

# UTA

**The University  
of Texas  
at Arlington**  
Magazine  
SPRING 2019



## *The Maverick Heart*

*From groundbreaking research to student support to community outreach, UTA has a heart as big as Texas, with a reach that goes much further. PAGE 34*



ON THE COVER AND HERE: UTA's new Science & Engineering Innovation & Research (SEIR) building opened in fall 2018, heralding a new era of life and health science discovery on campus, including some of the world's top cardiovascular research. For more on SEIR, turn to page 14. For more on UTA's cardiovascular research, turn to page 34.



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**Entrepreneurship Elevated**

UTA has made the support of entrepreneurship a top priority. The successes of our students, faculty, and alumni speak for themselves.

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**The Maverick Heart**

What makes a Maverick a Maverick? Our heart. Bright, driven, and full of care, Mavericks make a transformative impact every day.

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Students, new graduates, and alumni who are already established in their careers benefit from UTA's holistic support services.

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**Woman Powered**

Recognizing a representation gap for women in academia, UTA is tackling the problem head-on.

Pillars of Support

In this issue, use the key to see which stories correspond to the pillars of UTA's Strategic Plan.

Sustainable Urban Communities



Global Environmental Impact



Data-Driven Discovery



Health and the Human Condition



UTA’s Impact in Texas and the World

IT’S NO SURPRISE that Texas, the fastest-growing economy and the 10th largest among nations in the world based on GDP, is home to one of the fastest-growing public universities in the United States—one focused on having a global impact: The University of Texas at Arlington.

Classified as a Carnegie R-1 “very high research activity” institution, designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, and ranked by *Military Times* as No. 1 in Texas and No. 7 in the nation for veterans, UTA is setting new standards in higher education with a combination of excellence and access. We are creating transformative educational experiences for students who come to UTA from all walks of life. Our students are determined to make a difference for themselves and their families, and for the communities in which they live and work.

UTA students and alumni also represent the rich diversity of the communities we serve—making UTA one of the most ethnically diverse universities in the nation. Over the past five years, more than 63,000 students have graduated from UTA, making us the third-largest contributor of intellectual capital in Texas. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and our state benefit from a growing number of UTA alumni who are making their mark in the world and doing it as Mavericks. Our career-ready students have a broader vision of how they can contribute locally and beyond. Their skills and intellectual power add to the socioeconomic vitality of the communities we serve, including at a global level.

Below are just a few of the many ways in which UTA contributes to Texas, its workforce, and economy:

- UTA and its alumni contribute \$22.2 billion and 216,544 jobs annually to Texas;
- Our College of Nursing and Health Innovation graduates the most baccalaureate-degreed nurses of any public institution in Texas, with 1 out of every 2 BSN graduates in the state coming from the University and contributing to enhancing wellness of the Metroplex, the state, and beyond;



- UTA conferred the most bachelor’s and master’s degrees to African-American students of any Texas institution—and we are the first in the state for most minority master’s graduates.

Additionally, UTA’s world-class innovation ecosystem positions us to present bold solutions for the most critical challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century—working across disciplines to ensure our progress in education, research, and engagement.

- UTA’s 2018 research has an estimated \$37 million spinoff benefit on business activity in Texas.
- More than 20 startups connected to UTA launched last year, supporting a strong entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem at the University.
- UTA was granted 19 U.S. patents in 2017-18, and our students, faculty, and staff are increasingly engaged in impactful research and innovation.

In this issue of *UTA Magazine*, we highlight people who are engaged and committed to fostering world-class, interdisciplinary research and creative activity across four strategic theme areas: health and the human condition, sustainable urban communities, global environmental impact, and data-driven discovery. Each person profiled is making a difference, enabling the advancement of the megacity that is developing around us, and setting standards for others to follow. I hope you feel as much pride as I do in knowing that Arlington, DFW, Texas, and the world are all the better because of them.

They, and you, represent the best of the UTA Maverick Spirit. Let’s continue to Mav Up!

–Vistasp M. Karbhari  
President



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EXCELLENCE AT A GLANCE

UTA is garnering accolades at a record pace. Here are just a few of the latest. To catch up with all of the University’s recent accomplishments, visit [uta.edu/rankings](http://uta.edu/rankings).

Ranked among  
**TOP TIER** of national universities  
(U.S. News & World Report, 2019)

UTA’s **ENROLLMENT** for spring 2019 reached  
**43,939** STUDENTS  
a **28.2% INCREASE** over the past 5 years

UTA produces  
**THE MOST** baccalaureate-degreed  
**NURSES** in Texas  
& has the **LARGEST** **NURSING PROGRAM**  
at a public institution in the U.S.

**#1** in Texas **#7** in U.S.  
for **VETERANS** and their families  
(Military Times, 2019)

UTA is **ONE OF ONLY 14** universities with both  
**Carnegie Research-1** & **Hispanic-Serving Institution** designations

ANNUAL TOTAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT BENEFITS OF UTA AND OUR ALUMNI  
**\$22.2** BILLION  
AND  
**216,544** JOBS  
in Texas

UTA is the **5<sup>th</sup>** FASTEST-GROWING PUBLIC DOCTORAL INSTITUTION IN THE U.S.  
(The Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac, 2018-2019)





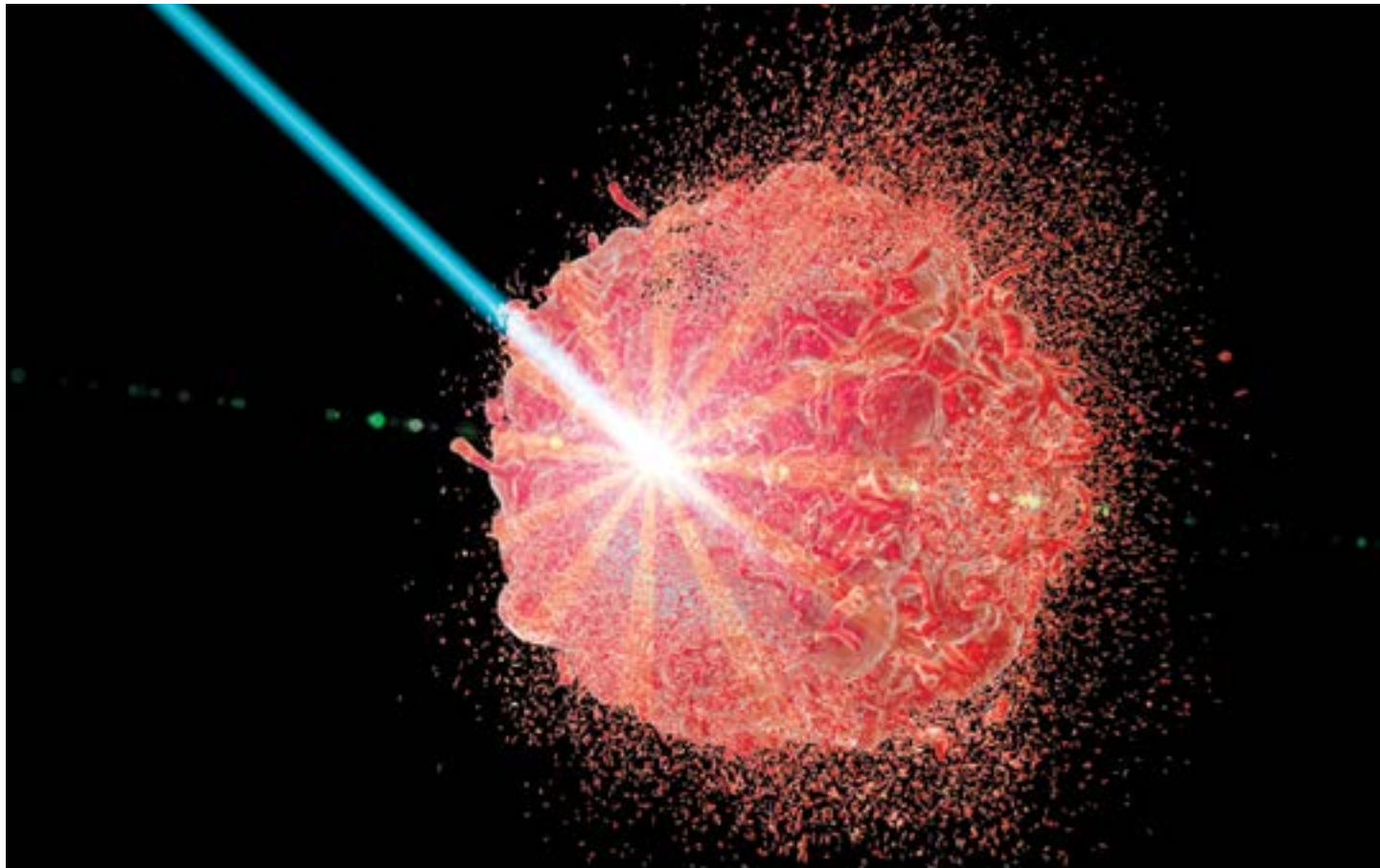
UTA celebrates the expansion of West Campus, which includes a new residence hall, student center, and parking garage.

*Updates from  
the Mavericks  
who shape  
the UTA  
community  
near and far*

# Mav Roundup

**M**avericks looking back on 2018 can call the year a time of immense growth. Not only did we see the highest enrollment in school history and chart a steady rise in national rankings, but we also grew our campus. Our grand openings included a celebration of our West Campus expansion and the Science & Engineering Innovation & Research building (featured on page 14).





## CANCER CRUSADERS

# RESEARCHERS FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

UTA teams advance cancer research

The battle against cancer got a major push in 2018 thanks to the efforts of UTA's multidisciplinary team of researchers working on the cause.

Wei Chen, physics professor and inventor, developed a **nanoparticle material that can be activated by light, micro-wave, X-ray, or ultrasound to kill multiple cancers**. UTA was awarded U.S. and international patents for the material, which is low-cost, easy to manufacture, and creates fewer side effects.

Meanwhile, UTA biochemists are mapping the function of specific enzymes that may **facilitate the development of new drugs to fight cancer and other diseases**. Associate Professor Brad Pierce, who leads the project, received a \$429,033 National Institutes of Health grant to continue his work retro-engineering the sulfur oxidation process and mapping the chemical mechanism of key enzymes to provide the necessary framework to develop effective therapies and drugs for different disease states.

In the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, researchers have developed a **new nanoparticle-based platform for simultaneous imaging and treatment of esophageal cancer**.

Zui Pan, associate professor of nursing and a leading esophageal cancer researcher, leads the UTA side of the study. It is her second recent breakthrough in esophageal cancer research. Last fall, she published a study in the *Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Journal* showing that zinc can inhibit the growth of esophageal cancer cells.

Another breakthrough came in the Department of Bioengineering, with Professor Liping Tang's **implantable medical device that attracts and kills circulating cancer cells**. This cancer trap, which essentially works like a roach motel, can be used for early diagnosis and treatment of metastasized cancer. UTA patented the technology in Europe.

"UTA's scientific expertise across basic cancer research, identification, and diagnostics and noninvasive, midterm, invasive and post-operative therapies is accelerating dramatically," UTA President Vistasp Karbhari says. "By assembling a world-class team, we hope not only to make transformative advances in key areas related to cancer, but also to provide the highest level of educational and research experiences to our students."



 WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

## NUCLEAR KNOWLEDGE

Researcher working to keep nuclear waste isolated

Nuclear waste repositories are designed to be secure for millions of years. As such, identifying the most appropriate barrier materials to isolate nuclear waste is vitally important. Qinhong "Max" Hu, associate professor of earth and environmental sciences, is figuring it out.

Dr. Hu recently won a **three-year \$567,831 grant from the Department of Energy's Nuclear Energy University Program** to investigate six different kinds of low-permeable rock formations as potential barrier materials.

"We need to be sure that we have chosen the materials that are most appropriate, that will be least affected by leakage from the nuclear containers, as well as from weather events that result in liquid seepage," he says. "These pore spaces can be very small, nanometers instead of microns, with an extremely low permeability even tighter than the kitchen-top granite, and we need innovative ways to characterize these tiny pore structures to enhance the isolation."

Some of Hu's work will be carried out using a small angle neutron scattering technique at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Doctoral students will work on the project, giving them the experience of working at top national laboratories before they earn their degrees.

## GROWING OUR EXCELLENCE

# HEALTH LEADERSHIP

Renowned nursing leader joins UTA

Elizabeth Merwin, previously executive vice dean of the Duke University School of Nursing, has been appointed dean of UTA's College of Nursing and Health Innovation (CONHI). Dr. Merwin also served as the Ann Henshaw Gardiner Professor of Nursing and professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Duke's School of Medicine.

"Dr. Merwin is not only a highly effective leader, but also a prolific researcher," says UTA Provost Teik C. Lim. "This combination is exactly the recipe needed to drive the college in becoming a model for excellence in academic education and a leader in health science research."

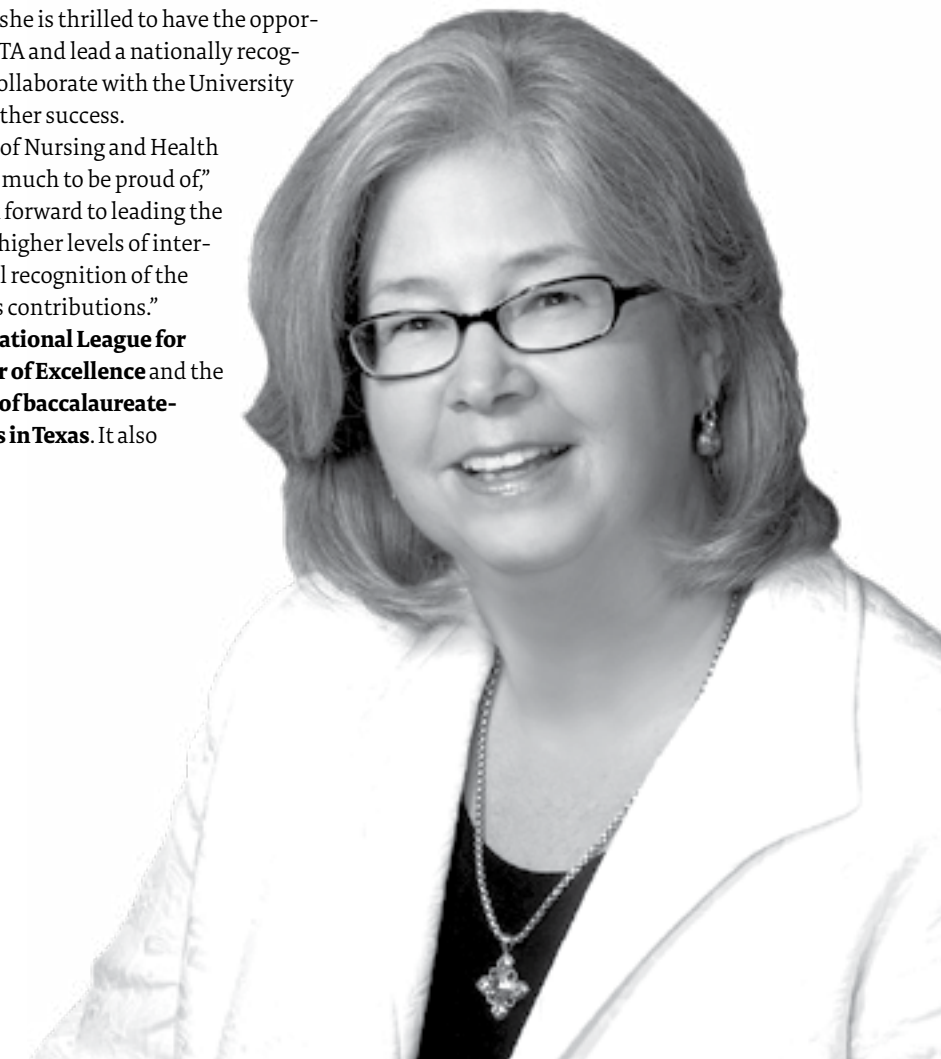
Merwin says she is thrilled to have the opportunity to join UTA and lead a nationally recognized team to collaborate with the University and achieve further success.

"The College of Nursing and Health Innovation has much to be proud of," she says. "I look forward to leading the college to even higher levels of internal and external recognition of the excellence of its contributions."

CONHI is a **National League for Nursing Center of Excellence** and the **No. 1 producer of baccalaureate-degreed nurses in Texas**. It also

offers **one of the top 50 master's degree programs in nursing in the U.S.** and is **among the top three programs in Texas**. The Doctor of Nursing Practice program is also No. 52 in the nation and No. 2 in Texas.

"With her distinguished record as a researcher, teacher, and scholar and her tremendous leadership experience as the executive vice dean of one of the nation's top nursing schools, Dr. Merwin is eminently suited to lead our renowned faculty to new heights of excellence," says Vistasp Karbhari, UTA president. "I look forward to her leadership as CONHI continues to rise in excellence."





# Talk

## Mr. and Ms. UTA

Danny Tran  
Senior,  
Biology

Christyl Doyle  
Senior,  
Broadcast  
Communications

### What does it mean to be a Maverick?

Danny Tran: Celebrating each other's diversity, accomplishments, and joys! We are a large school, but we are also one big family that supports one another.

### How would you describe campus life?

Christyl Doyle: Super-unique. We're able to connect with individuals from all over the world and learn about their cultures.

### Why did you want to be Mr./Ms. UTA?

C.D.: I joined the UTA Ambassadors program and found it so exciting to plan fun events and serve as an official campus hostess. After joining, it inspired me to run for the Ms. UTA position, because it would give me the opportunity to serve as the co-president of the organization.

D.T.: My whole life I was a shy and timid person and I thought to myself, "If I were Mr. UTA, this would be the breakthrough I needed to show people that I'm not afraid to step outside of my

comfort zone and to show other students like me that they could do it, too." So far, being Mr. UTA has been the best experience of my collegiate career!

### UTA has changed a lot over the years. What would you tell alumni who are interested in reconnecting with their alma mater?

D.T.: I would tell them to come back during Homecoming! Homecoming is a long-standing tradition here at UTA—a whole week full of fun activities. What better way to end Homecoming than by cheering on our athletic team and YOUR alma mater?!

### What's one thing that would surprise someone who isn't so closely connected to UTA?

C.D.: It's actually a FUN place to be. A lot of people have this perception that it's a commuter school and is solely about academics, but that's just not true. There's a whole other side of it that you can connect with through campus involvement.



## MAVERICK SPIRIT KEEPERS

Mr. and Ms. UTA are elected co-presidents of the UTA Ambassadors program each year during the spring campus elections. In addition to overseeing the Ambassadors, Mr. and Ms. UTA represent the University at campus and community events.

UTA Ambassadors are a diverse, engaged group of students selected by the student body in campus elections. They are charged with maintaining and promoting new and old campus traditions, increasing awareness of UTA's services, programs, and activities, and establishing and strengthening pride and passion for UTA on and off campus.



### Signature Ambassador initiatives include:

- The Spirit Horse project
- The Maverick Way
- Maverick of the Month
- MavSwap
- Paint the Town Blue
- Spirit Week

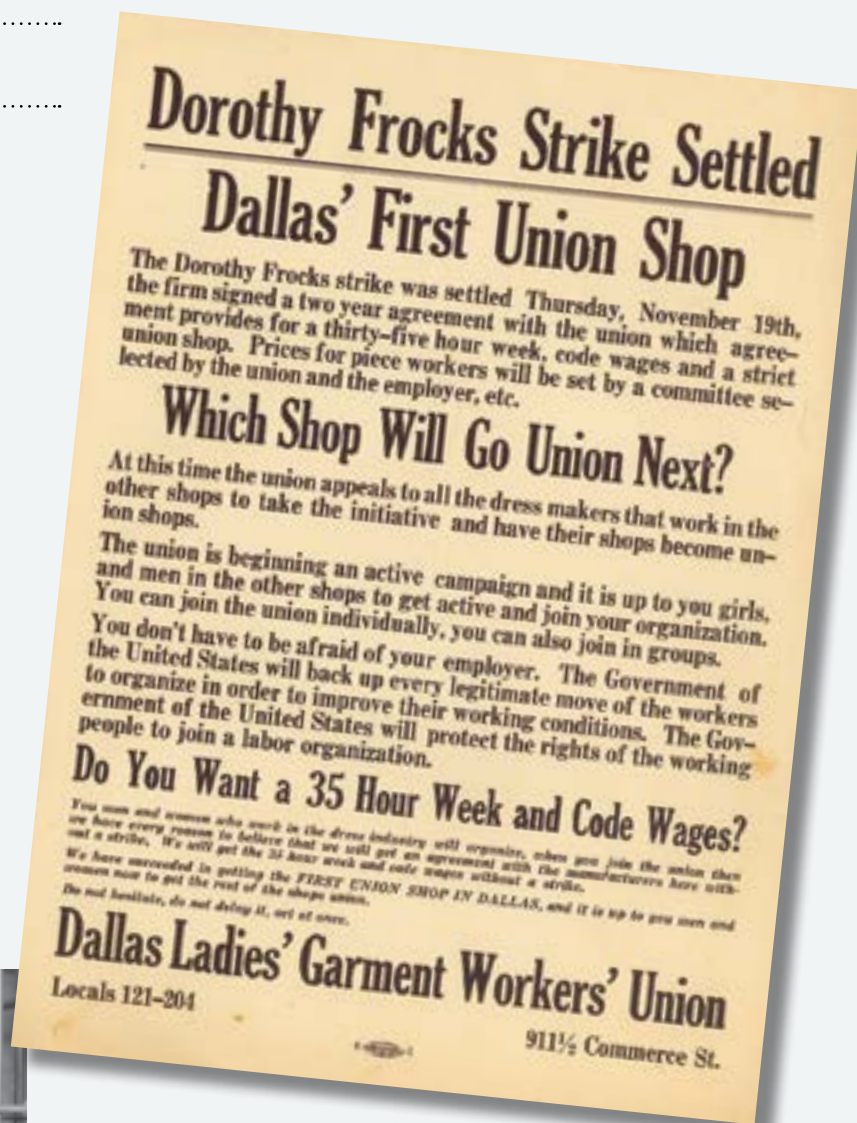


# Collected

UTA Libraries' Special Collections and Archives collects and provides access to extraordinary historical research materials. In each issue of UTA Magazine, we highlight some of our most unique pieces. You can explore our digital collection—which hosts more than 50,000 images related to North Texas and state history—at [library.uta.edu/collections/digital](http://library.uta.edu/collections/digital).

## Charlotte Graham Papers, Special Collections

IN THE EARLY 1930s, Charlotte Duncan Graham was a seamstress in Dallas, working alongside women in insufferable conditions. The environment was hot and dirty, and workers weren't allowed to leave their seats. Managers found ways to circumvent garment industry labor codes to keep wages low and extend working hours. In response, Graham led a dozen women in requesting a charter from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). What followed was a months-long strike against 13 garment shops in the area that ended with Graham being blacklisted from Dallas. She went on to a life of activism, leading a major union strike in Los Angeles, continuing her work with the ILGWU, and advocating for the NAACP and Community Chest.



When the union agreed to stop the protest as a condition for negotiation, management refused—and chaos ensued. Graham (far left) and a number of other protesters were arrested.



The Dorothy Frocks company was the subject of ILGWU strikes in San Antonio. The strikes were successful, as the company agreed to the union's terms. Graham and the Dallas chapter of the ILGWU hoped to leverage that success into support for their cause.

# Chat

with **Lori Bradley**  
 ('97 MA, English)  
 Senior Vice President,  
 Global Talent  
 Management,  
 United Airlines



For most people, awaiting a grade on an essay in an English class produces dread. Being ranked against your peers, rather than earning a percentage grade, can create even more anxiety.

However, for Lori Bradley, the grading experiment in UTA Professor Tim Morris's class catered to her competitiveness, opened the world of literature to her, and sparked her interest in psychology, a field that would later make it possible for her to land a senior position with one of the country's largest airlines.

"While I always wanted to know where I stood in comparison to my classmates, a few didn't want to know," she says. "I wanted to understand what part of their personality created that fear and how their perception of the grading process was different from mine."

Bradley was recently named the senior vice president of global talent management for United

Airlines after a 15-year career in talent acquisition, change management, and consulting. For her, it's something of a homecoming.

"I worked my way through graduate school as a flight attendant," Bradley says. "I know the industry well and am happy returning to my roots."

She originally wanted to become a counselor, but a well-timed elective in her first year of doctoral work introduced her to organizational psychology. She quickly developed an interest in motivational theory and adult learning that evolved into a concentration in the field, but her love for literature and critical theory never really left her.

"I use the skills I learned at UTA every day," she says. "From deconstructing problems with objectivity and using every lens possible to derive solutions, the critical-thinking tools I gained at UTA inform my business practices today."



# Postcard

Following Mavericks as they travel the world



## Montpellier, France

**WHO:** Jackson Jinks, international business senior

**HOW:** Through a semester study abroad course

**WHY:** "I wanted to get a good understanding of how a different part of the

world thinks and operates. I've lived in my culture for 20 years and thought that needed to change."

**LESSONS HE TOOK HOME:** "Despite cultural and language differences, most everyone wants the

same things in life. That said, being able to understand and see your own country from the viewpoint of a foreigner can make a difference in how you view yourself and your country."



POINTS OF EXCELLENCE

No. 1 in Texas for awarding undergrad and master's degrees to African-American students.

MAV ROUNDUP



DATA-DRIVEN

## DIGITAL DATA DUO

UTA researchers work to make big data more accessible

Since joining UTA, English Assistant Professor Kenton Ramsby has worked closely with Peace Ossom-Williamson, librarian and director of research data services, on a number of innovative projects that harness big data to provide scholars with insight into African-American literary verbal art.

"The term 'big data' can be a misnomer, especially when referring to accessible information related to African-American literary studies," Dr. Ramsby says. "I've asked myself how much of that data is accessible to the public, and how much of the data is accessible to everyday users."

With Ossom-Williamson's help, Ramsby created the Black Studies sub-dataverse, which is available on the Texas Data Repository. Together, they created two digital publications: *#TheJayZ-Mixtape*, which represents Ramsby's ongoing use of metadata to explore Jay-Z's career; and *Lost in the City*, an exploration of two Edward P. Jones short story collections that examines the writer's focus on Washington, D.C., as a setting. Both collaborations were published through

the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Publishing Without Walls Initiative.

This past year, UTA's College of Liberal Arts funded **The Black Anthology Project, a digital humanities research project of page-level metadata about the contents in over 100 Black short story anthologies.** Ramsby and Ossom-Williamson created a one-page interactive visualization highlighting some of the findings from the Black short story dataset, focusing specifically on the most frequently anthologized African-American short story authors.

"In addition to teaching data literacy, data ethics, and use of data tools in classes and open workshops, we support and participate in innovative research. We assist with data management, publishing findable and usable data sets, and visualizing findings for reaching a broader audience," Ossom-Williamson says. "The library works to make everything openly available, allowing for transparency and reproducibility; it also fosters open education, open science, and interdisciplinary collaboration."



SUSTAINABLE UTA

## GREEN GROWTH

Confirming commitment to University sustainability

UTA has worked to position itself as a leader in sustainability, bolstering all facets of University operations. Most of these efforts have been led by Meghna Tare, who recently was appointed UTA's chief sustainability officer.

Under Tare's leadership as executive director of the Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact, UTA has implemented several environmentally responsible initiatives and won a prestigious **Excellence in Sustainability Award** from the National Association of College and University Business Officers. The award is earned by institutions that demonstrate excellence and innovation in sustainability leadership. UTA was one of three universities to earn the award in 2018. Also in 2018, UTA was ranked among the **nation's top "Cool Schools"** by Sierra, which evaluates schools on a broad range of sustainability metrics.

"Sustainability will continue to be one of the major challenges we face and is an integral part of the promise we make to responsibly manage our shared resources and enrich quality of life for society at large," says UTA President Vistasp Karbhari. "Mrs. Tare is a nationally recognized authority and leader, and her leadership positions us to be a national model of excellence."



# Scene

## Science & Engineering Innovation & Research Building UTA Campus

THE NEWEST DEVELOPMENT ON UTA's campus is a hub for research that advances health and the human condition. The Science & Engineering Innovation & Research (SEIR) building, which opened last fall, is a state-of-the-art research and teaching facility that brings together interdisciplinary work around major health science challenges, including brain health, cancer, healthy aging, and more.

The \$125 million building incorporates a "science on display" concept that allows anyone who walks through the building the opportunity to see research in action. In essence, it allows any visitor to get an inside look at the discovery happening every day at UTA.

"The building itself is a space that will catalyze and accelerate our teaching and research efforts," says Duane Dimos, vice president for research. "As an urban-serving Carnegie R-1 research university, we needed a space that could act as the focus for an innovation ecosystem to drive our regional economy and strengthen North Texas as a center for biotechnology and health science research."



### FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS

SEIR is divided into **12 research neighborhoods**, bringing together teams from a range of disciplines to work in close proximity.



### COLLAB CORNERS

Multiple shared spaces throughout the building offer research teams the opportunity to work across disciplines.



### WORLD-CLASS CLASSES

In the **two-story classroom wing**, the next generation of highly skilled professionals learn what they need to succeed from renowned faculty.



### GENOME HOME

The only facility of its kind in the UT System and in North Texas, the **North Texas Genome Center** offers whole genome sequencing and data interpretation.



### SCIENCE ON DISPLAY

Interior glass walls enable work in the **collaborative lab space** to be visible to students and visitors.



### DISCOVERY DOMAIN

A **four-story research wing** with advanced labs and equipment allows researchers to push the boundaries of scientific discovery and spark the next wave of innovations.

**EXPLORE**  
Take a tour of the SEIR building via an immersive 360-degree video experience.  
[uta.edu/mag/scene](http://uta.edu/mag/scene)





SKILL SHARE

# LEARNING TO LEAD

New program develops employee excellence

UTA's Leadership Academy is a broad development program that covers practical leadership topics, issues within higher education, and personal leadership development. Co-sponsored by the Office of Human Resources and the Division of Faculty Affairs, the program develops essential characteristics and skills needed for participants to be effective leaders in a higher education environment. It's all part of UTA's dedication to building a culture that values growth and excellence at all levels.

"The Leadership Academy helps create a pipeline for talented and motivated individuals to serve on committees or move into higher positions," says Jean Hood, vice president for human resources. "When we develop our excellence, we better serve the University's mission."

Amy Osborn ('09 BA, Interdisciplinary Studies; '12 MA, Higher Education Leadership), executive assistant to the vice president for research, took part in the Leadership Academy.

"Not only was I able to assess my capabilities as a leader, but I also learned from seasoned managers about their experiences and preparation," she says. "It also provided us with additional tools that we can use to work alongside our colleagues and students to further push UTA toward excellence."

INNOVATIVE SUPPORT

# UPLIFTING

UTA's disability-centered programs recognized

At UTA, where health and the human condition is a key focus of our research initiatives, the development of impactful disability-focused programs has become a priority for researchers across the University. Their multidisciplinary, innovative work has resulted in statewide recognition for excellence and serves as a major contribution toward making the University the model barrier-free campus for Texas and the nation.

Last fall, four of UTA's disability-focused programs received the **Martha Arbuckle Award**, which is conferred by the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities each year. UTA's disability studies minor, the Office for Students with Disabilities, the Movin' Mavs Adapted Sports and Recreation program, and UTA Libraries' Texas Disability History Collection received the prestigious recognition.

The interdisciplinary Minor in Disability Studies explores the experiences of people with disabilities—one of the largest minorities in the United States and worldwide—as well as the ways

in which conceptions and representations of disability and "the normal" have shaped human experiences more generally.

The Texas Disability History Collection showcases Texas' central role in the disability rights movement, especially adapted sports and access to higher education.

UTA's Movin' Mavs Adapted Sports and Recreation program provides sports and recreation programs and competitive athletic opportunities for students with disabilities. The Movin' Mavs men's and women's wheelchair basketball teams have won **a combined 10 national championships**. Many individual players have gone on to compete and **win gold for Team USA in the Paralympic Games**.

"Being recognized by the governor is an enormous honor," says Sarah Rose, director of the disability studies program and an associate professor of history. "So many great entities go into receiving this award. It recognizes UTA as a great academic destination for disability studies and as a great place for history."



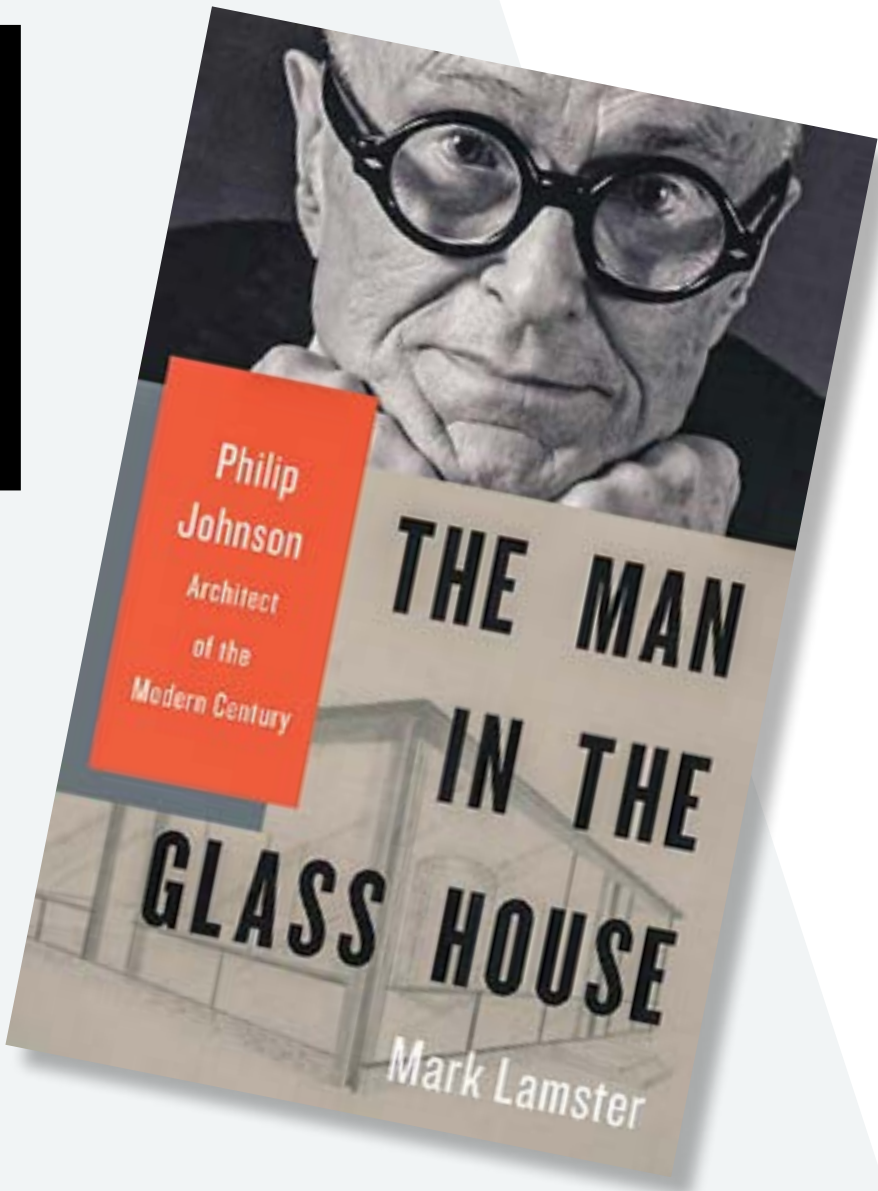
# Well Read

Fascinating books by Maverick authors to fill your library

## THE MAN IN THE GLASS HOUSE

BY MARK LAMSTER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE, ARCHITECTURE

An award-winning architectural critic and biographer, Mark Lamster tells the story of Philip Johnson, a controversial figure who introduced European modernism to America and mentored generations of architects, designers, and artists.



FICTION

**My Shield & Portion Be**  
By Margot Suzanne Weyandt ('92 MSSW)

Fast-paced action and fantasy abound in *My Shield & Portion Be*, the second book in the Gour Ghost Passage series.



URBAN PLANNING

**Design as Democracy: Techniques for Collective Creativity**

CO-EDITED BY DIANE JONES ALLEN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A compilation with nearly 50 contributors from around the world, *Design as Democracy* highlights how communities can be designed in empowering and effective ways, with justice and democracy in mind.



HISTORY

**No Right to be Idle: The Invention of Disability, 1840s-1930s**

BY SARAH F. ROSE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, HISTORY

In *No Right to be Idle*, Sarah Rose traces the experiences of policymakers, employers, reformers, and disabled people in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as people with disabilities were effectively barred from the mainstream workplace.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

**The Little Clay Jar = La vasijita de barro**

BY PEREGRINA RAMOS ('93 MA, ENGLISH)

A bilingual children's book about a little clay jar that is drawn to a captivating light, *The Little Clay Jar* illustrates the "power of emerging from the darkness into the light."



# Crash Course

**ART 4397**  
Special Studies in  
Film/Video

The commercial opens with a man standing on train tracks, eating a donut. A train appears in the far distance, blaring a warning signal. Another man appears. “What are you doing?” he shouts to the donut eater. “You’re going to die!” The donut eater says he won’t, then shrugs. “I don’t believe in physics.” Off screen, the man is hit by a train as we see the man who warned him wince and walk away. Words appear on the screen: “Physics is real. Science is real. Global warming is real. It’s time to get real about climate change.”

Part of the “Science is Real” campaign, this commercial was one of three that were produced by students in Adjunct Professor Norry Niven’s Special Studies in Film/Video course. The professional-level finished spots aired on the Sierra Club website and were used by Earth Day Texas.

Within a short time, the awards came rolling in: **two national Telly Awards, a Clio Award, a Remi Award, four American Advertising Awards, and a Public Service Announcement Award.** In the ultimate nod to the students’ stellar efforts, the commercials were also **nominated for the 2018 AICP (Association of Independent Commercial Producers) Awards.**

“The public response to the spots has been phenomenal, and having the work recognized with awards is surely thrilling for the students,” says Niven, who is also a UTA alumnus (’85 BA, Art/Film) and an acclaimed director in his own right. “But the biggest honor for me to date is when the AICP revealed its 2018 short list, and we were on it. In the past decade only one commercial from a Texas production company has been in that show—it was one I directed for a Showtime series called *Dexter*. So having three spots in that show, with all UTA students, is simply incredible.”



## GET AROUND TRAVELING THE MEGACITY

Researchers address transportation inequalities

As the world sees the rise of megacities—those areas with populations of over 10 million—developers charged with maintaining healthy and sustainable infrastructure face unique challenges, particularly in transportation. UTA, from its home in the heart of Arlington, is ideally positioned to address these growth concerns.

Stephen Mattingly, associate professor of civil engineering, is working with Kate Hyun, assistant professor of civil engineering, on an examination of transit systems in Grand Prairie and Arlington. Another of their projects takes a closer look at Handitran and Via users. The last studies how interdisciplinary teams leverage new technologies to respond to transportation needs.

“We seek to provide transportation to disadvantaged populations,” Dr. Hyun says. “We give them a voice in the transportation planning process by documenting and quantifying their needs.”

Faculty members are involved in many transportation-related projects in Texas and the nation. These include the development of the Center for Transportation Equity, Decisions, and Dollars, as well as participation in U.S. Department of Transportation-funded consortiums. Researchers have received millions in TxDOT grants to improve Texas highways and bridges.



# Faculty Focus



**A**T THIS POINT, Frank Lewis—now in his 29<sup>th</sup> year with UTA—is something of a legend as he continues to make an impact not only on the University, but also the field of electrical engineering as a whole. An expert in automatic feedback control systems, he uses mathematics as a unifying language to bring together ideas from different disciplines and design better algorithms for feedback control. It's the sort of work that has applications across many systems—aircraft autopilots, robot motion control, car engine control, coordination of unmanned aerial vehicles, and more—and aligns with UTA's strategic focus on excellence in teaching and research.

"I always want to find similarities in ideas that seem different," Dr. Lewis says. "Finding new ways in which seemingly different ideas can fit together gives new basic notions and approaches that result in new, improved design methods for automatic feedback control systems."



**Frank Lewis**  
Moncrief-O'Donnell  
Endowed Chair,  
Professor, College of  
Engineering, UTARI

## What past accomplishment makes you proudest?

Discovery and innovation. For instance, we found out how to use neural networks and reinforcement learning techniques from computational intelligence to extend the capabilities of adaptive feedback control systems. Our ideas led to more accurate controllers that are implemented on the Boeing Phantom Ray autonomous

aircraft and have been used to improve the fuel efficiency and reduce pollution in automobile engines for Ford and GM. I have also had 50 PhD students, and they are top researchers, award winners, industry leaders, and university presidents and provosts.

## What are you excited about right now?

Currently, I am interested in different sorts of multi-agent interaction games being studied in computer science and how I can use those ideas in automatic decision and control for multiple interacting dynamical systems. I am also interested in the way the human brain works in processing environmental queues and changing human behavior over time in response to different situations.

## What are you most looking forward to?

Every day I look forward to coming to my office at UTARI and working to get new ideas to bring together and extend known results. I look forward to talking with my students—they always have new ideas and are a source of enthusiasm.

## RECOGNIZED EXCELLENCE

- Ranked at position 84 worldwide, 64 in the U.S., and 3 in Texas of all scientists in computer science and electronics, by Guide2Research (October 2018)
- Thomson Reuters Web of Science Highly Cited Researcher (2018)
- John Ragazzini Education Award 2018 for writing textbooks, PhD student mentoring, and international leadership, from American Automatic Control Council
- Liaoning Province International Science and Technology Cooperation Award (2017)
- Liaoning China Friendship Award (2017)
- Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award (2017-18)
- Appointed Guest Consulting Professor, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (2016-2019)
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (2016)

POINTS OF  
EXCELLENCE

UTA has 15 fellows of the National Academy of Inventors, more than any Texas university.

MAV ROUNDUP



PAIR POWERED

## ELDERLY INTERVENTIONS

Social work professors' research aids aging populations

Two pairs of professors in the School of Social Work are producing innovative research to support the elderly and those who care for them.

Assistant Professors Noelle Fields and Ling Xu were awarded a \$459,994 National Institutes of Health grant for their research, "The Senior Companion Program Plus: A Psychoeducational Intervention for African-American Dementia Caregivers." The project aims to **reduce the burden and stress that families experience when caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease**. The researchers will work with the Senior Companion Program, part of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"To date, few studies have utilized lay providers for dementia caregiving interventions, and no studies have utilized the Senior Companion Program as a platform for this type of family caregiver intervention," Dr. Fields says. "Our intervention augments the Senior Companion Program by adding a component specific to dementia family caregivers."

Another project in the School of Social Work, led by Assistant Professors Kathy Lee and Rebecca Mauldin, seeks to mitigate loneliness and social isolation that older adults often experience. Together, Drs. Lee and Mauldin developed SageServe, an app that **helps older adults strengthen existing social roles and develop new ones** by connecting them to online-based volunteer opportunities. Last year, SageServe was recognized as the Best Human Services App Idea at the annual Social Work, Education, and Social Development Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

"When you combine technology and human services together, there is no estimating how impactful the research can become," says Scott Ryan, dean of the School of Social Work. "As technology continues to advance how we approach creating community solutions, our professors highlight how social workers are utilizing innovative technology to build sustainable urban communities."



SAFER SYSTEMS

## BETTER TESTING

Researchers boost tech security

Jeff Lei, professor of computer science and engineering (CSE), and his partner, Dimitris Simos of SBA Research Inc., were awarded a \$585,000 grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop a **new approach to testing the security of blockchains and Internet of Things systems**.

"Interaction testing for security is challenging because the negatives are often much larger than the positives," Dr. Lei says. "We are developing an approach that combines interaction testing with other techniques to systematically explore the negatives, then use it to create a more efficient testing system."

Strengthening UTA's efforts to support computer security is Sajib Datta, senior lecturer of CSE, and his partnership with Komodo, a leading provider of blockchain technology. Their agreement provides funding for an **annual blockchain competition at UTA, two senior design projects, and scholarships for two undergraduate and two graduate students**. Komodo also will provide resources for a new course on blockchains and cryptocurrency.

"CSE is a constantly changing field," says Hong Jiang, CSE department chair. "We owe it to our students to keep abreast of emerging technologies. This partnership could establish us as a national leader in blockchain education."



# Gallery

**Billi London-Gray** ('18 MFA, Intermedia Studio)  
Lecturer,  
Department of Art  
and Art History  
*Experimental  
Artist*

The act of creating art is more than just a lightning strike of inspiration; it's work. And as UTA alumna and lecturer Billi London-Gray will tell you, it's the work part that is often the most gratifying. "I'm actually most creative under pressure, as a problem-solver with a deadline and limited means," she says. "When necessity is the mother of invention, it's still creativity—even if it feels like a tight, sweaty headspace."

Still, inspiration is part of that mix of what goes into creation, and it's that problem-solving piece that drives much of London-Gray's art. "My work responds to problems I see in the world, especially complex, far-reaching societal problems, like inequality, bias, and complacency. I'm inspired by the idea that these problems, while immense, are not impossible, and that my work can do something to effect change."

With such an open-minded, experimental focus, her art is similarly open-ended. She works with a range of media, including ink, charcoal, paint, LEDs, photocop-

ies, and more. One of her most recent projects is The Loop and Saw Choir, which consists of workshops, jam sessions, and performances in which she collaborates with volunteers of all ages and abilities to make music and sound art using musical saws, analog synthesizers, human voices, homemade instruments, and looping devices. In August, she won a **Puffin Foundation grant** for The Loop and Saw Choir, allowing her to purchase permanent equipment for the project.

London-Gray credits UTA's MFA program for emboldening her open, anything-goes approach to creating art. "UTA allowed me to continue my practice of working with all sorts of materials and between disciplines, so that was a huge draw. I wanted to work with certain faculty members who had similar practices," she says. "My professors and peers challenged me to reconsider my goals, remove the chaff, identify *my* audience from everybody out there, and really own my creative choices."



## How to be Creative

"I think all people are innately creative," London-Gray says. "We are wired to learn, assess, and invent." To that end, she shared some ideas on how to help anyone uncover their creative selves.

- Convince yourself to be brave.
- Tune out the voices that tell you how you ought to be.
- Discipline, discipline, discipline.
- Reframe your thinking. ("Maybe that's the trick: Reframing how you define creativity so that you recognize it in what you already do.")



Billi London-Gray (far left) leads a group of local high school students through a Loop and Saw Choir session during the Department of Art + Art History's Exploration Day.



# CAMPUS BUZZ

Connect with UTA  
across all social media  
channels with the  
handle @utarlington.



Our Record Label Management class is in session. I have a great group this semester. Maybe our next music industry executives. Who knows what the future holds for them?  
—@jonesmaestro



## GRAD CAP WINNER

UTA's semi-annual Grad Cap contest was a hit, with 150 entries. The winner was Cynthia Martinez ('18 BBA, Marketing and Management).

*"I am a first-generation college graduate from a Mexican family. My cap is a design of a traditional card game called 'Loteria mexicana.' With my cap, I have designed my own rendition of the game with a new card in the deck: 'la graduada,' which means 'the graduate.' Playing this game reminds me of good, fun times with my family. As I approach graduation, I can only think of the good times I will have with my family as we celebrate this achievement. Last but not least, it represents my pride in being a Hispanic female graduate."*

1.2K 66 comments 125 Shares



## THE JOURNEY

UTA is proud to introduce "The Journey," an all-access, inside look at the 2018-19 Maverick men's basketball team. The four-episode series documents the highs, lows, challenges, and excitement that go into a Division I collegiate program facing a season with a new team and coach. To watch the first two episodes, visit [utamavs.edu/thejourney](http://utamavs.edu/thejourney).

Two of Arlington's best things (...and it's not us) #Rangers and #UTAMavs  
—@raulsolisglez



Thank you  
@terrycrews  
for a magical  
night at  
@utarlington  
—@8BitBlood



Oh just two college sweethearts enjoying a Saturday morning walk through our alma mater @utarlington and reminiscing on when we met at the College of Business. Great to see so many families on campus celebrating #MavGrad2018!  
—@devanjallen

## POSTSEASON PLAY

# SERVING WINS

UTA's volleyball team charts a 15-plus win season



Zhanelle Geathers

The Mavericks ended the 2018 campaign with a 16-12 overall record, marking their **fifth 15-plus win season in the last six years**.

The No. 5 seed UTA volleyball team fell to fourth-seeded Little Rock in the quarterfinal round of the Sun Belt Conference Championships on the campus of Georgia State to wrap up the 2018 season.

Three players earned conference postseason recognition for helping lead the Mavericks to a 15-11 regular season record (9-7 SBC) and earn its No. 5 seed in the Sun Belt Conference Championships. Junior Madison Hill was selected to the **All-Sun Belt First Team**, while redshirt senior Zhanelle Geathers and junior Kylie Jedlicka garnered **All-Sun Belt Second Team selections**.

Hill, a three-time Sun Belt Offensive Player of the Week in 2018, finished **second in the Sun Belt** in hitting percentage (.395),

which ranked her 13th in the country. She also recorded a team-high 289 kills, 91 digs, and 77 total blocks. In conference-only matches, she ranked second in the league with a .415 hitting percentage.

Geathers racked up 239 kills, 34 digs, and 55 total blocks. In conference action, she averaged 2.35 kills per set (129 total kills) with a .167 hitting percentage. In 27 matches this season, Geathers recorded double-digit kills on 12 occasions and registered blocks in 24 matches.

Jedlicka ranked second on the team with 265 kills. She also totaled 215 digs and 42 blocks this season. She landed double-digit kills in 10 matches, including a career-high of 22 in a 3-2 win at Georgia Southern on Oct. 7.

Kylie Jedlicka

Madison Hill

# SPORTING MAVS





Michael Guerrero

## BIG FINISH

SENIOR TRACK  
STANDOUT

Redshirt returns an orange and blueprint for success

In 2016, standouts Michael Guerrero and Craig Lautenslager became the first UTA distance runners in nearly two decades to advance to the NCAA Cross Country Championships after top-10 finishes at the NCAA South Central Regional.

Lautenslager was a fifth-year senior for the Mavericks that year, fresh off an elected redshirt season during which he did not compete in 2015. Instead, he focused on training in preparation for a huge senior season that resulted in not only his NCAA cross country berth, but also Second-Team All-America accolades in outdoor track.

Fast forward to 2018, and now Guerrero is that fifth-year senior with hefty goals on his mind after choosing to sit out the 2017-18 cross country and out-

door track seasons. The native of Mission, Texas, loudly announced his return to competitive action in cross country with an **individual victory at the Gerald Richey UTA Invitational** in September and continued to perform at a high level all fall for the regionally ranked Mavericks.

Guerrero, already one of UTA's most decorated track student-athletes ever thanks to **three individual conference championship titles**, is listed in the school's top three all-time in three different events. However, if his final season falls in step with that of his former teammate, Guerrero could see his name vault to the top of those lists and earn him distinction as the greatest men's distance runner in school history.



Guanarteme Nuez

## SINGLES STAR

POISED FOR  
SUCCESS

Tennis champ brings winning momentum

Entering his senior year and final season for men's tennis, Guanarteme Nuez is making waves throughout the Sun Belt Conference (SBC) as one of the league's top athletes. Nuez was named the **2017-18 SBC Player of the Year** after earning a trip to the NCAA Singles Championships and a 25-7 record in singles.

The fall tournament slate was just as impressive, with Nuez earning his way into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) All-American Main Draw, a feat achieved by only one other Maverick tennis player in program history. Nuez earned invitations to the prestigious ITA Master's Tournament in Malibu, California, and leads a tennis team that is hoping to replicate its 2016 magic of winning the SBC championship and making a run into the NCAA Tournament once again.

This time around, Nuez will be going to battle with Mauricio Del Rio and Enrique Pardo in the team's top three singles spots. The group was all part of the Sun Belt All-Conference selection list and had wins against nationally ranked opponents in 2017-18.

"Nuez has been a leader for this squad since day one," Coach Diego Benitez says. "He plays at a very high level in every match and faces some of the top competition in the team's No. 1 singles position. His fall play only showed his potential against tough competition, and he has really stepped up his leadership role this year."



Reagan Wright



Laura Curry

## PERFECT PAIR

EYES ON THE  
NCAA

Softball duo focused on championship

A dynamic duo and among four Sun Belt All-Conference selections in 2018, junior Reagan Wright and senior Laura Curry are hoping to achieve something the Mavericks have not been able to do since 2003: win a conference championship and advance to the NCAA Tournament.

Wright and Curry are a part of a talented group that is poised to make that run in 2019. In 2018, UTA finished fourth in the Sun Belt, rated the toughest mid-major conference in the nation, after posting 30 wins and **winning the National Invitational Softball Championship Regional** on the way to a fourth-place finish in the postseason tournament.

The star players were both National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region selections last year, with Wright pounding 12 home runs, including three in one game, and shattering the program's all-time RBI record with 53 knocked in during the year. Curry led the Mavs with a .355 batting average as a staple in the outfield, starting all 52 games in center.

With a deep roster of returning players, combined with a wealth of talent from freshmen battling it out for playing time, UTA softball is ready to make its move to the top of the conference and join the highest echelon of teams in the national spotlight.



## SUPPORT TEE'D

MAVERICK  
OPEN

Annual event raises more than \$50,000 for athletics

UTA Athletics hosted its annual fund-raising effort, the Maverick Open, in September at Texas Star Golf Course, bringing together a full field of golfers for an afternoon of fun and raising resources for scholarships and department enhancements. Presented by Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital at Arlington, the event raised more than \$50,000 for the Maverick Club.

The field of 105 golfers teed off in the scramble format shortly after 1 p.m. on a sun- and fun-filled day at one of the Metroplex's best courses. Golfers had the opportunity to win prizes and giveaways throughout the day, including a car courtesy of Carlisle Chevrolet.

"It was great to see and catch up with our alumni and former student-athletes who helped get us to this point," says Jim Baker, director of athletics.

Central to the fundraising efforts is the Nancy Baker Memorial Women's Golf Endowed Scholarship, which is named after Jim Baker's late wife. The scholarship was established in 2015 to honor Nancy through an opportunity for a UTA student-athlete to obtain an education and follow her dreams.

The department has a goal to grow the endowment to \$500,000, which will provide a full scholarship for a member of the women's golf team. Please contact Alex Ware (alex.ware@uta.edu) if you are interested in making a donation.





The countless stories of risk-taking, lessons learned, trailblazing, steady growth, and, ultimately, ledgers turning from red to black stand as proof of UTA's dedication to creating confident, successful entrepreneurs.

BY ASHLEY FESTA

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ELEVATED





UTA offers myriad free resources for budding entrepreneurs. These include the StartUp Lounge; the EplCMavs interactive entrepreneurship seminar series; TechFW@UTA, where innovators learn how to commercialize their inventions; and numerous other services that complement classroom experiences, such as writing a business plan that comes with the opportunity to win thousands of dollars in funding. Through it all, students learn from professors who are entrepreneurs themselves.

The most resounding evidence of UTA's championing of entrepreneurs are the many success stories of faculty, students, and alumni who have established or are in the middle of building their businesses.

## TRUSTING IN THE STUDENTS

Tyler Sickels ('18 BA, Philosophy), the CEO of SolGro, started his business as a student in Wei Chen's laboratory. Sickels says that Dr. Chen, physics professor and the director of the Center for Security Advances Via Applied Nanotechnology, took him seriously as someone who could help commercialize plant-growing technology developed in the lab, even though he was a student at the time.

Sickels worked with UTA's Office of Technology Management to research whether the new greenhouse technology would be financially viable as a business. With the advice and assistance of the tech transfer staff, Sickels decided how to commercialize the technology. After launching in March 2017 with Sickels' first investor dollars, SolGro won UTA's Innovation

Day Competition and was named to the short list of the National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer's top university startups for 2017.

Sickels and his team are now working to bring the technology from the University to the marketplace.

"So far the hardest thing has been scaling the production," Sickels says. "Taking it from the lab scale in small beakers, to be able to produce kilograms instead of grams. That's the next step."

As SolGro ramps up, Sickels says he's applying lessons from his Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship class. In particular, the lessons about failed companies and the mistakes they made have helped him avoid the same missteps so far.



Tyler Sickels



Robert Magnusson



Latasha Taylor Starr and Ariel Bowman



Jon Weidanz

## DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Failures are often the best teachers, and UTA professors are quick to share their hardest lessons—learned so their students don't make the same missteps. An error Robert Magnusson, professor of electrical engineering and the UTA Texas Instruments Distinguished University Chair in Nanoelectronics, tells his students about is a time, years ago, when one of his ideas was stolen: Another company filed a patent on his idea within six weeks of hearing his presentation.

"I teach my students about all those things," says Dr. Magnusson, cofounder and chief technical officer of Resonant Sensors, a company that provides next-generation optical sensor systems for pharmaceutical and biotech customers. Cofounder and UTA alumna Debra

Wawro Weidanz serves as CEO and chief scientist. "I'm bruised and scarred, and they see that. I want to help them avoid the mistakes I made when I became an entrepreneur."

Magnusson, who teaches a course on engineering entrepreneurship, says entrepreneurship in the engineering and technology realm differs from other types of business-building. For example, he talks about the level of investor funds necessary to get started, which could be in the millions, and government grants, building prototypes, and of course, patents and intellectual property. (Students can get additional help with patenting and licensing in UTA's Office of Technology Management.)

In his class, Magnusson has students pair up and create a business plan to pitch to venture capitalists. Students get to experience both sides of entrepreneurship—simulating the role of the investors, too, by grading their classmates on the quality of their presentations.

## AFFIRMATION FROM ALL SIDES

UTA's MavsChallenge is a University-wide *Shark Tank*-style competition in which students of any major are invited to pitch their entrepreneurial business ideas in hopes of winning a \$10,000 grand prize.

As second-place winners in the 2018 MavsChallenge, Latasha Taylor Starr, an industrial, systems, and manufacturing engineering doctoral student, and Ariel Bowman, a mathematics doctoral student, received \$2,000 to put toward the creation of their business, ESTe<sup>2</sup>M Builders.

The company is a multipronged educational program that focuses on building confidence, competence, and creativity in students as young as 3 years old in science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship, and mathematics. They want to help children develop entrepreneurial skills they can use in STEM fields.

Starr and Bowman viewed the MavsChallenge prize as confirmation that their idea was financially viable, and they've received validation in many forms—including sales, of course—since they started developing their business idea in January 2018. Starr, for example, was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame scholarship program.

"One of the challenges we face as minorities—women and also African-Americans—is that there aren't a lot of mentors to guide you," Starr says. "We found a safe place at UTA with the MavsChallenge and the StartUp Lounge."

The two have been thankful for the endless support of UTA professors, particularly Jeffrey McGee, associate professor and the faculty adviser of the Entrepreneur Society, a student organization that offers networking and leadership opportunities along with a speaker series so students can hear directly from successful entrepreneurs.

## BACKING THE ENTIRE UTA COMMUNITY

UTA also supports entrepreneurial professors with resources and facilities that some businesses might otherwise find difficult to obtain. Jon

"SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WE FACE AS MINORITIES—WOMEN AND ALSO AFRICAN-AMERICANS—THERE AREN'T A LOT OF MENTORS TO GUIDE YOU. WE FOUND A SAFE PLACE AT UTA WITH THE MAVSCHALLENGE AND THE STARTUP LOUNGE."





Weidanz, associate vice president for research and chief scientific officer of Abexxa Biologics, says the company's relationship with the University is a win-win. While the biotech company gets to lease equipment and space from the University, Abexxa enhances UTA's brand as a school that encourages faculty members to start their own businesses.



Caleb Geer

**"I'M BUILDING SOMETHING WORTH HAVING."**

Students also have internship opportunities at Abexxa, which is working to identify new biomarkers for cancer to improve immunotherapy options. The company was named one of the 40 Best University Startups of 2017 by the National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer.

"I have students in my company gaining experience working in a company setting, which is different from an academic lab," says Dr. Weidanz, who cofounded Abexxa with his wife, Debra Wawro Weidanz. "They're focused on how to deliver goods and how to work together to get a molecule to do X-Y-Z."

## GIVE 'EM WHAT THEY WANT

Alumnus and UTA lecturer Lee Thurburn ('82 BBA, '92 MBA) brings 25 years of entrepreneurial experience to the classroom. Even though classes dedicated to entrepreneurship didn't exist at UTA when he was there, Thurburn used his business skillset to venture out on his own. Some of his businesses failed; some succeeded; some he just didn't enjoy, so he moved on. Now the president of the online marketing automation system Apricot Rocket, Thurburn brings all those lessons to his lectures with the hope that students will

**"MY DAD ALWAYS SAID I COULDN'T MAKE A LIVING LIGHTING THINGS ON FIRE, BUT I PROVED HIM WRONG."**



Andrew Feghali

use them as they forge their own paths.

Thurburn says the biggest lesson he shares with students is focusing on giving customers what they want rather than what they need. To illustrate the point: In 1995, he offered dialup and marketing services to real estate agents for the newborn internet, long before Realtor.com existed. Despite what he saw as the obvious benefit of publishing the entire real estate database online, he struggled to make sales.

"We were selling what agents needed, but they didn't want it," Thurburn says of his then-business, Flash.Net. "They were used to hardcopy MLS books, and the internet was complicated. They didn't want to change."

At the same time, Thurburn let five retailers give Flash.Net floppy disks to customers buying new computers, offering a free month of the company's services. That plan, he says, was a winner, a lesson he emphasizes to his students.

"No one needed internet, but they wanted it," he says. "We sold 50 accounts to people who needed it and didn't want it, and we sold 200 accounts to people who wanted it, but didn't need it. If we had continued to sell what people needed, we would have failed."

## MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

Andrew Feghali ('12 BA, Mechanical Engineering; '16 MBA) had always wanted to run his own company, and after earning an engineering degree and his MBA, he founded Aeroblaze Laboratory, a company that conducts fire testing for aircraft materials. He said the critical-thinking skills he learned as an engineering undergrad have helped him think creatively to find solutions to business problems.

"If you asked me two years ago versus now, my definition of success is different

now," Feghali says. "Bringing in the first customer took two months. That doesn't seem like that long, but when you're in it and you don't know when it's going to come, that was the worst two months of my life."

Since then, he's had many customers and many milestones. After that first customer, Feghali says the next success marker was the first month he broke even on expenses. Then he hired a part-time employee, mechanical engineer Leslie Gardner, who graduated from UTA in 1999. Now about 3 years old, Aeroblaze is consistently in the black.

"My dad always said I couldn't make a living lighting things on fire," Feghali says, "but I proved him wrong."

Caleb Geer ('18 BS, University Studies), owner of Urban Tree Merchants, is currently where Feghali was several years ago—waiting for his business to take off. After working with his entrepreneurial father at the family's

tree company, Geer decided he wanted to run a business of his own, creating luxury custom furniture made from salvaged trees.

He says Thurburn was instrumental in his success so far, giving practical advice in class and also helping him narrow his purpose outside of class. Since then, Geer built his own mill, made some big sales, and in less than two years, has hired an employee to do woodworking while he focuses on the business side.

Now that he has graduated, Geer can dedicate all his time to the company, but he says being a small-business owner has taught him the value of patience, especially in his industry.

"With the wood, I have to play the long game because wood has to dry," he says. "Wood is like wine; they're things that have to sit for a while before they're useful. But I'm not in a rush. I'm building something worth having." **UTA**

## A \$1.5 MILLION GIVING BOOST

Thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor, UTA is proud to announce the **Maverick Entrepreneur Program and Award Fund**, which encourages and supports entrepreneurs and innovation projects at UTA. The program includes a course on entrepreneurship and business management principles, which allows up to 20 students the opportunity to complete a business plan and prepare presentations on their ideas.

At the conclusion of the course, competitions provide students the chance to receive funding to further develop and execute their business ideas.



# THE MAVERICK heart

Research, programs, and initiatives at UTA live  
at the heart of health and the human condition.

*From groundbreaking cardiovascular  
research to services that support our  
students and outreach that uplifts our  
communities, the heart of UTA is centered  
on incredibly dynamic and impactful care.  
It's crucial to a better future for us all.*





*“This honor is a resounding endorsement of our ongoing efforts to find solutions to health care challenges.”*



Mark Haykowsky

## The Physical Heart

At UTA, where “health and the human condition” is a pillar of our Strategic Plan 2020: Bold Solutions | Global Impact, cardiovascular research is a major interdisciplinary focus across the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, the College of Science, and the College of Engineering.

A central contributor in this area is Mark Haykowsky, the College of Nursing and Health Innovation’s Moritz Chair of Geriatric Nursing Research and a leading expert in heart failure rehabilitation. In 2018, Dr. Haykowsky was recognized for his achievement in heart research when he was elected a fellow of the American College of Cardiology (ACC). The fellow-

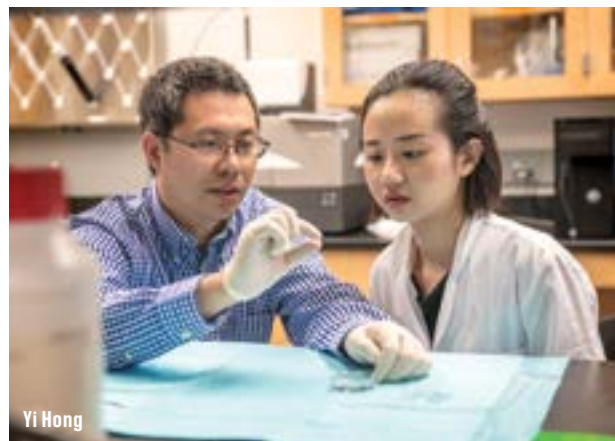
ship is one of the ACC’s most prestigious designations.

“This honor is a resounding endorsement of our ongoing efforts to find solutions to health care challenges—in particular, heart failure with preserved ejection,” he says. Haykowsky also directs the College of Nursing and Health Innovation’s Integrated Cardiovascular and Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation (iCARE) Laboratory.

Heart research is also a focus in the College of Engineering, where Yi Hong, a bioengineering professor, is leading a team of researchers in a project that aims to develop a biodegradable and bioactive hydrogel to repair heart tissue after heart attacks. His work is funded by a \$460,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

“Dr. Hong’s research in biomaterials and especially biogels is positioning UTA at the forefront of this burgeoning field,” says Michael Cho, bioengineering chair. “This new project will provide a platform for cross-institutional collaboration in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and strengthen our position even further in biomedical engineering research and potential clinical applications.”

Another UTA bioengineer, Assistant Professor Juhyun Lee, is managing two heart research initiatives, both funded



Yi Hong

by the American Heart Association (AHA). For one, Dr. Lee received the AHA’s prestigious Career Development Award. The three-year, \$251,000 grant relates to another grant that he received in March to develop a new microscope that can capture 3D motion, then add time to construct a 4D beating heart using optical imaging techniques with fluorescent nanoparticles in a zebrafish.

Lee will use the new grant to explore targeted delivery of messenger RNA, or mRNA, to reverse damage caused by congenital heart disease by modulating the mechanical forces to reduce gene expressions. Then, he will use nanoparticles to encapsulate the mRNA and deliver it to the heart. Once the mRNA is introduced, he will recover the gene expression to see if trabeculation occurs even in the absence of mechanical forces.

“This new grant, coupled with his current grant, will provide critical insight into how gene expressions can be used to jump-start heart growth or healing,” Dr. Cho says. “Promising discoveries could lead to major advances in how heart defects and damage from congenital heart disease are treated.”

In the College of Science, Subhrangsu Mandal, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, is leading a project with co-investigator Linda Perrotti, associate professor of psychology, to investigate the link between ovarian hormones and blood cholesterol balance in the body. That balance is a key determinant of cardiovascular health. For their research, the co-principal investigators received a \$439,360 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

“The project is an example of how interdisciplinary projects among the sciences can generate new ideas and discoveries,” says Frederick MacDonnell, chair of chemistry and biochemistry. “In this case, it’s one that links directly to UTA’s strategic theme of health and the human condition.”



## The Heart of Our Communities

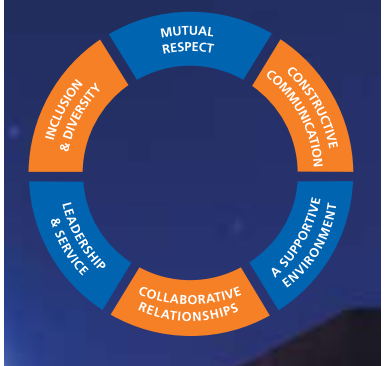
In order to succeed in the 21st century, universities are charged with creating innovative partnerships that spawn fresh approaches to community engagement. This happens at many levels of operation at UTA, where serving communities near and far is a designated Maverick Imperative, but perhaps none so prominently as in the School of Social Work.

A major focus of the school’s rigorous academics is community-focused learning, where students and professors alike devote countless hours to hands-on fieldwork. As part of the requirements to complete their degrees, Bachelor of Social Work students must complete 480 hours of supervised field education training. Students pursuing a master’s degree in social work must complete anywhere from 480 to 960 hours, depending on their academic background.

Outreach is also coordinated through the school’s many centers of research. One, the Center for Addiction and Recovery Studies (CARS), provides substance abuse services and training in the community, conducts research, and educates and trains social work students. A signature service of CARS is the Pregnant/Postpartum Intervention Program, which is based in Dallas and

## PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY

UTA’s multifaceted approach to care starts with a set of six core values, called the Principles of Community. Developed by our faculty, staff, and students, these principles serve as the heart and soul of our engagement with each other and the larger communities we serve. They unite every Maverick around our mission of teaching, research, and public service.





*“When we build processes that help former offenders be successful with re-entry, it improves community safety and therefore helps all of us.”*



helps pregnant and postpartum women who are using drugs or recently in recovery. Through the program, women receive case management that includes treatment, social services, and supports. If possible, they are reunited with their children who may have been removed by Child Protective Services.

“One thing that we are really emphasizing going forward is working to strengthen the bond between the women and their newborns,” Debra Woody, director of CARS and senior associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Social Work, said in a recent interview with *Texas Health Journal*. “The research shows that the stronger the bond, the more likely the mother is to provide a safe, caring environment, and it also contributes to her recovery.”

In a multidisciplinary research effort led by Anne Nordberg, assistant professor in the School of Social Work, a team of UTA researchers is working to help former criminal offenders successfully reenter society. Research indicates that strong networks of support reduce recidivism, but most communities remain ill-equipped to successfully support former offenders. In addition, the lack of access to transportation has been identified as a major barrier to reentry for former criminal offenders.

Through a grant from the National

Institute for Transportation and Communities, the research team is linking former inmates with transportation to needed services like employment centers, educational opportunities, and medical access.

“When we build processes that help former offenders be successful with re-entry, it improves community safety and therefore helps all of us,” Dr. Nordberg says.

Other professors involved with the project include Jaya Davis, associate professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Stephen Mattingly, associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering.

The team is partnering with Dallas-based Unlocking DOORS, a reentry brokerage firm that coordinates services including housing, health services, job retraining, transportation, and parole/probation obligations. Unlocking DOORS assists former offenders in navigating a patchwork of logistic hurdles.

“This project will transcend regional re-entry issues and create a framework that can be adapted to similar conditions in other areas statewide and nationally,” says Dr. Davis. “Ultimately, we’d like the project to assist in community planning. The team’s desire is to improve the quality of life for former offenders and community residents.”

## **The Heart of Our Campus**

From research that keeps our hearts healthy to community outreach that keeps the hearts of our communities flourishing, UTA never loses track of the dynamic force that keeps the Maverick spirit strong—our students. An array of services and programs provides everyone equal access to higher education at UTA, an imperative that boosts Texas’ workforce and helps the state continue to thrive as an economic leader on a worldwide level.

A particular focus for the University has been to ensure that those who served or continue to serve our country through the military can gain an education that helps them transition to successful civilian life. UTA’s more than 5,000 veterans and veteran dependents make up about 12 percent of the on-campus student population. Services for our veterans include Veterans Upward Bound, VetSuccess on Campus, MavVets, and the Veterans Assistance Center. Together, these programs provide access to numerous resources for personal, academic, and professional support.

UTA has earned national accolades for its service to service members. *Military*

*Times* ranks the University No. 1 in Texas and No. 7 in the nation as a 2019 “Best for Vets” college, and in 2018, Victory Media ranked UTA No. 9 in the nation as a “Military Friendly” university. A crowning achievement, late last year, was the University’s designation as a Purple Heart University. The honor recognizes universities that demonstrate distinguished service and support to their veteran students.

“The 5,000 veterans and veteran dependents we’ve seen this year offer the University a great opportunity,” says James Kumm, UTA’s executive director for veterans programs. “They did the right thing by our community and nation. Now it’s our turn to do the right thing by them. The Purple Heart is a noble award that represents true courage and valor.”

Ray Hennagir, a freshman kinesiology major, was on hand for the Purple Heart designation ceremony. He is also a veteran and a Purple Heart recipient for injuries he sustained on the Iraq battlefield.

“It really shows how much UTA thinks of the veterans,” Hennagir says. “I used the veterans office three or four times on just the first day of school. And I didn’t have to seek them out. They asked if I needed help.” **UTA**

*“They did the right thing by our community and nation. Now it’s our turn to do the right thing by them.”*





# TRANSITIONS



**FOR STUDENTS, THE PATH  
TO BECOMING ALUMNI IS  
BASICALLY CLEAR.**

**THEY FINISH THEIR CREDIT HOURS,  
THEN GRADUATE. BUT WHAT HAPPENS  
NEXT? CAREER PATHS ARE RARELY SO  
STRAIGHTFORWARD. UTA IS HERE TO HELP  
THEM FIGURE IT OUT. ALL OF TEXAS  
STANDS TO BENEFIT. BY HILLARY GREEN**



**As Ashford Sonii prepared to enter his junior year as a political science major at UTA, he started feeling anxious about his career prospects after graduation. “Nothing dramatic triggered the feeling, but I started thinking about what life would look like after I graduated,” he says.**

Sonii wondered how he would answer interview questions or whether he would have the skills to market himself to a future employer. He decided to turn to the UTA Lockheed Martin Career Development Center for guidance. With its help, he landed two internships with the city of Arlington. As an intern, Sonii was able to see classroom theories in action and use critical thinking skills to respond to issues. He deepened his understanding of local government and public administration. After those internships, he graduated with a political science and leadership honors degree in 2017.

Sonii, now a grants and contracts coordinator with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, says his biggest regret is that he didn’t visit the center sooner.

“UTA’s programs and professors gave me the tools to succeed, but the Career Development Center showed me how to use them.”

Each semester, thousands of UTA students earn their diplomas and prepare to enter the workforce. Through student and career success initiatives, UTA is ensuring that these students are prepared to be the next generation of innovators, leaders, builders, and more.

According to *Forbes*, Texas ranks first for economic climate, and at \$1.6 trillion, it claims the second-biggest economy in the United States. It is home to the second-largest civilian workforce in America. Over 40 Fortune 500 companies have offices in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Research from the Economic Policy Institute shows that high-wage states are states with a well-educated workforce.

The demand for strong talent in Texas is real. In the next 12 years, at least 60 percent of Texans are expected to need a certificate or degree for the state to stay competitive in the global economy. To meet the growing need, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s 60x30TX goal is challenging higher education institutions to not only graduate more students, but also to better prepare them to enter the workforce.

By providing increased access, strengthening support services, and graduating more students than ever, UTA is rising to that challenge.

No longer is it enough to just have a diploma. As Sonii found through his internships, graduates must also have a solid foundation of soft skills: professionalism, teamwork, and critical thinking just to start. UTA’s comprehensive academic and student success programs are providing students just that, enabling them to arrive to the workplace on day one ready to thrive.



### MAVERICK ADVANTAGE

UTA IS COMMITTED TO PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURE CAREERS THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. THE MAVERICK ADVANTAGE PROGRAM ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING WITHIN FIVE DISTINGUISHING ACTIVITIES:

- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

THESE ACTIVITIES ENHANCE KEY SKILLS EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR, SUCH AS COMMUNICATION, CRITICAL THINKING, AND TEAMWORK. THROUGHOUT THEIR TIME AT UTA, ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THREE OF THE FIVE DISTINGUISHING ACTIVITIES BEFORE GRADUATION. STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THREE OF THE FIVE CAN APPLY FOR MAVERICK ADVANTAGE DISTINCTION.

### START STRONG, FINISH STRONG

Before students can prepare to succeed in the workplace, they must first learn to succeed in the classroom. UTA offers myriad programs designed to help prepare students to excel in their academic endeavors. From day one, UTA students are enrolled in first-year experience courses. These classes provide students with a dedicated faculty member to guide them during their first year at UTA, whether as a freshman or transfer student.

The instructors, paired with a student peer instructor, are from the student’s home department—meaning bioengineering students have a direct connection to a bioengineering faculty member outside of the standard classroom or lab setting. These instructors offer not only academic advice, but also practical insight

**“STUDENT  
SUCCESS IS  
A FOCUS ON  
OUR CAMPUS  
LIKE NEVER  
BEFORE.”**







## “THE PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS THE CHOICE TO STUDY MANY DIFFERENT SUBJECTS RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON ONE AREA.”

from their own career experiences. Students benefit from learning from real-life examples of their faculty's triumphs and mistakes.

Ashley Purgason, associate vice provost in the Division of Student Success, says this is just one of UTA's efforts to provide holistic support for its students.

“From improving the registration process at orientation to pursuing increased access to advising, student success is a focus on our campus like never before,” says Dr. Purgason. By developing a closer partnership between the academic units and the division, UTA is able to support each student's journey from Maverick orientation to graduation day and beyond.

Another student success program, the Bachelor of Science in University Studies, aims to help students near degree completion finish their studies. Utilizing an innovative degree plan that saves students both time and money, the University Studies degree offers an interdisciplinary foundation custom-made for the student's individual career goals. The degree is a great fit for working students, adult learners, and others looking to earn a great degree quickly.

Students who have already begun

their careers are able to take courses that will directly benefit them professionally. Additionally, new students can design a unique course load to perfectly fit their future career goals. “The degree allows students to choose from a large menu of coursework that aligns with concentration areas,” says Purgason. “The program gives students the choice to study many different subjects rather than focusing on one area, as is the case with many traditional degree programs.”

Program staff also offers “just in time” advising to students who need last-minute assistance registering for classes and are unable to see their regular advisor. These staff members provide one-on-one academic coaching to develop students' time management and study skills—critical soft skills that will enhance their professional worth in the job market.

The workplaces of tomorrow will require employees to be experts at so much more than just one skill or concentration. Programs like the University Studies degree give UTA students a robust and diverse academic experience, all while ensuring they have a leg-up on the job competition.

These programs are cultivating a culture of excellence at UTA that's directly leading to results for our

graduates. Based on fall 2018 estimates, degrees awarded have increased 7.7 percent, and four-year graduation rates have increased 1.4 percent since fall 2017. Year after year, UTA continues to increase the number of highly skilled employees entering the workforce to build a better Texas.

### COVERING ALL THE BASES

A shining glass façade greets the next generation of Texas' workforce, ushering students into UTA's Lockheed Martin Career Development Center. During the 2017-18 academic year, the center served more than 22,700 students and held nearly 650 events and experiences for students and alumni. More alumni than ever are getting involved; the center has developed over 200 new alumni partnerships in the past year.

The center brings together around 150 companies and more than a thousand students for the semi-annual job fair, its keystone event each semester.

In the days leading up to the fair, students and alumni can take advantage of résumé writing seminars, career discovery workshops, mock interviews, and networking events. Each of these training events features employers who

can provide helpful onsite advice and networking opportunities. Clients can also schedule a time to get their own headshot, perfect for updating their LinkedIn profiles. Providing a one-stop job market is just one of the ways the center is working to provide students and alumni with all the tools they need to succeed in the career of their dreams.

Throughout the rest of the year, students and alumni can connect with potential employers through Handshake, UTA's online job database. Greg Shirley, assistant director for career services and operations, says the database has already seen the creation of more than 13,000 student and alumni profiles in the year and a half since implementation.

Lolin Martins-Crane ('88 BS, Psychology), director of the center, says a major piece of their work is helping Mavericks tell their stories. Her team works to understand and highlight each client's unique professional and academic experience. With the help of expert résumé and career consultants, UTA students and alumni can take their résumés to the next level, all while showcasing their unique talents and abilities.

Internships are now critical to every student's collegiate experience. They provide students with genuine work experience, which lets employers know students have tested their skills in the workplace. As a student, Alexis Garcia ('17 BBA, Management) worked two internships—one as a community programs intern with the North Texas Community Foundation and another as an event intern with the Dallas Regional Chamber.

“I got to be around professionals from all different industries and different backgrounds,” she says. “It gave me a taste of what it is like to work on teams and to problem-solve through a variety of issues that came my way.”

Her internships provided her a path to discover her true passion for serving the community around her. The Dallas Regional Chamber was so impressed with her work that they offered her a position as member engagement coordinator, and she accepted. Now a





year into the job, she couldn't be happier with the incredible start to her career.

UTA is also providing career service programs for veterans and military service members to prepare them for transition into the civilian workforce. James Kumm, the executive director of veteran programs at UTA, has partnered with the center to provide unparalleled support that puts veterans' needs first.

A major initiative between the two programs has been the UTA Veteran Lunch and Learn events. Veterans employed at major DFW companies visit with students over lunch to provide perspective on post-military careers. Kumm says this is an opportunity for student veterans to network with professionals and learn about different industries.



## PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

As students prepare to enter the workforce, mentors can provide invaluable guidance and insight. The center facilitates alumni mentor/student mentee relationships and helps students cut through the sometimes-awkward task of approaching a mentor. Pairs can meet at the center and use the many conference and job interview rooms to practice life skills or discuss goals and plans. Ultimately, it's an opportunity for students to discover who they want to be professionally, what they are passionate about, and what they want to spend their career working toward.

Natalie Thomas ('16 BA, '18 MA, Political Science) and Bob Babbitt ('76 BA, Political Science; '84 PhD, Administration), recently retired president of McDonald Transit, are an example of UTA's successful mentor and mentee partnerships. Thomas is a former Archer Fellow, a competitive UT System program that brings highly motivated students to Washington, D.C. for an unparalleled academic and professional experience. Both she and Dr. Babbitt studied political science and were able to develop an easy rapport.

Students aren't the only ones to benefit from these partnerships. "It is important for mentors to remain active in shaping the future professionals," Babbitt says. "Alumni mentors can better learn about the workforce of tomorrow by interacting with student mentees. What better way to understand the needs, motivations, and inspirations of younger professionals than by working directly with them?"

Beyond serving as mentors, alumni can use any of the free services offered at the Lockheed Martin Career Development Center. From attending the job fair or scheduling a career consultation, there are a number of services that can help alumni advance their careers.

"It's a culture of holistic support that ensures our Mavericks succeed in the workforce, no matter what stage of their careers they are in," Martins-Crane says. "If our students and alumni have the support of not only the University, but also the entire Maverick nation, they can achieve any career goal." UTA



**"IT'S A CULTURE OF  
HOLISTIC SUPPORT  
THAT ENSURES OUR  
MAVERICKS SUCCEED  
IN THE WORKFORCE."**





# WOMAN *Powered*

While a nationwide gender disparity exists in academia, UTA—where half of the University's colleges are led by women—is working to close the gap right here on campus.

By Melinda Mahaffey Icden





Although women now make up just under half of America's total labor force and receive a larger share of degrees than men do, they continue to earn less money than their male counterparts and are less frequently employed in leadership positions. The gender gap, unfortunately, is no different at universities.

Recognizing these disparities, UTA is working hard to support gender diversity across campus and the greater community, from the University's efforts to hire more female faculty members to its robust support of programs aimed at current students, staff, and the Metroplex's young girls. In this issue of *UTA Magazine*, we take a look at just a few of these initiatives.

### HIRE EDUCATION

While it's worth noting that female deans run half of the University's colleges—the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, the College of Education, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs—women are traditionally underrepresented in science and technology fields, both on campus and in the world at large. A 2017 study in *Educational Researcher* found that, in analyzing the data from 40 public universities, women made up only 31 percent of the biology faculty and 18 percent of the chemistry faculty, while they represented 53 percent of the education professors and 49 percent of the English professors at those same institutions.

Computer science sees even less gender parity, with studies suggesting women account for roughly 15 percent of faculty nationwide. Recognizing the imbalance, UTA's Department of Computer Science and Engineering has made diversity a top priority in its recent searches for new faculty members. Of the department's five new hires for the 2018–19 academic year, two—assistant professors Ming Li and Shirin Nilizadeh—are women.

"Two out of five—that's less than half, but it's much higher than our current department ratio. It's also higher than the percentage of female PhD students in computer science," says Chengkai Li, associate chair of the department. "Being able to recruit two female professors was quite a success because we haven't been able to do that for years."

In 2018, the department also participated as a sponsor of the Grace Hopper Celebration, described as the world's largest gathering of female technologists, and Dr. Li says they plan to continue that level of involvement in future years. UTA's exhibition booth last September gave the department an opportunity to publicize its offerings—which Li hopes could help attract PhD and faculty applicants—while some of the doctoral students who attended fielded job and internship offers from companies like Facebook and Google.

### ACADEMIC LEADERS



Elisabeth Cawthon – COLA



Teresa Taber Doughty – Education



Elizabeth Merwin – CONHI



Adrian Parr – CAPPA



At the first WFSN Conference, women had the opportunity to learn and network, making valuable connections across the University.

### FACULTY SUPPORT

Within the last few years, two networks have begun on campus to support the University's female faculty and staff.

The Women's Faculty and Staff Network (WFSN) was created in 2017 to bring together women across campus who might not ordinarily meet and provide them with a forum in which they can share their experiences, ideas, and concerns.

"Due to the nature of how any university is structured, it's easy for faculty and staff to stick to their own areas," says Martha Walvoord, associate professor of violin and WFSN faculty co-chair. "But providing more organic opportunities for women to come together allows more room for collaboration and opens up interdisciplinary connections."

Although the group is still working to determine how it can best support the campus community, some of its goals are to create networking opportunities and support professional development for its members, and to serve as a policymaking voice at UTA. They have already started bringing women together through a book club and monthly lunch meetings, with recent speakers addressing topics such as leadership and Title IX reporting.

Minerva Cordero, mathematics professor and associate dean in the College of Science, started Women in Science as a support and ideas-sharing network for female faculty in the College of Science and the College of Engineering.

"Because women are underrepresented in science, it becomes more of a need to have that support and those discussions about what we can do to change that," says Laura Mydlarz, professor and associate chair in the Department of Biology. Dr. Mydlarz is currently running the group while Dr. Cordero serves in a one-year position at



**"Providing more organic**

**opportunities for women to come together allows more room for collaboration and opens up interdisciplinary connections."**

**-Martha Walvoord**





Laura Mydlarz

the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

In addition to increasing the visibility of the University's female scientists and engineers, one of the group's goals, according to Dr. Mydlarz, is to expose their students to amazing female researchers. In spring 2017, the group launched, with the support of the College of Science, the Distinguished Women in Science Speaker Series, which has thus far brought two of ExxonMobil's female professionals to campus.

In addition to meeting semi-regularly during the year and providing mentorship to their younger colleagues, the Women in Science group gathers both at the start of the year to welcome new faculty members and at the end of the year to recognize promotions. "It's important to get together to show support and celebrate each other's accomplishments," Mydlarz says.

## STUDENTS IN STEM

While UTA's female population reached a record high last year—with three female students for every two male students—the gender ratio between the schools and colleges varies significantly. Women make up more than 80 percent of the students in the School of Social Work, College of Education, and College of Nursing and Health Innovation, while men make up roughly 80 percent of the College of Engineering students.

A student group such as the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) can provide a much-needed sense of belonging. The UTA chapter—which won an award from the national organization in 2017 for its fundraising prowess—counts about 70 students, both male and female, as members. Biweekly meetings

***"It's important  
to get together  
to show support  
and celebrate  
each other's  
accomplishments."***

***-Laura Mydlarz***

feature free pizza and a speaker, and the AWM has consistently engaged in outreach activities, such as hosting Sonia Kovalsky Days that encourage local middle and high school girls to pursue math.

"But the most important thing is that they're forming some sort of mathematical community," says Theresa Jorgensen, associate professor in the Department of Mathematics and AWM faculty adviser. "That's what all our student groups are about, that opportunity for them to create relationships with other students and faculty members who are outside of the classroom structure. When they face challenges, they'll have friendly faces to talk to."

Mirage Hamdy, who graduated in December with a degree in industrial engineering, says that being a member of UTA's Society of Women Engineers chapter changed her perspective on being a woman in that field. Growing up in Houston, the only engineers she knew were her friends' fathers who worked in oil and gas, and she wasn't aware of STEM opportunities in high school. She experienced imposter syndrome, feeling like she wasn't good enough to do engineering, but her feelings shifted last year after listening to a professional female engineer speak at a panel. "She was telling us that it was OK to demand for more and to demand for different," Hamdy says.

Her involvement in the Society of Women Engineers also led to an internship and, eventually, a job after an AT&T recruiter attended one of its meetings. Hamdy started her full-time job there as a technical business manager in January. "I think that's an opportunity I wouldn't have had before," she says.

## COMMUNITY ENDEAVORS

Even though, statistically speaking, high schools girls do just as well in math and science classes as their male counterparts, research indicates that their interest in the subjects starts waning in middle school.

A 2018 Microsoft/KRC Research study examining the STEM gender gap found, as one contributing factor, that an overwhelming amount of middle school girls desire careers that are creative and impactful, but less than half see math, science, or engineering as either of these things. However, after the researchers shared some real-world accomplishments with the girls, their positive perceptions of these fields significantly increased.

"They've been to the doctor and the dentist; they know the fireman and LeBron James. Those careers are commonplace," says Rosie Kallie, an industrial engineer and director of TexPREP and engineering and computer science summer camps in the College of Engineering. "But they're not aware that engineers are right there with them, all day, from the time they get up in the morning and turn on the water, check their phone, or get in the car."

The College of Engineering's Girlgineering summer camp aims to change that. During the one-week program, local middle school girls in grades 5–9 explore their interest in engineering through field trips, guest lectures, and hands-on activities, such as building a tower out of newspaper without using fasteners like glue or paperclips. "We want them to realize that engineering is a broad field with many different types of opportunities," Dr. Kallie says. "And it can be a lot of fun."

Last summer, the Department of Bioengineering welcomed a group of local female high school students participating in a Design Connect Create physics camp field trip. Kytai Nguyen, professor of bioengineering, and some of her doctoral students showed the girls around campus, allowed them to experiment with biomedical sensors such as electrocardiograms, and taught them how to make ice cream out of liquid nitrogen.

Kallie points out that these summer activities don't just benefit area kids, but also the UTA students who help these programs succeed. "In addition to mentoring younger kids, they learn presentation skills, which will help them in industry when they have to explain their concepts to a lay audience," she says. "You may have the best idea, but if you can't explain it, you won't get the partnerships or funding that you seek."

Despite national efforts to address disparities, the gender gap still exists, but at UTA, changes are well underway.

"We will continue to strive to improve our diversity, not just on the surface but in actual substance," says Hong Jiang, Wendell H. Nedderman Endowed Professor and chair of the Computer Science and Engineering Department. "Although this may take time, we have created a heightened awareness throughout our department, and we're taking action."

That sentiment is evident across campus as UTA continues to demonstrate its commitment to support its female faculty, staff, students, and neighbors. **UTA**



Young women from local schools participate in hands-on science through UTA's Girlgineering camp.



## NATIONAL LEADER

**Mathematics Professor Minerva Cordero's efforts to champion women in STEM at UTA have earned her a national appointment. Dr. Cordero has accepted a one-year position in the National Science Foundation's Division of Education and Human Resource Development as Program Director of the ADVANCE and Hispanic-Serving Institutions, or HSI programs. In her role, she will work to increase the participation and advancement of women in academic STEM careers and to increase the opportunities for HSIs.**



# Follett

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

## 2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

The University of Texas at Arlington honors exemplary alumni who have represented the University through professional achievement, community engagement, and loyalty to their alma mater. Each year, these alumni are recognized at the Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet held on the UTA campus.



PRESIDENT'S MEDAL  
**THE HONORABLE GREG ABBOTT**  
Governor of Texas



**MIKE DOLABI**  
President and Owner, National Autobody Parts Warehouse



**KEVIN LE**  
(’99 BS, ’01 MS, ’05 PhD, Electrical Engineering)  
Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, Luraco Technologies



**MARIA MEJIA**  
(’02 BBA, International Business)  
Senior Vice President and CFO, Ulterra Drilling Technologies LP



DISTINGUISHED RECENT GRADUATE  
**MATTHEW FOSTER**  
(’11 BA, Interdisciplinary Studies; ’13 MPA)  
Director of External and Legislative Affairs, AT&T



DISTINGUISHED HONORARY ALUMNI  
**FOLLETT HIGHER EDUCATION GROUP**

### HONORED

## DISTINGUISHED MAVERICKS

UTA recognizes its best

Every year, the Distinguished Alumni Awards recognizes alumni and friends of UTA who have represented or advocated for the University in their professional and civic achievement and community engagement. The 2018 Distinguished Alumni Awards presented by Oncor anchored a week of Homecoming festivities, capturing the Maverick spirit that endures well beyond collegiate days.

Among the honorees was Texas Governor **Greg Abbott**, who was the second person in University history to receive the UTA President’s Medal. Gov. Abbott studied finance at UTA from 1976 to 1978. He was recognized for his decades of public service and for the value he places on his education at UTA.

Other honorees included **Mike Dolabi**, who studied at UTA and is now the president and owner of National

Autobody Parts Warehouse; **Kevin Le** (’99 BS, ’01 MS, ’05 PhD), co-founder and chief technology officer of Luraco Technologies; **Maria Mejia** (’02 BBA), senior vice president and chief financial officer at Ulterra Drilling Technologies LP; and **Matthew Foster** (’11 BA, 13 MPA), a U.S. Army veteran who serves as director of external and legislative affairs for AT&T. Foster received Distinguished Recent Graduate recognition.

Rounding out the honorees was **Follett Higher Education Group**. At UTA, Follett has established several student resources, including the Follett Academic Center in College Park Center and the Follett Student Leadership Center. Follett’s partnership with the University has made higher education more accessible for students and increased their rate of success while attending UTA.



The 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients with President Vistasp Karbhari (top center) and Mrs. Karbhari (bottom right).



Alumna Maria Mejia accepts her award.



Gov. Greg Abbott receives his President’s Medal with UTA President Vistasp Karbhari.



1971

**Jay Snow**  
(BS, Industrial Engineering) has retired after a 43-year career in industrial environmental work. He most recently managed the Hudson River Superfund Project in Fort Edward, New York.

1976

**Arden Sanders**  
(MA, Linguistics) and **Joy Sanders**  
(MA, Linguistics) teach at the Dallas International University, formerly the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics. Arden was the academic dean for six years and now teaches Bible translation. Joy teaches articulatory and acoustic phonetics.

1977

**Ron Welch**  
(BS, Geology) retired after 39 years as a geologist, banker, and tax examiner. He volunteers at several charities, including as a coordinator in AARP’s free tax preparation program.

1980

**Kelly Brett Roberts**  
(BBA, Management) was profiled in *D CEO* magazine’s November issue. The article focused on her career in fuel supply and as founder of 30-year-old Ricochet Fuel Distributors.

1981

**Debbie McDonald Messemmer**  
(BBA, Accounting) was appointed to the board of directors for two companies, Carbon and Allogene Therapeutics Inc. Carbon is a hardware, software, and molecular science company. Allogene is a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing allogeneic therapies for cancer. She served as the managing partner of KPMG’s Bay Area and Northwest region until her retirement in September 2018.

1982

**Jacquelyn Fouse**  
(BBA, ’84 MS, Economics; ’12 PhD, Business Administration/Finance) has been appointed new chief executive officer for the Massachusetts-based oncology specialist Agios Pharmaceuticals. Previously, she was president and chief operating officer of Celgene.

**Debra Goulding**  
(BA, English) is site coordinator of the Cleburne Christian Women’s Job Corps.

1983

**Sandy Martin**  
(BBA, Accounting) has joined Dennard Lascar Investor Relations as managing director of the company’s new Fort Worth office. She is a cer-

“Proud to have gotten my bachelor’s degree from UTA. It’s a pleasure to be part of such strong and ever-growing global alumni.”

— FARRUKH HANIF  
(’04 BS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS)  
*CEO, Defqon Digital*

tified public accountant with more than 25 years of executive management and investor relations experience.

1984

**Lynden Tennison**  
(BS) was named executive vice president and chief strategy officer for Union Pacific.

1986

**Tim de Noble**  
(BS, Architecture) was recognized by DesignIntelligence as among the Top 25 Most Admired Educators in Architecture, Interiors, and Landscape Architecture for 2019. He is a professor and dean of the College of Architecture, Planning, and Design at Kansas State University.

**Karen Pickard**  
(BSN, Nursing) was re-appointed to the Texas Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services by Gov. Greg Abbott. She is a registered nurse, paramedic, and a faculty member for the EMS program at Navarro College in Waxahachie, Texas.

1987

**Andrew Mack**  
(MCIRP, City and Regional Planning) has been hired as the city planner for Park Rapids, Minnesota.

1988

**Michael Diver**  
(BS, ’97 MS, Industrial Engineering) was appointed director for the miniature hit-to-kill program at Lockheed Martin.

**Andrew Pryor**  
(BA, Human Resources) has been named by the International Business Awards as the Gold Winner for International Human Resources Executive of the Year. He is senior vice president of human resources of ECI Software Solutions. Pryor serves on the advisory board of directors for UTA’s College of Business MBA programs.

**Teresa White**  
(BBA, Information Systems), the first woman and African-American president of Aflac, is the founder of Bold Moves, a Girls Inc. program designed to inspire another generation of girls to reach their full potential.

1990

**Pamela Holland Obiomon**  
(BS, Electrical Engineering) has been named dean of the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering at Prairie View A&M University. She joined the university in 2003 as a professor of electrical and microelectronic engineering and served as department chair since 2013.

1991

**Joseph Medici**  
(BA, Journalism) has been named director of airport services for the Draughon-Miller Central Texas Regional Airport for the city of Temple, Texas. Previously, he served as the deputy director for

Flint, Michigan’s Bishop International Airport.

**Skip Ogle**  
(BS, Architecture, ’99 MCIRP, City and Regional Planning) was elected chair of the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce. He is the director of community relations for Suddenlink and the owner of Skip Ogle Homes LLC, a small residential construction business serving the Tyler, Texas, area.

**Mark Schwartz**  
(MS, Biomedical Engineering), a 25-year veteran of cardiovascular device development, has joined BioCardia as vice president of clinical affairs. Previously, he was with EBR Systems and The Sorin Group. He holds more than 15 patents.

1992

**Joel Ivy**  
(BS, Electrical Engineering), Lakeland Electric general manager, was named president of the Florida Municipal Electric Association board of directors. He started his career as a power company bill collector and a lineman.

**Laurie Leenhouts**  
(BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice, ’98 MPA, Public Administration) was named Texas division president of the North American Title Co. in Dallas, Texas.

**Rich Stoglin**  
(MPA, Public Administration) was appointed by

Gov. Greg Abbott to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists. He is CEO of The Stoglin Group in Arlington, Texas.

1993

**Jingdong Hua**  
(MBA, Finance) is the new vice president and treasurer of the World Bank. Previously, he was vice president and treasurer at IFC, a sister organization of the World Bank.

1994

**Julie Butticarolo**  
(BBA, Marketing) is a director at Westmount Realty Capital, a commercial real estate development and investment management company based in Dallas, Texas. Previously, she was the senior asset manager at World Class Capital Group.

**Michael Long**  
(MS, Real Estate) was promoted to senior vice president of residential operations at Curry Real Estate Services, in the Kansas City, Missouri, area.

**Feyi Obamehinti**  
(BS, Microbiology) was appointed to the Texas Diabetes Council by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. She is the managing director for Ravir LLC, an educational consulting and technical firm.

**Zephyrinus Okonkwo**  
(PhD, Mathematics) was



The World Bank has appointed Jingdong Hua (’93 MBA, Finance) vice president and treasurer. In his new role, Hua is responsible for the World Bank’s \$200 billion debt portfolio, an asset portfolio of nearly \$200 billion managed for the World Bank Group, and 65 clients including central banks, pension funds, and sovereign wealth funds.

FILL US IN  
Email us at [classnotes@uta.edu](mailto:classnotes@uta.edu) and let us know what is new in your life.

named interim dean of Albany State University’s College of Arts and Sciences in New York. He is a professor of mathematics and is the director of the ASU Center for Undergraduate Research.

1995

**Jerry Haag**  
(PhD, Finance) has been named to the board of the Christian Alliance for Orphans. He serves as president and CEO of Florida Baptist Children’s Homes and One More Child, a foster care and family crises prevention agency headquartered in Lakeland, Florida.

1998

**Chandra Dhandapani**  
(MS, Information Systems) was appointed to the board of directors of On Deck.

2000

**Beth Looney**  
(MPA, Accounting) was named a partner with BDO USA, an accounting and consulting firm. Previously, she was an assurance director in BDO USA’s Fort Worth, Texas, office.



A SPIRITED SOIREE

HOMEcoming was a spirited good time for the students, faculty, staff, and alumni who gathered to celebrate all things Maverick. The annual week-long celebration included a golf tournament, a chili cook-off, a 5K Walk/Run/Roll, and more. The big day brought a street festival, parade, and pep rally. The Maverick men’s basketball team capped it all off with a big win against Northern Iowa in College Park Center.



2001

**Sushil Sharma** (MS, Computer Science and Engineering) was named chief product officer of LendingTree.

2002

**Sarah Hagan** (BBA, Accounting) has been named chief financial officer for ECi Software Solutions, a business management software and services company in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Heather Reynolds** (MSSW, Social Work) joined the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities at the University of Notre Dame as its inaugural managing director. She served as president and CEO at Catholic Charities Fort Worth for 14 years.

2004

**Kapil Mani Dixit** (BFA, Art) a well-known artist in Kathmandu, Nepal, has an exhibit at Afactory Studio Museum of Arts in Irving, Texas. *Facing Reality* features 30 large-scale paintings of the human body.

2006

**Dian Cuellar Ruud** (PhD, Social Work) has been named to the board of the Texas ACLU. She is

a clinical social worker at the University of Texas Counseling and Mental Health Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

2007

**Paul Moreno** (BBA, International Business/Spanish) was named senior loan officer at North Carolina’s Live Oak Bank in Wilmington, North Carolina.

2008

**Maher Maso** (MBA, Business Management; ’09 MBA, Executive Business Administration) joined Ryan, a Dallas, Texas-based global tax services and software provider, as a principal in the firm’s credits and incentives practice. He is the former mayor of Frisco, Texas.

2009

**Tim Harkrider** (MED, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), Willis school district superintendent, was one of five finalists for the Texas Association of School Boards’ 2018 Superintendent of the Year award.

Psychiatrist **Nicholas Ray** (BS, Biology) has joined Carris Health’s Rice Memorial Hospital in Willmar, Minnesota. He specializes in addiction issues and post-traumatic stress disorder.



“Bright minds come here from all countries. If you are looking for excellence in science and engineering education at an affordable price, you must check UTA.”

—DARRELL GOSS  
(’81 BS, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING)  
*Licensed Professional Engineer*

2010

**Chris Andrews** (MPA, Accounting) has been named chief information officer for Pei Wei Asian Kitchen. He previously served as vice president of information technology.

**E. Ramon Cavazos** (MARCH, Architecture) was featured as a rising star by *Healthcare Design*. Cavazos is vice president, senior designer, and business development practice leader at HKS Inc. in Dallas, Texas.

**A.J. Fawver** (MPA, Public Administration) is the city of Lubbock, Texas’ new director of planning. She previously served as director of planning for the city of Amarillo, Texas.

**Justin Pruitt** (MPA, Public Administration) has been named the city of Lubbock, Texas’ new business development director. Pruitt has been an assistant city attorney with the city since 2015.

2011

**Amy Jarvis** (BA, Architecture; ’13 MARCH) has been promoted to an associate at Spacesmith, a New York City-based architecture firm. A registered disaster-relief building evaluator, Jarvis was named one of *Interior Design* magazine’s Top 100 Rising Giants.

2012

Alumni artists **Kerry Butcher** (BFA, Studio Art/Photography) and **Fabiola Valenzuela** (’15 BFA, Painting) have work in the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth’s *Modern Billings* exhibit. The outdoor art is displayed on billboards along Jacksboro Highway in and west of Fort Worth, Texas.

**Jose Landeros** (MPA, Public Administration) has been named El Paso County’s new planning and development director. He has more than 15 years of public policy and economic development research experience.

**Teresa Rodriguez** (MARCH, Architecture) is managing director of LPA, an integrated design firm in Dallas, Texas.

2013

**Brittni McGill** (MSN, Nursing Administration) has been appointed chief nursing officer for the Norman, Oklahoma, Regional Health System. She is a nationally certified critical care nurse.

2015

**Tracy Casey** (MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner) has joined Christus Trinity Clinic-Gladewater.

**Jesica McEachern** (MPA, Public Administration) has been hired as an assistant city manager in Lubbock, Texas. She will oversee the departments of public works, engineering, and development services.

2016

**David Dunn** (BA, Broadcasting) has joined the editorial staffs of *The Midlothian Mirror* and *Waxahachie Daily Light*. He was the film critic for *The Shorthorn*.

2017

**Linah Mohammad** (BA, Broadcasting/Journalism/Political Science) has joined *The Washington Post* as an assistant producer for Post Reports, the paper’s daily podcast. Previously, she worked for NPR’s *All Things Considered*.

**Corrine del Perugia-Stoddart** (MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner), an advanced practice registered nurse, joined the family medicine team of Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, New Hampshire.

**Renee Yan** (BA, Journalism) is a reporter covering Grapevine, Colleyville, and Southlake, Texas, for *Community Impact Newspaper*.

“Word is getting out: UTA is a world-class university.”

—GEOFFREY KEMP  
(’88 BS, ARCHITECTURE)  
*President, GJK Consulting LLC*



2018

**Ali Adil** (PhD, Urban Planning and Public Policy) is a research associate with Texas Energy Poverty Institute, where he works toward alleviating energy poverty challenges in Texas.

**Eric Hess** (MFA, Glass Art) won third place in the Stanislav Libenský Award competition for “Fragile,” a glass-sculpted fetus encased in a 1-foot-square ice cube. He was the only U.S. artist among the 30 finalists in the international competition held in the Czech Republic.

**Myriam Igoufe** (PhD, Urban Planning and Public Policy) has joined the Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) as director of housing services for DHA’s Housing Choice Voucher program. Dr. Igoufe is a recipient of the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the past two years and serves on the Equity sub-committee and Technical Advisory team for Smart Growth Dallas.

**Jimil Shah** (PhD, Mechanical Engineering) is the recipient of the 2018 ASME Electronic and Photonic Packaging Division Student Engineer of the Year Award. He is a postdoctoral research associate in the Center for Energy-Smart Electronic Systems, which is an Industry/University Cooperative Research Center funded by the National Science Foundation.

MAVERICK MEDIA MAVENS

Alumni win big at the Lone Star Emmys  
Six former Hispanic Media Initiative (HMI) students won a total of 11 Lone Star Emmys at the annual National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Lone Star Chapter awards held this year in Houston. UTA’s HMI program is one of the best in the country, producing broadcast journalism professionals in all areas of the field. The program has a 100 percent graduation and job placement rate, highlighting the demand from the industry for UTA-trained graduates.



## INVESTING IN BRIGHT FUTURES

*Private philanthropy at UTA makes a transformative impact on our students and campus community. It's an impact that goes beyond our campus. From scholarships to endowments that advance groundbreaking research initiatives, the financial support offered by alumni and friends of the University builds a strong sense of community among the Maverick faithful. Thanks to donors over the past year, the University has grown both in physical size and in the number of opportunities it creates for the many talented researchers and students who make UTA their academic home.*

### Building Community

#### BRAZOS PARK

The newest development on UTA's campus is Brazos Park, which will be located at the former site of the Brazos House residence hall. The new green space is made possible in part by a generous gift from UTA alumnus Mustaque Ahmed ('81 BS, Economics). The park and amphitheater support his vision of creating places on campus for students, faculty, staff, and guests to share ideas, engaging the broader community. Ahmed is also the founder of The Festival of Ideas Global Research Institute in the College of Liberal Arts, which fosters thoughtful dialogue on issues that are vital to a diverse society. Brazos Park extends the "festival," creating a vibrant place in the heart of the UTA campus.

### Supporting Student Success

#### THORNTON SCHOLARSHIP GIFT

Grace Thornton has made known her intention to help students achieve success at UTA. In 1980, the Grace Gee Thornton Scholarship Fund created 30 scholarships of \$250 each. This year the fund had a significantly larger reach, distributing more than \$3.2 million toward student scholarships. It is one of the largest single gifts made to UTA to support student scholarships, but the legacy the late Grace Thornton left at UTA is much bigger than a single gift. It is a lifetime of generosity that will perpetuate kindness for generations to come.



# PERSONAL IMPACT

*When donors support UTA, they positively change the lives of students for years to come.*



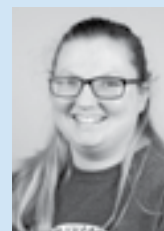
## UPHOLDING THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

*Student organizations across campus are often supported by private philanthropy through scholarship and program endowments. As one of the oldest institutions at UTA, The Shorthorn employs more than 100 students annually and awards scholarships to those students interested in pursuing careers in the media industry.*



"Working at *The Shorthorn* has changed my life entirely. Without *The Shorthorn*, I wouldn't have the experience, the scholarships, or internships that I've had. It has only solidified my love for journalism and how much I'm meant to be working in this field."

—Narda Pérez, 2018 Shorthorn Editor-in-Chief



"Winning this scholarship boosted my confidence toward my work here at *The Shorthorn* and my academics. Working at *The Shorthorn* has taught me how a newsroom environment works, how to be held accountable, and how to work as a team on a daily basis. It taught me to believe in myself and to pursue my dreams."

—Caitlin Sherrill, 2018 Shorthorn Copy Desk Chief



"Paying for school has always been a source of anxiety for me. My *Shorthorn* scholarship gave me the confidence I needed to push through my last half of school and refocus my energy so I could graduate. It came at just the right time and really showed me that hard work really does pay off."

—Christian Bruno, 2015-2018 Shorthorn Features and Social Media Editor

## LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

*UTA's Office of Gift and Estate Planning provides donors with several unique opportunities to leave a lasting legacy. Estate gifts, made through bequests in wills, in life insurance policies, or a number of other ways, help donors meet financial goals now while setting up success for future generations of UTA students.*

"When preparing my will, I knew that I wanted to make donations to those organizations that gave me the foundation for my success, and UTA was at the top of the list. Personally, I want the University to continue its tradition of excellence well into the future, and I think a deferred gift will give it the resources to do that."

—Greg Lozier ('96 MS, Accounting)



"Many positive things happen when the alumni base gives back. The community is enriched by taking advantage of the diverse offerings of athletic events, arts and educational programs, and impactful guest speakers and performances the University provides. Our hope is that students who receive our scholarship will always continue to pursue excellence in all they do and develop a spirit of giving back in their lives."

—Scott Parsinen ('94 BA, Business)



## GIVING IN RETURN

More than **325** graduating Mavericks demonstrated their affinity for UTA by purchasing special green cords as part of their commencement regalia. Each cord cost \$20.18, an homage to the student's graduating class, and funds raised from the sales went to support student scholarships. The senior class raised **\$6,750** as a part of the campaign.



# IN MEMORIAM

## ALUMNI

### 1940s

#### Bill Findley Jr.

('42 AS, Science) 96, Aug. 27, Alice, Texas.

### 1950s

#### Bill Sutton

('56 AS, Electrical Engineering) 85, Aug. 28, Tyler, Texas.

### 1960s

#### Tommy Wayne Foreman

('63 BS, Accounting) 77, June 20, Grand Prairie, Texas.

#### Dewey A. Jackson

('66 BS, Mathematics) 75, Oct. 4, Denison, Texas.

#### Ronald Mahan

('66 BS, Chemistry) 89, Oct. 15, Georgetown, Texas.

#### Richard Allan Merrill

('66 BBA, Accounting) 74, April 6, Arlington, Texas.

#### Joe Stedman

('66 BBA, Business Administration) 78, Sept. 8, Dallas, Texas.

#### John U. Martin



(AS, Electrical Engineering) 80, July 11, *The Woodlands, Texas*. He worked for Texas Electric Service Co. in Fort Worth in 1955 while attending Arlington State College, now

UTA. The company hired Martin, whose career led him to be executive vice president of TXU, where he retired after 42 years.

#### John D. Buckalew

('68 BBA, Accounting) 73, Aug. 7, Rose Hill, Texas.

#### Pam DeLeon

('68 BA, Graphic Arts) 72, Oct. 9, Hillsboro, Texas.

#### James Loyd Livesay

('69 BBA, Accounting) 77, Sept. 30, Arlington, Texas.

### 1970s

#### John Charles Baum

('71 MBA, Accounting) 89, Aug. 9, Arlington, Texas.

#### Ethelynn Beebe

('71 MSW, '88 PhD, Social Work) 65, Oct. 11, Austin, Texas.

#### Samuel James Binion Jr.

('71 BS, MS, Mechanical Engineering) 74, Oct. 17, Arlington, Texas.

#### William Lee Boomer

('72 BS, Civil Engineering) 69, Sept. 2, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Howard Hollinger

('72 BS, Architecture) 68, Sept. 5, Dripping Springs, Texas.

#### Philip Reed Norton

('72 BS, Electrical Engineering) 69, Nov. 12, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Christie John “Chris” Ortman

('72 BS, Biology) 69, Oct. 6, Nixon, Texas.

#### Arthur Dewey Dodds III

('73 BM, Music) 80, Sept. 3, Big Spring, Texas.

#### Samuel Lawrence Henry

('73 BBA, Accounting) 68, Aug. 11, El Paso, Texas.

#### Wendell Tennyson Hill Jr.

('73 BBA, Business Administration) 72, June 3, Spring, Texas.

#### Jerry Alan Thompson

('73 BS, Industrial Engineering) 71, Aug. 8, Weatherford, Texas.

#### Charles Wesley Jenkins III

('74 BS, Mechanical Engineering) 67, Oct. 19, Dallas, Texas.

#### Wilbert Raymond Watson

('74 BBA, Business Administration) 71, Sept. 19, Dallas, Texas.

#### Edward Perez Jr.

('75 BS, Mathematics) 74, Oct. 29, Grand Prairie, Texas.

#### Stephen Lloyd Wilken

('75 BA, History) 70, Oct. 13, Arlington, Texas.

#### Lloyd McCoy “Mac” Ledbetter

('76 BA, Sociology) 68, May 31, Arlington, Texas.

#### Steven Wayne Wiggins

('76 BS, Mechanical Engineering) 67, Sept. 1, Jacksonville, Texas.

#### Lynn Wallace Bass

('77 MSSW, Social Work) 92, Oct. 15, Midland, Texas.

#### Patricia G. Beare

('78 MSN, Nursing) 67, Oct. 12, New Orleans, Louisiana.

#### Clarence L. “Kit” Carson

('78 MS, Business Administration) 99, Sept. 2, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Rudolf Reyes

('78 BBA, Accounting) 80, June 22, Arlington, Texas.

#### Mark Andrew Caffo

('79 BBA, Finance) 64, Aug. 25, Carrollton, Texas.

#### Bettye Wayne Reed

('79 BSN, Nursing) 81, May 29, Fort Worth, Texas.

### 1980s

#### Robyn Kay Arrott

('81 BA, English) 61, June 30, Arlington, Texas.

#### Michael Alan Oliver

('81 BS, Architecture) 62, July 25, Eustace, Texas.

#### Larry Schuessler

('81 MA, Urban Affairs) 68, Aug. 19, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Dexter LeRoy Thomas

('81 BBA, Management) 60, Aug. 4, Dallas, Texas.

#### Richard Dean Dumas

('82, BS, Electrical Engineering) 76, Aug. 12, Richardson, Texas.

#### John E. Perry

('82 BBA, Accounting) 86, July 21, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### James Thurston Bennett

('85 ME, Civil Engineering) 72, May 18, Austin, Texas.

#### Ronald Jerry Kinney

('85 BBA, Marketing) 56, May 14, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Joel Dean Walters

('85 BA, Communication) 57, Oct. 3, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Scott Gardner

('86 BS, Mechanical Engineering) 62, May 7, Arlington, Texas.

#### Irene Inez Pennington

('86 BS, Accounting) 55, Aug. 12, Katy, Texas.

#### Betty Jane Barnes Card

('87 BA, Psychology) May 23, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Jeffrey Ray Culberson

('87 BA, Physical Education) 55, Sept. 29, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Linda Lou Grisham

('87 BSN, Nursing) 69, Sept. 17, Bonham, Texas.

#### James Clark McCreight

('88 BBA, Marketing) 60, Oct. 1, Arlington, Texas.

#### Margret Ann Davis-Holcomb

('89 MA, Criminology) 85, May 23, Fort Worth, Texas.

### 1990s

#### Kathleen Diane Carlton

('90 BA, Communication; '92 MS, Public Administration) 66, July 22, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Bill Cloud

('90 BBA, Information Systems) 79, Nov. 13, Lewisville, Texas.

#### Patrick Lynn Gover

('90 BS, Information Systems) 49, Sept. 28, Norwalk, Connecticut.

#### Wendell James Kahler

('90 BFA, Art) 84, Oct. 12, Jacksonville, Texas.

#### Dorothea McClain Moore

('90 MA, Interdisciplinary Studies; '96 PhD, Humanities) 85, Oct. 8, Arlington, Texas.

#### Janie Simms Rumberger

('90 MSSW, Social Work) 78, July 12, Dallas, Texas.

#### Donna Lea Teston

('91 BBA, Accounting) 59, Oct. 16, Austin, Texas.

#### Jack Wrobbel

('91 BS, Electrical Engineering) 56, June 24, Dallas, Texas.

#### Frank Andrew Bell

('92 BBA, Marketing) 63, Aug. 21, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Ronald Leroy Hagood Sr.

('92 BS, Economics) 74, Aug. 29, Dallas, Texas.

#### Susan Diane Landreth

('93 MS, Civil Engineering) 58, July 27, Helotes, Texas.

#### Johnny Wayne Ritter

('94 BBA, Management) 58, May 16, Plano, Texas.

#### Kimberly Kay Kvernes

('96 BA, Anthropology) 47, July 25, Newnan, Georgia.

### 2000s

#### Franchesca Shavonne Jordan

('03 BSW, Social Work) 39, Sept. 6, Frankston, Texas.

#### Thanh Simon Ly

('07 BS, Chemical Engineering) 45, Aug. 19, Arlington, Texas.

#### Frank Joseph Faltermeier

('18 BSW, Social Work) 32, July 21, Dallas, Texas.

## FACULTY & STAFF

#### Gary Philip Dworkin

70, Sept. 22, Fort Worth, Texas. He taught political science.

#### Doreen Elliott

77, July 31, Fort Worth, Texas. A Distinguished Teaching Professor, she taught graduate students in social work from 1988-2013.

#### John Charles Edwards

66, Oct. 28, Colleyville, Texas. Edwards taught accounting and computer science.

#### Yaa-Yin Fong

61, Nov. 28, Arlington, Texas. She joined UTA in 2016 as assistant vice president of academic resource planning in the Provost's Office. She was the wife of Peter Crouch, dean of the College of Engineering.

#### Alisa Johnson

52, Aug. 23, Waco, Texas. Her 21-year career at UTA included stints director of graduate recruiting and director of undergraduate and education research.

#### Fred Dickson Matthews

78, Oct. 30, Dallas, Texas. He coached baseball and football in the early 1970s.

#### Winford Lee Paschall

73, Sept. 21, Arlington, Texas. He taught government accounting.

#### Robert Byron Price

86, June 28, San Antonio, Texas. He served as vice president for business affairs 1968-72.

#### Ruthie Puckett

90, June 23, Arlington, Texas. She worked for 28 years in the College of Business.

#### Bill Reeves

('62 BA, History/Business Administration) 76, Aug. 8, Arlington, Texas. A Distinguished Alumnus, he started as an assistant basketball coach and worked his way up as athletic director and compliance co-

ordinator. He worked at UTA from 1966-2012.

#### Shirley Hoyt Sheets

84, Oct. 2, Arlington, Texas. She worked as a university librarian for more than 30 years.

#### Jeffrey Sorensen

65, July 9, Arlington, Texas. After 36 years of service, he retired as assistant vice president of Student Affairs in 2015.

#### Michelle Williams

52, Aug. 23, Mansfield, Texas. She worked for 15 years as an applications support specialist.

#### Reby Cary



98, Dec. 7, Fort Worth, Texas. Cary was the first African-American administrator at UTA, where he served as associate dean of student life, history instructor, and vocational counselor. Two weeks after he was hired, Cary started fighting racist symbols on campus, such as the Rebel soldier mascot and Confederate flags that flew around the University. He was the first African-American man elected to the Fort Worth school board in 1974 and served in the state House of Representatives from 1979-85.

#### Zeb Strong Jr.



(88 BA, Political Science) 54, Sept. 1, Grand Prairie, Texas. During his 25 years at UTA, he held several roles, including director of multicultural services and director of employment services and recruitment initiatives. After his passing, the city of Arlington named its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in Strong's honor: The Zeb Strong Jr. MLK Day of Service.

#### Louis D. Stites

80, July 8, Abilene, Texas. He retired after 16 years at UTA.

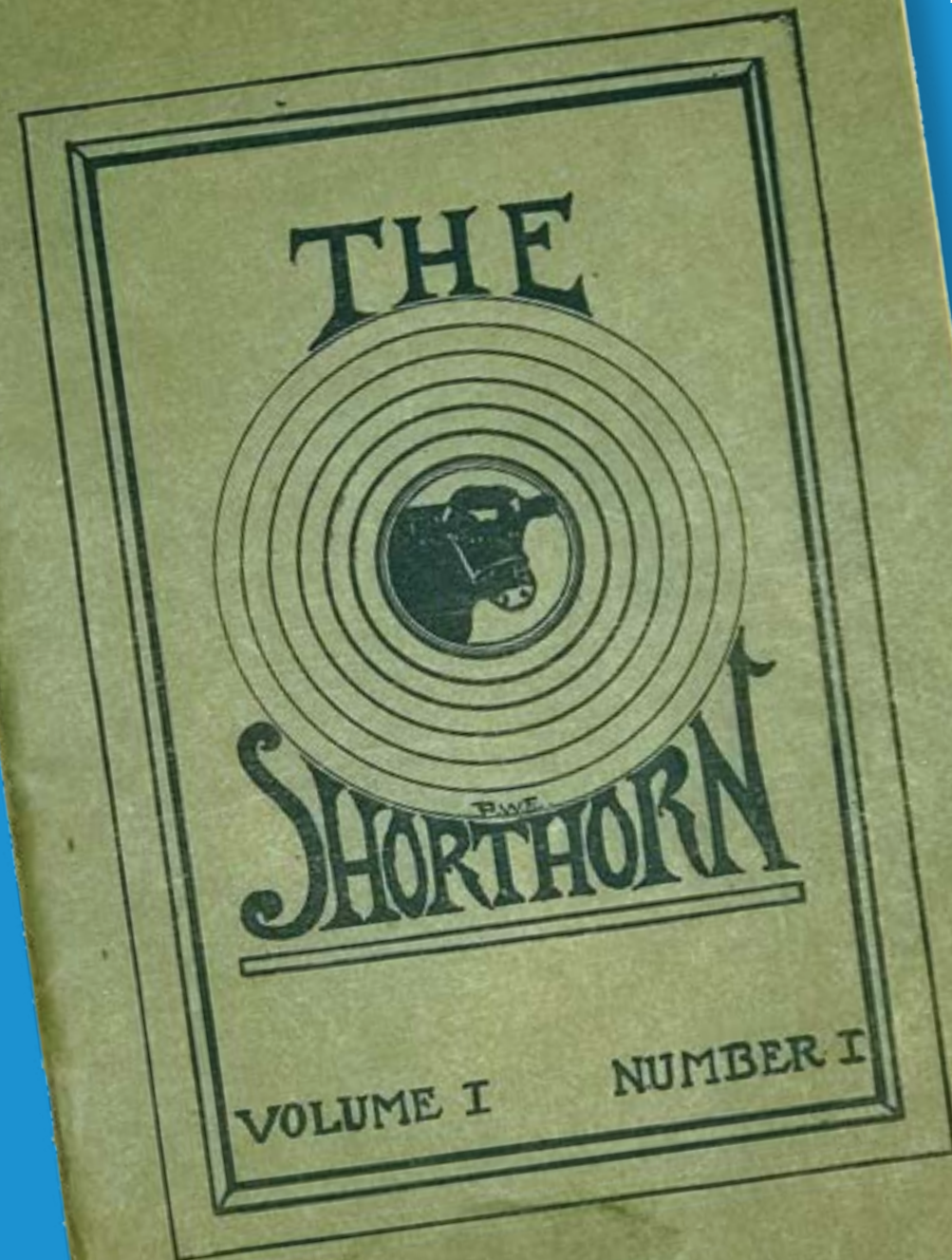
#### Pat Dwayne Taylor

74, Sept. 8, Dallas, Texas. He came to UTA in 1992 as director of landscape architecture, retiring in 2013.



# Look Back 1919

Long before UTA was UTA, there was *The Shorthorn*—though it was a little different back then. Originally conceived as a literary/humor magazine, *The Shorthorn* received its name from a contest with a \$2.50 prize attached. *The Shorthorn* emerged victorious over such suggestions as *KornKob*, *Horse Sense*, and *Tool*. The first issue was a 48-page booklet with a bull's-eye on the cover.



EXTRA EXTRA

## THE SHORTHORN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Commemorating 100 years of service



This year, *The Shorthorn* is celebrating a century of service to the UTA community with a series of events in the spring, including an alumni reunion, a speakers series, and more. As the oldest tradition on campus, *The Shorthorn*, supported by Student Publications and the Division of Student Affairs, faithfully records and often instigates institutional changes that have a lasting impact on campus life.

It does so with an unerring eye for excellence. At the 2018 College Media Association/Associated Collegiate Press national convention, *The Shorthorn* was named a Pacemaker among college newspapers across the country, marking the fourth consecutive year it has earned the distinction. The Pacemaker is collegiate journalism's preeminent award, recognizing excellence in coverage and content, quality writing and reporting, leadership, design, photography, and graphics.

The signature event of *The Shorthorn's* centennial celebration will be the annual alumni reunion and dinner on April 27. From silent and live auctions benefiting *Shorthorn* scholarships to a special reunion edition of

*The Shorthorn*, the dinner's festivities will highlight the many influences Student Publications has had over the years and will energize its existing channels of communication.

"When you work at *The Shorthorn*, you don't just get involved with the

University," says Natalie Webster ('14 BA, Journalism), former *Shorthorn* editor-in-chief and current copy editor at the *Houston Chronicle*. "You become part of its history, its story, and its service to the students."



### Help The Shorthorn write its future

Support *The Shorthorn's* longstanding tradition of excellence and service to the UTA community. All money donated to the giving campaign will be used to cover scholarships, conference travel, and other networking opportunities for the Student Publications team. Make your gift today at [spark.uta.edu/project/10667](http://spark.uta.edu/project/10667).

*The Shorthorn* is also seeking corporate sponsorships for its alumni reunion. As an event sponsor, you illustrate an important partnership between higher education and industry that will help the next generation of journalism professionals thrive. Contact E. Jeff Serrano at [jeff.serrano@uta.edu](mailto:jeff.serrano@uta.edu).



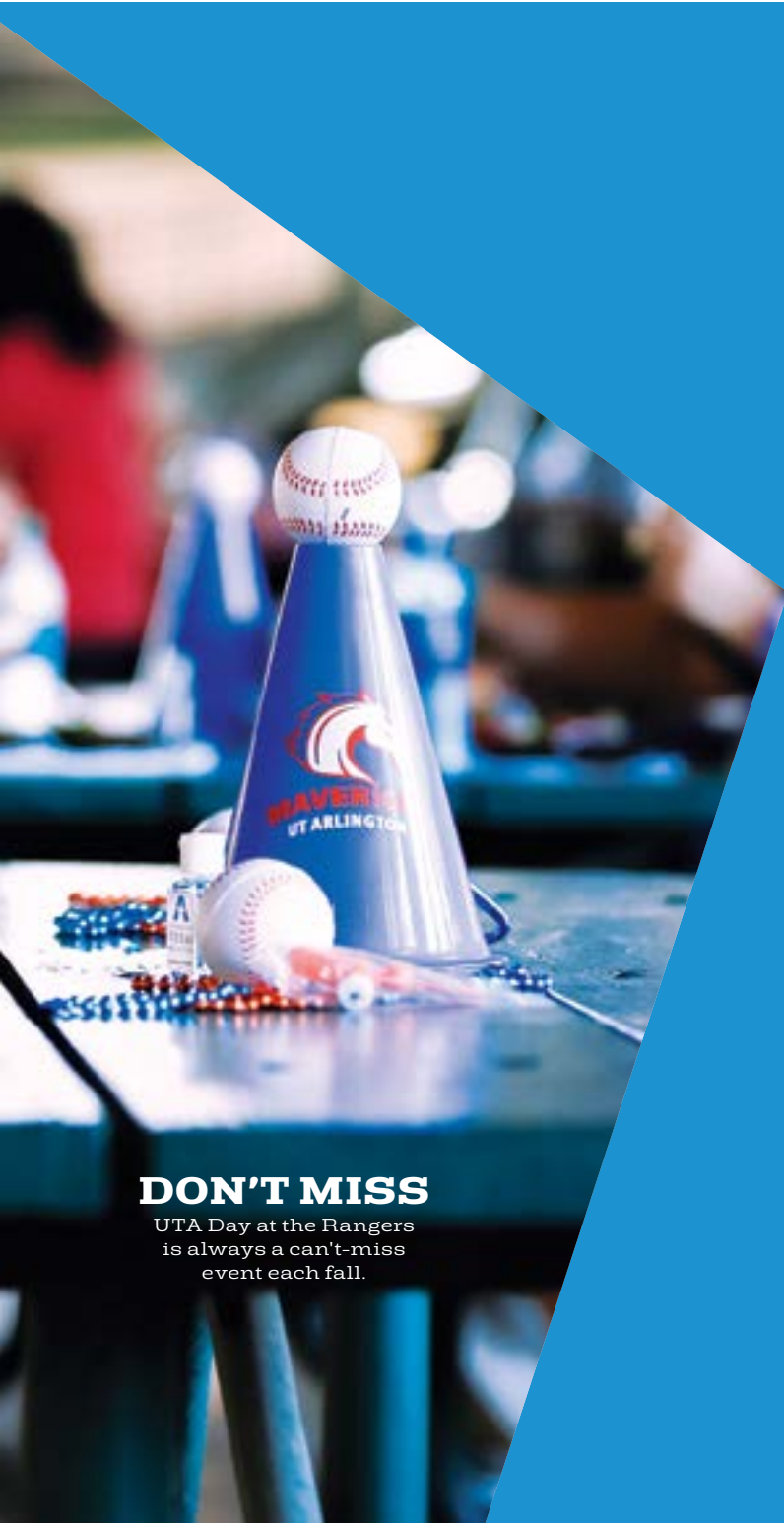




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# Look Ahead

.....  
Your alma mater just can't get enough  
of you. Join us at any of these upcoming  
events. We can't wait to see you!  
.....

## MARCH 19

UTA Day at Globe Life  
Park

## MAY 10

UTA Alumni and  
Friends at Clay Gould  
Ballpark

## APRIL 13

Jazz Brunch at the Main  
Street Fort Worth Arts  
Festival

## NOVEMBER 4-9

Homecoming Week

*Dates subject to change.  
Visit [uta.edu/events](http://uta.edu/events) for  
the latest info.*

## APRIL 27

Student Publications/  
Shorthorn Alumni  
Reunion and Centennial  
Celebration

### DON'T MISS

UTA Day at the Rangers  
is always a can't-miss  
event each fall.