantum bits, or "qubits," which can be 1, 0, or 1 and 0 simultaneously.

Current fast and secure quantum communications can only be sent short distances before the signal breaks down, because qubits can't go through optical amplifiers—commonly used in classical communications—without losing their quantum-mechanical security advantages. So Vasilyev's lab is encoding the information in spatial features or pixels of the photons that will be sent through multimode fiber-optic lines, thus dramatically increasing the amount of received data without jeopardizing security.

Project participants include the University of California, Davis; University of Calgary; Montana State University; Raytheon BBN Technologies; Advanced Communication Sciences; and NuCrypt LLC.



**SHELL GAME** Two biology assistant professors have completed work on an international effort to sequence the genome of the western painted turtle. Matthew Fujita and Todd Castoe are among 30 co-authors of a *Genome Biology* article that describes the work. The researchers found that the turtle's ability to withstand oxygen deprivation and near total freezing of its tissue may be linked to genes common to all vertebrates. Scientists say that learning about common gene networks in vertebrates could help them better understand human disease. The western painted turtle is only the second reptile species to have its genetic information fully mapped.

SOLAR WIND IMAGE: © NASA-ESA - HUBBLE HERITAGE - DIG/SCIENCE FACTION/CORBIS

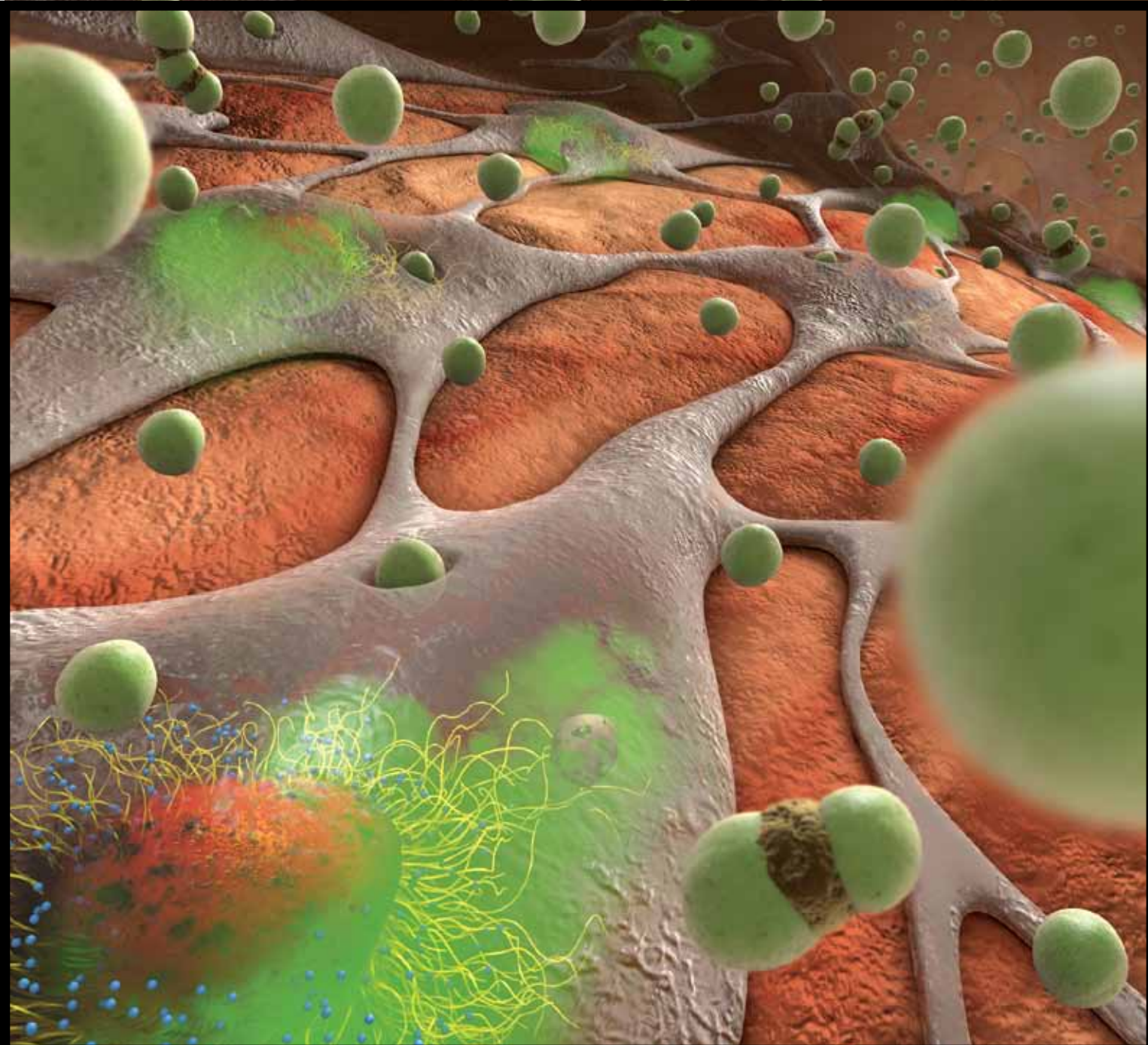
## Department of Sociology and Anthropology Faculty



#### KRYSTAL BEAMON

If anyone understands the sociology of sports, it's Krystal Beamon. The sociology assistant professor and Service Learning Faculty Member of the Year was an All-American track star at Oklahoma State, while her two brothers were elite athletes in basketball and baseball. "Throughout my childhood, my household was structured around sports," she says. So it's little wonder that sports continue to shape her career as a sociologist. A faculty fellow in the Center for African American Studies, Dr. Beamon has focused of late on the social significance of sport in America and its connection to race and race relations. "My research examines the two divergent perspectives employed to understand the role of competitive sports in the development of African-American males," she says. "Athletics provides educational opportunities to African-Americans from underprivileged backgrounds, but athletics also exploits the majority of African-American athletes at the expense of academics." Her book, *The Enduring Color Line in U.S. Athletics*, is due this fall.

## Future Nanoparticle Drug Delivery, 2035



Regrowing lungs isn't as far-fetched as it sounds. Bioengineering Associate Professor Kytai Nguyen has teamed with Connie Hsia, internal medicine professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, on a nanoparticle drug-delivery system designed to spur lung growth and function after partial lung removal or destructive lung disease. "The treatment introduces drugs through inhaled nanoparticles that stimulate lung growth and remodeling," says Dr. Nguyen, who holds a joint

appointment with UT Southwestern. "We are synthesizing biocompatible, biodegradable polymers that will encapsulate, or load, the drugs and release them where needed." The polymer that houses the drugs will degrade with time, releasing the drugs within the lung. Once the drugs are delivered via nanoparticles, the researchers can measure therapeutic response using noninvasive imaging, physiological testing, and detailed structural analysis. Nguyen and Hsia hope their work will

lead to better quality of life for people who have had part of their lungs removed. "This research is important because currently there is no definitive cure for most destructive lung diseases except transplantation," Dr. Hsia says. "We have shown that partial lung removal may trigger regrowth of the remaining lung to compensate for the loss." Nguyen is working on the drug-delivery portion of the project, which is funded through 2016 by a \$3.4 million National Institutes of Health grant.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN DURKE

## Software offers hope for arthritis patients

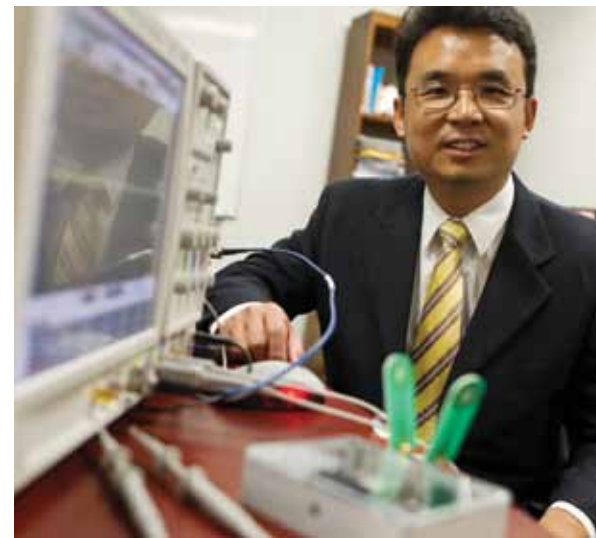
UT Arlington researchers are working to provide relief for the nation's 1.3 million rheumatoid arthritis sufferers.

Led by computer science and engineering Professor Fillia Makedon, an interdisciplinary team is creating individualized rehabilitation software systems to support physical therapy for those with the chronic inflammatory disorder.

The National Science Foundation-funded project will use remote monitoring to collect and analyze physiological and cognitive data while sufferers are engaged in a game-like activity that is part of their rehabilitation. The systems will examine arm and body motions, range of motion, gestures, facial expressions, and even brain activity to help researchers develop games that adapt to the individual.

"We want to assist physical therapists, not replace them, in determining more accurately and over time where patients are in their physical therapy," says Dr. Makedon, a Jenkins Garrett Distinguished Professor. "We know that physical therapy leads to better lives for persons with rheumatoid arthritis, but we can't always pinpoint where they are in their regimen. Our system 'learns' with time how to do that and personalizes the game software to ensure safety during physical therapy."

The software also can be used to train rehab professionals and provide direct feedback to the patient. As a patient's physical ability changes over the course of the ailment, the system adapts and informs the therapist. It also gives valuable information on the impact of medications prescribed.



**CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?** Darn those dropped cellphone calls. Electrical engineering Professor Qilian Liang has received a three-year National Science Foundation grant to develop a system that automatically locates space within a bandwidth, reducing or eliminating dead spots in coverage. "In the wireless network industry, bandwidth is everything," Dr. Liang says. "The system I'm developing shows where the room is in a bandwidth." The project is part of a federal initiative whereby the NSF funds wireless research to advance the science of spectrum access.



## Select Company

Choice as 'Next Generation University' recognizes growth and excellence

When it comes to defining a new era in higher education, UT Arlington is among the nation's elite.

The University is one of six institutions nationwide to be named a "Next Generation University" in a study published by the New America Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on public policy issues. The foundation created the list to recognize universities that are "models for national reform" and are committed to world-class research while increasing enrollment and graduation rates as state funding diminishes.

The selection follows a period of significant enrollment growth and rising academic and research achievements. Spring 2013 enrollment reached a record 33,790 and has increased 35 percent in the past five years. The University conferred more than 9,400 degrees in the 2012-13 academic year and awarded more than 4,500 in May alone.

Based on analyses of federal education data, site visits, and interviews with UT Arlington leaders, the report lauds the University's use of online courses to attract students, specifically citing the College of Nursing.

"Thanks to the online operations, UT Arlington now operates the nation's largest public university nursing school, with thousands of registered nurses who have two-year degrees streaming into the institution's bachelor's degree program," states the report, which was funded by a grant from the Lumina Foundation.

Its authors include higher education strategists and an editor-at-large for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Other "Next Generation Universities" are Arizona State University, the University of Buffalo, the University of Central Florida, Georgia State University, and the University of California, Riverside.

## Press

### MARK TREMAYNE

Communication Assistant Professor Mark Tremayne was featured in an Associated Press story about teenagers' increasing use of cellphones to access the Internet. The article appeared on numerous TV and newspaper websites, including *Bloomberg Businessweek*, Yahoo! News, *The Kansas City Star*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and the *New York Post*.



### ELISABETH CAWTHON

Wall Street Journal Live website, *USA Today*, and Yahoo! News interviewed history Associate Professor Elisabeth Cawthon about the birth of a son for Prince William and Duchess Kate. Dr. Cawthon predicts they will stand out as a family, which will further endear them to the British public.

### SANJIV SABHERWAL

In an article about corporate leadership, *Washington Post* columnist Jena McGregor cited research co-authored by finance and real estate Associate Professor Sanjiv Sabherwal. The study found that most people believe confidence is an attribute in leaders. But when CEOs become overconfident, they tend to make more offers to buy other companies, setting up increased opportunities for failed acquisitions.

### WILLIAM ICKES

Psychology Professor William Ickes was featured in a *Parade Magazine* story about how siblings shape people's lives more than they realize. Dr. Ickes' research shows that when learning about the opposite sex, the best advice often comes from an older brother or sister.

## Numbers

# 5th

U.S. News & World Report ranks UT Arlington fifth nationally for providing a racially and ethnically diverse campus. The University moved up from seventh in last year's diversity rankings.

# 4,508

UT Arlington conferred a record 4,508 degrees last spring, a 14 percent increase compared to spring 2012. The breakdown: 3,310 bachelor's, 1,143 master's, 55 doctoral.

# 22,500,000

The University's Shimadzu Institute for Research Technologies will house \$22.5 million in state-of-the-art instrumentation from Shimadzu Scientific Instruments by fall 2014. The highly advanced technology empowers research in diverse fields, from environmental testing and analysis of disease to the development of more effective pharmaceuticals and more efficient oil and gas exploration.

# 61,649

Last year UT Arlington converted 61,649 pounds of food debris to compost and donated 1,520 pounds of food from its Community Garden to Mission Arlington. Located in the northwest corner of the campus, the garden was established in 2011 as a collaboration with the city.

# 2,600

UT Arlington has about 2,600 military veterans among its 33,300 students this fall. To help them succeed, the University opened the Veterans Assistance Center in May to provide tutoring, mentoring, financial aid, and other services.



## Safe Flight

Aerospace engineer designing tools to prevent aircraft irregularities

Understanding how aircraft parts can break down is vital to keeping passengers and crews safe. That's why aerospace engineering Associate Professor Andrew Makeev is studying ways to improve how composite aircraft structures are designed and manufactured.

"When a single yoke for a helicopter can cost upward of \$100,000, it's important to be able to predict its performance—in other words, to do most of the testing on a computer before taking it out into the field," Dr. Makeev says.

Composite materials like fiberglass, Kevlar, and carbon fiber are often used in aircraft because they enable stronger and more durable construction at lower weight than metallic materials. Despite this, manufacturers have been overly conservative when designing composite parts because they lack knowledge of their internal structural behavior.

"We have to understand how the composite will behave under stress," Makeev explains. "Composites have manufacturing irregularities in them that aren't visible to the naked eye. We need to find those irregularities and understand their effects."

His research integrates multiple methods like computed tomography and 3-D prognostic modeling to evaluate the materials and structures. Makeev believes that the industry needs more tools to design better composite parts so the effects of the manufacturing process, including the irregularities, are captured and integrated into the structural designs early in the design phase.

This is important because the design and production phases for composite parts are expensive. If problems aren't found until full-scale testing, the original design can only be patched, even if a complete redesign is preferable.

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department Chair Erian Armanios sees Makeev's study as an important bridge between innovation in university laboratories and the aircraft and rotorcraft industry.

## Parents wield influence over teen smoking

The biggest deterrent to teen smoking and drinking may be a candid conversation between parents and their kids.

A study by marketing Associate Professor Zhiyong Yang concludes that early, substantive dialogue between parents and their grade-school children about the ills of tobacco and alcohol use can be more powerful in shaping teen behavior than advertising, marketing, or peer pressure.

"First, our conclusion is that parenting styles can be changed, and that's good news for the parents and the teens," Dr. Yang says. "Second, our study shows that parental influence is not only profound in its magnitude but persistent and long-lasting over the course of a child's entire life."

Yang's research was published in a recent edition of the *Journal of Business Research*. Similar findings were part of a 2010 study he published in the *Journal of Public Policy & Marketing* of the American



Marketing Association.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 3,900 Americans under age 18 begin smoking each day and about 1,000 youth will become daily cigarette smokers.

Yang says his findings run counter to common perceptions that parents have little influence on behavior after their children enter adolescence. Conventional wisdom suggests that peer pressure and targeted marketing and advertising are of paramount influence on teen decisions to use tobacco and alcohol or engage in other risky behaviors.

**EXTENDING ART'S REACH** A 20-foot sculpture inspired by Leonardo da Vinci welcomes visitors to the Engineering Research Building. Dedicated in May in the Janet and Michael Greene Research Quadrangle, *Reach* is based on da Vinci's *Helical Aerial Screw*, a 15th-century sketch of a gyroscopic flying machine. Art Assistant Professor Darryl Lauster designed the piece to encourage students and others in their quest for knowledge. It spans 26 feet and features a central aluminum mast with radiating ribs of Dacron sailcloth that create an energetic pattern. Lauster says the sculpture's implied movement reflects UT Arlington's growth.



## GO Centers Community



**MAVERICK MENTORS** Senior Gabriel Escobedo, left, always assumed that going to college was an unattainable dream. But a visit to the first GO Center at Arlington's Seguin High School changed his outlook. "It was the only place where I thought someone could really help me do what I wanted to do," says the anthropology major, a first-generation college student who plans to graduate next year. Staffed by UT Arlington mentors like Escobedo, GO Centers are offices in area high schools that help students navigate the college admission and application process. The University has 19 GO Centers across five school districts, and more are planned thanks to a recent \$300,000 grant from AT&T. "A lot of these students have been told at some point that they aren't college material," says Carla Amaro-Jimenez, curriculum and instruction assistant professor and director of the area centers. "We facilitate college access and readiness, and we've had really powerful results."

## Gallery *Beneath*

### BRYCE BENNETT

Overpasses, by their nature, invite travelers to go over, not under. Thus the areas beneath them are unappreciated, a little foreboding, and passed through quickly. But Bryce Bennett '13 views these spaces as calm and peaceful, as devoid of human existence as the mountains and vast wilderness of his native Montana. In his photographic series *Beneath*, he seeks to capture that feeling by presenting images that are warm, elegant, and inviting. "I wanted to capitalize on the intimate light that most of the spaces have and use that light to show the beauty of each setting," he says. "I wanted the viewer to find that beauty within a specific environment they never considered to begin with." For his work as an undergraduate, which included this series and others, Bennett in May received the UT System Board of Regents' Outstanding Student Award in Arts and Humanities. "I have found the Art Department at UT Arlington to cultivate an open-minded and diverse environment for a young artist," he says. "It has allowed my creativity and conceptual processes to progress in ways I never thought possible."



Top: "Overpass #8"  
Bottom: "Overpass #4"

## Professors lauded for teaching innovation

Nine faculty members were among 63 educators recognized in August by the UT System Board of Regents for classroom excellence.

The Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award honors faculty who demonstrate extraordinary classroom performance and innovation at the undergraduate level.

Receiving the 2013 award were Josephine Caldwell-Ryan, sociology and anthropology adjunct assistant professor; Rebecca Deen, associate professor and Political Science Department chair; Susanna Khavul, management associate professor; Frank Lewis, electrical engineering professor and the Moncrief-O'Donnell Endowed Chair, UT Arlington Research Institute; Beth Mancini, professor and College of Nursing associate dean for

undergraduate studies; Dan Popa, electrical engineering associate professor; Peggy Semingson, curriculum and instruction assistant professor; Seiichiro Tanizaki, chemistry and biochemistry lecturer; and Yvette Weatherton, civil engineering senior lecturer.

President Vistas Karbhari says the recognition underscores the faculty's commitment to excellence.

"A great university has great teachers, and we are proud to have some of the very best," he says. "Our faculty members serve one of the nation's most diverse student bodies. They are committed to ensuring student success not just for those who enter UT Arlington at the top of their high school class, but for all who are committed to a better tomorrow for themselves and their families."



**WATER PRESSURE** Two landscape architecture graduate students won recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency for their efforts to solve UT Arlington's storm-water runoff problem. Competing against 217 teams from 42 states, Kent Elliott and Blake Samper earned an honorable mention in the EPA's first Campus RainWorks Challenge. The contest sought ideas for innovative green infrastructure to lessen storm-water impact while supporting sustainable communities. Elliott and Samper's design replaces surface parking with increased tree canopy and vegetation while adding rain gardens, green roofs, a rain barrel staircase, vegetated swales and terraces, hydrowalls, permeable paving, and an aqueduct.



## Future Fuel

Researchers creating method to convert carbon dioxide to liquid methanol

Discovering new sources of clean energy and reducing the harmful effects of fossil fuel consumption are two of the world's most important challenges.

What if both could be done at the same time?

Scientists at UT Arlington think they've found a way. They're working on a method to convert carbon dioxide—the greenhouse gas associated with climate change—into liquid methanol fuel using copper oxide nanowires and sunlight.

"As long as we're using fossil fuels, we'll have the question of what to do with the carbon dioxide," says Krishnan Rajeshwar, a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry and co-founder of the Center for Renewable Energy, Science, and Technology (CREST). "An attractive option would be to convert greenhouse gases to liquid fuel. That's the value-added option."

Dr. Rajeshwar and his team begin the conversion process by coating the walls of copper oxide (CuO) nanorods with crystallites made from another form of copper oxide, Cu<sub>2</sub>O. In the lab, they submerge those rods in a water-based solution rich in carbon dioxide, or CO<sub>2</sub>. Irradiating the combination with simulated sunlight creates a photo-electrochemical reduction of the CO<sub>2</sub>, and that produces methanol.

The process is safer, simpler, and less expensive than previous methods to convert CO<sub>2</sub> into a useful product. Those require a co-catalyst and must be conducted at high operating pressures and temperatures. Many also use toxic elements, such as cadmium, or rare elements like tellurium.

Norma Tacconi, a recently retired UT Arlington research professor, co-wrote a paper on the findings for the journal *Chemical Communications* with fellow CREST researchers Rajeshwar, Ghazaleh Ghadimkhani, Wilaiwan Chanmanee, and Csaba Janaky.

## Service

### DIABETES AWARENESS

UT Arlington has been named one of nine grant winners in the Ford Motor Company's 2013 College Community Challenge. The award supports efforts to address an urgent community need through a service-learning project. UT Arlington students from multiple academic disciplines will help educate low-income, diverse populations about diabetes prevention and control. Working with Mission Arlington, students will create educational videos in Spanish and other languages to be used for public health outreach.



### JAYA DAVIS

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice recently partnered with the Arlington Independent School District to reduce teen truancy. Assistant Professor Jaya Davis and 10 of her students spent two to four hours a week with an AISD attendance officer assisting in home visits with truant students and their families, court preparation, and data analysis. Truancy can lead to suspension, expulsion, dropping out of school, delinquency, and legal troubles.

### RECOVERY CENTER

UT Arlington launched the Center for Students in Recovery this fall to provide support, resources, and a safe environment for students recovering from alcoholism or drug addiction. Funded in part by a grant from the UT System Board of Regents, the center operates under the Division of Student Affairs and offers coaching, programming, sober social activities, and mentoring.

# Champs

## ACADEMIC HONORS

UT Arlington had 57 student-athletes named to this year's Western Athletic Conference All-Academic honor roll. To be eligible, a student-athlete must have completed at least one academic year, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, and have participated in at least 50 percent of his or her team's contests.

## MICHAEL CHOICE

Former baseball standout Michael Choice made his major league debut in September with the Oakland Athletics. The 10th overall selection in the 2010 draft, Choice holds UT Arlington's career home run record and ranks second in career batting average and RBIs.



## ELIZABETH THOMS

Tennis player Elizabeth Thoms was named First Team All-Western Athletic Conference Singles at the No. 4 position. She won eight of 10 matches in that spot as a freshman.

## ZACK FISCHER

Former golfer Zack Fischer qualified for the U.S. Open in June at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pa. The 23-year-old Texarkana, Texas, native is only the second Maverick to make the prestigious tournament. He played for UT Arlington from 2007-11.

## ROMAIN MARTIN

Senior Romain Martin finished his collegiate career as a six-time All-American by placing sixth in the decathlon at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in June. The Le Mans, France, native amassed a school-record and personal-best 8,013 points.

C A M P U S

## Mavericks win second straight conference title

The baseball team made history in 2013 by winning a conference championship for the second consecutive year.

The Mavericks tied for the regular-season Western Athletic Conference title after posting an 18-9 league record. Last year the team won the Southland Conference Tournament championship.

"I felt like we overachieved this year," head coach Darin Thomas says. "We were picked sixth or seventh in the preseason poll and then ended up winning it."

Junior designated hitter Matt Shortall helped the team go 31-27 overall, including victories over Oklahoma, Illinois, and Texas Tech. He batted .362 with 54 RBIs and led the Mavericks with eight home runs.

Shortall was named a Louisville Slugger third-team All-American, a College Sports

Madness fourth-team All-American, and a semifinalist for the Olson Award. He was the WAC Field Player of the Year and a first-team All-WAC selection.

Junior pitcher Brad Vachon and junior catcher Greg McCall made the All-WAC second team. McCall hit .284 with five home runs. Vachon developed into the staff ace, going 7-4 with a 3.18 earned-run average.

Most of the roster is eligible to return in 2014 when the Mavericks begin play in the Sun Belt Conference. Four Sun Belt teams qualified for the NCAA Regionals in 2013.

"It's a very good league," Thomas says. "We understand it doesn't matter whether it's the WAC, Southland, or Sun Belt. We know you need to get better every year. We're not there yet, but we're getting close."



## Proven Winner

Gerlich brings long history of success

As the new women's basketball coach, Krista Gerlich is determined to recruit, retain, educate, and graduate student-athletes. And win championships.

"To do the things we want to do on the court, we have to have a stronger mindset and be able to physically exert ourselves over a long period of time," says Gerlich, who comes to UT Arlington from West Texas A&M University. "We want to put an exciting team on the floor that is going to build attendance."

The former Texas Tech standout went 168-53 in seven seasons as head coach at WTAMU. Her teams won four consecutive South Division Lone Star Conference titles from 2007-10 and three consecutive Lone Star Conference championships from 2008-10. She recorded 100, 125, and 150 wins faster than any coach in school history.

Prior to joining West Texas A&M, Gerlich spent three seasons as an assistant at Texas Tech under legendary coach Marsha Sharp. She also was an assistant at UT San Antonio and a head coach at several Texas high schools.

As a player from 1989-93, she helped the Lady Raiders win the NCAA national championship her senior season. She was named to the All-Time Southwest Conference team and is one of three Texas Tech women's players to have her jersey retired.

"I don't think we could have picked a better candidate," Athletics Director Jim Baker says. "Krista has been a winner every place she's been and at every level. We're confident in her ability to take our program to the next level."



**FIELD OF DREAMS** Come 2015, Maverick softball and baseball players will have clubhouses, training facilities, and press boxes worthy of the nation's best collegiate programs. A planned \$5.5 million expansion and renovation will add field houses to Allan Saxe Field, home of the softball team, and to Clay Gould Ballpark, home of the baseball team. The work will include field improvements and upgrades to the sound systems and bleachers. "This is a pivotal year for UT Arlington athletics as we move to the Sun Belt Conference and compete with a new cohort of like-minded universities," Athletics Director Jim Baker says. "World-class facilities allow our student-athletes to be their best, both on and off the fields."

C A M P U S

# Golf Sports

## PAUL MCCONNELL

Paul McConnell made the most of his senior year, especially the last few rounds. The Dallas native claimed individual medalist honors at the Western Athletic Conference Championship last spring in Las Vegas to qualify for an NCAA Regional. "It felt awesome winning conference because it was my last tournament with my teammates," he says. "My putting and chipping improved drastically thanks to coach [Jay] Rees. I wouldn't be in the place I am now without my coaches and teammates pushing me to improve." In addition to the WAC title in the University's only year in the league, McConnell took the Fighting Irish Gridiron Classic during the 2011-12 season and the San Diego Intercollegiate in 2010-11. He also was part of the Mavericks' 2011 Southland Conference championship team. He won the WAC in dramatic fashion, carding a 69 in the final round to jump from ninth place. He was the only golfer among 50 to break 70 the last day. Though his college career is over, McConnell isn't done with UT Arlington. The interdisciplinary studies major (economics, marketing, and sociology) is set to graduate in spring 2014.





# WORDS OF *Anguish*

**Unread for almost a half-century, a rediscovered essay collection reveals the despair and anger felt by UT Arlington students four days after John F. Kennedy's assassination.** BY KENNETH PERKINS

**D**UANE KEILSTRUP was doing something he hadn't done in years—digging through the mounds of files swallowing up his home office—when he found them, peeking from a manila folder, as crisp as the day he put them there nearly 50 years before. Sixty-five essays, single-spaced and double-spaced, most signed, and all handwritten in sprawling cursive by freshmen and sophomores four days after President John F. Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963, in downtown Dallas.

ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MCCABE

“The nation is profoundly shocked by perhaps the most evil crime in American history. As a citizen of Dallas, I feel utter shame, sadness, and disbelief that such a tragedy could take place in my city.”

Dr. Keilstrup was 28 and an assistant professor of German at what was then Arlington State College when he suggested that students in his three classes jot down their thoughts about the assassination, partly as a cathartic experience and partly because Keilstrup was curious about what they were thinking.

He promised no grades, no analysis, and no discussion. He didn’t read the essays until weeks later, scribbling a few notes along some pages. Then he stashed them away, uncovering them last year only because his wife, Glenda, asked him to please *do something* about the potential fire hazard building in his office.

“Time-wise, for him to have finally cleaned out his files and found the essays right before the 50th anniversary was quite a coincidence,” Glenda says of her husband, who retired from UT Arlington in 1992. “Everything just started happening after that.”

RAW EMOTIONS

After an article appeared in the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*, representatives of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza in Dallas contacted Keilstrup. Home to more than 40,000 artifacts surrounding the assassination, the museum commands the top two floors of the former Texas School Book Depository, where Lee Harvey Oswald is believed to have fired the fatal shots.

The officials were eager to view the writings. When Keilstrup brought them over, associate curator Stephen Fagin slipped on a pair of snow-white gloves and methodically flipped the pages. He read submission after submission until he finally stood up and declared that he couldn’t believe what he was seeing.

“The first thing I thought was, ‘Wow, what a benefit it would be to have something like this at the museum that provides firsthand perspectives of how young people responded to the assassination.’ This is the first donation from a classroom environment where students as part of a paper were asked to respond with their

thoughts and feelings in the immediate aftermath of the assassination. It’s fascinating.”

The essays present a cavalcade of raw emotions molded by shock, sadness, and disbelief. Nuances could be lifted straight from today’s blogosphere: the easy availability of firearms, a societal condoning of violence, how feuding Democrats and Republicans created an atmosphere of hateful discourse.

“Efforts must be renewed to keep weapons of any kind from those who would use them wrongly,” student Paul Pryor wrote. “We must do this without endangering the right of the responsible citizens.”

The essays cited irrational forces and influences prevalent at the time, God’s will to bring the nation closer to Him, and hate in the Dallas media, which several students surmised was what led Oswald to believe he would be safe.

“What is this new America that suddenly has no respect for the dignity and office of the chief executive?” one student penned.

“What causes a person to take another’s life no matter how despicable his crime in a country where our liberty and justice are our mainstays of the past and our basis for the future?” wrote another.

And this: “The nation is profoundly shocked by perhaps the most evil crime in American history. As a citizen of Dallas, I feel utter shame, sadness, and disbelief that such a tragedy could take place in my city. As long as I live, I shall never forget that terrible day.”

LIKE TURTLES IN SHELLS

In 1963 Arlington State College was a rapidly growing institution with 10,000 students and recently achieved four-year status. The students’ politics paralleled the sentiment of many Texans who respected the presidency but disliked Kennedy despite his choice of Lyndon B. Johnson as a running mate.

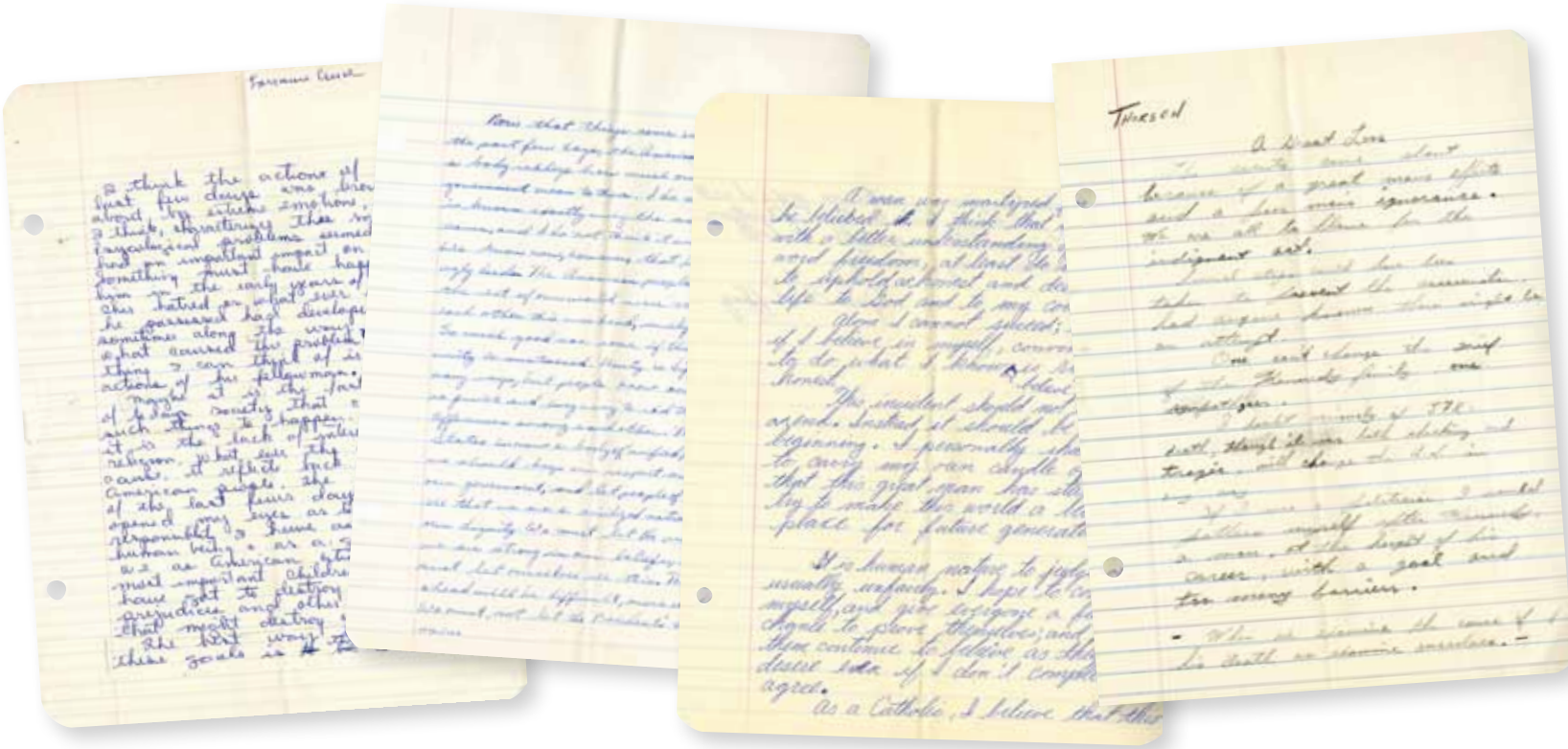
Keilstrup likened student reaction after the assassination to turtles escaping into their shells for safety, waiting for trouble to dissipate. He recalls walking the campus and seeing clumps of students, all with frightened or perplexed looks, huddled in hot discussion.

No student refused the optional assignment, Keilstrup remembers, and the mood in all three classes was solemn, with few talking above a whisper.

“It was a terrible time,” says David Rowntree, who was 19 when Kennedy was shot. He can’t recall what he wrote in his own essay in Keilstrup’s class. Among those who signed his paper, Rowntree began most of his paragraphs with “Why.” He shared the sentiment of many of his classmates, that the “real” killer would never be found and their lives would never be the same.

“As long as the collective conscious of mankind condones violence for any reason, we will have to suffer its consequences in every phase of human life,” he wrote.

“A lot of people on campus hated the Kennedys,” says Rowntree, now 69 and living in Concord, Calif. “They didn’t like JFK or his brother and felt the family were political opportunists. I remember being in another class when someone walked in to say that Kennedy had been shot. Everyone started talking at once, but one guy stood up and said, ‘Good, we should have impeached him anyway.’ I wanted to run up and grab him by the throat and shake him.”



A NEW AMERICA?

Fagin and his colleagues in The Sixth Floor Museum’s collections department are scanning, digitizing, and categorizing the essays, which will join videos, photos, and oral histories in the museum’s archives.

He says many who lived through the period believe the assassination was a watershed moment that ushered in the violence, skepticism, and loss of innocence of the 1960s. He sees the essays as representing “history in the making” and shining an intimate light on students trying to make sense of a tragedy in their own backyard.

“They’re trying to justify it, trying to defend or theorize what we can do to change the country. Then there were the ones who asked about this new America that was emerging. That was a very telling point because there is this recognition that things are changing and will continue to change. There are the deaths of Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. There’s Vietnam.”

As one student wrote, “The only thing that has come into focus from the past few days is the American people as a body realize how much our president and government mean to them. I do not think it’s known why the assassination came, and I do not think it will be known. We do know that hatred causes ugly deeds.”

Keilstrup, now 78, was named a professor emeritus in 1992 after 37 years on the UT Arlington faculty. He stays busy producing golden age radio shows and is the author of *The Christian Professor in the Secular University: Singing & Soaring on Paths of Joy*.

“To have the essays in the museum is very humbling,” he says. “I’m just very, very grateful that they were able to preserve the thoughts of my students.”

Yet those thoughts almost remained hidden in that manila folder.

“I knew I had them somewhere. As soon as I saw them, I knew it was time to tell someone. It would be incredibly selfish for me to keep them for myself and not let others experience them.” WEB EXTRA: Go to library.uta.edu/jfk to view images from a UT Arlington Library photo exhibit of President Kennedy’s visit to Fort Worth.



Marking history

Shirlee and Taylor Gandy led efforts to create the JFK Tribute in Fort Worth

A cold rain fell the morning of Nov. 22, 1963, as President John F. Kennedy addressed thousands of well-wishers outside the Texas Hotel in downtown Fort Worth. It turned out to be his penultimate speech, with the last one coming shortly thereafter at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

To recognize the significance of the events preceding Kennedy’s assassination, Fort Worth unveiled the JFK Tribute in November 2012. Located adjacent to the hotel

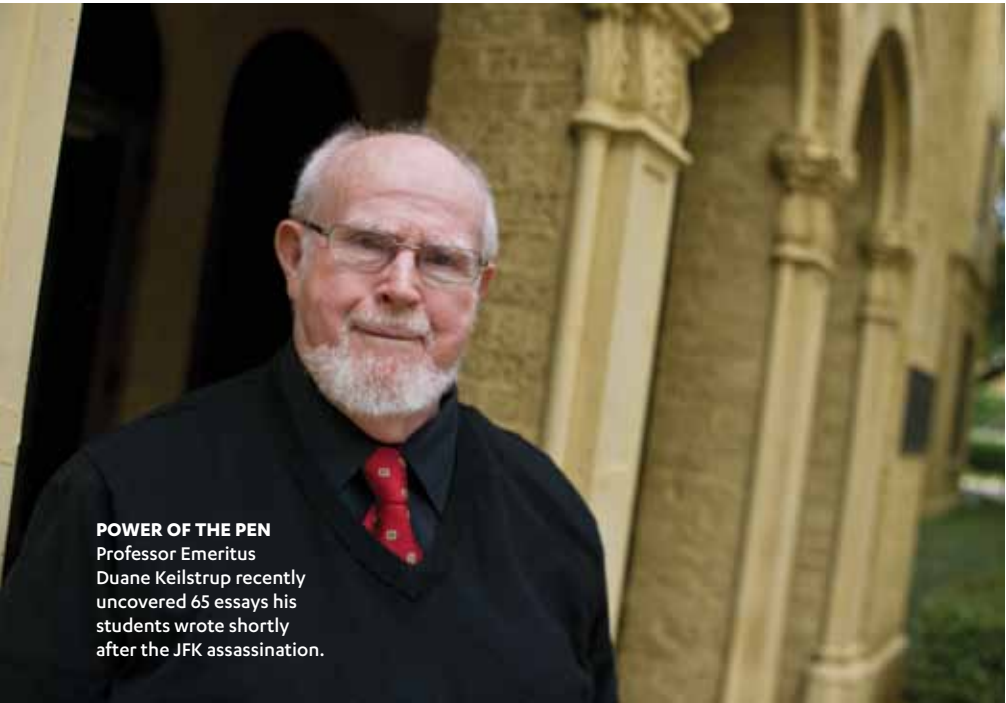
(now the Fort Worth Hilton), the exhibit features an eight-foot bronze sculpture of the 35th president within a granite plaza that includes photographs and quotes from several of his speeches.

The JFK Tribute is the culmination of a decade-long public-private partnership spearheaded by Downtown Fort Worth Initiatives Inc. and Shirlee ’70 and Taylor Gandy, who co-chaired the JFK Tribute Committee.

“We wanted to commemorate President Kennedy’s

historic visit to Fort Worth and his enduring ideals of freedom, courage, discovery, and leadership, which he shared in the speeches he delivered here,” says Shirlee, a 2012 Distinguished Alumna and member of the UT Arlington Development Board. “Everyone involved in the project was honored to create a lasting tribute to this part of the city’s history and to present it in such a public location for all to enjoy.”

Learn more about the memorial at [jfktribute.com](http://jfktribute.com).



POWER OF THE PEN  
Professor Emeritus Duane Keilstrup recently uncovered 65 essays his students wrote shortly after the JFK assassination.

DUANE KEILSTRUP FAMILY COLLECTION/THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM AT DEALEY PLAZA

.....  
**Researchers protect vital water systems from harmful blooms, manmade contaminants, and climate change.** BY SARAH BAHARI  
.....

# Water Worlds

**T**HE BRAZOS RIVER RISES fast against the eastern border of Stonewall County, then winds 840 miles across Texas, through small towns and old ranches, before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport. Once a crossing for settlers, the Brazos now pumps millions of tourism dollars into local economies while providing the region with much of its water for drinking and farming.

In recent years, however, massive blooms of golden algae have threatened the storied river, killing millions of fish and devastating the economy in towns that rely on it for survival. A team of Texas scientists is creating a plan to battle the deadly golden algae. The research is central to the state's tourism industry and the health of the Brazos and other waterways.

"The economic impact has been tremendous," biology Professor James Grover says. "Recreational amenities are a very big business to these river communities, and they need healthy, abundant fish populations."

Research like Dr. Grover's thrives at UT Arlington, where professors study ways to make water safer for people and wildlife. Scientists and engineers are developing methods to analyze water quality, monitor biological toxins, and protect oceans against climate change. Their work has far-reaching importance. In Texas, the Brazos and other rivers have been ravaged by a persistent drought. Worldwide, water use is growing at more than twice the population rate.

As increased demand burdens the world's water supply, maintaining its safety is even more critical.

**DEADLY FLOW**  
Golden algae has spread to the Colorado River and numerous other Texas rivers, killing an estimated 20 million fish and crippling the state's multibillion-dollar nature tourism industry.

CHASE A. FOUNTAIN / TPWD ©2009

*“In coming years, we know less water will be available to us. This makes it imperative that we protect the quality of the water we do have.”*

#### NOT SO GOLDEN

Golden algae first appeared in the United States in 1985, in Texas’ Pecos River, when hundreds of fish washed up on the shores of the Rio Grande basin. Named for their yellow tint, the one-celled algae can emit toxins that suffocate fish.

Within years, the algae spread throughout the state to the Colorado, Canadian, Wichita, Red, and Brazos river systems, killing an estimated 20 million fish and crippling Texas’ multibillion-dollar nature tourism industry.

“People across the state really started paying attention,” Grover says. “Before we could stop the fish kills, we had to determine the ecological factors contributing to the algae blooms.”

Working with colleagues at Texas A&M University and Baylor University, Grover used laboratory and field experiments plus mathematical modeling to determine that the golden algae thrived in cool seasons and in water with high salt content and low flow. The team then developed three possible solutions: increasing the hydraulic flow of rivers with pumps, manipulating the water’s pH by adding sulfuric acid, or changing the chemistry by adding ammonia.

All proved successful in small-scale experiments, and Grover hopes to conduct a larger pilot study soon. Although it would be costly, adding solar-powered pumps to increase the flow would be ideal.

“In coming years, we know less water will be available to us. A great deal of work on water resources will need to be done,” he says. “This makes it imperative that we protect the quality of the water we do have.”

#### IDENTIFYING TOXINS WIRELESSLY

Like Grover, environmental engineer Hyeok Choi focuses on harmful algae. Every summer, a thick layer of toxic blooms develops on Lake Erie and other bodies of water, killing thousands of fish and swamping beaches with a foul smell. These blooms can emit powerful biological toxins called microcystins, which are poisonous to fish, plants, and people.

Dr. Choi is developing a way to quickly identify the blooms and toxins in fresh and salt water. He has received more than \$500,000 from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation to create chip-sized wireless sensors that will spot the toxins and signal scientists.

“This will be an enormous step forward that will protect water, plants, wildlife, and people,” the civil engineering assistant professor says. “Our old way of monitoring no longer makes sense.”

Currently, researchers must collect samples from the lake and return to the lab to analyze them. Under Choi’s plan, wireless sensors in lakes known for harmful algal blooms, like Lake Erie and Lake Michigan, will send reports to the laboratory. Sungyong Jung, a UT Arlington electrical engineering associate professor, is building the sensors, in cooperation with Sang-Yeon Cho of New Mexico State University and Jung-Min Park of Virginia Tech.

To test the devices, Choi will release microcystins into a small, controlled body of water, such as a fish tank. Eventually, aided by the Environmental Protection Agency, the research team will place sensors where

there’s a high concentration of toxins. Water samples will then be collected and the results compared to those of Choi’s network.

“In the future, water providers like cities and treatment facilities will be able to use this information to make safer drinking water,” Choi says. “This is a timely and cost-effective early-warning system. We will know immediately if there is a problem so it can be addressed.”

#### PROTECTING OCEANS

Laura Mydlarz inspects a small piece of sea fan, which resembles a delicate web. A marine biologist, she studies how climate change, specifically temperature stress, affects coral reefs.

Taken from the Caribbean near Puerto Rico, the coral sample will be pulverized into a powder with a mortar and pestle before protein and RNA are extracted. Dr. Mydlarz and fellow scientists then will conduct tests to determine the immunity of the coral and its gene expression. Results thus far are worrisome.

“Rising temperatures do negatively affect a coral’s immune system,” the biology associate professor says. “When the water gets warmer, even by just one degree, the coral’s ability to fight disease is suppressed. We see many coral dying due to disease outbreaks.”

In collaboration with professors at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Mydlarz also is examining the coral that successfully resist disease. The National Science Foundation is funding her work.

“We want to know what they are doing right, versus the more sensitive reefs,” she says. “We might be able to use that knowledge to help the dying reefs.”

Loss of coral reefs would be catastrophic for the vast marine life that depends on them, she explains. Additionally, scientists believe the reefs have potential to produce natural products for human use, such as drugs and antibacterial compounds.

“But if reef loss continues at its current rate,” Mydlarz warns, “we may not get the chance to find them.”

#### TESTING THE WATERS

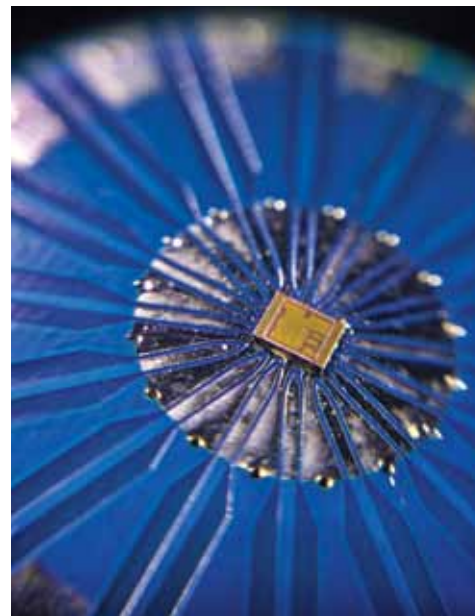
More immediate threats to the environment concern Purnendu “Sandy” Dasgupta—namely, the hundreds of contaminants that enter the water supply through naturally occurring chemicals and minerals, fertilizers and pesticides, manufacturing processes, and even sewer overflows.

The Jenkins Garrett Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry recently developed a more efficient way of measuring ions in solutions, which has led to a device that improves water quality testing.

Marketed as the Thermo Scientific Dionex QD detector, the device uses ion chromatography, the process of separating and detecting ions for analysis. Dr. Dasgupta is a pioneer of this technique, which also can be used to monitor air quality, drug development, and manufacturing.

“I have long been fascinated by the potential of this technology,” he says. “It marries two things I love: analytical chemistry and instrumentation.”

Components in organic and inorganic compounds carry different levels of charged ions. Phosphate, for example, is triple-charged, while chloride is singly charged. The new charge detector uses a membrane-



based separation, or desalting, technology that detects ions in proportion to their charge and concentration.

By combining charge and conductivity detection—the latter being the traditional method for measuring ions—Dasgupta’s machine greatly improves performance.

He is working with Bingcheng Yang, a member of his research group, and Kannan Srinivasan, technical director for Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. The UT System Board of Regents and California-based Dionex Corp., Thermo Fisher’s parent company, share the patent.

“We see this as a game-changer,” says Thermo Fisher Vice President Chris Pohl, a chromatography chemist. “Charge detection, when combined with suppressed conductivity detection, can be used as a confirmatory tool or as a complementary detector to provide additional analytical information.”

This isn’t Dasgupta’s only water-related research. Using many of the same methods, he has developed

an analyzer for arsenic in drinking water that is less expensive, more effective, and more environmentally friendly than methods involving lead and mercury.

Arsenic poisoning, or arsenicosis, affects millions of people worldwide in places as varied as the United States and China. Arsenic, which has no odor or taste, enters water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. No place is more affected than Bangladesh, where more than 70 million are at risk of drinking contaminated water, according to the World Health Organization.

Dasgupta was moved to help after touring Bangladesh villages. He saw firsthand the devastation of chronic arsenic exposure, which can cause heart disease and cancers of the liver, kidney, bladder, and skin.

“In time,” he says, “I hope this green analyzer will be able to help the poorest countries prevent a scourge of diseases.” ☺

#### AQUATIC ADVOCATES

Top left: Researchers in Hyeok Choi’s lab are developing a method to quickly identify harmful algae in fresh and salt water. Bottom left: Dr. Choi’s team is building a wireless sensor to spot toxins and signal scientists. Top right: James Grover is battling golden algae in Texas rivers. Bottom right: Laura Mydlarz is studying how climate change affects coral reefs.

# Sharing a *Bold Vision*

**Vistasp Karbhari hit the ground running in June as UT Arlington's eighth president. The focused and energetic leader is determined to guide the University to new levels of excellence. BY MARK PERMENTER**

**L**OFTY GOALS don't daunt Vistasp Karbhari; they motivate him. One conversation with UT Arlington's new president and you're inspired by his resolve to help the University scale peaks that once seemed unattainable. In his eyes, great isn't good enough. He wants UT Arlington to rise, rapidly, into the upper echelon of research institutions. He wants the University to become internationally recognized as a leader in scholarship, educational access, and community engagement.

In short, he wants UT Arlington to become Tier One—not only by the state-defined metrics, but by achieving pre-eminence as an academic institution. He believes that by focusing strategically and collaboratively, the University can reach this goal sooner rather than later.

“Let's dream together, work together, chart new directions, and attain levels of excellence that others did not even dare to dream of,” President Karbhari told a gathering of alumni shortly after taking office. “UT Arlington is destined to be *the* model 21st-century urban university. Let's make it happen together.”

*UT Arlington Magazine* caught up with the University's eighth president for a conversation about how he plans to lead the way.

**What have you learned in your first few months on the job?** I've learned a lot. What's very apparent is that we have a tremendous reputation that's well deserved. There is a great appreciation for where we are and the distance we've come in the last three to five years. A great deal of enthusiasm and excitement exist for taking the next steps to go from being a great university to being a pre-eminent university.

**What attracted you to UT Arlington?** A few things stood out. I believe education is at a crossroads. There are research powerhouses that churn out tremendous research. There are very good educational institutions that perhaps do not do as much research as they could. Then there are universities in-between that are trying to figure out whether they're going to be one or the other. Very few in these groups have figured out how to balance excellence in teaching and research, and UT Arlington is one of those.

There is a balance between scholarship, educational access and excellence, and strength in research. UT Arlington is an institution that's positioned in a thriving region. For a university to be viable in the 21st century, especially in an urban setting like ours, it needs three things. First,





**LEADING THE WAY**  
Vistasp Karbhari says the model 21st-century urban university is one that balances the need to be a scholarly institution with the need to be an economic, social, and cultural driver for the community and region. He believes UT Arlington is positioned to do just that.

it needs to have a strong educational program both for the generation and transfer of knowledge and for workforce development. Second, it needs to have tremendous support within the community and a very strong link to the community and the larger region. And third, its research should not just be in fundamental areas but also in areas of applied and translational research. All of these things taken together are what attracted me here, as well as the opportunity to work with a great team that is dedicated to reaching that next level.

**To many, the next level means becoming a Tier One institution. What's your interpretation of Tier One?** Tier One is a notation people use in a variety of ways. As defined by some, it has a narrow connotation, not a bad one, but narrow. There are boxes that have to be checked off. You need \$100 million in research expenditures, 200 Ph.D. graduates, and the list goes on. Those are necessary conditions but not sufficient ones. Tier One could mean being classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the Very High Research category. We are currently in the High Research category. It could mean being listed in the top 50 or 100 universities by the Center for Measuring University Performance. Right now we're in the top 200. It could mean being a member of the

Association of American Universities (AAU), which is a very select organization by invitation only. But to me, Tier One is not specifically any of those. It's being a university that is pre-eminent in its chosen domain. It has to have a high level of research expenditures. It has to have the large number of top-notch programs. It has to have the graduate students. But we also must have excellence across the board. Tier One to me means being able to balance the excellence in research with teaching. It means being a place where our students, staff, and faculty are at the top of their games in scholarship and creative activity. It means being in the upper echelon in terms of reputation in all areas.

**How close are we to being Tier One?** By some measures, we're already there. If you look at the recent accolades we've received, one could argue that we're on par with other Tier One institutions. In May the New America Foundation described UT Arlington as a "Next Generation University"—one of only six in the nation. In August *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ranked us as the seventh fastest-growing public research university in the United States. The *U.S. News & World Report* rankings released in September listed us as the fifth most diverse among national universities. By these measures, we are competing with universities that are already Tier One. But we haven't checked off all the boxes, and there's a lot we still need to do.

**How do we reach Tier One in other areas?** Strategic planning is number one. We must choose from all of the wonderful opportunities in front of us. That will be one of the biggest challenges that we as a university face. We have so many opportunities to excel, but we can't choose all of them at the same time. We will pick key ones in a strategic manner. We have to figure out ways to attract and retain more of the best faculty. Many of our faculty are world-renowned, but we need to build up critical mass in specific areas. We also need to focus more on interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research and education.

**If strategic planning is number one, is private philanthropy a close second?** It's hugely important because strategic planning and philanthropy are so closely connected. Philanthropy helps fund the plan. It is becoming more and more expensive for students to access education. There is tremendous competition for the best faculty. If we are to give the best education to our students, we want the best faculty. We need the latest technology and first-rate facilities to give greater access, to bring more knowledge, and to improve research and teaching. All of this costs money. Private philanthropy becomes immensely important for us to satisfy these demands and reach these aims because such a small percentage of our funding now comes from state and federal sources. It is absolutely essential if we are to continue to do all of the great things we are doing, as well as to fund all that we aspire to do—not just to be Tier One, but to truly fulfill our mission.

**You've said UT Arlington is poised to be the model 21st-century urban university. What does that model look like?** It's a university that is intrinsically linked to the well-being

of the community. It's not just a university that excels at scholarship, but a university that provides access to students at all levels. We need to be the hub and a great partner. We're the intellectual heart of the community. As we look at the model 21st-century university, it is the one that can balance the need to be a scholarly institution with the need to be an economic, social, and cultural driver for the community and region. UT Arlington is positioned to do just that. We're already doing so much of it. If we did a little bit more, we'd be setting the standard for everybody.

**Why is a strong community connection so important?** Community engagement must be a priority. You can define a public university's mission in a variety of ways. It's education beyond the classroom, being able to take the expertise and knowledge one might have and doing good with it, spreading that knowledge to where it might be of most benefit. Community engagement is an important part of it. We need to continue to be an intrinsic part of this community.

**What role does athletics play in the fabric of UT Arlington?** It plays a big role. Athletics is one of the few things that brings a university together, that creates pride and school spirit. Most people aren't going to sit in a math class and say, "Wow, this is why I came to UT Arlington." But a large group of students could be at our games, cheering on our athletes and feeling proud, not just of the team but that we're all Mavericks.

Athletics brings people together and builds spirit so that after students graduate, they maintain lifelong ties to the University.

**How would you describe your leadership style?** It's very collaborative but with very high goals and expectations. I truly believe that most of us are at the University because we want to make a difference. We want to do something that would not have been possible elsewhere. I'd like to enable that to happen, to move everyone forward as a team so we can achieve what others thought was unattainable.

**What are your hobbies?** I love to go on walks with my dog. I love to try new food. I love to read, I love music, and I love to travel. I also love to meet people, and I'm enjoying meeting our wonderful alumni and supporters in the community.

**What's the source of your strong belief in the importance of education?** My parents made sure we understood that education was very important, not just for the sake of getting a job but for the sake of understanding where we were, who we were, and the world around us. Today more than ever it's imperative that we know about topics much broader than our area of expertise.

**Did your parents go to college?** Yes, they did. I'm very fortunate in that sense. I grew up in a family that had books all around. I read books on art and literature

## Indelible Impact *Lisa Karbhari has a passion for helping students find their life's calling*



Lisa Karbhari enjoys attending academic, athletics, and social events as well as spending time with her German shepherd, Gabriella.

Lisa Karbhari is determined to make the world a better place. As her husband interviewed for president, she realized UT Arlington shares the same goal. "Universities are all about the students," she says. "When you work with college students, you can really make a difference by encouraging and supporting them." The couple, who recently celebrated 20 years of marriage, met at the University of Delaware. Lisa was a first-generation student majoring in civil engineering, and Vistasp a Ph.D. candidate conducting research in composite materials. She chose civil engineering because it offered numerous opportunities to benefit society. After earning a bachelor's degree, she worked for a geotechnical firm designing landfills, testing areas for environmental remediation, and developing plans for the management of water resources. In 1995 the Karbharis moved to California, where Vistasp had accepted a faculty position at the University of California San Diego. West Coast living kindled another of Lisa's passions: the ocean. In addition to leading various ministries at her church, she became a docent ambassador for the Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD and a certified scuba diver. "It's the most peaceful place you can ever be," she says of being under water. "You can hear yourself breathe and there's so much to see. It seems like I see something unusual every time I dive. I've been very fortunate." That good fortune has included rare encounters with a 100-year-old sea turtle near the Bahamas, a sea dragon and ink-spraying cuttlefish off

*“A great deal of enthusiasm and excitement exist for taking the next steps to go from being a great university to being a pre-eminent university.”*

“We must make sure that we’re able to give any student who has the desire, motivation, and qualifications access to the tremendous knowledge that exists here.”

when I was very young. I probably read Shakespeare by the time I was 7 or 8. Both of my parents did a lot to make sure that I am where I am today. They instilled in me a lot of the qualities that I have and the goals that I aspire to achieve.

**Why did you come to the United States for your Ph.D.?** When I started looking at the United States, I had finished my master’s degree in structural engineering at the University of Poona. I was working in one of the largest engineering consulting firms in India and was looking for a new challenge. Two areas stood out. One was failure analysis, looking at the reliability of structures and trying to understand why they failed. The other was a new type of material—composite materials. They were developed to fix some of the problems with other materials as well as make them lighter and stronger. At the time, the University of Delaware hosted the National Science Foundation Center of Excellence in Composites. It was the only one in the United States.

**What do you consider to be UT Arlington’s primary strengths?** We have a tremendous strength in faculty and staff who are dedicated to the institution. It’s not just a job for them. They’re here because they love it. They love to give back to the students. The other is our ability to be Mavericks, to dream and do things that others might not have done before.

**What are our biggest challenges?** We must pick the right opportunities and have the patience to work through them a few at a time rather than all at once. We need to energize our alumni base and our friends in the community so they are motivated to invest in the University—to provide the private philanthropy that is so essential to help us reach that next level. We must make sure that we’re able to give any student who has the desire, motivation, and qualifications access to the tremendous knowledge that exists here.

**Why is it important to balance research and teaching?** One feeds the other. If we only do research, by definition we’re not a university. We would be a research institute or an R&D center. If you only teach and your faculty are not engaged in discovery and inquiry, you’re getting stale knowledge. The ability to engage in research, creative activity, and scholarship at their highest levels keeps faculty at the forefront of their disciplines. But it also shows our students how you can find new knowledge and accomplish something that many thought was not possible. When faculty discover something new, that experience can change students’ lives. It also changes the way our students think. It instills in them creativity and innovation. So if we have one without the other, we’re not able to provide the best education for our students.

**What’s your pitch to a prospective UT Arlington student?** We have a tremendous university with a depth found at few others. We have faculty and staff who truly care about you. You are not a number; you are a face and a name. We are dedicated to your success. Our faculty bring a wealth of research expertise.

For students who come here, especially at the undergraduate level, an important consideration is what they do after they get a degree. Obtaining knowledge for the sake of knowledge is not enough. Harsh reality says we need jobs. Because of the number of alumni, our geographic location, and our reputation, getting jobs is far easier here than at many other locations. Students have a wonderful experience here. Then they graduate with knowledge and experience, perhaps through internships or summer jobs. The career prospects with a degree from UT Arlington are tremendous.

**Along the same lines, what do you say to a faculty member considering a move to UT Arlington?** For younger faculty members in the early stages of their careers, this is a tremendous place to build a career—a great place to make a name for themselves, hit their stride, and



stake a claim in their field. The academic environment here is vibrant, collaborative, and supportive, and the region will continue to grow exponentially during the coming years. Likewise, for a tenured faculty member who has achieved success and built a reputation at another institution, UT Arlington is a wonderful university to embark on the next chapter in teaching, scholarship, and intensive research. Whatever the case, new faculty members will find welcoming colleagues here who are eager to work together to explore new ideas and chart new territory. Whether it’s an individual faculty member who’s joining us or an entire team of faculty and doctoral students, this is the place to find success and make great things happen.

**In one of your speeches, you said UT Arlington stands on the brink of greatness. What pushes us over the top?** Greatness comes to a university that has done enough to sepa-

rate itself from *all* its peers. We have separated ourselves from *some* of our peers. We’re at the brink of doing much more. Leading in terms of online education, having faculty who teach and do research at the cutting edge of their disciplines, being so intrinsically tied to the community that we drive the well-being of the community—it’s doing more of these things. We don’t have to start from scratch. We’re almost there.

**How will you develop your vision for the University?** It’s a vision that has to be developed in concert with our constituencies. I’ve been talking with and listening to a lot of people. I’m trying to better understand the excellence that exists here. Step by step, I’m visiting with our faculty and staff, talking to different people, including students. I’m talking to people in the community, starting with the mayor and other leaders,



**Is your priority elevating UT Arlington to Tier One status?** I think that’s too narrow a focus. It is a priority, but it cannot be the only priority. Tier One is a journey. If we hold the end goal as being our only priority, then we lose sight of everything else. We will definitely focus on the Tier One metrics, but the journey is also valuable. The journey must balance excellence in teaching and research, access to education and knowledge, and the development of new knowledge.

**What message do you have for alumni and other supporters of the University?** Feel proud of being a Maverick. Come back and visit. Come see things that may not have been here when you were students. Join us on this wonderful journey. We can’t succeed without our alumni.

trying to determine what makes this university tick, why it is so special. I will use all of this information so that our dreams and hopes are combined in that vision. It can’t be just my vision. If it’s just my vision, it’s not a vision for the University.

**In your opinion, what does it take to be a successful university president?** Success can be defined in many ways. I think presidents would be considered successful if, when they left, the university was significantly better than when they arrived. Did they facilitate the growth of the excellence that exists in the faculty, staff, and students? Did they facilitate new opportunities for students and the ability of more students to access a greater amount of knowledge? Did they enable the community to feel a greater kinship with the university? Did they help alumni feel a true sense of pride? I think if presidents can do all that, then they have been successful.

There are many ways they can assist us beyond just having pride. One is obviously providing resources and philanthropy that will make it possible to reach our goals faster—to hire and retain the best faculty, to provide access for more students, to have the best facilities that enable us to educate and conduct research. Alumni can also provide a network for our students. They have a tremendous influence on who comes to The University of Texas at Arlington and how those students succeed in life. They are able to mentor students, give them career advice, facilitate internships, and provide a network that helps them get jobs when they graduate. If all of our nearly 170,000 alumni did that, we’d be doing wonderfully well. I want them to be part of where we’re going.

**Any final thoughts?** I’m excited and very, very enthusiastic about where UT Arlington is headed. ☺

**STUDENT FOCUSED**  
In his first months on the job, President Karbhari attended the University’s annual Move-In Day, left, and interacted with students in a variety of settings. The visible and approachable leader meets with students individually and in groups as much as possible to answer questions and talk about the excellence at UT Arlington.

# *The Tracks of* PROGRESS

Next time a train makes you late, think beyond the inconvenience. In addition to transporting indispensable freight, these rolling behemoths carry a certain allure. And remember, UT Arlington wouldn't exist without them. BY DAVID HOPKINS



WHEN THE UNION PACIFIC trudges through, the entire city pauses. Time moves slowly at the crossing. Graffiti-tagged freight cars present a modern art museum on wheels. Autos edge closer, hoping to hurry the train along. The trains—their noises, their smells, their sheer mass—are a constant in central Arlington, as if its boundaries are more clearly defined by a strange auditory scope than by any streets. Railroads are a conspicuous, often annoying fact of Arlington life. And the city is possibly more affected by them than either Fort Worth or Dallas.

#### THE ROUTE TO PROSPERITY

In the 1800s Texas desired a southern route to California, what officials would call the 32nd parallel railroad. Politics, financial troubles, and the Civil War delayed plans. After the war several companies combined to create the Texas and Pacific Railway, a federally chartered operation with land compensation from the state. The T&P wanted to run a train from Dallas to Fort Worth with sights on San Diego.

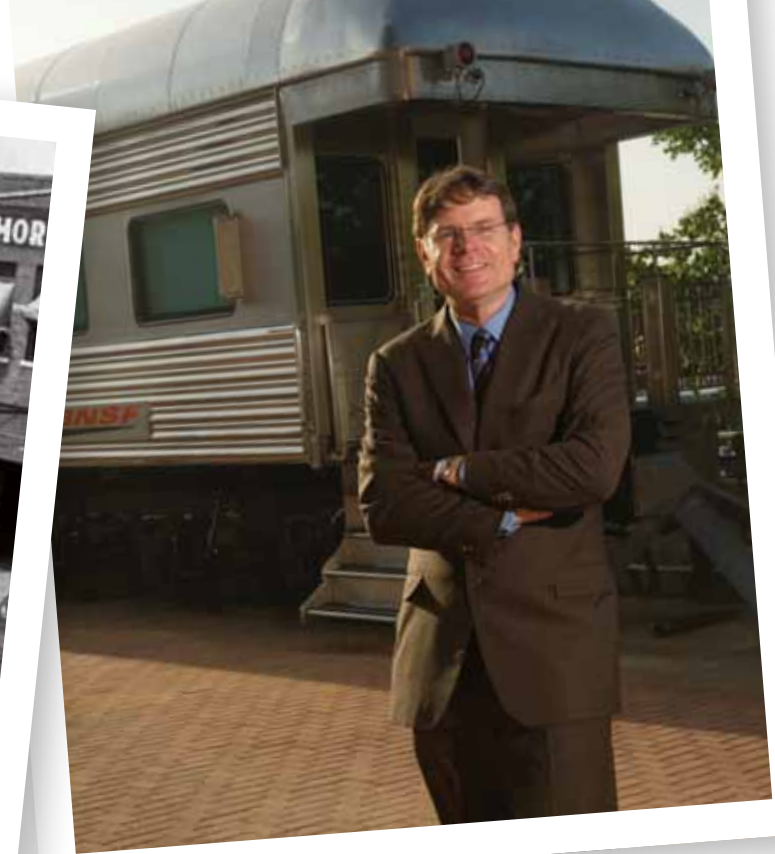
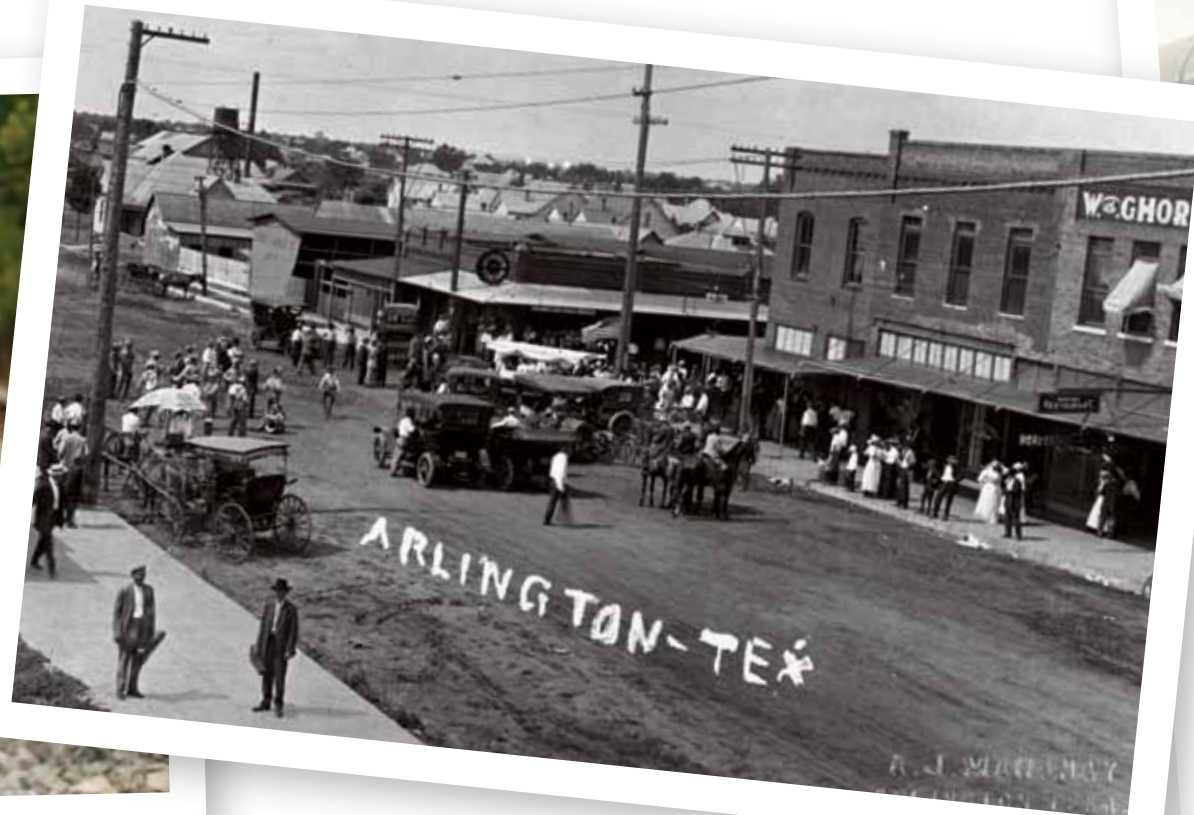
The train needed a midpoint for reloading and refueling. Johnson Station was the obvious choice. A settlement three miles south of present-day downtown Arlington with a cotton plantation, a blacksmith shop, and a post office, it already was on the stagecoach route.



#### LOCOMOTIVE INFLUENCE

The first Texas and Pacific trains rolled through Arlington in the 1870s on wobbly tracks built by farmers.





**“If you’re shipping goods from China to western Europe, it is actually easier and cheaper to ship to Los Angeles and use the United States as a land bridge.”**

Nevertheless, the T&P built its depot north of Johnson Station. Evelyn Barker and Lea Worcester, UT Arlington librarians and Arlington historians, wrote about the tracks moving north for the *Images of America* series.

“The land was easier to grade,” Barker says. “The train bypassed Johnson Station, but then a lot of people moved up.”

“They moved their buildings north in some cases,” Worcester adds.

Much of Johnson Station relocated, and Arlington was born. Meanwhile, another company was laying track westward. Southern Pacific moved faster, taking potential track away from the T&P. Texas lawmakers announced that if the section between Dallas and Fort Worth wasn’t completed by the end of the 1876 legislative session, they would deny land grants to the T&P.

Panicked Fort Worth citizens showed up with shovels, axes, and sledgehammers to do what they could. City representatives at the Capitol tried to stall adjournment. At 9 a.m. July 19, 1876, without a day to spare, the train passed through Arlington, slowly, tentatively, on wobbly tracks built by farmers. Five years later, the Southern Pacific and T&P lines met in Sierra Blanca in far West Texas, forming the third transcontinental rail.

Arlington’s new train depot, at Center and Main streets, made the town a market mecca for surrounding farms, and downtown grew around it. Shops, banks, and churches emerged outward, as did the school that would become UT Arlington.

As railroads improved, Arlington was no longer a necessary fuel stop, and the mid-century automotive boom killed passenger trains between Fort Worth and Dallas. The city dismantled the depot in the early 1950s. In 1976 T&P merged with Missouri Pacific and was then acquired by Union Pacific, which manages the line today. The train still stops at Arlington’s General Motors Assembly Plant.

#### **A NECESSARY NUISANCE**

Never mind that trains grind Cooper Street traffic to a halt. They are a vital cog in the nation’s supply chain.

Logistics cost less in the United States than elsewhere in the world. As one of the most efficient and environmentally friendly modes of surface transportation, railways keep costs down. Steel on steel is more efficient than rubber on concrete.

Though it seems counterintuitive, U.S. rail is also a major influence abroad. College of Business Associate Professor Edmund Prater, a supply chain management expert, says the “land bridge phenomenon” plays a huge role in international trade.

“If you’re shipping goods from China to western Europe, it is actually easier and cheaper to ship to Los Angeles and use the United States as a land bridge,” Dr. Prater says. “That’s what the U.S. is, a land bridge. They take these containers off the ships and load them directly on the railroads. Then they’re hauled all the way across the United States to the East Coast, where they’re put on container ships and sailed over to Europe. That’s much quicker, more efficient.”

The U.S. freight train business is booming. The Association of American Railroads reports that carloads shipped by rail, not including coal, were up 3.3 percent in December compared to last year. This growth is part of a 10-year trend. Lately, more businesses are shipping goods by rail due to high oil prices and increased imports from Asia. The shale oil industry has benefited from the railroad, too, hauling materials to places like North Dakota that lack pipelines.

Fort Worth-based BNSF Railway Co. plans to invest \$1 billion this year on locomotives, freight cars, and other equipment. That’s part of a \$4.1 billion capital program—a \$450 million increase from the previous year. General Electric hired 300 people at a new plant north of Fort Worth to build more locomotives, while

Union Pacific is spending \$30 million to replace worn-out track between Fort Worth and Dallas.

Kevin Ghassemi ’06 worked for BNSF as a train master, which is like an air traffic controller for the rails. He saw the industry up close.

“I was the one responsible for making sure we had a spot for arriving trains because you only have so much track out in these yards,” he says. “We’re growing pretty much every year.”

Now a national account manager for BNSF, Ghassemi was introduced to the company through UT Arlington’s Goolsby Leadership Academy, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Established with an anonymous \$2 million gift in honor of John ’64 and Judy Goolsby, the academy is a cohort-based program that prepares juniors and seniors to become business executives.

A longtime academy supporter, BNSF has established a \$500,000 endowed scholarship and a \$900,000 endowment to create an early development program that includes freshmen and sophomores. Charles Shewmake ’87, vice president and general counsel for BNSF and a member of the College of Business Advisory Council, values his company’s involvement with the Goolsby Leadership Academy.

“While we spend billions of dollars each year to invest in our physical infrastructure, the top leaders at this company also invest their time in our potential future leaders. Our chief marketing officer and chief financial officer have spent time with UTA students to help them understand our industry and jump-start their careers,” Shewmake says. “The railroad needs a diverse group of leaders, anything from accountants to doctors, from police officers to civil engineers, and computer and financial analysts.”

When he was a Goolsby scholar, Ghassemi thought the railroad was dying. A conversation with a BNSF executive changed his outlook and, eventually, his life.

“He told me that railroads ship two-thirds of the nation’s cars. They ship a lot of freight. It’s a lot bigger than you could imagine. Working there for almost seven years now, I know he’s right.”

Ghassemi reflects on his initial misconception. “I always thought the railroad just kind of got in the way, especially at UTA when the Union Pacific would come through and make me late for class while I sat there waiting in my car. Little did I know that that train is taking 350 to 400 eighteen-wheelers off the road.”

Trains still frustrate the University community and the Arlington motorist. But the next time you’re stopped at a crossing, remember that there would be no Arlington—and no UT Arlington—without them. Think about the role they play in the national and international economy.

#### **CONSIDER THE MYSTIQUE**

Railroads conjure thoughts of Wild West mythology and the innocence of *Stand by Me*—a bygone era when a boy would walk along the tracks because it was the most direct way to get across town. On the borrowed path, he would constantly look behind, afraid that a train might sneak up on him. But that would never happen.

A mile away, the lumbering giant would announce its presence with a low growl. The boy would place a penny on the tracks, but it never flattened like it should. He’d step aside, allowing the bully to have its way. He could feel the locomotive’s power in his stomach, a magnificent shock wave of weight and speed, a warning that said keep your distance.

The train forever reminds us of the larger worlds beyond our town, centers of commerce and steel, extending from coast to coast and points in-between—connected by parallel and perpendicular lines, a grand matrix of business and culture and a certain charm. ☘

#### **BIG BUSINESS**

The depot in downtown Arlington in the early 1900s was a precursor to today’s booming railroad industry. Associate Professor Edmund Prater, left, a supply chain management expert, says U.S. rail plays a huge role in international trade. Alumnus Charles Shewmake, right, vice president and general counsel for BNSF Railway, says his company invests billions of dollars each year in infrastructure.



## Critical Care

Exponential increase in graduates helps fill growing demand for nurses

When Alitha Jones arrives for work each day at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, she joins almost 15,000 UT Arlington nursing graduates who provide comprehensive health care for residents of North Texas and beyond.

As a nursing informatics specialist, Jones '09 develops medical technology systems and teaches nurses how to use them. She is also a part-time critical care nurse at UT Southwestern Medical Center's St. Paul University and Zale Lipshy hospitals, where she focuses on adult and elderly patients.

"Caring for patients is what I love most," says Jones, president of UT Arlington's Nursing Alumni Council. "If I can make one patient smile or get one family member to open up and let me know their fears, that's what being a nurse is all about."

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies estimates that half of the state's 73,000 registered nurses will retire in the next decade. Nationally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the registered nurse category will top the job growth list through 2020. The number of employed nurses nationwide is expected to jump from 2.74 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020, a 26 percent increase.

UT Arlington is doing its part to meet the demand. Enrollment in the College of Nursing has quadrupled in recent years. With nearly 8,000 students last spring, the college is one of the five largest public nursing programs in the nation.

Jennifer Gray, the College of Nursing's interim dean and a UT Arlington alumna, says the University is committed not just to enrolling more students but preparing nurses to be leaders. Last year the college conferred almost 1,700 bachelor's degrees, more than five times the number in 2007-08. Master's degree graduates have more than doubled during the same period.

"We are dedicated to decreasing the nursing shortage by graduating increased numbers of BSN-prepared nurses who will become RNs, and to fulfilling the educational needs of working nurses at the undergraduate and graduate levels," says Dr. Gray, who holds the George W. and Hazel M. Jay Professorship in Nursing. "We offer a full array of academic programs and emphasize evidence-based practice so the community receives quality nursing care in a rapidly changing health care system. We are committed to providing graduates to meet the growing needs of the Metroplex and beyond."

Alitha Jones is among thousands of examples.

***"We are committed to providing graduates to meet the growing needs of the Metroplex and beyond."***

ILLUSTRATION BY CHI BIRMINGHAM



The 2013 Distinguished Alumni honorees are, clockwise from top left, Herbert Beckwith '94, Arun Bhikshesvaran '95, Barbara White Bryson '84, Keith Crandell '87, Betsy Price '72, Jeffrey Leuschel '77, and JoAnn Lee '76.

## Recognizing Excellence

Gala celebrates alumni for career success, service to community

UT Arlington honored seven alumni for their professional achievements, community engagement, and loyalty to their alma mater at the 48th Annual Distinguished Alumni Gala in October.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor bestowed on alumni by the University and the Alumni Association. The 2013 honorees are Herbert Beckwith '94, Arun Bhikshesvaran '95, Barbara White Bryson '84, Keith L. Crandell '87, JoAnn Lee '76, Jeffrey Leuschel '77, and Betsy Price '72.

Beckwith is chief financial officer and senior vice president of international operations for Justin Brands. A certified public accountant, he earned a master's degree in accounting from UT Arlington while working full time for Justin and raising a family. During his 31-year career with the Fort Worth-based bootmaker, he has been instrumental in opening markets in Canada, Europe, South America, and Japan.

Bhikshesvaran is chief marketing officer for L.M. Ericsson Group. He began working for the telecommunications company soon after graduating from UT Arlington with a master's degree in electrical engineering. He became chief marketing officer in 2011 and is responsible for global marketing strategy. He serves on the Electrical Engineering Industrial Advisory Board in the UT Arlington College of Engineering.

Dr. Bryson is the associate vice president for facilities engineering and planning at Rice University, responsible for the planning, construction, and maintenance of the university's facilities, grounds, central plant, and infrastructure. She earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from UT Arlington and, in 2008, became a member of the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows.

Crandell is a co-founder and managing director of ARCH Venture Partners, a 27-year-old seed and early-stage venture capital partnership. ARCH manages \$1.5 billion in capital and focuses on core technology spinouts from universities and other U.S. research organizations. He earned a master's degree in chemistry from UT Arlington and is a member of the University's Development Board.

Lee, who earned a bachelor's degree in political science from UT Arlington, is assistant general counsel, global litigation for ExxonMobil. Her responsibilities include the oversight of a global litigation and arbitration portfolio to protect the interests of the company's shareholders. Prior to joining ExxonMobil, she was a trial attorney for Union Pacific Railroad and chief prosecutor in the Harris County District Attorney's Office.

Leuschel is a partner in the Dallas office of McCall, Parkhurst & Horton L.L.P., representing clients in municipal finance transactions in Texas and Oklahoma. He has helped numerous Texas communities structure economic development public-private partnerships, including Alliance Airport, Texas Motor Speedway, and the redevelopment of Dallas Love Field. A member of the UT Arlington Development Board, he earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University.

Price, who graduated from UT Arlington with a bachelor's degree in biology, is mayor of the city of Fort Worth. She took office in 2011 and was re-elected to a second two-year term in 2013. In addition to promoting jobs, strengthening education, fighting crime, and improving mobility, she has focused on making Fort Worth a healthy, engaged, and fiscally responsible city. Prior to becoming mayor, she served 11 years as Tarrant County's tax assessor.

## Events



### HOMECOMING 2013

Catch up with former classmates and check out what's happening on campus. Events include men's and women's Homecoming basketball games, a parade, reunions, receptions, and more. **Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 14-16.** More information: [uta.edu/homecoming](http://uta.edu/homecoming)

### 'AS IT IS IN HEAVEN'

The Theatre Arts Department presents this play about a newcomer to a religious community who claims to receive special gifts from above. Directed by Anne Healy.

**Nov. 15-16 and 21-24,** Studio Theatre. More information: [uta.edu/theatre](http://uta.edu/theatre)

### 'BOOKS AND CAROLS'

The UT Arlington Choir presents a free holiday performance and sing-along. 7:30 p.m. **Friday, Dec. 6,** Central Library sixth floor parlor. Sponsored by College Town UTA. More information: [uta.edu/library/friends/programs](http://uta.edu/library/friends/programs)



### SANJAY GUPTA

The neurosurgeon and CNN chief medical correspondent discusses "Medicine and Media" as part of the Maverick Speakers Series. 7:30 p.m. **Tuesday, March 18, 2014,** College Park Center. Tickets available Feb. 13 at [utatickets.com](http://utatickets.com). More information: [uta.edu/maverickspeakers](http://uta.edu/maverickspeakers)

## Alumni Nairobi, Kenya



**JOEL MONTGOMERY**  
To walk through Kibera, the largest slum in Nairobi, Kenya, is to conduct a delicate balancing act. The foundation is primarily waste and refuse. An open sewage system contaminates the ground with human and animal feces. This lack of sanitation is perhaps the biggest challenge for Joel Montgomery '92, '96, '00, who directs the Centers for Disease Control's Global Disease Detection and Emergency Response in Kenya and the International Emerging Infections Program. Dr. Montgomery, right, with Gates Foundation CEO Jeff Raikes, works with the local population to identify, combat, and reduce dengue fever, typhoid, and other potentially fatal diseases. He also trains Kenyan staff on public health issues. "Working with the local staff and watching them grow and mature in their field is a huge added benefit to what I do," he says. Montgomery earned his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. degrees from UT Arlington and credits his faculty mentors with helping him succeed. "I'm looking at how diseases interact with human populations and the environment, and I'm seeing the impact of my work as well. I can honestly say I wouldn't be doing what I am today without UT Arlington."



## Common Ground

Alumnus Peter Twele aids understanding between Middle Eastern, western cultures

The serpentine dirt road was carved into the side of a remote Yemeni mountain, connecting village to village. Peter Twele '88 traveled it the way the locals did, making his way through the rubble, steadily navigating treacherous curves.

While Yemen is mostly desert, the mountain regions are more temperate. Still, the people who live there were in survival mode. "It was like I was traveling back in time," he says. "Life was difficult when I was there, but things are even more difficult today."

This eye-opening experience was formative for Twele as he conducted research and immersed himself in the cultures and languages of the Middle East. A sociolinguistics course on language use in multilingual societies inspired his research.

"Many people in the world have to deal with various languages on a daily basis," he says. "The language situation in the Middle East, in particular, is fascinating and extremely complex."

After 11 years of living in the Middle East, Twele amassed abundant research and a deeper understanding of the cultures. The experiences informed his profound appreciation for Yemen and its people and fueled his memoir, *Rubbing Shoulders in Yemen*, available on amazon.com.

"In light of the Arab Spring, I wanted people to know how well I was treated by Arab Muslims in situations where they could have easily taken advantage of me. They did the opposite and unfailingly treated me with honor and respect, often going out of their way to help and encourage me."

Twele, who in the 1980s served as a linguistics teaching assistant at UT Arlington, is working on a new book, *Iraq on Their Doorstep*, about his and his wife's experiences living in Jordan before, during, and after the Gulf War.

## Strengthening the mother-daughter bond

Hugs were permitted, but they were timed.

After just a few seconds, a guard would tell Brittany Byrd, then 22, and her mother that they had to part. Each day that Brittany left her mother behind the barbed-wire prison fence, she felt a lurch in her stomach.

"Even as a young adult woman, I was greatly affected by Mother's incarceration," she says. "It was tough not having her there for holidays and birthdays. I hated that I couldn't call her every day."

During those visits, Byrd, a 2006 accounting graduate, was struck by the dynamics of the other mother-daughter relationships she observed. For the younger girls, she figured the experience was even harder.

"They have to deal with feelings of abandonment, self-esteem issues, a general sense of sadness and even resentment. Then there's this overwhelming love. No matter what crime your mother committed, at the end of the day, that's still Mama."

Three years into her mother's eight-year sentence, Byrd started a nonprofit organiza-



tion, Girls Embracing Mothers. Through character cultivation workshops and enhanced visitation sessions, GEM empowers young women with incarcerated moms to make positive life choices while helping sustain mother-daughter bonds. In early 2013 GEM announced a partnership with state women's prisons in Gatesville, Texas.

Now a lawyer at Winstead PC, Byrd recently was named Outstanding Young Lawyer by the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers. She says her relationship with her mother, who's no longer in prison, is stronger than ever. Their shared journey motivates her.

"I believe I had to experience the incarceration of my mother so that I could give back to younger girls going through the same thing," she says. "It's something I'm obligated to do, and it brings me joy."



**DIAMOND TALK** Former baseball teammates, from left, Joshua Jezek, Ryan Roberts, and Brandon Watson reconnected during UT Arlington Night With the Rangers in April at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington. Roberts, who played for the Mavericks from 2002-03, is an infielder for the Tampa Bay Rays. Jezek was a first baseman and outfielder for the Mavericks from 2000-02, and Watson was a catcher from 2001-02.

## Snapshot



**SCHOLARSHIP DINNER**  
Drew Martin '98, '00, left, and Provost Ron Elsenbaumer, right, presented Kunle Oni with the Architecture Alumni Topping Out Endowed Scholarship at the Alumni Association's annual Scholarship Dinner in August.



**PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**  
Alfred Vidaurri '79, '82, President Vistas Karbhari, and Gloria Bender '82, '88 at a reception hosted by the Alumni Association National Board in June to welcome President Karbhari to campus.



**NIGHT ON THE TOWN**  
Susan and Greg Schadt '96 at a mixer hosted by the Alumni Association in September during the annual UTA Night on the Town event.



**ALUMNI PICNIC**  
Tom Moore '75 and Ross Lucas '89 attended the Sixth Annual Alumni Picnic in the Park last spring at Doug Russell Park.

## Spotlight



### 1895 SOCIETY GALA

Amy and Kelcy Warren '78 at the annual 1895 Society celebration last spring in College Park Center. Kelcy is a 2007 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.



### BUSINESS DEAN RECEPTION

Trey Yelverton '88, Rachel Croson, and Linda Dipert '01 at a reception last spring welcoming Dr. Croson as dean of the College of Business.



### JEFF CORWIN RECEPTION

Jeff Corwin, Marsha Baylor, and Michael Baylor '70 at a reception last spring before Corwin's Maverick Speakers Series lecture. Michael is a 2007 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.



### RANKIN SOCIETY

David Meadows and Lynne Prater attended the Rankin Legacy Society luncheon in September.



## Wise Investment

Vreeland, Gatchel among those honored at endowed professor installation

Robert Gatchel knows firsthand how private philanthropic support can fuel discovery.

A foremost authority on the effects of chronic pain on the mind and body, Dr. Gatchel holds the Nancy P. and John G. Penson Endowed Professorship in Clinical Health Psychology.

"This professorship is a great honor, and it helps me conduct research in the important clinical health psychology field," he says. "It's also a great legacy because it recognizes the interest of Nancy and John Penson in this area."

The Pensons' daughter, Ann Penson Vreeland, established the professorship in 2007 to honor her parents and to support UT Arlington's Psychology Department. Dr. Vreeland was a student of Gatchel's when he taught at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

They were among the donors and faculty members recognized in April at the inaugural Endowed Chair and Professor Installation in College Park Center. UT Arlington has 41 chairs and professorships that are fully established or in process, with three more pledged through bequests. Their market value approaches \$27 million.

"Our talented and dedicated researchers and educators are thriving because of the ardent support of donors and friends who share our vision of a Tier One university," Provost Ronald Elsenbaumer says. "It's impossible to quantify the positive impact that endowed positions like these have on UT Arlington's reputation as we approach the status of a national research university."

Funding levels for endowed faculty positions range from \$250,000 for a professorship to \$3 million for a distinguished university chair. See [uta.edu/giving](http://uta.edu/giving) for information on creating an endowment.

## Simmons Foundation gives \$1 million grant

Metroplex populations in need will benefit from the Simmons Family Foundation's recent \$1 million grant to the UT Arlington School of Social Work.

The gift extends the school's Innovative Community Academic Partnership (iCAP) program to Dallas County. The program initiates, supports, and funds ideas among educators to help social service agencies develop better practices.

"The foundation is proud to support this expansion of the UT Arlington School of Social Work into the Dallas County community," says Serena Connelly '95, foundation vice president. "The iCAP program is an appealing investment because it benefits all stakeholders: providers, clients, funders, faculty, and students."

iCAP was founded in 2010 through a gift from the Amon

G. Carter Foundation to support work with Tarrant County social service agencies. Initial funding benefited Catholic Charities of Fort Worth's Common Threads program, which teaches weaving skills to Bhutanese refugees so they can become more financially stable. iCAP also assisted the Youth Offender Diversion Alternative, which helps a juvenile court reduce repeat offenders through alternative methods of dealing with misdemeanor family violence.

"We are building synergy and momentum through the success we've experienced with iCAP," says Scott Ryan, School of Social Work dean. "Support from the Simmons Family Foundation will enable us to expand the reach of this research-based program throughout North Texas and beyond."



**SUPREME COURTS** Maverick athletes are now honing their volleyball and basketball skills on the Carrizo Oil & Gas College Park Center Practice Facility. The University named the area—which features two regulation basketball courts—for the Houston-based energy company to recognize the firm's \$5 million commitment to College Park Center. The 7,000-seat events venue opened in February 2012 and anchors UT Arlington's College Park District, a 20-acre residential and retail development. Carrizo, which initially developed the University's natural gas resources, also donated \$1 million to establish a graduate research fellowship and \$1.12 million for construction of the YWCA Arlington Child Development Center on campus.

## African Art Giving



### JONATHAN CAMPBELL AND TANYA DOWDEY

When noted herpetologist Jonathan Campbell's work takes him to remote Guatemalan jungles or the heart of Africa, he typically brings something back. Often the treasures are animal specimens that find their way into UT Arlington's Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center. But sometimes they're gorgeous works of art. Over the years, he and his wife, Tanya Dowdey '88, have amassed quite a collection. "We have several pieces from New Guinea and South America, but the focus has remained on Guatemala and Africa," says Dr. Campbell, chair of the Biology Department. "We have purchased from dealers, but the pieces I have picked up at the end of the road in some remote region are especially meaningful." The couple have donated a large portion of their African art collection to the College of Liberal Arts. The works are on display in the Fine Arts Building. Eventually, they plan to give all of their African art collection to UT Arlington. "This art has brought years of enjoyment to us," Campbell says. "We are very pleased to pass it on for a great many others to enjoy, essentially in perpetuity." WEB EXTRA: Watch a video at [uta.edu/utamagazine](http://uta.edu/utamagazine).

# Class Notes

**1971**  
**Kristy Libotte Keener** (BFA, Art) won a Gold Hermes Creative Award for graphic design for a nature postcard/poster in May. She is graphic design coordinator at the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

**1973**  
**Molly Bogen** (MSSW) received the Nonprofit Communicator of the Year Award from the Center for Nonprofit Management. She is executive director of the Senior Source in Dallas. **Charles Zollars** (BS, Mechanical Engineering) is manager of Bradshaw & Associates, a firm of professional engineers in Abilene.

**1977**  
**Mike Farris** (BA, Political Science) appears in the movie *Infiltrators* to be released later this year. A counsel attorney for Vincent Lopez Serafino Jenevein in Dallas, he has published four novels and has other works in progress. **Mojoy Haddad** ('77 BS, Architecture; '81 MArch, Architecture; '81 MCRP, City and Regional Planning) joined the North Texas Tollway Authority board in February. His term continues through August 2014. He has been president of CHS Architects in Arlington since the company was founded in 1984. **Randy Landers** (BS, Architecture) is director of business development for Speed Fab-Crete, a design-build construction and manufacturing firm in Fort Worth. Previously he was portfolio manager/architect for the Department of Homeland Security in the immigration and customs enforcement program. **Sam Sibert** (BA, Physical Education) is founder and president of S.L. Sibert Management and Construction Co. in Fort Worth. In February the company partnered with the African American Environmentalist Association to pursue pipeline construction

contracts and pipeline ownership opportunities.

**1978**  
**Michael B. Reid** (BS, Biology) is dean of the College of Health and Human Performance at the University of Florida. Previously he was professor and chair of physiology at the University of Kentucky. He also has held faculty positions at Harvard University and Baylor College of Medicine.

**1979**  
**Geoffrey Clarke** (BA, Russian) was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to a six-year term on the Texas Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists, which regulates the practice of medical physics in Texas. Dr. Clarke is an associate professor in the Department of Radiology at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio.

**1980**  
**George Desjardins** (MA, Linguistics) has written *When God Shows Up: God's Appointed Times*. He is the secretary of CORE, a creationist organization in Ottawa, and holds pastor's credentials with the Evangelical Church Alliance Ministerial Fellowship of Canada. **Charles E. Lambert** (BBA, Accounting) received the UT Arlington College of Business Alumni Award for Renowned Career Achievement in March. He is a senior partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Fort Worth and the longest-tenured member of the College of Business Advisory Council. **Presley Swagerty** (BA, History) wrote *Millionaire by Half-Time* about personal growth and network marketing. Known as "The Coach," he is a motivational speaker. **Larry Watson** ('80 MSSW; '07 PhD, Urban and Public Affairs) has begun a two-year term as president of the Texas chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

He is an assistant professor in the UT Arlington School of Social Work.

**1982**  
**Richard Tettamant** (MBA, Business Administration) marked his 20th year as administrator of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System.

**1984**  
**Rex Peebles** (MA, Political Science) is vice president of instruction at Midland College, where he has worked since 2005. Previously he was dean of social and behavioral sciences at Austin Community College. **Bryan Reed** (MPA, Professional Accounting) is chief financial officer for Ocean Canyon Properties, a privately owned membership camping resort company based in Texarkana, Texas.

**1985**  
**Norry Niven** (BA, Communication) directed his first feature film, *Chasing Shakespeare*. Starring Danny Glover, the movie was released in April. Niven has production companies in Texas (Stone Core Films) and Los Angeles (Three-One-O) and has directed award-winning spots for clients like Gatorade, McDonald's, Ford, HBO, and PetSmart. He received awards for his work on the TV series *Dexter*. **Lou Diamond Phillips** (BFA, Drama) received the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award at the White Sands International Film Festival in Mesilla, N.M., in August. The actor, director, writer, and producer is a UT Arlington Distinguished Alumnus.

**1986**  
**Robbie Helmich Henson** (MSN, Nursing) is the Lawrence C. and Marion V. Harris Chair of Nursing at Oklahoma Baptist University. She taught at UT Arlington before joining OBU, where she teaches in the graduate and undergraduate nursing programs.

**1987**  
**Phillip Reklai** (BA, Political Science) was elected senator for the island country of Palau in the South Pacific. **David Roberts** (BBA, Real Estate) is president of the Clear Fork Group, a Fort Worth-based management consulting business. Previously he was vice president of channel strategy for CA Technologies in Plano. **Ken Robinson** (BBA, Accounting) is vice president and chief risk officer at Calpine Corp., a Houston-based electricity and power producer. Previously he was chief risk officer for BP North American Gas and Power in Houston. **Brian Tompkins** ('87 BBA, Marketing; '12 Executive MBA) is sales director in the retail division of VTech Communications.

**1989**  
**Jonathan Beard** (MSSW) is president of the National Association of Social Workers-Washington State Chapter. He is an independent contractor for Progressive Strategies in Seattle and a part-time lecturer at the University of Washington.

**1990**  
**Tim McGaha** ('90 BS, '93 MS, Aerospace Engineering) maintains a blog, Tim's Thoughtful Spot.

**1991**  
**Steve Hatch** (BA, Journalism) is director of golf operations at Horseshoe Bay Resort near Marble Falls in the Texas Hill Country. A former member of the UT Arlington golf team, he previously managed the St. James Bay Golf Resort in Carrabelle, Fla. **Craig Lancaster** (BA, Journalism) is leader of the news and sports copy desks at *The Billings Gazette* in Billings, Mont. He has written three novels and a collection of short stories.

**1992**  
**Ed Crowe** (BBA, Management) is senior resident inspector for Duke Energy's

Oconee nuclear power plant near Seneca, S.C. Previously he was senior resident inspector at the Farley nuclear plant in Alabama. He was an instructor at the Comanche Peak plant in Texas for 11 years. **Joel Ivy** (BS, Electrical Engineering) is general manager of Lakeland Electric in Lakeland, Fla. **Jeanne A. Smith** (BBA, Accounting) received the UT Arlington College of Business Dean's Award for Extraordinary Service in March. She is a partner for tax and strategic business services at Weaver LLP, a Fort Worth-based accounting firm.

**1993**  
**Doug Cassidy** (MBA, Business Administration) is senior vice president and commercial lending manager for OmniAmerican Bank in Fort Worth. **Derrick Kinney** (BA, Speech) works with local schools to reward educational excellence. Since beginning a recognition program in 2000, he has awarded more than 140 certificates and financial gifts to students and teachers. He is principal of Derrick Kinney & Associates, an Arlington-based financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services. **Melanie Mason** (BFA, Theatre Arts) in April directed the regional premiere of the family comedy *Freckleface Strawberry: The Musical* for the Creative Arts Theatre and School in Arlington.

**1995**  
**Derek B. McKaskle** (BS, Biology) is a dentist and operates McKaskle Family Dentistry in Katy.

**1997**  
**Bret Jimerson** (BS, Interdisciplinary Studies) is superintendent for the Burleson Independent School District. Previously he was superintendent for the Willis ISD. **Rebekah Mercer** (BA, English) is a lecturer in English and communications

at the Tarrant County College Northeast campus. She is also a senior writer for PokerStars-Women.com.

**1998**  
**Jeannie Deakynne** ('98 BA, '11 MA, Political Science) received the President's Award from the Association of Junior Leagues International for her achievements in member recruitment and retention. She is manager of learning and development in UT Arlington's Office of Human Resources. **Shawn Hawkins** (BBA, Accounting) is a tax senior at Weaver LLP in Dallas. Previously she was a tax manager at Hanner & Associates in Bedford. **Cindy Juby** ('98 BSW; '99 MSSW; '05 PhD, Social Work) is interim department head of the MSW program and assistant professor of social work at the University of Northern Iowa. **Ashley Adams McKee** (BA, Psychology) was named to the school board for the Eustace Independent School District in May. She practices law in Henderson and surrounding counties with a focus on family law and representing abused and neglected children. **Johnny Orteztibbels** (BA, Journalism) is an accountant for Funny Boy Films, a Los Angeles-based production company. He also specializes in dachshund photography. He is a former member of *The Shorthorn* staff at UT Arlington. **Brian Riley** (BBA, Management) is chief of the Colleyville Fire Department. He was assistant chief for fire administration in the Arlington Fire Department, serving there since 1998. He was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society at UT Arlington.

**2002**  
**Nafees Alam** (BS, Information Systems) received the UT Arlington College of Business Alumni Award for Outstanding Early Career Achievement in March. He is vice president of DRG Concepts, an assortment of high-quality restaurants in Dallas. The company has developed and opened Chop House Burger, Dallas Chop House, Dallas Fish Market, Wild Salsa, and Urban Wok while creating more than 175 jobs. **LaKesha Drinks** (BBA, Management) is principal of the new Janis Guerrero-Thompson Elementary School in the Austin Independent School District. Previously she was principal at Becker Elementary School

**1999**  
**Paige Murphy** (BS, Interior Design) was promoted to vice president at Corgan Associates, a Dallas-based archi-

tecture firm. She has worked for the company for eight years. **Jo Ann Coe Regan** (PhD, Social Work) is director of the Office of Social Work Accreditation in Alexandria, Va. Previously she worked at the Council on Social Work Education as an accreditation specialist and was on the faculties at the University of South Carolina, University of Hawaii, and Cal State Long Beach.

**2000**  
**Casey Donahew** (BBA, Finance) released a new CD, *Standoff*, in April with his group, the Casey Donahew Band.

**2001**  
**Kaleb Canales** (BA, Kinesiology) is an assistant coach for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. Previously he was an assistant coach and interim head coach for the Portland Trail Blazers. He will coordinate the offense for the Mavericks. **Steven A. Chapman** (MED, Educational Administration) is superintendent of the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District. Previously he was deputy superintendent of educational operations at HEB.

**2002**  
**Nafees Alam** (BS, Information Systems) received the UT Arlington College of Business Alumni Award for Outstanding Early Career Achievement in March. He is vice president of DRG Concepts, an assortment of high-quality restaurants in Dallas. The company has developed and opened Chop House Burger, Dallas Chop House, Dallas Fish Market, Wild Salsa, and Urban Wok while creating more than 175 jobs. **LaKesha Drinks** (BBA, Management) is principal of the new Janis Guerrero-Thompson Elementary School in the Austin Independent School District. Previously she was principal at Becker Elementary School

in Austin. **William Erwin** (MArch) is an associate with Ford Nassen & Baldwin, an Austin-based construction law firm. He focuses on preparing contract documents and counseling clients on business and legal issues involving construction projects. **Toni Holland** ('02 MA, '11 PhD, English) had a dissertation selected by the Library of Congress Web Guide as a reference for U.S. Poets Laureate. She is a lecturer in the UT Arlington Department of English and has studied poets laureate in the United States and Canada. **Gwen Hollis Perkins** (MED, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is director of professional personnel for the Denton Independent School District. Previously she was principal at Crownover Middle School in Denton. **William Schweinle** (PhD, General Experimental Psychology) received the Outstanding Faculty Award for Research Achievement at the University of South Dakota. He is an assistant professor of physician assistant studies in the USD School of Health Sciences.

**2003**  
**Tracy Autem** (BFA, Photography) is president and founder of Lightly Photography and Tracy Autem Photography in Fort Worth. Her team specializes in wedding and portrait work. **Kim Barker** (MED, Education in Curriculum and Instruction) is principal at Tidwell Middle School in Roanoke in the Northwest Independent School District. Previously she was associate principal at Northwest High School and also worked in the Victoria and Decatur school districts. **David Bond** (BBA, Accounting) is manager of marketing support for the fuel surcharge division at BNSF Railway Co. after previously serving as a manager in revenue accounting for BNSF. **David DeGrand** (BFA, Art) is a freelance cartoonist, writer,

and illustrator. His work has appeared in *MAD Magazine* since 2011, and he has been drawing and writing for Unitel Plankton Pictures' *SpongeBob Comics* for the past two years. Also a contributor to *Heeby Jeeby Comix*, he was a member of *The Shorthorn* staff at UT Arlington. **Beth Francesco** (BA, Journalism) took over as director of Student Publications at UT Arlington in August. Previously she was adviser and assistant director of Student Publications. **Rachel Proctor** (BA, Interdisciplinary Studies) was elected to the DeSoto City Council in March. She is the owner and administrative director of the Neighborhood Christian Learning Center of Dallas. **Dallas Taylor** (BM, Music Media) was the supervising sound editor and re-recording mixer on the film *Blood Brother*, which won the Audience Award and the Grand Jury Prize for U.S. documentaries at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. He owns Defacto Sound, a post-audio company in Silver Spring, Md. **Brian Von Hatten** (BA, Interdisciplinary Studies) is an associate attorney for Scott & Scott LLP, an intellectual property and technology law firm in Southlake. He represents large- and mid-market organizations on matters related to transactions, software licensing, and disputes.

**2004**  
**Hashem Assadullahi** (BM, Music Education) is a saxophonist, bandleader, and music educator in New York City. His latest album, *Pieces*, features works from his sextet. **Matthew Caldwell** (MS, Health Care Administration) is chief executive officer at University Medical Center in Lebanon, Tenn. Previously he was CEO at Dallas Regional Medical Center. **Louwanda Evans** ('04 BA, '06 MA, Sociology) is a visiting assistant professor of sociology at Mill-

# Notable



**ANTHONY "ANGELO" MCCLAIN**  
 McClain ('81 MSSW) is chief executive officer of the 140,000-member National Association of Social Workers in Washington, D.C. He previously was commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families.

**WILLIE HERNANDEZ**  
 Hernandez ('96 BS, Mechanical Engineering) is a 2013 inductee into the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Intercollegiate Division Hall of Fame. A Movin' Mavs player from 1991-95, he founded and operates Per4Max Medical, one of the world's largest sport wheelchair companies.



**HEATHER L. REYNOLDS**  
 Reynolds ('02 MSSW) received the Nonprofit CEO of the Year Award from the Center for Nonprofit Management. She is CEO of the Catholic Charities Diocese in Fort Worth.

**RAMONA SOTO**  
 Soto ('02 BA, Political Science) was selected to *Texas Monthly's* Texas Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" list, which honors top attorneys age 40 or younger. An associate at Vincent Lopez Serafino & Jenevein in Dallas, she focuses on the prosecution and defense of small and large public and private sector clients.

# Briefly

### MASTERS GOLF RAFFLE

Win a trip for four to the 2014 Masters Golf Tournament on April 12-13 in Augusta, Ga. The Alumni Association is hosting a raffle for \$100 per ticket, and only 600 tickets will be sold. The winner receives four tournament passes for the Saturday and Sunday rounds, hospitality passes, and accommodations and chef-prepared dinners at the Executive Home near Augusta National Golf Club. The drawing will be held at the Nov. 15 men’s basketball Homecoming game, and the winner does not have to be present to claim the prize. Visit [utaaa.mastersgolfprize.com](http://utaaa.mastersgolfprize.com) for more information and to buy tickets.



### DAZZLING DEGREES

Display your UT Arlington diploma in style. In partnership with Churchill Classics, the Alumni Association offers more than a dozen framing options for the sheepskin you worked so hard to earn. You can even customize your frame. Alumni Association members receive a 10 percent discount on frames. Visit [utaalumni.org](http://utaalumni.org) and click on “Shop” to make your selection.

### CONNECT ONLINE

The Alumni Association website works seamlessly with social networking platforms, allowing you to link Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter member pages to your profile page. It also features a Career Center and a tool to find former classmates. Visit [utaalumni.org](http://utaalumni.org) and click on “First-Time Login” to create a personal, password-protected member profile.

saps College in Jackson, Miss. **Sam Nix** (BA, History) is principal at Seguin High School in Arlington. Previously he was principal at Arlington’s Carter Junior High. **Ronnie Parsons** (BS, Architecture) is a founding partner of Mode Collective, a multidisciplinary design studio based in New York City. **Annie Walker Saunders** (BBA, Finance) wrote an autobiography, *Finding Annie: My Journey of Overcoming Obstacles*, about dealing with abusive situations. She lives in Washington, D.C. **Roseann Sears** (BBA, Management) received the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal from the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in April for saving seven people’s lives in an apartment fire and directing others to safety in Bedford in 2011. She is an officer in the Trophy Club Police Department. **Cara Kristen West** (BA, Journalism) is public relations manager at Peterbilt Motors, a Denton-based truck manufacturing company.

## 2005

**Amber Bartlett** (BA, Broadcast Communication) played both Becky and Jill Sutter in season two of *Dallas* during the spring. Bartlett has worked in national commercials for Walmart, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Subway, Regus, and Church’s Chicken. Her first feature film, *Beneath the Darkness*, was released in 2012. **Hetal Bhatt** (MS, Civil Engineering) is a traffic engineer for the city of Arlington. **Carlos Donjuan** (BFA, Art) was selected to paint Dallas city-funded murals to brighten retaining walls beneath the Jefferson Boulevard bridge’s Zang and Marsalis entry/exit ways in Oak Cliff. He is a lecturer in art and art history at UT Arlington. **Julie Harcrow** (MED, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Nicholls Junior High School in Arlington. Previously she was principal at

Arlington’s Ditto Elementary School. **Natalie Lukomski** (’05 BS, Microbiology; ’08 MS, Biology) is a microbiologist/chemist at MicroChem Laboratory in Euless. She performs tests for disinfectant and antimicrobial efficacy for companies around the world. **Cory Summers** (BBA, Finance) is a certified financial planner for the Corpus Christi Financial Group. **David Walls** (MBA, Business Administration) is operations director for Texas Values, an Austin-based organization dedicated to preserving and advancing faith, family, and freedom in Texas. **C.C. Winkler** (MARCH) is marketing manager in the Dallas office of the Urban Design Group architectural firm.

## 2006

**Sastra Bour** (’06 BA, ’10 MA, Sociology; ’11 MSSW) is the refugee resettlement supervisor for Refugee Services of Texas in Dallas. **Kimberly Buckhalton** (MED, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Trinity Springs Middle School in the Keller Independent School District. Previously she was an assistant principal at Timber Creek High School in Keller. **Kevin Ghassemi** (BBA, Management) is sales manager in the industrial products division of BNSF Railway Co. **Michael A. Hill** (MED, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is assistant superintendent of administration in the Arlington Independent School District. Previously he was principal at Arlington’s Seguin High School. **Kyle Knight** (BBA, Marketing) received his Ph.D. in sociology from Washington State University and is assistant professor of sociology at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. **Ashley Purgason** (’06 BS, ’07 MS, Biology) is working toward a Ph.D. in environmental toxicology at the UT Medical Branch at Galveston. She conducts research on the dangers of the

space radiation environment and its effects on the health of astronauts in long-duration missions beyond low-Earth orbit. During the past year, she served as a student regent on the UT System Board of Regents. **Becky Wilder** (MED, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Ridgeview Elementary School in the Keller Independent School District. For the past five years, she served as an assistant principal at Chisholm Trail Intermediate and Bette Perot Elementary schools in Keller.

## 2007

**Brandy Austin** (BA, Criminal Justice and Criminology) is director of marketing and business development for Cantey Hanger LLP, a Fort Worth-based law firm. **Heather Champeau** (’07 BA, Anthropology; ’10 MA, Sociology) was admitted to the Ph.D. program in sociology at the University of Colorado Boulder. She will specialize in qualitative and interpretive design. **Shea Maloney** (BA, Anthropology) is a cartographic specialist and technician for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, an agency within the Department of Agriculture. **Adam Myers** (BS, Civil Engineering) is a co-founder of Martin House Brewing Co., which opened in May in Fort Worth. **Jiusheng Xu** (Executive MBA) founded Jerrymart E-commerce Limited, a company in China focused on niche products and services by customization.

## 2008

**Ben Berriche** (Executive MBA) is president of TheSix-SigmaWay, a Dallas-based provider of training and consulting solutions for professionals and organizations. **Matt Grevan** (BFA, Theatre Arts) attends the University of Illinois as an MFA in stage management candidate. Previously he was the stage

management apprentice at Dallas Theater Center, working on such projects as *Giant*, *The Second City Does Giant*, *Fly By Night*, and *Fly*. **Catherine E. Hyde** (MSSW) is a renal social worker with DaVita, a dialysis provider, in Irving. **Sheila Shimmick** (MED, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Colleyville Elementary School in the Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District. Previously she was an assistant principal at Heritage Elementary School in Grapevine. **John Terrell** (Executive MBA) is mayor of Southlake and vice president of commercial development for the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

## 2009

**Bill Bailey** (Executive MBA) is sales director for the Shale Oil & Gas Wastewater Recycling Systems at ThermoEnergy Corp. Previously he was regional sales manager at Caldwell Tanks. **Travis Carrigan** (’09 BS, ’11 MS, Aerospace Engineering) is a senior engineer at Pointwise, a Fort Worth-based service provider for computational fluid dynamics engineers. He teaches short courses for the Pointwise user group. **Brian Fontenot** (PhD, Quantitative Biology) reported on a study that found elevated levels of arsenic and other heavy metals in groundwater near natural gas fracking sites in Texas’ Barnett Shale. The piece originally appeared at ProPublica, an online investigative journalism organization. Dr. Fontenot is a scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas. **Matt Hollis** (’09 BBA and MS, Accounting) is a senior accountant at JP Energy Partners in Irving. **Elizabeth McWithey** (BA, Theatre Arts) received the Applebee’s Teacher of the Month award for January 2013 at Union Grove Middle School in the Killeen Independent

School District. She also serves as production stage manager at Tablerock Theater in Salado. **Benjamin Pylant** (Cohort MBA) was named Young Engineer of the Year by the Fort Worth chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. The award goes to individuals under 34 years old who exhibit outstanding contributions to public welfare and advance the engineering profession. He is an engineer at Halff Associates, a full-service engineering firm in Fort Worth. **Elaine Shields** (MS, Health Care Administration) is vice president of quality management at Plaza Medical Center in Fort Worth. **Chris Vick** (MPA, Professional Accounting) is an information technology auditor at the Defense Contract Audit Agency office in Arlington.

## 2010

**Cosheda Hurd** (MED, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Carver Elementary School in Lancaster. Previously she was a master teacher for mathematics, science, and electives at the Carver Sixth Grade Learning Center in Lancaster. **Kathryn Bacsik Korman** (BS, Interdisciplinary Studies) is a fourth-grade teacher in the Mansfield Independent School District.

## 2011

**Reyna Cavazos** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is morning news editor and assistant traffic and weather anchor at Univision Dallas. **Jared Chism** (BA, Public Relations) is a senior social media strategist with J.C. Penney. **Justin Ginsberg** (MFA, Art) was accepted into the 2013 *New Glass Review*, an international publication by the Corning Museum of Glass. More than 3,000 works from 48 countries were submitted, with only the top 100 entries selected. He is an adjunct professor in the Department of Art and Art History at UT

Arlington. **Josh Greenlee** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a weekend disc jockey for 95.9 FM The Ranch in Fort Worth. **Kaitlin Kelsey-Hennessy** (BA, Public Relations, Art and Art History) is an event rental coordinator at McNay Art Museum in San Antonio. **Heinz Schwarzkopf** (BS, Biology) finished second in the men’s division of Fort Worth’s Cowtown Marathon in February. He is a medical student at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. He ran track and cross country at UT Arlington. **Sheradon Waits** (MSN, Nursing Practitioner) is a nurse practitioner at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas. **Paul Windle** (BFA, Art) was named to the 2012 ADC Young Guns by the Art Directors Club of New York for his portfolio of work.

## 2012

**Blaire Beaty** (MED, Education in Curriculum and Instruction-Math) is the learning coordinator for Advancement Via Individual Determination in the Keller Independent School District. Previously she was the AVID site coordinator and an assistant volleyball coach at Fossil Ridge High School. **Alison Cohn** (BA, Advertising) was selected for the Teach for America program and will teach English in Miami. **Benna Combs** (BA, Public Relations) is a junior associate for social public relations at More Cabbage, a social media marketing and PR agency in Cedar Hill. **Dustin Dangli** (BA, Journalism) is a reporter for the *Star-Telegram*. He was editor-in-chief of *The Shorthorn* for fall 2012. **Claire Dunn** (BA, Advertising) is a junior account manager at Concussion, a Fort Worth-based marketing communications company. **Nicole Durham** (BA, Public Relations and Advertising) is a marketing specialist at FilesAnywhere, a Dallas-based online file storage company. **Jose D.**

**Enriquez** (BA, Journalism) is a reporter for the *Beaumont Enterprise*. He was a member of *The Shorthorn* staff while at UT Arlington. **Frankie Farrar-Helm** (BA, Public Relations) is a public relations/communications representative at Sellmark, a developer of brands and products for outdoor lifestyle markets, in Mansfield. **Stefani Goode** (MA, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) is an English instructor in the Department of English and Foreign Languages at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla. **Bradley Henderson** (Executive MBA) is CEO of Crescent Medical Center in Abilene. **Tyler Hickey** (MPA, Professional Accounting) is a staff accountant at Colliers International. **Brittany Ingram** (BFA, Art) had her film *Filmer* featured in the Dallas International Film Festival in April. **Chloe Jamerson** (BA, Public Relations) is working in brand public relations at the Richards Group in Dallas. **Russell Johnson** (BA, Advertising) works with the research team at Marketing Arm, an advertising and marketing firm in Dallas. **Sir Jones** (BA, Public Relations) is a recruiter for Focus Staff, a Dallas-based agency that links health care professionals with available positions. **Courtney Keeper** (’02 BM, Music; ’12 MBA, Business Administration) is an accountant at Variosystems, a worldwide electronic contract manufacturer with a local office in Southlake. **Kristina Kopplin** (BA, Public Relations) is an interactive producer at Social Compass, a social media marketing agency. **Ashley Macdonald** (BA, Public Relations) is an intern for U.S. Rep. Joe Barton of Texas in his Washington, D.C., office. **Rino Manfroni** (BBA, Accounting) is a tax assistant at Jack F. Lewis CPA in Dallas. **Chris Mead** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a video production intern for the Oakland Athletics

and is pursuing a master’s degree at San Francisco State University. **Monica Mirea** (MPA, Professional Accounting) is an audit associate at Whitley Penn. Previously she worked in general accounting for Cristina’s Fine Mexican Restaurant. **Christine Nicholson** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a morning reporter at KXII-TV in Sherman. **Alexandra Pietroforte** (BA, Public Relations) works for the Downtown Arlington Management Corp. **Jarrad Principe** (BBA, Accounting) is controller at Olympus Property Management in Pantego. Previously he was an auditor at the Defense Contract Audit Agency office in Arlington. **Andrew Pudduck** (Executive MBA) is vice president of marketing for Hooters of America, which operates more than 430 Hooters restaurants in about 40 states and more than 25 other countries. **Hamidullah Qeyam** (MA, Sociology) has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Indiana University. **Karen Ramirez** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a production assistant for Telemundo KXTX-TV in Dallas. **Magdalena Salamon** (BA, Russian) is an upstream energy analyst for Hart Energy in Houston. She studies oil shale in the United States and serves as an analyst for European and Russian energy ventures. **Vasu Sampath** (Executive MBA) is an enterprise solutions architect for DocuSign, a provider of electronic signature technology. **Priscilla Sanchez** (BA, Public Relations) is a public relations specialist at Concussion, a Fort Worth-based marketing communications company. **Christal Simanki** (BA, Philosophy and Political Science) is in her first year in the political science master’s program at the University of California, San Diego. Last year she was a State Department intern at the

U.S. Embassy at the Holy See in Vatican City. This summer she was an intern with the U.S. Pacific Command’s Student Volunteer Intern Program in Hawaii. **Verica Todorovic** (BA, Political Science) will tour the world during graduate school through Washington University in St. Louis. She will study in London, Vienna, The Hague, Geneva, and Thailand. **Taylor Elizabeth Tomlin** (MBA, Business Administration) is a product marketing specialist at Periscope Holdings, an Austin-based firm that works with public entities and private companies concerning procurement. **Zachary Zielinski** (BA, Public Relations) is an information technology specialist with XTO Energy.

## 2013

**Razan Akkad** (BA, Communication Studies) is a liability claims researcher for Geico Insurance in Dallas. **Aimee Bissett** (MPA, Public Administration) is director of economic development for the city of Denton. Previously she was program manager and executive director of Keep Denton Beautiful. She also served as development director for the Citizens Development Center in Denton. **Mary Faye Hanson-Evans** (MA, Sociology) has been admitted to the sociology Ph.D. program at the University of North Texas. **Daniel Kotara** (MED, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is assistant principal at Borger Middle School in Borger. **Kelsey Pettit** (BA, Linguistics) has been accepted to the theoretical linguistics Ph.D. program at Georgetown University. **Carolyn Ruiz** (BA, Political Science) is pursuing a law degree at Harvard Law School. **Emily Waddle** (MA, Linguistics) received a fellowship to begin work this fall on her Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Iowa.

## In Memoriam

### 1960s

**Jerry D. Haptonstall** ('64 BBA, Business Administration), 81, April 21 in Fayetteville, Ark. Mr. Haptonstall was a warranted contracting officer for NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. **Olin Randall Heifner** ('69 BBA, Business Administration), 66, March 3 in Dallas. Mr. Heifner retired as a senior corporal in the Dallas Police Department in 2002 after 28 years of service. He served in various positions, from patrol officer to detective, and received numerous awards. **Sidney Gordon Ramsey** ('69 BBA, Business Administration), 67, Jan. 1 in Arlington. Mr. Ramsey started Ramsey Realty and expanded it into the RAMCO Development Corp. He later became an independent oil producer, retiring in 2012.

### 1970s

**Frank John Jacob** ('70 BS, Civil Engineering), 67, April 3 in Sherman. Mr. Jacob was superintendent of water production for the city of Sherman, retiring in 2001 after 30 years. He went on to operate Starr Water Supply in Denison for six years. **Kaya Cibildak** ('72 MS, Mechanical Engineering), 77, Feb. 5 in San Antonio. Mr. Cibildak was a design engineer on the Boeing supersonic transport project. He specialized in energy conservation while working for the federal government at Fort Sam Houston. **John M. Forbes** ('73 BBA, Business Administration), 76, Feb. 20 in Arlington. Mr. Forbes was a retired justice of the peace in Tarrant County Precinct 2. He was a past president of the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas and served for many years as an instructor in the justice court training program. **Arthur L. Slye Jr.** ('73 BA, Communication), 81, Feb. 2 in Kerrville. The Rev. Slye served as senior minister for three Methodist churches over 25 years. He

became a district superintendent and was elected the founding general superintendent of Bethel Methodist Church, serving there 14 years. **Steve Edwin Reed** ('74 BA, Psychology), 62, Feb. 21 in Fort Worth. Mr. Reed was a lifelong salesman, initially selling commercial printing equipment before shifting to real estate. He established his own firm in Arlington, Steve Reed Real Estate, and later formed Southland Records. **Randall Cross Stegall** ('76 BA, English), 59, Feb. 27 in Keller. A real estate attorney in Tarrant County, Mr. Stegall operated Stegall & Sewell PC. He was president of four of the largest title companies in the Fort Worth-Dallas area and was general counsel for Safeco Land Title.

### 1980s

**Barbara Ann Brown** ('80 MS, Interdisciplinary Studies), 66, March 26 in Arlington. Ms. Brown taught math and physics at Arlington High School from 1979-2010. She was honored as Secondary School Teacher of the Year by both the Aware Foundation and the Arlington Kiwanis Club. **Deborah L. Modders** ('80 BSN, Nursing), 61, Feb. 28 in Burleson. Ms. Modders was a registered nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Fort Worth's Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital, where she worked for 32 years. **Donald Manning** ('83 MA, Urban Affairs), 76, March 4 in Niceville, Fla. Mr. Manning was city manager in the Texas cities of Sweetwater, Alvin, Palacios, and Athens, as well as in Chanute, Kan. **Jean Colleen McWilliams** ('86 BSN, Nursing), 84, Jan. 9 in Fairfield. Ms. McWilliams worked at MD Anderson and Methodist hospitals in Houston. She set up the first aid departments in the Astrodome and Leon County Hospital. **Jack Steele Jr.** ('86 MA, English), 68, March 8 in Marstons Mills, Mass. Mr. Steele taught at

UT Arlington and Southern Methodist University. He wrote *Other Sides: A Journey Without Maps* and received a National Endowment for the Arts grant for fiction writing. **Ernest Dwight Moore** ('89 BBA, Marketing), 56, Jan. 24 in Burleson. Mr. Moore taught high school computer science in the Arlington Independent School District. He also sponsored the robotics club and taught guitar lessons.

### 1990s

**Edward Kirk Whisman** ('90 MPA, Accounting), 67, Jan. 3 in Fort Worth. Mr. Whisman was a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. He served as a navigator in Taiwan during the Vietnam War and retired from Carswell Air Force Base in 1991. After completing his master's degree, he began a second career as a pilot planner with American Airlines. **Dale N. Will** ('91 BS, Computer Science Engineering), 54, March 1 in Arlington. Mr. Will was a director for Sandlot Solutions and a partner at Santa Rosa Consulting. He developed a patent while working for Cognosante. **Connie Lee Penny** ('94 BSN, Nursing), 69, March 15 in Fort Worth. Ms. Penny enjoyed a 32-year nursing career. Her last position was as a home health nurse for the Visiting Nurse Association. **Pamela Hsiu Lo Day** ('97 MEd, Education in Teaching), 62, April 7 in Fort Worth. Ms. Day was principal at Charles E. Nash Elementary School in Fort Worth for the past 13 years. Previously she was principal at Sam Rosen Elementary School in Fort Worth. **Jennifer Marie Murphy Martz** ('97 MS, Social Work), 40, Feb. 28 in Fort Worth. Ms. Martz was a caseworker for Cardiovascular Homecare from 2001-11. She also taught in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District, where she was named Substitute of the Year. **Teresa J. Earp** ('98 BBA, Finance; '99 MBA, Business

Administration), 56, Jan. 23 in Euless. Ms. Earp worked for Tandy Corp. and at Color Tile for 20 years until it closed. She then returned to college, earning two degrees. She was a lecturer in the UT Arlington Department of Finance and Real Estate from 2004-08.

### 2000s

**Freddie Charles Ferrell** ('03 MSSW), 58, March 21 in Abilene. After serving 20 years in the Air Force, Mr. Ferrell earned a master's degree and was a social worker for the state of Texas for 10 years. **John Robert Urban** ('06 Cohort MBA), 64, Feb. 21 in Fort Worth. Mr. Urban taught in Shreveport, La., schools and had a 20-year career in sales before receiving his cohort MBA. He was a corporate trainer until his retirement in 2012.

### 2010s

**Derek Main** ('05 MS, Geology; '13 PhD, Environmental and Earth Science), 41, June 4 in Dallas. Dr. Main was director of the Arlington Archosaur Site and taught at UT Arlington, North Lake College, and Tarrant County College.

### Faculty and Staff

**Joseph Rosenstein**, 93, May 3 in Dallas. A professor emeritus, Dr. Rosenstein was an executive at Pollock Paper Co. before becoming an assistant professor in the Management Department. He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Chicago, where he earned three degrees. **Harry Stephanou**, 62, March 28 in Arlington. Dr. Stephanou was director of the Automation and Robotics Research Institute from 2004-12. **Norman L. Weaver**, 76, Jan. 8 in Fort Worth. Mr. Weaver began at Arlington State College (now UT Arlington) in 1965 and was director of information technology when he retired in 2000. See more *In Memoriam* at [uta.edu/uta-magazine/in-memoriam](http://uta.edu/uta-magazine/in-memoriam).



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