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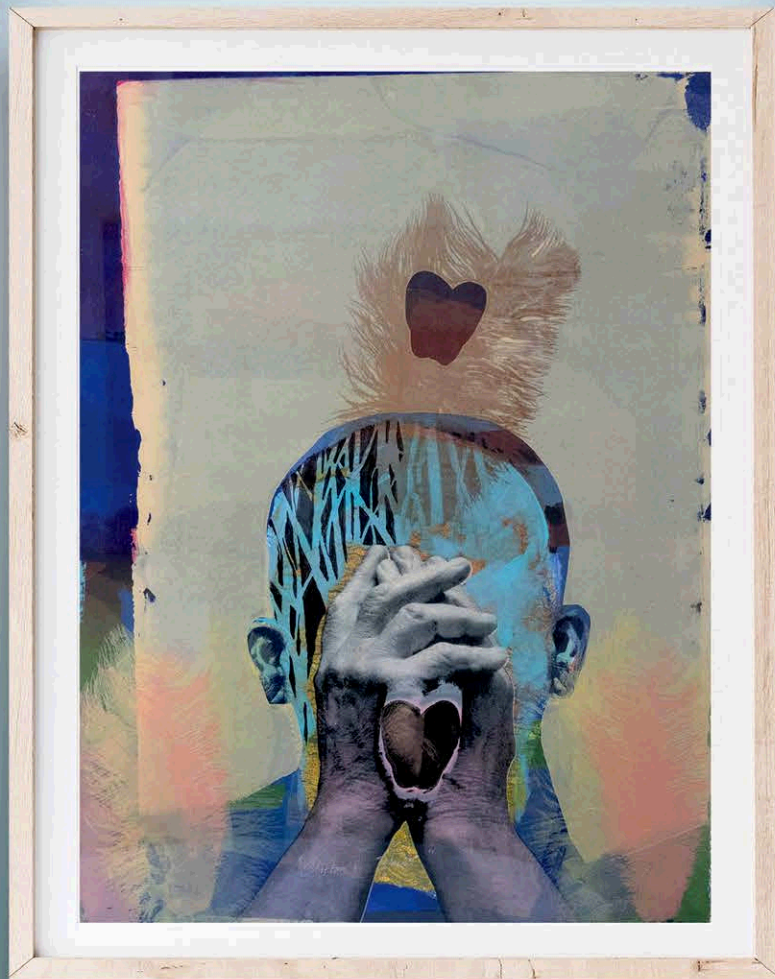
JOURNAL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

SPRING 2021

**Faculty Share Migraine
Research Results**

**Champa Bay! UT Gets the
Super Bowl Experience**

**One Daring Diplomat:
Patricia Moller '73**



Spotlight on the Visual Arts

**Alumni, student and faculty artists shine in several exhibitions
at the new Ferman Center for the Arts**

A photograph of several students practicing yoga in a grassy park at sunset. The students are seen from behind, sitting on blue mats with their arms raised in the air. The background features large trees and a building with lit windows, creating a warm, bokeh effect. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

PEACE OF MIND

On a recent Tuesday evening, students gathered in Plant Park for a physically distanced sunset yoga session to gain strength, increase flexibility and find their zen.

UT

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A Place for the Arts

As we opened the Ferman Center for the Arts to students and faculty this semester, I was reminded not only of the value of the performing and visual arts to our society, but also of the critical role UT has played in helping the arts grow in Tampa.

Going back to the mid-1920s, prior to UT's founding, the Tampa Art Institute — which was an early precursor of the Tampa Museum of Art — held its art exhibitions in Tampa's Municipal Auditorium, which is now UT's Sykes College of Business.

In the mid-1950s, the Tampa Art Institute moved into a former Florida State Fairgrounds building on North Boulevard, which is now the R.K. Bailey Art Studios and the Martinez Athletics Center. A decade later, the Tampa Art Institute became a part of UT and was renamed the Tampa Bay Art Center.

While UT ended its ties in 1970 with the Tampa Bay Art Center, which later found a home in downtown Tampa, UT remained a center of the arts with the R.K. Bailey Art Studios, the Scarfone/Hartley Gallery and UT's own dynamic Department of Art and Design. Along the way, UT faculty became renowned artists and exemplary mentors to students, which is what separated UT from other art degree programs in town.

As such, the Ferman Center solidifies UT's place as a cultural center for Tampa Bay, and provides UT students the facilities they need to study art, music, theater, dance and more. As a graduate of UT, you already know the impressive level of talent that UT students and faculty possess in the arts. Now, students and faculty have a premier venue to hone their talents.

Of course, the Ferman Center joins the already impressive digital fabrication lab (Fab Lab) and the Scarfone/Hartley Gallery, both of which will remain adjacent to the Ferman Center and critical to the mission of UT's College of Arts and Letters.

UT's central role in the performing and visual arts in Tampa reminds me of the importance of art in our society. As I think back to last year, it became clear to me how much I, my wife, Renée, and so many people rely on the arts for self-fulfillment, entertainment, wonder and beauty. So many things we took for granted — live concerts, museum visits, theater performances — were abruptly shut down.

But the passion for the arts has remained strong, and I believe there will be an unprecedented outpouring of creativity as we return to normalcy. I know UT students will have a lot to say — in many different creative ways — about the last year. Recognizing that UT and the Ferman Center will be a launching pad for students to express themselves is exciting.

I hope your future travels bring you to UT's campus, where you can experience a concert or an exhibition. The arts enrich our lives, and I am proud that UT will continue its prominent role in art education and performance.

RONALD L. VAUGHN, PH.D.

President and Max H. Hollingsworth

Professor of American Enterprise



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Works of art by 27 alumni and faculty artists shine in one of several new exhibitions.

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ON THE COVER: "Dream Suite Series," a monoprint by Gilbert De Meza '65, professor emeritus of art

PHOTOGRAPH: Bob Thompson

NEWS OF NOTE

HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The architecture of the new Ferman Center for the Arts features glass, wood, red brick and steel to complement other campus buildings, including Plant Hall.



Down to a Fine Art

The Ferman Center for the Arts opened this semester, providing a creative and transformative space for the fine and performing arts.

The dazzling, four-story, 90,000-square-foot Ferman Center for the Arts — UT's largest academic building — opened this semester. It's UT's new home for art, music, design, communication and speech studies, theater, dance, philosophy, English, film and more. If you'd like a peek online, check out a new video that shows off the space by visiting rb.gy/9zbtm9.

The building, located at the southwest corner of North Boulevard and Spaulding Drive, provides a creative and transformative space for the fine and performing arts. Named in honor of the Ferman family, longtime supporters of

UT, the building includes a black box theater, classrooms, practice rooms, art studios, faculty and administrative offices, student study spaces and more.

Among other features, the center houses one of the most modern recording studios in the Tampa Bay area. Budding music producers will appreciate the industry-grade control room with the latest digital technology, as well as traditional analog control and mixing. There's also a piano lab that includes a Yamaha MLC-200 system with wireless mix control and Dante signal routing, as well as a music technology lab, where you'll find 21-inch iMac com-

puters that are installed with a suite of music applications.

"You can't fully appreciate the Ferman Center for the Arts until you see it in use. Students are very excited to be in the new building where they have access to state-of-the-art studios, labs and performance spaces, and their faculty are equally excited to be in their new home," says David Gudelunas, dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

He adds, "It's great to walk through the building and see a dance class happening on the same floor as a philosophy class, and music students carrying their instruments past the art studios. There is a creative energy in the building that you feel instantly."

It's an ideal setting for students to learn, create, innovate and continue to break artistic boundaries. For more information on the center's lead donors, see the Spartan Ready Philanthropy section on page 46. For details about one of the center's beautiful new art exhibitions, see page 14.

■ The interior is contemporary, functional and dynamic, with inspiring spaces that exude creativity and innovation. A gorgeous, circular staircase takes you up to the study gallery.



■ Guests gather in the 200-seat, 4,000-square-foot Charlene A. Gordon Theater, which is ideal for recitals, dance programs, film screenings and speeches.



■ Two rehearsal rooms — the grand rehearsal room and chamber rehearsal room — can seat an 82-member orchestra and a 36-member ensemble, respectively.



■ Students rehearse in the 42-seat, 2,000-square-foot black box theater, a customizable performance space that is designed for audience interaction.



■ The Liz '16 and Jim '70 MacLeod Dance Studios are equipped with sprung floors, which help prevent injury and make it much easier for dancers to perform difficult movements.



A NEW PARKING GARAGE

In an effort to support enrollment growth, as well as occupants of new campus facilities, UT announced the construction of a new, 437-space parking garage on the west side of campus.

Located west of North Boulevard, between the Naimoli Family Athletic and Intramural Complex and the Naimoli Family Softball Complex, the stand-alone, six-story garage will be constructed on the existing North Gilchrist Avenue.

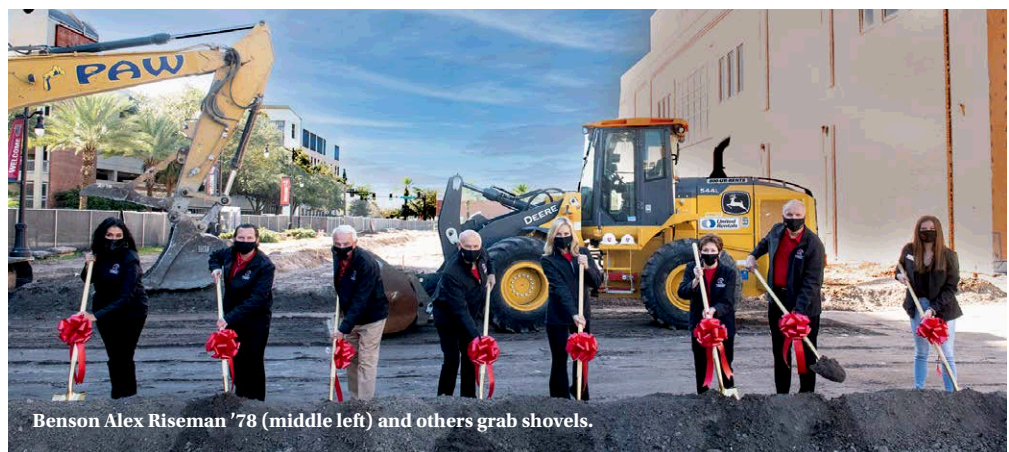
It will be named Delaware Avenue Garage, and it will support students, faculty, staff and visitors of the nearby athletics facilities, the new Ferman Center for the Arts and the new Science Research Laboratories. Construction is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2021.

UT Lands a New Accreditation For Education

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) announced that UT's Department of Education has received accreditation for all six of its undergraduate teacher preparation programs, as well as the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership. The CAEP Teacher Preparation Standards are rigorous, nationally recognized standards that were developed to ensure excellence.

DIG IT?

In January, UT held a groundbreaking ceremony as construction began on phase II of the soon-to-be-called Benson Alex Riseman Fitness and Recreation Center. The expansion is expected to be completed in Spring 2022.



Photosynthetic sea slugs
teach us about ecology.



Studying Sea Slugs

When you hear the word “sea slug,” you might start regurgitating whatever you ate for lunch. But it turns out, sea slugs are way cuter and cooler than you might think.

Just ask Michael Middlebrooks, assistant professor of biology, who published five papers on sea slugs in 2019 and 2020. He mostly studies one particular species called *Elysia crispata* or lettuce sea slugs, photosynthetic slugs that live throughout the Caribbean.

If the term “photosynthetic” is throwing you off because it makes you think about plants, you’re right to be confused. These types of sea slugs do something unusual, which is steal chloroplasts from the algae that they eat.

“Instead of digesting the chloroplasts, the slugs keep them alive inside of specialized cells. This allows the slugs to photosynthesize. Lettuce sea slugs, for example, can photosynthesize for three to four months without having to feed,” says Middlebrooks. “They effectively become solar-powered animals.”

And they’re teaching Middlebrooks a lot about the ecology of the species and their local adaptations on different islands. For instance, for one of his studies, he collected lettuce sea slugs from locations around the Caribbean and used a technique called DNA barcoding to reconstruct their diet.

“We found out that they feed on very different algae on different Caribbean islands, and we were even able to use this technique to document species of invasive algae that had not yet been reported in those regions,” says Middlebrooks.

The next time you’re in the Caribbean, look out for these radiant creatures in the water.

MAKING A DEAL

A UT first-year student, Shirah Bernarde, and her older brother, Michael, a Florida State University graduate student, were featured on the TV show *Shark Tank* in February. Not only that: They struck a quick deal (\$60,000 for a 25% stake) with panelist Lori Greiner. She was wowed by their product, NightCap, which helps protect women from having their drinks spiked. It’s a scrunchie that can be worn on the wrist or in hair. Then, you pull a cover from its hidden pocket, place it over the top of a drink and pop in a straw.



Shirah Bernarde '24



SIGN UP FOR NEWS ALERTS

Want to stay on top of the latest press releases from UT and read web stories related to students and faculty? You can now subscribe to emails about “News and UT Life” and/or “Tropical Weather Updates.” Visit rb.gy/2aghuz to sign up.

5 MINUTES WITH

Allen Lopez '21

Lopez, who is double majoring in accounting and communication and speech studies, served as president of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity from November 2019 to November 2020, keeping the brotherhood connected amidst a pandemic.

What made you choose Alpha Tau Omega?

I liked that you didn't have to fit a mold in order to be part of ATO. Everyone is still their own person, and it's really brotherhood that ties us together.

How were you able to keep your brothers connected and mentally strong during the COVID-19 crisis?

On the GroupMe platform, we have a "serious" chat where the announcements are sent, and then we have a "random" chat. At the beginning of the pandemic, to keep spirits up, our chaplain and members of our executive board would ask weird questions, like, "Who would win in a fight, King Kong or a dinosaur?" They were questions that have no correct answer, but they spark conversation. It was always lighthearted to try to distract everyone from the stress of reality.

How did you handle hosting events?

We had to cancel some in the beginning, like our color run philanthropy event and our formal. That was disappointing, but everything everywhere was getting canceled so we all slowly got more accustomed to having an online presence. We held our weekly Sunday chapter meeting over Zoom, and we turned our recruitment events into virtual events. One day we played Battleship online in breakout rooms. We also had Zoom parties where we'd watch football games together. Once things calmed down and everyone got used to the new normal, we had some in-person events — they just had to be safe, and we always had masks and sanitizer. Our most successful

one was at the beach. I think that alleviated a lot of pressure — just being able to see brothers in person helped a lot.

Were there any bright spots?

Since we weren't holding as many events, we did have some leftover money. So we were able to buy all the brothers new jerseys with their nicknames on the back.

What was the most difficult part of serving as president during the COVID-19 pandemic?

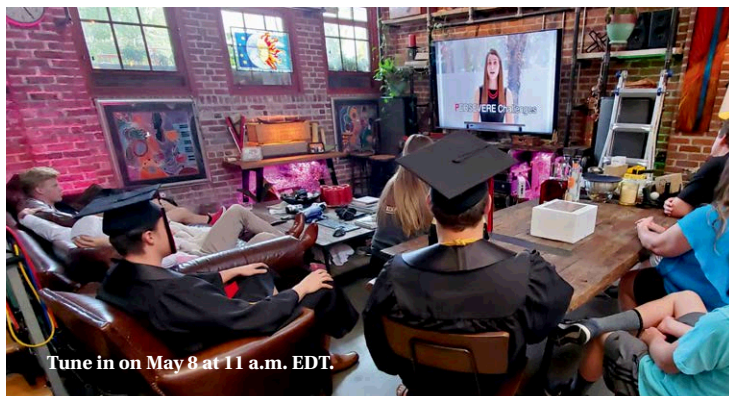
It was hard, in general, to keep everyone's spirits up and keep everyone motivated — especially when I felt that sometimes my spirits weren't up. Many days I just felt defeated by the situation. I'm lucky that I'm friends with presidents of other organizations, and they would tell me the same thing. Knowing that I was in the same boat as so many other people on campus made me feel better. I wasn't alone.

What have the hardships from the last year taught you about the power of brotherhood?

It taught me to appreciate my brothers. When I graduate this spring, I know that I've spent a lot of time with them, and I've built connections with them that probably won't die because of how close we are. We tutor each other, and we help each other network on LinkedIn and get jobs. In the good times and the bad times, we try to be there for each other.

—MALLORY CULHANE '21





Watch Spring Commencement

Due to the continued uncertainties of COVID-19 and UT's commitment to protecting the health and safety of the community, the May 2021 commencement will be virtual. Celebrate the Class of 2021 and watch the video ceremony on May 8 at 11 a.m. EDT at ut.edu/commencement.

Rankings Rock!

Check out all the top lists that UT has made recently.

■ UT has been ranked the 17th and 20th top school for entrepreneurship studies for undergraduate and graduate students, respectively, by The Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur* magazine.

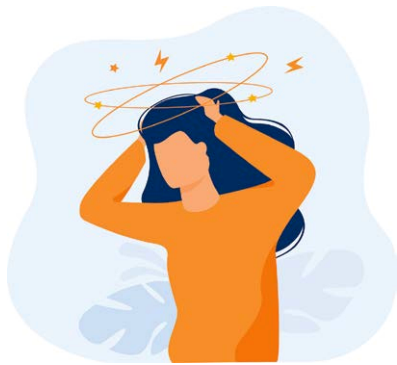
■ UT has been ranked in the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* College World University Rankings 2021 in the 501-600 level out of 797 colleges and universities based on four pillars: resources, engagement, outcomes and environment. UT was best-ranked in the area of student outcomes, which includes graduation rate, graduate salaries, university reputation and student debt after graduation. In this category, UT ranked No. 375 out of the 797 colleges and universities.

■ UT has been again named by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education. The rankings, listed in the book *The Best 386 Colleges*, are based on surveys of 143,000 students at 386 top colleges.

UT'S BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS IS RECOGNIZED

UT was awarded for outstanding individual professional accomplishment and excellence in grounds management by the Professional Grounds Management Society. Judging was based on overall campus beauty, crew at work, challenges with campus landscape, sustainable practices and safety. The UT grounds crew consists of 18 full- and part-time employees.





HEADACHE HELP

Nauris Tamulevicius, associate professor of health sciences and human performance, knows a lot of people who suffer from migraine headaches, and it got him thinking. “I know that exercise is a prevention tool for many diseases, so I was curious if it works for migraines,” he says. “I had a good discussion with a neurologist and looked at the scientific literature and found that there wasn’t a good answer to this question.”

Since 2017, he — along with Mary Marti-nasek, assistant dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences; Claudia Aguado Loi, as-sistant professor of health sciences and human performance; and student researchers — has been regularly surveying UT students about migraines to learn more, and they’ve been pre-senting their results annually at top conferences. Here’s some of what they’ve found:

- 15-26% of students have migraines and about two-thirds are women.
- The top three triggers (in order) are: stress, lack of sleep and skipping meals.
- 57% say the migraines severely impact their daily activities.
- Migraine sufferers who exercise regularly don’t have migraines in the 24 hours after they work out. (Though Tamulevicius notes that other research has found that severely fatiguing or prolonged physical activities, like distance running, might do the opposite: trigger a migraine.)

The takeaway? Beyond reducing stress, getting at least seven hours of sleep at night and eating regular meals, one form of preven-tion worth trying, according to Tamulevicius, is exercising for 30 minutes at least three times a week at a moderate intensity. So grab those sneakers and break a sweat!

REST IN PEACE

UT lost a stalwart supporter in G. Robert Blanchard, who passed away in November at the age of 93. A native of Alicia, AR, he served in the U.S. Navy and had a successful business career that culminated as president and CEO of the Joseph L. Rozier Machinery Company and WRB Enterprises Inc., a privately owned holding company consisting of diversified interests.

He served as a UT trustee from 1984 to 1993, was a founding mem-ber of the Minaret Society, chair of the Forward Fund ‘80 campaign to raise scholarship funds, a Sword & Shield Club member and a contrib-utor to the establishment of the Max H. Hollingsworth Chair. He was recognized for his distinguished service to UT as a trustee emeritus.

Two Degrees to Launch

UT will begin offering a master’s degree in social and emerging media this fall. The program blends technology and creativity as it prepares students to develop compelling media projects, build sophis-ticated social media strategies and engage effectively with various audiences.

UT will also start offering a bachelor’s degree in computer science this fall. The curriculum will cover the fundamentals and applied aspects of hardware and software, and graduates will be equipped for roles in software development and engineering, web development, data analysis, cybersecurity and more.



THREE AWARDS FOR THE UT JOURNAL

This very magazine won three District III regional awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) in January: gold for publishing improvement, silver for magazine published three or more times a year and bronze for its Fall 2020 cover (see left). The magazine now has a new printer and “perfect” binding (see the flat spine).

BY THE NUMBERS

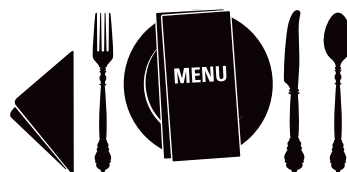
Plant Hall Fun Facts

This past February, the iconic Plant Hall celebrated its 130th anniversary. Formerly the Tampa Bay Hotel, the building was erected in 1891 and remains one of the most beautiful and popular spots on campus (especially for photo shoots!).



15,000

The number of hours per year the Chiselers volunteer to maintain the building



55 items

Featured in the 1912 holiday dinner menu

\$2.5 million

(in 1891 dollars)

\$74 million*

(in today's dollars)

How much it cost to build the Tampa Bay Hotel

*according to measuringworth.com



452

The number of train freight cars of brick that were needed for construction



511

How many hotel rooms it had



President Vaughn, right, celebrating 25 years at UT in January 2020

PRESIDENT VAUGHN NAMED "MOST INFLUENTIAL"

In February, UT President Ronald Vaughn was named one of Tampa Bay's most influential leaders by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*, as part of its 2021 Power Guide. The publication "looked to assess not only organizational leadership but those who either visibly or quietly, through philanthropic or institutional means, shape the path and fortunes of the regional business community beyond their own bubble."



ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

A Couple of Aces

Former volleyball player Berkley Whaley '16, MBA '18 was named the Sunshine State Conference's 2010-2019 Player of the Decade, and Chris Catanach '83, the head coach of women's volleyball, was named Coach of the Decade.

The results were hardly shocking. But when the Sunshine State Conference made its 2010-2019 All-Decade women's volleyball selections last October — naming former All-American Berkley Whaley '16, MBA '18 as its Player of the Decade and Chris Catanach '83, head coach of women's volleyball at UT, as its Coach of the Decade — it was affirmation of UT's sustained excellence.

It was also a reminder that Whaley and Catanach, despite their obvious accomplishments, have remained charmingly humble.

"I can't even believe it," says Whaley, 27, now the marketing and government relations manager for General Dynamics, a defense contractor. "I just tried to be as good as I could every day."

"It's cool to be recognized," says Catanach, who is beginning his 38th season at UT. "When my career is over, maybe I can look back at the honors. But when you're in the middle of it, it's hard to have that perspective."

But teammates and assistant coaches? They are eager to speak about Whaley and Catanach. They can practically write sonnets.

"Berkley would never even bring up volleyball and she would probably blush if you even suggested she was UT's greatest of all time," says former Spartan player Kaylee Koetter '14, now an assistant coach of women's volleyball at the University of Wyoming. "But what a talent."

Whaley, a St. Petersburg native who transferred to UT after playing her first

season at the University of Florida, was the NCAA Division II National Player of the Year after the Spartans' 2014 national championship season. She was a first-team All-American and SSC Player of the Year in each of her three UT seasons — you can't do better than that — and also SSC Female Athlete of the Year (all sports) for the 2014-2015 school year.

Meanwhile, Catanach's Spartans were 287-55 during the decade, capturing two national titles (2014 and 2018) and seven conference championships. He was twice named the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) National Coach of the Year, and he won the SSC Coach of the Year honor five times. Catanach's signature achievement was his recent induction into the AVCA Hall of Fame.

"Chris is simply the best person I know," says Brian Imperiale, who has been assistant coach of women's volleyball since 2014. "He has such patience and wisdom when working with the players. He's so unbelievably prepared, almost maniacally so. If there's a potential situation that could occur, he has thought of it. He studies situations. He knows people. And almost always, he makes the right decision."



Berkley Whaley '16
MBA '18 was known for
hitting the ball hard.

BLOSSOMING AS A PLAYER AND PERSON

Whaley, an outside hitter, trusted that she made the right decision when transferring to UT in 2013. It turned out better than she could have imagined. Whaley says UT's academics and activities allowed her to flourish.

"UT was the perfect fit," Whaley says. "Coach Catanach encouraged us to explore things outside the gym and I did — school, friendships, activities, internships, all of it. I get butterflies in my stomach just thinking of UT. It's such a special place and gave me so much."

Whaley gave plenty to the Spartans, as well.

"Berkley hit at a pace you don't see often," says Catanach. She was known to "terminate" plays by hitting the ball so hard that it would immediately hit the floor on the opposing team's side. "She was also our best defensive player and our best passer," says Catanach. "But she was also loved and respected by her professors. She represented UT at the highest level. It was beyond athletics for me. It was an honor to be associated with Berkley. She was that well-rounded."

Catanach promoted those off-court interests, too.

"I'd go into Coach Catanach's office to watch film and we'd end up talking about life," Whaley says. "Where did I want to go? What did I want to

achieve? Sometimes, you'd dread a practice, but he was always telling you the things you needed to hear. Nothing sugar-coated. And such wisdom. He always had the right words. I miss hearing that every day."

Whaley also misses volleyball, though she plays occasional pick-up games and watches matches on television. "The daily interaction and competition at UT, I'll never be able to replicate that," Whaley says. "But that feeling will always be deep inside me. It's part of who I am."

A HALL-OF-FAME CAREER

UT is unmistakably part of Catanach's identity. Yet his hiring was improbable.

He loved his days as a UT student and had been a volunteer student volleyball assistant. In fact, Catanach enjoyed UT so much that he never actually left. After graduating in 1983, he took a job in UT's admissions office, and in 1984, the position of head women's volleyball coach became available.

At the time, Catanach was on a road trip to recruit students, somewhere near Cincinnati, with most of his belongings piled in the back of a leased Toyota Tercel. Then there was a blizzard. But he was so excited about the job that he drove straight back to Tampa anyway, while rehearsing his pitch to Bob Birrenkott, who was UT's athletic director. Catanach was hired at

age 22 and "made countless mistakes," but worked tirelessly on his craft.

"He's a lifelong learner and super open to new ideas," Koetter says. "I've been around a lot of coaches. Most have less than half the success of Coach Catanach and 10 times the ego. Coach has zero ego. We'd be walking past the gym, looking in the window and he'd be mopping the floor or setting up the net. No detail was too small. He just out-prepares people in every area. That's why he's so respected and so loved."

Catanach says he has learned to fully enjoy UT's success — finally.

"It took a while to get past my own demons," says Catanach, who was once offered the University of Virginia head coaching job but opted to stay at UT because of the love for his alma mater and the belief that his professional situation was ideal. "Some coaches speak of the fear of someone catching them or passing them. That has helped me stay focused and intense."

He adds, "You'd think at this stage I'd just do what I do and trust that. But there's always a better way or something new. You do have to enjoy success — some — but the drive and competition is what gets you going."

Sometimes, for a decade — or much longer. "What Berkley and Chris accomplished speaks for itself," Koetter says. "It will last forever."

—JOEY JOHNSTON

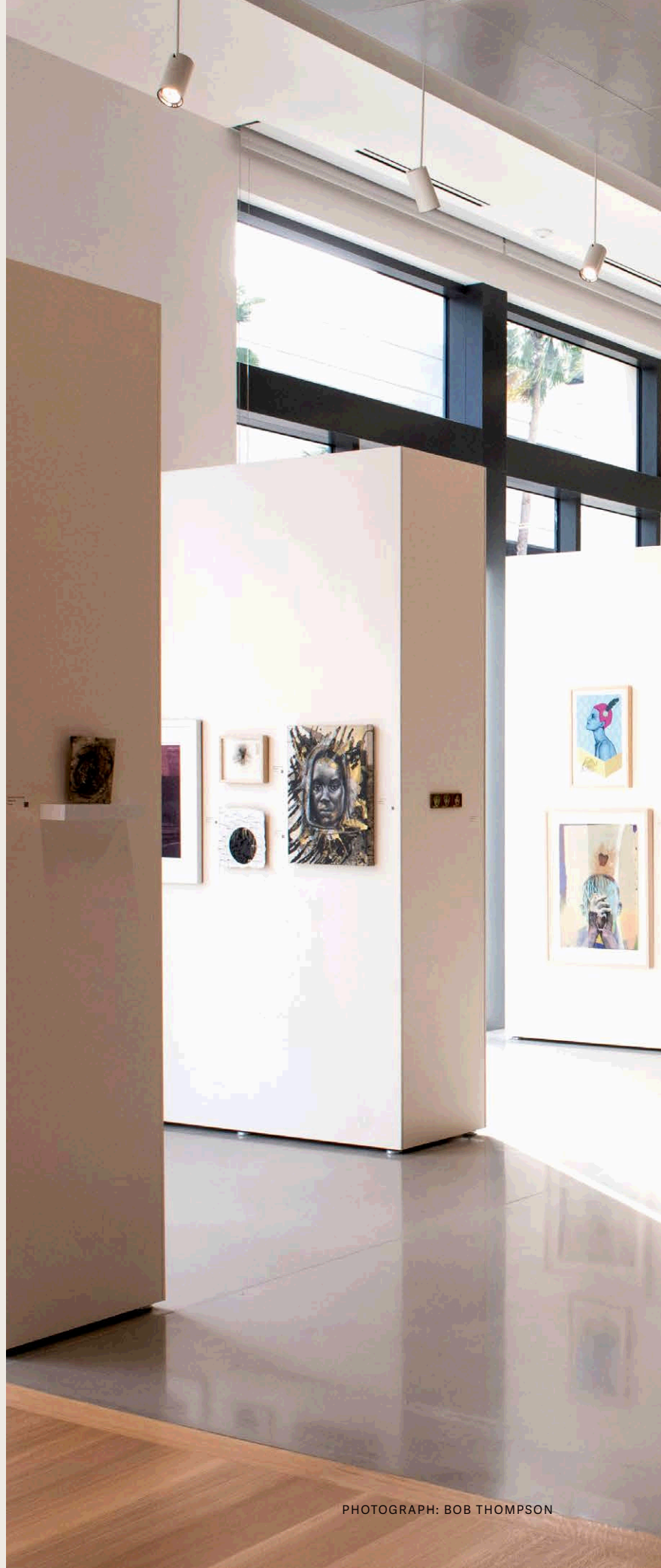


Coach Chris Catanach
'83 inspires in the huddle
during a 2015 match.

A FEAST FOR THE EYES

Paintings, sculptures, photos, printmaking and mixed media work by 27 alumni and faculty artists are being showcased in “65 Years in the Making,” one of several new exhibitions at UT. Here, we take a closer look at a few of the artists who make it so special.

BY JANET SIROTO





The 3,700-square-foot Saunders Foundation Art Gallery houses part of this exhibition on the first floor of the new Ferman Center for the Arts.

THE ARTISTS, FROM A TO Z: VICTORIA ARNOLD ROB BOVARNICK SAMANTHA BURNS DOROTHY COWDEN DAVID DIAZ COR FAHRINGER VIVIAN NGUYEN FAIRMAN ALEXANDRA FERNANDEZ JEFF GIBBONS JOHN GUARNERI DANIEL HESIDENCE NNEKA JONES KACY KERAK JACK KING MICHAEL MASSARO JODI MINNIS MARC MITCHELL HAROLD NOSTI BRANDI RICHARDS DANIELLE RONZO PRINCESS SMITH BARBARA STUBBS JOE TESTA-SECCA HOANG VAN BUI CARLOS CAMARGO VILARDY MICHAEL WEAVER STEPHANIE WEGMAN

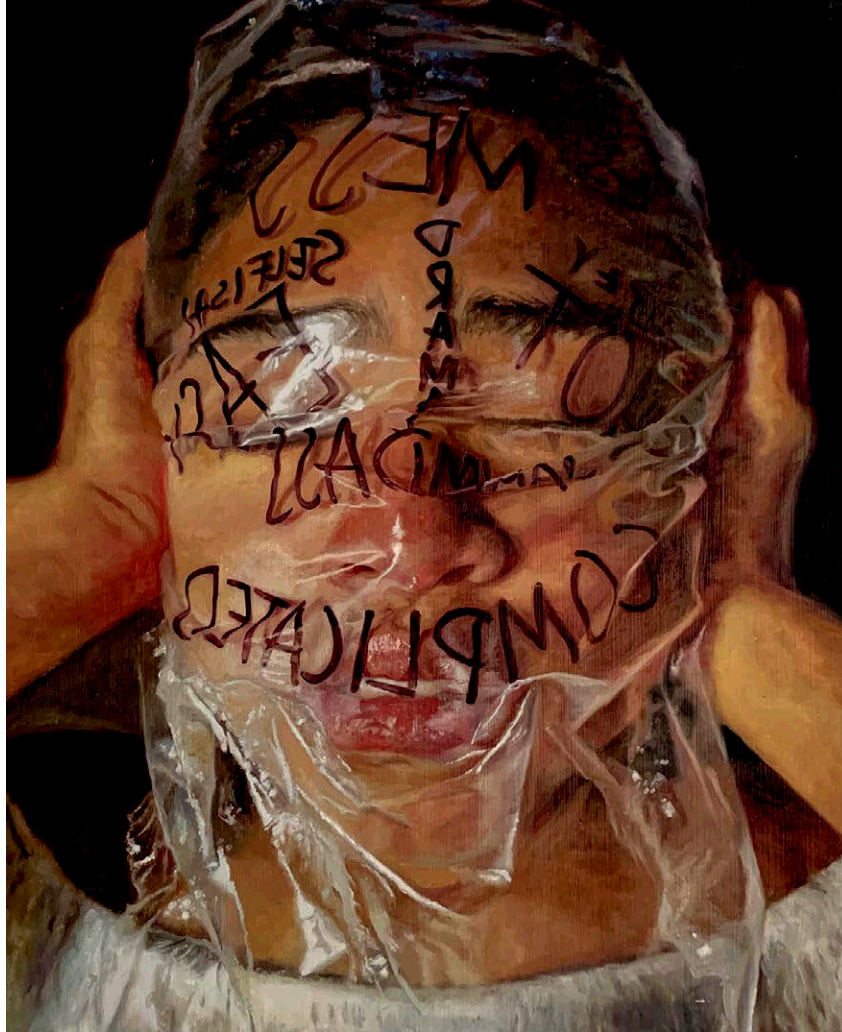


A MODEL MENTOR



It's a no-brainer that the work of Jack King '70 — an alumnus and professor emeritus of art at UT — would be featured, given his long and exemplary connection to the University. He remembers his student days fondly, especially all the personalized attention that he received from faculty. When he started teaching at UT in 1992, King became known for encouraging his students to explore the process, rather than stick with their original impulses. He hopes his legacy is pupils "who will always embrace a work ethic that requires passion and dedication to their craft."

His wide-ranging, award-winning career as an artist certainly shows those qualities. His boundless creativity has produced powerful work in such varied media as paint, ceramics, metal and glass. Among his pieces in the current exhibition is "Seven Nights in Havana: Wednesday," a gorgeously evocative, elegant work from a 2016 series in tar paper, paint and colored pencil. Depicting a dark evening scene of a bird amid plants and shadows, it glows from within, achieving what he says is the nature of art: a conversation between artist, the work and viewer, with the piece holding new meaning for each person who encounters it.



THE ACTIVIST ARTIST



Talk about a rising star: Having just received her bachelor's degree in fine arts last May, Nneka Jones '20 is already gaining global recognition for her art. She was tapped to design the cover of the Aug. 31–Sept. 7, 2020 issue of *TIME* magazine; in October, she was asked to speak (virtually) at the Adobe Max Creativity Conference; and in January, *The Washington Post* commissioned her to create a portrait of Vice President Kamala Harris.

Jones' talent and drive were evident early. Growing up in Trinidad and Tobago, she was more excited about arts and crafts than the average student. For college, she was drawn to UT's program for its flexibility: "It didn't just offer painting or sculpture. I could explore different media and find what fueled my artistic interests," she says.

On campus, she developed her uncompromising identity as a contemporary, activist artist. "I make my audience comfortable with being uncomfortable and prompt important conversations — and action — by bringing awareness to social, political and environmental issues," she says.

Her exhibition piece — "The Power of Words," completed at UT as a class assignment — is one such statement. The painting shows a Black woman's face, swathed in plastic that's scrawled with words like "mess" and "complicated." Says Jones, "It represents the stifling power of words for women of color — the things said to them that suffocate them."

Exhibiting at her alma mater has been a deeply affirming experience. "Just a few months ago, I was in my UT studio across from the new center," she says. "I would see the construction. Now, with my work shown there, it feels like I am leaving my mark and having my presence continue on campus."



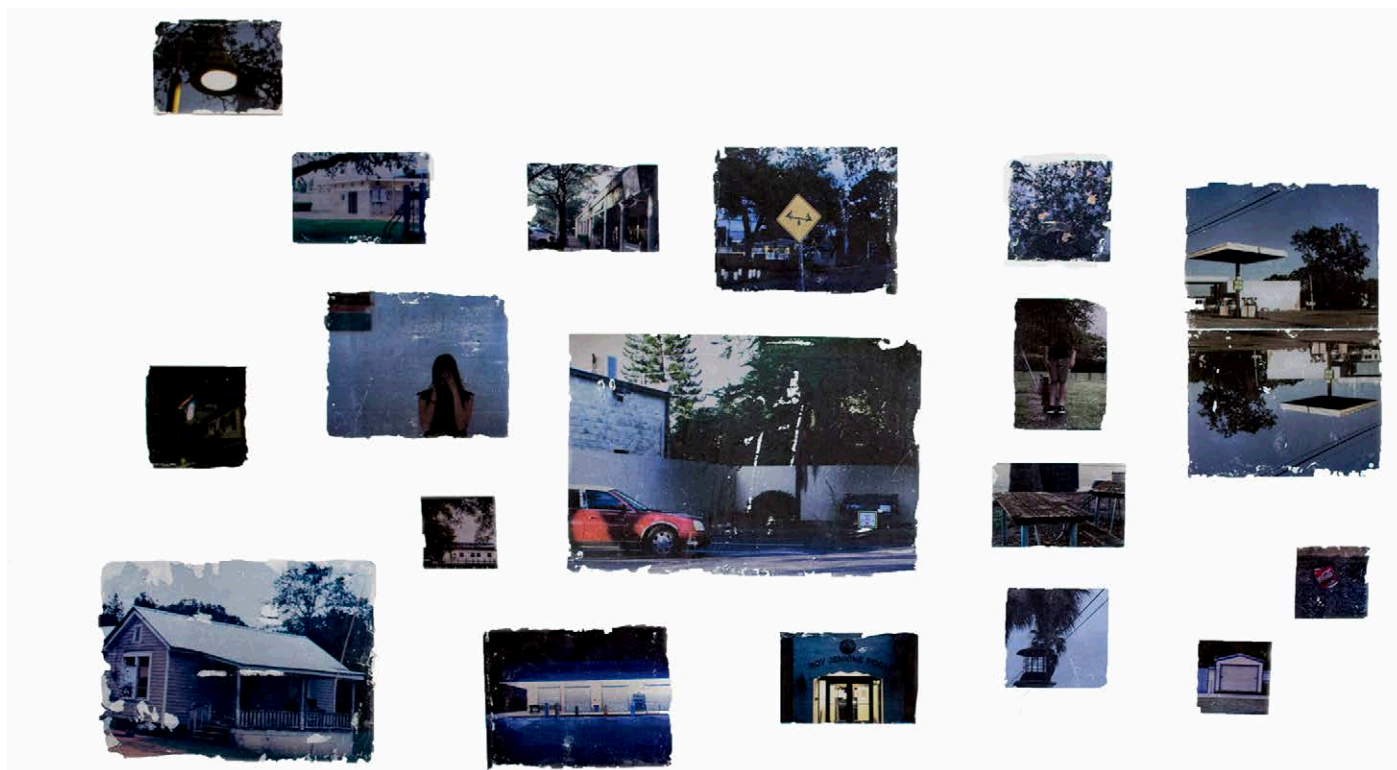
THE ART OF EXPLORATION



The path to becoming a successful artist is not always linear. Barbara Stubbs '08, a part-time faculty member in the Department of Art and Design, is living proof of that truth. Prior to her formal training, she lived in Jamaica while her husband worked there. She roamed the hills and ports with a band of local artists, recording her impressions and feelings with paint. "Travel and exploration have always been a part of my life," says Stubbs, who has five solo exhibitions under her belt.

"Riverwalk," the mixed-media piece shown at the Ferman Center, is very much in sync with this idea. Stubbs says, "It celebrates the beauty of the natural world. The insects displayed in my artwork are metaphors for change and renewal. Transformation is a monumental motivator for me. It's a universal experience, both internal and external — one that my artwork expresses visually."

As a teacher at UT, she aims to nurture the next generation: "I am eager to share with students the excitement of art and the ability to express oneself without words," she says. "My favorite part is creating an environment for students to communicate their honest opinions." Given the central themes of her art — "social justice issues that I observed and experienced during my life in the Caribbean, sustainability and the COVID-19 challenges this year" — she sets a perfect example of doing just that.



PUTTING AMERICAN LIFE UNDER A MICROSCOPE

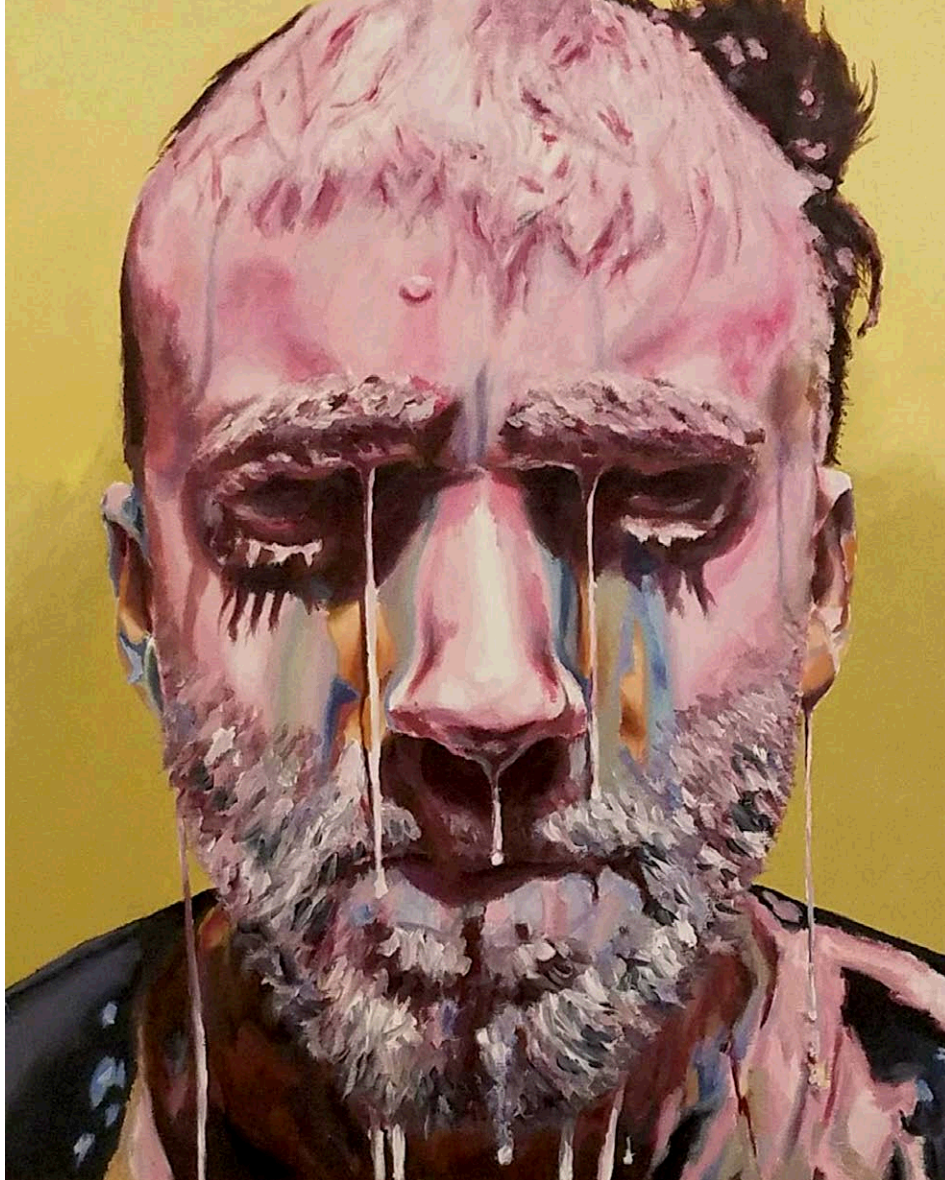


"I never wanted to fit the stereotype of what many Asian families expect of their children — becoming a doctor, lawyer or pharmacist," says Vivian Nguyen Fairman '18, who grew up in California and currently resides there. "I always knew I was different, and my mom didn't push me toward those roles. She'd buy me coloring books." Her creative path gelled in middle school, with a teacher's encouragement. "He said art was the freedom to create what you want — your own dream — and to tell your own story," she says.

Moving cross-country to attend UT and begin her adult life was stressful and challenging, she says, but there was a silver lining. "It lit a spark in me that I never knew existed. Inspiration tends to happen when you least expect it, and life-altering events truly put things in perspective," she says.

That awakening, stoked by her professors, led Nguyen Fairman to ponder her personal history as a child of immigrants. Her work in the exhibition, "Small Town Torment," is an assemblage of photos that explore her views on the American Dream as a person of color. The images incorporate references to her grandfather, a mechanic, "a strong man who always tried to protect me from prejudice, but who seemed very lonely."

Having her art shown at the Ferman Center fills her with pride and gratitude, and allows her to be part of the on-campus dialogue. "Being exposed to different viewpoints is an important way for all people to grow," she says — and is precisely what makes the exhibition so transformative.



A SELF- PORTRAIT THAT POPS



“Humbled and honored” is how John Guarneri '18 describes having his work shown at the Ferman Center. That’s also how the recent grad, based in Greenlawn, NY, felt about his entire experience studying art at UT. “I loved how I got so much one-on-one time with professors and daily critiques of my work, which is really unheard of,” says the artist, who trained under four Meridian Scholars (visiting artists who interact directly with students).

Guarneri’s work is often informed by pop culture, rich with comic-book references. But the painting “House” that’s on display delivers a different kind of “wow” moment. It’s a self-portrait, but the artist’s face is drenched in paint. Guarneri, who created the work in a class at UT, explains, “I actually poured paint on myself to recontextualize the elements. Instead of seeing, ‘Oh, here’s the nose,’ you see shapes and colors. Traditional Renaissance portraits have many layers, and as I worked on this, I emphasized how the paint was layered on my skin and beard.”

Having found a silver lining during the pandemic (more studio time), Guarneri is looking forward to exploring the Ferman Center in person. “It’s a bit surreal because I created art in the old building, which I loved dearly,” he says, “but having this incredible new facility really reflects and suits the program’s strength.” ♦



This showcase is one of many UT art exhibitions curated by Jocelyn Boigenzahn, director of the Scarfone/Hartley Gallery.

A CURATOR'S DREAM COME TRUE

Meet the dynamic force behind this exhibition: Jocelyn Boigenzahn, director of the Scarfone/Hartley Gallery. The *UT Journal* chatted with her about the impressive array of art that she gathered for the opening of the Ferman Center for the Arts.

What prompted this art exhibition to come together?

We wanted to celebrate UT's long history of art making, of which the Ferman Center is an amazing new chapter. We are showing 60 pieces of alumni and faculty work in this exhibition. The show highlights how many alumni come back and become faculty — it's such an ingrained experience here, to return and continue to push the ball forward for the program.

What surprised you about the process of assembling the art?

I was amazed by the sheer variety of media that has been tackled by UT's art and design department over its 65 years, which in turn reveals that, behind the scenes, the faculty encouraged students to go down different paths and seize new opportunities.

Why are the arts so vital, especially during a pandemic?

Culture is born out of humanity's need to share stories. That becomes more important when communities can't gather in person. The arts let us know what's going on in people's lives, hearts and souls, and they keep us connected in a way that nothing else can.

What other exhibitions are happening at UT this year?

We ran one called "A+D Currents: Faculty," which featured faculty art, at the Scarfone/Hartley Gallery from Jan. 29 to Feb. 26. "A+D Currents: Students," which features student art, has been up in the Student Study Gallery at the Ferman Center since Feb. 22 and will stay up through May 7.

Champa Bay!

This year's historic Super Bowl LV wasn't just a great excuse to celebrate our victorious home team — it provided UT students and alumni a behind-the-scenes look at how the nation's largest sporting event comes together.

BY JESSICA BLATT PRESS


ILLUSTRATIONS BY RYAN OLBRYSH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB THOMPSON



Mike Flynn, professor of instruction I, sport management, helped coordinate Super Bowl internships for Spartans.





“We really focus on balancing ‘learning by thinking’ with ‘learning by doing.’”

—MIKE FLYNN,
PROFESSOR OF INSTRUCTION I,
SPORT MANAGEMENT, AND
INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR

Pulling off Super Bowl LV, as well as dozens of action-packed “fan experience” events in the nine days leading up to it — in the middle of a pandemic, no less — took the coordination of thousands. During the first week of February, people from around the world descended upon Tampa for football-related fun at a handful of locations in the downtown area near campus. Lucky fans got the chance to see the Lombardi trophy up close, sprint a 40-yard dash and snap Instagram-worthy photos next to a giant helmet of their favorite National Football League team.

Keeping fans safe, getting them to the right places and providing them with up-to-the-minute information was no small feat, but the efforts were successful, thanks in part to many students and alumni from UT’s sport management program who volunteered for the Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee in a wide range of meaningful roles.

The opportunity to get firsthand experience surrounding a game that generates billions of dollars and millions of TV viewers was not due to luck. It’s taken years of cultivating relationships by UT’s sport management faculty.

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Jay Jisha, chair of the Department of Sport Management, remembers the program in its infancy, when he started at UT 18 years ago. It has its roots in the ’90s, when it began as merely a concentration. Shortly after, it became a major, and by Spring 2011, it was its own department. The number of

students majoring in sport management has grown from 25 at its inception to 357 today, and it’s now the 10th most popular undergraduate major (out of about 70). A minor is also offered.

Through it all, the program’s special sauce has always been its emphasis on real-world learning: internships, volunteering and jobs, with a culminating 12 credit-hour internship (480 work hours) during senior year.

“We really focus on balancing ‘learning by thinking’ with ‘learning by doing,’” says Mike Flynn, professor of instruction I, sport management, and internship coordinator. Sure, all semester long, students will *study* the Super Bowl in class — the finances, the marketing, the legal aspects and sales. But to be a *part* of that actual planning offers learning opportunities that no classroom could ever provide. “We don’t want to be animatronic. ‘Look at the PowerPoint and let’s talk theory!’ That’s not why students come here,” Flynn says.

It doesn’t hurt that Tampa Bay is home to several professional sports teams and often plays host to many major sporting events, so there are plenty of volunteering opportunities for sport management majors with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tampa Bay Lightning, Tampa Bay Rays, Tampa Bay Rowdies, NHL All-Star Game, College Football National Championship, Outback Bowl, NCAA Women’s Final Four, Spring Training for five Major League Baseball teams and five Minor League Baseball teams, United Soccer League games, Valspar Golf Championship, IRONMAN, Special Olympics, NCAA Frozen Four, Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg and WWE’s WrestleMania.



Patchanit Sriviroch '19 was part of the design team that created the Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee logo.

Lessons in a Logo

"I kind of live and breathe design," says alumna Patchanit Sriviroch '19. "I always find myself looking for inspiration."

Sriviroch, who majored in graphic design at UT, brought that passion to her internship at Tampa advertising agency Schifino Lee between the summer of her junior and senior years — and it ended up catapulting her to the small team that created the logo for the Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee.

"It was my very first day at the agency, and my boss handed me a brief," she recalls. "'Want to join this project?' he asked. I couldn't believe it was for real."

She immediately got to work with on-the-ground research: "I went downtown, asking people, 'When you think about Tampa, what's the first thing that comes to mind?' Most said Gasparilla."

So she created a logo based on the iconic Gasparilla pirate ship and presented it to her boss, Matt Kannenberg, who was then creative director at Schifino Lee. To her surprise, he wanted to pitch it to the client, along with just two other ideas.

The next thing Sriviroch knew, she was pitching to a room full of creative professionals who greenlit the premise of her idea, requesting some changes. So Sriviroch, a native of Thailand, started revising. For example, the client requested references to the number 5, given that this was Super Bowl LV (55), so she changed the number of sails from three to five. The bottom of the boat, which resembles a football, also has five laces.

Throughout the process, Sriviroch had to keep her work confidential. "It was like a CIA movie!" she says. "I'd have to step out of class if my boss called because I couldn't open my laptop if anyone else was around." Once the big reveal came — a press release last September — Sriviroch's former classmates and professors offered their congratulations.

"It's still surreal to me," says Sriviroch, who dreams of one day having her own agency, perhaps back in Thailand. "Any time I doubted myself, my boss would say 'Believe in yourself. You have potential. Just put 100% into your work.' So, I just worked my hardest on it, and it paid off."

IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL

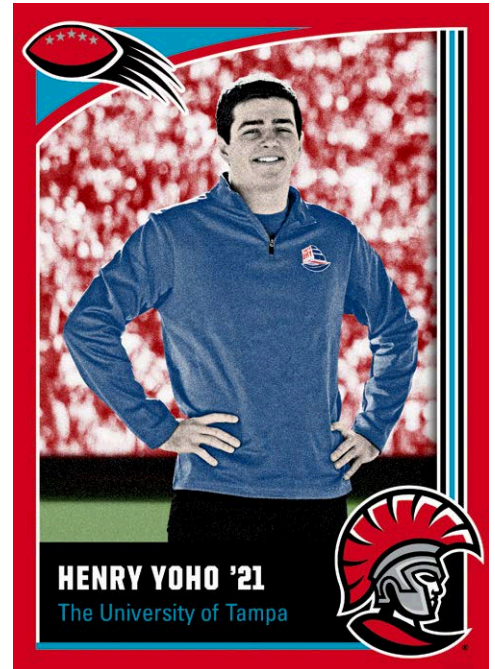
Leading up to the big game, Henry Yoho '21, of Plant City, FL, relished getting the chance to work for four days at the Social Media Command Center (SMCC). Each day, he'd head to the 34th floor of One Tampa City Center downtown (the PNC Bank building). At the start of each shift, five to eight students would sort through all mentions of Super

Bowl LV across Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, and then prioritize answering questions.

"People were asking about hours, things to do at the events, when fireworks were going to be and things like that. Many of the questions were regarding the NFL OnePass app, which was necessary to enter all Super Bowl Experience events in order to manage the crowds," says Yoho.

"It made for some tiring and long days, but it was so worth it — and I would do it a thousand times over!"

—HENRY YOHO '21



Super Bowl Moments in History

Since 1984, Tampa has played host to five Super Bowls. Here's a look at the big game over the years.

1984

TEAMS: Los Angeles Raiders (now Las Vegas Raiders) vs.

Washington Redskins (now Washington Football Team)

WINNER: Raiders (38-19)

ANTHEM PERFORMER: Barry Manilow (the University of Florida and Florida State University bands performed at halftime)

FUN FACT: The Boy Scouts handed out 60,000 black-and-silver pom-poms in the parking lots prior to the game.



TEAMS: New York Giants vs. Buffalo Bills

WINNER: Giants (20-19)

HALFTIME PERFORMER: New Kids on the Block

FUN FACT: Whitney Houston sang the National Anthem in a performance that is widely heralded as one of the greatest renditions of all time.

1991



When responding to questions, students relied on a mix of pre-created templates, as well as on-the-fly thinking and talking with their supervisors, who were marketers with the Visit Tampa Bay tourism organization. “It made for some tiring and long days,” says Yoho, who hopes to pursue a career in sports-related communications and media. “But it was so worth it — and I would do it a thousand times over!”

After answering questions, students would leave the SMCC in small groups to capture photos and videos of various Super Bowl festivities to post on the Host Committee’s social media platforms. One spectacle they captured was the five-minute fireworks show that took place 16 times over the course of several nights on Tampa’s iconic Gasparilla ship. After all, what says “Argggghhhh you ready for some football?” more than that?

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Central to the sport management program is opening students’ eyes to the wide range of roles within the field.

“We get a lot of students who come in wanting to be general managers, agents and athletic directors, and we use their intro class and practicum class to peel that back a little bit and say, “Those are the positions that get all of the media attention, but there’s a lot more going on here than just those three positions,” Jisha says.

“I knew I wanted to do social media last year, but I still had to sit through four other classes — and I’m *happy* I did, because I know for sure that’s what I want to do,” says Victoria Samuels ’21, an international student from Jamaica who volunteered on the social media team and in safety and “fan experience” roles.

In these positions, she got to flex a wide range of skills. One day, she used what she’d learned in her photography class to take photos and videos at Curtis Hixon Park of fans in their Bucs or Chiefs gear for her supervisors to post. Another day, she found herself politely reminding fans to wear their masks — even though they’d already agreed in writing to do so.



2001

TEAMS: Baltimore Ravens vs. New York Giants
WINNER: Ravens (34-7)

HALFTIME PERFORMER: Aerosmith, *NSYNC, Britney Spears, Mary J. Blige and Nelly (Backstreet Boys sang the National Anthem)

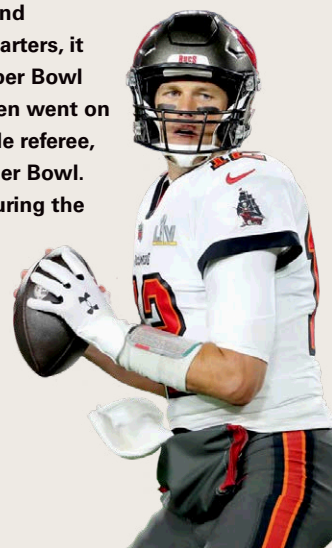
FUN FACT: This was the only Super Bowl in which back-to-back kickoffs were returned for touchdowns.

TEAMS: Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Arizona Cardinals
WINNER: Steelers (27-23)
HALFTIME PERFORMER: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band
FUN FACT: Ticket prices ranged from \$500-\$1,000.

2009

2020

TEAMS: Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Kansas City Chiefs
WINNER: Tampa Bay (31-9)
HALFTIME PERFORMER: The Weeknd
FUN FACTS: Where to begin? For starters, it was the first time a team in the Super Bowl played at its home stadium (and then went on to win). It was the first time a female referee, Sarah Thomas, officiated at the Super Bowl. And, love Tom Brady or hate him, during the first-ever Super Bowl played during a global pandemic, he sealed his status as the Greatest of All Time, winning a record seventh Super Bowl — at age 43.





“(It) was such a positive reminder that ... we still have each other, we still have sports and we’re all coming together at the end of the day.”

—DANYELLE JONES '20

But Samuels says that the challenges were worth it for the lessons they provided and the camaraderie they forged. “I learned that I am actually more comfortable and skilled at taking portraits of people than I realized, and I just loved that there was so much teamwork, that it felt like a little family,” she says. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

CREATING A NETWORK


Danyelle Jones '20, who is from Knoxville, TN, and has served as mascot coordinator for UT's athletics program, spent five days volunteering. She worked at the SMCC, answering questions about parking and COVID-19 protocols, and also did check-ins for the media and volunteers, handing out credentials.

She was especially excited to network with like-minded students and sports professionals from around the country. “Just being around people and interacting with everybody was such a positive reminder that even though we’re going through a pandemic, we still have each other, we still have sports and we’re all coming together at the end of the day,” says Jones, who plans to connect on LinkedIn with some of the people she met so she can keep in touch with them in the future.

Of course, the free goodies also made the experience exciting.

“They gave us so much stuff. I think all my clothes now are Super Bowl clothes!” says Samuels. “I got two sweaters, three golf polos, two hats, lanyards, pins ...”

But more than any shirt or water bottle, the ultimate take-aways for these UT students (besides the fun memories) are the skills they gained from the high-profile experience and the connections they forged. 📌



Cody Liner '17, MBA '19
was the creative specialist
for the Tampa Bay Super
Bowl LV Host Committee.

A Role Model

Last year, Cody Liner '17, MBA '19 landed the kind of job that many UT sport management majors dream about.

The Virginia native was hired as a creative specialist for the Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee — but this was hardly his first rodeo.

"It all started in 2015, when I volunteered for the Tampa Bay Sports Commission during the Women's Final Four," he says. Then, he got an internship for the NCAA Frozen Four and the 2017 College Football National Championship. From there, it was on to volunteer roles at the 2018 NHL All-Star Weekend and the 2019 Women's Final Four.

When Liner was offered a position on the small-but-mighty, 13-person Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee, he jumped at it. "The stakes are always high with the Super Bowl, but this year it felt even more important because of the pandemic. And it felt really exciting to know that we had this opportunity to showcase our community like never before," he says.

His role on the committee ran the gamut, including developing a brand guide, creating signage, working with partners, designing for events and anything else the team needed. "It was long days and long nights, but you run on adrenaline," he says.

Liner feels that UT helped him understand the competitiveness of the sports industry. He adds, "And that spirit of collaboration that we learned as students definitely prepared me for the real world."



One Daring Diplomat

Twice a U.S. ambassador in Africa, Patricia Moller '73 knows a thing or two about how to have complicated conversations and persuade powerful leaders.

Left: The home decor of Patricia Moller '73, who is leaning on an antique rosewood bed from India, reflects the places she's traveled to across the globe. The skirted figure on the left is Nimba, a fertility deity and the national symbol of Guinea, and the paintings are by artists from Serbia, India, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Vietnam, Guinea, the Republic of Georgia and Armenia.

The first things Patricia Moller '73 noticed when she entered the heavily fortified compound in an armored Chevy Suburban were the throngs of lounging, armed soldiers, the neat piles of grenades and the machine guns with bandoliers of bullets draped over them stacked in the driveway. It was a sizzling hot day in December 2009 in Conakry — Guinea's capital — and Moller, then the country's U.S. ambassador, had come to see Sékouba Konaté, the country's recently installed, unelected military leader.

Her colleagues at the embassy and in the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., had warned her of the dangers of meeting with the man who had earned the nickname "El Tigre" (the tiger) for his prowess on the battlefield. In fact, she had to use some of her keenest negotiating skills to convince U.S. security officials, who insisted they could not guarantee her safety, to allow her to meet with him.

BY DAVE SEMINARA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA LEIGH

Moller watched a group of women inside the compound cooking rice for the soldiers over an open flame and felt out of place, as she wore a black suit, complemented by heirloom jewelry. “It struck me like a scene from *Apocalypse Now*,” she recalls. Then one of the soldiers told her and her small team of armed security officers that El Tigre would like to meet her in his bedroom suite.

“I walked across the courtyard and said to myself, ‘Patricia, this may be the dumbest thing you’ve ever done.’”

WANDERLUST

The novelist Marcel Proust once said that “a change in the weather is sufficient to recreate the world and ourselves.” Moller’s peripatetic life has been full of changes in the weather. Her father was in the U.S. Air Force, so she grew up living on or near bases in the U.S. and in Germany, where she started her college education.

Her first husband was a fighter pilot in the Air Force, and when he was transferred to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, she transferred to UT, where she tutored a pair of future NFL stars (the late Freddie Solomon ’75 and the late John Matuszak ’73) and graduated with a history degree. After a stint as the curator of the Henry B. Plant Museum, she spent 10 years in investment banking before finding her calling as a diplomat with the U.S. Foreign Service in 1987.

“It took 20 years in the Foreign Service to earn what I made as an investment banker,” Moller says. “(As an investment banker), I felt like I wasn’t adding to the general welfare or adding value to the human condition. I just couldn’t keep doing it.”

Her first post as a diplomat was Munich, and she was in Germany when the Berlin Wall fell. That’s also where she met her current husband, who was a fellow diplomat. Little did Moller know that Munich would be her first and last cushy post. “Let’s just say I

haven’t had reliable dry cleaning since then,” Moller says.

The posts that followed included Madras, India; Belgrade, Serbia (then Yugoslavia); Yerevan, Armenia; Tblisi, Georgia; Bujumbura, Burundi; and Conakry, Guinea. And in post-active duty, she served as Chargé d’affaires (an embassy’s chief of mission when there is no ambassador at post) in Rabat, Morocco, and Bucharest, Romania.

Along the way, she also did tours in Washington, D.C., including working as a desk officer for Vietnam, where she helped negotiate the resumption of diplomatic relations in 1995 after a 20-year hiatus.

Another memorable moment occurred in Belgrade, where she served as the management officer in the late 1990s. She earned the Leamon R. Hunt Award for Administration Excellence for helping evacuate embassy personnel three times, including when NATO started a bombing campaign there in April 1999.

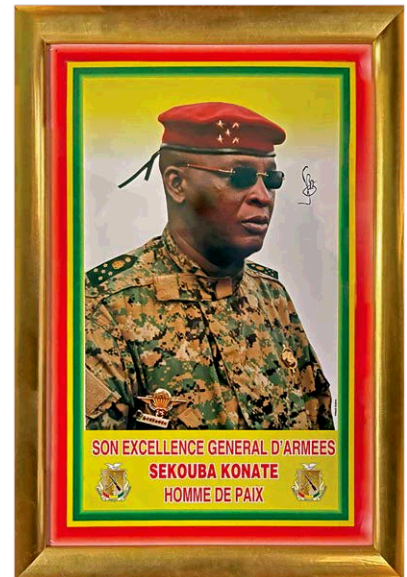
RIVERS OF RED WINE

Few diplomats ever rise to the level of ambassador, and when Moller joined the Foreign Service, men dominated those ranks. Yet in 2005, she was offered the job for the first time, a call she likens to winning an Academy Award. That was the good news.

The more startling news was that she was asked to serve in Bujumbura, Burundi, a conflict-ridden country that had a per capita GDP of just \$95 at the time and was unstable after a devastating, 13-year civil war that had left more than 300,000 people dead.

Colin Powell and other leaders at the State Department at the time recognized Moller as a tough customer who could effect change in challenging environments. She didn’t think twice before saying yes.

“If you go to Paris, London or Rome, the living is fabulous. They are gorgeous places, easy peasy,” she says.



This framed, autographed photo of Gen. Sékouba Konaté (“El Tigre”), who served as the interim president of Guinea from December 2009 to December 2010, hangs in the home of Patricia Moller ’73.

“But you don’t usually have the opportunity to effect foreign policy as directly as you do in some of these developing countries.”

U.S. presidents typically choose political appointees (often donors or fundraisers) to serve as ambassadors in glamour posts, while career diplomats like Moller often do the heavier lifting in the world’s most difficult posts.

An Office of the Inspector General team that inspected the embassy during her tenure there praised her strong leadership skills and her ability to foster positive morale. She achieved this by trusting her people and forgoing certain privileges and protocols. For example, it’s customary for embassy employees to stand when an ambassador enters the room, but Moller found the tradition tired and unnecessary. Her residence — a grand old place with a view of Lake Tanganyika — had a swimming pool and tennis court, and she let everyone in the embassy use them.

On the diplomatic front, she used charisma and persistence (along with



Patricia Moller '73 (right) congratulates Alpha Condé (left) in October 2010 on becoming the president-elect of Guinea through the country's first free and fair election.

quality cabernet) to bring together Burundi's opposing political factions in late-night soirees at her residence. "We saved a whole government once over rivers of red wine on my veranda," she says. "They had to come together because it was the U.S. ambassador inviting them."

After a three-year tour in Burundi, she was asked to take on a second and even more daunting ambassadorship — this time, in Guinea. A year before she arrived, in late 2009, the country's longtime military dictator, Lansana Conté, had died. A brutal military junta led by Moussa Dadis Camara took power. Camara was ruthless — and bizarre. He once hosted a press conference at 3 a.m. in his bedroom, dressed in pajamas and accompanied by his 6-year-old daughter.

A month before Moller arrived at post, his troops had slaughtered more than 150 political opponents in a football stadium, and, in a separate incident, his Presidential Guard publicly raped a number of female protesters. Moller decided she wasn't going to legitimize Camara by presenting her credentials to him as the new

ambassador. In what now looks like a macabre stroke of good fortune for the people of Guinea, Camara's aide-de-camp shot him in the head just weeks after Moller arrived. Camara survived but left the country for medical treatment, paving the way for Gen. Konaté, "El Tigre," to take power.

LAYING ON THE CHARM

On that sizzling hot day in December 2009, Moller was led into El Tigre's suite (thankfully it was a sitting room next to his actual bedroom) and was seated at a coffee table.

El Tigre is a hulking man — more than a foot taller than Moller, who is five feet — and liked to wear small sunglasses. On this occasion, he wore camouflage fatigues, appropriate for a career military man who trained as a parachutist.

Moller was the first ambassador to meet with him, and she had tried to meet on neutral ground, but he refused. This meeting was essentially a Hail Mary.

She told Konaté that she would work with him on two conditions: if he agreed to have free and fair elections

(something that had never happened in the country's 50 years of independence up to that point) and, most critically, if he agreed to not run as a candidate. "I just sat back after I said it, because I knew the person who spoke next loses," she recalls.

El Tigre appeared taken aback and repeated, "You don't want me to run?"

Moller made a case for why it was important for the country to choose a civilian leader and explained that by doing this, he'd secure a place in Guinea's history.

He leaned over, conferred with his sidekick and looked at her intently and said, "Yes, I will do these things because they'll bring my country to a better future. You will work with me, right?"

It was a promising start, but, of course, it took months of hard work, handholding and teeth pulling to turn his words into deeds. Several months later, the country did have its first-ever free and fair election — a proud moment for Moller. Alpha Condé was elected president and has since been re-elected twice, most recently in October. Looking back on her career, Guinea remains her favorite post. "I was privileged to help change the history of a country, the future of a country," she says.

The State Department agreed, presenting her the Robert Fraser Award, its highest honor.

STILL CIRCLING THE GLOBE

Her life since the two prestigious ambassadorships has remained busy and exciting. In 2012, Moller left the Foreign Service, and the following year, she bought a house in St. Petersburg, FL. Moller is currently chairperson of the board of directors at West Africa LNG Group.

She's happy to be anchored in Tampa Bay, but her thoughts frequently return to El Tigre. In fact, they're still in touch to this day. "We shared a bond," she says. 🍷

ALUMNI REPORT

Caitlyn Barbieri '22, a nursing student, has been helping with Florida's COVID-19 hotline at Tampa General Hospital since March 2020. As a vaccinated health care worker, she was thrilled to win one of the 7,500 free tickets to Super Bowl LV at Raymond James Stadium and see the Buccaneers win. She also got to attend a private, outdoor Miley Cyrus concert before the big game.



CLASS NOTES

1960s

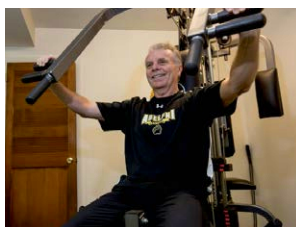
Lee H. Matthews '67 accepted the Janet R. Matthews, Ph.D. Outstanding Psychology Mentor Award for 2020 at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Psychological Association, which was held online last May. The award is named after his late wife. His career has been, for over 30 years, marked by mentoring undergraduate students, graduate students, psychology interns, psychology post-doctoral students and individuals with degrees in psychology completing post-doctoral supervision or other post-degree supervision in a variety of capacities.



"Two years ago today, I walked the stage at my college graduation ... I never gave up on the dream to be the first person in my family to graduate with a degree ... I started blogging because it was an assignment in my management information systems class ... Now I'm a plus-size blogger. If I didn't have @uoftampa, there would be no blog."

—VIA INSTAGRAM IN DECEMBER 2020
FROM CHEYENNE OLSON '18

of Physical Activity Guidelines for Children From Birth To Five Years, published by the Society of Health and Physical Educators.



Stephen Virgilio '72

1970s

Stephen Virgilio '72 has relocated to East Williston, NY, and was featured in an article in *Newsday*. Virgilio, a professor of health and sport sciences at Adelphi University, taught his last class in December, and his retirement will begin in August. He's the lead author of *Active Start: A Statement*

Patricia Moller '73 is the chairperson of the Board of Directors of West Africa LNG Group. She was twice a U.S. ambassador in Africa — once for the Republic of Burundi (2006-2009) and once for the Republic of Guinea (2009-2012). For more about how she used her intelligence,

charm and negotiating skills to have complicated conversations and persuade powerful leaders, see the feature article on page 30.

Tom Feaster M.Ed. '76 was recently selected as one of the 100 greatest student-athletes at Marietta College (OH) by the college's magazine. An article in a recent issue honored the 150th

anniversary of athletics at the college. The magazine writes about the rower: "As a college sophomore, Feaster was a key member of the 1967 Varsity Heavyweight 8 that went undefeated and won the gold medal at the Dad Vail championship. He also coached rowing after he graduated." Feaster was the head rowing coach at UT from 1976 to 1979.



Tom Feaster M.Ed. '76 (the third rower on the far left)

FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Visit the UT Alumni Association on the new website at ut.edu/alumni. Here, you will find a variety of resources, including alumni benefits, submission pages for address updates or class notes, UT publications, information about the alumni board, the alumni event calendar and more. Staying connected to UT is now easier than ever! (No login is required.)

ALUMNI REPORT

Charlie Miranda '77, a City Council member in Tampa, was profiled in the *Tampa Bay Times* in September in the article, "Ybor City, Dominoes and Porch Politics: Charlie Miranda Is Tampa Old-School."

1980s

Eunice Penix '80 is one of the longest-tenured public servants, educators and community activists in the history of Dade City, FL. She had been a city commissioner since 1993 and was honored at a proclamation ceremony in November at the Dade City Hall building following her decision to not seek reelection. Dade City Mayor Camille Hernandez presented her with a plaque and thanked her "for her dedication to improve Dade City for its residents and future generations to enjoy a prosperous, sustainable community." The ceremony was covered in *The Laker/Lutz News*.

Keith Erickson '84 and his wife, Cheryl, moved in January from Leominster, MA, to Ft. Meyers, FL.

Kim (Biondi) Krzyzanowski '84, who serves as the board

secretary of the New Jersey Marine Education Association, has been promoted to the chairperson of the science department at Red Bank Catholic High School.

Dana Crosby-Collier '88 is now working as counsel for Straley Robin Vericker, a law firm in Tampa.

Charmaine Daley '88 expanded her handmade jewelry business to include a full line of baby products in the newly opened Lady C and Mini Me on St. Croix. She is also the chief probation officer for the Virgin Islands. Daley was written about in the *Virgin Island Daily News* in October. Her products can be found at ladycdesignsvi.ecwid.com.

Brenda Giffen MSN '88, an advanced practice registered nurse, is now seeing patients at Watson Clinic Highlands in Lakeland, FL. The news was reported in *The Ledger*.

Brenda Junco '88 was featured on a TV segment on Fox 13 News in October during Nurses Week at Tampa General Hospital (TGH). She's been working at TGH

for 48 years and is a nurse practitioner in the psychiatric unit. Junco has a master's degree in psychiatric mental health and in nursing education from USF, as well as a doctorate in applied anthropology from USF.



Brenda Junco '88

Kim Morris '88 has relocated to Little Elm, TX, and started a new job as an offshore processing manager at Mr. Cooper, a home loan management company.

David Hanson '89 has relocated to Marin County, CA, and has begun a new job as the chief financial and operating officer at The Branson School, a co-educational college-preparatory high school.

1990s

Oscar Verges '93 was promoted to co-CEO of Fall Creek

Farm & Nursery Inc., which serves the world's leading blueberry growers, in September. He joined the Eugene, OR-based company as COO in 2016 and became president and COO in 2018. His promotion was announced in *Fruit Growers News*.

Doug Tower '95 helped Abigail Byrne '21 secure an internship as a production assistant in producing Food Network's Walmart+ branded content in Los Angeles, CA.

Michael Mikyska '96 was appointed in November as the head of the display innovation division at Smart Source LLC, a distributor of promotional products, printed materials and packaging.

Christina "Christy" O'Brien '96 recently served as a panelist for the Association of Family Law Professionals, discussing Florida's Child Relocation Law. She is a stockholder in the Fort Myers, FL, office of the law firm Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt P.A.

Joshua Phillips '97 has begun a new position as the vice president of business

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Join us for Alumni Day in Tampa Bay on April 30 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Armature Works (1910 N. Ola Ave.). Stop by the UT tent and enjoy a variety of fun activities like an alumni-led yoga class, a one-hour water taxi tour and more. For more information, email alumni@ut.edu.

SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

The Video Whiz

Drew Townsend '02

Last year, when Drew Townsend '02 and his small video company won four Telly Awards (a gold, two silvers and a bronze), which honor excellence in video and TV annually, he was shocked — especially since he was up against giants like Microsoft and Verizon in the global competition.

"It was a huge pick-me-up," says Townsend, the owner of The Naples Studio in Naples, FL. He earned the gold award for a three-minute promotional video produced for Pulte Group, which owns DiVosta, a home construction company in Florida.

"It took us four months," he says of making the video that's now used on DiVosta's website and YouTube channel. "We spent a lot of time on color grading and audio mixing, as well as pacing the shots correctly for the market — not too fast or slow. It took three tries over three days to get one particular shot right because we had to wait for the weather to cooperate," he says.

His career path began when he interned at the company in high school. A few years after graduating from UT, he rejoined the company, and in 2011, he bought it and upgraded the equipment to shoot in high definition. "It was like Christmas the day my gear arrived," he says.

Townsend — a married dad of two sets of twins, ages 12 and 13 — sees video projects through from beginning to end, including developing concepts, operating the video camera, editing the footage and shepherding each project through post-production, either with the help of freelancers or on his own. He also writes the scripts and credits his communication major and English classes at UT for giving him that skill.

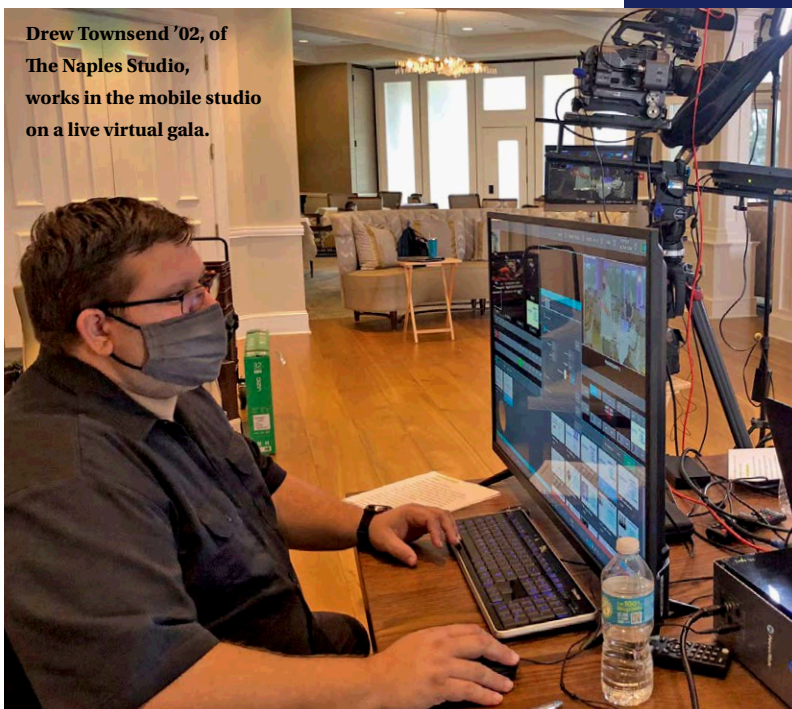
Last year, the pandemic presented a new challenge as he set out to continue offering top-notch service to clients, including Naples Community Hospital, March of Dimes, Panache Desai, Premier Sotheby's and Waste Management.

"I realized that a lot of my clients weren't going to have work for us, but I knew that a lot would need a way to livestream their galas and events," he says. "So, last April, I made an investment in some livestream equipment. It was a gamble as I didn't know if I would have the work to pay it off." He made the right decision, as his company is now producing galas for at least 30 clients.

Townsend feels lucky to be doing work that he loves and has been following his passion since he was a teen. "In high school, I edited a video for a friend's grandparents — one of those 'memories' videos. When the grandparents watched it, the family cried. In that moment, I became hooked on video production," he says.

—LAMBETH HOCHWALD

Drew Townsend '02, of The Naples Studio, works in the mobile studio on a live virtual gala.



ALUMNI REPORT

development - Moët Hennessy for Breakthru Beverage Group. Phillips is based in Manhattan and covers six states across the U.S.

Angelo Petrillo MBA '98 is now vice president of business development at NSF International, an organization that develops public health standards and certification programs that help protect the world's food, water, consumer products and environment. He leads a global sales team, supporting thousands of customers and expanding opportunities across NSF's businesses worldwide. The news was announced in *The Antlers American* in October.

Jessica Plante '98 joined the Newington Fire Department in Newington, NH, as a firefighter in October. She's earning an associate degree in fire science at Southern Maine Community College.

Taryn (Dunigan) Poole '98 has moved to Point Pleasant, NJ, and now works as an interior designer.

2000s

Travis Milks '00 is a co-founder of Tampa-based Topmark Partners and a new growth equity fund that aims to raise \$75 million to invest in medical tech companies generating between \$3 million and \$30 million in gross annual revenue. He and the two other principals were written about in the *Business Observer*, a weekly newspaper for business leaders on the Gulf Coast of Florida.

Jessica (Drozinski) Goodwin '01 earned her master of arts degree in creative writing and literature from Harvard University last year.

Stacy (Estes) Yates '02 joined Morgan & Morgan P.A., America's largest personal injury law firm, in January.

Sarah (Morgan) Kelly '03 chaired the 2020 Residential College Symposium, drawing the largest attendance in its seven-year history. More than 300 faculty, staff and students participated in the three-day virtual conference. Kelly is a founding member of the Residential College Society and sits on the Executive Leadership Team.



Sarah (Morgan) Kelly '03

Viancca Burger Williams '03 started a new position in July as the director of fraternity and sorority life at UCF and earned a doctorate this year in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in higher education administration from USF.

Katherine Gilmer '05 was highlighted in the *318 Forum's* 2020 "40 Under Forty" article in November. Each year, *318 Forum* selects 40

young professionals in the Shreveport, LA, area who are making an impact in their field and community. She's an attorney at Gilmer & Giglio LLC.

David Silver '05 is now CEO and president of an independent, SEC-registered investment advising team in Tampa that's part of Instrumental Wealth, a financial planning firm that serves business owners, professional athletes and executives. The news was reported in *The Valley City Times Record*. Silver is a certified financial planner with 17 years of wealth management experience.

Capt. Jamal Wilburg '06, M.S. '14 started a new position as the associate vice president of customer and technical support at ABILITY Network.

Cara Barone '07 was featured in a Q&A article in *Authority Magazine* in November. Barone, a new product consultant at LinkedIn, discusses her inspirations, the struggles she's encountered throughout her career and her motivations to prevail.

Starr Brookins '07 began a new job as senior trial attorney at Allstate in December.

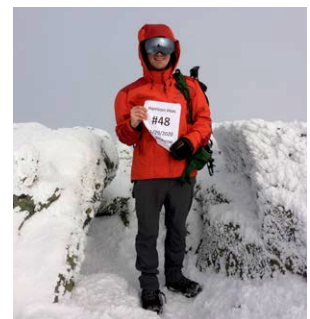
Janelle Hom '07, executive director for the American Lung Association in Florida – Central Area and a member of the Florida Board of Respiratory Care, wrote an article in *Orlando Medical News* in October entitled, "Amidst the Global Pandemic, Let's

Not Forget About the Youth E-Cigarette Epidemic," and another in November called "Masks and Asthma." Hom holds a master's degree in political policy and analysis from UCF.

During the 2020 election cycle, **Robab Dehkharghani '08** was the Florida chair for Doctors for Biden and raised \$100,000 as the events chair for Iranian Americans for Biden. She is finishing her surgical residency in Boston and plans to relocate to Tampa and run for the office of state representative in Florida in 2022.

Ben Earman '08 was appointed executive director of the Cultural Council of Indian River County in Florida in November. It's a nonprofit that helps promote, market, partner with and fund various arts organizations within the county.

Harrison Haas '08 was honored to become part of the Appalachian Mountain Club New Hampshire's 4,000 Footer Club. He also obtained his EMT license and started working at the Gilford Fire Department as a call member.

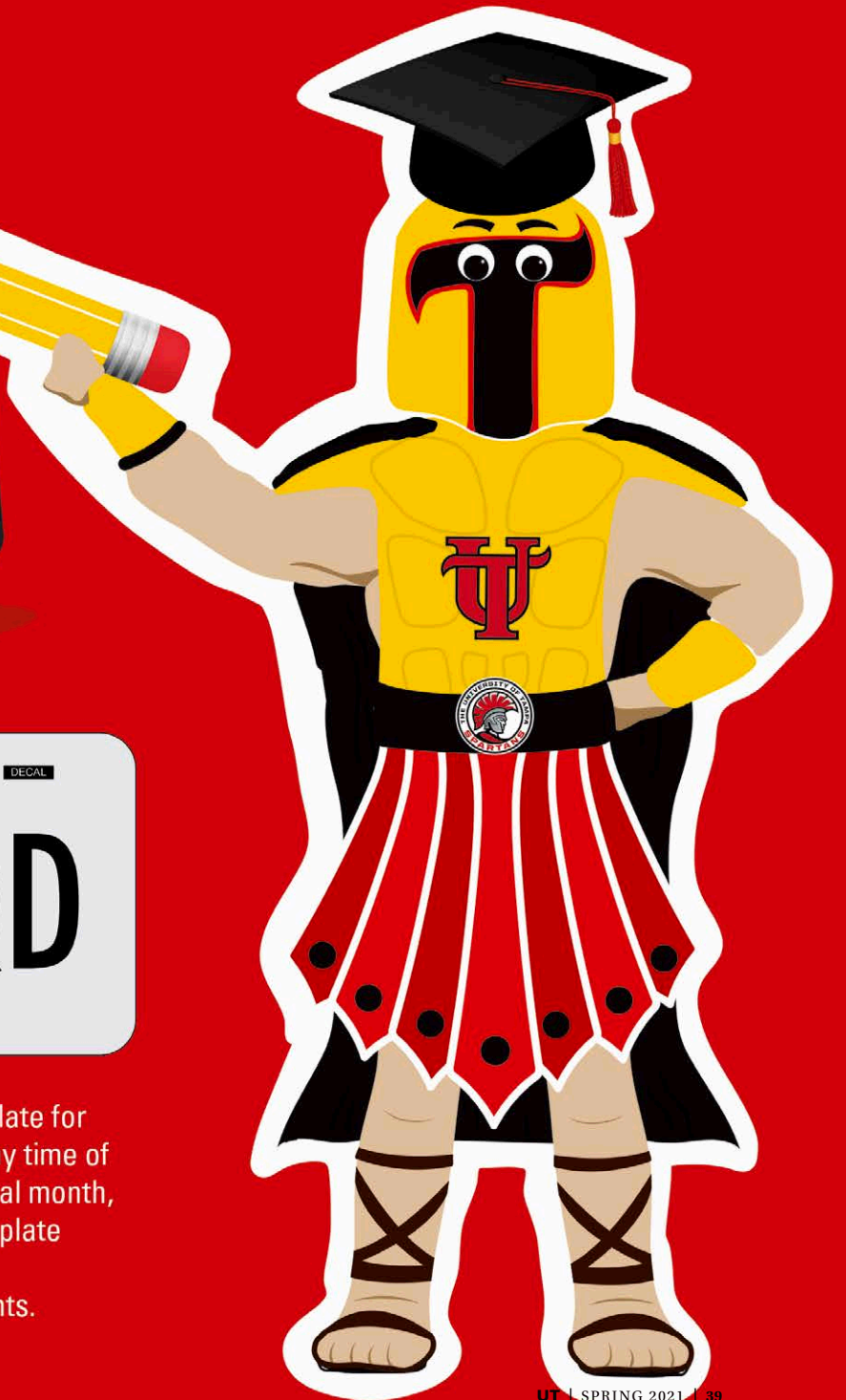


Harrison Haas '08

YOU GOT THE DEGREE ... BUT DO YOU HAVE THE UT LICENSE PLATE?



Florida residents can purchase the UT plate for \$28 (in addition to the regular tag fee) any time of the year, regardless of their plate renewal month, by contacting their local DMV. For each plate purchased, \$25 goes to UT to help fund scholarships and University improvements.



SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

The Harness Driver

Miriam Toland '67

Miriam Toland '67 doesn't think it's a big deal that she's a 76-year-old professional horse racer and is one of few seniors on the circuit. She competes in a form of horse racing called harness racing, where the horse pulls the driver in a two-wheeled carriage — usually called a sulky — around a track.

Nor does she consider it unusual that last July she steered one of her racehorses for a mile against eight other people (some of whom were half her age) at Vernon Downs in Vernon, NY — and won. In fact, she's returning to that track this summer and can't wait to compete again.

Toland, who grew up in Woodbridge, NJ, often went with her father to the nearby Monmouth Park Racetrack, which sparked her interest in horse racing.

She didn't discover harness racing, in particular, until her late teens, when she stumbled across it at a local racetrack while waiting tables one summer at a hotel in the Catskills.

Florida's beautiful weather drew her to UT, where she could scuba dive and swim year-round. Since she was certified in water safety instruction through the American Red Cross, while still a student, she became a part-time faculty member, teaching courses on swimming and lifesaving to fellow students at a nearby local pool (there wasn't yet one on campus).

After graduation, Toland worked as a physical education teacher in New York City and got her first racehorse at 26. Harness racing soon became an exciting part-time job, and since retiring from teaching in 1993, it's been her full-time job.

During her 50-year racing career, she's graced a wide variety of tracks, including Isle Casino Racing Pompano Park in Pompano Park, FL, Ocean Downs in Ocean City, MD, and the former Foxboro Raceway in Massachusetts. She owns four horses — Fleetwood Hall and First Response, the two she races with — as well as two others that are retired.

Her secret to winning? "If you give horses love and affection, they will do even better for you," says Toland, who dedicates every race to the memory of her late mother, someone who had supported her at every race. "If it wasn't for my mother giving me all the things I needed, I don't know if I would ever be what I am today," she says.

Toland is not one to sit still. Beyond being a harness driver, she has a pilot's license and a brown belt in judo. She has also hang-glided and jumped from planes.

"If you're physically and mentally able to do something, no matter your age, you should be able to keep doing it," says Toland, who lives in Coconut Creek, FL. "All of the things I love doing give me a natural high."

—LAMBETH HOCHWALD



Miriam Toland '67 races — and wins — with horse Fleetwood Hall at Vernon Downs in New York.

Nikki Arcabella '09 joined the James Nauert Team of RE/MAX Alliance Group in November as a sales associate in the Riverview, FL, office. She specializes in residential real estate with a focus on luxury high-rises and waterfront homes.



Nikki Arcabella '09

2010s

Daniel Bucheli '10 joined the South Dakota Department of Health as communications director this past December. Bucheli has spent the past decade working in Washington, D.C., for Congress, the White House and a presidential campaign.

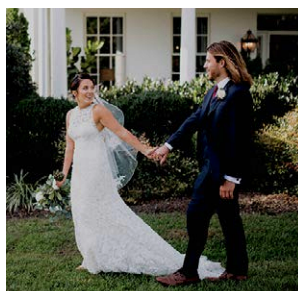
Roman Cowan '10, M.S. '14, MBA '14 is now brand president of the Tampa-based College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling

Junk & Moving. Formerly the company's COO, Cowan was part of *South Tampa Magazine's* "2021 Top 10 Under 40" article in January and his promotion was covered by *Big Spring Herald* in January.



Roman Cowan '10, M.S. '14, MBA '14

The 2018 wedding of **Emily (Sarecky) Hough '10** and her husband, Matt Hough, was featured in *Bethesda Magazine* in October. She is the social media director for Farmers Restaurant Group.



The wedding of Emily (Sarecky) Hough '10 and her husband, Matt

Eric Korytkowski '10 was named North Smithfield High School's 2019-2020 boys' soccer coach of the year by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Korytkowski is in his sixth season coaching the team and is also the assistant coach of the boys' varsity basketball team.

Kimberly Lynn '10 has relocated to San Diego, CA.

Ryan McCallister '10 was featured in *Phoenix Home & Garden Magazine* for his metal art sculptures.



Ryan McCallister '10

Cassandra Barnes '11 joined Family Practice Center PC, one of metro Atlanta's leading health care providers, as a family medicine physician

in October. It was announced in *Sweetwater Reporter*.

Ian Berry '12 was featured in *Home Business Magazine* in November in an article about the product he created, Brushee, an on-the-go toothbrush/toothpick/floss strip.

Sophie Erber '12 joined the news team at the KCAU television station in Sioux City, IA.

Jason Hepperly '12 was hired by Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel LLP in October as an associate in their Miami office. He primarily handles first- and third-party property defense litigation, as well as insurance coverage matters. His new job was announced in *South Florida Caribbean News*.

Brittany Parker '12, who now lives in Key Largo, FL, was profiled on Akron.com, her Ohio hometown's website. The article is about how she combines science and art to create colorful depictions of marine life. She works as a program and development manager at Good Health Clinic and sells products featuring her artwork at society6.com/gowiththeoceanflow.



CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

Stay connected with The University of Tampa online. Follow UT's Alumni Association ([@utalumni](https://www.facebook.com/utalumni)) on Facebook for campus updates, articles about inspiring alumni and details about upcoming alumni events. Join the nearly 6,000 other alumni who are part of this growing digital community.

ALUMNI REPORT

Danielle Selkridge '12 was named to the Sunshine State Conference's 2010-2019 All-Decade first team in women's volleyball this past October.

Leif Benner '13 is earning a doctorate in developmental genomics through a joint program at Johns Hopkins University and the National Institutes of Health.

Cathleen Bruner '13 joined Samaritan Family Medical Resident Clinic – Lebanon in Lebanon, OR, as a physician. Bruner is providing primary health care to all ages and specializes in osteopathic manipulative treatment, family planning and skin biopsies. The news was reported by the *Corvallis Gazette-Times*.



Cathleen Bruner '13

Audra Virginia Hewett '13 is a chiropractor and the founder of Next Generation Chiropractic & Wellness in Champions Gate, FL. She was nominated for *Orlando Style Magazine's* "Top Tier Chiropractors" in 2019 and was profiled in *Pro News Report* in December.

Jonathan D. Marks '13, M.D., graduated from the University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine on May 12, 2020. Dr. Marks is

a medical resident in Internal Medicine at the University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine.

Charles Wagenseil MBA '13 successfully transitioned to corporate America after seven years of active-duty service in the U.S. Army. He became a financial analyst at Serco last June and relocated to Newport, RI.

Jared Warren '13 has relocated from Washington state to Naples, FL, and has started a new job as agile operations department head at Ford Drywall & Stucco. He and his wife, Tania, have a son named Beckett and are expecting their second child — a baby girl — this month.



Jared Warren '13 (right) and his family

Liz Anthony '14, M.S. '15, the creator of Liz Anthony protein bites, was featured in a TV segment about her product on Tampa's Fox 13 News in October.

Katherine (Malat) Johnson '14 and her husband, **Benjamin Johnson '14**, welcomed their daughter, Ellie, in January 2020.

Leslie Moore '14, MBA '16 joined Advocate Health Ad-

visors as a financial analyst in November. He's based in Apollo Beach, FL.

Meagan Burke '15 was named to the Sunshine State Conference's 2010-2019 All-Decade first team in women's volleyball this past October.

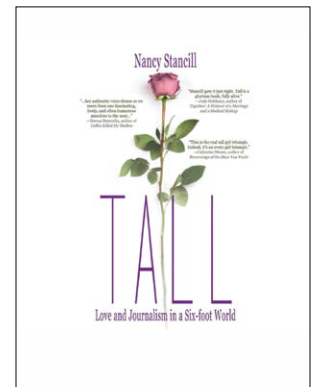
The second book written by **Chelsea Catherine MFA '15**, *Summer of the Cicadas*, was published in August and selected as November's "book of the month" by Gabber Book Club, a book club created by *The Gabber*, Florida's oldest independent weekly newspaper. The novel is about a West Virginia town where a brood of Magicicadas emerges for the first time in 17 years. A former police officer whose entire family was killed in a car crash two years earlier is deputized during the crisis.

Alyssa Christian MFA '15 was featured in an article in *The Day* newspaper where she discussed creativity and how writing gives her an outlet for her active imagination. She is adapting her first full novel into a television series and volunteers to help rescued parrots in Rhode Island.

Mehdi Fassihnia Dengo '15 is in the MBA class of 2022 at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He was profiled by *Poets & Quants* in November. He started a successful avocado business, HassFass Avocados, in his home country of Costa Rica in 2016.

Vicki Entreken MFA '15 won the Florida Bibliophile Society's fourth annual Lee J. Harter Book Collecting Essay Contest for her essay *'legasi*.

Nancy Stancill MFA '15 wrote a memoir called *Tall: Love and Journalism in a Six-Foot World* that was published in November by Black Rose Writing. She was profiled by *The Daily Tar Heel*, her alma mater's newspaper, in January. A retired investigative journalist with the *Houston Chronicle* and the *Charlotte Observer*, Stancill is also the author of two mystery novels, *Saving Texas* and *Winning Texas*. She lives in Charlotte, NC.



A new memoir by Nancy Stancill MFA '15

Jessica Wagner '15 was named to the Sunshine State Conference's 2010-2019 All-Decade first team in women's volleyball in October.

Sofie Warrenbrand '15, a co-owner of Xtreme Tacos, opened a new restaurant location in the Seminole Heights neighborhood of Tampa in October. Warrenbrand's business has proudly served local politicians such as

former mayor Bob Buckhorn and **Mayor Jane Castor '81**. XtremeTacos has won awards from *Creative Loafing* and the *Tampa Bay Times*.



Sofie Warrenbrand '15 (right) with Mayor Jane Castor '81

Cortland Fritz '16 is a supply chain analyst for 3M.

Jacqueline Ramirez '16 began a new volunteer position in September as a 2030 Advisory Council Member in District 4 for the city of Framingham, MA. In her role, she advises the mayor on improving the quality of life for young adults, creating an effective dialogue and strategic recommendations with a community focus on areas like housing, governance, finance and economic development.



Jacqueline Ramirez '16

Selene San Felice '16 joined the staff of the new Axios Tampa Bay newsletter in January. The news was reported by *The St. Pete Catalyst*.

Berkley Whaley '16, MBA '18 was named the Sunshine

State Conference's 2010-2019 Player of the Decade in women's volleyball in October. For more about her accomplishments, see the story on page 12.

Stephanie Will '16, MBA '17 is now director of development at The Salvation Army in St. Petersburg, FL. In her new role at the organization, she oversees the direction of fundraising activities, such as donor cultivation, solicitation and stewardship.

Lt. j.g. Kyle K. Coia '17 married Lt. j.g. Cassandra M. Davis in August in Newport, RI. Their wedding was announced in the *Rome Sentinel*. Coia is in the U.S. Naval Reserve and is a project engineer at Pacific Rim in San Diego, CA.



Lt. j.g. Kyle K. Coia '17

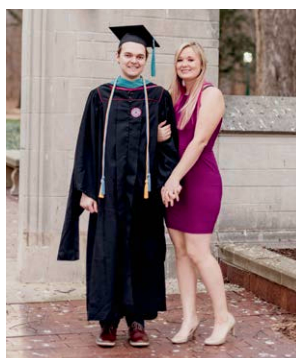
Okoye Morgan Jr. '17, a third-year law student at Florida A&M University College of Law, recently authored a book to encourage young students to consider legal careers called *The Boy Who Went to Law School*. "It is important to have a children's book that represents people of color achieving professional studies such as law," he says. The book was featured in a TV segment

on WESH 2 News in central Florida in December and was covered in *The Weekly Challenger* in December.



Okoye Morgan Jr. '17 holding the book he wrote

Casey Rich '17 earned a master's degree in arts administration and public affairs (with a concentration in nonprofit management) from Indiana University last year.



Casey Rich '17 (left) with his wife, Jillian Rich '17

Joseph Torres '17 was hired as a police officer in January. He's training with the Monmouth County Police Academy in Freehold, NJ, and will graduate in May.

Jade Turner '17 was a featured panelist in part of a virtual series entitled *Common Grounds* created by Unity in the Community, Roxbury Coalition for Social Change

and the Roxbury Public Library in Roxbury, NJ. The episode Turner participated in was called "On Race and Racism: A Roxbury Conversation" and aired this past December. Panelists spoke about what it meant to be an immigrant or person of color in the community. Before COVID-19 hit, Turner had been performing in the first Broadway national tour of Jimmy Buffet's *Escape to Margaritaville*.

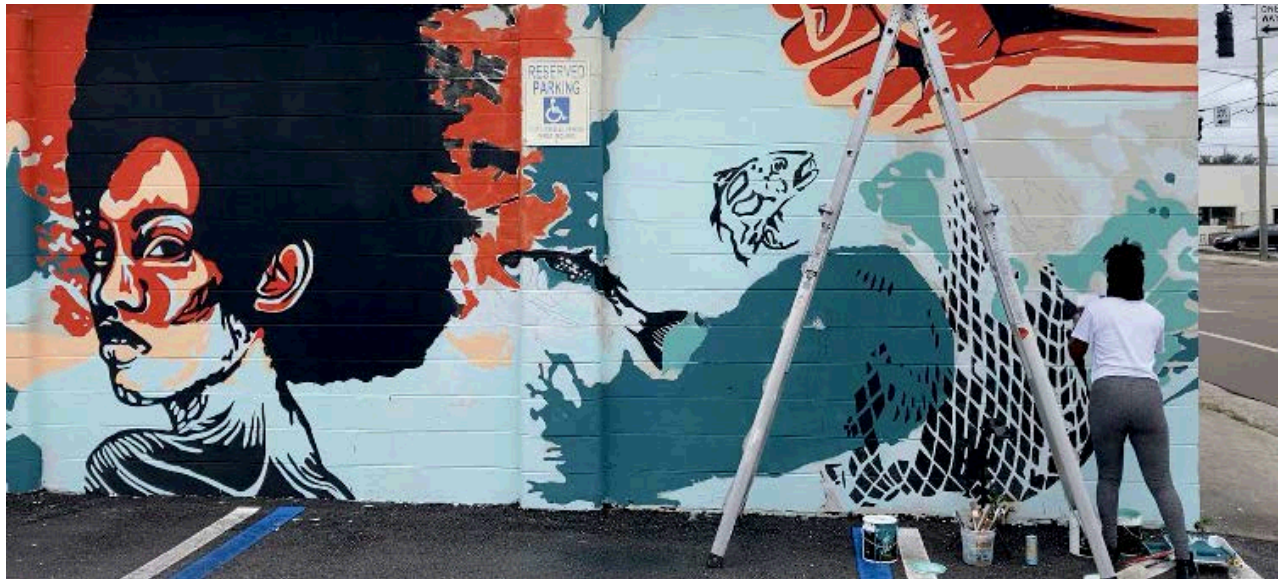
Haillie Mesics '18 joined the Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife in Sanibel, FL, as a conservation and education marketing intern in December. The news was reported by *Sanibel Captiva Island Reporter, Islander & Current*. Before this internship, she completed a wildlife care internship at the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, ME.



Haillie Mesics '18

Brianna Reeves '18 runs a website called thatgirlwitharthritis.com, which builds community among people with chronic illnesses and sells apparel and accessories with phrases like "arthritis warrior."

Myles Hammond '19 is earning a doctorate in integrative and comparative genomics at the University of California, Davis.



A mural by Nneka Jones '20 and Bianca Burrows '12

Haley Hill '19 was promoted last July to recruitment consultant at Hays Recruitment.

Joseph Maisonville '19 was recently commissioned as a new officer in the U.S. Marines. The formal ceremony in a town park pavilion in Schroon Lake, NY, was covered by *The Sun* community newspaper.

Jennifer Walker '19 is pursuing a master's degree in industrial-organizational psychology at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She'll graduate in May and hopes to work with a private organization to foster employee engagement and higher satisfaction.

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Visit ut.edu/utjournal for links to articles from each issue.

2020s

Jillian Gomez '20 started a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health and is continuing work on a project started at UT. She plans to attend medical school.

Daniela Gutierrez-Andrade '20 presented at the Florida Association of Aquatic Biologists meeting virtually in December and won Best Undergraduate Presentation for her talk. Her research, which was completed while she was an undergraduate, was about defensive mechanisms in a species of sea slug.

Nneka Jones '20 was featured in *Trinidad and Tobago Newsday* in November for her artwork about racial injustice in the U.S. Also, she and fellow alumna **Bianca Burrows '12** created a mural that was showcased in the Shine Mural Festival in St. Petersburg, FL, in November. The mural features Moth-

er Nature and a warning against overfishing. For more about Jones, see the feature on page 14.

Colin MacDonald '20 is an admissions counselor at UT.

Alexis Novales '20 has been elected to the Public Relations Society of America Tampa Bay Board of Directors as secretary.

Arielle Pollock '20 relocated to Honolulu, HI, to begin a new job as a coral biologist.

Dillon Ross Fabisch '20 was featured in an article in *Santa Fe News Online* in December about his full-service web design and growth marketing agency, The Dillon Ross Group, and how he grew his business during the pandemic.

Jacy Sterritt '20 was named assistant coach of the women's lacrosse team at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA.

IN MEMORIAM

Maurine Robles McTyre '44
Alfonso Romanello '51
Charles J. Harris '54
Robert Lee "Bob" Spencer '54
Thomas E. Collentine '55
Ellis "Ross" Wheatley '57
Thomas A. Leonard '59
William I. Barnes Jr. '60
Patricia S. Hanshaw '61
Mary Anello Iavarone '61
Ismael Martinez '61
Robert R. Kalman '64
Daisy Bowman Pandolfo '67
Stephen V. Taffe '68
Daniel F. Francabandiero '69
Frederick J. Raila '69
Jerry D. Davis '70
Lt. Col. William D. Gallagher '73
Command Sgt. Maj. Charles T. Sizemore '74
William S. Lewis '79
Sister Dorothy Stich Dwyer '86
Col. Dennis Seiler MBA '86
Henry "Chuck" Rodriguez '90
Nichole R. Schultz '04

Faculty

Rosario Urso '57
Judith Washburn

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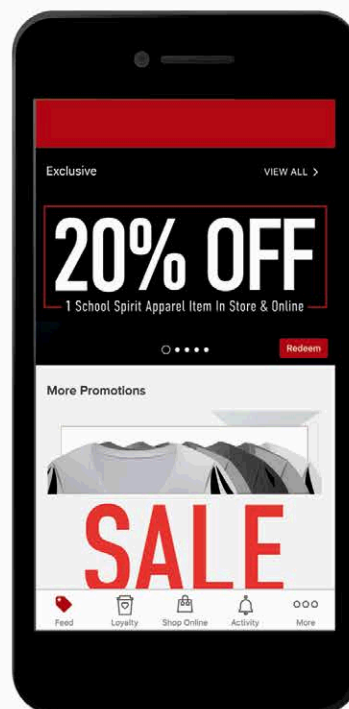
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SPARTAN READY PHILANTHROPY



The Spirit of Giving

In this most challenging time, philanthropy for The University of Tampa is more important than ever before.

Thanks in no small part to generous donors like you, the University hasn't skipped a beat despite the pandemic, pivoting quickly to meet students' needs while continuing to drive President Ronald Vaughn's vision for a campus with state-of-the-art facilities for all of UT's programs.

One of those best-in-class facilities is the new Ferman Center for the Arts, which will be a hub of activity for UT's art, music, design, communication and speech studies, theater, dance, philosophy and film programs. With sound-insulated spaces, flexible staging and collaborative practice studios, it gives UT's arts students the tools they need to succeed.

The Ferman family members were the lead donors for the center, with key support also coming from Liz '16 and Jim '70 MacLeod, Charlene and Mardy Gordon, and The Saunders Foundation. Spartan Ready Philanthropy, provided by leaders like these, is critical for the University's future.

BY KYLE PARKS MBA '08
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB THOMPSON



A student discusses her work with a group of lead donors in the new Ferman Center for the Arts.



The Ferman family gathered for a ribbon-cutting event at the new building on Feb. 19.

The Fermans: “The First Family of UT”

Supporting the Ferman Center for the Arts is the latest example of the family’s impact over the last seven decades.

The Ferman family’s involvement with The University of Tampa goes back more than 70 years, and if you’re wondering how deep the connection is, consider the following story.

When the late David Delo came to UT as president in the summer of 1958 and needed a place to live, the late James Ferman Sr. and the late Martha Ferman let Delo’s family use a house the Ferman family owned as a way to support the University. As it turned out, the Delo family lived there — rent-free — for 10 years.

This legacy of supporting UT continues today with the next

generation of Ferman family members. Jim Ferman Jr., his wife, Celia, their daughters, Janice Strasse and Laura Farrior, and their sons-in-law, Steve Strasse and Preston Farrior, are the lead donors for the new Ferman Center for the Arts, a building that provides a world-class home for all of UT’s arts, music, dance and theater programs.

“If there were a title of ‘First Family of UT,’ it would certainly belong to the Ferman family for their longevity, loyalty and leadership,” says Ronald Vaughn, president of UT.

A GIVING TRADITION

The Ferman family has run Ferman Motor Car Co., one of Tampa’s leading businesses, for more than 100 years. The roots of its auto business date back to 1895, when the late W. Fred Ferman, James Ferman Sr.’s father, started a company to rent bikes and buggies.

He secured one of the first Oldsmobile dealerships in the country in 1902, and the company now includes 11 dealerships around the Tampa Bay area, selling both domestic brands like Chevrolet, Ford and Chrysler, as well as vehicles from

foreign manufacturers like Mini, BMW and Volvo.

As the business grew over the years, it also increased its support for the community, with UT being a key part of the picture. James Ferman Sr. joined UT's Board of Trustees in 1949 and served as chair in the 1960s, and he and Martha were involved with the University for 50 years; in fact, Martha was one of the founding members of the Chiselers, a group that raises funds to support the preservation and upkeep of Plant Hall.

Decades ago, the couple made a sizable gift to the University that established the Ferman Music Center in one of the one-story fairgrounds buildings on campus.

That love for UT was passed down to their son, Jim Ferman Jr., who first got involved with UT as a member of the Board of Counselors in the 1960s, serving as chair, and has now been involved with UT for more than four decades — including two dozen years on the Board of Trustees, where he has also served as chair. In fact, he and his dad are the only father/son duo to have both served as chair of the Board of Trustees. “I grew up with UT,” he says.

He and Celia have been involved in scores of projects at the University over the years, but when they first heard from President Vaughn about plans for a new center for the arts on campus, they were particularly intrigued.

The Fermans had previously visited Washington and Lee University in Virginia, where both Janice and two of their granddaughters have attended. They had toured the school's Lenfest Center for the Arts and were struck by the power of having all of a university's arts programs in one location.

“When Ron proposed a center for the arts on the University campus, it definitely resonated,” he says. “A lead gift from Celia and me worked from an estate planning point of view, and our two daughters and sons-in-laws also made gifts toward the family's total pledge.”

A love of music was passed down to Jim by his mother, who was a pianist, and that appreciation for the arts has translated into ongoing support for many arts and culture organizations in the Tampa Bay area. “If we are in a new city to visit, we are going to be much more likely to go to a museum than a tourist attraction,” Celia and Jim say.

WHAT PROMPTED THEIR GENEROSITY

Beyond family tradition, why are the Fermans so committed to UT, in a way that's being passed down through multiple generations?

“There is no great American city without a great private university,” Jim says, “and community support of the University and of the arts is critical for success.”

Adds Janice Straske: “All of us who live and work in Tampa should support the institutions and organizations that make our community strong ... UT makes Tampa better, so it makes sense for us to make sure that UT is great and can attract terrific students.”

Laura Farrior agrees: “It is so important for a local, family-owned business to give back to the community, especially with regard to education and the arts. This is where we all live and work, and we want to

encourage and support higher education and balanced learning. UT is a perfect fit.”

A BUILDING IS BORN

The Ferman family has taken a tour of the new facility, and they've been impressed with the building's architectural features and overall quality, and the thought given to such things as acoustical engineering and special touches like sound-deadening materials in the second-floor dance studio.

“The attention to detail given by Ron and the University staff and partners on every new building on campus is so impressive,” Celia and Jim say. “He has envisioned the growth of this campus in excruciating detail, and it's been very rewarding to watch that vision become reality over the years.”

Of course, this growth could not happen without the support of philanthropists like the Ferman family making long-term commitments to the University.

Speaking to the family at the April 2019 groundbreaking for the center, President Vaughn summed it up: “We appreciate the legacy of the Ferman generations for helping us to realize this and other University dreams. Your leadership example will inspire others.”



Celia and Jim Ferman Jr. stand in front of a plaque that bears the names of their family members.

Dance, Theater and Art Spaces Come to Life

Thanks to these key donors, special areas were created inside the Ferman Center for the Arts for students and faculty to thrive.

CHARLENE AND MARDY GORDON

It was just before Christmas 2019 when Charlene Gordon first heard that the Ferman Center for the Arts' 200-seat theater would be named the Charlene A. Gordon Theater in her honor. "It was a gift from my husband Mardy's heart to me," she says. "A major surprise."

The Gordons have been UT supporters for more than a decade, and the arts have always been Charlene Gordon's focus in her philanthropy.

"Previously, the College of Arts and Letters (CAL) classrooms, offices and performance spaces were scattered around campus," she says. "So in 2017, talk of a new building got my interest. Seeing President Vaughn's presentation and renderings of the Ferman Center gave me the vision: Imagine all of CAL under one roof. I was committed to support this."

Also named in the Gordons' honor is the Charlene and Mardy Performance Gallery, a venue intended for a variety of events, including readings and live music.



Mardy and Charlene Gordon



Jim '70 and Liz '16 MacLeod; Susannah LeMarquand, dance program director; Renée Vaughn and President Ronald Vaughn.

LIZ '16 AND JIM '70 MACLEOD

Liz '16 and Jim '70 MacLeod's love for UT goes back to the late 1960s, when they were Spartan students together. They were significant donors for the Ferman Center for the Arts project, and the dance studios — officially called the Liz '16 and Jim '70 MacLeod Dance Studios — are being named in their honor.

It makes sense, given their love of dance.

"When Liz returned to the University to finish her degree in 2014, her first class (a dance class) was taught by Susannah LeMarquand (assistant professor of dance and dance program director)," Jim MacLeod says. "We really connected with her and have been a supporter of the arts for years."

The state-of-the-art dance studios "are a huge step up from what our dance students had in the past," he says, and the MacLeods are proud to help UT continue to grow. When they first reconnected with the University in the late 1990s, "we were hooked by all President Ronald Vaughn had done with our alma mater," he adds. They've been supporters ever since.

THE SAUNDERS FOUNDATION

The Saunders Foundation Art Gallery in the Ferman Center for the Arts is named in honor of The Saunders Foundation, a private foundation that's based in Tampa and supports local organizations such as the Tampa Bay History Center, the Florida Orchestra and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida.

The gallery is a spectacular space for showcasing art, with its large windows and partitions that allow for different configurations as shows rotate through the space on an annual basis, providing inspiration to UT students, faculty and visitors alike.

The Saunders Foundation has provided support to the University since 1971. With the new gallery, that giving legacy continues.



The Saunders Foundation Art Gallery

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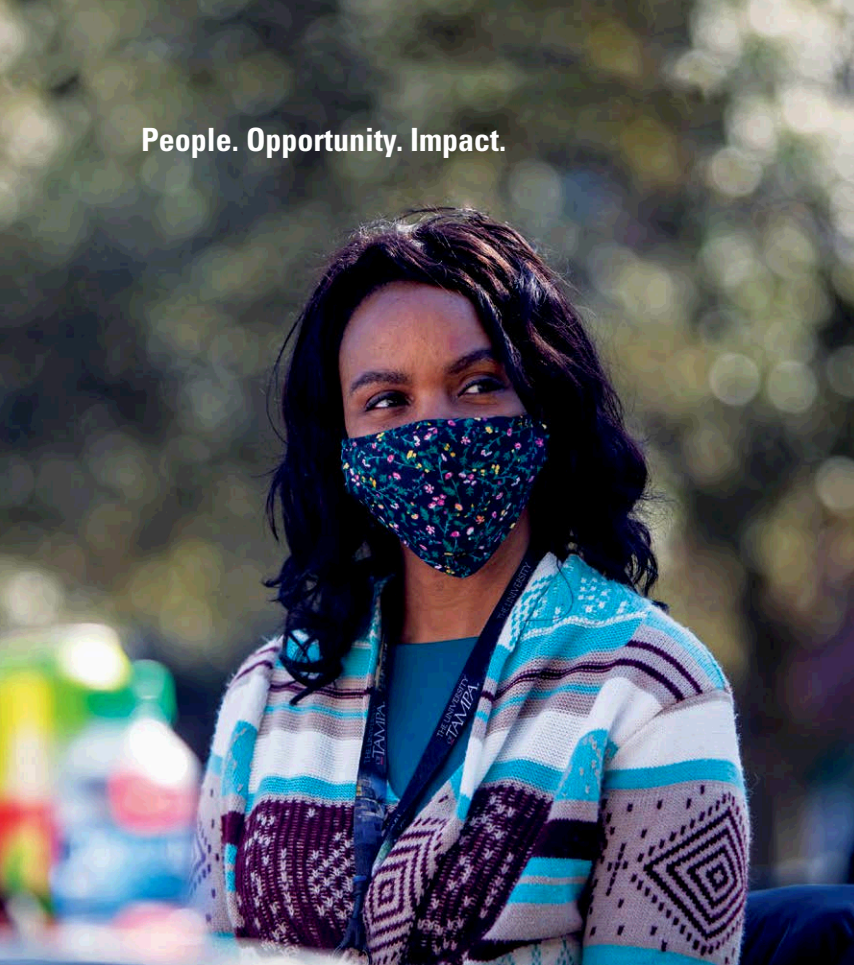
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Seeing Green

On April 22, 1970, the UT community gathered to celebrate the first-ever Earth Day in the U.S. to increase public awareness of the world's environmental problems. Here, Jeff Onore '71, the late Tony Egitto '71 (who was chair of the cultural committee of the student program council) and Diane (Sardella) Collin '73 peacefully protest by piling up trash on campus to illustrate the disposal problem. There was a day-long panel of speakers, and biology and chemistry faculty joined with colleagues from USF to sound the alarm against pollution during a teach-in at UT's Student Center.



People. Opportunity. Impact.



Easy Ways to Support the Causes You Care About

What causes are most important to you at UT? It's easy to partner with the University. Here are some of the ways you can help support students, faculty and UT's educational mission.

Your IRA

Name UT as a beneficiary of your IRA. All or a portion can pass automatically to UT. It's easy to call your account administrator to change or add beneficiaries. Many allow you to make beneficiary designations online.

Life Insurance

Support the cause by designating UT as a beneficiary of a new or unneeded universal life insurance policy. Make this charitable gift by contacting your policy provider to complete a beneficiary designation form.

Checking, Savings and Investments

One of the easiest ways to help is by naming UT as a "payable on death" (POD) beneficiary of one or more of your financial or investment accounts. Complete a simple document to gift unused funds in your accounts.

It's easy (and costs you nothing today) to support UT's mission and our students! If you're making a beneficiary planned gift, please let us know. We'd like to thank you and make sure your gift is used in the way that means the most to you.

What Matters Most at UT? YOU.

For more information, visit ut.edu/plannedgiving or call us at (813) 253-6220.



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HANGING TOGETHER

It's been an unusually difficult year, but UT students are staying strong. This one gets some fresh air and sunshine while using her decorated laptop (did you know that stickers are a trend now?) on a hammock overlooking the Hillsborough River.

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS ZUPPA