UTA

The University of Texas at Arlington Magazine

WINTER 2022

Fired Up

UTA students, faculty, and alumni are setting young minds ablaze with a passion for STEM. PAGE 38

SPECIAL COVERAGE

UTA ACHIEVES TEXAS TIER ONE

PAGE 30

MAVSMEET CONVOCATION

After a long stretch of COVID-related restrictions on in-person gatherings, MavsMeet Convocation was a welcome celebration to kick off the new academic year.

SPECIAL COVERAGE

UTA ACHIEVES

TEXAS TIER ONE

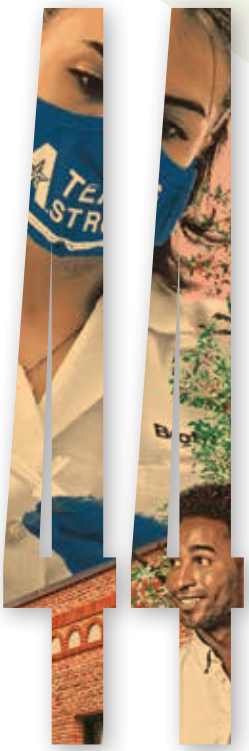
PAGE 30

Contents

WINTER 2022
VOL. XLVIII

DEPARTMENTS

FEATURES



A MILESTONE YEAR FOR UT ARLINGTON

SINCE WE SENT you the last issue of UTA Magazine, the University reached a goal that was 12 years in the making: designation as a Texas Tier One university, an achievement that signifies excellence in academics and research. It places us among the top universities in the state and provides us with additional resources to recruit top faculty, pursue groundbreaking research and prepare students to enter one of the strongest workforces in the country.

This is a game-changer for the University, and it wouldn't have been possible without the focused commitment and steadfast support of our faculty, researchers, staff and students. When the Maverick family works together to achieve shared goals, we're able to become something greater than the sum of our individual parts.

That spirit of collaboration is evident throughout this issue of *UTA Magazine*. When we combine our strengths with those of our terrific partners like the city of Arlington, we're able to discover new ideas, share best practices and break through barriers. Through a variety of partnerships with our hometown, we're working together toward building a more walkable, inclusive, vibrant community that makes Arlington and UTA a better place to live, work and learn.

We're also seeing how faculty, staff and students within the University can collaborate with one another for the betterment of others. Our College of Science, in an ongoing effort to produce and inspire more STEM-trained professionals, has developed initiatives that are paying positive dividends in North Texas schools.

And in our College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs, a dedicated team of professionals has partnered with historic Black communities across North Texas to preserve their histories and adapt to encroaching urbanization.

Students, of course, remain the heart of UTA, and our efforts across schools, colleges and departments to provide them maximum support remains an ongoing priority. Whether it's through advising, supplemental instruction or scholarship opportunities, our team is committed to ensuring a self-sustaining ecosystem of student success.

The Maverick family is vast and mighty. When we work together, we accomplish big goals like Texas Tier One. We should all share pride in this success, and consider what we can accomplish when we collaborate both from within UTA and with our great community partners.

Go Mavs!

–Teik C. Lim, Ph.D.
President *ad interim*

Interim President Lim is also a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

UTA
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UTA Magazine is published two times a year by University Advancement for all alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University.

Excellence

AT A GLANCE

#26 in the nation Top Performer for Social Mobility
U.S. News & World Report, 2022

#3 for undergraduate ethnic diversity index
U.S. News & World Report, 2022

#1 in the nation for veterans for the second year in a row
Military Times, 2021

Best for Hispanic Students
#7 in total master's degrees granted, #21 in total bachelor's degrees, #29 in total enrollment
Hispanic Outlook on Education, 2021

16 graduate programs ranked among the nation's best
U.S. News & World Report, 2022

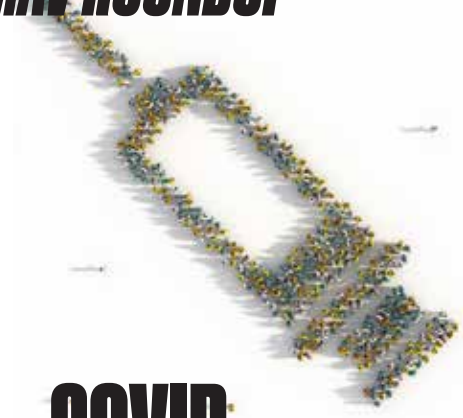
This fall, for the **5th straight year**, UTA enrolled its largest freshman class ever, a **9% increase** from fall 2020

#1 national university in North Texas for **contributions to the public good**
Washington Monthly, 2021

A YEAR AFTER it was canceled due to COVID-19, Oozeball made its muddy return to UTA. The annual mud volleyball tournament is the University's most popular tradition. "On the outside, it just looks like you're rolling around in a bunch of mud," says Olivia Mullen, communication sophomore. "On the inside, you're really bonding with people you care about."

Mav Roundup

Stories about the Mavericks who shape the UTA community near and far



COVID OUTREACH

Nursing students improve vaccine accessibility

A group of UTA nursing students found a way to give back to a community in need by volunteering to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

Second-semester senior nursing students in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation drove over two hours to Honey Grove, Texas, to distribute more than 1,300 doses of the vaccine.

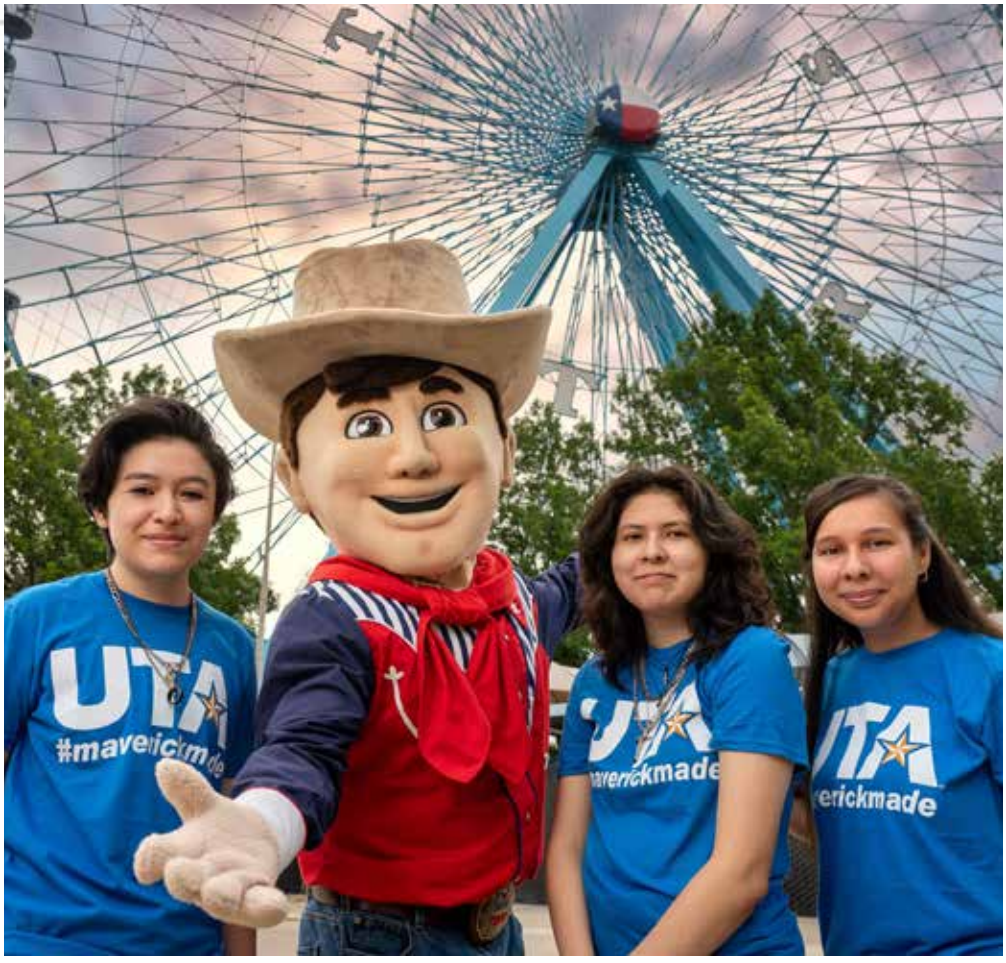
"It seemed like a unique experience I could participate in that would allow me to help the rural community receive its COVID vaccines," says Tara Gibson. "It also gave me more experience with administering injections."

Several students earned clinical hours toward their degrees, but others volunteered simply to help out.

"This was a great opportunity to practice my nursing skills and grow in confidence," says Brian Cisneros. "Being able to help vaccinate in this rural community showed me how grateful everyone was to get the vaccine."

Melynda Hutchings, the clinical assistant professor who coordinated the clinical experience, says she hopes to provide future opportunities for students to vaccinate in this rural community or others like it.

"I saw firsthand how much effort it is and how many people are needed to run a vaccination clinic," says Kara Peacock. "I felt that if there were a need and we were able to, then the least we could do was help."



SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN DOORS

Incoming Mavericks get a boost from UTA, Big Tex

FROM LEFT: Scholarship winners Ruth Briones, Llasmin Arce, and Ugenia Silva with Little Big Tex.

Eleven high school students from the Fair Park area in Dallas are attending UTA this fall thanks in part to the State Fair of Texas' Big Tex Scholarship Program. The students are recipients of the annual Pete Schenkel Scholarships, which are intended for students from the State Fair's home neighborhood of Fair Park.

Overall, the students will receive approximately $192,000 in scholarships, financial aid, and grants from the State Fair and UT Arlington.

"We are so excited for the substantial resources they are receiving, especially when it involves students with bright futures who have a lot of promise," says Michele Bobadilla, senior associate vice president of outreach and community engagement and assistant provost of Hispanic student success at UTA.

Frowsa' Booker-Drew ('92 BA, English), vice president of community affairs for the State Fair, says she is "absolutely thrilled" at the partnership with UTA.

"It is our hope that this unprecedented partnership will pave the way for other colleges and universities to consider similar partnerships or scholarship matches with the Big Tex Scholarship Program," says Booker-Drew.

Llasmin Arce, one of the scholarship recipients, will be the first in her family to attend college.

"I'm making all of my parents' sacrifices worth it, all of their hard work in keeping me and my three younger brothers supported," she says. "I want to show my younger brothers that they can do this, too—that there are not too many doors in their way."

Postcard

Following Mavericks as they travel the world

When COVID-19 made traveling to other countries difficult, if not impossible, civil engineering Professor Kathleen Smits had to come up with a new plan for field work that was originally supposed to take place in Colombia as part of her National Science Foundation-funded project, which she has incorporated into a service-learning course.

The new plan took her, along with her graduate and undergraduate students, to Gunnison, Colorado. Students visited abandoned, active, and reclaimed mining sites throughout Colorado, and in the afternoons, they worked with miners in Colombia remotely through online platforms to co-design and create physical prototypes to address high-priority challenges and opportunities.

"In light of COVID, the trip to Colorado served as a great alternative to get some firsthand knowledge of mining, if not from a different perspective," says Dr. Smits.

Gunnison, Colorado
Remote: Baja Cauca and Santa Rita, Colombia

WHO: Kathleen Smits, her undergraduate and graduate students, and partner institutions Colorado School of Mines, the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado University–Boulder, and Universidad Nacional de Colombia

HOW: Through a service-learning course and the power of remote technology

WHY: "By explicitly creating engineering problems grounded in social and environmental justice concepts, we are able to attract, motivate, and retain more diverse students who are able to find a sense of place and purpose in their work."

–Smits

LESSONS THEY TOOK BACK HOME:

"Mining will have to continue as the demand for greener energy continues to grow, since these technologies require numerous mined resources. Understanding and addressing the aftereffects of mining will have to become seen as necessary."

–Nathaniel Steadman, environmental engineering master's student

"While working in Colorado, trying to communicate with people in Colombia, an important thing I learned is that our solutions as engineers could be different from those in the community. We need to take into account their different ways of life if we want to help them."

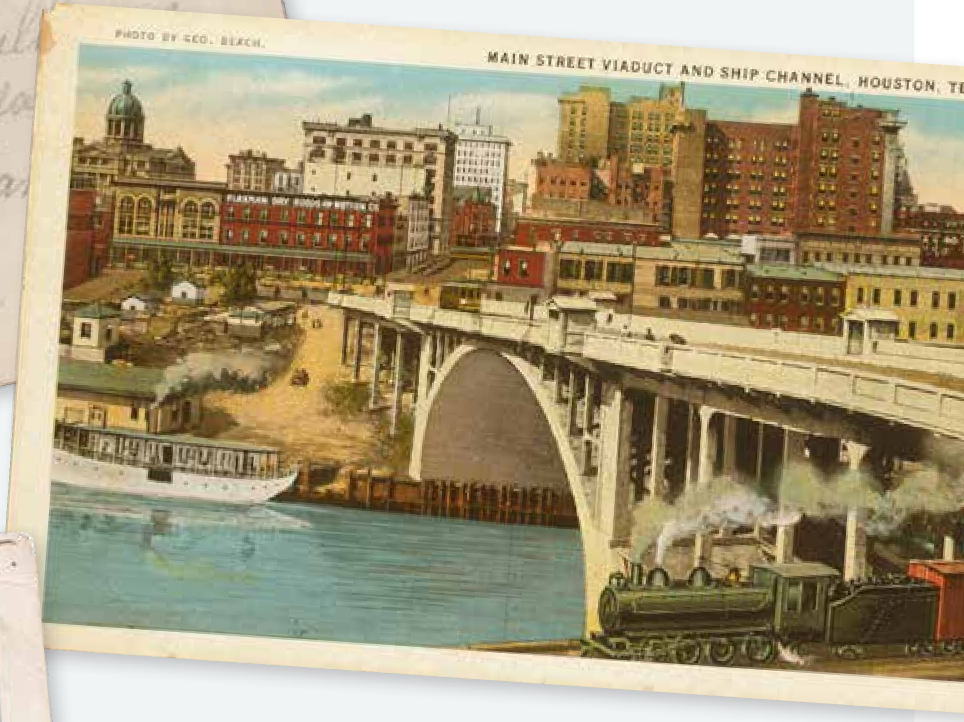
–Ashley Nguyenminh, civil engineering senior

"I learned a new way that community work can be done remotely. This opens up the door for future collaborations with communities around the world."

–Michelle Schwartz, civil engineering doctoral student

Collected

The Jenkins Garrett Postcard Collection



WITH OVER 13,438 postcards, the Jenkins Garrett Postcard Collection features a wide range of Texas cities and towns. It also includes Texas map cards, Mexican War topical cards, and much more. Jenkins Garrett was a lawyer, businessman, and philanthropist who served on the UT System Board of Regents from 1969-1975. Garrett was a longtime supporter of UTA, and gifts from him and his wife collectively make up the Jenkins Garrett Library and the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, both serving as companion libraries in the University's Special Collections.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES

Nursing student recognized for dedication to patient care

Jordan Dudley, a Doctor of Nursing Practice student who works with gastrointestinal patients as an acute care nurse practitioner, noticed a concerning trend at her work: delays for colonoscopy procedures that often caused longer hospital stays as well as increased costs and risks.

Through Dudley's research, she discovered high rates of poor bowel preparation for inpatient colonoscopy procedures. Dudley initially suspected that inpatient nurses were not adequately pushing the preparation, but she quickly discovered that wasn't the case.

"The nurses realized the significance of the preparation," she says. "It's just that you can't force a patient to do it, no matter how much you push them."

Dudley plans to distribute an illustrated booklet to a new group of inpatients and measure its impact. The booklet emphasizes the importance of bowel preparation and includes visuals to show patients what to expect.

For her efforts, Dudley was recently recognized with the Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation/Proctor & Gamble Gastroenterology Scholarship Award for her "extraordinary nursing practice leadership, outstanding academic achievements, and excellence in caring for the gastroenterology patient."

"It was validating to know that I'm on the right track," Dudley says. "It let me know that I'm making a difference for my patients in the long run."

HOLDING ON TO WHO WE ARE

UTA students document memories via digital storytelling

Our memories are the foundation of who we are, so what happens to us when we lose them? A gradual loss of identity occurs—one of the many heartbreaking aspects of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. A team of UTA researchers aims to mitigate these devastating effects.

Through a $163,480 grant from the RRF Foundation for Aging, the team—led by Noelle Fields and Ling Xu, both associate professors in the School of Social Work—is exploring the impact of reminiscence therapy on those diagnosed with memory-ravaging diseases. The project pairs UTA students with elderly dementia patients to encourage them to engage in a therapeutic dialogue about their childhood and other memories. The students will then create digital projects that reimagine these memories in storytelling modes.

The team also includes Kathryn Daniel, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation (CONHI); Daisha Cipher, associate professor in CONHI; and Brooke Troutman, a scholarly communications librarian.

The team hopes reminiscence therapy, combined with an intergenerational approach and digital storytelling, will help improve the social and emotional well-being of older adults.

ILLUSTRATION: DAN PAGE COLLECTION

FOCUSED ON THE STARS

Doctoral student earns prestigious fellowship

Civil engineering doctoral student Kelly Patterson had her sights set on reaching the stars. A practicing engineer for several years, first as an aerospace machinist and then as a space launch officer for the Atlas V rocket with the U.S. Air Force, she was determined to become an astronaut. She was on her way to achieving that goal when an injury forced her to retire.

Now, Patterson's focus has shifted from exploring space to the structures that support that exploration, serving as director of space launch complex construction for a private aerospace firm.

For dedication to her field and outstanding work, she received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. The fellowship provides financial support and opportunities for research and professional development at institutions worldwide.

"I'm grateful to have received this fellowship because it'll allow me to move to campus full time," she says. "But the real value is in the network it provides, with access to NSF supercomputers, conferences, and fellow graduate students."

Patterson credits the immense scale of space launch complex construction with her shift to structural engineering.

"A space rocket embodies possibility; it embodies progress and opportunity," she says. "Infrastructure, be it the launch pads that lead to stars or the roads that lead to schools, provides opportunities for and access to the future for all."

TOP HONORS FOR NURSING

CONHI once again recognized for excellence

For the fourth time in recent years, the National League for Nursing (NLN) has named the College of Nursing and Health Innovation (CONHI) a Center of Excellence. CONHI earned designation in the categories of Advancing the Science of Nursing Education, Enhancing Student Learning and Professional Development, and Promoting Pedagogical Expertise of Faculty.

"This prestigious recognition reinforces UTA's position as one of the finest academic centers for nurses in the nation," says Teik C. Lim, interim president. "Through innovative and accessible degree programs that attract thousands of the brightest nursing students from Texas and beyond, CONHI has become an established leader in the critical field of educating, training, and improving our nation's nursing workforce."

CONHI is the No. 1 producer of baccalaureate-degreed nurses in Texas and a leader in addressing state and nationwide shortages of registered nurses.

"These designations are evidence of our college's investment in training the future of our profession," says Elizabeth Merwin, CONHI dean. "We are thankful for our faculty and staff, who work tirelessly to ensure our college provides a world-class learning environment for all of our students and who maintain our status as a leading center for nursing education instruction and health care research."

Chat

Jacqualyn Fouse ('12 PhD, Finance; '84 MA, '82 BA, Economics) CEO, Agios Pharmaceuticals Inc.

STUDY ABROAD OFFERS life-changing experiences that can expand a student's worldview and shape their professional goals. No one knows this better than Distinguished Alumna Jacqualyn Fouse.

Her visit to France as a high school student sparked an illustrious career as a global executive for leading corporations in various industries. With her recent gift of $1.25 million to the College of Business, Dr. Fouse is ensuring that UTA students receive the same opportunities to broaden their horizons and achieve success.

Continued support for the Jack and Doris Fouse Study Abroad Program is one component of the gift, which also includes funding for the Dean's Leadership Circle (DLC), the Jacqualyn Fouse Doctoral Program, and Business Building renovations to enhance the student experience. She previously established the John and Judy Goolsby-Jacqualyn A. Fouse Endowed Chair, currently held by economics Professor Mahmut Yasar.

"I'm proud to be able to provide scholarship assistance for both undergraduate and graduate students and to help create spaces where they can thrive academically, personally, and professionally," says Fouse.

Established in 2015 in honor of her parents, the Jack and Doris Fouse Study Abroad Program has enabled more than 400 students to study abroad in 22 countries. The new gift will sustain the program. The DLC provides four-year renewable scholarships for high-achieving students in the College of Business, and the Jacqualyn Fouse Doctoral Program is a new initiative that will provide fellowships for talented graduate students from around the world.

Fouse's support for the Business Building represents the lead gift for a continued transformation of primarily the first floor. Up to $250,000 of the gift will serve as a match to inspire additional donor support. The project will feature revamped spaces that promote student collaboration and offer a more welcoming environment for corporate visits.

"Dr. Fouse's thoughtful and generous philanthropic investments continue to make a profound impact on the College of Business," Dean Harry Dombroski says. "Her latest gift will allow us to recruit and retain top students and inspire them to reach their full potential."

"UTA students are highly motivated to succeed but sometimes require financial assistance to complete their educational journeys," Fouse says. "The education I received from UTA helped me pursue a successful professional career that has benefited me in many ways, including financially. It is a privilege to be able to help my alma mater shape the business leaders of tomorrow, and I am thrilled to do so."

Crash Course

SOCI 3356-001
Women, Work, and Social Change

WE SPEND MUCH of our lives working, men and women alike, either at paying jobs or on unpaid labor centered on our homes and our families. But what happens when those areas of work overlap? What happens when one group shoulders more of the responsibility for unpaid labor? And how does that imbalance affect us as individuals—and as a society?

These are the questions that students in sociology Professor Beth Anne Shelton's course, "Women, Work, and Social Change," explore, coming to understand paid employment and what forces determine one's work status, earnings, and time spent employed. They also learn to read related data so they have skills that will allow them to ask questions about employment and find the answers, no matter how much employment changes.

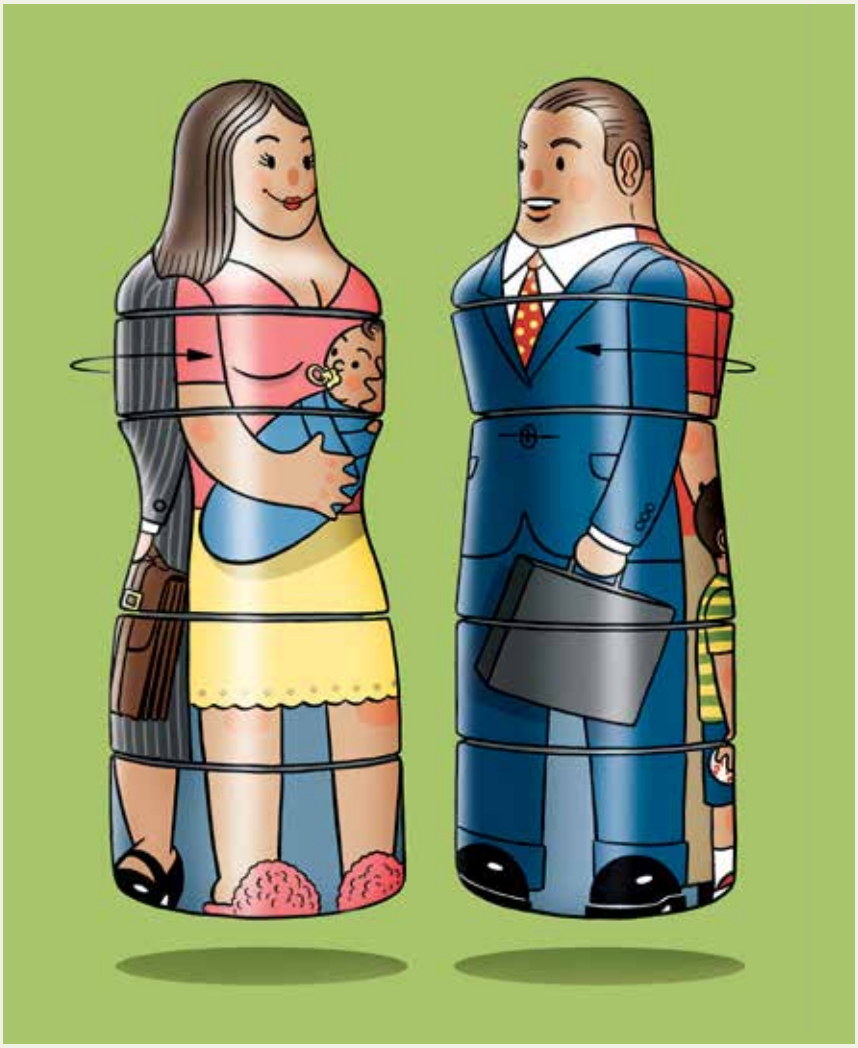
"Sometimes we view paid work as independent of other obligations, but research clearly shows that all obligations interact," says Dr. Shelton. "As a result, women's greater average responsibility for unpaid work in the home must be understood if we are to understand their paid work. Likewise, since most men spend less time on housework and childcare than women, this also impacts their paid employment."

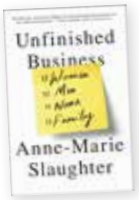
Shelton points out that these issues have become more prevalent since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

"We have seen the different home obligations play out over the last few years during the pandemic as women left the labor force to homeschool and care for children in greater numbers than men," she says. "The gender differences will impact women's and men's work lives for years to come."

Ultimately, as Shelton notes, studying the shifting interplay of paid and unpaid work for men and women is about gaining a better understanding of ourselves and others—which can help us recognize and address disparities.

"I have always been interested in inequality and learning how to reduce it," she says. "At the same time, I have studied families for many years. What I like about studying women and work is that it requires me to explore the relationship between family and employment. It also helps show the extent to which family involves work, which sheds light on a sphere that was viewed as 'private' and beyond the scope of serious scholarship for too long. Understanding work is essential for understanding how people live as well as our own lives."





EXPLORE
Want to learn more? Shelton recommends Anne-Marie Slaughter's *Unfinished Business: Women Men Work Family.*

ILLUSTRATION BY JONATHAN CARLSON

THE BIG EVENT'S BIG COMEBACK

The annual service event brought the Maverick community together

After The Big Event—UTA's annual three-day event filled with community service and outreach—went virtual in 2020 due to COVID-19, it returned in a big way this year to UTA.

Student, faculty, and staff volunteers were more than ready to get their hands dirty again—with painting, landscaping, facility cleanup, and other acts of service and support.

Nearly 60 student site leaders helped coordinate projects, and about 300 volunteers pitched in to help 34 community service agencies and residences, including the city of Arlington's Parks and Recreation Community Garden, Owenwood Farm managed by GROW North Texas, and Mission Arlington.

"This was my first year to participate, and I've never worked with people more passionate about helping the community," says Ronda Finney, a freshman studying biology. "I helped in the community garden, and I learned new things about gardening and ways to live sustainably. I met other people from UTA with interests similar to mine. It was a fun experience where you can meet people and feel good about helping the community."

The Big Event has seen tremendous growth since its 2000 debut. Since then, volunteers have completed more than 100 projects. Participation in The Big Event reached its highest level in 2019, with more than 1,150 volunteers donating over 4,000 hours of service to the community.

TABLETIZER TEAM

Alumnus works with students to perfect invention

A UTA alumnus leaned on his alma mater to help him perfect an invention that he recently patented.

Mel Jackson ('10 BA, Psychology) invented the Tabletizer, a device that attaches to the underside of a table, counter, bar, or desk to provide a convenient way to sanitize a person's hands.

"I wanted to create a way for a person to sanitize their hands instead of going to the restroom or using a distanced sanitizer location," he says.

Jackson collaborated with students on a senior design team in the College of Engineering to enhance the prototype. In his senior year, Austin Harvey ('21 BS, Mechanical Engineering) led the team, which included John Wortham, Jennifer Okpala, and Rocky Vera Cruz.

"Our job was to make the Tabletizer more compact and usable. We inserted infrared sensors to make it a hands-off pump," Harvey says. "We also designed it to use less materials while keeping the dispensed volume the same."

Raul Fernandez, professor in practice in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, says the collaboration between old and new Mavericks was great to see.

"The partnership really shows students what the real world is about," he says. "It gives them something concrete, taking what they've learned in the classroom and using it for real-world solutions."

Gallery

Applique, a mixed-media video

Kris O'Brien ('18 MFA, Visual Communication and Design/Film Video) doesn't remember a time when she *wasn't* creating. Growing up in rural Minnesota, she was inspired by nature and allowed to explore all of her artistic interests.

"Even at a very young age, I was always allowed access to art supplies, building supplies, and various tools," she says. "This helped me nurture the ability to experiment with materials and processes."

As a costume specialist and graphic designer for the Department of Theatre Arts, O'Brien—also an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Art and Art History—still finds plenty of ways to explore her creativity.

Last year, when COVID-19 presented a unique challenge for collaborative art, O'Brien saw an opportunity to create something beautiful: *Applique*, a hand-made animation that merges dance and theater, featuring original percussive audio, vibrant lighting, and scenic and textile elements that creatively honor the choreography. The team working on *Applique* included nine students and four faculty members, including O'Brien.

WATCH
See *Applique* at krisobrien.com/work.

"*Applique* is a joyful sharing of talents, ideas, and cultures," she says. "It is a human-made animation that celebrates the piecing together of simple, yet elegant components crafted by many hands."

To maintain the health and safety of all involved, O'Brien ensured that everything was socially distanced, developing a process of filming the performers separately and placing them together with a paper stop motion/rotoscope animation to form the illusion of spatial interaction.

"I'm drawn to the live performance feel and the immediacy of stop motion—which sounds funny because it's so time-consuming," she says. "What I mean is that there is so much room for error, and once you shoot a frame and move the components, it's extremely difficult to go back. You have to commit and live with the results, so it's quite exciting in that aspect."

APPLIQUE CREDITS

Theatre Arts Design/Tech Students

Brooke Ford *lighting designer*

Juan Miguel Jimenez *lighting designer*

Carissa Knitowski *textile designer*

Amanda Muniz *dancer, choreographer*

Rachel Nabarrete *dancer, choreographer, percussion*

Bryan Rodriguez *stage manager*

Aaliyah Smith *dancer, choreographer, percussion*

Ophelia Sugar *textile designer*

Oleander Zeissig *scenic designer*

Faculty

DJ Badon *technical services manager, scenic support*

Jared Land *assistant professor in practice, lighting and sound support*

Kris O'Brien *concept, director*

Claudia Orcasitas *adjunct assistant professor, director of choreography*

Carlos Donjuan's mural, "The Lost Boys," adorns Facebook offices in Fremont, California.

ARTIST MAKES SOCIAL ART

Professor leaves his mark at Facebook

Carlos Donjuan, assistant professor of art and art history, is one of the most recent muralists to leave their mark on the offices of Facebook.

Donjuan painted his piece, "The Lost Boys," at the Facebook offices in Fremont, California, earlier this summer. He is part of a diverse range of artists from across the country who have been invited to various offices in several states to create art installations inside the workspaces of Facebook.

He says his mural is meant to energize, inspire, and challenge employees.

"For me, murals have always been a way to share your artistic vision with your community or maybe even in places you've never been to," says Donjuan. "They can be a way to create conversation and conceptual thought."

Donjuan was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, and arrived in Dallas with his family in the summer of 1985. His "Illegal Aliens" series has been exhibited at major museums and galleries all over the world. The paintings feature masked individuals, often surrounded by surreal characters or unusual landscapes.

"With my art, I can turn this negative, derogatory term into positive, visual imagery," he says. "In the mural I painted at Facebook, the idea is these children are surrounded by guiding spirits to help them have a safe journey."

DIVERSITY RECOGNITION

University achieves AANAPISI designation

UTA—the most diverse university in the UT System and the third-most diverse in the nation—is now officially an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI).

The designation, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, recognizes UTA's large population of Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander students. To receive AANAPISI designation, a university must have an undergraduate enrollment of at least 10% Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander; UTA's enrollment of that demographic was 14.32% in fall 2021.

"With UTA's designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution and AANAPISI, we demonstrate the diverse composition of our student body," says Jennifer Sutton, director of TRIO SSS and Title V: I.D.E.A.S Project.

The AANAPISI program provides discretionary grants to eligible institutions to enable them to improve their academic quality, increase self-sufficiency, and strengthen their capacity to make substantial contributions to the higher education resources of the nation.

"UTA's diversity is one of the reasons I chose to attend here, knowing that there were equal opportunities for me to succeed," says Vy Nguyen, a visual communication design senior. "AANAPISI is a well-deserved recognition, and I am proud to be a part of the Maverick family."

Talk

Vikram Gupta, Master's Student in Computer Science

Congratulations on landing such a prestigious internship with Tesla!
Thank you! It felt good, but beyond that, it felt satisfying. I have wanted to be an engineer since as far back as I can remember. All my childhood, I spent hours watching documentaries and reading about the evolution and history of Silicon Valley, from companies like HP to Apple. I never thought I would have an opportunity to work at the epicenter of tech.

What did you learn from the internship?
This internship helped me gain business perspective, like the scale of manufacturing. It's hard to imagine what 3,000 cars per week means until you see them in a parking lot. I also learned a lot about how these fast-paced tech giants operate on the inside. After this internship, I know that I want to work in the automotive sector.

How did UTA help prepare you to earn the internship?
UTA's Computer Science and Engineering Department has some amazing but less well-known courses. Select your courses right, and the University will help train you. The variety of subjects I could take as part of my coursework has helped me become a well-rounded engineer.

Before your internship, you were a graduate research assistant in the FabLab, right?
That's right! And was very excited to join them back again this fall. My job at the FabLab revolves around keeping all the lab equipment up and running. The FabLab offers various tools and machines like 3D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters, and more for learners, artists, and do-it-yourself crafters. FabLab is a fun place to work at; I like everything about my job there. Art and science have so much in common, and I like how my job at the FabLab exposes me to both things. Everyone at UTA should know about the FabLab and what an amazing place it is!

What's next for you after graduation?
This has been and will continue to be a very eventful and busy year for me, so after graduation, I will take a big break and visit my family in India.

EXPLORE
Read the expanded interview online at uta.edu/mag.

The Maverick community comes together to help students in need

Alumna Serena Connelly with her husband, Tim Connelly. Before Serena died in 2020, she helped launch a significant social justice and advocacy program at UTA.

For decades, social work Professor Richard Hoefer encouraged his students in social work policy classes to advocate for changes in laws they deemed unfair to disenfranchised people. That message resonated with Serena Simmons Connelly ('95 MSW) when she was his student.

In early 2020, Connelly, partner of the Simmons Sisters Fund at Texas Women's Foundation and vice president of the Harold Simmons Foundation, shared with Dr. Hoefer her desire to see a greater number of students becoming social policy advocates. That conversation resulted in the new initiative SPEAK, or Social Policy, Education, Advocacy, and Knowledge. The Simmons Sisters Fund at Texas Women's Foundation gave $325,000 to support the effort.

Tragically, while the plans for SPEAK were being finalized, Connelly passed away at the age of 50. Her legacy of passionate, effective social advocacy lives on through the initiative.

SPEAK is now providing UTA faculty and students, community leaders, and other social justice allies with resources to promote social policy advocacy. The program is currently offering paid student internships and research opportunities, as well as training sessions and civic engagement activities. Plans for a virtual social work conference, training materials, and more are underway.

"The overarching goal of SPEAK is to increase the participation of social workers and their allies in the public policy process in order to achieve social justice outcomes," says Hoefer, director of SPEAK. "By having resources available, faculty, community leaders, and students are learning how to be better advocates."

School of Social Work Dean Scott Ryan says that once in the field, many social work students find it difficult to remain effective without allies who are properly trained in the art and skill of advocacy. With SPEAK, they now have access to the support and materials they need to be successful.

"This gift from the Simmons Sisters Fund is going a long way in helping to train and inspire social workers, community leaders, and social justice allies by teaching them proven techniques, as well as introducing new skills needed for today's information society that will help them be more effective in advocating for social change," says Dr. Ryan.

Christian Mason ('21 BSW), social work graduate student, is passionate about helping Texas communities.

A HEART FOR RESEARCH

UTA kinesiology students earn prestigious fellowships

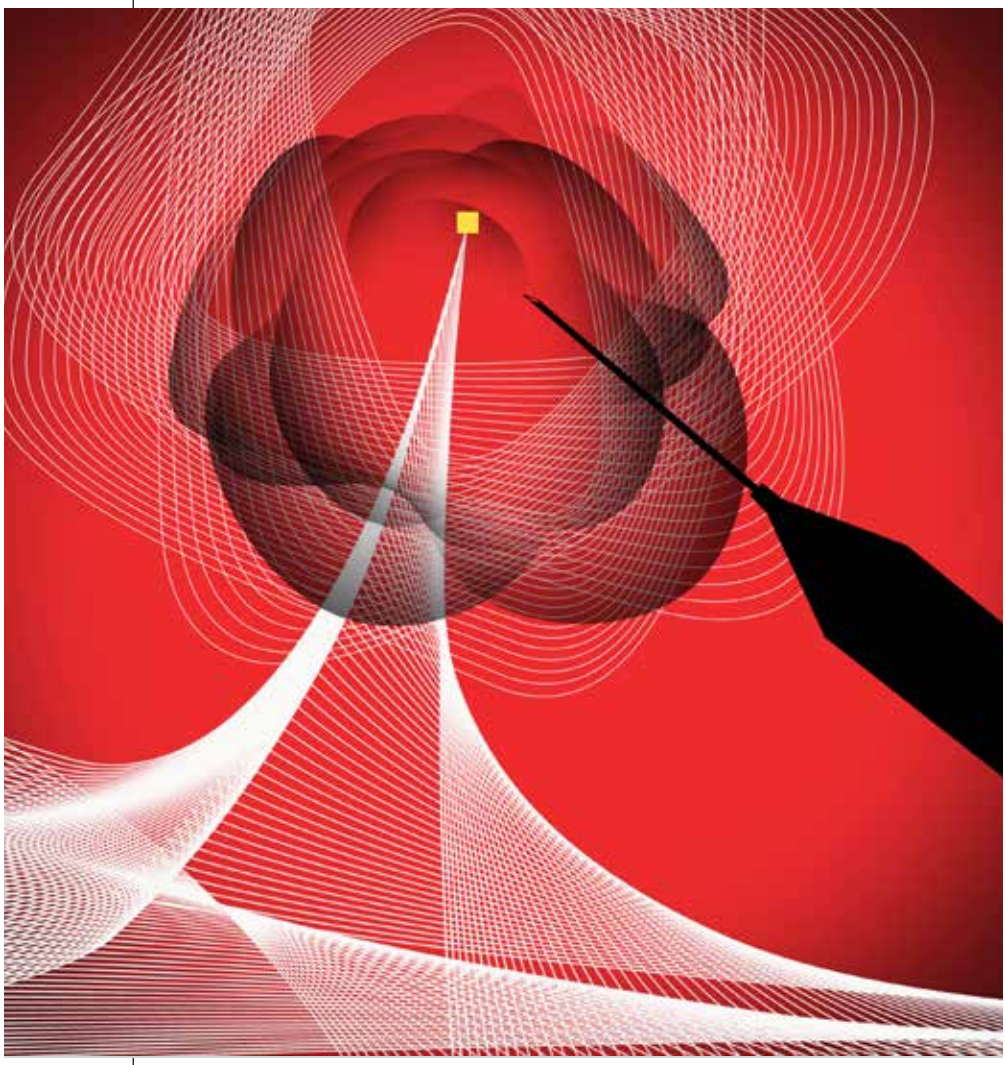
Predoctoral fellowships from the American Heart Association (AHA) are hard to come by, but two UTA students in kinesiology have received the highly competitive honor for their cardiovascular research.

Andrew Oneglia is researching cardiac dysfunction, while Damsara Nandadeva focuses on racial differences and long-term effects of COVID-19 on vascular function in healthy young adults.

"The AHA's focus to prevent heart disease through research aligns with the aims of what our work in the lab is trying to solve and what I focus on specifically," Oneglia says. "I am humbled and extremely grateful to receive this award, which will allow me to focus 100% on my research studies for the remainder of my graduate training."

Nandadeva received her undergraduate degree in medicine and her master's in exercise physiology from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. She came to UT Arlington in the fall of 2018 to conduct research in the field of neural control of the cardiovascular system in health and disease.

"Receiving this grant is a great honor," Nandadeva says. "Now that I am funded and have a dedicated research project that will be my dissertation, this really helps set me up for my long-term goal of being an independent researcher one day."



TARGETING TINY TUMORS

Researcher focuses on earlier cancer detection

In cancer, early detection is often the key to successful treatment. However, small tumors can evade detection from currently available tools.

"The majority of very small tumors may be nothing to worry about," says bioengineering Professor Baohong Yuan. "To know for sure costs a lot of money, takes a lot of time, and leads to a lot of anxiety in patients."

Through a National Institutes of Health grant, Dr. Yuan hopes to boost early detection through a technique to show where small tumors are located. In active tumors, cells grow quickly and consume energy, which generates heat. Yuan will use biocompatible nanoparticles—which glow weakly at normal body temperature but more brightly at higher temperatures—with ultrasound to detect temperature differences between tumors and surrounding tissue.

Then, using a process he developed for high-resolution imaging for deep tissue, Yuan can analyze the glow of the nanoparticles in the tumor to determine if it is active or if further observation or a biopsy are warranted.

"We hope that our method will allow doctors to diagnose and treat very small tumors more effectively without the need for a biopsy in every case," Yuan says. "This will save time and money and minimize worry."

ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN STAUFFER

GREEN PLAN WINNERS

Student teams address campus environment

Two student teams from the College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs are using what they learn in the classroom to make the world—and especially their campus—a better place.

Those teams won first place and honorable mention in the Master Plan category of the Environmental Protection Agency's ninth annual Campus RainWorks Challenge.

The winning team redesigned the University's master plan to incorporate green infrastructure practices at key locations, including transportation corridors and local water bodies. The team included Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) students Michael Shuey (lead), Nusrat Jahan Nipu, and Reza Mabadi. The fourth team member, Kathleen Stanford, is a Master of Urban Planning student.

The second team was led by Anjelyque Easley, an MLA student. Other team members were Bonnie Blocker and Nikki Simonini, also in the MLA program.

Taner R. Özdil, associate professor of landscape architecture, advised both teams. Both projects were completed as part of the Urban Design Studio V course.

"The competition tasks students to explore visionary ideas on campuses," Dr. Özdil says. "I think these projects influence us to look at the campus in a way that involves the community more in the built environment."

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATORS

Scholarships boost academics, careers of Hispanic communicators

Growing up, Iridiana Barcenas ('21 BA, Broadcasting), the daughter of Mexican immigrants, saw how critical it is to ensure everyone in a community has access to information about current events.

"My family does not know English and lacked the education and the language to get information," she says. "I know how crucial it is to keep your community informed, and your community is everyone—even if they don't know the language or are afraid to speak up and ask questions. Journalism is the voice of those who don't have one."

As a broadcasting student at UTA, Barcenas worked at UTA News en Español, developing skills that would allow her to be a voice for the voiceless in her community. While she focused on completing her degree, her goals got a boost from a Hispanic Communicators DFW (HCDFW) scholarship.

HCDFW is an organization of journalists, public relations and marketing professionals, educators, and others committed to the field of communication and furthering the visibility and role of Latinos within communication-related fields. Barcenas was one of three Hispanic communicators at UTA to receive an HCDFW scholarship. The others were Krissiha Lagos ('21 BA, Broadcasting) and Rocio Hernandez ('21 BA, Public Relations and Advertising).

"I feel like thanks to the scholarship, I was able to be a student," says Barcenas, who is now an assignment editor at KTLM-TV Telemundo 40. "And once I had that diploma in my hands, no one could take it away from me. Education is powerful. It's freedom."

FROM TOP LEFT, CLOCKWISE: Iridiana Barcenas, Rocio Hernandez, and Krissiha Lagos.

Faculty Focus

Stephanie Rasmussen, Associate Professor of Accounting

ACCOUNTANTS DO FAR more than crunch numbers and balance the books. As Stephanie Rasmussen will tell you, accountants play an integral role in the health of a company. "Bookkeeping is only part of accounting, and today's accountants are important advisers within an organization," she says. "I'm passionate about helping students develop the technical accounting and critical thinking skills they need to be impactful business advisers."

What is your proudest accomplishment?
Receiving the UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award in 2020. Like many faculty members, my interest in teaching is what led me to earn a PhD and pursue a career in academia. The UT System's recognition of my dedication to teaching and mentoring students is an incredible honor.

What are you excited about right now?
Over the past 15 years, the volume and richness of data related to boards of directors, firm management teams, and auditors have increased tremendously. Some of these improvements are due to policy or rule changes, while other improvements have occurred because of individual researchers' or data companies' efforts to consolidate big data from multiple sources. With larger, richer data, I can address research questions today that I would not have been able to examine when I first became involved in accounting research.

With the return to campus in fall 2021, what were you most looking forward to?
I was most looking forward to teaching face-to-face classes. Forming relationships with my students is important to me, and I found it more difficult to do that online during the COVID pandemic. Plus, I just love the buzz of a college campus when it is filled with students!

Going Live

UTA Radio Fine Arts Building

THOUGH MOST LISTENERS will never see it, UTA Radio was in need of a facelift. "We've always had the tools, software, and equipment to provide students with the latest in streaming and broadcast training," says Lance Liguez, faculty advisor for UTA Radio. "This renovation addresses the feel and look of UTA Radio with an updated, professional appearance."

With funding provided by UT Arlington's Facilities Management and the College of Liberal Arts and assistance from University administration, the student-run, online radio station received its much-needed upgrades. The entire on-air studio was dismantled and then renovated with new acoustic treatments, furniture, flooring, lighting, a DJ station, and computers.

Jeff Johnson, director of maintenance operations and special projects at UT Arlington, describes the remodel as a passion project.

"The renovation looks super," he says. "It's a class lab, a student hangout area, a study, a lounge—really, everything is designed for multiple uses. The College of Liberal Arts has a strong radio program, and phenomenal students go through it every year."

Dana Gibbs Villalobos ('21 BA, Broadcast Journalism) says UTA Radio is a great place to get real-world experience. As a multimedia journalist for the station, she hosted a weekly show, "A Date With Dana," featuring hip-hop and R&B music.

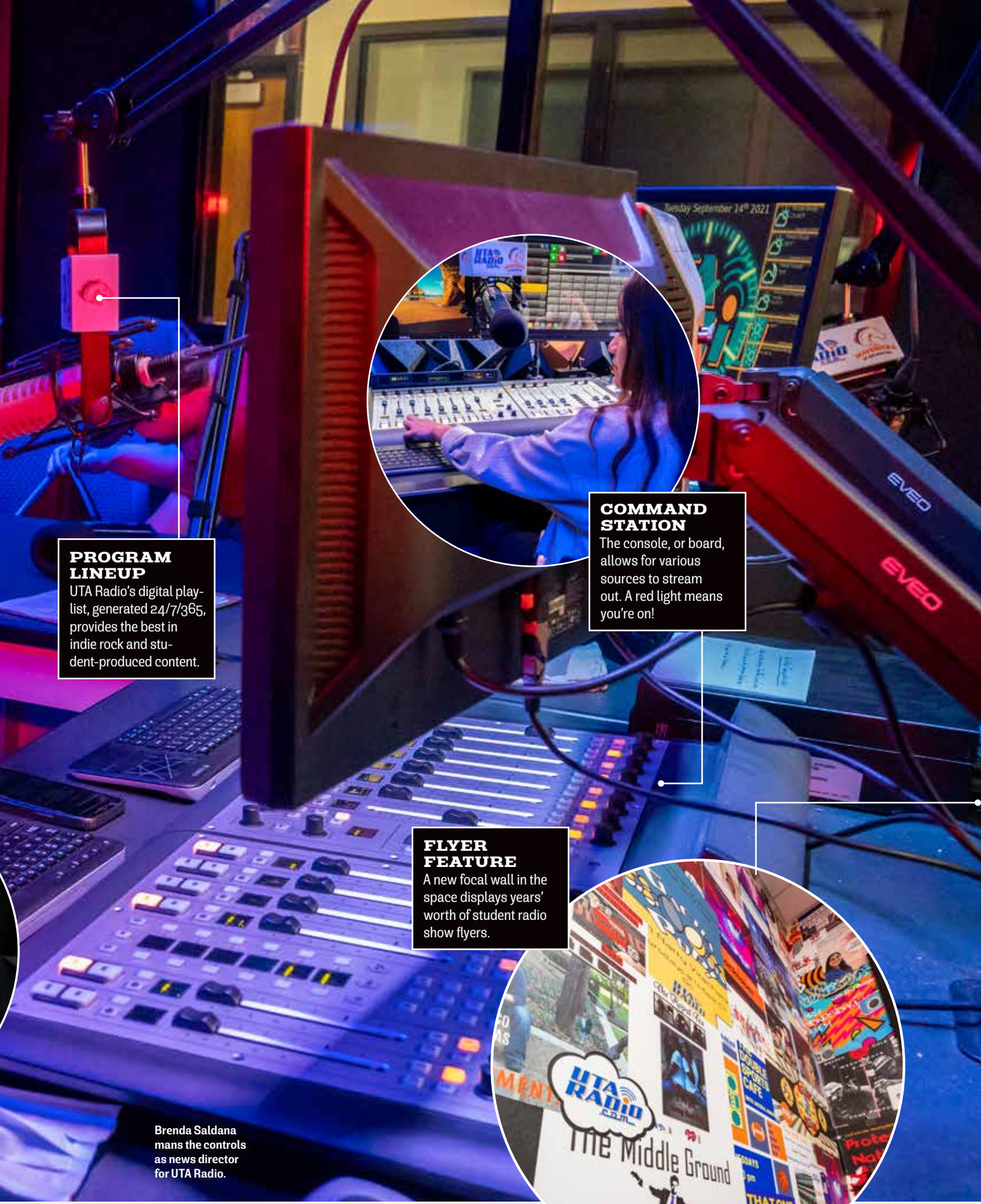
"My favorite aspect about being a part of UTA Radio is you really get the hands-on experience for what it's like to work in a radio station," Villalobos says.

STREAMING SERVER
UTA Radio sends its signal to iHeart Radio, which is then used for the website and the Radio F/X app.

RECORD COLLECTION
Vinyl is back! The station's growing collection really shines each spring during Vinylthon.

SOUND ISOLATION
Shhh! New acoustic treatments absorb unwanted sound and look great, too.

LISTEN IN
Heard worldwide on utaradio.com, iHeart Radio, and the Radio F/X app.



PROGRAM LINEUP
UTA Radio's digital playlist, generated 24/7/365, provides the best in indie rock and student-produced content.

COMMAND STATION
The console, or board, allows for various sources to stream out. A red light means you're on!

FLYER FEATURE
A new focal wall in the space displays years' worth of student radio show flyers.

Brenda Saldana mans the controls as news director for UTA Radio.

Scholarship

Providing motivated Mavericks every chance to make a difference

"Knowing that what I learn at UTA will help me become a better advocate for marginalized populations motivates me to do my best."

DRIVEN BY HER passion to create a more equitable society, Cindy Ledat is nearing the end of a long journey to become the first in her family to earn a college degree. The 25-year-old Honors College senior is set to graduate in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in interdisciplinary studies. With minors in leadership studies, diversity studies, social justice and welfare, and political science, she's preparing herself for a career in social policy.

"Education is very important in this field," Ledat says. "Knowing that what I learn at UTA will help me become a better advocate for marginalized populations motivates me to do my best."

Working full time while providing for her mother and sister slowed Ledat's progress, but she never wavered. After attending community college for more than five years, she graduated summa cum laude from the Eastfield Campus of Dallas College in 2020.

Ledat chose UTA to continue her education because of its research prowess, proximity to home, and scholarship opportunities. In the Honors College, she's built strong relationships with faculty and flourished academically.

Through the Honors College, Ledat received the Stuckler Family Endowed Scholarship. Established in 2014 by alumnus Danny Stuckler ('78 MBA; 74 BA, Business) and his wife Margit, the award benefits talented students who demonstrate financial need or have endured personal hardships. It's their way of giving back to UTA and the Honors College for helping their son David ('04 BS, Interdisciplinary Studies).

"Cindy is exactly the type of student we had in mind when we created the endowment," Danny says. "She shows resilience, tenacity, grit, and a strong promise for professional success."

Despite her work and family obligations, Ledat maintains a 4.0 GPA, was one of five students to receive the Honors College Undergraduate Research Fellowship last summer, and will represent UTA in the Archer Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C., this spring.

She's grateful for the UTA professors who have empowered her and for the Stuckler family's generous support.

"It's a huge act of kindness to create a fund to assist complete strangers," Ledat says. "I want them to know how much I appreciate their generosity and how thankful I am for this resource that's helping me fulfill my dreams."

A LIGHT APPROACH

Photodynamic therapy drug helps fight cancer

Sherri McFarland, professor of chemistry, is shedding light on the fight against cancer—literally. She and her team of researchers are developing a cancer medication that uses light to target and destroy tumor cells in a process known as photodynamic therapy (PDT).

Dr. McFarland's photodrug, TLD-1433, is currently in a phase II clinical study for patients with recurring bladder cancer that has proven resistant to traditional therapies. The National Science Foundation awarded McFarland a $440,000 grant to investigate the photodrug's unusual effectiveness in low-oxygen environments.

A cancer survivor herself, McFarland says her goal is to provide more treatment options for cancer patients, particularly for those whose cancer is unresponsive to traditional therapies. Pending results from the clinical study, she hopes TLD-1433, along with other photomedicines, becomes a leading treatment option for patients with aggressive and unresponsive cancers.

"A lot of people don't know that there are alternative treatments like these light-based therapies. Even your typical oncologist may not know about PDT," McFarland says. "When we think of cancer treatment, we think of chemotherapy, radiation, immunotherapy, and surgery. But if you have a tricky form of cancer, there are a number of emerging alternative therapies available."

TECHNOLOGY PANDEMIC

Researchers focus on a ransomware wave

While the entire world has struggled with COVID-19 for more than a year, another virus has reached epidemic proportions—ransomware.

A ransomware attack is like a cyber hijacking, with criminals infiltrating and seizing an organization's data or computer systems and demanding a payment or ransom to restore access. National data shows these ransomware attacks are spiking, with an organization attacked by ransomware every 40 seconds.

Professor Kay-Yut Chen and Associate Professor Jingguo Wang, both in the Department of Information Systems and Operations Management, and doctoral student Yan Lang have explored how ransomware attacks sometimes pit organizations against law enforcement agencies trying to protect them. The study explains that companies tend to negotiate with their attackers to drive down the cost of the ransom. But such behavior in turn incentivizes attackers to continue their illegal activities and runs counter to FBI guidance.

The researchers are investigating in part how to nudge companies toward adopting strategies that decrease the risk of digital extortion.

"We need to encourage firms to do the right thing in security investing," says Dr. Wang. "Recognizing the long-term benefits of this approach could help other companies come to the right decision."

PROBLEM SOLVER

Undergraduate earns elite NSA internship

Some college students spend their summers taking vacations and enjoying well-earned downtime. Kayla Robb, a mathematics major minoring in computer science, spent hers working to solve cryptographic problems important to national security.

Robb was one of about two dozen students selected from universities nationwide to participate in the National Security Administration (NSA) Director's Summer Program. The program brings undergraduate students together to collaborate with each other and with NSA researchers on classified, mission-critical problems.

"Kayla is a super-talented mathematician with really strong coding skills to boot," says Theresa Jorgensen, mathematics associate professor. "This is a very elite research program, and it's a fantastic opportunity for Kayla."

For Robb, an appreciation of math runs in the family. Homeschooled for all of her pre-college education, she was taught by her mother, who was a dual mathematics and computer science major in college.

"I honestly never had much interest in math until I started learning calculus. It was so different from the computational math I'd done until that point, and it made me want to see what else in math I hadn't explored," Robb says. "Math is very beautiful and intuitive, but it also has so many varied applications."

Maverick Reads

Dive into fascinating books by Maverick authors

Healing the Reason-Emotion Split: Scarecrows, Tin Woodmen, and the Wizard

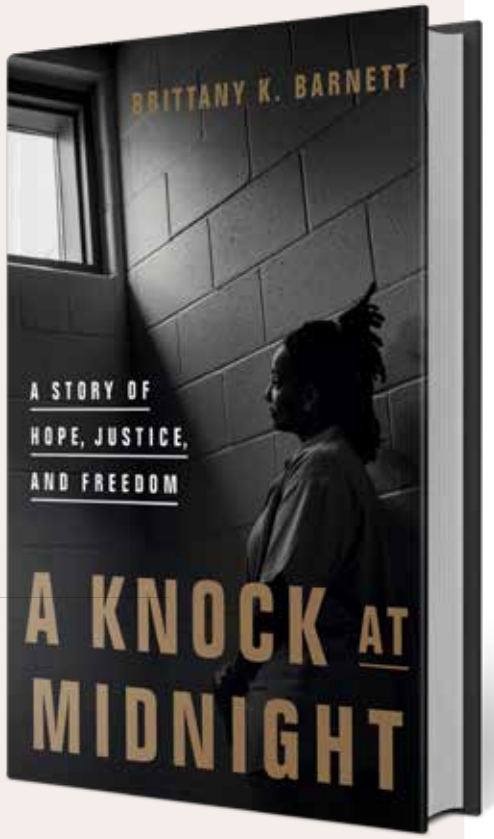
BY DANIEL LEVINE, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

In *Healing the Reason-Emotion Split*, Dr. Levine examines the need to balance cognitive and emotional processes and to place equal importance on emotion and reason in decision-making processes.

Jade's Secret Ingredients: A Recipe for Managing Feelings

BY ASHLEY FINLEY ('15 BSW)

On the surface, *Jade's Secret Ingredients* is about a little girl learning how to cook, with her grandmother as the teacher. But it's also a book about emotional regulation, breaking down aspects of managing emotions into bite-sized chunks for young readers.



A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom

BY BRITTANY K. BARNETT ('06 MS, ACCOUNTING; '05 BBA)

One of Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of the Year for 2020 and a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize finalist, *A Knock at Midnight* details Barnett's journey to becoming a prominent advocate for criminal justice reform as she works to help free people serving life-without-parole sentences for drug offenses. *The Washington Post* called the deeply personal memoir a "powerful and devastating" call to free those buried alive by America's legal system.

You can help UTA expand its commitment to provide financial support for talented students from all backgrounds so they have the opportunity to achieve their academic goals.

UTA Scholarship Initiative

Students First. Excellence Always.

Every gift makes a difference. Together, we can ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve their educational dreams.

UTA THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

VISIT **UTA.EDU/GIVING/SCHOLARSHIPS** TO LEARN MORE.

SPORTING MAVS

MAVERICK ATHLETES TAKE ON TOKYO

This summer, 16 athletes represented UTA at the Olympics and Paralympics

THE WORLD'S MOST prominent display of athleticism took place last year in Tokyo with the Summer Olympics and the Paralympics. UTA was well-represented in both, with two athletes in the Olympics and 14 in the Paralympics.

Zoe Voris, a sophomore studying photography, is a member of Team USA's Women's Wheelchair Basketball squad. She's been playing wheelchair basketball since she was 9 years old.

"I love getting my story out there so the younger generation of girls coming up can see that if I can do it, they can do it, too," she says. "I was extremely hesitant to try out for Tokyo, but eventually I said 'yes' because I'm dedicated to bettering myself, and I want to be successful at the highest level possible."

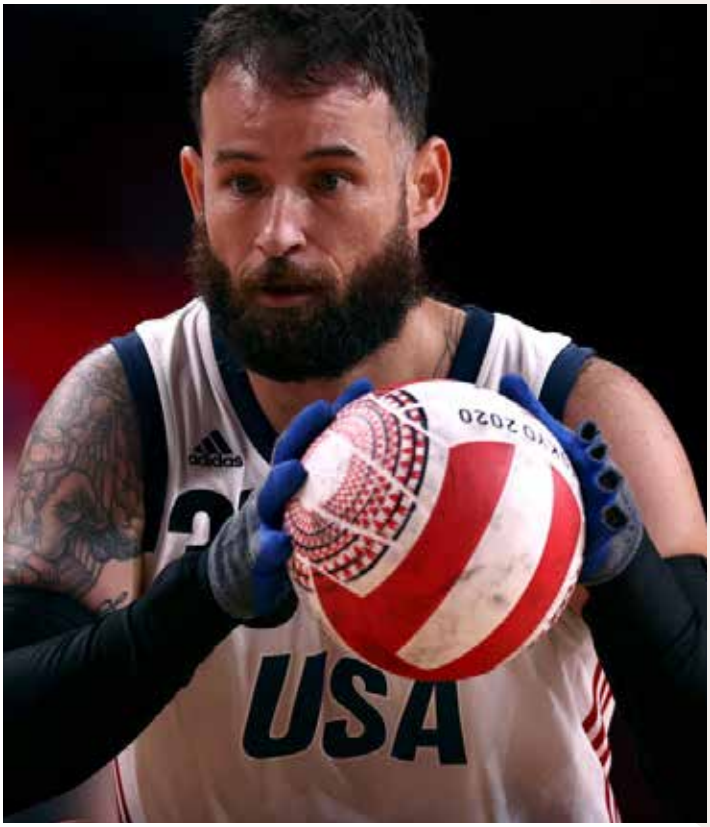
The Chicago native joined UT Arlington and Lady Movin' Mavs alumni Josie Aslakson, Rose Hollermann, and Darlene Hunter—making Team USA's 12-person squad one-third Maverick. The U.S. won the women's wheelchair basketball gold in 2016 and took the bronze in Tokyo.

"When I'm training with my teammates, I think about how, at one point, they were in the same place that I'm in now as a student at UTA and playing for the Lady Movin' Mavs," Voris says. "They're the ones I've been in awe of, and now they are my teammates. I was so excited to experience this with them. It is a memory that we'll share forever."

"When I'm training with my teammates, I think about how, at one point, they were in the same place that I'm in now as a student at UTA."

Earlier in the summer, UTA once again had representation in the Olympics, with Emil Blomberg, a 2015 graduate, representing his native Sweden in the 3000-meter steeplechase, and current aerospace engineering student Austen Jewell Smith representing Team USA in women's skeet shooting. Blomberg finished 13th in his heat and Smith finished 10th overall.

UT Arlington has been strongly represented at the Olympics over the years. Including last year, UTA has had at least one former athlete at the Olympics in 11 of the previous 14 Games.



Photos by: Karl-Josef Hildenbrand/picture alliance via Getty Images, USA SHooting, and Dean Mouhtaropoulos/Getty Images for New Zealand Paralympic Committee

L-R: Team USA's Zoe Voris fights the German team for the ball; Austen Jewell Smith takes aim in the Women's Skeet Qualification event; Ray Hennagir seizes the ball in a match against Team New Zealand.

UTA'S 2020 PARALYMPIANS

TEAM USA MEN'S WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
● **GOLD**
Mike Paye ('09 BA, Criminal Justice)
Fabian Romo ('20 BS, Exercise Science)
Jorge Sanchez ('14 BA, Communication)

TEAM USA WOMEN'S WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
● **BRONZE**
Josie Aslakson
Rose Hollermann ('19 BA, Interdisciplinary Studies)
Darlene Hunter ('06 MSW, '20 MPH)
Zoe Voris (sophomore, College of Liberal Arts)

TEAM USA WHEELCHAIR RUGBY
● **SILVER**
Ray Hennagir

TEAM USA ADAPTED TRACK AND FIELD
Claudius 'Tobi' Oluwatobi Fawehinmi ('17 BS, Exercise Science)

TEAM CANADA MEN'S WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
Vincent Dallaire

TEAM CANADA WOMEN'S WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
Elodie Tessier

TEAM CANADA ADAPTED TRACK AND FIELD
● ● ● ● **SILVER**
Brent Lakatos ('04 BS, Software Engineering)

TEAM AUSTRALIA MEN'S WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
Clarence McCarthy Grogan
John McPhail ('15 BS, University Studies)

MAVERICK OLYMPIANS OF THE PAST

Doug Russell
USA | *Swimming*
1968 – Mexico City

Lanny Bassham
USA | *Rifle*
1972 – Munich
1976 – Montreal

Larry Dowler
USA | *Swimming*
1976 – Montreal

David Peltier
Barbados | *Track & Field*
1984 – Los Angeles

Joseph Sainah
Kenya | *Track & Field*
1988 – Seoul

Peter Dajia
Canada | *Track & Field*
1992 – Barcelona

McClinton Neal
USA | *Track & Field*
1992 – Barcelona

Elston Cawley
Jamaica | *Track & Field*
1996 – Atlanta

Karin Olsson
Sweden | *Bobsleigh*
2002 – Salt Lake City

Takeshi Fujiwara
El Salvador | *Track & Field*
2004 – Athens

Jared Connaughton
Canada | *Track & Field*
2008 – Beijing
2012 – London

Derrick Obasohan
Nigeria | *Basketball*
2012 – London

Russell won two gold medals in the 100 butterfly and 4x100 medley relay. He was the first-ever athlete to win the 100 butterfly, as the event was introduced at the 1968 Olympics.

Bassham won silver in 1972. He won gold in the 1976 Games after initially tying for first place with Margaret Murdock in the mixed 50-meter rifle at three positions. Following a closer review of the targets, officials deemed Bassham the winner. Bassham asked Murdock to share the top awards podium with him, which she did. "I told Margaret, 'I can't get you a gold medal, but I can get you the national anthem,'" Bassham said in a story for Olympics.com. "'[On] the first note of the national anthem, step up and we will stand together. As far as I am concerned, you deserve an Olympic gold medal.'"

UTA ACHIEVES TEXAS TIER ONE

WHAT IS TEXAS TIER ONE?

Texas Tier One status signifies that UT Arlington is a leading research university and provides additional resources to ensure the University continues to recruit top faculty, pursue groundbreaking research, and prepare students to enter one of the strongest workforces in the country.

This summer, UTA became the fourth institution in the state to achieve Texas Tier One designation, a significant milestone of excellence in academics and research that brings with it access to the state's National Research University Fund (NRUF). Texas lawmakers established the NRUF in 2009 to provide a pathway for emerging research institutions to become national leaders in research output.

REACHING THE TOP

The first university to achieve Texas Tier One designation in more than three years, UTA reached or exceeded ***rigorous benchmarks*** of quality established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for at least two consecutive years.

SURPASSING $45 MILLION IN RESTRICTED RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

UTA's total research expenditures were approximately **$125 million** in 2020, with restricted research expenditures of **$52 million**.

AWARDING MORE THAN 200 PHDS EACH YEAR

UTA has achieved this milestone **six years** in a row.

BEING DESIGNATED A MEMBER OF THE PHI KAPPA PHI HONOR SOCIETY

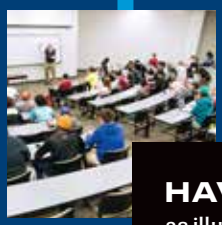
ENROLLING A FRESHMAN CLASS OF HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

For this criterion, UTA **consistently ranks the highest** among universities in the running for NRUF designation.

HAVING HIGH-QUALITY FACULTY,

as illustrated by the increase in National Academy members, who are considered the foremost authorities on impactful research in the U.S. and who achieve membership only through significant contributions that advance their fields of study

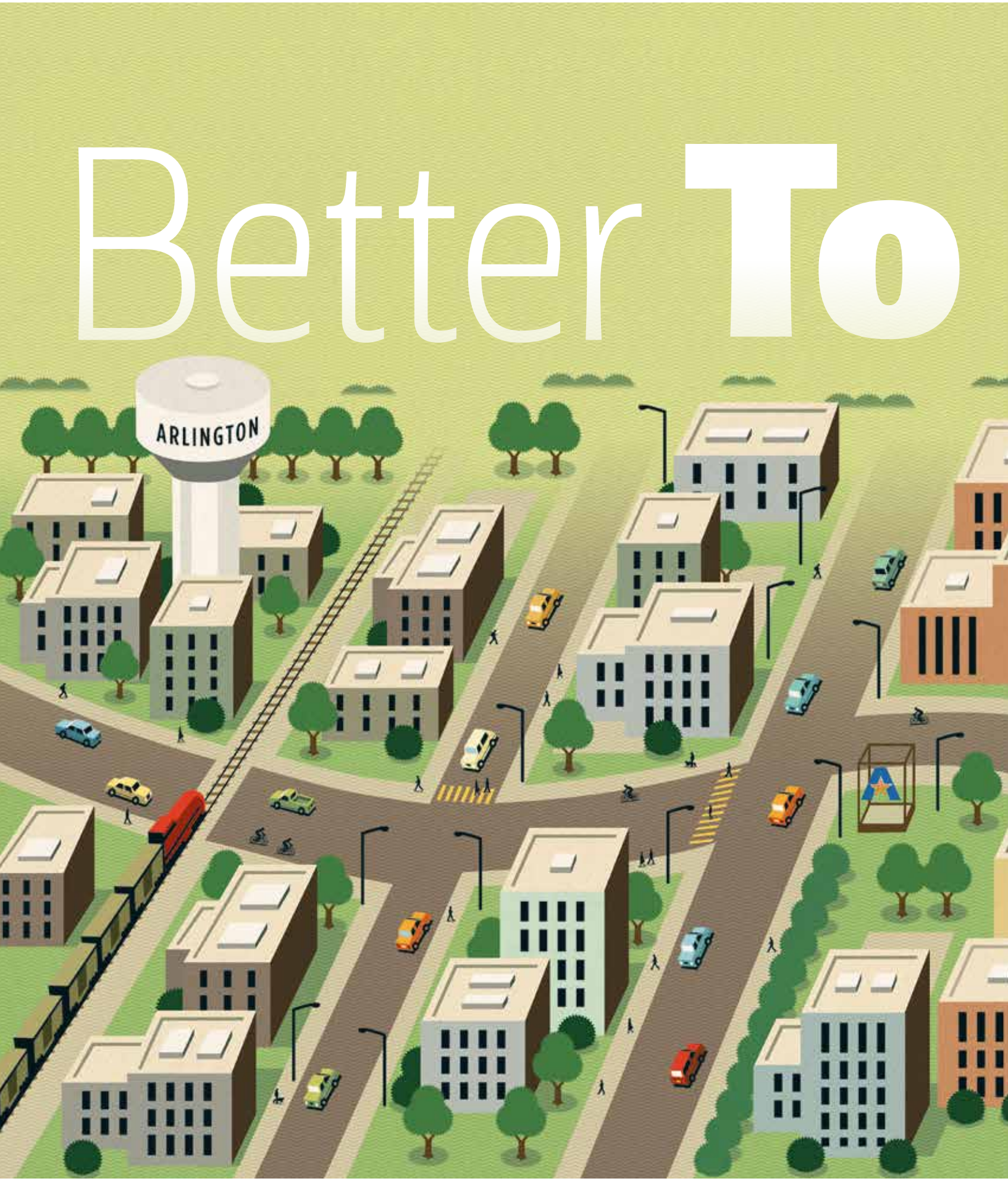
UTA has **seven members** of the national academies and 19 fellows in the National Academy of Inventors.



"This designation will further bolster our state's dedication to higher education, economic development, and cutting-edge research, and I congratulate the students, professors, and faculty of UTA for achieving this prestigious milestone."

—TEXAS GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

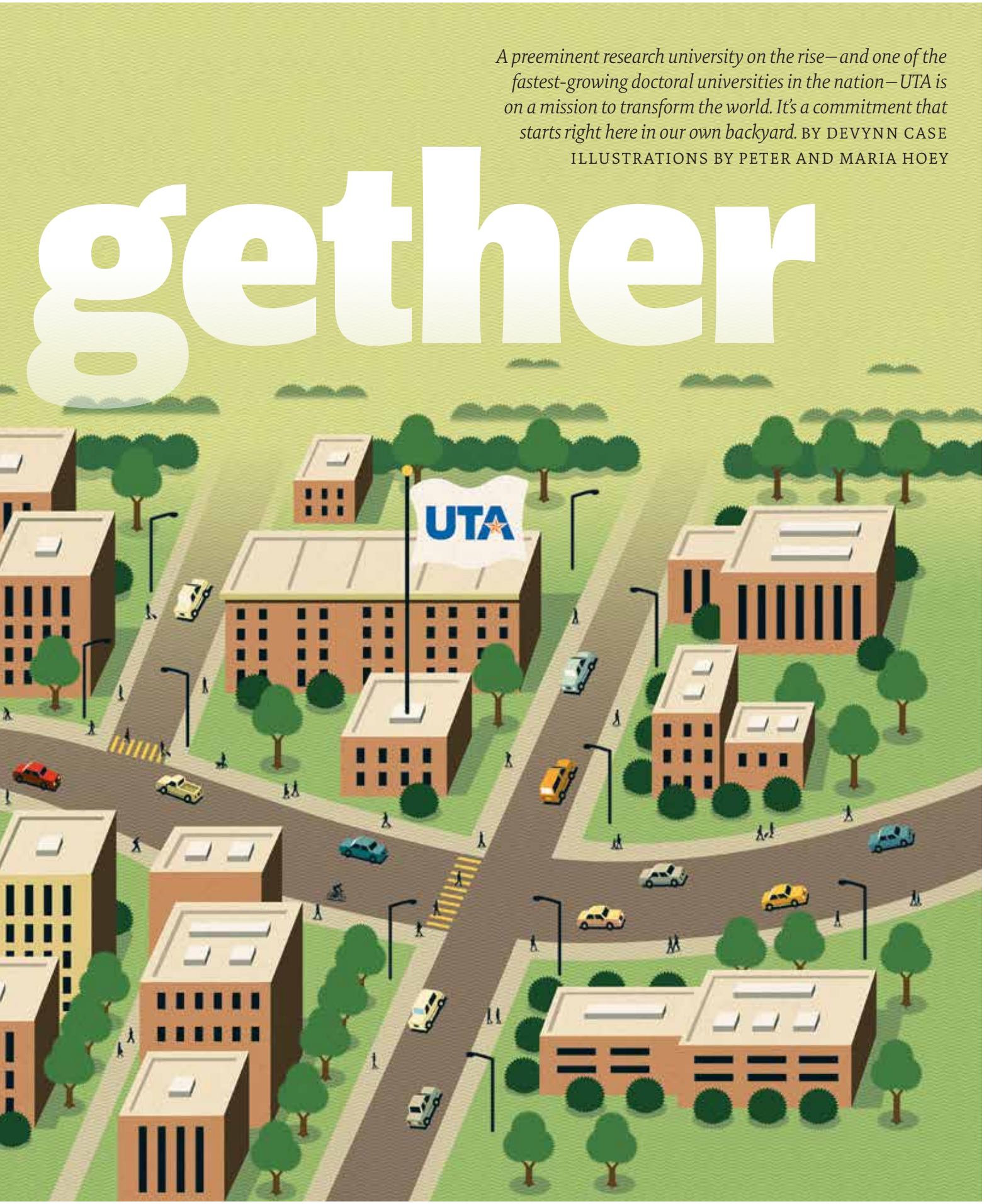
Better To



gether

A preeminent research university on the rise—and one of the fastest-growing doctoral universities in the nation—UTA is on a mission to transform the world. It's a commitment that starts right here in our own backyard. BY DEVYNN CASE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PETER AND MARIA HOEY



In any college town, the college and the city it lives in are inextricably linked. Thriving universities can inject invaluable resources into their home cities, with skilled and knowledgeable faculty working to find solutions to the city's challenges and talented and motivated students getting involved and finding ways to make a difference. That's especially true for The University of Texas at Arlington and the city it calls home.

"UTA is one of the city's most significant partners and the largest economic development engine, which creates a competitive advantage for Arlington," says Jim Parajon, deputy city manager in Arlington and an adjunct professor in UTA's College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs. "Our partnership with UTA isn't just important; it's critical."

It's a partnership that UTA is proud to nurture, providing myriad opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to get involved and effect change. The prospects for active participation in shaping the city are widely variable, from civic engagement and grassroots advocacy to cultivating an appreciation of the arts.

"Active engagement is a hallmark of a successful city," says Jennifer Wichmann ('99 MPA; MSW), another deputy city manager for Arlington. "It's important for all citizens—including college students—to get involved."

In a city as large as Arlington, it's important for citizens to have plenty of options for getting around. Walkable Arlington seeks to make the streets more pedestrian-friendly.

Stepping Forward

WALKABLE ARLINGTON

In a bustling, enormous city like Arlington—the seventh-largest city in Texas—residents need options for getting around. A group of students has teamed up with professors, staff, Arlington residents, and community leaders to form a grassroots advocacy group, Walkable Arlington, to help make the city more pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly. The student-led movement is calling for more walkable spaces in Arlington and greater transportation options.

"With a university in the heart of a city, the ability for students and people downtown to walk to local businesses is essential," says Wichmann. Parajon concurs: "Walkability is key to choice. If you have no choices, you become isolated and disconnected from the things that make a city great."

Together with Arlington City Council members and Arlington citizens, Walkable Arlington advocates have walked miles of downtown-area roadways, noting problem areas and proposing possible solutions. The group has already ensured the installation of Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) at 19 signalized locations in areas downtown and around UT Arlington. LPIs give pedestrians a 3-7 second head start when entering an intersection with a corresponding green signal in the same direction of vehicle travel. They can enhance the visibility of pedestrians in the intersection and reinforce their right-of-way over turning vehicles, reducing pedestrian-vehicle collisions at intersections.

The group has also spoken directly to the city council about safety and economic concerns, and several of the group's ideas are already folded into city master plans and studies.

Corrina Sullivan, financial coordinator for Walkable Arlington and UTA political science senior, says that even though the work does not always yield instant gratification, it's worth it.

"We have a lot of energy, and we're in this for the long term," says Sullivan, who was born and raised in Arlington. "I have a desire to make a difference in this area, not just for the time that I'm here, but also for the people who will come after me so it's safer for everyone and people don't get hurt."

United We Stand

THE UNITY COUNCIL

In the wake of nationwide civic unrest after the murder of George Floyd, the city of Arlington—the eighth-most diverse city in the United States—launched the Unity Council, a 30-member group that was charged with increasing equality in Arlington through community input and by examining equity strategies. The council tabbed Jason Shelton, associate professor of anthropology and sociology and the director of the Center for African American Studies at UT Arlington, to lead as chairman.

"I've spent my life writing and researching, but I've never had the opportunity to impact the world with these ideas in a way that I can do with the Unity Council," says Dr. Shelton. "I teach my students that you have to get involved in the world if you want to make a change. That you can't just sit in your apartment or even just go

GETTING AROUND TOWN

Beginning in March 2021, UTA and Arlington, along with Via and May Mobility, launched a one-year pilot program to offer a new transportation option for the nearly 10,000 students living on campus, as well as the general public. The program, called RAPID (Rideshare, Automation, and Payment Integration Demonstration), provides a unique self-driving shuttle service to students free of charge and to the general public for standard fare rates. Riders can use RAPID to reach various destinations in the program's service area, which includes the Downtown Library, City Hall, the UTA campus, and many restaurants, offices, and businesses in the downtown area. As part of the pilot program, UTA is collecting data that will contribute to transportation blueprints for the city and the campus. UTA faculty from the colleges of Science and Engineering, as well as campus operations staff, are involved.

to work. You have to do more than that if you really want to impact society."

To that end, many UTA undergraduate and graduate anthropology students got involved with the Unity Council, pitching in to help gather community input through one-on-one interviews.

"Some of the responses that I got were heartbreaking and difficult to stomach," says Desiree Alvarez, a graduate student. "People felt very raw, scared, and helpless—including myself—especially as we were still in the midst of a pandemic. But this felt like something that I could actually do in my city with the people directly around me."

Many UT Arlington faculty, staff, and administrators—from enrollment services and multicultural affairs to professors of various disciplines—were also part of the Unity Council's efforts.

"The leaders and groups involved had such passion for our community and for the work of the Unity Council," says Troy Johnson, vice president for enrollment management at UTA. "There has been openness to hearing the realities and creativity when seeking recommendations for the future. The council engaged so many in its quest that the process itself built unity."

Altogether, the city was able to hear from over 300 residents in interviews, focus groups, and town hall meetings. Participation came from a variety of communities, including African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, LGBTQ+, Arlington's youth, and religious groups. The final report included numerous statistics related to city data and summaries of interviews and focus group opinions from residents and community leaders. Totaling over 130 pages, the report also outlined 50 recommendations on how the city could improve in the following areas: health and wellness, education, housing, policing and criminal justice, and economic disparities.

Shortly after the report was completed, in March 2021, the National League of Cities selected Arlington as the winner of its 2021 Cultural Diversity Awards for the work of the Unity Council. The city was awarded the top prize in the 200,001-500,000 population category.

"This coalition is how people from different backgrounds create a vision of the community they want to live in and then come together to assert themselves," says Shelton. "And UTA students are a part of it—directly giving back to, while influencing and building up, the city of Arlington—changing and impacting the world."

Creative Engagement

DOWNTOWN ARLINGTON MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

When a 2019 economic impact study showed that in downtown Arlington, arts—including music, theater arts, and dance from UT Arlington—pumped more than $118 million a year into the economy and supported more than 1,200 jobs, community leaders recognized the burgeoning potential in the city's arts and culture scene. In brainstorming ways to better understand what the arts do for Arlington, they naturally turned to UTA.

"It's important for universities, especially big research universities like UTA, to be bastions of expertise that you can't really find in other locations," says Dan Cavanagh, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) and a member of the Downtown Arlington Management Corporation (DAMC). "By its very nature, that concentration of expertise and creative activity in COLA alone seeps out into the community."

Designated as the Arlington Cultural District, downtown Arlington aims to be a place where creativity and hometown pride thrive. Within less than a two-mile radius, downtown features visual and performing arts institutions, live entertainment locales, professional athletics venues, and dining and retail establishments. The DAMC is a private nonprofit created to build alliances between businesses, residents and the city to enhance downtown arts, culture, and economic vitality.

"Here in downtown Arlington, we love the arts" says Maggie Campbell, president and CEO of the DAMC. "Clearly, the arts community is a strong and vital sector of our economy with great potential for growth and broader impact."

The DAMC has selected interns from the University to help promote the arts scene in Arlington. UTA students have been assisting cultural arts district partners such as the Arlington Museum of Art, Theatre Arlington, and Symphony Arlington with ventures in improving web presence, brand strategies, social media, event planning, and more. The internship program is run by Katie Gosa ('18 BA, Psychology and History), who is also manager of business improvement district services and communications for the DAMC.

"The possibilities for civic engagement in the Arlington community for students are incredible," says Cavanagh. "It's a showcase for the amazing experiences our students are a part of and the accomplishments that they earn. Through our partnerships, we are engaged in the cutting edge of things happening in society."

Brittany Jones, public relations senior at UTA and DAMC intern, reflects on the connection between UT Arlington and the city, noting how welcoming its leaders, citizens, and business owners are.

"UTA *is* downtown Arlington," says Jones. "Both are continuously growing, and it's eye-opening to fully experience all the moving parts, meet the people involved, and be a part of the ways we can integrate UTA and Arlington better."

This process of working alongside the city—and integrating the time, knowledge, and skills of Mavericks into the local community—has an effect that goes beyond enriching Arlington. As Cavanagh notes, such hands-on experience can help prepare students to make a difference in the world however they choose to do so.

"As a university, we're on a mission to study and change the world and do things that impact it in a positive way," he says. "That takes a lot of forms, and certainly one of them is being engaged with our community partners."

THE BOND BETWEEN the city and its namesake University is undeniable, and the partnerships span so many areas that it would be impossible to detail them all. Mavericks have come to play a role in almost every aspect of Arlington life, from the University's collaborations with the Arlington Police Department to in-person and virtual music programming with the popular Levitt Pavilion. Other programs and services for community engagement include the campus serving as a place for residents to vote and even receive COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

With all the opportunities to get involved, students learn far beyond the nuts and bolts of their desired fields of study. Through service-learning projects, organized volunteer events for area nonprofits and community gardens, and much more, students develop a passion for community outreach while discovering all the versatile ways that can be accomplished.

As Mavericks continue to pursue the best for the city—their community, their streets, and their neighbors—they create an impact that ripples out across the globe. Because wherever Mavericks go, and whatever Mavericks do, they take that drive to make a difference with them.

Arlington City Manager and former president of the UTA Alumni Association, Trey Yelverton ('88 BA, Political Science and Public Administration) credits UTA with elevating the city with each success story.

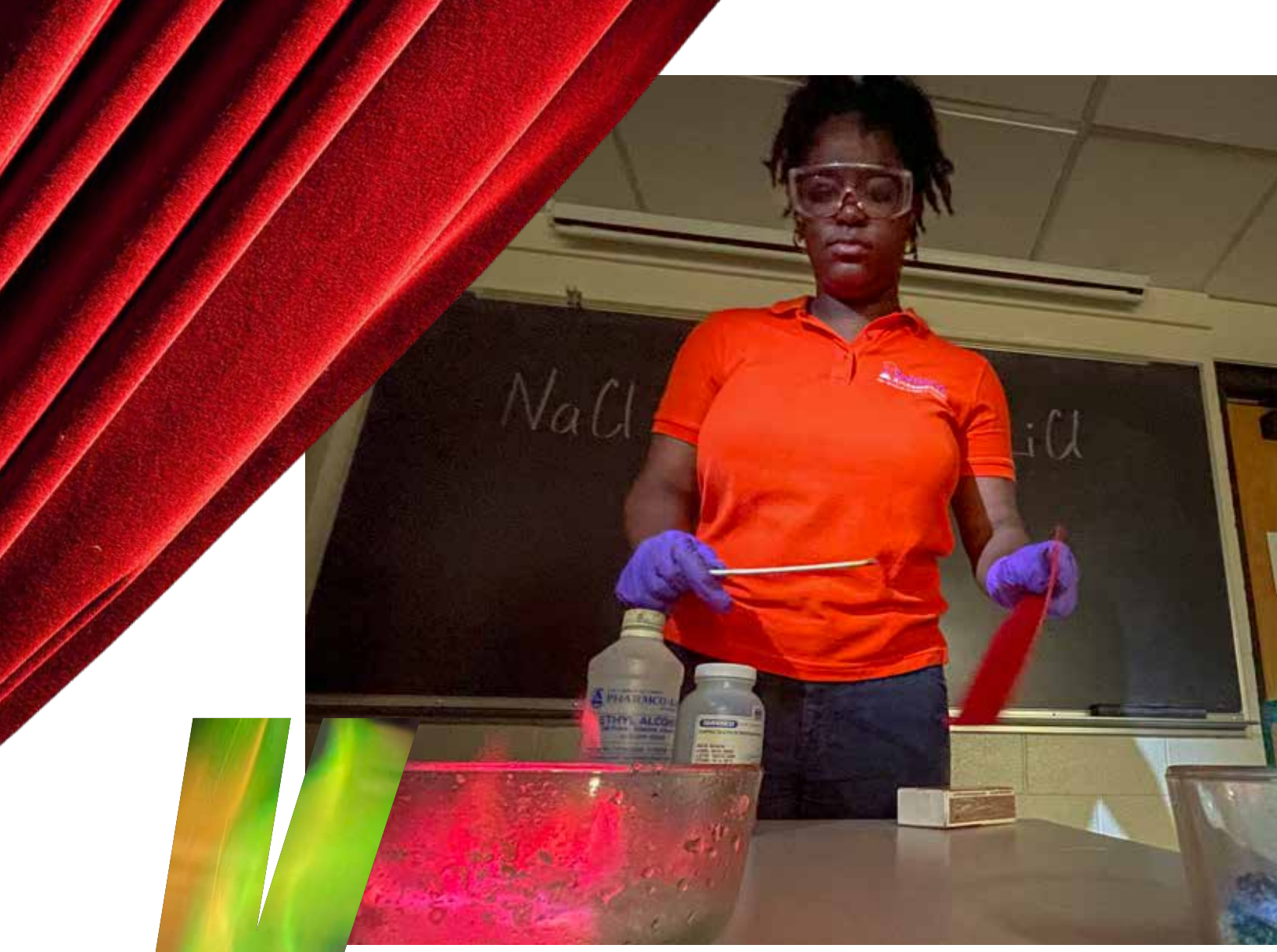
"UTA is one of the most distinguished research universities in both Texas and the United States," he says. "Arlington is truly fortunate to work alongside such a committed community partner, whose faculty, student body, and alumni actively contribute to the rich diverseness, economic strength, and boundless opportunity that make our city such an attractive place to live, work, and learn. We appreciate the University's leadership, vision, and willingness to join our efforts at creating a better Arlington for all." UTA

When COVID-19 prohibited large in-person concerts, UTA partnered with the Levitt Pavilion to bring free educational music presentations to a virtual audience.


Science

STRUCK BY STEM

Through inventive and engaging programs, professors and students in UTA's College of Science are nurturing the next generation of science and math enthusiasts and reforming secondary STEM education across the nation. BY LINSEY RETCOFSKY



YNADI HARRIS LIKES to set people on fire. As a science ambassador at UTA, she gets paid to do it. A performance troupe composed of the College of Science's best and brightest, UTA's science ambassadors infuse classroom lessons with theatrical flair, providing dramatic chemistry and physics demonstrations to K-12 students.

"Don't try this at home," Harris stresses as she and other student ambassadors progress through exciting displays of chemical reactions, well-timed explosions, and up-close-and-personal pyrotechnics.

Once per show, student spectators are asked to nominate their favorite teacher for a special experiment. Combining water and dish detergent, an ambassador fills a bucket with bubbles and asks the teacher to scoop up a handful. Striking a match, the ambassador sets fire to the soapy solution in the teacher's hand. Accompanied by a soundscape of gasps and giggles, the flame grows, then fades, leaving the teacher with a warm but unharmed palm.

"No one is injured, and the students are thrilled to watch their teacher ignite," Harris says.

The exciting display of science couldn't come at a better time for these students. Youth interest in STEM subjects steadily declines throughout K–12 school years, according to a study published by researchers at Oregon State University. Although young children initially show enthusiasm for a variety of STEM topics, their curiosity fades year after year. Programs like the one offered by UTA's science ambassadors intervene when students are at risk of turning their backs on science and math.

"We understand that students may not remember the complex explanations behind our demonstrations, but they will remember how they felt," says Greg Hale, assistant dean of the College of Science and the program's co-founder. "We hope to spark in them the same passion for science that our students and professors have."

Helping young students find that spark has become a national imperative. A recent study by the National Science Board reported that the United States is experiencing a shortage of STEM-trained professionals, leaving the nation's workforce in a vulnerable position when it comes to technological and scientific innovation.

According to the National Science Foundation, by 2026, science and engineering jobs are projected to grow by 13% compared with 7% growth in the overall U.S. labor pool. As demand grows, the need to engage America's youth in high-quality STEM education and encourage them to pursue related careers becomes even more vital.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, the science ambassadors astonished 13,000 elementary, middle, and high school students annually, performing in English and occasionally in Spanish on UTA's campus and at Title I schools. To accommodate social distancing, the show moved online for most of 2020 and 2021, but the team expects a relaunch of in-person performances as soon as safety protocols allow.

For Shundreka Lanier, program manager of the science ambassadors, the most rewarding part of any show is watching students' attitudes transform.

"When middle school students come to a performance, they plant themselves in the back row because that's where the cool kids sit," Lanier says. "I tell them to move to the front because that's where the college kids sit. They usually have an attitude, but once the show starts, their faces light up."

Seeing Is Believing

Women make up nearly half of the U.S. workforce but only account for 27% of workers in STEM careers, according to Census Bureau data. Minerva Cordero is on a mission to change that.

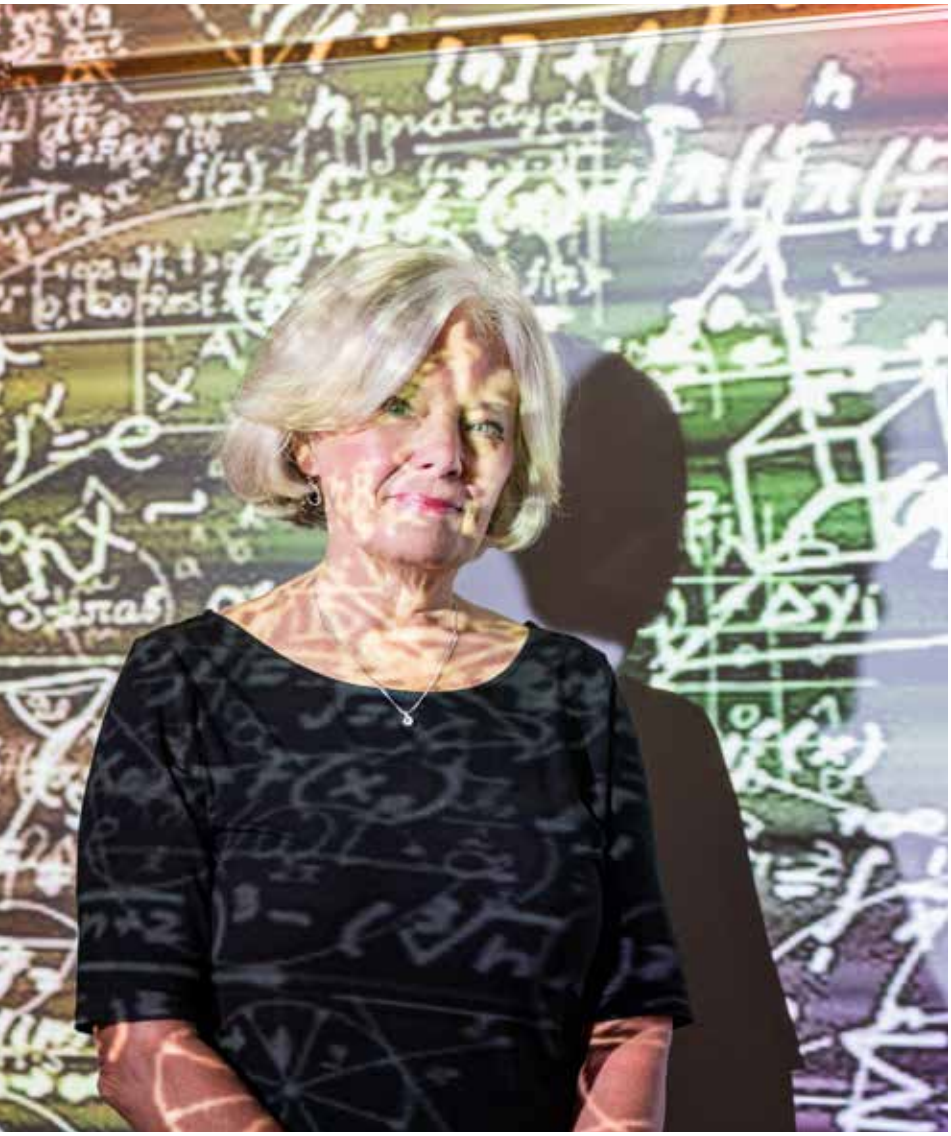
Dr. Cordero, professor of mathematics and senior associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Science, was one of 122 women featured as 3D-printed statues in the *#IfThenSheCan* exhibit at NorthPark Center in Dallas. She was chosen for her innovations in modern geometry and more than a decade of outreach to stimulate young girls' interest in mathematics.

She says the purpose of the exhibit is not only to celebrate the accomplishments of contemporary female scientists, engineers, and innovators, but also to influence young women to consider similar career paths.

"If girls witness successful women who enjoy careers

A 3D-printed statue of mathematics Professor Minerva Cordero for an If/Then exhibit.

"A woman's perspective is vital to any scientific process. Every experiment, design, or research investigation needs a diversity of opinions and lived experiences to achieve the broadest possible result."



Karen Jo Matsler, assistant professor of practice in the College of Science.

in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, then they will be more likely to pursue opportunities in STEM disciplines," Cordero says. "The If/Then philosophy is 'seeing is believing.' The exhibit is meant to inspire young women to put themselves in the scientists' places and think, 'That could be me one day.'"

She emphasizes that an important part of recruiting young women to career paths in science is that "seeing is believing" starts at home.

"I often ask parents to imagine that their daughter is a scientist, an engineer, or a doctor because their thoughts will influence her opinion of her own abilities. The truth is that their daughter can be anything she can imagine, and parents have a role to play in supporting her imagination."

Cordero, a first-generation college student from a financially humble family, wants girls and young women to know that their talents are indispensable to advancement and innovation in the fields of science and engineering.

"A woman's perspective is vital to any scientific process," she says. "Every experiment, design, or research investigation needs a diversity of opinions and lived experiences to achieve the broadest possible result."

Quantum Teaching

When Karen Jo Matsler walked into the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, she encountered the mind-bending laws of quantum science for the first time. She had no idea that what would happen next would eventually lead her to the White House.

After attending the institute's lectures in quantum computing, Dr. Matsler, a physics instructor with decades of experience in secondary and postsecondary education, felt an urgency to share what she had learned with other teachers.

"I had been active in teaching and professional development for more than 25 years and had never taught quantum," she says. "If that was the case for me, I knew that there would be many other science teachers who weren't familiar with quantum principles either."

Quantum information science is an interdisciplinary field that draws from information theory, computer science, and quantum mechanics to process information in novel ways. Quantum principles impact contemporary communication methods, technology, innovation, health care, issues of national security, and more.

Recognizing a national lack of secondary quantum education, Matsler began independent study of quantum information through seminars and classes led by industry professionals. Learning from experts, she developed workshops to introduce teachers like herself to the complexities of the field.

This year, Matsler and colleague Ramon Lopez, professor of physics, received $998,448 from the National Science Foundation to offer one of the country's first nationwide quantum education initiatives for secondary teachers.

Due to her efforts, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy asked Matsler to join a 25-member committee to develop a national strategy for students to engage with quantum science.

While officials at the national level discussed the imperative of a quantum workforce and proposed the launch of quantum research centers hosted by universities, Matsler argued that exposure to quantum information must begin in high school classrooms.

"Our government leaders are correct; we need to train university students and members of the workforce in quantum skills," she says. "But we have to establish a pipeline to feed into those programs. If students have never heard of these concepts before they enter college, they likely won't choose to study them at advanced levels."

Matsler's efforts to equip teachers don't stop at quantum education. When she's not lecturing on leading-edge scientific theory, she's preparing science majors to become top-notch educators.

For Matsler and Dr. Hale, the answer to the nation's

STEM workforce challenge is found in programs that train highly qualified science and mathematics teachers—like the science-educator degree program at UTA, UTeach Arlington.

"Many teachers certified for STEM teaching in Texas have minimal amounts of college coursework in STEM disciplines," says Hale, who is co-director of the program. "The best-prepared teachers have deep knowledge of their disciplines and excellent STEM-specific pedagogical skills. Our graduates leave UTA prepared to become first-class educators as a result of their STEM degrees and the exemplary pedagogical preparation they received."

Data collected from the degree program's 10-year history demonstrates how College of Science graduates are helping to close the gap in the nation's STEM-talented workforce.

With more than 240 UTeach graduates, the College of Science impacts 20,000 students each year. Sixty-one percent of the program's educators are teaching in K-12 schools with majority low-income populations.

Economically disadvantaged students who study under College of Science graduates demonstrate deeper math and science comprehension than their peers.

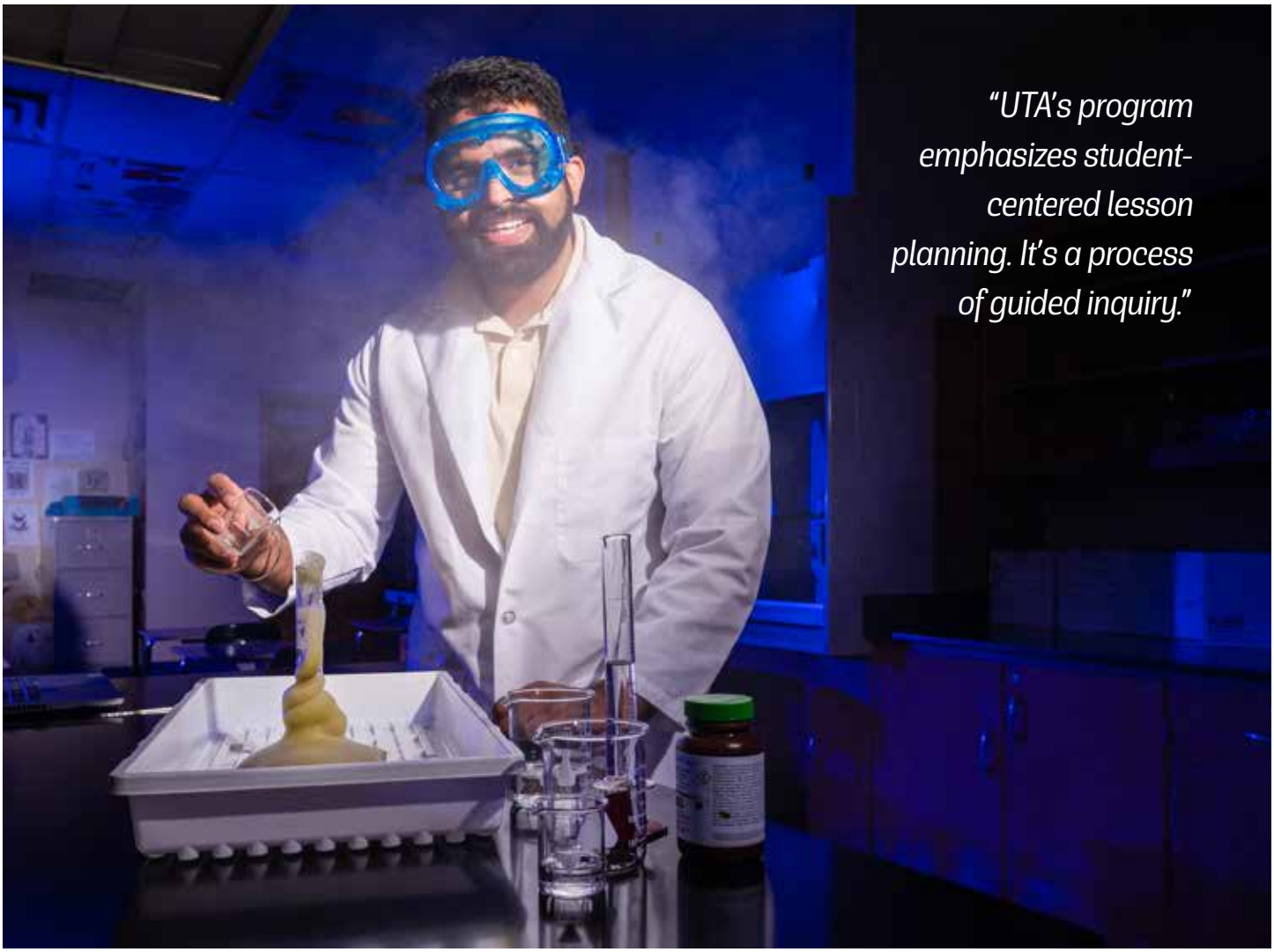
"Our goal is for our graduates and their students not just to survive, but to thrive," Matsler says.

Parvinder Singh, who teaches pre-advanced placement and advanced placement chemistry at Seguin High School in Arlington, leans on teaching methods he learned at UTA as he attempts to demystify chemistry for his young students.

"UTA's program emphasizes student-centered lesson planning," Singh says. "It's a process of guided inquiry. As the instructor, I provide students with goals and the steps for how to achieve those goals, then walk them through the process. But the student is encouraged to be self-motivated and move themselves through the steps."

The impact of Singh's training is not only evident in improved test scores, but in students' attitudes as well.

"At the beginning of a semester of advanced chemistry, the students are afraid," Singh says. "By the end of the semester, they are telling me they want to be chemistry teachers." UTA



Parvinder Singh demonstrates an experiment in his high school classroom lab.

THE STUDENT SUCCESS ECOSYSTEM

Dedicated programs and initiatives, engaged peers and faculty, and financial support through scholarships ensure a self-sustaining ecosystem of student success at UTA.

BY ELLEN ROSSETTI

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MAX-O-MATIC


ARLINGTON
U T Arlington

Students like Sarah Nelson, pictured here along with her dog and study buddy, Faben, benefit from programs in the Division of Student Success–and in turn are often inspired to give back, supporting the success of their peers.

NURSING STUDENT SARAH NELSON jokes that her dog Faben knows a lot about insulin right now. When studying, Nelson turns to her German shepherd husky mix and teaches him as if he were a student, helping cement the information in her mind before tests. It's a trick she learned thanks to UTA, and it's one of several study techniques that propelled her to higher grades, greater confidence, and an even brighter future. She teaches these tips to fellow students so they can find their own paths to academic success.

"IT'S PROBABLY THE most impactful thing I have done in my life so far," says Nelson, who leads study sessions for students as a supplemental instruction (SI) leader. "I know college can be very difficult ... and if I can be that one resource that makes it a little bit easier, then my job is done, and I am happy and fulfilled."

UTA supports its students' academic success through a holistic approach that includes academic advising and coaching, tutoring, supplemental instruction (SI), peer-led team learning, residential learning communities, first-year experience courses, and more. Most of these services are housed in UTA's Division of Student Success, founded in 2018, where Nelson is an SI leader. Scholarships and fellowships also play a key role in giving talented, highly motivated students the financial assistance they need to complete school, empowering them to succeed in college and careers.

"We want to help students early in their academic careers to develop a plan for success that is unique to them as individuals and their hopes and dreams," says Ashley Purgason, associate vice provost for the division. "We want students to develop a sense of belonging, to acquire a strong affinity for the institution, and, for their own motivation, to complete their degree. The way we do that is by helping them see success in themselves very early on in the process."

STARTING OUT

That educational journey often starts with an academic advisor from the division's University Advising Center (UAC), which primarily serves first-year, first-time-in-college students. Advisors are typically one of the first contacts that students make at UTA, says Aaron Brown, assistant vice provost for academic advising.

"We offer a friendly, knowledgeable presence at this institution," Dr. Brown says. "We create a feeling of belonging and comfort for students. Knowing you have someone you can count on who is quick to listen and steer you in the right direction is huge."

In 2020, the UAC held a whopping 17,750 appointments with students in person, by phone, through email, or virtually. In addition to academic advising, UAC advisors point students to help within UTA.

"Our advisors are trained to know the ins and outs of the University,"

"We create a feeling of belonging and comfort for students. Knowing you have someone you can count on who is quick to listen and steer you in the right direction is huge."

Brown says. "We offer tools and resources and referrals. When you put all that together, you can see how important that first academic advisor can be to get students merged onto the right path for their educational goals."

Division of Student Success administrators say they want students to find resources early so they start strong. This summer, the division offered incoming students a program called Success U—virtual sessions to prepare for college after a year of possible learning loss during the pandemic. Students who completed the program earned a $350 Provost's Award.

> "Scholarships create so many ripple effects in a collegiate environment. It is a huge investment to our education that will bring great returns to our community at large."

Freshmen take a first-year experience course to introduce them to UTA resources, friends, and an upper-class peer academic leader (PAL) who is trained by the division.

"You don't feel alone, and that is really great," says Alexandra Saucedo, a junior from Dallas studying public relations who took the course in 2020 and became a PAL this fall.

As a PAL, Saucedo works with a faculty member to develop and present lessons to 20 to 25 freshmen on topics from managing money to finding scholarships and improving study skills.

"Even if you don't need it at the moment, it's just good to know it up front your first year and fall back on it," Saucedo says. "There's a huge team there to help you."

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

Whether students want to raise a grade or maintain an A, UTA's resources can give them a scholarly edge. Academic coaches can create individualized plans to help with study skills, time management, and more.

"This isn't just for students who are really struggling, although it could certainly help those students as well. But it could be for students who have maybe one poor exam grade or course in particular they are struggling with or one bad semester," Dr. Purgason says. "Typically, all students have some point in their academic career when they struggle. We want students to realize that's normal, and it's OK. It's not a reason to stop their education."

Other initiatives focus on individual courses. Students such as Nelson, who graduated in December with honors, successfully complete a course for credit and then are hired as SI leaders to attend the course again and help others. Nelson held free study sessions as an SI leader for students in Anatomy and Physiology 1 and other nursing courses.

"I can't even describe the swells of pride I feel," Nelson says of seeing fellow students improve grades after attending study sessions.

Daisy Figueroa, a junior from Houston studying computer engineering, found help from SI leaders and TRIO, a federally funded program for eligible students.

"They made my life easier for my classes," says Figueroa, who studied in South Korea in fall 2021. "In class, I'm more focused on taking notes than asking questions about the topic. Having that one-on-one with a tutor helps me ask questions and go over topics that I didn't understand in class. … The tutors will try many different ways to explain the topic to you to make sure you understand."

INVESTING IN FUTURES

Scholarships are another way UTA helps support student success. UTA is pledging an additional $25 million in scholarships over the next five years to help academically talented students succeed.

Figueroa earned the Shirlee J. and Taylor Gandy First Generation Scholarship and Rear Admiral Grace M. Hopper STEM Scholarship, which not only helped make college more affordable, but also provided her with additional motivation to see her goals through to the end.

This is precisely the intention of the Gandy scholarship, which was established in 2012 to help first-generation students like Figueroa achieve academic success and set them up for bright futures after college. Shirlee Gandy ('70 BA, Political Science) was the first in her family to graduate from college, and she and her husband wanted to allow future generations of Mavericks the same opportunity.

Likewise, the Rear Admiral Grace M. Hopper STEM Scholarship—made possible through a generous gift from an anonymous donor—opens up opportunities for first-generation students who demonstrate persistence, technical knowledge, and volunteer service while pursuing degrees in STEM-related academic programs. Dr. Hopper was a pioneer in computer science and military service.

"Having these scholarships really helps me stay in school and work hard," Figueroa says. "They help you go to the path you want to be on and not worry about the money part or loans."

An Honors Presidential Scholarship—awarded to top-ranked high school students—helped cover architecture student Tony Pham's tuition, while a Charles R. Knerr Memorial Scholarship covered additional academic expenses. The Knerr scholarship was established through a generous gift from Andrew B. Sommerman ('83 BA, Political Science) and honors Dr. Knerr, a longtime political science professor at UTA who died in 2012.

"It feels incredibly rewarding to receive a good sum to fund my architecture endeavors," says Pham, who plans to graduate in 2024 and attend graduate school before pursuing a career as an architect or planner.

"The costs of equipment and supplies I need to get for architecture school are pricey, but thanks to the Knerr scholarship, I can afford them for this year," Pham says. "Scholarships create so many ripple effects in a collegiate environment. It is a huge investment to our education that will bring great returns to our community at large."

GROWING TOGETHER

A key to success is building a supportive community, administrators say. In UTA's peer-led team learning program, faculty members create study packets for math, science, and engineering courses, and peer leaders meet with a small study group to lead reviews of the packets.

"It is a way for faculty to directly guide how students are studying outside of that course," says Kimshi Hickman, assistant vice provost for retention and completion. "We make it mandatory so that if you get in that study group, you stay with the same small group and meet once a week. So they get to bond. It definitely adds to that sense of belonging that we want students to have."

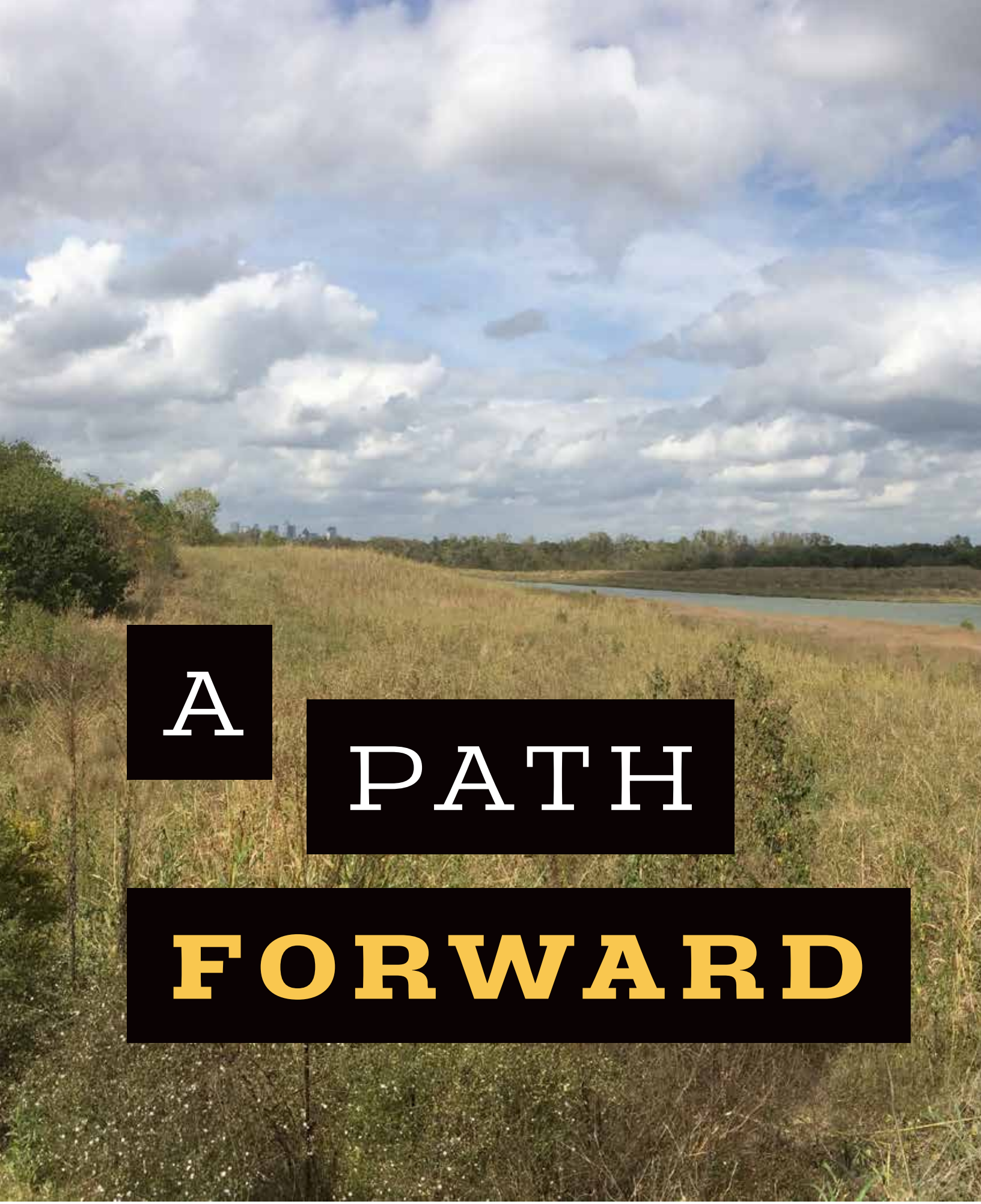
Students can also find support in their residence halls. Those with similar interests can live and learn together in residential learning communities, typically themed by major. In addition, a Men of Distinction residential learning community focusing on retention of Black and Latino males at UTA is open to all students.

"Students are part of a cohort group, which means they are naturally and organically going to build tight relationships and friendships in that group," Purgason says. "These students are typically retained in the freshman year at a rate of 7% higher than the rest of the freshman class."

Altogether, the division reports a 4% increase in the first-time-in-college retention rate and an 8% increase in the six-year first-time-in-college graduation rate since 2017. Those numbers show the student success initiatives moving the needle toward helping students graduate, Purgason says.

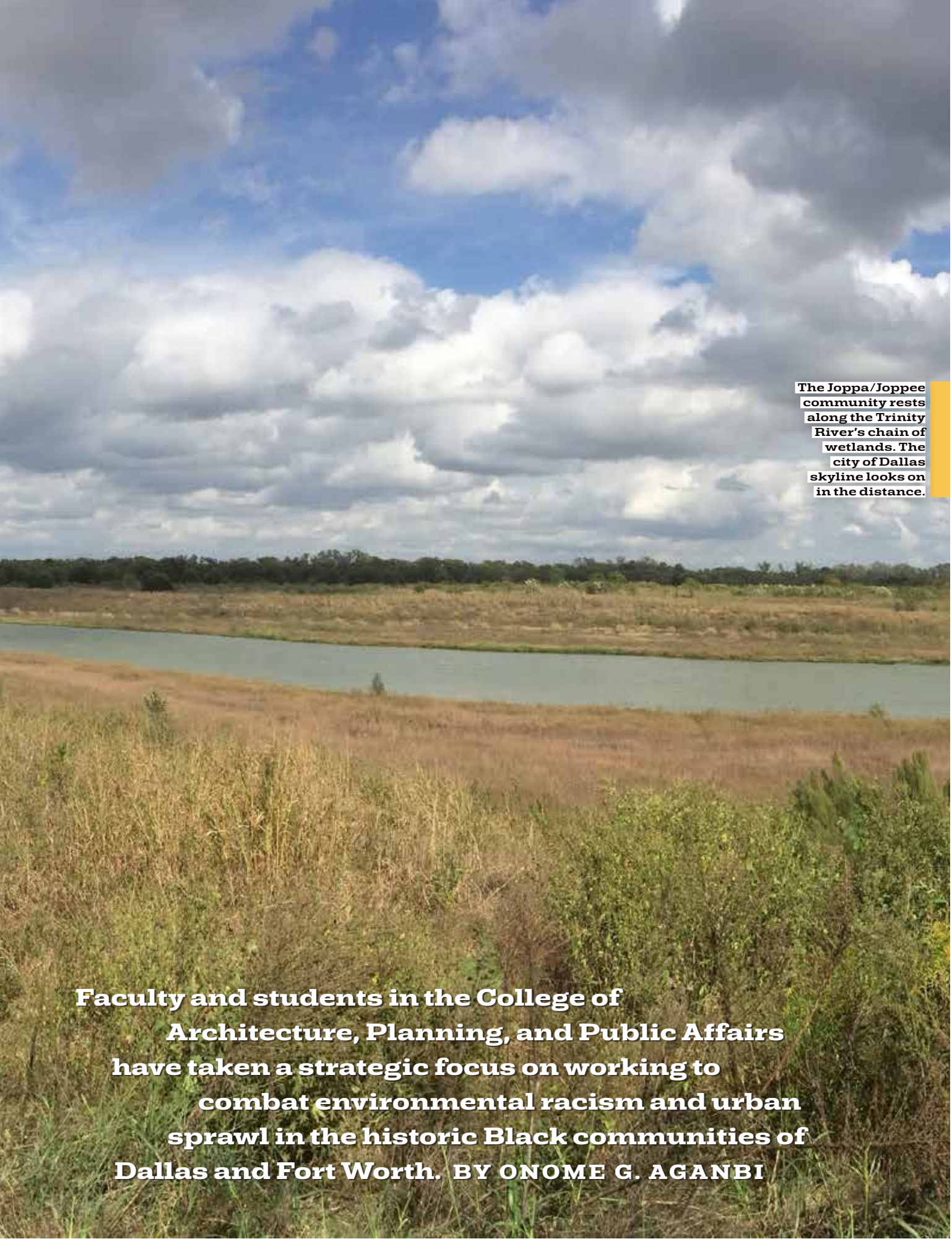
"The success is there in the students. It's always been there," Purgason says. "We are not necessarily doing anything that the student doesn't already have within them. But what we are doing is giving them tools to find it within themselves, and we want to open their eyes to that potential as early as possible." UTA

Scholarship support provides students like Tony Pham, an honors architecture major, more opportunities to achieve their dreams.



A PATH FORWARD

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHRYN HOLLIDAY



The Joppa/Joppee community rests along the Trinity River's chain of wetlands. The city of Dallas skyline looks on in the distance.

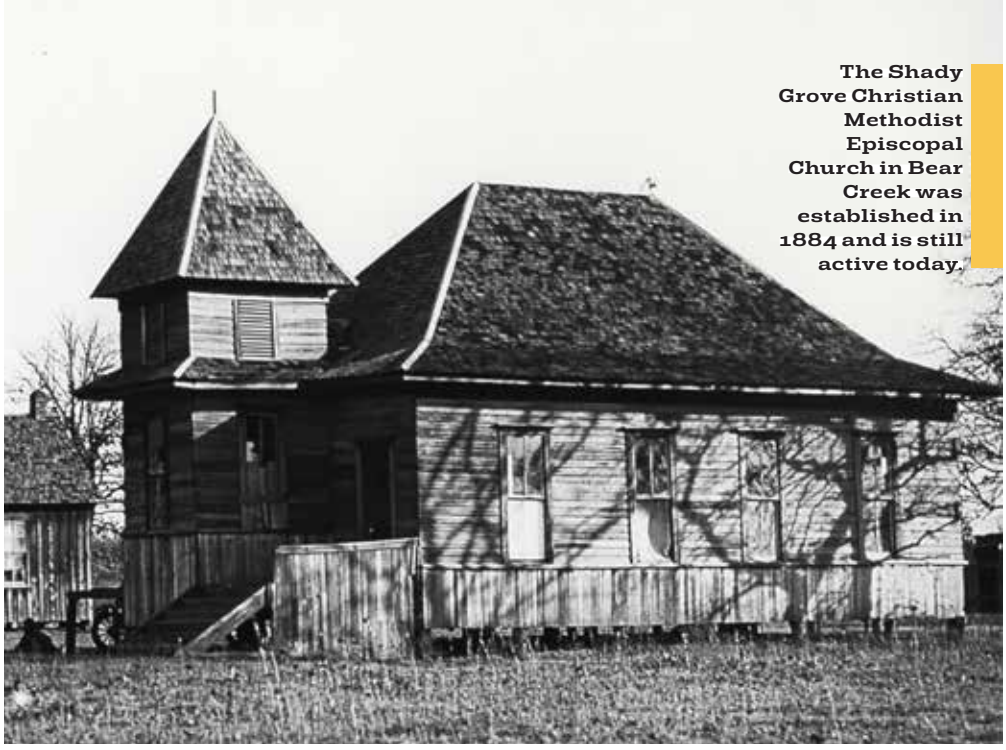
Faculty and students in the College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs have taken a strategic focus on working to combat environmental racism and urban sprawl in the historic Black communities of Dallas and Fort Worth. BY ONOME G. AGANBI

When Henry Critz Hines was sent to Texas from Missouri during the Civil War, it was as property meant for safekeeping. Though Texas was a state that sought to uphold slavery, it didn't see much fighting or presence from Union soldiers—so many southern Confederates saw the state as a safe place to keep their slaves during the war to ensure they did not become free.

Hines was sent to the Miller Plantation, which stood in an area that is now within today's city of Dallas. When the war ended and the Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves, Hines chose to stay in the area, eventually settling in and creating a community, Joppa (sometimes referred to as Joppee), just north of the plantation. He was joined by several other freed slaves, and Joppa became a "freedom colony"—also known as a "Freedmen's town"—one of several that were forming throughout the south at the time.

Joppa still stands today, a quiet, small community of about 750, located near the banks of the Trinity River at the edge of the Great Trinity Forest in southeast Dallas County—but it stands as a city

Rich in history and community, local Freedmen's towns are under threat from nearby city encroachment. Pictured here: An aerial view of the Joppa area in the 1930s.



The Shady Grove Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Bear Creek was established in 1884 and is still active today.

Photographs courtesy of the City of Dallas (left), and the Irving Archives (right)

under continual threat from encroaching city development. Joppa is far from the only historic Black settlement under threat from urban sprawl. Historic Black settlements in urban areas across the United States—and many right here in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex—are being subjected to environmental and industrial hazards that jeopardize their health and survival.

Over the last several years, faculty and students from the College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs (CAPPA) have been getting involved, seeking ways to help preserve these important settlements.

"We have to care about the future of communities like this," says Diane Jones Allen, professor and director of UTA's Landscape Architecture Program. "It's important—and vital—to expose students to these kinds of issues and problems. Working with communities is essential to our society."

Creating a Design Playbook

Earlier this year, Dr. Allen and her co-contributors—Austin Allen, associate professor of practice, and Kathryn Holliday, director of the David Dillon Center for Texas Architecture and professor of architectural history—won a $40,000 SOM Foundation research prize to create a design playbook for Black settlements in North Texas. Their goal is to work with these communities to combat environmental racism and urban sprawl.

"Many of these cities and towns no longer exist as communities; they are more historical sites because they've succumbed to pressures," Diane Jones Allen says. "There has been a long-seated desire to tackle these issues, as the communities are now on the verge of losing their historical significance."

With the SOM Foundation grant and other contributions received from the Dallas Regional Chamber and CAPPA, the UTA team has begun to collaborate successfully with many historic Black communities. While focused on Joppa, the research team is also working with The Bottom, Bear Creek, Mosier Valley, and The Garden of Eden. Each of these historic settlements survives today, and they are affected by similar issues of environmental racism and outside development pressure. However, they are in different cities and governed by local policies controlling land use, zoning, development, and preservation.

Alone, each singular community faces significant hurdles to achieving equitable development. As a collective, they gain considerable strength.

The research team is working with the South-Central Civic League Joppee Neighborhood Association, founded in 1947, to establish best practices for negotiating complex planning issues and adverse regulatory policies, including approaches and tactics applied to areas burdened with years of structural racism and discrimination.

"These areas have been historically neglected," says Austin Allen. "We can reverse a lot of those inequities with this project. Shaping the future of communities through those communities is the way planning is supposed to happen."

The design playbook maps the connections between the involved communities and details the challenges they face. It also emphasizes the voices of

> "It's important—and vital—to expose students to these kinds of issues and problems. Working with communities is essential to our society."

LOCAL FREEDMEN'S TOWNS

The Garden of Eden

A historically Black neighborhood in Fort Worth, The Garden of Eden was established around 1860 by freed slaves from Kentucky and Tennessee. At its peak, the settlement had a total of 54 households; 20 people live there today, all descendants of the first settlers.

The Bottom

Situated on low-lying terrain along the Trinity River, The Bottom was frequently flooded before the Trinity River levee system was installed. The once-thriving community has been steadily declining over years of neglect and a shrinking residential population. Today, it claims 123 residents.

Mosier Valley

Texas's first all-Black community, Mosier Valley was established a few years after the Civil War. The town reached a peak population of about 300 in the early 1900s, though it was never measured separately in a census.

Bear Creek

One of the oldest African American communities in Dallas County, Bear Creek claims a rich and storied history. Urbanization and new home construction have led to an exploding population at Bear Creek, but with it, the identity of the community has changed.

Bonton

Located in South Dallas, Bonton remains a predominantly African American community today. The town has endured racial injustice and systematic oppression, with 42.9% of the population falling below the poverty line. However, major revitalization efforts, like Bonton Farms, are underway.

community members in the design and decision-making processes, prioritizing grassroots storytelling and development.

"As a historian, I believe we cannot understand Dallas and Fort Worth as cities without understanding the role that Freedmen's towns play in shaping them," says Dr. Holliday. "These towns played—and continue to play—a vital role in providing spaces of self-determination for Black communities, and their history should be celebrated and preserved."

Tackling Multifaceted Issues

A second $20,000 grant from the Dallas Regional Chamber aims to elevate southern Dallas County to a more economically fertile, better-informed, and healthier place to live. Holliday, Austin Allen, and Julia Lindgren, assistant professor of architecture, are leading this project, which will also center on the Joppa/Joppee neighborhood.

The Chamber project started with Holliday's preservation efforts at the Melissa Pierce School, a former historically Black school in Joppa. Austin Allen has dedicated multiple architecture and landscape architecture studio projects to the Joppa community, the school building, and the watershed of Honey Springs Branch with the goal of creating a neighborhood stabilization overlay.

The UT Arlington team will work closely with the South-Central Civic League Joppa Neighborhood Association on planning, engagement, and implementation of art installations, design-build projects, and research studios that bring students, faculty, and community members together.

Both projects build on work by the Dillon Center, including the 2017 Dillon Symposium, "Equity and Freedom's Footprint in Dallas Freedmen's Towns,"

Delbert Sanders shared a brief history of The Garden of Eden district and its current challenges with CAPPA students who visited over the summer.

and the 2019 Dillon Symposium, "Freedmen's Town Stories," which was produced in partnership with bcWorkshop, a nonprofit community design center.

A Journey Through Freedmen's Towns

Beyond addressing the challenges the towns face through funding and faculty involvement, CAPPA has also made it a priority to get students on the ground, working hands-on in the communities themselves.

Over the summer, on a tour organized by Holliday, students traveled to the historic Freedmen's towns. The students were divided into smaller groups to engage in dialogue with community members and explore how the cities deal with land use, zoning regulations, preservation rules, and industrial and housing development. The Freedmen's town journey revealed these once-thriving settlements with schools, community centers, and agriculture have been taken over by urbanization, factories, and other enterprises, making the areas less desirable. They now need revitalization, community parks, and beautification to stabilize the present residential areas while while they develop guidelines to influence future development.

Students saw the effects of revitalization efforts firsthand with their visit to the Bonton Farms, located in the town of Bonton. The Bonton Farms promotes development in reclaiming unoccupied land for the sake of employment creation, revenue generation, and the promotion of healthy diets and behaviors. The farms have grown over the years, from a small garden to two fully operational farms, a farmer's market, a cafe, and a coffee house.

Going Forward, Together

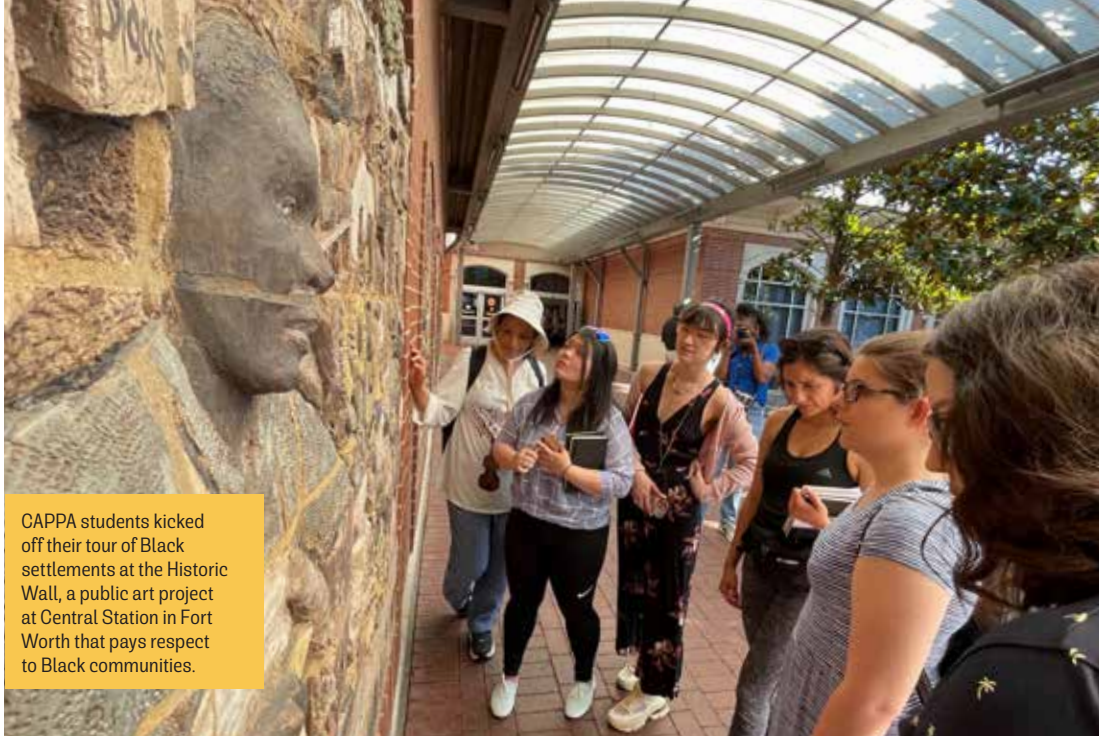
An event for the SOM Foundation, including final student presentations and a community roundtable, was held this summer.

In the roundtable discussions, more than 30 community members collaborated on practical strategies for the future successes of their neighborhoods and began developing real-time plans for attaining outcomes and resources needed to accomplish their objectives.

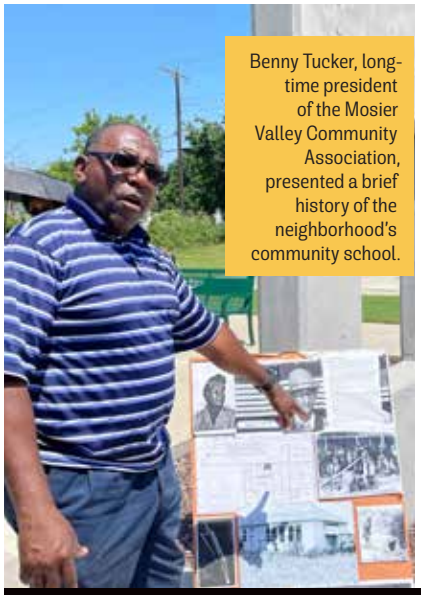
A key development of the research and community collaboration is the Future Plan strategy, which uses history to help determine ways to collectively capture metropolitan tourism that focuses on and benefits the communities through promoting funding and support; creating ways to meet regularly to organize and share issues, progress, and stories; and taking advantage of shared occasions such as Juneteenth. It also places a focus on honoring descendants of community founders and giving these grassroots groups influence over design and decision-making.

The team will continue to work on the design playbook, doing additional research and engagement before publishing this strategic document.

"The commitment of our CAPPA faculty to engage fully with underserved communities as they protect their history and share it with future generations is at the heart of our work as educators," says Maria Martinez-Cosio, interim dean of CAPPA. "We hope that our work with the Joppee Neighborhood Association will seed similar efforts engaging architectural history, sustainability, and environmental justice and thus provide our students with the tools they'll need as they move us toward a goal of equitable development." UTA



CAPPA students kicked off their tour of Black settlements at the Historic Wall, a public art project at Central Station in Fort Worth that pays respect to Black communities.



Benny Tucker, longtime president of the Mosier Valley Community Association, presented a brief history of the neighborhood's community school.

Kathryn Holliday, Austin Allen, and Diane Jones Allen are leading several projects with historic Black communities.

Class Notes

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

FILL US IN

You never call. You don't write. We miss you! Email us at classnotes@uta.edu and let us know what is keeping you so busy.

1971

J. Gary Rankin (BS, Mechanical Engineering) retired in 2020 after 50 years in the aerospace business. He worked for LTV Missiles and Space Corporation before joining the NASA Johnson Space Center, where he worked the last 43 years.

1980

Lloyd D. Khuc (BS, Electrical Engineering) retired after 16 years at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command-Armaments Centers in Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. He earned the Army's Research and Development Achievement Award for Technical Excellence in 2010.

1981

Lynne McLean (MSW; '79 BA, Sociology) is the CEO of Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County in Texas. Previously, she served 14 years with Child Protective Services and as executive director of Community Partners of Dallas and Greater Texas Community Partners.

1982

Tobi Jackson (BA, Physical Education) was elected president of the Fort Worth ISD Board of Education.

1984

Jaynie Schultz (MA, Urban Studies) was elected to the Dallas City Council in June. She served on the Dallas City Plan Commission and chaired the Urban Design Committee, served on the city's Market Value Analysis Committee, and sits on the Welcoming Communities Committee. She is also active with the Muslim Jewish Advisory Council of the American Jewish Committee and the Akiba Yavneh Foundation and is president of the foundation for CityLab High School.

1988

Bahram Alidaee (PhD, Mathematical Sciences) has been a professor of operations/supply chain and pharmacy administration at the University of Mississippi's School of Business since 1995.

Edwin A. Lichwa II
(BS, Biology) is a senior physician in adult medicine with Kaiser Permanente in Davis, California, and was appointed to the Opioid Safety Committee for the Northern California region. He graduated from Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1992.

1989

Tommy Dies
(BBA, Finance) is owner and president of Bryan Insurance Agency in Graham, Texas. He is a member of the board of directors of the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas.

1990

Nirmal Goswami
(PhD, Public and Urban Administration) was named a Regents Professor by Texas A&M System, the highest honor that can be awarded to a faculty member.

Dan Powers
(MSW) is chief operating officer of Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County in Texas. A licensed clinical social worker, he is the past chairman and current member of the Texas Children's Justice Act Task Force and a member of the Texas Statewide Multidisciplinary Team.

1991

Jon M. Larson
(MBA) was appointed head of homebuilder and community finance for Texas Capital Bank.

Mark Lederman
(BA, Journalism) is a director of Education in Action's Lone Star Leadership Academy, based in Keller, Texas. He teaches English, world history, and economics at Timberview High School in Mansfield, Texas.

1995

Aprel Dobson
(BA, History) is director of finance for Onward Medicaid Solutions. She has 25 years of experience in Texas school-based Medicaid.

1996

Tracie Hlavinka
(BA, Psychology) is the new city manager of Lago Vista, Texas. Previously, she served as town manager for Clarkdale, Arizona.

"Alumni, get back on campus! Part of the journey after graduating is staying connected, and the best way is to attend athletic events. Mav Up!"

—DAVID DANIEL ('83 BBA)
Director of Contract Packaging Sales, Progressive Laboratories

1997

Susan Alanis
(MPA) was named to the board of directors of the Metropolitan Area EMS Authority for Fort Worth, Texas. She is the chief operating officer for Tarrant County College District.

2001

Kylie Finnell
(BA, English) has been selected as city attorney for the city of Bremerton, Washington. She has practiced law in Kitsap County for more than 16 years in the public sector and in private practice. Finnell earned a law degree from the University of Houston Law Center.

2002

Sharon Boothe
(BBA, Business Management) is the interim superintendent for the Greenville ISD in Texas. Previously, she was deputy superintendent for three years.

Linda Plank
(PhD, Nursing; '77 BSN) began her tenure as dean of the Louise Herrington School of Nursing at Baylor University in May after serving as interim dean since summer 2020. Dr. Plank was a registered nurse at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas for more than three decades.

Charles V.L. "Chuck" Elia (AS) Retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Charles V.L. "Chuck" Elia celebrated his 100th birthday July 27 at a ceremony hosted by the U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) in San Antonio, Texas. In honor of his dedication to Army veterinary medicine, a Percheron draft horse from the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Caisson was officially renamed Elia. He was a charter member of the museum and still volunteers there. Elia attended North Texas Agricultural College (now UTA) before he was commissioned into the Army in 1942.

CLASS NOTES

Angelia Young ('88 BS, General Studies) joined the Center for Policing Equity as the program manager for the law enforcement initiatives team. The team works with law enforcement agencies to understand how their officers police the communities they serve and make positive changes toward increasing policing equity.

2003

Alan Bentrup
(BA, Communications) is rector of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church in Keller, Texas.

2005

Shannon Fisher
(MS, Health Care Administration) is chair of the board of directors for 6 Stones, a nonprofit based in Bedford, Texas, that provides daily clothing and food assistance to 300 people per week and helps restore homes. She serves on the board of the Junior League of Dallas and is co-chair of the community investment cabinet for United Way of Tarrant County.

2006

Michelle Boudria
(MSN) is in practice with Fort Worth Renal Group in Fort Worth.

Tiffany Huitt
(MS, Interdisciplinary Studies) is acting chief of school leadership for the Dallas Independent School District. She also serves on the Texas Education Agency Science Standards TEKS Revisions Committee and the Leadership Council for the Global Learning Network.

2007

Holly Behl
(BA, Spanish) is a legal translator and interpreter working in Spanish and English. An instructor with the UT Austin Center for Professional Education, she owns Preciso Language Services, which focuses on legal topics. She is a master licensed court interpreter with Texas Judicial Branch Certification Commission and certified translator with the American Translators Association.

2008

Deepa Koshaley
(MS, Landscape Architecture) held an exhibit of her nature-inspired paintings, *Ancient Hymns*, July through September at the Mesquite Arts Center in Mesquite, Texas.

Jennifer Marburger
(MSN; '04 BSN) is a nurse practitioner at Shannon Clinic – Knickerbocker in San Angelo, Texas. She has more than 13 years of medical experience in pediatric and acute patient care.

Ramoun Mourhatch
(PhD, Materials Science and Engineering) is a lead scientist developing automotive engine oils at Chevron Oronite, part of Chevron Corp.

2011

Jeannie Patton Deakyne
(MA, '98 BA, Political Science) was elected to the Tarrant County College District board of trustees. She will serve through 2027.

> "The learning at UTA is solid, my teachers were wonderful, and my peers added a global perspective to my experience."
>
> —ANA A. GALINDO ('20 MS, MARKETING RESEARCH)
> *Director of Customer Experience, Travelers*

2012

Raquel Alvarado
(MSN) was appointed assistant clinical professor at UT Health Center at San Antonio. She has a clinical background in critical care, home health, case management, and nursing education. She served four years as an officer in the Army Nurse Corps Reserves.

Teneisha Kennard
(MSW) is the executive director of Behavioral Health–Ambulatory Services at JPS Health Network.

Gina M. Simoneaux
(BSN) has been appointed vice president of patient services for North Oaks Health System, based in Hammond, Louisiana.

Steve Hunker ('08 BS, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering) contributed his talents to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory as it developed Perseverance, the Mars rover. Hunker and his colleagues were responsible for designing and developing a robotic arm fitted to the underside of the rover.

2013

Claudia Calvo-Montes
(MS, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is the new principal of Ginnings Elementary School in Denton, Texas. She received the the 2020 Region 11 Education Service Center Assistant Principal of the Year, awarded by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association.

Ericka Olivarez
(MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is principal of the Northside Independent School District's new CAST Teach High School in San Antonio, Texas, which opened in August 2020.

Jerald Wilson
(MEd, Curriculum and Instruction) was selected the principal of Kealing Middle School in Austin, Texas, in December 2020.

2014

Chigane Abraham
(BSN) is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner with Patterns Psychiatry in Pantego, Texas.

2016

Steven Crittenden
(BBA, Management) serves as the chief administration officer for Proveer Senior Living in McKinney, Texas.

James Hubbard
(MPA; '11 BA, Criminology and Criminal Justice) was named city manager for Jacksonville, Texas. Previously, he was assistant to the city manager for the city of Colleyville, Texas. He is the president of the Jacksonville Economic Development Organization

John Miranda
(BFA, Art) had his work shown at the Erin Cluley Gallery in Dallas. His *Movidas: New Work* opened in May 2021.

2017

Niccole Crews
(BS, Exercise Science) has joined HealthQuarters, a medical service provider in New York City.

Nkechi Ezema
(MSN, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) is lead psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner with Patterns Psychiatry in Pantego, Texas.

CLASS NOTES

Meagan Perry
(MEd, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; '10 BA, Broadcast Communication) is the disability access coordinator in the Office of Disability Access at UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

2018

Robert B. Caldwell Jr.
(PhD, History) is a visiting assistant professor of Native American and Indigenous studies at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

2019

Elias Perez
(BA, Political Science) is a facilitator with Education in Action's Lone Star Leadership Academy, based in Keller, Texas. He is certified to teach secondary social studies and is a classroom assistant at Gunn Junior High in Arlington.

2020

Lauren Casey
(MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner) is a nurse practitioner at Treehouse Pediatrics in Round Rock, Texas. Previously, she worked at St. David's Round Rock Medical Center as an emergency room/trauma nurse.

Emily Snider
(MSN, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner) is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner at Scottish Rite for Children in Dallas.

2021

Aislyn Avery
(MEd, Teaching; '16 BS, Biology) has joined the student housing and residential life team at the University of Houston as a residential life coordinator.

Junior Ezeonu
(BA, Political Science) was elected to the Grand Prairie City Council. At 22, he is the city's youngest-ever council member.

Charles McCoy
(MSN, Nursing Administration) is the new chief nursing officer at Heart Hospital of Austin, Texas.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

1950s

Lee Farish
('51 AS, Electrical Engineering) 89, May 31, Irving, Texas.

1960s

Michael David "Dave" McCord
('60 AS, Architecture) 80, April 22, Weatherford, Texas.

Keith Edward Reed
('63 BBA) 86, June 18, Arlington.

Milton D. Lamm
('65 BS, Mechanical Engineering) 82, July 26, Stephenville, Texas.

Larry David Nicholson
('65 BBA, Accounting) 78, June 20, Dallas.

Gary B. Starnes
('65 BA, History) 78, April 12, Dallas.

Earnest "Ernie" Roy Nichols
('67 BBA, Accounting) 81, May 30, Bedford, Texas.

Susan Sedette Watson Morawski
('68, Mathematics) 74, May 30, Friendswood, Texas.

Ken Bramlett
('69 BS, Mechanical Engineering) 74, July 4, Conroe, Texas.

Martin "Marty" Robert Imwalle
('69 BS, Biology) 74, May 28, Sanger, Texas.

1970s

Paul Beasley Anderson
('70 BS, Mathematics) 76, Aug. 17, Cleburne, Texas.

Gloria Jean Van Zandt
('70 BA, Communication) 79, June 8, Pantego, Texas. Founding president of the Friends of the Library of UTA, she was named a Distinguished Alumna in 1994.

Curtis Ray Johnson
('71 BBA) 72, July 10, Arlington.

Henry Eugene White
('71 BS, Mathematics) 63, June 22, Dallas.

Michael John Wortman Sr.
('71 BS, Biology) 73, April 18, Weatherford, Texas.

Samuel Harvey Atchison
('72 BA, History) 74, July 9, Arlington.

Gary Michael Brammer
('72 BS, Electrical Engineering) 72, May 31, Gainesville, Texas.

Sherrill Skinner Hutchinson
('72 BA, History) 71, March 20, Fairborn, Ohio.

Frank Ellis Woody
('72 BBA) 72, April 10, Weatherford, Texas.

Gerald Pierce Carsey
('74 BS, Architecture) 82, June 7, Dallas.

James Edward Deittrick
('75 BBA, Accounting) 71, May 28, Fort Worth.

David Wayne Seabolt
('76 BBA) 67, May 26, Dallas.

Bonnie M. Catone
('77 BA, Political Science) 69, May 28, Valley Falls, New York.

Anita Jeanette Anderson Franko
('77 BFA, Art) 66, May 15, Fort Worth.

Dolores Joan Heinemann Riba
('79 BBA, Accounting) 73, June 1, Arlington.

Michael R. Greer
('62 BBA) *82, July 21, Ransom Canyon, Texas.* Greer was a triathlon icon, completing more than 400 races. He also served as president and interim CEO of USA Triathlon. In 2019, he was inducted to the UTA Military Science Hall of Honor.

1980s

Eddie Alberto Aranda Bazan
('80 BS, Industrial Engineering) 65, July 21, Dallas.

Laura Riddle Paschal
('80 BBA, Finance) 63, Feb. 28, Fort Worth.

Vernon Hyliard Sorgee Jr.
('80 MS, '76 BS, Civil Engineering; '65 BS, Physics) 81, June 24, Phoenix, Arizona.

Robert David Sullins
('81 BS, Architecture) 66, July 16, Arlington.

Mark Wilson
('81 BA, Journalism) 64, July 18, Garland, Texas.

Richard "Rik" William Kanon
('84 BA, General Studies) 61, July 15, Grand Blanc, Michigan.

Stephen C. Caples
('85 PhD, Business Administration) 73, July 11, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Jeannine Fay Goble Hodge
('85 MSN; '78 BSN) 92, Feb. 4, Austin, Texas.

IN MEMORIAM

Dennis L. Johnson
('86 BBA, System Analysis and Computer Programming) 72, May 28, Mount Vernon, Washington.

Mary Andrijeski Russell
('86 BA, Political Science) 56, April 9, Arlington.

Sosamma Pailo
('87 BSN) 76, July 3, Irving, Texas.

John Michael Quinn III
('88 BA, Journalism) 63, April 3, Magnolia, Texas.

1990s

Donald Alan Mitchell
('90 BS, Exercise and Sports Studies) 62, June 6, Kerrville, Texas.

Kristine Sudduth Gerron
('91 BBA, Finance) 52, April 1, Waxahachie, Texas.

Linda Diane Walker Howard
('92 BA, Psychology) 76, July 8, Georgetown, Texas.

Glenda "Gail" Underwood Coburn
('94 MSSW; '93 BSW) 71, Feb. 21, Dallas.

Michael Joseph Dellies
('94 MS, Civil Engineering) 61, March 22, Fort Worth.

Phillip R. Meads
('94 BA, Exercise and Sports Studies) 56, April 15, Piedmont, Oklahoma.

Douglas Craig Lovelace Sr.
('95 BBA, Finance) June 18, Dallas.

Monte Bryan Hutchins
('96 BBA) 47, July 28, Corsicana, Texas.

Sarah Boutwell Johnson
('97 BA, Psychology) 46, May 31, El Paso, Texas.

Mark John Wood
('97 MS, Marketing Research; '95 MBA; '92 BS, Computer Science and Engineering) 51, April 26, Grapevine, Texas.

2000s

Elizabeth Marie Moore
('05 MSW) 52, June 23, Arlington.

Wonda Deleta Jones Ashley
('07 BBA, Finance) 59, May 2, Grand Prairie, Texas.

2010s

Kimberly Keener Stelwagen
('11 MS, Education) 52, March 23, Arlington.

Julissa "Juli" Aurora Galvan
('19 BBA, Management and Marketing) 23, June 23, Arlington.

Landon Sommerfeld
('19 BS, University Studies) 24, June 23, Arlington.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Toby R. Goodman,
72, July 18, Mansfield, Texas. An adjunct professor from 1974-84 with the College of Business in finance and real estate, Goodman, a former state representative, was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2004.

Irene Martha Koby,
82, July 8, Midlothian, Texas. She was an administrative assistant in the School of Architecture from 1969-1976 and the College of Business from 1971-1981

Persis Forster ('49 BFA, Theatre Arts) *91, June 8, Arlington.* She taught dance from 1973-93 in the Theatre Arts Department, served as president of the Alumni Association, and was honored as a Distinguished Alumna in 1976.

Ann Charlotte Kelley,
68, April 7, Arlington. A librarian from 1989-2008, she also taught Spanish 2004-05.

David "Davey" Naugle
('98 PhD, Humanities; '75 BA, History) 68, June 11, Duncanville, Texas. He served as an adjunct professor of religion and a campus minister at UT Arlington. At Dallas Baptist College, he established, chaired, and taught in the Philosophy Department for nearly three decades.

Wyl Parker,
77, July 4, Knoxville, Tennessee. He held several leadership positions in student life and housing from 1971-2010. He retired as assistant vice president for Auxiliary Services.

Brenda Sue Perry,
62, April 13, Athens, Texas. She was an administrative assistant for the Biomedical Engineering Office from 1980-86.

Thomas Christopher Tansil
('91 MS, Structural Engineering; '90 BS, Civil Engineering) 54, July 4, Dallas. An adjunct professor, he taught advanced steel design.

From left, clockwise: Maxwell Scarlett; Scarlett with his wife, Vivian; and Scarlett (seated, second from left) was awarded the Outstanding African American Alumni Award in 2004.

In Memoriam: Honoring a true Maverick, Maxwell Scarlett

Scarlett, the first Black graduate of UTA, died earlier this year.

Maxwell Scarlett ('66 BS, Biology), the first Black graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington and a distinguished Fort Worth physician who specialized in emergency medicine, died July 31, 2021. He was 76 years old. He is survived by his wife, Vivian, and his six children.

Dr. Scarlett said he didn't set out to be a trailblazer when he enrolled as a transfer student at UTA, then named Arlington State College (ASC), in September 1965. He wasn't the first Black student to enroll in ASC, but Scarlett was the first to earn a degree when he graduated in 1966. He went on to earn a medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine and began a long and distinguished career in emergency medicine.

In reflecting on his status as the first Black graduate of UTA to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* in 2004, Scarlett said, "It was just sort of an accident of fate or providence ... I'm proud of it. I'm proud for African Americans, I'm proud for UTA. I'm proud for our society in general."

Scarlett stayed closely connected to the University through the years. He served as a member of the UTA President's Advisory Board and the UTA College of Science Advisory Board and was a founding member of the UTA African American Alumni Chapter and a life member of the UTA Alumni Association. Scarlett received UTA's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005. He also received the Outstanding African American Alumni Award and Multicultural Services Trailblazer Award.

Scarlett was always willing to speak with student groups and share his gratitude for the support he received from the University. As he once remarked, "Not a day goes by that I don't appreciate the priceless foundation in life that I received at UT Arlington."

"The UTA community is mourning the passing of a distinguished alumnus and beloved friend," said Teik C. Lim, interim president of UTA. "Dr. Scarlett was a loyal Maverick and respected community leader. He will be deeply missed."

The Explainer

Uber for Agriculture

Reimagining food distribution for local food producers

CAROLINE KREJCI, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Department of Industrial, Manufacturing, and Systems Engineering

When the COVID-19 pandemic first began taking hold in the United States, it had a major impact on our large-scale food distribution systems. Much of the food supply in the U.S. is controlled by a few very large agribusiness and food manufacturing actors, and this system works reasonably well under normal conditions. Consider the economies of scale and large-scale distribution and infrastructure that are accessible to companies like Walmart, which enable full truckloads and containers of products from suppliers around the world to be rapidly and efficiently shipped to retail centers and customers. However, with a rapid-onset disruption like the pandemic, all of a sudden the system fails, and you have empty grocery store shelves for weeks.

One alternative that many consumers turned to was regionalized food systems, in which food is produced by small-scale farmers and ranchers and distributed regionally, often directly to consumers via farmers' markets or home delivery. However, lacking centralized control and economies of scale, how can such systems efficiently distribute the food produced by many small-scale, rurally located farms and ranches to consumers, most of whom live in large cities?

One potential solution that intrigues me is the possibility of crowdsourced transportation, also known as crowd logistics. The concept is similar to restaurant and grocery delivery services like Doordash and Favor, which use an online platform to recruit individual members of a "crowd" to transport products. Such systems offer many advantages. The pooled capacity of many individual crowd members can provide increased reliability for a shipper.

Therefore, if a decentralized food production and distribution system is designed correctly, you can gain efficiencies, not through economies of scale, but instead through intelligently accessing "hidden" capacity, both physical and human. The question is, how do we design such a system correctly? Systems that involve many individuals making decisions autonomously are dynamic and complex, and it is difficult to predict how these systems will perform, especially in a situation like a pandemic.

The concept of crowdsourced distribution systems for agriculture came out of my interest in designing supply networks that operate efficiently and effectively with little or no centralized control. I use computer simulation to model each of the individuals as autonomous agents and then run experiments to determine how well the system performs for different design scenarios, such as platform features, number of participants, and delivery fees. This can give us an idea of how to design an efficient and resilient crowd logistics system to meet the needs of farmers, drivers, and consumers.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Caroline Krejci earned a PhD in industrial engineering at the University of Washington. She worked as an engineer at UPS and Lutron Electronics and was a faculty member at Iowa State University. She recently received a National Science Foundation CAREER award supporting her research on crowd logistics system design.

ILLUSTRATION BY PETE RYAN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AT UTA, EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS GO HAND IN HAND.
We're a **Carnegie R-1 institution**, and we were recently recognized as one of four top universities in the state of Texas with **Texas Tier One** designation. In 2021, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked us as the **top university for social mobility in Texas**, meaning that our Mavericks graduate with better, brighter futures ahead of them. It's all part of our mission to change the world, one bright, motivated student at a time.
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Look Back

Horsing Around 1971

Kathy Marcum and Kirk Walden (as Sam Maverick) wrangle the Maverick horse near the University Center mall area. UTA has seen many iterations of mascots over the years, including the short-lived Grubbers from 1917-1921, the Junior Aggies from 1923-1949, the controversial Rebels from 1951-1971, and the Mavericks we know today. Sam Maverick was UTA's mascot until 2007, when Blaze the Maverick took the reins.