

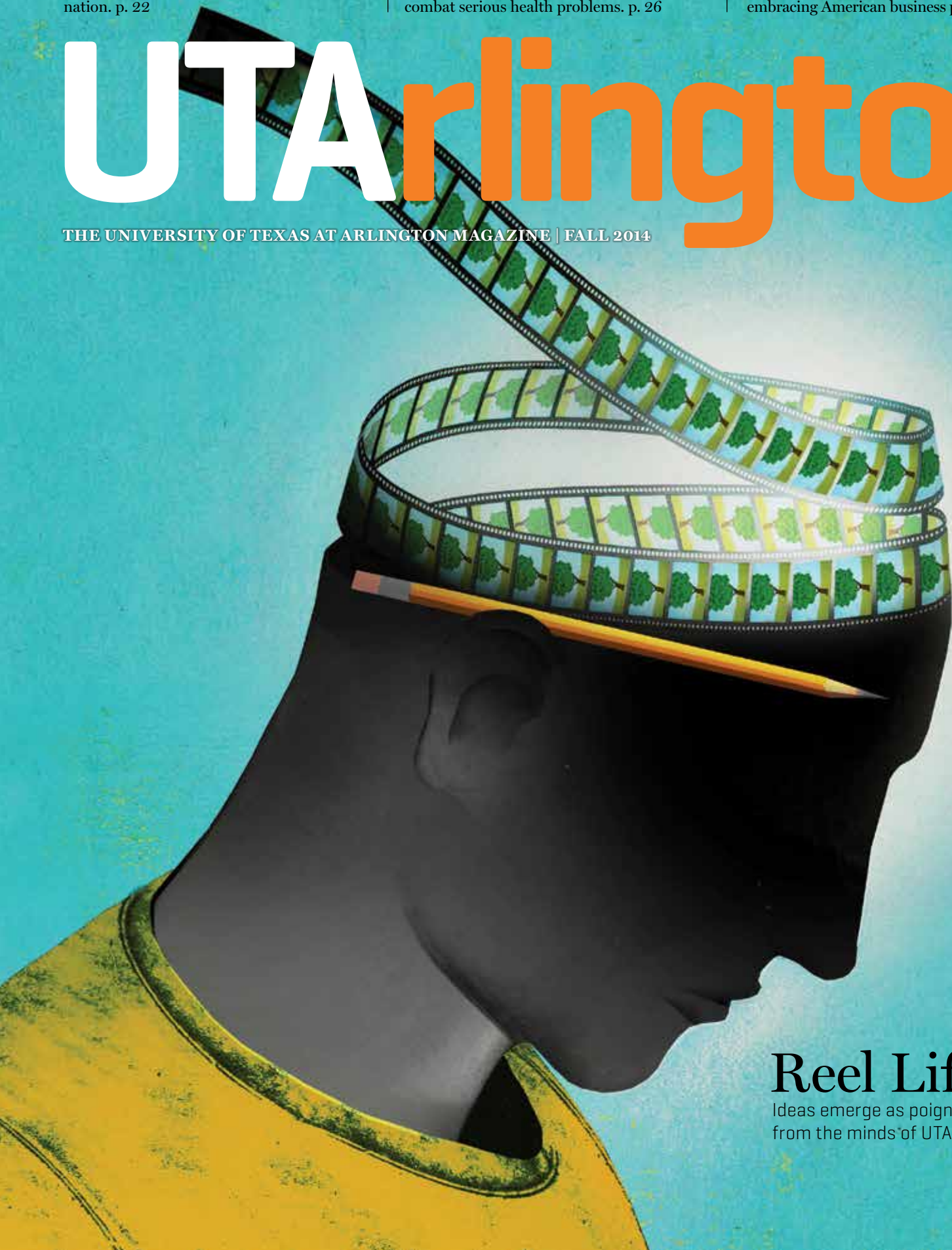
BIG-LEAGUE BALLPLAYERS When it comes to producing major league talent, UT Arlington's baseball program ranks among the best in the nation. p. 22

THE RIGHT PRESCRIPTION With their breakthroughs in drug discovery and delivery, three professors are leading the charge to detect and combat serious health problems. p. 26

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE UT Arlington's Asian EMBA is the largest such program in China, and its more than 2,000 graduates are embracing American business practices. p. 34

UTArlington

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON MAGAZINE | FALL 2014



Reel Life

Ideas emerge as poignant stories from the minds of UTA filmmakers



STRUCTURED ENVIRONMENT

A typical day in aerospace engineering Professor Andrew Makeev's Advanced Materials and Structures Lab finds students researching ways to improve the durability of aircraft parts.

Features



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With former Mavericks on the **San Francisco** Giants, **St. Louis** Cardinals, **New York** Mets, and **Texas** Rangers, UTA's reputation for producing big-league talent is on the rise.

PRESCRIPTIONS OF PROMISE 26

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MAKING A SCENE 30

Fearless, unrelenting, and passionate, professor and filmmaker Ya'Ke Smith has emerged as a major influence in independent cinema.

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UTA's Asian EMBA closes the cultural gap for students on both sides of the globe and opens **China** to American business practices.

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A double major in biology and microbiology, Jessica Stevens is UTA's latest recipient of the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding undergraduate research.

CRASH COURSE 8

In her Sustainable Communities class, Yekang Ko helps students find solutions to pressing environmental problems.



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For more than 35 years, Robert Woods has helped students build award-winning race cars through UTA's Formula SAE program.

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Los Angeles-based alumnus Paul Windle's illustrations have appeared in numerous high-profile publications.

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NAFEES ALAM 39

Alumnus Nafees Alam works with top chefs to implement innovative restaurant concepts in **North Texas**.

NORRY NIVEN 40

The founder of Stone Core Films in Dallas and Three-One-O in Los Angeles, director Norry Niven '85 has collaborated with some of **Hollywood's** biggest names.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI 41

Read about the achievements of the UTA graduates selected as 2014 Distinguished Alumni.

Comments

HORIZONS BROADENED

Reading "A World of Possibilities" reminded me of my undergrad days and how UTA exposed a young, suburban, and naïve Texas boy to a bigger and more interesting world than I could have imagined. Interacting with international students allowed me to compare and contrast our cultures and fueled a passion for travel. I spent four years in Germany (my German minor helped immensely) and a lot of time in Asia and Mexico. UTA and its students really served as a gateway for me to explore our planet and cultures.

GLEN GOLIGHTLY '84, '93
West Hollywood, Calif.

DIVERSITY NEEDED

"A World of Possibilities" in the spring issue seems very one-sided toward Asian international students, whereas there are lots of African, Middle Eastern, and even European students on campus. For an article that

is discussing diversity, the lack of diversity among the students featured is striking.

WASIU LAWAL
Arlington, Texas

Editor's note: The story focused on students from India, Nepal, and Vietnam because these countries, along with China and South Korea, had the largest number of international students on campus.

INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Thanks for sharing my story and those of other international students in your "A World of Possibilities" article from the spring issue. If anyone ever asked me what is so special about UTA, my answer would be its diversity and opportunities to learn. It's easy to walk around campus and hear different groups of people speaking different languages. It just amazes me because all I ever imagined about America was an English-only kind of country.



UTA not only is focusing on the academic side but also on student life, such as sharing cultures and improving personal skills. Regardless of what you are or where you are from, you will always feel welcome at UTA.

TRAM CAO
Arlington, Texas

POSITIVE FEEDBACK

I just received the spring issue of *UT Arlington Magazine* and was surprised to find the email from Samuel Crawford of Phoenix about the "Words of Anguish" article in the fall 2013 issue relating to my stu-

dents' reactions to the assassination of President Kennedy. In all the years of writing scholarly articles, I never received a written feedback that pleased me more than this one. So thank you to writer Kenneth Perkins and especially to my students for making a difference in someone's life. I am truly thankful that my students were willing to take the time to share their thoughts and grateful to God for leading me to play a small part in a "poignant and fresh take on the topic."

DUANE KEILSTRUP
Arlington, Texas

GIVING BACK

Congratulations on producing such a great magazine! I donate to UTA on a regular basis, and it is a good feeling to give back to the college where I received the education that allowed me to have a career in the medical science field.

ROBERT D. SKINNER '65
Little Rock, Ark.

HIGH PRAISE

Just wanted to say how great *UT Arlington Magazine* is. Very professional, laid out well, great pictures, great articles!

CONNIE HANSON '96
and MARK HANSON
Arlington, Texas

YOUR THOUGHTS?

Send letters to the editor to utamagazine@uta.edu, or comment on magazine content at utamagazine@utamagazine.

Message from the Editor

Clostridium difficile isn't on the tip of the average college student's tongue, but Emmanuel Fordjour is far from your typical student.

Not only was he familiar with the intestinal bacterium that kills an estimated 14,000 Americans each year, he wanted to explore ways to fight it. So he sought out biology Assistant Professor Julian Hurdle, who had received a \$1.9 million National Institutes of Health grant to combat the hospital-acquired disease.

The partnership has put Fordjour in an elite class. In July the senior biology and microbiology major received one of 15 United Negro College Fund Merck Science Research Fellowship Awards for 2014. Last spring the Washington, D.C.-based Council on Undergraduate Research named him one of 60 winners in the 2014 Posters on the Hill contest.

"Dr. Hurdle impressed upon me the philosophy passed on to him by his mentor—that the rigors of research teach you lessons for life," Fordjour says. "He sees

others for what they can be in the future and not what they are in the present."

Our cover article on Morgan Woodward Distinguished Professor Ya'Ke Smith and the film program offers another example of the impact professors have on their students. Smith's protégés revere his unflinching work and praise his ability to draw out the artist deep inside them.

Stories of faculty excellence fill this issue. Researchers Daniel Armstrong, Kytai Nguyen, and Robert Magnusson have targeted serious health problems through their pioneering work in drug discovery and delivery. Renowned physicist and National Academy of Sciences member David Nygren heads a group of notable new-to-the-campus professors.

Dedicated faculty form the nucleus of every great university. At UT Arlington, our professors inspire and nurture within an environment that values quality, ingenuity, and diversity.

The result: lofty achievements for those who dare to succeed.

— Mark Permenter

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Mark Permenter

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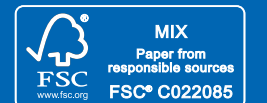
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ON THE COVER
Illustration by Brian Stauffer



YouTube

MAVSMEET AFTERPARTY UT Arlington kicked off the fall 2014 semester with Maverick Stampede, a week devoted to welcoming Mavericks to campus with entertainment, educational programs, and social events. A highlight was MavsMeet Convocation, a formal assembly that marks the beginning of the academic year. The more than 2,000 students, faculty, and staff attending the annual event in College Park Center enjoyed remarks from popular radio DJ Edward "Shoboy" Sotelo. MavsMeet was followed by music, games, food, and fun at the AfterParty on The Green at College Park. Throughout the week, new Mavericks participated in other traditions like Waffleopolis, Wet 'n' Wild, and Pajama Jam. Watch a 2014 Maverick Stampede video at youtube.com/UTArlington.



Tweets

Yippee! #maverickspeakers roster announced. Michio Kaku in February!
 — @john_lamberth

UTA Target Day was a success. I won a T-shirt, tote bag and a \$20 Container Store gift card!! #UTA #ibleedblue #headahhhhhh — @KHANartistt

Julius Randle wears No. 30, which was his mother's number at UT Arlington. "I got a little skill from her but I passed her up pretty quick."
 — @bill_oram

UT Arlington physics researchers may have developed a way to use laser technology to deliver drug and gene therapy. — @inreport

@utarlington Mav Speaker Series includes Bob Costas, James Carville, Michio Kaku and more. Sign me up.
 — @dustindangli

Loved watching Star Wars dubbed into Navajo at UT Arlington this evening.
 — @Ling_Lass

Great to see @UT Arlington expand its Bound for Success program, a model I use in my education platform for Texas.
 — @WendyDavisTexas

When I received my second acceptance letter from @University of Texas at Arlington ... that moment was priceless.
 — @swagging_ham

I've committed to play baseball at The University of Texas at Arlington. I want to thank everyone who has been there for me during this process.
 — @JerameLittell

What a great night. #Slammi-versary. @University of Texas at Arlington — @Lagana

Congratulations to Summit track athlete Emoni Taylor who signed with University of Texas at Arlington.
 — @MISDAthletics

WHOOOP WHOOOP!!! It's officially Move-In Day at #UTA! Welcome new Mavericks!
 — @curlygirl214

I had fun visiting UTA today with @Tatiyanabanks.
 — @Ooo_BigDaddy

Congrats Hebron drum majors!! 1st place in the team conducting challenge at the UTA Drum Major camp!
 — @TheHebronBand

Do you get the UT Arlington Magazine? It is excellent. Check out their website at www.uta.edu/utamagazine.
 — @ArlingtonProud

So you think you're a @utarlington fan? Get back to me when your bushes spell out UTA. — @utamavsfan

Love getting the @utarlington magazine in the mail AND seeing friends being recognized! — @Mindac

I'm going to @swprophets at College Park Center in Arlington, TX - Oct. 25.
 — @stephenfoster28

President Jack Woolf led @UT Arlington when it was larger than A&M. (He also brought UTA air conditioning.) — @BudKennedy

It was an honor to deliver the Commencement address today at UTA at College Park Center. — @JoelBurns

Students from @UT_Dallas @UTSouthwestern @utarlington team up & win \$6,000 1st place prize @ global health contest! — @utsystem

Taking Strategic Social Media Communication with @shelleywigley at @utarlington.
 — @umairali

@utarlington magazine highlights high speed rail in Texas. Well done Dr. Mattingly!
 — @salcedogroupinc

Instagram



Clockwise from top left:

@dyluxx #tbt when I #graduated from #UT Arlington and was so happy I went to the park to #serenade my #diploma with my #ukulele. #memories

@utadeltazeta Our newest VPM assistant Kathryn Tranchina and the always adorable Trace Le at the orientation today! #utadeltazeta #iotapsi #uta18 #utagogreek #utacph #utafsl #utarlington

@fjar1635 Late-night shenanigans at Target! Ready for the new chapter that's beginning in my life. #uta #mavup #freshman2014 #bestbuddies



Trending

MAVSMEET CONVOCATION

I'm honored and excited to speak at #MavsConvocation at #UT Arlington. Let's get it started today at 4 pm!
 — @elshoboy

We had so much fun tonight getting to know all of the new Mavs at #MavsMeet! We'll see y'all tomorrow.
 — @UTAZetaTauAlpha

Celebrate the fact that you are a UT Arlington Maverick for life. #MavsMeet
 — @PerlaCabrera_

I had a lot of fun today. #MavsMeet #MavPride #Mavericks #MavUp
 — @arinze_1204

As soon as you lose your excuses, you will find your success. @elshoboy Great speech at UTA's #MavsMeet #Convocation. — @esanchez_

Haters are characters in your book, not authors of your book. #MavsMeet
 — @Murtaza_95

UTA Jazz Ensemble made us all #happy at #MavsMeet.
 — @soylabean

We're all here at the Mavs-Meet Convocation! Let the school year begin!
 — @ExploringUTA

LET'S SOCIALIZE

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

uta.edu/utamagazine
 Enjoy an interactive experience and view Web-only content.

facebook.com/utamagazine
 "Like" us and get updates in your newsfeed.

twitter.com/utarlington
 Follow our tweets for the latest Maverick news.

linkedin.com/in/utamagazine
 Link in and tell us about your career achievements.

Campus Buzz

UT ARLINGTON AND THE WORLD

Destination for Discovery

National Academy of Sciences member heads list of renowned new faculty

More and more of the nation's top scholars are choosing to advance their life-enhancing explorations at UTA.

David Nygren, a renowned physicist and member of the National Academy of Sciences, joined the University this fall as Presidential Distinguished Professor in the College of Science. He will establish a unit to research particle detector technologies and train the next generation of detector experts.

A scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory since 1973, Dr. Nygren is known for creating the Time Projection Chamber, used worldwide in a variety of applications in particle detection and discovery. Forty years after its invention, the chamber remains integral to three-dimensional particle tracking and identification at major international research facilities, including the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland, and the Long Baseline Neutrino Experiment at Fermilab near Chicago.

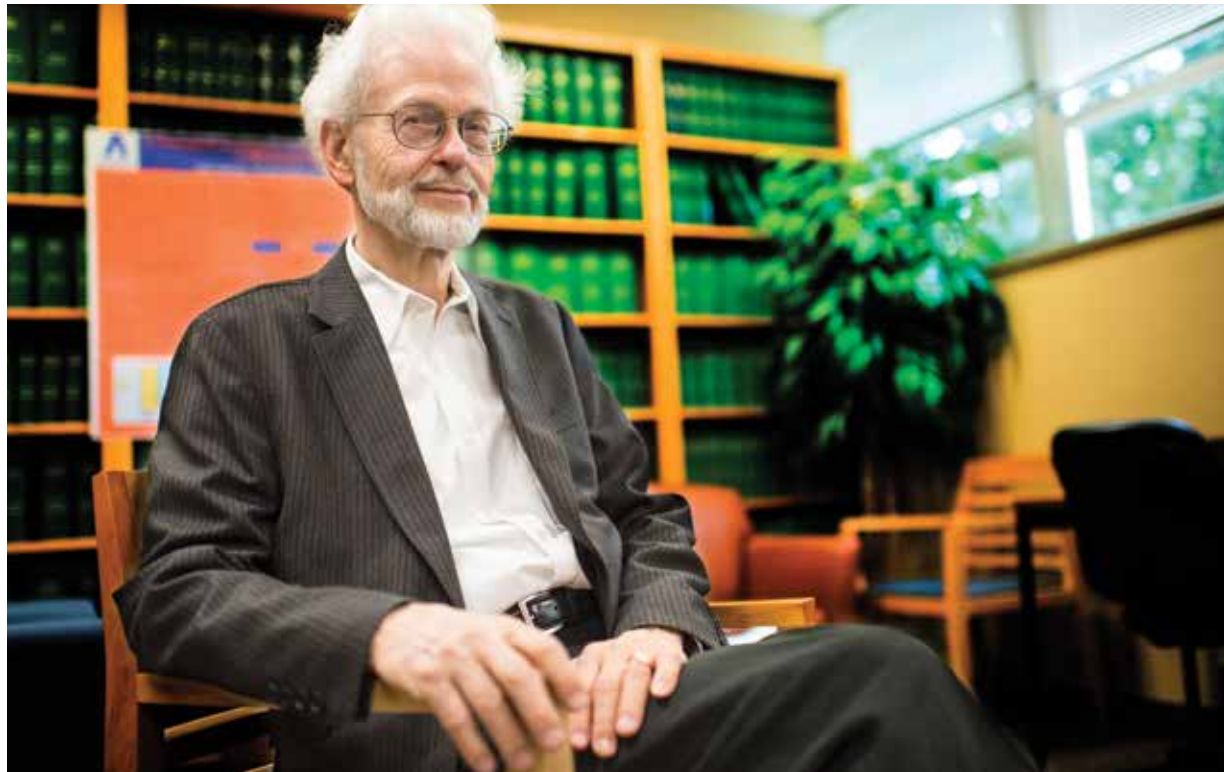
"Researchers are increasingly finding that UT Arlington is an optimal place to anchor their pursuit of knowl-

edge and innovation," says Ronald Elsenbaumer, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Another new faculty member, Kay-Yut Chen, is a noted behavioral and experimental researcher from Yahoo! and Hewlett-Packard. A professor in the Information Systems and Operations Management Department in the College of Business, Dr. Chen's research on how data-driven analytics can improve a company's decision-making has been featured in *Nature*, *Entrepreneur*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*.

Paul Componation became chair of the Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering Department in July. He most recently was a professor and director of graduate education for engineering management at Iowa State University.

Much of Dr. Componation's research has focused on improving launch system development for NASA. He also has worked on the application of decision-analysis tools to support Defense Department aviation and missile systems.



"Researchers are increasingly finding that UT Arlington is an optimal place to anchor their pursuit of knowledge and innovation."

Known for inventing the Time Projection Chamber, physicist David Nygren is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

You are UT Arlington's third recipient of the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship.

It feels surreal. I wasn't sure I could compete against Ivy League schools in research because I was so new to science and there was no way I could be up to their level. I guess my overzealous, hands-on attitude helped me experience so much in a short time.

And you share the Goldwater Scholarship honor with your husband, who was UT Arlington's second recipient.

It gives a lot of people the impression that we are a power couple, but honestly it's more than us having won this honor. What it took to get it is what we really have in common. We both work hard not just to learn, but to master the material we are presented. We seek out opportunities to test that mastery and then move on to the next challenge, not necessarily because we have to but because we want to.

You started at UT Arlington as an architecture major. Now you're a double major in biology and microbiology.

Architecture was my dream, so when I changed majors I had no idea what I would do. I considered the kinesiology program, which required both biology and chemistry. During my first college biology class, I fell in love with it and knew it was the path for me.

Do you see any overlaps between architecture and your current field?

What I liked about architecture was creating spaces within constraints in order to solve a problem. With biological research, you are essentially solving a complex problem with the added understanding of a vast array

of theory. As odd as it may sound, I feel like I get more opportunity to use my creative skills in my current field.

What is your primary research focus?

I'm currently examining the effects of an invasive species of zooplankton in Texas lakes. Invasive species can drastically change ecosystems, and because zooplankton are at the bottom of the food chain, they can be more likely to change an ecosystem's structure. Understanding what happens ecologically in various environments will allow us to respond to and hopefully prevent environmental problems.

Why do we need more women in STEM fields?

Women think and solve problems differently than men. Without that additional perspective, the best solution may never be realized. We need that balance in all aspects of science to attain the greatest scientific achievements possible.

How is UT Arlington helping you achieve your educational and career goals?

I would not have had anywhere near the number of research experiences, connections with professors, recognition of potential as a Goldwater candidate, or had the opportunity to find myself.

What do you plan to do after graduation?

I'll go to graduate school to pursue environmental research. I want to help make the world a better place and give back to my community. Performing research will definitely help me accomplish those goals and hopefully put me in a position to educate others.

CAMPUS

Jessica Stevens, Goldwater Scholar **Talk**



Crash Course Sustainable Communities



CIRP 4320
Call it a laboratory without the beakers, test tubes, and petri dishes. In Yekang Ko's Sustainable Communities course, students research real-world solutions to pressing environmental problems. "Our students acquire an ability to outreach to communities and raise public awareness on sustainability," says Dr. Ko, an assistant professor of city and regional planning. "They also come to understand broad environmental and social issues in building sustainable communities." Through lecture, discussion, site visits, and team-based service-learning projects, the course covers topics like urban ecology, energy and resources, and community planning. Past outreach includes developing a wildlife conservation campaign for Arlington's River Legacy Living Science Center, creating a regenerative community garden model for the East Fort Worth Montessori Academy, and devising a public transit plan for Arlington. "The experience was invaluable to my education and personal knowledge," says Kailey Renaud (right), a recent graduate who helped install native landscaping at an Arlington library. "It taught me more than any other class structure I've experienced."

Unexpected discovery may aid cancer therapy

While searching for a better method to detect radiation, a UT Arlington physicist may have discovered something even more important: an advancement in cancer therapy.

When testing a copper-cysteamine complex created in his lab, Professor Wei Chen noticed unexplained decreases in its luminescence—light-emitting power—over a time-lapse exposure to X-rays. Looking further, he found that the nanoparticles, called Cu-Cy, were losing energy as they emitted singlet oxygen.

Because Dr. Chen has extensive experience in cancer research, he recognized the importance of this discovery, as singlet oxygen is a toxic byproduct used to attack cancer cells in photodynamic therapy. Additional testing revealed that the Cu-Cy nanoparticles, combined with X-ray exposure, significantly slowed tumor growth in lab studies.

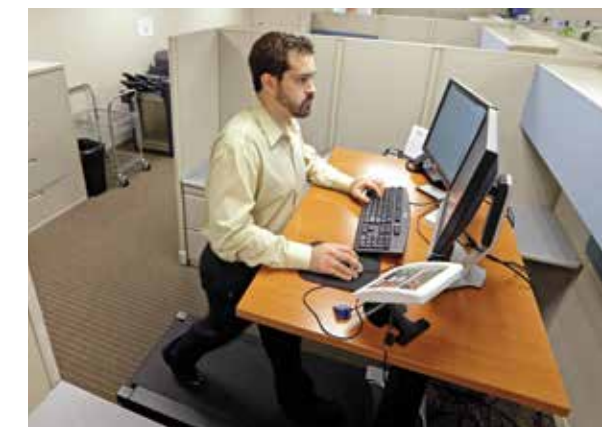
"This is the most promising thing we have found in these cancer studies, and we've been looking at this for a long time," Chen says.

Photodynamic therapy harms cancer cells by introducing a photosensitizer into tumor tissue, which produces singlet oxygen when exposed to light. Some studies generate light via visible or near-infrared lasers, while others introduce luminescent nanoparticles into the tumor.

Neither method is ideal for treating deep tissue because the light doesn't penetrate far enough. But X-ray-inducible Cu-Cy particles do. Further, the Cu-Cy nanoparticles don't need other photosensitizers, so the treatment is more efficient and cost-effective.

Lun "Kevin" Ma, a research assistant professor on Chen's team, co-authored a paper on the research in the *Journal of Biomedical Nanotechnology* with Chen and research associate Xiaoju Zou.

"For cancer, there is still no good solution," Chen says. "Hopefully this nanoparticle can provide some possibilities."



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL CONROY/AP/CORBIS (TREADMILL)

WORK WALKERS Treadmill workstations may be unsightly, but they're effective. Research conducted by UTA, the Mayo Clinic, and the University of Minnesota shows that employees who use such devices receive physical benefits and are more productive. School of Urban and Public Affairs Assistant Professor Darla Hamann and her colleagues surveyed about 200 employees for 52 weeks and found that those using treadmill workstations burned an average of 74 more calories per day than they did at their regular desks.



All-inclusive

University receives designation as Hispanic-Serving Institution

UT Arlington is now officially a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), making it the highest-profile public research university in North Texas to receive the designation and one of about 300 nationally.

Awarded by the Department of Education, the HSI recognition makes the University eligible for federal grants supporting institutions with large numbers of Hispanic students.

"This designation is aligned with the mission of our University, which is to be an internationally recognized research university distinguished by excellence in every regard and by the access we provide to students from all backgrounds," President Vistasp Karbhari says. "It builds on the tremendous diversity, talent, and dedication of our faculty members and will help us provide appropriate levels of support to ensure that each and every student has the opportunity to excel in all aspects of their academic careers."

To receive HSI status, a university's full-time undergraduate enrollment must be at least 25 percent Hispanic. While qualifying institutions do not receive direct awards, they do become eligible for funding from programs aimed at promoting academic success, and not only for Hispanic students. For the 2014 fiscal year, the total appropriation for the federal HSI program exceeded \$100 million.

Robert Estrada, a University Advisory Council member and former UT System regent, calls the designation a critical step toward providing greater resources and opportunities for all students.

"This is a clear reflection of the changing demographics of the North Texas region, and I am proud to see UT Arlington pursuing available resources to serve its diverse student population," he says. "Diversity is part of what makes UTA the world-class institution it is, and its students and faculty are worthy of additional federal support."

Awards

LORA RIMMER
The U.S. Army Cadet Command has named Lt. Col. Lora Rimmer, commander of UTA's Army ROTC Maverick Battalion, the nation's Professor of Military Science of the Year. She was selected from among 275 professors at colleges and universities nationwide that offer Army ROTC.



KENNETH ROEMER
English Professor Kenneth Roemer has been inducted into the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers. An expert in American Indian and utopian literatures, Dr. Roemer received the UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award in 2011. He is also a UT Arlington Distinguished Scholar Professor and Distinguished Teaching Professor.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS
Two student electrical engineering teams won first place at the 2014 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation in Hong Kong. One team located the most land mines through its mine detection code, and the other prevailed in a challenge to move triangles from one part of a millimeter-sized field to another.

VICTORIA FARRAR-MYERS
The American Council on Education has selected political science Professor Victoria Farrar-Myers for its 2014-15 class of the ACE Fellows Program. ACE is the major coordinating body for the nation's colleges and universities and advocates on higher education issues in Washington and around the world.

Grants

HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS

The Energy Department has awarded a \$2.5 million grant to the College of Science's Center of Excellence in High Energy Physics. Team members are Professor Kaushik De, who directs the center; professors Andrew White, Andrew Brandt, and Jaehoon Yu; and Associate Professor Amir Farbin.



HENG HUANG

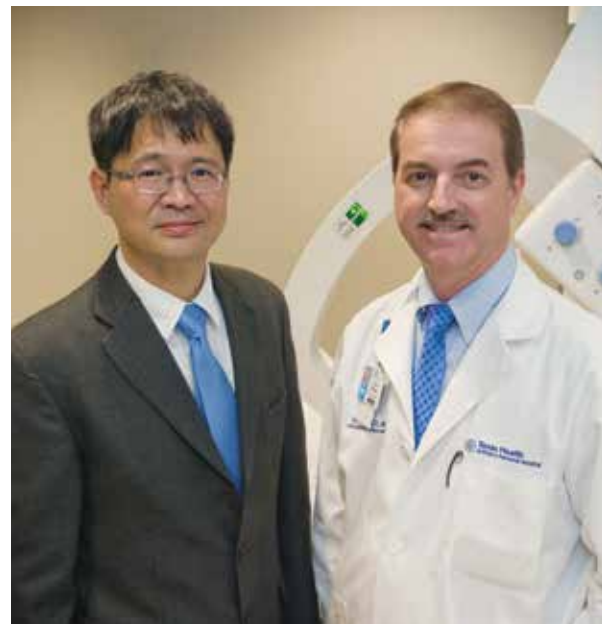
The National Science Foundation has awarded more than \$600,000 to computer science and engineering Associate Professor Heng Huang to develop an interactive database of gene expressions of the fruit fly.

PURNENDU DASGUPTA AND ADITYA DAS

Purnendu "Sandy" Dasgupta and Aditya Das have received a National Science Foundation grant to make an affordable field analyzer for arsenic levels in water. Dr. Dasgupta, the Jenkins Garrett Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, will direct the project with Dr. Das, senior research scientist at the UT Arlington Research Institute, and Scott Evans, president and co-founder of Chipotle Business Group.

SAMIR IQBAL

A research team has received a National Science Foundation grant to build an inexpensive device that uses nanotechnology and a simple urine test to detect tiny amounts of bladder cancer cells. Electrical engineering Associate Professor Samir Iqbal leads the group, which includes bioengineering Associate Professor Young-tae Kim and UT Southwestern urology Professor Yair Lotan.



Grafts-be-gone

Method attracts stem cells that grow bone

Traditional bone grafting may eventually be a thing of the past, thanks to a pair of researchers from UT Arlington and Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital.

Bioengineering Professor Liping Tang (above left) and physician Joseph Borrelli are investigating whether bone grown from the body's own stem cells can provide a more effective replacement for bone grafts.

Today, if a patient suffers from a bone defect or complex tibia fracture, for example, a surgeon may perform an iliac crest bone graft. The surgeon uses a mechanism that scrapes or shaves bone from the pelvis, then places those shavings directly into the defect or combines them with other proteins.

The researchers' procedure would eliminate this grafting technique. It instead uses biodegradable polymer scaffolding material, bone morphogenetic protein, and erythropoietin to attract stem cells that produce bone. That in turn allows surgeons to establish a "mini-bioreactor" in a patient's body.

"This research will help us formalize a specific type of scaffolding mixture that could eliminate the use of current bone grafting techniques," says Dr. Borrelli, chair of orthopedics at Texas Health Arlington Memorial.

The scientists successfully tested the process on mice, determining that the abdomen of the animal effectively mimics the traumatic and foreign body environmental response that takes place during various bone repair procedures in humans. Bone tissue was generated in just a few days, rather than the weeks or months current processes take in a lab.

"In the future, a physician will be able to inject the scaffolding material with the ideal protein into the area where the patient's bone needs to grow or repair," Borrelli explains. "The patient's cells will never have to leave the body."

Quinnan named student affairs vice president

Timothy Quinnan looks forward to helping UT Arlington become renowned for student engagement and success. He begins leading the way this fall as the new vice president for student affairs.

Most recently Dr. Quinnan was associate vice president for campus life at San Diego State University. He previously held leadership positions in student affairs at the University of Michigan, the University of Cincinnati, and Florida State University.

"Dr. Quinnan has built an impressive career as a student affairs professional, educator, global thinker, and sought-after expert on student development issues at some of the nation's leading institutions of higher education," UTA President Vistasp Karbhari says. "His commitment to individual student success, student life, diversity, and excellence in leadership will help guide our University to new heights at a time when we are ready to soar."



Quinnan earned his bachelor's degree in literature and a master's degree in college student personnel from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He received his doctorate in higher education administration from the Union Institute & University in Cincinnati.

He has published two books, *Generations Lost* in 2002 and *Adult Students at Risk* in 1997, and written articles in national publications and peer-reviewed journals, including *Academic Leadership*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Journal of College and Character*, and *Black Issues in Higher Education*.



BIRD BREAKTHROUGH Pigeons are providing key insights into how genes change over time. Researchers led by biology Assistant Professor John Fondon are unraveling the molecular basis for the color palette of domestic breeds known as "fancy pigeons." The team has identified mutations in six genes that interact to create color variations. Dr. Fondon and his student colleagues also discovered that some color varieties arose independently multiple times through recurrent mutations of the same genes. The genes in the study have been linked to skin and hair color variation in humans, as well as the development of melanoma.

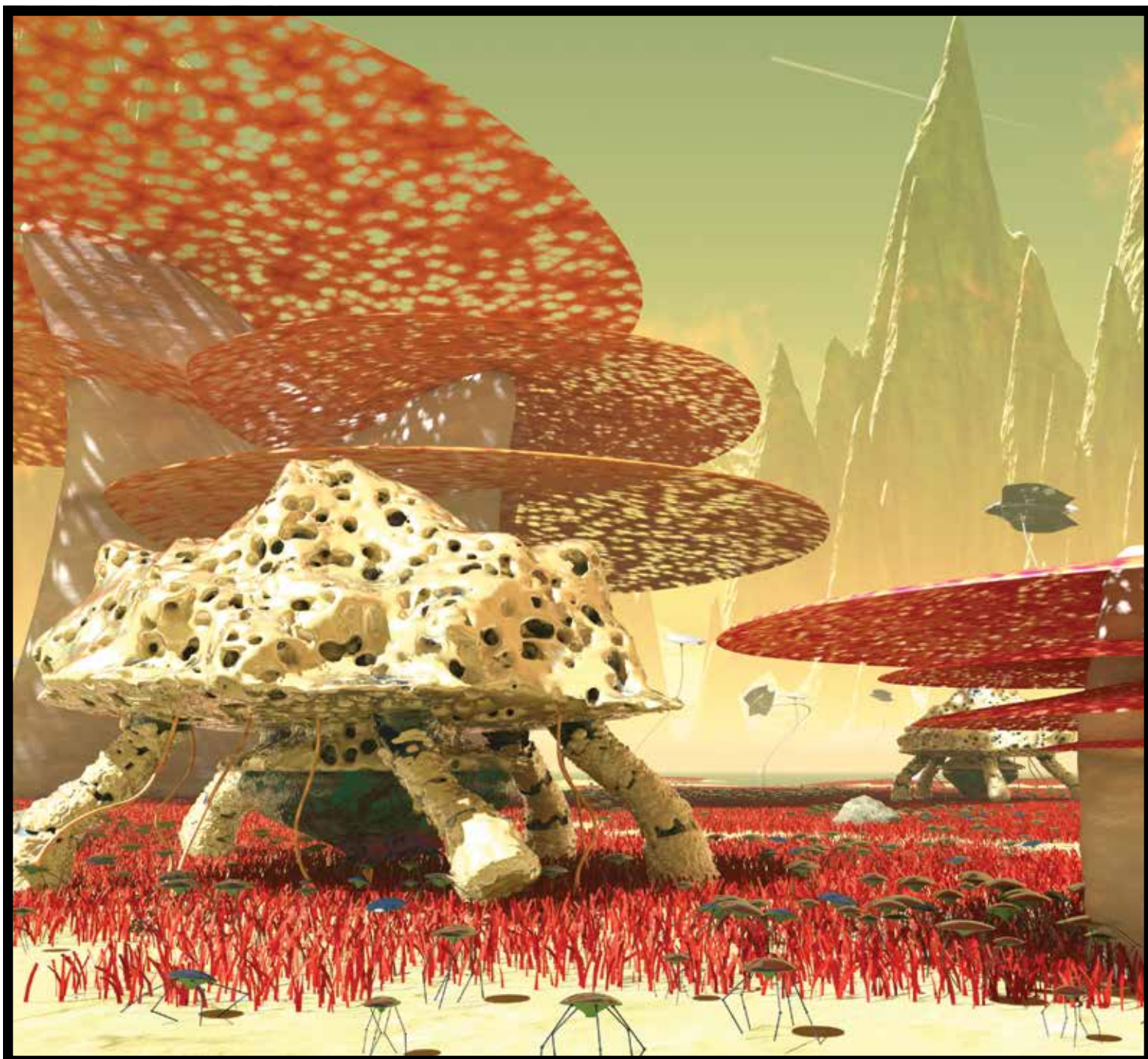
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Faculty



ROBERT WOODS

For more than 35 years, Robert Woods has helped students build high-performance race cars through UT Arlington's Formula SAE program, which ranks among the best in the world. Recently, the mechanical and aerospace engineering professor challenged himself to build one of the most iconic race cars of all time—Ford's Carroll Shelby GT40. After seeing the low-slung, '60s-era endurance car last year, he bought a replica kit from a British manufacturer with all the parts necessary, from brake fluid to touch-up paint. "The whole planning process and the building have been fun. Then I'll get to drive it," says Dr. Woods, who is constructing the vehicle in his garage. "I don't know what will be the most enjoyable. I suspect it will be the driving." The manufacturer estimates assembly at 350 hours, but Woods thinks he has exceeded that by "being a bit more meticulous." While he's looking forward to road trips, the thrill can't compare to seeing his students cross the finish line. Last year the Society of Automotive Engineers International honored Woods with its annual Excellence in Engineering Education Award. "What really motivates me," he says, "is to watch these students grow professionally."

Future Habitable Planets, 2080



Could life exist in regions around stars that burn brighter than the sun? Physics Professor Manfred Cuntz says scientists should not dismiss the possibility. In a paper published in the *International Journal of Astrobiology*, Dr. Cuntz teamed with doctoral student Satoko Sato and researchers from the University of Guanajuato in Mexico. They argue that F-type stars have a wide habitability zone—the area where conditions are right for Earth-type

planets to develop and sustain life. Stars fall into seven lettered categories according to their surface temperature, but they also differ in other factors such as mass, luminosity, and abundance in the universe. Scientists looking for habitable planets typically have focused on the less massive end of the spectrum, where our own G-type sun as well as the even smaller K- and M-type stars reside. F-types are in the middle of the scale, larger and hotter than

our sun. Their increased ultraviolet radiation has been thought to be a limiting factor for sustaining life. In addition, there just aren't as many of them. But Cuntz contends there's hope for F-type stars. "There is a gap in attention from the scientific community when it comes to knowledge about F-type stars, and that is what our research is working to fill," he says. "It appears they may indeed be a good place to look for habitable planets."

Study investigates link to breast cancer

A compound found in many plastic products may be promoting breast cancer growth.

In a recent study, chemistry and biochemistry Associate Professor Subhrangsu Mandal and doctoral student Arunoday Bhan found that when breast cancer and mammary gland cells were exposed to the synthetic compound bisphenol-A (BPA), the BPA worked together with naturally present molecules like estrogen to create abnormal amounts of HOTAIR expression.

HOTAIR is an abbreviation for long, non-coding RNA. Under normal circumstances, estrogen regulates it, turning its expression on and off through interaction with molecules called estrogen receptors (ERs) and estrogen receptor-coregulators (ER-coregulators). But Dr. Mandal and Bhan discovered that BPA disrupted the normal function of the ERs and ER-coregulators both when estrogen was present and when it was not.

This finding may impli-

cate BPA in tumor growth in a variety of cancers because when HOTAIR is expressed, it can suppress genes that would normally slow tumor growth or kill cancer cells.

"We can't immediately say BPA causes cancer growth, but it could well contribute because it is disrupting the genes that defend against that growth," Mandal explains. "Understanding the developmental impact of these synthetic hormones is an important way to protect ourselves."

BPA is widely found in plastics like food storage containers, the lining of canned goods, and, until recently, baby bottles. It belongs to a class of endocrine-disrupting chemicals that have been shown to mimic natural hormones.

These endocrine disruptors interfere with hormone regulation and the proper function of human cells, glands, and tissue. Studies have linked BPA to problems with reproductive development, early puberty, obesity, and cancers.



ELITE COMPANY Emmanuel Fordjour was a sophomore when he asked biology Assistant Professor Julian Hurdle if he could help research ways to fight *Clostridium difficile*, a dangerous, hospital-acquired disease. Just two years later, Fordjour's work with Dr. Hurdle has put him in an elite class. The double major in biology and microbiology was named a winner of the Council on Undergraduate Research's 2014 Posters on the Hill competition. He is one of 60 undergraduate scholars selected from 600 applicants across the nation. Fordjour also received one of 15 United Negro College Fund Merck Science Research Fellowship Awards for 2014.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN DURKE

PHOTOGRAPH BY WIREIMAGE (WATALIN/CARVILLE)

Press

OLIVER BATEMAN

History Assistant Professor Oliver Bateman wrote an op-ed for *The Atlantic* about grade inflation. He says that in a system that requires most students to pay for their own education, professors should not impose harsh grading standards and other obstacles that prevent graduation.



SHAKEELA HUNTER

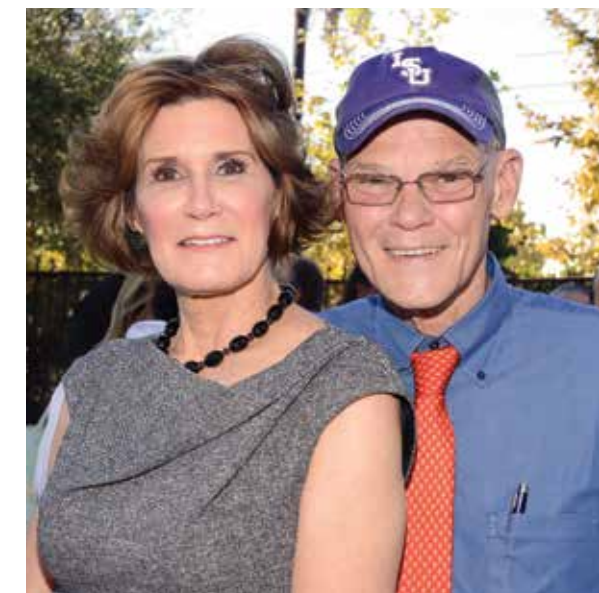
U.S. News & World Report featured Shakeela Hunter, director of the Student Money Management Center, in a story about how parents can save for their children's college education. She suggests exploring dual credit and advanced placement courses, which count as college credit hours.

ALI KOYMEN AND SAMARENDRA MOHANTY

The work of physics researchers Ali Koymen and Samarendra Mohanty appeared in a *Science Daily* article. Their method of using laser technology to deliver drug and gene therapy at the cellular level without damaging surrounding tissue could help patients suffering from genetic conditions, cancers, and neurological diseases.

ROBERT GATCHEL

Fitness Magazine and Yahoo! Shine reported tips for dealing with pain after working out. In the article, psychology Professor Robert Gatchel says that stress and anxiety lower the pain threshold so minor aches feel more intense. Dr. Gatchel is the Nancy P. and John G. Penson Endowed Professor of Clinical Health Psychology.



Feed Your Mind

Lineup set for Maverick Speakers Series

Entertaining stories and engaging discourse take center stage at UT Arlington with the 2014-15 Maverick Speakers Series.

The seventh season includes a fiery political couple, a world-famous theoretical physicist, a legendary sportscaster, a politician-turned-advocate, and a decorated Navy officer known for his leadership and thought-provoking analysis.

Husband-wife duo James Carville and Mary Matalin (above) kick off the series Oct. 20 at Texas Hall. Known for their diametrically opposed political views, the couple are authors of the national best-seller *All's Fair: Love, War, and Running for President*.

The fall schedule continues Nov. 4 in Texas Hall with a discussion of personal safety and security in the cyber age by retired Adm. James Stavridis.

Spring 2015 speakers begin Feb. 19 at Texas Hall with Michio Kaku, a renowned theoretical physicist who is attempting to complete Einstein's unified field theory. The season resumes March 26 at Texas Hall with Henry Cisneros, a two-term San Antonio mayor who has made a career of advocating for affordable public housing since he left office.

The appearance of award-winning NBC sportscaster Bob Costas, originally set for September, will be rescheduled. Check uta.edu/maverickspeakers for the new date. In addition to his regular coverage of the prime-time Olympics and contributions to *Nightly News* and *The Today Show*, Costas hosts *Football Night in America*.

The Maverick Speakers Series has attracted thousands of people to hear some of today's brightest minds address current events and timely issues. Previous speakers include Seth Meyers, Cokie Roberts, Mark Kelly, Soledad O'Brien, and Anderson Cooper.

The lectures are free, but tickets are required. For more information, visit uta.edu/maverickspeakers.

Outreach

STEM ACADEMY

A partnership between UTA and the Arlington Independent School District will offer high school students classroom and enrichment experiences to boost their success in science, technology, engineering, and math. The STEM Academy is scheduled to open in August 2015 at Martin High School. When fully implemented, the program will include 100 students each from grades 9 through 12.



BOUND FOR SUCCESS

The University has expanded its Bound for Success early-admissions initiative to include the Grand Prairie and Mansfield school districts. The pilot program began last fall with the Arlington school district and aims to increase the number of high school students who earn a college degree. The partnership provides high-achieving students deferred, unconditional admission provided they graduate with a recognized college preparatory diploma and satisfy the Texas Success Initiatives requirements.

HOMETOWN RECRUITING

High school students considering jobs in law enforcement have a new option. UTA's Hometown Recruiting Program allows them to earn nine credit hours toward a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, with courses in law enforcement, ethics, and criminal justice. Arlington school district students who complete the program and earn their UTA degree receive an interview with and preferred consideration from the Arlington Police Department.



Seeds of Change

Urban youth farm planned for West Dallas

Progress is taking root in La Bajada, a small neighborhood in West Dallas.

With the opening of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, La Bajada is now just a short drive from downtown and a magnet for developers. The area also caught the eye of architecture Professor Don Gatzke, who had a different sort of development in mind.

After a visit to Grow Dat Youth Farm, a partnership between Tulane University and a New Orleans park, Gatzke spotted a vacant lot in La Bajada and thought it would be perfect for a similar initiative between the neighborhood and UT Arlington.

The La Bajada Urban Youth Farm began taking shape in a graduate architecture design studio course taught by Associate Professor Kevin Sloan. Students designed the site and associated structures and created a master plan.

"The response from the community and the city of Dallas has been overwhelmingly positive," Gatzke says. "A project like this can only strengthen the La Bajada community and further define its sense of identity."

Plans cover about three acres and include an open-air pavilion, greenhouses, raised beds for planting, a playground, and a youth baseball field. The farm will hire at-risk teens to help grow organic vegetables, herbs, and fruit. The produce could then be taken home for their families, given to food banks, or sold at farmer's markets or local restaurants.

Gatzke, who secured a partnership with West Dallas Community Centers, is finalizing the design and securing financing.

"Being a part of this project and all the hands-on work it involves is essentially what architecture is all about," says Tyler Shafer, a student in the design studio course. "Not only does the project have the ability to shape the future of Dallas, it's a great representation of what UTA has to offer our local communities."

Device helps student veterans with PTSD

UT Arlington researchers have successfully used a portable brain-mapping device to show cognitive dysfunction among student veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The study by bioengineering Professor Hanli Liu, social work Associate Professor Alexa Smith-Osborne, and two other collaborators used functional near-infrared spectroscopy to map brain responses during cognitive activities requiring memory recall.

Published in the May 2014 *NeuroImage: Clinical*, the study involved 16 combat veterans diagnosed with PTSD who were experiencing distress and functional impairment affecting cognitive and academic performance. Number-ordering tasks were performed on a computer while researchers monitored brain activity using the noninvasive neuroimaging technology.

Participants with PTSD experienced significant difficulty recalling the digits compared to the control group. The

deficiency is associated with dysfunction in a portion of the right frontal cortex.

Dr. Smith-Osborne has used the findings to guide treatment for veterans through her work as principal investigator for UTA's Student Veteran Project, which offers free services to veterans who are undergraduates or are considering returning to college.

"When we retest those student veterans after we've provided therapy and interventions, they've shown marked improvement," she says.

Numerous neuropsychological studies have linked learning dysfunctions such as memory loss, attention deficits, and learning disabilities with PTSD.

Dr. Liu says this type of brain imaging enables researchers to "see" which brain regions fail to memorize or recall learned knowledge.

"It also shows how PTSD can affect the way we learn and our ability to recall information," she says.



TAKING FLIGHT Drones, bots, and other unmanned vehicles continue to make headlines. Although the industry is still young, economists predict that it eventually will create thousands of jobs and generate billions in economic activity. To prepare students for this next wave of transportation, UTA now offers unmanned vehicle systems certificates for undergraduate and graduate students. Both programs are a collaboration between the College of Engineering and the UT Arlington Research Institute, which won Federal Aviation Administration approval early this year for unmanned aircraft system test flights at the institute's Fort Worth campus.

Global Community for Education Community



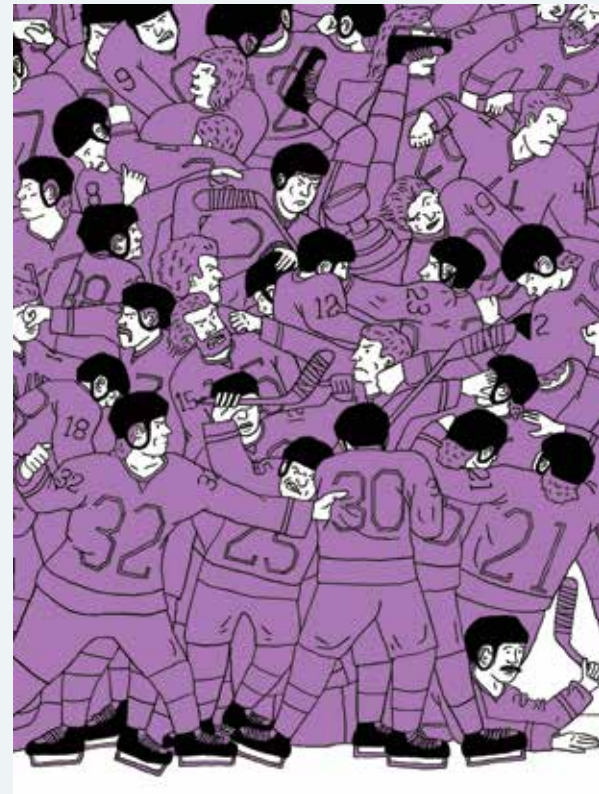
INTERNATIONAL AID

Before students can change the world, they may need to let the world change them. That's what Bob Hopkins, a marketing and management lecturer in the College of Business, has witnessed when he takes students on what he calls "an experiential journey." In May he led a group of educators and students, including Hailey Chivers (left), Jason Suggs, and Dylan Binkert from UTA, to Nepal where they hand-delivered school supplies to classrooms in a remote Himalayan village. "We were met with two rows of 350 students all clapping their hands, cheering us," Hopkins says. "They thought we built the school. We didn't build the school; the community there did that. But we did provide financial support, and now we were delivering paper, pads, and pencils." The school is a project of the Global Community for Education, a nonprofit that partners with communities to provide educational opportunities to children who lack access. While the organization donates funds, local citizens build and maintain the classrooms. The group also visited an orphanage and made presentations at two MBA program conferences on social entrepreneurship and social responsibility in Kathmandu.

Gallery Illustrations

PAUL WINDLE

As a sophomore in 2007, Paul Windle decided he'd taken a wrong turn, figuratively, on the way to architecture class. So he changed course—literally—and walked directly to the Fine Arts Building to switch his major to graphic design. "I was thinking about how people get to draw these awesome, exciting graphics, and it's their adult job. I wanted to do that, too." As a freelance illustrator in New York City, Windle '10 had work featured in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *GQ*, among many other publications. He also has illustrated for companies like Adidas, NIKE, and ESPN and was named a 2012 ADC Young Gun, which recognizes outstanding achievement in communication arts for professionals age 30 or younger. These days, he lives in Los Angeles and is developing a career in storyboarding for cartoons. "The art department at UTA was so open that it taught me to follow my interests and develop my ideas," he says. "I feel like all of my experiences at UTA and in New York have prepared me to push for this next step in my career."



Clockwise from top: "Camp Adventure," "Hockey Fights," and "Deviation"

University teams with Jordanian institutions

UT Arlington's global reach now stretches a bit further. New agreements with four Jordanian institutions are the first step toward establishing student exchanges and research collaborations with the key U.S. ally in the Middle East.

In March representatives from UTA and the Jordanian Nursing Council, Hashemite University, the Jordanian University of Science and Technology, and the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority in Jordan finalized details of the partnerships. The arrangement eventually will lead to collaborative research initiatives, academic exchanges with the Jordanian universities, and projects addressing Jordan's special sustainability concerns and environmental needs.

"Our dream is that, through the power of advancing and sharing knowledge, our world can be a better place," UTA President Vistasp Karbhari says. "Whether it is through our commitment to training and empowering nurses, the advancement of allied health initiatives, or the develop-

ment of physical and technical infrastructure that connects people to resources, our ongoing dialogue will support our common interests in advancing the physical and economic well-being of those we strive to serve."

Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al Hussein, mother of His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, accompanied the group to UT Arlington. She had high praise for the College of Nursing, commending its "tireless efforts in providing quality, innovative nursing programs and emphasizing nursing competencies to meet the challenges of increasingly complex health problems."

In Jordan the princess helped found the Nursing Council and has been honored for her commitment to providing quality nursing through the advancement of practice and education.

"I am convinced that, with the diligent efforts of both sides, our collaboration will yield greater results," she says, "and our bilateral ties will embrace a brighter future for both sides."



BEETLE MANIA A study by two UTA biologists has yielded a new theory about why some species lose their Y chromosome. Doctoral candidate Heath Blackmon and Associate Professor Jeffery Demuth studied genetic information from more than 4,000 beetle species. Their "fragile Y hypothesis" purports that the Y chromosome is heavily influenced by how meiosis (the production of sperm) works in an organism. Previous studies have attributed Y chromosome loss to the lesser importance of genes that the chromosome carries. Researchers study the evolution of these chromosomes to learn more about human evolution and disease.



Ringtone Success

Student's top-selling remix of iPhone ringtones garners worldwide recognition

Three years ago Umair Ali and his family were sitting around the table when they heard the familiar marimba ringtone on someone's iPhone.

"I'm looking at my phone, my dad's looking at his, and my mom is looking at hers," Ali says. "It was an awkward situation."

But it spawned an idea. Why not remix a ringtone that would be more distinctive? The communication technology major used his budding music production skills to alter the tone and added it to his phone.

"A lot of my family members loved it so I gave it to them, and they came back saying their friends wanted it, too," he says. "I put it on iTunes, and from there it went crazy."

Ali's iPhone remix started climbing the charts, hitting No. 1 in Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Norway. In the United States, he has made the top 10 with multiple ringtones, outselling artists such as Beyoncé and Luke Bryan. Worldwide, his creations have been downloaded more than 150,000 times.

"It started off as a hobby and turned into something awesome."

He credits his family for encouraging his love of music and his UT Arlington professors, including Brian Horton and Chyng-Yang Jang, for their guidance.

"There are great mentors here," Ali says. "Our classes are highly project-based, and the professors work with you one-on-one all the time."

Ali is enjoying his newfound success but realizes it won't last forever.

"I'm saving my money, hoping to create some new things and build my own start-up," he says. "Our major teaches us graphic design, Web communication, and how to make apps. That's what I love doing."

To hear and download the ringtones, search "iPhone remix" or "Umair Ali" on iTunes from a mobile device.

Numbers 15,000

More than 15,000 UTA students live within 10 miles of campus. More than 5,000 of those live in University-owned housing.

2,000

UT Arlington's new Guaranteed Tuition Plan allows students to lock in current tuition rates, avoid future tuition increases, and earn up to \$2,000 off the cost of a four-year degree. The plan is available to all freshmen and undergraduate transfer students entering the University in fall 2014 or thereafter. Find more information at uta.edu/guaranteedtuition.

8th

The Master of Science in Taxation program in the College of Business ranks No. 8 in the nation, according to a 2014 taxtalent.com survey. The program ranked ninth last year.

60,000

About 60,000 people have attended Maverick Speakers Series lectures since the program debuted in 2008. The 2014-15 lineup features luminaries from sports, politics, the military, and science. Read more on page 13.

130,000

The Biology Department's Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center houses an internationally recognized collection of more than 130,000 specimens from 90 countries. The collection features the world's largest holding of reptiles and amphibians from Guatemala.

Champs

ACADEMIC HONORS

The women's tennis and volleyball teams were among seven Sun Belt Conference recipients of the NCAA's Public Recognition Awards for posting academic progress in the top 10 percent of their sport. The APR tracks the grades of every student-athlete on scholarship.



NINA VILLANUEVA

Junior shortstop Nina Villanueva was named an all-conference softball first-teamer for the second consecutive year. The San Diego native earned All-Sun Belt Conference honors in 2014 after making the Western Athletic Conference first team last year. She led the Mavericks in batting average (.348), hits (56), RBIs (39), and home runs (8).

TAMERAH GORHAM

Tamerah Gorham helped the women's team finish sixth by capturing the 800-meter crown at the Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships in May. The freshman from Arlington also won the 800 at the SBC indoor championships in February.

ELIZABETH THOMS

Sophomore Elizabeth Thoms was named to the Sun Belt All-Conference singles first team. The West Sussex, United Kingdom, native delivered nine wins while playing in the top two singles positions in the 2014 season. The women's tennis team finished 12-8, losing in the semifinals of the SBC championships.

Record six Mavericks selected in MLB draft

Major League Baseball teams continue to view UT Arlington as fertile ground for top prospects.

Junior pitcher Zach Thompson was the first Sun Belt Conference player and the first of a record six Mavericks selected in the 2014 draft in June. The Chicago White Sox chose him in the fifth round.

"I've worked my entire life to play professionally," Thompson says. "To see my name up there is the greatest feeling. I'm absolutely pumped."

Senior catcher Greg McCall went in the ninth round to the Milwaukee Brewers, and senior designated hitter Matt Shortall was a 10th-round pick of the Philadelphia Phillies. It marked the first time three UTA players were selected in the top 10 rounds.

Junior outfielders Ryan Bottger and Derek Miller joined junior pitcher Jess Amedee as Mavericks taken on

the draft's final day. The Houston Astros selected Bottger in the 12th round, the Boston Red Sox chose Miller in the 23rd round, and the Pittsburgh Pirates drafted Amedee in the 27th round.

The six selections are two more than the previous single-draft high and bring UTA's all-time total to 48.

Shortall and Bottger were named to the All-Sun Belt Conference first team. Shortall batted .344 with 10 home runs and a team-high 57 RBIs in 2014. His 26 doubles set a single-season UTA record. Bottger hit a team-best .368 with seven homers and 42 RBIs.

The Mavericks won 17 of their final 20 games to finish 33-26 overall and 22-12 in their first Sun Belt season. UTA was second in the regular season and runner-up in the conference tournament to nationally ranked Louisiana-Lafayette.



FAST TRACK Sprinter Clayton Vaughn made UTA history last spring. He earned first team All-America honors in both the 100 and 200 meters, becoming the first Maverick to score multiple All-America awards in individual events in the same season. One of just three athletes to advance to the NCAA final in both events, Vaughn placed sixth in the 100 and eighth in the 200. He also anchored the 4x100-meter relay team that received second team All-America recognition. With the relay award, he became the first UTA track and field athlete to earn three All-America honors in one season.



Clean Sweep

Men's track team captures triple crown

The men's track and field team completed its first triple crown in May by winning the Sun Belt Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

The Mavericks took the cross country title in November and the indoor championship in February in their inaugural year in the Sun Belt.

The outdoor title was the ninth in UTA history and first since 2007 when the men claimed the Southland Conference crown. No SBC school had won all three sports in the same season since Western Kentucky in 2008.

"From the athletes to the coaches to the staff, it's been a team effort all year," coach John Sauerhage said. "We came up with clutch performances across the board. We have a group of seniors who wanted it so badly."

UT Arlington finished with 145 points to edge Western Kentucky (138) and South Alabama (132).

All-American sprinter Clayton Vaughn paced the Mavericks. He tied for first in the 100 meters, finished second in the 200, and teamed with Christian Clark, Quentin Butler, and Cameron Newson to win the 4x100 relay.

Craig Lautenslager finished first in the 10,000 meters by more than four seconds, and Emil Blomberg won the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Sauerhage earned his own triple crown. He was named Sun Belt Conference Men's Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year after winning SBC coaching accolades for men's cross country and indoor track.

"This is a team award," he said. "This group has given its all from day one and has been so enjoyable for us to coach."

The outdoor coaching honor was the third of Sauerhage's 18-year career. He has amassed 25 conference coach-of-the-year awards in men's and women's cross country as well as indoor and outdoor track and field.

Volleyball Sports

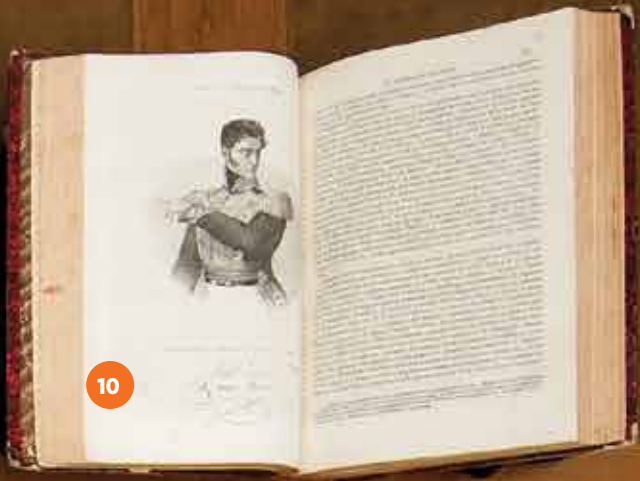
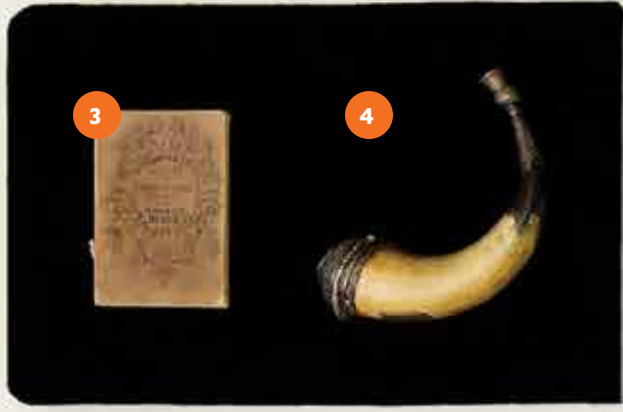
TAYLOR GROSS

The journey for senior outside hitter Taylor Gross has taken her from an initial stop at Stephen F. Austin State University to a leadership role for the Mavericks. Transferring from SFA after her freshman season, Gross had instant impact. She was named to the 2012 UTA Hilton Invitational All-Tournament team in her first weekend and was second team All-Western Athletic Conference. "At first I thought it was going to be more difficult," she says of the transition between schools. "When I came here, coach (Diane) Seymour and the girls were really welcoming. The reason I loved it here was that it felt more like home to me." Gross entered her senior season as one of the top returning players for a program that reached the 2013 Sun Belt Conference Championship game. She finished second on the team in kills and blocks last season and was a second team All-Sun Belt selection. "Being a senior, regardless of if you are a starter, means you're in a leadership role. I know we have to step up and get our little babies in the basket ready so they can learn from us."



Scene & Noted *U.S.-Mexico War Exhibit*

'A CONTINENT DIVIDED' When the United States annexed Texas in 1845, it started a chain of events that led to what we now know as the U.S.-Mexico War. But despite its historical significance—the conflict resulted in the United States gaining more than half of Mexico's territory—collective knowledge of the war is filtered through an American lens. As one of the premier repositories on the topic, the UT Arlington Library's Special Collections is trying to correct this imbalance. Its "A Continent Divided" project makes available for the first time online one of the largest collections of primary source materials on the U.S.-Mexico War. The items are presented with a bi-national focus, which allows an examination of the war's place in the larger history of North America. An exhibit featuring some of the materials, including those at right, was on display in the Central Library over the summer. Learn more at library.uta.edu/usmexicowar.



1 A letter dated April 2, 1849, to Maj. John B. Butler regarding the presidential campaign and election of Zachary Taylor.

2 Letters from DeLancey Floyd-Jones to his sister dating from 1846-48 and discussing current Mexican politics.

3 "Henry Clay's Advice to His Countrymen," a speech about the war with Mexico by the Kentucky politician at a Whig Party rally Nov. 13, 1847.

4 A decorative powder horn inscribed with "G.W.K." for former owner George Wilkins

Kendall (c. 1850). Made from horn, silver, and cut glass.

5 A "Map of Mexico, including Yucatan and upper California," by S. Augustus Mitchell (1847). It's an engraved transfer color lithograph, 43 x 64 cm.

6 "Burying the Dead after the Battle of Monterey" (1848). A decalcomania depicting the aftermath of the bloody, three-day siege.

7 A political cartoon that shows President James Polk carving a pie labeled "Mexico," with a bottle labeled "Monterey" on

the table and a dog representing an unknown political figure chained to his chair (c. 1846).

8 A lithograph featuring Mexican Gen. Pedro de Ampudia "treating for the capitulation of Monterey" with U.S. Gen. Zachary Taylor on Sept. 24, 1846.

9 A lithograph featuring President James Polk and Vice President George Dallas, along with small inset maps of the Oregon and Texas territories, which Polk pledged to acquire during his presidential campaign (1845).

10 "Los Gobernantes de Mexico" by Manuel Rivera (1872). The page on the left features a lithograph of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna from 1829.

11 The journal of John F. Meginness, an American soldier stationed in Mexico City (1848). Meginness would later become a newspaper editor.

12 Sheet music for "The Field of Monterey Ballad" (1846). The Battle of Monterey took place in September 1846 when Gen. Zachary Taylor led 6,500 troops and volunteers.

13 A hand-colored lithograph by Carl Nebel showing Gen. Winfield Scott's entrance into Mexico. This was part of the larger *War Between the United States and Mexico Illustrated* (1851), which featured Nebel's renderings of all the principal conflicts, along with descriptions of each battle by George Wilkins Kendall.

14 "Manifiesto del Congreso del Estado de Veracruz, a la nacion" broadside (1847). This was issued one day after U.S. forces landed near Veracruz.

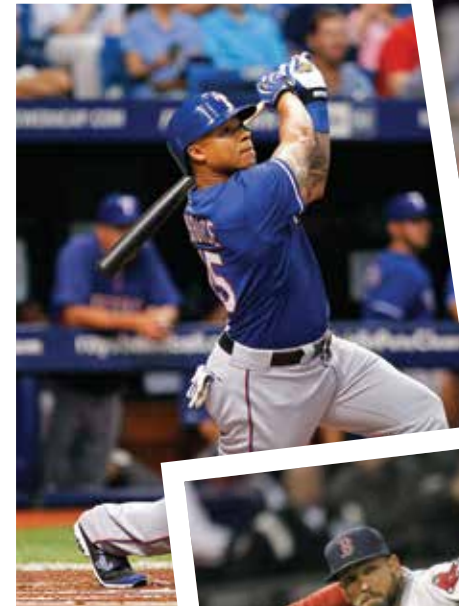
MAJOR LEAGUE MAVERICKS



UT Arlington has gained a national reputation as a pipeline to the big leagues for talented baseball players. BY ART GARCIA

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LOMOGGIO/ICON SM/ICORBIS (CHOICE), BILL KOSTROUN/AP/ICORBIS (GEE), JOHN HEFTI/ICON SM/ICORBIS (PENCE), CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP/ICORBIS (ROBERTS), SCOTT KANE/ICON SM/ICORBIS (LACKEY)

MICHAEL CHOICE
Outfielder
Texas Rangers
MLB: 2013-14
UTA: 2008-10



DILLON GEE
Pitcher
New York Mets
MLB: 2010-14
UTA: 2005-07



HUNTER PENCE
Outfielder
San Francisco Giants
MLB: 2007-14
UTA: 2003-04



RYAN ROBERTS
Infielder
Boston Red Sox
MLB: 2007-14
UTA: 2002-03



JOHN LACKEY
Pitcher
St. Louis Cardinals
MLB: 2002-14
UTA: 1998



IN THE BIGS
Five former Mavericks played for major league teams in 2014.

CHARLES CHOICE'S phone rang on his birthday last December, son Michael on the line. Well-wishes weren't the first order of business. "Michael told me that the Oakland A's assistant general manager just called and he'd been traded to the Texas Rangers," Charles remembers. "I was out shopping and thought it was some kind of joke. I said, 'Get out of here.' He said he was serious." Not just serious.

"I'm dead serious, Dad. You can look at it on the Internet," Michael replied. "He thought I was trying to prank him. It was a great day for me to be traded to the team I grew up watching."

When the 2014 season began, Choice was one of four former UT Arlington players in the major leagues, joining San Francisco Giants outfielder Hunter Pence, New York Mets pitcher Dillon Gee, and Boston Red Sox pitcher John Lackey. The number grew to five when the Red Sox signed infielder Ryan Roberts in early April.

At the time, only 12 college programs in the country had more big leaguers. The count dropped to three after Roberts and Choice were optioned to their teams' Triple-A affiliates but jumped back to four when Choice rejoined

the Rangers in August. The total could grow again as other Mavericks climb through the minor leagues.

“Any time one of those guys gets called up, you follow him and want him to do well,” UTA coach Darin Thomas says. “We do our best to stay in contact, but it’s a challenge because they’re working hard and it’s a long season. You’re extremely proud of them.”

LOCAL KID MAKES GOOD

Michael Choice’s first baseball memories were shaped with his father as a 4-year-old fan at The Ballpark in Arlington. While the stadium has changed names twice since then, the images of those 1990s Texas teams haven’t faded for the kid who idolized Pudge Rodriguez, Juan Gonzalez, Rusty Greer, and Mark McLemore.

Michael would sit in the summer sun and dream. Major League Baseball is a long shot for most young men. Having support at home can be crucial, and Charles provided that as soon as his son could swing a bat. The retired Bell Helicopter engineer coached Michael from age 6 to 12, the last two years as part of a traveling team named the Kansas City Monarchs after the famed Negro League club.

Despite excelling as a catcher and second baseman at Mansfield Timberview High School, college scholarships failed to happen. Thomas, then a UTA assistant coach, and fellow assistant Jay Sirianni scouted Choice. Soon after, the University offered him a scholarship.

“That was heartwarming for us,” Charles says. “I wouldn’t trade it for anything. Michael wouldn’t, either.”

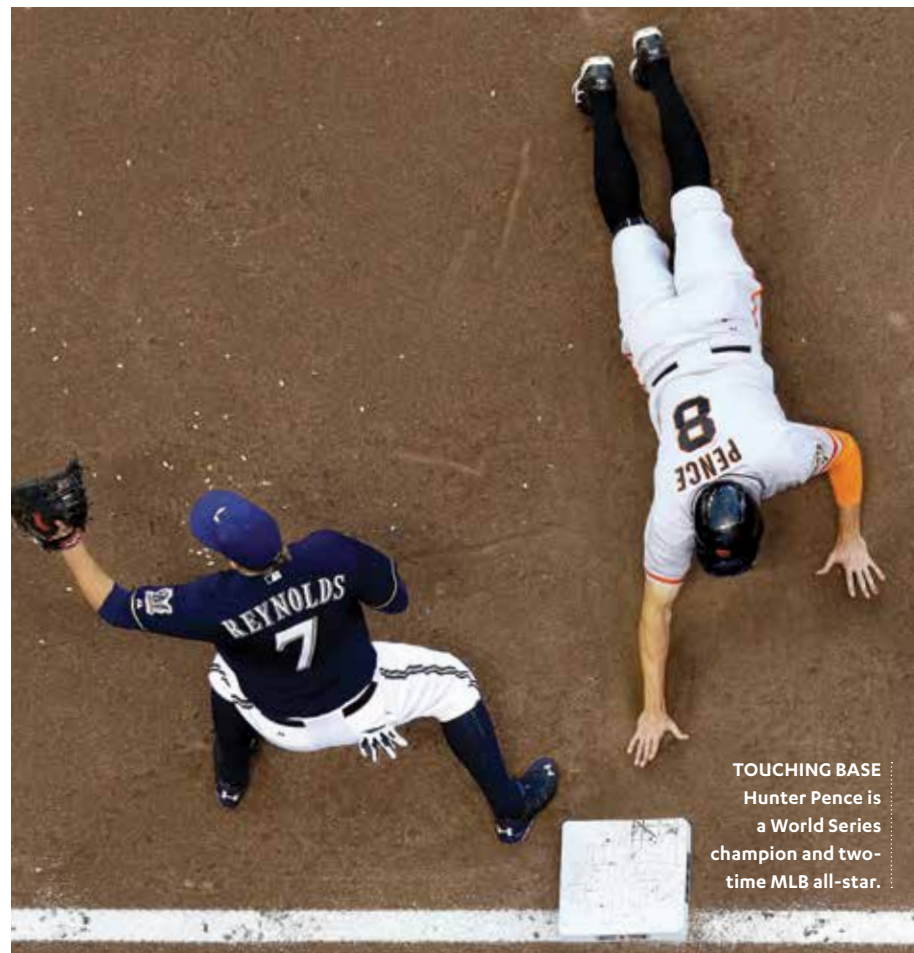
Thomas became UT Arlington’s head coach before the 2007-08 school year and moved Choice from second base to the outfield. The switch paid off. Choice was named Southland Conference Freshman of the Year, second team All-SLC, Rivals.com Freshman All-American, and first team National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Freshman All-American.

Tales of his feats are legendary. He hit balls out of Clay Gould Ballpark over Park Row Drive and into the front yard of houses beyond the left field wall. The batter’s eye in center field is littered with holes courtesy of his monster blasts. Even his bats took a beating. Choice thought they were defective, but they were just stressed.

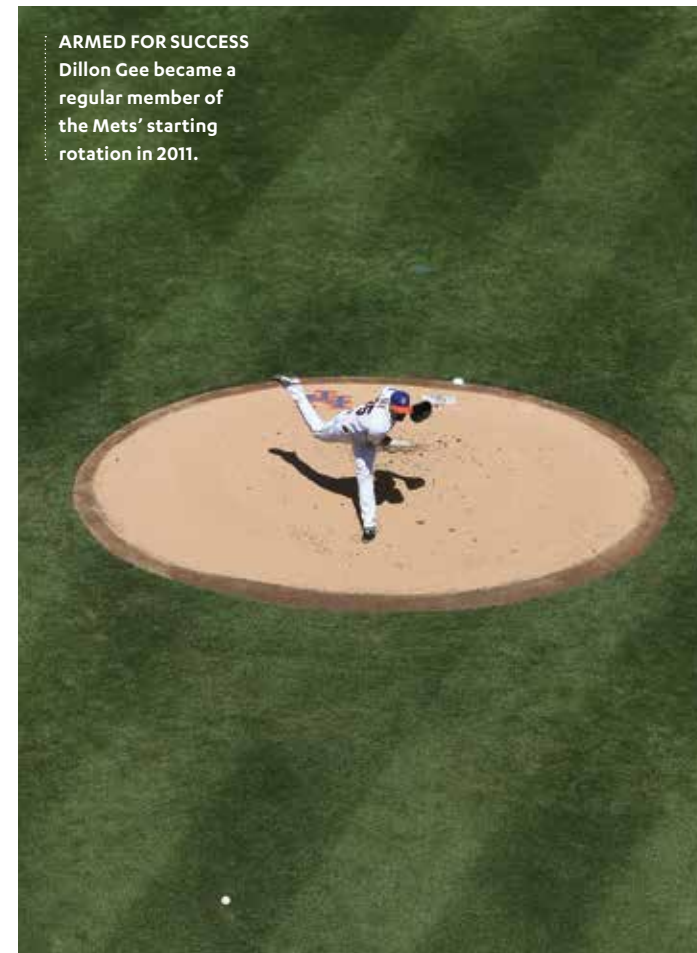
“If you dented up your bat, you wanted a new one,” Thomas says. “I finally had to tell him, ‘It’s not the bat, it’s you.’ He would take one swing and generate enough power and bat speed that there would be a big ol’ ding in it.”

The dents Choice left in UT Arlington’s record book are as prodigious as his swing. He owns the all-time mark for home runs (34), is second in career batting average (.392), second in RBIs (162), third in runs (170), and third in hits (242).

“I had a great time there,” he says of UTA. “Made a lot of good friends, got a chance to develop and mature as a person and a player.”



TOUCHING BASE
Hunter Pence is a World Series champion and two-time MLB all-star.



ARMED FOR SUCCESS
Dillon Gee became a regular member of the Mets’ starting rotation in 2011.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MORRY GASH/AP/CORBIS (PENCE), TIM CLAYTON/CORBIS (GEE)

That player was now on everyone’s radar. He was chosen for the U.S. national team and batted .350 during the 2009 World Baseball Challenge. In 2010, following his junior season, Oakland selected Choice 10th overall in the MLB draft.

He views his trade to the Rangers from a business angle, smiling at the turn of events that took him from one American League West rival to another. He broke into the big leagues with Oakland last September and thought he would be a fixture in the A’s outfield for years.

“You never really know how baseball goes,” says Choice, who lives in Mansfield with wife Jade and their son, Blair. “It’s a giant chessboard and players move around all the time.” He was on the move again in July when the Rangers sent him to Round Rock, their Triple-A minor league team, before recalling him seven weeks later.

NAME RECOGNITION

Staying in the majors may be tougher than getting there.

“A lot of guys make it to the major leagues,” Gee says. “They may get a day here or there when they get called up. The real number is the guys who stay and spend multiple years in the majors. You have to work even harder to stay. You never stop learning.”

Gee made his MLB debut in 2010 as a September call-up and became a regular in the Mets’ rotation the following year. Along the way he battled back from a blood clot in his shoulder in 2012 and a stint on the disabled list earlier this summer.

The Cleburne native frequently visits campus during the winter to use the Justin D. Wilson Batting Facility. He’s aware of the program’s continued improvements, including the clubhouse complex currently under construction.

“It’s good to see where they’re headed, and it seems they get better every year,” he says. “I know the coaching staff is great. It’s exciting for me to go back every off-season to see how much this program has grown.”

Lackey has fashioned a solid career over a decade as a starter with the Los Angeles Angels, Boston Red Sox, and St. Louis Cardinals. The Abilene native played at UT Arlington in 1998 under coach Butch McBroom, though he didn’t pitch much back then. Lackey logged most of his playing time at first base, occasionally pitching out of the bullpen.

Traded from Boston to St. Louis in July, the right-hander owns the distinction as the first pitcher in MLB history to earn the clinching World Series victory for two clubs. He did it the first time in 2002 with the Angels and again in 2013 with the Red Sox.

Lackey’s title last fall completed a back-to-back for the Mavericks. Pence proved to be an integral part of the 2012 World Series champion San Francisco Giants.

A two-time major league all-star, Pence says playing at UT Arlington in the competitive Southland Conference helped him prepare for professional baseball. The second-round pick in 2004 by Houston also has played for the Houston Astros and Philadelphia Phillies during an eight-year career.

The Arlington High graduate returned to UTA in 2013 as the keynote speaker for the First Pitch Banquet. His memories run deep.

“It’s hard to roll that up into one experience,” he says.



HANDS ON
Michael Choice greets fans at a Whataburger in Grand Prairie.

“The culmination of everything—your teammates, the camaraderie, the friendships that go beyond your college years. If you roll that up, I think that’s what you would say is my best experience.”

Other former Mavericks likely feel the same. The program continues to produce quality players who could one day find themselves in The Show. UTA is coming off a record-setting MLB draft that saw six players taken, including a school-record three in the top 10 rounds.

Since Thomas’ arrival, more than 40 Mavericks have been either drafted or signed with major league teams. Of the 10 UTA players who have ascended to the majors, he has coached seven.

“It’s a testament to the fact that players get better when they come here,” Thomas says. “Hopefully, that helps us attract more quality players if their goal is to get drafted and play professional baseball.”

Gee says the players are proud to represent UT Arlington.

“I’ll be watching a game with my teammates and Hunter is up to bat and I’ll say, ‘Hey, there’s a UTA guy.’ I’ll do the same for Choice. To have not just one or two guys but multiple guys speaks highly of what we’re doing at UTA, and hopefully we’ll get a little more attention. We definitely like to rep the name.”

“The real number is the guys who stay and spend multiple years in the majors. You have to work even harder to stay.”



Prescriptions of Promise

With their advancements in drug discovery and delivery, three professors are leading the charge to detect and battle serious health problems. BY O.K. CARTER • ILLUSTRATION BY HARRY CAMPBELL

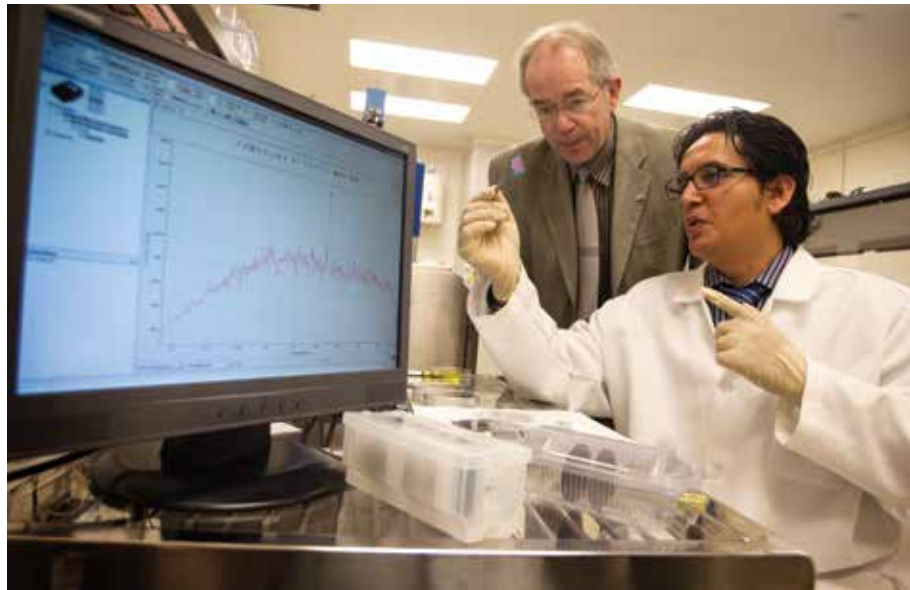
WHETHER PATIENTS LIVE OR DIE often depends on their medical treatment, but too many pharmaceuticals produce side effects that slow healing. Researchers Daniel Armstrong, Robert Magnusson, and Kytai Nguyen are devising novel methods to diagnose illnesses and develop and deliver drugs with life-saving potential.

Dr. Armstrong's chemical breakthroughs have improved the way pharmaceutical companies create drugs, thus aiding disease identification and treatment. Dr. Magnusson's drug test kits can help with early cancer detection and numerous health screenings. Dr. Nguyen's nanoparticle drug-delivery systems show promise in assisting cancer, lung, and heart patients. The researchers have garnered millions of dollars in funding and earned their fields' most prestigious honors. "They are great examples of how UT Arlington researchers work diligently to help people live longer, healthier, and happier lives," Vice President for Research Carolyn Cason says. "They are truly dedicated to turning their ideas into products and systems that benefit society."

including drugs, is one of the most required tests done in the world," Armstrong says. "Current methods have many shortcomings, but I believe our new ionic liquid method offers improvements."

He also has investigated DMAA, a popular sports supplement embroiled in controversy involving professional athletes and even the Army. His team found it unlikely that DMAA comes from the geranium plant or its extracted oil, as companies have claimed.

Armstrong casually dismisses being ranked No. 16 on *The Analytical Scientist* magazine's 2013 list of the world's most influential people in analytical sciences. His vita is a roll call of chemistry's highest honors, including being named a 2013 fellow of the American Chemical Society.



LAB WORK
Above: Robert Magnusson and Ph.D. student Manoj Niraula examine a nanophotonic chip. Right: Graduate student Lillian Frink researches drug purity under the direction of Daniel Armstrong. Opposite page: Kytai Nguyen's nanoparticle drug-delivery systems show promise in assisting cancer, lung, and heart patients.

TEAM CHEMISTRY

For Armstrong that means catching bad behavior in the sports world. He and graduate student Hongyue Guo recently unveiled a way to test for performance-enhancing drugs that could be up to a thousand times more sensitive than present tests.

"Our goal is to develop ultra-sensitive methods that will extend the window of detection," says Armstrong, the University's Robert A. Welch Chair in Chemistry, "and we may have developed one of the most sensitive methods in the world."

When testing athletes, technicians use mass spectrometry to find bits of drugs in blood, urine, or other fluids after the body breaks down the substances. Armstrong's method, called paired ion electrospray ionization, gathers drug bits together, making them easier to detect.

Renowned for his work in chemical separations, Armstrong and his team are leading efforts to find a more accurate way to measure water content in pharmaceuticals—a major quality issue for drug manufacturers. Water content can affect the stability and shelf life of a drug and, when it's too high, cause microbial growth. The new technique could be a hundred times more sensitive than a popular current practice.

"The analysis for water in many consumer products,



He holds 23 U.S. and international patents and has written more than 550 scientific publications, including one book and 29 book chapters. He founded a syndicated National Public Radio show on science and has mentored more than 100 graduate students, many of whom were the first in their families to pursue college degrees.

"Basically, I do what I find interesting," he says. "My main motivation has always been to develop and explain things that are new, interesting, and potentially useful."

But research is only part of Armstrong's job.

"The rest is teaching. That includes not just lecturing but helping students do clear scientific writing and speaking. It means answering questions about their research and techniques for coming up with their own ideas, as well as working in collaboration. That's just as rewarding as the research, perhaps more so."

PIONEERING PLATFORM

From his office in Nedderman Hall, Robert Magnusson flips a small device in his fingers. About the width of a dime, it resembles a tray loaded with tiny petri dishes. It's actually a nanostructured sensor platform capable of identifying chemicals and their characteristics at the nano level with extreme accuracy.

The patented platform—one of more than 25 patents

Magnusson holds—is in commercial use by Resonant Sensors Inc., a company he co-founded with alumna Debra Wawro Weidanz. In simple terms, it works like this: A clinician places the biological materials to be tested on the sensor and, based on the resulting color changes in the nanostructures, analyzes the bioreaction.

"There are clearly applications of the technology to all kinds of diseases, for example identifying biomarkers for specific types of cancer to expedite diagnosis," Magnusson says. "While some medical applications may take many years to be approved, there are other fields in which our sensors can be useful right away. These include veterinary medicine, drug research and development, and environmental monitoring."



To better understand the scale of the product, Magnusson says imagine thousands of sensors fitting in a space the size of a fingernail. The antibody-loaded test kits can do a thorough, almost immediate health analysis.

"This is a unique technology," the Iceland native says. "I call it the 'complete biosensor' because it quantifies all aspects of a given bioreaction in every spot on the biochip in real time. Competing sensors lack this ability."

Magnusson holds UT Arlington's Texas Instruments Distinguished University Chair in Nanoelectronics. A member of the elite National Academy of Inventors, he leads UT Arlington's Nanophotonics Device Group, which pursues theoretical and experimental research in periodic nanostructures, nanolithography, nanoelectronics, nanoplasmonics, and optical bio- and chemical sensors. He's adept at moving research from the lab to the marketplace, one reason the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers named him a 2014 IEEE fellow.

He is currently working with his graduate students and postdoctoral fellows on new display technology, solar absorbers, and semiconductor lasers. He envisions a cellphone-sized, self-contained advanced sensor platform.

"This technology would be a leap forward in person-

alized medicine and in-field medical screening," he says, "with test results achieved in just a few minutes."

DELIVERING HOPE

With an equally keen focus on the future, Kytai Nguyen is developing nano-based medical treatments to battle lung and prostate cancer and help heart patients heal arteries damaged by angioplasty procedures. The bioengineering associate professor concentrates on drug delivery using nanoparticles targeted to the affected areas.

The particles are incorporated with a protein or biomolecule that is attracted to a particular cellular structure. Once they arrive, the nanoparticles slowly deteriorate, releasing a medication over days or weeks before being eliminated by normal body processes.

"It is specific treatment for a specific area as opposed to having to medicate the whole body, as would occur in traditional chemotherapy," Nguyen says. "The outcome should be maximum efficiency with the least damage to the patient."

Armed with a \$1.4 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, Nguyen is creating a nanoparticle system to shore up arterial walls following angioplasty and stenting procedures to treat coronary arterial disease. Since a million Americans a year undergo such procedures, her work could have vast implications.

Angioplasty expands arteries using a balloon-like device, allowing blood to flow more easily but often damaging the arterial wall. If the wall repairs itself with larger, smooth muscle cells, more blockage will occur. This arterial narrowing is called restenosis. Nguyen's nanoparticles attract stem cells from the blood, resulting in repairs by smaller, smoother endothelial cells that serve as a natural barrier.

"It's just like Mother Nature intended," she says. "A lot of what we do is designed to encourage the body to fix itself."

Through another NIH-funded project, Nguyen is teaming with a UT Southwestern Medical Center colleague to develop a nanoparticle drug-delivery system that will stimulate lung growth and function after partial lung removal or destructive lung disease. The work could offer an alternative to transplantation.

"The frustration is that it can take decades to gain Food and Drug Administration approval for a treatment as we move from the lab to small animals and then larger animals, and from small groups of human patients to larger groups. For example, we're just now using a cancer treatment drug that took 30 years to get FDA approval. I'm convinced that the potential for nano treatments is massive and lifesaving. But when it comes to medicine, the proof of safety and effectiveness has to come first."

Like Armstrong and Magnusson, Nguyen has received recognition from industry heavyweights for her work. She is a fellow of the American Heart Association and has received the organization's Scientist Development Award.

All three researchers share a passion for addressing urgent health challenges and a strong desire to bring the results into the mainstream. They believe it's their obligation to change lives, enhance lives, and save lives now and for generations to come. ☺

"Our goal is to develop ultra-sensitive methods that will extend the window of detection, and we may have developed one of the most sensitive methods in the world."



Making a Scene

Fearless, unrelenting, and passionate, professor and filmmaker Ya'Ke Smith has emerged as a major influence in independent cinema. BY KENNETH PERKINS

WHEN BART WEISS SAW Ya'Ke Smith's short film *The Second Coming*, it stayed with him far longer than expected. Like a sucker punch to the gut, it left him a bit limp. Weiss' first thought: From whose brain did this originate? *The Second Coming* is a brutally honest portrayal of fatherly love lost and found, a vivid soliloquy about a wayward dad whose last, unselfish deed turns

around the life of a seemingly unforgiving son. The film is stark and bare, shot mostly on a street corner and lasting a mere dozen minutes. The defining scene features a scuffle, a gunshot, and death.

“It is,” Weiss says, “pretty extraordinary.”

EVOKING EMOTION

Weiss is no casual moviegoer. An associate professor in the UTA Art and Art History Department and artistic director and co-founder of the Dallas Video Festival, he dissects cinema for a living.

Yet *The Second Coming* moved him in a way few short films do. He’d never heard of Smith, a San Antonio native who had remained in Austin after completing a Master of Fine Arts degree from The University of Texas. Smith’s hang-loose manner mixes nicely with what one film festival executive once called a “smoldering relentlessness.” His short film *Hope’s War*, about a U.S. soldier’s difficult transition to civilian life, already had screened at the 2006 Cannes International Film Festival.

“The first time I saw Ya’Ke’s work, I fell in love with it,” Weiss says. “I knew that whenever we had a position open in the department, I’d want to bring Ya’Ke in. When that happened a bit later, the first moment I possibly could I called and asked him to apply.”

That was five years ago. Smith now holds the Morgan Woodward Distinguished Professorship in the College of Liberal Arts and has emerged as one of the University’s most popular instructors. It helps when you’re considered a rising voice in independent cinema and when, at 33, you’re not much older than your graduate students.

“What I like best is that it’s not like we’re listening to a professor who did something back in the day,” says grad student Gabriel Duran, whose film *The Mule*, about tragic outcomes of the drug trade, was screened at the UT Arlington Student Film/Video Organiza-

tion’s Spring 2014 Festival at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth.

“He knows the situation we’re in because he’s still out there doing his thing. And doing it his way, you know? He puts it out there. No fear. I mean, have you seen his work?”

Those who have often leave reeling from emotional exhaustion. Smith gravitates to characters beaten down from the turbulence of life. In *Katrina’s Son*, he tells the heartbreaking story of an 11-year-old boy looking for love from a mother who can’t give it. Then there’s *Wolf*, an unflinching tale of sexual molestation that also tackles such taboos as morality within the walls of religious institutions.

“What he does best is evoke emotion,” says Barbara Morgan, co-founder and executive director of the Austin Film Festival, where *Katrina’s Son* was shown. “He has a unique voice—not just in the vision of the films but in the actual writing. And he’s relentless. Yet nothing is more important than staying true to himself.”

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Smith grew up on the east side of San Antonio, a place that often hit the evening news for all the wrong reasons.

“It was rough, I won’t lie,” he says. “Gangs. Drama. My mom was like, ‘You’re not going to get involved.’ But she didn’t shelter me. She wanted me to see the world and stay in school.”

Smith’s father was not around; his hard-working mother raised him and two older sisters with firmness, giving him just enough hope to keep him dreaming. A male’s presence is a lingering theme in many of his films, including the critically acclaimed *Wolf*, which is as much about a well-intentioned but often absent father as it is the title’s pedophile preacher.

“I watched so many of my friends go down the path of drugs and gang activity, and a lot of it stems from

not having that male figure,” Smith says. “We’re all looking for role models. You don’t have a father in the home, you’re always looking for a replacement.”

Weiss says of Smith: “He’s had a difficult life, one that certainly could have turned another way. He was one of the lucky ones. You see that clearly in his work. None of the characters he creates gets the easy way out.”

The big out for Smith was filmmaking, which tugged on him at age 11 when he saw John Singleton’s *Boyz n the Hood* about a teen and his father navigating the inescapable violence of street life. Characters weren’t used as device props but elicited real emotions.

“I was like, ‘Wow,’” Smith recalls. “That film really touched me. Up to that point, I hadn’t seen a film where anyone talked about the humanity and what these families go through. I wanted to make media that touched people in that way.”

Produced at age 15, *A Cry for Help*, Smith’s first film while a student at Sam Houston High School in San Antonio, was “a very bad movie about a young girl’s struggle after getting pregnant by her boyfriend. It was my way of making something socially conscious.”

An aware teacher handed him a screenwriting book and even allowed him to take home a camera on weekends to shoot, which he did, rounding up friends as actors. His mother would make pounds of spaghetti.

“We didn’t know what we were doing,” Smith says. “There was no script. I was just pulling my friends, asking them, ‘You want to act? Come on then.’”

One of those friends, Ralph Lopez, has worked on every Smith project as a producer through their Exodus Filmworks production company.

“He knows what he wants and knows how to get it. He’s always been that way,” Lopez says. “His excitement and energy on set bring up morale. I bet he does that with his students.”

Ryan Britton, who graduated in May, says that fierce passion sustained him through the master’s program—not to mention the professor’s willingness to take late-night phone calls. At home.

“He didn’t just chat with you about your film and let you go and say, ‘Hope you come back with something good,’” says Britton, whose film about a family meth business, *Not Abel*, was shown at the UTA spring festival. “He wouldn’t let you go until he knew you knew.”

In April the College of Liberal Arts honored Britton and Smith with a Dean’s Accolade Award, which recognizes high-achieving students and their faculty mentors.

“Ya’Ke is a dedicated and gifted teacher,” liberal arts Dean Beth Wright says. “He works side by side with his students, and he inspires them.”

ART AND SOUL

Smith’s classes are like discussion workshops where he’s more motivator than lecturer.

“I’m not one of those people who thinks he has all the answers and everything I say is right,” he says. “My classroom is open dialogue. I’m listening to them, giving feedback. My goal is to pull out the real artist that’s locked inside.”

He gets ample opportunity in the small, tightly knit program. Smith shares teaching duties with Weiss and Senior Lecturer Mark Clive. Everyone gets exposed to

In Production Film program offers hands-on direction

The best way to learn filmmaking is to make films. That may seem obvious, but at many of the nation’s largest film programs, students spend much of their time in classrooms learning theory.

At UT Arlington, classes operate much like a film set. Students create production companies and work on all aspects of film production, from writing the screenplay to operating the cameras to producing to, ultimately, directing.

“To graduate, they have to direct a film,” says Bart Weiss, an associate professor and award-winning independent film producer, director, and writer. “It’s important to have that experience even if you don’t do that anymore in your career. It’s important to know the pressures on the director and to understand the mindset of a director.”

While it may be fun to do a zombie flick, Weiss and fellow faculty demand that students make their projects more personal.

“We encourage them to look into their own lives, to tell stories that mean something to them,” he says. “Our films touch people at a deeper level. They resonate on a different plane.”

Founded in 1970, the UTA film program has built a reputation for turning out innovative filmmakers who take top prizes at major festivals. With a hundred undergraduates and a small cadre of graduate students, the program is large enough to offer a variety of classes and small enough that students can work one-on-one with professors.

A state-of-the-art projection room debuted this fall and offers a movie-theater experience for showings. The program also welcomes back prominent alumni as guest lecturers, including Norry Niven ’85, one of the top commercial directors in the Southwest. In return, Niven and other Texas filmmakers are happy to recruit UTA graduates.

“The great thing is, if you’re at UTA, you’re rolling up your sleeves and getting it done as opposed to some other universities that teach theory,” Niven says. “Bart always has a student coming out of his class that I know I can count on.”

— Kathryn Hopper

Note: Weiss will present a compilation of films made by UT Arlington students on KERA’s *Frame of Mind* at 10 p.m. Oct. 16.

BOLD DIRECTION

Whether helping students on the set of their films or working on his own projects, Ya’Ke Smith tackles tough subjects without flinching.



everyone else. It’s a hands-on atmosphere that students treasure.

Undergraduate Malina Miller took a narrative class with Smith. “You’d think after writing the film, that would be it. Not with Ya’Ke. He’d ask stuff like, ‘What were you trying to convey? How is this moving the story? What is the essence of the story?’ He really makes you think about every little thing. He really has this drive for authenticity.”

So does this authenticity in tough subjects prevent Smith from reaching a wider audience? Even while winning awards—his work has been honored at more than 40 festivals, broadcast nationally on HBO, and nominated for a Student Academy Award—his films often are deemed challenging to market. He is unapologetic, saying that of course he desires a wider audience, but not at the cost of his vision.

“It’s what I know. I don’t want to shy away from my truth. If you’re not being transparent, you can’t be an effective storyteller.”

Consider his next two projects—*dawn.*, the story of an ex-convict readjusting to life, and *Heaven*, about a ballet prodigy who is sexually and psychologically manipulated into the world of sex trafficking.

For Smith, real art is a reflection of the soul. He wants people to re-evaluate the way they think.

“A lot of time we only see part of the story. We never get a chance to understand the humanity of people who come out of bad situations,” he says. “Nobody wants to be a drug addict. No one really wants to be a deviant of any kind. We often find ourselves in situations. Some of us make it out and some don’t. I want to show that.”

“I don’t want to shy away from my truth. If you’re not being transparent, you can’t be an effective storyteller.”

THE CHINA CONNECTION

UT Arlington's Asian EMBA closes the cultural gap for students on both sides of the globe and opens China to American business practices.

BY NANCY B. STRINI • PHOTO BY JAMES WASSERMAN

THE GRADUATION RECEPTION in the E.H. Hereford University Center in May was much like others around campus that day, but with a twist. These Executive MBA graduates and their families were greeted in Chinese, not English.

Another difference: None of the students had ever been to UT Arlington. Many had never visited the United States. All had attended UTA's EMBA classes at one of three Chinese universities, but they wanted to be in Texas for commencement.

Sharry Du '14, a business owner in Shanghai, figures the Texas ceremony was just one more way to expand the valuable relationships she developed while a student.

"We have spent a year and a half making friends, not only in Shanghai but in all the UTA programming in Chinese cities," says Du, who attended commencement and is one of 55 Chinese students who earned the coveted UTA degree last spring. "We have close contact,



SHANGHAI IMPACT
Asian EMBA graduates Louise Ji and Michael Wang are putting American business concepts to practice.



and through things like WhatsApp we keep in touch with each other. It can extend our relationships.”

BREAKING GROUND ABROAD

Strong personal relationships, an essential part of doing business in Asia, have grown exponentially between the University and China since 2002, when the College of Business began its Asian EMBA program. The move put UTA at the top of the food chain for EMBA degrees in China. It was one of the first programs of its kind in the country and is now the largest international EMBA there, with partnerships at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, Tongji University Shanghai, and Xi'an Jiaotong University.

It is also the only EMBA program approved by the Ministry of Education to partner with three Chinese universities. Chinese MOE approval is an essential accreditation for schools that educate employees of state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

That accreditation launched a second opportunity in 2003—the chance for SOE employees to experience a 12-month, residential EMBA in Arlington. Today the in-country and in-Texas Asian EMBA programs have graduated more than 2,000 businessmen and women. Many own or have recently started companies; others have moved to the top ranks of SOEs.

Both programs give students much more than business acumen. They're vehicles for cultural exchanges that reverberate far beyond individual students, says Michael Wang '08, who worked for state-owned Anshan Steel when he was selected for the Arlington program in 2007. "Education here changed my mind," he says of living in Texas for a year. "But not only the education, the American culture. The American dream influenced me a lot."

It gave him the confidence to leave a stable position at Anshan Steel a year and a half after graduating and open his own business, Steelvision International Trading Co., Ltd.

"I now think freedom is most important," Wang says. "If you work with a big state company, you are not free.

You have to follow their rules. Now I have freedom. I can do things I want. I can go anywhere in the world if I want."

And he does. He travels the globe half the year to build and maintain work relationships. He appreciates the American way of thinking so much that he enrolled his teenage daughter in a boarding school in Austin.

GLOBAL INFLUENCE

China opened for international business about 25 years ago. Now the Chinese clamor to embrace the global business trend, especially in the U.S., says David Mack, assistant dean in the College of Business. He has taught in China 31 times in the past 11 years.

"All business is global now," Dr. Mack says. "I don't care what your business is, there's a global aspect, whether it's where you get your raw materials or who your competitors are."

That means successful companies must navigate myriad cultural challenges. In China business relationships are vital, says Daniel Himarios, the founder of UTA's Asian programs and vice provost and executive director of the Center for Global Academic Initiatives.

"The fundamentals of business are the same. What is different is the culture," Dr. Himarios says. "Business in China is more relational. It's a much different way of doing business, over drinks, over meals. The personal touch and the personal relationship are much, much more important."

Mack says that translates to "being treated to lunch every day" when teaching there. Those who attend classes at UTA get an even more intimate view of life in America during their year here, visiting businesses and enjoying social activities with churches and other local organizations.

Himarios says the students who come to Texas are smart, sophisticated executives at major Chinese corporations. "They leave here with a very positive view of the U.S. and Texas. They wear cowboy hats and boots and go back and say they are Texans. I'm sure that they have an influence on what is going on in China."

PHOTOGRAPH BY IMAGINECHINA/CORBIS (XI'AN JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY)

UT Arlington is certainly impacting the Chinese business culture. For example, about 30 percent of the executives at state-owned Sinosteel have been through the UTA EMBA program. Other graduates hold high-ranking positions at McDonald's China, GE China, Walmart China, and IBM China, among other companies.

"They now have a common point of reference and understanding of the things we've taught," Mack says. "Over time, as they adapt these ideas, these companies are going to change from the inside out."

Louise Ji '12, who earned her EMBA in China, says the degree gave her a "sky-high view" of businesses that helped her advance to her current position as operations director at Emerson Climate Technologies. Emerson is an international heating and air conditioning powerhouse that operates in every major market in the world. Ji is responsible for production, quality, supply chain management, and finance for refrigeration in the Suzhou plant.

"This education gave me a complete view of methodology, a more consolidated way to see, and a link to better understanding," she says. "It provided me more opportunity for personal advancement and for new possibilities."

IDEA EXCHANGE

Christina Chin '03, director of international programs at UTA's Center for Global Academic Initiatives, manages details for the Chinese students coming to campus. She arranges housing and transportation and helps them adjust to American culture.

Chin says the students return to China armed with business concepts Americans take for granted. They're impressed with the practice of periodic performance reviews that include employees rating the supervisor's effectiveness. In China employees are expected to simply take direction and never question the boss.

"They think that is such a good idea," Chin says. "When they go back, they are in a high enough position that they will incorporate some of these practices. You cannot help but think that our program has done much to promote free enterprise and grow China in that regard."

The learning goes both ways. Mack, who also directs the University's domestic EMBA program housed in the Fort Worth Center, brings his China experiences into every U.S. class, lecture, and speaking assignment.

"People are just stunned at the extent to which China has changed," he says. "Today, the Chinese are among the best capitalists in the world."

Maybe because they've learned from the best. ☺

FAR-REACHING

Opposite page: Xi'an Jiaotong University is one of three Chinese partners for the Asian EMBA. Above middle: Graduates often travel to UTA to participate in commencement ceremonies. Above right: David Mack has taught in China 31 times in the past 11 years.

"Business in China is more relational. The personal touch and the personal relationship are much, much more important."

Degree of Distinction

Students credit the UTA Asian EMBA with advancing their careers. Milestones in the program's evolution include expansion to three Chinese universities.

| 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2003 | 2005 |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Twenty-six executives from PetroChina come to UTA for six months of training. | First EMBA class enrolls at the University of Science and Technology Beijing. | Twelve-month EMBA program at UTA begins. | In-country program expands to Tongji University Shanghai. | In-country program expands to Xi'an Jiaotong University. |

By the Numbers

The Asian EMBA is the largest international EMBA in China and the first to gain approval by the Chinese government to train its business executives.

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| 2000+ Alumni | 368 Current students in China | 25 Current students in Texas |
|------------------------|---|--|

AlumniNews

THE WORLD AND UT ARLINGTON



ILLUSTRATION BY CHI BIRMINGHAM

Engineered to Succeed

Bioengineering alumni include top researchers and industry leaders

Forty years ago UT Arlington teamed with the University of Texas Health Science Center, now UT Southwestern, to offer something unique in Texas—a joint graduate-level bioengineering program.

The ability to study both engineering and life science to develop life-saving procedures and materials attracted students like Mark Strauss.

“I already had two engineering degrees, but I wanted more of the human and life science,” recalls Dr. Strauss, who earned his Ph.D. in 1987. “I really believe I got what I came there for. At the time, it was unique.”

Now an engineering professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Strauss has built a national reputation for forensic accident reconstruction. This year he launched Impact Injury Analysis, a firm that uses biometrics to find the cause of vehicular accidents.

He is among the more than 600 alumni of the bioengineering program, which has grown into a full-fledged department offering courses to graduate and undergraduate students alike.

“A number of our graduates are professors, but we also have alumni who have been successful entering business,” says Khosrow Behbehani, dean of the College

of Engineering and bioengineering chair from 2002-13.

One of those is Kevin Nelson, who earned his doctorate in 1995 and went on to become a UT Arlington faculty member. In 1996 he joined a team to develop a fiber-based, biodegradable vascular stent to deliver gene therapy. Eventually patented, the technology is the focus of Dr. Nelson’s work and led him to found TissueGen in 2000.

Alumnus Michael Sacks received his Ph.D. in 1992 and is one of the world’s leading authorities on the mechanical behavior and function of heart valves. A UT Austin biomedical engineering professor, Dr. Sacks directs the Center for Cardiovascular Simulation at the Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences.

Last year the National Institutes of Health awarded him a \$6.6 million grant to develop detailed computer simulations of normal and diseased heart mitral valves.

Four decades after it began, the Bioengineering Department continues to thrive with its focus on tissue engineering, biomaterials, and optical medical imaging.

“The future of bioengineering is bright,” Dr. Behbehani says. “These new technologies allow a greater success rate with diagnosis and treatment of disease.”

“A number of our graduates are professors, but we also have alumni who have been successful entering business.”

Alumnus Nafees Alam creates culinary brands



Nafees Alam has a taste for success. The 2002 information systems graduate is changing the area dining landscape through his company, DRG Concepts, which works with top chefs to implement innovative restaurant ideas.

Founded in 2005, DRG has grown into one of the

region’s leading independent restaurant brands. Alam and business partner Mike Hoque have brought several eateries to North Texas, including Chop House, Chop House Burger, Dallas Fish Market, Wild Salsa, Urban Wok, and Oven & Cellar.

“I’m one of the lucky few who can truly say they love what

they do,” Alam says. “And that devotion to my business has translated into success.”

As vice president, he directs a 250-member team and is responsible for every facet of corporate operations, from culinary and mixology programs to ingredient procurement and concept branding.

“We’re extending our existing brands and creating new ones,” he says. “The goal is to have these concepts run seamlessly while delivering exactly what our customers want.”

As his personal and professional accomplishments mount, Alam continues to give back. DRG employees volunteer with The Bridge, a homeless shelter in the heart of downtown Dallas. The company also gives regularly to the Salvation Army, Vogel Alcove, and the YMCA in Dallas. Through DRG, Alam created a scholarship and internship program in UTA’s College of Business.

“I am truly appreciative of everything UT Arlington has done for me,” says Alam, who received an award for outstanding early career development from the college in 2013. “I hope our contribution is able to support promising business students and shape their future so they can pursue their dreams just as I did.”

Camera Ready

Elizabeth Dinh makes her mark at CBS affiliate

In front of the TV camera, Elizabeth Dinh ’03 is calm and self-assured—qualities you’d expect in someone doing work she enjoys. But getting to this point in her career wasn’t easy.

“I was afraid to admit it as a freshman,” she says, “but I didn’t know for sure what I wanted to do.”

The KTVT/CBS 11 news reporter changed her major twice before settling on broadcast communication. “I fell in love with my classes, and for the first time I realized that I was heading in the right direction.”

After graduation Dinh moved to Amarillo to work as a reporter and weekend anchor at KAMR-TV. Her career then took her to Tampa, Fla., and Seattle before the North Texas native landed back in the Metroplex.

“Even though I grew up in the area, I constantly find myself learning about a person, place, or thing I hadn’t known about before. I also love knowing that my job can help people. It informs, and occasionally I’ll do a story that brings a smile to people’s faces.”

The former Miss Asian-American Texas is an ambassador for Against the Grain Productions, a local nonprofit that promotes awareness and unity of Asian-American culture, artistry, and identity. She’s also a member of the Asian-American Journalists Association. Her activism for the Asian-American community started at UT Arlington, where she was vice president



of the Asian Student Association.

“I always felt that anything was possible when I was at UTA,” she says. “I was surrounded by people who encouraged me to follow my heart, and that is so important. It has helped me become the confident woman I am today.”

Events



JAMES STAVRIDIS

The retired U.S. Navy admiral will discuss “Sailing the Cyber Sea: The New Realities of 21st-Century Security” as part of the Maverick Speakers Series. 7:30 p.m. **Tuesday, Nov. 4**, Texas Hall. More information: uta.edu/maverickspeakers

‘A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE’

The Maverick Theatre Company presents the 1948 Pulitzer Prize-winning play by legendary American playwright Tennessee Williams. Directed by Natalie Gaupp. **Nov. 19-23**, Mainstage Theatre. More information: uta.edu/theatre



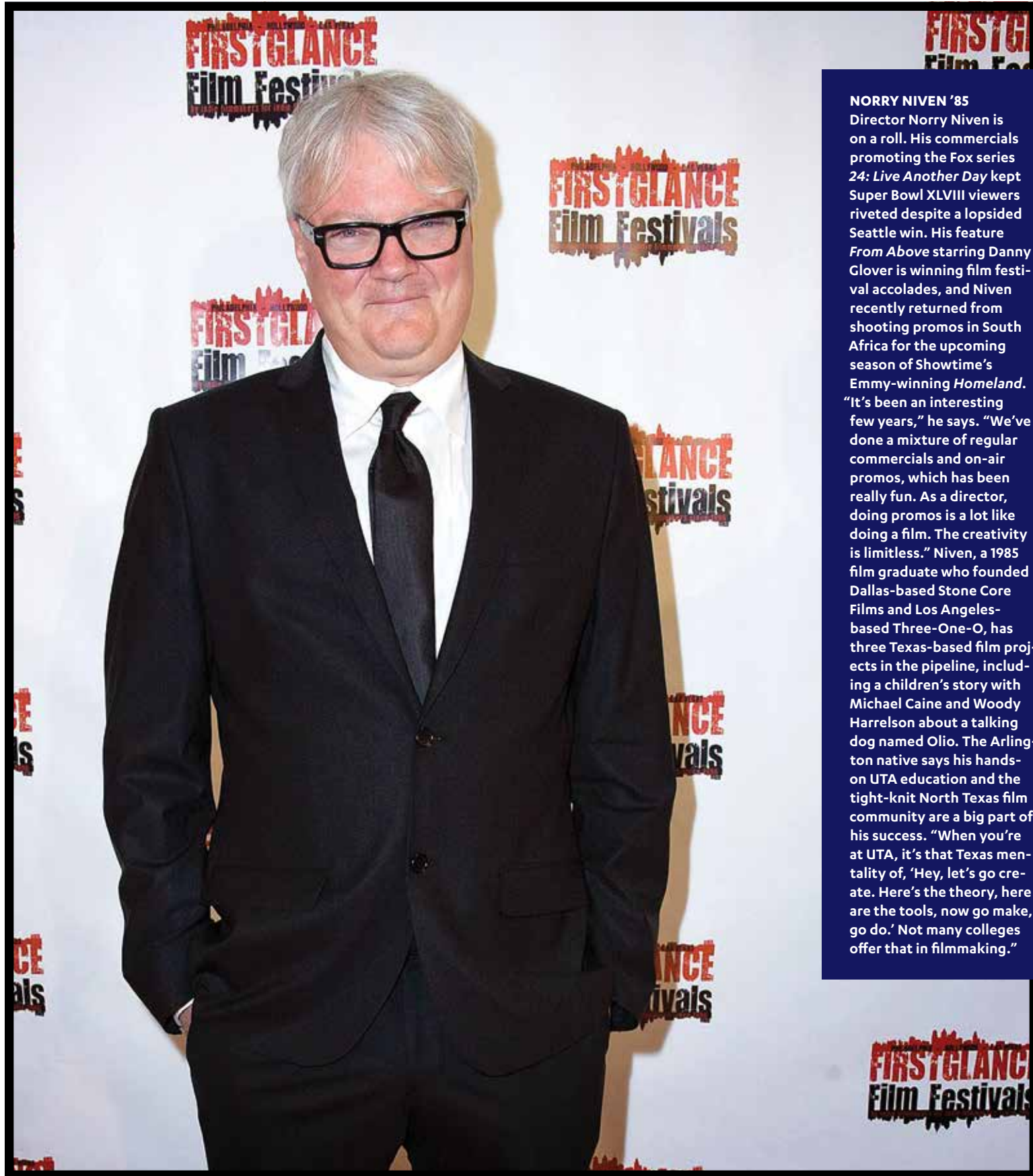
HOMECOMING 2014

Catch up with former classmates and check out what’s happening on campus. Events include a parade, street festival, Homecoming basketball game, alumni receptions, and more. **Friday-Saturday, Nov. 21-22**. More information: uta.edu/homecoming

ALUMNI AWARDS

Mark your calendars for the 49th annual Distinguished Alumni Awards recognizing graduates for their professional achievements, service to the community, and loyalty to UT Arlington. **Friday, Nov. 21**, E.H. Hereford University Center. More information: 817-272-2584

Alumni Los Angeles, California



NORRY NIVEN '85
 Director Norry Niven is on a roll. His commercials promoting the Fox series *24: Live Another Day* kept Super Bowl XLVIII viewers riveted despite a lopsided Seattle win. His feature *From Above* starring Danny Glover is winning film festival accolades, and Niven recently returned from shooting promos in South Africa for the upcoming season of Showtime's Emmy-winning *Homeland*. "It's been an interesting few years," he says. "We've done a mixture of regular commercials and on-air promos, which has been really fun. As a director, doing promos is a lot like doing a film. The creativity is limitless." Niven, a 1985 film graduate who founded Dallas-based Stone Core Films and Los Angeles-based Three-One-O, has three Texas-based film projects in the pipeline, including a children's story with Michael Caine and Woody Harrelson about a talking dog named Olio. The Arlington native says his hands-on UTA education and the tight-knit North Texas film community are a big part of his success. "When you're at UTA, it's that Texas mentality of, 'Hey, let's go create. Here's the theory, here are the tools, now go make, go do.' Not many colleges offer that in filmmaking."

PHOTOGRAPH BY WIREIMAGE

Snapshot



DFW AIRPORT AT 40 EVENT
 DFW International Airport CEO Sean Donohue and Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price '72 were among the panelists for a symposium at College Park Center in May addressing the airport's future.



EXECUTIVE DINNER
 Goolsby Leadership Academy scholars Thao Le and Nariman Musayev and alumna Linda Dipert '01 attended the College of Business Executive Dinner in April.



FIJI FRATERNITY REUNION
 Justin Matthews '98, '03, Ryan Kimball '01, and Jeff Stovall '01 attended a Phi Gamma Delta reunion in August on Greek Row Drive.



4TH OF JULY PARADE
 Jeannie Deakyne '98, '11 and husband Will Deakyne '11 with the UT Arlington float at the Arlington 4th of July Parade. Support from the Deakynes has funded the University's official parade entry for the past 14 years.



The 2014 Distinguished Alumni honorees are, clockwise from top left, Baron Concors '93, Fred Perpall '96, '98, Jim Greer '84, Serena Simmons Connelly '95, and Vicki Tanner '79 and Bruce Tanner '90.

Honoring Excellence

University celebrates alumni for career success, service to community

UT Arlington will recognize six alumni for their professional achievements, community engagement, and loyalty to their alma mater at the 49th annual Distinguished Alumni Awards on Nov. 21.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor bestowed on alumni by the University. The 2014 honorees are Baron Concors '93, Serena Simmons Connelly '95, Jim Greer '84, Fred Perpall '96, '98, and Bruce '90 and Vicki Tanner '79.

Concors, who earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from UT Arlington, is chief digital officer for Pizza Hut, an operating company of Yum! Brands. He is responsible for digital technology, digital marketing, and digital ventures to ensure that Pizza Hut fully engages its technology-connected consumers. Previously he was chief information officer for Yum! Restaurants International, overseeing KFC and Pizza Hut information technology in more than 120 countries, as well as chief information and digital officer for Pizza Hut U.S.

Connelly is the director of philanthropy for the Harold Simmons Foundation. Established in 1988, the foundation supports programs that advance human dignity, a safe and enriching environment, and comprehensive support systems for individuals, children, and families. She holds a master's degree in social work from UT Arlington and worked in Dallas nonprofit agencies as a case manager before joining the Simmons Foundation as a grant reviewer in 1999. She has served on numerous advisory councils of organizations in North Texas and beyond.

Greer is senior vice president and chief operating officer for Oncor Electric Delivery, overseeing all distribution and transmission engineering construction, maintenance and operations, and system operations

and measurement activities. He joined the Texas Utilities Co. system in 1984 after completing his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at UT Arlington. A registered professional engineer in Texas, he has held numerous leadership positions at Oncor and its predecessor companies spanning engineering, operations, and governmental relations.

Perpall, who received bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture at UT Arlington, is chief executive officer of The Beck Group. He oversees all aspects of the firm's domestic real estate, design, and construction practice and focuses on driving Beck's strategy to eliminate waste in the implementation of real estate assets. He began his career in the design and construction industry in 1996 and has been a registered architect since 2003.

Bruce Tanner is executive vice president and chief financial officer for Lockheed Martin Corp. He is responsible for all aspects of the company's financial strategies, processes, and operations. He previously served as vice president of finance and business operations for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co., overseeing financial management, accounting, estimating, contracts, and program finance. He earned an MBA in finance from UT Arlington.

Vicki Tanner worked 12 years in various financial analysis positions with General Dynamics before pursuing a career in education. She has taught elementary school for more than 20 years in Texas and Maryland. She graduated from UT Arlington with a BBA in accounting and holds a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. The Tanners, who are receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award as a couple, established the Bruce and Vicki Tanner Endowment for Math and Science Education in the UTA College of Science.

Spotlight



EXXONMOBIL GIFT
President Vistasp Karbhari, center, accepts a check from ExxonMobil representatives Walter Dueease, left, and David Curtis. ExxonMobil provides a three-to-one match on donations to UTA by its employees and retirees.



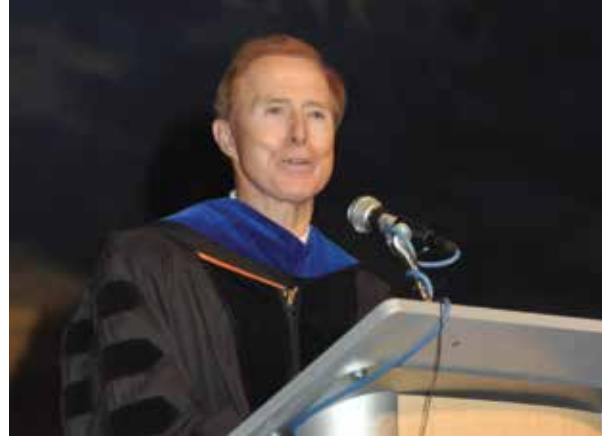
NINA TOTENBERG EVENT
Tim Moloney, Nina Totenberg, and Mary Jean Moloney at a reception in April before Totenberg's Maverick Speakers Series lecture.



STRATEGIC PLANNING
Marvin Applewhite '64, Mike Greene '69, and Taylor Gandy attended a reception in June before a strategic planning meeting.



NEDDERMAN SOCIETY
President Emeritus Wendell Nedderman talks with President Vistasp Karbhari at the annual Nedderman Society Cookout in May. The society recognizes faculty, staff, and retirees who contribute financially to UT Arlington.



Making Cents

John Merrill establishes endowment to improve financial literacy

Alumnus John Merrill sees a disturbing lack of financial skills among young people.

That's why the Houston-based financial adviser is working with UT Arlington to endow initiatives to promote financial literacy in future generations.

"There's a large lack of understanding of basic financial principles among young people that extends well into adulthood," says Merrill, president and chief investment officer at Tanglewood Wealth Management. "Many parents are failing to teach them, and school districts are not including it in their curriculums."

Merrill is working with the College of Business to improve money management among both college-aged and younger students through an endowment that will fund research symposia, development of interactive media to teach money skills, and support for a student money management center.

The author of several books, Merrill was a pioneer in the fee-only financial investment community and has been recognized as one of the nation's top financial advisers by *Barron's*, the *Financial Times*, and *Worth* magazine. His firm manages more than \$850 million in assets.

In 2011 he spoke at the College of Business commencement and received his undergraduate degree at the same ceremony after finishing his coursework online following a 40-year hiatus.

"I had completed everything I needed to graduate except a couple of courses to wrap up my degree," he says. "I signed up for those courses in the summer of 1970, and then an opportunity interceded. I dropped those courses to start a business."

Merrill hopes that providing better financial education will empower college students grappling with rising debt.

"I'm just a concerned citizen doing my small part to change things in one place, in one institution, in one area in the country," he says. "Hopefully it can serve as a template for many institutions and school districts in other parts of the country."

Support for center aids pre-law students

When Jeff Leuschel realized that UT Arlington's resources for pre-law students hadn't evolved much since he graduated in 1977, he was motivated to change things.

A partner in the Dallas office of McCall, Parkhurst & Horton LLP, Leuschel became actively involved in creating the Pre-Law Center. Since launching in 2012, the center has partnered with alumni as well as local corporations such as AT&T to provide financial support and one-on-one mentoring for aspiring lawyers.

"Much of the groundwork that led to my having a successful legal career was the result of my UTA education," he says. "I am fortunate to give back to UTA and its students in this way. My hope is that the Pre-Law Center will provide our students with the tools and means to compete with students around the country

in pursuing a career in law."

Leuschel was back on campus in April when the Pre-Law Center hosted a master class by NPR legal affairs correspondent Nina Totenberg and held a reception prior to her Maverick Speakers Series engagement. He and Andrew Sommerman '83, an attorney in the Dallas office of Sommerman & Quezada, urged fellow attorneys to support the center.

"Many have answered the call, and as a result the center is reaching more students," Sommerman says. "But there is still more to do."

Housed in the College of Liberal Arts, the Pre-Law Center helps students travel to seminars and moot court competitions and funds internships and scholarships for LSAT preparation.

To learn more about how to contribute, contact Christy Pierce at cpierce@uta.edu.

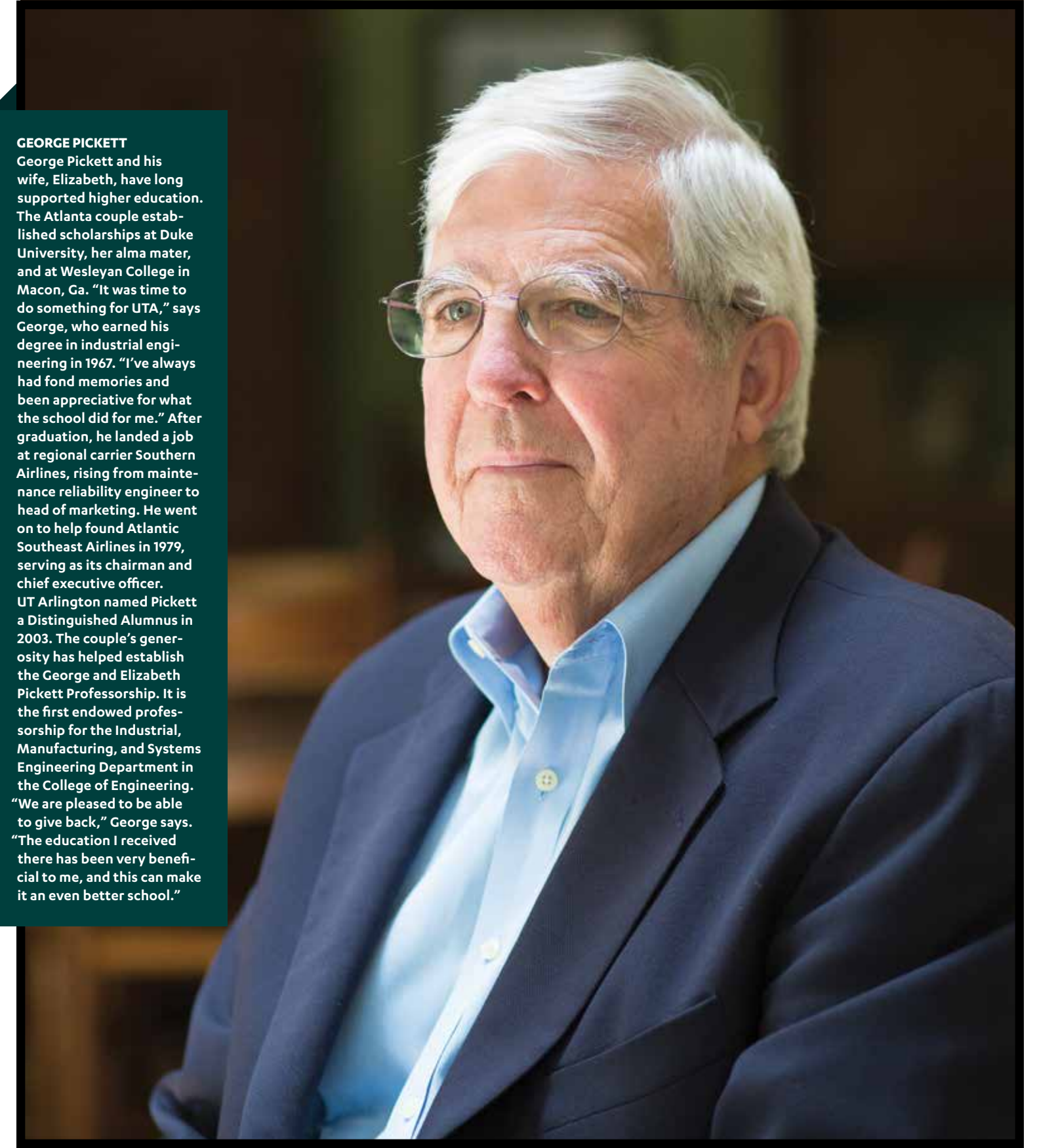


FIELD OF DREAMS UT Arlington's baseball and softball complexes are undergoing a \$5.5 million upgrade featuring state-of-the-art clubhouses and training facilities. A 5,859-square-foot baseball clubhouse is rising on the north-east end of Clay Gould Ballpark, and a 5,842-square-foot softball clubhouse is being built on the west end of Allan Saxe Field. Both facilities will have expanded player and coach lounges and sports medicine training rooms. Construction is scheduled to be complete by early 2015. For information on how to help the Maverick baseball and softball programs build their field of dreams, contact Craig Shaver, senior athletics director for development, at shaver@uta.edu.

GEORGE PICKETT

George Pickett and his wife, Elizabeth, have long supported higher education. The Atlanta couple established scholarships at Duke University, her alma mater, and at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga. "It was time to do something for UTA," says George, who earned his degree in industrial engineering in 1967. "I've always had fond memories and been appreciative for what the school did for me." After graduation, he landed a job at regional carrier Southern Airlines, rising from maintenance reliability engineer to head of marketing. He went on to help found Atlantic Southeast Airlines in 1979, serving as its chairman and chief executive officer. UT Arlington named Pickett a Distinguished Alumnus in 2003. The couple's generosity has helped establish the George and Elizabeth Pickett Professorship. It is the first endowed professorship for the Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering Department in the College of Engineering. "We are pleased to be able to give back," George says. "The education I received there has been very beneficial to me, and this can make it an even better school."

PHOTOGRAPH BY TROY STAINS



Class Notes

1965

Robert D. Skinner (BS, Physics), professor of neurobiology and developmental sciences and associate professor of radiology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, has begun a phased retirement. He has taught neuroscience and researched spinal cord injuries at UAMS since 1970.

1970

Shirlee Gandy (BA, Political Science) and her husband, Taylor, received the Distinguished Philanthropist Award primarily for efforts that funded the Kennedy Tribute in downtown Fort Worth. UT Arlington and Casa Mañana also have benefited from the Gandys' fundraising expertise. The Association of Fundraising Professionals presented the award.

1971

Lloyd Dowd (BS, Biology), a dentist in Tyler, offers a new dental laser for soft tissue treatment that improves the process for oral surgery and soft tissue management in cosmetic dentistry. The laser reduces pain, swelling, and bacterial infections during dental procedures. **Kristy Libotte Keener** (BFA, Art) won a Platinum International Hermes Creative Award in graphic design for a community information guide. She designed the booklet for the Transportation Department of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, where she is the graphic design coordinator.

1972

Nancy Roper Willson ('72 BS, '81 MA, Biology; '82 MSN, Nursing) is president of Texas Nurses Association District 4. She is a nurse attorney and a clinical assistant professor in the UTA College of Nursing.

1974

Rennda Branson (BA, Physical Education/English) re-

ceived an award for 40 years of service from the Mansfield Independent School District. She is principal at Erma Nash Elementary School.

1975

Ignacio Nuñez (BS, Biology) was named to the Texas Health Resources board of trustees. Dr. Nuñez is an OBGYN and former president of the medical staff at Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital. He also serves on the UTA College of Science Advisory Board. **Lico Reyes** (BA, Mathematics) plays the part of Blind George in the movie *Joe*, which stars Nicolas Cage and was released earlier this year. Reyes is a longtime leader of the Arlington branch of the League of United Latin American Citizens. He performs a comedy routine as Father Vito and has made other movie and TV appearances. He played the lead role as a homeless man in the short movie *Wally* and had a role in the made-for-TV movie *Pancho Barnes*, which starred Valerie Bertinelli.

1978

Sheri Innerarity ('78 BSN, '81 MSN, Nursing) received the 2014 American Association of Nurse Practitioners' Nurse Practitioner State Award for Excellence. Dr. Innerarity is an associate professor for clinical nursing in the UT Austin School of Nursing, where she has taught since 1989, and works as an adult clinical nurse specialist and family nurse practitioner in Smithville, La Grange, and Bastrop.

1980

Martha Moore Brothers ('80 BS, Microbiology; '92 BSN, Nursing) is a school nurse in the Fort Worth Independent School District. **Michael S. Charles** (BS, Biology) is a practicing trauma surgeon and director of the neuro-trauma-surgical ICU at St. John Trauma Center in Tulsa, Okla. He has received

numerous teaching awards as a clinical lecturer at the University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine. **Donna Dunn** (BA, English) is coordinator of secondary guidance and counseling in the Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District. Previously she was a counselor in the CFISD and taught in the Arlington ISD. **Jeffrey Dunn** (BS, Architecture) is superintendent of Gamma Construction Co. in Houston.

1981

Sylvia Leyba Hernandez (BA, History) was appointed by President Barack Obama to lead the U.S. General Services Administration's Greater Southwest Region. As regional administrator she oversees all GSA activities in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. During her 34 years of service with the GSA, she has worked in numerous leadership positions, including posts at the GSA headquarters in Fort Worth.

1982

Jacquelyn Fouse ('82 BA, '84 MA, Economics; '12 PhD, Finance) was named to the board of directors of the Perrigo Company, an Ireland-based health care and pharmaceutical supplier. She is a member of the University's Development Board and the College of Business Advisory Board and is a UTA Distinguished Alumna. **Norman Ward** ('82 BS, Architecture; '92 MArch) received the Charles R. Adams Award for Design Excellence from the Fort Worth chapter of the American Institute of Architects. It is the highest honor awarded by the AIA. He established the Norman D. Ward Architect firm in Fort Worth in 1995 and is a past adjunct professor in the UTA School of Architecture. **Mark Warren** (BBA, Finance) is Fort Worth region chair for PlainsCapital Bank, where

he oversees branch banks in Fort Worth, Weatherford, Arlington, Colleyville, and Mansfield.

1983

Lester Simpson (BA, General Studies) is head of the Texas Army National Guard. Brig. Gen. Simpson is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, served a 10-month tour in Bosnia, and worked with NATO officials on peacekeeping assignments in Eastern Europe. He was inducted into the UTA Military Science Hall of Honor in 2010.

1984

Nan Batten Ketcham ('84 BSN, '90 MSN, Nursing) is the undergraduate program director at the Baylor University Louise Herrington School of Nursing in Dallas. She has been a member of the Baylor nursing faculty since 2006 and is pursuing her Ph.D. in leadership studies at the Gary Cook School of Leadership at Dallas Baptist University. **Lisa Lankes** (BBA, Systems Analysis) is chief marketing officer for Fort Worth-based Justin Brands, where she oversees digital marketing, public relations, communications, licensing, event marketing, and advertising. **Michael Rushing** (BBA, Marketing) is general manager at Fort Worth's Colonial Country Club, home of the annual PGA Tour event, the Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial. Previously he was general manager of The Golf Club at Dove Mountain in Tucson, Ariz., home of the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play Championship.

1985

Wrennah Gabbert ('85 BSN, '90 MSN, Nursing) chairs the Department of Nursing Rehabilitation Sciences at Angelo State University. A professional specialist in the ASU nursing department from 1997-2007, Dr. Gabbert spent the last six years at the

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, filling various teaching and administrative posts at the TTUHSC School of Nursing in Lubbock and TTUHSC Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing in El Paso. **Michael E. Langley** (BBA, Systems Analysis) is lead Marine adviser to the Afghan National Army's 215 Corps in Helmand. He oversees training and advises one of the six regional corps. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2013 to assume command of Regional Support Command Southwest.

1986

Vivian Wong (BSN, Nursing) is program director of the Wound and Ostomy Education Program at San Jose State University. The blended online and on-site program provides a pre-certification course for registered nurses seeking certification in wound or ostomy care.

1987

Mark Miller (BBA, Management) is vice president of procurement packaging services for McKesson Pharmaceuticals in Carrollton. **Cathy Bloom Wise** (BA, Journalism) is executive director of the Emergency Medicine Residents' Association. EMRA is the world's largest and oldest independent resident organization.

1988

Timothy M. Klob (BS, Civil Engineering) is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve JAG Corps and recently completed active duty at Fort Hood. He represents wounded warriors in disability benefit appeals to ensure they obtain compensation and medical benefits from the Veterans Administration. He is managing partner of the Klob Law Firm in Loganville, Ga. **Andrew Pryor** (BA, Journalism) is chief human resources officer of Dallas-based Anelio Healthcare Solutions.

1991

Greg Barron (BBA, Finance) received the Dean's Award for Extraordinary Service at the UTA College of Business Alumni and Service Awards ceremony in February. He is CEO of the Barron Companies, an engineering, architectural, and construction firm in Fort Worth. **Cathy Pritchett** (BM, Music) performed a song and dance routine as Sister Mary Leo in *Nonsense* at Theatre Arlington in May. She is director of programming for the UTA Honors College.

1992

Carri Eddy (BS, Biology) is principal at Fort Worth's V.R. Eaton High School, which will open in fall 2015 in the Northwest Independent School District. Previously she was director of campus services for the Rockwall Independent School District. **Christine Eliseev** (BA, Russian) is managing partner at QMAT Solutions, which specializes in providing software testing. Previously she was director of quality management and testing at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

1993

E. Elizabeth Brown (BA, Interdisciplinary Studies) was elected in May to a two-year at-large seat on the City Council in the Village of Surfside Beach near Freepoint. **Chris Goad** (BBA, Marketing) is executive director of RISE Adaptive Sports, a nonprofit based in Irving that helps make athletics accessible for people with disabilities. RISE offers a variety of programs, including adaptive skating, boating, camping, fishing, hunting, golf, handcycling, soccer, kayaking, rugby, sailing, swimming, tubing, and water skiing. **Lauretta Hill** (BA, Criminal Justice) is deputy chief of police in Miami Beach, Fla. She is the city's first black deputy chief and its highest-ranking black officer. As an assistant

police chief in Arlington, she chaired the 2014 Regional Public Safety Planning Committee where she oversaw security operations for the NCAA Men's Final Four Basketball Tournament at AT&T Stadium. **Derrick Kinney** (BA, Speech) has again earned a spot on the chairman's advisory council of Ameriprise Financial, where he is a private wealth adviser in Arlington. The company's top advisers in the nation sit on the council. He was Student Congress president in 1992-93. **Dan Kirkpatrick** (MSN, Nursing) was elected president of the Ohio Nurses Association. A retired Air Force colonel, he is a clinical instructor at the Wright State University-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health. He also is mayor of Fairborn, Ohio. **Kimberly Loveday** (BBA, Accounting) co-authored *Brooklyn's Battle: A Daughter's War with Anxiety and Depression* with her daughter. The book offers insight into the daily challenges the family faced after Brooklyn was diagnosed with a complex regional pain syndrome as a teenager. **Jim Wilkinson** (BBA, Finance) is senior vice president and head of international corporate affairs for Alibaba, which operates online and mobile marketplaces in retail and wholesale trade. Previously he was a senior PepsiCo executive and served as senior adviser for Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

1994

Scott R. Gardner (BS, Computer Science Engineering) retired as a lieutenant commander after 20 years in the Navy.

1997

Ben Renner ('97 BA, English; '02 MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at Summit High School in Mansfield.

1998

Santos Cadena (MA, Criminal Justice) is deputy chief of the Dallas Police Department's Southwest Patrol Division. A 24-year veteran of the department, he previously was a major in the Narcotics Division. **Jeannie Deakyne** ('98 BA, '11 MA, Political Science) is president of the Junior League of Arlington for 2014-15. She is the first military veteran to lead the organization in its 40-year history. She is manager of learning and development at UTA.

1999

Chris Goodson (MEd, Educational Administration) is an assistant superintendent in the Richardson Independent School District. **Amir Javidinejad** (PhD, Mechanical Engineering) has written an engineering textbook, *Essentials of Mechanical Stress Analysis*, which CRC Press will publish in November. It is intended for use by U.S. and international engineering universities for teaching in solid and structural mechanics. **Cindy Pearson** (MEd, Educational Administration) was named Elementary Teacher of the Year in the Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District. She teaches third grade at Dove Elementary School in Grapevine. **Jennifer Wichmann** (MSSW, Social Work; MPA, Public and Urban Administration) is director of management resources for the city of Arlington. She has worked for the city for 10 years and also will work with the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation.

2000

James "Dusty" Clem (BBA, Marketing) is chairman, president, and chief executive officer for DGSE Companies, formerly Dallas Gold & Silver Exchange.

2001

Caroline Harrison (BA, Political Science) has earned board

certification in labor and employment law. She is an attorney and partner at the Fort Worth law firm Cantey Hanger. **Paulette Hartman** (MPA, Public and Urban Administration) is assistant city manager for North Richland Hills. Previously she was city manager of Joshua. She received the Linda Keithley Award for women in public management from the North Central Texas Council of Governments in 2013.

2002

Mark Kammlah (MEd, Educational Administration) was one of 83 principals nationwide selected to participate in a summer program at The Principals' Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He is principal at Williams Elementary School in Arlington. **Frank Moore** (BS, Mathematics) is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at Wake Forest University. **Sharon Phillips** (Cohort MBA) is executive vice president and chief of population health at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. She oversees the hospital's community and specialty outpatient clinics and the Dallas County Jail health program, among other duties. She has worked at Parkland since 1985. **Darwin Spiller** (MEd, Educational Administration) is executive director of elementary operations in the Richardson Independent School District.

2003

Erin Roseman ('03 BA, Political Science; '06 MCRP, City and Regional Planning; '06 MPA, Public and Urban Administration) is assistant director of finance for the city of Arlington. Previously she was cash and debt administrator for the city.

2004

Nick Barber (BBA, Marketing) received the award for Outstanding Early Career

Notable

MARSHALL COTHRAN

Cothran ('75 BBA, Accounting) received the Medical Executive Meritorious Achievement Award from the American Medical Association. He is chief executive officer of the Travis County Medical Society.



LILLIE BIGGINS

Biggins ('74 BSN, Nursing) was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in May. She is president of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth and a member of the advisory council for the UTA College of Nursing. She chairs the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport board and serves on other Tarrant County and Dallas/Fort Worth councils and boards.

ERIN VADER

Vader ('94 BA, English) is president of Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth. She is the first Nolan graduate, first woman, and first local Catholic educator to lead the school.



SCOTT SCARBOROUGH

Dr. Scarborough ('03 PhD, Business Administration) became president of the University of Akron on July 1. Previously he was provost and executive vice president at the University of Toledo.

Briefly



WEAR YOUR PRIDE

Everybody looks better in blue and orange. Gear up for cooler fall weather by visiting UTA's one-stop online shopping mall. A wide selection of hoodies, sweatshirts, polos, caps, bags, accessories, and other merchandise awaits. The online shop includes links to the UT Arlington Bookstore, athletics store, Planetarium gift shop, and more. Check it out at uta.edu/shoponline.

GET CONNECTED

Stay apprised of all things Maverick by joining the University's social media sites. UT Arlington's official Facebook page had more than 28,000 "likes" as of late August. Become a fan and get updates in your newsfeed about campus happenings and achievements. Follow @utarlington on Twitter for the latest news, network with fellow alumni through LinkedIn, and share photos from UTA's Pinterest boards.



LICENSE PLATE REBATE

The eye-catching UT Arlington Texas license plate is now more affordable. MyPlates is offering a rebate on the tags through Oct. 31, 2014. The rebate is \$25 for the purchase of a one-year term, \$50 for a five-year term, and \$75 for a 10-year term. Take advantage today by visiting myplates.com/go/uta and entering the promo code SAVEONMYPL8 at checkout.

Achievement at the UTA College of Business Alumni and Service Awards ceremony in February. He is owner and CEO of Sigma Relocation Group in Irving. **Eric Bishop** (BBA, Management) is an account manager at Consumo Managed Technology, a Fort Worth-based information technologies managed service provider. Previously he was regional account manager for Trend Micro and has owned his own IT security consulting company. **Melody Fritz** (BBA, Marketing) is a community relations specialist for Nabr Network, a communication tool for community associations. Her duties include web-based local news reporting, community and local business relationship development, and marketing support. **Liz Heck** ('04 BA, Public Relations; '12 MBA, Business Administration) is director of strategic development at J.O., a Fort Worth-based full-service marketing agency. **Marcus Onvani** ('04 BBA, Finance; '06 MBA, Business Administration; '07 MS, Finance) is finance director for Boeing's Strategic Missile & Defense Systems leadership team. He most recently served as senior manager of supplier management financial analysis for Boeing commercial airplanes in Puget Sound, Wash. **Lukas Szrot** (BA, Philosophy) is a global intern for *Telos*, an academic journal published in the United States. He is a sociology graduate student at UTA.

2005

Candace Blair (BS, Accounting; MS, Taxation) is senior tax manager focusing on corporate, individual, and partnership taxation at the Sanford, Baumeister & Frazier accounting firm in Fort Worth. **Uma Datla** (MPACC, Professional Accounting) is chief accounting officer for Approach Resources, an independent energy company. Previously she was the company's direc-

tor of financial reporting.

Leigh Dietrich (BA, Criminal Justice) received the Larry W. Fultz Memorial Award for Excellence from the Texas Association of College and University Police Administrators. She is assistant chief for the Tarrant County College District. At TCCD she has received numerous departmental awards, including recognition as 2004 Officer of the Year and 2008 Supervisor of the Year. **Dustin Durst** (MPA, Public and Urban Administration) serves on the staff of U.S. Rep. Ed Royce from California. An Army captain, Durst received a master's degree in professional studies in legislative affairs from George Washington University in May. He has served two tours overseas in Kuwait and South Korea. In Kuwait he received a Bronze Star Medal for exceptional meritorious service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and a Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service as a battery commander. **Katuska Herrador** (MEd, Education in Curriculum and Instruction) was one of 83 principals nationwide selected to participate in a summer program at The Principals' Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is principal at Keyes Elementary School in Irving. **Nate Pillier** (BBA, Management) was named 2013 Marketer of the Year by Merritt Hawkins, an Irving-based health care staffing company. He is associate director of marketing for the company's Upper Midwest Division.

2006

Ben Bholan ('06 MEd, '13 PhD, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) has been named principal of the new Arlington Collegiate High School, which opened this fall. Previously he was principal at Ferguson Junior High and assistant principal at Bowie High School in Arlington. **Ricardo Garcia** (Certification, Educa-

tional Leadership) is executive director for transformational learning in the Arlington Independent School District. **Aaly Meherali** (BS, Biology; BS, Chemistry) was named 2014 Secondary Teacher of the Year in the Irving Independent School District. A chemistry teacher at Singley Academy High School, he worked as a research associate in the genomics lab at UTA before becoming a teacher.

2007

Jesse Morgan Barnett ('07 BFA, '11 MFA, Art) and **Michael Mazurek** ('11 MFA, Art) presented Dallas Biennial 14, a concept showing 50 artists in 12 exhibitions over four months in Dallas. They started the DB program two years ago. **Alissa Ford** (BBA, MS, Accounting) is chief financial officer of the Van Cliburn Foundation. Previously she was the foundation's director of finance. **Adam Fulkerson** (BBA, Finance), an associate with the Fort Worth law firm Decker, Jones, McMackin, McClane, Hall & Bates, has earned his Master of Laws in Taxation degree from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law. **Derek Haake** (BA, Political Science) is chief technology officer of campusshift.com, a company he founded while exploring ways to save on college textbooks. Along with helping students find the least expensive source for books, Campus Shift provides discounts on food, concerts, campus activities, and clothing. **Michael Langford** (BBA, Finance) is vice president/

2009

president-elect of the Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors. He is a sales associate with Orr & Associates Real Estate in Burleson. **Rachael Mariboho** (MA, English) received the Patricia and Mike O'Neill Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UT Arlington English Department in May. She is a graduate teaching assistant and doctoral

student at UTA. **Shahzad Pakbin** ('07 BA, '10 MA, Criminal Justice and Criminology) was named Technical/Exempt Professional Employee of the Year by the Arlington Police Department. She is a crime and intelligence analyst for the city. **Megan Terrell** ('07 BBA, '09 MS, Accounting) is senior audit manager at the Sanford, Baumeister & Frazier accounting firm in Fort Worth.

2008

Inelda Acosta (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Hutcheson Junior High School in Arlington. **Dominic Bracco II** (BA, Journalism/Spanish) received a mongabay.org Special Reporting Initiative award for environmental reporting. His piece examined whether there is demand for sustainable fisheries' products in China. **Shaun Hamill** (BA, English) received a full fellowship for fall 2014 for the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. **Wenhua Jin** (PhD, Linguistics) received tenure at Kennesaw State University in Georgia and was promoted to associate professor of Chinese.

2009

Shanee Charles (Principal Certification, Education Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Gideon Elementary School in Mansfield. **Robert Earley** (MS, Health Care Administration) received the award for Outstanding Career Achievement at the UTA College of Business Alumni and Service Awards ceremony in February. Dr. Earley is president and CEO of the JPS Health Network in Fort Worth. **Robin Francis-Baker** ('09 BBA, Management; '13 MBA, Business Administration) is an associate adviser at Sperry Van Ness/Visions Commercial, a real estate consulting firm in Fort Worth. Previously she was a financial analyst at Bell Helicopter. **Emily Froese**

(MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal at Coppell Middle School West in the Coppell Independent School District. **Sandi Greer** (MSSW, Social Work) is a social worker for the Lake Worth Independent School District. **Danielli Mbangdadi** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a freelance multimedia producer in the Washington, D.C., area. She received a Master of Arts degree in communication with an emphasis on producing for film and video at American University. **Lori McLain Pierce** (MA, Linguistics) received a \$3,000 grant from the Jacobs Research Funds, hosted by the Whatcom Museum. The grant will support the UTA doctoral student's dissertation fieldwork on the Choctaw language. Pierce and linguistics Assistant Professor Cynthia Kilpatrick co-authored an article, "Focused instruction in Spanish syllabification," in the summer 2014 issue of *Foreign Language Annals*.

2010

Ben Bologna ('10 BFA, Art), **Tim Lautensack** ('11 BFA, Art), and **Jonathan Irwin** ('12 BFA, Art) of The Starr Conspiracy, a marketing and advertising agency in Fort Worth, won 21 awards in the 2014 American Advertising Federation ADDY Awards competition. **Jacob Briggs** ('10 MBA, Business Administration; '11 MPACC, Professional Accounting) is a certified public accountant with Cash America International in Fort Worth. **Bongani Mlambo** (BFA, Art) directed Blue October's most recent music video for "Angels in Everything." **Shelley Ohmes** (BFA, Theatre Arts) played Catherine Simms in *The For-eigner* at Frisco Community Theatre. **Alan Pollard** (BFA, Theatre Arts) played Davis Talison in *Honky*, the WaterTower Theatre's entry in the Out of the Loop Fringe Festival in Addison. **Robyn Rinearson** (MEd, Educational Leadership

and Policy Studies) is principal at Spencer Elementary School in Mansfield.

2011

Micah Beck (Cohort MBA) is a vice president at CBRE, a real estate services company in Fort Worth. **Brittany Byrd** (BSN, Nursing) was a finalist for the 2013 Good Works Under 40 award. Sponsored by the Dallas Foundation, the award highlights the work of outstanding volunteers under age 40. Byrd founded Girls Embracing Mothers, a group that helps girls visit their mothers in prison. **Gladys Chow** ('11 BFA, '14 MFA, Art) received The Excellence Prize Award in March for the 2013 Society of Korea Illusart contest. **John Harden** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a news reporter for the *Houston Chronicle*. Previously he was a reporter for the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, where he received the 2014 Star Investigative Report of the Year award in the Class 2A division from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors and a First Amendment Award from the Society of Professional Journalists, Fort Worth Professional Chapter. **Brandon Hurtado** (BA, Public Relations) is an interactive marketing analyst at Exeter Finance Corp. in Irving. **Erikka Neroes** (BA, Public Relations/Communication Studies) is public information officer for Dallas County Health and Human Services. **Emily Suied** (BA, Public Relations) is an assistant account executive with Edelman Public Relations in Chicago. **Justin Webber-Blackwell** (BS, Industrial Engineering) is a project specialist for Ericsson in Plano.

2012

Michelle Blair (MM, Music) received a P.E.O. Scholar Award. She is pursuing a Doctorate of Musical

Arts degree in orchestral conducting at the University of Houston. **Yujeong Choi** (PhD, Linguistics) co-wrote an article with linguistics Assistant Professor Cynthia Kilpatrick. "Hypothesis Testing in Task-Based Interactions" appeared in summer 2014 in the journal *Applied Language Learning*. **Nicole Durham** (BA, Public Relations/Advertising) is an account manager at Schaefer Advertising in Fort Worth.

Sean Farrell (BA, English) received the Patricia and Mike O'Neill Award for Academic Excellence from the UT Arlington English Department in May. He is a graduate teaching assistant at UTA. **Latanya Greer** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is a vice principal at Del Vallejo Middle School in San Bernardino, Calif. **Pankaj Harkare** (MS, Industrial Engineering) is a design engineer for CNH Industrial America LLC in Burlington, Iowa. **Matthew Howell** (BA, Communication Technology) is a Web application developer for Qualbe Marketing Group in Fort Worth. **Patrick Jackson** (BA, Public Relations) is national account manager for Echo Global Logistics in Dallas. **Tiffany Mercer** (MEd, Education in Curriculum and Instruction-English) received the Regie Routman Teacher Recognition Award Grant, a prestigious International Reading Association award. She is a fifth-grade English language reading and arts teacher in the Hillsboro Independent School District. **Bitty Reilly** (BA, Communication Technology/English) works in graphic design, Web developing, and technical writing for Synergy Industries in Burleson. **Jaala Robinson** ('12 BA, '14 MA, Sociology) has been admitted to the doctoral program in sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she received a graduate

assistantship and the Othmer Fellowship. **George Sanders III** (BA, Criminal Justice and Criminology) has been promoted to staff sergeant in the Texas Army National Guard. He is a legal assistant in the U.S. Department of Justice office in Austin. **John Story** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal in the Jamison K-8 School in Cleveland, Ohio.

2013

Jennifer Bohannon (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at Refugio Elementary School in Refugio, Texas. **Omar Castillon** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a morning newscast production assistant for KTVT-CBS 11 in Fort Worth. **Jean Gonzalez** (BA, Theatre Arts) has accepted a graduate teaching assistant position at the University of Houston in the Design MFA program. She was the assistant master electrician at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival in Normal, Ill., during the summer. **Brittany Graham** (BA, History) has been accepted to Columbia University's African American studies master's program. **Jen Hanson** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at East High School in Denver, Colo. **Elia Madrid-Onofre** (BFA, Theatre Arts) won first place in the cartoon comics division of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association digital media awards for her cartoon feature "The World According to Professor Saxe," which appeared in *The Shorthorn*. **Dawn Valentine** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is coordinator of fine arts for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District. **Ken Wetzel** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at Strack Intermediate School in the Klein Independent School District.

in Chickasha, Okla. **Jordan Victorin** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is co-host of "The Starting Lineup" at radio station KCLE in Cleburne. **Natalie Webster** (BA, Journalism) is a newspaper producer at the E.W. Scripps Co. in Corpus Christi. She is a former editor-in-chief of *The Shorthorn*.

2014

Ariel Aleman (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at Refugio Elementary School in Refugio, Texas. **Omar Castillon** (BA, Broadcast Communication) is a morning newscast production assistant for KTVT-CBS 11 in Fort Worth. **Jean Gonzalez** (BA, Theatre Arts) has accepted a graduate teaching assistant position at the University of Houston in the Design MFA program. She was the assistant master electrician at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival in Normal, Ill., during the summer. **Brittany Graham** (BA, History) has been accepted to Columbia University's African American studies master's program. **Jen Hanson** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at East High School in Denver, Colo. **Elia Madrid-Onofre** (BFA, Theatre Arts) won first place in the cartoon comics division of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association digital media awards for her cartoon feature "The World According to Professor Saxe," which appeared in *The Shorthorn*. **Dawn Valentine** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is coordinator of fine arts for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District. **Ken Wetzel** (MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is an assistant principal at Strack Intermediate School in the Klein Independent School District.

In Memoriam

1940s

Walter Henry "Kirby" Taylor ('42 AS, General Studies), 89, Jan. 19 in Fort Worth. Mr. Taylor was a sales representative for several shoe companies. He was a grandson of Henry Kirby Taylor, president of Arlington Training School (now UT Arlington) from 1913-16.

1960s

Myrna Loy Crelia Dobbins ('61 BA, Elementary Education), 74, Jan. 28 in Granbury. Ms. Dobbins was a first- and second-grade teacher at Alexander Elementary School in Duncanville for more than 30 years, retiring in 1998. **Jackie L. Fisher** ('61 BS, Physics; '61 BS Mathematics), 75, May 30 in Wimberley. Mr. Fisher was an information technology specialist for NASA at the Manned Spacecraft Center (now the Johnson Space Center) in Houston. He worked with the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Space Shuttle, and International Space Station programs. He retired in 1997 after 34 years with the space agency. **Don M. Pritchard** ('61 BS, Chemistry), 76, April 3 in Fort Worth. Mr. Pritchard worked in chemical labs at Alcon Laboratories and Bell Helicopter before selling industrial chemicals for the Oakite Products Co. for 24 years, retiring in 1995. He returned to work as a sales representative for Custom Chemicals of Texas before retiring again in 1999. **James Bradford DeBusk** ('62 BS, Biology), 72, May 14 in Richardson. Dr. DeBusk operated a medical practice in Garland, working 44 years as an OB-GYN. He delivered the first in vitro baby in the Metroplex. **Ronald Lee Paramore** ('64 BBA, Business Administration), 73, Nov. 22, 2013, in Arlington. Maj. Paramore was commissioned in the Army in 1965 and served two tours in Vietnam. He received a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts. He was ac-

tive in veterans' communities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. **Vernon "Lindy" Pate** ('66 BS, Physics), 76, April 27 in Lewisville, Ark. Mr. Pate enjoyed a 36-year career in the oil, gas, and pipeline construction industry, building metering stations, dehydration systems, injection lines, and pump stations. **Glenn E. Simmons** ('69 BA, Mathematics), 93, Oct. 15, 2013, in Arlington. Cmdr. Simmons attended North Texas Agricultural College (now UT Arlington) in 1940 before embarking on a 28-year career in the Navy. He returned to UTA to earn his bachelor's degree.

1970s

James Elmer Hammons Jr. ('71 BBA, Business Administration), 71, March 18 in Fort Worth. Mr. Hammons was president and consultant for HMI Construction Services in Fort Worth. **Larry W. Reynolds** ('74 BBA, Accounting), 67, May 23 in Madill, Okla. Mr. Reynolds worked for General Dynamics, Bell Helicopter, and the state of Texas as an auditor. He retired after 32 years with Tarrant County College. **James Barrett Aldridge** ('75 BS, Biology), 60, April 26 in Fort Worth. Dr. Aldridge taught science for 30 years at Fort Worth Country Day School, specializing in biology, chemistry, and computer science.

1980s

Curtis Brownlow ('80 BBA, Real Estate), 63, March 18 in Arlington. Mr. Brownlow retired as a right-of-way appraiser for the Dallas County Public Works Department after 28 years. **Frank Charles Bernard** ('82 BBA, Accounting), 55, Feb. 12 in Arlington. Mr. Bernard was an accounting manager at Trinity Industries in Fort Worth. **Justin L. McNamee** ('83 BBA, Management), 56, April 18 in Dallas. Mr. McNamee was a senior schedule analyst for the Raytheon Co. Gov. Rick Perry appointed him to the Texas Board of

Professional Geoscientists in recognition of his community service. **Joseph A. Rothenhoefer** ('83 BBA, Management), 74, Jan. 10 in Arlington. Mr. Rothenhoefer worked for the Sweetheart Cup Corp. before founding Paige Contracting in Arlington in 1990. **Dawn McPhee Baskett** ('85 BA, Political Science), 74, April 6 in Granbury. Ms. Baskett was a congressional liaison for Congressman Dick Armey. **Linda Vaught Delashmit** ('85 MS, Interdisciplinary Studies), 70, March 11 in Arlington. Ms. Delashmit retired from the University of North Texas and the Arlington Independent School District. She also taught in Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

1990s

David Henry Hames ('91 BBA, Accounting), 66, May 28 in Garland. Mr. Hames was a certified public accountant for Philip Courtney Hogan P.C. in Dallas. **Linda Louise Cumbie** ('92 BSN, Nursing Education), 55, April 29 in North Richland Hills. Ms. Cumbie was a registered nurse; she worked at Cook Children's Medical Center for 17 years. **Allison Young Conley** ('93 MS, Social Work), 64, May 8 in Delaware Township, N.J. Ms. Conley was board chair for NORWESCAP, a nonprofit dedicated to serving low-income families in five New Jersey counties. **Lesley A. Sloan** ('95 BBA, Management), 48, April 21 in Fort Worth. Mr. Sloan owned Sloan Landscape Maintenance for many years, was a past master of Webb Masonic Lodge 1454, and was active in several landscape organizations. **Anabella Coolidge Winters** ('95 BA, '98 MA, Interdisciplinary Studies), 48, Jan. 10 in Fort Worth. Ms. Winters was one of the first registered accessibility specialists in Texas under the Americans with Disabilities Act. She was a member of Student Congress at UTA. **Linda B. Murphy** ('96 MSN, Nursing), 67, May 6 in Dallas.

Ms. Murphy was a registered nurse, working for the Dallas Independent School District, the Parkland Health System, and for the last eight years at Cook Children's Medical Center. **Kenneth Sears** ('96 MBA, Business Administration), 61, June 20 in Arlington. Mr. Sears was a senior lecturer in the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management in the UTA College of Business. His research focused on the transition to Web 3.0 technology via cloud computing, dataweb technologies, and 3-D virtual business worlds.

Faculty and Staff

Donald W. Cantwell, 83, May 11 in Arlington. Dr. Cantwell was a professor emeritus in the Department of Finance and Real Estate, serving on the UT Arlington faculty from 1959-2002. **Robert E. Longacre**, 92, April 20 in Dallas. Dr. Longacre was a professor emeritus of linguistics and a member of the faculty from 1972-93. He was known for his seminal studies of discourse structure (text linguistics). **Wesley E. Mead**, 87, May 4 in Richardson. Mr. Mead taught math and algebra at Bremond and Dallas Sunset high schools. He later was a professor of mathematics at Arlington State College (now UT Arlington) and retired as associate dean of student administration. **William A. Stacey**, 79, March 6 in Arlington. Dr. Stacey was a professor emeritus in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. He came to UTA in 1974 as director of the Center for Social Research. **Dorothy J. Turpin**, 76, April 17 in Fort Worth. Ms. Turpin taught nursing at the John Peter Smith School of Nursing in Fort Worth (now the UT Arlington College of Nursing), retiring in 2003. She was a founding member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter in Arlington. See more *In Memoriam* at uta.edu/uta-magazine/in-memoriam.



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UT Arlington boasts some of the nation's brightest and hardest-working students. But many struggle to make ends meet. More than 75 percent of our

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

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Past University moves to the UT System, 1965



From 1917 to 1964, UT Arlington was aligned with the Aggies as part of the Texas A&M University System. After reaching four-year-college status in 1959, enrollment at the school then known as Arlington State College eclipsed the College Station campus in fall 1963 with 9,116 students. But a rift had developed. Many faculty, staff, students, and community members thought the A&M System Board of Directors favored College Station over Arlington. A proposal to rename the college Texas A&M University at Arlington, combined with plans to have newly proposed master's degree programs directed from College Station, outraged sup-

porters, who began a campaign to separate from Aggieland. A turning point came in 1965 when Gov. John Connally announced plans to revamp higher education in Texas, including making Arlington State College part of The University of Texas System. That same year, Don Kennard, a state senator from Tarrant County, introduced a bill that would make the transfer official Sept. 1. With no opposition from A&M, the bill passed both houses. On hand for the signing were, from left, UT System Chancellor Harry Ransom, Arlington State College President Jack Woolf, Connally, and Arlington Mayor Tom Vandergriff.